

2A, 2MHz, Synchronous Step-Down Regulator

General Description

The RT8015 is a high efficiency synchronous, step-down DC/DC converter. Its input voltage range is from 2.6V to 5.5V and provides an adjustable regulated output voltage from 0.8V to 5V while delivering up to 2A of output current.

The internal synchronous low on-resistance power switches increase efficiency and eliminate the need for an external Schottky diode. Switching frequency is set by an external resistor or can be synchronized to an external clock. 100% duty cycle provides low dropout operation extending battery life in portable systems. Current mode operation with external compensation allows the transient response to be optimized over a wide range of loads and output capacitors.

RT8015 operation in forced continuous PWM Mode which minimizes ripple voltage and reduces the noise and RF interference. 100% duty cycle in Low Dropout Operation further maximize battery life.

Ordering Information

RT8015 □ □

- Package Type
SP : SOP-8 (Exposed Pad-Option 2)
- Lead Plating System
P : Pb Free
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.

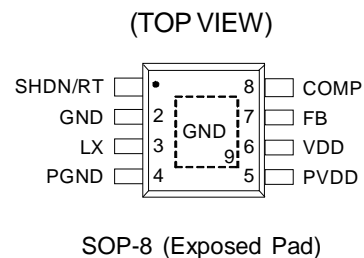
Features

- | High Efficiency : Up to 95%
- | Low $R_{DS(ON)}$ Internal Switches : 110mW
- | Programmable Frequency : 300kHz to 2MHz
- | No Schottky Diode Required
- | 0.8V Reference Allows Low Output Voltage
- | Forced Continuous Mode Operation
- | Low Dropout Operation : 100% Duty Cycle
- | RoHS Compliant and 100% Lead (Pb)-Free

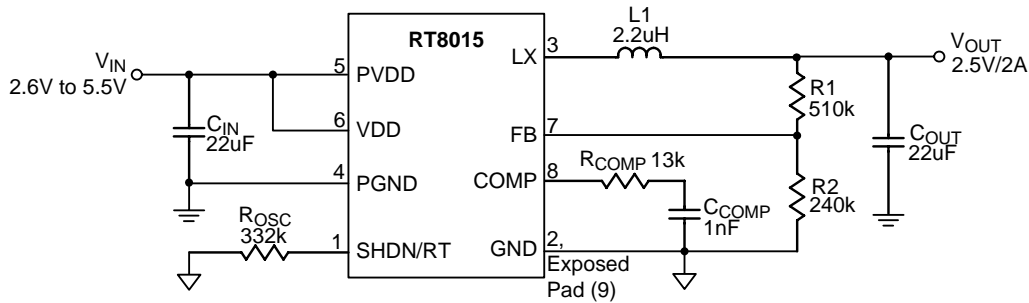
Applications

- | Portable Instruments
- | Battery-Powered Equipment
- | Notebook Computers
- | Distributed Power Systems
- | IP Phones
- | Digital Cameras

Pin Configurations



Typical Application Circuit



Note : Using all Ceramic Capacitors

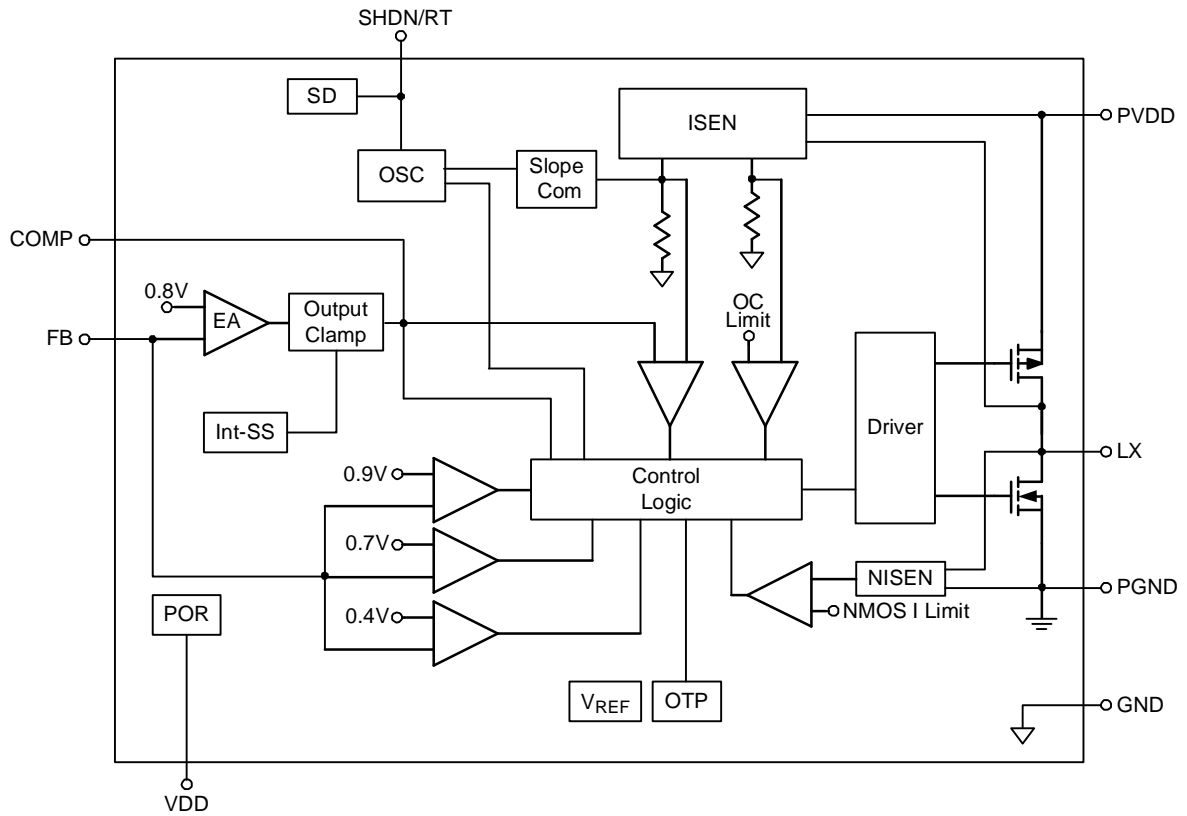
Recommended Component for Different Output Voltage Applications

