1.2A, 2MHz Automotive Buck Switching Regulator

The NCV8901 and NCV8901A are fixed-frequency, monolithic, Buck switching regulators intended for Automotive, battery-connected applications that must operate with up to a 36V input supply. The regulator is suitable for systems with low noise and small form factor requirements often encountered in automotive driver information systems. The NCV8901 is capable of converting the typical 4.5 V to 18 V automotive input voltage range to outputs as low as 3.3 V at a constant switching frequency above the sensitive AM band, eliminating the need for costly filters and EMI countermeasures. The NCV8901 also provides several protection features expected in Automotive power supply systems such as current limit, short circuit protection, and thermal shutdown. In addition, the high switching frequency produces low output voltage ripple even when using small inductor values and an all-ceramic output filter capacitor – forming a space–efficient switching regulator solution.

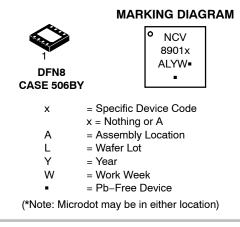
Features

- Internal N-Channel Power Switch
- Low V_{IN} Operation Down to 4.5 V
- High V_{IN} Operation to 36 V
- NCV8901A Withstands Load Dump to 45 V
- 2 MHz Free-running Switching Frequency
- Logic level Enable Input Can be Directly Tied to Battery
- 1.4 A (min) Cycle–by–Cycle Peak Current Limit
- Short Circuit Protection enhanced by Frequency Foldback
- ±1.75% Output Voltage Tolerance
- Output Voltage Adjustable Down to 0.8 V
- 1.4 Millisecond Internal Soft-Start
- Thermal Shutdown (TSD)



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ORDERING INFORMATION

See detailed ordering and shipping information in the package dimensions section on page 13 of this data sheet.

- Low Shutdown Current
- NCV Prefix for Automotive and Other Applications Requiring Site and Change Controls
- This is a Pb-Free Device

Applications

- Audio
- Infotainment
- Safety Vision Systems
- Instrumentation

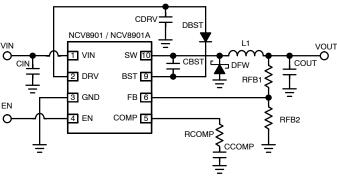
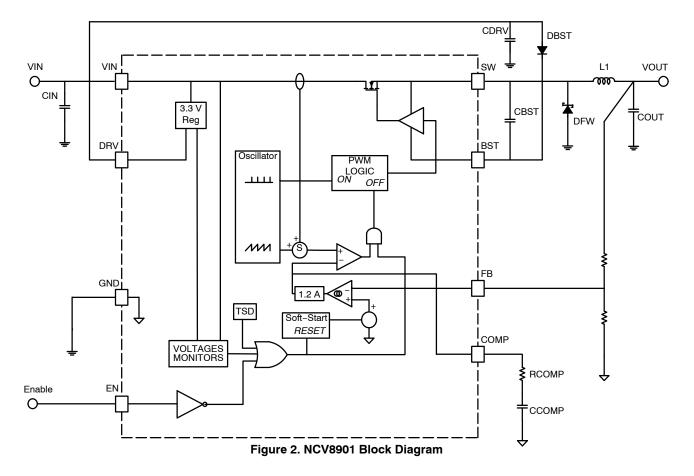


Figure 1. Typical Application



MAXIMUM RATINGS

Rating	Symbol	Value	Unit
Min/Max Voltage VIN NCV8901 NCV8901A		-0.3 to 40 -0.3 to 45	V
Max Voltage VIN to SW NCV8901 NCV8901A		40 45	V
Min/Max Voltage SW		-0.7 to 40	V
Min Voltage SW – 20ns		-3.0	V
Min/Max Voltage BST		-0.3 to 40	
Min/Max Voltage BST to SW		-0.3 to 3.6	V
Min/Max Voltage on EN		-0.3 to 40	V
Min/Max Voltage COMP		-0.3 to 2	V
Min/Max Voltage FB		–0.3 to 18	V
Min/Max Voltage DRV		-0.3 to 3.6	V
Thermal Resistance, 3x3 DFN Junction-to-Ambient*	R _{θJA}	50	°C/W
Storage Temperature range		-55 to +150	°C
Operating Junction Temperature Range	TJ	-40 to +150	°C
ESD withstand Voltage Human Body Model Machine Model Charge Device Model	V _{ESD}	2.0 200 >1.0	kV V kV
Moisture Sensitivity	MSL	Level 1	
Peak Reflow Soldering Temperature		260	°C

