

Abstracts

Design and modeling of RF MEMS tunable capacitors using electro-thermal actuators

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A series mounted MEMS tunable capacitor in a CPW line is reported. An electro-thermal actuator has been used for driving the top plate of the parallel plate capacitor. The MEMS structure is bonded on an alumina substrate using flip-chip technology so that the silicon on the backside of the MEMS can be removed to reduce the RF losses. The lumped-element model of the capacitor up to 40 GHz has been developed based on Y-parameters, which are derived from measured S-parameters. The measured Q-factor is 256 at 1 GHz for a 0.102 pF capacitor and $C_{\text{sub max}}/C_{\text{sub min}}$ ratio of the capacitor is about 2:1.

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