



### **General Description**

The AOZ2378QI is a high-efficiency, easy-to-use DC/DC synchronous buck regulator that operates over a wide 6.5 V to 24 V voltage range.The device is capable of supplying 25A of continuous output current with an output voltage adjustable down to 0.6 V (±1.0%).

The AOZ2378QI integrates an internal linear regulator to generate 5.3 V VCC from input. If input voltage is lower than 5.3 V, the linear regulator operates at low drop output mode, which allows the VCC voltage is equal to input voltage minus the drop-output voltage of the internal linear regulator.

A proprietary constant on-time PWM control with input feed-forward results in ultra-fast transient response while maintaining relatively constant switching frequency over the entire input voltage range. A low 80 ns minimum on-time enables very low output voltages at ultra-high operating frequencies.

Integrated AC ripple injection enables all-ceramic low ESR output filter capacitors and smaller PCB footprint with no external components needed.

Selectable PFM mode optimizes light load efficiency while forced PWM mode maintains constant frequency for lower harmonic noise.

The device features multiple protection functions such as VCC under-voltage lockout, cycle-by-cycle current limit, output over-voltage protection, short-circuit protection, and thermal shutdown.

The AOZ2378QI is available in a 5 mm×5 mm QFN-28L package and is rated over a -40°C to +85°C ambient temperature range.

### **Features**

- Wide input voltage range
	- $6.5V$  to 24 V
- 25A continuous output current
- Output voltage adjustable from 0.6 V ±1.0%
- Low RDS(ON) internal NFETs
	- $-$  4 mΩ high-side
	- $-1.6$  mΩ low-side
- Constant On-Time with input feed-forward
- Programmable on-time up to 3.5 µs and down to 80  ns
- Programmable switching frequency range: 32 kHz to 1 MHz (for 12 VIN to 1 VOUT)
- Selectable PFM or forced PWM light load operation
- Ceramic capacitor stable
- Adjustable soft start
- Power Good output
- Integrated bootstrap diode
- Cycle-by-cycle current limit
- Short-circuit protection
- Thermal shutdown
- Thermally enhanced 5 mm x 5 mm QFN-28L package

### **Applications**

- Compact PCs and gaming systems
- Set-top boxes and LCD TVs
- Server and storage systems
- Datacom and networking
- Embedded computing
- Point-of load DC/DC converters





# **Typical Application**





## **Ordering Information**





AOS products are offered in packages with Pb-free plating and compliant to RoHS standards. Please visit www.aosmd.com/media/AOSGreenPolicy.pdf for additional information.

## **Pin Configuration**



**AOZ2378QI 28-pin 5 mm x 5 mm QFN**



# **Pin Description**



### **Absolute Maximum Ratings**

*Exceeding the Absolute Maximum ratings may damage the device.*



### **Recommended Operating Conditions**

*The device is not guaranteed to operate beyond the Maximum Recommended Operating Conditions.*



#### **Notes:**

1. LX to PGND Transient (t<20ns) ----- -7 V to  $V_{\text{IN}}+7$  V.

- 2. IN to LX Transient (t<20 ns) ----- -7 V to  $V_{\text{IN}}$ +7 V.
- 3. Devices are inherently ESD sensitive, handling precautions are required. Human body model rating: 1.5 kΩ in series with 100 pF.

## **Electrical Characteristics**

T<sub>A</sub> = 25°C, V<sub>IN</sub>=12V, V<sub>CC</sub> = 5 V, EN = 5 V, unless otherwise specified. Specifications in BOLD indicate a temperature range of -40°C to +85°C.





### **Electrical Characteristics**

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## **Functional Block Diagram**





## **Typical Characteristics**

Circuit of Typical Application. T<sub>A</sub> = 25 °C, V<sub>IN</sub> = 12V, V<sub>OUT</sub> = 1V, fsw = 400 kHz, unless otherwise specified.









(50μs/div)





The AOZ2378QI is a high-efficiency, easy-to-use, synchronous buck regulator optimized for notebook computers. The regulator is capable of supplying 35A of continuous output current with an output voltage adjustable down to 0.6 V. The programmable on-time from 100 ns to 3.5 µs enables optimizing the configuration for PCB area and efficiency.

