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NTE1508

Integrated Circuit

10-Step Dot/Bar Display Driver

for Linear Scale

Description:

The NTE1508 is a monolithic integrated circuit in an 18-Lead DIP type package that senses analog voltage levels and drives 10 LEDs, providing a linear analog display. A single pin changes the display from a moving dot to a bar graph. Current drive to the LEDs is regulated and programmable, eliminating the need for resistors. This feature is one that allows operation of the whole system from less than 3V.

The circuit contains its own adjustable reference and accurate 10-step voltage divider. The low-bias-current input buffer accepts signals down to GND, or V_{-} , yet needs no protection against inputs of 35V above or below GND. The buffer drives 10 individual comparators referenced to the precision divider. Indication non-linearity can thus be held typically to 1/2%, even over a wide temperature range.

Versatility was designed into the NTE1508 so that controller, visual alarm, and expanded scale functions are easily added on to the display system. The circuit can drive LEDs of many color, or low-current incandescent lamps. Many NTE1508s can be "chained" to form displays of 20 to over 100 segments. Both ends of the voltage divider are externally available so that 2 drivers can be made into a zero-center meter.

The NTE1508 is very easy to apply as an analog meter circuit. A 1.2V full-scale meter requires only 1 resistor and a single 3V to 15V supply in addition to the 10 display LEDs. If the 1 resistor is a pot, it becomes the LED brightness control

When in the dot mode, there is a small amount of overlap or "fade" (about 1mV) between segments. This assures that at no time will all LEDs be "OFF", and thus any ambiguous display is avoided. Various novel displays are possible.

Much of the display flexibility derives from the fact that all outputs are individual, DC regulated currents. Various effects can be achieved by modulating these currents. The individual outputs can drive a transistor as well as a LED at the same time, so controller functions including "staging" control can be performed. The NTE1508 can also act as a programmer, or sequencer.

Features:

- Drives LEDs, LCDs or vacuum fluorescents
- Bar or dot display mode externally selectable by user
- Expandable to displays of 100 steps
- Internal voltage reference from 1.2V to 12V
- Operates with single supply of less than 3V
- Inputs operate down to GND
- Output current programmable from 2 to 30mA
- No multiplex switching or interaction between outputs
- Input withstands $\pm 35V$ without damage or false outputs
- LED driver outputs are current regulated, open-collectors
- Outputs can interfere with TTL or CMOS logic
- The internal 10-step divider is floating and can be referenced to a wide range of voltages

Absolute Maximum Ratings:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Power Dissipation (Note 1) | 1365mW |
| Supply Voltage | 25V |
| Voltage on Output Drivers | 25V |
| Input Signal Overvoltage (Note 2) | ±35V |
| Divider Voltage | -100mV to V+ |
| Reference Load Current | 10mA |
| Storage Temperature Range | -55° to +150°C |
| Lead Temperature (During soldering, 10sec) | +260°C |

Note 1. The maximum junction temperature of the NTE1508 is +100°C. Device must be derated for operation at elevated temperatures. Junction to ambient thermal resistance is 55°C/W.

Note 2. Pin5 input current must be limited to ±3mA. The addition of a 39kΩ resistor in series with Pin5 allows ±100V signals without damage.

Electrical Characteristics: (Note 2, unless otherwise specified, all specifications apply with the following conditions:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| $3V_{DC} \leq V+ \leq 20V_{DC}$ | $V_{REF}, V_{RHI}, V_{RLO} \leq (V+ - 1.5V)$ |
| $3V_{DC} \leq V_{LED} \leq V+$ | $0V \leq V_{IN} \leq V+ - 1.5V$ |
| $-0.015V \leq V_{RLO} \leq 12V_{DC}$ | $T_A +25^\circ C, I_{L(REF)} = 0.2mA,$ |
| $-0.015V \leq V_{RHI} \leq 12V_{DC}$ | $V_{LED} = 3V, \text{Pin9 connected to Pin3}$ (Bar Mode) |

