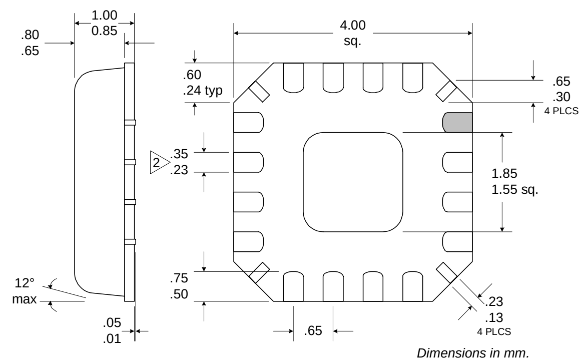
Typical Applications

- Part of 2.4GHz IEEE802.11b WLANs
- Digital Communication Systems
- Spread-Spectrum Communication Systems
- WLAN or Wireless Local Loop
- Portable Battery-Powered Equipment
- UHF Digital and Analog Receivers

Product Description

The RF2494 is a monolithic integrated UHF receiver front end suitable for 2.4GHz ISM band applications. The IC contains all of the required components to implement the RF functions of the receiver except for the passive filtering and LO generation. It contains an LNA (low-noise amplifier), a second RF amplifier and a doubly balanced mixer. The output of the LNA is made available as an output to permit the insertion of a bandpass filter between the LNA and the RF/Mixer section. The mixer outputs can be selectively disabled to allow for the IF filter to be used in the transmit mode.



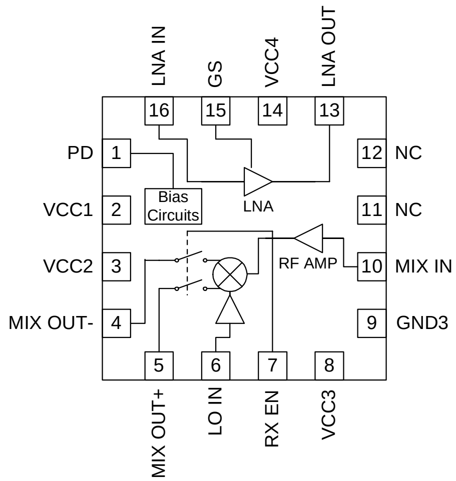
NOTES:

1. Shaded Pin is Lead 1.
2. Dimension applies to plated terminal and is measured between 0.02 mm and 0.25 mm from terminal end.
3. Pin 1 identifier must exist on top surface of package by identification mark or feature on the package body. Exact shape and size is optional.
4. Package Warpage: 0.05 max.
5. Die thickness allowable: 0.305 mm max.

Package Style: LCC, 16-Pin, 4x4

Optimum Technology Matching® Applied

- ☐ Si BJT
- ☐ GaAs HBT
- ☐ GaAs MESFET
- ☑ Si Bi-CMOS
- ☐ SiGe HBT
- ☐ Si CMOS



Functional Block Diagram

Features

- Single 2.7V to 3.6V Power Supply
- 2400MHz to 2500MHz Operation
- Two Gain Settings: 28dB or 12dB
- 4.5dB Cascaded NF, High Gain Mode
- 20mA DC Current Consumption
- Input IP_3: -23dBm or -8dBm

Ordering Information

RF2494	High Frequency LNA/Mixer
RF2494 PCBA-H	Fully Assembled Evaluation Board (2.5GHz)

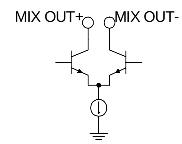
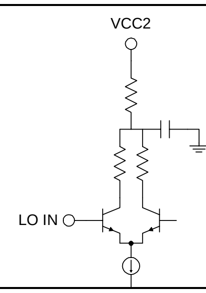
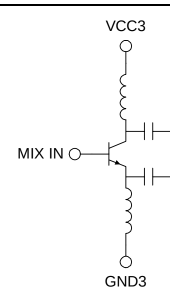
RF Micro Devices, Inc.
7628 Thorndike Road
Greensboro, NC 27409, USA
Tel (336) 664 1233
Fax (336) 664 0454
http://www.rfmd.com

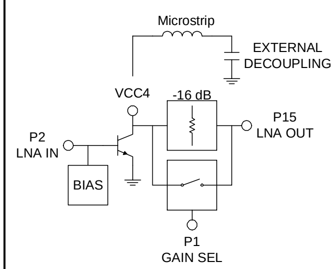
Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Rating	Unit
Supply Voltage	-0.5 to 3.6	V_{DC}
Input LO and RF Levels	+6	dBm
Operating Ambient Temperature	-40 to +85	°C
Storage Temperature	-40 to +150	°C

Caution! ESD sensitive device.

Parameter	Specification			Unit	Condition
	Min.	Typ.	Max.		
Overall					T=25°C, V_{CC}=3V, RF=2442MHz, LO=2068MHz, -10dBm
RF Frequency Range		2400 to 2500		MHz	
IF Frequency Range	10	374	500	MHz	
Cascade Gain	26	28	31	dB	IF=374MHz, GAIN SEL=1
	13	15	17	dB	IF=374MHz, GAIN SEL=0
Cascade IP3	-29	-22	-19	dBm	Referenced to the input, GAIN SEL = 1
		-8		dBm	Referenced to the input, GAIN SEL = 0
Cascade Noise Figure		4.5		dB	Single sideband, GAIN SEL = 1
		18		dB	Single sideband, GAIN SEL = 0
Input P1dB		-28		dBm	GAIN SEL = 1
		-14		dBm	GAIN SEL = 0
LNA					
Noise Figure		2.3		dB	GAIN SEL = 1
		7		dB	GAIN SEL = 0
Input VSWR			2:1		No external matching
Input IP3		-3		dBm	GAIN SEL = 1
		-3		dBm	GAIN SEL = 0
Gain		10		dB	GAIN SEL = 1
		-6		dB	GAIN SEL = 0
Reverse Isolation		22		dB	
Output Impedance		50		Ω	
RF Amp and Mixer					
Noise Figure		10		dB	Single sideband
Input Impedance		50		Ω	
Input IP3		-17		dBm	
Conversion Power Gain		18		dB	With Current Combiner (1kΩ between open collectors and 250Ω single ended load)
Output Impedance		4		kΩ	Open Collector
LO Input					
LO Level	-15	-10	0	dBm	
LO to RF Rejection		42		dB	LO input to LNA input
LO to IF Rejection		15		dB	LO input to IF output
LO Input VSWR			2:1		
Power Down Control					
Logic Controls “ON”	V_{CC}-0.3			V	Voltage at the input of RX EN, PD
Logic Controls “OFF”			300	mV	and GAIN SEL
Turn on Time		400	1000	nS	From PD Going high.
Turn on Time		100	200	nS	From RX EN Going high. PD = “1”
Power Supply					
Voltage	2.7	3.3	3.6	V	
Current Consumption	15	17	26	mA	GAIN SEL=1, RX EN=1, PD=1
		17	26	mA	GAIN SEL=0, RX EN=1, PD=1
	8	10	16	mA	GAIN SEL=X, RX EN=0, PD=1
		0.2	1	μA	GAIN SEL=X, RX EN=X, PD=0

