

PWM/VFM step-down DC/DC Converter Controller

R1223N SERIES

NO. EA-065-120404

OUTLINE

The R1223N Series are CMOS-based PWM step-down DC/DC Converter controllers with low supply current.

Each of these ICs consists of an oscillator, a PWM control circuit, a reference voltage unit, an error amplifier, a soft-start circuit, a protection circuit, a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, a chip enable circuit, and resistors for voltage detection. A low ripple, high efficiency step-down DC/DC converter can be easily composed of this IC with only four external components, or a power-transistor, an inductor, a diode and a capacitor.

With a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, when the load current is small, the operation is automatically switching into the VFM oscillator from PWM oscillator, therefore the efficiency at small load current is improved. The R1223NxxxB type, which is without a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, is also available.

If the term of maximum duty cycle keeps on a certain time, the embedded protection circuit works. There are two types of protection function. One is latch-type protection circuit, and it works to latch an external Power MOSFET with keeping it disable. To release the condition of protection, after disable this IC with a chip enable circuit, enable it again, or restart this IC with power-on. The other is Reset-type protection circuit, and it works to restart the operation with soft-start and repeat this operation until maximum duty cycle condition is released.

Either of these protection circuits can be designated by users' request.

FEATURES

•	Range of Input	Voltage	2.3V~13.2V
---	----------------	---------	------------

- Built-in Soft-start Function and Two choices of Protection Function (Latch-type or Reset type)

- \bullet Output Voltage Stepwise Setting with a step of 0.1V in the range of 1.5V \sim

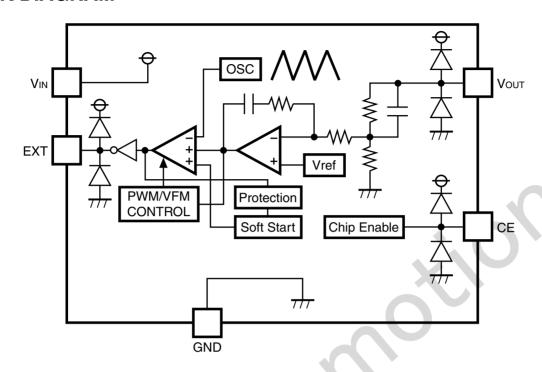
5.0V

- High Accuracy Output Voltage ±2.0%
- Low Temperature-Drift Coefficient of Output Voltage..... Typ. ±100ppm/°C

APPLICATIONS

- Power source for hand-held communication equipment, cameras, video instruments such as VCRs, camcorders.
- Power source for battery-powered equipment.
- Power source for household electrical appliances.

BLOCK DIAGRAM



SELECTION GUIDE

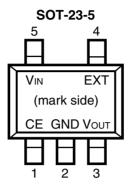
In the R1223N Series, the output voltage, the oscillator frequency, the optional function, and the taping type for the ICs can be selected at the user's request.

The selection can be made by designating the part number as shown below;

R1223N
$$\underline{xx}$$
xx- \underline{xx}
 $\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow$
a b c d

Code	Contents
a	Setting Output Voltage (Vout): Stepwise setting with a step of 0.1V in the range of 1.5V to 5.0V is possible.
b	Designation of Oscillator Frequency 2 : fixed
С	Designation of Optional Function A: 300kHz, with a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Latch-type protection B: 500 kHz, with a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Latch-type protection C: 300kHz, without a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Latch-type protection D: 500kHz, without a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Latch-type protection E: 300kHz, with a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Reset-type protection F: 500 kHz, with a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Reset-type protection G: 300kHz, without a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Reset-type protection H: 500kHz, without a PWM/VFM alternative circuit, Reset-type protection
d	Designation of Taping Type; Ex. :TR,TL (refer to Taping Specification) "TR" is prescribed as a standard.

PIN CONFIGURATION



PIN DESCRIPTION

Pin No.	Symbol	Description
1	CE	Chip Enable Pin
2	GND	Ground Pin
3	Vout	Pin for Monitoring Output Voltage
4	EXT	External Transistor Drive Pin
5	Vin	Power Supply Pin

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Symbol	Item	Rating	Unit
$V_{\rm IN}$	V _{IN} Supply Voltage	15	V
Vext	EXT Pin Output Voltage	-0.3~V _{IN} +0.3	V
Vce	CE Pin Input Voltage	-0.3~V _{IN} +0.3	V
Vout	Vout Pin Input Voltage	-0.3~V _{IN} +0.3	V
I EXT	EXT Pin Inductor Drive Output Current	±25	mA
PD	Power Dissipation	250	mW
Topt	Operating Temperature Range	-40~+85	°C
Tstg	Storage Temperature Range	-55~+125	°C

