

## Storage Capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) Options for Cypress nvSRAM

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**Associated Project:** No  
**Associated Part Family:** CY14xxxxx  
**Software Version:** None  
**Related Application Notes:** None

AN43593 discusses the selection criteria for the storage capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) options for Cypress nvSRAMs. This document also provides a sample list of a few suitable capacitors as guidance.

### Introduction

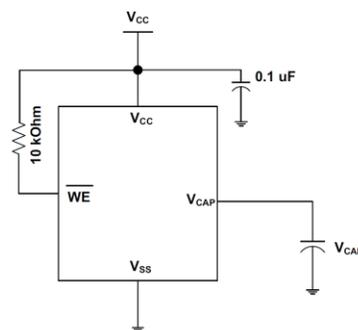
The nvSRAM architecture uses a one-to-one pairing of a nonvolatile bit and a fast SRAM bit in each memory cell. During normal operation, the IC behaves exactly as a standard fast asynchronous SRAM and is easy to interface with the microprocessor or microcontroller. When IC power is disrupted or lost, the event is detected and all the SRAM bits are saved into the nonvolatile part (within 8 ms) using the stored energy in a small capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ). This operation is called AutoStore and is described in more detail in the next section. When power is restored, data is automatically recalled from the nonvolatile part to SRAM on power restore and this operation is called Power-Up RECALL (Hardware RECALL).

This application note discusses the various options for selecting a suitable storage capacitor for using as  $V_{CAP}$ . While we have listed a few capacitor part numbers in this application note as example, it should be noted that this list is only a sample list and does not include all parts from all vendors. Therefore we recommend you to refer to the various vendor catalogs when choosing a suitable capacitor.

### AutoStore Operation

Figure 1 shows the connection of the storage capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) for AutoStore operation.

Figure 1. AutoStore Mode



**Note**  $\overline{WE}$  pin and the pull-up resistor are applicable to parallel nvSRAMs only.

During normal operation, the device draws current from  $V_{CC}$  to charge a capacitor connected to the  $V_{CAP}$  pin. This stored charge is used by the chip to perform a single STORE operation. If the voltage on the  $V_{CC}$  pin drops below a minimum threshold ( $V_{SWITCH}$ ), the part automatically disconnects the  $V_{CAP}$  pin from  $V_{CC}$  and connects it to the internal circuits. A STORE operation is initiated with power provided by the  $V_{CAP}$  capacitor. The following sections discuss the required characteristics for the  $V_{CAP}$  capacitor.

## Storage Capacitor

### Types

There are different types of capacitors, such as Niobium oxide, tantalum, electrolyte, film, multilayer ceramic capacitors, and polymer aluminum electrolytes. The following four types are selected considering reliability and stability of capacitors over temperature ranges.

- Niobium oxide capacitors
- Tantalum capacitors
- Polymer aluminum electrolyte capacitors
- Multilayer ceramic capacitors (MLCC)

**Note** The above recommendation does not limit the types of capacitors that can be used as  $V_{CAP}$ . Any type of capacitor that meets the  $V_{CAP}$  spec range (value, DC voltage rating) can be used. You have to consider the application operating conditions while selecting the  $V_{CAP}$ .

### Key Characteristics

The following are capacitor key characteristics. These should be taken into consideration while deciding a suitable  $V_{CAP}$  for the nvSRAM.

- Value ( $V_{CAP} - \% \text{ Tolerance}$ )  $\geq V_{CAP}$  Minimum
- ( $V_{CAP} + \% \text{ Tolerance}$ )  $\leq V_{CAP}$  Maximum

The storage capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ), which is charged to  $V_{CC}$ , must deliver sufficient power required for an AutoStore operation. The time taken to charge must also be reasonably low - it must charge before Power Up RECALL is complete. These requirements decide the minimum and maximum value of the capacitor, respectively. The typical value suggested is the smallest value of  $V_{CAP}$  (with 10% tolerance), which will be sufficient for AutoStore to be successful. The performance of the nvSRAM will be the same for any value within the specified range.

Typical values for a few densities are given below.

