

Programmable NiCd/NiMH Fast-Charge Management IC

Check for Samples: bq24401

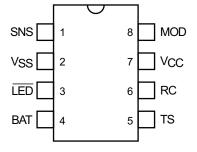
FEATURES

- Safe Management of Fast Charge for NiCd and NiMH Battery Packs
- High-Frequency Switching Controller for Efficient and Simple Charger Design
- Pre-Charge Qualification for Detecting Shorted, Damaged, or Overheated Cells
- Fast-Charge Termination by ΔT/Δt, Maximum Temperature, and Maximum Charge Time
- Selectable Top-Off Mode for Achieving Maximum Capacity in NiMH Batteries
- Programmable Trickle-Charge Mode for Reviving Deeply Discharged Batteries and for Postcharge Maintenance
- Built-in Battery Removal and Insertion Detection
- Sleep Mode for Low Power Consumption

APPLICATIONS

- Nickel Charger
- High-Power, Multi-Cell Charger

8-Pin DIP or Narrow SOIC or TSSOP



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The bq24401 is a programmable, monolithic IC for fast-charge management of nickel cadmium (NiCd) and nickel metal-hydride (NiMH) in single or multi-cell applications.

The bq24401 provides these charge termination criteria:

- Rate of temperature rise (ΔT/Δt)
- · Maximum temperature
- · Maximum charge time

For safety, the bq24401 inhibits fast charge until the battery voltage and temperature are within user-defined limits. If the battery voltage is below the low-voltage threshold, the bq24401 uses trickle-charge to condition the battery. For NiMH batteries, the bq24401 provides an optional top-off charge to maximize the battery capacity.

The integrated high-speed comparator allows the bq24401 to be the basis for a complete, high-efficiency battery charger circuit for nickel-based chemistries.

Pin Names

SNS	Current-sense input
V_{SS}	System ground
LED	Charge-status output
BAT	Battery-voltage input
TS	Temperature-sense input
RC	Timer-program input
V_{CC}	Supply-voltage input
MOD	Modulation-control output



Please be aware that an important notice concerning availability, standard warranty, and use in critical applications of Texas Instruments semiconductor products and disclaimers thereto appears at the end of this data sheet.





These devices have limited built-in ESD protection. The leads should be shorted together or the device placed in conductive foam during storage or handling to prevent electrostatic damage to the MOS gates.

PIN DESCRIPTIONS

SNS Current-sense input

Enables the bq24401 to sense the battery current via the voltage developed on this pin by an external sense-resistor connected in series with the battery pack

V_{SS} System Ground

Connect to the battery's negative terminal

LED Charge-status output

Open-drain output that indicates the charging status by turning on, turning off, or flashing an external LED, driven through a resistor.

BAT Battery-voltage input

Battery-voltage sense input. A simple resistive divider, across the battery terminals, generates this input.

TS Temperature-sense input

Input for an external battery-temperature monitoring circuit. An external resistive divider network with a negative temperature-coefficient thermistor sets the lower and upper temperature thresholds.

RC Timer-program input

Used to program the maximum fast charge-time, maximum top-off charge-time, hold-off period, trickle charge rate, and to disable or enable top-off charge. A capacitor from V_{CC} and a resistor to ground connect to this pin.

V_{CC} Supply-voltage input

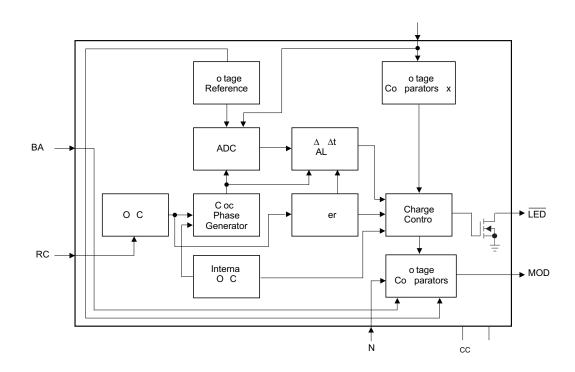
Recommended bypassing is 10µF + 0.1µF to 0.22µF of decoupling capacitance near the pin.

