MP9403

3A, 4.3V to7V Input, 250kHz Integrated Synchronous Step-Down Converter

The Future of Analog IC Technology

DESCRIPTION

The MP9403 is a monolithic synchronous buck regulator. The device integrates a 150mΩ high-side MOSFET and a 100mΩ low-side MOSFET that provides 3A continuous load current over input voltage of 4.3V to 7V. Current mode control provides fast transient response and cycle-by-cycle current limit.

An adjustable soft-start prevents inrush current at turn-on. In shutdown mode, the supply current drops to 1μA.

This device, available in an 8-pin SOIC package with exposed pad, provides a very compact system solution with minimal reliance on external components.

FEATURES

- 3A Output Current
- 4.3V to 7V Operating Input Range
- Integrated MOSFET Switches
- Output Adjustable from 0.80V to 5.50V
- Up to 93% Efficiency
- Programmable Soft-Start
- Stable with Low ESR Ceramic Output Capacitors
- Fixed 250kHz Frequency
- Cycle-by-Cycle Over Current Protection
- Input Under Voltage Lockout
- Thermally Enhanced 8-Pin SOIC Package

APPLICATIONS

- Distributed Power Systems
- Pre-Regulator for Linear Regulators
- Notebook Computers

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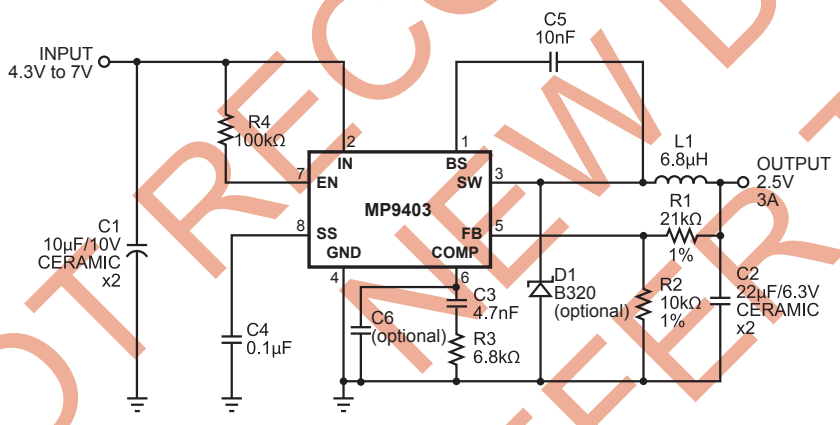
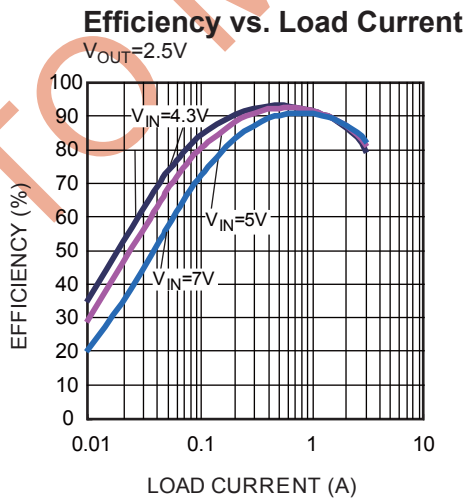
TYPICAL APPLICATION





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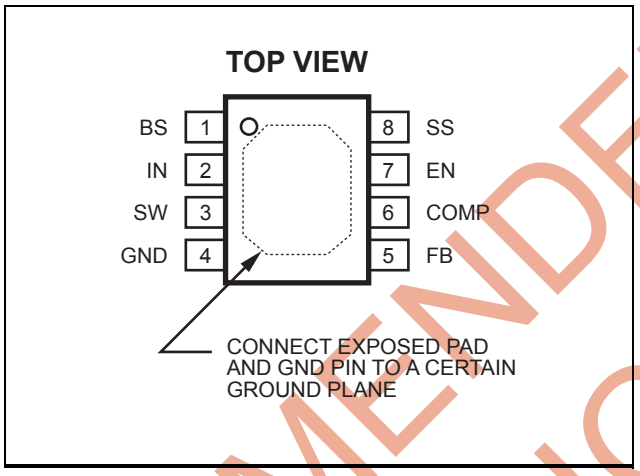
ORDERING INFORMATION

Part Number*	Package	Top Marking	Free Air Temperature (T_A)
MP9403EN	SOIC8E	MP9403EN	–20° to +85°C

* For Tape & Reel, add suffix –Z (e.g. MP9403EN–Z);
For RoHS Compliant Packaging, add suffix –LF (e.g. MP9403 EN –LF–Z)

PACKAGE REFERENCE



ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS (1)

Supply Voltage V_{IN} ..... –0.3V to +8V
Switch Voltage V_{SW} ..... –1V to V_{IN} + 0.3V
Boost Voltage V_{BS} ..... V_{SW} – 0.3V to V_{SW} + 6V
All Other Pins ..... –0.3V to +6V
Continuous Power Dissipation (T_A = +25°C)(2) 2.5W
Junction Temperature ..... 150°C
Lead Temperature ..... 260°C
Storage Temperature ..... –65°C to +150°C

Recommended Operating Conditions (3)

