

# CAT4238

## High Efficiency 10 LED Boost Converter

### Description

The CAT4238 is a DC/DC step-up converter that delivers an accurate constant current ideal for driving LEDs. Operation at a fixed switching frequency of 1 MHz allows the device to be used with small value external ceramic capacitors and inductor. LEDs connected in series are driven with a regulated current set by the external resistor  $R_1$ . LED currents up to 40 mA can be supported over a wide range of input supply voltages up to 5.5 V, making the device ideal for battery-powered applications. The CAT4238 high-voltage output stage is perfect for driving mid-size and large panel displays containing up to ten white LEDs in series.

LED dimming can be done by using a DC voltage, a logic signal, or a pulse width modulation (PWM) signal. The shutdown input pin allows the device to be placed in power-down mode with “zero” quiescent current.

In addition to thermal protection and overload current limiting, the device also enters a very low power operating mode during “Open LED” fault conditions. The device is housed in a low profile (1 mm max height) 5-lead thin SOT23 package for space critical applications.

### Features

- Drives High Voltage LED Strings (38 V)
- Up to 87% Efficiency
- Low Quiescent Ground Current 0.6 mA
- Adjustable Output Current
- 1 MHz Fixed Frequency Low Noise Operation
- Soft Start “In-rush” Current Limiting
- Shutdown Current Less than 1  $\mu$ A
- Open LED Overvoltage Protection
- Automatic Shutdown at 1.9 V (UVLO)
- Thermal Overload Protection
- Thin SOT23 5-lead (1 mm Max Height)
- These Devices are Pb-Free, Halogen Free/BFR Free and are RoHS Compliant

### Applications

- GPS Navigation Systems
- Portable Media Players
- Handheld Devices, Digital Cameras
- Portable Game Machines



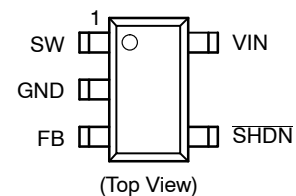
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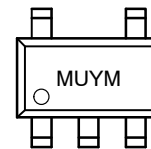


TSOT-23  
TD SUFFIX  
CASE 419AE

### PIN CONNECTIONS



### MARKING DIAGRAM



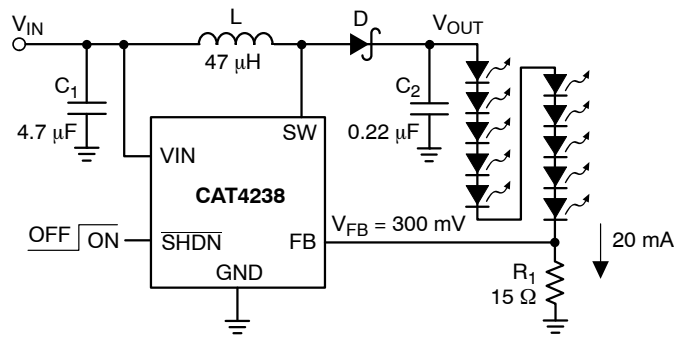
MU = Specific Device Code  
Y = Production Year (Last Digit)  
M = Production Month (1-9, A, B, C)

### ORDERING INFORMATION

Device	Package	Shipping
CAT4238TD-GT3	TSOT-23 (Pb-Free) Green*	3,000/ Tape & Reel

\* Lead Finish NiPdAu

# CAT4238



L: Sumida CDC5D23B-470  
 D: Central CMDSH05-4  
 C2: Taiyo Yuden UMK212BJ224 (rated 50 V)

**Figure 1. Typical Application Circuit**

**Table 1. ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS**

Parameters	Ratings	Units
$V_{IN}$ , FB voltage	-0.3 to +7	V
SHDN voltage	-0.3 to +7	V
SW voltage (Note 1)	up to 60	V
Storage Temperature Range	-65 to +160	°C
Junction Temperature Range	-40 to +150	°C
Lead Temperature	300	°C

Stresses exceeding Maximum Ratings may damage the device. Maximum Ratings are stress ratings only. Functional operation above the Recommended Operating Conditions is not implied. Extended exposure to stresses above the Recommended Operating Conditions may affect device reliability.

1. The SW pin voltage is rated up to 39 V for external continuous DC voltage.

**Table 2. RECOMMENDED OPERATING CONDITIONS**

Parameters	Range	Units
$V_{IN}$	up to 5.5	V
SW pin voltage	0 to 38	V
Ambient Temperature Range	-40 to +85	°C

NOTE: Typical application circuit with external components is shown above.

# CAT4238

**Table 3. DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

( $V_{IN} = 3.6\text{ V}$ , ambient temperature of  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  (over recommended operating conditions unless otherwise specified))

Symbol	Parameter	Test Conditions	Min	Typ	Max	Units
$I_Q$	Operating Current	$V_{FB} = 0.2\text{ V}$ $V_{FB} = 0.4\text{ V}$ (not switching)		0.6 0.1	1.5 0.6	mA
$I_{SD}$	Shutdown Current	$\sqrt{SHDN} = 0\text{ V}$		0.1	1	$\mu\text{A}$
$V_{FB}$	FB Pin Voltage	10 LEDs with $I_{LED} = 20\text{ mA}$	285	300	315	mV
$I_{FB}$	FB pin input leakage				1	$\mu\text{A}$
$I_{LED}$	Programmed LED Current	$R_1 = 10\ \Omega$ $R_1 = 15\ \Omega$ $R_1 = 20\ \Omega$	28.5 19 14.25	30 20 15	31.5 21 15.75	mA
$V_{IH}$ $V_{IL}$	SHDN Logic High SHDN Logic Low	Enable Threshold Level Shutdown Threshold Level	0.4	0.8 0.7	1.5	V
$F_{SW}$	Switching Frequency		0.8	1.0	1.3	MHz
DC	Maximum Duty Cycle	$V_{IN} = 3\text{ V}$		92		%
$I_{LIM}$	Switch Current Limit		350	450	600	mA
$R_{SW}$	Switch "On" Resistance	$I_{SW} = 100\text{ mA}$		1.0	2.0	$\Omega$
$I_{LEAK}$	Switch Leakage Current	Switch Off, $V_{SW} = 5\text{ V}$		1	5	$\mu\text{A}$
	Thermal Shutdown			150		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
	Thermal Hysteresis			20		$^{\circ}\text{C}$
$V_{UVLO}$	Undervoltage Lockout (UVLO) Threshold			1.9		V
$V_{OV-SW}$	Overvoltage Detection Threshold			40		V
$V_{OCL}$	Output Voltage Clamp	"Open LED" with $V_{IN} = 5\text{ V}$	43	45	48	V

## Pin Description

**VIN** is the supply input for the internal logic. The device is compatible with supply voltages down to 2.8 V and up to 5.5 V. It is recommended that a small bypass ceramic capacitor (4.7  $\mu\text{F}$ ) be placed between the VIN and GND pins near the device. If the supply voltage drops below 1.9 V, the device stops switching.

