Design Guide: TIDA-01457 **3- to 11.5-V**_{IN}, –**5-V**_{OUT}, **1.5-A Inverting Power Module Reference Design for Small, Low-Noise Systems**

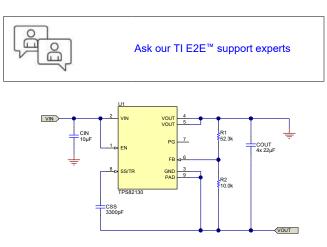


Description

This small and simple, low-noise inverting power module design (voltage inverter) cleanly supports a –5-V output voltage at up to 1.5 A of current from a 3- to 11.5-V input. Featuring TI's TPS82130 MicroSiP[™] power module step-down converter in an inverting buck-boost topology, the design achieves a power density of 584 mW/mm³ and a solution size of less than 50 mm², allowing it to power sensitive analog loads in space-constrained, high-temperature communications equipment, such as optical modules. This design also supports many common industrial equipment, including those that require a 5-V input and –5-V output voltage inverter at up to 1 A.

Resources

TIDA-01457 TPS82130 Design Folder Product Folder





- Simple Power Module Design
- Total Solution Size Less Than 50 mm²
- High Output Current of 1.5 A ($V_{IN} \ge 7.5 V$)
- Wide Input Voltage Range of 3 to 11.5 V
- Low Noise (Less Than 10-mV Output Ripple)
- 125°C Rated Solution

Applications

- Optical Line Card
- Optical Modules
- Optical Networking: EPON
- Telecom Infrastructure: Remote Radio Unit (RRU)
- General Purpose Industrial





1 System Description

A negative voltage around -5 V is frequently required to bias the laser driver in an optical module and other communications equipment. This function requires several hundred milliamps of current and is powered from a 3.3-V source. This reference design delivers an output current up to 600 mA at the lowest 3-V input voltage, which is a good match to the required output power and input voltage.

A negative voltage is also required in numerous industrial applications to bias operational amplifiers (op amps), programmable gain amplifiers (PGAs), and data converters (ADCs or DACs). In both applications, an integrated power module shortens the design time and enables a very-small solution size, while the low-output noise has a minimal effect on the actual signal.

1.1 Key System Specifications

Table 1-1. Ney bystem opecifications			
PARAMETER	SPECIFICATIONS	DETAILS	
Input voltage range (V _{IN})	3 to 11.5 V	_	
Output voltage (V _{OUT})	–5 V	_	
Output current (V _{IN} ≥ 7.5 V)	1.5 A	Figure 4-1	
Output current (V _{IN} = 5 V)	1 A	Figure 4-1	
Output current (V _{IN} = 3 V)	600 mA	Figure 4-1	

Table 1-1. Key System Specifications



2 System Overview

2.1 Block Diagram

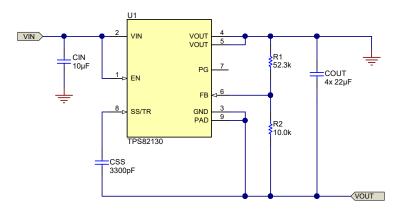


Figure 2-1. TIDA-01457 Block Diagram

2.2 Highlighted Products

2.2.1 TPS82130

The TPS82130 is a 3-A, step-down converter power module, which integrates the power inductor to achieve a very-small solution size and simple design. The power module accepts up to a 17-V input voltage from its input pin to ground pin. This wide input voltage range is ideally suited for an inverting converter, which, at a minimum, requires a voltage rating of the input voltage plus the output voltage.

2.3 Design Considerations

2.3.1 Inverting Buck-Boost Topology Concept

The inverting buck-boost topology is very similar to the buck topology. In the buck configuration that Figure 2-2 shows, the positive connection (V_{OUT}) is connected to the VOUT pin of the power module and the return connection is connected to the ground (GND) of the power module. However, in the inverting buck-boost configuration that Figure 2-3 shows, the power module ground is used as the negative output voltage pin (labeled as $-V_{OUT}$). The terminal formerly known as the positive output in the buck configuration is used as the ground. This inverting topology allows the output voltage to be inverted and always lower than the ground.

