

MGA-83563

+22 dBm P_{SAT} 3 V Power Amplifier
for 0.5 – 6 GHz Applications



Data Sheet

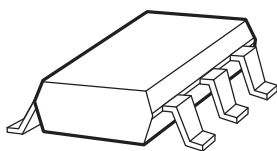
Description

Avago's MGA-83563 is an easy-to-use GaAs RFIC amplifier that offers excellent power output and efficiency. This part is targeted for 3V applications where constant-envelope modulation is used. The output of the amplifier is matched internally to 50Ω. However, an external match can be added for maximum efficiency and power out ($PAE = 37\%$, $P_o = 22$ dBm). The input is easily matched to 50 Ω.

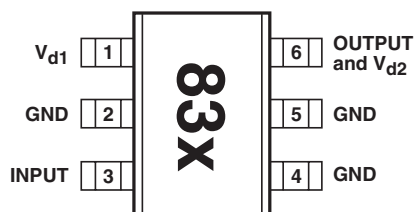
Due to the high power output of this device, it is recommended for use under a specific set of operating conditions. The thermal sections of the Applications Information explain this in detail.

The circuit uses state-of-the-art PHEMT technology with proven reliability. On-chip bias circuitry allows operation from single supply voltage.

Surface Mount Package SOT-363 (SC-70)



Pin Connections and Package Marking



Note:
Package marking provides orientation and identification;
"x" is date code.

Features

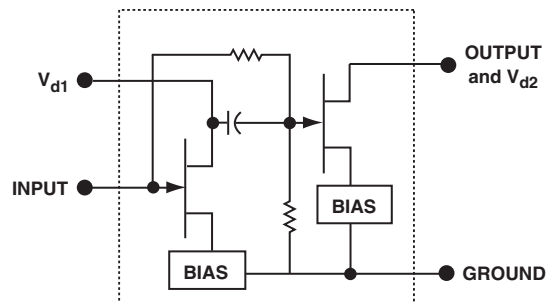
- Lead-free Option Available
- +22 dBm P_{SAT} at 2.4 GHz, 3.0V
+23 dBm P_{SAT} at 2.4 GHz, 3.6V
- 22 dB Small Signal Gain at 2.4 GHz
- Wide Frequency Range 0.5 to 6 GHz
- Single 3V Supply
- 37% Power Added Efficiency
- Ultra Miniature Package

Applications

- Amplifier for Driver and Output Applications

Equivalent Circuit

(Simplified)



Attention: Observe precautions for handling electrostatic sensitive devices.
ESD Human Body Model (Class 0)
Refer to Avago Application Note A004R:
Electrostatic Discharge Damage and Control.

MGA-83563 Absolute Maximum Ratings

| Symbol | Parameter | Units | Absolute Maximum ^[1] |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| V | Maximum DC Supply Voltage | V | 4 |
| P _{in} | CW RF Input Power | dBm | +13 |
| T _{ch} | Channel Temperature | °C | 165 |
| T _{STG} | Storage Temperature | °C | -65 to 150 |

Thermal Resistance^[2]:

$$\theta_{ch\ to\ c} = 175^{\circ}\text{C/W}$$

Notes:

1. Operation of this device above any one of these limits may cause permanent damage.
2. T_C = 25°C (T_C is defined to be the temperature at the package pins where contact is made to the circuit board).

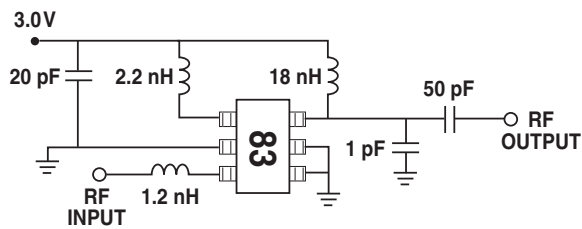
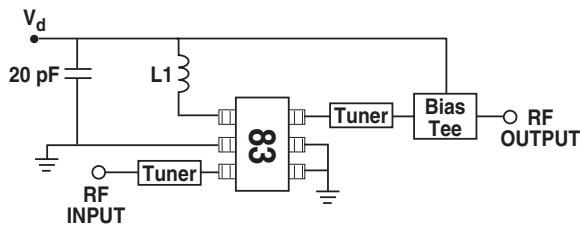


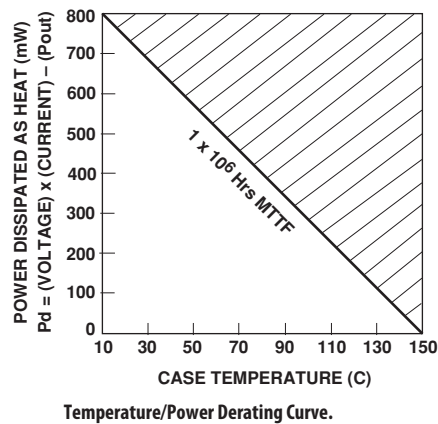
Figure 1. MGA-83563 Final Production Test Circuit.



Circuit A: L1 = 2.2 nH for 0.1 to 3 GHz

Circuit B: L1 = 0 nH (capacitor as close as possible) for 3 to 6 GHz

Figure 2. MGA-83563 Test Circuit for Characterization.



Temperature/Power Derating Curve.

MGA-83563 Electrical Specifications, $V_d = 3\text{ V}$, $T_C = 25^\circ\text{C}$, using test circuit of Figure 2, unless noted.

| Symbol | Parameters and Test Conditions | Units | Min. | Typ. | Max. | Std. Dev. ^[4] |
|-------------------|--|--|------|------|------|--------------------------|
| P_{SAT} | Saturated Output Power ^[3] | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | dBm | 20.5 | 22.4 | 0.75 |
| PAE | Power Added Efficiency ^[3] | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | % | 25 | 37 | 2.5 |
| I_d | Device Current ^[3,5] | | mA | 152 | 200 | 12.4 |
| Gain | Small Signal Gain | $f = 0.9\text{ GHz}$ | dB | 20 | | |
| | | $f = 1.5\text{ GHz}$ | | 22 | | |
| | | $f = 2.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 23 | | |
| | | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | | 22 | | |
| | | $f = 4.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 22 | | |
| | | $f = 5.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 19 | | |
| | | $f = 6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 17 | | |
| P_{SAT} | Saturated Output Power | $f = 0.9\text{ GHz}$ | dBm | 20.9 | | |
| | | $f = 1.5\text{ GHz}$ | | 21.7 | | |
| | | $f = 2.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 21.8 | | |
| | | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | | 22 | | |
| | | $f = 4.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 21.9 | | |
| | | $f = 5.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 19.7 | | |
| | | $f = 6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 18.2 | | |
| PAE | Power Added Efficiency | $f = 0.9\text{ GHz}$ | % | 41 | | |
| | | $f = 1.5\text{ GHz}$ | | 41 | | |
| | | $f = 2.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 40 | | |
| | | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | | 37 | | |
| | | $f = 4.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 32 | | |
| | | $f = 5.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 18 | | |
| | | $f = 6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 14 | | |
| $P_{1\text{ dB}}$ | Output Power at 1 dB Gain Compression ^[5] | $f = 0.9\text{ GHz}$ | dBm | 19.1 | | |
| | | $f = 1.5\text{ GHz}$ | | 19.7 | | |
| | | $f = 2.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 19.7 | | |
| | | $f = 2.4\text{ GHz}$ | | 19.2 | | |
| | | $f = 4.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 18.1 | | |
| | | $f = 5.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 16 | | |
| | | $f = 6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 15 | | |
| $VSWR_{in}$ | Input VSWR into 50 Ω Circuit A | $f = 0.9\text{ to }1.7\text{ GHz}$ | | 3.5 | | |
| | | $f = 1.8\text{ to }3.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 2.6 | | |
| | Circuit B | $f = 3.0\text{ to }6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 2.3 | | |
| $VSWR_{out}$ | Output VSWR into 50 Ω Circuit A | $f = 0.9\text{ to }2.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 1.4 | | |
| | | $f = 2.0\text{ to }3.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 2.5 | | |
| | Circuit B | $f = 3.0\text{ to }4.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 3.5 | | |
| | | $f = 4.0\text{ to }6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | 4.5 | | |
| ISOL | Isolation | $f = 0.9\text{ to }3.0\text{ GHz}$ | dB | -38 | | |
| | | $f = 3.0\text{ to }6.0\text{ GHz}$ | | -30 | | |
| IP_3 | Third Order Intercept Point | $f = 0.9\text{ GHz to }6.0\text{ GHz}$ | dBm | 29 | | |

Notes:

3. Measured using the final test circuit of Figure 1 with an input power of +4 dBm.
4. Standard Deviation number is based on measurement of at least 500 parts from three non-consecutive wafer lots during the initial characterization of this product, and is intended to be used as an estimate for distribution of the typical specification.
5. For linear operation, refer to thermal sections in the Applications section of this data sheet.

MGA-83563 Typical Performance, $V_d = 3\text{ V}$, $T_C = 25^\circ\text{C}$, using test circuit of Figure 2, unless noted.

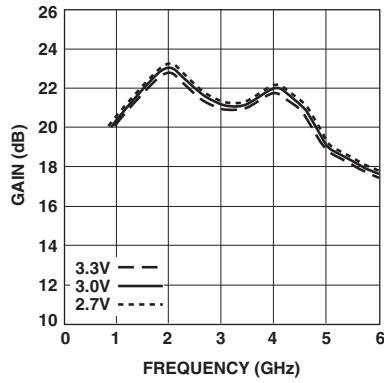


Figure 3. Tuned Gain vs. Frequency and Voltage.

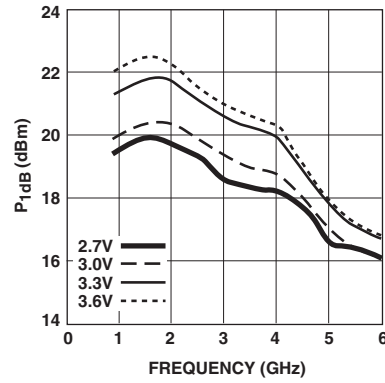


Figure 4. Output Power at 1 dB Compression vs. Frequency and Voltage.

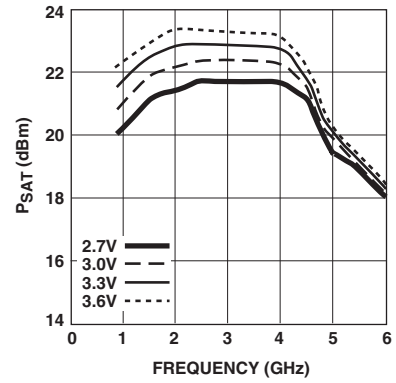


Figure 5. Saturated Output Power (+4 dBm in) vs. Frequency and Voltage.

