

# High Efficiency 2-Cell Supercapacitor Charger and Balancer Converter

## DESCRIPTION

Demonstration circuit 1887 is a DC/DC supercapacitor buck-boost charger and balancer converter featuring the LTC<sup>®</sup>3128. The DC1887A operates over 1.72V to 5.5V input and charges the output up to 5.5V. Also, the LTC3128 has 2% precision input current limit, which allows the circuit to operate effectively with current limited input power sources like the USB. The 1.2MHz switching frequency operation results in a small and efficient circuit. The converter provides high output voltage accuracy (typically  $\pm 2\%$ ) over a 1.72V to 5.5V input. The demonstration circuit can be easily modified to generate different output voltages.

The DC1887 has a small circuit footprint. It is a high performance and cost effective solution for charging and balancing supercapacitors. Please read the LTC3128 data sheet along with this manual.

**Design files for this circuit board are available at <http://www.linear.com/demo>**

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## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY Specifications are at $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

PARAMETER	CONDITIONS	VALUE
Minimum Input Voltage	$I_{OUT} = 0\text{A to }1\text{A}$	1.72V
Maximum Input Voltage	$I_{OUT} = 0\text{A to }1\text{A}$	5.5V
$V_{OUT}$	$V_{IN} = 1.72\text{V to }5.5\text{V}, I_{OUT} = 0\text{A}$	4.2V $\pm 2\%$
Input Current Limit (Programmable to 3A)	$V_{IN} = 1.72\text{V to }5.5\text{V}$	0.9A
Nominal Switching Frequency		1.2MHz

## QUICK START PROCEDURE

Demonstration circuit 1887 is easy to set up to evaluate the performance of the LTC3128. For proper measurement equipment setup refer to Figure 1 and follow the procedure below:

**NOTE:** When measuring the input or output voltage ripple, care must be taken to minimize the length of oscilloscope probe ground lead. Measure the input or output voltage ripple by connecting the probe tip directly across the VIN or VOUT and GND terminals as shown in Figure 2.

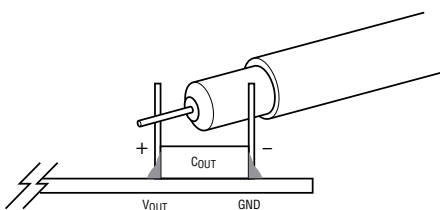


Figure 2. Measuring Input or Output Ripple

1. With power off, connect the input power supply to VIN and GND.
2. Keep the load set to 0A or disconnected.
3. Turn the input power source on and slowly increase the input voltage. Be careful not to exceed 5.5V.

**NOTE:** Make sure that the input voltage VIN does not exceed 5.5V.

4. Set the input voltage to 3.3V and check for the proper output voltage of 4.2V. If there is no output, temporarily disconnect the load to make sure that the load is not set too high.
5. Once the proper output voltage is established, adjust the load and observe the output voltage regulation, ripple voltage, efficiency and other parameters.
6. Note that the output voltage VOUT will vary with load. This is due to the current source nature of the LTC3128 power converter. As the output voltage increases the output current will decrease in order to maintain the input current below the preset limit.

The LTC3128 circuit maximizes the output current while keeping the input current within the preset current limit. This keeps the supercapacitor charging time to a minimum.

## CHANGING THE OUTPUT VOLTAGE

To change the output voltage from the programmed 4.2V, change the voltage divider resistors connected to the LTC3128 FB pin (see the schematic on page 5).

