

TC4420/4429 Universal Power MOSFET Interface IC

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INTRODUCTION

The TC4420/4429 are 6A high-speed MOSFET drivers available in an 8-pin SOIC package, 8-pin CerDIP and PDIP packages, and a 5-pin TO-220 package. These parts have additional improvements over the TC429 driver. Added features are 4kV of ESD protection, latch-up protection of >1.5A of reverse output current, and logic inputs that can withstand up to 5V negative swings. Although designed as a power MOSFET driver, it can act as a level shifter, comparator, waveshaper and pulse transformer driver, to mention a few of its possible uses.

Some of the other notable parameters of the TC4420/4429 are its excellent noise immunity due to a Schmitt trigger input and CMOS construction, its minimal quiescent current draw (with its input in the low state it consumes less than 150 μ A), and its rise and fall time are matched and are typically 25nsec at 25°C into a 2,500pF load.

Due to their low current CMOS inputs, the TC4420/4429 do not need speed up capacitors on their inputs. These inputs also have the ability to accept any amplitude signal from negative 5V to the supply voltage.

PARAMETERS AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE TC4420/4429 TIMING

Rise and Fall Times

For the TC4420/4429 the t_r and t_f are governed by three factors. These are temperature, supply voltage and output load (see figures 3 through 5). Definition of the first two parameters is self explanatory, but output load is not defined in the ordinary dimensions of Ohms or Watts as might be expected. Since the TC4420/4429 were designed to drive power MOSFETs their load is expressed in Farads. This is due to the fact that a MOSFET gate looks like a capacitor to the driving device.

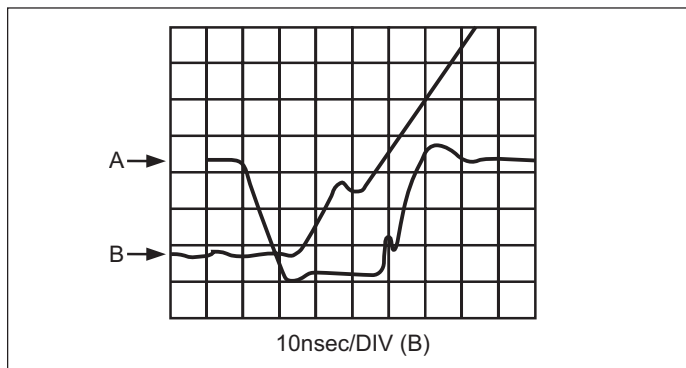


FIGURE 1: Output load 6800pF.

Since a MOSFET actually appears as a variable capacitance as it turns on and off, it is hard to say exactly what the rise and fall times of the driver are going to be for any particular circuit. In order to simplify the measuring method we choose a fixed value of capacitance. This allows the designer to compare driving devices on a specification sheet. Actual evaluation in your application, however, is the best way to compare any two drivers.

When measuring time relationships be sure to take into account any delays that might skew the measurement. This can come from oscilloscope probes of unequal length or propagation delays through current probes and their associated amplifiers.

There are three anomalies associated with the rise and fall times:

1. The rise and fall times are not equal creating a small asymmetry in the output waveform. (See Figures 1, 2, and 7.) This is due to having a P-channel device source current and an N-channel sink current from the load. (See Figure 11.) P-channels do not perform as well as N types, so the P output of the TC4420/4429 has been made larger to compensate. This does not make the P equal to the N in dynamic performance, only in static $R_{DS(ON)}$. This difference is most notable at higher loads. (See Figure 1.) At light loads the P actually outperforms the N in speed. (See Figure 2.)
2. There occurs a small "notch" in the rising waveform of about 5nsec in duration. It only occurs with loads above 400pF and is not normally of any concern. In Figure 1, waveform A shows the output of the TC4420/4429 with a 6800pF load. The "notch" is noticeable in the rising waveform; and waveform B is a magnified view of that rising edge. Note that if the "notch" were not there, the rise time would not substantially change.
3. Rise and fall times also determine the minimum pulse width in that if an input pulse has a width that is less than the sum of the rise and fall times the output cannot make a full transition. If carried to the extreme no output pulse would occur.

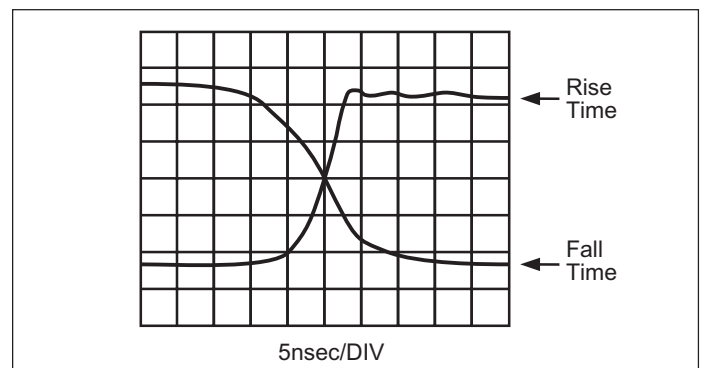


FIGURE 2: Typical rise and fall times (no load).

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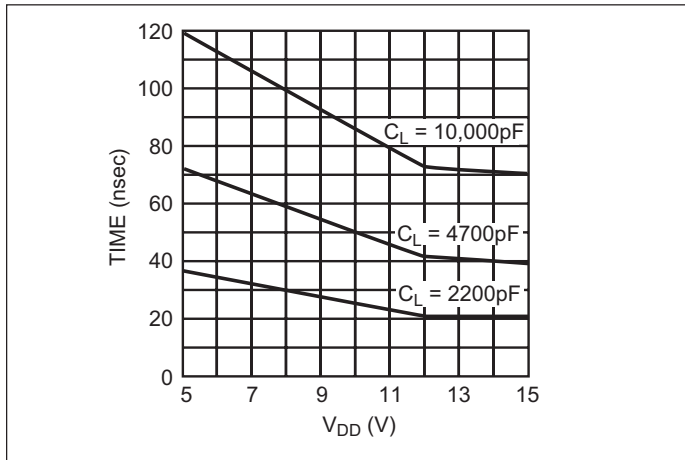


FIGURE 3: Rise time versus supply voltage.

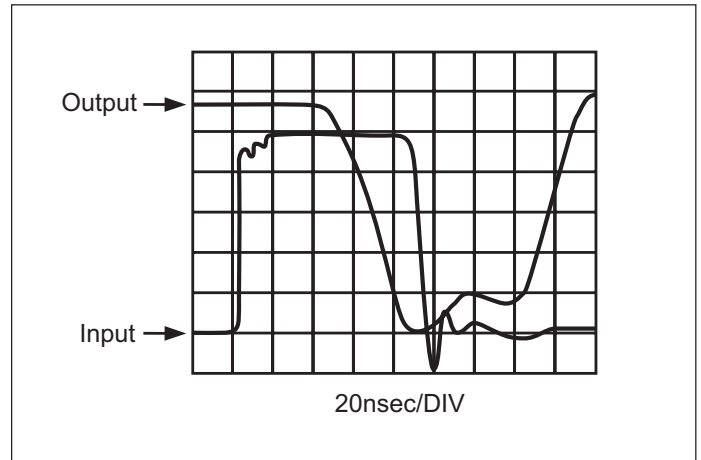


FIGURE 6: 3300pF load.

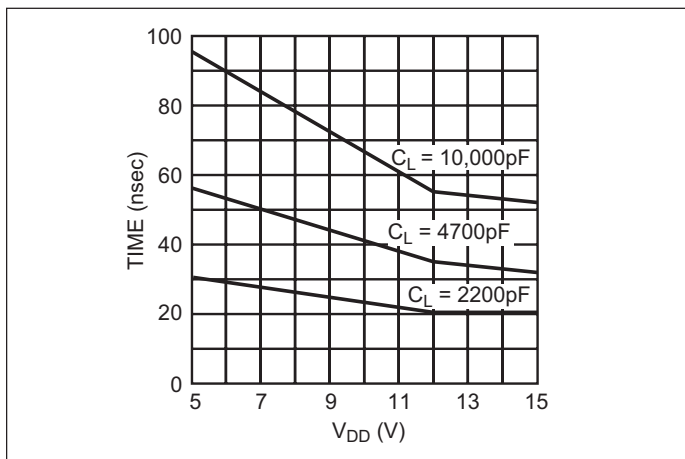


FIGURE 4: Fall time versus supply voltage.

