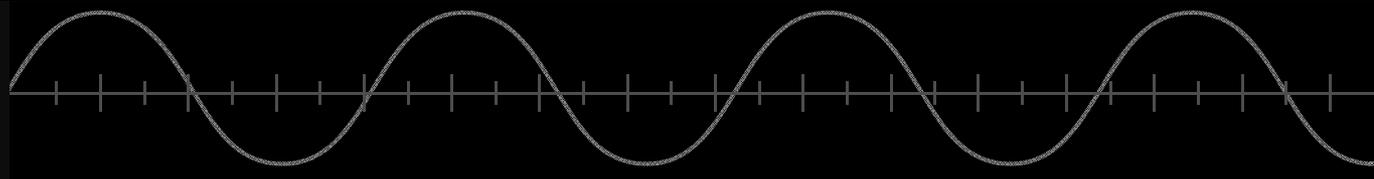


# SwitcherCAD III/LTspice Getting Started Guide



# Benefits of Using SwitcherCAD III/LTspice

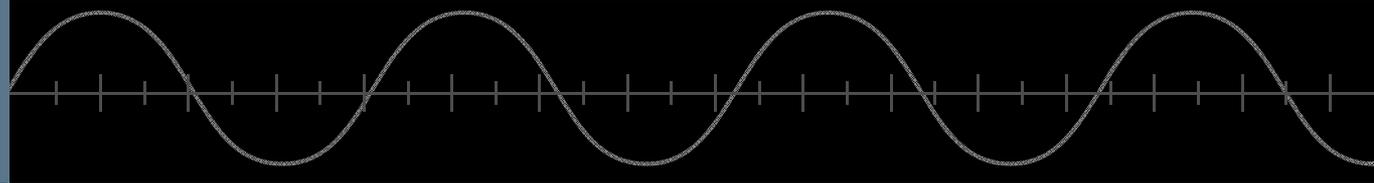
- ◆ Stable SPICE circuit simulation with Outperforms pay-for options
  - ◆ Unlimited number of nodes
  - ◆ Schematic/symbol editor
  - ◆ Waveform viewer
  - ◆ Library of passive devices
- ◆ Fast simulation of switching mode power supplies (SMPS) LTspice is also a great schematic capture
  - ◆ Steady state detection
  - ◆ Turn on transient
  - ◆ Step response
  - ◆ Efficiency / power computations
- ◆ Advanced analysis and simulation options ◆ Over 1100 macromodels of Linear Technology products  
◆ 500+ SMPS
  - ◆ Not covered in this presentation

# How Do You Get SwitcherCAD III/LTspice

- ◆ Go to <http://www.linear.com/software>
- ◆ Left click on download SwitcherCAD III/LTspice
- ◆ Register for a new MyLinear account to receive updates if you have not done so already

LTSPICE/SWITCHERCAD III	
<p><b>LTspice/SwitcherCAD III</b></p> <p>SwitcherCAD™ III is a high performance Spice III simulator, schematic capture and waveform viewer with enhancements and models for easing the simulation of switching regulators. Our enhancements to Spice have made simulating switching regulators extremely fast compared to normal Spice simulators, allowing the user to view waveforms for most switching regulators in just a few minutes. Included in this download are Spice, Macro Models for 80% of Linear Technology's switching regulators, over 200 op amp models, as well as resistors, transistors and MOSFET models.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Download SwitcherCAD III/LTspice</a> (Updated February 11, 2008)</li><li>• <a href="#">SwitcherCAD III/LTspice Users Guide</a></li><li>• <a href="#">SwitcherCAD III/LTspice Getting Started Guide</a></li></ul>

# Getting Started



# Getting Started using SwitcherCAD III/LTspice

- ◆ Use one of the 100s of demo circuits available on linear.com
  - ◆ Reviewed by Linear Technology's Factory Applications Group
- ◆ Use a pre-drafted test fixture (JIG)
  - ◆ Provides a good starting point
- ◆ Use the schematic editor to create your own design
  - ◆ LTspice contains macromodels for most LTC power devices

# Demo Circuits on linear.com

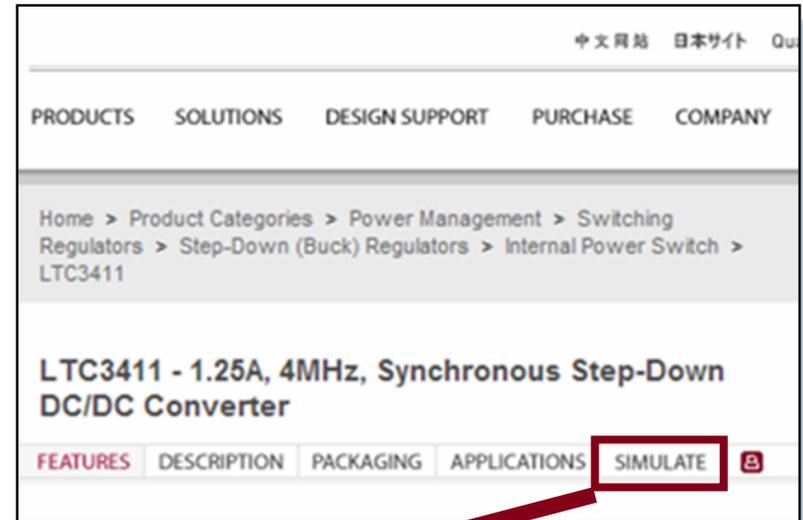
- ◆ Go to <http://www.linear.com>
- ◆ Enter root part number in the search box (e.g. 3411)
- ◆ Select Simulate Tab
- ◆ Follow the instructions provided

If you do not find a demo circuit of interest, use a pre-drafted test fixture – covered next

Download LTspice

Download Demo Circuit

Complete list of demo circuits available at [www.linear.com/democircuits](http://www.linear.com/democircuits)



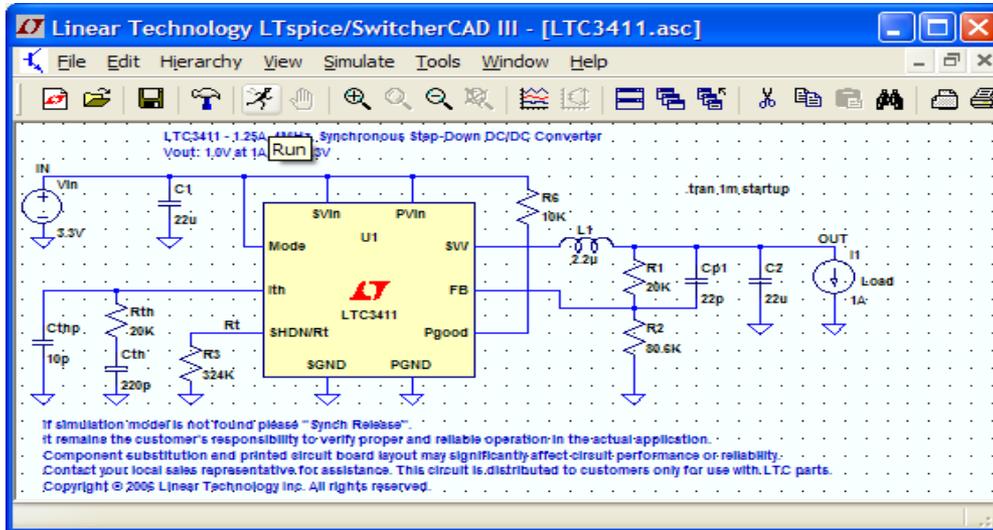
## SIMULATE

LTSpice / SwitcherCAD III is a powerful FREE circuit simulator and schematic capture program, providing macro models for 80% of Linear Technology's switching regulators, over 200 op amp models, as well as resistors, transistors and MOSFET models.

- Step 1. If you do not already have a copy of LTSpice, click here to download and install [LTSpice / SwitcherCAD III](#)
- Step 2. Once LTSpice is installed, click here for a ready to run [demonstration circuit of the LTC3411](#).
- Step 3. If LTSpice / SwitcherCAD III does not automatically open after clicking the above link, you can instead run the simulation by right clicking on the link and selecting "Save Target As". After saving the file to your computer, start LTSpice and open the demonstration circuit by selecting "Open" from the "File" menu.

# Demo Circuit

- ✓ Designed and Reviewed by Factory Apps Group



To run a demo circuit jump to the [Run and Probe a Circuit in LTspice](#) section

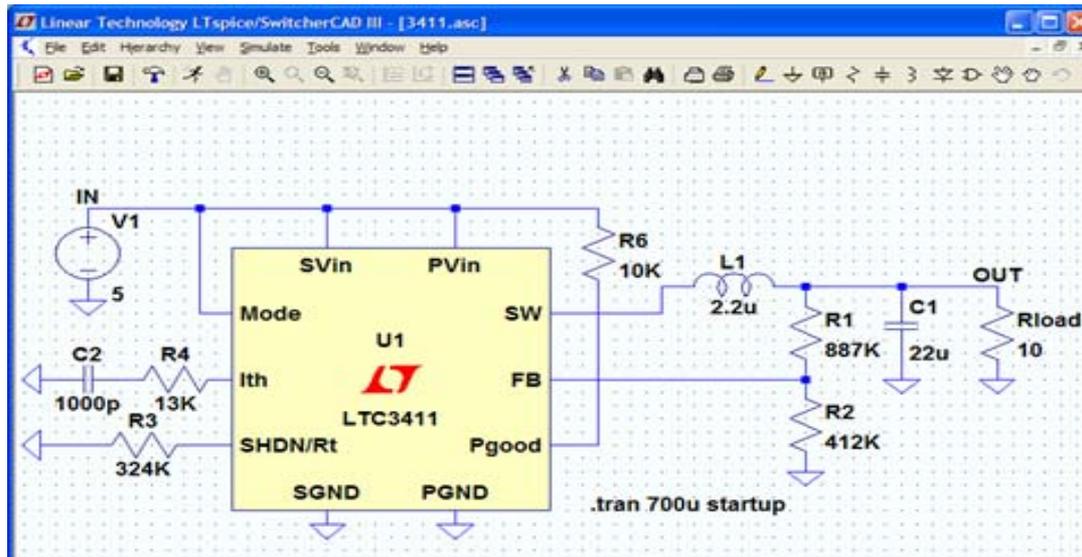
- ◆ It remains the customer's responsibility to verify proper and reliable operation in the actual application
- ◆ Printed circuit board layout may significantly affect circuit performance or reliability

# Getting Started using SwitcherCAD III/LTspice

- ◆ Use one of the 100s of demo circuits available on linear.com
  - ◆ Reviewed by Linear Technology's Factory Applications Group
- ◆ Use a pre-drafted test fixture (JIG)
  - ◆ Provides a good starting point
- ◆ Use the schematic editor to create your own design
  - ◆ LTspice contains macromodels for most LTC power devices

## Pre-Drafted Test Fixture (JIG)

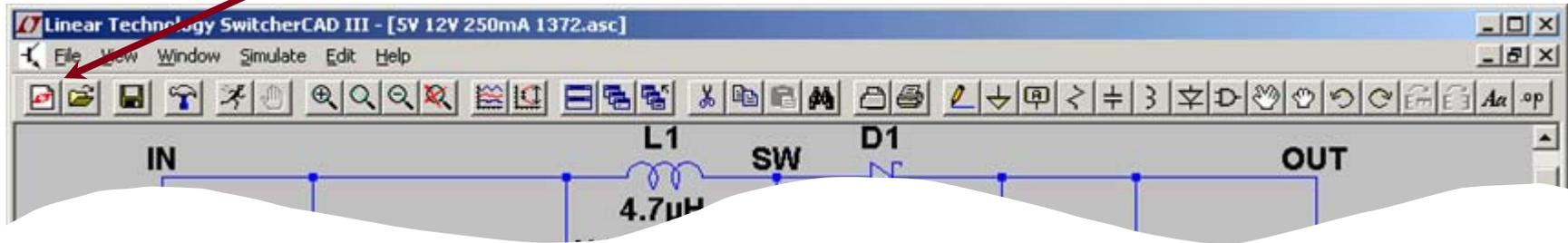
- ◆ Used for testing models during development
- ◆ Provides a draft starting point
  - ◆ Not reviewed by Linear Technology's factory applications team



- ◆ It remains the customer's responsibility to verify proper and reliable operation in the actual application
- ◆ Printed circuit board layout may significantly affect circuit performance or reliability

