

**4MHz Dual 400mA Synchronous Buck Regulator with HyperLight Load™** 

### **General Description**

The MIC23250 is a high efficiency 4MHz dual 400mA synchronous buck regulator with HyperLight Load™ mode. HyperLight Load™ provides very high efficiency at light loads and ultra-fast transient response which is perfectly suited for supplying processor core voltages. An additional benefit of this proprietary architecture is very low output ripple voltage throughout the entire load range with the use of small output capacitors. The fixed output MIC23250 has a tiny 2mm x 2mm Thin MLF $^{\circ}$  package that saves precious board space by requiring only 6 additional external components to drive both outputs up to 400mA each.

The device is designed for use with a 1µH inductor and a 4.7µF output capacitor that enables a sub-1mm height.

The MIC23250 has a very low quiescent current of 33µA with both outputs enabled and can achieve over 85% efficiency at 1mA. At higher loads the MIC23250 provides a constant switching frequency around 4MHz while providing peak efficiencies up to 94%.

The MIC23250 fixed output voltage option is available in a 10-pin 2mm  $x$  2mm Thin MLF<sup>®</sup>. The adjustable output options is available in a 12-pin 2.5mm x 2.5mm Thin MLF<sup>®</sup>. The MIC23250 is designed to operate over the junction operating range from  $-40^{\circ}$ C to +125 $^{\circ}$ C.

Data sheets and support documentation can be found on Micrel's web site at: [www.micrel.com](http://www.micrel.com/).

### **Features**

• Input voltage: 2.7V to 5.5V **HyperLight Loadô**



- Up to 94% peak efficiency and 85% efficiency at 1mA
- 33µA dual quiescent current
- 1µH inductor with a 4.7µF capacitor

• Dual output current 400mA/400mA

- 4MHz in PWM operation
- Ultra fast transient response
- Low voltage output ripple
- 20mVpp in HyperLight Load™ mode
- 3mV output voltage ripple in full PWM mode
- 0.01µA shutdown current
- Fixed output:10-pin 2mm x 2mm Thin MLF®
- Adjustable output:12-pin 2.5mm x 2.5mm Thin MLF®
- $-40^{\circ}$ C to +125°C junction temperature range

### **Applications**

- Mobile handsets
- Portable media players
- Portable navigation devices (GPS)
- WiFi/WiMax/WiBro modules
- Digital cameras
- Wireless LAN cards
- USB Powered Devices

### **Typical Application**



100  $VIN = 2.7V$  VIN = 3.0V  $Q<sub>0</sub>$ 80 TTTTTT  $(\%)$ 70  $VIN = 4.2V \rightarrow VIN = 3.6V$ EFFICIENCY 60 50 T TITL 40 30 20 1uH 10  $C_{\text{OUT}} = 4.7\mu$ 0 11 0 100 1000 OUTPUT CURRENT (mA)

**Efficiency V OUT = 1.8V**

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## **Ordering Information**



**Notes:**

1) Additional voltage options available (0.8V to 3.3V). Contact Micrel for details.

2) Thin MLF<sup>®</sup> is GREEN RoHS compliant package. Lead finish is NiPdAu. Mold compound is Halogen Free.

## **Pin Configuration**



**10-Pin 2mm x 2mm Thin MLF<sup>®</sup> (MT) Fixed Output (Top View)** 



**12-Pin 2.5mmx2.5mm Thin MLF<sup>Æ</sup> (MT) Adjustable Output (Top View)** 

## **Pin Description**



# **Absolute Maximum Ratings(1)**



### **Operating Ratings(2)**



# **Electrical Characteristics(4)**

 $T_A$  = 25°C with V<sub>IN</sub> = V<sub>EN1</sub> = V<sub>EN2</sub> = 3.6V; L = 1µH; C<sub>OUT</sub> = 4.7µF; I<sub>OUT</sub> = 20mA; only one channel power is enabled, unless otherwise specified. **Bold** values indicate  $-40^{\circ}$ C $\leq$  T<sub>J</sub>  $\leq$  +125°C.



**Notes:** 

1. Exceeding the absolute maximum rating may damage the device.

2. The device is not guaranteed to function outside its operating rating.

3. Devices are ESD sensitive. Handling precautions recommended. Human body model: 1.5kΩ in series with 100pF.

4. Specification for packaged product only.

### **Typical Characteristics**







 $C<sub>OUT</sub> = 4.7<sub>µ</sub>F$ Ш 0 100 1000 OUTPUT CURRENT (mA)

