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## Contact us

Tel: +86-755-8981 8866 Fax: +86-755-8427 6832
Email \& Skype: info@chipsmall.com Web: www.chipsmall.com Address: A1208, Overseas Decoration Building, \#122 Zhenhua RD., Futian, Shenzhen, China

CMAXIAV

## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver


#### Abstract

General Description The MAX2410 performs the RF front-end transmit/receive function in time-division-duplex (TDD) communication systems. It operates over a wide frequency range and is optimized for RF frequencies around 1.9 GHz . Applications include most popular cordless and PCS standards.

The MAX2410 contains a low-noise amplifier (LNA), a downconverter mixer, a local-oscillator (LO) buffer, an upconverter mixer, and a variable-gain power-amplifier (PA) driver in a low-cost, plastic surface-mount package. The LNA has a 2.4dB (typical) noise figure and a -10 dBm input third-order intercept point (IP3). The downconverter mixer has a low 9.8 dB noise figure and a 3.3dBm IP3. Image and LO filtering are implemented offchip for maximum flexibility. The PA driver has 15dB of gain, which can be reduced over a 35dB (typical) range. Power consumption is only 60 mW in receive mode or 90 mW in transmit mode and drops to less than $0.3 \mu \mathrm{~W}$ in shutdown mode. A similar part, the MAX2411A, features the same functionality as the MAX2410 but offers a differential bidirectional (transmit and receive) IF port. This allows the use of a single IF filter for transmit (TX) and receive $(R X)$. For applications requiring a receive function only, consult the data sheet for the MAX2406, a low-cost downconverter with low-noise amplifier.


|  | Applications |
| :--- | :--- |
| PWT1900 | DECT |
| DCS1800/PCS1900 | ISM-Band Transceiver |
| PHS/PACS | Iridium Handsets |

Functional Diagram


Low-Cost Silicon Bipolar Design

- Integrated Upconvert/Downconvert Function
- Operates from Single +2.7V to +5.5 V Supply
- 3.2dB Combined Receiver Noise Figure:
2.4 dB (LNA)
9.8 dB (Mixer)

Flexible Power-Amplifier Driver:
18dBm Output Third-Order Intercept (OIP3) 35dB Gain Control Range

- LO Buffer for Low LO Drive Level
- Low Power Consumption:

60 mW Receive 90mW Full-Power Transmit

- $0.3 \mu \mathrm{~W}$ Shutdown Mode
- Flexible Power-Down Modes Compatible with MAX2510/MAX2511 IF Transceivers

Ordering Information

| PART | TEMP. RANGE | PIN-PACKAGE |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| MAX2410EEI | $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 28 QSOP |
| MAX2410E/D | $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | Dice $^{*}$ |

*Dice are specified at $T_{A}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, D C$ parameters only.
Pin Configuration

|  | MAXIMI <br> MAX2410 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 28 | GND |
|  |  | 27 | LNAOUT |
|  |  | 26 | GND |
|  |  | 25 | GND |
|  |  | 24 | RXMXIN |
|  |  | 23 | GND |
|  |  | 22 | IFIN |
|  |  | 21 | IFOUT |
|  |  | 20 | GND |
|  |  | 19 | TXMXOUT |
|  |  | 18 | GND |
|  |  | 17 | GND |
|  |  | 16 | PADRIN |
|  |  | 15 | GND |
|  | QSOP |  |  |

## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

## ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

| Vcc to GND ............................................................-0.3V to +6V |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| LO, LO Input Power................................................ +10 dBm |  |
|  |  |
| PADRIN Input Power ...............................................+10dBm |  |
| RXMXIN Input Power ...............................................+10dBm |  |
| IFIN Input Power....................................................+10dBm |  |
| RXEN, TXEN, GC Voltage........................-0.3V to (VCC + |  |



Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

## DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

( $\mathrm{V} C \mathrm{C}=2.7 \mathrm{~V}$ to $5.5 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{VGC}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}$, RXEN $=$ TXEN $=0.6 \mathrm{~V}$, IFOUT and PADROUT pulled up to V cc with $50 \Omega$ resistors, TXMXOUT pulled up to $V_{C C}$ with $125 \Omega$ resistor, LNAOUT pulled up to $V_{C C}$ with $100 \Omega$ resistor, all other RF and IF inputs open, $T_{A}=-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}$.)

| PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supply Voltage Range |  | 2.7 | 5.5 | V |  |
| Digital Input Voltage High | RXEN, TXEN pins | 2.0 |  | V |  |
| Digital Input Voltage Low | RXEN, TXEN pins | 0.1 | 1 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  |
| RXEN Input Bias Current (Note 1) | RXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$ | 0.1 | 1 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  |
| TXEN Input Bias Current (Note 1) | TXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$ | 35 | 46 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  |
| GC Input Bias Current | GC $=3 \mathrm{~V}$, TXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$ | 20 | 29.5 | mA |  |
| Supply Current, Receive Mode | RXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$ | 30 | 44.5 | mA |  |
| Supply Current, Transmit Mode | TXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$ | 160 | 520 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  |
| Supply Current, Standby Mode | RXEN $=2 \mathrm{~V}$, TXEN = 2V | 0.1 | 10 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |  |
| Supply Current, Shutdown Mode | VCC $=3 \mathrm{~V}$ |  | 0.1 |  |  |

## AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(MAX2410 EV kit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{GC}}=2.15 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{RXEN}=\mathrm{TXEN}=\mathrm{low}, \mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{LO}}=1.5 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{LO}}=-10 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{LNAIN}}=\mathrm{f}_{\text {PADRIN }}=\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{RXMXIN}}=$ 1.9 GHz, PLnain $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPAdrin $=$ Prxmxin $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{fIFIN}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIn $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.)

| PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LOW-NOISE AMPLIFIER (RXEN = High) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gain (Note 1) | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 14.2 | 16.2 | 17.4 | dB |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=\mathrm{T}_{\text {MIN }}$ to $\mathrm{T}_{\text {MAX }}$ | 12.6 |  | 19.1 |  |
| Noise Figure |  |  | 2.4 |  | dB |
| Input IP3 | (Note 2) |  | -10 |  | dBm |
| Output 1dB Compression |  |  | -5 |  | dBm |
| LO to LNAIN Leakage | RXEN = high or low |  | -49 |  | dBm |
| RECEIVE MIXER (RXEN = High) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conversion Gain (Note 1) | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 6.6 | 8.3 | 9.8 | dB |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{\text {A }}=\mathrm{T}_{\text {MIN }}$ to TMAX | 5.4 |  | 10.8 |  |
| Noise Figure | Single sideband |  | 9.8 |  | dB |
| Input IP3 | (Note 3) |  | 3.3 |  | dBm |
| Input 1dB Compression |  |  | -8 |  | dBm |
| IFOUT Frequency | (Notes 1, 4) |  |  | 450 | MHz |
| Minimum LO Drive Level | (Note 5) |  | -17 |  | dBm |

## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

## AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(MAX2410 EV kit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{GC}}=2.15 \mathrm{~V}$, RXEN $=$ TXEN $=\mathrm{low}, \mathrm{f} \mathrm{fO}=1.5 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{PLO}=-10 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{fLNAIN}=\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{PADRIN}}=\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{RXMXIN}}=$ 1.9 GHz, PLNAIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPADRIN $=$ PRXMXIN $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{IFIN}}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.)

