**General Description**

The MAX471/MAX472 are complete, bidirectional, high-side current-sense amplifiers for portable PCs, telephones, and other systems where battery/DC power-line monitoring is critical. High-side power-line monitoring is especially useful in battery-powered systems, since it does not interfere with the ground paths of the battery chargers or monitors often found in "smart" batteries.

The MAX471 has an internal 35mΩ current-sense resistor and measures battery currents up to ±3A. For applications requiring higher current or increased flexibility, the MAX472 functions with external sense and gain-setting resistors. Both devices have a current output that can be converted to a ground-referred voltage with a single resistor, allowing a wide range of battery voltages and currents.

An open-collector SIGN output indicates current-flow direction, so the user can monitor whether a battery is being charged or discharged. Both devices operate from 3V to 36V, draw less than 100µA over temperature, and include a 18µA max shutdown mode.

**Applications**

- Portable PCs:
  - Notebooks/Subnotebooks/Palmtops
- Smart Battery Packs
- Cellular Phones
- Portable Phones
- Portable Test/Measurement Systems
- Battery-Operated Systems
- Energy Management Systems

**Features**

- Complete High-Side Current Sensing
- Precision Internal Sense Resistor (MAX471)
- 2% Accuracy Over Temperature
- Monitors Both Charge and Discharge
- 3A Sense Capability with Internal Sense Resistor (MAX471)
- Higher Current-Sense Capability with External Sense Resistor (MAX472)
- 100µA Max Supply Current
- 18µA Max Shutdown Mode
- 3V to 36V Supply Operation
- 8-Pin DIP/SO Packages

**Ordering Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART</th>
<th>TEMP. RANGE</th>
<th>PIN-PACKAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAX471CPA</td>
<td>0°C to +70°C</td>
<td>8 Plastic DIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX471CSA</td>
<td>0°C to +70°C</td>
<td>8 SO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX471EPA</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
<td>8 Plastic DIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX471ESA</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
<td>8 SO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX472CPA</td>
<td>0°C to +70°C</td>
<td>8 Plastic DIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX472CSA</td>
<td>0°C to +70°C</td>
<td>8 SO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX472EPA</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
<td>8 Plastic DIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAX472ESA</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
<td>8 SO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Typical Operating Circuit**

**Pin Configurations**

For free samples & the latest literature: http://www.maxim-ic.com, or phone 1-800-998-8800
**Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers**

**ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS**

Supply Voltage, RS+, RS-, VCC to GND.............-0.3V, +40V
RMS Current, RS+ to RS- (MAX471 only).............±3.3A
Peak Current, (RS+ to RS-).........................see Figure 5
Differential Input Voltage, RG1 to RG2 (MAX472 only) ....±0.3V
Voltage at Any Pin Except SIGN
  MAX471 only ...........................................-0.3V to (RS+ - 0.3V)
  MAX472 only ..........................................-0.3V to (VCC + 0.3V)
Voltage at SIGN............................................-0.3V to +40V
Current into SHDN, GND, OUT, RG1, RG2, VCC...........±50mA
Current into SIGN...........................................+10mA, -50mA

Continuous Power Dissipation (TA = +70°C)
MAX471 (Note 1):
Plastic DIP (derate 17.5mW/°C above +70°C) ..........1.4W
SO (derate 9.9mW/°C above +70°C)......................791mW
MAX472:
Plastic DIP (derate 9.09mW/°C above +70°C) .........727mW
SO (derate 5.88mW/°C above +70°C)......................471mW

Operating Temperature Ranges
MAX47_C_A...........................................0°C to +70°C
MAX47_E_A...........................................-40°C to +85°C
Junction Temperature Range.........................-60°C to +150°C
Storage Temperature Range........................-60°C to +160°C
Lead Temperature (soldering, 10sec)..................+300°C

Note 1: Due to special packaging considerations, MAX471 (DIP, SO) has a higher power dissipation rating than the MAX472. RS+ and RS- must be soldered to large copper traces to achieve this dissipation rating.

