Evaluation Board EPC9005C Quick Start Guide

40 V Half-Bridge with Gate Drive using EPC2014C

June 3, 2015

Version 1.0

EFFICIENT POWER CONVERSION

DESCRIPTION

The EPC9005C evaluation board is a 40 V maximum device voltage, 7 A maximum output current, half bridge with onboard gate drives, featuring the EPC2014C enhancement mode (eGaN®) field effect transistor (FET). The purpose of this evaluation board is to simplify the evaluation process of the EPC2014C eGaN FET by including all the critical components on a single board that can be easily connected into any existing converter.

The EPC9005C evaluation board is 2″x 1.5″and contains two EPC2014C eGaN FET in a half bridge configuration using Texas Instruments LM5113 gate driver, supply and bypass capacitors. The board contains all critical components and layout for optimal switching performance. There are also various probe points to facilitate simple waveform measurement and efficiency calculation. A complete block diagram of the circuit is given in Figure 1.

For more information on the EPC2014Cs eGaN FET please refer to the datasheet available from EPC at www.epc-co.com. The datasheet should be read in conjunction with this quick start guide.

Table 1: Performance Summary (T_A = 25°C)

Symbol	Parameter	Conditions	Min	Max	Units
V_{DD}	Gate Drive Input Supply Range		7	12	V
V_{IN}	Bus Input Voltage Range			24*	
V_{OUT}	Switch Node Output Voltage			40	
I_{OUT}	Switch Node Output Current			7*	A
V_{PWM}	PWM Logic Input Voltage Threshold	Input 'High'	3.5	6	V
		Input 'Low'	0	1.5	
	Minimum 'High' State Input Pulse Width	V_{PWM} rise and fall time < 10ns	30		ns
	Minimum 'Low' State Input Pulse Width	V_{PWM} rise and fall time < 10ns	100#		

** Assumes inductive load, maximum current depends on die temperature – actual maximum current with be subject to switching frequency, bus voltage and thermals.*

 # Limited by time needed to 'refresh' high side bootstrap supply voltage.

QUICK START PROCEDURE

Evaluation board EPC9005C is easy to set up to evaluate the performance of the EPC2014C eGaN FET. Refer to Figure 2 for proper connect and measurement setup and follow the procedure below:

1. With power off, connect the input power supply bus to +V_{IN} (J5, J6) and ground / return to –V_{IN} (J7, J8).
2. With power off, connect the switch node of the half bridge OUT (J3, J4) to your circuit as required.
3. With power off, connect the gate drive input to +V_{DD} (J1, Pin-1) and ground return to –V_{DD} (J1, Pin-2).
4. With power off, connect the input PWM control signal to PWM (J2, Pin-1) and ground return to any of the remaining J2 pins.
5. Turn on the gate drive supply – make sure the supply is between 7 V and 12 V range.
6. Turn on the bus voltage to the required value (do not exceed the absolute maximum voltage of 40 V on V_{OUT}).
7. Turn on the controller / PWM input source and probe switching node to see switching operation.
8. Once operational, adjust the bus voltage and load PWM control within the operating range and observe the output switching behavior, efficiency and other parameters.
9. For shutdown, please follow steps in reverse.

NOTE. When measuring the high frequency content switch node (OUT), care must be taken to avoid long ground leads. Measure the switch node (OUT) by placing the oscilloscope probe tip through the large via on the switch node (designed for this purpose) and grounding the probe directly across the GND terminals provided. See Figure 3 for proper scope probe technique.

