

8 Input Capacitor Selection

Similar to a boost converter, the SEPIC has an inductor at the input. Hence, the input current waveform is continuous and triangular. The inductor ensures that the input capacitor sees fairly low ripple currents. The RMS current in the input capacitor is given by:

$$I_{Cin(rms)} = \frac{I_L}{\sqrt{12}} \tag{17}$$

The input capacitor should be capable of handling the RMS current. Although the input capacitor is not so critical in a SEPIC application, a 10 μF or higher value, good quality capacitor would prevent impedance interactions with the input supply.

9 SEPIC Converter Design Example

$V_{in} = 8-30V$

Input voltage (V_{IN}): 3.0 V-5.7 V LM3478 controller is used in this example. The schematic is shown in Figure 5.

Output voltage (V_{OUT}): 3.3 V *14,4V*

Output current (I_{OUT}): 2.5A *8A*

Switching frequency f_{sw} : 330 kHz *200kHz*

LM3478 controller is used in this example. The schematic is shown in Figure 5.

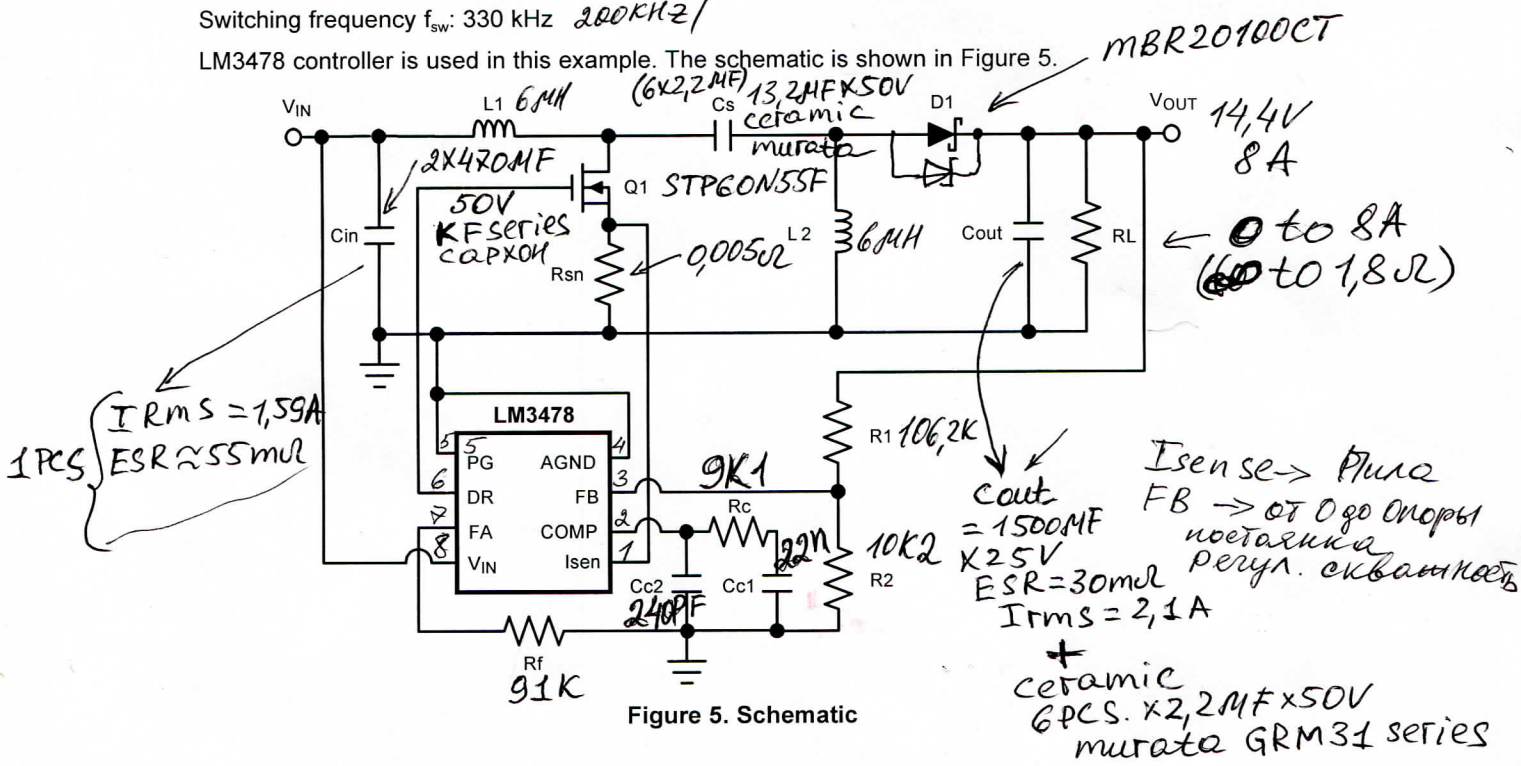


Figure 5. Schematic

Step 1: Duty cycle calculation

Assume that the V_D is 0.5 V,

$$D_{max} = \frac{V_{OUT} + V_D}{V_{IN(min)} + V_{OUT} + V_D} = \frac{14,4 + 0,6}{8V + 14,4 + 0,6} = 0,652$$

$$= \frac{3.3 + 0.5}{3.0 + 3.3 + 0.5} = 0.56$$

(18)

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{\min} &= \frac{V_{\text{OUT}} + V_D}{V_{\text{IN}(\max)} + V_{\text{OUT}} + V_D} = \frac{14,4 + 0,6}{3,0 + 14,4 + 0,6} = 0,333 \\
 &= \frac{3,3 + 0,5}{5,7 + 3,3 + 0,5} = 0,40
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

Step 2: Inductor selection

The input inductor L1 ripple current is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta I_L &= I_{\text{OUT}} \times \frac{V_{\text{OUT}}}{V_{\text{IN}(\min)}} \times 40\% = 8\text{A} \times \frac{14,4}{3} \times 0,4 = 5,76\text{A} \\
 &= 2,5 \times \frac{3,3}{3,0} \times 0,4 = 1,1\text{A}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{20}$$

and the inductance for L1 and L2 is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_1 = L_2 = L &= \frac{V_{\text{IN}(\min)}}{\Delta I_L \times f_{\text{sw}}} \times D_{\max} = \frac{8\text{V}}{5,76\text{A} \times 200\text{K}} \times 0,652 = 4,53\mu\text{H} \\
 &= \frac{3,0}{1,1 \times 330\text{K}} \times 0,56 = 4,6\text{PH}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{21}$$