| PARAMETER | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TRANSMIT MIXER (TXEN = high) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conversion Gain (Note 1) | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 8.6 | 10 | 11.1 | dB |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{\text {A }}=\mathrm{T}_{\text {MIN }}$ to $\mathrm{T}_{\text {MAX }}$ | 7.3 |  | 11.8 |  |
| Output IP3 | (Note 6) |  | -0.3 |  | dBm |
| Output 1dB Compression Point |  |  | -11.4 |  | dBm |
| LO Leakage |  |  | -52 |  | dBm |
| Noise Figure | Single sideband |  | 8.2 |  | dB |
| IFIN Frequency | (Notes 1, 4) |  |  | 450 | MHz |
| Intermod Spurious Response (Note 7) | fout $=2 \mathrm{LO}-2 \mathrm{IF}=2.2 \mathrm{GHz}$ |  | -44 |  | dBc |
|  | fout $=2 \mathrm{LO}-3 \mathrm{IF}=1.8 \mathrm{GHz}$ |  | -74 |  | dBc |
|  | fout $=3 \mathrm{LO}-6 \mathrm{IF}=2.1 \mathrm{GHz}$ |  | -90 |  | dBc |
| POWER AMPLIFIER DRIVER (TXEN = high) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gain (Note 1) | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 13 | 15 | 16.4 | dB |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=\mathrm{T}_{\text {MIN }}$ to $\mathrm{T}_{\text {MAX }}$ | 12.3 |  | 17 |  |
| Output IP3 | (Note 3) |  | 18 |  | dBm |
| Output 1dB Compression Point |  |  | 6.3 |  | dBm |
| Gain-Control Range |  |  | 35 |  | dB |
| Gain-Control Sensitivity | (Note 8) |  | 12 |  | dB/V |
| LOCAL OSCILLATOR INPUTS (RXEN = TXEN = high) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Input Relative VSWR Normalized to Standby-Mode Impedance | Receive (TXEN = Low) |  | 1.10 |  |  |
|  | Transmit (RXEN = Low) |  | 1.02 |  |  |
| POWER MANAGEMENT (RXEN = TXEN = low) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Receiver Turn-On Time | (Notes 1, 9) |  | 0.5 | 2.5 | $\mu \mathrm{s}$ |
| Transmitter Turn-On Time | (Notes 1, 10) |  | 0.3 | 2.5 | $\mu \mathrm{s}$ |

Note 1: Guaranteed by design and characterization.
Note 2: Two tones at 1.9 GHz and 1.901 GHz at -32 dBm per tone
Note 3: Two tones at 1.9 GHz and 1.901 GHz at -22 dBm per tone
Note 4: Mixer operation guaranteed to this frequency. For optimum gain, adjust output match. See the Typical Operating Characteristics for graphs of IFIN and IFOUT Impedance vs. IF Frequency.
Note 5: At this LO drive level the mixer conversion gain is typically 1 dB lower than with -10 dBm LO drive.
Note 6: Two tones at 400 MHz and 401 MHz at -32 dBm per tone.
Note 7: Transmit mixer output at -17 dBm .
Note 8: Calculated from measurements taken at $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{GC}}=1.0 \mathrm{~V}$ and $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{GC}}=1.5 \mathrm{~V}$.
Note 9: Time from RXEN = low to RXEN = high transition until the combined receive gain is within 1 dB of its final value. Measured with 47pF blocking capacitors on LNAIN and LNAOUT.
Note 10: Time from TXEN = low to TXEN = high transition until the combined transmit gain is within 1dB of its final value. Measured with 47 pF blocking capacitors on PADRIN and PADROUT.

## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

Typical Operating Characteristics
 1.9 GHz , PLNAIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPADRIN $=$ PRXMXIN $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{fIFIN}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. All impedance measurements made directly to pin (no matching network).)


STANDBY SUPPLY CURRENT vs. TEM PERATURE


LNA GAIN vs. FREQUENCY


RECEIVE-MODE SUPPLY CURRENT vs. TEMPERATURE


LNA INPUT IMPEDANCE vs. FREQUENCY


LNA GAIN vs. TEM PERATURE


SHUTDOWN SUPPLY CURRENT vs. TEMPERATURE


LNA OUTPUT IM PEDANCE
vs. FREQUENCY


LNA INPUT IP3 vs. TEMPERATURE


## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

## Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

 1.9 GHz , PLNAIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPADRIN $=$ PRXMXIN $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{fIFIN}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. All impedance measurements made directly to pin (no matching network).)


