30-W SEPIC reference design with extended input voltage range

Description

This reference design is a wide input voltage range SEPIC converter delivering up to 30 W continuous output power; using a cost effective discrete startup circuitry the design is able to be supplied up to 80 V input. Another discrete UVLO circuitry prevents from large input currents at low input voltage. So the power supply is able to handle an input range 1:8. The internal driver of the controller is boosted by a small external push pull stage using bipolar transistors. Using a coupled inductor from stock results in less amount and stress for the flying capacitors. Beside this no additional damping RC network needs to be added here.
1 Test Prerequisites

1.1 Voltage and Current Requirements

Table 1. Voltage and Current Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>SPECIFICATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$V_{IN}$</td>
<td>10 V - 80 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{OUT}$</td>
<td>12 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal switching frequency</td>
<td>200 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Output Current</td>
<td>3 A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2 Considerations

The switching frequency is about 225 kHz. The circuit switches on at 9.2 V and off at 8.5 V. Unless otherwise mentioned a resistor was used as load. The output current was adjusted to 3 A.
2 Testing and Results

2.1 Efficiency Graphs

Figure 1. Efficiency vs Load Current

Figure 2. Loss vs Output Current
2.2 Load Regulation

Figure 3. Output Voltage vs Output Current

2.3 Line Regulation

Figure 4. Output Voltage vs Input Voltage
2.4 Thermal Images

Figure 6. Thermal Image of 10 V Input Voltage and 3 A Output Voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>80.4°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>96.6°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>85.8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R13</td>
<td>85.3°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Testing and Results

Figure 7. Thermal Image of 45 V Input Voltage and 3 A Output Voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>72.8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>82.4°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>75.5°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 8. Thermal Image of 45 V Input Voltage and 2 A Output Voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>54.6°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>63.0°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>58.5°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 9. Thermal Image of 45 V Input Voltage and 1 A Output Voltage
Figure 10. Thermal Image of 80 V Input Voltage and 3 A Output Voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>82.8°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>91.1°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>92.8°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Waveforms

3.1 Switch Node Q5

Waveform below shows the switch node voltage measured at 45 V input voltage from Q5 drain to GND

Figure 11. Switchnode at 45 V Input Voltage

20 V/div (full bandwidth)
1 µs/div

20V/div; 50ns/ major div

3.2 Q5 Gate

The waveform below shows the voltage measured from Q5 gate to GND
Figure 12. Gate at 45 V Input Voltage

2 V/div (full bandwidth); 1µs/Div

Below is the same waveform with a different time axis.

100 ns/div

Below is the same waveform with a different time axis.
50 ns/div

### 3.3 Diode D6

The waveform below are showing the voltage at the diode D6 referenced to VOUT.

**Figure 13. Diode D6 with 45 V Input Voltage**

20 V/div (full bandwidth); 1 µs/div

Below there is the same waveform with a different time axis.
Below there is the same waveform with different time axis.

50ns/div

### 3.4 Output Voltage Ripple

Below are the waveforms at VOUT at different input voltages. Also the effect of an added 100nF capacitor is shown.

All measurements were done with 20 MHz bandwidth.
3.4.1 10 V Input Voltage

Figure 14. VOUT at 10 V Input Voltage

![Waveform graph showing VOUT at 10 V Input Voltage]

Figure 15. VOUT at 10 V Input Voltage and a Added 100nF Capacitor at VOUT

![Waveform graph showing VOUT at 10 V Input Voltage with a capacitor added]

200mV/div (AC, 20MHz bandwidth setting)
2µs/div
### 3.4.2 45V Input Voltage

**Figure 16. VOUT at 45 V Input Voltage**

![Waveform for 45V Input Voltage](image)

