High Power DC/DC Step-Up Controller

FEATURES

- **High Voltage: Operation Up to 60V**
- **High Current: N-Channel Drive Handles Up to 10,000pF Gate Capacitance**
- Programmable Average Current Limiting
- 5V Reference Output with 10mA External Loading Capability
- Fixed Frequency Current Mode Operation
- Oscillator Synchronizable Up to 200kHz
- Undervoltage Lockout with Hysteresis
- Programmable Start Inhibit for Power Supply Sequencing and Protection
- User Adjustable Slope Compensation

APPLICATIONS

- High Power Single Board Systems
- Distributed Power Converters
- Industrial Control Systems
- Lead-Acid Battery Back-Up Systems
- Automotive and Heavy Equipment

DESCRIPTION

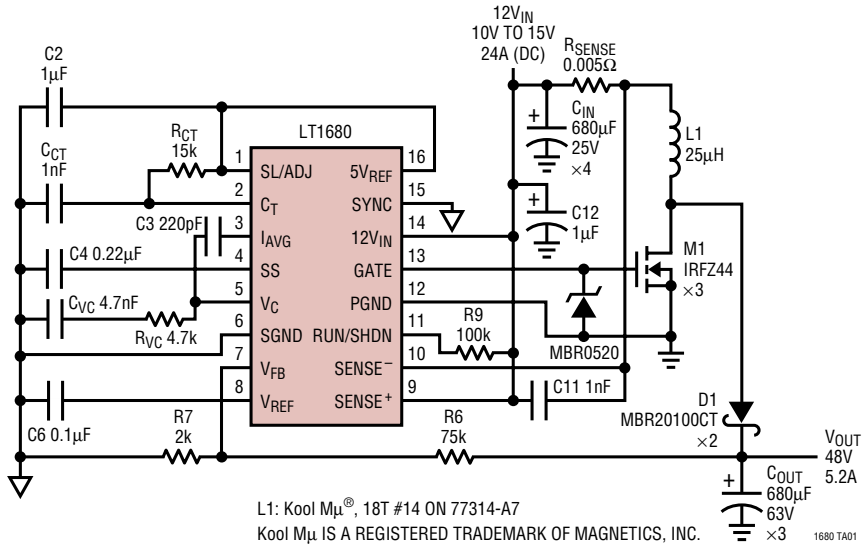
The LT®1680 is a high power, current mode switching power supply controller optimized for boost topologies. The IC drives an N-channel MOSFET switch for DC/DC converter applications up to 60V input. A high current gate drive output handles up to 10,000pF gate capacitance, enabling the construction of high power DC/DC converters. Current sense common mode range up to 60V allows current sensing to be referenced to the input supply, eliminating the need for sense blanking circuits.

The LT1680 incorporates programmable average current limiting allowing accurate limiting of DC current in the magnetics, independent of ripple current . User adjustable slope compensation provides stable operation at duty cycles up to 90%.

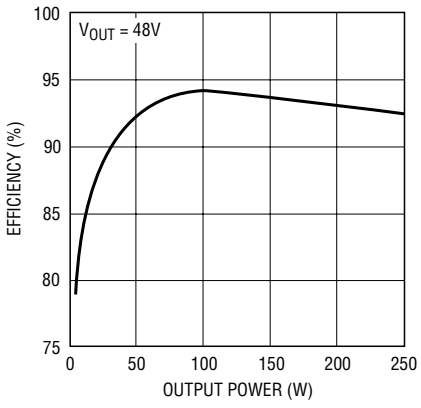
The LT1680 operating frequency is programmable and can be synchronized up to 200kHz. Minimum off-time operation provides switch protection. The IC also incorporates a soft start feature that is gated by both shutdown and undervoltage lockout conditions.

TYPICAL APPLICATION

12V to 48V, 250W Boost Converter



Efficiency vs Output Power

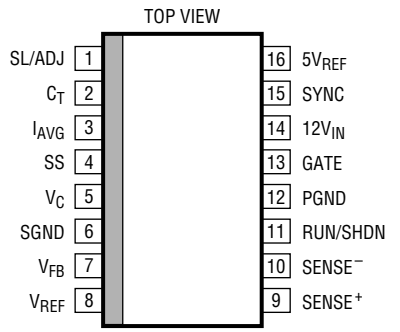


ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

(Note 1)

Power Supply Voltage ($12V_{IN}$) ..... –0.3V to 20V
Sense Amplifier Input Common Mode ..... –0.3V to 60V
GATE Pin Voltage ..... –0.3V to $12V_{IN}$ + 0.3V
RUN/SHDN Pin Voltage ..... –0.3V to $12V_{IN}$
All Other Pin Voltages ..... –0.3V to 7V
5V Reference Output Current 65mA
Operating Ambient Temperature Range
LT1680C ..... 0°C to 70°C
LT1680I ..... –40°C to 85°C
Storage Temperature Range ..... –65°C to 150°C
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec) ..... 300°C

PACKAGE/ORDER INFORMATION



N PACKAGE
16-LEAD PDIP

SW PACKAGE
16-LEAD PLASTIC SO WIDE

T_{JMAX} = 125°C, θ_{JA} = 75°C/W (N)
T_{JMAX} = 125°C, θ_{JA} = 90°C/W (SW)

ORDER PART NUMBER

LT1680CN
LT1680CSW
LT1680IN
LT1680ISW

Consult factory for parts specified with wider operating temperature ranges.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The ● denotes the specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. $12V_{IN}$ = 12V, V_{VC} = 2V, V_{FB} = V_{REF} = 1.25V, C_{GATE} = 3000pF, unless otherwise noted.

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS		MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Supply and Protection							
I_{12VIN}	DC Active Supply Current (Note 2)	Gate Output On Gate Output Off	● 		15 12	22 	mA mA
	DC Standby Supply Current	V_{RUN} < 0.5V	●		150	250	µA
$V_{RUN/SHDN}$	Shutdown Rising Threshold		●	1.15	1.25	1.35	V
V_{SSHYST}	Shutdown Threshold Hysteresis				25		mV
I_{SS}	Soft Start Charge Current		●	5	8	14	µA
V_{UVLO}	Undervoltage Lockout Threshold - Falling Undervoltage Lockout Threshold - Rising Undervoltage Lockout Hysteresis		● ● ●	8.20 200	9.00 9.35 350	9.75 9.95 	V V mV
5V Reference							
V_{REF5}	5V Reference Voltage	Line, Load and Temperature	●	4.75	5	5.25	V
	5V Reference Line Regulation	10V ≤ $12V_{IN}$ ≤ 15V	●		3	5	mV/V
I_{REF5}	5V Reference Load Range - DC Pulse		● ●			10 20	mA mA
	5V Reference Load Regulation	0 ≤ I_{REF5} ≤ 20mA	●		–1.25	–2	V/A
I_{SC}	5V Reference Short-Circuit Current				45		mA
Error Amplifier							
V_{FB}	Error Amplifier Reference Voltage	Measured at Feedback Pin	 ●	1.242 1.235	1.250	1.258 1.265	V V
I_{FB}	Feedback Input Current	V_{FB} = V_{REF}	●	0.1	0.5	1.0	µA
g_m	Error Amplifier Transconductance		●	1200	2000	3200	µmho
A_V	Error Amplifier Voltage Gain		●	1500	3000		V/V
I_{VC}	Error Amplifier Source Current Error Amplifier Sink Current	 V_{FB} – V_{REF} = 500mV	● ●	200 280	275 400		µA µA
V_{VC}	Absolute V_C Clamp Voltage	Measured at V_C Pin			3.5		V

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The ● denotes the specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are at T_A = 25°C. $12V_{IN}$ = 12V, V_{VC} = 2V, V_{FB} = V_{REF} = 1.25V, C_{GATE} = 3000pF, unless otherwise noted.

