19-3677; Rev 3; 6/10

EVALUATION KIT AVAILABLE

# 16-Port, 5.5V Constant-Current LED Driver



## General Description

The MAX6969 serial-interfaced LED driver provides 16 open-drain, constant-current-sinking LED driver outputs rated at 5.5V. The MAX6969 operates from a 3V to 5.5V supply. The MAX6969 supply and the LEDs' supply or supplies can power up in any order. The constant-current outputs are programmed together to up to 55mA using a single external resistor. The MAX6969 operates with a 25Mb, industry-standard, 4-wire serial interface.

The MAX6969 uses the industry-standard, shift-register-plus-latch-type serial interface. The driver accepts data shifted into a 16-bit shift register using data input DIN and clock input CLK. Input data appears at the DOUT output 16 clock cycles later to allow cascading of multiple MAX6969s. The latch-enable input, LE, loads the 16 bits of shift register data into a 16-bit output latch to set which LEDs are on and which are off. The output-enable, $\overline{OE}$, gates all 16 outputs on and off, and is fast enough to be used as a PWM input for LED intensity control.

For applications requiring LED fault detection, refer to the MAX6984*, which automatically detects open-circuit LEDs.

For safety-related applications requiring a watchdog timer, refer to the MAX6979, which includes a fail-safe feature that blanks the display if the serial interface becomes inactive for more than 1s.

The MAX6969 is one of a family of 12 shift-register-plus-latch-type LED drivers. The family includes 8-port and 16-port types, with 5.5V- or 36V-rated LED outputs, with and without open-circuit LED detection and watchdog. All versions operate from a 3V to 5.5V supply, and are specified over the -40°C to +125°C temperature range.

## Applications

Variable Message Signs

Marquee Displays

Point-of-Order Signs

Traffic Signs

Gaming Features

Architectural Lighting

*Future product—contact factory for availability.

## Features

- **25Mb, Industry-Standard, 4-Wire Serial Interface at 5V**
- **3V to 5.5V Logic Supply**
- **16 Constant-Current LED Outputs Rated at 5.5V**
- **Up to 55mA Continuous Current per Output**
- **Output Current Programmed by Single Resistor**
- **3% Current Matching Between Outputs**
- **6% Current Matching Between ICs**
- **High-Dissipation, 24-Pin Packages**
- **-40°C to +125°C Temperature Range**

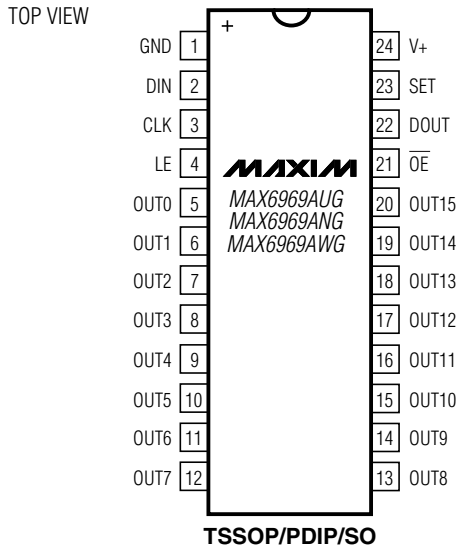
## Ordering Information

| PART | TEMP RANGE | PIN-PACKAGE |
|---|---|---|
| MAX6969AUG+ | -40°C to +125°C | 24 TSSOP |
| MAX6969AWG+ | -40°C to +125°C | 24 Wide SO |
| MAX6969ANG+ | -40°C to +125°C | 24 PDIP |

+Denotes a lead(Pb)-free/RoHS-compliant package.

***Typical Application Circuit and Selector Guide appear at end of data sheet.***

## Pin Configuration




TSSOP/PDIP/SO

# 16-Port, 5.5V Constant-Current LED Driver

## ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Voltage with respect to GND.
V+ .....-0.3V to +6V
OUT_ .....-0.3V to +6V
DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$, SET .....-0.3V to (V+ + 0.3V)
DOUT Current .....±10mA
OUT_ Sink Current .....60mA
Total GND Current .....480mA

Continuous Power Dissipation ($T_A$ = +70°C)
24-Pin TSSOP (derate 12.2mW/°C over +70°C) .....975mW
24-Pin PDIP (derate 13.3mW/°C over +70°C).....1067mW
24 Wide SO (derate 11.8mW/°C over +70°C).....941mW
Operating Temperature Range .....-40°C to +125°C
Junction Temperature.....+150°C
Storage Temperature Range .....-65°C to +150°C
Lead Temperature (soldering, 10s) .....+300°C
Soldering Temperature (reflow) .....+260°C