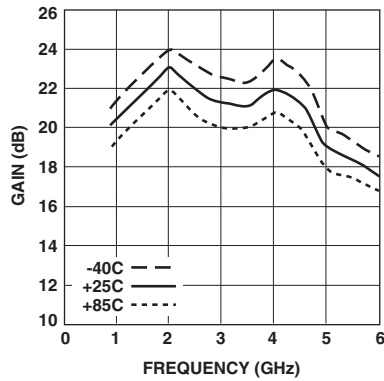


Figure 6. Gain vs. Frequency and Temperature.

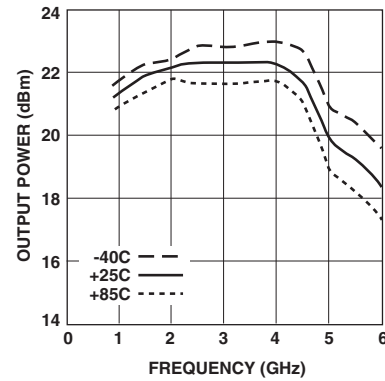


Figure 7. Saturated Output Power (+4 dBm in) vs. Frequency and Temperature.

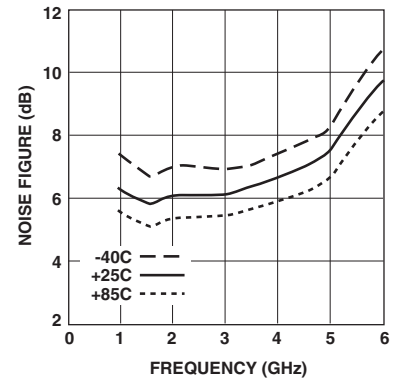


Figure 8. Noise Figure vs. Frequency and Temperature.

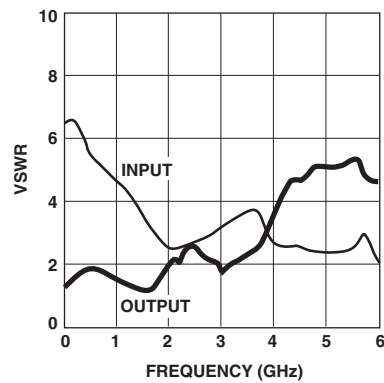


Figure 9. Input and Output VSWR vs. Frequency.

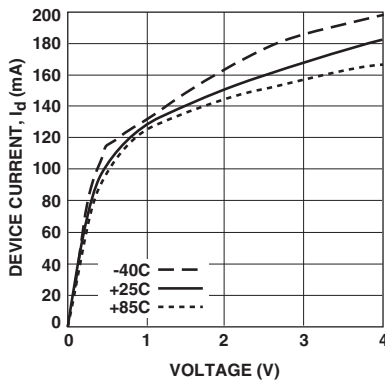


Figure 10. Supply Current vs. Voltage and Temperature. $P_{in} = -27\text{ dBm}$.

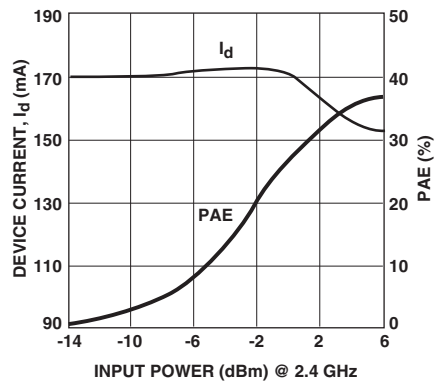


Figure 11. Device Current and Power Added Efficiency vs. Input Power.
Note: Figure 1 test circuit.

MGA-83563 Typical Performance, continued. $V_d = 3\text{ V}$, $T_c = 25^\circ\text{C}$, using test circuit of Figure 2, unless noted.

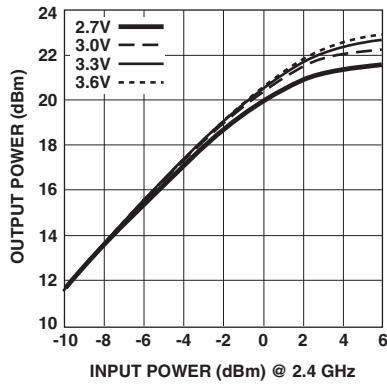


Figure 12. Output Power vs. Input Power and Voltage.

Note: Figure 1 test circuit.

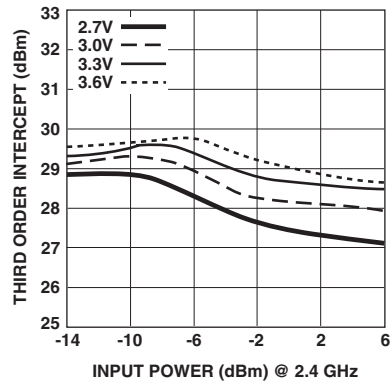


Figure 13. Third Order Intercept vs. Input Power and Voltage.

Note: Figure 1 test circuit.

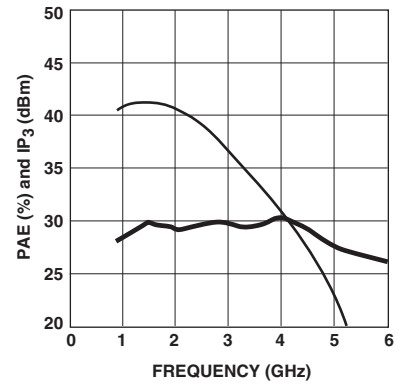


Figure 14. Power Added Efficiency and Third Order Intercept vs. Frequency ($V_d = 3.6\text{ V}$).

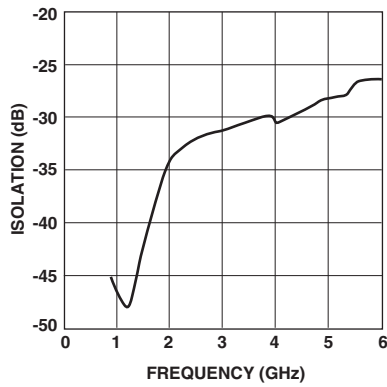


Figure 15. Isolation vs. Frequency.

MGA-83563 Test Circuit

Typical s-parameters are shown below for various inductor values (L). Those marked "Sim" are simulated and those marked "Meas" are measured using an ICM (Intercontinental Microwave) fixture. Figure 17 shows the available gain for each L value. The user should first select the L value for the application frequency before designing an input, output, or power matching structure.

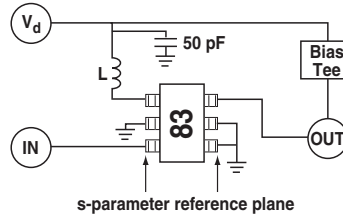


Figure 16. S-parameter Test Circuit.

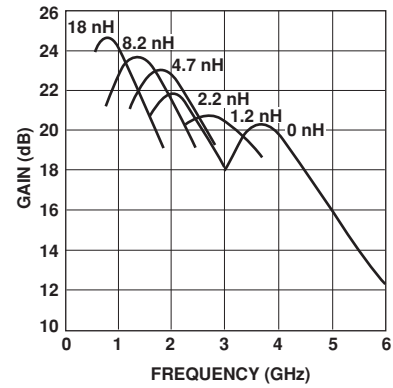


Figure 17. Available Gain (G_{max}) vs. Frequency for the MGA-83563 Amplifier over Various Inductance Values.

Table 1.

MGA-83563 Typical Scattering Parameters^[1]

$T_c = 25^\circ\text{C}$, $V_d = 3.0\text{ V}$, $I_d = 165\text{ mA}$, CW Operation, $P_{in} = -27\text{ dBm}$

