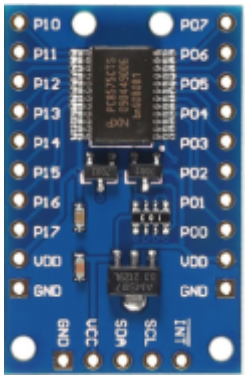
lamaPLC: PCF857x I/O Expander chip/modul with I²C communication

The PCF857x series consists of I²C-based general-purpose I/O (GPIO) expanders manufactured by NXP and Texas Instruments. They allow microcontrollers (such as Arduino, ESP32, or Raspberry Pi) to control multiple digital pins with only two wires: Serial Data (SDA) and Serial Clock (SCL).



Feature	PCF8574 / PCF8574A	PCF8575
GPIO Count	8-bit (8 pins)	16-bit (16 pins)
I²C Base Address	**0x20** (PCF8574) / **0x38** (PCF8574A)	**0x20**
Max Devices on 1 Bus	8 units	16 units
Operating Voltage	2.5V to 6V	2.5V to 5.5V
Interrupt Output	Yes (Open-drain INT)	Yes (Open-drain INT)

The current limits of the PCF857x are heavily lopsided because of its quasi-bidirectional architecture. It handles current entirely differently depending on whether you are sinking current (outputting 0/LOW) or sourcing it (outputting 1/HIGH).

The I²C LCD adapter utilizes the PCF8574.

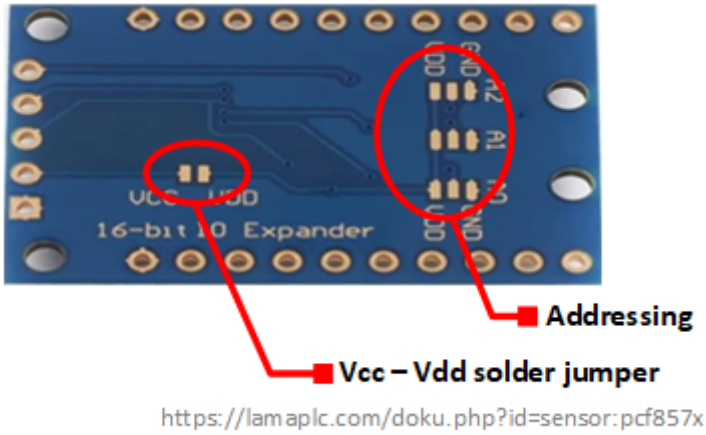
PCF857x Pinout

- **VCC:** Power input. Connects to **3.3V or 5V** to match your microcontroller's logic levels.
- **VDD:** Power input. Connect the external hardware power to **3.3V or 5V**.
- **GND:** Common ground reference.
- **SDA:** Serial Data line for I²C communication.
- **SCL:** Serial Clock line for I²C communication.
- **INT:** Interrupt output (Active Low). Pulls low to alert the microcontroller when an input pin changes state, eliminating the need for software polling.

8/16-Bit I/O Extension Pins

- **Port 0** (P00 to P07): The first group of 8 quasi-bidirectional GPIO pins.
- **Port 1** (PCF8575 only, P10 to P17): The second group of 8 quasi-bidirectional GPIO pins.

PCF857x Reverse side of the module



PCF857x Vcc and Vdd

Pin	Function	Typical Target	Voltage Role
VCC	Microcontroller (Logic) Side	Connect to your MCU's power pin (e.g., 3.3V or 5V).	Sets the operating reference voltage for the I²C communications line (SDA/SCL).
VDD	Peripheral (Device) Side	Connect to the external hardware power (e.g., 5V).	Directly sets the high voltage logic level of the 16 target output/input pins (P00–P17).

The Crucial Condition: Check the Solder Jumper

For this dual-voltage (3.3V/5V) configuration to work safely, the onboard VCC-VDD solder jumper must be open (disconnected).

- If **the jumper is open**, the module's built-in level shifters are enabled. The I²C lines (SDA/SCL) will communicate securely at 3.3V with your microcontroller, while the 16 I/O pins (P00–P17) will operate at 5V, since the expander logic runs at the VDD level.
- If **the jumper is bridged**, VCC and VDD are connected together. Applying 3.3V to VCC and 5V to VDD can create a short circuit, leading to overheating and possible damage to your microcontroller.

PCF857x module's addressing

To assign a specific 7-bit hex address, use a soldering iron to connect the center pad of each group to either GND or VCC.

