RFdesign

engineering principles and practices

November 1991



RF Expo East— Official Show Issue

Cover Story
New RF Applications

Featured Technology
Simple IC Circuits

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NARDALERT[™]. Your personal warning for microwave radiation.

NARDALERT is the first commercially available personal monitor that detects potentially hazardous microwave environments. There's nothing else like it on the market.

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nardalert

Operating Test

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With unit on for at least 10 seconds, switch ON-OFF/RESET switch rapidly. EXPOSURE INIDICATOR light will remain on. DICATOR light will replace button cells, type 392.

PHONE

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It incorporates a critical design that allows its sensitive electronic circuitry to operate correctly while surrounded by high level RF radiation. So there are no false alarms - inside or outside the specified frequency range.

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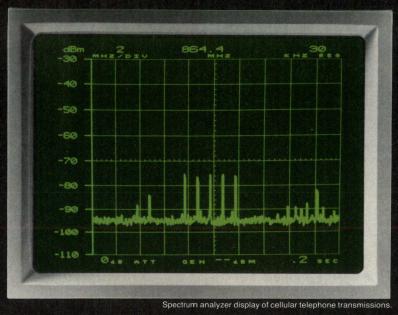




Microwave-Narda

INFO/CARD 1 Please see us at RF Expo East, Booth #518.

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maybe it's time to take a closer look.



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DSO699	SPST	5-1500	1.0	48	23.0	TO-8	TTL
DSO990	SPST	10-2000	1.5	62	25.0	14 Pin DIP	TTL
DSO850	SP2T	DC-2000	0.4	47	5.0	TO-5	0/-7
DSO813	SP2T	DC-2000	0.7	40	140.0	TO-5	TTL
DSO812	SP2T	10-1000	0.5	54	50.0	TO-8	TTL
DSO860	SP2T	10-1000	0.5	47	50.0	.380 sq	TTL
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DSO842	SP2T	5-1500	1.0	75	50.0	14 Pin DIP	TTL
DSO864	SP4T	5-2000	1.3	49	28.0	16 Pin DIP	TTL
DSO874	SP4T	DC-2000	2.2	60	55.0	14 Pin DIP	TTL
DSO838	SP8T	5-1000	2.2	40	40.0	24 Pin DIP	TTL
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*Typical performance measured mid-band.

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November 1991

featured technology

31 A Low Cost UHF AM Receiver

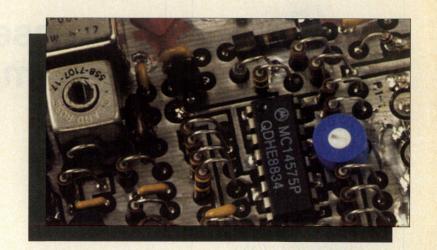
An experimental design for a receiver that is part of a short range RF link is described. Low cost is the goal of this design, balanced against performance for this remote control - Robert Friday and John Neder

46 A Simple, Low Cost Microwave LAN Link

A logarithmic amplifier IC from Plessey simplifies IF signal processing, making a short range data link possible at a minimum cost, with a simple design.

48 A Two-Chip Solution for Audio **Processing**

Complementary ICs provide gain control, amplification and filtering functions for the audio processing sections of communications systems such as cellular radio-telephones. Alvin K. Wona



cover story

57 Finding New Homes for RF Technology

Manufacturers of RF components, subsystems and systems are turning to alternate applications for their products. Among these applications are innovative uses for wireless telemetry links.

emc corner

81 A Guide to Coaxial Cable Shield Performance

This article presents a tutorial on cable shield performance, including braided, foil, smooth This article presents a tutorial oil cable shield types.

— Robert D. Perelman and Leonard J. Visser

91 **New Products at RF Expo East**

Products being showcased by companies exhibiting at RF Expo are highlighted in this special

design awards

99 Analysis of Phase Noise in Oscillators

This month's contest entry is a software program that offers analysis of phase noise performance in oscillators and its effect on the information transmitted.

Jonathon Y.C. Cheah

105 Simple SMT Bridge Circuit Mimics Ultra-**Broadband Coupler**

A resistive bridge coupler is a low cost and useful addition to an engineer's test equipment inventory. This was an interesting entry in the RF Design Awards contest.

— Joel Dunsmore

109 A Vertical Mounting Construction Technique

Another contest entry, this article describes a new building technique which can be defined as vertical mounting of a high power amplifier module employed as a building block for a solid-state transmitter in the VHF band.

— Fulvio Perri

113 **Automated Noise Measurements Eliminate** Drudgery

Using down-conversion and low-frequency spectral analysis, and with appropriate equipment selections and adjustments, a wide range of phase noise measurement applications can be handled in both engineering and production test. - Robert N. Cash

departments

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R.F. DESIGN (ISSN: 0163-321X USPS: 453-490) is published monthly plus one extra issue in September. November 1991. Vol. 14, No. 12. Copyright 1991 by Cardiff Publishing Company, a subsidiary of Argus Press Holdings, Inc., 6300 S. Syracuse Way, Suite 650, Englewood, CO 80111 (303) 220-0600. Contents may not be reproduced in any form without written permission. Second-Class Postage paid at Englewood, CO and at additional mailing offices. Subscription office: RF Design, PO. Box 1077, Skokie, IL 60076. Domestic subscriptions are sent free to qualified individuals responsible for the design and development of communications equipment. Other subscriptions are: \$38 per year in the United States; \$48 per year in Canada and Mexico; \$52 (surface mail) per year for foreign countries. Additional cost for first class mailing. Payment must be made in U.S. funds and accompany request. If available, single copies and back issues are \$5.00 each (in the U.S.). This publication is available on microfilm/fiche from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 USA (312) 761-4700.

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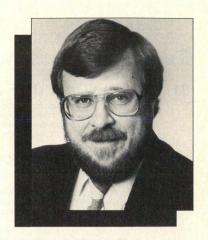
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INFO/CARD 4

RF editorial

Expense or Investment?



By Gary A. Breed Editor

This column is written for those of you who couldn't go to RF Expo East. Maybe someone in management or accounting decided it cost too much, or perhaps your position isn't senior enough to get "perks" like travel, fun and sun. Somewhere, a decision was made that trade shows and engineering conferences are expenses, not investments that pay dividends for a long time. Too bad!

I know of two patents that were inspired by technical papers and discussions with fellow engineers at an RF Expo, and I know of other successful products that were conceived in the same manner. There are dozens of stories from both engineers and exhibiting companies about finding exactly the right supplier of hardware or software, saving money in manufacturing, achieving performance goals, or even making the product possible at all!

Junior engineers have jump-started their careers with our short courses, technical sessions, and first-hand examination of key RF products. A few days of highly concentrated RF engineering is enough to make an engineer of any age see new possibilities. It's an atmosphere that isn't duplicated anywhere.

What did you miss this year? Plenty, if you work for one of the many companies in the business of (or trying to get into) personal communications or consumer wireless systems. More than a dozen papers covered topics directly related to these active technology areas! And this doesn't include excellent presentations on broader topics like receiver performance, power amplifiers,

testing, low noise amplifier design, or design software.

If you didn't attend RF Expo East, you also missed an opportunity to take our short courses on RF Fundamentals, Filters and Matching Networks, and Oscillator Design. Instructors Les Besser and Randy Rhea receive consistent praise from students in these classes, some of whom have returned several times just to stay sharp.

You also didn't get to visit with the representatives of 100 key RF suppliers. You can read catalogs and collect data sheets, but there is nothing like a hands-on demonstration for test equipment and design software, or a live test setup of an oscillator, mixer, modulator or synthesizer module. You also passed up the opportunity to talk privately with design, applications, or manufacturing engineers about capacitors, inductors, transistors and ICs. (Yes, our exhibiting companies bring lots of technical personnel, not just salesmen!)

Fortunately, there are plenty of companies who realize the importance of keeping up with technology. They allow their engineers to proudly present technical papers on recent developments. They support their staff by making educational opportunities available. They get the advantage of first-hand information from current or prospective suppliers. But most of all, they get enthusiastic, productive engineers when those men and women return from RF Expo East full of new ideas.

THE NCI FILES

Case study No. 1:

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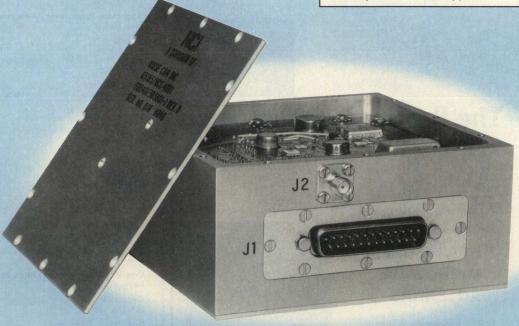
The synthesizer/DTO utilizes a PROM and D/A converter to achieve excellent linearity and resolution. The tuning command is simple — the output frequency equals the input word. Proprietary temperature compensation circuitry unconditionally maintains stability.

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Parameter	What they needed	What NCI delivered
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Frequency coverage Output power Flatness	2 to 4 GHz 0 dBm ±1.5 dB	2 to 4 GHz +4 dBm ±1 dB
Power consumption Size Environmental		4 in. × 4 in. × 4 in. 000 ft., 12 G shock.
基础规划的	Vibration and hum	idity to MIL-STD 810D
DTO		
Stability	±0.2%	±0.04%
Accuracy Settling time	±100 MHz 1 s	±1 MHz 200 ms
SYNTHESIZER 1	MHz resolution, 10	Hz to 1 MHz modulation
Stability Accuracy	±0.03% ±50 ppm	50 ppm ±10 ppm





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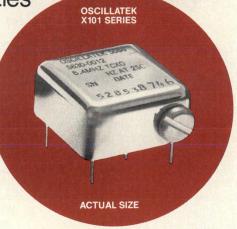
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Publisher Kathryn Walsh

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Please address subscription inquiries to: RF Design P.O. Box 1077, Skokie, IL 60076-9931 Postmaster: send form 3579 to the above address



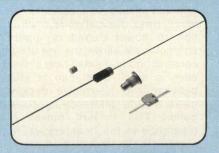
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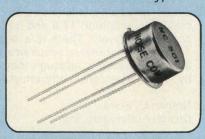
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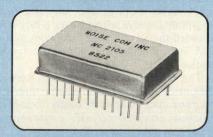
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INFO/CARD 8

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RF letters

Letters should be addressed to: Editor, *RF Design*, 6300 S. Syracuse Way, Suite 650, Englewood, CO 80111.

RF Education Comments

Editor:

I am in an RF engineering position with the Air Force, and an electrical engineering student at Wright State University. I enjoyed your editorial in the August issue concerning "Education and RF Engineering." I agree that students receive little information about this field as a career. I chose to pursue radio-electronics early in life, due to my ham radio hobby and an electrical engineer I knew when I was a boy. He showed me examples of his work at the GM Tech Center in Detroit and I was hooked!

The engineering school dean here at Wright State has assured me that the courses available can easily lock-in a student considering RF engineering. Also, I would guess that many of us students get swayed by our teachers' experience as engineers. If a course instructor was an instrument engineer, he'll share that experience with his class. If RF engineers, wherever they are, would do the same, it would help prospective engineers with that career path.

Maybe you should offer your magazine to educators as well as professionals. I'm sure many would subscribe.

John J. Parrish, Jr. Dayton, Ohio

Circuit Decoupling

Editor:

With reference to Bernard Cooperstein's article concerning EMC techniques for PCBs (June 1991), the use of two capacitors for supply decoupling of ICs or any other circuit block is a fraught technique. An impedance analysis of the equivalent circuit which includes all the series inductances will reveal resonances which may be significant and degrade performance at some frequencies. Murphy's Law applies, and a crosstalk, instability or lumpy frequency response problem may have an obscure solution found in the supply decoupling.

John Salter
British Broadcasting Corporation

The conventional wisdom that dictates multiple bypass capacitors is still

accepted where bypassing must cover DC to many MHz, but the use of surface mount components has significantly reduced the practice. Engineers can use high-value SMT capacitors and still avoid unwanted resonances. — Editor

Is Inefficiency a Better Term? Editor:

Traditionally, power amplifiers and power converters have been evaluated on the criterion of efficiency, $\eta = P_{out}/P_{in}$. This has been satisfactory for equipment of moderate efficiency, e.g, n < 80 percent, but for high-efficiency power amplifiers and power converters, this criterion misses an important characteristic: power dissipation is small in relation to power output or input. That characteristic allows the use of compact construction and small heat sinks. However, a small difference in efficiency between two alternative designs can make a large difference in power dissipation. This, in turn, makes a large difference in the heat-removal requirement, usually critical in military, portable, land mobile and aircraft usage.

For such applications, a more appropriate evaluation criterion is inefficiency, defined as $P_{dissipated}/P_{output}$, and related to efficiency η by:

Inefficiency $\equiv \eta' = 1/\eta - 1$

This expresses directly the power dissipated, normalized to the output power. Output power is a better normalizing parameter than input, since nearly all equipment is specified to provide a particular output power. The input power simply becomes whatever is necessary to achieve that output.

As an example, consider two designs having "almost the same efficiency" of 85 and 90 percent. This apparently small difference yields inefficiencies which are drastically different: 17.6 and 11.1 percent, respectively. There is a factor of 1.6 in the heat-removal requirements for these two designs, although they differ by "only" 5 percent in efficiency!

Nathan O. Sokal Design Automation, Inc.

RF Design Awards
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See pages 96 and 97 for more information.



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NC 6111	up to 2 GHz

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NC 6218

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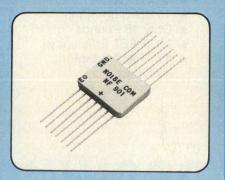
NC 7101	up to 20 kHz
NC 7107	up to 100 MHz
NC 7108	up to 500 MHz
NC 7109	up to 1 GHz
NC 7110	up to 1.5 GHz
NC 7111	up to 2 GHz
NC 7218	up to 18 GHz

OPTIONAL: Remote variable filters, signal input combiner, 75 ohms output, marker input. Other standard models available MOST ARE IN STOCK

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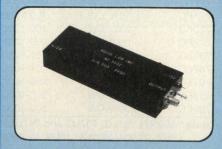
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706FC	6W CW	.5-1000 MHz	36dB	25x28x13	3.3kg	100-240V	\$ 3,195
410LC	10W CW	.006-400 MHz	43dB	30x35x13	4.5kg	100-240V	\$ 4,600
710FC	10W CW	1-1000 MHz	40dB	30x35x13	7.3kg	100-240V	\$ 6,695
727LC	10W CW	.006-1000 MHz	43dB	48x46x13	8.5kg	100-240V	\$ 7,750
711FC	15W CW	400-1000 MHz	40dB	30x35x13	5.5kg	100-240V	\$ 3,620
720FC	25W CW	400-1000 MHz	40dB	48x46x13	8.6kg	100-240V	\$ 5,995
712FC	25W CW	200-1000 MHz	40dB	48x46x13	8.8kg	100-240V	\$ 7,350
737LC	25W CW	.01-1000 MHz	45dB	48x46x13	10.5kg	100-240V	\$ 9,995
747LC	50W CW	.01-1000 MHz	47dB	48x46x26	26.5kg	100-240V	\$22,500
707FC	50W CW	450-1000 MHz	47dB	48x46x13	13.0kg	100-240V	\$ 9,995
709FC	100W CW	500-1000 MHz	48dB	44x48x18	22.5kg	100-240V	\$19,990
722FC	200W CW	500-1000 MHz	50dB	44x18x31	41.5kg	100-240V	\$31,900

Note: Models 727LC, 737LC and 747LC consist of two bands with one common input and output connector, switched with coaxial transfer relay, manually, or by remote. Switching speed 5 milliseconds.

MODEL 704FC





MODEL 707FC

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RF calendar

November

14-15 NIST Symposium on Science, Technology and Competitiveness

Gaithersburg, MD

Information: Karl Kessler, A505 Administration Bldg., NIST, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Tel: (301) 975-3089.

19-21 Wescon '91

San Francisco, CA

Information: Wescon/91, 8110 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Tel: (800) 877-2668. Fax: (213) 641-5117.

December

2-5 Globecom '91

Phoenix, AZ

Information: Globecom '91 Registration, c/o Frank Young, PO Box 40495, Phoenix, AZ 85067-0495. Tel: (602) 266-1991. Fax: (602) 235-5829.

3-5 Technology 2001

San Jose, CA

Information: Justina Cardillo or Joseph Pramberger, NASA Tech Briefs. Tel: (212) 490-3999.

5-6 ARFTG

San Diego, CA

Information: ARFTG, c/o Henry Burger, 1061 E. Frost Drive. Tempe, AZ 85282. Tel: (602) 839-6933.

8-11 **IEEE Ultrasonics Symposium**

Orlando, FL

Information: LRW Associates, 1218 Balfour Drive, Arnold MD 21012. Tel: (301) 647-1591.

8-11 1991 IEEE International Electron Devices Meeting

Washington, D.C.

Information: Melissa Widerkehr, Courtesy Associates, 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005. Tel: (202) 347-5900.

9-12 Sixth International Conference on Mobile Radio and **Personal Communications**

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Information: MRPC 91 Secretariat, IEE Conference Services, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL, UK. Tel: (44) 071-240-1871 ext. 222. Fax: (44) 071-240-7735.

January

13-16 **ATE & Instrumentation Conference**

Anaheim, CA

Information: Miller Freeman Expositions, 1050 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215-1135. Tel: (800) 223-7126. Fax: (617) 232-0854.

27-31 **Communications Networks '92**

Washington, D.C.

Information: World Expo Corp., Barbara Inglese, PO Box 9107, 111 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701-9107. Tel: (800) 545-EXPO. Fax: (508) 872-8237.



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INFO/CARD 13

RF courses

Far-Field, Anechoic Chamber, Compact and Near-Field Antenna Measurements

December 3-6, 1991, Atlanta, GA

Phased-Array Antenna Design

December 3-6, 1991, Atlanta, GA

Information: Education Extension, Georgia Institute of Technology. Tel: (404) 894-2547.

Frequency Hopping Signals and Systems

November 18-20, 1991, Washington, DC

Electromagnetic Interference and Control

November 18-22, 1991, Washington, DC

Communications Satellite Systems

December 2-5, 1991, Washington, DC

Modern Radar System Analysis

December 2-6, 1991, San Diego, CA

Principles of High Frequency Radio Communications for Operators and Managers

December 3-6, 1991, Washington, DC

Digital Transmission Systems

December 9-12, 1991, Washington, DC

Spread Spectrum Communications Systems

December 9-13, 1991, Colorado Springs, CO

New HF Communications Technology: Advanced Techniques

December 9-13, 1991, Washington, DC

Grounding, Bonding, Shielding and Transient Protection

December 10-13, 1991, San Diego, CA

Information: The George Washington University, Continuing Engineering Education, Merril A. Ferber. Tel: (202) 994-8522 or (800) 424-9773.

Microstrip Transmission Line Design

November 19-22, 1991, Bethesda, MD

Modern Microwave Techniques

December 10-13, 1991, Bethesda, MD

Radar Cross-Section Measurement Techniques

December 10-13, 1991, Scottsdale, AZ

Information: Technology Service Corporation. Tel: (800) 638-2628, (301) 565-2970. Fax: (301) 565-0673.

Pulsed EMI

November 13-14, 1991, Columbus, OH Information: Keytek. Tel: (508) 658-0880.

Seminar on ELF and VLF Magnetic Fields

November 20-21, 1991, Orlando, FL

Information Frances George, Ergonomics, Inc. Tel: (215) 357-5124. Fax: (215) 364-7582.

Field Programmable Gate Arrays

November 19, 1991, San Diego, CA

November 20, 1991, Irvine, CA

November 21, 1991, Torrance, CA

Digital Signal Processing Control Seminar

November 15, 1991, Rochester, NY

Information: Texas Instruments. Tel: (800) 336-5236.

EC 92, Its Effect on the American Electronics Industry

December 12, 1991, San Jose, CA

Information: Rockford Engineering Services, Julia Gbadebo. Tel: (800) 848-3781. Fax: (510) 862-9013.

Seminar in EMI Software (EMCAD1)

December 4-5, 1991, Mariposa, CÁ

Information: CKC Laboratories, Registrar. Tel: (209) 966-5240. Fax: (209) 742-6133.

ESD Design and Testing

January 23, 1992, Novi, MI

Information: S.E. Michigan IEEE EMC Society. Tel: (313) 597-3950 or Jastech. Tel: (313) 553-4734.

Understanding Data Communications

November 18-19, 1991, Denver, CO

December 12-13, 1991, Indianapolis, IN

December 16-17, 1991, Boston, MA

Information: Quest. Tel: (908) 251-3217. Fax: (908) 251-0638.

The VXIbus Seminar 1 Day Overview

November 19, 1991, Raleigh, NC

November 21, 1991, Richmond, VA

Information: Testech, Ltd. Tel: (708) 554-1222.

Improving the Software Testing Process

November 14-15, 1991, Denver, CO

November 21-22, 1991, Dallas, TX

December 2-3, 1991, Phoenix, AZ

December 2-3, 1991, St. Louis, MO

December 5-6, 1991, Atlanta, GA December 16-17, 1991, Boston, MA

December 19-20, 1991, Detroit, MI

Information: Data-Tech Institute. Tel: (201) 478-5400. Fax: (201) 478-4418.

RF/MW Circuit Design: Linear/Nonlinear

November 11-15, 1991, Germany

RF/MW Component Modeling

November 13-15, 1991, Germany Information: CEI-Europe/Elsevier, Mrs. Tina Persson, Box 910, S-612 01 Finspong, Sweden. Tel: +46 (0) 122-17570. Fax: +46 (0) 122-14347.

DSP Without Tears

December 16-18, 1991, San Jose, CA

Information: Right Brain Technologies. Tel: (404) 420-3834. Fax: (404) 967-1672.

Introduction to Telecommunications

December 10-13, 1991, Washington, DC

December 10-13, 1991, San Francisco, CA

Digital Signal Processing: Techniques & Applications November 19-22, 1991, Los Angeles, CA

December 3-6, 1991, Washington, DC

Information: Learning Tree International. Tel: (800) 421-8166, (703) 893-3555, (203) 417-8888.

Worst Case Circuit Analysis

December 9-10, 1991, Los Angeles, CA

Information: Design & Evaluation. Tel: (609) 228-3800.

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100 megohms min. (125°C) at rated WVDC

WVDC: 300 for .01 MFd; 100 for 1.0 MFd

Dielectric Withstanding Voltage: 2x rated voltage for 5 seconds

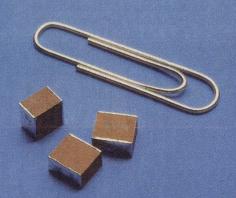
Capacity Tolerance: ±20% (Tighter tolerances are available, consult factory) **Termination:** Nickel barrier solder coated "pellet" (over silver termination)

Capacity Values: .01 to 1.0 MFd

Mechanical Dimensions: Length .225 ± .020; Width .250 ± .020; Height .165 max (.150 typical)

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Chemists Develop New Carbon Molecules

The October 1991 issue of Scientific American reported on a new family of stable carbon compounds, called fullerenes, that offer promise as semiconductors and superconductors. These threedimensional molecules contain familiar hexagon and pentagon arrangements of carbon atoms, but unlike the flat layers found in graphite or diamond, they enclose a nearly-spherical space. Because this is the same architectural principal as the geodesic dome invented

by R. Buckminster Fuller, the chemists at Rice University who predicted their existence named them fullerenes.

Although these molecules can be formed from 32 to 100s of carbon atoms, C₆₀ appears to be the most stable and easily reproduced form of fullerene due to its perfect symmetry (exactly like that of a soccer ball). This particular molecule has been dubbed buckminsterfullerene, or "buckyball" for short. C_{60} has been found to be a direct band-gap semiconductor like gallium arsenide, but with freer spin characteristics like amorphous silicon. The material becomes superconductive at 18 Kelvins.

The spherical shape and hollow interior allow chemical researchers to enclose other atoms inside the structure, or to create crystals with "doping" atoms located in the spaces between adjacent molecules. A team at AT&T Bell Laboratories found that C60 with three potassium atoms per molecule created a metallic compound that can be grown on GaAs or pure C₆₀ substrates. A material doped with rubidium and thallium achieved superconductivity at 43 Kelvins in experiments at Allied-Signal, Inc. British researchers have reported the creation of fully fluorinated buckyballs, which, because of their nearly perfect spherical shape, could turn out to be the world's best lubricants.

First postulated in 1985, the existence of fullerenes was confirmed in May 1990. Fortunately, these compounds are easily and cheaply produced in the lab, requiring only a carbon vapor source (arc electrodes or heated graphite) and low-pressure jet of helium. This will allow a great number of researchers to examine their properties. This potentially cheap new material, with its threedimensional symmetry, may have benefits for both microelectronics and superconducting electronics.

fend Russian Parliament Against Coup - When conspirators attempted to overthrow the government of the USSR on August 19, Soviet amateur radio operators were at the Russian Parliament building within hours. Peter Strezev, UA3AOC, ignored a nighttime curfew and took his handheld VHF radio into the building to help feed information to Boris Yeltsin's supporters in Moscow. Other amateurs brought an HF transceiver and a roll of

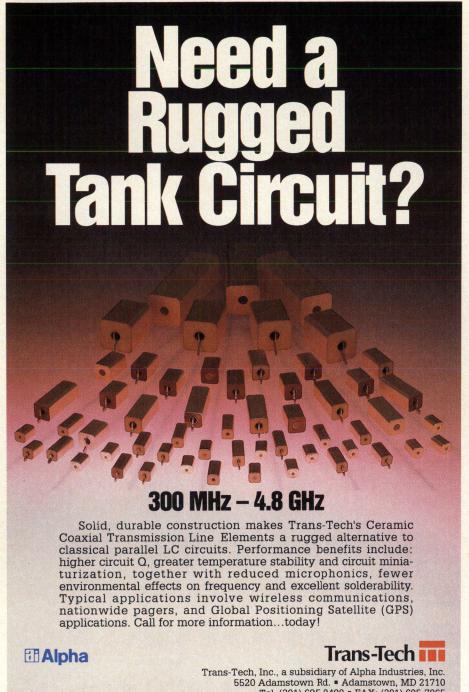
antenna wire through the barricade of

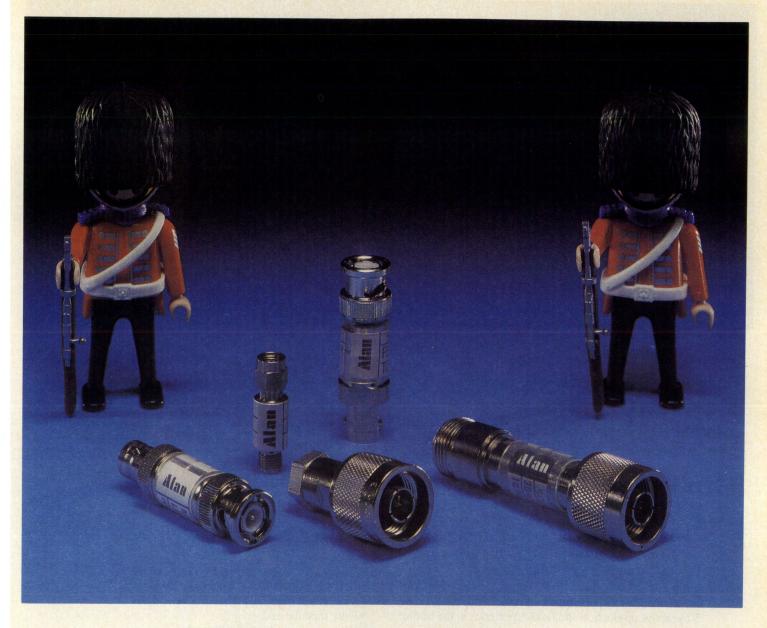
tanks and troops to set up emergency station R3A. Early attempts at communi-

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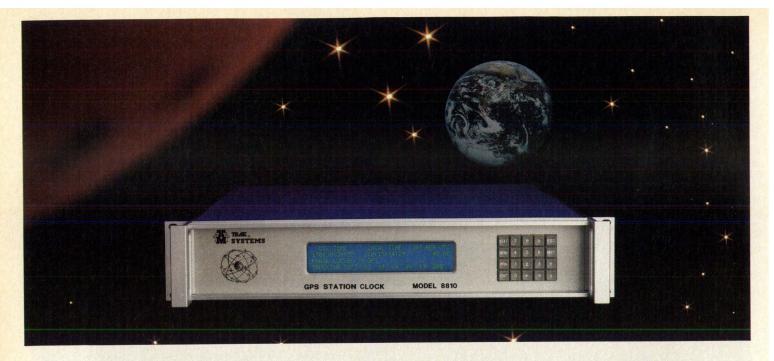
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- RS-232 remote control and time output (optional IEEE-488 output)
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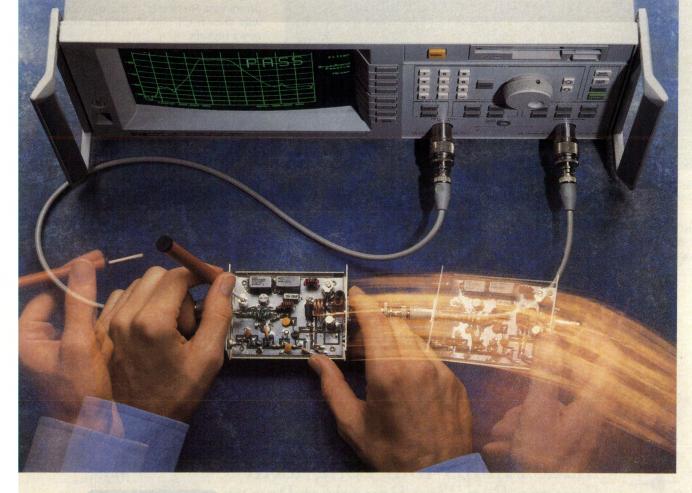
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Peter Strezev operates amateur radio station R3A from the Russian Parliament building during the August coup. Photo was sent by Gene Shablygin to Dick Erhorn of ETO.

