4.5 V to 42 V Input, 5 A, Step Down DC-DC Converter with Eco-mode™

Check for Samples: TPS54540

FEATURES

- **High Efficiency at Light Loads with Pulse Skipping Eco-mode™**
- **92-mΩ High-Side MOSFET**
- **146 µA Operating Quiescent Current and 2 µA Shutdown Current**
- **100 kHz to 2.5 MHz Fixed Switching Frequency**
- **Synchronizes to External Clock**
- **Low Dropout at Light Loads with Integrated BOOT Recharge FET**
- **Adjustable UVLO Voltage and Hysteresis**
- **0.8 V 1% Internal Voltage Reference**
- **8-Pin HSOIC with PowerPAD™ Package**
- **–40°C to 150°C T_J Operating Range**
- **Supported by WEBENCH™ Software Tool**

APPLICATIONS

- **Industrial Automation and Motor Control**
- **Vehicle Accessories: GPS, Entertainment**
- **USB Dedicated Charging Ports and Battery Chargers**
- **12 V and 24 V Industrial, Automotive and Communications Power Systems**

DESCRIPTION

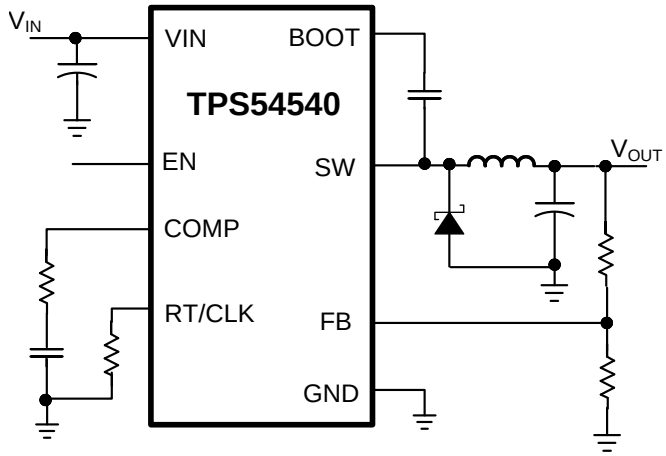
The TPS54540 is a 42 V, 5 A, step down regulator with an integrated high side MOSFET. The device survives load dump pulses up to 45V per ISO 7637. Current mode control provides simple external compensation and flexible component selection. A low ripple pulse skip mode reduces the no load supply current to 146 µA. Shutdown supply current is reduced to 2 µA when the enable pin is pulled low.

Undervoltage lockout is internally set at 4.3 V but can be increased using the enable pin. The output voltage start up ramp is internally controlled to provide a controlled start up and eliminate overshoot.

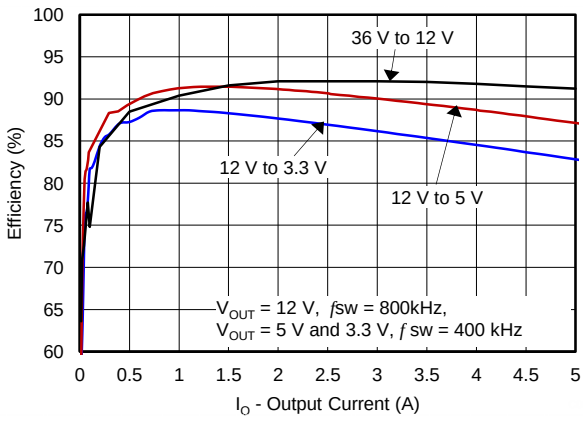
A wide switching frequency range allows either efficiency or external component size to be optimized. Output current is limited cycle-by-cycle. Frequency foldback and thermal shutdown protects internal and external components during an overload condition.

The TPS54540 is available in an 8-pin thermally enhanced HSOIC PowerPAD™ package.

SIMPLIFIED SCHEMATIC



EFFICIENCY vs LOAD CURRENT



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This integrated circuit can be damaged by ESD. Texas Instruments recommends that all integrated circuits be handled with appropriate precautions. Failure to observe proper handling and installation procedures can cause damage.

ESD damage can range from subtle performance degradation to complete device failure. Precision integrated circuits may be more susceptible to damage because very small parametric changes could cause the device not to meet its published specifications.

Table 1. ORDERING INFORMATION(1)

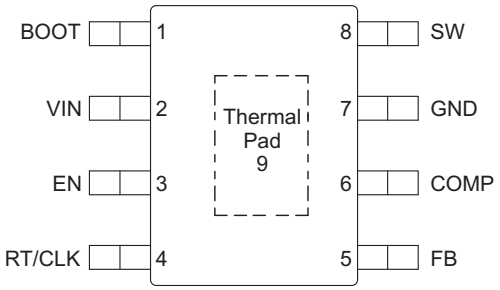
T_J	PACKAGE	PART NUMBER(2)
–40°C to 150°C	8 Pin HSOIC	TPS54540DDA

(1) For the most current package and ordering information see the Package Option Addendum at the end of this document, or see the TI website at www.ti.com.
(2) The DDA package is also available in tape and reel packaging. Add an R suffix to the device type (TPS54540DDAR).

DEVICE INFORMATION

PIN CONFIGURATION

HSOIC PACKAGE
(TOP VIEW)

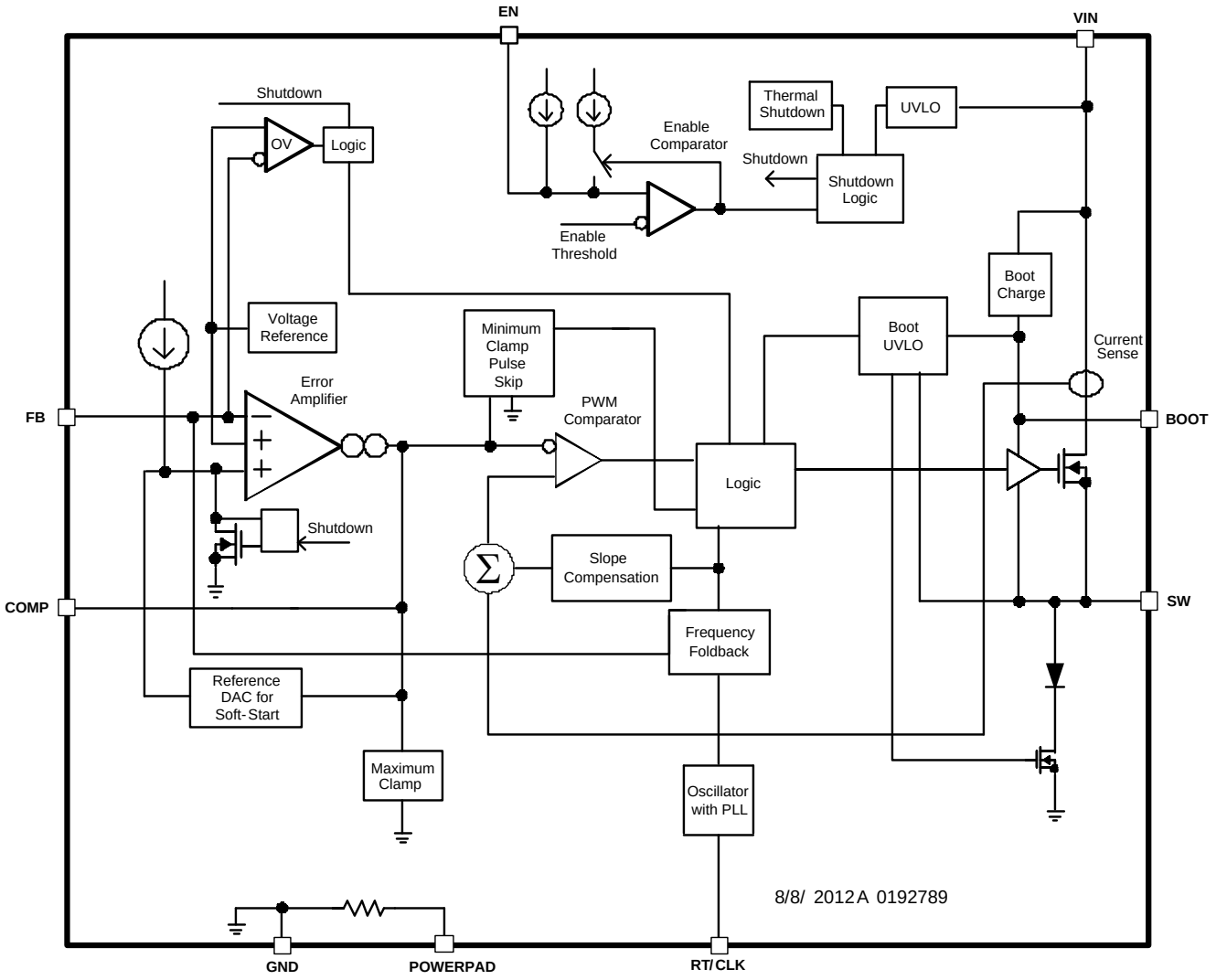


PIN FUNCTIONS

PIN		I/O	DESCRIPTION
NAME	NO.		
BOOT	1	O	A bootstrap capacitor is required between BOOT and SW. If the voltage on this capacitor is below the minimum required to operate the high side MOSFET, the output is switched off until the capacitor is refreshed.
VIN	2	I	Input supply voltage with 4.5 V to 42 V operating range.
EN	3	I	Enable pin, with internal pull-up current source. Pull below 1.2 V to disable. Float to enable. Adjust the input undervoltage lockout with two resistors. See the Enable and Adjusting Undervoltage Lockout section.
RT/CLK	4	I	Resistor Timing and External Clock. An internal amplifier holds this pin at a fixed voltage when using an external resistor to ground to set the switching frequency. If the pin is pulled above the PLL upper threshold, a mode change occurs and the pin becomes a synchronization input. The internal amplifier is disabled and the pin is a high impedance clock input to the internal PLL. If clocking edges stop, the internal amplifier is re-enabled and the operating mode returns to resistor frequency programming.
FB	5	I	Inverting input of the transconductance (gm) error amplifier.
COMP	6	O	Error amplifier output and input to the output switch current (PWM) comparator. Connect frequency compensation components to this pin.
GND	7	–	Ground
SW	8	I	The source of the internal high-side power MOSFET and switching node of the converter.
Thermal Pad	9	–	GND pin must be electrically connected to the exposed pad on the printed circuit board for proper operation.

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FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM



ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS(1)

over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)

		VALUE		UNIT
		MIN	MAX	
Input voltage	VIN	–0.3	45	V
	EN	–0.3	8.4	
	BOOT		53	
	FB	–0.3	3	
	COMP	–0.3	3	
	RT/CLK	–0.3	3.6	
Output voltage	BOOT-SW		8	V
	SW	–0.6	45	
	SW, 10-ns Transient	–2	45	
Electrostatic Discharge (HBM) QSS 009-105 (JESD22-A114A)			2	kV
Electrostatic Discharge (CDM) QSS 009-147 (JESD22-C101B.01)			500	V
Operating junction temperature			–40 to 150	°C
Storage temperature			–65 to 150	°C

(1) Stresses beyond those listed under *absolute maximum ratings* may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated under *recommended operating conditions* is not implied. Exposure to absolute-maximum-rated conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

THERMAL INFORMATION

THERMAL METRIC(1)(2)		TPS54540	UNITS
		DDA (8 PINS)	
θ_{JA}	Junction-to-ambient thermal resistance (standard board)	42.0	°C/W
ψ_{JT}	Junction-to-top characterization parameter	5.9	
ψ_{JB}	Junction-to-board characterization parameter	23.4	
θ_{JCtop}	Junction-to-case(top) thermal resistance	45.8	
θ_{JCbot}	Junction-to-case(bottom) thermal resistance	3.6	
θ_{JB}	Junction-to-board thermal resistance	23.4	

(1) For more information about traditional and new thermal metrics, see the IC Package Thermal Metrics application report, SPRA953.
(2) Power rating at a specific ambient temperature TA should be determined with a junction temperature of 150°C. This is the point where distortion starts to substantially increase. See power dissipation estimate in application section of this data sheet for more information.

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ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

T_J = –40°C to 150°C, VIN = 4.5 to 60V (unless otherwise noted)

PARAMETER		TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
SUPPLY VOLTAGE (VIN PIN)						
	Operating input voltage		4.5		42	V
	Internal undervoltage lockout threshold	Rising	4.1	4.3	4.48	V
	Internal undervoltage lockout threshold hysteresis			325		mV
	Shutdown supply current	EN = 0 V, 25°C, 4.5 V ≤ VIN ≤ 42 V		2.25	4.5	μA
	Operating: nonswitching supply current	FB = 0.83 V, T_A = 25°C		146	175	
ENABLE AND UVLO (EN PIN)						
	Enable threshold voltage	No voltage hysteresis, rising and falling	1.1	1.2	1.3	V
	Input current	Enable threshold +50 mV		–4.6		μA
		Enable threshold –50 mV	–0.58	–1.2	-1.8	
	Hysteresis current		–2.2	–3.4	-4.5	μA
	Enable to COMP active	V_{IN} = 12 V, T_A = 25°C		540		μs
INTERNAL SOFT-START TIME						
	Soft-Start Time	f_{SW} = 500 kHz, 10% to 90%		2.1		ms
	Soft-Start Time	f_{SW} = 2.5 MHz, 10% to 90%		0.42		ms
VOLTAGE REFERENCE						
	Voltage reference		0.792	0.8	0.808	V
HIGH-SIDE MOSFET						
	On-resistance	VIN = 12 V, BOOT-SW = 6 V		92	190	mΩ
ERROR AMPLIFIER						
	Input current			50		nA
	Error amplifier transconductance (g_M)	–2 μA < I_{COMP} < 2 μA, V_{COMP} = 1 V		350		μMhos
	Error amplifier transconductance (g_M) during soft-start	–2 μA < I_{COMP} < 2 μA, V_{COMP} = 1 V, V_{FB} = 0.4 V		77		μMhos
	Error amplifier dc gain	V_{FB} = 0.8 V		10,000		V/V
	Min unity gain bandwidth			2500		kHz
	Error amplifier source/sink	$V_{(COMP)}$ = 1 V, 100 mV overdrive		±30		μA
	COMP to SW current transconductance			17		A/V
CURRENT LIMIT						
	Current limit threshold	All VIN and temperatures, Open Loop(1)	6.3	7.5	8.8	A
		All temperatures, VIN = 12 V, Open Loop(1)	6.3	7.5	8.3	
		VIN = 12 V, T_A = 25°C, Open Loop(1)	7.1	7.5	7.9	
	Current limit threshold delay			60		ns
THERMAL SHUTDOWN						
	Thermal shutdown			176		°C
	Thermal shutdown hysteresis			12		°C
TIMING RESISTOR AND EXTERNAL CLOCK (RT/CLK PIN)						
	Switching frequency range using RT mode		100		2500	kHz
f_{SW}	Switching frequency	R_T = 200 kΩ	450	500	550	kHz
	Switching frequency range using CLK mode		160		2300	kHz
	Minimum CLK input pulse width			15		ns
	RT/CLK high threshold			1.55	1.7	V
	RT/CLK low threshold		0.5	1.2		V
	RT/CLK falling edge to SW rising edge delay	Measured at 500 kHz with RT resistor in series		55		ns
	PLL lock in time	Measured at 500 kHz		78		μs

(1) Open Loop current limit measured directly at the SW pin and is independent of the inductor value and slope compensation.

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TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

ON RESISTANCE vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

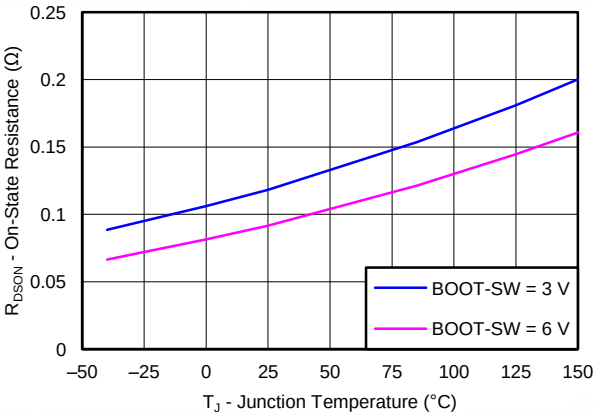


Figure 1.

VOLTAGE REFERENCE vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

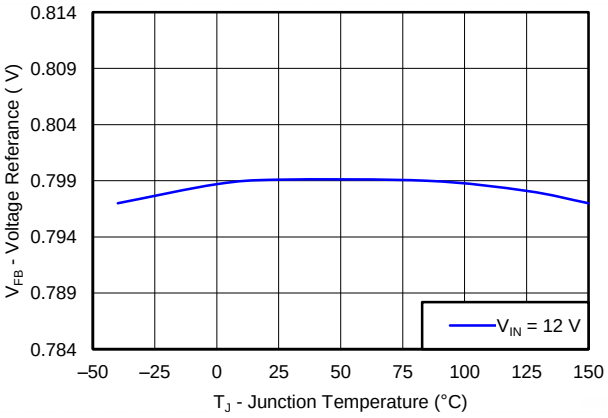


Figure 2.

