

# Low LO Drive Passive GaAs MMIC IQ Mixer

# MMIQ-0218L

## 1. Device Overview

### 1.1 General Description

MMIQ-0218L is a low LO drive, passive GaAs MMIC IQ mixer that operates across a 9:1 bandwidth. This is an ultra-broadband mixer spanning 2 to 18GHz on the RF and LO ports with an IF from DC to 3 GHz. Up to 40 dB of image rejection is available due to the excellent phase and amplitude balance of its on-chip LO quadrature hybrid. Both wire bondable die and connectorized modules are available.



Die



Module

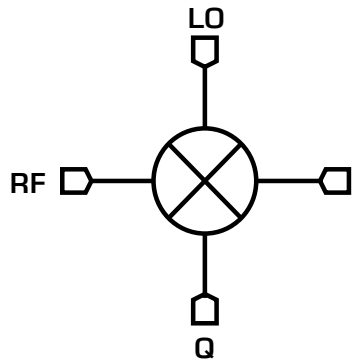
### 1.2 Electrical Summary

Parameter	Typical	Unit
RF/LO Frequency Range	2 – 18	GHz
IF Frequency Range	DC – 3	GHz
I+Q Conversion Loss	8	dB
Image Rejection	27	dB
LO-RF Isolation	58	dB

### 1.3 Applications

- Single Side Band & Image Rejection Mixing
- IQ Modulation/Demodulation
- Vector Signal Modulation and Demodulation
- Band Shifting

### 1.4 Functional Block Diagram



### 1.5 Part Ordering Options<sup>1</sup>

Part Number	Description	Package	Green Status	Product Lifecycle	Export Classification
MMIQ-0218LCH-2	Wire bondable die	CH-2	RoHS	Active	EAR99
MMIQ-0218LXPC	Connectorized module, die wire bonded onto PCB	XPC	RoHS	Active	EAR99

<sup>1</sup> Refer to our [website](#) for a list of definitions for terminology presented in this table.

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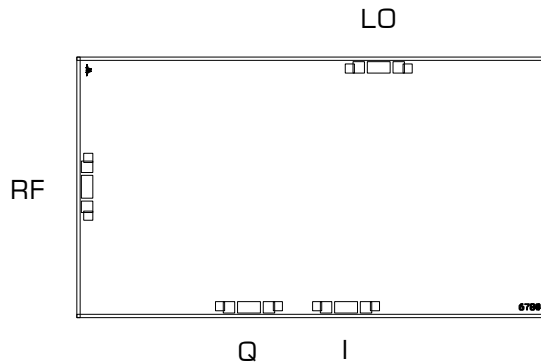
### Revision History

Revision Code	Revision Date	Comment
-	September 2019	Datasheet Initial Release

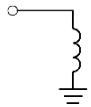
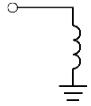
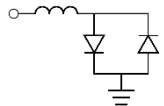
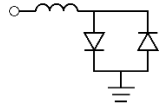

## 2. Port Configurations and Functions

### 2.1 Port Diagram

A top-down view of the MMIQ-0218L's CH-2 package outline drawing is shown below. The mixer may be operated as either a downconverter or an upconverter. Use of the RF or IF as the input or output port will depend on the application. See Application Information for input and output port configuration for common applications.



### 2.2 Port Functions

Port	Function	Description	Equivalent Circuit
RF	RF Input/Output	RF port is DC short and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified RF frequency range.	
LO	LO Input	LO port is DC short and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified LO frequency range.	
I	I Input / Output	I port is diode coupled and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified I port frequency range.	
Q	Q Input / Output	Q port is diode coupled and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified Q port frequency range.	
GND	Ground	CH package ground path is taken through the substrate. XPC package ground taken through metal housing.	<b>GND</b> 

### 3. Specifications

#### 3.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

The Absolute Maximum Ratings indicate limits beyond which damage may occur to the device. If these limits are exceeded, the device may be inoperable or have a reduced lifetime.

Parameter	Maximum Rating	Units
Port 3 DC Current	30	mA
Port 4 DC Current	30	mA
Power Handling, at any Port	+23	dBm
Operating Temperature	-55 to +100	°C
Storage Temperature	-65 to +125	°C

#### 3.2 Package Information

Parameter	Details	Rating
ESD	Human Body Model (HBM), per MIL-STD-750, Method 1020	Class 1A
Weight	XPC Package	tbd g

#### 3.3 Recommended Operating Conditions

The Recommended Operating Conditions indicate the limits, inside which the device should be operated, to guarantee the performance given in Electrical Specifications. Operating outside these limits may not necessarily cause damage to the device, but the performance may degrade outside the limits of the electrical specifications. For limits, above which damage may occur, see Absolute Maximum Ratings.

	Min	Nominal	Max	Units
T <sub>A</sub> , Ambient Temperature	-55	+25	+100	°C
LO drive power	+13	+15	+20	dBm
RF/IF input power			+5	dBm

#### 3.4 Sequencing Requirements

There is no requirement to apply power to the ports in a specific order. However, it is recommended to provide a 50Ω termination to each port before applying power. This is a passive diode mixer that requires no DC bias.

### 3.5 Electrical Specifications

The electrical specifications apply at  $T_A=+25^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a  $50\Omega$  system. Typical data shown is for a down conversion application with a +17 dBm sine wave LO input.

Min and Max limits apply only to our connectorized units and are guaranteed at  $T_A=+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . All bare die are 100% DC tested and visually inspected.

Parameter		Test Conditions	Min	Typical	Max	Units
RF Port Frequency Range			2		18	GHz
LO Port Frequency Range			2		18	
I Port Frequency Range			0		3	
Q Port Frequency Range			0		3	
Single Sided Conversion Loss (CL)		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = DC - 0.2 GHz		11	13	dB
		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = 0.2 - 3 GHz		11.5	15	
Image Reject/Single Sideband Conversion Loss (CL)		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		8	11	
Noise Figure (NF) <sup>2</sup>		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = DC - 0.2 GHz		12		dB
Image Rejection (IR) <sup>3</sup>		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		27		dBc
Amplitude Balance		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = 0.091 GHz		0.5		dB
Phase Balance		RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		5		°
Isolation	LO to RF	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz		58		dB
	LO to IF	IF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz		28		
	RF to IF	RF/IF = 2 - 18 GHz		36		
Input IP3 (IIP3)	Image Reject Downconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		17		dBm
	I/Q Downconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I = 0.091 GHz		16		
	Single Sideband Upconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		18		
	I/Q Upconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = 0.091 GHz		16		
Input 1 dB Gain Compression Point (P1dB)	I/Q Upconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q = 0.091 GHz		2		dBm
	Combined Upconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz IF = 0.091 GHz		5		
	Downconversion	RF/LO = 2 - 18 GHz I/Q/IF = 0.091 GHz		5		

<sup>2</sup> Mixer Noise Figure given for single sided I/Q conversion typically measures within 0.5 dB of conversion loss for IF frequencies greater than 5 MHz. Image reject downconversion will show noise figure improvements in the presence of image noise.

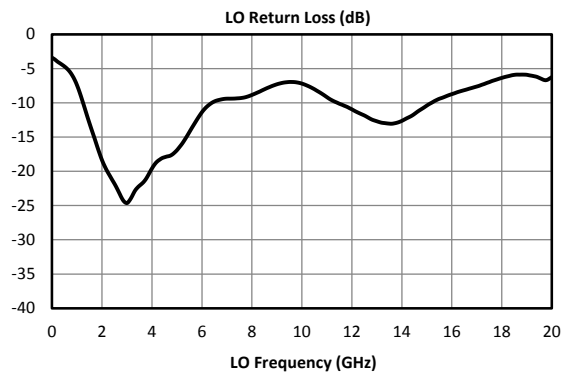
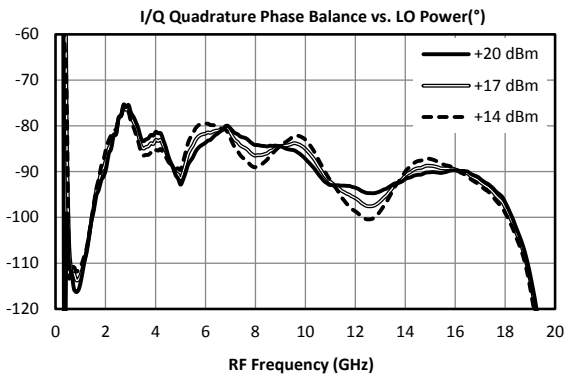
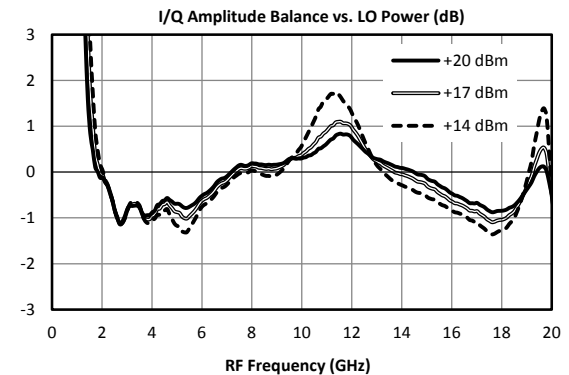
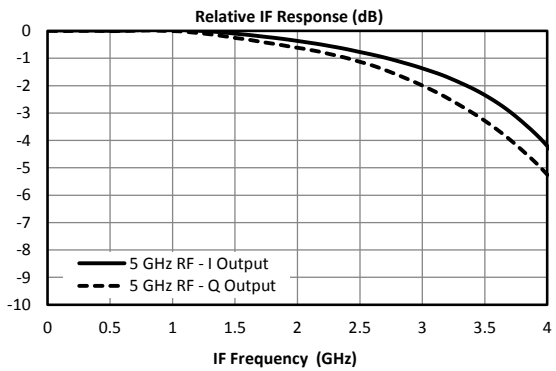
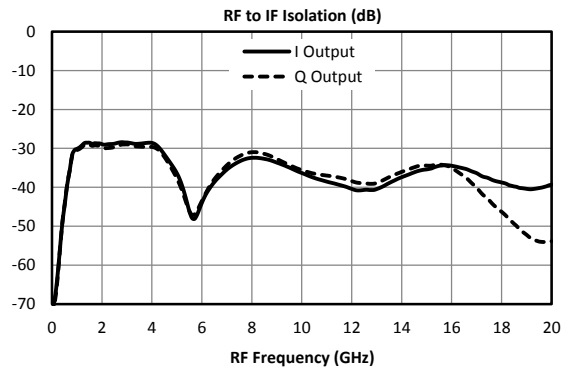
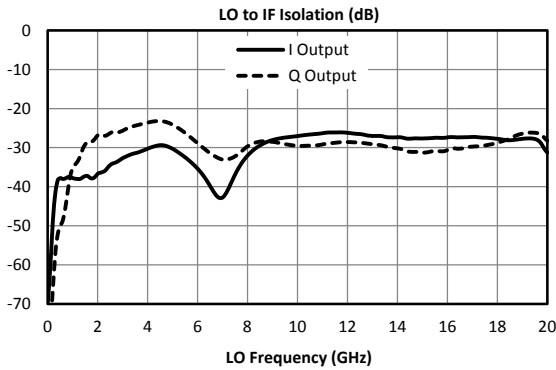
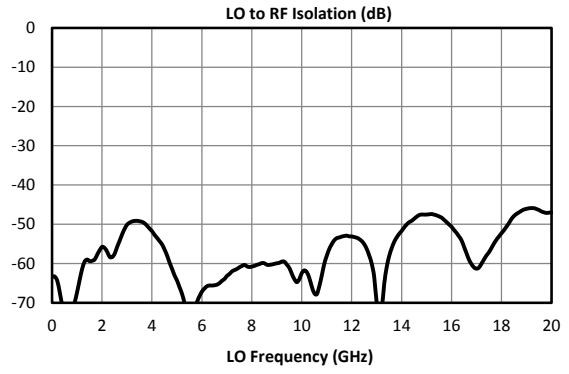
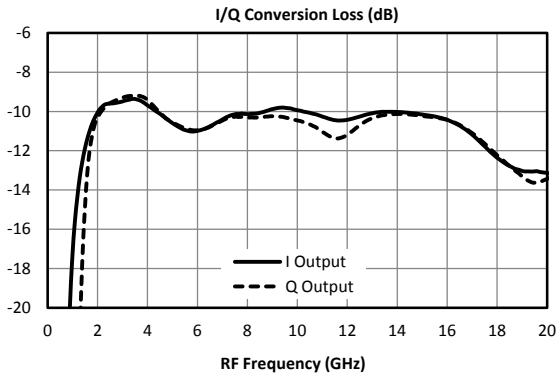
<sup>3</sup> Image Rejection and Single sideband performance plots are defined by the upper sideband (USB) or lower sideband (LSB) with respect to the LO signal. Plots are defined by which sideband is selected by the external IF quadrature hybrid.

