Transformer Design

Magnetics offers two methods to select a ferrite core for a power application.

CORE SELECTION BY POWER HANDLING CAPACITY

The Power Chart characterizes the power handling capacity of each ferrite core based upon the frequency of operation, the circuit topology, the flux level selected, and the amount of power required by the circuit. If these four specifics are known, the core can be selected from the Power Chart on page 68.

CORE SELECTION BY WaAc PRODUCT

The power handling capacity of a transformer core can also be determined by its WaAc product, where Wa is the available core window area, and Ac is the effective core cross-sectional area. Using the equation shown below, calculate the WaAc product and then use the Area Product Distribution (WaAc) Chart to select the appropriate core.

$$WaAc = \frac{P_o D_{cma}}{K_t B_{max} f}$$

WaAc = Product of window area and core area (cm^4)

P_o = Power Out (watts)

D_{cma} = Current Density (cir. mils/amp) Current density can be selected depending upon the amount of heat rise allowed. 750 cir. mils/amp is conservative; 500 cir. mils is aggressive.

B_{max} = Flux Density (gauss) selected based upon frequency of operation. Above 20 kHz, core losses increase. To operate ferrite cores at higher frequencies, it is necessary to operate the core flux levels lower than ± 2 kG. The Flux Density vs. Frequency chart shows the reduction in flux levels required to maintain 100 mW/cm^3 core losses at various frequencies, with a maximum temperature rise of 25°C for a typical power material, Magnetics P material.

A_c = Core area in cm^2

f = frequency (hertz)

K_t = Topology constant (for a space factor of 0.4)

V = Voltage

I_p = Primary current

I_s = Secondary current

N_p = Number of turns on the primary

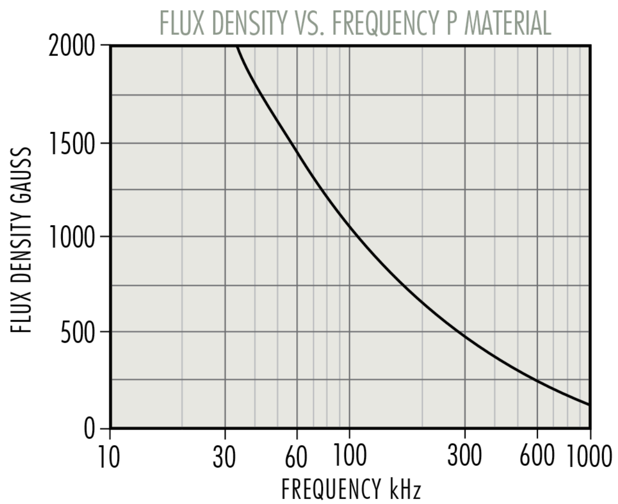
N_S = Number of turns on the secondary

TOPOLOGY CONSTANTS K_t

Forward converter = 0.0005	Push-Pull = 0.001
Half-bridge = 0.0014	Full-bridge = 0.0014
Flyback = 0.00033 (single winding)	Flyback = 0.00025 (multiple winding)

For individual cores, WaAc is listed in this catalog under "Magnetic Data."

The WaAc formula was obtained from derivations in Chapter 7 of A. I. Pressman's book, "Switching Power Supply Design. Choice of B_{max} at various frequencies, D_{cma} and alternative transformer temperature rise calculations are also discussed in Chapter 7 of the Pressman book.



Once a core is chosen, the calculation of primary and secondary turns and wire size is readily accomplished.

$$N_p = \frac{V_p \times 10^8}{4BA_c f} \qquad N_s = \frac{V_s}{V_p} N_p$$

$$I_p = \frac{P_{in}}{V_{in}} \qquad I_s = \frac{P_{out}}{V_{out}}$$

$KWa = N_p A_{wp} + N_s A_{ws}$

Where

A_{wp} = primary wire area A_{ws} = secondary wire area

Assume K = .4 for toroids; .6 for pot cores and E-U-I cores

Assume $N_p A_{wp} = 1.1\, N_s A_{ws}$ to allow for losses and feedback winding

$$\text{efficiency } e = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{out} + \text{wire losses} + \text{core losses}}$$

$$\text{Voltage Regulation (\%)} = \frac{V_{no\ load} - V_{full\ load}}{V_{full\ load}} \times 100$$