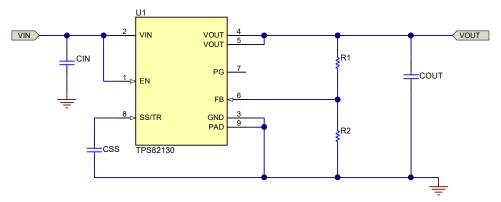


Figure 2-2. TPS82130 Buck Topology

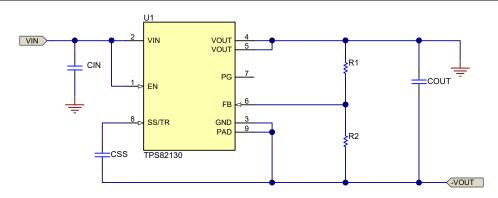


Figure 2-3. TPS82130 Inverting Buck-Boost Topology

The circuit operation is different in the inverting buck-boost topology than in the buck topology. Figure 2-4 (a) shows that the output voltage terminals are reversed, though the components are wired the same as a buck converter. As Figure 2-4 (b) shows, during the ON-time of the control MOSFET, the inductor is charged with current while the output capacitor supplies the load current. The inductor does not provide current to the load during this time. During the OFF-time of the control MOSFET and the ON-time of the synchronous MOSFET (see Figure 2-4 (c)), the inductor provides current to the load and the output capacitor. These changes affect many parameters, which the following subsections describe in further detail.

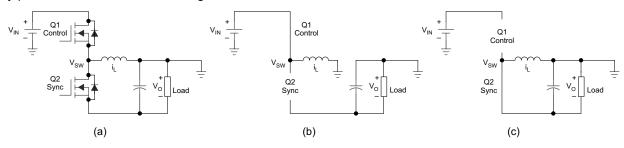


Figure 2-4. Inverting Buck-Boost Configuration

The average inductor current is affected in this topology. In the buck configuration, the average inductor current is equal to the average output current because the inductor always supplies current to the load during both the ON- and OFF-times of the control MOSFET. However, in the inverting buck-boost configuration, only the output capacitor supplies the load with current, while the load is completely disconnected from the inductor during the ON-time of the control MOSFET. During the OFF-time, the inductor connects to both the output capacitor and the load (see Figure 2-4). Because the OFF-time is 1 - D of the switching period, the average inductor current in Equation 1 is calculated as:

$$I_{L(Avg)} = \frac{I_{OUT}}{(1 - D)}$$
(1)

The duty cycle for the typical buck converter is simply V_{OUT} / V_{IN} , but the calculation of the duty cycle in Equation 2 for an inverting buck-boost converter becomes:

$$\mathsf{D} = \frac{\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{OUT}}}{(\mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{OUT}} - \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{IN}})}$$
(2)

$$\Delta I_{L} = \frac{V_{IN}D}{f_{S}L}$$

where:

- ΔI_L (A): Peak-to-peak inductor ripple current
- D: Duty cycle
- f_S (MHz): Switching frequency
- L (μ H): Inductor value of typically 1 μ H
- V_{IN} (V): Input voltage with respect to ground, not with respect to the device ground or V_{OUT}

Equation 4 calculates the maximum inductor current:

$$I_L = I_{L(avg)} + \frac{\Delta I_L}{2}$$

(4)

(3)

2.3.2 V_{IN} and V_{OUT} Range

The input voltage that can be applied to an integrated circuit (IC) operating in the inverting buck-boost topology is less than the input voltage for the same IC operating in the buck topology. The reason for this difference is because the ground pin of the IC is connected to the (negative) output voltage. Therefore, the input voltage across the device is V_{IN} to V_{OUT} , not V_{IN} to ground. Thus, the input voltage range of the TPS82130 is 3 to 17 V + V_{OUT} , where V_{OUT} is a negative value.

The output voltage range is the same as when configured as a buck converter, but negative. The output voltage for the inverting buck-boost topology must be set between -0.9 and -6 V. The output voltage is set in the same way as the buck configuration, with two resistors connected to the FB pin. Use the same equation in the TPS82130 data sheet to set the output voltage, keeping both V_{OUT} and V_{FB} as positive values. The TIDA-01457 design sets the output voltage at -5 V, which gives an input voltage range of 3 to 12 V. However, it is not recommended to use a 12-V input voltage because voltage tolerances on the input supply can violate the recommended operating range of the TPS82130.

2.3.3 Maximum Output Current

In the inverting buck-boost topology, the maximum output current is reduced as compared to the buck topology. This reduction is a result of the peak inductor current being higher, as calculated in Equation 4. With a power module, there are additional thermal limits arising from the small size of the power module itself. Finally, there are further limits on the maximum output current that occur from stability due to the right-half plane zero, which occurs in the inverting buck-boost topology. Figure 4-1 shows the maximum output current based on temperature rise and stability for the TIDA-01457 design. The current limit for the TPS82130 device occurs above all curves in Figure 4-1 and therefore does not limit the maximum output current more than thermal or stability limits. The current limit itself still operates to limit the peak inductor current.