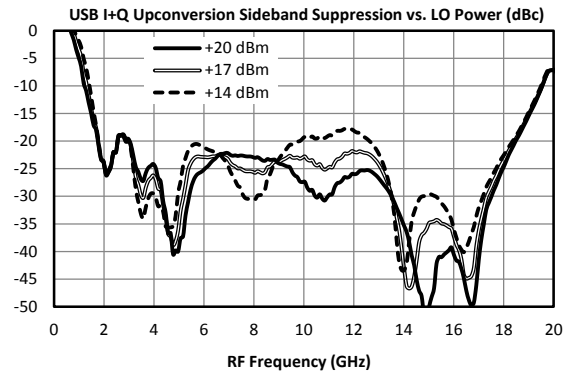
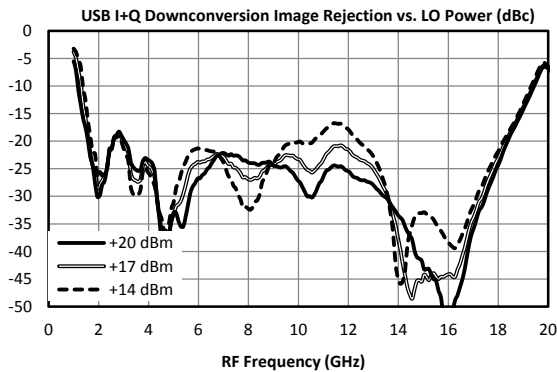
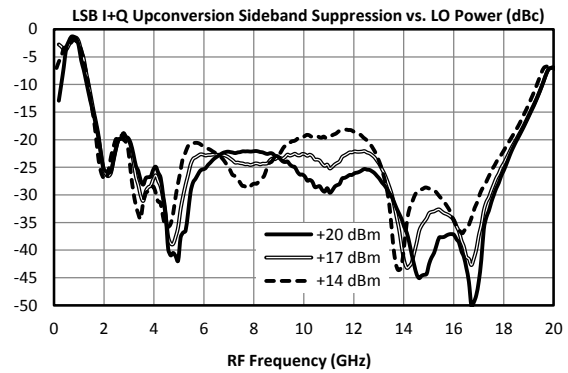
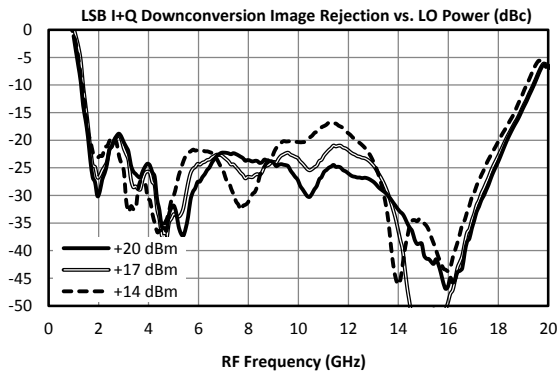
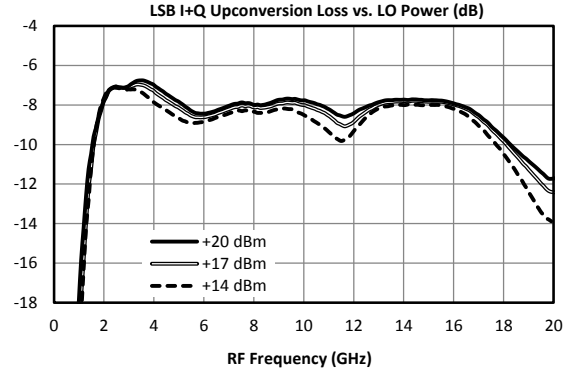
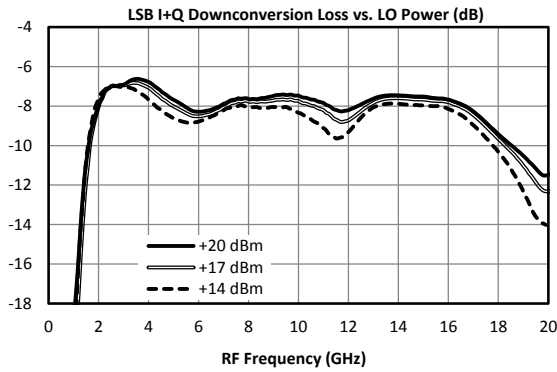
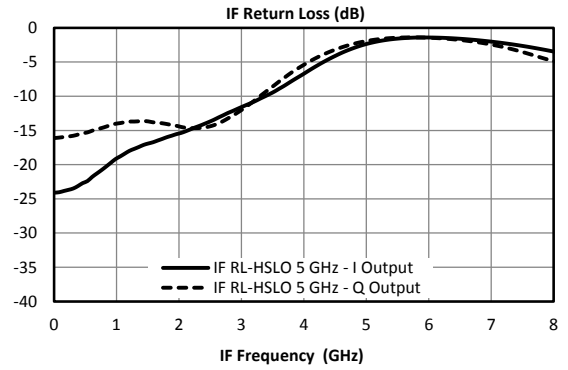
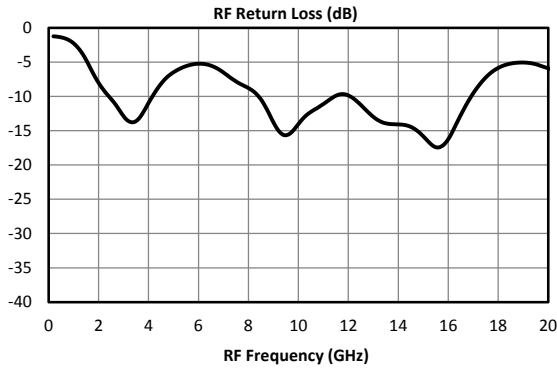
### 3.6 Typical Performance Plots

The test conditions and frequency plan below applies to all following sections, unless otherwise specified.

