

LM3489

Hysteretic PFET Buck Controller with Enable Pin

General Description

The LM3489 is a high efficiency PFET switching regulator controller that can be used to quickly and easily develop a small, cost effective, switching buck regulator for a wide range of applications. The hysteretic control architecture provides for simple design without any control loop stability concerns using a wide variety of external components. The PFET architecture also allows for low component count as well as ultra-low dropout, 100% duty cycle operation. Another benefit is high efficiency operation at light loads without an increase in output ripple. A dedicated Enable Pin provides a shutdown mode drawing only 7 μ A. Leaving the Enable Pin unconnected defaults to on.

Current limit protection can be implemented by measuring the voltage across the PFET's $R_{DS(ON)}$, thus eliminating the need for a sense resistor. A sense resistor may be used to improve current limit accuracy if desired. The cycle-by-cycle current limit can be adjusted with a single resistor, ensuring safe operation over a range of output currents.

Features

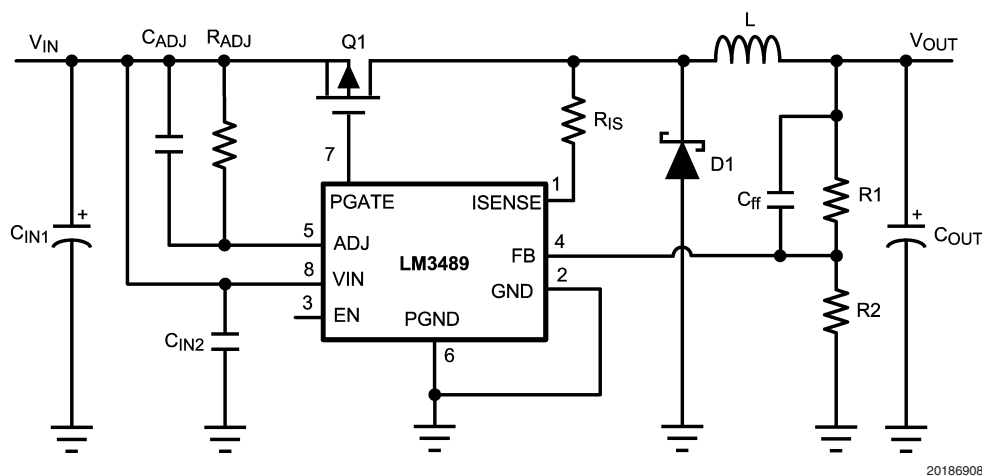
- Easy to use control methodology
- No control loop compensation required

- Wide 4.5V to 35V input range
- 1.239V to V_{IN} adjustable output range
- High efficiency 93%
- $\pm 1.3\%$ ($\pm 2\%$ over temp) internal reference
- 100% duty cycle operation
- Maximum operation frequency > 1MHz
- Current limit protection
- Dedicated enable pin (on if unconnected)
- Shutdown mode draws only 7 μ A supply current
- MSOP-8

Applications

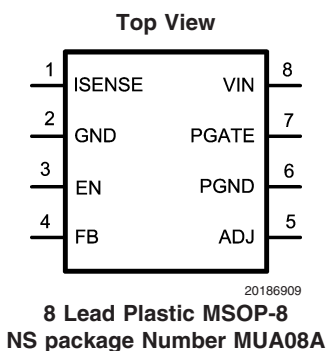
- Set-Top Box
- DSL/Cable Modem
- PC/IA
- Auto PC
- TFT Monitor
- Battery Powered Portable Applications
- Distributed Power Systems
- Always On Power
- High Power LED Driver

Typical Application Circuit



20186908

Connection Diagram



Package Marking and Ordering Information

Order Number	Package Type	Package Marking	Supplied As:
LM3489MM	MSOP-8	SKSB	1000 units on Tape and Reel
LM3489MMX	MSOP-8	SKSB	3500 units on Tape and Reel

Pin Descriptions

Pin #	Name	Description
1	ISENSE	The current sense input pin. This pin should be connected to the PFET drain terminal directly or through a series resistor up to 600 ohm for $28V > V_{in} > 35V$.
2	GND	Signal ground.
3	EN	Enable pin. Connect EN pin to ground to shutdown the part or float to enable operation (Internally pulled high). This pin can also be used to perform UVLO function.
4	FB	The feedback input. Connect the FB to a resistor voltage divider between the output and GND for an adjustable output voltage.
5	ADJ	Current limit threshold adjustment. Connected to an internal 5.5μA current source. A resistor is connected between this pin and VIN. The voltage across this resistor is compared with the ISENSE pin voltage to determine if an over-current condition has occurred.
6	PGND	Power ground.
7	PGATE	Gate Drive output for the external PFET. PGATE swings between VIN and VIN-5V.
8	VIN	Power supply input pin.

Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, please contact the National Semiconductor Sales Office/Distributors for availability and specifications.

VIN Voltage	–0.3V to 36V
PGATE Voltage	–0.3V to 36V
FB Voltage	–0.3V to 5V
ISENSE Voltage	–1.0V to 36V
	–1V (<100ns)
ADJ Voltage	–0.3V to 36V
EN Voltage (Note 3)	–0.3V to 6V
Maximum Junction Temp.	150°C
Power Dissipation, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ (Note 2)	417mW

ESD Susceptibility (Note 4)

Human Body Model	2kV
Lead Temperature	
Vapor Phase (60 sec.)	215°C
Infrared (15 sec.)	220°C
Storage Temperature	–65°C to 150°C

Operating Ratings (Note 1)

Supply Voltage Range (V_{IN})	4.5V to 35V
EN Voltage (max.) (Note 3)	5.5V
Operating Junction Temperature (T_J)	–40°C to +125°C

Electrical Characteristics (Note 5), (Note 6) Specifications in Standard type face are for $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$, and in **bold type face** apply over the full **Operating Temperature Range** ($T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to $+125^\circ\text{C}$). Unless otherwise specified, $V_{IN} = 12\text{V}$, $V_{ISNS} = V_{IN} - 1\text{V}$, and $V_{ADJ} = V_{IN} - 1.1\text{V}$. Datasheet min/max specification limits are guaranteed by design, test, or statistical analysis.