2.3.3.1 Thermal Limits

The primary maximum output current limitation in most designs is a thermal limitation. As the output current increases, the absolute power loss (in mW) in the TPS82130 also increases, which causes a higher temperature rise across the thermal impedance of the TPS82130 device.

The TPS82130 data sheet recommends operating below a device temperature of 110°C and forbids operating above 125°C for reliability. Therefore, Figure 4-1 contains two thermal limit lines: one for a 110°C and one for a 125°C operating temperature. These lines are calculated by multiplying the power loss of the TPS82130 from Figure 4-2 by the θ_{JA} of the TPS82130EVM-720, which is provided in the device data sheet as 46.1°C/W, and adding this value to a 25°C ambient temperature.



Using this method, the maximum output current at any ambient temperature can be calculated. Simply subtract the maximum ambient temperature from either 110°C or 125°C to obtain the allowable temperature rise. Divide the θ_{JA} of the printed circuit board (PCB) by this temperature rise to obtain the allowable power loss. Find this power loss in Figure 4-2 to determine the maximum output current under specific conditions. 46.1°C/W is useful as an estimate of θ_{JA} . See Equation 5 for the calculation.

$$P_{LOSS} \leq \frac{125 - T_{A_MAX}}{\theta_{JA}}$$

2.3.3.2 Stability Limits and Output Capacitor Selection

The "recommended" curve in Figure 4-1 shows the recommended maximum output current based on stability. The TIDA-01457 design must be operated at load currents below this line. In most applications, which have ambient temperatures above 25°C, the thermal limit lines move down below the recommended line (as explained in Section 2.3.3.1), which further limits the maximum output current.

The inverting buck-boost topology contains a right-half plane zero, which significantly and negatively impacts the control loop response by adding an increase in gain along with a decrease in phase at a high frequency. This right-half plane zero can cause instability. Equation 6 estimates the frequency of the right-half plane zero.

$$f_{(\mathsf{RHP})} = \frac{-(1-\mathsf{D})^2 \times \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{OUT}}}{(\mathsf{D} \times \mathsf{L} \times \mathsf{I}_{\mathsf{OUT}} \times 2 \times \pi)}$$
(6)

The TIDA-01457 design uses four 22- μ F output capacitors, which have an effective capacitance of about 36 μ F at the –5-V output voltage. This amount of capacitance pushes the crossover frequency of the control loop down to frequencies low enough so that the right-half plane zero is sufficiently higher in frequency for stability. While one of these output capacitors requires placement near the TPS82130 device, the others can be placed at the point of load and serve as their input decoupling capacitor. When three of the output capacitors are placed at the point of load, the solution size is below 50 mm². If these three capacitors are included, the solution size of all components shown within the *Active Circuitry* box on the front page becomes around 75 mm².

More output capacitance improves stability by increasing the separation between the right-half plane zero and crossover. The right-half plane zero frequency occurs at lower frequencies with lower input voltages, which have a higher duty cycle. Load transient testing is the best test for stability, as described in the *Simplifying Stability Checks* application report. Because the VOS pin of the TPS82130 is connected on the device, it is impossible to break the entire control loop and measure a bode plot.

2.3.4 Design Precautions

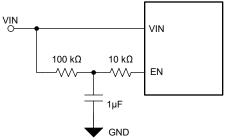
When using TPS82130 module for an inverting buck-boost application, there is a risk if VIN and EN pins are connected together directly.

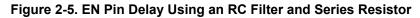
The inverting buck-boost is commonly used to power the negative side of a differential rail. If the positive rail is applied to this differential rail first, the downstream devices activate and their Iq charges a positive prebias voltage on the negative rail. Input brownout and quick power cycles are other scenarios that can prebias the negative rail and cause startup issues. With VIN and EN tied together and having a positive prebias on the output of inverting buck-boost, the device might enable before it has time to initialize internal circuitry which can cause unexpected startup behavior or cause the device to get stuck. Ensuring that the EN pin is asserted after VIN is powered on can eliminate this issue robustly.

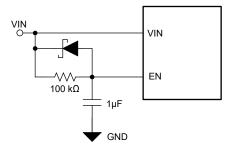
There are three proposed workarounds to avoid this issue:

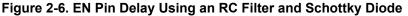
- 1. The first suggestion is to adjust the system power up sequence to prevent the unintended voltage buildup on the negative rail. This means enabling the negative rail first so that it is able to start up correctly, then enabling the positive rail. Adjusting the power on sequence this way can ensure that the TPS82130 as inverting buck-boost converter has a correct startup.
- 2. If the application relies on the device enabling with VIN, then an RC filter is required to add a delay between VIN and EN pin. This ensures that the device has enough time to initialize the internal circuitry before the device is enabled to start regulating the output. The 100 k Ω and 1 μ F RC filter provides the necessary delay between the VIN and EN pins for the device's initialization. An example of this schematic modification is

shown in two different options. One using a series resistors to limit the current into the EN pin Figure 2-5 and another using a schottky diode to clamp the EN pin Figure 2-6. When using the schottky diode option, the forward voltage drop needs to be selected less than 0.3 V so that the device does not exceed the absolute maximum rating on EN pin.