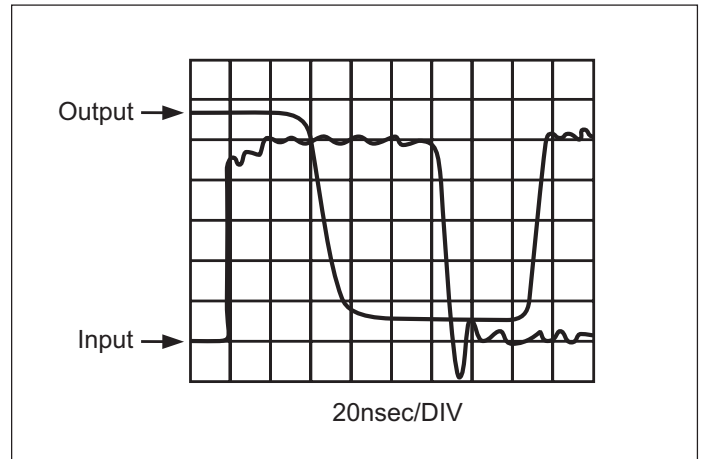


FIGURE 7: No load.

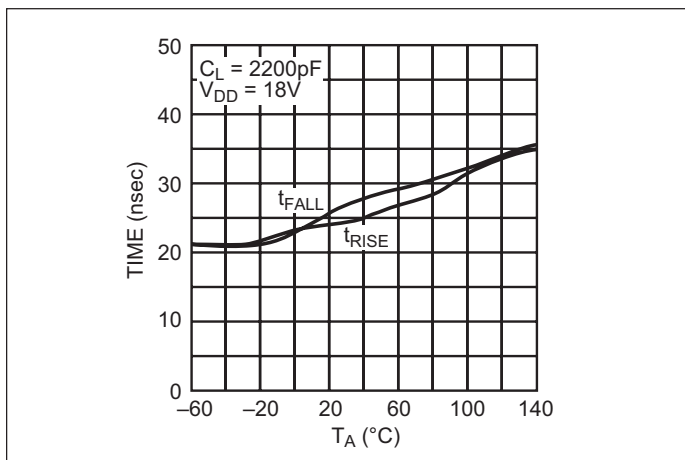


FIGURE 5: Rise and fall time versus temperature.

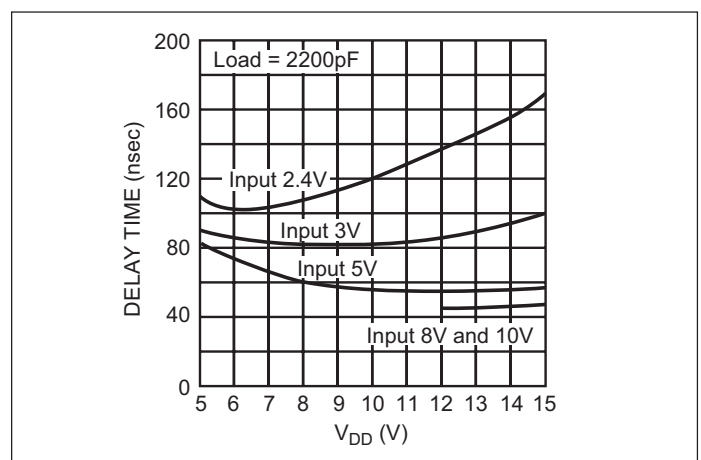


FIGURE 8: Effect of input amplitude on propagation delay.

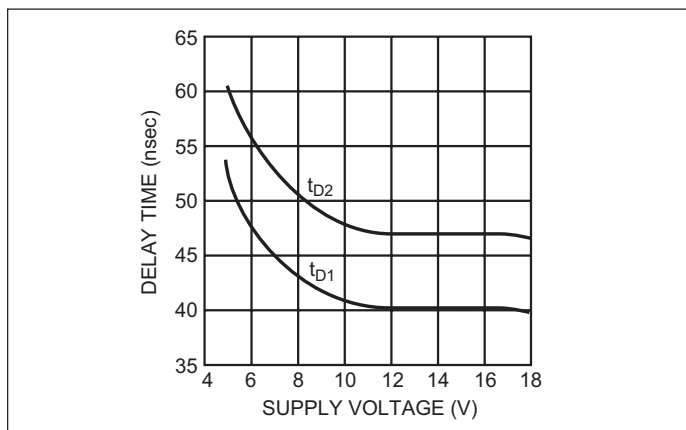


FIGURE 9: Propagation delay time versus supply voltage.

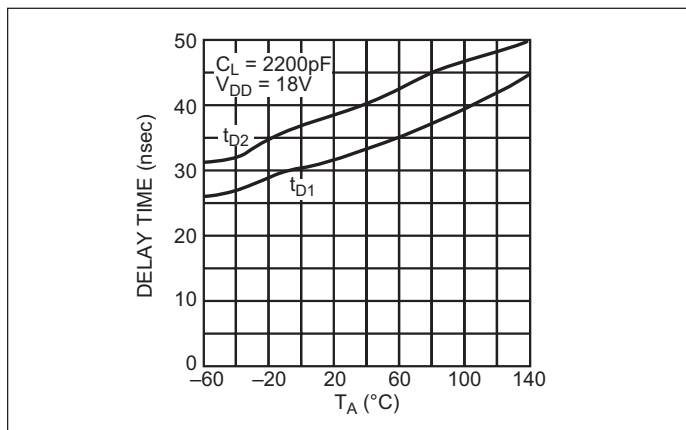


FIGURE 10: Propagation delay time versus temperature.

At light loads typical minimum pulse widths would be in the 35nsec region. Figure 7 is an example of typical rise and fall times and minimum pulse width with no load.

Output rise and fall times are independent of input waveshape due to the Schmitt trigger input. In this respect, the device can be used as a waveshaper.

Delay Time (Propagation Delay)

Delay time is a function of input amplitude, supply voltage, and temperature. Figures 8, 9 & 10 show the effects of these parameters on delay time. Little can be done to lower the delay except for keeping the device temperature low and keeping the input amplitude above 5V. Please note that slow rising input signals can give the appearance of long delay times. This comes from the fact that the trip point of the Schmitt trigger input (about 1.5V) can often be higher than the 10% point in the waveform. In the specifications the times are measured from the 10 and 90% points as is industry practice. Figures 6 and 7 show typical performance. Note that the input waveform is shifted by 1/2 division on the vertical axis for purposes of clarity.

INPUT

Hysteresis

As we have mentioned before the TC4420/4429 has Schmitt trigger inputs. The hysteresis provided by the Schmitt action is measured with conditions static (DC) for the data sheet, and can change substantially when driven by a pulse. (For an explanation of how the input section works see the section entitled "Input Effects on Quiescent Current.") The input is capacitive as the input signal is driving a MOSFET gate. (See Figure 11.) It therefore has the characteristic Miller capacitance from drain to gate, as well as gate to source capacitance. The device works most effectively when driven by a relatively low impedance source such as a CMOS or TTL buffer.

Since the input threshold is set by the input MOSFET's threshold (Figure 11), the trip point changes with temperature at the rate of approximately $-5\text{mV}/^\circ\text{C}$. For this reason, any input waveform that has slow rise times, such as open collector TTL, can exhibit a change in pulse width with a change in temperature at the output of the TC4420/4429. In applications where exact reproduction of pulse width from input to output is important, fast rise and fall times are important.

