

LT1931A

2.2MHz Inverting DC/DC Converters in ThinSOT

- **Fixed Frequency 1.2MHz/2.2MHz Operation**
- Very Low Noise: 1mV_{P-P} Output Ripple
- $-5V$ at 350mA from 5V Input
- -12V at 150mA from 5V Input
- Uses Small Surface Mount Components
- Wide Input Range: 2.6V to 16V
- Low Shutdown Current: <1µA
- Low V_{CESAT} Switch: 400mV at 1A
- Pin-for-Pin Compatible with the LT1611
- Low Profile (1mm) ThinSOT™ Package

APPLICATIONS

- Disk Drive MR Head Bias
- Digital Camera CCD Bias
- LCD Bias
- GaAs FET Bias
- Local Low Noise/Low Impedance Negative Supply

FEATURES DESCRIPTIO U

The LT®1931/LT1931A are the industry's highest power inverting SOT-23 current mode DC/DC converters. Both parts include a 1A integrated switch allowing high current outputs to be generated in a small footprint. The LT1931 switches at 1.2MHz while the LT1931A switches at 2.2MHz. These high speeds enable the use of tiny, low cost capacitors and inductors 2mm or less in height. The LT1931 is capable of generating –5V at 350mA or –12V at 150mA from a 5V supply, while the LT1931A can generate –5V at 300mA using significantly smaller inductors. Both parts are easy pin-for-pin upgrades for higher power LT1611 applications.

The LT1931/LT1931A operate in a dual inductor inverting topology that filters both the input side and output side current. Very low output voltage ripple approaching 1mV_{P-P} can be achieved when ceramic output capacitors are used. Fixed frequency switching ensures a clean output free from low frequency noise typically present with charge pump solutions. The low impedance output remains within 1% of nominal during large load steps. The 36V switch allows V_{IN} to V_{OUIT} differential of up to 34V.

The LT1931/LT1931A are available in the 5-lead ThinSOT package.

 $\overline{\mathcal{I}}$, LTC and LT are registered trademarks of Linear Technology Corporation. ThinSOT is a trademark of Linear Technology Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

TYPICAL APPLICATIO U

1931fa

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS PACKAGE/ORDER INFORMATION

Consult LTC Marketing for parts specified with wider operating temperature ranges.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The \bullet denotes specifications which apply over the full operating temperature range, otherwise specifications are $T_A = 25^\circ \text{C}$. V_{IN} = 3V, $V_{\overline{SHDN}}$ = V_{IN} , unless otherwise noted. (Note 2)

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings are those values beyond which the life of a device may be impaired.

operating temperature range are assured by design, characterization and correlation with statistical process controls. LT1931I/LT1931AI are guaranteed over the –40°C to 85°C temperature range.

Note 2: The LT1931E/LT1931AE are guaranteed to meet performance specifications from 0°C to 70°C. Specifications over the -40 °C to 85°C

1931fa **Note 3:** Current limit guaranteed by design and/or correlation to static test.

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

PIN FUNCTIONS

SW (Pin 1): Switch Pin. Connect inductor/diode here. Minimize trace area at this pin to keep EMI down.

GND (Pin 2): Ground. Tie directly to local ground plane.

NFB (Pin 3): Feedback Pin. Reference voltage is –1.255V. Connect resistive divider tap here. Minimize trace area. The NFB bias current flows out of the pin. Set R1 and R2 according to:

For LT1931: R1 =
$$
\frac{|V_{OUT}| - 1.255}{R2} + (4 \cdot 10^{-6})
$$

For LT1931A: R1=
$$
\frac{1 \text{ V}_{OUT} - 1.255}{1.255 + (8 \cdot 10^{-6})}
$$

SHDN(Pin 4): Shutdown Pin. Tie to 2.4V or more to enable device. Ground to shut down.

V_{IN} (Pin 5): Input Supply Pin. Must be locally bypassed.

BLOCK DIAGRAM

OPERATION

The LT1931 uses a constant frequency, current mode control scheme to provide excellent line and load regulation. Operation can be best understood by referring to the Block Diagram in Figure 2. At the start of each oscillator cycle, the SR latch is set, turning on the power switch Q3. A voltage proportional to the switch current is added to a stabilizing ramp and the resulting sum is fed into the positive terminal of the PWM comparator A2. When this voltage exceeds the level at the negative input of A2, the SR latch is reset, turning off the power switch. The level at the negative input of A2 is set by the error amplifier (g_m) and is simply an amplified version of the difference between the feedback voltage and the reference voltage of –1.255V. In this manner, the error amplifier sets the correct peak

current level to keep the output in regulation. If the error amplifier's output increases, more current is taken from the output; if it decreases, less current is taken. One function not shown in Figure 2 is the current limit. The switch current is constantly monitored and not allowed to exceed the nominal value of 1.2A. If the switch current reaches 1.2A, the SR latch is reset regardless of the state of comparator A2. This current limit protects the power switch as well as various external components connected to the LT1931.

