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## FEATURES

**Conversion gain:** 13 dB typical  
**Image rejection:** 32 dBc typical  
**Input P1dB compression:** -6 dBm typical  
**Input IP3:** 3 dBm typical, 6.0 GHz to 8.6 GHz  
**Noise figure:** 2 dB typical  
**LO to RF isolation:** 48 dBm typical  
**LO to IF isolation:** 13 dBm typical  
**RF to IF isolation:** 10 dBm typical  
**Amplitude balance:** 0.2 dB typical  
**Phase balance:** -2° typical  
**RF return loss:** 10 dB typical  
**LO return loss:** 15 dB typical  
**IF return loss:** 15 dB typical  
**Exposed paddle, 4 mm × 4 mm, 24-lead, LFCSP**

## APPLICATIONS

**Point to point and point to multipoint radios**  
**Military radars, electronic warfare, and electronic intelligence**  
**Satellite communications**  
**Sensors**

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The HMC951A is a compact gallium arsenide (GaAs), monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC), in-phase quadrature (I/Q) downconverter in a RoHS compliant package that operates from 5.6 GHz to 8.6 GHz. This device provides a small signal conversion gain of 13 dB with a noise figure of 2 dB and an image rejection of 32 dBc. The HMC951A uses a low noise amplifier (LNA) followed by an image mixer that is driven by a local oscillator (LO) buffer amplifier. The image reject mixer eliminates the need for a filter following the LNA and removes thermal noise at the image frequency. The IF1 and IF2 mixer outputs are provided and an external 90° hybrid is needed to

## FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM

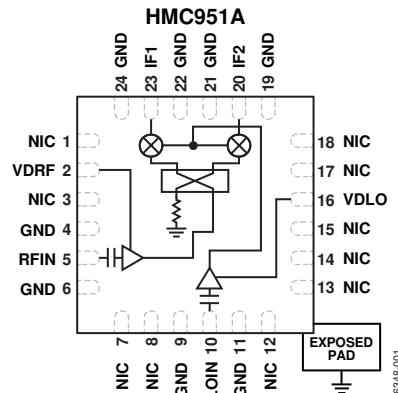


Figure 1.

16348-001

select the required sideband. The I/Q mixer topology reduces the need for filtering of unwanted sideband. The HMC951A is a smaller alternative to hybrid style, single sideband (SSB) downconverter assemblies, and it eliminates the need for wire bonding by allowing the use of surface-mount manufacturing techniques.

The HMC951A is available in 4 mm × 4 mm, 24-lead lead frame chip scale package (LFCSP) and operates over the -40°C to +85°C temperature range. An evaluation board for the HMC951A is also available upon request.

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## REVISION HISTORY

### 4/2018—Rev. 0 to Rev. A

Changes to Performance at Lower IF Frequencies Section..... 29  
Removed Figure 99; Renumbered Sequentially..... 29

### 3/2018—Revision 0: Initial Version

## SPECIFICATIONS

### 5.6 GHz TO 6.0 GHz

$T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , intermediate frequency (IF) = 1000 MHz, VDRF = VDLO = 5 V, local oscillator (LO) power = 0 dBm, unless otherwise noted. Measurements performed with lower sideband selected and an external 90° hybrid at the IF ports, unless otherwise noted.

**Table 1.**

Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
OPERATING CONDITIONS				
Frequency Range				
Radio Frequency (RF)	5.6		6.0	GHz
LO	4.5		12.1	GHz
IF	DC		3.5	GHz
LO Drive Range	-4	0	+4	dBm
PERFORMANCE				
Conversion Gain	10	13		dB
Image Rejection	20	32		dBc
Input Power for 1 dB Compression (P1dB)		-6		dBm
Input Third-Order Intercept (IP3)	0	2		dBm
Amplitude Balance		0.2		dB
Phase Balance		-2		Degree
Isolation				
LO to RF	40	48		dB
LO to IF	9	13		dB
RF to IF		10		dB
Noise Figure		2	2.5	dB
Return Loss				
RF		10		dB
LO		15		dB
IF		15		dB
POWER SUPPLY				
Drain Current				
Low Noise Amplifier ( $I_{DD1}$ )	75	85		mA
LO Amplifier ( $I_{DD2}$ )	80	95		mA
Total Drain Current ( $I_{DD}$ )	155			mA

**6.0 GHz TO 8.6 GHz**

$T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , intermediate frequency (IF) = 1000 MHz, VDRF = VDLO = 5 V, local oscillator (LO) power = 0 dBm, unless otherwise noted. Measurements performed with lower sideband selected and an external 90° hybrid at the IF ports, unless otherwise noted.

**Table 2.**

Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
OPERATING CONDITIONS				
Frequency Range				
Radio Frequency (RF)	6.0		8.6	GHz
LO	4.5		12.1	GHz
IF	DC		3.5	GHz
LO Drive Range	-4	0	+4	dBm
PERFORMANCE				
Conversion Gain	10	13		dB
Image Rejection	20	32		dBc
Input Power for 1 dB Compression (P1dB)		-6		dBm
Input Third-Order Intercept (IP3)	1	3		dBm
Amplitude Balance		0.2		dB
Phase Balance		-2		Degree
Isolation				
LO to RF	40	48		dB
LO to IF	9	13		dB
RF to IF		10		dB
Noise Figure		2	2.5	dB
Return Loss				
RF		10		dB
LO		15		dB
IF		15		dB
POWER SUPPLY				
Drain Current				
Low Noise Amplifier ( $I_{DD1}$ )	75	85		mA
LO Amplifier ( $I_{DD2}$ )	80	95		mA
Total Drain Current ( $I_{DD}$ )	155			mA

## ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Table 3.

Parameter	Rating
Drain Bias Voltage (VDRF, VDLO)	5.5 V
Input Power	
LO	20 dBm
RF	15 dBm
Moisture Sensitivity Level (MSL) Rating <sup>1</sup>	MSL3
Maximum Junction Temperature	175°C
Storage Temperature Range	-65°C to +150°C
Operating Temperature Range	-40°C to +85°C
Reflow Temperature	260°C
Electrostatic Discharge Sensitivity	
Human Body Model (HBM)	1000 V
Field Induced Charged Device Model (FICDM)	750 V

<sup>1</sup> See the Ordering Guide.

Stresses at or above those listed under Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the product. This is a stress rating only; functional operation of the product at these or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational section of this specification is not implied. Operation beyond the maximum operating conditions for extended periods may affect product reliability.

### THERMAL RESISTANCE

Thermal performance is directly linked to printed circuit board (PCB) design and operating environment. Careful attention to PCB thermal design is required.

$\theta_{JA}$  is the junction to ambient (or die to ambient) thermal resistance measured in a one cubic foot sealed enclosure, and  $\theta_{JC}$  is the junction to case (or die to package) thermal resistance.

Table 4. Thermal Resistance

Package Type	$\theta_{JA}$	$\theta_{JC}$	Unit
HCP-24-3 <sup>1</sup>	40.9	46.4	°C/W

<sup>1</sup> Thermal impedance simulated values are based on a JEDEC 2S2P test board with 4 × 4 thermal vias. Refer to JEDEC standard JESD51-2 for additional information.

### ESD CAUTION



#### ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device.

Charged devices and circuit boards can discharge without detection. Although this product features patented or proprietary protection circuitry, damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy ESD. Therefore, proper ESD precautions should be taken to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.

## PIN CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

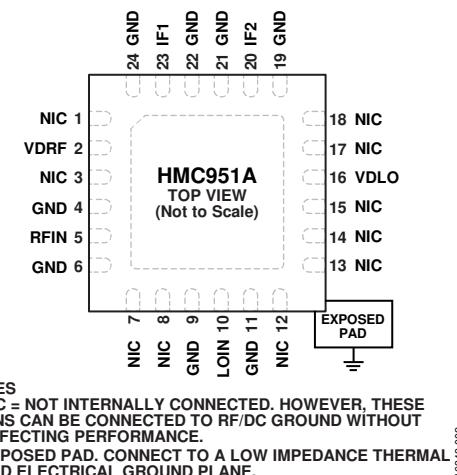


Figure 2. Pin Configuration

Table 5. Pin Function Descriptions

Pin No.	Mnemonic	Description
1, 3, 7, 8, 12 to 15, 17, 18	NIC	Not Internally Connected. However, these pins can be connected to RF/dc ground without affecting performance.
2	VDRF	Power Supply Voltage for the RF Amplifier. See Figure 3 for the interface schematic. Refer to the typical application circuit (see Figure 96) for the required external components.
4, 6, 9, 11, 19, 21, 22, 24	GND	Ground Connect. See Figure 4 for the interface schematic. These pins and package bottom must be connected to RF/dc ground.
5	RFIN	Radio Frequency Input. See Figure 5 for the interface schematic. This pin is ac-coupled and matched to $50\ \Omega$ .
10	LOIN	Local Oscillator Input. See Figure 6 for the interface schematic. This pin is ac-coupled and matched to $50\ \Omega$ .
16	VDLO	Power Supply Voltage for the LO Amplifier. See Figure 3 for the interface schematic. Refer to the typical application circuit (see Figure 96) for the required external components.
20, 23	IF2, IF1	Quadrature Intermediate Frequency Outputs. See Figure 7 for the interface schematic. For applications not requiring operation to dc, use an off chip dc blocking capacitor. For operation to dc, these pins must not source or sink more than 3 mA of current or device malfunction and failure can result.
	EPAD	Exposed Pad. Connect to a low impedance thermal and electrical ground plane.