In other types of applications, however, where exact timing is not important the TC4420/4429 will act to improve the rise and fall times of slow rising input waveforms.

Input Section

The input is fully TTL compatible, yet can be driven by any amplitude signal up to the supply voltage and down to ground. This attribute makes the TC4420/4429 an excellent level translator from TTL to small motor or lamp loads on 12 to 15V systems.

Input Effects on Quiescent Current

The state of the input signal changes the quiescent current draw of the TC4420/4429. The reason for this can be seen in Figure 11 which shows the input signal driving a MOSFET whose drain is attached to a current source of $500\mu\text{A}$. The drain is connected to an inverter with 300mV of hysteresis.

When the input signal is below the input FET threshold, the input MOSFET is off, causing the input to the inverter to be pulled high by the $500\mu\text{A}$ current source. The inverter output therefore is low, causing the P-channel device of TC4429 to be on and the output to be high. Since the current source is not able to source the current, the quiescent current is then composed only of the bias currents required by the inverter sections. (Assuming no load on the output.) In the state where the input is above the input FET's threshold, the input MOSFET turns on, sinking the $500\mu\text{A}$ current source. This current increases the quiescent current draw in the high input state.

The hysteresis value changes with frequency (less hysteresis with increasing frequency). This phenomena occurs because of the characteristic decrease in the transconductance of the input FET with increasing frequency.

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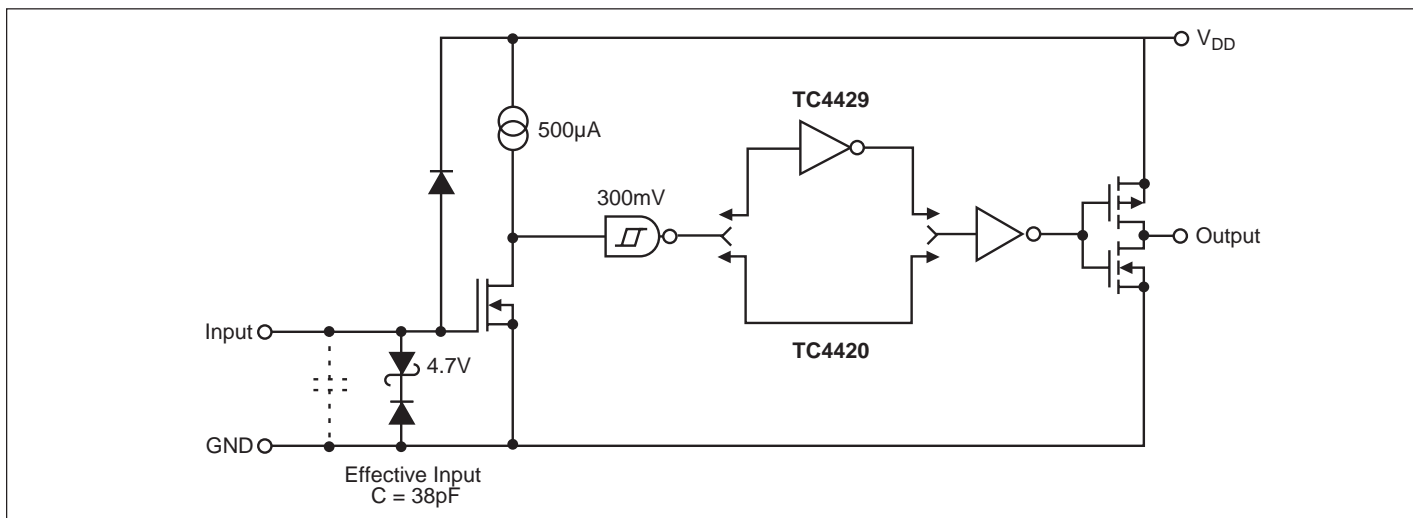


FIGURE 11: TC4420/4429 functional block diagram.

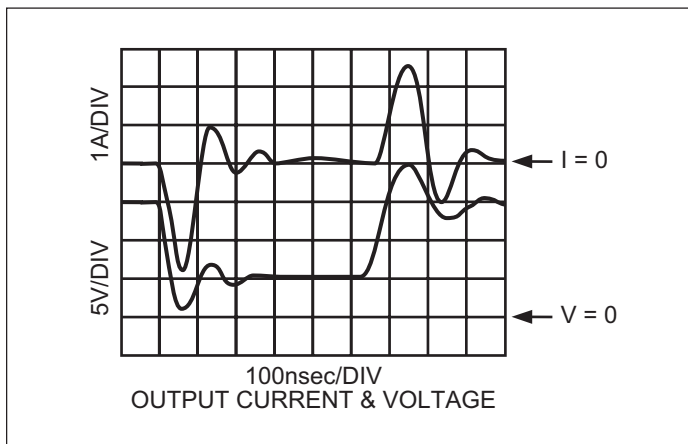


FIGURE 12: 3200pF load.

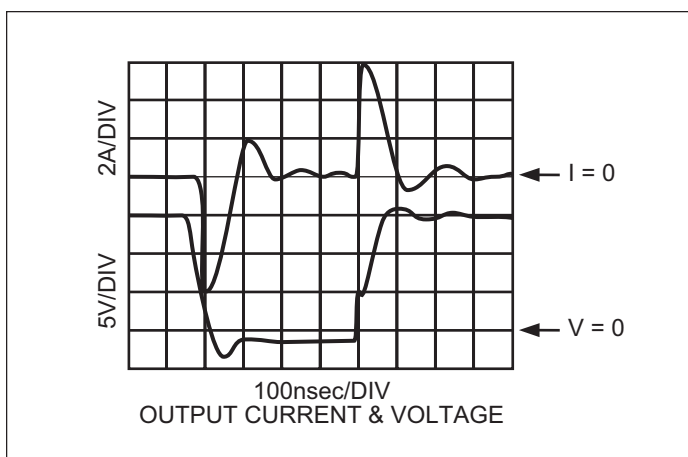


FIGURE 13: 10,000pF load.

OUTPUT

Output Current

The TC4420/4429 can sink and source significant amounts of current. For example with a 10,000pF load the output will swing from 15V to ground in 52nsec, sinking a current of almost 7 amps peak and then source 6 amps peak to bring the output back to 15V in 71nsec (see Figures 3, 4 and 13). This difference in switching times comes from the device construction described in the section on rise and fall times.

Due to the ability of the device to source large currents it is easy to exceed the power dissipation rating of the device under short circuit conditions. There is no thermal or over-current protection designed into the device so a short circuit for an extended period of time should be avoided.

Saturation Voltage

The output typically swings to within 25mV of the supply rails. For applications where a steady state current is supplied by the device the on losses can be found in Figures 14 and 15.

POWER DISSIPATION

Quiescent Dissipation

The quiescent dissipation of the TC4420/4429 is very low, even with the input in the high state. (See "Input" section on the effects of input state on power dissipation.) As an example, at maximum temperature for the plastic Cxx package suffixes (70°C) the static current draw is guaranteed to be 3mA or less. If the supply voltage is 15V then the device dissipation is 45mW at 70°C so the device is well within its range at worst case.

The typical current is normally in the region of 450µA so the example cited above is indeed worst case.

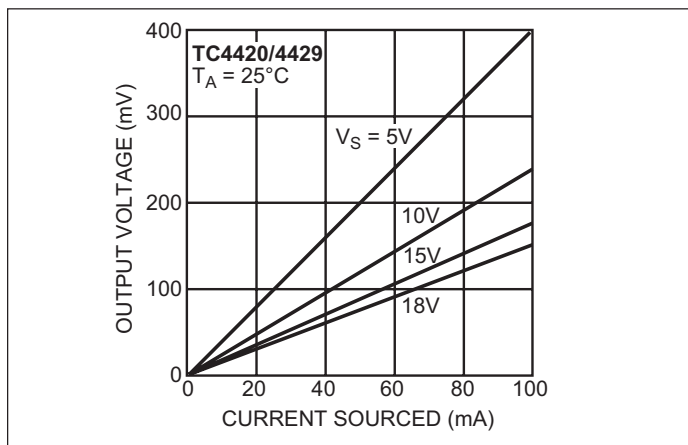


FIGURE 14: High output voltage versus current.

