



**PCB Calculator**

**April 27, 2021**

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*Reference manual***Copyright**

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**Feedback**

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- About KiCad document: <https://gitlab.com/kicad/services/kicad-doc/issues>
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**Publication date and software version**

March 05 2020

## 1 Introduction

The KiCad PCB Calculator is a set of utilities to help you find the values of components or other parameters of a layout. The Calculator has the following tools:

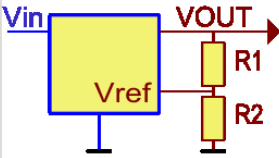
- Regulators
- Track Width
- Electrical Spacing
- Trans Line
- RF Attenuators
- Color Code
- Board Classes

## 2 Calculators

### 2.1 Regulators

This calculator helps with the task of finding the values of the resistors needed for linear and low-dropout voltage regulators.

---

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> R1: <input type="text" value="10"/> kΩ  <input type="radio"/> R2: <input type="text" value="10"/> kΩ  <input type="radio"/> Vout: <input type="text" value="12"/> V  Vref: <input type="text" value="3"/> V  Iadj: <input type="text"/> μA  Type: <input type="text" value="Standard Type"/> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="button" value="Calculate"/> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Regulator: <input type="text"/>  Regulators data file: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse"/>  <input type="button" value="Edit Regulator"/> <input type="button" value="Add Regulator"/> <input type="button" value="Remove Regulator"/> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Message </div>						
Formula: <b><math>V_{out} = V_{ref} * (R1 + R2) / R2</math></b>						

For the *Standard Type*, the output voltage  $V_{out}$  as a function of the reference voltage  $V_{ref}$  and resistors  $R1$  and  $R2$  is given by:

$$V_{out} = V_{ref} \cdot \left( \frac{R1 + R2}{R1} \right)$$

For the *3 terminal type*, there is a correction factor due to the quiescent current  $I_{adj}$  flowing from the adjust pin:

$$V_{out} = V_{ref} \cdot \left( \frac{R1 + R2}{R1} \right) + I_{adj} \cdot R2$$

This current is typically below 100  $\mu A$  and can be neglected with caution.

To use this calculator, enter the parameters of the regulator *Type*, *Vref* and, if needed, *Iadj*, select the field you want to calculate (one of the resistors or the output voltage) and enter the other two values.

## 2.2 Track-Width

The Track Width tool calculates the trace width for printed circuit board conductors for a given current and temperature rise. It uses formulas from IPC-2221 (formerly IPC-D-275).

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
Parameters:						
Current: <b>0.744609</b>		A				
Temperature rise: 10.0		deg C				
Conductor length: 20		mm				
Resistivity: 1.72e-8		Ohm-meter				
<p>If you specify the maximum current, then the trace widths will be calculated to suit.            If you specify one of the trace widths, the maximum current it can handle will be calculated. The width for the other trace to also handle this current will then be calculated.            The controlling value is shown in bold.</p> <p>The calculations are valid for currents up to 35A (external) or 17.5A (internal), temperature rises up to 100 deg C, and widths of up to 400mil (10mm).            The formula, from IPC 2221, is</p> $I = K * dT^{0.44} * (W*H)^{0.725}$ <p>where:  <b>I</b> = maximum current in amps  <b>dT</b> = temperature rise above ambient in deg C  <b>W,H</b> = width and thickness in mils  <b>K</b> = 0.024 for internal traces or 0.048 for external traces</p>						
External layer traces:						
Trace width: <b>0.2</b>		mm				
Trace thickness: 0.035		mm				
Cross-section area: 0.007		mm x mm				
Resistance: 0.0491429		Ω				
Voltage drop: 0.0365922		Volt				
Power loss: 0.0272469		Watt				
Internal layer traces:						
Trace width: <b>0.520288</b>		mm				
Trace thickness: 0.035		mm				
Cross-section area: 0.0182101		mm x mm				
Resistance: 0.0188906		Ω				
Voltage drop: 0.0140661		Volt				
Power loss: 0.0104738		Watt				

## 2.3 Electrical-Spacing

This table helps finding the minimum clearance between conductors.

Each line of the table has a minimum recommended distance between conductors for a given voltage (DC or AC peaks) range. If you need the values for voltages higher than 500V, enter the value in the box in the left corner and press *Update Values*.

