

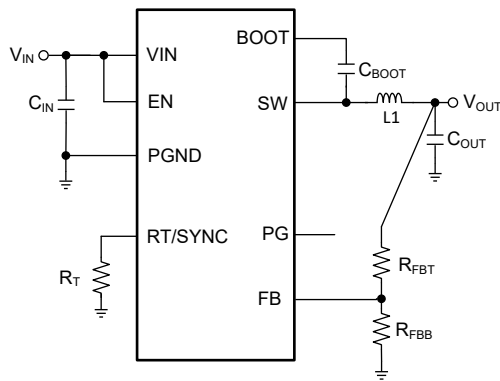
LMR38020 SIMPLE SWITCHER® 4.2-V to 80-V, 2-A Synchronous Buck Converter with 40- μ A I_Q

1 Features

- **Functional Safety-Capable**
 - Documentation available to aid functional safety system design
- Configured for rugged industrial applications
 - Input voltage range: 4.2 V to 80 V
 - 2-A continuous output current
 - Ultra-low 40- μ A operating quiescent current
 - > 1.5-mm distance between VIN and GND pin
 - Adjustable switching frequency from 200 kHz to 2.2 MHz
 - Frequency synchronization to external clock
 - Spread spectrum option for reduced EMI
 - 97% maximum duty cycle
 - Support start-up with pre-biased output
 - $\pm 1.0\%$ tolerance voltage reference at room temperature
 - Precision enable
 - Easy to use with low BOM count
 - Integrated synchronous rectification
 - Internal compensation for ease of use
 - 8-pin HSOIC with PowerPAD™ package
 - PFM and forced PWM (FPWM) options
- Create a custom design using the LMR38020 with the **WEBENCH® Power Designer**

2 Applications

- Industrial transport
- Wireless infrastructure and networking
- Power delivery
- Factory automation and control



Simplified Schematic

3 Description

The LMR38020 synchronous buck converter is designed to regulate over a wide input voltage range, minimizing the need for external surge suppression components. The LMR38020 operates during input voltage dips as low as 4.2 V, at nearly 100% duty cycle if needed, making it an excellent choice for wide input industrial applications and MHEV/EV systems.

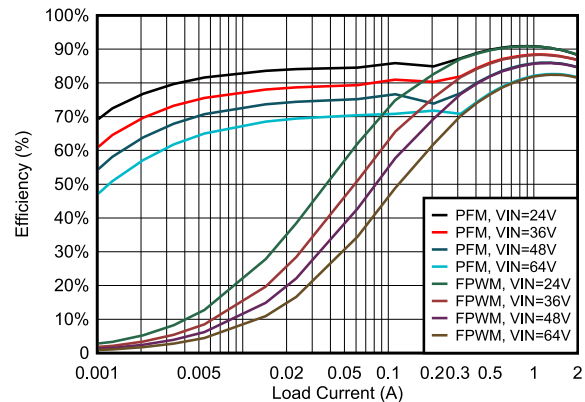
The LMR38020 uses precision enable to provide flexibility by enabling a direct connection to the wide input voltage or precise control over device start-up and shutdown. The power-good flag, with built-in filtering and delay, offers a true indication of system status, eliminating the need for an external supervisor. The device incorporates pseudo-random spread spectrum form minimal EMI and switching frequency can be configured between 200 kHz and 2.2 MHz to avoid noise sensitive frequency bands. In addition, the frequency can be selected for improved efficiency at low operating frequency or smaller solution size at high operating frequency.

The device has built-in protection features, such as cycle-by-cycle current limit, hiccup mode short-circuit protection, and thermal shutdown in case of excessive power dissipation. The LMR38020 is available in a 8-pin HSOIC PowerPAD™ package.

Device Information

PART NUMBER	PACKAGE ⁽¹⁾	BODY SIZE (NOM)
LMR38020	HSOIC (8)	4.89 mm × 3.90 mm

- (1) For all available packages, see the orderable addendum at the end of the data sheet.



Efficiency vs Output Current $V_{OUT} = 5$ V, 400 kHz



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4 Revision History

NOTE: Page numbers for previous revisions may differ from page numbers in the current version.

Changes from Revision A (October 2021) to Revision B (November 2021)	Page
• Changed document status from Advance Information to Production Data.....	1

5 Device Comparison Table

ORDERABLE PART NUMBER	CURRENT	FPWM	SPREAD SPECTRUM
LMR38020SDDAR	2 A	No	Yes
LMR38020FDDAR ⁽¹⁾	2 A	Yes	No
LMR38020FSDDAR ⁽¹⁾	2 A	Yes	Yes
LMR38010SDDAR ⁽¹⁾	1 A	No	Yes
LMR38010FDDAR ⁽¹⁾	1 A	Yes	No
LMR38010FSDDAR ⁽¹⁾	1 A	Yes	Yes

(1) In Preview

6 Pin Configuration and Functions

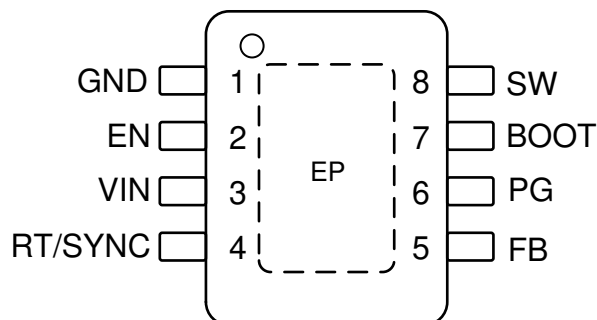


Figure 6-1. 8-Pin SO PowerPAD DDA Package (Top View)

Table 6-1. Pin Functions

PIN		I/O	DESCRIPTION
NAME	NO.		
GND	1	G	Power and analog ground terminal. All electrical parameters are measured with respect to this pin. Connect a high-quality bypass capacitor directly to this pin and VIN with short and wide traces.
EN	2	A	Enable input to regulator. High = ON, low = OFF. Can be connected directly to VIN. <i>Do not float.</i>
VIN	3	P	Input supply to the regulator. Connect a high-quality bypass capacitor or capacitors directly to this pin and GND with short and wide traces.
RT/SYNC	4	A	Resistor timing or external clock input. 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 frequency programming by resistor.
FB	5	A	Feedback input to the regulator. Connect to tap point of the feedback voltage divider. <i>Do not ground.</i>
PG	6	A	Open-drain power-good flag output. Connect to a suitable voltage supply through a current limiting resistor. High = power OK, low = power bad. The flag pulls low when EN = low. Can be left open when not used.
BOOT	7	P	Bootstrap supply voltage for the internal high-side driver. Connect a high-quality 100-nF capacitor from this pin to the SW pin.
SW	8	P	Regulator switch node. Connect to a power inductor.
EP	THERMAL PAD	Thermal	Connect to system ground. Connect to GND and CIN with short, wide traces.

7 Specifications

7.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

Over junction temperature range of -40°C to 150°C (unless otherwise noted)⁽¹⁾

		MIN	MAX	UNIT
Input voltage	VIN to PGND	-0.3	85	V
	EN to PGND	-0.3	VIN+0.3	V
	FB to PGND	-0.3	5.5	V
	RT/SYNC to PGND	-0.3	5.5	V
Output voltage	CBOOT to SW	-0.3	5.5	V
	SW to PGND	-0.3	85	V
	SW to PGND less than 10-ns transients	-3.5	85.3	V
	PGOOD to PGND	-0.3	20	V
Junction Temperature T _J		-40	150	°C
Storage temperature, T _{stg}		-65	150	°C

- (1) Operation outside the Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent device damage. Absolute Maximum Ratings do not imply functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those listed under Recommended Operating Conditions. If used outside the Recommended Operating Conditions but within the Absolute Maximum Ratings, the device may not be fully functional, and this may affect device reliability, functionality, performance, and shorten the device lifetime.

ESD Ratings

			MIN	MAX	UNIT
V _(ESD)	Electrostatic discharge	Human body model (HBM), per ANSI/ESDA/JEDEC JS-001 ⁽¹⁾	-2000	2000	V
		Charged device model (CDM), per ANSI/ESDA/JEDEC JS-002 ⁽²⁾	-500	500	

- (1) JEDEC document JEP155 states that 500-V HBM allows safe manufacturing with a standard ESD control process.
 (2) JEDEC document JEP157 states that 250-V CDM allows safe manufacturing with a standard ESD control process.

7.2 Recommended Operating Conditions

Over the recommended operating junction temperature range of -40°C to 150°C (unless otherwise noted)⁽¹⁾

		MIN	NOM	MAX	UNIT
Input voltage	Input voltage range after start-up	4.2		80	V
Input voltage	EN to PGND			VIN	V
Input voltage	RT to PGND			5	V
Input voltage	PGOOD to PGND			20	V
Output voltage	SW to PGND			80	V
Output voltage	Output voltage range for adjustable version ⁽²⁾	1		75	V
Frequency	Frequency adjustment range	200		2200	kHz
Sync frequency	Synchronization frequency range	300		2100	kHz
Load current	Output DC current range (LMR38010) ⁽³⁾	0		1	A
Load current	Output DC current range (LMR38020) ⁽³⁾	0		2	A
Temperature	Operating junction temperature T _J range ⁽⁴⁾	-40		150	°C

- (1) Recommended operating conditions indicate conditions for which the device is intended to be functional, but do not ensure specific performance limits. For compliant specifications, see the *Electrical Characteristics* table.
 (2) Under no conditions should the output voltage be allowed to fall below zero volts.
 (3) Maximum continuous DC current may be derated when operating with high switching frequency, high ambient temperature, or both. See the *Application and Implementation* section for details.
 (4) High junction temperatures degrade operating lifetimes. Operating lifetime is de-rated for junction temperatures greater than 150°C.

7.3 Thermal Information

THERMAL METRIC ⁽¹⁾		LMR38020-Q1	UNIT
		DDA (HSOIC)	
		8 PINS	
R _{θJA}	Junction-to-ambient thermal resistance	42.9	°C/W
R _{θJA(Effective)}	Junction-to-ambient thermal resistance with TI EVM board	29	°C/W
R _{θJC(top)}	Junction-to-case (top) thermal resistance	54	°C/W
R _{θJB}	Junction-to-board thermal resistance	13.6	°C/W
ψ _{JT}	Junction-to-top characterization parameter	4.3	°C/W
ψ _{JB}	Junction-to-board characterization parameter	13.8	°C/W
R _{θJC(bot)}	Junction-to-case (bottom) thermal resistance	4.3	°C/W

(1) For more information about traditional and new thermal metrics, see the [Semiconductor and IC Package Thermal Metrics](#) application report.

7.4 Electrical Characteristics

Limits apply over operating junction temperature (T_J) range of –40°C to +150°C, unless otherwise stated. Minimum and Maximum limits⁽¹⁾ are specified through test, design or statistical correlation. Typical values represent the most likely parametric norm at T_J = 25°C, and are provided for reference purposes only. Unless otherwise stated, the following conditions apply: V_{IN} = 24 V.