# Start with a New Schematic

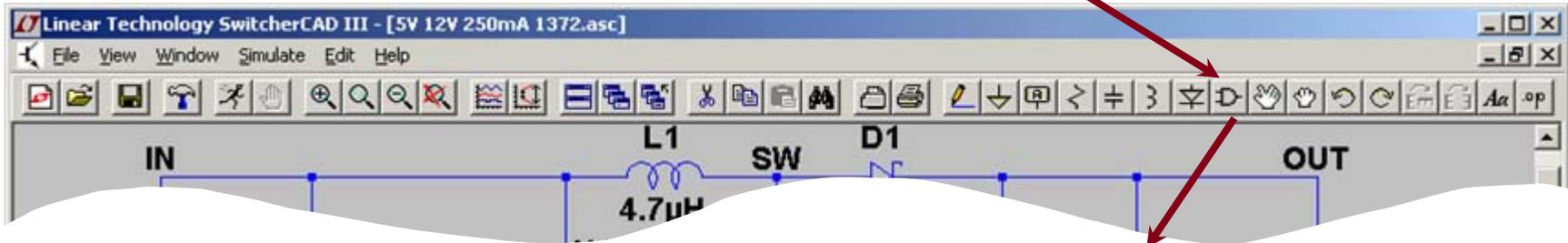
New Schematic



- ◆ Left click on the **New Schematic** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar

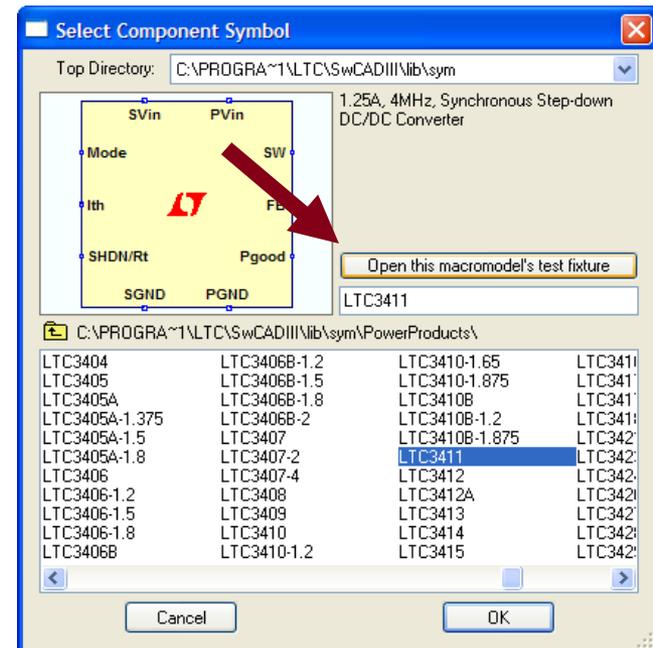
# Add a Macromodel & Opening Test Fixture

Add Component



- ◆ Left click on the **Component** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
- ◆ Enter “root” part to search for the model (e.g. 3411)
- ◆ Left click on **Open this macromodel’s test fixture**

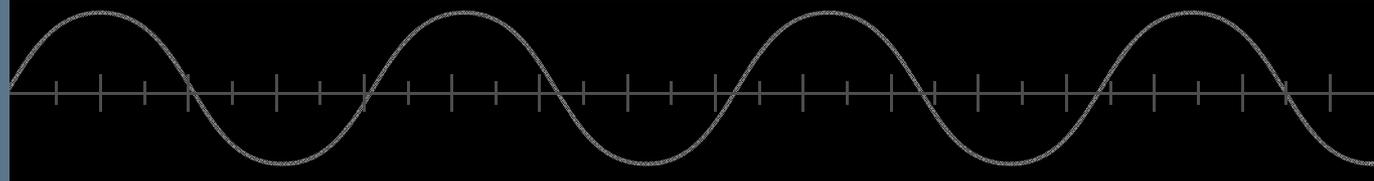
To run a test fixture, jump to the [Run and Probe a Circuit in LTspice](#) section



## Getting Started using SwitcherCAD III/LTspice

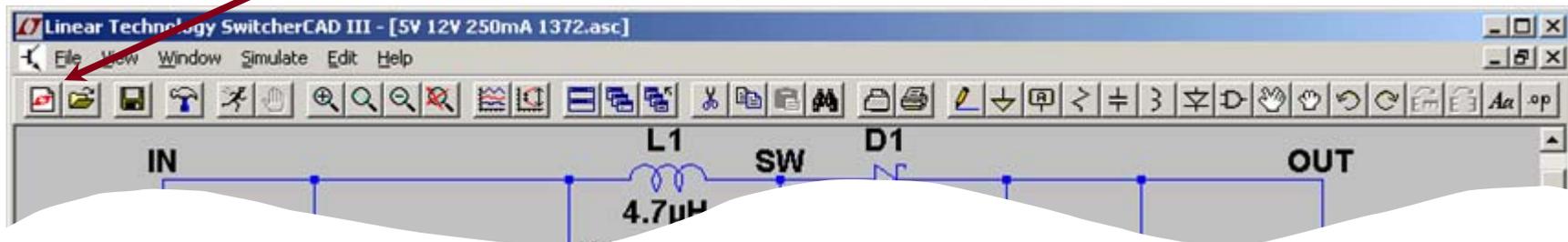
- ◆ Use one of the 100s of demo circuits available on linear.com
  - ◆ Reviewed by Linear Technology's Factory Applications Group
- ◆ Use a pre-drafted test fixture (JIG)
  - ◆ Provides a good starting point
- ◆ Use the schematic editor to create your own design
  - ◆ LTspice contains macromodels for most LTC power devices

# Draft a Design Using the Schematic Editor



# Start with a New Schematic

New Schematic

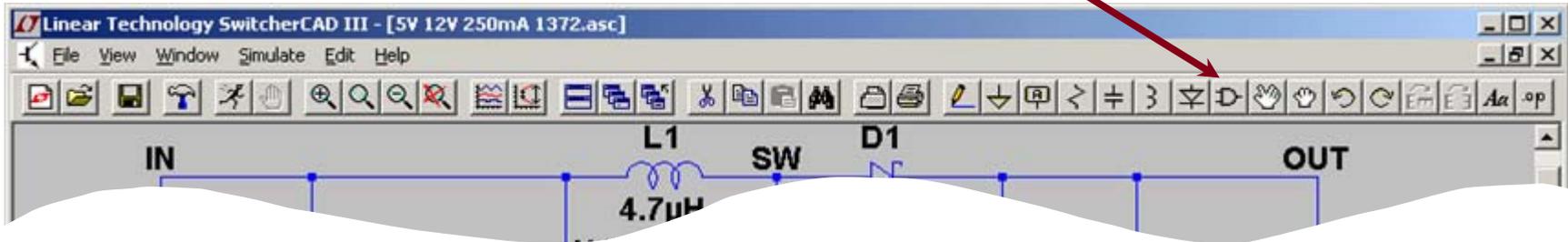


- ◆ Left click on the **New Schematic** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar

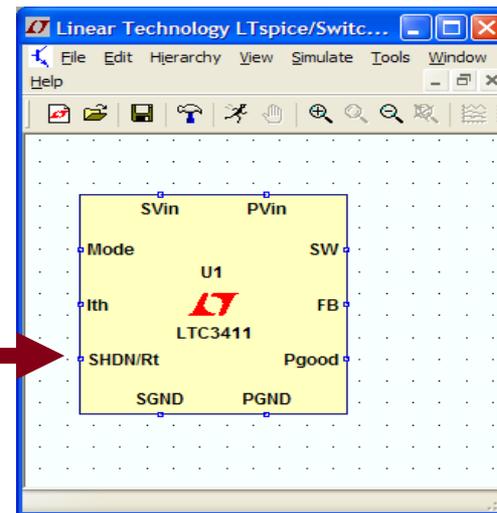
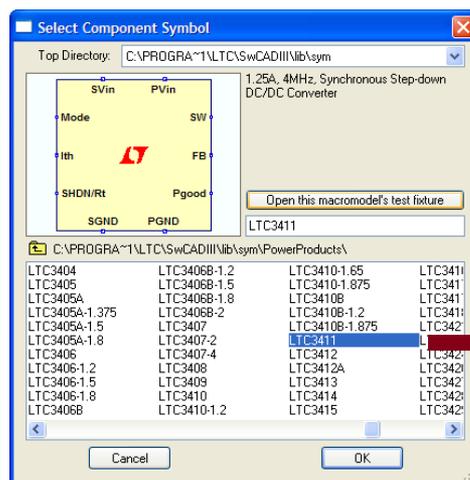
LTspice is also a great schematic capture

# Add a Linear Technology Macromodel

Add Component



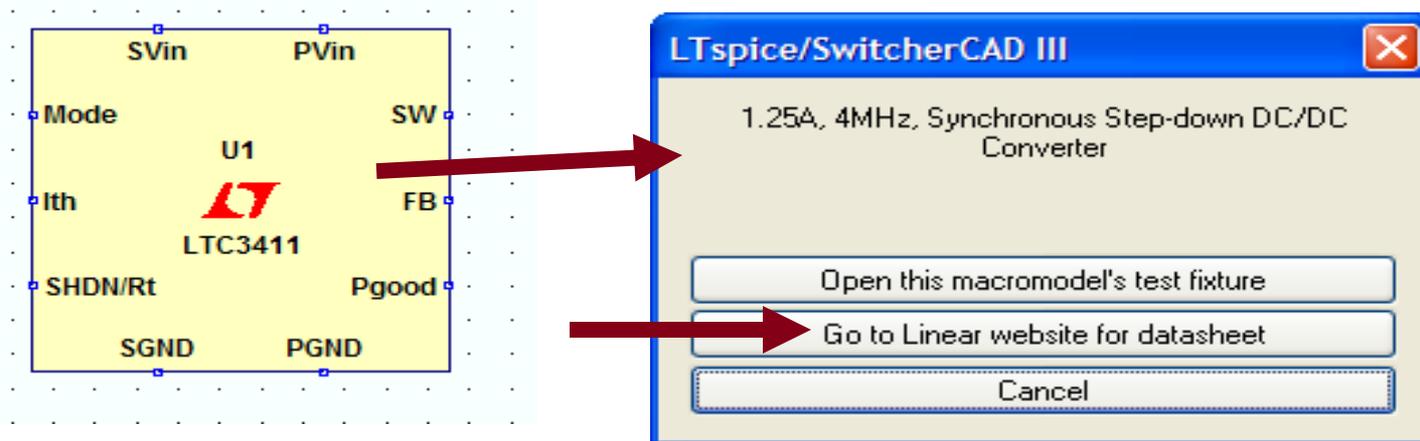
- ◆ Left click on the **Component** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
- ◆ Enter “root” part to search for the model (e.g. 3411)
- ◆ Left click on **OK**



## Getting the Latest Datasheet

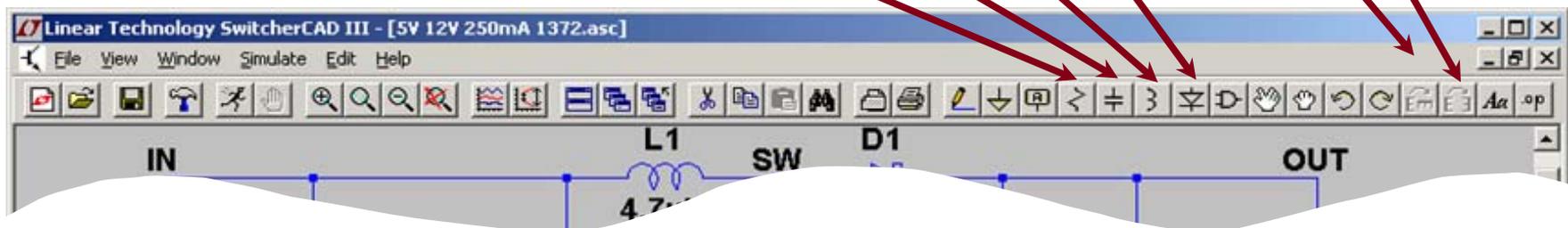
- ◆ Use the macromodel's shortcuts to download the *Datasheet* as a reference for your design
  - ◆ Hold Ctrl key and right click (*Ctrl – right click*) over the LT macromodel's symbol
  - ◆ Left click on Go to Linear website for datasheet on the dialog box that appears