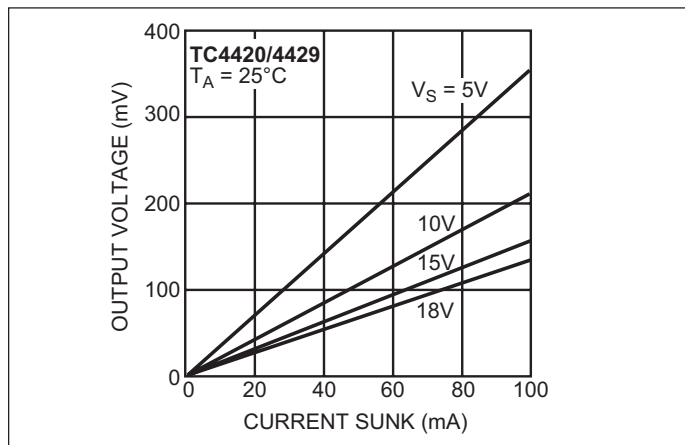


FIGURE 15: Low output voltage versus current.

Cross Over Dissipation

During the transition between the output states the P channel and N channel transistors can be on simultaneously. Although this happens for only a few nanoseconds, this additional power that is dissipated can be significant at frequencies above 1MHz at 100pF and above 250kHz at 10,000pF (see Figures 11 and 28).

Capacitive Load Dissipation

Capacitive load dissipation is the result of charging and discharging the load. The larger the capacitive load the longer the driver is in the linear region. As long as the device is in this area of operation it is dissipating significant amounts of power.

Calculating Power Dissipation

The capacitive load caused dissipation is a direct function of frequency, capacitive load, and supply voltage. The package power dissipation is:

Equation 1:

$$P_C = f C V_S^2$$

where: f = switching frequency
 C = capacitive load
 V_S = supply voltage

Quiescent power dissipation depends on input signal duty cycle. A logic low input results in a low power dissipation mode with only 150 μ A total current drain. Logic high signals raise the current to 1.5mA maximum. The quiescent power dissipation is:

Equation 2:

$$P_Q = V_S \{D (I_H) + (1-D) I_L\}$$

where: I_H = quiescent current with input high (1.5mA Max)
 I_L = quiescent current with input low (150 μ A Max)
 D = duty cycle

Cross over power dissipation arises because the output stage N and P channel transistors are "on" simultaneously for a very short period when the output changes. The cross over power dissipation is approximately:

Equation 3:

$$P_T = f V_S (3.0nA \cdot \text{sec})$$

An example shows the relative magnitude for each term:

Example 1:

$$C = 2500pF$$

$$V_S = 15V$$

$$D = 50\%$$

$$f = 200kHz$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_D &= \text{package power dissipation} = P_C + P_T + P_Q \\ &= 113mW + 9mW + 12.4mW \\ &= 134.4mW \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max operating temperature} &= T_J - \theta_{JA} (P_D) \\ &= 130^\circ\text{C} \end{aligned}$$

where: T_J = max allowable junction temperature (150 $^\circ$ C)
 θ_{JA} = junction to ambient thermal resistance (150 $^\circ$ C/W, CerDIP)

Note: Ambient operating temperature should not exceed 70 $^\circ$ C for "Cxx" devices, +85 $^\circ$ C for "Exx" and "lxx" devices, or 125 $^\circ$ C for "Mxx" devices.

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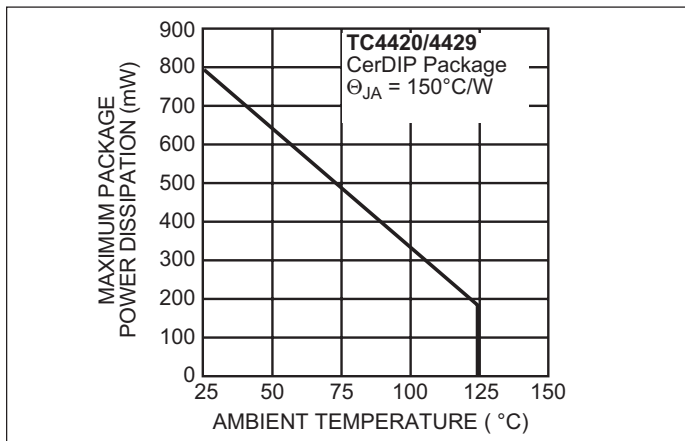


FIGURE 16: Package power dissipation.

Heatsinking

If too much dissipation becomes a problem it is possible to heatsink the TC4420/4429. This is accomplished by the use of a ground plane, or a heatsink attached to the device by a clip or thermal epoxy. The use of the ground plane as a heatsink is done by inserting a small quantity of thermal grease on the bottom of the device before insertion to the board. The grease will help transfer the heat to the ground plane.

In high power dissipation requirement, the 5-Pin TO-220 package can dissipate up to 12.5W at 25°C with proper heatsinking. In free air, the 5-Pin TO-220 can dissipate 1.6W at 70°C.

DESIGNING WITH THE TC4420/4429 GROUNDING TECHNIQUES

Grounding

The High current capability of the TC4420/4429 demands careful PC board layout for best performance. The TC4429 is an inverting driver. Any ground lead impedance will appear as negative feedback which can degrade noise immunity. The feedback is especially noticeable with slow-rise time inputs, such as are produced by an open collector output with resistor pull-up. The TC4420 is a non-inverting driver. It is very important to separate the digital input ground from the output ground. Any ground loop coupling from the output ground return to the input signal return may cause high frequency oscillation due to positive feedback. When using the TC4420 non-inverting driver, be sure the output ground is separated from the input signal ground return.

Figure 18 shows the negative feedback effect in detail. As the TC4429 input begins to go positive, the output goes negative and several amperes of current flow in the ground lead. As little as 0.05 Ω of PC trace resistance can produce hundreds of millivolts at the TC4429 ground pins. If the driving logic is referenced to power ground, the effective logic input level is reduced.

To ensure optimum performance, separate ground traces should be provided for the logic and power connections. Connecting the logic ground directly to the TC4429 GND pins will ensure full logic drive to the input and ensure fast output switching. Both of the TC4429 GND pins should be connected to power ground (see layout section).

Decoupling (Bypassing)

Decoupling the TC4429 requires careful layout and the use of good quality capacitors. A good quality film cap of low ESR such as the WIMA MKS-2 1 μ F at 50V in parallel with a low ESR high resonant frequency ceramic will usually keep the peak to peak ripple voltage under 500mV provided the caps are placed right next to the power supply pins of the driver. Tantalums and small electrolytics are not a good choice due to the high ripple current that the TC4429 generates.

Layout Considerations

One of the most important considerations in the application of the TC4420/4429 is the PC board layout. As we have previously mentioned grounding is very important. Since the device generates very high recirculating currents due to its fast switching speed and low output impedance it is necessary to identify the paths of these currents and isolate them from the input signal (due to the negative feedback problem) and from the rest of the system.

The second consideration is radiated noise. A ground plane under the device can act as a noise shield and is highly recommended. This ground plane, if put on top of the board can also act as a heatsink (see the section on heatsinking).

Third, the TC4420/4429 has been designed with two ground pins 4 and 5, two V_{CC} pins 1 and 8 and two output pins 6 and 7. In each case both pins should be used as the currents are so high that a single bonding wire internal to the device may not be able to handle the currents without opening. This two wire path for these currents also lowers the inductance of the path which will (along with proper decoupling) help minimize ringing in the circuit (see Figures 17 and 18).