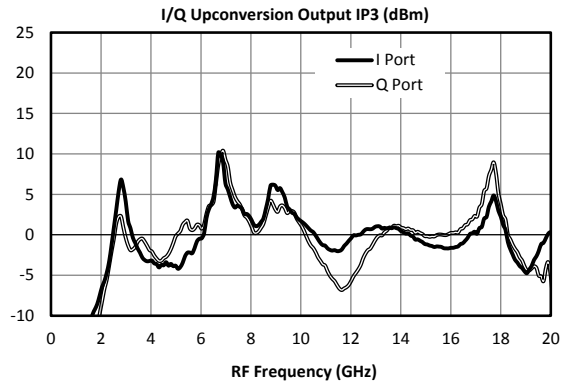
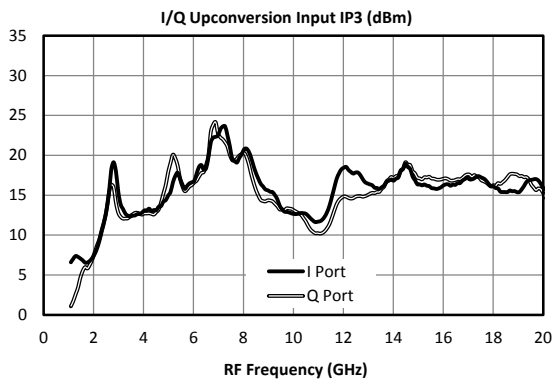
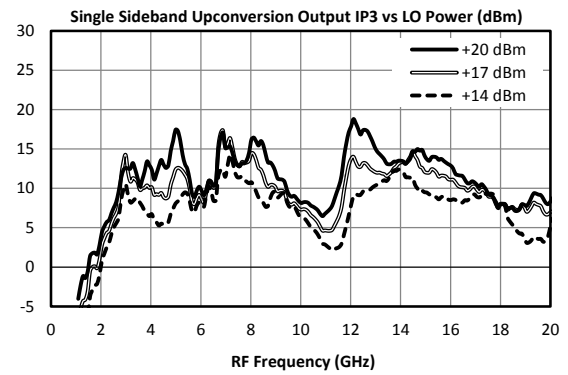
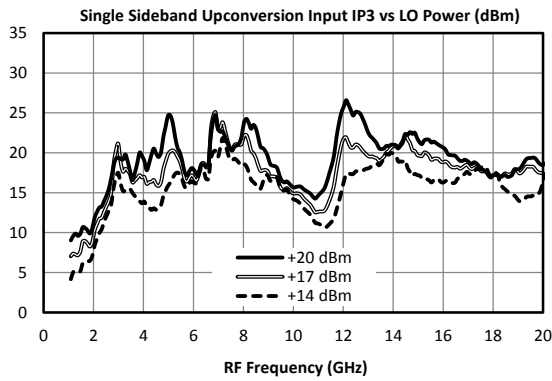
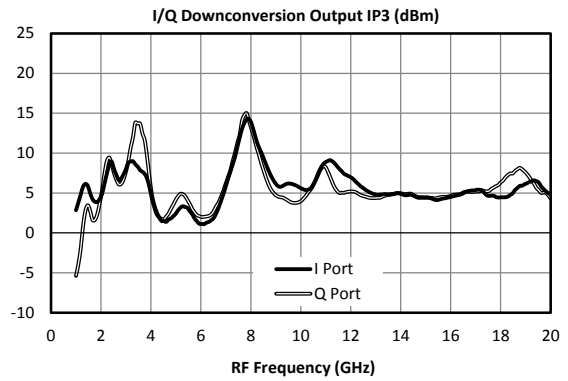
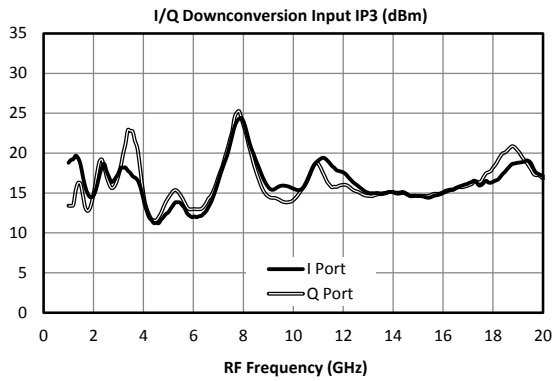
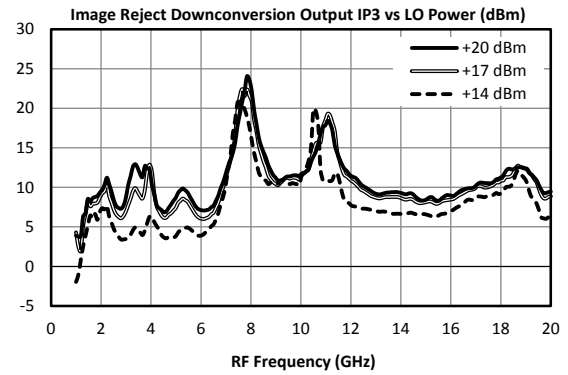
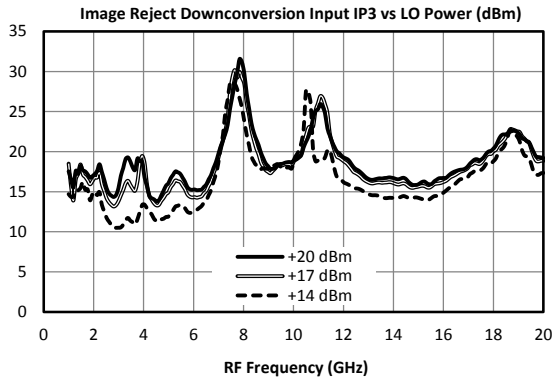
Parameter	Port	Start	Nominal	Stop	Units
RF Input Frequency	RF	0		20	GHz
RF Input Power			-10		dBm
LO Input Frequency	LO	0.091		20.091	GHz
LO Input Power			+17		dBm
IF Output Frequency	I		91		MHz
	Q				
	I+Q <sup>4</sup>				
T <sub>A</sub> , Ambient Temperature			+25		°C
Z <sub>0</sub> , System Impedance			50		Ω

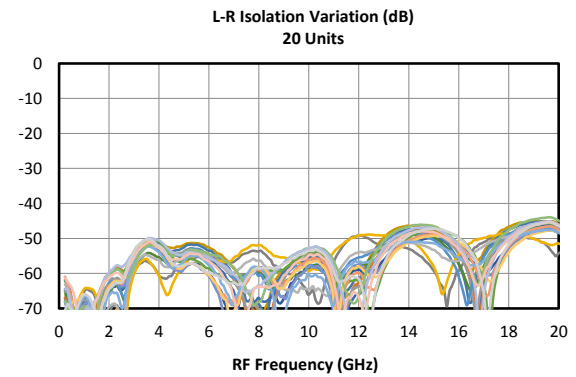
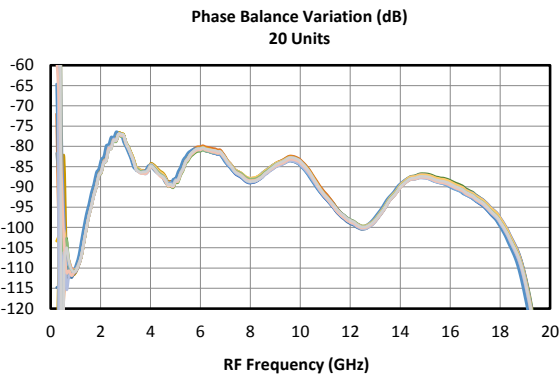
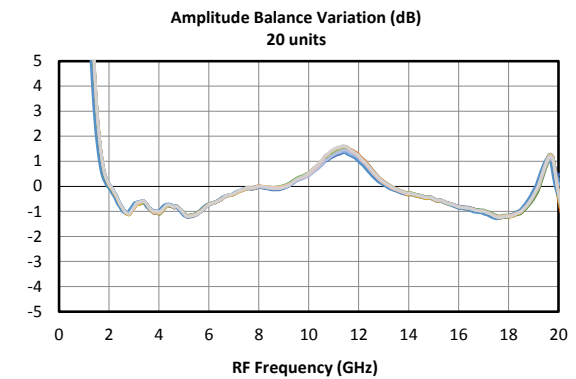
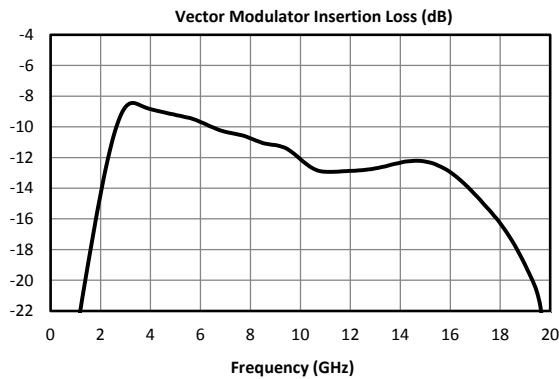
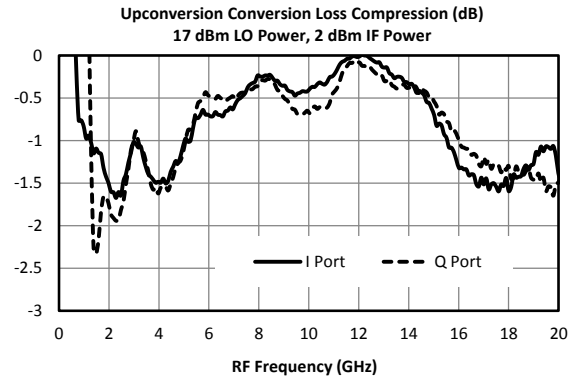
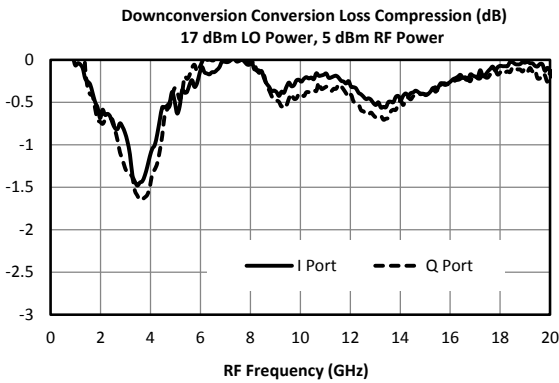
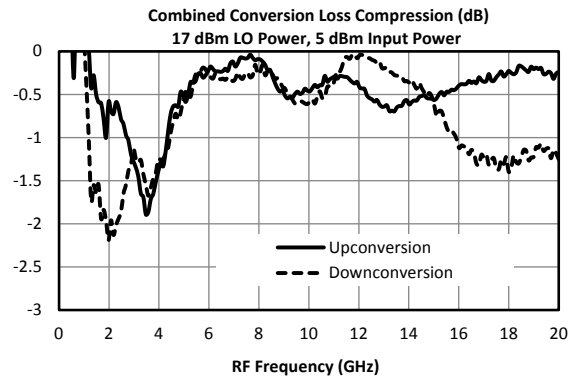
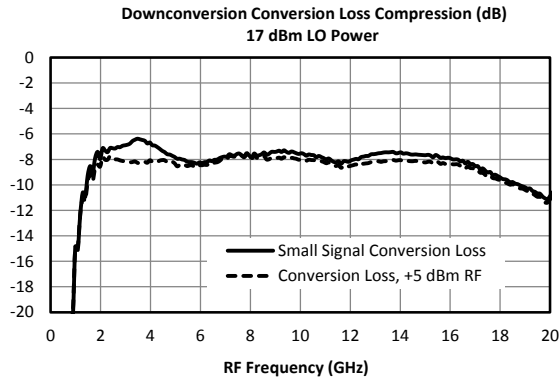
<sup>4</sup> I+Q measurements taken with an external quadrature hybrid attached to the I and Q ports of the mixer. Orientation depends on up conversion or down conversion measurement.





