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900MHz DRIVER-AMPLIFIER WITH THE BFG425W

Abstract:

This application note contains an example of a Driver-Amplifier with the new BFG425W Double Poly RF-transistor. The driver is designed for a frequency $f=900\text{MHz}$.
Performance at $f=900\text{MHz}$, $T=25^{\circ}\text{C}$: Power Gain $>12\text{dB}$, Noise Figure $\text{NF}<2\text{dB}$.

Appendix I: Schematic of the circuit

Appendix II: Results of simulations and measurements

Appendix III: Printlayout and list of used components & materials



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Introduction:

With the new Philips silicon bipolar double poly BFG400W series, it is possible to design driver-amplifiers for high frequency applications with a low current and a low supply voltage. These amplifiers are well suited for the new generation low voltage high frequency wireless applications. In this note an example of such an amplifier will be given. This driver-amplifier is designed for a working frequency of 900MHz.

Designing the circuit:

The circuit is designed to show the following performance (target):

transistor: BFG425W

$V_{SUP}=3V$, $I_{SUP}\sim 10mA$

freq=900MHz

PowerGain: >12dB

VSWR_i<1:2

VSWR_o<1:2

The in- and output matching is realised with a RC-combination. Also extra emitter-inductance on both emitter-leads (μ -strips) are used to improve the matching. This emitter inductance is not necessary. The place of the via-holes is not critical.

Designing the layout:

A lay-out has been designed with HP-MDS. Appendix III contains the printlayout.

Measurements:

Measurements of the total circuit (epoxy PCB) are done (Appendix I).

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Appendix I: Schematic of the circuit