*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

(*Typical Application Circuit*, V+ = 3V to 5.5V, $T_A$ = $T_{MIN}$ to $T_{MAX}$, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at V+ = 5V, $T_A$ = +25°C.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Operating Supply Voltage | V+ | | 3.0 | | 5.5 | V |
| Output Voltage | $V_{OUT}$ | | | | 5.5 | V |
| Standby Current (Interface Idle, All Output Ports High Impedance, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω) | $I_+$ | All logic inputs at V+ or GND, DOUT unloaded | | 5.7 | 8 | mA |
| Standby Current (Interface Running, All Output Ports High Impedance, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω) | $I_+$ | $f_{CLK}$ = 5MHz, $\overline{OE}$ = V+, DIN and LE = V+ or GND, DOUT unloaded | | 6 | 8.5 | mA |
| Supply Current (Interface Idle, All Output Ports Active Low, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω) | $I_+$ | All logic inputs at V+ or GND, DOUT unloaded | | 18 | 25 | mA |
| Input High Voltage DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$ | $V_{IH}$ | | 0.7 x V+ | | | V |
| Input Low Voltage DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$ | $V_{IL}$ | | | | 0.3 x V+ | V |
| Hysteresis Voltage DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$ | $\Delta V_I$ | | | 0.8 | | V |
| Input Leakage Current DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$ | $I_{IH}$, $I_{IL}$ | | -1 | | +1 | µA |
| Output High-Voltage DOUT | $V_{OH}$ | $I_{SOURCE}$ = 4mA | V+ - 0.5V | | | V |
| Output Low Voltage | $V_{OL}$ | $I_{SINK}$ = 4mA | | | 0.5 | V |
| Output Current OUT_ | $I_{OUT}$ | V+ = 3V to 5.5V, $V_{OUT}$ = 0.5V to 2.5V, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω | 37 | 50 | 61 | mA |
| Output Leakage Current OUT_ | $I_{LEAK}$ | $\overline{OE}$ = V+, OUT_ = V+ | | | 1 | µA |

## 5V TIMING CHARACTERISTICS

(*Typical Application Circuit*, V+ = 4.5V to 5.5V, $T_A = T_{MIN}$ to $T_{MAX}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Notes 1, 2)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CLK Clock Period | $t_{CP}$ | | 40 | | | ns |
| CLK Pulse-Width High | $t_{CH}$ | | 19 | | | ns |
| CLK Pulse-Width Low | $t_{CL}$ | | 19 | | | ns |
| DIN Setup Time | $t_{DS}$ | | 4 | | | ns |
| DIN Hold Time | $t_{DH}$ | | 8 | | | ns |
| DOUT Propagation Delay | $t_{DO}$ | | 12 | | 32 | ns |
| DOUT Rise and Fall Time | $t_{DR}$, $t_{DF}$ | $C_{DOUT}$ = 10pF, 20% to 80% | | | 10 | ns |
| LE Pulse-Width High | $t_{LW}$ | | 20 | | | ns |
| LE Setup Time | $t_{LS}$ | | 10 | | | ns |
| LE Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{LRR}$ | | | | 100 | ns |
| LE Rising to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{LRF}$ | | | | 300 | ns |
| CLK Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{CRR}$ | | | | 100 | ns |
| CLK Rising to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{CRF}$ | | | | 310 | ns |
| $\overline{OE}$ Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{\overline{OE}H}$ | | | | 100 | ns |
| $\overline{OE}$ Falling to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{\overline{OE}L}$ | | | | 320 | ns |
| LED Output OUT_ Turn-On Fall Time | $t_f$ | 80% to 20%, pullup resistor = 65Ω | | | 120 | ns |
| LED Output OUT_ Turn-Off Rise Time | $t_r$ | 20% to 80%, pullup resistor = 65Ω | | | 120 | ns |

## 3.3V TIMING CHARACTERISTICS

(*Typical Application Circuit*, V+ = 3V to 5.5V, $T_A = T_{MIN}$ to $T_{MAX}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Notes 1, 2)

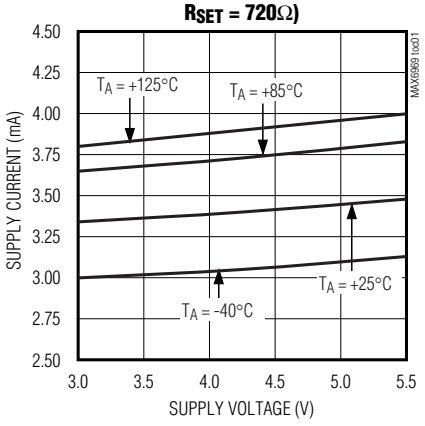
| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CLK Clock Period | $t_{CP}$ | | 52 | | | ns |
| CLK Pulse-Width High | $t_{CH}$ | | 24 | | | ns |
| CLK Pulse-Width Low | $t_{CL}$ | | 24 | | | ns |
| DIN Setup Time | $t_{DS}$ | | 4 | | | ns |
| DIN Hold Time | $t_{DH}$ | | 8 | | | ns |
| DOUT Propagation Delay | $t_{DO}$ | | 12 | | 50 | ns |
| DOUT Rise and Fall Time | $t_{DR}$, $t_{DF}$ | $C_{DOUT}$ = 10pF, 20% to 80% | | | 12 | ns |
| LE Pulse-Width High | $t_{LW}$ | | 20 | | | ns |
| LE Setup Time | $t_{LS}$ | | 15 | | | ns |
| LE Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{LRR}$ | | | | 120 | ns |
| LE Rising to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{LRF}$ | | | | 310 | ns |
| CLK Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{CRR}$ | | | | 120 | ns |
| CLK Rising to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{CRF}$ | | | | 330 | ns |
| $\overline{OE}$ Rising to OUT_ Rising Delay | $t_{\overline{OE}H}$ | | | | 120 | ns |
| $\overline{OE}$ Falling to OUT_ Falling Delay | $t_{\overline{OE}L}$ | | | | 330 | ns |
| LED Output OUT_ Turn-On Fall Time | $t_f$ | 80% to 20%, pullup resistor = 65Ω | | | 120 | ns |
| LED Output OUT_ Turn-Off Rise Time | $t_r$ | 20% to 80%, pullup resistor = 65Ω | | | 120 | ns |

