

Low Input Voltage, Single-Supply High-Current LDO

General Description

The Micrel MIC61150 is a 1.5A output, low input voltage, single-supply regulator. This regulator operates over a single input voltage range of 1.1V to 3.6V and offers an ultra-low dropout less than 200mV over the entire operating temperature range.

The MIC61150 is designed to drive digital circuits requiring low voltages at high currents such as DSPs, FPGAs, microcontrollers, etc. The regulator is available as a 1.0V fixed-output voltage option or as an adjustable-output voltage option.

The MIC61150 is stable with a 22µF, low-ESR ceramic output capacitor, and includes protection features such as thermal shutdown, current limiting and logic enable.

The MIC61150 is offered in two different packages: a lowprofile, leadless 10-pin 3mm x 3mm MLF® and a 10-pin ePad MSOP. The MIC61150 has an operating junction temperature range of −40°C to +125°C.

Data sheets and support documentation can be found on Micrel's web site at: [www.micrel.com.](http://www.micrel.com/)

Features

- Single V_{IN} rail: 1.1V to 3.6V
- Output voltage accuracy: ±2.5% over temperature
- Typical dropout of 75mV at room temperature
	- Maximum dropout of 200mV at full load over temperature
- C_{OUT} as low as 22 μ F (ceramic capacitor)
- Output voltage adjustable down to 0.5V
- Soft-start control via external capacitor
- Excellent line and load regulation
- Logic controlled shutdown
- Thermal-shutdown and current-limit protection
- 10-pin 3mm \times 3mm MLF[®] package
- 10-pin ePad MSOP package
- Junction temperature range from −40°C to +125°C

Applications

- Point-of-load applications
- ASIC / Microprocessor power supply
- FPGA power supply
- Telecom / Networking cards
- Wireless infrastructure

Typical Application

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Ordering Information

Pin Configuration

10-Pin ePad MSOP (MME)

10-Pin 3mm x 3mm MLF[®] (ML)

Pin Description

Absolute Maximum Ratings(1, 2)

Operating Ratings(3)

Electrical Characteristics(5)

V_{IN} = V_{OUT} + 0.2V; V_{EN} = 1.1V; I_{OUT} = 10mA; C_{CP} = 0.1μF; C_{OUT} = 22μF; T_J = 25°C. **Bold** values indicate –40°C ≤ T_J ≤ +125°C, unless noted.

Notes:

1. Exceeding the absolute maximum rating may damage the device.

2. Devices are ESD sensitive. Handling precautions recommended. Human body model (HBM), 1.5k in series with 100pF.

3. The device is not guaranteed to function outside its operating rating.

4. $P_{D(MAX)} = (T_{J(MAX)} - T_A) / \theta_{JA}$, where θ_{JA} , depends upon the printed circuit layout. See "Applications Information."

5. Specification for packaged product only.

6. ΔV_{OUT} (%) = 0.08 $\times \Delta V_{\text{IN}}$

Electrical Characteristics(5) (Continued)

 V_{IN} = V_{OUT} + 0.2V; V_{EN} = 1.1V; I_{OUT} = 10mA; C_{CP} = 0.1µF; C_{OUT} = 22µF; T_J = 25°C. **Bold** values indicate –40°C ≤ T_J ≤ +125°C, unless noted.

Typical Characteristics

Typical Characteristics (Continued)

Typical Characteristics (Continued)

Case Temperature*: The temperature measurement was taken at the hottest point on the MIC61150 case mounted on a 2.25 square inch PCB at an ambient temperature of 25°C; see "Thermal Measurement" section. Actual results will depend upon the size of the PCB, ambient temperature and proximity to other heat emitting components.

Functional Characteristics

Functional Characteristics (Continued)

Functional Diagram

Figure 1. MIC61150 Block Diagram – Fixed

Functional Description

The MIC61150 is an ultra-high-performance, low-dropout linear regulator designed for high-current applications that require low input voltage operation. The MIC61150 operates from a single input supply and generates an internal supply that is higher than the input voltage to drive an on-chip N-Channel MOSFET. The N-Channel MOSFET significantly reduces the dropout voltage when compared to a traditional P-Channel MOSFET.

P-Channel MOSFETs are usually used in single-supply low-dropout linear voltage regulators. However, for input voltages below 1.5V, there is not sufficient gate drive to turn on the P-Channel. To solve this issue, the MIC61150 uses a simple internal charge pump to drive the internal N-Channel MOSFET's gate higher than the input voltage, see Functional Diagram. The N-Channel MOSFET greatly reduces the dropout voltage for the same die area when compared to that of a P-Channel. Other added benefits of the charge pump include the ability to control the output voltage rise time and to improve the power supply rejection ratio (PSRR). This is accomplished by using the V_{CP} supply to power the error amplifier.

