

LM2940/LM2940C 1A Low Dropout Regulator

General Description

The LM2940/LM2940C positive voltage regulator features the ability to source 1A of output current with a dropout voltage of typically 0.5V and a maximum of 1V over the entire temperature range. Furthermore, a quiescent current reduction circuit has been included which reduces the ground current when the differential between the input voltage and the output voltage exceeds approximately 3V. The quiescent current with 1A of output current and an input-output differential of 5V is therefore only 30 mA. Higher quiescent currents only exist when the regulator is in the dropout mode ($V_{IN} - V_{OUT} \leq 3V$).

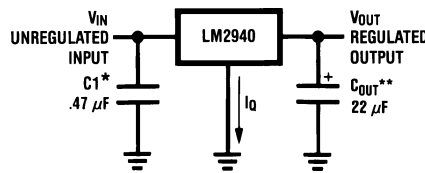
Designed also for vehicular applications, the LM2940/LM2940C and all regulated circuitry are protected from reverse battery installations or 2-battery jumps. During line transients, such as load dump when the input voltage can

momentarily exceed the specified maximum operating voltage, the regulator will automatically shut down to protect both the internal circuits and the load. The LM2940/LM2940C cannot be harmed by temporary mirror-image insertion. Familiar regulator features such as short circuit and thermal overload protection are also provided.

Features

- Dropout voltage typically 0.5V @ $I_O = 1A$
- Output current in excess of 1A
- Output voltage trimmed before assembly
- Reverse battery protection
- Internal short circuit current limit
- Mirror image insertion protection
- P+ Product Enhancement tested

Typical Application



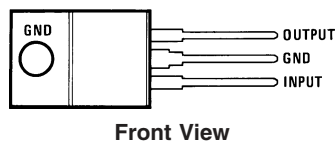
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*Required if regulator is located far from power supply filter.

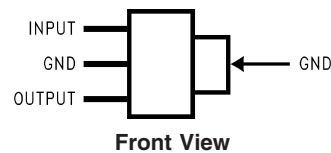
** C_{OUT} must be at least 22 μF to maintain stability. May be increased without bound to maintain regulation during transients. Locate as close as possible to the regulator. This capacitor must be rated over the same operating temperature range as the regulator and the ESR is critical; see curve.

Connection Diagrams

(TO-220) Plastic Package

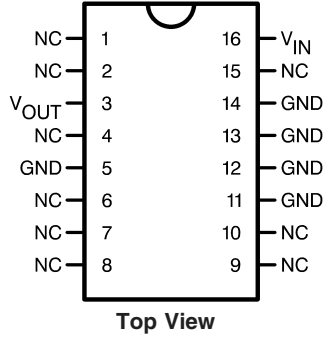


3-Lead SOT-223

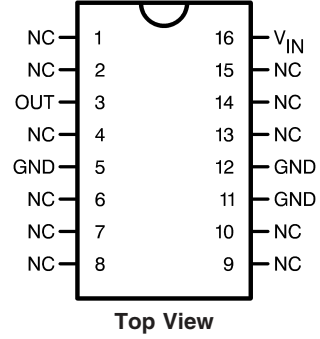


Connection Diagrams

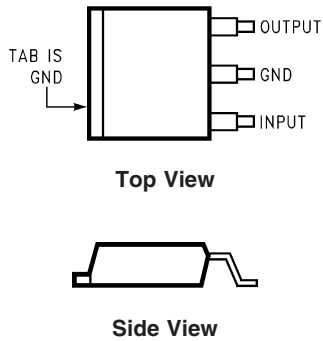
16-Lead Dual-in-Line Package (J)



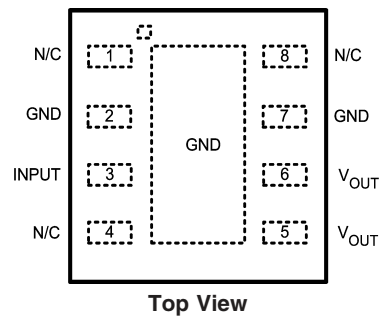
16-Lead Ceramic Surface-Mount Package (WG)



(TO-263) Surface-Mount Package



8-Lead LLP



Pin 2 and pin 7 are fused to center DAP
Pin 5 and 6 need to be tied together on PCB board

Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, please Distributors for availability and specifications.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| LM2940S, T, MP ≤ 100 ms | 60V |
| LM2940CS, T ≤ 1 ms | 45V |
| Internal Power Dissipation (Note 2) | Internally Limited |
| Maximum Junction Temperature | 150°C |
| Storage Temperature Range | -65°C ≤ T _J ≤ +150°C |
| Lead Temperature, Time for Wave Soldering | |
| TO-220 (T) Package | 260°C, 10s |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| TO-263 (S) Package | 260°C, 4s |
| SOT-223 (MP) Package | 260°C, 4s |
| ESD Susceptibility (Note 3) | 2 kV |

Operating Conditions (Note 1)

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Input Voltage | 26V |
| Temperature Range | |
| LM2940T, LM2940S | -40°C ≤ T _J ≤ 125°C |
| LM2940CT, LM2940CS | 0°C ≤ T _J ≤ 125°C |
| LM2940IMP | -40°C ≤ T _J ≤ 85°C |
| LM2940J, LM2940WG | -55°C ≤ T _J ≤ 125°C |
| LM2940LD | -40°C ≤ T _J ≤ 125°C |

Electrical Characteristics

V_{IN} = V_O + 5V, I_O = 1A, C_O = 22 μF, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for T_A = T_J = 25°C.