**SHDN** is the shutdown logic input. When the pin is tied to a voltage lower than 0.4 V, the device is in shutdown mode, drawing nearly zero current. When the pin is connected to a voltage higher than 1.5 V, the device is enabled.

**GND** is the ground reference pin. This pin should be connected directly to the ground plane on the PCB.

**SW** pin is connected to the drain of the internal CMOS power switch of the boost converter. The inductor and the Schottky diode anode should be connected to the SW pin. Traces going to the SW pin should be as short as possible with minimum loop area. An over-voltage detection circuit is connected to the SW pin. When the voltage reaches 40 V, the device enters a low power operating mode preventing the SW voltage from exceeding the maximum rating.

**FB** feedback pin is regulated at 0.3 V. A resistor connected between the FB pin and ground sets the LED current according to the formula:

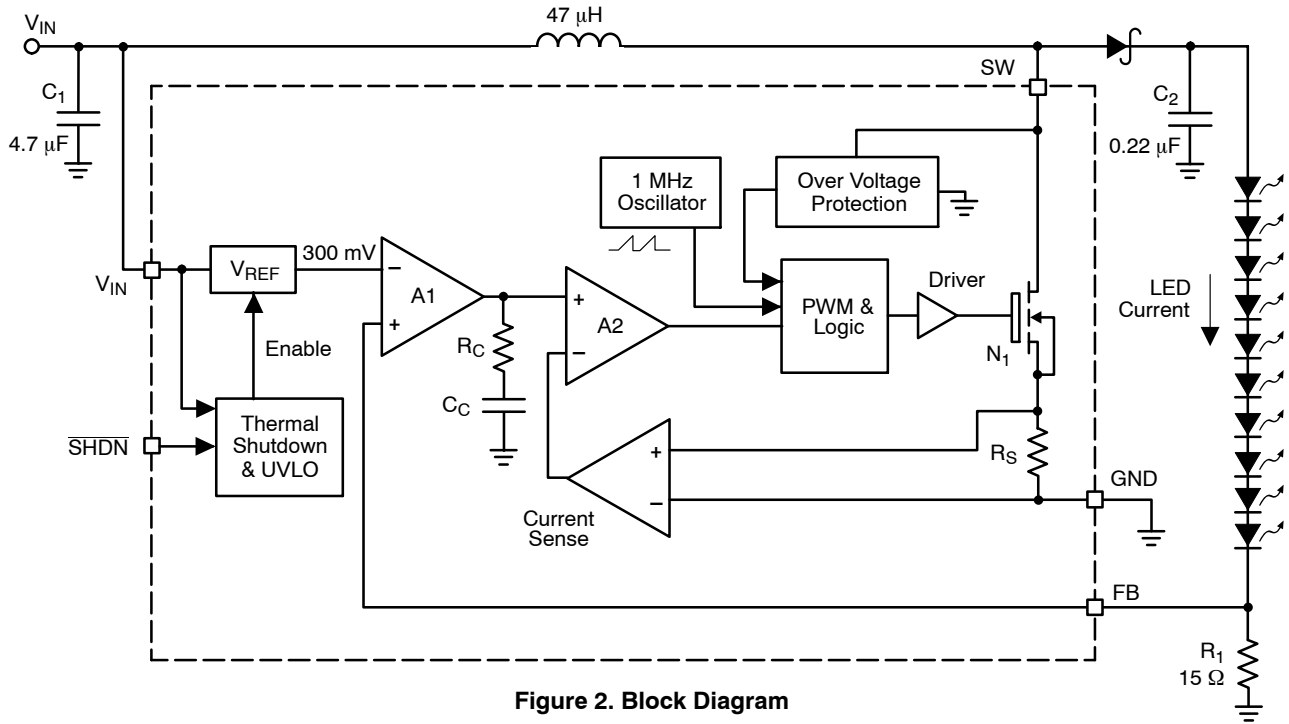
$$I_{LED} = \frac{0.3\text{ V}}{R_1}$$

The lower LED cathode is connected to the FB pin.

**Table 4. PIN DESCRIPTIONS**

Pin #	Name	Function
1	SW	Switch pin. This is the drain of the internal power switch.
2	GND	Ground pin. Connect the pin to the ground plane.
3	FB	Feedback pin. Connect to the last LED cathode.
4	SHDN	Shutdown pin (Logic Low). Set high to enable the driver.
5	VIN	Power Supply input.

**Block Diagram**



**Figure 2. Block Diagram**

**Device Operation**

The CAT4238 is a fixed frequency (1 MHz), low noise, inductive boost converter that provides a constant current with excellent line and load regulation. The device uses a high-voltage CMOS power switch between the SW pin and ground to energize the inductor. When the switch is turned off, the stored energy in the inductor is released into the load via the Schottky diode.

The on/off duty cycle of the power switch is internally adjusted and controlled to maintain a constant regulated voltage of 0.3 V across the feedback resistor connected to the feedback pin (FB). The value of the resistor sets the LED current accordingly ( $0.3 \text{ V}/R_1$ ).

During the initial power-up stage, the duty cycle of the internal power switch is limited to prevent excessive in-rush currents and thereby provide a “soft-start” mode of operation.