Supply Voltage V_{IN} ..... 4.3V to 7V
Output Voltage V_{OUT} ..... 0.8V to 5.5V
Operating Junct. Temp. (T_J) ..... –20°C to +125°C

Thermal Resistance (4)	θ_{JA}	θ_{JC}
SOIC8E	50	10 °C/W

Notes:

1) Exceeding these ratings may damage the device.
2) The maximum allowable power dissipation is a function of the maximum junction temperature T_J(MAX), the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance θ_{JA}, and the ambient temperature T_A. The maximum allowable continuous power dissipation at any ambient temperature is calculated by P_D(MAX)=(T_J(MAX)-T_A)/ θ_{JA}. Exceeding the maximum allowable power dissipation will cause excessive die temperature, and the regulator will go into thermal shutdown. Internal thermal shutdown circuitry protects the device from permanent damage.
3) The device is not guaranteed to function outside of its operating conditions.
4) Measured on JESD51-7 4-layer board.

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ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (5)

V_{IN} = 5V, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.

Parameter	Symbol	Condition	Min	Typ (5)	Max	Units
Shutdown Supply Current		V_{EN} = 0V			1.0	μA
Supply Current		V_{EN} = 2.7V, V_{FB} = 1.0V		1.45	1.6	mA
Feedback Voltage	V_{FB}	4.3V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 7V, T_A = +25°C	0.780	0.800	0.820	V
OVP Threshold Voltage			0.90	0.95	1.00	V
Error Amplifier Voltage Gain	A_{EA}			400		V/V
Error Amplifier Transconductance	G_{EA}	ΔI_C = ±10μA	550	820	1100	μA/V
High-Side Switch-On Resistance	$R_{DS(ON)1}$			150		mΩ
Low-Side Switch-On Resistance	$R_{DS(ON)2}$			100		mΩ
High-Side Switch Leakage Current		V_{EN} = 0V, V_{SW} = 0V			1.0	μA
Upper Switch Current Limit		Duty Cycle = 60%	3.4	4.3		A
Lower Switch Current Limit		From Drain to Source		1.25		A
COMP to Current Sense Transconductance	G_{CS}			7		A/V
Oscillation Frequency	F_{osc1}	T_A = +25°C	215	250	285	kHz
Short Circuit Oscillation Frequency	F_{osc2}	V_{FB} = 0V		55		kHz
Maximum Duty Cycle	D_{MAX}	V_{FB} = 0.7V	85	90		%
Minimum On Time				180		ns
EN Shutdown Threshold Voltage		V_{EN} Rising	1.0	1.3	1.6	V
EN Threshold Voltage Hysteresis				205		mV
Input Under Voltage Lockout Threshold	UVLO	V_{IN} rising, T_A = +25°C	3.3	3.65	4.0	V
Input Under Voltage Lockout Threshold Hysterisis				45		mV
Soft-Start Current		V_{SS} = 0V		6		μA
Thermal Shutdown				160		°C

Notes:

5) 100% production test at +25°C. Specifications over the temperature range are guaranteed by design and characterization.

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PIN FUNCTIONS

Pin #	Name	Description
1	BS	High-Side Gate Drive Boost Input. BS supplies the drive for the high-side N-Channel MOSFET switch. Connect a 0.01µF or greater capacitor from SW to BS to power the high side switch.
2	IN	Power Input. IN supplies the power to the IC, as well as the step-down converter switches. Drive IN with a 4.3V to 7V power source. Bypass IN to GND with a suitably large capacitor to eliminate noise on the input to the IC. See *Input Capacitor*.
3	SW	Power Switching Output. SW is the switching node that supplies power to the output. Connect the output LC filter from SW to the output load. Note that a capacitor is required from SW to BS to power the high-side switch.
4	GND, Exposed Pad	Ground. The Exposed Pad and GND pin must be connected to the same ground plane.
5	FB	Feedback Input. FB senses the output voltage to regulate that voltage. Drive FB with a resistive voltage divider from the output voltage. The feedback threshold is 0.80V. See *Setting the Output Voltage*.
6	COMP	Compensation Node. COMP is used to compensate the regulation control loop. Connect a series RC network from COMP to GND to compensate the regulation control loop. In some cases, an additional capacitor from COMP to GND is required. See *Compensation Components.*
7	EN	Enable Input. EN is a digital input that turns the regulator on or off. Drive EN high to turn on the regulator, drive it low to turn it off. Pull up with 100kΩ resistor to IN for automatic startup.
8	SS	Soft-start Control Input. SS controls the soft-start period. Connect a capacitor from SS to GND to set the soft-start period. A 0.1µF capacitor sets the soft-start period to 15ms. To disable the soft-start feature, leave SS unconnected.

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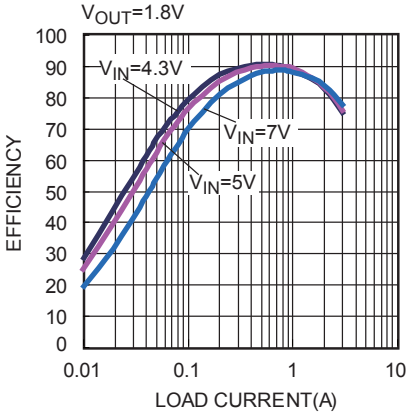
TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CURVES

V_{IN}=5V, V_{OUT}=2.5V, C_{IN}=10µF×2, C_{OUT}=22uF×2, L=6.8µH, C_{SS}=0.1µF, T_A=25°C, unless otherwise noted.

