

**The RF MOSFET Line: Broadband RF Power FET  
5.0W, to 400MHz, 28V**

Rev. V1

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS** ( $T_C = 25^\circ\text{C}$  unless otherwise noted.)

Characteristic	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
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**OFF CHARACTERISTICS**

Drain–Source Breakdown Voltage ( $V_{GS} = 0, I_D = 5.0 \text{ mA}$ )	$V_{(BR)DSS}$	65	—	—	Vdc
Zero Gate Voltage Drain Current ( $V_{DS} = 28 \text{ V}, V_{GS} = 0$ )	$I_{DSS}$	—	—	1.0	mAdc
Gate–Source Leakage Current ( $V_{GS} = 20 \text{ V}, V_{DS} = 0$ )	$I_{GSS}$	—	—	1.0	$\mu\text{Adc}$

**ON CHARACTERISTICS**

Gate Threshold Voltage ( $I_D = 10 \text{ mA}, V_{DS} = 10 \text{ V}$ )	$V_{GS(th)}$	1.0	3.5	6.0	Vdc
Forward Transconductance ( $V_{DS} = 10 \text{ V}, I_D = 100 \text{ mA}$ )	$g_{fs}$	80	110	—	mmhos

**DYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

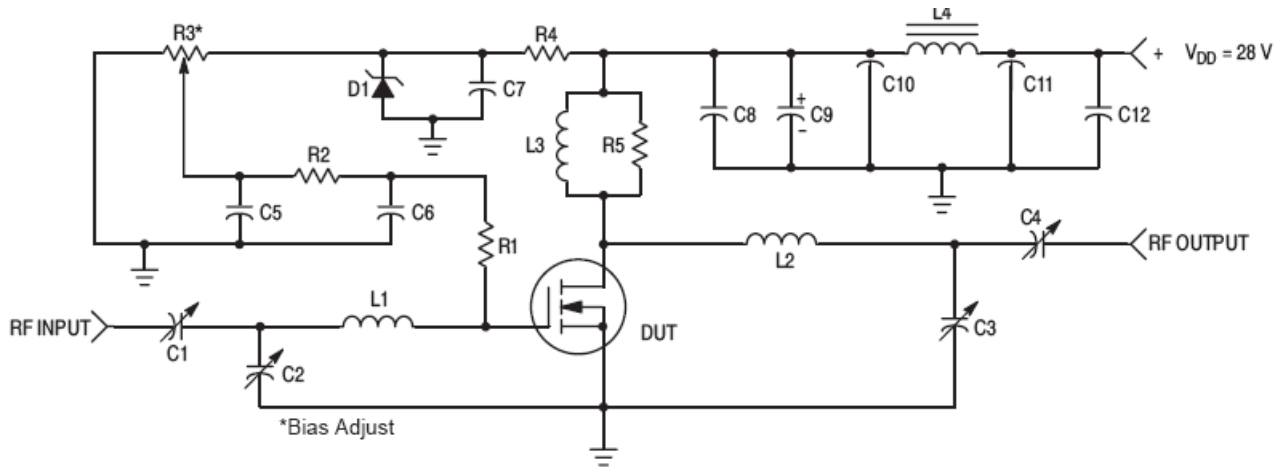
Input Capacitance ( $V_{DS} = 28 \text{ V}, V_{GS} = 0, f = 1.0 \text{ MHz}$ )	$C_{iss}$	—	7.0	—	pF
Output Capacitance ( $V_{DS} = 28 \text{ V}, V_{GS} = 0, f = 1.0 \text{ MHz}$ )	$C_{oss}$	—	9.7	—	pF
Reverse Transfer Capacitance ( $V_{DS} = 28 \text{ V}, V_{GS} = 0, f = 1.0 \text{ MHz}$ )	$C_{rss}$	—	2.3	—	pF

**FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Noise Figure ( $V_{DS} = 28 \text{ Vdc}, I_D = 200 \text{ mA}, f = 150 \text{ MHz}$ )	NF	—	2.0	—	dB
Common Source Power Gain ( $V_{DD} = 28 \text{ Vdc}, P_{out} = 5.0 \text{ W}, I_{DQ} = 50 \text{ mA}$ ) f = 150 MHz (Fig. 1) f = 400 MHz (Fig. 14)	$G_{ps}$	11 —	14 10.6	— —	dB
Drain Efficiency (Fig. 1) ( $V_{DD} = 28 \text{ Vdc}, P_{out} = 5.0 \text{ W}, f = 150 \text{ MHz}, I_{DQ} = 50 \text{ mA}$ )	$\eta$	50	55	—	%
Electrical Ruggedness (Fig. 1) ( $V_{DD} = 28 \text{ Vdc}, P_{out} = 5.0 \text{ W}, f = 150 \text{ MHz}, I_{DQ} = 50 \text{ mA}$ , VSWR 30:1 at all Phase Angles)	$\psi$	No Degradation in Output Power			

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C1, C4 — Arco 406, 15–115 pF

