6A, 24V, 600kHz Step-Down Converter with Synchronous Gate Driver

General Description

The RT8298A is a synchronous step-down DC/DC converter with an integrated high side internal power MOSFET and a gate driver for a low side external power MOSFET. It can deliver up to 6A output current from a 4.5V to 24V input supply. The RT8298A's current mode architecture allows the transient response to be optimized over a wider input voltage and load range. Cycle-by-cycle current limit provides protection against shorted outputs and soft-start eliminates input current surge during start-up. The RT8298A is synchronizable to an external clock with frequency ranging from 300kHz to 1.5MHz.

The RT8298A is available in SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) packages.

Ordering Information

RT8298A

Package Type SP : SOP-8 (Exposed Pad-Option 2)

-Lead Plating System

G : Green (Halogen Free and Pb Free)

Note :

Richtek products are :

- RoHS compliant and compatible with the current requirements of IPC/JEDEC J-STD-020.
- Suitable for use in SnPb or Pb-free soldering processes.

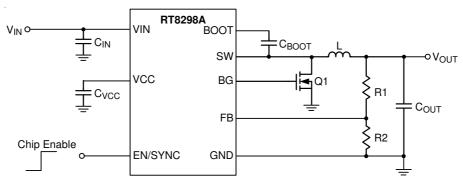
Features

- 4.5V to 24V Input Voltage Range
- 6A Output Current
- 45mΩ Internal High Side N-MOSFET
- Current Mode Control
- 600kHz Switching Frequency
- Adjustable Output from 0.8V to 15V
- Up to 95% Efficiency
- Internal Compensation
- Stable with Ceramic Capacitors
- Synchronous External Clock : 300kHz to 1.5MHz
- Cycle-by-Cycle Current Limit
- Input Under Voltage Lockout
- Output Under Voltage Protection
- Power Good Indicator
- Thermal Shutdown Protection
- Force PWM Turn On
- RoHS Compliant and Halogen Free

Applications

- Point of Load Regulator in Distributed Power System
- Digital Set top Boxes
- Personal Digital Recorders
- Broadband Communications
- Flat Panel TVs and Monitors

Simplified Application Circuit



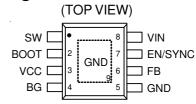




Marking Information

RT8298A GSPYMDNN RT8298AGSP : Product Number YMDNN : Date Code

Pin Configurations

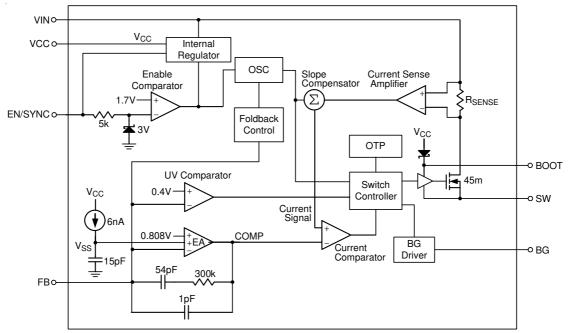


SOP-8 (Exposed Pad)

Functional Pin Description

Pin No.	Pin Name	Pin Function
1	SW	Switching Node. Output of the internal high side MOSFET. Connect this pin to external low-side N-MOSFET, inductor and bootstrap capacitor.
2	BOOT	Bootstrap for High side Gate Driver. Connect a $1\mu F$ ceramic capacitor between the BOOT pin and SW pin.
3	VCC	BG Driver Bias Supply. Decouple with a $1\mu F$ X5R/X7R ceramic capacitor between the VCC pin and GND.
4	BG	Gate Driver Output. Connect this pin to the gate of the external low-side N-MOSFET.
5, 9 (Exposed Pad)	GND	Ground. The exposed pad must be soldered to a large PCB and connected to GND for maximum thermal dissipation.
6	FB	Feedback Input. This pin is connected to the converter output. It is used to set the output of the converter to regulate to the desired value via an external resistive divider. The feedback reference voltage is 0.808V typically.
7	EN/SYNC	Enable or External Frequency Synchronization Input. A logic-high (2V < EN < 5.5V) enables the converter; a logic-low forces the IC into shutdown mode reducing the supply current to less than 3μ A. For external frequency synchronization operation, the available frequency range is from 300kHz to 1.5MHz.
8	VIN	Power Input. The available input voltage range is from 4.5V to 24V. A 22μ F or larger input capacitor is needed to reduce voltage spikes at the input.