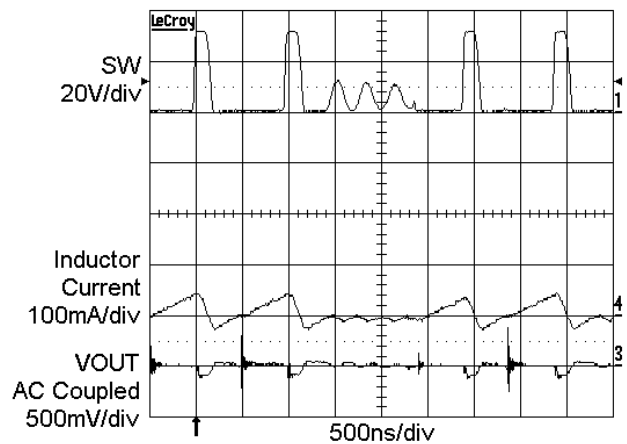
While operating from a Li-Ion battery, the device can deliver 20 mA of load current into a string of up to 10 white LEDs. For higher input voltages, the LED current can be increased.

In the event of an “Open LED” fault condition, where the feedback control loop becomes open, the output voltage will continue to increase. Once this voltage exceeds 40 V, an internal protection circuit will become active and place the device into a very low power safe operating mode where only a small amount of power is transferred to the output. This is achieved by pulsing the switch once every 6 μs and keeping it on for about 1 μs.

Thermal overload protection circuitry has been included to prevent the device from operating at unsafe junction temperatures above 150°C. In the event of a thermal overload condition the device will automatically shutdown and wait till the junction temperatures cools to 130°C before normal operation is resumed.

**Light Load Operation**

Under light load condition (under 2 mA) and with input voltage above 5.0 V, the CAT4238 driving 10 LEDs, the driver starts pulse skipping. Although the LED current remains well regulated, some lower frequency ripple may appear.



**Figure 3. Switching Waveform  $V_{IN} = 5.0 \text{ V}$ ,  $I_{LED} = 1.5 \text{ mA}$**

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

( $V_{IN} = 3.6\text{ V}$ ,  $C_{IN} = 4.7\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $C_{OUT} = 0.22\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $L = 47\ \mu\text{H}$  with 10 LEDs at 20 mA,  $T_{AMB} = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , unless otherwise specified.)

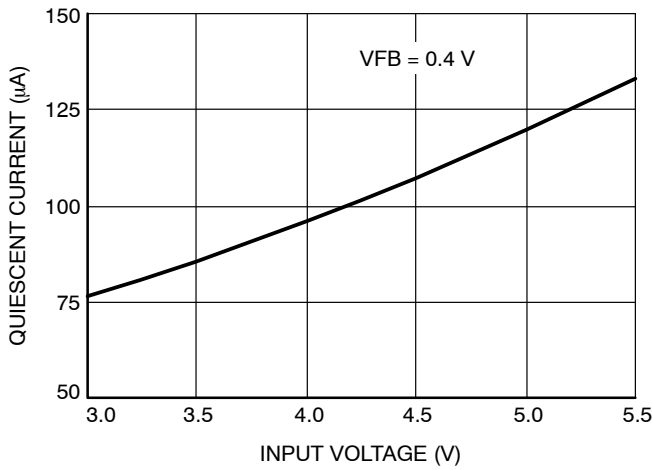


Figure 4. Quiescent Current vs.  $V_{IN}$   
(Not Switching)

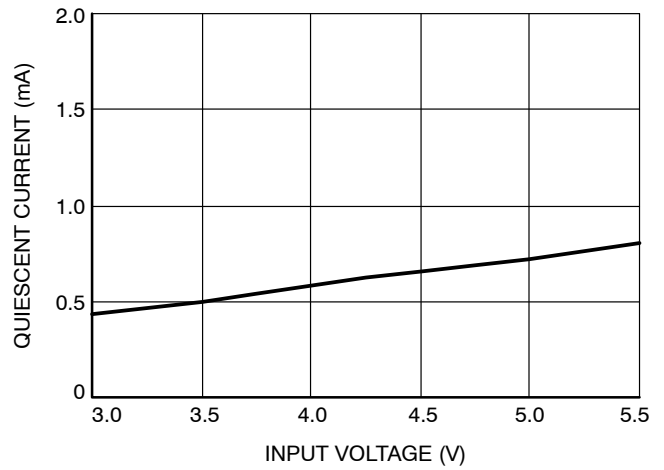


Figure 5. Quiescent Current vs.  $V_{IN}$   
(Switching)