| Output Voltage (V _O) | | 5V | | | 8V | | | Units |
|----------------------------------|--|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/883 Limit (Note 5) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/883 Limit (Note 5) | |
| Output Voltage | 5 mA ≤ I _O ≤ 1A | 5.00 | 6.25V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 26V | | 8.00 | 9.4V ≤ V_{IN} ≤ 26V | | V _{MIN} V _{MAX} |
| | | | 4.85/4.75 5.15/5.25 | 4.85/4.75 5.15/5.25 | | 7.76/7.60 8.24/8.40 | 7.76/7.60 8.24/8.40 | |
| Line Regulation | V _O + 2V ≤ V _{IN} ≤ 26V, I _O = 5 mA | 20 | 50 | 40/50 | 20 | 80 | 50/80 | mV _{MAX} |
| Load Regulation | 50 mA ≤ I _O ≤ 1A LM2940, LM2940/883 LM2940C | 35 | 50/80 | 50/100 | 55 | 80/130 | 80/130 | mV _{MAX} |
| | | 35 | 50 | | 55 | 80 | | |
| Output Impedance | 100 mADC and 20 mArms, f _O = 120 Hz | 35 | | 1000/1000 | 55 | | 1000/1000 | mΩ |
| Quiescent Current | V _O + 2V ≤ V _{IN} ≤ 26V, I _O = 5 mA LM2940, LM2940/883 LM2940C | 10 | 15/20 | 15/20 | 10 | 15/20 | 15/20 | mA _{MAX} |
| | | 10 | 15 | | | | | |
| | V _{IN} = V _O + 5V, I _O = 1A | 30 | 45/60 | 50/60 | 30 | 45/60 | 50/60 | mA _{MAX} |
| Output Noise Voltage | 10 Hz – 100 kHz, I _O = 5 mA | 150 | | 700/700 | 240 | | 1000/1000 | μV _{rms} |
| Ripple Rejection | f _O = 120 Hz, 1 V _{rms} , I _O = 100 mA LM2940 LM2940C | 72 | 60/54 | | 66 | 54/48 | | dB _{MIN} |
| | | 72 | 60 | | 66 | 54 | | |
| | f _O = 1 kHz, 1 V _{rms} , I _O = 5 mA | | | 60/50 | | | 54/48 | dB _{MIN} |
| Long Term Stability | | 20 | | | 32 | | | mV/ 1000 Hr |
| Dropout Voltage | I _O = 1A | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | 0.7/1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | 0.7/1.0 | V _{MAX} |
| | I _O = 100 mA | 110 | 150/200 | 150/200 | 110 | 150/200 | 150/200 | mV _{MAX} |
| Short Circuit Current | (Note 6) | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.5/1.3 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6/1.3 | A _{MIN} |

Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

 $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$, $C_O = 22 \mu F$, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$.

| Output Voltage (V_O) | | 5V | | | 8V | | | Units |
|--|------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/883 Limit (Note 5) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/883 Limit (Note 5) | |
| Maximum Line Transient | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | V_{MIN} |
| | LM2940, $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | 75 | 60/60 | | 75 | 60/60 | | |
| | LM2940/883, $T \leq 20 \text{ ms}$ | | | 40/40 | | | 40/40 | |
| | LM2940C, $T \leq 1 \text{ ms}$ | 55 | 45 | | 55 | 45 | | |
| Reverse Polarity DC Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | V_{MIN} |
| | LM2940, LM2940/883 | -30 | -15/-15 | -15/-15 | -30 | -15/-15 | -15/-15 | |
| | LM2940C | -30 | -15 | | -30 | -15 | | |
| Reverse Polarity Transient Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | V_{MIN} |
| | LM2940, $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | -75 | -50/-50 | | -75 | -50/-50 | | |
| | LM2940/883, $T \leq 20 \text{ ms}$ | | | -45/-45 | | | -45/-45 | |
| | LM2940C, $T \leq 1 \text{ ms}$ | -55 | -45/-45 | | | | | |

Electrical Characteristics
 $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$, $C_O = 22 \mu F$, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$.

| Output Voltage (V_O) | | 9V | | 10V | | Units |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | |
| Output Voltage | $5 \text{ mA} \leq I_O \leq 1A$ | $10.5V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$ | | $11.5V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$ | | V_{MIN} V_{MAX} |
| | | 9.00 | 8.73/8.55 9.27/9.45 | 10.00 | 9.70/9.50 10.30/10.50 | |
| Line Regulation | $V_O + 2V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ | 20 | 90 | 20 | 100 | mV_{MAX} |
| Load Regulation | $50 \text{ mA} \leq I_O \leq 1A$ LM2940 LM2940C | 60 | 90/150 | 65 | 100/165 | mV_{MAX} |
| | | 60 | 90 | | | |
| Output Impedance | 100 mADC and 20 mArms, $f_O = 120 \text{ Hz}$ | 60 | | 65 | | $m\Omega$ |
| Quiescent Current | $V_O + 2V \leq V_{IN} < 26V$, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ LM2940 LM2940C | 10 | 15/20 | 10 | 15/20 | mA_{MAX} |
| | | 10 | 15 | | | |
| | $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$ | 30 | 45/60 | 30 | 45/60 | mA_{MAX} |
| Output Noise Voltage | 10 Hz – 100 kHz, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ | 270 | | 300 | | μV_{rms} |
| Ripple Rejection | $f_O = 120 \text{ Hz}$, $1 V_{rms}$, $I_O = 100 \text{ mA}$ LM2940 LM2940C | 64 | 52/46 | 63 | 51/45 | dB_{MIN} |
| | | 64 | 52 | | | |
| Long Term Stability | | 34 | | 36 | | $mV/$ 1000 Hr |
| Dropout Voltage | $I_O = 1A$ | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | V_{MAX} |
| | $I_O = 100 \text{ mA}$ | 110 | 150/200 | 110 | 150/200 | mV_{MAX} |

Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

 $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$, $C_O = 22 \mu F$, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$.

| Output Voltage (V_O) | | 9V | | 10V | | Units |
|--|--|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | |
| Short Circuit Current | (Note 6) | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.6 | A_{MIN} |
| Maximum Line Transient | $R_O = 100\Omega$ $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | LM2940 | 75 | 75 | 60/60 | V_{MIN} |
| | | LM2940C | 55 | 45 | | |
| Reverse Polarity DC Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | LM2940 | -30 | -30 | -15/-15 | V_{MIN} |
| | | LM2940C | -30 | -15 | | |
| Reverse Polarity Transient Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | LM2940 | -75 | -75 | -50/-50 | V_{MIN} |
| | | LM2940C | -55 | -45/-45 | | |