Function Block Diagram



Operation

The RT8298A is a synchronous high voltage Buck Converter that can support the input voltage range from 4.5V to 24V and the output current can be up to 6A. The RT8298A uses a constant frequency, current mode architecture. In normal operation, the high side N-MOSFET is turned on when the Switch Controller is set by the oscillator (OSC) and is turned off when the current comparator resets the Switch Controller. While the N-MOSFET is turned off, the external low side N-MOSFET is turned on by BG Driver with 5V driving voltage from Internal Regulator (V_{CC}) until next cycle begins.

High side MOSFET peak current is measured by internal R_{SENSE} . The Current Signal is where Slope Compensator works together with sensing voltage of R_{SENSE} . The error amplifier EA adjusts COMP voltage by comparing the feedback signal (V_{FB}) from the output voltage with the internal 0.808V reference. When the load current increases, it causes a drop in the feedback voltage relative to the reference, the COMP voltage then rises to allow higher inductor current to match the load current.

UV Comparator : If the feedback voltage (V_{FB}) is lower than threshold voltage 0.4V, the UV Comparator's output

will go high and the Switch Controller will turn off the high side MOSFET. The output under voltage protection is designed to operate in Hiccup mode.

Oscillator (OSC) : The internal oscillator runs at nominal frequency 600kHz and can be synchronized by an external clock in the range between 300kHz and 1.5MHz from EN/SYNC pin.

Enable Comparator : Internal $5k\Omega$ resistor and Zener diode are used to clamp the input signal to 3V. A 1.7V reference voltage is for EN logic-high threshold voltage. The EN pin can be connected to VIN through a $100k\Omega$ resistor for automatic startup.

Foldback Control : When V_{FB} is lower than 0.7V, the oscillation frequency will be proportional to the feedback voltage.

Soft-Start (SS) : An internal current source (6nA) charges an internal capacitor (15pF) to build the soft-start ramp voltage (V_{SS}). The V_{FB} voltage will track the internal ramp voltage during soft-start interval. The typical soft-start time is 2ms.



Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

 Supply Input Voltage, V_{IN} Switching Voltage, SW SW (AC) < 20ns 	-0.3V to (V _{IN} + 0.3V)
BOOT to SW	- –0.3V to 6V
All Other Voltage	- –0.3V to 6V
• Power Dissipation, $P_D @ T_A = 25^{\circ}C$	
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad)	· 1.333W
Package Thermal Resistance (Note 2)	
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad), θ_{JA}	- 75°C/W
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad), θ_{JC}	- 15°C/W
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec.)	- 260°C
Junction Temperature	- 150°C
Storage Temperature Range	–65°C to 150°C
ESD Susceptibility (Note 3)	
HBM (Human Body Model)	· 2kV
MM (Machine Model)	- 200V

Recommended Operating Conditions (Note 4)

 Supply Input Voltage, V_{IN} 	4.5V to 24V
Junction Temperature Range	40°C to 125°C
Ambient Temperature Range	40°C to 85°C

Electrical Characteristics

Parameter	Symbol	Test Conditions	Min	Тур	Мах	Unit
Shutdown Supply Current		V _{EN} = 0V		1		μA
Supply Current		V _{EN} = 3V, V _{FB} = 1V		0.9		mA
Feedback Reference Voltage	V _{REF}	$4.5V \le V_{IN} \le 24V$	0.796	0.808	0.82	V
Feedback Current	I _{FB}	V _{FB} = 0.8V		10		nA
High-Side Switch On Resistance	R _{DS(ON)}			45		mΩ
High-Side Switch Current Limit		BOOT - SW = 4.8V		10		Α
Oscillation Frequency	fosc1			600		kHz
Short Circuit Oscillation Frequency	f _{OSC2}	V _{FB} = 0V		190		kHz
Maximum Duty Cycle	D _{MAX}	V _{FB} = 0.6V		90		%
Minimum On-Time	t _{ON}	V _{FB} = 1V		100		ns
Input Under Voltage Lockout Threshold	V _{UVLO}		4	4.2	4.4	V
Input Under Voltage Lockout Threshold Hysteresis	ΔV _{UVLO}			400		mV