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

• R1223Nxx2A (,C,E,G) Output Voltage : Vo

 $(Topt=25^{\circ}C)$

Symbol	Item	Conditions	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit
Vin	Operating Input Voltage		2.3		13.2	V
Vout	Step-down Output Voltage	V _{IN} =V _{CE} =V ₀ +1.2V, I _{OUT} =-10mA	Vo× 0.98	Vo	Vo× 1.02	V
ΔV out/ ΔT	Step-down Output Voltage Temperature Coefficient	-40°C ≤ Topt ≤ 85°C		±100		ppm/°C
fosc	Oscillator Frequency	V _{IN} =V _{CE} =V ₀ +1.2V, I _{OUT} =-100mA	240	300	360	kHz
Δfosc/ΔT	Oscillator Frequency Temperature Coefficient	-40°C ≤ Topt ≤ 85°C		±0.3		%/°C
$\mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{DD1}}$	Supply Current1	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =13.2V, V _{OUT} =13.2V		100	160	$\mu { m A}$
Istb	Standby Current	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =0V, V _{OUT} =0V		0.0	0.5	μA
Іехтн	EXT "H" Output Current	V _{IN} =8V, V _{EXT} =7.9V, V _{OUT} =8V, V _{CE} =8V		-10	-6	mA
IEXTL	EXT "L" Output Current	V _{IN} =8V, V _{EXT} =0.1V, V _{OUT} =0V, V _{CE} =8V	10	20		mA
Ісен	CE "H" Input Current	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =13.2V, V _{OUT} =13.2V		0.0	0.5	μΑ
Icel	CE "L" Input Current	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =0V, V _{OUT} =13.2V	-0.5	0.0		μΑ
VCEH	CE "H" Input Voltage	$V_{IN}=8V$, $V_{OUT}=0V\rightarrow1.5V$		0.8	1.2	V
VCEL	CE "L" Input Voltage	$V_{IN}=8V$, $V_{OUT}=1.5V\rightarrow 0V$	0.3	0.8		V
Maxdty	Oscillator Maximum Duty Cycle		100			%
VFMdty	VFM Duty Cycle	only for A, E version		25		%
Tstart	Delay Time by Soft-Start function	$V_{IN} = V_0 + 1.2V$, $V_{CE} = 0V \rightarrow V_0 + 1.2V$ specified at 80% for rising edge	5	10	16	ms
Tprot	Delay Time for protection circuit	$V_{IN}=V_{CE}=V_{O}+1.2V$ $V_{OUT}=V_{O}+1.2V\rightarrow 0V$	1	3	5	ms

• R1223Nxx2B (,D,F,H) Output Voltage : Vo

 $(Topt=25^{\circ}C)$

Symbol	Item	Conditions	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit
Vin	Operating Input Voltage		2.3		13.2	V
Vout	Step-down Output Voltage	V _{IN} =V _{CE} =V _O +1.2V, I _{OUT} =-10mA	Vo× 0.98	Vo	Vo× 1.02	V
ΔV out/ ΔT	Step-down Output Voltage Temperature Coefficient	$-40^{\circ}\text{C} \le \text{Topt} \le 85^{\circ}\text{C}$		±100		ppm/°C
Fosc	Oscillator Frequency	V _{IN} =V _{CE} =V ₀ +1.2V, I _{OUT} =-100mA	400	500	600	kHz
Δfosc/ΔT	Oscillator Frequency Temperature Coefficient	-40°C ≤ Topt ≤ 85°C	•	±0.3		%/°C
Iddi	Supply Current1	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =13.2V, V _{OUT} =13.2V	X	140	200	$\mu\mathrm{A}$
Istb	Standby Current	$V_{IN}=13.2V$, $V_{CE}=0V$, $V_{OUT}=0V$		0.0	0.5	μ A
Іехтн	EXT "H" Output Current	V _{IN} =8V, V _{EXT} =7.9V, V _{OUT} =8V, V _{CE} =8V		-10	-6	mA
I EXTL	EXT "L" Output Current	V _{IN} =8V, V _{EXT} =0.1V, V _{OUT} =0V, V _{CE} =8V	10	20		mA
Ісен	CE "H" Input Current	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =13.2V, V _{OUT} =13.2V		0.0	0.5	$\mu { m A}$
ICEL	CE "L" Input Current	V _{IN} =13.2V, V _{CE} =0V, V _{OUT} =13.2V	-0.5	0.0		μΑ
VCEH	CE "H" Input Voltage	$V_{IN}=8V$, $V_{OUT}=0V\rightarrow1.5V$		0.8	1.2	V
Vcel	CE "L" Input Voltage	$V_{IN}=8V$, $V_{OUT}=1.5V\rightarrow 0V$	0.3	0.8		V
Maxdty	Oscillator Maximum Duty Cycle		100			%
VFMdty	VFM Duty Cycle	only for B, F version		25		%
Tstart	Delay Time by Soft-Start function	V_{IN} =Vo+1.2V, V_{CE} =0V \rightarrow Vo+1.2V specified at 80% for rising edge	3	6	10	ms
Tprot	Delay Time for protection circuit	$V_{\text{IN}} = V_{\text{CE}} = V_0 + 1.2V$ $V_{\text{OUT}} = V_0 + 1.2V \rightarrow 0V$	1	2	4	ms

TEST CIRCUITS A) E) OSCILLOSCOPE B) F) **PMOS** OSCILLOSCOPE C) OSCILLOSCOPE D)

The typical characteristics were obtained by use of these test circuits.