Pin	Function	Description	Interface Schematic
1	PD	The power enable pin. When PD is >V_{CC}-300mV, the part is biased on. When PD is <300mV, then the part is turned off and typically draws less than 1µA.	
2	VCC1	Supply voltage for bias circuits and logic control. A 10pF external bypass capacitor is required and an additional 0.01µF is required if no other low frequency bypass capacitors are nearby. The trace length between the pin and the bypass capacitors should be minimized. The ground side of the bypass capacitors should connect immediately to ground plane.	
3	VCC2	Supply voltage for LO_Buffer. A 10pF bypass capacitor is required and an additional 0.01µF is required if there is no other low frequency bypass capacitor in the area. The trace length between the pin and the bypass capacitors should be minimized. The ground side of the bypass capacitors should connect immediately to ground plane.	See pin 6.
4	MIXOUT-	The inverting open collector output of the mixer. This pin needs to be externally biased and DC isolated from other parts of the circuit. This output can drive a Balun, with MIXOUT+, to convert to unbalanced to drive a SAW filter. The Balun can be either broadband (transformer) or narrowband (discrete LC matching). Alternatively, MIXOUT+ may be used alone to drive a SAW single-ended, with an RF choke (high Z at IF) from VCC to MIXOUT-.	
5	MIXOUT+	The non-inverting open collector output of the mixer. This pin needs to be externally biased and DC isolated from other parts of the circuit. This output can drive a Balun, with MIXOUT+, to convert to unbalanced to drive a SAW filter. The Balun can be either broadband (transformer) or narrowband (discrete LC matching). Alternatively, MIXOUT+ may be used alone to drive a SAW single-ended, with an RF choke (high Z at IF) from VCC to MIXOUT+.	See pin 4.
6	LO IN	LO input pin. This input needs a DC-blocking cap. External matching is recommended to 50Ω.	
7	RX EN	This control pin allows the mixer output pins to be put into a high impedance state. This allows the transmit signal path to share the same IF filter as the receiver.	
8	VCC3	Supply voltage for mixer preamp.	See pin 10.
9	GND3	Ground pin for mixer preamp. This lead inductance is intended to be similar to VCC3 lead inductance.	See pin 10.
10	MIX IN	Mixer RF Input port. This pin is NOT internally DC-blocked. An external blocking capacitor must be provided if the pin is connected to a device with DC present. A value of >22pF is recommended. To minimize the noise figure it is recommended to have a bandpass filter before this input. This will prevent the noise at the image frequency from being converted to the IF.	
11	NC	Not connected.	
12	NC	Not connected.	

Pin	Function	Description	Interface Schematic
13	**LNA OUT**	RF signal output for external 50Ω filtering.The use of a filter here is optional but does provide for lower noise floor and better out-of-band rejection.	See pin 14.
14	**VCC4**	Supply voltage for the LNA. This pin should be bypassed with a 10 pF capacitor to ground as close to the pin as possible. The shunt inductance from this pin to ground via the supply decoupling must be tuned to match the LNA output to 50Ω at the desired operating frequency.	
15	**GS**	LNA gain control. When GAIN SEL is >V_{CC}-300mV, LNA gain is at 10 dB. When GAIN SEL is <300mV, the LNA gain is -6dB.	See pin 14.
16	**LNA IN**	This pin is NOT internally DC blocked. An external blocking capacitor must be provided if the pin is connected to a device with DC present. If a blocking capacitor is required, a value of 2pF is recommended.	See pin 14.

Theory of Operation

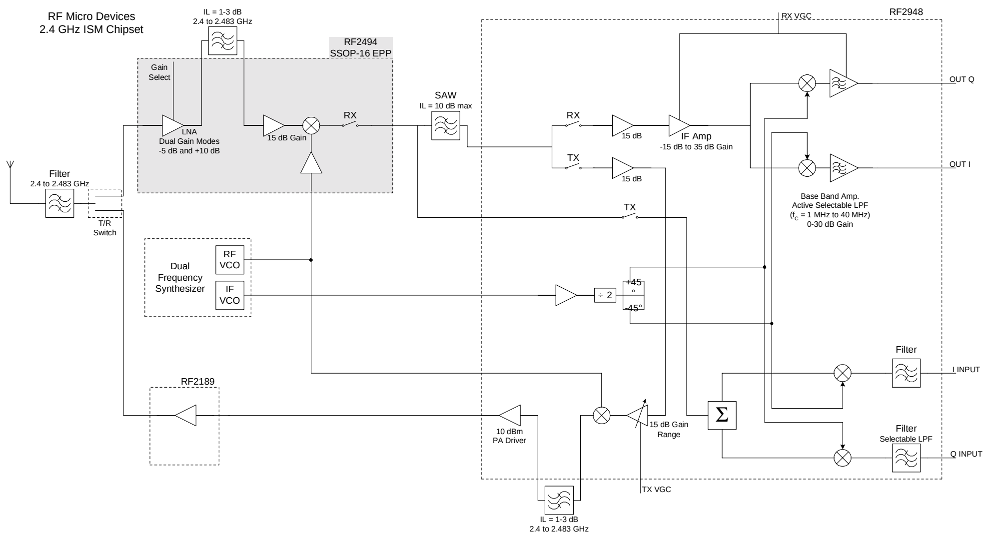


Figure 1. Entire Chipset Functional Block Diagram

The RF2494 contains the LNA/Mixer for this chipset. The LNA is made from two stages including a common emitter amplifier stage with a power gain of 13dB and an attenuator which has an insertion loss of 3dB in high gain mode, and 17dB in low gain mode. The attenuator was put after the LNA so that system noise figure degradation would be minimized. A single gain stage was used prior to the image filter to maximize IP3 which minimizes the risk of large out-of-bad signals jamming the desired signal.

The mixer on the RF2494 is also two stages. The first stage is a common emitter amp used to boost the total power gain prior to the lossy SAW filter, to convert to a differential signal to the input of the mixer, and to improve the noise figure of the mixer. The second stage is a double balanced mixer whose output is differential open collector. It is recommended that a “current combiner” is used (as shown in figure 2) at the mixer output to maximize conversion gain, but other loads can also be used. The current combiner is used to do a differential to single ended conversion for the SAW filter. C1, C2 and L1 are used to tune the circuit for a specific IF frequency. L2 is a choke to supply DC current to the mixer that is also used as a tuning element, along with C3, to match to the SAW filter’s input impedance. RL is the SAW filter’s input impedance.

