

2021 ACCESSORIES & EQUIPMENT

Data Communications - Data Link Communications Description and Operation - Canyon, Colorado

DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION

DATA LINK COMMUNICATIONS DESCRIPTION AND OPERATION

NOTE: This is an overview of different serial data buses used by GM devices to communicate with each others. Use [Data Communication Wiring Schematics](#) to find out which serial data buses are configured for a specific vehicle.

Data Link Communications Overview

There are many components in a vehicle that rely on information from other sources, transmit information to other sources, or both. Serial data communication networks provide a reliable, cost effective, way for various components of the vehicle to "talk" to one another and share information.

GM uses a number of different communication buses to insure the timely and efficient exchange of information between devices. When compared to each other, some of these buses are different in nature as far as speed, signal characteristics, and behavior. An example of this is the High Speed GMLAN and Low Speed GMLAN Buses.

On the other hand, when other buses are compared to each other they have similar characteristics and simply operate in parallel. In this case they are used to group together components which have high interaction. Examples are the High Speed GMLAN, Powertrain Expansion, and Chassis Expansion Buses. This allows them to communicate with each other on a bus with reduced message congestion insuring faster and the more timely exchange of information than if all vehicle devices were on a single bus.

The majority of information that exists within a given network generally stays local; however some information will have to be shared on other networks. Control modules designated as Gateway's perform the function of transferring information between the various buses. A Gateway module is connected to at least 2 buses and will interact with each network according to its message strategy and transmission models.

GMLAN provides the capability for a receiving device to monitor message transmissions from other devices in order to determine if messages of interest are not being received. The primary purpose is to allow reasonable default values to be substituted for the information no longer being received. Additionally, a device may set a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) to indicate that the device it is expecting information from is no longer communicating. A lost communication DTC typically is set in devices other than the device with a communication failure.

K9 Body Control Module (BCM)

The K9 Body Control Module has discrete input and output terminals to control the vehicle's body functions. The K9 Body Control Module is wired to the High Speed GMLAN Bus, Low Speed GMLAN Bus and multiple Local Interconnect Network (LIN) Buses and acts as a gateway between them. The various K9 Body Control Module input and output circuits are illustrated in the corresponding functional areas on the K9 Body Control Module electrical schematics. Refer to the [Body Control System Wiring Schematics](#) for more detailed information.

Power Mode Master

The K9 Body Control Module functions as the power mode master. The ignition switch is a low current switch with multiple discrete ignition switch signals to the power mode master for determining the power mode that will be sent over the serial data circuits to the other devices that need this information; the power mode master will activate relays and other direct outputs of the power mode master as needed. Refer to [Power Mode Description and Operation](#) for a complete description of power mode functions.

Gateway

The K9 Body Control Module functions as a gateway or translator. The purpose of the gateway is to translate serial data messages between the High Speed GMLAN Bus and the Low Speed GMLAN Bus for communication between the various devices. The gateway will interact with each network according to that network's transmission protocol. All communication between the K9 Body Control Module and a scan tool is done through the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus.

K56 Serial Data Gateway Module (Gen 3)

NOTE: The Data Bus Diagnostic Tool will not work with vehicles equipped with K56 Serial Data Gateway Module gen 3.

This vehicle is equipped with a K56 Serial Data Gateway Module gen 3. The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module is used to handle communications between multiple GMLAN buses and functions as a gateway to isolate the secure networks from the unsecured networks. It was created to mitigate bus loading to support cyber security and new active/advanced safety features (if equipped). The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module is used as a frame-to-frame gateway for all functional messages. Communication between the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module and a scan tool is done through the primary High Speed GMLAN bus. When the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module is not communicating, the scan tool can not communicate with the vehicle.

The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module has two microprocessors within the electronic control unit. Each microprocessor is diagnosed/programmed independently via the scan tool because the two microprocessors do not talk internally. Each of these processors are responsible for managing the traffic for specific communication buses on the vehicle. The two particular buses that they will manage are high speed and low speed. If communication does not exist or the particular micros have not been programmed, control modules won't be able to communicate with or through the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module.