0

### **Typical Characteristics (Continued)**

#### **Efficiency V OUT = 1.8V**



### **Efficiency V OUT = 2.5V**



#### **Dual Output Efficiency**



#### **Efficiency V OUT = 3.3V**



### **Functional Characteristics**



#### **Switching Waveform - Discontinuous Mode**



**Switching Waveform - Continuous Mode** 



#### **Switching Waveform - Discontinuous Mode**



#### **Switching Waveform - Continuous Mode**



#### **Switching Waveform - Continuous Mode**



## **Functional Characteristics (Continued)**



#### **Start-Up Waveform**

 $Load1 = 300mA$ 

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## **Functional Characteristics (Continued)**





### **Functional Diagram**









### **Functional Description**

#### **VIN**

The VIN provides power to the internal MOSFETs for the switch mode regulator along with the current limit sensing. The VIN operating range is 2.7V to 5.5V so an input capacitor with a minimum of 6.3V voltage rating is recommended. Due to the high switching speed, a minimum of 2.2µF bypass capacitor placed close to VIN and the power ground (PGND) pin is required. Based upon size, performance and cost, a TDK C1608X5R0J475K, size 0603, 4.7µF ceramic capacitor is highly recommended for most applications. Refer to the layout recommendations for details.

#### **AVIN**

The analog VIN (AVIN) provides power to the analog supply circuitry. AVIN and VIN must be tied together. Careful layout should be considered to ensure high frequency switching noise caused by VIN is reduced before reaching AVIN. A 0.01µF bypass capacitor placed as close to AVIN as possible is recommended. See layout recommendations for details.

#### **EN1/EN2**

The enable pins (EN1 and EN2) control the on and off states of outputs 1 and 2, respectively. A logic high signal on the enable pin activates the output voltage of the device. A logic low signal on each enable pin deactivates the output. MIC23250 features built-in soft-start circuitry that reduces in-rush current and prevents the output voltage from overshooting at start up.

#### **SW1/SW2**

The switching pin (SW1 or SW2) connects directly to one end of the inductor (L1 or L2) and provides the current path during switching cycles. The other end of the inductor is connected to the load and SNS pin. Due to the high speed switching on this pin, the switch node should be routed away from sensitive nodes.

#### **SNS1/SNS2**

The SNS pin (SNS1 or SNS2) is connected to the output of the device to provide feedback to the control circuitry. A minimum of 2.2µF bypass capacitor should be connected in shunt with each output. Based upon size, performance and cost, a TDK C1608X5R0J475K, size 0603, 4.7µF ceramic capacitor is highly recommended for most applications. In order to reduce parasitic inductance, it is good practice to place the output bypass capacitor as close to the inductor as possible. The SNS connection should be placed close to the output bypass capacitor. Refer to the layout recommendations for more details.

#### **PGND**

The power ground (PGND) is the ground path for the high current in PWM mode. The current loop for the power ground should be as small as possible and separate from the Analog ground (AGND) loop. Refer to the layout recommendations for more details.

#### **AGND**

The signal ground (AGND) is the ground path for the biasing and control circuitry. The current loop for the signal ground should be separate from the Power ground (PGND) loop. Refer to the layout recommendations for more details.

#### **FB1/FB2 (Adjustable Output Only)**

The feedback pins (FB1/FB2) are two extra pins that can only be found on the MIC23250-AAYMT devices. It allows the regulated output voltage to be set by applying an external resistor network. The internal reference voltage is 0.72V and the recommended value of  $R_{\text{BOTTOM}}$  is within 10% of 442kΩ. The R<sub>TOP</sub> resistor is the resistor from the FB pin to the output of the device and  $R_{\text{ROTIOM}}$  is the resistor from the FB pin to ground. The output voltage is calculated from the equation below. See Compensation under the Applications Information section for recommended feedback component values.

$$
V_{OUT} = 0.72V \left(\frac{R_{TOP}}{R_{BOTTOM}} + 1\right)
$$

# **Applications Information**

The MIC23250 is designed for high performance with a small solution size. With a dual 400mA output inside a tiny 2mm x 2mm Thin MLF® package and requiring only six external components, the MIC23250 meets todayís miniature portable electronic device needs. While small solution size is one of its advantages, the MIC23250 is big in performance. Using the HyperLight Load<sup>™</sup> switching scheme, the MIC23250 is able to maintain high efficiency throughout the entire load range while providing ultra-fast load transient response. Even with all the given benefits, the MIC23250 can be as easy to use as linear regulators. The following sections provide an over view of implementing MIC23250 into related applications

#### **Input Capacitor**

A minimum of 2.2µF ceramic capacitor should be placed close to the VIN pin and PGND pin for bypassing. A TDK C1608X5R0J475K, size 0603, 4.7µF ceramic capacitor is recommended based upon performance, size and cost. A X5R or X7R temperature rating is recommended for the input capacitor. Y5V temperature rating capacitors, aside from losing most of their capacitance over temperature, can also become resistive at high frequencies. This reduces their ability to filter out high frequency noise.