Stresses beyond those listed under “Absolute Maximum Ratings” may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX471**

(RS+ = +3V to +36V, TA = TMIN to TMAX, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>CONDITIONS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
<th>TYP</th>
<th>MAX</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply Voltage</td>
<td>VRS+</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>V</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Current</td>
<td>IRS+</td>
<td>ILOAD = 0A, excludes ISIGN</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>µA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense Current</td>
<td>ILOAD</td>
<td></td>
<td>±3</td>
<td></td>
<td>µAMS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense Resistor</td>
<td>RSENSE</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>mΩ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current-Sense Ratio</td>
<td>IOUT/LOAD</td>
<td>ILOAD = 1A, RS+ = 10V</td>
<td>MAX471C</td>
<td>0.490</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.510</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX471E</td>
<td>0.4875</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.5125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Load OUT Error</td>
<td>ILOAD = 0A, RS+ = 10V</td>
<td>MAX471C</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX471E</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Level OUT Error</td>
<td>ILOAD = 30mA, RS+ = 10V</td>
<td>MAX471C</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX471E</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power-Supply Rejection Ratio</td>
<td>PSRR</td>
<td>3V ≤ RS+ ≤ 36V, ILOAD = 1A</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>%/V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Threshold (ILOAD required to switch SIGN)</td>
<td>MAX471C</td>
<td>±4.0</td>
<td></td>
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<td>6.0</td>
<td>mA</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX471E</td>
<td>±7.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Output Leakage Current</td>
<td>VSIGN</td>
<td>36V</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Sink Current</td>
<td>IOL</td>
<td>VSIGN = 3.0V</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHDN Input Low Voltage</td>
<td>VIL</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V, VCC = 3V to 20V</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHDN Input Low Current</td>
<td>ILL</td>
<td>VSHDN = 0V</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHDN Input High Voltage</td>
<td>VIH</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>V</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHDN Input High Current</td>
<td>I IH</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µA</td>
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<td>OUT Output Voltage Range</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>VRS+ - 1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Output Resistance</td>
<td>ROUT</td>
<td>ILOAD = 3.0A, VOUT = 0V to (VRS+ - 1.5V)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>MΩ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Rise, Fall Time</td>
<td>ttr, tF</td>
<td>ILOAD = 50mA to 3.0A, ROUT = 2kΩ, COUT = 50pF, 10% to 90%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Settling Time to 1% of Final Value</td>
<td>ts</td>
<td>ILOAD = 100mA to 3.0A, ROUT = 2kΩ, COUT = 50pF</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>µs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX472**  
(VCC = +3V to +36V, RG1 = RG2 = 200Ω, TA = TMIN to TMAX, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>CONDITIONS</th>
<th>MIN</th>
<th>TYP</th>
<th>MAX</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply Voltage</td>
<td>VCC</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply Current</td>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>ILOAD = 0A, excludes ISIGN; VCC = 3V to 20V</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Offset Voltage (Note 2)</td>
<td>VOS</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>μV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Input Bias Current</td>
<td>IRG1, IRG2</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Bias-Current Matching</td>
<td>IOS</td>
<td>IRG1 - IRG2</td>
<td>±0.4</td>
<td>±3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Current Accuracy</td>
<td>IOUT</td>
<td>VSENSE = 100mV, VCC = 10V (Note 2)</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>±2</td>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>±2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Load OUT Error</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td>VCC = 10V, VSENSE = 0V</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Level OUT Error</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td>VCC = 10V, VSENSE = 3mV</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>±2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>±3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power-Supply Rejection Ratio</td>
<td>PSRR</td>
<td>3V ≤ VCC ≤ 36V, VSENSE = 100mV</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>%/V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Threshold (VSENSE required to switch SIGN)</td>
<td>VCC = 10V</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td>μV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>140</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Output Leakage Current</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td>VSENSE = 0V</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MAX472E</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN Output Sink Current</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td>VSENSE = 0.3V</td>
<td>MAX472C</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHDN Input Low Voltage</td>
<td>VIL</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V, VCC = 3V to 20V</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHDN Input Low Current</td>
<td>ISIGN</td>
<td>VSHDN = 0V</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHDN Input High Voltage</td>
<td>VIL</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHDN Input High Current</td>
<td>ISIGN</td>
<td>VSHDN = 2.4V</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>μA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Output Voltage Range</td>
<td>VOUT</td>
<td>IOUT = 1.5mA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>MΩ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Output Resistance</td>
<td>ROUT</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>μs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Rise, Fall Time</td>
<td>TR, TF</td>
<td>VSENSE = 5mV to 150mV, ROUT = 2kΩ, COUT = 50pF, 10% to 90%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>μs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUT Settling Time to 1% of Final Value</td>
<td>ts</td>
<td>VSENSE = 5mV to 150mV, ROUT = 2kΩ, COUT = 50pF</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>mA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 2:** VOS is defined as the input voltage (VSENSE) required to give minimum IOUT.