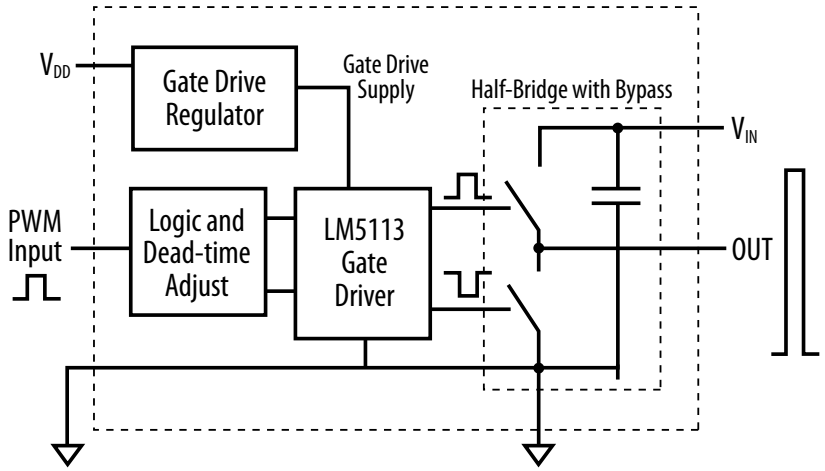

Figure 1: Block Diagram of EPC9005C Evaluation Board

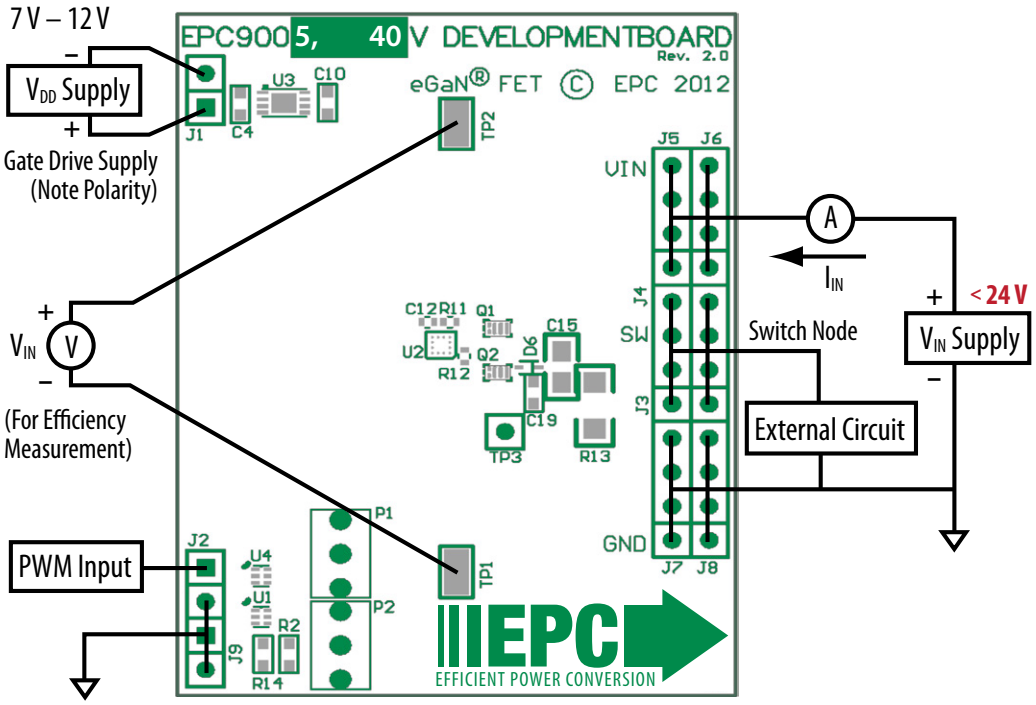

Figure 2: Proper Connection and Measurement Setup

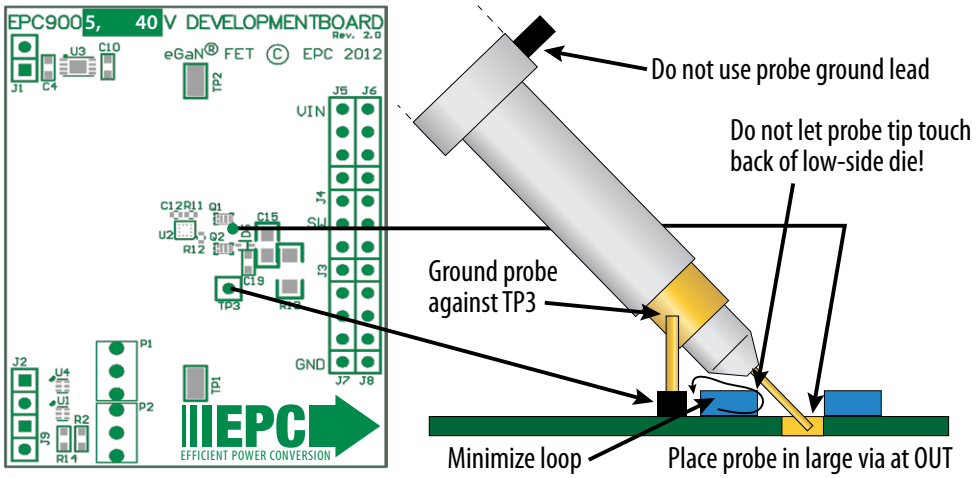

Figure 3: Proper Measurement of Switch Node – OUT

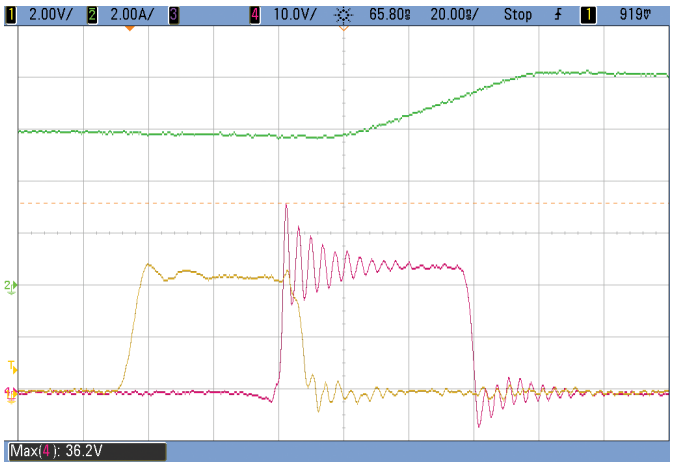

Figure 4: Typical Waveforms for VIN = 24 V to 1.2 V/7 A (1000kHz) Buck converter
CH1: VPWM Input voltage – CH2: (IOUT) Switch node current – CH4: (VOUT) Switch node voltage

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

The EPC9005C evaluation board showcases the EPC2014C eGaN FET. Although the electrical performance surpasses that for traditional silicon devices, their relatively smaller size does magnify the thermal management requirements. The EPC9005C is intended for bench evaluation with low ambient temperature and convection cooling. The addition of heat-sinking and forced air cooling can significantly increase the current rating of these devices, but care must be taken to not exceed the absolute maximum die temperature of 125°C.

NOTE. The EPC9005C evaluation board does not have any current or thermal protection on board.

For support files including schematic, Bill of Materials (BOM), and gerber files please visit the EPC9005C landing page at: https://epc-co.com/epc/products/demo-boards/epc9005C

For More Information:

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