Electrical Characteristics
 $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$, $C_O = 22 \mu F$, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$.

| Output Voltage (V_O) | | 12V | | | 15V | | | Units |
|--------------------------|--|-------|--|------------------------------|-------|---|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/833 Limit (Note 5) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/833 Limit (Note 5) | |
| Output Voltage | $5 \text{ mA} \leq I_O \leq 1A$ | 12.00 | $13.6V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$ | | 15.00 | $16.75V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$ | | V_{MIN} V_{MAX} |
| | | | 11.64/11.40 12.36/12.60 | 11.64/11.40 12.36/12.60 | | 14.55/14.25 15.45/15.75 | 14.55/14.25 15.45/15.75 | |
| Line Regulation | $V_O + 2V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ | 20 | 120 | 75/120 | 20 | 150 | 95/150 | mV_{MAX} |
| Load Regulation | $50 \text{ mA} \leq I_O \leq 1A$ LM2940, LM2940/883 LM2940C | 55 | 120/200 | 120/190 | 70 | 150 | 150/240 | mV_{MAX} |
| | | 55 | 120 | | | | | |
| Output Impedance | 100 mADC and 20 mArms, $f_O = 120 \text{ Hz}$ | 80 | | 1000/1000 | 100 | | 1000/1000 | $m\Omega$ |
| Quiescent Current | $V_O + 2V \leq V_{IN} \leq 26V$, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ LM2940, LM2940/883 LM2940C | 10 | 15/20 | 15/20 | 10 | 15 | 15/20 | mA_{MAX} |
| | | 10 | 15 | | | | | |
| | $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$ | 30 | 45/60 | 50/60 | 30 | 45/60 | 50/60 | mA_{MAX} |
| Output Noise Voltage | 10 Hz – 100 kHz, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ | 360 | | 1000/1000 | 450 | | 1000/1000 | μV_{rms} |
| Ripple Rejection | $f_O = 120 \text{ Hz}$, $1 V_{rms}$, $I_O = 100 \text{ mA}$ LM2940 LM2940C | 66 | 54/48 | | 64 | 52 | | dB_{MIN} |
| | | 66 | 54 | | | | | |
| | $f_O = 1 \text{ kHz}$, $1 V_{rms}$, $I_O = 5 \text{ mA}$ | | | 52/46 | | | 48/42 | dB_{MIN} |

Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

 $V_{IN} = V_O + 5V$, $I_O = 1A$, $C_O = 22 \mu F$, unless otherwise specified. **Boldface limits apply over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device.** All other specifications apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$.

| Output Voltage (V_O) | | 12V | | | 15V | | | Units |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Parameter | Conditions | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/833 Limit (Note 5) | Typ | LM2940 Limit (Note 4) | LM2940/833 Limit (Note 5) | |
| Long Term Stability | | 48 | | | 60 | | | mV/ 1000 Hr |
| Dropout Voltage | $I_O = 1A$ | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | 0.7/1.0 | 0.5 | 0.8/1.0 | 0.7/1.0 | V_{MAX} |
| | $I_O = 100 \text{ mA}$ | 110 | 150/200 | 150/200 | 110 | 150/200 | 150/200 | mV_{MAX} |
| Short Circuit Current | (Note 6) | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6/1.3 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6/1.3 | A_{MIN} |
| Maximum Line Transient | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | |
| | LM2940, $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | 75 | 60/60 | | | | | V_{MIN} |
| | LM2940/833, $T \leq 20 \text{ ms}$ | | | 40/40 | | | 40/40 | |
| LM2940C, $T \leq 1 \text{ ms}$ | 55 | 45 | | 55 | 45 | | | |
| Reverse Polarity DC Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | |
| | LM2940, LM2940/833 | -30 | -15/-15 | -15/-15 | | | -15/-15 | V_{MIN} |
| LM2940C | -30 | -15 | | -30 | -15 | | | |
| Reverse Polarity Transient Input Voltage | $R_O = 100\Omega$ | | | | | | | |
| | LM2940, $T \leq 100 \text{ ms}$ | -75 | -50/-50 | | | | | V_{MIN} |
| | LM2940/833, $T \leq 20 \text{ ms}$ | | | -45/-45 | | | -45/-45 | |
| LM2940C, $T \leq 1 \text{ ms}$ | -55 | -45/-45 | | -55 | -45/-45 | | | |

Thermal Performance

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----|--|--------------|
| Thermal Resistance Junction-to-Case | 3-Lead TO-220 | 4 | | $^\circ C/W$ |
| | 3-Lead TO-263 | 4 | | $^\circ C/W$ |
| Thermal Resistance Junction-to-Ambient | 3-Lead TO-220 | 60 | | $^\circ C/W$ |
| | 3-Lead TO-263 | 80 | | $^\circ C/W$ |
| | 8-Lead LLP (Note 2) | 35 | | $^\circ C/W$ |

Note 1: Absolute Maximum Ratings are limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Conditions are conditions under which the device functions but the specifications might not be guaranteed. For guaranteed specifications and test conditions see the Electrical Characteristics.

Note 2: The maximum allowable power dissipation is a function of the maximum junction temperature, T_J , the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance, θ_{JA} , and the ambient temperature, T_A . Exceeding the maximum allowable power dissipation will cause excessive die temperature, and the regulator will go into thermal shutdown. The value of θ_{JA} (for devices in still air with no heatsink) is $60^\circ C/W$ for the TO-220 package, $80^\circ C/W$ for the TO-263 package, and $174^\circ C/W$ for the SOT-223 package. The effective value of θ_{JA} can be reduced by using a heatsink (see Application Hints for specific information on heatsinking). The value of θ_{JA} for the LLP package is specifically dependent on PCB trace area, trace material, and the number of layers and thermal vias. For improved thermal resistance and power dissipation for the LLP package, refer to Application Note AN-1187. It is recommended that 6 vias be placed under the center pad to improve thermal performance.