Parameter		Symbol	Test Conditions	Min	Тур	Max	Unit
EN Threshold Voltage	Logic-High	VIH		2		5.5	v
	Logic-Low	VIL				0.4	
Sync Frequency Range		f _{Sync}		0.3		1.5	MHz
EN Turn-Off Delay		tOFF			10		μS
EN Pull Low Current			$V_{EN} = 2V$		1		μA
Thermal Shutdown		T _{SD}			150		°C
Thermal Shutdown Hysteresis		ΔT_{SD}			20		°C
BG Driver Bias Supply Voltage		Vcc		4.5	5		V
Gate Driver Sink Impedance		RSink			0.9		Ω
Gate Driver Source Impedance		RSource			3.3		Ω

Note 1. Stresses beyond those listed "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions may affect device reliability.

- Note 2. θ_{JA} is measured at $T_A = 25^{\circ}C$ on a high effective thermal conductivity four-layer test board per JEDEC 51-7. θ_{JC} is measured at the exposed pad of the package.
- Note 3. Devices are ESD sensitive. Handling precaution is recommended.
- Note 4. The device is not guaranteed to function outside its operating conditions.



Typical Application Circuit

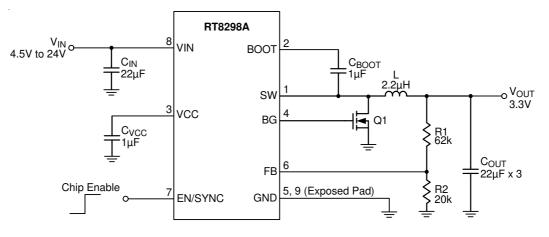
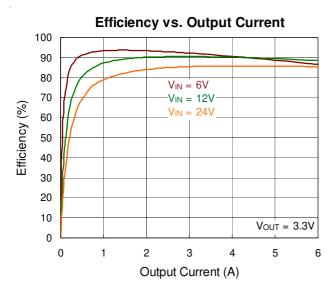
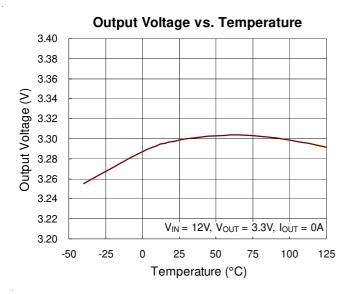


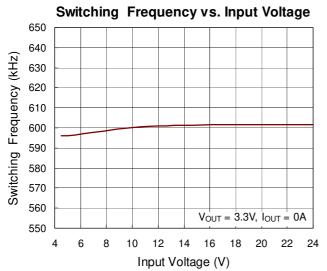
Table 1. Recommended Component Selection

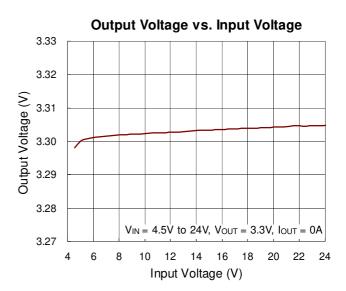
Vout (V)	R1 (k Ω)	R2 (k Ω)	L (μ H)	C ουτ (μ F)
1.2	62	127	1.5	22µF x 3
1.8	62	50.5	1.5	22µF x 3
2.5	62	30	2.2	22µF x 3
3.3	62	20	2.2	22µF x 3
5	93	18	2.8	22µF x 3
8	120	13.5	3.6	22µF x 3