PARAMETER		TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
SUPPLY VOLTAGE AND CURRENT						
V _{IN_OPERATE}	Input operating voltage	Needed to start up			4.2	V
		Once operating			3.8	V
I _{Q-SW}	Operating quiescent current	V _{EN} = 3.3 V (PFM variant only)		40		μA
I _{SD}	Shutdown quiescent current; measured at V _{IN} pin	V _{EN} = 0 V		3	10	μA
ENABLE						
V _{EN-H}	Enable input high level	V _{ENABLE} rising	1.1	1.25	1.4	V
V _{EN-L}	Enable input low level	V _{ENABLE} falling	0.95	1.10	1.22	V
I _{LKG-EN}	Enable input leakage current	V _{EN} = 3.3 V		5.0		nA
VOLTAGE REFERENCE (FB PIN)						
V _{REF}	Feedback reference voltage	V _{IN} = 4.2 V to 80 V, T _J = 25°C, FPWM	0.99	1	1.01	V
V _{REF}	Feedback reference voltage	FPWM	0.985	1	1.015	V
I _{LKG-FB}	Feedback leakage current	FB = 1.2 V		2.1		nA
CURRENT LIMITS AND HICCUP						
I _{SC}	High-side current limit ⁽²⁾	2-A version	2.6	3.2	3.8	A
I _{LS-LIMIT}	Low-side current limit ⁽²⁾	2-A version	1.8	2.3	2.8	A
I _{SC}	High-side current limit ⁽²⁾	1-A version	1.3	1.6	1.9	A
I _{LS-LIMIT}	Low-side current limit ⁽²⁾	1-A version	0.9	1.2	1.5	A
I _{L-ZC}	Zero cross detector threshold	PFM variants only		0.01		A
I _{PEAK-MIN}	Minimum inductor peak current ⁽²⁾	2-A version, PFM variants only		0.5		A
I _{PEAK-MIN}	Minimum inductor peak current ⁽²⁾	1-A version, PFM variants only		0.25		A
I _{L-NEG}	Negative current limit ⁽²⁾	2-A version, FPWM variant only		–0.9		A
I _{L-NEG}	Negative current limit ⁽²⁾	1-A version, FPWM variant only		–0.5		A
POWER STAGE						
R _{DS-ON-HS}	High-side MOSFET ON-resistance			303		mΩ
R _{DS-ON-LS}	Low-side MOSFET ON-resistance			133		mΩ
t _{ON-MIN}	Minimum switch on time ⁽³⁾	V _{IN} = 24 V, I _{OUT} = 1 A		80	131	ns
t _{OFF-MIN}	Minimum switch off time			190	300	ns

LMR38020

SNVSC40B – AUGUST 2021 – REVISED NOVEMBER 2021

Limits apply over operating junction temperature (T_J) range of -40°C to $+150^{\circ}\text{C}$, unless otherwise stated. Minimum and Maximum limits⁽¹⁾ are specified through test, design or statistical correlation. Typical values represent the most likely parametric norm at $T_J = 25^{\circ}\text{C}$, and are provided for reference purposes only. Unless otherwise stated, the following conditions apply: $V_{IN} = 24\text{ V}$.

PARAMETER		TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
t_{ON-MAX}	Maximum switch on time			5		μs
SWITCHING FREQUENCY AND SYNCHRONIZATION						
F_{OSC}	Switching frequency	$R_T = 49.9\text{ k}\Omega$	430	525	650	kHz
F_{SPREAD}	Spread of internal oscillator with spread spectrum enabled		-8%		8%	
V_{SYNC_HI}	SYNC clock high level threshold				2	V
V_{SYNC_LO}	SYNC clock low level threshold		0.6			V
t_{PULSE_H}	High duration needed to be recognized as a pulse				50	ns
C_{LOCK}	Time needed for clock to lock to a valid synchronization signal in sync cycles				230	μs
STARTUP AND TRACKING						
t_{SS}	Internal soft-start time			4		ms
POWER GOOD						
$V_{PG-HIGH-UP}$	Power-good upper threshold — rising	% of FB voltage	110%	112%	114%	
$V_{PG-LOW-DN}$	Power-good lower threshold — falling	% of FB voltage	90%	92%	94%	
V_{PG-HYS}	Power-good hysteresis (rising and falling)	% of FB voltage		2.2%		
$V_{PG-VALID}$	Minimum input voltage for proper power-good function				2	V
R_{PG}	Power-good on-resistance	$V_{EN} = 0\text{ V}$		140		Ω
R_{PG}	Power-good on-resistance	$V_{EN} = 3.3\text{ V}$		92		Ω
$t_{PGDFLT(fall)}$	Glitch filter time constant for PGOOD function			40		μs
THERMAL SHUTDOWN						
$T_{SD-Rising}^{(1)}$	Thermal shutdown	Shutdown threshold		163		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$T_{SD-Falling}^{(1)}$	Thermal shutdown	Recovery threshold		150		$^{\circ}\text{C}$

- (1) MIN and MAX limits are 100% production tested at 25°C . Limits over the operating temperature range verified through correlation using Statistical Quality Control (SQC) methods. Limits are used to calculate Average Outgoing Quality Level (AOQL).
- (2) The current limit values in this table are tested, open loop, in production. They may differ from those found in a closed loop application.
- (3) Not production tested. Specified by correlation by design at 1-A load.

7.5 System Characteristics

The following specifications apply to a typical application circuit with nominal component values. Specifications in the typical (TYP) column apply to $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$ only. Specifications in the minimum (MIN) and maximum (MAX) columns apply to the case of typical components over the temperature range of $T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to 150°C . *These specifications are not ensured by production testing.*

PARAMETER		TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
V_{IN}	Operating input voltage range		4.2		80	V
V_{OUT}	Adjustable output voltage regulation ⁽¹⁾	PFM operation	-1.5%		2.5%	
V_{OUT}	Adjustable output voltage regulation ⁽¹⁾	FPWM operation	-1.5%		1.5%	
I_{SUPPLY}	Input supply current when in regulation	$V_{IN} = 24\text{ V}$, $V_{OUT} = 3.3\text{ V}$, $I_{OUT} = 0\text{ A}$, $R_{FBT} = 1\text{ M}\Omega$, PFM variant		40		μA
D_{MAX}	Maximum switch duty cycle ⁽²⁾			97%		
V_{HC}	FB pin voltage required to trip short-circuit hiccup mode			0.4		V
t_D	Switch voltage dead time			5		ns
T_{SD}	Thermal shutdown temperature	Shutdown temperature		163		$^\circ\text{C}$
T_{SD}	Thermal shutdown temperature	Recovery temperature		150		$^\circ\text{C}$

(1) Deviation in V_{OUT} from nominal output voltage value at $V_{IN} = 24\text{ V}$, $I_{OUT} = 0\text{ A}$ to full load

(2) In dropout the switching frequency drops to increase the effective duty cycle. The lowest frequency is clamped at approximately: $F_{MIN} = 1 / (t_{ON-MAX} + t_{OFF-MIN})$. $D_{MAX} = t_{ON-MAX} / (t_{ON-MAX} + t_{OFF-MIN})$.

7.6 Typical Characteristics

Unless otherwise specified the following conditions apply: $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ and $V_{IN} = 24\text{ V}$, $f_{SW} = 400\text{ kHz}$.