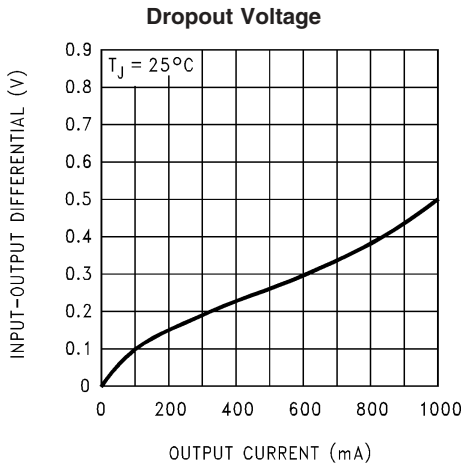
Note 3: ESD rating is based on the human body model, 100 pF discharged through 1.5 k Ω .

Note 4: All limits are guaranteed at $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$ only (standard typeface) or over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device (boldface type). All limits at $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$ are 100% production tested. All limits at temperature extremes are guaranteed via correlation using standard Statistical Quality Control methods.

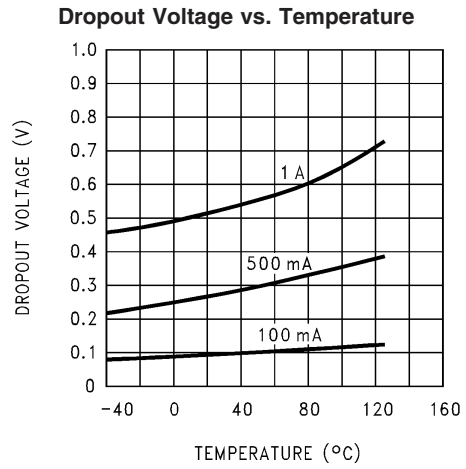
Note 5: All limits are guaranteed at $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ C$ only (standard typeface) or over the entire operating temperature range of the indicated device (boldface type). All limits are 100% production tested and are used to calculate Outgoing Quality Levels.

Note 6: Output current will decrease with increasing temperature but will not drop below 1A at the maximum specified temperature.