Low speed Microprocessor

- The low speed microprocessor is programmable via the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminal 1. This low speed bus between the X84 Data Link Connector and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module is called the Low Speed DLC Bus.
- The low speed microprocessor is capable of gating signals between the Low Speed DLC, the primary Low Speed GMLAN, and the Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Buses.
- The low speed microprocessor is also capable of gating signals between the Object High Speed DLC Bus (DLC terminals 3 & 11) and the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus.

High speed Microprocessor

- The high speed micro is programmable via the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminals 6 & 14. This high speed bus between the X84 Data Link Connector and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module is called High Speed DLC Bus.
- The high speed micro is capable of gating signals between the High Speed DLC, the primary High Speed GMLAN, the Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN, and the Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Buses.
- The high speed micro is also capable of gating signals between the Chassis High Speed DLC Bus (DLC terminals 12 & 13) and the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus.

High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 2500 & 2501)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus.

A primary High Speed GMLAN Bus is used where data needs to be exchanged at a high enough rate to minimize the delay between the occurrence of a change in sensor value and the reception of this information by a control device using the information to adjust vehicle system performance.

The primary High Speed GMLAN serial data network consists of two twisted wires. One signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-High and the other signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-Low. At each end of the data bus there is a 120 Ω termination resistor between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits.

Data symbols (1's and 0's) are transmitted sequentially at a rate of 500 Kbit/s. The data to be transmitted over the bus is represented by the voltage difference between the GMLAN-High signal voltage and the GMLAN-Low signal voltage.

When the two wire bus is at rest the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low signal circuits are not being driven and this represents a logic "1". In this state both signal circuits are at the same voltage of 2.5 V. The differential voltage is approximately 0 V.

When a logic "0" is to be transmitted, the GMLAN-High signal circuit is driven higher to about 3.5 V and the GMLAN-Low circuit is driven lower to about 1.5 V. The differential voltage becomes approximately 2.0 (+/- 0.5) V.

High Speed DLC Bus (Circuits 1978 & 1979)

Between the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminals 6 & 14 and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module terminals 15 X1 & 16 X1, there is a high speed bus called the High Speed DLC Bus. The High Speed DLC Bus is similar to the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus. Between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits, there is a 120 Ω termination resistor internal to the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module. There is no terminating resistor at the DLC.

The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module uses its high speed microprocessor to gate signals between the High Speed DLC, the primary High Speed GMLAN, the Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN, and the Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Buses.

Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 6105 & 6106) (if equipped)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus (or Chassis Expansion Bus) is basically a copy of the High Speed GMLAN Bus except that its use is reserved for chassis components. This implementation splits message congestion between two parallel buses helping to insure timely message transmission and reception. Sometimes communication is required between the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus and the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus. This is accomplished by using the K17 Electronic Brake Control Module as the Gateway module. Since the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus and primary High Speed GMLAN Bus operate in the same manner, the diagnostics for each are similar.

Chassis High Speed DLC Bus (Circuits 1980 & 1981)

Between the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminals 12 & 13 and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module terminals 17 X1 & 18 X1, there is a high speed bus called the Chassis High Speed DLC Bus. The Chassis High Speed DLC Bus is similar to the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus. Between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits, there is a 120 Ω termination resistor internal to the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module. There is no terminating resistor at the DLC.

The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module uses its high speed microprocessor to gate signals between the Chassis High Speed DLC Bus and the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus.

Powertrain High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 7493 & 7494) (if equipped)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the Powertrain High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Powertrain High Speed GMLAN Bus (or Powertrain Expansion Bus) is basically a copy of the High Speed GMLAN Bus except that its use is reserved for Powertrain components. The bus is optional based upon feature

content. Sometimes communication is required between the Powertrain High Speed GMLAN Bus and the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus. This is accomplished by using the K20 Engine Control Module as the Gateway module. Since the Powertrain High Speed GMLAN Bus and the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus operate in the same manner, the diagnostics for each are similar.

Powertrain Sensor High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 4498 & 4499) (if equipped)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the Powertrain Sensor High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Powertrain Sensor High Speed GMLAN Bus is basically a copy of the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus except that its use is reserved for Powertrain components. The bus is optional based upon feature content. Sometimes communication is required between the Powertrain Sensor High Speed GMLAN Bus and the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus. This is accomplished by using the K20 Engine Control Module as the Gateway module. Since the Powertrain Sensor High Speed GMLAN Bus and the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus operate in the same manner, the diagnostics for each are similar.

