

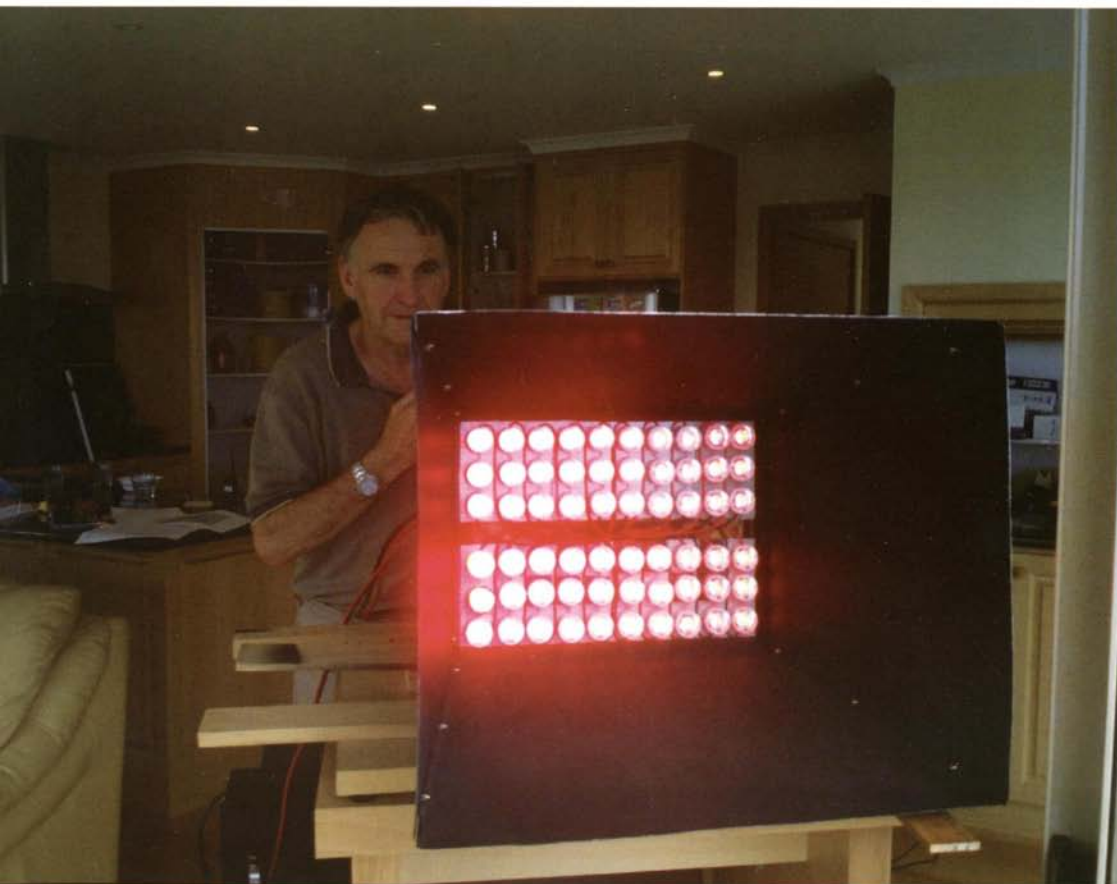
DUBUS

4/2008

Vol.37

4. Quarter

Over-the-Horizon Optical Communication



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Editorial

Dear DUBUS Reader!

We have some changes in our team of editors: Michael, DG7SFL is our new Tropo editor. We hope that you send plenty of reports to him! Many thanks to Wolfgang, DJ8ES for being several years our Tropo editor. Currently we have no editor for the Microwave Europe column and we look for someone who is active on the SHF bands and could do the job with real dedication. Please contact DL8HCZ if you are interested. Thank you.

As this is already the last issue for 2008 it is time again to ask you to renew your subscription for 2009 with your national distributor (or directly with us) as soon as possible. See order form on page 3. We would be happy to see all subscriptions renewed again for 2009, of course.

Please note that we offer a new DUBUS TECHNIK Book VIII (8) now. See page 130 for more details. May be you want to order it together with your subscription renewal.

Dates and partly new rules for the European EME contest 2009 are published on page 108. Note that there is no digital section anymore and that entries from professional stations are not excluded anymore as we want to recognize great operations like 8N1EME, 8J1AXA, PI9DAM, K6JEY, AD6IW etc.

We want to thank all who have sent articles or information throughout 2008, especially W1GHZ, OM6AA, YU7XL, DK3BU, DJ5HG, DL7VTX, G4IGO, DC0DA, PA0V, AD6IW, VK7MO, DL2AM, YU7EF, DD8BD, SM0LCB, SV2KBS, KM5PO, G7RAU, VK3UM, SM6VFZ, JA8CMY, G4ODA, VE3IKV, N7BHC, K4MHZ, EA1DDO and DL9KR.

Please keep sending your reports and technical articles for the benefit of all readers. Thank you!

Season's Greetings to all readers and friends and all the best and a lot of DX for 2009.

from Joe, DL8HCZ / CT1HZE
and the DUBUS team!

Liebe DUBUS Leser!

Wir haben einige Änderungen im Redaktionsteam zu melden: Michael, DG7SFL, ist unser neuer Redakteur für die Tropo-Rubrik. Wir hoffen, dass er viele Zuschriften und Berichte bekommen wird! Vielen Dank an Wolfgang, DJ8ES, für das jahrelange gute Betreuen dieser Rubrik! Leider haben wir zur Zeit keinen Redakteur für die Microwave Europe Rubrik. Wir suchen jemanden hierfür, der auf den SHF-Bändern selbst aktiv ist und diese Aufgabe mit echter Hingabe macht. Interessenten bitte bei DL8HCZ melden, danke!

Da dies schon die letzte Ausgabe für das Jahr 2008 ist, ist es auch wieder Zeit, das Abo für 2009 zu verlängern. Wir bitten alle unsere Leser in DL zu unserer Arbeitserleichterung, das Abo für 2009 möglichst zwischen dem 2. Januar und dem 28. Februar 2009 zu verlängern. Der Abo-Preis beträgt unverändert 25 Euro für 2009. Wir würden uns freuen, wenn uns möglichst alle Leser auch im neuen Jahr weiterhin treu bleiben. Ab sofort ist ein neues Buch DUBUS TECHNIK VIII (8) erhältlich, siehe Info dazu auf Seite 130.

Auf Seite 108 finden sich die Termine und überarbeiteten Ausschreibungsbedingungen für den Europäischen EME Contest 2009. Es gibt nun keinen digitalen Teil mehr. Ausserdem werden professionelle Stationen nicht mehr ausgeschlossen, da wir tolle Aktivitäten wie 8N1EME, 8J1AXA, PI9DAM, K6JEY, AD6IW etc. würdigen wollen.

Wir möchten uns bei allen herzlich bedanken, die im Jahr 2008 Artikel oder Informationen geschickt haben, ganz besonders aber bei W1GHZ, OM6AA, YU7XL, DK3BU, DJ5HG, DL7VTX, G4IGO, DC0DA, PA0V, AD6IW, VK7MO, DL2AM, YU7EF, DD8BD, SM0LCB, SV2KBS, KM5PO, G7RAU, VK3UM, SM6VFZ, JA8CMY, G4ODA, VE3IKV, N7BHC, K4MHZ, EA1DDO und DL9KR.

Wir bitten weiterhin zahlreich Aktivitätsberichte und technische Artikel einzusenden, damit alle Leser davon profitieren können.

Wir wünschen unseren Lesern und Freunden alles Gute und viel DX für 2009!

vy 73 von Joachim, DL8HCZ / CT1HZE
und vom ganzen DUBUS-Team!

A 70cm Transverter using modern GSM devices and Ericsson 9000 pager units

by Harm Kowalczyk, DK3BU – DK3BU@t-online.de

Preface

About 3 years ago I got my hands on some GSM-units of the Ericsson 9000 series, i.e. a pager transmitter and a pair of 200W amplifiers. These units are still available at moderate price. My old 70cm transverter system (built some 25 years ago) was using BFR-34 Norton amplifiers and an SRA-1H mixer in the receiver section, being state of the art at that time. But the Tx-chain was built around some CTC FM-transistors which were painfully linearized. Above the 20W level a bunch of 2C39s and a big tetrode were used. This arrangement was quite stable, but I was never too happy with the Tx side. So I decided to construct a new system around the Ericsson 9000 units, utilising some recently available devices from the GSM market.

Design goals were:

- The IF had to be 28-30MHz.
- Being a fan of Leifs Linrad-SDR, I wanted to have 2 Rx-channels and 2 IF-Ports.
- Because a preamp always is needed here on 70cm the NF should be around 3 to 4dB.
- My station receivers (Telefunken E-1506) have an IP3 of abt. 30dBm, it would be nice if ...
- The complete 70cm band should be covered.
- The Tx signal should be of superb quality especially at the drive level for the big tetrode.
- IF driving level had to be 100mW (Exciter: Telefunken SSteu 1370).
- 101 MHz, 0dBm LO-power input, coming from a modified DF9LN OCXO [6], controlled by a Rubidium oscillator.

Some further parameters:

I'm using 75Ω CATV-coax to connect the preamps to the transverter, the dc power is sent up via the coax. My coax relay and the preamplifiers accept about 45V DC. The complete 28MHz switching-matrix (exciters <-> transverters) is also done in 75Ω, and the PTT from the exciters is sent via the coax.

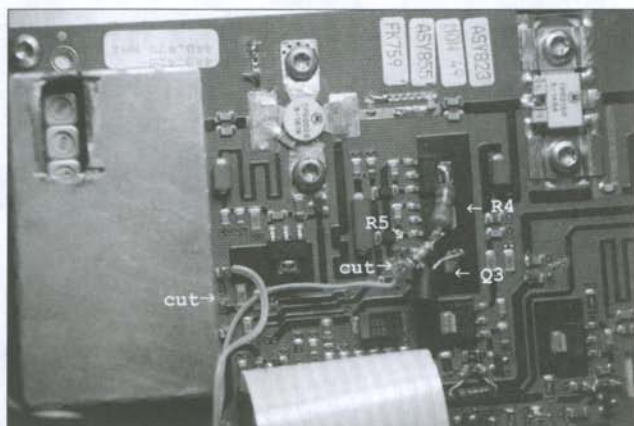
1. Preparing the Ericsson 9000 paging transmitter (sheet 1)

I wanted to use the amplifier only, so all other parts were removed, to get some space to put the transverter and its power supply in. As a consequence, some circuitry had to be built to bring the Tx-strip to life again.

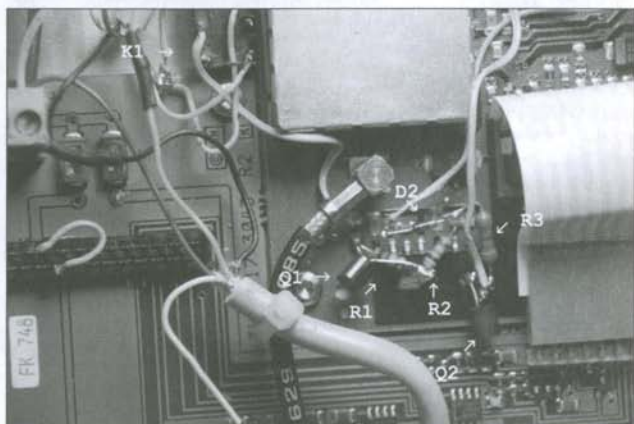
Unfortunately no documentation was available and I didn't want to make a PhD thesis of it, so a "quick but very dirty" solution had to be found. In pic. 1, the 2 arrows show where 2 tracks on the pcb have to be cut, these are the U_B track going to the shielded box containing the 2 BFG135 amplifier stages, and the track going to the bases of the 3 paralleled BCP54s. These transistors provide the voltage for the TP5002S third amplifier stage. Q3, R4 and R5 can be seen on top of them.

The TP5015R Driver and the TP5051PA have drain and collector voltages constantly applied. The voltage for the bias regulators to both stages are supplied by the 2 BCP54s beneath the shielded box. In pic. 2 these transistors and the necessary modification around Q1, R1, R2, Q2, R3, D2 and K1 can be seen. PTT relay K1 has a pair of nc contacts that tie both bases to ground. Bias voltage and U_B of the TP5002S is 0V. A second no contact pair is taken to the 200W amps as PTT. When the PTT relay K1 is activated (through the sequencer), about 8V is sent to the bias regulators for the driver and PA. This voltage switches Q1. Q2 then supplies 8V to the first BFG135 amplifier stages. Q3 activates the 3 BCP54s, which supply 27V to the TP5002S third stage.

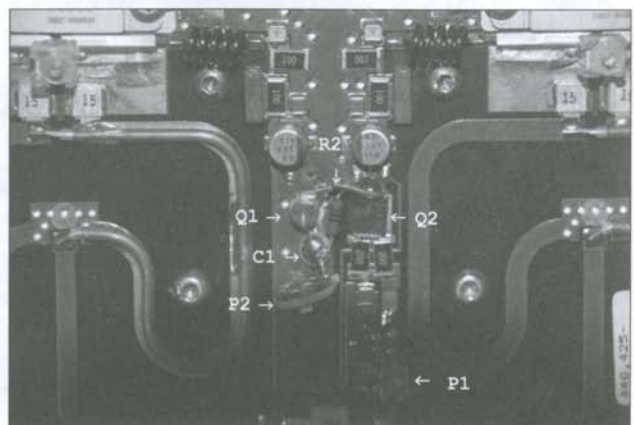
The 27V supplycoems from the switching power supply of the 200W amplifiers. The 8V for bias is generated on the pcb of the paging transmitter. A 3k3 resistor has been soldered from the base of the first BFG135 to ground to reduce the collector current. A 2k2 resistor raises the quiescent current of the driver stage for better linearity, see pic. 1. The bias point of the PA stage is OK. Some measurements showed that the 3 stage bandpass filter has about 9MHz bandwidth and can easily be tuned down to 434 MHz. Only a few mW drive are necessary to get about 50W output. The following stages can easily be tuned to 434MHz too. No modifications are necessary. The linearity was quite OK up to about 40W, enough to drive the pair of 200W amplifiers. My hopes were raised for a clean signal out of the 2 paralleled amplifiers.



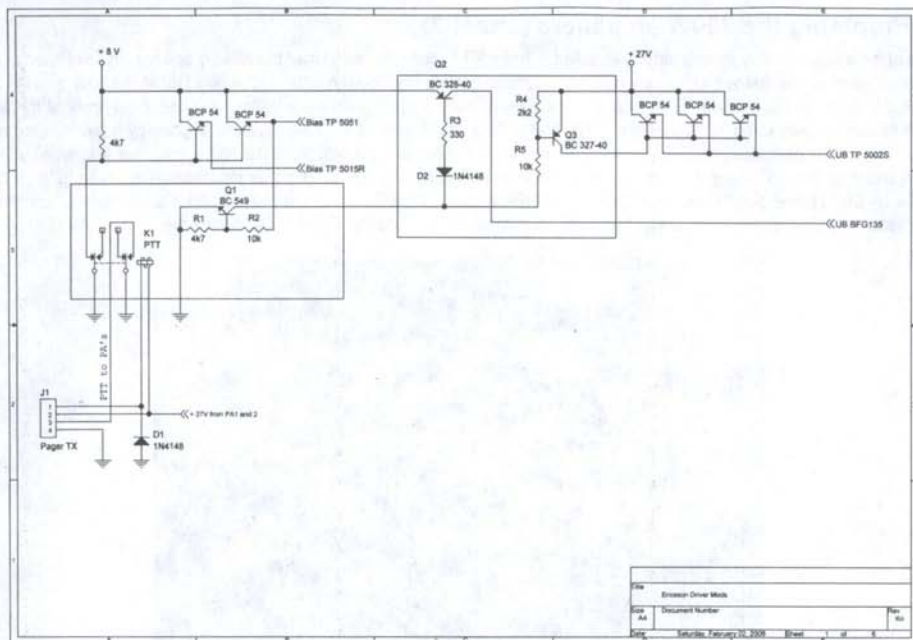
Pic. 1 Pager TX: Lines to cut, Q3 etc., see also Sheet 1



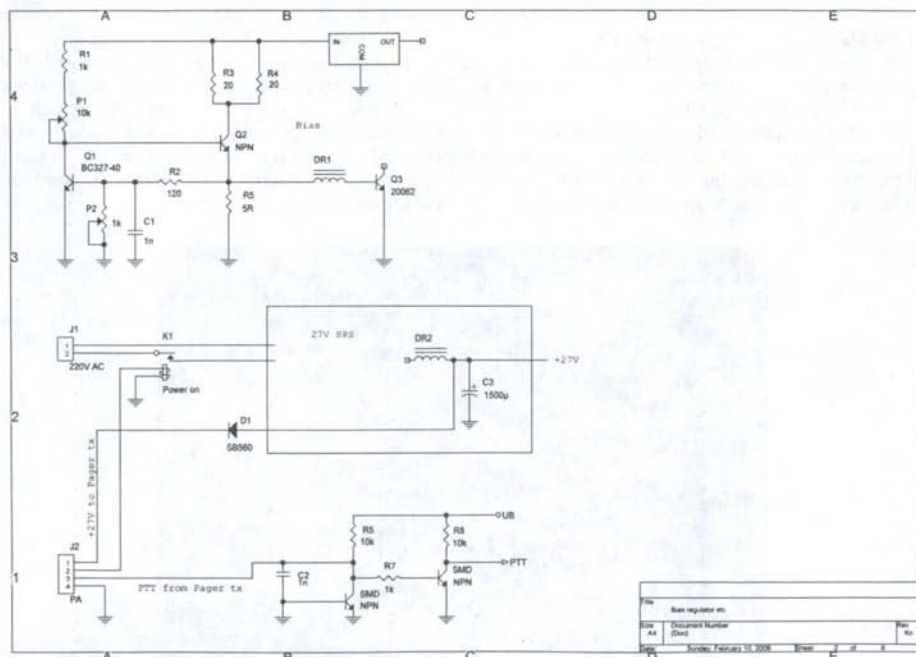
Pic. 2 Pager TX: PTT, Q1, Q2 etc., see Sheet1



Pic. 3 Ericsson 200W PA: PTT, see Sheet 2



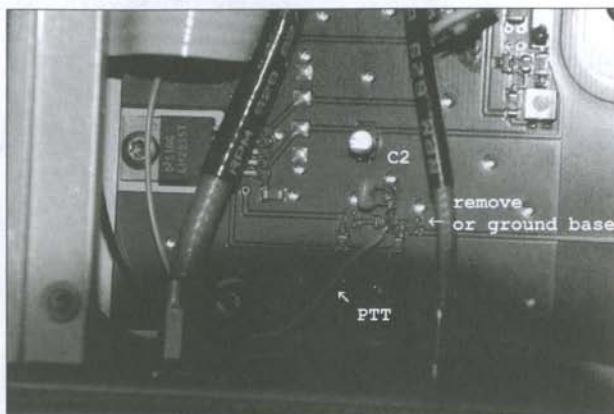
Sheet 1 Modifications of the pager transmitter



Sheet 2 Modifications of the 200W PA, PTT, SPS, bias

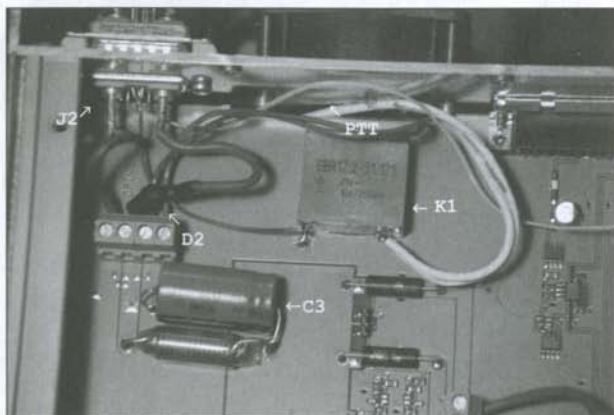
2. Preparing the 200W amplifiers (sheet 2)

One of the amplifiers I bought was already modified. It had a PTT connector, was tuned to 432 MHz and should have been ready for linear service. The first test with a two-tone signal showed horrible results. High order IMD showed up above 50W, and the 3rd order IMD was at -20dB below PEP at the promised 200W level. I investigated the modifications. The 2 bias-pots of the amp were substituted with some 10 turn trimmers. The bias voltage at the base of the PA-transistors dropped by a few hundred mV, when the output power was raised above 50W. But this could not be the main reason for the bad signal. That was found when I put a scope on the 25V supply. High amplitude spikes were visible, causing AM of the power transistors. The choke at the output of the switching power supply was the culprit. A 1500 μ F/63V capacitor (C2) behind the choke cured this completely. The spikes had peaks over 50V, so the power transistors could have been damaged easily in SSB or CW service with the original PS!



Pic. 4 Ericsson 200W PA: modified bias circuit, see Sheet 2

The bias arrangement was now modified. The original 10k Ω trimmer P1 was set to 0 Ω and a BC 327-40 was used as a regulator. The bias point can now set with P2, starting at 1k Ω ! The BC 327 should at least be in thermal contact with the PCB. The bias point is now very stable under all circumstances. Pic. 3 shows a close look at the bias regulator. A quiescent current of about 700mA for each pair of transistors is a good choice. This can be measured via the gray current sensing resistors (0.025 Ω ms) in the PS compartment (17.5mV voltage drop). The amplifiers have some sort of VOX circuit. The signal is taken from a directional coupler at the input, which switches the smd transistor seen at the right of pic. 4. I've cut the line to the base of the transistor and wired the base to ground. Alternatively the transistor could have been removed. A 1nF capacitor is soldered from the collector to ground. The PTT signal (coming from PTT relay K1 on sheet 1) grounds the collector of this transistor, and the amplifier shows quiescent current and the 2 blowers on the PA heatsink start running.



Pic. 5 Ericsson 200W PA: SPS, see Sheet 2

The 220V AC is sent via a SPST relay (seen in pic. 5) to the SPS. Paralleling the two amps is done best using a pair of $6/4$ wavelength rat races (75Ω cable hybrids) with appropriate dummy load (20W and 200W) at the differential port. But in my case another "quick and dirty" solution was chosen. The amplifiers have an isolator built in between the amplifier circuit and the lowpass filter to avoid damage to the PA transistors during output mismatch. Due to this fact, the 2 amplifiers can be combined using 75Ω quarterwave lines without problems.

Tuning up

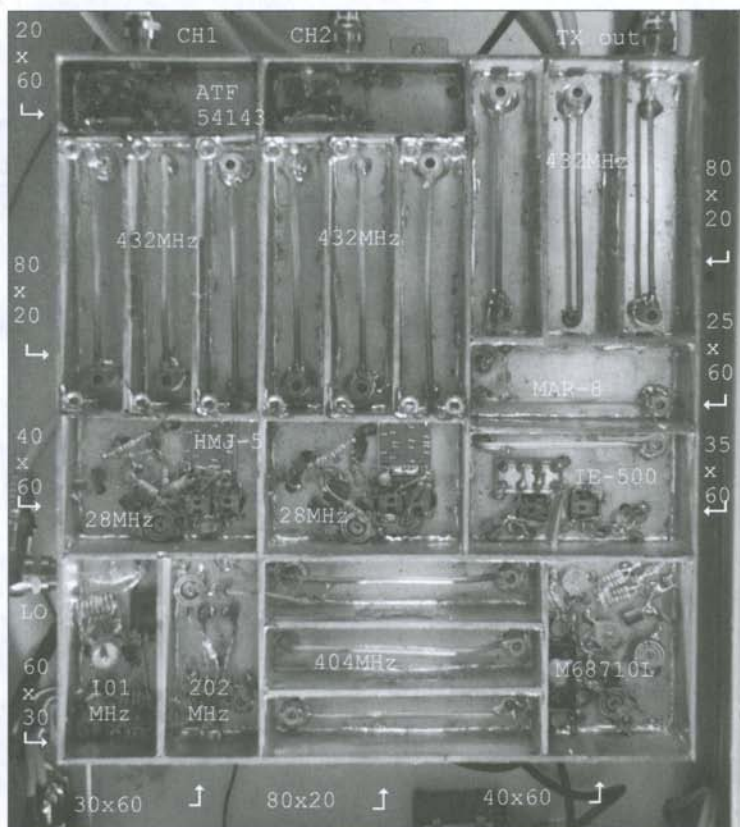
Each amp was tuned carefully to 432 MHz, while measuring input SWR, output power and DC current.

Then both PAs were connected with the powersplitters and about 5W of drive power was applied.

The input trimmers were slightly retuned, so that all 4 transistors in both amplifiers were driven to nearly equal collector currents. The output trimmers of the amps were left untouched. The phase difference of both amplifiers could now easily be tuned out with the capacitors in the high order lowpass filters of each amplifier.

The two amplifiers now delivered a very nice and stable 400W signal.

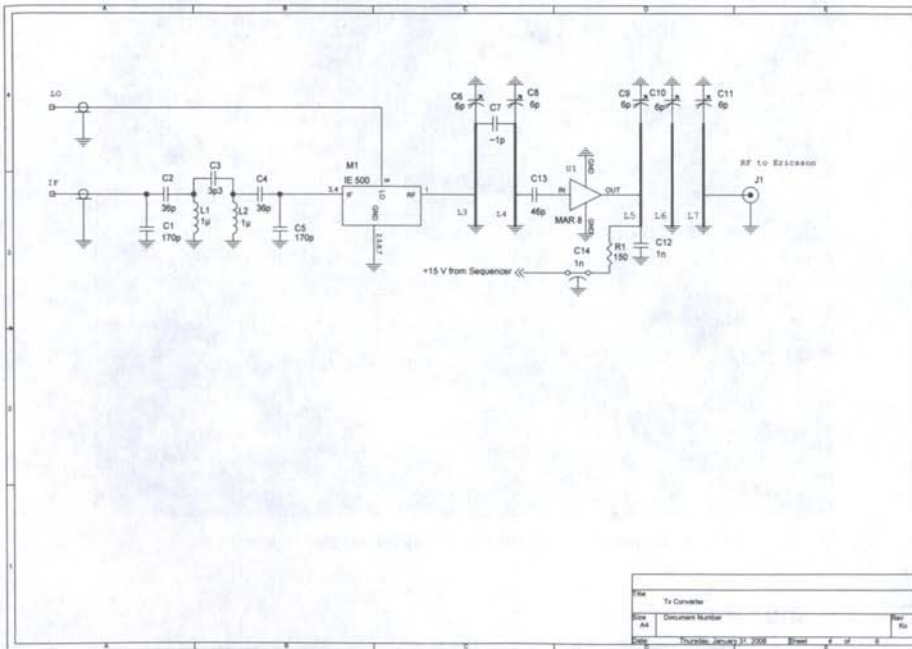
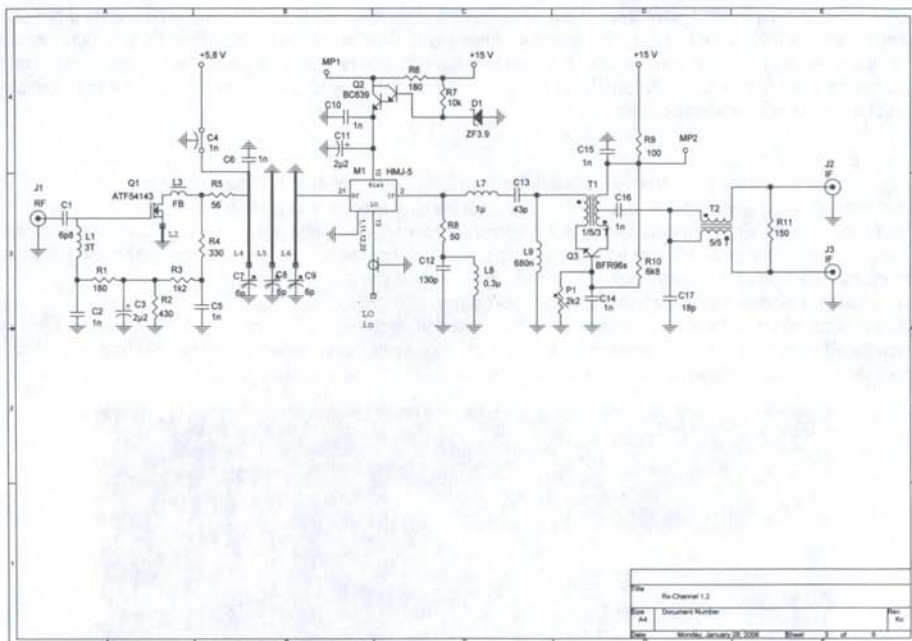
The DC output connector on the rear was substituted with a similar one which offers 5 Data-pins and 2 high current pins (see part list). Now the PTT and the power on signal, coming from the pager transmitter, could be wired into both PA's and the 25V supply sent back decoupled via 2 schottky diodes, to the pager transmitter.



Pic. 6 Transverter: mechanical layout of the box, stages

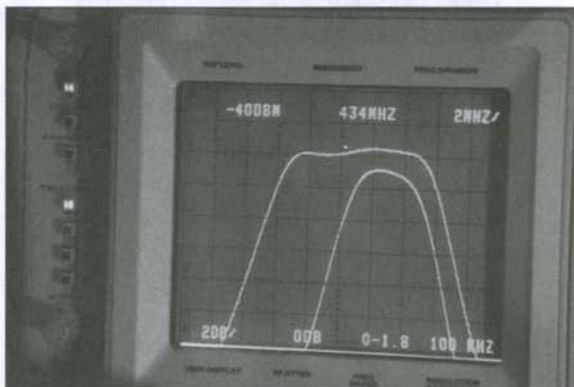
3. Building the transverter

Because I wanted to build only my prototype, the old fashioned way of shielded boxes was used. Pic. 6 shows the mechanical layout of the box (180 x 200mm), which fits easily into the compartment of the pager transmitter. It's made of multilayer pcb (doubleclad will do also). The mechanical dimensions of the compartments can be seen too.



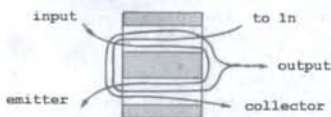
3.1. Rx-section (sheet 3)

The ATF54143 stage is a nearly standard design as found in [1] using a passive bias circuit. The drain current of 50mA is set by varying R3 ($U_b = 2.9V$). The two source inductors L2 are CuAg wires 0.5mm diameter and 5mm long, soldered to the bottom of the input compartment. The FET source leads are soldered to the tops of the wires. The following 3 resonator filter will have a bandwidth of 10MHz, if the coupling slots are 27 x 1 mm, centered in the walls. For a 2MHz bandwidth, 10 x 13mm should be used. The corresponding filter shapes are shown in pic. 7. The inductors L3, L4, L5 are 72mm long, bent down at 12mm from the cold end. C2, C5 and C6 are 1nF leadless disc capacitors. The tap for the ATF's are at 12mm from the cold end. The mixers are connected to L5 at 8mm from the cold end. Tuning of the 10MHz wide filter is possible by using a signal generator (tune to 435MHz and check the band edges while slightly retuning), but a network analyser is an easier way get to a nice flat top response.



Pic. 7 RX-converter: Selectivity of the 432MHz bandpass filter, 10MHz resp. 2MHz

The HMJ-5 [2] are mounted upside down. The ground pins are soldered to the sidewall and to a 6 x 15mm pcb sheet, which itself is soldered to the bottom of the compartment. This results in low-inductance grounding. C10 and C11 are soldered directly to pin 10. LO power from the M68710L is fed to pin 12 via semirigid cable. Both cables to the mixers are of equal length. The 3V bias is generated by Q2. The collector voltage of Q2 (MP1) is about 7.5V without LO and about 8.5V with LO applied (I bias = 42 and 36mA respectively). The mixer is followed by a standard diplexer and a Norton post amplifier. C12, C14, C15 are leadless disc capacitors, soldered to the bottom. Holes were drilled for mounting L7 and L8, their copper cans were soldered to the bottom. The BFR96s [3] was chosen, because it has around 2dB NF at 50mA Ic. P1 sets Ic = 50mA (10V at MP2).



Pic. 8 RX-converter: Fabrication of the Norton-transformer

Pic. 8 shows how to fabricate T1. The input winding (1 turn) is brought into the double hole core first, followed by the 3 turns from C15 to the output tap and finally the winding to the collector (5 turns) [5]. The Norton amplifier looks into an impedance of about 38Ω from the Wilkinson divider. The input return loss of the diplexer and post amplifier can be seen in pic. 9 (2 loads of 75Ω were connected). At LO- and RF frequencies the return loss is about 25dB, which is good enough. If only a 50Ω output is wanted, C14 and T2 can be removed and the output connected directly to C13. The overall gain then rises by about 3dB.

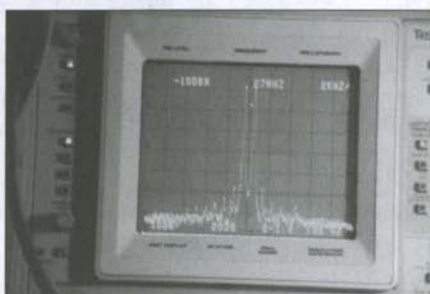
3.2. Tx-section (sheet 4)

The Tx-IF passes through a bandpass filter with a bandwidth of 2MHz into an IE-500 mixer. Holes were drilled for mounting L1 and L2. Their cases were soldered to the bottom of the box. The LO power of 7dBm is delivered via an attenuator ($R_{12}=270\Omega$) from the LO chain. The generated RF is fed via a bandpass filter L3 and L4, with 10MHz bandwidth, into a MAR-8 mmic. L3 and L4 are 62mm long, bent down at 12mm. The 2 resonators are coupled on the tops via an insulated wire, 16mm long, parallel to one resonator at abt.1mm distance (C7). The IE-500 and the MAR-8 are connected to taps 21mm from the cold end. The output of the MAR-8 is filtered through a 3 resonator bandpass filter with 10MHz bandwidth, and then into the first BFG135 stage of the pager transmitter. L5, L6 and L7 are 72mm long, bent down at 12mm. The MAR-8 and the output jack are connected to taps 12mm from the cold end of L5 and L7 respectively. The DC power for the MAR8 is supplied from the sequencer.

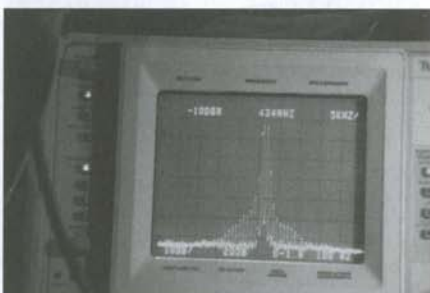
The coupling slots of the output filter are 27 x 13 mm, centered in the wall. For a 2MHz bandwidth they have to be 10 x 13 mm. These filters are tuned in the same way as those for the Rx. The 2MHz wide filters can be maximized at 433MHz. Due to the extensive filtering the spectrum of the 432MHz signal is very clean.



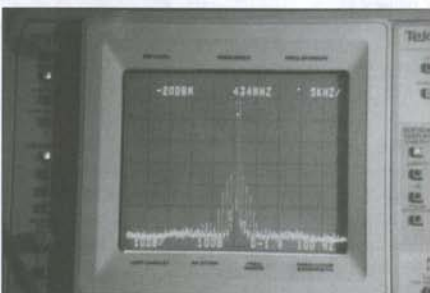
Pic. 9 RX-converter: Return loss of the diplexer with Norton-amp



Pic. 10 Spectrum of my Telefunken exciter at 28.2MHz 100mW PEP; J3e 2 tones



Pic. 11 Spectrum of the 2 combined PA's at 400W PEP; J3e 2 tones



Pic. 12 Spectrum of the 2 combined PA's at 100W PEP; J3e 2 tones

3.3. LO-chain (sheet 5)

I'm using DF9LN-Oscillators for all my transverters. They are slightly modified with a buffer stage and a varicap to be able to lock them to a 10MHz Rubidium standard. The 101MHz signal at about 0dBm is fed via an attenuator into the first doubler, which runs in class A push-push mode. Without LO the voltage at MP1 should be set to 12.5V. The feedback via Q5 reduces the voltage to abt. 12V at -10dBm LO power and 9.5V at 0dBm.

T1 has 8 turns with center tap, the 3 turns coupling coil of insulated Cu-wire is centered into this winding. The output filter T2 has 2 x 4 turns, the 2 coils were placed parallel to each other. The second coil has a center tap, leading into the second doubler. T3 has 4 turns with center tap and 2 turns coupling coil of insulated Cu-wire centered into it. Q3, Q4 is also a class A push-push doubler compartment, its output feeds a 3 resonator filter with about 8MHz bandwidth. L5, L6 and L7 are 76mm long, bent down at 12mm. The collectors of Q3 and Q4 are connected to a tap 24mm from the cold end. The coupling slots are 26 x 13 mm, centered in the wall. For 2 MHz bandwidth they should be abt. 10 x 13 mm. The voltage at MP2 should be set to abt. 10.7V without LO. The 404MHz is amplified by a M68710L, which I found in my junkbox. The M68710L [4] is connected to a tap of L7 18mm from the cold end. The output of the hybrid amplifier is feed through a Pi-filter to both the IE500 Tx mixer via an attenuator (R12), and also to a Wilkinson-divider T4 with 2 x 75Ω outputs for the Rx. R14, R15 and R16, R17 provide the proper 50Ω match for the HMJ-5 mixers. The LO power to the mixers can be set with P4. The quiescent current of the hybrid amplifier is set to 500mA with P3 (6.1V at MP3). A proper heatsink must be used to prevent too much sweat for the amplifier!

Tuning up:

The coax lines to the mixers (HMJ-5 and IE-500) were removed, terminated with 50Ω and a powermeter was connected to one branch of the Wilkinson divider. The slider of P4 was set to ground. A signal at 101MHz and about -20dBm was applied to the input and both doublers, the 3 resonator bandpass and the pi filter C13, L6, C14 were all tuned to 'maximum smoke'. A check with signals at 100.5 and 102.5MHz was done and the tuning slightly adjusted. The LO power was raised to 0dBm and the power at the measured branch was set to 50mW (17dBm) with P4. A minimum 15dBm LO power is needed. The spectrum of the 404MHz is very clean.

3.4. Sequencer etc. (sheet 6)

Nothing special to see here. The PTT signal (ground-loop) runs via the coax from the exciters to the transverters. No extra PTT-lines are necessary (and no extra relays in the IF-matrix). The sequencer uses an integrator and a chain of 3 voltage comparators. U2D switches the preamp and the Rx stages, U2C the pager-Tx and the 2 Ericsson PAs and U2B provides the PTT for the valve amp. This type of sequencer works properly even when the PTT is pressed for some ms and only a part of the sequence has been run through. The time constant is set by varying R20 or C8. During normal operation the appropriate IF level for the Tx mixer is set with P1. When the valve amp is activated by S3, the reduced driving level is set with P2. The plate and screen voltage is applied to the valve after the delay time generated by U1. D5 discharges C7 quickly when S3 is switched off. My coax relays need about 45V DC. The preamps also accept 45V, which is sent to them via the coax. I'm using a conventional DPDS relay for this task. A coax relay for a second antenna is implemented. C4, C5, C6 are leadless disc capacitors.

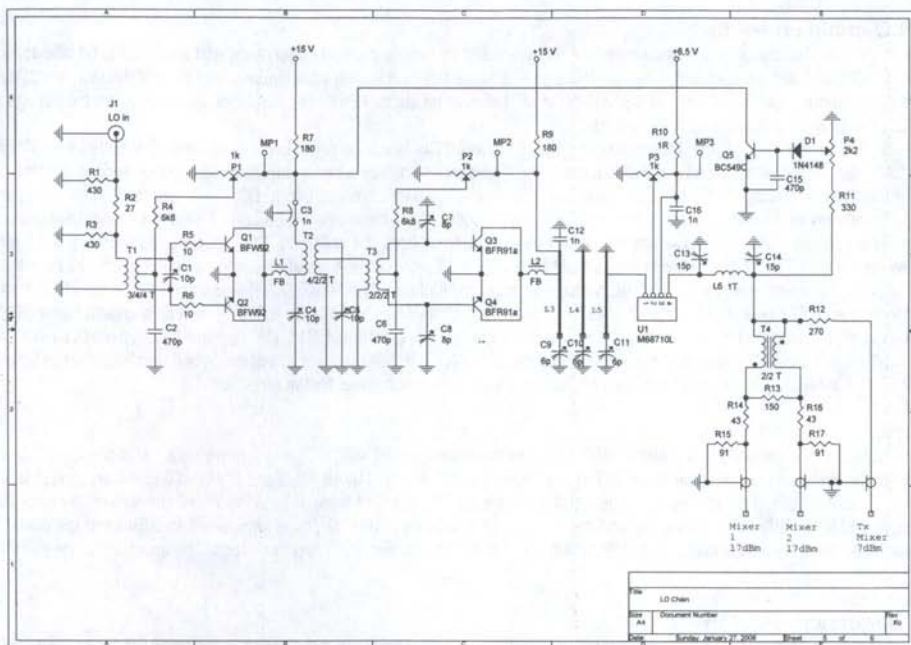
4. Performance

4.1. Tx-section

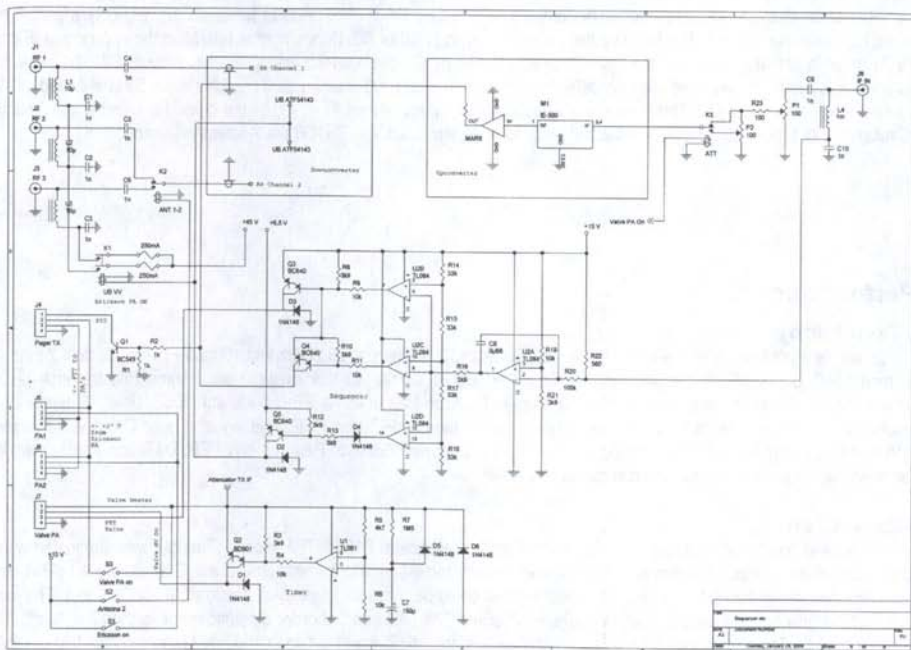
Pic. 10 shows the output signal of one of my Telefunken SSTeU 1370 exciters at 28.2MHz and 100mW PEP in J3e with 2 tones at 100% mod.. IMD D3 is >50dB below PEP. Higher order IMD is visible, so this exciter needs some maintenance during wintertime! Pic. 11 shows the output signal of the 2 coupled Ericsson PAs at 400W PEP. D3 is abt. 30dB, D5 40dB below PEP. Some bipolar noise (high order IMD) can be seen, but it is more than 50dB below PEP. This signal is quite OK. A well designed FET PA might be better. Pic. 12 shows the output signal of the 2 coupled Ericsson PAs at 100W PEP. D3 is abt. 40dB down, the bipolar noise can be seen up to D9. This met my requirements.

4.2. Rx-section

The sensitivity was measured in conjunction with my station Rx Telefunken E1506. The second IF-output was terminated with a 75Ω pad. The noise floor was -138dBm in 2.7kHz bandwidth which corresponds to a noise figure of abt. 2dB. Because I didn't have a proper two-tone generator, only the 1dB compression point could be measured exactly. It occurred at -3dBm input. The input IP3 can then roughly be estimated to +7dBm (OIP3 ~ +21dBm). The IMD-free 3rd order dynamic range is then abt. 97dB. The overall gain is 14dB. The separation of the 2 receive channels is abt. 35dB, which is barely enough. My little crystal test oscillator produces about -39dBm on its 432.190MHz harmonic (it is not a low-noise design). This is nearly 100dB above noise. Using 2.7kHz Bandwidth (USB), I can tune my RX up to 432.181 MHz until noise raises by 3dB. The sideband noise of the system is then better than -134dB/Hz in 7.5kHz from the carrier. The receive channels are stable even with open inputs.



Sheet 5 LO-chain diagram



Sheet 6 Sequencer, timer etc.

5. Room for improvement

5.1. Tx-section

The signal of the 2 coupled PAs with bipolar transistors is OK. It could be made better only by using some sort of feedback. This is tricky to implement at these frequencies and the effect is doubtful. The output signal at drive level for the valve-PA is quite good, so no further investigation was done here. A carefully designed FET-PA could be better, but at much higher cost!

5.2. Rx-section

The RF-amp with ATF54143 is not good enough by far as far as OIP3 for the HMJ-5 mixer (which has an IIP3 ~ +40dBm at 430MHz). This stage is limiting the performance. A pushpull arrangement (IIP3 ~ +13dBm) or a suitable mmic (or 2 in pp) would be much better. The transverter would then crack the magic 100dB DR3 barrier easily. The post amplifier with a BFR96s is also not optimum, even though it can deal with the performance of the mixer. Its backward isolation is only 9dB and the matching of the mixer at IF is highly dependent of the load impedance of the Norton amp. In my case with two loads this seems to be a minor problem. The brother of this transverter (for 2m), which is on the work bench now, will be better. Its RF-stage will be adaptable for 70cm.

6. Conclusion

The transverter has been in service now for 2 years and has worked without failure. The performance is not too bad for a homemade rig. Because only the prototype of this transverter exists, this description should not be seen as a pure recipe. It should give some ideas to the homebrewer, how newly available devices from the GSM-scene can benefit us and how they can be used in transverters with good performance. If needed, high resolution pics from the mechanical layout and the mods of the Ericsson stuff can be requested via email.

Don't let the soldering iron cool down and see U on 70cm! Vy73, Harm, DK3BU

7. References

- [1] Agilent Datasheet ATF54143
- [2] WJ communications Datasheet HMJ-5
- [3] Vishay Datasheet BFR96s
- [4] Mitsubishi Datasheet M68710L
- [5] UKW Berichte 4/1977 Michel Martin : Neuartiger Vorverstärker...
- [6] Dubus Technik VI, page 207ff: Uwe Nitschke, oven-stabilized xo...

List of Materials - Stückliste

Ericsson Driver Mods - Sheet 1

Reference Part	Remarks
D2, D1	1N4148
J1	MIX-STG 7W2/ Reichelt
2x	MIX-STG HS
K1	24V DPDS
Q1	BC 549
Q2	BC 328-40
Q3	BC 327-40
R1	4k7 0.25W
R2, R5	10k 0.25W
R3	330R 0.25W
R4	2k2 0.25W

Bias regulator etc - Sheet 2

Reference Part	Remarks
C1	1nF Leadless disc or trapezoidal
C2	1nF Ceramic
C3	1500µF/63V

D1	SB560	Schottky
J2	MIX-STG 7W2/	Reichelt
	2x MIX-STG HS	
K1	12V SPST	10A/230V
P2	1k	Trimpot
Q1	BC327-40	
R2	120R	0.5W

Rx-Channel 1,2 - Sheet 3

Reference Part	Remarks
C1	6.8pF Ceramic
C2, C5, C6, C14, C15	1nF Leadless disc or trapezoidal
C4	1nF Feedthrough
C10, C16	1nF Ceramic
C3, C11	2.2µF/16V Tantalum
C7, C8, C9	6pF Piston trimmer
C12	130pF Leadless disc or trapezoidal
C13	43pF Ceramic
C17	18pF Ceramic
D1	ZF3.9
J1	RF F-female

J2, J3	IF	F-female
L1	3T/3mm Ø	CuAg 0.5 Ø
L2	5mm	CuAg 0.5 Ø
L3	FB	DFP 3.0
L4, L5, L6	72mm long	CuAg 2.0 Ø
	see text	
L7	BV5048	Neosid
L8	BV5049	Neosid
L9	680nH	SMCC
M1	HMJ-5	
P1	2k2	Trimpot
Q1	ATF54143	
Q2	BC639	
Q3	BFR96s	
R1, R6	180R	0.25W
R2	430R	0.25W
R3	1k2	0.25W
R4	330R	0.25W
R5	56R	0.25W
R7	10k	0.25W
R8	50R	0.25W
R9	100R	0.5W
R10	6k8	0.25W
R11	150R	0.25W
T1	BN61-2402	Reichelt
	1/3/5T	CuL 0.15 Ø
	see text	
T2	BN61-2402	Reichelt
	5/5 T	CuL 0.15 Ø

Tx Converter - Sheet 4

Reference Part	Remarks
C1, C5	170pF Ceramic
C2, C4	36pF Ceramic
C3	3.3pF Ceramic
C6, C8, C9,	
C10, C11	6pF Piston trimmer
C7	~1pF see text
C12	1nF Leadless
	disc or trapezoidal
C14	1nF Feedthrough
C13	46pF Ceramic
L1, L2	1µF/16V Tantalum
M1	IE-500
R1	150R 0.25W
U1	MAR-8

LO Chain - Sheet 5

Reference Part	Remarks
C1, C4, C5	10pF Trimmer 7.5 Ø
C2, C6, C15	470p Ceramic
C3	1nF Feedthrough
C12	1nF Leadless disc
	or trapezoidal
C7, C8	8pF Trimmer
C9, C10, C11	6pF Piston Trimmer
C13, C14	15pF Trimmer 7.5 Ø
D1	1N4148
J1	BNC
L1, L2	FB DFP 3.0
L6	1T 5mm Ø CuAg 0.5mm Ø
P1, P2, P3	1k Trimpot
P4	2k2 Trimpot
Q2, Q1	BFW92 or similar
Q3, Q4	BFR91a or similar

Q5	BC549C	
R3, R1	430R	0.25W
R2	27R	0.25W
R4, R8	6k8	0.25W
R5, R6	10R	0.25W
R7, R9	180R	0.25W
R10	1R	1W
R11	330R	0.25W
R12	270R	0.5W
R13	150R	0.25W
R16, R14	43R	0.25W
R17, R15	91R	0.25W
T1	3/4/4 T	5mm Ø see text
T2	4/2/2 T	5mm Ø see text
T3	2/2/2 T	5mm Ø see text
T4	2/2 T	CuL 0.15 Ø
on Epcos	B62152 A7U17	RFW-Elektronik
U1	M68710L	with heatsink!

Sequencer etc - Sheet 6

Reference Part	Remarks
C1, C2, C3,	
C9, C10	1nF Ceramic
C4, C5, C6	1nF Leadless
	disc or trapezoidal
C7	150µF/16V Tantalum
C8	0,68µF MKT
D1, D2, D3,	
D4, D5, D6	1N4148
J1	RF 1 F-female
J2	RF 2 F-female
J3	RF 3 F-female
J4	MIX-STG 7W2/ Reichelt
	2x MIX-STG HS
J5	MIX-STG 7W2/ Reichelt
	2x MIX-STG HS
J6	MIX-STG 7W2/ Reichelt
	2x MIX-STG HS
J7	DIN 5pol
J8	IF in F-female
K1	6V DPST
K2	12V mini coax
K3	12V SPDT
L1, L2, L3	10µH SMCC
L4	1mH SMCC
M1	IE-500
P1, P2, R23	100R
Q1	BC549
Q2	BD901 on heatsink
Q3, Q4, Q5	BC640
R1, R2	1k 0.25W
R3, R8, R10,	
R12, R13, R16	3k9 0.25W
R4, R6, R9,	
R11, R19	10k 0.25W
R5	4k7 0.25W
R7	1M5 0.25W
R14, R15,	
R17, R18	33k 0.25W
R20	100k 0.25W
R22	560R 1W
R23	100R 0.25W
S1, S2, S3	Microswitch
U1	TL081
U2	TL084

Ein 70cm-Transverter mit modernen GSM-Bauteilen und Ericsson 9000-Stufen

von Harm Kowalczyk, DK3BU

Einleitung

Vor etwa 3 Jahren stolperte ich über einige Einschübe aus der Ericsson 9000 Serie, einen Pocsag-Sender und zwei 200W Endstufen. Diese Stufen sind auch z.T. auch heute noch preisgünstig zu haben. Mein 70cm-Transverter (vor mehr als 25 Jahren gebaut) hatte Norton-Verstärker mit BFR34a und SRA-1H Ringmischer im Empfangszweig, was damals dem Stand der Technik entsprach. Der Sendezweig beinhaltete einige CTC FM-Transistoren, die mit viel Mühe zum linearen Verstärken benötigt wurden. Es folgten einige 2C39BA und eine kräftige Tetrode. Dieses System arbeitete stabil, jedoch mit der Senderkette war ich nicht sehr zufrieden. Also entschloß ich mich, aus den Ericsson Bausteinen einen neuen Transverter zu entwickeln und dem Empfangszweig einige neue Bauteile aus der GSM-Szene zu spendieren.

Folgende Randbedingungen sollten eingehalten werden:

- ZF-Frequenz 28 – 30MHz
- Als bekennender Linrad Fan wollte ich zwei Empfangskanäle und je zwei ZF-Ausgänge
- Weil auf Grund der langen Kabel hier immer ein Vorverstärker verwendet wird, sollte die Rauschzahl bei 3 – 4 dB liegen.
- Meine Stationsempfänger (Telefunken E-1506) haben ca. +30dBm IP3, der Transverter sollte nicht dramatisch schlechter sein.
- Das komplette 70cm Band sollte erfaßt werden.
- Das Sendesignal sollte ordentlich, die Steuerleistung für die Tetrode sehr sauber sein.
- Die ZF-Treiberleistung sollte 100mW sein (meine Steuersender sind Telefunken SSTe 1370).
- Die 101MHz entstammen einem modifizierten DF9LN-OCXO [6], welcher von einem Rubidium Frequenznormal festgehalten wird.

Einige weitere Parameter waren:

Die Kabel von den Vorverstärkern zur Funkbude sind 75Ohm TV-Kabel, die Spannung für Vorstufen und Koaxrelais werden über diese Kabel geführt und betragen ca. 45V. Die 28MHz Schaltmatrix (Empfänger/Sender <-> Transverter) ist ebenfalls in 75Ohm Technik gehalten, die PTT Signale werden über die Koaxkabel geführt.

1. Umbau des Ericsson 9000 Pager Senders (Sheet 1):

Weil nur der Senderstreifen verwendet werden sollte, habe ich die übrigen Bausteine entfernt, um Platz für den Transverter und das Netzteil zu schaffen. Nun mußte jedoch der Senderstreifen wieder reanimiert werden.

Da leider keine Dokumentation verfügbar war und für eine Dissertation die Zeit fehlte, mußte eine hemdsärmelige Lösung her.

In Bild 1 sind zwei Leitungen markiert, die ich durchtrennt habe. Es sind die Zuführung der Speisespannung für die beiden Vorstufen mit BFG135 und die Basen der drei parallel geschalteten BCP54, welche Stufe 3 (TP5002S) mit Spannung versorgen. Q3, R4 und R5 sind oberhalb der Transistoren zu erkennen.

Drain bzw. Kollektor von Treiber- (TP5015R) und Endstufe (TP5051) liegen dauernd an UB. Die Versorgungsspannung für die Gate- bzw. Basisvorspannungsregler kommt von den beiden BCP54, die sich unterhalb des Abschirmkästchens befinden.

In Bild 2 sind diese Transistoren sowie die zusätzlichen Bauteile Q1, R1, R2, Q2, R3, D2 und K1 zu sehen. Ein Ruhekontakt des PTT-Relais K1 klemmt beide Basen auf Masse. Die Vorspannung der Basisregler von Treiber und PA, sowie UB der Vorstufen und des TP5002S sind null. Ein weiterer Arbeitskontakt dient den 200W PA's als PTT.

Wenn das Relais durch den Sequenzer geschaltet wird, erhalten die Vorspannungsregler von Treiber- und Endstufe ca. 8V Betriebsspannung. Diese Spannung schaltet auch Q1. Q2 bringt ca. 8V an die Vorstufen, Q3 schaltet die drei BCP54 und der TP5002S erhält 25V Betriebsspannung.

Diese 25V werden von den Schaltnetzteilen der beiden PA's geliefert. Die 8V entstehen auf der Leiterplatte des Senderstreifens.

Ein 3k3 Widerstand von der Basis des ersten Vorstufentransistors nach Masse reduziert dessen Kollektorstrom etwas. Vermittels eines 2k2 Widerstandes wird der Arbeitspunkt des Treibers etwas angehoben, um die Linearität zu verbessern (siehe Bild 1). Der Arbeitspunkt der Endstufe ist in Ordnung.

Das dreikreisige Bandfilter mit einer Bandbreite von ca. 9MHz ließ sich problemlos auf 434MHz abstimmen. Nur wenige mW Steuerleistung reichten für 50W Ausgangsleistung. Die restlichen Stufen ließen sich ohne Modifikationen auf 434MHz abstimmen. Die Linearität war bis ca. 40W PEP gut. Dies reichte aus, um zwei parallel geschaltete 200W PA's zu befeuern. Meine Hoffnung auf ein sauberes Ausgangssignal wuchs.

2. Umbau der 200W Verstärker (Sheet 2):

Einer der beiden Verstärker war bereits umgerüstet. Er hatte einen PTT-Anschluß, war auf 432MHz abgestimmt und sollte linear verstärken. Ein erster Zweitontest sorgte für rote Ohren. Heftige Intermodulationsprodukte hoher Ordnung erschienen bei Leistungen >50W PEP, D3 war etwa -20dB unter PEP bei den versprochenen 200W. Nach einer ersten Überlegung, die Geräte wieder zu verkaufen, untersuchte ich die Umbauten. Die Vorspannungsregler waren durch Zehngangpotis ersetzt worden. Die Basisspannung der Endtransistoren brach bei Aussteuerung über 50W Ausgangsleistung um einige 100mV zusammen. Die wahre Ursache der schlechten Linearität zeigte sich allerdings erst beim Betrachten der Betriebsspannung. Auf den 25V waren Spitzen bis über 50V zu sehen, die eine AM der Endstufe erzeugten. Die Ausgangsdrossel des Schaltnetzteils ist dafür verantwortlich. Ein Elko 1500µF/63V am Ausgang der Drossel löste dieses Problem vollständig. Mit dem unveränderten Netzteil kann man die Endtransistoren bei SSB- oder CW-Betrieb leicht in die ewigen Jagdgründe befördern!

Nun wurde die Vorspannungserzeugung kuriert. Der originale 10kOhm Trimmer wurde auf 0Ohm gesetzt. Ein BC327-40 mit seiner Beschaltung regelt jetzt den Arbeitspunkt sehr stabil aus. Der Arbeitspunkt wurde mit P2, beginnend bei 1kOhm(!) eingestellt. Bild 3 zeigt den veränderten Vorspannungsregler. Der BC327 sollte thermischen Kontakt zur Platine haben, für JT65-Organen wäre thermischer Kontakt zum Längsregeltransistor besser. Bild 3 zeigt die Umrüstung. Ein Ruhestrom von ca. 700mA je Transistorhälfte ist zu empfehlen. Er läßt sich am besten als Spannungsabfall über den grauen Stromsensorwiderständen auf der SPS Platine messen (17,5mV an 0,025Ohm). Im Originalzustand arbeitet der Verstärker mit einer Art VOX. Der Richtkoppler im Eingang der PA liefert eine Spannung, welche die SMD-Transistoren (in Bild 4 rechts zu sehen) schaltet. Ich habe die Zuleitung zum ersten Transistor aufgetrennt und seine Basis geerdet. Alternativ könnte der Transistor entfernt werden.

Das PTT-Signal (Arbeitskontakt von K1 auf Sheet 1) erdet den Kollektor dieses Transistors. Ruhestrom stellt sich ein und die beiden Lüfter der Kühlblocks melden sich zu Wort. Ein 1nF Kondensator legt den Punkt HF-technisch kalt. Die 220V werden dem SPS über ein Leistungsrelais zugeführt (siehe Bild 5). Die optimale Zusammenschaltung zweier PA's geschieht über zwei 6/4 Lambda Hybride mit entsprechenden Sumpfen an den Differenzaustritten (20 bzw. 200W). Auch hier wählte ich eine hemdsärmelige Lösung. Zwischen die Verstärkerbausteine und das Tiefpassfilter ist ein Isolator geschaltet, der die Endtransistoren bei Lastfehlanpassung vor dem Abbleben schützt. Aus diesem Grund kann man die beiden Verstärker ohne weiteres mit Lambda-viertel langen 75Ohm-Kabeln zusammenschalten.

Inbetriebnahme

Jeder Verstärker wurde sorgfältig unter Beachtung von Eingangsanpassung, Ausgangsleistung und Strom auf 432MHz abgestimmt. Beide Verstärker wurden gekoppelt und mit 5W beaufschlagt. Die Eingangstrimmer wurden leicht nachgestimmt, um möglichst gleiche Ströme für alle 4 Endtransistoren zu erreichen. Die kollektorseitigen Trimmer blieben unberührt. Nun konnte der Phasenunterschied der beiden Verstärker leicht mit den Trimmern des Tiefpassfilters angeglichen werden (Abstimmen auf max. Ausgangsleistung). Sehr ordentliche 400W PEP waren so zu erreichen. Die Buchse (25V-DC Output) wurde durch eine Version mit zusätzlichen Datenpins ersetzt (siehe Stückliste), um die Spannung für das Relais K1 sowie das PTT Signal mit übertragen zu können. Die 25V Versorgung des Pager Senders wird über zwei Schottkydioden zur Entkopplung aus den SPS der PA's sichergestellt.