The input voltage of AOZ2378QI can be as low as 6.5 V. The highest input voltage of AOZ2378QI can be 24 V. Constant on-time PWM with input feed-forward control scheme results in ultra-fast transient response while maintaining relatively constant switching frequency over the entire input range. True AC current mode control scheme guarantees the regulator can be stable with ceramics output capacitor. The switching frequency can be externally programmed. Protection features include  $V_{CC}$  under-voltage lockout, cycleby-cycle current limit, output over voltage and under voltage protection, short-circuit protection, and thermal shutdown.

The AOZ2378QI is available in 28-pin 5 mm×5 mm QFN package.

#### **Input Power Architecture**

The AOZ2378QI integrates an internal linear regulator to generate 5.3 V ( $\pm$ 5%) V<sub>CC</sub> from input. If input voltage is lower than 5.3 V, the linear regulator operates at low drop-output mode; the  $V_{CC}$  voltage is equal to input voltage minus the drop-output voltage of internal linear regulator.

#### **Enable and Soft Start**

The AOZ2378QI has external soft start feature to limit in-rush current and ensure the output voltage ramps up smoothly to regulate voltage. A soft start process begins when  $V_{CC}$ rises to 4.5 V and voltage on EN pin is HIGH. An internal current source charges the external soft-start capacitor; the FB voltage follows the voltage of soft-start pin  $(V_{SS})$  when it is lower than 0.8 V. When  $V_{SS}$  is higher than 0.8 V, the FB voltage is regulated by internal precise band-gap voltage (0.8 V). The soft-start time for FB voltage can be calculated by the following formula:

$$
T_{SS}(\mu s) = 330 \, \text{*C}_{SS}(nF)
$$

If  $C_{SS}$  is 1 nF, the soft-start time will be 330 µs; if  $C_{SS}$  is 10 nF, the soft-start time will be 3.3 ms.



**Figure 1. Soft Start Sequence of AOZ2378QI**

#### **Constant-On-Time PWM Control with Input Feed-Foward**

The control algorithm of AOZ2378QI is constant-on-time PWM control with input feed-forward.

The simplified control schematic is shown in Figure 2. The high-side switch on-time is determined solely by an one-shot whose pulse width is inversely proportional to input voltage (IN). The one-shot is triggered when the internal 0.6 V is higher than the combined information of FB voltage and the AC current information of inductor, which is processed and obtained through the sensed low-side MOSFET current once it turns-on. The added AC current information can help the stability of constant-on time control even with pure ceramic output capacitors, which have very low ESR. The AC current information has no DC offset, which does not cause offset with output load change, which is fundamentally different from other  $V^2$  constant-on time control schemes.



**Figure 2. Simplified Control Schematic of AOZ2378QI** 



### *AOZ2378QI*

The constant-on-time PWM control architecture is a pseudo-fixed frequency with input voltage feed-forward. The internal circuit of AOZ2378QI sets the on-time of high-side switch inversely proportional to the IN.

$$
T_{on} \propto \frac{R_{ton}(\Omega)}{V_{in}(V)}
$$

To achieve the flux balance of inductor, the buck converter has the equation:

$$
F_{sw} = \frac{V_{out}}{V_{in} * T_{on}}
$$

Once the product of Vin\*Ton is constant, the switching show the product of the rest of constant, the embedding voltage. put in the set of the se

An external resistor between the IN and TON pins sets the settle the set of the set of the set of the set of the switching on-time according to the following curves:







**Figure 3. T**on **vs. R**ton **Curves for AOZ2378QI**

A further simplified equation will be:

$$
F_{sw}(KHz) = \frac{V_{out}(V)}{V_{in}(V) \cdot T_{on}(ns)} \cdot 10^6
$$

If  $V_{OUT}$  is 1.05 V, V<sub>in</sub> is 19 V, and set Fs = 500 kHz. According to to the equation above,  $T_{on}$  = 110 ns is needed. Finally, use the T<sub>on</sub> to R<sub>ton</sub> curve, we can find out R<sub>ton</sub> is 82 kΩ.