**Note 3:** VSENSE is the voltage across the sense resistor.
**Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers**

**Typical Operating Characteristics**

(Typical Operating Circuit (MAX471) or circuit of Figure 4, \( RG1 = RG2 = 200\,\Omega \), \( ROUT = 2k\,\Omega \) (MAX472), \( TA = +25^\circ C \), unless otherwise noted.)

### SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

- **MAX471**
- **MAX472**

### SHUTDOWN CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

### SIGN THRESHOLD vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

### NO-LOAD OFFSET CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

### ERROR vs. LOAD CURRENT

### RS+ TO RS- RESISTANCE vs. TEMPERATURE

### NO-LOAD OUTPUT ERROR vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

### ERROR vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE

---

**MAX471/MAX472**

4
Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers

**Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)**

(Typical Operating Circuit (MAX471) or circuit of Figure 4, RG1 = RG2 = 200Ω, ROUT = 2kΩ (MAX472), TA = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

![MAX472 Error vs. Sense Voltage](image)

**MAX472 Error vs. Sense Voltage**

- **VSENSE (mV)**
  - 0.1
  - 1
  - 10
  - 100
  - 1000

- **ERROR (%)**
  - -25
  - -15
  - -5
  - 0
  - 5
  - 15
  - 25

- **VRG1-VRG2**
- **VRG2-VRG1**

![MAX471 Noise vs. Load Current](image)

**MAX471 Noise vs. Load Current**

- **IOUT NOISE (µA/µV)**
  - 0
  - 0.1
  - 0.2
  - 0.3
  - 0.4
  - 0.5
  - 0.6
  - 0.7

- **ISENSE (mA)**
  - 0.1
  - 0
  - 0.2
  - 0.3
  - 0.4
  - 0.5
  - 0.6
  - 0.7

- **VRG1-VRG2**
- **VRG2-VRG1**

![MAX471 0mA to 100mA Transient Response](image)

**MAX471 0mA to 100mA Transient Response**

- **VCC = 10V, ROUT = 2kΩ 1%, SIGN PULL-UP = 50kΩ 1%**

- **LOAD CURRENT** 50mA/div
- **VOUT** 50mV/div
- **100µs/div**

![MAX471 Start-Up Delay](image)

**MAX471 Start-Up Delay**

- **LOAD = 1A, ROUT = 2kΩ 1%**

- **VOUT** 500mV/div
- **VSHDN** 5V/div
- **10µs/div**

![MAX471 -100mA to +100mA Transient Response](image)

**MAX471 -100mA to +100mA Transient Response**

- **VCC = 10V, ROUT = 2kΩ 1%, SIGN PULL-UP = 50kΩ 1%**

- **LOAD CURRENT** 100mA/div
- **VOUT** 50mV/div
- **SIGN** 50mV/div
- **100µs/div**

![MAX471 0A to 3A Transient Response](image)

**MAX471 0A to 3A Transient Response**

- **VCC = 10V, ROUT = 2kΩ 1%, SIGN PULL-UP = 50kΩ 1%**

- **LOAD** 1A/div
- **VOUT** 500mV/div
- **VSHDN** 5V/div
- **10µs/div**

- **ROUT = 2kΩ 1%**

![MAX471 Start-Up Delay](image)
Detailed Description

The MAX471 and MAX472 current-sense amplifier’s unique topology allows a simple design to accurately monitor current flow. The MAX471/MAX472 contain two amplifiers operating as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The battery/load current flows from RS+ to RS- (or vice versa) through RSENSE. Current flows through either RG1 and Q1 or RG2 and Q2, depending on the sense resistor current direction. Internal circuitry, not shown in Figures 1 and 2, prevents Q1 and Q2 from turning on at the same time. The MAX472 is identical to the MAX471, except that RSENSE and gain-setting resistors RG1 and RG2 are external (Figure 2).