#### **Output Capacitor**

The MIC23250 was designed for use with a 2.2µF or greater ceramic output capacitor. Increasing the output capacitance will lower output ripple and improve load transient response but could increase solution size or cost. A low equivalent series resistance (ESR) ceramic output capacitor such as the TDK C1608X5R0J475K, size 0603, 4.7µF ceramic capacitor is recommended based upon performance, size and cost. Either the X7R or X5R temperature rating capacitors are recommended. The Y5V and Z5U temperature rating capacitors, aside from the undesirable effect of their wide variation in capacitance over temperature, become resistive at high frequencies.

### **Inductor Selection**

Inductor selection will be determined by the following (not necessarily in the order of importance);

- Inductance
- Rated current value
- Size requirements
- DC resistance (DCR)

The MIC23250 was designed for use with an inductance range from 0.47µH to 4.7µH. Typically, a 1µH inductor is recommended for a balance of transient response, efficiency and output ripple. For faster transient response a 0.47µH inductor may be used. For lower output ripple, a 4.7µH is recommended.

Maximum current ratings of the inductor are generally given in two methods; permissible DC current and saturation current. Permissible DC current can be rated either for a 40°C temperature rise or a 10% to 20% loss in inductance. Ensure the inductor selected can handle the maximum operating current. When saturation current is specified, make sure that there is enough margin so that the peak current of the inductor does not cause it to saturate. Peak current can be calculated as follows:

$$
I_{PEAK} = \left[ I_{OUT} + V_{OUT} \left( \frac{1 - V_{OUT} / V_{IN}}{2 \times f \times L} \right) \right]
$$

As shown by the previous calculation, the peak inductor current is inversely proportional to the switching frequency and the inductance; the lower the switching frequency or the inductance the higher the peak current. As input voltage increases the peak current also increases.

The size of the inductor depends on the requirements of the application. Refer to the Application Circuit and Bill of Material for details.

DC resistance (DCR) is also important. While DCR is inversely proportional to size, DCR can represent a significant efficiency loss. Refer to the Efficiency Considerations.

#### **Compensation**

The MIC23250 is designed to be stable with a 0.47µH to 4.7µH inductor with a minimum of 2.2µF ceramic (X5R) output capacitor. For the adjustable MIC23250, the total feedback resistance should be kept around 1MΩ to reduce current loss down the feedback resistor network. This helps to improve efficiency. A feed-forward capacitor (CFF) of 120pF must be used in conjunction with the external feedback resistors to reduce the effects of parasitic capacitance that is inherent of most circuit board layouts. Figure 1 and Table 1 shows the recommended feedback resistor values along with the recommended feed-forward capacitor values for the MIC23250 adjustable device.



**Figure 1. Feedback Resistor Network** 

$V_{OUT} (V)$	$R_{\text{TOP}}$ (k $\Omega$ )	$R_{\text{BOTTOM}}$ (k $\Omega$ )	CFF (pF)
0.8	49	442	120
0.9	111	442	120
1	172	442	120
1.1	233	442	120
1.2	295	442	120
1.3	356	442	120
1.4	417	442	120
1.5	479	442	120
1.6	540	442	120
1.7	602	442	120
1.8	663	442	120
1.9	724	442	120
$\overline{2}$	786	442	120
2.1	847	442	120
2.2	909	442	120
2.3	970	442	120
2.4	1031	442	120
2.5	1093	442	120
2.6	1154	442	120
2.7	1216	442	120
2.8	1277	442	120
2.9	1338	442	120
3	1400	442	120
3.1	1461	442	120
3.2	1522	442	120
3.3	1584	442	120

**Table 1. Recommended Feedback Component Values** 

#### **Efficiency Considerations**

Efficiency is defined as the amount of useful output power, divided by the amount of power supplied.

*Efficiency* % = 
$$
\left(\frac{V_{OUT} \times I_{OUT}}{V_{IN} \times I_{IN}}\right) \times 100
$$

Maintaining high efficiency serves two purposes. It reduces power dissipation in the power supply, reducing the need for heat sinks and thermal design considerations and it reduces consumption of current for battery powered applications. Reduced current draw from a battery increases the devices operating time and is critical in hand held devices.

There are two types of losses in switching converters; DC losses and switching losses. DC losses are simply the power dissipation of  $I^2R$ . Power is dissipated in the high side switch during the on cycle. Power loss is equal to the high side MOSFET  $R_{DSON}$  multiplied by the Switch Current squared. During the off cycle, the low side N-channel MOSFET conducts, also dissipating power. Device operating current also reduces efficiency. The product of the quiescent (operating) current and the supply voltage is another DC loss. The current required driving the gates on and off at a constant 4MHz frequency and the switching transitions make up the switching losses.