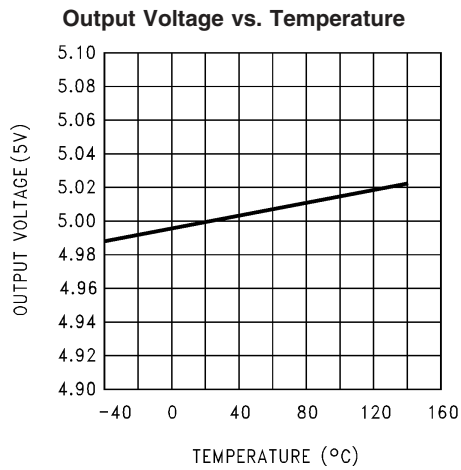
Typical Performance Characteristics



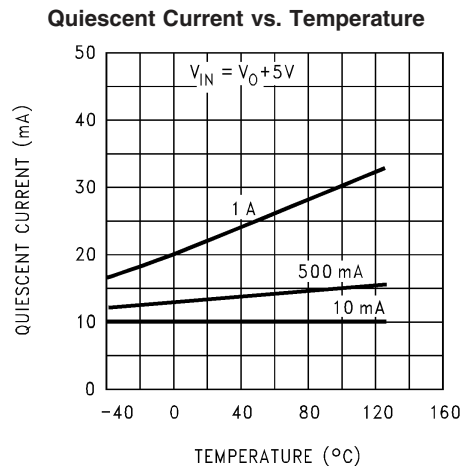
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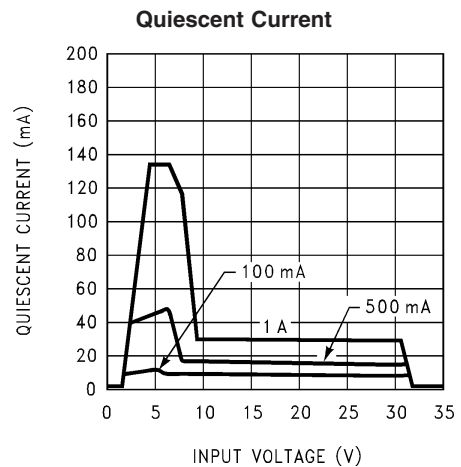
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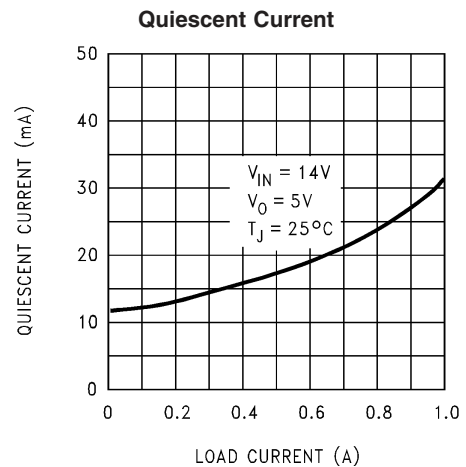
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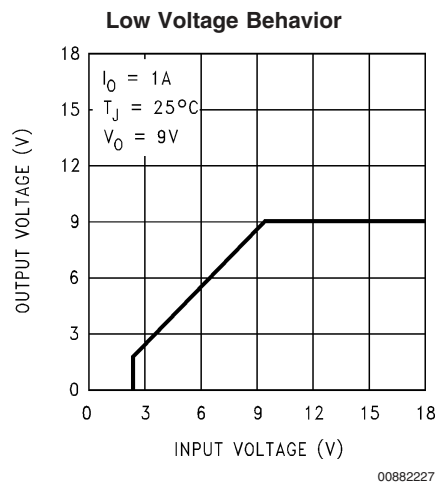
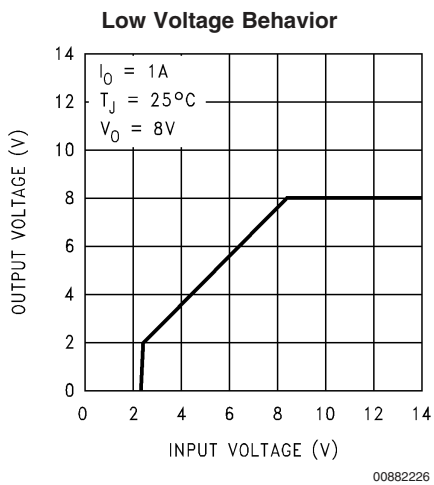
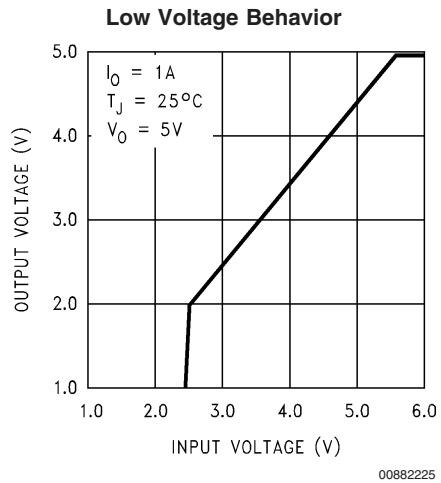
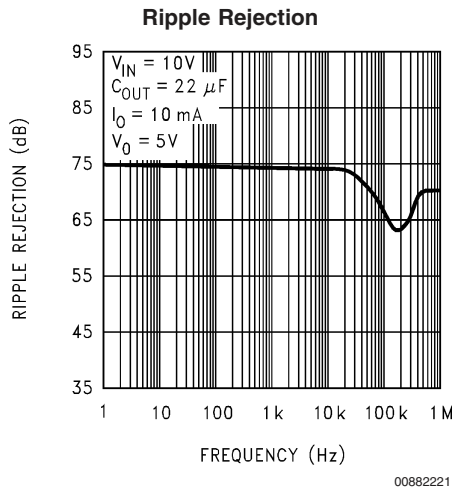
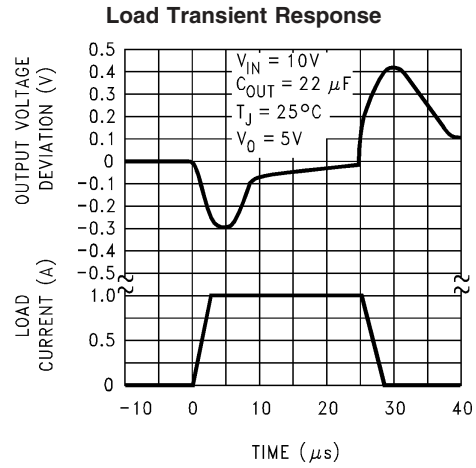
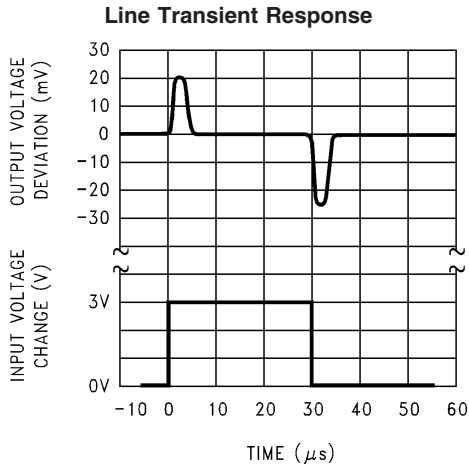


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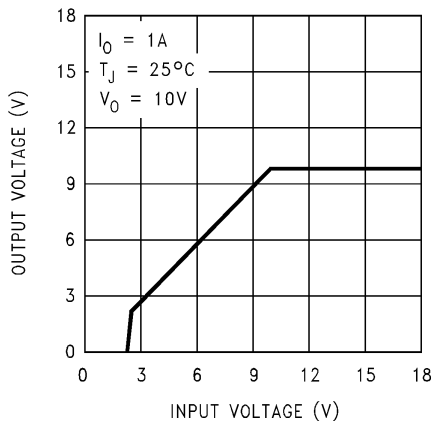
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Typical Performance Characteristics (Continued)



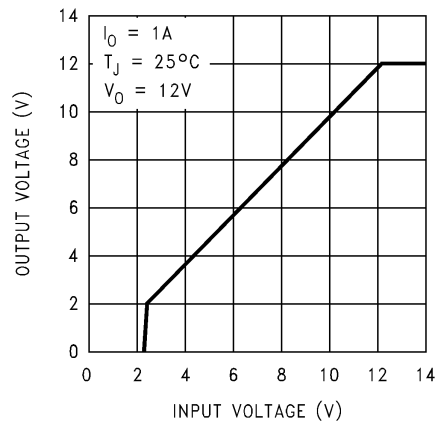
Typical Performance Characteristics (Continued)

Low Voltage Behavior



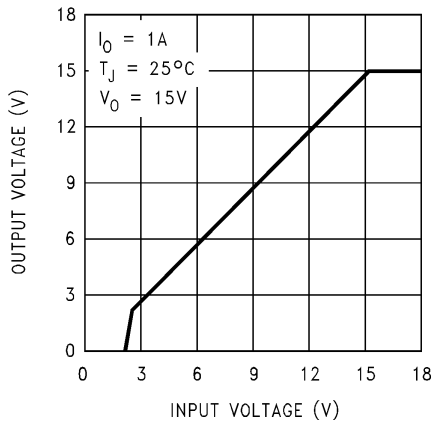
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Low Voltage Behavior



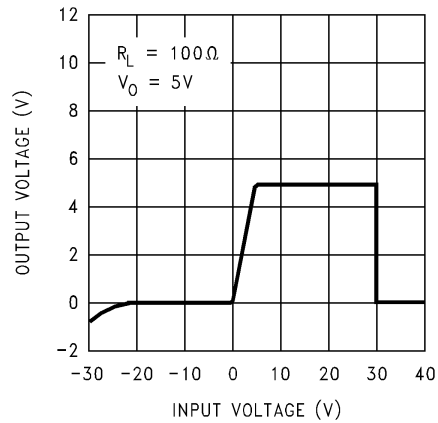
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Low Voltage Behavior