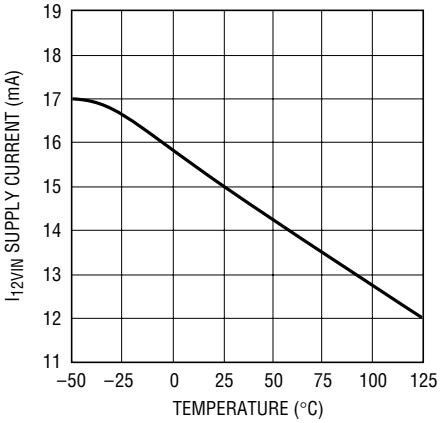
SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS		MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Error Amplifier							
V_{SENSE}	Peak Current Limit Threshold Average Current Limit Threshold	Measured at Sense Inputs Measured at Sense Inputs, $V_{CMSENSE}$ = 10V	● ●	170 110	190 120	 130	mV mV
V_{IAVG}	Average Current Limit Threshold	Measured at I_{AVG} Pin			2.5		V
Current Sense Amplifier							
A_V	Amplifier DC Gain	Measured at I_{AVG} Pin			15		V/V
V_{OS}	Amplifier Input Offset Voltage	2V < $V_{CMSENSE}$ < 60V, $SENSE^+ - SENSE^-$ = 5mV	●	0.1			mV
I_{BIAS}	Input Bias Current	Sink ($V_{CMSENSE}$ > 5V) Source ($V_{CMSENSE}$ = 0V)	● ●		45 700	75 1200	µA µA
Oscillator							
f_O	Operating Frequency, Free Run Frequency Programming Error	 $f_O \le$ 200kHz, R_{CT} = 16.9k, C_{CT} = 1000pF	● ●	 –5		200 5	kHz %
I_{CT}	Timing Capacitor Discharge Current	LT1680C LT1680I	● ●	2.20 2.10	2.5 2.5	2.75 2.75	mA mA
V_{SYNC}	SYNC Input Threshold	Rising Edge	●	0.8		2.0	V
f_{SYNC}	SYNC Frequency Range	$f_{SYNC} \le$ 200kHz	●	f_O		$1.4f_O$	
Output Drivers							
V_{GATE}	Undervoltage Output Clamp Standby Mode Output Clamp Gate Output On Voltage Gate Output Off Voltage	$12V_{IN} \le$ 8.2V V_{RUN} < 0.5V	● ● ● ●	 11 	0.4 11.9 0.4	0.7 0.1 12 0.7	V V V V
t_{GATER}	Gate Output Rise Time		●		60	200	ns
t_{GATEF}	Gate Output Fall Time		●		60	140	ns

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings are those values beyond which the life of a device may be impaired.

Note 2: Supply current specification does not include external FET gate charge currents. Actual supply currents will be higher and vary with operating frequency, operating voltages and the type of external FETs used. See Applications Information.

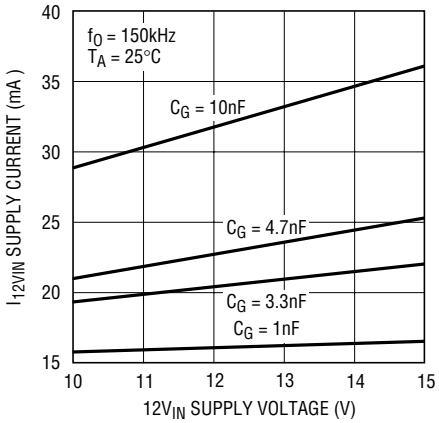
TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

I_{12VIN} Supply Current vs Temperature



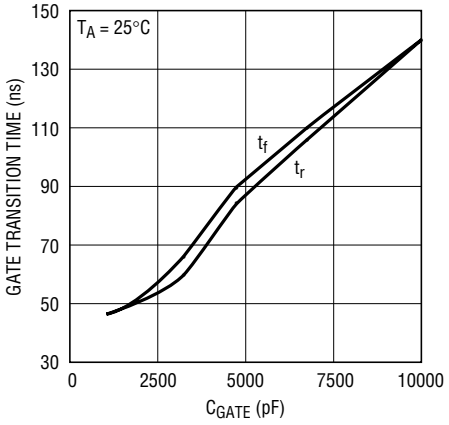
1680 G01

I_{12VIN} Supply Current vs $12V_{IN}$ Supply Voltage



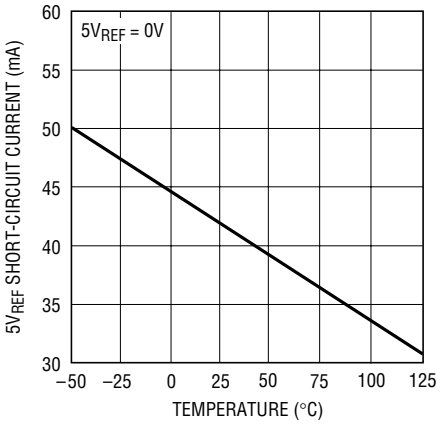
1680 G02

Gate Transition Time vs C_{GATE}



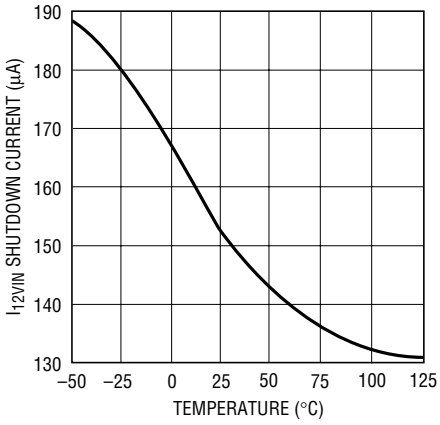
1680 G03

$5V_{REF}$ Short-Circuit Current vs Temperature



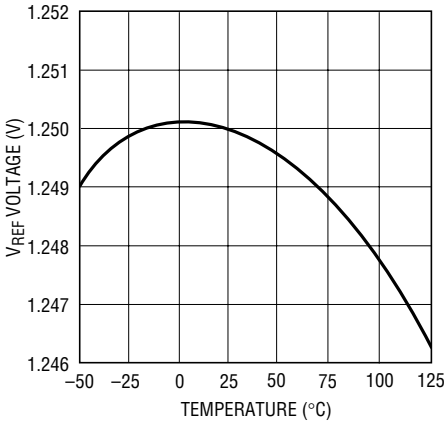
1680 G04

I_{12VIN} Shutdown Current vs Temperature



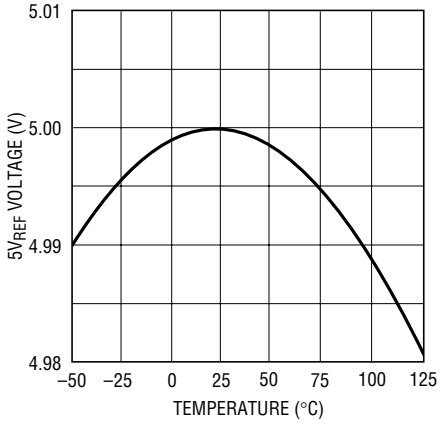
1680 G05

V_{REF} Voltage vs Temperature



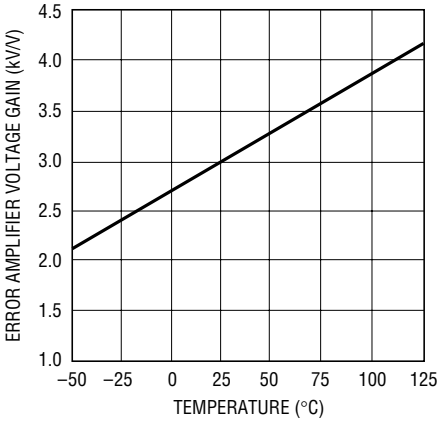
1680 G06

$5V_{REF}$ Voltage vs Temperature



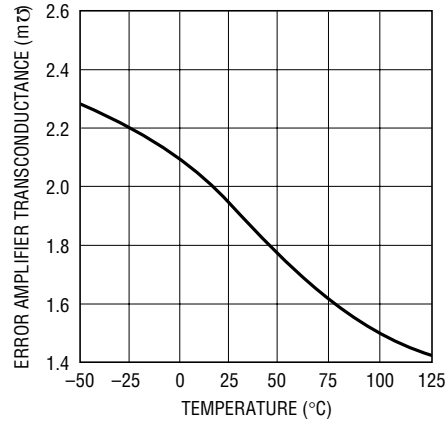
1680 G07

Error Amplifier Voltage Gain vs Temperature



1680 G08

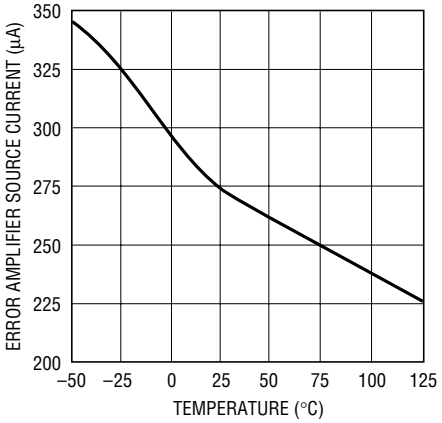
Error Amplifier Transconductance vs Temperature