C2 — Arco 403, 3.0–35 pF

C3 — Arco 402, 1.5–20 pF

C5, C6, C7, C8, C12 — 0.1  $\mu$ F Erie Redcap

C9 — 10  $\mu$ F, 50 V

C10, C11 — 680 pF Feedthru

D1 — 1N5925A Motorola Zener

L1 — 3 Turns, 0.310" ID, #18 AWG Enamel, 0.2" Long

L2 — 3–1/2 Turns, 0.310" ID, #18 AWG Enamel, 0.25" Long

L3 — 20 Turns, #20 AWG Enamel Wound on R5

L4 — Ferroxcube VK-200 — 19/4B

R1 — 68  $\Omega$ , 1.0 W Thin Film

R2 — 10 k $\Omega$ , 1/4 W

R3 — 10 Turns, 10 k $\Omega$  Beckman Instruments 8108

R4 — 1.8 k $\Omega$ , 1/2 W

R5 — 1.0 M $\Omega$ , 2.0 W Carbon

Board — G10, 62 mils

Figure 1. 150 MHz Test Circuit

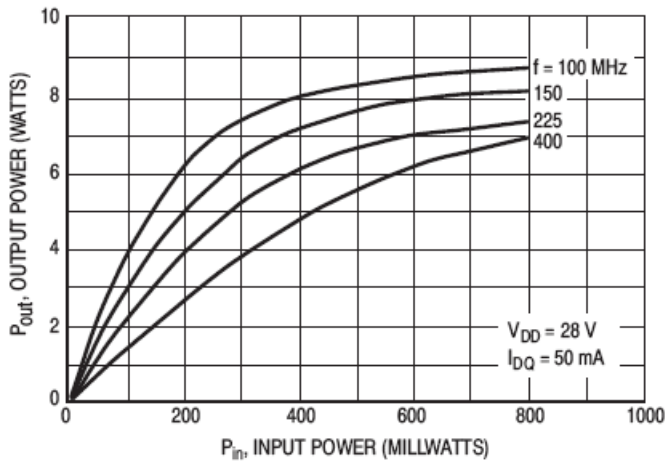


Figure 2. Output Power versus Input Power

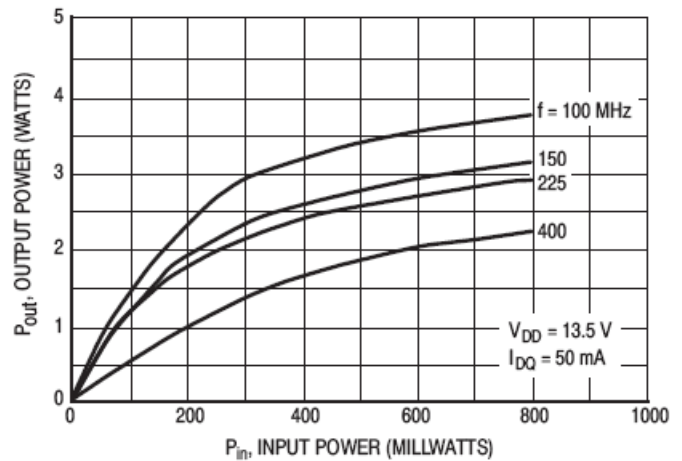


Figure 3. Output Power versus Input Power

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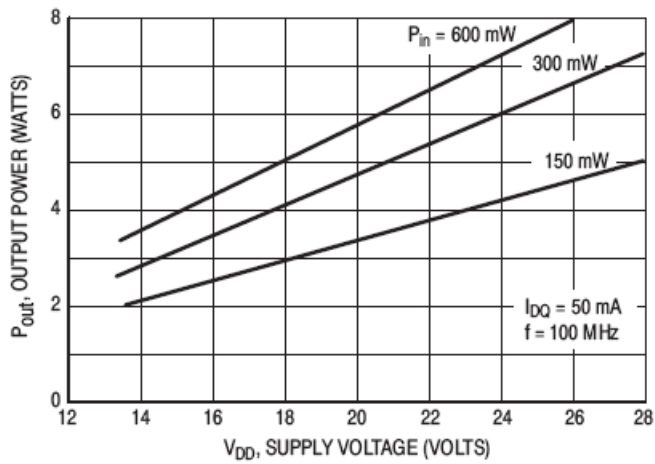