3. Lastly, if the application requires enabling and disabling of the device from an external control signal, like a microcontroller or PG pin from an upstream device, then the order of power sequence is important. During power up, VIN must be applied before the EN signal and during power down, the EN pin needs to go low before VIN is removed. This ensures that EN pin does not exceed the maximum rating of VIN + 0.3 V, which can damage the device. See Section 2.3.5 for more information on level shifting the digital inputs.

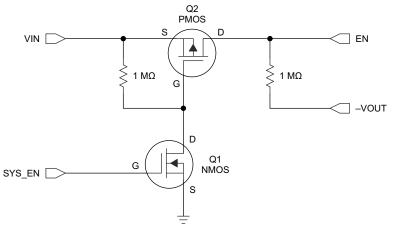
2.3.5 Enable Pin Configuration

The device is enabled when the voltage at the EN pin trips its threshold and the input voltage is above the undervoltage lockout (UVLO) threshold. The TPS82130 device stops operation when the voltage on the EN pin falls below its threshold or the input voltage falls below the UVLO threshold.

Because V_{OUT} is the IC ground in this configuration, the EN pin must be referenced to V_{OUT} instead of ground. In the buck configuration, 0.9 V is considered as high and less than 0.3 V is considered as low. In the inverting buck-boost configuration, however, the V_{OUT} voltage is the reference; therefore, the high threshold is 0.9 V + V_{OUT} and the low threshold is 0.3 V + V_{OUT} . For example, if $V_{OUT} = -5$ V, then V_{EN} is considered at a high level for voltages above -4.1 V and a low level for voltages below -4.7 V.



This behavior can cause difficulties enabling or disabling the part because, in some applications, the IC providing the EN signal may not be able to produce negative voltages. The level-shifter circuit that Figure 2-7 shows removes any difficulties associated with the offset EN threshold voltages by eliminating the requirement for negative EN signals. If disabling the TPS82130 is not desired, the EN pin may be directly connected to V_{IN} without this circuit.



VOUT is the negative output voltage of the inverting buck-boost converter

Figure 2-7. EN Pin Level Shifter

The positive signal that originally drove EN is instead tied to the gate of Q1 (SYS_EN). When Q1 is OFF (SYS_EN grounded), Q2 has 0 V across its V_{GS} and also remains OFF. In this state, the EN pin is initially at the level of the output voltage (–5 V), which is below the low-level threshold, and disables the device.

When SYS_EN provides enough positive voltage to turn Q1 ON (V_{GS} threshold as specified in the MOSFET data sheet), the gate of Q2 is at ground potential through Q1. This action drives the V_{GS} of Q2 negative and turns Q2 ON. Then V_{IN} ties to EN through Q2 and the pin is above the high-level threshold, which turns the device ON. Be careful to ensure that the V_{GD} and V_{GS} of Q2 remain within the MOSFET ratings during both the enabled and disabled states. Failing to adhere to this constraint can result in damaged MOSFETs.

Figure 4-17 and Figure 4-18 show the enable and disable sequence. The SYS_EN signal activates the enable circuit and the G/D node signal represents the shared node between Q1 and Q2. This circuit has been tested with a 5-V SYS_EN signal and dual N/PFET Si1029X. The EN signal is the output of the circuit and goes from V_{IN} to V_{OUT} to properly enable and disable the device. The PG pin is used as an output discharge to accelerate the return of V_{OUT} to 0 V, when the IC is disabled.



2.3.6 Power Good Pin Configuration

The TPS82130 has a built-in power good (PG) function to indicate whether the output voltage has reached its appropriate level or not. The PG pin is an open-drain output that requires a pullup resistor. Because V_{OUT} is the IC ground in this configuration, the PG pin is referenced to V_{OUT} instead of ground, which means that the TPS82130 device pulls PG to V_{OUT} when it is low.

This behavior can cause difficulties in reading the state of the PG pin, because in some applications the IC detecting the voltage level of the PG pin may not be able to withstand negative voltages. The level-shifter circuit shown in Figure 2-8 removes any difficulties associated with the offset PG pin voltages by eliminating the negative output signals of the PG pin. If the PG pin functionality is not required, it may be left floating or connected to V_{OUT} without this circuit. Note that to avoid violating its absolute maximum rating, the PG pin should not be driven more than 6 V above the negative output voltage (IC ground).