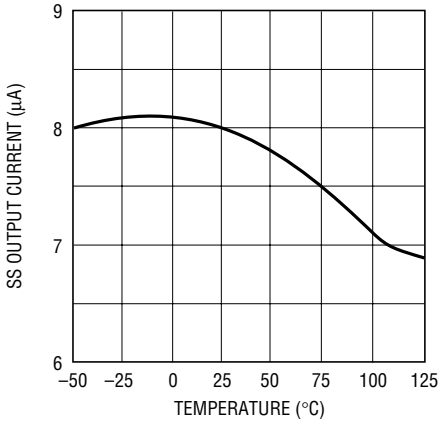
1680 G09

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

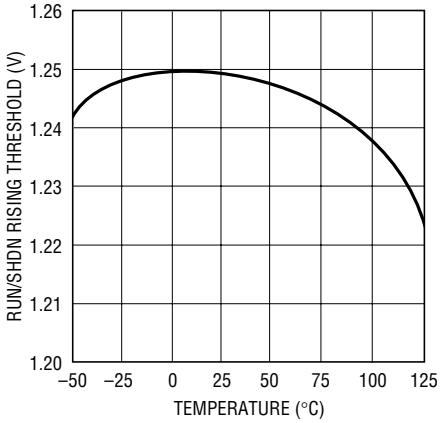
Error Amplifier Source Current vs Temperature



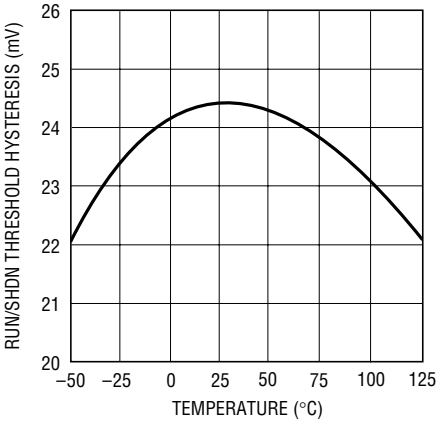
SS Output Current vs Temperature



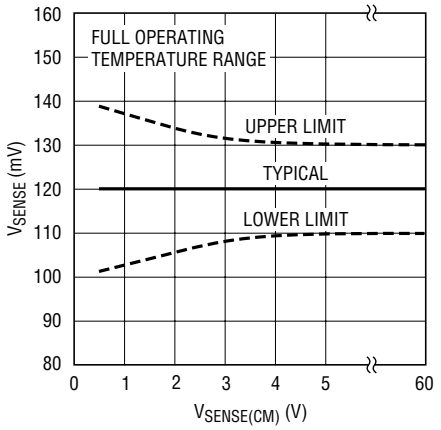
RUN/SHDN Rising Threshold vs Temperature



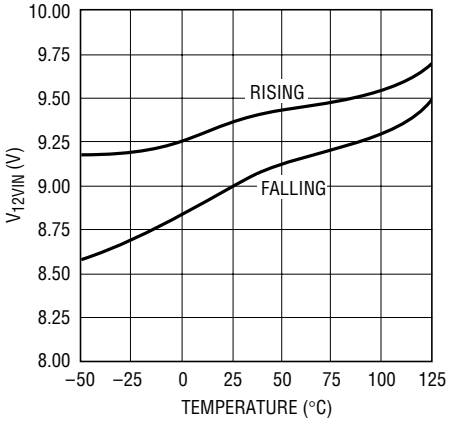
RUN/SHDN Threshold Hysteresis vs Temperature



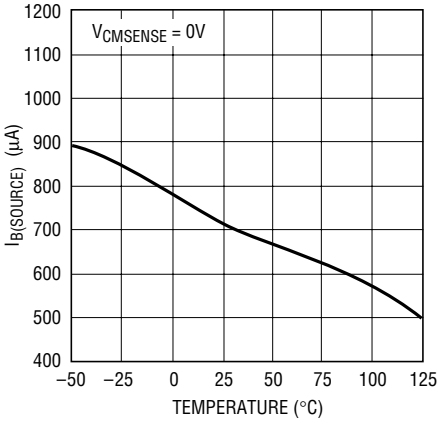
Average Current Limit Threshold Sense Voltage vs Common Mode Voltage



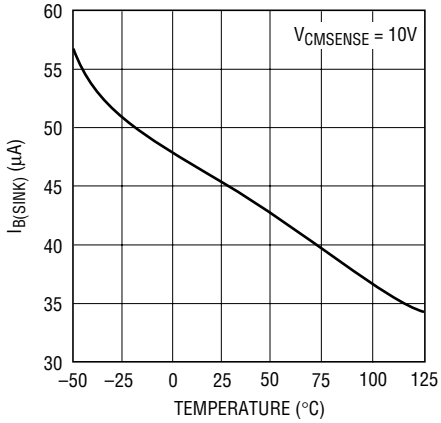
UVLO Thresholds vs Temperature



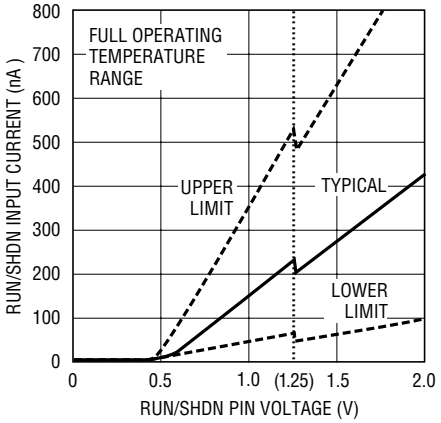
Sense Amplifier Input Bias Current (Source) vs Temperature



Sense Amplifier Input Bias Current (Sink) vs Temperature

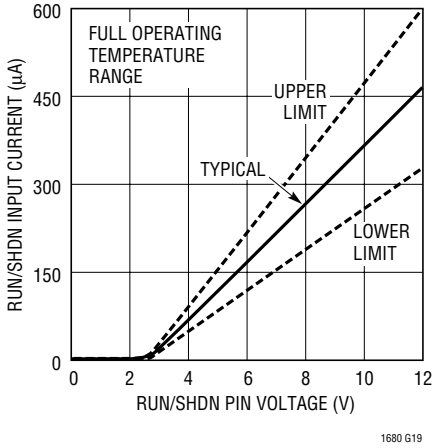


RUN/SHDN Input Current vs Pin Voltage

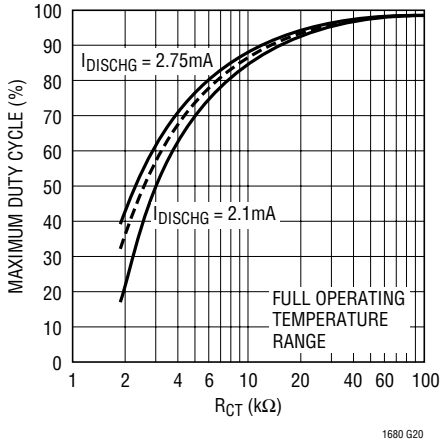


TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

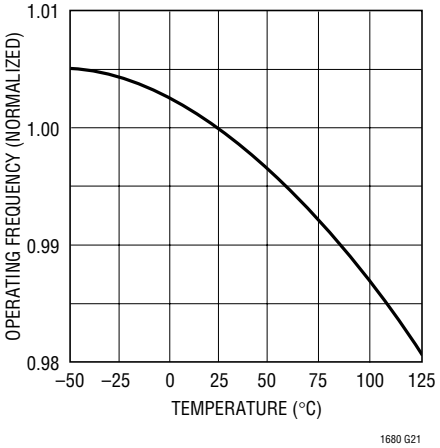
RUN/SHDN Input Current vs Pin Voltage



Maximum Duty Cycle vs R_{CT}



Operating Frequency (Normalized) vs Temperature



PIN FUNCTIONS

SL/ADJ (Pin 1): Slope Compensation Adjustment. Allows increased slope compensation for certain high duty cycle applications. Resistive loading of this pin increases effective slope compensation. A resistor divider from the $5V_{REF}$ pin can tailor the onset of additional slope compensation to specific regions in each switch cycle. Pin can be floated or connected to $5V_{REF}$ if no additional slope compensation is required. (See Applications Information section for slope compensation details.)

