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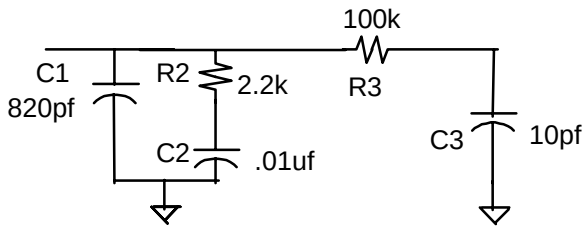
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR LMX2325 EVALUATION BOARD WITH A ALPS 926A VCO

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

The LMX2325 Evaluation Board is an implementation of the schematic shown as Figure 1. The board, shown in Figure 2, consists of the LMX2325, a modular RF VCO and its loop filter.

Resistors denoted as O.C. / S.C. are for connecting various outputs to output pads or to ground by using OΩ resistors as shorts. The board has two kinds of interconnections. SMA flange mount connectors are supplied for the external reference and VCO output, power supply biasing and grounding. A four pin header allows VCC, VP, and Vvco to be driven off either a single voltage supply, or separately. The cable provided connects to the evaluation board pin header and the parallel port of a PC XT (or better) equivalent. Since most P.C.'s parallel port output level is 5 V, pads for resistive dividers on the Clock, Data, and Load Enable are also included. This will allow low voltage operation of the PLL without overdriving the *Microwire* inputs. The power supplies should be connected through the SMA connectors.

The user should make the following connections to operate the evaluation board in standard mode: (1) Connect the RF or IF VCO output, (or both)**VCO OUT,** to a spectrum analyzer, (2) Connect a reference input from 5 MHz to 40 MHz at 0 dBm to the **REF IN** port, a 50 ohm termination is already on the board for using an external signal generator. (3) Connect the cable assembly to the parallel port of the PC and to the 6 pin header on the evaluation board. Connect the power supplies to the appropriate biasing (3.3V) using the SMA connectors and shorting bars on the pin headers (see schematic). Connect the cable with the arrow on the connector facing the board. If you were holding the cable in your hand the sockets to the far left should attach to the pins on the board. The board is now ready to operate. This configuration is for evaluation purposes only and is not meant to show how it will be used in a system. The Loop values for the integrator has been selected and placed in the loop in the configuration shown below. The loop filter was designed for an comparison frequency of 1000 kHz. The evaluation board has been designed to accept more complex configurations.



LOOP FILTER

USING LMX2325 SOFTWARE

Insert the diskette into drive a: or b:. The program may be operated from the floppy or may be copied onto a hard disk. Because the program uses extended precision real numbers in its calculations the program may not operate on some older DOS computers. A PC-AT or equivalent is recommended. The program may be started by typing LMX2325.

The LMX2325 evaluation program controls the LMX2325 Evaluation Board via a standard parallel port. A cable is provided to make the connection from the computer to the board. The program is intended to be easy to install and use, exercise the PLL, and demonstrate typical performance. It is not intended to be representative of the control code which the customer will implement within their application.

Upon power-up the program will detect the number and location of parallel ports available to the system. The user will be prompted to select one port. The evaluation program is menu driven. All menu selections may be made by pressing "Enter" when a menu is highlighted. Up, down, left and right arrows are used to change which menu id highlighted. Speed keys are also included for each active menu item. Use Speed keys by typing the letter displayed in red corresponding to the mode desired. The top menu pane consists of pull down menus titled "Set (F)requency", "Set (R)egister", "(T)uning", "(M)odes", "Fo/(L)D", and "(Q)uit" where the speed keys are listed in parentheses. To exit from a menu at anytime press "Escape". A status pane is included at the bottom of the pane to give on-line help descriptions of highlighted menu items.