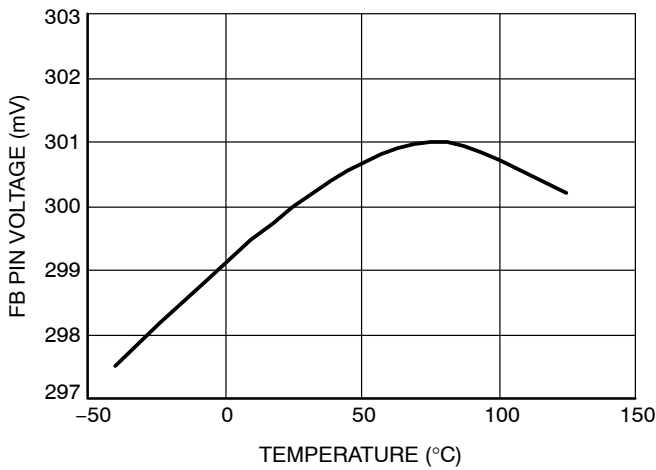


Figure 6. FB Pin Voltage vs. Temperature

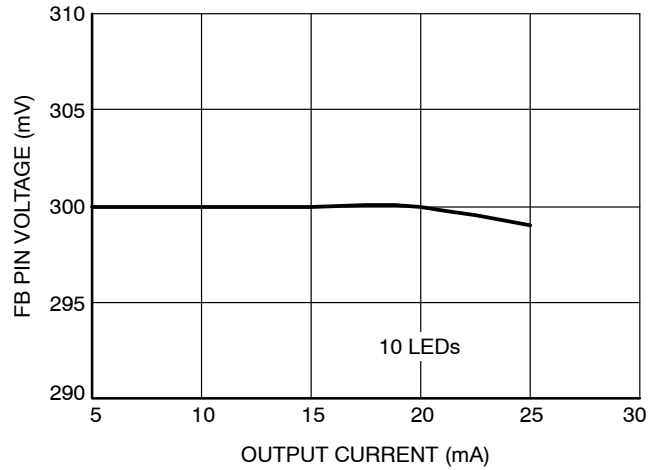


Figure 7. FB Pin Voltage vs. Output Current

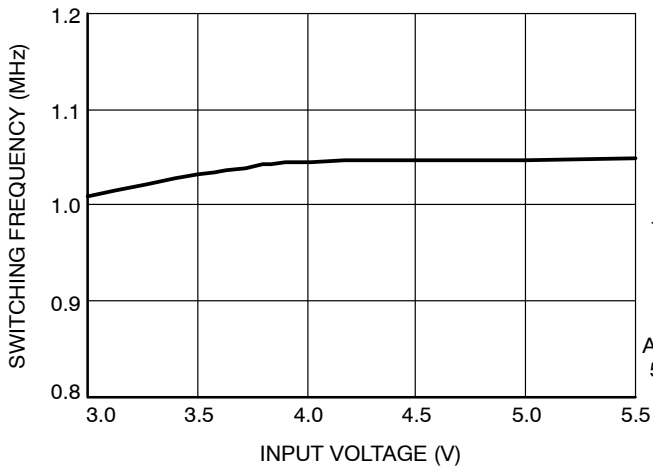


Figure 8. Switching Frequency vs. Supply  
Voltage

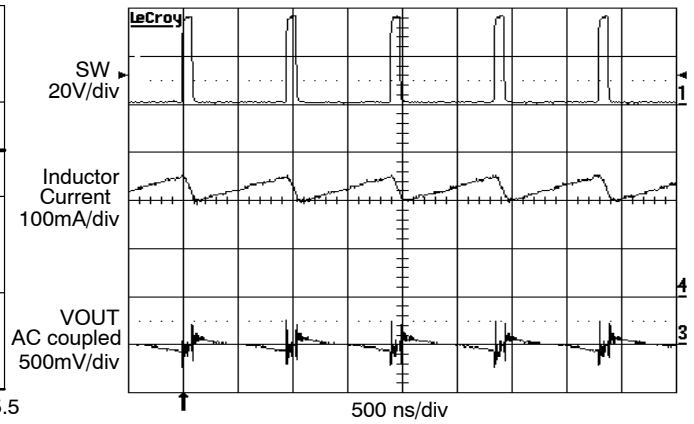


Figure 9. Switching Waveforms

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

( $V_{IN} = 3.6\text{ V}$ ,  $C_{IN} = 4.7\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $C_{OUT} = 0.22\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $L = 47\ \mu\text{H}$  with 10 LEDs at 20 mA,  $T_{AMB} = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , unless otherwise specified.)

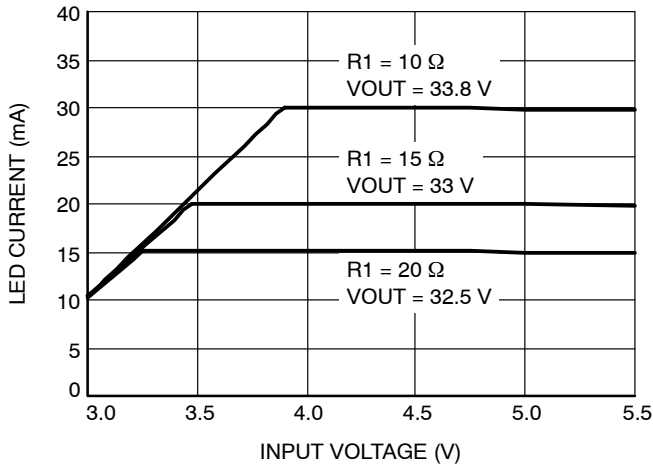


Figure 10. LED Current vs. Input Voltage

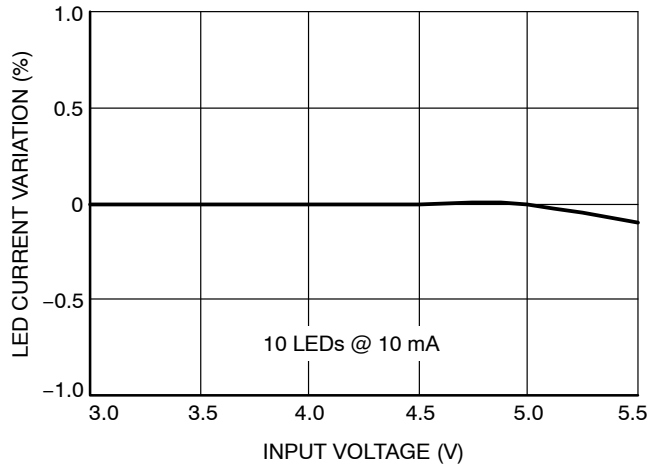


Figure 11. LED Current Regulation (10 mA)

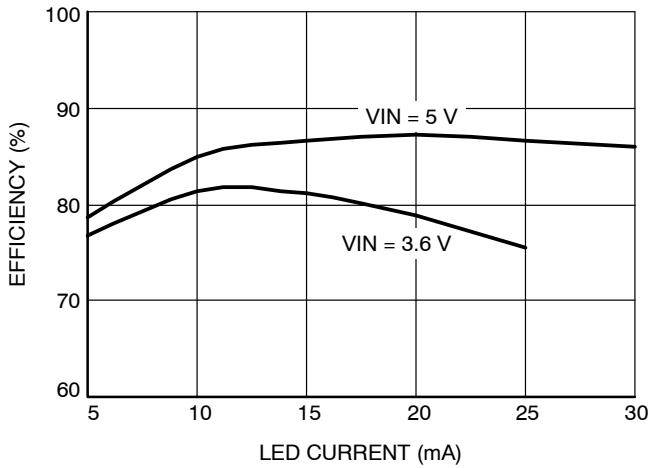


Figure 12. Efficiency vs. Load Current (10 LEDs)

