

SP7601

29V High Voltage LED Driver

The SP7601 is a high current DC to DC Switching Buck LED Driver that features low component count and high efficiency due to a very low 0.2V reference voltage. High 1.2MHz switching frequency allows use of very small external components. The SP7601 is compatible with PWM dimming up to a frequency of 1kHz at 10% Duty Cycle.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these ratings or any other above those indicated in the operation sections of the specifications below is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods of time may affect reliability.

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications are for T_{AMB}=T_J=25°C, and those denoted by \bullet apply over the full operating range, -40°C< T_j <125°C. Unless otherwise specified: $V_{IN} = 4.5V$ to 29V, $C_{IN} = 4.7 \mu F$.

PIN DESCRIPTION

BLOCK DIAGRAM

The SP7601 is a fixed frequency, Voltagemode, non-synchronous buck PWM controller optimized for driving LEDs. Constant LED current is achieved using resistor RSET as shown in the page 1 schematic. A low 0.2V reference voltage minimizes power dissipation in RSET. A tight reference voltage tolerance of +/-7%, over full operating conditions, helps accurately program the LED current. High switching frequency of 1.2MHz (nominal) reduces the size of passive components. Dimming and power sequencing is achieved using a logic-level PWM signal applied to the FB pin via a diode. Overcurrent protection (OCP) is based on the high-side MOSFETís RDS(ON) and is programmable via a resistor placed at the LX node.

Programming the LED Current

Use the following equation to program the LED current:

$$
Rset = \frac{0.2V}{I_{LED}} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \tag{1}
$$

Where 0.2 is SP7601 reference voltage

The output voltage will adjust as needed to ensure average I_{LED} is supplied. For example, if

Figure1- 1kHz, 10% duty cycle dimming signal applied to SP7601, ch1:LX, ch2: dimming signal, ch4: ILED

the output current is to be set at 0.35A, then RSET = 0.57Ω . If the output LED has a corresponding VF of 3.5V, then the SP7601 will step down the VIN to 3.5V. If two of these LEDs are placed in series, then SP7601 will step down the voltage to 7V. Superimposed on I_{LED} current is a current ripple that is equal in magnitude to the inductor current ripple. Current ripple will be nominally set to 10% of I_{LED} by proper sizing of the inductor. Note that throughout this datasheet I_{LED} and IOUT will be used interchangeably.

Dimming Signal

A logic-level PWM signal applied through a small-signal diode to the feed-back (FB) pin can be used to control dimming of the LED. This signal turns the MOSFET gate drive on/off, thereby modulating the average current delivered to the LED. For turning the MOSFET off, the minimum signal amplitude at the FB node must be 1.2V; and to turn it back on it must fall below 0.7V. The frequency of the PWM signal can be up to 1kHz.

Figure2- 1kHz, 80% duty cycle dimming signal applied to SP7601, ch1:LX, ch2: dimming signal, ch4: ILED

Modulator Operation and Power Sequencing

The SP7601 has a unique modulator design which improves the device's ability to operate at very high duty cycle. While seamless in operation as the duty cycle is increasing (input voltage falling), when the duty cycle is decreased (input voltage rising), the user will observe the switching frequency increasing in distinct fractions of the switching frequency. If the device is operating at 100% duty cycle -- a unique advantage of using a p-channel pass device -- and then the input voltage is increased, the frequency will start at 300kHz, then 400kHz, 600kHz, and then finally 1.2MHz. The frequency will tend to increase to the next higher fraction once the duty cycle reaches 75 to 65 percent. This is the normal operation of the device and should be expected. There is no impact on the LED current accuracy.

If PWM dimming is being used as the input voltage is increased, one will see the frequency increasing when the duty cycle is < 90%. When power is initially applied, the device will begin operating as if the input voltage is increasing and may start operation at one of the fractional operating frequencies. Many users will prefer to have the device start operating at the nominal operating frequency, thus it is recommended that VIN be applied after FB is set at the high state (>1.2V). The regulator is now in standby and once VIN has reached steady-state, then FB is transitioned from a high to a low state. The controller then starts operating at nominal frequency.

Another benefit of using power sequencing for power up is that it ensures all internal circuitry is alive and fully operational before the device is required to regulate the current through the LEDs. Depending on the operating conditions, there may be short duration (<100μs) current spikes during initial application of VIN. Figure 3 shows an example of the current spikes.

Figure 3- current spikes generated at startup when power sequencing is not used, ch1:VIN, ch2: IOUT

LEDs are capable of handling these short duration spikes as long as they are not operating at their thermal limit. Since the regulator was "Off" before power was applied, it is unlikely the LED is under any type of thermal stress. EXAR does not recommend using the SP7601 in applications where dimming of the LED is achieved by PWM'ing the actual input power as is common in automotive dimming applications.

Buck Operation Without Output Capacitor

In order to be able to apply the aforementioned dimming signal to the LED, the output filter capacitor that is normally used with a buck converter must be removed from the circuit. Thus the LED current ripple equals the inductor current ripple. As a rule of thumb, current ripple should be limited to 10% of I_{LED} . Allowing for a higher current ripple, while staying within LED manufacturer ripple guidelines, will reduce inductance and possibly inductor size.

Overcurrent Programming

Resistor Rs can be used to program Overcurrent Protection (OCP). Use equation 2 for calculating the Rs value:

$$
Rs = \frac{0.35V - (1.5 \times 1.05 \times Iocp \times Rds(on))}{33uA} \dots (2)
$$

Where Iocp is the programmed overcurrent and is generally set 50% above nominal output current. The maximum value of Rs that can be used for programming OCP is $3kΩ$.

