RCA
Solid State
Division

Power Transistors Application Note

AN-3565

A 100-Watt, 18-kHz Inverter Using RCA-2N5202 Silicon Power Transistors

by

D.T. DeFino

This Note describes a two-transistor, two-transformer inverter that demonstrates the excellent switching capabilities of the new RCA-2N5202 power transistor. This silicon epitaxial n-p-n device is supplied in the popular TO-66 package. Its fast switching speed makes it especially suitable for use in switching regulators, switching control amplifiers, converters, and inverters. Pertinent characteristics of the 2N5202 are shown in Table I.

Fig.1 shows a schematic diagram of the two-transistor, two-transformer circuit. A saturable base-drive transformer T_2 controls the inverter switching operation. A linearly operating output transformer T_1 transfers the output power to the load. The output transformer T_1 is not allowed to saturate; therefore, the peak collector current through the transistor is determined principally by the value of the load impedance.

Because no two transistors are perfectly matched, one of the transistors in the inverter circuit conducts more rapidly than the other when the power is turned on. This transistor, Q_2 for example, tends toward saturation and causes positive voltages to appear at the dotted ends of the transformers. Thus, there is an effective positive feedback that causes Q_1 to switch off and Q_2 to switch on. The voltage from the collector of Q_1 to the collector of Q_2 is then positive and equal to twice the collector supply voltage V_{CC}. The voltage V_{Rfb} across the feedback resistor R_{fb} is essentially the product of the resistance R_{fb} and the base current referred to the primary of T_2. The voltage across T_2 is equal to $2\,V_{CC} - V_{Rfb}$.

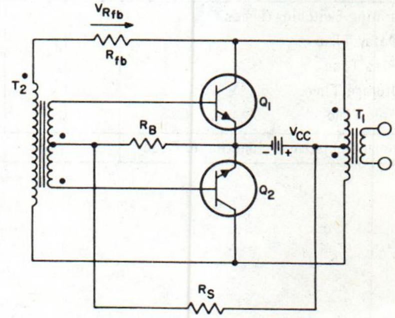

Fig.1 - Schematic diagram of two-transistor/two-transformer inverter.

At the beginning of the next half-cycle, the voltage across R_{fb} increases very slowly with the slowly increasing magnetizing current through T_2. When T_2 reaches its saturation flux density, the magnetizing current increases very rapidly and causes a rapid increase in V_{Rfb}. As a result, the voltage across T_2 decreases rapidly and Q_2 comes out of saturation. The collector voltage of Q_2 then rises, and regenerative action causes Q_1 and Q_2 to reverse states. As these processes are repeated during succeeding half-cycles, oscillations are sustained.

Characteristics of the drive transformer and the output transformer used in the circuit of Fig.1 are de-

TABLE I - TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RCA-2N5202 SILICON POWER TRANSISTOR

CHARACTERISTICS	SYMBOLS	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	MAX	UNITS
Collector-Cutoff Current	I_{CEV}	V_{CE} = 100 V, V_{BE} = -1.5 V	-	10	mA
		V_{CE} = 100 V, V_{BE} = -1.5 V, T_C = 150°C	-	10	mA
Emitter-Cutoff Current	I_{EBO}	V_{EB} = 6 V, I_C = 0	-	10	mA
DC Forward-Current Transfer Ratio	h_{FE}	V_{CE} = 1.2 V, I_C = 4 A	10	100	
Collector-to-Emitter Sustaining Voltage	$V_{CER}(sus)$	R_{BE} = 50 Ω, I_C = 0.2 A	75	-	V
Base-to-Emitter Voltage	V_{BE}	V_{CE} = 1.2 V, I_C = 4 A	-	1.9	V
Collector-to-Emitter Saturation Voltage	$V_{CE}(sat)$	I_C = 4 A, I_B = 0.4 A	-	1.2	V
Small-Signal Forward-Current Transfer Ratio	h_{fe}	V_{CE} = 10 V, I_C = 0.5 A, f = 10 MHz	6	-	
Output Capacitance	C_{ob}	V_{CB} = 10 V, I_E = 0, f = 1 MHz	-	175	pF
Second-Breakdown Collector Current	$I_{S/b}$	V_{CE} = 40 V (base forward-biased)	400	-	mA
Second-Breakdown Energy	$E_{S/b}$	V_{BB} = -4 V, R_{BE} = 50 Ω, L = 50 μH	0.4	-	mJ
Saturating Switching Times:					
Delay Time	t_d	V_{CC} = 30 V, I_C = 4 A, I_{B1} = 0.4 A	-	40	ns
Rise Time	t_r	V_{CC} = 30 V, I_C = 4 A, I_{B1} = 0.4 A	-	400	ns
Storage Time	t_s	V_{CC} = 30 V, I_C = 4 A, I_{B1} = 0.4 A, I_{B2} = -0.4 A	-	800	ns
Fall Time	t_f	V_{CC} = 30 V, I_C = 4 A, I_{B1} = 0.4 A, I_{B2} = -0.4 A	-	400	ns
Thermal Resistance, Junction to Case	θ_{J-C}		-	5	°C/W

termined by means of the following equation:

$$N_p = \frac{V}{4fAB} \times 10^8$$

where N_p is the number of turns in the primary winding, V is the peak voltage across the primary winding, f is the operating frequency in hertz, A is the cross-sectional area of the core in square centimeters, and B is the flux density in gauss. In the design of the drive transformer T_2, the value of flux density B is selected to cause the core to saturate. For the output transformer T_1, the value of B is selected to assure that T_1 will not saturate. The base resistor R_B is determined by the voltage at the secondary of T_2 and the base drive required for the transistor. The resistor R_S is selected so that a voltage of 0.7 volt appears across R_B when the power is turned on initially.*

* A complete discussion of inverter design considerations and design information is given in RCA Application Note SMA-37: "High-Speed Inverters Using Silicon Power Transistors" by H.T. Breece.

