

## **General Description**

The MAX1612/MAX1613 manage the bridge battery (sometimes called a hot-swap or auxiliary battery) in portable systems such as notebook computers. They feature a step-up DC-DC converter that boosts 2-cell or 3-cell bridge-battery voltages up to the same level as the main battery. This voltage boosting technique reduces the number of cells otherwise required for a 6 cell plus diode-OR bridging scheme, reducing overall size and cost. Another key feature is a trickle-charge timer that minimizes battery damage caused by constant charging and eliminates trickle-charge current drain on the main battery once the bridge battery is topped off.

These devices contain a highly flexible collection of independent circuit blocks that can be wired together in an autonomous stand-alone configuration or used in conjunction with a microcontroller. In addition to the boost converter and charge timer, there is a micropower linear regulator (useful for RTC/CMOS backup as well as for powering a microcontroller) and a high-precision low-battery detection comparator.

The two devices differ only in the preset linear-regulator output voltage: +5.0V for the MAX1612 and +3.3V for the MAX1613. Both devices come in a space-saving 16-pin QSOP package.

**Applications**

Notebook Computers Portable Equipment Backup Battery Applications



## **Typical Operating Circuit**

## **MAXIM**

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#### **Features**

- ♦ **Reduce Battery Size and Cost**
- ♦ **Four Key Circuit Blocks Adjustable Boost DC-DC Converter NiCd/NiMH Trickle Charger Always-On Linear Regulator (+28V Input) Low-Battery Detector**
- ♦ **Low 18µA Quiescent Current**
- ♦ **Selectable Charging/Discharging Rates**
- ♦ **Preset Linear-Regulator Voltage 5V (MAX1612) 3.3V (MAX1613)**
- ♦ **4V to 28V Main Input Voltage Range**
- ♦ **Internal Switch Boost Converter**
- ♦ **Small 16-Pin QSOP Package**

## **Ordering Information**



## **Pin Configuration**

**\_ Maxim Integrated Products 1**



### **ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS**





Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

(VLRI = VISET = 20V, CCMD = DCMD = BBON = LRO, VBBATT = 3V, TA = TMIN to TMAX, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}$ C.) (Note 1)



**MAXM** 

### **ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)**

(V<sub>LRI</sub> = V<sub>ISET</sub> = 20V,  $\overline{CCMD}$  =  $\overline{DCMD}$  =  $\overline{BBON}$  = LRO, VBBATT = 3V, TA = T<sub>MIN</sub> to T<sub>MAX</sub>, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25$ °C.) (Note 1)



**Note 1:** Specifications from 0°C to -40°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.

**Typical Operating Characteristics** (Circuit of Figure 3,  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted.)



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**MAXIM** 

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**MAX1612/MAX1613**

**MAX1612/MAX1613** 

# **Pin Description**







Figure 1. Functional Diagram

### **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Detailed Description**

The MAX1612/MAX1613 manage the bridge battery (auxiliary battery) in portable systems. These devices consist of a timer block that monitors the charging process, a linear regulator for supplying IC power and external circuitry to the MAX1612/MAX1613, and a DC-DC step-up converter that powers the system when the main battery is removed (Figure 1). The boost DC-DC converter reduces the number of bridge-battery cells required to supply the system's DC-DC converter. When the main supply is present, the DC-DC converter is inactive, reducing the drain on the main battery to only 18µA. However, if the main battery voltage falls (as detected by the low-battery comparator), the bridge battery becomes the input source.

The MAX1612/MAX1613 have an internal linear regulator set at +5V (MAX1612) or +3.3V (MAX1613). The linear regulator can deliver a load up to 10mA, making it capable of powering external components such as a microcontroller (Figure 4). An undervoltage lockout feature disables the device when the input voltage falls below the operating range, preventing the DC-DC converter from inadvertently powering up.

The MAX1612/MAX1613 feature an internal counter intended to track the charging and discharging process. The counter tracks the charge on the bridge battery, allowing trickle charge to terminate when the maximum charge is achieved. The charging rate is determined by current through the ISET switch, and limited by the switch's maximum current specification as well as by the bridge cell's charging capability. As



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Figure 2. Reducing BBON Noise Sensitivity

specifications vary, the counter frequency can be adjusted to accommodate these variances by adjusting C<sub>CC</sub>. Similarly, the discharging oscillator frequency can be adjusted with the C<sub>CD</sub> capacitor. However, the rate of bridge battery discharge depends on the DC-DC converter's load. Decrementing the charge/discharge counter is used only to estimate the remaining charge on the bridge battery. The counter increments (or decrements) based on CCMD and DCMD logic states. Note that the net charge must exceed the net discharge to compensate for charging efficiency losses.