The mixer power conversion gain is +19dB when R1 is set to 1kΩ. The conversion gain can be adjusted up ~5dB or down ~7dB by changing the value of R1. Once R1 is chosen, L2 and C3 can be used to tune the output for the SAW filter.

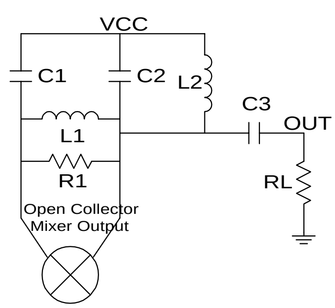


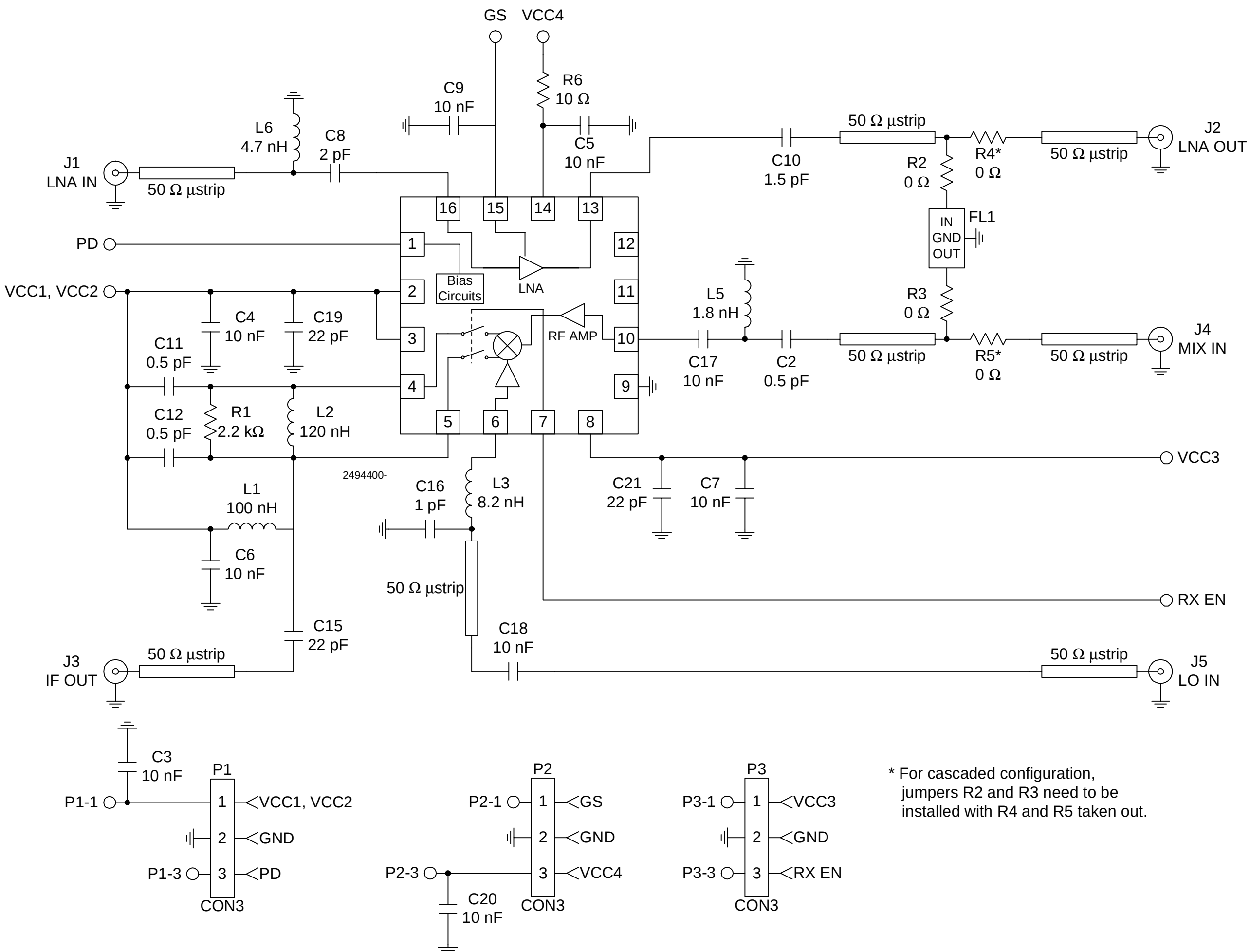
Figure 2. Current Combiner for Mixer Load

The cascaded power gain of the LNA/Mixer is 29dB, which after insertion loss in the image filter (~3dB) and IF SAW filter (~10dB), still gives 16dB of gain prior to the IF amps. Because of this, the noise figure of the IF amps should not significantly degrade system noise figure.

The LNA input should be matched for a good return loss for optimum gain and noise figure. To allow the designer to match each of these ports, 2-port s-parameter data is available for the LNA, and 1-port data is available for MIXER IN and LO IN.

Evaluation Board Schematic

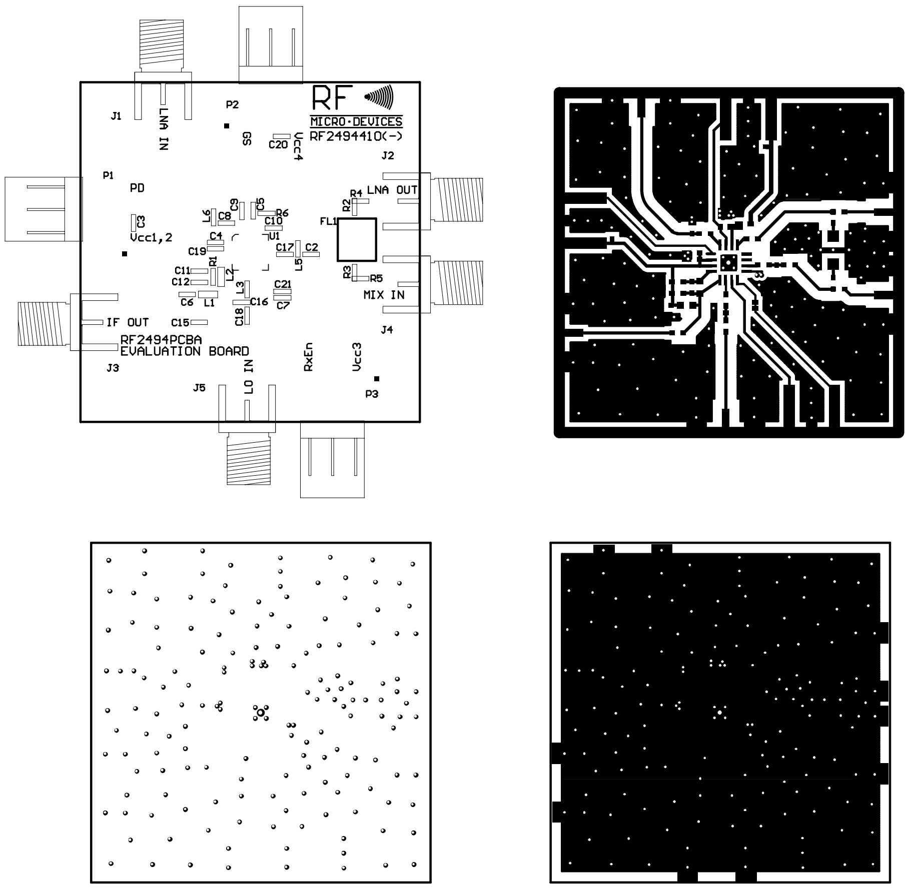
(Download Bill of Materials from www.rfmd.com.)



