APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

Diode Selection

Speed, forward drop, and leakage current are the three main considerations in selecting a catch diode for LT1111 converters. General purpose rectifiers such as the 1N4001 are *unsuitable* for use in *any* switching regulator application. Although they are rated at 1A, the switching time of a 1N4001 is in the 10µs to 50µs range. At best, efficiency will be severely compromised when these diodes are used; at worst, the circuit may not work at all. Most LT1111 circuits will be well served by a 1N5818 Schottky diode, or its surface mount equivalent, the MBRS130T3. The combination of 500mV forward drop at 1A current, fast turn ON and turn OFF time, and 4µA to 10µA leakage current fit nicely with LT1111 requirements. At peak switch currents of 100mA or less, a 1N4148 signal diode may be used. This diode has leakage current in the 1nA to 5nA range at 25°C and lower cost than a 1N5818. (You can also use them to get your circuit up and running, but beware of destroying the diode at 1A switch currents.)

Step-Up (Boost Mode) Operation

A step-up DC/DC converter delivers an output voltage higher than the input voltage. Step-up converters are not short-circuit protected since there is a DC path from input to output.

The usual step-up configuration for the LT1111 is shown in Figure 4. The LT1111 first pulls SW1 low causing $V_{IN} - V_{CESAT}$ to appear across L1. A current then builds up in L1.

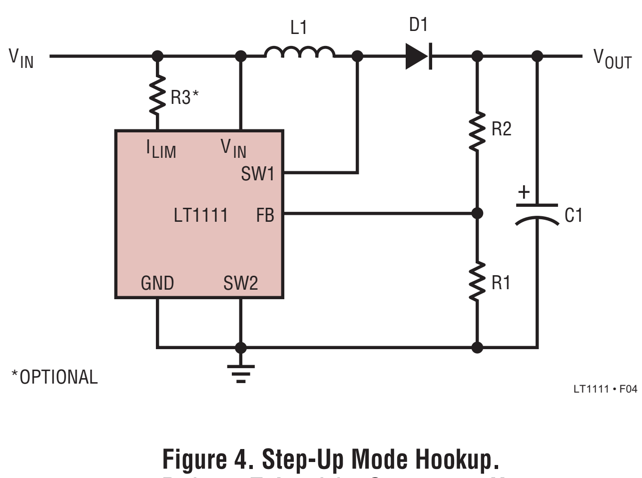

Figure 4. Step-Up Mode Hookup. Refer to Table 1 for Component Values.

At the end of the switch ON time the current in L1 is[1]:

$$I_{PEAK} = \frac{V_{IN}}{L} t_{ON} \qquad (20)$$

Immediately after switch turn-off, the SW1 voltage pin starts to rise because current cannot instantaneously stop flowing in L1. When the voltage reaches $V_{OUT} + V_D$, the inductor current flows through D1 into C1, increasing V_{OUT}. This action is repeated as needed by the LT1111 to keep V_{FB} at the internal reference voltage of 1.25V. R1 and R2 set the output voltage according to the formula

$$V_{OUT} = \left(1 + \frac{R2}{R1}\right)(1.25V) \qquad (21)$$

Step-Down (Buck Mode) Operation

A step-down DC/DC converter converts a higher voltage to a lower voltage. The usual hookup for an LT1111 based step-down converter is shown in Figure 5.

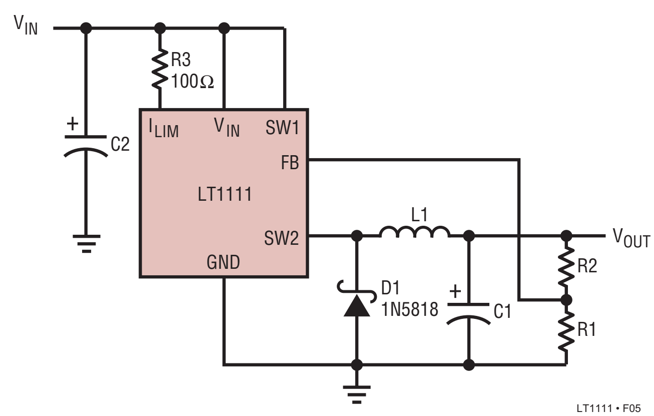

Figure 5. Step-Down Mode Hookup

When the switch turns on, SW2 pulls up to $V_{IN} - V_{SW}$. This puts a voltage across L1 equal to $V_{IN} - V_{SW} - V_{OUT}$, causing a current to build up in L1. At the end of the switch ON time, the current in L1 is equal to:

$$I_{PEAK} = \frac{V_{IN} - V_{SW} - V_{OUT}}{L} t_{ON} \qquad (22)$$

Note 1: This simple expression neglects the effect of switch and coil resistance. This is taken into account in the "Inductor Selection" section.