| L | Freq. GHz | RL _{in} dB | S ₁₁ Mag Ang | S ₂₁ ² Gain | S ₂₁ Mag Ang | Gain dB | S ₁₂ Mag Ang | RL _{out} dB | S ₂₂ Mag Ang | K | Gmax dB |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------|------------|
| Sim 18.0 nH | 0.6 | -4.6 | 0.59 -48 | 23.9 | 15.61 43 | -46.7 | 0.005 105 | -21.1 | 0.09 150 | 4.47 | 25.8 |
| Sim 18.0 nH | 0.8 | -9.6 | 0.33 -57 | 24.6 | 16.96 6 | -39.0 | 0.011 102 | -16.8 | 0.15 -130 | 2.37 | 25.2 |
| Sim 18.0 nH | 1.0 | -16.0 | 0.16 -27 | 24.1 | 16.02 -25 | -35.5 | 0.017 87 | -10.1 | 0.31 -146 | 1.80 | 24.6 |
| Sim 18.0 nH | 1.4 | -10.1 | 0.31 22 | 21.7 | 12.22 -68 | -32.8 | 0.023 66 | -5.8 | 0.51 177 | 1.48 | 23.5 |
| Sim 18.0 nH | 1.8 | -7.3 | 0.43 17 | 19.1 | 9.03 -97 | -31.7 | 0.026 54 | -4.4 | 0.61 150 | 1.45 | 22.0 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 0.8 | -4.1 | 0.63 -36 | 21.2 | 11.52 48 | -47.4 | 0.004 95 | -17.2 | 0.14 121 | 6.01 | 23.5 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 1.0 | -5.8 | 0.51 -45 | 22.7 | 13.65 22 | -41.1 | 0.009 111 | -35.2 | 0.02 130 | 3.13 | 24.0 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 1.4 | -13.0 | 0.22 -45 | 23.7 | 15.30 -27 | -33.7 | 0.021 94 | -10.4 | 0.30 -139 | 1.54 | 24.3 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 1.8 | -13.0 | 0.22 13 | 22.4 | 13.15 -68 | -30.9 | 0.029 74 | -5.5 | 0.53 -179 | 1.21 | 24.1 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 2.0 | -10.7 | 0.29 18 | 21.3 | 11.65 -84 | -30.3 | 0.031 67 | -4.4 | 0.60 166 | 1.16 | 23.7 |
| Sim 8.2 nH | 2.4 | -8.2 | 0.39 15 | 19.1 | 8.98 -111 | -29.5 | 0.034 57 | -3.4 | 0.68 141 | 1.14 | 22.5 |
| Sim 4.7 nH | 1.4 | -6.7 | 0.46 -44 | 22.1 | 12.72 4 | -37.6 | 0.013 109 | -26.7 | 0.05 -78 | 2.44 | 23.1 |
| Sim 4.7 nH | 1.8 | -12.0 | 0.25 -43 | 22.9 | 13.99 -37 | -32.3 | 0.024 94 | -9.9 | 0.32 -143 | 1.44 | 23.7 |
| Sim 4.7 nH | 2.0 | -14.3 | 0.19 -23 | 22.6 | 13.53 -57 | -30.8 | 0.029 85 | -7.1 | 0.44 -164 | 1.26 | 23.7 |
| Sim 4.7 nH | 2.4 | -11.9 | 0.26 10 | 21.1 | 11.36 -90 | -29.2 | 0.035 70 | -4.3 | 0.61 163 | 1.09 | 23.4 |
| Sim 4.7 nH | 2.8 | -9.4 | 0.34 12 | 19.1 | 9.03 -115 | -28.3 | 0.038 61 | -3.2 | 0.69 138 | 1.05 | 22.5 |
| Meas 2.2 nH | 1.8 | -6.3 | 0.49 -53 | 21.5 | 11.92 -23 | -37.2 | 0.014 90 | -15.1 | 0.18 -100 | 2.40 | 22.8 |
| Meas 2.2 nH | 2.0 | -7.4 | 0.43 -51 | 21.9 | 12.48 -45 | -34.8 | 0.018 85 | -9.7 | 0.33 -130 | 1.82 | 23.3 |
| Meas 2.2 nH | 2.4 | -7.9 | 0.40 -36 | 20.9 | 11.07 -82 | -32.4 | 0.024 68 | -6.2 | 0.49 -175 | 1.52 | 22.8 |
| Meas 2.2 nH | 2.8 | -7.1 | 0.44 -27 | 19.0 | 8.93 -113 | -31.2 | 0.027 56 | -4.1 | 0.63 150 | 1.40 | 22.1 |
| Meas 2.2 nH | 3.0 | -6.6 | 0.47 -25 | 18.0 | 7.90 -123 | -31.0 | 0.028 52 | -4.1 | 0.62 138 | 1.48 | 21.1 |
| Sim 1.2 nH | 2.4 | -7.9 | 0.40 -41 | 20.5 | 10.61 -36 | -33.4 | 0.021 97 | -18.0 | 0.13 -120 | 1.98 | 21.3 |
| Sim 1.2 nH | 2.8 | -10.8 | 0.29 -37 | 20.7 | 10.90 -67 | -30.4 | 0.030 88 | -9.6 | 0.33 -168 | 1.47 | 21.6 |
| Sim 1.2 nH | 3.0 | -11.9 | 0.25 -29 | 20.5 | 10.56 -82 | -29.4 | 0.034 82 | -7.4 | 0.43 176 | 1.34 | 21.6 |
| Sim 1.2 nH | 3.2 | -12.3 | 0.24 -20 | 20.0 | 9.97 -95 | -28.6 | 0.037 76 | -5.9 | 0.51 161 | 1.24 | 21.5 |
| Sim 1.2 nH | 3.6 | -11.7 | 0.26 -7 | 18.6 | 8.49 -120 | -27.5 | 0.042 67 | -4.1 | 0.62 137 | 1.14 | 21.0 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 3.0 | -5.6 | 0.53 -33 | 17.9 | 7.87 -13 | -39.1 | 0.011 109 | -12.8 | 0.23 -7 | 4.07 | 19.6 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 3.4 | -4.7 | 0.58 -31 | 20.1 | 10.13 -43 | -34.1 | 0.020 107 | -7.9 | 0.40 -73 | 1.72 | 22.7 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 3.8 | -5.5 | 0.53 -50 | 20.0 | 9.95 -81 | -31.7 | 0.026 94 | -6.2 | 0.49 -132 | 1.43 | 22.6 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 4.0 | -7.4 | 0.43 -52 | 19.4 | 9.28 -94 | -30.9 | 0.028 93 | -4.5 | 0.60 -148 | 1.38 | 22.1 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 4.2 | -8.4 | 0.38 -48 | 18.7 | 8.62 -106 | -30.2 | 0.031 91 | -3.5 | 0.67 -163 | 1.27 | 21.9 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 4.6 | -9.0 | 0.36 -44 | 17.0 | 7.08 -129 | -28.8 | 0.036 84 | -3.1 | 0.70 173 | 1.25 | 20.5 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 5.0 | -9.2 | 0.35 -39 | 15.4 | 5.87 -145 | -27.9 | 0.040 78 | -3.0 | 0.71 155 | 1.29 | 19.0 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 5.4 | -9.7 | 0.33 -32 | 13.8 | 4.88 -159 | -27.2 | 0.044 77 | -3.0 | 0.71 140 | 1.38 | 17.3 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 5.8 | -7.8 | 0.41 -29 | 12.4 | 4.16 -170 | -25.9 | 0.051 73 | -3.6 | 0.66 127 | 1.47 | 15.7 |
| Meas 0.0 nH | 6.0 | -6.6 | 0.47 -46 | 12.1 | 4.03 177 | -24.9 | 0.057 64 | -3.3 | 0.68 123 | 1.33 | 15.9 |

Note:

1. Reference plane per Figure 43 in Applications Information section.

MGA-83563 Applications Information

The MGA-83563 is two-stage, medium power GaAs RFIC amplifier designed to be used for driver and output stages in transmitter applications operating within the 500 MHz to 6 GHz frequency range.

This device is designed for operation in the saturated mode where it delivers a typical output power of +22 dBm (158 mW) with a power-added efficiency of 37%. The MGA-83563 has a large signal gain of 18 dB requiring an input signal level of only +4 dBm to drive it well into saturation. The high output power and high efficiency of the MGA-83563, combined with +3-volt operation and sub-miniature packaging, make this device especially useful for battery-powered, personal communication applications such as wireless data, cellular phones, and PCS.

The upper end of the frequency range of the MGA-83563 extends to 6 GHz making it a useful solution for medium power amplifiers in wireless communications products such as 5.7 GHz spread spectrum or other ISM/license-free band applications. Internal capacitors on the RFIC chip limit the low-end frequency response to applications above approximately 500 MHz.

The thermal limitations of the subminiature SOT-363 (SC-70) package generally restrict the use of the MGA-83563 to applications that use constant envelope types of modulation. These types of systems are able to take full advantage of the MGA-83563's high efficiency, saturated mode of operation. The use of the MGA-83563 for linear applications at reduced power levels is discussed in the "Thermal Design for Reliability" and "Use of the MGA-83563 for Linear Applications" in this applications note.

Application Guidelines

The use of the MGA-83563 is very straightforward. The on-chip, partial RF impedance matching and integrated bias control circuit simplify the task of using this device.

The design steps consist of (1) selecting an interstage inductor from the data provided, (2) adding provision for bringing in the DC bias, and (3) designing and optimizing an output impedance match for the particular frequency band of interest. The input is already well matched to 50 ohms for most frequencies and in many cases no additional input matching will be necessary.

Each of the three design steps for using the MGA-83563 will now be discussed in greater detail.

Step 1 — Selecting the Interstage Inductor

The drain of the first stage FET of this two-stage RFIC amplifier is connected to package Pin 1. The supply voltage V_d is connected to this drain through an inductor, L2, as shown in Figure 18. The supply end of the inductor is bypassed to ground.

This interstage inductor serves the purpose of completing the impedance match between the first and second stages. The value of inductor L2 depends on the particular frequency for which the MGA-83563 is to be used and is chosen from the look-up graph in Figure 19.

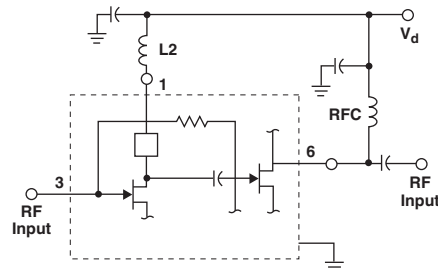


Figure 18. Interstage Inductor L2 and Bias Current.

The values for inductor L2 are somewhat dependent on the specific printed circuit board material, thickness, and RF layout that are used. The inductor values shown in Figure 19 have been created for the PCB and RF layout that is used for the circuit examples presented in this application note. The methodology that was used to determine the optimum values for L2 and for creating Figure 19 is presented in the Appendix. If the user's PCB and/or layout differ significantly from the example circuits, refer to the Appendix for a description of how to determine the values of L2 for any arbitrary frequency, PCB material, or RF layout.

Step 2 — Bias Connections

The MGA-83563 is a voltage-biased device and operates from a single, positive power supply. The supply voltage, typically +3-volts, must be applied to the drains of both stages of the RFIC amplifier. The connection to the first stage drain is made through the interstage inductor, L2, as described in the previous step. The supply voltage is applied to the second stage drain through Pin 6, which is also the RF Output connection. Referring to Figure 18, an inductor (RFC) is used to separate the RF output signal from the DC supply. The supply side of the RFC is capacitively bypassed. A DC blocking capacitor is used at the output to isolate the supply voltage from the succeeding stage.

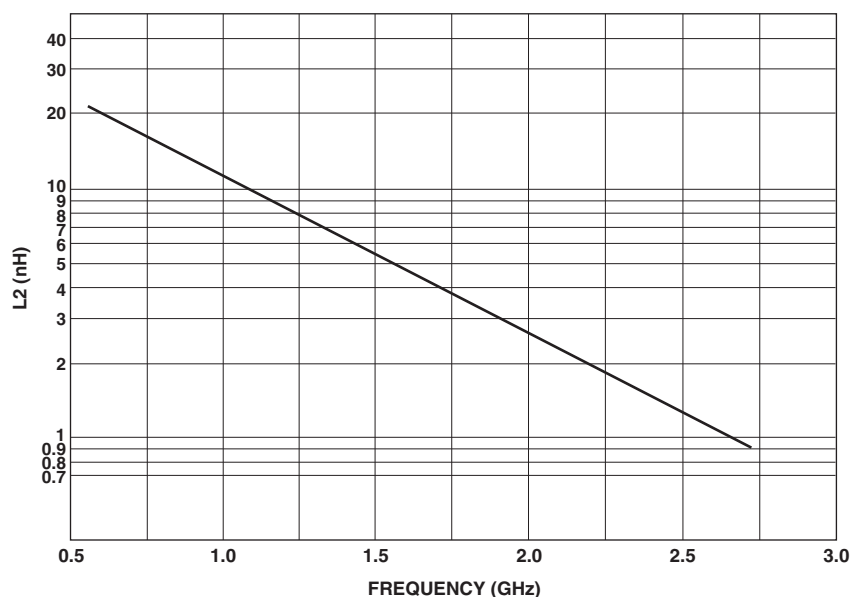


Figure 19. Values for Interstage Inductor L2.

