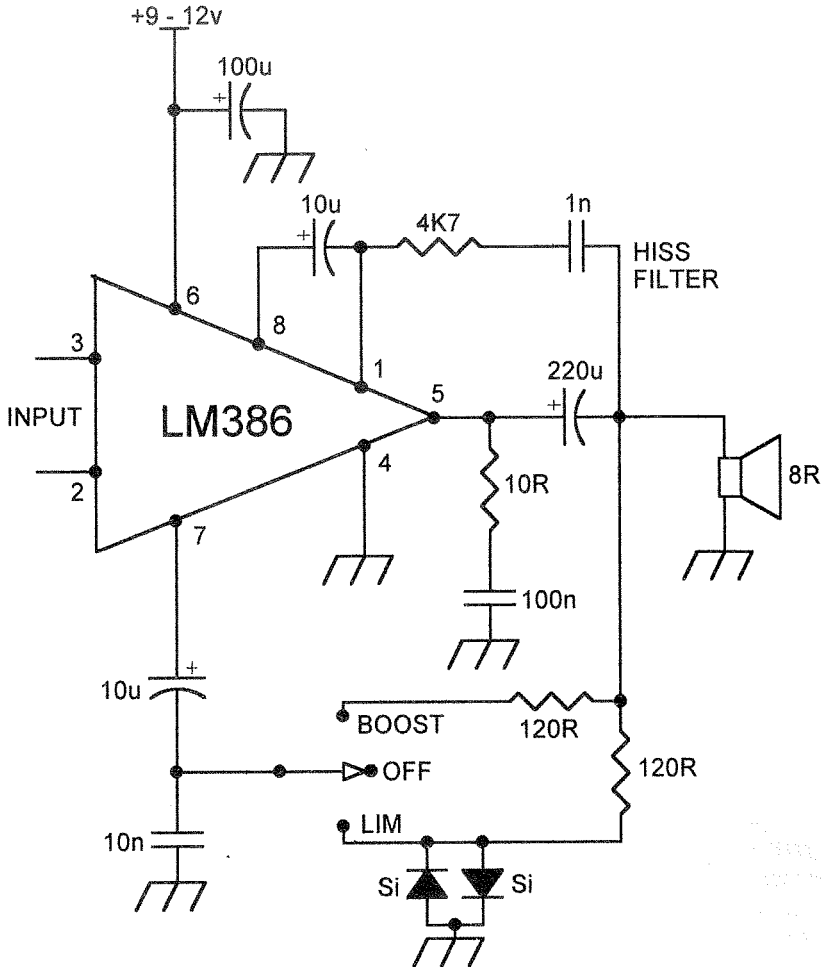


# Boosting the LM386

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The gain of the LM386 audio amplifier chip can be increased 2 or 3 times by using a bit of positive feedback. If the output audio is fed via a capacitor to pin 7, which is usually bypassed for hum reduction, a significant boost in output will result. I have modified some of my two chip DC receivers to make use of this gain. You may have to adjust the resistor values if oscillation occurs. As you will see by the circuit, I have used an SPDT, centre off, switch labelled BOOST/OFF/LIM. The LIM position uses a couple of diodes to limit the amount of boost. This is a primitive type of AGC and prevents loud signals from over driving the LM386 and distorting. This 'boost' circuit may apply to the LM380 chip also as they have similar internal circuitry.