Stresses exceeding Maximum Ratings may damage the device. Maximum Ratings are stress ratings only. Functional operation above the Recommended Operating Conditions is not implied. Extended exposure to stresses above the Recommended Operating Conditions may affect device reliability.

*Mounted on 1 sq. in. of a 4-layer PCB with 1 oz. copper thickness.

RECOMMENDED OPERATING CONDITIONS:

Rating	Value	Unit
V _{IN} Range	4.5 to 36	V
Ambient Temperature Range	-40 to 105	°C

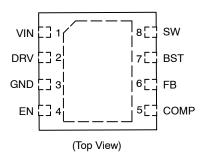


Figure 3. Pin Connections

PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

Pin No.	Symbol	Description			
1	VIN	Input voltage from battery. Place an input filter capacitor in close proximity to this pin.			
2	DRV	Output voltage to provide a regulated voltage to the Power Switch gate driver.			
3	GND	Battery return, and output voltage ground reference.			
4	EN	This TTL compatible Enable input allows the direct connection of Battery as the enable signal. Grounding this input stops switching and reduces quiescent current draw to a minimum.			
5	COMP	Error Amplifier output, for tailoring transient response with external compensation components.			
6	FB	Feedback input pin to program output voltage, and detect pre-charged or shorted output conditions.			
7	BST	Bootstrap input provides drive voltage higher than VIN to the N-channel Power Switch for optimum switch R _{DS(on)} and highest efficiency.			
8	SW	Switching node of the Regulator. Connect the output inductor and cathode of the freewheeling diode this pin.			
Exposed Pad		Connect to Pin 4 (electrical ground) and to a low thermal resistance path to the ambient temperature environment.			

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (V _{IN} = 4.5 V to 28 V, V _{EN} = 5 V, V _{BST} = V _{SW} + 3.0 V, C _{DRV} = 0.1 µF, Min/Max values are valid	
for the temperature range $-40^{\circ}C \le T_J \le 150^{\circ}C$ unless noted otherwise, and are guaranteed by test, design or statistical correlation.)	