In order to prevent loss of output power, the value of the RFC is chosen such that its reactance is several hundred ohms at the frequency band of operation. At higher frequencies, it may be practical to use a length of high impedance transmission line (preferably $\lambda/4$) in place of the RFC.

The value of the DC blocking and RF bypass capacitors are chosen to provide a small reactance (typically $< 1\Omega$) at the lowest operating frequency.

Since both stages of the RFIC are biased from the same voltage source, particular care should be taken to ensure that the supply line between the two is well bypassed to prevent inadvertent feedback from the RF output to the drain of the first stage. Otherwise, the circuit could become unstable.

The RF Input (Pin 3) connection to the MGA-83563 is at DC ground potential. The use of a DC blocking capacitor at the input of the MGA-83563 is not required unless a circuit that has a DC voltage present at its output precedes the RFIC. Although at ground potential, the input to the MGA-83563 should not be used as a current sink.

Step 3 —

Output Impedance Match

The most interesting aspect of using the MGA-83563 is arriving at an optimum, large signal impedance match at the output. A simple but effective approach is to begin with a circuit that provides a small signal impedance match, then empirically adjust the tuning for optimum large signal performance.

The starting place is to design a circuit that matches the small signal Γ_{ml} (the reflection coefficient of the load impedance required to conjugately match the output of the MGA-83563) to 50 ohms. The small signal S-parameter data for designing the output circuit is taken from Table 1, using the data corresponding to be nearest value of interstage inductor that was chosen in step one.

A RF CAD program such as Avago's Touchstone can be used to easily calculate Γ_{ml} . Touchstone will interpolate the Table 1 S-parameter data for the particular design frequency of interest.

As the MGA-83563 is driven into saturation, the output

impedance will generally become lower. Choose a circuit topology that will match Γ_{ml} as well as the range of impedances on the low side of Γ_{ml} . Beginning with this small signal output match, tune the circuit under large signal conditions for maximum saturated output power and best efficiency.

It should be noted that both the saturated output power (P_{sat}) and power-added efficiency (PAE) for each MGA-83563 is 100% RF tested at 2.4 GHz in a production test fixture that simulates an actual amplifier application. This method of testing not only guarantees minimum performance standards, but also ensures repeatable RF performance in the user's production circuits.

Step 4 (Optional) — Input Impedance Match

As previously noted, the internal input impedance match to the MGA-83563 is already reasonably good (return loss is typically 8 dB) and may be adequate for many applications as is. The design of the MGA-83563 is such that the second stage will enter into compression before the first stage. The isolation provided by the first stage therefore results in a minimal impact on the input matching as the amplifier becomes saturated.

If an improved input return loss is needed, an input circuit is designed to match $50\ \Omega$ to Γ_{ms} (the reflection coefficient of the source impedance for a conjugate match at the input of the MGA-83563). The value of Γ_{ms} is calculated from the S-parameters in Table 1 in the same way as was done for Γ_{ml} . Since the real part of the input impedance to the MMIC is near $50\ \Omega$ and the reactive part is capacitive, the addition of a simple series inductor is often all that is needed if a better input match is required.

PCB Layout Recommendations

When laying out a printed circuit board for the MGA-83563, several points should be taken into account. The PCB layout will be a balance of electrical, thermal, and assembly considerations.

Package Footprint

A recommended printed circuit board footprint for the miniature SOT-363 (SC-70) package that is used by the MGA-83563 is shown in Figure 20.

This package footprint provides ample allowance for package placement by automated assembly equipment without adding parasitics that could impair the high frequency performance of the MGA-83563. (The padprint in Figure 20 is shown with the footprint of a SOT-363 package superimposed on the PCB pads for reference.)

PCB Materials

FR-4 or G-10 printed circuit board type of material is a good choice for most low cost wireless applications for frequencies through 3 GHz. Typical single-layer board thickness is 0.020 to 0.031 inches. Multi-layer boards generally use a dielectric layer thickness in the 0.005 to 0.010 inch range.

For higher frequency applications, e.g., 5.8 GHz, circuit boards made with PTFE/glass dielectric materials are suggested.

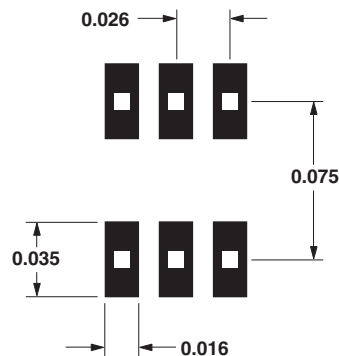


Figure 20. Recommended PCB Pad Layout for Avago's SC70 6L/SOT-363 Products.

RF Considerations

Starting with the package padprint of Figure 20, the nucleus of a PCB layout is shown in Figure 21. This layout is a good general purpose starting point for designs using the MGA-83563 amplifier.

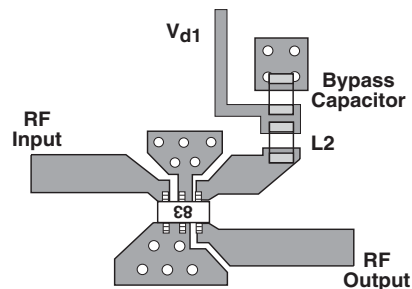


Figure 21. Basic PCB Layout.

This layout is a microstripline design (solid groundplane on the backside of the circuit board) with a $50\ \Omega$ input and output and provision for inductor L2 with its bypass capacitor.

Adequate RF grounding is critical to obtain maximum performance and to maintain device stability. All of the ground pins of the RFIC should be connected to the RF groundplane on the backside of the PCB by means of plated through holes (vias) that are placed very near the package terminals. As a minimum, one via should be located next to each ground pin to ensure good RF grounding. It is a good practice to use multiple vias as in Figure 21 to further minimize ground path inductance.

While it might be considered an effective RF practice, it is recommended that the PCB pads for the ground pins not be connected together underneath the body of the package for two reasons. The first reason is that connecting the ground pins of multi-stage amplifiers together can sometimes result in undesirable feedback between stages. Each ground pin should have its own independent path to ground. The second reason is that PCB traces hidden under the package cannot be adequately inspected for solder quality.

Thermal Considerations

The DC power dissipation of the MGA-83563, which can be on the order of 0.5 watt, is approaching the thermal limits of subminiature packaging such as the SOT-363. As a result, particular care should be taken to adequately heatsink the MGA-83563.

The primary heat path from the MMIC chip to the system heatsink is by means of conduction through the package leads and ground vias to the groundplane on the backside of the PCB. As previously mentioned in the "PCB Layout" section, the use of multiple vias near all of the ground pins is desirable for low inductance. The use of multiple vias is also an especially important part of the heatsinking function.

For heatsinking purposes, a thinner PCB with more vias, thicker clad metal, and heavier plating in the vias all result in lower thermal resistance and better heat conduction. Circuit boards thicker than 0.031 inches are not recommended for both thermal and electrical reasons.

The importance of good thermal design on reliability is discussed in the next section.

Thermal Design for Reliability

Good thermal design is an important consideration in the reliable use of medium power devices such as the MGA-83563 because the Mean Time To Failure (MTTF) of semiconductor devices is inversely proportional to the operating temperature.

The following examples show the thermal prerequisites for using the MGA-83563 reliably in both saturated and linear modes.

Saturated Mode Thermal Example

Less heat is dissipated in the MGA-83563 when operated in the saturated mode because a significant amount of power is removed from the RFIC as RF signal power. It is for this reason that the saturated mode allows the device to be used reliably at higher circuit board temperatures than for full power, linear applications.

As an illustration of a thermal/reliability calculation, consider the case of an MGA-83563 biased at 3.0 volts for use in a saturated mode application with a MTTF reliability goal of 10^6 hours (114 years). Reliability calculations will first be presented for nominal conditions, followed by the conservative approach of using worst-case conditions.

The first step is to calculate the power dissipated by the MGA-83563 as heat. Power flow for the MGA-83563 is represented in Figure 22.

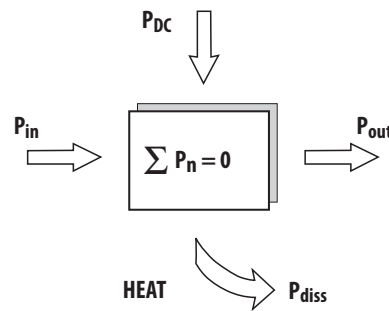


Figure 22. Thermal Representation of MGA-83563.

From Figure 22,

$$P_{in} + P_{DC} = P_{out} + P_{diss}$$

where P_{in} and P_{out} are the RF input and output power, P_{DC} is the DC input power, and P_{diss} is the power dissipated as heat. For the saturated mode, $P_{out} = P_{sat}$, and,

$$P_{diss} = P_{in} + P_{DC} - P_{sat}$$

From the table of Electrical Specifications, the device current (typical) is 152 mA with a power supply voltage of 3 volts. Referring to Figure 10, it can be seen that the current will decrease approximately 8% at elevated temperatures. The device DC power consumption is then:

$$P_{DC} = 3.0 \text{ volts} * 152 \text{ mA} * 0.92$$

$$P_{DC} = 420 \text{ mW}$$

For a saturated amplifier, the RF input power level is +4 dBm (2.51 mW) and the saturated output power is +22 dBm (158 mW).

The power dissipated as heat is then:

$$P_{diss} = 2.51 + 420 - 158 \text{ mW}$$

$$P_{diss} = 264 \text{ mW}$$

The channel-to-case thermal resistance (θ_{ch-c}) from the table of Absolute Maximum Ratings is 175°C/watt. Note that the meaning of “case” for packages such as the SOT-363 is defined as the interface between the package pins and the mounting surface, i.e., at the PCB pads. The temperature rise from the mounting surface to the MMIC channel is then calculated as 0.264 watt * 175°C/watt, or 46°C.

Operating life tests^[1] for the MGA-83563 have established that a MTTF of 10⁶ hours will be met for channel temperatures ≤ 150°C. To achieve the 10⁶ hour MTTF goal, the circuit to which the device is mounted (i.e., the case temperature) should therefore not exceed 150° – 46°C, or 104°C.

Repeating the reliability calculation using the worst case maximum device current of 200 mA, the DC power dissipation is 552 mW. Summing the RF input and output powers, P_{diss} is 397 mW which results in a channel-to-case temperature rise of 69°C. The maximum case temperature for the MTTF goal of 10⁶ hours is then 150° – 69°C, or 81°C.

