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DC to 45GHz Broadband MMIC Medium-Power Amplifier with PLFX

Features

- Integrated PLFX technology:
 - Allows use of less-expensive coil
- High power to 40GHz:
 - 21dBm Psat, 18dBm P1dB
- Excellent 0.04-45GHz performance:
 - 10 ± 0.75dB gain
 - 19.5dBm Psat, 17dBm P1dB
 - 11dB return loss
- >30dB dynamic gain control
- Integrated power detector
- 100% DC, RF, and visually tested
- Size: 1640x920um (64.6x36.2mil)
- ECCN 3A001.b.2.d

Description

The MMA032AA is an eight stage traveling wave amplifier. The amplifier features Microsemi PLFX (Passive Low Frequency eXtension) circuitry designed to reduce the integration cost of the amplifier. PLFX isolates the amplifier from bias inductor resonances, allowing use of a less-expensive coil.

Application

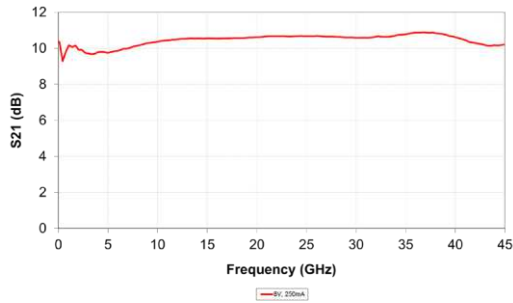
The MMA032AA Broadband MMIC Medium-Power Amplifier with PLFX is designed for broadband power applications in RF and microwave communications, test equipment and military systems. By using specific external components, the bandwidth of operation can be extended below 40MHz.

Key Characteristics: Vdd=8V, Idd=250mA, Zo=50Ω

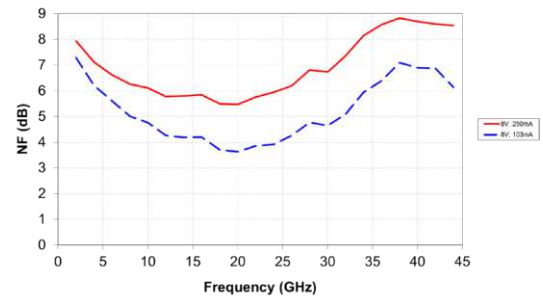
Specifications pertain to wafer measurements with RF probes and DC bias cards @ 25°C

Parameter	Description	40MHz - 40GHz			40MHz - 45GHz		
		Min	Typ	Max	Min	Typ	Max
S21 (dB)	Small Signal Gain	8.5	10	-	8.5	10	-
Flatness (±dB)	Gain Flatness	-	0.75	1.25	-	0.75	1.25
S11 (dB)	Input Match	-	-16	-12	-	-16	-12
S22 (dB)	Output Match	-	-13	-10	-	-11	-8
S12 (dB)	Reverse Isolation	-	-25	-22	-	-22	-19
P1dB (dBm)	1dB Compressed Output Power	16.5	18	-	15.5	17	-
Psat (dBm)	Saturated Output Power	19.5	21	-	-	19.5	-
NF (dB)	Noise Figure	-	9	-	-	9	-
RFdet (mV/mW)	RF Detector Sensitivity	-	0.8	-	-	0.8	-

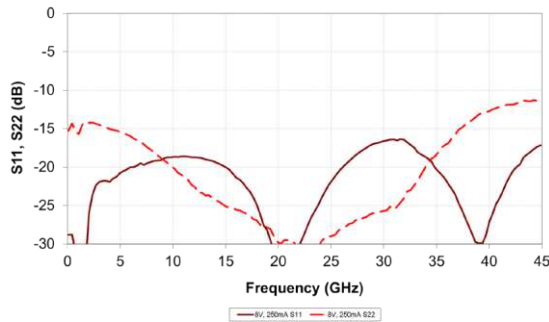
Supplemental Specifications

S21


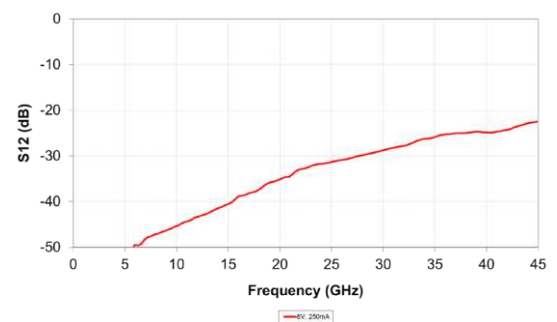
Typical IC performance measured on-wafer

Noise Figure


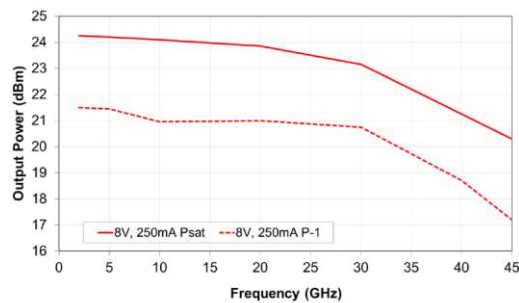
Typical IC performance with package de-embedded