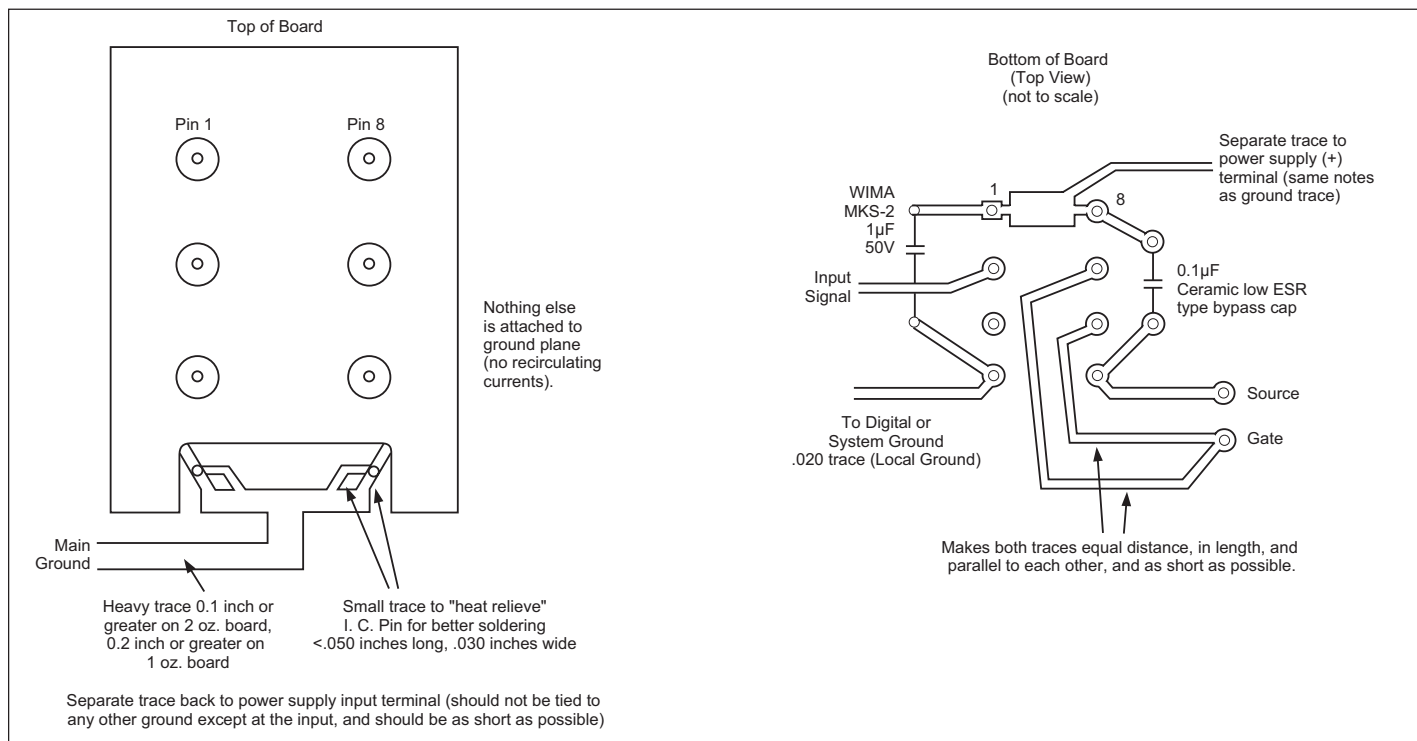


FIGURE 17: TC4420/4429 layout considerations.

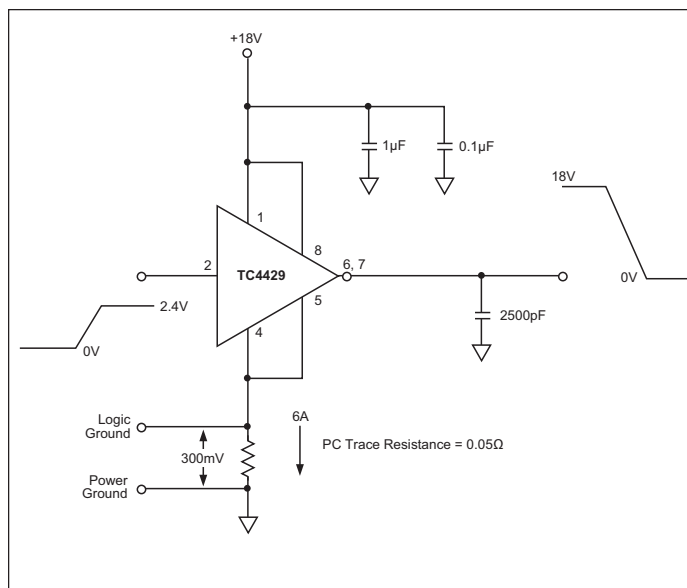


FIGURE 18: Switching time degradation due to negative feedback.

Driving Power MOSFETs

International Rectifier has published Application Note #937 that describes the characteristics of a good MOSFET driver, and circuits that are suitable as drivers. Please note that many of the circuits described in this application note can be accomplished with the TC4420/4429 while improving performance, lower power consumption, and often with fewer parts.

In addition to the application note mentioned above, two other application notes by international Rectifier on driving MOSFETs are of use. The first, Application Note #944 entitled "Use Gate Charge to Design the Gate Drive Circuit for Power MOSFETs and IGBTs" helps one to understand the charge transfer necessary to drive MOSFETs, while the second app note, #947, entitled "Understanding HEXFET Switching Performance" gives a detailed mathematical analysis of the three turn on and turn off intervals. It also examines the effects of parasitic drain and source inductance, which can have a significant effect on switching performance independent of the drive method.

These papers go into detail on what is important in driving MOSFETs and give additional necessary information that is beyond the scope of this paper.

We will show an example of a 400V 3Ω FET being driven by a small CMOS driver (out of a CMOS 555 timer IC) and compare that to the same circuit where the TC4420 is driving the MOSFET (see Figures 19 through 21). Nothing has been changed except for the addition of the TC4420. Note the substantial improvement in fall time.

AN798

Due to differences in timing characteristics the paralleling of two or more devices is not recommended. The best example of the reason for this is the problem of one device turning on a few nanoseconds before another. In this case the one that turned on first would be sinking current from the other. This would then create an increase in dissipation that could cause the faster device to overheat and self destruct. Since the rise and fall times of any two devices are not going to be the same, it is possible to get slower rise and fall times with two drivers in parallel than from a single driver due to the devices "fighting" each other.

Driving Inductive Loads

When driving inductive loads such as pulse transformers and small motors it may be necessary to keep the output from being driven beyond V_{CC} . Leakage inductance and back EMF from motors can cause voltage spikes of sufficient amplitude to make the driver latch into its SCR mode.

The best way to prevent this from occurring is to put a Schottky diode from the output back to V_{CC} . When the voltage at the output rises the diode turns on before the base emitter of the transistor and clamps the voltage to V_{CC} plus the diode drop of 450mV. The same technique works for negative going excursions of voltage (see Figure 27).

APPLICATIONS

Small Motor Controller

Figure 22 shows a schematic of the TC4429 used as a small closed loop motor controller. The TC4429 is used as both driver and comparator in the control circuit. The back EMF of the motor is used as a feedback signal to detect motor speed.

Voltage Doubler

Figure 23 is a voltage doubler circuit. Typical performance is shown in Figure 24. Highest efficiency is obtained when using Schottky diodes in the output.

Voltage Inverter

Figure 25 is a voltage inverter with Figure 26 showing typical performance. As in the voltage doubler circuit mentioned above the highest efficiency is obtained when using Schottky diodes, such as the 1N5819. In both these circuits increasing the frequency of oscillation will help to reduce the value of the capacitors. Capacitors should be high quality electrolytics with low ESR. Ripple currents in the capacitors can be substantial in both of these circuits, so care should be taken in their selection.

High Power Pulse Transformer Driver

Figure 27 shows a high power pulse transformer driver that utilizes diode protection from leakage inductance spikes. This circuit can be used to drive large bipolar transistors, as well as MOSFETs. The same sort of diode protection scheme should be applied to other inductive loads such as relays.