A2 Status	A1 Status	A0 Status	Resulting Binary Offset	Hex I²C Address
GND (Open)	GND (Open)	GND (Open)	000	0x20 (Default)
GND (Open)	GND (Open)	VCC (Bridged)	001	0x21
GND (Open)	VCC (Bridged)	GND (Open)	010	0x22
GND (Open)	VCC (Bridged)	VCC (Bridged)	011	0x23
VCC (Bridged)	GND (Open)	GND (Open)	100	0x24
VCC (Bridged)	GND (Open)	VCC (Bridged)	101	0x25
VCC (Bridged)	VCC (Bridged)	GND (Open)	110	0x26
VCC (Bridged)	VCC (Bridged)	VCC (Bridged)	111	0x27

PCF857x using I/O pin

Sinking Current (Output LOW / Connecting to Ground)

- **Maximum per individual pin:** 25 mA (typical) / 20 mA for extended use.
- **Maximum combined total (all 16 pins combined):** 100 mA.
- **The Math:** If you activate all 16 pins simultaneously at LOW logic, you can only allocate a maximum of 6.25 mA per pin (100 mA ÷ 16) to avoid overloading the chip.

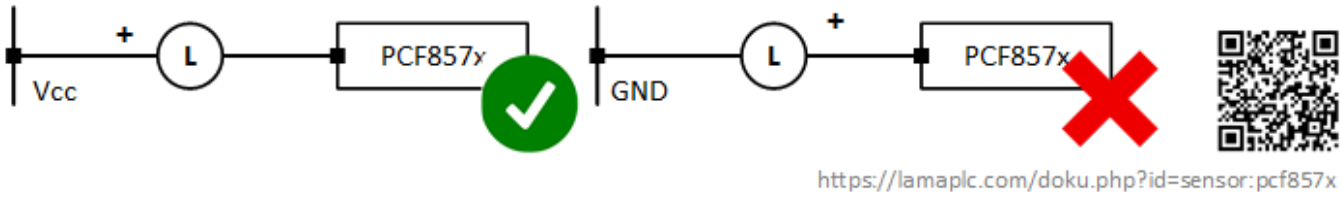
Sourcing Current (Output HIGH / Connecting to VCC)

This is the weak mode meant mostly for sensing state changes.

- **Maximum per individual pin:** Only 100 µA (0.1 mA).
- **The Limit:** This current is too weak to directly light up an LED or actuate a standard relay trigger.

How to Correctly Wire Components

- **Correct (Sinking):** Connect your load's positive wire to VCC, and the negative side (through a current-limiting resistor) directly to the PCF8575 I/O pin. Setting the pin LOW completes the path to ground and activates the load.
- **Incorrect (Sourcing):** Connecting your load's positive wire to the PCF8575 I/O pin and the negative side to Ground will fail, as the pin cannot supply sufficient current.



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PCF857x wiring with relay modules

Connecting optocoupled relay modules to the PCF8575 is a common practice, but it requires strict electrical care. Because of the chip's asymmetrical quasi-bidirectional ports, a mistake in how you trigger the relay will prevent it from working entirely.

The Triggering Rule: Active LOW Only

- **Why Active HIGH fails:** Standard optocoupled multi-channel relay modules require 2-5 mA of logic current on their IN pins to light the internal infrared LED and engage the circuit. Because the PCF8575 can source only 0.1 mA when outputting HIGH, it cannot trigger an Active HIGH configuration.
- **Why Active LOW works:** When configured as Active LOW, the PCF8575 acts as a ground connection (0V), cleanly sinking the current from the relay module. The PCF8575 can safely sink up to 20 mA per pin, easily meeting the relay's current requirements.

For example, the HL-54 (4-channel 3.3V optocoupled relay module) can be directly connected to the PCF8575. Because the HL-54 is hardwired as an Active LOW module, it is perfectly suited to the PCF8575's current limits.

I²C topics on lamaPLC

Page	Date	Tags
• lamaPLC Communication: 1-Wire	2026/04/23 21:51	1-wire, communication, bus, microlan, i2c, uart, usart, ds18b20
• lamaPLC Communication: I²C	2025/09/23 21:25	i2c, i c, smbus, philips, bus, communication, arduino
• lamaPLC project: Sension SCD CO² measurement module	2026/04/15 19:34	scd30, scd40, scd41, iaq, ndir, sensor, i2c, arduino code
• LamaPLC: AHT10 Modul	2026/03/22 03:14	communication, i2c, temperature, humidity, sensor, aht, aht 10, modul
• LamaPLC: AHT20 / BMP280 Modul	2026/04/23 21:52	bmp280, aht20, adafruit, temperature, humidity, pressure, sensor, arduino, code, i2c
• LamaPLC: APDS - Avago ALS and proximity detection sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	avago, apds-9900, apds-9930, apds-9960, als, proximity, detection, gesture recognition, gesture, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: Arduino Modul: BME680	2026/05/12 18:40	code, c, 2026, arduino, bme680, sensor, i2c, comunication
• lamaPLC: AS5600 Magnetic Induction Angle Measurement Sensor Module	2026/05/13 00:06	communication, i2c, as5600, as-5600, magnetic, induction, angle, sensor
• lamaPLC: Bi-Directional Logic Level Converter 3.3V ↔ 5V	2026/04/12 00:34	bi-directional, logic level converter, i2c, uart, spi
• LamaPLC: BMP/BME Bosch Temperature/Humidity/Pressure sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	bme280, bme680, bme688, bmp180, bmp280, hw-611, hw611, bosch, temperature, humidity, pressure, sensor, arduino, i2c, communication, ai, cjmcu, volatile organic compounds, vocs, volatile sulfur compounds, vscs, iaq
• LamaPLC: CJMCU-219/INA-219 breakout board/IC with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-219, ina-219, ina219, breakout board, i2c, communication, sensor, voltage, current, arduino, code, cjmcu
• LamaPLC: CJMCU-3216 / AP-3216 integrated digital ambient light and proximity sensor module/IC with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-3216, cjmcu, ap-3216, ap3216, ambient light, proximity, sensor, arduino, code, i2c, communication

