

TRX7

A NorCal 40A based 7 MHz CW Transceiver

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1 Introduction

The NorCal 40A [1] is a CW-transceiver operating in the frequency range from 7.00 MHz to 7.04 MHz, the 40m amateur band. Wayne Burdick, N6KR, designed the NorCal 40 as a club project for the Northern California QRP Club. A complete kit for the NorCal 40A is available from the Wilderness Radio Company [1]. The design of the NorCal 40A is simple, open and very sound.

David Rutledge, KN6EK, has written an outstanding book titled "The Electronics of Radio" [2] which introduces the reader to analog electronics by analyzing the design and construction of the NorCal 40A. I was fascinated by this book after I bought it in the Stanford University Bookstore in August 2001. My club friend Rainer, DL7BER, gave me his completed and working NorCal 40A to try it. It took until May 20, 2004, when I made my first QSOs using this rig on a short hike to the bavarian alps (Foto 1). While tuning across the band, I found another club member, Heinz, DL6MHT, calling CQ. I gave him a call and we made a nice long QSO. As he resides just around the mountain where I had my temporary QTH, he came up to me and also tried the NorCal 40A (Foto 2). The next hike took place on June 10 with Ben, DL6RAI, to Mount Bodenschneid (elev. 1668 m) near Lake Tegernsee in beautiful Upper Bavaria (Foto 3). The dipole antenna we used is shown in Foto 4.

Although I was quite satisfied with the performance of the NorCal 40A, I found it inconvenient to have to pack several boxes (NorCal 40A, keyer, SWR-Meter, etc.) into the rucksack and to have to connect the boxes with several cables before the first QSO could be made. I decided to build a transceiver based on the NorCal 40A but including an electronic keyer, frequency counter, Ni-MH battery back, etc. I wanted to build a better receiver mixer and an additional MOSFET PA with up to 10 W output power which could be activated when a stronger transmitted signal would be desirable. The project was named TRX7.

Another idea was to try to simulate the various subcircuits of the transceiver and to compare simulated and measured results. I have used the free Evaluation Version 8.0 of PSpice. I hope that some readers of this report might be stimulated to try simulation for the development of their own circuits.

I would like to thank the following amateurs at our club station DK0MN: Rainer Beer, DL7BER, for lending me his NorCal 40A; Heinz Trapmann, DL6MHT, and Ben Buettner, DL6RAI, for sharing with me the fun of operating QRP from our mountain hikes and son Leo for helping me in many ways during this project.

dk3yd.eps

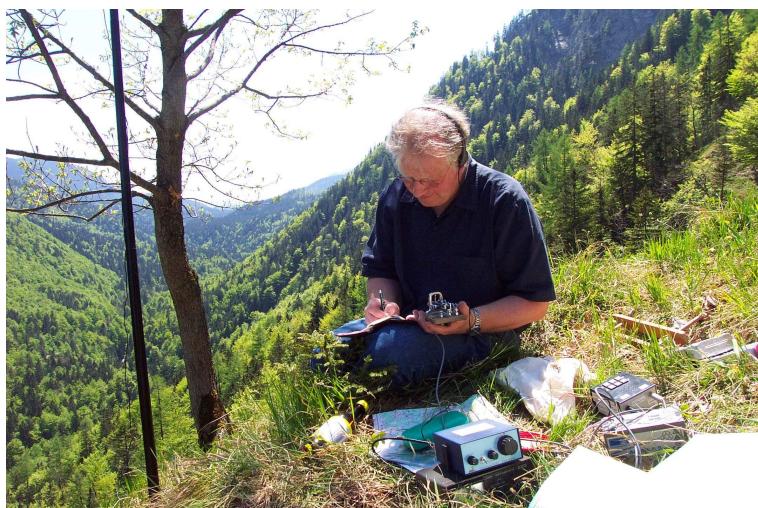


Foto 1

dl6mht.eps



Foto 2

dl6rai.eps

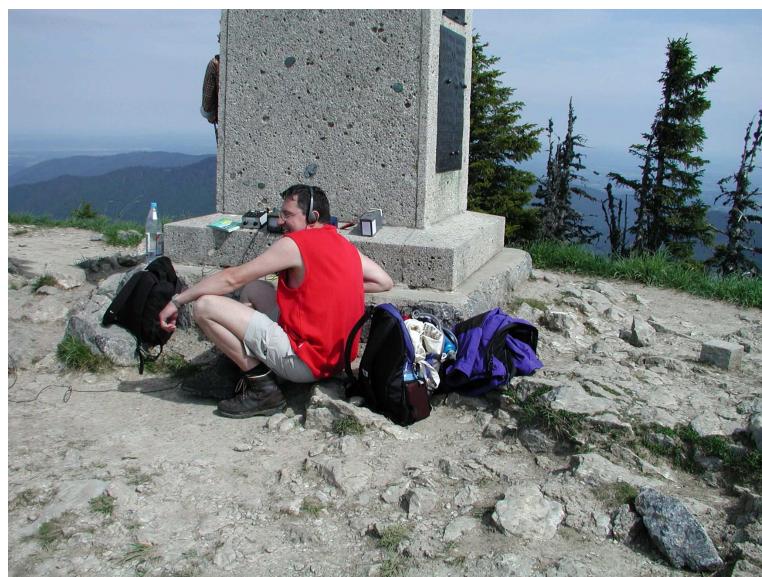


Foto 3

dipole.eps



Foto 4

2 Block Diagram of NorCal 40A

block diagram, see [2], p.18, Fig 1.13

nc40a0.eps

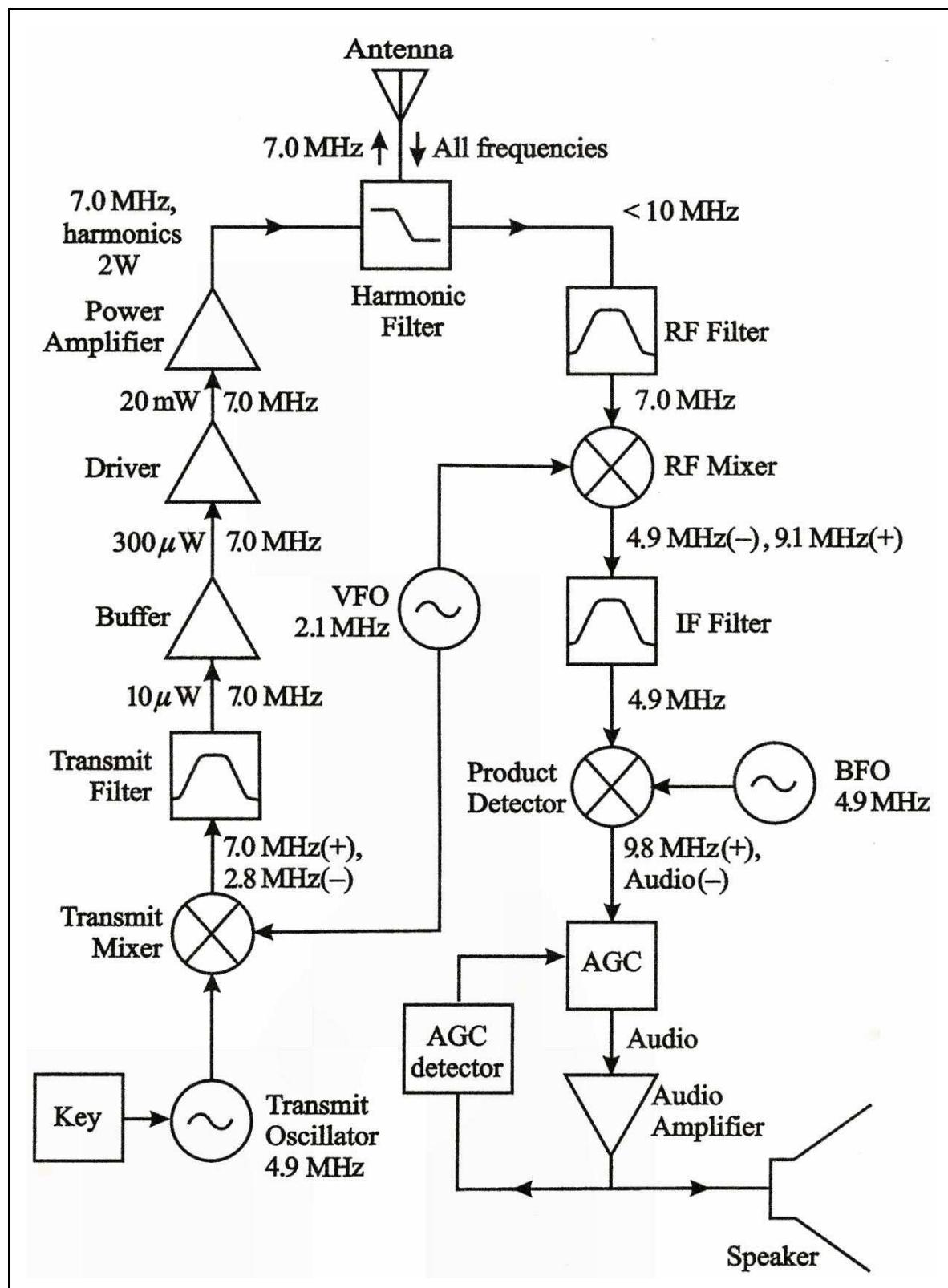


foto of NorCal 40A rev B (outside and inside)