## INTERFACE SCHEMATICS

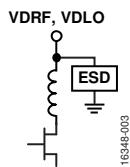


Figure 3. VDRF, VDLO Interface

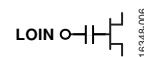


Figure 6. LOIN Interface



Figure 4. GND Interface

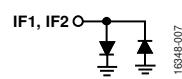


Figure 7. IF2, IF1 Interface

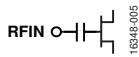


Figure 5. RFIN Interface

## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

### LOWER SIDEband (HIGH-SIDE LO)

IF = 1000 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

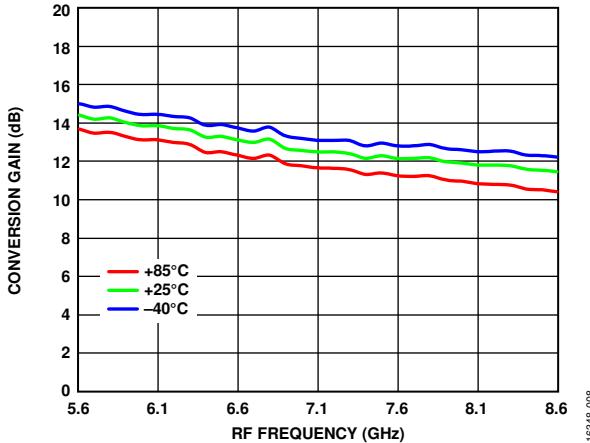


Figure 8. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

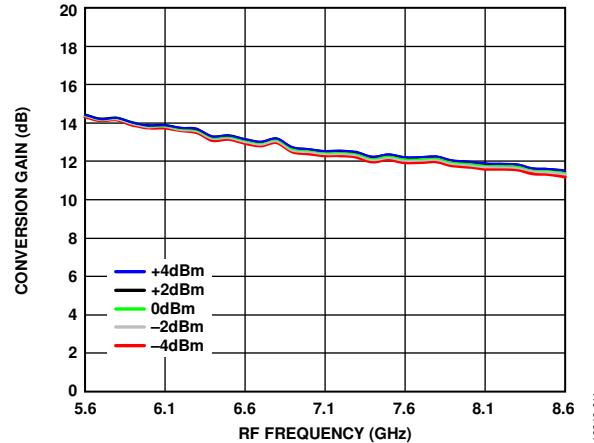


Figure 11. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

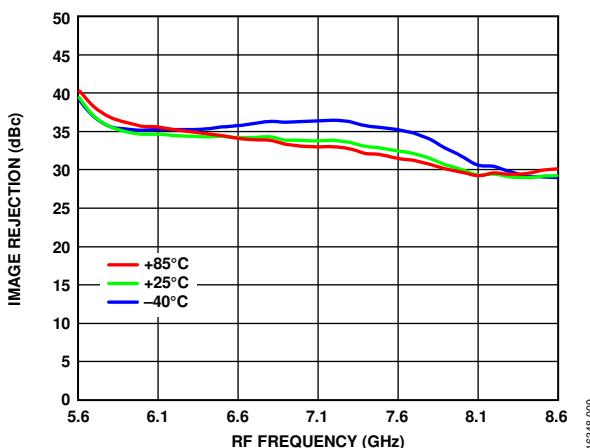


Figure 9. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

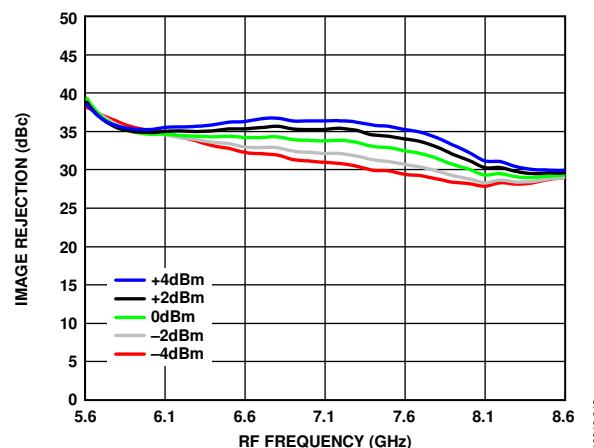


Figure 12. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  
 $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

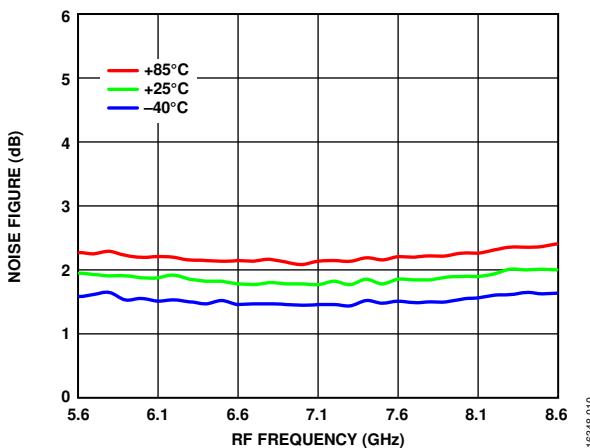


Figure 10. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

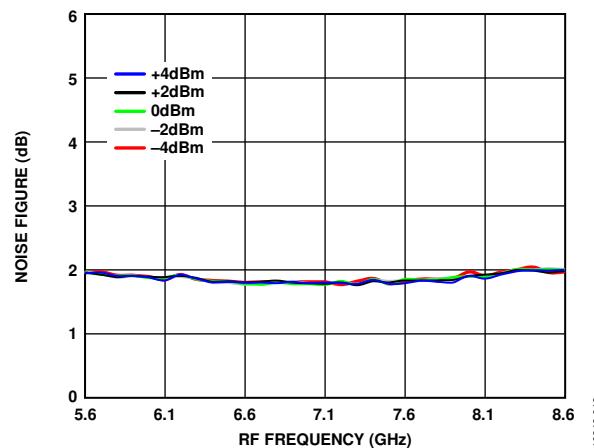
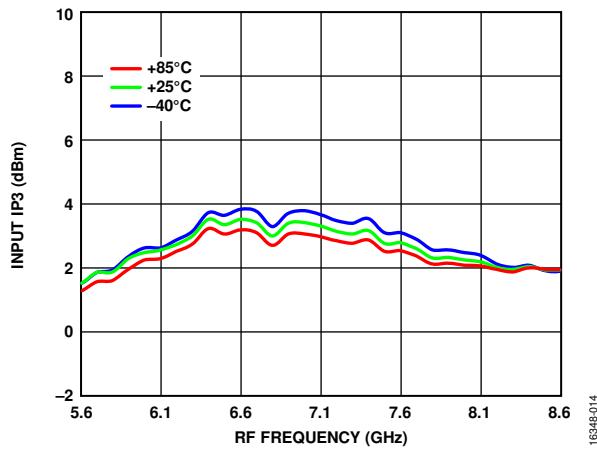
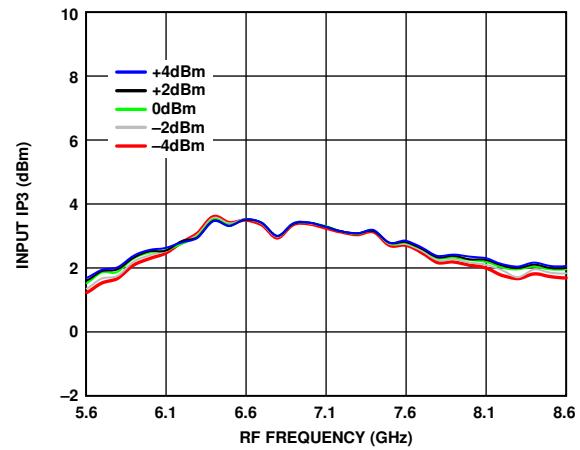


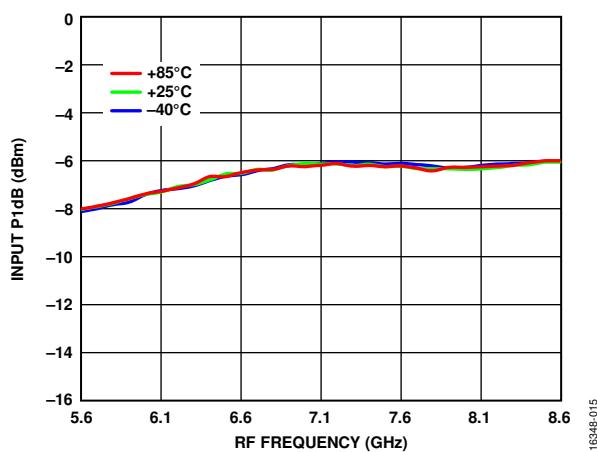
Figure 13. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  
 $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