The Block Diagram for the LT1931A is identical except that the oscillator is 2.2MHz and resistors R3 to R6 are one-half the LT1931 values.

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

LT1931A AND LT1931 DIFFERENCES:

Switching Frequency

The key difference between the LT1931A and LT1931 is the faster switching frequency of the LT1931A. At 2.2MHz, the LT1931A switches at nearly twice the rate of the LT1931. Care must be taken in deciding which part to use. The high switching frequency of the LT1931A allows smaller cheaper inductors and capacitors to be used in a given application, but with a slight decrease in efficiency and maximum output current when compared to the LT1931. Generally, if efficiency and maximum output current are critical, the LT1931 should be used. If application size and cost are more important, the LT1931A will be the better choice. In many applications, tiny inexpensive chip inductors can be used with the LT1931A, reducing solution cost.

Duty Cycle

The maximum duty cycle (DC) of the LT1931A is 75% compared to 84% for the LT1931. The duty cycle for a given application using the dual inductor inverting topology is given by:

$$
DC = \frac{|V_{OUT}|}{|V_{IN}| + |V_{OUT}|}
$$

For a 5V to –5V application, the DC is 50% indicating that the LT1931A can be used. A 5V to –16V application has a DC of 76.2% making the LT1931 the right choice. The LT1931A can still be used in applications where the DC, as calculated above, is above 75%. However, the part must be operated in the discontinuous conduction mode so that the actual duty cycle is reduced.

INDUCTOR SELECTION

Several inductors that work well with the LT1931 are listed in Table 1 and those for the LT1931A are listed in Table 2. Besides these, there are many other inductors that can be used. Consult each manufacturer for detailed information and for their entire selection of related parts. Ferrite core inductors should be used to obtain the best efficiency, as

core losses at frequencies above 1MHz are much lower for ferrite cores than for powdered-iron units. When using coupled inductors, choose one that can handle at least 1A of current without saturating, and ensure that the inductor has a low DCR (copper-wire resistance) to minimize ${}^{12}R$ power losses. If using uncoupled inductors, each inductor need only handle one-half of the total switch current so that 0.5A per inductor is sufficient. A 4.7µH to 15µH coupled inductor or a 15µH to 22µH uncoupled inductor will usually be the best choice for most LT1931 designs. For the LT1931A, a 2.2µH to 4.7µH coupled inductor or a 3.3µH to 10µH uncoupled inductor will usually suffice. In certain applications such as the "Charge Pump" inverting DC/DC converter, only a single inductor is used. In this case, the inductor must carry the entire 1A switch current.

1Use drawing #5382-T039

2Use drawing #5382-T041

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

The inductors shown in Table 2 for use with the LT1931A were chosen for their small size. For better efficiency, use similar valued inductors with a larger volume. For instance, the Sumida CR43 series, in values ranging from 3.3µH to 10µH, will give a LT1931A application a few percentage points increase in efficiency.

CAPACITOR SELECTION

Low ESR (equivalent series resistance) capacitors should be used at the output to minimize the output ripple voltage. Multilayer ceramic capacitors are an excellent choice, as they have an extremely low ESR and are available in very small packages. X5R dielectrics are preferred, followed by X7R, as these materials retain their capacitance over wide voltage and temperature ranges. A 10µF to 22µF output capacitor is sufficient for most LT1931 applications while a 4.7µF to 10µF capacitor will suffice for the LT1931A. Solid tantalum or OS-CON capacitors can be used, but they will occupy more board area than a ceramic and will have a higher ESR. Always use a capacitor with a sufficient voltage rating.

Ceramic capacitors also make a good choice for the input decoupling capacitor, which should be placed as close as possible to the LT1931/LT1931A. A 1µF to 4.7µF input capacitor is sufficient for most applications. Table 3 shows a list of several ceramic capacitor manufacturers. Consult the manufacturers for detailed information on their entire selection of ceramic parts.

The decision to use either low ESR (ceramic) capacitors or the higher ESR (tantalum or OS-CON) capacitors can effect the stability of the overall system. The ESR of any capacitor, along with the capacitance itself, contributes a zero to the system. For the tantalum and OS-CON capacitors, this zero is located at a lower frequency due to the higher value of the ESR, while the zero of a ceramic capacitor is at a much higher frequency and can generally be ignored.

