

# **Inverter capacitor can pass DC**





## Overview

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Can a capacitor pass DC current?

Of course, capacitors cannot pass dc current; thus, dc current only flows from the source to the inverter, bypassing the capacitor. Power factor correction (PFC) in the converter and/or regenerative energy flow in certain inverter topologies can complicate matters.

Why do inverters need a capacitor?

The capacitor helps maintain the desired voltage level by reducing the ripple generated by the inverter's switching operations. The inverter's power rating determines how much current is drawn from the DC bus. Higher power ratings require larger capacitors to ensure adequate energy storage and voltage stabilization.

What is the role of a DC link capacitor in inverter systems?

Before diving into the calculations, it is important to understand the role of a DC link capacitor in inverter systems. The primary function of a DC link capacitor is to smooth out the DC bus voltage between the rectifier and inverter stages, which helps in reducing voltage ripple and preventing voltage spikes.

Why does a DC link capacitor have a ripple current  $I_{CAP}$ ?

We may infer from Figure 2 that the DC link capacitor's AC ripple current  $I_{cap}$  arises from two main contributors: (1) the incoming current from the energy source and (2) the current drawn by the inverter. Capacitors cannot pass DC current; thus, DC current only flows from the source to the inverter, bypassing the capacitor.



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