



Overview

There are many LED applications where a flashing light is desired. This application note covers the use of an LM555 timer IC with an LED driver to make a high-power LED flash at a given rate.

Circuit

The circuit shown in Figure 1 is just a slight modification of the Astable Operation schematic given in National Semiconductor's datasheet for the LM555 timer [2]. For a power supply for the LM555, we will use the REF pin of the LED driver, which provides up to 20mA of regulated +5V for us to use with circuits such as this [1]. The output of the LM555 will be connected to the CTRL pin of the driver, which will allow the 555 to turn the LED on and off.

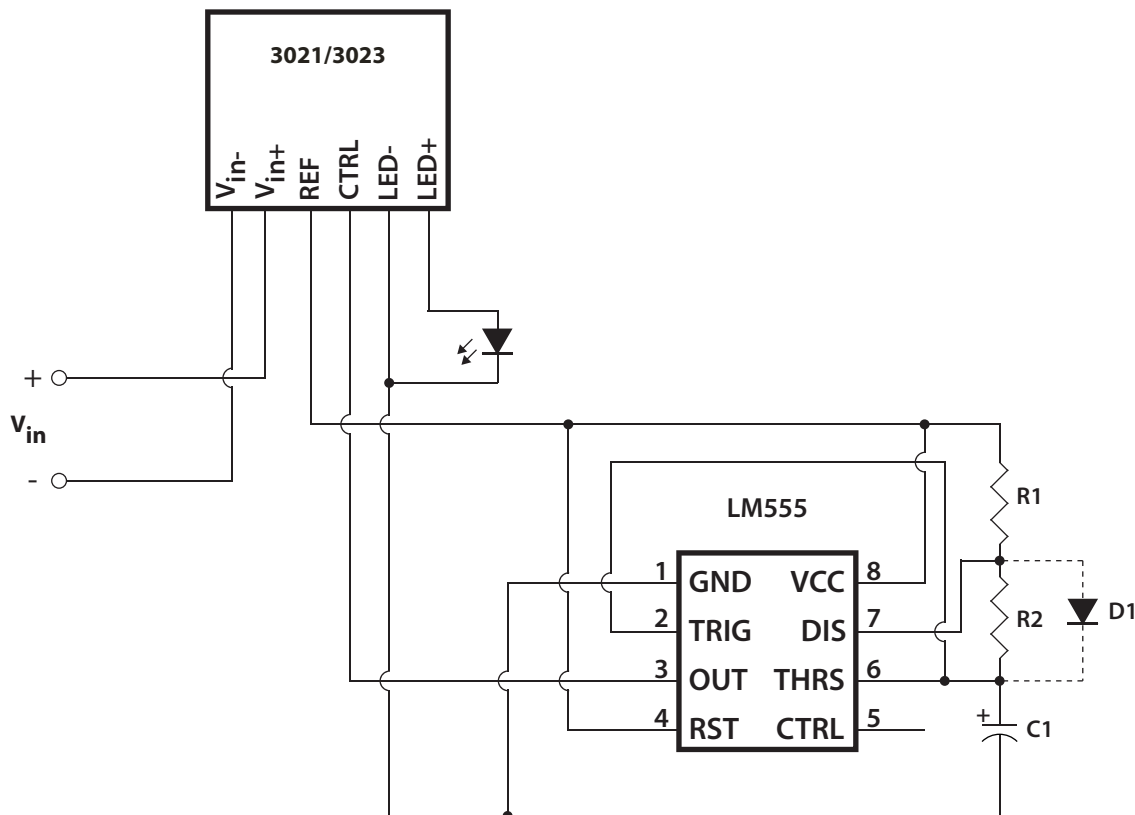


Figure 1.

A flashing circuit for high-power LEDs