Foto 5

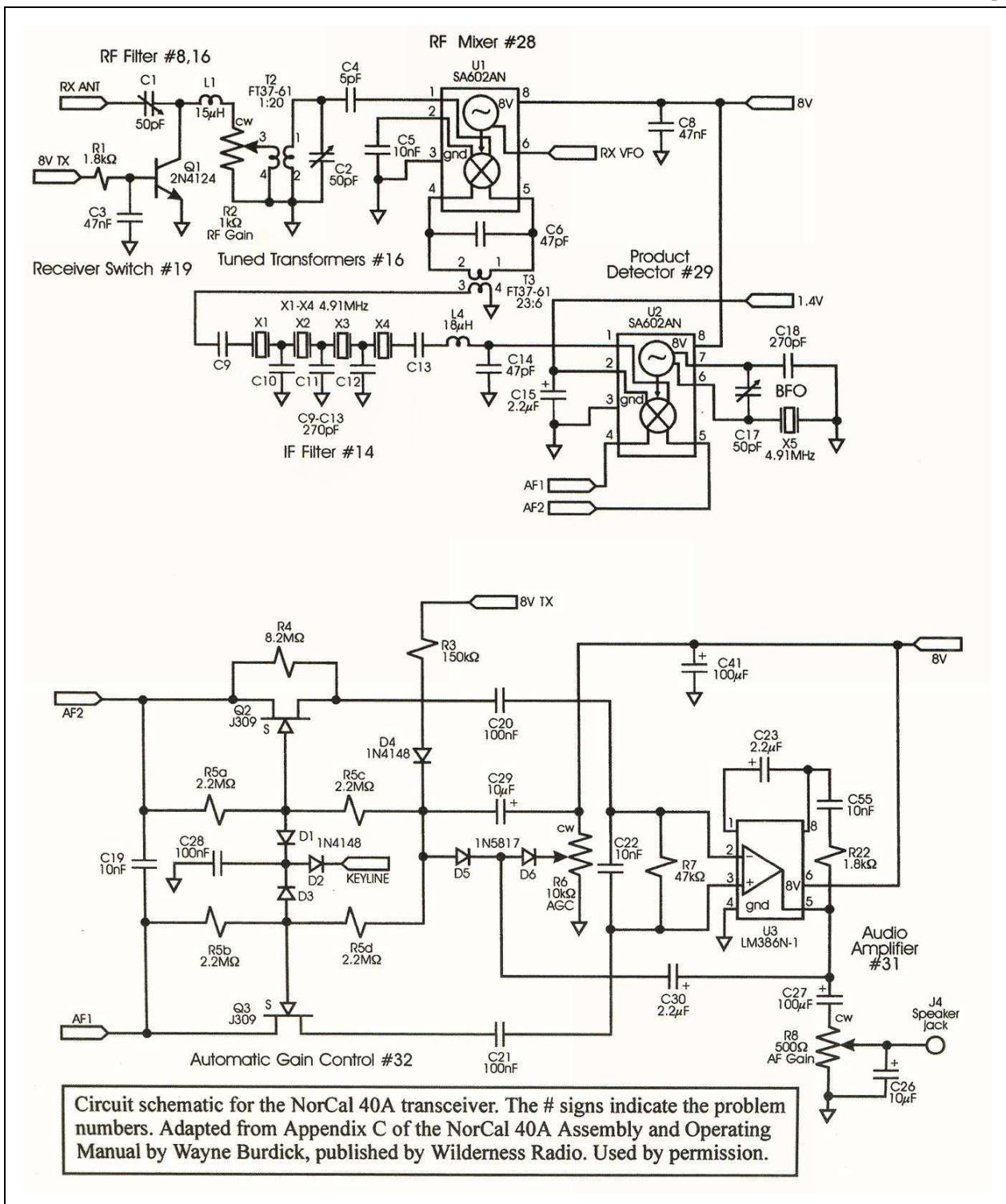


Foto 6

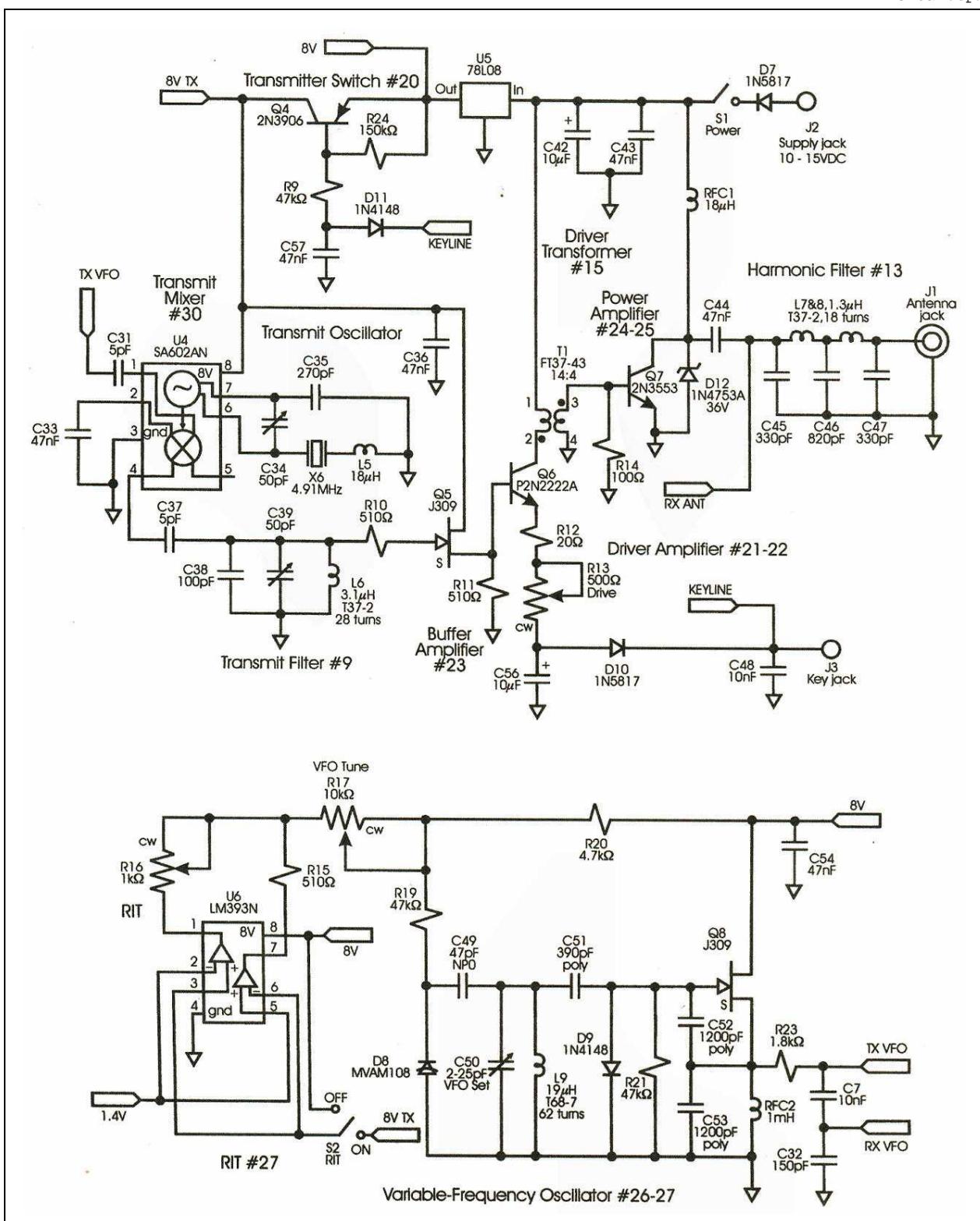
3 Circuit Diagram of NorCal 40A

taken from inside cover of [2] by permission ?

nc40a1.eps



nc40a2.eps



4 Block Diagram of TRX7A (NorCal 40A)

general introduction to simulation

programs used: PSpice V8, WinSpice, Eagle, LaTex

links

sorting of project data files into subdirectories

5 Preselector Bandpass Filter A (PRESEL A)

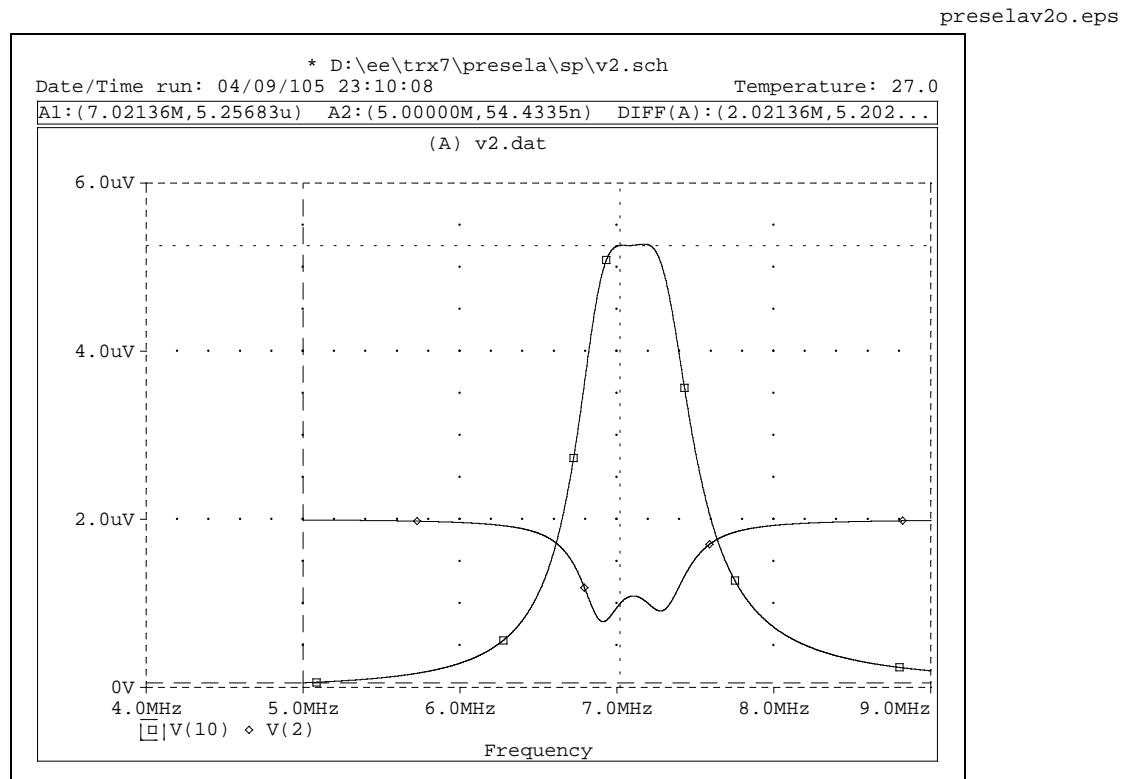
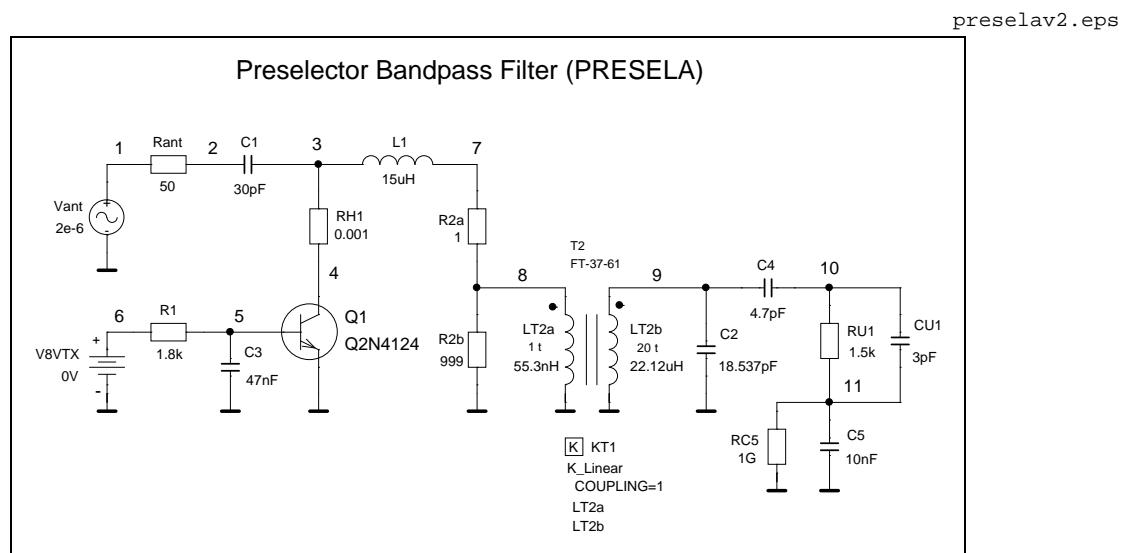
The receive signal from **Antenna jack J1** is lowpass-filtered by the **Harmonic Filter** ($f_c = 10 \text{ MHz}$). Its output signal goes to point **RX ANT** which is the input of block **RF Filter** (see block diagram on page xxx). The circuit of this block is called **Preselector Bandpass Filter A** (PRESEL A) here. This simple circuit provides several important functions for the NorCal 40A receiver.

Circuit elements C1, L1, T2, C2 and C4 provide a quite sharp bandpass characteristic which can be adjusted by capacitive trimmers C1 and C2 for maximum sensitivity in the receive band 7.000 to 7.040 MHz. Transformer T2 provides an important voltage step-up to lift the very small input signals above the input noise voltage of mixer-IC U1.

When the NorCal 40A is switched into transmit mode, point **8V TX** goes to a DC voltage of +8 V and turns on Q1. The collector of Q1 goes down to a DC saturation voltage of about xx V and effectively puts the node between C1 and L1 (the input resonator) close to ground potential. Therefore in TX mode, part of C1 is put in parallel to C45 in the **Harmonic Filter**.

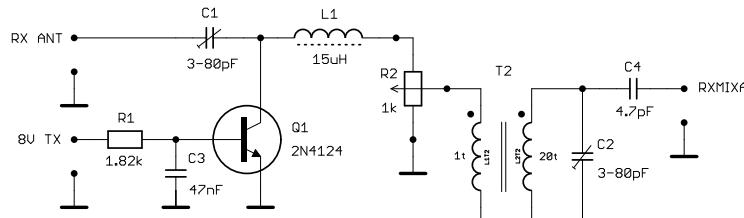
Potentiometer R2 provides a very wide (about xx dB) control for receiver sensitivity and also overload protection against very strong input signals. When the wiper of R2 is in the clockwise position, the input winding of T2 (consisting of only one turn) is unaffected by the R2 resistance of $1 \text{ k}\Omega$ and lies in series to input resonator C1, L1. T2 transforms the receive signal up by its turns ratio 1:20.