C_T (Pin 2): Oscillator Timing Pin. Connect a capacitor (C_{CT}) to ground and a pull-up resistor (R_{CT}) to the $5V_{REF}$ supply. Typical values are C_{CT} = 1000pF and 10k ≤ R_{CT} ≤ 30k.

I_{AVG} (Pin 3): Average Current Limit Integration. The frequency response characteristic is set using 50kΩ output impedance of this pin and external capacitor. The external capacitor is typically connected from the I_{AVG} pin to the V_C pin, but can also be connected from the I_{AVG} pin to ground. Connecting the capacitor from the I_{AVG} pin to the V_C pin uses an internal gain block to form an active integrator, minimizing the capacitance required for stable operation. A typical value for this integration capacitor is 220pF from I_{AVG} to V_C. Shorting this pin to SGND will disable the average current limit function.

SS (Pin 4): Soft Start. Generates ramping threshold for regulator current limit during start-up and after UVLO events by sourcing about 8µA into an external capacitor.

V_C (Pin 5): Error Amplifier Output. RC load creates dominant compensation in power supply regulation feedback loop to provide optimum transient response. (See Applications Information section for compensation details.)

SGND (Pin 6): Small-Signal Ground. Connect to negative terminal of C_{OUT}.

V_{FB} (Pin 7): Error Amplifier Inverting Input. Used as voltage feedback input node for regulator loop. Pin sources about 0.5µA DC bias current to protect from an open feedback path condition.

V_{REF} (Pin 8): Bandgap Generated Voltage Reference Decoupling. Connect a capacitor to signal ground. (Typical capacitor value ≈0.1µF.)

$SENSE^+$ (Pin 9): Current Sense Amplifier Inverting Input. Connect to most positive (DC) terminal of current sense resistor.

$SENSE^-$ (Pin 10): Current Sense Amplifier Noninverting Input. Connect to most negative (DC) terminal of current sense resistor.

PIN FUNCTIONS

RUN/SHDN (Pin 11): Precision Referenced Shutdown. Can be used as logic level input for shutdown control or as an analog monitor for input supply undervoltage protection, etc. IC is enabled when RUN/SHDN pin rising edge exceeds 1.25V. 25mV of hysteresis helps assure stable mode switching. All internal functions are disabled in shutdown mode. If this function is not desired, connect RUN/SHDN to $12V_{IN}$ (typically through a 100k resistor). See Applications Information.

PGND (Pin 12): Power Ground. References the output switch and internal driver control circuits. Connect with low impedance trace to V_{IN} decoupling capacitor negative (ground) terminal.

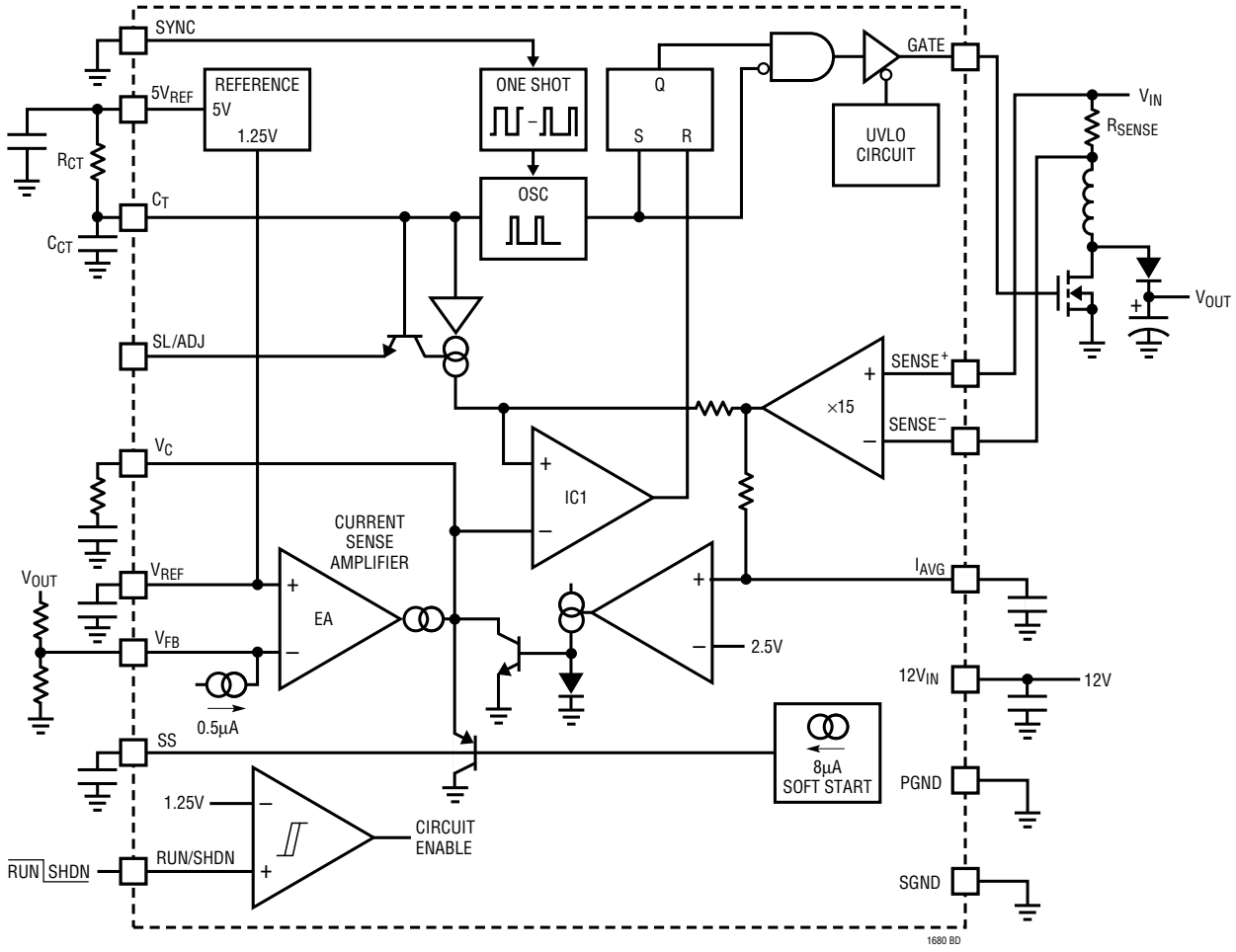
GATE (Pin 13): Driver Output. Connect to gate of external power FET switch.

$12V_{IN}$ (Pin 14): 12V Power Supply Input. Bypass with at least 1µF to PGND.

SYNC (Pin 15): Oscillator Synchronization Pin with TTL-Level Compatible Input. Input drives internal rising edge triggered one shot; SYNC signal on/off times should be ≥1µs (10% to 90% duty cycle at 100kHz). Does not contain internal pull-up. Connect to SGND if not used.

$5V_{REF}$ (Pin 16): 5V Reference Output. Allows connection of external loads up to 10mA DC. Reference is not available during shutdown. Typically bypassed with at least 1µF capacitor to SGND.

BLOCK DIAGRAM



OPERATION

Basic Control Loop

The LT1680 uses a constant frequency, current mode architecture. The timing of the IC is provided through an internal oscillator circuit that can be synchronized to an external clock and is programmable to operate at frequencies up to 200kHz. The oscillator creates a modified sawtooth wave at its timing node (C_T) with a slow charge, rapid discharge characteristic.

During typical boost converter operation, the MOSFET switch is enabled at the start of each oscillator cycle. The switch stays enabled until the current through the switched inductor, sensed via the voltage across a series sense resistor (R_{SENSE}), is sufficient to trip the current comparator (IC1) and reset the RS latch. When the switch is disabled, the inductor current is redirected to the supply output. If the current comparator threshold is not reached throughout the entire oscillator charge period, the RS latch is bypassed and the main switch is disabled during the oscillator discharge time. This "minimum off time" protects the switch, and is typically about 1µs.

The current comparator trip threshold is set on the V_C pin, which is the output of a transconductance amplifier, or error amplifier (EA). The error amplifier integrates the difference between a feedback voltage (on the V_{FB} pin) and an internal bandgap generated reference voltage of 1.25V, forming a signal that represents required load current. If the supplied current is insufficient for a given load, the output will droop, thus reducing the feedback voltage. The error amplifier responds by forcing current out of the V_C pin, increasing the current comparator threshold. Thus, the circuit will servo until the provided current is equal to the required load and the average output voltage is at the value programmed by the feedback resistors.