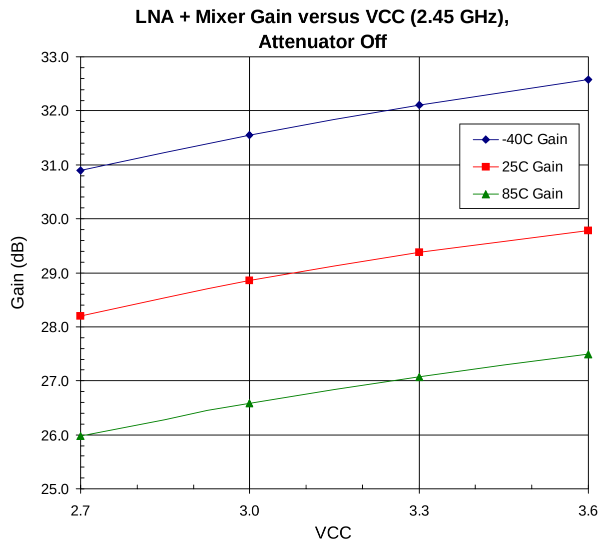
8 FRONT-ENDS

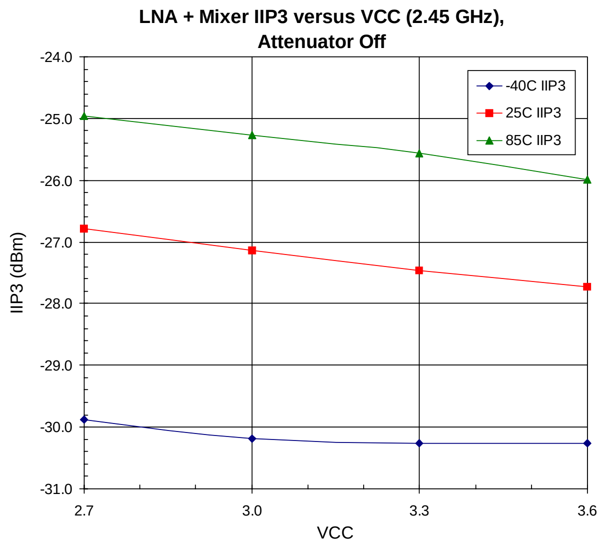
Evaluation Board Layout
Board Size 1.5” x 1.5”

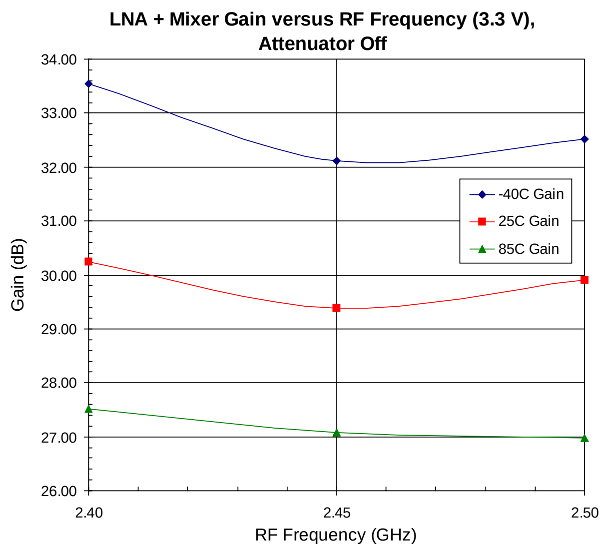
Board Thickness 0.031”, Board Material FR-4, Multi-Layer

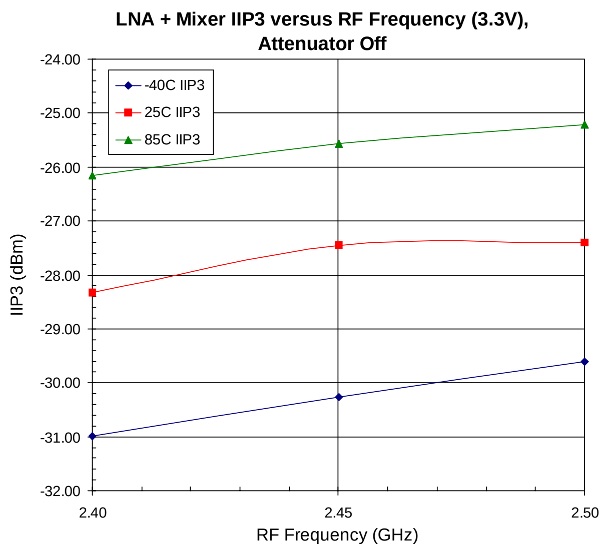


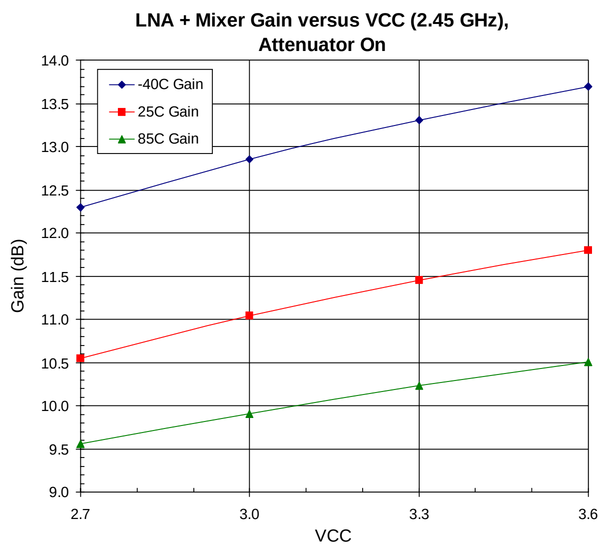
NOTE: In the following charts, all cascaded data measured with a bandpass filter inserted between LNA OUT and MIX IN, having cut frequencies: f_L=TBD, f_M=TBD, and insertion loss=TBD.