5.1 Simulation



5.2 Test circuit

preselatc.eps



C1,C2 Foil Trimmer Capacitor, 3 to 80pF

C3 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 473K, 0.047uF/50V, Bue'06/'07, p.263, 53 D 657

C4 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 4.7pF/100V, Bue'06/'07, p.265, 59 D 158

L1 RF Choke Fastron SMCC, 15uH, 610mA, 0.60 Ohm, Q=50 @ 2.52 MHz, Bue'06/'07, p.289, 74 D 314

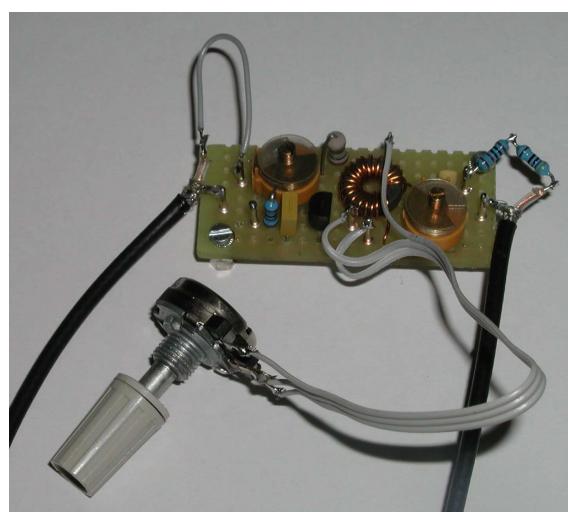
Q1 NPN Silicon Transistor 2N4124, Bue'06/'07, p.76, 27 S 6600

R1 Metal Film Resistor, 1K82, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'06/'07, p.344, 30 E 317

R2 Potentiometer, linear, Piher PC 16 h1 P6, 1K0, Bue'06/'07, p.395, 68 E 306

T2 primary winding 1turn, secondary winding 20turns, 0.5mm CuL on
Ferrite Toroid Core Fair-Rite Part No. 5561000201 (AMIDON FT-37-61)

preselatcb.eps



board size: 47 mm x 21 mm

Preselector Bandpass Filter (PRESELATC), Test Circuit

TITLE: preselatc

Document Number: preselatc.sch

REV:
A

Date: 08.12.2005 17:24:54

Sheet: 1/1

Meßergebnis PC-I-HM8028

6 Receiver Mixer A (RXMIXA)

Text ...

6.1 Simulation

6.1.1 Modeling of SA612AN

6.1.2 Mixer simulation

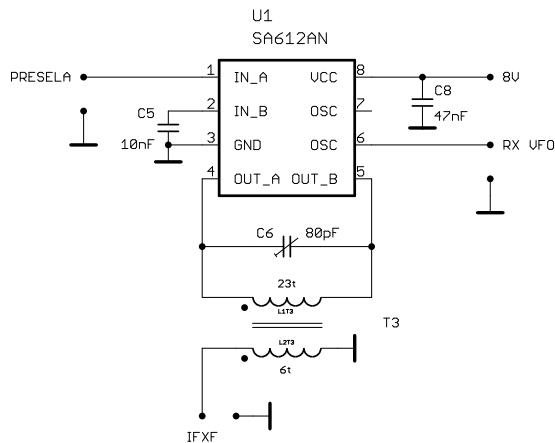
net lists

waveforms

spectrum

6.2 Test circuit

rxmixatc.eps



C5 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 103K, 0.01uF/100V, Bue'04/'05, p.274, 53 D 681

C6 Foil Trimmer Capacitor, 3 to 80pF

C8 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 473K, 0.047uF/50V, Bue'04/'05, p.274, 53 D 657

T3 primary winding 23turns, secondary winding 6turns, 0.35mm CuL on
Ferrite Toroid Core Fair-Rite Part No. 5961000201 (AMIDON FT-37-61)

U1 IC SA612AN or NE612AN, PDIP8, Bue'04/'05, p.88, 41 S 7932

rxmixatcb.eps

board size: 47 mm x 22 mm

Receiver Mixer A (RXMIXA), Test Circuit	
TITLE: RXMIXATC	
Document Number: rxmixatc.sch	REV: A
Date: 17.05.2005 13:05:10	Sheet: 1/1

Meßergebnis PC-I-HM8028

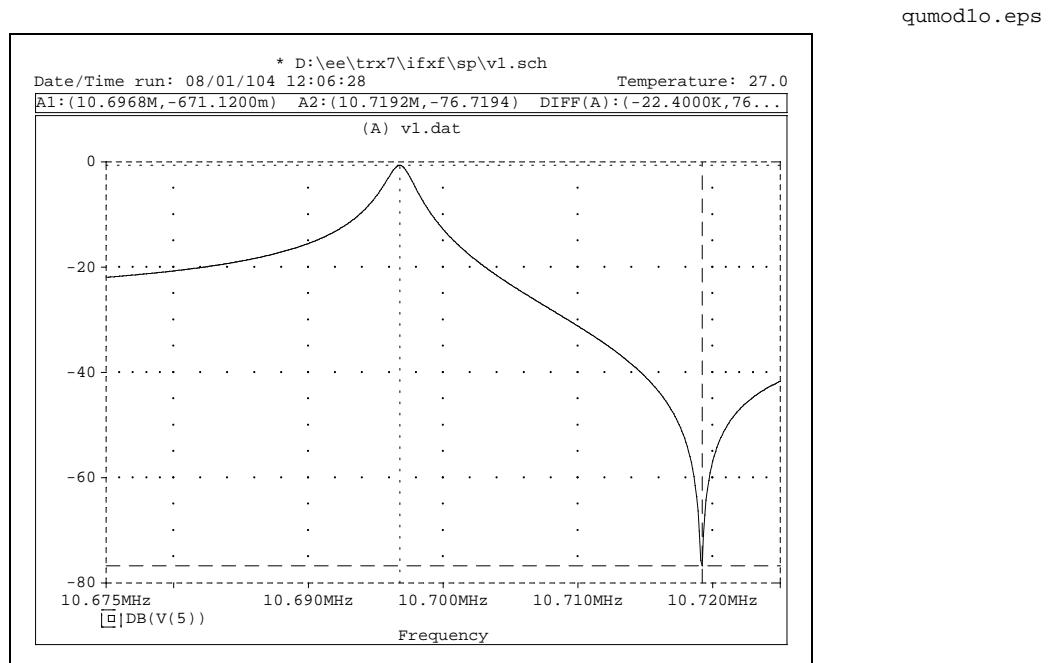
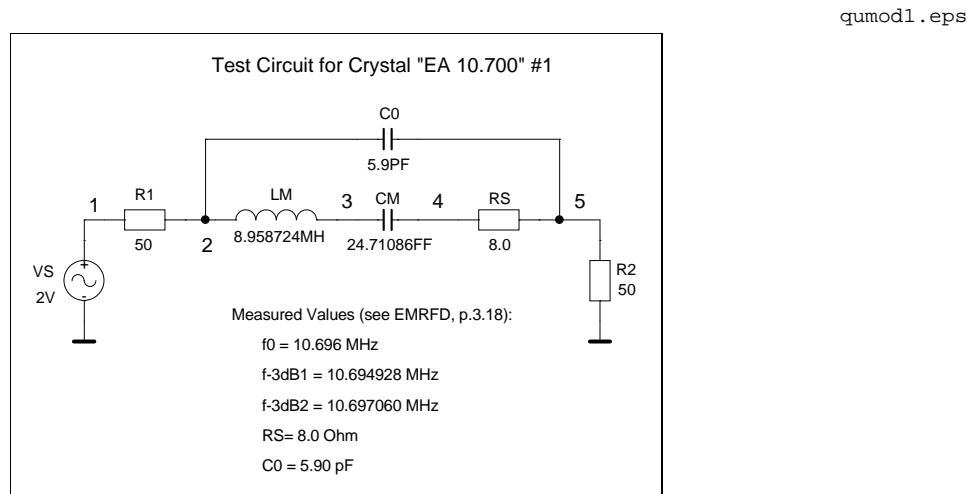
7 IF Crystal Filter (IFXF)

Text ...

Hinweis EMRFD

7.1 Simulation

7.1.1 Crystal Modeling



7.2 Test circuit

8 Product Detector (PRODDET)

text ...

see problem no. ? in EoR

8.1 Simulation

8.2 Test circuit

9 Automatic Gain Control (AGC)

text ...

see problem no. ? in EoR

9.1 Simulation

9.2 Test circuit

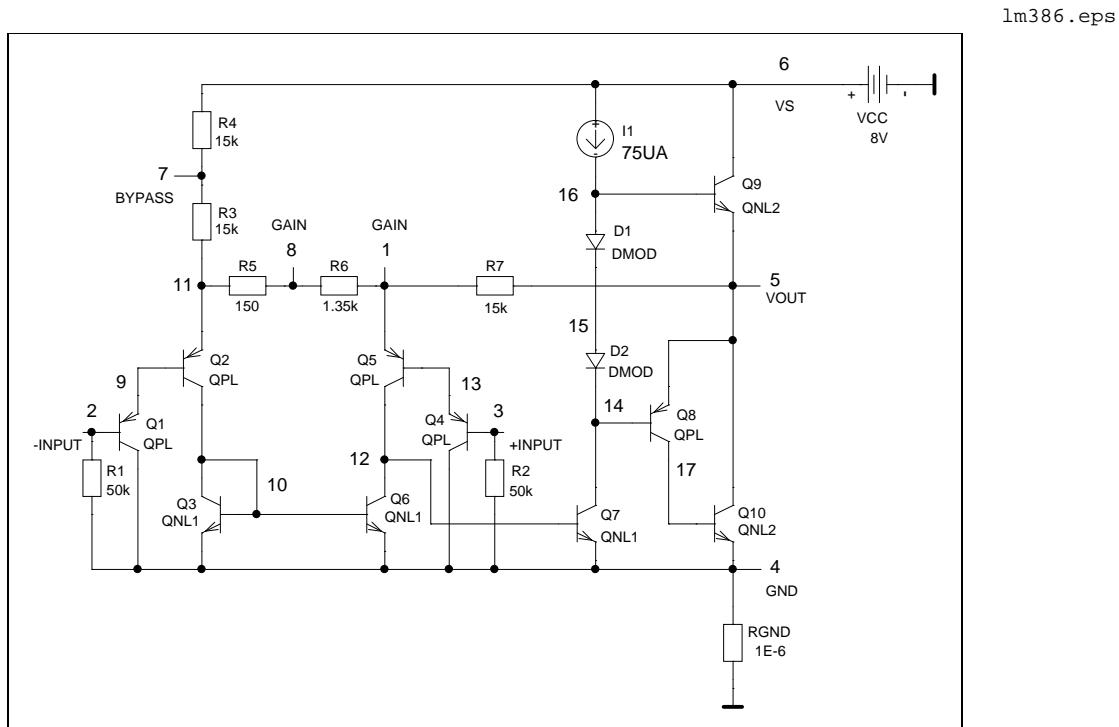
10 Audio Amplifier (AFAMP)

text ...

see problem no. ? in EoR

10.1 Simulation

10.1.1 Modeling of LM386



d:/ee/trx7/afamp/sp/v2.lib

```

* Semiconductor Model Parameters of Device Level Model for LM386
*
* HG 30-JUL-04
*
* Model DMOD for Diodes D1, D2:
*
* Reasonable values for parameters IS, RS, N and CJO were assumed.
*
.MODEL DMOD D IS=0.1E-12A RS=1OHM N=1.5 CJO=1PF
*
* Model QPL for BJTs Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q8:
*
.MODEL QPL PNP IS=57E-18A BF=20 VAF=50V IKF=0.02A RB=50OHM RC=18OHM
+ CJE=7PF TF=16NS CJC=2.2PF
*
* Model QNL1 for BJTs Q3, Q6, Q7:
*
.MODEL QNL1 NPN IS=57E-18A BF=80 VAF=100V IKF=0.02A RB=50OHM RC=18OHM
+ CJE=7PF TF=1.6NS CJC=2.2PF
*
*
* Model QNL2 for output BJTs Q9, Q10:
*
* Parameters IS,IKF and RC were calculated from IMAX=sqrt(2*Pout/Rout)=285mA
* with Pout=325mW and Rout=8 Ohm using the following equations from the book
* "Simulating with SPICE" (intusoft, 1988), p.3-13:
*
```

```

* IS=2E-15*IMAX=570E-18A, IKF=0.7*IMAX=0.200A, RC=0.5/IMAX=1.8 Ohm
*
* Assuming FT=100MHz, COB=1pF, the following parameters were calculated:
* CJE=7*COB=7pF, TF=0.16/FT=1.6NS, CJC=2.2*COB=2.2pF
*
* Reasonable values for parameters BF, VAF and RB were assumed.
*
.MODEL QNL2 NPN IS=570E-18A BF=80 VAF=100V IKF=0.2A RB=250OHM RC=1.8OHM
+ CJE=7PF TF=1.6NS CJC=2.2PF

