Product Innovation From

Power Operational Amplifier

FEATURES

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Not all vendors use the same method to rate the power handling capability of a Power Op Amp. Apex Precision Power rates the internal dissipation, which is consistent with rating methods used by transistor manufacturers and gives conservative results. Rating delivered power is highly application dependent and therefore can be misleading. For example, the 125W internal dissipation rating of the PA12 could be expressed as an output rating of 250W for audio (sine wave) or as 440W if using a single ended DC load. Please note that all vendors rate maximum power using an infinite heatsink.

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Apex Precision Power has eliminated the tendency of class A/B output stages toward thermal runaway and thus has vastly increased amplifier reliability. This feature, not found in most other Power Op Amps, was pioneered by Apex Precision Power in 1981 using thermistors which assure a negative temperature coefficient in the quiescent current. The reliability benefits of this added circuitry far outweigh the slight increase in component count.

The PA12 is a state of the art high voltage, very high output current operational amplifier designed to drive resistive, inductive and capacitive loads. For optimum linearity, especially at low levels, the output stage is biased for class A/B operation using a thermistor compensated base-emitter voltage multiplier circuit. The safe operating area (SOA) can be observed for all operating conditions by selection of user programmable current limiting resistors. For continuous operation under load, a heatsink of proper rating is recommended. The PA12 is not recommended for gains below –3 (inverting) or +4 (non-inverting).

This hybrid integrated circuit utilizes thick film (cermet) resistors, ceramic capacitors and semiconductor chips to maximize reliability, minimize size and give top performance. Ultrasonically bonded aluminum wires provide reliable interconnections at all operating temperatures. The 8-pin TO-3 package is hermetically sealed and electrically isolated. The use of compressible isolation washers voids the warranty.

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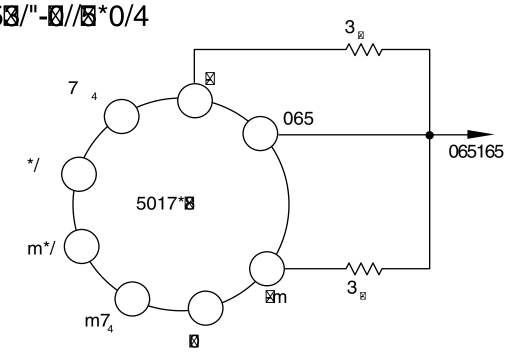

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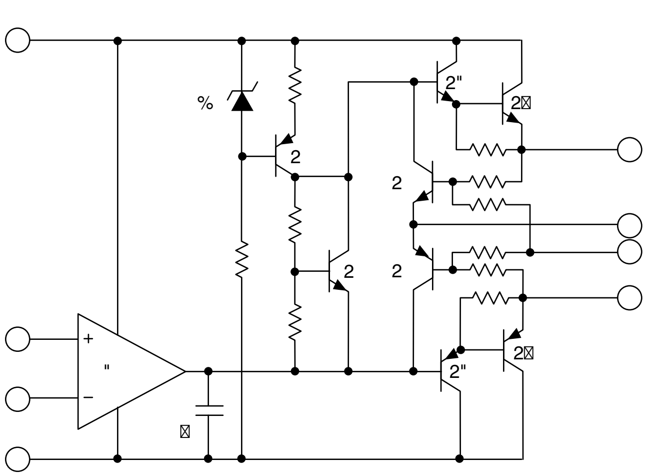