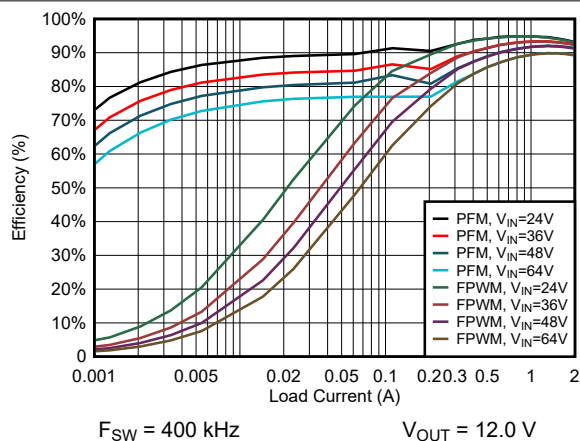


Figure 7-1. Efficiency vs Load Current

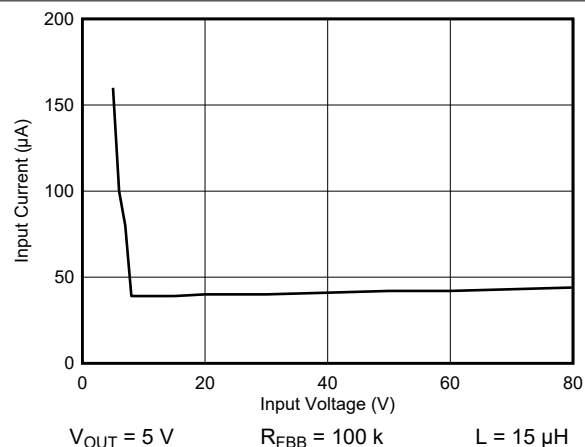


Figure 7-2. No Load Input Current vs Input Voltage

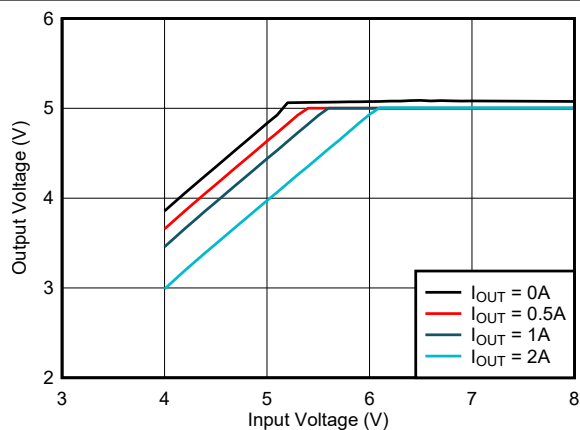


Figure 7-3. 5-V Dropout

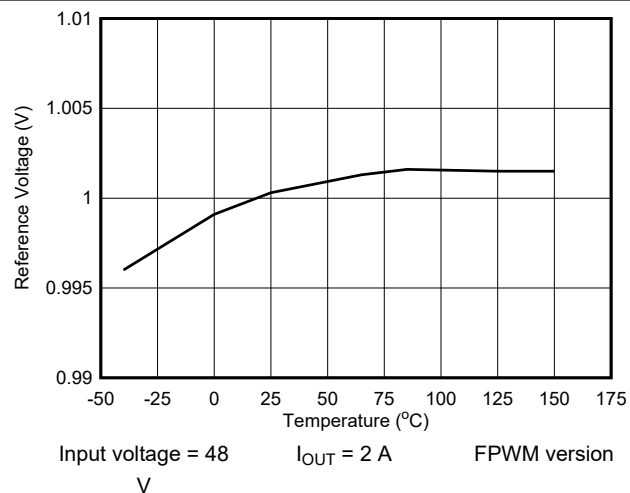


Figure 7-4. Reference Voltage vs Temperature

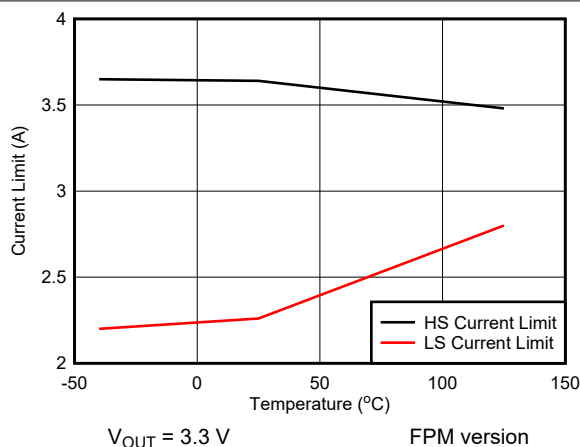


Figure 7-5. High-Side and Low-Side Current Limit vs Temperature

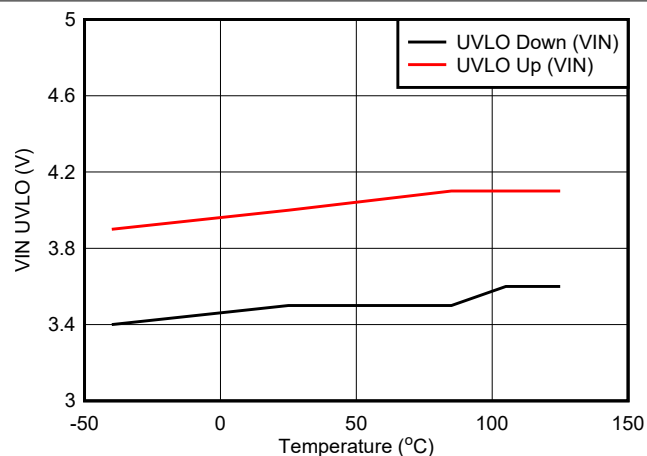


Figure 7-6. V_{IN} UVLO vs Temperature

8 Detailed Description

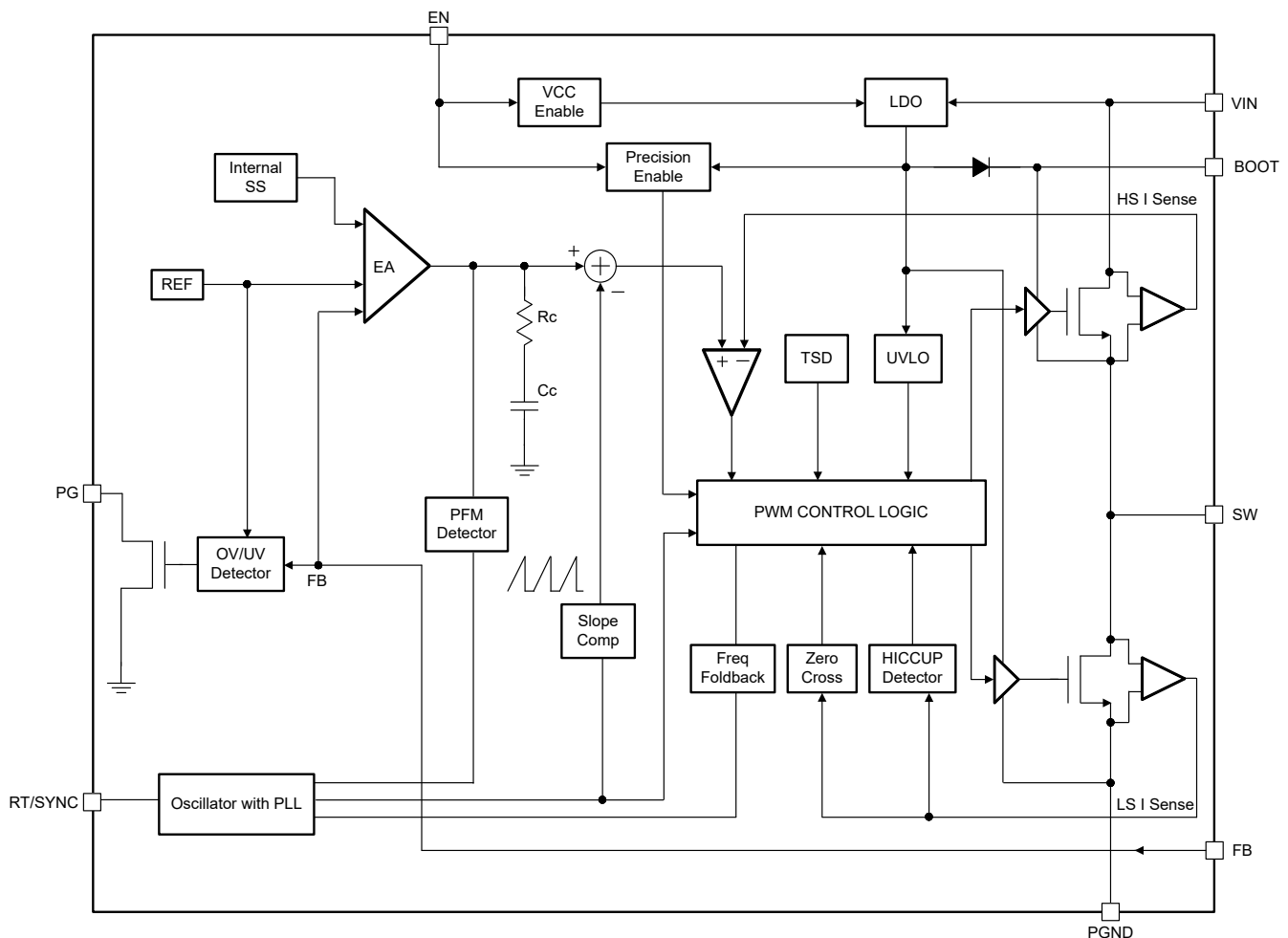
8.1 Overview

The LMR38020 converter is an easy-to-use synchronous step-down DC-DC converter that operates from a 4.2-V to 80-V supply voltage. It is capable of delivering up to 2-A DC load current in a small solution size. The LMR38020 employs peak-current mode control. The device enters PFM mode at light load to achieve high efficiency for PFM version. A FPWM version is provided to achieve low output voltage ripple, tight output voltage regulation, and constant switching frequency at light load. The device is internally compensated, which reduces design time, and requires few external components.

Additional features, such as precision enable and internal soft start, provide a flexible and easy-to-use solution for a wide range of applications. Protection features include thermal shutdown, V_{IN} undervoltage lockout, cycle-by-cycle current limit, and hiccup mode short-circuit protection.

The family requires very few external components and has a pinout designed for a simple, optimum PCB layout.

8.2 Functional Block Diagram



8.3 Feature Description

8.3.1 Fixed Frequency Peak Current Mode Control

The LMR38020 is a step-down synchronous buck converter with integrated high-side (HS) and low-side (LS) switches (synchronous rectifier). The LMR38020 supplies a regulated output voltage by turning on the high-side and low-side NMOS switches with controlled duty cycle. During high-side switch on time, the SW pin voltage swings up to approximately V_{IN} , and the inductor current, i_L , increases with a linear slope $(V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) / L$. When the high-side switch is turned off by the control logic, the low-side switch is turned on after an anti-shoot-through

dead time. Inductor current discharges through the low-side switch with a slope of $-V_{OUT} / L$. The control parameter of a buck converter is defined as Duty Cycle $D = t_{ON} / T_{SW}$, where t_{ON} is the high-side switch on time and T_{SW} is the switching period. The converter control loop maintains a constant output voltage by adjusting the duty cycle D . In an ideal buck converter where losses are ignored, D is proportional to the output voltage and inversely proportional to the input voltage: $D = V_{OUT} / V_{IN}$.

The LMR38020 employs fixed-frequency peak-current mode control. A voltage feedback loop is used to get accurate DC voltage regulation by adjusting the peak-current command based on voltage offset. The peak inductor current is sensed from the high-side switch and compared to the peak current threshold to control the on time of the high-side switch. The voltage feedback loop is internally compensated, which allows for fewer external components, making it easy to design and providing stable operation with almost any combination of output capacitors. The converter operates with fixed switching frequency at normal load condition. At light-load condition, the LMR38020 operates in PFM mode to maintain high efficiency (PFM version) or in FPWM mode for low output voltage ripple, tight output voltage regulation, and constant switching frequency (FPWM version).

8.3.2 Adjustable Output Voltage

A precision 1.0-V reference voltage (V_{REF}) is used to maintain a tightly regulated output voltage over the entire operating temperature range. The output voltage is set by a resistor divider from the output voltage to the FB pin. It is recommended to use 1% tolerance resistors with a low temperature coefficient for the FB divider. Select the bottom-side resistor R_{FBB} for the desired divider current and use Equation 1 to calculate the top-side resistor R_{FBT} . R_{FBT} in the range from 10 k Ω to 100 k Ω is recommended for most applications. A lower R_{FBT} value can be used if static loading is desired to reduce V_{OUT} offset in PFM operation. Lower R_{FBT} reduces efficiency at very light load. Less static current goes through a larger R_{FBT} and can be more desirable when light-load efficiency is critical. R_{FBT} larger than 1 M Ω is not recommended because it makes the feedback path more susceptible to noise. Larger R_{FBT} values require more carefully designed feedback path on the PCB. The tolerance and temperature variation of the resistor dividers affect the output voltage regulation.

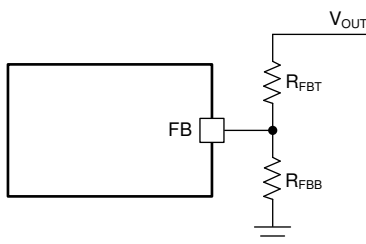


Figure 8-1. Output Voltage Setting

$$R_{FBT} = \frac{V_{OUT} - V_{REF}}{V_{REF}} \times R_{FBB} \quad (1)$$

8.3.3 Enable

The voltage on the EN pin controls the ON or OFF operation of the LMR38020. A voltage of less than 0.95 V shuts down the device, while a voltage of more than 1.4 V is required to start the converter. The EN pin is an input and cannot be left open or floating. The simplest way to enable the operation of the LMR38020 is to connect the EN to V_{IN} . This allows self-start-up of the LMR38020 when V_{IN} is within the operating range.

Many applications will benefit from the employment of an enable divider R_{ENT} and R_{ENB} (Figure 8-2) to establish a precision system UVLO level for the converter. System UVLO can be used for supplies operating from utility power as well as battery power. It can be used for sequencing, making sure the user has reliable operation or supply protection, such as a battery discharge level. An external logic signal can also be used to drive EN input for system sequencing and protection. Note that the EN pin voltage must never be higher than $V_{IN} + 0.3$ V. It is not recommended to apply EN voltage when V_{IN} is 0 V.

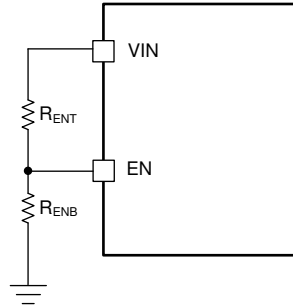


Figure 8-2. System UVLO by Enable Divider

8.3.4 Switching Frequency and Synchronization (RT/SYNC)

The switching frequency of the LMR38020 can be programmed by the resistor R_T from the RT/SYNC pin and GND pin. The RT/SYNC pin cannot be left floating or shorted to ground. To determine the timing resistance for a given switching frequency, use Equation 2 or the curve in Figure 8-3. Table 8-1 gives typical R_T values for a given f_{SW} .

$$R_T(k\ \Omega) = 30970 \times f_{SW}(kHz)^{-1.027} \quad (2)$$

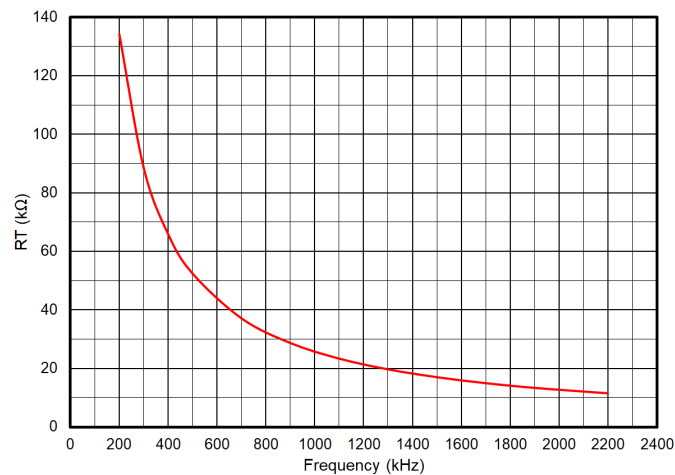


Figure 8-3. R_T Versus Frequency Curve

Table 8-1. Typical Frequency Setting R_T Resistance

f_{SW} (kHz)	R_T (kΩ)
200	133
400	64.9
500	52.3
750	34.8
1000	25.5
1500	16.9
2000	12.7
2200	11.5

The LMR38020 switching action can also be synchronized to an external clock from 300 kHz to 2.1 MHz. Connect a square wave to the RT/SYNC pin through either circuit network shown in Figure 8-4. The internal oscillator is synchronized by the falling edge of external clock. The recommendations for the external clock include: high level no lower than 2.0 V, low level no higher than 0.6 V, and have a pulse width greater than 50

ns. When using a low impedance signal source, the frequency setting resistor R_T is connected in parallel with an AC coupling capacitor, C_{COUP} , to a termination resistor, R_{TERM} (for example, 50 Ω). The two resistors in series provide the default frequency setting resistance when the signal source is turned off. A 10-pF ceramic capacitor can be used for C_{COUP} .