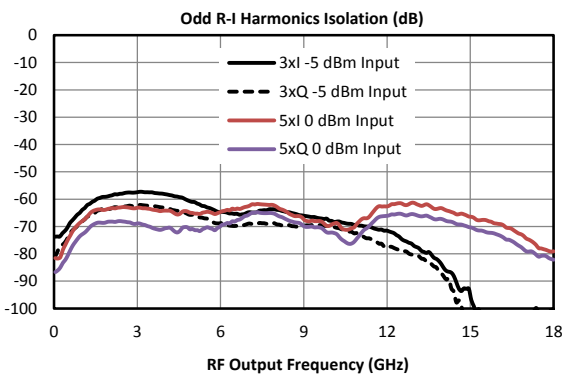
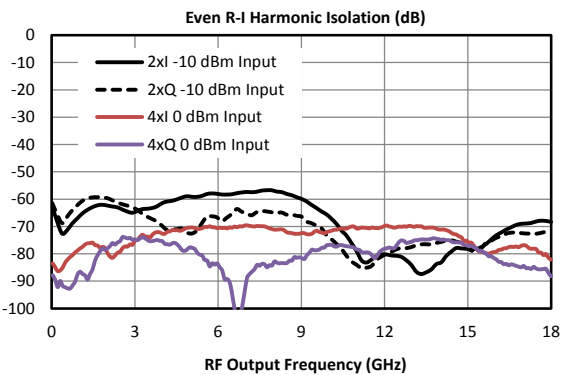
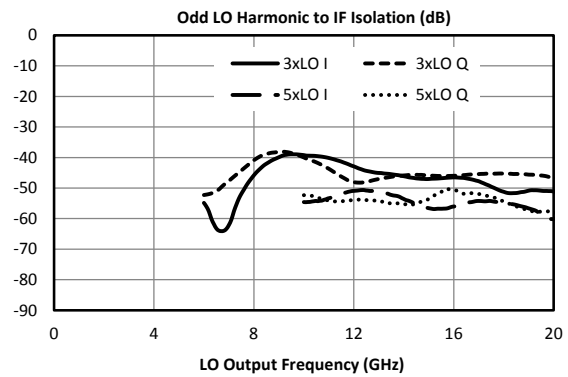
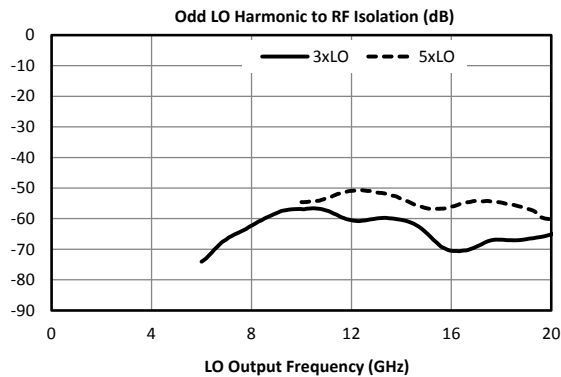
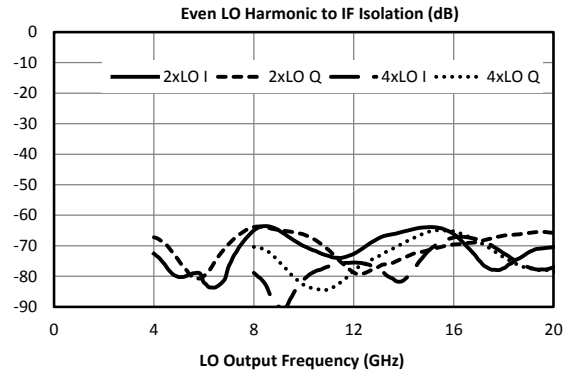
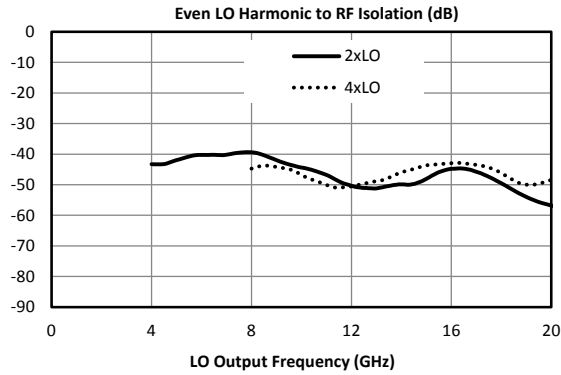


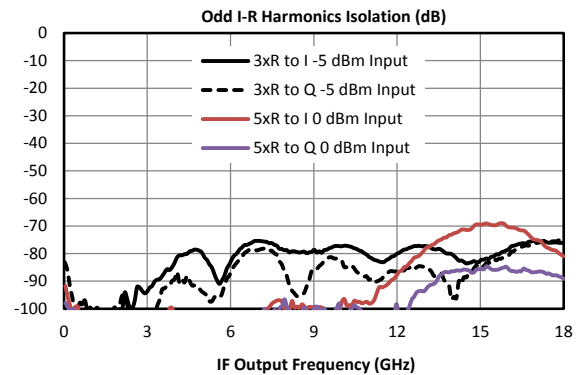
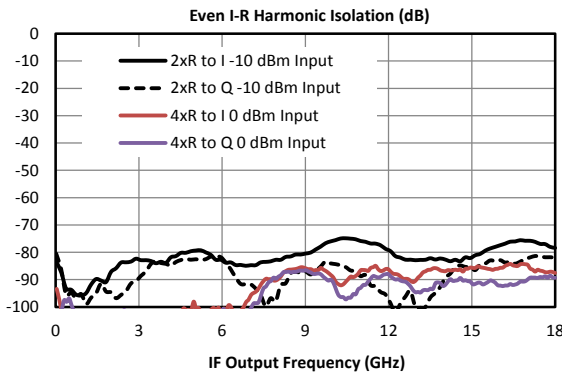




### 3.6.6 Typical Harmonic Performance

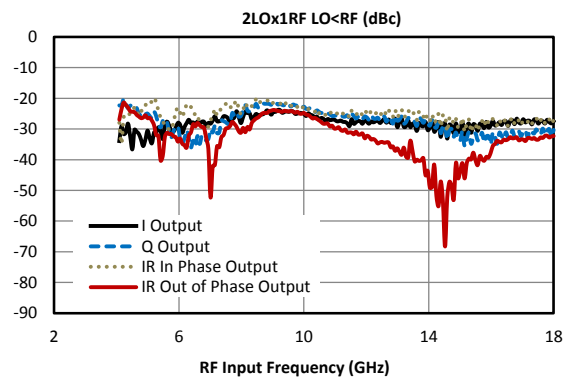
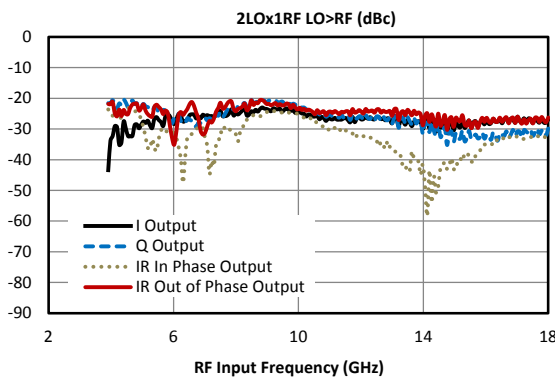
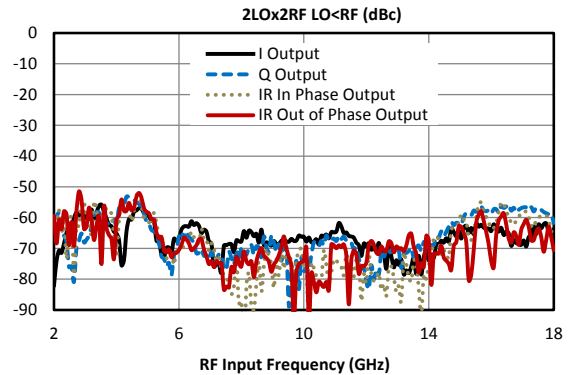
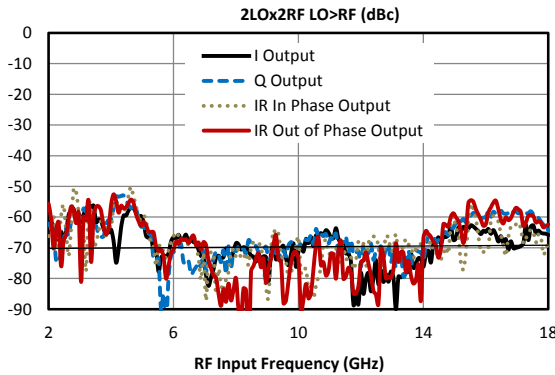
LO harmonics are measured at IF/RF ports with non-operational port terminated with a 50  $\Omega$  load. RF/IF harmonics are measured with a fixed LO of 6.337 GHz at 17 dBm. Note that LO/IF/RF Harmonics are measured across more than the operating band of the mixer.

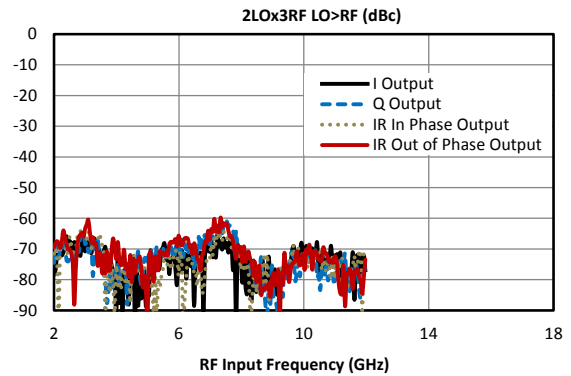
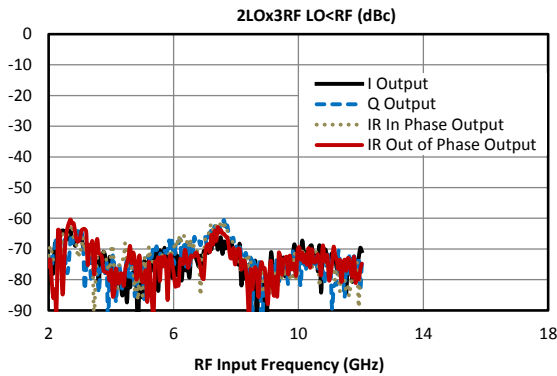
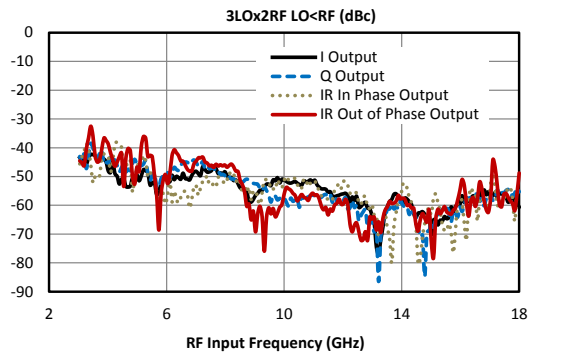
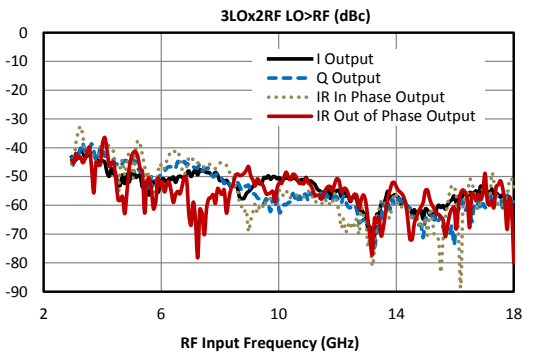
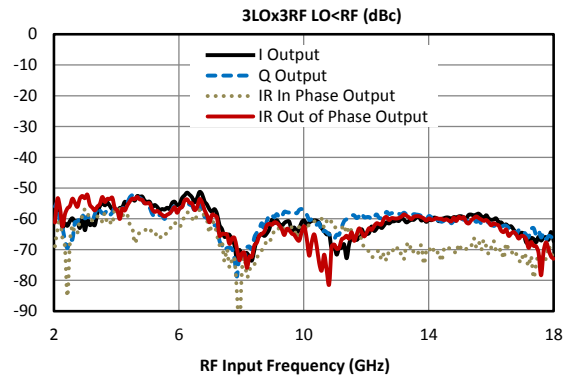
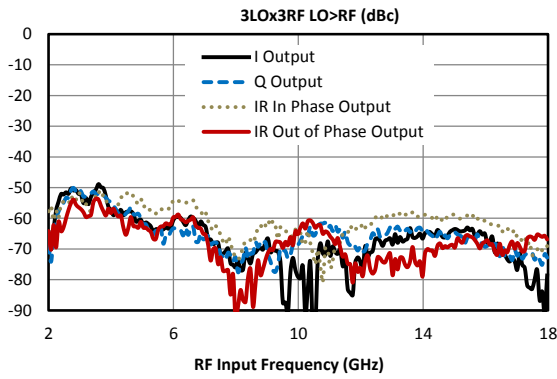
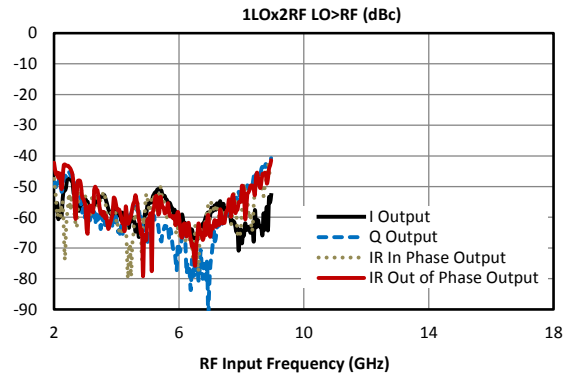
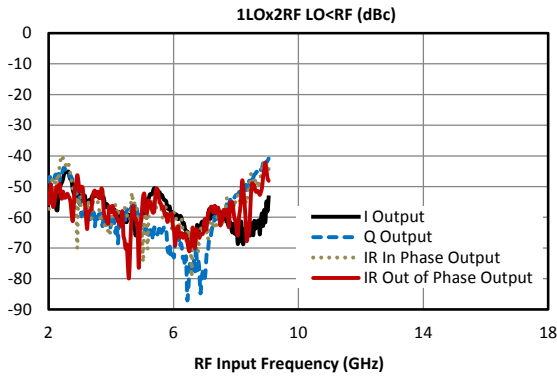