The program displays a block showing the present tuning parameters for VCO, Crystal Reference, and Phase detector reference frequency for the PLL Activate the "Set Frequency" pulldown menu to control these values. To the right of this block is the "Scratchpad", showing the values as you enter them. The program will issue a warning and a suggestion if a value is selected which does not maintain an integer relationship between the VCO or crystal frequency and the reference frequency. The suggestion will be the nearest value of the parameter just changed which will produce an integer relationship. The user may select this value, or any other, so long as the integer relationship is established.

Upon successful selection of tuning parameters, the download values are calculated and loaded. The board must be powered up in order for the values to be loaded. If power is applied after the software is on or power is turned off for some reason all that is required is entering "Load PLL" to download the values for the PLL.

The program displays, and allows modification of, the binary values for the VCO divider (P), Reference Divider(R), and control codes. The value of P (either 64 or 128) shows the present status of the prescaler control bit which enables either the 64/65 prescaler or the 128/129 prescaler. When an N value is entered which is invalid for P=64, the program will display an error message and automatically switch to P=128. To modify N, R or P directly, activate the "Set Register" menu, select the desired mode and use the arrow keys to move horizontally or to change values ("up" changes "0" to "1", "down" changes "1" to "0"). You may also type in "1" or "0".

Users will find items in the "Tuning" menu useful. In "Hand Tune" mode the user may step up or down in single increments by using the up or down arrows, or in increments of 10 by using the left and right arrows. Other steps, 2 up to 9, are taken by pressing any number from 2 to 9. Steps downward are taken by pressing the down or left arrow keys or by holding down the shift key when pressing any number from 2 to 9.

The "Switch" mode in the "Tuning" menu allows measurement of PLL switching time by initiating switching between the presently tuned frequency and a frequency an arbitrary number of steps away. In "Switch" mode, the user will be prompted for an integer (+ or -) number of steps and a delay (msec). The

delay will allow the user to specify the time delay between switching. The "Enable" input forms a fairly good trigger (it is written twice, once for N and once for R). Load time will vary depending upon the processing speed of the computer being used.

The "Auto Tune" mode in the "Tuning" menu allows the user to switch to a set frequency and specify the interval to step in. Entering this mode, the user will be prompted for an integer to step up to, an integer to step by and a delay (msec). The delay allows the user to specify the time delay between steps. This would allow a user to verify operation at all channels of interest.

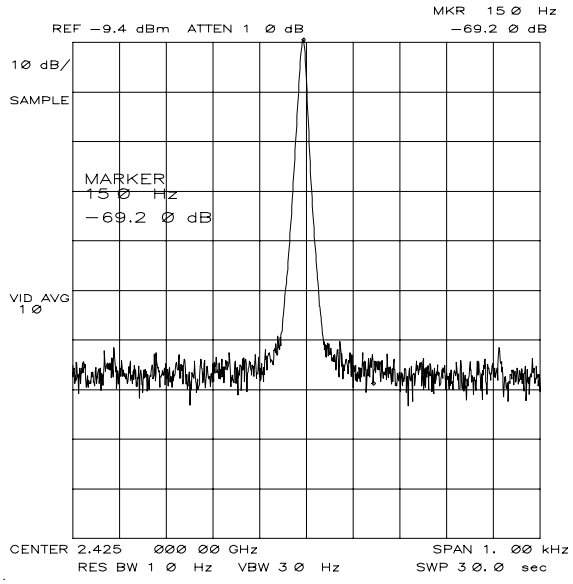
The program is exited by choosing "Yes,Quit" in the "Quit" menu, which saves the current parameters in a log file. Any mode may be exited by pressing "Enter".