```

```

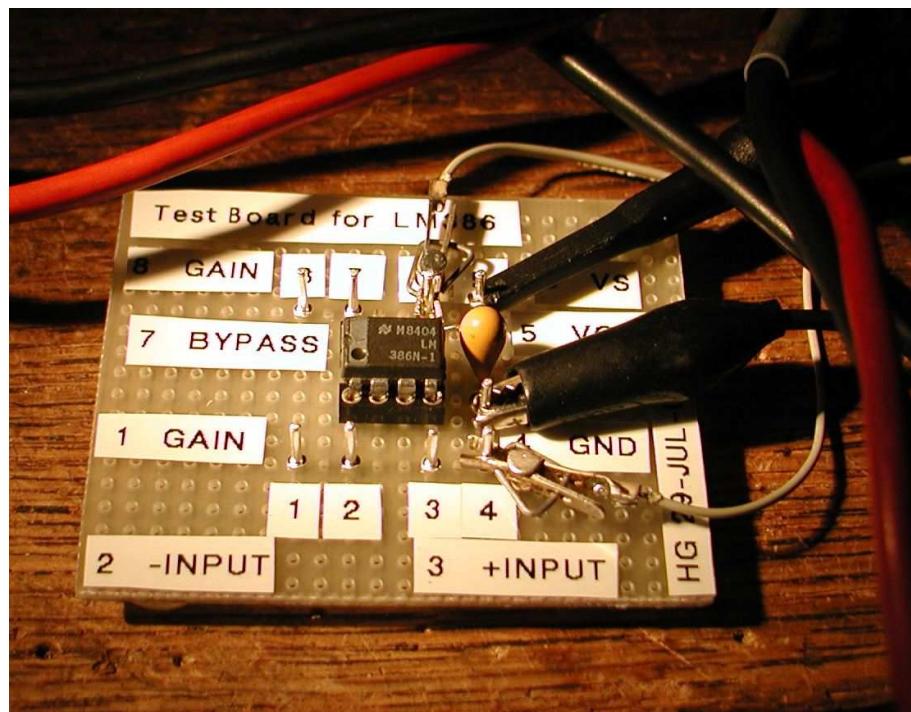
lm386.out
***** 08/02/104 14:37:25 ***** NT Evaluation PSpice (July 1997) ****
* D:\ee\trx7\afamp\sp\V2.SCH
**** SMALL SIGNAL BIAS SOLUTION TEMPERATURE = 27.000 DEG C
*****
NODE VOLTAGE NODE VOLTAGE NODE VOLTAGE NODE VOLTAGE
( 1) 1.4413 ( 2) .0249 ( 3) .0243 ( 4) 4.769E-09
( 5) 4.6021 ( 6) 8.0000 ( 7) 4.7216 ( 8) 1.4431
( 9) .6945 ( 10) .7477 ( 11) 1.4433 ( 12) .6890
( 13) .6932 ( 14) 3.8910 ( 15) 4.6312 ( 16) 5.3713
( 17) .7676

VOLTAGE SOURCE CURRENTS
NAME CURRENT
V_VCC -4.769E-03
TOTAL POWER DISSIPATION 3.82E-02 WATTS

```

```
**** 08/02/104 14:37:25 **** NT Evaluation PSpice (July 1997) ****
* D:\ee\trx7\afamp\sp\V2.SCH
**** OPERATING POINT INFORMATION      TEMPERATURE = 27.000 DEG C
*****
**** DIODES
NAME      D_D1      D_D2
MODEL    DMOD     DMOD
ID       1.93E-05   1.93E-05
VD       7.40E-01   7.40E-01
REQ      2.01E+03   2.01E+03
CAP      1.75E-12   1.75E-12
*****
**** BIPOLAR JUNCTION TRANSISTORS
NAME      Q_Q7      Q_Q1      Q_Q6      Q_Q10     Q_Q9
MODEL    QNL1      QPL       QNL1      QNL2      QNL2
IB       2.64E-07   -4.98E-07  2.55E-06  5.24E-05  5.57E-05
IC       2.18E-05   -9.96E-06  2.02E-04  4.27E-03  4.48E-03
VBE      6.89E-01   -6.70E-01  7.48E-01  7.68E-01  7.69E-01
VBC      -3.20E+00   2.49E-02   5.87E-02  -3.83E+00 -2.63E+00
VCE      3.89E+00   -6.94E-01  6.89E-01  4.60E+00  3.40E+00
BETADC   8.25E+01   2.00E+01   7.92E+01  8.14E+01  8.03E+01
GM       8.40E-04   3.85E-04   7.71E-03  1.62E-01  1.69E-01
RPI      9.80E+04   5.19E+04   1.02E+04  4.93E+02  4.64E+02
RX       5.00E+01   5.00E+01   5.00E+01  2.50E+01  2.50E+01
RO       4.74E+06   5.02E+06   4.96E+05  2.43E+04  2.29E+04
CBE      1.26E-11   1.72E-11   2.40E-11  2.71E-10  2.83E-10
CBC      1.27E-12   2.18E-12   2.26E-12  1.21E-12  1.34E-12
CJS      0.00E+00   0.00E+00   0.00E+00  0.00E+00  0.00E+00
BETAAC   8.24E+01   2.00E+01   7.83E+01  7.98E+01  7.86E+01
CBX      0.00E+00   0.00E+00   0.00E+00  0.00E+00  0.00E+00
FT       9.66E+06   3.15E+06   4.67E+07  9.47E+07  9.48E+07
*****
NAME      Q_Q5      Q_Q4      Q_Q2      Q_Q3      Q_Q8
MODEL    QPL       QPL       QPL       QNL1      QPL
IB       -1.02E-05  -4.85E-07  -1.05E-05 2.55E-06 -2.47E-06
IC       -2.02E-04  -9.71E-06  -2.07E-04 2.02E-04 -5.24E-05
VBE      -7.48E-01  -6.69E-01  -7.49E-01 7.48E-01 -7.11E-01
VBC      4.19E-03   2.43E-02   -5.33E-02 0.00E+00  3.12E+00
VCE      -7.52E-01  -6.93E-01  -6.96E-01 7.48E-01 -3.83E+00
BETADC   1.98E+01   2.00E+01   1.98E+01  7.92E+01  2.12E+01
GM       7.72E-03   3.75E-04   7.91E-03  7.72E-03  2.02E-03
RPI      2.54E+03   5.33E+04   2.47E+03  1.02E+04  1.05E+04
RX       5.00E+01   5.00E+01   5.00E+01  5.00E+01  5.00E+01
RO       2.48E+05   5.15E+06   2.42E+05  4.96E+05  1.01E+06
CBE      1.35E-10   1.71E-11   1.38E-10  2.40E-11  4.37E-11
CBC      2.20E-12   2.18E-12   2.26E-12  2.20E-12  1.28E-12
CJS      0.00E+00   0.00E+00   0.00E+00  0.00E+00  0.00E+00
BETAAC   1.96E+01   2.00E+01   1.96E+01  7.84E+01  2.11E+01
CBX      0.00E+00   0.00E+00   0.00E+00  0.00E+00  0.00E+00
FT       8.94E+06   3.10E+06   8.96E+06  4.68E+07  7.14E+06
```

tclm386.eps



board size: 59 mm x 48 mm

node	name	simulated voltage	measured voltage
1	GAIN	1.441 V	-
2	-INPUT	24.9 mV	-
3	+INPUT	24.3 mV	-
5	VOUT	4.602 V	-
6	VS	8.000 V	-
7	BYPASS	4.722 V	-
8	GAIN	1.443 V	-

10.2 Test circuit

11 Variable Frequency Oscillator (VFO)

Text ...

11.1 Simulation

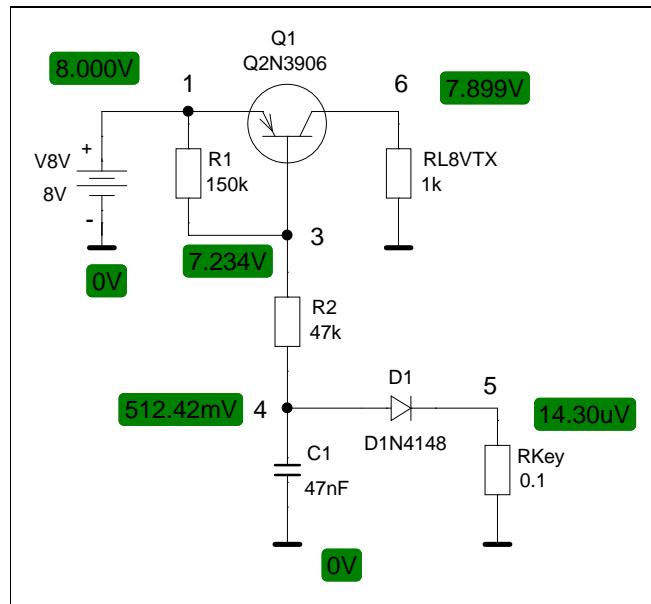
11.2 Test circuit

12 Transmitter Switch (TXSW)

12.1 Simulation

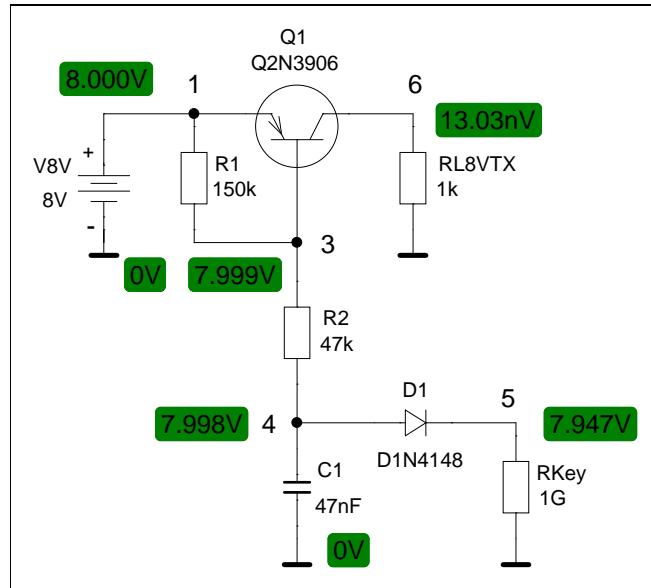
Key closed

txsw1.eps



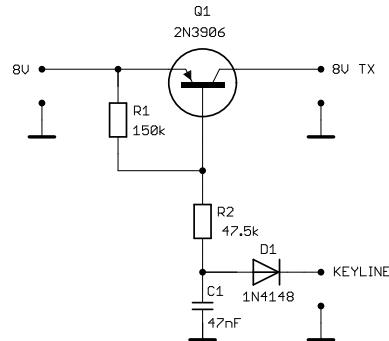
Key open

txsw2.eps



12.2 Test circuit

txswtc.eps



C1 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 473K, 0.047uF/50V, Bue'04/'05, p.274, 53 D 657

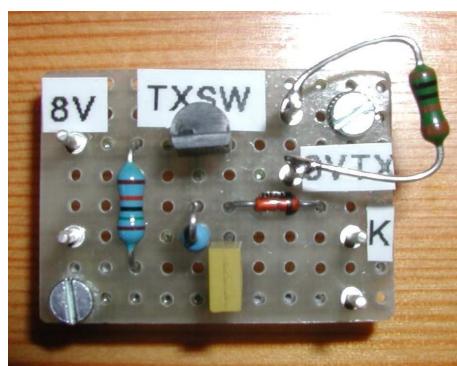
D1 High-Speed Diode, 1N4148, Bue'04/'05, p.74, 26 S 8150

Q1 General Purpose Transistor, PNP Silicon, 2N3906, Bue'04/'05, p.75, 27 S 5300

R1 Metal Film Resistor, 150K, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.361, 30 E 502

R2 Metal Film Resistor, 47K5, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.361, 30 E 454

txswtcb.eps



board size: 30.5 mm x 21.5 mm

Transmitter Switch (TXSW), Test Circuit

TITLE: txswtc

Document Number: txswtc.sch

REV: A

Date: 25.08.2004 10:52:28

Sheet: 1/1

13 Transmit Mixer (TXMIX)

Text ...