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes			
<div>mm</div>		<b>Note: Values are minimal values (from IPC 2221)</b>							
Voltage > 500V: 500		B1	B2	B3	B4	A5	A6	A7	
Update Values		0-15V	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.13	0.13	0.13
		16-30V	0.05	0.1	0.1	0.05	0.13	0.25	0.13
		31-50V	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.13	0.13	0.4	0.13
		51-100V	0.1	0.6	1.5	0.13	0.13	0.5	0.13
		101-150V	0.2	0.6	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.4
		151-170V	0.2	1.25	3.2	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.4
		171-250V	0.2	1.25	6.4	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.4
		251-300V	0.2	1.25	12.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.8
		301-500V	0.25	2.5	12.5	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.8
		> 500V	0.25	2.5	12.5	0.8	0.8	1.5	0.8
<div>* B1 - Internal Conductors</div> <div>* B2 - External Conductors, uncoated, sea level to 3050 m</div> <div>* B3 - External Conductors, uncoated, over 3050 m</div> <div>* B4 - External Conductors, with permanent polymer coating (any elevation)</div> <div>* A5 - External Conductors, with conformal coating over assembly (any elevation)</div> <div>* A6 - External Component lead/termination, uncoated</div> <div>* A7 - External Component lead termination, with conformal coating (any elevation)</div>									

## 2.4 TransLine

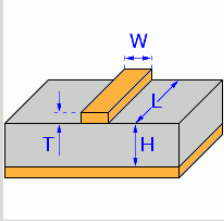
Transmission line theory is a cornerstone in the teaching of RF and microwave engineering.

In the calculator you can choose different sorts of Line Types and their special parameters. The models implemented are frequency-dependent, so they disagree with simpler models at high *enough* frequencies.

This calculator is heavily based on [Transcalc](#).

The transmission line types and the reference of their mathematical models are listed below:

- Microstrip line:
    - H. A. Atwater, “Simplified Design Equations for Microstrip Line Parameters” , Microwave Journal, pp. 109-115, November 1989.
  - Coplanar wave guide.
  - Coplanar wave guide with ground plane.
  - Rectangular waveguide:
    - S. Ramo, J. R. Whinnery and T. van Duzer, ”Fields and Waves in Communication Electronics”, Wiley-India, 2008, ISBN: 9788126515257.
  - Coaxial line.
  - Coupled microstrip line:
    - H. A. Atwater, “Simplified Design Equations for Microstrip Line Parameters” , Microwave Journal, pp. 109-115, November 1989.
    - M. Kirschning and R. H. Jansen, ”Accurate Wide-Range Design Equations for the Frequency-Dependent Characteristic of Parallel Coupled Microstrip Lines,” in IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 83-90, Jan. 1984. doi: 10.1109/TMTT.1984.1132616.
    - Rolf Jansen, ”High-Speed Computation of Single and Coupled Microstrip Parameters Including Dispersion, High-Order Modes, Loss and Finite Strip Thickness”, IEEE Trans. MTT, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 75-82, Feb. 1978.
    - S. March, ”Microstrip Packaging: Watch the Last Step”, Microwaves, vol. 20, no. 13, pp. 83.94, Dec. 1981.
  - Stripline.
  - Twisted pair.
-

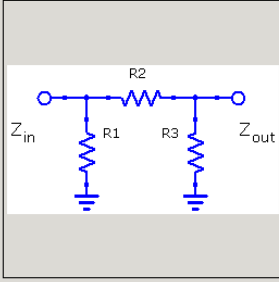
Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
<b>Transmission Line Type:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> Microstrip Line <input type="radio"/> Coplanar wave guide <input type="radio"/> Coplanar wave guide with ground plane <input type="radio"/> Rectangular Waveguide <input type="radio"/> Coaxial Line <input type="radio"/> Coupled Microstrip Line <input type="radio"/> Stripline <input type="radio"/> Twisted Pair			<b>Substrate Parameters</b> Er: 4.6 TanD: 0.02 Rho: 1.72e-08 H: 0.2 mm H_t: 1e+20 mm T: 0.035 mm Rough: 0 mm mu Rel S: 1 mu Rel C: 1		<b>Physical Parameters:</b> W: 0.2 mm L: 50 mm Analyze Synthesize	
			<b>Component Parameters:</b> Frequency: 1 GHz		<b>Electrical Parameters:</b> Z0: 50 Ω Ang_l: 0 Radian <b>Results:</b> ErEff: Conductor Losses: Dielectric Losses: Skin Depth:	

## 2.5 RF-Attenuators

With the RF Attenuator utility you can calculate the values of the resistors needed for different types of attenuators:

- PI
- Tee
- Bridged Tee
- Resistive Splitter

To use this tool, first select the type of attenuator you need, then enter the desired attenuation (in dB) and input/output impedances (in Ohms).