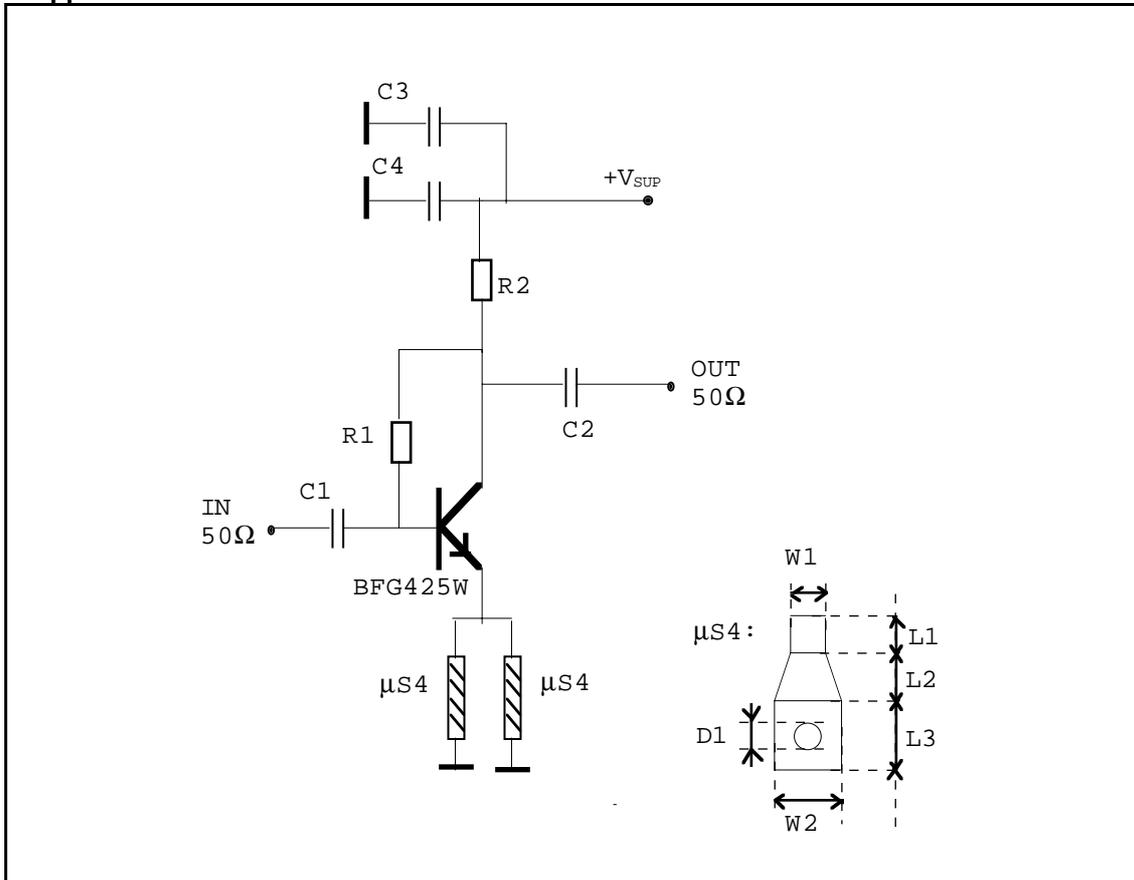


Figure 1: Driver circuit

900MHz Driver Component list:

Component:	Value:	Comment:
R1	3.3 kΩ	Bias.
R2	150 Ω	
C1	150 pF	Input match.
C2	150 pF	Output match.
C3	27 pF	900MHz short.
C4	1 nF	RF Decoupling
μs4	(next table)	Emitter induction: μ-stripline + via



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μ S4 Emitter induction (μ -stripline + via):

Name	Dimension	Description
L1	1.0mm	length μ -stripline; $Z_0 \sim 48\Omega$ (PCB: $\epsilon_r \sim 4.6$, $H=0.5\text{mm}$)
L2	1.0mm	length interconnect stripline and via-hole area
L3	1.0mm	length via-hole area
W1	0.5mm	width μ -stripline
W2	1.0mm	width via-hole area
D1	0.4mm	diameter of via-hole

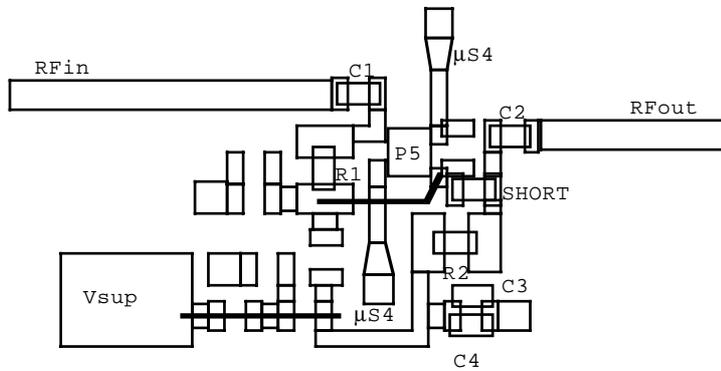
Appendix II: Results of simulations and measurements:

BFG425W, $V_{SUP}=3.0\text{V}$, $I_{SUP} \sim 10.0\text{mA}$ @ $T=25^\circ\text{C}$

	Measurements PCB:	Comment:
$f=900\text{MHz}$		
$ S_{21} ^2$ [dB]	17	$P_{IN}=-30\text{dBm}$, $T=25^\circ\text{C}$
G_p [dB]	14	$P_{IN}=-10\text{dBm}$, $T=25^\circ\text{C}$
G_p [dB]	~ 10	$P_{IN}=-10\text{dBm}$, $T < < 0^\circ\text{C}$ (Freeze spray)
VSWRi	1.8	$P_{IN}=-30\text{dBm}$, $T=25^\circ\text{C}$
VSWRo	1.5	$P_{IN}=-30\text{dBm}$, $T=25^\circ\text{C}$
Noise Figure [dB]	< 2.0	$P_{IN}=-30\text{dBm}$, $T=25^\circ\text{C}$
IP3 [dBm] (output)	-	not measured

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Appendix III: Printlayout and list of used components & materials



900MHz Driver Amplifier
BFG425W

Figure 2: Printlayout

900MHz Driver Component list:

Component:	Value:	size:
R1	3.3 k Ω	0603 Philips
R2	150 Ω	0603 Philips
C1	150 pF	0603 Philips
C2	150 pF	0603 Philips
C3	27 pF	0603 Philips
C4	1 nF	0603 Philips
P5	BFG425W	SOT343R Philips
PCB	$\epsilon_r \sim 4.6, H=0.5\text{mm}$	FR4

note 1: The used PCB was designed for Low Noise Amplifier applications. Shorts and wires are used to adapt the PCB for this driver application.