| Parameter | Test Conditions | Min | Typ | Max | Unit | |
|--|--|------------------|------|------|-------|----|
| Comparator | | | | | | |
| Offset Voltage, Buffer, and First Comparator | $0V \leq V_{RLO} = V_{RHI} \leq 12V, I_{LED} = 1mA$ | - | 3 | 10 | mV | |
| Offset Voltage, Buffer, and Any Other Comparator | $0V \leq V_{RLO} = V_{RHI} \leq 12V, I_{LED} = 1mA$ | - | 3 | 15 | mV | |
| Gain ($\Delta I_{LED}/\Delta V_{IN}$) | $I_{L(REF)} = 2mA, I_{LED} = 10mA$ | 3 | 8 | - | mA/mV | |
| Input Bias Current (At Pin5) | $0V \leq V_{IN} \leq V+ - 1.5V$ | - | 25 | 100 | nA | |
| Input Signal Overdrive | No Change is Display | -35 | - | +35 | V | |
| Voltage Divider | | | | | | |
| Divider Resistance | Total, Pin6 to Pin4 | 8 | 12 | 17 | kΩ | |
| Accuracy | Note 3 | - | 0.5 | 2.0 | % | |
| Voltage Reference | | | | | | |
| Output Voltage | $0.1mA \leq I_{L(REF)} \leq 4mA, V+ = V_{LED} = 5V$ | 1.2 | 1.28 | 1.34 | V | |
| Line Regulation | $3V \leq V+ \leq 18V$ | - | 0.01 | 0.03 | %/V | |
| Load Regulation | $0.1mA \leq I_{L(REF)} \leq 4mA, V+ = V_{LED} = 5V$ | - | 0.4 | 2.0 | % | |
| Output Voltage Change with Temperature | $0^\circ \leq T_A \leq +70^\circ C, I_{L(REF)} = 1mA, V+ = 5V$ | - | 1 | - | % | |
| Adjust Pin Current | | - | 75 | 120 | μA | |
| Output Drivers | | | | | | |
| LED Current | $V+ = V_{LED} = 5V, I_{L(REF)} = 1mA$ | 7 | 10 | 13 | mA | |
| LED Current Difference (Between Largest and Smallest LED Currents) | $V_{LED} = 5V$ | $I_{LED} = 2mA$ | - | 0.12 | 0.4 | mA |
| | | $I_{LED} = 20mA$ | - | 1.2 | 3.0 | mA |
| LED Current Regulation | $2V \leq V_{LED} \leq 17V$ | $I_{LED} = 2mA$ | - | 0.1 | 0.25 | mA |
| | | $I_{LED} = 20mA$ | - | 1 | 3 | mA |

Note 3. Accuracy is measured referred to +10.000V_{DC} at Pin6, with 0.000V_{DC} at Pin4. At lower full-scale voltages, buffer and comparator offset voltage may add significant error.

Electrical Characteristics (Cont'd): (Note 2, unless otherwise specified, all specifications apply with the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 3V_{DC} &\leq V_+ \leq 20V_{DC} & V_{REF}, V_{RHI}, V_{RLO} &\leq (V_+ - 1.5V) \\
 3V_{DC} &\leq V_{LED} \leq V_+ & 0V &\leq V_{IN} \leq V_+ - 1.5V \\
 -0.015V &\leq V_{RLO} \leq 12V_{DC} & T_A &+25^\circ\text{C}, I_{L(REF)} = 0.2\text{mA}, \\
 -0.015V &\leq V_{RHI} \leq 12V_{DC} & V_{LED} &= 3V, \text{Pin9 connected to Pin3} \\
 & & & \text{(Bar Mode)}
 \end{aligned}$$

| Parameter | Test Conditions | Min | Typ | Max | Unit |
|--|--|-----|------|-----|---------------|
| Output Drivers (Cont'd) | | | | | |
| Dropout Voltage | $I_{LED(ON)} = 20\text{mA}, V_{LED} = 5V, \Delta I_{LED} = 2\text{mA}$ | - | - | 1.5 | V |
| Saturation Voltage | $I_{LED} = 2\text{mA}, I_{L(REF)} = 0.4\text{mA}$ | - | 0.15 | 0.4 | V |
| Output Leakage, Each Collector | Bar Mode, Note 4 | - | 0.1 | 10 | μA |
| Output Leakage | Dot Mode, Note 4 | | | | |
| | Pin10 to Pin18 | - | 0.1 | 10 | μA |
| | Pin1 | 60 | 150 | 450 | μA |
| Supply Current | | | | | |
| Standby Supply Current (All Outputs OFF) | $V_+ = 5V, I_{L(REF)} = 0.2\text{mA}$ | - | 2.4 | 4.2 | mA |
| | $V_+ = 20V, I_{L(REF)} = 1\text{mA}$ | - | 6.1 | 9.2 | mA |

Note 4. Bar mode results when Pin9 is within 20mV of V+. Dot mode results when Pin9 is pulled at least 200mV below V+ or left open circuit. LED No. 10 (Pin10 output current) is disabled if Pin9 is pulled 0.9V or more below V_{LED}.