Figure 3 shows a typical stand-alone application (see Design Procedure for details). It reduces the need for an external microcontroller to manage these functions. However, if the design requires greater flexibility, a microcontroller can be used as shown in Figure 4.

#### **DC-DC Converter**

The DC-DC step-up converter is a pulse-frequency modulated (PFM) type. The on-time is determined by the time it takes for the inductor current to ramp up to the peak current limit (set via  $R\overline{BBON}$ ), which in turn is determined by the bridge battery voltage and the inductor value. With light load or no load, the converter is forced to operate in discontinuous-conduction mode (where the inductor current decays to zero with each cycle) by a comparator that monitors the LX voltage waveform. The converter will not start a new cycle until the voltage at LX goes below the battery voltage. At full load, the converter operates at the crossover point between continuous and discontinuous mode. This "edge of continuous" algorithm results in the minimum possible physical size for the inductor. At light loads, the devices pulse infrequently to maintain output regulation ( $VFB \geq 2V$ ). Note that the LX comparator requires the DC-DC output voltage to be set at least 0.6V above the maximum bridge battery voltage.

#### **Timer Block**

The MAX1612/MAX1613 have an internal charge/discharge counter that keeps track of the bridge-battery charging/discharging process. When CCMD is low and DCMD is high, the internal counter increments until the FULL pin goes high, indicating that the counter has reached all 1s. The maximum counter value is 221. Additional pulses from the CC oscillator will not cause the counter to wrap around. In the stand-alone application (Figure 3), terminate the charging process automatically by connecting FULL to CCMD. In a microcontroller application, pull CCMD high. The counter only specifies the maximum time for full charging; it does not control the actual rate of charging. CCMD controls the charging switch, and the resistor at ISET sets the charging rate.

During the discharging process, drive DCMD low in order to begin decrementing the counter. When the counter is full, FULL is high. As soon as the counter decrements just two counts, the FULL pin sinks current, indicating that the battery is no longer full. The counter only indicates the relative portion of the charge remaining. The incrementing and decrementing rate depends on the maximum charge and discharge times set forth by charging and discharging rates (see the following equations for CC and CD). Note that the actual discharging is caused by the input current of the step-up DC-DC converter loading down the bridge battery, which is controlled via **BBON** rather than by DCMD.

The CC and CD capacitor values determine the upcount and downcount rates by controlling the discharging oscillator frequency. Determine the maximum charge and discharge times as follows:

$$
C_{\text{CC}} \text{ (nF)} = 4.3 \cdot \text{thrs}
$$

$$
C_{\text{CD}} \text{ (nF)} = 4.3 \cdot \text{thrs}
$$

where C<sub>CC</sub> is the charging capacitor, C<sub>CD</sub> is the discharging capacitor and t<sub>HRS</sub> is the maximum time in hours for the process. Choose values that allow for losses in the battery charging and discharging process, such as battery charging inefficiencies, errors in charging current value caused by variable main battery voltages, leakage currents, and losses in the device's internal switch. For charging, use the standard charge rate recommended by the battery manufacturer. **The maximum charging current is restricted to the battery specifications. Consult the battery manufacturer's specifications. Do not set the charging current above 10mA.**





Figure 3. Stand-Alone Application

The counter block can be used to estimate the charge remaining in the battery. For example, if the maximum expected charge time is 14 hours ( $C_{CC} = 60nF$ ) and the maximum expected discharge time is about 2 hours  $(CCD = 8.6nF)$ , the battery reaches full charge in 14 hours with the FULL pin going high. If the bridge battery must supply the load for 1 hour, the counter will decrement down to about half full. Recharging the battery will now require only 7 hours to reach all 1s in the counter, signaling with FULL going high.

If both  $\overline{DCMD}$  and  $\overline{CCMD}$  are pulled low simultaneously, the counter defaults to the discharge mode. When the bridge battery is supplying the circuit, it is considered to be in discharge mode (Table 1).

#### **Charge Current Selection (ISET)**

A resistor between ISET and a voltage higher than the bridge battery sets the charging rate. The switch is open when CCMD is high and is turned on when CCMD is pulled low (assuming DCMD is high). If the voltage at ISET falls below 0.4V, the internal counter resets to all 0s. The internal high-voltage switch has a typical on-state voltage drop of 1V (Figure 1). Therefore, the charge current equals:

 $I_{\text{ISET}} = [ (V_{\text{CHARGE}} - V_{\text{BBATT}}) - 1V] / R_{\text{ISET}}$ 

#### **Linear-Regulator Output (LRO)**

The linear-regulator output, LRO, is set at +5.0V for the MAX1612 and at +3.3V for the MAX1613, with a tolerance of  $\pm 6\%$ . For powering external circuitry such as the microcontroller shown in Figure 4, LRO is guaranteed to deliver up to 10mA while maintaining regulation. If the voltage at the linear-regulator input falls below the operating range, an undervoltage-lockout feature shuts down the entire device.