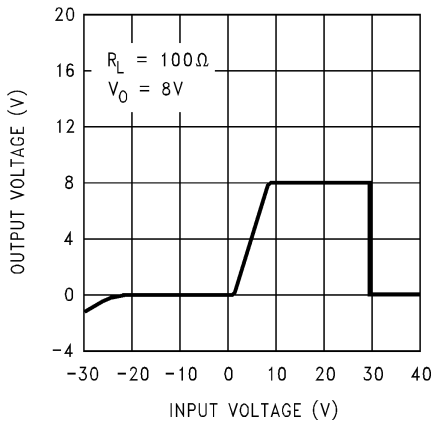
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Output at Voltage Extremes



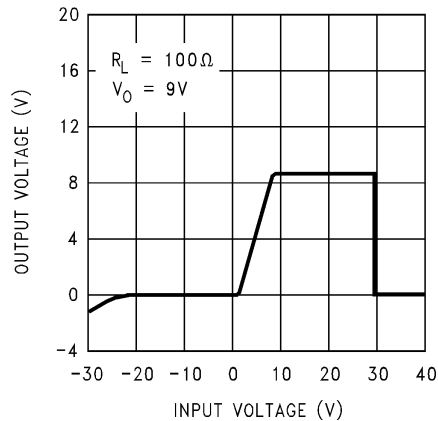
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Output at Voltage Extremes



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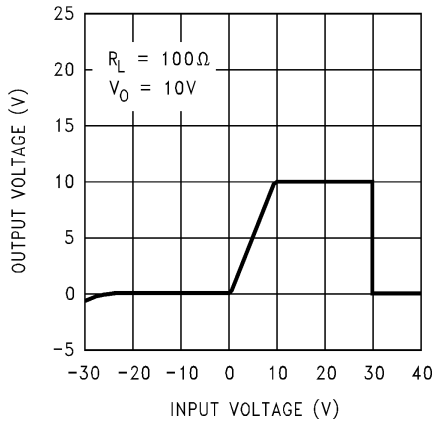
Output at Voltage Extremes



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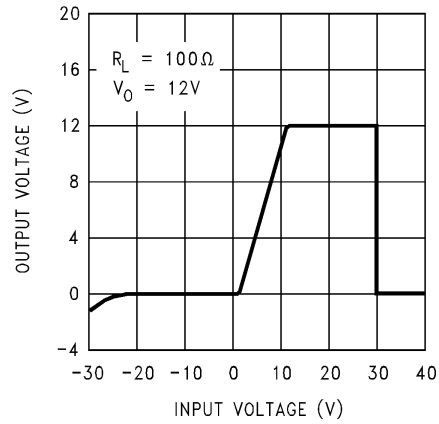
Typical Performance Characteristics (Continued)