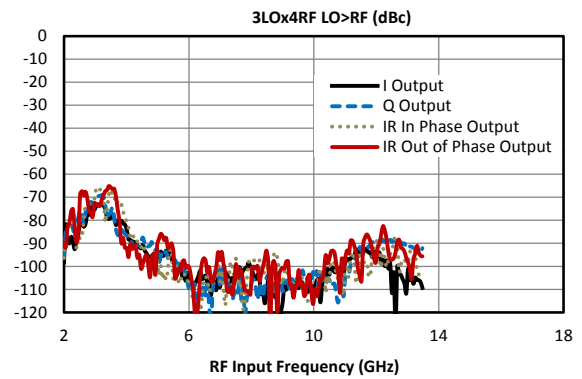
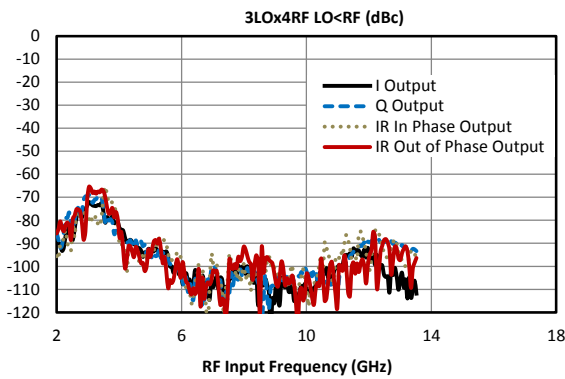
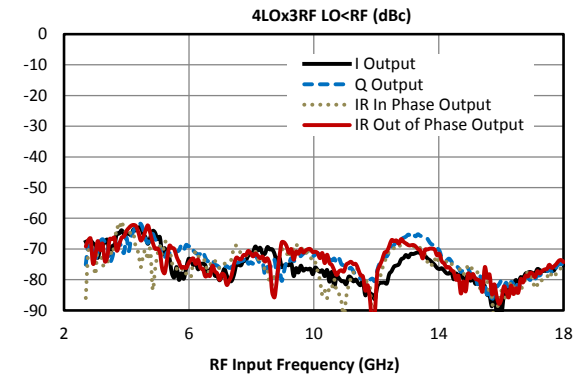
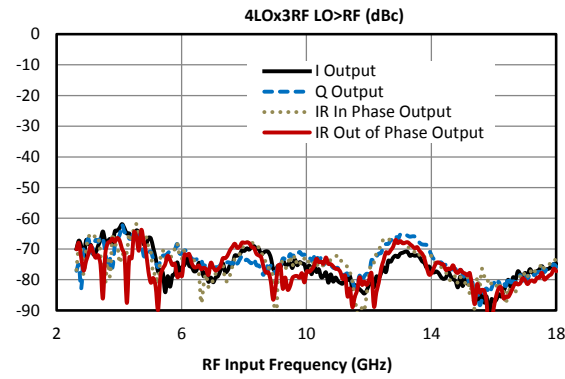
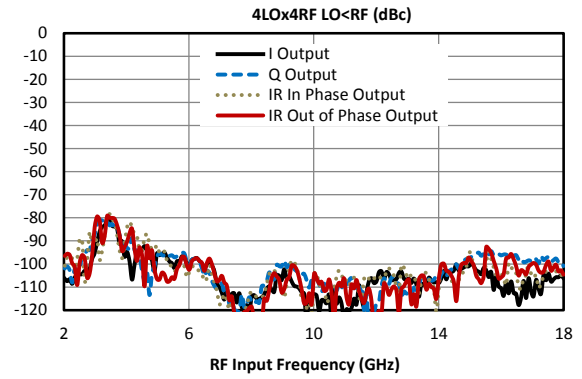
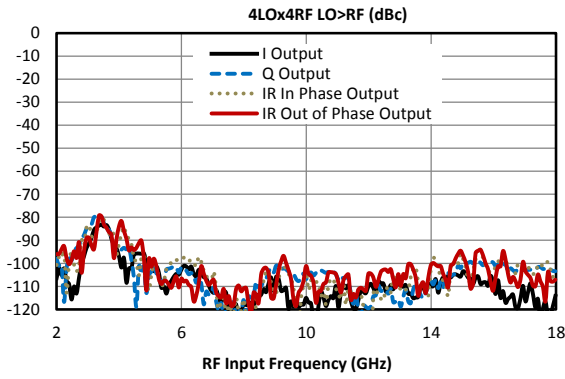


### 3.6.7 Typical Spurious Performance: Downconversion

Typical downconversion spurious data is provided by selecting RF and LO frequencies ( $\pm m \cdot \text{LO} \pm n \cdot \text{RF}$ ) within the RF/LO bands, to create a spurious output at an IF of 91 MHz. The value of this spur is plotted against the RF input frequency below. Spurious suppression is scaled for different RF power levels by  $(n-1)$ , where “n” is the RF spur order. For example, the  $2\text{RF} \times 2\text{LO}$  spur is 66 dBc for a -10 dBm input, so a -20 dBm RF input creates a spur that is  $(2-1) \times (-10 \text{ dB})$  lower, or 76 dBc.

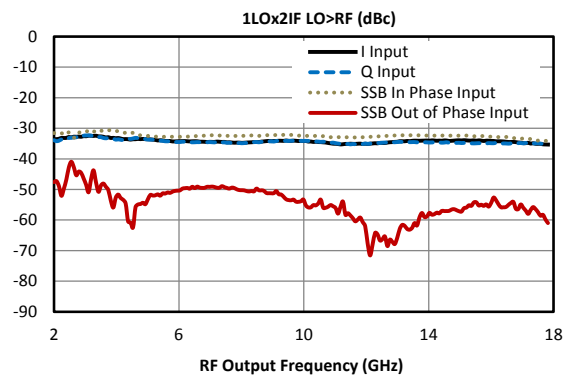
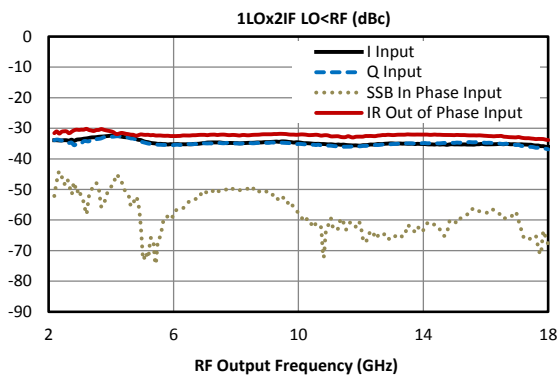
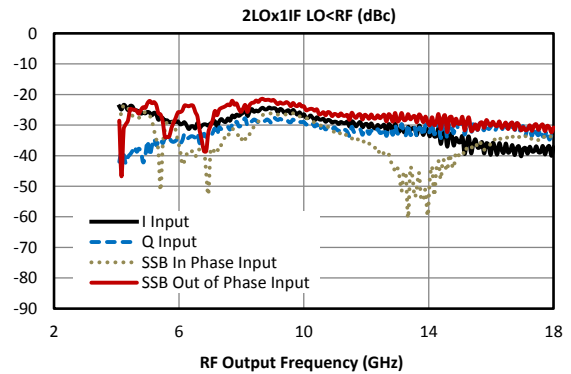
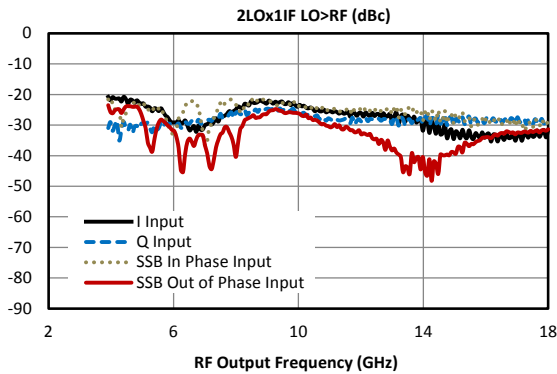
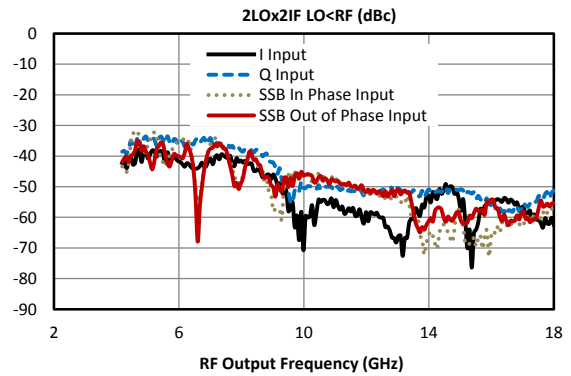
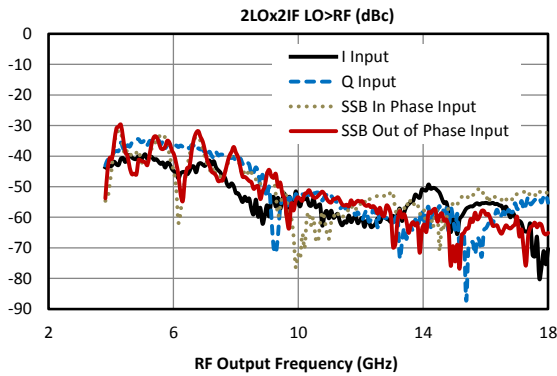