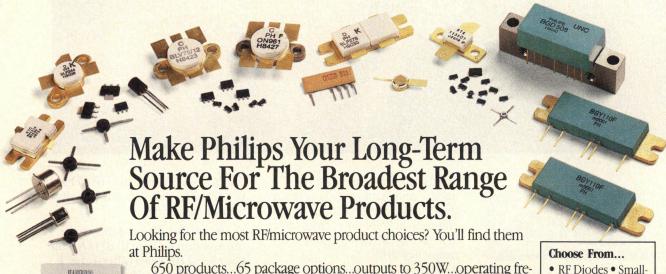
cations were hindered by KGB jamming, a problem which was solved when two amateurs again crossed the tank lines to bring an Alpha 76A amplifier to the station.

Erhorn Technological Operations

(ETO), manufacturer of the Alpha 76A, was honored when president Dick Erhorn received a FAX from the R3A operators on Thursday, August 22, as President Gorbachev was returning to Moscow after the coup's failure. The R3A station with Yeltsin and other prominent Russians at the microphone was shown on both CNN and ABC-TV news reports.

Call for Papers - The second Virginia Tech Symposium on Wireless Personal Communications is slated to be held June 17-19, 1992 in Blacksburg, Virginia. Interested parties are invited to submit a paper for presentation at the symposium. A 500-word abstract should be sent to Ted Rappaport, MPRG, Bradley Department of Electrical Engineering, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0111 by November 15.

IEEE Announces Fellowship Program - The IEEE has formed a new program designated the IEEE-USA's



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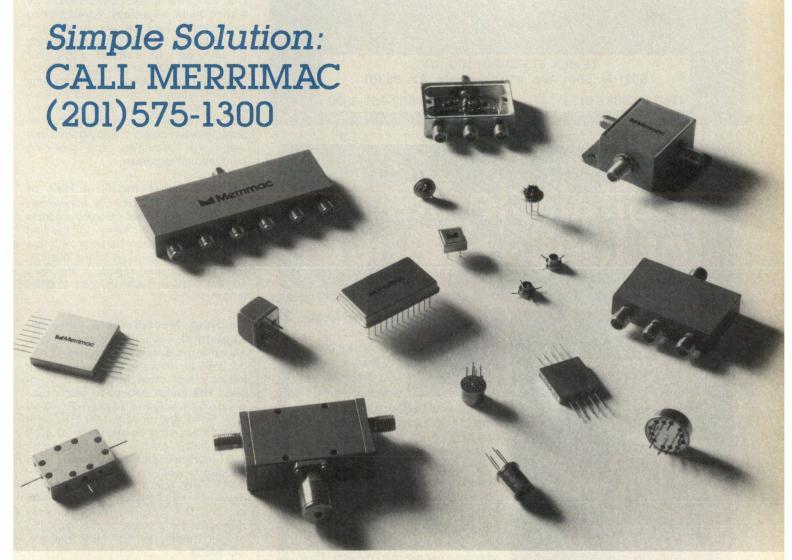
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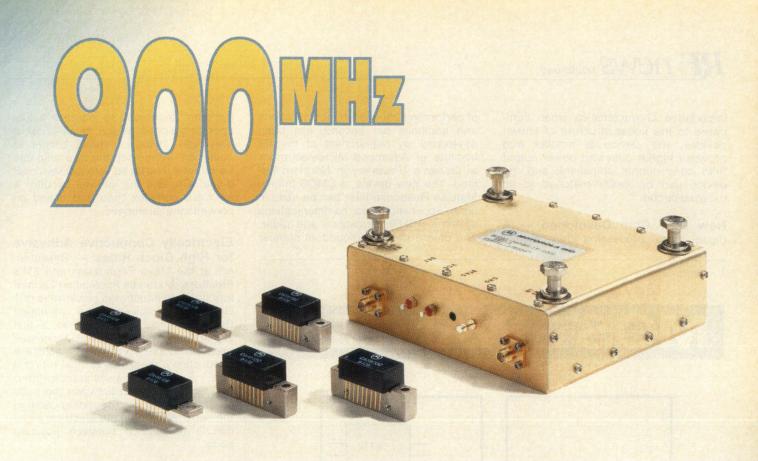
RF news continued

Technology Administration Fellowship program, designed to identify opportunities and actions that will strengthen the U.S. competitiveness position in critical technologies, especially manufacturing technology. Two fellows have been appointed by the electrical engineering group to work for a period of one year with the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology. The Technology Administration Fellows will act as Special Assistants to the Under Secretary for Technology in conducting studies, drafting testimonies, critiquing short and long-range strategies, and providing independent expertise.

Trade Surplus for First Half of 1991 — The EIA recently announced that U.S. exports of electronics products reached nearly \$36 billion for the first half of 1991, representing a growth rate of 8.3 percent over last year's exports. According to the report, there is a current positive trade balance of \$389 million.

Antenna Measurement Services Expanded — NIST has expanded their antenna measurement services above 30 GHZ in response to requests from industry and other government agencies. The swept frequency gain measurement service now includes the 33-50 GHz band and covers 1-50 GHz with gain values with an accuracy of ±0.3 dB or better for this frequency range. NIST has the capability to measure fixed frequency gain and polarization for 33-65 GHz and to measure antenna patterns for 33-50 GHz. Paper no. 36-91 outlines the high frequency antenna measurement services and is available from Jo Emery, Div. 104, NIST, Boulder, CO 80303.

Electromagnetic Signal Processor Patented - Researchers with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station have developed a new electromagnetic signal processor for use in microwave radar systems, high-speed signal processing, phased array systems, measurement systems, electronic warfare systems, optic-microwave links and microwave communications systems. The constructed device uses a circular ring resonator distributive electromagnetic signal processor. In addition, the structures can be easily and economically mass-produced; individual signal processors may be capable of performing a multiplicity of functions; the ring structures of the design provide improved



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PA900-19-100L	N/A	24	865 - 900	19	100*	9.0	N/A**
PA900-19-60L	N/A	24	865 - 900	19	60*	9.0	N/A**
PA900-45-10LGC	N/A	24	865 - 900	45	10	8.5	50
CA4800C	CA4800C,S	24	10 - 1000	17	.400	7.5	38
CA4812C	CA4812C,S	12	10 - 1000	17	.400	7.5	38
CA4815C	CA4815C,S	15	10 - 1000	17	.400	7.5	38
CA4900	CA4900S	24	10 - 1200	17	.400	7.5	38
CA4912	CA4912S	12	10 - 1200	17	.400	7.5	38
CA4915	CA4915S	15	10 - 1200	17	.400	7.5	38
CA5800C	CA5800C,S	28	10 - 1000	15	1.000	8.5	41
CA5815C	CA5815C,S	15	10 - 1000	15	1.000	8.5	41
CA5900	CA5900S	28	10 - 1200	15	1.000	8.5	41
CA5915	CA5915S	15	10 - 1200	15	1.000	8.5	41

impedance characteristics when compared to the linear structure of known devices, the device is smaller and provides higher gain and power output than conventional amplifiers; and the device can be easily matched to an external circuit.

New DSP Chip Developed — A digital signal processing chip capable

of performing 250 million multiplications and additions per second, has been developed by researchers at the IFI Institute of Advanced Microelectronics at Queen's University in Northern Ireland. The new device, a CMOS Infinite Impulse Response filter can be used in such applications as communications systems, HDTV, aerospace and radar. The device uses a "redundant number

systems' technique to increase actual operating speed, which helps break a previously assumed speed barrier in operation. In addition the new chip can be directly interfaced with conventional digital ICs, and the internal circuitry is no more complex than that based on conventional arithmetic.

Electrically Conductive Adhesive for High Clock Rates - Researchers at the Mayo Foundation and 3M's Electronic Materials Application Laboratory have demonstrated clock rates of 1 GHz in an unpackaged and unbumped GaAs IC, flip-chip bonded to a test substrate. The new flip-chip technique uses an adhesive that is electrically conductive only in the vertical (or "z") axis. A clean, low-resistance interconnect is achieved between the pads on the chip and corresponding pads on the substrate. Complete electrical isolation is maintained between adjacent pads.

CAL Signs Antenna Contract — CAL Corporation has signed a contract with Telesat Mobile Inc. to provide magnetically mounted passenger vehicle satellite antennas (the MET-140B), for use in TMI's Mobile Earth Terminal System. The antenna is used for both L-band satellite data communications and for receiving position signals from Loran C/GPS networks. Other terms of the contract were not released.

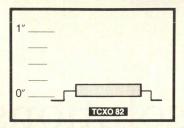
Hughes Wins Turkish Satellite Contract — Hughes Aircraft Company recently signed a contract to provide traveling wave tube amplifiers for Turkey's communications satellite program. The contract, valued at \$6 million, was awarded by Alcatel Espace, which will integrate the amplifiers into the payload. It calls for Hughes to supply 55-Watt Ku-band amplifiers for downlink communications for two Turksat spacecraft.

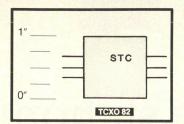
Cirrus Logic Acquires Crystal Semiconductor — Cirrus Logic Inc. and Crystal Semiconductor Corp recently announced that they have signed a definitive agreement for merger. Crystal Semiconductor will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Cirrus Logic. The merger is structured as a tax-free reorganization and will be accounted for as a pooling of interests. Other terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

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Courting the Consumer Market

By Gary A. Breed Editor

The manufacture of consumer electronic equipment has gained new attention in anticipation of lasting reductions in budgets for military hardware. Along with commercial and industrial RF applications, consumer equipment has gotten new attention in recent months.

A serious question that must be answered to the satisfaction of each RF component, test instrument, or subsystem manufacturer concerns the state of end product production. Can renewed interest and effort in manufacturing consumer products in this country catch up with the long experience of Pacific Rim countries? In simpler terms, is there a market here in the U.S., or must a marketing plan be tailored to customers in other countries?

One more question, even more fundamental, is whether the consumer market is growing enough to generate more RF business. A company pursuing this market will have a much harder time displacing existing suppliers than it will have selling into new applications. While it is nearly unanimous that the *potential* for rapid growth exists, the most promising new consumer products are not yet in the pipeline.

Existing Markets

At the top of the list of current RF consumer markets is cellular telephones. Although products like large-screen television sets and personal computers are much larger parts of U.S. electronics manufacturing, the cellular market represents an RF-specific application with possibilities for growth or adaptation into new areas using similar technology. Companies making power transistors, integrated circuits and MMICs, signal processing components, filters, inductors and capacitors continue to pursue the market with vigor.

The cable television and television receiver industry is well-established, and a significant part of U.S. business.

Small-signal transistors, frequency synthesizer ICs, RF and IF ICs, filters, varactor diodes, inductors, connectors, and many other RF components have big customers for their products. However, there is little room for the entry of new companies into these markets, since they are mainly served by large component manufacturers. A company seeking a shift away from military products, or a small company seeking diversification of its customer base may find it very difficult to make any headway in these markets.

New Markets

The anticipated extension of cellulartype personal communications has many RF companies excited. Once regulatory matters are settled, there is great optimism that consumers will flock to new technology. It is expected that some kind of mid-level personal communications system will be approved in the U.S. Whether it is similar to the U.K.'s Personal Communications Network (PCN), a microcell system, or simply a "souped-up" cordless telephone with lots of new capabilities, most analysts believe that a significant new RF market will be created.

Until recently, the advent of High Definition Television (HDTV) was heralded as the "savior" of the U.S. consumer electronics industry. Now, with broadcast standards for HDTV still under debate, delays may have allowed the traditional foreign competition to get a head start. Even if the U.S. broadcast standard is drastically different from any other, foreign TV makers will already have experience in HDTV display technology, the most important part of the system.

Unlicensed devices operating under FCC Part 15 are being investigated at a frantic pace right now, particularly the new spread-spectrum allocations. The potential for more reliable performance and greater range than was previously

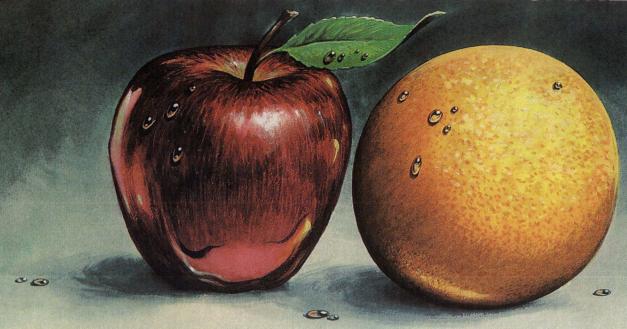
allowed has RF engineers working long hours in entrepreneurial efforts. In-home "broadcasting" to distribute video or Compact Disc (CD) audio throughout the house is one area with products already on the market, both domestic and imported. Home security systems with wireless interconnections offer flexibility and easy installation, and represent a new market with great potential.

The personal computer boom offers some interesting new RF applications. Most exciting is the Personal Computer Network (PC-Net) proposed by Apple Computer, which has petitioned the FCC for spectrum allocation. This Lband system would be used to provide wireless interconnection between computers and their peripheral devices. The logic behind it certainly makes sense. First, the various cords can be a mechanical mess, getting in the way. Also, these cables are the main source of radiated emissions; if the digital signals can be contained inside the enclosures, regulatory compliance would be simpler. A narrowband RF link offers few EMI problems compared to broadband digital RF noise. Finally, with battery powered laptop computers, why should we worry about plugging things together just to get a printout or use a better monitor?

The industry consensus is that consumer electronics will continue to grow, perhaps very rapidly. Whether experienced offshore manufacturers will remain dominant is the major question. For some RF component manufacturers, it doesn't matter — they will rely on foreign markets if necessary. For others, a resurgence in U.S. electronics manufacturing will be necessary to make consumer products viable markets for their products.

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P500L-3	2	500	37 5 w	47	49	30	±1.5	2:1	2:1	220 VAC
P894-40	869	894	42 16 w	52	54	35	±1	1.5:1	2:1	+15
PF880-39	869	896	39 8 w	49	51	40	± .5	2:1	2:1	+24
P928M-40	902	928	40 10 w	50	52	40	±1	2:1	2:1	+15
PIGA-36	500	1000	36 4 w	46	48	40	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
PIGA-40	500	1000	40 10 w	50	52	44	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
P1400M-37	400	1400	37 5 w	47	49	20	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
PF19GA-40	1700	1900	40 10 w	50	52	30	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
PF19GA-43	1700	1900	43 20 w	53	55	35	±1	2:1	2:1	+15
P2GF-1	1	2000	30 1 w	40	42	32	±1	2:1	2:1	+15
P1020-40	1000	2000	40 10 w	50	52	27	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
P1020-43-PS	1000	2000	43 20 w	53	55	33	±1.25	2:1	2:1	110 VAC
PF2GA-40	1800	2000	40 10 w	50	52	35	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
P2450M-46-PS	2445	2455	46 40 w	56	58	36	±.5	2:1	2:1	110 VAC
P25GA-40-1	2100	2600	40 10 w	50	52	30	±1	2:1	2:1	+24
P35GA	3000	3500	33 2 w	43	45	30	±1	1.5:1	1.5:1	+15
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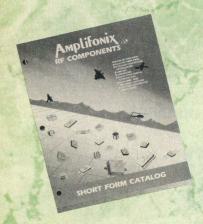
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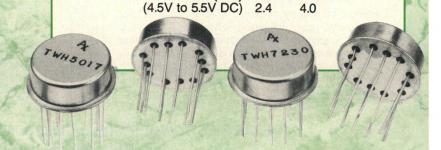
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> 100-1500 MHz 27 20 1500-3000 MHz 29 30 VSWR (ON) TYP MAX 1.3:1 1.6:1

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A Low Cost UHF AM Receiver

By Robert Friday and John Neder Metricom, Inc.

The origins of the low cost UHF AM receiver shown in Figure 1a come from the frustrations of trying to control a stereo system with an infrared controller from the second floor of a home. After trying IR reflectors and amplifiers, I resigned myself to walking downstairs to control the stereo. Each trip down the stairs, I wondered why the majority of controllers are based on infrared technology and not some other technology such as garage door openers. If a garage door can be opened from around the block, a stereo should be able to be turned off from the second floor of a house.

Some of the reasons why IR controllers are so prevalent might include: IR receivers are smaller and less costly to build than a UHF receiver; FCC regulations do not limit the power of IR controllers; and the characteristics of IR frequencies in a cluttered environment such as a house are more predictable than UHF frequencies.

After working with UHF devices employing FM modulation techniques for the last three years, I have been rather impressed at the performance of these devices in the indoor environment and thought it would be interesting to see if the first two reasons could be overcome for an indoor UHF AM communication link.

The FCC Regulations and Range Analysis

The low cost UHF AM receiver discussed in this paper is designed to be used with a low power transmitter operated under Part 15 of the FCC rules. The emphasis of the design was to minimize the cost to performance ratio for a short range UHF communication link. Combining the receiver discussed in this article with a low power, Part 15 transmitter would provide a short range communication link on the order of 50 feet. Possible uses of such a link are remote control functions (VCRs, TV, automobile locks) and low speed (1200 baud) digital communication links.

Operation of the transmitter under

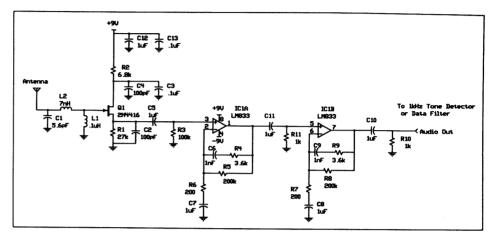


Figure 1a. Schematic of a low cost UHF AM receiver.

paragraph 15.249 of the FCC rules would allow for emissions of 50 mV/meter (using quasi-peak detector measurements) at a distance of three meters in the 902-928 MHz band. Using the equation:

$$E = \frac{\sqrt{30 \text{ W}_{rad}}}{d} \tag{1}$$

E =the RMS value of the electric field $(V m^{-1})$

W_{rad} = The power radiated by an isotropic point source (W)

d = The distance between the point source and where the electric field measurement is made (M).

It can be calculated that a .75 milliwatt (-1.25 dBm) isotropic transmitter is allowed under the rules. Such a transmitter coupled with a -62 dBm receiver would provide for a 60 dB line sight path loss. Assuming zero dBi gain for both the receiving and transmitting antennas and using the equation:

$$W_{rec} = W_{rad} \left[\frac{\lambda}{4\pi d} \right]^2$$
 (2)

 W_{rec} = Power delivered to the load at the receiving antenna

W_{rad} = Power radiated at the transmitting antenna

d = Distance between the transmitting and receiving antennas.

A line of sight communication path of 22.5 M (73 feet) is possible.

Overview of the Block Diagram

The block diagram in Figure 1b shows a basic AM receiver. The goal of the circuit presented in this paper was to implement this block diagram for under two dollars and achieve sensitivity performance exceeding -60 dBm. The antenna and filter blocks were implemented using a microstrip patch antenna. The advantages of the microstrip patch antenna is that it has inherent selectivity (bandwidth .5 percent to 3

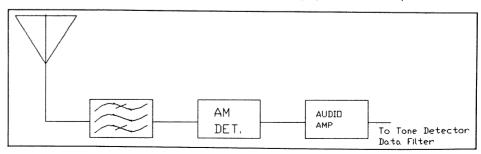
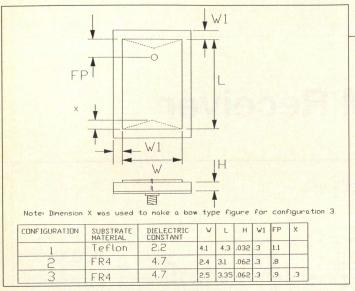


Figure 1b. Block diagram.



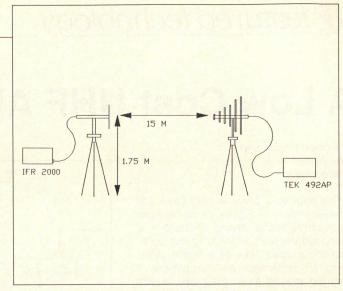


Figure 2a. Antenna configurations.

Figure 2b. Antenna test setup.

percent) and is very inexpensive to implement. It can easily be etched on a standard printed circuit board and is relatively small. Experimental data was collected for patch antennas built on both PTFE and FR4 as a substrate. Although the FR4 version was not as efficient as its PTFE counterpart, it was

decided to trade performance for cost in this case and use FR4 epoxy glass for the substrate.

The detector block was implemented using an infinite source impedance detector based on an N channel JFET. This structure was chosen over the more common super-regenerative and direct

conversion structures found in most garage door openers for cost reasons. Using such a detector with 50 uA of bias current, a receiver sensitivity (12 dB SINAD for a 1 kHz tone) of -62 dBm was achieved. It is speculated that the sensitivity could be improved upon with more research and experimentation.

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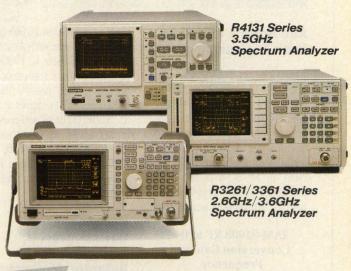
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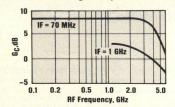
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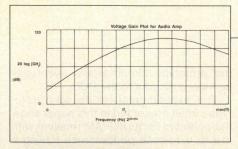


Figure 3. Voltage gain

The audio amp block was implemented in the prototype using an LM833 dual op amp with feedback networks to provide approximately 110 dB of gain at 1 kHz and a limited amount of selectivity. In the final version, a low cost op amp such as the LF353 would probably be used.

Antenna and Filter Blocks

The antenna and filter block functions were combined into the microstrip patch antenna, Figure 2a. The design equations used for the antenna were:

$$L = 0.49 \left[\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{E_r}} \right]$$
 (3)

$$R_{in} = (-.5 \beta_1 + 72.5) \tag{4}$$

$$BW = 4f^2 \left[\frac{H}{.032} \right]$$
 (5)

10 degrees $< \beta_1 <$ 70 degrees

E_r = Dielectric constant L = Length of the patch f = Frequency of operation H = Thickness of the substrate

 β_1 = Distance of the feed point from the end of the patch measured in electrical length

From examining the design equations it can generally be said that the length of the antenna determines the frequency of operation, the location of the feed point determines the input impedance and the thickness of the substrate determines the bandwidth (Figure 2b). The efficiency of such an antenna is dependent on factors such as the dielectric constant, loss tangent, the conductor losses, the reflected power, and the cross polarization loss. Efficiencies of 95-99 percent have been reported for patches using air as a substrate and 10 percent for patches using glass epoxy (1). Our experimental results confirmed that the PTFE patch was more efficient than its FR4 counterpart. The results show that a 4 dB loss in antenna gain is suffered in choosing the FR4 patch over the PTFE patch. It was decided, however, to use the FR4 version for cost reasons. The PTFE material cost is approximately six times that of standard FR4. Additionally, PTFE is more costly

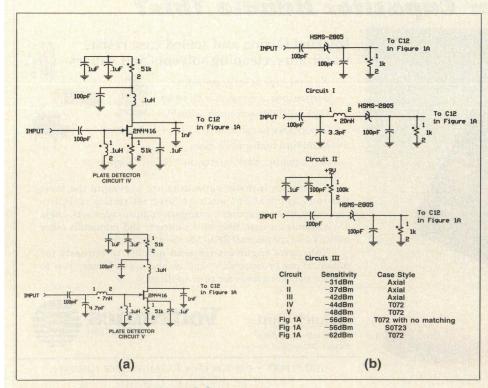


Figure 4. Experimental results.

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to process. The experimental results also show a bandwidth of 24 MHz (3 percent) for the FR4 patch antenna built on 0.062" substrate versus 11 MHz for the antenna built on 0.031" thick PTFE. Since the patch configuration has a very narrow bandwidth, the electrical length of the patch is critical in determining the frequency of operation and would most likely have to be adjusted using either a laser or variable cap during some phase of its assembly.

The AM Detector Block

The AM detector block was implemented using an infinite source impedance detector. This type of detector was chosen over a diode detector because the amplifying action of the JFET provides better sensitivity performance. The infinite source impedance detector also does not load the input tuning stages thus allowing the antenna to independently determine the selectivity of the receiver. The theory of operation of the detector is to bias the JFET so that it is operated very near the cut off

point. This is easily accomplished using a simple self biasing configuration as shown in the schematic in Figure 1a. The application of a signal then causes the average drain current to increase which is then rectified by the source resistor and capacitor (2). The JFET then basically acts as a diode with gain at 915 MHz and a low turn on voltage. Various detector configurations based on JFETs and diodes shown in Figure 4a were investigated and the experimental results are shown in Figure 4b. Sensitivity measurements were based on a 12 dB SINAD for a 1 kHz tone which was felt to be adequate for a tone detector. The experimental results were obtained using an HP8903A audio analyzer and a Fluke 6060B signal generator with 90 percent AM modulation. Experimental results showed that matching the input impedance of the detector to that of the antenna in general provided a 3 to 6 dB improvement in performance. So as to avoid an adjustment step during assembly and lower cost, the inductors L2 and L1 shown in the prototype circuit would eventually be incorporated into the PCB.

The experimental results and prototype circuit presented in this paper show the potential for a UHF AM receiver with low to moderate performance having a cost of materials for under two dollars. Further work needs to be done in the area of characterizing the performance of an UHF AM link in an indoor environment, additional temperature characterization and improved sensitivity of the detector are needed.

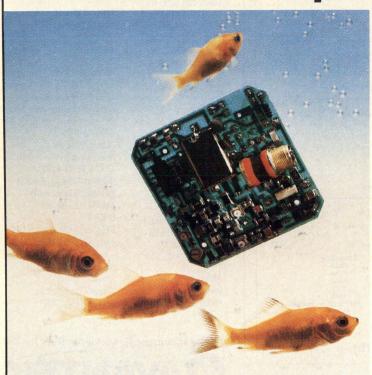
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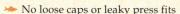
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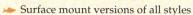
Robert J. Friday is an RF Design Engineer and John Neder is an RF Technician for Metricom, Inc., 2605 Nodder Blvd., Campbell, CA 95008. Tel: (408) 370-1818.

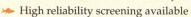
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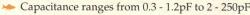


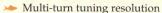
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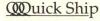




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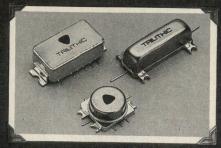
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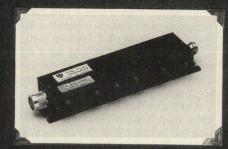
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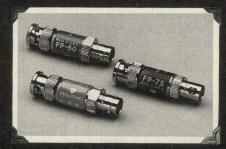
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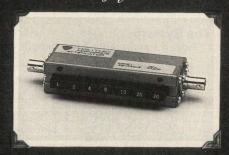
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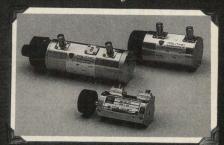
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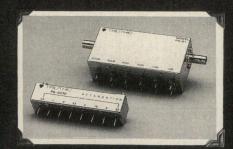
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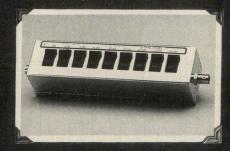
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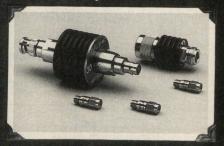
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A Simple, Low Cost Microwave LAN Link

By Peter Minett GEC Plessey Semiconductors

Here is a design idea for a very low cost microwave data link. The requirements of the IF amplifier are quite severe as it must cope with at least 40 dB of signal variation due to variations in atmospheric attenuation. It must also have a rise and fall time better than 25 ns to avoid the corruption of data. Finally, it must be inexpensive, since this is a low cost link!

Conventional design solutions for IF systems using AGC amplifiers, either in integrated or using discrete transistors, can be difficult to design and often require set up adjustment. A simple solution to the problem is to use a logarithmic/limiting amplifier as a straight limiting amplifier.

These devices have been available as costly hybrid or board level products for many years but a new device from

GEC Plessey Semiconductors, the SL3522, gives a 60 dB limiting amplifier with a frequency response from 100 to 600 MHz. The IF chosen for this application is 140 MHz, well within this range. In addition, the rise and fall times are both better than 25 nS. This device is supplied in a miniature ceramic surface mount package, 0.7 inches long. It is shown in Figure 2 in use as a limiting amplifier (as opposed to its more usual configuration as a successive detection logarithmic amplifier).

Output is 0 dBm differential into a 50 ohm load. It is also internally terminated into 50 ohms. The device has a chip decoupling capacitor for good RF stability and operates from a single 5 V supply rail. It uses less than one watt with a powerdown facility in the final stage.

The System

Figure 1 is an outline of a simple, cost

effective 10 GHz (10 Mbit) link between to Ethernet LANs. The various system blocks can be readily purchased from a number of different suppliers, and are not described in detail here. With careful selection of components and with modest requirements for system performance, this link can be implemented at a very low cost.

About the Author

Peter Minett is a product manager in the Personal Communications Division of GEC Plessey Semiconductors. He may be reached at Cheney Manor, Swindon, Wiltshire, UK SN2 2QW. Tel: (44) 793 51-8000. Information can be obtained from GEC Plessey Semiconductors, 1500 Green Hills Road, Scotts Valley, CA 95066. Tel: (408) 438-2900.

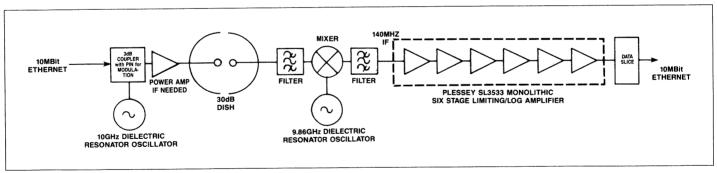


Figure 1. A low cost microwave link.