**Note 1:** All parameters tested at $T_A$ = +25°C. Specifications over temperature are guaranteed by design.
**Note 2:** See Figure 3.

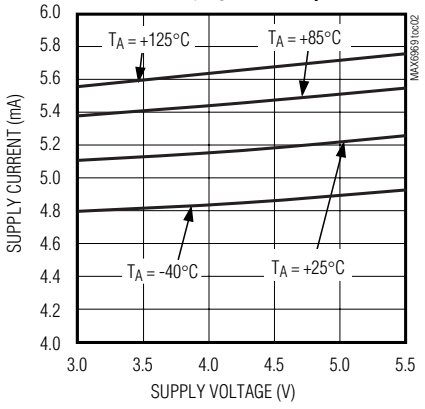
## Typical Operating Characteristics

($T_A$ = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

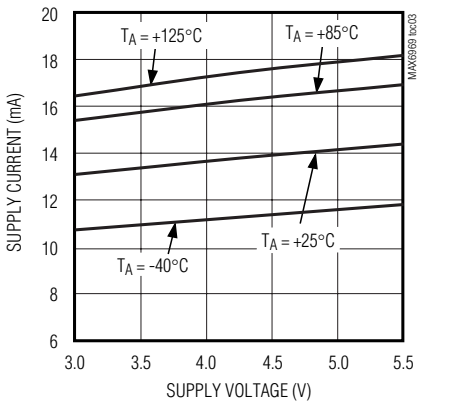
**SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE (INTERFACE IDLE, ALL OUTPUTS OFF, $R_{SET}$ = 720Ω)**




**SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE (INTERFACE IDLE, ALL OUTPUTS OFF, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω)**



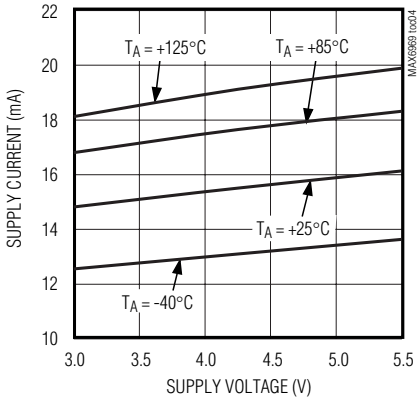

**SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE (INTERFACE IDLE, ALL OUTPUTS ON, $R_{SET}$ = 720Ω)**



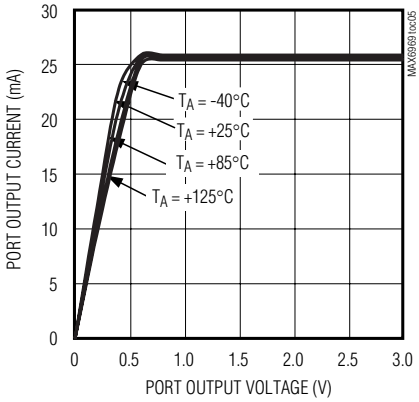
## Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

($T_A$ = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

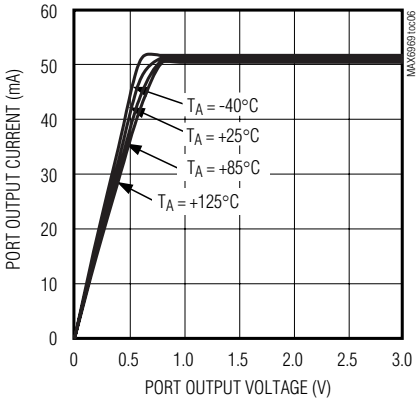
**SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE (INTERFACE IDLE, ALL OUTPUTS ON, $R_{SET}$ = 360Ω)**



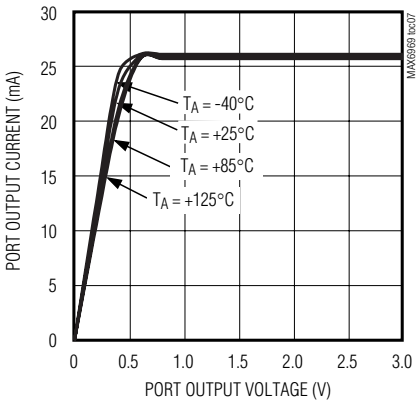

**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. PORT OUTPUT VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 720Ω, V+ = 3.3V)**