MOD Modulation-control output

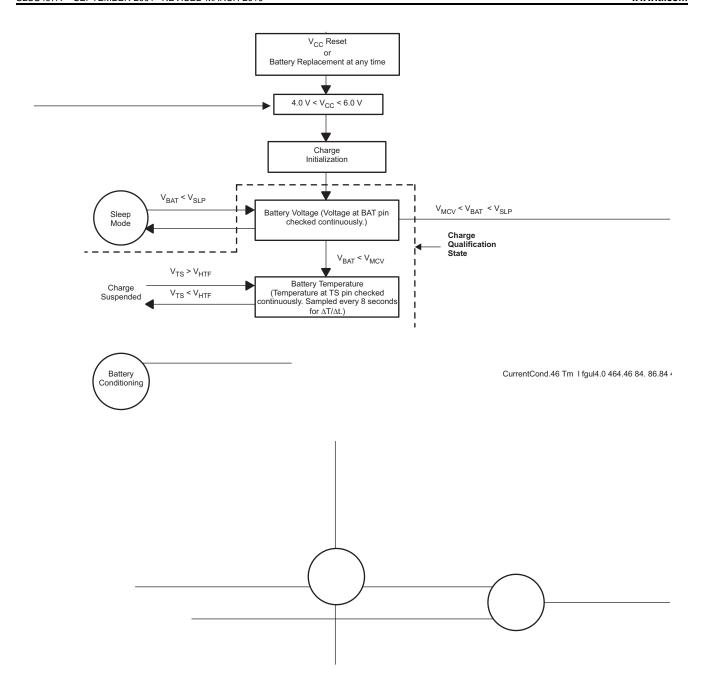
Push-pull output that controls the charging current to the battery. MOD switches high to enable charging current to flow and low to inhibit charging-current flow.



FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION







NOTE: If $V_{TS} < V_{TCO}$ at any time, may only return to Trickle Maintenance Charge state and not to Top-Off.

Figure 2. State Diagram



ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS(1)

		VALUE	UNIT
V _{CC}	V _{CC} relative to V _{SS}	-0.3 to 7	V
V _T	DC voltage applied on any pin, relative to V _{SS}	−0.3 to V _{CC}	V
T _{OPR}	Operating ambient temperature	-20 to 70	°C
T _{STG}	Storage temperature	-40 to 125	°C
T _{SOLDER}	Soldering temperature (10 s max.)	260	°C

⁽¹⁾ Permanent device damage may occur if Absolute Maximum Ratings are exceeded. Functional operation should be limited to the Recommended DC Operating Conditions detailed in this data sheet. Exposure to conditions beyond the operational limits for extended periods of time may affect device reliability.

DC THRESHOLDS(1)

 $T_A = T_{OPR}$; $V_{CC} = 5V \pm 20\%$ (unless otherwise specified)

	PARAMETER	TEST CONDITIONS	TYPICAL	TOLERANCE	UNIT
V _{TCO}	Temperature cutoff	Voltage at the TS pin	0.225 × V _{CC}	±5%	V
V _{HTF}	High-temperature fault	Voltage at the TS pin	0.25 × V _{CC}	±5%	V
V_{LTF}	Low-temperature fault	Voltage at the TS pin	0.5 × V _{CC}	±5%	V
V _{MCV}	Maximum cell voltage	Voltage at the BAT pin	2.00	±2.5%	V
V _{LBAT}	Minimum cell voltage	Voltage at the BAT pin	950	±5%	mV
V _{Therm}	TS input change for ΔT/Δt detection	Voltage at the TS pin	-V _{CC} /161	±25%	V/min
V _{SNSHI}	High threshold at SNS	Voltage at the SNS pin	50	±10	mV
V _{SNSLO}	Low threshold at SNS	Voltage at the SNS pin	-50	±10	mV
V _{SLP}	Sleep-mode input threshold	Voltage at the BAT pin	V _{CC} -1	±0.5	V

⁽¹⁾ All voltages are relative to V_{SS} except as noted.

