

SMPS300R single and dual output

The SMPS300R Switched Mode Power Supply (SMPS) is specially designed to be used for Audio Amplifiers, both Linear Amplifiers such as class AB Amplifiers or Switched Amplifiers such as Class D or Class T which are rated for an output power up to 300W and have a crest factor of at least 3:1. SMPS300R use state of the art, very efficient LLC Series Resonant Converter Topology. Due to the soft-switched topology used, the SMPS300R has very low EMI noise, lower losses and is more compact than a similar power rating classic hard-switched SMPS. Eight output voltage ranges are available for stock SMPS300R, plus any other custom output voltage, in range of 12V to 180V. The output voltage is regulated, and adjustable within ± 5 to 10% limits, making the SMPS300R suitable to be used with most of the Audio Amplifiers from the market, not just with the Connexelectronic ones.

SMPS300R Features:

- LLC Series Resonant Converter Topology for high efficiency, up to 94% and lowest EMI.
- 230V AC and 120V AC models available.
- 300W Continuous Output Power with cooling, 380W Peak Output Power, 420W Short-Time Peak Power.
- Eight output voltages versions available from stock: SMPS300R differential output: $\pm 24V$ $\pm 30V$ $\pm 36V$ $\pm 45V$ and SMPS300R single Output: 24V 30V 36V 48V all adjustable within ± 5 to 10%.
- Differential Auxiliary Voltage available, with voltage choice in range of $\pm 10V$ to $\pm 20V$ at max. 500mA.
- Complete protection set, Under-voltage, Over-voltage, Over-current, and Over-temperature Protection.
- Burst-Mode operation at low load or no-load for high efficiency.
- No heatsinks are used for power devices, due to high efficiency.
- Compact size, 100x100x36mm, lightweight, less than 300 grams.