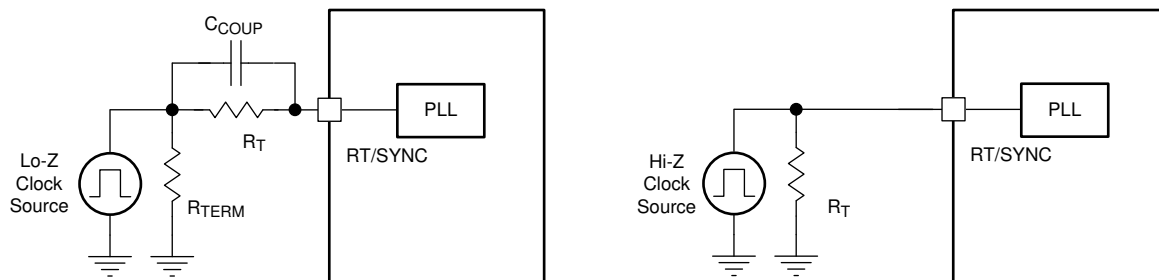


Figure 8-4. Synchronizing to an External Clock

8.3.5 Power-Good Flag Output

The power-good flag function (PG output pin) of the LMR38020 can be used to reset a system microprocessor whenever the output voltage is out of regulation. This open-drain output goes low under fault conditions, such as current limit and thermal shutdown, as well as during normal start-up. A glitch filter prevents false flag operation for short excursions of the output voltage, such as during line and load transients. Output voltage excursions lasting less than t_{PG} do not trip the power-good flag. Note that during initial power up, a delay of approximately 4 ms (typical) is inserted from the time that EN is asserted to the time that the power-good flag goes high. This delay only occurs during start-up and is not encountered during normal operation of the power-good function.

The power-good output consists of an open-drain NMOS, requiring an external pullup resistor to a suitable logic supply. It can also be pulled up to either V_{CC} or V_{OUT} , through a 100-k Ω resistor, as desired. If this function is not needed, the PG pin must be left floating. When EN is pulled low, the flag output is also forced low. With EN low, power good remains valid as long as the input voltage is greater than or equal to 2 V (typical). Limit the current into the power-good flag pin to less than 5-mA D.C. The maximum current is internally limited to approximately 35 mA when the device is enabled and approximately 65 mA when the device is disabled. The internal current limit protects the device from any transient currents that can occur when discharging a filter capacitor connected to this output.

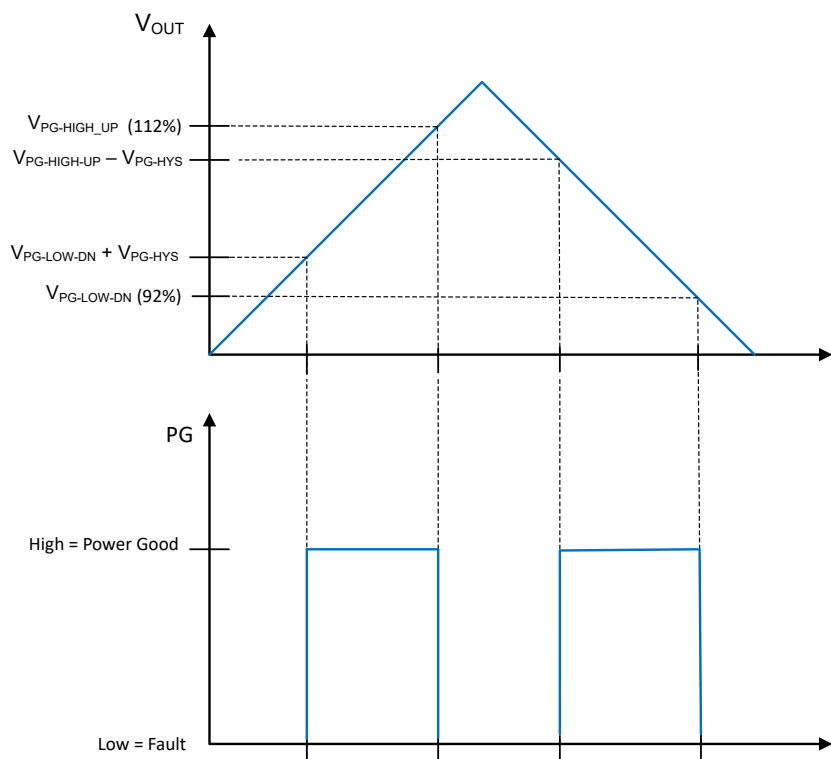


Figure 8-5. Static Power-Good Operation

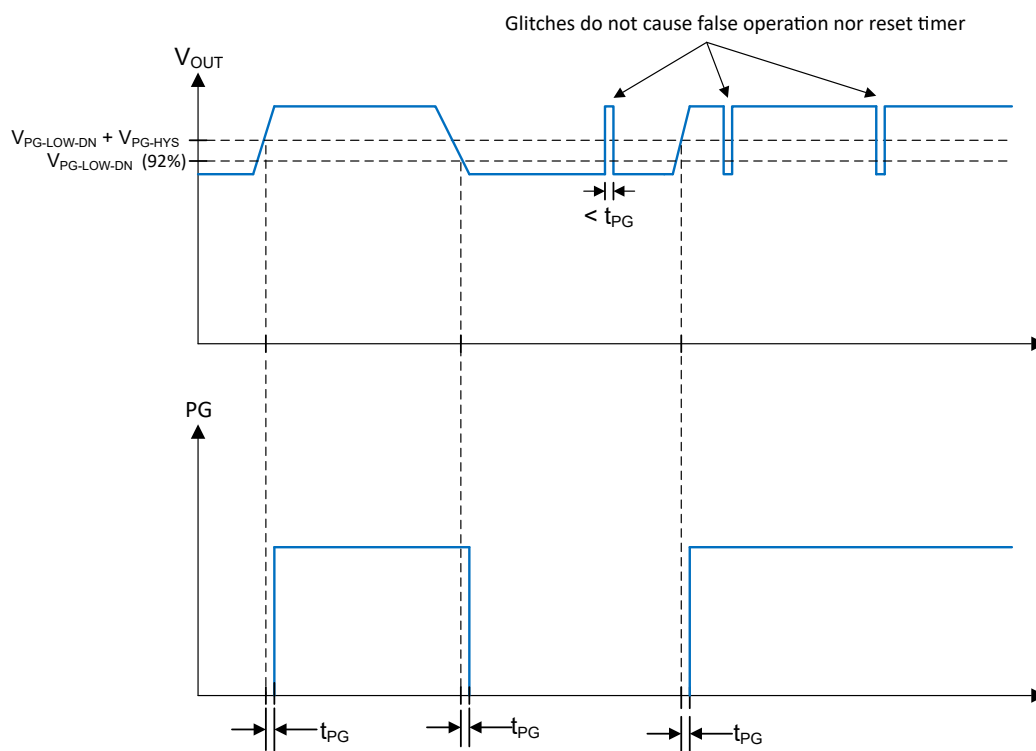


Figure 8-6. Power-Good-Timing Behavior

8.3.6 Minimum On Time, Minimum Off Time, and Frequency Foldback

Minimum on time (T_{ON_MIN}) is the smallest duration of time that the high-side switch can be on. T_{ON_MIN} is typically 75 ns in the LMR38020. Minimum off time (T_{OFF_MIN}) is the smallest duration that the high-side switch can be off. T_{OFF_MIN} is typically 190 ns. In CCM operation, T_{ON_MIN} and T_{OFF_MIN} limit the voltage conversion range without switching frequency foldback.

The minimum duty cycle without frequency foldback allowed is:

$$D_{MIN} = T_{ON_MIN} \times f_{SW} \quad (3)$$

The maximum duty cycle without frequency foldback allowed is:

$$D_{MAX} = 1 - T_{OFF_MIN} \times f_{SW} \quad (4)$$

Given a required output voltage, the maximum V_{IN} without frequency foldback can be found by:

$$V_{IN_MAX} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f_{SW} \times T_{ON_MIN}} \quad (5)$$

The minimum V_{IN} without frequency foldback can be calculated by:

$$V_{IN_MIN} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{1 - f_{SW} \times T_{OFF_MIN}} \quad (6)$$

In the LMR38020, a frequency foldback scheme is employed once the T_{ON_MIN} or T_{OFF_MIN} is triggered, which can extend the maximum duty cycle or lower the minimum duty cycle.

The on time decreases while V_{IN} voltage increases. Once the on time decreases to T_{ON_MIN} , the switching frequency starts to decrease while V_{IN} continues to go up, which lowers the duty cycle further to keep V_{OUT} in regulation according to [Equation 3](#).

The frequency foldback scheme also works once larger duty cycle is needed under low V_{IN} condition. The frequency decreases once the device hits its T_{OFF_MIN} , which extends the maximum duty cycle according to [Equation 4](#). In such condition, the frequency can be as low as approximately 133 kHz minimum. Wide range of frequency foldback allows the LMR38020 output voltage stay in regulation with a much lower supply voltage V_{IN} , which leads to a lower effective dropout.

The fixed frequency operation at FPWM mode with switching frequency greater than 1.2 MHz, is maintained with minimum load current about 100 mA for wider input voltage range. And for very light load and switching frequency over 1.2 MHz, frequency drop can be expected during mintoff frequency foldback.

With frequency foldback, V_{IN_MAX} is raised, and V_{IN_MIN} is lowered by decreased f_{SW} .

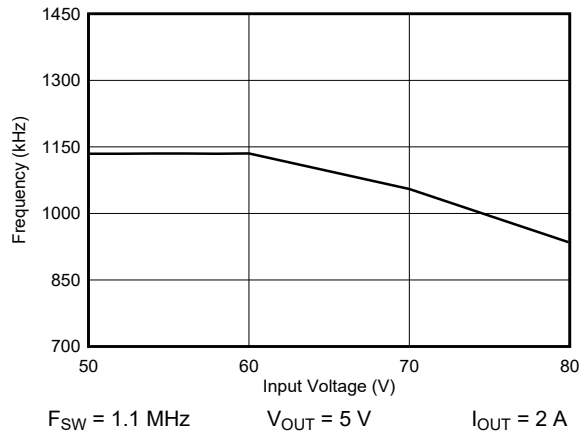


Figure 8-7. Typical Frequency Foldback at T_{ON_MIN}

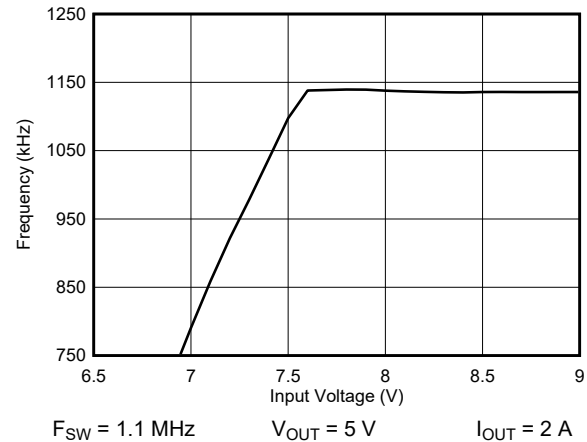


Figure 8-8. Typical Frequency Foldback at T_{OFF_MIN}

8.3.7 Bootstrap Voltage

The LMR38020 provides an integrated bootstrap voltage converter. A small capacitor between the CB and SW pins provides the gate drive voltage for the high-side MOSFET. The bootstrap capacitor is refreshed when the high-side MOSFET is off and the low-side switch conducts. The recommended value of the bootstrap capacitor is 0.1 µF. A ceramic capacitor with an X7R or X5R grade dielectric with a voltage rating of 16 V or higher is recommended for stable performance over temperature and voltage.