SWITCH CURRENT LIMIT vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

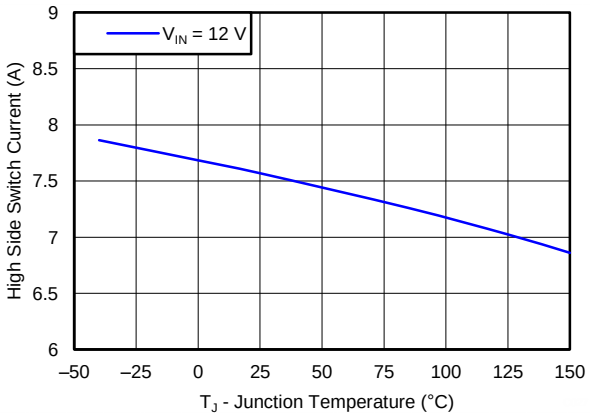


Figure 3.

SWITCH CURRENT LIMIT vs INPUT VOLTAGE

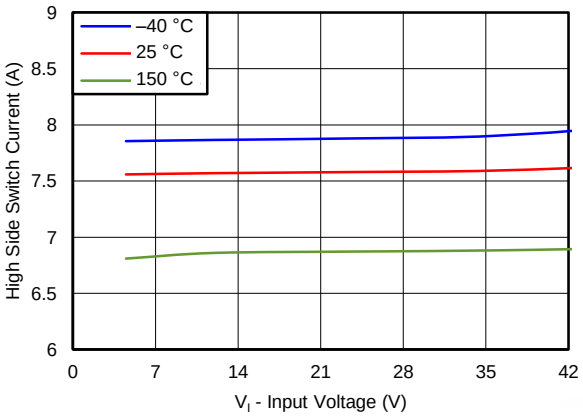


Figure 4.

SWITCHING FREQUENCY vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

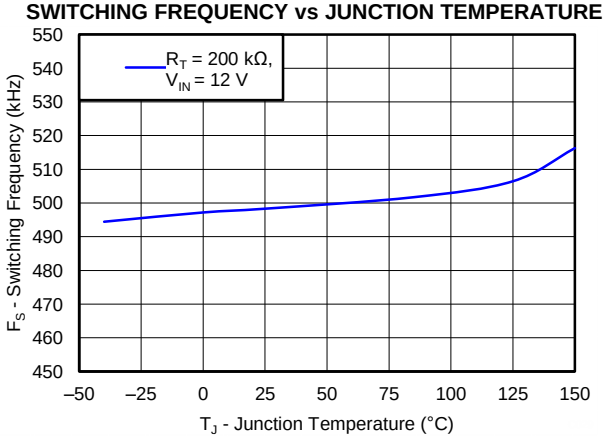


Figure 5.

SWITCHING FREQUENCY vs RT/CLK RESISTANCE LOW FREQUENCY RANGE

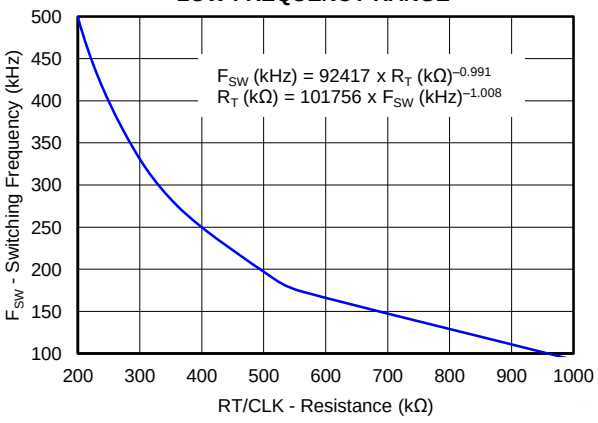


Figure 6.

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TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

SWITCHING FREQUENCY vs RT/CLK RESISTANCE HIGH FREQUENCY RANGE

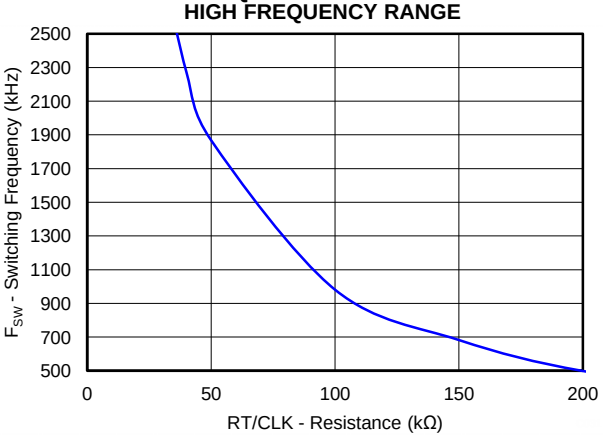


Figure 7.

EA TRANSCONDUCTANCE vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

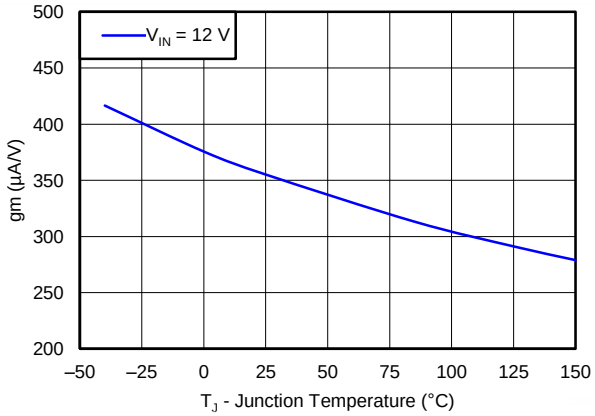


Figure 8.

EA TRANSCONDUCTANCE DURING SOFT-START vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

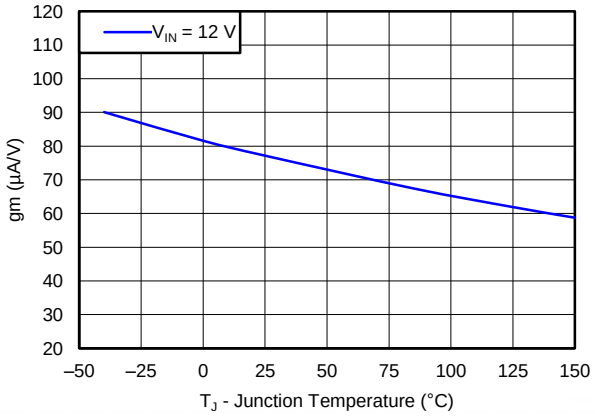


Figure 9.

EN PIN VOLTAGE vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

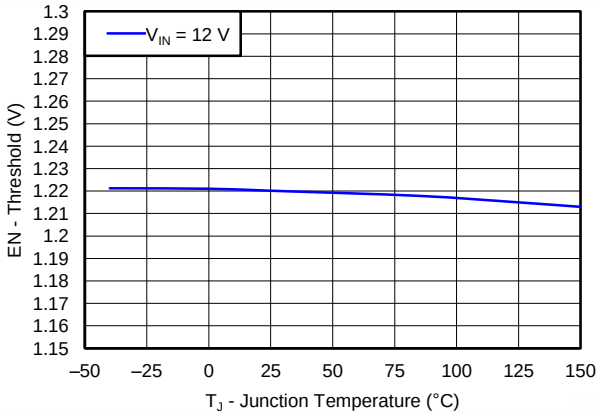


Figure 10.

EN PIN CURRENT vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

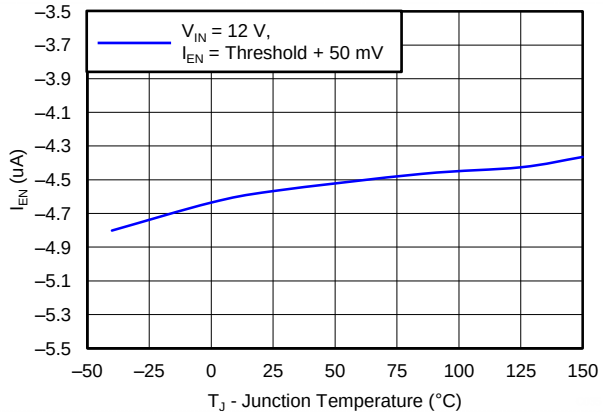


Figure 11.

EN PIN CURRENT vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

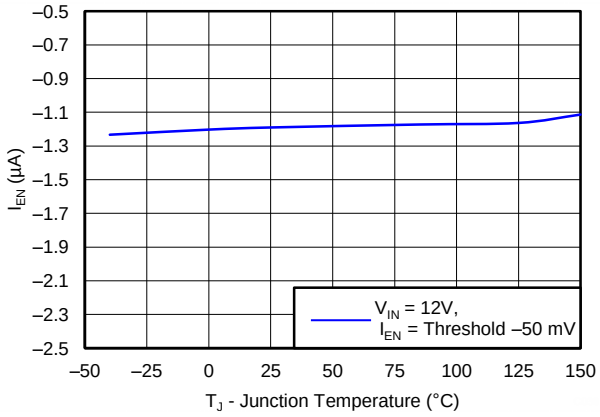


Figure 12.

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

EN PIN CURRENT HYSTERESIS vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

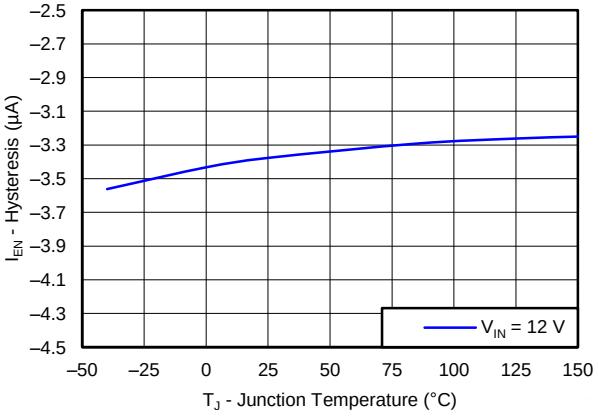


Figure 13.

SWITCHING FREQUENCY vs V_{SENSE}

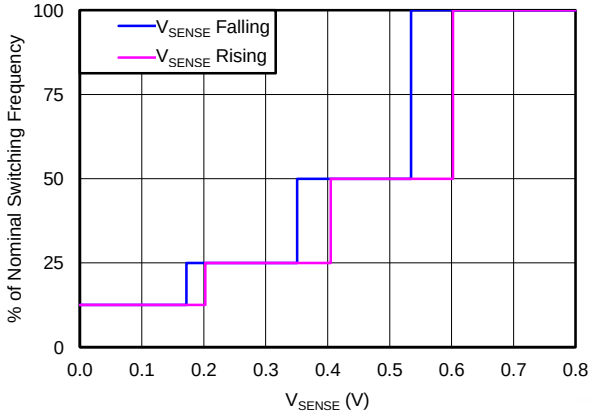


Figure 14.

SHUTDOWN SUPPLY CURRENT vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

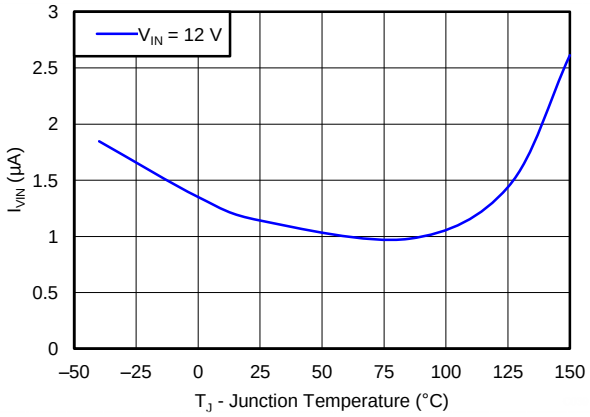


Figure 15.

SHUTDOWN SUPPLY CURRENT vs INPUT VOLTAGE (V_{IN})

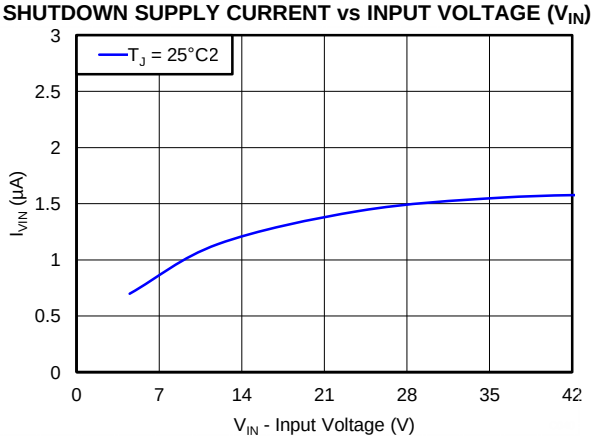


Figure 16.

V_{IN} SUPPLY CURRENT vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

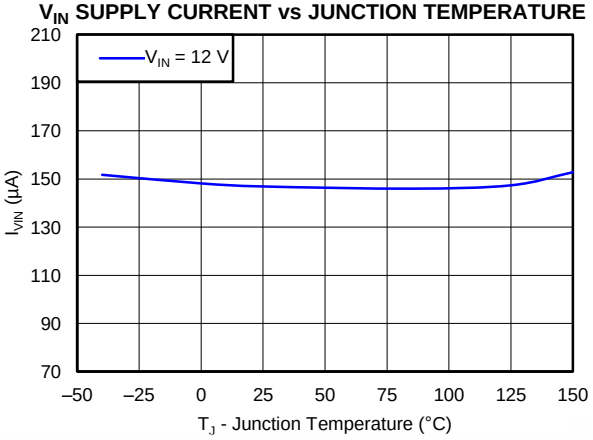


Figure 17.

V_{IN} SUPPLY CURRENT vs INPUT VOLTAGE

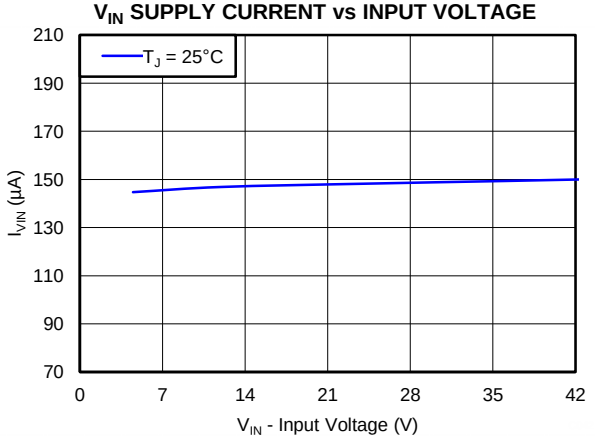


Figure 18.

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TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

BOOT-SW UVLO vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

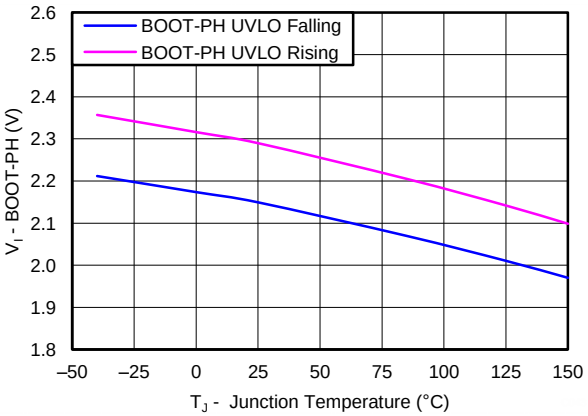


Figure 19.

INPUT VOLTAGE UVLO vs JUNCTION TEMPERATURE

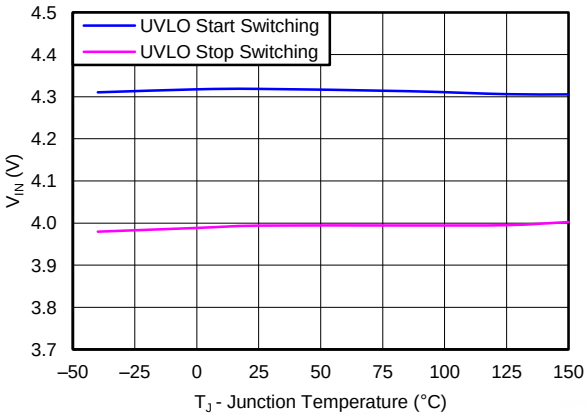


Figure 20.

SOFT-START TIME vs SWITCHING FREQUENCY

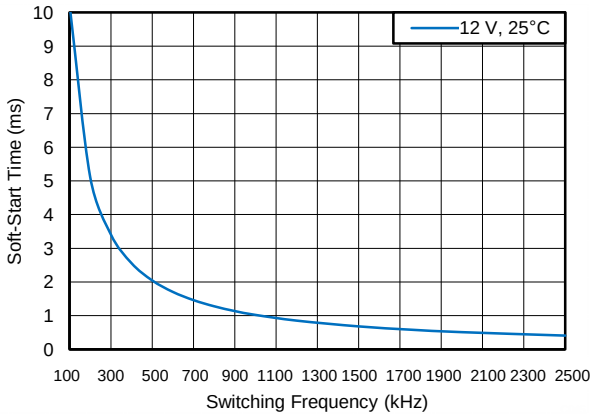


Figure 21.