## **Table 1.** CCMD**,** DCMD **Truth Table**







Figure 4. Microcontroller-Based Application

#### **Low-Battery Comparator (LBI,** LBO**)**

The MAX1612/MAX1613 feature a low-battery comparator with a factory-preset 1.8V threshold. This comparator is intended to monitor the main high-voltage battery. As the voltage falls below 1.8V, the open-drain LBO output sinks current. With 200mV of hysteresis, the output will not go high until VLBI exceeds 2.0V. LBO can easily be connected to BBON to start the DC-DC converter when VLBI < 1.8V (stand-alone application, Figure 3). Figure 4 shows an application using a microcontroller, where LBO alerts the microcontroller to the falling voltage and pulls **BBON** low through an external resistor to start the DC-DC converter while also pulling DCMD low to start the counter.

#### BBON **Control Input**

The BBON input serves two functions: setting the peak LX switch current, and enabling the DC-DC converter. The control signal is normally applied to RBBON rather than at the pin itself. The peak LX switch current is directly proportional to and 42,000 times greater than the current through RBBON (see Typical Operating Characteristics). The BBON pin is internally regulated to 2V, so that when the control input is forced low, the voltage across RBBON is 2V.

When driving BBON from external logic, ensure the low state has minimal noise. Otherwise, drive RBBON with an N-channel FET whose source is returned directly to GND (Figure 2).

### **Applications Information**

#### **Design Procedure**

The following section refers to the Functional Diagram of Figure 1.

**Step 1:** Select the output voltage and maximum output current for the boost DC-DC converter. Generally, choose an output voltage high enough to run the main system's buck DC-DC converters. Assuming the maximum battery capacity is 50mAh (Sanyo 1.2V N-50AAA), the following equations can help the design process:

IPEAK = 2 **·** IOUT **·** (VOUT + VD) / (VBBATT - VRDSON)

 $I_{IN} = 0.5 \cdot I_{PFAK}$ 



Where IPEAK is the peak current, I<sub>OUT</sub> is the load current, VBBATT is the bridge-battery voltage, V<sub>D</sub> is the for-<br>
ward drop across D1, VOUT is the output voltage, II<sub>N</sub> is a<br>
VRDS(ON) is the voltage drop across the int rent, VBBATT is the bridge-battery voltage, V<sub>D</sub> is the forward drop across D1, VOUT is the output voltage, I<sub>IN</sub> is average current provided by the bridge battery, and VRDS(ON) is the voltage drop across the internal Nchannel power transistor at LX (typically 0.5V). A larger number of cells reduces the IPEAK and, in effect, reduces the discharge current, thereby extending the discharge time. The same is true for decreasing the output voltage or output current. For example, choose the following values:  $I_{\text{OUT}} = 100 \text{mA}$ ,  $V_{\text{OUT}} = 5V$ , and  $V$ BBATT = 2V (two cells). Using the minimum voltage of 1V for each cell, Table 2 summarizes some common values.

**Step 2:** To avoid saturation, choose an inductor (L) with a peak current rating above the IPEAK calculated in Step 1. Use low series resistance ( $\leq$  200m $\Omega$ ), to optimize efficiency. In this example, a 15µH inductor is used. See Table 4 for a list of component suppliers.

The "edge-of-continuous" DC-DC algorithm causes the inductor value to fall out of the peak current equation. Therefore, the exact inductor value chosen is not critical to the design. However, the switching frequency is inversely proportional to inductance, so trade-offs of switching losses versus physical inductor size can be made by adjusting the inductor value.

$$
f = \frac{1}{L(I_{PEAK})} \left[ \frac{(V_{BBATT} - V_{RDSON}) (V_{OUT} - V_{BBATT} - V_D)}{(V_{OUT} - V_{RDSON} - V_D)} \right]
$$

where f is the switching frequency,  $V_{\text{OUT}}$  is the output voltage, VRDSON is the voltage across the internal MOS-FET switch,  $V_D$  is the forward voltage of D1, IPFAK is the peak current, and VBBATT is the bridge battery voltage. The maximum practical switching frequency is 400kHz.

**Step 3:** Choose the charging (C<sub>CC</sub>) and discharging  $(CCD)$  timing capacitors. These capacitors set the frequency that the counter increments/decrements.