13.1 Simulation

13.2 Test circuit

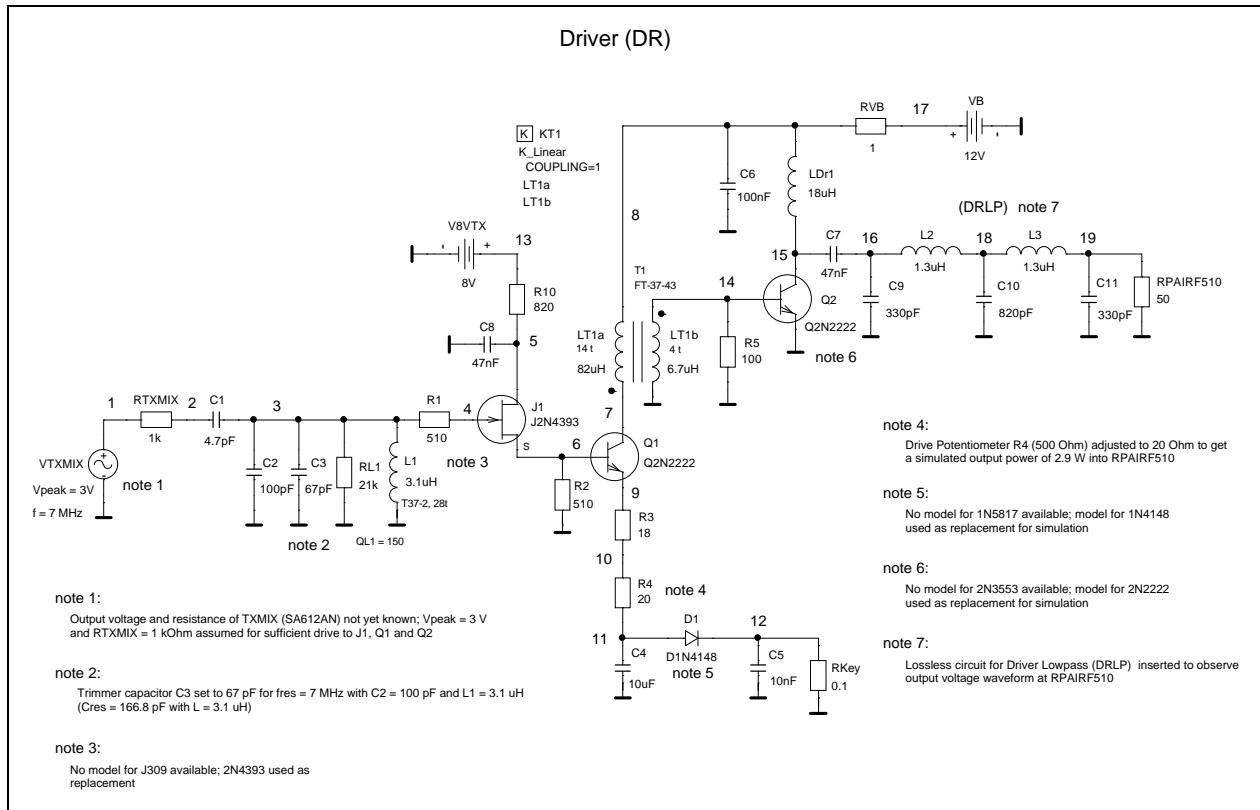
14 Driver (DR)

Text ...

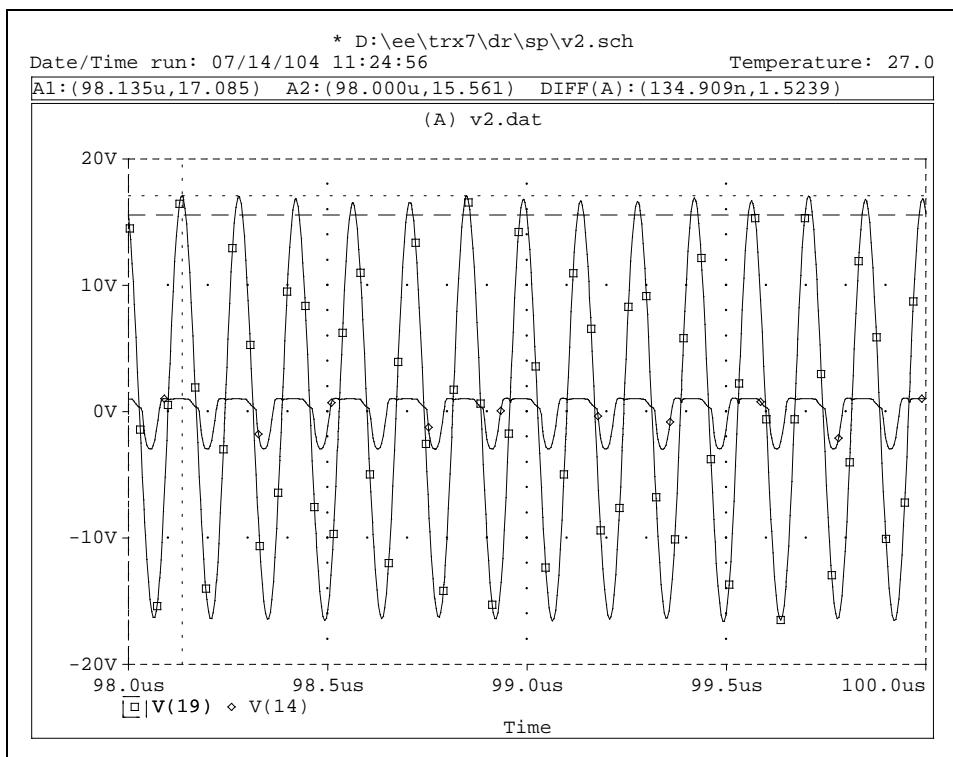
14.1 Simulation

zener diode D12 (1N4753A) from drain to ground omitted for simulation

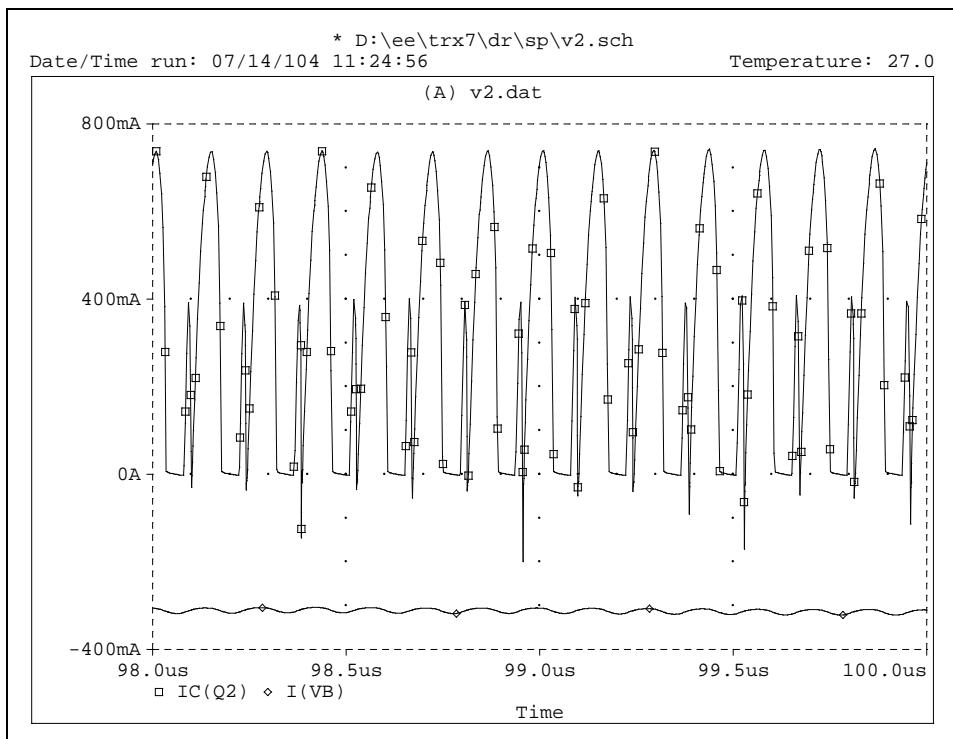
dr.eps



dro1.eps



dro2.eps

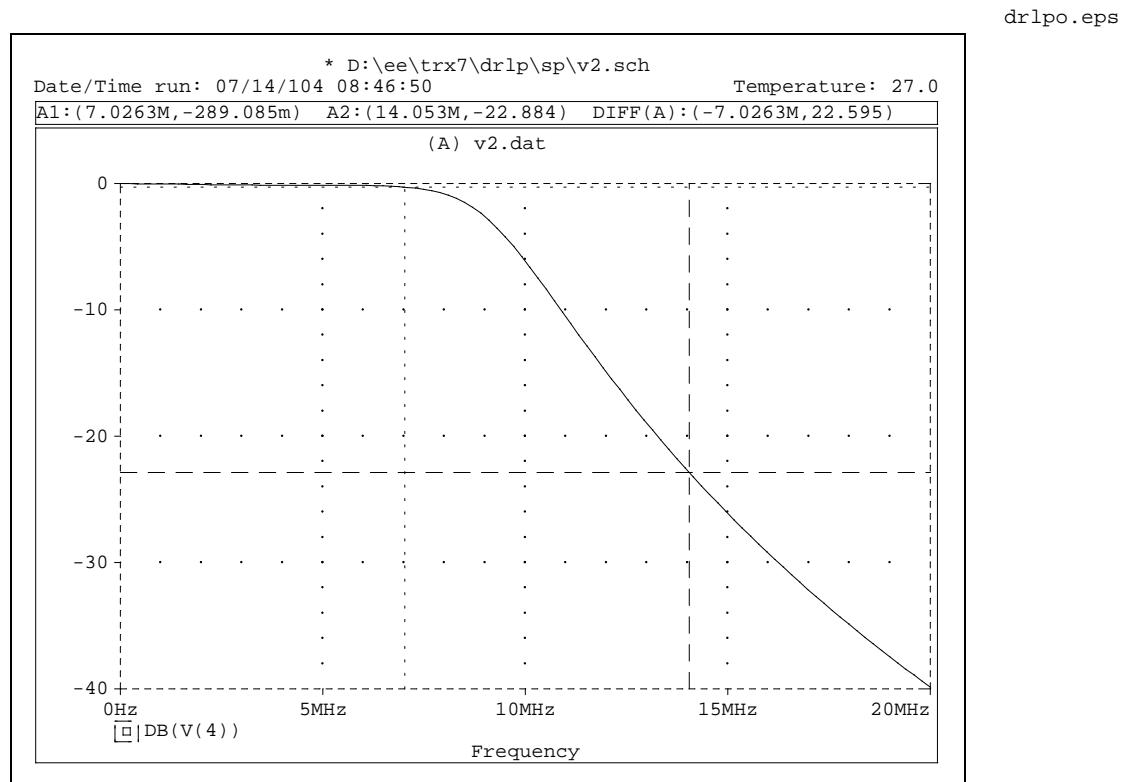
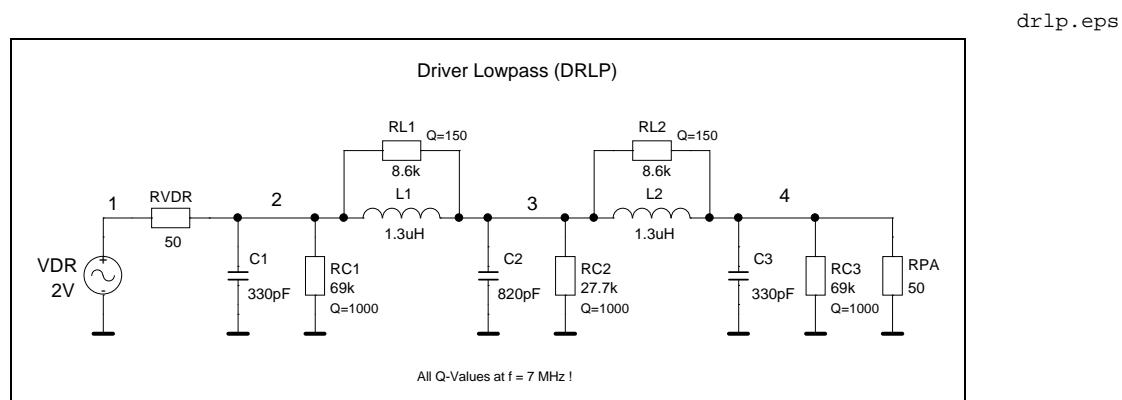


14.2 Test circuit

15 Driver Lowpass (DRLP)

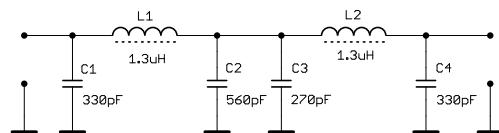
Text ...