5 V START and STOP VOLTAGE

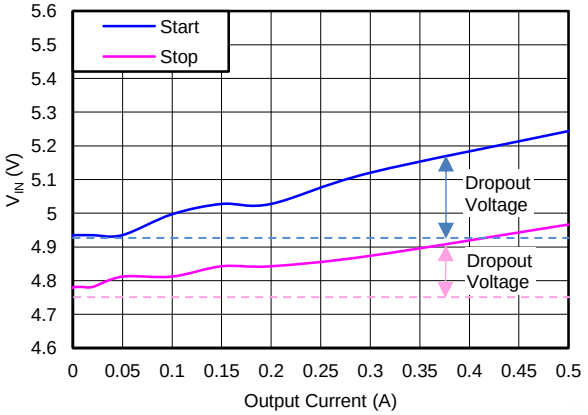


Figure 22.

OVERVIEW

The TPS54540 is a 42 V, 5 A, step-down (buck) regulator with an integrated high side n-channel MOSFET. The device implements constant frequency, current mode control which reduces output capacitance and simplifies external frequency compensation. The wide switching frequency range of 100 kHz to 2500 kHz allows either efficiency or size optimization when selecting the output filter components. The switching frequency is adjusted using a resistor to ground connected to the RT/CLK pin. The device has an internal phase-locked loop (PLL) connected to the RT/CLK pin that will synchronize the power switch turn on to a falling edge of an external clock signal.

The TPS54540 has a default input start-up voltage of approximately 4.3 V. The EN pin can be used to adjust the input voltage undervoltage lockout (UVLO) threshold with two external resistors. An internal pull up current source enables operation when the EN pin is floating. The operating current is 146 µA under no load condition (not switching). When the device is disabled, the supply current is 2 µA.

The integrated 92 mΩ high side MOSFET supports high efficiency power supply designs capable of delivering 5 amperes of continuous current to a load. The gate drive bias voltage for the integrated high side MOSFET is supplied by a bootstrap capacitor connected from the BOOT to SW pins. The TPS54540 reduces the external component count by integrating the bootstrap recharge diode. The BOOT pin capacitor voltage is monitored by a UVLO circuit which turns off the high side MOSFET when the BOOT to SW voltage falls below a preset threshold. An automatic BOOT capacitor recharge circuit allows the TPS54540 to operate at high duty cycles approaching 100%. Therefore, the maximum output voltage is near the minimum input supply voltage of the application. The minimum output voltage is the internal 0.8 V feedback reference.

Output overvoltage transients are minimized by an Overvoltage Transient Protection (OVP) comparator. When the OVP comparator is activated, the high side MOSFET is turned off and remains off until the output voltage is less than 106% of the desired output voltage.

The TPS54540 includes an internal soft-start circuit that slows the output rise time during start-up to reduce in-rush current and output voltage overshoot. Output overload conditions reset the soft-start timer. When the overload condition is removed, the soft-start circuit controls the recovery from the fault output level to the nominal regulation voltage. A frequency foldback circuit reduces the switching frequency during start-up and overcurrent fault conditions to help maintain control of the inductor current.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fixed Frequency PWM Control

The TPS54540 uses fixed frequency, peak current mode control with adjustable switching frequency. The output voltage is compared through external resistors connected to the FB pin to an internal voltage reference by an error amplifier. An internal oscillator initiates the turn on of the high side power switch. The error amplifier output at the COMP pin controls the high side power switch current. When the high side MOSFET switch current reaches the threshold level set by the COMP voltage, the power switch is turned off. The COMP pin voltage will increase and decrease as the output current increases and decreases. The device implements current limiting by clamping the COMP pin voltage to a maximum level. The pulse skipping Eco-mode is implemented with a minimum voltage clamp on the COMP pin.

Slope Compensation Output Current

The TPS54540 adds a compensating ramp to the MOSFET switch current sense signal. This slope compensation prevents sub-harmonic oscillations at duty cycles greater than 50%. The peak current limit of the high side switch is not affected by the slope compensation and remains constant over the full duty cycle range.

Pulse Skip Eco-mode

The TPS54540 operates in a pulse skipping Eco-mode at light load currents to improve efficiency by reducing switching and gate drive losses. If the output voltage is within regulation and the peak switch current at the end of any switching cycle is below the pulse skipping current threshold, the device enters Eco-mode. The pulse skipping current threshold is the peak switch current level corresponding to a nominal COMP voltage of 600 mV.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

When in Eco-mode, the COMP pin voltage is clamped at 600 mV and the high side MOSFET is inhibited. Since the device is not switching, the output voltage begins to decay. The voltage control loop responds to the falling output voltage by increasing the COMP pin voltage. The high side MOSFET is enabled and switching resumes when the error amplifier lifts COMP above the pulse skipping threshold. The output voltage recovers to the regulated value, and COMP eventually falls below the Eco-mode pulse skipping threshold at which time the device again enters Eco-mode. The internal PLL remains operational when in Eco-mode. When operating at light load currents in Eco-mode, the switching transitions occur synchronously with the external clock signal.

During Eco-mode operation, the TPS54540 senses and controls peak switch current, not the average load current. Therefore the load current at which the device enters Eco-mode is dependent on the output inductor value. The circuit in Figure 35 enters Eco-mode at about 18 mA output current. As the load current approaches zero, the device enters a pulse skip mode during which it draws only 146 µA input quiescent current.

Low Dropout Operation and Bootstrap Voltage (BOOT)

The TPS54540 provides an integrated bootstrap voltage regulator. A small capacitor between the BOOT and SW pins provides the gate drive voltage for the high side MOSFET. The BOOT capacitor is refreshed when the high side MOSFET is off and the external low side diode conducts. The recommended value of the BOOT capacitor is 0.1 µF. A ceramic capacitor with an X7R or X5R grade dielectric with a voltage rating of 10 V or higher is recommended for stable performance over temperature and voltage.

When operating with a low voltage difference from input to output, the high side MOSFET of the TPS54540 will operate at 100% duty cycle as long as the BOOT to SW pin voltage is greater than 2.1V. When the voltage from BOOT to SW drops below 2.1V, the high side MOSFET is turned off and an integrated low side MOSFET pulls SW low to recharge the BOOT capacitor. To reduce the losses of the small low side MOSFET at high output voltages, it is disabled at 24 V output and re-enabled when the output reaches 21.5 V.

Since the gate drive current sourced from the BOOT capacitor is small, the high side MOSFET can remain on for many switching cycles before the MOSFET is turned off to refresh the capacitor. Thus the effective duty cycle of the switching regulator can be high, approaching 100%. The effective duty cycle of the converter during dropout is mainly influenced by the voltage drops across the power MOSFET, the inductor resistance, the low side diode voltage and the printed circuit board resistance.

The start and stop voltage for a typical 5 V output application is shown in Figure 23 where the Vin voltage is plotted versus load current. The start voltage is defined as the input voltage needed to regulate the output within 1% of nominal. The stop voltage is defined as the input voltage at which the output drops by 5% or where switching stops.

During high duty cycle (low dropout) conditions, inductor current ripple increases when the BOOT capacitor is being recharged resulting in an increase in output voltage ripple. Increased ripple occurs when the off time required to recharge the BOOT capacitor is longer than the high side off time associated with cycle by cycle PWM control.

At heavy loads, the minimum input voltage must be increased to insure a monotonic startup. The equation below can be used to calculate the minimum input voltage for this condition.

$$Vout_max = Dmax \times (Vin_min - Iout_max \times R_{DS(on)} + VF) - VF + Iout_max \times RL$$

Where:

- $Dmax \geq 0.9$
- $IB2SW = 100\ \mu A$
- VF = Forward Drop of the Catch Diode
- $TSW = 1 / Fsw$
- $VB2SW = VBOOT + VF$
- $VBOOT = (1.41 \times V_{IN} - 0.554 - VF / TSW - 1.847 \times 10^3 \times IB2SW) / (1.41 + 1 / Tsw)$
- $R_{DS(on)} = 1 / (-0.3 \times VB2SW^2 + 3.577 \times VB2SW - 4.246)$

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

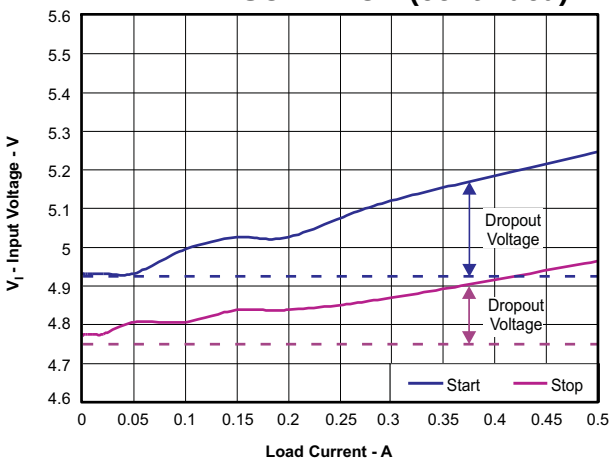


Figure 23. 5V Start/Stop Voltage

Error Amplifier

The TPS54540 voltage regulation loop is controlled by a transconductance error amplifier. The error amplifier compares the FB pin voltage to the lower of the internal soft-start voltage or the internal 0.8 V voltage reference. The transconductance (gm) of the error amplifier is 350 µA/V during normal operation. During soft-start operation, the transconductance is reduced to 78 µA/V and the error amplifier is referenced to the internal soft-start voltage.

The frequency compensation components (capacitor, series resistor and capacitor) are connected between the error amplifier output COMP pin and GND pin.

Adjusting the Output Voltage

The internal voltage reference produces a precise 0.8 V ±1% voltage reference over the operating temperature and voltage range by scaling the output of a bandgap reference circuit. The output voltage is set by a resistor divider from the output node to the FB pin. It is recommended to use 1% tolerance or better divider resistors. Select the low side resistor R_{LS} for the desired divider current and use Equation 1 to calculate R_{HS}. To improve efficiency at light loads consider using larger value resistors. However, if the values are too high, the regulator will be more susceptible to noise and voltage errors from the FB input current may become noticeable.

$$R_{HS} = R_{LS} \times \left(\frac{Vout - 0.8V}{0.8\ V} \right) \quad (1)$$

Enable and Adjusting Undervoltage Lockout

The TPS54540 is enabled when the VIN pin voltage rises above 4.3 V and the EN pin voltage exceeds the enable threshold of 1.2 V. The TPS54540 is disabled when the VIN pin voltage falls below 4 V or when the EN pin voltage is below 1.2 V. The EN pin has an internal pull-up current source, I1, of 1.2 µA that enables operation of the TPS54540 when the EN pin floats.

If an application requires a higher undervoltage lockout (UVLO) threshold, use the circuit shown in Figure 24 to adjust the input voltage UVLO with two external resistors. When the EN pin voltage exceeds 1.2 V, an additional 3.4 µA of hysteresis current, I_{HYS}, is sourced out of the EN pin. When the EN pin is pulled below 1.2 V, the 3.4 µA Ihys current is removed. This additional current facilitates adjustable input voltage UVLO hysteresis. Use Equation 2 to calculate R_{UVLO1} for the desired UVLO hysteresis voltage. Use Equation 3 to calculate R_{UVLO2} for the desired VIN start voltage.

In applications designed to start at relatively low input voltages (that is, from 4.5 V to 9 V) and withstand high input voltages (that is, up to 42 V), the EN pin may experience a voltage greater than the absolute maximum voltage of 8.4 V during the high input voltage condition. To avoid exceeding this voltage when using the EN resistors, the EN pin is clamped internally with a 5.8 V zener diode that will sink up to 150 µA.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

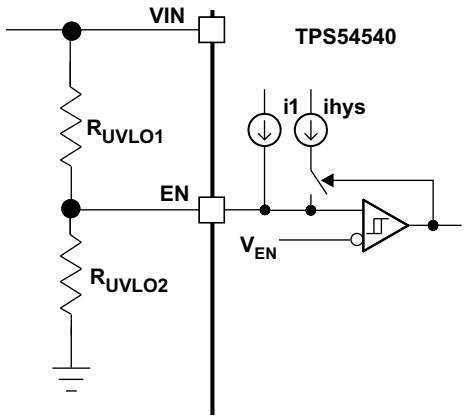


Figure 24. Adjustable Undervoltage Lockout (UVLO)

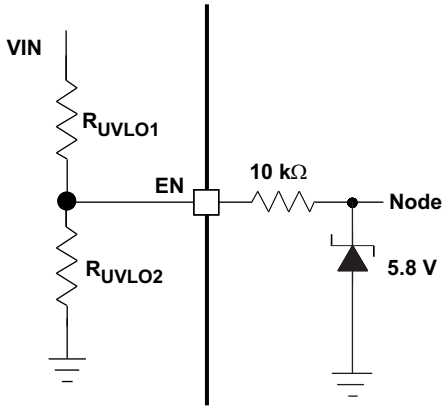


Figure 25.

$$R_{UVLO1} = \frac{V_{START} - V_{STOP}}{I_{HYS}} \quad (2)$$

$$R_{UVLO2} = \frac{V_{ENA}}{\frac{V_{START} - V_{ENA}}{R_{UVLO1}} + I_1} \quad (3)$$

Internal Soft-Start

The TPS54540 has an internal digital soft-start that ramps the reference voltage from zero volts to its final value in 1024 switching cycles. The internal soft-start time (10% to 90%) is calculated using Equation 4

$$t_{SS}(ms) = \frac{1024}{f_{SW}(kHz)} \quad (4)$$

If the EN pin is pulled below the stop threshold of 1.2 V, switching stops and the internal soft-start resets. The soft-start also resets in thermal shutdown.

Constant Switching Frequency and Timing Resistor (RT/CLK) Pin)

The switching frequency of the TPS54540 is adjustable over a wide range from 100 kHz to 2500 kHz by placing a resistor between the RT/CLK pin and GND pin. The RT/CLK pin voltage is typically 0.5 V and must have a resistor to ground to set the switching frequency. To determine the timing resistance for a given switching frequency, use Equation 5 or Equation 6 or the curves in Figure 5 and Figure 6. To reduce the solution size one would typically set the switching frequency as high as possible, but tradeoffs of the conversion efficiency, maximum input voltage and minimum controllable on time should be considered. The minimum controllable on time is typically 135 ns which limits the maximum operating frequency in applications with high input to output step down ratios. The maximum switching frequency is also limited by the frequency foldback circuit. A more detailed discussion of the maximum switching frequency is provided in the next section.

$$RT\ (k\Omega) = \frac{92417}{f sw\ (kHz)^{0.991}} \quad (5)$$

$$f sw\ (kHz) = \frac{101756}{RT\ (k\Omega)^{1.008}} \quad (6)$$

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

Selecting the Switching Frequency

The TPS54540 implements peak current mode control in which the COMP pin voltage controls the peak current of the high side MOSFET. A signal proportional to the high side switch current and the COMP pin voltage are compared each cycle. When the peak switch current intersects the COMP control voltage, the high side switch is turned off. During overcurrent conditions that pull the output voltage low, the error amplifier increases switch current by driving the COMP pin high. The error amplifier output is clamped internally at a level which sets the peak switch current limit. The TPS54540 provides an accurate current limit threshold with a typical current limit delay of 60 ns. With smaller inductor values, the delay will result in a higher peak inductor current. The relationship between the inductor value and the peak inductor current is shown in Figure 26.

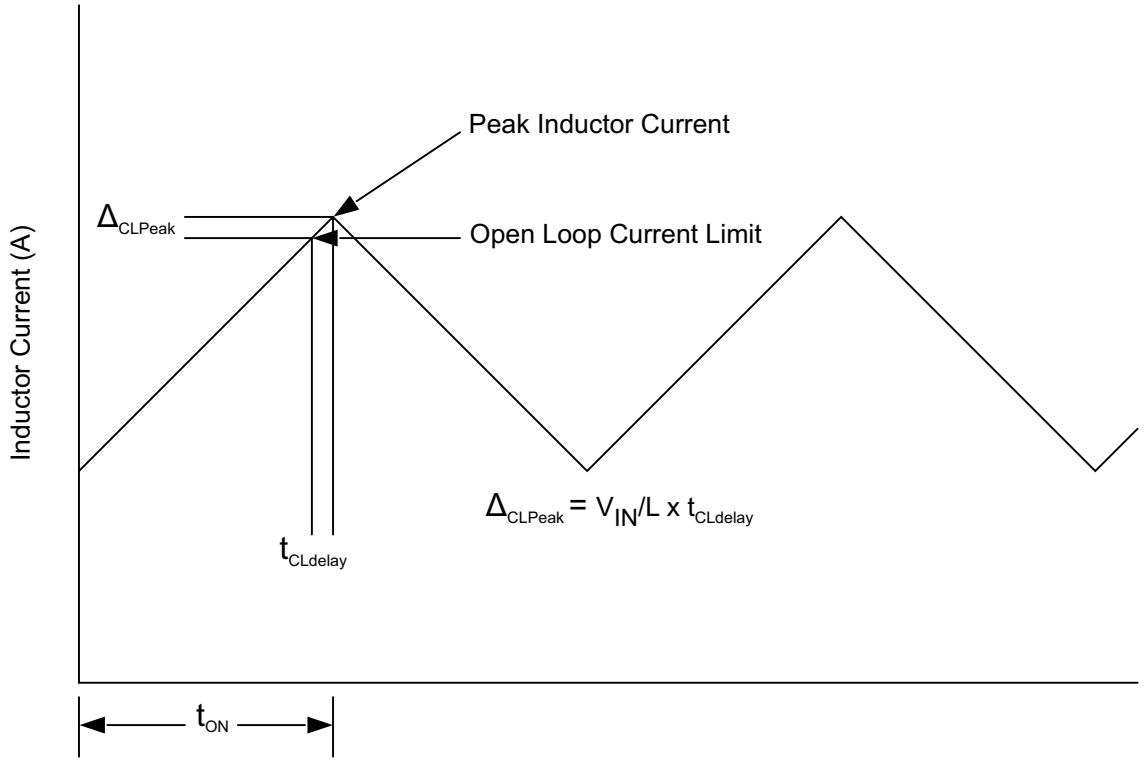


Figure 26. Current Limit Delay

To protect the converter in overload conditions at higher switching frequencies and input voltages, the TPS54540 implements a frequency foldback. The oscillator frequency is divided by 1, 2, 4, and 8 as the FB pin voltage falls from 0.8 V to 0 V. The TPS54540 uses a digital frequency foldback to enable synchronization to an external clock during normal start-up and fault conditions. During short-circuit events, the inductor current can exceed the peak current limit because of the high input voltage and the minimum controllable on time. When the output voltage is forced low by the shorted load, the inductor current decreases slowly during the switch off time. The frequency foldback effectively increases the off time by increasing the period of the switching cycle providing more time for the inductor current to ramp down.

