19-6009; Rev 0; 8/11

MAX15108 Evaluation Kit
Evaluates: MAX15108

General Description

The MAX15108 evaluation kit (EV kit) provides a proven design to evaluate the MAX15108 high-efficiency, 8A, step-down regulator with integrated switches in a 20-bump wafer-level package (WLP). The EV kit is preset for 1.5V output at load currents up to 8A from a 2.7V to 5.5V input supply. The device features a 1MHz fixed switching frequency, which allows the EV kit to achieve an all-ceramic capacitor design and fast transient responses.

Features

- **Operates from a 2.7V to 5.5V Input Supply**
- **All-Ceramic Capacitor Design**
- **1MHz Switching Frequency**
- **Output Voltage Range**
  - **0.6V Up to 0.94 x V_{IN} (Forced PWM)**
  - **0.6V Up to 0.85 x V_{IN} (Skip Mode)**
- **Enable Input/Power-Good Output**
- **Selectable Skip-Mode Functionality**
- **Proven PCB Layout**
- **Fully Assembled and Tested**

***Ordering Information** appears at end of data sheet.*

Component List

DESIGNATION	QTY	DESCRIPTION
C1, C2, C19	3	10µF ±10%, 6.3V X5R ceramic capacitors (0603) Murata GRM188R60J106K TDK C1608X5R0J106K
C3, C4, C21	0	Not installed, ceramic capacitors (0603)
C5, C7, C8, C9	4	47µF ±20%, 6.3V X5R ceramic capacitors (1206) Murata GRM31CR60J476M TDK C3216X5R0J476M
C6	1	2200pF ±10%, 50V X7R ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM188R71H222K TDK C1608X7R1H222K
C14	1	100pF ±5%, 50V C0G ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM1885C1H101J TDK C1608C0G1H101J
C15	1	4700pF ±10%, 50V X7R ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM188R71H472K TDK C1608X7R1H472K
C16	1	0.033µF ±10%, 16V X7R ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM188R71C333K Taiyo Yuden EMK107BJ333KA
C20	1	1µF ±10%, 6.3V X7R ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM188R70J105K
C22	0	Not installed, 220µF ±20%, 10V aluminum electrolytic capacitor (6.3mm x 7.7mm)
C23	1	2.2µF ±10%,10V X7R ceramic capacitor (0603) Murata GRM188R71A225K
JU1	1	2-pin header
JU2	1	3-pin header
L1	1	0.33µH, 18A inductor Vishay IHLP2525BD01R33M01
R1	1	8.06kΩ ±1% resistor (0603)
R2	1	5.36kΩ ±1% resistor (0603)
R3	1	2.43kΩ ±1% resistor (0603)

Component List (continued)

DESIGNATION	QTY	DESCRIPTION
R4, R5	2	100kΩ ±5% resistors (0603)
R6	1	10Ω ±5% resistor (0603)
R8	1	1Ω ±1% resistor (0805)
R9	1	1kΩ ±5% resistor (0603)
R10	1	10kΩ ±5% resistor (0603)
R11	0	Not installed, resistor (0603)

DESIGNATION	QTY	DESCRIPTION
U1	1	8A current-mode buck converter (20 WLP) Maxim MAX15108EWP+
—	2	Shunts
—	1	PCB: MAX15108 EVALUATION KIT

Component Suppliers

SUPPLIER	PHONE	WEBSITE
Murata Electronics North America, Inc.	770-436-1300	www.murata-northamerica.com
Taiyo Yuden	800-348-2496	www.t-yuden.com
TDK Corp.	847-803-6100	www.component.tdk.com
Vishay	402-563-6866	www.vishay.com

Note: *Indicate that you are using the MAX15108 when contacting these component suppliers.*

Quick Start

Recommended Equipment

- MAX15108 EV kit
- 5V, 5A DC power supply
- Load capable of sinking 8A
- Digital voltmeter

