Single-Phase Front Ends

Vicor’s single phase non-isolated AC front ends are available in both PCB and chassis mount versions, and deliver reliable DC bus voltage to VI-x6x converter modules or Mega Modules at power levels up to 250, 500 and 750W. These front ends are strappable to provide operation from either 115VAC or 230VAC single-phase lines, and provide conducted EMC filtering to VDE / FCC Level B. They also offer transient surge protection, active inrush limiting, AC-OK (AC fail indicator), and a BUS-OK status output suitable for controlling Vicor modules via the GATE IN pin.

Vicor front ends have been designed to comply with the requirements of major safety agencies when used in conjunction with recommended mains switching and input fusing.

![Diagram of Offline Front End](image)

**Fusing Information**

For safe operation, replace only with recommended fuses:

- **250 W** — FUSE 1: 6.3 A / 250 V (IEC 5 x 20 mm) BUSSMAN GDB-6.3 OR 7 A / 250 V (3AG 1/4” x 1 1/4”) LITTLEFUSE 314-007 OR BUSSMAN MTH-7 OR ABC-7 FUSES 2,3,4...n: 3 A / 250 V BUSSMAN PC-TRON
- **500 W** — FUSE 1: 12A/250V BUSSMAN ABC-12, LITTLEFUSE 314-012 FUSES 2,3,4...n: 3 A / 250 V BUSSMAN PC-TRON
- **750 W** — FUSE 1: 15 A / 250 V BUSSMAN ABC-15, LITTLEFUSE 314-015 FUSES 2,3,4...n: 3 A / 250 V BUSSMAN PC-TRON

*Note: x, y capacitors not shown for clarity*

**Notes**

- Ambient temperature must be less than 50°C in free air. Temperature may exceed 50°C with moving air. (refer to de-rating curves in Figure 16.2)
- Do not obstruct vent holes.
- Observe module installation requirements (refer to Module Dos & Don’ts, Section 3).
- Minimize length of all unshielded line cord.
- Minimum conductor size for supply is 16AWG (250W), 14AWG (500W) and 12AWG (750W) including the 115/230 strap.
- If the DC output bus is shorted before application of AC power, the fuse may not blow, and the unit will not turn on.
- If wire distance from front end to modules is greater than 3 feet, (0.91m) install a TRANSZORB (Part #1.5KE400A) across the input of each module.
- If unit is strapped for 115V operation and 230V is applied, the input fuse will clear. Replace fuse, strap correctly and reapply power.
- To control EMC most effectively, the return path to ground from either the front end or modules should be made via a good RF ground (i.e., a braided wire) if possible.
- The BUS-OK, VDC- and VDC+ lines should be run in close proximity to one another or as a twisted group between the front end and modules.
- Bypass the baseplates of the modules to –IN and –OUT (refer to EMC Considerations, Section 9).
16. Offline Front End

Thermal Considerations

**Free Convection Derating**

- **250W**: Derate output power linearly at 7.2W/°C over 50°C.
- **500W**: Derate output power linearly at 14.3W/°C over 50°C.
- **750W**: Derate output power linearly at 18.8W/°C over 45°C.

**Forced Convection.** The curves to the right represent worst case data for chassis mounted (enclosed) front ends; i.e., low line, full load. System conditions such as higher line voltage, lighter load or PC mount versions of the front ends will increase reliability if the following data is used as the nominal design criteria.

The sigmoid shape of the curves at low airflow is due to the chassis mount cover restricting the airflow to the inboard components. When an airflow of approximately 200LFM is achieved, the velocity of air rushing over the cover causes air to be pulled in through the side perforations, resulting in a rapid improvement in the cooling of internal components.

![Graphs showing maximum ambient temperature vs. airflow (LFM) over cover (full load, 90VAC input, chassis mount)](image)

*Figure 16.2 — Maximum ambient temperature vs. airflow (LFM) over cover (full load, 90VAC input, chassis mount)*
16. Offline Front End

3-Phase Front End

Vicor 3-phase front ends are available as chassis-mount products that deliver reliable DC bus voltage to VI-x6x Family (nominal 300VDC input) converters up to 1.5kW, 3kW and 5kW.

Front ends operate from 3-phase (4-wire delta or 4- or 5-wire wye) AC mains input and provide conducted EMC filtering to VDE/FCC Class A, transient surge protection, inrush current limiting and ENABLE output suitable for controlling an array of Vicor converters via the GATE IN pin. Isolated AC-OK and BUS-OK outputs are also provided for advance warning of DC bus dropout due to AC line failure and indication of internal DC bus integrity in the user system, respectively.

These front ends have been designed to comply with the requirements of major safety agencies when used in conjunction with the recommended mains switching and input fusing.

Caution: External capacitors connected to +VDC and −VDC will significantly increase inrush current. Also these capacitors are subject to AC ripple voltages of approximately 40V at full load.

Figure 16.3 — 1.5, 3.0kW front end

[a] To control EMC most effectively, the return path to ground from either the front-end or modules should be made via a good RF ground (i.e., a braided wire) if possible.

Caution: External capacitors connected to +VDC and −VDC will significantly increase inrush current. Also these capacitors are subject to AC ripple voltages of approximately 40V at full load.

Figure 16.4 — 5.0kW front end

[a] To control EMC most effectively, the return path to ground from either the front-end or modules should be made via a good RF ground (i.e., a braided wire) if possible.
16. Offline Front End

**Fusing Information**
- 1.5kW front end: 7A / 250V normal blow in all three phases of the AC line (Bussman ABC-7 or Littlefuse 314-007).
- 3kW front end: 12A / 250V normal blow in all three phases of the AC line (Bussman ABC-12 or Littlefuse 314-012).
- 5kW front end: 20A / 250V normal blow in all three phases of the AC line (Bussman ABC-20).

**Environmental Data**
- Operating temperature (no load to full load): –20°C to +50°C, free convection
- Non operating temperature: –40°C to +80°C
- Operating / non-operating humidity: 95% relative, non-condensing

**Electrical Data — AC Line Input Voltage Connections (phase to phase)**
- 3-phase delta (4-wire): 208V_AC (nominal) +20% / –10%. Connect the three phases (L1, L2, L3) and GND (earth) to the five-terminal barrier block marked as such.
- 3-phase wye distribution (5-wire): 208V_AC (nominal) +20% / –10%. Connect the three phases (L1, L2, L3), N (neutral), and GND (earth) to the five-terminal barrier block marked as such.
- Line frequency: 47 – 440Hz

**DC Output Connections and Module Enable**
A three terminal barrier block labeled V_{DC-}, V_{DC+}, and MOD EN provides both the DC input enable and enable control line for Vicor converters.
- V_{DC-}: Negative DC input terminal to all Vicor converters.
- V_{DC+}: Positive DC input terminal to all Vicor converters.
- MOD EN: Connect to the GATE IN terminal of all Driver modules. This connection must be made to guarantee proper enabling of the converter array on power-up and proper shut down of the converter array on power loss, loss of phase or output fault.

**Cautions**
This product is designed to operate with Vicor VI-x6x Family (300V_DC input) converters, Mega Modules and the 300V_{IN} Maxi, Mini and Micro converters.
- This product is not intended for use with European 380 – 415V_AC three phase distribution.
- This product is an offline AC-DC power supply. It is not isolated from the AC mains.
- Proper grounding is mandatory for safe operation.