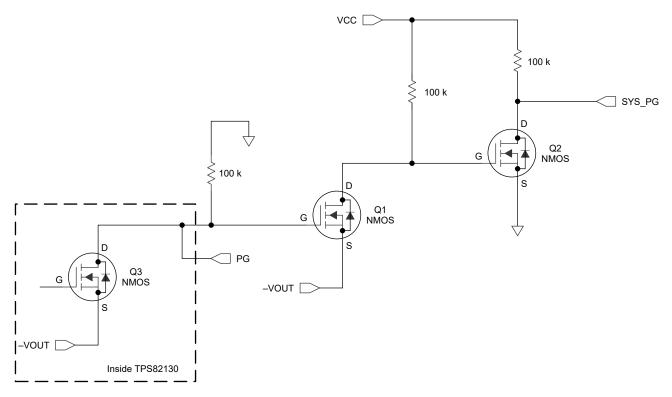


Figure 2-8. PG Pin Level Shifter

Inside the TPS82130, the PG pin is connected to an N-channel MOSFET (Q3). By tying the PG pin to the gate of Q1, when the PG pin is pulled low, Q1 is off and Q2 is on because Q2's V_{GS} is at V_{CC} . SYS_PG is then pulled to ground.

When Q3 turns OFF, the gate of Q1 is pulled to ground potential which turns Q1 ON. This sequence of events pulls the gate of Q2 below ground, which turns it OFF. SYS_PG is then pulled up to the V_{CC} voltage. Note that the V_{CC} voltage must be at an appropriate logic level for the circuitry connected to the SYS_PG net.

Figure 4-19 and Figure 4-20 show this PG pin level-shifter sequence. The PG signal activates the PG pin level-shifter circuit and the G/D node signal represents the shared node between Q1 and Q2. This circuit has been tested with a V_{CC} of 5 V and dual NFET Si1902DL. The SYS_PG net is the output of the circuit and goes between ground and 5 V and is easily read by a separate device.

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2.3.7 Discharging Output Voltage

If the TPS82130 device is disabled in a light-load or no-load condition, the PG pin can accelerate return of V_{OUT} to 0 V by providing an additional discharge path. When the IC has been disabled through the EN pin, the PG pin is connected to the device ground ($-V_{OUT}$) through an internal MOSFET. Placing a resistor between ground and the PG pin creates a discharge path to ground.

The added resistor must be sized to limit the current into the PG pin to a safe level, which the TPS82130 datasheet specifies as 10 mA at maximum. A $499-\Omega$ PG resistor has been chosen for this –5-V output voltage.

2.3.8 Adjustable Soft-Start Time

The TPS82130 features an adjustable soft-start time. The soft-start time is the rise time of the output voltage and is adjustable with the capacitor, CSS, on the SS/TR pin. If needed, the output voltage rise time is adjustable to match the rise time of a corresponding 5-V rail in the system. The soft-start time is set in the same way as described in the TPS82130 data sheet.

2.3.9 Input Capacitor Selection

An input capacitor, CIN, is required to provide a local bypass for the input voltage source. A low equivalent series resistance (ESR) X5R or X7R ceramic capacitor is best for input voltage filtering and minimizing interference with other circuits. For most applications, a $10-\mu$ F ceramic capacitor is recommended from V_{IN} to ground (system ground, not $-V_{OUT}$). The CIN capacitor value can be increased without any limit for better input voltage filtering.

For the inverting buck-boost configuration of the TPS82130, TI does not recommend installing a capacitor from V_{IN} to $-V_{OUT}$. Such a capacitor, if installed, provides an AC path from V_{IN} to $-V_{OUT}$. When V_{IN} is applied to the circuit, this dV/dt across a capacitor from V_{IN} to $-V_{OUT}$ creates a current that must return to ground (the return of the input supply) to complete its loop. This current may flow through the body diode of the internal low-side MOSFET and the inductor to return to ground. Flowing through the body diode pulls the VOUT pin below IC ground, which violates its absolute maximum rating. Such a condition may damage the TPS82130 and is not recommended; therefore, a capacitor from V_{IN} to $-V_{OUT}$ is not required or recommended. If such a capacitor (CBP) is present, then a Schottky diode must be installed on the output, as the schematic in Figure 2-9 shows.