A phase lead zero can be intentionally introduced by placing a capacitor (C4) in parallel with the resistor (R1) between V_{OUT} and V_{NFR} as shown in Figure 1. The frequency of the zero is determined by the following equation.

$$
f_Z = \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot R1 \cdot C4}
$$

By choosing the appropriate values for the resistor and capacitor, the zero frequency can be designed to improve the phase margin of the overall converter. The typical target value for the zero frequency is between 20kHz to 60kHz. Figure 3 shows the transient response of the inverting converter from Figure 1 without the phase lead capacitor C4. The phase margin is reduced as evidenced by more ringing in both the output voltage and inductor current. A 220pF capacitor for C4 results in better phase margin, which is revealed in Figure 4 as a more damped response and less overshoot. Figure 5 shows the transient response when a 22µF tantalum capacitor with no phase lead capacitor is used on the output. The higher output voltage ripple is revealed in the upper waveform as a thicker line. The transient response is adequate which implies that the ESR zero is improving the phase margin.

Figure 3. Transient Response of Inverting Converter Without Phase Lead Capacitor

APPLICATIO S I FOR ATIO W U U U

Figure 4. Transient Response of Inverting Converter with 220pF Phase Lead Capacitor

Figure 5. Transient Response of Inverting Converter with 22µ**F Tantalum Output Capacitor and No Phase Lead Capacitor**

START-UP/SOFT-START

For most LT1931/LT1931A applications, the start-up inrush current can be high. This is an inherent feature of switching regulators in general since the feedback loop is saturated due to V_{OUT} being far from its final value. The

Figure 6. Start-Up Waveforms for 5V to –5V Application (Figure 1). No Soft-Start Circuit. V_{OUT} Reaches -5V in **500**µ**s; Input Current Peaks at 800mA**

regulator tries to charge up the output capacitor as quickly as possible, which results in a large inrush current. Figure 6 shows a typical oscillograph of the start-up waveform for the application of Figure 1 starting into a load of 33 Ω . The lower waveform shows SHDN being pulsed from 0V to 5V. The middle waveform shows the input current, which reaches as high as 0.8A. The total time required for the output to reach its final value is approximately 500 μ s. For some applications, this initial inrush current may not be acceptable. If a longer start-up time is acceptable, a soft-start circuit consisting of R_{SS} and C_{SS} , as shown in Figure 7, can be used to limit inrush current to a lower value. Figure 8 shows the relevant waveforms with R_{SS} = 15k and C_{SS} = 33nF. Input current, measured at V_{IN} , is limited to a peak value of 0.5A as the time required to reach final value increases to 1ms. In Figure 9, C_{SS} is

Figure 7. R_{SS} and C_{SS} at SHDN Pin Provide Soft-Start to LT1931 Inverting Converter

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

Figure 8. R_{SS} = 15k, C_{SS} = 33nF; V_{OUT} Reaches -5V in 1ms; **Input Current Peaks at 500mA**

Figure 9. R_{SS} = 15k, C_{SS} = 68nF; V_{OUT} Reaches -5V in 1.6ms; **Input Current Peaks at 350mA**

increased to 68nF, resulting in a lower peak input current of 350mA with a V_{OIII} ramp time of 1.6ms. C_{SS} or R_{SS} can be increased further for an even slower ramp, if desired. Diode D2 serves to quickly discharge C_{SS} when V_{SS} is driven low to shut down the device. D2 can be omitted, resulting in a "soft-stop" slow discharge of the output capacitor.

DIODE SELECTION

A Schottky diode is recommended for use with the LT1931/ LT1931A. The Motorola MBR0520 is a very good choice. Where the input to output voltage differential exceeds 20V, use the MBR0530 (a 30V diode). These diodes are rated to handle an average forward current of 0.5 A. In applications where the average forward current of the diode exceeds 0.5A, a Microsemi UPS5817 rated at 1A is recommended.

LAYOUT HINTS

The high-speed operation of the LT1931/LT1931A demands careful attention to board layout. You will not get advertised performance with careless layout. Figure 10 shows the recommended component placement. The ground cut at the cathode of D1 is essential for low noise operation.

Figure 10. Suggested Component Placement. Note Cut in Ground Copper at D1's Cathode

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

5V to –5V Inverting Converter Using Uncoupled Inductors

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

2.2MHz, 5V to –5V Converter Uses Tiny Chip Inductors Efficiency

SLIC Power Supply with –33V and –68V Outputs, Uses Soft-Start

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

SLIC Power Supply with –21.6V and –65V Outputs, Uses Soft-Start

U PACKAGE DESCRIPTIO

S5 Package

Information furnished by Linear Technology Corporation is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, no responsibility is assumed for its use. Linear Technology Corporation makes no representation that the interconnection of its circuits as described herein will not infringe on existing patent rights.

TYPICAL APPLICATION

2.2MHz, 12V to –5V Converter Uses Low Profile Coupled Inductor

RELATED PARTS

Burst Mode operation is a trademark of Linear Technology Corporation.