With a maximum frequency foldback ratio of 8, there is a maximum frequency at which the inductor current can be controlled by frequency foldback protection. Equation 8 calculates the maximum switching frequency at which the inductor current will remain under control when V_{OUT} is forced to $V_{OUT(SC)}$. The selected operating frequency should not exceed the calculated value.

Equation 7 calculates the maximum switching frequency limitation set by the minimum controllable on time and the input to output step down ratio. Setting the switching frequency above this value will cause the regulator to skip switching pulses to achieve the low duty cycle required at maximum input voltage.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

$$f_{SW(max\,skip)} = \frac{1}{t_{ON}} \times \left(\frac{I_O \times R_{dc} + V_{OUT} + V_d}{V_{IN} - I_O \times R_{DS(on)} + V_d} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$f_{SW(shift)} = \frac{f_{DIV}}{t_{ON}} \times \left(\frac{I_{CL} \times R_{dc} + V_{OUT(sc)} + V_d}{V_{IN} - I_{CL} \times R_{DS(on)} + V_d} \right) \quad (8)$$

I_O	Output current
I_{CL}	Current limit
Rdc	inductor resistance
V_{IN}	maximum input voltage
V_{OUT}	output voltage
V_{OUTSC}	output voltage during short
Vd	diode voltage drop
$R_{DS(on)}$	switch on resistance
t_{ON}	controllable on time
f_{DIV}	frequency divide equals (1, 2, 4, or 8)

Synchronization to RT/CLK Pin

The RT/CLK pin can receive a frequency synchronization signal from an external system clock. To implement this synchronization feature connect a square wave to the RT/CLK pin through either circuit network shown in Figure 27. The square wave applied to the RT/CLK pin must switch lower than 0.5 V and higher than 1.7 V and have a pulsewidth greater than 15 ns. The synchronization frequency range is 160 kHz to 2300 kHz. The rising edge of the SW will be synchronized to the falling edge of RT/CLK pin signal. The external synchronization circuit should be designed such that the default frequency set resistor is connected from the RT/CLK pin to ground when the synchronization signal is off. When using a low impedance signal source, the frequency set resistor is connected in parallel with an ac coupling capacitor to a termination resistor (e.g., 50 Ω) as shown in Figure 27. The two resistors in series provide the default frequency setting resistance when the signal source is turned off. The sum of the resistance should set the switching frequency close to the external CLK frequency. It is recommended to ac couple the synchronization signal through a 10 pF ceramic capacitor to RT/CLK pin.

The first time the RT/CLK is pulled above the PLL threshold the TPS54540 switches from the RT resistor free-running frequency mode to the PLL synchronized mode. The internal 0.5 V voltage source is removed and the RT/CLK pin becomes high impedance as the PLL starts to lock onto the external signal. The switching frequency can be higher or lower than the frequency set with the RT/CLK resistor. The device transitions from the resistor mode to the PLL mode and locks onto the external clock frequency within 78 microseconds. During the transition from the PLL mode to the resistor programmed mode, the switching frequency will fall to 150 kHz and then increase or decrease to the resistor programmed frequency when the 0.5 V bias voltage is reapplied to the RT/CLK resistor.

The switching frequency is divided by 8, 4, 2, and 1 as the FB pin voltage ramps from 0 to 0.8 volts. The device implements a digital frequency foldback to enable synchronizing to an external clock during normal start-up and fault conditions. Figure 28, Figure 29 and Figure 30 show the device synchronized to an external system clock in continuous conduction mode (CCM), discontinuous conduction (DCM), and pulse skip mode (Eco-Mode).

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

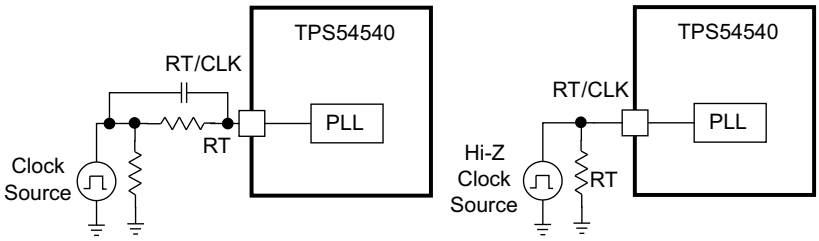


Figure 27. Synchronizing to a System Clock

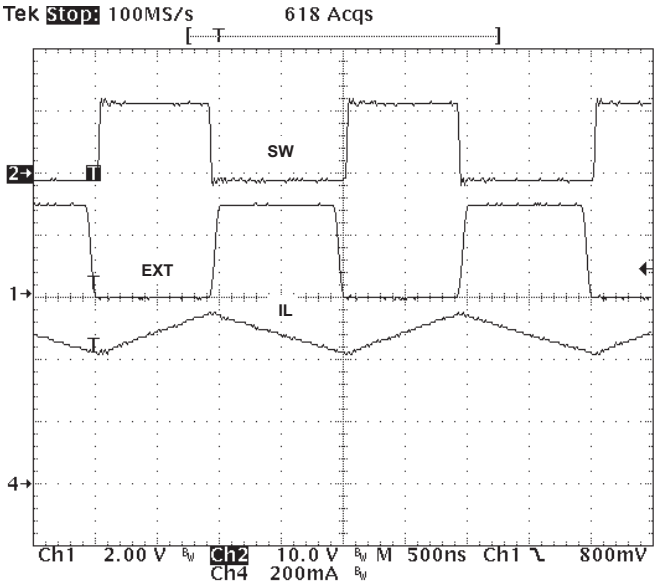


Figure 28. Plot of Synchronizing in CCM

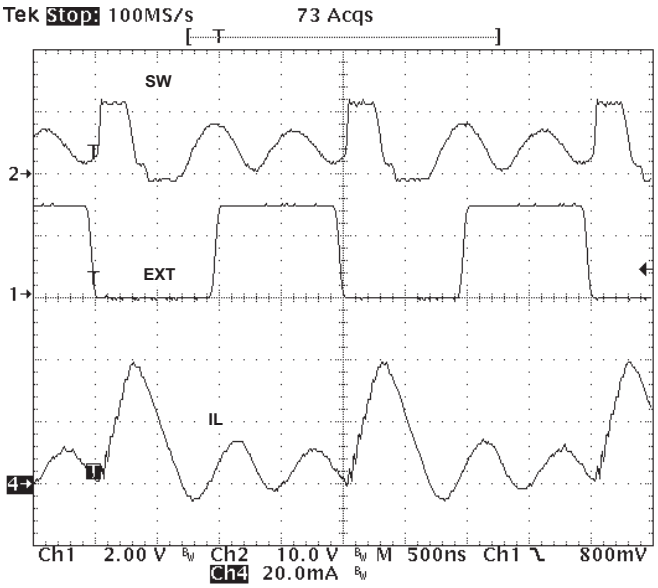


Figure 29. Plot of Synchronizing in DCM

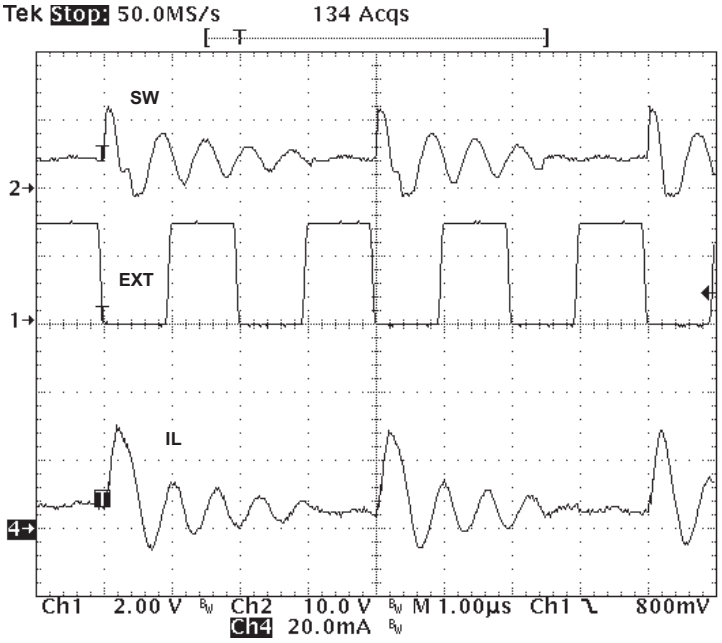


Figure 30. Plot of Synchronizing in Eco-mode

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

Overvoltage Protection

The TPS54540 incorporates an output overvoltage protection (OVP) circuit to minimize voltage overshoot when recovering from output fault conditions or strong unload transients in designs with low output capacitance. For example, when the power supply output is overloaded the error amplifier compares the actual output voltage to the internal reference voltage. If the FB pin voltage is lower than the internal reference voltage for a considerable time, the output of the error amplifier will increase to a maximum voltage corresponding to the peak current limit threshold. When the overload condition is removed, the regulator output rises and the error amplifier output transitions to the normal operating level. In some applications, the power supply output voltage can increase faster than the response of the error amplifier output resulting in an output overshoot.

The OVP feature minimizes output overshoot when using a low value output capacitor by comparing the FB pin voltage to the rising OVP threshold which is nominally 109% of the internal voltage reference. If the FB pin voltage is greater than the rising OVP threshold, the high side MOSFET is immediately disabled to minimize output overshoot. When the FB voltage drops below the falling OVP threshold which is nominally 106% of the internal voltage reference, the high side MOSFET resumes normal operation.

Thermal Shutdown

The TPS54540 provides an internal thermal shutdown to protect the device when the junction temperature exceeds 176°C. The high side MOSFET stops switching when the junction temperature exceeds the thermal trip threshold. Once the die temperature falls below 164°C, the device reinitiates the power up sequence controlled by the internal soft-start circuitry.

Small Signal Model for Loop Response

Figure 31 shows an equivalent model for the TPS54540 control loop which can be simulated to check the frequency response and dynamic load response. The error amplifier is a transconductance amplifier with a gm_{EA} of
350 µA/V. The error amplifier can be modeled using an ideal voltage controlled current source. The resistor R_o and capacitor C_o model the open loop gain and frequency response of the amplifier. The 1mV ac voltage source between the nodes a and b effectively breaks the control loop for the frequency response measurements. Plotting c/a provides the small signal response of the frequency compensation. Plotting a/b provides the small signal response of the overall loop. The dynamic loop response can be evaluated by replacing R_L with a current source with the appropriate load step amplitude and step rate in a time domain analysis. This equivalent model is only valid for continuous conduction mode (CCM) operation.

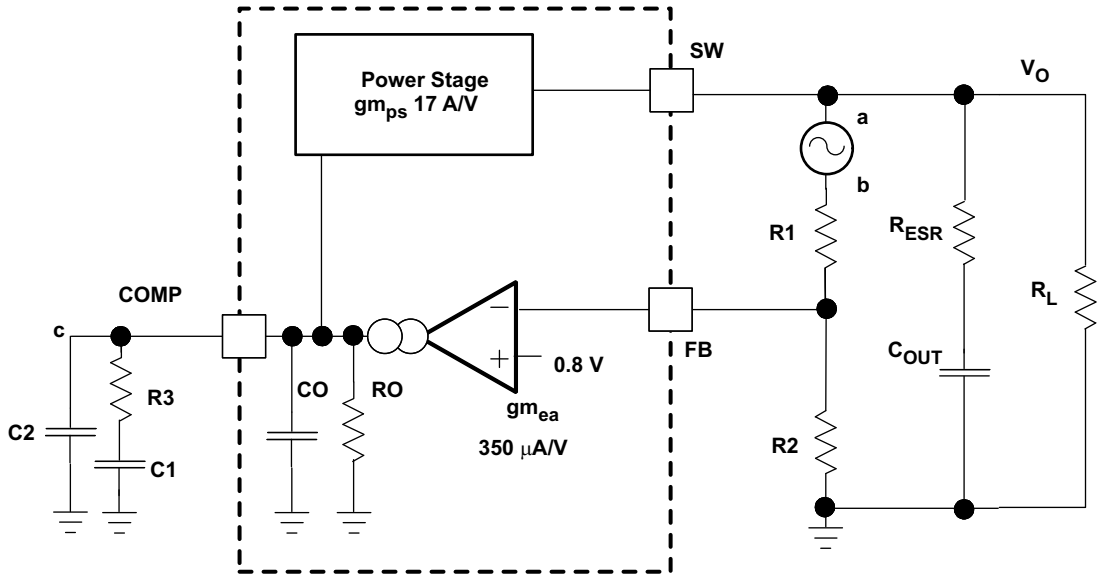


Figure 31. Small Signal Model for Loop Response

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

Simple Small Signal Model for Peak Current Mode Control

Figure 32 describes a simple small signal model that can be used to design the frequency compensation. The TPS54540 power stage can be approximated by a voltage-controlled current source (duty cycle modulator) supplying current to the output capacitor and load resistor. The control to output transfer function is shown in Equation 9 and consists of a dc gain, one dominant pole, and one ESR zero. The quotient of the change in switch current and the change in COMP pin voltage (node c in Figure 31) is the power stage transconductance, gm_{PS}. The gm_{PS} for the TPS54540 is 17 A/V. The low-frequency gain of the power stage is the product of the transconductance and the load resistance as shown in Equation 10.

As the load current increases and decreases, the low-frequency gain decreases and increases, respectively. This variation with the load may seem problematic at first glance, but fortunately the dominant pole moves with the load current (see Equation 11). The combined effect is highlighted by the dashed line in the right half of Figure 32. As the load current decreases, the gain increases and the pole frequency lowers, keeping the 0-dB crossover frequency the same with varying load conditions. The type of output capacitor chosen determines whether the ESR zero has a profound effect on the frequency compensation design. Using high ESR aluminum electrolytic capacitors may reduce the number frequency compensation components needed to stabilize the overall loop because the phase margin is increased by the ESR zero of the output capacitor (see Equation 12).

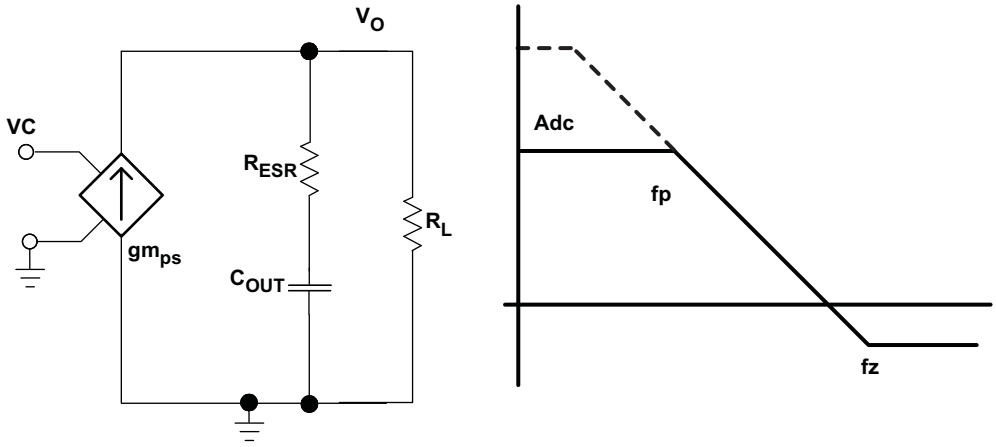


Figure 32. Simple Small Signal Model and Frequency Response for Peak Current Mode Control

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

$$\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_C} = Adc \times \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{2\pi \times f_Z}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{2\pi \times f_P}\right)} \quad (9)$$

$$Adc = gm_{ps} \times R_L \quad (10)$$

$$f_P = \frac{1}{C_{OUT} \times R_L \times 2\pi} \quad (11)$$

$$f_Z = \frac{1}{C_{OUT} \times R_{ESR} \times 2\pi} \quad (12)$$

Small Signal Model for Frequency Compensation

The TPS54540 uses a transconductance amplifier for the error amplifier and supports three of the commonly-used frequency compensation circuits. Compensation circuits Type 2A, Type 2B, and Type 1 are shown in Figure 33. Type 2 circuits are typically implemented in high bandwidth power-supply designs using low ESR output capacitors. The Type 1 circuit is used with power-supply designs with high-ESR aluminum electrolytic or tantalum capacitors. Equation 13 and Equation 14 relate the frequency response of the amplifier to the small signal model in Figure 33. The open-loop gain and bandwidth are modeled using the R_O and C_O shown in Figure 33. See the application section for a design example using a Type 2A network with a low ESR output capacitor.