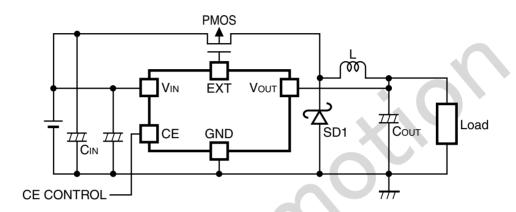
Test Circuit A: Typical characteristics 1), 2), 3), 4), 5), 6), 7)

Test Circuit B: Typical characteristics 8)

Test Circuit C: Standby Current

Test Circuit D: Typical characteristics 12), 13)
Test Circuit E: CE input current "H" and "L"
Test Circuit F: Typical characteristics 9)
Test Circuit G: Typical characteristics 10), 11)

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION HINTS



PMOS : HAT1020R (Hitachi), Si3443DV (Siliconix) L : CD105 (Sumida, 27μ H) SD1 : RB491D (Rohm) Cout : 47μ F (Tantalum Type)

 C_{IN} : 10 μ F×2 (Tantalum Type)

When you use these ICs, consider the following issues;

- As shown in the block diagram, a parasitic diode is formed in each terminal, each of these diodes is not formed for load current, therefore do not use it in such a way. When you control the CE pin by another power supply, do not make its "H" level more than the voltage level of V_{IN} pin.
- The operation of latch-type protection circuit is as follows;
 - When the maximum duty cycle continues longer than the delay time for protection circuit, (Refer to the Electrical Characteristics) the protection circuit works to shut-down Power MOSFET with its latching operation. Therefore when an input/output voltage difference is small, the protection circuit may work with small load current.
 - To release the protection latch state, after disable this IC with a chip enable circuit, enable it again, or restart this IC with power-on. However, in the case of restarting this IC with power-on, after the power supply is turned off, if a certain amount of charge remains in C_{IN} , or some voltage is forced to V_{IN} from C_{IN} , this IC might not be restarted even after power-on.

If rising transition speed of supply voltage is too slow, or the time which is required for V_{IN} voltage to reach Output voltage of DC/DC converter is longer than soft-starting time plus delay time for protection circuit, protection circuit works before V_{IN} voltage reaches Output voltage of DC/DC converter. To prevent this action, while power supply voltage is not ready, make this IC be standby mode (CE="L"), and when the power supply is ready (the voltage level of V_{IN} is equal or more than the voltage level of V_{OUT}), make it enable (CE="H").

- The operation of Reset-type protection circuit is as follows;
 When the maximum duty cycle continues longer than the delay time for protection circuit, (Refer to the Electrical Characteristics) the protection circuit works to restart with soft-start operation. Therefore when an input/output voltage difference is small, the protection circuit may work with small load current.
- Set external components as close as possible to the IC and minimize the connection between the components and the IC. In particular, a capacitor should be connected to Vout pin with the minimum connection. And make sufficient grounding and reinforce supplying. A large switching current flows through the connection of power supply, an inductor and the connection of Vout. If the impedance of the connection of power supply is high, the voltage level of power supply of the IC fluctuates with the switching current. This may cause unstable operation of the IC.
- Use capacitors with a capacity of $22\mu F$ or more for V_{OUT} pin, and with good high frequency characteristics such as tantalum capacitors. We recommend you to use capacitors with an allowable voltage which is at least twice as much as setting output voltage. This is because there may be a case where a spike-shaped high voltage is generated by an inductor when an external transistor is on and off.
- Choose an inductor that has sufficiently small DC resistance and large allowable current and is hard to reach magnetic saturation. And if the value of inductance of an inductor is extremely small, the I_{LX} may exceed the absolute maximum rating at the maximum loading.

Use an inductor with appropriate inductance.

- Use a diode of a Schottky type with high switching speed, and also pay attention to its current capacity.
- Do not use this IC under the condition at V_{IN} voltage less than minimum operating voltage.
- The performance of power source circuits using these ICs extremely depends upon the peripheral circuits.

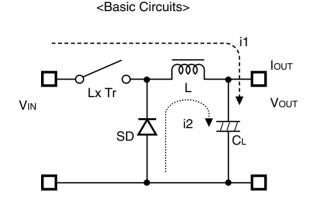
 Pay attention in the selection of the peripheral circuits. In particular, design the peripheral circuits in a way that



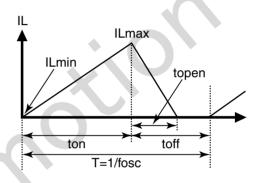
the values such as voltage, current, and power of each component, PCB patterns and the IC do not exceed their respected rated values.

OPERATION of step-down DC/DC converter and Output Current

The step-down DC/DC converter charges energy in the inductor when Lx transistor is ON, and discharges the energy from the inductor when Lx transistor is OFF and controls with less energy loss, so that a lower output voltage than the input voltage is obtained. The operation will be explained with reference to the following diagrams:



<Current through L>



- Step 1 :LxTr turns on and current IL (=i1) flows, and energy is charged into CL. At this moment, IL increases from ILmin (=0) to reach ILmax in proportion to the on-time period (ton) of LxTr.
- Step 2: When LxTr turns off, Schottky diode (SD) turns on in order that L maintains IL at ILmax, and current IL (=i2) flows.
- Step 3:IL decreases gradually and reaches ILmin after a time period of topen, and SD turns off, provided that in the continuous mode, next cycle starts before IL becomes to 0 because toff time is not enough. In this case, IL value increases from this ILmin (>0).