Procedure

The EV kit is fully assembled and tested. Follow the steps below to verify the board operation. **Caution: Do not turn on power supply until all connections are completed.**

1) Connect the positive terminal of the 5V supply to the IN PCB pad and the negative terminal to the nearest PGND PCB pad.
2) Connect the positive terminal of the 8A load to the OUT PCB pad and the negative terminal to the nearest PGND PCB pad.
3) Connect the digital voltmeter across the OUT PCB pad and the nearest PGND PCB pad.
4) Verify that a shunt is installed on jumper JU1.
5) Verify that a shunt is installed on pins 2-3 on jumper JU2.
6) Turn on the DC power supply.
7) Enable the load.
8) Verify that the voltmeter displays 1.5V.

Detailed Description of Hardware

The MAX15108 EV kit provides a proven design to evaluate the MAX15108 high-efficiency, 8A, step-down regulator with integrated switches. The applications include distributed power systems, portable devices, and preregulators. The EV kit is preset for 1.5V output at load currents up to 8A from a 2.7V to 5.5V input supply. The device features a 1MHz fixed switching frequency, which allows the EV kit to achieve an all-ceramic capacitor design and fast transient responses. A placeholder for an input aluminum electrolytic capacitor (C22) is provided to damp the input if long wires are used; they are not required in a tight system design.

Soft-Start (SS)

The device utilizes an adjustable soft-start function to limit inrush current during startup. The soft-start time is adjusted by the value of C16, the external capacitor from SS to GND. By default, C16 is currently 0.033µF, which gives a soft-start time of approximately 2ms. To adjust the soft-start time, determine C16 using the following formula:

$$C16 = (10\mu A \times t_{SS})/0.6V$$

where t_{SS} is the required soft-start time in seconds and C16 is in farads.

An external tracking reference with steady-state value between 0 and V_{IN} - 2V can be applied to SS. Refer to the *Programmable Soft-Start (SS)* section in the MAX15108 IC data sheet for a more detailed description.

Setting the Output Voltage

The EV kit can be adjusted from 0.6V up to 0.94 x V_{IN} (forced PWM) by changing the values of resistors R1 and R2. To determine the value of the resistor-divider, first select R2 between 1kΩ and 20kΩ. Then use the following equation to calculate R1:

$$R1 = R2 [(V_{OUT}/V_{FB}) - 1]$$

where V_{FB} is the feedback threshold voltage (V_{FB} = 0.6V) and V_{OUT} is the desired output. When regulating for an output of 0.6V in skip mode, set R1 to 0Ω and keep R2 connected from FB to ground.

When R1 is changed, compensation components C14, R3, and C15 must be changed to ensure loop stability. Refer to the *Compensation Design Guidelines* section in the MAX15108 IC data sheet.

Regulator Enable (EN)

The device features a regulator enable input. For normal operation, a shunt should be installed on jumper JU1. To disable the output, remove the shunt on JU1 and the EN pin will be pulled to PGND through resistor R4. See Table 1 for JU1 settings.

Skip-Mode Input (SKIP)

The device offers selectable skip-mode functionality to reduce current consumption and achieve a higher efficiency at light loads. To operate in skip mode, install a shunt on pins 1-2 on jumper JU2. See Table 2 for JU2 settings.

Caution: Do not change the setting of the skip jumper while the device is operating.