Equation 13 through Equation 22 are provided as a reference. An alternative is to use WEBENCH software tools to create a design based on the power supply requirements.

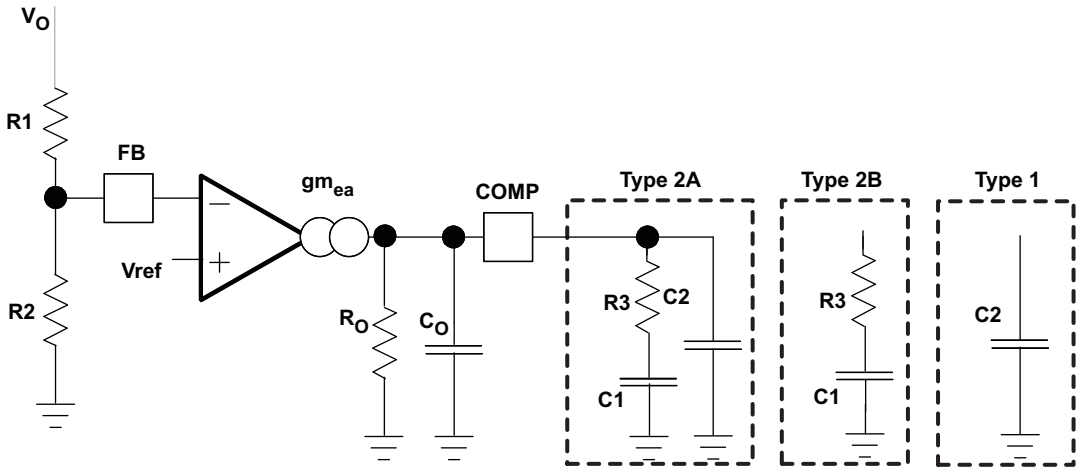


Figure 33. Types of Frequency Compensation

DETAILED DESCRIPTION (continued)

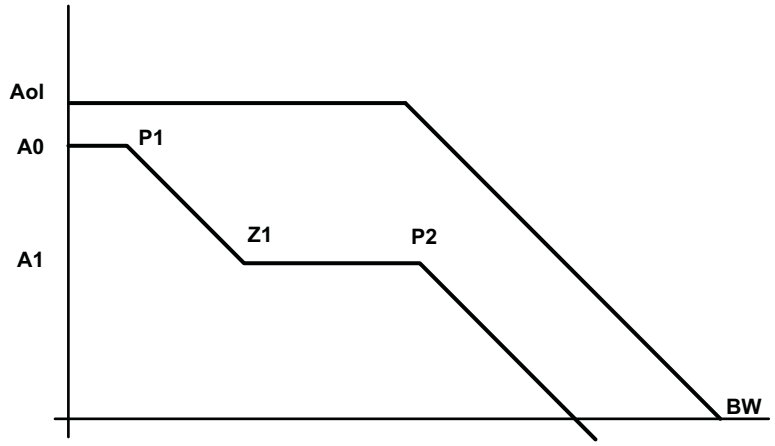


Figure 34. Frequency Response of the Type 2A and Type 2B Frequency Compensation

$$Ro = \frac{Aol(V/V)}{gm_{ea}} \quad (13)$$

$$C_O = \frac{gm_{ea}}{2\pi \times BW\ (Hz)} \quad (14)$$

$$EA = A0 \times \frac{\left(1 + \frac{s}{2\pi \times f_{Z1}}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{2\pi \times f_{P1}}\right) \times \left(1 + \frac{s}{2\pi \times f_{P2}}\right)} \quad (15)$$

$$A0 = gm_{ea} \times Ro \times \frac{R2}{R1 + R2} \quad (16)$$

$$A1 = gm_{ea} \times Ro \,||\, R3 \times \frac{R2}{R1 + R2} \quad (17)$$

$$P1 = \frac{1}{2\pi \times Ro \times C1} \quad (18)$$

$$Z1 = \frac{1}{2\pi \times R3 \times C1} \quad (19)$$

$$P2 = \frac{1}{2\pi \times R3 \,||\, R_O \times (C2 + C_O)} \text{ type 2a} \quad (20)$$

$$P2 = \frac{1}{2\pi \times R3 \,||\, R_O \times C_O} \text{ type 2b} \quad (21)$$

$$P2 = \frac{1}{2\pi \times R_O \times (C2 + C_O)} \text{ type 1} \quad (22)$$

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APPLICATION INFORMATION

Design Guide — Step-By-Step Design Procedure

This guide illustrates the design of a high frequency switching regulator using ceramic output capacitors. A few parameters must be known in order to start the design process. These requirements are typically determined at the system level. Calculations can be done with the aid of WEBENCH or the excel spreadsheet (slvc452) located on the product page. For this example, we will start with the following known parameters:

Output Voltage	3.3 V
Transient Response 1.25 A to 3.75 A load step	ΔV_{OUT} = 4 %
Maximum Output Current	5 A
Input Voltage	12 V nom. 6 V to 42 V
Output Voltage Ripple	0.5% of V_{OUT}
Start Input Voltage (rising VIN)	5.75 V
Stop Input Voltage (falling VIN)	4.5 V

Selecting the Switching Frequency

The first step is to choose a switching frequency for the regulator. Typically, the designer uses the highest switching frequency possible since this produces the smallest solution size. High switching frequency allows for lower value inductors and smaller output capacitors compared to a power supply that switches at a lower frequency. The switching frequency that can be selected is limited by the minimum on-time of the internal power switch, the input voltage, the output voltage and the frequency foldback protection.

Equation 7 and Equation 8 should be used to calculate the upper limit of the switching frequency for the regulator. Choose the lower value result from the two equations. Switching frequencies higher than these values results in pulse skipping or the lack of overcurrent protection during a short circuit.

The typical minimum on time, t_{onmin}, is 135 ns for the TPS54540. For this example, the output voltage is 3.3 V and the maximum input voltage is 42 V. Assuming a diode voltage of 0.52 V, inductor DC resistance of 10.3 mΩ, typical switch resistance of 92 mΩ and 5 A load, from Equation 7 the maximum switch frequency to avoid pulse skipping is 680 kHz. To ensure overcurrent runaway is not a concern during short circuits use Equation 8 to determine the maximum switching frequency for frequency foldback protection. With a current limit value of 6.3 A and short circuit output voltage of 0.1 V, the maximum switching frequency is 960 kHz.

For this design, a lower switching frequency of 400 kHz is chosen to operate comfortably below the calculated maximums. To determine the timing resistance for a given switching frequency, use Equation 5 or the curve in Figure 6. The switching frequency is set by resistor R_3 shown in Figure 35. For 400 kHz operation, the closest standard value resistor is 243 kΩ.

$$f_{SW(maxskip)} = \frac{1}{135ns} \times \left(\frac{5\ A \times 10.3\ m\Omega + 3.3\ V + 0.52\ V}{42\ V - 5\ A \times 92\ m\Omega + 0.52\ V} \right) = 680\ kHz \quad (23)$$

$$f_{SW(shift)} = \frac{8}{135\ ns} \times \left(\frac{6.3\ A \times 10.3\ m\Omega + 0.1\ V + 0.52\ V}{42\ V - 6.3\ A \times 92\ m\Omega + 0.52\ V} \right) = 960\ kHz \quad (24)$$

$$RT\ (k\Omega) = \frac{92417}{400\ (kHz)^{0.991}} = 244\ k\Omega \quad (25)$$

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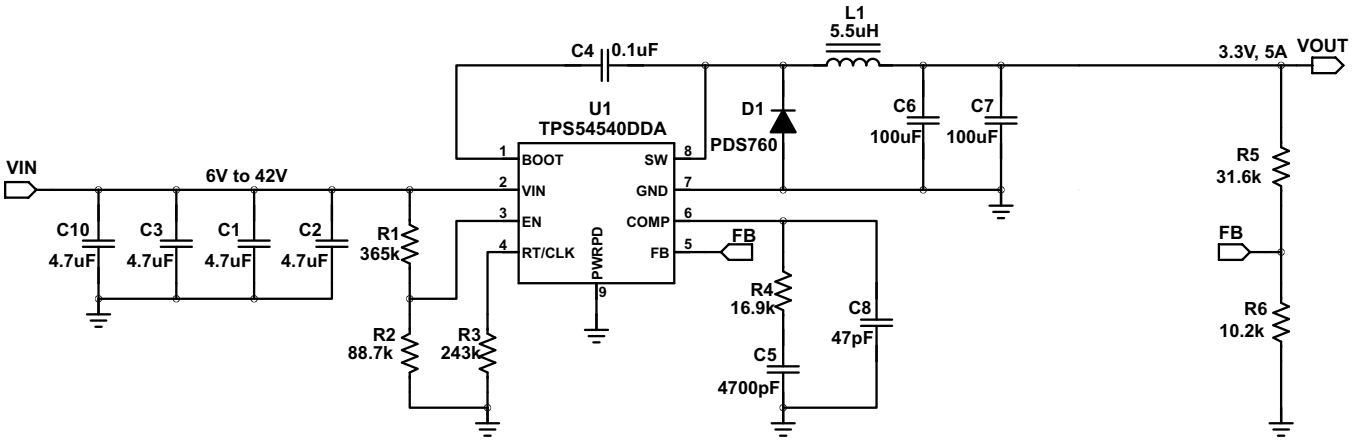


Figure 35. 5 V Output TPS54540 Design Example.

Output Inductor Selection (L_O)

To calculate the minimum value of the output inductor, use Equation 26.

K_{IND} is a ratio that represents the amount of inductor ripple current relative to the maximum output current. The inductor ripple current is filtered by the output capacitor. Therefore, choosing high inductor ripple currents impacts the selection of the output capacitor since the output capacitor must have a ripple current rating equal to or greater than the inductor ripple current. In general, the inductor ripple value is at the discretion of the designer, however, the following guidelines may be used.

For designs using low ESR output capacitors such as ceramics, a value as high as K_{IND} = 0.3 may be desirable. When using higher ESR output capacitors, K_{IND} = 0.2 yields better results. Since the inductor ripple current is part of the current mode PWM control system, the inductor ripple current should always be greater than 150 mA for stable PWM operation. In a wide input voltage regulator, it is best to choose relatively large inductor ripple current. This provides sufficienct ripple current with the input voltage at the minimum.

For this design example, K_{IND} = 0.3 and the inductor value is calculated to be 5.1 µH. It is important that the RMS current and saturation current ratings of the inductor not be exceeded. The RMS and peak inductor current can be found from Equation 28 and Equation 29. For this design, the RMS inductor current is 5 A and the peak inductor current is 5.79 A. The chosen inductor is a WE 744325550, which has a saturation current rating of 12 A and an RMS current rating of 10 A. This also has a typical inductance of 5.5 µH at no load and 4.8 µH at 5 A load. Lastly it has a DCR of 10.3 mΩ.

As the equation set demonstrates, lower ripple currents will reduce the output voltage ripple of the regulator but will require a larger value of inductance. Selecting higher ripple currents will increase the output voltage ripple of the regulator but allow for a lower inductance value.

The current flowing through the inductor is the inductor ripple current plus the output current. During power up, faults or transient load conditions, the inductor current can increase above the peak inductor current level calculated above. In transient conditions, the inductor current can increase up to the switch current limit of the device. For this reason, the most conservative design approach is to choose an inductor with a saturation current rating equal to or greater than the switch current limit of the TPS54540 which is nominally 7.5 A.

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$$L_{O(min)} = \frac{V_{IN(max)} - V_{OUT}}{I_{OUT} \times K_{IND}} \times \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN(max)} \times f_{SW}} = \frac{42\ V\ -\ 3.3\ V}{5\ A\ x\ 0.3} \times \frac{3.3\ V}{42\ V \times 400\ kHz} = 5.1\ \mu H \quad (26)$$

$$I_{RIPPLE} = \frac{V_{OUT} \times (V_{IN(max)} - V_{OUT})}{V_{IN(max)} \times L_O \times f_{SW}} = \frac{3.3\ V\ x\ (42\ V\ -\ 3.3\ V)}{42\ V\ x\ 4.8\ \mu H\ x\ 400\ kHz} = 1.58\ A \quad (27)$$

$$I_{L(rms)} = \sqrt{(I_{OUT})^2 + \frac{1}{12} \times \left(\frac{V_{OUT} \times \left(V_{IN(max)} - V_{OUT}\right)}{V_{IN(max)} \times L_O \times f_{SW}} \right)^2} = \sqrt{(5\ A)^2 + \frac{1}{12} \times \left(\frac{3.3\ V \times (42\ V\ -\ 3.3\ V)}{42\ V \times 4.8\ \mu H \times 400\ kHz} \right)^2} = 5\ A \quad (28)$$

$$I_{L(peak)} = I_{OUT} + \frac{I_{RIPPLE}}{2} = 5\ A + \frac{1.58\ A}{2} = 5.79\ A \quad (29)$$

Output Capacitor

There are three primary considerations for selecting the value of the output capacitor. The output capacitor determines the modulator pole, the output voltage ripple, and how the regulator responds to a large change in load current. The output capacitance needs to be selected based on the most stringent of these three criteria.

The desired response to a large change in the load current is the first criteria. The output capacitor needs to supply the increased load current until the regulator responds to the load step. A regulator does not respond immediately to a large, fast increase in the load current such as transitioning from no load to a full load. The regulator usually needs two or more clock cycles for the control loop to sense the change in output voltage and adjust the peak switch current in response to the higher load. The output capacitance must be large enough to supply the difference in current for 2 clock cycles to maintain the output voltage within the specified range. Equation 30 shows the minimum output capacitance necessary, where ΔI_{OUT} is the change in output current, $f$sw is the regulators switching frequency and ΔV_{OUT} is the allowable change in the output voltage. For this example, the transient load response is specified as a 4% change in V_{OUT} for a load step from 1.25 A to 3.75 A. Therefore, ΔI_{OUT} is 3.75 A - 1.25 A = 2.5 A and ΔV_{OUT} = 0.04 × 3.3 V = 0.13 V. Using these numbers gives a minimum capacitance of 95 µF. This value does not take the ESR of the output capacitor into account in the output voltage change. For ceramic capacitors, the ESR is usually small enough to be ignored. Aluminum electrolytic and tantalum capacitors have higher ESR that must be included in load step calculations.

The output capacitor must also be sized to absorb energy stored in the inductor when transitioning from a high to low load current. The catch diode of the regulator can not sink current so energy stored in the inductor can produce an output voltage overshoot when the load current rapidly decreases. A typical load step response is shown in Figure 36. The excess energy absorbed in the output capacitor will increase the voltage on the capacitor. The capacitor must be sized to maintain the desired output voltage during these transient periods. Equation 31 calculates the minimum capacitance required to keep the output voltage overshoot to a desired value, where L_O is the value of the inductor, I_{OH} is the output current under heavy load, I_{OL} is the output under light load, V_f is the peak output voltage, and Vi is the initial voltage. For this example, the worst case load step will be from 3.75 A to 1.25 A. The output voltage increases during this load transition and the stated maximum in our specification is 4 % of the output voltage. This makes V_f = 1.04 × 3.3 V = 3.43 V. Vi is the initial capacitor voltage which is the nominal output voltage of 3.3 V. Using these numbers in Equation 31 yields a minimum capacitance of 68 µF.

Equation 32 calculates the minimum output capacitance needed to meet the output voltage ripple specification, where $f$sw is the switching frequency, $V_{ORIPPLE}$ is the maximum allowable output voltage ripple, and I_{RIPPLE} is the inductor ripple current. Equation 32 yields 30 µF.

Equation 33 calculates the maximum ESR an output capacitor can have to meet the output voltage ripple specification. Equation 33 indicates the equivalent ESR should be less than 10 mΩ.

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The most stringent criteria for the output capacitor is 95 µF required to maintain the output voltage within regulation tolerance during a load transient.

Capacitance de-ratings for aging, temperature and dc bias increases this minimum value. For this example, 2 x 100 µF, 6.3 V type X5R ceramic capacitors with 2 mΩ of ESR will be used. The derated capacitance is 130 µF, well above the minimum required capacitance of 95 µF.