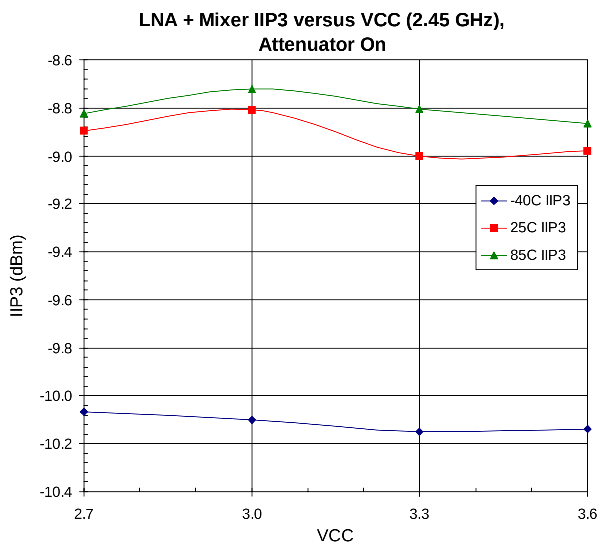

LNA + Mixer Gain versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator Off
Gain (dB)
VCC
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain


LNA + Mixer IIP3 versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator Off
IIP3 (dBm)
VCC
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3

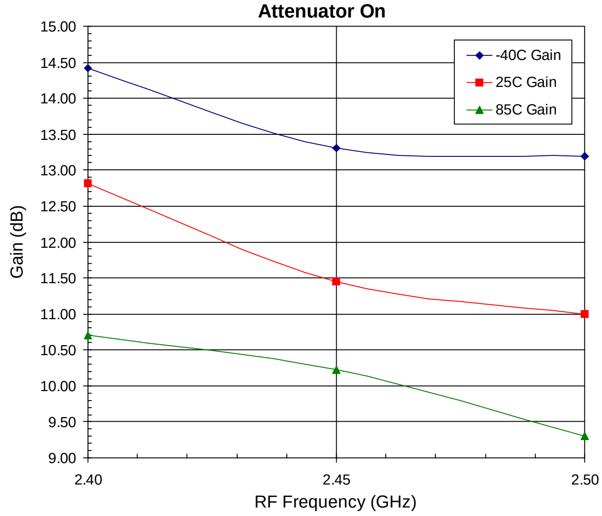

LNA + Mixer Gain versus RF Frequency (3.3 V),
Attenuator Off
Gain (dB)
RF Frequency (GHz)
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain


LNA + Mixer IIP3 versus RF Frequency (3.3V),
Attenuator Off
IIP3 (dBm)
RF Frequency (GHz)
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3

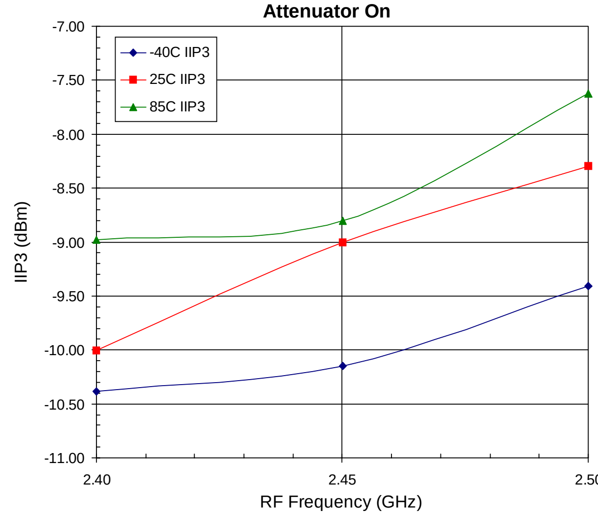

LNA + Mixer Gain versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator On
Gain (dB)
VCC
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain


LNA + Mixer IIP3 versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator On
IIP3 (dBm)
VCC
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3

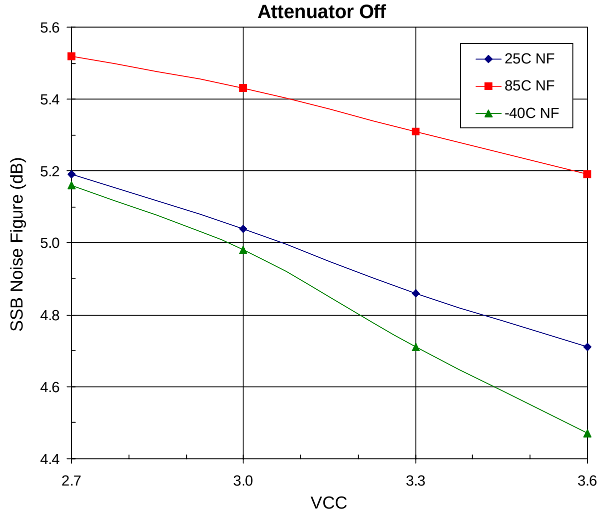
LNA + Mixer Gain versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



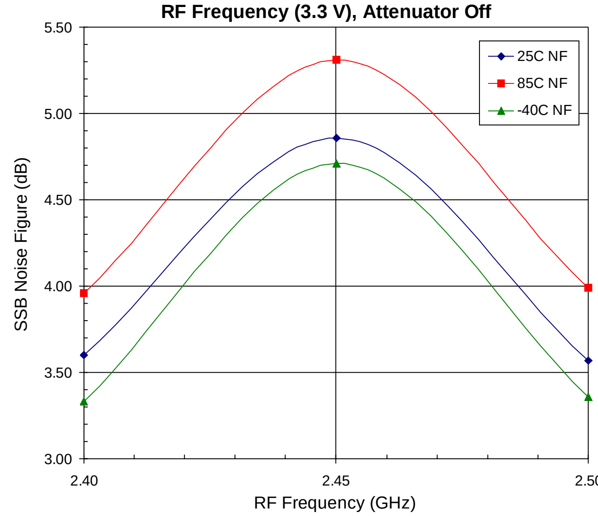
LNA + Mixer IIP3 versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



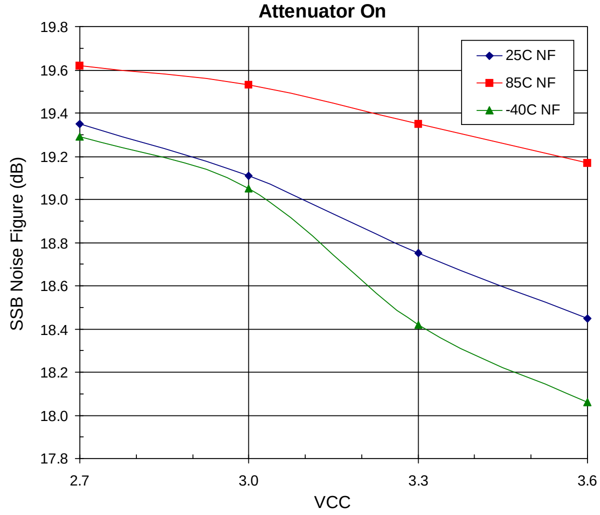
LNA + Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus VCC (2.45 GHz), Attenuator Off