The closest standard value of an off-the-shelf inductor is 4.7 μH . The peak input inductor current is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{L1(\text{peak})} &= I_{\text{OUT}} \times \frac{V_{\text{OUT}} + V_D}{V_{\text{IN}(\min)}} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{40\%}{2} \right) = 8\text{A} \times \frac{14,4 + 0,6}{3} \times 1,2 = 18\text{A} \\
 &= 2,5 \times \frac{3,3 + 0,5}{3,0} \times 1,2 = 3,8\text{A}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{22}$$

The peak current for L2 is:

$$I_{L2(\text{peak})} = I_{\text{OUT}} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{40\%}{2} \right) = 2,5 \times 1,2 = 3\text{A} = 8\text{A} \times 1,2 = 9,6\text{A}
 \tag{23}$$

Step 3: Power MOSFET selection

The MOSFET peak current is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{Q1(\text{peak})} &= I_{L1(\text{peak})} + I_{L2(\text{peak})} = 18\text{A} + 9,6\text{A} = 27,6\text{A} \\
 &= 3,8 + 3 = 6,8\text{A}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{24}$$

and the RMS current is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{Q1(\text{rms})} &= I_{\text{OUT}} \sqrt{\frac{(V_{\text{OUT}} + V_{\text{IN}(\min)} + V_D) \times (V_{\text{OUT}} + V_D)}{V_{\text{IN}(\min)}^2}} = 8\text{A} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{(14,4 + 3 + 0,6) \times (14,4 + 0,6)}{3^2}} = 18,575\text{A} \approx 18,6\text{A} \\
 &= 2,5 \times \sqrt{\frac{(3,3 + 3,0 + 0,5) \times (3,3 + 0,5)}{3,0^2}} = 4,2\text{A}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{25}$$

The rated drain voltage for the MOSFET must be higher than $V_{\text{IN}} + V_{\text{OUT}}$. Si4442DY ($R_{\text{DS(ON)}} = 8\text{ m}\Omega$ and $Q_{\text{GD}} = 10\text{ nC}$) is selected in this design. The gate drive current I_{G} of the LM3478 is 0.3A. The estimated power loss is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{Q1} &= I_{Q1(\text{rms})}^2 \times R_{\text{DS(ON)}} \times D_{\max} + (V_{\text{IN}(\min)} + V_{\text{OUT}}) \times I_{Q1(\text{peak})} \times \frac{Q_{\text{GD}} \times f_{\text{sw}}}{I_{\text{G}}} \\
 &= 4,2^2 \times 8\text{m} \times 0,56 + (3 + 3,3) \times 6,8 \times \frac{10\text{n} \times 330\text{K}}{0,3} \\
 &= 18,6\text{A}^2 \times 0,015\Omega \times 0,652 + (8\text{V} + 14,4\text{V}) \times 27,6\text{A} \times \frac{9,5\text{nC} \cdot 200\text{K}}{0,3\text{A}} \\
 &\approx 6,51\text{W}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{26}$$