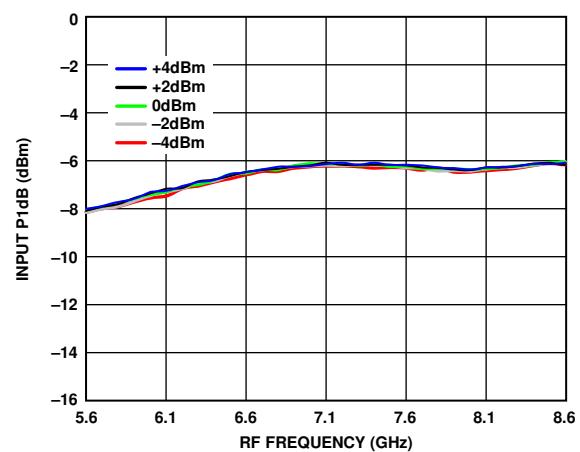
16348-014



16348-016



16348-015



16348-017

IF = 150 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

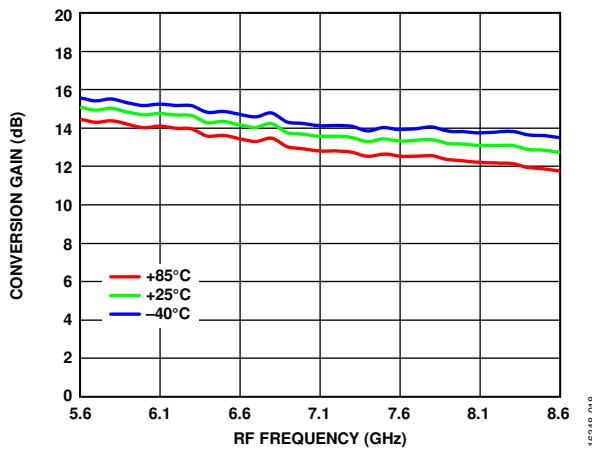


Figure 18. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

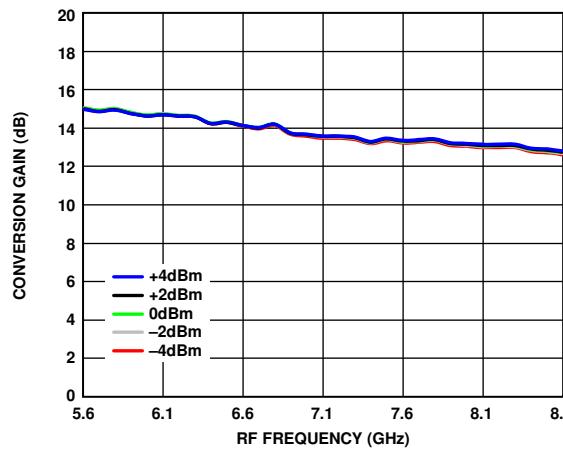


Figure 21. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

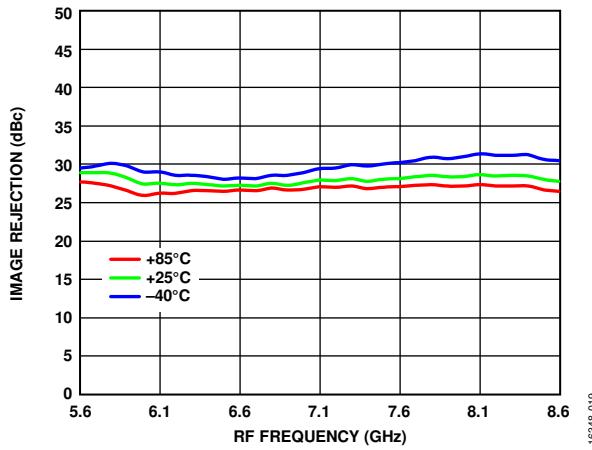


Figure 19. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

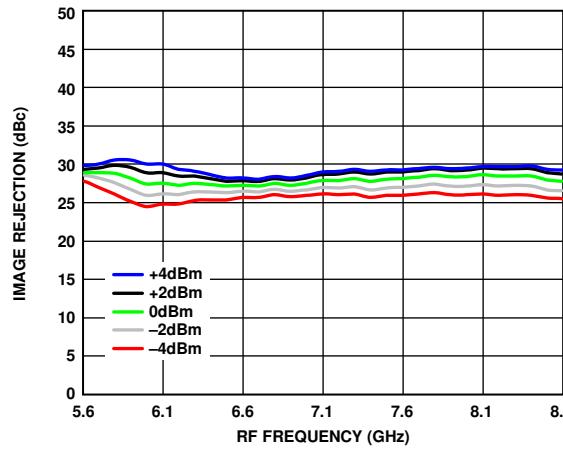


Figure 22. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

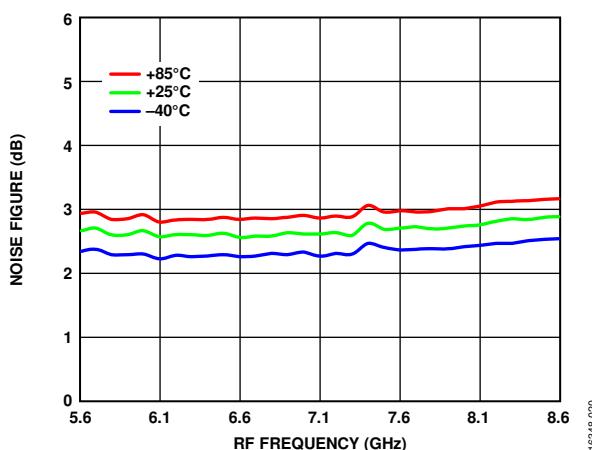


Figure 20. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

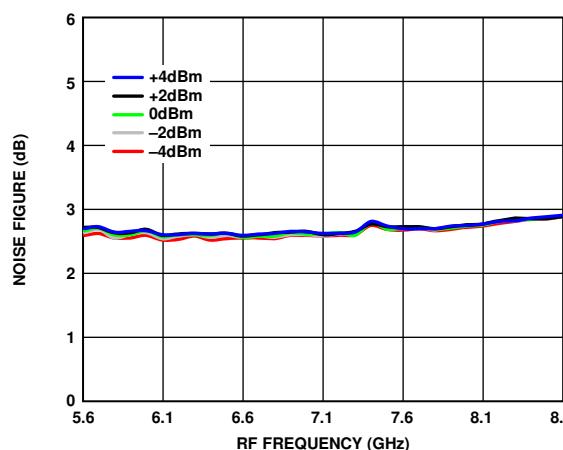
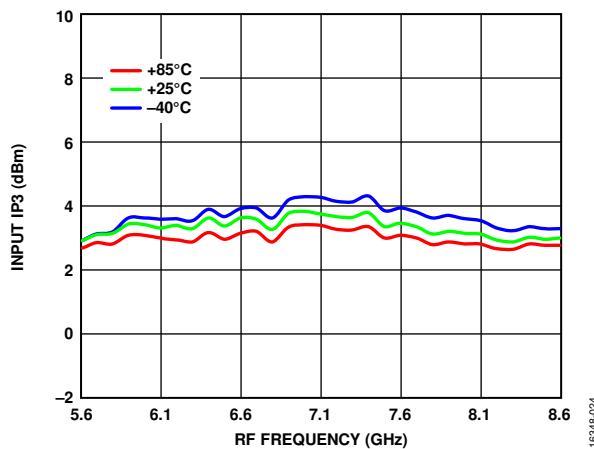
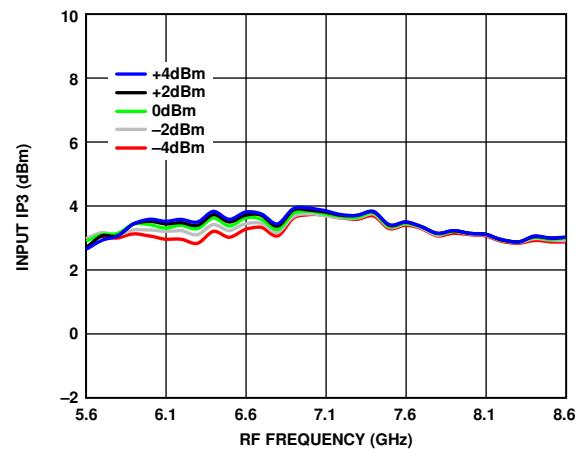


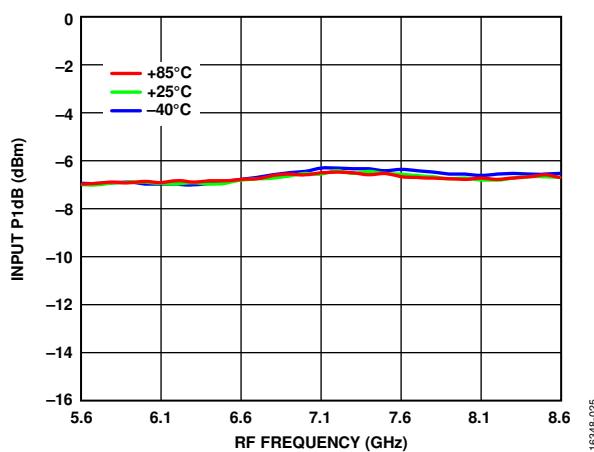
Figure 23. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