Typical Operating Characteristics

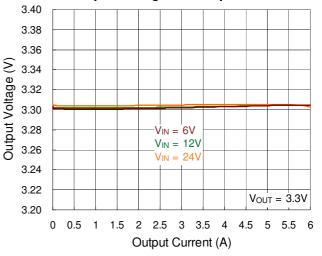




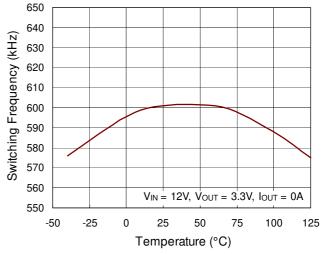




Output Voltage vs. Output Current



Switching Frequency vs. Temperature

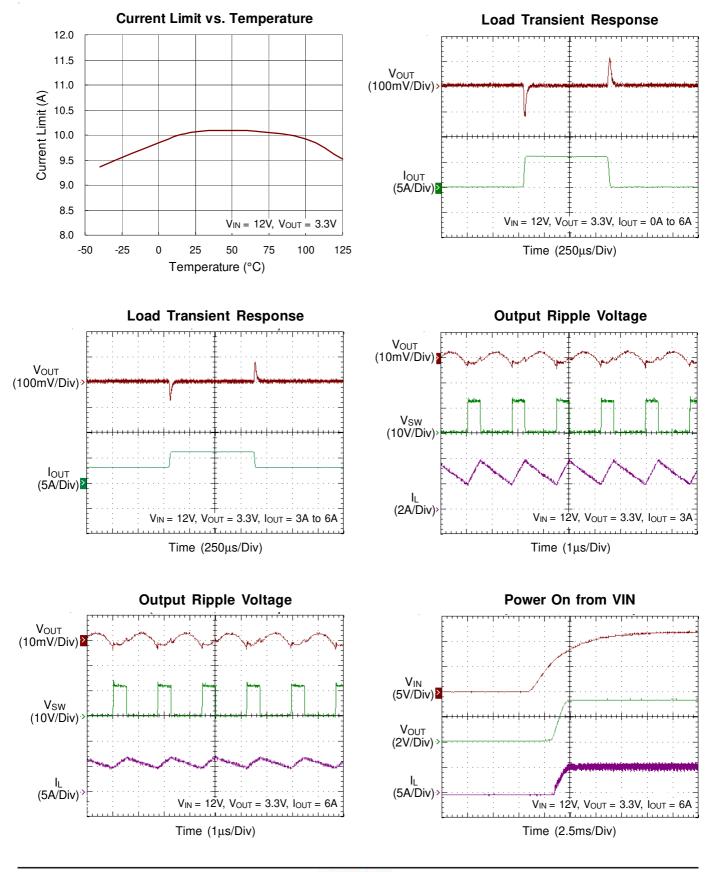


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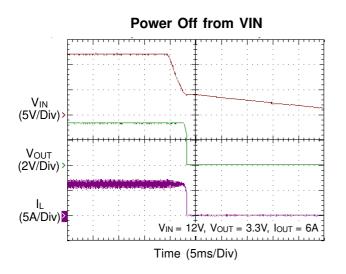
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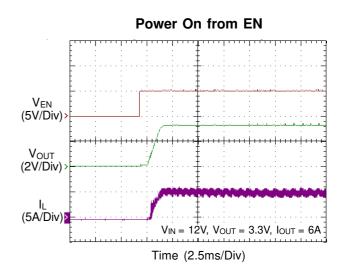
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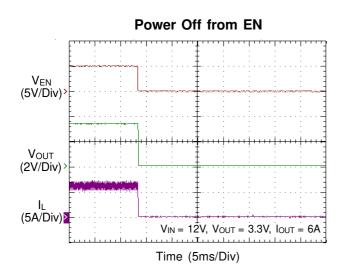
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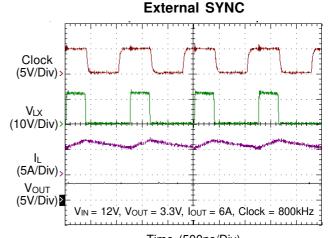


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Time (500ns/Div)



Application Information

Output Voltage Setting

The resistive divider allows the FB pin to sense the output voltage as shown in Figure 1.