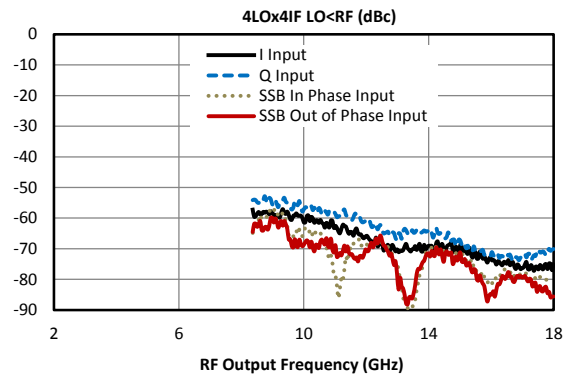
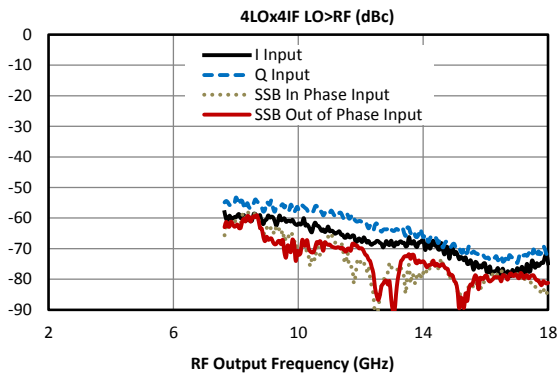
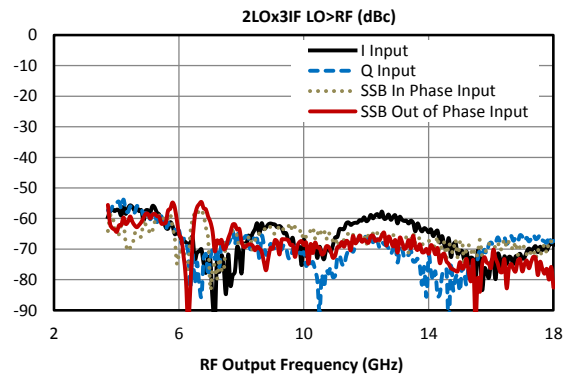
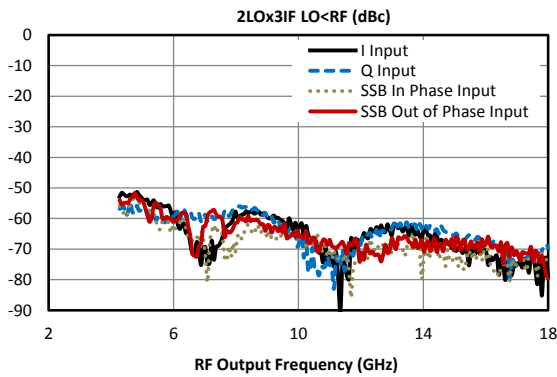
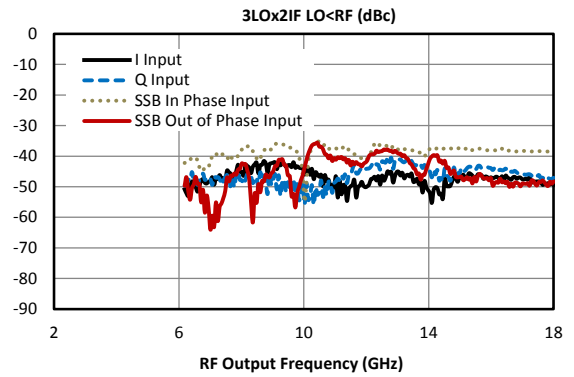
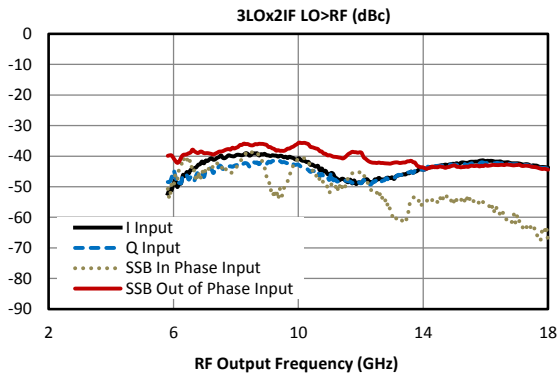
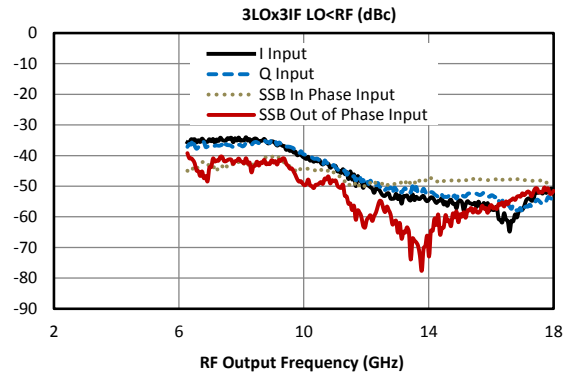
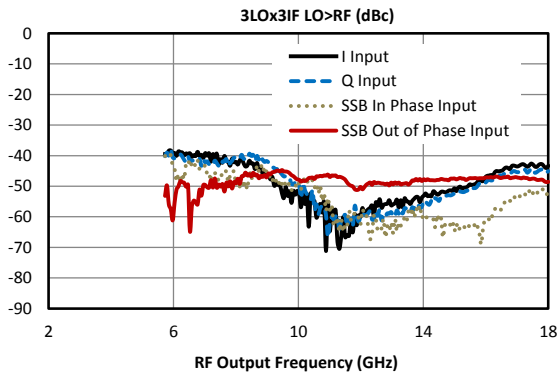




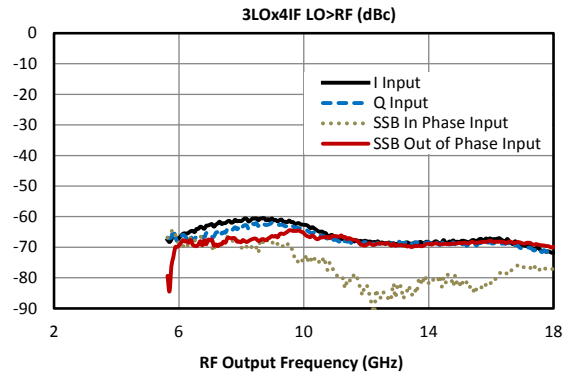
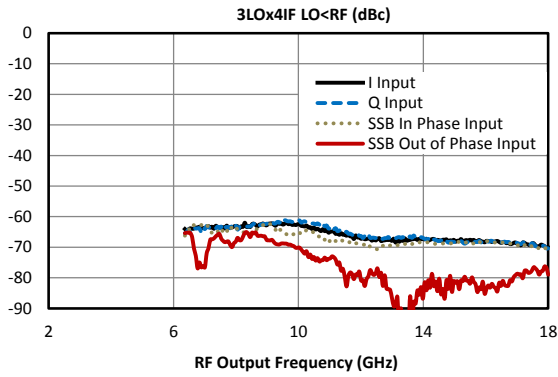
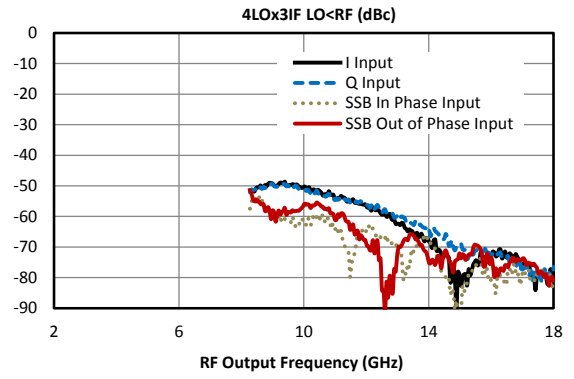
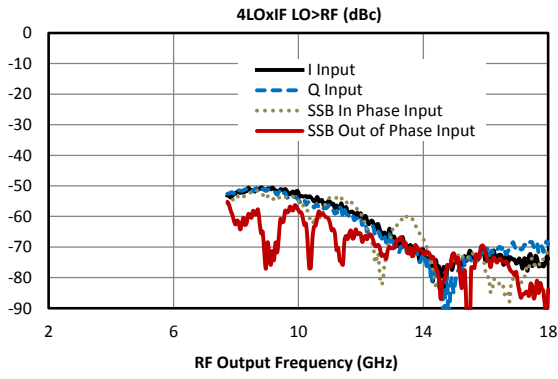
### 3.6.8 Typical Spurious Performance: Up-Conversion

Typical spurious data is taken by mixing an input IF at 91 MHz, with LO frequencies ( $\pm m \cdot LO \pm n \cdot IF$ ), to create a spurious output within the RF output band. The value of this spur is plotted against the RF Output Frequency. Spurious suppression is scaled for different IF input power levels by  $(n-1)$ , where “n” is the IF spur order. For example, the  $2IF \times 1LO$  spur is typically 32 dBc for a -10 dBm input with a sine-wave LO, so a -20 dBm IF input creates a spur that is  $(2-1) \times (-10 \text{ dB})$  lower, or 42 dBc.

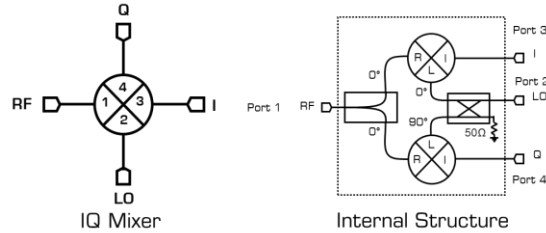








## 4. Application Information



### 4.1 Detailed Description

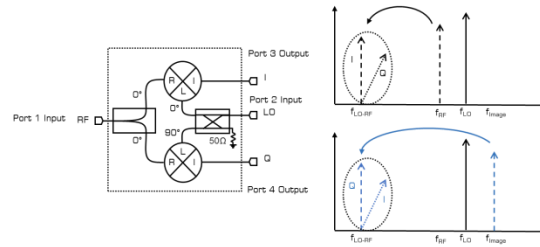
MMIQ-0218 belongs to Marki Microwave's MMIQ family of mixers. The MMIQ product line consists of passive GaAs MMIC mixers designed and fabricated with GaAs Schottky diodes. MMIQ mixers offer excellent amplitude and phase balance due to its on-chip LO quadrature hybrid. Up to 40 dB of image rejection (i.e., single sideband suppression) can be obtained by using the MMIQ-0218 as an image rejection or single sideband mixer. The MMIQ-0218H is the sister mixer of the MMIQ-0218L. The MMIQ-0218H requires a higher LO drive to operate the mixer. In exchange, the MMIQ-0218H displays higher linearity (i.e., higher IIP3, P1dB, Spurious Suppression) than the MMIQ-0218L. Marki H and L diodes correspond to different diode forward turn on voltages.