V _{OUT}	L ₁ (uH)	C _{OUT} (uF)	R ₁ (kΩ)	R ₂ (kΩ)	R _{COMP} (kΩ)	C _{COMP} (nF)
3.3V	2.2	22	750	240	13	1
2.5V	2.2	22	510	240	13	1
1.8V	1.0	22	300	240	7.5	1.5
1.2V	1.0	22	120	240	7.5	1.5

Functional Pin Description

Pin No.	Pin Name	Pin Function
1	SHDN/RT	Oscillator Resistor Input. Connecting a resistor to ground from this pin sets the switching frequency. Forcing this pin to V _{DD} causes the device to be shut down.
2, 9 (Exposed Pad)	GND	Signal Ground. All small-signal components and compensation components should connect to this ground, which in turn connects to PGND at one point. The exposed pad must be soldered to a large PCB and connected to GND for maximum power dissipation.
3	LX	Internal Power MOSFET Switches Output. Connect this pin to the inductor.
4	PGND	Power Ground. Connect this pin close to the (-) terminal of C _{IN} and C _{OUT} .
5	PVDD	Power Input Supply. Decouple this pin to PGND with a capacitor.
6	VDD	Signal Input Supply. Decouple this pin to GND with a capacitor. Normally V _{DD} is equal to PVDD.
7	FB	Feedback Pin. Receives the feedback voltage from a resistive divider connected across the output.
8	COMP	Error Amplifier Compensation Point. The current comparator threshold increases with this control voltage. Connect external compensation elements to this pin to stabilize the control loop.

Function Block Diagram



Operation

Main Control Loop

The RT8015 is a monolithic, constant-frequency, current mode step-down DC/DC converter. During normal operation, the internal top power switch (P-Channel MOSFET) is turned on at the beginning of each clock cycle. Current in the inductor increases until the peak inductor current reach the value defined by the voltage on the COMP pin. The error amplifier adjusts the voltage on the COMP pin by comparing the feedback signal from a resistor divider on the FB pin with an internal 0.8V reference. When the load current increases, it causes a reduction in the feedback voltage relative to the reference. The error amplifier raises the COMP voltage until the average inductor current matches the new load current. When the top power MOSFET shuts off, the synchronous power switch (N-Channel MOSFET) turns on until either the bottom current limit is reached or the beginning of the next clock cycle.

The operating frequency is set by an external resistor connected between the RT pin and ground. The practical switching frequency can range from 300kHz to 2MHz. Power Good comparators will pull the PGOOD output low if the output voltage comes out of regulation by 12.5%. In an over-voltage condition, the top power MOSFET is turned off and the bottom power MOSFET is switched on until either the over-voltage condition clears or the bottom MOSFET's current limit is reached.

Frequency Synchronization

The internal oscillator of the RT8011 can be synchronized to an external clock connected to the SYNC pin. The frequency of the external clock can be in the range of 300kHz to 2MHz. For this application, the oscillator timing resistor should be chosen to correspond to a frequency that is about 20% lower than the synchronization frequency.

Dropout Operation

When the input supply voltage decreases toward the output voltage, the duty cycle increases toward the maximum on-time. Further reduction of the supply voltage forces the main switch to remain on for more than one cycle eventually reaching 100% duty cycle.

The output voltage will then be determined by the input voltage minus the voltage drop across the internal P-Channel MOSFET and the inductor.

Low Supply Operation

The RT8015 is designed to operate down to an input supply voltage of 2.6V. One important consideration at low input supply voltages is that the $R_{DS(ON)}$ of the P-Channel and N-Channel power switches increases. The user should calculate the power dissipation when the RT8015 is used at 100% duty cycle with low input voltages to ensure that thermal limits are not exceeded.

Slope Compensation and Inductor Peak Current

Slope compensation provides stability in constant frequency architectures by preventing sub-harmonic oscillations at duty cycles greater than 50%. It is accomplished internally by adding a compensating ramp to the inductor current signal. Normally, the maximum inductor peak current is reduced when slope compensation is added. In the RT8015, however, separated inductor current signals are used to monitor over current condition. This keeps the maximum output current relatively constant regardless of duty cycle.

Short Circuit Protection

When the output is shorted to ground, the inductor current decays very slowly during a single switching cycle. A current runaway detector is used to monitor inductor current. As current increasing beyond the control of current loop, switching cycles will be skipped to prevent current runaway from occurring.

Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

Supply Input Voltage, VDD, PVDD -----	-0.3V to 6V
LX Pin Switch Voltage -----	-0.3V to (PVDD + 0.3V)
Other I/O Pin Voltages -----	-0.3V to (VDD + 0.3V)
LX Pin Switch Current -----	4A
Power Dissipation, P _D @ T _A = 25°C	
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) -----	1.33W
Package Thermal Resistance (Note 2)	
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad), θ _{JA} -----	75°C/W
SOP-8 (Exposed Pad), θ _{JC} -----	15°C/W
Junction Temperature -----	150°C
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec.) -----	260°C
Storage Temperature Range -----	-65°C to 150°C
ESD Susceptibility (Note 3)	
HBM (Human Body Mode) -----	2kV
MM (Machine Mode) -----	200V

Electrical Characteristics

(V_{DD} = 3.3V, T_A = 25°C, unless otherwise specified)

Parameter	Symbol	Test Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Input Voltage Range	V _{DD}		2.6	--	5.5	V
Feedback Reference Voltage	V _{REF}		0.784	0.8	0.816	V
DC Bias Current		Active , V _{FB} = 0.78V, Not Switching	--	460	--	μA
		Shutdown	--	--	1	μA
Output Voltage Line Regulation		V _{IN} = 2.7V to 5.5V	--	0.04	--	%/V
Output Voltage Load Regulation		0A < I _{LOAD} < 2A	--	0.25	--	%
Error Amplifier Transconductance	g _m		--	800	--	us
Current Sense Transresistance	R _T		--	0.4	--	Ω
Power Good Range			--	±12.5	±15	%
Power Good Pull-Down Resistance			--	--	120	Ω
Switching Frequency		R _{OSC} = 332k	0.8	1	1.2	MHz
		Switching Frequency	0.3	--	2	MHz
Sync Frequency Range			0.3	--	2	MHz