PA DRIVER OUTPUT IMPEDANCE
vs. FREQUENCY


PA DRIVER OUTPUT IP3
vs. TEMPERATURE


LNA OUTPUT 1dB COM PRESSION POINT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE


PA DRIVER GAIN vs. FREQUENCY


PA DRIVER GAIN vs. TEM PERATURE


PA DRIVER INPUT IMPEDANCE
vs. FREQUENCY


PA DRIVER GAIN AND OUTPUT IP3 vs. GAIN-CONTROL VOLTAGE


PA DRIVER OUTPUT 1dB COM PRESSION POINT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE


## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)
(MAX2410 EV kit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{GC}}=2.15 \mathrm{~V}$, RXEN $=$ TXEN $=10 w, \mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{LO}}=1.5 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{PLO}_{\mathrm{L}}=-10 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f}$ LNAIN $=\mathrm{f}_{\text {PADRIN }}=\mathrm{f}_{\text {RXMXIN }}=$ 1.9 GHz, PLNAIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPADRIN $=$ PRXMXIN $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f} \mathrm{IFIN}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. All impedance measurements made directly to pin (no matching network).)


FREQUENCY (GHz)
IF OUTPUT IMPEDANCE
vs. FREQUENCY



PA DRIVER NOISE FIGURE vs. GAIN-CONTROL VOLTAGE

RECEIVE MIXER CONVERSION GAIN vs. TEM PERATURE


RECEIVE MIXER CONVERSION GAIN AND NOISE FIGURE vs. LO POWER


RECEIVE MIXER INPUT IM PEDANCE
vs. FREQUENCY


RECEIVE MIXER INPUT IP3
vs. TEM PERATURE


TRANSMIT MIXER OUTPUT IMPEDANCE vs. FREQUENCY


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## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)
(MAX2410 EV kit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=3.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{VGC}=2.15 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{RXEN}=\mathrm{TXEN}=\mathrm{low}, \mathrm{fLO}=1.5 \mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{PLO}=-10 \mathrm{dBm}$, fLNAIN $=\mathrm{f}_{\text {PADRIN }}=\mathrm{f}_{\text {RXMXIN }}=$ 1.9 GHz , PLNAIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$, PPADRIN $=$ PRXMXIN $=-22 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f} \mid \mathrm{FIN}=400 \mathrm{MHz}$, PIFIN $=-32 \mathrm{dBm}$. All measurements performed in $50 \Omega$ environment. $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. All impedance measurements made directly to pin (no matching network).)