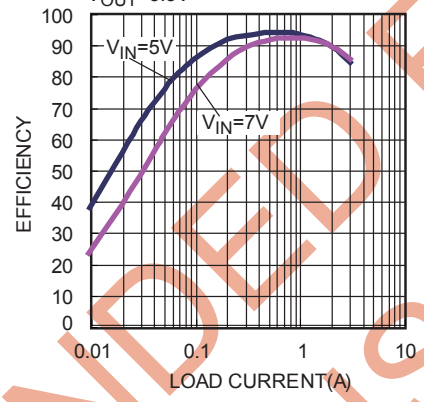
Efficiency vs. Load Current

V_{OUT}=1.8V



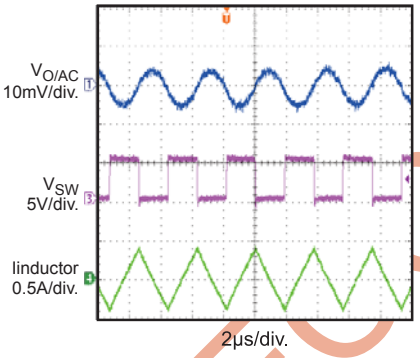
Efficiency vs. Load Current

V_{OUT}=3.3V



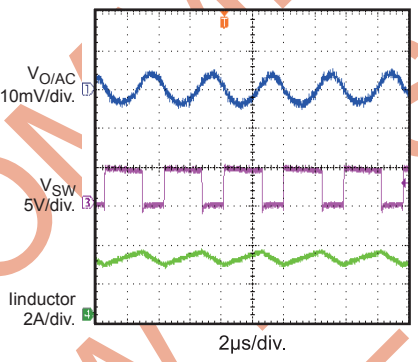
Output Ripple Voltage

I_O=0A



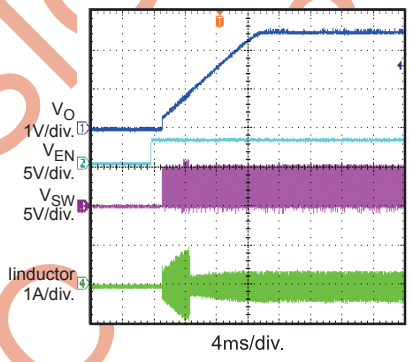
Output Ripple Voltage

I_O=3A



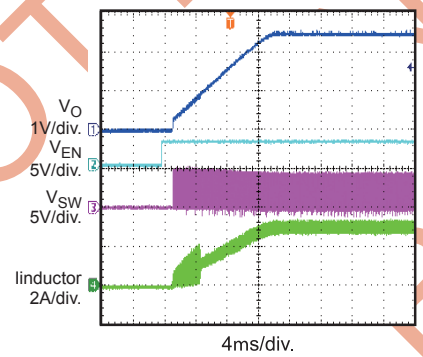
Enable Startup

I_O=0A



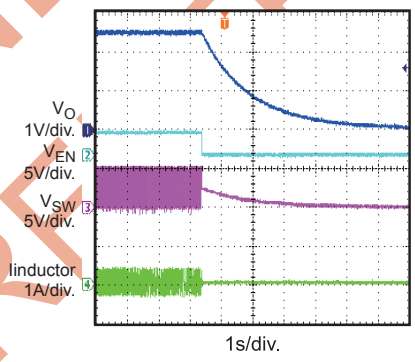
Enable Startup

I_O=3A



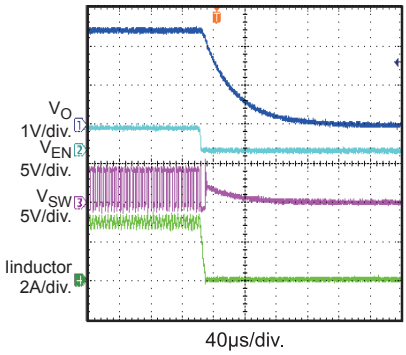
Enable Shutdown

I_O=0A



Enable Shutdown

I_O=3A



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BLOCK DIAGRAM

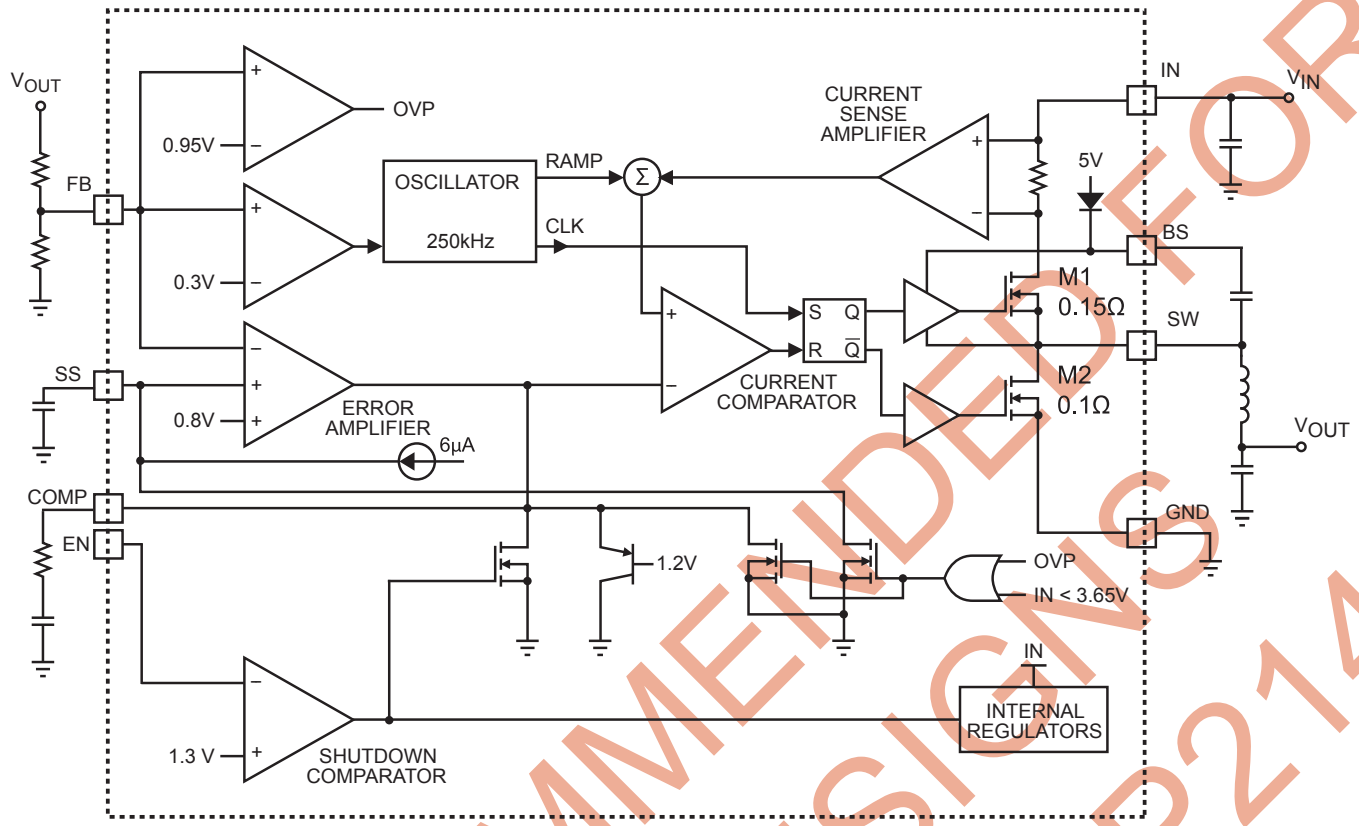

Figure 1—Function Block Diagram

OPERATION

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

The MP9403 is a fully-integrated synchronous current-mode step-down regulator. It regulates input voltages from 4.3V to 7V down to an output voltage as low as 0.80V, and supplies up to 3A of load current.

The MP9403 uses current-mode control to regulate the output voltage. The output voltage is measured at FB through a resistive voltage divider and amplified through the internal transconductance error amplifier. The voltage at COMP pin is compared with the switch current measured internally to control the output voltage.

The converter uses internal N-Channel MOSFET switches to step-down the input voltage to the regulated output voltage. Since the high side MOSFET requires a gate voltage greater than the input voltage, a boost capacitor connected between SW and BS is needed to drive the high-side gate. The boost capacitor is charged from the internal 5V rail when SW is low.

When the MP9403 FB pin exceeds 20% of the nominal regulation voltage of 0.80V, the over voltage comparator is tripped and latched; the COMP pin and the SS pin are discharged to GND, forcing the high-side switch off.