Figure 4. Output Power versus Supply Voltage

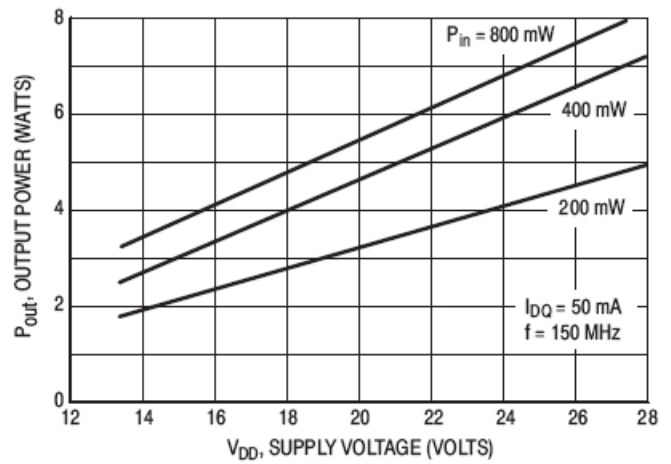


Figure 5. Output Power versus Supply Voltage

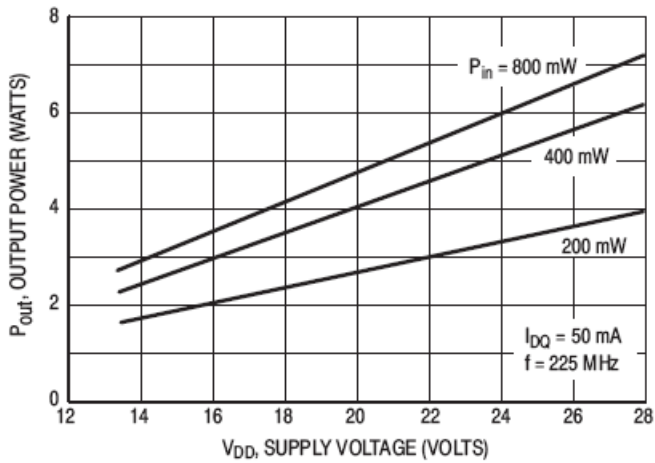


Figure 6. Output Power versus Supply Voltage

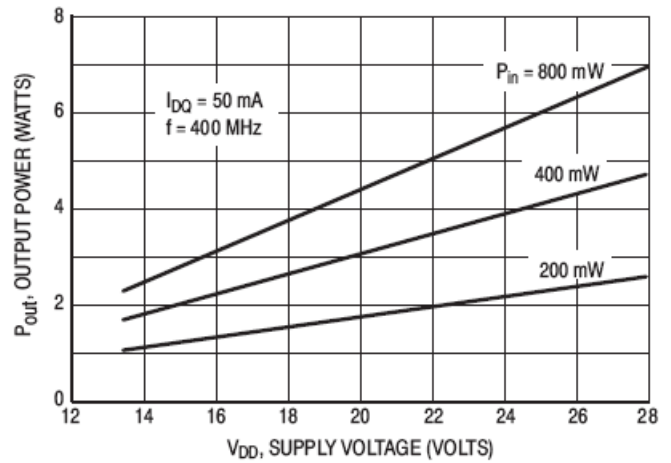


Figure 7. Output Power versus Supply Voltage

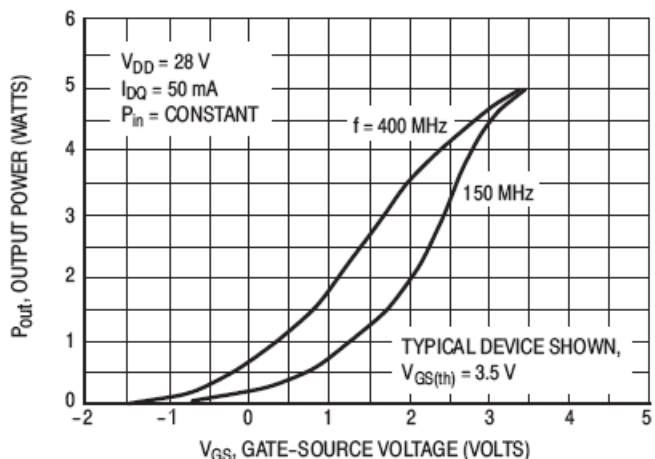


Figure 8. Output Power versus Gate Voltage

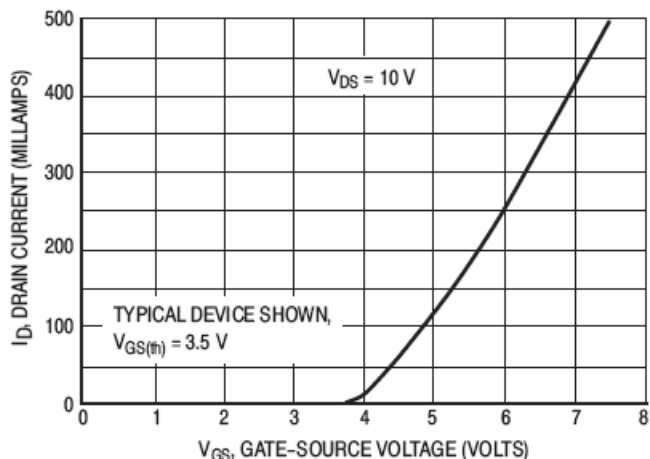


Figure 9. Drain Current versus Gate Voltage (Transfer Characteristics)