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Units
I_{SHDN}	Shutdown input supply current	EN = 0V		7	15	μA
V_{EN}	Enable threshold voltage	Enable rising	1.15	1.5	1.85	V
V_{EN_HYST}	Enable threshold hysteresis			130		mV
I_Q	Quiescent Current at ground pin	FB = 1.5V (Not Switching)		280	400	μA
V_{FB} (Note 7)	Feedback Voltage		1.223 1.214	1.239	1.255 1.264	V
V_{HYST}	Comparator Hysteresis			10 14	15 20	mV
V_{CL_OFFSET}	Current limit comparator offset	$V_{FB} = 1.0\text{V}$	-20	0	+20	mV
I_{CL_ADJ}	Current limit ADJ current source	$V_{FB} = 1.5\text{V}$	3.0	5.5	7.0	μA
T_{CL}	Current limit one shot off time	$V_{ADJ} = 11.5\text{V}$ $V_{ISNS} = 11.0\text{V}$ $V_{FB} = 1.0\text{V}$	6	9	14	μs
R_{PGATE}	Driver resistance	Source $I_{SOURCE} = 100\text{mA}$		5.5		Ω
		Sink $I_{SINK} = 100\text{mA}$		8.5		
I_{PGATE}	Driver Output current	Source $V_{IN} = 7\text{V}$, PGATE = 3.5V		0.44		A
		Sink $V_{IN} = 7\text{V}$, PGATE = 3.5V		0.1		
I_{FB} (Note 9)	FB pin Bias Current	$V_{FB} = 1.0\text{V}$		300	750	nA
T_{ONMIN_NOR}	Minimum on time in normal operation	$V_{ISNS} = V_{ADJ} + 0.1\text{V}$ Load on OUT = 1000pF (Note 10)		100		ns
T_{ONMIN_CL}	Minimum on time in current limit	$V_{ISNS} = V_{ADJ} - 0.1\text{V}$ $V_{FB} = 1.0\text{V}$ Load on OUT = 1000pF (Note 10)		200		ns
$\%V_{FB}/\Delta V_{IN}$	Feedback Voltage Line Regulation	$4.5 \leq V_{IN} \leq 35\text{V}$		0.01		%/V

Electrical Characteristics (Note 5), (Note 6) Specifications in Standard type face are for $T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$, and in **bold type face** apply over the full **Operating Temperature Range** ($T_J = -40^\circ\text{C}$ to $+125^\circ\text{C}$). Unless otherwise specified, $V_{IN} = 12\text{V}$, $V_{ISNS} = V_{IN} - 1\text{V}$, and $V_{ADJ} = V_{IN} - 1.1\text{V}$. Datasheet min/max specification limits are guaranteed by design, test, or statistical analysis. (Continued)

Note 1: Absolute maximum ratings are limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Ratings are conditions for which the device is intended to be functional, but device parameter specifications may not be guaranteed. For guaranteed specifications and test conditions, see the Electrical Characteristics.

Note 2: The maximum allowable power dissipation is a function of the maximum junction temperature, T_{J_MAX} , the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance, $\theta_{JA} = 240^\circ\text{C/W}$, and the ambient temperature, T_A . The maximum allowable power dissipation at any ambient temperature is calculated using:

$P_{D_MAX} = (T_{J_MAX} - T_A)/\theta_{JA}$. Exceeding the maximum allowable power dissipation will cause excessive die temperature.

Note 3: This pin is internally pulled high and clamped at 8V typical. The absolute maximum and operating maximum rating specifies the input level allowed for an external voltage source applied to this pin without triggering the internal clamp with margin.

Note 4: The human body model is a 100 pF capacitor discharged through a 1.5k Ω resistor into each pin. The machine model is a 200pF capacitor discharged directly into each pin. MIL-STD-883 3015.7

Note 5: All limits are guaranteed at room temperature (standard type face) and at **temperature extremes (bold type face)**. All room temperature limits are 100% tested. All limits at **temperature extremes** are guaranteed via correlation using standard Statistical Quality Control (SQC) methods. All limits are used to calculate Average Outgoing Quality Level (AOQL).

Note 6: Typical numbers are at 25°C and represent the most likely norm.

Note 7: The V_{FB} is the trip voltage at the FB pin when PGATE switches from high to low.

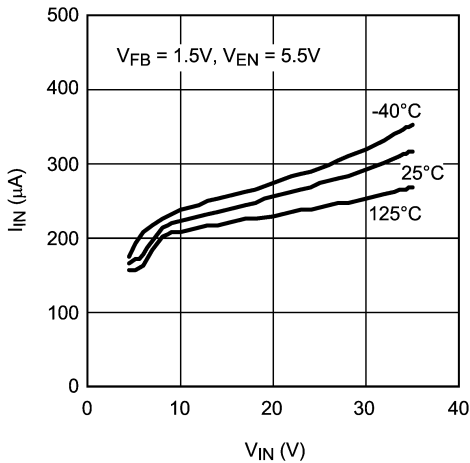
Note 8: $V_{CL} = I_{CL_ADJ} * R_{ADJ}$

Note 9: Bias current flows out from the FB pin.

Note 10: A 1000pF capacitor is connected between V_{IN} and PGATE.

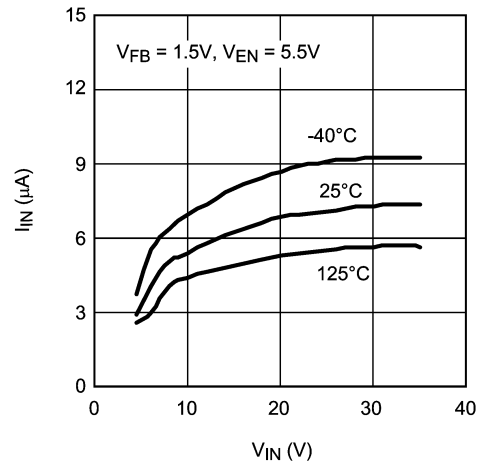
Typical Performance Characteristics All curves taken at $V_{IN} = 12V$ with configuration in typical application circuit shown in Application Information section of this datasheet. $T_J = 25^\circ C$, unless otherwise specified.

Quiescent Current vs Input Voltage



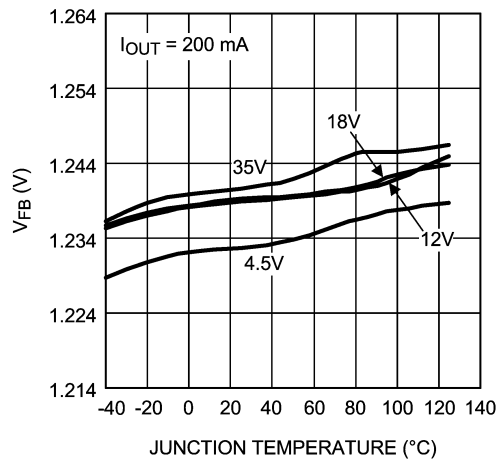
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Shutdown Current vs Input Voltage



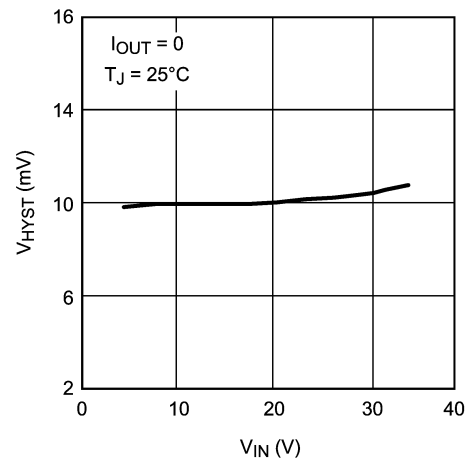
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Feedback Voltage vs Temperature