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
<b>Attenuators:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> PI <input type="radio"/> Tee <input type="radio"/> Bridged Tee <input type="radio"/> Resistive Splitter			<b>Parameters:</b> Attenuation: 6 dB Zin: 50 Ω Zout: 50 Ω Calculate		<b>Formula</b> $Z_{in}$ desired input impedance in Ω $Z_{out}$ desired output impedance in Ω a attenuation in dB $L = 10^{a/10}$ (the loss) $A = (L + 1)/(L - 1)$ <b>Pi attenuator</b> $R2 = (L - 1)/2 * \sqrt{(Z_{in} * Z_{out})/L}$ $R1 = 1/(A/Z_{in} - 1/R2)$ $R3 = 1/(A/Z_{out} - 1/R2)$	
			<b>Values</b> R1: Ω R2: Ω R3: Ω <b>Messages:</b>			



## 2.6 Color-Code

This calculator helps translating the color bars from the resistor to its value. To use it, first select the *tolerance* of the resistor: 10%, 5% or equal or smaller than 2%. For example:

- Yellow Violet Red Gold:  $47 \times 100 \pm 5\% = 4700 \text{ Ohm}$ , 5% tolerance
- 1kOhm, 1% tolerance: Brown Black Black Brown Brown

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
	1st Band	2nd Band	3rd Band	4th Band	Multiplier	Tolerance
	Black 0	0	0	0	$\times 1$	
	Brown 1	1	1	1	$\times 10$	$\pm 1\%$
	Red 2	2	2	2	$\times 100$	$\pm 2\%$
	Orange 3	3	3	3	$\times 1k$	
	Yellow 4	4	4	4	$\times 10k$	
	Green 5	5	5	5	$\times 100k$	$\pm 0.5\%$
	Blue 6	6	6	6	$\times 1M$	$\pm 0.25\%$
	Violet 7	7	7	7	$\times 10M$	$\pm 0.10\%$
	Grey 8	8	8	8	$\times 100M$	$\pm 0.05\%$
	White 9	9	9	9	$\times 1G$	
	Gold				$\times 0.1$	$\pm 5\%$
	Silver				$\times 0.01$	$\pm 10\%$

Tolerance  
☐ 10% / 5%  
☒  $\leq 2\%$

## 2.7 Board-Classes

### 2.7.1 Performance Classes

In IPC-6011 have been three performance classes established

- Class 1 General Electronic Products Includes consumer products, some computer and computer peripherals suitable for applications where cosmetic imperfections are not important and the major requirement is function of the completed printed board.
- Class 2 Dedicated Service Electronic Products Includes communications equipment, sophisticated business machines, instruments where high performance and extended life is required and for which uninterrupted service is desired but not critical. Certain cosmetic imperfections are allowed.
- Class 3 High Reliability Electronic Products Includes the equipment and products where continued performance or performance on demand is critical. Equipment downtime cannot be tolerated and must function when required such as in life support items or flight control systems. Printed boards in this class are suitable for applications where high levels of assurance are required and service is essential.

2.7.2 PCB Types

In IPC-6012B there are also 6 Types of PCB defined:

- Printed Boards without plated through holes (1)
  - 1 Single-Sided Board
- And Boards with plated through holes (2-6)
  - 2 Double-Sided Board
  - 3 Multilayer board without blind or buried vias
  - 4 Multilayer board with blind and/or buried vias
  - 5 Multilayer metal core board without blind or buried vias
  - 6 Multilayer metal core board with blind and/or buried vias

Regulators	Track Width	Electrical Spacing	TransLine	RF Attenuators	Color Code	Board Classes
mm ▼	Note: Values are minimal values					
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6
Lines width	0.8	0.5	0.31	0.21	0.15	0.12
Min clearance	0.68	0.5	0.31	0.21	0.15	0.12
Via: (diam - drill)	--	--	0.45	0.34	0.24	0.2
Plated Pad: (diam - drill)	1.19	0.78	0.6	0.49	0.39	0.35
NP Pad: (diam - drill)	1.57	1.13	0.9	--	--	--