RECOMMENDED DC OPERATING CONDITIONS

over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)

		TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
V _{CC}	Supply voltage		4	5	6	V
I _{CC}	Supply current	Exclusive of external loads		0.5	1	mA
I _{CCS}	Sleep current	$V_{BAT} = V_{SLP}$			5	μΑ
V _{TS}	Thermistor input	V _{TS} < 0.5 V prohibited	0.5		VCC	V
V_{OH}	Output high input	MOD, I _{OH} = 10 mA	V _{CC} -0.4			V
V_{OL}	Output low input	MOD , \overline{LED} , $I_{OL} = 10 \text{ mA}$			0.2	V
l _{oz}	High-impedance leakage current	LED			5	μΑ
I _{snk}	Sink current	MOD, <u>LED</u>			20	mA
R _{MTO}	Charge timer resistor		2		250	kΩ
C _{MTO}	Charge timer capacitor		0.001		1	μF

IMPEDANCE

	PARAMETER	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
R _{BAT}	Battery input impedance	10			ΜΩ
R _{TS}	TS input impedance	10			ΜΩ
R _{SNS}	SNS input impedance	10			ΜΩ

TIMING

 $T_A = T_{OPR}$; $V_{CC} = 5 \text{ V } \pm 20\%$ (unless otherwise noted)

	PARAMETER	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
d_{MTO}	MTO time-base variation	-5%		5%	
f _{TRKL}	Pulse-trickle frequency	0.9	1	1.1	Hz

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Initiation and Charge Qualification

The bq24401 initiates a charge cycle when it detects

- Application of power to V_{CC}
- Battery replacement
- Exit from sleep mode

Immediately following initiation, the IC enters a charge-qualification mode. The bq24401 charge qualification is based on battery voltage and temperature. If the voltage on the BAT pin is less than the internal threshold, V_{LBAT} , the bq24401 enters the battery conditioning state. This condition indicates the possibility of a defective or shorted battery pack. In an attempt to revive a fully depleted pack, the bq24401 enables the MOD pin to trickle-charge at a rate of once every 1.0s. As explained in the section "Top-Off and Pulse-Trickle Maintenance Charge," the trickle pulse-width is user-selectable and is set by the value of the resistance connected between the RC pin and V_{SS} .

During charge qualification, the $\overline{\text{LED}}$ pin blinks at a 1Hz rate, indicating the pending status of the charger.

Once battery conditioning (trickle charge) has raised the voltage on the BAT pin above V_{LBAT} , the IC enters fast charge, if the battery temperature is within the V_{LTF} to V_{HTF} range. The bq24401 will stay in the battery conditioning state indefinitely and will not progress to fast charge until the voltage on the BAT pin is above V_{LBAT} and the temperature is within the V_{LTF} and V_{HTF} range. No timer is implemented during battery conditioning.

Fast Charge (Current Regulation)

Following charge qualification (which includes trickle charge, if required), the bq24401 begins fast charge fast using a current-limited algorithm. During the fast-charge period, it monitors charge time, temperature, and voltage for adherence to the termination criteria. This monitoring is further explained in later sections. While in the fast charge state, the $\overline{\text{LED}}$ pin is pulled low (the LED is on). Following fast charge, the battery is topped off, if top-off is selected. The charging cycle ends with a trickle maintenance-charge that continues as long as the voltage on the BAT pin remains below V_{MCV} .

Table 1 summarizes the charging process.

Table 1. Charge Algorithm

BATTERY CHEMISTRY	CHARGE ALGORITHM
	Charge qualification
	2. Trickle charge, if required
NiCd or NiMH Batteries	3. Fast charge (constant current)
$(V_{BAT} < V_{MCV} \text{ always})$	4. Fast charge termination (rate of temperature rise, maximum charge time = 1 MTO)
	5. Top-off (optional)
	6. Trickle charge

FAST CHARGE TERMINATION

Initial Hold-Off Period

The bq24401 incorporates a user programmable hold-off period to avoid premature fast charge termination that can occur with brand new nickel cells at the very beginning of fast charge. The values of the external resistor and capacitor connected to the RC pin set the initial hold-off period. During this periods 20n Transport of the RC pin set the initial hold-off period.