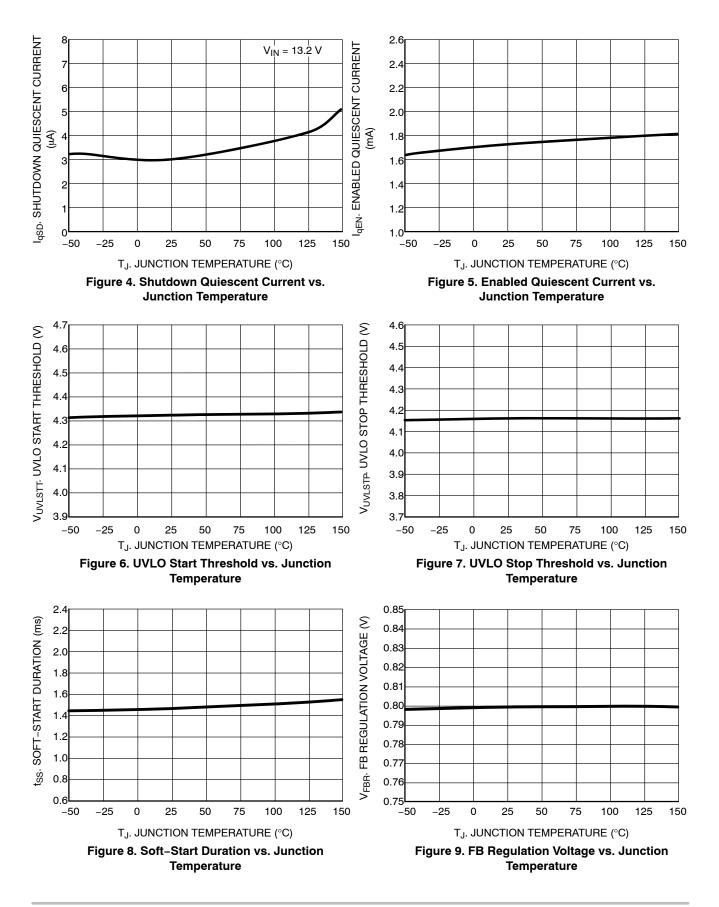
Parameter	Symbol	Conditions	Min	Тур	Max	Unit
QUIESCENT CURRENT	•					
Quiescent Current, shutdown	I _{qSD}	V_{IN} = 13.2 V, V_{EN} = 0 V, T_{J} = 25°C			5	μΑ
Quiescent Current, enabled	I _{qEN}	V _{IN} = 13.2 V			3	mA
UNDERVOLTAGE LOCKOUT - VIN (UVLO)					
UVLO Start Threshold	V _{UVLSTT}	V _{IN} rising	4.1		4.5	V
UVLO Stop Threshold	V _{UVLSTP}	V _{IN} falling	3.9		4.4	V
UVLO Hysteresis	V _{UVLOHY}		0.1		0.2	V
ENABLE (EN)	•					
Logic Low	V _{ENLO}		0.8			V
Logic High	V _{ENHI}				2	V
Input Current	I _{EN}		8		30	μΑ
SOFT-START (SS)	•					
Soft-Start Completion Time	t _{SS}		0.8	1.4	2.0	ms
VOLTAGE REFERENCE						
FB Pin Voltage during regulation	V _{FBR}	COMP shorted to FB	0.786	0.8	0.814	V
ERROR AMPLIFIER						
FB Bias Current	I _{FBBIAS}	V _{FB} = 0.8 V	0.25		1	μA
Transconductance	gm gm(H∨)	V _{COMP} = 1.3 V 4.5 V < V _{IN} < 18 V 20 V < V _{IN} < 28 V	0.6 0.3	1 0.5	1.5 0.75	mmho
Output Resistance	R _{OUT}			1.4		MΩ
COMP Source Current Limit	ISOURCE	$V_{FB} = 0.63 \text{ V}, V_{COMP} = 1.3 \text{ V}$ 4.5 V < V _{IN} < 18 V 20 V < V _{IN} < 28 V	30 15		150 75	μΑ
COMP Sink Current Limit	I _{SINK}		30 15		150 75	μΑ
Minimum COMP voltage	V _{CMPMIN}	V _{FB} = 0.97 V	0.2		0.7	V
OSCILLATOR	•				•	•
Frequency	F _{SW} F _{SW(HV)}	4.5 < V _{IN} < 18 V 20 V < V _{IN} < 28 V	1.8 0.9	2.0 1.0	2.2 1.1	MHz
VIN FREQUENCY FOLDBACK MONITOR						
Frequency Foldback Threshold V _{IN} rising V _{IN} falling	V _{FLDUP} V _{FLDDN}	V _{FB} = 0.63 V	18.4 18		20 19.8	V
Frequency Foldback Hysteresis	V _{FLDHY}		0.2	0.3	0.4	V
VIN OVERVOLTAGE SHUTDOWN MONITO	R ('A' version	only)				
Overvoltage Stop Threshold	V _{OVSTP}				36	V
Overvoltage Start Threshold	V _{OVSTT}		30			V
Overvoltage Hysteresis	V _{OVHY}		0.6	2.0	2.4	V
SLOPE COMPENSATION			•	•	•	•
Ramp Slope (Note 1) (With respect to switch current)	S _{ramp} S _{ramp(HV)}	4.5 < V _{IN} < 18 V 20 V < V _{IN} < 28 V	0.7 0.25		1.3 0.6	A/μs