This algorithm results in a nearly constant switching frequency despite the lack of a fixed-frequency clock generator.



#### **True Current Mode Control**

The constant-on-time control scheme is intrinsically unstable if output capacitor's ESR is not large enough as an effective current-sense resistor. Ceramic capacitors usually cannot be used as output capacitor.

The AOZ2378QI senses the low-side MOSFET current and processes it into DC current and AC current information using AOS proprietary technique. The AC current information is decoded and added on the FB pin on phase. With AC current information, the stability of constant-on-time control is significantly improved even without the help of output capacitor's ESR; and thus the pure ceramic capacitor solution can be applicant. The pure ceramic capacitor solution can significantly reduce the output ripple (no ESR caused overshoot and undershoot) and less board area design.

#### **Current-Limit Protection**

The AOZ2378QI has the current-limit protection by using  $R_{dson}$  of the low-side MOSFET to be as current sensing. To detect real current information, a minimum constant off time (300 ns typical) is implemented after a constant-on time. If the current exceeds the current-limit threshold, the PWM controller is not allowed to initiate a new cycle. The actual peak current is greater than the current-limit threshold by an amount equal to the inductor ripple current. Therefore, the exact current-limit characteristic and maximum load capability are a function of the inductor value and input and output voltages. The current limit will keep the low-side MOSFET on and will not allow another high-side on-time, until the current in the low-side MOSFET reduces below the current limit.

After 64 switching cycles, the AOZ2378QI considers this is a true failed condition and thus turns-off both high-side and low-side MOSFETs and latches off. Only when triggered, the enable can restart the AOZ2378QI again.

#### **Output Voltage Under-voltage Protection**

If the output voltage is lower than 50% by over-current or short circuit, AOZ2378QI turns-off both high-side and low-side MOSFET and latches off. Only trigger the enable can restart the AOZ2378QI again.

#### **Output Voltage Over-voltage Protection**

The threshold of OVP is set 20% higher than 0.6 V. When the VFB voltage exceeds the OVP threshold, high-side MOSFET is turn-off and low-side MOSFETs is turn-on  $1 \mu s$ , then latch-off.

#### **Power Good Output**

The power good (PGOOD) output, which is an open drain output, requires the pull-up resistor. When the output voltage is 15% below than the nominal regulation voltage for, the PGOOD is pulled low. When the output voltage is 20% higher than the nominal regulation voltage, the PGOOD is also pull low.

When combined with the under-voltage-protection circuit, this current-limit method is effective in almost every circumstance.

#### **PFM/PWM Mode Selection**

The AOZ2378QI has the selectable PFM (pulse-frequency modulation) and PWM (pulse-width modulation) modes operation by PFM pin setting. When the PFM setting voltage is lower than 0.5 V, the AOZ2378QI operates at PFM mode. When PFM setting voltage is higher than 2.5 V, the AOZ2378QI operates at PWM mode.

### **Application Information**

The basic AOZ2378QI application circuit is shown in the first page. Component selection is explained below.

#### **Input Capacitor**

The input capacitor must be connected to the IN pins and PGND pin of the AOZ2378QI to maintain steady input voltage and filter out the pulsing input current. A small decoupling capacitor, usually 4.7 uF, should be connected to the  $V_{CC}$ pin and AGND pin for stable operation of the AOZ2378QI. The voltage rating of input capacitor must be greater than maximum input voltage plus ripple voltage.

The input ripple voltage can be approximated by equation below:

$$
\Delta V_{IN} = \frac{I_{OUT}}{f \times C_{IN}} \times (1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}) \times \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}
$$

Since the input current is discontinuous in a buck converter, the current stress on the input capacitor is another concern when selecting the capacitor. For a buck circuit, the RMS value of input capacitor current can be calculated by:

$$
I_{\text{CIN}\_\text{RMS}} = I_{\text{OUT}} \times \sqrt{\frac{V_{\text{OUT}}}{V_{\text{IN}}}(1 - \frac{V_{\text{OUT}}}{V_{\text{IN}}})}
$$

if let *m* equal the conversion ratio:

$$
\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} = m
$$

The relation between the input capacitor RMS current and voltage conversion ratio is calculated and shown in Figure. 4. It can be seen that when  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  is half of  $V_{\text{IN}}$ ,  $C_{\text{IN}}$  is under the worst current stress. The worst current stress on  $C_{IN}$  is 0.5 $I_{OUT}$ .