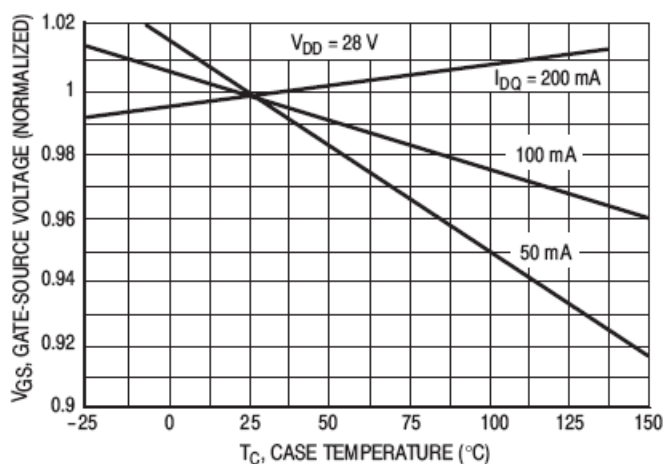


Figure 10. Gate-Source Voltage versus Case Temperature

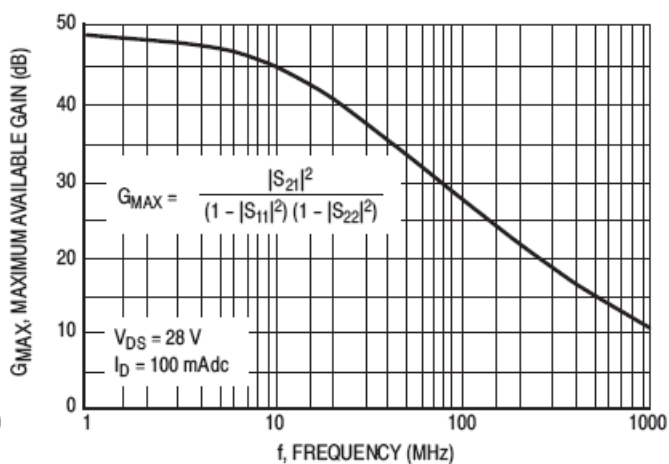


Figure 11. Maximum Available Gain versus Frequency

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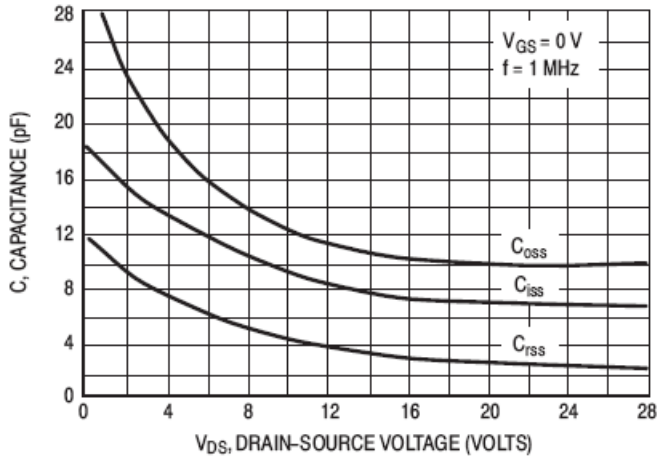


Figure 12. Capacitance versus Voltage

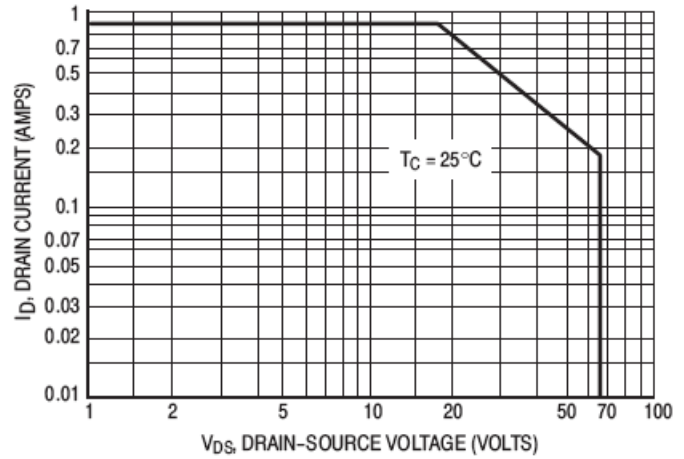
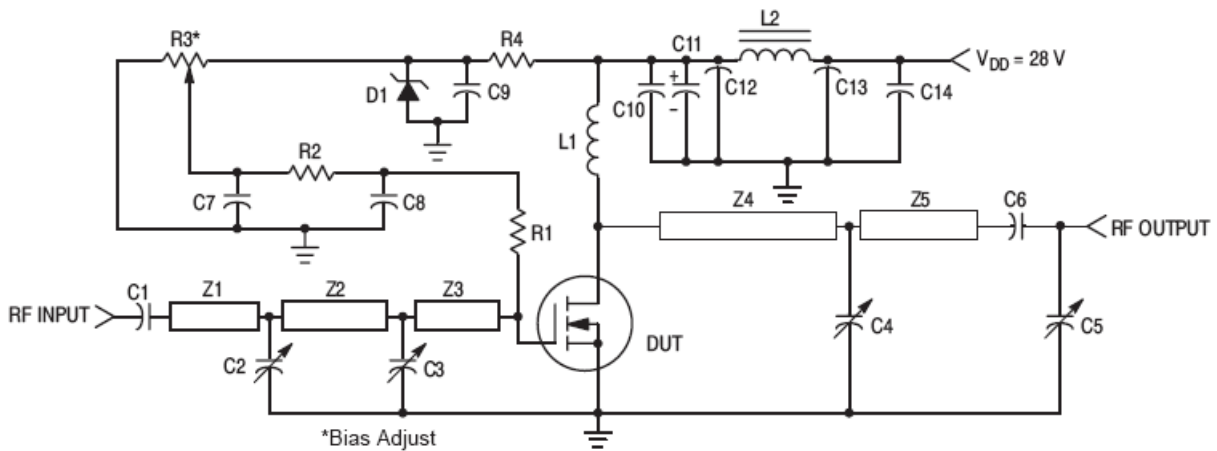