• lamaPLC: CJMCU-811 CCS811 Gas Sensor (VOCs TVOC CO2)	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-811, ccs811, gas, sensor, vocs, tvoc, eco2, co2, arduino, air quality metal oxide, mox, i2c, micropython, rp2040-eth
• LamaPLC: D6T Omron Non-Contact Thermal Sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	d6t, d6t-32l, d6t-44l, d6t-8l, d6t-1a, omron, non-contact, thermal, sensor, i2c, arduino, code
• LamaPLC: DPS Infineon Temperature/Pressure sensors with I2C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	dps310, infineon, temperature, pressure, sensor, arduino, i2c, communication, code
• lamaPLC: Energy, power, current, and voltage	2025/05/31 23:32	i2c, i c, communication, arduino, energy, power, current, sensor, ina226
• LamaPLC: ENS ScioSense Multi-gas sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	ens160, sciosense, gas-quality, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code, eco₂, tvoc, aqi, indoor air quality, iaq, co₂, voc
• lamaPLC: ESP32 / ESP8266	2025/11/22 00:07	esp8266, esp32, esp32-c2, esp32-c3, esp32-c5, esp32-c6, esp32-c61, esp32-h2, esp32-s2, esp32-s3, esp32-p4, espressif systems, communication, ethernet, ip, wi-fi, thread, zigbee, matter, homekit, bluetooth, mqtt, adc, spi, uart, i2c, i2s, rmt, pwm, usb, usb otg, twai
• LamaPLC: Gas sensors	2023/07/01 17:29	gas, sensor, i2c, onewire, communication, mq-3, mq-4, mq-5, mq-6, mq-7, mq-8, mq-9, mq-135, gm-102b, gm-302b, gm-502b, gm-702b, alcohol, ch4, natural gas, smoke, lng, co, co2, lpg, h2, iso-butane, nox, nh3, benzene, town gas, formaldehyde, propane, humidity, temperature, voc, grv gas sens v2
• lamaPLC: GY-511 6DOF sensor module	2026/04/23 21:52	stmicroelectronics, lsm303dlhc, i2c, lsm303, sensor, gy-511, 6dof, pololu, module, arduino
• LamaPLC: GY-9250 MPU-9250/6500 9-axis Attitude Sensor Board	2026/04/23 21:52	ak8963, gy-9250, mpu-9250, 9-axis, motion detection, magnetometer, communication, i c, i2c, spi
• LamaPLC: HDC Texas Instruments Temperature/humidity sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	sht21, htu21, si7021, gy-21, gy-213v, hdc1080, gy-213v-hdc1080, cjmcu, cjmcu-1080, texas instruments, temperature, humidity, sensor, i2c, communication, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: HT16K33 display controller	2026/04/23 21:51	i2c, 7-segment display, display, ht16k33, arduino
• LamaPLC: HTU TE Connectivity temperature/humidity sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	htu, htu31d, htu21d, htu20d, sht20, htu20, sht21, htu21, si7021, gy-21, gy-213v, hdc1080, si702, gy-20, sht31, htu31, si7031, gy-31, te connectivity, temperature, humidity, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code