You can also open the macromodel's test fixture as a draft starting point



# Adding Circuit Elements

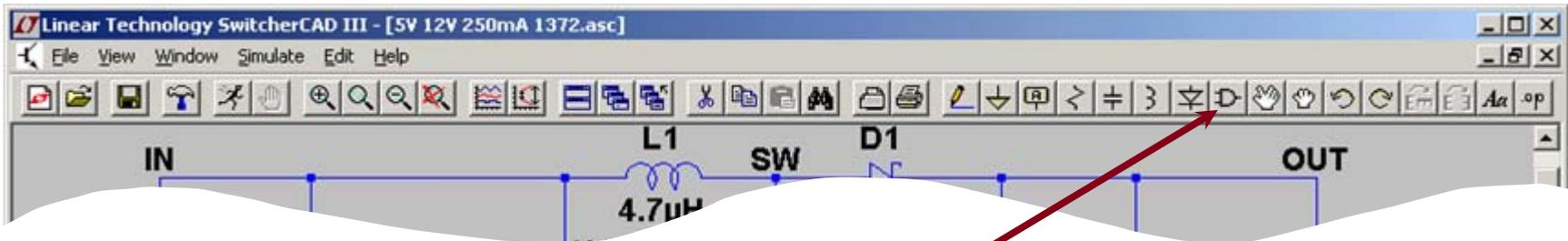
Place Resistor  
Place Capacitor  
Place Inductor  
Place Diode  
Rotate  
Mirror



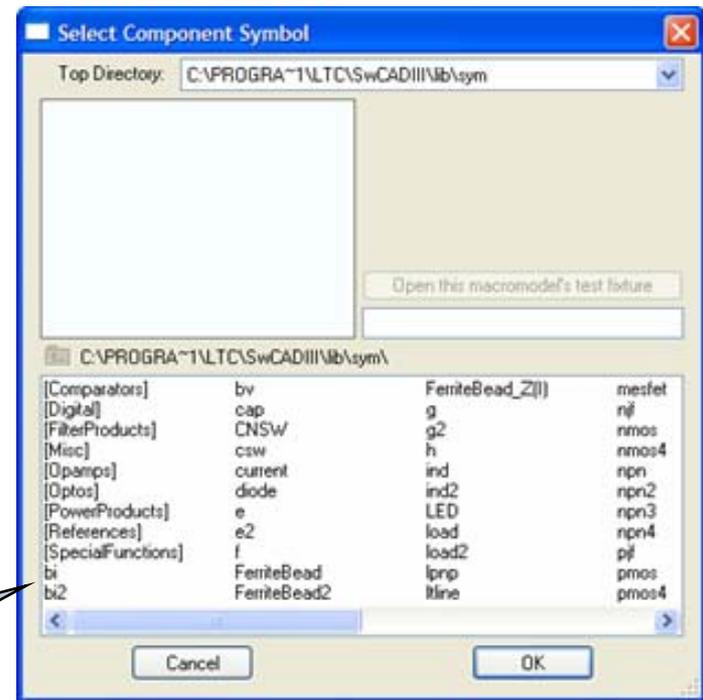
- ◆ Left click on the desired *component* in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
- ◆ Left click on **Rotate** or **Mirror** to adjust orientation
  - ◆ Alternate you can also use Ctrl – R and Ctrl – M key shortcuts
- ◆ Move the mouse to the position you want to place it
- ◆ Left click to place it

To cancel or quit a component type,  
click the right mouse button

# Adding Sources, Loads & Additional Circuit Elements



- ◆ Left click on the **Component** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
- ◆ Search directory structure for desired circuit element (e.g. load and voltage)
- ◆ Left click on **OK**
- ◆ Move the mouse to the position you want to place it
- ◆ Left click to place it

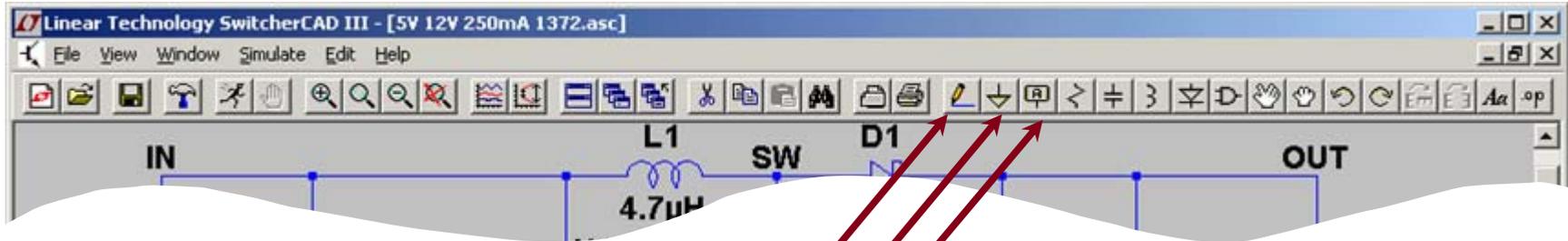


Additional Circuit Elements  
Like Sources and Loads

## Highlights of Additional Circuit Elements

- ◆ Left click on the **Component** symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar for a directory of additional circuit elements:
  - ◆ Arbitrary behavioral source
  - ◆ Voltage dependent voltage
  - ◆ Current dependent current
  - ◆ Voltage dependent current
  - ◆ Current dependent voltage
  - ◆ Independent current source
  - ◆ JFET transistor
  - ◆ Mutual inductance
  - ◆ MOSFET transistor
  - ◆ Lossy transmission line
  - ◆ Bipolar transistor
  - ◆ Voltage controlled switch
  - ◆ Lossless transmission line
  - ◆ Uniform RC-line
  - ◆ Independent voltage source
  - ◆ Current controlled switch
  - ◆ Subcircuit
  - ◆ MESFET transistor
  - ◆ ...many more

# Drawing Lines and Labeling Nodes



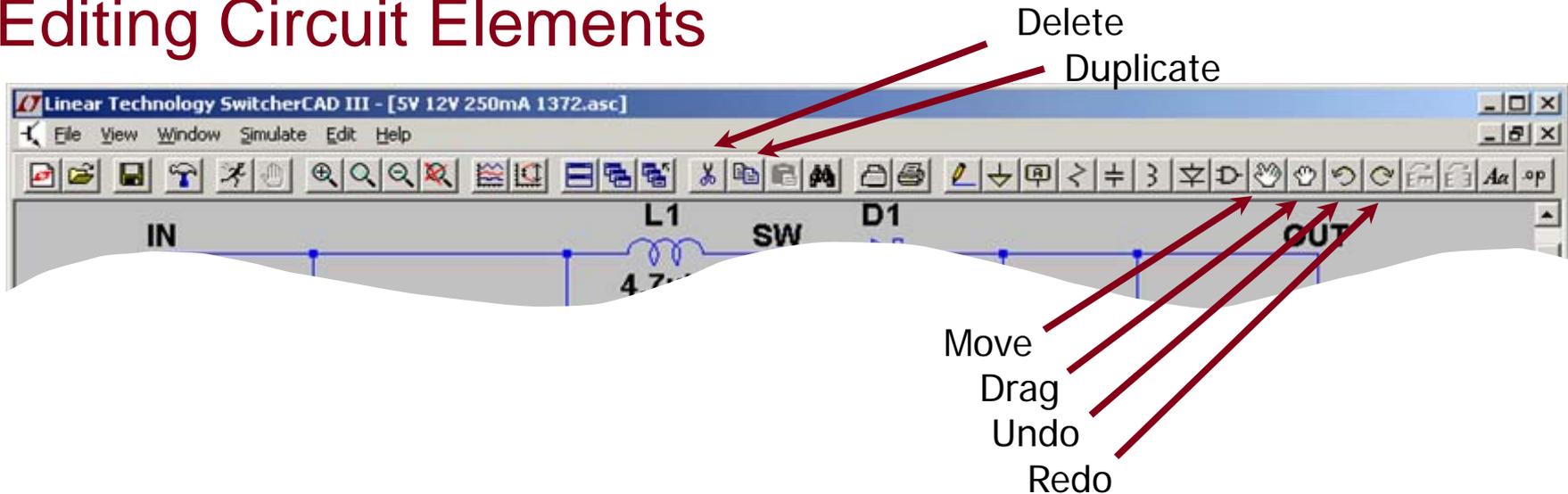
Draw Wire  
Place Ground  
Label Node

Do not forget to place a ground in your design, it is required for simulation!

## ◆ Lines

- ◆ Left click on the Draw Wire in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
- ◆ Left click a blue box (terminal)
- ◆ Define the line's path with a left click over intermediate points
- ◆ Left click on another blue box (terminal)

# Editing Circuit Elements



- ◆ Left click on the desired editing option
- ◆ Left click on the circuit element

To organize your layout, use the **Drag** option to move circuit elements around and to adjust lines between terminals

# Editing Circuit Elements Attributes

- ◆ Right click on the component **symbol** to modify attributes

**Resistor - R6**

Manufacturer: .....

Part Number: .....

**Resistor Properties**

Resistance[Ω]:

Tolerance[%]:

Power Rating[W]:

**Inductor - L1**

Manufacturer: Coilcraft

Part Number: DO1608P-222

Show Phase Dot

**Inductor Properties**

Inductance[H]:

Peak Current[A]:

Series Resistance[Ω]:

Parallel Resistance[Ω]:

Parallel Capacitance[F]:

(Series resistance defaults to 1mΩ)

**Capacitor - Cp1**

Manufacturer: .....

Part Number: .....

Type: .....

**Capacitor Properties**

Capacitance[F]:

Voltage Rating[V]:

RMS Current Rating[A]:

Equiv. Series Resistance[Ω]:

Equiv. Series Inductance[H]:

Equiv. Parallel Resistance[Ω]:

Equiv. Parallel Capacitance[F]:

Mean Time Between Failures[hr]:

Parts Per Package:

- ◆ Right click on the text next to the component to edit the visible attribute and label
  - ◆ Pointer will turn into a text caret

## Use Labels to Specify Units in Circuit Elements Attributes

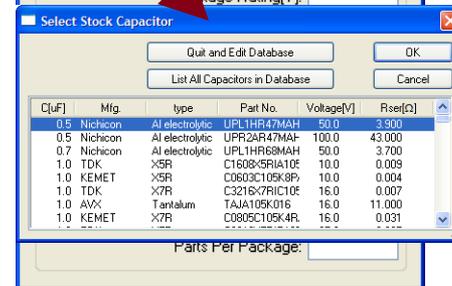
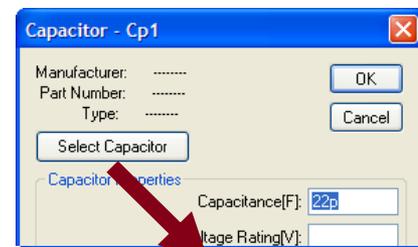
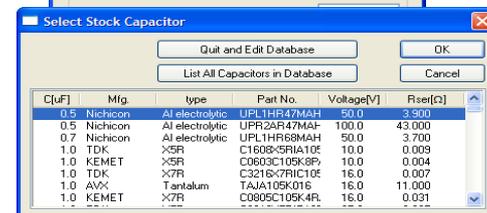
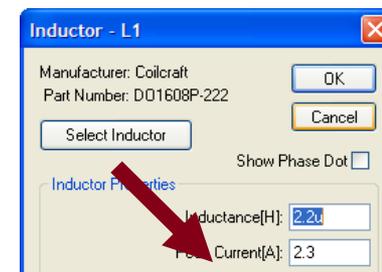
- ◆  $K = k = \text{kilo} = 10^3$
- ◆  $MEG = \text{meg} = 10^6$
- ◆  $G = g = \text{giga} = 10^9$
- ◆  $T = t = \text{terra} = 10^{12}$
- ◆  $M = m = \text{milli} = 10^{-3}$
- ◆  $U = u = \text{micro} = 10^{-6}$
- ◆  $N = n = \text{nano} = 10^{-9}$
- ◆  $P = p = \text{pico} = 10^{-12}$
- ◆  $F = f = \text{femto} = 10^{-15}$

### Hints

- ◆ Use **MEG** to specify  $10^6$ , not *M*
- ◆ Enter **1** for 1 Farad, not *1F*

