

LM3909 LED Flasher/Oscillator

General Description

The LM3909 is a monolithic oscillator specifically designed to flash Light Emitting Diodes. By using the timing capacitor for voltage boost, it delivers pulses of 2 or more volts to the LED while operating on a supply of 1.5V or less. The circuit is inherently self-starting, and requires addition of only a battery and capacitor to function as a LED flasher.

Packaged in an 8-lead plastic mini-DIP, the LM3909 will operate over the extended consumer temperature range of -25°C to $+70^{\circ}\text{C}$. It has been optimized for low power drain and operation from weak batteries so that continuous operation life exceeds that expected from battery rating.

Application is made simple by inclusion of internal timing resistors and an internal LED current limit resistor. As shown in the first two application circuits, the timing resistors supplied are optimized for nominal flashing rates and minimum power drain at 1.5V and 3V.

Timing capacitors will generally be of the electrolytic type, and a small 3V rated part will be suitable for any LED flasher using a supply up to 6V. However, when picking flash rates, it should be remembered that some electrolytics have very broad capacitance tolerances, for example -20% to $+100\%$.

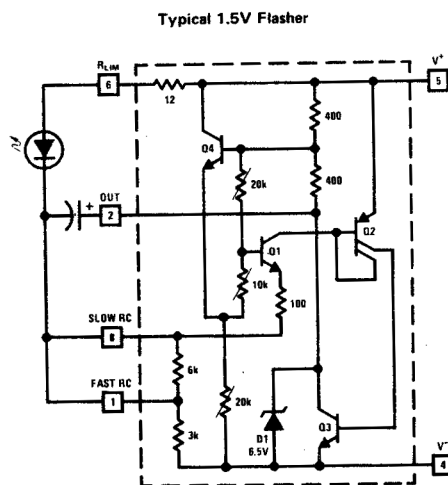
Features

- Operation over one year from one C size flashlight cell
- Bright, high current LED pulse
- Minimum external parts
- Low cost
- Low voltage operation, from just over 1V to 5V
- Low current drain, averages under 0.5 mA during battery life
- Powerful; as an oscillator directly drives an 8Ω speaker
- Wide temperature range

Applications

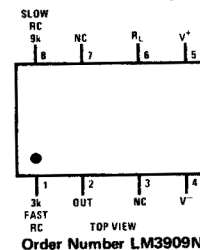
- Finding flashlights in the dark, or locating boat mooring floats
- Sales and advertising gimmicks
- Emergency locators, for instance on fire extinguishers
- Toys and novelties
- Electronic applications such as trigger and sawtooth generators
- Siren for toy fire engine, (combined oscillator, speaker driver)
- Warning indicators powered by 1.4 to 200V

Schematic Diagram



Connection Diagram

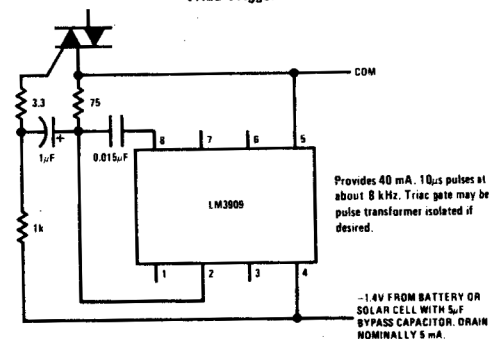
Dual-In-Line Package



Typical Application

(See applications notes on page 9-97).

Triac Trigger



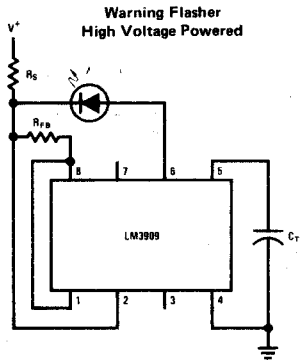
Absolute Maximum Ratings

Power Dissipation	500 mW
V ⁺ Voltage	6.4V
Operating Temperature Range	-25°C to +70°C

Electrical Characteristics

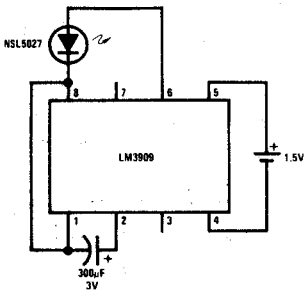
PARAMETER	CONDITIONS (Applications Note 3)	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNITS
Supply Voltage	(In Oscillation)	1.15		6.0	V
Operating Current			0.55	0.75	mA
Flash Frequency	300μF, 5% Capacitor	0.65	1.0	1.3	Hz
High Flash Frequency	0.30μF, 5% Capacitor		1.1		kHz
Compatible LED Forward Drop	1 mA Forward Current	1.35		2.1	V
Peak LED Current	350μF Capacitor		45		mA
Pulse Width	350μF Capacitors at 1/2 Amplitude		6.0		ms

Additional Typical Applications (See applications notes below.)

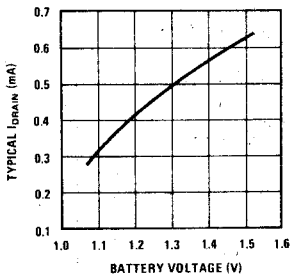


Typical Operating Conditions

V ⁺	NOMINAL FLASH Hz	C _T	R _S	R _{FB}	V _{RANGE}
6V	2	400μF	1k	1.5k	5–25V
15V	2	180μF	3.9k	1k	13–50V
100V	1.7	180μF	43k 1W	1k	85–200V



Note: Nominal flash rate: 1 Hz.



Estimated Battery Life
(Continuous 1.5V Flasher Operation)

SIZE CELL	TYPE	
	STANDARD	ALKALINE
AA	3 months	6 months
C	7 months	15 months
D	1.3 years	2.6 years

Note: Estimates are made from our tests and manufacturers data. Conditions are fresh batteries and room temperature. Clad or "leak-proof" batteries are recommended for any application of five months or more. Nickel Cadmium cells are not recommended.

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