Step 4: Output diode selection

The rated reverse voltage of the diode must be higher than $V_{\text{IN}} + V_{\text{OUT}}$ and the average diode current is equal to the output current at full load.

$$V_D > V_{\text{in}} + V_{\text{out}} > 45\text{V}$$

Step 5: SEPIC coupling capacitor selection

The RMS current off he Cs is:

$$I_{Cs(rms)} = I_{OUT} \times \sqrt{\frac{V_{OUT} + V_D}{V_{IN(min)}}} = 8A \times \sqrt{\frac{14,4 + 0,6}{8}} = 10,955A \approx 11A$$

$$= 2.5 \times \sqrt{\frac{3.3 + 0.5}{3.0}} = 2.8A$$

chose
cap mult (2, 2 MF x 50V x 7R) x 6PCS
C = 13,2 MF (27)

and the ripple voltage is

$$V_{Cs} = \frac{I_{OUT} \times D_{max}}{C_s \times f_{sw}} = \frac{2.5 \times 0.56}{10P \times 330k} = 0.42V$$

$$V_{Cs} = \frac{8A \times 0,652}{13,2MF \times 200k} = 1,976V$$

A 10 μF ceramic cap is selected. → 13,2 MF (2,2 x 6 PCS)

Step 6: Output capacitor selection

The RMS current off he output capacitor is:

$$I_{Cout(rms)} = I_{Cs(rms)} = 2.8A = 11A$$

Assuming the peak-to-peak ripple is 2% off he 3.3V output voltage, the ESR off he output capacitor is:

$$ESR = \frac{V_{ripple} \times 0.5}{I_{L1(peak)} + I_{L2(peak)}} = \frac{0.02 \times 3.3 \times 0.5}{3.8 + 3} = \frac{0,02 \times 0,5 \times 14,4V}{27,6A} \leq 5,2 m\Omega$$

$$= 4.8 m\Omega$$

and the capacitance is:

$$C_{out} = \frac{I_{OUT} \times D_{max}}{V_{ripple} \times 0.5 \times f_{sw}} = \frac{2.5 \times 0.56}{0.02 \times 3.3 \times 0.5 \times 300k} = \frac{8A \times 0,652}{9,02 \times 14,4 \times 0,5 \times 200k} \geq 181 MF$$

$$= 141 PF$$

Two pieces of 100 μF (6mΩ ESR) ceramic caps are used. For cost-sensitive applications, an electrolytic capacitor and a ceramic capacitor can be used together. Noise sensitive applications can include a second stage filter.

Step 7: Input capacitor selection

The RMS current off he input capacitor is:

$$I_{Cin(rms)} = \frac{A_{IL}}{\sqrt{12}} = \frac{1.1}{\sqrt{12}} = 0.32A = \frac{5,76}{\sqrt{12}} \approx 1,67A$$

Capxon KF series Ø13x20
470MF x 50V
I_{rms} = 1,59A ; Z = 55mΩ
2 x 470MF (32)

Step 8: Feedback resistors, current sensing resistor calculation and frequency set resistor

R1 is the top resistor and R2 is the bottom resistor off he voltage divider. The feedback reference voltage is 1.26V.

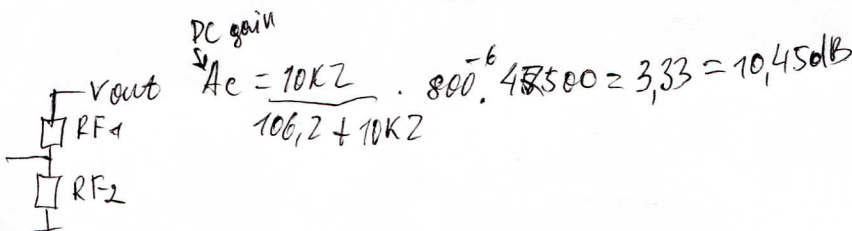
If R1 = 20 kΩ, then:

$$R2 = \frac{V_{REF}}{V_{OUT} - V_{REF}} \times R1 = \frac{1.26}{3.3 - 1.26} \times 20k = \frac{1,26}{14,4 - 1,26} \times 106,2k = 10,18k \approx 10,2k$$

