

PowerBRICK Reference Manual

Revised February 26, 2015

Overview

PowerBRICKs are split-rail power supply modules that are intended to be used with a breadboard. These generate both a negative and positive voltage out of a single 5V USB voltage. There are four output voltage options:

1. PowerBRICK 3.3: Outputs +/-3.3V
2. PowerBRICK 5: Outputs +/-5V
3. PowerBRICK 9: Outputs +/-9V
4. PowerBRICK 12: Outputs +/-12V

Input Voltage

Input voltage can be provided either through the USB connector or the +Vin pin header. The USB connector is used only as a voltage input source, while the pin header is used either as an input or output.

When a USB power source is attached, the pin header becomes an output and gives access to the USB voltage. This way the user can chain more PowerBRICKs by connecting together the +Vin pins. Note that the first PowerBRICK in the chain limits the input current. The entire chain can deliver a total output power of 2.2W, with each individual PowerBrick limited to the values specified in the tables below.

For maximum output capabilities (current and capacitive load) each PowerBrick should be powered individually either through the USB connector or +Vin pin. The following tables specify output capabilities when supplied individually.

	Min.	Typ.	Max.
Vin (USB or pin +Vin)	4.5V	5V	5.5V
Output voltage on pin +Vin	4V	5V	5.5V

Output Capabilities

PowerBRICK 3.3

-Vout	-3.43V	-3.3V	-3.16V
Max Output Current for -Vout	-320mA		
Max Capacitive Load for -Vout	47uF		
Vout	3.16V	3.3V	3.43V
Max Output Current for Vout	350mA		
Max Capacitive Load for Vout	22uF		

PowerBRICK 5

-Vout	-5.2V	-5V	-4.8V
Max Output Current for -Vout	-200mA		
Max Capacitive Load for -Vout	47uF		
Vout	4.8V	5V	5.2V
Max Output Current for Vout	250mA		
Max Capacitive Load for Vout	22uF		

PowerBRICK 9

-Vout	-9.36V	-9V	-8.64V
Max Output Current for -Vout	130mA		
Max Capacitive Load for -Vout	47uF		
Vout	8.64V	9V	9.36V
Max Output Current for Vout	130mA		
Max Capacitive Load for Vout	22uF		