Object High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 3811 & 3813) (if equipped)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Object High Speed GMLAN Bus is basically a copy of the High Speed GMLAN Bus except that its use is reserved for the enhanced safety system. This implementation is used to isolate the heavy communication among the enhanced safety system devices from the other vehicle buses, reducing congestion. The K124 Active Safety Control Module is connected to the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus as well as the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus, the Chassis High Speed GMLAN Bus, and the Low Speed GMLAN Bus. The K124 Active Safety Control Module acts as a Gateway module for all required communication between the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus devices and devices on these other vehicle buses. The Object High Speed GMLAN Bus operates in the same manner as the Chassis High Speed GMLAN and primary High Speed GMLAN buses and so the diagnostics are similar. The Object High Speed GMLAN Bus is physically partitioned into a Front Object Bus and a Rear Object Bus with each partition having its own communication enable circuit to activate the partition, but functional operation of both is identical. The Front Object Bus standard devices are the K124 Active Safety Control Module, the K109 Frontview Camera Module (or B174W Frontview Camera - Windshield), and the B233B Radar Sensor Module - Long Range. The Front Object Bus optional devices are the B233LF Radar Sensor Module - Short Range Left Front and the B233RF Radar Sensor Module - Short Range Right Front. The Rear Object Bus is optional and when present will have the K124 Active Safety Control Module, B233LR Radar Sensor Module - Short Range Left Rear, and B233RR Radar Sensor Module - Short Range Right Rear on the bus. All Object High Speed GMLAN Bus components are powered by the K124 Active Safety Control Module via the communication enable circuits, except the K109 Frontview Camera Module (or B174W Frontview Camera - Windshield) which is powered directly by battery.

Object High Speed DLC Bus (Circuits 2089 & 2090)

Between the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminals 3 & 11 and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module terminals 13 X1 & 14 X1, there is a high speed bus called the Object High Speed DLC Bus. The Object High Speed DLC Bus is similar to the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus. Between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits, there is a 120 Ω termination resistor internal to the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module. There is no terminating resistor at the DLC.

The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module uses its low speed microprocessor to gate signals between the Object High Speed DLC Bus and the Object High Speed GMLAN Bus.

Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 1304 & 1305)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector (or control modules on the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus) and control modules on the Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Bus is an extension of the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus except it is separated from the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus by the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module for cyber security protection. The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module verifies data messages being transmitted from the control modules on the Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Bus back to the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus are good with valid transmitter messages. This bus does not terminate to the X84 Data Link Connector.

The Gateway Isolated High Speed GMLAN Bus consists of two twisted wires. One signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-High and the other signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-Low. At each end of the data bus there is a 120 Ω termination resistor between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits.

Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuits 3935 & 3936)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector (or control modules on the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus) and control modules on the Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN Bus is not cyber security protected and does not terminate at the X84 Data Link Connector. This expansion bus is created to alleviate the throughput on the primary High Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Gateway Expansion High Speed GMLAN Bus consists of two twisted wires. One signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-High and the other signal circuit is identified as GMLAN-Low. At each end of the data bus there is a 120 Ω termination resistor between the GMLAN-High and GMLAN-Low circuits.

Ethernet Bus (if equipped)

At the core of the infotainment system is the Radio Ethernet Audio Video Bridging switch which communicates directly to each contributing Infotainment module terminator. The Ethernet harness consists of twisted pair wires from point to point. Each device on the Ethernet infotainment system sends/receives data at 100 Mbit/s to/from a specified port at the A11 Radio. The Radio/Ethernet will also be used to program USB software update files to the devices connected to the Ethernet ports.

The A11 Radio is the Ethernet master. The Radio communicates with other devices and systems in the vehicle via GMLAN and LIN buses. Diagnostic Trouble Codes will be read on GMLAN to diagnose Ethernet, LIN and system faults. GMLAN will also be used for programming calibrations.