8.3.8 Overcurrent and Short Circuit Protection

The LMR38020 is protected from overcurrent conditions by cycle-by-cycle current limit on both the peak and valley of the inductor current. Hiccup mode is activated if a fault condition persists to prevent overheating.

High-side MOSFET overcurrent protection is implemented by the nature of the peak current mode control. The high-side switch current is sensed when the high-side is turned on after a set blanking time. The high-side switch current is compared to the output of the error amplifier (EA) minus slope compensation every switching cycle. The peak current of high-side switch is limited by a clamped maximum peak current threshold, $I_{\text{high side_LIMIT}}$, which is constant.

The current going through low-side MOSFET is also sensed and monitored. When the low-side switch turns on, the inductor current begins to ramp down. The low-side switch is turned OFF at the end of a switching cycle if its current is above the low-side current limit, $I_{\text{LS_LIMIT}}$. The low-side switch is kept on so that inductor current keeps ramping down until the inductor current ramps below the $I_{\text{LS_LIMIT}}$. Then the low-side switch is turned OFF and the high-side switch is turned on after a dead time. This is somewhat different to the more typical peak current limit and results in Equation 7 for the maximum load current.

$$I_{\text{OUT_MAX}} = I_{\text{LS}} + \frac{(V_{\text{IN}} - V_{\text{OUT}})}{2 \times f_{\text{SW}} \times L} \times \frac{V_{\text{OUT}}}{V_{\text{IN}}} \quad (7)$$

If the feedback voltage is lower than 40% of the V_{REF} , the current of the low-side switch triggers $I_{\text{LS_LIMIT}}$ for 256 consecutive cycles, hiccup current protection mode is activated. In hiccup mode, the converter shuts down and stays off for a period of hiccup, T_{HICCUP} (76-ms typical), before the LMR38020 tries to start again. If overcurrent or short-circuit fault condition still exist, hiccup repeats until the fault condition is removed. Hiccup mode reduces power dissipation under severe overcurrent conditions and prevents overheating and potential damage to the device.

For FPWM version, the inductor current is allowed to go negative. When this current exceeds the low-side negative current limit, $I_{\text{LS_NEG}}$, the low-side switch is turned off and high-side switch is turned on immediately. This is used to protect the low-side switch from excessive negative current.

8.3.9 Soft Start

The integrated soft-start circuit prevents input inrush current impacting the LMR38020 and the input power supply. Soft start is achieved by slowly ramping up the target regulation voltage when the device is first enabled or powered up. The typical soft-start time is 4.0 ms.

The LMR38020 also employs overcurrent protection blanking time, T_{OCP_BLK} (18-ms typical) at the beginning of power up. Without this feature, in applications with a large amount of output capacitors and high V_{OUT} , the inrush current is large enough to trigger the current-limit protection, which can make the device enter into Hiccup mode. The device tries to restart after the hiccup period, then hits the current limit and enters into Hiccup mode again, so V_{OUT} cannot ramp up to the setting voltage ever. By introducing OCP blanking feature, the hiccup protection function is disabled during T_{OCP_BLK} , and LMR38020 charges the V_{OUT} with its maximum limited current, which maximizes the output current capacity during this period. Note that the peak current limit (I_{HS_LIMIT}) and valley current limit (I_{LS_LIMIT}) protection functions are still available during T_{OCP_BLK} , so there is no concern of inductor current running away.

8.3.10 Thermal Shutdown

The LMR38020 provides an internal thermal shutdown to protect the device when the junction temperature exceeds 163°C. Both high-side and low-side FETs stop switching in thermal shutdown. Once the die temperature falls below 150°C, the device reinitiates the power-up sequence controlled by the internal soft-start circuitry.

8.4 Device Functional Modes

8.4.1 Auto Mode

In auto mode, the device moves between PWM and PFM as the load changes. At light loads, the regulator operates in PFM. At higher loads, the mode changes to PWM.

In PWM, the regulator operates as a constant frequency, current mode, full-synchronous converter using PWM to regulate the output voltage. While operating in this mode, the output voltage is regulated by switching at a constant frequency and modulating the duty cycle to control the power to the load. This provides excellent line and load regulation and low output voltage ripple.

In PFM, the high-side MOSFET is turned on in a burst of one or more pulses to provide energy to the load. The duration of the burst depends on how long it takes the inductor current to reach $I_{PEAK-MIN}$. The frequency of these bursts is adjusted to regulate the output, while diode emulation is used to maximize efficiency (see the [Glossary](#)). This mode provides high light-load efficiency by reducing the amount of input supply current required to regulate the output voltage at small loads. This trades off very good light-load efficiency for larger output voltage ripple and variable switching frequency. Also, a small increase in output voltage occurs at light loads. The actual switching frequency and output voltage ripple depend on the input voltage, output voltage, and load.

8.4.2 Forced PWM Operation

The forced PWM option is choiced for cases when constant frequency operation is more important than light-load efficiency.

In FPWM operation, the diode emulation feature is turned off. This means that the device remains in CCM under light loads. Under conditions where the device must reduce the on time or off time below the compliant minimum to maintain regulation, the frequency reduces to maintain the effective duty cycle required for regulation. This occurs for very high and very low input and output voltage ratios. In FPWM mode, a limited reverse current is allowed through the inductor, allowing power to pass from the output of the regulator to the input of the regulator. Note that in FPWM mode, larger currents pass through the inductor, if lightly loaded, than in Auto mode. Once loads are heavy enough to necessitate CCM operation, FPWM mode has no measurable effect on regulator operation.

8.4.3 Dropout

The dropout performance of any buck regulator is affected by the $R_{DS(on)}$ of the power MOSFETs, the DC resistance of the inductor, and the maximum duty cycle that the controller can achieve. As the input voltage is reduced to the output voltage, the off time of the high-side MOSFET starts to approach the minimum value.

Beyond this point, the switching can become erratic and the output voltage falls out of regulation. To avoid this problem, the LMR38020 automatically reduces the switching frequency to increase the effective duty cycle and maintain regulation. In this data sheet, the dropout voltage is defined as the difference between the input and output voltage when the output has dropped by 1% of the nominal value. Under this condition, the switching frequency has dropped to its minimum value of about 140 kHz. Note that the 0.4-V short circuit detection threshold is not activated when in dropout mode.

8.4.4 Minimum Switch On Time

Every switching regulator has a minimum controllable on time dictated by the inherent delays and blanking times associated with the control circuits. This imposes a minimum switch duty cycle, therefore, a minimum conversion ratio. The constraint is encountered at high input voltages and low output voltages. To help extend the minimum controllable duty cycle, the LMR38020 automatically reduces the switching frequency when the minimum on-time limit is reached. This way, the converter can regulate the lowest programmable output voltage at the maximum input voltage. An estimate for the approximate input voltage for a given output voltage, before frequency foldback occurs, is found in [Equation 8](#). As the input voltage is increased, the switch on time (duty cycle) reduces to regulate the output voltage. When the on time reaches the limit, the switching frequency drops, while the on time remains fixed.

$$V_{IN} \leq \frac{V_{OUT}}{t_{ON} \cdot f_{SW}} \quad (8)$$

9 Application and Implementation

Note

Information in the following applications sections is not part of the TI component specification, and TI does not warrant its accuracy or completeness. TI's customers are responsible for determining suitability of components for their purposes, as well as validating and testing their design implementation to confirm system functionality.

9.1 Application Information

The LMR38020 step-down DC-to-DC converter is typically used to convert a higher DC voltage to a lower DC voltage with a maximum output current of 2 A. The following design procedure can be used to select components for the LMR38020. Alternately, use the WEBENCH Design Tool to generate a complete design. This tool utilizes an iterative design procedure and has access to a comprehensive database of components. This allows the tool to create an optimized design and allows the user to experiment with various options.

Note

All of the capacitance values given in the following application information refer to *effective* values unless otherwise stated. The *effective* value is defined as the actual capacitance under DC bias and temperature, not the rated or nameplate values. Use high-quality, low-ESR, ceramic capacitors with an X7R or better dielectric throughout. All high value ceramic capacitors have a large voltage coefficient in addition to normal tolerances and temperature effects. Under DC bias the capacitance drops considerably. Large case sizes and higher voltage ratings are better in this regard. To help mitigate these effects, multiple capacitors can be used in parallel to bring the minimum *effective* capacitance up to the required value. This can also ease the RMS current requirements on a single capacitor. A careful study of bias and temperature variation of any capacitor bank must be made to ensure that the minimum value of *effective* capacitance is provided.

9.2 Typical Application

Figure 9-1 show a typical application circuit for the LMR38020. This device is designed to function over a wide range of external components and system parameters. However, the internal compensation is optimized for a certain range of external inductance and output capacitance. As a quick-start guide, Table 9-1 provides typical component values for a range of the most common output voltages.

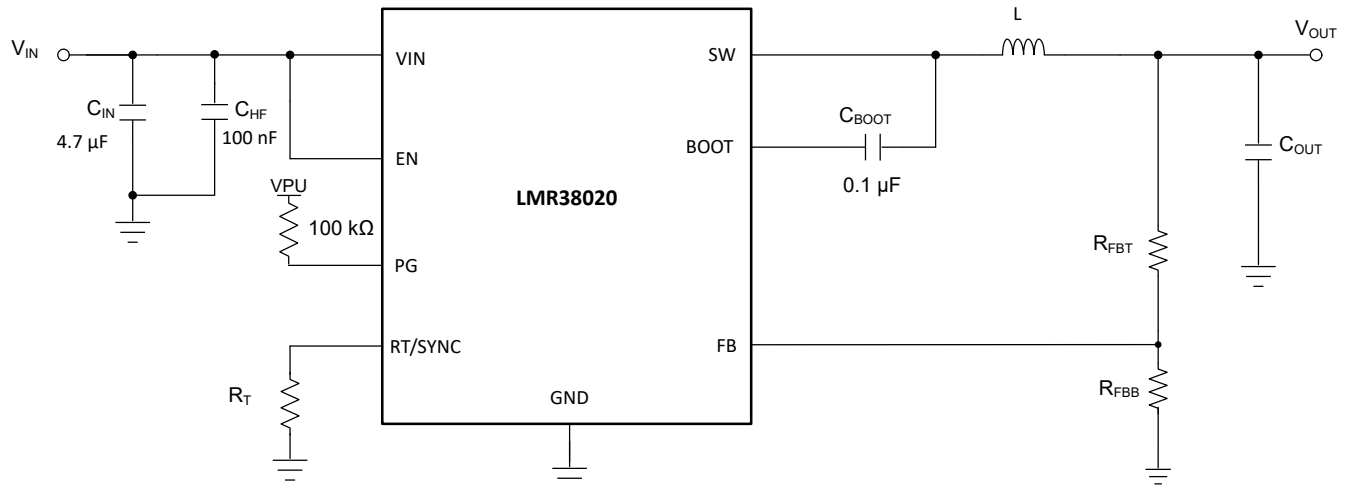


Figure 9-1. Example Application Circuit

Table 9-1. Typical External Component Values for 2-A Output Current

f_{sw} (kHz)	V_{IN} (V) Typical	V_{OUT} (V)	L (μH)	NOMINAL C_{OUT} (RATED CAPACITANCE)	MINIMUM C_{OUT} (RATED CAPACITANCE)	R_{FBT} (Ω)	R_{FBB} (Ω)
400	48	5	15	$3 \times 22 \mu F$	$2 \times 22 \mu F$	100 k	24.9 k
1000	24	5	6.8	$2 \times 22 \mu F$	$2 \times 15 \mu F$	100 k	24.9 k
400	48	12	33	$1 \times 22 \mu F$	$1 \times 15 \mu F$	100 k	9.09 k
1000	24	12	10	$2 \times 10 \mu F$	$1 \times 10 \mu F$	100 k	9.09 k
500	48	24	47	$1 \times 22 \mu F$	$1 \times 15 \mu F$	100 k	4.32 k

9.2.1 Design Requirements

Section 9.2.2 provides a detailed design procedure based on Table 9-2.