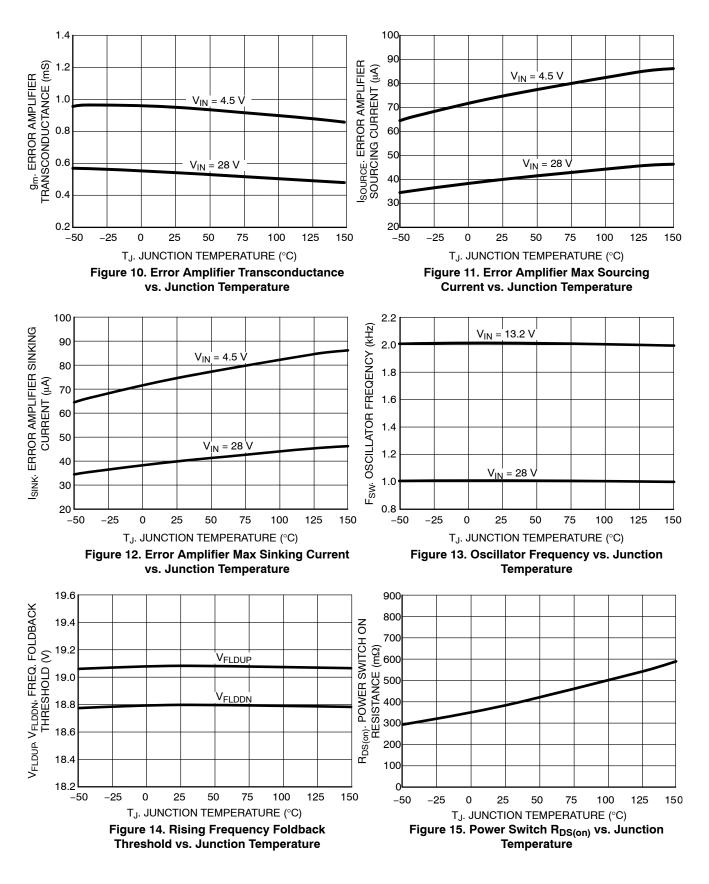
1. Not tested in production. Limits are guaranteed by design.

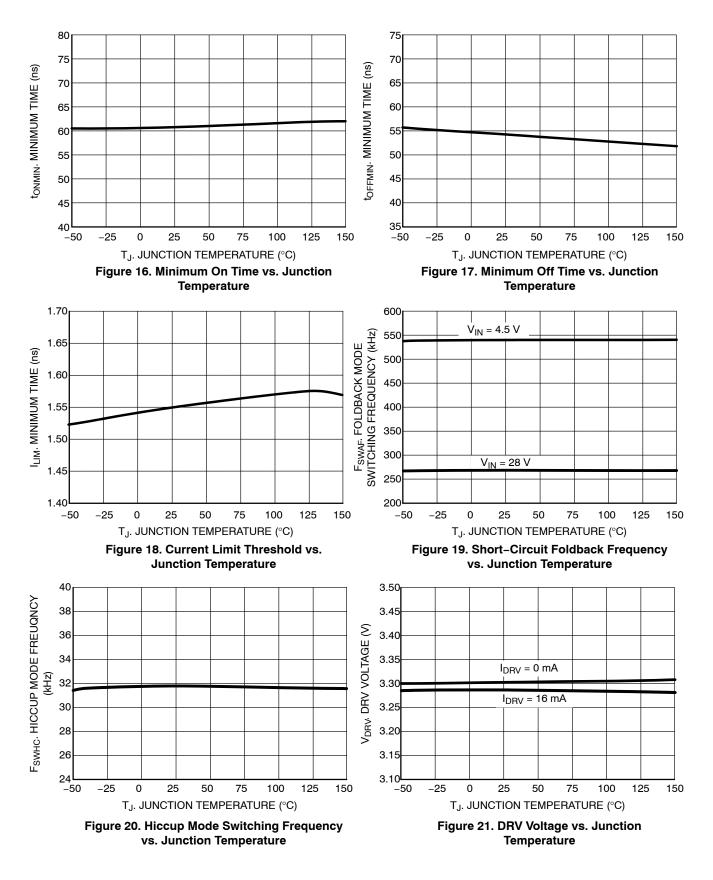
ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (V_{IN} = 4.5 V to 28 V, V_{EN} = 5 V, V_{BST} = V_{SW} + 3.0 V, C_{DRV} = 0.1 μ F, Min/Max values are valid for the temperature range $-40^{\circ}C \le T_J \le 150^{\circ}C$ unless noted otherwise, and are guaranteed by test, design or statistical correlation.)