Figure 13. Maximum Rated Forward Biased Safe Operating Area



C1, C6 — 270 pF, ATC 100 mils  
 C2, C3, C4, C5 — 0–20 pF Johanson  
 C7, C9, C10, C14 — 0.1 μF Erie Redcap, 50 V  
 C8 — 0.001 μF  
 C11 — 10 μF, 50 V  
 C12, C13 — 680 pF Feedthru  
 D1 — 1N5925A Motorola Zener  
 L1 — 6 Turns, 1/4" ID, #20 AWG Enamel  
 L2 — Ferroxcube VK-200 — 19/4B  
 R1 — 68 Ω, 1.0 W Thin Film

R2 — 10 kΩ, 1/4 W  
 R3 — 10 Turns, 10 kΩ Beckman Instruments 8108  
 R4 — 1.8 kΩ, 1/2 W  
 Z1 — 1.4" x 0.166" Microstrip  
 Z2 — 1.1" x 0.166" Microstrip  
 Z3 — 0.95" x 0.166" Microstrip  
 Z4 — 2.2" x 0.166" Microstrip  
 Z5 — 0.85" x 0.166" Microstrip  
 Board — Glass Teflon, 62 mils

Figure 14. 400 MHz Test Circuit

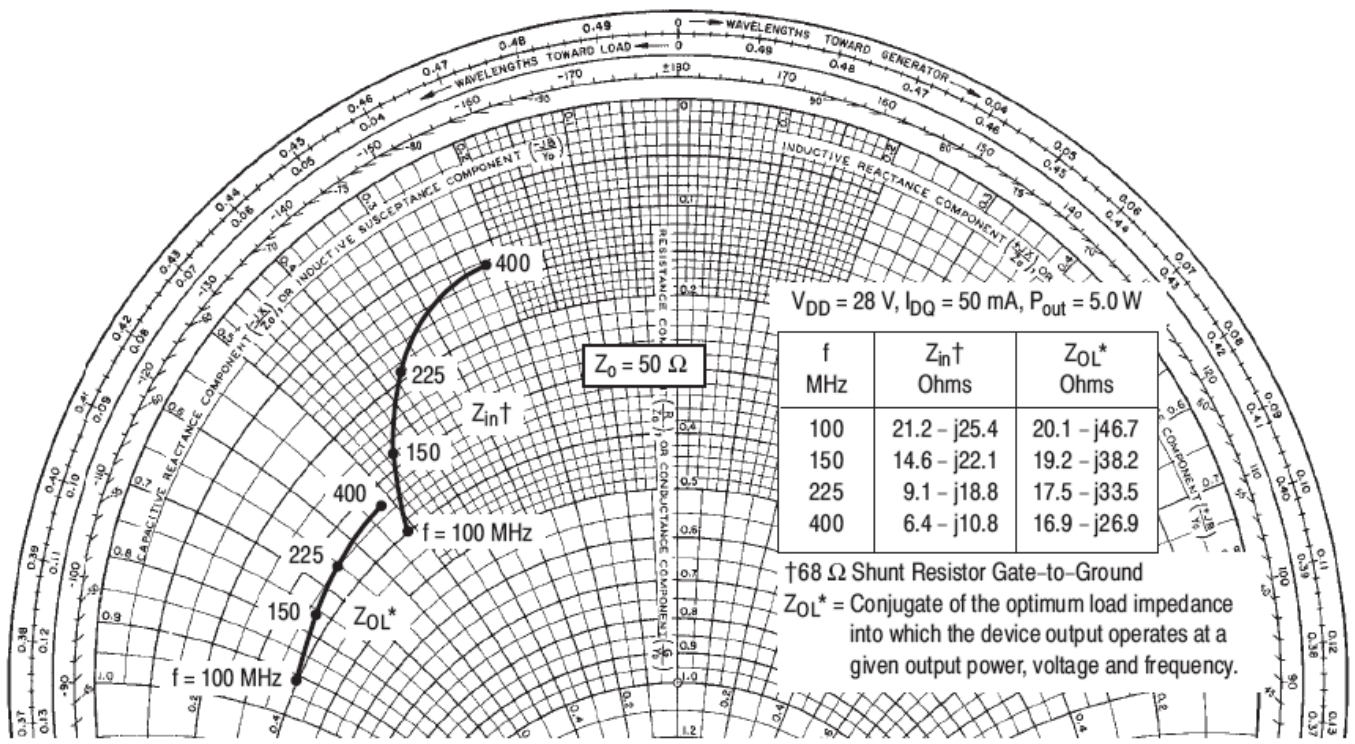


Figure 15. Large-Signal Series Equivalent Input/Output Impedances,  $Z_{in}^{\dagger}$ ,  $Z_{OL}^*$

