



LT3743

## High Current Synchronous Step-Down LED Driver with Three-State Control

#### DESCRIPTION

Demonstration circuit 1470 is a High Current Synchronous Step-Down LED Driver with Three-State Control featuring the LT3743EUFD. The demo board is optimized for 20A output from a 12V input. Being an LED driver, the output current is being regulated until the output voltage reaches a programmed voltage limit. This voltage limit on this demo board is set to around 6V by R5 and R6. The 6V is chosen because of the 6.3V voltage rating of the output capacitors. The ideal load to be used with this demo board is a single LED, such as PT120 from Luminus Devices. Smaller LEDs may not be able to handle the high current, even for a short period of time. At 20A, the demo circuit can operate continuously. However, it is necessary to mount the LED load on a proper heat sink and possibly with a fan to avoid exceed its maximum temperate rating. Note: the demo board 1470 will drive a LED with its cathode grounded. Grounding cathode of the LED allows customers to use positive input supply.

The input voltage range of the LT3743 itself is 6V to 36V. However, the demo board utilizes 30V Mosfets to demonstrate best efficiency so the maximum recommended input voltage is 24V for the demo board. When input is above 20V during PWM dimming, a slightly larger inductance may be needed. The typical efficiency of the demo board is 94% from a 12V input to 5V, 20A load. The lower the input voltage, the higher the efficiency tends to be with a given load. At output power level of 100W, a couple of percent of efficiency improvement is a huge advantage in minimizing temperature rise. If an efficiency measurement is needed in an application, the output voltage must be measured at the output capacitors instead of at the LED load. This prevents cable loss from being counted as a loss of the board. If efficiency measurement is required during PWM dimming, the average current and voltage values should be measured with proper equipments. All LT3743 circuits turn off unnecessary circuits during PWM off period to minimize power

losses. As a result, efficiency in many PWM dimming applications is almost the same as efficiency of the constant current applications.

The demo circuit DC1470A uses a split output capacitor configuration to achieve <2us current rise time from 0A to 20A. To see the real rise time, connecting wires between the LED and the board should be minimized to no more than 2 inches total to minimize the wire inductance. 1 inch is even better. The cathode of the LED should return to LED- with R25 populated with a resistor in a few  $m\Omega$ . It is recommended to measure the voltage on R25 with a short  $50\Omega$  coax cable directly into a BNC connector on the oscilloscope. The current can then be calculated from the measured voltage. To get accurate current. R25 should be measured before it is mounted on the board. A current probe adds more delays to the rise time so using a current probe is not recommended. If fast rise time measurement is not necessary, the cathode of the LED can be connected to GND as shown in Figure 1.

R27 can be used to slow down the gate drive. Slower gate drive helps to reduce ringing on the SW node without noticeable effect on the efficiency. A  $10\Omega$  is usually more then enough to completely damp any ringing.

R15, R16 and C15 help filtering out voltage spikes seen on the SENSE+ or SENSE- pin. It is critical to have those components on a board.

LT3743 has a three-state control. It can change output current among zero, a low level and a high level, all in a few us. The low current level of the demo board is set to around 5A. The high current level is 20A. Both levels can be adjusted by changing the voltage dividers on CTRL\_H and CTRL\_L. Applying a PWM signal to CTRL\_SEL will toggle the output between 5A to 20A. While applying a PWM signal to the PWM pin will toggle the output between either 0 to 5A or 0 to 20A depending on the CTRL SEL level.



The LT3743 datasheet gives a complete description of the part, operation and application information. The datasheet must be read in conjunction with this quick start guide for demo circuit 1470A.

# Design files for this circuit board are available. Call the LTC factory.

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### **PERFORMANCE SUMMARY** Specifications are at TA = 25°C

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
PV <sub>IN*</sub>	Input Supply Range. PV <sub>IN</sub> =V <sub>IN</sub>	L1 is Optimized for 12V.		12	26.4	V
V <sub>OUT</sub> *	Output Voltage	With ONE PT120 LED. 6V is the over voltage limit.		4.5	6	V
I <sub>OUT</sub>	Output Current	CTRL_SEL>1V	18.8	20	21.2	A
	Switching Frequency		400	430	460	kHz
I <sub>RISE</sub>	Current Rise Time	Following a PWM rising edge		2		us
EFF	Efficiency at DC	V <sub>IN</sub> = 12V, V <sub>OUT</sub> =5V, I <sub>OUT</sub> =20A		94		%

<sup>\*:</sup>  $PV_{IN}$  and  $V_{IN}$  of the demo circuit are limited to 24V typical by the selection of Mosfets. The LT3743 input range is 6V to 36V. VOUT maximum of the demo circuit is limited to 6V due to the selection of the output capacitors.

### **QUICK START PROCEDURE**

Demonstration circuit 1470A is easy to set up to evaluate the performance of the LT3743. Refer to Figure 1 for proper measurement equipment setup and follow the procedure below:

- With power off, connect the input power supply to PV<sub>IN</sub> and GND. The input power supply should have a current limit of 10A or more.
- With power off, connect a LED between VOUT and GND or between VOUT and LED- if fast rise time is to be verified. When returning LED to LED-, R25 needs to be populated. To check voltage across R25, the best set up is to solder a short 50Ω coax cable across R25. Connect the other end of the cable directly into a BNC connector on an oscilloscope. A less perfect but easier set up is to touch the probe tip directly across the IS+ and IS- terminals with out the probe ground wire. See Figure 2 for setup. The latter set up tends to have more noise but is ok for non-critical measurements. The LED connecting wires should be as short as possible, 1 inch total being ideal.
- 3. Turn on the power at the input.

- **4.** At this time, the output current will be slightly below 5A. If no output current is observed, turn off  $PV_{IN}$  and check the connections.
- **5.** To increase the load current to 20A, turn off PV<sub>IN</sub>. Pull CTRL\_SEL high either by populating R21 or by using an external voltage source. Make sure the load can handle 20A continuously and the load voltage is not too high for the board. Then turn on PV<sub>IN</sub>.
- **6.** Both the low current level, 5A and the high current level 20A can be adjusted by changing the voltage on CTRL\_L and CTRL\_H terminals between 0V and 2V.
- 7. To evaluate the transient between 0A and a non-zero current level, apply a PWM signal to the PWM terminal. The non-zero current level is dictated by the CTRL\_SEL and CTRL\_H or CTRL\_L voltages.
- To evaluate the transient between two non-zero current levels, apply a PWM signal to the CTRL\_SEL terminal.
- **9.** To modify the demo board for other applications, please contact Linear Applications Group for help.



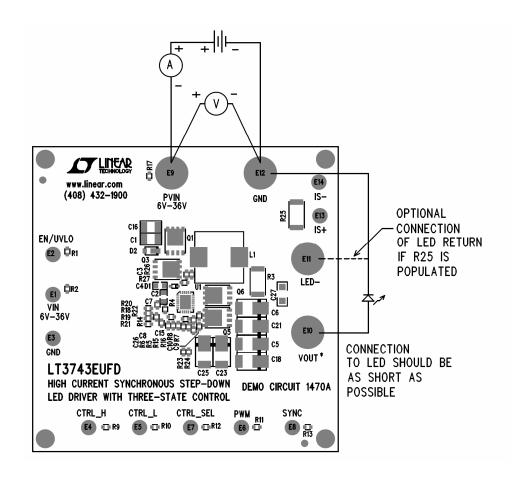


Figure 1. Proper Measurement Equipment Setup

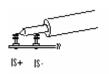


Figure 2. Measuring Voltage Across R25