**Efficiency V OUT = 1.8V**



The Figure above shows an efficiency curve. From no load to 100mA, efficiency losses are dominated by quiescent current losses, gate drive and transition losses. By using the HyperLight Load™ mode the MIC23250 is able to maintain high efficiency at low output currents.

Over 100mA, efficiency loss is dominated by MOSFET  $R_{DSON}$  and inductor losses. Higher input supply voltages will increase the Gate-to-Source threshold on the internal MOSFETs, thereby reducing the internal  $R_{DSON}$ . This improves efficiency by reducing DC losses in the device. All but the inductor losses are inherent to the device. In which case, inductor selection becomes increasingly critical in efficiency calculations. As the inductors are reduced in size, the DC resistance (DCR) can become quite significant. The DCR losses can be calculated as follows:

$$
DCR Loss = I_{OUT}^2 \times DCR
$$

From that, the loss in efficiency due to inductor resistance can be calculated as follows:

$$
Efficiency Loss = \left[1 - \left(\frac{V_{OUT} \times I_{OUT}}{V_{OUT} \times I_{OUT} + L_{P_D}}\right)\right] \times 100
$$

Efficiency loss due to DCR is minimal at light loads and gains significance as the load is increased. Inductor selection becomes a trade-off between efficiency and size in this case.

#### **HyperLight Load Mode**<sup>™</sup>

The MIC23250 uses a minimum on and off time proprietary control loop (patented by Micrel). When the output voltage falls below the regulation threshold, the error comparator begins a switching cycle that turns the PMOS on and keeps it on for the duration of the minimumon-time. This increases the output voltage. If the output voltage is over the regulation threshold, then the error comparator turns the PMOS off for a minimum-off-time until the output drops below the threshold. The NMOS acts as an ideal rectifier that conducts when the PMOS is off. Using a NMOS switch instead of a diode allows for lower voltage drop across the switching device when it is on. The asynchronous switching combination between the PMOS and the NMOS allows the control loop to work in discontinuous mode for light load operations. In discontinuous mode, the MIC23250 works in pulse frequency modulation (PFM) to regulate the output. As the output current increases, the off-time decreases, thus providing more energy to the output. This switching scheme improves the efficiency of MIC23250 during light load currents by only switching when it is needed. As the load current increases, the MIC23250 goes into continuous conduction mode (CCM) and switches at a frequency centered at 4MHz. The equation to calculate the load when the MIC23250 goes into continuous conduction mode may be approximated by the following formula:

$$
I_{LOAD} > \left(\frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) \times D}{2L \times f}\right)
$$

As shown in the previous equation, the load at which MIC23250 transitions from HyperLight Load™ mode to PWM mode is a function of the input voltage  $(V_{\text{IN}})$ , output voltage  $(V<sub>OUT</sub>)$ , duty cycle (D), inductance (L) and frequency (f). This is illustrated in the graph below. Since the inductance range of MIC23250 is from 0.47µH to 4.7µH, the device may then be tailored to enter HyperLight Load™ mode or PWM mode at a specific load current by selecting the appropriate inductance. For example, in the graph below, when the inductance is 4.7µH the MIC23250 will transition into PWM mode at a load of approximately 5mA. Under the same condition, when the inductance is 1µH, the MIC23250 will transition into PWM mode at approximately 70mA.



## **MIC23250 Typical Application Circuit (Fixed Output)**



### **Bill of Materials**



**Notes:** 

1. TDK: [www.tdk.com](http://www.tdk.com/).

2. Vishay: [www.vishay.com](http://www.vishay.com/).

3. Murata: [www.murata.com](http://www.murata.com/).

4. FDK: [www.fdk.co.jp.](http://www.fdk.co.jp/)

5. Coilcraft: [www.coilcraft.com](http://www.coilcraft.com/).

**6. Micrel, Inc: [www.micrel.com](http://www.micrel.com/).** 

# **PCB Layout Recommendations (Fixed Output)**



**Top Layer** 



**Bottom Layer** 

### **MIC23250 Typical Application Circuit (Adjustable Output)**



### **Bill of Materials**



**Notes:** 

1. TDK: [www.tdk.com](http://www.tdk.com/).

2. Vishay: [www.vishay.com](http://www.vishay.com/).

- 3. Murata: [www.murata.com](http://www.murata.com/).
- 4. FDK: [www.fdk.co.jp.](http://www.fdk.co.jp/)

5. Coilcraft: [www.coilcraft.com](http://www.coilcraft.com/).

**6. Micrel, Inc: [www.micrel.com](http://www.micrel.com/).** 





**Top Layer** 



**Bottom Layer** 

### **Package Information (Fixed Output)**



SIDE VIEW



### **Package Information (Adjustable Output)**



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