3. Bau des Transverters

Weil nur mein Prototyp entstehen sollte, wurde die gute alte Karknerbauweise angewandt. Bild 6 zeigt das mechanische Layout des Gehäuses (187 x 200mm) und lokalisiert die einzelnen Stufen. Es läßt sich problemlos in das Pager-Sendergehäuse integrieren. Das Gehäuse wurde aus Multilayerplatten zusammengelötet, doppelt kaschiertes Platinenmaterial tut's sicher auch.

3.1. Empfangsstreifen (Sheet 3):

Die HF-Verstärkerstufe mit ATF54143 mit passiver Vorspannungserzeugung entspricht fast dem Standarddesign in [1]. Der Drainstrom wird durch Verändern von R3 ($U_D = 2,9V$) eingestellt. L2 sind zwei CuAg Drähte von 5mm Länge und 0,5mm Durchmesser, die auf den Kammerboden aufgelötet wurden. Die Sourceanschlüsse der ATF's werden darauf gelötet. Das folgende 3 Kammerfilter hat eine Bandbreite von 10MHz, wenn die Koppelschlitze 27 x 13mm groß sind und zentrisch in die Zwischenwände eingefräst werden. Für nur 2MHz Bandbreite sollten die Öffnungen 10 x 13mm groß sein. Die entsprechenden Durchlaufkurven stellt Bild 7 dar.

Die Leitungen L3, L4 und L5 sind 72mm lang und 12mm vom kalten Ende abgeknickt. C2, C5 und C6 sind 1nF Chip-Kondensatoren. Die ATF's werden über R5 12mm vom kalten Ende an L3 angebunden. Die Mischer werden 8mm vom kalten Ende an L5 angekoppelt. Man kann das Filter nur mit einem Meßsender abstimmen (auf 435MHz optimieren und bei Kontrolle

der Bandgrenzen leicht nachstimmen), eine fotogene Durchlasskurve ist jedoch viel leichter mit einem Netzwerkanalysator zu haben. Die HMJ-5 [2] wurde mit den Beinchen nach oben eingebaut. Die Groundpins wurden mit der Seitenwand sowie mit einem Leiterplattenstreifen von 6 x 15mm verlötet, der seinerseits mit dem Kammerboden verlötet wurde. Das ergab optimal kurze Erdung. C10 und C11 wurden direkt mit Pin 10 verbunden. Das Oszillatorsignal vom M68710L wird über zwei gleich lange Semirigidkabel den pins 5 zugeführt. Q2 erzeugt die erforderliche Vorspannung. Die Kollektorspannung von Q2 (MP1) ist ca. 7,5V ohne und ca. 8,5V bei anliegendem LO-Signal. Dies entspricht einem Strom von 42 bzw. 36mA.

Dem Mischer folgt ein Standardplexer und ein Nortonverstärker mit BFR96s. C12, C14 und C15 sind Chip-Kondensatoren, die auf den Kammerboden aufgelötet wurden. Die Neosidspulen L7 und L8 wurden durch Löcher im Kammerboden eingesetzt und die Kupfergehäuse verlötet. Der BFR96s [3] wurde gewählt, weil er bei IC = 50mA eine Rauschzahl von ca. 2dB hat. Mit P1 läßt sich der Arbeitspunkt einstellen (10V an MP2). Bild 8 zeigt die Herstellung des Transformators. Die Einkoppelwindung wird zuerst in den Doppellockern eingebracht, es folgen die 3 Windungen von der Spannungsquelle zum Ausgang und zum Schluß die 5 Windungen zum Kollektor [5]. Der Nortonverstärker sieht die Impedanz von ca. 380 Ω des Wilkinson Verteilers. Die Eingangsanpassung des Plexers und des Nachverstärkers zeigt Bild 9 (mit zwei mal 750 Ω abgeschlossen). Bei LO und HF ist die Rückflußdämpfung ca. 25dB; Das ist ausreichend. Wenn man nur einen 500 Ω -Ausgang benötigt, entfernt man C14 und T2 und schließt den Empfänger an C13 an. Die Durchgangsverstärkung steigt dann um ca. 3dB an.

3.2. Sendeumsetzer (Sheet 4)

Die ZF passiert ein Bandfilter mit 2MHz Bandbreite und gelangt zum IE-500. L1 und L2 wurden durch Löcher im Kammerboden montiert. Das LO-Signal mit 7dBm Pegel wird über ein Dämpfungsglied ($R_{12} = 2700\Omega$) vom M68710L zugeführt. Die erzeugte HF gelangt über einen Bandpaß mit 10MHz Breite, bestehend aus L3 und L4 zum MAR-8 Verstärker. L3 und L4 sind 62mm lang, 12mm von kalten Ende um 90 Grad abgebogen. Die Kopfkopplung erfolgt mit einem isolierten Draht, der auf 16mm Länge dem zweiten Resonator auf 1mm angenähert wird (C7). IE-500 sowie MAR-8 sind 21mm von kalten Ende an L3 bzw. L4 angekoppelt. Das Ausgangssignal des MAR-8 wird in einem Dreikreisfilter gesiebt und dem ersten BFG135 des Senderstreifens zugeführt. L5, L6 und L7 sind 72mm lang und bei 12mm abgelenkt, Der MAR-8 und die Ausgangsbuchse sind 12mm vom kalten Ende an L5 bzw. L7 angebunden. Der MAR-8 erhält seine Betriebsspannung vom Sequenzer.

Die Koppelschlitze sind wieder 27 x 13mm groß und zentrisch in die Zwischenwände gefräst. Für nur 2MHz Bandbreite sind 10 x 13mm erforderlich. Das 10MHz breite Filter kann mit einem Meßsender eingestellt werden (auf 435MHz optimieren, die Bandgrenzen prüfen und leicht nachstimmen), ein Netzwerkanalysator erleichtert das Leben jedoch sehr. Die 2MHz Version wird auf 433MHz optimiert. Durch die gute Selektion hat das Ausgangssignal keine für mich meßbaren Nebenlinien.

3.3. Oszillatorsignalaufbereitung (Sheet 5):

Ich verwende DF9LN-Oszillatoren zur Versorgung meiner Transverter. Um sie an ein Rubidiumfrequenznormal anbinden zu können, wurden Pufferstufen und Varicaps eingebaut. Die 101MHz mit einem Pegel von ca. 0dBm gelangen über ein Dämpfungsglied an den ersten Push-Push Verdoppler, der in Klasse A arbeitet. Ohne Ansteuerung sollten an MP1 ca. 12,5V eingestellt werden. Die Regelschleife mit Q5 reduziert diese Spannung auf ca. 12V bei -10dBm bzw. ca. 9,5V bei 0dBm Oszillatorpegel. T1 hat 8 Windungen mit Mittellanzapfung, in die die Koppelspule aus isoliertem Cu-Draht mit 3 Windungen völlig eintaucht. Das ausgangsseitige Filter T2 hat 2 x 4 Windungen, die im Abstand von ca. 3mm parallel zueinander angeordnet sind. Die zweite Spule des Filters hat eine Mittellanzapfung, ein Verbindungsdraht führt in die Kammer des zweiten Verdopplers zur Koppelspule von T3. T3 hat 4 Windungen mit Mittellanzapfung, die Koppelspule mit 2 Windungen aus isoliertem Cu-Draht taucht völlig in die Spule ein. Der zweite Verdoppler mit Q3 und Q4 arbeitet ebenfalls als Klasse A Push-Push Verdoppler. Sein Arbeitspunkt wird ohne Ansteuerung auf ca. 10,7V an MP2 eingestellt. Das ausgangsseitige Filter bestehend aus L5, L6 und L7 hat ca. 8MHz Bandbreite, die Leiter sind 76mm lang und bei 12mm von kalten Ende abgewinkelt. Die Kollektoren von Q3 und Q4 sind 24mm von kalten Ende an L5 angelötet. Die Koppelschlitze sind mittig in die Trennwände eingebracht. Für 8MHz Bandbreite sind sie 26 x 13mm groß, für 2MHz Bandbreite reduzieren sich die Abmessungen auf 10 x 13mm. Die 404MHz wird in einem M68710L [4] weiterverstärkt, der sich zufällig in meiner Materialkiste fand. Sein Eingang ist 18mm vom kalten Ende an L7 angelötet. Der Ausgang des Hybrids speist über ein Pi-Filter den IE-500 (über ein Dämpfungsglied R12) und einen Wilkinsonsteiler T4 mit 2 x 750 Ω Ausgangsimpedanz. R14, R15 sowie R16, R17 sorgen für eine saubere 500 Ω -Anpassung der HMJ-5 Mischer. Mit P4 kann die Oszillatorleistung eingestellt werden. Der Ruhestrom des Hybrids wird mit P3 auf 500mA (6,1 V an MP3) eingestellt. Ein ausreichend großer Kühlkörper bewahrt das IC vor Fieberschüben.

Abgleich

Die Semirigidleitungen zu den HMJ-5 wurden abgetrennt und durch einen 500 Ω Widerstand sowie einen Leistungsmesser ersetzt. Der Schleifer von P4 wurde gegen Masse gestellt. Bei einem Eingangssignal von 101MHz und -20dBm Pegel wurden beide Verdoppler, das Dreikreisfilter und das Pi Filter C13, L6, C14 auf optimalen Rauch abgestimmt. Bei Einspeisen von 100,5 bzw. 102,5MHz wurde die Abstimmung leicht korrigiert. Sodann wurde die Eingangsleistung auf den entgeltigen Wert erhöht und die gemessene Leistung mit P4 auf 50mW (17dBm) eingeregelt. Mindestens -15dBm bei 101MHz waren hierfür erforderlich. Das Spektrum bei 404MHz ist sehr sauber.

3.4. Sequenzer etc. (Sheet 6)

Dieser Teil enthält keine Besonderheiten. Das PTT-Signal (Masseschleife) gelangt von den Steuersendern über die Koaxkabel und eine Schaltmatrix an die Transverter. Das vermeidet zusätzliche Kabel und Schaltkontakte. Der Sequenzer besteht aus einem Integrator und drei Spannungskomparatoren. U2D schaltet den Vorverstärker und die Eingangsstufen (ATF54143), U2C bedient den Ericsson Senderstreifen und die beiden 200W PA's, U2B schaltet den Tetrodenverstärker. Dieser Typ Sequenzer arbeitet auch dann zuverlässig, wenn nur ein Teil des Schaltzyklus durchlaufen wird (PTT nur kurz betätigt). Die Zeitkonstante wird mit R20 bzw. C8 den Bedürfnissen angepasst. Im normalen Betrieb wird der ZF-Steuerpegel mit P1 einjustiert. Wenn S3 den Röhrenverstärker aktiviert, wird die reduzierte Steuerleistung mit P2 eingestellt. U1 sorgt für die zeitverzögerte Einschaltung von Anoden- und Schirmgitterspannung der Tetrode. D5 entlädt C7 schnell, wenn S3 abgeschaltet wird (sorgt für ausreichend lange Heizzeit). Meine Koaxrelais benötigen ca. 45V DC, die Vorverstärker verdauen diese Spannung ebenfalls. Die Zuführung geschieht über die Koaxkabel. Aus Sicherheitsgründen wird ein zweipoliges Relais zum Schalten der Spannung verwendet. Zum Anschalten einer zweiten Antenne ist ein weiteres Koaxrelais vorhanden. C4, C5 und C6 sind Scheibenkondensatoren.

4. Technische Eigenschaften

4.1. Senderseite

Auf Bild 10 ist das Ausgangssignal eines meiner Telefunken Steuersender SSTeu 1370 bei 28,2MHz und 100mW PEP in J3e und 100 % Zweitonaussteuerung zu sehen. D3 ist >50dB unter PEP. Intermodulationsprodukte höherer Ordnung sind zu sehen. Da ist wohl eine Wartungseinheit nötig! Bild 11 stellt das Ausgangssignal der beiden gekoppelten Ericsson PA's bei PEP = 400W dar. D3 ist ca. 30dB, D5 ca. 40dB unter PEP. Etwas „Bipolargezwitcher“ (IMD höherer Ordnung) ist bei >50dB unter PEP zu erkennen. Dieses Signal ist ok, eine optimal entwickelte FET-PA könnte besser sein. Bild 12 zeigt das Ausgangssignal der beiden PA's bei PEP = 100W. D3 ist ca. 40dB unter PEP, Produkte bis D9 sind noch auszumachen. Dies entsprach etwa den Erwartungen.

4.2. Empfangsteil

Die Empfindlichkeit wurde in Verbindung mit meinem Stationsempfänger Telefunken E-1506 ermittelt. Der zweite Ausgang wurde mit 750Ohm abgeschlossen. Der Rauschteppich betrug -138dBm in 2,7kHz Bandbreite, das entspricht einer Rauschzahl von ca. 2dB. In Ermangelung eines Zweitongenerators konnte nur der 1dB-Kompressionspunkt ermittelt werden. Er wurde bei -3dBm Eingangsleistung erreicht. Der Interceptpunkt dritter Ordnung am Eingang kann damit grob zu ca. +7dBm geschätzt werden (Ausgangs IP3 ist dann ~ +21dBm). Der intermodulationsfreie Dynamikbereich DR3 ergibt sich zu etwa 97dB. Die Durchgangsverstärkung beträgt 14dB. Die Entkopplung beider Empfangskanäle ist mit ca. 35dB gerade ausreichend. Mein einfacher Quarz Testgenerator erzeugt ca. -39dBm auf seiner Harmonischen bei 432,190MHz. Das ergibt ein Signal von fast 100dB über Grundrauschen. In Stellung USB bei 2,7kHz Bandbreite konnte ich den E-1506 bis auf 432,181MHz abstimmen, um eine Verdoppelung des Rauschpegels zu erhalten. Das Seitenbandrauschen des Systems ist damit besser als -134dBc/Hz in 7,5kHz Abstand zum Träger. Die Empfangskonverter sind auch bei offenen Eingängen stabil.

5. Mögliche Verbesserungen

5.1. Senderzweig

Das Ausgangssignal der beiden gekoppelten 200W PA's mit Bipolartransistoren ist ok. Man könnte es nur durch Einsatz einer Gegenkopplung verbessern. Bei 432MHz ist eine stabile HF-Gegenkopplung jedoch schwierig umzusetzen und der Erfolg fragwürdig. Das Ausgangssignal bei PEP = 100W ist recht gut, daher wurde keine weitere Zeit in Verbesserungen investiert.

5.2. Empfangszweig

Der Ausgangsinterceptpunkt des HF-Verstärker mit ATF54143 ist erheblich schlechter als für den HMJ-5 erforderlich (dieser hat IIP3 ~ +40dBm bei 432MHz). Diese Stufe limitiert daher die Großsignalfestigkeit des Empfängers. Eine Gegentaktstufe (IIP3 ~ +13dBm) oder ein modernes MMIC (oder 2 in Gegentakt) wären besser. Damit würde der Transverter die magische Grenze eines intermodulationsfreien Dynamikbereiches von 100dB leicht überschreiten. Der Nachverstärker mit BFR96s ist ebenfalls nicht optimal, obwohl seine Großsignalfestigkeit gut zum Mischer paßt. Die Rückwärtsdämpfung beträgt nur 9dB, damit ist seine Eingangsimpedanz stark von der Ausgangslast abhängig. In meiner Konfiguration mit zwei ZF-Ausgängen scheint dies kein Problem darzustellen. Der Bruder dieses Transverters (für 2m) befindet sich gerade auf der Werkbank. Seine Werte werden besser sein, die Vorstufe wird sich leicht für 432MHz adaptieren lassen.

6. Schlusswort

Der Transverter befindet sich seit zwei Jahren im Einsatz und zeigte bis jetzt keine Fehler. Seine Eigenschaften sind für ein Selbstgestricktes nicht dramatisch schlecht. Weil nur mein Prototyp existiert, soll diese Beschreibung kein Kochrezept sein.

Sie sollte den Selbstbauern unter uns Anregungen geben, wie man kommerzielle Technik und moderne Bauteile zu unserem Vorteil einsetzen kann, um Transverter mit ordentlichen technischen Daten zu bauen.
Bei Bedarf können Photos mit hoher Auflösung per Email angefordert werden.

Laßt den LötKolben nicht auskühlen und cu on 70cm! Vy73, Harm, DK3BU

Quellen

- [1] Agilent Datenblatt ATF54143
- [2] WJ communications Datenblatt HMJ-5
- [3] Vishay Datenblatt BFR96s
- [4] Mitsubishi Datenblatt M68710L
- [5] UKW Berichte 4/1977 Michel Martin: Neuartiger Vorverstärker...
- [6] Dubus Technik book VI, page 207ff: Uwe Nitschke, oven-stabilized xo...

Bildunterschriften

Bild 1 Pager TX: Zu trennende Leiterbahnen, Q3 etc., siehe auch Sheet 1

Bild 2 Pager TX: PTT, Q1, Q2 etc., siehe Sheet1

Bild 3 Ericsson 200W PA: PTT, siehe Sheet 2

Bild 4 Ericsson 200W PA: modifizierte Vorspannungserzeugung, siehe Sheet 2

Bild 5 Ericsson 200W PA: SPS, siehe Sheet 2

Bild 6 Transverter: mechanisches Layout des Gehäuses, Stufen

Bild 7 RX-converter: Selektivität des 432MHz Bandpasses, 10MHz bzw. 2MHz

Bild 8 RX-converter: Herstellung des Norton-Transformators

Bild 9 RX-converter: Rückflußdämpfung des Diplexers und Nortonverstärkers

Bild 10 Spektrum meines Telefunken Steuersenders bei 28.2MHz 100mW PEP; J3e 2 Ton

Bild 11 Spektrum der 2 gekoppelten PA's bei 400W PEP; J3e 2 Ton

Bild 12 Spektrum der 2 gekoppelten PA's bei 100W PEP; J3e 2 Ton

Sheet 1 Modifikationen des Pager Senders

Sheet 2 Modifikationen der 200W PA, PTT, SPS, Vorspannung

Sheet 3 RX Konverter, Schaltplan

Sheet 4 TX Konverter, Schaltplan

Sheet 5 LO-Aufbereitung, Schaltplan

Sheet 6 Sequenzer, Timer etc.

Over-The-Horizon Optical Communication

Part 1: Overview and Practical Results

by Rex Moncur, VK7MO, Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW and Ken Sulman, VK7DY

Distances of up to 118 km have been achieved with the digital mode JT65a on cloudbounce propagation at a frequency of 478 THz (Red Light) using banks of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) focused by small plastic lenses as used in torches and a large area avalanche photo diode (APD) receiver. Extensive propagation experiments have been conducted over a distance of 27 km using a single LED at mHz bandwidths. The success of this work relies on the use of relatively wide beamwidths (up to 10 degrees) to overcome the difficulty of alignment on clouds, the use of new higher power Luxeon¹ Light Emitting Diodes, large (395 x 395 mm) plastic Fresnel lenses to capture as much light as possible combined with narrow bandwidth digital modes and low noise receivers. All our work is conducted at night as our receivers are overloaded by even twilight.

For those who wish to follow the theory or construct their own systems additional information will be provided in subsequent DUBUS volumes as follows:

Part 2 Theory: will cover the theory of over-the-horizon optical propagation from clouds, the theory of transmitter and receiver performance and relate the theory to our practical results.

Part 3 Transmitters: will discuss options and provide sufficient detail for construction of some viable options.

Part 4 Receivers: will discuss options and provide sufficient detail for construction of some viable options.

Background

Mike Groth, VK7MJ, and Chris Long, VK3AML², have pioneered the use of Luxeon LED transmitters and low noise receivers using Fresnel lenses for line of sight optical communication. On the 19th February 2005 Mike and Chris achieved a distance of 167 km between two mountains in Tasmania, Australia. These techniques were taken further with a lower noise receiver³ by Clint Turner, KA7OEI, to set a line of sight distance record of 278 km between high mountains in Utah USA on October 3, 2007. In late 2006 we started to examine options for non-line-of-sight optical communication and also added the use Joe Taylor, K1JT's, WSJT⁴ computer program as a means of bringing the much weaker signals out of the noise. For our mHz

¹ Luxeon is a trade name for a Light Emitting Diode with enhanced optical output, which is manufactured by the Philips Lumileds Lighting Company. <http://www.luxeon.com/>

² Information on the work of VK7MJ and VK3AML, is at: http://modulatedlight.org/Modulated_Light_DX/MODULATED_LIGHT_DX.html

³ An excellent article on the development of low noise receivers by KA7OEI is at: http://modulatedlight.org/optical_comms/optical_rx1.html

⁴ K1JT's WSJT computer program is available at: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

bandwidth propagation experiments we used the audio analysis computer program, Spectrum Lab⁵, by Wolfgang Buescher, DL4YHF, which allows one to automatically record data such as signal and noise levels and frequency.

Lenses

Lenses are analogous to antennas in the optical world. With small plastic lenses as used in torches one can achieve optical gains of around 24 dBi with beamwidths of around 10 degrees. Much higher gains can be achieved with plastic Fresnel lenses of the type used to assist the sight impaired with reading or larger ones as used with overhead projectors. Large 395 x 395 mm plastic Fresnel Lenses give optical gains of around 50 dBi but with the beamwidth narrowed to less than one degree dependent on the detector size.

Scattering from Clouds

Our first experiments used VK7MJ's narrow beamwidth (less than one degree) transceivers. These experiments were conducted over a 1.2 km non-line-of-sight path between the QTHs of VK7MO and VK7TW. We soon discovered that it is impractical to align a narrow beamwidth receiver and transmitter at the same point on a cloud. To ease the problem of alignment, it is necessary to increase the transmitter beamwidth. But this does mean reduced optical gain and system performance. The reduced performance can be made up by using weak signal digital modes and by increasing the power. While we experimented with high power incandescent projector lamps using mechanical modulation, mercury vapour tubes and different types of LEDs the major breakthrough was to use the Luxeon III LEDs with small plastic torch lenses (10 degree beamwidth) and then to increase the power by using them in banks.

Interestingly, the issue of alignment on clouds becomes easier at longer distances. This is because at short distances of a few km the elevation angle to the clouds can vary widely - up to 60 degrees or more. However, at long distances such as 50 km the cloud height limits the possible elevation angles to one or two degrees and a narrow vertical beamwidth can cover the full range of possible elevations by beaming just above the horizon. Aside from the problems of alignment it is best to use as narrow a beamwidth as practical to increase the optical gain and thus system performance. Taking both alignment and system performance into account we are of the view that the optimum transmitter beamwidth is around 10 degrees for distances up to 20 km, 5 degrees for 20 to 60 km and one or two degrees beyond 60 km. Beyond 60 km the limiting factor becomes horizontal beamwidth as it is difficult to align two systems to much better than a degree when there is no distant point to aim at. On the receiver side best performance will generally result from having the receiver beamwidth matched to that of the transmitter.

A second useful issue at longer distances is that the clouds tend to average out the signal such that even with minimal cloud cover signals are usually quite consistent in signal strength. Whereas at shorter distances the signal frequently drops out completely due to gaps between the clouds.

Luxeon LED Transmitter

We use a Lumiled Luxeon type LXHL-LD3C which gives maximum light output at 627 nm or red light, this model comes with a small aluminium heat transfer arrangement called a Luxeon Star and produces around half a watt average light output. A number of companies produce small plastic lenses and holders designed for Luxeons. We use the L2 Optics⁶ type L2OP005 lens and L2OHS35 holder. These lenses are 20 mm in diameter and give around 85% efficiency with a 10 degree beamwidth or around 24 dBi optical gain. Because of their small size and relatively low

⁵ DL4YHF's Spectrum Lab Program is available at: <http://freenet-homepage.de/dl4yhf/spectra1.html>

⁶ <http://www.l2optics.com/>

price it is quite practical to build a 60 Luxeon array to increase power (refer cover photo on this edition of DUBUS). While as stated above it would be better to use narrower beamwidths for long path lengths the problem becomes one of requiring larger lenses to narrow the beamwidth and then with large numbers the overall size becomes an issue.

The red Luxeons are rated at a maximum peak current of 2.2 Amps, have a voltage drop of around 3.1 Volts and have an optical efficiency of about 16%. Modulation is square wave provided by high current MOSFETs (IRF 1405). It is much easier to produce high currents with FET switches in square wave mode than build a linear modulator. The only issue with this approach is that by using square waves you do produce audio harmonics but this is not a problem with JT65a as the harmonics of the lowest tones are well above the highest fundamental tone. As JT65a produces a sine wave output it is necessary to convert this to square waves to drive the MOSFETs.

Something for Nothing

In testing the 60 Luxeon array we compared the performance with one bank of 30 Luxeons and then doubled the power by connecting the second bank of 30. We were surprised to find that doubling the power improved the signal to noise ratio by 6 dB. Coming from a radio frequency background this seemed to us like something for nothing so we called this the "Something for Nothing" Law. However, there is a good reason for this. Each time you double the power of the transmitter you double the number of photons at the detector. At the detector each received photon (if it was 100% efficient) releases one electron. The electrons produce a proportional current in the load resistance across the photo-diode. Thus when you double the transmitter power you double the voltage across load resistor. Then according to $P = V^2/R$ you get four times the signal power or a 6 dB improvement in Signal to Noise Ratio. Accordingly, our 60 Luxeon array increases the Signal to Noise ratio by $20 \cdot \text{LOG}_{10}(60)$ or 35 dB over that of a single unit.

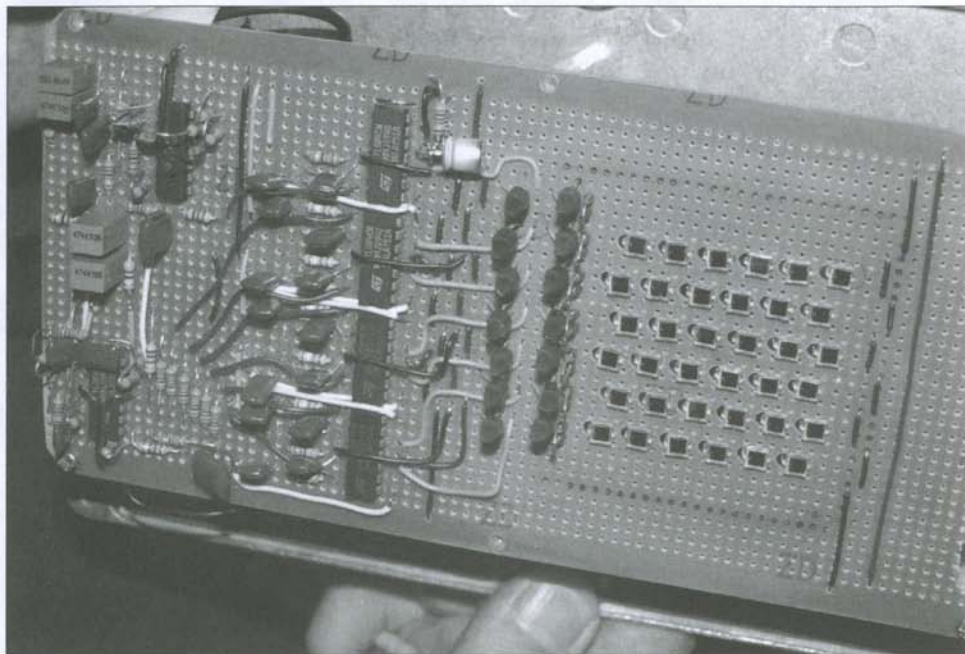
However, the downside is that if you reduce the received photons at the detector by half, say by trying to work over a longer distance, then the signal to noise ratio falls by 6 dB. Unfortunately, it is generally the case that we as hams like to try and work with weaker and weaker signals and thus the "Something for Nothing" Law actually works in reverse for us.

Improving Receiver Performance

When using photo-diodes the receiver performance is generally limited by the noise of the pre-amp. Clint Turner, KA7OEI's web site⁷ gives a great review of developments in pre-amp design, leading to his significantly enhanced receiver. The critical issue is that the signal to noise performance of a pre-amp is primarily a function of the load resistance across the photo-diode and the higher the resistance the better. This is because the same photo-diode current produces a larger voltage output according to $V = IR$. While we can achieve load resistances of tens to hundreds of meg ohms with FETs the problem is that at such high values of load resistance the small capacitance (a few pico farads) of the photodiode causes frequency roll off in the required audio range. Clint's solution, (which is well known in the literature on fibre optic communication) is to feed the signal through an op-amp differentiator to recover the frequency response. We built up one of Clint's pre-amps and were pleased to find performance improved by some 14 dB.

We then looked at whether we could gain further improvements by using multiple photo-diodes behind the same Fresnel lens, with separate KA7OEI pre-amps and then summing the outputs. Our thinking was that we could double the current with each doubling of photo diodes (6 dB power increase) but as the noise which is generated by separate pre-amps is not coherent it should only increase by 3 dB. Thus in going to multiple (N) photo diodes we should get an improvement of $10 \cdot \text{LOG}_{10}(N)$. For 35 photo-diodes this should be 15.4 dB. In practice 35 photo-diodes (fig 1) gave a 14 dB improvement.

⁷ http://modulatedlight.org/optical_comms/optical_rx1.html



**Figure 1: 35 photo diode receiver based on KA70EI circuit.
The 36th photo diode is used as a reference**

Extending the Distance

With the improved receiver performance we then looked at extending the distance to Ken VK7DY's home 27 km away. Ken's home is in a valley with hills up to 350 meters high in between. Signals were immediately present at up to -5 dB on the WSJT scale under good cloud conditions with weak signals via clear air scatter. Under good conditions voice communication was possible at around S2 using pulse width modulation of the 60 Luxeon transmitter. Ken then took the receiver portable and over a few nights extended the distance to 66 km on JT65a at a signal level of -10 dB on the WSJT scale. While we still had 18dB to spare with JT65a we needed to understand more about propagation conditions favourable for long distance before wasting too much time out on dark nights.

Understanding the Weather Conditions

We thought that:

- Signals should improve with increasing cloud cover.
- Signals might be absorbed when the humidity was high.
- Signals should improve when the cloud height increases allowing more energy to pass through the window between the surface of the earth and the clouds.

Fortunately weather data is available from our local airport (Hobart) around 7 km from the centre of the path. This is available from the University of Wyoming USA web site⁸. Data on signal level from a single LED was collected over a 2 month period using Spectrum Lab in 1 mHz bandwidth and is compared with weather parameters below:

⁸ <http://weather.uwyo.edu>

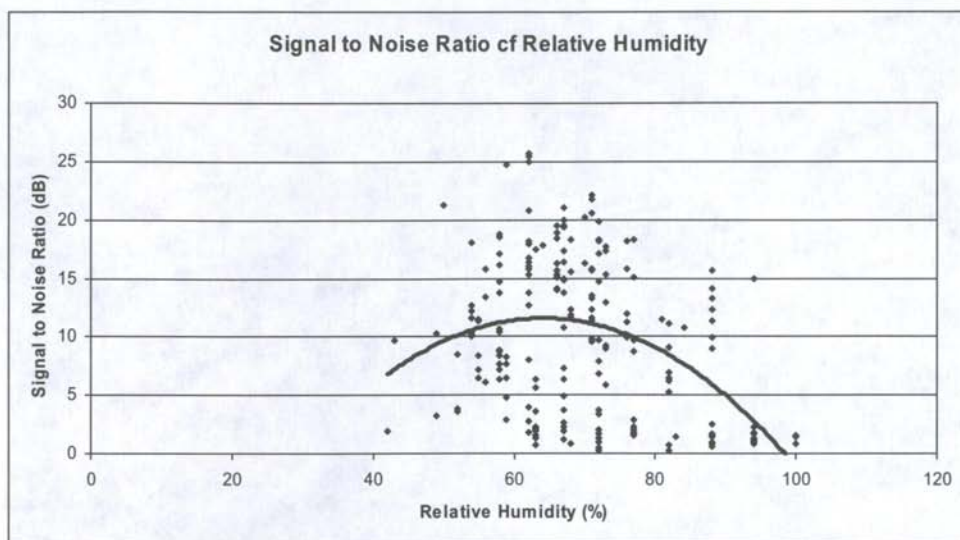


Figure 2:
Variation of Signal to Noise Ratio with relative humidity on a 27 km path, VK7MO to VK7DY

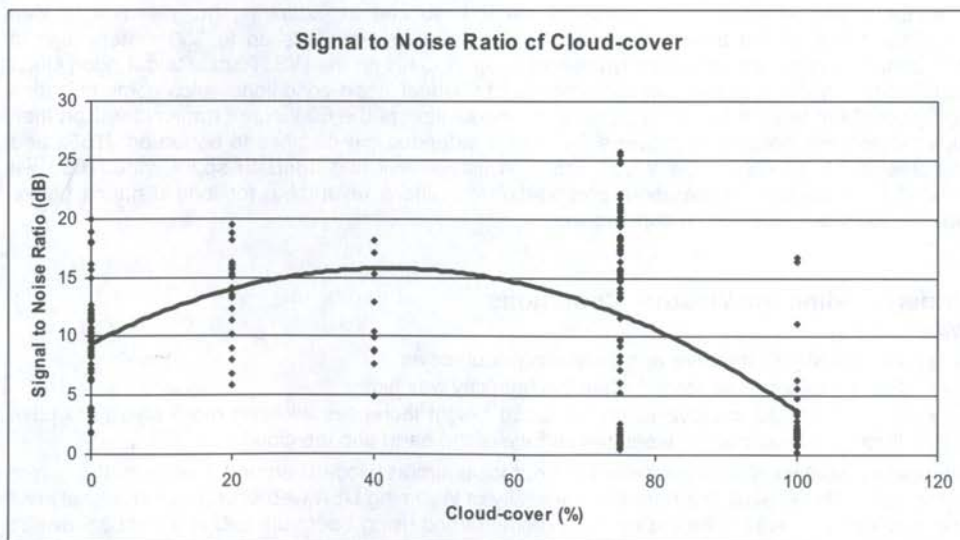


Figure 3:
Variation of Signal to Noise Ratio with cloud cover on a 27 km path, VK7MO to VK7DY

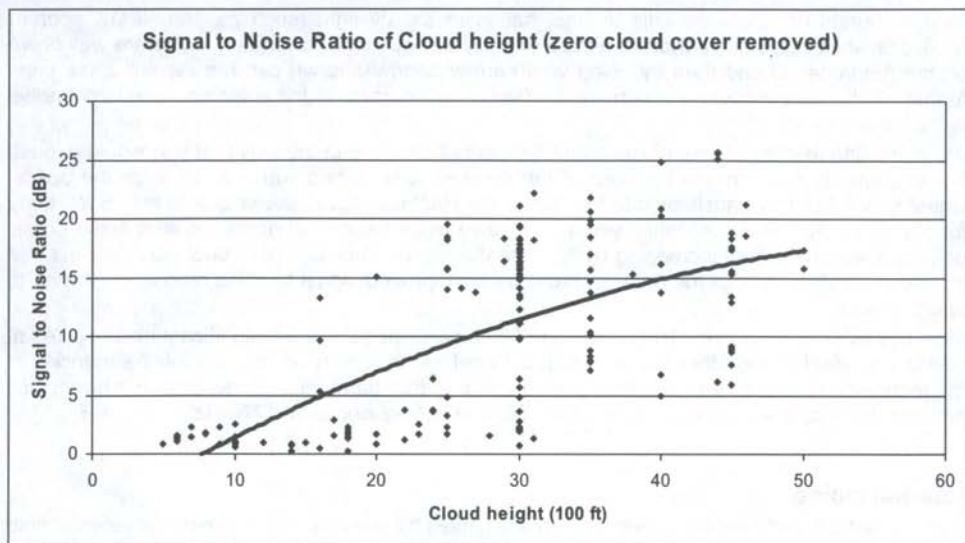


Figure 4:
Variation of Signal to Noise Ratio with cloud height on a 27 km path, VK7MO to VK7DY

To our surprise best signal levels occurred with around 50% cloud cover and relative humidity around 70%. But at least signals did improve as the cloud height increased. We think the explanation for the humidity results is that it is a secondary effect from the fact that low relative humidity often occurs when there are no clouds and thus nothing (or just clear air with particulate matter) to scatter off, and high relative humidity is often related to low clouds which prevent the signals passing over the hills. In the case of cloud cover there is a similar effect in that 100% cloud cover often occurs when the clouds are low and cut off the signals from passing over the hills. As shown in Figure 3 the key variable is cloud height and the higher the better as this allows more energy to pass through the gap between the intervening hills and the clouds.

Red or Blue Light

As light passes through air it is scattered in other directions than desired and thus lost. Blue light scatters more readily than red and this is why the sky looks blue. As a rule of thumb in clear air red light is lost at about 0.1 dB/km and blue light at around 0.2 dB/km. Applying the "Something for Nothing" law means the signal to noise ratio at the receiver drops by 0.2 dB/km for red light and 0.4 dB/km for blue. Thus for every km the blue signal to noise ratio will be around 0.2 dB worse than red costing around 20 dB on a 100 km path. Our tests at 118 km with small four LED red and blue transmitters showed the red to be around 20 dB above the noise while the blue was hardly detectable thus confirming losses of this order. Thus for long distances red light is to be preferred.

External Noise

When one looks at the light on the clouds, from even a small city like Hobart, (population 206,000) one wonders how it is possible that LEDs can ever compete. The reason that they can compete is that fortunately the city lights are not modulated at the audio frequencies we are using. They do however produce broadband noise (called shot noise) due to the fact that at light frequencies even a steady light level is actually made up of separate photons and comes in

random bursts or quantum. This means that even steady light (such as from a DC source) produces white noise sidebands all across the audio spectrum. Fortunately these are well down on the fundamental and then by using very narrow bandwidths we can reduce the noise even further. Still as we improve our receiver performance we come to the point where external noise is the limiting factor.

An interesting feature of shot noise is that it does not increase in the way that you would expect. For example if you increase the area of the receiver lens by two you pick up twice the optical signal power but this translates into four times the electrical signal power due to the "Something for Nothing" Law. However while you also receive twice the optical noise the shot noise power only doubles rather than increasing by four like the signal. This feature of shot noise means that increasing the aperture of the receiver provides an improved signal to noise ratio in proportion to aperture area.

Most city lights are run from AC (in our case 50 Hz) and thus there are significant noise spikes at 50 Hz and 100 Hz and other harmonics. It is therefore necessary to filter out low frequencies in the receiver before they are amplified and generate further harmonics. Fortunately the harmonics are well down by the time one reaches the JT65a tone frequencies at 1270 Hz.

Internal Noise

Our present 35 photo diode system is internally limited by pre-amp noise. While our receiver field of view is relatively large (around 5 degrees beamwidth) much of it is wasted due to the space between the photo-diodes. One option would be to pack more photo-diodes into the same space. Potentially we might be able to get a 3 to 6 dB improvement this way. Other detectors such as Photo Multiplier Tubes and Avalanche Photo diodes have gain that can help overcome pre-amp noise. These will be discussed below.

It is useful to do a dark test to see how close we are to the external noise limit. We measure the noise level looking at the clouds and then cover the lens and note the difference. In the case of our 35 photo diode receiver that reduction is rarely more than one dB so we are still have a way to go to be beyond the limit of internal noise.

Avalanche Photo Diodes

Avalanche Photo Diodes (APDs) have good quantum efficiency (around 80%) and useful gain (around 50) but they are expensive, \$US 600 for medium sizes like 5 mm diameter and \$US 1200 for a 10mm square unit. Even at 10 mm the beamwidth with a typical large Fresnel lens is only 1.6 degrees and thus much of the available light is not picked up. In addition the performance tends to be limited by the internal noise of the APD on dark nights. Our tests at 27 km suggest that on red light the 5 mm APD gives about 10 dB improvement in system performance over the 35 photo-diode array and the 10 mm square unit a further 7 dB. The 10 mm square APD receiver (fig 5) has produced WSJT signal levels of -9 dB on a 118 km path.

Photo Multiplier Tubes

Photo-multiplier Tubes (PMTs) are available with larger photocathode areas (typically 20 to 40 mm diameter) and thus more useful fields of view. They also have very high internal gain (a million or more) to overcome pre-amp noise and have very low internal noise. The downside of PMTs is that they have relatively low quantum efficiency particularly at the red end of the spectrum dependent on the photocathode composition. While they are very expensive new they do become available on eBay at reasonable prices. Because of their poor quantum efficiency at the red end of the spectrum PMTs may not be competitive with APDs at longer distances where red is to be preferred. Nevertheless the very high gains and low internal noise of the PMT do offer the potential for using optical filters to reduce external noise and their large areas can maintain good fields of view. Thus further investigation is planned.

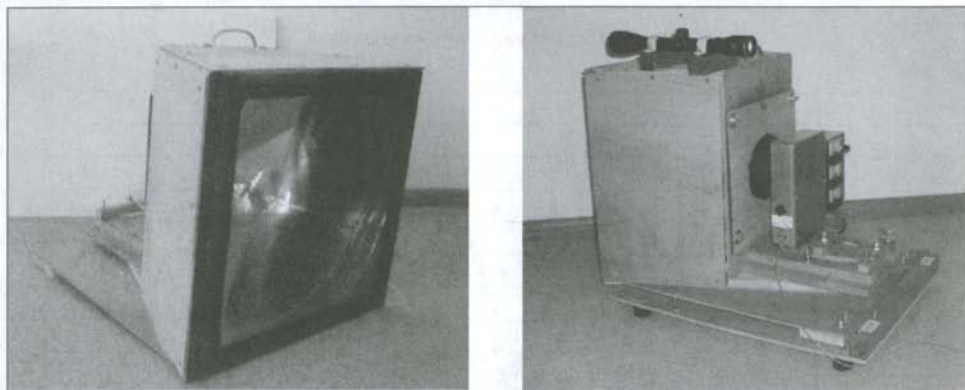


Figure 5: Left: 10 mm square APD Receiver with 395 x 395 mm Fresnel lens. Right: rear view showing focus adjustment arrangement with turnbuckle and wooden optical bench with rifle scope fitted for alignment. An adjustable black plastic loudspeaker enclosure port allows movement for focus adjustment while preventing the entry of extraneous light.

Examples of Performance

Transmitter	Receiver	Distance	S/N
1 x LED torch lens	35 photo-diode	27 km	-23 dB WSJT scale
1 x LED Fresnel lens*	1 photo-diode	27 km	-20 dB WSJT scale
1 x LED Fresnel lens*	35 photo-diode	27 km	-9 dB WSJT scale
60 x LED torch lenses	35 photo-diode	66 km	-10 dB WSJT scale
60 x LED torch lenses	10 mm APD	118 km	-9 dB WSJT scale
60 x LED torch lenses	10 mm APD	118 km	40 dB (20 mHz BW)
4 x Red LED torch lenses	10 mm APD	118 km	20 dB (2 mHz BW)
4 x Blue LED torch lenses	10 mm APD	118 km	0 to 5 dB (2 mHz BW)

* Small reading type 340 mm focal length Fresnel Lens in front of 20 mm torch lens giving about 3.5 degrees beamwidth

Signal Reliability and Variation

Signals are surprisingly reliable over our 27 km test path due to the averaging effect of even minimal cloud cover. There were probably less than 5% of nights that we had no signal at all and this was related to low cloud or fog preventing the signals getting over the intervening hills or loss due to heavy rain or in one case heavy bushfire smoke.

The graph at figure 6 shows the typical variation of signal levels over a week on our 27 km test path. The signals rise out of the noise only at night but they are then usually well above the noise using 1 mHz bandwidth and a single LED focussed by 20 mm torch lens with the 10 mm APD receiver.

Aircraft Safety

Australian regulations limit the impact of bright lights on aircraft operations and in particular the targeting of aircraft with lasers. While the intensities of our wide beamwidth LEDs do not approach those of lasers it is still possible to exceed safety limits when operating near an airport. The Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority has set down various levels (below) that should not be exceeded and they may give notice that a bright light must be turned off or penalties apply.

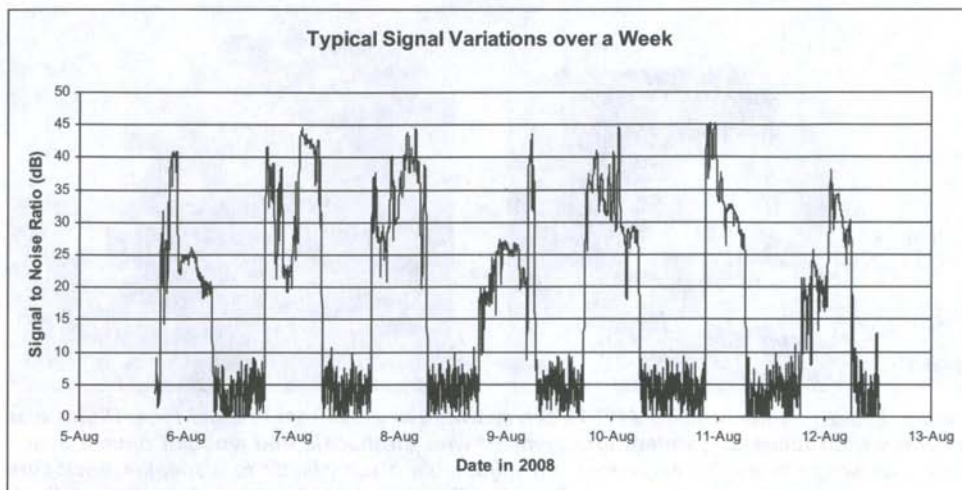


Figure 6: Typical Signal Variation over a week on 27 km test path

1. Runway approach 50 nanowatts/sq cm
2. 18.5 km from airport: 5 microwatts/sq cm
3. Beyond 18.5 km: 100 microwatts/sq cm

Our present operations are just within 18.5 km and thus the level 2 limit applies. This means that with our 60 LED array we should avoid its use if an aircraft is within 150 metres. While it is unlikely that an aircraft would ever come anywhere close to this limit we do monitor aircraft operations and turn off the 60 LED array whenever aircraft are in the beam. The single LED which we use for propagation tests is so low in power that it is safe to run it all night in unattended operation.

Safety Measures & Cautionary Notes

There is caution required with a range of the equipment utilised in this experimentation.

Fresnel lenses should be covered when not in use especially before the sun rises in the morning! These lenses have the potential to focus the sun's energy to a point of around 1mm and can easily start a fire in the wooden box surrounding the instrumentation. The focused energy can also damage the diodes and tubes used within the receivers and transmitters. A general principle is to fully cover up the lenses when they not in use even when stored.

PMTs and APDs require high voltages of up to kilovolts. Therefore, suitable insulation and connectors need to be employed to prevent a shock hazard especially given these devices are used in dark locations.

PMTs have gain in the order of millions and it is very easy to desensitise and even permanently damage a tube by exposure to too much light. Too much light causes excessive electron production within the tube and has the potential to strip the chemical coating off the last few dynodes within the PMT. Photo-cathodes should always be covered when not in use as the generation of photoelectrons continues to take place even when no voltage is applied to the tube and excessive charge build up results in a noisy tube. This can be remedied by applying voltage and leaving the tube in the dark for a day or two. The general principle is cover the tube up when not in use and in storage.

As outlined in the Aircraft Safety section above there is constant vigilance required when shining any form of light into the air. Know your beam intensity levels, beam-widths and geographic

location and how these relate to the aircraft safety limits. When there is a remote chance of any aircraft passing through or near your beam, turn it off.

When using wide beam width transmitters shielding may need to be used to reduce any light from being radiated in unintended directions. This is particularly relevant in the suburbs where neighbourly relations between radio amateurs and the community are important.

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the help of Paul Edwards VK7ZAS, Mike Groth VK7MJ, Clint Turner KA7OEI, Yves F1AVY and Chris Long VK3AML who have all been generous with advice and assistance and in the case of Mike Groth with test equipment and transceivers also.

Conclusions

- 118 km has been demonstrated on JT65a with 18 dB to spare
- 27 km propagation tests are routinely conducted with a single LED
- The use of Luxeon LEDs, relatively wide beamwidths, low noise receivers and narrow bandwidth digital modes is the key to this success



Fig.: VK7MO and his TX with 60 LEDs (see also cover Page for full color picture)

Note: Part 2 of this article will follow in next issue 1/2009.

Überhorizont-Kommunikation im optischen Bereich

Teil 1: Überblick und praktische Ergebnisse

von Rex Moncur, VK7MO, Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW, Ken Sulman, VK7DY

Entfernungen von bis zu 118km wurden in der digitalen Betriebsart JT65A mittels Wolkenscatter-Ausbreitung auf der Frequenz 478 THz (rotes Licht) überbrückt. Verwendet wurde dabei eine Reihe von LEDs, deren Licht mittels kleinen Plastiklinsen, wie sie in Taschenlampen verwendet werden, fokussiert wird sowie ein Empfänger mit Avalanche Photodioden (APD) auf einer großen Fläche. Umfangreiche Ausbreitungsexperimente wurden über eine Entfernung von 27km unter Verwendung einer einzelnen LED mit mHz-Bandbreiten durchgeführt. Der Erfolg dieser Arbeit liegt in der Verwendung relativ großer Beamweiten (bis zu 10 Grad), um die Schwierigkeit, die Wolken genau zu treffen, zu umgehen, der Verwendung neuer Luxeon® LEDs höherer Leistung, großer (395 x 395 mm) Fresnel-Linsen aus Plastik, um soviel Licht wie möglich einzufangen, kombiniert mit schmalbandigen Digitalmoden und rauscharmen Empfängern. Unsere gesamte Arbeit hat nachts stattgefunden, da unsere Empfänger schon in der Dämmerung übersteuert werden. Für alle, die die Theorie weiter verfolgen oder ein eigenes System konstruieren möchten, wird dieser Artikel in den folgenden DUBUS-Ausgaben wie folgt fortgesetzt:

Teil 2, Theorie: deckt die Theorie von optischer Überhorizont-Kommunikation mittels Wolken ab, sowie die Theorie der Leistungseigenschaften von Sender und Empfänger. Die Theorie wird dann in Beziehung zu unseren Resultaten aus der Praxis gesetzt.

Teil 3 Sender: diskutiert die Optionen und liefert ausreichend Details für die Konstruktion einiger brauchbarer Optionen.

Teil 4 Empfänger: diskutiert die Optionen und liefert ausreichend Details für die Konstruktion einiger brauchbarer Optionen.

Hintergrund

Mike Groth, VK7MJ, und Chris Long, VK3AML⁹, haben als Pioniere für die quasioptische Kommunikation Luxeon-LED-Sender und rauscharme Empfänger mit Fresnel-Linsen verwendet. Am 19. Februar 2005 haben Mike und Chris eine Distanz von 167 km zwischen zwei Bergen in Tasmanien, Australien, überbrückt. Diese Technik wurde mit einem rauschärmeren Empfänger¹¹ von Clint Turner, KA7OEI, weitergeführt, der am 3. Oktober 2007 über 278km einen Entfernungsrekord über eine quasioptische Strecke zwischen zwei hohen Bergen in Utah, USA, aufstellte. Ende 2006 haben wir angefangen, Optionen für nicht-quasioptische Ausbreitung zu untersuchen und auch das Computerprogramm WSJT¹² von Joe Taylor, K1JT, als Mittel eingebaut, um die so viel schwächeren Signale aus dem Rauschen zu holen. Für unsere Ausbreitungs-Experimente mit mHz-(Millihertz)-Bandbreite haben wir das Audio-

⁹ Luxeon ist der Handelsname für eine LED mit verbesserter optischer Ausgangsleistung, die von der Firma Philips Lumileds Lighting hergestellt wird. <http://www.luxeon.com/>

¹⁰ Informationen über die Arbeit von VK7MJ und VK3AML, findet man im Web unter: http://modulatedlight.org/Modulated_Light_DX/MODULATED_LIGHT_DX.html

¹¹ Ein exzellenter Artikel über die Entwicklung rauscharmer Empfänger von KA7OEI findet man unter: http://modulatedlight.org/optical_comms/optical_rx1.html

¹² K1JT's WSJT Programm findet man unter: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

Analyse-Programm Spectrum Lab¹³ von Wolfgang Buescher, DL4YHF, verwendet, das eine automatische Erfassung von Daten wie Signal- und Rausch-Pegel und Frequenz ermöglicht.

Linsen

Linsen sind das Analogon für Antennen in der optischen Welt. Mit kleinen Linsen aus Plastik, wie sie in Taschenlampen verwendet werden, kann man optische Gewinne von etwa 24 dBi mit Öffnungswinkeln von etwa 10 Grad erreichen. Viel höhere Gewinne kann man mit Fresnel-Linsen aus Plastik erreichen, z.B. wie sie in Lesehilfen verwendet werden oder die größeren aus Overhead-Projektoren. Große 395 x 395 mm Fresnel-Linsen aus Plastik haben optische Gewinne von etwa 50 dBi, wobei der Öffnungswinkel aber bis auf weniger als 1 Grad abfällt, je nach Größe des Detektors.

Wolkenscatter

Bei unseren ersten Experimenten haben wir VK7MJs Transceiver mit schmalen Öffnungswinkeln (weniger als 1 Grad) verwendet. Diese Versuche wurden über eine Strecke von 1.2 km durchgeführt, wobei keine Sichtverbindung zwischen den Standorten von VK7MO und VK7TW herrschte. Wir fanden schnell heraus, dass es unmöglich ist, einen Empfänger und Sender mit jeweils kleinem Öffnungswinkel auf den selben Punkt einer Wolke auszurichten. Um das Problem der Ausrichtung abzumildern, ist es nötig, den Öffnungswinkel des Senders zu vergrößern. Aber das bedeutet verringerten optischen Gewinn und geringere Systemleistung.

Die geringere Leistung kann durch Verwendung von digitalen Moden für schwache Signale und durch mehr Lichtleistung ausgeglichen werden. Während wir mit Hochleistungsglühlampen aus Projektoren und mechanischer Modulation, Quecksilberdampflampen und verschiedenen Typen von LEDs experimentierten, gelang der große Durchbruch durch die Verwendung von Luxeon III LEDs mit kleinen Taschenlampenlinsen aus Plastik (10 Grad Öffnungswinkel) und die Erhöhung der Leistung durch ihr Zusammenschalten in Bänken.

Interessanterweise wird das Ausrichten auf die Wolken bei größeren Entfernungen einfacher. Dies liegt darin begründet, dass bei kürzeren Distanzen von wenigen km der Elevationswinkel zu den Wolken sehr unterschiedlich sein kann, bis zu 60 Grad oder mehr. Bei weiten Entfernungen, wie etwa 50km, begrenzt die Höhe der Wolke die möglichen Elevationswinkel auf 1 oder 2 Grad und ein enger vertikaler Öffnungswinkel kann den ganzen Bereich möglicher Elevationen abdecken, indem man einfach gerade über den Horizont ausrichtet.

Die Probleme der Ausrichtung außer Betracht gelassen, ist es am besten einen so kleinen Öffnungswinkel wie möglich zu verwenden, um den optischen Gewinn zu erhöhen und damit die Systemleistung. Wenn man beides, Ausrichtung und Systemleistung, zusammen betrachtet, sind wir der Ansicht, dass der optimale Öffnungswinkel des Senders etwa 10 Grad für Entfernungen bis 20km, 5 Grad für 20 bis 60km und 1 oder 2 Grad für über 60km ist. Über 60km wird der horizontale Öffnungswinkel zum limitierenden Faktor, weil es schwierig wird, zwei Systeme auf deutlich besser als 1 Grad auszurichten, wenn es keinen entfernten Punkt gibt, auf den man zielen kann. Auf der Empfängerseite wird die beste Leistung im allgemeinen dadurch erzielt, dass der Öffnungswinkel des Empfängers zu dem des Senders passt.

Eine zweite nützliche Sache bei weiteren Entfernungen ist, dass die Wolken dazu tendieren das Signal so auszumitteln, dass sogar mit einer minimalen Wolkendecke die Signale recht beständig in der Signalstärke sind. Bei kürzeren Entfernungen hingegen verschwindet das Signal oft ganz aufgrund der Lücken zwischen den Wolken.

Luxeon LED Sender

Wir verwenden den LED-Typ Lumiled Luxeon LXHL-LD3C, der maximale Lichtausgangsleistung bei 627 nm bzw. rotem Licht liefert. Dieses Model kommt mit einem kleinen Alu-Wärmeableiter, der Luxeon Star heisst, und es liefert etwa ein halbes Watt durchschnittliche Lichtausgangsleistung. Einige Firmen fertigen kleine Plastiklinsen und Halter passend für Luxeon LEDs. Wir verwenden die L2OP005 Linse und den L2OHS35 Halter von L2 Optics¹⁴.

Diese Linsen haben 20mm Durchmesser und etwa 85% Effektivität bei 10 Grad Öffnungswinkel bzw. 24 dBi optischem Gewinn. Wegen ihrer kleinen Größe und ihrem relativ niedrigen Preis ist es recht praktikabel, eine Anordnung von 60 Luxeon Dioden auszubauen, um die Leistung zu erhöhen. Siehe Titelbild. Wie oben erwähnt, ist es

¹³ DL4YHF's Spectrum Lab Program is available at: <http://freenet-homepage.de/dl4yhf/spectra1.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.l2optics.com/>

besser, kleinere Öffnungswinkel für größere Entfernungen zu verwenden. Dabei entsteht das Problem, dass größere Linsen zur Verkleinerung des Öffnungswinkels benötigt werden, und dann wird bei einer großen Stückzahl die Gesamtgröße der Anordnung ein Thema. Für die roten Luxeons wird ein maximaler Spitzenstrom von 2,2 A angegeben, sie haben einen Spannungsabfall von etwa 3.1 V und eine optische Effektivität von etwa 16%. Es wird eine Rechteckmodulation mittels Hochstrom-MOSFETs (IRF 1405) vorgenommen. Es ist viel einfacher hohe Ströme mit FET-Schaltern für Rechteckmodulation zu erzeugen, als einen linearen Modulator zu bauen. Der einzig zu beachtende Punkt bei diesem Ansatz ist, dass durch die Verwendung von Rechtecksignalen Audio-Harmonische erzeugt werden, was aber kein Problem bei JT65A ist, da die Harmonischen des tiefsten Tones ausreichend hoch über dem höchsten Grundton liegen. Da JT65A Sinuswellen am Ausgang liefert, ist es notwendig, diese in Rechteckwellen umzuwandeln, um die MOSFETs steuern zu können.

Etwas für umsonst

Beim Testen der Anordnung der 60 Luxeons haben wir die Leistung mit einer Bank von 30 Stück alleine mit der von 60 Stück, also einer Leistungsverdoppelung, verglichen. Wir waren überrascht zu beobachten, dass die Verdoppelung der Leistung das Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis um 6 dB verbesserte. Mit dem HF-Hintergrund erschien es uns, als ob wir etwas umsonst dazu bekämen und wir nannten es das „Etwas-umsonst-Gesetz“. Aber es gibt einen guten Grund dafür. Immer wenn man die Leistung des Senders verdoppelt, verdoppelt man die Zahl der Photonen am Detektor. Am Detektor setzt jedes Photon (100% Effektivität vorausgesetzt) ein Elektron frei. Die Elektronen erzeugen einen proportionalen Strom im Lastwiderstand der Photodiode. Also, wenn man die Sendeleistung verdoppelt, verdoppelt man auch die Spannung über dem Lastwiderstand. Mit $P = V^2/R$ erhält man damit die vierfache Signalleistung oder 6dB Verbesserung im Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis. Entsprechend vergrößert unsere Anordnung mit 60 LEDs das Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis um $20 \cdot \text{LOG}_{10}(60)$ oder 35 dB gegenüber einer einzelnen LED. Die Kehrseite ist aber, dass, wenn man die empfangenen Photonen am Detektor um die Hälfte verringert, sagen wir dadurch, dass wir über eine längere Entfernung arbeiten wollen, dann das Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis um 6 dB schlechter wird. Unglücklicherweise ist es im allgemeinen der Fall, dass wir als Funkamateure versuchen mit immer schwächeren Signalen etwas arbeiten zu wollen und deshalb das „Etwas-umsonst-Gesetz“ für uns sozusagen genau umgekehrt arbeitet.

Verbesserung der Empfängerleistung

Wenn man Photodioden verwendet, wird die Empfängerleistung generell durch den Vorverstärker begrenzt. Clint Turners, KA7OEI, Webseite¹⁵ gibt einen hervorragenden Überblick über die Entwicklung beim Design der Vorverstärker, was zu seinem bedeutend verbesserten Empfänger führt. Der kritische Punkt ist, dass die Leistung eines Vorverstärkers beim Signal-Rauschverhältnis primär eine Funktion des Lastwiderstands über der Photodiode ist: Je höher der Widerstand, desto besser. Das liegt daran, dass der selbe Photodiodenstrom eine größere Spannung erzeugt nach $V = IR$. Während wir Lastwiderstände von 10 bis hunderten von MegOhm mit FETs erreichen können, ist bei Photodioden das Problem, dass bei solch hohen Werten des Lastwiderstands die geringe Kapazität (ein paar Picofarad) der Photodiode im benötigten Audioband ein Abrutschen der Frequenz verursacht. Clint's Lösung, (die in der Literatur für Glasfaser-Kommunikationstechnik sehr bekannt ist) besteht darin, das Signal durch einen OP-Amp-Differentiator zu führen, um den Frequenzgang wiederherzustellen. Wir haben einen von Clints Vorverstärkern gebaut und waren erfreut, eine Verbesserung von etwa 14 dB zu erreichen.