Parameter	Symbol	Test Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Switch On Resistance, High	R _{PMOS}	I _{SW} = 0.5A	--	110	160	mΩ
Switch On Resistance, Low	R _{NMOS}	I _{SW} = 0.5A	--	110	170	mΩ
Peak Current Limit	I _{LIM}		2.2	3.2	--	A
Under Voltage Lockout Threshold		V _{DD} Rising	--	2.4	--	V
		V _{DD} Falling	--	2.3	--	V
Shutdown Threshold	V _{SHDN/RT}		--	V _{IN} - 0.7	V _{IN} - 0.4	V

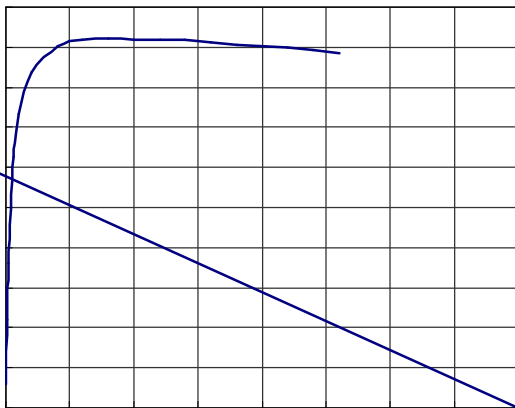
Note 1. Stresses listed as the above "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are for stress ratings. Functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may remain possibility to affect device reliability.

Note 2. θ_{JA} is measured in the natural convection at $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ on 4-layers high effective thermal conductivity test board of JEDEC 51-7 thermal measurement standard. The case point of θ_{JC} is on the exposed pad of the package.

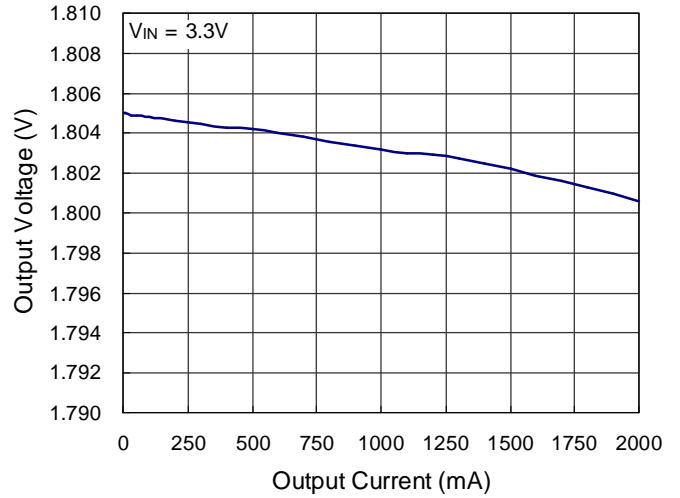
Note 3. Devices are ESD sensitive. Handling precaution is recommended.

Note 4. The device is not guaranteed to function outside its operating conditions.