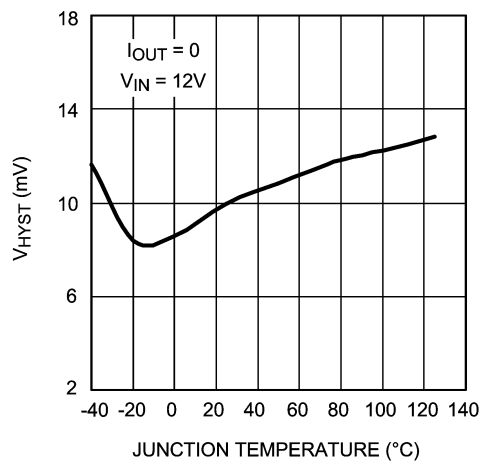
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Feedback Voltage Hysteresis vs Input Voltage



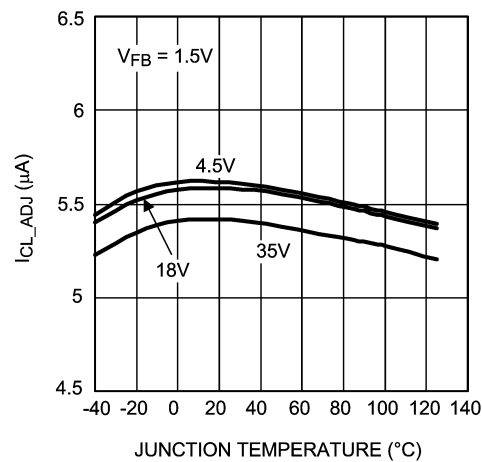
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Feedback Voltage Hysteresis vs Temperature



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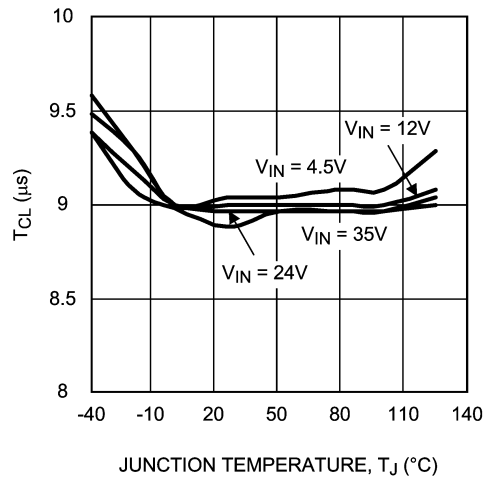
Current Limit ADJ Current vs Temperature



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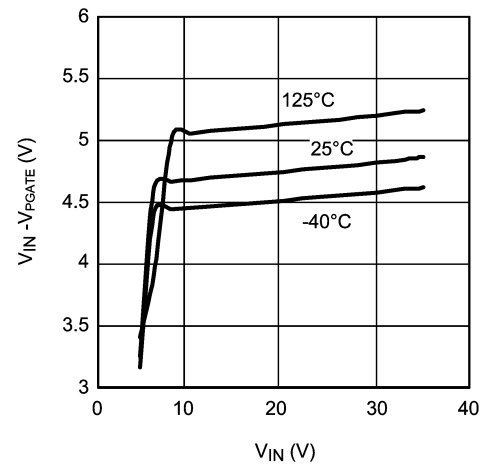
Typical Performance Characteristics All curves taken at $V_{IN} = 12V$ with configuration in typical application circuit shown in Application Information section of this datasheet. $T_J = 25^\circ C$, unless otherwise specified. (Continued)

Current Limit One Shot OFF Time vs. Temperature



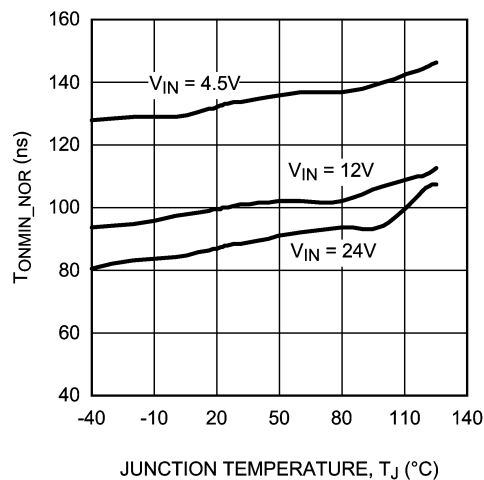
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$V_{IN} - V_{PGATE}$ vs V_{IN}



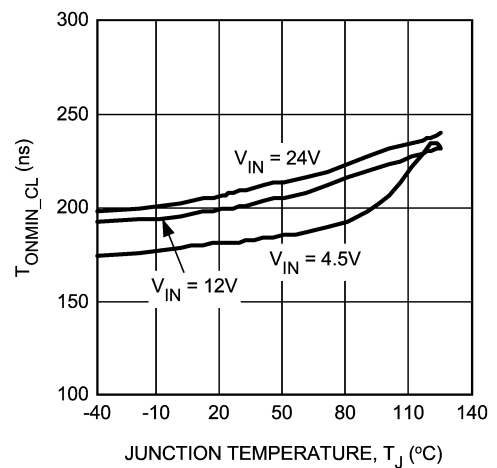
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Minimum ON Time vs Temperature (Normal Operation)



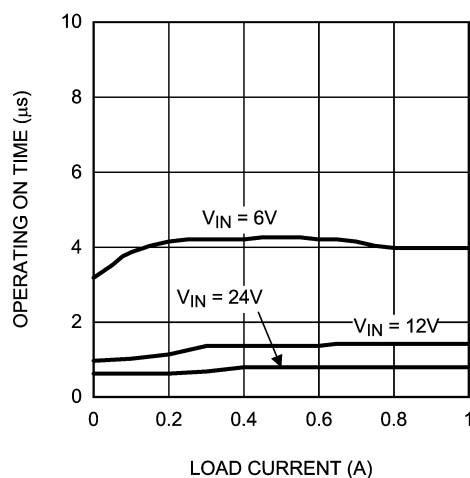
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Minimum ON Time vs Temperature (Current Limit)



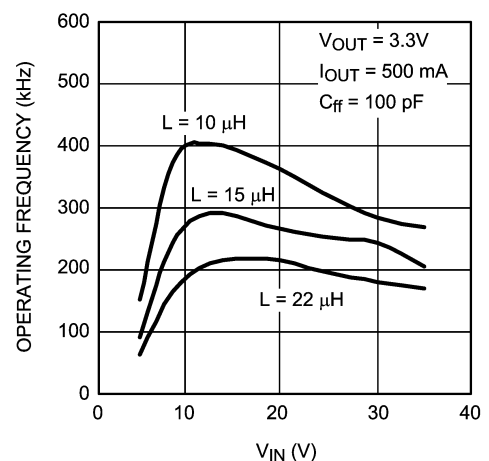
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Operating ON Time vs Load Current



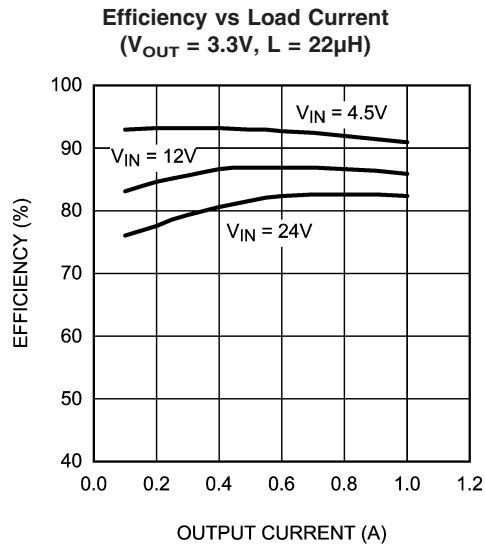
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Operating Frequency vs Input Voltage