15.1 Simulation



15.2 Test circuit

drlptc.eps



C1,C4 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 330pF, Bue'04/'05, p.276, 59 D 180

C2 Mica Capacitor, 560, +-5%, 300AE

C3 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 270pF, Bue'04/'05, p.276, 59 D 179

L1,L2 17.5 turns, 0.5mm CuL on Iron Powder Toroid Core MICROMETALS Part No. T37-2

drlptcb.eps



board size: 37 mm x 20.5 mm

Driver Lowpass (DRLP), Test Circuit	
TITLE:	drlptc
Document Number:	drlptc.sch
Date:	REV: A 17.08.2004 11:12:18 Sheet: 1/1

16 Block Diagram of TRX7B

17 Preselector Bandpass Filter B (PRESELB)

Text ...

17.1 Design and simulation

The preselector bandpass filter was designed using the filter synthesis program S/FILSYN [5]. Design data and the synthesized circuit with element values are shown here:

```
t4a.asc
*** S/FILSYN *** FILTER PROGRAM

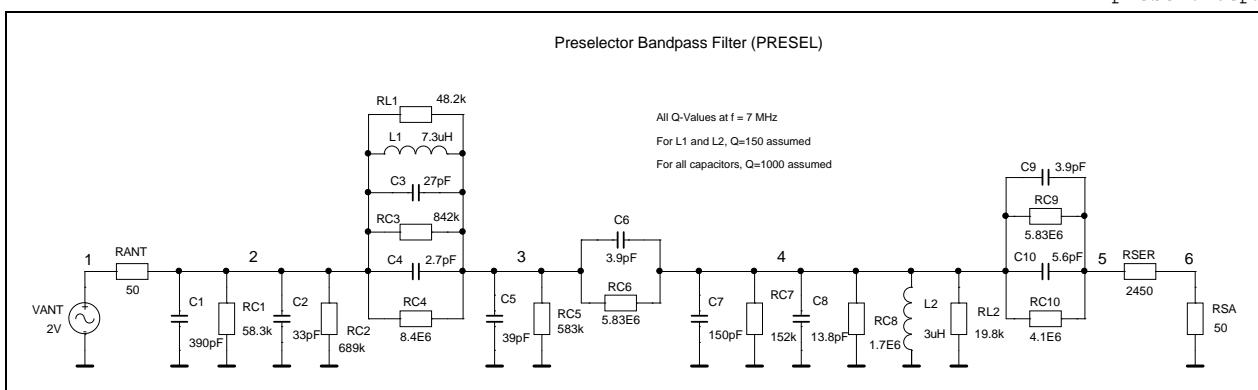
t4 16-JUL-04 07:03
BAND-PASS FILTER
EQUAL-RIPPLE PASS BAND
    BANDEdge LOSS = 0.200000 DB.
    LOWER PASSBAND EDGE FREQUENCY = 6.900000 MHz
    UPPER PASSBAND EDGE FREQUENCY = 7.100000 MHz
SPECIFIED STOPBAND TYPE
PARAMETRIC BANDPASS
    MULTIPLICITY OF ZERO AT ZERO = 3
    MULTIPLICITY OF ZERO AT INFINITY = 1
    NUMBER OF FINITE TRANSMISSION ZEROS = 1
    OVERALL FILTER DEGREE = 6

TRANSMISSION ZEROS

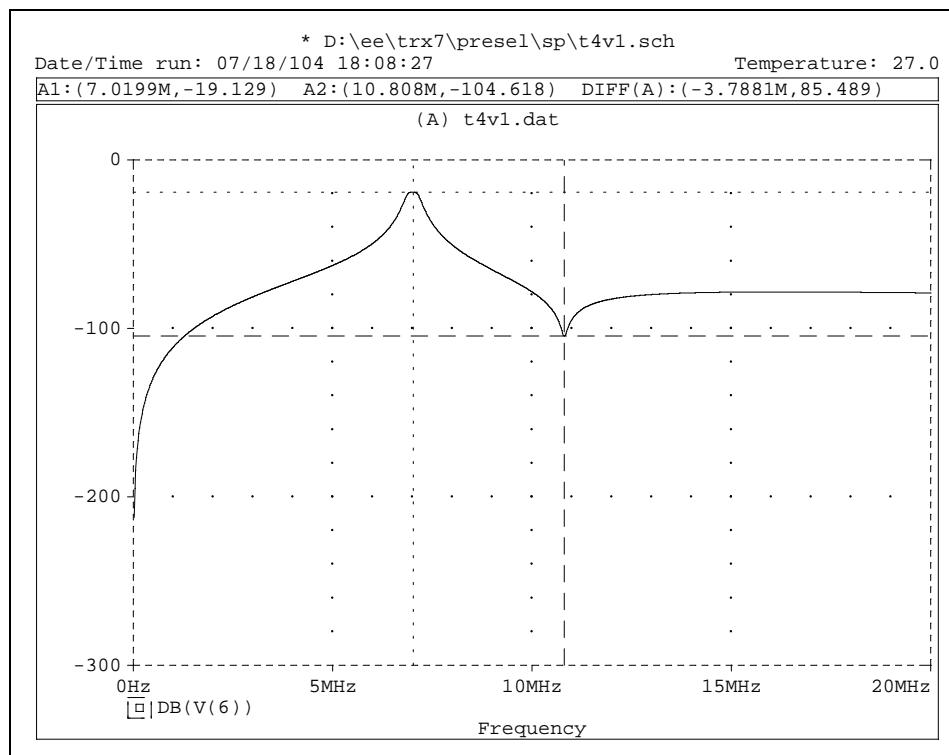
      REAL PART          IMAGINARY PART
      0.0000000D+00     1.0700000D+07
      VALUE OF FREAL     = 6.999286 MHz
      INPUT TERMINATION = 2.500000 kohm
      OUTPUT TERMINATION = 2.500000 kohm
      REQUESTED TERMINATION RATIO = 1.0000000D+00

t4 16-JUL-04 07:03
      1 . . . . R . . . . 50.000000 ohm
      3 . . . . C . . . . 424.950072 pF
      4 . . . . L C 7.301519 uH RES.FREQUENCY
      . . . . . . . . 30.301178 pF 10.700000 MHz
      5 . . . . C . . . . 38.457589 pF
      6 . . . . C . . . . 3.888401 pF
      7 . . . . C . . . . 163.800036 pF
      9 . . . . L . . . . 3.008359 uH
     10 . . . . C . . . . 9.345921 pF
     11 . . . . R . . . . 2.500000 kohm
```

preselv1.eps



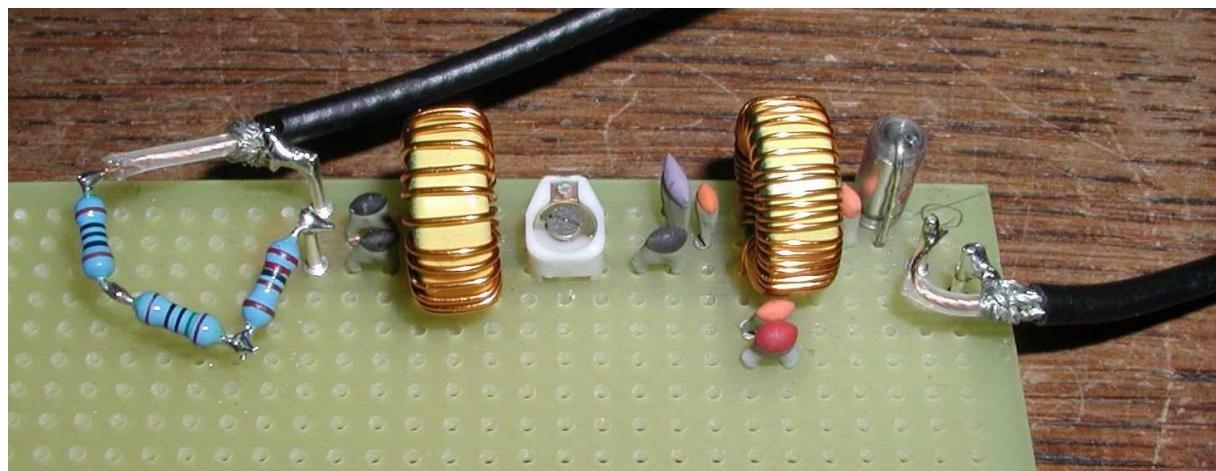
preselv1o.eps



17.2 Test circuit

Schaltbild Eagle

presel1.eps



Meßkurve PC-I-HM8028

18 Receiver Mixer B (RXMIXB)

Text ...

18.1 Design and simulation

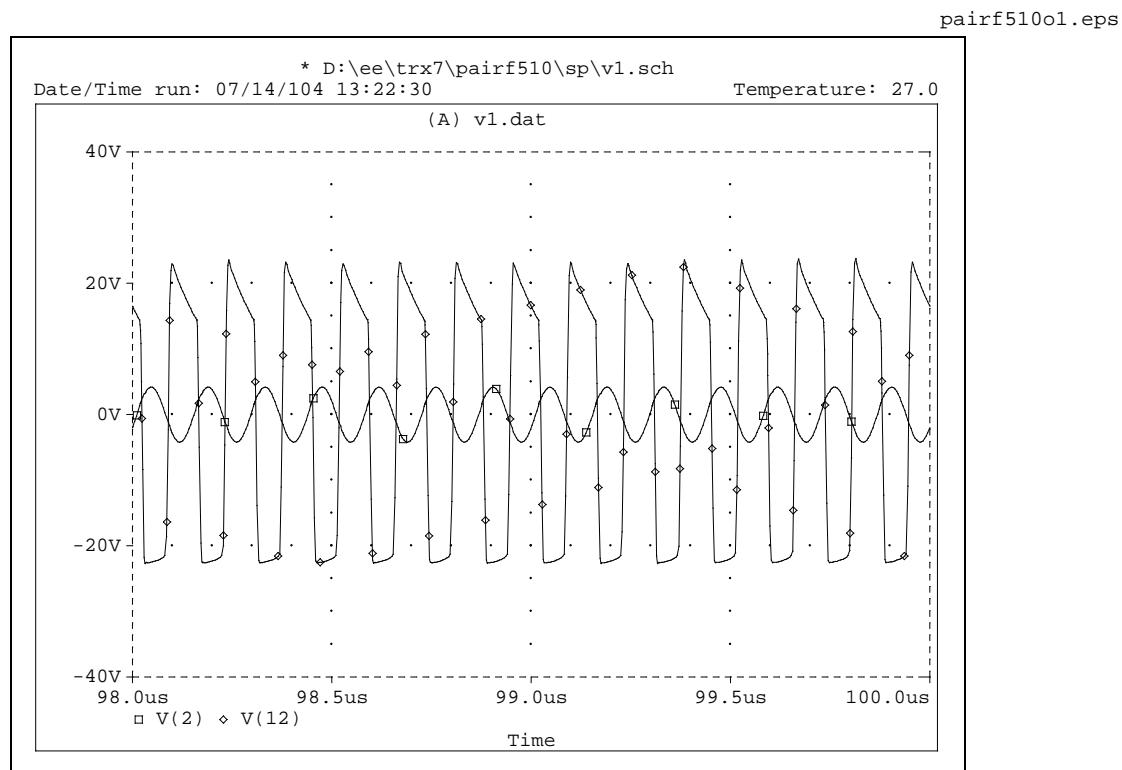
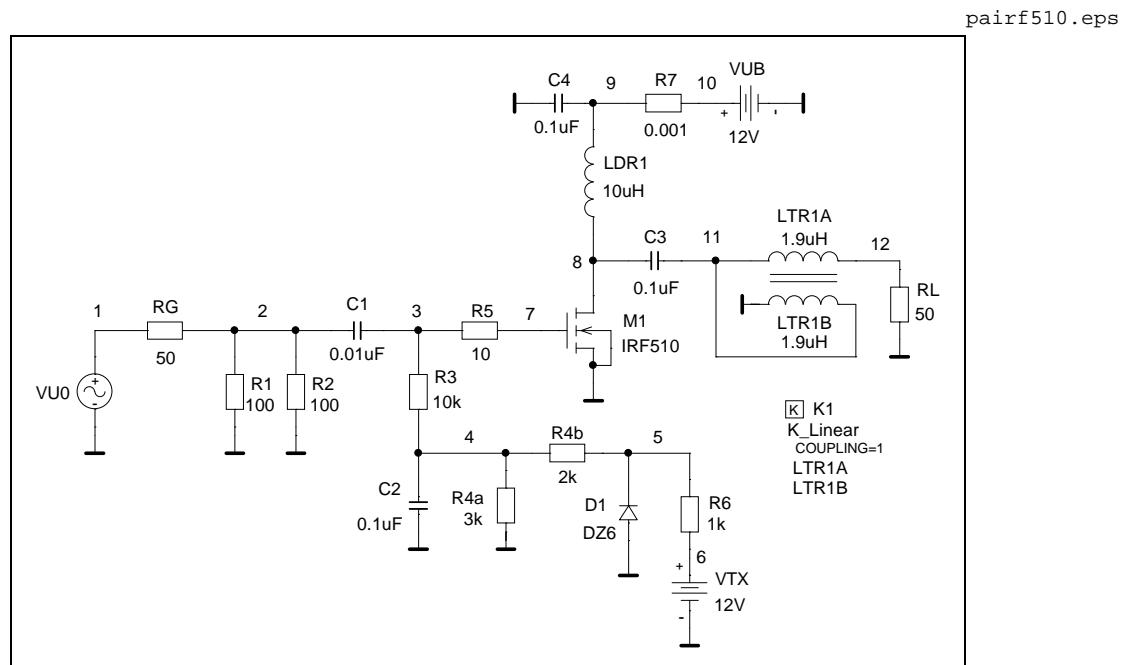
18.2 Test circuit