- 4 Mbit parallel    68  $\mu\text{F} \pm 10\%$
- 8 Mbit parallel    150  $\mu\text{F} \pm 10\%$
- 16 Mbit parallel    22  $\mu\text{F} \pm 10\%$
- 64 Kbit serial      47  $\mu\text{F} \pm 10\%$

For minimum and maximum limits, refer to the device datasheet. See [Max Limit for the VCAP](#).

### Tolerance

Tolerance is an important factor to consider when choosing the capacitor. The capacitor value with worst-case tolerance should be within the  $V_{CAP}$  minimum and maximum limits.

### Voltage Rating

$V_{CAP}$  is charged to  $V_{CC}$  through an internal charging circuit. Hence the  $V_{CAP}$  should be rated above the maximum  $V_{CC}$  of the part. Some of the newer nvSRAM parts, such as 16 Mbit nvSRAM are designed with an internal charge pump circuitry, which increases the  $V_{CAP}$  pin voltage to 5 V, thereby allowing use of lower values of  $V_{CAP}$  required for providing the necessary charge for AutoStore. In general, 6.3 V rated capacitors would satisfy the voltage ratings for  $V_{CAP}$  for all  $V_{CC}$  ranges of nvSRAM parts. Higher voltage ratings are recommended for better capacitor reliability, such as 6.3 V rated capacitors for 2.5 V and 3 V  $V_{CC}$  parts, and 10 V rated capacitors for 5 V  $V_{CC}$  parts.

### ESR

Effective series resistance (ESR) of the capacitor becomes significant when the capacitor operates under certain conditions, such as high frequency, high current, or temperature extremes. The storage capacitor, unlike coupling and decoupling capacitors, does not operate at high frequencies or current. Therefore, its ESR does not play a major role in the device operation. Though ESR value is not a constraint in capacitor selection, a low ESR of  $\leq 1 \Omega$  is preferred. The storage capacitor  $V_{CAP}$  supplies the AutoStore current ( $I_{CC4}$  in the datasheet) during power down and having lower series resistor provides more operating margin. See [Effect of Series Resistor on VCAP Pin](#).

### Charging Current

The  $V_{CAP}$  is charged from the  $V_{CC}$  through a charging circuit. Typically the peak charging current is about 70 mA. The peak charging current's orders of magnitude is less than the maximum surge currents, the capacitors are tested by the manufactures. The maximum charging currents in nvSRAM would not exceed 350 mA, across process, voltage, and temperature.

## Capacitor Selection Guide

**Table 1** summarizes the smallest value of  $V_{CAP}$ , which can be used for the various capacitor ranges for the family of nvSRAMs. For instance, for a datasheet  $V_{CAP}$  specification of 61  $\mu\text{F}$  (min) to 180  $\mu\text{F}$  (max), the typical is shown as 68  $\mu\text{F}$ , since 68  $\mu\text{F} \pm 10\%$  is the lowest capacitor value that can be used in the application. It should be noted that any capacitor within the min/max specification limits, namely, 68  $\mu\text{F}$ , 100  $\mu\text{F}$ , or 150  $\mu\text{F}$  would perform the same way as long as the value of the capacitor (net of tolerance) is within the specification limit.

If a system uses two or more nvSRAMs, their  $V_{CAP}$  pins can be tied (ganged) together to connect to a single storage capacitor. The value of the storage capacitor must be the sum of the individual storage capacitor value required for the ganged nvSRAMs. See [Ganging of VCAP Pins](#).