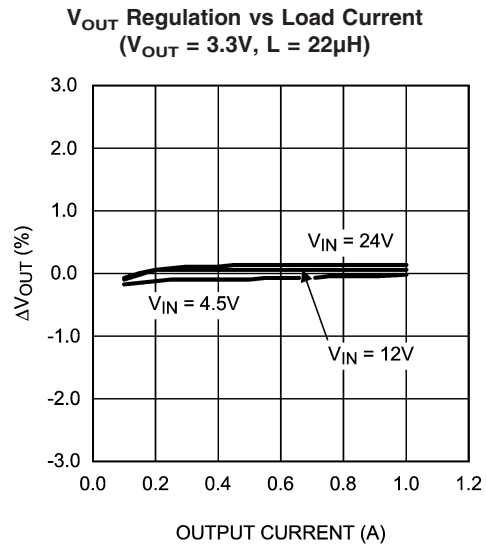


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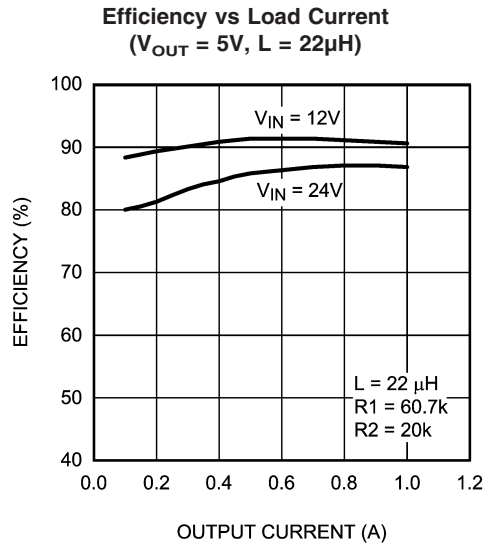
Typical Performance Characteristics All curves taken at $V_{IN} = 12V$ with configuration in typical application circuit shown in Application Information section of this datasheet. $T_J = 25^\circ C$, unless otherwise specified. (Continued)



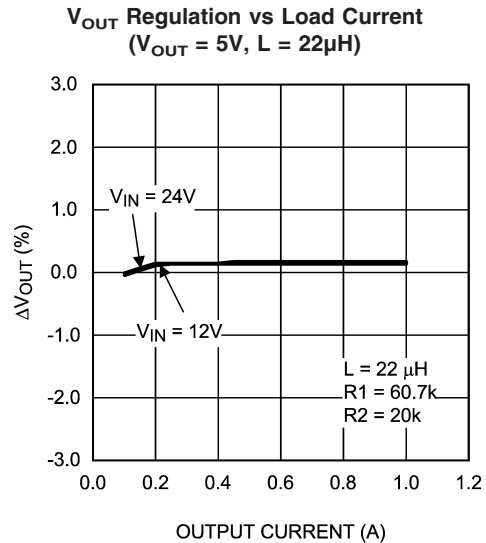
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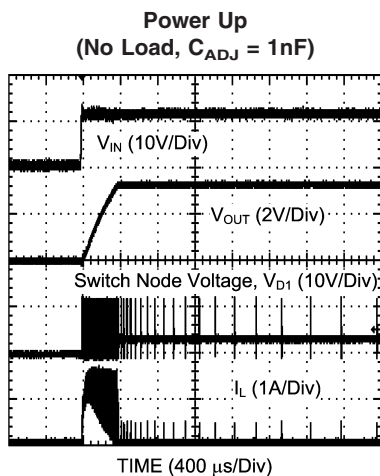
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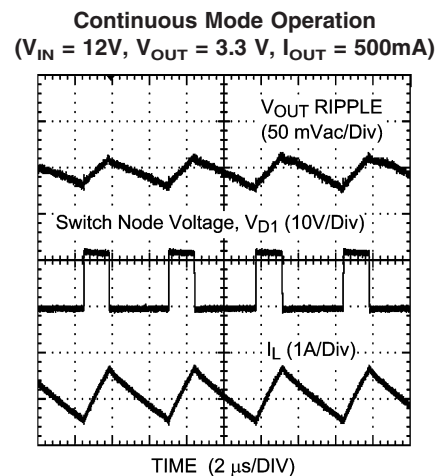
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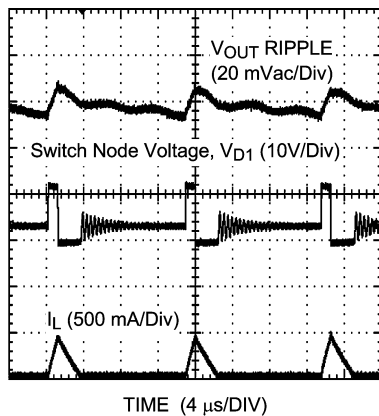
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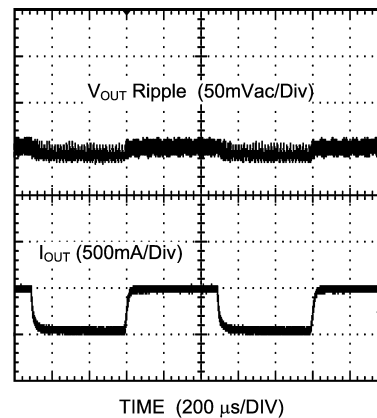
Typical Performance Characteristics All curves taken at $V_{IN} = 12V$ with configuration in typical application circuit shown in Application Information section of this datasheet. $T_J = 25^\circ C$, unless otherwise specified. (Continued)

Discontinuous Mode Operation
($V_{IN} = 12V$, $V_{OUT} = 3.3V$, $I_{OUT} = 50mA$)



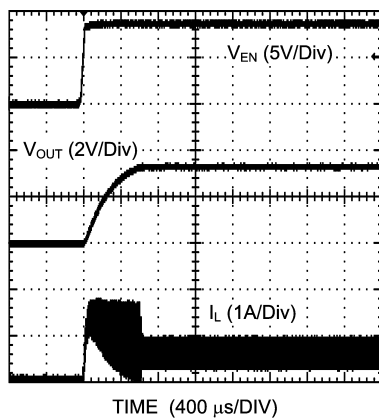
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Load Transient
($V_{OUT} = 3.3V$, 50 mA - 500 mA Load)



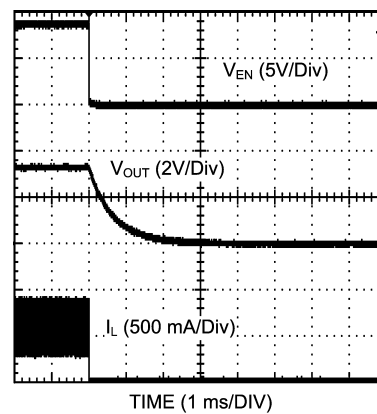
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Enable Transient
($V_{OUT} = 3.3V$, 500 mA Loaded)