For other MTTF goals, power dissipation, or operating temperatures, Avago publishes reliability data sheets based on operating life tests to enable designers to arrive at a thermal design for their particular operating environment. For a reliability data sheet covering the MGA-83563, request Avago publication number 5988-9935EN, titled “MGA-8XXXX Series Reliability Data Sheet.” This reliability data sheet covers the Avago family of PHEMT GaAs RFICs.

Linear Amplifier Thermal Example

If the MGA-83563 is used in a linear application, the total power dissipation is significantly higher than for the saturated mode. The dissipated power is greater due to higher device current (not as efficient as the saturated mode) and also because no signal power is being removed.

The maximum power dissipation for reliable linear operation is calculated in the same manner as was done for the saturated amplifier example. For linear circuits, the RF input and output power are negligible and assumed to be zero. All of the DC power is thus dissipated as heat. For purposes of comparison to the saturated mode example, this calculation will use the same MTTF goal of 10⁶ hours and supply voltage of 3 volts. Calculations are again made for both nominal and worst case conditions.

From the data of Figure 10, the typical 3-volt, small signal device current for the MGA-83563 at elevated temperatures is 156 mA. The total device power dissipation, P_{dissr} is then 3.0 volts * 156 mA, or 468 mW. The temperature increment from the RFIC channel to case is 0.468 watt *

175°C/watt, or 82°C.

Commensurate with the MTTF goal of 10⁶ hours, the circuit to which the device is mounted should therefore not exceed 150° – 82°C, or 68°C.

For the worst case calculation, a guard band of 40% is added to the typical current to arrive at a maximum DC current of 218 mA. The P_{diss} is 655 mW and the channel-to-case temperature rise is 115°C. The maximum case temperature for worst case current condition is 35°C.

A case temperature of 68°C for nominal operation, or 35°C in the worst case, is unacceptably low for most applications. In order to use the MGA-83562 reliably for linear applications, the P_{diss} must be lowered by reducing the supply voltage.

The implication on RF output power performance for amplifiers operating with a reduced V_d is covered later in this application note in the section subtitled “Use of the MGA-83563 for Linear Applications”.

Design Example for 2.5 GHz

The design of a 2.5 GHz amplifier will be used to illustrate the approach for using the MGA-83563. The basic design procedure outlined earlier will be used, in which the interstage inductor (L2) is chosen first, followed by the design of an initial small signal, output match. The output match will then be empirically optimized for large signal conditions after which an input match will be added.

The printed circuit layout in Figure 21 is used as the starting place. The circuit is designed for fabrication on 0.031-inch thick FR-4 dielectric material.

Interstage Inductor L2

The first step is to choose a value for the interstage inductor, L2. Referring to Figure 19, a value of 1.5 nH corresponds to the design frequency of 2.5 GHz. A chip inductor is chosen for L2 in this example. However, for small inductance values such as this, the interstage inductor could also be realized with a length of high impedance transmission line.

The interstage inductor is bypassed with a 62 pF capacitor, which has a reactance of 1 Ω at 2.5 GHz. Connecting the supply voltage to the bypassed side of the inductor completes the interstage part of the amplifier.

Output Match

The design of the small signal output matching circuit begins with the calculation of the small signal match impedance, Γ_{ml} . The set of S-parameters in Table 1 for an inductor value of 1.2 nH is used since this is the closest value to the 1.5 nH that was chosen for L2 in the first design step.

Avago's Touchstone program was used to interpolate the s-parameter data and calculate a Γ_{ml} of $0.14 \angle 172^\circ$ for 2.5 GHz.

This Γ_{ml} point is plotted on the Smith chart in Figure 23 as Point C, along with an indication of the area of lower impedance from this point. (The output impedance is expected to decrease under large signal conditions.) A two-element matching network consisting of a shunt capacitor and series transmission line is chosen to match the output to 50 ohms.

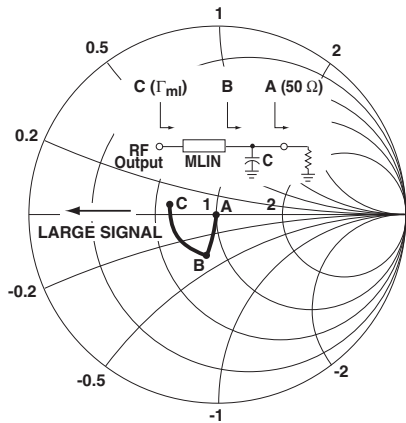


Figure 23. Initial Output Match for Small Signal.

The shunt-C, series-line topology is chosen based on its ability to cover the expected range of impedance to be matched and because it will pass DC bias into the output pin of the MGA-83563. (For the latter reason, impedance matching circuits using series capacitors are avoided.)

In some cases, it may be more practical to implement the series transmission line element with a chip inductor. If the series line is excessively long, the cost of an additional chip component can be traded off against circuit board space. The substitution of an open-circuit line for the shunt C may also be possible, thus eliminating the a capacitor.

Referring to the Smith chart in Figure 23, the initial output match for Γ_{ml} was determined to be a 0.4 pF shunt capacitor followed by a 0.32-inch length of 50 Ω microstripline.

DC Bias

A 22 nH RFC is added to the 50 Ω side of the output matching circuit to apply bias voltage to the drain of the second stage. The RFC is bypassed with a 62 pF capacitor. A series DC blocking capacitor, also 62 pF, is added to the RF output to complete the bias circuit.

Optimizing the Output Match

To reach the final output matching circuit for maximum saturated output power, an input power of +4 dBm is applied to saturate the amplifier circuit. The output matching circuit is then experimentally optimized by adjusting the value of the shunt capacitor and the distance the capacitor is located along the output line from the MGA-83563.

During the tuning process, the saturated output power of the amplifier is monitored with a power meter connected to the amplifier's output. An ammeter is used to observe total device DC current drain (I_d) as an indication of amplifier efficiency. The desired output match is then achieved at the tuning point of maximum P_{sat} and minimum I_d .

The optimum output match for 2.5 GHz was achieved with a shunt capacitor value of 0.9 pF located 0.08 inches along the 50 Ω line from the output pin of the MGA-83563. The final output circuit is shown in Figure 24.

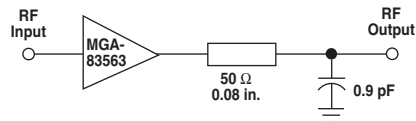


Figure 24. Final RF Output Match for the 2.5 GHz Amplifier Tuned for Maximum P_{sat} .

When tuned for maximum saturated output power, the small signal output return loss for the amplifier was measured as 5.5 dB at 2.5 GHz.

Input Match

The input return loss without any external matching was measured as 7.6 dB (2.4:1 VSWR). For many applications no further matching is necessary. If, however, an improved input match is required, a simple series inductor is all that will be needed.

Avago's Touchstone CAD program is again used to extrapolate the 2.5 GHz S-parameters in Table 1 and calculate a small signal Γ_{ms} of $0.37 \angle 47^\circ$. The conjugate of Γ_{ms} , $0.37 \angle -47^\circ$, is plotted on the Smith chart as Point A in Figure 25.

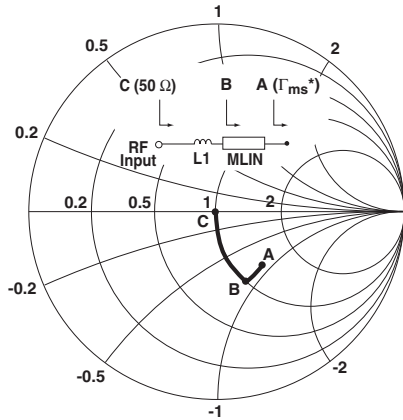


Figure 25. Initial Small Signal Input Match.

The addition of a 0.15 inch length (actual length on FR-4) of 50 Ω transmission line rotates Point A around to Point B on the $R = 1$ circle of the Smith chart. A series 2.5 nH inductor (L1) is then all that is required to complete the match to 50 Ω at Point C.

While the input impedance of the MGA-83563 is somewhat isolated from the nonlinear effects of the saturated output stage, some empirical optimization of the input inductor may increase the input return loss still further. The input is easily fine-tuned under large signal conditions by observing the input return loss while an input power of +4 dBm is applied to the amplifier. The input inductor is then "swept" by placing various values of chip inductors across the gap provided in the 50 Ω line at the input of the MGA-83563. For this example amplifier, increasing the inductor from the initial small signal value of 2.5 nH to 2.7 nH was found to provide the best input match. The final input circuit tuned as for large signal conditions is shown in Figure 26.

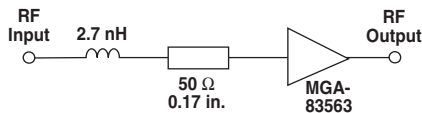


Figure 26. Final Large Signal RF Input Match for the 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

The addition of the 2.7 nH series inductor increased the large signal input return loss from 7.6 dB (with no matching) to 14.8 dB (1.4:1 VSWR) at 2.5 GHz.

Completed 2.5 GHz Amplifier

A schematic diagram of the final 2.5 GHz circuit is shown in Figure 27. All unmarked capacitors are 62 pF.

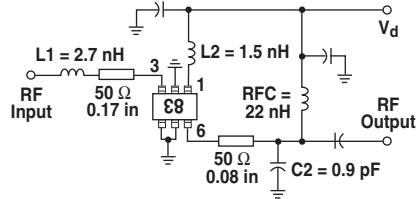


Figure 27. Schematic Diagram of 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

The completed 2.5 GHz amplifier assembly with all components is shown in Figure 28.

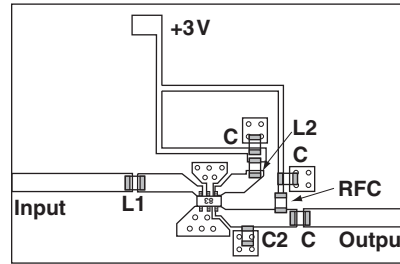


Figure 28. Completed 2.5 GHz Amplifier Assembly.

The small signal gain of the completed amplifier was measured as 22.0 dB at 2.5 GHz. Gain over a frequency range of 2.0 to 3.0 GHz is shown in Figure 29.

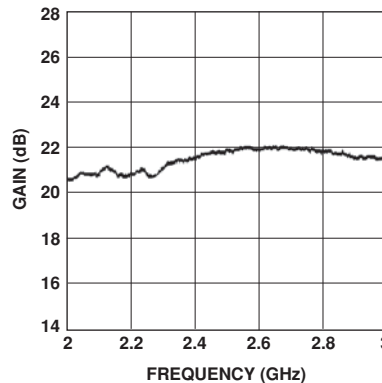


Figure 29. Small Signal Gain of the Completed 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

The (small signal) input and output return losses for the completed amplifier are 14.9 dB and 5.5 dB respectively at 2.5 GHz. Input and output return loss over the 2.0 to 3.0 GHz frequency range is shown in Figure 30.