Table 1. Capacitor Selection Guide <sup>[1]</sup>

Parameter		Capacitor Types				
		Niobium Oxide	Tantalum		Polymer Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitors	Ceramic Multilayer Capacitors <sup>[2]</sup>
Voltage rating for nvSRAM $V_{CAP}$	3 V part	6.3 V / 10 V <sup>[3]</sup>	6.3 V / 10 V <sup>[3]</sup>		6.3 V / 10 V <sup>[3]</sup>	6.3 V / 10 V <sup>[3]</sup>
	5 V part	10 V / 16 V <sup>[3]</sup>	10 V / 16 V <sup>[3]</sup>		10 V / 16 V <sup>[3]</sup>	10 V / 16 V <sup>[3]</sup>
Tolerance		±20%	±10%	±20%	±20%	±20%
Smallest nominal capacitor value	For datasheet spec, $V_{CAP} = 61 \mu\text{F}$ to $180 \mu\text{F}$ (68 $\mu\text{F}$ typical)	100 $\mu\text{F}$	68 $\mu\text{F}$	100 $\mu\text{F}$	100 $\mu\text{F}$	100 $\mu\text{F}$
	For datasheet spec, $V_{CAP} = 122 \mu\text{F}$ to $360 \mu\text{F}$ (150 $\mu\text{F}$ typical)	220 $\mu\text{F}$	150 $\mu\text{F}$	220 $\mu\text{F}$	220 $\mu\text{F}$	2 x 100 $\mu\text{F}$ <sup>[4]</sup>
	For datasheet spec, $V_{CAP} = 42 \mu\text{F}$ to $180 \mu\text{F}$ (47 $\mu\text{F}$ typical)	68 $\mu\text{F}$	47 $\mu\text{F}$	68 $\mu\text{F}$	68 $\mu\text{F}$	100 $\mu\text{F}$
	For datasheet spec, $V_{CAP} = 19.8 \mu\text{F}$ to $82 \mu\text{F}$ (22 $\mu\text{F}$ typical)	33 $\mu\text{F}$	22 $\mu\text{F}$	33 $\mu\text{F}$	33 $\mu\text{F}$	33 $\mu\text{F}$

**Notes**

1. Data collected from the manufacturer's website and other related websites.
2. Ceramic capacitors have sensitivity to DC bias – capacitance reduces with DC bias voltage. Hence higher voltage rating or higher value capacitors should be chosen, taking into consideration the DC bias effect on the capacitance. Refer vendor's technical document for DC bias characteristics.
3. Higher voltage rating capacitor can be used for better reliability. For example, a 68  $\mu\text{F}$  / 10 V rated capacitor would provide higher reliability than a 68  $\mu\text{F}$  / 6.3 V rated capacitor in any application.
4. The MLCC provides limited options in high capacitance range; therefore, to meet the high capacitance requirement, capacitors can be connected in parallel to achieve the desired capacitance.

## Recommended Capacitors

Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, and Table 5 provide details of a few capacitors that can be considered when selecting storage capacitor<sup>[5]</sup> ( $V_{CAP}$ ) for the nvSRAM. This list is not exhaustive and is provided for guidance only. You are recommended to refer to the various vendor catalogs when choosing the appropriate capacitors.

Table 2. Capacitor Options for  $V_{CAP} = 68 \mu\text{F}$  typical

Manufacturer	Manufacturer Part number	Type	Capacitance	Voltage Rating	Tolerance	Footprint
AVX Corporation	TAJB686K006RNJ	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Kemet	T491C686K006AT	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Vishay	TR3C686K6R3C0200	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	T491C686K010AT	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Vishay	TR3B686K010C0900	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Vishay	TR3C686K010C0225	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	T491C686K016AT	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TAJC686K016RNJ	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	T491C686K016AT	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJB107M006RWJ	Niobium Oxide	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3528-21(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJC107M006RWJ	Niobium Oxide	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJD107M006RWJ	Niobium Oxide	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-31(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJD107M010RWJ	Niobium Oxide	100 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-31(EIA)
Kemet	T491B686M006AT	Tantalum	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Kemet	T491C107M010AT	Tantalum	100 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TPSB107M010R0400	Tantalum	100 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3528-21(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TPSC107M010R0100	Tantalum	100 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	A700D107M006ATE018	Polymer Aluminum Electrolyte	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-31(EIA)
TDK Corporation	CKG57NX5R1C107M	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 20\%$	6.50 mm x 5.50 mm x 5.50 mm
AVX Corporation	TAJC157K006RNJ	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TAJC157K010RNJ	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	B45197A3157K409	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 10\%$	7343-31(EIA)