In the case of PWM control system, the output voltage is maintained by controlling the on-time period (ton), with the oscillator frequency (fosc) being maintained constant.

Discontinuous Conduction Mode and Continuous Conduction Mode

The maximum value (ILmax) and the minimum value (ILmin) of the current which flows through the inductor are the same as those when LxTr is ON and when it is off.

The difference between ILmax and ILmin, which is represented by ΔI ;

wherein T=1/fosc=ton+toff $\text{duty } (\%)=\text{ton}/T\times 100=\text{ton}\times \text{fosc}\times 100$ $\text{topen} \leq \text{toff}$

R1223N

In Equation 1, $V_{OUT}\times topen/L$ and $(V_{IN}-V_{OUT})\times ton/L$ respectively show the change of the current at on state, and the change of the current at off state.

When the output current (Iout) is relatively small, topen < toff as illustrated in the above diagram. In this case, the energy is charged in the inductor during the time period of ton and is discharged in its entirely during the time period of toff, therefore ILmin becomes to zero (ILmin=0). When Iout is gradually increased, eventually, topen becomes to toff (topen=toff), and when Iout is further increased, ILmin becomes larger than zero (ILmin>0). The former mode is referred to as the discontinuous mode and the latter mode is referred to as continuous mode.

In the continuous mode, when Equation 1 is solved for ton and assumed that the solution is tonc, $tonc = T \times V_{\text{OUT}}/V_{\text{IN}}.....Equation 2$

When ton < tonc, the mode is the discontinuous mode, and when ton = tonc, the mode is the continuous mode.

Output Current and Selection of External Components

When LxTr is ON:

(Wherein, Ripple Current P-P value is described as IRP, ON resistance of LXTr is described as RP the direct current resistance of the inductor is described as RL.)

 $V_{IN}=V_{OUT}+(R_P+R_L)\times I_{OUT}+L\times I_{RP}/ton$ Equation 3

When LxTr is OFF:

 $L \times I_{RP}/toff = V_F + V_{OUT} + R_L \times I_{OUT}$ Equation 4

Put Equation 4 to Equation 3 and solve for ON duty, ton/(toff+ton)=Don,

Ripple Current is as follows;

 $I_{RP} = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT} - R_P \times I_{OUT} - R_L \times I_{OUT}) \times D_{ON} / f / L$ Equation 6

wherein, peak current that flows through L, LxTr, and SD is as follows;

ILmax=Iout+Irp/2.....Equation 7

Consider ILmax, condition of input and output and select external components.

★ The above explanation is directed to the calculation in an ideal case in continuous mode.

External Components

1. Inductor

Select an inductor that peak current does not exceed ILmax. If larger current than allowable current flows, magnetic saturation occurs and make transform efficiency worse.

When the load current is same, the smaller value of L is used, the larger the ripple current is.

Provided that the allowable current is large in that case and DC current is small, therefore, for large output current, efficiency is better than using an inductor with a large value of L and vice versa.

2. Diode

Use a diode with low V_F (Schottky type is recommended.) and high switching speed.

Reverse voltage rating should be more than V_N and current rating should be equal or more than ILmax.

3. Capacitor

As for C_{IN} , use a capacitor with low ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance) and a capacity of at least $10\mu F$ for stable operation.

Cout can reduce ripple of Output Voltage, therefore 47 to $100\mu F$ tantalum type is recommended.

4. Lx Transistor

Pch Power MOS FET is required for this IC.

Its breakdown voltage between gate and source should be a few volt higher than Input Voltage.

In the case of Input Voltage is low, to turn on MOS FET completely, select a MOS FET with low threshold voltage.

If a large load current is necessary for your application and important, choose a MOS FET with low ON resistance for good efficiency.

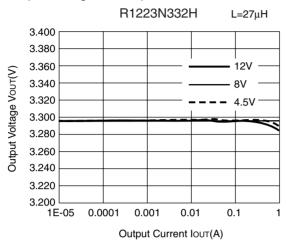
If a small load current is mainly necessary for your application, choose a MOS FET with low gate capacity for good efficiency.

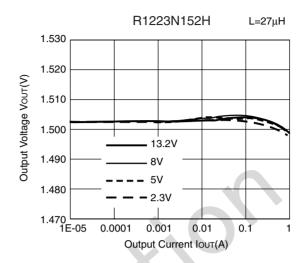
Maximum continuous drain current of MOS FET should be larger than peak current, ILmax.