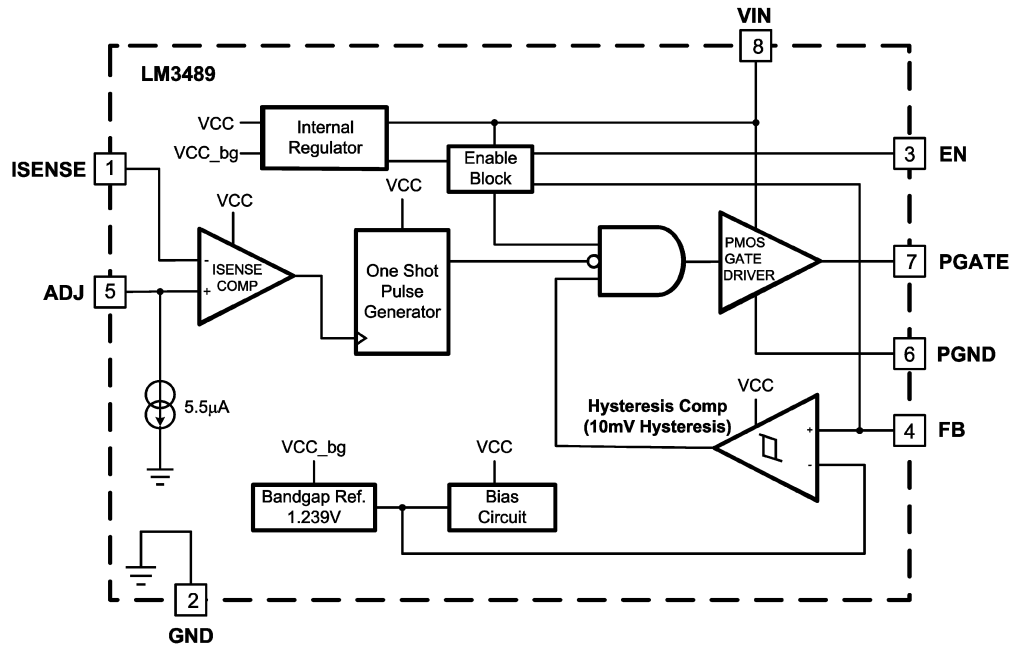
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Shutdown Transient
($V_{OUT} = 3.3V$, 500 mA Loaded)



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Simplified Functional Block Diagram



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Functional Description

OVERVIEW

The LM3489 is a buck (step-down) DC-DC controller that uses a hysteretic control scheme. The control comparator is designed with approximately 10mV of hysteresis. In response to the voltage at the FB pin, the gate drive (PGATE pin) turns the external PFET on or off. When the inductor current is too high, the current limit protection circuit engages and turns the PFET off for approximately 9µs.

Hysteretic control does not require an internal oscillator. Switching frequency depends on the external components and operating conditions. The operating frequency reduces at light loads resulting in excellent efficiency compared to other architectures.

The output voltage can be programmed by two external resistors. The output can be set in a wide range from 1.239V (typical) to V_{IN} .

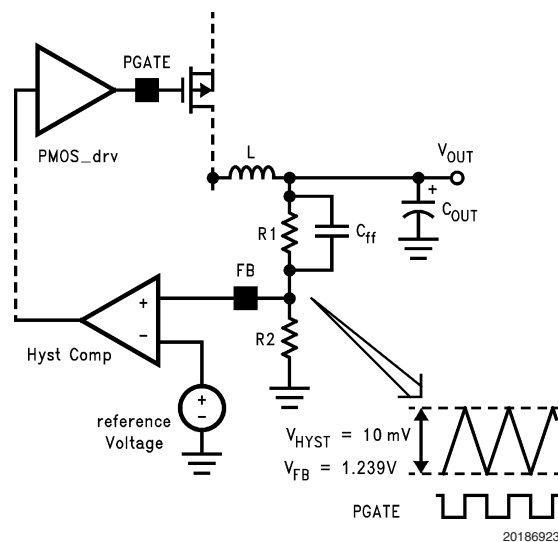
HYSTERETIC CONTROL CIRCUIT

When the FB input to the control comparator falls below the reference voltage (1.239V), the output of the comparator switches to a low state. This results in the driver output, PGATE, pulling the gate of the PFET low and turning on the PFET. With the PFET on, the input supply charges C_{OUT} and supplies current to the load via the series path through the PFET and the inductor. Current through the inductor ramps up linearly and the output voltage increases. As the FB voltage reaches the upper threshold, which is the internal reference voltage plus 10mV, the output of the comparator changes from low to high, and the PGATE responds by turning the PFET off. As the PFET turns off, the inductor voltage reverses, the catch diode turns on, and the current through the inductor ramps down. Then, as the output voltage reaches the internal reference voltage again, the next cycle starts.

The LM3489 operates in discontinuous conduction mode at light load current or continuous conduction mode at heavy load current. In discontinuous conduction mode, current through the inductor starts at zero and ramps up to the peak, then ramps down to zero. The next cycle starts when the FB voltage reaches the reference voltage. Until then, the inductor current remains zero and the output capacitor supplies the load. The operating frequency is lower and switching losses reduced. In continuous conduction mode, current always flows through the inductor and never ramps down to zero.

The output voltage (V_{OUT}) can be programmed by 2 external resistors. It can be calculated as follows:

$$V_{OUT} = 1.239 \times (R1 + R2) / R2$$



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FIGURE 1. Hysteretic Window

Functional Description (Continued)

The minimum output voltage ripple (V_{OUT_PP}) can be calculated in the same way.

$$V_{OUT_PP} = V_{HYST} (R1 + R2) / R2$$

For example, with V_{OUT} set to 3.3V, V_{OUT_PP} is 26.6mV

$$V_{OUT_PP} = 0.01 \times (33K + 20k) / 20k = 0.0266V$$

Operating frequency (F) is determined by knowing the input voltage, output voltage, inductor, V_{HYST} , ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) of output capacitor, and the delay. It can be approximately calculated using the formula:

$$F = \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} * \frac{(V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) * ESR}{(V_{HYST} * \alpha * L) + (V_{IN} * \text{delay} * ESR)}$$

where:

$$\alpha: (R1 + R2) / R2$$

delay: It includes the LM3489 propagation delay time and the PFET delay time. The propagation delay is 90ns typically. (See the Propagation Delay curve below.)