To analyze the circuit of Figure 1, assume that current flows from RS+ to RS- and that OUT is connected to GND through a resistor. In this case, amplifier A1 is active and output current IOUT flows from the emitter of Q1. Since no current flows through RG2 (Q2 is off), the negative input of A1 is equal to VSOURCE - (ILOAD x RSENSE). The open-loop gain of A1 forces its positive input to essentially the same level as the negative input. Therefore, the drop across RG1 equals ILOAD x RSENSE. Then, since IOUT flows through Q1 and RG (ignoring the extremely low base currents), IOUT x RG1 = ILOAD x RSENSE. or:

\[ \text{IOUT} = \frac{\text{ILOAD x RSENSE}}{\text{RG1}} \]

Current Output

The output voltage equation for the MAX471/MAX472 is given below. In the MAX471, the current-gain ratio has been preset to 500µA/A so that an output resistor ROUT yields 1V/A for a full-scale value of ±3A. Other full-scale voltages can be set with different ROUT values, but the output voltage can be no greater than VR_S+ - 1.5V for the MAX471 or VR_G_ - 1.5V for the MAX472.

\[ \text{VOUT} = \frac{\text{RSENSE x ROUT x ILOAD}}{\text{RG}} \]

where VOUT is the desired full-scale output voltage, ILOAD is the full-scale current being sensed, RSENSE is the current-sense resistor, ROUT is the voltage-setting resistor, and RG is the gain-setting resistor (RG = RG1 = RG2).

The above equation can be modified to determine the ROUT required for a particular full-scale range:

\[ \text{ROUT} = \frac{\text{VOUT x RG}}{\text{ILOAD x RSENSE}} \]

For the MAX471, this reduces to:

\[ \text{ROUT} = \frac{\text{VOUT}}{\text{ILOAD x 500µA/A}} \]

OUT is a high-impedance current-source output that can be connected to other MAX471/MAX472 OUT pins.
Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers

Figure 1. MAX471 Functional Diagram

Figure 2. MAX472 Functional Diagram
for current summing. A single scaling resistor is required when summing OUT currents from multiple devices (Figure 3). Current can be integrated by connecting OUT to a capacitive load.

**SIGN Output**

The current at OUT indicates magnitude. The SIGN output indicates the current’s direction. Operation of the SIGN comparator is straightforward. When Q1 (Figures 1 and 2) conducts, the output of A1 is high while A2’s output is zero. Under this condition, a high SIGN output indicates positive current flow (from RS+ to RS-). In battery-operated systems, this is useful for determining whether the battery is charging or discharging. The SIGN output may not correctly indicate if the load current is such that I_OUT is less than 3.5µA. The MAX471’s SIGN output accurately indicates the direction of current flow for load currents greater than 7mA.

SIGN is an open-collector output (sinks current only), allowing easy interface with logic circuits powered from any voltage. Connect a 100kΩ pull-up resistor from SIGN to the logic supply. The convention chosen for the polarity of the SIGN output ensures that it draws no current when the battery is being discharged. If current direction is not needed, float the SIGN pin.

**Shutdown**

When SHDN is high, the MAX471/MAX472 are shut down and consume less than 18µA. In shutdown mode, SIGN is high impedance and OUT turns off.

**Applications Information**

**MAX471**

The MAX471 obtains its power from the RS- pin. This includes MAX471 current consumption in the total system current measured by the MAX471. The small drop across RSENSE does not affect the MAX471’s performance.

**Resistor Selection**

Since OUT delivers a current, an external voltage gain-setting resistor (ROUT to ground) is required at the OUT pin in order to get a voltage. RSENSE is internal to the MAX471. RG1 and RG2 are factory trimmed for an output current ratio (output current to load current) of 500µA/A. Since they are manufactured of the same material and in very close proximity on the chip, they provide a high degree of temperature stability. Choose ROUT for the desired full-scale output voltage up to RS- to 1.5V (see the Current Output section).
Peak Sense Current

The MAX471’s maximum sense current is 3A RMS. For power-up, fault conditions, or other infrequent events, larger peak currents are allowed, provided they are short—that is, within a safe operating region, as shown in Figure 5.