Dann haben wir geschaut, ob wir weitere Verbesserungen erreichen könnten durch Verwendung von vielen Photodioden hinter derselben Fresnel-Linse mit separaten KA7OEI-Vorverstärkern und Aufsummieren der Ausgänge. Unser Gedanke war, dass wir den Strom mit jeder Verdoppelung der Photodioden (6 dB Leistungserhöhung) verdoppeln könnten, aber, da das Rauschen, das mit separaten Vorverstärkern erzeugt wird, nicht kohärent ist, sollten es nur 3 dB Zuwachs sein. Folglich sollte mit multiplen (N) Photodioden die Verbesserung $10 \cdot \text{LOG}_{10}(N)$ sein. Für 35 Photodioden sollte dies 15.4 dB sein. In der Praxis haben wir für 35 Photodioden 14 dB Verbesserung erhalten (Abb. 1).

Abb. 1: Empfänger mit 35 Photodioden, basierend auf der Schaltung von KA7OEI. Die 36. Photodiode dient als Referenz.

¹⁵ http://modulatedlight.org/optical_comms/optical_rx1.html

Erhöhung der Entfernung

Mit der verbesserten Empfängerleistung haben wir dann daran gedacht, die Distanz bis zum QTH von Ken, VK7DY, 27km entfernt auszudehnen. Kens Haus liegt in einem Tal mit Hügeln dazwischen, die bis zu 350m hoch sind. Die Signale waren sofort da, mit bis zu -5dB auf der WSJT-Skala bei guten Wolkenbedingungen, schwache Signale gab es bei Klarluft-Scatter. Bei guten Bedingungen war Sprachübertragung möglich bei etwa S2 unter Verwendung von Pulsmodulation des Luxeon-60-Senders. Ken hat dann den Empfänger portabel aufgebaut und während einiger Nächte die Distanz bis 66km ausgedehnt. In JT65A lag der Signalpegel dann bei -10 dB auf der WSJT-Skala. Mit immer noch 18 dB Reserve bei JT65A wollten wir nun trotzdem erstmal mehr über die Ausbreitungsbedingungen verstehen lernen, die für noch weitere Entfernungen günstig sind, bevor wir zu viel Zeit in dunklen Nächten verschwenden würden.

Verstehen der Wetterbedingungen

Wir dachten, dass

- Signale mit wachsender Wolkenbedeckung stärker werden,
- Signale eventuell absorbiert werden, wenn die Feuchtigkeit hoch ist,
- Signale besser werden, wenn die Wolkenhöhe ansteigt, weil dann mehr Energie durch das Fenster zwischen Erdoberfläche und Wolken gelangen kann.

Zum Glück sind von unserem örtlichen Flughafen (Hobart), der etwa 7 km vom Mittelpunkt des Ausbreitungspfad entfernt ist, Wetterdaten verfügbar. Diese gibt es auf der Webseite der Universität von Wyoming, USA¹⁶. Daten vom Signalpegel einer einzelnen LED wurden über einen Zeitraum von 2 Monaten mittels des Programms Spectrum Lab bei 1 mHz Bandbreite gesammelt und mit den unten angegebenen Wetterdaten verglichen.

Abb. 2: Variation des Signal-Rausch-Verhältnisses in Relation zur relativen Feuchte über einen 27-km-Pfad von VK7MO to VK7DY

Abb. 3: Variation des Signal-Rausch-Verhältnisses in Relation zum Bedeckungsgrad über einen 27-km-Pfad von VK7MO to VK7DY

Abb. 4: Variation des Signal-Rausch-Verhältnisses in Relation zur Wolkenhöhe über einen 27-km-Pfad von VK7MO to VK7DY

Zu unserer Überraschung traten die besten Signalpegel bei etwa 50% Bedeckungsgrad und bei ungefähr 70% relativer Luftfeuchtigkeit auf. Wenigstens verbesserten sich die Signale mit steigender Wolkenhöhe. Wir glauben, dass die Ursache für Ergebnisse bei der Luftfeuchtigkeit durch einen sekundären Effekt erklärbar sind: Niedrige relative Feuchte tritt oft auf, wenn der Himmel wolkenlos ist. Folglich ist nichts vorhanden, woran gescattert werden kann (außer klarer Luft mit Feinstaub). Hohe relative Feuchte ist oft verbunden mit niedrigen Wolken, die verhindern, dass die Signale über die Hügel gelangen. Für den Fall des Bedeckungsgrads gibt es einen ähnlichen Effekt bei 100% Bedeckungsgrad, weil der oft auftritt, wenn die Wolken niedrig sind und diese die Signale von der Übertragung über die Hügel abschneiden. Wie in Abb. 3 gezeigt ist die Schlüsselvariable die Wolkenhöhe. Je höher sie ist, desto besser, weil dies ermöglicht, dass mehr Energie durch die Lücke zwischen den dazwischenliegenden Hügeln und den Wolken übertragen werden kann.

Rotes oder blaues Licht

Wenn Licht durch Luft tritt, wird es in andere Richtungen gestreut als in die erwünschte und damit verloren. Blaues Licht wird leichter gestreut als rotes. Das ist der Grund, weshalb der Himmel blau aussieht. Als Faustregel gilt, dass in klarer Luft rotes Licht um etwa 0.1 dB/km gedämpft wird und blaues Licht etwa 0.2dB/km. Die Anwendung des „Etwas-umsonst-Gesetzes“ bedeutet hier dann, dass das Signal-Rauschverhältnis am Empfänger bei rotem Licht um 0.2 dB/km abfällt und bei blauem Licht um 0.4 dB/km. Folglich ist für jeden km das Signal-Rauschverhältnis bei blauem Licht um 0.2 dB schlechter als bei rotem, was etwa 20 dB bei einer Distanz von 100km sind. Unsere Versuche mit kleinen roten und blauen LED-Sendern aus jeweils 4 Stück LEDs zeigten, dass das rote Signal etwa 20 dB über dem Rauschen lag, während das blaue Signal kaum detektierbar war. Damit wurde also die o.a. Größenordnung der Verluste bestätigt. Für lange Distanzen ist also rotes Licht vorzuziehen.

¹⁶ <http://weather.uwyo.edu>

Externes Rauschen

Wenn man das Licht an den Wolken betrachtet, sogar bei einer kleinen Stadt wie Hobart (260.000 Einwohner), fragt man sich, wie es möglich ist, dass LEDs da überhaupt mithalten können. Der Grund dafür ist, dass die Lichter der Stadt zum Glück nicht im Audibereich, den wir benutzen, moduliert sind. Aber sie produzieren Breitbandrauschen (auch Schrotrauschen genannt) aufgrund der Tatsache, dass bei Lichtfrequenzen eine stetige Menge an Licht aus einzelnen Photonen besteht und als zufälliger Burst oder Quantum erscheint. Das bedeutet, dass sogar konstantes Licht (so wie aus einer DC-Quelle) Seitenbänder mit weißem Rauschen über das gesamte Audiospektrum erzeugt. Zum Glück liegen diese ausreichend unterhalb der Grundwelle und mittels sehr kleiner Bandbreiten können wir das Rauschen dann noch weiter reduzieren. Dennoch, wenn wir unsere Empfängerleistung weiter verbessern, kommen wir an den Punkt, wo das externe Rauschen der limitierende Faktor wird.

Eine interessante Eigenschaft des Schrotrauschens ist, dass es nicht in der Weise ansteigt, wie man es erwarten würde. Wenn man z.B. die Fläche der Empfängerlinse verdoppelt, nimmt man die doppelte optische Signalleistung auf, die sich in die vierfache elektrische Signalleistung umsetzt, aufgrund des „Etwas-umonst-Gesetzes“. Aber obwohl man auch das doppelte optische Rauschen empfängt, verdoppelt sich das Schrotrauschen nur und vervierfacht sich nicht, wie das Nutzsignal. Diese Eigenschaft des Schrotrauschens bedeutet, dass das Vergrößern der Öffnung des Empfängers ein zur Fläche der Öffnung proportional verbessertes Signal-Rausch-Verhältnis liefert.

Die meisten Lichtquellen einer Stadt werden von Wechselstrom gespeist (in unserem Fall 50 Hz) und folglich gibt es signifikante Rauschspitzen bei 50 Hz, 100 Hz und weiteren Harmonischen. Deshalb ist es notwendig, niedrige Frequenzen im Empfänger herauszufiltern, bevor sie verstärkt werden und weitere Harmonische generieren. Zum Glück sind die Harmonischen gut unterdrückt, bevor sie die Tonfrequenzen von JT65A bei 1270 Hz erreichen.

Internes Rauschen

Unser gegenwärtiges RX-System aus 35 Photodioden wird intern durch das Vorverstärker-Rauschen begrenzt. Indem unsere sichtbare Empfangsfläche relativ groß ist (etwa 5 Grad Öffnungswinkel), wird viel davon durch den Platz zwischen den Photodioden verschwendet. Eine Möglichkeit wäre, mehr Photodioden auf dem selben Platz unterzubringen. Potentiell könnten wir so 3 bis 6 dB Verbesserung erhalten. Andere Detektoren wie Photo-Multiplier-Röhren und Avalanche-Photodioden weisen Verstärkung auf, die helfen kann, das Vorverstärkerrauschen zu überwinden. Das wird weiter unten diskutiert.

Es ist sinnvoll einen Dunkel-Test durchzuführen, um festzustellen wie nahe wir an der externen Rauschbegrenzung liegen. Wir messen den Rauschpegel auf die Wolken zielend und bedecken dann die Linse und notieren den Unterschied. Für unseren Empfänger mit 35 Photodioden war die Absenkung selten mehr als 1 dB. So haben wir immer noch einen Weg vor uns, um über der Grenze des internen Rauschens zu liegen.

Avalanche Photodioden

Avalanche Photo Dioden (APD) haben eine gute Quanten-Effektivität (etwa 80%) und brauchbare Verstärkung (etwa 50), sind aber teuer mit 600 USD für mittlere Größen wie 5mm Durchmesser und 1200 USD für 10-qmm-Typen. Selbst bei 10 qmm ist der Öffnungswinkel mit einer typischen großen Fresnel-Linse nur 1.6 Grad, so dass viel des zur Verfügung stehenden Lichts nicht aufgenommen wird. Außerdem scheint die Leistung durch das interne Rauschen der APD bei dunklen Nächten begrenzt zu werden. Unsere Tests bei 27km ergaben, dass bei rotem Licht die 5mm-APD etwa 10 dB Verbesserung der Systemleistung ergibt verglichen mit dem 35-Photodioden-Empfänger. Eine 10-qmm-APD bringt nochmals 7 dB. Der 10-qmm-APD-Empfänger (Abb. 5) hat über 118km Entfernung WSJT-Signalpegel von -9 dB erzeugt.

Photo-Multiplier-Röhren

Photo-Multiplier-Röhren (PMT) sind mit größeren Photokathodenflächen (typisch 20 bis 40mm Durchmesser), und damit brauchbarerem Sichtfeld, verfügbar. Sie weisen auch sehr hohe interne Verstärkung (eine Million oder mehr) auf, um das Vorverstärkerrauschen zu beseitigen, und sie haben sehr niedriges internes Rauschen. Der Nachteil der PMTs ist, dass sie relativ niedrige Quanten-Effektivität haben, besonders am roten Ende des Spektrums, je nach Aufbau der Photokathode. Neu sind sie sehr teuer, bei eBay gibt es sie aber zu annehmbaren Preisen. Wegen ihrer schlechten Quanten-Effektivität am roten Ende des Spektrums könnten PMTs mit APDs bei längeren Entfernungen nicht konkurrenzfähig sein, wo rotes Licht zu bevorzugen ist. Dennoch, die sehr hohen Verstärkungen und das

niedrige interne Rauschen der PMT bieten die Möglichkeit, optische Filter zu verwenden, um das externe Rauschen zu reduzieren und ihre großen Flächen können gute Sichtfelder ermöglichen. Folglich sind hier weitere Untersuchungen geplant.

Abb. 5, links: 10 qmm APD Empfänger mit 395 x 395 mm Fresnel-Linse. Rechts: Rückansicht mit Anordnung für die Fokus-Justierung, Festspannvorrichtung, hölzerner Arbeitsfläche und Zielfernrohr. Eine einstellbare, schwarze Lautsprecherumrahmung aus Kunststoff ermöglicht die Justierung des Fokus, ohne dass von außen Licht eintreten kann.

Beispiele für Leistungsdaten

Sender	Empfänger	QRB	S/N
1 x LED Lampen-Linse	35 Photodioden	27 km	-23 dB WSJT-Skala
1 x LED Fresnel-Linse*	1 Photodiode	27 km	-20 dB WSJT-Skala
1 x LED Fresnel-Linse*	35 Photodioden	27 km	-9 dB WSJT-Skala
60 x LED Lampen-Linsen	35 Photodioden	66 km	-10 dB WSJT-Skala
60 x LED Lampen-Linsen	10 mm APD	118 km	-9 dB WSJT-Skala
60 x LED Lampen-Linsen	10 mm APD	118 km	40 dB (20 mHz Bandbreite)
4 x rote LED Lampen-Linsen	10 mm APD	118 km	20 dB (2 mHz Bandbreite)
4 x blaue LED Lampen-Linsen	10 mm APD	118 km	0 - 5dB (2 mHz Bandbreite)

* Kleine Ausführung einer Fresnellinse (Lesehilfe) mit 340mm Fokusslänge vor 20-mm Taschenlampenlinsen, resultierend in etwa 3.5mm Öffnungswinkel

Beständigkeit und Variation der Signale

Die Signale sind überraschend beständig über unseren 27-km-Pfad aufgrund des mittelnden Effektes von auch nur einer minimalen Wolkendecke. Es gab wahrscheinlich weniger als 5% der Nächte, bei denen wir überhaupt kein Signal hatten. Dies lag an niedrigen Wolken oder Nebel, so dass die Signale nicht über die dazwischenliegenden Hügel gelangen konnten oder an Verlusten aufgrund starker Regenfälle oder in einem Fall an starker Rauchentwicklung durch einen Waldbrand.

Die Kurve in Abb. 6 zeigt die typische Schwankung des Signalpegels über unsere 27-km-Teststrecke über den Zeitraum einer Woche. Die Signale kommen nur nachts aus dem Rauschen, sind dann aber deutlich über der Rauschgrenze. Verwendet wurde hier eine einzelne LED mit 20mm-Taschenlampenlinse, 10-qmm-APD-Empfänger und 1 mHz Bandbreite.

Abb. 6: Typische Schwankung des Signal über eine Woche über die 27km-Teststrecke

Sicherheit des Luftverkehrs

In Australien regeln Gesetze die Grenzen für den Einfluß von hellen Lichtquellen auf den Luftverkehr und speziell das Zielen auf Flugzeuge mit Lasern. Während die Intensitäten unserer LEDs mit großem Öffnungswinkel nicht diejenigen von Lasern erreichen, ist es trotzdem möglich, dass die Grenzwerte überschritten werden, wenn man in der Nähe eines Flughafens ist. Die australische Luftsicherheitsbehörde hat verschiedene Grenzwerte festgelegt, siehe unten, die eingehalten werden müssen. Es kann angeordnet werden, dass helle Lichtquellen ausgeschaltet werden müssen, andernfalls drohen Strafen.

1. Landebahnbereich: 50 nW/qcm
2. 18.5 km von Flughafen: 5 Mikrowatt/qcm
3. über 18.5 km: 100 Mikrowatt/qcm

Unsere gegenwärtigen Versuche liegen gerade innerhalb der 18.5-km-Zone, so dass für uns Stufe 2 gilt. Das bedeutet, dass wir mit unserer Anordnung von 60 LEDs Betrieb vermeiden müssen, wenn sich innerhalb von 150m ein Flugzeug befindet. Obwohl es unwahrscheinlich ist, dass ein Flugzeug uns jemals so nahe kommt, beobachten wir

den Luftverkehr und schalten den Sender mit den 60 Dioden ab, wenn ein Flugzeug in der Strahlrichtung erscheint. Die einzelne LED, die wir für die Ausbreitungsversuche verwenden, hat so niedrige Leistung, dass es sicher genug ist, wenn wir sie die ganze Nacht unbemannt laufen lassen.

Sicherheitshinweise & Vorsichtsmaßnahmen

Sicherheitsmaßnahmen sind für Teile der Ausrüstung nötig, die hier für die Experimente verwendet werden. Fresnel-Linsen sollten abgedeckt sein, wenn sie nicht verwendet werden. Besonders bevor die Sonne morgens aufgeht! Diese Linsen haben das Potential das Sonnenlicht auf einen Punkt von 1mm Größe zu fokussieren und können so leicht das um die Elektronik befindliche Holzgehäuse in Brand setzen. Die fokussierte Energie kann auch die Dioden und Röhren von Sender und Empfänger beschädigen. Man sollte sich zur Regel machen, die Linsen immer abzudecken, wenn sie nicht in Benutzung sind, auch dann wenn sie nur gelagert werden.

PMTs und APDs benötigen Hochspannung von bis zu mehreren KV. Deshalb müssen passende Isolierung und Verbinder benutzt werden, um die Gefahr eines Stromschlags zu vermeiden, gerade wo diese Geräte ja im Dunklen benutzt werden.

PMTs haben Verstärkung in Größenordnungen von Millionen und es ist sehr leicht diese unempfindlich zu machen und sogar dauerhaft zu beschädigen, in dem man sie zu viel Licht aussetzt. Zu viel Licht verursacht eine exzessive Produktion von Elektronen in der Röhre und kann dadurch die chemische Beschichtung der letzten Dynoden in der Röhre ablösen. Photo-Kathoden sollten immer abgedeckt sein, wenn sie nicht in Betrieb sind, weil die Erzeugung von Photoelektronen weiter läuft, sogar wenn keine Spannung an der Röhre anliegt und starke Aufladungen verursachen eine rauschende Röhre. Das kann geheilt werden durch Anlegen von Spannung während die Röhre 1 oder 2 Tage im Dunklen liegt. Die generelle Regel sollte sein, die Röhre zu bedecken, wenn sie nicht verwendet bzw. gelagert wird.

Wie oben beim Punkt der Sicherheit für den Flugverkehr ausgeführt, ist dauernde Aufmerksamkeit nötig, wenn man welche Form von Licht auch immer in den Himmel abstrahlt. Man muss die Intensität und Öffnungswinkel seines Lichtstrahls und die geographischen Verhältnisse kennen und wissen, wie sich diese mit den Sicherheitsbestimmungen für den Luftverkehr vertragen. Sobald eine geringe Möglichkeit besteht, dass ein Flugzeug durch oder nahe an den Strahl kommt, sollte man abschalten.

Wenn man Sender mit weiten Öffnungswinkeln verwendet, sollte man eventuell Abschirmungen benutzen, um die Abstrahlung von Licht in unbeabsichtigte Richtungen zu reduzieren. Das ist gerade bedeutend an Orten, wo eine nachbarschaftliche Beziehung zwischen Funkamateuren und der Gemeinschaft wichtig ist.

Danksagung

Wir möchten uns bei Paul Edwards, VK7ZAS, Mike Groth, VK7MJ, Clint Turner, KA7OEI, Yves Garnier, F1AVY und Chris Long, VK3AML, für die Hilfe bedanken. Alle haben großzügig Rat und Beistand gegeben, Mike Groth auch Testgeräte und Transceiver.

Fazit

- 118 km wurden in JT65A mit 18 dB Reserve demonstriert
- Ausbreitungsversuche über 27 km laufen routinemäßig mit einer einzelnen LED
- Die Verwendung von Luxeon LEDs, relativ weiten Öffnungswinkeln, rauscharmen Empfängern und schmalbandigen, digitalen Modes sind der Schlüssel für diesen Erfolg.

Hinweis: Teil 2 dieses Artikels folgt in der nächsten Ausgabe 1/2009.

1 to 3 GHz PLL Frequency Synthesizer

by Daniel Uppström, SM6VFZ

Abstract

Described in this article is a frequency synthesizer that can form an LO for microwave transverters or beacon needs between 1 and 3 GHz. By using the latest PLL-chips and a high phase comparator frequency, a phase-noise floor at better than -100 dBc/Hz can be realized at 1152 MHz.

Background

Fundamental for all experimenting at UHF and microwave frequencies is the availability of a local oscillator (LO) solution. The common approach to generate an LO-signal for amateur radio microwave transverters and beacons has for many years been to rely on a crystal oscillator working at around 100 MHz, followed by a chain of multiplier stages. This approach requires no digital circuitry and has the possibility to give a very low phase-noise. On the other hand it requires an expensive quartz crystal, often custom made. Furthermore it occupies a lot of board space, mainly because of the many filters needed in the chain. If these filters are too small and not steep enough there will always be some wrong order harmonics present in the output. In addition, the temperature stability of the crystal oscillator is often not good enough in itself, requiring heating and thermal insulation. Lately it has also become popular to lock the crystal oscillator to an external OCXO or GPS signal.

Instead of using multipliers one has the ability to lock a VCO running directly at the output frequency. This approach demands little board space and produces no sub harmonics or mixing products in the output. Furthermore, it has the advantage that the temperature stability is directly defined by the reference oscillator. The main drawback is that due to non-ideal frequency dividers and phase comparators it suffers in general more phase-noise than the solution with crystal oscillator and multipliers.

PLL theory

The output frequency of a PLL-synthesizer can be written as $F = N F_{\text{comp}}$, where N is the division ratio and F_{comp} is the phase comparator frequency. When locked, the PLL attenuates VCO-noise close to the carrier, below an offset frequency known as the loop bandwidth. The phase-noise within the loop bandwidth, can be approximated to

$$PN = P_0 + 20 \log N + 10 \log F_{\text{comp}},$$

where P_0 is the normalised phase-noise floor of the dividers and phase comparator (specified by some manufacturers of PLL chips). From this equation it can be seen that, for a given, fixed output frequency, it is better to have a lower division ratio than a low comparator frequency. Naturally there are practical limitations in how high the comparator frequency can be. Many PLL chips can't handle more than some MHz. Fortunately there is now a line of chips from Analog Devices with few limitations, that lets a common 10, 12, 12.8 or 14.4 MHz (or higher) TCXO/OCXO frequency be directly fed to the phase comparator. The ADF4106 has a specified P_0 of -219 dBc/Hz. Thus, if used with a 14.4 MHz reference and a division ratio of 80, to generate the 1152 MHz needed for 23 cm transverters, a phase-noise floor at -109 dBc/Hz should be theoretically possible. With a higher PFD-frequency the noise floor could even drop a few more dB. To make the best use of such a low PLL-noise, the loop bandwidth could be designed to be in the order of several hundred kHz when used with a simple lumped element VCO. Otherwise the phase-noise of the VCO itself will be visible as noise peaks above the loop bandwidth. The value of the loop bandwidth depends on the divider value N , the charge pump current delivered by the phase comparator output, the slope of the VCO tuning function and finally the values for the components in the loop filter. The loop response must also be calculated to give a decent phase margin and comparator frequency attenuation. For a more systematical treatment of the theory behind phase locked loops there are many books and articles available in the literature.

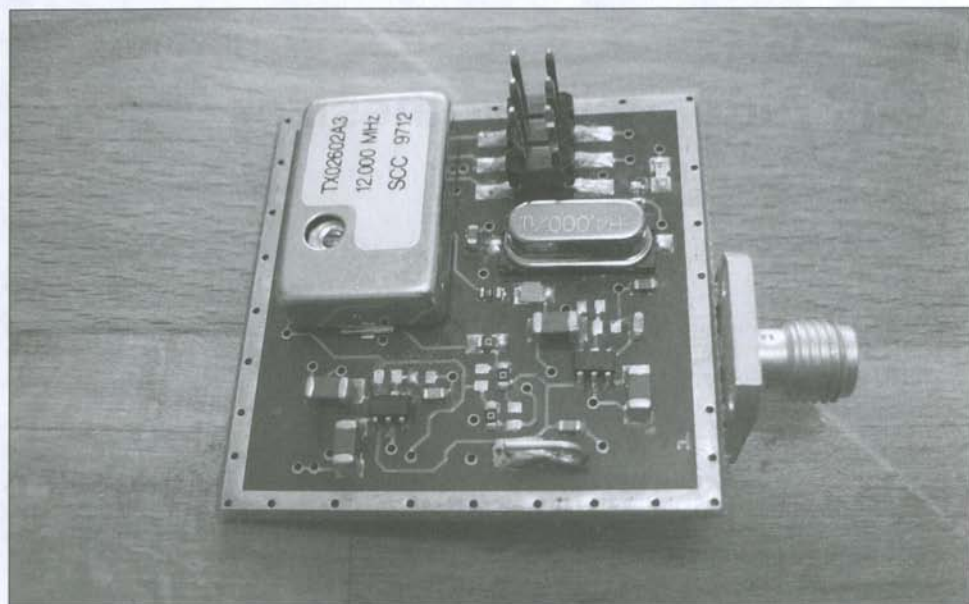


Fig. 1 1 to 3 GHz PLL Frequency Synthesizer Board

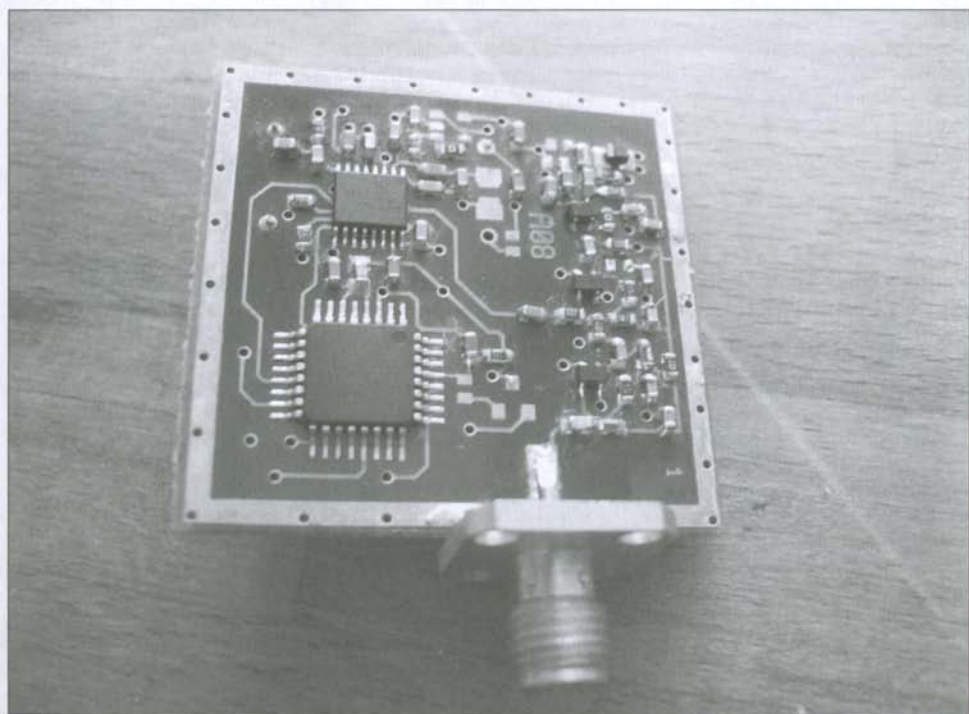


Fig. 2 1 to 3 GHz PLL Frequency Synthesizer Board

The design

A four-layer FR4-board measuring 35 x 35 mm was designed to contain everything needed to form a stand-alone synthesizer. A VCO built around a BFP405 oscillates at the desired frequency region. Its output is buffered in another BFP405 and fed to the PLL chip, which generates a voltage that, after passing through the loop filter, tunes the VCO to the desired frequency. An AVR-microcontroller loads the PLL chip with the appropriate data. On the board there is also space for a standard DIL-packaged TCXO. Finally the output frequency is amplified in a BFP420 to some 7-10 dBm at the output. The PLL chip is ideally an ADF4106BRU [1], but the same pads also fit the pin-compatible LMX2306/16/26 [2].

VCO

The frequency of the VCO is set by a hyper-abrupt varactor diode together with some lumped elements. At 2 GHz and beyond, stray reactance in components and the tracks is very influential and the inductor can simply be replaced by a 0R jumper. The sum of inductance in components and tracks will then be just enough. The oscillator has a rather large tuning bandwidth since the Q value of the resonator is low. This also means that the inherent phase-noise will be high. But, as stated above, the final phase-noise will be set to a large extent by the PLL-chip and the loop properties.

The maximum frequency of the VCO is limited to around 3 GHz. In this range, because of inductance in components and PCB tracks, the value of the series capacitor needs to be decreased towards 1 pF and then the 2-6 pF of the varactor doesn't contribute much to the overall capacitance.

Below 2 GHz one has more degrees of freedom when it comes to the feedback capacitors and the resonator network, making it possible to optimise for lower phase-noise [3].

In the low end it is possible to go below 1 GHz by increasing the feedback capacitances, but if done without care there will easily be parasitic oscillations at 5-6 GHz. At these frequencies capacitors look like inductors and inductors like capacitors, so it is possible to get a 5 GHz resonance in a circuit that is designed to resonate at 500 MHz. The BFP405 is not a very good choice for a sub-GHz oscillator. There are other devices with gain that rolls off fast enough above one GHz to make parasitic oscillations unlikely.

Digital

The program for the AVR-controller was written in C and is to be loaded with a cheap in-circuit programmer adapter. The chosen device, ATmega88, has a long list of features and is clearly capable of doing much more than loading a tuning word into a PLL-chip. In a beacon application it could easily do code generation for instance. A somewhat more advanced idea is to implement a PID-regulator for regulation of the TCXO temperature.

Further Comments

As stated earlier, the LMX23x6 series of PLL chips from National are pin-compatible with the ADF4106BRU, but these devices are a little older and has a slightly higher phase-noise floor. In addition they suffer some annoying limitations. The reference divider value must be at 3 or higher. There is also a condition about the relation between the divider values for the main and swallow counter that in some cases can't be met at low reference divider values. These drawbacks together result in a phase-noise that can be around 15 dB higher than what can be achieved with the ADF4106. But, it should be pointed out, that for many applications this is not a problem.

High-resolution pictures, software, comments etc. will be available at www.eta.chalmers.se/~upda.

References

[1] ADF4106 datasheet

[2] LMX2326 datasheet

[3] Ulrich L Rohde, "A New Efficient Method of Designing Low Noise Microwave Oscillators", available in the articles archive at <http://www.synergymwave.com>

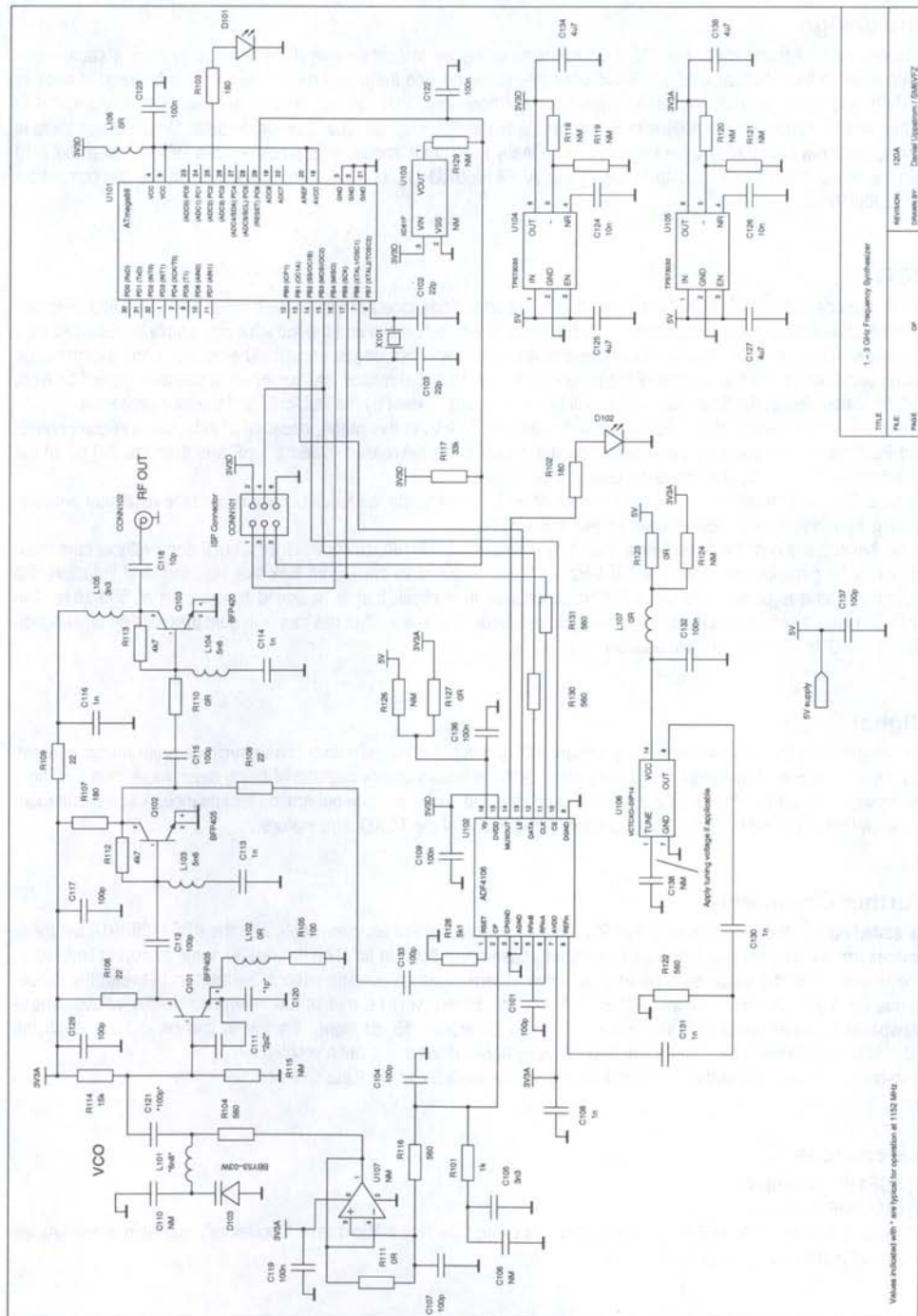
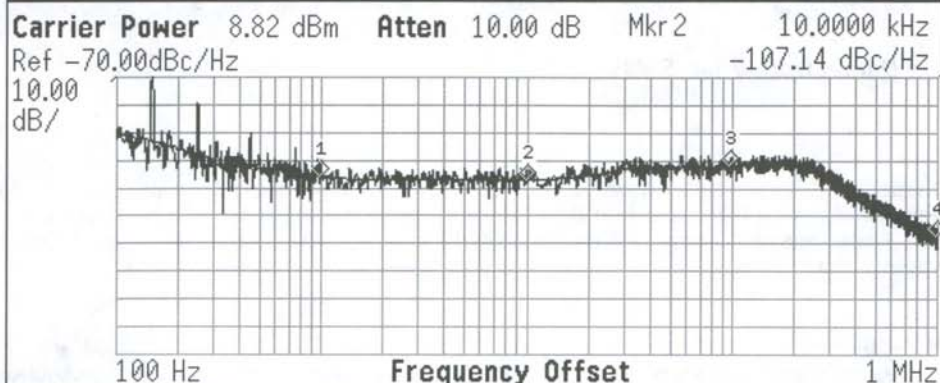


Fig. 3 Circuit diagram - Schaltbild

Carrier Freq 1.152 GHz

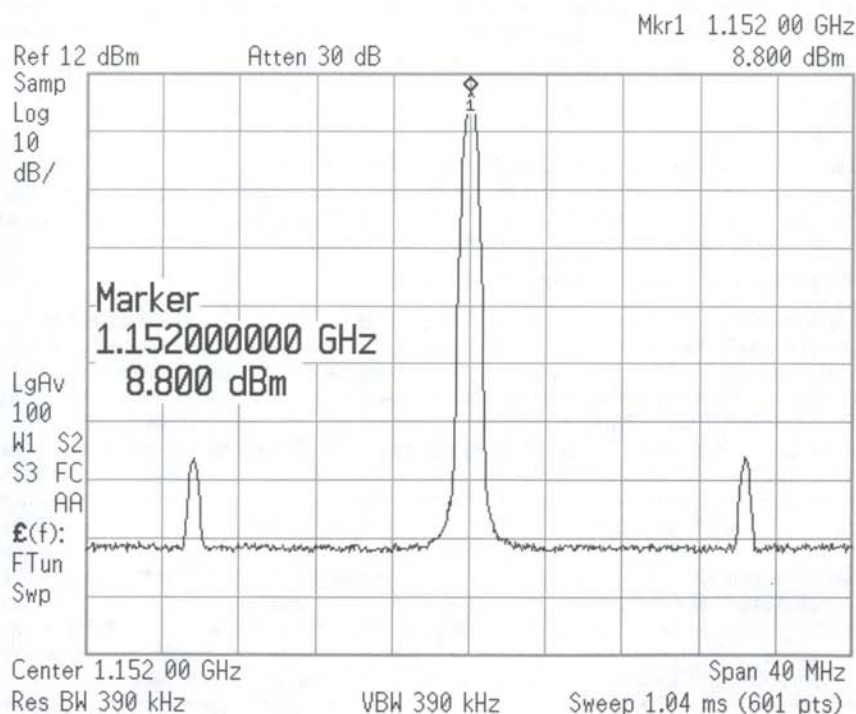


Marker	Type	X Axis	Value
1	Spot Freq	1 kHz	-105.71 dBc/Hz
2	Spot Freq	10 kHz	-107.14 dBc/Hz
3	Spot Freq	100 kHz	-101.79 dBc/Hz
4	Spot Freq	1 MHz	-127.03 dBc/Hz

Fig. 4 (Phase noise, top)

Measured performance at 1152 MHz with 14.4 MHz reference

Fig. 5 (40 MHz sweep, bottom)



PLL-Synthesizer für 1 bis 3 GHz

von Daniel Uppström, SM6VFZ

Einleitung

In diesem Artikel wird ein Frequenz-Synthesizer beschrieben, der als LO für Mikrowellen-Transverter oder für Baken-Zwecke zwischen 1 und 3 GHz dienen kann. Durch Verwendung der neuesten integrierten PLL-Schaltkreise und einer hohen Phasenkomparatorfrequenz kann ein Phasengrundrauschen von besser als -100 dBc/Hz bei 1152 MHz realisiert werden.

Hintergrund

Grundlegende Voraussetzung für alles Experimentieren auf UHF und den Mikrowellenfrequenzen ist die Verfügbarkeit einer Lösung für den LO. Der übliche Weg bei Amateur-Mikrowellentransvertern und Baken ein LO-Signal zu erzeugen war für viele Jahre ein Quarzoszillator, der bei etwa 100 MHz arbeitet, dem eine Kette von Vervielfacher-Stufen folgt. Dieser Ansatz erfordert keine digitale Schaltung und ermöglicht sehr niedriges Phasenrauschen. Andererseits wird ein teurer Quarz benötigt, der oft extra angefertigt werden muss. Außerdem wird eine Menge Platz auf der Platine benötigt, weil viele Filter in dieser Kette nötig sind. Wenn diese Filter zu klein und nicht gut genug sind, werden immer am Ausgang einige unerwünschte Harmonische anliegen. Darüberhinaus ist die Temperaturstabilität des Quarzoszillators selbst oft nicht gut genug, so dass eine Heizung und thermische Isolation benötigt werden. In letzter Zeit wurde es auch populär, den Quarzoszillator an ein externes OCXO- oder GPS-Signal zu koppeln.

Anstatt Vervielfacher zu verwenden, hat man auch die Möglichkeit ein VCO zu rasten, der direkt auf der Ausgangsfrequenz läuft. Dieser Weg benötigt wenig Platz und produziert keine Subharmonischen oder Mischprodukte am Ausgang. Außerdem hat er den Vorteil, dass die Temperaturstabilität direkt durch den Referenzoszillator bestimmt wird. Der größte Nachteil ist, dass aufgrund nicht idealer Frequenzteiler und Phasenkomparatoren im Allgemeinen mehr Phasenrauschen vorhanden ist, als bei der Lösung mit dem Quarzoszillator und Vervielfachern.

PLL-Theorie

Die Ausgangsfrequenz eines PLL-Synthesizers kann beschrieben werden als $F = N F_{\text{comp}}$, mit N für das Teilungsverhältnis und F_{comp} für die Phasenkomparatorfrequenz. Wenn eingerastet, schwächt die PLL das VCO-Rauschen nahe am Träger ab, unterhalb einer Offset-Frequenz, bekannt als Loop-Bandbreite. Das Phasenrauschen innerhalb der Loop-Bandbreite kann näherungsweise beschrieben werden als

$$PN = P_0 + 20 \log N + 10 \log F_{\text{comp}},$$

mit P_0 als normiertem Phasengrundrauschen der Teiler und des Phasenkomparators (wird von einigen PLL-Chip-Herstellern spezifiziert). Aus der Gleichung kann man ersehen, dass es für eine gegebene, feste Ausgangsfrequenz besser ist, ein niedrigeres Teilungsverhältnis zu haben als eine niedrige Komparatorfrequenz. Natürlich gibt es Begrenzungen in der Praxis für die maximale Höhe der Komparatorfrequenz. Viele PLL-Bausteine können nicht mit mehr als ein paar MHz arbeiten. Glücklicherweise gibt es nun eine Serie von Chips von Analog Devices mit geringen Einschränkungen, die eine übliche TXCO/OXCO-Frequenz von 10, 12, 12,8 oder 14,4 MHz (oder höher) direkt auf den Phasenkomparator führen. Der ADF4106 hat einen spezifizierten P_0 von -219 dBc/Hz . Folglich ist, bei Verwendung einer 14,4-MHz-Referenz und einem Teilungsverhältnis von 80, um die 1152 MHz für 23cm-Transverter zu erzeugen, ein Phasengrundrauschen von -109 dBc/Hz theoretisch möglich. Mit einer höheren PFD-Frequenz könnte das Phasenrauschen sogar noch ein paar dB niedriger ausfallen. Um das Beste aus solch niedrigem PLL-Rauschen zu machen, kann die Loop-Bandbreite so gewählt werden, dass sie in der Größenordnung von einigen hundert kHz liegt, wenn mit einem einfachen VCO-Element gearbeitet wird. Andernfalls wird das Phasenrauschen des VCO selbst in Form von Rauschspitzen oberhalb der Loopbandbreite sichtbar. Der Wert der Loopbandbreite hängt ab vom Teilungswert N, dem Ladepumpenstrom, der vom Phasenkomparatorausgang geliefert wird, der Steigung der VCO-Abstimmfunktion und schließlich von den Werten der Komponenten im Loopfilter. Das Loop-Verhalten muss auch berechnet werden, um einen angemessenen Phasenrand und Komparatorfrequenz-Abschwächung zu erhalten.

Für eine systematischere Behandlung der der PLL zugrunde liegenden Theorie gibt es viele Bücher und Artikel in der Literatur.

Das Design

Eine vierschichtige FR4-Platine mit den Abmessungen 35 x 35mm wurde entwickelt, um alles aufzunehmen, was nötig ist, um einen eigenständigen Synthesizer aufzubauen. Ein VCO, der um einen BFP405 aufgebaut ist, schwingt in der benötigten Frequenzregion. Dessen Ausgang wird mit einem weiteren BFP405 gebuffert und in den PLL-Chip eingespeist, der eine Spannung erzeugt, die nachdem sie das Loopfilter passiert hat, den VCO auf die benötigte Frequenz abstimmt. Ein AVR-Mikrocontroller versorgt den PLL-Chip mit den angemessenen Daten. Auf der Platine ist auch Platz für einen Standard-TCXO in DIL-Package. Zum Schluß wird die Ausgangsfrequenz mit einem BFP420 auf etwa 7 bis 10 dBm am Ausgang verstärkt. Der PLL-Chip ist idealerweise ein ADF4106BRU [1], es passt aber auch ein pin-kompatibler LMX2306/16/26 [2] auf die Platine.

VCO

Die Frequenz des VCO wird bestimmt durch eine hyper-abrupte Varaktor-Diode zusammen mit einigen anhängenden Elementen. Bei 2 GHz und darüber ist die Streu-Reaktanz der Komponenten und der Leiterbahnen sehr beeinflussend und der Induktor kann einfach durch eine 0-Ohm-Brücke ersetzt werden. Die Summe der Induktivitäten der Komponenten und Leiterbahnen ist dann gerade ausreichend. Der Oszillator hat eine ziemlich große Abstimmbandbreite, da das Q des Resonators niedrig ist. Das bedeutet auch, dass das anhaftende Phasenrauschen hoch sein wird. Aber, wie oben beschrieben, wird das endgültige Phasenrauschen zu einem großen Teil durch den PLL-Chip und die Loop-Eigenschaften bestimmt. Die maximale Frequenz des VCO ist begrenzt bei etwa 3 GHz. In diesem Bereich muss wegen der Induktivitäten der Komponenten und Leiterbahnen der Wert des Serienkondensators auf 1 pF herabgesetzt werden und dann tragen die 2-6 pF des Varaktors nicht viel bei zur Gesamtkapazität. Unterhalb von 2 GHz hat man mehr Freiheiten bezüglich der Rückkoppelkondensatoren und des Resonator-Netzwerks, was eine Optimierung hinsichtlich niedrigeren Phasenrauschens ermöglicht [3].

Am unteren Ende ist es möglich unter 1 GHz zu gehen, indem man die Rückkoppelkapazitäten vergrößert. Aber wenn man das ohne Sorgfalt macht, wird es leicht zu parasitären Schwingungen bei 5 bis 6 GHz kommen. Bei diesen Frequenzen wirken Kondensatoren wie Induktivitäten und umgekehrt, so dass es möglich ist, eine 5-GHz-Resonanz in einem Kreis zu bekommen, der für eine Resonanz auf 500 MHz entwickelt wurde. Der BFP405 ist keine sehr gute Wahl für einen Sub-GHz Oszillator. Es gibt andere Typen deren Verstärkung schnell genug oberhalb von 1 GHz abfällt, so dass parasitäre Schwingungen unwahrscheinlich werden.

Digital

Das Programm für den AVR-Controller wurde in C geschrieben und wird mit einem billigen Programmier-Adapter geladen. Der gewählte ATmega88 hat eine lange Liste von Eigenschaften und kann ganz klar viel mehr als eine Abstimmweisung in einen PLL-Chip zu laden. In einer Baken-Anwendung könnte er leicht z.B. die Zeichen generieren. Eine etwas verbesserte Idee wäre es, einen PID-Regulator für die Kontrolle der TCXO-Temperatur zu implementieren.

Weitere Anmerkungen

Wie zuvor erwähnt, ist die LMX23x6-Serie von PLL-Chips von National pin-kompatibel mit dem ADF4106BRU, aber sie sind etwas älter und weisen etwas höheres Phasenrauschen auf. Außerdem leiden sie an einigen störenden Limitierungen. Der Wert des Referenz-Teilers muss 3 oder höher sein. Es gibt auch eine Bedingung über das Verhältnis zwischen Teiler-Werten für den Haupt- und Übertragszähler, das in einigen Fällen bei niedrigen Referenz-Teilerwerten nicht erfüllt werden kann. Diese Nachteile resultieren in einem Phasenrauschen, das etwa 15 dB höher sein kann als das, was mit dem ADF4106 erreicht wird. Es soll aber darauf hingewiesen werden, dass das für viele Anwendungen kein Problem darstellt.

Hochauflösende Bilder, Software, Anmerkungen usw. sind im Web verfügbar unter: www.eta.chalmers.se/~upda.

Referenzen: Siehe engl. Text oben.

Double Boom Yagi Antenna for 2m

by Slobodan Bukvić, YU7XL

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The antenna configuration presented here consists of two yagis stacked vertically a small distance apart.

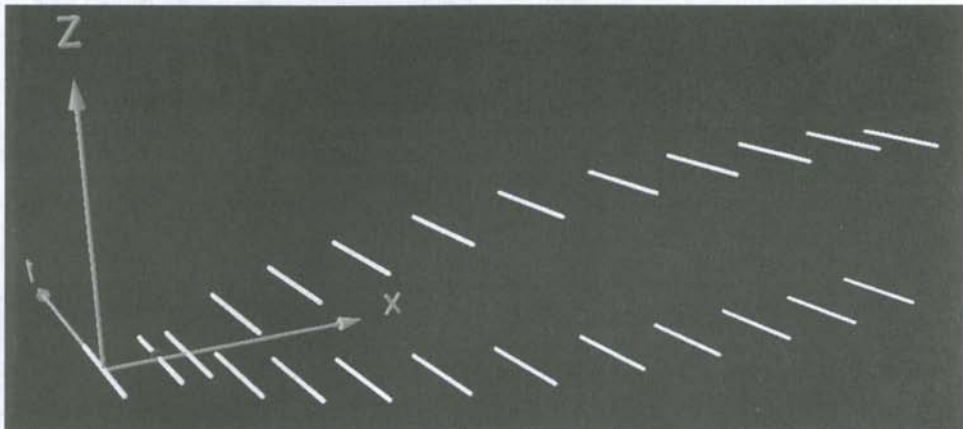


Fig. 1

It has several advantages:

- **More gain.** This antenna with a boomlength of 8 metres has higher gain than single yagi with a 10 metre boom. Anyone who has already built 10 meter long yagis knows very well what the difference is between eight and ten metres.
- **Single-point feeding.** The double boom yagi has one open or folded dipole only. And just one reflector, too.
- **Pattern.** The higher gain is achieved from the vertical pattern. The horizontal pattern is not as 'nice' as for a single boom yagi, but is much wider and suitable for tropo DXing.
- **Low temperature.** At first sight, one could not say, but calculations show that the temperature is lower then for the classic yagi. Therefore such a design is good for stacking.



Fig. 2 Double Boom Yagi for 6m at YU7XL

As seen from the figure 1, the booms are not straight. They are slightly bent toward each other at the director end. One may find it not easy to reproduce accurately, but the error in the vertical distance between the pair of elements is quite uncritical. The booms can easily be shaped when on the vertical mast by a piece of thin aluminum tube or by a rope at the director end.

During 2006/2007, I used such a design for 50 MHz. It had 10 elements, the boom was approx 7 metres long and the calculated gain around 14 dBi. Figure 2 shows it. Actually, I was not quite satisfied with it because its first two directors were used just to obtain 50 Ohms impedance, adding practically nothing to the total antenna gain. So I put it down and searched for a better design.

Antenna X223A1XL for 2m

This antenna consists of one reflector, one radiator and 21 directors. Its boom length is 8 metres, exactly 799 centimetres. The maximum vertical height, the distance between the next to last pair of directors is 172 centimetres. The elements are mounted in a conventional way and a boom correction was not applied.

Performance

Condition	G (dBi)	F/B (dB)	F/Sh (dBi)	F/Sv (dBi)	Hor (°)	Ver (°)	Temp (K)	G/T (dB)	ΔF * (kHz)
No Loss	17.29	28.86	25.05	17.67	29.4	25.0	219.0	-6.11	1150
Losses Included (Al)	17.19	29.04	25.01	17.66	29.4	25.0	220.9	-6.25	

* ΔF given for SWR=1.5

Table 1

Dimensions

	Ref	De	D1	D2-3	D4-5	D6-7	D8-9	D10-11	D12-13	D14-15	D16-17	D18-19	D20-21
Pos	0	398	601	969	1435	1986	2705	3535	4478	5367	6250	7155	7990
Length	1010	955	942	916	922	912	902	888	876	868	862	852	848
Height	-	-	-	480	760	1000	1220	1420	1560	1660	1690	1720	1600

Table 2

- Remarks:
- All elements made of Al rods with 5 mm diameter
 - All dimensions given in millimetres
 - Height is the vertical distance between upper and lower elements
 - Boom correction not taken into account

Comparison

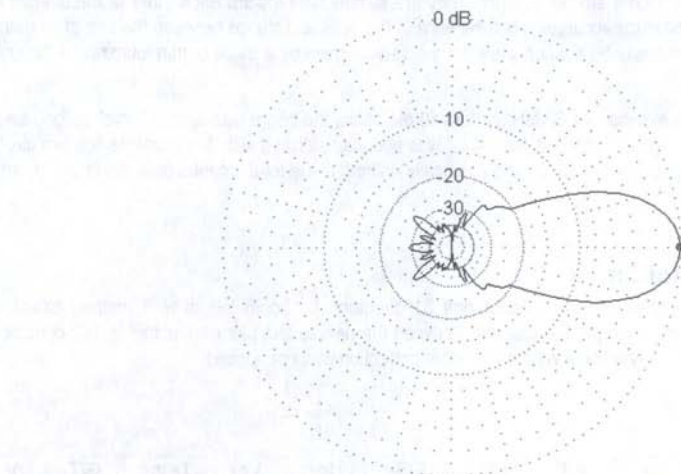
The following comparison table shows that the described antenna is better for approximately 20 to 25% than the same boom length single yagi antenna.

Antenna	Boomlength (mm)	Material	Gain (dBi)	TA (K)	G/T (dB)	Bandwidth (MHz)
X223A1XL	7990	No loss	17.29	219.0	-6.11	143.850-145.000
		Aluminum	17.19	220.0	-6.25	
EF0213-05	8150	No loss	16.40	224.8	-7.12	143.660-144.620
		Aluminum	16.25	227.6	-7.32	
EF0215-5	10060	No loss	17.27	223.0	-6.22	143.750-144.460
		Aluminum	17.06	226.7	-6.49	

Table 3

Diagrams

The following pages show the patterns for azimuth and elevation for a lossless condition (figure 3) and with losses included (figure 4.) Figure 5 shows the SWR sweep. Note: All is simulation is with EZNEC!



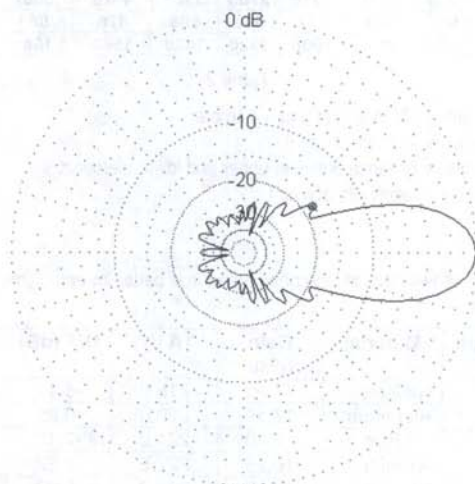
144.5 MHz

Azimuth Plot
Elevation Angle 0.0 deg.
Outer Ring 17.29dBi

Cursor Az 0.0 deg.
Gain 17.29 dBi
0.0 dBmax

3D Max Gain 17.29 dBi
Slice Max Gain 17.29 dBi @ Az Angle = 0.0 deg.
Front/Back 28.86 dB
Beamwidth 29.4 deg.; -3dB @ 345.3, 14.7 deg.
Sidelobe Gain -7.76 dBi @ Az Angle = 309.0 deg.
Front/Sidelobe 25.05 dB

Fig. 3 Pattern – no losses included



144.5 MHz

Elevation Plot
Azimuth Angle 0.0 deg.
Outer Ring 17.29dBi

Cursor Elev 33.0 deg.
Gain -0.37 dBi
-17.67 dBmax

3D Max Gain 17.29 dBi
Slice Max Gain 17.29 dBi @ Elev Angle = 0.0 deg.
Front/Back 28.86 dB
Beamwidth 25.0 deg.; -3dB @ 347.5, 12.5 deg.
Sidelobe Gain -0.37 dBi @ Elev Angle = 327.0 deg.
Front/Sidelobe 17.67 dB

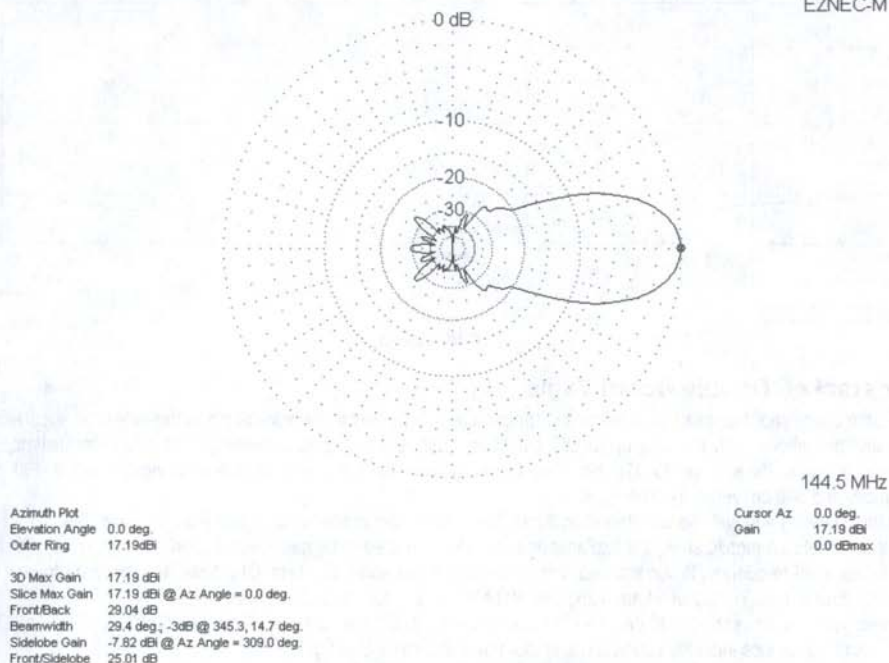
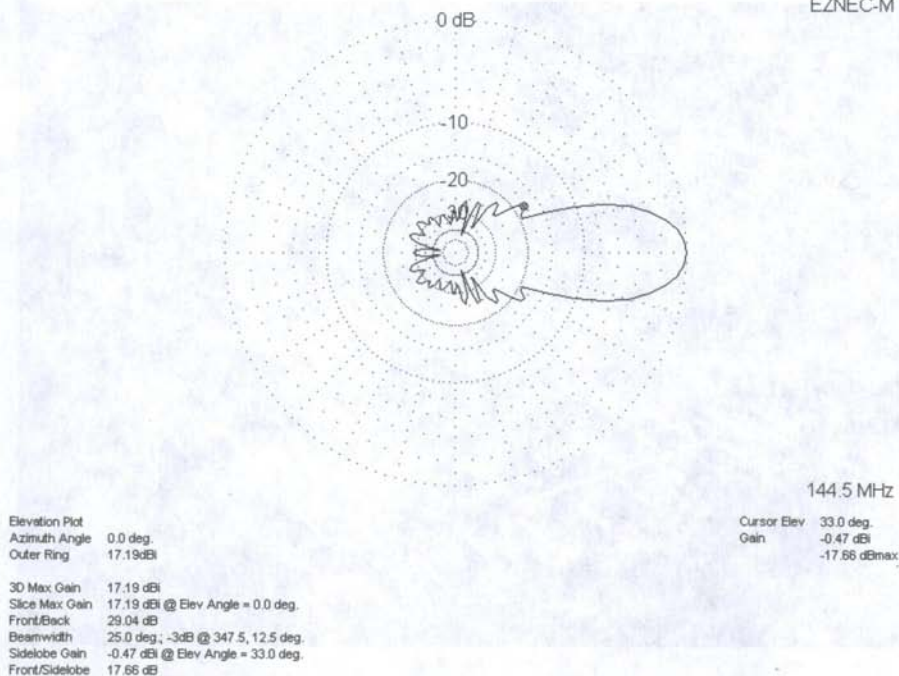


Fig. 4 Pattern – losses included



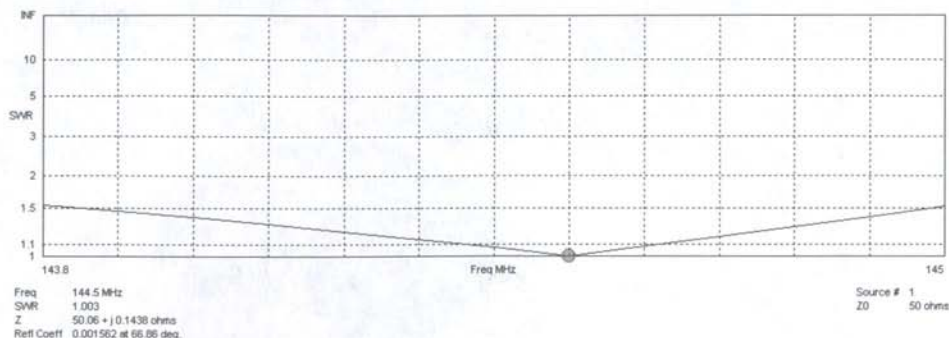


Fig. 5 SWR sweep

Four stacked Double Boom Yagis

The double boom yagi antenna has a rather low temperature. Especially in the vertical plane the side lobe suppression is fine and this allows high stacking up to 550 cm where gain and G/T stop increasing. The maximum distance in horizontal plane is lower – up to 470 cm. The following simulation is given for the stacking distances 460 cm horizontally and 540 cm vertically. See fig. 6.

Within this stacking you will see an interesting thing: the gain for four antennas is higher than the expected 6 dB! No, not in the perpetuum mobile style, the explanation is simple: The area of highest gain is usually at higher frequencies than the resonant frequency. When stacked, this area shifts down some 200 kHz. Of course, the resonant frequency also shifts downwards. That is why I am using 144.500 MHz as the central design frequency.

Achieved performances: G=23.36 dBi TA=215,2 K G/T=+0,03 dB for no loss condition, and G=23.26 dBi TA=217.3 K G/T=-0.11 dB for loss included condition (aluminum rods Ø 5 mm). See fig. 7.