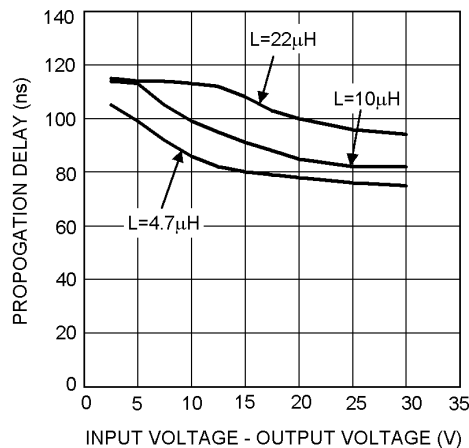


FIGURE 2. Propagation Delay

The operating frequency and output ripple voltage can also be significantly influenced by the speed up capacitor (Cff). Cff is connected in parallel with the high side feedback resistor, R1. The location of this capacitor is similar to where a phase lead capacitor would be located in a PWM control scheme. However its effect on hysteretic operation is much different. Cff effectively shorts out R1 at the switching frequency and applies the full output ripple to the FB pin without dividing by the R2/R1 ratio. The end result is a reduction in output ripple and an increase in operating frequency. When adding Cff, calculate the formula above with $\alpha = 1$. The value of Cff depend on the desired operating frequency and the value of R2. A good starting point is 470pF ceramic at 100kHz decreasing linearly with increased operating frequency. Also note that as the output voltage is programmed below 2.5V, the effect of Cff will decrease significantly.

CURRENT LIMIT OPERATION

The LM3489 has a cycle-by-cycle current limit. Current limit is sensed across the V_{DS} of the PFET or across an additional sense resistor. When current limit is activated, the

LM3489 turns off the external PFET for a period of 9μs (typical). The current limit is adjusted by an external resistor, R_{ADJ} .

The current limit circuit is composed of the ISENSE comparator and the one-shot pulse generator. The positive input of the ISENSE comparator is the ADJ pin. An internal 5.5μA current sink creates a voltage across the external R_{ADJ} resistor. This voltage is compared to the voltage across the PFET or sense resistor. The ADJ voltage can be calculated as follows:

$$V_{ADJ} = V_{IN} - (R_{ADJ} \times 3.0\mu A)$$

Where 3.0μA is the minimum I_{CL-ADJ} value.

The negative input of the ISENSE comparator is the ISENSE pin that should be connected to the drain of the external PFET. The inductor current is determined by sensing the V_{DS} . It can be calculated as follows.

$$V_{ISENSE} = V_{IN} - (R_{DS(on)} \times I_{IND_PEAK}) = V_{IN} - V_{DS}$$

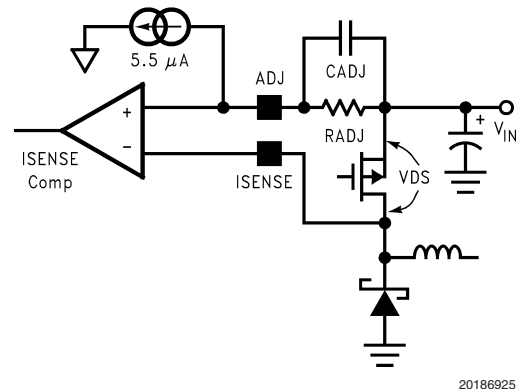


FIGURE 3. Current Sensing by V_{DS}

The current limit is activated when the voltage at the ADJ pin exceeds the voltage at the ISENSE pin. The ISENSE comparator triggers the 9μs one shot pulse generator forcing the driver to turn the PFET off. The driver turns the PFET back on after 9μs. If the current has not reduced below the set threshold, the cycle will repeat continuously.

A filter capacitor, C_{ADJ} , should be placed as shown in Figure 3. C_{ADJ} filters unwanted noise so that the ISENSE comparator will not be accidentally triggered. A value of 100pF to 1nF is recommended in most applications. Higher values can be used to create a soft-start function (See Start Up section).

The current limit comparator has approximately 100ns of blanking time. This ensures that the PFET is fully on when the current is sensed. However, under extreme conditions such as cold temperature, some PFETs may not fully turn on within the blanking time. In this case, the current limit threshold must be increased. If the current limit function is used, the on time must be greater than 100ns. Under low duty cycle operation, the maximum operating frequency will be limited by this minimum on time.

During current limit operation, the output voltage will drop significantly as will operating frequency. As the load current is reduced, the output will return to the programmed voltage. However, there is a current limit fold back phenomenon inherent in this current limit architecture. See Figure 4.

Functional Description (Continued)

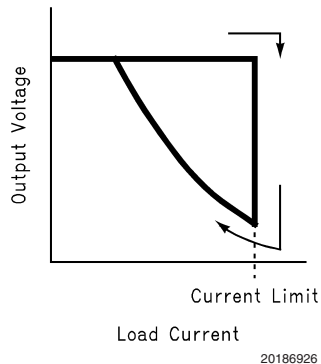


FIGURE 4. Current Limit Fold Back Phenomenon

At high input voltages ($>28\text{V}$) increased undershoot at the switch node can cause an increase in the current limit threshold. To avoid this problem, a low V_f Schottky catch diode must be used (See Catch Diode Selection). Additionally, a resistor can be placed between the ISENSE pin and the switch node. Any value in the range of 220Ω to 600Ω is recommended.

START UP

The current limit circuit is active during start-up. During start-up the PFET will stay on until either the current limit or the feedback comparator is tripped.

If the current limit comparator is tripped first then the fold back characteristic should be taken into account. Start-up into full load may require a higher current limit set point or the load must be applied after start-up.

One problem with selecting a higher current limit is inrush current during start-up. Increasing the capacitance (C_{ADJ}) in parallel with R_{ADJ} results in a soft-start characteristic. C_{ADJ} and R_{ADJ} create an RC time constant forcing current limit to activate at a lower current. The output voltage will ramp more slowly when using this technique. There is example start-up plot for C_{ADJ} equal to 1nF in the Typical Performance Characteristics. Lower values for C_{ADJ} will have little to no effect on soft-start.

EXTERNAL SENSE RESISTOR

The V_{DS} of a PFET will tend to vary significantly over temperature. This will result in an equivalent variation in current limit. To improve current limit accuracy an external sense resistor can be connected from V_{IN} to the source of the PFET, as shown in Figure 5. The current sense resistor, R_{CS} should have value comparable with $R_{DS(on)}$ of the PFET used, typically in the range of $50\text{m}\Omega$ to $200\text{m}\Omega$. The equation in the Current Limit Operation section can be used by replacing the $R_{DS(on)}$ with R_{CS} .

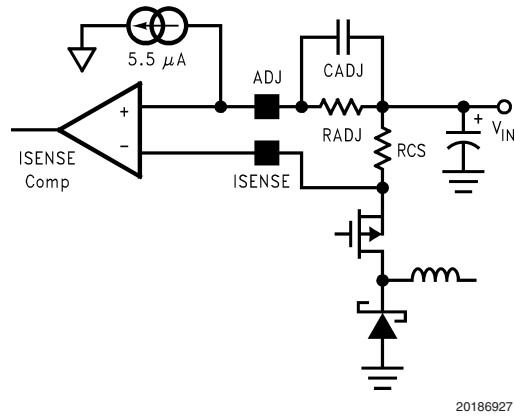


FIGURE 5. Current Sensing by External Resistor

PGATE

When switching, the PGATE pin swings from V_{IN} (off) to some voltage below V_{IN} (on). How far the PGATE will swing depends on several factors including the capacitance, on time, and input voltage.