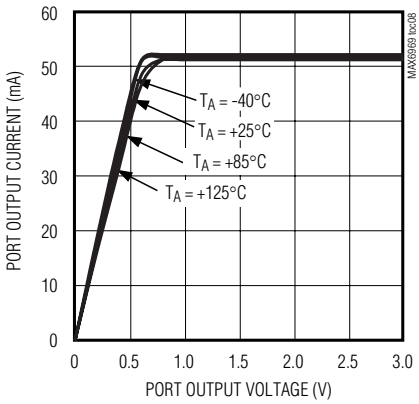

**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. PORT OUTPUT VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 360Ω, V+ = 3.3V)**



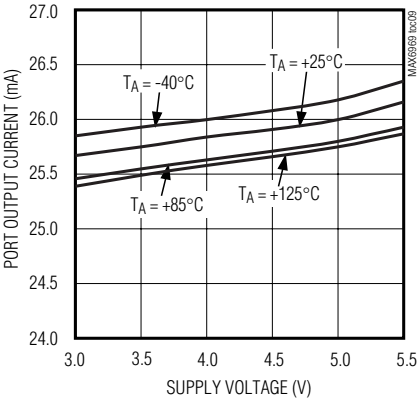

**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. PORT OUTPUT VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 720Ω, V+ = 5.0V)**



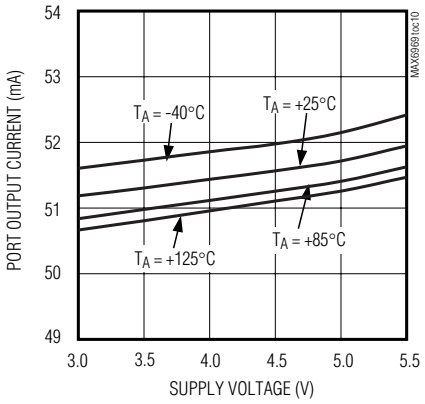

**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. PORT OUTPUT VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 360Ω, V+ = 5.0V)**



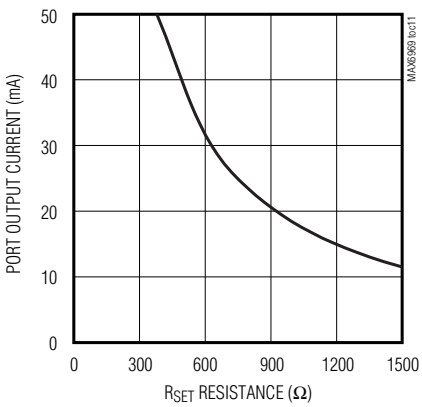

**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 720Ω, $V_{OUT}$ = 2V)**




**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE ($R_{SET}$ = 360Ω, $V_{OUT}$ = 2V)**




**PORT OUTPUT CURRENT vs. $R_{SET}$ RESISTANCE (V+ = 5.0V)**



# 16-Port, 5.5V Constant-Current LED Driver

## Pin Description

| PIN | NAME | FUNCTION |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | GND | Ground |
| 2 | DIN | Serial-Data Input. Data is loaded into the internal 16-bit shift register on CLK's rising edge. |
| 3 | CLK | Serial-Clock Input. Data is loaded into the internal 16-bit shift register on CLK's rising edge. |
| 4 | LE | Load-Enable Input. Data is loaded transparently from the internal shift register(s) to the output latch(es) while LE is high. Data is latched into the output latch(es) on LE's falling edge, and retained while LE is low. |
| 5–20 | OUT0–OUT15 | LED Driver Outputs. OUT0 to OUT15 are open-drain, constant-current-sinking outputs rated to 5.5V. |
| 21 | $\overline{OE}$ | Output-Enable Input. High forces outputs OUT0 to OUT15 high impedance, without altering the contents of the output latches. Low enables outputs OUT0 to OUT15 to follow the state of the output latches. |
| 22 | DOUT | Serial-Data Output. Data is clocked out of the 16-bit internal shift register to DOUT on CLK's rising edge. |
| 23 | SET | LED Current Setting. Connect SET to GND through a resistor ($R_{SET}$) to set the maximum LED current. |
| 24 | V+ | Positive Supply Voltage. Bypass V+ to GND with a 0.1µF ceramic capacitor. |