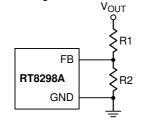


Figure 1. Output Voltage Setting

The output voltage is set by an external resistive voltage divider according to the following equation :

 $V_{OUT} = V_{REF} \left(1 + \frac{R1}{R2} \right)$

Where V_{REF} is the feedback reference voltage (0.808V typ.).

External Bootstrap Diode

Connect a 1μ F low ESR ceramic capacitor between the BOOT pin and SW pin. This capacitor provides the gate driver voltage for the high side MOSFET.

It is recommended to add an external bootstrap diode between an external 5V and BOOT pin for efficiency improvement when input voltage is lower than 5.5V or duty ratio is higher than 65% .The bootstrap diode can be a low cost one such as IN4148 or BAT54. The external 5V can be a 5V fixed input from system or a 5V output of the RT8298A. Note that the external boot voltage must be lower than 5.5V.

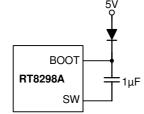


Figure 2. External Bootstrap Diode

Chip Enable Operation

The EN pin is the chip enable input. Pulling the EN pin low (<0.4V) will shutdown the device. During shutdown mode, the RT8298A quiescent current drops to lower than 3μ A. Driving the EN pin high (2V < EN < 5.5V) will turn on the device again. For external timing control, the EN pin can also be externally pulled high by adding a R_{EN} resistor and C_{EN} capacitor from the VIN pin (see Figure 3).

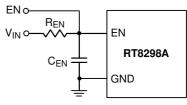


Figure 3. Enable Timing Control

An external MOSFET can be added to implement digital control on the EN pin, as shown in Figure 4. In this case, a 100k Ω pull-up resistor, R_{EN}, is connected between V_{IN} pin and the EN pin. MOSFET Q2 will be under logic control to pull down the EN pin.

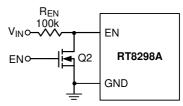


Figure 4. Digital Enable Control Circuit

The chip starts to operate when V_{IN} rises to 4.2V (UVLO threshold). During the V_{IN} rising period, if an 8V output voltage is set, V_{IN} is lower than the V_{OUT} target value and it may cause the chip to shut down. To prevent this situation, a resistive voltage divider can be placed between the input voltage and ground and connected to the EN pin to adjust enable threshold, as shown in Figure 5. For example, the setting V_{OUT} is 8V and V_{IN} is from 0V to 12V, when V_{IN} is higher than 10V, the chip is triggered to enable the converter. Assume $R_{EN1} = 50k\Omega$. Then,

$$R_{EN2} = \frac{(R_{EN1} \times V_{EN_T})}{(V_{IN_S} - V_{EN_T})}$$

where V_{EN_T} is the enable comparator's logic-high reference threshold voltage (1.7V) and V_{IN_S} is the target turn on input voltage (10V in this example). According to the equation, the suggested resistor R_{EN2} is 10.2k Ω .

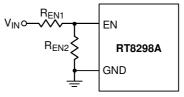


Figure 5. Resistor Divider for Lockout Threshold Setting

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Soft-Start

The RT8298A provides soft-start function. The soft-start function is used to prevent large inrush current while converter is being powered-up. An internal current source (6nA) charges an internal capacitor (15pF) to build a soft-start ramp voltage. The V_{FB} voltage will track the internal ramp voltage during soft-start interval. The typical soft-start time is calculated as follows :

$$t_{SS} = \frac{(0.808V \times 15pF)}{6nA} = 2ms$$

Operating Frequency and Synchronization

The internal oscillator runs at 600kHz (typ.) when the EN/ SYNC pin is at logic-high level (>2V). If the EN pin is pulled to low-level for 10 μ s above, the IC will shut down. The RT8298A can be synchronized with an external clock ranging from 300kHz to 1.5MHz applied to the EN/SYNC pin. The external clock duty cycle must be from 10% to 90%.

