

Re: Automotive – reverse voltage protection thing

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- *From:* Jim Thompson <To-Email-Use-The-Envelope-Icon@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 15 Nov 2006 20:23:23 -0700
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On Thu, 16 Nov 2006 03:50:17 +0100, Przemyslaw Wegrzyn
<czajnik@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi!

I need to design a well-protected power supply for an automotive device, well protected from all the nasty things described in ISO 7637 and similar norms.

It's a common way to use a transil to protect from "dump load" surge, it's perfectly ok for me. Yet another thing to protect from is a reverse voltage.

My first idea was to use a series diode to protect from reverse voltage. I wanted to connect it as the first component, anode to the battery, and a transil just after that. Seems ok, but..

Well, the diode itself need to have a high level of allowable reverse voltage (ISO 7637 says about -150V spikes, yet I've seen some papers saying that reality is much worse). At the same time this diode need to handle quite high peak current, other wise it will die after first "dump load" thing. I guess this leads to a big/expensive element.

One possibility is not to use this diode at all, assuming that the transil itself is enough – in case of reverse polarity, it will conduct just like a normal diode, effectively limiting the spike to it's $-U_f$. It would need a fuse to protect the transil from permanently reversed power supply.

What is actually used in practice for such a protection? Looking for some info I've found RBO40 component from ST, which uses a series diode, TVS across output for load dump protection, and another across the diode. Unfortunately, this part is quite hard to get here.

Best Regards,
Przemyslaw

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See...

<http://www.analog-innovations.com/SED/PerfectDiodeForChargerIsolation.pdf>

...Jim Thompson

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I love to cook with wine. Sometimes I even put it in the food.

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