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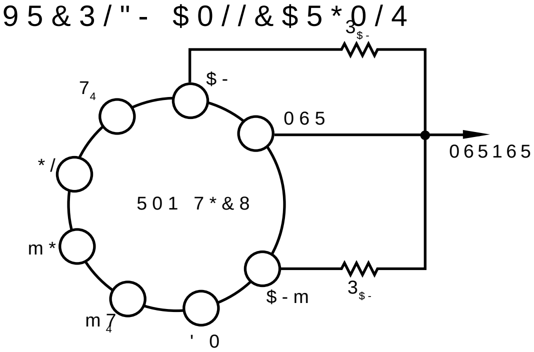
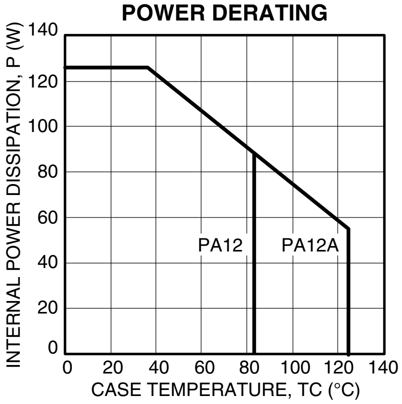
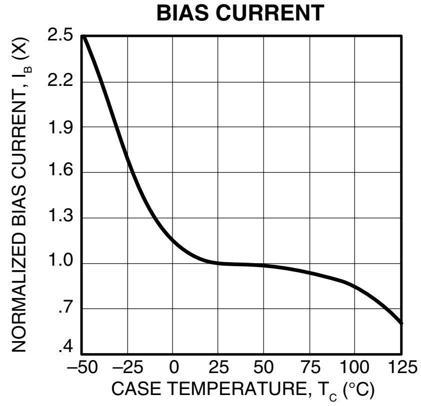