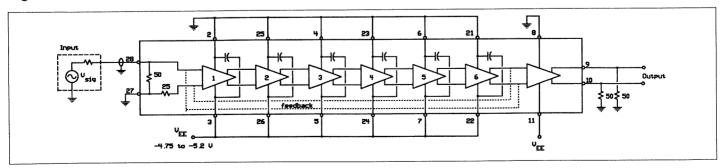
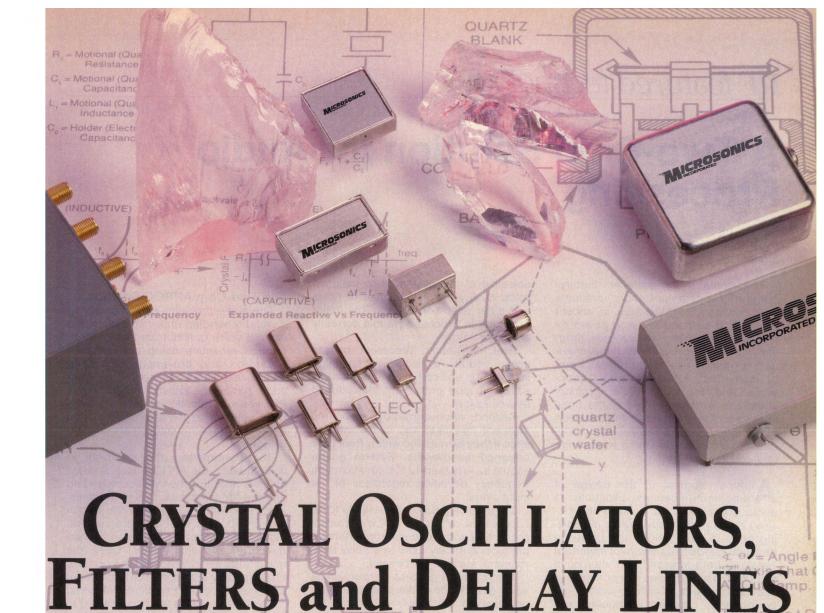


Figure 2. In use as a limiting amplifier.



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A Two-Chip Solution for Audio Processing

By Alvin K. Wong Signetics

The demand for portable, battery-powered telecommunications products has expanded significantly in recent years. This demand is being driven by the convergence of several trends, ranging from the availability of more channels for public use to the development of cost-effective manufacturing processes and the adoption of protocol standards worldwide. One of the most important of these trends is the evolution of highly integrated, low-power components that can be used in a wide range of products.

A critical element in the design of telecommunications products is audio processing. To achieve the desired audio performance while minimizing product size, weight and cost, the designer needs to be aware of important issues to be addressed and alternative solutions. These issues are common to applications such as cellular radio, high-performance cordless telephones and intercom systems, as well as hand-held, base or mobile two-way communications equipment.

This article defines audio processing, and describes a dual chipset solution that addresses the complex problems of today's portable applications.

What Audio Processing Involves

Audio processing involves all the steps between one person's speaking into a transmitter and another's hearing the message at a receiver. The main

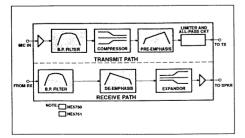


Figure 1. Key functions of the NE5750 and NE5751 that contribute to improving the S/N ratio and sensitivity in the system.

objective of the system is to maintain voice quality in the presence of noise and other distortion factors. The major problems in processing audio correctly are listed below.

First, the audio processor has to accommodate a range of speaking voices. Soft voices have to be heard as easily as loud ones, and high-pitched as well as low.

Second, voice signals can bleed into adjacent channels and cause interference if they deviate too widely from their assigned bandwidths. System output should be less than 12 kHz for maximum frequency deviation regardless of the input signal.

Third, background noise needs to be suppressed when no voice signal is present. This is particularly important for products normally used in a noisy environment, such as car phones.

Lastly, in the process of maintaining voice quality, the audio processor must not turn on too slowly or too rapidly, since it can cut off or distort the first syllable transmitted.

The Two-Chip APROC Solution

The audio problems listed above can be readily handled while maintaining the desired voice quality from transmission through reception using compression/expansion and pre-emphasis/ de-emphasis techniques. Signetics' two-chip audio processor, called APROC (Audio PROcessor Chipset), provides an efficient solution to these problems. The key elements of this solution are detailed in Figure 1.

To accommodate the variability in voice quality, the APROC uses a series of filters in conjunction with companding and pre-/de-emphasis. During transmission, the voice signal from the microphone first goes through a programmable gain preamplifier and is screened through a bandpass filter. Once the noise has been filtered out, the signal is processed by a compressor that attenuates loud voices and amplifies soft ones.

Next, a pre-emphasis filter is used to boost upper voice frequencies before their voltage amplitudes are restricted

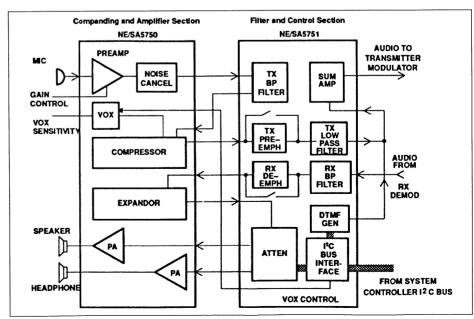


Figure 2. Typical configuration of audio processor (APROC) system chipset.

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by the limiter and all-pass circuit. DTMF signals can be added to the audio (dialing, digital data communications, etc.). The processed voice signal is then ready for transmission.

At the receiving end, the voice signal is "deprocessed". Again, the received signal is screened by a bandpass filter to remove SAT (Supervisory Audio Tone) signals and noise before it goes through de-emphasis. De-emphasis unboosts the audio signal at higher frequencies, maintaining the same signal-to-noise ratio throughout the voice band and thereby avoiding the "colored noise" effects generated by FM demodulators in all FM receivers.

Finally, the audio signal is expanded back to its primary dynamic range, restoring the voice to its original state. The recovered audio then goes to on-chip power amplifiers which drive an earphone and an external speaker.

APROC Chipset Architecture

The APROC chipset divides audio processing functions between the two chips. Companding is handled in bipolar

technology (on the Signetics NE5750), while filtering is carried out with switched capacitor techniques (on the NE5751) using CMOS. This architecture not only maximizes performance, it also allows either chip to be used in a system without the other. A typical configuration of the APROC is shown in Figure 2.

The NE5750's companding/amplifier features include a preamp with adjustable gain from 0 dB to 40 dB that allows the designer to boost low-level audio signals coming out of the microphone. The preamp output is sent to a noise canceler circuit, which minimizes background noise from transmission. This works in conjunction with a Voice Operated Transmitter (VOX) circuit to turn the preamp gain on and off. The VOX attack and release time must be carefully set to assure good audio quality.

The filter/control section of the NE5751 provides transmit bandpass, pre-emphasis and low-pass filters, as well as receive de-emphasis and bandpass filters. The device also features a programmable DTMF generator and attenuator. A final on-board circuit pro-

vides the interface for the I²C serial control bus. This offers the designer a convenient means of controlling the configuration of both chips.

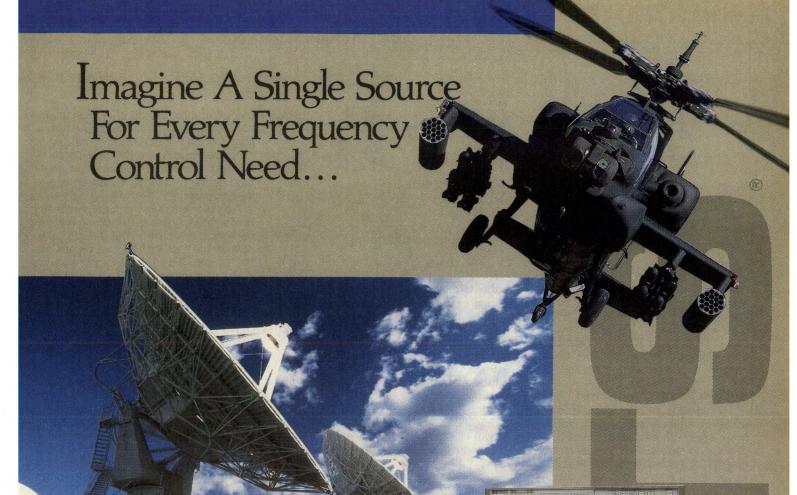
Noise Reduction Techniques with APROC

Noise can be introduced into the system in several ways: at the microphone (from background sounds), through a base station (as switching noise or cross talk) or in the RF channel (as cross-channel interference).

The APROC's noise canceler circuit is able to minimize background noise because it automatically provides a set gain of either 0 dB when no signal is present or 10 dB when there is a signal. This automatic gain setting can only be implemented when the noise canceler circuitry is used in conjunction with the chipset's VOX circuitry. With these noise canceler capabilities and the audio processing techniques discussed earlier, designers can be assured of controlling the signal-to-noise ratio throughout the system, from microphone to speaker.

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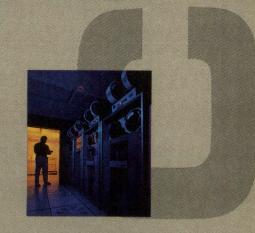


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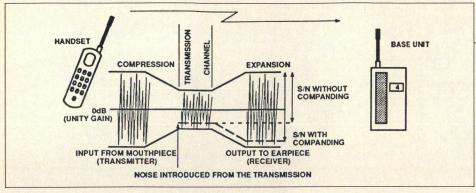


Figure 3. S/N ratio with companding vs. without companding.

As shown in Figure 3, companding substantially improves the S/N ratio for APROC. During compression, low-level signals are amplified to "jump" over the transmitter channel noise, while the high-level signals are compressed to prevent distortion. The S/N results, with and without companding, can be seen here for a cordless phone application.

Special APROC Features

The APROC chipset includes on-chip all of the functions necessary to implement applications such as cellular telephones. In fact, APROC meets all AMPS and TACS specifications while reducing the external chip count — an important consideration for portable devices.

The charts contained within Figure 4 reveal how the signal would appear on the bench with different input levels. Figures 4a, b and c all use the same audio input signal. The audio signal (0-6 kHz) varies from 20 dB to -30 dB in 10 dB steps.

Figure 4a represents the TX channel. Shown is the signal's increase in amplitude as the frequency is increased due to pre-emphasis. For large inputs, the slope of the signal decreases due to deviation limiting. The compressor function is readily shown, where a 5 dB change in the output level occurs for every 10 dB change in the input.

Shown in Figure 4b are the 2:1 expansion of audio (20 dB change in

output for every 10 dB change in input), bandpass filtering and the de-emphasis filter response (300-3 kHz). The graph, which represents the RX channel, demonstrates the signal's decrease in amplitude as the frequency increases due to de-emphasis.

As seen in Figure 4c, a flat frequency response is achieved upon normal reception. Of note is the 20 dB gap, despite the fact that the input steps are for 10 dB. This is due to the noise canceler turning on. The decrease in amplitude for higher level, higher frequency tones is the result of the deviation limiter action.

The APROC chipset also features a power-down standby mode, available when the audio is not being used. The power-down mode provides the system just enough power to "stay alive" and is therefore not expected to be fully operational. The system is designed to return quickly to the power-up mode for full operation. This fast reaction time is the result of all capacitors maintaining their charges because the power was not completely cut off. The power-down function reduces overall current con-

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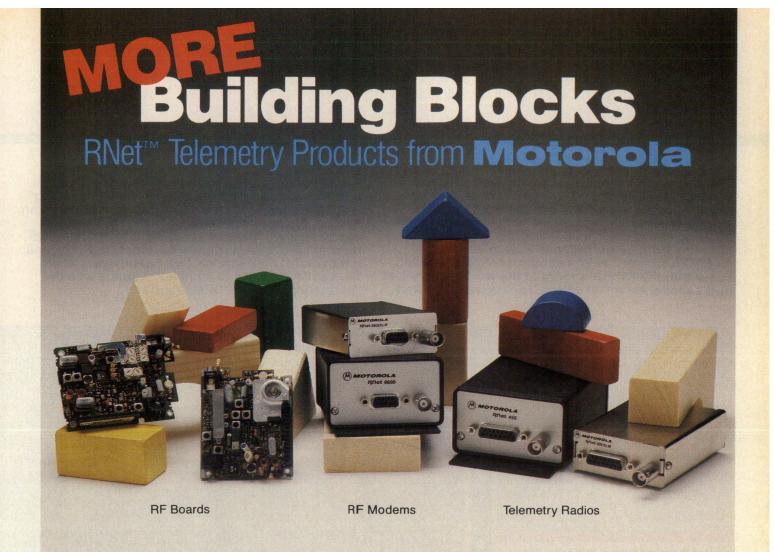
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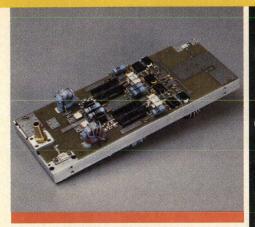
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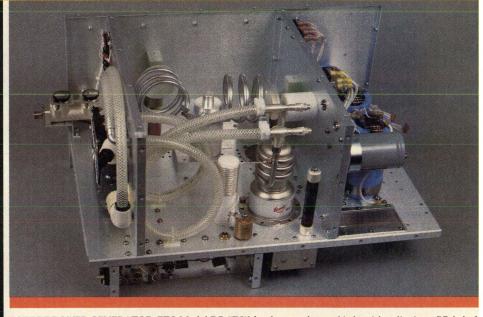
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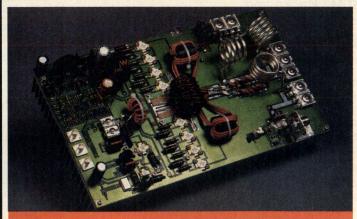
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Development Aids

An APROC demonstration board is available to speed up the development process. It can be used in conjunction with an I2C Evaluation Program to determine if the chipset meets the designer's needs.

A separate board is used to interface the APROC demo board with the computer's parallel port. This converter uses the 74LS05 as a buffer scheme. Figure 5 shows how the interface board and the demo board are used in conjunction with a computer.

An I2C program for the APROC is provided, enabling designers to easily program and evaluate the chipset without writing an evaluation program. The

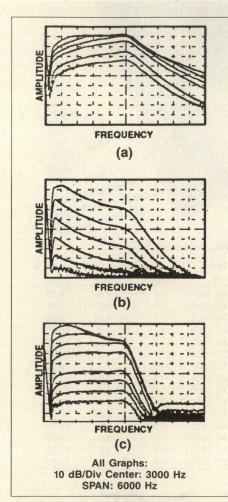


Figure 4. a) transmit channel (audio level decreasing), b) receive channel, c) loopback.

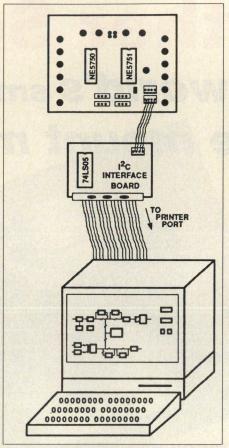


Figure 5. Interfacing the APROC demo-board with the I2C evaluation board.

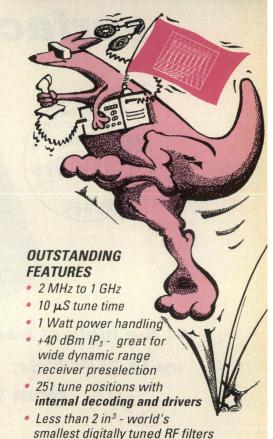
APROC evaluation program features a graphic display capability that shows the transmit and receive path of the APROC. By selecting a function, a designer can toggle the space bar on the keyboard to turn on or off any key features. A designer can also type in the codes for any registers to control functions. The result is a demo system that allows designers to make any number of their own evaluations on the chipset without having to develop their own microcontroller hardware and software, which results in time savings and lower R&D costs.

About the Author

Alvin Wong is a RF Application Engineer who has been with Signetics for 3 years. He holds a BSEE from San Jose State University. He may be reached at 811 E. Argues Avenue, PO Box 3409, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3409. Tel: (408) 991-4544.

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Specifications, selected models

Model	Frequency, MHz		LO Level	Conv. Loss ¹	Price, \$
	LO/RF	IF	(dBm)	(dB)	(1-9)
RFMS-1	0.5-500	DC-500	+7	8.0	5.25
RFMS-2	5-1000	DC-1000	+7	9.0	5.95
RFMS-2A	5-1000	10-1000	+7	8.0	5.95
RFMS-4	5-1500	DC-1000	+7	9.0	10.95
RFMS-5	10-2000	DC-1000	+7	9.5	15.95
RFMS-6	10-2500	DC-1000	+7	9.5	24.95
RFMS-1A-10	2-500	DC-500	+10	7.7	6.95
RFMS-2-10	5-1000	DC-1000	+10	9.0	7.95
RFMS-5-10	10-1500	DC-1000	+10	9.0	11.95
RFMS-1A-13	2-500	DC-500	+13	7.7	7.95
RFMS-2-13	5-1000	DC-1000	+13	9.0	8.95
RFMS-5-13	10-1500	DC-1000	+13	9.0	10.95
RFMS-1A-17	2-500	DC-500	+17	8.5	9.95
RFMS-2-17	5-1000	DC-1000	+17	9.0	10.95
RFMS-5-17	10-1500	DC-1000	+17	9.0	15.95

Note 1: Max. over total range.



Finding New Homes for RF Technology

By Gary Simonyan NCI Systems A Division of Noise Com. Inc.

Despite Desert Storm and the current fracturing of the Soviet Union, military spending is not soon likely to increase. Manufacturers of RF components, subsystems, and systems must now look for sources of revenue in the commercial sector. Fortunately there are many commercial telemetry and communications applications in which the radio waves provide a more desirable transmission path than cable. This article describes just a few.

There are many intriguing opportunities for RF systems in the commercial sector. They are found in applications as diverse as medicine, ocean surveying, networking, and remote monitoring, and they call upon the unique properties of RF to provide capabilities that would otherwise be provided at much greater cost by hard-wired alternatives.

Reaching Out

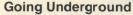
The greatest single driver of RF technology in the commercial sector is cellular telephone communications. The overwhelming support for the cellular concept in the top 30 markets has spread to the top 60 markets, and now into the top 120 markets. Each one represents a large sales opportunity for everything from the simplest RF component to systems integrating RF and digital components.

While the cellular market may be the largest and most visible commercial driver of RF technology, a large group of applications collectively called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) use RF telemetry extensively. Communications without wires, the inherent advantage of RF technology, is their most enticing feature. When compared to the cost and restrictions imposed by leased telephone lines or fiber optic communications, RF telemetry systems often seem a bargain.

Surveillance is a good example of an application in which RF telemetry pro-

vides a cost-effective solution. An RF-based surveillance system, called a Remote Intrusion Monitoring System (RIMS), was constructed for the US Customs Service to detect the presence of activity at sensitive areas such as national borders.

Thousands of acoustic sensors, each one coupled to a tiny battery-operated wireless transmitter, are mounted in enclosures which are buried in the ground. When vibrations are detected, the sensor sends a signal to a central location. RIMS allows a surveillance system to be constructed and removed quickly, without reliance on hard-wired communications between the sensors and the central site. RIMS utilizes tiny custom-designed transmitters and a microprocessor-controlled receiver at the central site.



Every day, tens of thousands of



The purpose of a radiating cable system is announced to motorists at the mouth of the Lincoln Tunnel.

people pass through the Holland and Lincoln tunnels spanning the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York. Some continue to listen to their favorite radio stations as they pass through, unaware that they have RF technology to thank for the convenience. The Port Authority of New York and New



Another use of RF: the portable noise jammer, which makes conference rooms safe for sensitive conversation.

Jersey rebroadcasts signals from some New York area radio stations on the tunnel's radiating cable transmission system. The system has been working faithfully since 1984.

The system consists of a broadcast band receiver, transmitter, linear amplifier, various passive components, a control system mounted in the control room, and enormous lengths of special coaxial cable that run the length of the tunnels. While simple in concept, the system requires considerable expertise to implement. For example, proximity of the radiating cable to other electronic systems operating in the tunnel has the potential to cause interference. In addition, the unusual propagation conditions in the tunnels make delivery of a good signal at all points a difficult task.

Nevertheless, application of filters and a detailed analysis of signal propagation produced a system that delivers excellent results day after day. The system broadcasts traffic information as well as selected AM radio stations.

Energy management systems are also excellent applications for RF telemetry equipment. These systems monitor the performance of heating, cooling, and power equipment in a group of facilities and report the status to a central site. In more sophisticated twoway systems, the automated central controller has the ability to control the remote systems via the telemetry link. Such software-driven systems poll each remote site at specific intervals. In one-way systems, the remote points simply report information, which is dutifully sampled and recorded at the central site.

Dozens of facilities can be linked in this way, without reliance on leased lines. The RF portion of the central site system consists of a receiver, omnidirectional antenna, and some type of visual and audible indicator. The remote sites utilize electronic or electromechanical sensors that are connected to the source to be monitored (boiler, transformer, thermostat, etc.). They send signals to a transceiver, which in turn takes this input and sends it digitally via an RF modem and directional antenna to the central site

More elaborate systems use the power of a computer to make decisions concerning conditions encountered at the remote sites. These decisions are transmitted to the remotes, which then send a signal to decrease or increase the controlled parameter or stop operation entirely.

RF is often the best solution in energy management systems because the cost of leasing telephone lines is sometimes an order of magnitude greater than the cost of installing and operating RF systems. The RF system is also a one-time purchase, and eliminates reliance on an outside source for the transmission path. Costs after the sale are for the minimal electricity required to operate the system, spares, and repair. Considering the mature state of RF technology, reliability is generally excellent.

Making Waves in Medicine

Ask a technically knowledgeable person about the use of RF in medical applications and the discussion will most likely turn to Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). This noninvasive tech-



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4-18	T-4S123T-1	16	1.5	1.45:1
6-18	T-6S103T-11	16	1.3	1.35:1
2-18	T-2S163T-1	11	2.5	2.00:1
3-20	T-3S143T-1	16	2.5**	1.45:1

* 1.3 dB for 2.0-2.2 GHz and 7.8-8.0 GHz

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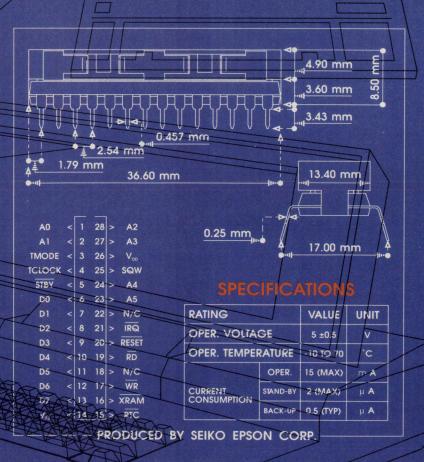
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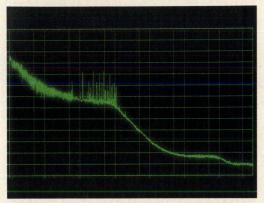


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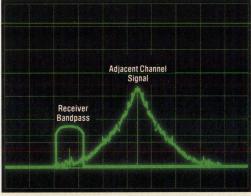
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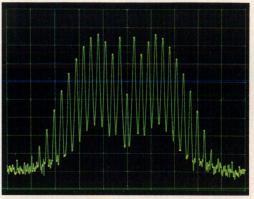
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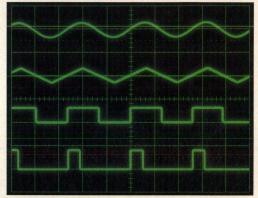
The 6080 Series is the best value today in high spectral purity RF signal generators. Phase noise at 1 GHz is -131 dBc/Hz at 20 kHz offset.



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Besides generating precise RF signals, the 6080 Series has a DDS modulation oscillator to generate multiple functions from 0.1 Hz to 200 kHz

Catch the perfe

For spectral purity, versatility and value, Fluke 6080A and 6082A Signal Generators are totally awesome.

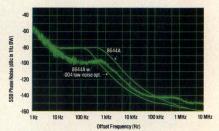
Short of a week off Australia's barrier reef or Oahu's North Shore, you'd be hard pressed to find more satisfying waveforms than those produced by Fluke 6080 Series 1 GHz — 2 GHz RF Signal Generators.

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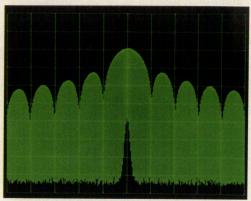


Compared to the HP® 8644A's SSB phase noise at 1000 MHz, the 6080A with high stability reference not only measures up, it outperforms.

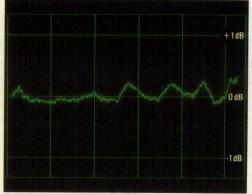
1 GHz. And residual FM is a low 1.5 Hz, perfect for high performance receiver testing and LO substitution.

Output level of +16 dBm provides the oomph you need

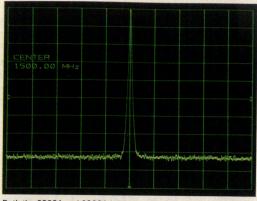
for receiver overload test and driving high level mixers. Level accuracy is ±1 dB. A special user-defined level correction register allows you to



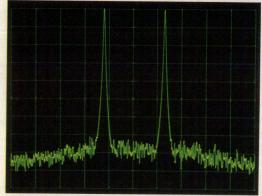
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t wave, dude.

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Modulation versatility is standard.

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Fluke 6080 Series high performance signal generators. U.S. List Prices: 6080A \$15,950: 6082A \$21,950.

So is HP 8642A/B software and rack space compatibility. AM, FM, phase and pulse modulation are all included, and can be combined for complex signal simulation.

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> is 80 dB, ideal for radar applications.

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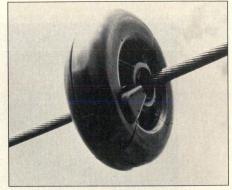
RF SIGNAL GENERATORS



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nique is now in common use throughout the US, Europe, Japan, and Australia to diagnose a wide variety of afflictions. MRI equipment uses high-power (500 W to 2 kW) amplifiers extensively, as well as frequency synthesizers and passive transmission line components. It continues to provide a new source of revenue for RF equipment manufacturers.

FILTER HANDBOOK VOLUME 1—Applications However, MRI is not the only application for RF in medicine. Monitoring of cardiac and obstetrics patients allows them to move about relatively freely while a monitor attached to their bodies sends a signal to a small, battery-operated personal transmitter. The signal from the transmitter is captured by antennas mounted in the ceilings of the hospital ward and sent to a central



The Power-Donut System pioneered by Nitech allows comprehensive information about powerline conditions to be available at a central site.

receiver.

Changes in the patient or fetus are instantly available, even though the patient is moving from place to place. Before these systems were available, patients were required to be in bed so that heart or fetal monitors could transmit their signals to the central site. The patients were literally "hard-wired" to their beds. RF telemetry systems are also used in the field by paramedics to communicate vital signs via portable monitors.

Reporting on Power

Transmission of electric power by utilities has become an extremely complex task. With this increase in complexity has come a greater need to monitor the performance of these systems in many places over a wide geographic area. Advanced power monitoring systems are providing the means for this monitoring requirement.

RF telemetry systems are being used to transmit information collected by sensors mounted on high-voltage transmission lines to ground stations up to 5 miles away. Voltage, current and phase angle, conductor surface temperature, wind speed, humidity, and ambient air temperature are measured using solidstate sensors. These signals are digitized by A/D converters and transmitted to the ground in the 902 to 959 MHz band designated for utility use. The information is stored and later transmitted to the utility by telephone. This concept, now called the Power-Donut System, was pioneered by Nitech, Inc., (Fairfield, CT) and has gained wide acceptance in the power industry.

The tiny transmitters in toroidalshaped enclosures mounted around the

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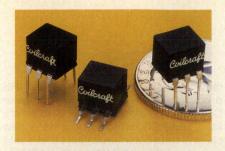
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Coilcraft offers low-cost wideband RF transformers

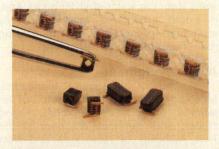
Coilcraft offers a family of low-cost wideband RF transformers that cover the frequency range from .005 to 600 MHz, with impedance ratios from 1:1 to 4:1.

The transformers are offered in tapped or untapped configurations and are packaged in a low-profile DIP-style plastic case. All parts are available in either a through- hole or surface mount version.

Applications include impedance matching, voltage or current transformation, DC isolation, balanced/unbalanced mixing, matching, power splitting, coupling, and signal inversion.

For more information, contact **Coilcraft**, 1102 Silver Lake Road, Cary IL 60013. 708/639-6400.

INFO/CARD 133



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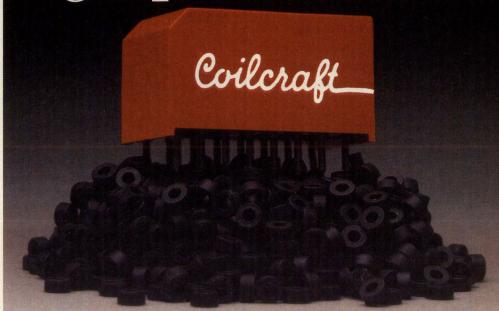
They cover the inductance range from 2.5 to 43 nH with minimum Q values of 100 to 145 at 150 MHz. Tolerance is ±5% and self resonance is typically greater than 3 GHz.

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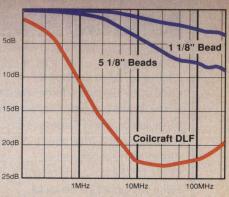


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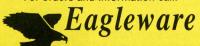
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This radiosonde balloon uses a small, battery-powered telemetry transmitter to radio data to the ground station.

power line receive information as Manchester-encoded data from a logic card elsewhere in the enclosure. The transmitter delivers between 100 mW and 1 W, depending on the site requirements.

The ground station can transmit up to 160 parameters to a host computer via RS-232C serial communications or via an asynchronous modem on telephone lines. The Power-Donut System was originally developed for Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. The utility currently has more than 400 sensors in use throughout its system, some of which have been operating for 7 years.

Unlimited Possibilities

Any application that requires communication of data from one place to another is a potential home for RF telemetry equipment. The applications described in this article are only a few of the possibilities.

There is also ample evidence to show that the use of RF systems in commercial communications applications will grow faster in the future. For example, the wireless local area network, an experimental concept only a few years ago, is now being offered as a commercial product by nearly a dozen manufacturers. Each system utilizes transmitters, receivers, and RF modems for communications. Since each wireless LAN has the potential to serve dozens of nodes, and since each node has a LAN transceiver, the potential market is staggering.