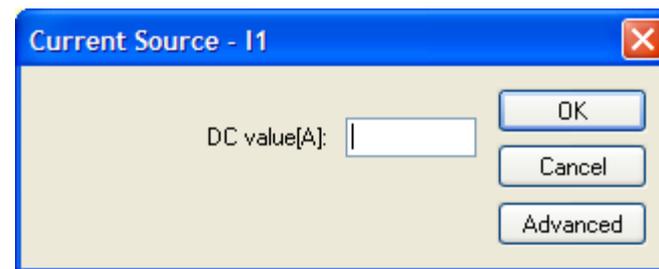
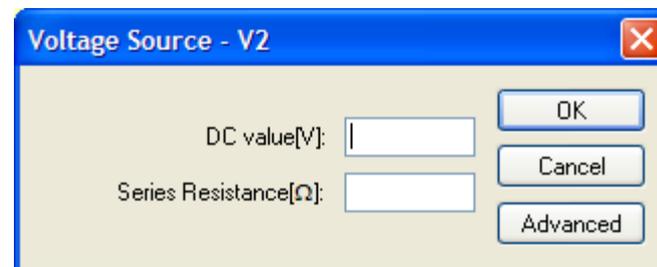
# Circuit Elements Database

- ◆ Some components have an available database of manufacturers' attributes
  - ◆ Resistors, capacitors, inductors, diodes,
  - ◆ Bipolar transistors, MOSFET transistors, JFET transistors
  - ◆ Independent voltage and current sources
- ◆ To configure a component to a manufacture's attributes
  - ◆ Right click on the component *symbol*
  - ◆ Left click on **Select...** or **Pick New...**
  - ◆ Left click on a selected device
  - ◆ Left click on OK

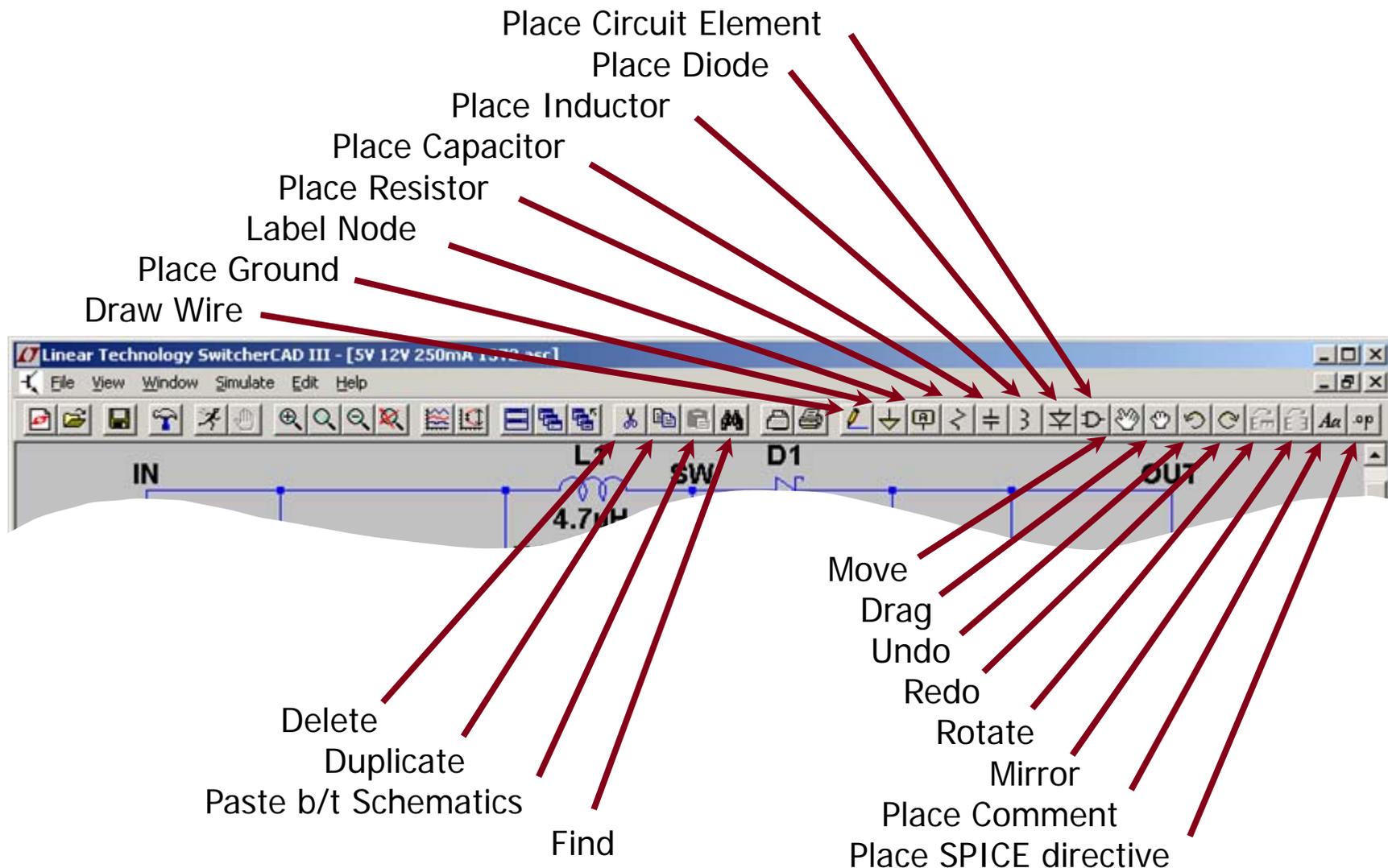


# Editing Voltage Sources and Loads

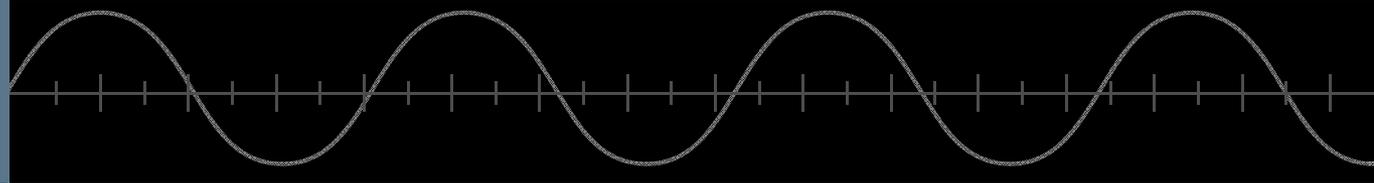
- ◆ Voltage Source
  - ◆ Right click the voltage **symbol**
  - ◆ Enter **DC voltage value** and (optional) Series Resistance
  - ◆ Left click on OK
- ◆ Load (current)
  - ◆ Right click on the load **symbol**
  - ◆ Enter **DC current value**
  - ◆ Left click on OK



# Summary of Schematic Editor Toolbar



# Run and Probe a Circuit



# Simulation Commands

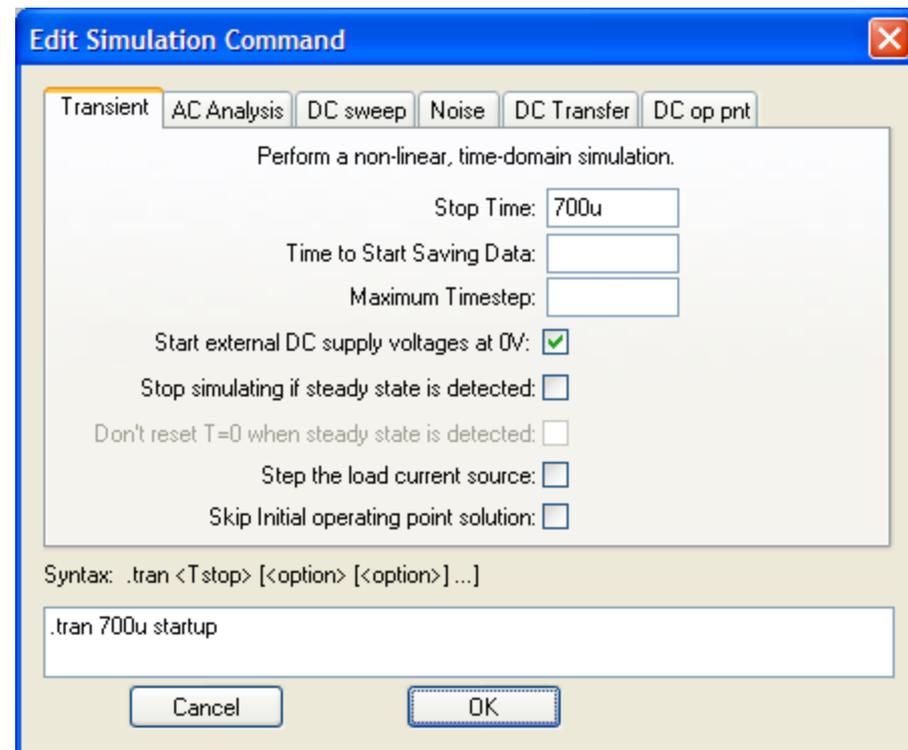
- ◆ To run a simulation, specify the type of analysis to be performed
- ◆ There are six different types of analyses:
  - ◆ Transient analysis
  - ◆ Small signal AC
  - ◆ DC sweep
  - ◆ Noise
  - ◆ DC transfer function
  - ◆ DC operating point
- ◆ Simulation commands are placed on the schematic as text
  - ◆ Called dot commands

More information on simulation and dot commands are available in SwitcherCAD III/LTspice User Guide

# Editing Simulation Commands

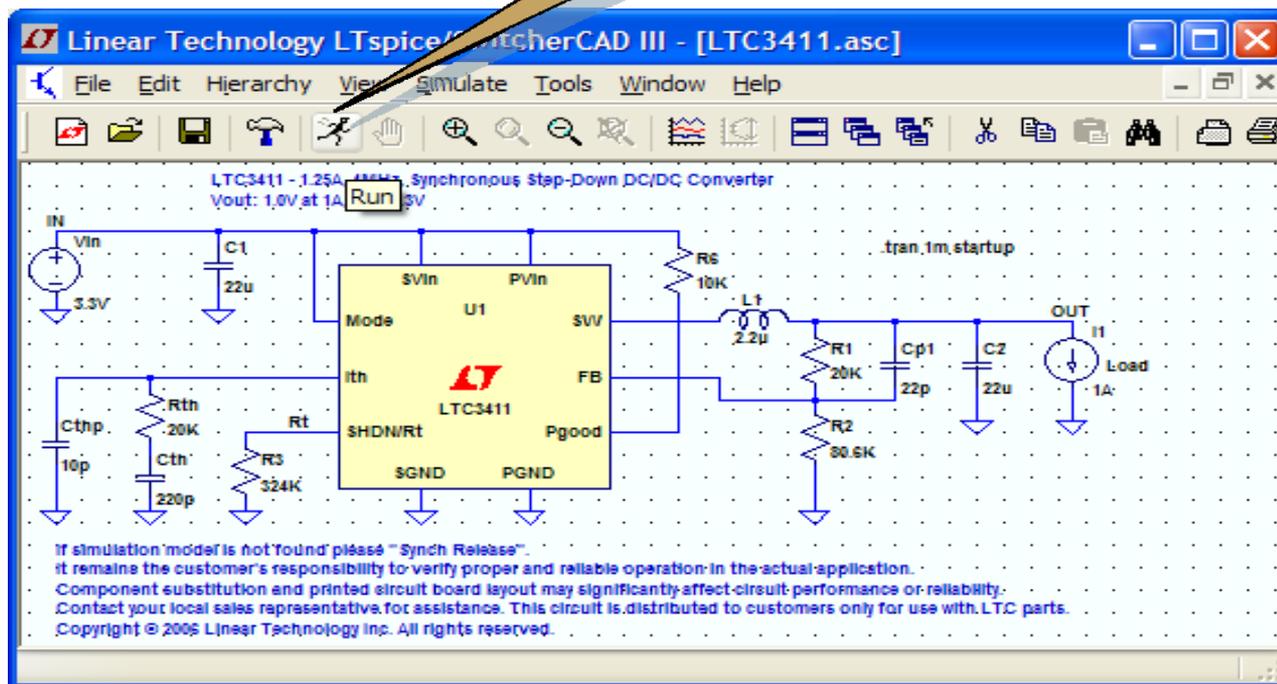
- ◆ Left click on **Simulation** menu
- ◆ Left click on **Edit Simulation Cmd**
- ◆ As a starting point in a simulation
  - ◆ Left click on **Transient** tab
  - ◆ Enter a **Stop Time**
    - ◆ You may need to adjust this again later
- ◆ Select **OK**