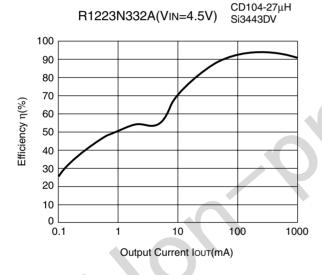
TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

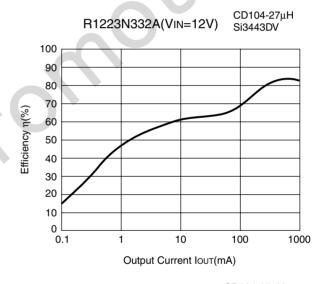
1) Output Voltage vs. Output Current

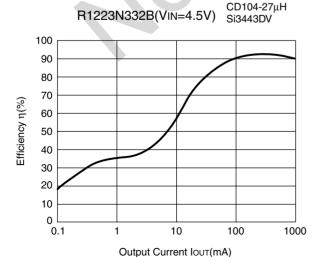


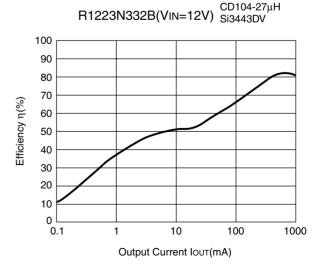


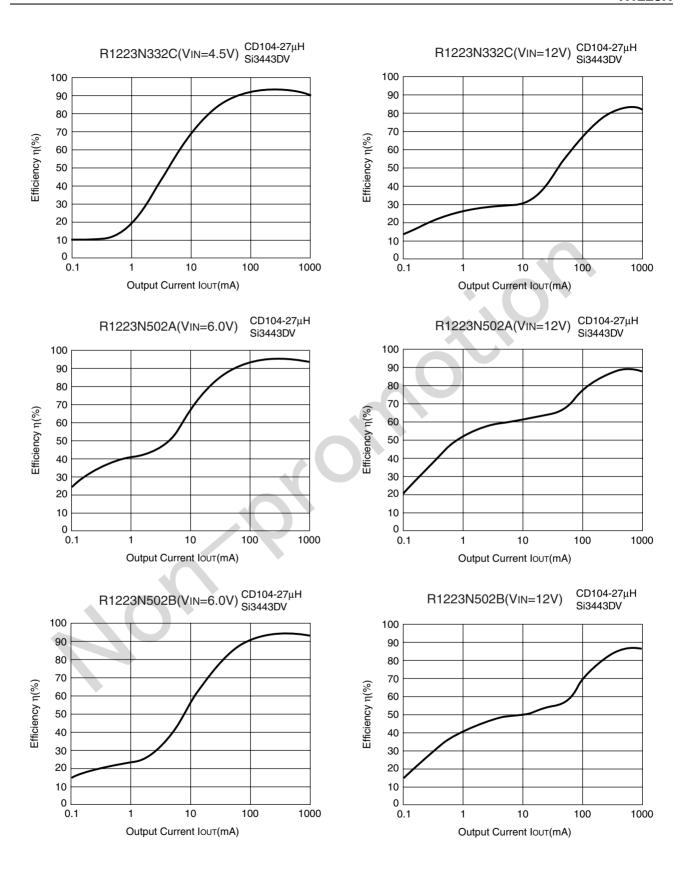
2) Efficiency vs. Output Current

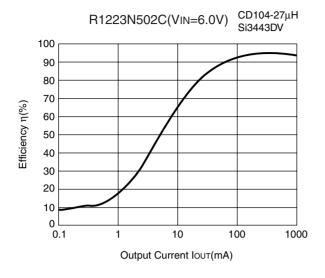


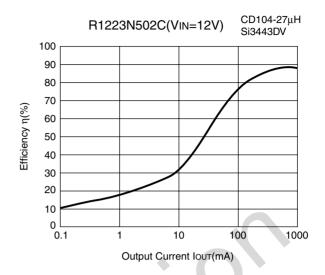




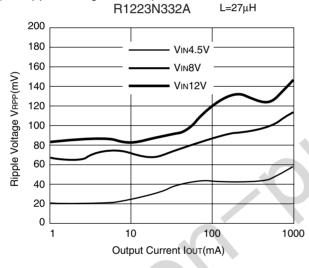


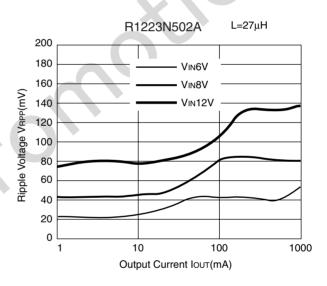


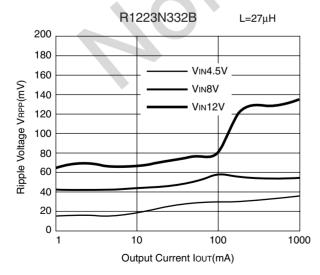


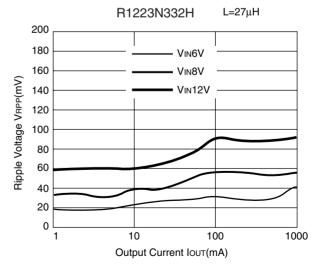


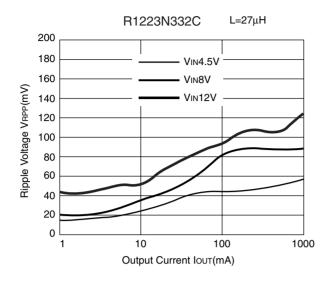
3) Ripple Voltage vs. Output Current

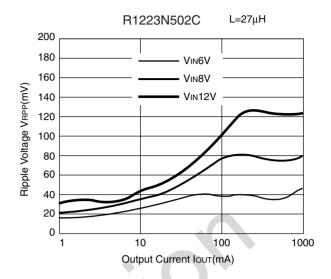




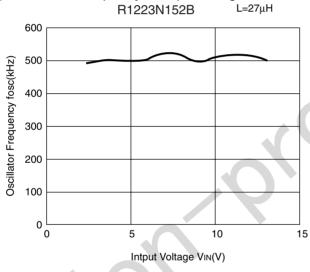


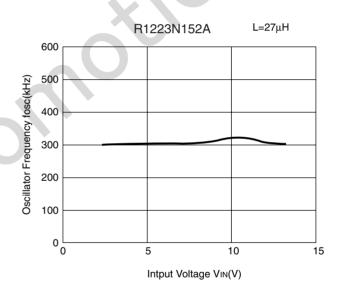




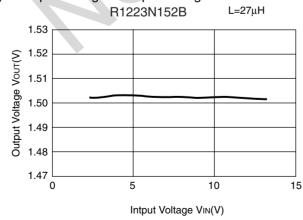


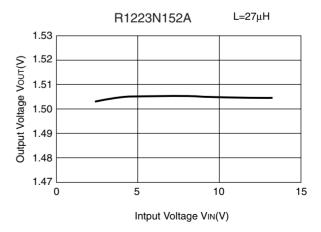