Output at Voltage Extremes



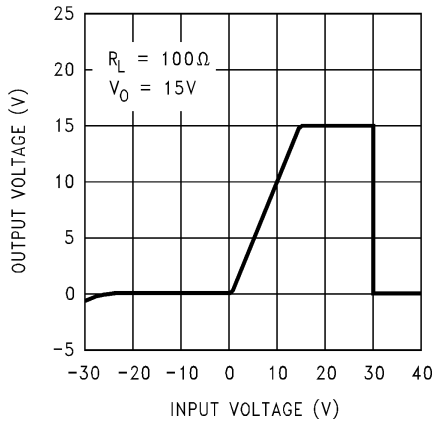
00882234

Output at Voltage Extremes



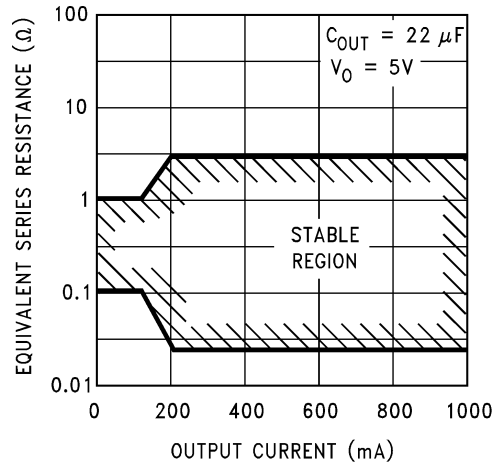
00882235

Output at Voltage Extremes



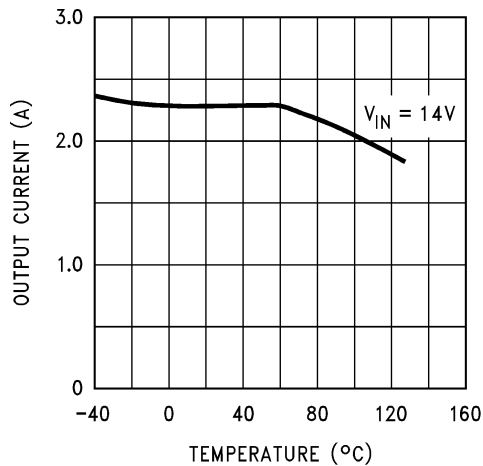
00882236

Output Capacitor ESR



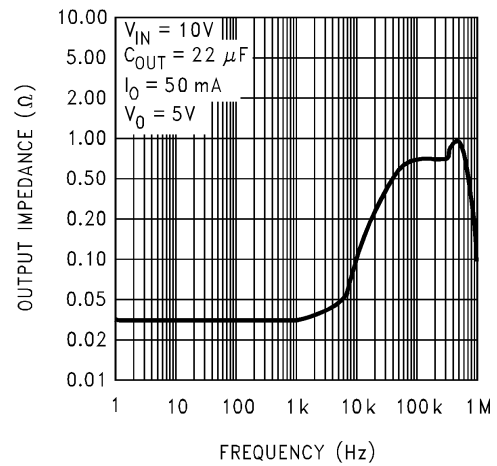
00882206

Peak Output Current



00882208

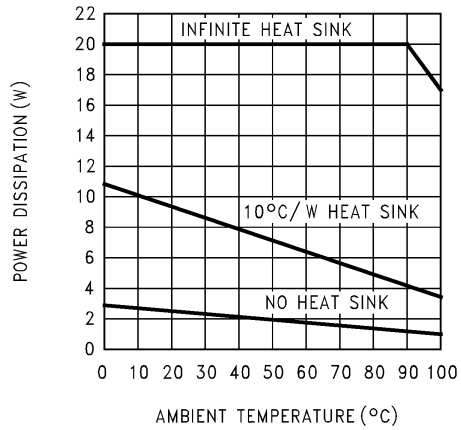
Output Impedance



00882222

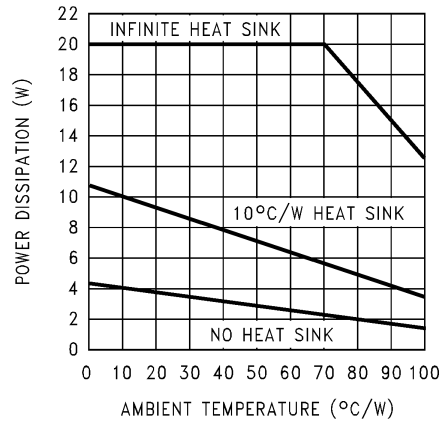
Typical Performance Characteristics (Continued)

Maximum Power Dissipation (TO-220)



00882223

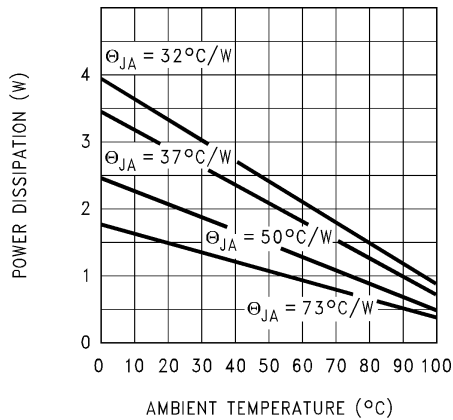
Maximum Power Dissipation (TO-3)



00882224

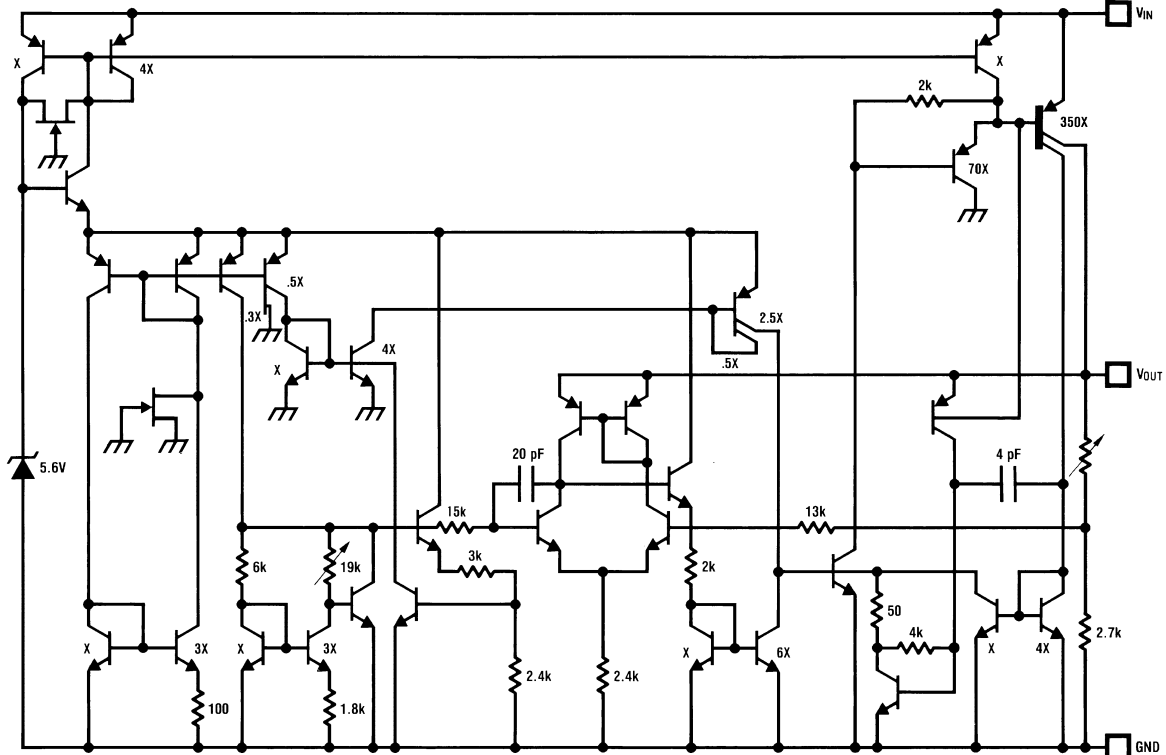
Maximum Power Dissipation (TO-263)

See (Note 2)



00882210

Equivalent Schematic Diagram



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Application Hints

EXTERNAL CAPACITORS

The output capacitor is critical to maintaining regulator stability, and must meet the required conditions for both ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) and minimum amount of capacitance.

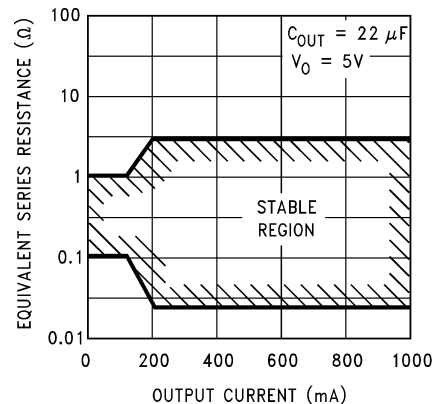
MINIMUM CAPACITANCE:

The minimum output capacitance required to maintain stability is 22 μF (this value may be increased without limit). Larger values of output capacitance will give improved transient response.