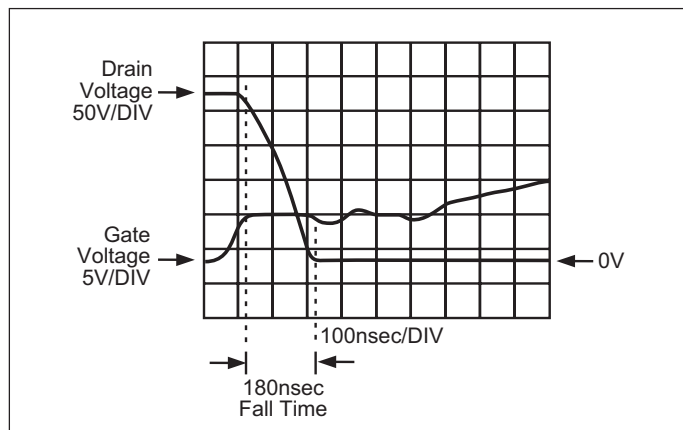


FIGURE 19: 400V 3Ω MOSFET driven by CMOS 555 timer IC.

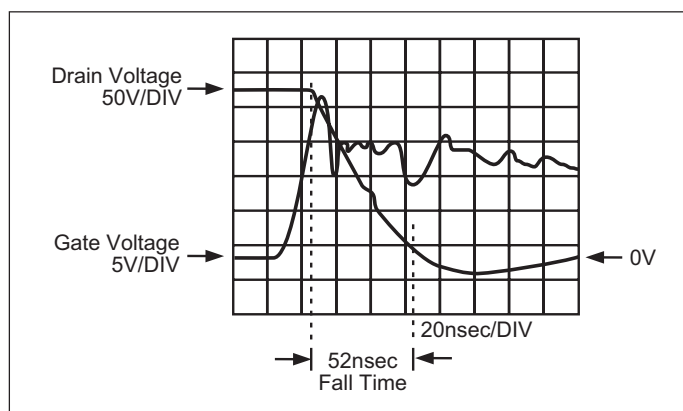


FIGURE 20: 400V 3Ω MOSFET driven by TC4420.

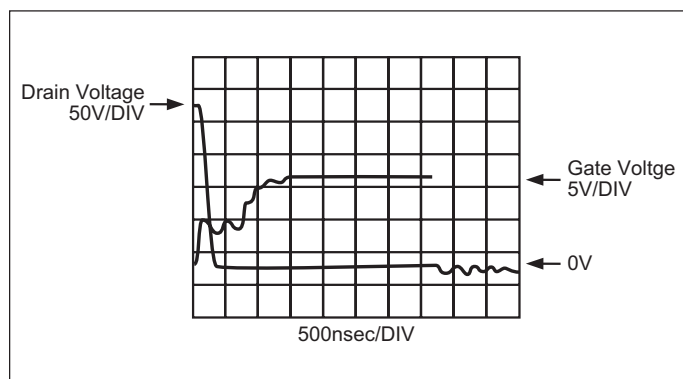


FIGURE 21: 400V 3Ω MOSFET driven by CMOS 555 timer IC (complete cycle).

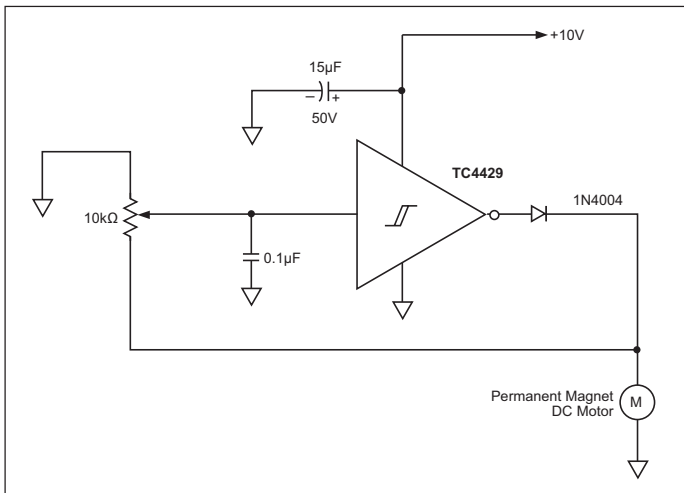


FIGURE 22: Motor speed controller.

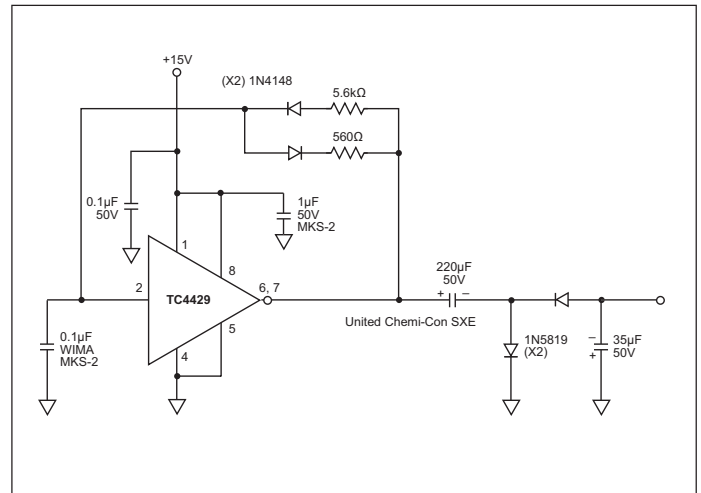


FIGURE 25: Self contained voltage inverter.

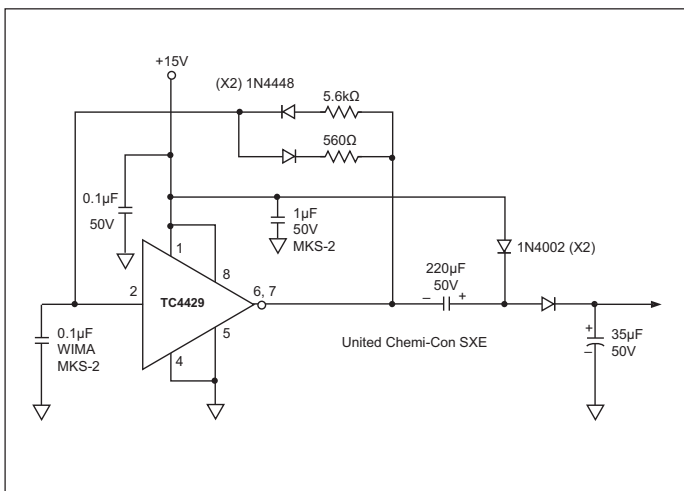


FIGURE 23: Self contained voltage doubler.

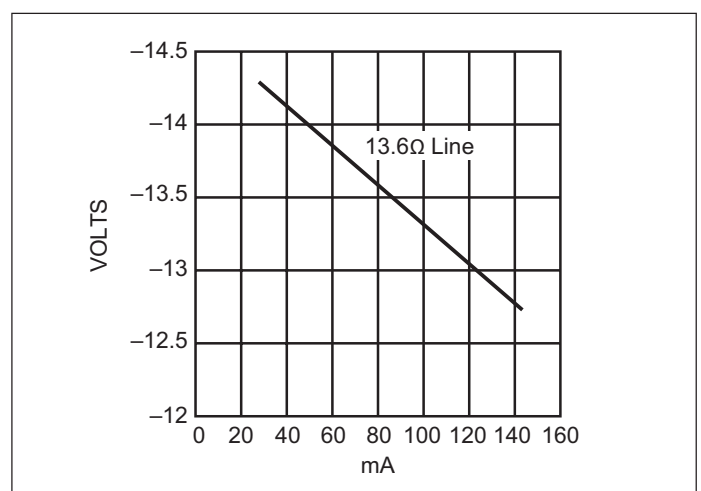


FIGURE 26: Voltage inverter output voltage vs. output current.