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f (MHz)	S <sub>11</sub>		S <sub>21</sub>		S <sub>12</sub>		S <sub>22</sub>	
	S <sub>11</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>21</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>12</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>22</sub>	∠φ
1.0	0.989	-1.0	11.27	179	0.0014	89	0.954	-1.0
2.0	0.989	-2.0	11.27	179	0.0028	89	0.954	-2.0
5.0	0.988	-5.0	11.26	176	0.0069	86	0.954	-4.0
10	0.985	-10	11.20	173	0.014	83	0.951	-9.0
20	0.977	-20	10.99	166	0.027	76	0.938	-18
30	0.965	-30	10.66	159	0.039	69	0.918	-26
40	0.950	-39	10.25	153	0.051	63	0.895	-34
50	0.931	-47	9.777	147	0.060	57	0.867	-42
60	0.912	-53	9.359	142	0.069	53	0.846	-49
70	0.892	-58	8.960	138	0.077	49	0.828	-56
80	0.874	-62	8.583	135	0.085	46	0.815	-62
90	0.855	-66	8.190	131	0.091	43	0.801	-68
100	0.833	-70	7.808	128	0.096	40	0.785	-74
110	0.827	-73	7.661	125	0.101	38	0.784	-77
120	0.821	-76	7.515	122	0.107	36	0.784	-82
130	0.814	-79	7.368	119	0.113	34	0.784	-85
140	0.808	-82	7.222	116	0.119	32	0.783	-88
150	0.802	-86	7.075	114	0.125	31	0.783	-90
160	0.788	-89	6.810	112	0.127	30	0.780	-92
170	0.774	-92	6.540	110	0.128	28	0.774	-94
180	0.763	-94	6.220	108	0.130	26	0.762	-98
190	0.751	-97	5.903	106	0.132	24	0.760	-100
200	0.740	-100	5.784	104	0.134	23	0.758	-103
225	0.719	-104	5.334	100	0.136	20	0.757	-107
250	0.704	-108	4.904	97	0.139	19	0.758	-110
275	0.687	-113	4.551	92	0.141	16	0.757	-114
300	0.673	-117	4.219	89	0.141	14	0.750	-117
325	0.668	-120	3.978	86	0.142	12	0.757	-120
350	0.669	-123	3.737	83	0.142	10	0.766	-121
375	0.662	-125	3.519	80	0.143	9.0	0.768	-123
400	0.654	-127	3.325	77	0.142	8.0	0.772	-124
425	0.650	-129	3.170	75	0.140	7.0	0.772	-125
450	0.638	-131	3.048	72	0.141	6.0	0.783	-125
475	0.614	-132	2.898	71	0.136	6.0	0.786	-126
500	0.641	-133	2.833	68	0.136	5.0	0.795	-127
525	0.638	-135	2.709	66	0.135	5.0	0.801	-127
550	0.633	-137	2.574	64	0.133	4.0	0.802	-128
575	0.628	-138	2.481	62	0.131	5.0	0.805	-128
600	0.625	-140	2.408	60	0.129	5.0	0.814	-128

The Power RF characterization data were measured with a 68 ohm resistor shunting the MRF134 input port.  
The scattering parameters were measured on the MRF134 device alone with no external components.

(continued)

**Table 1. Common Source Scattering Parameters**  
**V<sub>DS</sub> = 28 V, I<sub>D</sub> = 100 mA**

f (MHz)	S <sub>11</sub>		S <sub>21</sub>		S <sub>12</sub>		S <sub>22</sub>	
	S <sub>11</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>21</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>12</sub>	∠φ	S <sub>22</sub>	∠φ
625	0.619	-142	2.334	58	0.128	5.0	0.818	-129
650	0.617	-144	2.259	56	0.125	6.0	0.824	-130
675	0.618	-146	2.192	55	0.123	7.0	0.834	-130
700	0.619	-147	2.124	53	0.122	8.0	0.851	-131
725	0.618	-150	2.061	51	0.120	9.0	0.859	-132
750	0.614	-152	1.983	49	0.118	11	0.857	-133
775	0.609	-154	1.908	48	0.119	13	0.865	-133
800	0.562	-155	1.877	49	0.118	15	0.872	-133
825	0.587	-156	1.869	46	0.119	16	0.869	-134
850	0.593	-158	1.794	44	0.118	18	0.875	-135
875	0.597	-160	1.749	43	0.119	18	0.881	-135
900	0.598	-162	1.700	41	0.118	18	0.889	-136
925	0.592	-164	1.641	40	0.115	18	0.888	-138
950	0.588	-166	1.590	39	0.112	20	0.877	-138
975	0.586	-168	1.572	39	0.108	23	0.864	-137
1000	0.590	-171	1.551	37	0.107	28	0.863	-137

The Power RF characterization data were measured with a 68 ohm resistor shunting the MRF134 input port. The scattering parameters were measured on the MRF134 device alone with no external components.

