

SolarTech Power Solutions

Basic parameters of portable power supply



Overview

The parameters most significant in power-supply design are cost, efficiency (battery life), output ripple and noise, and quiescent current. What are the parameters of a power supply?

The ripple and noise parameters are another important power supply specification. It is possible that noise and other impulses on the power line can be transferred to the output of the circuit that is being powered. In order to minimise this, especially for sensitive circuits it is necessary to ensure that the power lines are as clean as possible.

What is a good power supply?

Most good supplies should offer noise and ripple figures of better than 10 mV RMS and for switching supplies figures of 50mV or less should be achievable in many cases, although very high current supplies may have slightly higher values.

What are the primary power supply specifications?

The primary power supply specifications are the voltage and current output parameters. In terms of the voltage, the power supply may be fixed or it may have a variable output. It is necessary to check whether the power supply has a fixed or variable output.

What are the different types of power supplies?

Power supplies can be either linear, using a linear voltage regulator, or switch mode power supplies. Both types are widely used, but often in they are used different applications as a result of their different characteristics. The primary power supply specifications are the voltage and current output parameters.

What is a programmable DC power supply?

In addition to output settings, there are measurement or readback specifications that are independent of the output specifications. Most

programmable DC power supplies provide built-in measurement circuits for measuring both voltage and current. These circuits measure the voltage and current being delivered by the power supply output.

How do power supplies work?

Power supplies have two main settings, the output voltage and the current limit. How they are set in combination with the load determines how the power supply will operate. Most DC power supplies have two modes of operation. In Constant Voltage (CV) mode, the power supply controls the output voltage based on the user settings.

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