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APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

COMPONENT SELECTION

Setting the Output Voltage

The output voltage is set using a resistive voltage divider from the output voltage to FB pin. The voltage divider divides the output voltage down to the feedback voltage by the ratio:

$$V_{FB} = V_{OUT} \frac{R2}{R1+R2}$$

Thus the output voltage is:

$$V_{OUT} = 0.80 \times \frac{R1+R2}{R2}$$

Where V_{FB} is the feedback voltage and V_{OUT} is the output voltage.

R2 can be as high as 100kΩ, but a typical value is 10kΩ. Using that value, R1 is determined by:

$$R1 = 12.5 \times (V_{OUT} - 0.80)(k\Omega)$$

For example, for a 3.3V output voltage, R2 is 10kΩ, and R1 is 31.6kΩ.

Inductor

The inductor is required to supply constant current to the output load while being driven by the switched input voltage. A larger value inductor will result in less ripple current that will result in lower output ripple voltage. However, the larger value inductor will have a larger physical size, higher series resistance, and/or lower saturation current. A good rule for determining the inductance value is to allow the peak-to-peak ripple current in the inductor to be approximately 30% of the maximum switching current limit. Also, make sure that the peak inductor current is below the maximum switch current limit. The inductance value can be calculated by:

$$L = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f_S \times \Delta I} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)$$

Where V_{IN} is the input voltage, f_S is the 250kHz switching frequency, and ΔI_L is the peak-to-peak inductor ripple current.

Choose an inductor that will not saturate under the maximum inductor peak current. The peak inductor current can be calculated by:

$$I_{LP} = I_{LOAD} + \frac{V_{OUT}}{2 \times f_S \times L} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)$$

Where I_{LOAD} is the load current.