In addition, the Data Personal Communications Services (Data-PCS) concept championed by Apple Computer

may provide another market for RF products. This past January, Apple Computer petitioned the FCC to establish Data-PCS, which would be a new class of data communications that would operate within 40 MHz of the 1850 to 1990 MHz band. It was specifically designed in response to the growing market for laptop computers, which are inherently portable. Any wired system, or one designed to be usable with only one manufacturer's products, would be narrow in scope compared to Data-PCS.

Data-PCS would be a low-power network that would link computers within a 50-meter area, such as in a single floor of an office building. Manufacturers of Data-PCS compatible systems would have to meet a set of operating parameters and the services would be generic, so any manufacturer could build Data-PCS compatible products.

Data-PCS would accommodate data rates of up to 10 Mbits/sec., which Apple believes will adequately service personal computers for the foreseeable future. If the FCC authorizes Data-PCS, it would create an entirely new capability for computer systems, leading to a new subset of the computer industry. It would also move the personal computer away from the wall tether for good. And, it would provide a market of truly mammoth proportions for enterprising manufacturers of RF equipment.

Acknowledgment

The author wishes to thank Lee Masoian, Noise Com's director of telemetry product development; David Geller, staff services engineer at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; James Morrisey, of the Philips Air Force Laboratory at Hanscom Air Force Base; John Shew, president of J & K Communications; and Herb Schrayshuen, president of Nitech, Inc.; for their help in preparation of this article.

About the Author

Gary Simonyan is president of Noise Com, Inc., a manufacturer of noise sources, frequency generation and control products, and RF-based telemetry systems. The telemetry products are manufactured by the company's NCI Systems Division. Many of these products are used in the commercial systems described in this article. Mr. Simonyan can be reached at Noise Com, Inc., East 49, Midland Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652, telephone (201) 261-8797.

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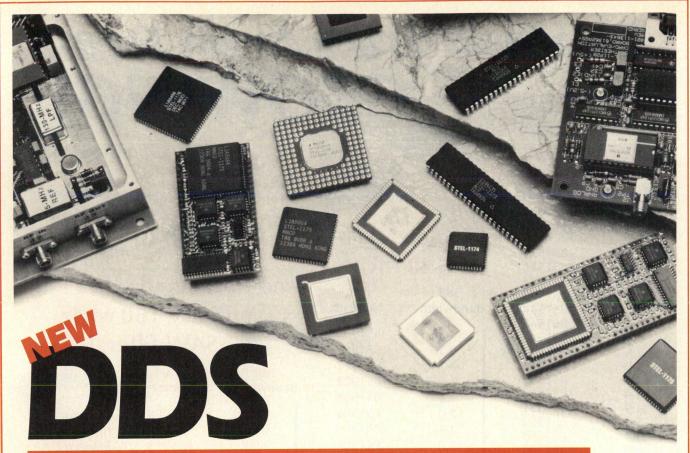


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2.0	851546				SAW filt	ers!
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15.0	851845 851846	20.0	851931	10.0	851971	test methods
16.0 18.0	851847	24.0	851933	12.0	851973	
20.0	851848	28.0	851935	14.0	851975	▲ Serialized
22.0	851849	32.0	851937	16.0	851977	with
24.0	851850	36.0	851939	18.0	851979	individual
26.0	851851	40.0	851941	20.0	851981	test data
28.0	851852	44.0	851943	24.0	851983	test data
30.0	851853	48.0	851945	28.0		Next day
32.0	851854		851947	30.0	851986	
34.0	851855	56.0				delivery
36.0	851856	64.0	851948	32.0	851987	from
38.0	851857	72.0	851949	36.0	851989	Penstock!
40.0	851858	80.0	854101	40.0	851991	

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1 GHZ, GaAs, 32-bit, BPSK, QPSK

based on 1172B, 0-20 MHz

BOARD-LEVEL DDS

STEL-2173

STEL-1272

STEL-1273 based on 1173, 0-20 MHz
STEL-1275 based on 1175, 0-25 MHz
STEL-1375A miniature assembly based on 1175 MIL Spec version now available miniature assembly based on 1176
STEL-1377 miniature assembly based on 1177 MIL Spec version now available miniature assembly based on 1178 miniature assembly based on 1178

 STEL-1277
 based on 1177, 0-25 MHz

 STEL-2272
 based on 2172, 0-130 MHz

 STEL-2273
 based on 2173, 0-400 MHz

STEL-2373 based on 2173, 0-400 MHz - miniature hybrid

CHASSIS-LEVEL DDS

STEL-9272 300 MHz Synthesizer based on 2172
STEL-9273 1 GHz Synthesizer based on 2173
STEL-9275 Synthesizer with 1 GHz internal clock

SP16T GaAs Switch Uses MMIC and Hybrid Technology

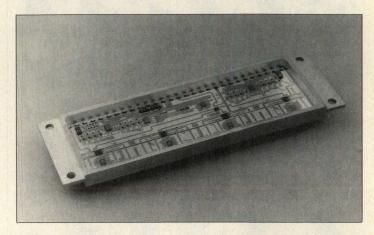
Daico Industries introduces the DS0918 SP16T broadband switch, using GaAs MMICs and hybrid thin-film technology to achieve high performance. Typical isolation and insertion loss is 54 dB and 3 dB, respectively, from DC to 1000 MHz; to 29 dB and 5.2 dB from 2000-4000 MHz. Switching speeds are typically 150 ns over the entire DC-4000 MHz range.

The unit requires +5 and -15 VDC supplies at 3 mA and 11 mA current, typical (10 mA and 25 mA maximum). Operating power level is +10 dBm, maximum, and the unit will survive

+23 dBm without damage. Second and third order intercept points are +64 dBm and +33 dBm, respectively. Operating impedance is 50 ohms, with the maximum VSWR specified at 2:1.

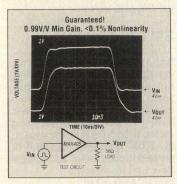
The DS0918 has an integrated TTL driver and terminations, and is packaged in a hermetic 58 pin DIP. Operating temperature is specified over the entire military range of -55 C to +125 C. Commercial screening or optional military screening is available.

Daico Industries, Inc. INFO/CARD #250



180 MHz Precision Video Buffer

Maxim Integrated Products announces the MAX405, a 180 MHz video buffer amplifier offering accurate gain, differential phase



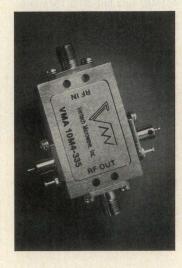
and gain, and 650 V/us slew rate with ±5 V supplies. For video systems, differential phase and gain are 0.01 degree and 0.03 percent, respectively. Unadjusted DC gain is better than 0.99 V/V over -40 to +85 C with loads as low as 50 ohms. Gain can be adjusted from 0.99 to 1.10 V/V. The MAX405 will drive a 50 ohm load to ±3 V, or as many as four 150 ohm loads to ±2.25 V. In addition to video applications, the device may be used as a coaxial line driver, A/D input buffer, or fast sample and hold buffer. Input impedance is 2.5 megohms and input capacitance is only 0.6 pF. In 1000 quantities, the commercial grade version is priced at \$4.25.

Maxim Integrated Products INFO/CARD #249

Medium Power 0.01-4.2 GHz Amplifiers

The VMA 10 M4 series amplifiers utilize MIC techniques to produce a high gain (up to 45 dB) unit with a low noise figure of 4.5 dB average across the 0.01 to 4.2 GHz band. Combined with high output power, up to +23 dBm, these features allow the amplifier to be used in applications requiring low harmonic levels. Maximum VSWR is 2:1. DC power requirement is +12 V, with the highest power versions also needing -12 V. Internal regulators with over and reverse-voltage protection are included. The largest models are provided in 0.22 × 1.0 × 1.5 inch packages. Pricing is \$785 to \$1350, depending on model.

Veritech Microwave, Inc. INFO/CARD #248



Super Flexible Coaxial Assemblies

New flexible coaxial assemblies from Storm Product Co. can be wrapped around a 0.5 inch diameter object and maintain 1.25:1 VSWR through 18 GHz.



These assemblies are available in a variety of connector combinations.

Also announced are high performance RG style cables and assemblies which extend useful frequency range to 18 GHz. Versions of RG 316U and RG 142U have superior shielding for reduced crosstalk, low signal leakage and lower loss in high speed digital and GPS applications above 1 GHz. Quick delivery is available for Storm's cable products.

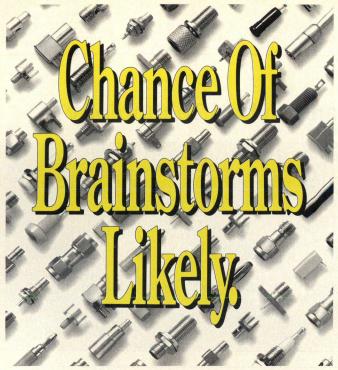
Storm Products Company INFO/CARD #247

High Power Signal Generator

The Rohde & Schwarz model SMGL signal generator includes a broadband power amplifier to deliver precise power levels up to +30 dBm over 9 kHz to 1 GHz. Levels as low as -118 dBm are provided, as well. The combination of wide frequency range, high power and high speed or less than 15 ms settling time is ideal for EMC applications where a high power sweep can be used to advantage. Multi-source measurements such as intermodulation, crosstalk and crossmodulation often require combiners and splitters which can have substantial losses, which can be overcome by this generator. With high spectral purity as a primary feature, the SMGL can also be used to drive high level mixers. High power systems can be tested with one less amplifier stage than is typically required.

Rohde & Schwarz INFO/CARD #246





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RF products continued

Digital Transmitter

Emhiser Research introduces the DC coupled digital transmitter, a $2.5 \times 3.5 \times 1.0$ inch unit weighing less than 12 oz. The unit supports data rates up to 10 MBS. DC coupling allows the use of NRZ-L code, which has a DC component. Single frequency and channelized units are offered in 1, 2, 5 and 10 watts in the 1435-1540, 1710-1850 and 2200-2400 MHz bands.

Emhiser Research INFO/CARD #245

Low-Noise, Fast Synthesizer

he PTS 310 offers fast switching and low noise over a range of 0.1 to 310 MHz. 1 Hz resolution



(0.1 Hz optional) is controlled by a parallel BCD or GPIB remote interface. Switching time is 3 us total for the 100 kHz to 1 Hz digits, 5 us for 1 MHz, and 20 us for the 100 and 10 MHz digits. Spurious suppression is 60 to 65 dB. The PTS 310 is priced under \$6000.

Programmed Test Sources INFO/CARD #244

MIL-STD Test Antennas

Two passive loop antennas designed specifically for MIL-STD 461/462 and MIL-STD 1541 testing are introduced by Antenna Research Associates. Both antennas operate from 20 Hz to 50 kHz. Model PLA-2050/A is used for magnetic field emission measurements with an electrostatically shielded 13.3 cm loop. The Model PLH-2050/A is a 12 cm diameter magnetic field generating coil used for susceptibility measure-

Antenna Research Associates INFO/CARD #243

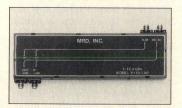
Failsafe Coax Switch

A new series of multiposition failsafe switches are available from K&L Microwave in 1P3T to 1P6T configurations. Packaged in the popular 2 inch diameter outline, the switches have SMA connectors in a 1.66 inch bolt circle. RF performance is from DC-18 GHz with 1.5:1 maximum VSWR. Insertion loss is 0.5 dB maximum, with minimum isolation of 60 dB

K&L Microwave, Inc. INFO/CARD #242

Broadband Coupler

Model H112-180 from MRD.



Inc. is a 180 degree coupler which operates from 1 to 12.4 GHz. Amplitude imbalance is ±0.4 dB and phase imbalance is 10 degrees, maximum. VSWR is rated at 1.6:1 for all ports. Isolation is 17 dB minimum and insertion loss is 2.0 dB.

Microwave Research and Development INFO/CARD #241

SMT Inductor

Dale Electronics announces the IMC-1210 inductor, just 2.2 mm in height. The component meets EIA outline SOPM-3224. Inductance values are available from 0.01 to 100 uH, with low values having 20 percent tolerance and values over 1.0 uH at 10 percent. In 2000 quantity, 10 uH, 10 percent inductors are \$0.35 each. Dale Electronics, Inc. INFO/CARD #240

1P8T Switch

Robinson Laboratories' Model 3816-K12 operates over 0.5 to 18 GHz with 60 dB isolation and 1.8:1 maximum VSWR in all switching states. This high performance absorptive switch has less than 2 us switching speed, BCD TTL control, and will handle 0.5 watt average power. Pricing in unit quantity is \$1900.

Robinson Laboratories, Inc. INFO/CARD #239

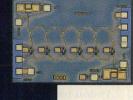
7/16 DIN Connectors

New European type coaxial 7/16 connectors are made in the U.S.A. by Tru-Connector. A variety of plugs, receptacles, adapters and jacks are offered in 50 ohm designs with threaded cou-





This 0.5-50 GHz amplifier design, created on the HFDS, met specifications the first time it was tested.



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plings for cables from 3/8 to 7/8 inch diameter.

Tru-Connector Corp. INFO/CARD #238

High Power Coupler

An 800 watt quadrature coupler is introduced by RF Power Components. The RFP-5213-90-800 covers 500-1000 MHz with ±0.5 dB maximum amplitude imbalance and 90 degree phase (±5 degrees maximum), the unit is provided in a flat package with solder tab mounting.

RF Power Components INFO/CARD #237

70 dB Log Amp

A fully monolithic successive detection logarithmic amplifier (SDLA) with 70 dB dynamic range is now available from FEI Microwave. Using HBT GaAs technology from TRW, the AE-B101C covers 0.5 to 1.35 GHz with 18 ns and 22 ns rise and fall times. Linearity is ±1 dB and tangential sensitivity is 70 dB. Applications include EW channelized receivers and compressive receivers.

FEI Microwave INFO/CARD #236

9600 BPS Radio Modem

Repco Inc. announces the SLR-96 radio modem for high speed



data transmission. Operating frequencies of 138 to 960 MHz can be provided, with 1 to 5 watts of RF power. A standard RS-232C

interface is used, along with techniques to eliminate squelch noise. Repco Incorporated INFO/CARD #235

MIL-screened DDS

Qualcomm announces the Q2334M-20L, a 20 MHz dual DDS screened to MIL883 specifications. Applications include frequency hopping radios, sonar, radar, complex signal generation and other uses requiring the modulation and frequency control advantages of DDS.

Qualcomm INFO/CARD #234

8-Way Power Dividers

New power dividers have been introduced by MCLI for coverage from 0.5 to 18 GHz. Features include maximum insertion loss of 6.5 dB, minimum isolation of 18 dB, and 0.7 dB maximum amplitude imbalance. Average power capability is one watt.

Microwave Communications Laboratories, Inc. INFO/CARD #233

CW Signal Sources

Models 4380 and 4381 from Lucas Weinschel are synthesized CW signal sources providing +10 dBm leveled output, IEEE-488 bus control, and 1 kHz or better resolution. The 4381 covers 2 to 10 GHz in 0.5 kHz steps and 10-20 GHz in 1 kHz steps. The 4380 adds a 0.01 to 2 GHz module for additional coverage. Lucas Weinschel

INFO/CARD #232

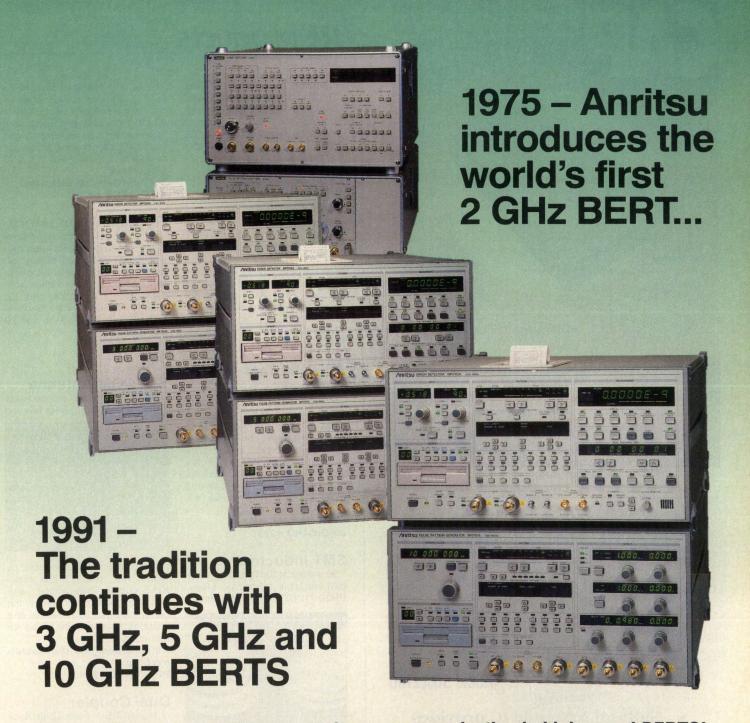
GPS Receiver

Datum Inc announces its latest GPS Time and Frequency Receiver, the model 9390-5300 'CORE' series. The unit tracks GPS satellites to provide precise time transfer and geographical positioning data. A 1 pps output accurate to 100 ns or better is standard, and measurement of external sources of 1, 5 or 10 MHz can be made to better than 5×10^{-11} . Priced at less than \$10,000, the system includes cable, preamplifier and antenna.

Datum Inc. INFO/CARD #231

SOT-23 Mixer Diodes

Surface mount diodes for DBS and VSAT applications have been



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INFO/CARD 55

RF products continued

introduced by Hewlett-Packard. HSMS-8101 and HSMS-8202 Schottky diodes perform through Ku-band (14 GHz). Pricing in production quantities of 10,000 is \$0.75 and \$0.95 for the HSMS-8101 and 8202, respectively.

Hewlett-Packard Company INFO/CARD #230

SMA Connectors

Hex crimp SMA connectors from AMP use industry standard crimp tooling for the center contact and outer ferrule. These connectors are designed for flexible cable, including RG types 58, 142, 188 and 316. pricing for straight plugs ranges from 1.50 to 2.00 each.

AMP Inc. INFO/CARD #229

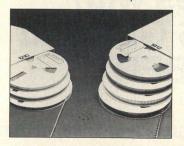
Antenna Test Services

A new antenna test range at Flann Microwave allows them to offer Radiocommunications Agency approved facilities in the MM bands above 21 GHz. The site is located at the firm's Bodmin, Cornwall (U.K.) facility, and uses a fixed test antenna and moveable sampling receive antenna.

Flann Microwave Inc. INFO/CARD #228

SMT Inductors

99 values of SMT inductors are now available from J.W. Miller. PM20 '1210' series chip induc-



tors cover 0.01 through 220 uH, while PM40 '1812' devices cover 0.1 uH through 1000 uH. Prices in quantity start at 20 each, shipped in 500 or 2000-piece reels.

J.W. Miller Div., Bell Industries INFO/CARD #227

Fiberoptic Interface Card

TriQuint has announced a highspeed fiberoptic interface card based on inexpensive CD-player 860 nanometer laser technology. The highest speed version, HRC-800FS, operates at 800 megabits/sec, the same rate as a 25 MHz 32-bit processor can send data to a system bus. Pricing ranges from \$4962 for the 800 Mbps unit to \$2999 for the HRC-250 250 Mbps board.

TriQuint Semiconductor Inc. INFO/CARD #226

Rugged Attenuators

Mini-Circuits announces a onepiece attenuator design that can withstand high-impact shocks. 50 ohm attenuators are available in N-connector style, in values from 1-10 dB in 1 dB steps, plus 12, 15, 20, 30 and 40 dB. 75 ohms units include 3, 6, 10, 15 and 20 dB

Mini-Circuits INFO/CARD #225

SATCOM Antenna

A transportable crossed-yagi antenna for 240-318 MHz satellite



communications is announced by ADM. The ADM-C2 has right-hand circular polarization, with 10.25 to 14.4 dBic across the band. It will handle 200 watts, and includes a lightweight tripod for mounting.

Antenna Design & Manufacturing Corp. INFO/CARD #224

Dual Coupler

Model RSU from Quartzlock Instruments is a dual directional coupler with 1 dB response over 800-1000 MHz and 3 dB response from 500 MHz to 1.3 GHz. Directivity is 30 dB and coupling is 40 dB, each ±0.5 dB. Signal integrity and high power handling are enhanced with a one-piece coupling line/connector center conductor.

Quartzlock Instruments INFO/CARD #223

Programmable Attenuator

RLC Electronics introduces the PA-501-R, operating over DC-2

The 48 cent solution.

Wideband Amplifiers – From \$.48 each

UPC1653 To 1300MHz 18dB G _p	UPC1654 To 1100MHz 19dB G _p	UPC1655 To 900MHz 18dB G _p	UPC1656 To 850MHz 19dB G _p	UPC1658 To 1100MHz 17dB G _p 2.0dB NF	
UPC1659 600MHz to 2300MHz 23dB G _p	UPC1675 To 2100MHz 12dB G _p	UPC1676 To 1300MHz 20dB G _p 4.0dB NF	$\begin{array}{c} \text{UPC1677} \\ \text{To 1700MHz} \\ \text{24dB G}_{\text{p}} \\ \text{P}_{\text{out}} = 19.5 \text{dBm} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{UPC1678} \\ \textbf{Up to 1900MHz} \\ \textbf{23dB G}_{\textbf{p}} \\ \textbf{P}_{\textbf{out}} = 18 \text{dBm} \end{array}$	UPC1688 Up to 1000MHz 21dB G _p 4.0dB NF

Prescalers – From \$2.20 each

	UPB581 UPB582 UPB5 ÷ 2 ÷ 4 ÷ 2 500MHz to 2.8GHz 500MHz to 2.8GHz 500MHz to	÷ 4	UPB586 ÷ 512/256 500MHz to 2.5GHz	UPB587 ÷ 2/4/8 50MHz to 1.0GHz V _{cc} =2.2 to 3.5V	UPB588 ÷64/128 500MHz to 2.5GHz	
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Freq. Convertors – From \$1.58 each

UPC1685 DC to 890MHz 14dB GAIN Double Balanced Mixer Applications	UPC1686 DC to 890MHz 22dB GAIN	UPC1687 DC to 890MHz 28dB GAIN I _{cc} of 38mA
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IF Amplifiers – From \$3.50 each

UPC1668	UPC1669	UPC1670
10 to 170MHz	10 to 180MHz	10 to 150MHz
$G_{1} = 14.5 dB$	$G_{r} = 10.5 dB$	IM, of 56dBc
60dB Isolation	55dB Isolation	60dB Isolation

Transistor Arrays From \$2.40 each

UPA101 F _T =9GHz Double Balanced Mixer Applications	UPA102 F _T =9GHz Differental Amplifier
UPA103 F _T =9GHz Differental Amplifier	UPA104 F _T =9GHz OR/NOR Functions

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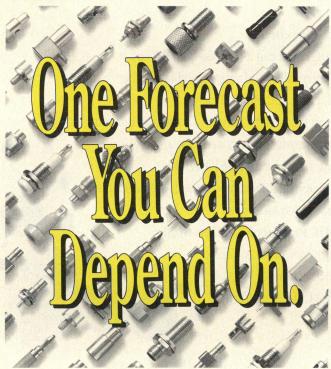
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RF products continued

GHz. Binary attenuation values of 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 and 64 dB provide 127 dB total attenuation in 1 dB steps. Operating voltage is 12 VDC with switching in 6 ms. The unit is specified for 10⁷ operations. Price of the unit is \$575 in quantities.

RLC Electronics INFO/CARD #222

Logarithmic Amplifier

GEC Plessey Semiconductors extends its line of log amps with two new models. The SL3524 supports all frequencies from 1-200 MHz, and the SL2524 offers a limiting bandwidth of 600 MHz. Both supply IF and video ports for simultaneous phase, frequency and video (amplitude) information. In hundreds, prices are \$579.28 for the '3524, and the '2524 is \$359.79.

GEC Plessey Semiconductors INFO/CARD #221

Phase Shifter

A DC-4 GHz in line phase shifter, the model 6707, is announced by Sage Laboratories. Insertion (and minimum) phase shift is 145 degrees per GHz, with 290 degrees per GHz at the maximum setting. Power handling is 150 watts average, 1 kW peak. Operation is mechanical, with various knob, dial, and shaft options.

Sage Laboratories, Inc. INFO/CARD #220

Matched Switch Matrices

A 2 by 6 matrix features dualmode, phase and amplitude



matched performance over a DC-20 GHz frequency range. Its compact size shortens signal paths and reduces insertion loss. Phase tracking is ± 1 degree at 1 GHz, increasing to ± 5 degrees at 20 GHz. Amplitude tracking is ± 0.1 dB to ± 0.3 dB over the same range. Minimum isolation in the 8-20 GHz range is 55 dB. The size of the unit is just $5.5 \times 4.0 \times 5.0$ inches.

Teledyne Microwave INFO/CARD #219

Portable Reflectometer

Millimeter Wave Technology announces a low cost hand-held reflectometer for measuring the reflectivity of surfaces. A hand-held RF measurement unit is attached by cable to the display unit, featuring microcomputer controlled electronics, keypad and LCD display. The RF unit operates at 10.25 GHz and measures surface reflectivity with 0.5 dB accuracy over a 20 dB dynamic range. At -30 dB, accuracy is 2 percent. Applications include measuring radar absorbing materials and EMI shielding materials.

Millimeter Wave Technology INFO/CARD #218

High Power Pulse Amplifier

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Power Systems Technology, Inc.

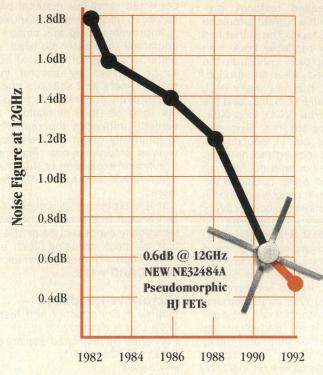
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NE76084	12	1.6	9.0
NE76038	4	0.8	13.0
NE76184A	4	0.8	12.0



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RF books

Phase-Locked Loop Circuit Design

By Dan H. Wolaver Published by Prentice Hall, 1991, 262 pages.

This newly-released textbook provides engineers with a current reference on an essential RF topic. The author has developed a very readable book with many diagrams and plots to illustrate the principles discussed. After an introductory chapter that outlines major PLL applications, overall PLL basics and the components of a PLL (VCO, loop filter, phase detector) are covered. Next, performance aspects are introduced, including noise and locking mechanisms in both the acquisition and maintaining modes. Application areas conclude the book's coverage, with chapters on modulation and demodulation, clock recovery circuits, and frequency synthesizers.

The author's clear writing style and ample illustrations make this a good learning tool for engineers who are just beginning to develop expertise in PLL design. Basic PLL theory is presented, with block diagram type examples and the necessary mathematical relationships. Emphasis is on understanding PLL principles, rather than presenting circuits that can simply be copied, making this most useful as a tutorial text. For more information, circle INFO/CARD #115.

Analog Electronic Circuits

By Robert B. Northrop Published by Addison-Wesley, 1990, 520 pages.

This is a college-level textbook on classical analog circuits. It is a comprehensive treatment of the design and analysis of active analog circuits using (primarily) transistors and operational amplifiers.

Although not RF-specific, the author achieves his goal of teaching basic analog circuits in a quality instructional textbook aimed at senior-level students. This should be a valuable reference for engineers involved in analog circuit design of all kinds. Circle INFO/CARD #114.

The ARRL Antenna Book (16th Edition)

Gerald Hall, Editor Published by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 1991, 712 pages. The latest edition of this practical amateur handbook follows the previous edition's major update and extensive expansion of antenna theory and practical construction. The few significant errors in the previous edition have been corrected, and the material presented has been updated and expanded.

Improvements in this edition include additional computer-modeled antenna patterns, using software that continues to be refined by several individual programmers and software companies. The proven accuracy of these models (as long as their limitations are observed), enhances the reader's ability to intuitively grasp the behavior of the various antenna types. Also new is a significant expansion of the chapter on antenna and transmission line measurements.

If the professional antenna engineer can accept that some of the material is technically simplistic, he or she will find that the book contains much excellent information. For more information, circle INFO/CARD #113.

Microwave Handbook —

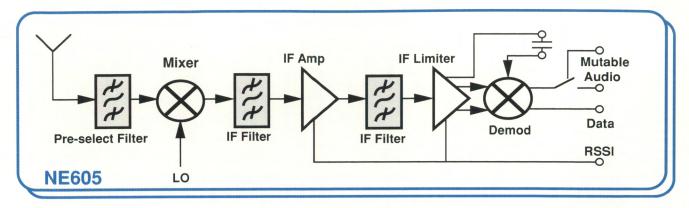
Volume 2, Construction and Testing M.W. Dixon, Editor Published by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), 1991, 244 pages.

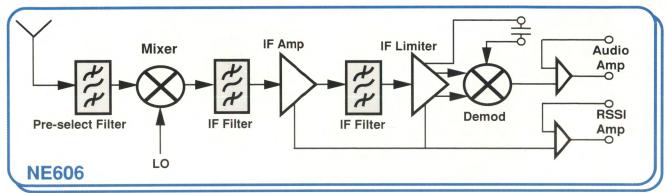
While this is another book directed to an amateur radio audience, it recognizes that most amateur microwave experimenters have a high level of technical understanding. In fact, many are professional microwave engineers.

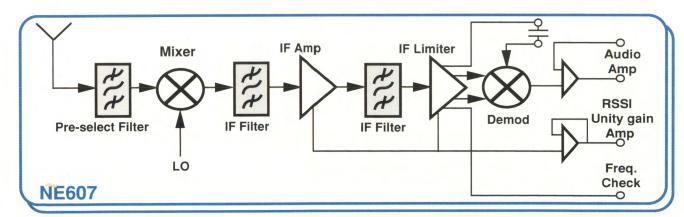
The most extensive sections are also of the most professional interest, covering test equipment, safety, and filters. The filter chapter is particularly comprehensive, presenting considerable theory and descriptions of the performance of various filter types used at UHF and microwave frequencies. The safety material is excellent background for any engineer working around microwave equipment, and concerns both hazardous radiation and hazards due to materials and chemicals. The test equipment chapter emphasizes inexpensive construction methods.

Beginning engineers will find this book (and its companion, Volume 1) to be an excellent addition to their college work, on-the-job training, and mentorship aspects of their 'apprenticeship.' Circle INFO/CARD #112.