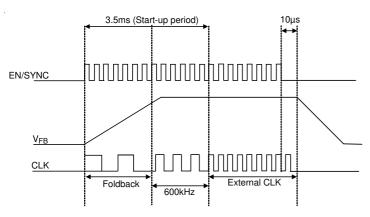


Figure 6. Startup Sequence Using External Sync Clock

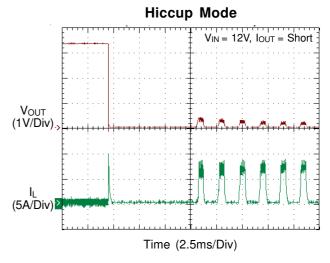
Figure 6 shows the synchronization operation in startup period. When the EN/SYNC is triggered by an external clock, the RT8298A enters soft-start phase and the output voltage starts to rise. When V_{FB} is lower than 0.7V, the oscillation frequency will be proportional to the feedback voltage. With higher V_{FB} , the switching frequency is relatively higher. After startup period about 3.5ms, the IC operates with the same frequency as the external clock.

Over Temperature Protection

The RT8298A features an Over Temperature Protection (OTP) circuitry to prevent from overheating due to excessive power dissipation. The OTP will shut down switching operation when junction temperature exceeds 150°C. Once the junction temperature cools down by approximately 20°C, the converter will resume operation. To maintain continuous operation, the maximum junction temperature should be lower than 125°C.

Under Voltage Protection

For the RT8298A, it provides Hiccup Mode Under Voltage Protection (UVP). When the V_{FB} voltage drops below 0.4V, the UVP function will be triggered to shut down switching operation. If the UV condition remains for a period, the RT8298A will retry every 2ms. When the UV condition is removed, the converter will resume operation. The UVP is disabled during soft-start period.





Duty Cycle Limitation

The RT8298A has a maximum duty cycle 90%. The minimum input voltage is determined by the maximum duty cycle and its minimum operating voltage 4.5V. The voltage drops of high side MOSFET and low side MOSFET also must be considered for the minimum input voltage.

The minimum duty cycle can be calculated by the following equation :

Duty Cycle(min) = f_{SW} x t_{ON}(min)

where fsw is the switching frequency, t_{ON} (min) is the minimum switch on time (100ns). This equation shows that the minimum duty cycle increases when the switching frequency is increased. Therefore, slower switching frequency is necessary to achieve high VIN/VOUT ratio application.

External N-MOSFET Selection

The RT8298A is designed to operate using an external low side N-MOSFET. Important parameters for the power MOSFETs are the breakdown voltage (BV_{DSS}), threshold voltage (V_{GS TH}), on-resistance (R_{DS(ON)}), total gate charge (Qg) and maximum current ($I_{D(MAX)}$). The gate driver voltage is from internal regulator (5V, V_{CC}). Therefore logic level N-MOSFET must be used in the RT8298A application. The total gate charge (Qg) must be less than 50nC, lower Qg characteristics results in lower power losses. Drainsource on-resistance (R_{DS(ON)}) should be as small as possible, less than $30m\Omega$ is desirable. Lower R_{DS(ON)} results in higher efficiency.

Part No.	Manufacture		
Si7114	Vishay		
A04474	ALPHA & OMEGA		
FDS6670AS	Fairchild		
IRF7821	International Rectifier		

Inductor Selection

The inductor value and operating frequency determine the ripple current according to a specific input and output voltage. The ripple current ΔI_L increases with higher V_{IN} and decreases with higher inductance.

$$\Delta I_{L} = \left[\frac{V_{OUT}}{f \times L}\right] \times \left[1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right]$$

Having a lower ripple current reduces not only the ESR losses in the output capacitors but also the output voltage ripple. High frequency with small ripple current can reduce voltage. For the highest efficiency operation, however, it requires a large inductor to achieve this goal.