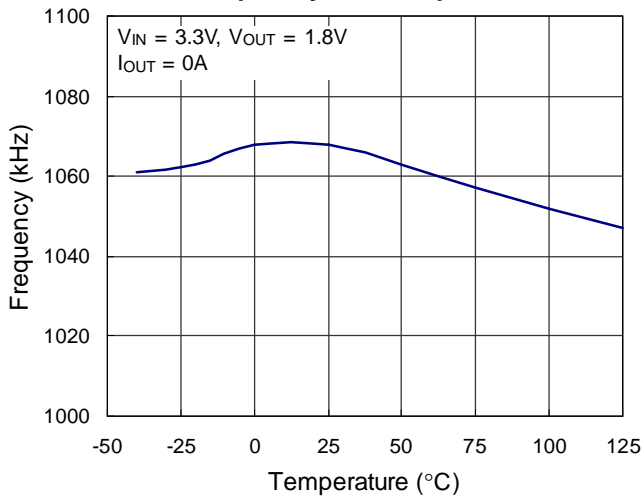
Typical Operating Characteristics



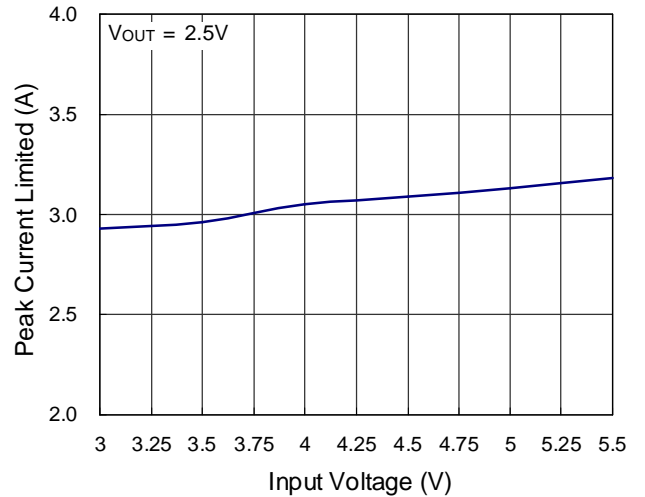
Output Voltage vs. Output Current



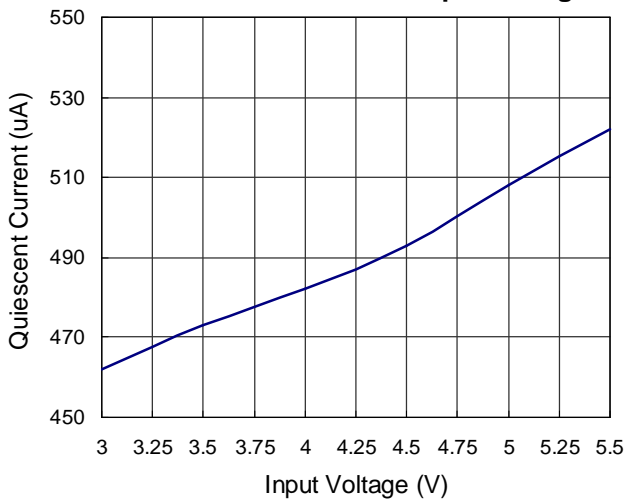
Frequency vs. Temperature



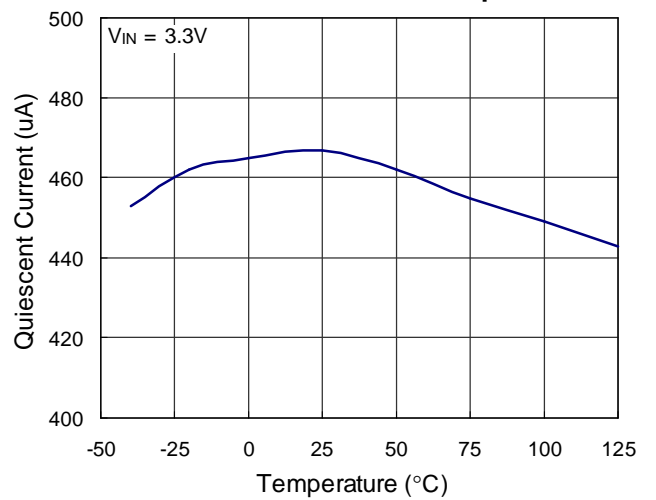
Peak Current Limited vs. Input Voltage



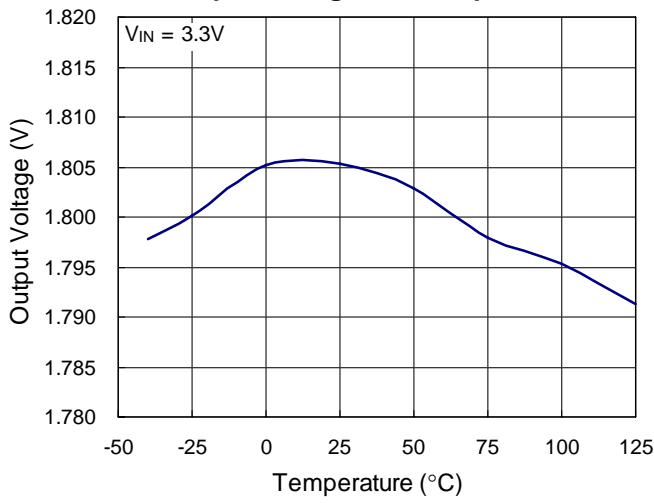
Quiescent Current vs. Input Voltage



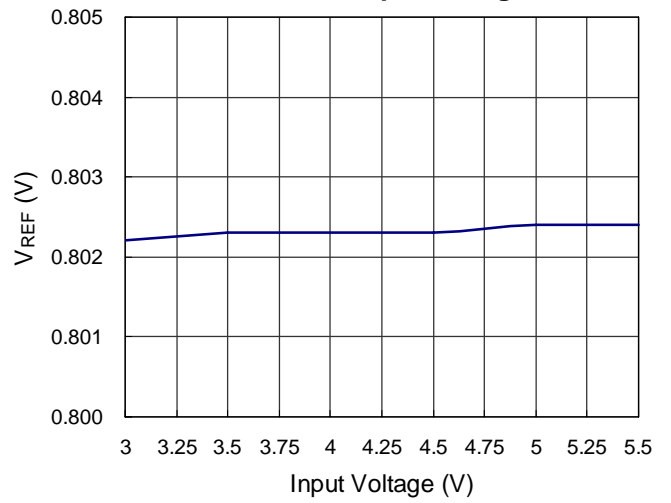
Quiescent Current vs. Temperature



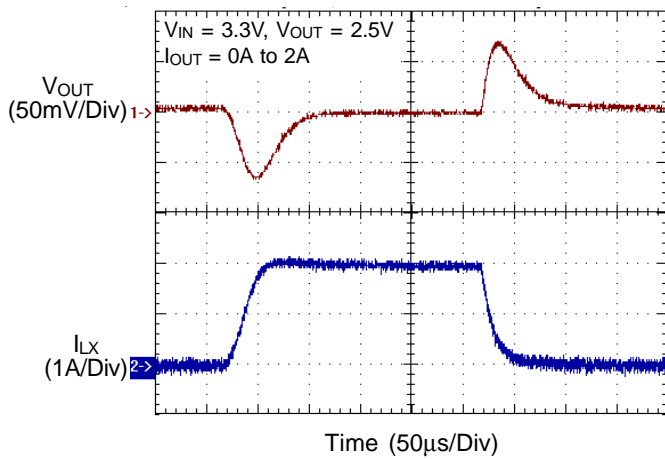
Output Voltage vs. Temperature



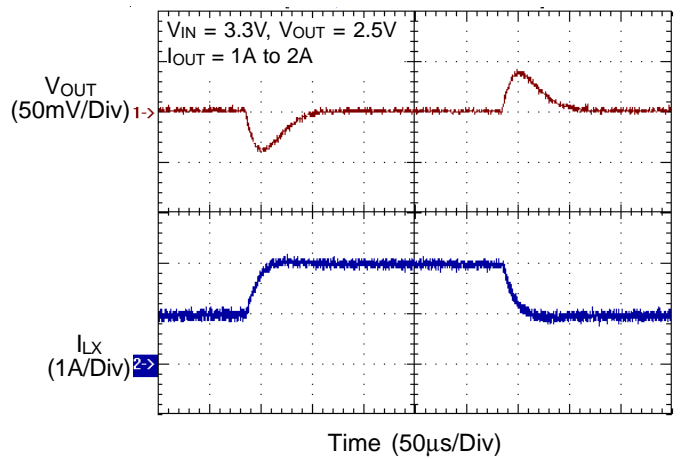
V_{REF} vs. Input Voltage



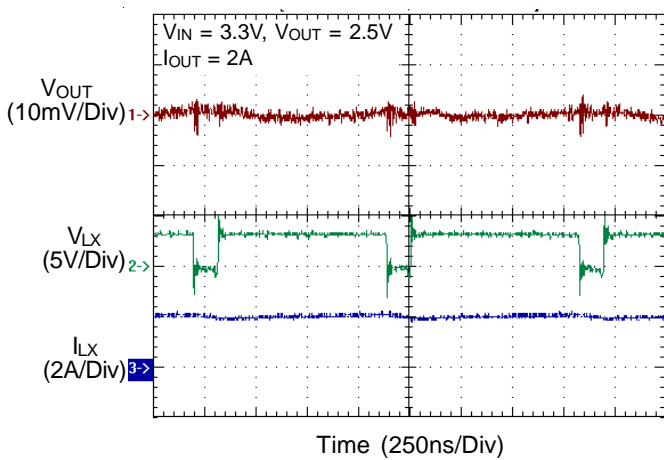
Load Transient Response



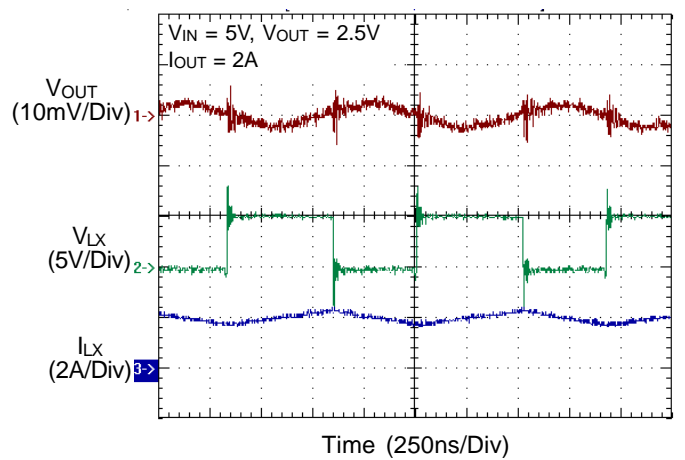