### Note

5. Data collected from the manufacturer's website and other related websites.

Table 3. Capacitor Options for  $V_{CAP} = 150 \mu\text{F}$  typical

Manufacturer	Manufacturer Part number	Type	Capacitance	Voltage Rating	Tolerance	Footprint
AVX Corporation	TAJC157K006RNJ	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TAJC157K010RNJ	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	B45197A3157K409	Tantalum	150 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 10\%$	7343-31(EIA)
Panasonic - ECG	EEFUE0J181R	Polymer Aluminum Electrolyte	180 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-43(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOSD227M006R0100	Niobium Oxide	220 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-31(EIA)
Kemet	B76006V2279M045	Tantalum	220 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-20(EIA)
Kemet	B45196H2227M409	Tantalum	220 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-31(EIA)
AVX Corporation	TAJE227M016RNJ	Tantalum	220 $\mu\text{F}$	16 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-43(EIA)
Kemet	A700X227M006ATE015	Polymer Aluminum Electrolyte	220 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-43(EIA)

 Table 4. Capacitor Options for  $V_{CAP} = 47 \mu\text{F}$  typical

Manufacturer	Manufacturer Part number	Type	Capacitance	Voltage Rating	Tolerance	Footprint
AVX Corporation	TAJB476K006RNJ	Tantalum	47 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Vishay	TR3B476K6R3C0550					
AVX Corporation	TAJB686M006RNJ	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Vishay	TR3B686M6R3C0650					
AVX Corporation	NOJC686M006RWJ	Niobium Oxide	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJC686M010RWJ	Niobium Oxide	68 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Vishay	TR3B686M010C1500	Tantalum	68 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3528-21(EIA)
Kemet	A700V686M006ATE028	Polymer Aluminum Electrolyte	68 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-20(EIA)
AVX Corporation	12106D107KAT2A	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 10\%$	3225-12
Murata	GRM31CR60J107ME39	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3216-16
Kemet	C1210C107M9PAC	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225-21
TDK Corporation	C3225X5R0J107MT	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225-25
Taiyo Yuden	JMK325ABJ107MM	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225-25
	JMK325BJ107MY					3225-20
Taiyo Yuden	LMK325ABJ107MM	MLCC	100 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225-25

Table 5. Capacitor Options for  $V_{CAP} = 22 \mu\text{F}$  typical

Manufacturer	Manufacturer Part number	Type	Capacitance	Voltage Rating	Tolerance	Footprint
Kemet	T494C226K010AT	Tantalum	22 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 10\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Vishay	TR3C226K010C0400					
AVX Corporation	NOJC336M006RWJ	Niobium Oxide	33 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
AVX Corporation	NOJC336M010RWJ	Niobium Oxide	33 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Kemet	T494C336M010AT	Tantalum	33 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	6032-28(EIA)
Vishay	TR3C336M010C0375					
Kemet	A700V336M006ATE028	Polymer Aluminum Electrolyte	33 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	7343-20(EIA)
Murata	GRM31CR60J476ME19L	MLCC	47 $\mu\text{F}$	6.3 V	$\pm 20\%$	3216 metric
Murata	GRM31CR61A476ME15L	MLCC	47 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3216 metric
Murata	GRM32ER61A476ME20L	MLCC	47 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225 metric
TDK Corporation	C3225X5R1A476M	MLCC	47 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225-25
Kemet	C1206C476M8PAC	MLCC	47 $\mu\text{F}$	10 V	$\pm 20\%$	3225 metric

## Summary

The Cypress nvSRAM is the most reliable nonvolatile SRAM solution and it requires a small external capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) for its nonvolatile operation. This application note provides the electrical requirements of the capacitor and lists a few capacitor types and values. The list of capacitors is not exhaustive and is intended as a guideline for selection of  $V_{CAP}$ . There is a wide range of options available other than the capacitors listed here. You can choose an appropriate  $V_{CAP}$  capacitor depending on the desired size, cost, reliability, and other conditions, which the system is subject to. The nvSRAM device operation is independent of these characteristics.