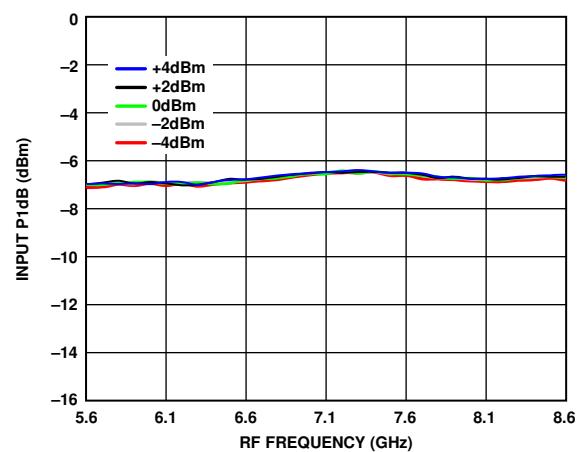
16348-024



16348-026



16348-025



16348-027

IF = 3100 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

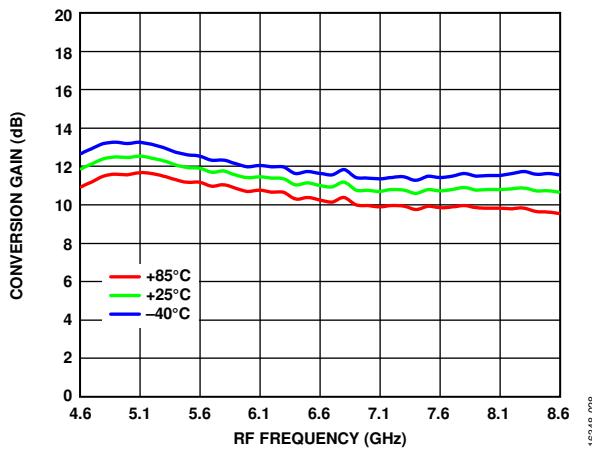


Figure 28. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

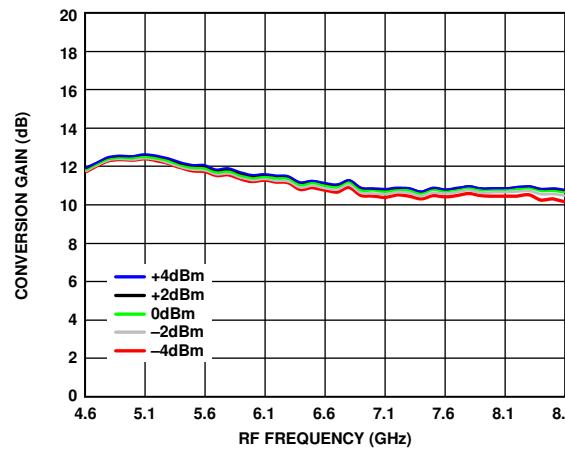


Figure 31. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

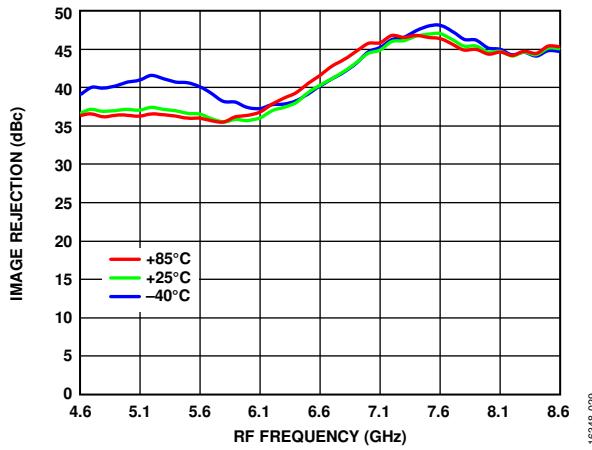


Figure 29. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

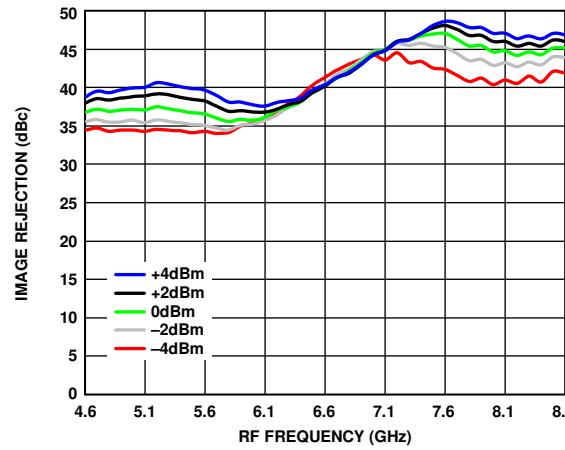


Figure 32. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

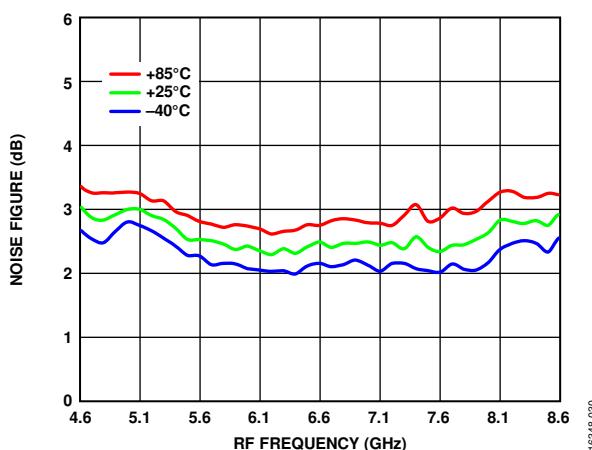


Figure 30. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

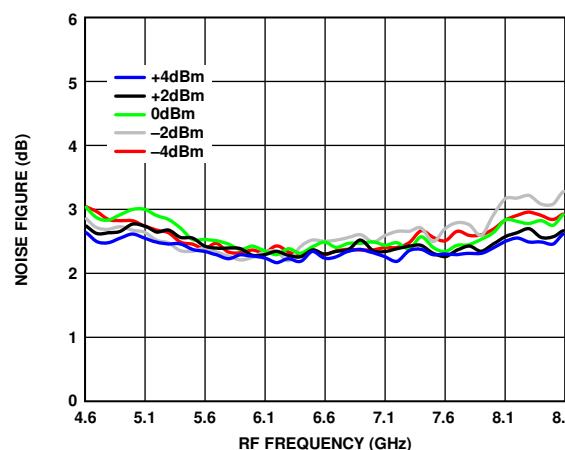
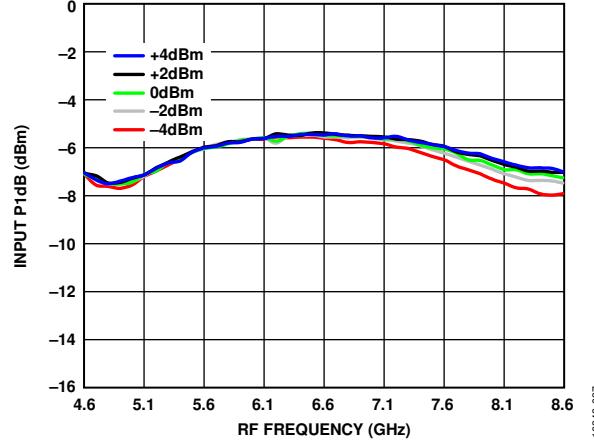
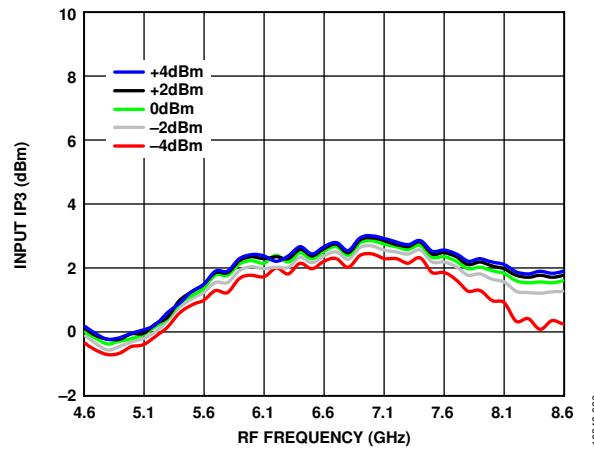
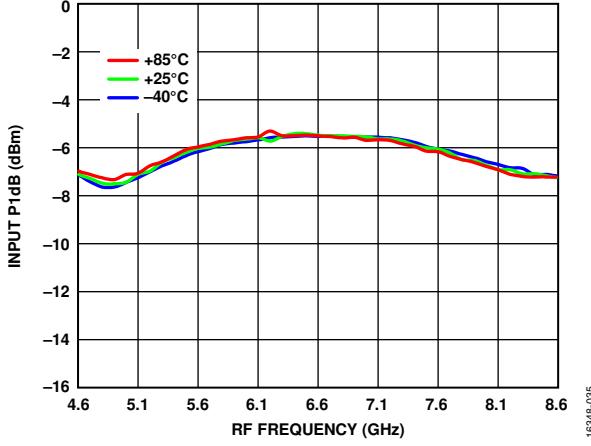
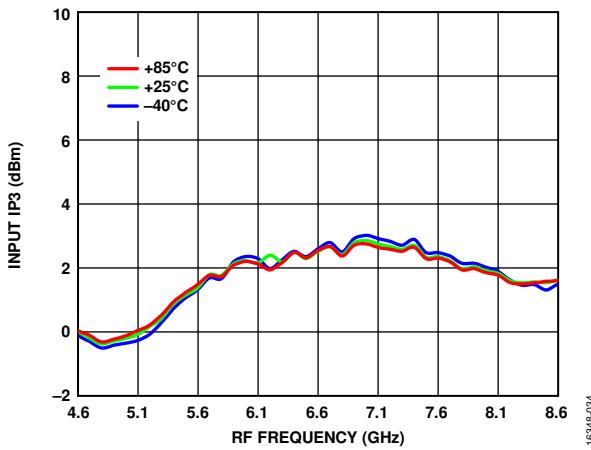


Figure 33. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



**UPPER SIDEBAND (LOW-SIDE LO)**

IF = 150 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

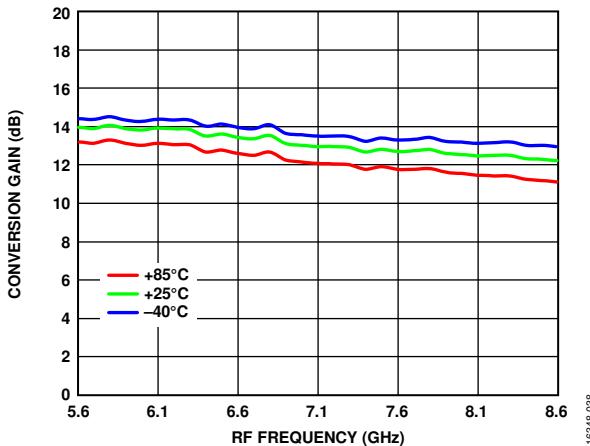


Figure 38. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

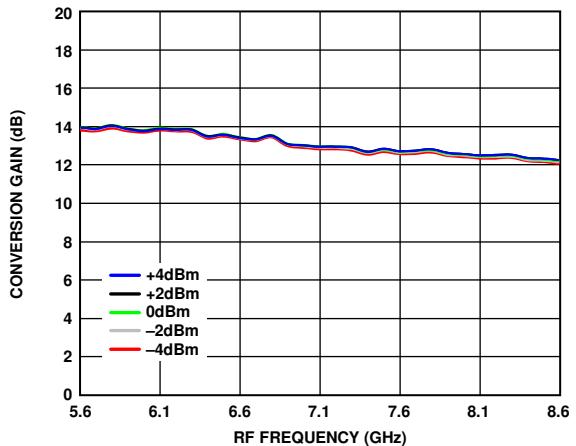


Figure 41. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

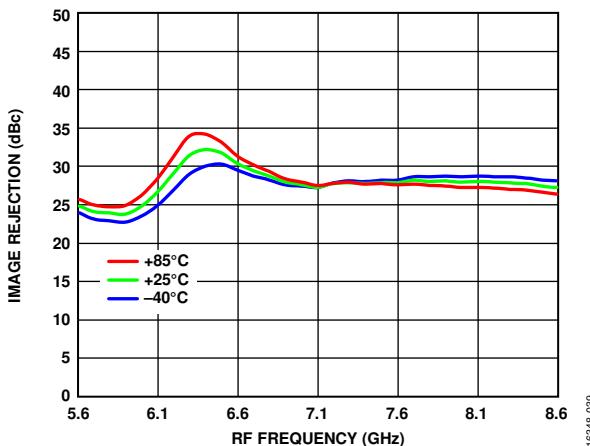


Figure 39. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

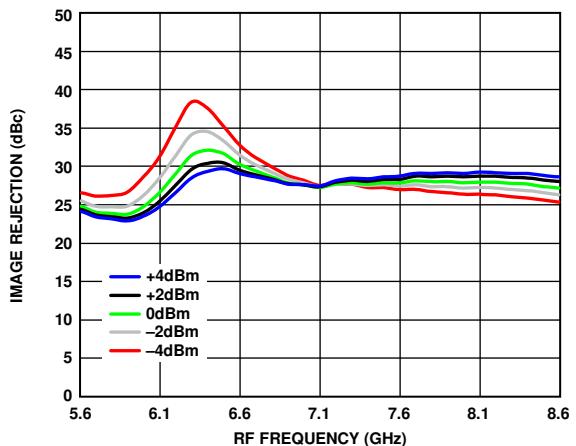


Figure 42. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

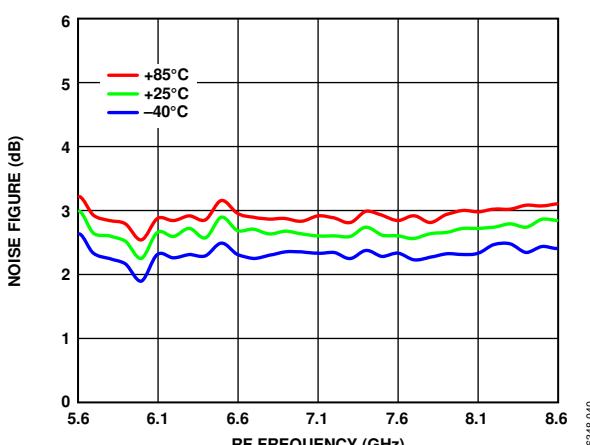


Figure 40. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

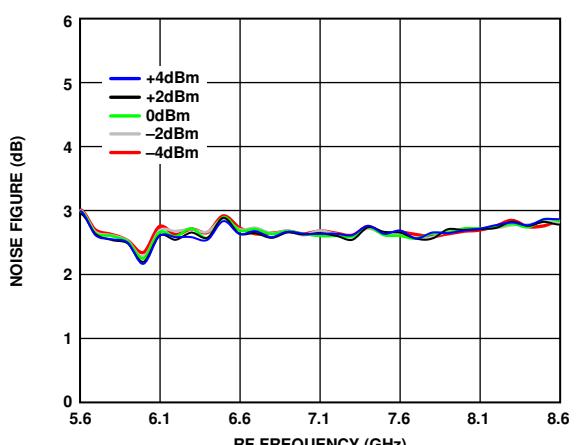
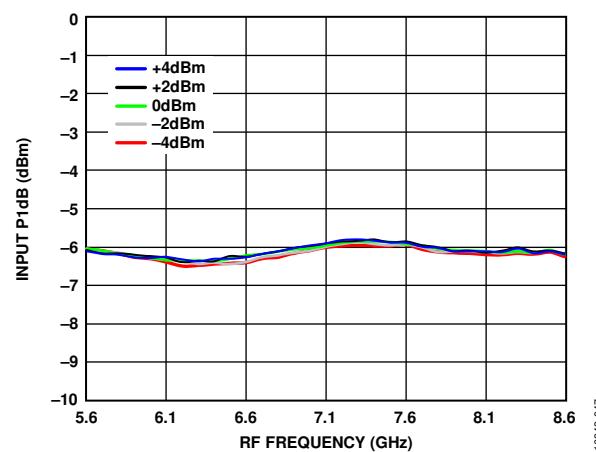
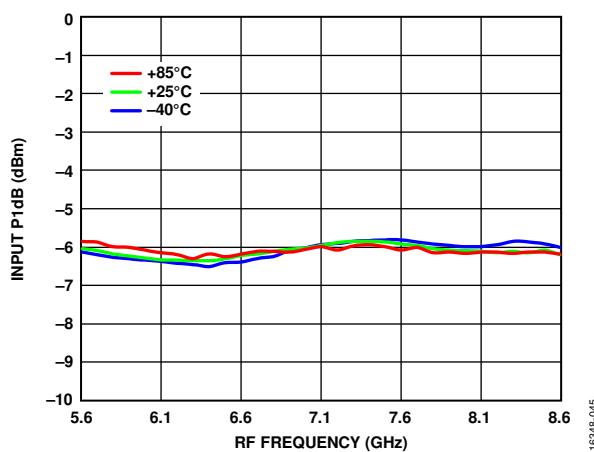
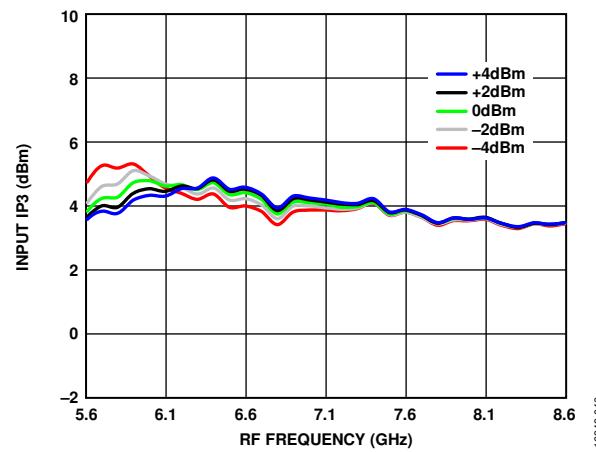
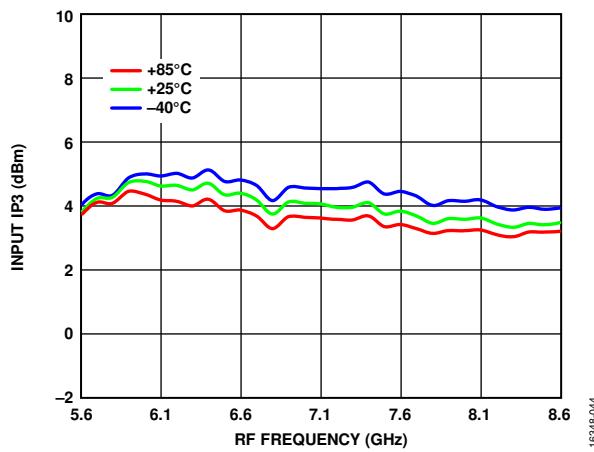