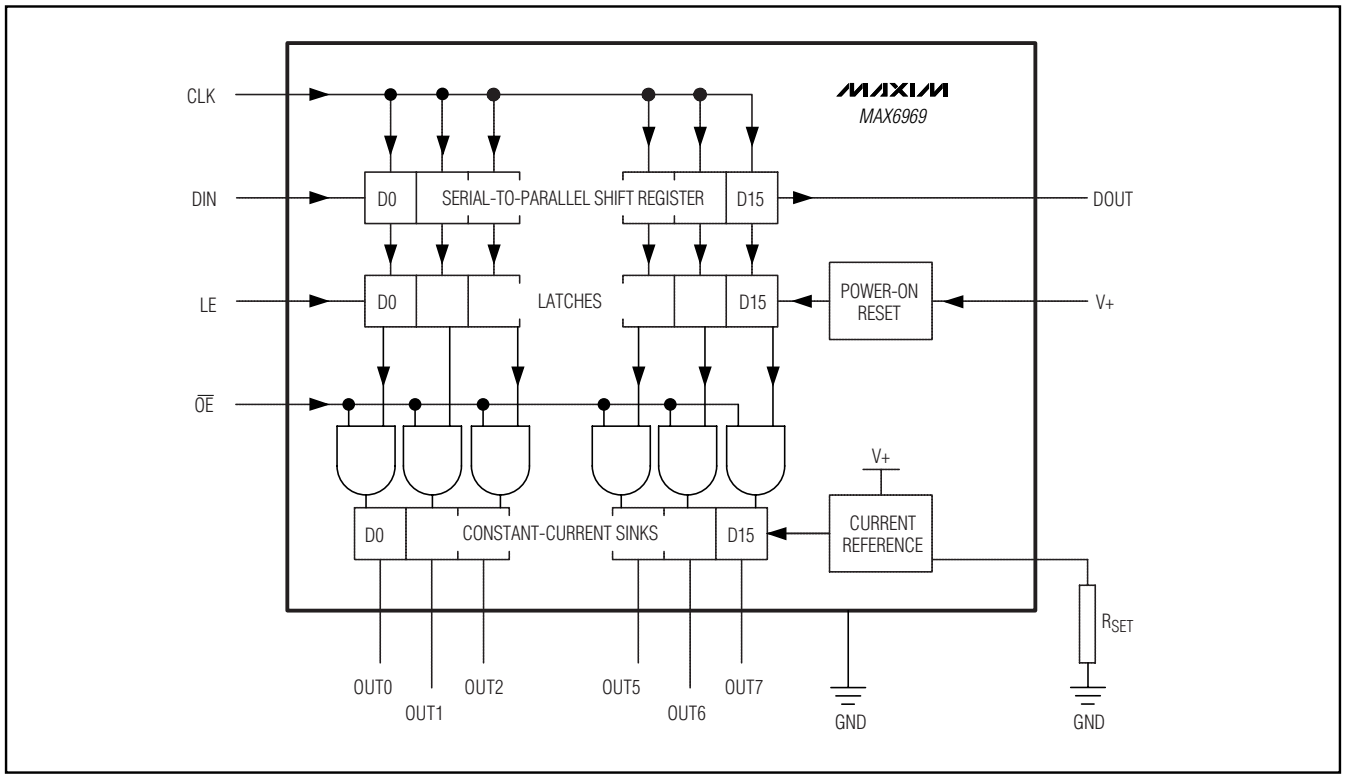



*Figure 1. Block Diagram*

## Detailed Description

The MAX6969 LED driver comprises a 4-wire serial interface driving 16 constant-current-sinking, open-drain output ports. The outputs drive LEDs in either static or multiplex applications (Figure 1). The constant-current outputs are guaranteed for current accuracy not only with chip-supply voltage variations (5V ±10% and 3V to 5.5V), but also over a realistic range of driver output voltage drop (0.5V to 2.5V). The drivers use current-sensing feedback circuitry (not simple current mirrors) to ensure very small current variations over the full allowed range of output voltage (see the *Typical Operating Characteristics*).

The 4-wire serial interface comprises a 16-bit shift register and a 16-bit transparent latch. The shift register is written through a clock input, CLK, and a data input, DIN, and the data propagates to a data output, DOUT. The data output allows multiple drivers to be cascaded and operated together. The contents of the 16-bit shift register are loaded into the transparent latch through a latch-enable input, LE. The latch is transparent to the shift register outputs when high, and latches the current state on the falling edge of LE.

Each driver output is an open-drain, constant-current sink that should be connected to the cathode of either a single LED or a series string of multiple LEDs. The LED anode can be connected to a supply voltage of up to 5.5V, independent of the MAX6969 supply, V+. The constant-current capability is up to 55mA per output, set for all eight outputs by an external resistor, $R_{SET}$.

### Initial Power-Up and Operation

An internal reset circuit clears the internal registers of the MAX6969 on power-up. All outputs (OUT0–OUT15) initialize to high impedance, regardless of the initial logic levels of the CLK, DIN, $\overline{OE}$, and LE inputs.

### 4-Wire Serial Interface

The serial interface on the MAX6969 is a 4-wire serial interface using four inputs (DIN, CLK, LE, $\overline{OE}$) and a data output (DOUT). This interface is used to write display data to the MAX6969. The serial-interface data word length is 16 bits, D0–D15. See Figure 2.

The functions of the five interface pins are as follows. DIN is the serial-data input, and must be stable when it is sampled on the rising edge of CLK. Data is shifted in, MSB first. This means that data bit D15 is clocked in first, followed by 15 more data bits finishing with the LSB, D0.

