

Solar energy click

PID: MIKROE-2814

There are many battery chargers and solar energy harvesters out there already, but the **Solar energy click** has the unique feature - it encompasses both of these devices in a single package. The click uses Texas Instruments [BQ25570](#) - a nano-power high-efficiency boost charger and buck converter device, designed to work with very low power energy harvesting elements, such as the photovoltaic and thermoelectric generators.

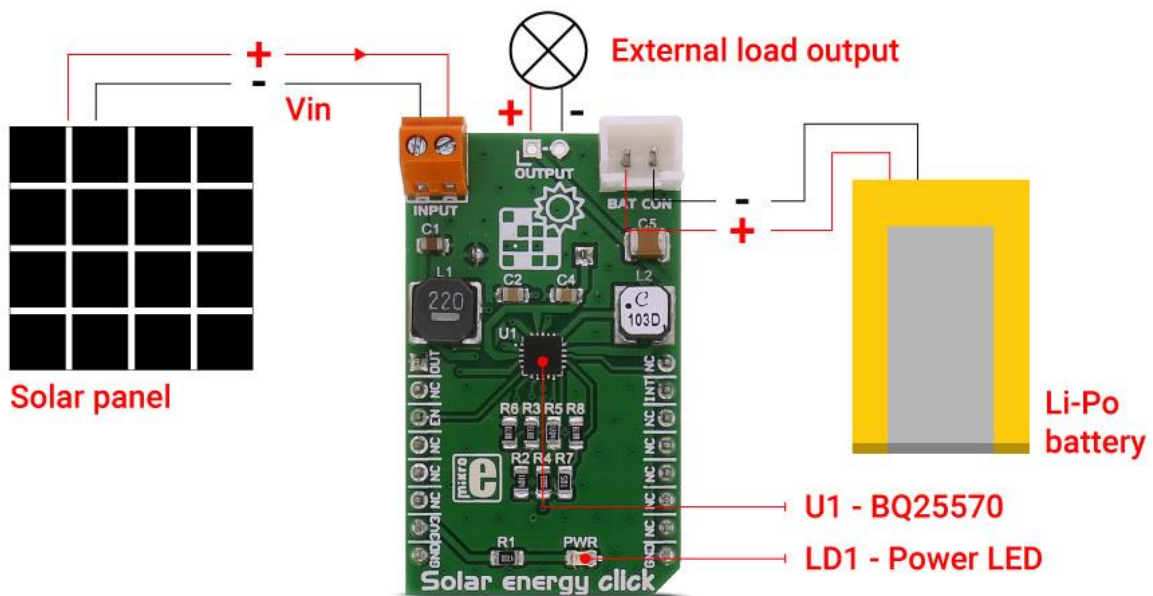
The **Solar energy click** recharges the connected LiPo battery or the onboard 220mF supercapacitor, using the photovoltaic element. This is done by utilizing the BQ25570's charging and power harvesting capabilities and clever nano-power management features. This click can also power up low power consumption devices by using the stored energy, providing a way for continuous power operation of low power devices.

These features make the **Solar energy click** an ideal solution for powering wireless sensor networks, environment monitoring devices, portable and wearable health monitoring devices and similar low power self-sustained devices.



How does the click work?

The click is equipped with BQ25570, nano-power high-efficiency boost charger and buck converter device, designed to work with very low power energy harvesting elements. It can both provide power to the connected external load and charge the LiPo rechargeable battery using the solar panel as the photovoltaic element - employing its energy harvesting capabilities.



The connected load will be powered on either from the connected LiPo battery or the supercapacitor soldered on board. When the battery voltage drops under the 2.85V, the interrupt pin (routed to the mikroBUS™ INT pin) will be driven to a LOW logic state. The integrated nano-power management unit takes care of providing the proper charging conditions for the battery. When the battery is charged up to 3.25V - due to the hysteresis set with the voltage divider resistors - the INT pin will go to a HIGH logic state, once again. Also, thanks to the nano-power management unit, the battery will not get overcharged above 4.06V. The click board™ provides 2.6V/100mA for the connected external load on the output terminal.


When the battery is not connected, the internal supercapacitor will be used as the energy storage element. This is useful for continuous powering up of very low power applications, as the supercapacitor should be able to provide power continuously since it will get recharged by the solar panel before it is drained out by the load. The internal converter will be disabled if the storage element voltage drops under the internally set under-voltage level of 1.95V, preventing the damage of completely draining out the connected storage element. In addition to the INT pin, there are two more pins of the BQ25570 routed to the mikroBUS™, used to enable the BQ25570 internal sections (EN) and to enable the power output for the connected load (OUT). Setting the EN pin to the LOW logic level will enable the BQ25570 internal sections and the power charger features, while the HIGH logic level on the OUT pin will enable the power output for the connected load.

Specifications

Type	Battery charger
On-board modules	Texas Instruments BQ25570 - a nano-power high-efficiency boost charger and buck converter device
Key Features	provides power to the connected external load and charge the LiPo rechargeable battery using the solar panel, provides 2.6V/100mA for the connected external load on the output terminal, the battery will not get overcharged above 4.06V
Interface	GPIO
Input Voltage	3.3V
Click board size	M (42.9 x 25.4 mm)

Pinout diagram

This table shows how the pinout on **Solar energy click** corresponds to the pinout on the mikroBUS™ socket (the latter shown in the two middle columns).

Notes	Pin					Pin	Notes
		1	AN	PWM	16		
External OUT enable	OUT	1	AN	PWM	16	NC	
	NC	2	RST	INT	15	INT	Battery OK indication
BQ25570 enable	EN	3	CS	RX	14	NC	
	NC	4	SCK	TX	13	NC	
	NC	5	MISO	SCL	12	NC	
	NC	6	MOSI	SDA	11	NC	
Power supply	3V3	7	3.3V	5V	10	NC	
Ground	GND	8	GND	GND	9	GND	Ground

Solar energy click electrical specifications

Description	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
Energy harvesting input terminal voltage rating	0.1		5.1	V
Energy harvesting input terminal power rating	0.005		510	mW

Onboard settings and indicators

Label	Name	Default	Description
PWR	Power LED	-	Power LED indicates that the click is powered on