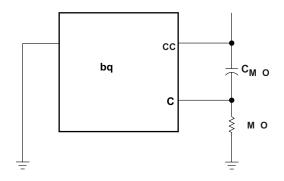
hold-off period

MTO

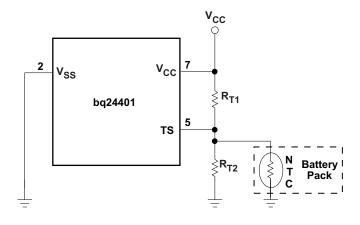


Maximum Charge Time

The bq24401 sets the maximum charge-time through the RC pin. With the proper selection of external resistor and capacitor values, various time-out values may be achieved. If the timer expires while still in fast charge, the



MTO =
$$R_{MTO} \times C_{MTO} \times 35,988$$

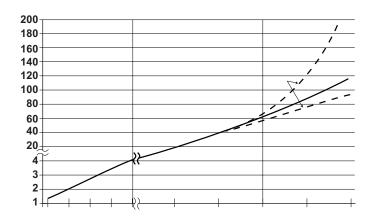




disabled. When the voltage at the TS pin is lower than V_{TCO} , the bq24401 terminates fast charge, moves to the charge suspended state, and turns off the LED. When V_{TS} rises above V_{HTF} , the bq24401 will resume charging in the trickle maintenance charge state, per Figure 2. In fast charge, when the voltage on the TS pin is higher than V_{LTF} , the charger enters the battery conditioning state, as described in the previous section. Fast charge is resum a charge in the previous section. Fast charge is resum a charge in the previous section.

Rate of Temperature Rise

The bq24401 uses a rate of temperature rise ($\Delta T/\Delta t$) scheme to terminate fast charge for NiCd and NiMH batteries.





Note that with an R_{MTO} value around 150 $k\Omega$, the trickle charge pulse width is nearly identical to the top-off pulse width of 62.5 ms (1/16 of a second for a 1A fast charge current). With R_{MTO} values near 150 $k\Omega$, it can be difficult to tell which state the IC is in (top-off or trickle charge). The best way to tell if the bq24401 is in top-off or trickle charge is to look at the RC pin when the temperature is between the LTF and HTF. In top-off, the RC pin is counting and has a sawtooth waveform on it. In trickle charge, there is no timer and the RC pin is at a DC value.

The RC pin contains valuable information in determining what state the bq24401 is in, since it always operates in one of three modes. If the RC pin is low (around V_{SS} potential), the IC is in sleep mode. (If the RC pin is low for brief instants during fast charge, the bq24401 is sampling the TS pin for $\Delta T/\Delta t$). If the RC pin is at some DC value (usually around 1-2V), then the IC has paused the timer or the timer is inactive. If the RC pin is a sawtooth waveform (similar to Figure 14), then the timer is running and the RC pin is considered "active." Lastly, the RC pin can be loaded by too large of a C or too small of an R. This will sometimes make the usual sawtooth waveform look like a triangle waveform on an oscilloscope (the rise time is lengthened), or the RC signal could have the appearance of being clipped (flat top or bottom). The timer is unreliable under these conditions and the bq24401 should not be operated in this manner. Table 2 summarizes the different states of the RC pin.

TS PIN STATE RC PIN BEHAVIOR bq24401 CHARGE STATE N/A 1-2V DC level Battery absent Sleep mode N/A Ground (Vss) Charge qualification (including battery conditioning (trickle charge) and charge N/A 1-2V DC level suspended) Active $V_{TS} < V_{LTF}$ Fast charge (current regulation) V_{TS} > V_{LTF} (in battery conditioning state) 1-2V DC level (timer is paused and will resume when $V_{TS} < V_{LTF}$) V_{TS} > V_{LTF} (in trickle maintenance charge 1-2V DC level (timer is paused and will state) resume when $V_{TS} < V_{LTF}$) Top-off charge $V_{LTF} > V_{TS} > V_{HTF}$ Active Active (timer is still counting, even though $V_{HTF} > V_{TS} > V_{TCO}$ charging is suspended) 1-2V DC level Trickle maintenance charge (after fast charge) N/A N/A Active Charge complete

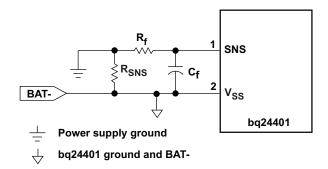
Table 2. RC Pin Status

Both top-off and trickle maintenance charge are terminated and the pack never receives any more charge (until a charge initialization occurs) if the voltage on the BAT pin reaches V_{MCV} . During trickle maintenance charge, charging is suspended if $V_{TS} < V_{HTF}$. It resumes when $V_{TS} > V_{HTF}$. The bq24401 is designed to remain in trickle maintenance charge forever (excluding the two faults just mentioned) in order to keep the Nickel pack full.