4) Oscillator Frequency vs. Input Voltage



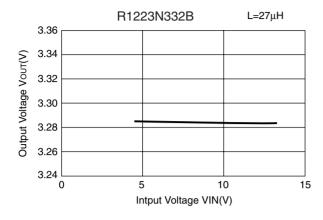


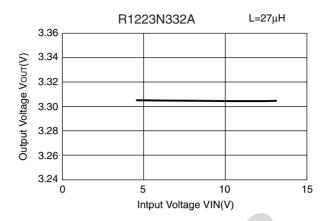
5) Output Voltage vs. Input Voltage



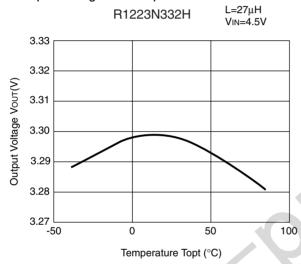


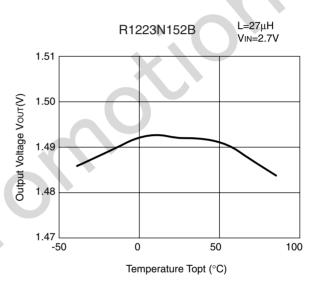
R1223N



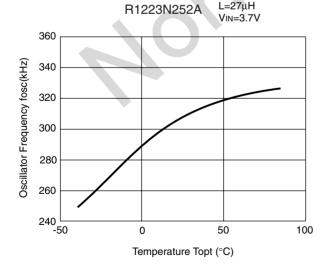


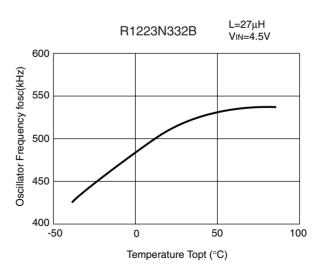
6) Output Voltage vs. Temperature



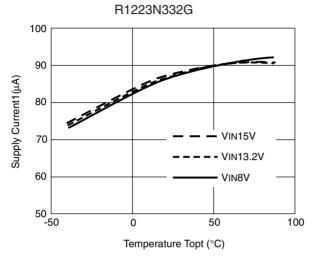


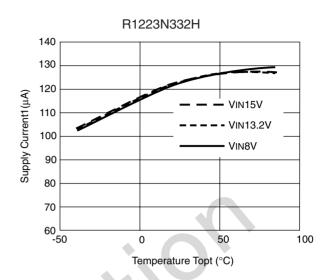
7) Oscillator Frequency vs. Temperature



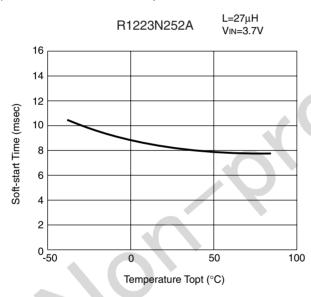


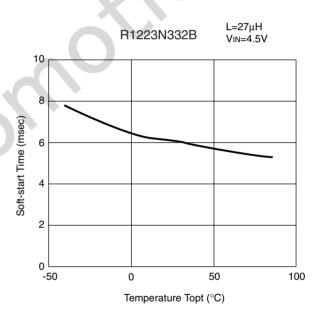
8) Supply Current vs. Temperature



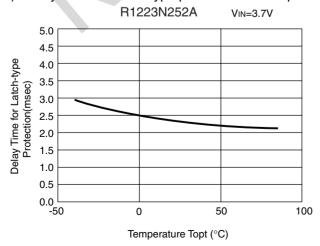


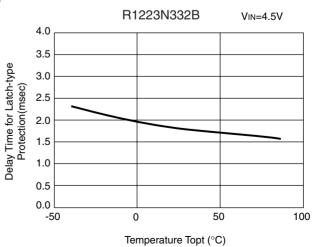
9) Soft-start time vs. Temperature



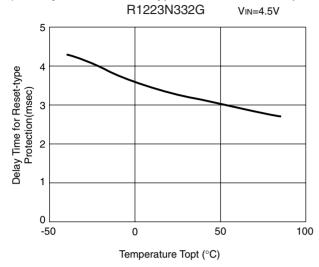


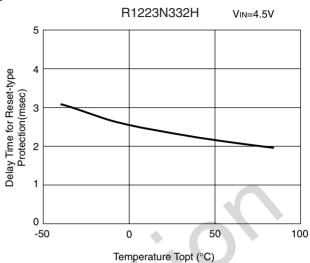
10) Delay Time for Latch-type protection vs. Temperature