Load Transient Response



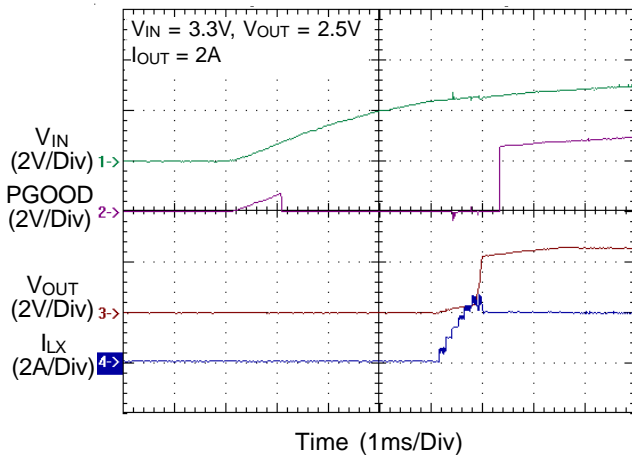
Output Ripple



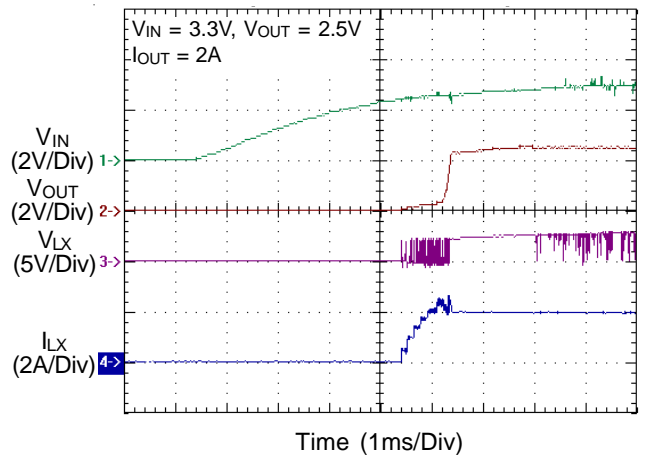
Output Ripple



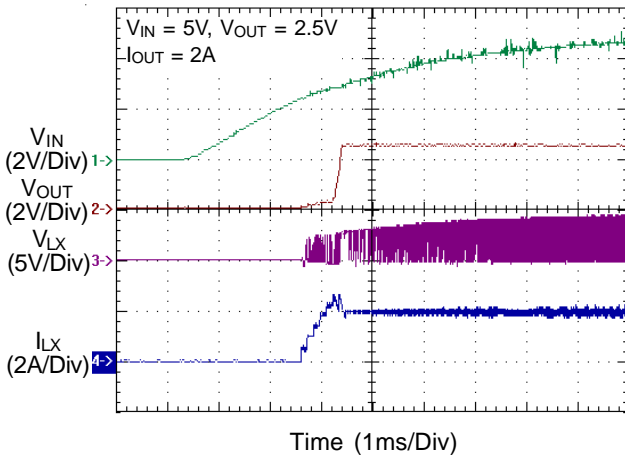
Power Good



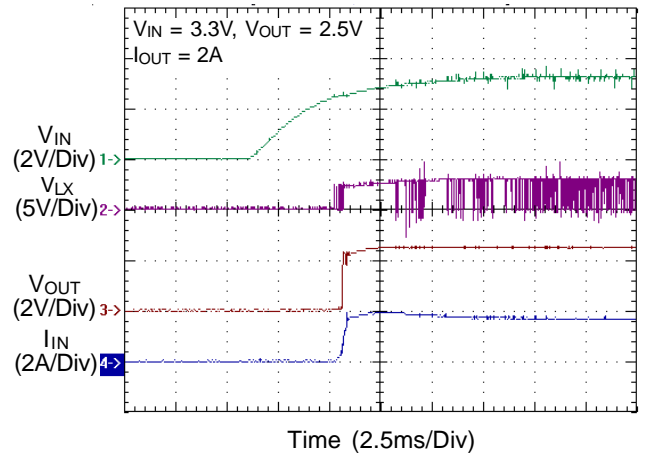
Power On & Inductor Current



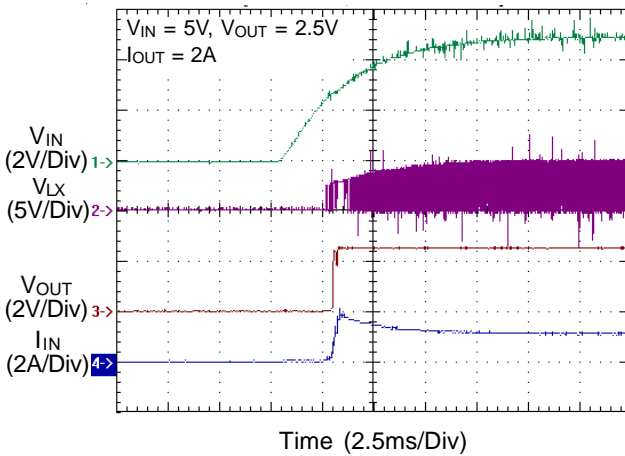
Power On & Inductor Current



Soft Start and Inrush Current



Soft Start and Inrush Current



Application Information

The basic RT8015 application circuit is shown in Typical Application Circuit. External component selection is determined by the maximum load current and begins with the selection of the inductor value and operating frequency followed by C_{IN} and C_{OUT} .