Charge Current Control

The bq24401 implements a hysteretic control loop that regulates the current being delivered to the battery pack to a user programmable value that is set by the value of the R_{SNS} resistor. A second, outer control loop reduces the average current delivered to the pack in order to clamp the voltage at the BAT pin to a maximum of V_{MCV} . The bq24401 controls the MOD pin to regulate the current and voltage of the pack. The bq24401 monitors charge current at the SNS input by sensing the voltage drop across a sense-resistor, R_{SNS} , in series with the battery pack. See Figure 6 for a typical current-sensing circuit.





$$I_{MAX} = \frac{0.05}{R_{SNS}}$$



Being a hysteretic controller, the switching frequency of the bq24401 is determined by the values of several of the external circuit components. The components that affect the switching frequency are: input voltage, R_{SNS} value, inductor value, hysteresis capacitor value (C_{HYS}), and the value of the filter on the current sense signal (R_f and R_f and R_f have the most impact on the switching frequency and are also the components that are easiest to change to adjust the frequency, as they do not affect anything else in the circuit (besides, of course, the cleanliness and quality of the current sense signal being fed to the bq24401). In general, increasing the input voltage and/or inductor value or decreasing R_{HYS} and/or the $R_f \times R_f$ filter corner frequency will increase the switching frequency. Figure 8 and Figure 9 show empirical data on the variation in switching frequency based on adjusting R_f and R_f value of 4.7 pF. Typical switching frequencies for the bq24401 are between 100 and 200 kHz, though it is possible to achieve switching frequencies in excess of 300kHz.

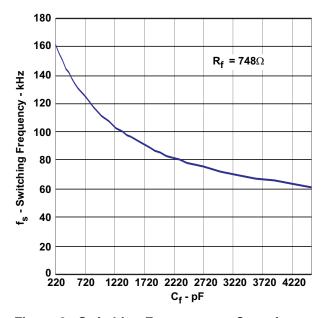


Figure 8. Switching Frequency vs Capacitance

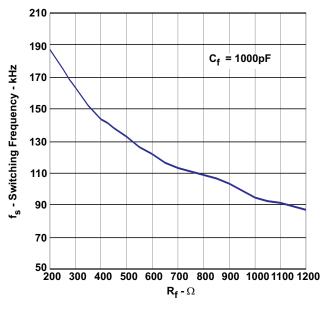


Figure 9. Switching Frequency vs Resistance



Battery Voltage Input

As shown in Figure 10, a resistor voltage-divider between the battery pack's positive terminal and V_{SS} scales the battery voltage measured at the BAT pin. A low-pass filter then smooths out this voltage to present a clean signal to the BAT pin.

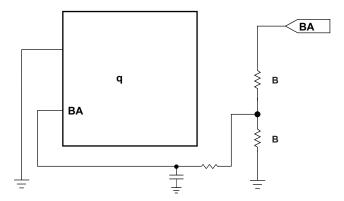


Figure 10. Battery Voltage Divider and Filter

The resistor values R_{B1} and R_{B2} are calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{R_{B1}}{R_{B2}} = N - 1 \tag{5}$$

where N is the number of cells in series. $R_{B1} + R_{B2}$ should be at least $200k\Omega$ and no more than $1M\Omega$.

TEMPERATURE MONITORING

The bq24401 measures the temperature by the voltage at the TS pin. This voltage is typically generated by a negative-temperature-coefficient thermistor. The bq24401 compares this voltage against its internal threshold voltages to determine if charging is safe. These thresholds are the following:

- High-temperature cutoff voltage: V_{TCO} = 0.225 x V_{CC}. This voltage corresponds to the maximum temperature (TCO) at which any charging is allowed. The bq24401 terminates charging if the voltage on the TS pin falls below V_{TCO}.
- High-temperature fault voltage: V_{HTF} = 0.25 x V_{CC}. This voltage corresponds to a maximum allowed pack temperature (HTF) in all states except for fast charge. During fast charge, HTF faults are disabled to allow for a normal increase in pack temperature.
- Low-temperature fault voltage: V_{LTF} = 0.5 x V_{CC}. This voltage corresponds to the minimum temperature (LTF) at which fast charging or top-off is allowed. If the voltage on the TS pin rises above V_{LTF}, the bq24401 suspends either fast charge or top-off and begins a trickle charge. When the voltage falls back below V_{LTF}, fast charge or top-off resumes from the point where suspended. If V_{TS} > V_{LTF}, the charger will always be in trickle charge.