• lamaPLC: INA modules with Arduino libraries	2026/04/23 21:52	i2c, i c, communication, arduino, energy, power, current, monitor, sensor, ina219, gy-219, ina226, gy-216, ina228, gy-228, ina237, ina238, ina260, ina3221, ina
• lamaPLC: INA226 - current/voltage/power monitor with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	i2c, i c, communication, arduino, energy, power, current, monitor, sensor, ina226, ina219, ina
• lamaPLC: LCD 1602/2004 with I²C communication	2026/02/14 18:27	communication, i2c, display, lcd, 1602, 2004, hd44780, pcf8574, pcf8574t, pcf8574at, arduino
• LamaPLC: MAX30100/MAX30102 Heart Rate Click Sensor Module	2026/04/23 21:52	max30102, max30100, heart rate click, sensor, communication, i2c, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: MCP23017 / MCP23S17 16-Bit I/O Expander with Serial Interface I²C / SPI	2026/04/23 21:52	communication, i2c, mcp23017, mcp23s17, spi, i o expander, serial, cjmcu-2317, cjmcu
• lamaPLC: MLX90614 (GY-906) infrared non-contact thermometer	2026/05/08 00:03	communication, i2c, temperature, mlx90614, gy-906, modul, infrared, non-contact thermometer, dsp, pwm, smbus, hailege
• lamaPLC: PCF857x I/O Expander chip/modul with I²C communication	2026/05/15 01:03	communication, i2c, pcf857x, pcf8574, pcf8574a, pcf8575, i o expander, i o extension, nxp, texas instruments
• LamaPLC: Pixart PAJ7620U2 Gesture recognition sensors/module with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	paj7620u2, gy-paj7620, pixart, gesture recognition, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: I²C scanner	2026/05/12 16:20	code, micropython, 2026, rp2040 eth, i2c, comunication
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: MLX90614 simple	2026/05/12 17:06	code, micropython, 2026, rp2040 eth, i2c, communication, mlx90614
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: Read BME 680/688 sensor data	2026/05/12 21:06	code, micropython, 2026, rp2040 eth, bme680, i2c, sensor, communication
• lamaPLC: RP2040_ETH_Modul: Read BME 680/688 sensor data and store in Modbus input registers	2026/05/12 18:58	code, micropython, 2026, rp2040 eth, bme680, i2c, sensor, communication
• LamaPLC: SC16IS750 / SC16IS752: One or two serial (UART) ports from microcontroller via I²C or SPI communication	2026/04/23 21:52	cjmcu-750, cjmcu-752, cjmcu, nxp, sc16is750, sc16is752, uart, serial, i2c, spi, modul, converter, arduino, code
• LamaPLC: SGP Sensirion TVOC/VOC sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/15 19:41	sgp30, sgp40, sgp41, sensirion, gas-sensor, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code, eco₂, voc, tvoc, indoor air quality, iaq, nox, hydrogen
• LamaPLC: SHT Sensirion Temperature/humidity sensor with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	sht20, sht21, sht25, sht30, sht31, sht35, sht40, gy21, temperature, humidity, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: Signal level converters	2026/02/14 23:47	pca9306, i2c, voltage, level, converter

• lamaPLC: st756x display drivers	2026/05/20 16:17	display, driver, i2c, spi, lcd, cog, oled, st7565, st7567, gm12864, gm12864-59n, gm12864-03a, gm12864-01a, gme12864-41
• lamaPLC: TCA9548A (HW617); Low-Voltage 8-Channel I²C Switch Module	2026/02/14 23:51	tca9548a, hw617, i2c, switch, communication, expansion board, arduino
• lamaPLC: TM1637 7-segment display	2026/02/14 18:26	i2c, 7-segment display, display, tm1637, arduino
• LamaPLC: TOFnnnC STMicroelectronics Time-of-Flight (ToF) sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	tof050c, vl6180, tof200c, vl53l0x, tof400c, vl53l1x, stmicroelectronics, time-of-flight, tof, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• LamaPLC: VL53Lnn STMicroelectronics time-of-flight (ToF) laser-ranging sensors with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	vl53l0x, vl53l1x, vl53l0 1xv2, gy-530, time-of-flight, tof, laser-ranging, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• LamaPLC: VL6180X STMicroelectronics Time-of-Flight (ToF) sensor with I²C communication	2026/04/23 21:52	vl6180x, stmicroelectronics, time-of-flight, tof, i2c, communication, sensor, arduino, code
• lamaPLC: XGZP68xx: Silicon Pressure Sensors/Module	2026/05/15 15:17	communication, i2c, sensor, modul, pressure, cfsensor, xgzp68xx, xgzp6810d, xgzp6857d, xgzp6859d, xgzp6887d, xgzp6897d, xgzp6899a, piezoresistive, capacitive
• Magnetic angle sensors	2026/04/23 21:52	magnetic angle sensor, magnetic flux, sensor, spi, i2c, pwm, communication, modul, as5047p, as5600, mt6701, mt6816, mt6835, tle5012b, amr, gmr, tmr, anisotropic magnetoresistive
• SSH1106/SSD1306 OLED Display with I²C communication	2026/02/14 18:27	i2c, oled, display, ssd1306, sh1106, ssh1106, arduino, cmos

communication, i2c, PCF857x, PCF8574, PCF8574A, PCF8575, I/O Expander, I/O Extension, I2C, NXP, Texas Instruments