Operating Frequency

Selection of the operating frequency is a tradeoff between efficiency and component size. High frequency operation allows the use of smaller inductor and capacitor values. Operation at lower frequency improves efficiency by reducing internal gate charge and switching losses but requires larger inductance and/or capacitance to maintain low output ripple voltage.

The operating frequency of the RT8015 is determined by an external resistor that is connected between the RT pin and ground. The value of the resistor sets the ramp current that is used to charge and discharge an internal timing capacitor within the oscillator. The RT resistor value can be determined by examining the frequency vs. RT curve. Although frequencies as high as 4MHz are possible, the minimum on-time of the RT8015 imposes a minimum limit on the operating duty cycle. The minimum on-time is typically 110ns. Therefore, the minimum duty cycle is equal to $100 \times 110\text{ns} \times f(\text{Hz})$.

Inductor Selection

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

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

Having a lower ripple current reduces the ESR losses in the output capacitors and the output voltage ripple. Highest efficiency operation is achieved at low frequency with small ripple current. This, however, requires a large inductor. A reasonable starting point for selecting the ripple current is $\Delta I = 0.4(I_{MAX})$. The largest ripple current occurs at the highest V_{IN} . To guarantee that the ripple current stays below a specified maximum, the inductor value should be chosen according to the following equation :

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

The transition from low current operation begins when the peak inductor current falls below the minimum peak current. Lower inductor values result in higher ripple current which causes this to occur at lower load currents. This causes a dip in efficiency in the upper range of low current operation.

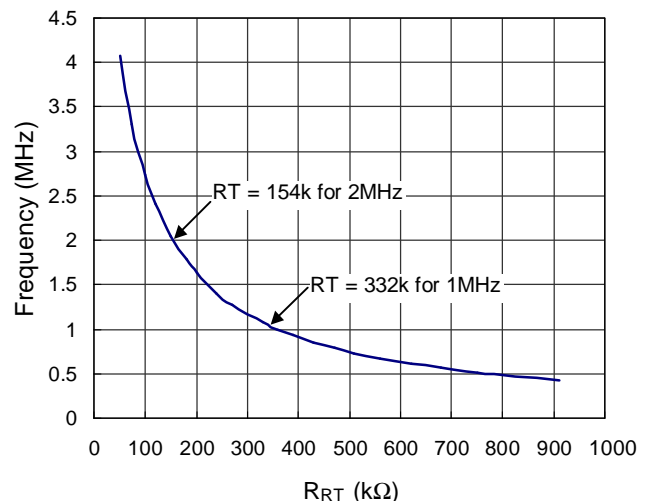


Figure 1

Inductor Core Selection

Once the value for L is known, the type of inductor must be selected. High efficiency converters generally cannot afford the core loss found in low cost powdered iron cores, forcing the use of more expensive ferrite or mollypermalloy cores. Actual core loss is independent of core size for a fixed inductor value but it is very dependent on the inductance selected. As the inductance increases, core losses decrease. Unfortunately, increased inductance requires more turns of wire and therefore copper losses will increase.

Ferrite designs have very low core losses and are preferred at high switching frequencies, so design goals can concentrate on copper loss and preventing saturation. Ferrite core material saturates "hard", which means that inductance collapses abruptly when the peak design current is exceeded.

This result in an abrupt increase in inductor ripple current and consequent output voltage ripple.

Do not allow the core to saturate!

Different core materials and shapes will change the size/current and price/current relationship of an inductor. Toroid or shielded pot cores in ferrite or permalloy materials are small and don't radiate energy but generally cost more than powdered iron core inductors with similar characteristics. The choice of which style inductor to use mainly depends on the price vs. size requirements and any radiated field/EMI requirements.

C_{IN} and C_{OUT} Selection

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

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

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. Note that ripple current ratings from capacitor manufacturers are often based on only 2000 hours of life which makes it advisable to further derate the capacitor, or 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.

The selection of C_{OUT} is determined by the effective series resistance (ESR) that is required to minimize voltage ripple and load step transients, as well as the amount of bulk capacitance that is necessary 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 :

$$\Delta V_{OUT} \leq \Delta I_L \left[ESR + \frac{1}{8fC_{OUT}} \right]$$

The output ripple is highest at 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 requirements. Dry tantalum, special polymer, aluminum electrolytic and ceramic capacitors are all available in surface mount packages. Special polymer capacitors offer very low ESR but have lower capacitance density than other types. Tantalum capacitors have the highest capacitance density but it is important to only

use types that have been surge tested for use in switching power supplies. Aluminum electrolytic capacitors have significantly higher ESR but can be used in cost-sensitive applications provided that consideration is given to ripple current ratings and long term reliability. Ceramic capacitors have excellent low ESR characteristics but can have a high voltage coefficient and audible piezoelectric effects. The high Q of ceramic capacitors with trace inductance can also lead to significant ringing.

Using Ceramic Input and Output Capacitors

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. However, care must be taken when these capacitors are used at the input and output. 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}. At best, this ringing can couple to the output and be mistaken as loop instability. At worst, a sudden inrush of current through the long wires can potentially cause a voltage spike at V_{IN} large enough to damage the part.

Output Voltage Programming

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

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

where V_{REF} equals to 0.8V typical.

The resistive divider allows the FB pin to sense a fraction of the output voltage as shown in Figure 2.