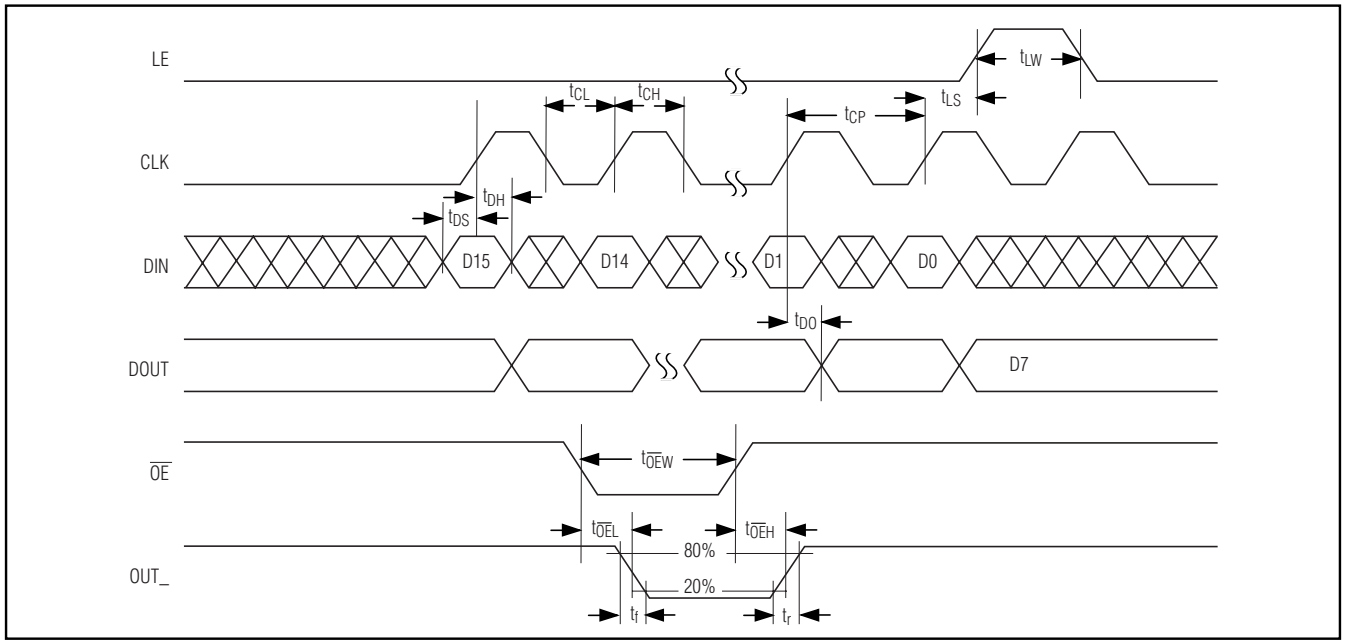



*Figure 2. 4-Wire Serial-Interface Timing Diagram*

# 16-Port, 5.5V Constant-Current LED Driver

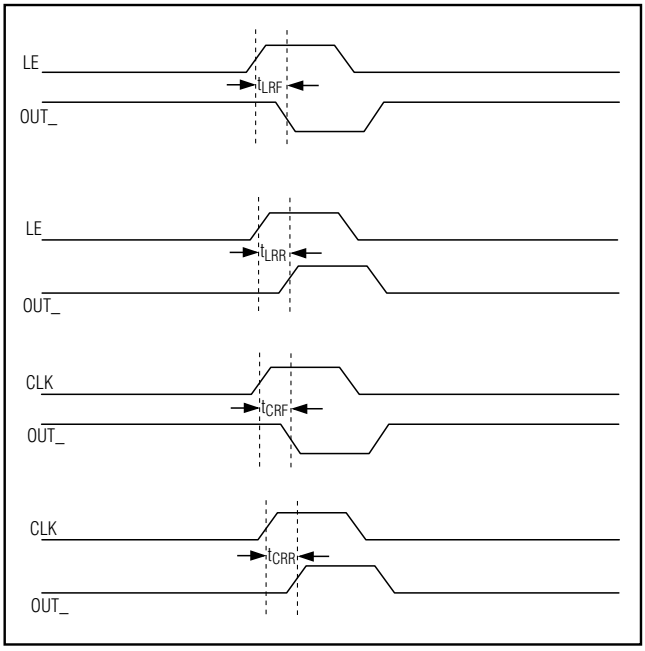



*Figure 3. LE and CLK to OUT_ Timing*

CLK is the serial-clock input, which shifts data at DIN into the MAX6969 16-bit shift register on its rising edge.

LE is the latch load input of the MAX6969 that transfers data from the MAX6969 16-bit shift register to its 16-bit latch when LE is high (transparent latch), and latches the data on the falling edge of LE (Figure 2).

The fourth input provides output-enable control of the output drivers. $\overline{OE}$ is high to force outputs OUT0–OUT15 high impedance, without altering the contents of the output latches, and low to enable outputs OUT0–OUT15 to follow the state of the output latches.

$\overline{OE}$ is independent of the operation of the serial interface. Data can be shifted into the serial-interface shift register and latched, regardless of the state of $\overline{OE}$.