Fig.2 shows the circuit diagram for a practical 100-watt, 18-kHz inverter using RCA-2N5202 transistors. Performance characteristics for this inverter are shown in Fig.3, and waveforms of output voltage, collector voltage, and collector current as functions of time are shown in Fig.4.

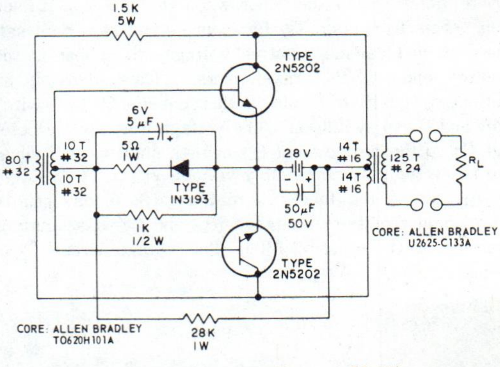

Fig.2 - Circuit diagram for 100-watt, 18-kHz inverter.

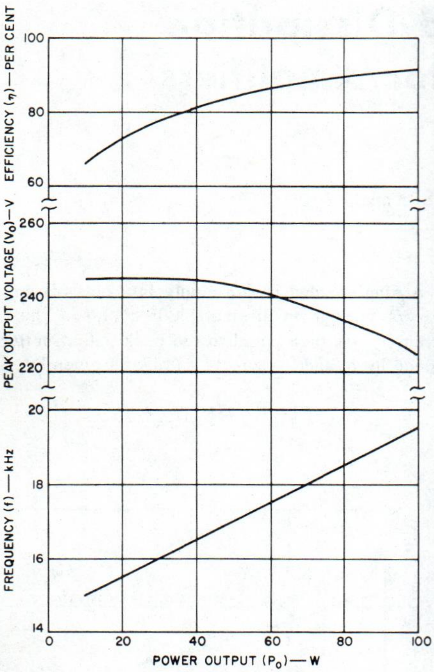

Fig.3 - Performance characteristics of inverter shown in Fig.2.

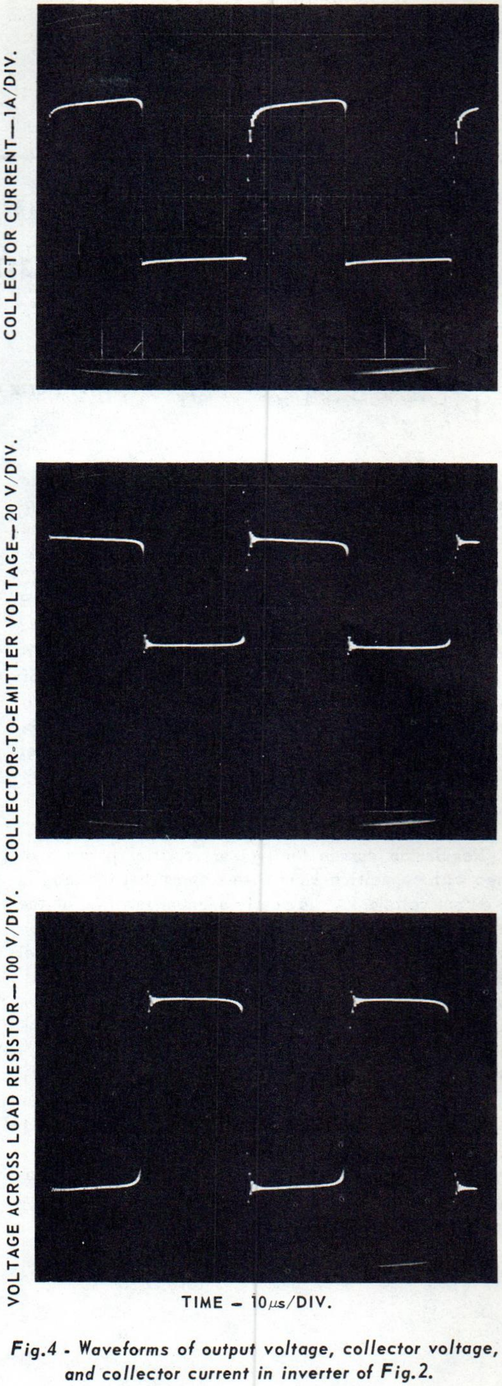

Fig.4 - Waveforms of output voltage, collector voltage, and collector current in inverter of Fig.2.