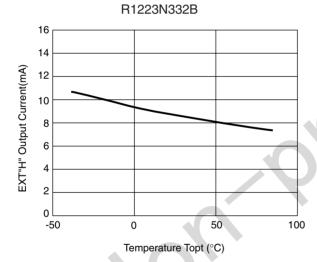


11) Delay Time for Reset-type Protection vs. Temperature

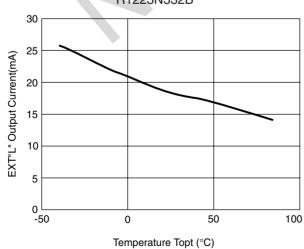




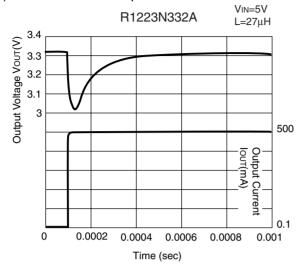
12) EXT "H" Output Current vs. Temperature

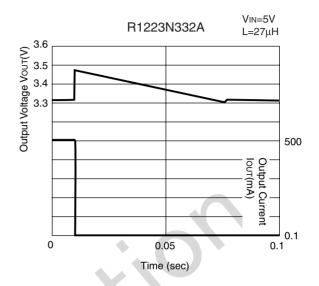


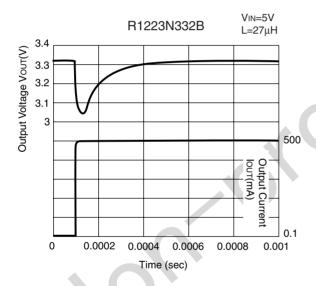
13) EXT "L" Output Current vs. Temperature R1223N332B

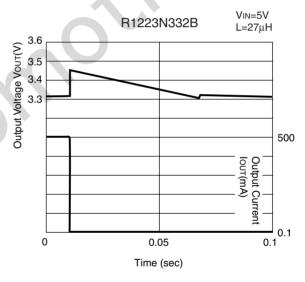


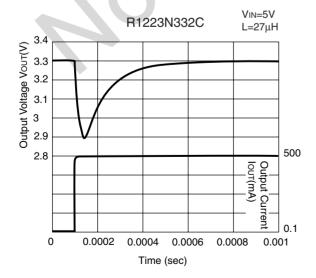
14) Load Transient Response

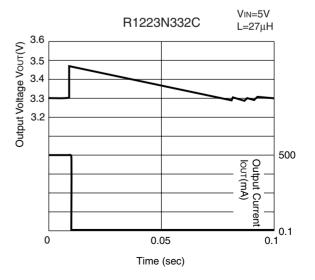




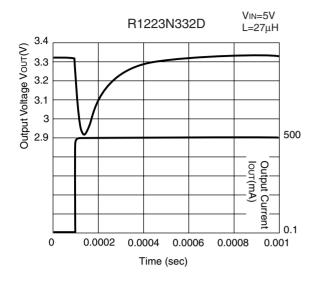


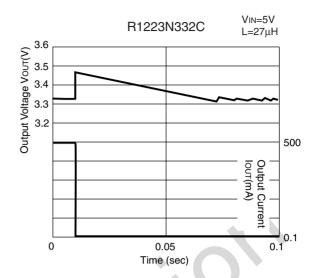




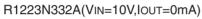


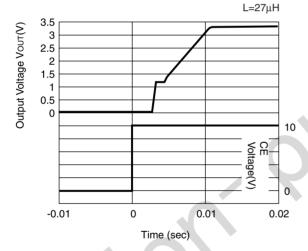
R1223N

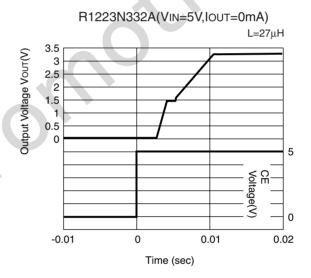




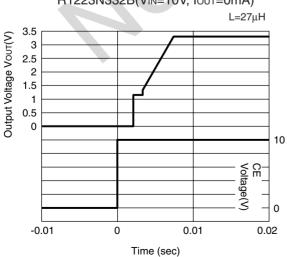
15) Turn-on Waveform

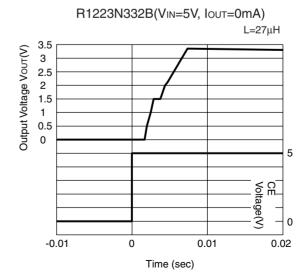


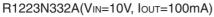




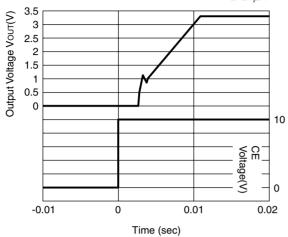
R1223N332B(VIN=10V, IOUT=0mA)