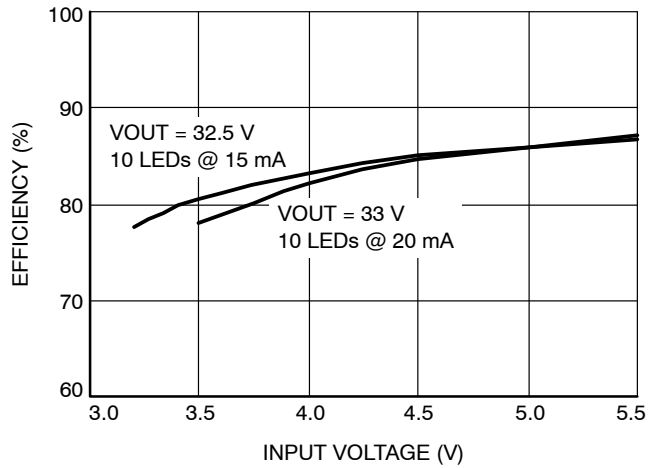


Figure 13. Efficiency vs. Input Voltage (10 LEDs)

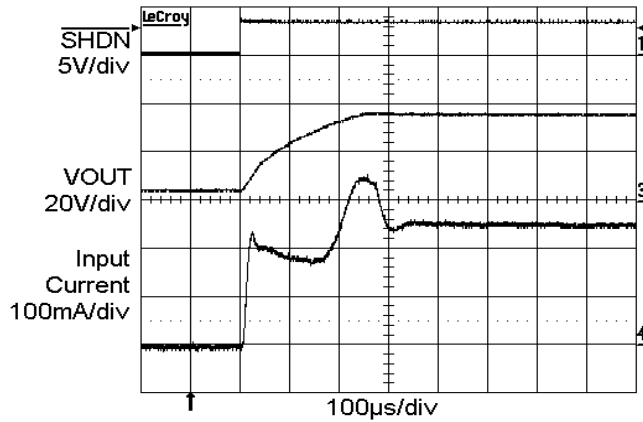


Figure 14. Power-up with 10 LEDs at 20 mA

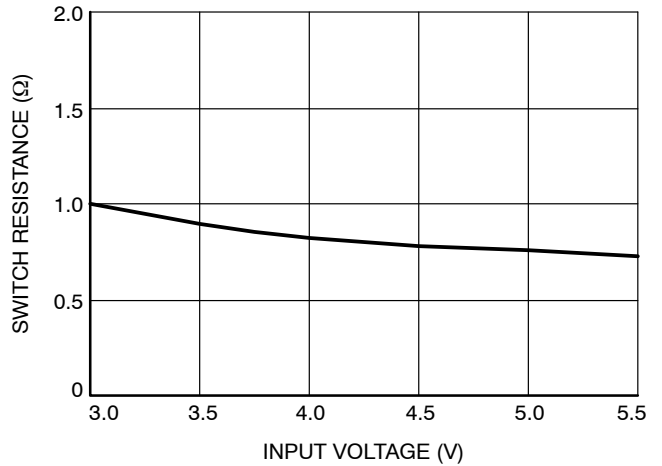
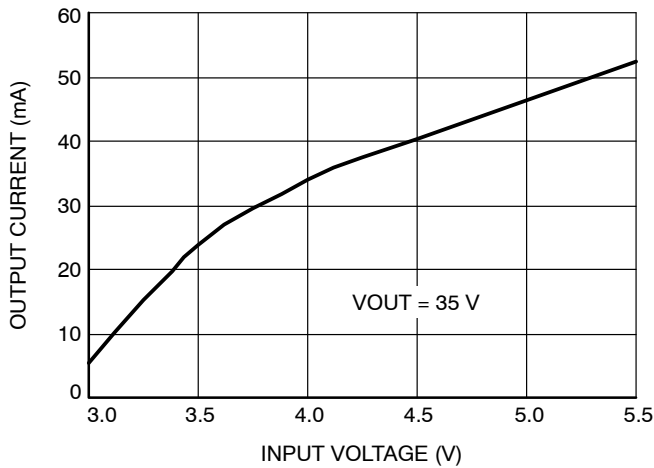


Figure 15. Switch ON Resistance vs. Input Voltage

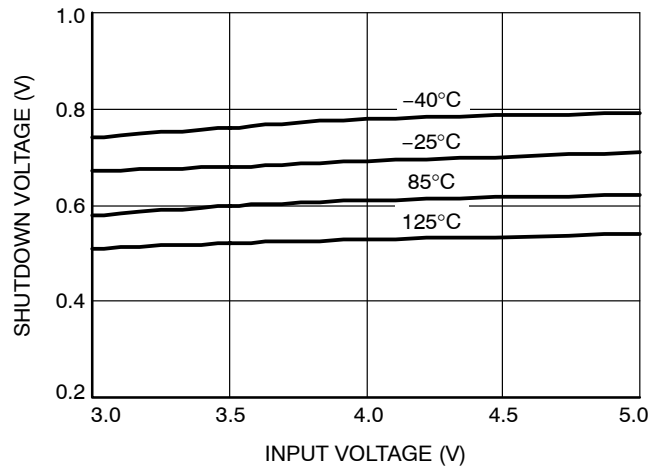
# CAT4238

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

( $V_{IN} = 3.6\text{ V}$ ,  $C_{IN} = 4.7\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $C_{OUT} = 0.22\ \mu\text{F}$ ,  $L = 47\ \mu\text{H}$  with 10 LEDs at 20 mA,  $T_{AMB} = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , unless otherwise specified.)



**Figure 16. Maximum Output Current vs. Input Voltage**



**Figure 17. Shutdown Voltage vs. Input Voltage**

### Application Information

#### External Component Selection

##### Capacitors

The CAT4238 only requires small ceramic capacitors of 4.7  $\mu\text{F}$  on the input and 0.22  $\mu\text{F}$  on the output. Under normal condition, a 4.7  $\mu\text{F}$  input capacitor is sufficient. For applications with higher output power, a larger input capacitor of 10  $\mu\text{F}$  may be appropriate. X5R and X7R capacitor types are ideal due to their stability across temperature range.