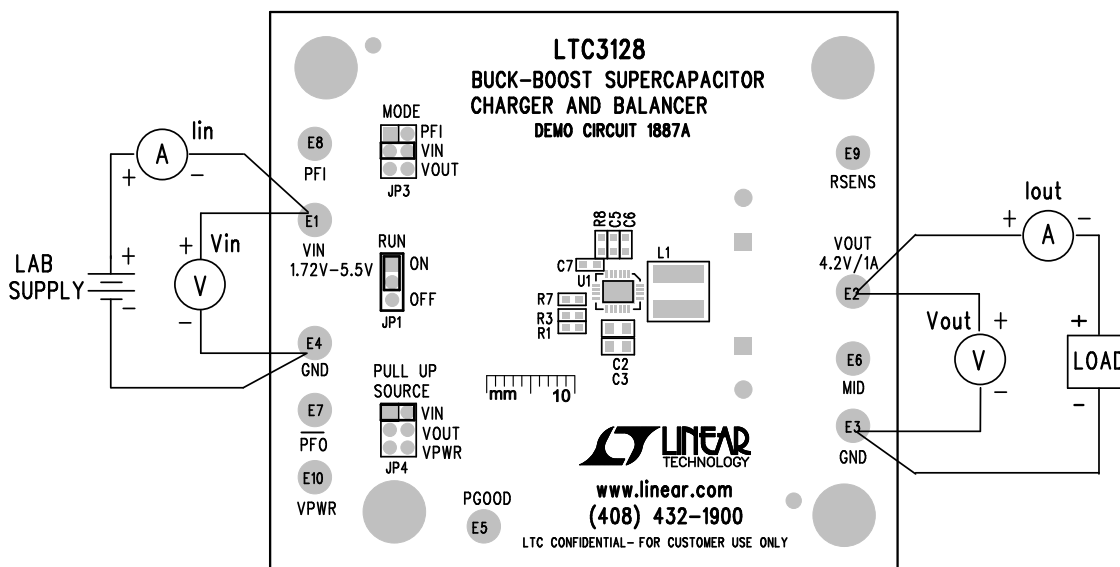
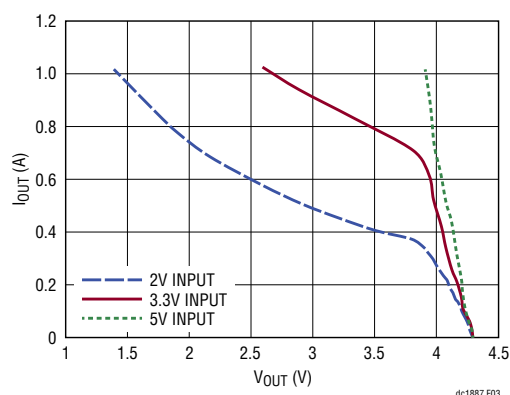


Figure 1. Proper Measurement Equipment Setup

## QUICK START PROCEDURE

### CONVERTER OUTPUT CURRENT

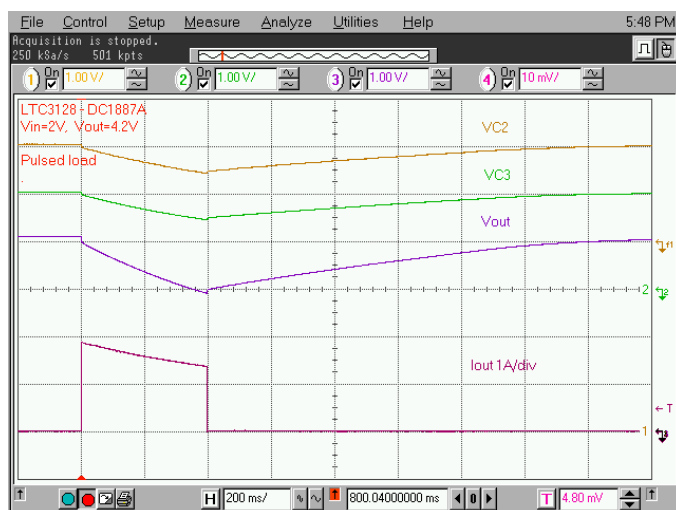
The DC1887 output current capability depends on the input voltage and programmed input current limit. Typical performance of the DC1887A is shown in Figure 3. As can be seen from Figure 3, the output current decreases as the output voltage is approaching the programmed output voltage of 4.2V.



**Figure 3. The Output Current Decreases as the Supercap Voltage Increases Due to Precise Input Current Limit.**

### OUTPUT LOAD STEP RESPONSE

The load step response of DC1887A is dependent on the supercap used. If higher load steps need to be handled more output capacitance can be added in order to keep the voltage transients at the desired level. The load step transients are shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 4. The Supercap Supplies Most of the Pulsed Load Current. The LTC3128 Makes a Small Contribution to Load Current as Shown in Figure 3.**