19 Power Amplifier (PAIRF510)

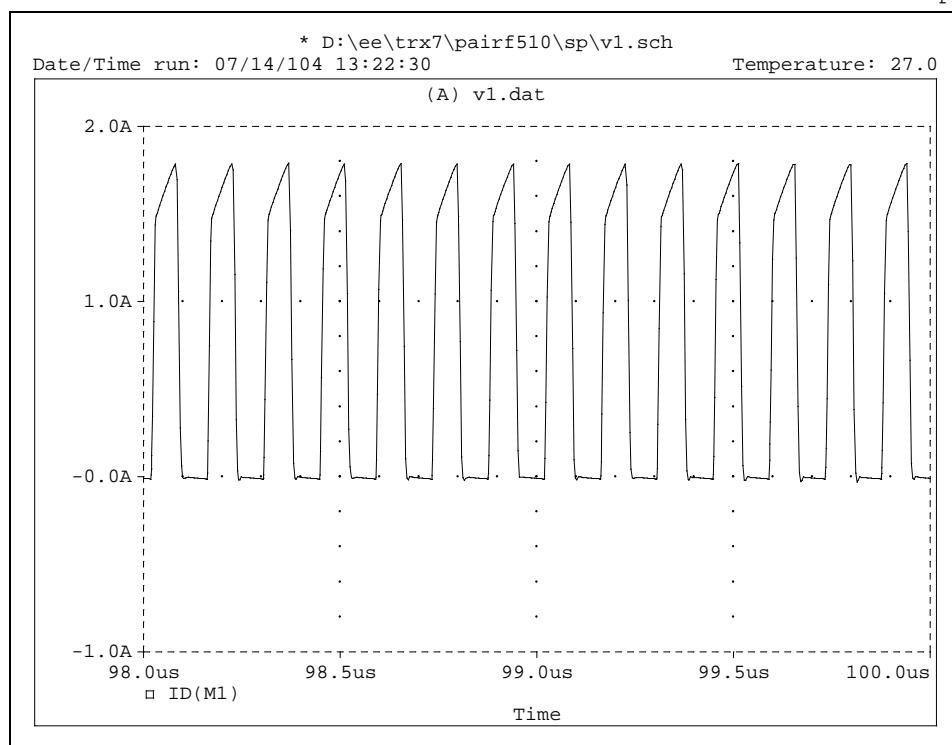
Text ...

[3], p.2.36, Fig 2.98 Simple HEXFET linear amplifier for QRP rigs

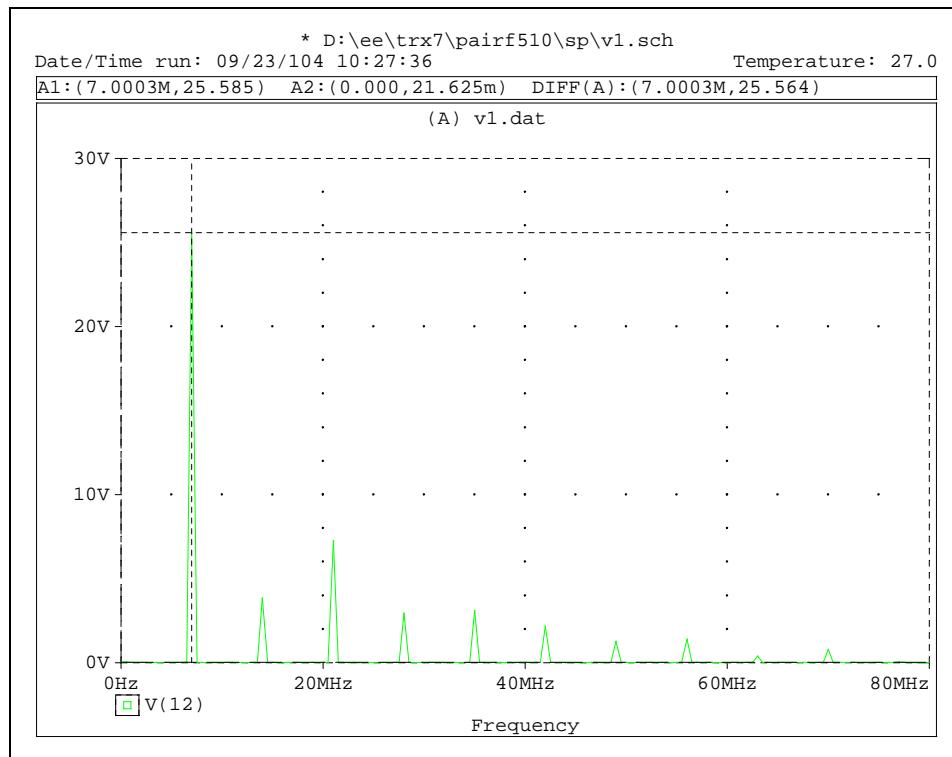
19.1 Simulation



pairf510o2.eps



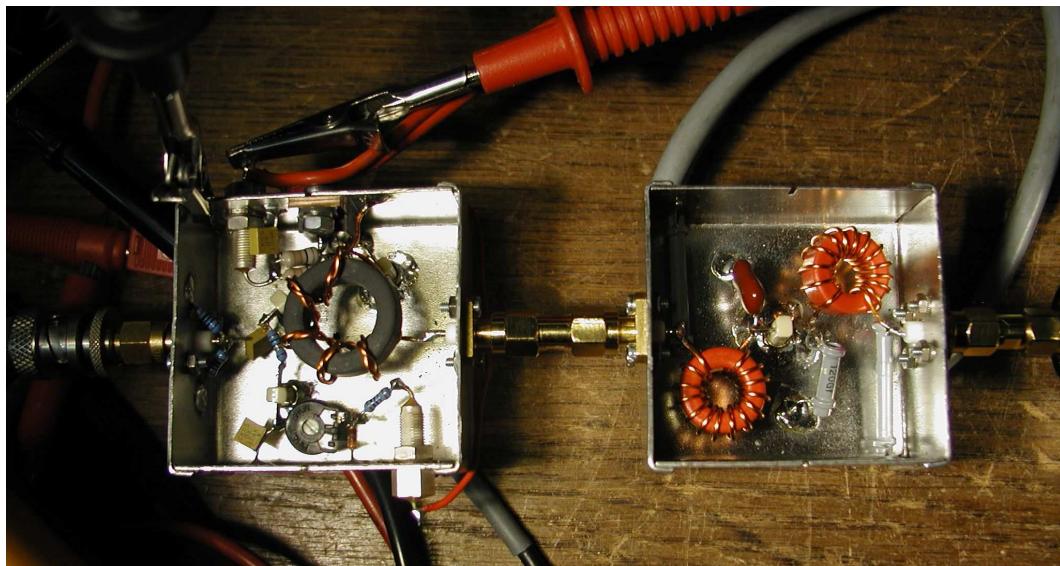
pairf510o3.eps



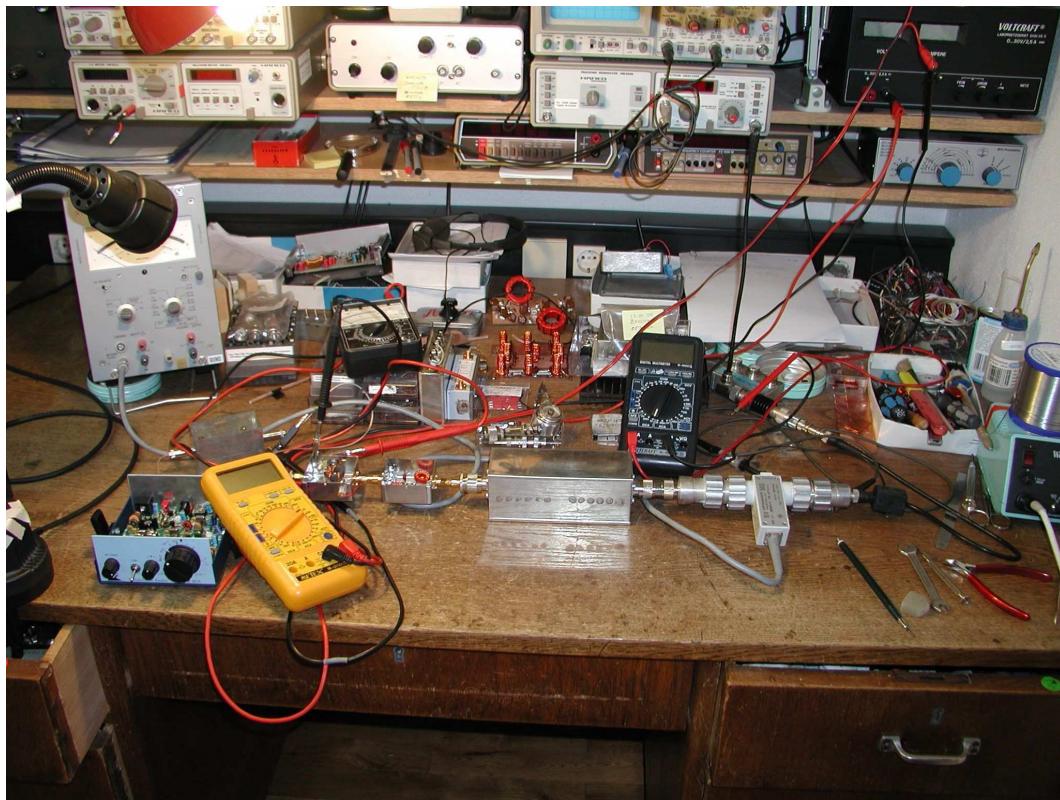
19.2 Test Circuit 1

Text ...