Typical Power Handling Chart

Power in Watts				Pot, RS, DS	E Cores	RM, PQ, EP	UU, UI, UR	ETD, EER, EC	EFD, Planar	Toroid
20 kHz	50 kHz	100 kHz	250 kHz							
2	3	4	7	41811 RS DS PC	41205 EE 41707 EE	41313 EP 41812 RM 41912 RM			42107 EE 41805 EE	40907 TC 41406 TC 41303 TC 41435 TC 41304 TC 41206 TC 41506 TC 41407 TC 41405 TC 41305 TC
5	8	11	21	41814 PC 42311 RS DS HS	41808 EE	41717 EP 42013 RM 42016 PQ 42610 PQ			42019 EFD 42216 EI 42214 EI 43208 EI	41306 TC 41607 TC 41450 TC 41410 TC 41605 TC 41610 TC 41606 TC
12	18	27	52		41810 EE 42510 EE	42316 RM				
13	20	29	56	42213 PC		42614 PQ				
15	22	32	62	42318 RS DS HS					42214 EE	
18	28	40	78			42020 PQ			42523 EFD	
19	30	42	83	42616 RS DS HS	42513 EE 42515 EI	42120 EP 43214 PQ	42515 UI		42216 EE 43618 EI 42217 EE 44008 EI	42106 TC 41809 TC
26	42	58	113						43208 EE	42206 TC
28	45	63	122		42520 EE				43030 EFD	
30	49	67	131	42616 RS PC		42620 PQ				42109 TC
33	53	74	144		42515 EE	42819 RM				42207 TC
40	61	90	175		42526 EE 43007 EE					42506 TC
42	70	94	183	43019 HS		42625 PQ			43618 EE	
48	75	108	210	42823 PC 43019 RS DS PC	43009 EE		42512 UU 42515 UU	42929 ETD	44008 EE	42507 TC
60	97	135	262		42530 EE 43515 EE	43220 PQ		43517 EC	43808 EI	42212 TC
70	110	157	306	43622 DS HS		43723 RM	42220 UU 42530 UU	42814 EER 42817 EER 43434 ETD		42508 TC 42908 TC 42712 TC
105	160	235	460	43622 RS	44011 EE 44317 EE				44308 EI 44310 EI	
120	195	270	525	43622 PC		43230 PQ			43808 EE	43806 TC
130	205	290	570		43520 EE	44230 RM		44119 EC	43809 EE	
150	240	337	656		44016 EE 44020 EI			43521 EER 43939 ETD	44308 EE	43113 TC 42915 TC
200	310	450	875						44310 EE	43610 TC

Typical Power Handling Chart

Power in Watts 20 kHz	50 kHz	100 kHz	250 kHz	Pot, RS, DS	E Cores	RM, PQ, EP	UU, UI, UR	ETD, EER, EC	EFD, Planar	Toroid
220	350	495	962		44721 EE		44119 UR			
230	350	550	1073	44229 RS DS		43535 PQ	44121 UR	44013 EER		
260	400	585	1137							43813 TC
280	430	630	1225	44229 PC	44020 EE			44216 EER		
300	450	675	1312					44444 ETD 44818 EER 45224 EC	45810 EI	43615TC
340	550	765	1487		44033 EE		44125 UR			
360	580	810	1575		44022 EE	44040 PQ		45418 EER		43620 TC
410	650	922	1793		44033 EE 45724 EE		44130 UR	44821 EER 44949 ETD	46410 EI	44416 TC 44419 TC 43825 TC
550	800	1237	2406		46016 EE					44015 TC 44715 TC
650	1000	1462	2843			45050 PQ			45810 EE	
700	1100	1575	3062		45528 EE		45716 UR	45454 ETD	46410 EE	44920 TC 44916 TC
900	1500	2000	3900		45530 EE					44925 TC
1000	1600	2250	4375	43428 UG	47228 EE 46022 EE		45917 UR	45959 ETD 47035 EC		46013 TC 46113 TC
1600	2600	3700	7215				46420 UR			44932 TC 46019 TC
2000	3000	4500	8750		46527 EE 47133 EE 48020 EE					46325 TC 46326 TC 47313 TC
2800	4200	6500	12675				49316 UI 49316 UU		49938 EE	48613 TC 48626 TC 47325 TC 49715 TC 48619 TC 49718 TC 48625 TC
11700	19000	26500	51500		49928 EE		49330 UU 49332 UU 49920 UU 49925 UI 49925 UU			49725 TC 49740 TC

Ferrite Core selection listed by typical Power Handling Capabilities (Chart is for Power Ferrite Materials, F, P, R, L and T, Push-Pull Square wave operation)

Wattage values shown above are for push-pull converter design. De-rate by a factor of 3 or 4 for flyback. De-rate by a factor of 2 for feed-forward converter.
Example: For a feed-forward converter to be used at 300 watts select a core that is rated at 600 watts based on the converter topology.

Note: Assuming core loss to be approximately 100 mW/cm^3, B Levels used in this chart are:
@ 20 kHz - 200 mT, 2000 gauss; @ 50 kHz - 130 mT, 1300 gauss; @ 100 kHz - 90 mT, 900 gauss; @ 250 kHz - 70 mT, 700 gauss