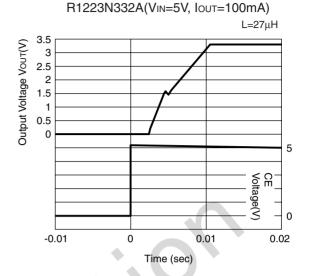






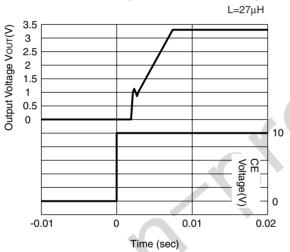
L=27μH

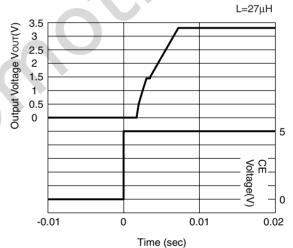




R1223N332B(VIN=10V, IOUT=100mA)

R1223N332B(VIN=5V, IOUT=100mA)







- 1. The products and the product specifications described in this document are subject to change or discontinuation of production without notice for reasons such as improvement. Therefore, before deciding to use the products, please refer to Ricoh sales representatives for the latest information thereon.
- 2. The materials in this document may not be copied or otherwise reproduced in whole or in part without prior written consent of Ricoh.
- 3. Please be sure to take any necessary formalities under relevant laws or regulations before exporting or otherwise taking out of your country the products or the technical information described herein.
- 4. The technical information described in this document shows typical characteristics of and example application circuits for the products. The release of such information is not to be construed as a warranty of or a grant of license under Ricoh's or any third party's intellectual property rights or any other rights.
- 5. The products listed in this document are intended and designed for use as general electronic components in standard applications (office equipment, telecommunication equipment, measuring instruments, consumer electronic products, amusement equipment etc.). Those customers intending to use a product in an application requiring extreme quality and reliability, for example, in a highly specific application where the failure or misoperation of the product could result in human injury or death (aircraft, spacevehicle, nuclear reactor control system, traffic control system, automotive and transportation equipment, combustion equipment, safety devices, life support system etc.) should first contact us.
- 6. We are making our continuous effort to improve the quality and reliability of our products, but semiconductor products are likely to fail with certain probability. In order to prevent any injury to persons or damages to property resulting from such failure, customers should be careful enough to incorporate safety measures in their design, such as redundancy feature, firecontainment feature and fail-safe feature. We do not assume any liability or responsibility for any loss or damage arising from misuse or inappropriate use of the products.
- 7. Anti-radiation design is not implemented in the products described in this document.
- 8. Please contact Ricoh sales representatives should you have any questions or comments concerning the products or the technical information.

RICOH COMPANY, LTD. Electronic Devices Company



■Ricoh presented with the Japan Management Quality Award for 1999.

Ricoh continually strives to promote customer satisfaction, and shares the achievements of its management quality improvement program with people and society.

■Ricoh awarded ISO 14001 certification.

The Ricoh Group was awarded ISO 14001 certification, which is an international standard for environmental management systems, at both its domestic and overseas production facilities. Our current aim is to obtain ISO 14001 certification for all of our business offices.

http://www.ricoh.com/LSI/

RICOH COMPANY, LTD. Electronic Devices Company

Higashi-Shinagawa Office (International Sales) 3-32-3, Higashi-Shinagawa, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 140-8655, Japan Phone: +81-3-5479-2857 Fax: +81-3-5479-0502

RICOH EUROPE (NETHERLANDS) B.V.

Semiconductor Support Centre

Prof. W.H.Keesomlaan 1, 1183 DL Amstelveen, The Netherlands
P.O.Box 114, 1180 AC Amstelveen

RICOH ELECTRONIC DEVICES KOREA Co., Ltd.

11 floor, Haesung 1 building, 942, Daechidong, Gangnamgu, Seoul, Korea Phone: +82-2-2135-5700 Fax: +82-2-2135-5705

DICOU EL ECTRONIC DEVICES SUANCUALOS LES

RICOH ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHANGHAI Co., Ltd.
Room403, No.2 Building, 690#Bi Bo Road, Pu Dong New district, Shanghai 201203,

People's Republic of China Phone: +86-21-5027-3200 Fax: +86-21-5027-3299

Phone: +31-20-5474-309 Fax: +31-20-5474-791

RICOH COMPANY, LTD.
Electronic Devices Company

Taipei office

Room109, 10F-1, No.51, Hengyang Rd., Taipei City, Taiwan (R.O.C.) Phone: +886-2-2313-1621/1622 Fax: +886-2-2313-1623

Ricoh completed the organization of the Lead-free production for all of our products. After Apr. 1, 2006, we will ship out the lead free products only. Thus, all products that will be shipped from now on comply with RoHS Directive.