R1 = 100k + 6,2k series
5k1 + 5k1 series (33)

For the LM3478, the threshold voltage to trigger the current protection varies with duty cycle. The threshold is a ramp which is defined by Vsense at 0% duty cycle and Vsense - Vsl at 100% duty cycle. The values for Vsense and Vsl can be taken from the Electrical Characteristics section off he LM3478, LM3478-Q1 High-Efficiency Low-Side N-Channel Controller for Switching Regulator Data Sheet (SNVS085). There is also a plot in the data sheet showing the typical current sense voltage vs duty cycle. In our example the duty cycle was calculated to be about 50% and so we use the current limit threshold of 130mV for the following calculation to keep things simple. Thus the sensing resistor value is:

$$R_{sn} = \frac{130 mV}{I_{Q1(peak)}} = \frac{130m}{6.8} = 19 m\Omega = \frac{110mV}{27,6A} \approx 4m\Omega \approx 5m\Omega$$



R_{fi} is approximately 50 kΩ for 330 kHz operation.

91k for 200kHz operation

Step 9: Compensation Design

In the control to output transfer function of a peak current mode controlled SEPIC converter, the load pole can be estimated as 1/(2πRL**C*_{out}); The ESR zero off the output capacitor is 1/(2πESR**C*_{out}), where R_L is the load resistant, *C*_{out} is the output capacitor and ESR is the Equivalent Series Resistance off he output capacitor. There is also a right-half-plane zero (*f*_{RHPZ}), given by:

$$f_{RHPZ} = \frac{(1 - D_{max})^2 \times V_{OUT}}{2S \times D_{max} \times L2 \times 0.5 \times I_{OUT}} = \frac{(1 - 0.652)^2 \times 14.4}{2S \times 0.652 \times 6\mu H \times 0.5 \times 8A} = 17737 Hz$$

$$= \frac{(1 - 0.56)^2 \times 3.3}{2S \times 0.56 \times 4.7P \times 0.5 \times 2.5} = 31 kHz \tag{35}$$

We can also see a "glitch" in the magnitude plot at the resonant frequency off he network formed by the SEPIC capacitor *C*_s and the inductor L2:

$$f_R = \frac{1}{2S \times \sqrt{L2 \times Cs}} = \frac{1}{2S \times \sqrt{4.7PH \times 10PF}} = \frac{1}{2S \times \sqrt{6\mu H \times 13,2PF}} = 17883 Hz$$

$$= 23 kHz \tag{36}$$

The crossover frequency is set at one sixth off he *f*_{RHPZ} or *f*_R, whichever is lower:

$$f_c = \frac{f_R}{6} = \frac{23k}{6} = 3.8 kHz = \frac{17,9}{6} \approx 3 kHz \tag{37}$$

Parts *C*_{c1}, *C*_{c2} and *R*_c form a compensation network, which has one zero at 1/(2π*R*_c**C*_{c1}), one pole at the origin, and another pole at 1/(2π*R*_c**C*_{c2}).

Where, *V*_{REF} is the reference voltage of 1.26 V, *V*_{OUT} is the output voltage, *G*_{cs} is the current sense gain (roughly 1/*R*_{sn}) 100A/V, and *G*_{ma} is the error amplifier transconductance (800 μmho).

*R*_c is chosen to set the desired crossover frequency.