Input Average Current Limit

The output of the sense amplifier is monitored by a single pole integrator comprised of an external capacitor on the I_{AVG} pin and an output impedance of approximately 50kΩ. If this averaged value signal exceeds a level corresponding to 120mV across the external sense resistor, the current comparator threshold is clamped and cannot continue to rise in response to the error amplifier. Thus, if average input current requirements exceed 120mV/R_{SENSE}, the supply will current limit and the output voltage will fall out of regulation. The average current limit circuit monitors the sense amplifier output without slope compensation or ripple current contributions. Therefore, the average input current limit threshold is unaffected by duty cycle.

Undervoltage Lockout

The LT1680 employs an undervoltage lockout circuit (UVLO) that monitors the $12V_{IN}$ supply rail. This circuit disables the output drive capability of the LT1680 if the 12V supply drops below 9V. Unstable mode switching is prevented through 350mV of UVLO threshold hysteresis.

Shutdown

The LT1680 can be put into low current shutdown by pulling the RUN/SHDN pin low, disabling all circuit functions. The shutdown threshold is a bandgap referred voltage of 1.25V typical. Use of a precision threshold on the shutdown circuit enables use of this pin for undervoltage protection of the V_{IN} supply and/or power supply sequencing.

Soft Start

The LT1680 incorporates a soft start function that operates by slowly increasing current limit. This limit is controlled by internally clamping the V_C pin to a low voltage that climbs with time as an external capacitor on the SS pin is charged with about 8µA. This forces a graceful climb of output current source capability, and thus a graceful increase in output voltage until steady-state regulation is achieved. The soft start timing capacitor is clamped to ground during shutdown and during undervoltage lockout, yielding a graceful output recovery from either condition.

5V Internal Reference

Power for the oscillator timing elements and most other internal LT1680 circuits is derived from an internal 5V reference, accessible at the $5V_{REF}$ pin. This supply pin can be loaded with up to 10mA DC (20mA pulsed) for convenient biasing of local elements such as control logic, etc.

OPERATION

Slope Compensation

For duty cycles greater than 50%, slope compensation is required to prevent current mode duty cycle instability in the regulator control loop. The LT1680 employs internal slope compensation that is adequate for most applications. However, if additional slope compensation is desired, it is available through the SL/ADJ pin. Excessive slope compensation will cause reduction in maximum load current capability and is generally not desirable.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

R_{SENSE} Selection for Input Current Limit

R_{SENSE} generates a voltage that is proportional to the inductor current for use by the LT1680 current sense amplifier. The value of R_{SENSE} is based on the required input current. The average current limit function has a typical threshold of 120mV/R_{SENSE}, or:

$$R_{SENSE} = 120mV/I_{LIMIT}$$

Operation with V_{SENSE} common mode voltage below 4.5V may slightly degrade current limit accuracy. See Average Current Limit Threshold Tolerance vs Common Mode Voltage in the Typical Performance Characteristics section for more information.

Output Voltage Programming

Output voltage is programmed through a resistor feedback network to the V_{FB} pin (Pin 7) on the LT1680. This pin is the inverting input of the error amplifier, which is internally referenced to 1.25V. The divider is ratioed to provide 1.25V at the V_{FB} pin when the output is at its desired value. Output voltage is thus set following the relation:

$$V_{OUT} = 1.25V(1 + R2/R1)$$

when an external resistor divider is connected to the output as shown in Figure 1.

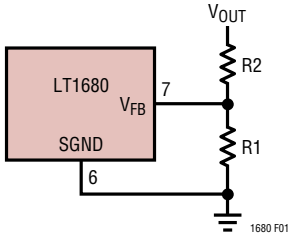


Figure 1. Programming LT1680 Output Voltage

If high value feedback resistors are used, the input bias current of the V_{FB} pin (1µA maximum) could cause a slight increase in output voltage. A Thevenin resistance at the V_{FB} pin of <5k is recommended.

Oscillator Components R_{CT} and C_{CT}

The LT1680 oscillator creates a modified sawtooth at its timing node (C_T) with a slow charge, rapid discharge characteristic. The discharge time (t_{DISCH}) corresponds to the minimum off time of the PWM controller. This limits maximum duty cycle (DC_{MAX}) to:

$$DC_{MAX} = 1 - (t_{DISCH})(f_O)$$

This relation corresponds to the minimum value of the timing resistor (R_{CT}), which can be determined according to the following relation (R_{CT} vs DC_{MAX} graph appears in the Typical Performance Characteristics section):

$$R_{CT(MIN)} \approx [(0.8)(10^{-3})(1 - DC_{MAX})]^{-1}$$

Values for R_{CT} > 15k yield maximum duty cycles above 90%. Given a timing resistor value, the value of the timing capacitor (C_{CT}) can then be determined for desired operating frequency (f_O) using the relation:

$$C_{CT} \approx \frac{(1/f_O) - (100)(10^{-9})}{(R_{CT}/1.85) + \frac{1.75}{(2.5)(10^{-3}) - (3.375/R_{CT})}}$$

A plot of Operating Frequency vs R_{CT} and C_{CT} is shown in Figure 2. Typical 100kHz operational values are C_{CT} = 1000pF and R_{CT} = 16.9k.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

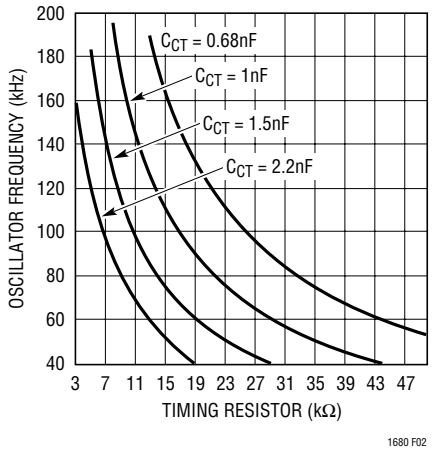


Figure 2. Operating Frequency vs R_{CT}, C_{CT}

Average Current Limit

The average current limit function is implemented using an external capacitor (C_{AVG}) connected either from the I_{AVG} pin to the V_C pin or from the I_{AVG} pin to SGND. This capacitor forms a single-pole integrator with the 50kΩ output impedance of the I_{AVG} pin. Precise integration frequencies can be determined using a ground reference integration capacitor using the relation:

$$f_{-3dB} = (3.2)(10^{-6})/C_{AVG}$$

Connecting a capacitor from the I_{AVG} pin to the V_C pin uses an internal gain block to form an active integrator circuit, minimizing the required capacitance for stable operation. A typical value for this integration capacitor is 220pF from I_{AVG} to V_C.

Shorting the I_{AVG} pin to SGND will disable the average current limit function.

Soft Start Programming

The current control pin (V_C) limits sensed inductor current to zero at voltages less than a transistor V_{BE}, to full average current limit at $V_C = V_{BE} + 1.8V$. This generates a 1.8V full regulation range for average load current. An internal voltage clamp forces the V_C pin to a $V_{BE} – 100mV$ above the SS pin voltage. This 100mV "dead zone" assures 0% duty cycle operation at the start of the soft start cycle or when the soft start pin is pulled to ground. Given the typical soft start current of 8μA and a soft start timing capacitor C_{SS}, the start up delay time to full available average current will be:

$$t_{SS} = (1.5)(10^5)(C_{SS})$$

Shutdown Function—Input Undervoltage Detect and Threshold Hysteresis

The LT1680 RUN/SHDN pin uses a bandgap generated reference threshold of about 1.25V. This precision threshold allows use of the RUN/SHDN pin for both logic-level shutdown applications and analog monitoring applications such as power supply sequencing.

Because an LT1680 controlled converter is a power transfer device, a voltage that is lower than expected on the input supply could require currents that exceed the sourcing capabilities of that supply, causing the system to lockup in an undervoltage state. Input supply start-up protection can be achieved by enabling the RUN/SHDN pin using a resistor divider from the input supply to ground. Setting the divider output to 1.25V when the supply is almost fully enabled prevents the LT1680 regulator from drawing large currents until the input supply is able to supply the required power.

If additional hysteresis is desired for the enable function, an external feedback resistor can be used from the LT1680 regulator output. If connection to the regulator output is not desired, the $5V_{REF}$ internal supply pin can be used. Figure 3 shows an input supply sequencing configuration on a 24V input converter. This configuration yields an enable condition of 90% V_{IN} (~21.5V) with about 10% threshold hysteresis.