### START-UP AND CURRENT LIMIT FUNCTION

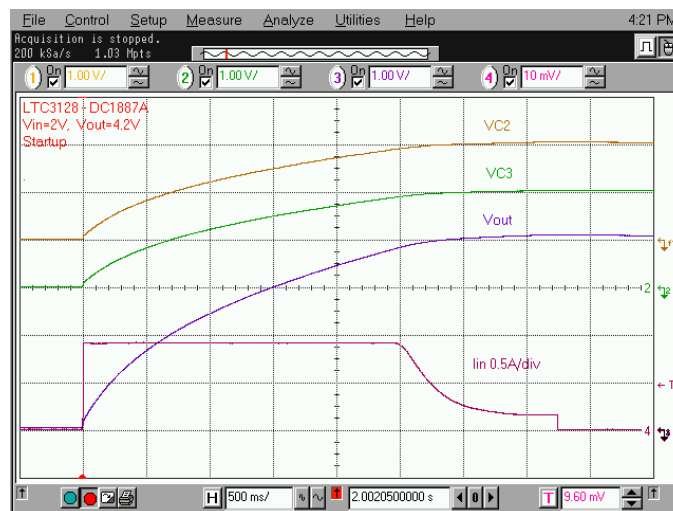
The DC1887 features an input current limit circuit that controls the inrush current and output voltage ramp at start-up and during recharge cycles. The input current limit of DC1887 is set to 900mA and it should be suitable for operation from a USB port. The input current limit can be seen in Figure 5. While charging the supercap, the current is constant. Once the output voltage is close to the set point the current limit is reduced in order to prevent output voltage overshoot.

The input current limit can be programmed up to 3A by changing the resistor R8 in the Schematic Diagram.

### OUTPUT VOLTAGE BALANCING

The LTC3128 can charge two output capacitors in series that are not identical. The internal capacitor voltage balancing circuit can compensate for the difference in capacitance by moving the charge from the capacitor at a higher voltage (smaller cap) to a capacitor with a lower voltage (bigger cap).

To see this effect, monitor  $V_{MID}$  (VC3) and  $V_{OUT}$  with a scope as shown in Figure 5. The trace 1 in Figure 5 is showing the top cap voltage ( $VC3 = V_{OUT} - V_{MID}$ ).



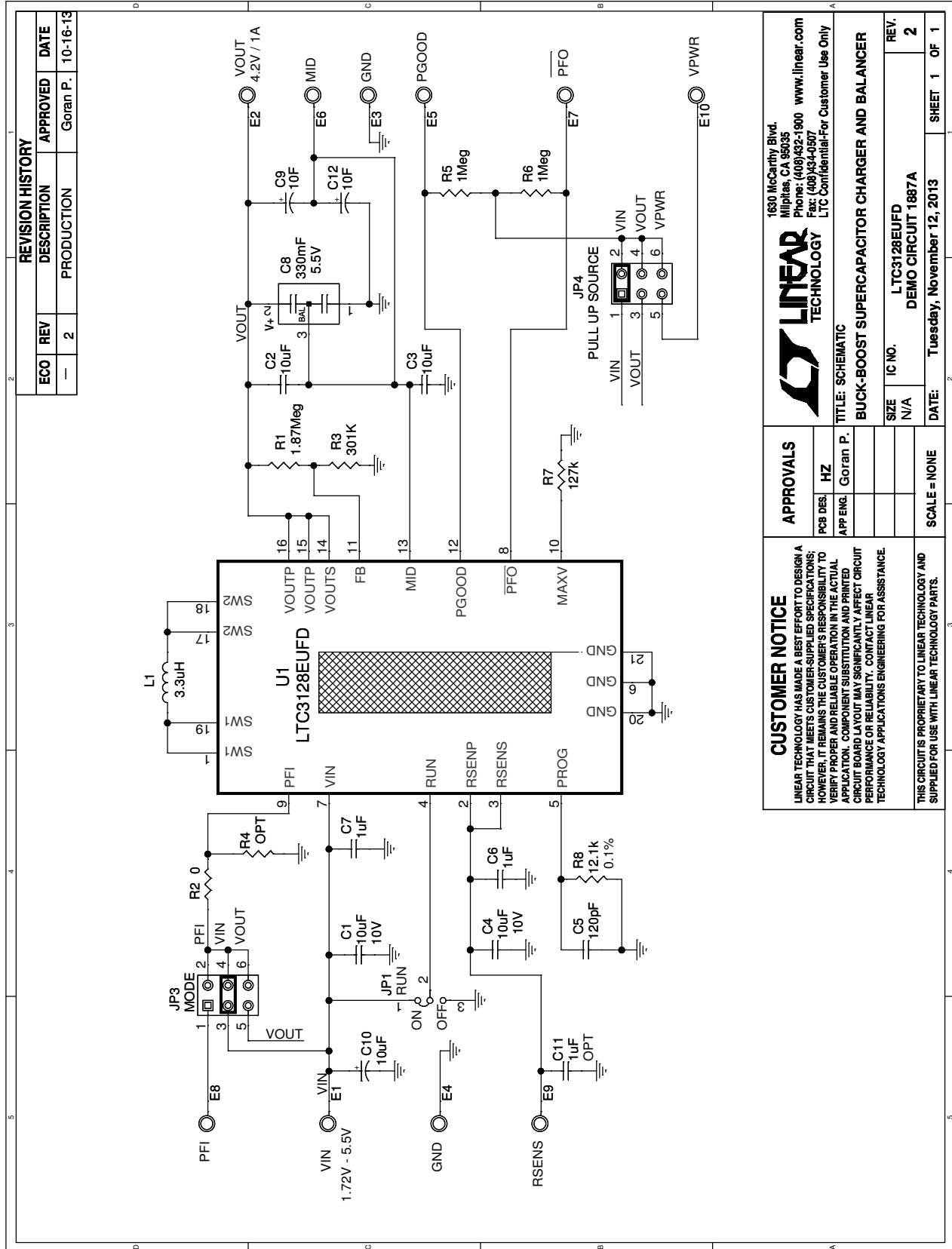
**Figure 5. The DC1887 Ramps the Output Slowly at Start-Up without Generating an Input Current Surge.**