Capacitors are generally rated for a maximum ripple current that can be filtered without degrading capacitor reliability, especially non ceramic capacitors. Some capacitor data sheets specify the Root Mean Square (RMS) value of the maximum ripple current. Equation 34 can be used to calculate the RMS ripple current that the output capacitor must support. For this example, Equation 34 yields 460 mA.

$$C_{OUT} > \frac{2 \times \Delta I_{OUT}}{f_{SW} \times \Delta V_{OUT}} = \frac{2 \times 2.5\ A}{400\ kHz \times 0.13\ V} = 95\ \mu F \tag{30}$$

$$C_{OUT} > L_O \times \frac{\left((I_{OH})^2 - (I_{OL})^2\right)}{\left((V_f)^2 - (V_l)^2\right)} = 4.8\ \mu H \times \frac{\left(3.75\ A^2 - 1.25\ A^2\right)}{\left(5.13\ V^2 - 5\ V^2\right)} = 68\ \mu F \tag{31}$$

$$C_{OUT} > \frac{1}{8 \times f_{SW}} \times \frac{1}{\left(\frac{V_{ORIPPLE}}{I_{RIPPLE}}\right)} = \frac{1}{8 \times 400\ kHz} \times \frac{1}{\left(\frac{16\ mV}{1.58\ A}\right)} = 30\ \mu F \tag{32}$$

$$R_{ESR} < \frac{V_{ORIPPLE}}{I_{RIPPLE}} = \frac{16\ mV}{1.58\ A} = 10\ m\Omega \tag{33}$$

$$I_{COUT(rms)} = \frac{V_{OUT} \times \left(V_{IN(max)} - V_{OUT}\right)}{\sqrt{12} \times V_{IN(max)} \times L_O \times f_{SW}} = \frac{3.3\ V \times (42\ V - 3.3\ V)}{\sqrt{12} \times 42\ V \times 4.8\ \mu H \times 400\ kHz} = 460\ mA \tag{34}$$

Catch Diode

The TPS54540 requires an external catch diode between the SW pin and GND. The selected diode must have a reverse voltage rating equal to or greater than $V_{IN(max)}$. The peak current rating of the diode must be greater than the maximum inductor current. Schottky diodes are typically a good choice for the catch diode due to their low forward voltage. The lower the forward voltage of the diode, the higher the efficiency of the regulator.

Typically, diodes with higher voltage and current ratings have higher forward voltages. A diode with a minimum of 42 V reverse voltage is preferred to allow input voltage transients up to the rated voltage of the TPS54540.

For the example design, the PDS760-13 Schottky diode is selected for its lower forward voltage and good thermal characteristics compared to smaller devices. The typical forward voltage of the PDS760-13 is 0.52 volts at 5 A and 25°C.

The diode must also be selected with an appropriate power rating. The diode conducts the output current during the off-time of the internal power switch. The off-time of the internal switch is a function of the maximum input voltage, the output voltage, and the switching frequency. The output current during the off-time is multiplied by the forward voltage of the diode to calculate the instantaneous conduction losses of the diode. At higher switching frequencies, the ac losses of the diode need to be taken into account. The ac losses of the diode are due to the charging and discharging of the junction capacitance and reverse recovery charge. Equation 35 is used to calculate the total power dissipation, including conduction losses and ac losses of the diode.

The PDS760-13 diode has a junction capacitance of 300 pF. Using Equation 35, the total loss in the diode at the nominal input voltage is 1.9 W.

If the power supply spends a significant amount of time at light load currents or in sleep mode, consider using a diode which has a low leakage current and slightly higher forward voltage drop.

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$$P_D = \frac{\left(V_{IN(max)} - V_{OUT}\right) \times I_{OUT} \times Vfd}{V_{IN}} + \frac{C_j \times f_{SW} \times \left(V_{IN} + Vfd\right)^2}{2} =$$

$$\frac{(12\ V\ -\ 3.3\ V) \times 5\ A \times 0.52\ V}{12\ V} + \frac{300\ pF \times 400\ kHz \times (12\ V\ +\ 0.52\ V)^2}{2} = 1.9\ W \quad (35)$$

Input Capacitor

The TPS54540 requires a high quality ceramic type X5R or X7R input decoupling capacitor with at least 3 µF of effective capacitance. Some applications will benefit from additional bulk capacitance. The effective capacitance includes any loss of capacitance due to dc bias effects. The voltage rating of the input capacitor must be greater than the maximum input voltage. The capacitor must also have a ripple current rating greater than the maximum input current ripple of the TPS54540. The input ripple current can be calculated using Equation 36.

The value of a ceramic capacitor varies significantly with temperature and the dc bias applied to the capacitor. The capacitance variations due to temperature can be minimized by selecting a dielectric material that is more stable over temperature. X5R and X7R ceramic dielectrics are usually selected for switching regulator capacitors because they have a high capacitance to volume ratio and are fairly stable over temperature. The input capacitor must also be selected with consideration for the dc bias. The effective value of a capacitor decreases as the dc bias across a capacitor increases.

For this example design, a ceramic capacitor with at least a 42 V voltage rating is required to support transients up to the maximum input voltage. Common standard ceramic capacitor voltage ratings include 4 V, 6.3 V, 10 V, 16 V, 25 V, 50 V or 100 V. For this example, four 4.7 µF, 50 V capacitors in parallel are used. Table 2 shows several choices of high voltage capacitors.

The input capacitance value determines the input ripple voltage of the regulator. The maximum input voltage ripple occurs at 50% duty cycle and can be calculated using Equation 37. Using the design example values, I_{OUT} = 5 A, C_{IN} = 18.8 µF, $f$sw = 400 kHz, yields an input voltage ripple of 170 mV and a rms input ripple current of 2.5 A.

$$I_{CI(rms)} = I_{OUT}\ x \sqrt{\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN(min)}}\ x\ \frac{\left(V_{IN(min)} - V_{OUT}\right)}{V_{IN(min)}}} = 5\ A \sqrt{\frac{3.3\ V}{6\ V} \times \frac{(6\ V\ -\ 3.3\ V)}{6\ V}} = 2.5\ A \quad (36)$$

$$\Delta V_{IN} = \frac{I_{OUT} \times 0.25}{C_{IN} \times f_{SW}} = \frac{5\ A \times 0.25}{18.8\ \mu F \times 400\ kHz} = 170\ mV \quad (37)$$

Table 2. Capacitor Types

VENDOR	VALUE (µF)	EIA Size	VOLTAGE	DIALECTRIC	COMMENTS
Murata	1 to 2.2	1210	100 V	X7R	GRM32 series
	1 to 4.7		50 V		
	1	1206	100 V		GRM31 series
	1 to 2.2		50 V		
Vishay	1 to 1.8	2220	50 V		VJ X7R series
	1 to 1.2		100 V		
	1 to 3.9	2225	50 V		
	1 to 1.8		100 V		
TDK	1 to 2.2	1812	100 V		C series C4532
	1.5 to 6.8		50 V		
	1 to 2.2	1210	100 V		C series C3225
	1 to 3.3		50 V		
AVX	1 to 4.7	1210	50 V		X7R dielectric series
	1		100 V		
	1 to 4.7	1812	50 V		
	1 to 2.2		100 V		

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Bootstrap Capacitor Selection

A 0.1-µF ceramic capacitor must be connected between the BOOT and SW pins for proper operation. A ceramic capacitor with X5R or better grade dielectric is recommended. The capacitor should have a 10 V or higher voltage rating.

Undervoltage Lockout Set Point

The Undervoltage Lockout (UVLO) can be adjusted using an external voltage divider on the EN pin of the TPS54540. The UVLO has two thresholds, one for power up when the input voltage is rising and one for power down or brown outs when the input voltage is falling. For the example design, the supply should turn on and start switching once the input voltage increases above 5.75 V (UVLO start). After the regulator starts switching, it should continue to do so until the input voltage falls below 4.5 V (UVLO stop).

Programmable UVLO threshold voltages are set using the resistor divider of R_{UVLO1} and R_{UVLO2} between Vin and ground connected to the EN pin. Equation 2 and Equation 3 calculate the resistance values necessary. For the example application, a 365 kΩ between V_{IN} and EN (R_{UVLO1}) and a 88.7 kΩ between EN and ground (R_{UVLO2}) are required to produce the 5.75 V and 4.5 V start and stop voltages.

$$R_{UVLO1} = \frac{V_{START} - V_{STOP}}{I_{HYS}} = \frac{5.75\ V - 4.5\ V}{3.4\ \mu A} = 368\ k\Omega \quad (38)$$

$$R_{UVLO2} = \frac{V_{ENA}}{\frac{V_{START} - V_{ENA}}{R_{UVLO1}} + I_1} = \frac{1.2\ V}{\frac{5.75\ V - 1.2\ V}{365\ k\Omega} + 1.2\ \mu A} = 88.7\ k\Omega \quad (39)$$

Output Voltage and Feedback Resistors Selection

The voltage divider of R5 and R6 sets the output voltage. For the example design, 10.2 kΩ was selected for R6. Using Equation 1, R5 is calculated as 31.9 kΩ. The nearest standard 1% resistor is 31.6 kΩ. Due to the input current of the FB pin, the current flowing through the feedback network should be greater than 1 µA to maintain the output voltage accuracy. This requirement is satisfied if the value of R6 is less than 800 kΩ. Choosing higher resistor values decreases quiescent current and improves efficiency at low output currents but may also introduce noise immunity problems.

$$R_{HS} = R_{LS} \times \frac{V_{OUT} - 0.8\ V}{0.8\ V} = 10.2\ k\Omega \times \left(\frac{3.3\ V - 0.8\ V}{0.8\ V}\right) = 31.9\ k\Omega \quad (40)$$

Compensation

There are several methods to design compensation for DC-DC regulators. The method presented here is easy to calculate and ignores the effects of the slope compensation that is internal to the device. Since the slope compensation is ignored, the actual crossover frequency will be lower than the crossover frequency used in the calculations. This method assumes the crossover frequency is between the modulator pole and the ESR zero and the ESR zero is at least 10 times greater the modulator pole.

To get started, the modulator pole, $f_{p(mod)}$, and the ESR zero, f_{z1} must be calculated using Equation 41 and Equation 42. For C_{OUT}, use a derated value of 130 µF. Use equations Equation 43 and Equation 44 to estimate a starting point for the crossover frequency, $f$co. For the example design, $f_{p(mod)}$ is 1850 Hz and $f_{z(mod)}$ is 610 kHz. Equation 42 is the geometric mean of the modulator pole and the ESR zero and Equation 44 is the mean of modulator pole and half of the switching frequency. Equation 43 yields 34 kHz and Equation 44 gives 19 kHz. Use the geometric mean value of Equation 43 and Equation 44 for an initial crossover frequency. For this example, after lab measurement, the crossover frequency target was increased to 30 kHz for an improved transient response.

Next, the compensation components are calculated. A resistor in series with a capacitor is used to create a compensating zero. A capacitor in parallel to these two components forms the compensating pole.

$$f_{P(mod)} = \frac{I_{OUT(max)}}{2 \times \pi \times V_{OUT} \times C_{OUT}} = \frac{5\ A}{2 \times \pi \times 3.3\ V \times 130\ \mu F} = 1850\ Hz \quad (41)$$

$$f_{Z(mod)} = \frac{1}{2 \times \pi \times R_{ESR} \times C_{OUT}} = \frac{1}{2 \times \pi \times 1\ m\Omega \times 130\ \mu F} = 610\ kHz \quad (42)$$

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$$f_{co1} = \sqrt{f_{p(mod)} \times f_{z(mod)}} = \sqrt{1850\ Hz \times 610\ kHz} = 34\ kHz \quad (43)$$

$$f_{co2} = \sqrt{f_{p(mod)} \times \frac{f_{SW}}{2}} = \sqrt{1850\ Hz \times \frac{400\ kHz}{2}} = 19\ kHz \quad (44)$$

To determine the compensation resistor, R4, use Equation 45. The typical power stage transconductance, gmps, is 17 A/V. The output voltage, V_O, reference voltage, V_{REF}, and amplifier transconductance, gmea, are 3.3 V, 0.8 V and 350 µA/V, respectively. R4 is calculated to be 17 kΩ and a standard value of 16.9 kΩ is selected. Use Equation 46 to set the compensation zero to the modulator pole frequency. Equation 46 yields 5100 pF for compensating capacitor C5. 4700 pF is used for this design.

$$R4 = \left(\frac{2 \times \pi \times f_{co} \times C_{OUT}}{gmps}\right) \times \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{REF} \times gmea}\right) = \left(\frac{2 \times \pi \times 30\ kHz \times 130\ \mu F}{17\ A/V}\right) \times \left(\frac{3.3V}{0.8\ V \times 350\ \mu A/V}\right) = 17\ k\Omega \quad (45)$$

$$C5 = \frac{1}{2 \times \pi \times R4 \times f_{p(mod)}} = \frac{1}{2 \times \pi \times 16.9\ k\Omega \times 1850\ Hz} = 5100\ pF \quad (46)$$

A compensation pole can be implemented if desired by adding capacitor C8 in parallel with the series combination of R4 and C5. Use the larger value calculated from Equation 47 and Equation 48 for C8 to set the compensation pole. The selected value of C8 is 47 pF for this design example.

$$C8 = \frac{C_{OUT} \times R_{ESR}}{R4} = \frac{130\ \mu F \times 1\ m\Omega}{16.9\ k\Omega} = 15\ pF \quad (47)$$

$$C8 = \frac{1}{R4 \times f_{sw} \times \pi} = \frac{1}{16.9\ k\Omega \times 400\ kHz \times \pi} = 47\ pF \quad (48)$$

Discontinuous Conduction Mode and Eco-mode Boundary

With an input voltage of 12 V, the power supply enters discontinuous conduction mode when the output current is less than 560 mA. The power supply enters Eco-mode when the output current is lower than 18 mA. The input current draw is 241 µA with no load.

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APPLICATION CURVES

Measurements are taken with standard EVM using a 12V input, 3.3V output, and 5A load unless otherwise noted.

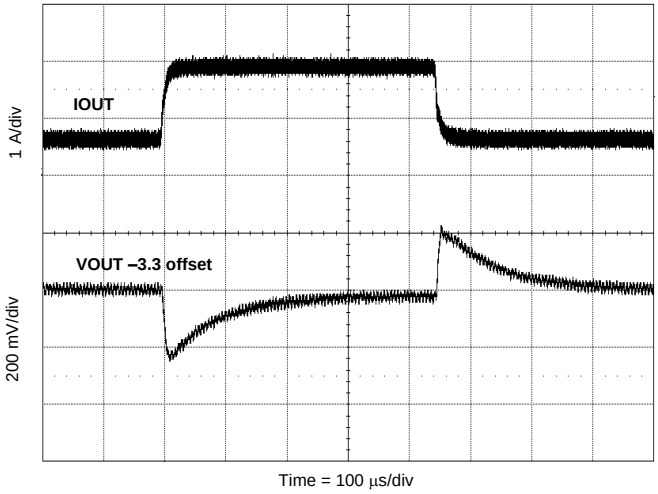


Figure 36. Load Transient

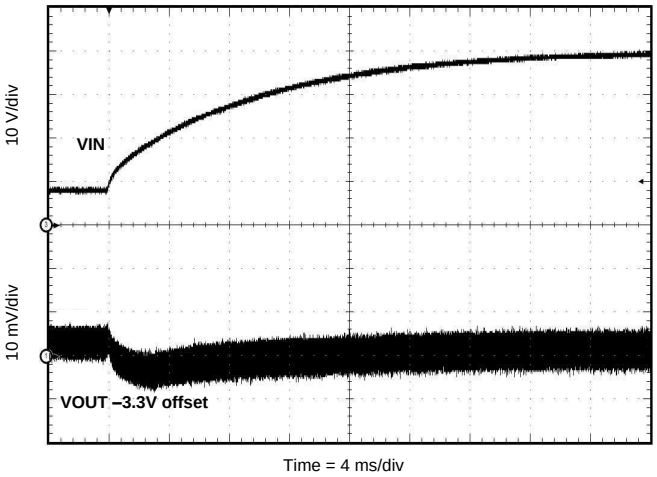


Figure 37. Line Transient (8 V to 40 V)

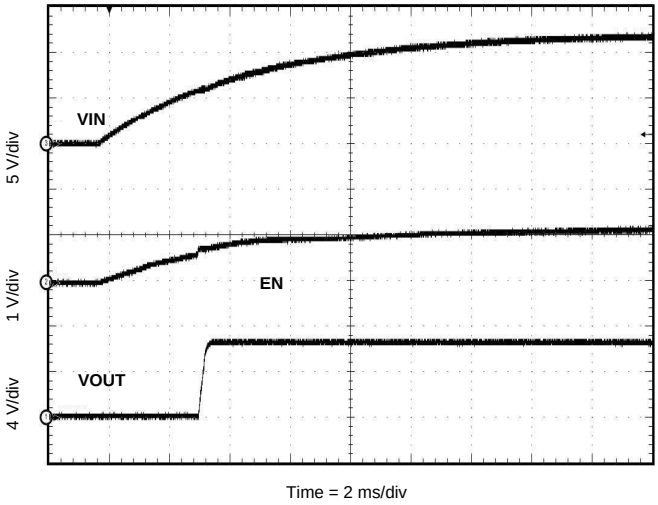


Figure 38. Start-up With VIN

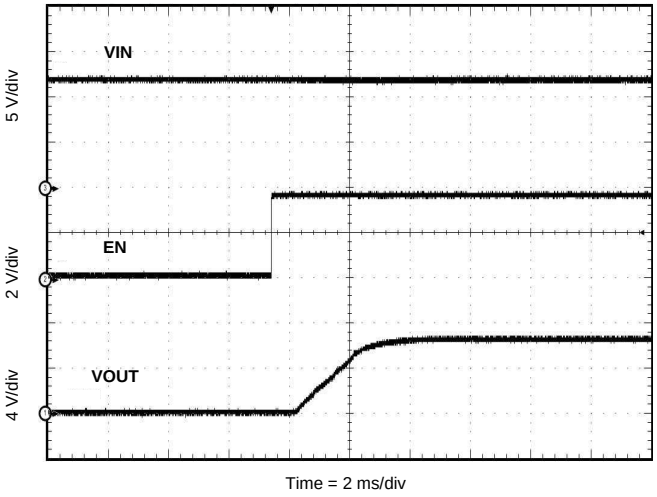


Figure 39. Start-up With EN

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Measurements are taken with standard EVM using a 12V input, 3.3V output, and 5A load unless otherwise noted.