TYPICAL MEASURED PERFORMANCE OF THE LMX2325 EVALUATION BOARD

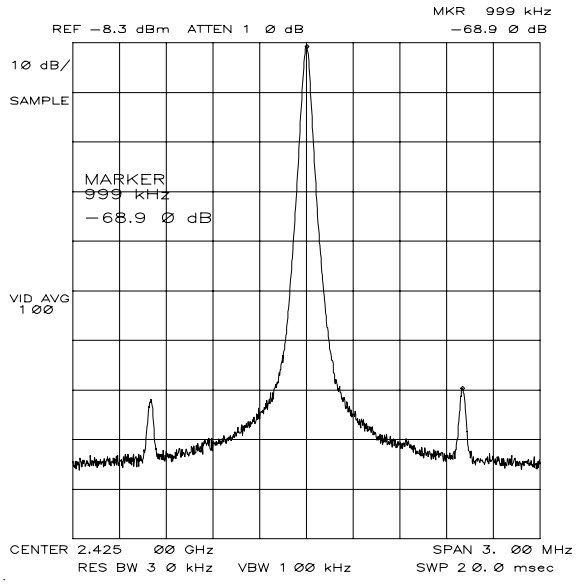
Normal operating parameters for the 2400-2450 Mhz frequency range include spurious at less than -60 dBc, switching speed (for a 1000 kHz reference frequency and a step of 50 MHz to within a frequency error of 1.0 KHz) < 500 microseconds. Phase noise is under -75 dBc/Hz at 1 kHz offset. Noise at 100 kHz is under -110 dBc/Hz. The VCO operating voltage is 3 V. The VCO tunes over a frequency range of 2400 to 2450 Mhz. Typical current draw at 3.3 volts is 10 mA (not including the 6 mA VCO). These parameters were measured on a very small sample size. All parameters are subject to change.

NOTE: Computer monitors and other lab equipment has been shown to cause noise spikes. If you see noise spikes on the signal try turning off the monitor or other equipment to verify that they are not the cause. Also noise may be getting onto the signal through the cable that connects to the parallel port of the computer.