Support for the S, C, X, and Ku bands are offered by the ultra-broadband performance of the mixer's RF and LO ports. Traditional use of this mixer to do image reject or single sideband mixing is available with an external IF quadrature hybrid. The MMIQ-0218 is also suitable for use as a Vector Modulator through DC bias of the I and Q ports.

The RF port and the LO port supports a 2-18 GHz signal. The I and Q ports support a DC-3 GHz signal. A signal may be input into any port of the mixer which supports that signal's frequency. This is the basis of using the mixer as a band shifter.

For a given LO power within the recommended operating range, the RF (in the case of a down conversion) or IF (in the case of an up conversion) input power should be below the input 1 dB compression point to avoid signal distortion. The input 1 dB compression point will vary across the mixer's operating bandwidth and with LO input power. Careful characterization is required for optimal performance for each application. There is no minimum small signal input power required for operation. Excessive RF/IF input power increases non-desired spurious output power and degrades the fundamental conversion loss. Excessive LO input power can also cause this effect.

## 4.2 Down-Converter

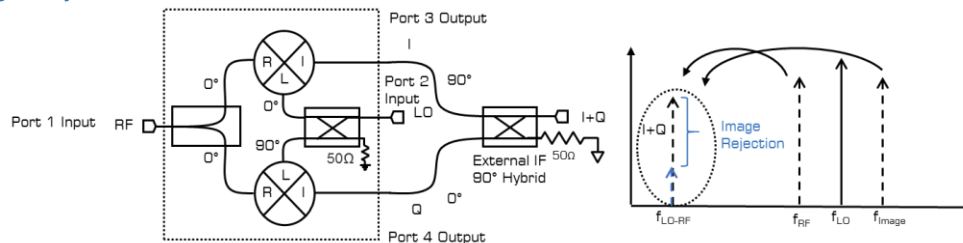


A down converter is a mixer application which takes a high frequency small signal RF input, and a high frequency large signal LO input and mixes the signals together to produce a low frequency IF output. The fundamental  $1RF \times 1LO$  outputs present at the IF port are the  $f_{LO-RF}$  and  $f_{LO+RF}$  tones. The desired output in a down conversion is typically the  $f_{LO-RF}$  term. An image frequency at  $f_{Image} = f_{2LO-RF}$  will also down convert to the  $f_{LO-RF}$  frequency. The above illustration shows the relative location of the image frequency for a highside LO, or the frequency plan for which  $f_{LO} > f_{RF}$ .

To use the IQ mixer as a down converter, input a high frequency small signal RF, a high frequency large signal LO input, and pull the low frequency IF output from the I and Q ports. I and Q IF outputs will be at the same frequency but  $90^\circ$  out of phase (i.e., I and Q are in quadrature). If only a single IF output is desired, terminate either the I or Q ports with a wideband  $50\Omega$  load.

This is the input scheme was used to take I/Q down-conversion data found in the Typical Performance Plots section.

### 4.2.1 Image Reject Down-Converter

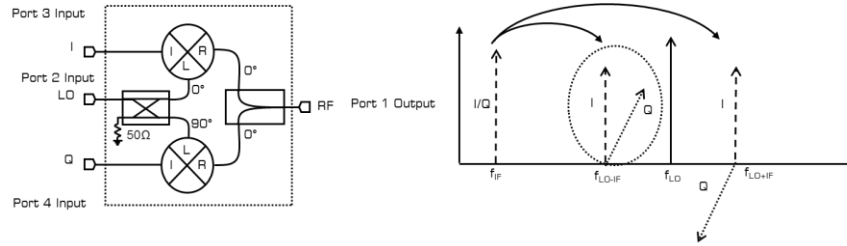


An image reject mixer is a mixer which rejects the down converted image frequency from the IF output. Image reject mixers are constructed using an external quadrature hybrid attached to the I and Q (i.e., IF) output ports. Using the external IF quadrature hybrid, one can select the whether the upper sideband or lower sideband signal is suppressed with respect to the LO signal.

To use the IQ mixer as an image reject mixer, input the high frequency small signal RF and a high frequency large signal LO input. Take the combined I+Q down converted signal through the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by connecting the I port to the  $0^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the  $90^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by attaching the I port to the  $90^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the  $0^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid.

This is the input scheme was used to take image rejection down-conversion data found in the Typical Performance Plots section.

### 4.3 Up-Converter

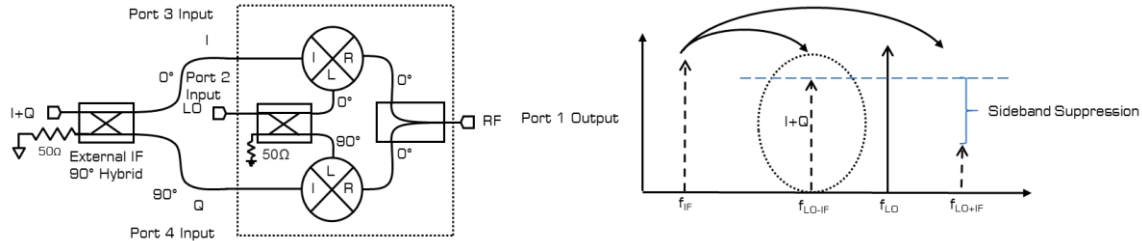


An up converter is a mixer application which takes a low frequency small signal IF input, and a high frequency large signal LO input and mixes the signal together to produce a high frequency RF output. The fundamental  $1f_{IF} \times 1f_{LO}$  outputs present at the RF port are the  $f_{LO-IF}$  and  $f_{LO+IF}$  tones. An up conversion can select either the  $f_{LO-IF}$  or the  $f_{LO+IF}$  tones. The above illustration shows both up converted sidebands with either an I or Q port input signal.

To use the IQ mixer as an up converter, input a low frequency small signal IF input into the I or Q port, a high frequency large signal LO input into the LO port, and pull the high frequency RF output from the RF port. Input into the Q port will result in a up converted signal that is  $90^\circ$  out of phase with the up converted I port input signal. If only a single IF input is desired, terminate either the I or Q ports with a wideband  $50\Omega$  load.

This is the input scheme used to take I/Q up-conversion data found in section 3.6 Typical Performance.

#### 4.3.1 Single Sideband Up-Converter

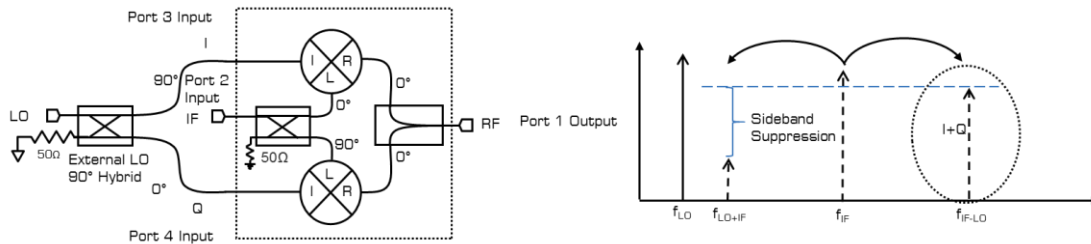


A single sideband mixer is a mixer which suppress the up converted image frequency from the RF output. Single sideband mixers are constructed using an external quadrature hybrid attached to the I and Q (i.e., IF) input ports. Using an external IF quadrature hybrid, one can select whether the upper sideband of the lower sideband signal is suppressed with respect to the LO signal.

To use the IQ mixer as a single sideband mixer, input the low frequency small signal I+Q IF signal into the IF quadrature hybrid. The IF quadrature hybrid is attached to the I and Q ports of the IQ mixer. Input the high frequency large signal LO input into the LO port and take the up converted high frequency RF signal from the RF port. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by attaching the I port to the  $90^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the  $0^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by attaching the I port to the  $0^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the  $90^\circ$  port of the IF quadrature hybrid.

This is the input scheme used to take single sideband up-conversion data found in section 3.6 Typical Performance.

## 4.4 Band Shifter



A band shifter is an unusual application for a mixer. Band shifters take an IF signal and shift it to a different band, generally to either avoid interference or for rebroadcast at a different frequency. For cases in which the desired band shift cannot be employed by using a standard up or down conversion scheme, an exotic input scheme is required.

A passive diode mixer is reciprocal on all ports. The LO and RF ports support a 2-18 GHz signal. The I and Q ports support a DC-3 GHz signal. 2 signals input into any combination of the 3 ports, RF, LO, or IF, will result in an output signal at the 3<sup>rd</sup> port. In addition, an output signal will be present at both input ports. By using the IF port, as a large signal input port, low frequency LO applications can be supported.

The diagram above shows an IQ mixer being used as a band shifter. Using an IQ mixer as a band shifter allows for sideband suppression. This is identical to using the IQ mixer as a single sideband up converter. However, the large signal input port is now into the I and Q ports instead of the LO port. Selection of the output tone is done through the orientation of the LO quadrature hybrid.

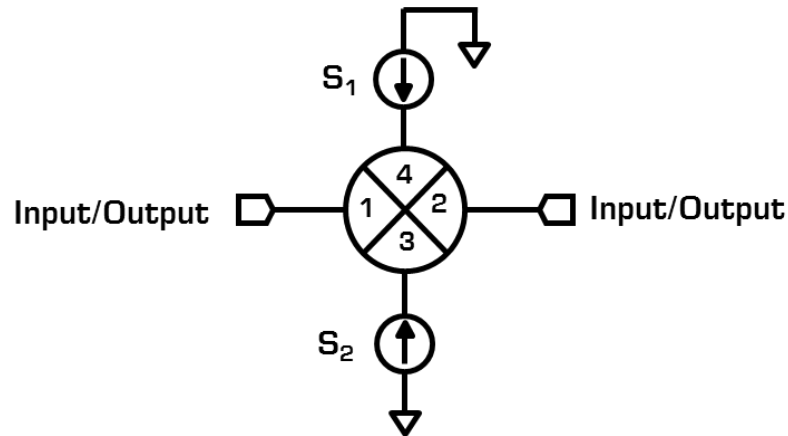
To use the mixer as a single sideband band shifter, input a low frequency large signal LO into the external LO quadrature hybrid. Input the high frequency small signal IF signal into the LO port and take the high frequency RF output from the RF port. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by connecting the I port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and connect the Q port to the 0° port of the LO quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by connecting the I port to the 0° port of the LO quadrature hybrid and connect the Q port to the 90° port of the LO quadrature hybrid.