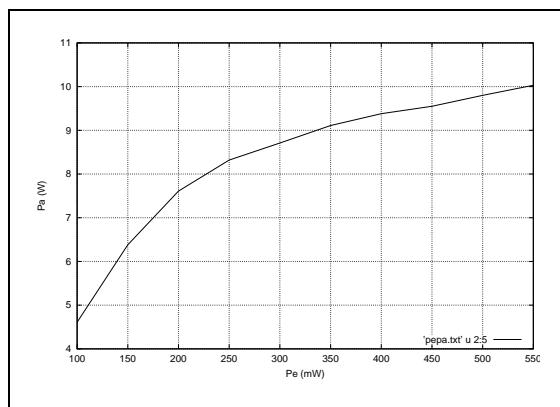
pairf510a.eps



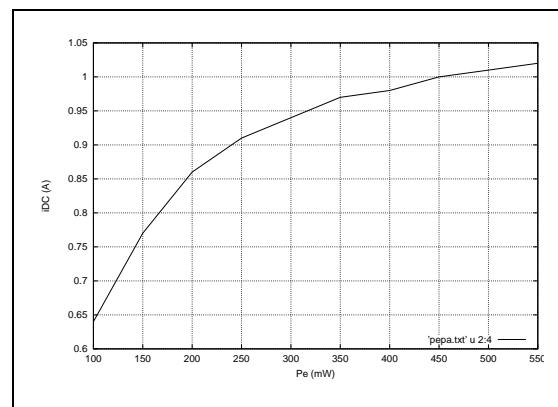
pairf510b.eps



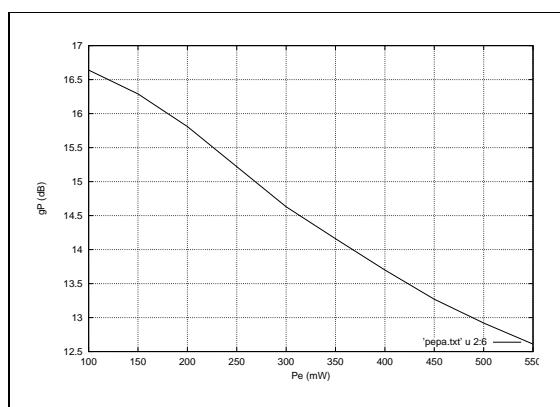
pepal .eps



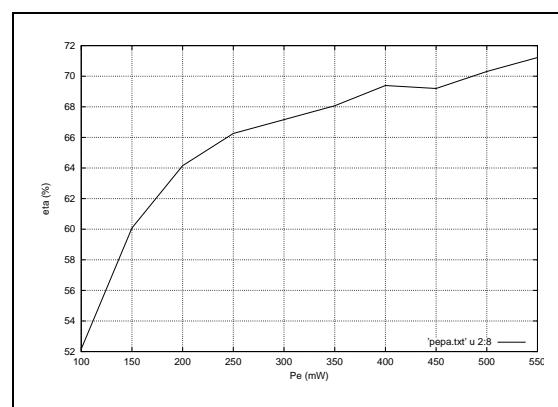
pepa2 .eps



pepa3 .eps

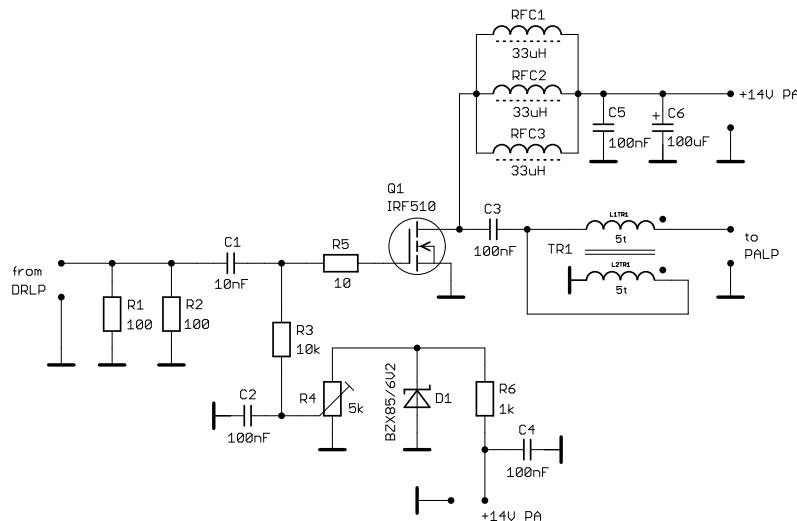


pepa4 .eps



19.3 Test Circuit 2

pairf510tc2.eps



C1 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 103K, 0.01uF/100V, Bue'04/'05, p.274, 53 D 681

C2,C3,C4,C5 Ceramic Capacitor CK05 BX 104K, 0.1uF/50V, Bue'04/'05, p.274, 53 D 661

C6 Electrolytic Capacitor 100uF/50V, Bue'04/'05, p.238, 12 D 1320

D1 Zener Diode, BZX85-6V2, Bue'04/'05, p.66, 22 S 9812

Q1 Power MOSFET IRF510, Bue'04/'05, p.67, 24 S 3240

R1,R2 Metal Film Resistor, 100R, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.359, 30 E 196

R3 Metal Film Resistor, 10K0, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.360, 30 E 389

R4 Potentiometer, PIHER 5K611, 5k0, linear, Bue'04/'05, p.405, 66 E 610

R5 Metal Film Resistor, 10R0, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.358, 30 E 100

R6 Metal Film Resistor, 1K00, 0.6W, +/-1%, Bue'04/'05, p.360, 30 E 292

RFC1,RFC2,RFC3 RF Choke Fastron SMCC, 33uH, 500mA, 0.92 Ohm, Q=55 @ 2.52 MHz, Bue'04/'05, p.303, 74 D 318

TR1 2 x 5 turns (bifilar), 0.5mm CuL on Ferrite Toroid Core Fair-Rite Part No. 5961000301 (AMIDON FT-50-61)

pairf510tc2b.eps

Foto

board size: 74.5 mm x 21.5 mm

Power Amplifier (PAIRF510), Test Circuit 2

TITLE: pairf510tc2

Document Number: pairf510tc2.sch

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Date: 25.08.2004 09:59:44

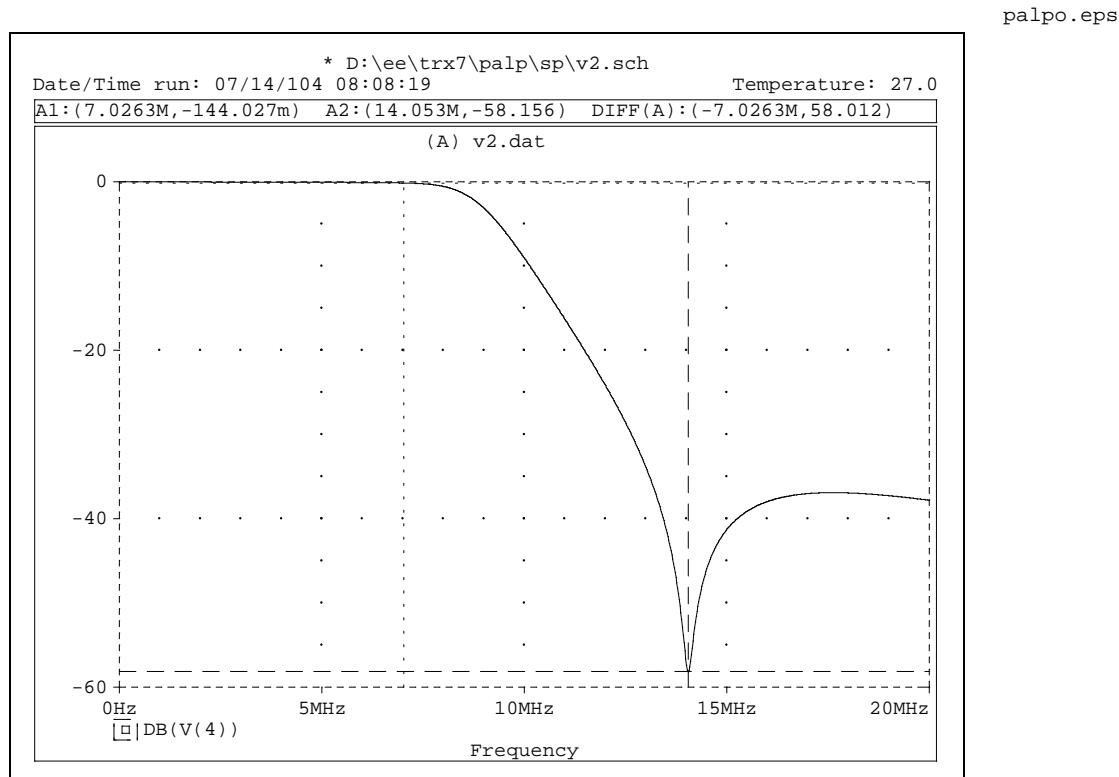
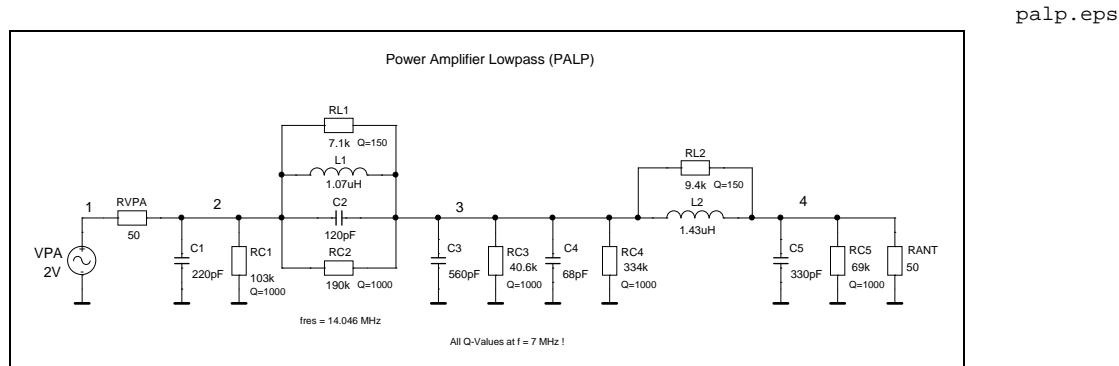
Sheet: 1/1

20 Power Amplifier Lowpass (PALP)

20.1 Design and simulation

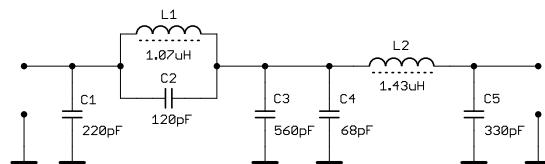
Text ...

design with S/FILSYN [5]



20.2 Test circuit

palptc.eps



C1 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 220pF, Bue'04/'05, p.276, 59 D 178

C2 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 120pF, Bue'04/'05, p.276, 59 D 175

C3 Mica Capacitor, 560, +5%, 300AE

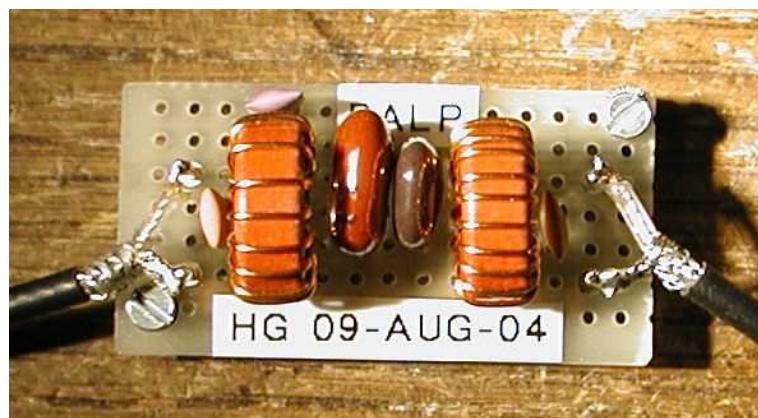
C4 Mica Capacitor, 680J0, CM4FD

C5 Ceramic Capacitor EDPU, 330pF, Bue'04/'05, p.276, 59 D 180

L1 14 turns, 0.5mm CuL on Iron Powder Toroid Core MICROMETALS Part No. T50-2

L2 17 turns, 0.5mm CuL on Iron Powder Toroid Core MICROMETALS Part No. T50-2

palptcb.eps



board size: 41 mm x 21 mm

Power Amplifier Lowpass (PALP), Test Circuit

TITLE: palptc

Document Number: palptc.sch

REV:
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Date: 18.08.2004 09:33:40

Sheet: 1/1

Meßkurve PC-I-HM8028

21 Frequency Counter (FREQCTR)

22 CMOS Super Keyer 3 (CMOSKEYR)

23 Battery Pack (BATTPACK)

NiMH AA cells Panasonic P6P

price

link to datasheet

nominal supply voltage 14 V:

$$12 \times 1.2 \text{ V} = 14.4 \text{ V}$$

$$14.4 \text{ V} - 0.4 \text{ V (Schottky Diode)} = 14 \text{ V}$$

24 Summary

Zusammenfassender Text

25 Glossary

CW

QRP

PA

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