Table 1 lists a number of suitable inductors from various manufacturers. The choice of which style inductor to use mainly depends on the price vs. size requirements and any EMI requirement.

Table 1—Inductor Selection Guide

Part Number	Inductance (µH)	Max DCR (Ω)	Current Rating (A)	Dimensions L x W x H (mm³)
Wurth Electronics				
744777004	4.7	0.040	4.0	7.3x7.3x4.5
7440650068	6.8	0.033	3.6	10x10x2.8
744066100	10	0.035	3.6	10x10x3.8
TDK				
VLF10040T-4R7N5R4	4.7	0.015	5.4	10x9.7x4
VLF10040T-6R8N4R5	6.8	0.023	4.5	10x9.7x4
VLF10040T-100M3R8	10	0.033	3.8	10x9.7x4
Toko				
1010ASW-4R7M	4.7	0.015	4.4	12.3x12.3x4.5
B992AS-6R8N	6.8	0.028	3.8	8.3x8.3x6.8
1010ASW-100M	10	0.022	3.6	12.3x12.3x4.5

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Optional Schottky Diode

During the transition between high-side switch and low-side switch, the body diode of the low-side power MOSFET conducts the inductor current. The forward voltage of this body diode is high. An optional Schottky diode may be paralleled between the SW pin and GND pin to improve overall efficiency. Table 2 lists example Schottky diodes and their Manufacturers.

Table 2—Diode Selection Guide

Part Number	Voltage/Current Rating	Vendor
B320	20V, 3A	Diodes, Inc.
B320A	20V, 3A	Diodes, Inc.
SS32	20V, 3A	Vishay, Inc.

Input Capacitor

The input current to the step-down converter is discontinuous, therefore a capacitor is required to supply the AC current to the step-down converter while maintaining the DC input voltage. Use low ESR capacitors for the best performance. Ceramic capacitors are preferred, but low-ESR electrolytic capacitors may also suffice. Choose X5R or X7R dielectrics when using ceramic capacitors.

Since the input capacitor (C1) absorbs the input switching current it requires an adequate ripple current rating. The RMS current in the input capacitor can be estimated by:

$$I_{C1} = I_{LOAD} \times \sqrt{\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \times (1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}})}$$

The worst-case condition occurs at $V_{IN} = 2V_{OUT}$, where:

$$I_{C1} = \frac{I_{LOAD}}{2}$$

For simplification, choose an input capacitor with an RMS current rating greater than half of the maximum load current.

The input capacitor can be electrolytic, tantalum or ceramic. When using electrolytic or tantalum capacitors, a small, high quality ceramic capacitor (i.e. 0.1μF), should be placed as close to the IC as possible. When using ceramic capacitors, make sure that they have enough capacitance to provide sufficient charge to prevent excessive voltage ripple at input. The input voltage ripple caused by capacitance can be estimated by:

$$\Delta V_{IN} = \frac{I_{LOAD}}{f_S \times C1} \times \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)$$

Output Capacitor

The output capacitor is required to maintain the DC output voltage. Ceramic, tantalum, or low ESR electrolytic capacitors are recommended. Low ESR capacitors are preferred to keep the output voltage ripple low. The output voltage ripple can be estimated by:

$$\Delta V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f_S \times L} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right) \times \left(R_{ESR} + \frac{1}{8 \times f_S \times C2}\right)$$

Where C2 is the output capacitance value and R_{ESR} is the equivalent series resistance (ESR) value of the output capacitor.

In the case of ceramic capacitors, the impedance at the switching frequency is dominated by the capacitance. The output voltage ripple is mainly caused by the capacitance. For simplification, the output voltage ripple can be estimated by:

$$\Delta V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{8 \times f_S^2 \times L \times C2} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)$$

In the case of tantalum or electrolytic capacitors, the ESR dominates the impedance at the switching frequency. For simplification, the output ripple can be approximated to:

$$\Delta V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{OUT}}{f_S \times L} \times \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right) \times R_{ESR}$$

The characteristics of the output capacitor also affect the stability of the regulation system. The MP9403 can be optimized for a wide range of capacitance and ESR values.

Compensation Components

MP9403 employs current mode control for easy compensation and fast transient response. The system stability and transient response are controlled through the COMP pin. COMP pin is the output of the internal transconductance error amplifier. A series capacitor-resistor combination sets a pole-zero combination to control the characteristics of the control system.

The DC gain of the voltage feedback loop is given by:

$$A_{VDC} = R_{LOAD} \times G_{CS} \times A_{VEA} \times \frac{V_{FB}}{V_{OUT}}$$

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Where A_{VEA} is the error amplifier voltage gain, 400V/V; G_{CS} is the current sense transconductance, 7.0A/V; R_{LOAD} is the load resistor value.

The system has 2 poles of importance. One is due to the compensation capacitor (C3) and the output resistor of error amplifier, and the other is due to the output capacitor and the load resistor. These poles are located at:

$$f_{P1} = \frac{G_{EA}}{2\pi \times C3 \times A_{VEA}}$$

$$f_{P2} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times C2 \times R_{LOAD}}$$

Where G_{EA} is the error amplifier transconductance, 820μA/V, and R_{LOAD} is the load resistor value.