Figure 43. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



IF = 1000 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

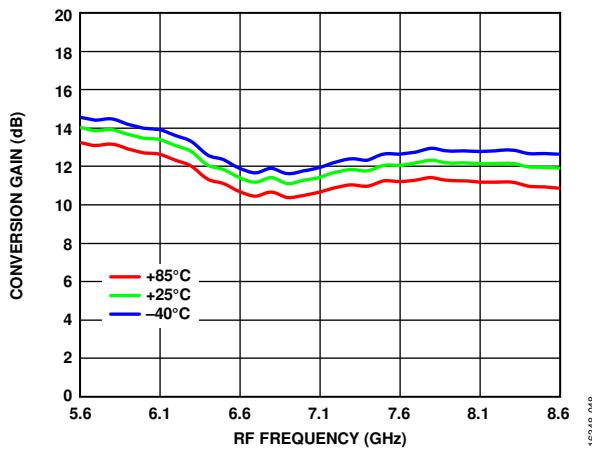


Figure 48. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

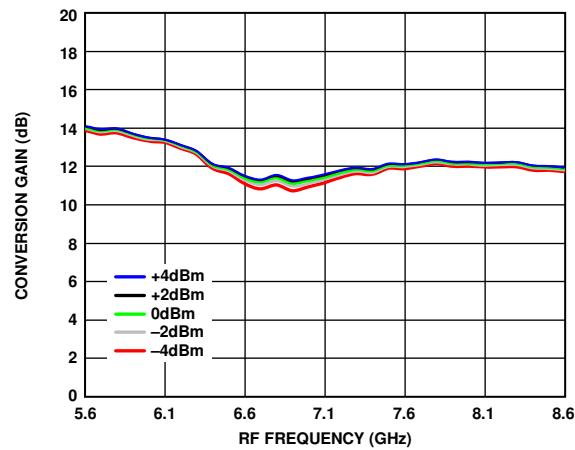


Figure 51. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

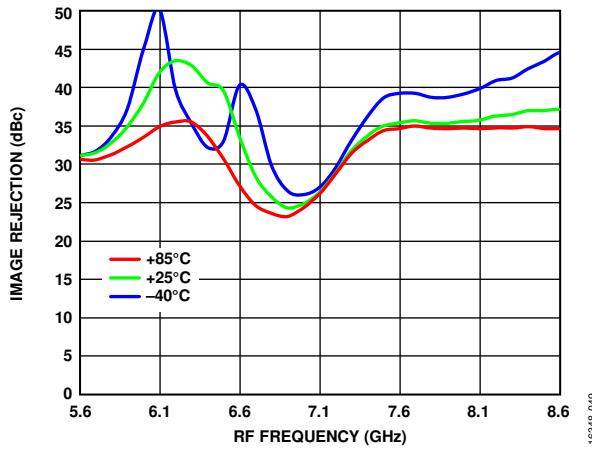


Figure 49. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

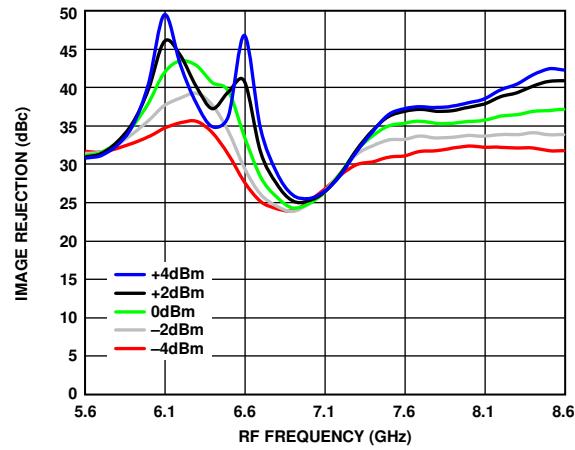


Figure 52. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

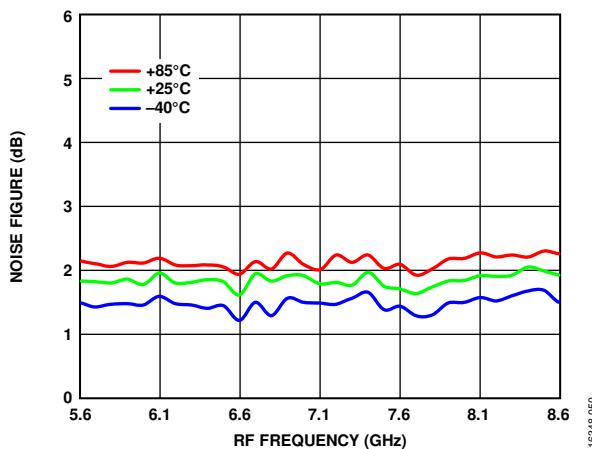


Figure 50. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

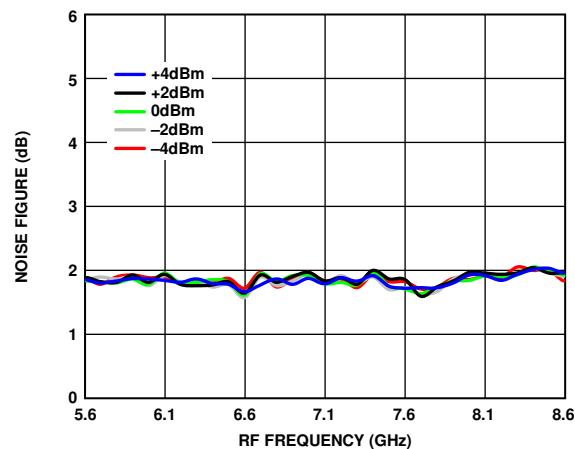
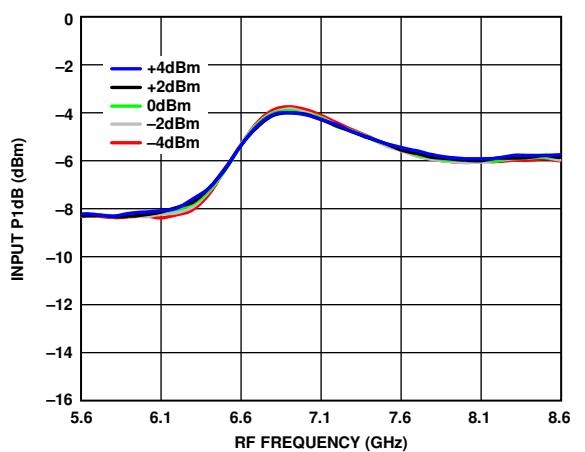
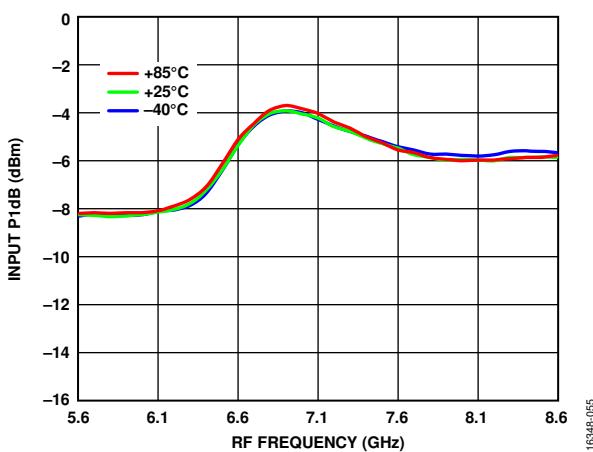
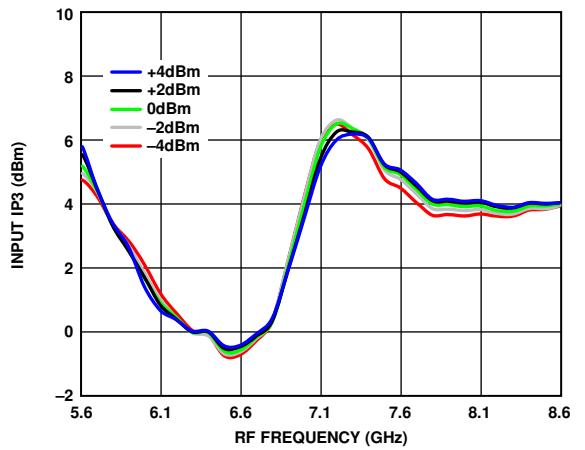
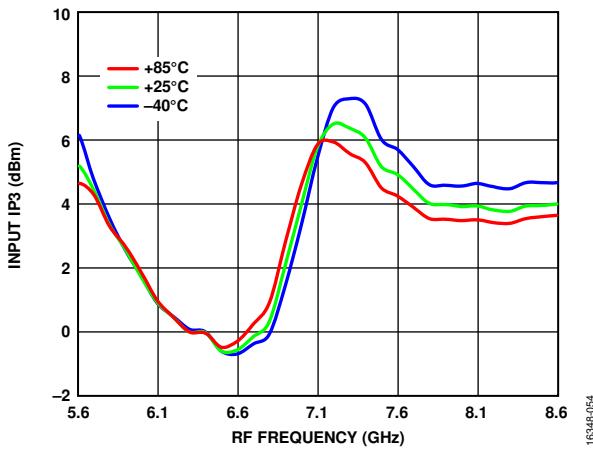


Figure 53. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



IF = 3100 MHz and RF input power = -20 dBm. Data de-embedded for RF trace loss, unless otherwise noted.

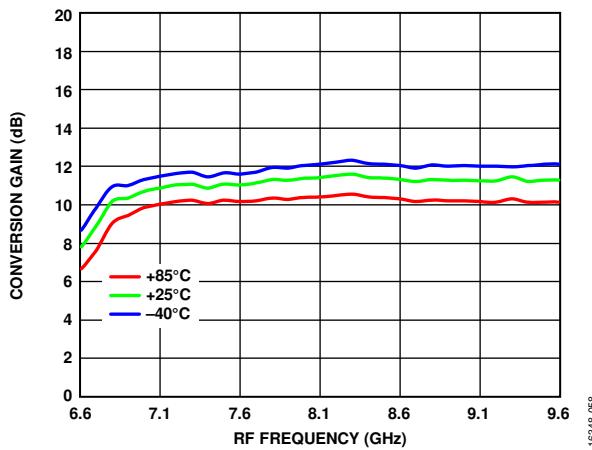


Figure 58. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

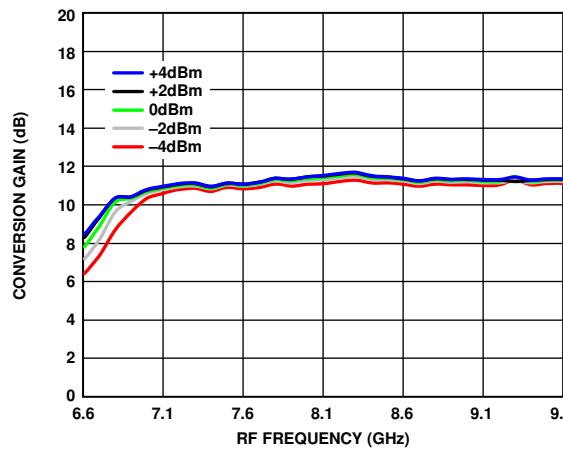


Figure 61. Conversion Gain vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