Comparison of NE605, NE606 and NE607







NOTE:

- Function block internal to the device
- Function block external to the device
- O Output/Input Pin

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	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS	SIGNETICS
	NE604A	NE614A	NE605	NE615	NE606	NE616	NE607	NE617
Vcc	4.5 - 8 V	4.5 - 8 V	4.5 - 8 V	4.5 - 8 V	2.7 - 7 V	2.7 - 7 V	2.7 - 7 V	2.7 - 7 V
Icc @ Vcc	3.3mA @ 6V	3.3mA @ 6V	5.7mA @ 6V	5.7mA @ 6V	3.5mA @ 3V	3.5mA @ 3V	3.5mA @ 3V	3.5mA @ 3V
Number of Pins	16	16	20	20	20	20	20	20
Package	Os,qiQ	Os,qiQ	Dip,SO,SSOP	Dip,SO,SSOP	Dip,SO,SSOP	Dip,SO,SSOP	Dip,SO,SSOP	Dip,SO,SSOP
Input Frequency (Max.)	Same as IF	Same as IF	500MHz	500MHz	150MHz	150MHz	150MHz	150MHz
Sensitivity Input Pin	0.22μV	0.22μV	0.22μV	0.22μV	0.31μV	0.31μV	0.31μV	0.31μV
Rin	1.6KΩ	1.6ΚΩ	4.7KΩ	4.7KΩ	8KΩ	8KΩ	8KΩ	8KΩ
Mixer Conversion Gain	N/A	N/A	13dB	13dB	17dB	17dB	17dB	17dB
Input 3rd Order Intercept*	N/A	N/A	+4dBm	+4dBm	-9dBm	-9dBm	-9dBm	-9dBm
Process ft	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz	8GHz
IF Frequency (Max.)	25MHz	25MHz	25MHz	25MHz	2MHz	2MHz	2MHz	2MHz
RSSI Range	apoe	80dB	BP06	80dB	Bp06	80dB	Bp06	80dB
RSSI Temp Comp	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Conversion Stages	N/A	N/A	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
Features	- High Sensitivity - High IF Frequency	- High Sensitivity - High IF - Relaxed 604A	- High Sensitivity - High Input/IF Frequency - SSOP 20	- High Sensitivity - High Input/IF Frequency - SSOP 20 - Relaxed 605	- Low Power - Audio Op-Amp on Output - RSSI Op-Amp on Output - SSOP 20	- Low Power - Audio Op -Amp on Output - RSSI Op-Amp on Output - SSOP 20 - Relaxed 606	- Low Power - Audio Op-Amp on Output - Freq Check - Buffered RSSI - Differential Limiter Output - SSOP 20	- Low Power - Audio Op-Amp on Output - Freq Check - Buffered RSSI - Differential Limiter Output - SSOP 20 - Relaxed 607
Applications	- Can be combined with the NE602A to produce a single conversion receiver	- Can be combined with the NE612A to produce a single conversion receiver	- Cellular - High Performance Receivers - Industry Standard	- Cellular - Cordless Phones	- Portable Cellular - Portable Receivers - Cordless Phones	- Portable Cellular - Portable Receivers - Cordless Phones	Portable Cellular AMPS/TACS NAMPS/NTACS Dottable Receivers Cordless Phones	- Portable Cellular - Portable Receivers - Cordless Phones

^{*} Note- 50\\triangle Source

A Guide to Coaxial Cable Shield Performance

By Robert D. Perelman and Leonard J. Visser Andrew Corporation

RF engineers have many factors to consider when selecting the right coaxial cable for an application. The element of a coaxial cable which is most critical to its performance, both electrical and mechanical, is its outer conductor, or shield. Unfortunately, the ideal coaxial cable outer conductor does not exist. The selection process requires weighing the performance advantages of the different types available and evaluating the tradeoffs based on the requirements of the applications.

This article provides a guide to the selection process by comparing the electrical and mechanical performance of the common types of coaxial cable outer conductors. Included are round braid, flat braid, smooth walled copper tube and corrugated copper tube. Similar sized cables with each of these outer conductors were selected for comparison. Table 1 lists the cable types that were used and gives their dimensions and construction materials.

The objective of a coaxial cable is to transmit a signal between two devices with minimal loss and minimal additional noise. Therefore, the contribution of the outer conductor to the electrical properties of the cable is the most important selection consideration. The different types of outer conductors are compared in terms of the normalized contribution

to cable attenuation and shielding effectiveness in terms of transfer impedance.

Normalized Shield Attenuation

In order to compare the effects of different types of outer conductors on the attenuation of a cable, a comparison was made between the attenuation of the cable as measured (Figure 1) and the calculated attenuation that a cable of similar construction with a smooth copper outer conductor would have. The values obtained are shown in Table 2.

Smooth copper is the ideal surface for the inside of a coaxial cable outer conductor. Since the outer conductor of NA50325 3/8" semi-rigid cable is smooth copper, it has a normalized attenuation of 1.00. RG-213/U and RG-214/U have the highest ratio between actual and ideal attenuation because wire braid causes higher RF resistance than other shield types. The current in a braided outer conductor must flow at an angle to the cable axis, so it has a longer path to travel than in a cable with a solid shield. RG-214/U has a normalized attenuation value higher than RG-213/U because it has a larger braid angle resulting in an even longer current path.

SF-214 has a flat wire braid outer conductor, which results in attenuation 20 percent higher than for an ideal cable, but much lower than for the round wire braided cables. This is because the

inside surface of the flat braid more closely approximates a smooth copper tube.

LDF2-50, with its shallow corrugated copper tube outer conductor has attenuation only 4 percent higher than would be realized with a smooth copper outer. FSJ4-50B has much deeper corrugations, resulting in a 20 percent increase over the ideal. The tradeoff is in mechanical characteristics, as will be shown later. The strong corrugated copper outer conductor allows the use of soft foam dielectric, resulting in lower cable attenuations as shown in Figure 1, while still maintaining good mechanical properties

Shielding Effectiveness and Transfer Impedance

In most applications, it is very important that the signal in the cable not leak

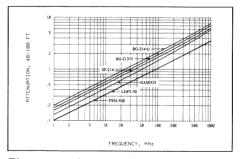


Figure 1. Attenuation versus frequency.

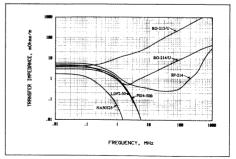


Figure 2. Transfer impedance versus frequency.

	Cable Type	Inner Conductor	Diameter	Wt. lb/ft.	Dielectric	Shield Type
	FSJ4-50B ¹	Cu-Clad Al	.520	.14	Foam PE	Corrugated Copper Tube
	LDF2-50 ¹	Cu-Clad Al	.440	.08	Foam PE	Corrugated Copper Tube
	SF-214 ²	Stranded Cu	.426	.12	PE	Flat braid/ foil/braid
1	RG-213/U	Stranded Cu	.400	.11	PE	Braid
1	RG-214/U	Stranded Cu	.410	.12	PE	Double braid
	NA50325 ³	Stranded Cu	.326	.15	PTFE	Copper tube
	1 manufactur	1 manufactured by Andrew Corporation				

Table 1. Cable types used for comparison.

2 manufactured by Times Microwave 3 manufactured by Precision Tubes



Figure 3. RG-213/U cable.



Figure 4. RG-214/U cable.

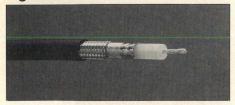


Figure 5. SF-214 cable.

out and that unwanted signals from outside not leak into the cable. Signals getting into the cable can cause a degradation of system performance by adding noise, or in the case of electromagnetic pulse (EMP), damage to other components. Leakage out of the cable can result in noise in other parts of the system and can allow the signal being transmitted to be intercepted.

Transfer impedance, sometimes called surface transfer impedance, is the most consistent way of measuring and comparing the shielding effectiveness of cable shields. Transfer impedance is defined by the following equation:

$$Z_t = \left(\frac{1}{I}\right) \left(\frac{dV_t}{dz}\right)$$

Where Z_t is the surface transfer impedance; I is the interference current in the shield; and dV_t is the voltage generated by the current I on the dz length of the shield, and measured on the opposite side of the shield from the current I return path. It is desirable to have the lowest possible transfer impedance value so that shielding effectiveness will be maximized. Below 1 MHz, all the cables being compared have similar

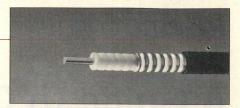


Figure 6. LDF2-50 cable.

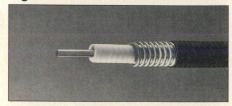


Figure 7. FSJ4-50B cable.



Figure 8. NA50325 cable.

transfer impedance, as can be seen in Figure 2. NA50325 has the lowest transfer impedance because it has a thick, solid copper outer conductor re-

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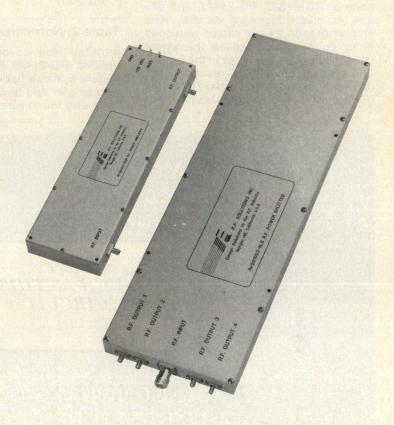




RF AMPLIFIERS

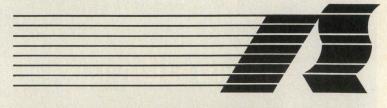
YES	You C	an H	ave
EXP	RESS	DEL	IVERY

MODEL NUMBER	POWER	GAIN	SUPPLY	PRICE
	Watts	dB	Volts	
FREQUENCY				
RFP0550-100	100	44	50	\$2,100.00
RFP0550-1000	1000	16	50	\$5,040.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE	50 –	100 MI	-lz
RFP0800-100P50	50	30	50	\$1,485.00
RFP0800-100P100	100	30	50	\$1,660.00
RFP0800-100P200 RFP800-100	200 600	30 16	50 50	\$2,200.00 \$2,424.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE			CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
RFP01100-300	300	46	50	\$3,150.00
FREQUENCY				
RFP0810-600	600	16	50	\$1,780.00
FREQUENCY				
RFP0800-150P50 RFP0800-150P100	50 100	30	50 50	\$1,485.00 \$1,660.00
RFP0800-150P100	200	30	50	\$2,200.00
RFP800-150	500	14	50	\$2,424.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE	100 -	- 200 N	1Hz
RFP0800-200P50	50	30	50	\$1,660.00
RFP0800-200P100	100	30	50	\$2,900.00
RFP800-200	400	13	50	\$3,636.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE	225 -	- 400 M	/Hz
RFP0204-4	4	20	28	\$ 484.00
RFP0204-10	10	30	28	\$ 685.00
RFP0204-25 RFP0204-50	25 50	30 40	28 28	\$1,140.00 \$1,695.00
RFP0204-100	100	40	28	\$2,200.00
FREQUENCY				
RFP0405-4	4	20	28	\$ 435.00
RFP0405-10	10	30	28	\$ 616.00
RFP0405-25	25	30	28	\$1,026.00
RFP0405-50	50	40	28	\$1,525.50
RFP0405-100	100	40	28	\$1,980.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE	1 – 5	00 MH	Z
RFP00105-4	4	20	28	\$1,450.00
RFP00105-10 RFP00105-25	10	30	28	\$2,300.00
RFP00105-25	25 50	30 40	28 28	\$2,800.00 \$3,752.00
RFP00105-100	100	40	28	\$5,600.00
FREQUENCY	RANGE	500 -	- 1000	MHz
RFP0510-4	4	20	28	\$2,610.00
RFP0510-10	10	30	40	\$3,800.00
RFP0510-25	25	30	40	\$4,900.00
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sulting in lower DC resistance.

Above one MHz, the transfer impedance of RG-213/U, RG-214/U, and SF-214 is much higher (indicating less shielding) than for the cables with solid outer conductors, because the signal can leak through the holes in the braids. The type of braid used results in the different performance levels. RG-213/U (Figure 3) has a single braid which

- flexible array size

- PC-based design tools

Туре	Normalized Attenuation
NA50325	1.00
LDF2-50	1.04
FSJ4-50B	1.20
SF-214	1.20
RG-213/U	1.34
RG-214/U	1.46

Table 2. Normalized attenuation.

provides less coverage than double braided RG-214/U (Figure 4). SF-214 (Figure 5) has a flat wire braided shield with smaller and fewer holes, plus a foil wrap and round wire braid over the flat

Туре	Reverse Bends
RG-214/U	500*
RG-213/U	500*
FSJ4-50B	400
SF-214	225
LDF2-50	38
NA50325	13

*Braided cables typically survive a greater number of bends. Testing was stopped at 500 bends.

Table 3. Number of reverse bends on a mandrel ten times the shield diameter.

Туре	Bending Moment, Ft./lb.
RG-214/U	0.17
RG-213/U	.21
FSJ4-50B	.62
SF-214	.67
LDF2-50	1.37
NA50325	6.54

Table 4. Bending moment on a mandrel ten times the shield diameter.

Cable Type	Min. Bend Radius, in.
NA50325	.75
FSJ4-50B	1.25
SF-214	1.25
LDF2-50	2.25
RG-213/U	2.50
RG-214/U	2.50

Table 5. Minimum bend radius based on 0.25 ohm impedance change.

Cable Type	Crush Strength, Ib./in.
NA50325	336
FSJ4-50B	330
LDF2-50	122
SF-214	101
RG-214/U	88
RG-213/U	85

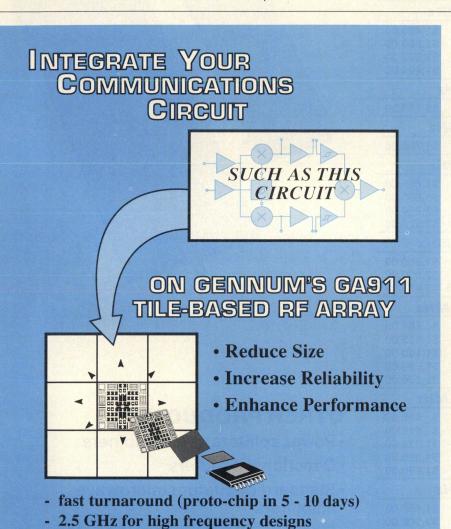
Table 6. Crush strength.

braid resulting in substantially lower transfer impedance than the round braid cables up to 1 GHz.

The performance of LDF2-50 (Figure 6) and FSJ4-50B (Figure 7) approaches the performance of the NA50325 (Figure 8). Because they use thinner shields than the semi-rigid cable, the DC resistance is greater and the transfer impedance is slightly higher. The shields are solid copper and have no holes to contribute to leakage at higher frequencies. Therefore, the transfer impedance of these cables is substantially lower than the braided cables above 2 MHz.

Mechanical Properties

A cable must have the mechanical properties that will allow it to survive in both installation and service. The outer conductor is key to achieving the re-



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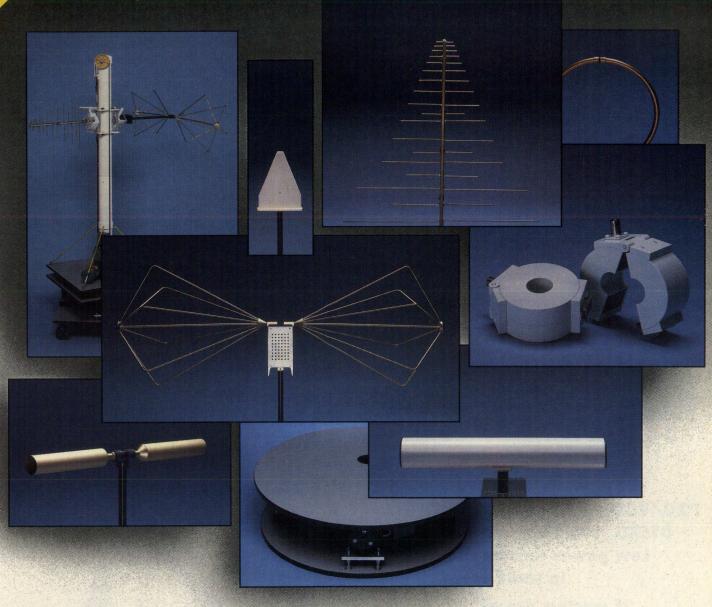
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quired flexibility and ruggedness.

Flexibility — Flexibility is a particularly difficult characteristic to define and measure. Three measures of flexibility were used — reverse bends, bending moment and minimum bend radius.

Reverse Bends — The ability of the shield to withstand multiple bends in installation and service was measured by subjecting the cable to repeated multiple bends in installation and service was measured by subjecting the cable

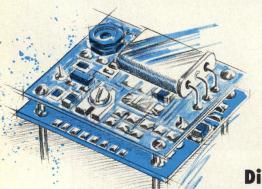
to repeated multiple bends on a mandrel with a radius of ten times the cable diameter. Failure was determined by examination of the outer conductor for cracks or broken wires.

As the Table 3 shows RG-213/U and RG-214/U are capable of withstanding more reverse bends than cables with solid copper outer conductors. Solid copper outer conductors eventually work harden and crack with repeated bending. The braid wires in RG-213/U and

RG-214/U are thin and therefore experience less strain for a given bend radius. They can also move relative to one another allowing the braid to redistribute itself around the cable during bending.

FSJ4-50B has an outer conductor with deep corrugations which reduces the amount of strain during bending. The shallower corrugations of LDF2-50 result in more strain on the outer conductor and fewer reverse bends. NA50325 survives the smallest number

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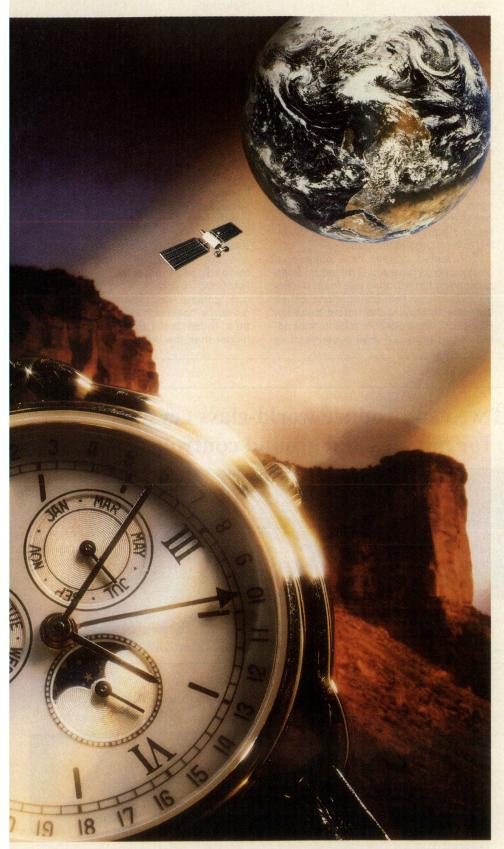
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QUARTZ CRYSTALS INFO/CARD 66

CRYSTAL FILTERS INFO/CARD 130

CRYSTAL OSCILLATORS INFO/CARD 131

For those who dream of suspending time in the rush to the communications market.





HP helps speed up design cycles by verifying models with real-life signals.

In communication systems labs today, the focus is on improving time-to-market. Comdisco CAE software tools help by creating complex signals to verify models at the design simulation stage. Now, HP's 11755A takes verification a crucial step further, by linking CAE modeling with reallife test equipment to quickly and accurately test brassboards after simulation.

The HP 11755A RF simulator WorkSystem driver provides the link between Comdisco and the HP Vector Arbitrary Waveform Synthesizer. It lets you use realworld signals (10 to 3000 MHz with precision impairments) in the lab to test designs at the earliest possible stage. You get the test results you need to uncover deficiencies and modify designs fast. To speed up design iterations, just download your software signal formats and link testing with CAE software.

So, if you've ever wished you could suspend time in your communications systems design cycle, call your local HP sales office. We'll send you more information on how the HP 11755A can help make your dream come true.

There is a better way.



of reverse bends because its smooth, solid outer conductor experiences the most strain during bending.

For applications requiring repeated bending of the cable assembly in service, braided outer conductors are usually the best choice. As can be seen, the deeper corrugated copper shields also give long bend life, with the advantages of lower attenuation and better RF shielding.

Bending Moment — Another indicator of flexibility is bending moment or the force required to bend the cable. For purposes of comparison, the force required to bend each cable on a mandrel ten times the diameter of the outer conductor was determined. Values for the cables being compared are given in Table 4.

As would be expected, the braided cables have the lowest bending moments, with the corrugated copper outer cables coming next and the semi-rigid cable having a substantially higher value. This is important in applications where the cable needs to be reposi-

tioned in service and for ease of installa-

Minimum Bend Radius — The minimum bend radius of a cable is important to determine whether a cable will fit in a given mechanical configuration. To determine this, the smallest radius on which the cable could be bent with a maximum 0.25 ohm change in characteristic impedance was determined. The values shown in Table 5 differ in some cases from the manufacturers' specifications

NA50325 has the smallest minimum bend radius because of its solid dielectric and solid shield. Braided cables have larger minimum bend radii because the braided outer conductor buckles and pulls away from the core resulting in a change in impedance.

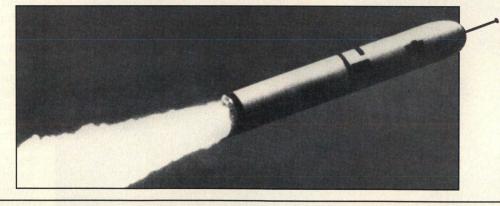
Corrugated copper tube outer conductor cables have small minimum bend radii, even though they use foam dielectrics, because the corrugations cause the tube to stay round during bending. FSJ4-50B has a smaller minimum bending radius than LDF2-50 because of its

deeper corrugations and higher density dielectric.

Crush Strength — Crush strength is a good indicator of the ruggedness of a cable and its ability to withstand abuse during installation and service. Crush strength was determined by applying a compressive force to the cable using a flat plate and measuring the force required to cause a 5 percent reduction of the cable's diameter. The values obtained are shown in Table 6 and differ in some cases from the manufacturers' specifications.

NA50325 with its thick, solid outer conductor has the highest crush strength. Nearly the same crush strength is achieved by FSJ4-50B because of its corrugated copper outer conductor, even though it is much thinner copper and the cable uses a foam dielectric instead of the solid dielectric in NA50325. LDF2-50 with its shallower corrugations and lower density foam dielectric has much lower crush strength than these two, but still substantially higher than the braided outer conductor

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88 November 1991

cables which rely on their solid dielectrics for their crush strength.

Weight — In airborne and shipboard applications, cable weight is important. Table 1 includes a comparison of the weights of the cables. The single copper braid of RG-213/U has the lowest weight, but this is at the sacrifice of attenuation and shielding performance as we have seen.

The solid copper shield of LDF2-50 and composite shield used in SF-214 are about 50 percent heavier than the RG-213/U braid but offer substantially better attenuation and shielding performance. The double braid of RG-214/U is nearly twice the weight of the RG-213/U shield, but still does not provide as good attenuation or shielding performance as the solid copper shield of LDF2-50 or the composite shield of SF-214.

The very deep, closely space corrugations of FSJ4/50B outer conductor cause its weight to be more than twice that of RG-213/U, but they also result in an unmatched combination of flexibility,

crush strength and excellent electrical characteristics. Semi-rigid NA50325 shield weighs slightly more than the shield of FSJ4-50B because it is thick walled copper. It also has excellent electrical characteristics, but lacks flexibility.

Conclusion

In this article we have shown a comparison between the main types of shields or outer conductors used on coaxial cables. The smooth wall copper outer conductor of semi-rigid cable provides ideal electrical performance, but the tradeoff is limited flexibility and high weight. Braided cables were shown to provide good flexibility, but low crush resistance, high attenuation and less effective shielding

Semi-flexible cables with their corrugated copper outer conductors represent an excellent alternative. Their electrical characteristics approach those of a smooth walled copper tube, but with lighter weight and better flexibility. Their flexibility approaches that of a braided

outer conductor cable, but with much higher crush strength, lower attenuation and more complete RF shielding.

All of the requirements of an application must be considered when selecting a coaxial cable. The information presented here is intended as a guide to help the RF design engineer in making the appropriate cable selection. The first step is to decide on the proper type of outer conductor. For both electrical and mechanical reasons corrugated copper is clearly a choice which offers many advantages.

About the Authors

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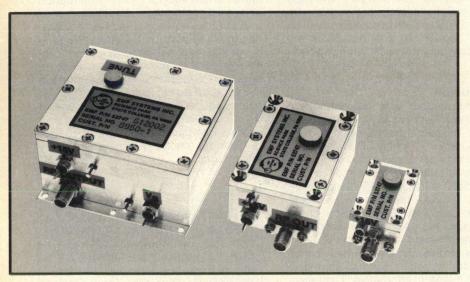


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SPECIFICATIONS					
	SERIES 500	SERIES 600			
Frequency	< 4 > 18 GHz	< 4 > 18 GHz			
Power Out	+ 10dbm (min.)	+ 10dbm (min.)			
Harmonics	> 20dbc	> 20dbc			
Spurious	> 70dbc	> 70dbc			
Input Voltage	+ 15VDC	+ 15VDC			
Temperature	-20° to +70°C	-20° to +70°C			
Pushing	<.03%/Volt (max.)				
Pulling	<.03% 1.5:1 (max.)				
Stability	3-5 ppm/°c	Int. Ref. + 30 ppm Ext. Ref. Same as Ref			
Phase Noise 10GHz	100dbc @10KHz	See Curve			
Input Current	40 ma Typ.	80ma Ext. Ref. 125ma Int. Ref.			
Package Outline	See Figure 1,2,3	See Figure 4-7			

SERIES 500 FREE RUNNING

SERIES 600 PHASE LOCKED

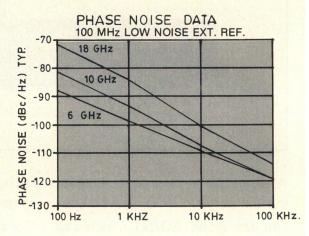
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EMF Systems Dielectric Resonator Oscillators feature low phase noise, rugged construction and the latest circuit techniques and components. Bipolar silicon transistors are used to approximately 10GHz and GaAs Fets above 10GHz.

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Series 600 are phase locked to internal or external references and are available with a lock alarm.

Options include regulators, isolators, buffer amplifiers, and temperature.



on Series 400

Ceramic Water-Cooled 20 kV Capacitor

Sprague-Goodman Electronics, Inc. has announced the addition of a new model, No. 40601, to the HWS Series of RadiocerTM power capacitors. These devices combine a 10,000 pF capacity and a 20 kV rating, and are designed for use in high frequency induction heating generators operating in the frequency range of 200 to 500 kHz. Other specifications include a nominal reactive power of 4000 kVAr, a nominal RMS current rating of 350 A, and an operating tempera-

ture range of 0 to 100 degrees C. The dimensions of the capacitor are 13.7 cm maximum diameter and 28.6 cm high. The tubular design offers the advantage of internal cooling. The HWS Series capacitors are coated with an elastomer for applications which may subject them to harsh environments. Prices start at under \$1,600 (up to 4 pieces).

Sprague-Goodman Electronics,

INFO/CARD #199



Power JFET

A silicon power JFET series capable of providing 10 dB gain with power outputs from 15 to 120 Watts has been introduced by Microwave Technology. These new devices offer excellent linearity and efficiency for mobile communications base stations.

Microwave Technology INFO/CARD #198

4.5 GHz Prescaler

Fluke will introduce a 4.5 GHz prescaler for the PM 6680 Timer/ counter. With this option, the PM 6680 provides complete timer/ counter functionality plus microwave counting. The PM 6680 has 19 measuring modes, 500 ps resolution, 2,000 readings per second, built-in math and statistics, and advanced arming capabilities. The unit is priced at \$2,100

John Fluke Mfg. Co., Inc. INFO/CARD #197

CMOS Oscillator

The CXO-HG series of tri-state CMOS oscillators has been extended up to 70.0 MHz and offers CMOS or TTL output drive capability. The tri-state output is perfect for automated testing or frequency switching applications. Choose the CXO63HG for a 14 DIP package or the CXO23HG for a 8 pin DIP package. The CXO63GA Series is for frequencies above 70.0 MHz

CTS Corp./Frequency Control Division INFO/CARD #196

GaAs FET

New silicon bipolar and GaAs hetero junction FETs have been introduced by NEC. The NE46134 Si bipolar has a 1.5 dB noise figure, and 1/2 watt power output. while the NE32400 and NE24200 are GaAs FETs for C to Ka-band applications with 0.6 noise figure at 12 GHz.

California Eastern Laboratories INFO/CARD #195

I and Q Modulator

Synergy Microwave Corporation has announced an off-theshelf 34:1 bandwidth, I & Q modulator (SSB modulator), quad IF mixer and QPSK modulator. Typical conversion loss is 9 dB, amplitude balance is ±0.5 dB, phase balance is ±10 degrees and VSWR is 1.5:1. These devices are supplied in either plugin or connectorized packages.

Synergy Microwave Corpora-

INFO/CARD #194

Microwave Power Transistor

Motorola has introduced a highgain, one watt microwave power transistor for use in large-signal output and driver amplifier stages operating in the frequency range of 1.0 to 4.0 GHz. The MRW 54602 power transistor is designed with all-gold metallization for improved reliability.

Motorola Inc./RF Products Divi-

INFO/CARD #193

Precision Trimmer Capacitors

Voltronics has produced a new line of sealed precision trimmer capacitors with Teflon replacing air as the dielectric. The voltage rating is 1,000 DC working volts and 2,000 DC withstanding volts. The capacitance range is 1 to 9 pF with a high Q.

Voltronics Corporation INFO/CARD #192

Parallel Plate Capacitors

Compex parallel plate capacitors are designed with bare ceramic borders on the top side for use in applications where conductive epoxy shorting is a problem. They are also useful where image recognition equipment reguires a distinction between the capacitor and any gold surface that it is mounted on.

Compex Corporation INFO/CARD #191

FM IF System

Signetics has introduced the NE/SA 606/607 FM receiver devices designed to dramatically shrink the size and power consumption of portable communication systems such as cellular and cordless phones, wireless LAN's and other communication systems.