This is the input scheme used to take band shifter data found in the Typical Performance Plots: Band Shifter section.

Using this input scheme requires careful accounting of which input signal is injected which port. Injecting a signal into any port which does not support the correct band will lead to a degraded or no output response. Abide by the maximum DC current input into the I and Q ports of the mixer or otherwise irreversible damage to the mixer will occur.

The limiting factor in use of the mixer as an image reject band shifter is in the bandwidth of the external LO quadrature hybrid and bandwidth of the I and Q ports.

## 4.5 Vector Modulator



A vector modulator is a device that can modulate an input signal's amplitude and phase. Similar to using a double balanced mixer as a phase modulator or phase shifter, an IQ mixer can be used as a vector modulator. An IQ mixer can be used as a vector modulator by inputting DC current into both the I and Q ports.

Injecting DC current into both the I and Q ports forward biases both mixer cores and causes them to be shorted. This connects the RF and LO baluns allowing the input signal to pass from balun to balun without a frequency conversion. Modulating the DC current into either or both I and Q mixers causes both the phase and amplitude to modulate based on the polarity of the input current and the magnitude of the input current. Modulating only the I or Q mixers causes the device to behave as a biphaser modulator (i.e., the device can only swing the phase from  $+90^\circ$  to  $-90^\circ$ ).

To use the IQ mixer as a vector modulator, supply a DC current sufficient to turn on the mixer through both the I and Q ports. An example bias condition is given in section **Error! Reference source not found.** for the MMIQ-0218L with the phase set to  $0^\circ$ ,  $90^\circ$ ,  $180^\circ$ , and  $270^\circ$  for a 10GHz input. Current limiting the DC source to the maximum DC current value found in section 3.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings is recommended to prevent irreversible damage to the vector modulator. The typical DC current required to turn on the vector modulator is  $<30\text{mA}$ .

This is the measurement scheme used to take vector modulator data found in the Typical Performance Plots: Vector Modulator section.

It is recommended to sequence the vector modulator by slowly increasing the DC bias until the vector modulator is operating at the user desired condition.

Near the band edges of the vector modulator, more current than is typical for mid-band operation may be necessary to achieve the same amplitude and phase shift. This is due to the on chip LO quadrature hybrid operating near its band edge.

## 5. Die Mounting Recommendations

### 5.1 Mounting and Bonding Recommendations

Marki MMICs should be attached directly to a ground plane with conductive epoxy. The ground plane electrical impedance should be as low as practically possible. This will prevent resonances and permit the best possible electrical performance. Datasheet performance is only guaranteed in an environment with a low electrical impedance ground.

#### Mounting

To epoxy the chip, apply a minimum amount of conductive epoxy to the mounting surface so that a thin epoxy fillet is observed around the perimeter of the chip. Cure epoxy according to manufacturer instructions.

#### Wire Bonding

Ball or wedge bond with 0.025 mm (1 mil) diameter pure gold wire. Thermosonic wirebonding with a nominal stage temperature of 150 °C and a ball bonding force of 40 to 50 grams or wedge bonding force of 18 to 22 grams is recommended. Use the minimum level of ultrasonic energy to achieve reliable wirebonds. Wirebonds should be started on the chip and terminated on the package or substrate. All bonds should be as short as possible <0.31 mm (12 mils).

#### Circuit Considerations

50 Ω transmission lines should be used for all high frequency connections in and out of the chip. Wirebonds should be kept as short as possible, with multiple wirebonds recommended for higher frequency connections to reduce parasitic inductance. In circumstances where the chip is more than .001" thinner than the substrate, a heat spreading spacer tab is optional to further reduce bondwire length and parasitic inductance.

### 5.2 Handling Precautions

#### General Handling

Chips should be handled with care using tweezers or a vacuum collet. Users should take precautions to protect chips from direct human contact that can deposit contaminants, like perspiration and skin oils on any of the chip's surfaces.

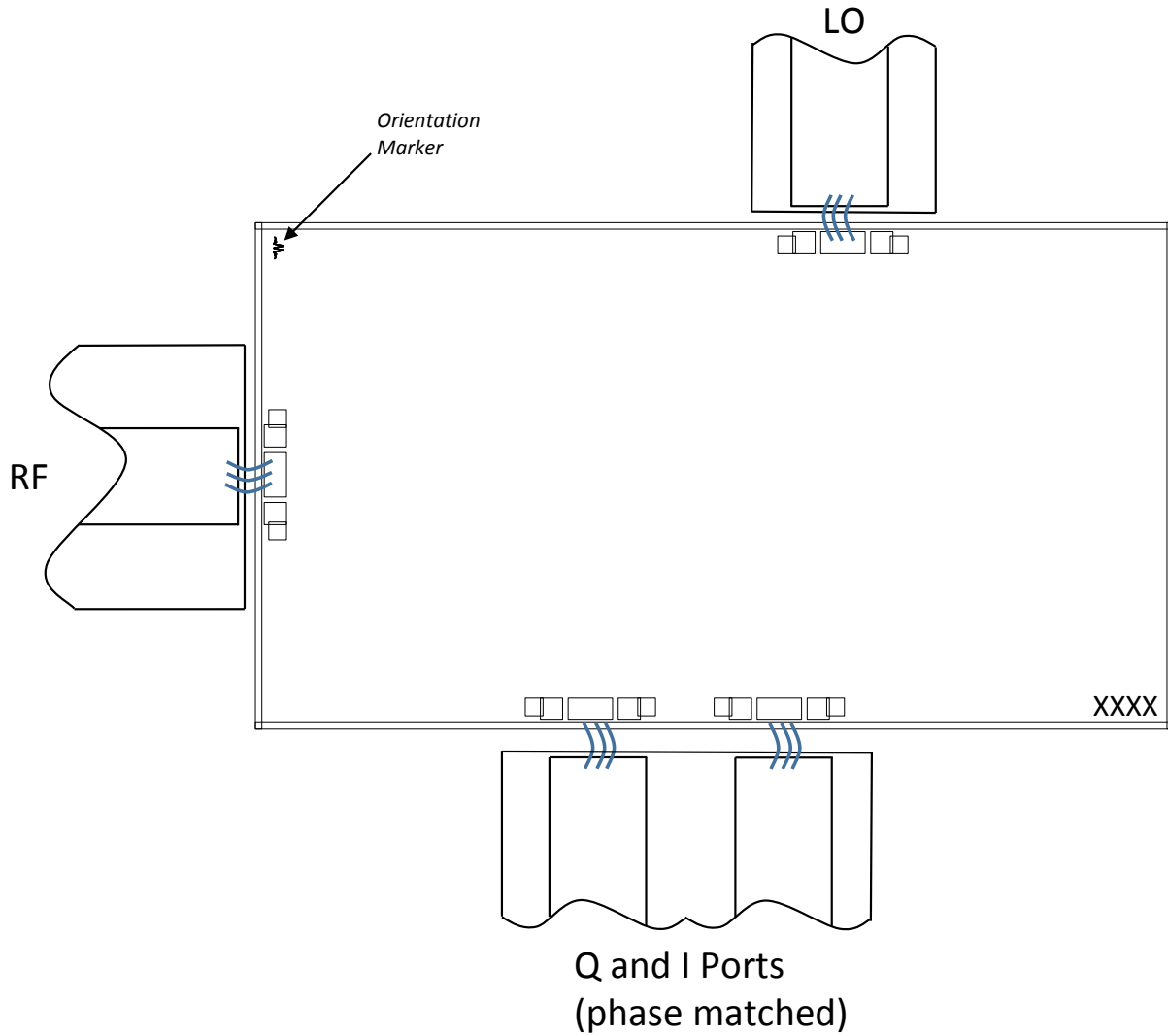
#### Static Sensitivity

GaAs MMIC devices are sensitive to ESD and should be handled, assembled, tested, and transported only in static protected environments.

#### Cleaning and Storage

Do not attempt to clean the chip with a liquid cleaning system or expose the bare chips to liquid. Once the ESD sensitive bags the chips are stored in are opened, chips should be stored in a dry nitrogen atmosphere.

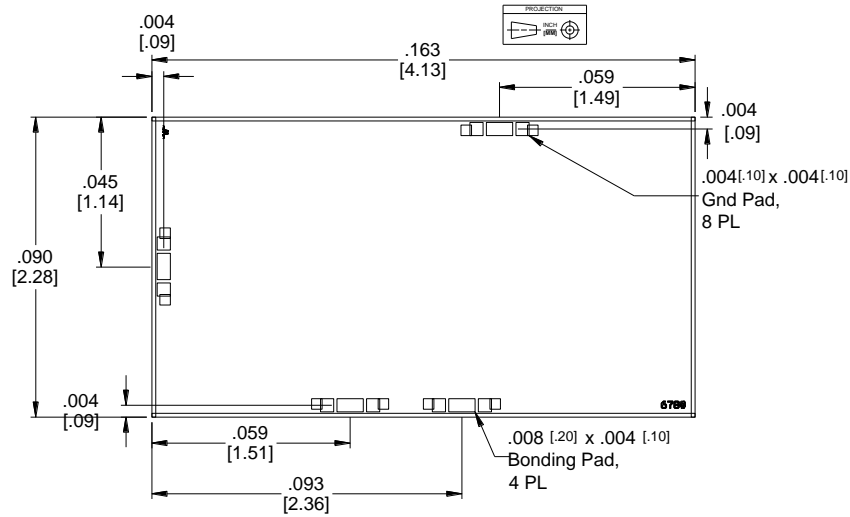
### 5.3 Bonding Diagram





## 6. Mechanical Data

### 6.1 CH-2 Package Outline Drawing

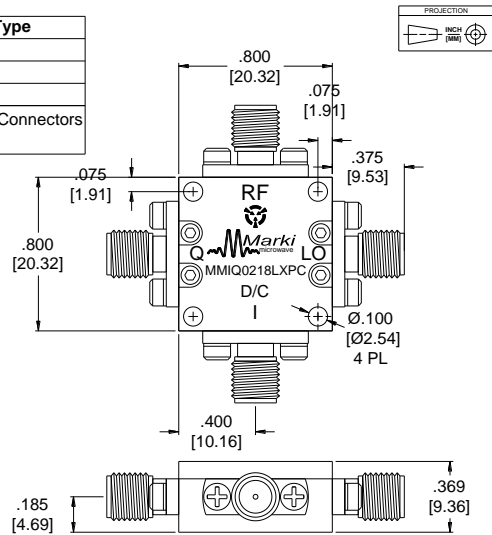


1. CH Substrate material is 0.004 in thick GaAs.
2. I/O trace finish is 4.2 microns Au. Ground plane finish is 5 microns Au.
3. XXXX denotes circuit number

### 6.2 XPC Package Outline Drawing

Port	Connector Type
LO	SMA Female
RF	SMA Female
I/Q	SMA Female

Note: XPC-Package Connectors are not removable.



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