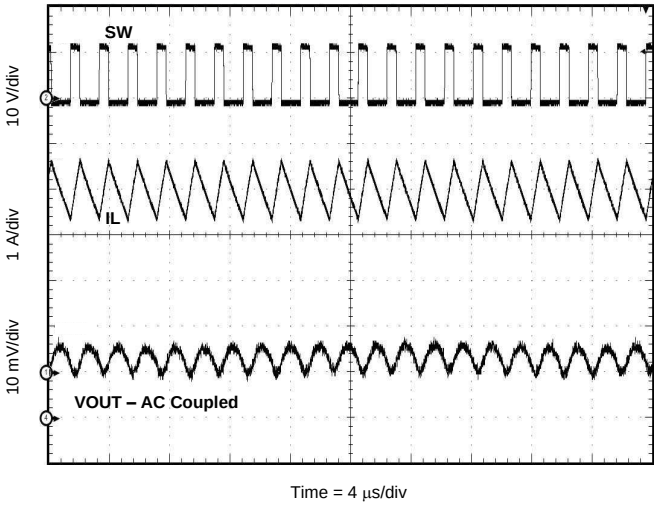


Figure 40. Output Ripple CCM

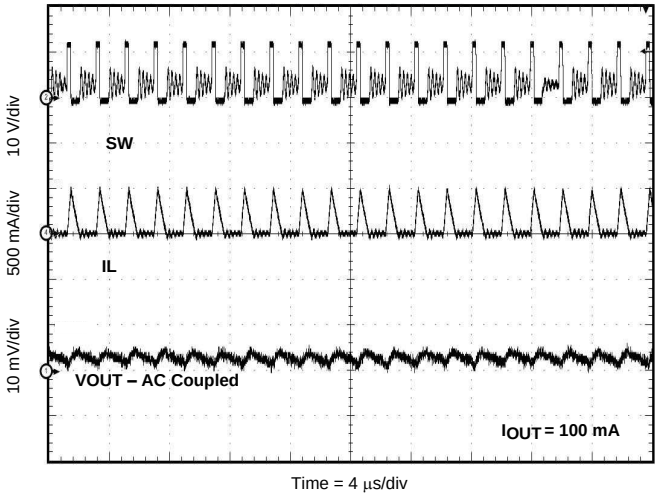


Figure 41. Output Ripple DCM

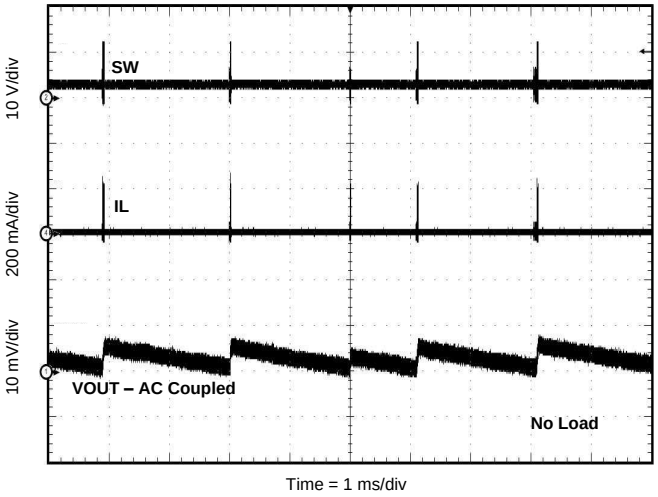


Figure 42. Output Ripple PSM

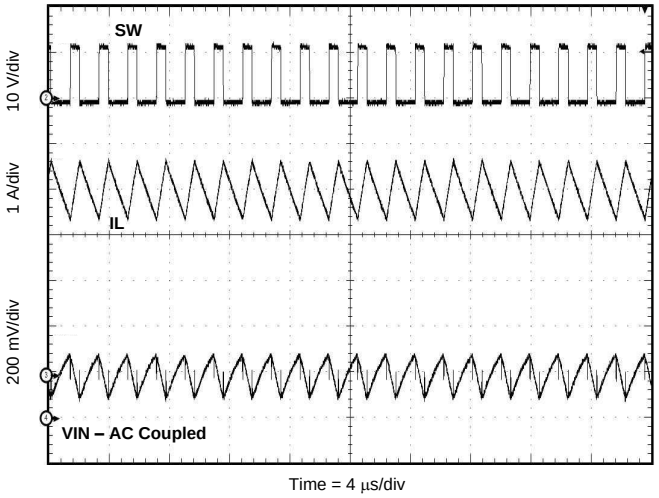


Figure 43. Input Ripple CCM

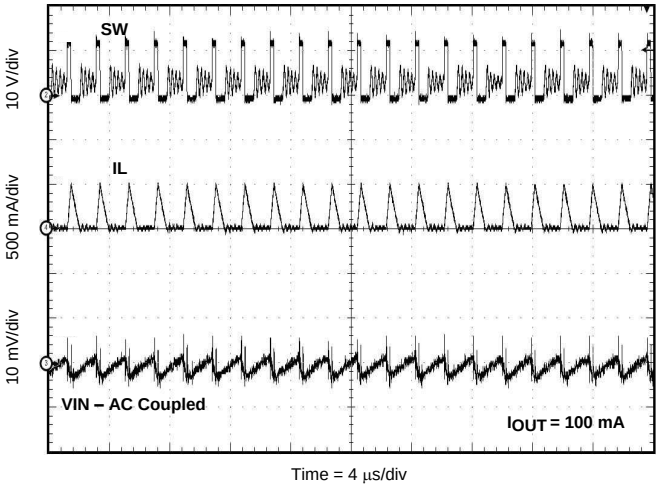


Figure 44. Input Ripple DCM

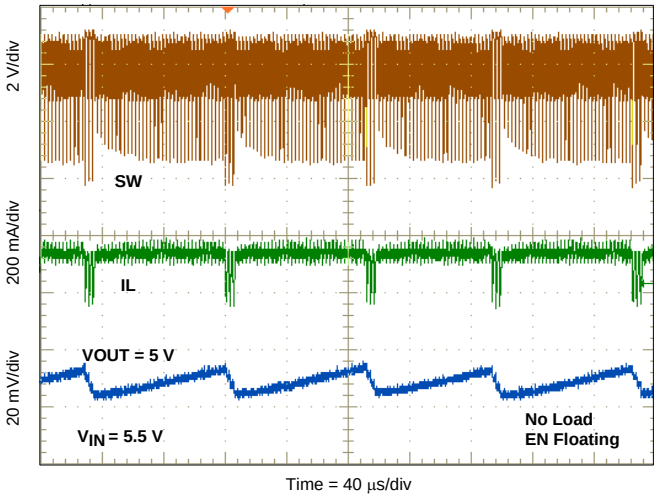


Figure 45. Low Dropout Operation

Measurements are taken with standard EVM using a 12V input, 3.3V output, and 5A load unless otherwise noted.

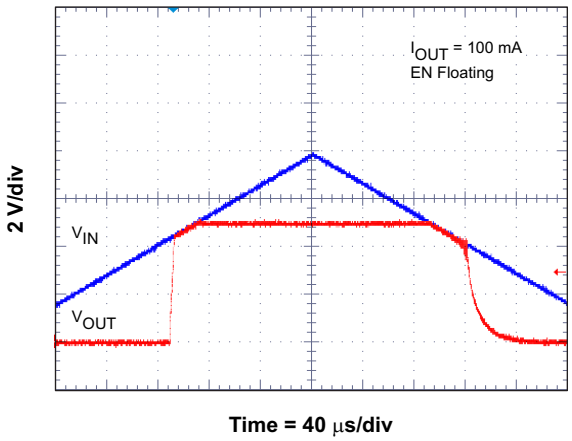


Figure 46. Low Dropout Operation

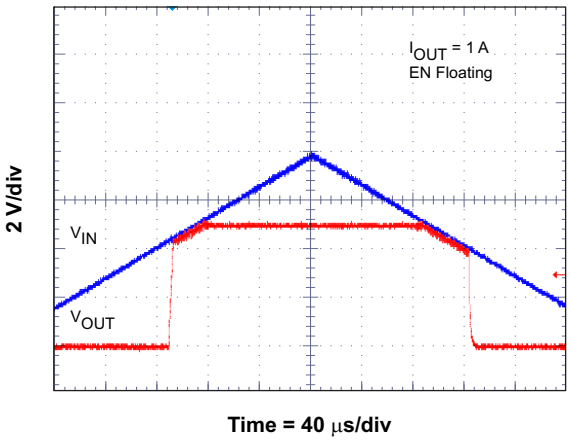


Figure 47. Low Dropout Operation

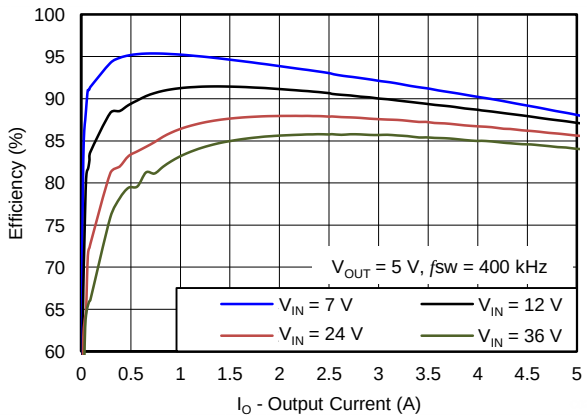


Figure 48. Efficiency vs Load Current

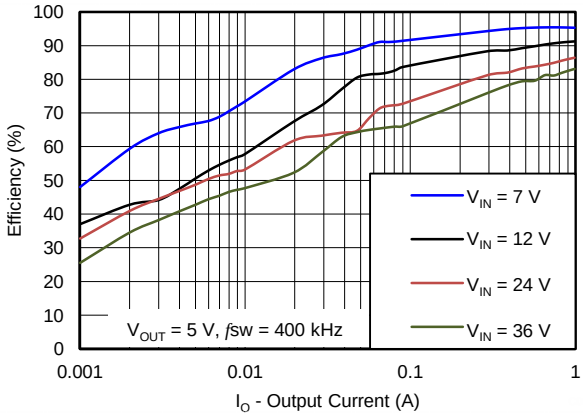


Figure 49. Light Load Efficiency

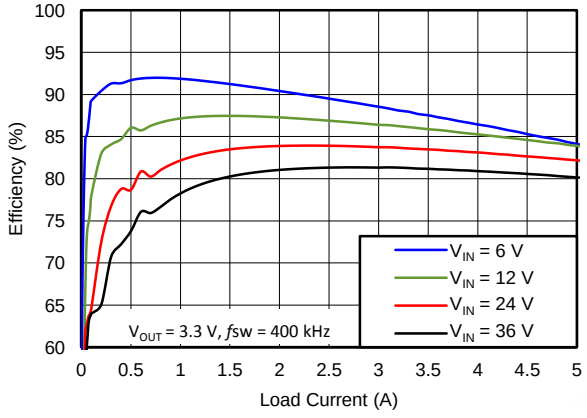


Figure 50. Efficiency vs Load Current

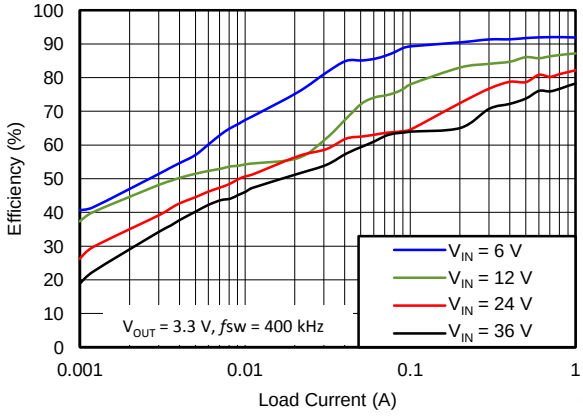


Figure 51. Light Load Efficiency

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Measurements are taken with standard EVM using a 12V input, 3.3V output, and 5A load unless otherwise noted.

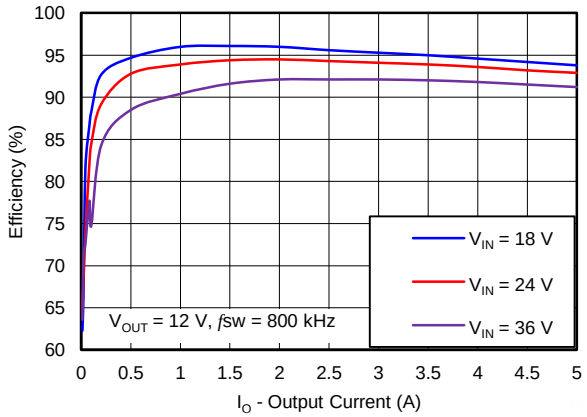


Figure 52. Efficiency vs Output Current

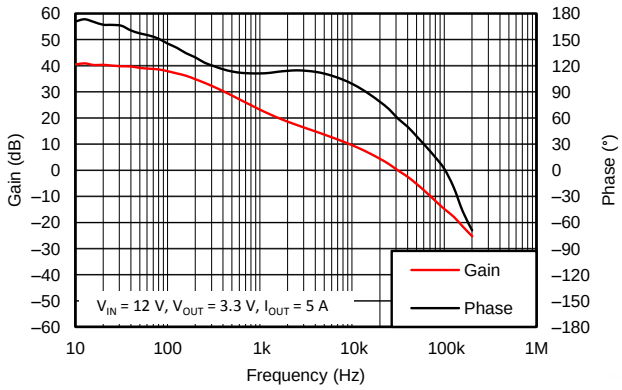


Figure 53. Overall Loop Frequency Response

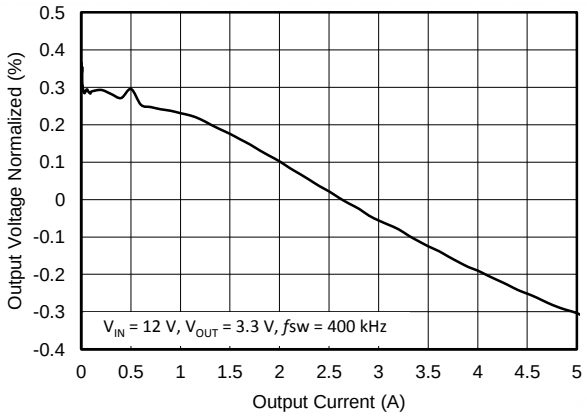


Figure 54. Regulation vs Load Current

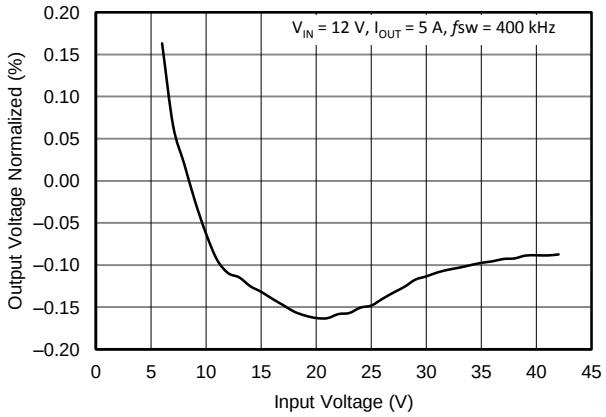


Figure 55. Regulation vs Input Voltage

Power Dissipation Estimate

The following formulas show how to estimate the TPS54540 power dissipation under continuous conduction mode (CCM) operation. These equations should not be used if the device is operating in discontinuous conduction mode (DCM).

The power dissipation of the IC includes conduction loss (P_{COND}), switching loss (P_{SW}), gate drive loss (P_{GD}) and supply current (P_Q). Example calculations are shown with the 12 V typical input voltage of the design example.

$$P_{COND} = (I_{OUT})^2 \times R_{DS(on)} \times \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \right) = 5\ A^2\ \times\ 92\ m\Omega\ \times\ \frac{3.3\ V}{12\ V}\ =\ 0.633\ W \quad (49)$$

$$P_{SW} = V_{IN} \times f_{SW} \times I_{OUT} \times t_{rise} = 12\ V \times\ 400\ kHz\ \times\ 5\ A\ \times\ 4.9\ ns\ =\ 0.118\ W \quad (50)$$

$$P_{GD} = V_{IN} \times Q_G \times f_{SW} = 12\ V\ \times\ 3nC \times\ 400\ kHz\ =\ 0.014\ W \quad (51)$$

$$P_Q = V_{IN} \times\ I_Q =\ 12\ V \times\ 146\ \mu A\ =\ 0.0018\ W \quad (52)$$

Where:

I_{OUT} is the output current (A).
$R_{DS(on)}$ is the on-resistance of the high-side MOSFET (Ω).
V_{OUT} is the output voltage (V).
V_{IN} is the input voltage (V).
fsw is the switching frequency (Hz).
trise is the SW pin voltage rise time and can be estimated by trise = V_{IN} x 0.16 ns/V + 3 ns
Q_G is the total gate charge of the internal MOSFET
I_Q is the operating nonswitching supply current

Therefore,

$$P_{TOT} = P_{COND} + P_{SW} + P_{GD} + P_Q = 0.633\ W\ +\ 0.118\ W\ +\ 0.014\ W\ +\ 0.0018\ W = 0.77\ W \quad (53)$$

For given T_A,

$$T_J = T_A + R_{TH} \times P_{TOT} \quad (54)$$

For given T_{JMAX} = 150°C

$$T_{A(max)} = T_{J(max)} - R_{TH} \times P_{TOT} \quad (55)$$

Where:

Ptot is the total device power dissipation (W).
T_A is the ambient temperature (°C).
T_J is the junction temperature (°C).
R_{TH} is the thermal resistance of the package (°C/W).
T_{JMAX} is maximum junction temperature (°C).
T_{AMAX} is maximum ambient temperature (°C).