**Demo Circuits and Test Fixtures**  
have predefined Simulations  
Commands



# Running a Circuit

Run



If model is not found please Sync Release  
under Help menu to update LTspice

# Probing a Circuit & Waveform Viewer

- ◆ Left click on any wire to plot the voltage on the waveform viewer

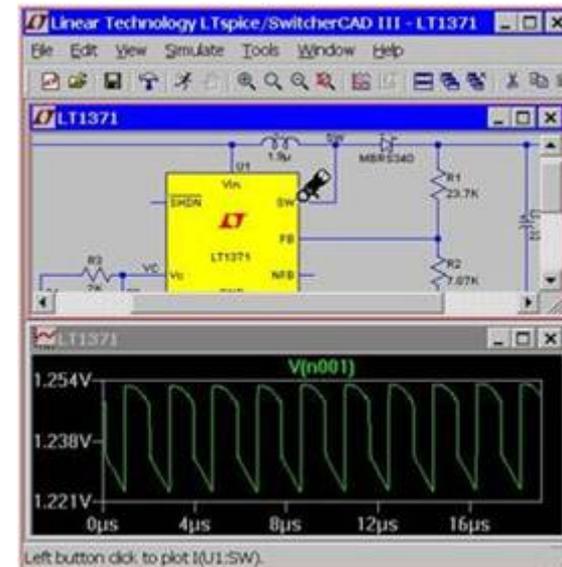
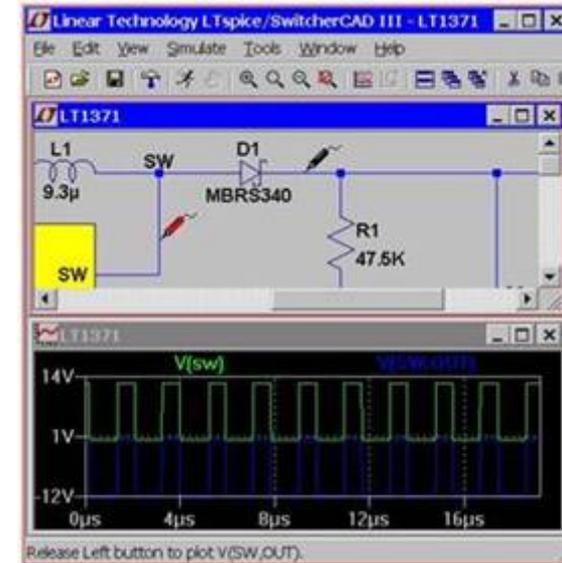


*Voltage probe cursor*

- ◆ Left click on the body of the component to plot the current on the waveform viewer
  - ◆ Convention of positive current is in the direction into the pin



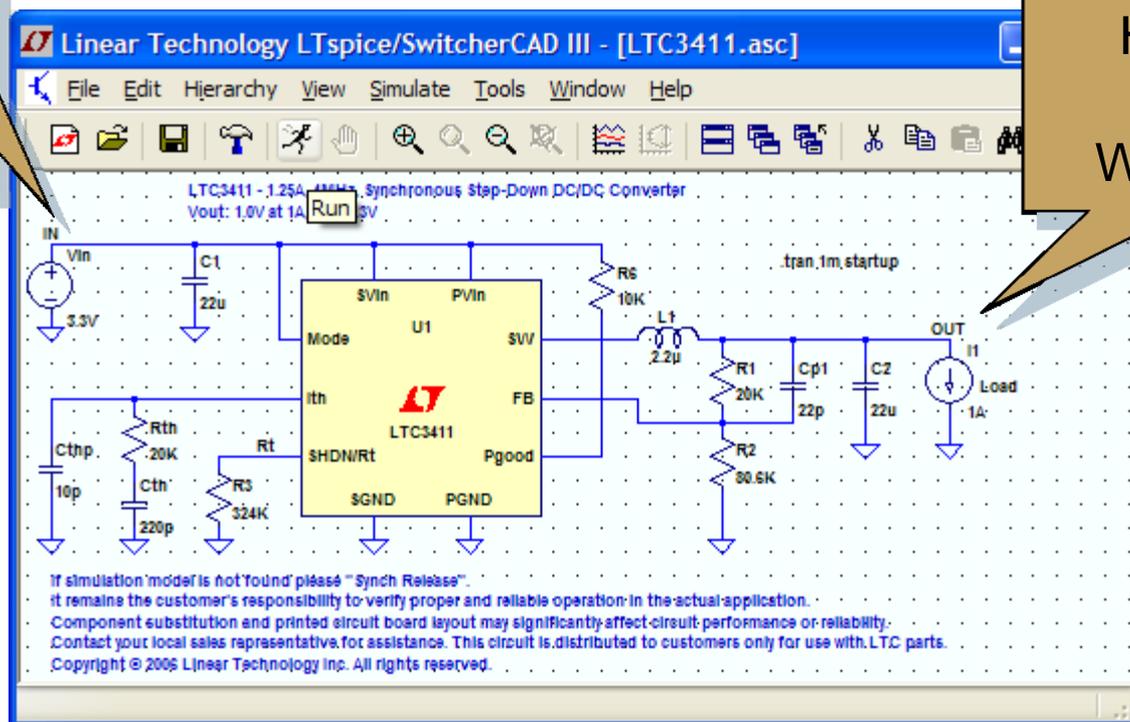
*Current probe cursor*



## Probing a Demo Circuit and Test Fixture

- ◆ Demo Circuits and Test Fixtures have INs and OUTs clearly labeled to help you quickly select them
- ◆ To view the waveform left click on IN and OUT

Left Click  
Here for  
Input  
Waveform

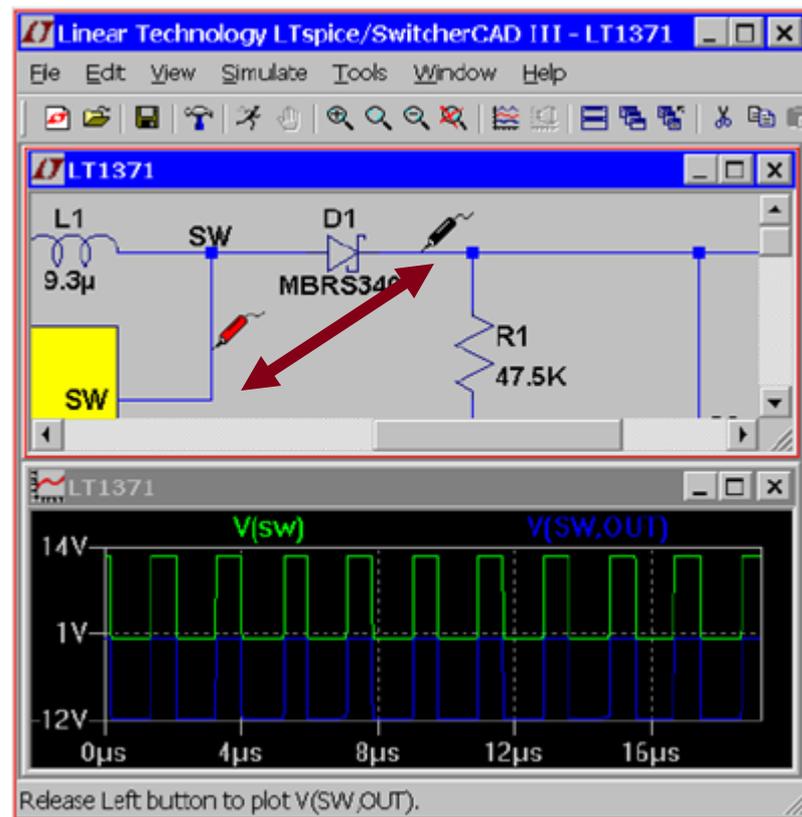


Left Click  
Here for  
Output  
Waveform

# Voltage Differences Across Nodes

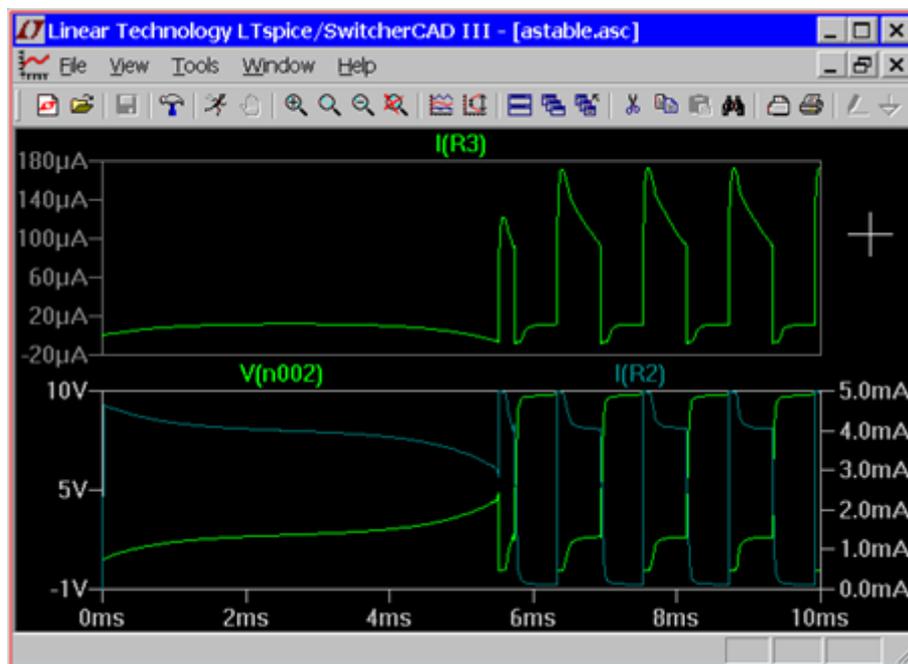
- ◆ Left click and hold on one node and drag the mouse to another node
  - ◆ Red voltage probe at the first node
  - ◆ Black probe on the second

Differential voltages are displayed in the waveform viewer



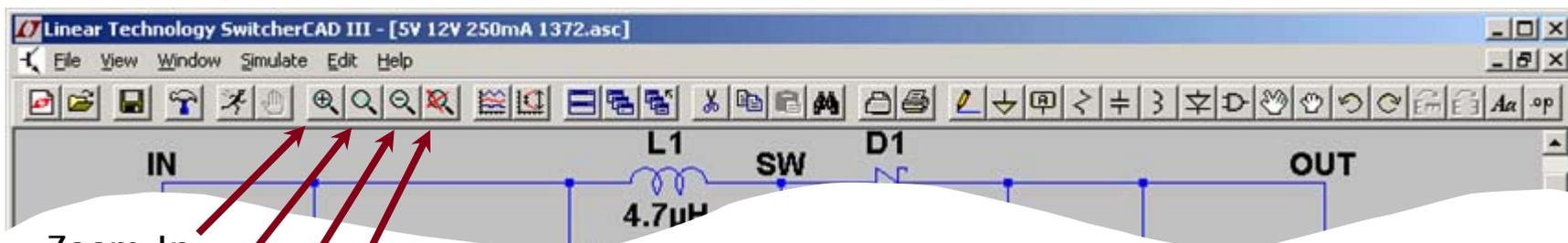
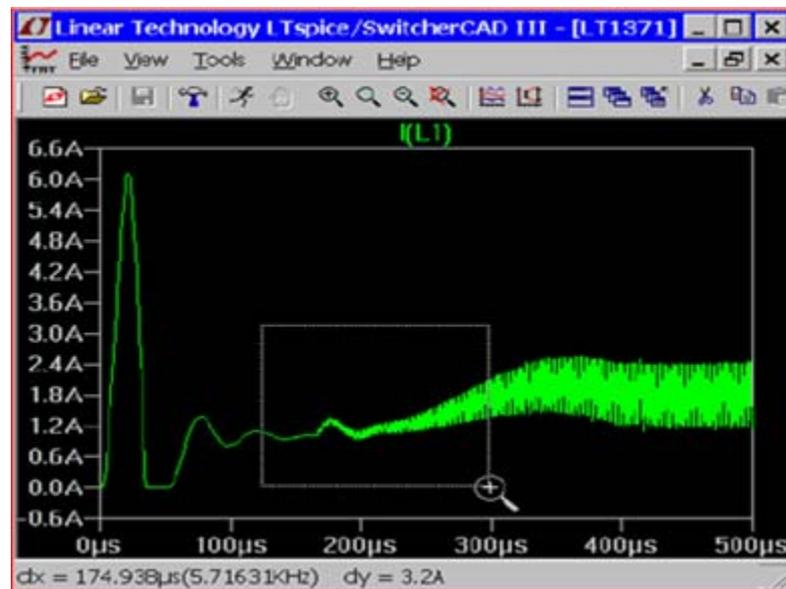
# Plot Planes