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## Appendix A

### Max Limit for the $V_{CAP}$

While it is easy to understand the minimum limit for  $V_{CAP}$ , the restriction on the maximum value can be difficult to comprehend. This restriction is because the nvSRAMs are specified to be ready for access in  $t_{HRECALL}$  time (which is 20 ms in most parts).  $t_{HRECALL}$  is the time nvSRAM takes to complete its boot-up sequence followed by the Power Up RECALL and be ready for access. This Power Up RECALL specification guarantees that the  $V_{CAP}$  would charge to a sufficient voltage (and charge) to ensure that the part will complete a STORE operation, should the power fail immediately after the  $t_{HRECALL}$  time from power up. If a capacitor of value exceeding the  $V_{CAP}$  spec is used, it is possible that the  $V_{CAP}$  would not have charged to sufficient voltage within the  $t_{HRECALL}$  duration. In case customers prefer using larger value capacitor exceeding the max value, they should ensure that the nvSRAM first access after power-up is delayed longer than the  $t_{HRECALL}$  spec to allow capacitor to be sufficiently charged. As a rule of thumb, for every 10% increase in value over the maximum specified  $V_{CAP}$ , add an additional  $1 \times t_{HRECALL}$  duration before beginning access to the nvSRAM.

For example, if nvSRAM device is rated for  $V_{CAP} = 180 \mu\text{F}$  and if you have decided to use  $220 \mu\text{F}$  capacitor instead of  $180 \mu\text{F}$ , which is 22% higher than max value, in this case nvSRAM first access should be after  $3.2 \times t_{HRECALL}$  ( $t_{HRECALL} + 2.2 \times t_{HRECALL}$ ). Since  $V_{CAP}$  (min) to  $V_{CAP}$  (max) range is about 3X, exceeding the max  $V_{CAP}$  spec is not considered necessary in any application.

### Effect of Series Resistor on $V_{CAP}$ Pin

A series resistor reduces the voltage to the STORE circuit, which is powered by the  $V_{CAP}$  voltage during AutoStore. For instance, in the 1 Mbit nvSRAM that has  $I_{CC4} = 5 \text{ mA}$ , a  $10 \Omega$  series resistor would reduce the voltage from  $V_{CAP}$  pin by 50 mV. This reduction could be significant for the following reason. The AutoStore operation starts below a threshold level ( $V_{SWITCH}$ ); let us assume it starts at 2.4 V. The charge stored in the capacitor supplies the 5 mA ( $I_{CC4}$ ) current required for the STORE operation.

As the STORE operation progresses, the voltage on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin would be decreasing. The STORE operation takes 8 ms ( $t_{STORE}$ ) time. During this 8 ms, the voltage on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin should not go below the minimum voltage required for proper STORE operation. If we assume the minimum voltage for proper circuit operation is 1.9 V, then the STORE operation should finish within the 500 mV drop (2.4 V minus 1.9 V) on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin.

In case we put a series resistor on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin, then because of the drop at  $V_{CAP}$  pin due to series resistor it would mean that AutoStore circuit starts at a lower voltage and the circuit has power for a shorter time. In this example, the 500 mV operating range is reduced by the 50 mV to 450 mV due to drop in the  $10 \Omega$  resistor. A  $1 \Omega$  resistor affects the available voltage range by only 5 mV.

Note that these levels vary across process, voltage, and temperature (PVT) conditions and are not datasheet specs. The illustrative values are shown only to help understand the device operation better.

### Ganging of $V_{CAP}$ Pins

nvSRAM allows ganging of its storage capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) pin when using more than one nvSRAM in a system. The individual  $V_{CAP}$  pin of two or more nvSRAMs can be tied (ganged) together to connect to a single storage capacitor, rather than using individual storage capacitors for the  $V_{CAP}$  pin of each nvSRAM. This ganging scheme saves the board space and the bill of materials (BOM) cost. When ganging nvSRAM  $V_{CAP}$  pins, the minimum and maximum size of the storage capacitor for the ganged  $V_{CAP}$  pins is determined by adding the respective minimum and the maximum rated  $V_{CAP}$  size of the individual nvSRAM.