# DEMO MANUAL DC1887A

## PARTS LIST

ITEM	QTY	REFERENCE	PART DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER/PART NUMBER
<b>Required Circuit Components</b>				
1	2	C2, C3	CAP, X5R, 10 $\mu$ F, 25V, 10%, 0805	AVX, 08053D106KAT2A
2	2	C1, C4	CAP, X5R, 10 $\mu$ F, 25V, 10%, 1206	MURATA, GRM31CR61E106KA12L
3	1	C5	CAP, NPO, 120pF, 25V, 10%, 0603	AVX, 06033A121JAT2A
4	3	C6, C7, C10	CAP, X5R, 1 $\mu$ F, 25V, 10%, 0603	AVX, 06033D105KAT2A
5	1	C8	SUPERCAP, 5.5V, 330mF	MURATA, DMF3Z5R5H334M3DTA0
6	2	C9, C12	SUPERCAP, 10.0F, 2.7V, 10mm $\times$ 30mm	ILLINOIS CAP, 106DCN2R7Q
7	1	L1	IND, POWER INDUCTOR, 3.3 $\mu$ H	COILCRAFT: XAL6030-332MEB
8	1	R1	RES, CHIP, 1.87M, 1%, 0603	VISHAY, CRCW06031M87FKEA
9	1	R2	RES, CHIP, 0, 0603	VISHAY, CRCW06030000Z0EA
10	1	R3	RES, CHIP, 301k, 1%, 0603	VISHAY, CRCW0603301KFKEA
11	2	R5, R6	RES, CHIP, 1M, 1%, 0603	VISHAY, CRCW06031M00FKEA
12	1	R7	RES, CHIP, 127k, 1%, 0603	VISHAY, CRCW0603127KFKEA
13	1	R8	RES, CHIP, 12.1k, 0.1%, 0603	VISHAY, TNPW060312K1BEEA
14	1	U1	LTC3128EUFD, QFN 4mm $\times$ 5mm	LINEAR TECHNOLOGY, LTC3128EUFD
<b>Additional Demo Board Circuit Components</b>				
1	0	C11 (OPT)	CAP, 0603	
2	0	R4 OPT	RES, CHIP OPTIONAL	
<b>Hardware: For Demo Board Only</b>				
1	10	E1 TO E10	TESTPOINT, TURRET, 0.095"	MILL-MAX, 2501-2-00-80-00-00-07-0
2	1	JP1	0.079 SINGLE ROW HEADER, 3 PIN	SAMTEC, TMM-103-02-L-S
3	2	JP3, JP4	0.079 DOUBLE ROW HEADER, 2X3 PIN	SAMTEC, TMM-103-02-L-D
4	3	JP1, JP3, JP4	SHUNT	SAMTEC, 2SN-BK-G
5	4	STAND OFF	STAND OFF	KEYSTONE, 8833
6	1		FAB, PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD	DEMO CIRCUIT 1887A
7	1		STENCIL	STENCIL DC1887A

**SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM**



REVISION HISTORY				
ECO	REV	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED	DATE
—	2	PRODUCTION	Goran P.	10-16-13

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**APPROVALS**

PCB DES.	HZ
APP ENG.	Goran P.
SCALE	NONE

**LINEAR TECHNOLOGY**

1630 McCarthy Blvd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: (408)932-1900 www.linear.com  
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**TITLE: SCHEMATIC**

**BUCK-BOOST SUPERCAPACITOR CHARGER AND BALANCER**

SIZE	IC NO.	LTC3128EUFD	REV.	2
		DEMO CIRCUIT 1887A		
DATE:	Tuesday, November 12, 2013		SHEET	1 OF 1



# DEMO MANUAL DC1887A

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Mailing Address:

Linear Technology  
1630 McCarthy Blvd.  
Milpitas, CA 95035

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