The system has one zero of importance, due to the compensation capacitor (C3) and the compensation resistor (R3). This zero is located at:

$$f_{Z1} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times C3 \times R3}$$

The system may have another zero of importance, if the output capacitor has a large capacitance and/or a high ESR value. The zero, due to the ESR and capacitance of the output capacitor, is located at:

$$f_{ESR} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times C2 \times R_{ESR}}$$

In this case, a third pole set by the compensation capacitor (C6) and the compensation resistor (R3) is used to compensate the effect of the ESR zero on the loop gain. This pole is located at:

$$f_{P3} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times C6 \times R3}$$

The goal of compensation design is to shape the converter transfer function to get a desired loop gain. The system crossover frequency where the feedback loop has the unity gain is important.

Lower crossover frequencies result in slower line and load transient responses, while higher crossover frequencies could cause system unstable. A good rule of thumb is to set the crossover frequency to approximately one-tenth of the switching frequency. Switching frequency for the MP9403 is 250kHz, so the desired crossover frequency is 25kHz.

Table 3 lists the typical values of compensation components for some standard output voltages with various output capacitors and inductors. The values of the compensation components have been optimized for fast transient responses and good stability at given conditions.

To optimize the compensation components for conditions not listed in Table 3, the following procedure can be used.

1. Choose the compensation resistor (R3) to set the desired crossover frequency. Determine the R3 value by the following equation:

$$R3 = \frac{2\pi \times C2 \times f_C}{G_{EA} \times G_{CS}} \times \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{FB}}$$

Where f_C is the desired crossover frequency, 25kHz.

2. Choose the compensation capacitor (C3) to achieve the desired phase margin. For applications with typical inductor values, setting the compensation zero, f_{Z1}, below one forth of the crossover frequency provides sufficient phase margin. Determine the C3 value by the following equation:

$$C3 > \frac{4}{2\pi \times R3 \times f_C}$$

Table 3—Compensation Values for Typical Output Voltage/Capacitor Combinations

V_{OUT}	L	C2	R3	C3	C6
1.2V	4.7uH	22μFx2 Ceramic	2.4kΩ	6.8nF	None
1.8V	6.8μH	22μFx2 Ceramic	4.3kΩ	6.8nF	None
2.5V	6.8μH	22μFx2 Ceramic	6.8kΩ	4.7nF	None
3.3V	6.8μH	22μFx2 Ceramic	8.2kΩ	2.2nF	None

3. Determine if the second compensation capacitor (C6) is required. It is required if the ESR zero of the output capacitor is located at less than half of the 250kHz switching frequency, or the following relationship is valid:

$$\frac{1}{2\pi \times C2 \times R_{ESR}} < \frac{f_S}{2}$$

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If this is the case, then add the second compensation capacitor (C6) to set the pole f_{P3} at the location of the ESR zero. Determine the C6 value by the equation:

$$C6 = \frac{C2 \times R_{ESR}}{R3}$$

External Bootstrap Diode

An external bootstrap diode may enhance the efficiency of the regulator, the applicable conditions of external BST diode are:

- V_{OUT} is 5V or 3.3V; and
- Duty cycle is high: $D=\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}$ >65%

In these cases, an external BST diode is recommended from the output of the voltage regulator to BST pin, as shown in Fig.2

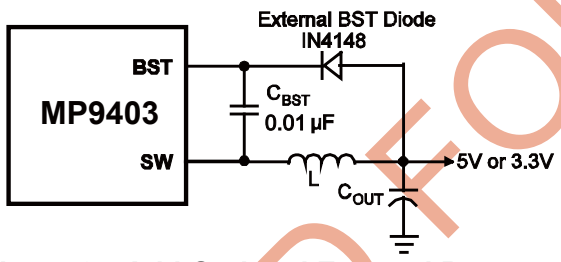

Figure 2—Add Optional External Bootstrap Diode to Enhance Efficiency

The recommended external BST diode is IN4148.

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TYPICAL APPLICATION CIRCUITS