##### Inductor

A 47  $\mu\text{H}$  inductor is recommended for most of the CAT4238 applications. In cases where the efficiency is critical, inductances with lower series resistance are preferred. Inductors with current rating of 300 mA or higher are recommended for most applications. Sumida CDC5D23B-470 47  $\mu\text{H}$  inductor has a rated current of 490 mA and a series resistance (D.C.R.) of 420 m $\Omega$  typical.

##### Schottky Diode

The current rating of the Schottky diode must exceed the peak current flowing through it. The Schottky diode performance is rated in terms of its forward voltage at a

given current. In order to achieve the best efficiency, this forward voltage should be as low as possible. The response time is also critical since the driver is operating at 1 MHz. Central Semiconductor Schottky diode CMDSH05-4 (500 mA rated) is recommended for most applications.

##### LED Current Setting

The LED current is set by the external resistor  $R_1$  connected between the feedback pin (FB) and ground. The formula below gives the relationship between the resistor and the current:

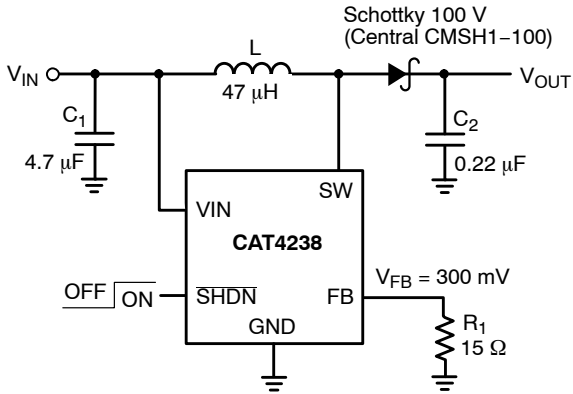
$$R_1 = \frac{0.3\text{ V}}{\text{LED current}}$$

**Table 5. RESISTOR  $R_1$  AND LED CURRENT**

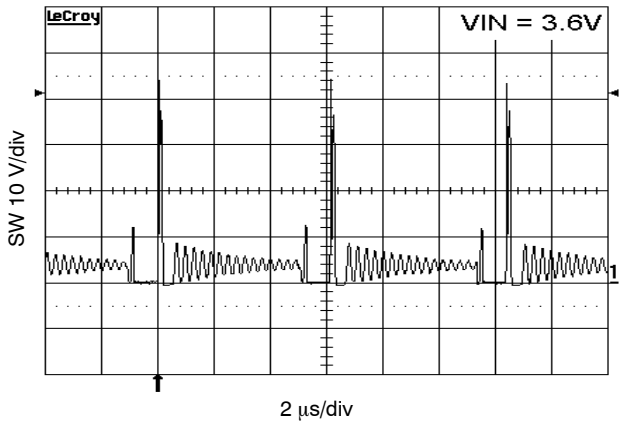
LED Current (mA)	$R_1$ ( $\Omega$ )
5	60
10	30
15	20
20	15
25	12
30	10

**Open LED Protection**

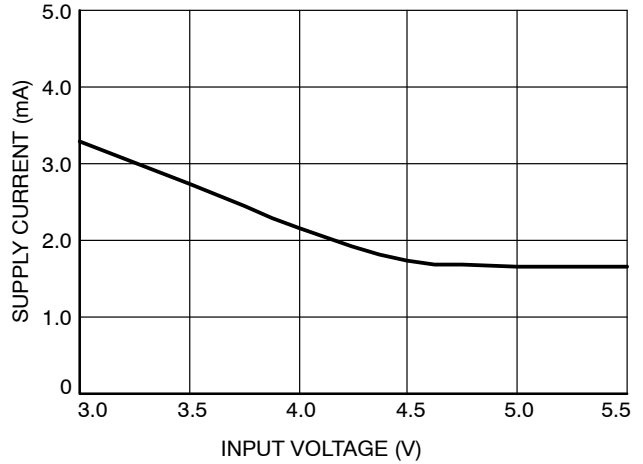
In the event of an “Open LED” fault condition, the CAT4238 will continue to boost the output voltage with maximum power until the output voltage reaches approximately 40 V. Once the output exceeds this level, the internal circuitry immediately places the device into a very low power mode where the total input power is limited to about 6 mW (about 1.6 mA input current with a 3.6 V supply). The SW pin clamps at a voltage below its maximum rating of 60 V. There is no need to use an external zener diode between Vout and the FB pin. A 50 V rated C<sub>2</sub> capacitor is required to prevent any overvoltage damage in the open LED condition.



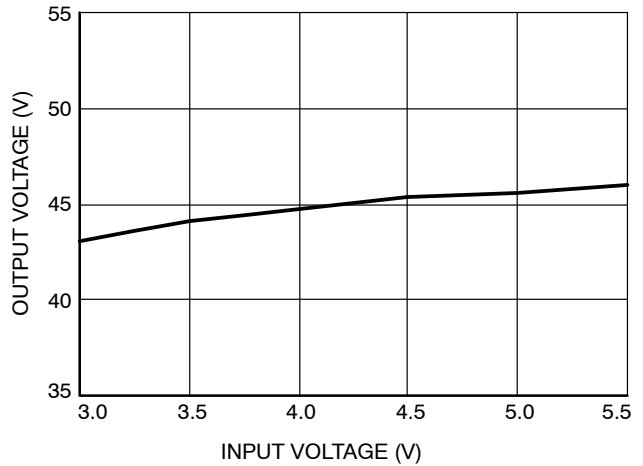
**Figure 18. Open LED Protection without Zener**