- ◆ Multiple plot panes can be displayed on one window to allow better separation between traces permitting different traces to be independently autoscaled
  - ◆ Right click in the waveform pane
  - ◆ Select Add Plot Pane
  - ◆ Left click and hold to drag a label to a new plot pane



# Zooming In and Out in the Waveform Viewer

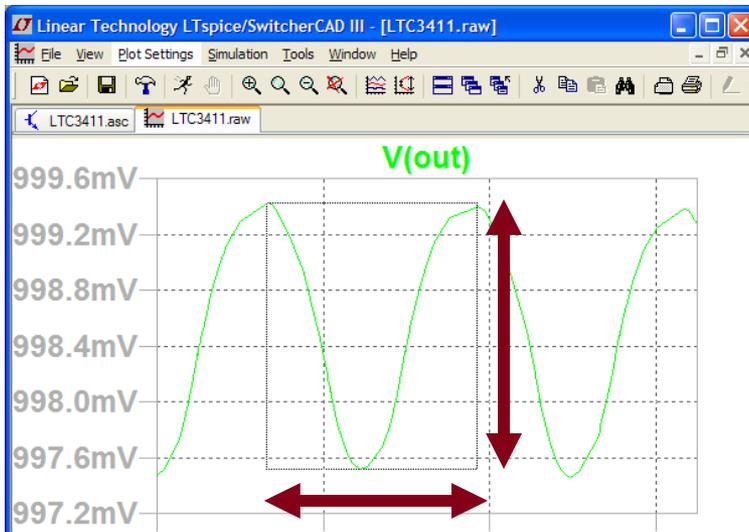
- ◆ To zoom in
  - ◆ Left click and hold as you drag a box about the region you wish to zoom in then release
- ◆ To zoom out
  - ◆ Right click and select **Zoom to Fit** or **Zoom Back**



Zoom In  
Pan  
Zoom Out  
Autoscale

# Measuring $V_{\text{Ripple}}$ , $I_{\text{Ripple}}$ and Time (Frequency)

- ◆ Drag a box about the region you wish to measure (peak to peak over a period)
  - ◆ Left click and *hold* to drag a box over the portion of interest
- ◆ View the lower left hand side of the screen
  - ◆ To avoid resizing, shrink your box before you let go of the left mouse click or use the Undo command in the Edit menu

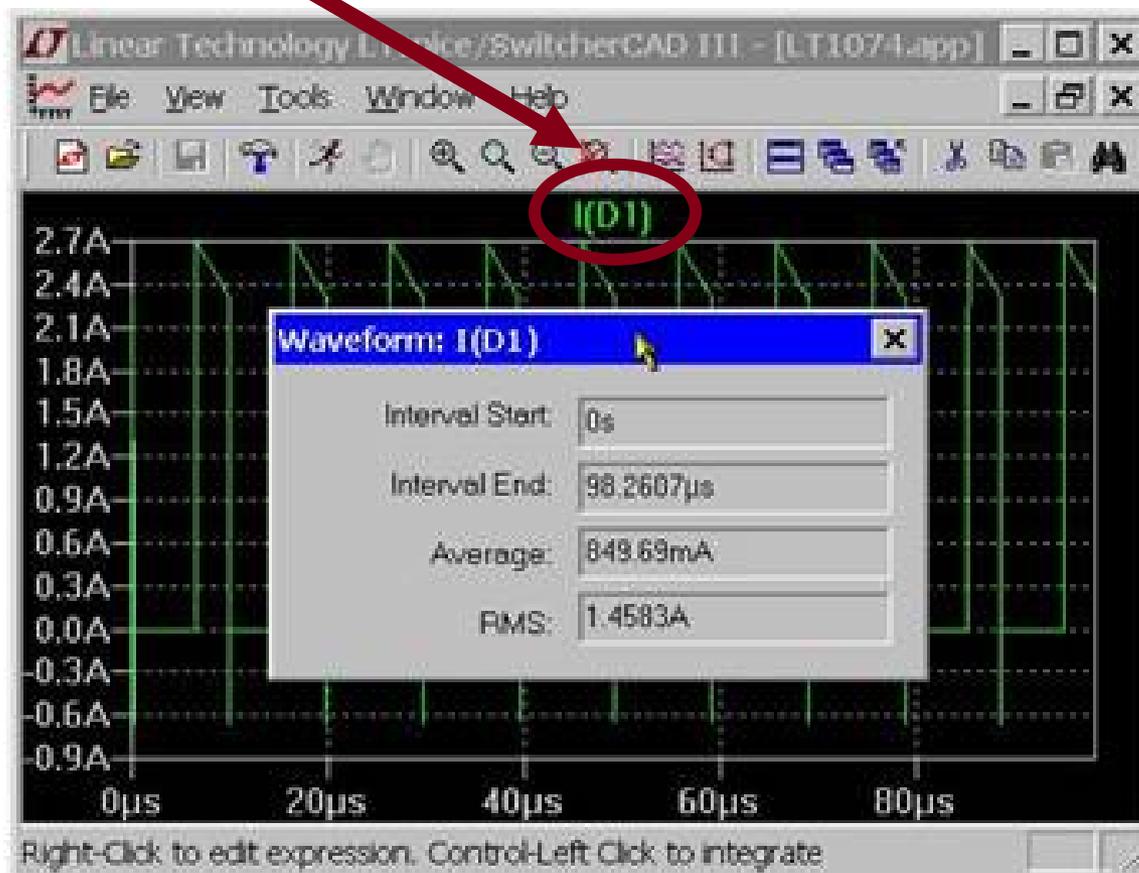


To view SMPS voltage ripple you will need to zoom into a narrow section since waveform is initially compressed to full range

$dx = 1.01843\mu\text{s}(981.9\text{KHz})$   $dy = 1.9\text{mV}$

## Average/RMS Current or Voltage Calculations

- ◆ Hold down Ctrl and left click on the I or V **trace label** in the waveform viewer



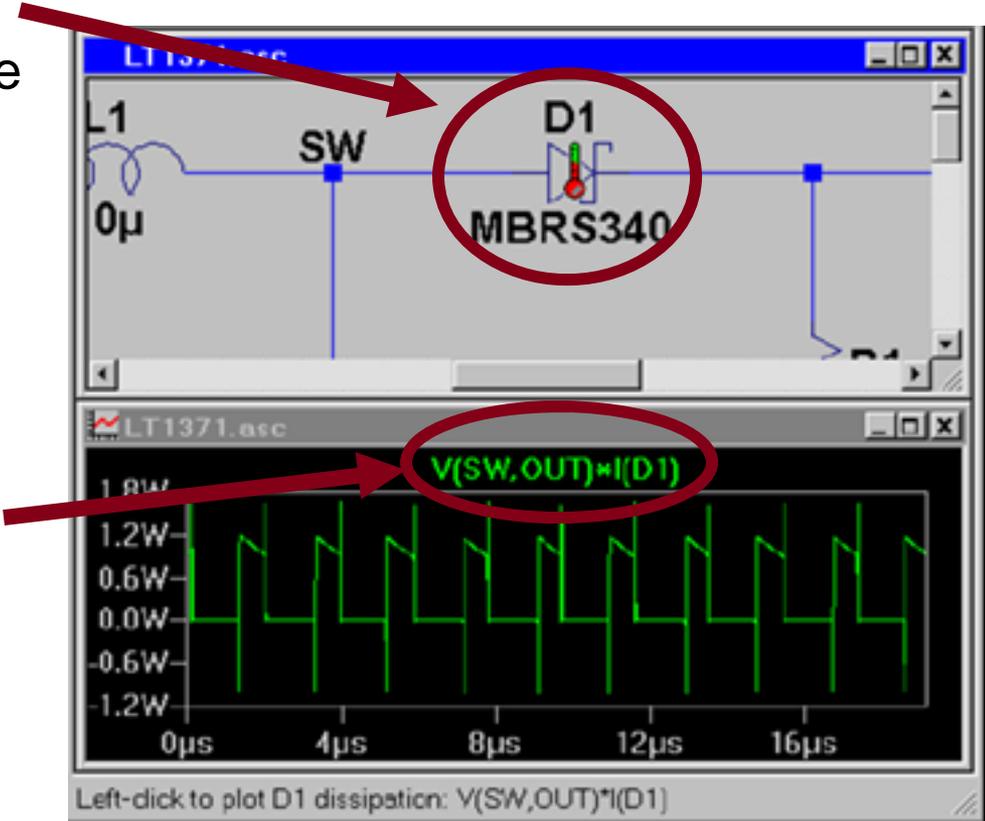
# Instantaneous & Average Power Dissipation

- ◆ Instantaneous Power Dissipation

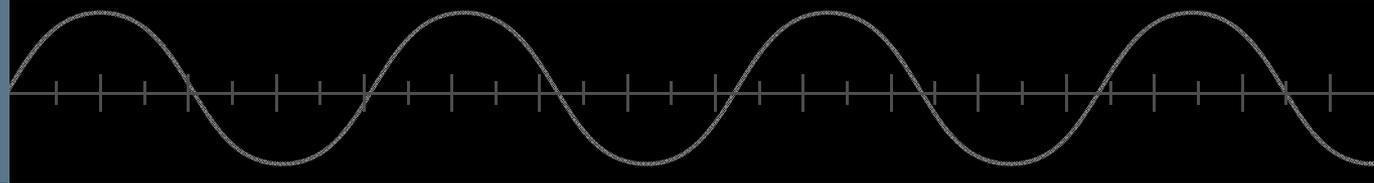
- ◆ Hold down the ALT key and left click on the symbol of the component
- ◆ Pointer will change to a thermometer
- ◆ Plotted in units of Watts

- ◆ Average Power Dissipation

- ◆ Hold down the Ctrl key and left click on the **trace label** power dissipation waveform

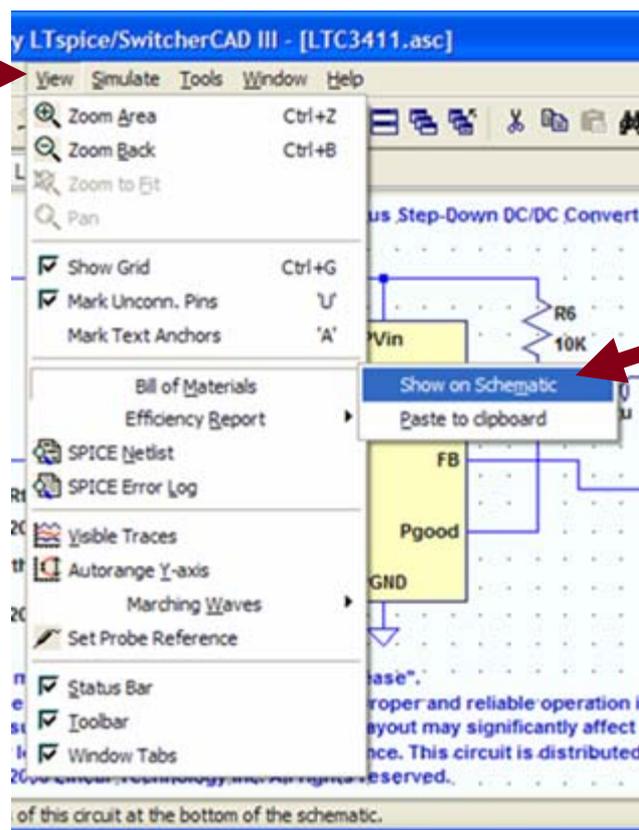


# Generating a BOM and Efficiency Report



# Bill of Materials (BOM)

- ◆ Left click on **View** menu
- ◆ Left click on **Bill of Materials**



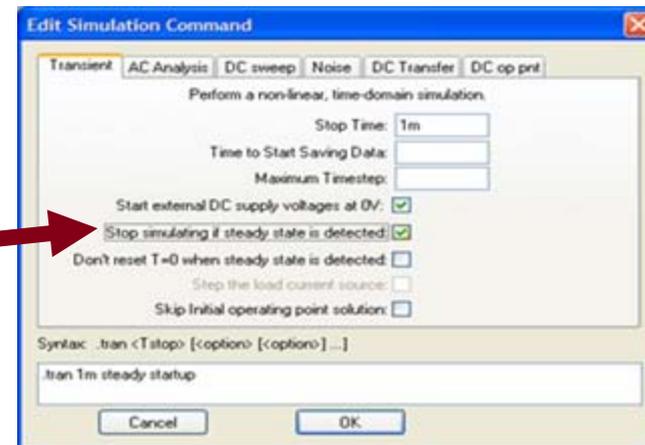
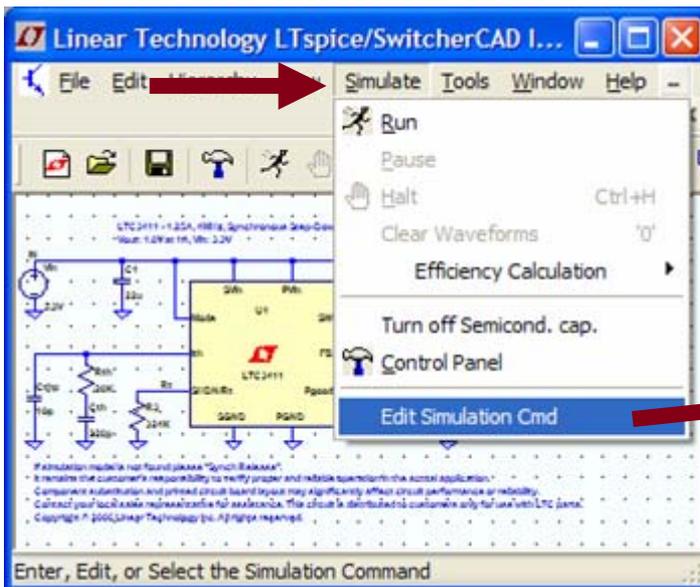
The screenshot shows the Bill of Materials (BOM) window. The title bar reads 'Linear Technology LTspice/switcherCAD III - [LTC3411.asc]'. The window displays the following BOM table:

Ref.	Mfg.	Part No.	Description
C1	TDK	C3225X5R0J226M	capacitor, 22uF, 6.3V
C2	TDK	C3225X5R0J226M	capacitor, 22uF, 6.3V
Cp1	--	--	capacitor, 22pF
Cth	--	--	capacitor, 220pF
Cthp	--	--	capacitor, 10pF
L1	Coilcraft	DO1608P-222	inductor, 2.2uH, 2.3A pk
R1	--	--	resistor, 20K
R2	--	--	resistor, 80.6K
R3	--	--	resistor, 324K
R6	--	--	resistor, 10K
Rth	--	--	resistor, 20K
U1	Linear Technology	LTC3411	integrated circuit

# Computing Efficiency of SMPS Circuits

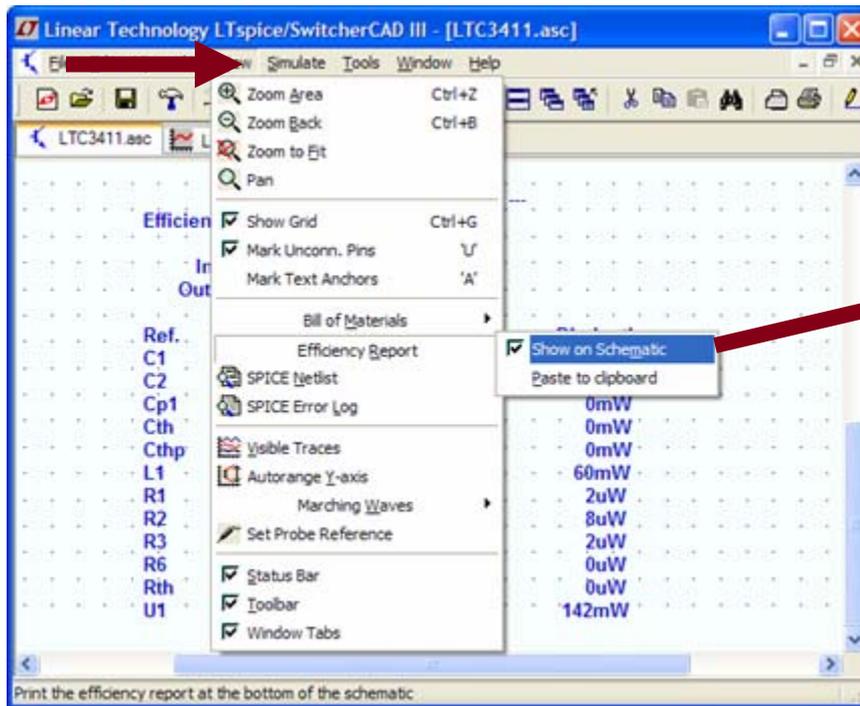
- ◆ Left click on **Simulate** menu
- ◆ Left click on **Edit Simulation Cmd**
- ◆ Left click on **Stop simulating if steady state is detected**
  - ◆ Automatically detect the steady state by checking the internal state of the macromodels
- ◆ Rerun simulation

Automatic detection of steady state may not work – steady state detection may be too strict or lenient



# Viewing Efficiency Report

- ◆ Left click on **Simulate** menu
- ◆ Left click on **Efficiency Report**



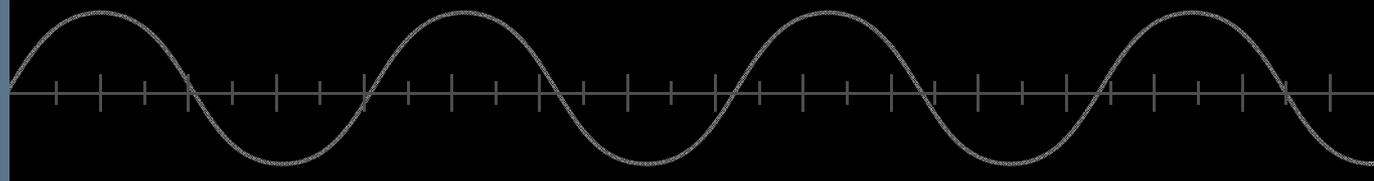
Efficiency: 83.1% --- Efficiency Report ---

Input: 1.2W @ 3.3V  
Output: 997mW @ 999mV

Ref.	I <sub>rms</sub>	I <sub>peak</sub>	Dissipation
C1	0mA	0mA	0mW
C2	99mA	177mA	0mW
Cp1	0mA	0mA	0mW
Cth	0mA	0mA	0mW
Cthp	0mA	0mA	0mW
L1	1003mA	1176mA	60mW
R1	0mA	0mA	2uW
R2	0mA	0mA	8uW
R3	0mA	0mA	2uW
R6	0mA	0mA	0uW
Rth	0mA	0mA	0uW
U1	1003mA	1176mA	142mW

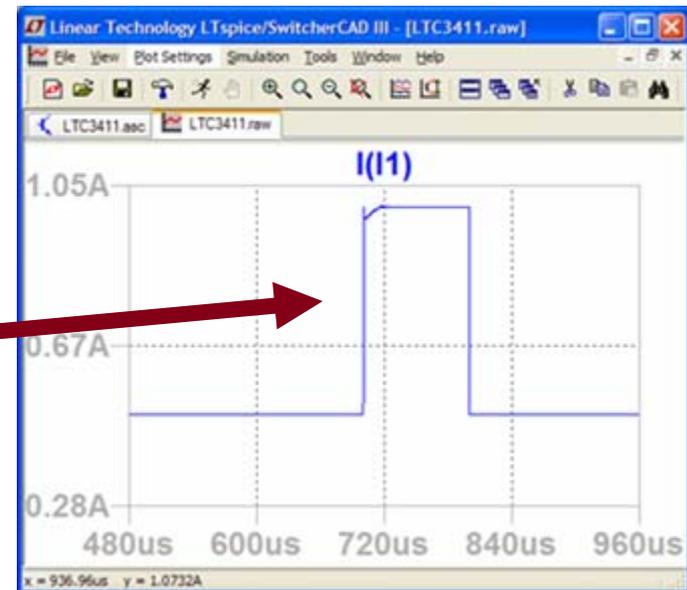
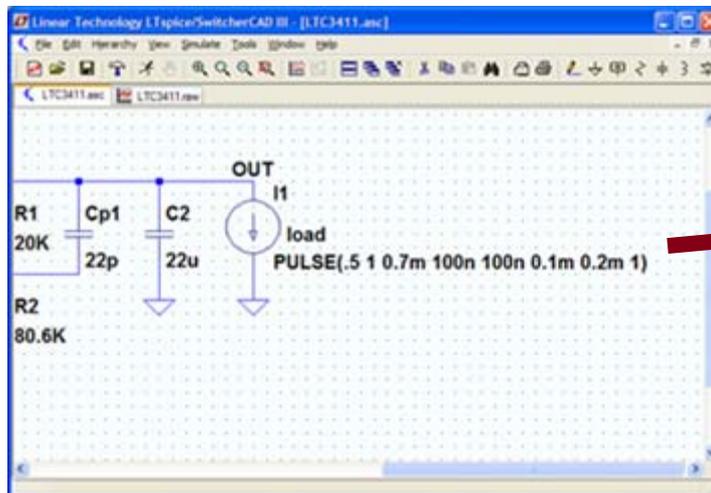
# Simulate a Transient Response in a SMPS

Advanced Topic



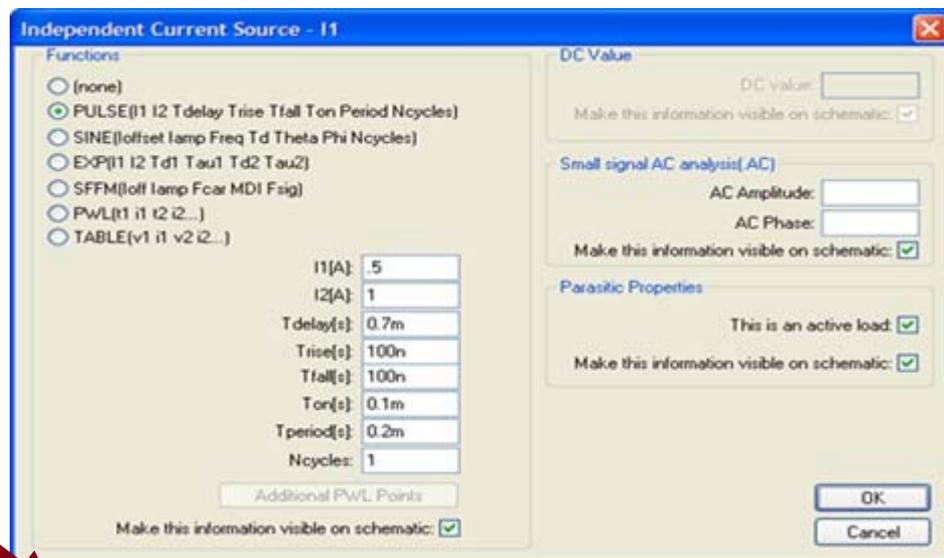
# Use a Pulsed Function as a Transient Response Load

- ◆ Insert a current source load
  - ◆ Left click on the Component symbol in the Schematic Editor Toolbar
  - ◆ Select load (or load2) circuit element and configure as pulsed
  - ◆ Left click on OK
- ◆ Configure load as a pulsed function (covered next)
  - ◆ Steps current from initial to pulsed value and back
- ◆ Run and review results



# Configuring Load as a Pulse Function

- ◆ Right click on the load (or load2) component
- ◆ Select Pulse
- ◆ Modify the Attributes
  - ◆ I1 = Initial value
  - ◆ I2 = Pulsed Value
  - ◆ Tdelay = Delay
  - ◆ Tr = Rise time
  - ◆ Tf = Fall time
  - ◆ Ton = On time
  - ◆ Tperiod = Period
  - ◆ Ncycles = Number of cycles
    - ◆ Omit for free running

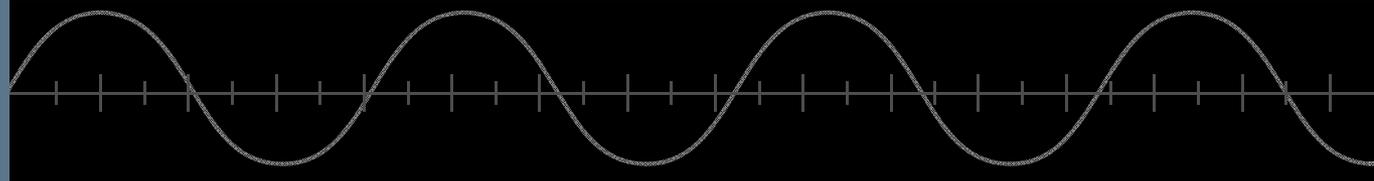


Tdelay needs to be adequate so that the device is in steady state and out of startup before the load step occurs