Signetics Company INFO/CARD #190

Peak Power Meter

The Boonton 4400 peak power

meter covers a frequency range of 30 MHz to 40 GHz and its dynamic range extends from -40 to +20 dBm. Measurements are made at a rate of 40 to 70 measurements per second, and waveforms are digitized at a 1 MHz rate. The Model 4400 is available in single-channel for \$11,750 and two-channel \$13,000

Boonton Electronics Corpora-INFO/CARD #189

Substrate Test Fixture

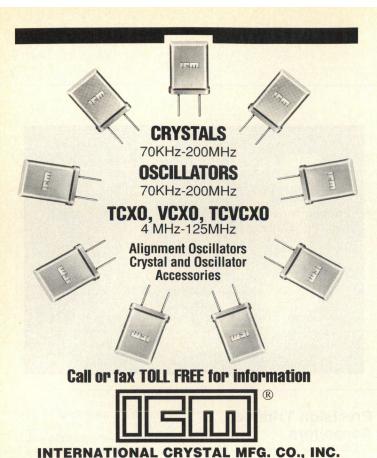
Inter-Continental Microwave has introduced a universal substrate test fixture for testing hybrid substrates separately or on carriers, DC to 50 GHz. It features moveable RF launches and DC probes, and ground contact is always maintained under the launch.

Inter-Continental Microwave INFO/CARD #188

Switching **Matrices**

A 19 inch rack mount IEEE-488 controllable RF switching matrices have been announced by Lorch Electronics. The units have up to 30 inputs by 30 outputs and an internal regulated power supply. Typical specifications are a 10 dB gain, 4 dB noise figure, 1.2:1 VSWR, and greater than 70 dB of isolation.

Lorch Electronics INFO/CARD #187



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INFO/CARD 70



RF expo products continued

Serenade PC and Microwave Harmonica PC

Compact Software, Inc. has introduced a new schematic editor for Super Compact, Microwave Harmonica and Success Simulators. Also shown is the new version of their linear/nonlinear simulator operating under DOS, Windows 3.0 or OS/2.

Compact Software, Inc. INFO/CARD #186

Spectrum Analyzers

The MS2601B/K series of advanced spectrum analyzers has the following features: accurate measurement of frequencies and levels; high speed measurement using the zone marker and zone sweep; EMI measurement functions; new analysis display functions and PTA.

Anritsu America Inc. INFO/CARD #185

New Products

Tele-Tech Corp. will be showing a host of new products including I-Q assemblies, frequency discriminators, power dividers and quadrature hybrids.

Tele-Tech Corp. INFO/CARD #184

Phase Locked Oscillators

TML is offering phase locked oscillators from .4 GHz to 14 GHz utilizing surface mount construction techniques to reduce production costs. Proprietary sampling techniques offer wide temperature and frequency ranges.

Tampa Microwave Lab, Inc. INFO/CARD #183

Power Amplifiers

Power Systems Technology. Inc. has announced the development of solid state high power amplifier model BHE4819-1000. The amplifier delivers 1000 watts CW output power in the frequency range of 400 to 1000 MHz, with an instantaneous bandwidth of 600 MHz. RF input is 1 mW for full output power.

Power Systems Technology,

INFO/CARD #182

Bonding PTFE Circuits to Heat Sinks

Poly Circuits has developed a new technology for bonding PTFE

circuits to heat sinks and various ground planes called FLEX LINK™ using an elastic electrically conductive bonding adhesive. This patented process is considerably less costly and more reliable than prebonded or 'sweating' process.

Poly Circuits INFO/CARD #181

Conduction Cooled Resistors

Florida RF Labs is offering a broad selection of high power conduction cooled resistors and terminations with power handling capabilities to 800 watts and a frequency range to 6.0 GHz.

Florida RF Labs. Inc. INFO/CARD #180

Network Analyzers

The HP8751A vector network analyzer combines high speed and accuracy with advanced features to meet demanding requirements from 5 Hz to 500 MHz. The HP 8711A is fully integrated 300 kHz to 1300 MHz component test system. Key features include a fast, synthesized source with 50 ms sweeps and 1 Hz resolution, 90 dB dynamic range, built-in disk drive and instrument BASIC.

Hewlett-Packard Company INFO/CARD #179

Multi-Pin Connector

A new Hermetic multi-pin connector that can be laser welded to any aluminum package/module has been announced by Balo Hermetics Company. The connector assembly features a flange that is weld compatible. It complies with MIL-C-83513 connector specifications and is available with 9, 15, 21 and 31 pins.

Balo Hermetics Company INFO/CARD #178

RF Circuit Simulation

iOMEGA features a wide range of RF models for passive and active elements and includes a full set of microwave transmission line models. Other features include interactive tuning, and performance and yield optimization. EEsof, Inc.

INFO/CARD #177

Inductors and **Transformers**

Vanguard Electronics is offering surface mount leadless power inductors and transformers to meet MIL-T-27/356 military specifications. Features include a compact low profile, surface mountable package having tin plated phosphor bronze terminations, and a frequency range of 100 kHz to 300 MHz.

Vanguard Electronics Company, Inc. INFO/CARD #176

Crystal Oscillator

The phase-locked crystal oscillator (PLXO) is a 16-pin, ceramic packaged device that provides frequency translation between telephone standard reference clocks associated with the DS-1, DS-1C, and CEPT-1 transmission rates. The internal phase locked loop provides two modes of operation.

AT&T Microelectronics INFO/CARD #175

Amplifiers, Mixers Converters

Locus, Inc. will be showing many new products with an operating frequency of base band through 18 GHz. These products include image reject mixers, quadrature hybrids, low noise amplifiers, solid state power amplifiers and redundant amplifier systems. Locus. Inc.

INFO/CARD #174

Cellular Direct I/Q Modulators

Anzac has announced the new EQKR8 Series I and Q modulators that offer direct modulation/ demodulation at carrier frequencies of up to 1 GHz. These units, available in standard 8 pin relay headers, provide quadrature input and cover 25 MHz bandwidths.

M/A-COM, Inc. INFO/CARD #173

Low Frequency Amplifier

ENI's Model 1140LA RF power amplifier produces up to 1100 watts of linear Class B output over the frequency range of 9 kHz to 250 kHz. Up to 1600 watts is available from 11 to 75 kHz; extended range performance is possible with somewhat reduced output power and linearity. Along with a gain of 55 dB, the 1140LA features advanced thermal and mismatch protection circuitry.

INFO/CARD #172

Four Channel Preselector Switch

Sierra Microwave Technology has introduced a four channel preselector capable of selecting lumped element filters with bandwidths from 10 percent to 100 percent in the 0.5 to 6 GHz frequency range. Passband insertion loss is typically less than 5 dB at a maximum VSWR of 1.5:1. Rejection is greater than 60 dB at all frequencies from DC to 12 GHz.

Sierra Microwave Technology INFO/CARD #171

Spectrum Analyzer

The R3265 microwave spectrum analyzer covers the range 100 Hz to 8 GHz. It has user defined menus, 50 microsecond sweep, noise levels in high sensitivity mode as low as -140 dBm and a variety of user oriented features.

Advantest INFO/CARD #170

Cable Bending Tool

Applied Specialties Inc. has introduced a new cable bending fixture for construction of semi-rigid coaxial assemblies.

Applied Specialties Inc. INFO/CARD #169

Linear Amplifier

Part number PF880-39 is a 8 watt, Class A, linear amplifier covering the 869 to 896 MHz range. This amplifier features 40 dB of gain over 27 MHz of band width, power output at the 1 dB compression point is 39 dBm. Applications include cellular radio, PCN network and digital trunk base stations.

Trontech INFO/CARD #168

Low Noise OXCOs

Series CO-724SI2 OCXO provides a low noise +7 dBm output at any frequency in the 25 through 140 MHz range in a $2 \times 2 \times 1$ inch pat $\frac{1}{2}$ ge. Temperature stability is $\pm 5 \times 10^{-9}$ over 0 C to +50 C and $\pm 5 \times 10^{-9}$ over -55 C to +85 C. Aging is 2×10^{-9} per day, 5×10^{-7} per year. Phase noise at 100 Hz is -130 dBc/Hz and at 50 kHz is -157 dBc/Hz.

Vectron Laboratories, Inc. INFO/CARD #167

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RF expo products continued

Oven Controlled Crystal Oscillator

Piezo Technology, Inc. has developed a new miniature oven controlled crystal oscillator. PTI Model XO5002C offers a standard ±.02 ppm stability over the temperature range of -30 to +70 C. The standard frequency is 10.0 MHz with optional frequencies available between 9.0 and 16.0 MHz

Piezo Technology, Inc. INFO/CARD #166

Integrated Switching Subassemblies

JFW Industries' current attention has been focused upon the design, development and manufacturing of integrated switching subassemblies. Each unit is available with operating software. P.C., RS-232 or IEEE-488 are control options, and DC or AC powered versions are available.

JFW Industries, Inc. INFO/CARD #165

Surface Mount Mixer

EDSI/RF Prime has introduced a small 3 GHz surface mount mixer with a conversion loss of 9 dB at a low input of 7 dBm.

EDSI/RF Prime INFO/CARD #164

RF Modem

RF Modem is a "plug-and-play" unit that provides wireless data communication between microprocessor-based devices. The RF Modem, which does not require any FCC site license, is fully compatible with most hardwire communication interfaces, providing high speed, multi-node, or point-to-point local network of distances up to 500 feet.

Proxim, Inc. INFO/CARD #163

Tunable Bandpass Filter

Integrated Microwave Corporation has introduced a 5-Band, micrometer tunable bandpass filter. Features include a tuning range of ±8 percent, a 1.5 dB bandwidth of 8 MHz min., 20 dB bandwidth of 60 MHz max., 50 dB bandwidth of 200 MHz max., and VSWR of 1.5:1.

Integrated Microwave Corporation

INFO/CARD #162

Low Noise, Power Amplifiers

Amplidyne, Inc. has introduced cellular low noise and power amplifiers for radio links in the 1.7, 2.3 GHz frequency range. The solid state LNA's and power amplifiers are used for PCN and GSM applications.

Amplidyne, Inc. INFO/CARD #161

Low Pass Filters

Sawtek has developed a series of low-loss filters for use in both cellular site and subscriber GSM/PCN applications. Features include small size, single level fabrication, quartz temperature stability, standard fixed value component matching and low cost. The center frequency can be placed anywhere from 20 MHz to 400 MHz with a 1 dB bandwidth that will accommodate the 200 kHz passband requirement typical of GSM/PCN applications.

Sawtek Incorporated INFO/CARD #160

Motorola Products

Motorola has introduced four new products. The MC33110 is the latest audio processing device in Motorola's communications portfolio. The MC13135 is a second generation dual conversion receiver aimed at consumer and professional FM radio designs. The MC13175/13176 is the first monolithic crystal controlled UHF transmitter subsystem. The MC33218 is a third generation hands free speaker phone IC.

Motorola Inc. INFO/CARD #159

Standard Waveguide Horns

A complete range of standard waveguide horns, double ridge multioctave band horns and dual polarized horns has been announced by Antenna Research Associates, Inc.

Antenna Research Associates, Inc.

INFO/CARD #158

High Power Low Pass Filters

TTE has introduced miniature 9 pole Chebyshev low pass filters covering the range of 250 kHz to 100 MHz. Features include power levels up to 250 watts CW and a

small size of 2×4 × .25 inches high. TTE, Incorporated INFO/CARD #157

Synthesized Pulse/ Function Generator

Wavetek has announced a new 20 MHz synthesized pulse/function generator. Its pulse capability generates pulses to 50 MHz and square waves to 100 MHz. The Model 91 provides a source of sine, triangle and square waveforms with 15 volts peak-to-peak output into 50 ohms.

Wavetek San Diego, Inc. INFO/CARD #156

Ultra Low Noise Transistors

The ATF-35 family of ultra-lownoise GaAs pseudomorphic highelectron-mobility transistors offer noise figures as low as 0.75 dB at 12 GHz with 11 dB associated gain. These transistors are provided in a new commercial-grade 0.070 inch metal/ceramic microstrip surface-mount package.
Avantek
INFO/CARD #155

Solid State Amplifier

The new Model 300A100 all solid state broadband amplifier delivers 300 watts minimum linear (less than 1 dB compression) over its 10 kHz to 100 MHz bandwidth. Typical applications are RF susceptibility testing, antenna and component testing, and wattmeter calibration.

Amplifier Research INFO/CARD #154

Test Cable Assemblies

Rugged, multi-use, phase stable cable assemblies offered by Applied Engineering Products are manufactured in standard three foot lengths. AEP cable assemblies utilize high quality, heavy duty low loss cable and are fabricated with captive contact, passivated SMA plugs per MIL-C-39012. Assemblies are also avail-

able with precision type N-plugs, SMA jacks or any combination of connectors.

Applied Engineering Products INFO/CARD #153

Instrument Test Cable

This instrument test cable is designed for the phase, amplitude, and VSWR stability requirements of the HP 8510 or Wiltron 360 Vector Automatic Network Analyzers operating to 40 GHz. The Model 2030-0024-8785 provides stability under normal flexing and stressing of the laboratory environment.

M/A-COM Adams-Russell INFO/CARD #152

High Bandwidth CATV Modules

New CATV modules from Philips Semiconductors have sufficient bandwidth to carry 110 TV channels. BGY600 series amplifier modules and BGD600 series power doubler modules have a bandwidth of 40 to 600 MHz, while BGY700 and BGD700 series devices offer bandwidth extension to 750 MHz.

Philips Semiconductors INFO/CARD #151

Simulation and Analysis Software

LINMIC+ is a suite of modules integrating simulation, optimization, global noise analysis, parameter extraction and layout generation. Developed by Jansen Microwave and distributed and supported by Eagleware.

Eagleware INFO/CARD #150

Interference Tracker

The PLI-150 is an instrument designed to find AC power distribution sources of radiated RF interference. The system includes a hand-held receiver, antennas, mounts, and carrying case.

Trilithic, Inc. INFO/CARD #149

N S 0 C Take Control... Call to discuss your application and take Over the last forty years, M/A-COM has built its reputation through leadership control of your project today. and technical innovation. But you don't M/A-COM Control Components Division PIN Diode Switches 2-18 GHz have to wait that long to build yours. 21 Continental Boulevard PIN Diode Limiters 10 MHz to When you need Solid State Control Merrimack, NH 03054-4343 18 GHz Tel: USA (603)424-4111 Components now, rely on M/A-COM's Double Balanced Mixers 2-18 GHz UK (0734)580833 leadership to validate your design and TTL PIN Diode Switch Drivers get your product to the market fast. Japan 03(226)1671 Hermetically or Environmentally M/A-COM now offers stock delivery on a Sealed Units and Drop-In & Connecwide range of Control Components: torized Units Available.



Watch for even more great prizes!



The Circuit Design Contest Grand Prize is a HP 8711A Vector Network Analyzer from Hewlett-Packard! This analyzer provides insertion loss, gain, power return loss and SWR measurements from 300 kHz to 1300 MHz with 1 Hz resolution and 90 dB narrowband dynamic range, 66 dB broadband. A 50 ms full band sweep means fast measurements, and the built-in reflection test set has 40 dB directivity and 20 dB port match. Internal computing power offers complete marker options (eight of them), direct printer and plotter control, and stored measurement routines. Provided by Hewlett-Packard, Network Measurements Division.

1992 RF Design Awards Contest Official Rules

The 1992 RF Design Awards Contest provides recognition for innovation and engineering excellence among RF designers. Prizes are donated by companies which recognize the importance of creative engineering ideas.

Again this year, there are two separate entry categories, and two sets of prizes. Please note that the rules may not be the same as previous years' contests.

I. The DESIGN Contest

RULES

- 1) Entries shall be circuits with an RF function, operating in the below-3 GHz frequency range.
- 2) Circuits entered shall have a complexity equivalent to that of a circuit using 8-10 discrete active devices, or 6-8 integrated circuits. The entry can be a portion of a larger system. This rule is intended to make judging equitable by maintaining a degree of similarity among entries.
- 3) Entries which emphasize design methods should include an example circuit. Entries demonstrating a test method should include a description of the device or system under test.
- 4) The entries shall be the original work of the entrant, not previously published. If developed as part of the entrant's employment, entries must have the employer's approval for submission.

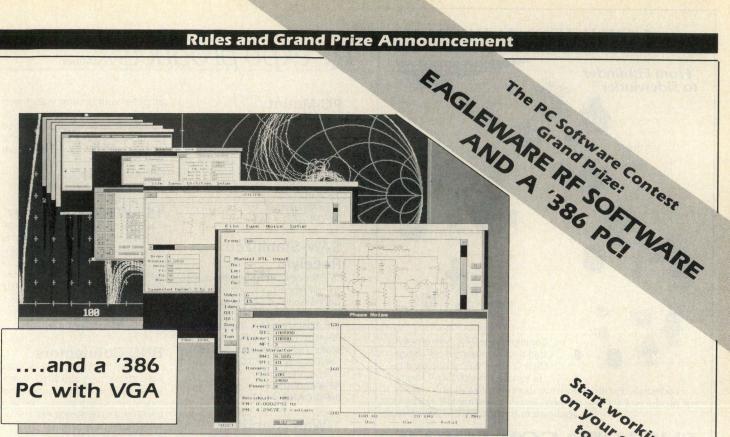
- 5) A maximum of two entries per person is permitted. An entry may have two or more co-authors.
- 6) Submission of an entry implies permission for publication by RF Design. All prize-winning entries will be published, plus additional entries of merit.
- 7) Winners are responsible for any taxes, duties, or other assessments which result from the receipt of their prizes.
- 8) Entries must be postmarked by March 20, 1992 and received no later than March 27, 1992.
- (9 All entries will remain confidential until the publication of the July 1992 issue of RF Design.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Originality — Each design will be evaluated for similarity to work by others, unusual application of a device or technique, and other factors which represent unique contributions.

Engineering — Since engineering is a problem-solving profession, entries should clearly identify the purpose of the entry, and how it was created in response to a need.

Documentation — A complete description of the circuit or technique is required, including sufficient theoretical background, explanation of circuit operation, and performance data.



The PC Software Contest Grand Prize begins with a complete set of RF design software from Eagleware, including: =SuperStar= circuit simulator with optimization; the new =MATCH= active or passive matching program; =FILTER= synthesis package for filters and equalizers; =OSCILLATOR= for synthesis of L-C, SAW, crystal and T-line oscillators; and the =TLINE = physical and electrical parameter calculation program.

PLUS — A complete '386 computer system, with math coprocessor, 80 Mbyte hard drive, VGA graphics card, VGA monitor and mouse. System set-up and software installation is included. All this provided by Eagleware.

II. The PC SOFTWARE Contest

RULES

1) Each entry shall be a computer program which assists in the design, test, or contol of RF circuits.

2) Programs must operate on computers compatible with MS-DOS/PC-DOS or Apple Macintosh operating systems. Any special hardware requirements should be noted (i.e., memory, graphics).

3) Programs should be provided in a form that can be run without special support software. For example, programs written in languages other than GWBASIC/BASICA should be provided in compiled, directly executable form. Programs operating within spreadsheets or mathematics packages cannot be accepted unless they are capable of operating stand-alone.

4) Entries must be submitted on disk, along with supporting documentation on theory of operation, references, operating instructions, and source code. Supporting material must be supplied in printed form.

5) The entries shall be the original work of the entrant, not previously published or distributed (including public access BBS or shareware). If developed as part of the entrant's employment, entries must have the employer's approval for submission.

6) A maximum of two entries per person is permitted. An entry may have two or more co-authors.

7) Submission of an entry implies permission for publication

by RF Design and distribution by the RF Design Software Service. All prize-winning entries will be published, plus additional entries of merit. Some restrictions on publication and distribution of source code may be acceptable.

8) Winners are responsible for any taxes, duties, or other assessments which result from the receipt of their prizes.

9) Entries must be postmarked by March 20, 1992 and received no later than March 27, 1992.

10) All entries will remain confidential until the publication of the July 1992 issue of RF Design.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Technical Merit — Computer programs will be compared to accepted standards for accuracy. They will also be judged for achievement in translating RF theory into software tools.

Usefulness — The value of the software to the RF engineering community will be evaluated. Both the merit of the subject matter and the operation of the program will be considered.

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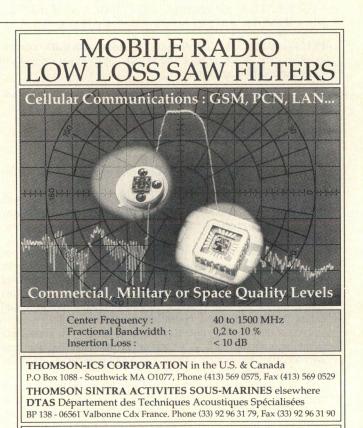
NMR-4, a 15 kW solid-state RF amplifier for NMR and MRI is announced by Erbtec Engineering. Self-protection circuitry is included to monitor operation. Current models cover 40-80 MHz and 155-180 MHz.

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Analysis of Phase Noise in Oscillators

By Jonathon Y.C. Cheah Hughes Network Systems

Designing a PLL for communications equipment often requires the design engineer to optimize its phase noise variance to meet a specific system requirement, such as the Bit Error Rate (BER). Although theoretical analyses can estimate the phase noise contents a priori, on-the-bench effort is inevitably needed. The debugging process is greatly expedited if one can determine the areas where the unwanted energy can be minimized.

This program provides a means for analyzing the output of phase noise measurements during debugging. It allows the designer to have a clear picture of the problem areas and keeps track of the BER performance degradation contributions from the PLL. In some cases, the use of this analysis can quickly pin-point the problems with a faulty design if the predicted noise variance profile differs significantly from the measured. For instance, common problems such as a bad loop filter or an out-of-specification VCO are discernable from the plots generated.

Theory

Following Rohde's (1) analysis on the power law model for phase noise spectral density,

$$S(f) = Kf^{x}$$
 (1)

Equation 1 can be reorganized as a straight line equation by taking the logarithmic values on both sides of the equation.

$$logS = xlogf + logK$$
 (2)

The gradient x and K, the anti-log of the intercept point, can easily be found by knowing 2 consecutive points (dBc_1f_1) and (dBc_2f_2) of the phase noise spectral density profile.

$$x = \frac{dBc_2 - dBc_1}{10(logf_2 - logf_1)}$$
 (3)

$$K = 10$$

$$= \frac{10^{\frac{dBc_1}{10} - x \log f_1}}{f_1^x}$$
(4)

Then, the phase noise variance can be conveniently expressed as σ^2 ,

$$\sigma^{2} = \int_{f_{1}}^{f_{2}} S(f)df$$

$$= \int_{f_{1}}^{f_{2}} Kf^{x}df \qquad (5)$$

$$= \frac{K}{x+1} \left(f_{2}^{x+1} - f_{1}^{x+1} \right) \quad \text{for } x \neq -1$$

$$= K(\log f_{2} - \log f_{1}) \quad \text{for } x = -1$$

It can be seen that the results are rather complicated expressions of x and K. A simple logarithmic manipulation and substituting x = -1 allows the following expressions to be derived,

For
$$x = -1$$

$$\sigma^2 = 10^{\frac{dBc_1}{10}} f_1 \log \frac{f_2}{f_1}$$
 (6)

For $x \neq -1$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{f_1}{x+1} \left(\left[\frac{f_2}{f_1} \right]^{x+1} - 1 \right) 10^{\frac{dBc_1}{10}} \tag{7}$$

With the knowledge of the noise variance, it is important to know how much of this noise energy a particular communication system can tolerate within its link performance limitations in terms of signal to noise ratio losses. It is often

not prudent to demand the best possible phase noise specifications. For an optimum commercial product design, cost is the primary design driver. It is still not uncommon to find excessively good phase noise specifications with respect to link budget performance in commercial products, especially in satellite ground equipment.

The effect of phase noise has different degrees of impact on the system's performance dependent on the modulation type. It is appropriate, however, to consider the spectrum efficient modulations such as PSK.

The performance degradation of phase noise effect on digital communications can be characterized by the increase in the energy per bit to noise ratio, $E_{\rm b}/N_{\rm o}$, necessary to achieve the same bit error rate. The additional signal energy needed to overcome the degradation is accounted for in the system's implementation loss margin in a link budget.

From the above analysis, the value $\sigma 2$ represents an RMS SSB phase noise variance. Therefore, the noise contribution for both side bands can be expressed as

$$\varrho = \sqrt{2}\sigma \tag{8}$$

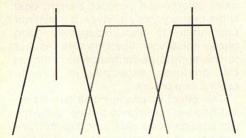
In Reference 1, a 3 dB addition to spectral density is recomended to convert the SSB phase noise variance into a DSB one. For clarity, the factor 2 is explicitly expressed in ϱ .

To obtain the BER degradation expression, it is necessary to select a suitable model for the probability density function of the loop phase error ϕ . For a first order PLL with zero detuning, i.e. without loop stress, the Tikhonov density function is typically used (2). However, without the assumption of any loop elements, a Gaussian density function is more suitable here. From Reference 3, the conditional probability of error averaged over ϕ is,

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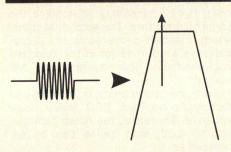
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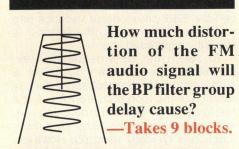
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$$P_{e} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\varrho} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\phi^{2}}{2\varrho^{2}}\right) \operatorname{erfc} \quad (9)$$

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_{bi}}{N_o}}\cos\phi\right)d\phi$$

Where $\operatorname{erfc}(x)$ is the complementary error function. $E_{\rm bi}/N_{\rm o}$ is the ratio of energy per bit over noise. Bit energy is used here rather than symbol energy because the basic Pe curve will be universally true irrespective of the M'ary nature of the modulation of interest.

For $\varrho=0$ or a small ϱ , which is the region of interest, the computation is very difficult using this direct form. To overcome this problem, a simple parametric substitution is made:

let $\phi = \varrho \phi$, then the probability function can be written as:

$$P_{e} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\theta^{2}}{2}\right) \operatorname{erfc}$$
 (10)

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_{bi}}{N_o}}\cos\theta\varrho\right)d\theta$$

In this way, the singularity in the region of interest is removed. The equivalent QPSK probability of error can be derived in a similar manner.

$$P_{e} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\theta^{2}}{2}\right) \left[\text{erfc} \right]$$

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_{bi}}{N_{o}}} \left(\cos \varrho \theta + \sin \varrho \theta \right) \right)$$

+ erfc
$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{2E_{bi}}{N_o}}\left(\cos\varrho\theta - \sin\varrho\theta\right)\right]d\theta$$

Program Description

More than 50 percent of the length of this program is taken up by the plotting routines. This is a necessary evil for the program to be useful. This program was written in a manner so that only modest computing resources are needed. The plotting routine library used was IPC-MF-006 from Quinn-Curtis, and if recompilation of this program is desired, the

200.00, -60.038 400.00, -65.371 600.00, -63.705 800.00, -58.538 1000.00, -61.871 1200.00, -63.538 1400.00, -59.705 1600.00, -55.371 1800.00, -58.038 2000.00, -57.438 4000.00, -63.271 5000.00, -62.167 6000.00, -64.938 8000.00, -64.271 10000.00, -63.302 12000.00, -64.271 14000.00, -64.271 15000.00, -59.500 16000.00, -62.271 18000.00, -65.105 20000.00, -64.292 25000.00, -66.833 30000.00, -73.333 35000.00, -72.833 40000.00, -76.386 45000.00, -77.167 50000.00, -78.000 60000.00, -84.271 80000.00, -86.605 100000.00, -93.271 120000.00, -95.938 140000.00, -96.771 160000.00, -96.605 180000.00, -101.271 200000.00, -99.205 400000.00, -105.471 600000.00, -108.638 800000.00, -108.471 1000000.00, -109.638 1200000.00, -112.971 1400000.00, -113.305 1600000.00, -111.471 1800000.00, -111.805 2000000.00, -110.971

Figure 1. The structure of the "PH-NOISE.TXT" file. The first column contains the values of the frequency offsets from the carrier in Hz, and the second, the measured phase noise spectral density in dBc/Hz. The file should be terminated with 0.0 frequency. This set of measurement data belongs to a carrier of a VSAT transmitter at 14.25 GHz.

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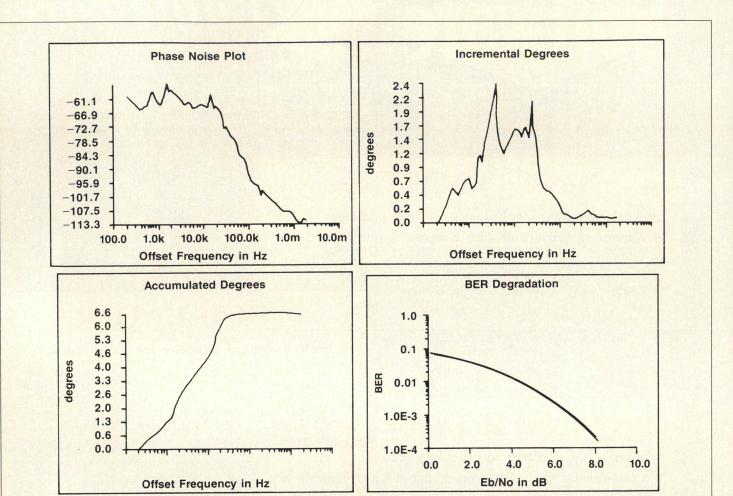


Figure 2. This figure is produced by "PH-NOISE.PS". This is what the VGA screen shows when running "PH-NOISE.EXE". In the VGA screen, all the active data plots are shown in red.

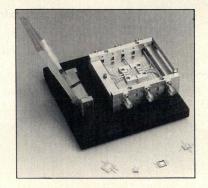
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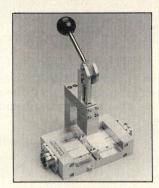


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library can be obtained at a reasonable cost. The compiler used was Microsoft Fortran Compiler 5.0. Simple routines for erfc and integration functions are included to avoid the need for more professional libraries such as IMSL.

The erfc function routine is adapted from Reference 4 and more efficient integral routines than the one used in this program can also be found in there.