Table 3 summarizes these various conditions.

Table 3. Temperature-Monitoring Conditions and Actions

TEMPERATURE	CONDITION	ACTION
	Cold battery – checked at all times	During charge qualification, no effect
V - V		During fast charge, suspends fast charge and moves into charge qualification, pauses timer, and flashes LED
$V_{TS} > V_{LTF}$		During top-off, suspends top-off and moves into trickle maintenance charge and pauses timer
		During trickle maintenance charge, no effect
$V_{HTF} < V_{TS} < V_{LTF}$	Optimal charging range	Allows all stages of charging



Table 3. Temperature-Monitoring Conditions and Actions (continued)

TEMPERATURE	CONDITION	ACTION
		During charge qualification, stops charging
V V	Hot battery – checked at all times, except during fast charge	During fast charge, no effect
V _{TS} < V _{HTF}		During top-off, stops charging
		During trickle maintenance charge, stops charging
	Battery exceeding maximum allowable temperature – checked at	During charge qualification, stops charging
V _{TS} < V _{TCO}		During fast charge, terminates fast charge and stops charging, turns off LED
	all times	During top-off, terminates top-off and stops charging
		During trickle maintenance charge, stops charging

Table 4. Summary of NiCd or NiMH Charging Characteristics

PARAMETER	VALUE ⁽¹⁾
Maximum cell voltage (V _{MCV})	2 V
Minimum pre-charge qualification voltage (V _{LBAT})	

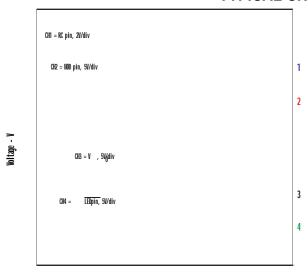


charge. In addition, V_{IN} needs to be high enough such that when V_{IN} is present on the output, V_{BAT} would be greater than V_{SLP} . In sleep mode, the output voltage will decay to V_{MCV} at which point the bq24401 turns on and pulses the MOD pin several times. With no battery connected, the output will rise to near V_{IN} at which point the bq24401 re-enters sleep mode. During sleep mode, the RC pin will be at V_{SS} potential. A typical sleep mode waveform is shown in Figure 17.



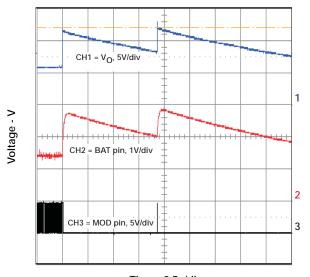
TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Voltage - V