The shutdown function can be disabled by connecting the RUN/SHDN pin to the $12V_{IN}$ rail. This pin is internally

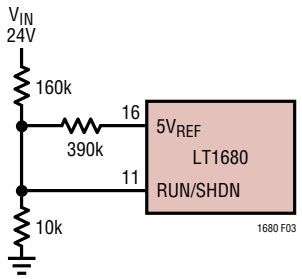


Figure 3. Input Supply Sequencing Programming

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

clamped to 2.5V through a 20k series input resistance and will therefore draw 0.5mA when tied directly to 12V. This additional current can be minimized by making the connection through an external resistor (100k is typically used).

Oscillator Synchronization

The LT1680 oscillator generates a modified sawtooth waveform at the C_T pin between low and high thresholds of 0.8V (vl) and 2.5V (vh) respectively. The oscillator can be synchronized by driving a TTL level pulse into the SYNC pin. This pin connects to a one shot circuit that reduces the oscillator high threshold to 2V for about 200ns. The SYNC input signal should have minimum on/off times of ≥1µs.

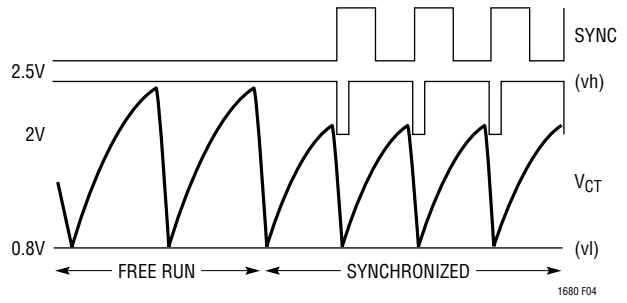


Figure 4. Free Run and Synchronized Oscillator Waveforms (at C_T Pin)

Inductor Selection

The inductor for an LT1680 converter is selected based on output power, operating frequency and efficiency requirements. Generally, the selection of inductor value can be reduced to desired maximum ripple current in the inductor (ΔI). For a boost converter, the minimum inductor value for a given operating ripple current can be determined using the following relation:

$$L_{MIN} = \frac{V_{IN}(V_{OUT} - V_{IN})}{(\Delta I)(f_O)(V_{OUT})}$$

Given an inductor value (L), the peak inductor current is the sum of the average inductor current (I_{AVG}) and half the inductor ripple current (ΔI), or:

$$I_{PK} = I_{AVG} + \frac{V_{IN}(V_{OUT} - V_{IN})}{(2)(L)(f_O)(V_{OUT})}$$

The inductor core type is determined by peak current and efficiency requirements. The inductor core must withstand this peak current without saturating, and the series winding resistance and core losses should be kept as small as is practical to maximize conversion efficiency.

The LT1680 peak current threshold is 40% greater than the average limit threshold. Slope compensation effects reduce this margin as duty cycle increases. This margin must be maintained to prevent peak current limit from corrupting the programmed value for average current limit. Programming the peak ripple current to less than 15% of the desired average current limit value will assure proper operation of the average current limit feature through 90% duty cycle (see Slope Compensation).

Slope Compensation

Current mode switching regulators that operate with a duty cycle greater than 50% and have continuous inductor current can exhibit duty cycle instability. While a regulator will not be damaged and may even continue to function acceptably during this type of subharmonic oscillation, an irritating high-pitched squeal is usually produced.

The criterion for current mode duty cycle instability is met when the increasing slope of the inductor ripple current is less than the decreasing slope, which is the case at duty cycles greater than 50%. This condition is illustrated in Figure 5a. The inductor ripple current starts at I_1, the beginning of each oscillator switch cycle. Current increases at a rate S1 until the current reaches the control trip level I_2. The controller servo loop then disables the switch and inductor current begins to decrease at a rate S2. If the current switch point (I_2) is perturbed slightly and increased by ΔI, the cycle time ends such that the minimum current point is increased by a factor of 1 + (S2/S1) to start the next cycle. On each successive cycle, this error is multiplied by a factor of S2/S1. Therefore, if S2/S1 is ≥1, the system is unstable.

Subharmonic oscillations can be eliminated by augmenting the increasing ripple current slope (S1) in the control loop. This is accomplished by adding an artificial ramp on the inductor current waveform internal to the IC (with a slope S_X) as shown in Figure 5b. If the sum of the slopes

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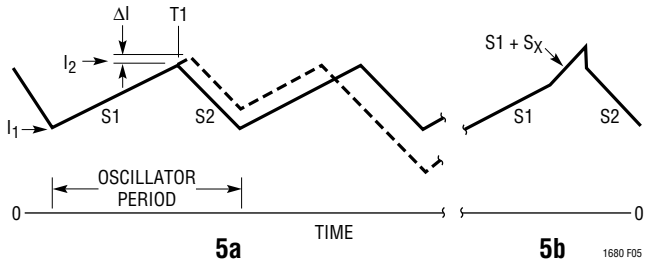

Figure 5. Inductor Current at DC > 50% and Slope Compensation Adjusted Signal

$S1 + S_X$ is greater than S2, this condition for subharmonic oscillation no longer exists.

For boost topologies, the required additional current waveform slope, or "Slope Compensation," follows the relation:

$$S_X \geq \frac{(S1)(2DC-1)}{(1-DC)}$$

For duty cycles less than 50% (DC < 0.5), S_X is negative and is not required. For duty cycles greater than 50%, S_X takes on values dependent on S1 and duty cycle. S1 is simply V_{IN}/L. This leads to a minimum inductance requirement for a given V_{IN}, duty cycle and slope compensation (S_X) of:

$$L_{MIN} = \frac{\left(\frac{V_{IN}}{S_X}\right)(2DC-1)}{1-DC}$$

The LT1680 contains an internal slope compensation ramp that has an equivalent current referred value of:

$$S_X = 0.084\left(\frac{f_O}{R_{SENSE}}\right) \quad \text{Amp/s}$$

where f_O is oscillator frequency and R_{SENSE} is the external current sense resistor. This yields a minimum inductance requirement of:

$$L_{MIN} \geq \frac{(V_{IN})(R_{SENSE})(2DC-1)}{[(0.084)(f_O)(1-DC)]}$$

A down side of slope compensation is that, since the IC servo loop senses an increase in perceived inductor current, the internal current limit functions are affected such that the maximum current capability of a regulator is reduced by the same amount as the effective current referred slope compensation. The LT1680, however, uses a current limit scheme that is independent of the slope compensation effects (Average Current Limiting). This provides operation at any duty cycle with no reduction in current sourcing capability, provided ripple current peak amplitude is less than 15% of the current limit value. For example, if the converter is set up to average current limit at 10A, as long as the peak inductor current is less than 11.5A, duty cycles up to 90% can be achieved without compromising the average current limit value.

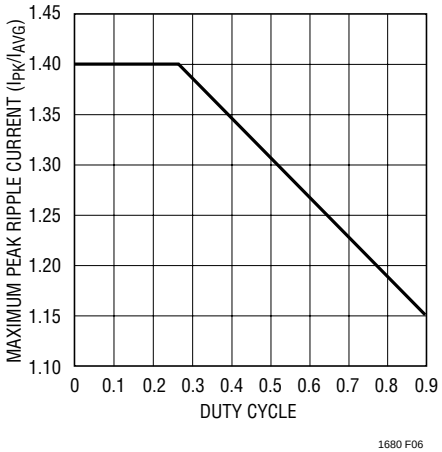

Figure 6. Maximum Peak Ripple Current (Normalized) vs Duty Cycle for Average Current Limit

If an inductor smaller than the minimum required for internal slope compensation (calculated above as L_{MIN}) is desired, additional slope compensation is necessary. The LT1680 provides this capability through the SL/ADJ pin. This feature is implemented by referencing this pin via a resistor divider from the $5V_{REF}$ pin to ground. The additional slope compensation will be affected at the point in the oscillator waveform (at pin C_T) corresponding to the voltage set by the resistor divider. Additional slope compensation can be calculated using the relation:

$$S_X = \frac{(2500)(f_O)}{(R_{TH})(R_{SENSE})} \quad \text{Amp/s}$$

where R_{TH} is the Thevenin resistance of the resistor divider. Actual compensation will actually be somewhat greater due to internal curvature correction circuitry that

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imposes an exponential increase in the slope compensation waveform, further increasing the effective compensation slope up to 20% for a given setting.