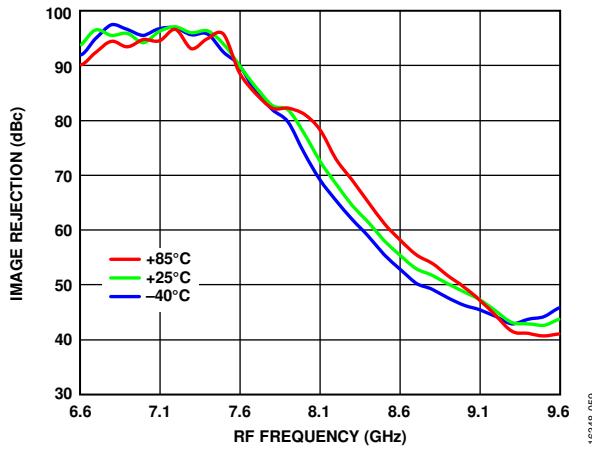


Figure 59. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

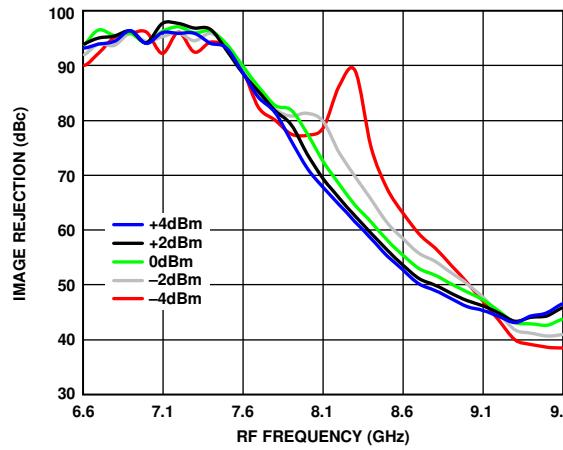


Figure 62. Image Rejection vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

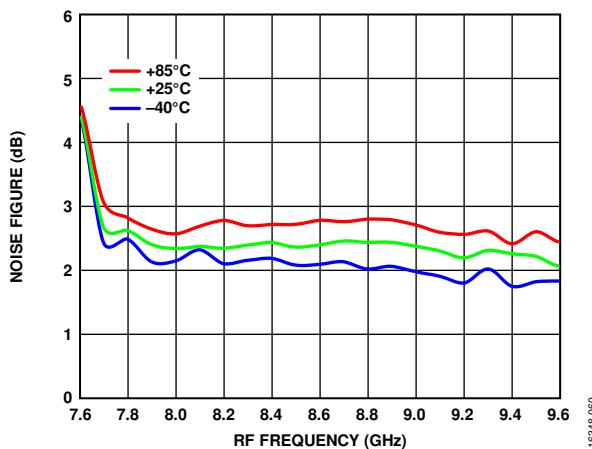


Figure 60. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

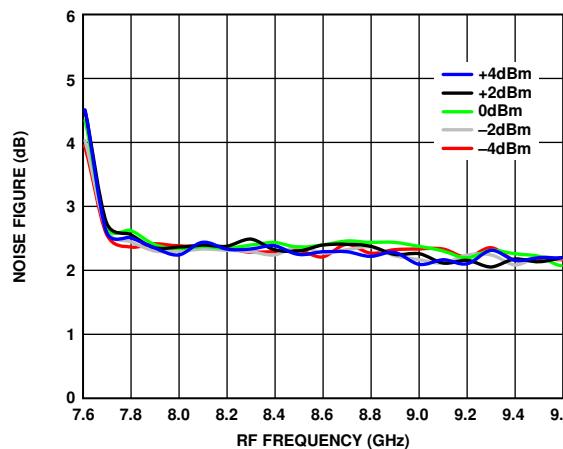
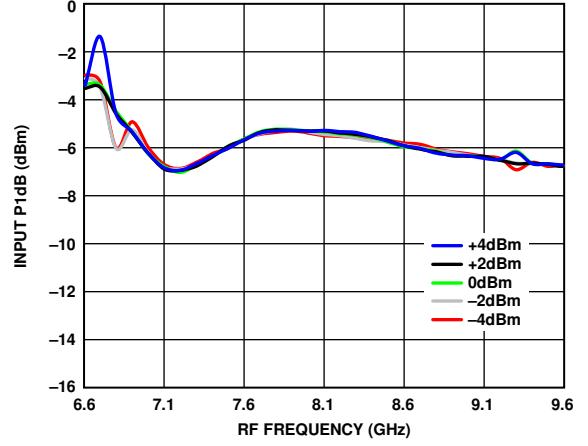
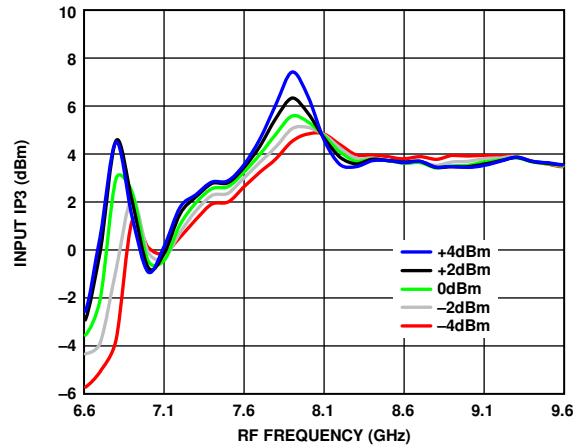
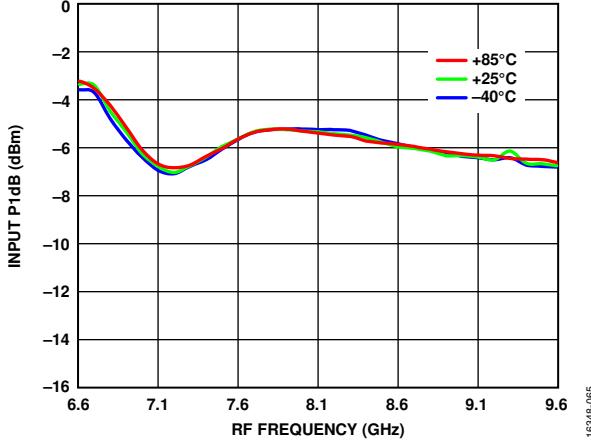
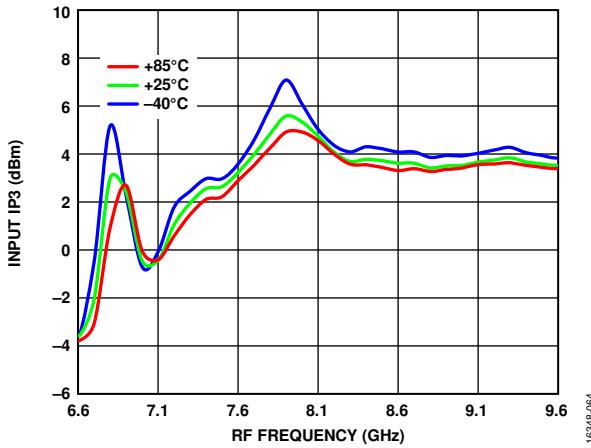


Figure 63. Noise Figure vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



## ISOLATION AND RETURN LOSS

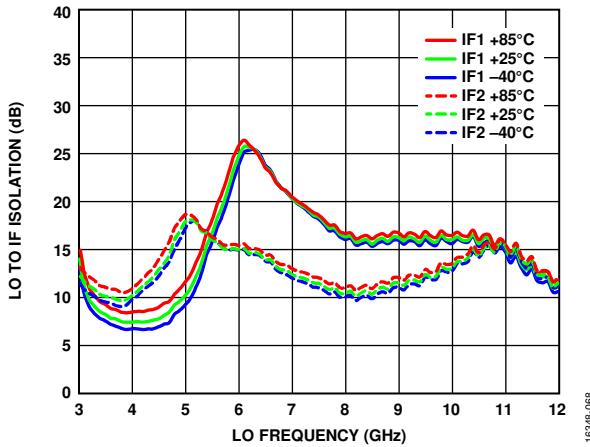


Figure 68. LO to IF Isolation vs. LO Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

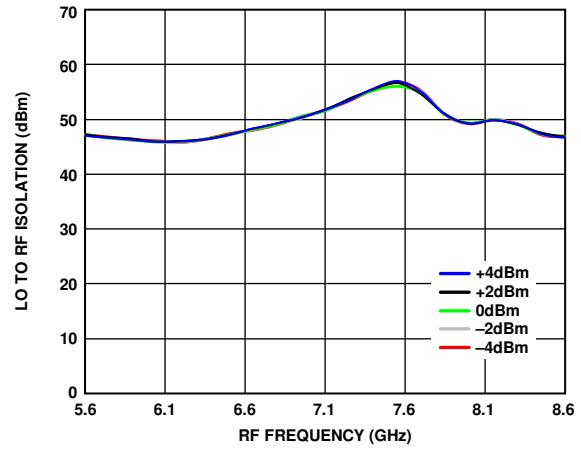


Figure 71. LO to RF Isolation vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

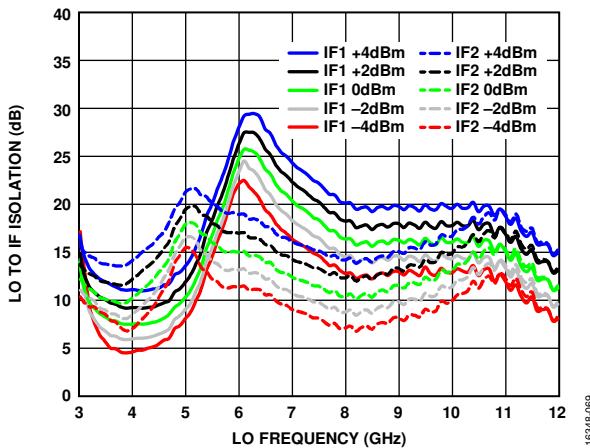


Figure 69. LO to IF Isolation vs. LO Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

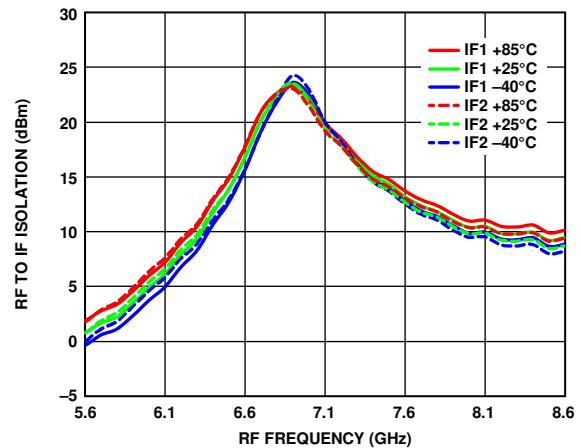


Figure 72. RF to IF Isolation vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

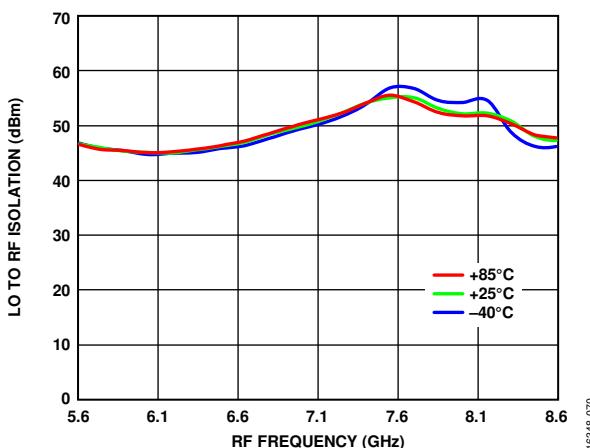


Figure 70. LO to RF Isolation vs. RF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Power = 0 dBm