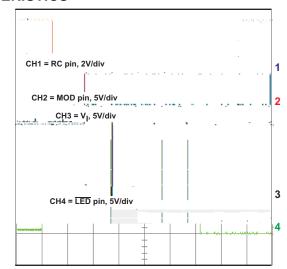
Time - 0.2s/div

Figure 11. bq24401 Start-up on Battery Insertion



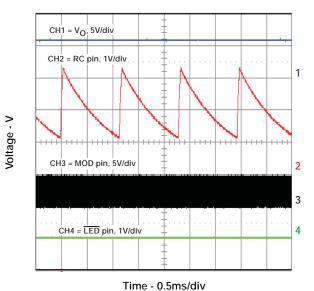
Time - 0.5s/div

Figure 13. Battery Removal During Fast Charge



Time - 0.2s/div

Figure 12. bq24401 Start-up on Vin



Time - 0.5ms/div

Figure 14. bq24401 in Fast Charge



TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

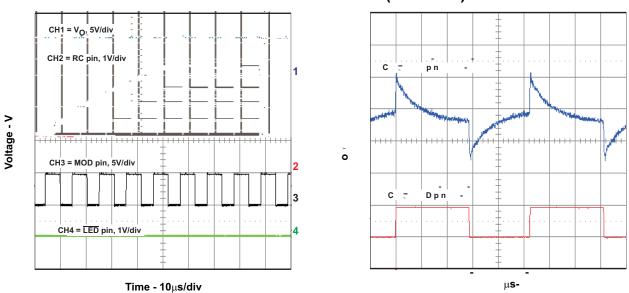


Figure 15. bq24401 in Fast Charge

Figure 16. bq24401 Fast Charge SNS and MOD Waveforms

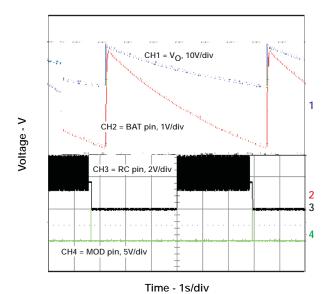


Figure 17. bq24401 Cycling In and Out of Sleep Mode (No battery present)





REVISION HISTORY

CI	Changes from Revision September 2001 (*) to Revision A Changed the data sheet format. The data sheet was originally from Benchmark Products. In revision A the data		
•	Changed the data sheet format. The data sheet was originally from Benchmark Products. In revision A, the data sheet was converted to the TI format, and a re-write of the data sheet was implemented	1	

PACKAGING INFORMATION

Orderable Device	Status ⁽¹⁾	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	Package Qty	e Eco Plan ⁽²⁾	Lead/Ball Finish	MSL Peak Temp ⁽³⁾
BQ24401D	ACTIVE	SOIC	D	8	75	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-1-260C-UNLIM
BQ24401DG4	ACTIVE	SOIC	D	8	75	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-1-260C-UNLIM
BQ24401DR	ACTIVE	SOIC	D	8	2500	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-1-260C-UNLIM
BQ24401DRG4	ACTIVE	SOIC	D	8	2500	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-1-260C-UNLIM
BQ24401PW	ACTIVE	TSSOP	PW	8	150	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR
BQ24401PWG4	ACTIVE	TSSOP	PW	8	150	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR
BQ24401PWR	ACTIVE	TSSOP	PW	8	2000	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR
BQ24401PWRG4	ACTIVE	TSSOP	PW	8	2000	Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br)	CU NIPDAU	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR

⁽¹⁾ The marketing status values are defined as follows:

ACTIVE: Product device recommended for new designs.

LIFEBUY: TI has announced that the device will be discontinued, and a lifetime-buy period is in effect.

NRND: Not recommended for new designs. Device is in production to support existing customers, but TI does not recommend using this part in a new design.

PREVIEW: Device has been announced but is not in production. Samples may or may not be available.

OBSOLETE: TI has discontinued the production of the device.

(2) Eco Plan - The planned eco-friendly classification: Pb-Free (RoHS), Pb-Free (RoHS Exempt), or Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br) - please check http://www.ti.com/productcontent for the latest availability information and additional product content details.

TBD: The Pb-Free/Green conversion plan has not been defined.

Pb-Free (RoHS): TI's terms "Lead-Free" or "Pb-Free" mean semiconductor products that are compatible with the current RoHS requirements for all 6 substances, including the requirement that lead not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials. Where designed to be soldered at high temperatures, TI Pb-Free products are suitable for use in specified lead-free processes.

Pb-Free (RoHS Exempt): This component has a RoHS exemption for either 1) lead-based flip-chip solder bumps used between the die and package, or 2) lead-based die adhesive used between the die and leadframe. The component is otherwise considered Pb-Free (RoHS compatible) as defined above.

Green (RoHS & no Sb/Br): TI defines "Green" to mean Pb-Free (RoHS compatible), and free of Bromine (Br) and Antimony (Sb) based flame retardants (Br or Sb do not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous material)

(3) MSL, Peak Temp. -- The Moisture Sensitivity Level rating according to the JEDEC industry standard classifications, and peak solder temperature.