A lower stacking distance - 400 cm horizontally and 480 cm vertically may also be tried. In that case, side lobe suppression would be 11 dB in both planes.

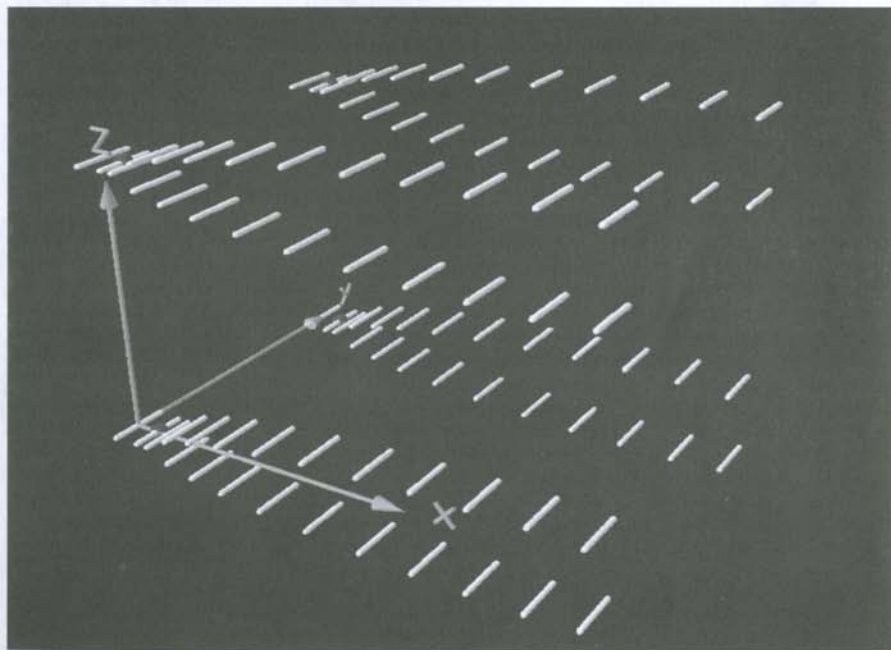
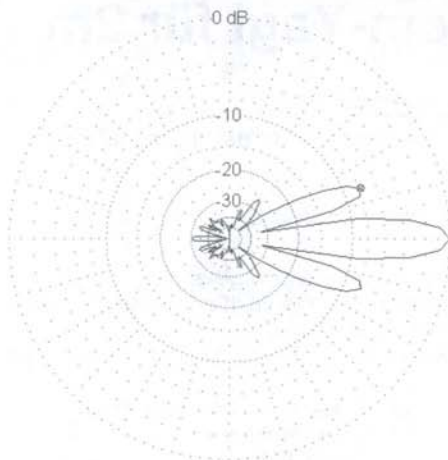


Fig. 6

EZNEC-M



Azimuth Plot
Elevation Angle 0.0 deg.
Outer Ring 23.26dBi

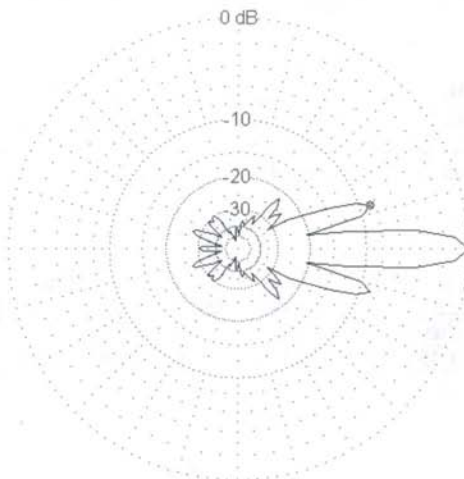
3D Max Gain 23.26 dBi
Slice Max Gain 23.26 dBi @ Az Angle = 0.0 deg.
Front/Back 30.44 dB
Beamwidth 11.2 deg.; -3dB @ 354.4, 5.6 deg.
Sidelobe Gain 15.57 dBi @ Az Angle = 21.0 deg.
Front/Sidelobe 7.69 dB

144.5 MHz

Cursor Az 21.0 deg.
Gain 15.57 dBi
-7.69 dBmax

Fig. 7 4 Antennas - losses Included, stacking distance H=460 V=540 cm

EZNEC-M



Elevation Plot
Azimuth Angle 0.0 deg.
Outer Ring 23.26dBi

3D Max Gain 23.26 dBi
Slice Max Gain 23.26 dBi @ Elev Angle = 0.0 deg.
Front/Back 30.44 dB
Beamwidth 9.6 deg.; -3dB @ 355.2, 4.8 deg.
Sidelobe Gain 14.71 dBi @ Elev Angle = 342.0 deg.
Front/Sidelobe 8.55 dB

144.5 MHz

Cursor Elev 18.0 deg.
Gain 14.71 dBi
-8.55 dBmax

Doppelboom-Yagi für 2m

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Die hier vorgestellte Antennenkonfiguration besteht aus zwei mit kleinem Abstand vertikal gestockten Yagis.

Sie hat einige Vorteile:

- **Mehr Gewinn.** Diese Antenne mit einer Boomlänge von 8 Metern hat höheren Gewinn als eine einzelne Yagi mit 10m Boomlänge. Jeder, der eine Yagi mit 10m Boom schon gebaut hat, weiß sehr gut, was für ein Unterschied zwischen 8m und 10m besteht.
- **Einzelner Einspeisepunkt.** Die Doppelboom-Yagi hat nur einen offenen oder gefalteten Dipol und auch nur einen Reflektor.
- **Diagramm.** Der höhere Gewinn wird aus der vertikalen Keule gewonnen. Das horizontale Diagramm ist nicht so schön wie bei einer einzelnen Yagi, es ist viel breiter und passend für Tropo-DX.
- **Niedrige Temperatur.** Auf den ersten Blick war es nicht klar, aber Berechnungen zeigen, dass die Temperatur niedriger ist als bei der klassischen Yagi. Deshalb eignet sich solch ein Design gut zur Stockung.

Wie in Abb. 1 ersichtlich, verlaufen die Booms nicht gerade. Sie verlaufen leicht zueinander gebogen am Ende der Direktoren. Man könnte glauben, dass das nicht so einfach genau zu reproduzieren ist, aber der Fehler beim vertikalen Abstand zwischen den Elementpaaren ist ziemlich unkritisch. Die Booms können einfach auf dem vertikalen Mast mittels eines kleinen, dünnen Alu-Rohrs oder eines Seils am Direktoren-Ende geformt werden.

In den Jahren 2006/2007 habe ich solch ein Design für 6m verwendet. Es waren 10 Elemente, der Boom 7m lang und der gerechnete Gewinn lag bei etwa 14 dBi. Abb. 2 zeigt die Antenne. Ich war nicht besonders zufrieden mit dieser Antenne, weil die ersten beiden Direktoren nur für die Erreichung der Impedanz von 50 Ohm verwendet wurden und praktisch nicht zum Gesamtgewinn beitrugen. Deshalb habe ich die Antenne abgebaut und nach einem besseren Design gesucht.

X223A1XL Antenne für 2m

Diese Antenne besteht aus einem Reflektor, einem Strahler und 21 Direktoren. Die Boomlänge beträgt 8m, exakt 799 cm. Die maximale vertikale Höhe, der Abstand zwischen dem vorletzten Direktorpaar beträgt 172 cm. Die Elemente werden herkömmlich montiert und eine Boom-Korrektur wurde nicht durchgeführt.

Leistungsdaten

Bedingung	G (dBi)	F/B (dB)	F/Sh (dBi)	F/Sv (dBi)	Hor (°)	Ver (°)	Temp (K)	G/T (dB)	ΔF^* (kHz)
ohne Verluste	17.29	28.86	25.05	17.67	29.4	25.0	219.0	-6.11	1150
mit Verlusten (Al)	17.19	29.04	25.01	17.66	29.4	25.0	220.9	-6.25	

* ΔF für SWR=1.5

Tabella 1

Abmessungen

	Ref	De	D1	D2-3	D4-5	D6-7	D8-9	D10-11	D12-13	D14-15	D16-17	D18-19	D20-21
Pos	0	398	601	969	1435	1986	2705	3535	4478	5367	6250	7155	7990
Länge	1010	955	942	916	922	912	902	888	876	868	862	852	848
Höhe	-	-	-	480	760	1000	1220	1420	1560	1660	1690	1720	1600

Tabella 2

Bemerkung: - Alle Elemente aus Alu-Stäben mit 5 mm Durchmesser.

- Alle Angaben in mm.
- Höhe bedeutet vertikaler Abstand zwischen oberen und unteren Elementen
- Eine Boomkorrektur wurde nicht durchgeführt.

Vergleich

Die folgende Vergleichstabelle zeigt, dass die beschriebene Antenne etwa 20 bis 25% besser ist, als einfache Yagis mit der selben Boomlänge.

Antenne	Boomlänge (mm)	Material	Gewinn (dBi)	TA (K)	G/T (dB)	Bandbreite (MHz)
X223A1XL	7990	Verlustlos	17.29	219.0	-6.11	143.850-145.000
		Aluminum	17.19	220.0	-6.25	
EF0213-05	8150	Verlustlos	16.40	224.8	-7.12	143.660-144.620
		Aluminum	16.25	227.6	-7.32	
EF0215-5	10060	No loss	17.27	223.0	-6.22	143.750-144.460
		Verlustlos	17.06	226.7	-6.49	

Tabelle 3

Diagramme

Im Folgenden werden die horizontalen und vertikalen Diagramme ohne Materialverluste (Abb. 3) und mit Verlusten (Abb. 4) gezeigt. Abb. 5 zeigt den SWR-Verlauf. Hinweis: Alles sind Simulationen mit EZNEC!

Vier gestockte Doppelboom-Yagis

Die Doppelboom-Yagi weist eine relativ niedrige Temperatur auf. Speziell in der vertikalen Ebene ist die Nebenzipfelunterdrückung gut und Stockung ist möglich bis 550cm, wo Gewinn und G/T nicht weiter anwachsen. Die maximale Stockung in der Horizontalen ist geringer, bis zu 470cm. Die folgende Simulation ist mit einem horizontalen Stockungsabstand von 460cm und einem vertikalen von 540cm gerechnet. Siehe Abb. 6.

Bei dieser Stockung sieht man eine interessante Sache: Der Gewinn für die vier Antennen ist höher als die erwarteten 6dBi! Nein, wir haben kein Perpetuum Mobile erfunden, die Erklärung ist einfach: Der Bereich des höchsten Gewinns liegt üblicherweise oberhalb der Resonanzfrequenz. Wenn gestockt, verschiebt sich dies etwa 200 kHz nach unten. Natürlich verschiebt sich auch die Resonanzfrequenz nach unten. Deshalb benutze ich 144.500 MHz als zentrale Design-Frequenz.

Erreichte Leistungsdaten für die 4er-Gruppe: G=23.36 dBi TA=215,2 K G/T=+0,03 dB (ohne Verluste) und G=23.26 dBi TA=217.3 K G/T=-0.11 dB mit einbezogenen Verlusten für 5mm Alu-Elemente. Siehe Abb. 7.

Ein geringer Stockungsabstand kann auch probiert werden, 400cm horizontal und 480cm vertikal. In diesem Fall haben wir 11 dB Nebenzipfelunterdrückung in beiden Ebenen.

Microwave Integrated Power Detectors

by Paul Wade, W1GHZ ©2008 - w1ghz@arrl.net

RF power measurements at low levels are very useful, for direct measurements and to evaluate operation of a system in all areas. Internal low-level stages may be measured directly, while high powers may be sampled, and radiated energy detected with a small antenna. While transmitting, both forward and reflected power on a transmission line may be monitored through a directional coupler.

At microwave frequencies, power measurements are often made with laboratory instruments using a bolometer or thermocouple. The instruments usually require AC mains power, and are fragile and expensive to repair if abused. For portable use, diode detectors are often used for relative power indication. Microwave diodes are non-linear, temperature sensitive, vary from unit to unit, and have limited dynamic range and calibration repeatability.

Recently, a number of integrated RF power detectors have become available, intended for wireless networking and mobile telephone applications. Since these chips are produced in high-volume using integrated-circuit technology, they are consistent and inexpensive – cheaper than typical microwave diodes. Many of them are specified for operation into the GHz region, covering several amateur microwave bands, and a few operate to 10 GHz and beyond. Modern consumer electronics devices tend to be small and portable, so the components are also small. These power detector chips come in two forms of packaging: tiny and difficult to hand-solder, or miniscule chip-scale packaging which is nearly impossible to solder without specialized equipment. Obviously, I have concentrated on the first variety. Using these chips with ordinary chip resistors and capacitors and common FR-4 printed-circuit boards, power measurements adequate for amateur use may be made at frequencies up to at least 10 GHz. And since no expensive or exotic parts are used, careless mistakes are not disasters.

Integrated Power Detectors

One type of integrated power detector uses logarithmic amplifiers, so that the output is linear in dB – very useful. These tend to have high dynamic range as well, so that they are very sensitive and can measure very low levels. Maximum frequency of this type is limited by the amplifiers to 3 GHz or so.

A second type uses an integrated Schottky diode detector to achieve higher frequency operation, with a reference diode for temperature compensation. Since the diodes are integrated with a buffer amplifier on the chip, they are very consistent. Dynamic range is limited by the diode characteristics to about 30 dB, but maximum frequency is only limited by the diode size – some of these chips operate to over 10 GHz. The output characteristic is square-law, like any diode detector. A third type provides RMS output, proportional to average power – the other types respond to peak voltage, so are not accurate for complex waveforms, like speech.

Examples

I have tried a number of the available integrated power detector chips from Analog Devices (www.analog.com) and Linear Technology (www.linear.com). Both companies make devices available in small quantities at reasonable cost direct from the web sites and from distributors. Other manufacturers list similar parts, but don't make them readily available – I haven't been able to obtain any.

To evaluate these parts, I have made small, postage-stamp sized printed circuit boards on common FR4 material. These were tucked into unused corners of other experimental boards I ordered from ExpressPCB (www.expresspcb.com) – the bargain "Miniboard" is a fixed size, so it pays to use the full area. After evaluation, all of them found use in various projects – why waste a good microwave power meter?

These detector chips have fairly high input impedance, so the RF power goes to a 50-ohm chip resistor and the detector senses the RF voltage across the resistor. An input blocking capacitor completes the circuit – I use ATC microwave chip capacitors except as noted.

The only other components are bypass capacitors and small 5-volt regulators – all the chips operate on 5 volts or less. They all have output buffer amplifiers which can drive a voltmeter directly. Figure 1 is a typical schematic – only the pinout of the detector chip changes, with appropriate PCB layout modifications.

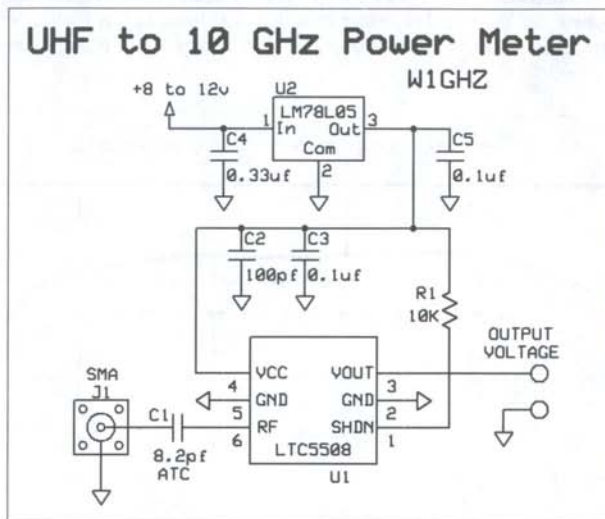


Figure 1

AD8307

The first available RF power detector chip was the AD8307 from Analog Devices (www.analog.com), a log amp type rated from 0 to 500 MHz. This chip is available in a common 8-pin DIP package, so it is easy to work with. W7ZOI and W7PUA described a simple power meter using this device in QST¹, and other versions have been published. The QST version adds some simple impedance matching at the input pin to make the response flat at the higher frequencies. The chip output is linear in dB, about 25 mV per dB, as shown in Figure 2, over a 90 dB range – minimum detectable power is lower than -80 dBm.

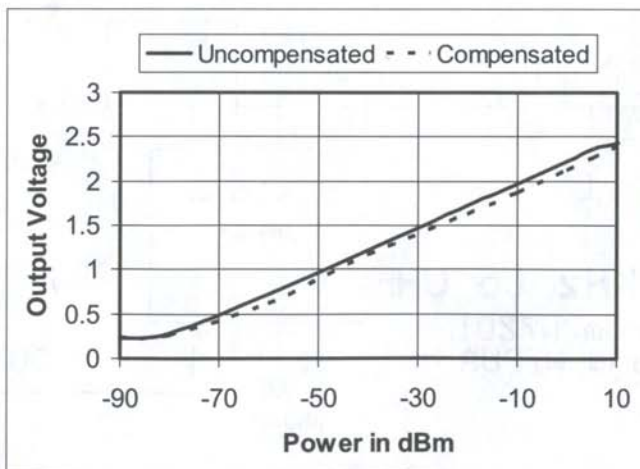


Figure 2 AD8307 Sensitivity

My simple test board with no impedance matching has a response curve, shown in Figure 3, which is pretty good, but not perfectly flat, from 1 to 500 MHz. With impedance matching, the curve marked "Compensated" is somewhat flatter. Figure 4 is the schematic diagram with impedance matching; a photograph of this circuit, Figure 5, shows that L1 is simply a small coil formed with the lead of the 0.01uF blocking capacitor. Above 500 MHz, I found that the chip still responds to input power, but the output is neither linear nor monotonic, so it is useless for even relative power measurement. Low frequency response could be improved with a larger input coupling capacitor, but I am less interested in low frequencies.

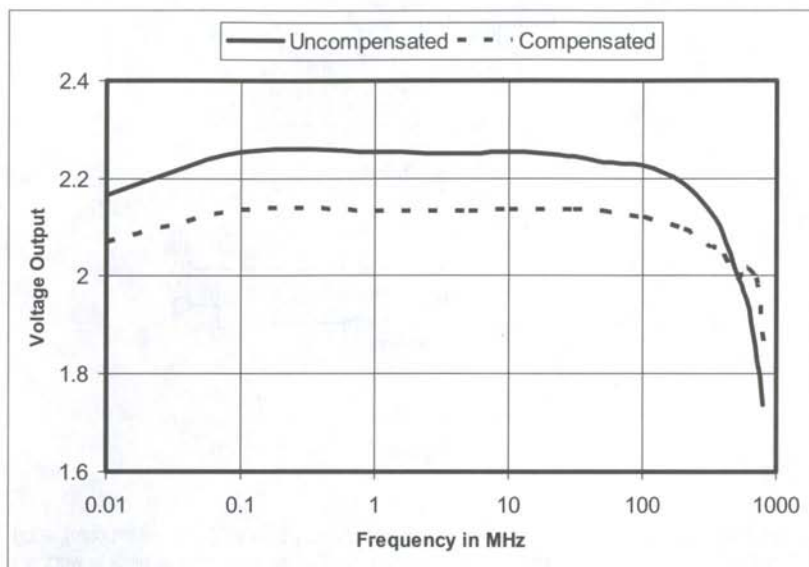


Figure 3 AD8307 Frequency Response

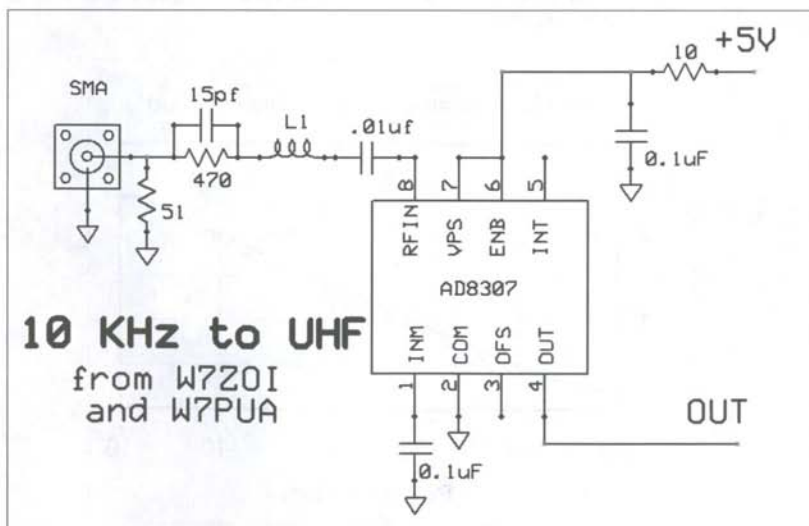


Figure 4

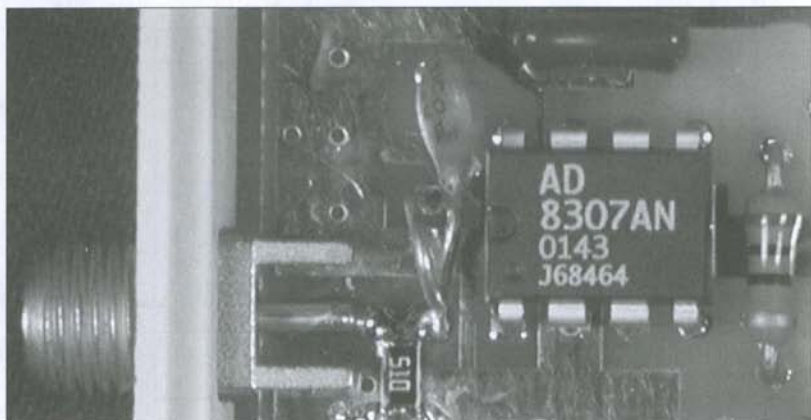


Figure 5

LTC5505

The first microwave power detector chip that I found was the LTC5505-2 from Linear Technology (www.linear.com), a diode detector type rated to 3.5 GHz, with about 40 dB dynamic range. The package is a tiny 5-lead SOT-23, which can be soldered with care to a surface-mount board. A simple test board, with the goal of getting the chip as close as possible to the coax connector on the far side, is shown in Figure 6. The additional resistor is for the *Enable* pin. As expected from a diode detector, the output response is square-law, shown in Figure 7. Frequency response is reasonably flat from 100 MHz to 4 GHz, with reduced output up to 8 GHz, shown in Figure 8. Usable dynamic range is greater than 30 dB, from -20 dBm to +13 dBm.

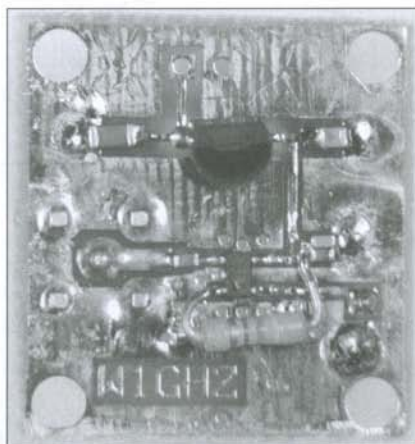


Figure 6 Board with LT5505

AD8361

The AD8361 from Analog Devices is an RMS type detector in a tiny 8-lead MSOP package, shown in a test board in Figure 9. It is rated to 2.5 GHz, and it rolls off pretty quickly above that frequency, as shown in Figure 10. Rated input range is 30 dB, but Figure 11 shows an output response from about -40 dBm to about +6 dBm. Plotting it logarithmically, in Figure 12, shows true RMS response as a straight line from about -35 dBm to about +5 dBm, or about a 40 dB range.

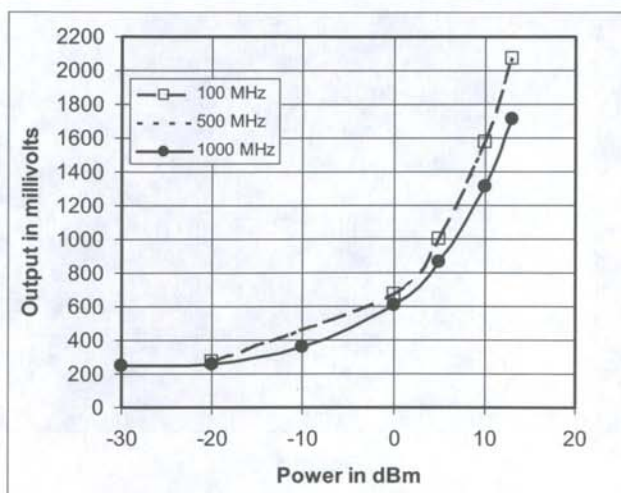


Figure 7 LTC5505-2 Sensitivity

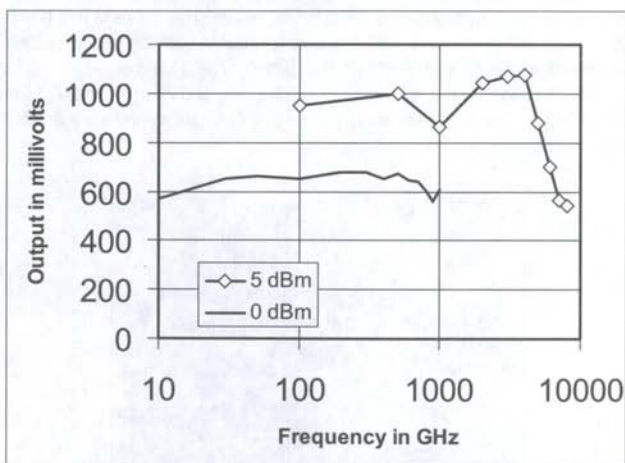


Figure 8 LTC5505-2 Frequency Response

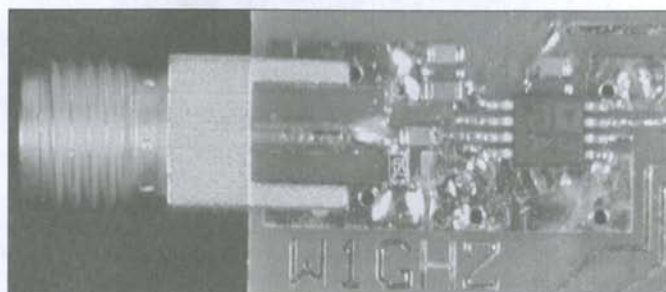


Figure 9 AD8361 on test board

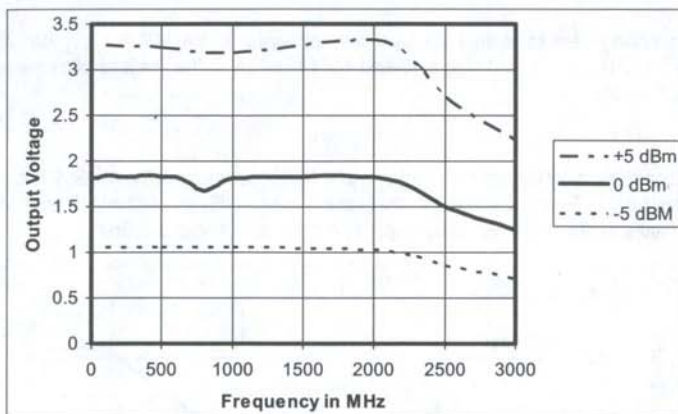


Figure 10 AD8361 Frequency Response

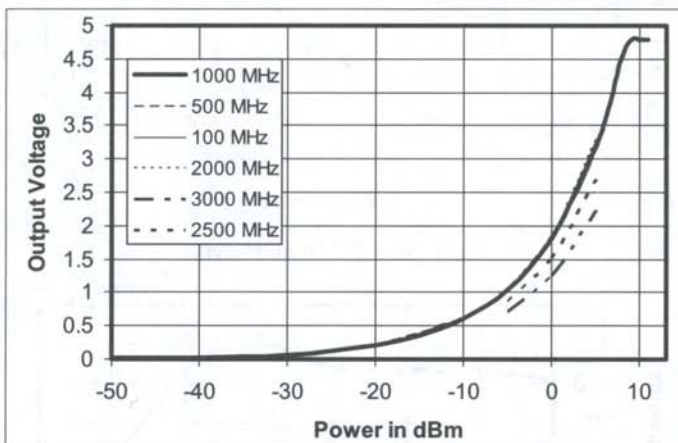


Figure 11 AD8361 Sensitivity

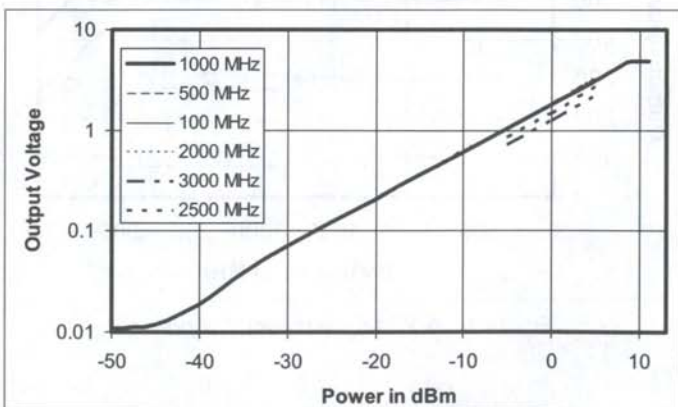


Figure 12 AD8361 Sensitivity

AD8362

The AD8362 from Analog Devices is an RMS type detector similar to the AD8361, but with a 65 dB range at frequencies up to 3.8 GHz. However, it is in a 16-lead TSSOP package; the fine lead pitch makes soldering more difficult. I have not tried one.

AD8314

The AD8314 is a logarithmic amplifier detector in a tiny 8-lead MSOP package like the AD8361. It is rated to 2.7 GHz with 45 dB of dynamic range. Figure 13 shows that the output is linear in dB, about 20 mV/dB, from about -45 dBm up to about 0 dBm. Figure 14 shows the frequency response is good up to at least 2.5 GHz.

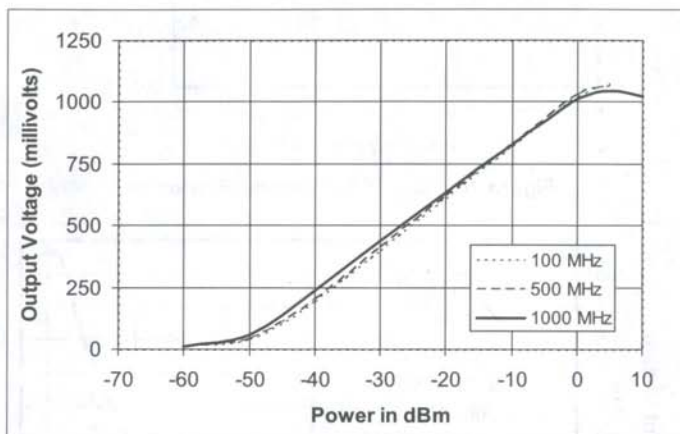


Figure 13 AD8314 Sensitivity

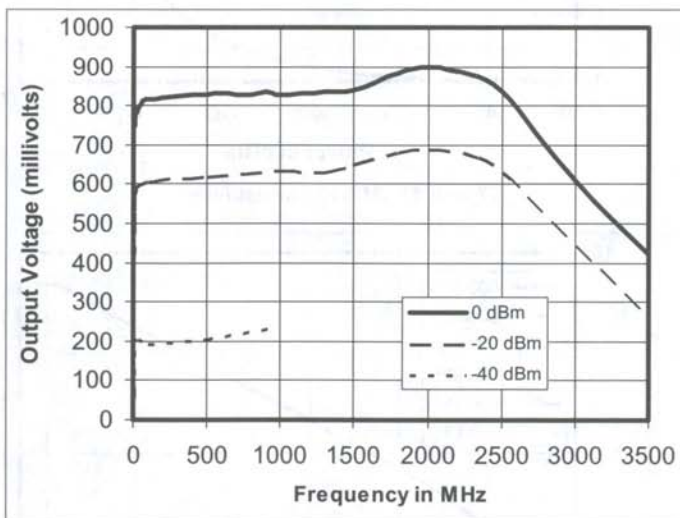


Figure 14 AD8314 Frequency Response

AD8313

The AD8313 is a logarithmic amplifier in a tiny 8-lead MSOP package, rated to 2.5 GHz with 70 dB of dynamic range.

Figure 15 shows that the output is linear in dB, about 20 mV/dB, from about -60 dBm up to about -0 dBm. Figure 16 shows the frequency response is good up to at least 3 GHz, with a hump around 2 GHz in my simple test board.

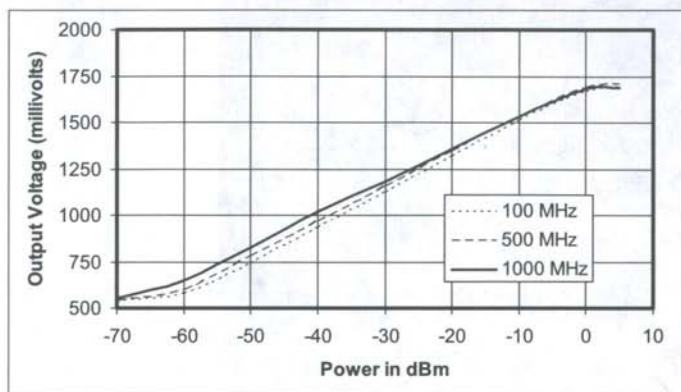


Figure 15 AD8313 Sensitivity

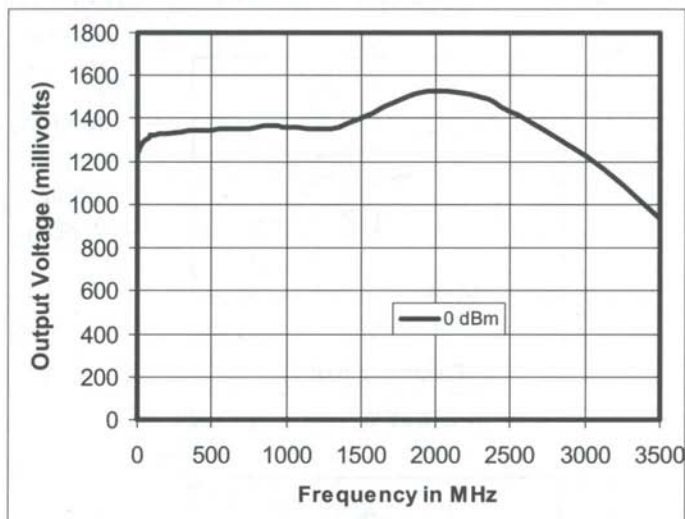


Figure 16 AD8313 Frequency Response

LTC5508

The LTC5508 is a diode detector type rated to 7 GHz, but since the LTC5505 operated to more than twice the rated frequency, there was a good chance that this chip would work at 10 GHz. This chip, in a tiny 6-lead SC-70 package required another simple test board shown in Figure 17. The schematic is Figure 1 – a wire for the *Enable* (SHDN) pin is under the board. The upper frequency response exceeds 10 GHz, shown in Figure 18, although it is roughly 3 dB down at 10.368 GHz. The usable dynamic range is greater than 30 dB, from -20 dBm to +13 dBm. With a lower frequency range of about 100 MHz, this chip covers all the amateur VHF, UHF, popular microwave bands with a dynamic range comparable to the older commercial power meters such as the HP 432. Power requirements are a few milliamps at 3 to 5 volts, fine for battery operation.

On the simple PC board shown in Figure 17, the LTC5508 works up to at least 12 GHz, although only for powers below about 0 dBm at frequencies above 8 GHz. At 24 GHz, it detects power, but I haven't measured the response – just knowing that something is coming out of the antenna is enough. Figure 19 shows that the response is good down

to about 100 MHz, so that it covers the amateur VHF, UHF, and common microwave bands. Figure 20 displays the expected square-law response curve.

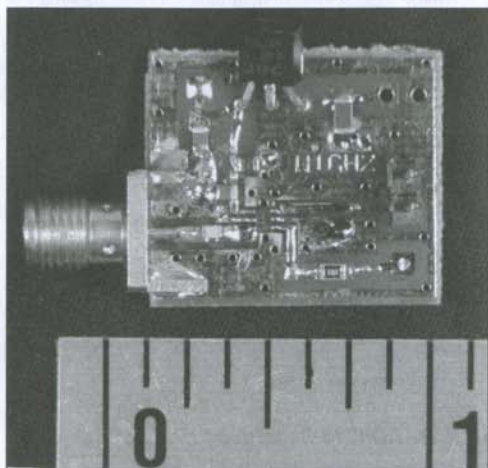


Figure 17 LTC5508

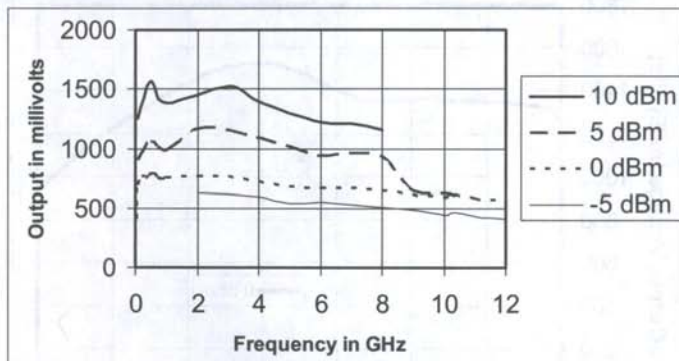


Figure 18 LTC5508 Frequency Response

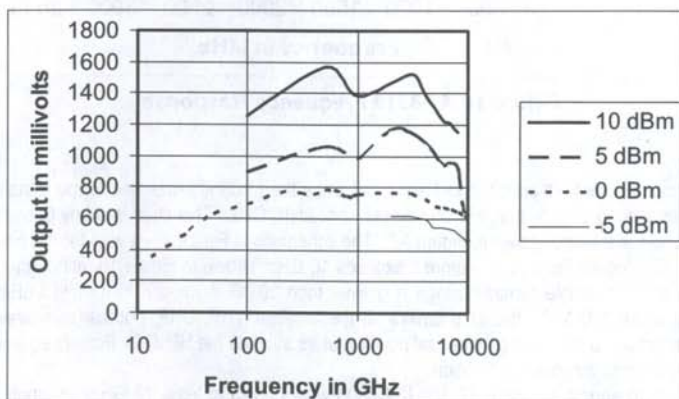


Figure 19 LTC5508 Frequency Response

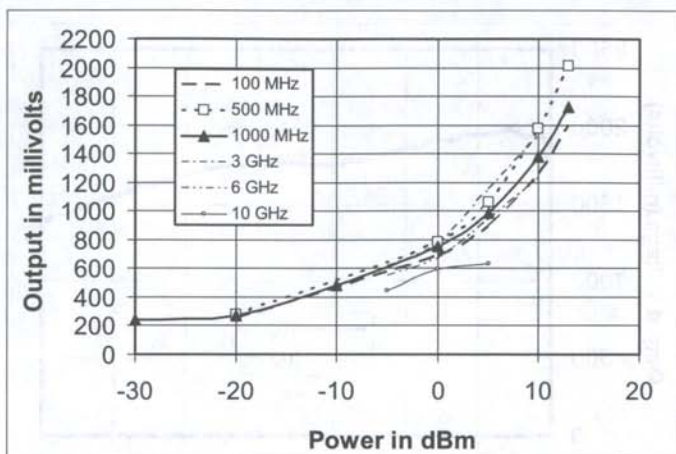


Figure 20 LTC5508 Sensitivity

LT5534

The LT5534 is a detector with a logarithmic amplifier rated to 3 GHz with 60 dB of dynamic range. One advantage is that the package and pinout are the same as the LTC5508, so I could use the same PC board. Figure 21 shows that the output is linear in dB, about 40 mV/dB, from -60 dBm up to about -5 dBm. Figure 22 shows that the frequency response is good up to about 3.5 GHz.

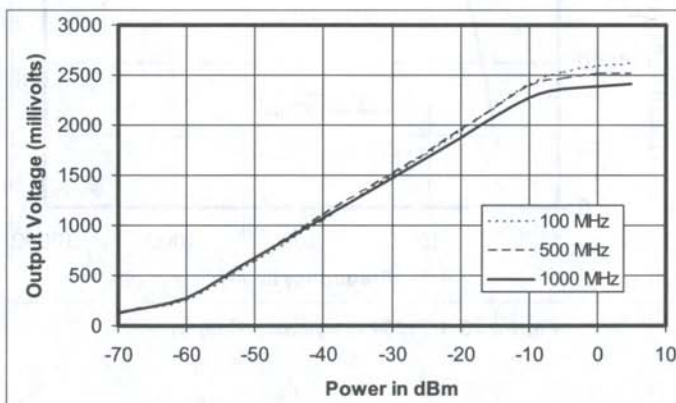


Figure 21 LT5534 Sensitivity

I chose the LT5534 detector to monitor the input power in my Handheld Network Analyzer², so that I could maximize the measurement dynamic range with an input power of about -30 dBm. To improve the low frequency response, I made one with an inexpensive 1000 pf input blocking capacitor (0402 size) rather than the 8.2pf ATC microwave chip capacitor. Figure 23 shows the improved low-frequency response without degrading the higher frequencies. Apparently, expensive microwave capacitors are not essential (in this case).

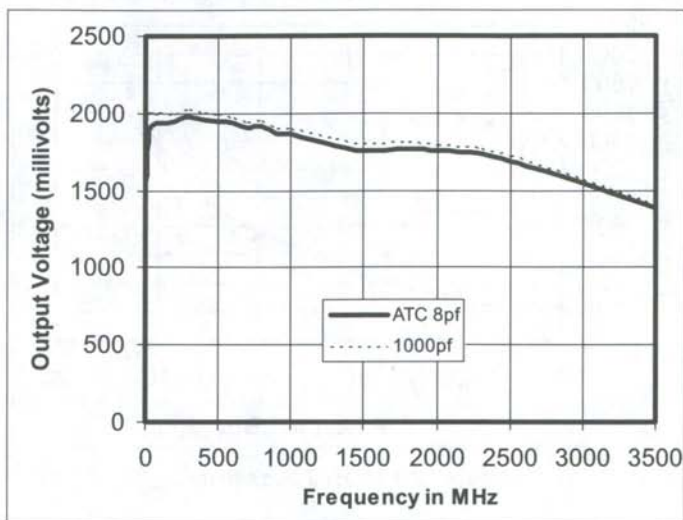


Figure 22 LT5534 Frequency Response

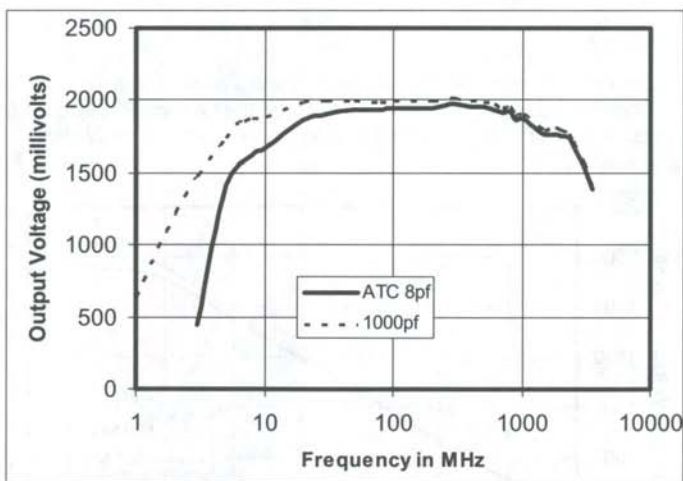


Figure 23 LT5534 Frequency Response

Applications

The obvious use is measurement of power; for example, the AD8307 data sheet shows a power sampler with a range from one milliwatt to one kilowatt. At microwave frequencies, directional couplers can provide a sample of the power at the milliwatt levels needed by these detectors. In addition to monitoring transmit power, the output could be used for an ALC circuit to control drive power to an amplifier.

With a dual-directional coupler, both forward and reflected power may be monitored. Two of the detectors with linear-in-dB output could provide Return Loss directly, from the difference between the outputs.

A sensitive detector is valuable for antenna work, such as radiation pattern measurement.

The sensitive detectors are also useful for low-level power measurements; the power range may be extended and VSWR improved by adding attenuators.

My favorite use is an "RF Sniffer," to detect radiated power during portable operation. I made a unit³ with an AD8307, for low frequencies, and an LTC5508, for UHF and microwaves, and a bargraph indicator to display relative power. When I set up in a new location, I hold the unit, shown in Figure 24 with a broadband log-periodic antenna by WA5VJB⁴, in front of the antenna to verify output. The circuit board is shown in Figure 25.

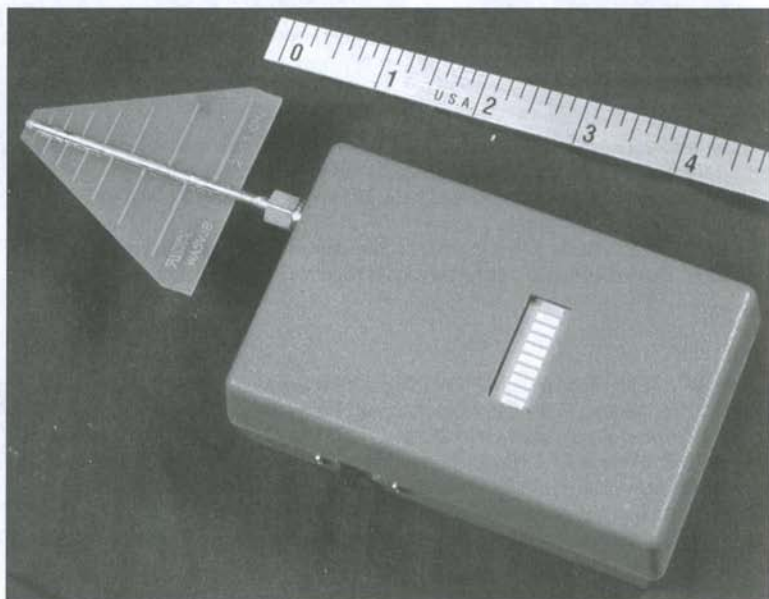


Figure 24

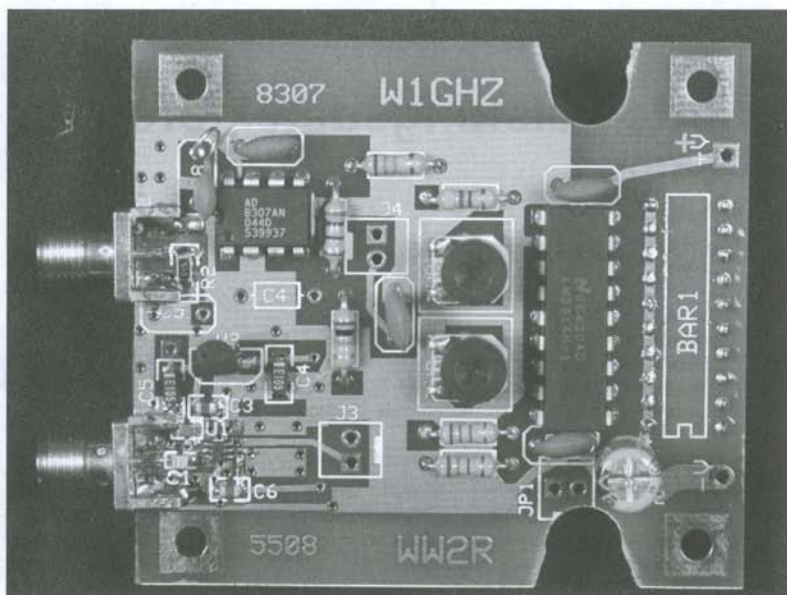


Figure 25

The RF sniffer can also detect RF leakage; checking a microwave oven is a good test. Amateur power amplifiers should also be checked for leakage, since some of them run even higher power than a microwave oven. The integrated power detectors have a fast response, so that they may be used to detect modulation, even high-speed digital types. An oscilloscope on the output might be useful for identifying digital interference. They may also be used to detect noise levels, for instance, sun noise from an antenna. However, the fast response is of little value here, and an integrator on the output is necessary to smooth the response and average the readings.

Summary

These inexpensive, readily available, microwave power detectors offer performance rivaling or exceeding expensive lab equipment. They may be less accurate, but adequate for many purposes. They are useful not only as test equipment, but also as part of operating equipment. The differing characteristics of the various chips should fit a multitude of applications.

The printed circuit layouts that I made for these detectors are available on my website, www.w1ghz.org. While they may be copied directly, please feel free to modify them and incorporate them in other projects.

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2. Paul Wade, W1GHZ, "Antenna Ratiometry Measurements," *Proceedings of Microwave Update 2005*, ARRL, 2005, pp. 40-63. www.w1ghz.org/small_proj/hna.zip
3. Paul Wade, W1GHZ, "Portable RF Sniffer and Power Meter," *Proceedings of the 30th Eastern VHF/UHF Conference*, ARRL, April 2004, pp. 60-69. http://www.w1ghz.org/new/portable_powermeter.pdf (also available as kit **ABPM** from Down East Microwave www.downeastmicrowave.com)
4. Kent Britain, WA5VJB, "Designing PCB Log Periodic Antennas," *Proceedings of Microwave Update 2000*, ARRL, 2000, pp. 203-208. www.wa5vjb.com

Integrierte Leistungsdetektoren für Mikrowelle

von Paul Wade W1GHZ ©2008 - w1ghz@arrl.net

HF-Leistungsmessungen im niedrigen Bereich sind sehr nützlich für direkte Messungen und, um das Arbeiten eines Systems in allen Bereichen abschätzen zu können. Interne Stufen mit kleiner Leistung könnten so direkt gemessen werden, während hohe Leistungen abgetastet werden können und die abgestrahlte Energie mit einer kleinen Antenne detektiert wird. Beim Senden können vor- und rücklaufende Leistung auf einer Leitung mittels eines Richtkopplers überwacht werden.

Auf Mikrowellenfrequenzen werden Leistungsmessungen oft mittels Laborgeräten durchgeführt, die ein Bolometer oder Thermokoppler verwenden. Diese Geräte benötigen normalerweise eine Wechselspannungsquelle, sind zerbrechlich und teuer in der Reparatur, falls nicht richtig verwendet. Für portable Zwecke werden zur relativen Leistungsanzeige oft Diodendetektoren verwendet. Mikrowelldioden sind nicht linear, temperaturempfindlich, streuen von Exemplar zu Exemplar und haben einen begrenzten Dynamikbereich und begrenzte Wiederholpräzision bei der Kalibrierung.

Seit kurzem ist eine Anzahl von integrierten HF-Leistungsdetektoren verfügbar, die für Applikationen im Bereich der drahtlosen Netzwerke und des Mobilfunks gedacht sind. Da diese Teile in hoher Stückzahl mittels der Technologie für

integrierte Schaltkreise produziert werden, sind sie gleich bleibend und nicht teuer und billiger als typische Mikrowellendiode. Viele von ihnen sind spezifiziert für das Arbeiten bis in den GHz-Bereich und decken mehrere Mikrowellen-Amateurfunkbänder ab. Einige arbeiten bis 10 GHz und höher.

Moderne Geräte der Unterhaltungselektronik sollen klein und tragbar sein, also sind die Bauteile auch klein. Diese ICs für die Leistungsmessung kommen in zwei Bauformen: Klein und schwierig mit der Hand zu löten oder als winzige Form im Chip-Maßstab und hne spezielles Werkzeug nahezu unmöglich zu löten. Ohne Frage habe ich mich auf die erste Variante konzentriert. Unter Verwendung dieser Bauteile zusammen mit normalen Chip-Widerständen und Kondensatoren und üblichen FR-4-Platinen, sind Leistungsmessungen, die für den Amateurbereich ausreichend sind, bis wenigstens 10 GHz möglich. Und da keine teuren oder exotischen Teile verwendet werden, führen Fehler aus Unachtsamkeit nicht zum Desaster.

Integrierte Leistungsdetektoren

Eine Ausführung der integrierten Leistungsdetektoren verwendet logarithmische Verstärker, so dass der Ausgang linear in dB ist, was sehr nützlich ist. Auch tendieren diese dazu, einen hohen Dynamikbereich zu haben, so dass sie sehr empfindlich sind und sehr niedrige Pegel messen können. Die maximale Frequenz dieser Ausführung ist durch die Verstärker auf etwa 3 GHz begrenzt.

Eine andere Ausführung verwendet einen integrierten Schottky-Diodendetektor, um auf höheren Frequenzen arbeiten zu können, sowie eine Referenz-Diode zur Temperatur-Kompensation. Da die Dioden zusammen mit einem Buffer-Verstärker auf dem Chip integriert sind, sind diese sehr konsistent. Der Dynamikbereich ist durch die Charakteristik der Dioden auf etwa 30 dB begrenzt, aber die höchste Frequenz ist nur durch die Diodengröße begrenzt, einige dieser ICs arbeiten bis über 10 GHz. Die Ausgangscharakteristik folgt dem quadratischen Gesetz, wie bei allen Diodendetektoren.

Eine dritte Ausführung liefert RMS am Ausgang, proportional zur Durchschnittsleistung – die anderen Typen sprechen auf Spitzenspannung an – sind also nicht genau für komplexe Wellenformen wie Sprache.

Beispiele

Ich habe eine Anzahl der verfügbaren integrierten Leistungsdetektor-Chips von Analog Devices (www.analog.com) und Linear Technology (www.linear.com) ausprobiert. Beide Hersteller liefern kleine Stückzahlen zu annehmbaren Preisen direkt über ihre Webseiten und über Distributoren. Andere Hersteller listen ähnliche Bauteile, machen sie aber nicht bereitwillig verfügbar – ich war jedenfalls nicht in der Lage welche zu bekommen.

Um diese Bauteile beurteilen zu können, habe ich kleine, briefmarkengroße gedruckte Schaltungen (PCB) aus üblichem FR4-Material entworfen. Diese wurden in ungenutzten Ecken anderer Experimentierplatinen verstaubt, die ich von ExpressPCB (www.expresspcb.com) bezogen habe – das Angebot "Miniboard" beinhaltet eine feste Fläche, so dass es sich lohnte, diese ganz damit auszunutzen. Nach den Untersuchungen haben alle in verschiedenen Projekten Verwendung gefunden, warum sollte man auch ein gutes Mikrowellen-Wattmeter nicht nutzen?

All diese Detektor-ICs haben eine ziemlich hohe Eingangsimpedanz, weshalb die HF-Leistung einem 50-Ohm-Chipwiderstand zugeführt wird und der Detektor dann die HF-Spannung über dem Widerstand misst. Ein Abblockkondensator am Eingang komplettiert den Kreis – ich verwende ATC Mikrowellen-Chipkondensatoren, sofern nicht anders angegeben. Die einzigen weiteren Komponenten sind Bypass-Kondensatoren und kleine 5-Volte-Regler. All diese ICs arbeiten bei 5 Volt oder weniger. Sie haben alle ausgangsseitig Bufferverstärker, die direkt ein Voltmeter treiben können. Abb. 1 zeigt eine typische Schaltung. Nur der Ausgangspin des Detektor-ICs kann sich ändern mit entsprechender Modifikation beim Layout.

AD8307

Das erste verfügbare HF-Leistungsdetektor IC war der AD8307 von Analog Devices (www.analog.com), eine Ausführung mit logarithmischem Verstärker, spezifiziert für 0 bis 500 MHz. Dieser Chip ist verfügbar in einem gebräuchlichen 8-Pin DIP-Gehäuse, so dass es einfach ist, mit ihm zu arbeiten. W7Z0I und W7PUA haben ein einfaches Leistungsmessgerät mit diesem Chip in der QST¹ beschrieben und auch andere Versionen wurden veröffentlicht. Die QST-Version enthält eine einfache Impedanzanpassung am Eingang, um den Frequenzgang bei höheren Frequenzen zu glätten. Der Ausgang des Chips ist über einen Bereich von 90 dB linear in dB, etwa 25 mV pro dB, wie in Abb. 2 gezeigt. Die minimale detektierbare Leistung beträgt weniger als -80dBm.

Meine einfache Testplatine ohne Impedanzanpassung zeigt einen Frequenzgang wie in Abb. 3 gezeigt. Der ist ziemlich gut von 1 bis 500 MHz, aber nicht perfekt glatt. Mit Impedanzanpassung, siehe die Kurve, die mit „Compensated“ markiert ist, ist sie etwas flacher. Abb. 4 zeigt das Schaltbild mit Impedanzanpassung. Ein Foto dieser Schaltung, siehe Abb. 5, zeigt, dass L1 einfach eine kleine Spule ist, die aus dem Anschlußdraht des 0.01 uF Abblockkondensators geformt wird. Ich fand heraus, dass der Chip oberhalb 500 MHz zwar immer noch auf Eingangsleistung reagiert, aber der Ausgang weder linear noch gleich bleibend ist, so dass er sogar für eine relative Leistungsanzeige nutzlos ist. Der Bereich am unteren Ende des Frequenzgangs könnte durch einen größeren Eingangskoppelkondensator verbessert werden, aber mich interessieren diese niedrigen Frequenzen weniger.

LTC5505

Den ersten Mikrowellen-Leistungsdetektorchip, den ich fand, war der LTC5505-2 von Linear Technology (www.linear.com), ein Dioden-Detektor-Typ, der bis 3.5 GHz spezifiziert ist, bei etwa 40 dB Dynamikbereich. Das Gehäuse ist ein kleines 5-poliges SOT-23, das vorsichtig auf eine Platine ohne Anschlüsse gelötet werden kann. Eine einfache Testplatine, deren Zweck war, den Chip so nah wie möglich an die Koaxbuchse am entfernten Ende zu bekommen, ist in Abb. 6 gezeigt. Der zusätzliche Widerstand für den Enable-Pin. Wie von einem Diodendetektor zu erwarten, folgt das Ausgangssignal quadratisch, wie in Abb. 7 gezeigt. Der Frequenzgang ist von 100 MHz bis 4 GHz annehmbar flach, und geht mit vermindertem Signal bis 8 GHz, wie in Abb. 8 gezeigt. Der verwendbare Dynamikbereich ist größer als 30 dB und geht von -20 dBm bis +13 dBm.

AD8361

Der AD8361 von Analog Devices ist ein RMS-(Effektivwert)-Detektor in einem kleinen 8-poligen MSOP-Gehäuse, das auf einer Testplatine in Abb. 9 zu sehen ist. Er ist bis 2.5 GHz spezifiziert und fällt oberhalb dieser Frequenz sehr schnell ab, wie in Abb. 10 gezeigt. Angegebener Eingangsbereich ist 30 dB, aber Abb. 11 zeigt eine Ausgangskurve von etwa -40dBm bis etwa +6dBm. Diese logarithmisch aufgetragen, siehe Abb. 12, zeigt einen richtigen Effektivwert als gerade Linie von etwa -35 dBm bis etwa + 5dBm, also einen 40-dB-Bereich.

AD8362

Der AD8362 von Analog Devices ist ein Effektivwert-Detektor wie der AD8361, hat aber einen 65-dB-Bereich bei Frequenzen bis zu 3.8 GHz. Allerdings befindet er sich in einem 16-poligen TSSOP-Gehäuse. Die enge Abstand der Anschlüsse erschwert das Lötten. Ich habe diesen nicht ausprobiert.

AD8314

Der AD8314 ist ein Detektor mit logarithmischem Verstärker in einem kleinen 8-poligen MSOP-Gehäuse wie der AD8361. Er ist bis 2.7 GHz mit einem Dynamikbereich von 45 dB spezifiziert. Abb. 13 zeigt, dass der Ausgang linear in dB verläuft, mit etwa mV/dB, von etwa -45 dBm bis etwa -0dBm. Abb. 14 zeigt den Frequenzgang, der bis mindestens 2.5 GHz gut ist.

AD8313

Der AD8313 ist ein Detektor mit logarithmischem Verstärker in einem kleinen 8-poligen MSOP-Gehäuse, der bis 2.5 GHz mit 70 dB Dynamikbereich spezifiziert ist. Abb. 15 zeigt, dass der Ausgang linear in dB verläuft, mit etwa 20mV/dB und von etwa -60 dBm bis zu etwa -0dBm. Abb. 16 zeigt, dass der Frequenzgang, bei meiner einfachen Testplatine mit einem Buckel bei etwa 2 GHz, mindestens bis 3 GHz gut ist.

LTC5508

Der LTC5508 ist ein Diodendetektor-Typ, der bis 7 GHz spezifiziert ist. Aber da der LTC5505 bis mehr als dem Zweifachen der spezifizierten Frequenz arbeitete, gab es eine gute Chance, dass dieser Chip bei 10 GHz arbeiten würde. Dieser Chip mit einem kleinen 6-poligen SC-70-Gehäuse benötigt eine andere einfache Testplatine, die in Abb. 17 gezeigt ist. Die Schaltung ist wie in Abb. 1 – ein Draht für den Enable-Pin (SHDN) verläuft unter der Platine. Der Frequenzgang geht im oberen Bereich bis über 10 GHz, wie in Abb. 18 gezeigt, wenngleich etwa 3 dB abgesenkt bei 10.368 GHz. Der nutzbare Dynamikbereich ist größer als 30 dB und verläuft von -20 dBm bis +13 dBm. Mit einem unteren Limit von etwa 100 MHz deckt dieser Chip alle populären Amateurbands von VHF, UHF und Mikrowelle mit einem Dynamikbereich ab, der vergleichbar ist mit dem von älteren Leistungsmessgeräten, wie dem HP 432. Die nötige Stromversorgung sind ein paar Milliampere bei 3 bis 5 V, was schön für Batteriebetrieb ist.