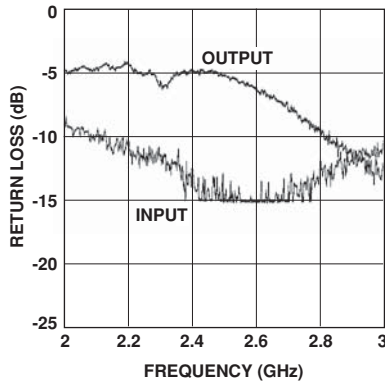


Figure 30. Input and Output Return Loss of the Completed 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

Table 2 summarizes measured results for this particular amplifier at 2.5 GHz.

| Mode | Gain (dB) | Output | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Power (dBm) | I_d (mA) |
| Small Signal | 22.0 | — | 148 |
| G_{-1dB} | 21.0 | 19.2 | 165 |
| Saturated | 17.8 | 21.8 | 139 |

Table 2. Performance Summary for 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

The power-added efficiency (PAE) in the saturated mode is 36% as calculated from:

$$PAE = \frac{\sum P_{RF}}{P_{DC}}$$

$$PAE = \frac{(P_{out} - P_{in})}{P_{DC}}$$

Note the current increases slightly from small signal conditions to the 1 dB compression point, then falls appreciably as the amplifier goes into saturation. (The 1-dB compressed output power will be higher for amplifiers that are tuned for linear performance.)

P_{sat} and PAE Sensitivity to Inductor L2

The output match of the completed 2.5 GHz amplifier was held fixed while various values of L2 were substituted for the purposes of (1) verifying the optimum value for L2, and (2) determining the sensitivity of P_{sat} and PAE to the value of L2. These results are plotted in Figure 31.

The data in Figure 31 indicates there is some tradeoff between tuning for maximum output power and maximum efficiency. The original choice of 1.5 nH for the interstage inductor L2 appears well optimized.

The results of this tuning process supplied the 2.5 GHz data point referred to in the Appendix that was used to create Plot B of Figure 47.

Output Match Sensitivity

The sensitivity of P_{sat} and PAE to the value of the shunt capacitor in the output matching circuit was investigated by varying the value of C2 while noting P_{sat} and device current. The input power was fixed at +4 dBm for this test.

The length of the series line between the output of the MGA-83563 and C2 is also part of the matching circuit. This line was not considered as a variable in the sensitivity analysis since photo-fabrication of micro-striplines on circuit boards is highly repeatable.

P_{sat} and PAE for each value of C2 are plotted in Figure 32.

Inspection of Figure 32 reveals that a variation in C2 of $\pm 10\%$ is acceptable for most applications. The most important observation of this data is that the PAE remains high for values of C2 that are toward the left of the maximum P_{sat} point (lower values of C2), while the PAE begins to drop off toward for higher values of C2. This data points out the importance of choosing a value for C2 that is toward the lower side of the maximum P_{sat} point (lower C2) in order to maintain high efficiency with production tolerance components.

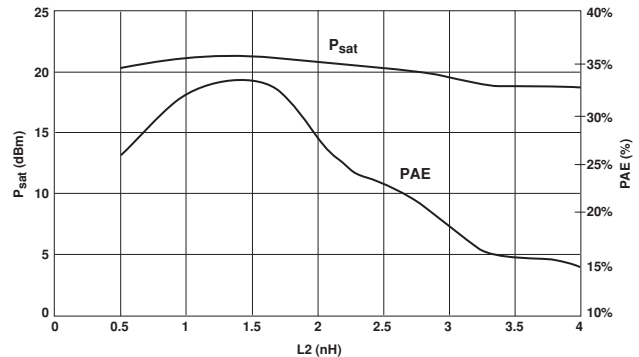


Figure 31. 2.5 GHz P_{sat} and PAE vs. L2.

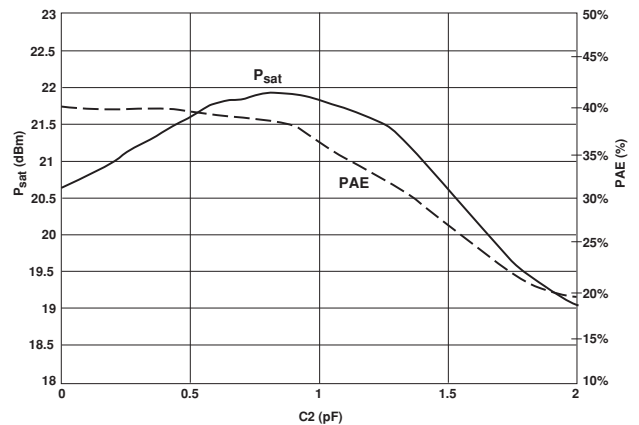


Figure 32. 2.5 GHz P_{sat} and PAE vs. C2.

Amplifier Designs for 1.9 GHz and 900 MHz

The same design process used for the 2.5 GHz amplifier above was repeated for the design of amplifiers for the 1.9 GHz and 900 MHz frequency bands. Example circuits were built using the same PCB layout as used for the 2.5 GHz amplifier. The schematic diagram, component values, and assembly drawing for the 1.9 GHz and 900 MHz designs are shown in the “Summary of Example Amplifiers” section.

1.9 GHz Amplifier Measured Results

Performance of this amplifier is summarized in Table 3. The PAE is 41%.

| Mode | Output | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Gain (dB) | Power (dBm) | I_d (mA) |
| Small Signal | 23.8 | — | 155 |
| G_{-1dB} | 22.8 | 19.6 | 182 |
| Saturated | 17.5 | 21.5 | 114 |

Table 3. Performance Summary for 1.9 GHz Amplifier.

Small signal gain over the 1.5 to 2.3 GHz frequency range is shown in Figure 33.

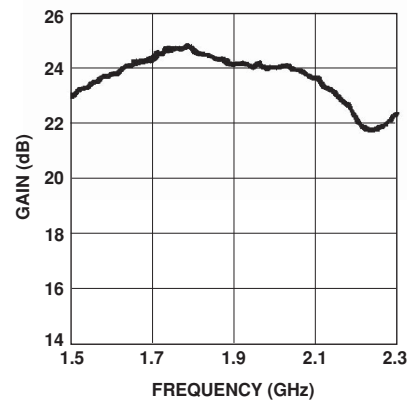


Figure 33. Small Signal Gain of the Completed 1.9 GHz Amplifier.

The small signal input and output return loss over the 1.5 to 2.3 GHz frequency range is shown in Figure 34.

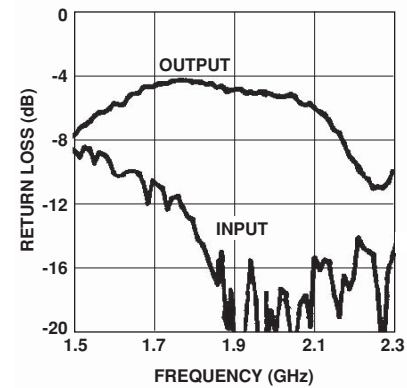


Figure 34. Input and Output Return Loss of the 1.9 GHz Amplifier.

900 MHz Amplifier Measured Results

Measured results for this 900 MHz amplifier is shown in Table 4. The PAE is 40%.

| Mode | Gain (dB) | Output | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Power (dBm) | I_d (mA) |
| Small Signal | 24.5 | — | 168 |
| G_{-1dB} | 23.5 | 20.9 | 177 |
| Saturated | 18.5 | 22.5 | 144 |

Table 4. Performance Summary for 900 MHz Amplifier.

Gain over the 500 to 1300 MHz frequency range is shown in Figure 35.

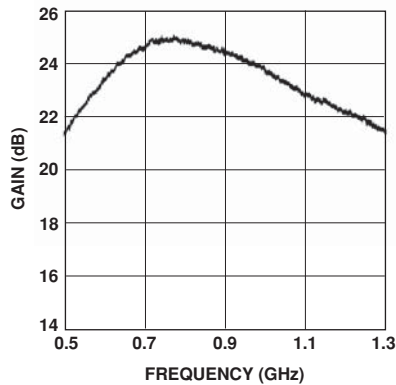


Figure 35. Small Signal Gain of the 900 MHz Amplifier.

Input and output return loss (small signal) from 500 to 1300 MHz is shown in Figure 36.

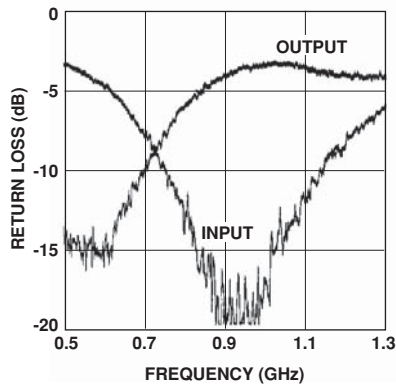


Figure 36. Input and Output Return Loss of the 900 MHz Amplifier.

P_{sat} and PAE Sensitivity to Inductor L2 for the 900 MHz Amplifier

As was done for the 2.5 GHz amplifier example, values for L2 were “swept” for verification and to observe sensitivity of P_{sat} and PAE. The results are plotted in Figure 37. This process verified the correct value of L2 and provided the 900 MHz data point used in the Appendix to create Plot B of Figure 47.

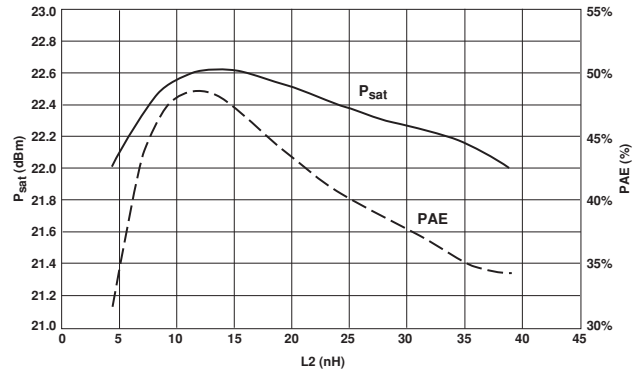


Figure 37. 900 MHz P_{sat} and PAE vs. L2.

Summary of Example Amplifiers

A schematic diagram for the three example amplifiers covering 2.5 GHz, 1.9 GHz, and 900 MHz is shown in Figure 38.