Table 9-2. Detailed Design Parameters

DESIGN PARAMETER	EXAMPLE VALUE
Input voltage	6 V to 80 V
Output voltage	5 V
Maximum output current	0 A to 2 A
Switching frequency	400 kHz

9.2.2 Detailed Design Procedure

The following design procedure applies to Figure 9-1 and Table 9-1.

9.2.2.1 Choosing the Switching Frequency

The choice of switching frequency is a compromise between conversion efficiency and overall solution size. Lower switching frequency implies reduced switching losses and usually results in higher system efficiency. However, higher switching frequency allows the use of smaller inductors and output capacitors, hence, a more compact design. For this example, 400 kHz is used.

9.2.2.2 FB for Adjustable Output

In an adjustable output voltage version, pin 5 of the device is FB. The output voltage of the LMR38020 is externally adjustable using an external resistor divider network. The divider network is comprised of R_{FBT} and R_{FBB} , and closes the loop between the output voltage and the converter. The converter regulates the output voltage by holding the voltage on the FB pin equal to the internal reference voltage, V_{REF} . The resistance of the divider is a compromise between excessive noise pickup and excessive loading of the output. Smaller values of resistance reduce noise sensitivity, but also reduce the light-load efficiency. The recommended value for R_{FBT} is 100 k Ω with a maximum value of 1 M Ω . Once R_{FBT} is selected, Equation 9 is used to select R_{FBB} . V_{REF} is nominally 1 V.

$$R_{FBB} = \frac{R_{FBT}}{\left[\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{REF}} - 1 \right]} \quad (9)$$

For this 5-V example, $R_{FBT} = 100$ k Ω and $R_{FBB} = 24.9$ k Ω is chosen.

9.2.2.3 Inductor Selection

The parameters for selecting the inductor are the inductance and saturation current. The inductance is based on the desired peak-to-peak ripple current and is normally chosen to be in the range of 20% to 40% of the maximum output current. Experience shows that the best value for inductor ripple current is 30% of the maximum load current. Note that when selecting the ripple current for applications with much smaller maximum load than the maximum available from the device, use the maximum device current. Equation 10 can be used to determine the value of inductance. The constant K is the percentage of inductor current ripple. For this example, choose $K = 0.4$ and find an inductance of $L = 14$ μ H. Select the next standard value of $L = 15$ μ H.

$$L = \frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT})}{f_{SW} \cdot K \cdot I_{OUT\max}} \cdot \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \quad (10)$$

Ideally, the saturation current rating of the inductor is at least as large as the high-side switch current limit, I_{SC} . This makes sure that the inductor does not saturate, even during a short circuit on the output. When the inductor core material saturates, the inductance falls to a very low value, causing the inductor current to rise very rapidly. Although the valley current limit, I_{LIMIT} , is designed to reduce the risk of current runaway, a saturated inductor can cause the current to rise to high values very rapidly. This can lead to component damage. Do not allow the inductor to saturate. Inductors with a ferrite core material have very *hard* saturation characteristics, but usually have lower core losses than powdered iron cores. Powdered iron cores exhibit a *soft* saturation, allowing some relaxation in the current rating of the inductor. However, they have more core losses at frequencies above approximately 1 MHz. In any case, the inductor saturation current must not be less than the maximum peak inductor current at full load.

To avoid subharmonic oscillation, the inductance value must not be less than that given in Equation 11:

$$L_{MIN} \geq M \cdot \frac{V_{OUT}}{f_{SW}} \quad (11)$$

where

- L_{MIN} = minimum inductance (H)
- $M = 0.25$ for a 2-A device
- f_{SW} = switching frequency (Hz)

The maximum inductance is limited by the minimum current ripple for the current mode control to perform correctly. As a rule-of-thumb, the minimum inductor ripple current must be no less than about 10% of the device maximum rated current under nominal conditions.

9.2.2.4 Output Capacitor Selection

The current mode control scheme of the LMR38020 devices allows operation over a wide range of output capacitance. The output capacitor bank is usually limited by the load transient requirements and stability rather than the output voltage ripple. Refer to [Table 9-1](#) for typical output capacitor value for 5-V to 24-V output voltages. For a 5-V output design, 3 × 22-μF ceramic output capacitors are recommended for this example. For other designs with other output voltages, WEBENCH can be used as a starting point for selecting the value of output capacitor.

In practice, the output capacitor has the most influence on the transient response and loop-phase margin. Load transient testing and bode plots are the best way to validate any given design and must always be completed before the application goes into production. In addition to the required output capacitance, a small ceramic placed on the output can help reduce high-frequency noise. Small-case size ceramic capacitors in the range of 1 nF to 100 nF can be very helpful in reducing spikes on the output caused by inductor and board parasitics.

Limit the maximum value of total output capacitance to approximately 10 times the design value, or 1000 μF, whichever is smaller. Large values of output capacitance can adversely affect the start-up behavior of the regulator as well as the loop stability. If values larger than noted here must be used, then a careful study of start-up at full load and loop stability must be performed.

9.2.2.5 Input Capacitor Selection

The ceramic input capacitors provide a low impedance source to the regulator in addition to supplying the ripple current and isolating switching noise from other circuits. A minimum ceramic capacitance of 4.7 μF is required on the input of the LMR38020. This must be rated for at least the maximum input voltage that the application requires, preferably twice the maximum input voltage. This capacitance can be increased to help reduce input voltage ripple and maintain the input voltage during load transients. In addition, a small case size 100-nF to 220-nF ceramic capacitor must be used at the input, as close as possible to the regulator. This provides a high frequency bypass for the control circuits internal to the device. For this example a 4.7-μF, 100-V, X7R (or better) ceramic capacitor is chosen. The 100-nF must also be rated at 100-V with an X7R dielectric.

It is often desirable to use an electrolytic capacitor on the input in parallel with the ceramics. This is especially true if long leads or traces are used to connect the input supply to the regulator. The moderate ESR of this capacitor can help damp any ringing on the input supply caused by the long power leads. The use of this additional capacitor also helps with voltage dips caused by input supplies with unusually high impedance.

Most of the input switching current passes through the ceramic input capacitor or capacitors. The approximate RMS value of this current can be calculated from [Equation 12](#) and must be checked against the manufacturers' maximum ratings.

$$I_{\text{RMS}} \cong \frac{I_{\text{OUT}}}{2} \quad (12)$$

9.2.2.6 C_{BOOT}

The LMR38020 requires a bootstrap capacitor connected between the BOOT pin and the SW pin. This capacitor stores energy that is used to supply the gate drivers for the power MOSFETs. A high-quality ceramic capacitor of 100 nF and at least 16 V is required.

9.2.2.7 External UVLO

In some cases, an input UVLO level different than that provided internal to the device is needed. This can be accomplished by using the circuit shown in [Figure 9-2](#). The turn-on voltage is designated as V_{ON} while the turn-off voltage is V_{OFF}. First, a value for R_{ENB} is chosen in the range of 10 kΩ to 100 kΩ, then [Equation 13](#) is used to calculate R_{ENT} and V_{OFF}.

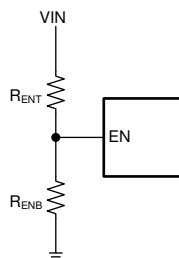


Figure 9-2. Setup for External UVLO Application

$$R_{ENT} = R_{ENB} \cdot \left(\frac{V_{ON}}{V_{EN-H}} - 1 \right)$$

$$V_{OFF} = V_{EN-L} \cdot \left(\frac{V_{ON}}{V_{EN-H}} \right) \quad (13)$$

where

- $V_{ON} = V_{IN}$ turn-on voltage
- $V_{OFF} = V_{IN}$ turn-off voltage

9.2.2.8 Maximum Ambient Temperature

As with any power conversion device, the device dissipates internal power while operating. The effect of this power dissipation is to raise the internal temperature of the converter above ambient. The internal die temperature (T_J) is a function of the ambient temperature, the power loss, and the effective thermal resistance, $R_{\theta JA}$, of the device and PCB combination. The maximum junction temperature for the LMR38020 must be limited to 150°C. This establishes a limit on the maximum device power dissipation and, therefore, the load current. Equation 14 shows the relationships between the important parameters. It is easy to see that larger ambient temperatures (T_A) and larger values of $R_{\theta JA}$ reduce the maximum available output current. The converter efficiency can be estimated by using the curves provided in this data sheet. If the desired operating conditions cannot be found in one of the curves, interpolation can be used to estimate the efficiency. Alternatively, the EVM can be adjusted to match the desired application requirements and the efficiency can be measured directly. The correct value of $R_{\theta JA}$ is more difficult to estimate. As stated in the [Semiconductor and IC Package Thermal Metrics Application Report](#), the values given in the *Thermal Information* are not valid for design purposes and must not be used to estimate the thermal performance of the application. The values reported in that table were measured under a specific set of conditions that are rarely obtained in an actual application.

$$I_{OUT}|_{MAX} = \frac{(T_J - T_A)}{R_{\theta JA}} \cdot \frac{\eta}{(1 - \eta)} \cdot \frac{1}{V_{OUT}} \quad (14)$$

where

- η = efficiency

The effective $R_{\theta JA}$ is a critical parameter and depends on many factors such as the following:

- Power dissipation
- Air temperature/flow
- PCB area
- Copper heat-sink area
- Number of thermal vias under the package
- Adjacent component placement

Use the following resources as guides to optimal thermal PCB design and estimating $R_{\theta JA}$ for a given application environment:

- [*Thermal Design by Insight not Hindsight Application Report*](#)
- [*A Guide to Board Layout for Best Thermal Resistance for Exposed Pad Packages Application Report*](#)
- [*Semiconductor and IC Package Thermal Metrics Application Report*](#)
- [*How to Properly Evaluate Junction Temperature with Thermal Metrics Application Report*](#)
- [*Using New Thermal Metrics Application Report*](#)

9.2.3 Application Curves

Unless otherwise specified the following conditions apply: $V_{IN} = 48\text{ V}$, $L = 15\text{ }\mu\text{H}$, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$.