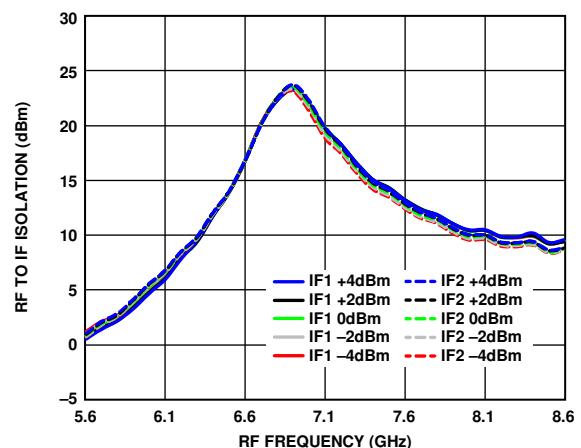
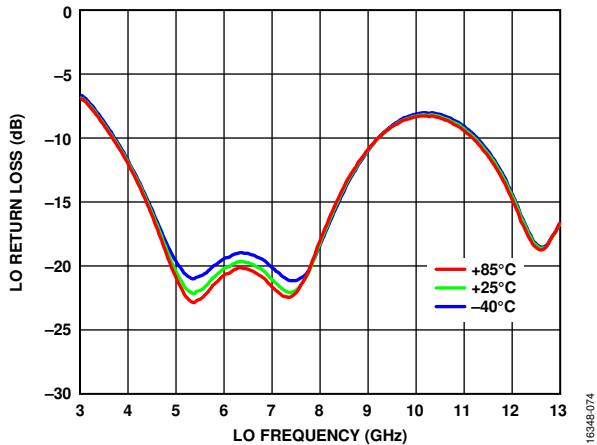
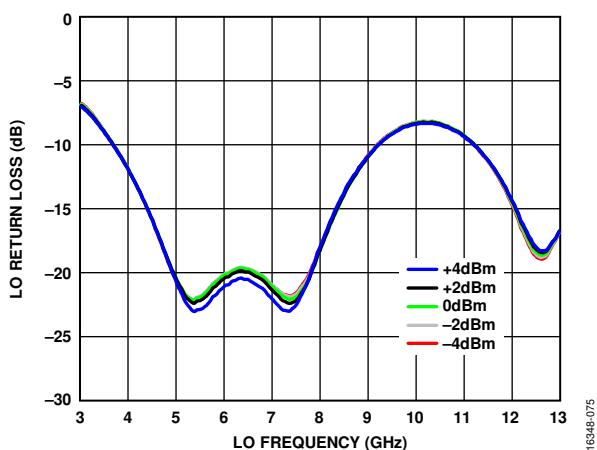


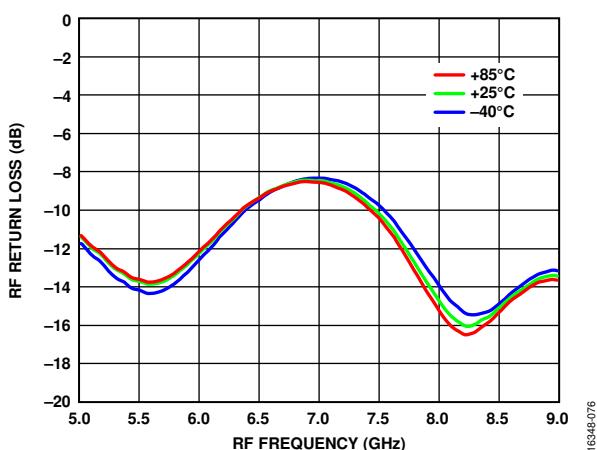
Figure 73. RF to IF Isolation vs. RF Frequency over LO Powers,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$



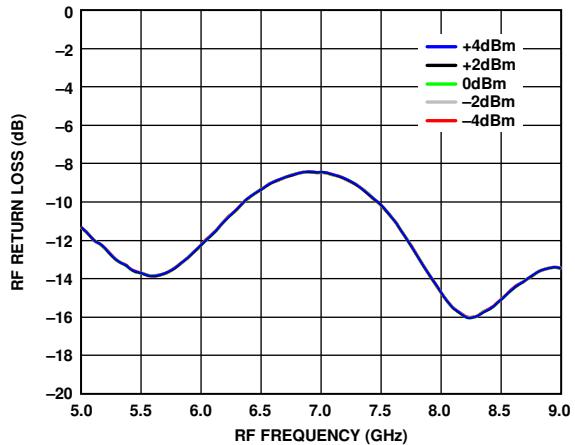
16348-074



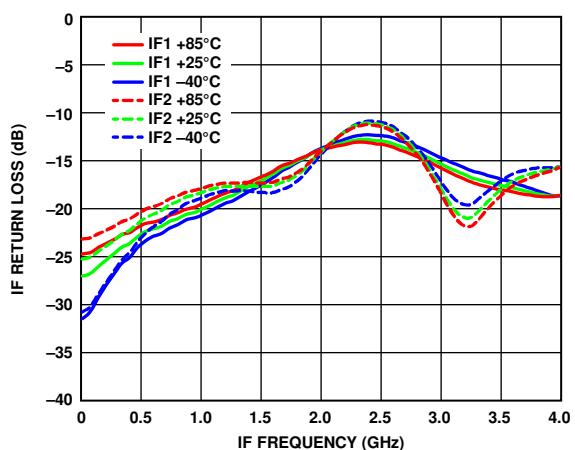
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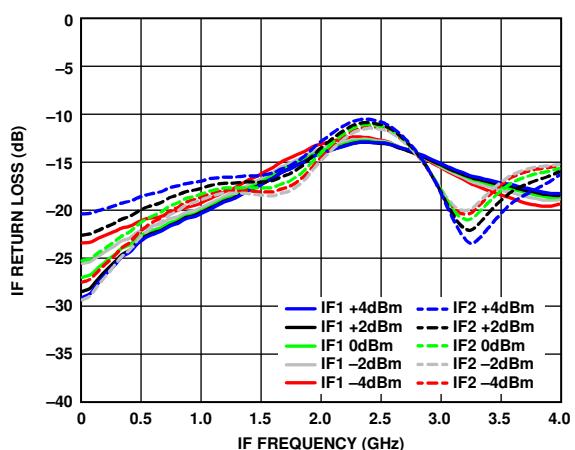
16348-076



16348-077



16348-078



16348-079

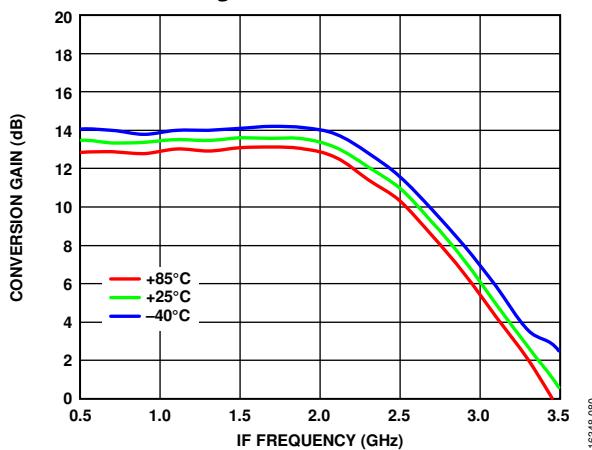
**IF BANDWIDTH PERFORMANCE****Lower Sideband (High-Side LO)**

Figure 80. Conversion Gain vs. IF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz, LO Power = 0 dBm

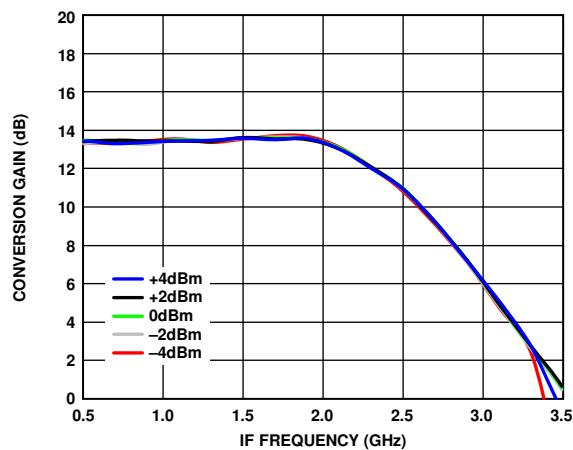


Figure 82. Conversion Gain vs. IF Frequency over LO Powers,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

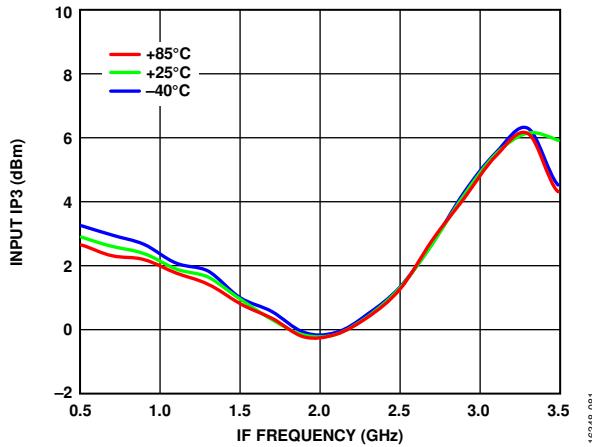


Figure 81. Input IP3 vs. IF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz, LO Power = 0 dBm

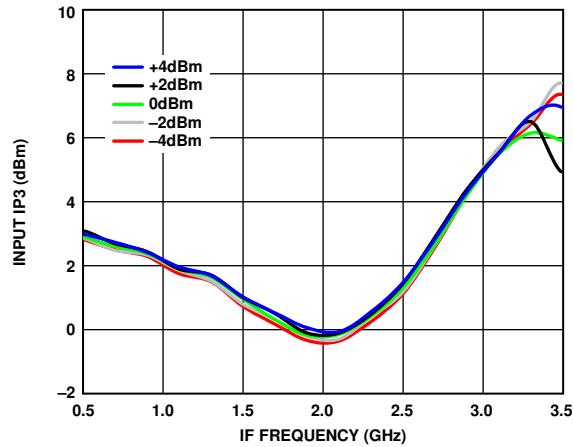


Figure 83. Input IP3 vs. IF Frequency over LO Powers,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

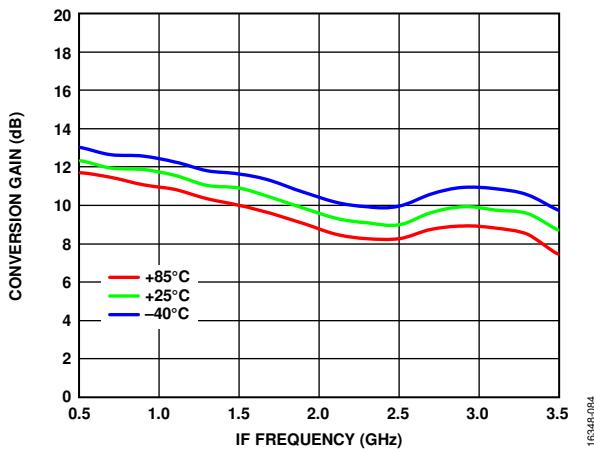
**Upper Sideband (Low-Side LO)**

Figure 84. Conversion Gain vs. IF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz, LO Power = 0 dBm