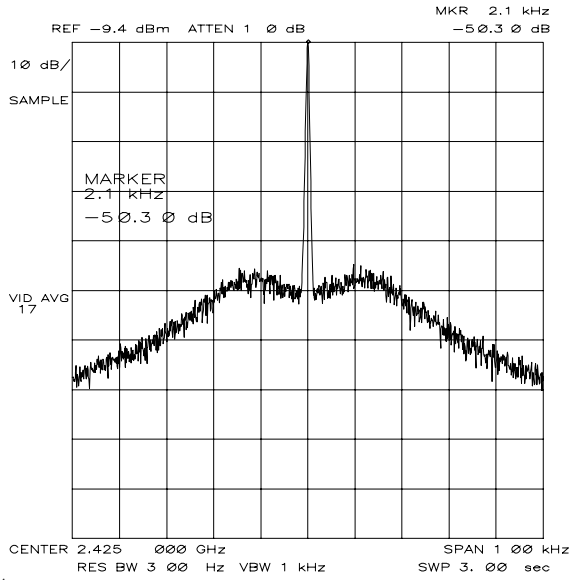
TYPICAL MEASURED DATA



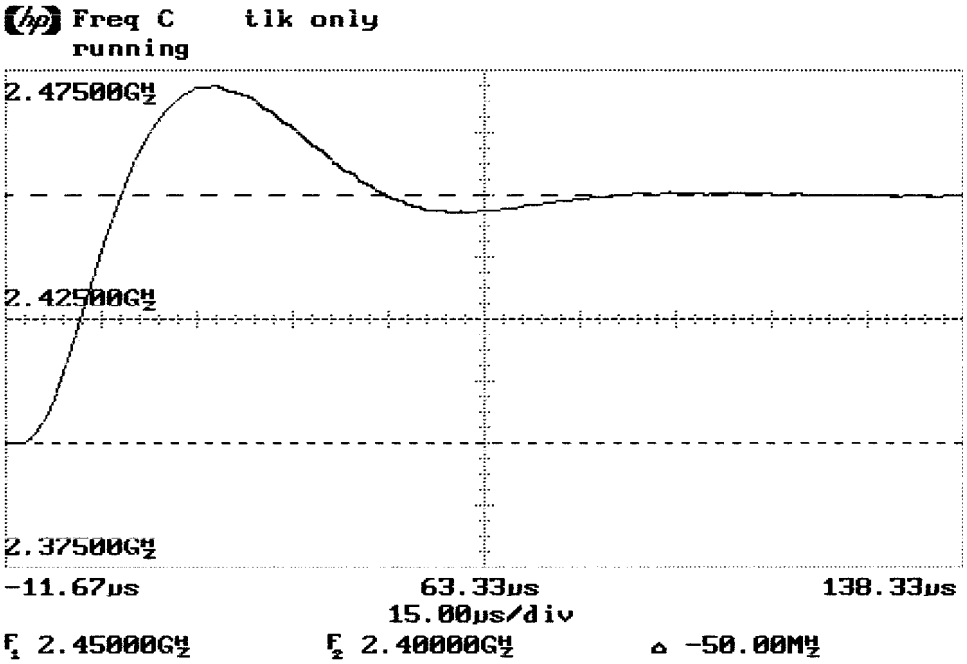
“Close in” Phase Noise



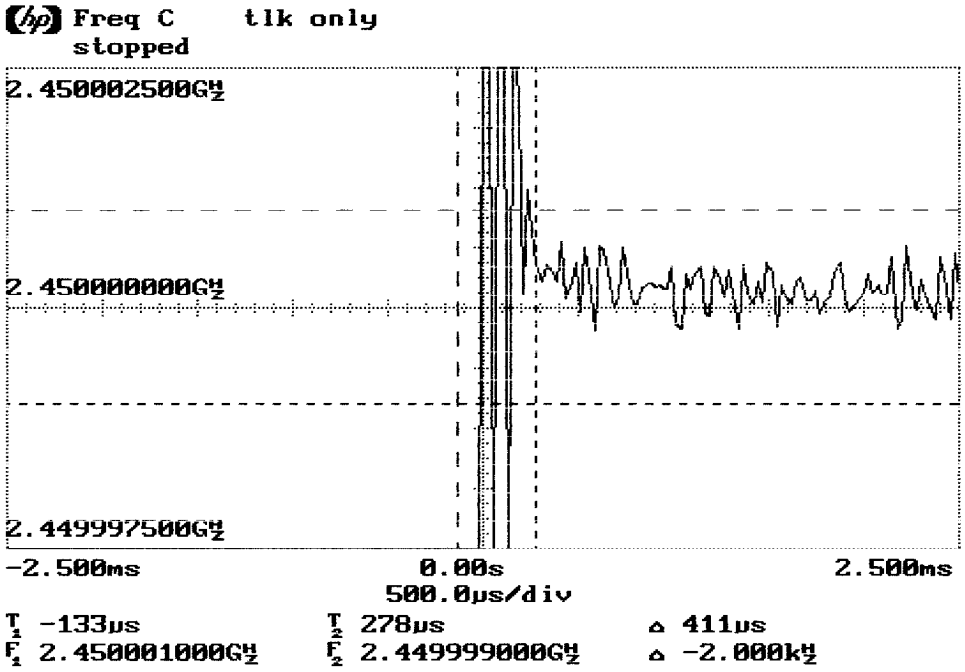
Reference Spurs



Loop Bandwidth



Positive Frequency Switching Waveform



PositiveLock Time to within 1 kHz

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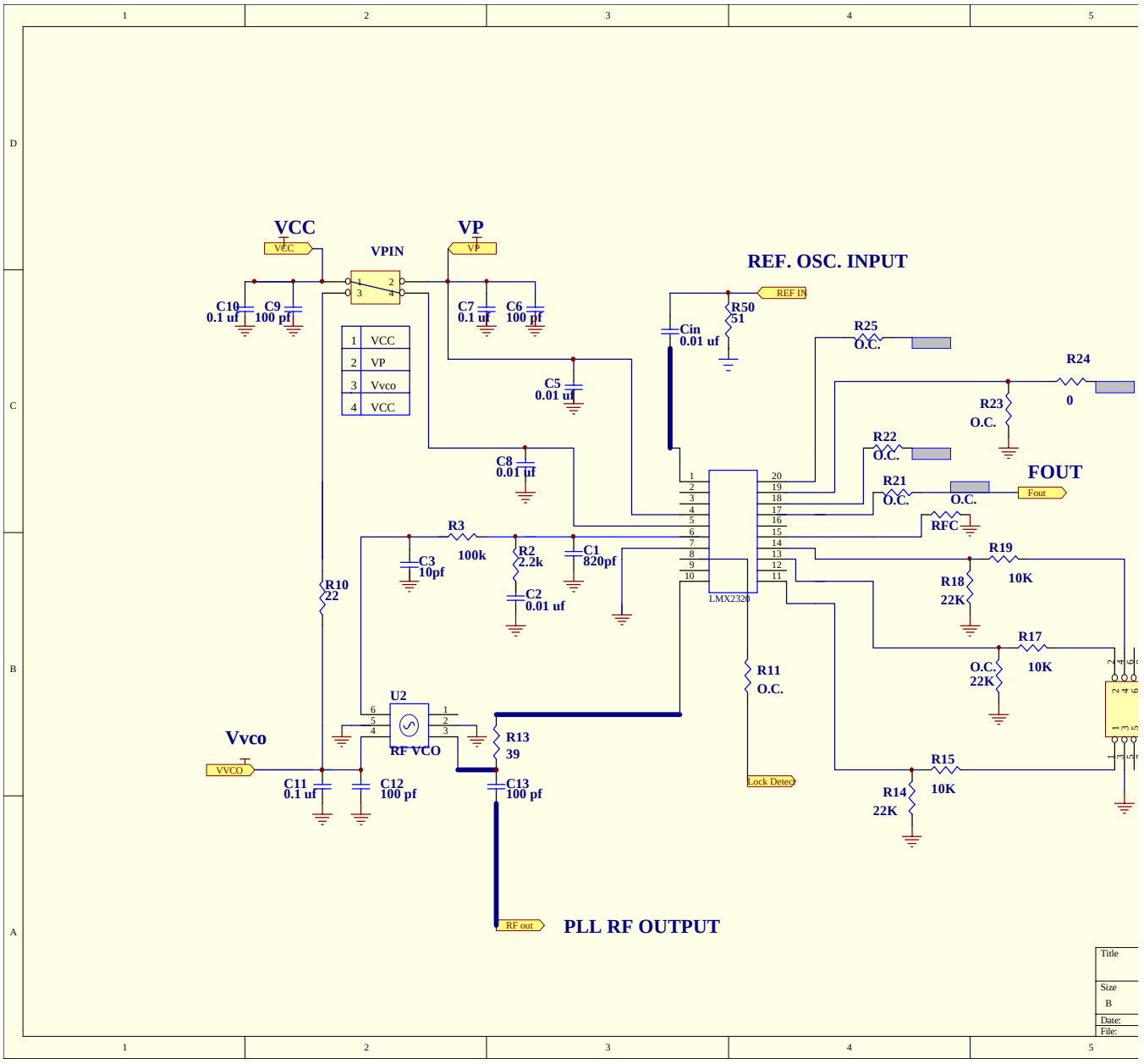

LMX2325 Bill of Materials

Part	Used	PartType	Designators
1	6		J1 R14 R17 VPIN
2	1	0	R24
3	4	0.01 uf	C2 C5 C8 Cin
4	3	1uf	C7 C10 C11
5	1	2.2K	R2
6	2	10K	R15 R19
7	1	10pf	C3
8	1	22	R10
9	1	22K	R18
10	1	39	R13
11	1	51	R50
12	1	100K	R3
13	4	100 pf	C6 C9 C12 C13
14	1	Alps 926A	U2
15	1	LMX2325	U1
16	2	O.C.	R11 R21
17	1	O.C.	R22
18	3	O.C.	R23 R25 RFC
19	1	820pf	C1

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