Media Oriented Systems Transport (MOST) Bus (Circuits 3997 & 3998) (if equipped)

The MOST Infotainment network is a dedicated high speed multimedia streaming data bus independent from GMLAN. The MOST Bus will be configured in a physical hardwired loop with each device within the bus sends and receives data on an assigned MOST addresses in a set order. Each device on the MOST Bus will be required to have twisted pair copper wires (2 transmit TX, 2 receive RX, and 1 electronic control line which is a 12 V wakeup signal line). The A11 Radio is the MOST Master and will monitor the bus for vehicle configuration, Infotainment data messages and errors on the bus. The MOST initialization consists of a short 100 ms low voltage pulse on the electronic control line (or MOST control line) connected to all devices contained on the MOST ring. This wakeup message once received by each device, will first respond with a generic device response. Once these initial responses on the MOST Bus are reported successfully without error to the A11 Radio, the second data request will record the MOST device addresses, their functionality requirements and capabilities within. The A11 Radio will learn this information and also record the address node sequence on the MOST Bus at this point. This node address list will now be stored within the A11 Radio as the MOST Bus configuration (called "Last Working MOST ID of Node 1 - 9" on scan tool data display).

When MOST receive, transmit, or control line faults are detected, transmit/receive messages will not received as expected from the wakeup request. The A11 Radio and the K74 Human Machine Interface Control Module will then perform diagnostics to isolate these MOST faults. If the MOST control line is shorted low to 0 V for excess amount of time, the A11 Radio will set a U2098 DTC and K74 Human Machine Interface Control Module will set a U0029 02 DTC. At this point the MOST Bus will be unable to communicate until the shorted MOST control line is repaired.

Once the shorted MOST control line diagnostics pass, the A11 Radio will attempt to resend the initial short pulse attempts up to 3 times on the MOST control line. If the expected responses are not received, the A11 Radio continues into a failure mode setting a U0028 DTC and will continue on to send one 300 ms long pulse, which will enable the furthest upstream transmitting device to become the surrogate MOST Master in this MOST fault/diagnostic mode. When the A11 Radio receives this new MOST Master identity, the surrogate MOST master device can be identified based on scan tool data parameter "Surrogate MOST Master Node Upstream Position". The scan tool should be used to determine the MOST Bus configuration and direction by utilizing the "Last Working MOST ID of Node 1 - 9" parameters from the A11 Radio data display. When a fault is present, it will indicate the newly enabled "Surrogate MOST Master Node Upstream Position" from the A11 Radio. This will assist in determining where the MOST bus/control is at fault. The MOST device upstream from the surrogate MOST master device, transmit, receive, or control lines will be the suspect areas for diagnostics at this point. These faults can be associated with any of the MOST transmit, receive, or control line twisted copper wires or possibly an internal device fault.

The K74 Human Machine Interface Control Module will set a U0029 00 DTC when it diagnoses a MOST bus not communicating properly after one attempt. When the DTC U0029 00 is set by the K74 Human Machine Interface Control Module without the corresponding DTC U0028 from the A11 Radio, it will be an indication of an intermittent wiring/device condition.

FlexRay Bus (if equipped)

The FlexRay Bus is developed for safety related applications and higher data rate in real time application. The communication is time triggered. The FlexRay serial data network consists of two unshielded twisted wires to connect FlexRay nodes together. A FlexRay node is a device connected to a FlexRay Bus.

The FlexRay serial data network features 2 communication channels: channel A and channel B. Each channel may be operated at a data rate of up to 10 Mbit/s. FlexRay nodes can be connected to either both channels or a single channel. Each FlexRay channel consists of multiple branches. Each branch is a private bus. At each end of a branch, there is a 100 Ω terminating resistor connected between the pair of FlexRay serial data circuits. The terminating resistors can be external or internal to a FlexRay device.

The second FlexRay channel can be used as a redundant channel for fault toleration or to increase data rate of up to 20 Mbit/s. The dual channel configuration consists of two independent data channels for fault-tolerance. When one channel fails, the communication can still continue with reduced bandwidth.

Low Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuit 5060)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector and control modules on the Low Speed GMLAN Bus.