PGATE voltage swing will increase with decreasing gate capacitance. Although PGATE voltage will typically be around $V_{IN}-5\text{V}$, with very small gate capacitances, this value can increase to a typical maximum of $V_{IN}-8.3\text{V}$.

Additionally, PGATE swing voltage will increase as on time increases. During long on times, such as when operating at 100% duty cycle, the PGATE voltage will eventually fall to its maximum voltage of $V_{IN}-8.3\text{V}$ (typical) regardless of the PFET gate capacitance.

The PGATE voltage will not fall below 0.4V (typical). Therefore, when the input voltage falls below approximately 9V , the PGATE swing voltage range will be reduced. At an input voltage of 7V , for instance, PGATE will swing from 7V to a minimum of 0.4V .

DEVICE ENABLE, SHUTDOWN

The LM3489 can be remotely shutdown by forcing the enable pin to ground. With EN pin grounded, the internal blocks other than the enable logic are de-activated and the shutdown current of the device will be lowered to only $7\mu\text{A}$ (typical). Releasing the EN pin allows for normal operation to resume. The EN pin is internally pulled high with the voltage clamped at 8V typical. For normal operation this pin should be left open. In case an external voltage source is applied to this pin for enable control, the applied voltage should not exceed the maximum operating voltage level specified in this datasheet, i.e. 5.5V .

ADJUSTABLE UVLO

The under-voltage-lockout function can be implemented as shown in Figure 6. By incorporating the feature of the internal enable threshold, the lockout level can be programmed through an external potential divider formed with R_3 and R_4 . The input voltage information is detected and compared with the enable threshold and the device operation will be inhibited when V_{IN} drops below the preset UVLO level. The UVLO and hysteresis voltage can be calculated as follows:

Functional Description (Continued)

$$V_{IN(UVLO)} = V_{EN} \left(1 + \frac{R4}{R3} \right)$$

$$V_{IN(UVLO_HYST)} = V_{EN_HYST} \times \left(1 + \frac{R4}{R3} \right)$$

where V_{EN} is the enable rising threshold voltage and V_{EN_HYST} is the enable threshold hysteresis.

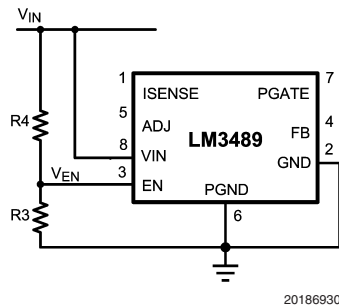


FIGURE 6. Adjustable UVLO

Design Information

Hysteretic control is a simple control scheme. However the operating frequency and other performance characteristics highly depend on external conditions and components. If either the inductance, output capacitance, ESR, V_{IN} , or C_{ff} is changed, there will be a change in the operating frequency and output ripple. The best approach is to determine what operating frequency is desirable in the application and then begin with the selection of the inductor and C_{OUT} ESR.

INDUCTOR SELECTION (L)

The important parameters for the inductor are the inductance and the current rating. The LM3489 operates over a wide frequency range and can use a wide range of inductance values. A rule of thumb is to use the equations used for National's **Simple Switchers**®. The equation for inductor ripple (Δi) as a function of output current (I_{OUT}) is:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{for } I_{OUT} < 2.0\text{Amps} \\ &\Delta i \leq I_{OUT} \times I_{OUT}^{-0.366726} \\ &\text{for } I_{OUT} > 2.0\text{Amps} \\ &\Delta i \leq I_{OUT} \times 0.3 \end{aligned}$$

The inductance can be calculated based upon the desired operating frequency where:

$$L = \frac{V_{IN} - V_{DS} - V_{OUT}}{\Delta i} \times \frac{D}{F}$$

And

$$I_{pk} = \left(I_{OUT} + \frac{\Delta i}{2} \right) \times 1.1$$

where D is the duty cycle, V_D is the diode forward voltage, and V_{DS} is the voltage drop across the PFET.

The inductor should be rated to the following:

$$I_{pk} = \left(I_{OUT} + \frac{\Delta i}{2} \right) \times 1.1$$

The inductance value and the resulting ripple is one of the key parameters controlling operating frequency. The second is the inductor ESR that contribute to the steady state power loss due to current flowing through the inductor.

OUTPUT CAPACITOR SELECTION (C_{OUT})

The ESR of the output capacitor times the inductor ripple current is equal to the output ripple of the regulator. However, the V_{HYST} sets the first order value of this ripple. As ESR is increased with a given inductance, operating frequency increases as well. If ESR is reduced then the operating frequency reduces.

The use of ceramic capacitors has become a common desire of many power supply designers. However, ceramic capacitors have a very low ESR resulting in a 90° phase shift of the output voltage ripple. This results in low operating frequency and increased output ripple. To fix this problem a low value resistor should be added in series with the ceramic output capacitor. Although counter intuitive, this combination of a ceramic capacitor and external series resistance provides highly accurate control over the output voltage ripple. Other types capacitor, such as Sanyo POS CAP and OS-CON, Panasonic SP CAP, and Nichicon "NA" series, are also recommended and may be used without additional series resistance.

For all practical purposes, any type of output capacitor may be used with proper circuit verification.

Design Information (Continued)

INPUT CAPACITOR SELECTION (C_{IN})

A bypass capacitor is required between the input source and ground. It must be located near the source pin of the external PFET. The input capacitor prevents large voltage transients at the input and provides the instantaneous current when the PFET turns on.

The important parameters for the input capacitor are the voltage rating and the RMS current rating. Follow the manufacturer's recommended voltage derating. For high input voltage applications, low ESR electrolytic, Nichicon "UD" series or the Panasonic "FK" series are available. The RMS current in the input capacitor can be calculated as follows:

$$I_{RMS_CIN} = I_{OUT} \times \frac{\sqrt{V_{OUT}(V_{IN} - V_{OUT})}}{V_{IN}}$$

The input capacitor power dissipation can be calculated as follows.

$$P_{D(CIN)} = I_{RMS_CIN}^2 \times ESR_{CIN}$$

The input capacitor must be able to handle the RMS current and the dissipation. Several input capacitors may be connected in parallel to handle large RMS currents. In some cases it may be much cheaper to use multiple electrolytic capacitors than a single low ESR, high performance capacitor such as OS-CON or Tantalum. The capacitance value should be selected such that the ripple voltage created by the switch current pulses is less than 10% of the total DC voltage across the capacitor.

For high VIN conditions (> 28V), the fast switching, high swing of the internal gate drive introduces unwanted disturbance to the VIN rail and the current limit function can be affected. In order to eliminate this potential problem, a high quality ceramic capacitor of 0.1 µF is recommended to filter out the internal disturbance at the VIN pin. This capacitor should be placed right next to the VIN pin for best performance.

PROGRAMMING THE CURRENT LIMIT (R_{ADJ})

The current limit is determined by connecting a resistor (R_{ADJ}) between input voltage and the ADJ pin, pin 5.

$$R_{ADJ} = I_{IND_PEAK} \times \frac{R_{DS(on)}}{I_{CL_ADJ}}$$

where:

R_{DS(on)} : Drain-Source ON resistance of the external PFET

I_{CL_ADJ} : 3.0µA minimum

I_{IND_PEAK} = I_{LOAD} + I_{RIPPLE}/2

Using the minimum value for I_{CL_ADJ} (3.0µA) ensures that the current limit threshold will be set higher than the peak inductor current.