Table 1. Regulator Enable (EN) Jumper JU1 Description

SHUNT POSITION	EN PIN	DEVICE OUTPUT
Installed*	Connected to IN	Enabled
Not installed	Pulled to PGND through R4	Disabled

**Default position.*

Table 2. Skip-Mode Input (SKIP) Jumper JU2 Description

SHUNT POSITION	SKIP PIN	MODE
1-2	Connected to EN	Skip-mode operation
2-3*	Connected to PGND	Forced-PWM operation

**Default position.*

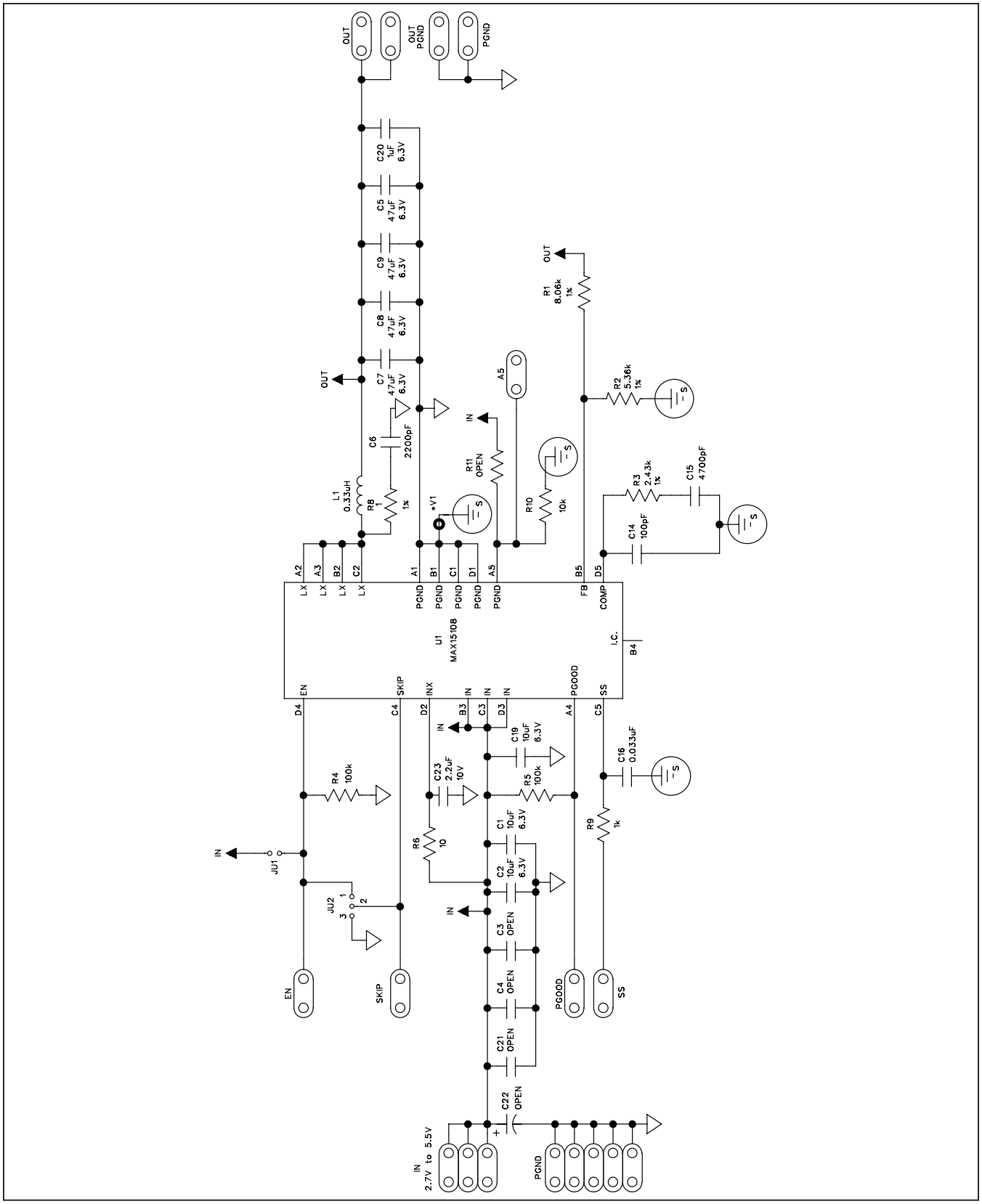