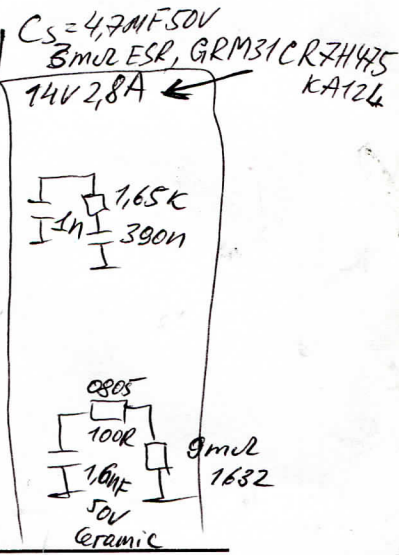
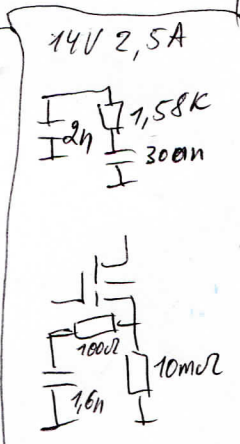
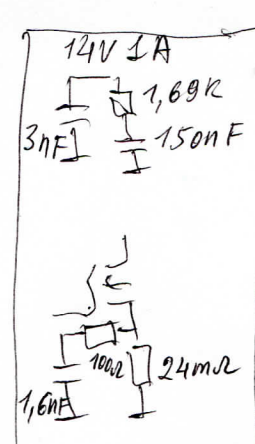
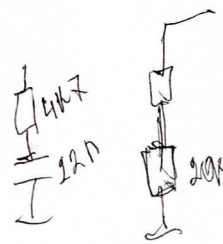
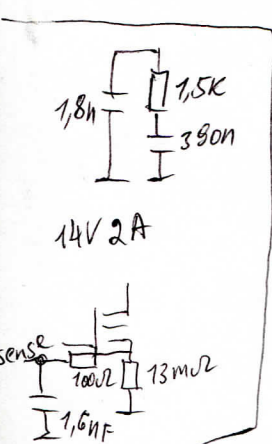
$$R_c = \frac{2S \times f_c \times C_{OUT} \times V_{OUT}^2 \times (1 + D_{max})}{G_{cs} \times G_{ma} \times V_{REF} \times V_{IN(min)} \times D_{max}} = \frac{2S \times 3kHz \times 1500PF \times 14.4^2 \times (1 + 0.652)}{1/0.005 \times 800\mu mho \times 1.26 \times 8 \times 0.652} = 9,210 \Omega \approx 9k \Omega$$

$$= \frac{2S \times 3.8k \times 200P \times 3.3^2 \times (1 + 0.56)}{91 \times 800P \times 1.26 \times 3.0 \times 0.56} = 523$$

NCV898031 - sepic/80088
NCV8871 1062pH Dmax=88% (38)

$\frac{V_{out}}{V_{in}} = \frac{D}{(1-D)}$

$D = \frac{V_{out}}{V_{in} + V_{out}}$



Cc1 is chosen to set the compensator zero to 1/4 of the crossover frequency:

$$C_{c1} = \frac{4}{2\pi \times f_c \times R_c} = \frac{4}{2\pi \times 3.8k \times 523} = 330 \text{ nF} = \frac{4}{2\pi \times 3k \times 9k} = 23 \text{ nF} \quad (39)$$

The pole at $1/(2\pi R_c \cdot C_{c2})$ is to cancel the ESR zero $1/(2\pi \text{ESR} \cdot C_{out})$,

$$C_{c2} = \frac{C_{out} \times \text{ESR}}{R_c} = \frac{200\mu \times 3m}{523} = 1.2 \text{ nF} = \frac{1500\mu \text{F} \times 1.5m\Omega}{9k\Omega} = 247 \text{ pF}$$

$$I = \sqrt{\frac{P(40)}{R}}$$

$$P = I^2 \cdot R =$$

10 - References

LM3478, LM3478-Q1 High-Efficiency Low-Side N-Channel Controller for Switching Regulator Data Sheet (SNVS085)

2,2μF x 50V x 7R Murata (GRM31)

$\text{tg } \delta = 0,025 \text{ max}$

$$\text{ESR} = \frac{\text{tg } \delta}{2\pi f C} = \frac{0,025}{2\pi \cdot 200k \cdot 2,2\mu\text{F}} = 9 \text{ m}\Omega$$

6 x 2,2μF Parallel = 9/6 = 1,5 mΩ

1500μF x 25V Samwha W4 series

ESR ≈ 30 mΩ I_{rms} = 2,1 A

1,5 mΩ // 30 mΩ ≈ 1,43 mΩ ⇒ 1,5 mΩ

Δt	Power	I _{max}
10%	453 = 65 mW	2,7 A
20%	= 130 mW	3,8 A
30%	= 196 mW	4,6 A
40%	= 261 mW	5,3 A
50%	= 326 mW	6 A

20-150V SEPIC

$$D_{max} = \frac{13,8 + 0,6}{20 + 13,8 + 0,6} = 0,419$$

$$D_{min} = \frac{13,8 + 0,6}{150 + 13,8 + 0,6} = 0,086$$

20-150V BUCK

$$D_{max} = \frac{13,8 + 0,6}{20} = 0,72$$

$$D_{min} = \frac{13,8 + 0,6}{150} = 0,096$$