Inductor Selection

Select the inductor L1 for inductance, IRMS and ISAT. Calculate inductance from

$$
L = \frac{V_o \times (Vin - Vo)}{Vin \times f \times \Delta L} \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \tag{3}
$$

Where:

VIN is converter input voltage

Vo is converter output voltage. Since voltage across RSET is small, Vo approximately equals VF (for a string of series connected LEDs Vo equals total VF)

Δ*I^L* is inductor current ripple (nominally set to 10% of Io)

Inductor ISAT and IRMS must allow sufficient safeguard over output current Io. As a rule of thumb these parameters should be 50% higher than Io. Where high efficiency is required, a low DCR inductor should be used.

Input capacitor selection

Select the input capacitor for capacitance and ripple current rating. Use the capacitances listed in table 1 as a starting point and, if needed, increase CIN.

≤ 0.7	
0.71 to 1.2	
	2x4.7

Table1- CIN selection

Calculate the ripple current requirement from:

Irip =
$$
Io \times \sqrt{D(1-D)}
$$
............ (4)

Where D is converter duty cycle:

$$
D = \frac{V_o}{V_{in}}
$$

Ceramic capacitors are recommended for input filtering due to their low Equivalent Series Resistance (ESR), Equivalent Series Inductance (ESL) and small form factor.

MOSFET selection

Select the MOSFET M1 for ON resistance RDS(ON), voltage rating (BVDSS) and gate-todrain charge (QGD). The recommended MOSFET voltage rating for 12V and 24V applications is 30V and 40V respectively. As a rule of thumb QGD should be less than 10nC. RDS(ON) must be selected such that, when operating at peak current and junction temperature, the Overcurrent threshold of the SP7601 is not exceeded. Allowing 50% margin for temperature coefficient of RDS(ON), 5% margin for inductor current ripple and 50% margin for OCP, the following expression can be used:

$$
Rds(ON) \leq \left(\frac{350mV}{1.5 \times 1.5 \times 1.05 \times Io}\right) \dots \dots \dots \dots (5)
$$

Within this constraint, selecting MOSFETs with lower RDS(ON) will reduce conduction losses at the expense of increased switching losses. If a choice of several MOSFETs is available, select the highest RDS(ON) MOSFET that meets the above criteria.

Schottky Rectifier selection

Select the Schottky D1 for Voltage rating V_R and current rating If. Voltage rating should be selected using the same guidelines outlined for MOSFET voltage selection. Current rating can be calculated from:

$$
If \ge \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{V_o}{V_{in}}\right)} \times Io \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \tag{6}
$$

Note that in applications where duty cycle is low, Schottky losses comprise a larger percentage of converter losses. In order to improve the efficiency in these applications choose a Schottky that meets the calculated current rating and has a lower VF.

Feedback resistor RFB

RFB is part of the SP7601 loop compensation network. Use a 30kΩ RFB for VIN of 20V and larger. Use RFB of 60KΩ for VIN less than 20V.

Capacitor C1

This is the decoupling capacitor for the power supply to the internal driver. Use a 0.1µF capacitor and place it as closely to the VDR and VIN pins as possible.

Design example- Design a drive circuit for a 0.35A LED with a 12V input voltage. Nominal LED voltage is 3.3V.

1. Calculate RSET from equation (1):

$$
Rset = \frac{0.2V}{0.35A} = 0.57Ohm
$$

2. Calculate inductor value L1 from (3):

$$
L1 = \frac{3.3V \times (12V - 3.3V)}{12V \times 1.2MHz \times 0.035A} = 57uH
$$

A COILTRONICS LD-560 inductor rated at 56μH, 0.5ARMS and 0.57ASAT can be used.

3. Select input capacitor:

A 2.2μF CIN is needed as shown in table 1. From equation (4), the ripple current rating of CIN is a fraction of 0.35A. A 2.2uF, 16V ceramic capacitor easily meets this requirement and offers low ESR and ESL.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

4. RDS(ON) is calculated from equation (5):

RDS(ON)
$$
\leq \left(\frac{350mV}{1.5 \times 1.5 \times 1.05 \times 0.35A} \right) = 0.42Ohm
$$

BVDSS should be at least 30V and QGD should be less than 10nC. An ANPEC APM4427K with RDS(ON)=0.14 Ohm, BVDSS=30V and QGD=1.1nC can be used.

5. Schottky current rating *I*F can be calculated from (6):

$$
If \ge \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{3.3V}{12V}\right)} \times 0.35 A = 0.3A
$$

Voltage rating should be 30V. An SL03 rated at 30V/1.1A or equivalent can be used.

6. Calculate Rs from equation (2):

$$
Rs = \frac{0.35V - (1.5 \times 1.05 \times 0.525A \times 0.14Ohm)}{33uA} = 7098Ohm
$$

Use the maximum recommended Rs of 3kΩ since the calculated value is larger.

Figure 4. Circuit schematic for design example

ORDERING INFORMATION

For further assistance:

Email: Email: Sipexsupport@sipex.com

WWW Support page: http://www.sipex.com/cont WWW Support page: http://www.sipex.com/content.aspx?p=support
Application Notes: http://www.sipex.com/applicationNotes.aspx http://www.sipex.com/applicationNotes.aspx

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