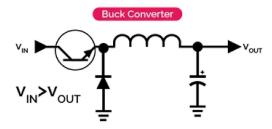
Linear and switching voltage regulator diagrams

The following diagrams help us better perceive step-up and step-down converters.

Buck converters: Reduce voltage.

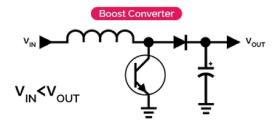
 $V_{\rm input} > V_{\rm output}$



Buck converter

Boost converters: Increase voltage.

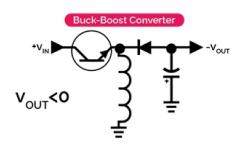
 $V_{\rm input} < V_{\rm output}$



Boost converter

Buck-boost converters: Increase or decrease voltage but reverse the polarity.

 $V_{\rm output} < 0$



Buck-boost converter