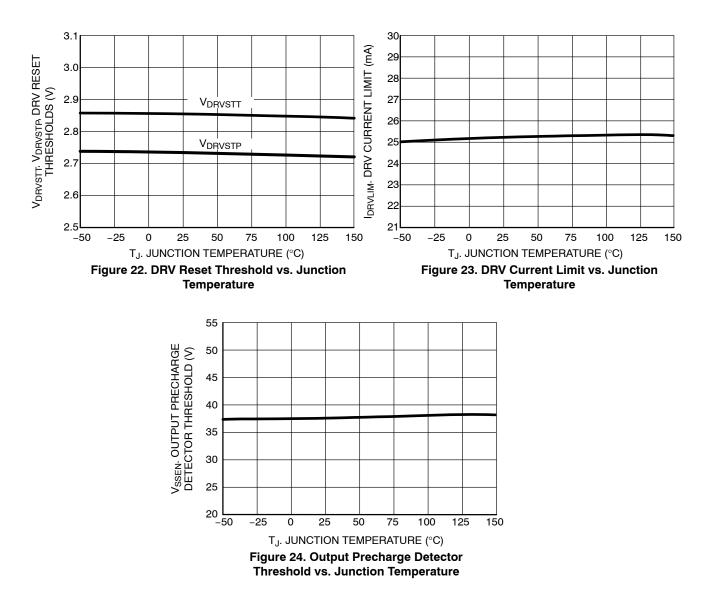
Parameter	Symbol	Conditions	Min	Тур	Max	Unit
POWER SWITCH					•	
ON Resistance	R _{DSON}	V _{BST} = V _{SW} + 3.0 V			650	mΩ
Leakage current VIN to SW	I _{LKSW}	V_{EN} = 0 V, V_{SW} = 0, V_{IN} = 18 V			10	μΑ
Minimum ON Time	t _{ONMIN}	Measured at SW pin	45		70	ns
Minimum OFF Time	^t OFFMIN	Measured at SW pin At F _{SW} = 2 MHz (normal) At F _{SW} = 500 kHz (max duty cycle)	30	30 50	70	ns
PEAK CURRENT LIMIT						
Current Limit Threshold	I _{LIM}		1.4	1.55	1.7	А
SHORT CIRCUIT FREQUENCY FOLDBAC	К					
Lowest Foldback Frequency Lowest Foldback Frequency – High V _{in} Hiccup Mode	F _{SWAF} F _{SWAFHV} F _{SWHIC}	$ \begin{array}{l} V_{FB} = 0 \ V, 4.5 \ V < V_{IN} < 18 \ V \\ V_{FB} = 0 \ V, 20 \ V < V_{IN} < 28 \ V \\ V_{FB} = 0 \ V \end{array} $	400 200 24	500 250 32	600 300 40	kHz
GATE VOLTAGE SUPPLY (DRV pin)					•	
Output Voltage	V _{DRV}		3.1	3.3	3.5	V
DRV POR Start Threshold	V _{DRVSTT}		2.7	2.9	3.05	V
DRV POR Stop Threshold	V _{DRVSTP}		2.5	2.8	3.0	V
DRV Current Limit	I _{DRVLIM}	V _{DRV} = 0 V	16		45	mA
OUTPUT PRECHARGE DETECTOR					•	
Threshold Voltage	V _{SSEN}		20	35	50	mV
THERMAL SHUTDOWN	-			-	-	-
Activation Temperature (Note 1)	T _{SD}		150		190	°C
Hysteresis (Note 1)	T _{HYS}		5		20	°C

1. Not tested in production. Limits are guaranteed by design.









GENERAL INFORMATION

INPUT VOLTAGE

An Undervoltage Lockout (UVLO) circuit monitors the input, and inhibits switching and resets the Soft–start circuit if there is insufficient voltage for proper regulation. Both the NCV8901 and the NCV8901A can regulate a 3.3 V output with input voltages above 4.5 V and a 5.0 V output with an input above 6.5 V.