ESR LIMITS:

The ESR of the output capacitor will cause loop instability if it is too high or too low. The acceptable range of ESR plotted versus load current is shown in the graph below. ***It is essential that the output capacitor meet these requirements, or oscillations can result.***

Output Capacitor ESR



00882206

FIGURE 1. ESR Limits

It is important to note that for most capacitors, ESR is specified only at room temperature. However, the designer must ensure that the ESR will stay inside the limits shown over the entire operating temperature range for the design.

For aluminum electrolytic capacitors, ESR will increase by about 30X as the temperature is reduced from 25°C to -40°C. This type of capacitor is not well-suited for low temperature operation.

Solid tantalum capacitors have a more stable ESR over temperature, but are more expensive than aluminum electrolytics. A cost-effective approach sometimes used is to

Application Hints (Continued)

parallel an aluminum electrolytic with a solid Tantalum, with the total capacitance split about 75/25% with the Aluminum being the larger value.

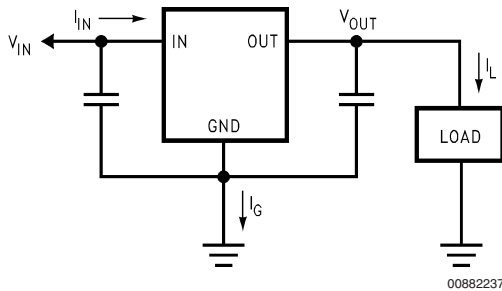
If two capacitors are paralleled, the effective ESR is the parallel of the two individual values. The “flatter” ESR of the Tantalum will keep the effective ESR from rising as quickly at low temperatures.

HEATSINKING

A heatsink may be required depending on the maximum power dissipation and maximum ambient temperature of the application. Under all possible operating conditions, the junction temperature must be within the range specified under Absolute Maximum Ratings.

To determine if a heatsink is required, the power dissipated by the regulator, P_D , must be calculated.

The figure below shows the voltages and currents which are present in the circuit, as well as the formula for calculating the power dissipated in the regulator:



$$I_{IN} = I_L + I_G$$

$$P_D = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) I_L + (V_{IN}) I_G$$

FIGURE 2. Power Dissipation Diagram

The next parameter which must be calculated is the maximum allowable temperature rise, T_R (max). This is calculated by using the formula:

$$T_R \text{ (max)} = T_J \text{ (max)} - T_A \text{ (max)}$$

where: T_J (max) is the maximum allowable junction temperature, which is 125°C for commercial grade parts.

T_A (max) is the maximum ambient temperature which will be encountered in the application.

Using the calculated values for T_R (max) and P_D , the maximum allowable value for the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance, $\theta_{(JA)}$, can now be found:

$$\theta_{(JA)} = T_R \text{ (max)} / P_D$$

IMPORTANT: If the maximum allowable value for $\theta_{(JA)}$ is found to be $\geq 53^\circ\text{C/W}$ for the TO-220 package, $\geq 80^\circ\text{C/W}$ for the TO-263 package, or $\geq 174^\circ\text{C/W}$ for the SOT-223 package, no heatsink is needed since the package alone will dissipate enough heat to satisfy these requirements.

If the calculated value for $\theta_{(JA)}$ falls below these limits, a heatsink is required.

HEATSINKING TO-220 PACKAGE PARTS

The TO-220 can be attached to a typical heatsink, or secured to a copper plane on a PC board. If a copper plane is to be used, the values of $\theta_{(JA)}$ will be the same as shown in the next section for the TO-263.

If a manufactured heatsink is to be selected, the value of heatsink-to-ambient thermal resistance, $\theta_{(H-A)}$, must first be calculated:

$$\theta_{(H-A)} = \theta_{(JA)} - \theta_{(C-H)} - \theta_{(J-C)}$$

Where: $\theta_{(J-C)}$ is defined as the thermal resistance from the junction to the surface of the case. A value of 3°C/W can be assumed for $\theta_{(J-C)}$ for this calculation.

$\theta_{(C-H)}$ is defined as the thermal resistance between the case and the surface of the heatsink. The value of $\theta_{(C-H)}$ will vary from about 1.5°C/W to about 2.5°C/W (depending on method of attachment, insulator, etc.). If the exact value is unknown, 2°C/W should be assumed for $\theta_{(C-H)}$.

When a value for $\theta_{(H-A)}$ is found using the equation shown, a heatsink must be selected that has a value that is less than or equal to this number.

$\theta_{(H-A)}$ is specified numerically by the heatsink manufacturer in the catalog, or shown in a curve that plots temperature rise vs power dissipation for the heatsink.

HEATSINKING TO-263 AND SOT-223 PACKAGE PARTS

Both the TO-263 (“S”) and SOT-223 (“MP”) packages use a copper plane on the PCB and the PCB itself as a heatsink. To optimize the heat sinking ability of the plane and PCB, solder the tab of the package to the plane.

Figure 3 shows for the TO-263 the measured values of $\theta_{(JA)}$ for different copper area sizes using a typical PCB with 1 ounce copper and no solder mask over the copper area used for heatsinking.

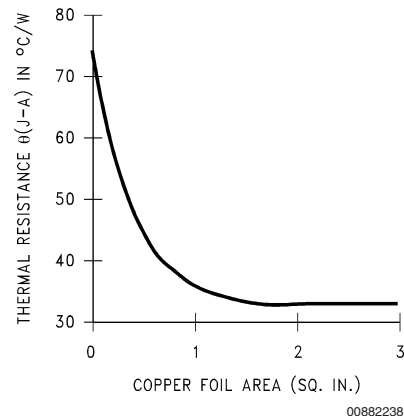


FIGURE 3. $\theta_{(JA)}$ vs. Copper (1 ounce) Area for the TO-263 Package

As shown in the figure, increasing the copper area beyond 1 square inch produces very little improvement. It should also be observed that the minimum value of $\theta_{(JA)}$ for the TO-263 package mounted to a PCB is 32°C/W .

As a design aid, Figure 4 shows the maximum allowable power dissipation compared to ambient temperature for the TO-263 device (assuming $\theta_{(JA)}$ is 35°C/W and the maximum junction temperature is 125°C).