**Figure 19. Open LED Switching Waveforms without Zener**



**Figure 20. Open LED Supply Current vs. V<sub>IN</sub> without Zener**



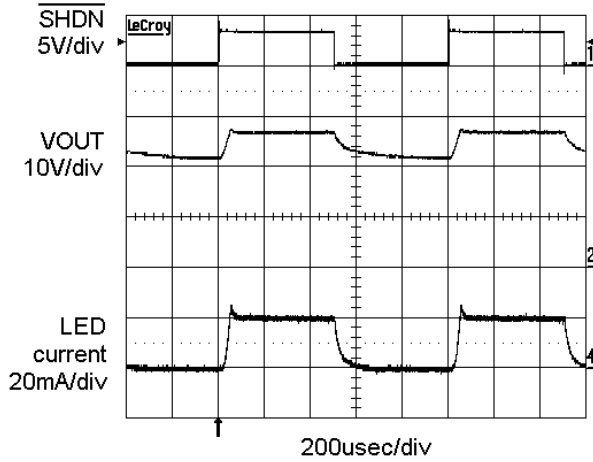
**Figure 21. Open LED Output Voltage vs. V<sub>IN</sub> without Zener**

**Dimming Control**

There are several methods available to control the LED brightness.

**PWM Signal on the SHDN Pin**

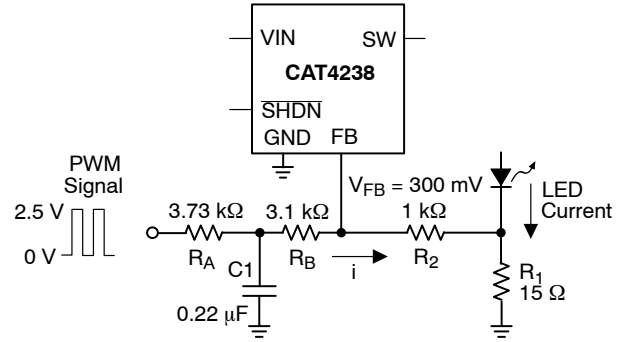
LED brightness dimming can be done by applying a PWM signal to the SHDN input. The LED current is repetitively turned on and off, so that the average current is proportional to the duty cycle. A 100% duty cycle, with SHDN always high, corresponds to the LEDs at nominal current. Figure 22 shows a 1 kHz signal with a 50% duty cycle applied to the SHDN pin. The recommended PWM frequency range is from 100 Hz to 2 kHz.



**Figure 22. Switching Waveform with 1 kHz PWM on SHDN**

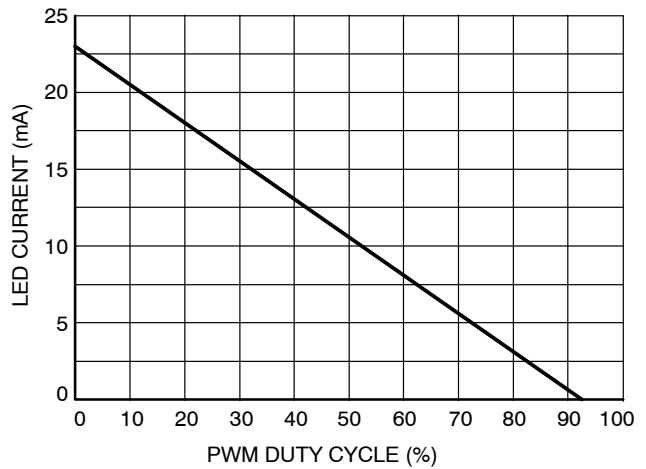
**Filtered PWM Signal**

A filtered PWM signal used as a variable DC voltage can control the LED current. Figure 23 shows the PWM control circuitry connected to the CAT4238 FB pin. The PWM signal has a voltage swing of 0 V to 2.5 V. The LED current can be dimmed within a range from 0 mA to 20 mA. The PWM signal frequency can vary from very low frequency up to 100 kHz.



**Figure 23. Circuit for Filtered PWM Signal**

A PWM signal at 0 V DC, or a 0% duty cycle, results in a max LED current of about 22 mA. A PWM signal with a 93% duty cycle or more, results in an LED current of 0 mA.



**Figure 24. Filtered PWM Dimming (0 V to 2.5 V)**

# CAT4238

## Board Layout

The CAT4238 is a high-frequency switching regulator. The traces that carry the high-frequency switching current have to be carefully layout on the board in order to minimize EMI, ripple and noise in general. The thicker lines on Figure 25 show the switching current path. All these traces have to be short and wide enough to minimize the parasitic inductance and resistance. The loop shown on Figure 25 corresponds to the current path when the CAT4238 internal switch is closed. On Figure 26 is shown the current loop,

when the CAT4238 switch is open. Both loop areas should be as small as possible.

Capacitor  $C_1$  has to be placed as close as possible to the  $V_{IN}$  pin and GND. The capacitor  $C_2$  has to be connected separately to the top LED anode. A ground plane under the CAT4238 allows for direct connection of the capacitors to ground. The resistor  $R_1$  must be connected directly to the GND pin of the CAT4238 and not shared with the switching current loops and any other components.