TRANSMIT MIXER OUTPUT IP3 vs. TEMPERATURE


TRANSMIT MIXER CONVERSION GAIN
vs. TEMPERATURE


TRANSMIT MIXER GAIN AND NOISE FIGURE vs. LO POWER


TRANSMIT MIXER CONVERSION GAIN vs. RF FREQUENCY


LO PORT RETURN LOSS vs. FREQUENCY


## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

| PIN | NAME | FUNCTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} 1,3,4,12, \\ 14,18,20, \\ 23,28 \end{gathered}$ | GND | Ground. Connect to PC board ground plane with minimal inductance. |
| 2 | LNAIN | RF Input to the LNA. AC couple to this pin. At 1.9 GHz , LNAIN can be easily matched to $50 \Omega$ with one external shunt 1 pF capacitor. |
| 5,10 | Vcc | Supply Voltage ( 2.7 V to 5.5 V ). Bypass V CC to GND at each pin with a 47 pF capacitor as close to each pin as possible. |
| 6 | RXEN | Logic-Level Enable for Receiver Circuitry. A logic high turns on the receiver. When TXEN and RXEN are both at a logic high, the part is placed in standby mode, with a supply current of $160 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (typical). If TXEN and RXEN are both at a logic low, the part is set to shutdown mode, with a supply current of $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (typical). |
| 7 | LO | $50 \Omega$ Local-Oscillator (LO) Input Port. AC couple to this pin. |
| 8 | $\overline{\text { LO }}$ | $50 \Omega$ Inverting Local-Oscillator Input Port. For single-ended operation connect $\overline{\text { LO }}$ directly to GND. If a differential LO signal is available, AC couple the inverted LO signal to this pin. |
| 9 | TXEN | Logic-Level Enable for Transmitter Circuitry. A logic high turns on the transmitter. When TXEN and RXEN are both at a logic high, the part is placed in standby mode, with $160 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (typical) supply current. If TXEN and RXEN are both at a logic low, the part is set to shutdown mode, with $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (typical) supply current. |
| 11 | GC | Gain-Control Input for Power-Amplifier Driver. By applying an analog control voltage between OV and 2.15 V , the gain of the PA driver can be adjusted over a 35 dB range. Connect to $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}$ for maximum gain. |
| 13 | PADROUT | Power-Amplifier Driver Output. AC couple to this pin. Use external shunt inductor to $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}$ to match this pin to $50 \Omega$. This also provides DC bias. See the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of PADROUT Impedance vs. Frequency. |
| 15, 17 | GND | Power-Amplifier Driver Input Ground. Connect to PC board ground plane with minimal inductance. |
| 16 | PADRIN | RF Input to Variable-Gain Power-Amplifier Driver. AC couple to this pin. Internally matched to $50 \Omega$. This input typically provides a 2:1 VSWR at 1.9 GHz . See the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of PADRIN Impedance vs. Frequency. |
| 19 | TXMXOUT | RF Output of Transmit Mixer (Upconverter). AC couple to this pin. Use an external shunt inductor to $V_{C C}$ as part of a matching network to $50 \Omega$. This also provides DC bias. See the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of TXMXOUT Impedance vs. Frequency. |
| 21 | IFOUT | IF Output of Receive Mixer (Downconverter). AC couple to this pin. This output is an open collector and should be pulled up to $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}$ with an inductor. This inductor can be part of the matching network to the desired IF impedance. Alternatively, a resistor can be placed in parallel to this inductor to set a terminating impedance. See the Typical Operating Circuit for more information. |
| 22 | IFIN | IF Input of Transmit Mixer (Upconverter). AC couple to this pin. IFIN presents a high input impedance and typically requires a matching network. See the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of IFIN Impedance vs. Frequency. |
| 24 | RXMXIN | RF Input to Receive Mixer (Downconverter). AC couple to this pin. This input typically requires a matching network for connecting to an external filter. See the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of RXMXIN Impedance vs. Frequency. |
| 25 | GND | Receive Mixer Input Ground. Connect to PC board ground plane with minimal inductance. |
| 26 | GND | LNA Output Ground. Connect to PC board ground plane with minimal inductance. |
| 27 | LNAOUT | LNA Output. AC couple to this pin. This output typically provides a VSWR of better than 2:1 at frequencies from 1.7 GHz to 3 GHz with no external matching components. At other frequencies, a matching network may be required to match this pin to an external filter. Consult the Typical Operating Characteristics for a plot of LNA Output Impedance vs. Frequency. |

## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver

## Typical Operating Circuit



## Detailed Description

The MAX2410 consists of five major components: a transmit mixer, a variable-gain power-amplifier (PA) driver, a low-noise amplifier (LNA), a receive mixer, and power-management section.
The following sections describe each block in the MAX2410 Functional Diagram.

Low-Noise Amplifier (LNA)
The LNA is a wideband, single-ended cascode amplifier that can be used over a wide range of frequencies (refer to the LNA Gain vs. Frequency graph in the Typical Operating Characteristics). Its port impedances are optimized for operation around 1.9 GHz , requiring only a 1 pF shunt capacitor at the LNA input for a VSWR of better than $2: 1$ and a noise figure of 2.4 dB . As with every LNA, the input match can be traded off for better noise figure.

# Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver 


#### Abstract

PA Driver The PA driver typically has 15 dB of gain, which is adjustable over a 35 dB range via the GC pin. At full gain, the PA driver has a noise figure of 3.5 dB at 1.9 GHz .

For input and output matching information, refer to the Typical Operating Characteristics for plots of PA Driver Input and Output Impedance vs. Frequency.


## Receive Mixer

The receive mixer is a wideband, double-balanced design with excellent noise figure and linearity. The inputs to the mixer are the RF signal at the RXMXIN pin and the LO inputs at LO and LO. The downconverted output signal appears at the IFOUT port. The conversion gain of the receive mixer is typically 8.3 dB with a noise figure of 9.8 dB .

RF Input
The RXMXIN input is typically connected to the LNA output through an off-chip filter. This input is externally matched to $50 \Omega$. See the Typical Operating Circuit for an example matching network and the RXMXIN Impedance vs. Frequency graph in the Typical Operating Characteristics.

## Local-Oscillator Inputs

The LO and $\overline{\mathrm{LO}}$ pins are internally terminated with $50 \Omega$ on-chip resistors. AC couple the LO signal to these pins. If a single-ended LO source is used, connect LO directly to ground.

## IF Output Port

The MAX2410's receive mixer output appears at the IFOUT pin, an open-collector output that requires an external pull-up inductor to Vcc. This inductor can be part of a matching network to the desired IF impedance. Alternatively, a resistor can be placed in parallel with the pull-up inductor to set a terminating impedance. The MAX2411A, a similar part to the MAX2410, has the same functionality as the MAX2410 but offers a differential, bidirectional (transmit and receive) IF port. This allows sharing of TX and RX IF filters, which for some applications provides a lower cost, smaller solution.

Transmit Mixer
The transmit mixer takes an IF signal at the IFIN pin and upconverts it to an RF frequency at the TXMXOUT pin. The conversion gain is typically 10 dB and the output 1 dB compression point is typically -11.4 dBm at 1.9 GHz .

# Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver 

## Standby Mode

When the TXEN and RXEN pins are both set to logic 1, all functions are disabled and the supply current drops to $160 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (typical). This mode is called standby, and it corresponds to a standby mode on the compatible IF transceiver chips MAX2510 and MAX2511.

## Applications Information

Extended Frequency Range The MAX2410 has been characterized at 1.9GHz for use in PCS-band applications; however, it operates over a much wider frequency range. The LNA gain and noise figure, as well as mixer conversion gain, are plotted over a wide frequency range in the Typical Operating Characteristics. When operating the device at RF frequencies other than those specified in the AC Electrical Characteristics table, it may be necessary to design or alter the matching networks on the RF ports. If the IF frequency is different than that specified in the $A C$ Electrical Characteristics table, the IFIN and IFOUT matching networks must be altered. The Typical Operating Characteristics provide Port Impedance Data
vs. Frequency on all RF and IF pins for use in designing matching networks. The LO port (LO and $\overline{\mathrm{LO}}$ ) is internally terminated with $50 \Omega$ resistors and provides a VSWR of approximately $1.2: 1$ to 2 GHz and 2:1 up to 3 GHz .

Layout Issues A properly designed PC board is an essential part of any RF/microwave circuit. Be sure to use controlled impedance lines on all high-frequency inputs and outputs. Use low-inductance connections to ground on all GND pins, and place decoupling capacitors close to all VCC connections.
For the power supplies, a star topology works well. In a star topology, each VCC node in the circuit has its own path to the central $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{Cc}}$, and its own decoupling capacitor which provides a low impedance at the RF frequency of interest. The central VCC node has a large decoupling capacitor as well, to provide good isolation between the different sections of the MAX2410. The MAX2410 EV kit layout can be used as a guide to integrating the MAX2410 into your design.


## Low-Cost RF Up/Downconverter with LNA and PA Driver