For example, if a system uses two 4 Mbit nvSRAMs with their rated  $V_{CAP}$  minimum and maximum size as  $61 \mu\text{F}$  and  $180 \mu\text{F}$  respectively, then the minimum and the maximum size of the storage capacitor for the ganged two  $V_{CAP}$  pins should be within  $2 \times 61 \mu\text{F}$  ( $122 \mu\text{F}$ ) and  $2 \times 180 \mu\text{F}$  ( $360 \mu\text{F}$ ). Similarly, if a system uses N numbers of 4 Mbit nvSRAMs, then the minimum and maximum size of the storage capacitor for the ganged N  $V_{CAP}$  pins should be within  $N \times 61 \mu\text{F}$  and  $N \times 180 \mu\text{F}$ .

Ganging of nvSRAM  $V_{CAP}$  pins is not allowed in the following cases:

1. If the system uses more than one nvSRAM device and each is connected to different  $V_{CC}$  power supplies. In such cases,  $V_{CAP}$  ganging is not allowed, because each nvSRAM will try to charge the storage capacitor to different voltage levels according their maximum  $V_{V_{CAP}}$  rating, resulting in a conflict in capacitor charging.
2. If two or more nvSRAMs are connected to the same  $V_{CC}$  power supply but have different  $V_{V_{CAP}}$  (maximum voltage driven on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin by the device) specifications, then the  $V_{CAP}$  ganging is not allowed. New-generation nvSRAM devices such as CY14x116x have been designed with an on-chip voltage-doubler circuit to reduce the storage capacitor size on the  $V_{CAP}$  pin and have the  $V_{CAP}$  pin charging to 5 V max while the CY14x104x devices charge to  $V_{CC}$  max. Therefore, for CY14B116L and CY14B104LA devices, do not tie  $V_{CAP}$  pins together even when both the parts are connected to the same 3 V power supply.

As a rule of thumb, ganging of more than one nvSRAM is allowed only when the ganged nvSRAM  $V_{CC}$  is connected to the same power supply and each nvSRAM has the same  $V_{V_{CAP}}$  rating.

## Document History

Document Title: AN43593 – Storage Capacitor ( $V_{CAP}$ ) Options for Cypress nvSRAM

Document Number: 001-43593

Revision	ECN	Orig. of Change	Submission Date	Description of Change
**	1836148	UNC	See ECN	New application note
*A	2829379	MEDU	12/16/09	Updated Storage Capacitors sections. Added options to the Recommended Capacitors table
*B	3158192	MEDU	01/31/2011	Updated Table 1 and Table 2. Added Table 3 and Table 4.
*C	3203457	MEDU	03/23/2011	Added $V_{CAP}$ in title, abstract and introduction to enable easier search by users. Added more explanation in Value and ESR sections
*D	3542218	MEDU	03/05/2012	Explanatory notes added in appendix Added $V_{CAP} = 19 \mu\text{F}$ to $120 \mu\text{F}$ in Table 1 Updated the list of recommended capacitors in Tables 2 to 4 Added Table 5 for Capacitor Options for $V_{CAP} = 22 \mu\text{F}$ typical Added appendix for explaining the $V_{CAP}$ max spec and the effect of ESR on the $V_{CAP}$ Updated template
*E	3887876	ZSK	01/30/2013	Updated in new template.
*F	3933202	ZSK	03/14/2013	Updated Appendix A (Updated Effect of Series Resistor on $V_{CAP}$ Pin (Replaced "600 mV drop" with "500 mV drop")).
*G	4598353	ZSK	12/16/2014	Update $V_{CAP} = 19.8 \mu\text{F}$ to $82 \mu\text{F}$ for $22 \mu\text{F}$ typical in Table 1 Added a note in the "Capacitor Selection Guide" section on $V_{CAP}$ ganging when using more than one nvSRAM in a system Removed the following capacitor options for $V_{CAP}$ from the "Recommended Capacitor" table: LKM325BJ107MM-T LKM325ABJ107MM C3216X5R1A107M 1216D476MAT2A 12066D476MAT2A C3216X5R0J476M C3216X5R1A476M Added "Ganging of $V_{CAP}$ Pins" section in Appendix 1
*H	5797325	AESATMP8	07/06/2017	Updated logo and Copyright.

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