DOUT is the serial-data output, which shifts data out from the MAX6969's 16-bit shift register on the rising edge of CLK. Data at DIN is propagated through the shift register and appears at DOUT 16 clock cycles later.

## Table 1. 4-Wire Serial-Interface Truth Table

| SERIAL DATA INPUT DIN | CLOCK INPUT CLK | SHIFT-REGISTER CONTENTS | | | | | | LOAD INPUT LE | LATCH CONTENTS | | | | | | BLANKING INPUT $\overline{OE}$ | OUTPUT CONTENTS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | $D_0$ | $D_1$ | $D_2$ | … | $D_{n-1}$ | $D_n$ | | $D_0$ | $D_1$ | $D_2$ | … | $D_{n-1}$ | $D_n$ | | $D_0$ | $D_1$ | $D_2$ | … | $D_{n-1}$ | $D_n$ |
| H | ↑ | H | $R_0$ | $R_1$ | … | $R_{n-2}$ | $R_{n-1}$ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| L | ↑ | L | $R_0$ | $R_1$ | … | $R_{n-2}$ | $R_{n-1}$ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| X | ↓ | $R_0$ | $R_1$ | $R_2$ | … | $R_{n-1}$ | $R_n$ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| — | — | X | X | X | … | X | X | L | $R_0$ | $R_1$ | $R_2$ | — | $R_{n-1}$ | $R_n$ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| — | — | $P_0$ | $P_1$ | $P_2$ | … | $P_{n-1}$ | $P_n$ | H | $P_0$ | $P_1$ | $P_2$ | … | $P_{n-1}$ | $P_n$ | L | $P_0$ | $P_1$ | $P_2$ | … | $P_{n-1}$ | $P_n$ |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | X | X | X | … | X | X | H | Hi-Z | Hi-Z | Hi-Z | … | Hi-Z | Hi-Z |

*L = Low-logic level.*
*H = High-logic level.*
*X = Don't care.*
*P = Present state.*
*R = Previous state.*
*Hi-Z = High impedance.*

## Applications Information

### Selecting External Component $R_{SET}$ to Set LED Output Current

The MAX6969 uses an external resistor, $R_{SET}$, to set the LED current for outputs OUT0–OUT15. The minimum allowed value of $R_{SET}$ is 327.3Ω, which sets the output currents to 55mA. The maximum allowed value of $R_{SET}$ is 1.5kΩ. The reference value, 360Ω, sets the output currents to 50mA. To set a different output current, use the formula:

$$R_{SET} = 18{,}000 / I_{OUT}$$

where $I_{OUT}$ is the desired output current in mA.

### Computing Power Dissipation

The upper limit for power dissipation ($P_D$) for the MAX6969 is determined by the following equation:

$$P_D = (V+ \times I+) + (V_{OUT} \times DUTY \times I_{OUT} \times N)$$

where:

V+ = supply voltage

I+ = operating supply current when sinking $I_{OUT}$ LED drive current into N outputs

DUTY = PWM duty cycle applied to $\overline{OE}$

N = number of MAX6969 outputs driving LEDs at the same time (maximum is 16)

$V_{OUT}$ = MAX6969 port output voltage when driving load LED(s)

$I_{OUT}$ = LED drive current programmed by $R_{SET}$

$P_D$ = power dissipation, in mW if currents are in mA

Dissipation example:

$I_{OUT}$ = 47mA, N = 16, DUTY = 1, $V_{OUT}$ = 2V, V+ = 5.25V

$P_D = (5.25V \times 50mA) + (2V \times 1 \times 47mA \times 16) = 1.767W$

Thus, for a 24-pin TSSOP package ($T_{JA}$ = 1 / 0.0122 = +82°C/W from the *Absolute Maximum Ratings*), the maximum allowed ambient temperature $T_A$ is given by:

$$T_{J(MAX)} = T_A + (P_D \times T_{JA}) = +150°C = T_A + (1.767 \times 82°C/W)$$

so $T_A$ = +145.6°C.

### Overtemperature Cutoff

The MAX6969 contains an internal temperature sensor that turns off all outputs when the die temperature exceeds approximately +165°C. The outputs are enabled again when the die temperature drops below approximately +140°C. Register contents are not affected, so when a driver is overdissipating, the external symptom is the load LEDs cycling between on and off as the driver repeatedly overheats and cools, alternately turning the LEDs off and then back on again.