The R_{ADJ} value must be selected to ensure that the voltage at the ADJ pin does not fall below 3.5V. With this in mind, R_{ADJ_MAX} = (V_{IN}-3.5)/7µA. If a larger R_{ADJ} value is needed to set the desired current limit, either use a PFET with a lower R_{DS(on)}, or use a current sense resistor as shown in Figure 5.

The current limit function can be disabled by connecting the ADJ pin to ground and ISENSE to VIN.

CATCH DIODE SELECTION (D1)

The important parameters for the catch diode are the peak current, the peak reverse voltage, and the average power dissipation. The average current through the diode can be calculated as following.

$$I_{D_AVE} = I_{OUT} \times (1 - D)$$

The off state voltage across the catch diode is approximately equal to the input voltage. The peak reverse voltage rating must be greater than input voltage. In nearly all cases a Schottky diode is recommended. In low output voltage applications a low forward voltage provides improved efficiency. For high temperature applications, diode leakage current may become significant and require a higher reverse voltage rating to achieve acceptable performance.

P-CHANNEL MOSFET SELECTION (Q1)

The important parameters for the PFET are the maximum Drain-Source voltage (V_{DS}), the on resistance (R_{DS(on)}), Current rating, and the input capacitance.

The voltage across the PFET when it is turned off is equal to the sum of the input voltage and the diode forward voltage. The V_{DS} must be selected to provide some margin beyond the input voltage.

PFET drain current, I_d, must be rated higher than the peak inductor current, I_{IND-PEAK}.

Depending on operating conditions, the PGATE voltage may fall as low as V_{IN} - 8.3V. Therefore, a PFET must be selected with a V_{GS} maximum rating greater than the maximum PGATE swing voltage.

As input voltage decreases below 9V, PGATE swing voltage may also decrease. At 5.0V input the PGATE will swing from V_{IN} to V_{IN} - 4.6V. To ensure that the PFET turns on quickly and completely, a low threshold PFET should be used when the input voltage is less than 7V.

Total power loss in the FET can be approximated using the following equation:

$$P_{D_switch} = R_{DS(on)} \times I_{OUT}^2 \times D + F \times I_{OUT} \times V_{IN} \times (t_{on} + t_{off})/2$$

where:

t_{on} = FET turn on time

t_{off} = FET turn off time

A value of 10ns to 20ns is typical for ton and toff.

A PFET should be selected with a turn on rise time of less than 100ns. Slower rise times will degrade efficiency, can cause false current limiting, and in extreme cases may cause abnormal spiking at the PGATE pin.

The R_{DS(on)} is used in determining the current limit resistor value, R_{ADJ}. Note that the R_{DS(on)} has a positive temperature coefficient. At 100°C, the R_{DS(on)} may be as much as 150% higher than the 25°C value. This increase in R_{DS(on)} must be considered when determining R_{ADJ} in wide temperature range applications. If the current limit is set based upon 25°C ratings, then false current limiting can occur at high temperature.

Keeping the gate capacitance below 2000pF is recommended to keep switching losses and transition times low. This will also help keep the PFET drive current low, which will improve efficiency and lower the power dissipation within the controller.

As gate capacitance increases, operating frequency should be reduced and as gate capacitance decreases operating frequency can be increased.

Design Information (Continued)

INTERFACING WITH THE ENABLE PIN

The enable pin is internally pulled high with clamping at 8V typical. For normal operation this pin should be left open. To disable the device, the enable pin should be connected to ground externally. If an external voltage source is applied to this pin for enable control, the applied voltage should not exceed the maximum operating voltage level specified in this datasheet, i.e. 5.5V. For most applications, an open drain or open collector transistor can be used to short this pin to ground to shutdown the device.

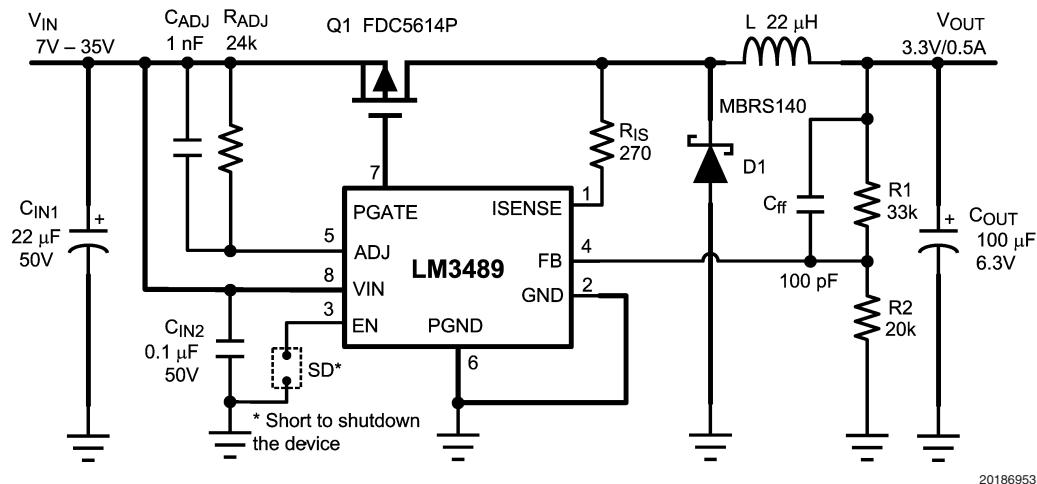
PCB Layout

The PCB board layout is very important in all switching regulator designs. Poor layout can cause switching noise into the feedback signal and generate EMI problems. For minimal inductance, the wires indicated by heavy lines in schematic diagram should be as wide and short as possible. Keep the ground pin of the input capacitor as close as possible to the anode of the catch diode. This path carries a large AC current. The switching node, the node with the diode cathode, inductor and FET drain should be kept short. This node is one of the main sources for radiated EMI since

it sees a large AC voltage at the switching frequency. It is always a good practice to use a ground plane in the design, particularly for high current applications.

The two ground pins, PGND and GND, should be connected by as short a trace as possible. They can be connected underneath the device. These pins are resistively connected internally by approximately 50Ω. The ground pins should be tied to the ground plane, or to a large ground trace in close proximity to both the FB divider and C_{OUT} grounds.

The gate pin of the external PFET should be located close to the PGATE pin. However, if a very small FET is used, a resistor may be required between PGATE pin and the gate of the PFET to reduce high frequency ringing. Since this resistor will slow down the PFET's rise time, the current limit blanking time should be taken into consideration (refer to Current Limiting Operation). The feedback voltage signal line can be sensitive to noise. Avoid inductive coupling with the inductor or the switching node. The FB trace should be kept away from those areas. Also, the orientation of the inductor can contribute un-wanted noise coupling to the FB path. If noise problems are observed it may be worth trying a different orientation of the inductor and select the best for final component placement.



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FIGURE 7. Typical Application Schematic for VOUT = 3.3V/500mA