For the ripple current selection, the value of $\Delta I_L = 0.24(I_{MAX})$ will be a reasonable starting point. The largest ripple current occurs at the highest V_{IN} . To guarantee that the ripple current stays below the specified maximum, the inductor value should be chosen according to the following equation:

$$L = \left[\frac{V_{OUT}}{f \times \Delta I_{L(MAX)}}\right] \times \left[1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN(MAX)}}\right]$$

The inductor's current rating (cause a 40°C temperature rising from 25°C ambient) should be greater than the maximum load current and its saturation current should be greater than the short circuit peak current limit. Please see Table 3 for the inductor selection reference.

Table 3. Suggested Inductors for Typical
Application Circuit

Component Supplier	Series	Dimensions (mm)
Zenithtek	ZPWM	10 x 10 x 4
Zerintintek		6 x 6 x 3
WE	74477	10 x 10 x 4
TAIYOYUDEN	NR8040	8 x 10 x 4

CIN and COUT Selection

The input capacitance, C_{IN}, is needed to filter the trapezoidal current at the source of the high side MOSFET. To prevent large ripple current, a low ESR input capacitor sized for the maximum RMS current should be used. The approximate RMS current equation is given :

$$I_{RMS} = I_{OUT}(MAX) \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \sqrt{\frac{V_{IN}}{V_{OUT}} - 1}$$

This formula has a maximum at $V_{IN} = 2V_{OUT}$, where $I_{RMS} = I_{OUT} / 2$. This simple worst case condition is commonly used for design because even significant deviations do not offer much relief.

Choose a capacitor rated at a higher temperature than required. Several capacitors may also be paralleled to meet size or height requirements in the design.



Location	Component Supplier	Part No.	Capacitance (µF)	Case Size
C _{IN}	MURATA	GRM31CR61E106K	10	1206
C _{IN}	TDK	C3225X5R1E106K	10	1206
CIN	TAIYO YUDEN	TMK316BJ106ML	10	1206
C _{OUT}	MURATA	GRM31CR60J476M	47	1206
C _{OUT}	ТДК	C3225X5R0J476M	47	1210
C _{OUT}	MURATA	GRM32ER71C226M	22	1210
Соит	ТДК	C3225X5R1C22M	22	1210

Table 4. Suggested Capacitors for CIN and COUT

For the input capacitor, two 10µF low ESR ceramic capacitors are recommended. For the recommended capacitor, please refer to Table 4 for more details.

The selection of COUT is determined by the required ESR to minimize voltage ripple.

Moreover, the amount of bulk capacitance is also a key for C_{OUT} selection to ensure that the control loop is stable. Loop stability can be checked by viewing the load transient response as described in a later section.

The output ripple, ΔV_{OUT} , is determined by :

 $\Delta V_{OUT} \leq \Delta I_L \Bigg[ESR + \frac{1}{8 f C_{OUT}} \Bigg]$

The output ripple will be the highest at the maximum input voltage since ΔI_L increases with input voltage. Multiple capacitors placed in parallel may be needed to meet the ESR and RMS current handling requirement.

Higher values, lower cost ceramic capacitors are now becoming available in smaller case sizes. Their high ripple current, high voltage rating and low ESR make them ideal for switching regulator applications. When a ceramic capacitor is used at the input and the power is supplied by a wall adapter through long wires, a load step at the output can induce ringing at the input, V_{IN}. This ringing can couple to the output and be mistaken. A sudden inrush of current through the long wires can potentially cause a voltage spike at V_{IN} large enough to damage the part.

Checking Transient Response

The regulator loop response can be checked by looking at the load transient response. Switching regulators take several cycles to respond to a step load change. When a step load occurs, V_{OUT} immediately shifts by an amount equal to ΔI_{LOAD} x ESR also begins to charge or discharge COUT generating a feedback error signal for the regulator to return V_{OUT} to its steady-state value. During this recovery time, V_{OUT} can be monitored for overshoot or ringing that would indicate a stability problem.

