

Do optocouplers require a power supply



Overview

What Is an Optocoupler?

Types, Working Principles, and Applications Optocouplers don't work on their own; they're passive. You need extra circuitry to power.

Key Takeaways

Optocouplers require a power supply on the input side to drive the LED, and in many cases, the output side also needs a separate power source depending on the circuit configuration.

Input Side Requirements

The input side of an optocoupler contains a light-emitting diode (LED) that converts an electrical signal into light.

For the LED

To emit light, it must be powered by a current source, typically through a series resistor to limit current. This means the input side always requires a voltage source to operate, even if it is directly driven by a microcontroller pin or other logic circuit.

Output Side Requirements

The output side usually contains a photodetector, such as a phototransistor, photodiode, or photo-SCR. While the photodetector responds to the LED light, it often cannot supply power on its own. For example, a phototransistor acts like a switch that needs a pull-up or pull-down resistor connected to a voltage source to produce a usable output signal.

In some configurations, especially logic-output optocouplers, the output side may require a separate power supply to properly drive the connected circuit.

Summary

Input side: Always requires a power source to drive the LED. Output side: May require a separate power supply depending on the type of photodetector and the circuit design. The optocoupler itself does not transfer power, only signals, so the output cannot power a load without an external voltage source.

In practical terms, when designing circuits with optocouplers, you must ensure that both sides have appropriate voltage and current sources to function correctly while maintaining electrical isolation.

Article Content

What Is an Optocoupler? Types, Working Principles, and Applications

Optocouplers don't work on their own; they're passive. You need extra circuitry to power the LED and read the output. The LED side hooks up to the input signal. Usually there's a resistor in

What is Optocoupler and How it works?

Unlike other types, they do not require an external power supply for the output side. These optocouplers are ideal for applications like driving MOSFETs in high-voltage circuits, providing

What Is an Optocoupler and How Does It Protect Your Circuit?

Modern circuits often combine low-voltage control with high-voltage or noisy power, which can cause damage without proper isolation. An optocoupler uses light to safely transfer signals

Optocouplers 101: A Comprehensive Guide for PCB Designers

Whether you're working on industrial control systems, power supplies, or microcontroller-based designs, understanding optocouplers can elevate your work. They protect sensitive

Opto-isolator

The 7723/0723 series opto-isolators contain CMOS LED drivers and a CMOS buffered amplifiers, which require two independent external power supplies of 5 V each. Photodiode opto-isolators can be

Optocouplers in Switching Power Supplies

Basic insulation is required in an optocoupler interface between a hazardous voltage circuit and a non-touchable extra low voltage (ELV) circuit. The most widely used insulation for optocouplers in switch

Optocoupler Tutorial and Optocoupler Application

Common applications for opto-couplers include microprocessor input/output switching, DC and AC power control, PC communications, signal isolation and power supply regulation which

Optocoupler Applications: Isolating High Voltage Circuits

One of the most common applications of optocouplers is in power supply circuits. In these contexts, they are used to provide feedback from the output to the input, ensuring that the power

The Ultimate Optocouplers Guide: Isolation, Types, and

Our complete optocouplers guide covers what they are, how they work, the different types, and key applications. Learn to select the right opto

ISOM8610 80V, 150mA Normally Open Opto-emulator Switch With

3 Description The ISOM8610 is an 80V single-pole, normally-open switch with an opto-emulator input. The opto-emulator inputs control the back-to-back MOSFETs without any power supply required on

What Is an Optocoupler? Types, Working Principles, and Applications

An optocoupler uses light to transfer signals between circuits, keeping them electrically isolated. This protects sensitive components from high-voltage spikes and noise. It's widely used in

Understanding Optocouplers: Principles, Types and Applications

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Using Opto Couplers

Typical optocouplers can handle input and output currents from a few microamps to tens of milliamps. There are many optocouplers on the market and to find the most appropriate for a particular purpose,

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Analysis of the optocoupler circuit of switching power supply

In the switching circuit, it is often required to have good electrical isolation between the control circuit and the switch, which is difficult for a general electronic switch, but it is easy to

What is an Optocoupler and How to Choose the Right

Benefits of Using Optocouplers Optocouplers are crucial components in modern electronics, offering numerous benefits that enhance the performance and

ANO007 | Understanding Phototransistor Optocouplers

Unlike transformers or capacitors, which can only transfer AC signals across the isolation barrier, optocouplers can transfer both DC and AC signals alike. This makes them very popular in

Optocoupler

The linear power supply is used to obtain the required voltage (34 V) and current (5A) using a step-down transformer, bridge rectifier, and a capacitor. Moreover, H-bridge driver has been interlinked between

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