**Figure 4. I<sub>CIN</sub> vs. Voltage Conversion Ratio** 

For reliable operation and best performance, the input capacitors must have current rating higher than  $I_{\text{CIN-RMS}}$ at worst operating conditions. Ceramic capacitors are preferred for input capacitors because of their low ESR and high ripple current rating. Depending on the application circuits, other low ESR tantalum capacitor or aluminum electrolytic capacitor may also be used. When selecting ceramic capacitors, X5R or X7R type dielectric ceramic capacitors are preferred for their better temperature and voltage characteristics. Note that the ripple current rating from capacitor manufactures is based on certain amount of life time. Further de-rating may be necessary for practical design requirement.

#### **Inductor**

The inductor is used to supply constant current to output when it is driven by a switching voltage. For given input and output voltage, inductance and switching frequency together decide the inductor ripple current, which is,

$$
\Delta I_L = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f \times L} \times (1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}})
$$

The peak inductor current is:

$$
I_{\textit{Lpeak}} = I_{\textit{OUT}} + \frac{\Delta I_{\textit{L}}}{2}
$$

High inductance gives low inductor ripple current but requires larger size inductor to avoid saturation. Low ripple current reduces inductor core losses. It also reduces RMS current through inductor and switches, which results in less conduction loss. Usually, peak to peak ripple current on inductor is designed to be 30% to 50% of output current.

When selecting the inductor, make sure it is able to handle the peak current without saturation even at the highest operating temperature.

The inductor takes the highest current in a buck circuit. The conduction loss on inductor needs to be checked for thermal and efficiency requirements.

Surface mount inductors in different shape and styles are available from Coilcraft, Elytone and Murata. Shielded inductors are small and radiate less EMI noise. But they cost more than unshielded inductors. The choice depends on EMI requirement, price and size.

#### **Output Capacitor**

The output capacitor is selected based on the DC output voltage rating, output ripple voltage specification and ripple current rating.

The selected output capacitor must have a higher rated voltage specification than the maximum desired output voltage including ripple. De-rating needs to be considered for long term reliability.

Output ripple voltage specification is another important factor for selecting the output capacitor. In a buck converter circuit, output ripple voltage is determined by inductor value, switching frequency, output capacitor value and ESR. It can be calculated by the equation below:

$$
\Delta V_{OUT} = \Delta I_L \times (ESR_{COUT} + \frac{1}{8 \times f \times C_{OUT}})
$$

where  $C_{\text{OUT}}$  is output capacitor value and  $ESR_{\text{COUT}}$  is the Equivalent Series Resistor of output capacitor.

When low ESR ceramic capacitor is used as output capacitor, the impedance of the capacitor at the switching frequency dominates. Output ripple is mainly caused by capacitor value and inductor ripple current. The output ripple voltage calculation can be simplified to:

$$
\Delta V_{OUT} = \Delta I_L \times \frac{1}{8 \times f \times C_{OUT}}
$$

If the impedance of ESR at switching frequency dominates, the output ripple voltage is mainly decided by capacitor ESR and inductor ripple current. The output ripple voltage calculation can be further simplified to:

$$
\Delta V_{OUT} = \Delta I_L \times ESR_{COUT}
$$

For lower output ripple voltage across the entire operating temperature range, X5R or X7R dielectric type of ceramic, or other low ESR tantalum are recommended to be used as output capacitors.

In a buck converter, output capacitor current is continuous. The RMS current of output capacitor is decided by the peak to peak inductor ripple current. It can be calculated by:

$$
I_{\text{COUT\_RMS}} = \frac{\Delta I_L}{\sqrt{12}}
$$

Usually, the ripple current rating of the output capacitor is a smaller issue because of the low current stress. When the buck inductor is selected to be very small and inductor ripple current is high, output capacitor could be overstressed.