Table 1 shows suggested component values and indicates the resulting scale factors for various applications required to sense currents from 100mA to 10A.

Higher or lower sense-current circuits can also be built. Select components and calculate circuit errors using the guidelines and formulas in the following section.

Choose RSENSE based on the following criteria:

a) Voltage Loss: A high RSENSE value will cause the power-source voltage to degrade through IR loss. For least voltage loss, use the lowest RSENSE value.

b) Accuracy: A high RSENSE value allows lower currents to be measured more accurately. This is because offsets become less significant when the sense voltage is larger.

c) Efficiency and Power Dissipation: At high current levels, the I^2R losses in RSENSE may be significant. Take this into consideration when choosing the resistor value and power dissipation (wattage) rating. Also, if the sense resistor is allowed to heat up excessively, its value may drift.

d) Inductance: If there is a large high-frequency component to ISENSE, you will want to keep inductance low. Wire-wound resistors have the highest inductance, while metal film is somewhat better. Low-inductance metal-film resistors are available. Instead of being spiral wrapped around a core, as in metal-film or wire-wound resistors, these are a straight band of metal. They are made in values under 1Ω.

e) Cost: If the cost of RSENSE becomes an issue, you may want to use an alternative solution, as shown in Figure 6. This solution uses the PC board traces to create a sense resistor. Because of the inaccuracies of the copper “resistor,” you will need to adjust the full-scale current value with a potentiometer. Also, the resistance temperature coefficient of copper is fairly high (approximately 0.4%/°C), so systems that experience a wide temperature variance should take this into account.

**Suggested Component Values for Various Applications**

The general circuit of Figure 4 is useful in a wide variety of applications. It can be used for high-current applications (greater than 3A), and also for those where the full-scale load current is less than the 3A of the MAX471.
**Precision, High-Side Current-Sense Amplifiers**

In Figure 6, assume the load current to be measured is 10A and that you have determined a 0.3 inch wide, 2 ounce copper to be appropriate. The resistivity of 0.1 inch wide, 2 ounce copper is 30mΩ/ft (see Note 4). For 10A you may want RSENSE = 5mΩ for a 50mV drop at full scale. This resistor will require about 2 inches of 0.1 inch wide copper trace.

**RG1 and RG2**

Once RSENSE is chosen, RG1 and RG2 can be chosen to define the current-gain ratio (RSENSE/RG). Choose RG = RG1 = RG2 based on the following criteria:

a) **1Ω Input Resistance.** The minimum RG value is limited by the 1Ω input resistance, and also by the output current limitation (see below). As RG is reduced, the input resistance becomes a larger portion of the total gain-setting resistance. With RG = 50Ω, the input resistance produces a 2% difference between the expected and actual current-gain ratio. This is a gain error that does not affect linearity and can be removed by adjusting RG or ROUT.

b) **Efficiency.** As RG is reduced, IOUT gets larger for a given load current. Power dissipated in ROUT is not going to the load, and therefore reduces overall efficiency. This is significant only when the sense current is small.

c) **Maximum Output Current Limitation.** IOUT is limited to 1.5mA, requiring RG ≥ VSENSE / 1.5mA. For VSENSE = 60mV, RG must be ≥ 40Ω.

d) **Headroom.** The MAX472 requires a minimum of 1.5V between the lower of the voltage at RG1 or RG2 (VRG) and VOUT. As RG becomes larger, the voltage drop across RG also becomes larger for a given IOUT. This voltage drop further limits the maximum full-scale VOUT. Assuming the drop across RSENSE is small and VCC is connected to either side of RSENSE, VOUT (max) = VCC - (1.5V + IOUT (max) x RG).

e) **Output Offset Error at Low Load Currents.** Large RG values reduce IOUT for a given load current. As IOUT gets smaller, the 2.5μA max output offset-error current becomes a larger part of the overall output current. Keeping the gain high by choosing a low value for RG minimizes this offset error.

f) **Input Bias Current and Input Bias Current Mismatching.** The size of RG also affects the errors introduced by the input bias and input bias mismatching currents. After selecting the ratio, check to make sure RG is small enough that IB and IOS do not add any appreciable errors. The full-scale error is given by:

\[
\% \text{ Error} = \frac{(RG1 - RG2) \times IB + IOS \times RG}{IFS \times RSENSE} \times 100
\]

where RG1 and RG2 are the gain resistors, IB is the bias current, IOS is the bias-current mismatch, IFS is the full-scale current, and RSENSE is the sense resistor.