Auf der einfachen Platine, die in Abb. 17 gezeigt ist, arbeitet der LTC5508 bis mindestens 12 GHz, allerdings nur mit Leistungen unter etwa 0 dBm für Frequenzen über 8 GHz. Bei 24 GHz wird Leistung detektiert, aber ich habe den Frequenzgang dort nicht gemessen – zu wissen, dass etwas aus der Antenne kommt, ist (mir) genug. Abb. 18 zeigt, dass der Frequenzgang gut bis 100 MHz hinunter ist, so dass alle VHF-, UHF- und Mikrowellenbänder erfasst sind. Abb. 19 zeigt die erwartete dem Quadrat folgende Kurve.

LT5534

Der LT5534 ist ein Detektor mit logarithmischem Verstärker, der bis 3 GHz und mit einem Dynamikbereich von 60dB spezifiziert ist. Ein Vorteil ist, dass das Gehäuse und die Pin-Belegung gleich wie beim LTC5508 ist, so dass die selbe Platine verwendet werden konnte. Abb. 21 zeigt, dass der Ausgang linear in dB ist, mit etwa 40mV/dB, und von -60dBm hoch bis etwa -5 dBm. Abb. 22 zeigt, dass der Frequenzgang gut ist bis etwa 3.5 GHz.

Ich habe diesen Detektor gewählt, um die Eingangsleistung bei meinem Hand-Netzwerk-Analysator² zu überwachen, so dass ich den Dynamikmessbereich mit einer Eingangsleistung von etwa -30 dBm maximieren konnte.

Um den Frequenzgang nach unten zu erweitern, habe ich eine Version mit einem billigen 1000 pF Eingangsabblockkondensator (0402 Größe) anstatt dem 8.2 pF ATC Mikrowellenchipkondensator gebaut. Abb. 23 zeigt den verbesserten unteren Frequenzgang, ohne dass die höheren Frequenzen sich verschlechtert hatten. Offenbar sind teure Mikrowellenkondensatoren (hier) nicht wichtig.

Anwendungsmöglichkeiten

Die auf der Hand liegende Anwendung ist das Messen von Leistungen. Zum Beispiel zeigt das Datenblatt des AD8307 einen Leistungsmesser mit einem Bereich von 1 mW bis 1 KW. Auf Mikrowellenfrequenzen können Richtkoppler eine Messung der Leistung bei den Milliwatt-Pegeln ermöglichen, die diese Detektoren benötigen. Zusätzlich zur Überwachung der Sendeleistung könnte der Ausgang für eine ALC-Stufe verwendet werden, um die Steuerleistung für einen Verstärker zu kontrollieren.

Mit einem Richtkoppler für beide Richtungen kann vor- und rücklaufende Leistung überwacht werden. Die zwei Detektoren mit linearem „in-dB-Ausgang“ könnten aus der Differenz zwischen den Ausgängen direkt den Returnloss anzeigen. Ein empfindlicher Detektor ist wertvoll bei Antennenarbeiten, wie dem Messen des Strahlungsdiagramms.

Die empfindlichen Detektoren sind auch nützlich für das Messen niedriger Leistungen. Der Leistungsbereich kann erweitert und das VSWR verbessert werden, in dem man Dämpfungsglieder einfügt.

Meine Lieblingsanwendung ist der „HF-Schnüffler“, um abgestrahlte Leistung im Portabel-Betrieb aufzuspüren. Ich habe eine Schaltung³ mit einem AD8307 für niedrige Frequenzen und eine mit einem LTC5508 für UHF und Mikrowelle aufgebaut und mit einer Bargraph-Anzeige zur relativen Leistungsanzeige versehen. Wenn ich in einem neuen QTH aufbaue, halte ich das Gerät, siehe hierzu Abb. 24, mit einer Breitband-Log-Periodic-Antenne von WA5VJB⁴ vor die Antenne, um die Ausgangsleistung zu verifizieren. Die Platine ist in Abb. 25 zu sehen.

Der „HF-Schnüffler“ kann auch ausleckende HF detektieren. Der Test mit einem Mikrowellenofen ist dafür gut. Amateur-PAs sollten ebenfalls auf Lecks überprüft werden, da einige von ihnen sogar höhere Leistungen als Mikrowellenöfen aufweisen. Die integrierten Leistungsdetektoren arbeiten schnell, so dass die zur Anzeige von Modulationen - sogar schnellen Digitalmoden - verwendet werden könnten. Ein Oszilloskop am Ausgang könnte zur Identifizierung bei digitalen Störungen nützlich sein. Sie könnten auch zur Bestimmung von Rauschpegeln verwendet werden, z.B. dem Sonnenrauschen einer Antenne. Allerdings ist die Schnelligkeit hier wenig hilfreich und eine Integration ist am Ausgang nötig um die Anzeige zu glätten und die Ablesung zu mitteln.

Zusammenfassung

Diese nicht teuren, leicht verfügbaren Mikrowellenleistungsdetektoren bieten Möglichkeiten, die mit teurem Laborequipment mithalten oder es übertreffen können. Vielleicht sind sie weniger genau, aber für viele Fälle angemessen. Sie sind nicht nur als Testgerät nützlich, sondern auch als Teil der Station. Die verschiedenen Charakteristiken der unterschiedlichen Chips sollten für eine Vielzahl von Anwendungsfällen ausreichend sein.

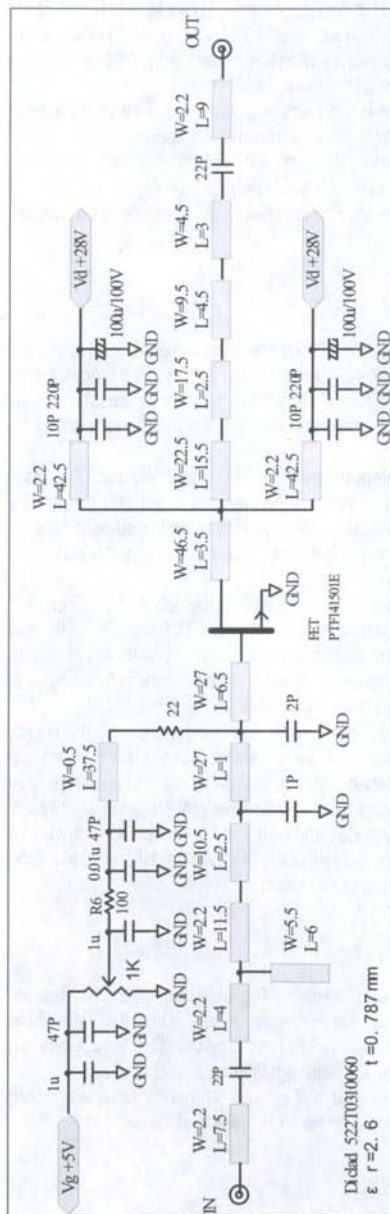
Die Layouts der PCBs, die ich für diese Detektoren hergestellt habe, sind auf meiner Webseite www.w1ghz.org verfügbar. Man kann sie direkt verwenden oder auch gerne abändern und in anderen Projekten einbauen.

Referenzen

Siehe englischer Text oben.

800 Watt SSPA for 23cm

by Yukio Masuda, JA8CMY (Translation: Seiji, JH6RTO)



Introduction

Even today, microwave power transistors are expensive and easy to damage when overloaded. High-power devices are especially likely to be damaged when they oscillate or are subjected to excessive reflected power. In addition, it is noted that there are few power devices available on the market. After resolving some problems, a 23-cm, 800-W amplifier using 8 FETs was developed.

Unit amplifier

It is quite difficult to find commercial power devices for the 23cm band since there are no high-power commercial services except for some radar systems. My choice is Infineon's LDMOS FET PTF141501 for 1.45-1.7-GHz, a 150-W output device. An 800-W amplifier would be possible by using 8 of these FETs.

Our frequency, 1296 MHz, is lower than that of commercial designs. The first step was development of a single FET amplifier as a fundamental unit. Figure 1 is a test circuit, which is based on the recommended circuit but tuned to the 23-cm band. As our frequency is lower, the patterns become larger. The gate matching is adjusted for the maximum gain and the drain matching for maximum output power, P1dB, in the test circuit. Since the FETs are connected to 3dB-hybrids in the complete amplifier, we do not have to take much care of input and output VSWRs. The input return loss was measured as only -6 dB, which is sufficient for stable amplification. In contrast, we need power as much as possible when working EME so that the drain matching is adjusted for the highest output power.

Both distortion and efficiency characteristics are dependent on the gate bias voltage. The efficiency seems more important; So adjusted Ids to 0.9 A in the test circuit. Drain DC power lines that handle >10 A DC current are also key issues. The lines are designed as two-parallel copper lines with a 2.2-mm width and a 35-micron thickness. Measurement results of the test circuit are an output power P1dB of 150 W, an efficiency of 45%, and a gain of 16 dB. The circuit functioned successfully.

Fig. 2 shows the layout of the PCB of the single amplifier unit.

Fig. 1 Test amplifier circuit

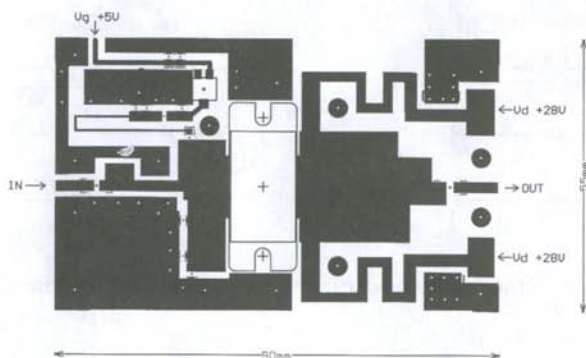


Fig. 2 Test amplifier PCB pattern – not to scale

800-W amplifier circuit

We developed an 800-W amplifier by using 8 test circuits and some 3-dB hybrid power combiners (HYB). Although a Wilkinson power combiner is another candidate, it requires that each amplifier unit has exact impedance of 50 ohms at both the input and output. On the contrary, the 3-dB hybrid only requires the impedances to be the same but may be somewhat different from 50 ohms. So a 3-dB hybrid was chosen. The entire circuit is shown in Fig. 3. It is quite simple.

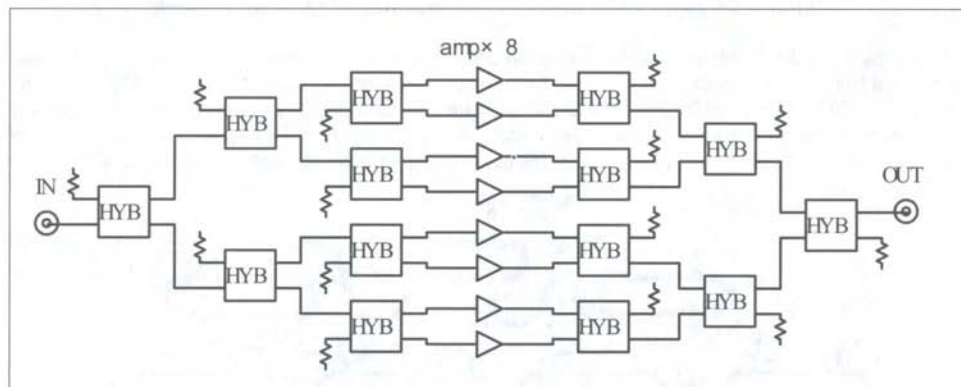


Fig. 3 Entire circuit

Some of the design strategies are now described. Imbalance in the input circuits may damage the FETs. Imbalance in the output circuit degrades the efficiency and lost powers are absorbed in a terminal resistor. Moreover, we have to note that power combining always causes some loss in splitting and combining the power. The input loss is not a major problem but the output loss should be as small as possible. Therefore, connections between the hybrids should be as short as possible and phase adjustment should be done at the input circuit, not at the output. In addition, the output hybrid must have good overload characteristics.

To satisfy these requirements, thicknesses of the boards were optimized. The input hybrids and the first-stage output hybrids were developed on 0.8-mm-thick boards, while the second- and last-stage output hybrids were on 1.6-mm-thick boards. Actually the 1.6-mm board was two 0.8-mm boards but the copper on the facing sides was removed. The hybrids were designed using an ADS simulator. The dimensions and layouts are shown in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. The center frequency was slightly lower than the target, which is an acceptable value since the frequency response is broad. Each circuit was finally adjusted to show the best loss balance, return loss, and isolation at 1296 MHz. After adjustment, the 0.8-mm board had an insertion loss of 0.25 dB, a balance variation of <0.25 dB, an isolation of >20 dB and a return loss of >20 dB. The insertion loss of the 1.6-mm board is lower, 0.15 dB, as expected.

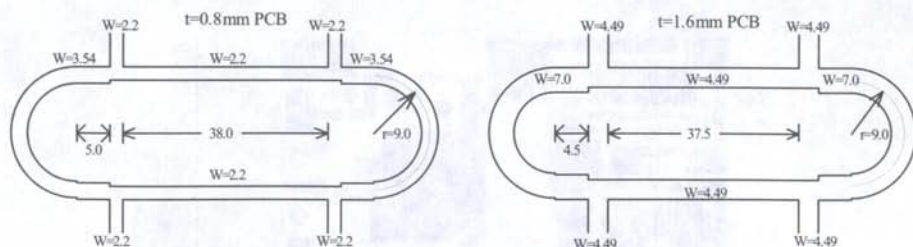


Fig. 4 Structure of the hybrid power combiners. Relative dielectric constant: 2.6



Fig. 5 PCB patterns of the hybrid power combiner – not to scale

A single-board amplifier is too large to produce so the circuit was divided into three splitter boards, two amplifier boards, and four combiner boards. Power capacity for the input termination and isolation is 30 and 50 W and that for the output is 250 W. Before building the entire circuit, each amplifier was adjusted to have the equal P1dB gain and output power. As the gain variation is large, higher-gain FETs may get damaged. Each amateur should take care of this point in order not to break the expensive FETs. The output power variation will cause the power loss.

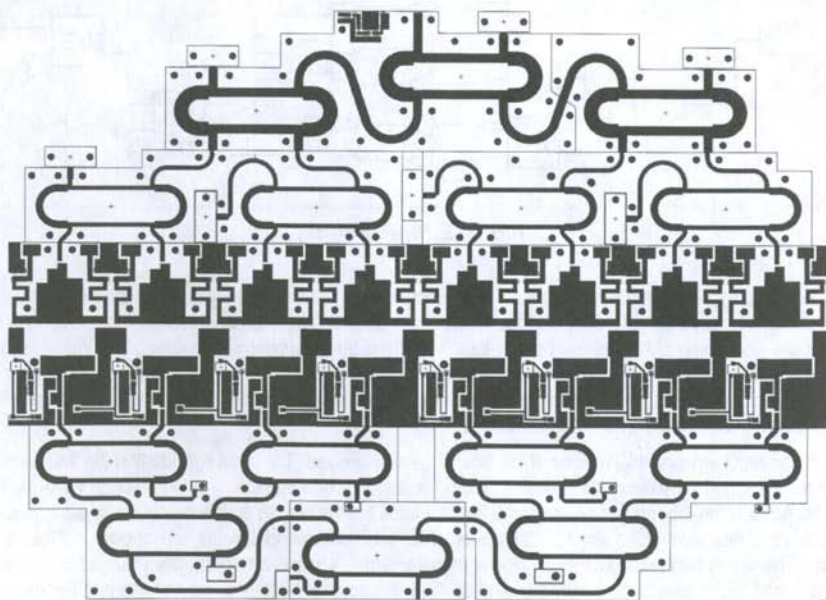


Fig. 6 Entire PCB

Let's calculate the thermal loss. Assuming an output power of 800 W and efficiency of 40%, the loss is 1.2 kW! To efficiently remove the heat, we have to connect the FET and heat sink together with a small thermal resistance. In this case, a graphite sheet EYGS18231 was employed, which has excellent thermal conductivity. Its conductivity is two to four times better than copper and it is flexible in shape. Excellent contact between the FET flange and the case was made possible using graphite sheet. In addition, a 15-mm-thick aluminum plate was used for the efficient thermal spreading from the FET flange. Flatness of the amplifier base plate and heat sink is also important, and graphite sheets were inserted between them to decrease the thermal resistance here as well. Furthermore, 12 40mm square fans were installed, as shown in Fig. 7. To cool the amplifier boards uniformly, they are arranged to blow in opposite directions across each half of the heatsink as shown in Fig. 7.

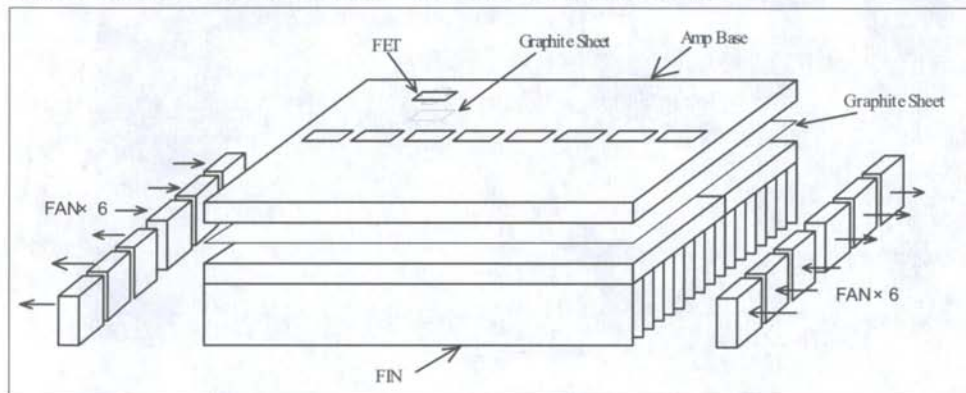


Fig. 7 Cooling system

Amplifier adjustment is done as follows. First, adjust the 4 pairs of 2-amplifier units to have the same gain and P1dB output power. Then the same procedure is followed for the 2 pairs of the 4-amplifier units. Final adjustment is done for the entire circuit of the 8 amplifiers.

Major adjustment is done by fine tuning of the output hybrid. If each unit has different gain, the input hybrids must be tuned as well. The P1dB output power of 2 and 4-unit amplifiers are to be 270 and 520 W, respectively. That of 8 amplifiers is about 1kW although the operating power must not exceed P0.5dB because the cooling capability is not sufficient and power imbalance may sometimes occur.

Just after switching on at a case temperature of 25C, an output power of 880 W is available, then it decreases to 800 W due to heating. If we increase the input power, the output power will still increase. But do not this. The FET junction temperature may exceed the absolute maximum value. This is an 800-W amplifier. Someone may think that the bias level could be changed to class B if he operates only CW. This may also damage the FETs. The gate reverse minimum voltage of PTF141501E is -0.5 V, and the FET does not have the margin to be run in class B. I experienced FET damage at Ids of 0.5 A before reaching the P1dB power.

The performance of the complete amplifier is a gain of 15 dB, an output power of 800 W, and an efficiency of 40%, with the input power of 25W. Increasing the input power to 33 W, it becomes 920-W power and 42% efficiency. The size is 132.2 x 495 x 302.5 mm and the weight is 15 kg. Fig. 8 shows a picture of the complete amplifier unit.

Conclusion

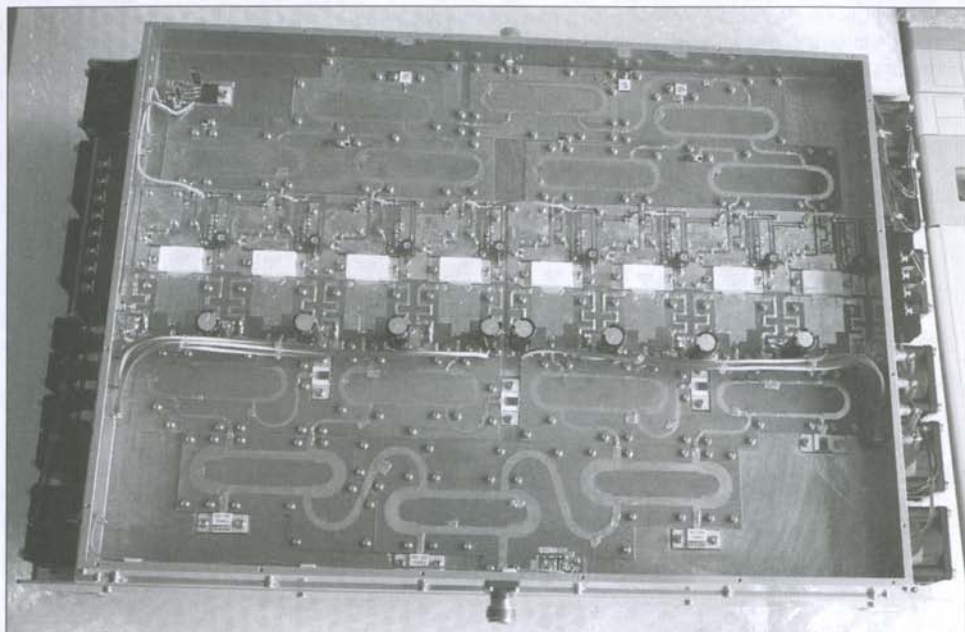
A 23-cm, 800-W solid state amplifier was developed using 8 FETs and 3-dB hybrid power combiners. This amplifier is a compact and powerful tool for 23-cm moon-bouncers.

References

PTF141501E: <http://www.infineon.com/cms/en/product/index.html>

Graphite sheet: http://industrial.panasonic.com/www-ctrlg/ctrlg/qAYA0000_JP.html

Fig. 8 (see next page) Photo of the amplifier



800 Watt SSPA für 23cm

von Yukio Masuda, JA8CMY

Einleitung

Auch jetzt noch sind Mikrowellenleistungstransistoren teuer und leicht zu zerstören, wenn sie überlastet werden. Besonders Transistoren für hohe Leistungen können Schaden nehmen, wenn sie schwingen oder reflektierte Leistung zurück bekommen. Es sei auch darauf hingewiesen, dass es nur wenige geeignete Typen auf dem Markt gibt. Nachdem alle Probleme gelöst waren, wurde eine 800-Watt-PA mit 8 FETs für das 23cm-Band entwickelt.

Verstärker-Einheit

Es ist recht schwierig kommerzielle Leistungstransistoren für das 23cm-Band zu finden, da kein anderer kommerzieller Dienst hier mit hohen Leistungen arbeitet, ausgenommen einige Radar-Systeme. Meine Wahl fiel auf den LDMOS FET PTF141501 von Infineon, der für 1.45-1.7 GHz spezifiziert ist. Es ist ein 150-Watt-Typ. Eine 800 Watt-PA sollte möglich sein mittels 8 solcher FETs. Unsere Frequenz 1296 MHz liegt niedriger als die spezifizierte. Der erste Schritt war die Entwicklung einer Verstärkerstufe mit einem dieser FETs als Grundeinheit. Abb. 1 zeigt die Schaltung hierfür, die auf der empfohlenen Schaltung basiert, aber für das 23cm-Band angepasst wurde. Da die Amateurfrequenz niedriger liegt, werden die Werte größer. Die Gate-Anpassung ist auf maximalen Gewinn und die Drain-Anpassung für maximalen Output, P1dB, in der Grundeinheit geändert worden. Da die FETs im gesamten Verstärker an 3-dB-Hybridkoppler angeschlossen sind, braucht man nicht viel Sorgfalt hinsichtlich der Eingangs- und Ausgangs-VSWRs walten lassen. Der Verlust im Eingangsnetzwerk wurde mit nur 6 dB gemessen, was ausreichend ist für eine stabile Verstärkung. Aber für EME brauchen wir so viel Leistung wie möglich, weshalb die Drain-Anpassung auf die höchste Ausgangsleistung justiert wird.

Verzerrungen und Effektivität hängen beide von der Gittervorspannung ab. Die Effektivität scheint hier wichtiger zu sein. Es wurde auf ein I_{ds} von 0.9A in der Grundeinheit eingestellt. Schlüssel sind auch die DC-Leitungen für das Drain, die >10A Strom vertragen können. Diese Leitungen wurden als zwei parallele Kupferbahnen mit 2.2mm Breite und 35 Mikron Dicke ausgeführt. Messergebnisse des Testaufbaus ergaben für die Leistung P1dB 150 Watt, Effektivität 45% und eine Verstärkung von 16 dB. Die Schaltung funktionierte erfolgreich. Abb. 2 zeigt das Layout der Platine für eine der einzelnen Verstärkereinheiten.

Schaltung für den 800-Watt-Verstärker

Es wurde eine 800-Watt-PA entwickelt durch Verwendung von 8 Grundeinheiten und einigen 3-dB-Hybridkopplern (HYB). Aber auch ein Wilkinson-Leistungsteiler wäre ein Kandidat, bei dem jedoch erforderlich ist, dass jede Verstärkereinheit exakt eine Impedanz von 50 Ohm am Eingang und Ausgang aufweist. Im Gegensatz dazu braucht der 3-dB-Hybrid nur eine Homogenität der Impedanz, die aber etwas anders als 50 Ohm sein darf. Deshalb wurde der 3-dB-Hybrid gewählt. Die komplette Zusammenschaltung ist in Abb. 3 gezeigt. Sie ist ziemlich einfach.

Einiges der Design-Strategie soll beschrieben werden. Ungleichgewicht in den Eingangskreisen kann die FETs beschädigen. In den Ausgangskreisen führt dies zu niedrigerer Effektivität und die verlorene Leistung wird in den Abschlusswiderständen absorbiert. Wir müssen anmerken, dass Zusammenschalten von Leistung immer einigen Verlust mit sich bringt beim Teilen und Zusammenführen der Leistung. Der Eingangsverlust ist kein größeres Problem, aber der Verlust auf der Ausgangsseite sollte so gering sein, wie möglich. Deshalb sollten die Verbindungen zwischen den Hybriden so kurz wie möglich sein und das Einstellen der Phase sollte auf der Eingangsseite erfolgen und nicht am Ausgang. Außerdem muss der Ausgangshybrid für hohe Überlastung dimensioniert sein. Um diese Anforderungen zu erfüllen, wurde die Dicke der Platinen optimiert. Die Eingangshybride und die Ausgangshybride der ersten Stufe wurden auf 0.8mm dicken Platinen ausgeführt, während der Ausgangshybride der 2. Stufe und der Abschlußhybrid am Ausgang mit 1.6mm dickem Material ausgeführt wurden. In der Praxis bestand die 1.6mm Platine aus zwei 0.8mm Platinen, deren Kupferschichten entfernt wurden.

Die Hybride wurden mittels eines ADS-Simulators entworfen. Die Abmessungen und Layouts sind in Abb. 4 bzw. Abb. 5 gezeigt. Die Mittenfrequenz war leicht unter der Zielfrequenz, was aber ein akzeptabler Wert war, da die Kurve für den Frequenzgang breit ist. Jede Stufe wurde schließlich justiert, um beste Leistung hinsichtlich Balance, Returnloss und Isolation auf 1296 MHz zu erhalten. Nach dieser Justierung zeigte die 0.8mm Platine eine Einfügedämpfung von 0.25 dB, eine Balance-Abweichung von <0.25 dB, eine Isolation von >20dB und einen Returnloss von >20dB. Die Einfügedämpfung der 1.6mm Platine ist niedriger und liegt bei 0.15dB, wie erwartet.

Ein Einplatinenverstärker wäre zu groß, so dass die Schaltung in drei Teiler-Platinen, zwei Verstärkerplatinen und 4 Combiner-Platinen aufgeteilt wurde. Für die Eingangsabschlüsse und Isolierung beträgt die Leistungskapazität 30 und 50 Watt, für den Ausgang 250 Watt. Bevor die gesamte Schaltung aufgebaut wird, wird jeder Verstärker auf gleiche P1dB-Verstärkung und Ausgangsleistung abgeglichen. Da die Streuung bei der Verstärkung groß ist, können FETs mit der höheren Verstärkung beschädigt werden. Man sollte dies beachten, um die teuren FETs nicht zu zerstören. Abweichungen bei der Ausgangsleistung führen zu Leistungsverlusten.

Nun zu einer Abschätzung der thermischen Verluste. Bei angenommenen 800 Watt Output und 40% Effektivität beträgt die Verlustleistung 1.2 kW! Um die Wärme effektiv abzuführen, müssen FET und Kühlkörper thermisch mit geringen thermischen Widerstand verbunden werden. In diesem Fall wurde eine Graphitmatte (EYGS18231) verwendet, die hervorragende thermische Leitfähigkeit aufweist. Ihre Leitfähigkeit ist zwei- bis viermal besser als die von Kupfer und sie ist flexibel. Damit wurde auch eine exzellente Verbindung zwischen FET-Flansch und Gehäuse ermöglicht. Zusätzlich wurde eine 15mm dicke Alu-Platte für effiziente Wärmeableitung vom FET-Flansch verwendet. Ebenheit der Grundplatte des Verstärkers und des Kühlkörpers ist ebenfalls wichtig. Die Graphitmatten wurden auch hier dazwischen eingefügt, um den thermischen Widerstand herabzusetzen. Darüberhinaus wurden 12 quadratische 40mm-Lüfter installiert, wie in Abb. 7 gezeigt. Um die Verstärkerplatinen homogen zu kühlen, laufen die Richtungen des Windstroms auf der Ober- und Unterseite in entgegengesetzter Richtung.

Zum Schluß wird die PA wie folgt abgestimmt. Zuerst werden die 4 Paare der 2er-PA-Einheiten auf gleiche Verstärkung und P1dB Ausgangsleistung abgeglichen. Dann wird das selbe mit den 2 Paaren der 4er-Einheiten gemacht. Der letzte Abgleich wird mit der gesamten PA aus allen 8 Verstärkern vorgenommen.

Der wichtigste Abgleich wird durch feine Abstimmung des Ausgangshybrids vorgenommen. Wenn jede Einheit verschiedene Verstärkung hat, müssen die Eingangshybride ebenfalls abgestimmt werden. Die P1dB Ausgangsleistung von 2 bzw. 4 Verstärkern soll 270 bzw 520 Watt sein. Die von 8 Verstärkern ist etwa 1 KW. Die Arbeitsleistung soll P0.5dB nicht überschreiten, da die Kapazität der Kühlung nicht mehr erlaubt und manchmal unausgewogene Leistungsverhältnisse auftreten. Direkt nach dem Einschalten stehen bei einer Gehäusetemperatur von 25 Grad C 880 Watt zur Verfügung, die dann auf 800 Watt abfallen durch die Erwärmung. Bei Erhöhung der Eingangsleistung wird die Ausgangsleistung immer noch ansteigen. Aber das sollte man nicht tun. Die Temperatur der FET-Übergänge könnte die absoluten Maximalwerte überschreiten. Dies ist ein 800-Watt-Verstärker. Man könnte auf die Idee kommen, dass die Vorspannung für Klasse B geändert werden könnte, wenn man nur CW macht. Das könnte auch die FETs beschädigen. Die minimale Gegenspannung am Gate beträgt -0.5 Volt für den PTF141501E. Dieser FET hat keinen Spielraum für Klasse B. Ich habe Beschädigungen am FET bei einem I_{ds} von 0.5 A festgestellt, bevor die P1dB Leistung erreicht wurde. Die Leistungsdaten des entwickelten Verstärkers sind eine Verstärkung von 15 dB, Ausgangsleistung von 800 Watt und eine Effektivität von 40%. Das bei einer Eingangsleistung von 25 Watt. Bei Erhöhung der Steuerleistung auf 33 Watt erhalten wir 920 Watt Output bei 42% Effektivität. Die Abmessungen betragen 132.2 x 495 x 302.5 mm und das Gewicht ist 15 kg. Abb. 8 zeigt die ganze fertig aufgebaute PA.

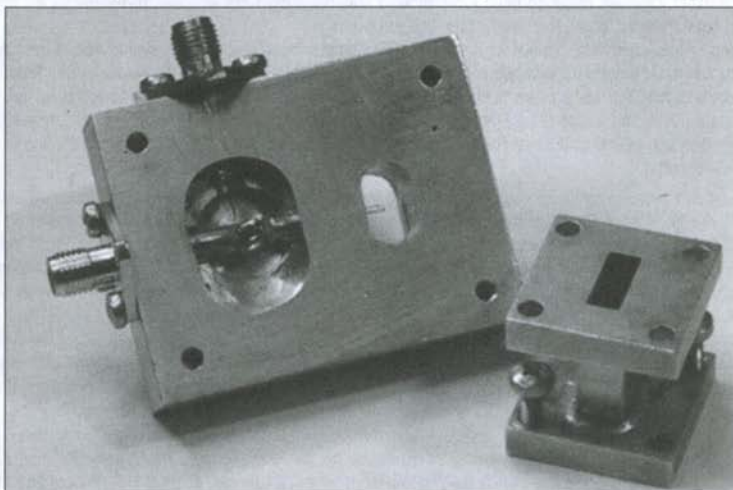
Fazit

Eine 800-Watt-Transistor-PA für 23cm wurde unter Verwendung von 8 FETs und 3-dB Hybridkopplern entwickelt. Dieser Verstärker ist ein kompaktes und leistungsstarkes Hilfsmittel für 23cm EME-OPs. (Referenzen siehe engl. Text oben)

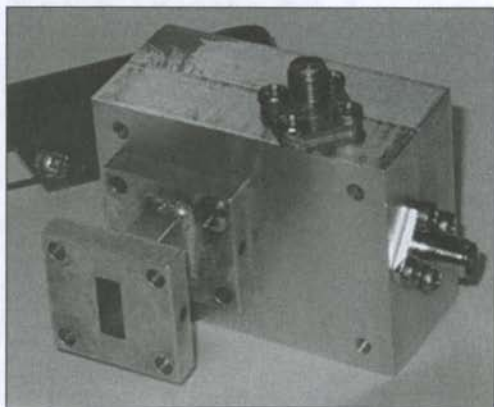
More Experiments on 24 GHz: Simple sandwich mixer with WG port

by Wolfgang Demmer, DD8BD - dd8bd@gmx.net

It was intended to build a very simple (experimental) 24 GHz mixer from UT141 semi rigid cable, a BAT15-099 antiparallel diode and Aluminium bar. The mixer should also include a WG port (R220/WG20/WR42). Using two filed or milled blocks from aluminium, a kind of housing was built, as individually ready milled complete housings are difficult to get for the average amateur. One could call our kind of housing also a "sandwich housing".



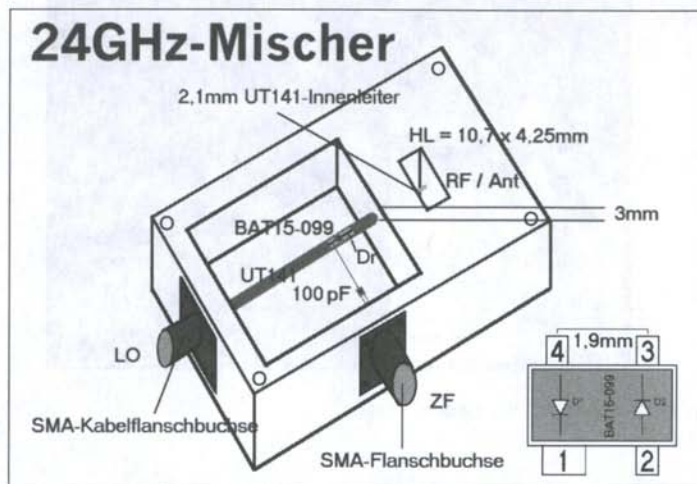
Firstly, two blocks of 4 cm x 5 cm x 1.2 cm were cut from aluminium. The dimensions are not critical as long as there is room for a WG flange and the SMA jacks and other parts. Of course, thicker material can also be used. Holes are drilled close to the edges of both blocks. The bottom block - that gets the parts inserted later on - is drilled and tapped M3 and the upper block is drilled 3mm clear. Then both blocks are screwed together and the holes for the SMA flanged jacks drilled. The socket for the LO input is a cable entry flanged type.



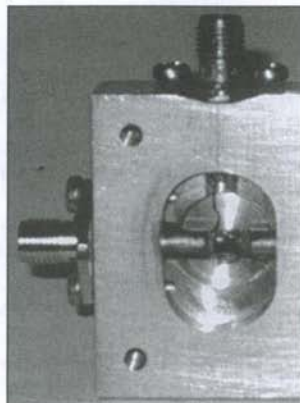
For the SMA sockets need 2.5mm tapped (predrilling with 2.1mm). Suitable 2.5mm V2A screws of 4mm or 6mm length are available at low prices via Ebay. Also the aluminum material (e.g. 50 x 15 x mm) is available via Ebay in case one can not find this locally as offcuts from industry or at the scrap yard. SMA cable flange jacks for UT141 (and UT085), semi rigid cable and BAT diodes are available e.g. from Eisch Electronic.

By locating the LO-SMA flange jack the course of the UT141 line (diameter 3.6mm) was evident and the 1.2cm long WG was drilled and milled into the bottom block. One can make this WG just with a file without milling, of course. This is also possible using a pillar drill. More advantageous is a milling machine, of course.

For the LO line and IF line longitudinal holes were made into the bottom block. In order to get precise results, marking and pilot drilling with an e.g. 1.5mm drill is very important. Permanent measurements all the time with a caliper are essential.



For the IF SMA flange jack (4mm diameter) and the LO SMA cable flange jack (about 5mm diameter) were first drilled for the teflon stub just so that it fits into the hole. Then the holes of the flange are marked and drilled and finally tapped. It is important that the center of the hole for the UT141 cable to the WG is 3mm below the upper rim of the bottom block as the second block is intended to close this small WG. In this position a stripped part of the inner conductor of the UT141 will form an RF coupling probe. This probe (1mm diameter) should be of about 2.1 to 3.0mm length.



To get a bit space for the BAT15-099, the choke wire and the lead of the 100 pF capacitor, the bottom block was milled out a bit at the SMA IF flange jack. This should be done VERY slowly and carefully, especially if a pillar drill is used. One should mill just a half to maximum one millimeter per pass.

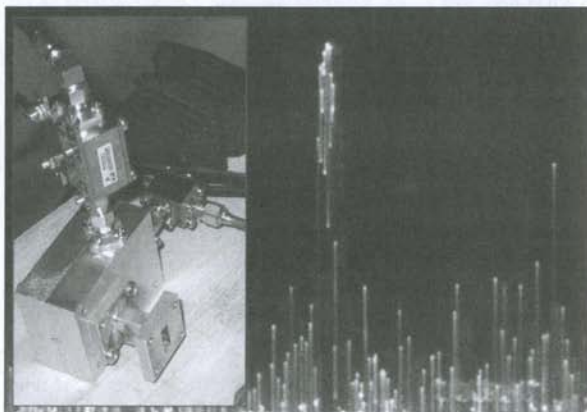
The coupling of the LO was done without a capacitor directly into the UT141 line.

The final job of the soldering of the BAT15-099 etc was described already in DUBUS 2/2008 [1]. Lastly the upper block is screwed onto the bottom block and the WG is closed.

The figures show this mixer in principle, many modifications are possible depending on the available parts and should work also.

Contrary to other current projects (hi) this mixer worked perfectly at the first try, although just a short piece of open WG was used as RX antenna. As IF amplifier I used again the Picosecond Pulse Lab amplifier modified with an ERA-1. Not only in the RX but also on the spectrum analyzer a distinct signal of

my test beacon was visible. Thus this mixer can be used also for measurements on 24 GHz signals with an analyzer.



Have fun with your experiments with this sandwich mixer.

73 Wolfgang, DD8BD

Reference

[1] W. Demmer, DD8BD, Simple Low Cost Mixer for 24 GHz, DUBUS 2/2008, p. 55-61

Weitere Experimente auf 24 GHz: Aufbau eines einfachen „Butterbrot“- Mischers mit Hohlleiteranschluß

von Wolfgang Demmer, DD8BD - dd8bd@gmx.net

Es bestand die Absicht, einen einfachen 24GHz-Mischer unter Verwendung von UT141 Semi Rigid, einer BAT15-099 antiparallelen Diode und Alu-Flachkant-Material aufzubauen. Der Mischer sollte einen Hohlleiterzugang vom Typ R220/WG20/WR42 haben. Durch die Verwendung von zwei zugeschnittenen und gefeilten bzw. gefrästen Alu-Blöcken sollte eine Art Gehäuse entstehen, denn für den individuellen Zweck fertig gefräste Alu-Gehäuse sind für den Durchschnittsamateur meist nicht greifbar. Man könnte so ein Gehäuse auch „Butterbrot-Gehäuse“ nennen.

Zunächst wurden zwei Alu-Blöcke mit den Maßen 4cm x 5cm bei einer Dicke von 1,2cm zugeschnitten. Die Maße sind insoweit unerheblich, solange ein Hohlleiterflansch, die SMA-Anschlüsse und die Bauteile ihren Platz finden können. Auch dickeres Material kann natürlich verwendet werden. In den Ecken beider Blöcke wurden Bohrungen angebracht, der untere Block, der später die wesentlichen Bauteile enthalten sollte, erhielt in den Ecken 3mm-Gewinde, der obere Block lediglich 3mm-Bohrungen.

Dann wurden beide Blöcke miteinander verschraubt und es wurden die Bohrungen für die SMA-Flanschbuchsen (wovon diejenige für den LO-Eingang eine Kabelflanschbuchse ist) vorgenommen.

Für die SMA-Flanschbuchsen mussten 2,5mm Gewinde gebohrt werden (Vorbohrung mit 2,1mm). Passende 2,5mm-Schrauben (M2,5) z.B. aus Edelstahl von 4mm oder 6mm Länge sind u.a. günstig über Ebay zu erhalten. Alu-Flachkant-Material kann ebenfalls über Ebay erworben werden (z.B. 50mm x 15mm x Länge), falls örtlich keine Metallreste in Fabriken oder auf Schrottplätzen erhältlich sein sollten.

SMA-Kabelflanschbuchsen für UT141 (und UT085) wie auch diese Semi Rigid Leitungen selbst und BAT-Dioden gibt es bei Eisch-Kafka Elektronik.

Nachdem durch die Anordnung der LO-SMA-Flanschbuchse der Verlauf der UT141 – Leitung (Durchmesser 3,6mm) klar war, wurde in den unteren Block der nur 1,2cm lange Hohlleiter gebohrt und gefräst. Natürlich kann man den Hohlleiter auch ohne Fräser mit einer Feile herstellen. Prinzipiell geht das mit einer soliden Ständerbohrmaschine, vorteilhafter ist letztlich eine Fräsmaschine, sofern man vorsichtig vorgeht.

Nun wurden für die LO-Leitung und die ZF-Leitung Längsbohrungen in diesem unteren Block eingebracht. Um eine möglichst große Maßgenauigkeit zu erzielen, sind Vorkörnen und Vorbohren mit z.B. einem 1,5mm-Bohrer sehr wichtig. Das ständige Messen mit einer Schieblehre bzw. einem Messschieber ist unabdingbar!

Erst wurden nur die Bohrungen für den Teflonstutzen der ZF-SMA-Flanschbuchse (Durchmesser ca. 4mm) und die Lötseite der LO-SMA-Kabelflanschbuchse (Durchmesser knapp 5mm) vorgenommen, sodass die Buchsen gerade in die Löcher eingeschoben werden konnten. Dann wurden die Flanschlöcher markiert, angeköhnt und gebohrt, schließlich wurden die Gewinde gebohrt.

Wesentlich war dabei, dass die Mitte der Bohrung für das UT141 zum Hohlleiter bei 3mm unterhalb der Oberkante des unteren Blocks lag, da ja der zweite Block diesen kleinen Hohlleiter abschließen würde. An dieser Stelle sollte sich ein abisoliertes Stück des Innenleiters des UT141 als RF-Einkoppel-/Auskoppelfinger befinden. Dieser Fühler (Durchmesser 1mm) hat eine Länge von ca. 2,5mm bis 3mm.

Um etwas Platz für die BAT15-099, das Drosseldrähchen und den Draht zum 100 pF-Kondensator an der SMA-ZF-Flanschbuchse zu erhalten, wurde der untere Block etwas ausgefräst. Dabei sollte man sehr langsam und sehr vorsichtig vorgehen, besonders, wenn man mit einer Ständerbohrmaschine arbeitet. Man sollte möglichst nur einen halben bis höchstens ein Millimeter Material in einem Durchgang abtragen.

Die LO-Einkoppelung geschah ohne Kondensator direkt in die UT141-Leitung hinein.

Die restlichen Arbeiten bezüglich des Einlötens der BAT15-099 usw. wurden bereits in DUBUS 2/2008 [1] beschrieben. Schließlich wird der obere Block aufgeschraubt, womit auch der kleine Hohlleiter abgeschlossen ist.

Die Abbildungen zeigen den prinzipiellen Aufbau dieses Mischers, viele Abwandlungen sind entsprechend des jeweils vorhandenen Bastelmaterials denkbar und müssen auch zum Ziel führen!

Im Gegensatz zu anderen aktuellen Projekten, hi, funktionierte der Mischer auf Anhieb, obwohl nur ein kurzes Stückchen offener Hohlleiter als Empfangsantenne diente. Als ZF-Verstärker wurde wieder der mit einem ERA-1 reparierte und modifizierte Picosecond Pulse Lab Verstärker verwendet. Nicht nur im Empfänger sondern auch auf dem Spektrum-Analyzer war ein deutliches Signal meiner Testbake zu verzeichnen. Insoweit ist dieser Mischer also auch für Messungen mit einem Analyzer an 24GHz-Signalen verwendbar.

Viel Spaß beim Experimentieren mit diesem „Butterbrot“-Mischer!

73 Wolfgang, DD8BD

Referenz

[1] W. Demmer, DD8BD, Einfacher und günstiger RX-Mischer für 24 GHz, DUBUS 2/2008, S. 55-61

Hints for Multiplier CMA 382400

by Philipp Prinz, DL2AM

Many amateurs use the multiplier CMS 382400 on the mm-bands such as 76, 122 and 241 GHz. Here are a few hints and comments. I have made the following measurements on this multiplier. It is usable from 12.6 to 13.6 GHz, resulting in 37.8 to 40.8 GHz after tripling. The input at the SMA jack is 10 to 25 mW and at the WG output (WR28) I measure about 50 to 100 mW. When used as a quadrupler the lowest input frequency is 9.45 GHz and the upper about 10.2 GHz and the required input power is twice as much as when tripling. When I checked this multiplier on my network analyzer I realized that just the +5 V DC supply voltage on pin 2 has a major influence on the output power. Varying the voltage at the +8 V DC supply on pin 3 has no significant influence on the output power. If instead of +5 V, +6 V is supplied at pin 2, we get 55% more output power and the supply current increases from about 310mA to 350mA. The voltage on pin 3 can be increased from +8 V to +9.5V, but there is only a marginal increase in output power. A test for an extended time showed no drawbacks. Proper cooling is necessary, of course. With +6.4 V on pin 2 we reach saturation. The +5 V supply can also be lowered down to +2.2 V. Then the output power decreases smoothly to about 10%. This can be useful in a mixer in order to adjust the drive level for the best signal to noise ratio. When using the CMA 382400 as a quadrupler it helps to use +6 V instead of +5 V, because then one can see instantly if the multiplier diode is driven properly. Attention – take care about the maximum dissipation loss in the varactor diode. I was not able to find any problems on the analyzer when running with any of these variations in voltage.

Connector pin assignment	CMA 382400
1 = black	ground
2 = red or grey	+5 to +6 Volt DC, 310 to 350 mA
3 = grey or red	+8 to +9,5 Volt DC
4 = green	-5 Volt

The assignment on the connector remains always the same. A connector strip e.g. from Reichelt (www.reichelt.de, part number PSS 245/8G) can be cut down to 6 pins and used for connecting with the jack of the CMA 382400.

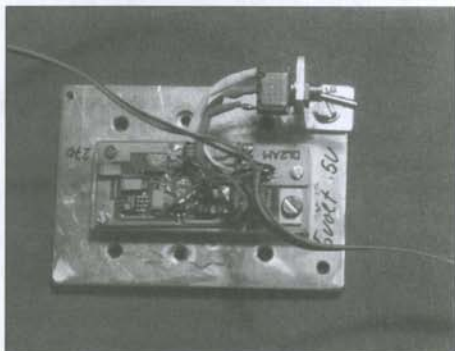


Fig. 1 +5V / +6V DC switch



Fig. 2 CMA 382400 Multiplier

Finally I also want to report that I have been able to reach 1.2 mW output on 122 GHz with the diode MA4E1310 in two different units without changing the tuning flags but by adjusting the tuning elements. Therefore the multiplier needs a minimal output power of 125 mW. I use the new UNI casings for this assembly. I have not yet tested this diode as a mixer.

By increasing the voltage of the multiplier I have obtained 19 mW output with the MA46H146 varactor diode on 76 GHz. To achieve this it is necessary to tune carefully again after any increase of the multiplier output and to adjust the tuning elements at the input and output and to tune the potentiometer for optimal work load resistance. A circuit for voltage regulation for this multiplier has been published in DUBUS 3/2007 on page 26.

Literature

1. Philipp Prinz, DL2AM, New 76 GHz Transverter, Dubus 4/2005
2. Philipp Prinz, DL2AM, New 122 GHz Transverter, Dubus 2/2006
3. Philipp Prinz, DL2AM, New Casings for 47, 76 and 122 GHz Transverters, Dubus 3/2007
4. Philipp Prinz, DL2AM, More about SMT and Microwave Housings, Dubus 2/2008

Hinweise für den Vervielfacher (Multiplier) CMA 382400

von Philipp Prinz, DL2AM

Dieser Multiplier findet Verwendung bei vielen, die im mm-Wellen-Bereich arbeiten, wie z.B. bei 76, 122 und 241 GHz. Hier einige Hinweise und Tipps dazu: Der Multiplier hat folgende Daten, die von mir gemessen wurden: Verwendbar von 12,6 – 13,6 GHz, mal 3 ergibt 37,8 – 40,8 GHz. Der Input = SMA-Buchse liegt bei 10 – 25 mWatt, wobei am HL-Ausgang WR 28 ca. 50 – 100 mWatt messbar ist. Wenn dieser als Vervielfacher benutzt wird, liegt die Eingangs-Frequenz bei 9,45 und die obere bei 10,2 GHz. Die Eingangsleistung verdoppelt sich gegenüber dem Verdreifacher. Wenn ich diesen Multiplier an meinem Netzwerk-Analyzer teste, sehe ich, dass nur die + 5 Volt DC am Anschluß 2 der Versorgungsspannung großen Einfluß auf die Ausgangsleistung hat. Bei dem + 8 Volt DC-Anschluß 3, verändert sich nicht mehr so viel. Wenn anstelle der + 5 Volt + 6 Volt anliegen, erhöht sich die Ausgangsleistung bis zu 55 %. Der Ausgangsstrom erhöht sich dadurch von ca. 310 auf 350 mA. Auch kann die + 8 Volt auf + 9,5 Volt erhöht werden. Dadurch erhöht sich die Ausgangsleistung unwesentlich.

Bei einem Dauertest konnte ich keine Nachteile feststellen. Es ist für eine gute Kühlung zu sorgen. Bei + 6,4 Volt am Anschluß 2 ist die Sättigung erreicht. Auch kann die + 5 Volt auf bis + 2,2 Volt reduziert werden. Die Ausgangsleistung geht dabei kontinuierlich bis auf den Restwert von 10 % zurück. Dies ist z. B. nötig bei einem Mischer, um die Ansteuerung so zu dosieren, dass der beste Signalrausch-Abstand entsteht.

Wenn dieser CMA 382400 für eine Vervielfachung benutzt wird, ist es hilfreich die 5 Volt auf 6 Volt hochzusetzen, somit sieht man gleich, ob die Vervielfacher-Diode angesteuert ist. Achtung, auf maximale Verlustleistung der Varaktor-Diode achten.

Durch all diese Spannungsveränderungen konnte ich am Analyzer nichts Nachteiliges feststellen.

Anschlußbelegung

CMA 382400

1 = schwarz	Masse
2 = rot oder grau	+ 5 bis + 6 Volt DC 310 bis 350 mAmp.
3 = grau oder rot	+ 8 bis + 9,5 Volt DC
4 = grün	- 5 Volt

Wenn bei Fa. Reichelt (www.Reichelt.de) eine Steckerleiste Nr. PSS 245/8G besorgt wird, kann diese durch Abschneiden auf 6 Pin für diese Buchsenleiste benutzt werden. Die beiden Fotos oben im englischen Text zeigen die Rück- und Vorderseite des CMA 382400.

Zum Abschluss möchte ich noch darauf hinweisen, dass ich mit der Diode MA4E1310 auf 122 GHz bei 2 Aufbauten 1,2 m out erreicht habe, ohne die Fähnchen zu schieben, nur durch Abgleich der Tuning-Elemente. Der Multiplier muß dabei eine minimale Ausgangsleistung von 125 mW aufweisen. Ich verwendete dafür die neuen Uni-Gehäuse. Als Mischer-Diode habe ich diese noch nicht getestet.

Auf 76 GHz habe ich mit der MA46H146 Varaktor-Diode 19 mW erreicht durch Heraufsetzen der Spannung des Multipliers. Ein sorgfältiger Abgleich nach immer höher werdendem Output des Multipliers und Verändern der Tuning-Elemente am Ein- und Ausgang sowie des Potis für einen optimalen Arbeitswiderstand ist Voraussetzung für das Gelingen. Ich möchte auf den Artikel im Dubus 3/2007 Seite 26 hinweisen, da in diesem eine Regelschaltung für diesen Multiplier vorliegt. Vy 73 Philipp, DL2AM - www.DL2AM.de

Preview: 241 GHz Transverter

by Philipp Prinz, DL2AM

Two complete transverters for the 241 GHz band were just completed and a first QSO over a distance of 2km was made. A description of the transverter will follow in next issue. Here a few pictures for quickening the appetite.

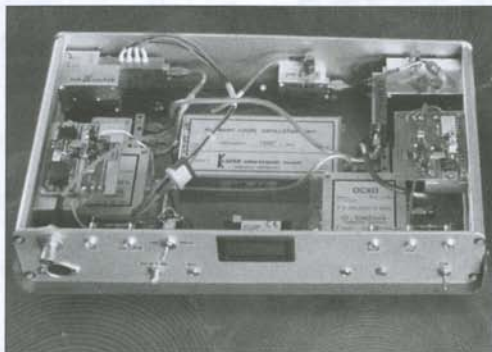


Fig. 1 241 GHz Transverter by DL2AM

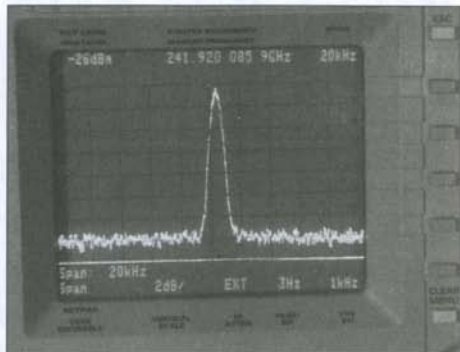


Fig. 2 The 241 GHz signal on the analyzer

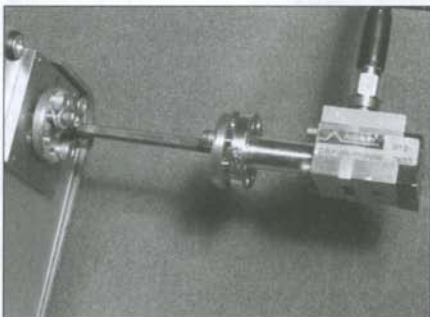


Fig. 3 Milltech-Mixer für 241 GHz

Zwei komplette 241-GHz-Transverter wurden soeben fertiggestellt. Ein erstes QSO über 2km wurde damit bereits gemacht. Eine Beschreibung des Transverters folgt in der nächsten Ausgabe. Hier einige Fotos vorab zum Appetit anregen.



Fig. 4 DL2AM during his 241 GHz QSO

Design of a prime-focus feed with backward radiation – Correction

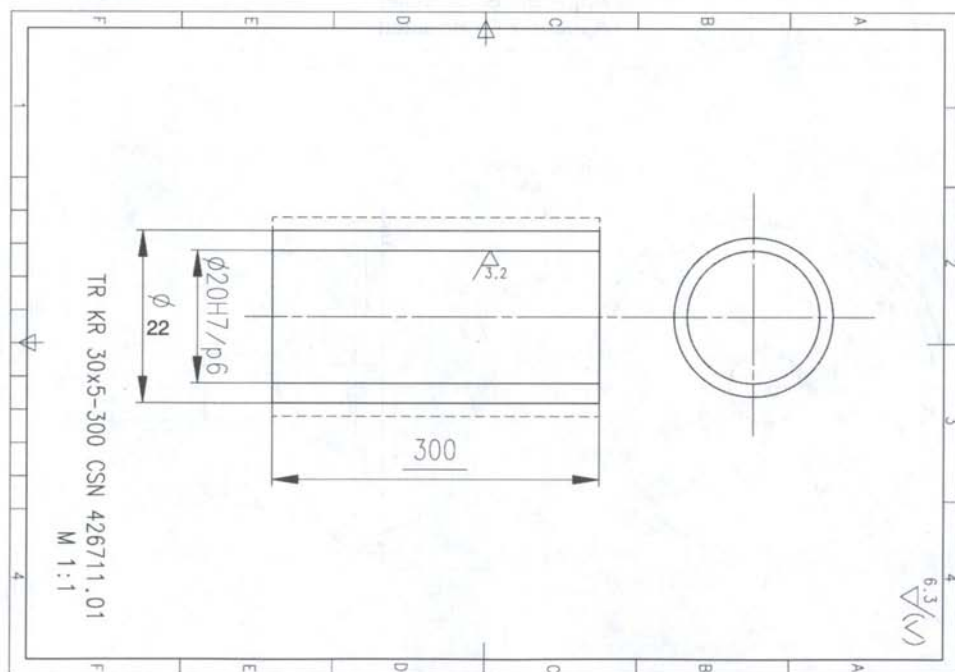
Libor SLÁMA¹, Rastislav GALUŠČÁK - OM6AA¹, Pavel HAZDRA¹

¹ Dept. of Electromagnetic Field, Czech Technical University, Technická 2, 166 27 Praha, Czech Republic

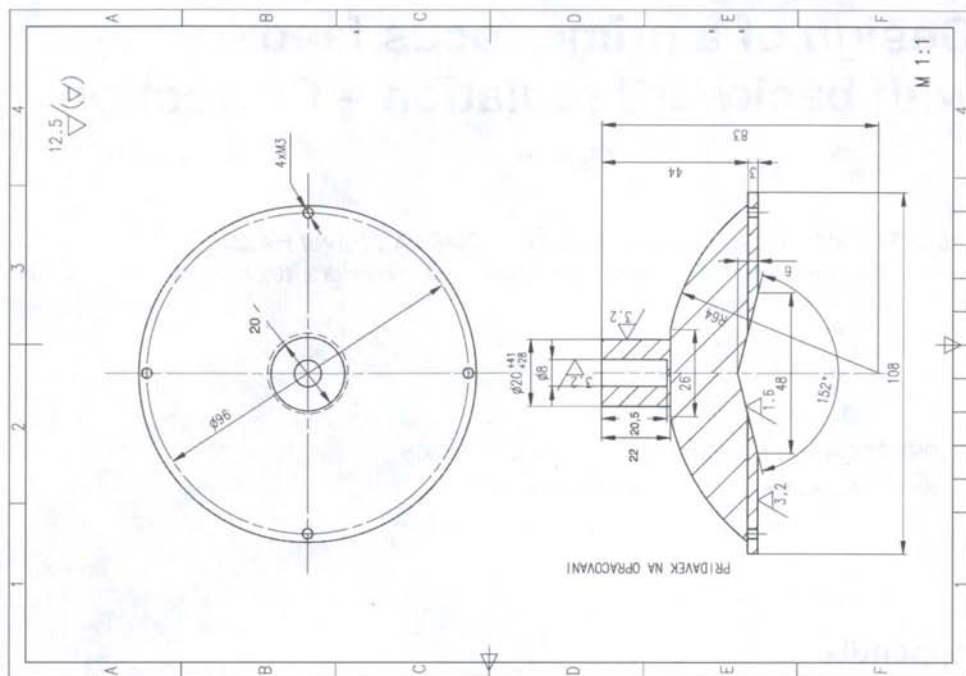
CORRECTION sheet for Page 55 to 57 in DUBUS 3/2008

Please correct the dimensions in Appendix A, B and C!

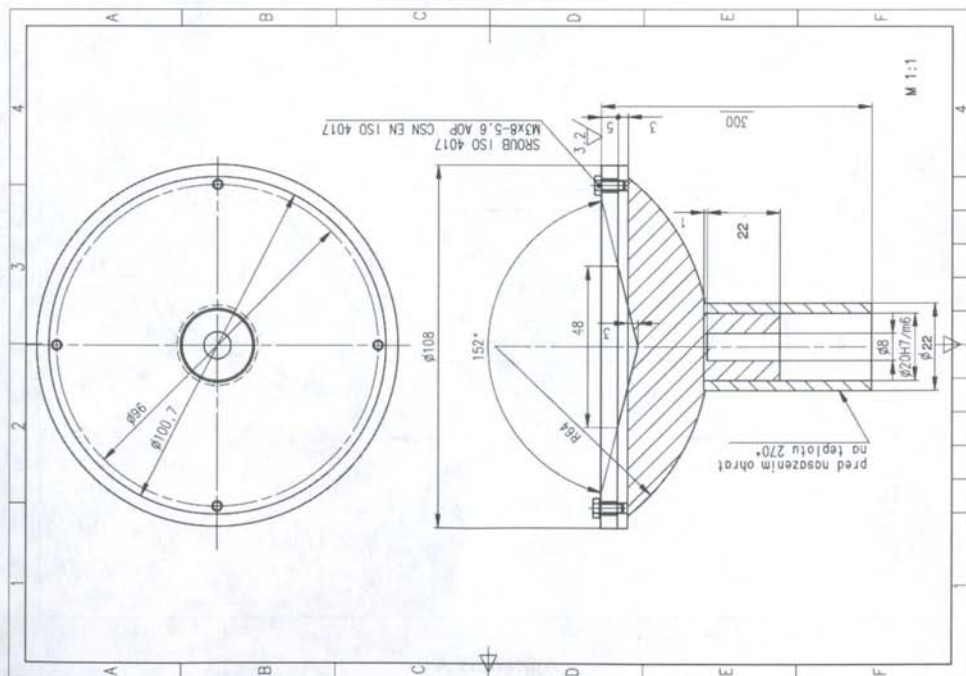
Appendix



Appendix A



Appendix B corrected
Appendix C corrected



VHF News

Australia & New Zealand

Tropo from VK to ZL on 2m

The first signs of tropo ducting for the new season were indicated by an opening from Steve, VK2ZT to Bob, ZL3TY on two meters SSB on 26 September.