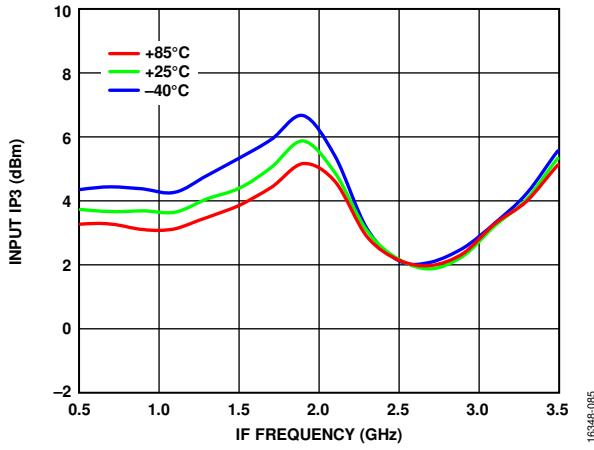


Figure 85. Input IP3 vs. IF Frequency over Temperatures,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz, LO Power = 0 dBm

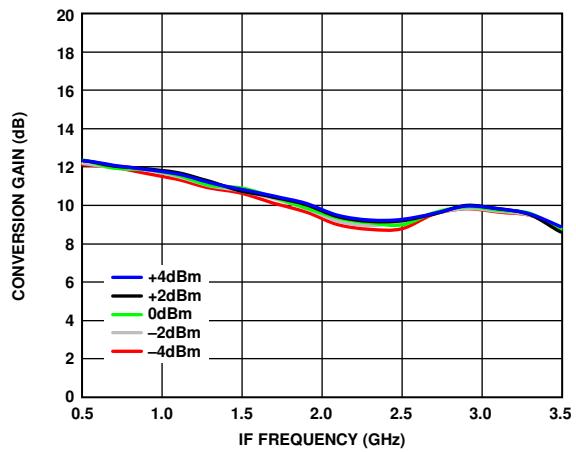


Figure 86. Conversion Gain vs. IF Frequency over LO Powers,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

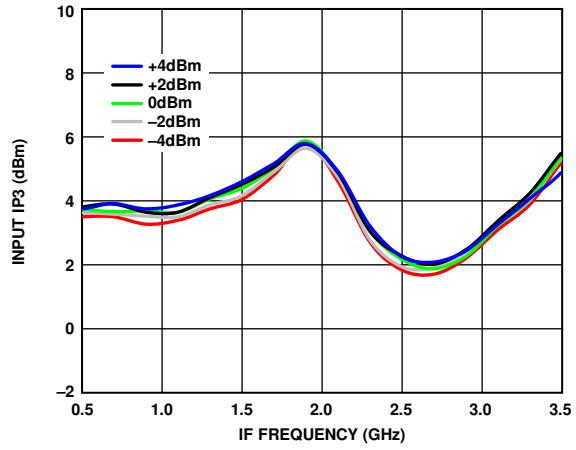
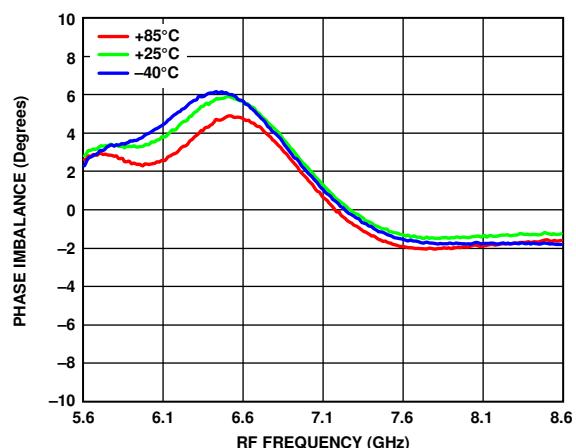
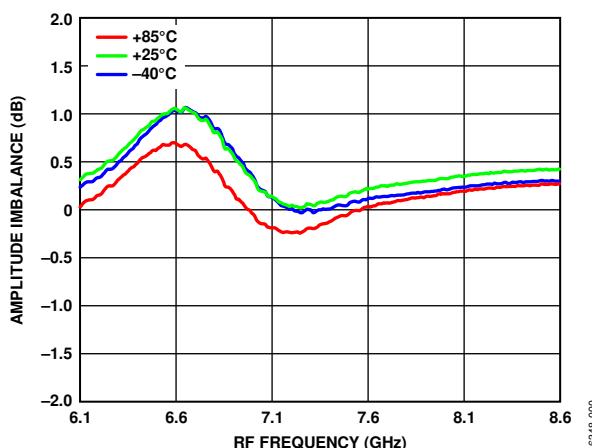
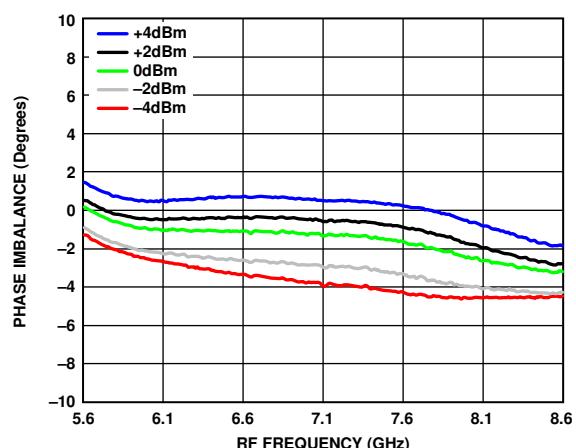
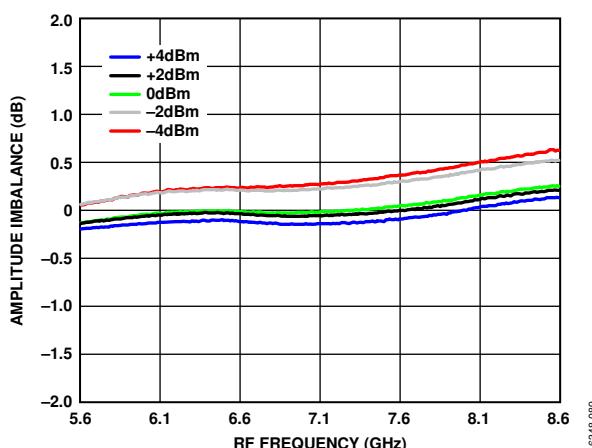
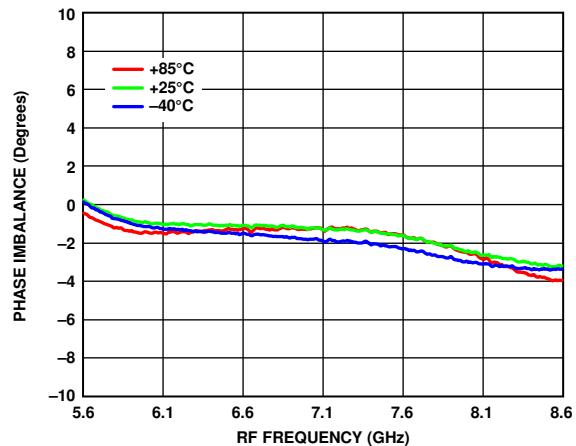
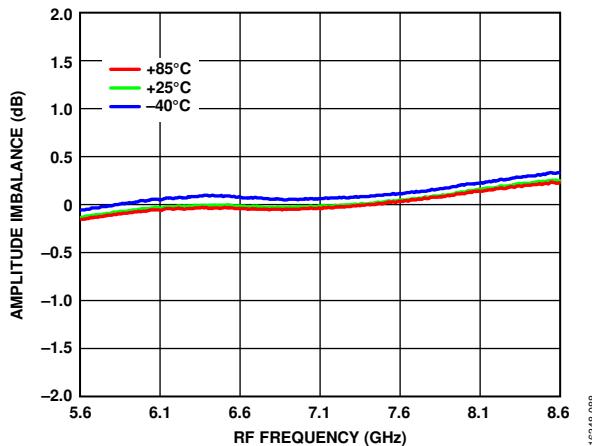
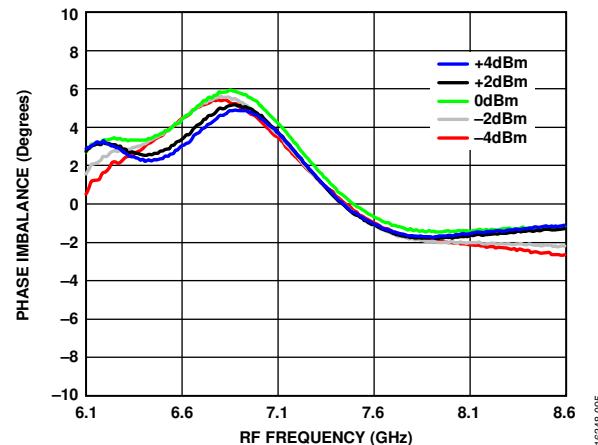
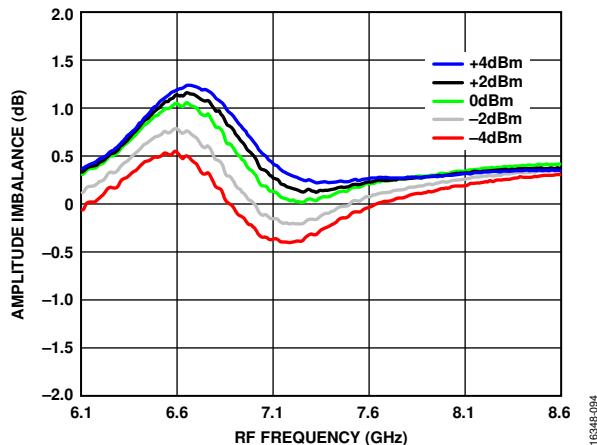


Figure 87. Input IP3 vs. IF Frequency over LO Powers,  
LO Frequency = 7 GHz,  $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$

## AMPLITUDE AND PHASE IMBALANCE PERFORMANCE





**SPURIOUS PERFORMANCE**

Mixer spurious products are measured in dBc from the RF output power level. Spur values are  $(M \times RF) - (N \times LO)$ . N/A means not applicable.

***M × N Spurious Outputs, IF = 150 MHz***

RF = 5600 MHz, LO frequency = 5750 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, RF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	15	33	18	34
	1	17	0	30	37	43
	2	57	60	60	57	71
	3	70	78	59	59	68
	4	84	87	88	70	81

RF = 6100 MHz, LO frequency = 6250 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, IF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	18	26	27	29
	1	22	0	39	38	41
	2	58	72	68	68	73
	3	71	80	70	62	82
	4	83	87	88	77	81

RF = 8500 MHz, LO frequency = 8650 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, IF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	16	13	23	28
	1	28	0	46	53	59
	2	53	78	63	69	64
	3	79	82	85	68	86
	4	79	79	86	84	82

***M × N Spurious Output, IF = 1000 MHz***

RF = 5600 MHz, LO frequency = 6600 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, IF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	16	24	26	42
	1	17	0	47	43	50
	2	55	61	55	61	63
	3	75	88	61	76	86
	4	86	89	90	76	77

RF = 6100 MHz, LO frequency = 7100 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, IF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	17	14	21	32
	1	23	0	49	41	59
	2	57	54	54	68	68
	3	72	83	65	68	87
	4	82	89	91	83	77

RF = 8500 MHz, LO frequency = 9500 MHz at LO input power = 0 dBm, IF input power = -20 dBm.

		N × LO				
		0	1	2	3	4
M × RF	0	N/A	13	19	13	39
	1	28	0	39	44	57
	2	52	78	55	68	82
	3	78	81	88	76	84
	4	77	82	86	87	81