

A Ka-Band PIN-Diode Switch with Extremely Large On-Off Ratio

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The performance of a Ka-Band PIN-diode switch. configured in double-ridged WR-28 waveguide and composed of up to six contiguous, self-contained modules is described. The large isolation, greater than 70 dB in the OFF state, while maintaining 1 dB minimum insertion loss in the ON state, is obtained through the application of the traveling-wave concept. The switch at present exhibits in excess of 10% bandwidth near 35 GHz in both states. Switching times of the silicon mesa diodes, measured on several completed assemblies, is 10-15 nanoseconds from OFF to ON state and less than five nanoseconds in the reverse sequence. These results are compared with predictions based on a cascaded circuit model using measured diode, parasitic and transmission line elements. The empirical relationship of peak power and switching times in PIN-diodes are used to predict the performance of a fully developed K/sub a/-Band PIN-diode switch.

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