**Figure 17. VOUT at 45 V Input Voltage and a Added 100nF Capacitor at VOUT**

![Waveform with Added Capacitor](image)
3.4.3 80 V Input Voltage

Figure 18. VOUT at 80 V Input Voltage

Figure 19. VOUT at 80 V Input Voltage and a Added 100 nF Capacitor at VOUT

3.5 Input Voltage

Measured with 20MHz bandwidth (AC)
Figure 20. VIN at 10 V, 45 V and 80 V Input Voltage

channel 1 (red) 10 V input voltage -> 200mV/div; 2µs/div
channel 2 (blue) 45 V input voltage -> 200mV/div; 2µs/div
channel 3 (dark red) 80 V input voltage -> 200mV/div; 2µs/div

3.6 Bode Plot

Figure 21. Loop Response @ 10 V Input Voltage
Figure 22. Loop Response @ 45 V Input Voltage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vin</th>
<th>10 V</th>
<th>45 V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bandwidth (kHz)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase Margin</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slope (20dB/decade)</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gain margin (dB)</td>
<td>-11.1</td>
<td>-22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slope (20 dB/decade)</td>
<td>-0.58</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freq (kHz)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.7 Load Transients

The electronic load was switching from 1.5 A to 3 A with a frequency of 150 Hz.

Figure 23. Transient @ 10V Input Voltage

channel 1: Output Voltage (10 kHz bandwidth) -> 100mV/div; 1ms/div
channel 2: Output Current (20 MHz bandwidth) -> 1A/div; 1ms/div

Figure 24. Transient @ 45 V Input Voltage

channel 1: Output Voltage (10kHz bandwidth) -> 100mV/div; 1ms/div
channel 2: Output Current (20MHz bandwidth) -> 1A/div; 1ms/div
3.8 Start-up Sequence

The power supply was switched on.

Figure 25. Transient @ 80 V Input Voltage

channel 1: Output Voltage (10 kHz bandwidth) -> 100mV/div; 1ms/div
channel 2: Output Current (20 MHz bandwidth) -> 1A/div; 1ms/div

Figure 26. Start-up @ 45V Input Voltage

channel 1: input voltage -> 10 V/div; 0.1s
3.9 **Shut-down**

The power supply was switched off.

*Figure 27. Shut-down @ 45 V Input Voltage*

channel 1: input voltage -> 10V/div; 4ms/div
channel 2: output voltage -> 5V/div; 4ms/div

4 **Addendum**

For improving the EMI behaviour did following modifications

- improved GND-connection of the gate-driver circuit
- changed gate resistor from 10R to 33.2R (R11)
- added snubber to rectifier (D6)
- added MLCCs to VOUT
The following subsections are some details.

4.1 *Gate Resistor*

The following measurements were done with 20 V input voltage

4.1.1 *Gate Resistor = 10R*

The following picture shows the waveform before any modification

*Figure 28. Gate to GND with R11=10R*

2V/div (full bandwidth)
50ns/div
4.1.2 Gate Resistor = 33.2R

Below there is the waveform with 33.2R gate resistor with the same settings as above.

**Figure 29. Gate to GND with R11=33.2R**

Measured from Gate to source is shown in following picture (same settings as above).
4.2 Rectifier

After changing the gate resistor a snubber 10R + 470 pF was added.

The following picture are measured at the rectifier D6 (referenced to VOUT) with following settings.

- 10V/div (full bandwidth)
- 50ns/div
4.2.1 No Snubber

Figure 31. Diode D6 without Snubber @ 45 V Input Voltage
4.2.2 With Snubber 10R + 470 pF

Figure 32. Diode D6 with Snubber @ 45 V Input Voltage

4.3 Output Voltage

For further improvements of the VOUT-ripple additional MLCC capacitors were added to VOUT. The following waveforms are showing VOUT without and with rectifier snubber and with additional MLCC capacitors (1 µF, 100 nF and 10 nF soldered on bottom side of the pcb).

Figure 33. VOUT at 45 V Input Voltage
channel 1: without snubber -> 200 mV/div (20MHz bandwidth); 2 µs/div
channel 2: with snubber -> 200 mV/div (20MHz bandwidth); 2 µs/div
channel3: with snubber and added caps -> 200 mV/div (20 MHz bandwidth); 2 µs/div
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