The flow of the program follows the equations derived above directly and it should be self explanatory. The ease of modifying this program to enhance or extract any part of this analysis is carefully maintained. One can perhaps get a high resolution plot of the BER curves with the change of only a few parameters.

The program begins by looking for a file called "PH-NOISE.TXT" which contains the spectral density measurement data. From this file, this program produces 3 files. "PH-NOISE.DAT" gives all the intermediate values of the noise variance calculation in units of degrees RMS. "BER.DAT" gives the theoretical BER versus $E_{\rm bi}/N_{\rm o}$ data and the phase noise degraded data. "PH-NOISE.PS" is a post-script file which allows the plots shown on a VGA screen to be plotted on a laser printer.

Instructions

This program runs on an IBM AT 286/386 with a VGA monitor. As the program requires rather lengthy processor time, it is recommended that these faster machines be used. The run-time on a typical 12.5 MHz IBM AT 286 clone with a 287 co-processor is about 3 minutes. A 25 MHz 386 without a co-processor takes about 11 minutes, and it takes 45 seconds if a 387 co-processor is used. The program will need a Microsoft Fortran Compiler 5.0 *.FON library at "C:\FOR" directory. This directory pathname can be changed by changing the "INITSEGRAPHICS" call in the "PH-NOISE.FOR" file.

The compiled program can be made portable and be independent of the Microsoft Fortran Compiler library by copying "COURB.FON" from the library into the same directory as "PHNOISE.EXE" or into "C:\FOR".

An ASCII file "PH-NOISE.TXT" containing the spectral density of the oscillator under test has to be present in the same directory as the program. The construction of the file is shown in Figure 1. The offset frequency step in Hz need not be uniform and can be of any step size to suit the convenience of

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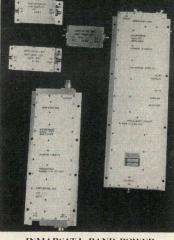
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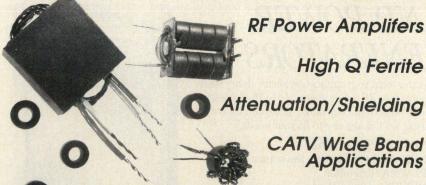
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This month's program: RFD-1191

"Analysis of Phase Noise in Oscillators" by Jonathon Y.C. Cheah. Analyzes phase noise mathematically to assist in identifying problem areas when troubleshooting PLLs. (FORTRAN, compiled version and source code — see article about modifying the program)

October programs: RFD-1091

"RF Calculation Programs for DOS" by Jouni Verronen. Includes the RF Calculations program for resonant circuits, and the T-Line program with Smith chart display and microstrip calculations. (QuickBASIC source code plus compiled versions for EGA/VGA).

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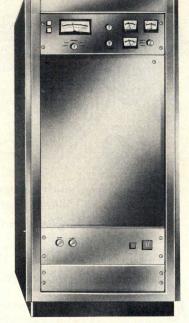
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the measurement. The unit of the spectral density is dBc/Hz, thus if the spectral density measurement is done by a spectrum analyzer, then it is necessary to normalize the raw measurement data by the analyzer's résolution bandwidth. For example, if the resolution bandwidth used is 1 kHz, and the raw spectral level is measured as -30 dBc, then the spectral density in this case is -60 dBc/Hz. For a more accurate measurement, it is also necessary to use smaller frequency spans to measure the side band levels in contiguous segments. A detailed description of the measurement technique can be found in Reference 5.

The selection of the noise bandwidth of interest is dependent on the system's requirements. For example, in a typical PSK demodulator with matched filters, one need not be too concerned with noise energy within the receiver AFC loop bandwidth $\omega_{\rm afc}$ offset from the oscillator frequency. Also the noise energy that is higher in frequency than the signal bandwidth $\omega_{\rm sig}$ offset from the carrier will be rejected. Thus, the phase noise measurement of interest can be confined to frequency offsets of 1.67 π ω , to 2.4 $\pi\omega$, approximately.

 $\omega_{\rm afc}$ to 2.4 $\pi\omega_{\rm sig}$ approximately. In this program, only BPSK modulation is assumed. QPSK modulation also can be implemented very easily by using the expression derived above. Figure 2 shows the output of the post-script laser printer which is also the VGA screen output.

This program is available from the RF Design Software Service. See ad on this page for ordering information. RF

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- 2. J.K. Holmes, *Coherent Spread Spectrum Systems*, NY, John Wiley and Sons, 1982.
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- 4. W.H. Press, et al, *Numerical Recipes*, NY, Cambridge University Press, 1989. 5. K. Feher, *Telecommunications Measurements*, *Analysis*, and *Instrumenta-*

About the Author

tion, NJ, Prentice-Hall, 1987.

Dr. Jonathon Cheah is a Senior Principal Engineer at Hughes Network Systems. He may be reached at 10790 Roselle St., San Diego, CA 92121. Tel: (619) 546-1953.

Simple SMT Bridge Circuit Mimics Ultra-Broadband Coupler

By Joel Dunsmore Hewlett-Packard

Directional couplers are often used in microwave systems to sample or combine signals, and an RF version can be quite useful. Traditional microwave couplers are only a few octaves wide, and are unsuitable for the many decades of frequency range used in the RF world. RF transformers are generally not useful up to the GHz frequency range. The design presented here is a unique implementation of a resistive (Wheatstone type) bridge, with loss, coupling and directivity closely matching coupler characteristics over a frequency range of kilohertz to gigahertz. This circuit was entered in the 1991 RF Design Awards Contest.

Directional couplers have the characteristics of low loss in the through path, flat frequency response in the coupled path, and high isolation in the reverse coupling path (directivity), Figure 1. Ideal couplers are lossless, that is, no energy is absorbed in the coupler. An ideal, lossless coupler with 16 dB coupling factor would have only 0.11 dB of loss. In practice, all couplers have through arm loss. For applications other than high power, this loss, often about

1 dB, is acceptable. These applications include power leveling, and signal sampling for phase- and frequency-locked loops.

The Resistive Bridge

The two key characteristics of directional couplers, as the name implies, are the ability to sample (or couple) signal flow, and to do so in only one direction. A resistive bridge, if driven in the proper way, also has this directional property. Figure 2 shows a bridge structure. A sample of the drive voltage is present across each resistor. If the bridge is balanced, $R_1 \times R_3 = R_4 \times R_5$, then no voltage appears across R_2 . For balance, a bridge often has all the resistors the same value, say 50 ohms, but balance only requires that the ratios of each string be equal $(R_1/R_5 = R_4/R_3)$.

Figure 3a shows a bridge with non-symmetric resistors, driven in the forward signal flow direction. In this case the voltages across certain nodes have been labeled consistent with the coupler in Figure 1. For the resistors chosen, V_{coup} is 16 dB down from V_{p1} (16 dB coupling), and V_{p2} is 1.5 dB down from

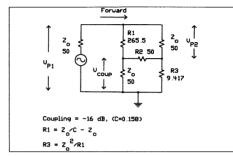


Figure 3a. Bridge/coupler driven in the forward direction.

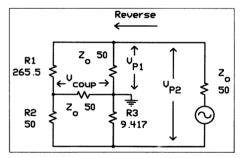


Figure 3b. Bridge/coupler driven in the reverse direction. Note that V_{coup} is across the balanced node.

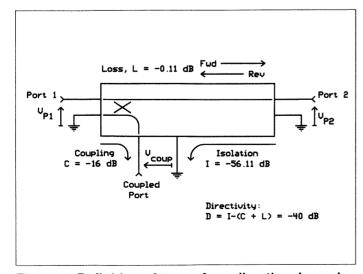


Figure 1. Definition of terms for a directional coupler.

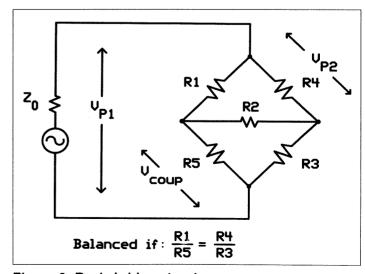


Figure 2. Basic bridge structure.

 ${
m V_{p1}}$ (1.5 dB loss). The equations shown in Figure 3a demonstrate how to calculate resistance values for any coupling factor. The directional nature of the bridge is demonstrated by redrawing the figure to put a voltage source in series with the ${
m V_{p2}}$ resistor, and "stretching" the remaining elements about to achieve Figure 3b. Note that none of the connections have been changed, except mov-

ing the drive voltage from port 1 (V_{p1} resistor) to port 2 (V_{p2} resistor). Drawn this way, it is easy to see that no voltage appears across the coupler port ($V_{coup} = 0$), as the bridge is balanced when driven in this fashion.

In the RF implementation of this bridge, the $V_{\rm p1}$ resistor represents the port 1 impedance (50 ohms in this case), the $V_{\rm coup}$ resistor represents the coupled

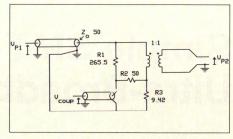


Figure 4. Bridge/coupler realization with coax ports on port 1 and coupled port and transformer on port 2.

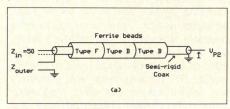


Figure 5a. Coax balun.

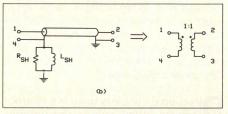


Figure 5b. Coax balun implementation of a 1:1 transformer showing parasitic shunt impedance.

port impedance, and V_{p2} resistor represents the port 2 impedance. The difficulty with this structure is that port 2 must be isolated from ground; this may be accomplished with a transformer of some sort. Figure 4 shows a diagram of the bridge, with the port 1 and coupled port represented by coaxial transmission lines, and port 2 isolated by a transformer. The 1:1 transformer may be realized in a clever way by using a ferrite loaded coaxial transmission line balun.

Coax Balun Structure

The implementation of the 1:1 transformer might use a simple wire-wound core, but the low frequency response is limited by the mutual inductance, and it is difficult to maintain a constant impedance at high frequency. The 1:1 transformer function can be approximated by using a length of coaxial cable, with a ferrite bead on the outer conductor, Figure 5a. This forms a balun, which has a constant 50 ohms impedance from the inner to outer conductor. One or more



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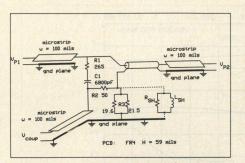


Figure 6. Final microstrip implementation of the bridge coupler.

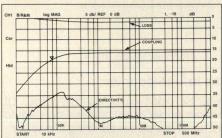


Figure 7. Low frequency response of the bridge/coupler.

ferrite beads raises the impedance of the outer conductor to ground by the impedance of the bead. In the bridge structure, this is a parasitic impedance which may be modeled as a resistor in parallel with an inductor, from the outer conductor to ground, Figure 5b. In the implementation used, the beads were of varying inductive index, with one Ferronics type F bead (#21-083-F), and three type B beads (2 of 21-129-B, and 1 of 21-083-B). These beads were chosen because they fit on standard 0.086 semi-rigid coax. Varying the inductive index allows using a high frequency, low permeability (µ) bead (type F) near the bridge structure, with a low frequency, high μ bead following to raise the low frequency inductance.

The final implementation of the circuit is shown in Figure 6. Here, micro-strip transmission lines are used for port 1 and the coupled port. The coax balun described above is used as the 1:1 transformer to port 2. Surface mount resistors are used for the resistive elements. Note here that the 9.4 ohm resistor (R3) is replaced with two resistors in parallel, with values of 19.6 and 21.5 ohms. The parasitic effect of the ferrite beads on the outer conductor is shown connected across R₃ by dotted lines

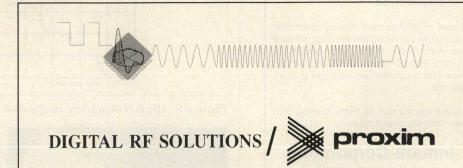
Another addition to the final implementation is a capacitor, C_1 , in series with R_1 . It will block DC from the main

arm path, such that no current will flow in the resistors of the bridge. This is important as some situations may have DC bias at the center conductor of the main arm, such as at the output of an amplifier. In the actual implementation, C₁ was chosen to be the standard value of 6800 pF.

Figure 7 shows the low frequency performance of the bridge/coupler on a

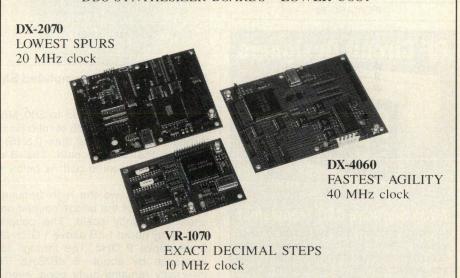
log frequency scale. It is remarkable that the directivity remains better than 30 dB down to 100 kHz. The "bump" in the low end directivity is due to changes in inductance of the ferrite beads. It may be reduced by selecting a better value for C₁. Above 300 kHz, the directivity is better than 40 dB to 500 MHz.

The loss and coupling are also shown,



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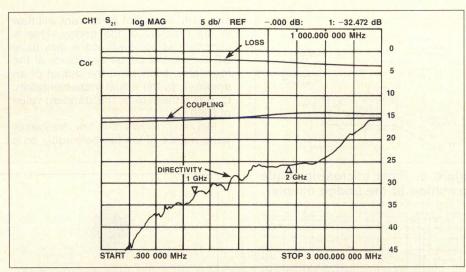


Figure 8. High frequency response of the bridge/coupler.

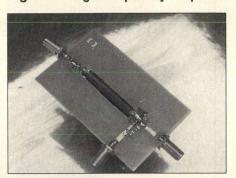


Figure 9. Photo of completed SMT bridge circuit.

in the range of 300 kHz to 500 MHz, there is less than 0.25 dB of rolloff in the through path, and less than 0.5 dB of rolloff in the coupled path. The -3 dB rolloff in the coupled path is below 80 kHz.

Figure 8 shows the high frequency performance of the bridge/coupler on a linear frequency scale. The coupling rolls up by about 1 dB above 1 GHz, and 2 dB above 2 GHz. The through loss increases by about .5 dB/GHz. The directivity remains quite good, even at high frequencies, with 32 dB directivity at 1 GHz, and 26 dB directivity at 2 GHz. I must admit, though, that a small piece of copper tape was used to tune out discontinuities of the input connector to improve the match. A measurement of the source match of the bridge/ coupler revealed better than 30 dB match to 1 GHz, and better than 21 dB match to 2 GHz.

The power handling capability is determined by the maximum power dissipated in the SMT resistors. In this case, $\rm R_1$ has the highest dissipation. For $\rm R_1$ rated at 0.125 watts, the drive power

may be 0.937 watts, or 29.7 dBm. Of course, larger or multiple resistors would increase the power handling capability.

The bridge/coupler built with SMT parts, and using the standard available ferrites and coax line, can be built for less than \$5.00, not including the connectors. Because it is built in PC board material, it can be integrated in an RF PC board for very low cost, while providing very nice performance.

The low frequency measurements were made on an HP 8751 Network Analyzer, and the high frequency measurements were made on an HP 8753C Network Analyzers.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Wayne Frederick for contributions to the thin film bridge detector which was the seed for a family of resistive bridge couplers. The ferrite beads were from Ferronics Inc.

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A Vertical Mounting Construction Technique for RF Power Modules

By Fulvio Perri Itelco, S.p.A.

The new generation of solid-state transmitters operating up to UHF involves the design of amplifier modules which handle high power levels over a wide range of frequencies. Generally specifications for these "building blocks" are very strict in regards to maximum power, efficiency, reliability, ruggedness, electrical performance, cooling, easy maintenance, and cost. This article will emphasize the electrical design and construction of a broadband amplifier module for FM broadcast (87.5 - 108 MHz). This design was entered in the 1991 RF Design Awards Contest.

To minimize the number of modules and the size of the equipment, each building block must be capable of supplying maximum output power (1). For this reason, a push-pull configuration has been chosen. Power combiners using baluns make integrated transformers easy to construct. These intrinsically wide-band components supply two signals phase-shifted by 180 de-

grees and bring the line impedance (50 ohms) significantly closer to that of the devices (2, 3, 4). Other design considerations, in regard to transistors, shall be reliability and component efficiency. Nowadays, these requirements make active components in the BJT family the choice instead of MOSFETs. In fact, in current technology, field-effect devices are more vulnerable than bipolars in regards to high return loss values (5, 6).

Selection of the Active Device

Transistor manufacturers offer models with up to 300 W output power. The few models available in this range have an input impedance at the limit of practical use, the result of paralleling of several devices. A careful look at the market shows that for models around 150 W, established technology, wide choice, good reliability, and affordable prices are available. Transistor gain depends on the technology and geometry of the single chip.

The families available represent a few

basic topologies, which differ in the number of transistors making up the die, the value of the emitter resistors, the quality and type of passivation, the length of the wire bonding, the thickness of the beryllium (BeO) ceramic, the type of case, and therefore the heat dissipation capability. The choice of the device falls on transistors with larger chips, which, although their gain is lower, are more reliable and have better collector efficiency.

The choice of the device voltages must also be carefully considered. A 28 V working voltage is a good compromise between reliability, gain, and price but the $\rm V_{ce0}$ must be at least 60 V and $\rm I_{cmax}$ must be greater than 15 A.

It is preferable to use unmatched devices which benefit from safer building technology even though their $Z_{\rm in}$ is very low. In fact, the doubling of the number of wire bondings to insert the matching components reduces the reliability, occupies active space, increases the risks from overdriving, forces the use of more expensive cases and worsens the in-phase repeatability, thus offering users only a narrow selection of devices. Thus, prematched transistors cost more, are produced with greater difficulty, and behave strangely outside the matching area.

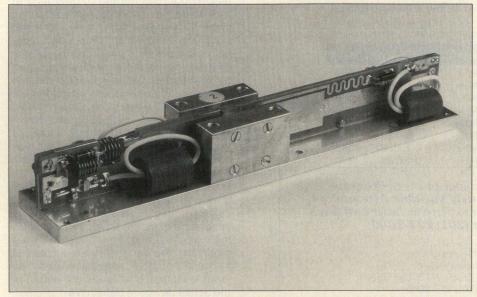


Figure 1. Photograph of the amplifier module using the vertical mounting technique.

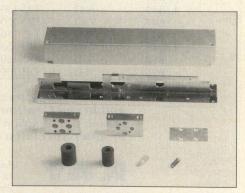


Figure 2. The mechanical components of the vertical mounting assembly.

Design Concepts

Based on the previous considerations, the SGS-Thompson SD1460 transistor has been chosen as the primary source and the Motorola TP9383 as the secondary source. In general, these transistors belong to a family that has an inductive base behavior at 100 MHz. To compensate for this characteristic, a high value capacitor is required between

the base and the emitter. In the pushpull configuration, the capacitor must be placed between the two bases and therefore, the capacitive value is halved with easier matching as a consequence.

A major problem is the physical arrangement of the capacitor. Given the extremely low values of the R and L input components of the transistor, the capacitor must be mounted as close as

Figure 3. The circuit boards used in the amplifier, including microstrip transformer sections.

possible to the two cases so that the mounting parasitics are minimum in respect to the intrinsic reactive values of the active device. In traditional planar mounting the most elegant solution is the old RCA proposal which suggests rotating the cases by 45 degrees so that the bases are brought as close together as possible.

In order to solve this problem another way, a new mounting idea was devised (Figures 1 and 2). In reality, it consists of mounting the two transistors front to front in a vertical mounting system. In this arrangement the base of the two transistors is naturally at a physical distance comparable to the size of one ATC capacitor case B. Therefore, the only parasitics involved are those intrinsic to the capacitor itself.

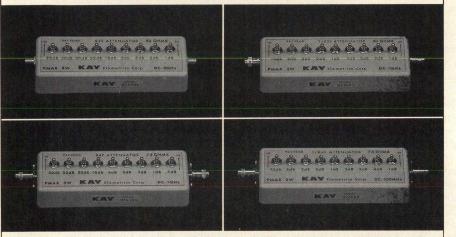
The vertical mounting technique not only solves the base-to-base capacitor problem, it also has a series of advantages in respect to planar mounting.

In fact, the microstrips from the matching circuit (Figure 3) operating at wide-band have very low characteristic impedances, especially in the first low-Z transformers. With this mounting technique the physical limits for the widths of these strips are essentially dictated by the higher order spurious modes. Moreover, the sandwich arrangement of the ground planes prevents possible coupling between the two parallel lines.

A careful choice of the substrate thickness (e.g., 1/32 inch fiberglass with $\varepsilon_{\rm r}=4.7$) allows the capacitors to be set in the strips. The sum of the substrate thicknesses plus the vertical carrier thickness can in fact be equal to the chip capacitor thickness with the complete advantage of mounting repeatability during manufacturing. In contrast to planar mounting, the capacitors are located at the center of the transmission lines. The input is inductive whereas the output of the active device is capacitive.

A method for compensating this be-

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847	75Ω	DC-1000MHz	0-102.5dB	.5dB
849	75Ω	DC-1500MHz	0-101dB	1dB
1/849	75Ω	DC-500MHz	0-22.1dB	.1dB
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havior is to place an inductor between the two collectors, composed of a Ushaped strap soldered directly to the terminals. In the vertical mounting configuration, the compensating line is located in the upper end of the circuit board and is easily trimmed. Also, the power supply can be connected to the center of the line itself.

An unexpected advantage is that balun mounting is suitable in the vertical topology since the two sections are back to back. Another result is easy mounting of the transistors and therefore quick replacement of components during factory testing or service.

Basically, the module devised in this way takes up volume instead of area (planar mounting) which allows several modules to be assembled in a more compact and functional arrangement. The only price to pay for all these advantages is the increased thermal resistance. Therefore, the shape and size of the vertical blocks which support the transistors must be carefully calculated.

Input and Output Matching Networks

The device selected is the SD1460. The measured values of the input and output impedances are the following at 97.75 MHz and 150 W output power:

$$Z_{in}(s) = 0.715 + j0.8 \text{ ohms}$$

 $Z_{out} = 3.65 - j3 \text{ ohms}$

The limit band frequencies are:

$$F_L = 87.5 \text{ MHz}, \text{ and } F_H = 108 \text{ MHz}$$

 $F_0 = (F_L + F_H)/2 = 97.75 \text{ MHz}$

Since the band at -3 dB is in relation to the band at -0.5 dB with a factor of 3, the following is obtained:

$$Q_{max}(0.5 dB) = 1.59$$

To determine the in and out Qs of the device:

$$Q_{in} = X_s(in)/R_s(in) = 1.11$$

 $Q_{out} = X_s(out)/R_s(out) = 0.82$

From the observation of the Qs it appears that the device can be employed in the desired wide-band range since:

$$Q_{max} > Q_{in} > Q_{out}$$

For compensation of the inductive part, transform the base impedance from serial to parallel:

$$R_p = R_s [1 + (X_s/R_s)^2] = 1.6 \text{ ohms}$$

 $X_p = (R_s R_p)/X_s = 1.45 \text{ ohms}$

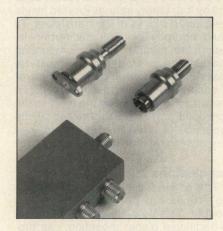
Therefore, an in-parallel capacitance is needed to compensate the base inductance. The type ATC case B capacitor that will be employed has a series inductance of 0.5 nH for the values needed. X_L for this value is 0.31 ohms at 97.75 MHz.

It is also estimated that the minimum value of X_L that cannot be eliminated is 0.7 Ohms. This corresponds to the distributed inductance of the RF mounting and the mechanical layout. The total inductance to be compensated shall

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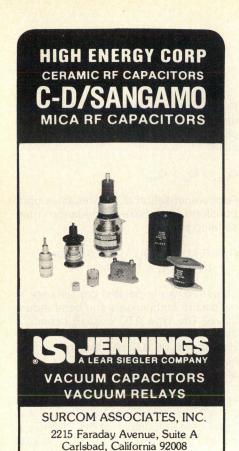


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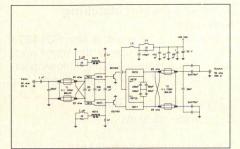


Figure 4. Circuit diagram of the amplifier module.

therefore be the sum of the transistor input, layout, and capacitor inductances, or 2.46 ohms.

 $\rm X_c$ should be the same magnitude, which corresponds to 662 pF. This is halved for the push-pull configuration, very close to the standard value 330 pF. At this point we have a purely resistive value equal to 1.6 ohms.

This value must be transformed to 6.25 ohms, which is the Z characteristic towards the ground of each branch of the 4:1 balun transformer from the low Z side. Choose the value of 2.5 Ohms as an intermediate impedance for a good compromise of Q between the initial and final value $(1.6 \rightarrow 2.5 \rightarrow 6.25)$. For reasons based on the physical dimensions, two microstrip lines with 5 and 10 ohm impedance respectively have been chosen for the two transformers.

Using the same procedure with just one microstrip transformation of the 3.65 ohm collector impedance before the balun, the output network can be determined. The final schematic (with slight variations due to optimization) is shown in Figure 4. The module's gain and efficiency are plotted in Figure 5.

For mounting, the transistor terminals are pressed by four teflon pressure pads and by four sturdy springs located inside the support blocks of the transistors. To avoid abruptly bending the terminals, during the mounting and dismounting phases, the pressure pads must be released by unscrewing the outer cover of each block. Only after this step can the two screws fastening the block to the horizontal carrier be unscrewed. If the sequence of operations is known, it is very easy to replace the transistors.

Conclusions

This article presents a vertical mounting technique for devices in an RF power module. This new approach, in respect to traditional planar mounting, can pro-

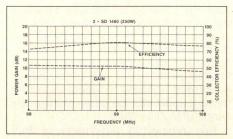


Figure 5. Gain and efficiency performance over the FM broadcast band.

vide larger bandwidth, greater repeatability, easier modeling of the circuits, ruggedness, reliability, and reduced parasitic effects. It also takes up space in three dimensions instead of two. **RF**

Acknowledgement

The author wishes to thank Dr. V. Alleva for his support in this endeavor, for discussion and helpful suggestions.

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Automated Noise Measurements Eliminate Drudgery

By Robert N. Cash John Fluke Mfg. Co., Inc.

No one likes to measure phase noise. The measurements are tedious and error prone. But many RF applications require establishing the noise contribution of each source in the system. Automating these measurements is the best answer. Noise measurements are still no picnic, but the software takes out the drudgery and gives more consistent results than manual methods.

s an example, one signal generator As an example, one signal gallar application that requires attention to phase noise performance is radio receiver adjacent channel testing. The receiver's filter response is not perfect so there is a potential for signals in an adjacent channel to interfere with the desired signal. To determine how well the receiver rejects those unwanted signals, apply a high level signal at the adjacent channel frequency and measure the receiver output. This measurement depends on the purity of the applied signal. Phase noise and spurious signals from the generator will fall in the receiver's selected channel, caus-

Phase noise is defined as the singlesided, phase modulated noise power in a one Hertz bandwidth at some frequency offset from the carrier frequency. It is expressed in dBc per root Hertz. Two other measures of noise performance of signal sources are residual FM and residual PM. Residuals are specified as the RMS noise power within a particular band of frequencies offset from the carrier. FM residual is often specified in two bandwidths: 300 Hz to 3 kHz, and 50 Hz to 15 kHz and is expressed in Hz. Residual PM is usually specified in a 10 Hz to 15 kHz bandwidth and is expressed in dBc.

Frequency and phase modulation are related in the low deviation case by the formula:

$$pm = fm / mf$$
 (1)

where pm is phase deviation in radians, fm is frequency deviation in kHz, and mf is the modulation frequency in kHz. Since noise is definitely in the low deviation case, FM noise can be derived from phase noise where the offset frequency corresponds to the modulation frequency.

Getting to First Base

Depending on the RF and offset frequencies, phase noise specifications on high performance generators may range from -60 dBc per root Hz to lower than -150 dBc per root Hz. Direct measurements using a spectrum analyzer are not possible because the noise floor of the analyzer is too high. How then can we measure phase noise accurately?

One method uses a carrier nulling or down conversion technique with low frequency spectral analysis. A mixer is used as a phase detector to translate the carrier to DC and get a high degree of carrier suppression. Amplifying the IF output of the mixer puts the phase detected noise signals within the amplitude range of an analyzer. Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analyzers are ideal for this purpose, allowing very low frequency measurements with short measurement times (Refer to Figure 1).

A phase noise measurement can be made by putting the analyzer marker at the offset frequency, taking the reading, and applying corrections. You must avoid spurs when placing the marker. Residuals are another matter because they must be summed over a band. But why not simply use a modulation meter

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Figure 1. Phase noise test system.

to measure residuals? The residuals of high performance sources are so low that the residual noise of the modulation meter dominates the reading. About the only reliable way to measure residuals in this case is to sum the noise and spurs as measured by an FFT analyzer over the required band. And the only way to do that is with the test software.

Hardware Requirements

When the LO and RF input signals to a mixer are 90 degrees apart in phase, the mixer functions as a sensitive phase detector. The IF output is the noise and other phase related modulation signals such as spurs. The response of the mixer is quite linear about zero in the small signal case. Zero volts DC at the mixer IF output indicates that the two signals are 90 degrees apart. Some method of controlling the phase of the two input signals is necessary.

Synthesized signal sources are phase locked together by using a common reference. There are two easy ways to adjust the phase difference between two synthesized signals. One is to use the DC output from the mixer to frequency modulate one of the sources. This DC FM approach has the disadvantage of potentially introducing spurious signals into the modulation port and does not truly represent the CW case. Also, the loop bandwidth of the system changes the frequency response at the output of the mixer and must be measured to correct the results. The other method is to change the frequency of one of the units by one Hertz or a fraction of a Hertz

Noise floor in dB error below measured noise in dB				
0	3.00			
-5	1.19			
-10	.41			
-15	.14			
-20	.04			

Figure 2. Measured phase noise.

until the phase relationship is 90 degrees apart. It is called twitching a digit. Some signal generators provide a means of incrementally shifting the phase of the output signal which makes the job much easier. Both of these methods work well over a broad range of RF frequencies. For fixed frequency signal sources, use an electrical delay element such as an adjustable air line.

Choosing System Components

Noise combines in RMS (root mean square) fashion, so system noise contributions will combine with the noise to be measured and will cause errors if the noise signal is not high enough above the system noise floor (Refer to Figure 2). Ideally, the noise of the system at a particular offset frequency is at least 15 dB lower than the noise to be measured.