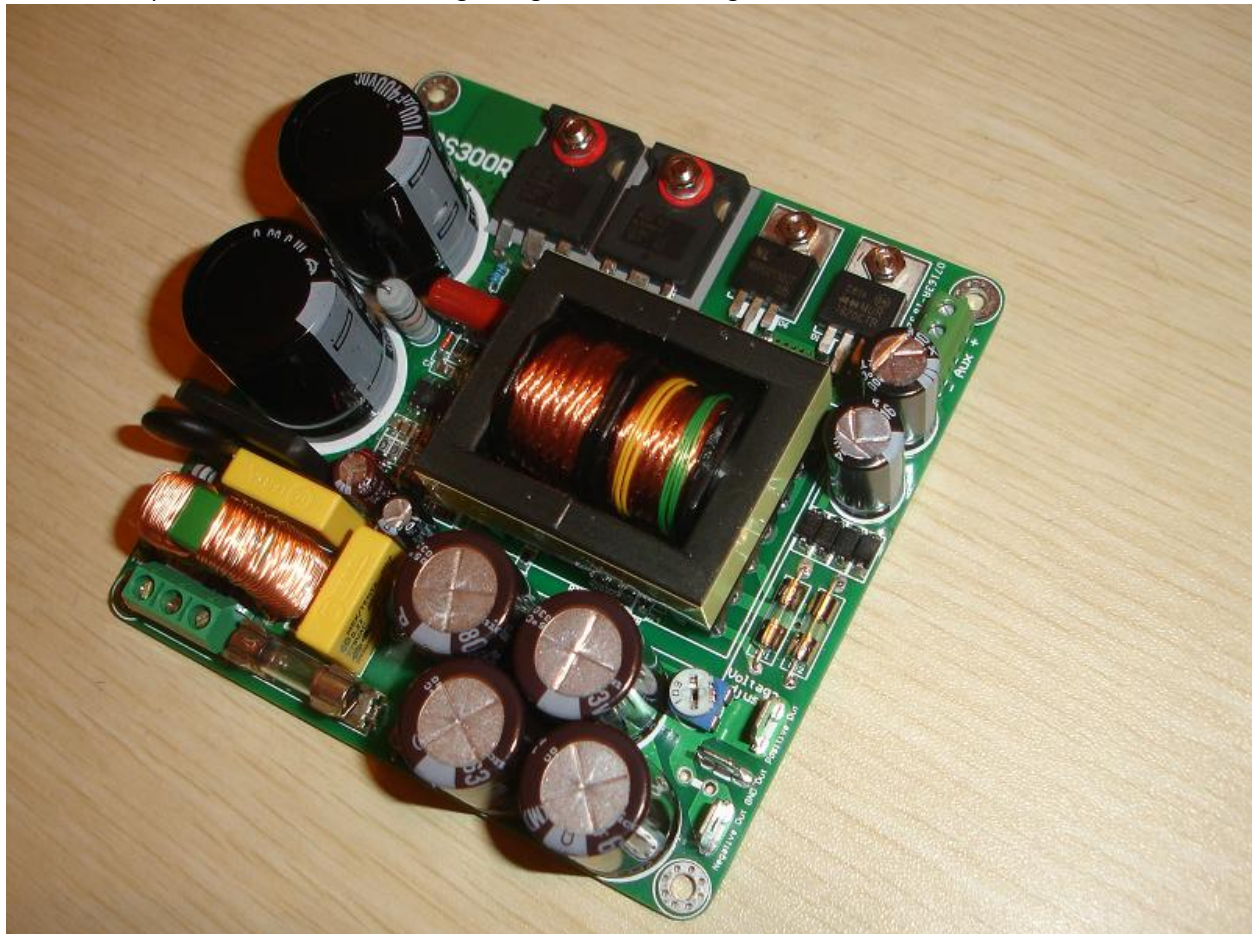


Fig.1 SMPS300R picture

SMPS300R Description: The current for the audio amplifiers producers, both in HI-FI or Pro-Audio field, is to use a hard-switching unregulated SMPS or at most a Quasi-Resonant unregulated SMPS. The main reason behind this is the cost, which is much lower for such power supplies than for a regulated one; another reason is for easier synchronization of the power supply switching frequency with the half of the amplifier switching frequency to avoid beating. In some cases, is either not possible, or unnecessary. For example the Class T Audio Amplifiers, where the amplifier run at variable switching frequency, which depends on the input signal (spread spectrum modulation) and have value in range of 500 KHz to 1.5 MHz, for each channel independently, The LLC Series Resonant Converter also run at variable frequency, depending on the load value, typically in range of 110KHz to 250KHz. Being soft commutated, the SMPS intermodulation noise which might occur has very low value, below the S/N ration threshold, thus inaudible. The third reason for using unregulated SMPS for those amplifiers is that most of the class AB amplifies have high power supply rejection ratio which allows using an unregulated power supply without degrading their performances. But for the class D and class T amplifiers, this might be not enough, especially if Audiophile Sound Quality is required. Unlike many other amplifiers which are using SMPS, this Power Supply has regulated output voltage, providing a constant output voltage, from zero load to full load which translates in cleaner sound, without peaks and drops, without hard clipping and distortions and true, real deep bass, transparent and clean medium and high frequencies.

The topology used for the SMPS300R is Series Resonant Converter or LLC Converter. It was chosen due to its many advantages compared with all other topologies. Among the advantages, we consider that the most important are superior efficiency, up to 94% lower EMI and noise, compact size and reasonable complexity. The operation principle of this converter was described in many papers, application notes, and reference designs. Although is not a relatively new technology, being discovered more than 15 years ago, until recently, the lack of knowledge, documentation and availability of good characteristic electronic components such as high-speed MOS-FET's or IGBT's prohibited this topology to spread like other hard switched topologies. Only after the LCD and Plasma TV's came-up and initiatives to increase efficiency of the consumer products such as 80+, 90+ were imposed, engineers had to look towards other solution than the current, mature hard-switched topologies, which can't break the 90% efficiency barrier without significant cost increase and size. For an LLC resonant converter, efficiencies greater than 92% are common and even 95-96% can be achieved if the DC-DC converter is supplied from the output of an PFC pre-regulator capable to supply a constant 400V DC. In our case, the PFC stage is not required, due to the purpose of the application and because similar efficiencies can be achieved without using a complicated PFC circuitry which would increase the size of the SMPS board, EMI, and decrease the performance due to the fact that the available space is limited and the PFC inductor might interfere with other circuits operation.

An important aspect which must be considered when the SMPS300R is powered ON, the initial current drawn from the mains is few times higher than the average operating current. The reason for this is that the filter capacitors are completely discharged, and act as a short circuit for a brief period. The current is higher as the capacitors capacity and voltage is higher, and is proportional with the capacitor stored energy ($CU^2/2$). To prevent harmful effects which this high value inrush current might have to the Power Supply components, a thermistor was used to limit the inrush current to a lower value than the mains fuse will trip or might damage any components from the Amplifier Power Supply. This thermistor is a passive component which has the property to decrease its resistance when the temperature increases. It has higher electrical resistance at low temperature, thus reducing the inrush current, and when the current which passes through, will heat-up the thermistor, the resistance will decrease, and the dissipated power will be reduces. One drawback might be the increased operating temperature, especially when the SMPS300R delivers high output power. The thermistor is placed on the edge of the board close to the Mains input connector, this avoiding heating-up other temperature sensitive components. Note that there is no need to use any other external power soft-start circuit when the SMPS300R is powered from standard mains supply voltage of 110 or 220V AC.

The SMPS300R features a soft-start characteristic, which allows progressive charge of the output filter capacitors, with a controlled charging current, without tripping over-current protection. The value and the working voltage of the output capacitors depend on the type of the SMPS, single or dual voltage, and the value of the output voltage. These capacitors have enough capacitance for most stringent applications, adding extra capacitors are not necessary or recommended, because if the capacitance is too high, the over-current protection might trip during power ON. Although the soft-switching characteristic allows the SMPS300R to run cooler than similar power hard-switched SMPS's, over-temperature protection was added. This consists of a circuit which monitors the temperature of the primary MOS-FET's and disables the power supply when the operating temperature reach 90°C.