MS activity from VK to ZL on 2m

The timing of the Saturday morning FSK441 meteor scatter activity sessions between VK and ZL has been changed as follows:

2000 to 2100 UTC during winter time

1900 to 2000 UTC during summer daylight saving time

ZL transmits first period and all stations use the common frequency of 144.330 MHz.

During these sessions it is possible to work two stations at a time using the procedure shown in the following example.

CQ VK1WJ

CQ VK7MO

VK1WJ/26 VK7MO/27 ZL3TY

ZL3TY/R16 VK1WJ

ZL3TY/R28 VK7MO

MO/RRR WJ/RRR ZL3TY

TY/73 VK7MO

TY/73 VK1WJ

The VK logger is a good place to find up-to-date information on VHF activity and band openings and may be found at: <http://www.vklogger.com/>

Solar powered EME

Dave, VK2JDS, has a solar powered EME station operational on 1296 MHz. Dave runs a 4.6 metre TVRO dish with an IC-910-H to 65 Watt amplifier. He balances his dish with a milk crate filled rocks (see photo below). Dave has worked G4CCH, HB9Q, SM5LE (2.2 metre dish), RD3DA, and DJ9YW all on JT65c.



Tnx to Rex, VK7MO, for the above input!

VHF/UHF/microwave pioneer Reg Galle, VK5QR, SK

All those interested in long distance VHF/UHF/microwave propagation will regret the death of Reg Galle VK5QR on 12 September 2008. Reg was a leading pioneer of the use of these amateur radio bands.

On 31 December 1951, Reg made a 144 MHz Australian record distance of 2122 Km with a contact with the late Rolo Everingham VK6BO in Perth (just short of the then world record of 2253 Km). He then continued to seek answers to questions regarding the propagation of the higher bands. Reg became the Adelaide end of record breaking distances on 432, 1296, 2304 and 3456 MHz across the Great Australian Bight with Wally Green VK6WG in Albany. Reg and Wally, as true amateurs with no professional engineering backgrounds, built equipment for these UHF/microwave bands and were nearly 2 000 Km apart so that there were no "local" tests with each other. There were no precedents in Australia, and few in the world, for trying to make contacts over this distance. In 1977, they bridged the 1296 MHz path on 25 January for a world record distance of 1885 Km.

The following year, on 17 February 1978, Reg and Wally made their first contact on the 2304 MHz band. Reg used SSB that was processed in a divide by 6 circuit and mixed to 28 MHz. The 28 MHz signal, with processed SSB, was then transverted to 384 MHz and then tripled and doubled to 2304 MHz. This multiplication by 6 restored the original SSB! To give you a feel of the type of gear in use 30 years ago, Wally Green VK6WG used a modified World War II SCR522 which, from a 7 MHz crystal, produced 128 MHz. This was then multiplied to 384 MHz with a BAY96 varactor tripler to 1152 MHz in a modified Microwave Modules MMV1296 and then doubled in by a 2C39 which drew 90mA at 600V. In 1986, Reg and Wally completed their first 3456 MHz contact using CW. This distance of 1885 Km and that on 2304 MHz remain the Australian record distances.

Both Wally and Reg built equipment for the 5.7 GHz band and made tests on that band without success although Reg claimed that they could have had a contact had Wally not been in the midst of making apricot jam on that day! Reg gradually lost interest in pushing the boundaries further and has been in poor health in recent years. His death followed several strokes. The most recent one returned him to hospital just over a week ago but he insisted that he wanted to go home despite living alone and with no close relatives in Adelaide. His niece watched over him and he was able to fulfil his wish of dying at home in his own bed! Reg was 96 years old! Farewell to a tremendous pioneer on the higher bands! Thanks to Wally, VK6KZ, for the above information

Relevant 50 and 144 MHz beacons operated by the WA VHF Group

With the renewed interest in testing the Indian Ocean tropospheric path between Australia and Africa (and islands in between), some information may be helpful about some of the relevant beacons in the network established by the West Australian VHF Group (Inc). All of the Group's beacons operate continuously, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

VK6RBU Bunbury

In 1996, the Group established the Indian Ocean Propagation Project. From 18 April 1996, a 50 and 144 MHz beacon service commenced continuous operation from a location near Bunbury, Western Australia. (Locator OF76).

The transmitters were established on 50.306 and 144.560 MHz with the particular long term aim of providing a useful signal level for the investigation of both ionospheric and tropospheric propagation to the West towards Africa across the Indian Ocean. Contacts to Africa from Australia had already been made on 50 MHz during the previous Solar Cycle, but the Indian Ocean has yet to be bridged via tropospheric media. The prospect of sustaining a signal by tropospheric media from Western Australia towards Africa has been predicted by meteorologists and others as long ago as the 1960s. The effective radiated power on a bearing of 260 degrees is approximately 100 watts, horizontally polarized. About 10W erp is radiated on the reciprocal bearing of 080 degrees True. The antennas are 3 and 4 element yagis respectively, mounted at about 25m above ground. The "rear" lobe provides a useful signal towards the Eastern States of Australia. The site is about 300m above sea level, with the Indian Ocean as horizon at about 20Km distant. The keying mode is on-off on 50.306 and FSK on 144.560. The latter is keydown on 144.560 MHz, with key up 800 Hz lower. The keying cycle is somewhat different to normal. It is VK6RBU - long dash-, followed by 10 seconds of 5mS pulses spaced 100mS. The purpose is to provide the basis for individuals to experiment with looking for backscatter echoes from reflecting media, by displaying the signal on a CRO. The same keyer is used on 50 and 144, so the 144 signal might be used to trigger the display of 50 MHz echoes, and so determine the distance away that these are occurring.

Amateur operators on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean were alerted to this project and unconfirmed reports of reception of the 144.560 were reported on two occasions. It is understood that in more recent times, emphasis on that island has been placed on the path from there to South Africa. The mountainous terrain towards Australia from the more populated areas of Reunion Island is a major handicap for reception of the 144 MHz Bunbury beacon.

VK6RSX Exmouth/Dampier

Exmouth near North West Cape was identified as a desirable site for beacons on 50.304 and 144.576 MHz to test the path from Perth to the north as well as along the northwest path towards Broome. The beacons VK6RSX (both with approximately 50 watts erp) were placed at the light aircraft airstrip on 13 Nov 1998. The 144 MHz beacon was heard

frequently in Perth over the 1100Km path during the summer months. However the beacon interfered with the television reception from Exmouth. Pilots waiting for their next flight would turn the beacons off and forget to switch them back on. The Group strongly believes that beacons must operate continuously over the 24 hour period as well as every day of the week. Intermittent operation is unacceptable so the beacons were withdrawn from Exmouth. The nearest available site was found at Dampier in March 2001 in the bio-box of an old drive-in. The 50 MHz beacon has proved most frustrating for operators in Europe who frequently reported reception during the peaks of the sunspot cycle.

The frustration arose since there are no active amateurs in the immediate Pilbara region although Bill Webber VK6JQ in Broome has had outstanding success on 50 MHz to Europe (and elsewhere). The Dampier 6 metre beacon can be monitored in Perth using meteor pings. Regular reception of the 144 MHz beacon during winter months has been reported from Broome over an approximately 600 Km path.

VK6RPH Perth

The Group has operated a 50 MHz beacon in Perth since 1958 and on 144 MHz since 1961. Over the period since then the frequencies and locations have changed but the current beacon details are as follows. The ident is VK6RPH .. PERTH followed by keydown. The transmitters are based on commercial units. The 50 MHz transmitter is a rebuilt Philips FM828 "G" band rehoused in FM880 rack mounting hardware. The exciter, power control (ex FM880) and PA cards are unmodified and retuned to 50.066 MHz. The transmitter has been modified for CW by keying the inhibit terminal on the exciter card. This is driven from a VK6HK morse keyer via its keying transistor output.

The 144 MHz transmitter is a Philips FM880 "A" band rack mounting unit. The exciter, power control and PA cards are unmodified and retuned to 144.460 MHz. The transmitter has been modified for CW keying by inserting a keying transistor board in the DC feed to the 1st PA stage. This is driven from a VK6HK morse keyer board via its keying transistor output. There are also beacons at the same location on 432 MHz and 1296 MHz. The VK6RPH antennas are mounted on one of the television towers to the east of Perth. The 50 and 144 MHz antennas are bent dipoles that provide close to an omni pattern. The antenna design has also been very successfully used elsewhere. Both beacons run about 20 watts erp.

The Bunbury and Perth beacons on 144 MHz have been heard from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales over paths exceeding 2 500Km.

Conclusion

Clearly the West Australian VHF Group would welcome any reports of reception of any of these beacons. Were they to be heard, then a phone call to me on +61 8 9317 2967 would allow me to alert relevant amateurs to the possibility of contacts.

73 Wally Howse, VK6KZ, President WA VHF Group (Inc)
wjhowse@bigpond.com

Microwave Japan

Seiji Fukushima, Ph.D, JH6RTO

EME Project KDES - Update

8J1AXA got licensed

On the 31st of October, 2008, 8J1AXA, Katsuura Dish Experimental Station (KDES) has passed the on-site inspection by the Japanese governmental telecom and has been licensed with 500-watt outputs on both 144 and 432 MHz for EME.

The same day our first EME QSO was made on 144 MHz CW with O/RO while the moon was far in the south that afternoon. We are requested to experience the interference test on 432 MHz which has not been performed so far. As soon as we have this test passed without any trouble, we will begin operation on 432 MHz as well.

Since this station is located inside the JAXA Space Communications Center, which is presently operational, severe requirements on the spurious suppression and time sharing operations are needed. All the transmitters and amplifiers already satisfy the harmonic suppression of -80 dBc.

The yagi feed was designed and applied for the JAXA dish again by Rasto, OM6AA. Many thanks to him. The Yagi feed for each band (144 and 432) was made from old Japanese antennas. Maspro for 144 and Creative Design for the 432 feed, respectively. They were optimized for the feed by ourselves. They are light in weight and not expensive at all!

Project duration is until 31 Mar. 2010. Bands and Power: 500W on 144MHz, 432MHz, 1296MHz, 2424MHz, 5760MHz.



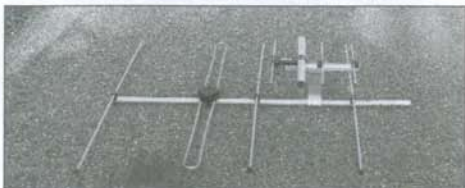
JA1DYB (top) and JE1BNZ (bottom) installing the 4 ele feed Yagis for 2m and 70cm



JE1OYE working the first 2m EME QSO from 8J1AXA during the inspection on Oct. 31st



18m dish at 8J1AXA (QM05df) looking east



Feed antenna assembly for 2m and 70cm



Just beautyfull...

We are looking forward to seeing you via EME.
Mike, JH1KRC

Microwave Europe

Editor: N.N.

Dear readers,
we look for a new editor for our Microwave Europe column. If you are interested to be a member of the team of DUBUS editors and to take over this column, please contact me. You should bring some fresh wind into this column and you should be active on at least one of the Microwave bands yourself. You need to collect most of the information yourself and ask others for reports, pictures etc. Just sit and wait will not work, hi.

73 Joe, DL8HCZ/CT1HZE
Funk-Telegramm@t-online.de

Martlesham Microwave Round Table

The UK Martlesham Microwave Round Table took place on November 8th and 9th 2008. This year it was possible for the first time to watch all lectures live on the internet. On the BATC website (www.batc.tv) there was a video and audio live stream available that worked perfectly for most of the time. This was a great way to follow the lectures from all over the world. I spent the whole Sunday to watch and listen to lectures from WW2R/G4FRE, GW4DUG, DL1YMK, G3RUH, G3YLA and others. Thanks to Jason, G7OCD, for making this possible! Jason was also online in the chat right next to picture of the livestream and it was possible to QSP questions to the lecturer. At times the number of viewers was well above 40. Hopefully this will be repeated again next year and also from other meetings. Joe, DL8HCZ



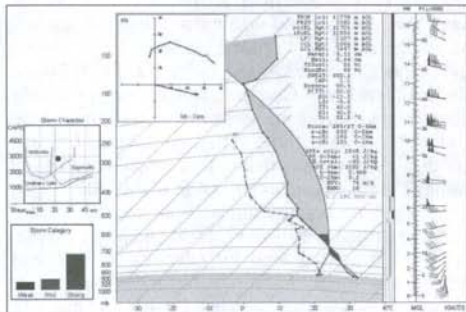
BATC website with Martlesham talk on Nov 9th

RAOB Software

The Universal Rawinsonde OBServation program RAOB is the world's most powerful and innovative sounding software available. It is used by scientists and professionals. RAOB is a multi-functional sounding analysis program that can

decode over 35 different rawinsonde data formats; create a variety of sounding diagrams, 3-D hodographs, time & distance based vertical cross-sections, mountain (lee) wave turbulence diagrams, and even produce forecast soundings. Display of over 100 atmospheric parameters including icing, turbulence, wind shear, clouds, inversions - plus a unique severe weather analysis table, a cloud parameter table, several thunderstorm analyses options, and graphically interactive diagrams.

For Microwave Dxers this program is a very useful tool as temperature inversions can be detected and analyzed perfectly. The program is fed with the latest soundings data from all over the world via the web.



RAOB Tephigram screenshot

The basic version of the RAOB software is available for 100 USD. Additional modules have to be obtained separately. More info on the web at: www.RAOB.com

GPS Stabilised 10 MHz Oscillator

James Miller G3RUH has presented his latest project a GPS Stabilised 10 MHz Oscillator that was just finished in October at the Martlesham meeting. He writes:

A unique feature of the Rockwell / Conexant / Navman Jupiter GPS engines is that they have a 10 kHz output, synchronised to GPS time. So, with a few additional components you can phase lock a 10 MHz VCXO to the 10 kHz, and you then have a simple low-cost frequency standard with surprising performance.

Having developed several systems based on this principle, I am now pleased to offer the design illustrated on this page which incorporates the best results of my experience of the Jupiter GPS engine, phase-locked loops and OCXOs. With careful choice of components, patient sourcing and rational design I have been able to keep the price at level affordable by the small commercial or home laboratory and by serious radio amateurs.

The frequency accuracy is of course set by the GPS idiom, and is essentially exact for practical

purposes. The stability as given by the Allan Deviation is typically 5×10^{-12} at $\tau=10$ s. That figure is 0.05 Hz at 10 GHz and is a remarkably small value.



The low phase noise from the high-quality OCXO results in a very clean 'sound' to harmonics in the microwave region, and with a power consumption of 300 mA at 12.5V this GPSDO is suitable for field operation from a car battery. Other applications include radio beacon synthesisers, harmonic markers, 1 MHz 'comb' generators, downconverters, test equipment external frequency reference, small laboratory frequency standard.

Specifications

Power Input: Voltage min: 12.5V max: 18.0V DC
Current min: 0.3A, max: 0.6A during OCXO warm up (about 2-3 minutes)
Connector: Screw terminal block
GPS Receiver: Rockwell Jupiter TU30-D140-221
Connector: MCX socket
Socket powered 5V for active antenna (this can be disabled)
LED shows 1PPS (1 pulse-per-second); synced to UTC when RX locked
Signal Output: 10 MHz sinewave, AC coupled
Level: 13 dBm into 50Ω; 1V RMS
Connector: BNC
Optional: 0-5V or ± 2.5 V square-wave on request
Data Input/Output: RS-232 in/out of GPS receiver
Protocol: NMEA (user changeable to Rockwell binary); 1PPS on DCD line
Connector: DE9S
Warm-up Accuracy
After 30 minutes < 10-10 typical
After 60 minutes < 10-11
RMS accuracy (over a 10s period)
 7×10^{-12} ; that is, 99% of measurements would fall within $\pm 2 \times 10^{-11}$
Stability (Allan deviation) typical
1s < 1×10^{-12} 1000s < 2×10^{-12}
10s < 3×10^{-12} 10000s < 3×10^{-13}
100s < 5×10^{-12} 1 day < 5×10^{-14}
Dimensions: 35 H x 92 D x 150 W mm including mounting flange, weight 0.430 kg.
Supplied with 80cm power cable with 6mm spade terminations. Full documentation.

Built, tested and ready to use (that is, not a kit). Just connect your GPS antenna, apply 12V DC power and you're in business.

The price of this GPSDO and shipping is:
OCXO-based GPSDO, part No. 0091-000 £240 (about 295 Euro)

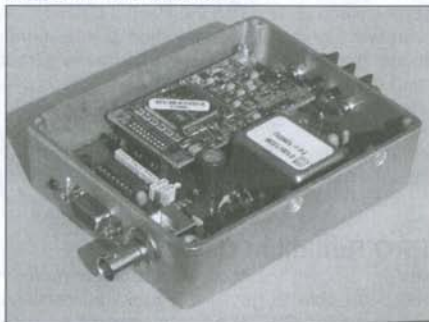
Shipping by secure service: UK £10

EU/US/AUS etc £15 (via air-mail)

Kindly note that I am unable to supply power supplies or kits of parts for this product.

To order, send me an email.

James@jrmiller.demon.co.uk



DB0KI beacon QRT

DB0KI is silent since beginning of September 2008 after an incessant job for many years. This beacon had its location at the mountain which is called "Grosser Waldstein", one of the highest mountains from the "Fichtelgebirge", in the northeastern part of Bavaria, near the border to the Czechian Republik. Nearly all the time the beacon was transmitting on all bands from 144 MHz to 24 GHz. The reason for the QRT and reduction of all components is a tremendous demand from the DFMG, the company which is now the owner of most of the radio towers in Germany.

The hardware for 144MHz, 432MHz and 1296MHz will be modernized by DC9NL and DK5NI and will be given to DB8UY, who is responsible for the QTH from the microwave beacons DB0FGB on top of the "Schneeberg", the highest mountain from the "Fichtelgebirge". Maybe there will be again a 2m, 70cm and 23cm beacon transmitting from our region. My special thanks to all the friends who spent a lot of time and much money to keep DB0KI for 30 or perhaps some more years alive. Reinhold, DL6NAA

New book Backscatter

Many of you will be aware that John, G4BAO has spent a considerable time over the last few months editing a compendium of all the technical articles that have been in Scatterpoint, the UK Microwave Group newsletter, (and its predecessor, The Microwave Newsletter) over the period 1999 to 2006. John's work was completed recently and

with some formatting and updating of several drawings and pictures by Peter, G3PHO the final version is now available. The book is 445 pages and therefore is an excellent reference with many articles on all aspects of microwaves.

It is available by post at the following prices which include postage and packing.

UK GBP 18.60 - EU outside UK € 26.00

RoW USD 42.00 (airmail) USD 34.00 (sea)

If you wish to order a copy then the preferred option is via Paypal to ukug@microwavers.org Please give your name, callsign and full postal address when completing the Paypal details.

If you wish to order by post then please send a cheque (payable to 'The UK Microwave Group') drawn on a UK bank to

John Worsnop, G4BAO

20 Lode Avenue, Waterbeach

Cambridgeshire, CB25 9PX, United Kingdom

Enquiries to John@G4BAO.com

73 Graham - G4FSG, UkuG Treasurer

LPRO Rubidium Oscillators

The San Bernardino Microwave Society members have been able to get LPRO rubidium oscillators used for about \$67 + postage and been selling them to members mostly. In November these units were offered to others also. Information about the LPRO is on the SBMS website or check here:

<http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/LPRO-101.pdf>

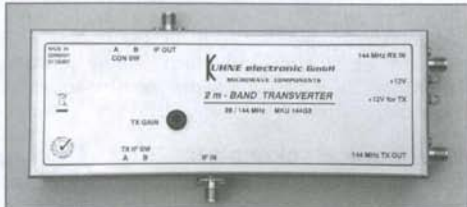
[http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/LPRO-](http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/LPRO-101_LOCK_INDICATOR.pdf)

[101_LOCK_INDICATOR.pdf](http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/LPRO-101_LOCK_INDICATOR.pdf)

In case you are interested, pse contact Robin, WA6CDR via email wa6cdr@kinderteacher.com

New: Transverter Module MKU 144 G2

Combinations of HF transceivers and transverters provide high input sensitivity, good large signal performance, excellent phase noise values and low intermodulation distortion. Usually, the performance is much better than that of modern VHF transceivers. The new high performance transverter module MKU 144 G2 from DB6NT is based on several decades of development and production of transverters.



Its outstanding technical data makes it usable for many applications. Technically skilled customers can set up their own 144 MHz transverter system with the transverter module and one of Kuhne electronic's power amplifiers MKU PA 1317-60 HY

or MKU PA 1317-120 HY. The transverter module MKU 144 G2 will work with most HF transceivers, which have a transverter output port. Due to switchable input power range and connector configuration, the module is very flexible.

Features

- Low noise converter with excellent large-signal performance

- There are two separate IF connectors. They can be switched to one common IF connector.

- Switchable IF input power range

- Phase noise of the oscillator -156dBc/Hz@10 kc

- Internal temperature stabilized crystal oscillator with QH 40 A

Specifications:

VHF range 144 ... 146 MHz, IF 28 ... 30 MHz

IF input power 2 ... 50 mW, adjustable / switchable to range 60 ... 2000 μ W, Output power min. 100 mW, RX gain typ. 25 dB

Noise figure @ 18 °C typ. 0.9 dB

Dimensions (mm) 150 x 55 x 30, Case German silver. More information is on www.db6nt.de

ATV News

Bernd Beckmann, OE5BDO / DJ9PE

e-mail: Bernd.beckmann@gmx.net

Ulm ATV Conference 2008

Under the proven organization of Rolf, DL6SL the traditional 19. ATV conference took place on October 26, 2008 in Dornstadt near Ulm, southern Germany. About fifty ATV enthusiasts and sysops took part. Highlights were lectures about the modernization of the ATV relays DB0FMS (Reutlingen) and DB0QI (Munich), digital ATV, questions about the linking of the relays and suggestions on the standardization of the DTMF controls. The innovations and coverage areas of the ATV relay OE7XSI on the Mount Valluga (2809m asl) in OE7 (Austria), build and operated by Darko, OE7DBH were presented. Bernd, DJ9PE reported about the Grande Bleue 2008 (Mediterranean Day) and showed pictures of the activities of the HB9RXV-Team on Sardinia (Italy).

10 GHz World Record Attempt 2009

Currently a group of dedicated OPs from Europe plans an attempt to break the current 2079km distance world record on 10 GHz either in SSB or if condx allow also in ATV in summer 2009. More details will follow in next issue.

Attempts to make a 10 GHz QSO between California (W6) and Hawaii (KJ6) over some 3800km have not been successful in the past summers.

VHF South America

by Flávio Archangelo, PY2ZX

1,2 GHz Moonbounce from Brazil



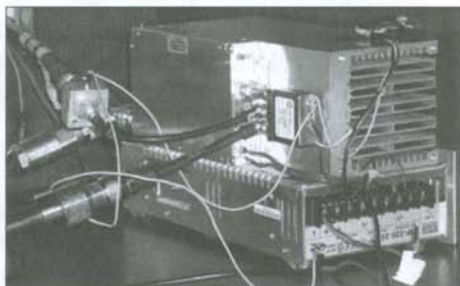
Antenna used by PY2BS for 23cm EME

On September 12, 2008 Bruce Halász PY2BS made his first successful QSO on 23 cm EME with Heinrich, DJ9YW. The german station used a 4,5 m dish and 360 Watts on the feed. Bruce worked with a 2,7 m dish with OK1DFC feeder. He described the setup: "The feeder has 2 doors, each one open for each type of circular polarization. On RX I've installed one LNA made by Kuhne (0,32dB NF) with protection relay.

The TX side of the feeder is connected directly to the linear, but as I'm located in a building, the cables are long and I have 3 dB of loss, so around 50 W is at the feed. With bias-tee I've isolated the 12 V of the IC-910H used for supplying the mast mounted AG-1200 LNA.



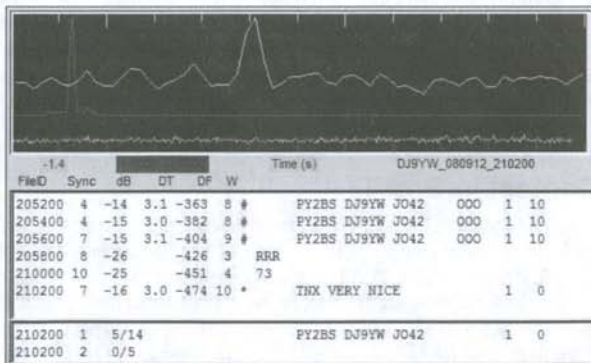
LNA in the feedline of PY2BS's antenna



100 Watt amplifier at PY2BS

I've confirmed that this signal has a 'timing' useful for sequential transmission so I used it for switching on the relays of the PA and LNA. The dish is controlled in azimuth by a G-2800 rotator and in elevation by an actuator with EA4TX interface and controlled by EME System software from F1EHN".

On September 13, 2008 Bruce made new EME QSOs with G4CCH and PA0BAT. His e-mail for skeds is: bruce@zyrok.com



PY2BS's 23cm EME QSO with DJ9YW in JT65C mode

August Propagation Notes

August was a good week for Argentina-Brazil QSOs. Adrian (LU1CGB, Buenos Aires, GF050m) and Orlando (PY2ANE, Ribeirão Pires, GG66sh) made Meteor Scatter QSOs on August, 27; 2008 and reaching 1.697 km on 144,182 MHz using FSK441 (WSJT). Orlando describes that the contacts were made in less than 20 minutes and the pings were sparse, without being close to any maximum meteor shower period. LU1CGB used 4 yagis with horizontal polarization (each one with 3 wave lengths in the boom), 350 Watts, preamplifier and IC-275. PY2ANE used one horizontal Yagi with one wave length in the boom, 110 Watts, IC-746PRO without preamplifier.

The Province of Buenos Aires, Uruguay, the southern states of Brazil of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina were also in contact in August, 28; 2008. Antonio PY3IOD worked LU5BE, LW2ECC and CX2SC, including the Quilmes repeater 146,910 MHz up to 850 km via Tropo.

On the same day Francisco, PY2FGJ, heard 3 stations from Curitiba (PY5), 300 km far indicating Tropo. He also heard Ch12 and 2 repeaters (145.210 MHz and 147.060 MHz) from the same region. The opening was between 2000 to 0800 LT.

Huelbe Garcia using a Grundig G5 and Edison Boccony Júnior using a Degen 1103, both from grid GF49, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, heard several spanish speaking FM broadcasting stations (see table below) one day before the above mentioned PY3IOD QSOs and PY2FGJ listenings. They just used the telescopic antennas of the receivers.

MHz - Call - Info

89.9 - Unid - Sabout Chilean musical group

93.9 - Unid - Montevideo Uruguay

101.5 - Unid - about weather in Buenos Aires Argentina

102.5 - M24 FM- Punta Del Leste Uruguay

102.9 - En Aire FM - Buenos Aires Argentina

103.1 - Rádio Uno - Buenos Aires Argentina

103.5 - Aspen FM - Punta Del Leste Uruguay

103.7 - Amadeus FM - Buenos Aires Argentina

104.3 - Rádio Cielo - Montevideo Uruguay

104.9 - FM Metrópole - Montevideo Uruguay

105.5 - Unid - humor program

107.5 - FM Rio - Salta (pres) Argentina

The presence of Salta's station was an indicator of possible Es instead Tropo. QTR of the listenings was around 2200 LT with distances between 600 km and 900 km. Hours earlier on the afternoon one listener in Tubarão, a bit more to north in GG51, heard 4 broadcastings came from Sao Paulo by usual Tropo path.

Fernando de Noronha calling on 144 MHz

On September 26, 2008, André, PY0FF followed the Hepburn Tropo Index and made QSOs from Fernando de Noronha to continental Brazil on 144 MHz with the State of Ceará (PT7). His beacon was the Pico Alto Repeater (146,760 MHz, HI05mr), 735 km far from the island. Then Daniel PT7ZAP (HI06rg) made point-to-point QSOs with him in SSB, CW and PSK31 covering 688 km. André described peaks of 59+10 dBs of the signals received in Noronha. He stated that for the geography in northeast Brazil "repeaters with more than 800 meters ASL are ideal for Tropo" and remembered other repeaters like Campina Grande (PR7), São Bento Jucurutu and João Câmara (PS7). André also mention his preference for PSK31 because it's operational simplicity. He told that his QSO with PT7ZAP became longer and stable using PSK31.

1st UHF/SHF Contest in Brazil

More than 30 stations have enjoyed the LABRE UHF Contest in Brazil. The valid bands were 1,2 GHz and 432 MHz, all modes, one QSO per band regardless the mode used. Some participants traveled to higher points like PY4HP formed by PY2ATA, PU2LDB, PY2HN, PY2ZX, the St. Domingos Team plus Japy DX Group, making the first position with more than 3500 km cumulative distance worked. Despite the low number of participants, for many of them it was the first time on higher frequencies like 1,2 GHz and the event was quite interesting as the conditions are much different compared with the most used DX band in Brazil namely 2m. Orlando, PY2ANE has planned this first edition of the event with the contest coordinator Luiz Tresso, PY2OC and full support of Jose Julio, PY2EJ and Junior PY2ZA, president and vice-president of LABRE/SP. A higher number of stations is expected to take part in next year's edition.



Winner PY4HP with the dish used on the contest for 1,2 GHz over 2000 m ASL

Top 10 positions by points

1	PY4HP	3575,48	Multi Operator Multi Band
2	PU2WPC	2469,23	Multi Operator Multi Band
3	PY2RJ	2089,77	Single Operator Multi Band
4	PY2NF	1903,08	Single Operator 432 MHz
5	PY2ELJ	1777,91	Single Operator 432 MHz
6	PY5EW	1527,53	Single Operator 432 MHz
7	PY2ANE	1519,71	Single Operator Multi Band
8	PU2TIB	1408,22	Multi Operator Multi Band
9	PU2KCX	1408,22	Single Operator Multi Band
10	PY2REK	1047,19	Multi Operator Multi Band



IC-1201A, just FM but workable for manage the 1,2 GHz QSOs with Sao Paulo from PY4HP.



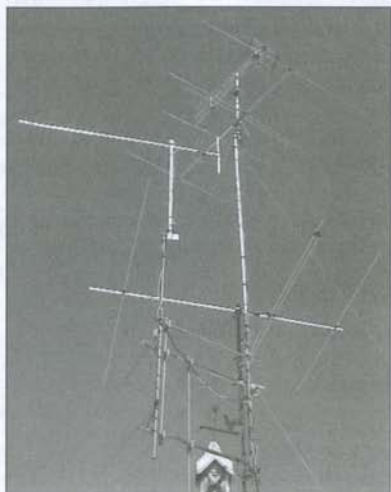
Tiny and brave Alinco DM-330W Power Supply useful for portable operation on PY4HP.

TEP Season 2008/2009 from Brazil to Caribbean

The tradition was sustained: Brazilian listeners Rubens Ferraz Pedroso (GG46tv), Samuel Cássio (GG67bx) and Marcelo Xavier Vieira (GG46am) opened again the TEP season with rich FM Caribbean broadcasting logs. The first event arose on September 27. After that Peter Sprengel (PP5XX, GG53qw) and Márcio Martins Pontes (on new reception point in Registro, GG65am), being part of the team continue with more reports.

New is that Jamaican stations were well received in northern Paraná (PY5). In the past it was most usual on southern areas like Rio Grande do Sul (PY3).

Also TV-DXer Hugh Hoover located in South Portugal heard one uncommon path to Cameroon by E2 TV Channel on 48,24964 MHz between 1530 and 1800 UTC according his information on the Skywaves list.



Hugh uses many aeralis like 40-46MHz beams for reception of the GB3RAL beacon when it comes in via sporadic E, as well antennas for 47-68 MHz and UHF-TV. For reception he uses a D-100 converter. He writes:

"The IF bandwidth can be reduced and the output is converted to the top end of the UHF TV band so any TV set will work. It helps a lot with weak signals". Hugh also received signals from Venezuela and even Brazil (probably TV Cultura Sao Paulo) on ChA2 audio on 17th June 2008.

Another related African signal remembered by KB2WF on qrz.com (and heard by Hugh Hoover) is the video carrier from Bioko Island (same area of 3C5I) "being on 48,2504 and very raspy".

Some of Hugh's TV-DX images are on:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/HughTVDX>

Antennas from BC DXer Hugh Hoover in southern Portugal

MHz	Country	ID	Times
90,1	Trinidad and Tobago	WACK, Port of Spain	1
91,1	Trinidad and Tobago	Talk City, Tobago	1
91,1	Antigua & Barbuda	Observer FM, Saint John's	1
91,2	Martinique	RCI, Martinique	2
91,9	Antigua	Hitz FM, Saint John's	1
91,9	Trinidad and Tobago	Soca 91.9 FM, Port of Spain	6
92,9	Barbados	Voice of Barbados	2
94,0	Martinique	RFO, Trinité	3
94,3	Martinique	RFO, Morne - Rouge	2
94,7	Barbados	CBC	2
95,3	Barbados	Hott FM	1
95,5	Montserrat	Radio Montserrat	1
95,7	St. Vincent	Praise FM, Kingstown	3
96,7	St. Vincent	Nice FM, Kingstown	8
97,0	Guadeloupe	RFO, Basse-Terre	4
97,1	Antigua	Liberty, Saint John's	10
97,3	St. Lucia	Radio Saint Lucia, Castries	4
97,3	Guadeloupe	RFO	1
97,9	Martinique	NRJ Antilles	2
99,1	Trinidad and Tobago	Next FM, Port of Spain	1
99,9	St. Vincent	WE FM, Kingstown	5
103,7	St. Vincent	Hitz FM, Kingstown	5
105,1	Trinidad and Tobago	Vibe CT, Port of Spain	1
106,6	Guadeloupe	Radio Caraibes International	1
107,5	St. Vincent	NBC	9

Table with Caribbean FM BC stations heard in Brazil between September 27 and November 06, 2008 with the number of their appearances in the logs.

2-m-EME News

Heinz Bordé, DM2BHG

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DUBUS EVENT August 2008

- **IK1FJI (Valter):** This is my log for Dubus event: nice condx. 22/08: F0CXO, SP7DCS, IT9CJC, LZ1DP.

23/08: IK2DDR, PA3CWN, OK1MS, SM2CEW OZ1HNE, F1FLA, YO2AMU, IK3MAC, OK1VVP.

Heard: SV3AAF, K9MRI

Score 13x10 = 130 x 12 = 1560 points

- **IK3MAC (Graziano)** I was QRV but not full time during the August DUBUS CW EME Event. Conditions very nice in the first window. I worked the following 24 QSO's on random CW: RA6DA, IT9CJC, JH0WJF, ON7EH, G4YTL, G3LTF, F0CXO, PE1LWT, SP7DCS, IK2DDR, PA3CWN, PA5KM, OZ1HNE, K9MRI, F1FLA, SM2CEW, G4ZFJ, OK1MS, YO2AMU, SV3AAF, IK1FJI, OH2LHE, LZ1DP, OK1VVP.

- **OZ1HNE (Jorgen):** I was not QRV full time during the first part of the August DUBUS CW EME Event and found conditions very strange with deep QSB but the second part was better with more stable signals! Look forward to the next CW EME Event in December. I worked the following 13 QSO's on random CW: 22/8: F0CXO, IK2DDR, SM2CEW, IK3MAC, OK1MS SP7DCS. 23/8: LZ1DP, OK1VVP, IK1FJI, K9MRI, PA3CWN, F1FLA, YO2AMU.

- **OK1MS (Stan)** I worked during the August Dubus EME-CW. 22. Aug.: IK2DDR, SP7DCS, ON7EH, IT9CJC, OZ1HNE, LZ1DP. 23. Aug.: F0CXO, SM2CEW, YO2AMU, IK1FJI, SV3AAF-IK3MAC, K9MRI, PA3CWN.

ARI XV ITALIAN EME CONTEST

- **OZ1HNE (Jorgen)** I was QRV on random CW during the contest and found condition very bad (yes, kaput Guenter) with a lot of QSB. My own echoes were very very weak for a long time and polarity unstable. I was QRV most of my moon time on Saturday and only a few hours on Sunday. I worked in total 31 random CW QSO's with 2 new initials UR0EQ and RU1AC. A few stations were calling me, but my brain was not able to decode, maybe too sleepy (-: I am very interested to hear from the stations I missed. Thanks to all for the QSOs and to all taking part in this very nice EME contest arranged by ARI. It was all great fun as always, and I look forward to hit the moon again very soon. Here is the list of my random CW QSOs during the contest:

20/9: PA3CWN, IK2DDR, IK1FJI, YO2AMU, I3EVK, OK1KKD, RU1AA, SP7DCS, I1ANP, OK1MS, LA8YB, SM7GVF, IK3MAC, F1FLA, F0CXO, W3TWX, SV2KBS, G3ZIG, SM2CEW, F3VS, DF1CF, K6AWW, F9HS, UR0EQ#, JH0WJF.

21/9: LZ1DP, I2RV, YO9FRJ, K9MRI, RU1AC#, PA2CHR.

- **SP7DCS (Chris)** At first I would like to thank ARI for making this nice event and all stations for nice qso. I was qrv random unassisted with my usual setup of 16 x 8el and gs35b. Degradation was not low what wasn't helpful. Finally I made 38 qsos including 5 initials. During shorter first pass I was able

to make 30 qsos even when I was not qrv full time. Conditions were moderate to very good and there was nice activity. I was full of hope before second pass, but unfortunately it resulted in big disappointment - I added only 8 qsos during most of the night. In fact conditions were more difficult and there were Faraday lock outs, but during many moments condx were good or even excellent before my moon-set where my echo was huge. Sad true was that there just were no stations interested in making cw qsos. Anyway I had a good time and enjoyed contest!

20.09.2008: OK1KKD RX1AS PA3CWN IK2DDR IK1FJI I1ANP IT9CJC YO2AMU OZ1HNE IK3MAC RU1AA I3EVK OK1MS PA3DOL# SM7GVF K9MRI F1FLA W3TWX F9HS F0CXO I2RV SM2CEW LA8YB G3ZIG LZ1DP VA3TO# DF1CF DK3EE F3VS RU1AC# IV3GBO.

21.09.2008: YU7FL DL8YHR YU1EV# YO9FRJ F6BK1#313 PA2CHR YO3FFF.

- **YO2AMU (Doru)**, Here is my contest log for 20/21 September ARI EME Contest:

20.09.2008: OK1MS OZ1HNE RX1AS SP7DCS I1ANP I3EVK IK3MAC RU1AA SM7GVF F1FLA F0CXO LA8YB G3ZIG K9MRI F3VS DK3EE IV3GBO YO9FRJ LZ1DP IK1FJI 21.09.2008: DL8YHR PA3CWN YO3FFF PA2CHR.

Signals much up and down. I worked 20 stations with a lot of difficulty.

AROUND 2-m-EME

- **HB9Q (Dan)** We have updated our online logs and standings with our August activity. We are happy to report having worked new initials on 144. We have also added a few new pictures in our QRP photo gallery. And we have added many photos of our antennas, taken in July 2008. There you may spot a few changes. Interested then visit www.hb9q.ch

- **DL4KG Gerald** - I think I have one of the smallest EME station on 2 m. It consists of a Kenwood TS-2000 barefoot with 100 W output into 25 m Aircor+ coax feeding a single 10el. DJ9BV yagi and a SSB preamplifier (abt 0.8 dB NF). This results in an ERP of app. 1100 W. This system in not optimized in any way. During the last 3 years I stepped into the EME business from time to time and managed to complete 26 QSO in JT65B with 18 different stations. These were RN6BN, KB8RQ, EA6VQ, DF2ZC, SS2LM, K9MRI, HB9Q, RU1AA (KP40), RU1AA (K048), ES6RQ, DK3EE, RA3AQ, RN6MT, IK3MAC, RA6DA, K6MYC, W5UN and RK3FG. I could copy many other stations but they weren't able to decode my tiny signal. This proves the ability of a station with common equipment if the operator knows how to use it. If I am available I can be found on the N0UK logger.

- **JM1WBB (Isao)**: First, I have received a few requests for CW EME at QM05 but I'm sorry that I couldn't get enough self echo to running by CW. I managed 45 JT65B EME QSOs on 2m in this weekend without mast mounted preamp. My preamp in the room today but it was no used yesterday. This weekend conditions had rapid and deep QSB. But always TX-V and RX-V were better for EU today. I feel that it was no good condx in low Dgrd. 144MHz JT65B: ON7EH, DL8EBW, OM3BC, JE1TNL, PA3COB, I3LDP, TK5JJ, PA3FPQ,

F6APE, DH3YAK, RV3IG, YU7XL, G8VYK, ZS2GK, DK5WL, F1NWZ, F4ERO, G4FUF, F6HVK, YU7AA, DL9GS, DJ9CZ, PA0JMV, LY2SA, YL2HA, OE3FVU, PE1L, PE9DX, PA3CMC, G4ZFI, DL1RHW, S54T, F6BEG, IW4ARD, DD0VF, DF6SM, G4EZF, F8DO, DK5SO, ON7UC, OH2LHE, S52LM, HA6NQ, S51WX, DK4TG. Thank you for your calling.

-JM1WBB (Isao) / We have already finished at this period activities from QM05. Our results are the below and specially JH0RRN Hiro as JF1SBC had great achievements at his 1st EME activities. Thank you for looking for us and having QSO.
JF1SBC: UK/DL9LBH, LY2SA, RX1AS, RU3GX, RV3IG, RU1AC, SP2OFW, UA9SL, DL7FF, RU1AA, DK3WG, YU7XL, DK3EE, DL9MS, DK1CO, HA8CE, I2RV, DG6JF/P, I1ANP, VK4CDI, DL2NUD, YL2HA, ZL3TY, JE1TNL, JG2BRI.
JO1LVZ: UK/DL9LBH, JG2BRI, ZS2GK.

JM1WBB: DL4DWA, I2FAK, PA1GYS, ZL3TY, JG2BRI, JH5FOQ, RX1AS, RU1AC, RV9UV, RW3WR, SM5CUI, DL1DWI, YT3I, PA7RP, OH3KLJ, SM2A, G4YTL, ZS6WB, PA3DOL, F1DUZ, DC9YC, OK1TEH, PA3ECU, OH4LA, PA4EME.

- DK3WG (Jurg) Here the results for 2m from R/U-stn and me Aug/Sept.:

RU1AA - JT65B new: DK5SO, DL4WO, JG2BRI, UA1MC, RW6AG, OE1ILW/3, PA3EXV, DL1FCI, DF6SM, N9HF, PA3FXO, F4SDS, UA0LW and IZ5ILX.
 UA9UHN, YL2AO, SM2IZO, JF1SBC, W2SZ, WA3QPX, OG8A, RN6BL, EA4WT, 5R8EM, SM0EJY, WB9DEH, DG7OV.

RX1AS - OK1MDK, VK4JMC, SP4MPB.

RK3FG - JT65B: UE6YYY, JG2BRI, UA1MC, DL0HOF, SM2IZO, DF0MU, RW6AG, LA4XGA, SM0EJY, WA3QPX, WB9DEH, IZ1BOK, K8TL, UA0LW, EA2ASB, DL1FCI and IZ5ILX #845. UA9UHN, G4HKS, VE2DSB, YL2GJW, G4KLA, DK2CF, VE6GCP, 5R8EM (DXCC #97), EA4WT, DG7OV, DL8II, W6OUU #857.

RZ3BA/1 - JT65B: KB8RQ, K1JT, S52LM, DL2NUD, W7UV, UA9SL, VH4AXH, RA6DA, DK3CO, ZL1OA, RV3GX, K9MRI, SP2OFW, RN6MT, K1WHS, PA3DOL, SM2A, SM7GVF, DM2BHG, DK2ZF, JE1TNL, CN8LI, JS3CTQ, I3LDP, OK1TEH, SM0EJY, YL2GJW, KC6ZWT, I3MEK, PA3CWN, K14TZ, PA2CHR, DL7FF, DJ9CZ, W5UN, OH3KLJ, K0KP, EA2ASB, YO9HP, ZL2DX, DD0VF, S54T, EA6VQ, IK7EZN, AA4SC, ZL1DP, PE1RDP, PF7M, PE1L, G16ATZ, UA9SL, 5R8EM, HB9Q, DG1VL, WA3QPX, DL8GP, DJ3VI, DL8YAU, RW3WR, DK5LA, PY2SRB, K1JT, I1ANP, RU1AC, K7MAC, JH0MHE, K5DNL and KE7NR.

UA4AQL - JT65B: UK/DL9LBH, ON4PS, RW6AG, DF6SM, F4ERO, DK5SO, EA2ASB, RW9USA, LA4XGA, IK1FJI, WA3QPX, K5QE, JE1TNL, JG2BRI and YT3I.

RN6MT - JT65B: OK2POI, UE6YYY, ZS2GK, UA1MC, K5QE, RU1AC, UK/DL9LBH, VE5UF, RW6AG, DL2LAH and KA8HOK, JG2BRI, PA7RP, IT9CJC, K1WHS, W2SZ, DK5SO, YT3I, G16ATZ, JE1TNL, JM1GSH, 5R8EM, AA4SC, K7MI, F6BEG, WA3QPX, DK5LA and W6OUU.

UE6YYY - JT65B worked QSOs with 68 stations.

~ JT65C: OK1KIR (also CW), RD3DA, SM5LE, ES6RQ, DJ9YW and G4CCH.

RA9YDL - JT65B new: EB5GP, SM2A, UE6YYY, UA1MC, UA9SL, JE1TNL, I3EVK, K5QE, ZS5LEE, G4EZF, LY2SA,

LY2HA, ON7EH, ON7UC, DJ3VI, RZ3BA/1 and PA3FPQ.

RV9JD - JT65B: DL1DWI, OM3BC, K1JT, DL9GS.

RV9UV - JT65B initials: UE6YYY, ON7EH, JE1TNL, W0HP, WB2RVX, TK5JJ, DC2MW, F4ERO, DK5SO, LU1CGB, F1NWZ, XE2AT, K4SV, IK1FJI, JM1WBB, DL2NUD, VE2JWH, K14TZ, W4RBO, SM7GVF, YL2HA, AA4SC, W8PAT, DD0VF, SV8CS, K5DNL and 5R8EM.

UA9SL - JT65B wkd UE6YYY, DK5LA, UK/DL9LBH, RW6AG, F4ERO, DK5SO, CT2GUR, W4RBO, RZ3BA/1, K5QE, JE1TNL and IZ1BOK.

UA9YLU - JT65B initials: UK/DL9LBH, PA7RP, DK5SO, RZ3BA/1, VK4JMC, RW6AG, G16ATZ, CT2GUR, F4ERO, M1BXF, LA4XGA, OH8MGK, OH2BYJ, OE1ILW/3, DH8IAB, RW9USA, IC8TEM, ZS5LEE, DL5MCG, DF6SM and HA5UK.
DK3WG - JT65B wkd UE6YYY, OH8MGK, KA8HOK, JG2BRI (50W), UA1MC, PA7RP, G16ATZ, RW6AG, DK5SO, OE1ILW/3, OH6KTL, RW9USA, DL1FCI, DJ3VI, LA4XGA, SM0EJY (1-LY), IZ1BOK and EA2ASB.

DH8WG, OH2BYJ, YL2AO (1-LY, 400W), JF1SBC, UA9UHN, 5R8EM (DXCC #145, field #85, initial #1200) and WA3QPX.

- DK3WG (Jurg) Here the results for 2m from R/U-stn and me from Oct. 2008:

RU1AA - JT65B from KP40: with OH5KNG, EA5SR, CT3/DK2ZF, JH0BBE, M1BXF and P29NI (DXCC #137).

RU1AA - JT65B from KO48: MU/DF2ZC, LU1C, EU6AF, UT2UB, 9M6YBG, MU/DF7FB, N2SN, OK1MDK, RA0CGT and SQ6MIP.

RX1AS - JT65B: PA1T, EA5SR, OH5KNG, UA0LW, JH0RRN, CT3/DK2ZF, DK5EC, SQ6MIP, WA7GSK, G5WQ, JH0BBE, MU/DF2ZC, UA4HAK, IW4EHZ, MU/DH7FB, ON4ARF, IK3MAC, PA0PVW and P29NI.

RK3FG - JT65B new: RA0CGT, EA5SR, OK1MDK, DK5CU, SW8KOU, IQ3AZ, CT3/DK2ZF (DXCC #98), WA2VNV, SQ6MIP, MU/DF2ZC (DXCC #99), PA3EXV, JN0RNN, F5KCH, CT1FJC, JR7ICP, JH8CMZ, JH0BBE and OH6UW.
 RV3IG - JT65B had this new stn: MU/DF2ZC, EA5SR, AD4TJ, WA3QPX and DL4WO.

RZ3BA/1 - JT65B was very active before winterstop end of Nov. EA5SR, IK2DDR, DL0HOF, DK3EE, JM1GSH, 9A3GE, IQ3AZ, DH7FB/p, UR5LX, DF9CY, IZ5ELX, JH0BBE, ON7UC, EI4DQ, G4ZFI, 9H1PA, VE5UF, UA3MBJ, WA4EWW, F4ERO, UA9FAD, EA2AGZ, HA6NQ, DL2LAH, UA4HAK, PA2CHR, N5KDA, EA5CJ, KA1VHF, RK3WWF, RA0FCA, SM2A, IW4ARD, PA3ECU, 7K3LGC, JH5FOQ, PA3CMC, IK3MAC, ES3RF, YO9FRJ G4CBW, JM1WBB, ZS6WB, F8HVK, WB9PNU, PA3ECU, DG0OPK, W2DBL, W2TSL, I6BQI, UK/DL9LBH.

UA3MBJ - JT65B added UK/DL9LBH, PE1L, HA8CE, PA3DOL, DH3YAK, VE5UF, RZ3BA/1, MU/DF2ZC, EA5SR and HA6NQ.

RA6DA - JT65B: CT3/DK2ZF, PA1T, IZ5ILX, WA2VNV, PA3EXV, ON4KHG.

RA9YDL - JT65B: DK5LA, PA3DOL, YO4FNG, IK1FJI, W1IPL, W7CE, UA9SL, YL2OK, DL4DWA, PA7RP, EA5CJ, DF9CY, PA3EXV, MU/DF2ZC and LY8YB.

RV9UV - JT65B added UK/DL9LBH, WA4EWW, MU/DH7FB, PA2CHR, DG1VL and VK4CDI.

UR5LX - JT65B wkd RZ3BA/1, UK/DL9LBH, ZS2GK, DK5LA, PA3EXV and EA5SR.

DK3WG - JT65B wkd JH0BBE, JH0RNN, CT3/DK2ZF, WB9DEH, MU/DF2ZC, EA5SR, LU1C, EA4WT, VK4JMC, RA0CGT (field #86), W6OUU, DF9CY, G4KLA, P29NI (DXCC #146), JH8CMZ and OH6UW.

EXPEDITIONS

5R8EM: EME from Madagascar

This year's activity from Jean-Marc, F1HDI and friends was a very successful one. 138 QSOs are listed in 5R8EM's 2m EME log during the six days from 20 to 26 October. And there could even have been many more if the local situation had only been better. The 5R8EM had to fight with mains power dropouts and an unexpected high local QRM level which reached around S9 at low elevations. Jean-Marc reports that nearly half of the moon passes were lost due to this QRM situation of which the source could never be found. Still, the success is very high, and the newly used 4 x 8 ele yagis and the 500 watts out were good for a strong signal via moon.

<http://5r8em.blogspot.com/>

P29NI on EME

K6MYC was qrv as P29NI from Papua New Guinea in the end of October and beginning of November. Mike completed some 29 QSOs on 2m and 8 on 6m. Read the full report at <http://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/P29NOTES.doc>

News and Information

-WSJT 7.0

Joe K1JT has put a new version of WSJT ready for download: WSJT 7.0 Beta. The main change to earlier versions is the introduction of a new mode "WSPR", (pronounced "whisper"). It stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter". WSPR generates and receives signals using structured messages, strong forward error correction, and narrow-band 4-FSK modulation. Its principal design goal is reliable copy at very low signal levels. Total bandwidth is about 6 Hz, so WSPR signals are about 1/60 the bandwidth of JT65B signals and 1/4 the bandwidth of 20 wpm CW. In practice it works well at signal-to-noise ratios down to at least -27 dB in a reference bandwidth of 2500 Hz. However, it uses 2 minute tx/rx-sequences and is not exactly targeted as a replacement for the JT65 mode. It is much better suited for QRPP work on HF bands but can still deliver good results on 2m EME. WSPR has some 3-4 dB gain over JT65 KV decodes and is about 1 dB better than JT65 DS decodes. Joe is currently busy with another potential mode presently under study. That one retains one-minute T/R sequences and achieves nearly the same performance as WSPR is. WSJT 7 Beta with WSPR is ready for download at the WSJT Website <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.htm> where this information was copied from. Joe K1JT is grateful for feedback/suggestions to K1JT@ARRL.net

-UK/DL9LBH Website

Hans-Walter has now brought a special website live informing about his ham activities from Tashkent (MN41OG). Hans will stay there until about 2010 so there is ample time to work that rare DXCC on 2m EME. Have a look at www.dl9lbh.de/ Hans works with 2 x 11 Ele Flexa and 500W.

List of the 170 2m EME stations from 32 DXCCs worked by UK/DL9LBH from the end of June to mid November 2008. This list gives a good overview about the currently active 2m JT65 EME stations. These stations are the mostly the usual QSO partners of many of the other EME expeditons on 2m.

Call	1st Contact	Loc	Ant/Power
7K3LGC	18.10.08	QM06HA	4xP32
9H1PA	16.10.08	JM75FV	4x3WL/GS35B
AA7A	24.08.08	DM43AO	6x13/1500
CT1HZE	29.06.08	IM57NH	4x11/1,5KW
DC2MW	24.08.08	JN58IV	4x9/750
DC9YC	17.10.08	JO31QK	2x12/600
DD0VF	17.10.08	JO60UX	4x8/350
DF1AN	13.11.08	JO63SX	6x6/400
DF2ZC	28.06.08	JO30RN	4x18/QRO
DF7KF	27.07.08	JO30GU	16x17/QRO
DH3YAK	28.06.08	JO31RS	4x12/800
DH7FB/p	27.09.08	JO63SC	4x4WL/1
DJ7OF	06.07.08	JO51HQ	6x17 1
DJ8MS	13.10.08	JO63CT	
DJ9CZ	29.06.08	JO31BC	8x7/600
DK1CO	02.08.08	JO63SX	4x17/750
DK3BU	29.06.08	JO33NO	16xLY/QRO
DK3EE	24.08.08	JO41GV	4x24/QRO
DK3WG	28.06.08	JO72GI	6x14, QRO
DK4TG	29.06.08	JO31LB	2x11
DK5EW	16.08.08	JN47NX	16x7/KW
DK5LA	27.09.08	JO44TR	4x17/QRO
DK5SO	16.10.08	JN58AV	4x11/600
DK5WL	06.08.08	JN39VW	2x10/750
DK5YA	18.10.08	JN49NX	4x9/QRO
DL1DWI	07.08.08	JO61TD	4x8/QRO
DL1RNW	04.07.08	JO62GH	4x10/300
DL2LAH	28.06.08	JO44QS	4x12/750
DL2NUD	27.07.08	JO63MF	
DL4DWA	16.10.08	JO61QH	1x13/500
DL6BF	04.07.08	JO32QI	
DL7FF	27.07.08	JO62TJ	4x11/1,5kw
DL8EBW	02.08.08	JO31NF	2x12/750
DL8GP	28.06.08	JN39LH	4x9
DL8YHR	13.09.08	JO41GV	4x14
DL9GS	27.07.08	JO31OM	
DL9MS	04.07.08	JO54WC	4x14, qro
EA2AGZ	19.10.08	IN91DV	4x17/QRO
EA6VQ	29.06.08	JM19MP	8x17, QRO
EB5EEO	06.08.08	IM98PG	4x32/K
EB5GP	02.08.08	IM97HR	4xP32/QRO
EI4DQ	16.10.08	IO51WU	4x10/QRO
ES6RQ	29.06.08	KO28WA	8x17, QRO
F1DUZ	07.08.08	IN97NJ	4xP20/KW
F1NWZ	10.08.08	JN17CT	4x10/QRO
F5GHP	12.11.08	IN96LE	4x14/400
F5JNX	18.10.08	JN37PV	
F6APE	29.06.08	IN97QI	4x11/250
F6BKI	31.08.08	IN94PT	6x16
F6HVK	28.06.08	JN27LH	4x17/KW
F8DO	06.07.08	JN26IF	4x11/1200
F9HS	16.10.08	JN23AT	4x10/1K
G4CBW	28.06.08	IO83UB	4X9

G4EZP	16.10.08	JO01GN		PA3FPQ	27.07.08	JO22XE	4x9/1K
G4FUF	08.08.08	JO01GN	1x18/KW	PA7RP	19.10.08	JO22FB	2x12/1400
G4YTL	11.10.08	IO92MB	4xP5W/K	PE1BTX	17.10.08	JO22XW	
G4ZFJ	02.08.08	JO01HO	4x9/350	PE1L	28.06.08	JO23WF	2x14/1KW
G8VYK	12.11.08	JO01FO	4x9/400	PE1LWT	19.10.08	JO22VA	18dbd/250
HA0HO	28.06.08	KN07SU	6x13/QRO	PE1RDP	06.07.08	JO21QK	2x10/KW
HA5CW	29.06.08	JN97PM		PI9CAM	15.11.08	JO32ET	
HA6NQ	28.06.08	JN98WA	4x12/KW	RA0FCA	18.10.08	QN16IW	4x15
HA8CE	16.10.08	KN06EN	4x8/KW	RA3AQ	28.06.08	KO85JE	6x36, 1kw
HB9Q	28.06.08	JN47CG	8x19, 1kw	RA6AX	08.07.08	KN94VR	
I1ANP	29.06.08	JN44VC	4x16/700	RA6DA	29.06.08	KN96SA	8x12/600
I2RV	28.06.08	JN45PL	4x16/800w	RA9YDL	18.09.08	MO93HA	4x16/KW
I3MEK	04.07.08	JN55SJ	4x19/500	RK3FG	29.06.08	KO86HP	4x15, 1500w
IK1FJ	15.08.08	JN44LL	4x12/QRO	RN6BN	08.07.08	RN65LC	64x15 QRO
IK1UWL	28.06.08	JN33VT	4x14/KW	RN6MT	31.08.08	KN97LN	8x3WL/2kW
IK7EZN	27.09.08	JN90DG	4x14/KW	RU1AA	28.06.08	KP40XD	4x15
IQ3AZ	16.10.08	JN65QQ	4x8/800	RU1AC	29.06.08	KP50EJ	
IW4ARD	28.06.08	JN64FD	4x8/QRO	RU3GX	29.06.08	KO92SO	4x17/KW
JE1TNL	13.09.08	PM95PH	4x13/500	RV3IG	13.09.08	KO87OT	4x15/500
JF1SBC	13.09.08	QM05DX	4x15/KW	RV9UV	13.10.08	NO34GA	4x12/300
JH0MHE	06.09.08	PM96HI	4x18/QRO	RW3AC	27.09.08	KO86SH	4x15/100
JH2COZ	14.08.08	PM94NW	4x14/1kW	RW3WR	12.11.08	KO71IM	4x15/KW
JH5FOQ	06.07.08	PM63JS	4x15/KW	RX1AS	28.06.08	KO59FX	4x20/QRO
JM1GSH	16.09.08	QM06IS	4x11/500	RZ3BA/1	29.10.08	KO56BC	2x19/KW
JM1WBB	09.08.08	QM05DX	4x15/KW	RZ4HF	15.11.08	LO43TJ	
JO1LVZ	13.09.08	QM05DX	4x15/KW	S52LM	28.06.08	JN65TX	4x17/1500
JR3REX	20.09.08	PM74LQ	4x17/QRO	S54T	28.06.08	JN75EW	4x17/KW
JS3CTQ	13.09.08	PM74UN	4x11/500	SM2A	11.10.08	KP04NP	6x16/1kw
K2BLA	04.07.08	EL99IA	4x28/400	SM5CFS	11.10.08	JO99IQ	4x19/1k
K5QE	18.10.08	EM31CJ	8x18/1500	SM5CUI	29.06.08	JO89WW	4x15/800
K9MRI	28.06.08	EN70IU	8x17/1,5KW	SM5DIC	14.11.08	JO89JT	4x15/KW
KB8RQ	29.06.08	EM79SV	24x13/QRO	SM7GVF	24.10.08	JO77GA	8x8/1K
LA8KV	17.10.08	JP52QQ	4x15/900	SP2OFW	02.08.08	JO93AC	4x14
MU/DF2ZC	17.10.08	IN89RK	2x9	SP3VSC	18.10.08	JO92DF	2x17/1kW
OH2LHE	06.07.08	KP11MK	4x9/500	SV8CS	28.06.08	KM07JS	4x16, QRO
OH3KLJ	13.09.08	KP21PH	4x10/600	UA3MBJ	16.10.08	KO88SA	4x10/500
OH4EA	06.07.08	KP32MG	4x18/250	UA3PTW	12.11.08	KO93BS	
OH6ZZ	06.07.08	KP12KS	2x16/KW	UA4AQL	13.08.08	LO20QB	4x13/KW
OH7PI	29.06.08	KP42HF	4x16, KW	UA4LCF	12.11.08	LO44EH	2x4w/200
OK1CU	29.06.08	JO80CF	4x17/1kW	UA9FAD	11.10.08	LO88DA	4x16/1K
OK1UGA	28.06.08	JO80CF	4x17/1500	UA9SL	08.08.08	LO71PT	4x12/600
OK2UZL	24.10.08	JN79NG	4x12/800	UA9YLU	15.08.08	MO92HX	4x4w/K
OM3BC	28.06.08	JN98VG	4x12/KW	UR5LX	13.10.08	KO70WK	
ON4ARF	24.08.08	JO10MV		UT6UG	13.10.08	KO50EI	4x13
ON7EH	12.10.08	JO20FV	1x12/250	VK2KU	31.10.08	QF55AI	4x12/800
ON7UC	27.07.08	JO11ND		W5UN	28.06.08	EM23MG	32x17/1,5KW
OZ1LPR	04.07.08	JO44UW	4x10/1000	W5UWB	04.07.08	EL17AX	1x21/1500
PA0JMV	28.06.08	JO21PM	4X10/2KW	W7MEM	18.10.08	DN17NT	
PA0ZH	29.06.08	JO33AB		WA4NJP	19.10.08	EM84DG	16x11/400
PA1GYS	28.06.08	JO22WW	4x11	YL2HA	19.10.08	KO26BV	4x16/700
PA1T	11.10.08	JO33JF	4xPOL/1500	YO4FNG	16.08.08	KN44HD	2x9/1K
PA2CHR	29.06.08	JO32DB	2x14	YO9FRJ	29.06.08	KN34AW	4x17/2000
PA3CEE	11.10.08	JO33JI	2x17/500	YO9HP	11.10.08	KN35BA	2x16/1k
PA3CMC	28.06.08	JO21WI	4x15	YU7AA	15.08.08	JN95NS	6x13/KW
PA3COB	18.10.08	JO32MF	4x7/500	YU7XL	29.06.08	JN95NT	16x8/700
PA3CSG	04.07.08	JO21WD		ZL3TY	21.08.08	RE57OM	4x12/500
PA3DOL	27.09.08	JO32MT	4x9/600	ZS2GK	27.07.08	KF47KT	4x9/QRO
PA3ECU	16.10.08	JO32CF	2x8	ZS5LEE	24.08.08	KG50JF	4x18/QRO
PA3EXV	16.10.08	JO32KQ	4x4WL/1K				

F1EHN Database of EME antennas

I am pleased to inform you that the Photos database of EME antennas is now available on my web site. This database was shown during the last EME conference at Florence. Moreover you will find its documentation on my web site. <http://www.f1ehn.org>

Band (number of photos):

EME 6m (6) EME 2m (26) EME 1.25m (1)

EME 70cm (19) EME 23cm (29) EME 13cm (9)

EME 9cm (2) EME 6cm (6) EME 3cm (14) EME 1.2cm (3)

For the "20080810" zipped package of the 10th of August 2008. The database will be regularly updated. If you wish to add your geo-localized photo under Google Earth, please send it via email + info as indicated below:

- a photo of your antenna (1 per band) (640*480 pxl or more)
- a comment / title of this photo (ex : F6KXS 3cm - 3.3m dish)
- add a precise latitude and longitude (exact location/position of the antenna - your grid square (locator))
- the nearest city to check the location of the photo

Goldstone 85 ft antenna

I came across this immense archive of communications history, focused on the US- Cold War Era. Detailed info on ATT Long Lines Microwave System, and Military Cold War assets. Here is an early photo of the Goldstone 85 ft antenna, with a claim that it was the first to Carry Voice EME signals. http://coldwar-c4i.net/RCC_booklet/IFC.html

A lot of other information at: <http://coldwar-c4i.net>

RZ3BA/1 QSL service: DK3WG (Jurg): offers QSL-service for RZ3BA/1. I have the logs from Aug/Sept. 2008 from RZ3BA/1. Sergej, RX1AS was active on RZ3BA/1 from 18.-26. August. He wrote all QSL cards and sent them to me. When you want this card, then send me yours.