Component values for the three designs are summarized in Table 5.

| (nH, pF) | Frequency | | |
|------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 900 MHz | 1.9 GHz | 2.5 GHz |
| L1 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 2.7 |
| L2 | 12 | 2.7 | 1.5 |
| L3 | 82 | 33 | 22 |
| L4 | Not used (short circuit) | | |
| C2 | 3.6 | 1.2 | 0.9 |
| C1, C3, C4 | 150 | 82 | 62 |
| C5 | 1000 | | |

Table 5. Component Values for Example Amplifiers.

The completed amplifier with all components and SMA connectors is shown in Figure 39. The circuit is fabricated on 0.031-inch FR-4 material.

The additional 1000 pF bypass capacitor, C5, was added to the bias line near the V_d connection to eliminate interstage feedback. This layout has provision for an inductor (L4) at the output of the MGA-83563. This inductor is not used in for these example amplifiers and is replaced by a short.

Use of the MGA-83563 for Linear Applications

Due to the thermal limitations covered in the “Thermal Design for Reliability” section, the MGA-83563 is best suited for use as a saturated mode amplifier. The MGA-83563 can however be used with reduced output power performance by lowering the supply voltage.

Some saturated amplifier applications may also benefit from operation at reduced V_d for the purpose of reducing current drain and extending battery life.

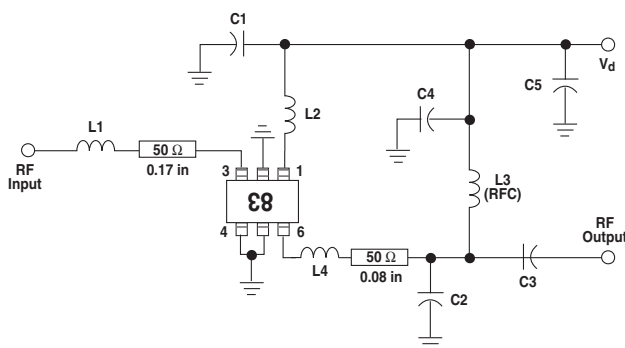


Figure 38. Schematic Diagram for the Example Amplifiers.

$P_{1\text{dB}}$ and P_{sat} vs. V_d for the 2.5 GHz and 900 MHz circuit examples are shown in Figures 40 and 41, respectively. The methods presented in the “Thermal Design for Reliability” section may be used to arrive at a maximum supply voltage that corresponds to the desired MTTF goal.

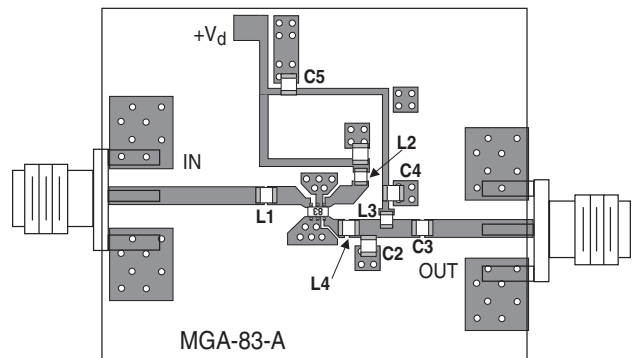


Figure 39. Completed MGA-83563 Amplifier Assembly.

The $P_{1\text{dB}}$ power plotted in Figures 40 and 41 is taken from the example amplifiers tuned for maximum P_{sat} . $P_{1\text{dB}}$ will be higher with linear tuning. When designing for linear applications, the value for the interstage inductor L2 is taken from Plot A of Figure 47 in the Appendix.

The data in Tables 2–4 shows that some increase in device current occurs as the output power approaches P_{1dB} . Allowance should be made in the thermal analysis for the increased P_{diss} if the circuit is to be used at or near P_{1dB} .

Operation at Higher Supply Voltages

While the MGA-83563 is designed primarily for use in +3 volt applications, the output power can be increased by using a higher supply voltage. Referring to Figure 5, the P_{sat} can be increased by up to 1 dB by using a power supply voltage of +3.6 volts.

Note: If bias voltages greater than 3 volts are used, appropriate caution should be given to both the thermal limits and the Absolute Maximum Ratings.

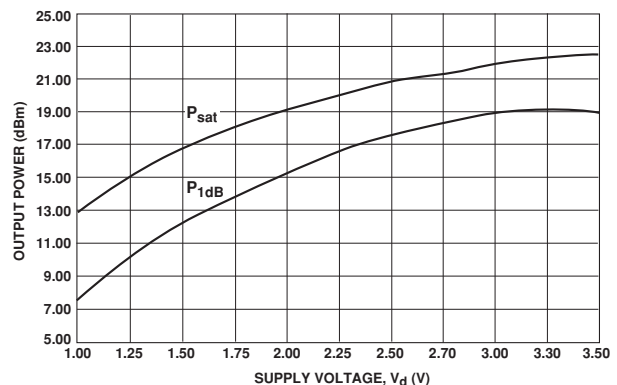


Figure 40. Output Power vs. Supply Voltage for the 2.5 GHz Amplifier.

Hints and Troubleshooting

Oscillation

Unconditional stability of the MGA-83563 is dependent on having good grounding. Inadequate device grounding or poor PCB layout techniques could cause the device to be potentially unstable. In a multistage RFIC such as the MGA-83563, feedback through bias lines supplying voltage to both stages can lead to oscillation. It is important to well bypass the connections to bias supply to ensure stable operation.

Statistical Parameters

Several categories of parameters appear within this data sheet. Parameters may be described with values that are either “minimum or maximum,” “typical,” or “standard deviations.”

The values for parameters are based on comprehensive product characterization data, in which automated measurements are made on of a minimum of 500 parts taken from three non-consecutive process lots of semiconductor wafers. The data derived from product characterization tends to be normally distributed, e.g., fits the standard bell curve.

Parameters considered to be the most important to system performance are bounded by minimum or maximum values. For the MGA-83563, these parameters are: Saturated Output Power (P_{sat}), Power Added Efficiency (PAE), and Device Current (I_d). Each of the guaranteed parameters is 100% tested as part of the manufacturing process.

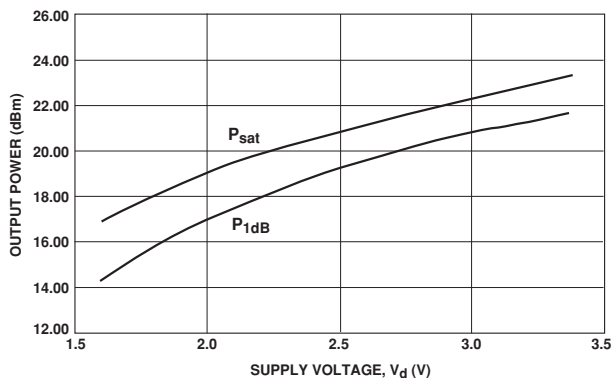


Figure 41. Output Power vs. Supply Voltage for the 900 MHz Amplifier.

Values for most of the parameters in the table of Electrical Specifications that are described by typical data are the mathematical mean (μ), of the normal distribution taken from the characterization data. For parameters where measurements or mathematical averaging may not be practical, such as S-parameters or Noise Parameters and the performance curves, the data represents a nominal part taken from the center of the characterization distribution. Typical values are intended to be used as a basis for electrical design.

To assist designers in optimizing not only the immediate amplifier circuit using the MGA-83563, but to also evaluate and optimize trade-offs that affect a complete wireless system, the standard deviation (σ) is provided for many of the Electrical Specifications parameters (at 25°C) in addition to the mean. The standard deviation is a measure of the variability about the mean. It will be recalled that a normal distribution is completely described by the mean and standard deviation.

Standard statistics tables or calculations provide the probability of a parameter falling between any two values, usually symmetrically located about the mean. Referring to Figure 42 for example, the probability of a parameter being between $\pm 1\sigma$ is 68.3%; between $\pm 2\sigma$ is 95.4%; and between $\pm 3\sigma$ is 99.7%.

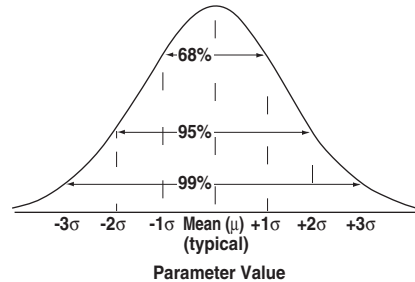


Figure 42. Normal Distribution.

Phase Reference Planes

The positions of the reference planes used to specify S-parameters and Noise Parameters for the MGA-83563 are shown in Figure 43. As seen in the illustration, the reference planes are located at the point where the package leads contact the test circuit.

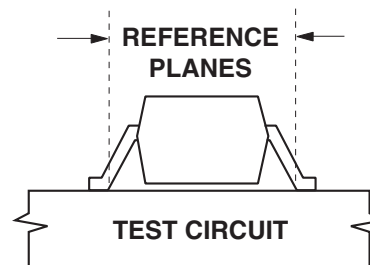


Figure 43. Phase Reference Planes.

Appendix —Determination of Interstage Inductor Value.

A methodology is presented here for determining the value of the interstage inductor, L2 that produces optimum large signal performance at any frequency. This is the method used to create the plot of Optimum L2 vs. Frequency in Figure 19. This procedure is included as a reference for PCB designs that may differ considerably from the example circuit of Figure 40.

While the method described here covers a wide range of frequencies for generic applications, the same approach can be used for a single frequency of interest. Although the printed circuit board layout of Figure 40 is used here for demonstration purposes, the same procedure is equally applicable to the any other circuit board material, thickness, or topology.

This is a 2-step process in which the value for L2 for best small signal performance is first ascertained followed by an empirical adjustment of L2 to allow for large signal effects.

The first step in this process is to assemble a test circuit for the MGA-83563 with 50-ohm input and output lines. This test circuit should use the same printed circuit board material, thickness, and ground via arrangement for the MGA-83563 that will be used to the final amplifier circuit. The connection to Pin 1 should have provision for a chip inductor that is bypassed to ground. The bypassed side of the inductor is connected to the supply voltage. The supply voltage is also connected to the RF Output/V_{d2} (Pin 6) by means of an external, wideband bias tee. The test circuit is shown in Figure 44.

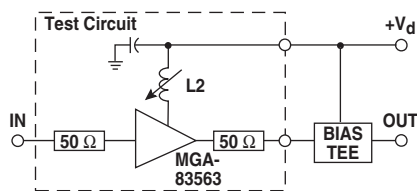


Figure 44. L2 Test Circuit.