The other significant advantage of the MIC61150 over a P-Channel regulator is its transient response. The N-Channel in the follower configuration is much faster than its P-channel counter part and is simpler to compensate. Any type of output capacitor can be placed in parallel with it as long as the minimum value output ceramic capacitor is placed next to the MIC61150. See the Output Capacitor section for specific details. Also, the regulator is fully protected from damage due to fault conditions by offering linear current limiting and thermal shutdown.

Soft-Start

Soft-start reduces the power supply input surge current at startup by controlling the output voltage rise time. The input surge appears while the output capacitor is charged up. A slower output rise time will draw a lower input surge current.

The CP pin is the output of the internal charge pump. The soft-start rise time is controlled by the external capacitor connected from CP pin to GND. During softstart, the charge pump feeds a current to C_{CP} . The output voltage rise time is dependent upon the value of C_{CP} , the input voltage, output voltage and the current limit. The value of the charge pump external capacitor selected is recommended in the range of 0.1µF to 1µF, although larger value capacitors can be used for a longer turn-on time.

Input Capacitor

A 10µF ceramic input capacitor is all that is required for most applications. However, fast load transient and low headroom ($V_{IN} - V_{OUT}$) requires additional bulk bypass capacitance to ensure that the regulator does not drop out of regulation.

The input capacitor must be placed on the same side of the board and next to the MIC61150 to minimize the dropout voltage and voltage ringing during transient and short circuit conditions. It is also recommended to use two vias for each end of the capacitor to connect to the power and ground plane.

X7R or X5R dielectric ceramic capacitors are
recommended because of their temperature recommended because of their temperature performance. X7R-type capacitors change capacitance by 15% over their operating temperature range and are the most stable type of ceramic capacitors. Z5U and Y5V dielectric capacitors change value by as much as 50% and 60% respectively over their operating temperature ranges. To use a ceramic chip capacitor with Y5V dielectric, the value must be much higher than an X7R ceramic or a tantalum capacitor to ensure the same capacitance value over the operating temperature range. Tantalum capacitors have a very stable dielectric (10% over their operating temperature range) and can also be used in parallel with the ceramic capacitor(s). See Typical Characteristics section for examples of load transient response.

Output Capacitor

As part of the frequency compensation, the MIC61150 requires a 22µF ceramic output capacitor. However, any other type of capacitor can be placed in parallel as long as the 22µF ceramic output capacitor is placed next to the MIC61150.

Output voltages below 0.8V require either a 47µF or 2x 22µF output capacitance for large output transients. The increased output capacitance reduces the output voltage drop caused by load transients, which increases as a percentage of the output voltage as the output voltage is lowered.

The output capacitor type and placement criteria are the same as the input capacitor. See the *Input Capacitor* section for a detailed description.

Minimum Load Current

The MIC61150 requires a minimum load of 10mA to maintain output voltage regulation.

Adjustable Regulator Design

The MIC61150 adjustable version allows programming the output voltage from 0.5V to 3.0V by placing a resistor divider network (R1, R2) from V_{OUT} to GND (see Application Circuit). The high side of R1 should be connected at the point-of-load for high-accuracy Kelvin sensing. V_{OUT} is determined by the following equation:

$$
V_{\text{OUT}} = 0.5 \times \left(\frac{R1}{R2} + 1\right) \qquad \qquad \text{Eq. 1}
$$

where V_{OUT} is the desired output voltage.

The resistor (R2) value between the FB pin and GND is selected to maintain a minimum 10mA load on the output.

The resistor values are calculated from the previous equation, resulting in the following:

$$
R1 = R2 \times \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{0.5} - 1\right)
$$
 Eq. 2

Table 1 is a list of resistor combinations to set the output voltage. A 1% tolerance is recommended for both R1 and R2. For a unity gain, 0.5V output voltage, connect the FB pin directly to the output.

V_{OUT}	R1	R2
0.5V		49.9 ₀
0.6V	10.0Ω	49.9 ₀
0.7V	20.0 <omega< td=""><td>49.9₀</td></omega<>	49.9 ₀
0.8V	30.1Ω	49.9 ₀
0.9V	40.2 <omega< td=""><td>49.9₀</td></omega<>	49.9 ₀
1.0	49.9Ω	49.9 ₀
1.1V	60.4Ω	49.9 ₀
1.2V	69.8Ω	49.9Ω
1.5V	1000	49.9Ω
1.8V	130 Ω	49.9Ω
2.2V	169Ω	49.9Ω

Table 1. Resistor Selection for Specific V_{OUT}

Thermal Design

Linear regulators are simple to use. The most complicated design parameters to consider are thermal characteristics. To help reduce the thermal resistance, the ePad (underneath the IC) should be soldered to the PCB ground and the placement of thermal vias either underneath or near the ePad is highly recommended. Thermal design requires the following applicationspecific parameters:

- Maximum ambient temperature (T_A)
- Output current (I_{OUT})
- Output voltage (V_{OUT})
- Input voltage (V_{IN})
- Ground current (I_{GND})

First, calculate the power dissipation of the regulator from these numbers and the device parameters from this datasheet:

$$
P_D = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) \times I_{OUT} + (V_{IN} \times I_{GND})
$$
 Eq. 3

where the ground current is approximated by using numbers from the Electrical Characteristics or Typical Characteristics sections

For example, given an expected maximum ambient temperature (T_A) of 75°C with V_{IN} = 1.2V, V_{OUT} = 0.9V, and I_{OUT} = 1.5A, first calculate the expected P_{D} using Equation 1:

$$
P_D = (1.2V - 0.9V) \times 1.5A + 1.2V \times 0.015A
$$

= 0.468W Eq. 4

Next, determnine the junction temperature for the expected power dissipation above using the thermal resistance (θ_{JA}) of the 10-pin 3mm \times 3mm MLF[®] (YML) adhering to the following criteria for the PCB design:

> 1oz. copper and 100 $mm²$ copper area for the MIC61150.

$$
TJ = (\thetaJA × PD) + TA
$$

= (60.7°C/W × 0.468W) + 75°C
= 103.4°C \tEq. 5

To determine the maximum power dissipation allowed that would not exceed the IC's maximum junction temperature (125°C) when operating at a maximum ambient temperature of 75°C by:

$$
P_{D(MAX)} = (T_{J(MAX)} - T_A) / \theta_{JA}
$$

= (125°C – 75°C) / (60.7°C/W)
= 0.824W \tEq. 6

Thermal Measurements

It is always wise to measure the IC's case temperature to make sure that it is within its operating limits. Although this might seem like a very elementary task, it is very easy to get erroneous results. The most common mistake is to use the standard thermal couple that comes with the thermal voltage meter. This thermal couple wire gauge is large, typically 22 gauge, and behaves like a heatsink, resulting in a lower case measurement.

There are two suggested methods for measuring the IC case temperature: a thermal couple or an infrared thermometer. If a thermal couple is used, it must be constructed of 36 gauge wire or higher to minimize the wire heatsinking effect. In addition, the thermal couple tip must be covered in either thermal grease or thermal glue to make sure that the thermal couple junction is making good contact to the case of the IC. This thermal couple from Omega (5SC-TT-K-36-36) is adequate for most applications.

To avoid this messy thermal couple grease or glue, an infrared thermometer is recommended. Most infrared thermometers' spot size are too large for an accurate reading on small form factor ICs. However, an IR thermometer from Optris has a 1mm spot size, which makes it ideal for the 3mm \times 3mm MLF[®] package. Also, get the optional stand. The stand makes it easy to hold the beam on the IC for long periods of time.

Enable

The MIC61150 features an active high enable input (EN) that allows ON/OFF control of the regulator. The current through the device reduces to near "zero" when the device is shutdown, with only microamperes of leakage current. The EN input may be directly tied to V_{IN} or driven by a voltage that is higher than V_{IN} as long as the voltage does not exceed the maximum operating rating of the EN pin.

MIC61150YML Evaluation Board Schematic (3mm × **3mm 10-Pin ePad MLF®)**

Bill of Materials

Notes:

1. AVX: www.avx.com.

2. TDK: [www.tdk.com.](http://www.tdk.com/)

3. Murata: [www.murata.com.](http://www.murata.com/)

4. Vishay: [www.vishay.com.](http://www.vishay.com/)

5. **Micrel, Inc.: www.micrel.com.**

MIC61150YML PCB Layout Recommendations

MIC61150YML Evaluation Board – Top Layer

MIC61150YML Evaluation Board – Bottom Layer

MIC61150YMME Evaluation Board Schematic (10-Pin ePad MSOP)

Bill of Materials

Notes:

- 1. AVX: www.avx.com.
- 2. TDK: [www.tdk.com.](http://www.tdk.com/)
- 3. Murata: [www.murata.com.](http://www.murata.com/)
- 4. Vishay: [www.vishay.com.](http://www.vishay.com/)
- 5. **Micrel, Inc.: www.micrel.com.**

MIC61150YMME PCB Layout Recommendations

MIC61150YMME Evaluation Board – Top Layer

MIC61150YMME Evaluation Board – Bottom Layer

Package Information

SIDE VIEW

10-Pin 3mm x 3mm MLF® (ML)

Package Information (Continued)

10-Pin e-PAD MSOP (MME)

Landing Pattern

10-Pin 3mm x 3mm MLF® (ML)

Landing Pattern (Continued)

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