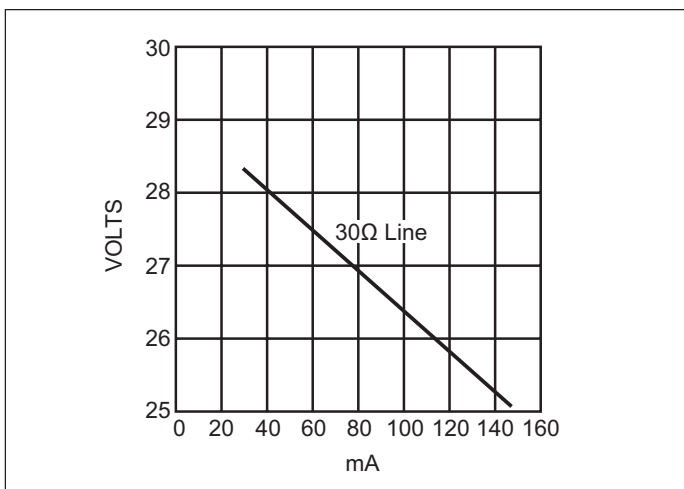


FIGURE 24: Voltage doubler output voltage vs. output current.

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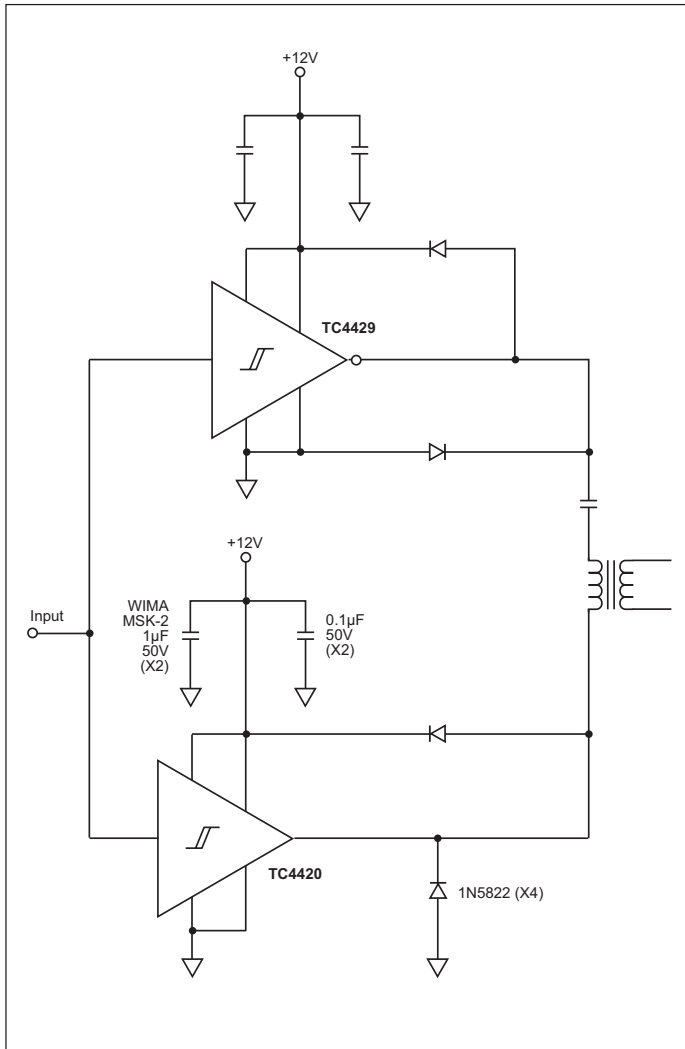


FIGURE 27: High power pulse transformer driver.

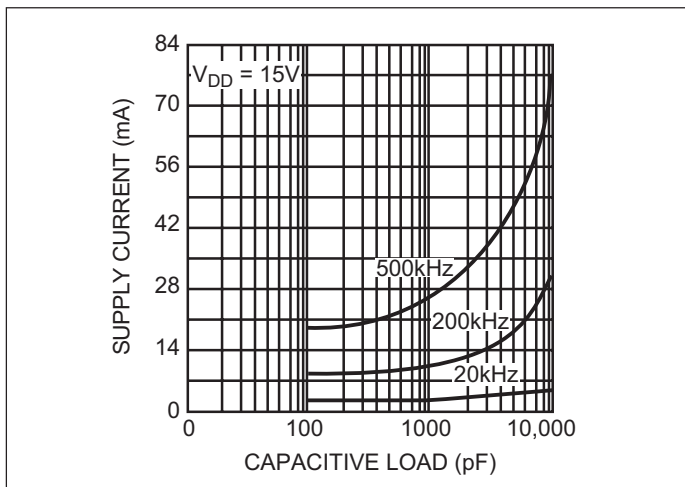


FIGURE 28: Supply current vs. capacitive load.

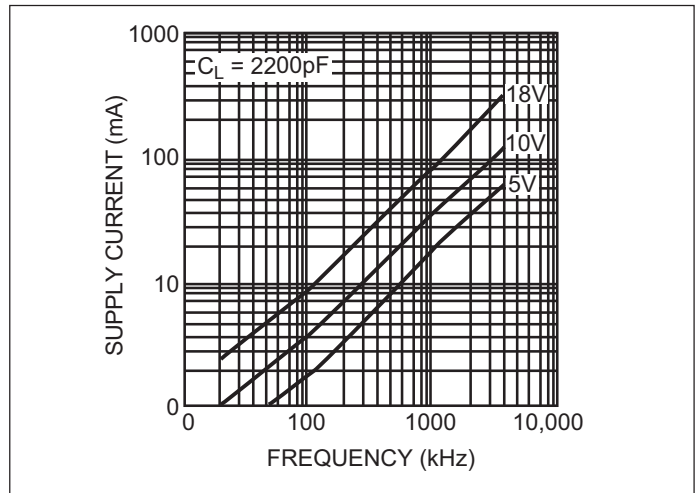


FIGURE 29: Supply current vs. frequency.

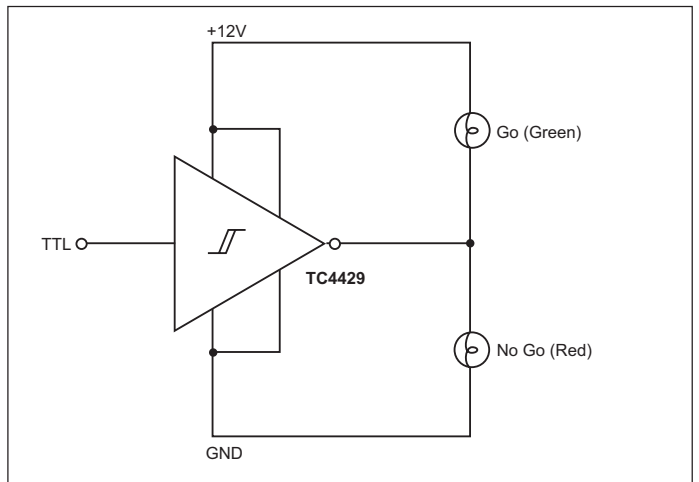


FIGURE 30: Warning signal.

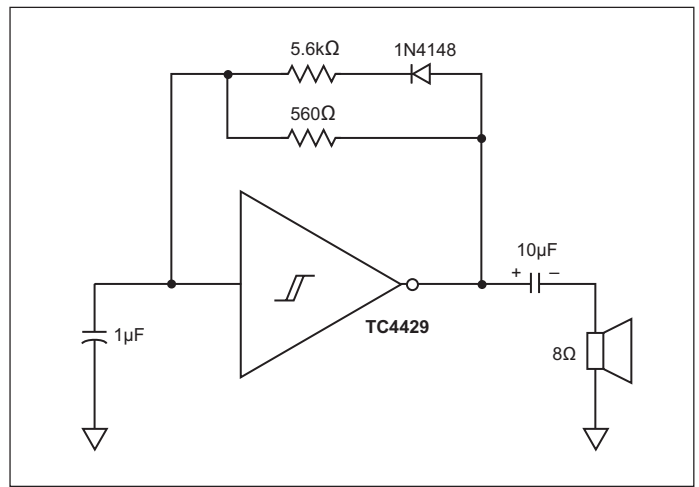


FIGURE 31: Audio oscillator.