The NCV8901 withstands input voltages up to 40 V. The NCV8901A automatically terminates switching if input

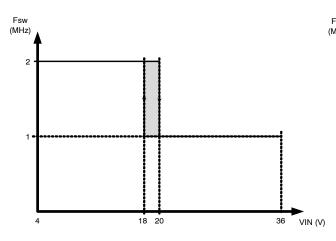


Figure 25. NCV8901 Switching Frequency Reduction at High Input Voltage

ENABLE

The NCV8901 is designed to accept either a logic level signal or battery voltage as an Enable signal. EN low induces a 'sleep mode' which shuts off the regulator and minimizes its supply current to a couple of μ A typically (I_{qSD}) by disabling all functions. Upon enabling, voltage is established at the DRV pin, followed by a soft–start of the switching regulator output.

SOFT-START

Upon being enabled or released from a fault condition, and after the DRV voltage is established, a soft–start circuit ramps the switching regulator error amplifier reference voltage to the final value. During soft–start, the average switching frequency is lower than its normal mode value (typically 2 MHz) until the output voltage approaches regulation.

ERROR AMPLIFIER

The error amplifier is a transconductance type amplifier. The output voltage of the error amplifier controls the peak inductor current at which the power switch shuts off. The Current Mode control method employed by the NCV8901 allows the use of a simple, Type II compensation to optimize the dynamic response according to system requirements. voltage exceeds 30 V (see Figure 26), and withstands input voltages up to 45 V.

To limit the power lost in generating the drive voltage for the Power Switch, the switching frequency is reduced by a factor of 2 when the input voltage exceeds the V_{IN} Frequency Foldback threshold V_{FLDUP} (see Figures 25 and 26). Frequency reduction is automatically terminated when the input voltage drops back below the V_{IN} Frequency Foldback threshold V_{FLDDN} .

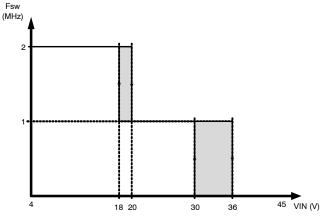


Figure 26. NCV8901A Switching Frequency Reduction at High Input Voltage

SLOPE COMPENSATION

A fixed slope compensation signal is generated internally and added to the sensed current to avoid increased output voltage ripple due to bifurcation of inductor ripple current at duty cycles above 50%. The fixed amplitude of the slope compensation signal requires the inductor to be greater than a minimum value, depending on output voltage, in order to avoid sub–harmonic oscillations. For 3.3 V and 5 V output voltages, the recommended inductor value is 4.7 μ H.

SHORT CIRCUIT FREQUENCY FOLDBACK

During severe output overloads or short circuits, the NCV8901 automatically reduces its switching frequency. This creates duty cycles small enough to limit the peak current in the power components, while maintaining the ability to automatically reestablish the output voltage if the overload is removed. If the current is still too high after the switching frequency folds back to 500 kHz, the regulator enters an auto–recovery burst mode that further reduces the dissipated power.

CURRENT LIMITING

Due to the ripple on the inductor current, the average output current of a buck converter is lower than the peak current setpoint of the regulator. Figure 27 shows – for a $4.7 \,\mu\text{H}$ inductor – how the variation of inductor peak current with input voltage affects the maximum DC current the NCV8901 can deliver to a load.