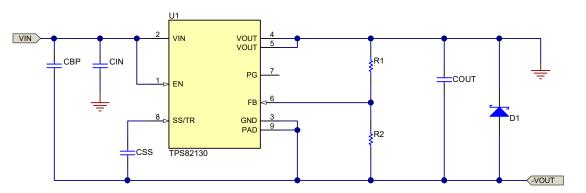


Figure 2-9. Installation of Schottky Diode D1 Required, if Installing CBP



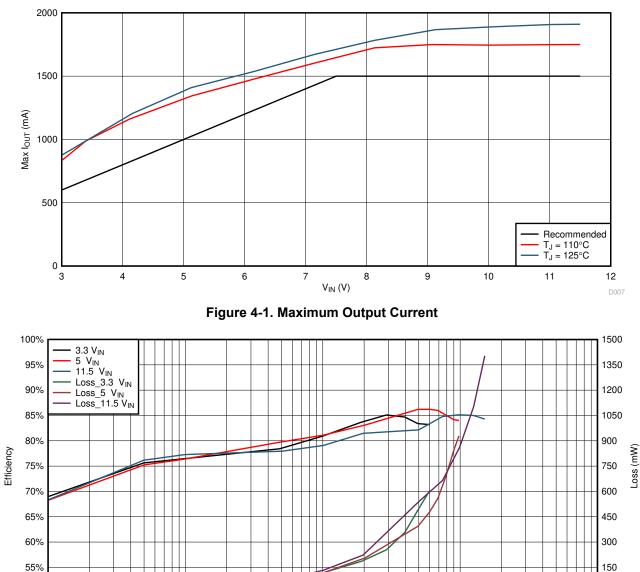
0

10000

3 Getting Started Hardware

To test this reference design, simply apply an input voltage between the J1 and J4 connectors. Then, connect a jumper between ON and EN on JP1.

4 Testing and Results



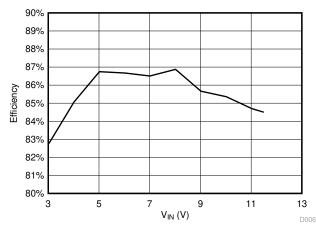
I_{OUT} (mA) Figure 4-2. Efficiency Over Load

100

10

50%

1





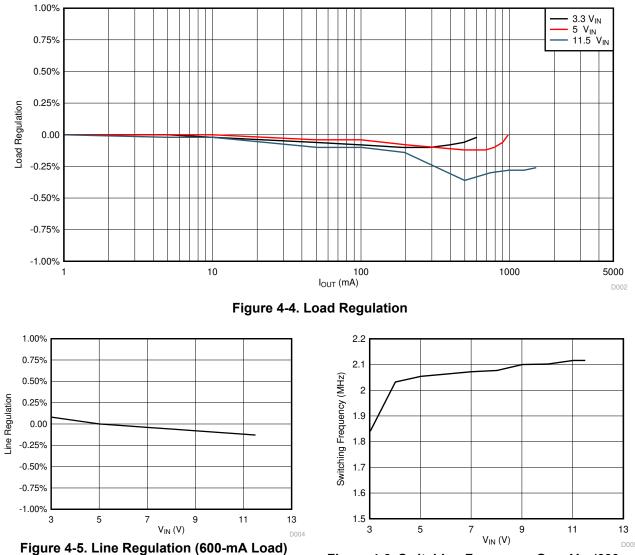
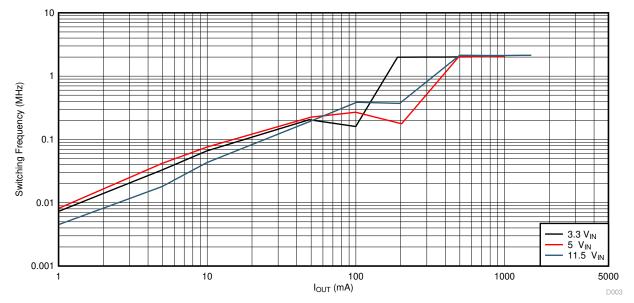


Figure 4-6. Switching Frequency Over V_{IN} (600-mA Load)







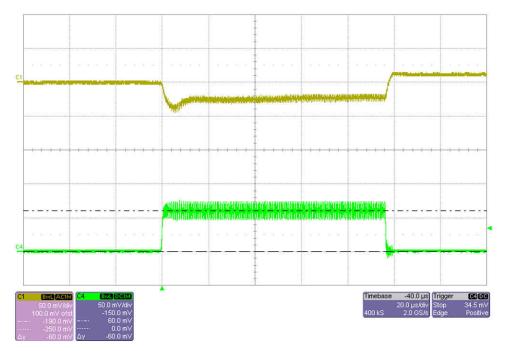


Figure 4-8. Transient Response (3.3 V_{IN}, 0- to 600-mA Load Step)