ONCE THERE WAS A CHAT ABOUT

(Chats of common interest in INTERNET)

Combining TX modules (SM5LE, Sven):

I thought I did understand how combining TX modules with 90 degrees combiner but I am not sure now. If I combine four (4) 100W modules, I have 400W (assuming no losses). Three (3) combiners are needed. If one module goes broken (zero watts) I thought I will have 300 W out, but it is not, it is less. Is it the "odd", uncombined, module that is 90 degrees out of phase? And how much lower will the power be?

OK1UBO (Jirka) you can use one six port module see here: <http://www.ok1kvk.cz/web/index.php/technika/41-bastleni/49-hybridni-dil-nebo-sluova-vykonu-se-esti-porty>.

If in hybrid combiner is one of PA broken, then others working to load which has higher SWR, delivered smaller power and some amount of power is dissipated on load resistor Ro.

SM5BSZ (Leif) The combiner is a four port device. There are two inputs A and B. The two outputs are (A+B) and (A-B).

By loading both outputs with 50 ohm you isolate A from B. That is why we just not use a T-connector plus a 25 to 50 ohm transformer. When both inputs A and B are equal, all power goes to the (A+B) port because (A-B) then is zero. If A or B fails, the power from the amplifier that still works will be distributed evenly with 50% in each of the output ports. When you combine four amplifiers, the third combiner will thus have

200W on one input but only 50W on the other one. The power ratio would be 1/4 so the voltage ratio would be 1/2.

(A-B)/(A+B) would then become $0.5/1.5 = 1/3$ for a power ratio of 1/9. I expect the power you find would be $250^2/8^2 = 222W$ with 28W in the (A-B) port of the third divider. In total 78W into dummy loads with three amplifiers working. If you can not repair immediately I suggest the use of two amplifiers only with 200W into the antenna and nothing into the dummy load.

SDR-IQ receiver (Dave K4SV): I have obtained a RFSpace SDR-IQ SDR receiver and wish to put it on 2 meter EME. The receiver covers 0.500MHz to 30 MHz I will need a down converter for it and would like to hear from the group on what down converter I should try.

W7GJ (Lance): I use one on 2m and 6m as a second receiver. On 6m I use a Hamtronics converter, which works very well. On both 2m and 6m, I use a preamp ahead of the converter, and that provides plenty of gain so that a resistive splitter on the output of the converter still has plenty of drive for both the SDR-IQ and a conventional narrow band receiver. You will find that SM5BSZ has a very handy new page for newcomers to LINRAD that makes it easy to run LINRAD on your SDR-IQ under Windows.

KL7UW (Ed): Look at my webpage. I bought the low-power DEMI 28/144 vxtv (the kits costs the same as there 144/28 Rx converter which is another choice). www.kl7uw.com/SDR.htm

Split Tx / Rx ports (F1HDI, Jean-Marc): Does anyone tried (and succeeded) to modify an IC7000 for a split Tx / Rx ports in a 'non destructive' way? If yes please, drop me a mail direct with explanations and/or pictures, that would ease our EME operations.

-G4HUP (Dave): I have used a technique with an FT897 which can be applied to any rig, and does not requires any intervention inside the radio - 'non-destructive' as you say. By using a circulator on the antenna socket, the Tx signal is directed to one port, and the Rx signal going in through the other port will be directed to the antenna socket of the radio. It's not a perfect solution, since there are losses in the circulator which are higher than a relay - maybe 0.5dB or so in each path. So the Tx output power from the rig should be kept quite low, and an external PA used to get the final power. It is also necessary to keep the Tx power low to avoid feeding too much signal back to the output of the preamp when in Tx - the isolation between ports is quite good, but this is something you need to measure and make sure that you set your system up to correct levels. Similarly, an external Rx preamp is beneficial, but since you are playing EME that is probably already there! The big advantage to me is that there are no other connections to be made - you just connect the circulator and you have a split Tx/Rx - no relays, no connections to the Acc socket to foiget or fall out, and no need to take the cover off the rig!

IC746 frequency drift (G4YTL David):

There have been many previous postings about the problem. I think that I have solved the problem, and am indebted to Sergei (RW3BP) and Dave (G4HUP). All of my experience relates to using the rig on 144 MHz. What causes the problem? The problem is the 30MHz oscillator. It drifts during the transmit cycle, and then drifts back during the next receive

cycle. The cause is that during transmit the fan is activated, blowing cool air across the circuit board containing the oscillator. Several "solutions" have been proposed but none is ideal.

- 1) Replacing the xtal with the lcom ovened xtal is expensive and in my own case only led to very slight improvement.
- 2) Fill the oscillator compartment with cotton wool. This takes the draught off the xtal and adjacent circuitry and helped slightly.
- 3) Wrap the whole board in bubble-wrap to stop the draft. I didn't try that - I didn't like the idea of other parts of the board potentially overheating.
- 4) Hard-wire the fan so that it is on continuously. Paradoxically, for me, that made the drift worse.

To give an idea of the problem:

- a) When transmitting FM into a dummy load at the lowest power setting, the 144MHz frequency drifts down by 5Hz over the first 30 seconds then stabilises.
- b) When transmitting at maximum power the frequency initially drifts up by 5Hz over the first 10 seconds, then drifts down by 22Hz over the next 50 seconds.

These changes in frequency cause no problems on FM or SSB, but do cause problems when somebody is trying to copy your EME CW with a narrow filter, and when using JT65. Solving the problem Sergei, RW3BP, proposed a novel solution by "injection locking" - look at http://www.vhfddx.ru/component/option,com_zoom/Itemid,99/ and http://list-serv.davidv.net/pipermail/moon-net_list-serv.davidv.net/2006-September/006558.html

He was, in fact, referring to the IC746 Pro which has a 32MHz oscillator but the principle is the same. In brief, a highly stable, reference-locked, signal is coupled to the onboard oscillator by simply putting a couple of turns around the oscillator coil. It "locks" the onboard oscillator to the injection oscillator. I then came across Dave's (G4HUP) solution for drift with the IC706 (see <http://g4hup.com/FC/DFS30/DFS30.htm>). He takes 10MHz from a stable reference source, and trebles it to 30MHz. So these two ideas gave me the solution! I use a 10MHz reference signal, treble it in G4HUP's DFS 30, and couple that to the oscillator coil using two turns of 34swg wire. I now have no drift whatsoever. The beauty of the solution is that it doesn't involve any "butchery" to the IC746; and if for any reason the 10MHz reference frequency is unavailable, the rig runs as normal (but with its usual drift!). The pictures on Sergei's web site show very clearly how the two turns are put on the coil. The thin coax then exits through one of the ventilation holes at the rear of the rig. I've mounted the DFS30 on the top of the IC746 and take 13.8 volts from one of the accessory sockets. Obviously, the principle may well be applicable to other rigs. What I can not comment on are any issues relating to phase noise, etc.

LINRAD (WA3BZT Ed): Where or better what has to be downloaded to get linrad for windows XP. There seems to be several downloads that have to be put in to get the linrad going. Anybody have a step by step way to download and get working for Linrad want to use it with Flex 5000A.

SM5BSZ (Leif) To run Linrad under Windows XP you need a single file, linrad.exe. For newcomers it is highly recommended to also have help.lir in the directory from where

linrad.exe is launched to allow the usage of the F1 help. It is also a good idea to have errors.lir to get plain text messages rather than a numerical error code in case something goes wrong. The three files are available in the archive file wlr2-xx.zip. The latest stable version wlr2-47.zip is available here: <http://www.sm5bsz.com/linuxdsp/linrad.htm>

Linrad can be used under Win XP with device drivers that are installed as Windows soundcards (Not ASIO.) I am not familiar to Flex 5000A but it seems to use Firewire. I have no idea whether it presents itself as a soundcard device to Win XP. Besides with soundcards Linrad can be used with SDR-14, SDR-IQ and the Perseus HF receiver because Linrad has dedicated routines that install the particular dll files needed to interface to these hardwares. There is a rapidly growing number of different hardwares available for SDR softwares. Those that use standard soundcards (Soft Rock, Time Machine, WSE and others.) There is also: SDR-14, SDE-IQ, Perseus, USRP, USRP2, QS1R, HPSDR and probably many more. I will add support in Linrad to hardwares that I can afford and that do not require me to place any license restrictions on Linrad. Open source projects typically require a GNU license and I will under no circumstances add any copyright statements to Linrad. Its source will remain "free to use for anyone for any purpose"

TREASURY INTERNET

EME CONFERENCE

Here you can find couple pictures from Italy. If anybody looking for large picture with big resolution, let me know and I will send it. www.ok1dfc.com/About/eme08/index.html

More Pictures of EME2008 Conference you can see at this at <http://www.ari-crt.it/eme2008/album.html>

Low Cost Antenna Controller

http://www.f1te.org/AMC/YAMC_GB.htm

SSB electronics archive website that contains most of the circuit diagrams of their older products:

<http://www.ssb.de/amateur/products/ssb/archiv.shtml>

WINRAD 1.32

Those of you who use Winrad maybe will be interested in knowing that I have just uploaded to my Web site <http://www.weaksignals.com> version 1.32 of Winrad. These are the major changes from the previous version 1.31:

- * - Wideband IQ recording into a WAV file of the signal input to Winrad with automatic splitting and management of multi-segment files.
- * - Denoiser parameters changed. Now speech should sound more natural.
- * - FM demodulator
- * - S-meter indication corrected (6dB per S-unit)
- * - Flashing lines and upper spectrum freezing bugs corrected
- * - Output sampling rate fixed at 11025 (8000 if input sampling less than 11025) (or 24000 if DRM or FM)
- * - 'C' key on the keyboard centers the received frequency
- * - Support for new callback codes and functions for the Ext. IO DLL
- * - CPU consumption now is lower with the highest sampling rates of Perseus or QS1r

Graphics for visibility window of the moon.

F2TU: My tool to create graphics for visibility window of the moon. <http://f2tu.pagesperso-orange.fr/Doc/WindMoon.xls>
It would be interesting to have the GRAPH 1 Eme Stations in a database...

EME history OK1TEH made an article about early EME history based on articles in QST, DL-QTC and czech Amaterske radio magazine. More at <http://www.ok2kkw.com/eme1960/eme1960eng.htm> (tnx for info & photos to F8DO & OK1VR).

Tracking system

Here are the links to the new information and the new tracking system designed by K2TXB. This can be loaded and will run the built-in tracking program. New control system.

<http://www.w2drz.ramcoinc.com/doc.htm>

For DrzTrack program.

<http://www.w2drz.ramcoinc.com/download.htm>

<http://www.w2drz.ramcoinc.com/>

http://www.k5so.com/Hydraulic_elevation_system.html

http://www.qsl.net/k1rqg/K1RQG%20HYDRAULIC%20SYS_files/frame.htm

GJTRACKER Version 1.0,

<http://bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/GJTRACKER.zip>

Safe polarity switch for XP antenna system

<http://gongon.com/JM1WBB/>

Solution for eliminating actuator noise:

http://www.dk5ew.de/EME_antennas.html

MISCELLANEOUS

WQ5S (Brad) Just a quick note to let everyone know I am now QRT from EM13. I am in the process of relocating to a new QTH (DM82) for business reasons. I hope to be QRV from there soon but it will probably take several months before I get settled and start rebuilding.

DL4MEA, Günter, short story...

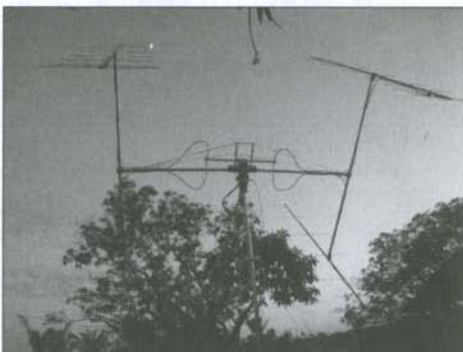
One of the first words of my youngest son, meanwhile 19 month old, was "kaputt", which means defect or broken. Everything is "kaputt", the lawn mower, the tractor, well, like children do when playing. Not so good that he takes tools from daddy's tool box, and not so good when recently he tried to fix my TH347 with some screwdrivers. This morning he joined us when my wife as usual brought me to the train, and the moon was straight above us. I told him: "Hey, the moon!" and he responded: "kaputt" My wife explained: In one of his picture books the moon is round, and this one is broken, missing one piece...



Guernsey on 2m EME in October 2008:

MU/DH7FB & DF2ZC

See full story at www.df2zc.de



5R8EM 2m EME Expedition on Madagascar in

September 2008



A43DLH (Op DL8YHR, grid LL93) 2m EME from

Oman in November 2008

Lunar Weekend Calendar for 2009 (by DL7APV)

2400 Sat/ 0000 Sun	Decl. (deg)	Signals (dB)	Sun offset/°	Sky temp (K, 432)	Comments & contest dates
Jan 03/04	7,12	-0,83	82 DP	25	Daytime ATP sat 20-22 & sun 11-13
Jan 10/11	23,96	-0,13P	180 N	30	Perigee, night
Jan 17/18	-15,08	-1,33	-95 DA	35	Daytime, moon in south
Jan 24/25	-23,54	-1,83A	-12 sun	50	Sun close, moon in south, apogee
Feb 00/01	11,47	-0,73	63 DP	25	Daytime ATP sat 19-21 & sun 9:30-11:30
Feb 07/08	21,82	-0,13P	161 N	35	Perigee night 23cm SSB Contest
Feb 14/15	-18,05	-1,33	-114 DA	35	Daytime moon in south GHZ Dorsten
Feb 21/22	-21,3	-1,73A	-31 DA	35	Sun close, moon in south, apogee
Mar 00/01	15,55	-0,63	45 DP	35	ATP sat 18-20 & sun 9-11
Mar 07/08	18,88	-0,23P	143 N	35	VHF V/UHF Terrestrial Contest
Mar 14/15	-20,49	-1,43	-134 N	35	moon in south
Mar 21/22	-18,68	-1,73A	-50 DA	30	moon in south, apogee
Mar 28/29	19,01	-0,53	27 sun	35	EU EME Contest 2m + 10 GHz+up CW/SSB
Apr 04/05	15,03	-0,23	126 DP	35	EU EME Contest 432 + 5760 MHz CW/SSB
Apr 11/12	-22,57	-1,53	-153 N	35	moon in south, near apogee
Apr 18/19	-15,7	-1,73	-70 DA	30	moon in south, apogee
Apr 25/26	21,71	-0,43	9 sun	Sun	Sun close Italian EME Meeting
May 02/03	10,5	-0,33	108 DP	35	EU EME Contest 2,3 + 3.4 GHz CW/SSB ATP sat 12:30-14:30 & 22-24
May 09/10	-24,34	-1,63	-172 N	35	Moon in south, Night, close apogee
May 16/17	-12,34	-1,63	-90 DA	30	Moon in S, day, nr apogee Dayton Hamv.
May 23/24	23,74	-0,33	-9 sun	Sun	Sun close
May 30/31	2,74	-0,43	-84 DA	35	EU EME Contest 23 cm CW/SSB
Jun 06/07	-25,67	-1,63A	170 N	>35	Moon in south, Night, apogee
Jun 13/14	-8,61	-1,53	-110 DA	35	Daytime
Jun 20/21	25,23	-0,33	-28 sun	35	Sun close
Jun 27/28	1,24	-0,43	71 DP	20	ATP Sat 11-13&19:30-21:30 Ham Radio
Jul 04/05	-26,39	-1,73A	152 N	>35	EU/V/UHF Terr. Contest
Jul 11/12	-4,6	-1,53	-130 N	35	Night, near apogee
Jul 18/19	26,19	-0,23P	-46 DA	35	Perigee, daytime high dec
Jul 25/26	-2,78	-0,53	-152 N	25	ATP Sat 10-12 & 17-19
Aug 01/02	-26,35	-1,73A	135 N	200	Moon in south apogee
Aug 08/09	-0,46	-1,43	-149 N	35	ATP Sun 4-6 & 20:30-22:30
Aug 15/16	26,43	-0,13P	-64 DA	35	Perigee, Daytime
Aug 22/23	-6,36	-0,63	31 DP	25	Sun close
Aug 29/30	-25,25	-1,83A	117 DP	180	Moon in south, Night, apogee
Sep 05/06	3,61	-1,33	-70 DA	35	EU 144 MHz Terr. Contest
Sep 12/13	25,74	-0,13P	-80 DA	35	ARI Contest CW/SSB - Weinheim Meeting
Sep 19/20	-9,72	-0,73	11 sun	30	Sun close
Sep 26/27	-24,11	1,83A	98 DP	100	Moon in south, day, apogee
Oct 03/04	7,46	-1,23	172 N	35	EU 432 MHz+ up Terrestrial Contest
Oct 10/11	23,98	-0,13P	-96 DA	35	Perigee, daytime,
Oct 17/18	-13,07	-0,83	-8 sun	SUN	Sun close
Oct 24/25	-22,19	-1,83A	79 DP	50	Moon in south, day, apogee
Nov 00/01	10,97	-1,13	153 N	35	Night
Nov 07/08	21,32	-0,03P	-112 DA	25	EU 2m CW Terr. Contest
Nov 14/15	-16,46	-0,93	-27 sun	30	Sun close
Nov 21/22	-19,91	-1,83A	59 DP	40	Moon in south, apogee
Nov 28/29	14,12	-1,13	132 N	25	Night cold sky
Dec 05/06	18,16	-0,03P	-129 N	20	Perigee night cold
Dec 12/13	-19,68	-1,03	-45 DA	35	Moon in south
Dec 19/20	-17,26	-1,83A	40 DP	30	Moon in south, near apogee
Dec 26/27	17,00	-1,03	112 DP	30	Christmas ATP sun 12-14 & 21-23

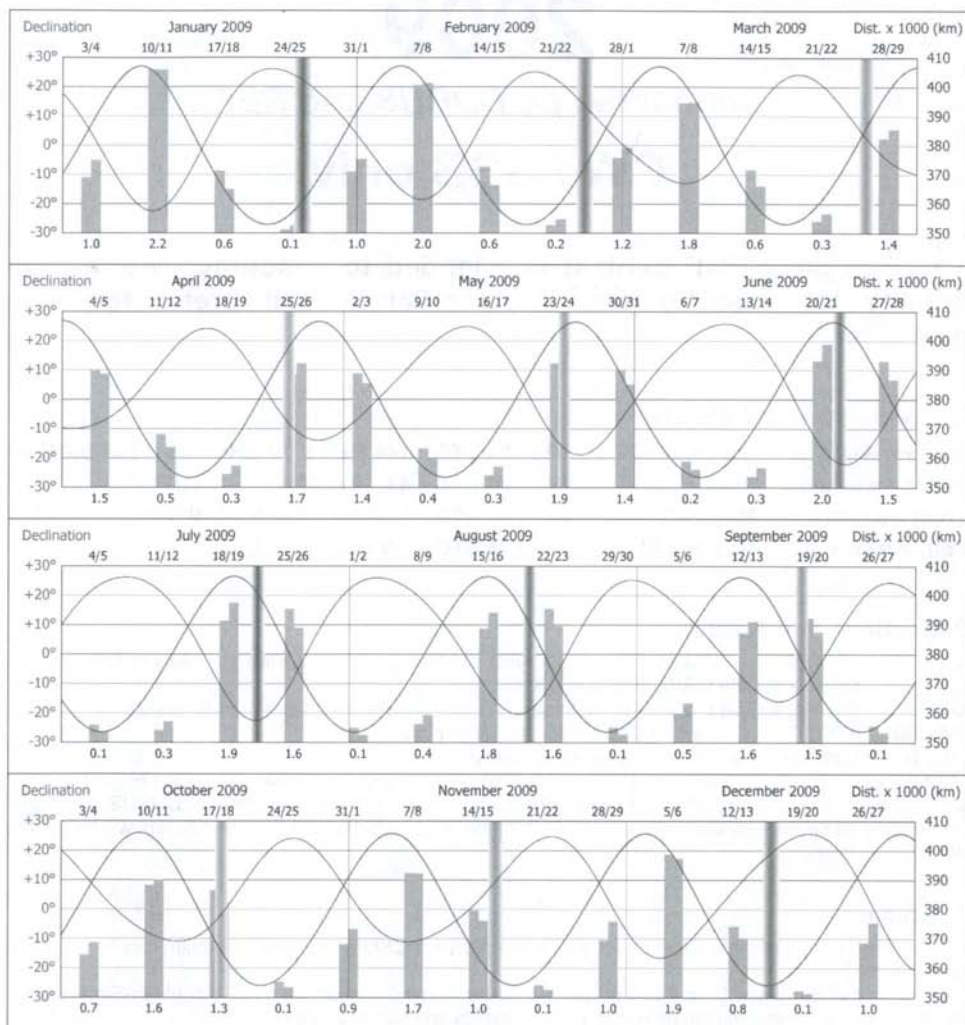
A= Apogee (loss=1.9dB), P=Perigee (loss=0dB), ATP= DUBUS 70cm ActivityTimePeriod, see also <http://www.sm2cew.com/dubus-aw-70.html> for info and updates

Sun Offset vs Time of Day for Visible Moon

-180°	-120°	-30° 0° +30°	+120°	+180°
Night N	Day (AM) DA	Sun noise S	Day (PM) DP	Night N

Moon Calendar for 2009

by F5SE



- Vertical blue bars show the overall "quality" of each week-end for EME. The higher the bar, the "better" the week-end.
- Figures below bars show expected signal improvement, in dB, referred to apogee path loss, for Sundays at 00:00 UTC.
- Full scale span: 2.4 dB. Scale step: 0.4 dB per division. 0 dB level = Band path loss figure at apogee, as quoted below:
- 144 MHz: 252.8 dB, 432 MHz: 262.3 dB, 1296 MHz: 271.8 dB, 2.3 GHz: 276.9 dB, 3.5 GHz: 280.4 dB, 5.7 GHz: 284.8 dB, 10.4 GHz: 289.9 dB, 24 GHz: 297.2 dB, 47 GHz: 303.0 dB. Data computed for an apogee around 406500 km.
- To get the week-end path loss on a given band, subtract to band apogee figure the value printed under the week-end bar.
- The shading pattern below shows how close the Sun is to the Moon, at any time - the darker, the closer.
- Shading is only visible around New Moon date, appearing as a vertical gray bar.

Gray Scale calibration

Sun to Moon Distance, in degrees



EUROPEAN EME CONTEST 2009

sponsored by DUBUS and REF

CW / SSB only

The European EME contest is intended to encourage world-wide activity on moonbounce. Each different call prefix forms a multiplier.

1. Contest Dates & Bands

First weekend	March 28 / 29	00 - - 24 UTC	144 MHz & 10 GHz + up - CW/SSB
Second weekend	April 4 / 5	00 - - 24 UTC	432 & 5760 MHz - CW/SSB
Third weekend	May 2 / 3	00 - - 24 UTC	2.3 and 3.4 GHz - CW/SSB
Fourth weekend	May 30 / 31	00 - - 24 UTC	1.2 GHz - CW/SSB

2. Sections and Awards

QRP 144MHz <100kW EIRP 432MHz <400kW EIRP 1296MHz <600kW EIRP
but no separate QRP/QRO categories

QRO On 144, 432 and 1296MHz, stations with EIRP equal to or greater than stated above.

CW/SSB All QSOs in CW and/or SSB mode – no other modes used

MULTI Multi-OP is >1 OP – but no separate category

Multi-operator and QRO stations will be highlighted in the general classifications. All QRP/QRO band winners and QRP/QRO multiband winners will receive a year's free subscription to DUBUS magazine. The multiband section contains weekend 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. In each band/section certificates will be sent to the first 10 places.

3. Rules

3.1 For the purpose of the contest only one scoring per valid QSO with the same station can be logged in each band.

3.2 During the European EME Contest dates & times, communication via the Earth-Moon-Earth path is the only type of communication permitted by participants and stations worked.

3.3 During Contest time, it is not allowed to use other communications medium such as internet or packet radio, to self spot, announce CQ frequency, make skeds, exchange any QSO progress info, confirm whether the QSO was valid or not.

3.4 Spotting other stations for activity reasons, is permitted.

3.5 If stations participating in the Contest choose to use 'real time' communication outside the Earth-Moon-Earth path so as to solicit contacts for themselves, they are permitted to do so, only outside their Contest participation time. In such a case, re-entering the Contest for the remaining of their respective weekend, moon time, is not allowed.

3.6 Stations participating in the Microwave bands (2.3GHz and above) are permitted to announce their time plan of proposed band segment activity, during times when they have no moon visibility.

3.7 Stations deviating from the rules are not eligible to submit logs for the European EME Contest.

4. Contest Exchange

For a valid EME QSO, both stations must have copied all of the following:

- 4.1 Both callsigns from the other station
- 4.2 Signal report from the other station (using TMO procedure or RST)
- 4.3 R, from the other station, to acknowledge complete copy of 4.1 & 4.2

5. Logs

Logs must be separate for each band, and should be in normal "logbook" format.

Top line: Your callsign, Band

Each QSO: Date/Time, Callsign, Report sent, Report received, Points, Multiplier

Bottom line: Total points, Total multipliers, Total claimed score.

6. QSO Points

100 points for each random QSO completed on 144/432/1296MHz.

10 points for each sked QSO completed on 144/432/1296MHz.

100 points for each random QSO completed on 2.3GHz or higher bands.

50 points for each sked QSO completed on 2.3GHz or higher bands.

7. Multipliers

Each different call prefix is a multiplier (e.g. DL1, DK9, SM2, S51, S54, G6, KM5, W5, JA6, VK4, WA6, K6, PA1, PE1, etc). See example of WPX Contest rules for further details on prefix multipliers.

8. Total Scores

Single band score = [Total of QSO points] * [Total of multipliers].

There will be one QRP winner and one QRO winner on each band.

Multiband score = [(Total sum of points on 144-1296MHz) +

(2 * total sum of points on 2.3GHz or above)] * [Total sum of multipliers on all bands]

Multiband stations will also be listed as an entry on each separate band worked, and can also win single-band awards.

9. Contest Entries

Copy of the log for each band with details of points, multipliers and total points.

The following information **MUST** also be included for each band:

1. Output power, transmit cable loss, antenna type and gain
2. Categories: QRO/QRP - single/multi operator
3. Start time and end time of Contest participation time
4. Name(s) of all operators
5. Grid locator.

Other info is welcome: Comments, conditions, station details, photographs, etc.

10. Sending Your Entry

Contest entries **MUST** be sent no later than 20 days after the end of the last contest weekend (i.e. in the mail or e-mail by 20 JUNE 2009).

Mail address: Joachim Kraft, Gruetzmuehlenweg 23, D-22339 Hamburg, Germany

You can e-mail your contest entry in any common format to: funk-telegramm@t-online.de

All email entries will be acknowledged within one week. For further questions contact:

funk-telegramm@t-online.de

Good Luck in the Contest!

For REF: Patrick Magnin, F6HYE

For DUBUS: Joachim Kraft, DL8HCZ/CT1HZE

Referee: Dimitris Vitorakis, SV1BTR

EME News

70cm & up

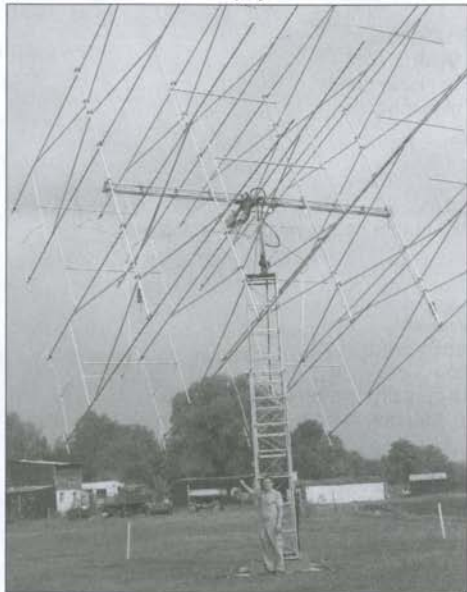
Editor: Bernd Wilde, DL7APV

Intro

Starting with next issue 1/2009 Bernd, DL7APV will be back as editor for the 70cm & up EME news after his break in 2008. Welcome back! DL8HCZ

DL7APV's new 70cm EME system

Bernd sends info about his new 70cm EME system: 16x13wl DJ9BV yagis.



DL7APV with his new 16 x 13 wl array

Stack hor. 2,14m = optimal = +2,8dB. Stack vertical only 1,97m instead 2,09m (94% of opt.) = +2,7 dB. 1 Antenna has 20,6 dBi or 18,5 dBD. Total gain is 31,6 dBi or 29,45 dBD.

Boom 20x20x2mm with 6m boom in the middle, plus front and rear booster with 20x20x1 fixed with T junctions from Konni and then supports of 20x20x1 to next antenna also centering the the antennas and bringing more stability. Thus no extra guy wires necessary! Elements of 4mm diameter are insulated by heat shrink tube through the boom and fixed with hot glue. Dipoles are 8mm with 6mm open wire Al feedlines (10m = 0.1 dB loss). On the last two phasing lines before the convergence point there are 2 cylinders of Teflon each with 6cm length and 4cm diameter for optimising the SWR. Without the cylinders there were 8 dB returnloss, with cylinders 16 dB. Then

follows the typical 240/50 Ohm sym-unsym coupler (DJ9BV design) with 7/16 flange jack and 7/16 relay and cavity preamp with MGF4919 (by DJ3FI), NF 0,22 dB! The tower was melted by my neighbour. It is 3m and 5m when extended. Elevation rotator is MT3000 from M2. Az rotator is RAK at the moment but will be changed soon as too weak. PA is with TH327 and 750 W at the feed. Own echoes in CW are received with 5 W and in JT65 with less than 1 W. Smallest station hrd so far was VE2DSB who uses 30w with 50m cable and 1x22 el. K1FO. Loss before preamp is 0,2dB plus premap = 0,3dB NF. With this VK3UM software calculates 18,7 dB sun noise at SFI 68. I have measured 18,5 dB. I am totally satisfied!! DL7APV



F5SE's new 10,5m dish

F5SE: Franck's new 10,5m dish went up in late October on top of its rotating pedestal. Tracking hardware and software are all OK, but of course plenty of work still remains to be done before he can be heard off the Moon. First of all, receive only tests will be carried out on 1296 using a W2IMU dual mode feed (built and used many years ago by F5AQC) in order to check the efficiency of the dish. Transmitting will come later. I hope to be fully operational on 23 cm during winter. 432 will come later. Higher bands are also planned, but only after the "low bands" are both OK.

PY2BS: Bruce is a new station on 1296 EME from St. Paul, BZ. He has a 2.7 m dish with a rectangular septum feed and a 100 W PA. Bruce is not a CW operator but is QRV on JT65C and SSB. He has already QSO'd 7 countries in less than a month of operation, and is available for skeds. Many improvements planned for coming months including a bigger dish, higher power, better LNA, lower loss coax, and first RX experiments on 13 cm. Skeds via bruce@zirok.com

SM5LE: Sven is qrt on 23cm EME and selling all.

Meteor Scatter on 70cm

by Joachim Kraft, CT1HZE

Meteor Scatter on the 432 MHz band is still a challenge. Whilst on 2m MS QSOs are daily business and thanks to the FSK mode possible any day at almost any time at least over optimal distances from 1300 to 1700km the knowledge and interest for 70cm MS is very limited in the ham community. Many think that 70cm MS is not possible or only with QRO and EME equipment. Matej, OK1TEH, made quite a number of skeds and QSOs on 70cm MS in the last years and he has shown that QSOs are also possible with average stations in the major showers. Here follows some information collected by OK1TEH that is completed with the latest exciting information from Perseids 2008.

History

First tests on 70cm MS were made in the 70's by Chris, GW4DGU, Karl, SM3AKW, Claus, DL7QY, and Marc, ON5FF. Probably the first 70cm MS QSO was established between DL7QY and ON5FF/EI in late 70's and from the UK in 1982 between G4VVZ/G4ZAP and EI2VPS (members: G8ROU, G8XVJ, G4VVZ, G8VHI, G6ABU and EI5FK). In OK the first 70cm MS QSO took place in 1986 on August 11th by Jozef, OK1MDK and the OK1KKH club with SM3AKW during the Perseids shower. The contact took about 3 hours + 15 minutes and OK1MDK heard 4 bursts (the best was 6s long) and about 16pings. The distance was about 1400km and it was the new World record. SM3AKW used at that time his 16x21el F9FT antenna for EME and OK1KKH a PA with RE025XA tube and 2x21el F9FT.

In the 90's there were established more contacts and SM3AKW JP92 made in 1999 a HSCW contact with the well known UA9FAD in LO88 over a distance of 2141km, which was the world record until summer 2008.

Other remarkable QSOs took place between DJ9BV (JO43) and RA3LE (KO64) and between SM2CEW (KP15) and several stations from central EU in the 90's and 00's. Distances never exceeded 2000km.

FSK441 revolution

The revolution in MS DX operation was the introduction of WSJT by K1JT. The new FSK441(A) mode with data speed of 8820 characters/minute made 2m MS contacts easy any day using pings of sporadic meteors.

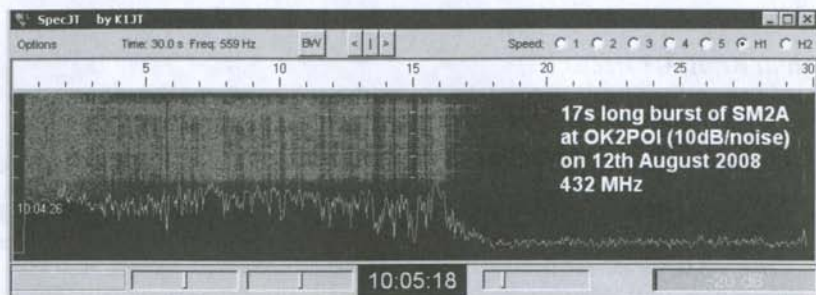
Lately K1JT made more versions of FSK441, B and C. The difference between the versions is the build-in error correction in the B and C versions. The consequence of this error correction is however that the actual data speed decreases substantially. This data speed (8820 characters/minute for FSK441A) drops by approximately 57 percent (to 3780 characters/minute) when using FSK441C. This is the main reason why FSK441A is the default mode in IARU Region 1.

Operation

Duration of the reflections on 70cm is much shorter than on 2m. During big showers such as Perseids it isn't a problem to observe bursts longer than 30seconds on 2m. In the same time the same meteor can produce reflections of about 100-500ms long on 70cm. So good time to try 70cm MS is just during major MS Showers - Quadrantids, η -Aquariids, Perseids and Geminids. Good information is on the website of the International Meteor Organization at <http://www.imo.net/calendar/2008> and Meteor Sky View Virgo <http://www.dl1dbc.net/Meteorsscatter> when you can see the actual position of the radiant and where to beam your array. It is "said" that the best shower for 70cm MS is not the Perseids but the January Quadrantids, because of it's high meteor reentry speed into the atmosphere. On other hand the Quadrantid shower has very sharp maximum peak that is difficult to hit. By the way the MS reflectivity also depends on the ozone level in 100km height.

Usual bursts on 70cm have a duration of about 100ms (forget to try classic SSB MS as on 2m) and about 2-4dB above noise however few seconds bursts over 14dB were observed. So far the longest known reflection on 70cm was observed by GW4DGU from SM3AKW in the year 2004 and it was 35seconds long (they used HSCW). During my MS contact with UT5JCW he heard my signal with about 20dB over noise. However this is extremely rare on 70cm. With a usual strength of 1 or 2dB over noise you need a RX as good as possible similar to 70cm EME. Personally I found MS

on 70cm a bit more difficult than 70cm EME due to smaller activity and just few good windows per year. However don't be scared by this as 70cm MS is possible with your usual tropo equipment as well.



Compared to 2m the rate of reflections is very low on 70cm and even during very good MS conditions it is not unusual that contacts need 1 or 2 hours. So the most important thing for such a 70cm MS test is a very high level of patience. One of the biggest problems of 70cm MS is the correct frequency. FSK441 allows just a bandwidth of 400Hz and a lot of usual 2m MS stations don't care about their precise frequency. However if you have a 2m transceiver with a frequency indication 200Hz off, on 70cm this is 3 times more = 600Hz. Then, as I personally observed, it is not unusual that after 30 minutes of your sked you get the first reflection, but you are not able to decode it as it is for example 800Hz off and you become a little bit unhappy :-). I am not a friend of online chatting on ON4KST chat during QSOs but in this case I recommend to tell the first DF value (only) to your sked partner. Anyway it is a good idea to use headsets during the sked for monitoring, because then you can simply copy signals which are hundreds of Hz off. Another problem is that due to the mostly very weak reflections a clear band without QRM is necessary. So one should set the sked for late evening or early morning.

Software & hardware

Don't forget to switch off your Noise Blanker in your transceiver and turn on fast AGC. If you use an external LNA, don't forget to turn off your internal preamplifier of your radio. Two preamplifiers in your RX chain can dramatically make your RX more sensitive to local QRM. It's the big problem in Czech Republic due to local CDMA provider "Ufon" with OFDM modulation just few hundreds kHz below the 70cm DX segment. For 70cm I don't recommend to use any kinds of cavity filters because it can easily worsen your RX by some 2dB so you aren't able to RX anything. Another story is to use N-connectors with minimal attenuation because bad and cheap Chinese connectors can kill your RX for more than 1dB (or more if you use more connectors of course).

I'm running MS with FSK441 for over 5 years and I found that is very helpful to use for 70cm MS the WSJT versions 4.34 and 5.96. In the old 4 version you can set up QRN level and minimal ping duration so you have a bigger chance to decode extreme weak pings than in new WSJT 6/7 versions. From the family of WSJT 4 versions I found the best version 4.34 as it is very fast with low requirements on your PC hardware. On the other hand WSJT6 allows to set your tolerance to 600Hz and it contains a waterfall display (SpecJT). I use for TXing WSJT 4.34 and WSJT 6 is set up by "F3". Receiving with two different versions on one PC and one sound card helped me to decode plenty of normally undecodable reflections.

For 70cm MS you should set your S = 1, QRN = 2 and maximal Tol 600 or 400Hz. If you find your partner's signal and he hasn't heard you yet, tune on his signal for minimal DF. If he heard you and sends you a report, tune on his signal only with RIT. When you tune for minimal DF, stay on this frequency and set up your TOL = 100 or 50Hz and set your S = 0 + QRN = 0. In any case if you have problems to decode the signal correctly, click on the signal in SpecJT or Spectrogram window. Also is a good idea to do it, if WSJT decodes the bursts automatically, for example "OK1TEH RA3XX R2". If you click on the edge of the burst in the window you may decode the burst in a different way and WSJT then decodes "A3XX R26 R26 OK".

Usual 70cm MS stations run a couple of hundred Watts and a long yagi, but with more patience you can work 70cm MS also with about only 50 - 80W and a shorter yagi (e.g. 17 ele) IF the other station is a big gun. For best success it is good to use 4xLY and 1kW but pay attention that for MS you need wide beam patterns. For shorter distances of about 1000km it is good to use elevation or shorter yagis. Extreme was my 70cm MS contact with IK0BZY. Enrico used just a 9 element yagi and 400W. I don't think that it was aircraft scatter as the distance was 924km. Aircraft

signals on 70cm are much longer and stronger (up to 59+20dB) compared to the MS signals. BTW it is also a good idea to have a stable TX signal, one solution is described at: www.frenning.dk/OZ1PIF_HOME/PAGE/QH40A.htm. Photos of OK1TEH's 70cm equipment (PA, LNA etc) are at http://ok1teh.nagano.cz/eme_log432.htm. At last don't forget, that WSJT is for your PA like FM so it must be able to survive very long time with full power out.

Doppler shift

If you try contacts over bigger distances like 1500km you don't need to care about the Doppler shift at all. For example: During 2008 Perseids I got very strong bursts from RK3WWF and DF of 99% of all bursts wasn't shifted more than 50Hz off. For shorter contacts (about 900km) it's a bit different and I'm thinking that some help could be the use of SDR and some kind of MAP65 software for FSK441. It can happen that some bursts are shifted out of the usual 2.4kHz SSB filter range and you don't hear them. I'm considering this because of comparison of 2m and 70cm during big showers: For example if you receive 30s bursts from Sweden in a rate of 20 per hour why do you RX only 2 reflections on 70cm? Where are the remaining 18 bursts? Few kHz off? Or is it just the problem of different antennas? Unfortunately, I don't have an SDR radio so I can't check it. Please remember that this is just my humble theory but if you have an idea about it I'm very interested in your opinion.

Active stations

During each big shower it is possible to work 1 or 2 full contacts on 70cm MS. In all Europe the number of active station is very very low. Some of these stations you can see in the following table. All of them should be QRV in FSK441 except SM3AKW, who is QRV HSCW only.

Call	Grid	Antenna	Power	QSOs	e-mail
CT1HZE	IM57NH	4x23el	1500W	1	funk-telegramm@t-online.de
DK3BU	JO33NO	4x LY	750W	1	
DK3WG	JO72GI	16x27el	1000W	?	dk3wg@online.de
DL7APV	JO62JR	8x13wl	750W	?	dl7apv@t-online.de
DL3YEE	JO42GE	4xLY	QRO	6	dl3yee@darcd.de
DL8BDU	JO43AA	?	?	?	cq@dl8bdu.de
EA5AAJ	IM99SL	1xLY	50W	1	ea5aaj@terra.es
F6FHP	IN94TR	4xLY	QRO	?	f6fhp@wanadoo.fr
G4DEZ	JO03AE	4xLY	400W	?	bcslllewellyn@aol.com
G4RGK	IO91ON	8x27el	400W	?	g4rgk@btinternet.com
GW4DGU	IO71SV	?	?W	?	gw4dgu@blaenffos.org
IM0/I2KEQ	JM49EA	1xLY	50W	?	?
OE3FVU	JN78VE	1x13wl	35W	1	franz.van.velzen@aon.at
OH3AWW	KP11TL	1xLY	?W	?	oh3aww@sci.fi
OH8LRB	KP23HQ	?	?W	?	oh8lrb@sralfi
OK1DFC	JN79GW	10m DISH	1500W	4	ok1dfc@seznam.cz
OK1TEH	JO70FD	1x23el	500W	5	ok1teh@seznam.cz
OK2POI	JN99AJ	4xLY	400W	?	
PE1ITR	JO21QK	2x28el	1500W	?	rob@itr-datanet.com
RA3IS	KO76QP	1xLY	75W	1	ra3is@mail.ru
RK3WWF	KO72QU	4x26el	1000W	1	rk3wwf@mai.ru
SM2CEW	KP15CR	8m dish	QRO	?	sm2cew@telia.com
SM2A	K004NP	4x32el	800W	?	sthe@algonet.se
SM3BEI	JP81NG	4xLY	QRO	?	sm3bei@svessa.se
SM3JQU	JP82QM	4x32el	750W	?	perolof.sjlander@telia.com
UT3LL	KO80AC	6x27el	500W	1	valery@vk.kh.ua
UR5LX	KO70WK	dish	QRO	?	ur5lx@vhf-dx.net

and maybe DJ8MS, PA2M, S50C + S53RM.

This completes the information from OK1TEH and we continue with the report from Perseids 2008.

Perseid 2008 results

The early morning of August 12th 2008 produced several remarkable reflections on 70cm. From 0345 to 0500 OK1TEJ, JO70FD, worked RK3WWF, KO72QI over 1476km. Long bursts were received at 0345 UTC, 0412 UTC (see screenshot above) and 0454 UTC.

CT1HZE and DL8HCZ had a sked from 0800 UTC and beside some useful pings also long bursts were received. At 0808 UTC a burst of about 10 seconds was received from CT1HZE by DK3BU. The distance is 2189km! Later another long burst of about 4 seconds was received with the final RRR. During this sked CT1HZE got several heart attacks and he was running like mad through his house and was shouting things we better not report here. Why? There were just FIVE power failures within the 2 hours of the sked with DK3BU, the shortest was 1 minute, the longest some 20 minutes. Everytime the PC had to be rebooted and the PA had to be heated again etc. He never expected to complete the QSO with DK3BU under these circumstances. Finally it paid off to restart all again and again and again.....

Thus after 9 years the 70cm MS world record was extended by 48km from 2141 km (SM3AKW - UA9FAD) to 2189km. Probably it will take quite some time until this will be beaten again as the 2200km range for sure is not easy and on both ends EME rigs are necessary for RX and TX.

At 1005 UTC OK2POI received a fantastic 17 second burst from SM2A on 70cm. However, the contact was not completed. Interestingly at the same time as the CT1HZE-DK3BU QSO took place also CT1EKD tried a sked with DL8BDU on 70cm MS. Nothing was heard on both sides at all although the distance is some 150km less. CT1EKD was using only a small setup and DL8BDU a better one but both were no EME level, of course.

The ARRL record table shows the following top three QSOs for 70cm MS:

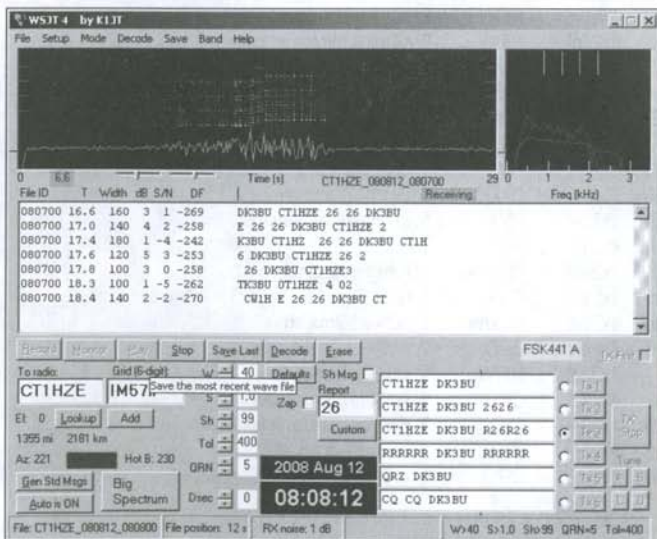
2040km	N6RMJ (DM14cp) -- W7XU (EN13lm)	17-Nov-1998
1999km	WB5LUA (EM13qc) -- KD5RO (FN13fb)	13-Dec-1988
1641km	W0LER - W2AZL	12-Aug-1972

So also in NA there is no QSO recorded beyond 2100km.

The IARU Region 1 record table shows the following top five QSOs for 70cm MS:

SM3AKW	JP92AO	UA9FAD	LO88DA	CW	1998-08-12	2141 km
LY2WR	KO24OQ	UA9FAD	LO88DA	CW	1998-08-12	1939 km
SM2CEW	KP15CR	PA3DZL	JO21HM	CW	1989-08-12	1869 km
PA5DD	JO22IC	SM2CEW	KP15CR	CW	2001-08-12	1808 km
OH2TI	KP20KE	G0RUZ	IO93HN	CW	1995-08-13	1747 km

Quite remarkable that 5 of the 8 here listed QSOs took place on Aug. 12th and another one on Aug. 13th. And now also the new world record has to be added for the August 12th count. See u then on 70cm MS in Perseids 2009!



10 second burst received by DK3BU from CT1HZE over 2189km on Aug. 12th 2008 at 0808 UTC on 70cm

Meteor-Scatter

Reports

Norbert Götsche, DL8LAQ

EA1DDO, IN53UI, wkd 2m FSK-MS:

190708 1655 G4BPB IO82WO 27 R27 1125
090808 2220 DF5HC JN49HT 26 R26 1474
120808 1615 F8DO JN26IF 26 R26 1073
Rig.: 100w + 13el. Tnx for info, Máximo!

GM4DHF/P, IO67UP, Isle of Skye, 2008:

Equipment FT-857D, 150W output SSPA (12V), x1 or x2 7ele H/B yagi. Operation from inside car at 200M ASL (Quiraing) IO67UP or Holiday Cottage (Staffin) IO67VP.

This was a walking holiday with my partner Jan, but I couldn't resist working some 2M Meteor Scatter. Almost all random QSO's.

144MHz, MS (FSK441) Completed

Time Call	Sent	Recvd	Loc	QRB (km)
100808				
1100 DH8BQA	R27	R26	JO73CF	1372 km
1158 DL1EAP	R27	R27	JO31IK	1079
1835 PA3FPQ	R27	R37	JO22XE	984
1905 ON4KHG	R37	R26	JO10XO	1024
1915 OZ8ZS	R37	R27	JO55RT	1094
1947 DG5AAG	R27	R27	JO51MM	1298
2008 DJ9MG	R37	R26	JO52TC	1291
2044 DL1SUN	R27	R26	JO53PN	1185
2056 PA4EME	R27	R26	JO20WX	1076
2107 DL1SUZ	R27	R26	JO53UN	1209
2125 OQ4U	R27	R26	JO20KV	1037
2220 DJ5BV	R27	R26	JO30KI	1175

110808

0631 PA5KM	R27	R28	JO11WL	943
0652 PE1GNP	R26	R26	JO31IX	1037
2138 SM5CUI	R27	R27	JO89WW	1407
2158 SP4MPB	R26	R26	KO03HT	1726
2201 OK1UGA	R37	R26	JO80CF	1677
2214 DF6YL	R27	R26	JO31WS	1117
2240 SP2MKO	R27	R27	JO93CB	1620
2255 SP2IQW	R27	R27	JO94GM	1570
2312 SM7GVF	R27	R27	JO77GA	1247
2328 SP2NJI	R37	R27	JO92OS	1694

120808

0012 F5JNX	R26	R26	JN37PV	1413
0030 S55AW	R38	R27	JN75DS	1924odx
0930 F6HVK	R27	R26	JN27LH	1375
1027 OK2POI	R27	R27	JN99BL	1836
1044 DJ8MS	R27	R26	JO64AD	1203
1054 DK1MAX	R37	R27	JN58SP	1546
1110 DL4DWA	R37	R27	JO61QH	1445
1225 SM3BEI	R26	R27	JO79LI	1244
1252 OH4LA	R27	R26	KP20LG	1588
1355 DL9MS	R27	R26	JO54WC	1195
1446 LA4YGA	R27	R26	JO48BE	852

1512 OH6QU	R27	R27	KP03SD	1631
1518 DK3EE	R37	R27	JO41GU	1146
1522 DK3BU	R37	R26	JO33NO	952
1530 DH2OAA	R37	R27	JO42TU	1137
1558 DL1RNV	R27	R26	JO62GH	1334
1608 DB8AT	R27	R26	JO51CP	1249
1614 DL5WG	R27	R27	JO52XJ	1296
2022 YL2AO	R27	R26	KO16DK	1721
2042 OZ1PIF	R26	R27	JO65AN	1142
2122 DL8BDU	R27	R26	JO43AA	1039
2140 OZ1LPR	R37	R27	JO44UW	1029
2200 SP2JYR	R37	R37	JO92GP	1662
2230 SM5DIC	R47	R27	JO89JT	1347
2255 S57SU	R27	R26	JN76EF	1889
2342 DK5WL	R27	R36	JN39VW	1259
2350 DK5OX	R27	R26	JN59MO	1444

130808

0018 PE1AHX	R38	R38	JO21OS	984
0026 DF5HC	R27	R27	JN49HT	1307
1946 DL2ARD	R26	R26	JO60AR	1412
2104 DF8IK	R27	R26	JO30JT	1137
2130 F6DRO	R27	R26	JN03TJ	1678
2238 F6BEG	R26	R26	JN25JS	1538
2323 HB9FAP	R38	R27	JN47PH	1553
2340 SM7FMX	R27	R26	JO65KN	1192

140808

2216 HB9MS	R26	R26	JN47PH	1553
2224 DG6JF/P	R27	R27	JO33QN	969

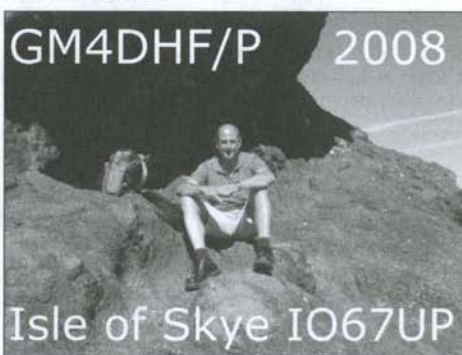
Heard but not completed:

ES6RQ, DH5BS, DJ5BV, DK7DR, DK7LZ, OK2VSO, DL0HOF, OH1ND, DL0VV, DL8EBW, IW3HRT, IV3NDC

G stations worked via tropo:

G4DEZ, G8GXP, G4CBW, G16ATZ, G4BPB

73, David, G4DHF



FAI News

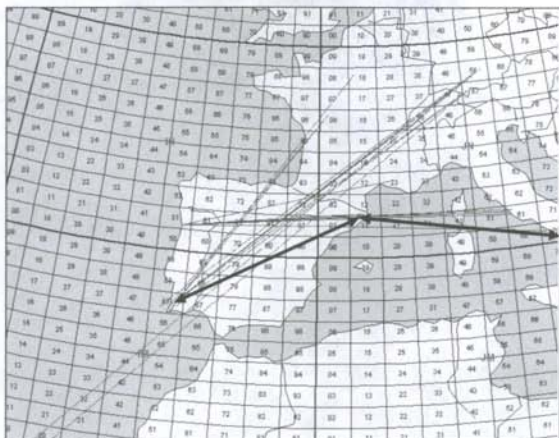
2008 QSO Summary

Editor: Dom Dehays, F6DRO
f6dro@wanadoo.fr

Second half of the 2008 season, update. Like in the first part, very few QSOs, activity or conditions?

Date	QTR	STN1	STN2	LOC1	LOC2	QRB	QTF/SCP	Rem
July 01	2212	I8MPO	AO6SA	JN70FP	JM19LO	984	290/??	
	2213	IT9CJC	AO6SA	JM76IW	JM19LO	1067		
July 10	2028	F4DSD	CT1HZE	JN23JP	IM57NH	1351		
	2035	F4AZF	CT1HZE	JN39CG	IM57NH	1799		Not FAI
	2036	DF5NK	CT1HZE	JN59PM	IM57NH	2109		Not FAI
July 11	1909	IZ4BEH	G4LOH	JN54WL	IO70JC	1428		
	1913	I8MPO	G4LOH	JN70FP	IO70JC	1853		
	1914	G4LOH	YO2LEA	IO70JC	KN06WX	2012		Not FAI
	1915	G4LOH	HA1FV	IO70JC	JN87JJ	1635		Not FAI
	1916	HA1FV	G7RAU	JN87JJ	IO90IR	1365		QSO?
	1937	F6DRO	YU1EV	JN03TJ	KN04CN	1489		
	1945	F6DRO	LZ1ZP	JN03TJ	KN22ID	1883		
	1947	F1USF	YU1EV	JN23CN	KN04CN	1281		
	1947	F1USF	YU1IO	JN23CN	KN04IQ	1321		
	1952	F6DRO	YU2DX	JN03TJ	KN04GS	1515		
	2019	F4DSD	YU1EV	JN23JP	KN04CN	1233		
	2019	YU2DX	F4DSD	KN04GS	JN23JP	1260		HRD
	2019	YU2DX	F6FHP	KN04GS	IN94TR	1647		
	2031	F6DRO	I1JTQ	JN03TJ	JN35UB	519		HRD
	2040	F6DRO	IC8FAX	JN03TJ	JN70CN	1086		
July 12	1957	IC8FAX	RZ6BU	JN70CN	KN84PV	1939		BUDA
July 13	0825	F6DRO	CT1HZE	JN03TJ	IM57NH	1116		
July 18	1800	RZ6BU	HA8CE	KN84PV	KN06EN	1324		
	2002	G4LOH	IC8FAX	IO70JC	JN70CN	1843		085 / ??
July 24	1937	F6DRO	YT3I	JN03TJ	KN05HP	1523		45/295
	2022	F6DRO	YU2DX	JN03TJ	KN04GS	1515		
July 26	1743	I8MPO	G4LOH	JN70FP	IO70JC	1853		
	1743	HA1FV	G4LOH	JN87JJ	IO70JC	1843		HRD
July 30	0901	I8MPO	CT1HZE	JN70FP	IM57NH	2044		
Aug 09	2007	DK7DR	F8DBF	JN47DP	IN78RI	957		FAI?

Some QSOs reported originally (in last issue) as FAI were found to be ES after analysis, they were marked in bold characters in the table. Some FAI qsos in the table took place on days without 2m Es but were validated by 6m Es in the right location.