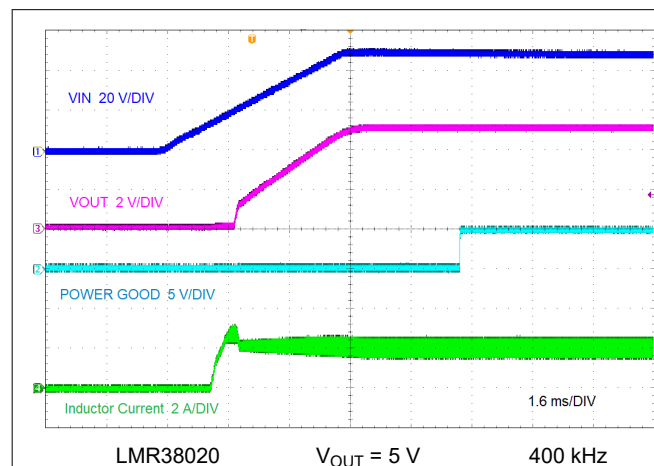


Figure 9-3. Start-Up by VIN

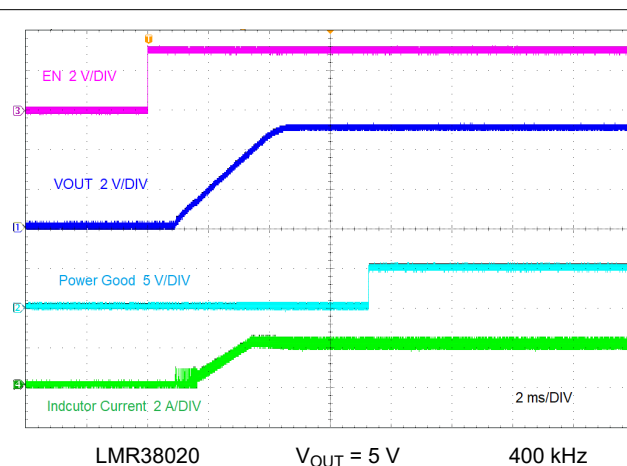


Figure 9-4. Start-Up by EN

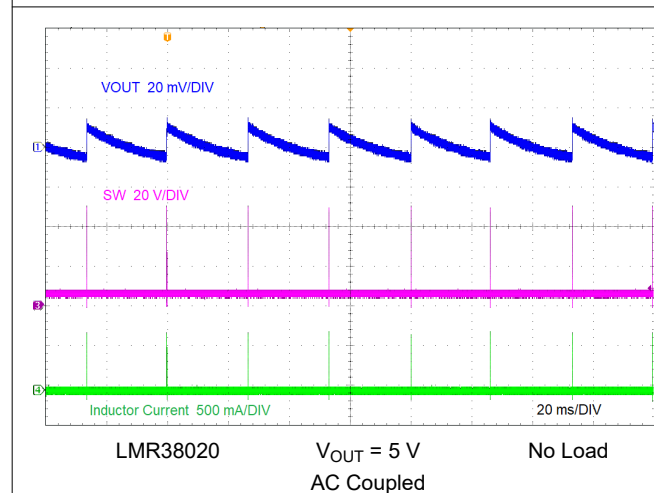


Figure 9-5. PFM Switching

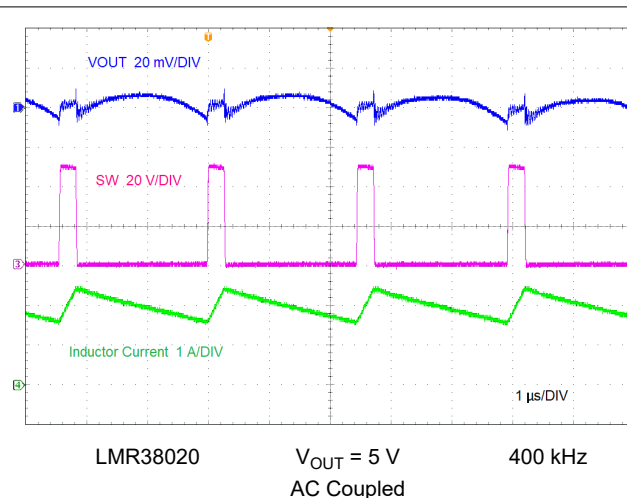


Figure 9-6. Full Load Switching

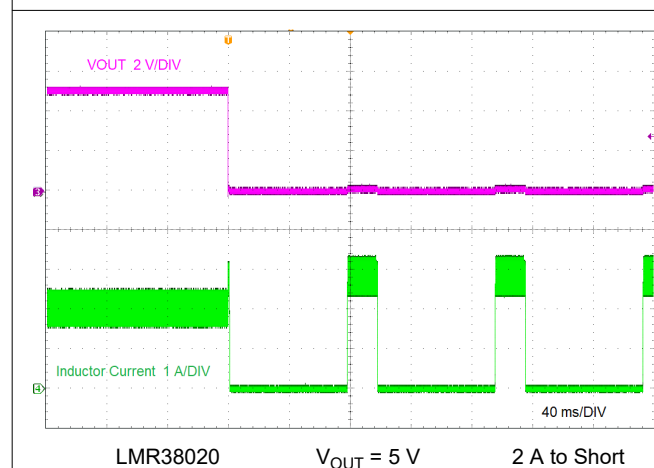


Figure 9-7. Short Circuit Applied

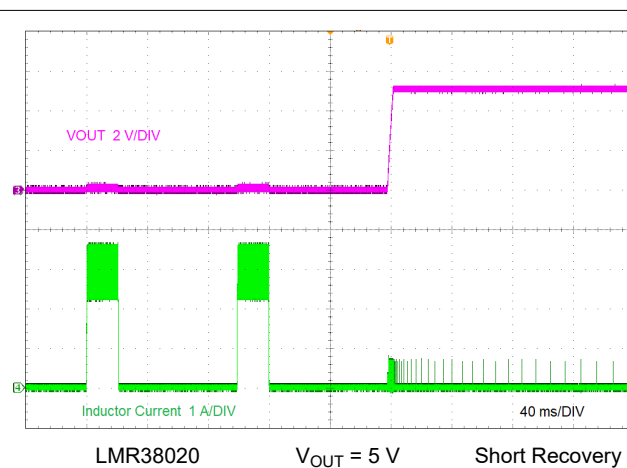
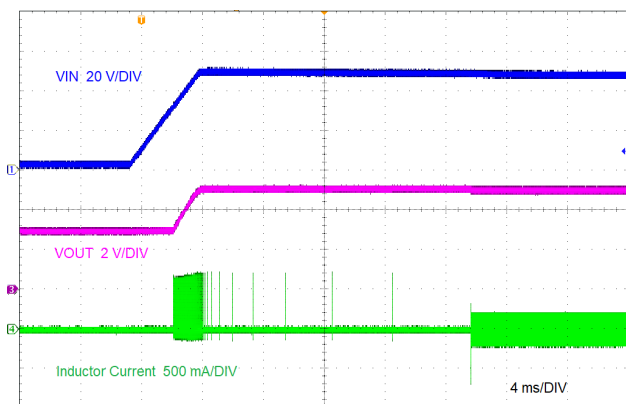
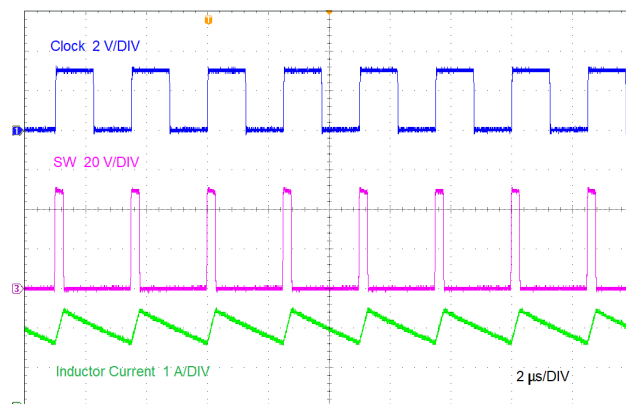


Figure 9-8. Short Circuit Recovery

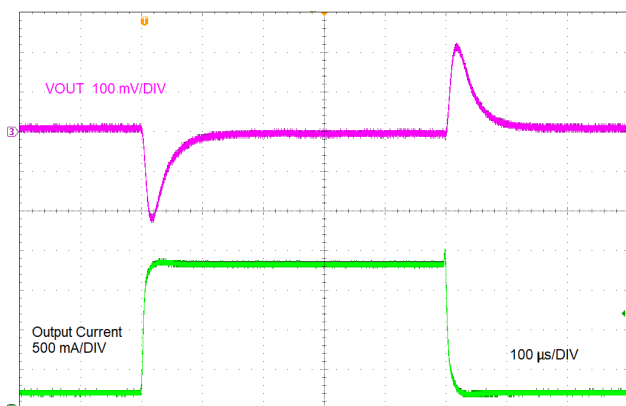


LMR38020F $V_{OUT} = 5\text{ V}$ No Load
Bias to 3 V

Figure 9-9. Start-Up with Prebias

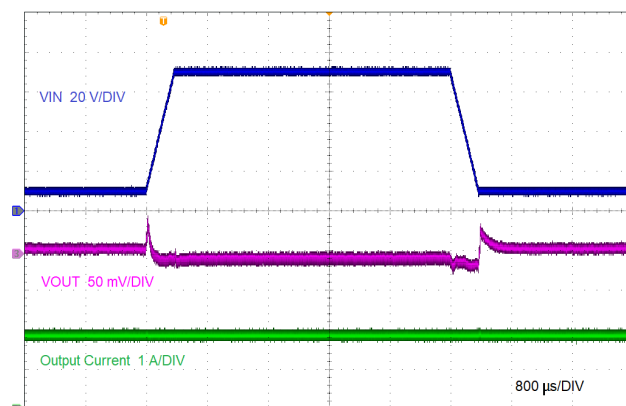


LMR38020 $V_{OUT} = 5\text{ V}$ 400 kHz
Figure 9-10. Frequency Synchronization



LMR38020 $V_{OUT} = 5\text{ V}$ 400 kHz
(AC Coupled)
200 mA to 1.8 A at 200 mA/μs

Figure 9-11. Load Transient



LMR38020 $V_{OUT} = 5\text{ V}$ 400 kHz
(AC Coupled)
10 V to 70 V at 200 V/ms

Figure 9-12. Line Transient

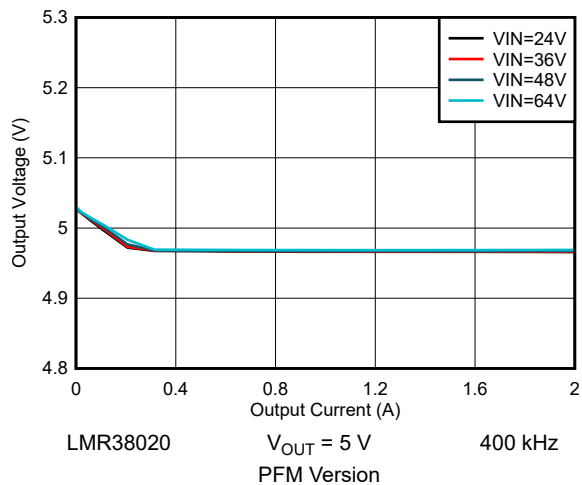


Figure 9-13. 5-V Load Regulation

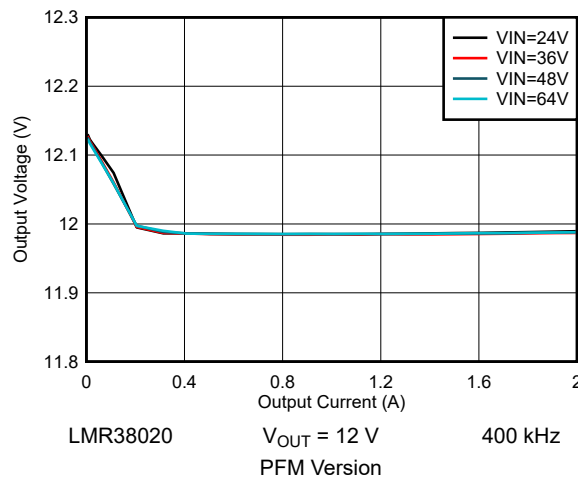


Figure 9-14. 12-V Load Regulation

9.3 What to Do and What Not to Do

- Do not exceed the [Absolute Maximum Ratings](#).
- Do not exceed the [Recommended Operating Conditions](#).
- Do not exceed the [ESD Ratings](#).
- Do not allow the EN input to float.
- Do not allow the output voltage to exceed the input voltage, nor go below ground.
- Follow all the guidelines and suggestions found in this data sheet before committing the design to production. TI application engineers are ready to help critique your design and PCB layout to help make your project a success.