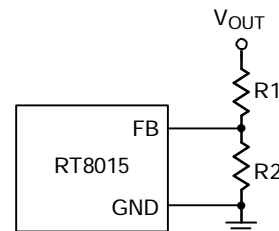


Figure 2. Setting the Output Voltage

Efficiency Considerations

The efficiency of a switching regulator is equal to the output power divided by the input power times 100%. It is often useful to analyze individual losses to determine what is limiting the efficiency and which change would produce the most improvement. Efficiency can be expressed as :

Efficiency = 100% – (L1+ L2+ L3+ ...) where L1, L2, etc. are the individual losses as a percentage of input power. Although all dissipative elements in the circuit produce losses, two main sources usually account for most of the losses: V_{DD} quiescent current and I^2R losses.

The V_{DD} quiescent current loss dominates the efficiency loss at very low load currents whereas the I^2R loss dominates the efficiency loss at medium to high load currents. In a typical efficiency plot, the efficiency curve at very low load currents can be misleading since the actual power lost is of no consequence.

1. The V_{DD} quiescent current is due to two components : the DC bias current as given in the electrical characteristics and the internal main switch and synchronous switch gate charge currents. The gate charge current results from switching the gate capacitance of the internal power MOSFET switches. Each time the gate is switched from high to low to high again, a packet of charge ΔQ moves from V_{DD} to ground. The resulting $\Delta Q/\Delta t$ is the current out of V_{DD} that is typically larger than the DC bias current. In continuous mode, $I_{GATECHG} = f(QT+QB)$ where QT and QB are the gate charges of the internal top and bottom switches.

Both the DC bias and gate charge losses are proportional to V_{DD} and thus their effects will be more pronounced at higher supply voltages.

2. I^2R losses are calculated from the resistances of the internal switches, R_{SW} and external inductor R_L . In continuous mode the average output current flowing through inductor L is "chopped" between the main switch and the synchronous switch. Thus, the series resistance looking into the LX pin is a function of both top and bottom MOSFET $R_{DS(ON)}$ and the duty cycle (D) as follows :

$R_{SW} = R_{DS(ON)TOP} \times D + R_{DS(ON)BOT} \times (1-D)$ The $R_{DS(ON)}$ for both the top and bottom MOSFETs can be obtained from the Typical Performance Characteristics curves. Thus, to obtain I^2R losses, simply add R_{SW} to R_L and m

The maximum power dissipation depends on operating ambient temperature for fixed $T_{J(MAX)}$ and thermal resistance θ_{JA} . For RT8015 package, the Figure 3 of derating curves allows the designer to see the effect of rising ambient temperature on the maximum power allowed.

The thermal resistance θ_{JA} of SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) is determined by the package design and the PCB design. However, the package design had been designed. If possible, it's useful to increase thermal performance by the PCB design. The thermal resistance θ_{JA} can be decreased by adding a copper under the exposed pad of SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) package.

As shown in Figure 4, the amount of copper area to which the SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) is mounted affects thermal performance. When mounted to the standard SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) pad (Figure 4.a), θ_{JA} is 75°C/W . Adding copper area of pad under the SOP-8 (Exposed Pad) (Figure 4.b) reduces the θ_{JA} to 64°C/W . Even further, increasing the copper area of pad to 70mm^2 (Figure 4.e) reduces the θ_{JA} to 49°C/W .

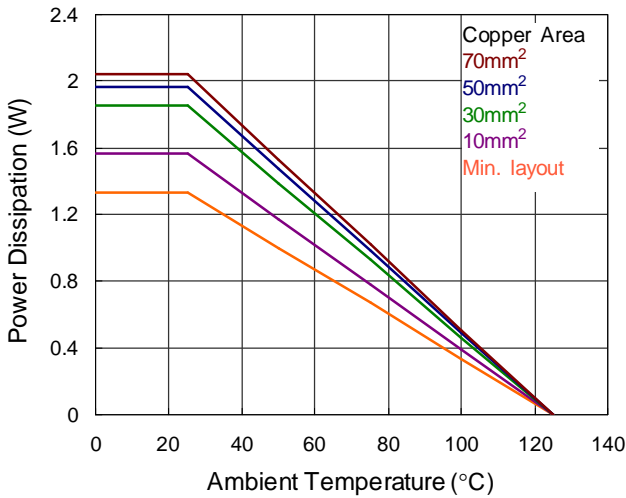
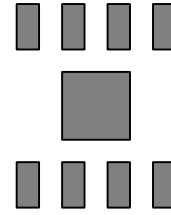
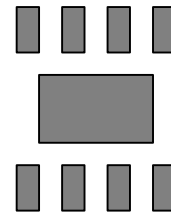


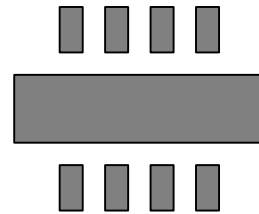
Figure 3. Derating Curve for Package



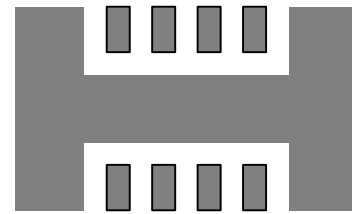
(a) Copper Area = $(2.3 \times 2.3) \text{mm}^2$, $\theta_{JA} = 75^{\circ}\text{C/W}$



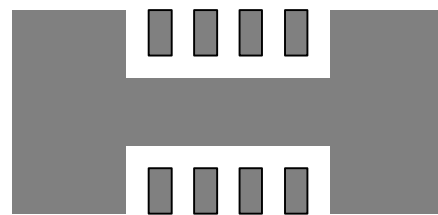
(b) Copper Area = 10mm^2 , $\theta_{JA} = 64^{\circ}\text{C/W}$



(c) Copper Area = 30mm^2 , $\theta_{JA} = 54^{\circ}\text{C/W}$



(d) Copper Area = 50mm^2 , $\theta_{JA} = 51^{\circ}\text{C/W}$



(e) Copper Area = 70mm^2 , $\theta_{JA} = 49^{\circ}\text{C/W}$

Figure 4. Thermal Resistance vs. Copper Area Layout Thermal Design

Layout Considerations

Follow the PCB layout guidelines for optimal performance of RT8015.