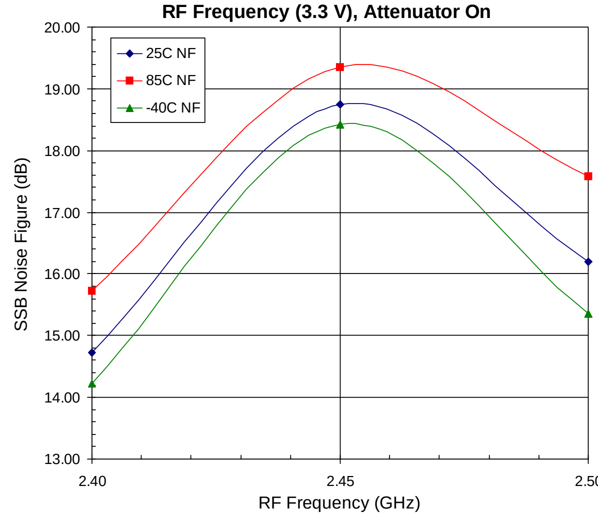
LNA + Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator Off



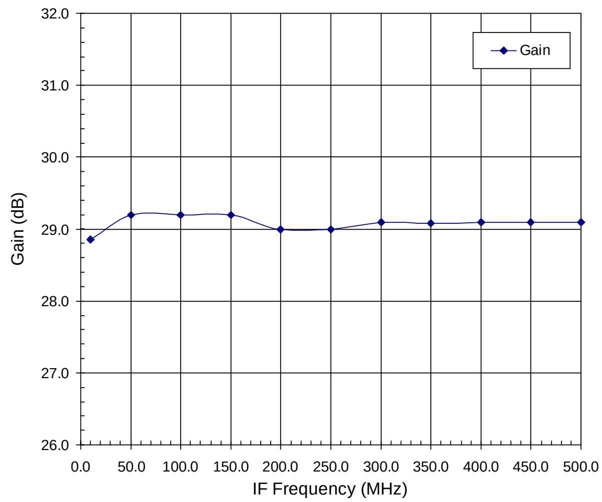
LNA + Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus VCC (2.45 GHz), Attenuator On



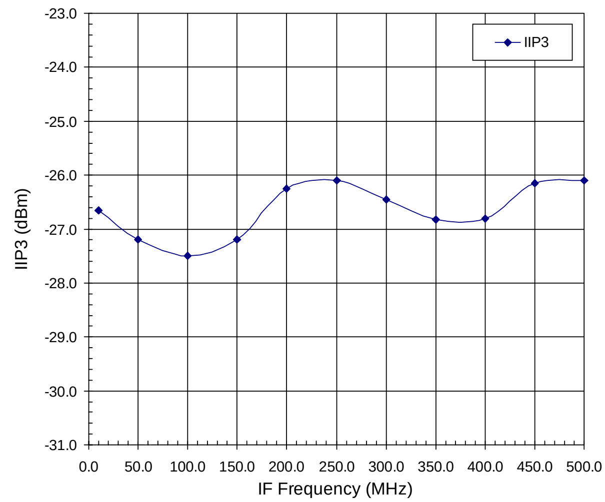
LNA + Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



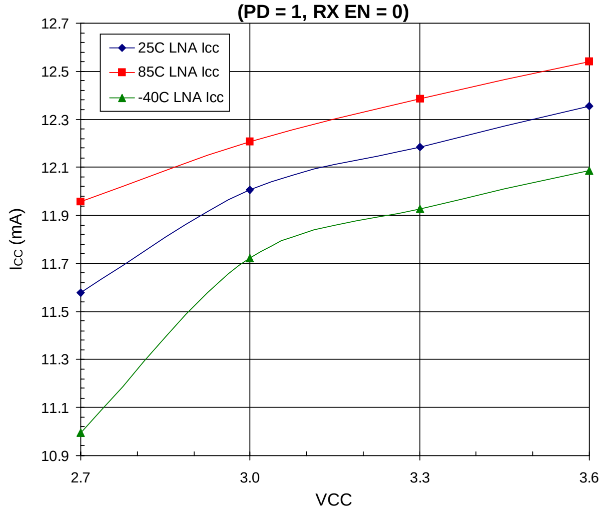
LNA + Mixer Gain versus IF Frequency (3.3 V)



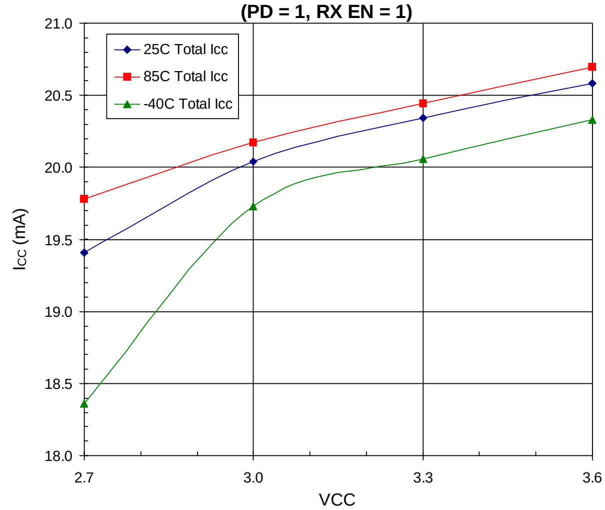
LNA + Mixer IIP3 versus IF Frequency (3.3 V)



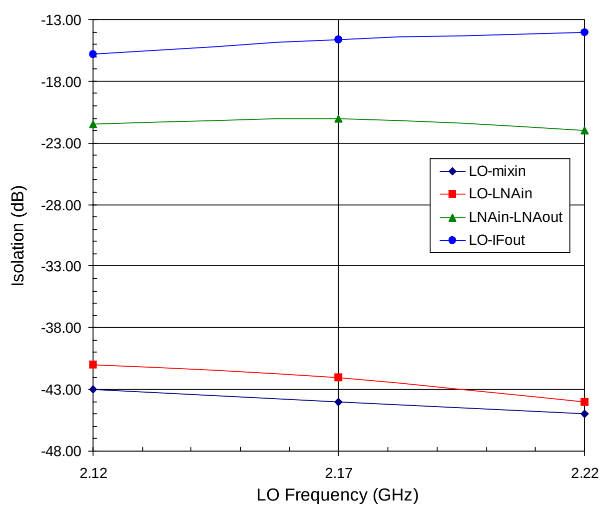
LNA I_{CC} versus VCC
(PD = 1, RX EN = 0)