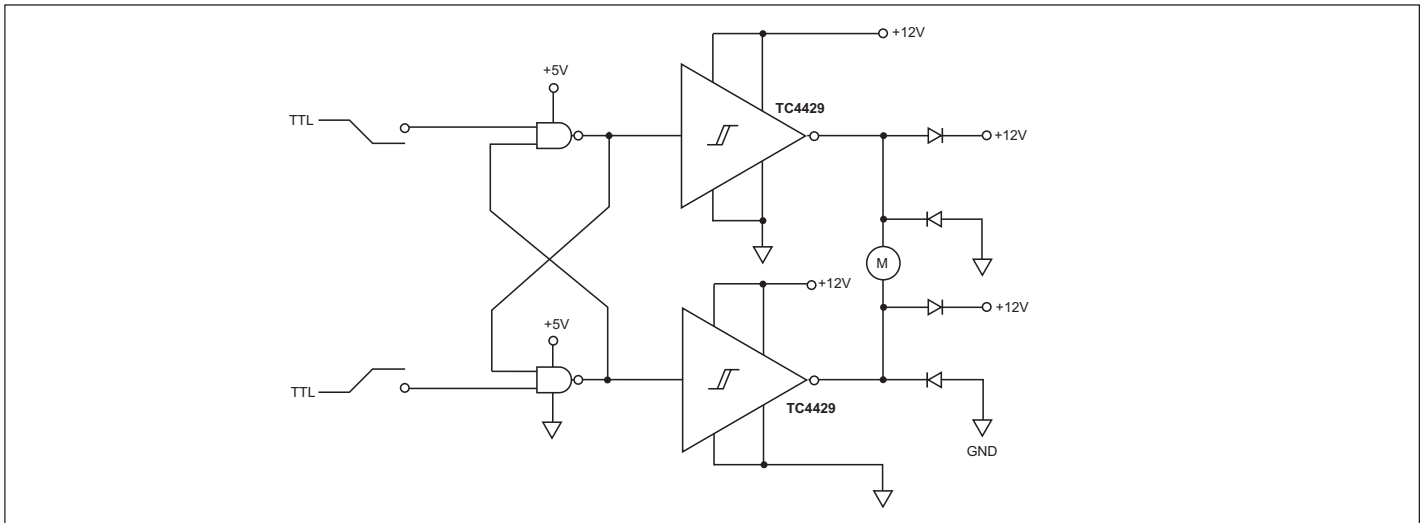


FIGURE 32: Motor driver with forward/reverse and lockout.

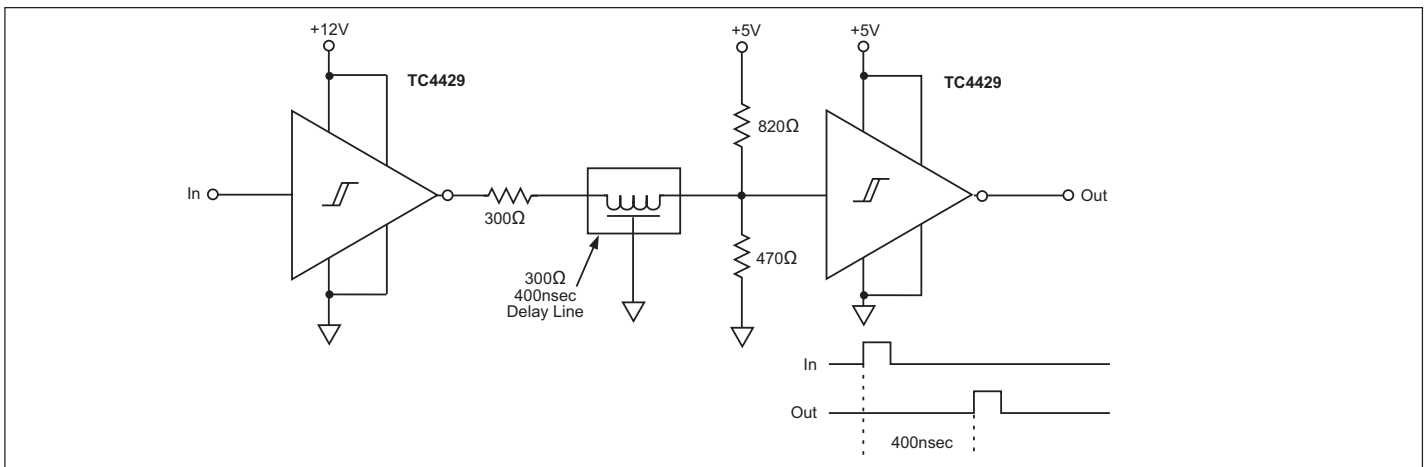


FIGURE 33: Delay line driver and voltage translator.

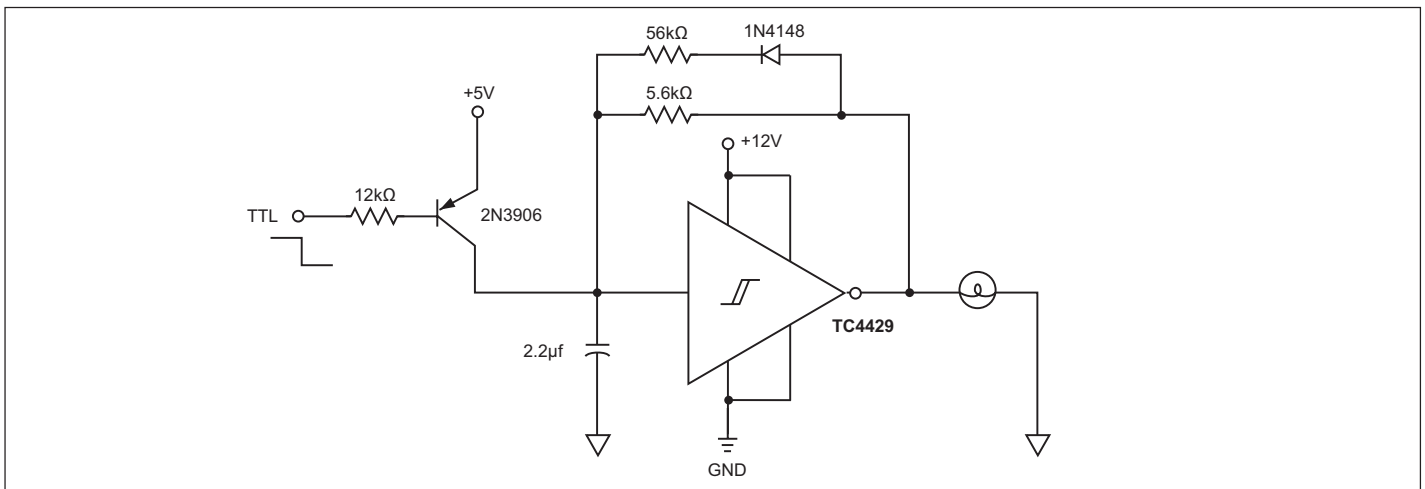


FIGURE 34: TTL controlled light flasher.

AN798

NOTES:

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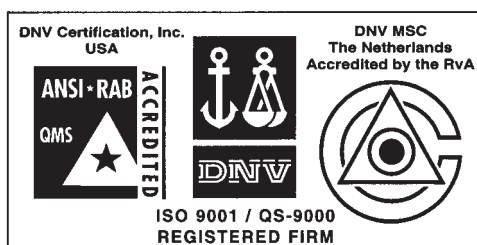
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