#### **Thermal Management and Layout Consideration**

In the AOZ2378QI buck regulator circuit, high pulsing current flows through two circuit loops. The first loop starts from the input capacitors, to the VIN pin, to the LX pins, to the filter inductor, to the output capacitor and load, and then return to the input capacitor through ground. Current flows in the first loop when the high side switch is on. The second loop starts from inductor, to the output capacitors and load, to the low side switch. Current flows in the second loop when the low side low side switch is on.

In PCB layout, minimizing the two loops area reduces the noise of this circuit and improves efficiency. A ground plane is strongly recommended to connect input capacitor, output capacitor, and PGND pin of the AOZ2378QI.

In the AOZ2378QI buck regulator circuit, the major power dissipating components are the AOZ2378QI and the output inductor. The total power dissipation of converter circuit can be measured by input power minus output power.

$$
P_{total\_loss} = V_{IN} \cdot I_{IN} - V_{OUT} \cdot I_{OUT}
$$

The power dissipation of inductor can be approximately calculated by DCR of inductor and output current.

$$
P_{inductor\_loss} = I_{OUT}^2 \cdot R_{inductor} \cdot 1.1
$$

The actual junction temperature can be calculated with poer dissipation in the AOZ2378QI and thermal impedance from junction to ambient.

$$
T_{junction} = (P_{total\_loss} - P_{inductor\_loss}) \cdot \Theta_{JA} + T_A
$$

The maximum junction temperature of AOZ2378QI is 150ºC, which limits the maximum load current capability. The thermal performance of the AOZ2378QI is strongly affected by the PCB layout. Extra care should be taken by users during design process to ensure that the IC will operate under the recommended environmental conditions.



### **Layout Considerations**

Several layout tips are listed below for the best electric and thermal performance.

- 1. The LX pins and pad are connected to internal low side switch drain. They are low resistance thermal conduction path and most noisy switching node. Connected a large copper plane to LX pin to help thermal dissipation. The inductor need to be placed as close to LX pin as possible.
- 2. The IN pins and pad are connected to internal high side switch drain. They are also low resistance thermal conduction path. Connected a large copper plane to IN pins to help thermal dissipation.
- 3. Connect a large PGND copper plane to PGND pin. Thick and short PGND trace could keep power path impedance low.
- 4. Input capacitors should be connected to the IN pin and the PGND pin as close as possible to reduce the switching spikes.
- 5. Decoupling capacitor CVCC should be connected to VCC and AGND as close as possible. Connect this GND to GND layer with vias as shown in below figure. Place CVCC on the same layer with IC.
- 6. Connect AGND to GND layer with vias right close to AGND pin as shown in below figure.
- 7. Voltage divider R1 and R2 should be placed as close as possible to FB and AGND. Place R1 and R2 on the same layer with IC.
- 8. RTON should be connected as close as possible to Pin 7 (TON pin). Place RTON on the same layer with IC.
- 9. A ground plane is preferred; Pin 22, 23, 25 (PGND) must be connected to the ground plane through vias as shown in below figure.
- 10. Sensitive signal traces such as feedback trace must be shielded from all noise sources, especially the LX node.
- 11. The feedback trace should be taken directly from output capacitor pad and use thin trace. FB trace goes through other layer and shielded by GND layer is acceptable.
- 12. No signal should run on nearby layer under the Lx trace or under the inductor.
- 13. Pour copper plane on all unused board area and connect it to stable DC nodes, like VIN, GND or VOUT.





### **Package Dimensions, QFN5x5-28L**



SIDE VIEW



**BOTTOM VIEW** 



TOP VIEW







**ALPHA & OMEGA** *S E M I C O N D U C T O R*





### QFN5x5 Tape

Leader / Trailer & Orientation  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\bigoplus$  $\oplus$  $\oplus$ (F) ⊕  $\bigoplus$ ⊕  $\oplus$ NORMAL ( ` Unit Per Reel: 3000pcs TRAILER TAPE COMPONENTS TAPE LEADER TAPE 300 mm MIN. DR **ORIENTATION IN POCKET** 500 mm MIN. OR



### **Part Marking**



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