10 Power Supply Recommendations

The characteristics of the input supply must be compatible with the [Absolute Maximum Ratings](#) and [Recommended Operating Conditions](#) found in this data sheet. In addition, the input supply must be capable of delivering the required input current to the loaded regulator. The average input current can be estimated with [Equation 15](#).

$$I_{IN} = \frac{V_{OUT} \cdot I_{OUT}}{V_{IN} \cdot \eta} \quad (15)$$

where

- η = efficiency

If the regulator is connected to the input supply through long wires or PCB traces, special care is required to achieve good performance. The parasitic inductance and resistance of the input cables can have an adverse effect on the operation of the regulator. The parasitic inductance, in combination with the low-ESR, ceramic input capacitors, can form an under damped resonant circuit, resulting in overvoltage transients at the input to the regulator. The parasitic resistance can cause the voltage at the VIN pin to dip whenever a load transient is applied to the output. If the application is operating close to the minimum input voltage, this dip can cause the regulator to momentarily shutdown and reset. The best way to solve these kind of issues is to reduce the distance from the input supply to the regulator, use an aluminum or tantalum input capacitor in parallel with the ceramics, or both. The moderate ESR of these types of capacitors help damp the input resonant circuit and reduce any overshoots. A value in the range of 22 μ F to 68 μ F is usually sufficient to provide input damping and help to hold the input voltage steady during large load transients.

Sometimes, for other system considerations, an input filter is used in front of the regulator. This can lead to instability, as well as some of the effects mentioned above, unless it is designed carefully. The [AN-2162 Simple Success With Conducted EMI From DCDC Converters User's Guide](#) provides helpful suggestions when designing an input filter for any switching regulator.

In some cases, a transient voltage suppressor (TVS) is used on the input of regulators. One class of this device has a *snap-back* characteristic (thyristor type). The use of a device with this type of characteristic is not recommended. When the TVS fires, the clamping voltage falls to a very low value. If this voltage is less than the output voltage of the regulator, the output capacitors discharge through the device back to the input. This uncontrolled current flow can damage the device.

The input voltage must not be allowed to fall below the output voltage. In this scenario, such as a shorted input test, the output capacitors discharge through the internal parasitic diode found between the VIN and SW pins of the device. During this condition, the current can become uncontrolled, possibly causing damage to the device. If this scenario is considered likely, then a Schottky diode between the input supply and the output should be used.

11 Layout

11.1 Layout Guidelines

The PCB layout of any DC/DC converter is critical to the optimal performance of the design. Bad PCB layout can disrupt the operation of an otherwise good schematic design. Even if the converter regulates correctly, bad PCB layout can mean the difference between a robust design and one that cannot be mass produced. Furthermore, the EMI performance of the regulator is dependent on the PCB layout, to a great extent. In a buck converter, the most critical PCB feature is the loop formed by the input capacitor or input capacitors, and power ground, as shown in [Figure 11-1](#). This loop carries large transient currents that can cause large transient voltages when reacting with the trace inductance. These unwanted transient voltages will disrupt the proper operation of the converter. Because of this, the traces in this loop must be wide and short, and the loop area as small as possible to reduce the parasitic inductance. [Figure 11-2](#) shows a recommended layout for the critical components of the LMR38020.

- *Place the input capacitor or capacitors as close as possible to the VIN and GND terminals.* VIN and GND pins are adjacent, simplifying the input capacitor placement.
- *Use wide traces for the C_{BOOT} capacitor.* Place C_{BOOT} close to the device with short/wide traces to the BOOT and SW pins.
- *Place the feedback divider as close as possible to the FB pin of the device.* Place R_{FBB}, R_{FBT}, and C_{FF}, if used, physically close to the device. The connections to FB and GND must be short and close to those pins on the device. The connection to V_{OUT} can be somewhat longer. However, this latter trace must not be routed near any noise source (such as the SW node) that can capacitively couple into the feedback path of the regulator.
- *Use at least one ground plane in one of the middle layers.* This plane acts as a noise shield and also act as a heat dissipation path.
- *Connect the thermal pad to the ground plane.* The SOIC package has a thermal pad (PAD) connection that must be soldered down to the PCB ground plane. This pad acts as a heat-sink connection and an electrical ground connection for the regulator. The integrity of this solder connection has a direct bearing on the total effective R_{θJA} of the application.
- *Provide wide paths for VIN, VOUT, and GND.* Making these paths as wide and direct as possible reduces any voltage drops on the input or output paths of the converter and maximizes efficiency.
- *Provide enough PCB area for proper heat sinking.* Enough copper area must be used to keep a low R_{θJA}, commensurate with the maximum load current and ambient temperature. Make the top and bottom PCB layers with two-ounce copper; and no less than one ounce. With the SOIC package, use an array of heat-sinking vias to connect the thermal pad (PAD) to the ground plane on the bottom PCB layer. If the PCB design uses multiple copper layers (recommended), thermal vias can also be connected to the inner layer heat-spreading ground planes.
- *Keep switch area small.* Keep the copper area connecting the SW pin to the inductor as short and wide as possible. At the same time the total area of this node should be minimized to help reduce radiated EMI.

See the following PCB layout resources for additional important guidelines:

- [Layout Guidelines for Switching Power Supplies](#)
- [Simple Switcher PCB Layout Guidelines](#)
- [Construction Your Power Supply- Layout Considerations](#)
- [Low Radiated EMI Layout Made Simple with LM4360x and LM4600x](#)

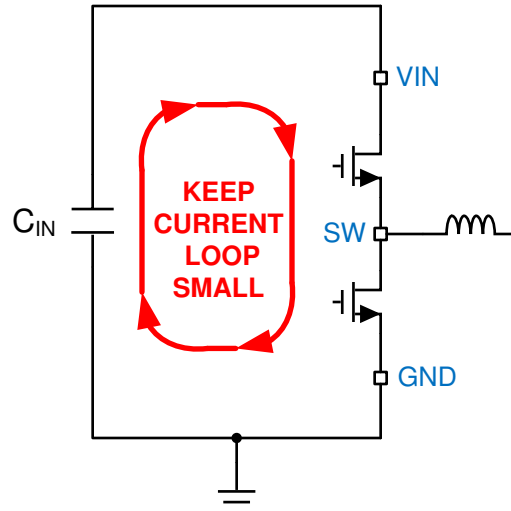


Figure 11-1. Current Loops with Fast Edges

11.1.1 Ground and Thermal Considerations

As mentioned above, TI recommends using one of the middle layers as a solid ground plane. A ground plane provides shielding for sensitive circuits and traces. It also provides a quiet reference potential for the control circuitry. PGND pins are connected directly to the source of the low-side MOSFET switch, and also connected directly to the grounds of the input and output capacitors. The PGND net contains noise at the switching frequency and can bounce due to load variations. The PGND trace, as well as the VIN and SW traces, must be constrained to one side of the ground planes. The other side of the ground plane contains much less noise and must be used for sensitive routes.

TI recommends providing adequate device heat sinking by utilizing the thermal pad (PAD) of the device as the primary thermal path. Use a minimum 4×3 array of 10-mil thermal vias to connect the PAD to the system ground plane heat sink. The vias must be evenly distributed under the PAD. Use as much copper as possible, for system ground plane, on the top and bottom layers for the best heat dissipation. Use a four-layer board with the copper thickness for the four layers, starting from the top as: 2 oz / 1 oz / 1 oz / 2 oz. A four-layer board with enough copper thickness, and proper layout, provides low current conduction impedance, proper shielding, and lower thermal resistance.

11.2 Layout Example

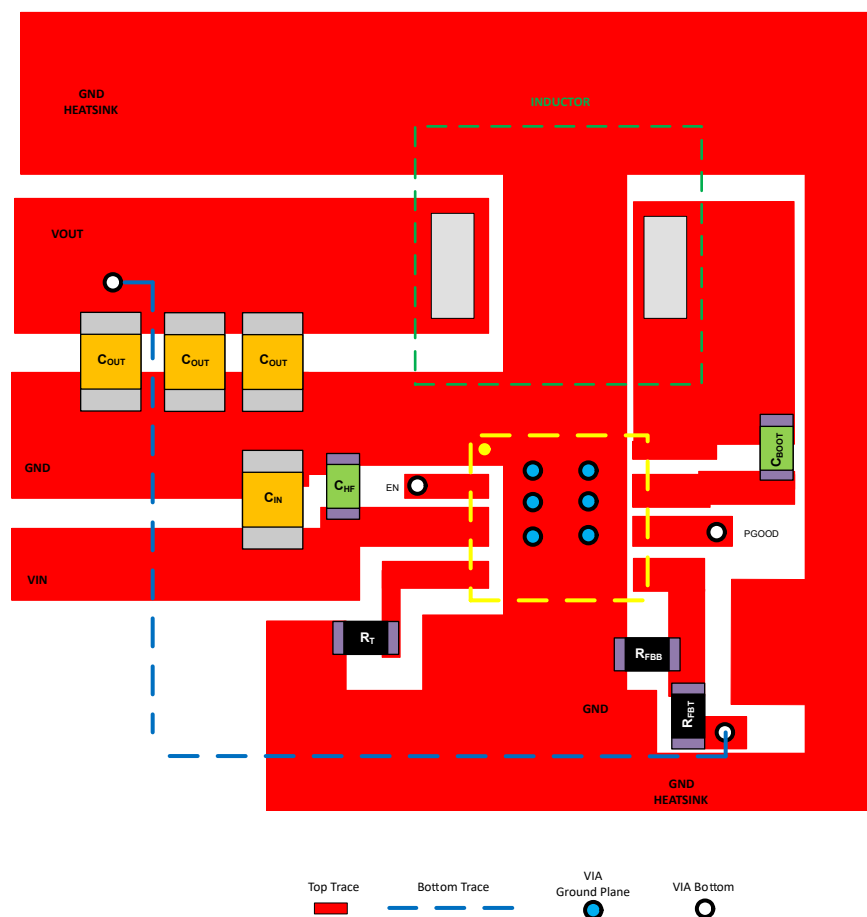


Figure 11-2. Example Layout for HSOIC (DDA) Package

12 Device and Documentation Support

12.1 Device Support

12.1.1 Third-Party Products Disclaimer

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12.2 Receiving Notification of Documentation Updates

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12.3 Support Resources

TI E2E™ [support forums](#) are an engineer's go-to source for fast, verified answers and design help — straight from the experts. Search existing answers or ask your own question to get the quick design help you need.

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12.5 Electrostatic Discharge Caution



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.

12.6 Glossary

[TI Glossary](#) This glossary lists and explains terms, acronyms, and definitions.

13 Mechanical, Packaging, and Orderable Information

The following pages include mechanical, packaging, and orderable information. This information is the most current data available for the designated devices. This data is subject to change without notice and revision of this document. For browser-based versions of this data sheet, refer to the left-hand navigation.

PACKAGING INFORMATION

Orderable Device	Status (1)	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	Package Qty	Eco Plan (2)	Lead finish/ Ball material (6)	MSL Peak Temp (3)	Op Temp (°C)	Device Marking (4/5)	Samples
PLMR38020FDDAR	ACTIVE	SO PowerPAD	DDA	8	75	TBD	Call TI	Call TI	-40 to 125		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.

OBSELETE: TI has discontinued the production of the device.

(2) **RoHS:** TI defines "RoHS" to mean semiconductor products that are compliant with the current EU RoHS requirements for all 10 RoHS substances, including the requirement that RoHS substance do not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials. Where designed to be soldered at high temperatures, "RoHS" products are suitable for use in specified lead-free processes. TI may reference these types of products as "Pb-Free".

RoHS Exempt: TI defines "RoHS Exempt" to mean products that contain lead but are compliant with EU RoHS pursuant to a specific EU RoHS exemption.

Green: TI defines "Green" to mean the content of Chlorine (Cl) and Bromine (Br) based flame retardants meet JS709B low halogen requirements of <=1000ppm threshold. Antimony trioxide based flame retardants must also meet the <=1000ppm threshold requirement.

(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.

(6) Lead finish/Ball material - Orderable Devices may have multiple material finish options. Finish options are separated by a vertical ruled line. Lead finish/Ball material values may wrap to two lines if the finish value exceeds the maximum column width.

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