Next, the wideband gain response of the test circuit is observed while substituting various values of chip inductors for L2. For each value of L2, the gain should be plotted and/or the frequency at which the maximum gain occurs recorded. Note that the small signal input and output match provided by the internal matching of the MGA-83563 is sufficiently close to 50 ohms for most combinations of L2 and frequencies that further matching would not significantly skew the data. This is a small signal test and the input power level should be less than -15 dBm.

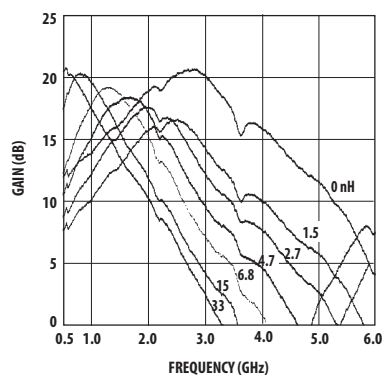


Figure 45. Small Signal Gain vs. Frequency for Various Values of L2.

Various values of Toko, Inc.® type LL1608 inductors were used for this particular example. An inductance value of 0.5 nH was used for the case of a short circuit placed across the gap provided for L2. For use at 5.8 GHz, Pin 1 should be bypassed through the most direct path (minimum inductance) to ground. Referring to Figure 21, L2 is not used and a bypass capacitor is placed from Pin 1 directly to the ground pad for Pin 2.

The result of this step is the multiple plot shown in Figure 45 of gain vs. frequency with L2 as a parameter. This plot is similar to the plot in Table 1, but differs in that the data in Figure 45 is specific to the designer's particular PCB layout. The Table 1 data is a combination of test data taken in a relatively parasitic-sterile characterization fixture and computer simulations. The test data in Figure 45 includes the effects of all circuit parasitics, ground vias, parasitics of the actual chip inductor that will be used, and also takes into account the length of line and bypass capacitor used to make the connection to L2 that will be used in the final circuit.

The value of L2 is then plotted vs. the frequency at which the gain peak occurred for each value of inductance. This plot is done as a log plot with a straight-line curve fit added to smooth the data. This data, shown as Plot A in Figure 46, then gives the optimum value of L2 for maximum small signal gain, i.e., linear performance.

The results of the 2.5 GHz and 900 MHz example amplifiers presented in this Application Note were used to modify Plot A for large signal use. The optimum, large signal value for L2 at 2.5 GHz was determined to be 1.5 nH, and 12 nH for 900 MHz. These two L2-frequency points are added to the data plot of Figure 46. A straight line is drawn through these two points to create Plot B.

Plot B provides a look-up for values of L2 for saturated amplifier designs. Plot A is used for linear amplifiers. Note: Plot B is replicated as Figure 19 in the “Application Guidelines” section of this note.

[1] Operating life test conducted for a case temperature of 60°C and with a Vd of 3.6 volts. After 1000 hours, there were 0 failures.

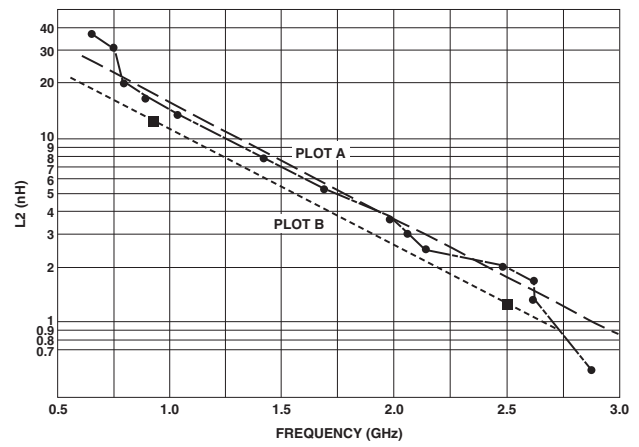
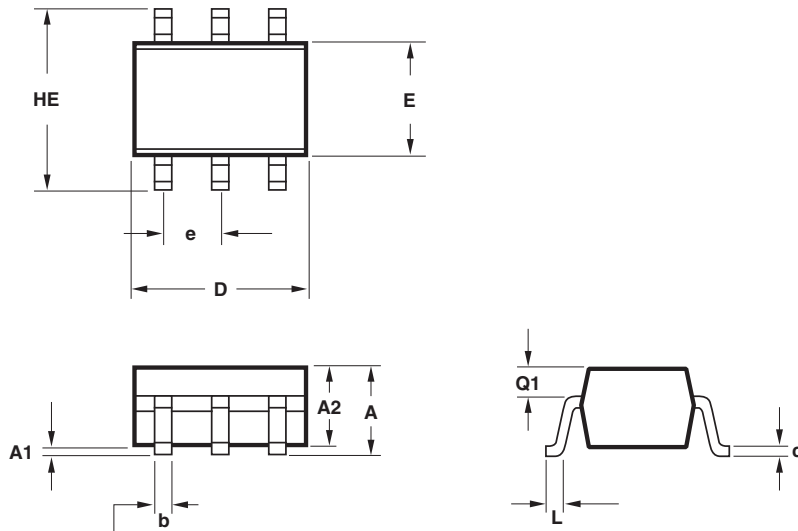


Figure 46. Optimum L2 for Small Signal Gain vs. Frequency.

Package Dimensions

Outline 63 (SOT-363/SC-70)



| SYMBOL | DIMENSIONS (mm) | |
|--------|-----------------|------|
| | MIN. | MAX. |
| E | 1.15 | 1.35 |
| D | 1.80 | 2.25 |
| HE | 1.80 | 2.40 |
| A | 0.80 | 1.10 |
| A2 | 0.80 | 1.00 |
| A1 | 0.00 | 0.10 |
| Q1 | 0.10 | 0.40 |
| e | 0.650 BCS | |
| b | 0.15 | 0.30 |
| c | 0.10 | 0.20 |
| L | 0.10 | 0.30 |

NOTES:

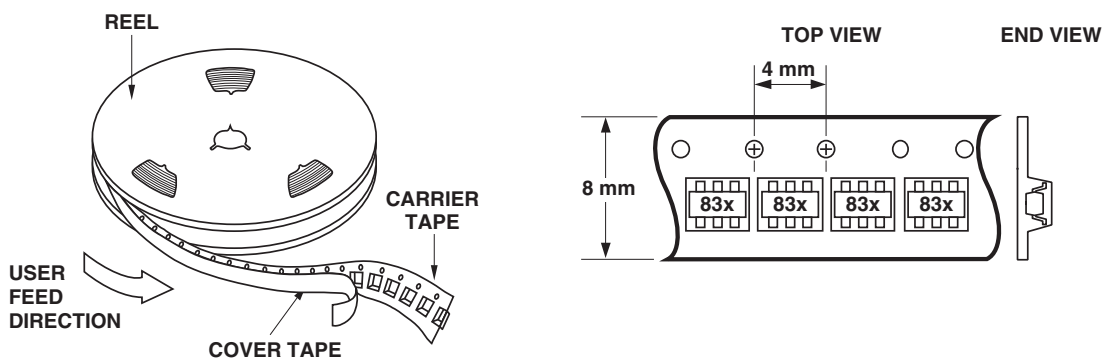
1. All dimensions are in mm.
2. Dimensions are inclusive of plating.
3. Dimensions are exclusive of mold flash & metal burr.
4. All specifications comply to EIAJ SC70.
5. Die is facing up for mold and facing down for trim/form, ie: reverse trim/form.
6. Package surface to be mirror finish.

Part Number Ordering Information

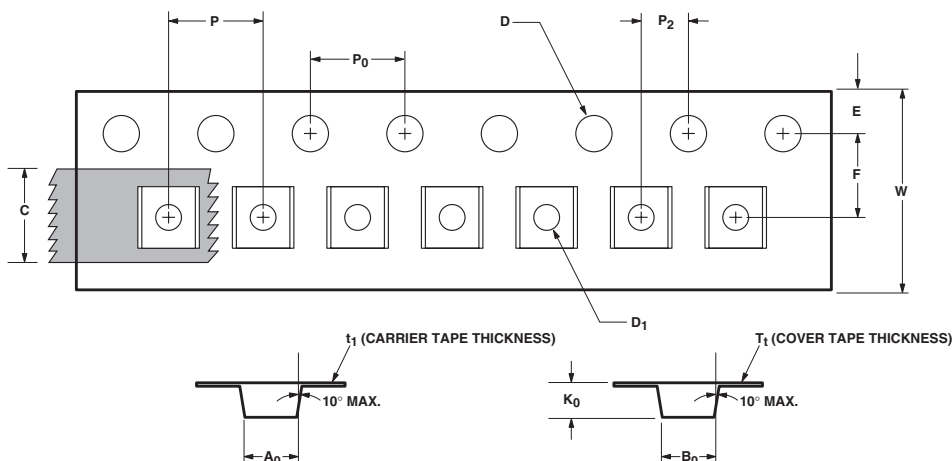
| Part Number | No. of Devices | Container |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| MGA-83563-TR1G | 3000 | 7" Reel |
| MGA-83563-TR2G | 10000 | 13" Reel |
| MGA-83563-BLKG | 100 | antistatic bag |

Note: For lead-free option, the part number will have the character "G" at the end.

Device Orientation



Tape Dimensions and Product Orientation For Outline 63



| DESCRIPTION | SYMBOL | SIZE (mm) | SIZE (INCHES) |
|--------------|--|-----------|------------------------|
| CAVITY | LENGTH | A_0 | 2.40 ± 0.10 |
| | WIDTH | B_0 | 2.40 ± 0.10 |
| | DEPTH | K_0 | 1.20 ± 0.10 |
| | PITCH | P | 4.00 ± 0.10 |
| | BOTTOM HOLE DIAMETER | D_1 | 1.00 ± 0.25 |
| PERFORATION | DIAMETER | D | 1.55 ± 0.10 |
| | PITCH | P_0 | 4.00 ± 0.10 |
| | POSITION | E | 1.75 ± 0.10 |
| CARRIER TAPE | WIDTH | W | $8.00 \pm 0.30 - 0.10$ |
| | THICKNESS | t_1 | 0.254 ± 0.02 |
| COVER TAPE | WIDTH | C | 5.40 ± 0.10 |
| | TAPE THICKNESS | T_1 | 0.062 ± 0.001 |
| DISTANCE | CAVITY TO PERFORATION (WIDTH DIRECTION) | F | 3.50 ± 0.05 |
| | CAVITY TO PERFORATION (LENGTH DIRECTION) | P_2 | 2.00 ± 0.05 |

For product information and a complete list of distributors, please go to our web site: www.avagotech.com

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