There will be additional power losses in the regulator circuit due to the inductor ac and dc losses, the catch diode and PCB trace resistance impacting the overall efficiency of the regulator.

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Safe Operating Area

The safe operating area (SOA) of the device is shown in Figure 56, through Figure 59 for 3.3 V, 5 V and 12 V outputs and varying amounts of forced air flow. The temperature derating curves represent the conditions at which the internal components are at or below the manufacturer's maximum operating temperatures. Derating limits apply to devices soldered directly to a double-sided PCB with 2 oz. copper, similar to the EVM. Careful attention must be paid to the other components chosen for the design, especially the catch diode.

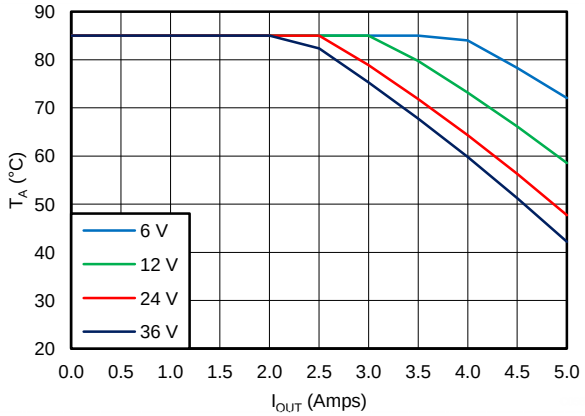


Figure 56. 3.3V Outputs

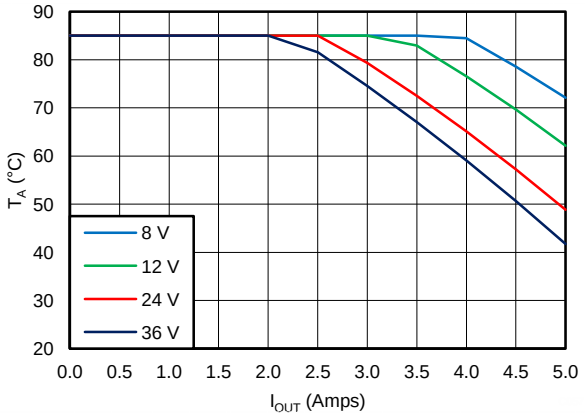


Figure 57. 5V Outputs

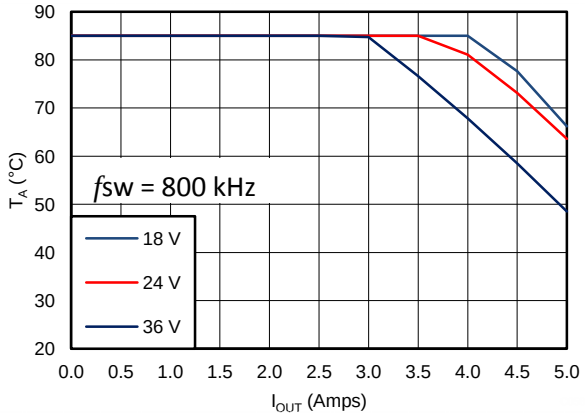


Figure 58. 12V Outputs

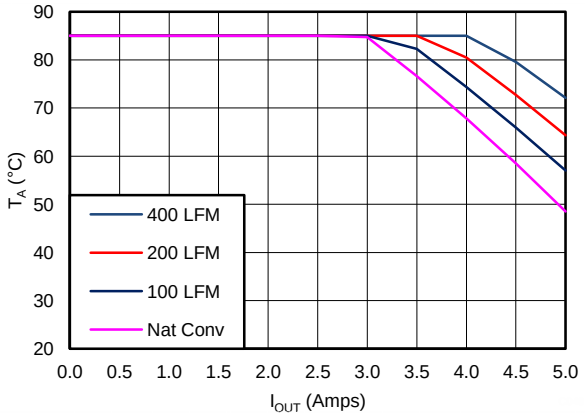


Figure 59. Air Flow Conditions
V_{IN} = 36 V, V_O = 12 V

Layout

Layout is a critical portion of good power supply design. There are several signal paths that conduct fast changing currents or voltages that can interact with stray inductance or parasitic capacitance to generate noise or degrade performance. To reduce parasitic effects, the VIN pin should be bypassed to ground with a low ESR ceramic bypass capacitor with X5R or X7R dielectric. Care should be taken to minimize the loop area formed by the bypass capacitor connections, the VIN pin, and the anode of the catch diode. See Figure 60 for a PCB layout example. The GND pin should be tied directly to the power pad under the IC and the power pad.

The power pad should be connected to internal PCB ground planes using multiple vias directly under the IC. The SW pin should be routed to the cathode of the catch diode and to the output inductor. Since the SW connection is the switching node, the catch diode and output inductor should be located close to the SW pins, and the area of the PCB conductor minimized to prevent excessive capacitive coupling. For operation at full rated load, the top side ground area must provide adequate heat dissipating area. The RT/CLK pin is sensitive to noise so the RT resistor should be located as close as possible to the IC and routed with minimal lengths of trace. The additional external components can be placed approximately as shown. It may be possible to obtain acceptable performance with alternate PCB layouts, however this layout has been shown to produce good results and is meant as a guideline.

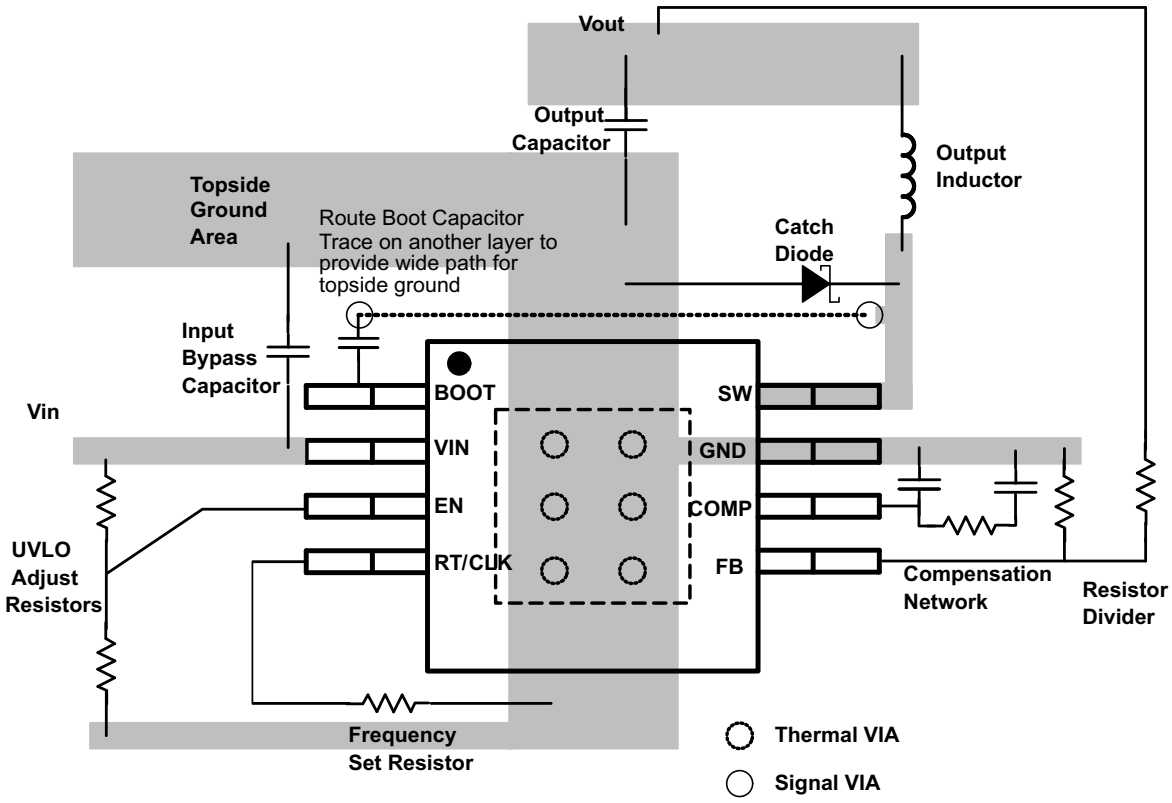


Figure 60. PCB Layout Example

Estimated Circuit Area

Boxing in the components in the design of Figure 35 the estimated printed circuit board area is 1.025 in^2 (661 mm^2). This area does not include test points or connectors.

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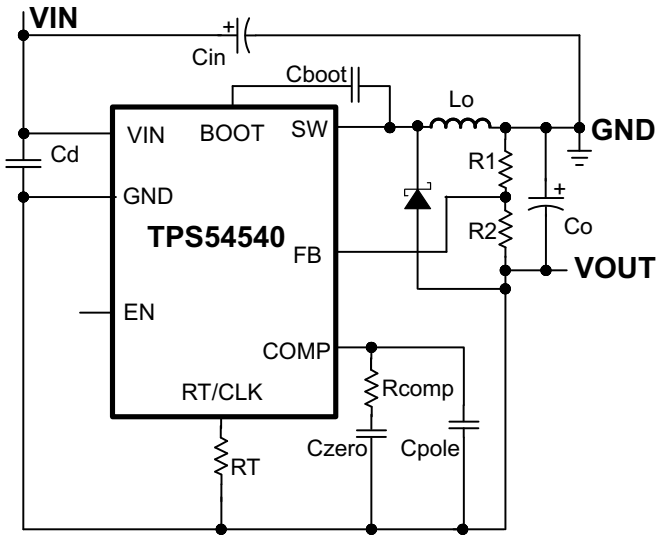


Figure 61. TPS54540 Inverting Power Supply from SLVA317 Application Note

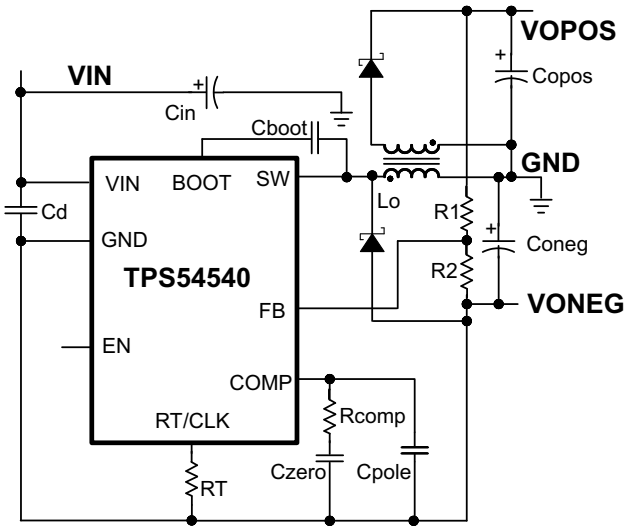


Figure 62. TPS54540 Split Rail Power Supply based on the SLVA369 Application Note

PACKAGING INFORMATION

Orderable Device	Status (1)	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	Package Qty	Eco Plan (2)	Lead/Ball Finish	MSL Peak Temp (3)	Op Temp (°C)	Device Marking (4/5)	Samples
TPS54540DDA	ACTIVE	SO PowerPAD	DDA	8	75	TBD	Call TI	Call TI	-40 to 150		Samples
TPS54540DDAR	ACTIVE	SO PowerPAD	DDA	8	2500	TBD	Call TI	Call TI	-40 to 150		Samples

(1) The marketing status values are defined as follows:
ACTIVE: Product device recommended for new designs.
LIFEBUY: TI has announced that the device will be discontinued, and a lifetime-buy period is in effect.
NRND: Not recommended for new designs. Device is in production to support existing customers, but TI does not recommend using this part in a new design.
PREVIEW: Device has been announced but is not in production. Samples may or may not be available.
OBSOLETE: TI has discontinued the production of the device.

(2) Eco Plan - The planned eco-friendly classification: Pb-Free (RoHS), Pb-Free (RoHS Exempt), or Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br) - please check http://www.ti.com/productcontent for the latest availability information and additional product content details.
TBD: The Pb-Free/Green conversion plan has not been defined.
Pb-Free (RoHS): TI's terms "Lead-Free" or "Pb-Free" mean semiconductor products that are compatible with the current RoHS requirements for all 6 substances, including the requirement that lead not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials. Where designed to be soldered at high temperatures, TI Pb-Free products are suitable for use in specified lead-free processes.
Pb-Free (RoHS Exempt): This component has a RoHS exemption for either 1) lead-based flip-chip solder bumps used between the die and package, or 2) lead-based die adhesive used between the die and leadframe. The component is otherwise considered Pb-Free (RoHS compatible) as defined above.
Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br): TI defines "Green" to mean Pb-Free (RoHS compatible), and free of Bromine (Br) and Antimony (Sb) based flame retardants (Br or Sb do not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material)

(3) MSL, Peak Temp. -- The Moisture Sensitivity Level rating according to the JEDEC industry standard classifications, and peak solder temperature.

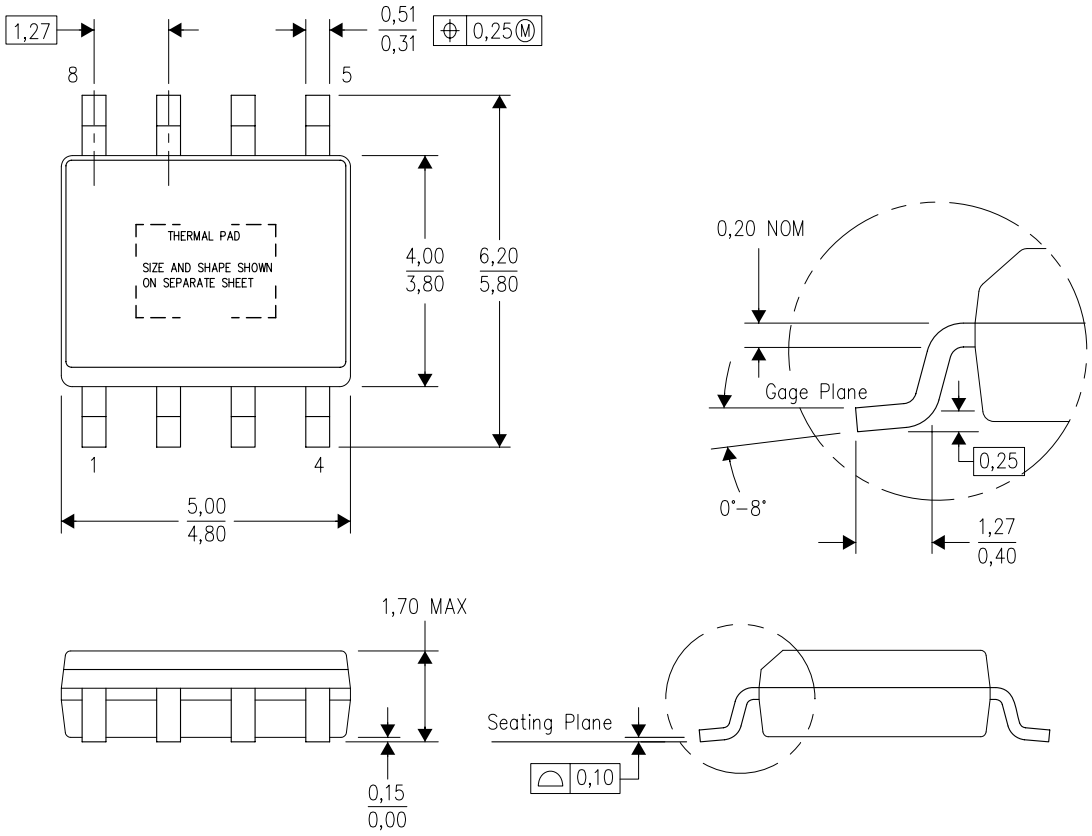
(4) There may be additional marking, which relates to the logo, the lot trace code information, or the environmental category on the device.

(5) Multiple Device Markings will be inside parentheses. Only one Device Marking contained in parentheses and separated by a "~" will appear on a device. If a line is indented then it is a continuation of the previous line and the two combined represent the entire Device Marking for that device.

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NOTES:
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B. This drawing is subject to change without notice.
C. Body dimensions do not include mold flash or protrusion not to exceed 0,15.
D. This package is designed to be soldered to a thermal pad on the board. Refer to Technical Brief, PowerPad Thermally Enhanced Package, Texas Instruments Literature No. SLMA002 for information regarding recommended board layout. This document is available at www.ti.com <http://www.ti.com>.
E. See the additional figure in the Product Data Sheet for details regarding the exposed thermal pad features and dimensions.
F. This package complies to JEDEC MS–012 variation BA

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