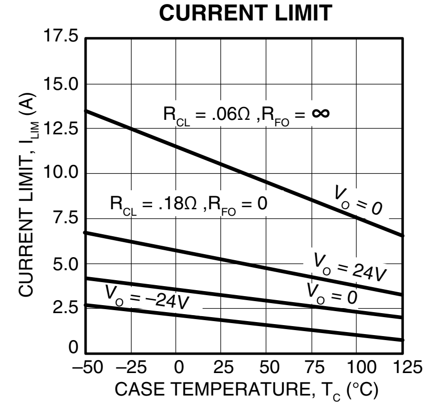
POWER DERATING



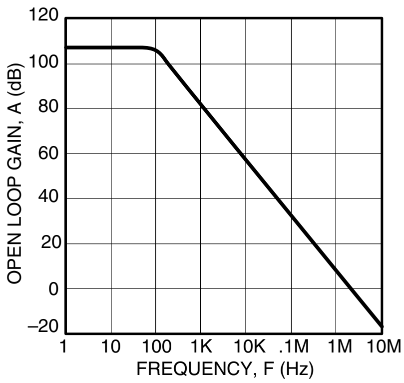
BIAS CURRENT



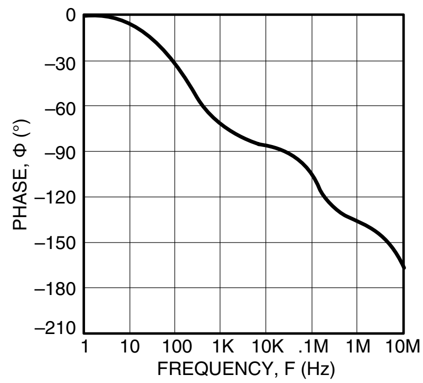
CURRENT LIMIT



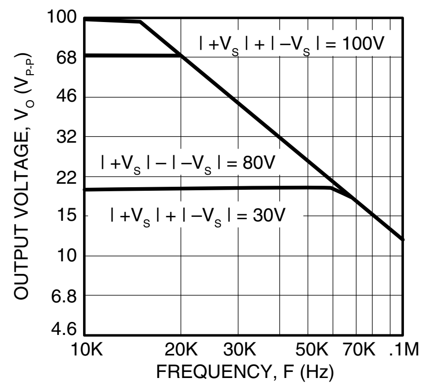
SMALL SIGNAL RESPONSE



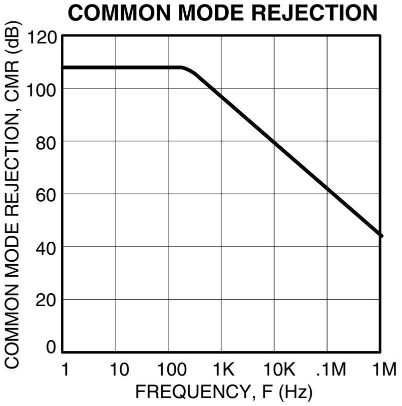
PHASE RESPONSE



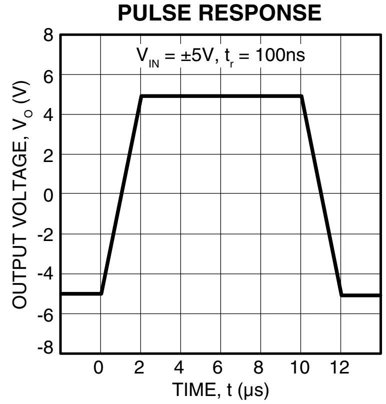
POWER RESPONSE



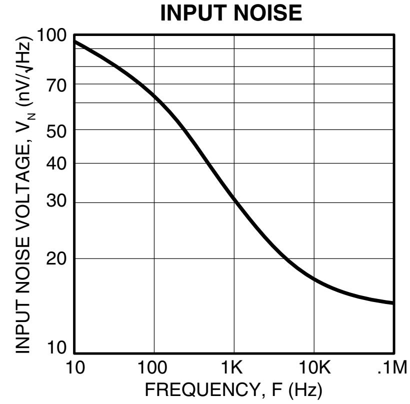
COMMON MODE REJECTION



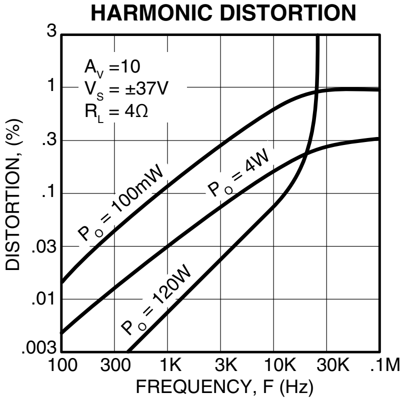
PULSE RESPONSE



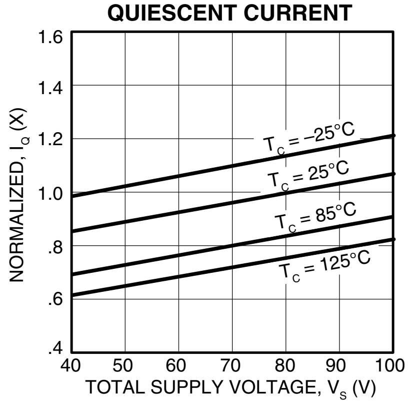
INPUT NOISE



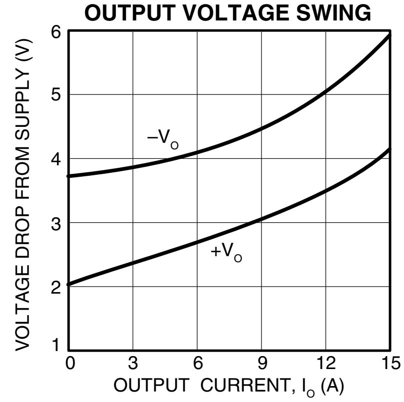
HARMONIC DISTORTION



QUIESCENT CURRENT



OUTPUT VOLTAGE SWING



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Please read Application Note 1 "General Operating Considerations" which covers stability, supplies, heat sinking, mounting, current limit, SOA interpretation, and specification interpretation. Visit www.Cirrus.com for design tools that help automate tasks such as calculations for stability, internal power dissipation, current limit; heat sink selection; Apex Precision Power's complete Application Notes library; Technical Seminar Workbook; and Evaluation Kits.

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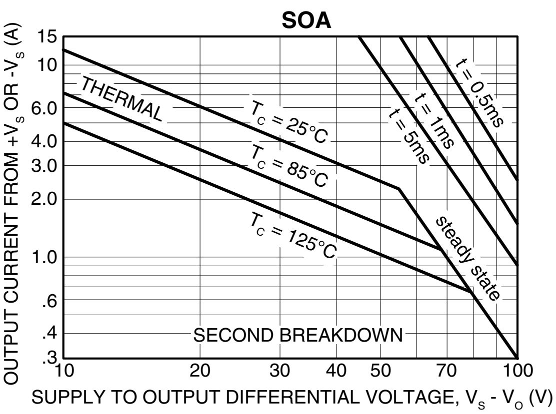
The output stage of most power amplifiers has three distinct limitations:

1. The current handling capability of the transistor geometry and the wire bonds.
2. The second breakdown effect which occurs whenever the simultaneous collector current and collector-emitter voltage exceeds specified limits.
3. The junction temperature of the output transistors.