CCC (nF) = 4.3 **·** expected charge time (in hours)

CCD (nF) = 4.3 **·** expected discharge time (in hours)

For instance, using a charge time of 16 hours and a discharge time of one hour,  $C_{CC} = 68$ nF and  $C_{CD} = 4.3$ nF. (Consult battery manufacturers' specifications for standard charging information, which generally compensates for battery inefficiencies.)

**Step 4:** Using the peak current calculated in Step 1, calculate the series resistor  $(R\overline{BBON})$  as follows:

R BBON = (V BBON **·** 42,000) / IPEAK

where  $V\overline{BBON} = 2V$  (internally regulated).



### **Table 2. Summary of Common Values for Designing with the MAX1612/MAX1613**



### **Table 3. Component List**



### **Table 4. Component Suppliers**



**Step 5:** Resistors R1, R2, and R3 set the DC-DC converter's output voltage and the low-battery comparator trip value. The sum of R1, R2, and R3 must be less than 2MΩ, to minimize leakage errors. Choose resistor R1 = 750k $\Omega$  for the example. Calculate R2 and R3 as follows:

$$
R2 = [V_{OUT} (R3) - 2 (R1) - 2 (R3)] / (2 - V_{OUT})
$$
  

$$
R3 = (R1 + R2) / [(V_{TRIP} / 1.8) - 1]
$$





#### **Table 5. Surface-Mount Inductor Information**

where VOUT is the DC-DC converter's output voltage and V<sub>TRIP</sub> is the voltage level the main battery must fall below to trip the low-battery comparator. For example, for a +5V boost DC-DC output, a 4.75V main battery trip level is feasible. For this case, R1 = 750kΩ, R2 = 26k $\Omega$ , and R3 = 474k $\Omega$ .

**Step 6:** Select a resistor value to set the charging current. The resistor value at ISET limits the current through the switch for bridge-battery charging. There is a voltage drop across the high-voltage switch (see Electrical Characteristics) with a typical value of 1V. The maximum charge current through the internal highvoltage switch is 10mA.

RISET = (VCHARGE - VSWITCH - VBBATT) / ICHARGE

where VCHARGE is the charging supply voltage, VSWITCH is the drop across the high-voltage internal switch, VBBATT is the bridge battery voltage, and ICHARGE is the charge current (in amperes).

#### **Stand-Alone Application**

To reduce cost and save space, the MAX1612/ MAX1613 can be operated in a stand-alone configuration, which eliminates the need for a microcontroller. A stand-alone configuration could also reduce the workload of an existing microcontroller in the system, thus allowing these unused I/Os to be used for other applications.

Figure 3 shows the MAX1612/MAX1613 operating without the microcontroller by using the low-battery detector to monitor the main battery. If the main battery is too low, LBO pulls BBON and DCMD low to start the DC-DC step-up converter and allow the bridge battery to discharge. If the bridge battery requires charging, FULL pulls CCMD low to start the battery charging process. If both CCMD and DCMD are low, discharging takes precedence and the bridge battery keeps the boost DC-DC converter active.

#### **Microcontroller-Based Application**

The MAX1612/MAX1613 are also suited to operate in a microcontroller-based system. A microcontroller-based application provides more flexibility by allowing for separate, independent control of the charging process, the DC-DC converter, and the counter. Independent control can be beneficial in situations where other subsystems are operating, so that automatic switchover of power might create some timing issues. If necessary, a microcontroller can be used to reset the counter by taking ISET low. Another advantage of a microcontrollerbased system is the ability to stop charging the bridge battery during a fault condition.

Figure 4 shows an example of how the MAX1612/ MAX1613 can be interfaced to a MAX1630 to deliver the input voltage to the main DC-DC converter. In this example, the microcontroller monitors the main battery's status and switches over to the bridge battery when V<sub>MAIN</sub> falls below a specified trip level (see Design Procedure). When V<sub>MAIN</sub> falls below the LBI threshold, LBO goes low. This signals the microcontroller, via an I/O, to switch over to the bridge battery as the input source to the system main DC-DC converter.

In this application, the microcontroller also initiates the bridge-battery charging process. When CCMD goes low with DCMD high, the battery is charged through the internal switch. The counter increments until it overflows and FULL goes high, indicating a full charge. The microcontroller I/O can read and write the appropriate states to control the execution and timing of the entire process.

If the main DC-DC is supplied by the main source, the MAX1612/MAX1613's step-up converter turns off, minimizing power consumption. The device typically draws only 18µA of quiescent current under this condition.

/VI/IXI/VI

**Chip Information**

TRANSISTOR COUNT: 3543





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