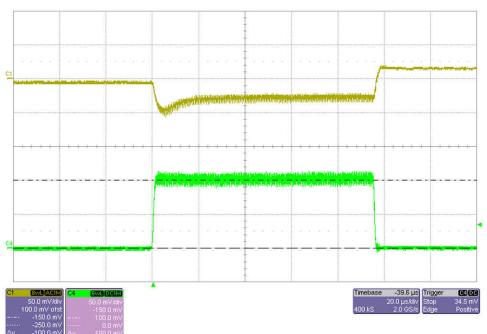


Figure 4-9. Transient Response (5 V_{IN}, 0- to 1-A Load Step)

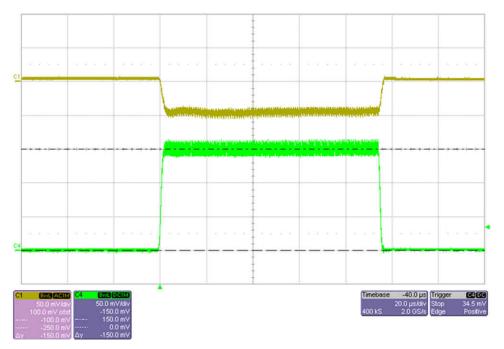


Figure 4-10. Transient Response (7.5 V_{IN}, 0- to 1.5-A Load Step)



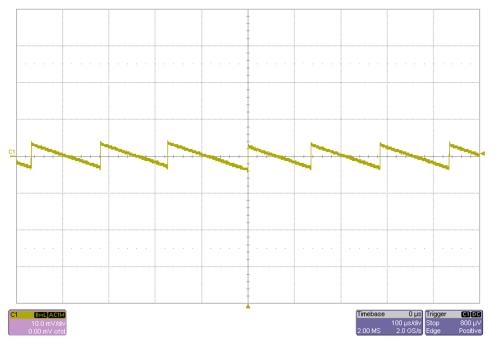


Figure 4-11. Output Voltage Ripple (3.3 V_{IN}, 1-mA Load)

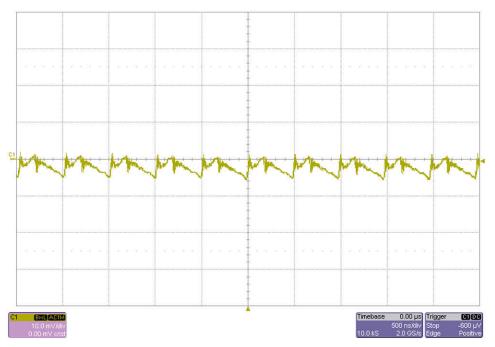


Figure 4-12. Output Voltage Ripple (3.3 V_{IN}, 600-mA Load)



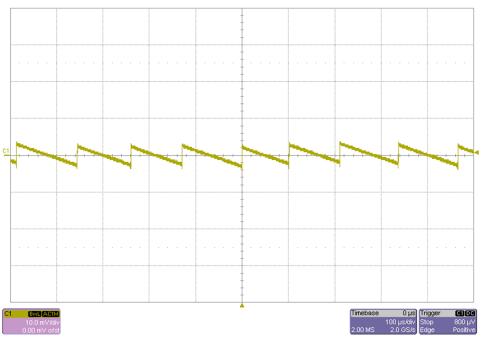


Figure 4-13. Output Voltage Ripple (5 V_{IN}, 1-mA Load)

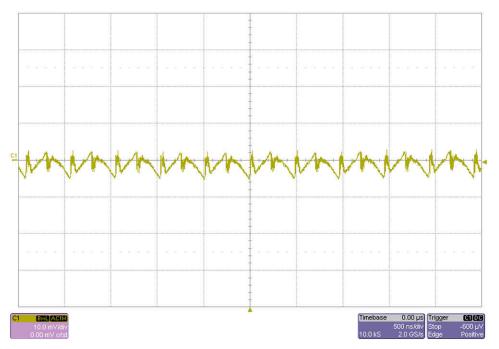


Figure 4-14. Output Voltage Ripple (5 V_{IN}, 1-A Load)



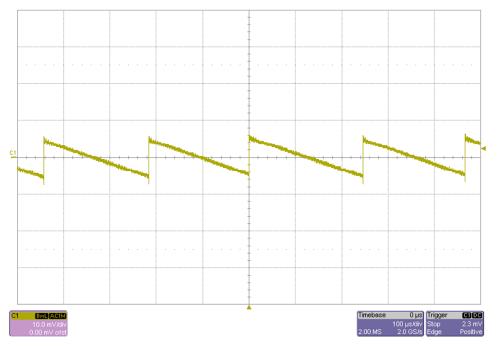


Figure 4-15. Output Voltage Ripple (11.5 V_{IN}, 1-mA Load)