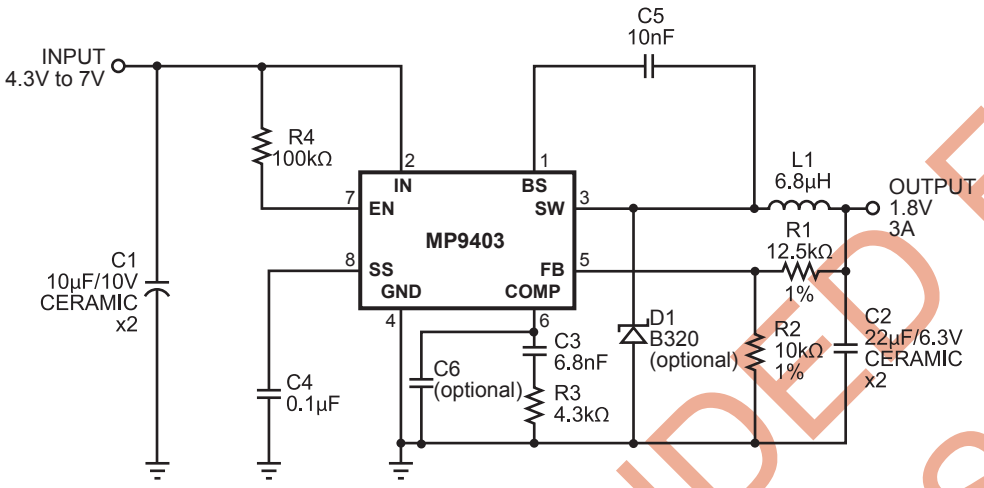

Figure 3—MP9403 with 1.8V Output Typical Application Schematic

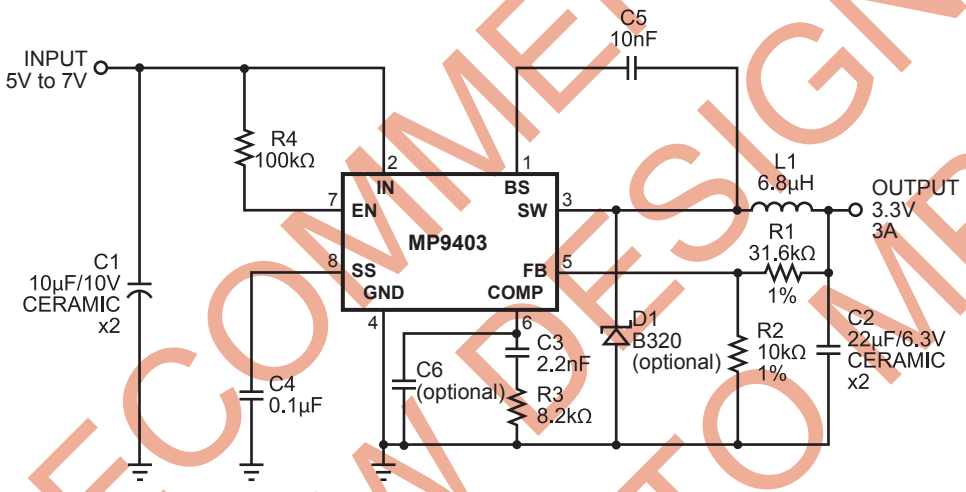

Figure 4—MP9403 with 3.3V Output Typical Application Schematic

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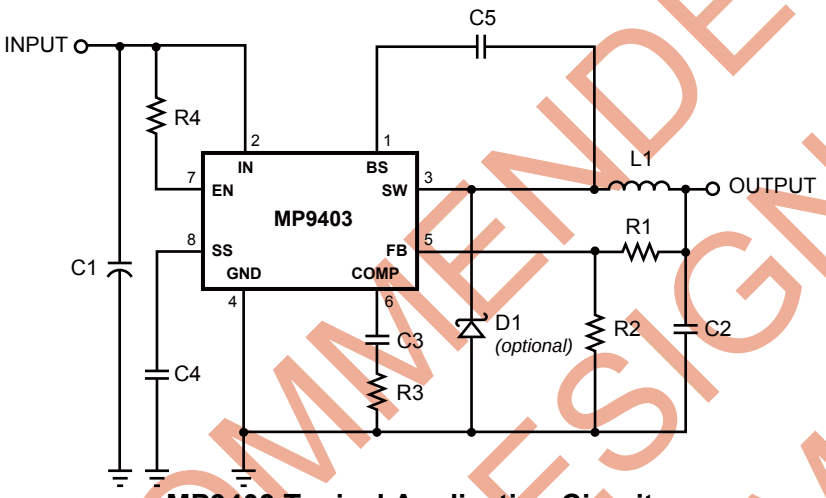
PCB Layout Guide

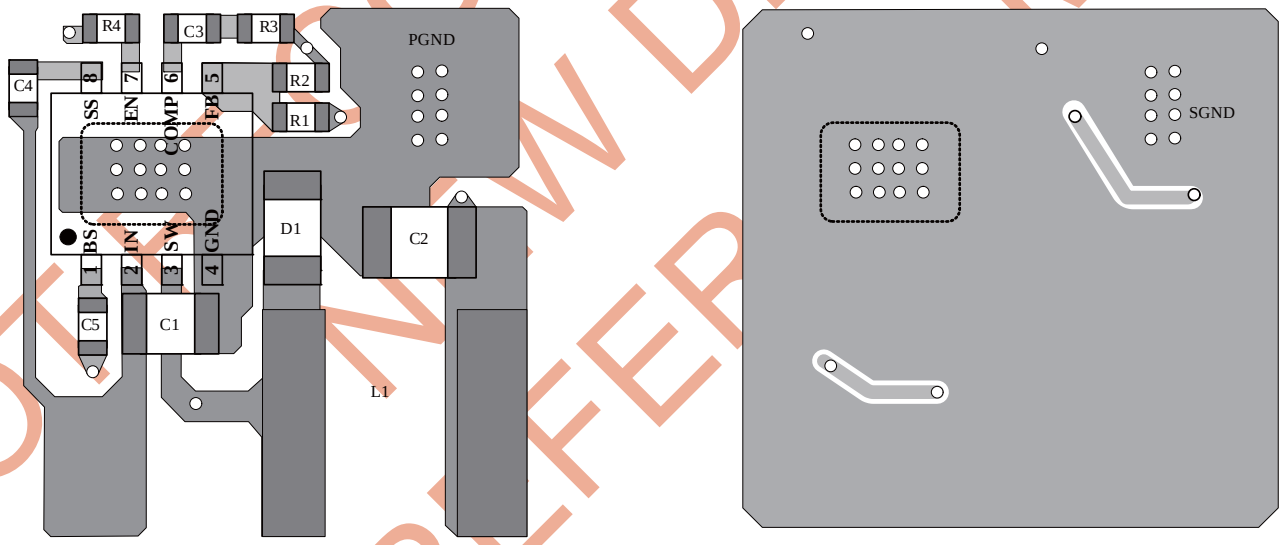
PCB layout is very important to achieve stable operation. It is highly recommended to duplicate EVB layout for optimum performance.