- } A ground plane is recommended. If a ground plane layer is not used, the signal and power grounds should be segregated with all small-signal components returning to the GND pin at one point that is then connected to the PGND pin close to the IC. The exposed pad should be connected to GND.
- } Connect the terminal of the input capacitor(s), C_{IN} , as close as possible to the PVDD pin. This capacitor provides the AC current into the internal power MOSFETs.
- } LX node is with high frequency voltage swing and should be kept small area. Keep all sensitive small-signal nodes away from LX node to prevent stray capacitive noise pick-up.
- } Flood all unused areas on all layers with copper. Flooding with copper will reduce the temperature rise of power components. You can connect the copper areas to any DC net (PVDD, VDD, VOUT, PGND, GND, or any other DC rail in your system).
- } Connect the FB pin directly to the feedback resistors. The resistor divider must be connected between VOUT and GND.

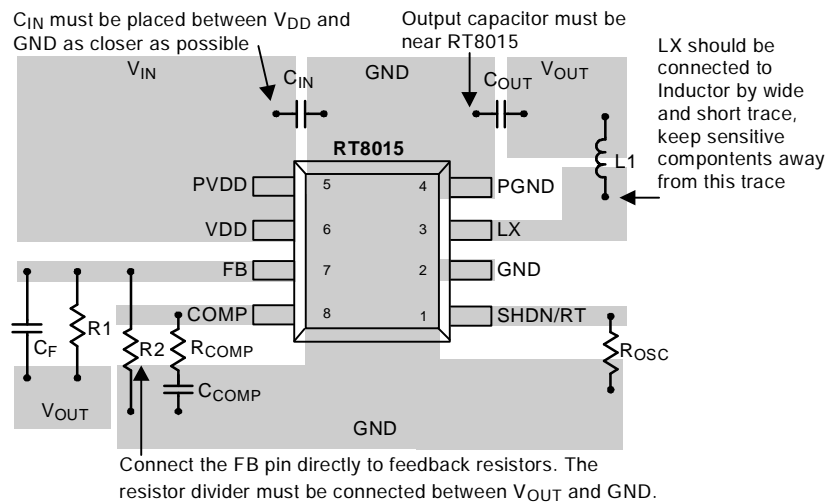


Figure 5

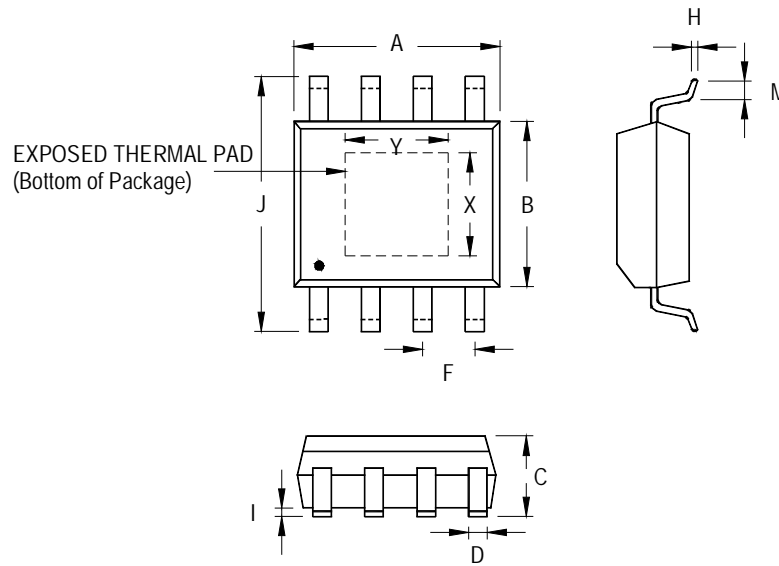
Table 1. Recommended Inductor

Component Supplier	Series	Inductance (uH)	DCR (mW)	Current Rating (mA)	Dimensions (mm)
TAIYO YUDEN	NR 4018	2.2	60	2700	4.00 x 4.00 x 1.80
Sumida	CDRH4D28	2.2	31.3	2040	4.50 x 4.50 x 3.00
GOTREND	GTSD53	2.2	29	2410	5.00x 5.00 x 2.80
TAIYO YUDEN	NR 4018	1.0	30	4000	4.00 x 4.00 x 1.80
Sumida	CDRH4D28C/LD	1.0	17.5	3000	4.50 x 4.50 x 3.00
GOTREND	GTSD53	1.0	15	4000	5.00x 5.00 x 2.80

Table 2. Recommended Capacitor

Component Supplier	Part No.	Capacitance (uF)	Case Size
TDK	C3225X5R0J226M	22	1210
TDK	C3225X5R0J226M	22	1210
Panasonic	ECJ4YB0J226M	22	1210
Panasonic	ECJ4YB1A226M	22	1210
TAIYO YUDEN	LMK325BJ226ML	22	1210
TAIYO YUDEN	JMK316BJ226ML	22	1206

Outline Dimension



Symbol	Dimensions In Millimeters		Dimensions In Inches		
	Min	Max	Min	Max	
A	4.801	5.004	0.189	0.197	
B	3.810	4.000	0.150	0.157	
C	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	
H	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	
M	0.406	1.270	0.016	0.050	
Option 1	X	2.000	2.300	0.079	0.091
	Y	2.000	2.300	0.079	0.091
Option 2	X	2.100	2.500	0.083	0.098
	Y	3.000	3.500	0.118	0.138

8-Lead SOP (Exposed Pad) Plastic Package

Richtek Technology Corporation

Headquarter
 5F, No. 20, Taiyuen Street, Chupei City
 Hsinchu, Taiwan, R.O.C.
 Tel: (8863)5526789 Fax: (8863)5526611

Richtek Technology Corporation

Taipei Office (Marketing)
 5F, No. 95, Minchiuan Road, Hsintien City
 Taipei County, Taiwan, R.O.C.
 Tel: (8862)86672399 Fax: (8862)86672377
 Email: marketing@richtek.com

Information that is provided by Richtek Technology Corporation is believed to be accurate and reliable. Richtek reserves the right to make any change in circuit design, specification or other related things if necessary without notice at any time. No third party intellectual property infringement of the applications should be guaranteed by users when integrating Richtek products into any application. No legal responsibility for any said applications is assumed by Richtek.