**Table 1. Common Source Scattering Parameters (continued)**  
V<sub>DS</sub> = 28 V, I<sub>D</sub> = 100 mA



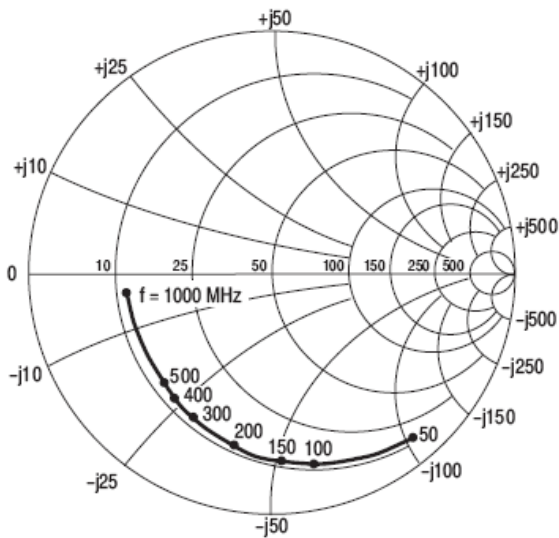


Figure 16.  $S_{11}$ , Input Reflection Coefficient versus Frequency  
 $V_{DS} = 28\text{ V}$   $I_D = 100\text{ mA}$

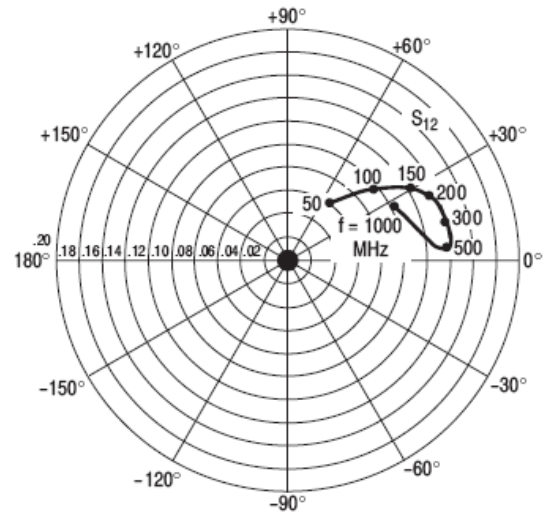


Figure 17.  $S_{12}$ , Reverse Transmission Coefficient versus Frequency  
 $V_{DS} = 28\text{ V}$   $I_D = 100\text{ mA}$

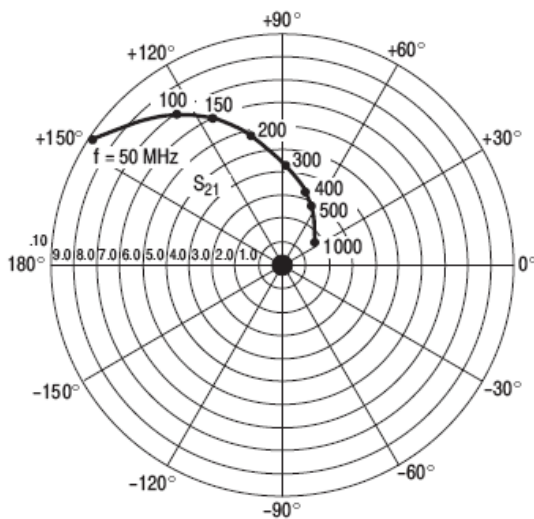


Figure 18.  $S_{21}$ , Forward Transmission Coefficient versus Frequency  
 $V_{DS} = 28\text{ V}$   $I_D = 100\text{ mA}$

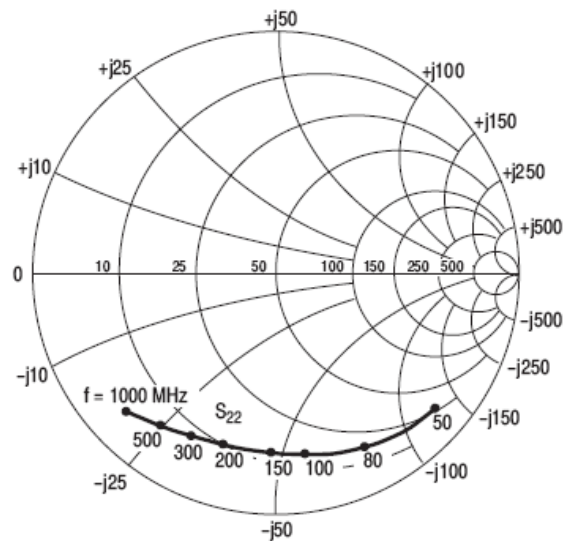


Figure 19.  $S_{22}$ , Output Reflection Coefficient versus Frequency  
 $V_{DS} = 28\text{ V}$   $I_D = 100\text{ mA}$

## RF POWER MOSFET CONSIDERATIONS

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The MRF137 is a RF power N-Channel enhancement-mode field-effect transistor (FET) designed especially for VHF power amplifier applications. M/A-COM RF MOS FETs feature a vertical structure with a planar design, thus avoiding the processing difficulties associated with V-groove vertical power FETs.

M/A-COM Application Note AN211A, FETs in Theory and Practice, is suggested reading for those not familiar with the construction and characteristics of FETs.

The major advantages of RF power FETs include high gain, low noise, simple bias systems, relative immunity from thermal runaway, and the ability to withstand severely mismatched loads without suffering damage. Power output can be varied over a wide range with a low power dc control signal, thus facilitating manual gain control, ALC and modulation.