Phase Noise Test Set — Since spectrum analyzers alone have too high a noise floor, an amplifier is required. It should have perfectly flat frequency response from DC to 10 MHz, a gain of 60 dB, and no noise. For the system used at John Fluke in testing the 6080A

and 6082A, we settled for one specially designed for the application which has flatness of ± 0.2 dB from less than 1 Hz to 5 MHz and 50 dB of gain. A method will be shown later to evaluate the noise of the system. The amplifier, mixer, and power supply were combined with some RF switching and an AM detector into one package, a phase noise test set. The RF switching and AM detector enable the system to measure AM noise also.

One of the most difficult aspects of building the phase noise test set was achieving optimum spurious signal performance. A multitude of spurs come from the digital controller and printer. Some instrumentation is not particularly designed for use in this type of system, most notably the DVM, which is used to measure the mixer IF DC voltage when adjusting the phase between the test unit and the LO. It has low level digital signal spurs coming out of its input which is connected to the most sensitive point in the system. The DVM spurs were resolved using simple RC filtering, both inside the test set and at the input to the DVM. Controller and printer spurs

were reduced by placing them at some distance from the other equipment and using separate line outlet. RF coaxial lines wrapped on large toroid cores helped reduce ground loop problems.

Spectrum Analyzers — Spectrum analyzers give the most complete information about the offset frequency spectrum. An FFT analyzer is ideal for most of the measurements. Typically, specified response extends from below 1 Hz to 25 or 100 kHz. This frequency range covers all of the residual measurement bands described above and most of the phase noise offset frequencies of interest. Also, FFT analyzers offer wide dynamic range and very good sensitivity. The offset frequency range can be extended using a high performance HF spectrum analyzer.

Selective Level Meter — Phase noise can also be measured using a level detector with a pass band filter provided that the filter skirt response can be estimated for bandwidth correction. Selective level meters (SLM) perform well for these measurements. A measurement of the total power in a bandwidth.

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	2	2.5-300	1.1:1	.30	35	±.1	0.000		
A66GA 2		1-500	1.5:1	.7	20	±.25	.5 Watts	.25 Watts	
	2	2.5-400	1.1:1	.5	40	±.15			
ACCI	A66L 2	.3-100	1.5:1	.5	35	±.2	Walls	watts	
AboL		1-50	1.1:1	.2	40	±.06	653885		
A66U	2	5-1000	1.2:1	1.0	30	±.3			
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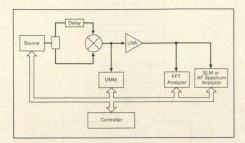


Figure 3. Determining system noise.

after correction for skirt response, can be converted to a 1 Hz bandwidth by subtracting 10log(BW in Hz). A simple way to determine a filter skirt correction is to first calibrate the SLM against the FFT using a high level signal. Then compare noise readings, correct both for bandwidth.

SLMs are limited in how close to the carrier they can measure and in the inclusion of spurious signals in the phase noise measurement. It is not possible to extract any other data from the measurement than the total power measured, so this measurement does not permit curve plotting. However, the selective level meter is a good choice to extend the frequency range for production test because it is lower in cost than a high performance HF spectrum analyzer, and the measurements are much faster. A wide bandwidth, practical at high offset frequencies, reduces the error from spurs because the signal power of a spur is much less than the total noise power in a wide band. For example, a spur 20 dB above the noise included in a 3 kHz bandwidth measurement would cause an error of 0.14 dB.

System Calibration

Since the carrier is suppressed and the degree of suppression is unknown and is not directly measurable, the obvious reference for a dBc measurement is unavailable. Though it is possible to characterize the system by precisely measuring generator drive levels and system gains and losses, these characteristics vary with RF frequency. A far simpler method is to use signal injection. The simplest technique when test unit or LO characteristics permit is to use modulation. A low level of modulation applied to either the test unit or the LO can be set to give a sideband of known frequency and amplitude relative to the carrier and is well suited for automated testing.

Phase modulation injection for calibration requires a very low deviation signal. In the Fluke 6080A, the low deviation FM is more accurate than low deviation PM and is the better choice. Since the calibration signal is a low deviation case, the formula given above relating FM to PM applies. The modulation signal should be set accurately in advance using a modulation meter of a HF spectrum analyzer at the RF frequency. Typically the setting used with

this system is 125 Hz deviation at a 20 kHz modulation rate, which results in a -50 dBc sideband at 20 kHz offset. Note that the phase detector yields two sided detection but we are calibrating for single sided noise, hence the factor of two in the equation.

Cal signal in dBc = $20 \log (fm/(2 mf))$ (2)

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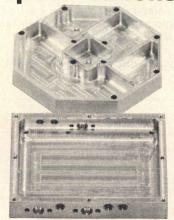
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In some test systems it isn't possible to modulate either the test unit or the LO. In this case, signal injection may be performed by using a power divider as a combiner to sum a signal from a third source with the test unit. The third source amplitude is set to the calibration signal level, say 50 dB below the test unit level. The frequency is set to the test unit frequency plus a convenient offset, say 20 kHz. The calibration will be valid as long as the two arms of the divider are equal, which can be verified by reversing them. The calibration signal level as measured in the system is used to correct subsequent measurements for system gains and losses.

correction = cal signal level - measured signal level (3)

The correction is added to the measurements. For example, a -50 dBc cal signal might measure -8.8 dBv on the FFT. The correction is -41.2 dB. The negative of the correction is the total system gain.

Figure 3 illustrates how a single source is used to measure the noise performance of the system. Use a power

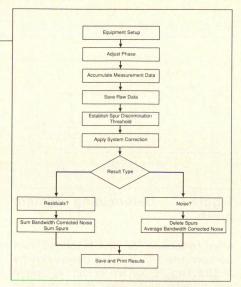


Figure 4. Software flow chart.

splitter to drive both mixer ports from the same source. The delay element is a 4 to 6 foot length of coaxial cable. Adjust the source amplitude for correct LO drive level and the attenuator for correct RF input level. If the same drive levels are used as were used for the system calibration above, that same calibration factor can be used to correct the readings. Adjust the source frequency to zero the DC voltage from the mixer.

```
test type, phase noise or am noise
1 thru 10 - rf frequency list
11 thru 19 - level list
20 - lo level
21 thru 60 - phase noise offsets and limits
61 thru 70 - residual am or fm bands, 3 allowed
             defined by start, stop, and limit
71 thru 80 - residual pm bands, 3 allowed
             defined by start, stop, and limit
81 thru 90 - spur search bands, 3 allowed
             defined by start, stop and limit
91 thru 100 - special functions and mod settings
   91 thru 93 - uut special functions
   94 thru 96 - test special functions, bit enclosed
   97 - modulation type
   98 - fm/pm deviation
   99 - am depth
   100 - modulation rate
101 thru 104 - factors governing system calibration
   101 - cal modulation rate
   102 - cal depth or deviation
   103 - nominal cal signal level
   104 - 0 = use uut, 1 = use LO as modulated generator
   105 - noise subtraction control
   106 - plot and measurement starting offset
   107 - plot and measurement stop offset
108, 109, 110 - phase locking parameters
   108 - capture range for initial lock
   109 - drift range, allowable phase drift during test
   110 - averages to use in reading dvm
```

Figure 5. Control data elements for one test setup.

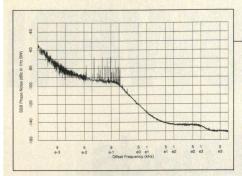


Figure 6. Phase noise plot.

Since the delay is very short, the noise of the source cancels and what's left is the residual noise of the system, including the mixer.

Finally, There's the Software

When designing system software it is wise to define the data and control flow requirements first (Figures 4 and 5). In this system we must consider control, measurement, correction, and results data. Control data defines how to make the measurements, measurement data is information from the measuring devices, correction data defines conversions, and results data are what get finally presented.

Control Data - Both engineering evaluation and production testing require the ability to define different RF frequencies, offset frequencies, types of corrections to apply, test limits, etc. The test control definitions must also be easy to change. Since offset frequencies and limits change with RF frequency, a measurement step is defined as all measurements made at one RF frequency. The control data fits well into a two dimensional array where one dimension is test steps and the other defines control values. A simple editor program facilitates defining and maintaining the test control data.

Measurement Data, Who Needs It?

— Phase noise results are best presented in graphical form yet more precise reporting of results at particular offset frequencies is also required. There must be provision for plotting or printing results after a series of measurement steps are complete. Since all the data is needed for a plot, which may extend from 1 Hz to 10 MHz, as shown in Figure 6, careful attention must be paid to the data storage problem.

Fortunately, phase noise plots are presented on a log frequency scale so the offset frequency resolution need not be constant. Low offsets require high resolution and narrow analyzer spans which come with a severe time penalty. As the offset frequency increases, the analyzer span can be increased. Different analyzers may not offer the same

start frequency and span combinations, so another control data structure is needed to define what the start frequencies and spans are.

The two analyzers used in this system are the HP3561A FFT analyzer and the HP8568 HF analyzer, which have 400 and 2002 data points per span, respectively. Also it was desired to support the HP3582A, an older FFT analyzer al-

ready owned by production, which has 255 data points per span.

In the data downloaded from an analyzer, one point represents a graphically displayed point on the analyzer trace. The offset frequency of the point is determined by the start and stop frequencies and the number of points per span. The value of a trace data point is the amplitude of the trace at that point.

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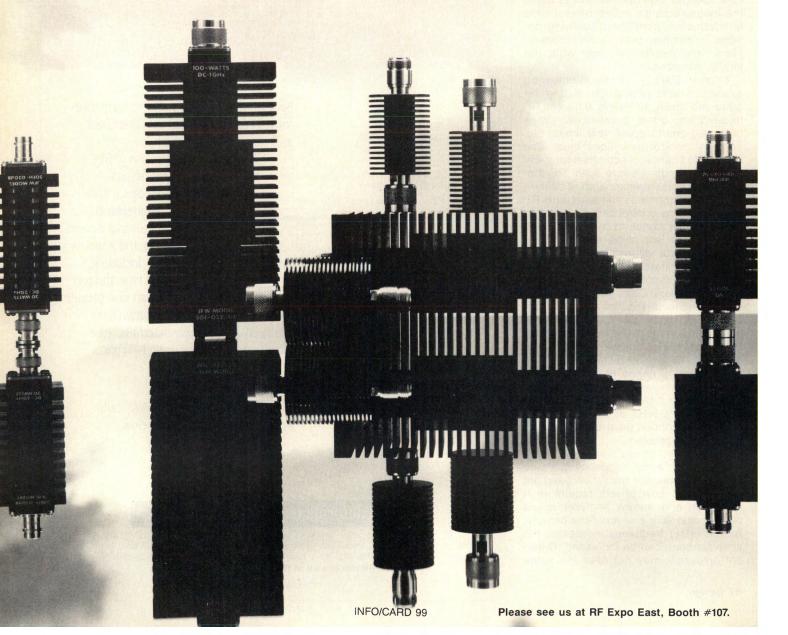
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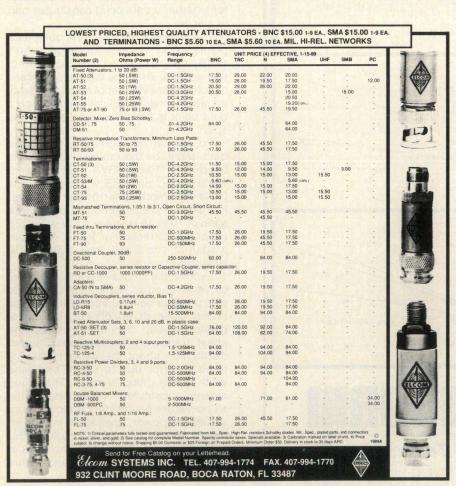
The HP8568 and HP3582A amplitude data is an integer corresponding to vertical screen position. To convert the integer to dB requires the full scale screen value, the dB per division scale, and the integer full scale value. The HP3561A uses an amplitude encoding scheme of dividing the amplitude dB value by .005 to convert the value to an integer with no noticeable loss in amplitude resolution.

In order to simplify the data structures, the data from the other analyzers is translated to the same format as the 3561A, which offers a good compromise between graphical resolution and the quantity of data that must get stored. A complete measurement trace consists of a series of contiguous spans, each span having 400 data points regardless of analyzer type. Typically, eight HP3561A spans are used for one complete trace. For engineering evaluation, four more HP8568 spans extended the trace to 10 MHz. Because of its different span and start frequency scheme, the HP3582A requires 12 spans to provide coverage to only 25 kHz.

One complete trace requires storage allocation for at least 6400 integers. To avoid tight linkage between the test control data, the analyzer control data, and the measurement data, additional storage allocation is needed for system correction, analyzer frequency span definitions, plotting parameters and other data such as serial numbers, dates, etc.

Have Data, Will Crunch — With each new analyzer span, the bandwidth represented by a single point changes. For example, in a span of 10 Hz to 15 Hz, each point represents 5/400 Hz or 0.0125 Hz. For a span of 1 kHz to 5 kHz, each point represents 4000/400 Hz or 10 Hz. Phase noise results are always normalized to a 1 Hz bandwidth. However, spurs don't get normalized. Spurs are single frequency points even though represented in the analyzer data by more than one point. One of the first jobs for the software is to discriminate data points that represent spurs.

For offsets far from the carrier, large spans are used and averaging is fast so





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many averages may be used to get a fairly smooth noise curve at small cost in measurement time. The smoother the noise curve, the easier it is to discriminate spurs, and those that are difficult to discriminate are so low that they don't contribute to error. However, at low offset spans, averaging time is much longer so fewer are used, consequently the noise has many peaks. Further

complicating the problem are the many harmonics of the line frequency which are relatively close together, especially at the higher harmonics.

Some statistics can resolve the problem. To avoid slope problems yet still have a statistically significant number, groups of 50 points work well. They also fit evenly into each 400 point span. No nasty leftover points within a span. And most importantly there are no level changes due to changing bandwidths within a group of points. Large spurs may take several points to define in the trace, but spurs would have to be truly massive to cause large error in the statistics for a group. If the spurs are that bad, noise isn't your problem.

For each group of 50 points, calculate the mean and standard deviation. Any point higher than the mean plus three times the standard deviation can be considered a spur. There are two problems with this simple approach. The first is in low offset frequency areas where noise has many peaks due to low averaging. The second is in any area where spurs are numerous and, though perhaps low in amplitude, close enough together to give errors in the mean. By using a two pass approach, both problems are reduced considerably.

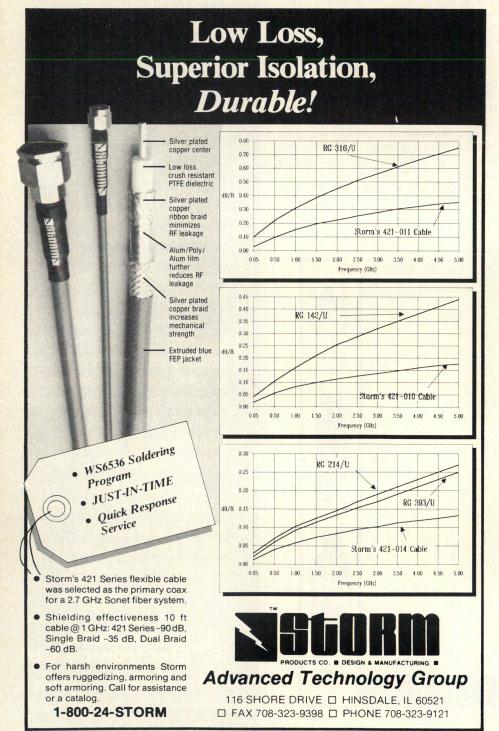
A first pass determines an initial mean and standard deviation. Then the initial mean and deviation are used in a second pass to eliminate most spurs from the second mean and standard deviation. This second mean and standard deviation are used as the final test for whether a data point constitutes part of a spur.

The Home Stretch — First trace data points are converted from integer values to dB and the system calibration correction applied. Then the statistical process described above is applied to groups of points to establish a limit above which a data point is considered to be part of a spur.

For phase noise results, the noise data must be normalized to a 1 Hz bandwidth. 10log(1/BW) yields a bandwidth correction in dB where BW is the bandwidth represented by any one point. In the example used above, points in a span of 10 to 15 Hz have a BW of 0.0126 Hz and a correction of 19 dB. Points in a span of 1 to 5 kHz have a BW of 10 Hz and a correction of -10 dB.

Even with a lot of averaging, the noise curve is bumpy. Rather than trying to pick a single point to best represent the phase noise at an offset, a group of points equally distributed about the offset frequency are averaged. Equal distribution about the offset frequency removes error due to slope, since the width of the group is small. The group mean is substituted for spur data points, all points are bandwidth corrected, converted to power, averaged in power, then converted to the final result in dBc.

Residuals are defined as the RMS of noise plus spurs in a given band. Spurs



must be summed into the result but must not be bandwidth corrected, so spur detection is essential for correct results. Spur power exists in only a single point, but in the analyzer trace, several points may be included in defining a spur, reflecting detection bandwidth. All points considered part of a spur have the bandwidth corrected mean summed along with the spur peak amplitude, since noise exists at all points whether a spur is there or not. The offset frequency must be factored in as a conversion when summing for residual FM. The summing is done as RMS, the square root of the sum of the squares.

Noise Subtraction

The noise values determined so far include the noise of both the test unit and the local oscillator. To obtain the true noise of the test unit, a local oscillator could be used which has sufficiently lower noise than the test unit. This requires a noise differential of at least 15 dB though, to minimize errors

and is not practical for a high performance source.

If the local oscillator is assumed to be the same as the test unit, then 3 dB could be subtracted from the results to give the test unit noise. This does not give the most accurate results. A better method is to characterize the noise of the local oscillator so that it can be subtracted from subsequent measurements to obtain the test unit's true noise. But how can the noise of the local oscillator be determined starting with uncharacterized units?

By measuring three units, each in combination with the others in what is often referred to as a round robin, the noise of each can be calculated. Noise sums in RMS fashion, so if n1 is the noise of measurement one and so on.

 $n1 = sqr((noise of unit 1)^2 + (noise of unit 2)^2)$ (4)

 $n2 = sqr((noise of unit 1)^2 + (noise of unit 3)^2)$ (5)



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$$n3 = sqr((noise of unit 3)^2 + (noise of unit 2)^2)$$
 (6)

and equations can be expressed which yield the actual noise of each unit.

unit1 =
$$sqr((n1^2 + n2^2 - n3^2) / 2)$$
 (7)

unit2 =
$$sqr((n1^2 + n3^2 - n2^2) / 2)$$
 (8)

unit3 =
$$sqr((n3^2 + n2^2 - n1^2) / 2)$$
 (9)

This is no problem when dealing with single offset frequency points. Noise subtraction must be made practical at any point of the trace because noise should be subtracted before summing for residuals since the noise curves of the test unit may not be the same as the local oscillator. The measurement uncertainty at any individual point is small for a particular measurement but can result in significant errors in the characterized noise. Calculations to derive characterized noise over three complete traces take a long time and so should preferably be performed once.

All these problems are resolved with minimal error by characterizing the local oscillators at the middle of each 50 point group. These values are stored for each local oscillator and are used as required by interpolating between them for subtraction values. For best results, the units to be characterized and used as local oscillators must be carefully selected, not so much for low noise but for equal noise because the effect of measurement error increases rapidly with the noise difference between the units. RF

About the Author

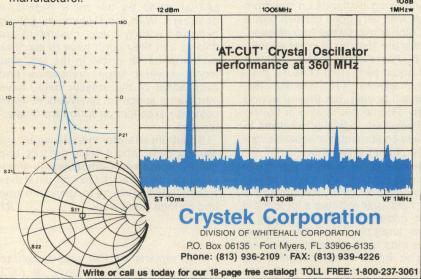
Robert N. Cash joined John Fluke Mfg. Co., Inc. in 1976 as a technical writer with a background in calibration and communications equipment. Software has been the primary focus for the past ten years, both in production test and test data analysis. He can be reached at PO Box 9090, Everett, Washington 98206-9090. Tel: (206) 356-5993.

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Spectrum Analyzers Have Cautious Customers

By Liane G. Pomfret Associate Editor

Today's market for spectrum analyzers is consumer driven. Talking and responding to the customer has become even more important in this highly competitive field. As a result, new features, pricing, and applications clearly reflect the actual marketplace.

In the spectrum analyzer marketplace, responding to market demands is foremost on manufacturer's minds. They've learned that the customer has a great deal of insight with regard to new features. Dave Kruse, sales and marketing engineer at Stanford Research Systems comments that "people are looking for full functionality in an instrument." For example, FFT analysis and time domain measurement features have been improved or developed in response to customer requests. Because of the explosion in communications equipment, time gating, or time domain measurements have also become extremely important. Customers need to be able to measure a signal over time. Other new features include new frequency breakpoints because much of the new communications equipment falls on or near current spectrum analyzer breakpoints. Companies are also adding higher microwave frequencies, phase noise measurement capability, demodulation capability and more dedicated personalities for specific applications.

The majority of these changes have come about as a result of a change in the market focus. It is no surprise that digital communications is one of the biggest markets for spectrum analyzers. David Ringoen, a product line manager for low frequency analyzers at Hewlett Packard agrees, "Digital radios are big business, and their modulation schemes demand advanced capabilities in spectrum analayzers." There are always the more traditional military/aerospace markets which have remained stable, but now manufacturers are looking to other markets. The EMI/EMC market has grown lately as has communications systems and education. Communications equipment, whether it be digital, analog or a combination continue to account for the largest share of the market.



Perhaps the most interesting part of the spectrum analyzer market is the customer. A tough economy has guaranteed that manufacturers have to work harder to sell their product and today the customers want more bang for the buck. "In general, customers are expecting more and expecting to pay the same or less," says Jim Leonardis, a marketing product manager at Hewlett-Packard. They don't mind paying the same price but the instrument must offer more features or better performance for the same price. "Customer demand is toward higher coaxial input capability, e.g. 40 GHz," says Len Garrett, product marketing manager at Tektronix. "High performance synthesized local oscillators place increasing demands on spectrum analyzers with very good close-in phase noise at higher microwave frequencies." Customers are looking at other alternatives to buying such as leasing, renting or used equipment. Tom Dideum, marketing manager for IFR Systems notes, "They're still buying, but they're buying differently. People are renting or buying used." These are logical alternatives to buying new equipment that would be considered a capital expenditure.

While today's customer is well aware of economic conditions that are affecting their buying power, many manufacturers feel the customer still has a lot to learn when it comes to actually buying a spectrum analyzer. Very often companies see bids for a piece of equipment that are so tightly written, that only one analyzer by one manufacturer fits the bill. If the customer has done his research and really knows what he

wants, then this works fine. But in today's world of two engineers doing the job of ten, they often don't have the time to sit down and do the necessary research. This type of buying or specifying more often causes problems because the customer ends up with an analyzer that isn't quite what they wanted. It's also discouraging for the manufacturers as well. Any manufacturer will tell you that they would rather have a well informed, educated buyer, even if it means educating them themselves. This is Avcom's approach, "The people that use our analyzers, are often first time users. We educate our customers," says sales and marketing manager Charlie Odom.

The market itself has polarized into a high end or low end market. There is always a market for high end R&D instruments and "Once a customer has decided he needs a high accuracy and high resolution spectrum analyzer, price is not a problem," says Steve Gledhill, sales and marketing manager for microwave products at Marconi. But with increased competition there is now a growing market for lower cost, field or production oriented instruments. While these analyzers are lower cost, in some cases, certain performance characteristics are just as good as the more expensive analyzers. With the technology getting better on a daily basis, customers are finding that they don't have to sacrifice performance for price. In the last year alone, several large companies and even some of the smaller ones, have introduced spectrum analyzers at lower cost with excellent performance charac-

Spectrum analyzer manufacturers are staying quiet about their product and about the market. Competition is fierce and customers can get exactly what they want if they are willing to spend the time and do their homework.

RF

For reprints of this report, contact Cardiff Publishing Company at (303) 220-0600. Ask for the Circulation Department.

RF software

Active Filter Design Programs

Burr-Brown announces three active filter programs. Sallen-Key low-pass filters are covered in Application Bulletin AB-017B, covering Bessel, Butterworth and Chebyshev designs. Exact resistor values or the closest 1 percent standard values may be selected. AB-034 includes a program for multiplefeedback (MFB) filter topologies, including the Sallen-Key configuration as a subset. The program allows examination of the circuit for component and Q sensitivity. Bulletin AB-035 has a program for the UAF42 Universal Active Filter, allowing design and implementation of all kinds of filters using its state-variable configuration with an uncommitted op amp.

Burr-Brown Corp. INFO/CARD #140

Wideband Power Amplifier Design

uW-PADS from Focus Microwaves is a network analysis program for the design and optimization of wideband power amplifiers. The program uses ISO contour data generated by the Contour Controlled Microwave Tuner (CCMT), which includes output power, gain, power added efficiency and intercept. The company can provide this device data for users who do not have a CCMT system. Manual tuning is available to examine network elements and verify their sensitivity. Three optimization methods are also provided. The price is \$14,500.

Focus Microwaves Inc. INFO/CARD #139

Semiconductor Cross-Reference Disk

Richardson Electronics announces an enhanced version of its extensive semiconductor cross-reference disk, following suggestions of many users. The disk allows the user to view prices and selection of equivalent products from E.F. Johnson, GE, Motorola, Regency/Wilson and other major radio manufacturers. Also included are 2SC numbers and Japanese-type hybrid modules. New features include quotation requests on a printer and copy the program to hard disk.

Richardson Electronics, Ltd. INFO/CARD #138

BASIC Newsletter

A newsletter for users of HP BASIC has been introduced by Hewlett-Packard's Measurement Systems Operation (MSO). Letters, applications, and notes from users of HP BASIC will be included in future issues, along with announcements of product introductions and upgrades. Products covered include all BASIC versions, including the /UX and /WS versions for UNIX and Workstations.

Hewlett-Packard Co. INFO/CARD #137

FO Spice Models

Non-linear Spice models for fiber optic systems are now available from Analog and RF Models, including laser diodes with and without internal PIN monitor diodes, PIN receiver diodes, and cable runs. Diode models include proper temperature compensation and capacitance characteristics, and cable models have loss and time delay, with optional dispersion.

Analog and RF Models INFO/CARD #136

Radio System Design

JMA Applied Spectrum Research announces the newest release in their Radio System Design Software (RADS) for PCs. New features include SMR signal planning capability. This option supports FCC methods in Docket 90-34 for calculating signal level and interference ranges for existing and proposed sites. RSDS allows for both single and multi-site design, frequency re-use planning, propagation studies using digitized terrain data, FCC broadcast, and Carey contours. Existing bands as well as newly proposed bands are included, such as 1800-2000 MHz. Output is plotted exactly on any map or map overlay.

JMA Applied Spectrum Research INFO/CARD #135



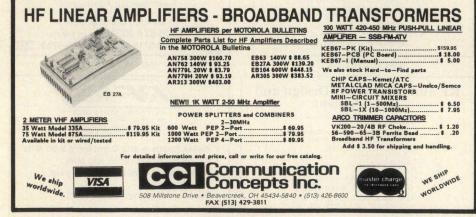
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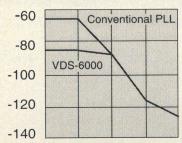
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RF literature

Klystron Amplifier Brochure

Series 10000 klystron amplifiers are described in this brochure from MCL/Inc. Models cover 1.5 to 20 GHz with power levels up to 40 kW continuous, 350 kW peak. Proven reliability and a two-year warranty are features of this series. Applications include communications, military systems, space systems and broadcasting.

MCL/Inc. INFO/CARD #130

Coil EMI Gasketing

Bal Seal's catalog 3.2 describes canted coil springs for electrical shielding and grounding applications. These EMI/RFI gasketing products can be supplied in heights between 0.015 and 0.450 inch, in continuous lengths beyond 1000 feet. The catalog includes dimensions, loading information and shielding effectiveness data for the various models.

Bal Seal Engineering Company INFO/CARD #129

Anritsu Company Information

A corporate newsletter published eight times a year is available from Anritsu. Management, market and technical topics are covered in each issue.

Anritsu America, Inc. INFO/CARD #120

EMI Shielding Products

A short-form catalog from Electro-Kinetic Systems describes their line of electromagnetic interference shielding products and services. Windows, door gaskets, adhesives and air filters are among the products covered.

Electro-Kinetic Systems, Inc. INFO/CARD #124

Miniature OCXOs

A one-page data sheet and short form catalog contains specifications and mechanical data on low noise miniature ovenized oscillators. Specifications include frequency, phase noise, thermal stability, aging and tuning ranges.

QK Genwave Corp. INFO/CARD #123

Components Catalog

Teledyne Components new catalog includes data on their analog, power, sensor, digital and discrete products. Among the products listed are op amps, analog switches, video drivers, multiplexers, V-F and F-V converters, battery charger controls, bipolar and JFET transistors, plus DMOS devices formerly made by Topaz.

Teledyne Components INFO/CARD #127

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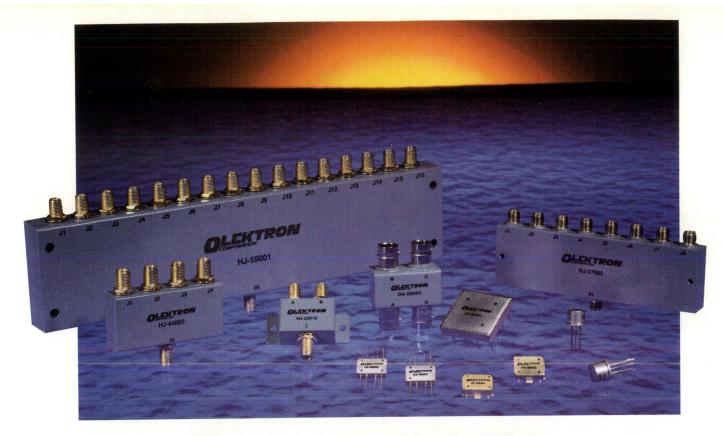
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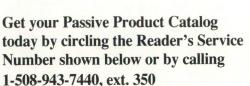
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