Figure 1. MAX15108 EV Kit Schematic

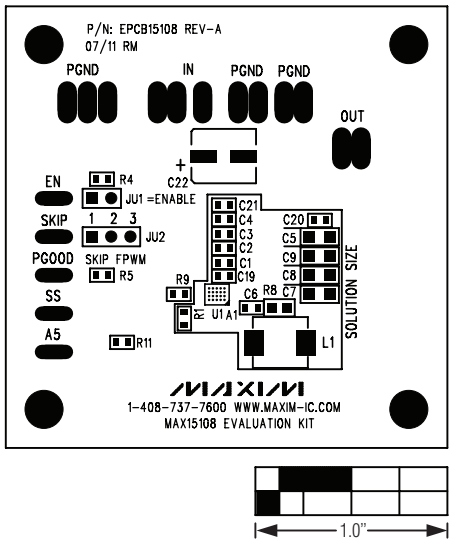

Figure 2. MAX15108 EV Kit Component Placement Guide—Component Side

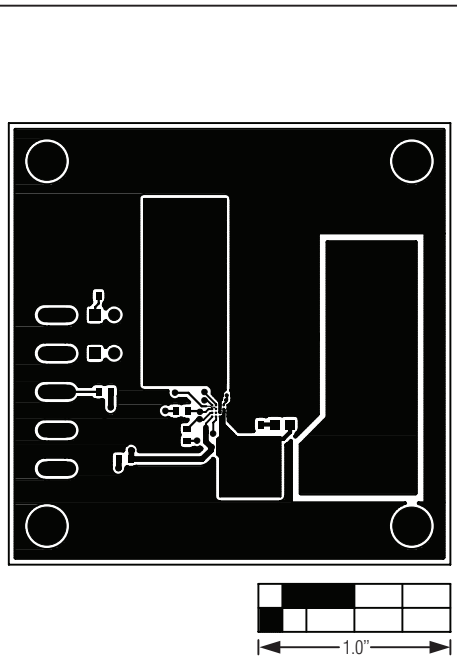

Figure 3. MAX15108 EV Kit PCB Layout—Component Side

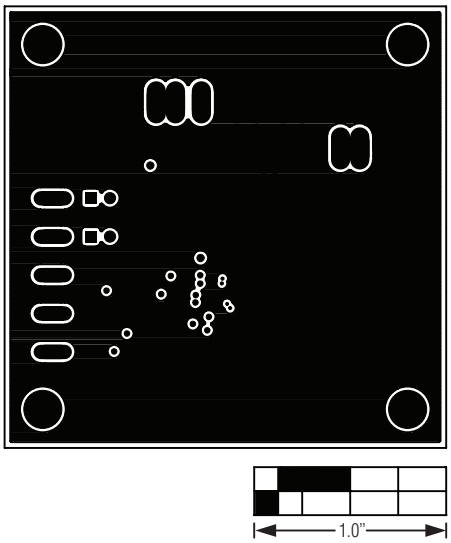

Figure 4. MAX15108 EV Kit PCB Layout—Inner Layer 2

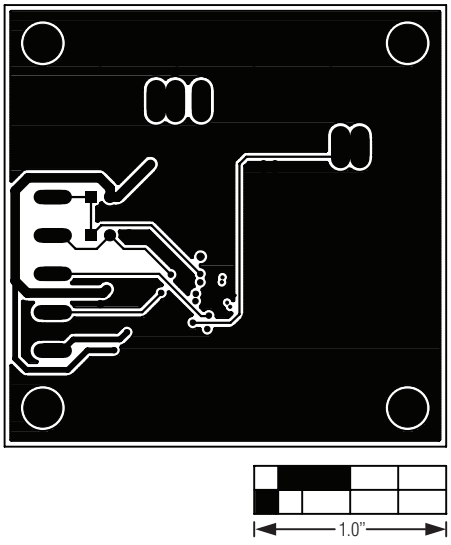