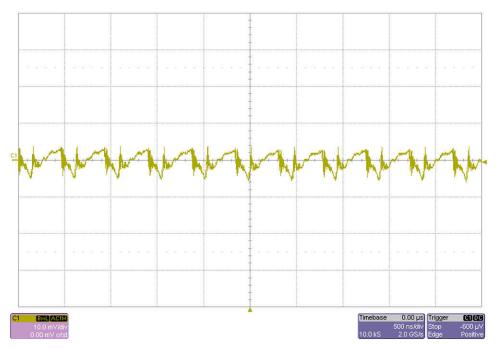


Figure 4-16. Output Voltage Ripple (11.5 V_{IN}, 1.5-A Load)

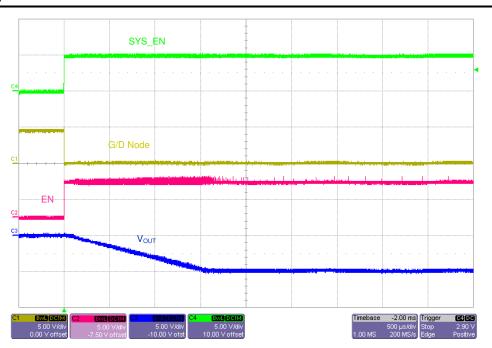


Figure 4-17. Start-up on EN (5 V_{IN} , No Load)

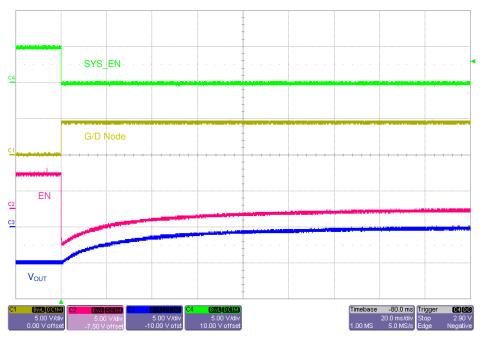


Figure 4-18. Shutdown on EN (5 V_{IN}, No Load)

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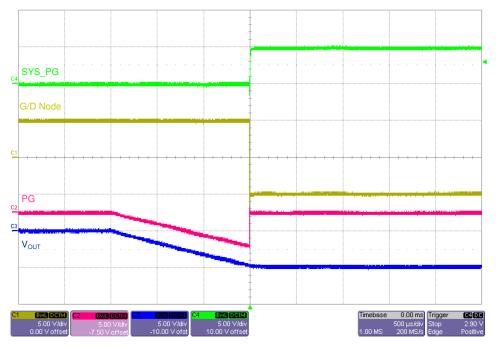


Figure 4-19. PG on Start-up (5 V_{IN}, No Load)

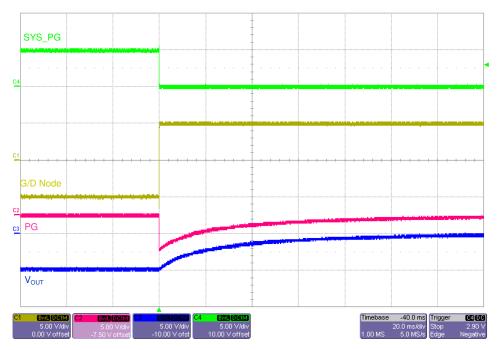


Figure 4-20. PG on Shutdown (5 V_{IN}, No Load)

5 Design Files

5.1 Schematics

To download the schematics, see the design files at TIDA-01457.

5.2 Bill of Materials

To download the bill of materials (BOM), see the design files at TIDA-01457.

5.3 PCB Layout Recommendations

5.3.1 Layout Prints

To download the layer plots, see the design files at TIDA-01457.

5.4 Gerber Files

To download the Gerber files, see the design files at TIDA-01457.

5.5 Assembly Drawings

To download the assembly drawings, see the design files at TIDA-01457.

6 Related Documentation

- 1. Texas Instruments, Simplifying Stability Checks, application note.
- 2. Texas Instruments, Using the TPS62125 in an Inverting Buck-Boost Topology, application note.
- 3. Texas Instruments, *TPS82130 17-V Input 3-A Step-Down Converter MicroSiP™ Module with Integrated Inductor*, data sheet.

7 Trademarks

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8 Revision History

С	Changes from Revision * (June 2017) to Revision A (January 2023)	
•	Updated the numbering format for tables, figures, and cross-references throughout the document	1
•	Added Design Precautions section	<mark>6</mark>

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