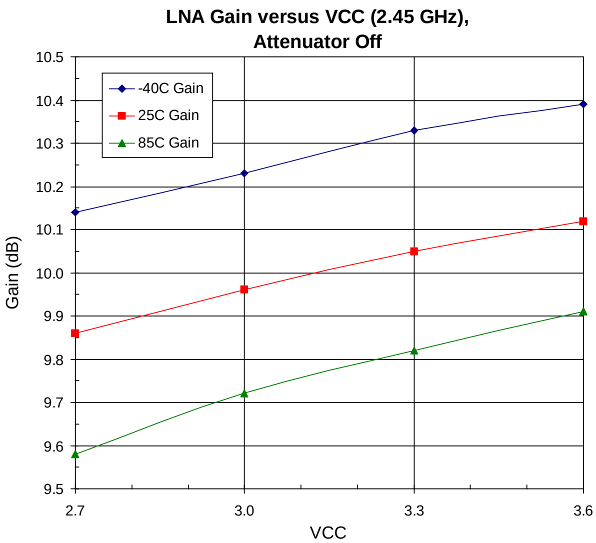


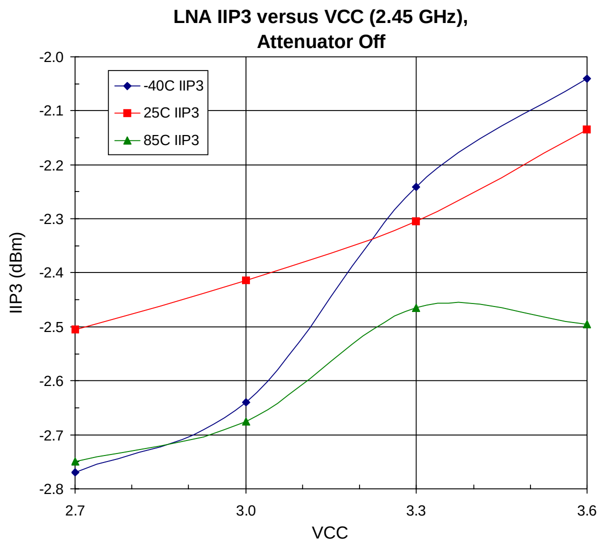
Total I_{CC} versus VCC
(PD = 1, RX EN = 1)

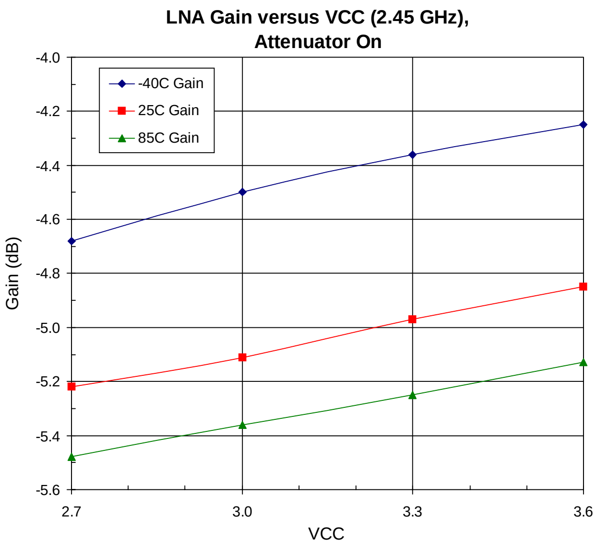


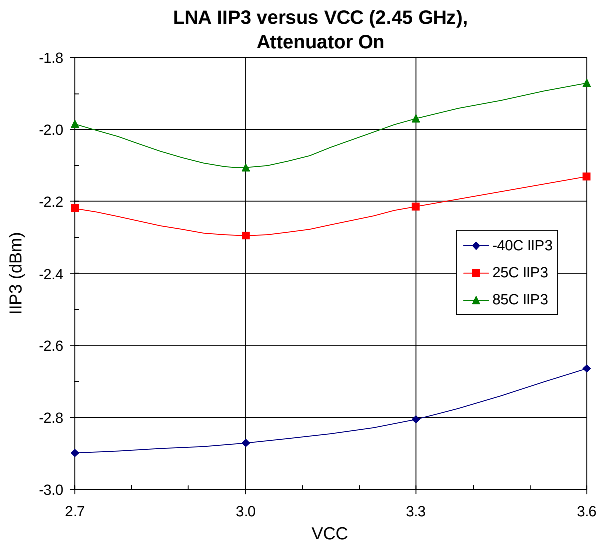
Isolation

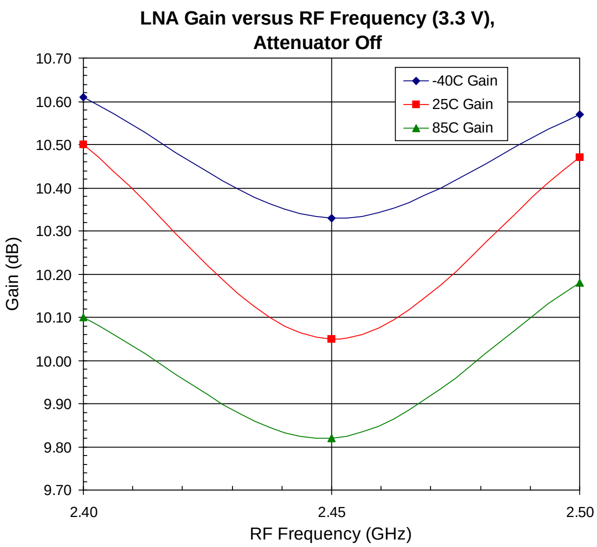


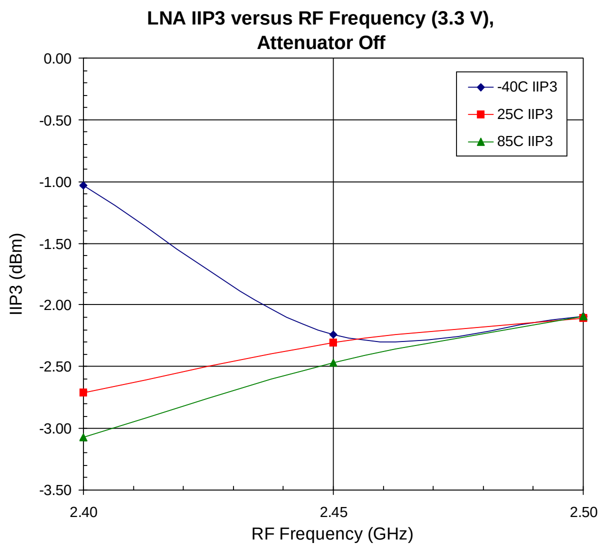

LNA Gain versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator Off
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain
Gain (dB)
VCC
10.5
10.4
10.3
10.2
10.1
10.0
9.9
9.8
9.7
9.6
9.5
2.7
3.0
3.3
3.6


