Decimal Point Drivers

The most common technique for activating a single decimal point is simply tieing its activation pin to ground. In most situations, only one decimal point is used because the display reading represents only one parameter. However, some applications require the use of more than one decimal point in order indicate a different range, or perhaps, have the reading represent some other system parameter. A simple rotary switch can be used with any DMS meter when two or more different decimal point selections are required. The rotary switch method is illustrated in Figure 1.

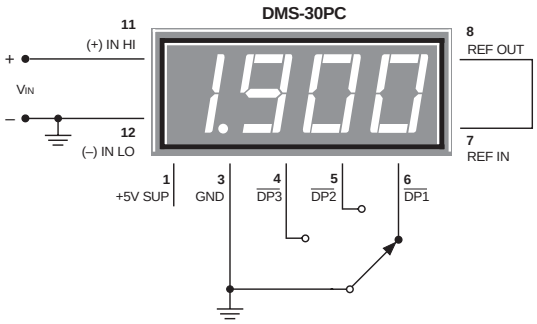

Figure 1. Simple selector switch can be used with all DMS Series panel meters.

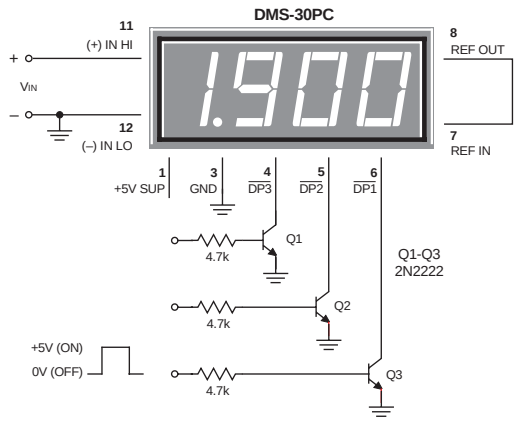

Figure 2. NPN transistors can be used with all 5V-powered, 3½ and 4½ digit, DMS panel meters.

Other components that can be used for decimal point drivers, particularly when dynamic control is required, are TTL or CMOS-compatible logic gates/buffers and open-collector/open-drain discrete transistors. The maximum current the driving device must sink is 20mA (see individual product data sheets for more specific data). The following diagrams illustrate the various techniques that can be used for driving the decimal points on all DMS Series meters.

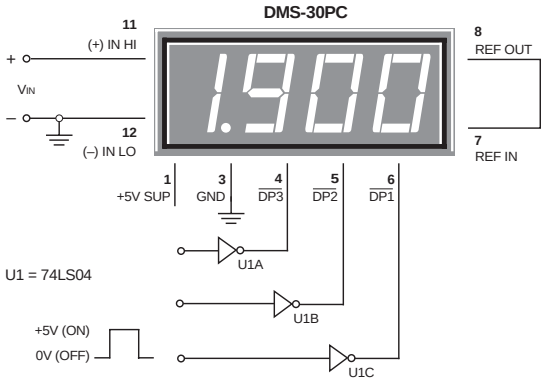

Figure 3. Inverting gate decimal point drivers usable with 5V-powered 3½ digit DMS panel meters except models with blue LED displays.

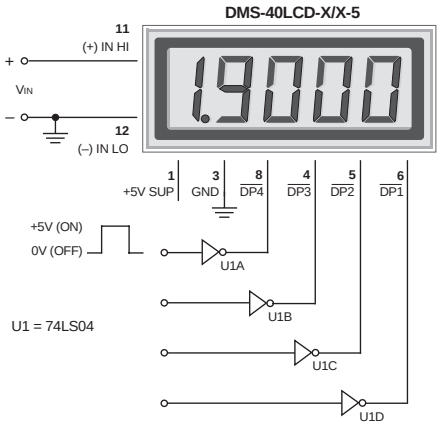

Figure 4. Inverting gate decimal point drivers usable with 5V-powered 4½ digit LCD and DMS-40PC-X-RL (low-power red LED's) panel meters.