## DC BIAS

The MRF137 is an enhancement mode FET and, therefore, does not conduct when drain voltage is applied. Drain current flows when a positive voltage is applied to the gate. See Figure 10 for a typical plot of drain current versus gate voltage. RF power FETs require forward bias for optimum performance.

The value of quiescent drain current ( $I_{DQ}$ ) is not critical for many applications. The MRF137 was characterized at  $I_{DQ} = 25$  mA, which is the suggested minimum value of  $I_{DQ}$ . For special applications such as linear amplification,  $I_{DQ}$  may have to be selected to optimize the critical parameters.

The gate is a dc open circuit and draws no current. Therefore, the gate bias circuit may generally be just a simple

resistive divider network. Some special applications may require a more elaborate bias system.

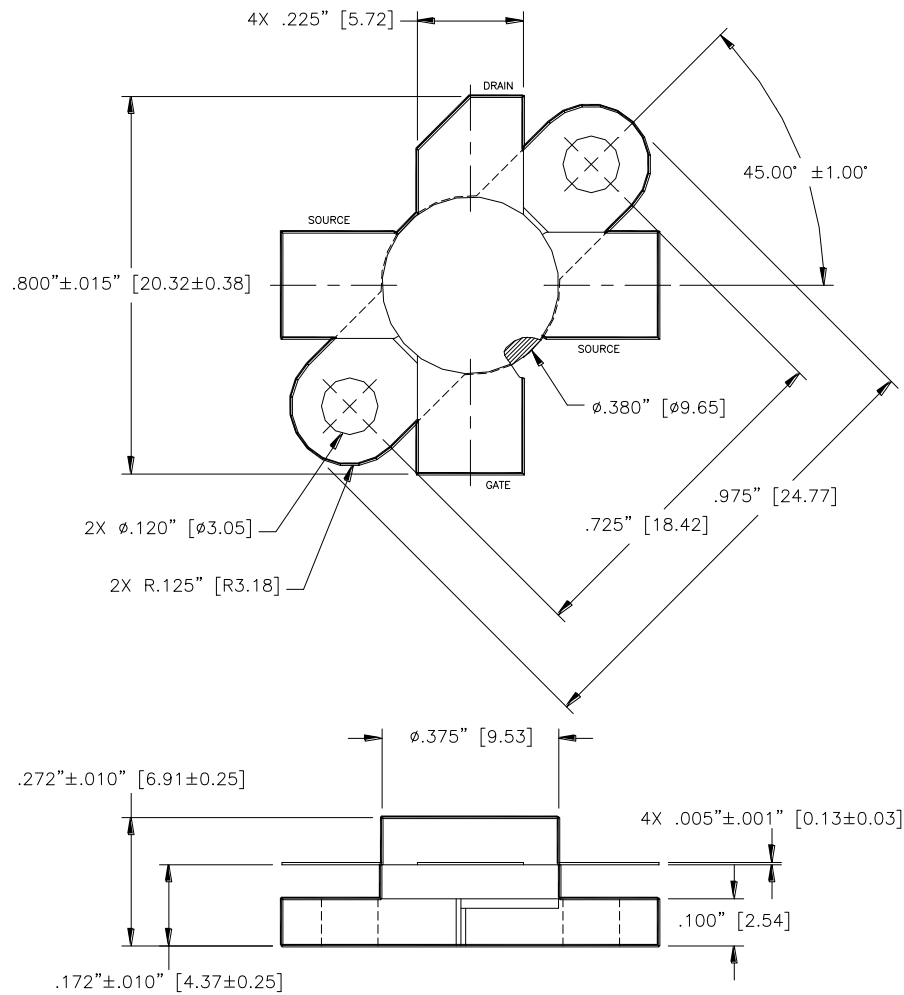
## GAIN CONTROL

Power output of the MRF137 may be controlled from its rated value down to zero (negative gain) by varying the dc gate voltage. This feature facilitates the design of manual gain control, AGC/ALC and modulation systems. (See Figure 9.)

## AMPLIFIER DESIGN

Impedance matching networks similar to those used with bipolar VHF transistors are suitable for MRF137. See M/A-COM Application Note AN721, Impedance Matching Networks Applied to RF Power Transistors. The higher input impedance of RF MOS FETs helps ease the task of broadband network design. Both small signal scattering parameters and large signal impedances are provided. While the s-parameters will not produce an exact design solution for high power operation, they do yield a good first approximation. This is an additional advantage of RF MOS power FETs.

RF power FETs are triode devices and, therefore, not unilateral. This, coupled with the very high gain of the MRF137, yields a device capable of self oscillation. Stability may be achieved by techniques such as drain loading, input shunt resistive loading, or output to input feedback. Two port parameter stability analysis with the MRF137 s-parameters provides a useful tool for selection of loading or feedback circuitry to assure stable operation. See M/A-COM Application Note AN215A for a discussion of two port network theory and stability.



Unless otherwise noted, tolerances are inches  $\pm .005''$  [millimeters  $\pm 0.13\text{mm}$ ]

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