Thermal Considerations

For continuous operation, do not exceed absolute maximum junction temperature. The maximum power dissipation depends on the thermal resistance of the IC package, PCB layout, rate of surrounding airflow, and difference between junction and ambient temperature. The maximum power dissipation can be calculated by the following formula :

$P_{D(MAX)} = \left(T_{J(MAX)} - T_A\right) / \theta_{JA}$

where $T_{J(MAX)}$ is the maximum junction temperature, T_A is the ambient temperature, and θ_{JA} is the junction to ambient thermal resistance.

For recommended operating condition specifications, the maximum junction temperature is 125°C. The junction to ambient thermal resistance, θ_{JA} , is layout dependent. For SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) package, the thermal resistance, $\theta_{JA},$ is 75°C/W on a standard JEDEC 51-7 four-layer thermal test board.

RT8298A



The maximum power dissipation at T_A = 25°C can be calculated by the following formulas :

 $P_{D(MAX)}$ = (125°C - 25°C) / (75°C/W) = 1.333W for SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) package

The maximum power dissipation depends on the operating ambient temperature for fixed $T_{J(MAX)}$ and thermal resistance, θ_{JA} . The derating curves in Figure 8 allow the designer to see the effect of rising ambient temperature on the maximum power dissipation.

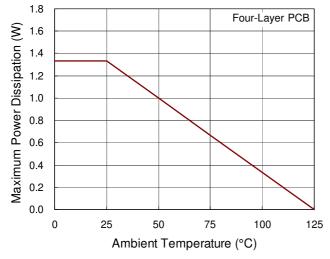


Figure 8. Derating Curve of Maximum Power Dissipation

Layout Consideration

Follow the PCB layout guidelines for optimal performance of the RT8298A.

- Keep the traces of the main current paths as short and wide as possible.
- Put the input capacitor as close as possible to the device pins (VIN and GND).
- SW node is with high frequency voltage swing and should be kept at small area. Keep analog components away from the SW node to prevent stray capacitive noise pick-up.
- Connect feedback network behind the output capacitors. Keep the loop area small. Place the feedback components near the RT8298A.
- Connect all analog grounds to a common node and then connect the common node to the power ground behind the output capacitors.
- An example of PCB layout guide is shown in Figure 9 and Figure 10 for reference.

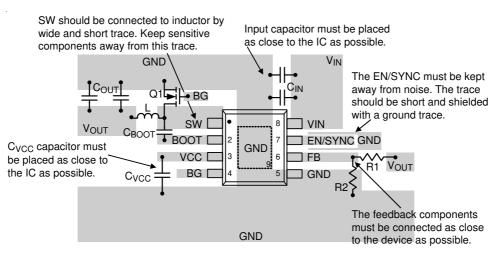
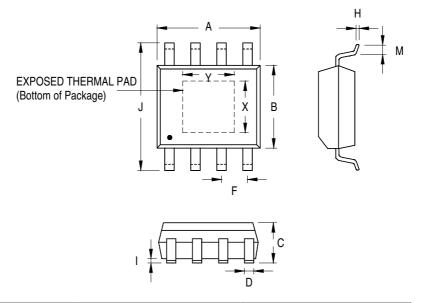


Figure 9. PCB Layout Guide



Outline Dimension



Symbol		Dimensions In Millimeters		Dimensions In Inches	
		Min	Max	Min	Мах
A		4.801	5.004	0.189	0.197
В		3.810	4.000	0.150	0.157
С		1.346	1.753	0.053	0.069
D		0.330	0.510	0.013	0.020
F		1.194	1.346	0.047	0.053
Н		0.170	0.254	0.007	0.010
I		0.000	0.152	0.000	0.006
J		5.791	6.200	0.228	0.244
М		0.406	1.270	0.016	0.050
Option 1	Х	2.000	2.300	0.079	0.091
	Y	2.000	2.300	0.079	0.091
Option 2	Х	2.100	2.500	0.083	0.098
	Y	3.000	3.500	0.118	0.138

8-Lead SOP (Exposed Pad) Plastic Package

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