If change is necessary, please follow these guidelines and take Figure 5 for reference.

1) Keep the path of switching current short and minimize the loop area formed by Input cap, high-side MOSFET and low-side MOSFET.
2) Bypass ceramic capacitors are suggested to be put close to the Vin Pin.
3) Ensure all feedback connections are short and direct. Place the feedback resistors and compensation components as close to the chip as possible.
4) Rout SW away from sensitive analog areas such as FB.
5) Connect IN, SW, and especially GND respectively to a large copper area to cool the chip to improve thermal performance and long-term reliability.



MP9403 Typical Application Circuit



Top Layer **Bottom Layer**

Figure 5—MP9403 Typical Application Circuit and PCB Layout Guide

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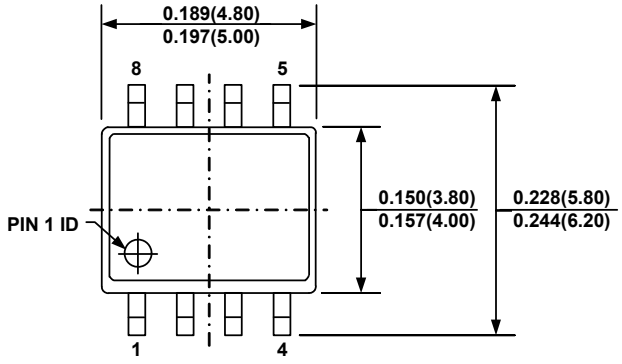
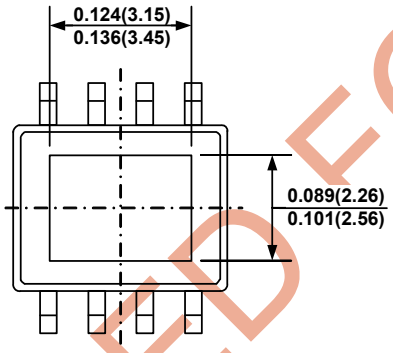
PACKAGE INFORMATION

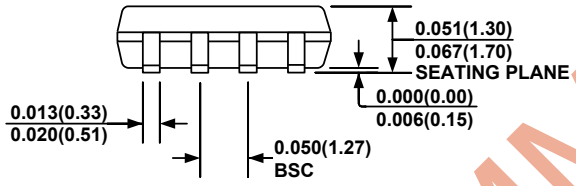
SOIC8E



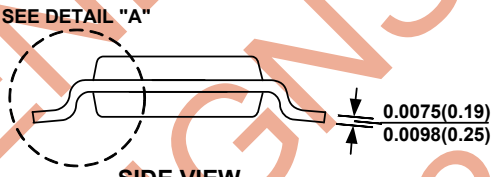
TOP VIEW



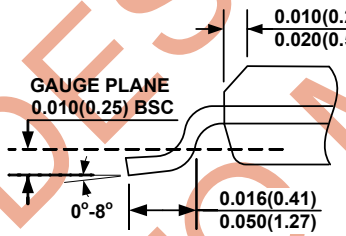
BOTTOM VIEW



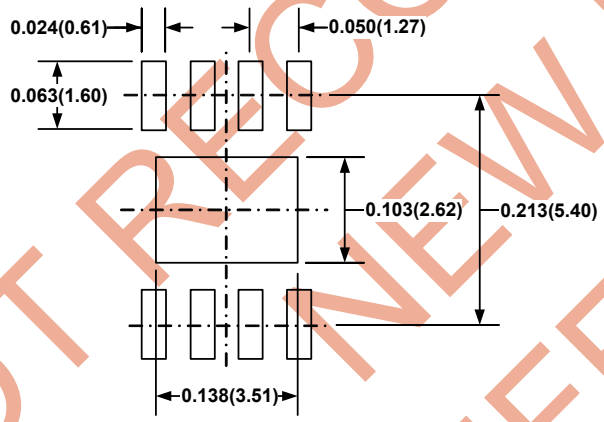
FRONT VIEW



SIDE VIEW



DETAIL "A"



RECOMMENDED LAND PATTERN

NOTE:

1) CONTROL DIMENSION IS IN INCHES. DIMENSION IN BRACKET IS IN MILLIMETERS.
2) PACKAGE LENGTH DOES NOT INCLUDE MOLD FLASH, PROTRUSIONS OR GATE BURRS.
3) PACKAGE WIDTH DOES NOT INCLUDE INTERLEAD FLASH OR PROTRUSIONS.
4) LEAD COPLANARITY (BOTTOM OF LEADS AFTER FORMING) SHALL BE 0.004" INCHES MAX.
5) DRAWING CONFORMS TO JEDEC MS-012, VARIATION BA.
6) DRAWING IS NOT TO SCALE.

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