Design example:

V_{IN} = 20V
V_{OUT} = 80V (DC = 0.75)
R_{SENSE} = 0.01Ω
f_O = 100kHz
L = 20µH

The minimum inductor usable with no additional slope compensation is:

$$L_{MIN} \geq \frac{(20V)(0.01\Omega)(1.5-1)}{(0.084)(100000)(1-0.75)} = 47.6\mu H$$

Since L = 20µH is less than L_{MIN}, additional slope compensation is necessary. The total slope compensation required is:

$$S_X \geq \frac{\left(\frac{20V}{20\mu H}\right)(1.5-1)}{1-0.75} = (2)(10^6) \quad \text{Amp/s}$$

Subtracting the internally generated slope compensation and solving for the required effective resistance at SL/ADJ yields:

$$R_{EQ} \leq \frac{(2500)(f_O)}{(2)(10^6)(R_{SENSE}) - (0.084)(f_O)} = 21.5k$$

Setting the resistor divider reference voltage to 2V assures that the additional compensation waveform will be enabled at a 75% duty cycle. As shown in Figure 7a, using R_{SL1} = 45k and R_{SL2} = 30k sets the desired reference voltage and has a R_{TH} of 18k, which meets both design requirements. Figure 7b shows the slope compensation effective waveforms both with and without the SL/ADJ external resistors.

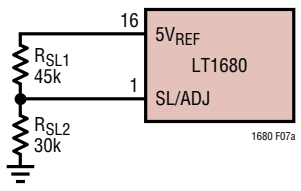


Figure 7a. External Slope Compensation Resistors

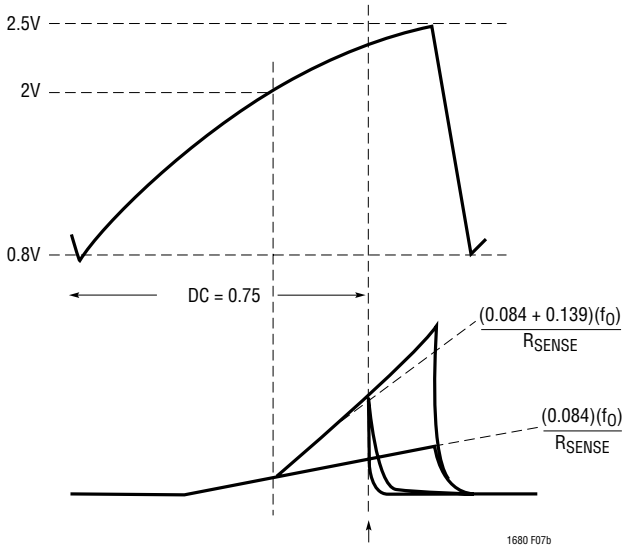


Figure 7b. Slope Compensation Waveforms

Power MOSFET and Output Rectifying Diode Selection

LT1680 converter system parameters that dictate selection criteria for the switch MOSFET and output rectifying diode include maximum load current (I_{OUT}), inductor average current (I_{AVG}) and inductor ripple current (ΔI), and maximum input and output voltages.

The switch MOSFETs selected must have a maximum *operating* V_{DSS} exceeding the maximum output voltage (V_{OUT}). V_{GS} rated operating maximums must exceed the $12V_{IN}$ supply voltage. Once voltage requirements have been determined, switch conduction resistance ($R_{DS(ON)}$) can be determined based on allowable power dissipation. In a typical LT1680 boost converter, the switch current is equal to the inductor current, but is chopped according to duty cycle (DC). The conduction loss (P_{LOSS}) for a given FET $R_{DS(ON)}$ can be calculated using the relation:

$$P_{LOSS} \approx (DC)(R_{DS(ON)})(I_{AVG}^2 + [\Delta I^2/12])$$

where I_{AVG} = average inductor current and ΔI = peak-to-peak inductor ripple current.

The output diode is often a major source of power loss in switching regulators and selection of adequately rated diodes is important. In a boost converter, when the output voltage is significantly higher than the input voltage, the peak diode current becomes much higher than average

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

output currents and diode current ratings must be observed with caution. The peak diode current is:

$$I_{D(PEAK)} = I_{AVG} + \Delta I/2$$

and the average power dissipation (P_D) in the diode is:

$$P_D = (I_{OUT})(V_f)$$

where V_f is the forward voltage of the diode at peak current. The output diode must also be rated for maximum reverse voltages exceeding V_{OUT}.

C_{IN} and C_{OUT} Supply Decoupling Capacitor Selection

The large currents typical of LT1680 applications require special consideration for the regulator input and output supply decoupling capacitors.

Under normal steady state boost operation, output current provided by the converter is a square wave of duty cycle V_{IN}/V_{OUT}, the average value being equal to the required DC load current (I_{OUT}). The continuity of the load current is maintained by the output bypass capacitors. To prevent excessive output voltage ripple and undue capacitor heating (and associated catastrophic failure), low ESR output capacitors sized for the maximum RMS current must be used. This maximum capacitor RMS current follows the relation:

$$I_{RMS} \approx I_{OUT}\left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} - 1\right)^{1/2}$$

Capacitor ripple current ratings are often based on only 2000 hours (3 months) lifetime; it is advisable to derate either the ESR or temperature rating of capacitors for increased MTBF.

The input bypass capacitors generally have less ripple current than the output bypass capacitors as the input current in a boost converter is continuous. Input bypass capacitor selection can be made using ripple current ratings. Peak-to-peak ripple current is equal to the inductor ripple current (ΔI_L).

Efficiency Considerations and Heat Dissipation

High output power applications create an inherent concern regarding power dissipation in regulator components. Although high efficiencies are achieved using the LT1680, the power dissipated in the regulator climbs to relatively high values when the load draws large amounts of power. Even at 90% efficiency, a 500W application has conversion loss of 55W.

I^2R dissipation in the MOSFET switch, sense resistor and inductor series resistance can generate substantial conversion loss under high current conditions. Generally, the dominant I^2R loss is evidenced in the FET switch, which is proportional to the steady-state duty cycle, or conduction time of the switch. For example, in a 5V to 48V boost converter, the duty cycle is:

$$DC = 1 - (V_{IN}/V_{OUT})$$
$$DC = 1 - 5/48 \approx 90\%$$

The FET switch conducts inductor current for almost 90% of the cycle time, and thus may require increased consideration for dissipating I^2R power.

Gate Drive Buffer

The LT1680 is designed to drive relatively large capacitive loads. However, in certain applications, efficiency improvements can be realized by adding an external buffer stage to drive the gate of the FET switch. When the switch gate loads the driver output such that rise/fall times exceed 100ns, buffers can sometimes result in efficiency gains. Buffers can also reduce effects of back injection into the gate driver output due to coupling of switch node transitions through the switch FET C_{MILLER}.

Optimizing Transient Response– Compensation Component Values

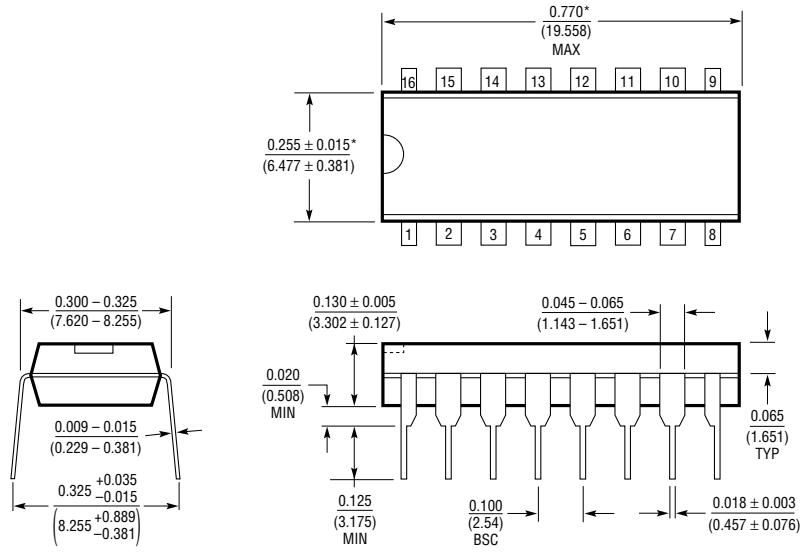
The dominant compensation point for an LT1680 converter is the V_C pin (Pin 5), or error amplifier output. This pin connects to an external series RC network, R_{VC} and C_{VC}. The infinite permutations of input/output filtering, capacitor ESR, input voltage, load current, etc. make for an empirical method of optimizing loop response for a specific set of conditions.