### Power-Supply Considerations

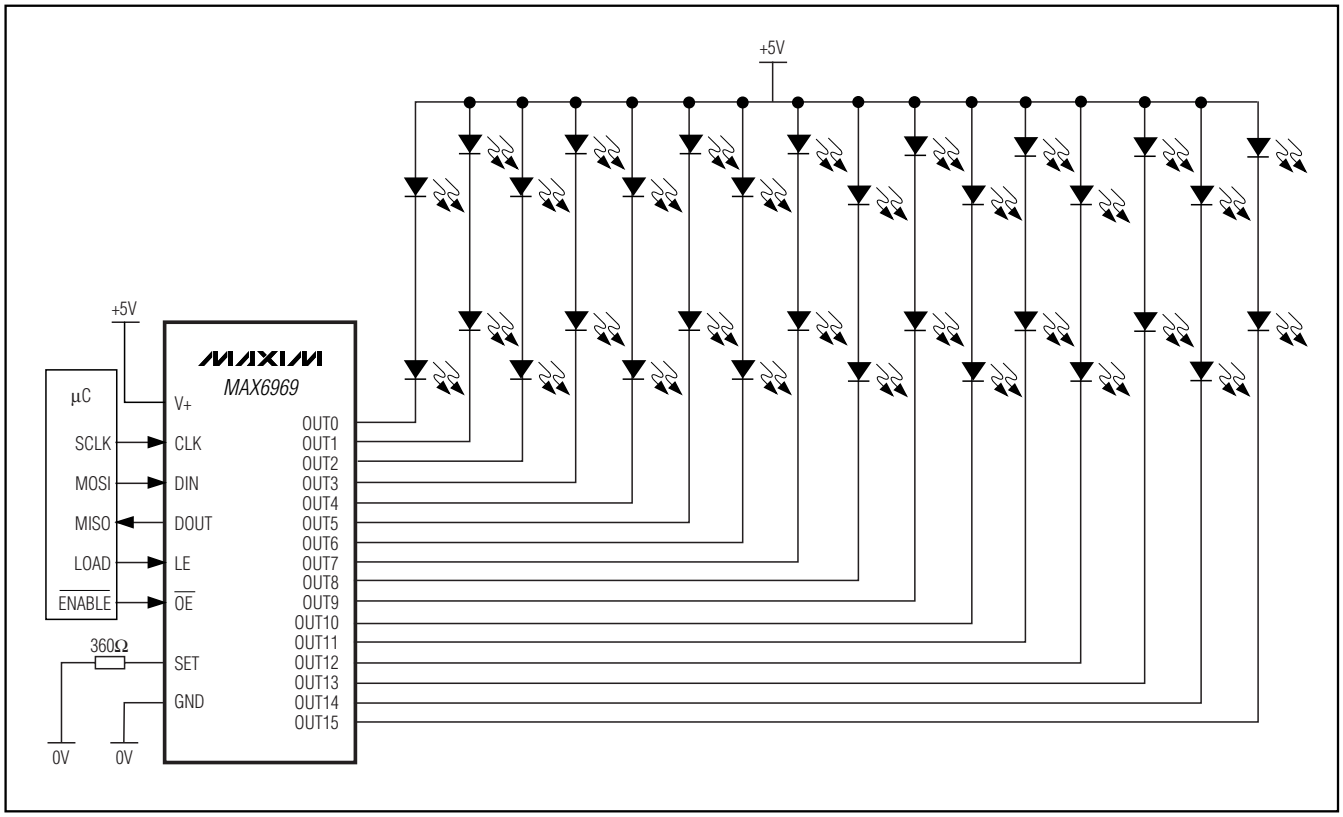
The MAX6969 operates with a chip supply V+, and one or more LED supplies. Bypass each supply to GND with a 0.1µF capacitor as close to the MAX6969 as possible. This is normally adequate for static LED driving. For multiplex or PWM applications, it is necessary to add an additional bulk electrolytic capacitor of 4.7µF or more to each supply for every 4 to 16 MAX6969s. The necessary capacitance depends on the LED load current, PWM switching frequency, and serial-interface speed. Inadequate V+ decoupling can cause timing problems, and very noisy LED supplies can affect LED current regulation.

# 16-Port, 5.5V Constant-Current LED Driver

## Selector Guide

| PART | NO. OF OUTPUTS | MAX OUTPUT VOLTAGE (V) | MAX OUTPUT CURRENT | LED FAULT DETECTION | WATCHDOG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAX6968 | 8 | 5.5 | 55mA | — | — |
| MAX6977 | | | | Yes | — |
| MAX6978 | | | | Yes | Yes |
| MAX6970 | 8 | 36 | | — | — |
| MAX6981 | | | | Yes | — |
| MAX6980 | | | | Yes | Yes |
| MAX6969 | 16 | 5.5 | | — | — |
| MAX6984 | | | | Yes | — |
| MAX6979 | | | | Yes | Yes |
| MAX6971 | 16 | 36 | | — | — |
| MAX6982 | | | | Yes | — |
| MAX6983 | | | | Yes | Yes |

## Typical Application Circuit



## Chip Information

PROCESS: BiCMOS

## Package Information

For the latest package outline information and land patterns, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**. Note that a "+", "#", or "-" in the package code indicates RoHS status only. Package drawings may show a different suffix character, but the drawing pertains to the package regardless of RoHS status.

| PACKAGE TYPE | PACKAGE CODE | DOCUMENT NO. |
|---|---|---|
| 24 PDIP | N24+1 | 21-0043 |
| 24 TSSOP | U24+1 | 21-0066 |
| 24 Wide SO | W24+1 | 21-0042 |