Low Speed GMLAN Bus is used in applications where a high data rate is not required which allows for the use of less complex components. It is typically used for operator controlled functions where the response time requirements are slower than those required for dynamic vehicle control.

The Low Speed GMLAN Serial Data Network consists of a single wire, ground referenced bus with high side voltage drive. During on road vehicle operation data symbols (1's and 0's) are transmitted sequentially at the normal rate of 33.3 Kbit/s. For component programming only, a special high speed data mode of 83.3 Kbit/s may be used.

Unlike the high speed dual wire networks, the single wire low speed network does not use terminating resistors at either end of the network.

The data symbols to be transmitted over the bus are represented by different voltage signals on the bus. When the Low Speed GMLAN Bus is at rest and is not being driven, there is a low signal voltage of approximately 0.2 V. This represents a logic "1". When a logic "0" is to be transmitted, the signal voltage is driven higher to around 4.0 V or higher.

Low Speed DLC Bus (Circuit 2100)

Between the X84 Data Link Connector (DLC) terminal 1 and the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module terminal 26 X1, there is a low speed bus called the Low Speed DLC Bus. The Low Speed DLC Bus is similar to the primary Low Speed GMLAN Bus.

The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module uses its low speed microprocessor to gate signals between the Low Speed DLC, the primary Low Speed GMLAN, and the Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Buses.

Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Bus (Circuit 1102)

NOTE: Continuity check cannot be performed between the X84 Data Link Connector (or control modules on the primary Low Speed GMLAN Bus) and control modules on the Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Bus.

The Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Bus is an extension of the primary Low Speed GMLAN Bus except it is separated from the primary Low Speed GMLAN Bus by the K56 Serial Data Gateway Module for cyber security protection. The K56 Serial Data Gateway Module verifies data messages being transmitted from the control modules on the Gateway Isolated Low Speed GMLAN Bus back to the primary Low Speed GMLAN Bus are good with valid transmitter messages. This bus does not terminate to the X84 Data Link Connector.

Local Interconnect Network (LIN) Bus

The Local Interconnect Network (LIN) Bus consists of a single wire with a transmission rate of 10.417 Kbit/s. This bus is used to exchange information between a master control module and other smart devices which provide supporting functionality. This type of configuration does not require the capacity or speed of either a High Speed GMLAN Bus or Low Speed GMLAN Bus and is thus relatively simpler.

The data symbols (1's and 0's) to be transmitted are represented by different voltage levels on the communication bus. When the LIN Bus is at rest and is not being driven, the signal is in a high voltage state of approximately V_{batt} . This represents a logic "1". When a logic "0" is to be transmitted, the signal voltage is driven low to about ground (0.0 V).

Communication Enable Circuit Description

Devices on High Speed GMLAN Bus enable or disable communication based on the voltage level of the Serial Data Communication Enable circuit or Accessory Wakeup Serial Data circuit. When the circuit voltage is high (around 12 V), communications are enabled. When the circuit is low, communications are disabled.

X84 Data Link Connector (DLC)

The X84 Data Link Connector is a standardized 16-cavity connector. Connector design and location is dictated by an industry wide standard, and is required to provide the following:

- Terminal 1: Low Speed GMLAN Serial Data #3 terminal (Low Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 3: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (+) (13) terminal (Object High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 4: Scan tool power ground terminal
- Terminal 5: Common signal ground terminal
- Terminal 6: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (+) (11) terminal (High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 11: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (-) (13) terminal (Object High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 12: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (+) (12) terminal (Chassis High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 13: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (-) (12) terminal (Chassis High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 14: High Speed GMLAN Serial Data (-) (11) terminal (High Speed DLC Bus)
- Terminal 16: Scan tool power, battery positive voltage terminal

Serial Data Reference

The scan tool communicates over the various buses on the vehicle. When a scan tool is installed on a vehicle, the scan tool will try to communicate with every device that could be optioned into the vehicle. If an option is

not installed on the vehicle, the scan tool will display No Comm (or Not Connected) for that optional device. In order to avert misdiagnoses of No Communication with a specific device, refer to [Data Link References](#) for a list of devices and the buses they communicate with. Use schematics and specific vehicle build RPO codes to determine optional devices.

mcx30.com