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PACKAGE MATERIALS INFORMATION

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TAPE AND REEL INFORMATION



*All dimensions are nominal

Device	Package Type	Package Drawing		SPQ	Reel Diameter (mm)	Reel Width W1 (mm)	A0 (mm)	B0 (mm)	K0 (mm)	P1 (mm)	W (mm)	Pin1 Quadrant
BQ24401DR	SOIC	D	8	2500	330.0	12.4	6.4	5.2	2.1	8.0	12.0	Q1
BQ24401PWR	TSSOP	PW	8	2000	330.0	12.4	7.0	3.6	1.6	8.0	12.0	Q1

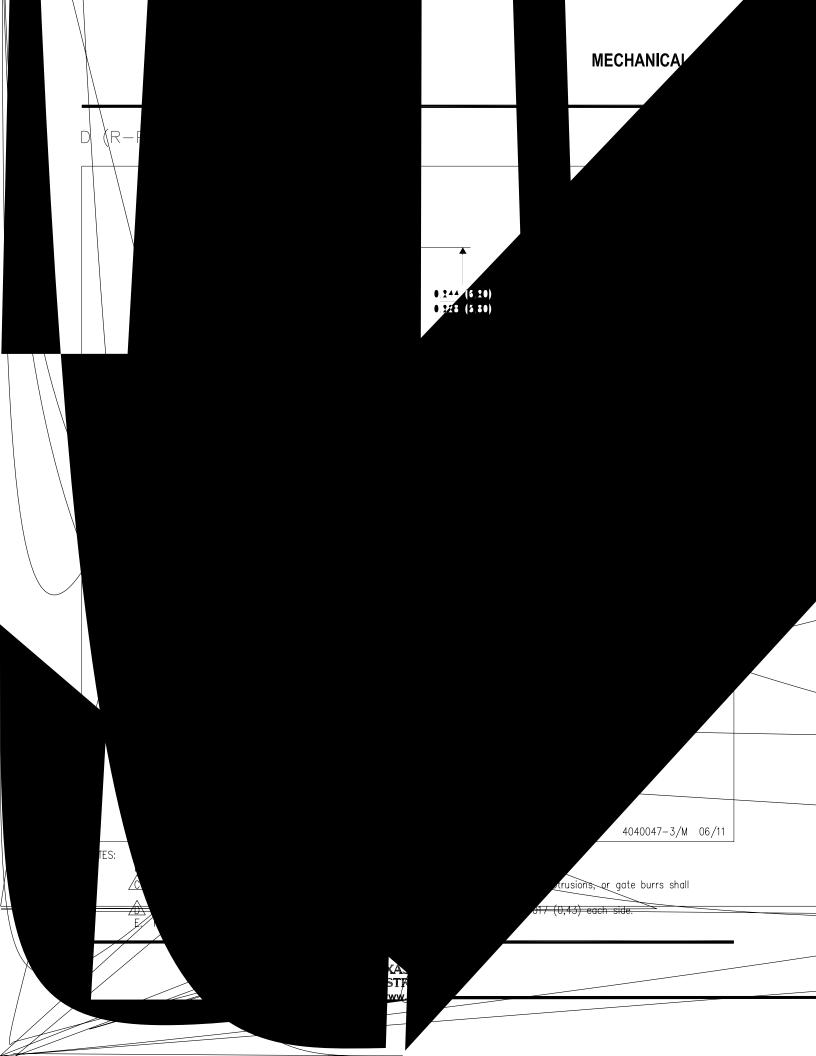
PACKAGE MATERIALS INFORMATION

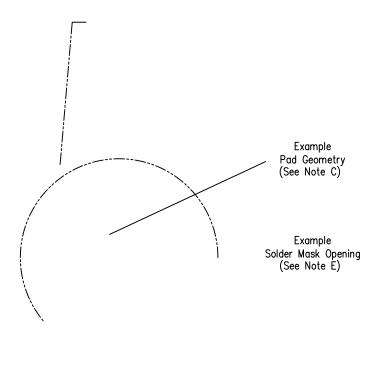
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*All dimensions are nominal

Device	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	SPQ	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
BQ24401DR	SOIC	D	8	2500	367.0	367.0	35.0
BQ24401PWR	TSSOP	PW	8	2000	367.0	367.0	35.0





- C. Publication IPC-7351 is recommended for alternate designs.
- D. Laser cutting apertures with trapezoidal walls and also rounding corners will offer better paste release. Customers should contact their board assembly site for stencil design recommendations. Refer to IPC-7525 for other stencil recommendations.
- E. Customers should contact their board fabrication site for solder mask tolerances between and around signal pads.

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