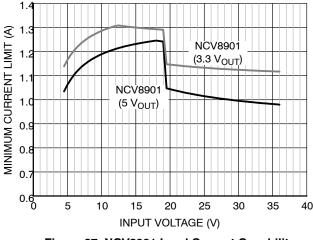


Figure 27. NCV8901 Load Current Capability with 4.7 μH Inductor

BOOTSTRAP

At the DRV pin an internal regulator provides a ground-referenced voltage to an external capacitor (C_{DRV}), to allow fast recharge of the external bootstrap capacitor (C_{BST}) used to supply power to the power switch gate driver. If the voltage at the DRV pin goes below the DRV UVLO Threshold V_{DRVSTP}, switching is inhibited and the Soft-start circuit is reset, until the DRV pin voltage goes back up above V_{DRVSTT}.

In order for the bootstrap capacitor to stay charged, the Switch node needs to be pulled down to ground regularly. In very light load condition, the NCV8901 skips switching cycles to ensure the output voltage stays regulated. When the skip cycle repetition frequency gets too low, the bootstrap voltage collapses and the regulator stops switching. Practically, this means that the NCV8901 needs a minimum load to operate correctly: to cover all conditions of input voltage and temperature, this minimum load is 8 mA.

OUTPUT PRECHARGE DETECTION

Prior to Soft-start, the FB pin is monitored to ensure the SW voltage is low enough to have charged the external bootstrap capacitor (C_{BST}). If the FB pin is higher than V_{SSEN} , restart is delayed until the output has discharged.

THERMAL SHUTDOWN

A thermal shutdown circuit inhibits switching, resets the Soft-start circuit, and removes DRV voltage if internal temperature exceeds a safe level. Switching is automatically restored when temperature returns to a safe level.

MINIMUM DROPOUT VOLTAGE

When operating at low input voltages, two parameters play a major role in imposing a minimum voltage drop across the regulator: the minimum off time (that sets the maximum duty cycle), and the on state resistance.

When operating in continuous conduction mode (CCM), the output voltage is equal to the input voltage multiplied by the duty ratio. Because the NCV8901 needs a sufficient bootstrap voltage to operate, its duty cycle cannot be 100%: it needs a minimum off time (t_{OFFmin}) to periodically re-fuel the bootstrap capacitor C_{BST}. This imposes a maximum duty ratio D_{MAX} = 1 - t_{OFFmin}.F_{SW(min)}, with the switching frequency being folded back down to F_{SW(min)} = 500 kHz to keep regulating at the lowest input voltage possible.

The drop due to the on-state resistance is simply the voltage drop across the Switch resistance R_{DSON} at the given output current: $V_{SWdrop} = I_{OUT} R_{DSon}$.

Which leads to the maximum output voltage in low Vin condition: $V_{OUT} = D_{MAX} \cdot V_{IN(min)} - V_{SWdrop}$

DESIGN METHODOLOGY

The NCV8901 being a fixed-frequency regulator with the switching element integrated, is optimized for one value of inductor. This value is set to 4.7 μ H, and the slope compensation is adjusted for this inductor. The only components left to be designed are the input and output capacitor and the freewheeling diode.

Output capacitor:

The minimum output capacitor value can be calculated based on the specification for output voltage ripple:

$$C_{OUT min} = \frac{\Delta I_L}{8 \cdot \Delta V_{OUT} \cdot F_{SW}}$$
 (eq. 1)

With

- ΔI_L the inductor ripple current:

$$\Delta I_{L} = \frac{V_{OUT} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)}{L \cdot F_{SW}}$$
 (eq. 2)

- ΔV_{OUT} the desired voltage ripple.

However, the ESR of the output capacitor also contributes to the output voltage ripple, so to comply with the requirement, the ESR cannot exceed R_{ESRmax}:

$$R_{ESR\,max} = \frac{V_{OUT} \cdot L \cdot F_{SW}}{V_{OUT} \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)}$$
(eq. 3)

Finally, the output capacitor must be able to sustain the ac current (or RMS ripple current):

$$I_{OUTac} = \frac{\Delta I_{L}}{2\sqrt{3}}$$
 (eq. 4)

Typically, with the recommended 4.7 μ H inductor, two ceramic capacitors of 10 μ F each in parallel give very good results.