Loop response can be observed by injecting a step change in load current. This can be achieved by using a switchable load. With the load switching, the transient response of the output voltage can be observed with an oscilloscope. Iterating through RC combinations will yield optimized response. Refer to Application Note 19 in the *1990 Linear Applications Handbook, Volume 1* for more information.

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION

Dimensions in inches (millimeters) unless otherwise noted.

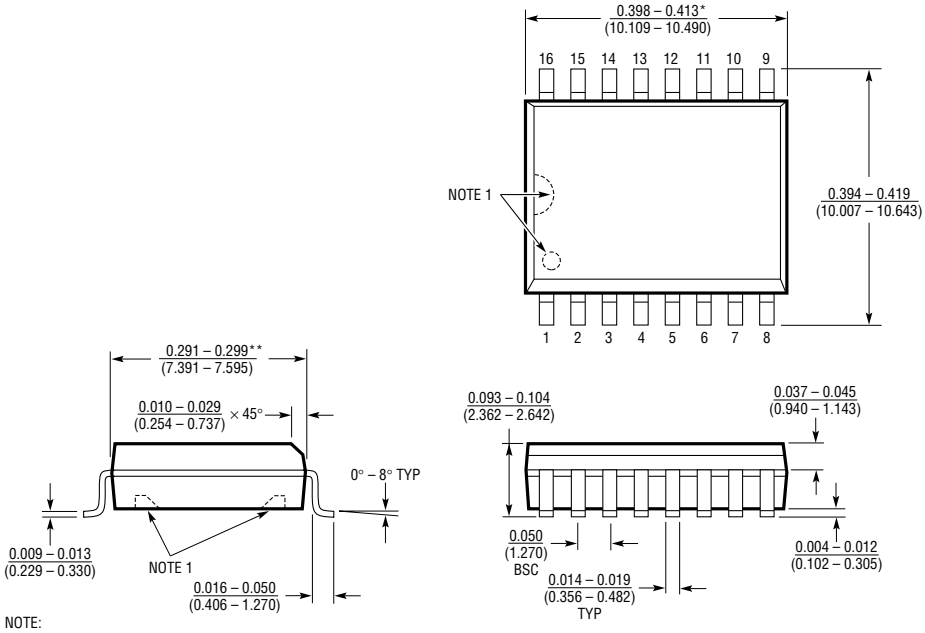
N Package
16-Lead PDIP (Narrow 0.300)
(LTC DWG # 05-08-1510)



*THESE DIMENSIONS DO NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH OR PROTRUSIONS.
MOLD FLASH OR PROTRUSIONS SHALL NOT EXCEED 0.010 INCH (0.254mm)

N16 1098

SW Package
16-Lead Plastic Small Outline (Wide 0.300)
(LTC DWG # 05-08-1620)



NOTE:
1. PIN 1 IDENT, NOTCH ON TOP AND CAVITIES ON THE BOTTOM OF PACKAGES ARE THE MANUFACTURING OPTIONS.
THE PART MAY BE SUPPLIED WITH OR WITHOUT ANY OF THE OPTIONS

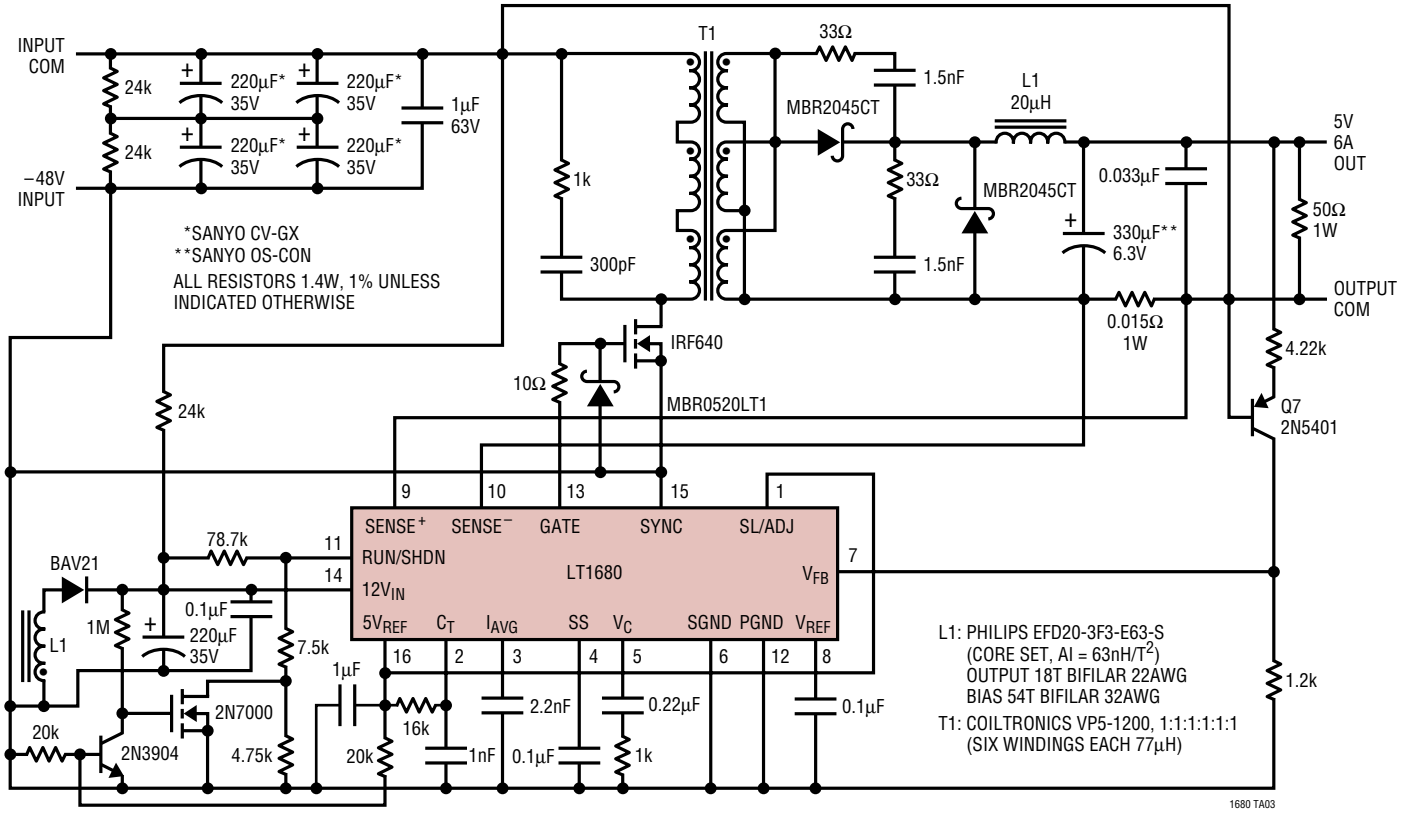
*DIMENSION DOES NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH. MOLD FLASH SHALL NOT EXCEED 0.006" (0.152mm) PER SIDE

**DIMENSION DOES NOT INCLUDE INTERLEAD FLASH. INTERLEAD FLASH SHALL NOT EXCEED 0.010" (0.254mm) PER SIDE

S16 (WIDE) 1098

TYPICAL APPLICATION

–48V to 5V 30W Forward Converter



RELATED PARTS

PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
LT1268	7.5A, 150kHz Switching Regulator	Integrated Switch Can Be Used in Isolated Flyback Mode
LT1270A	10A, 60kHz Switching Regulator	Integrated Switch Can Be Used in Isolated Flyback Mode
LT1339	High Power Synchronous DC/DC Controller	Operation to 60V, No Shoot-Through N-Channel Output Drivers
LT1370	500kHz, 6A Boost Switching Regulator	Integrated Switch, Regulates Positive or Negative Outputs
LT1371	500kHz, 3A Boost Switching Regulator	Integrated Switch, Regulates Positive or Negative Outputs
LT1619	Low Voltage Current Mode DWM Controller	8-lead MSOP, 1.9V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 18V
LTC1700	No R_{SENSE}™ Synchronous Current Mode Step-Up DC/DC Controller	95% Efficient, 0.9V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 5V, 550kHz
LT1738	Ultralow Noise DC/DC Boost Controller	Greatly Reduced Conducted and Radiated EMI, N-Channel MOSFET Driver, 20kHz to 250kHz Oscillator Frequency
LTC3401/LTC3402	1A/2A 3MHz Micropower Synchronous Boost Converter	10-Lead MSOP, 0.5V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 5V

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