Assuming a 5A load current, 10mΩ RSENSE, and 100Ω RG, the current-gain ratio is 100μA/A, yielding a full-scale IOUT of 500μA. Using the maximum values for IB (20μA) and IOS (2μA), and 1% resistors for RG1 and RG2 (RG1 - RG2 = 2Ω), the worst-case error at full scale calculates to:

\[
\frac{2Ω \times 20μA + 100Ω \times 2μA}{5mΩ \times 5A} = 0.48\%
\]

The error may be reduced by: a) better matching of RG1 and RG2, b) increasing RSENSE, or c) decreasing RG.

**Current-Sense Adjustment (Resistor Range, Output Adjust)**

Choose ROUT after selecting RSENSE, RG1, and RG2. Choose ROUT to obtain the full-scale voltage you want.

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**Note 4:** Printed Circuit Design, by Gerald L. Ginsberg; McGraw-Hill, Inc.; page 185.
require, given the full-scale I_{OUT} determined by 
R_{SENSE}, R_{G1}, and R_{G2}. The high compliance of OUT 
permits using ROUT values up to 10kΩ with minimal 
error. Values above 10kΩ are not usually recommend-
ed. The impedance of OUT’s load (e.g., the input of an 
op amp or ADC) must be much greater than ROUT 
(e.g., 100 x ROUT) to avoid degrading the measure-
ment accuracy.

**High-Current Measurement**
The MAX472 can achieve higher current measurements 
than the MAX471 can. Low-value sense resistors may 
be paralleled to obtain even lower values, or the PC 
board trace may be adjusted for any value.

An alternative method is to connect several MAX471s in 
parallel and connect the high-impedance current-
source OUT pins together to indicate the total system 
current (Figure 3). Pay attention to layout to ensure 
equal IR drops in the paralleled connection. This is 
necessary to achieve equal current sharing.

**Power-Supply Bypassing and Grounding**
The MAX471 has been designed as a “high side” (posi-
tive terminal) current monitor to ease the task of 
grounding any battery charger, thermistor, etc. that 
may be a part of the battery pack. Grounding the 
MAX471 requires no special precautions; follow 
the same cautionary steps that apply to the system as a 
whole. High-current systems can experience large volt-
age drops across a ground plane, and this drop may 
add to or subtract from V_{OUT}. For highest current-me-
asurement accuracy, use a single-point “star” ground.

The MAX471/MAX472 require no special bypassing, 
and respond quickly to transient changes in line cur-
rent. If the noise at OUT caused by these transients is a 
problem, you may want to place a 1μF capacitor at the 
OUT pin to ground. You can also place a large capaci-
citor at the RS- terminal (or “load” side of the MAX472) to 
decouple the load and, thereby, reduce the current 
transients. These capacitors are not required for 
MAX471/MAX472 operation or stability, and their use 
will not degrade performance.

For the MAX472, the RG1 and RG2 inputs can be fil-
tered by placing a capacitor (e.g., 1μF) between them 
to average the sensed current.

**MAX471 Layout**
The MAX471 must be soldered in place, since sockets 
can cause uneven current sharing between the RS+ 
pins (pins 2 and 3) and the RS- pins (pins 6 and 7), 
resulting in typical errors of 0.5%.

In order to dissipate sense-resistor heat from large 
sense currents, solder the RS+ pins and the RS- pins to 
large copper traces. Keep the part away from other 
heat-generating devices. This procedure will ensure 
continuous power dissipation rating.
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Pin Configurations (continued)

- SHDN
- N.C.
- RG1
- GND
- MAX471
- MAX472
- DIP/SO
- OUT
- VCC
- RG2
- SIGN
- MAX472
- DIP/SO

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