The SOA curves combine the effect of all limits for this Power Op Amp. For a given application, the direction and magnitude of the output current should be calculated or measured and checked against the SOA curves. This is simple for resistive loads but more complex for reactive and EMF generating loads. However, the following guidelines may save extensive analytical efforts.

1. Capacitive and dynamic* inductive loads up to the following maximum are safe with the current limits set as specified.

	CAPACITIVE LOAD		INDUCTIVE LOAD	
$\pm V_S$	I_{LIM} = 5A	I_{LIM} = 10A	I_{LIM} = 5A	I_{LIM} = 10A
50V	200µF	125µF	5mH	2.0mH
40V	500µF	350µF	15mH	3.0mH
35V	2.0mF	850µF	50mH	5.0mH
30V	7.0mF	2.5mF	150mH	10mH
25V	25mF	10mF	500mH	20mH
20V	60mF	20mF	1,000mH	30mH
15V	150mF	60mF	2,500mH	50mH

*If the inductive load is driven near steady state conditions, allowing the output voltage to drop more than 8V below the supply rail with I_{LIM} = 15A or 25V below the supply rail with I_{LIM} = 5A while the amplifier is current limiting, the inductor must be capacitively coupled or the current limit must be lowered to meet SOA criteria.

2. The amplifier can handle any EMF generating or reactive load and short circuits to the supply rail or common if the current limits are set as follows at T_C = 25°C:

$\pm V_S$	SHORT TO $\pm V_S$ C, L, OR EMF LOAD	SHORT TO COMMON
50V	.30A	2.4A
40V	.58A	2.9A
35V	.87A	3.7A
30V	1.5A	4.1A
25V	2.4A	4.9A
20V	2.9A	6.3A
15V	4.2A	8.0A

These simplified limits may be exceeded with further analysis using the operating conditions for a specific application.

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Refer to Application Note 9, "Current Limiting", for details of both fixed and foldover current limit operation. Visit the Apex Precision Power web site at www.Cirrus.com for a copy of the Power Design spreadsheet (Excel) which plots current limits vs. steady state SOA. Beware that current limit should be thought of as a +/–20% function initially and varies about 2:1 over the range of –55°C to 125°C.

For fixed current limit, leave pin 7 open and use equations 1 and 2.

$$R_{CL} = 0.65/L_{CL} \quad (1)$$

$$I_{CL} = 0.65/R_{CL} \quad (2)$$

Where:

I_{CL} is the current limit in amperes.

R_{CL} is the current limit resistor in ohms.

For certain applications, foldover current limit adds a slope to the current limit which allows more power to be delivered to the load without violating the SOA. For maximum foldover slope, ground pin 7 and use equations 3 and 4.

$$I_{CL} = \frac{0.65 + (Vo * 0.014)}{R_{CL}} \quad (3)$$

$$R_{CL} = \frac{0.65 + (Vo * 0.014)}{I_{CL}} \quad (4)$$

Where:

Vo is the output voltage in volts.

Most designers start with either equation 1 to set R_{CL} for the desired current at 0v out, or with equation 4 to set R_{CL} at the maximum output voltage. Equation 3 should then be used to plot the resulting foldover limits on the SOA graph. If equation 3 results in a negative current limit, foldover slope must be reduced. This can happen when the output voltage is the opposite polarity of the supply conducting the current.

In applications where a reduced foldover slope is desired, this can be achieved by adding a resistor (R_{FO}) between pin 7 and ground. Use equations 4 and 5 with this new resistor in the circuit.

$$I_{CL} = \frac{0.65 + \dfrac{Vo * 0.14}{10.14 + R_{FO}}}{R_{CL}} \quad (5)$$

$$R_{CL} = \frac{0.65 + \dfrac{Vo * 0.14}{10.14 + R_{FO}}}{I_{CL}} \quad (6)$$

Where:

R_{FO} is in K ohms.

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For all Apex Precision Power product questions and inquiries, call toll free 800-546-2739 in North America.
For inquiries via email, please contact apex.support@cirrus.com.
International customers can also request support by contacting their local Cirrus Logic Sales Representative.
To find the one nearest to you, go to www.cirrus.com