You may need to un-click **Stop simulating if steady state is detected** and specify an end time in Edit Simulation Cmd under the Simulate menu

# Simulate a Transformer

Advanced Topic

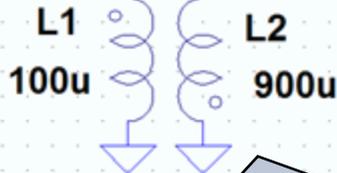


# Simulating a Transformer

- ◆ Draw each winding of the transformer as an individual inductor
- ◆ Couple inductors with a mutual inductance statement
  - ◆ Add a SPICE directive of the form `K1 L1 L2 L3 ... 1` to the schematic
    - ◆ Left Click on **Edit** then **SPICE Directive**
    - ◆ Inductors in a mutual inductance will be drawn with a phasing dot
  - ◆ Start initially with a mutual coupling coefficient equal to 1

Transformer with two windings

`K1 L1 L2 1`



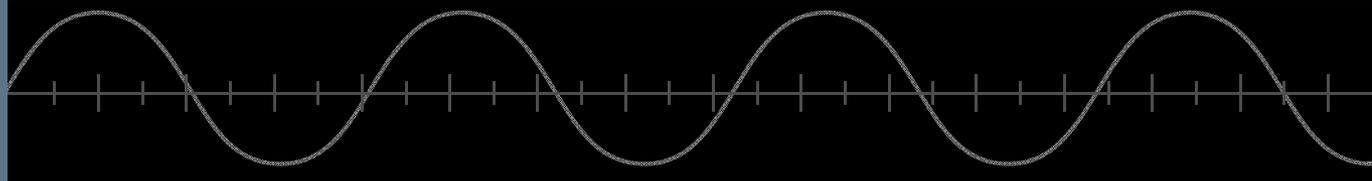
K statement coupling the windings

For more information check out LTC1871 demo circuit and page 23-24 of September 2006 LT Magazine at [www.linear.com](http://www.linear.com)

1:3 turns ration gives a 1:9 inductance ratio

Note: winding inductance ratio is the square of the turns ratio

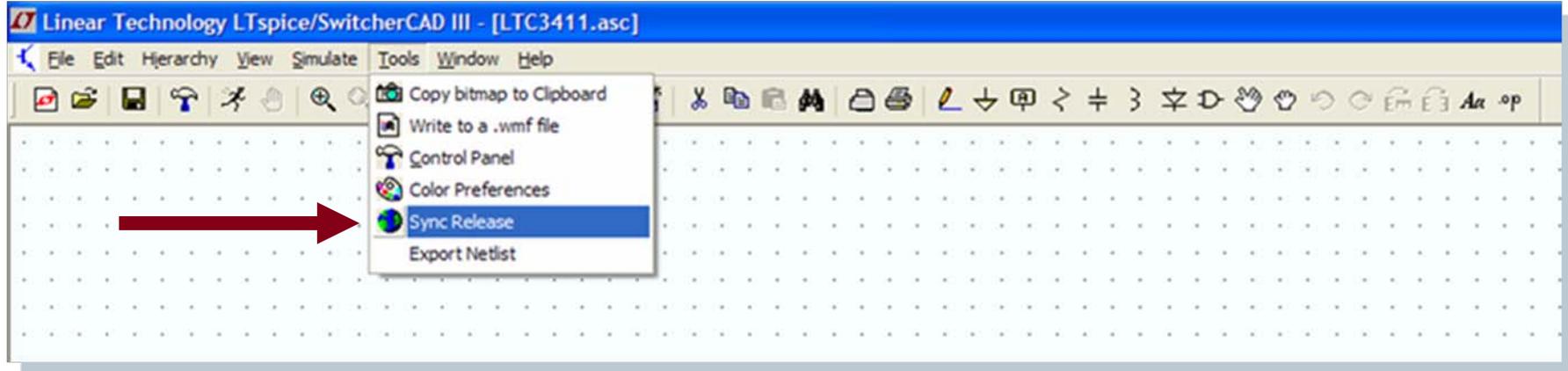
# Additional Information and Support



# Reminder to Periodically Sync Release

- ◆ Update your release of LTspice to get the latest
  - ◆ Software updates
  - ◆ Models and examples

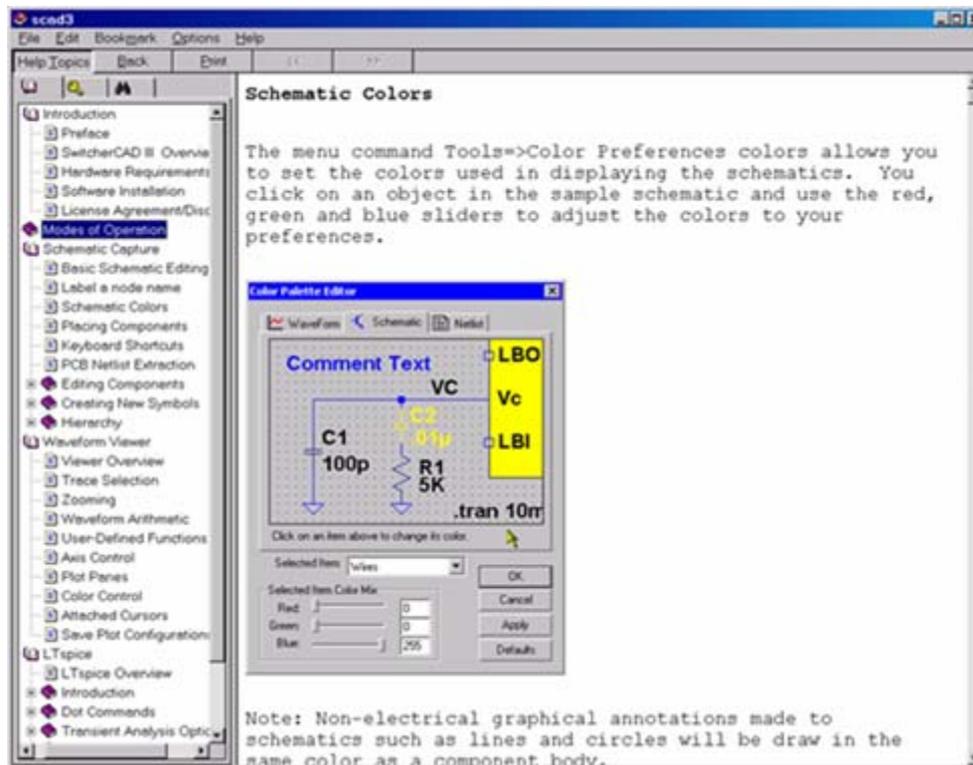
Sign up for *Linear Insider* via MyLinear ([www.linear.com](http://www.linear.com)) for email news and updates



List of changes are available in the changelog.txt that is located in your LTspice root directory (C:\Program Files\LTC\SwCADIII)

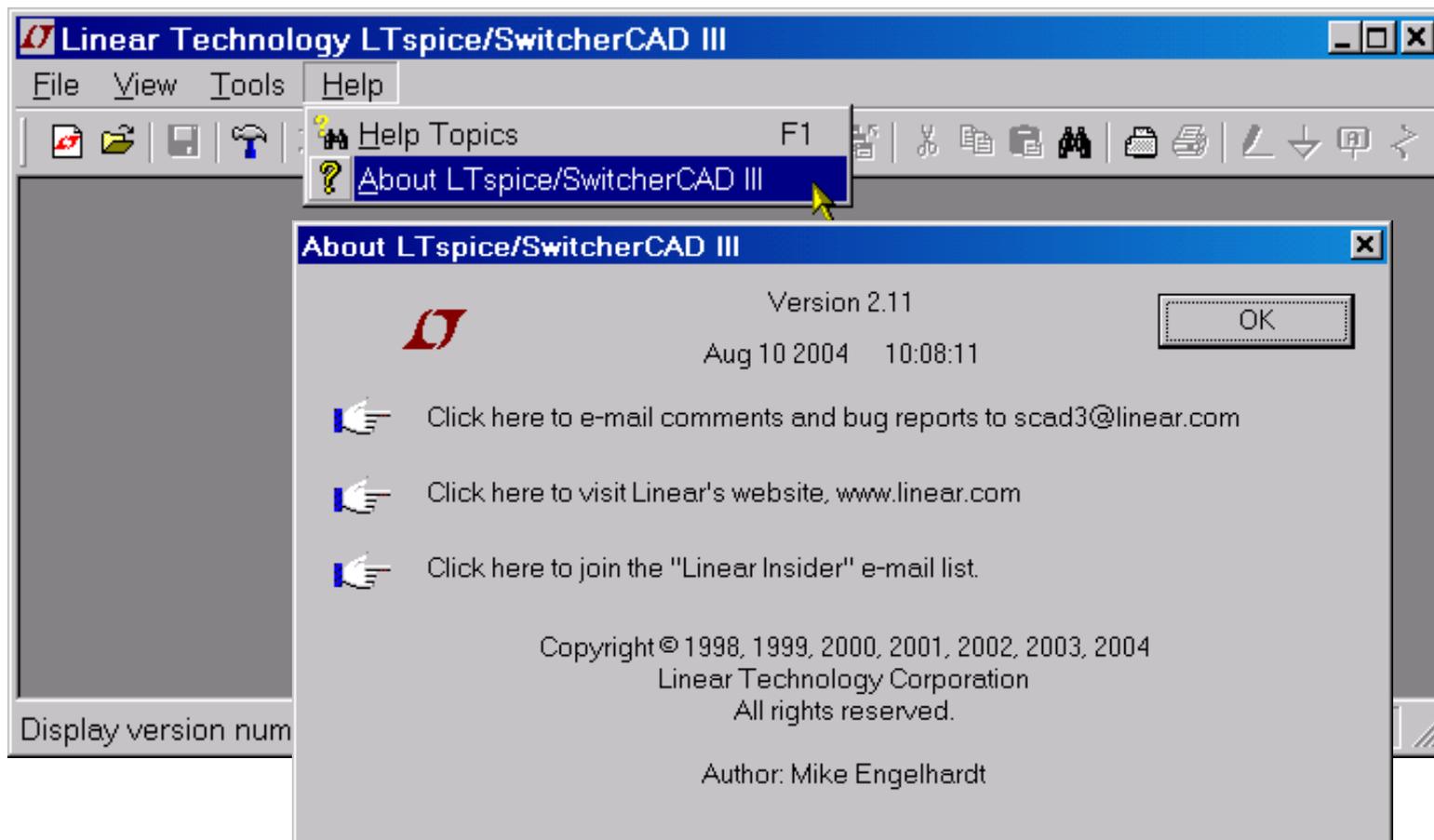
# Built-in Help System

- ◆ Left Click on **Help** menu and then **Help Topics**



To print out a hardcopy, download user guide at  
<http://LTspice.linear.com/software/scad3.pdf>

# Emailing Comments and Signing up for Linear Insider



# Customer Support

- ◆ *Linear Technology customers* can obtain support by
  - ◆ Calling your local field applications engineer
    - ◆ <http://www.linear.com/contact/>
  - ◆ Calling +1 (408) 432 – 1900 for factory application support
- ◆ *Additional support* (not related to Linear Technology circuits or models support)
  - ◆ Built-in help topics & User Manual
  - ◆ Independent LTspice users' group (search messages)

Simulation with the supplied models is fully supported  
All bug reports are appreciated and will be resolved

# Independent LTspice Users' Group

- ◆ The group has a section of **files** and **messages** with additional tutorials, libraries, and examples
  - ◆ <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LTspice/>
- ◆ Join LTspice Users' Group
  - ◆ Email [LTspice-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:LTspice-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
    - ◆ Subject=Subscribe

The screenshot displays the Yahoo! Groups interface for the 'LTspice - LTspice/SwitcherCAD III' group. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with links for Home, Messages, Post, Files, Photos, Links, Database, Polls, Members, and Calendar. Below this is an 'Info' section with 'Settings' and 'Group Information' (Members: 11401, Category: Electrical, Founded: Sep 27, 2002, Language: English). The main content area features a 'Home' section with activity statistics (103 New Members, 159 New Messages, 29 New Files) and a detailed description of the software. The description mentions that the software is available free of charge from Linear Technology and provides instructions on how to report bugs and ask questions. A circuit diagram and a simulation plot are also visible on the right side of the page.