S11, S22


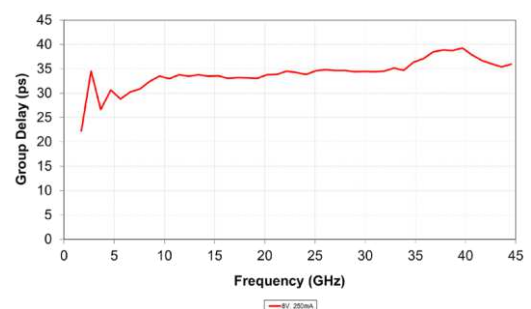
Typical IC performance measured on-wafer

S12


Typical IC performance measured on-wafer

Output Power


Typical IC performance measured on-wafer

Group Delay


Typical IC performance measured on-wafer

Table 1: Supplemental Specifications

Parameter	Description	Min	Typ	Max
V _{dd}	Drain Bias Voltage	-	8V	8.2V
I _{dd}	Drain Bias Current	-	250mA	300mA
V _{g1}	1st Gate Bias Voltage	-4V	-	+0.5V
V _{g2}	2nd Gate Bias Voltage	V _{dd} - V _{g2} < 7V	N/C	+4V
P _{in}	Input Power (CW)	-	-	23dBm
P _{dc}	Power Dissipation	-	2W	-
T _{ch}	Channel Temperature	-	-	150°C
Θ _{ch}	Thermal Resistance (T _{case} =85°C)	-	21° C/W	-



Caution, ESD
Sensitive Device

DC Bias:

The MMA032AA features a patented on-chip passive bias circuit called 'PLFX'. This circuit isolates the amplifier from bias coil resonances above 14GHz, allowing the use of less expensive coils; traditional biasing requires bias coils with self-resonances outside the operating range of the amplifier.

The device is biased by applying a positive voltage to the drain (Vdd), then setting the drain current (Idd) using a negative voltage on the gate (Vg1). The nominal bias is Vdd=8V, Idd=250mA.

Improved performance can be achieved with gate bias adjustment; use the drain termination bypass to alter the output voltage (detected from the drain sense).

Gain Control:

Dynamic gain control is available when operating the amplifier in the linear gain region. Negative voltage applied to the second gate (Vg2) reduces amplifier gain.

RF Power Detection:

RF output power can be calculated from the difference between the RF detector voltage and the DC detector voltage, minus a DC offset. Please consult the application note available on the Microsemi website.

Low-Frequency Use:

The MMA032AA has been designed so that the bandwidth can be extended to low frequencies. The low end corner frequency of the device is primarily determined by the external biasing and AC coupling circuitry.

Matching:

The amplifier incorporates on-chip termination resistors on the RF input and output. These resistors are RF grounded through on-chip capacitors, which are small and become open circuits at frequencies below 1GHz.

A pair of gate and drain termination bypass pads are provided for connecting external capacitors required for the low frequency extension network. These capacitors should be 10x the value of the DC blocking capacitors.

DC Blocks:

The amplifier is DC coupled to the RF input and output pads; DC voltage on these pads must be isolated from external circuitry.

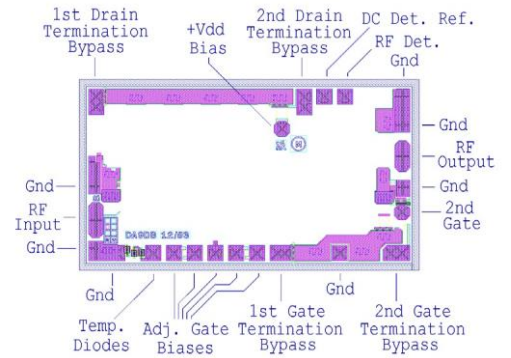
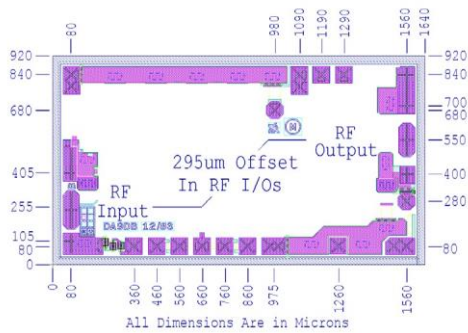
For operation above 2GHz, a series DC-blocking capacitor with minimum value of 20pF is recommended; operation down to 40MHz requires a minimum of 120pF.

Bias Inductor:

The patented on-chip LFX circuit eliminates the need for a drain bias choke; the amplifier requires a bypass capacitor close to the chip and bonded to the drain bias pad. The drain bias supply is connected directly to the bypass capacitor.

Die size, pad locations, and pad descriptions

Chip size: 1640x920um (64.6x36.2mil)
 Chip size tolerance: $\pm 5\mu\text{m}$ (0.2mil)
 Chip thickness: $100 \pm 10\mu\text{m}$ ($4 \pm 0.4\text{mil}$)
 Pad dimensions: $80 \times 80\mu\text{m}$ (3.1x3.1mil)



Pick-up and Chip Handling:

This MMIC has exposed air bridges on the top surface. **Do not pick up chip with vacuum on the die center**; handle from edges or use a collet.

Thermal Heat Sinking:

To avoid damage and for optimum performance, you must observe the maximum channel temperature and ensure adequate heat sinking.

ESD Handling and Bonding:

This MMIC is ESD sensitive; preventive measures should be taken during handling, die attach, and bonding.

Epoxy die attach is recommended. Please review our application note MM-APP-0001 handling and die attach recommendations, on our website for more handling, die attach and bonding information.

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