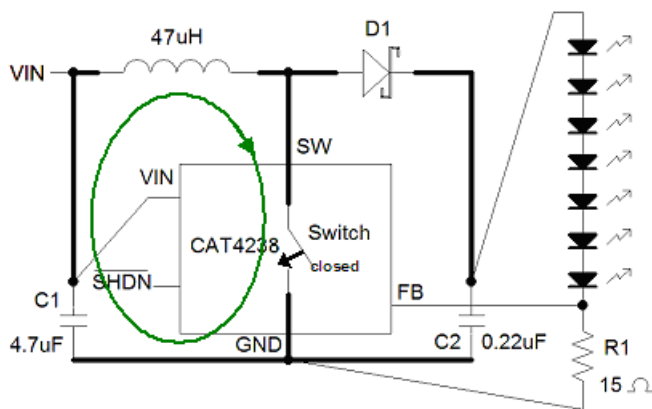


Figure 25. Closed-switch Current Loop

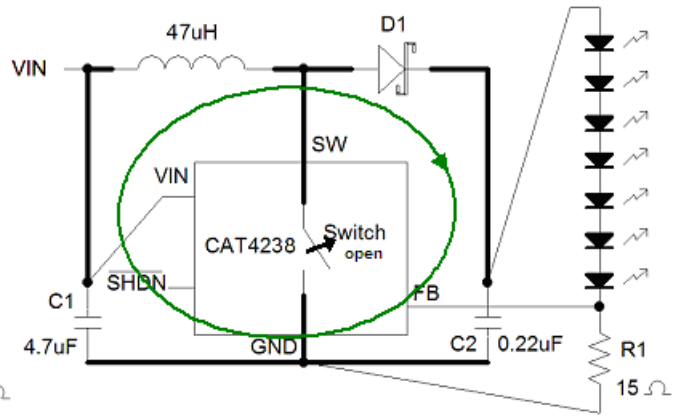


Figure 26. Open-switch Current Loop

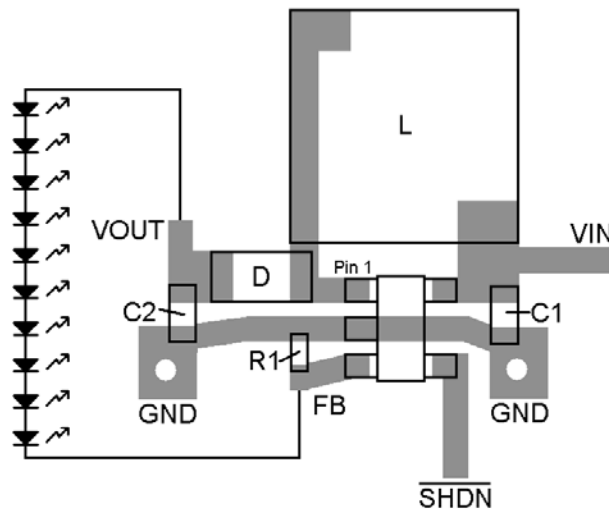
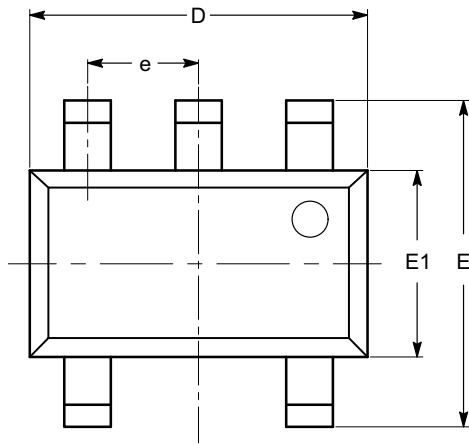


Figure 27. Recommended PCB Layout

# CAT4238

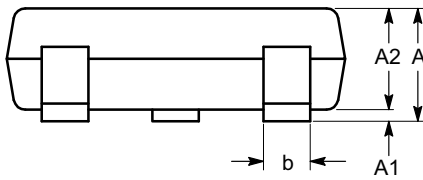
## PACKAGE DIMENSIONS

TSOT-23, 5 LEAD  
CASE 419AE-01  
ISSUE O

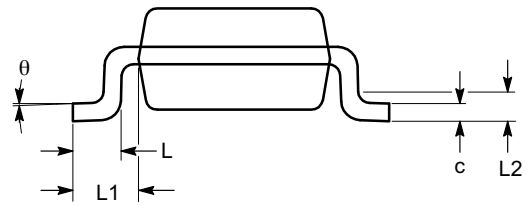


TOP VIEW

SYMBOL	MIN	NOM	MAX
A			1.00
A1	0.01	0.05	0.10
A2	0.80	0.87	0.90
b	0.30		0.45
c	0.12	0.15	0.20
D	2.90 BSC		
E	2.80 BSC		
E1	1.60 BSC		
e	0.95 TYP		
L	0.30	0.40	0.50
L1	0.60 REF		
L2	0.25 BSC		
$\theta$	0°		8°



SIDE VIEW



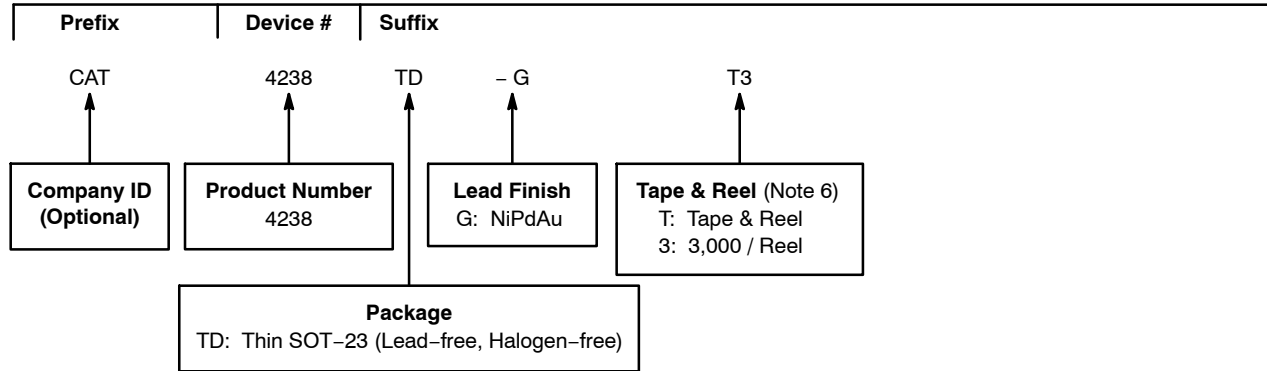
END VIEW

**Notes:**


- (1) All dimensions are in millimeters. Angles in degrees.
- (2) Complies with JEDEC MO-193.

# CAT4238

## Example of Ordering Information (Note 4)



2. All packages are RoHS-compliant (Lead-free, Halogen-free).
3. The standard lead finish is NiPdAu.
4. The device used in the above example is a CAT4238TD-GT3 (TSOT-23, NiPdAu, Tape & Reel, 3,000/Reel).
5. For additional package and temperature options, please contact your nearest ON Semiconductor Sales office.
6. For information on tape and reel specifications, including part orientation and tape sizes, please refer to our Tape and Reel Packaging Specifications Brochure, BRD8011/D.

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