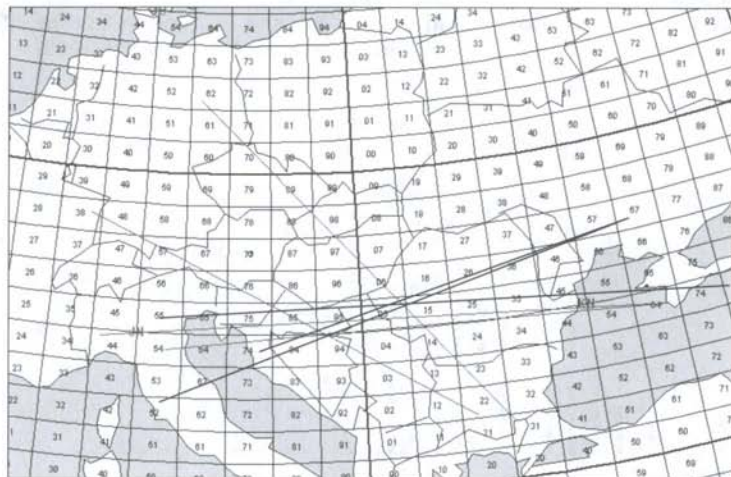


July 30, 2008: 2m Es DL to CT, Es + Tropo (in my opinion not double hop Es) DL to EA8 and from N-CT to I0 and at the same time FAI from S-Italy to S-CT: CT1HZE IM57 to I8MPO JN70, see bold line, with SCP over EA3.

Sporadic-E Summary 2008 – 144 MHz

Addendum – and forecast for 2009

by DL8HCZ/CT1HZE



August 17

0640-0745 UT: 9A6CM (JN74) wkd US0GB (KN67); RZ6BU (KN84) hrd IV3DVW/B (JN55)
DL1RNW (JO62) wkd: LZ1KG (KN31), LZ1ZP (KN22) wkd: F8ZW (JN38);
IK5JWQ (JN52) wkd: US0GB (KN67); UT5JCW (KN64) wkd: IW1BCV (JN44), I4VOS (JN54)

August 20

1238-1240 UT: DF1CF (JN57) wkd: EA1GA (IN52), EA1GE (IN51), EA1XE (IN62); QRB 1550 – 1650km.
FOCXO (JN26) hrd: EA1GE (IN51) QRB 1244km, MUF must have been quite high for a minute. DF1CF
has kindly provided a tape of the whole 3.5 min opening and is was really Es (CT1HZE)!

August 20th was the last known 2m-Es opening of the EU 2008 season. Thus total count of days with 2m Es in summer 2008 for Europe is 39. The count for the corresponding year 1988 is 32 days. Figure 1 below shows the corresponding updated graph from fig. 2 in my article "Midlatitude Sporadic E on VHF in correlation to the 22-year Magnetic Cycle of the Sun" in DUBUS 1/2008, p. 11.

From the statistical view 2008 was well in line with what could be expected from the cycle. For 2009 we can expect a year that should be similar to 2008, probably not much worse but even a bit better (for EU). Anything between 30 and 39 days with 2m Es in total for EU should be most likely.

Although the 2008 count of days was more or less the same like in 2007 the count of 2m minutes in EU was less what is also in line with what we had expected. May be the decline was just a bit too drastic for many, but don't forget the factor of being in a bad luck location just by coincidence. Even CT1HZE has made only 329 2m Es QSOs in 2008 (vs. 1153 in 2007) and the total observed open time for 2m Es was 523 minutes in 2008 (vs. 1173 in 2007). One can see that vs. 2007 CT1HZE made about 200 QSOs too less in relation to the minutes because of bad luck with the timing (weekdays, mornings) and directions (e.g. to Azores).

The 3m FM BC Es graph for North America (fig. 3 on page 12 in the above mentioned article) was also updated now with the latest counts from WA5IYX. See fig. 2 below. In 2008 the 3m Es minutes were about 10% up compared to 2007. This is also well within the prediction and expectations. The 2m NA Es season was well above average in 2008 with a total count of 14 days (vs. 9 days in 2007 and 12 days in 2006). In 2008 there were observed 2m Es days in NA on May 29 and 30, June 13, 15, 16 and 17, July 2, 4, 9, 22, 26, 29 and August 2 and 3. (EU 2008: 6 days in May, 13 days in June, 12 days in July and 7 days in August). This is well in line with the observation that the NA meteor mass input has a maximum in July in NA and in June in Europe. (See article Midlatitude Sporadic E in Correlation to Meteor Mass Input in DUBUS 3/2008).

Fig. 1: 2m Es openings in Europe, days per year in. The bars from 1989 to 2008 are also CT1HZE's forecast for the years from 2009 to 2028!

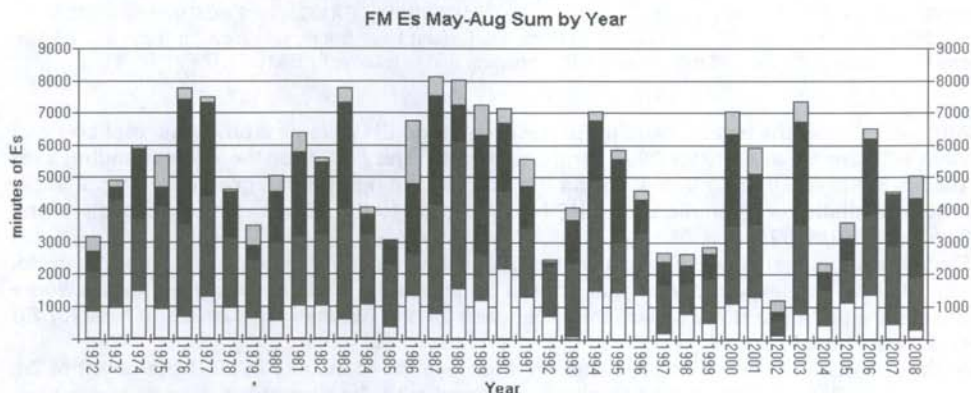
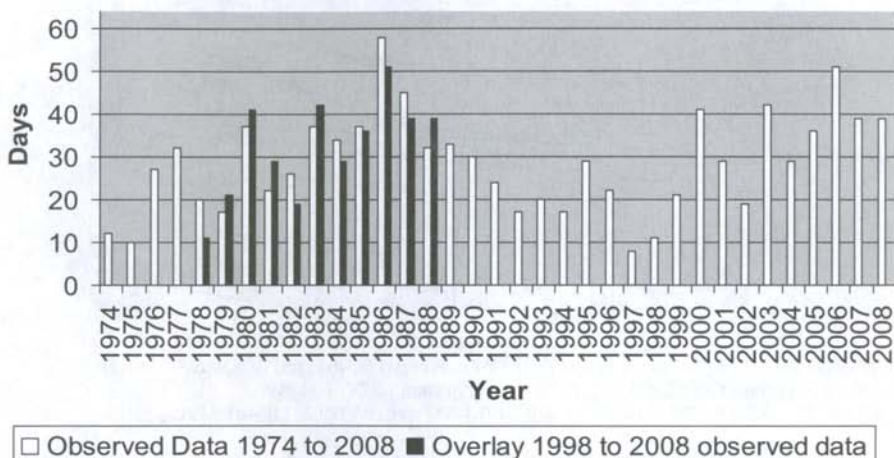


Fig. 2: 3m FM BC Es openings in North America, 1972-2008 (source: WA5IYX).
Minutes per year, May-Aug.,
white (bottom) = May, grey = June, black = July, bright grey (top) = August

Compare the bars (heights and tendencies) in Fig. 1 with the bars in Fig. 2. The congruences are remarkable. The variation of midlatitude Sporadic E is an interrelated global phenomenon.

Tropo Reports

2m, 70cm and up

Editor: Wolfgang Schneider, DJ8ES

Note: Starting with next issue 1/2009 **Michael, DG7SFL**, will take over the Tropo column from Wolfgang. Thanks to Wolfgang for several years of good work and always sending in time! Please send your next Tropo reports to:

michael.m.dienel@t-online.de

Thank you! 73 Joe, DL8HCZ

2m

EA1DDO, IN53UI, wkd (>500km):

30/06/2008 13:32	G4LOH	IO7ØJC	786km
30/06/2008 13:48	FØEJW	IN78VJ	643km
06/07/2008 08:32	CT2JHU	IM58MP	526km
17/07/2008 17:06	F6DFI	IN87WC	637km
17/07/2008 17:22	FØFHZ	IN87KR	631km
17/07/2008 19:22	FØEJW	IN78VJ	643km
22/07/2008 15:48	G4LOH	IO7ØJC	786km
26/07/2008 17:51	CT1HZE	IM57NH	673km

rig: 100w, ant 13el, PreAmp 25db
tnx for info Maximo

F/LAØBY/p, JN02SV, wkd (>700km):

2008-11-01 9A5Y (JN85PO, 850km); 9A4M (JN85EI); 9A6CM (JN74OD); S50G (JN76KC); S52CO (JN76PB); S50C (JN76JG).

2008-11-02 S51WC (JN75PS), 9A1N (JN85LI).

Stefan writes: My location was at 1150 m asl, but the horizon towards S5 was still partially obstructed by mountains being up to 2000 m high at 30 km distance. Equipment IC706, PA 150W and single 9-ele-F9FT yagi. On Sunday it became very windy, so I decided to leave some hours before the end of the MMC. tnx for info Stefan

G4RRA, IO80BS, wkd >1000km:

October 25th 2008

1422	DO2HSP	JO53ES	52 55	1023 km
1436	DK1CO	JO63SX	58 59	1231
1454	DJ9MG	JO52TC	55 55	1082
1508	DL7YS	JO62NM	559 579	1186
1512	DL1RNW	JO62GH	579 599	1145
1515	SP2MKO	JO93CB	529 559	1529 odx
1528	DJ6HP/P	JO52HK	55 57	1016
1529	DL1RPL	JO62LI	57 59	1174
1532	SQ1VAA	JO72OW	57 58	1328
1533	SQ1DWS	JO72OW	57 58	1328
1535	SQ1MNF	JO72OX	57 58	1328
1538	DC7TS	JO62PO	55 55	1197
1630	DK1FG	JN59OP	59 59	1078
1638	SP1KRF	JO72OX	55 55	1328

Rig: IC275H, 2xGU74B, 400W, 2 x 10 ele.

PA5DD, JO22IC, wkd Okt/Nov '08 (>600km):

OL3Z (JN79FX, 722km); OL5J (JN79PP, 791km); DL2MDU (JN58R, 645km); OK1KCR (JN79VS, 819km); OE2M (JN67NT, 768km); OK1AR (JO60RA, 654km); F2CT/P (JN36BP, 614km); OL8R (JN69JJ, 644km); OK2KJU (JN79QJ, 809km); DL1MAJ/P (JN58TH, 648km); DK1KC/P (JN58QH, 634km); OE5D (JN68PC, 756km); OL4A (JO60RN, 632km); DL5MAE (JN58VF, 663km); OZ8ZS (JO55RT, 606km); OZ3TT (JO66CA, 656km); SK7MW (JO65MJ, 660km); OK1RI (JO60RN, 632km); OK1KIM (JO60RN, 632km); OK1XFJ (JO60QC, 645km); OK1KZE (JN79FX, 722km); 5P5T (JO64GX, 610km); LA8NK (JO48KM, 762km). tnx for info Uffe

RA3WDK, KO81BR, wkd:

November 3rd 2008:

0655	RA2FCD	KO04gs	CW	
0702	SM7GVF	JO77ga	CW	1509 km
0708	UA3EJN/3	KO71	CW	
0728	LY2BAW	KO25ka	CW	
0739	LY1CO	KO15xi	CW	
0745	UA2FAG	KO04	CW	
0751	RA3LW	KO54mq	CW	
0758	SP2BNJ	JO94hk	CW	1207 km
0804	EW1AH	KO33uw	CW	
0810	LY2FN	KO14xv	CW	
0827	LY2BJ	KO25ea	SSB	
0829	LY3UE	KO24op	SSB	
0905	SM7NR	JO76rc	SSB	1432 km
0908	LY3A	KO25db	SSB	
0923	UA1XP	KO55jr	CW	
0924	RZ3BA/1	KO56bc	SSB	
0927	LY2AA	KO14xu	CW	
1027	RA2FF	KO04gr	SSB	
1127	RA3PJS	KO93bd	FM	
1345	UA3YCN	KO62	CW	
1352	SF7WT	JO65qq	CW	1553 km
1355	UA3YCV	KO62cs	SSB	
1357	UA3ECX	KO83ba	SSB	
1428	EU1AB	KO33su	CW	
1433	SK1658OZ	JO76db	SSB	1502 km
1436	RN2FG	KO04fr	SSB	
1448	UR3AA	KO70ju	SSB	
1450	EU1AB	KO33su	SSB	
1457	SF7WT	JO65qq	SSB	
1458	SM7NR	JO76rc	SSB	1432 km
1511	SM7ASN	JO66ud	CW	1539 km
1515	SM7SPG	JO66md	CW	1580 km
1520	LY2CY	KO16la	CW	
1521	LY2PU	KO14xw	CW	
1530	OZ4VV	JO46qu	CW	1820 km ODX
1534	SP2QBQ	JO94fl	CW	1215 km
1542	LY2R	KO15vr	CW	
1543	EU4AG	KO13vq	CW	
1549	SK7OA	JO65lr	CW	1545 km
1552	LY2R	KO15vr	SSB	
1607	YL90HA	KO26bv	CW	
1609	EU6MW	KO55ce	SSB	

1643 SM1HOW JO97gl CW 1295 km
 1651 SM7DVF JO76ju CW 1504 km
 1658 EW1EW KO33pm CW 628 km
 1730 EW1EW KO33pm SSB
 1815 OZ3TT JO66ca CW 1629 km
 1820 SM7DIE JO76se CW 1428 km
 1823 SK7RA JO76se CW 1428 km
 1825 EW1AQ KO33uw CW
 1828 SP2IQW JO94gm SSB
 1859 SP4AJ KO14lc SSB
 1942 EW2CJ KO34kj SSB
 1943 RA2FCD KO04gs SSB
 1946 SP2TQI JO94et SSB
 1948 SK7OL JO66nc SSB 1574 km
 1950 SM7SPG JO66md SSB 1580 km
 2003 SM1A JO97fk SSB 1298 km
 2028 RA2FF KO04gr SSB 1087 km
 Rig: 800W + 13el

RA6DA, KN96SA, wkd:

03/11/2008

1650 SM7GVF JO77GA 559 559 2104km
 1805 SM7GVF JO77GA 59 57 SSB

04/11/2008

0404 SM7GVF JO77GA 549 549
 0821 LY2BJ KO25ER 599 599 1510km
 0855 LY2BAW KO25KA 599 599 1438km

SM7GVF is my new Tropo ODX!

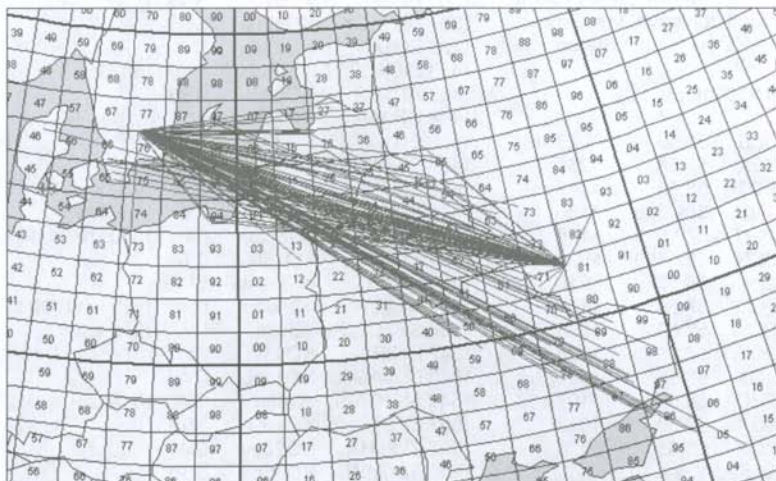
tnx for info, Vitaly, RA6DA.

SM7GVF, JO77GA, wkd:

November 3rd, 2008:

0614 RA2FF KO04GR 453 km
 0626 LY3BF KO24LO
 0629 LY2BJ KO25ER
 0635 EW1AH KO33UW 896 km
 0642 UY5UG KO50FI 1279 km
 0649 UY5UG KO50FI
 0653 EW2MA KO33NQ

0658 UA3WM KO72QI 1429 km
 0701 RA3WWD KO81BR 1509 km
 0702 RW3WR KO71IM 1438 km
 0715 LY2BAW KO25KA
 0822 RA3WWD KO81BR
 0828 LY1CR KO15CL
 0833 LY1CO KO15XI
 0948 LY2FD KO14XV
 0950 UR5LX KO70WK
 0956 US0NY KO50VK
 0957 LY2AA KO14XU
 1002 YL2TD KO26CV
 1014 UA2CZ KO04FQ
 1017 SP2CQF JO95OB
 1021 LY2CY KO16LA
 1101 UA3WM KO72QI
 1111 RA2FB KO05WB
 1139 EW1AH KO33UW
 1148 UR5LX KO70WK
 1150 UT5USI KO50VK
 1154 RA3LE KO64AR 1198 km
 1226 LY3L KO25NM
 1230 EW6DX KO45JL
 1442 EU1AB KO33SU
 1447 EW6DX KO45JL
 1449 YL2TD KO26CV
 1450 EU6FF KO45JL
 1454 YL2GP KO27AA
 1456 UA1XP KO55JR
 1514 UR5LX KO70WK 1574 km
 1526 UA3YCV KO62CS
 1530 LY2BCE KO25DR
 1533 RV3YM KO63QQ
 1539 EU4AG KO13VQ
 1550 UT8AL KO61WP 1382 km
 1605 YL2FZ KO37QI
 1613 EW6PW KO55CE
 1616 YL2OK KO37AS
 1619 UX7LT KN89TR 1721 km



2m Tropo
 map
 Nov 3rd 2008
 Big lift up to
 2300km from
 SM7 to UA6.

SM7GVF continued:

1633 YL90HA KO26BV	581 km
1639 UY5UG KO50FI	
1641 RA3LW KO54MQ	
1642 YL2GE KO16TW	
1647 UR3CTB KN59RS	1375km
1649 RA6DA KN96SA	2099 km
1653 YL2JZ KO26AW	
1703 UR5MID KN98OO	1889 km
1705 UT7EQ KN78NK	1672 km
1711 US5EI KN78JK	1654 km
1717 SP1IUR JO73GI	
1722 LY2PU KO14XW	629 km
1725 EW1EW KO33PM	
1729 UR5MID KN98OO	
1732 LY2CH KO15OV	
1733 EW1HFK KO33SV	
1736 SP4MPH KO14LC	
1748 US5LKW KN89KL	1878 km
1749 SP4JQC KO13NC	
1751 EW1AQ KO33UW	
1755 UT7IL KN87VX	1853 km
1759 US8IPB KN87SC	1906 km
1804 RA6DA KN96SA	2099 km
1810 UT7IL KN87VX	
1812 LY4BI KO15DF	
1818 US5EFX KN78OL	
1824 RK6MC KN97LA	1990 km
1838 UX5UL KO50FL	
1901 YL2LW KO26CW	
1902 SP2BNJ JO94HK	
1907 UR5EFB KN87VU	1863 km
1915 YL2GD KO37ML	
1923 UX7HO KN79GN	1558 km
1925 UX7UN KO50GM	
1927 UR0HQ KN79GO	1555 km
1927 YL3HA KO26DW	
2003 YL3GFL KO26AW	
2005 US1IW KN87VA	1926 km
2009 UT1IG KN87WA	1930 km
2010 UR4LQ KO80BC	1610 km
2012 UT5ID KN87UX	1849 km
2014 UR7IM KN88SR	1785 km
2018 LY2AA KO14XU	
2028 UT6UG KO50EI	
2029 US5RCW KO51WA	
2044 RU6DZ KN96DQ	1979 km
2046 UT1IC KN87VU	
2049 RK6CG LN05AU	2140 km
2050 UT8IO KN87UB	1918 km
2100 UT3HG KN79GN	
2101 LY2PU KO14XW	
2103 EW6RM KO55CE	
2107 LY3BF KO24LO	
2128 RA3WDK KO81BR	
2135 SP2RS JO94GK	
2201 UA3XEH KO73FU	
2222 RA6HHT LN04WX, 2315km ODX	
2228 EW1EW KO33PM	
2244 EW1AH KO33UW	

2247 UT5EZ KN78GM 1635 km
 2300 UT7IL KN87VX 1853 km
 2358 RA3LW KO54MQ 1059 km
 Rig: 8x8 el Yagis 1KW MGF1302

UR5LX, KO70WK, wkd:

Nov 3rd, 2008: SM7NR JO76RC 1489km,
 SM7GVF JO77GA 1674km (peaked 59+60 on Nov
 4 in morning), LY2AA KO14XU 940km, RA2FF
 KO04GR 1138km, SF7WT JO65QQ 1604km,
 SM7DVF JO76JU 1553km, RA2FCB KO04CW,
 LY2PU KO14XW 1165km, OZ4VV JO46QU
 1872km, EW2MA KO33NQ 698km, LY2LE
 KO24OQ 861km, SM7DBD JO77KA 1555km,
 EW1EW KO33PM 680km.

Nov 4th 2008: EW2CJ KO34KJ 752km, EW6FS
 KO35LB 789km, EU1AB KO33SU 683km.
 Rig: 4x12 ve7bqh, 800 w, lna mgf1302.
 Tnx for info, Sergey!



**High pressure over Eastern Europe on Nov
 3rd 2008 caused nice Tropo ducting**

70cm

G3XDY, JO02OB, (>600km):

29/08/2008 OK1TEH	JO70
21/09/2008 F8ALX	JN06
27/09/2008 DL5YBZ/P	JN48
05/10/2008 DK6AJ/P	JO52
05/10/2008 DF0YY	JO62
05/10/2008 DF5GZ/P	JN47
05/10/2008 DK1IP	JO53
05/10/2008 DL9GK	JO50

tnx for info John

PA5DD, JO22IC, wk (>500km):

2008/09/09 17:42 OZ6OL	JO65DJ 620km
2008/09/09 17:46 OZ9KY	JO45VX 545km
2008/10/14 17:01 SK7MW	JO65MJ 660km
2008/10/14 17:14 OZ9KY	JO45VX 545km
2008/10/14 17:28 OZ9GE	JO66CB 659km

2008/10/14 17:42 OZ5ER JO65CT 642km
 2008/10/14 18:13 OZ9ZZ JO46QK 571km
 tnx for info Uffe

SM7ECM, JO65NQ, wkd:

03/11/2008 RA3LE KO64AR 1205km
 tnx for info Anders

RA3WDK, KO81BR, wkd on 70cm:

November 3rd 2008:

0834 LY3UE KO24op CW
 0845 LY2FN KO14xv CW
 1114 LY2BAW KO25ka CW
 1709 EU4AG KO13vq CW
 1842 UT8AL KO61wp CW
 1849 LY2PU KO14xw CW

23cm + up

DK7QX, JO42KH, wkd on 23cm (>500km):

19.08.08 2000 G3XDY JO02OB 523km
 19.08.08 2047 SM7GEP JO77IP 700km
 19.08.08 2057 SM6AFV JO67GQ 642km
 30.08.08 0739 F6DKW JN18CS 614km
 14.09.08 0829 G8VR JO01RJ 519km
 14.09.08 1032 F5DQK JN18GR 599km
 16.09.08 1709 SM6AFV JO67GQ 642km
 16.09.08 1744 SM7GEP JO77IP 700km
 16.09.08 2010 G4DDK JO02PA 518km
 16.09.08 2015 G3XDY JO02OB 523km
 21.09.08 0835 F5DQK JN18GR 599km
 27.09.08 0644 SM6ESG JO67CC 574km
 27.09.08 0806 SM7LCB JO86GH 667km
 27.09.08 0821 SM6VTZ JO58WI 698km
 27.09.08 2022 SP4MPB KO03HT 802km
 04.10.08 1506 M1CRO/P JO01PU 520km
 04.10.08 1518 G5B IO92WS 610km
 04.10.08 1559 G3XDY JO02OB 523km
 04.10.08 1712 OK1KPA JN79US 555km
 04.10.08 1957 OL7M JO80FG 574km
 04.10.08 2105 OK5Z JN89AK 595km
 05.10.08 0856 DJ5MN JN57WS 548km
 10.10.08 0627 F5DQK JN18GR 599km
 10.10.08 2128 G3ZEZ JO01NT 532km
 10.10.08 2150 GB3USK/B IO81QJ 796km
 12.10.08 0925 F5DQK JN18GR 599km
 12.10.08 0952 G4EAT JO01HR 568km
 21.10.08 2047 G3XDY JO02OB 523km
 25.10.08 1645 GB3USK/B IO81QJ 796km

rig: 65W, MGF1302, 44 ele yagi
 tnx for info Eckhard

G3XDY, JO02OB, worked

1,3 GHz (>700km):

29/08/2008 OK1TEH JO7Ø
 16/09/2008 OZ9KY JO45
 26/09/2008 SM1NJC JO97
 26/09/2008 SM7GEP JO77
 26/09/2008 OZ7DX JO66
 26/09/2008 SM6HYG JO58

05/10/2008 DH9NFM JO5Ø
 05/10/2008 DFØYY JO62
 10/10/2008 OZ2LD JO54
 21/10/2008 SK7MW JO65

2.3 GHz (>500km):

16/09/2008 DF9IC JN48
 26/09/2008 SM7GEP JO77
 04/10/2008 DLØGTH JO5Ø
 05/10/2008 DF9IC JN48

3.4 GHz (>300km):

26/09/2008 SM7GEP JO77
 05/10/2008 DF9IC JN48
 10/10/2008 OZ2LD JO54
 21/10/2008 DF9IC JN48

5.7 GHz (>300km):

26/09/2008 SM7GEP JO77
 tnx for info John

OZ1FF, JO45BO, worked

1,3 GHz (>600km):

2008/09/16 17:32 DF9IC JN48IW 742km
 2008/09/16 18:39 DB6NT JO50TI 629km
 2008/09/16 19:54 G3XDY JO02OB 600km
 2008/09/16 20:06 DL6NAA JO50VF 646km
 2008/10/05 09:29 OK2KKW JO60JJ 657km
 2008/10/05 09:47 OL4A JO60RN 664km
 2008/10/21 17:46 DF9IC JN48IW 742km
 2008/10/21 19:47 G3XDY JO02OB 600km
 2008/10/21 19:57 DL6NAA JO50VF 646km

2.3 GHz (>500km):

2008/09/23 17:17 SA4Z JO79OF 584km
 2008/09/23 17:51 DL6NAA JO50VF 646km
 2008/09/23 18:19 DL9GK JO50TI 629km
 2008/09/23 18:32 DF9IC JN48IW 742km
 2008/09/27 05:58 SM7LCB JO86GH 529km
 2008/10/28 17:00 SA4Z JO79OF 584km
 2008/10/28 18:26 DL6NAA JO50VF 646km
 2008/10/28 18:42 DF9IC JN48IW 742km

5.7 GHz (>400km):

2008/09/23 18:43 SM7GEP JO77IP 462km
 2008/09/26 19:04 G4EAT JO01HR 655km

10 GHz (>300km):

2008/09/23 18:44 SM7GEP JO77IP 462km
 2008/09/23 18:55 SM6EAN JO57WQ 326km
 2008/09/23 19:03 SM6HYG JO58RG 359km
 2008/09/23 19:30 SM6AFV JO67GQ 356km
 2008/09/23 20:34 SM7ECM JO65NQ 314km
 2008/09/26 19:07 G4EAT JO01HR 655km
 2008/09/27 06:04 SM7LCB JO86GH 529km
 2008/10/28 17:52 PA3CEG JO33FB 302km
 2008/10/28 18:14 SM6EAN JO57WQ 326km
 2008/10/28 20:33 SM7ECM JO65NQ 314km

24 GHz (>100km):

2008/09/26 18:42 DC6UW JO44VJ 172km
 2008/09/26 20:21 SM6AFV JO67GQ 357km
 2008/09/26 20:28 SM6HYG JO58RG 360km

tnx for Info Kjeld

PA5DD, JO22IC, wkd Sept/Oct '08 (>400km):**23cm (>400km):**

2008/09/27 07:08 SM7LCB JO86GH 901km
 2008/09/27 07:47 OZ2OE JO45VV 538km
 2008/10/14 17:35 F5DQK JN18GR 404km

13cm (>400km):

2008/08/26 18:52 OZ1FF JO45BO 451km
 2008/08/26 19:03 DH2SAV JN48QU 489km
 2008/09/27 07:48 OZ2OE JO45VV 538km

9cm (>400km):

2008/10/12 14:18 DF9IC JN48IW 451km
 2008/10/12 14:37 DL7YC JO62PK 586km

3cm (>500km):

2008/08/01 14:29 OZ2LD JO54TU 552km
 2008/08/01 14:37 OZ3ZW JO54RS 538km
 2008/08/31 19:20 DL7QY JN59BD 504km
 tnx for info Uffe

SM7ECM, JO65NQ, worked**1,3 GHz (>500km):**

19/08/2008 SK4AO/P JP70TN 562km
 19/08/2008 SM4DXO JP70VO 569km
 19/08/2008 SM0ERR JO89WJ 501km
 19/08/2008 SM0DFP JP90JC 594km
 19/08/2008 SM0EUI JO99ES 551km
 19/08/2008 SK0CT JO89XJ 503km
 19/08/2008 SM3BEI JP81NG 663km
 19/08/2008 DB6NT JO50TI 602km
 19/08/2008 PA0S JO21FW 705km
 19/08/2008 OH0JFP KP00AB 635km
 16/09/2008 SM0EUI JO99ES 551km
 16/09/2008 SM0ERR JO89WJ 501km
 16/09/2008 SK4AO/P JP70TN 562km
 16/09/2008 SM3BEI JP81NG 663km
 16/09/2008 PA0S JO21FW 705km
 16/09/2008 PA3AWJ JO21GW 701km
 16/09/2008 DL3HRT JO61AB 520km
 16/09/2008 DF9IC JN48IW 809km
 16/09/2008 OH0JFP KP00AB 635km
 16/09/2008 SM0DFP JP90JC 594km
 16/09/2008 SK0CT JO89XJ 503km
 16/09/2008 PA3CEG JO33FB 521km
 26/09/2008 YL3AG/P KO06WK 551km
 21/10/2008 SM3BEI JP81NG 663km
 21/10/2008 SK4AO/4 JP70UK 550km
 21/10/2008 PA3AWJ JO21GW 701km
 21/10/2008 PA3CEG JO33FB 521km
 21/10/2008 PA0S JO21FW 705km
 21/10/2008 DF9IC JN48IW 809km
 21/10/2008 SK0CT JO89XJ 503km
 21/10/2008 SM0EUI JO99ES 551km
 21/10/2008 SM0DFP JP90JC 594km
 03/11/2008 LY2BAW KO25KA 746km
 03/11/2008 EW6FS KO35LB 875km
 03/11/2008 LY2AA KO14XU 692km
 03/11/2008 RA3LE KO64AR 1205km

2.3 GHz (>400km):

23/09/2008 SA4Z JO79OF 414km

23/09/2008 DL9GK JO50TI 602km
 28/10/2008 PA3CEG JO33FB 521km
 28/10/2008 SA4Z JO79OF 414km
 28/10/2008 DL6NAA JO50VF 614km
 28/10/2008 SK0CT JO89XJ 503km

5.7 GHz (>300km):

28/10/2008 SA4Z JO79OF 414km

24 GHz (>250km):

26/09/2008 DC6UW JO44VJ 256km
 tnx for info Anders

RA6DA, KN96SA, wkd 23cm:

04/11/2008

0558 LY2BAW KO25KA 559 559 1438km
 0613 SM1HOW JO97GL 579 559 1916km
 0627 LY2BAW KO25KA 579 579
 0628 LY2BAW KO25KA 55 55 SSB
 hrd SM7LCB JO86GH 1955km but NC.
 tnx for info, Vitaly, RA6DA.

SM7LCB, JO86GH, wkd:**23cm:**

20081103 1940 UR5LX KO70WK 1433km
 20081103 1943 RA3LE KO64AR 990km
 20081103 2033 RA3LW KO54MQ 930km
 20081103 2224 EW1ST KO33UW 757km
 20081103 2020 EW1EW KO33PM 753km
 20081103 2246 YL90CP KO27PH 544km
 20081103 2208 LY2BAW KO25KA 542km
 20081103 1957 LY2AA KO14XU 494km

13cm:

20081104 1944 SM4LMV JO79OF 334km

9cm:

20081103 2121 SM7GEP JO77IP 186km

SM7LCB writes: Hi, didn't know that there were so nice condx but luckily Björn/SM7SRJ reported good condx on 2m FM from his car so I checked ON4KST and noted that I haven't time for the phone anymore. On Nov 3rd I got three new squares on 23cm: UR5LX/KO70, EW1EW/KO33, RA3LW/KO54 and EW1ST/KO33!
 I also tried with RA6DA/KN96 (1955km) but I only heard him and he me but no complete QSO. SM1HOW made the QSO next morning but I was not able to be QRV at that time.
 73 de Ulf/SM7LCB - tnx for info Ulf!

UR5LX, KO70WK, wkd on 23cm:

Nov 3rd 2008: LY2BAW KO25KA 898km,
 SM7GEP JO77IP 1588m, SM6AFV JO67GQ
 1711km new Ukrainian Tropo record, SM7LCB
 JO86GH 1433km, LY2AA KO14XU, EW1ST
 KO33UW 679km, EW1EW KO33PM 680km.
 Rig: 3.6m dish and 200W and LNA NE324.
 Tnx for info, Sergey!

PSE SEND US YOUR REPORTS!

6m News

Reports, Expeditions, Infos

Editor: Joachim Kraft, DL8HCZ

6m EME

As the usual summer propagation on the northern hemisphere went almost totally dead from the end of August there are still other possibilities. You can work EME on 6m! Yes, you! At least you can work W7GJ and may be W1JJ, PE1PTX and some others who have huge arrays. EI2IP managed to work W1JJ with just 100W and a 4 ele Yagi! All this is possible, of course, only in the digital mode JT65A with the deep search mode (DS) enabled. W7GJ is very enthusiastic when it comes to talk new OPs or expeditions into 6m EME when he needs that one for a new DXCC ☺ Several OPs made just one (or two) 6m EME QSOs in the past with him and disappeared again. However, it is interesting to monitor the CQ sessions from W7GJ, W1JJ and others from Europe even if you have only one yagi on a short boom during your local moonset and the 2 hours before depending on your vertical pattern. The 6m EME traffic usually takes place just above 50.200 MHz and the stations coordinate their activity on the ON4KST 6m logger.

On November 18th 2008 W7GJ and W1JJ both worked XW1A from Laos on 6m EME for a new DXCC. XW1A was using a 4 ele Stepp IR and a 5 ele Yagi. He plans to build a 10 ele 6m Yagi now.

Transpacific 6m season 2008

From May to August 2008 there were counted 20 days / openings with transpacific multihop Es from the U.S. to Japan. We will publish a detailed report in next issue.

Beacons

CN8MC/B 50.026 MHz is temporary QRT.

EA2B/B 50.020 MHz is ex EA2SIX/B.

ED7YAD/B 50.0745 MHz, IM76QO, Malaga, 15W loop, omni, new qrv since September.

IQ9TP/B 50.0005 MHz, JM68GA, 2 W dipole, N/S, new qrv since end of June. Was qrv first on 50007 but changed QRG down 6.5 kHz.

Expeditions & OPs

6W Senegal: T98A is now qrv for about 2 years as 6W1SE from IK14GQ.

CU Azores Isl.: CT3FN/HB9CRV will be qrv again from CU1 (HM76) and CU5 in July 2008.

FY French Guyana: F5TND has moved to FY in July and will be there for 4 years. 6m with 2 x 5 ele + QRO. Loc: GJ34uw

HK0 San Andres: K7BV will make another effort from June 17th to July 5th 2009 as 5JOM with QRO on 6m and hopes to work more Europeans then. Grid is EK92.

TN Kongo: ex 5T5SN moved in August for 3 to 4 years to Brazzaville (J175PR) and will be qrv on 6m as TN5SN.

T6 Afghanistan: VK1UN (ex EX1UN) is qrv as T61AA until at

least March 2009 on 6m with 8 ele and 600W. Loc. MN21.

ZD7 St. Helena: KC0W went QRT as ZD7X and will move to ZD9 where he will stay for 4 to 6 months. Also 6m operation was announced. QSL via W0MM.

V5 Namibia: HB9Q, ZS6WB, N7BHC etc. Will be qrv from January 7 to 16 on 6m on EME. Grid is JG73NI.

4m News

Reports, Expeditions, Infos

Editor: Joachim Kraft, DL8HCZ

Spain on 4m – 4 new DXCCs!

Although it was known that there were negotiations going on it was a big surprise that the two QRGs 70.150 and 70.200 MHz (+/- 6 kHz each) were released for a test to ALL Spanish radio amateurs on October 24th 2008. Max. pwr is 10 W ERP. Currently the experiment is limited until April 25th 2009. Unfortunately this is a v. bad time regarding Es propagation. No EA stations were ready in the end of October. EA1YV (IN52) was the first who got his rig on the air on Nov 8th and he made several first ever QSOs on MS in JT6M mode with G, EI, GW, GM, LX, I, IS0. Other stations like EA3GLJ, EA4WT, EA6FB and EA6VQ have announced that the will come on 4m soon. This experiment brings 4 new DXCCs on the 4m map: EA Spain, EA6 Balearic Islands, EA8 Canary Islands and EA9 Ceuta & Melilla.

4m beacon from LX on the air

LX0FOUR/B 70.161 MHz, JN29WT, 10 W, is qrv since the beginning of November and is hrd via Tropo regularly from G.

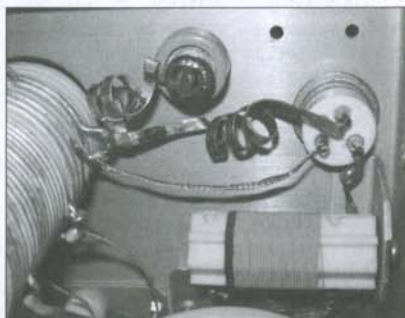
4m beacon from ZS on the air

ZS6WAB/B 70.025 MHz, KG46RC, 30W, 9 ele yagi, 360 deg. is qrv since autumn 2008.

ACOM 1000 on 4m

Uffe, PA5DD, has modified his ACOM 1000 PA for 4m. He gets 800 W on 4m. The 6m circuit was modified in such a way that it works also on 4m. You can find the full details of the modification and pictures on the web:

http://home.hccnet.nl/uffe.noucha/log/acom1000_4m.htm



Some of the 4m mods in the ACOM 1000

News & Comments

Editor: Joachim Kraft, DL8HCZ
Funk-Telegramm@t-online.de

Expeditions and DX

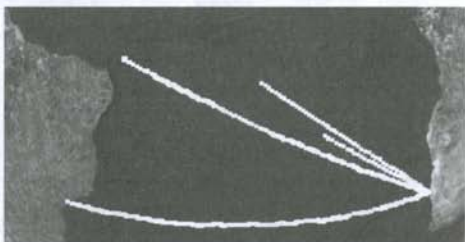
V5 - Namibia: Major VHF DXpedition planned for January

A major VHF DX-pedition to Namibia, that will include operation on a number of VHF bands and modes, is in the final planning stages. The team will be led by HB9CRQ and will include moonbounce operation on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz. January is also one of the peak months for Tropospheric-ducting propagation in the South Atlantic Ocean. Experienced tropo operators, including Glenn, ZS2GK, and Dave, N7BHC, will make a serious attempt to complete the first-ever 144 MHz contact spanning the Atlantic Ocean. They will also try QSOs with ZD7 and ZD8 on 2m.

Glenn was recently at one end of a 2 m contact with FR5DN on Reunion Island, a distance of just short of 3,000 km and Dave, a native of Port Elizabeth, runs a 144 MHz beacon from the east coast of the U.S., beamed towards Europe.

Satellite operation is also planned by using low earth-orbiting satellites. The location should give good coverage, including all of Africa and much of the eastern portion of South America. The group will assemble in Pretoria on 5 January 2009 and will leave early on the following morning for the drive to Luderitz/Namibia, where the station will be put into operation on arrival. The last day of operation is expected to be on 16 January.

Visit www.sarl.org.za for more details and regular updates. Grid will be JG73NI.



South Atlantic paths from V5 (top to bottom):

ZD8	Ascension	I22TB	3742km
ZD7	St. Helena	IH74DB	2460km
PY0F	Fernando de Nor.	HI36TD	5644km
PY2	Brazil Sao Paulo	GG66SA	6137km

C3 Andorra: EA3BB etc. plan a 2m/70cm EME expedition in June 2009. They will work with 4 yagis on each band. On 70cm 4 x 28 ele (9w) and 400W on 2m 4 x 13 ele and 500W.

HP Panama: HP3XUG (ex KG6UH/DU1, HL9UH) plans to be back soon on 2m EME with 4 x 17 ele Xpol + KW, 70cm EME with 4 x 28 ele + 8874 and also 6m EME. Loc. EJ88SK.

JA Japan: Take, JH8CMZ, is a new station on 2m EME JT65 with 2X13 ele and 500w. Grid is rare QN12mm.

JT Mongolia: PA4EME will be qrv in August 2009 as JT1EME on 2m EME (JT65). Rig: 1k + 2x16

OM/OK1DFC - Zdenek plans to go back to the OM8A QTH for another Microwave EME expedition from Slovakia in summer 2009. The OM8A (OM3RM etc) plan also to put up a dish there permanently and will become qrv on 23cm EME.

PJ - new DXCCs: It was expected that from December 15th 2008 the former PJ DXCCs of the Netherland Antilles will split into the following new separate DXCCs: Curacao, Saint Maarten, Saba, Saint Eustatius und Bonaire. PE1L plans to visit PJ4NX (who is also qrv himself on 2m EME now) again and operate on 2m EME after the new DXCCs are created.

PZ Surinam: OK1TEH etc. plan their 2m EME expedition now for summer 2009. QTH will be at PZ5RA. They will also try some 2m transatlantic tests.

T6 Afghanistan: VK1UN is qrv as T61AA until at least March 2009 on 6m. He is already qrv on 2m EME in JT65 with a single 9 ele and 750W and worked many QSOs. New location is MN21OE.

UK Usbekistan: UK/DL9LBH continues to be qrv successfully with his 2m EME station with 2 x 11 ele and 750w. He has also 2 yagis and 50W for 70cm EME. Loc.: MN41OG. Hans sill stay there until 2010.

UA0 Asian Russia: UA0COO, Sergey is qrv on 2m EME in JT65 from PN78mk with 4X9 ele H and QRO.

ZD8 Ascension: W1MRQ beacame qrv on 2m EME in November 2008 as ZD8B (JT65). Ernie works with 4 x 5 ele and 180w. Length of stay is unknown. N7BHC reports that he will be there until August 2009. Loc.: IL22TB.

Silent Keys

I8EMG SK

Francesco Gugliemelli, I8EMG became a silent key this autumn. He was very active on the VHF/UHF/SHF bands and keeper of the I8EMG/B beacons on 28, 50, 144, 432, 1296, 2320, 5760, 10368 & 24048 MHz from JM89.

IT9JLG SK

Italian VHF guru Gino Lipari, IT9JLG from Trapani, JM68GA, passed away at the age of 63 years in October. He was the first amateur who was qrv on 23cm and other Microwave bands from Sicily. Together with IT9ZWV he was the founder of the "VHF Team Sicilia". He was very interested in Es propagation on 6m and 2m and was active on these bands.

Beacons

23cm EME beacon - OE5JFL

OE5JFL writes: "In the technical school where I work as a teacher, we built last year a complete EME system for 23 cm. It consists of a 5 m dish and a 100 W SSPA at the feed. As it is possible to turn the antenna and activate the transmitter at a desired power level via internet, the system can serve as an EME beacon. It is not a beacon in the usual sense because the transmission sequence lasts for only one minute and must

be initiated via the Internet. To get another transmission, you have to reactivate it. The intention was to give everybody the possibility to make comparisons with their own equipment. The 100 W signal should be easily received by stations with a 2 m dish. TX QRG is **1296.196 MHz**. Grid JN68MG. I plan to make the beacon available during weekends and on demand during the week via email to me. To activate the beacon via Internet you need a login name, which you can get from me via email. You will find a very detailed description of the beacon at <http://member.eduhi.at/OE5JFL>.

Recently I installed Skype at the system, so it is now possible to call the beacon by phone and listen to the audio output of its receiver. If you transmit into the receive channel (SSB bandwidth), you can listen via Skype to how your own signal sounds as received by a 5 m dish. The beacon was successfully tested by G3LTF, OZ4MM, HB9Q, SM5LE G4CCH and others. I can remote control the transceiver as well, and just for fun I worked G4CCH, SM5LE, SK0UX and SM2CEW using the beacon station. So if you hear me with a relatively small signal, it is with the beacon system. If it is bigger then I have successfully repaired my big dish, which was partly damaged in a big wind storm in March. Good luck with testing! Email: j.fasching@eduhi.at –



OE5JFL 23cm EME beacon dish

CU2VHF 144.401 MHz, HM77DT, 30W, 2 x yagi, EU + USA, 835m a.s.l., delayed, proposal now for May 2009.

DF0CR/B 47088.242 MHz, JN49XF, 0,025W, 25cm dish, 127 deg, 450m a.s.l.

DF0CR/B 76032.295 MHz, JN49XF, 0,002 W, 25cm dish, 127 deg, 450 m a.s.l. – both new beacons qrv since October, keeper is DL7QY.

DJ6BU/B 24048.100 + 47088.100 + 76032.100 MHz, JO40OM, beacons running in test mode. dj6bu@gmx.de

GB3VHF/B 144.430 MHz, JO01DH, got problems with a new annual 4000 € rent for 2009. If no solution with the commercial owner of the QTH or RSGB will be found, this beacon will go QRT in 2009. May be it will move to a new QTH.

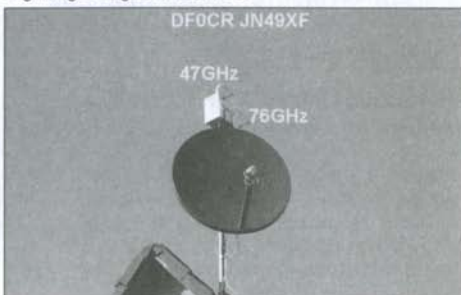
I8EMG/B, JM89BJ, all beacons will probably go QRT as the keeper I8EMG is SK.

UR0DMX/B 144.446 MHz, KN18DP, 240m asl., is qrv.

UR3EE/B 144.348 MHz, KN88DC, qrv since May.

UR7IM/B 144.441 MHz, KN88SR, 5W, qrv since November.

9H1LO/B 144.500 MHz, JM75GV, omni, is qrv since the beginning of August in test mode.



DF0CR/B antennas

New 2m Transatlantic Beacon

K4MHZ/B 144.3007 MHz, FM25EF, 100 W, 12 ele M2 Yagi with 12.8 dBD, QTF 65 Gdeg, CW, antenna height: 55' AGL (60+ feet above sea level), new transatlantic beacon, is QRV. This new great beacon is operated by Mark, K4MHZ, another 2m beacon enthusiast. Mark has evaluated possible Tropo paths over the Atlantic Ocean and studied this in connection with the temperature of the water. See picture on backcover. He concludes that a Tropo evaporation duct from VOVE to EU is quite unlikely.



Beacon home with 2m and 6m antenna on roof



K4MHZ 2m beacon assembly

Modifications planned for K4MHZ/B in 2009: Improved temperature stability, Alternative ID for meteor scatter (20 wpm with call and grid only in rapid loop)



K4MHz/B – location on Hatteras Isl., FM25EF



K4MHz/B - Path to Europe taken from 45° elevation on the look out tower. 70 degrees azimuth is in the center.

Also a 6m beacon is running from the same QTH and callsign on 50062.5 MHz. This beacon was hrd by CT1HZE several times in summer 2008 via Es as the only continental EU station. Other reports come from EA8 and CU. Currently the beacon is running 30w to a loop. In 2009 the power will be increased to 100W!

V51JN/B, 144.450 MHz, JG77GI, 20 W, 3 Ele Yagi. QTH Swakopmund, Namibia. QTF to PY/ZD7. Also in South Africa there is developing some kind of transatlantic propagation enthusiasm now.

News

DUBUS Portal back online

We apologize for being a few months offline, but we had technical and man power problems. Also we moved to a new provider. Now all is running stable on the new URL:

<http://portal.dubus.de/>

MWS 2009

DUBUS / FT and MMonVHF have decided to evaluate the Most Wanted Squares poll from now on only directly online on the webpage <http://www.mmonvhf.de/emws.php>

Please register and update your data online until February 8th 2009. Then the expedition groups have an early and good indication about where to go in summer 2009. Thank you!

New monthly DUR GHz Activity Contest

The Dresden VHF Group „DUR“ (Dresdner UKW Runde) announces a new activity event that takes place every 3rd Sunday in the month from 08-11 UTC (parallel to the OK

activity contest). The DUR Activity is on all bands from 1.2 GHz and up, modes CW; SSB, FM, AM. Exchange: RST + serial number from 001 on each band, locator.

Points 1 / km on 23cm, 13cm and 3cm,

2 points / km on 9cm and 6cm,

3 points / km on 24GHz,

4 points / km on 47GHz,

5 points / km on bands 76 GHz and up.

Info and Logs to DH0LS. j.schmidt@jetzweb.de

(Jens Schmidt (DH0LS), Carolinenstrasse 48, 07747 Jena.

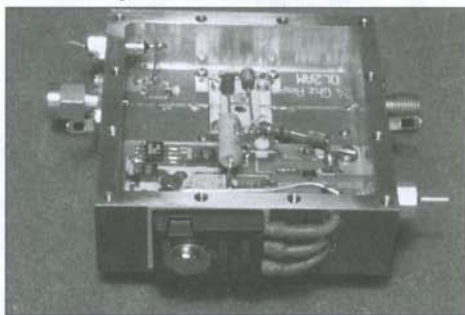
Deadline is 8 days after the contest date.

Results are published on www.amram.de/forum/

The contest starts officially on January 18th 2009.

Addendum to DL2AM's 5.5 W 24 GHz PA in DUBUS 3/2008, p.63

DL2AM writes, that the output power of his 5.5 W 24 GHz PA that was presented in last DUBUS issue 3/2008 can be increased to more than 7 W RF if one allows a maximal current of 8 A. Note that only the regulator LT1083CP is capable of this higher current. The LT1084TO is not sufficient. To obtain the increased output one have to increase the input power to about 50 mW and tune the output circuit to about 7W. Also under extended operation with the increased power I have not discovered any problems. I have used a 3.5mm stripline SMA APC jack from Rosenberger on the RF output. This is advantageous if one want to use a transition to WG.



7W on 24 GHz with LT1083CP

Nachtrag zum Artikel 5,5 Watt Power

Amplifier für 24 GHz, in Dubus 3/08, S.63

DL2AM schreibt: Ich habe festgestellt, dass wenn man max. Strom bis 8A zulässt, dann bei 24 GHz gut 7 Watt HF auszukoppeln sind. Weitere Versuche haben ergeben: Es sollte nur der Regler LT 1083 CP benutzt werden, da nur dieser den nötigen Strom liefern kann. Beim LT 1084 TO 220 reicht der Strom nicht aus. Wenn mehr Input gegeben wird, ca. 50 mW und gleichzeitig der Ausgang getunt wird, steigt der Strom bis zu 8 Amp. Dabei stellt sich ein Output von ca. 7 Watt HF ein. Bei längerem Betrieb ist mir nichts Negatives aufgefallen. Den HF-Ausgang habe ich mit einem SMA-Stecker APC 3,5 mm Stripline von Rosenberger versehen. Dies ist vorteilhaft, wenn ein Hohlleiter-Übergang auf SMA benutzt wird. Ich habe auch Tests gemacht mit Semi-Rigid UT 85 und UT 141 bei 6 Watt HF-Leistung. Beide ergeben bei 24 GHz ähnliche Dämpfungswerte bei Kabellängen bis 6 cm.

1st MMonVHF and DUBUS 144 MHz Meteoscatter-Sprint Contest 2008

August, 12th

Comments

Neoklis, 5B4AZ, writes:

Last summer was very poor Es wise here, only one short opening to SV but I never got a QSO. I think the 4x4's also had a poor time on 2m Es. At the same time, last winter was very dry, the second lowest rainfall recorded since records begun 100 years ago. From what I saw from satellite pictures, weather has also been less cloudy and rainy in Europe last summer and by checking the DX robot I think there were fewer Es QSOs also.

I still believe in the link between weather and Es so I now want to make a detailed long-term study of the weather patterns over Europe and Cyprus especially, since I have been monitoring our weather cycles for at least 30 years. I have noticed a strong but complex influence by the moon on the weather here (and elsewhere no doubt), and also an influence by the sunspot cycles and the El Nino effect.

I would like to make a detailed statistical study of these influences and correlate El Nino, Sunspot cycle and Lunar cycle with weather and also Es. But to do this, I need detailed daily records of the weather over Cyprus and selected spots in Europe, going back at least 50 years or more if possible. I applied to our Central Met Office but they told me they only supply average monthly rainfall data, detailed (raw) records are not available to the public! I wrote an email to Ken Ring at <https://www.predictweather.co.nz/> who has written books on long range weather prediction and the effects of the moon on weather. This is his reply to my request for help to find detailed weather records:

"Hi Neoklis, the problem you have with your met service is the same faced worldwide. They do not want to release information for fear that ordinary people will compare trends and realise the popular scam about climate change is not occurring. I suggest you don't go near them. Instead, you will find that many farmers have old rain records."

I sent an email to the World Meteorological Organization at http://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html asking for records but as yet no reply. I wonder if it is possible to contact Radio Hams with a high standing in their professional life, who may be able to request such detailed records from the World Meteorological Organization or some other European service. I believe my observations are useful and important as it is obvious that the tidal effects of the Moon on the atmosphere are the most important factor that shapes the weather in the medium and long range, as it orbit around the earth changes with time. Please, if you know people with influence that can help here, let me know. My thanks in advance.

73's Neoklis

May be some of our readers have an idea how to help Neoklis? Pse contact him: neoklis@mailspeed.net

Redaktionsschluss für Aktivitätsberichte und redaktionelle Beiträge für DUBUS 1/2009 ist der 1. Februar 2009. - Deadline for reports etc. for DUBUS 1/2009 is February 1st 2009.

Class 1 QRP		Result	Class 2 QRO	
Place	Call	Points	Place	Call
1	E77GS	57806	1	RZ1AWO/1
2	UT2UB	50710	2	LZ9X
3	LA/PA2CHR	46030	3	OH6ZZ
4	GM4DHF/P	36898	4	DJ9YE
5	F/LA0BY/p	29147	5	OH6KTL
6	LX8M	28258	6	DL0HOF
7	YL3HA	22632	7	YL2AO
8	UT8AL	19247	8	I8MPO
9	S50TA	16592	9	HB9FAP
10	9A4EW	15681	10	YT1VP
11	PE1NFE	9145	11	PA3ECU
12	UZ2HZ	9144	12	RA3WDK
13	OH4GGW	4260	13	ON4KHG
14	EA1DDO	1073	14	LA4XGA
			15	LY2SA

Check logs: IV3NDC, PA4EME, DL8EBW, DK5EW, OZ1LPR, PA3BIY, DK5YA, HA5CRX

IARU Region 1 Conference Cavtat

In mid November 2008 the latest IARU Region 1 conference in Cavtat, Croatia took place. All proposals and protocols are available on the web at: http://www.oevsv.at/opencms/modules/news/20080603_cavtat_iaru.html
Also on the DARC pages there are some interesting audio reports: <http://www.darc.de/ausland/new/iaru/CV2008/>

Correction for article "More about Oblongs (IV) a challenging antenna for 2m" in DUBUS 3/2008, p.60

The length of the director D1 is 599 mm, not 597 mm. The consequences of this error are almost negligible.
73, Boban, YU7XL

Dates

Microwave Update 2009

Microwave Update 2009 will be hosted by W5LUA and WA5VJB in the Dallas area. For additional information watch www.microwaveupdate.org.

Dorsten GHz-Meeting 2009

The next 32. GHz Tagung Dorsten will take place on **February 14th 2009** in Dorsten, Volkshochschule. For more info see www.GHz-Tagung.de

Heelweg Microwave Meeting 2009

The fifth Microwave Meeting in Heelweg (Netherlands) will take place on **January 17th 2009**, 10-15Z. Location is Café "De Vos" Halseweg 2, 7054 BH Westendorp (10km from DL border near Bocholt). More infos via PA7JB@xs4all.nl and www.PAmicrowaves.nl

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More about Oblongs (II) – more gain on 70cms

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The CWP-Receiver

RX Converter for 70MHz (or 50MHz)

The DUBUS Web Portal

A Tale of 2 Aerials

Mountain Scatter Possibilities - simulated with Radio Mobile Software

SM5BSZ's PIN diode switch - hints and comments

350 Watt Lateral MOSFET Amplifier for 23 cm

Loop Feed With Enhanced Performance

New RX mixer for 122 GHz with 10 db Improvement

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Working radio at remote location,

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Pipe-Cap Filters Revisited

A Decoder for Computer-generated CW and CWP

Design of a prime-focus feed with backward radiation

More about Oblongs (IV) - a challenging antenna for 2m

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Microwave Parts

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European EME Contest 2008, Digital Results

European EME Contest 2008, CW Results

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Victoria's 2m EME Report

100 DXCC's on 70cm EME

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CT1HZE

CT1HZE

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DUBUS 2m CW EME Activity Contest 2007 Result
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DJ8ES
DL8LAQ
DL8HCZ
CT1HZE
DL8LAQ

DL7APV
DL8HCZ

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NEW! NEW! NEW!

DUBUS Book TECHNIK VIII

Available now!

The new DUBUS Technik book 8 is ready from the printer now. Size and number of pages is the same as with the previous books. On 390 pages you find the technical articles from DUBUS Magazine from the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Some corrections and additions have been made.

The price for the book is again 25.00 Euro incl. shipment for DL and EU. Price for overseas airmail is also 25.00 Euro or 30.00 USD.

You can find the contents page on the DUBUS website at www.DUBUS.org You may order directly from DUBUS DL or via your local distributor. See also order form on page 3 in this issue.

You can pay by money transfer to our bank account or sending cash via mail. No credit cards, no paypal, sri!

Requests and orders please to
funk-telegraphm@t-online.de or

DUBUS, Grützmlhlenweg 23, D-22339 Hamburg



New Generation TR 2320 H



The new generation of our 13 cm high performance transverters are based on several decades of engineering and production of transverters. Its outstanding technical data make it usable for many applications. The new design of our transverter for 2.3 GHz features better performance and additional functions.

Technical data

RF range	2320...2322 MHz (Standard)
IF range	144...146 MHz
RF output power	15 W
IF input power	0.5...5 W, adjustable
RX gain	min. 20 dB
Noise figure @ 18 °C	typ. 1.5 dB
Supply voltage	13.8 V DC (12...14 V)

New features

- Additional input for 10 MHz reference frequency
- Automatic activation of PLL if external 10 MHz signal is supplied
- Bigger attenuator at the IF input for input power up to 5 watts

Well-tried functions and features

- Converter can process large signals
- Extension with additional filters and other components possible
- Built-in directional coupler for calibrated power output control
- 5-pole low-pass filter for good harmonic rejection
- Built-in sequence control
- Crystal oscillator with very low phase noise and high frequency stability
- Transmit gain and receive gain separately adjustable

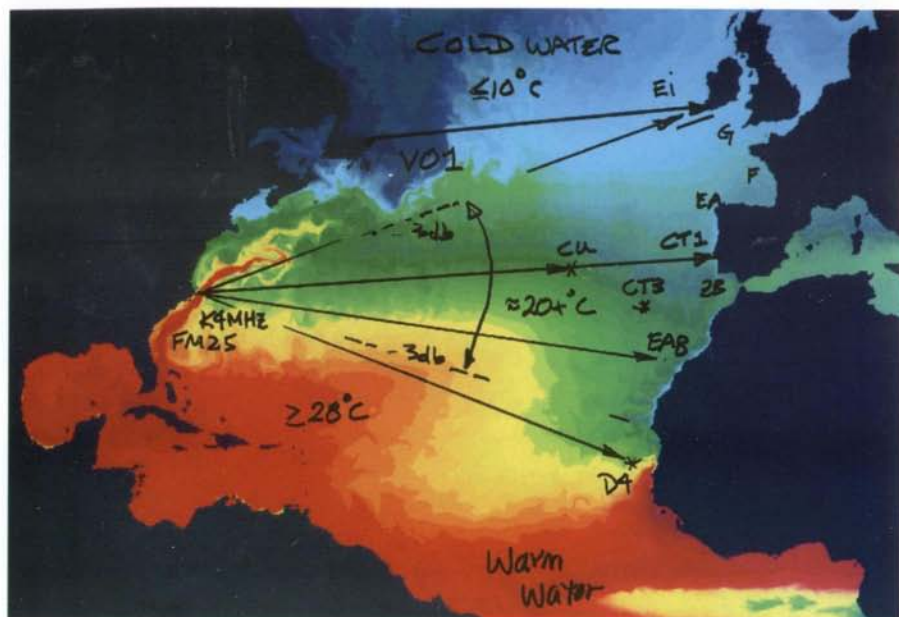


*Thank you
for your
trust in our company.
Merry X-Mas and
a Happy New Year!*

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More information on our website: www.DB6NT.de



**Path study for the new K4MHZ/B
2m transatlantic beacon on 144.300 MHz**



DL7APV's new 16 x 9 w/ DJ9BV EME array for 70cm

This is the final issue of the year 2008, please check page 3 for 2009 renewal details!