Figure 5. MAX15108 EV Kit PCB Layout—Inner Layer 3

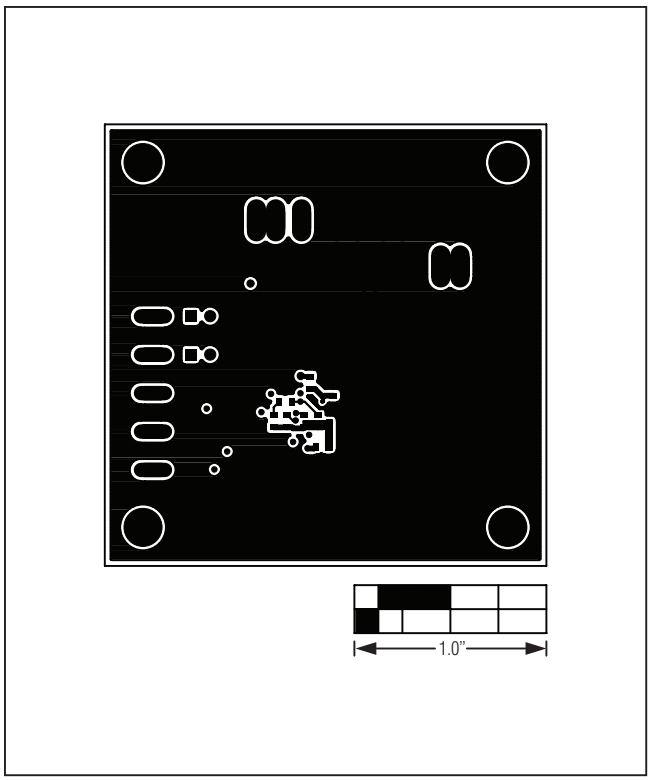

Figure 6. MAX15108 EV Kit PCB Layout—Solder Side

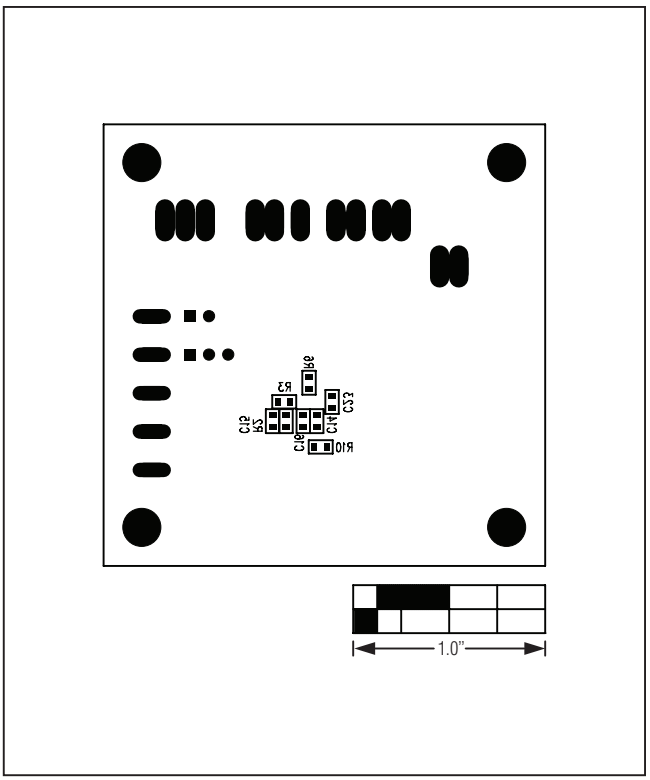

Figure 7. MAX15108 EV Kit Component Placement Guide—Solder Side

Ordering Information

PART	TYPE
MAX15108EVKIT#	EV Kit

#Denotes RoHS compliant.

Revision History

REVISION NUMBER	REVISION DATE	DESCRIPTION	PAGES CHANGED
0	8/11	Initial release	—