Freewheeling diode:

The diode must be chosen according to its maximum current and voltage ratings, and to thermal considerations.

As far as max ratings are concerned, the maximum reverse voltage the diode sees is the maximum input voltage (with some margin in case of ringing on the Switch node), and the maximum forward current the peak current limit of the NCV8901, I_{LIM} .

The power dissipated in the diode is P_{Dloss}:

$$P_{Dloss} = I_{OUT} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right) \cdot V_{F} + I_{DRMS} \cdot R_{D} \quad (eq. 5)$$

with:

- I_{OUT} the average (dc) output current
- V_F the forward voltage of the diode
- I_{DRMS} the RMS current in the diode:

$$I_{DRMS} = \sqrt{(1 - D) \left(I_{OUT}^{2} + \frac{\Delta I_{L}^{2}}{12} \right)}$$
 (eq. 6)

 R_D the dynamic resistance of the diode (extracted from the V/I curve of the diode in its datasheet).

Then, knowing the thermal resistance of the package and the amount of heatsinking on the PCB, the temperature rise corresponding to this power dissipation can be estimated.

Input capacitor:

The input capacitor must sustain the RMS input ripple current I_{INac} :

$$_{\rm INac} = \frac{\Delta I_L}{2} \sqrt{\frac{D}{3}} \qquad (eq. 7)$$

It can be designed in combination with an inductor to build an input filter to filter out the ripple current in the source, in order to reduce EMI conducted emissions.

For example, using a 4.7 μ H input capacitor, it is easy to calculate that an inductor of 200 nH will ensure that the input filter has a cut-off frequency below 200 kHz (low enough to attenuate the 2 MHz ripple).

PCB LAYOUT RECOMMENDATION

I

As with any switching power supplies, there are some guidelines to follow to optimize the layout of the printed circuit board for the NCV8901. However, because of the high switching frequency extra care has to be taken.

- Minimize the area of the power current loops:

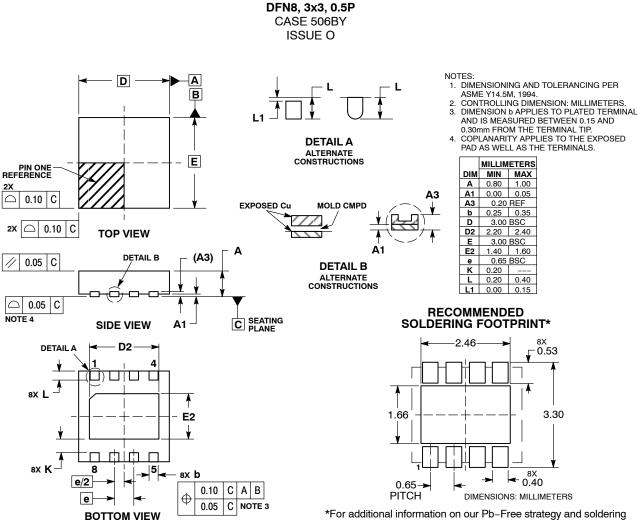
- Input capacitor → NCV8901 switch → Inductor → output capacitor → return through Ground
- Freewheeling diode → inductor → Output capacitor
 → return through ground
- Minimize the length of high impedance signals, and route them far away from the power loops:
 - Feedback trace
 - Comp trace

ORDERING INFORMATION

Device	Package	Shipping [†]
NCV8901MNTXG	DFN8 (Pb-Free)	3000 / Tape & Reel
NCV8901AMNTXG	DFN8 (Pb-Free)	3000 / Tape & Reel

+For information on tape and reel specifications, including part orientation and tape sizes, please refer to our Tape and Reel Packaging Specifications Brochure, BRD8011/D.

PACKAGE DIMENSIONS



*For additional information on our Pb-Free strategy and soldering details, please download the ON Semiconductor Soldering and Mounting Techniques Reference Manual, SOLDERRM/D.

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