LNA IIP3 versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator Off
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3
IIP3 (dBm)
VCC
-2.0
-2.1
-2.2
-2.3
-2.4
-2.5
-2.6
-2.7
-2.8
2.7
3.0
3.3
3.6

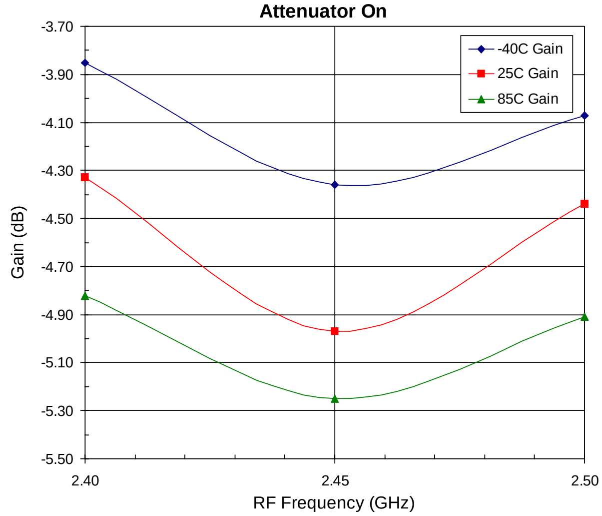

LNA Gain versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator On
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain
Gain (dB)
VCC
-4.0
-4.2
-4.4
-4.6
-4.8
-5.0
-5.2
-5.4
-5.6
2.7
3.0
3.3
3.6


LNA IIP3 versus VCC (2.45 GHz),
Attenuator On
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3
IIP3 (dBm)
VCC
-1.8
-2.0
-2.2
-2.4
-2.6
-2.8
-3.0
2.7
3.0
3.3
3.6

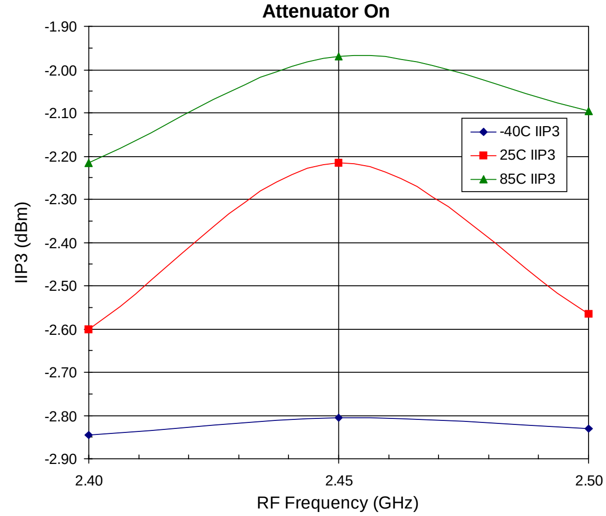

LNA Gain versus RF Frequency (3.3 V),
Attenuator Off
-40C Gain
25C Gain
85C Gain
Gain (dB)
RF Frequency (GHz)
10.70
10.60
10.50
10.40
10.30
10.20
10.10
10.00
9.90
9.80
9.70
2.40
2.45
2.50


LNA IIP3 versus RF Frequency (3.3 V),
Attenuator Off
-40C IIP3
25C IIP3
85C IIP3
IIP3 (dBm)
RF Frequency (GHz)
0.00
-0.50
-1.00
-1.50
-2.00
-2.50
-3.00
-3.50
2.40
2.45
2.50

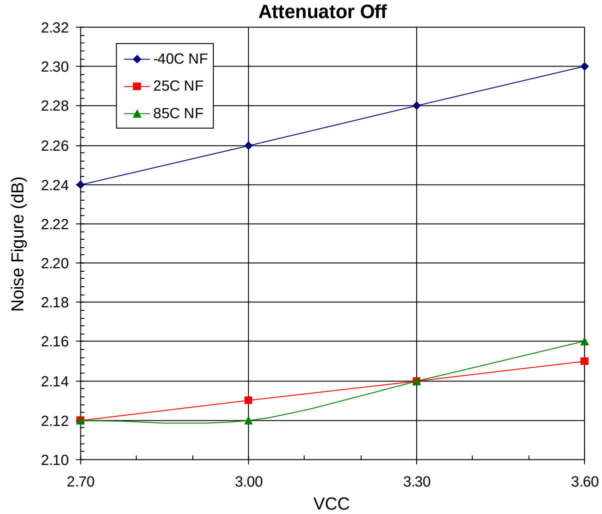
LNA Gain versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



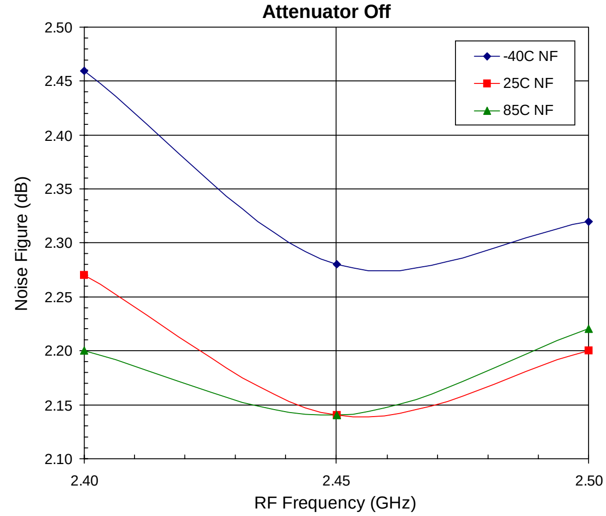
LNA IIP3 versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



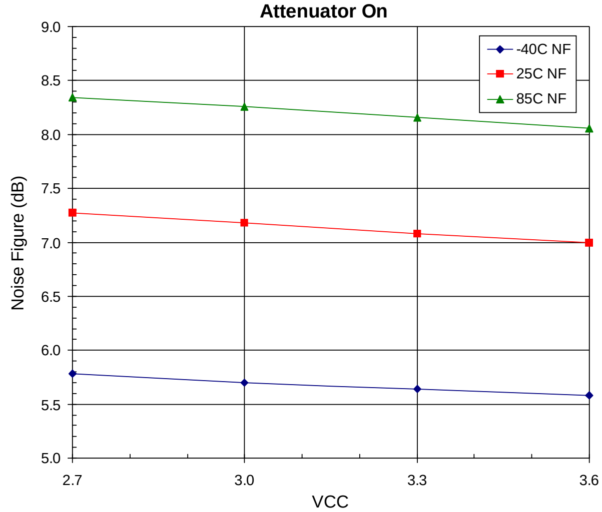
LNA Noise Figure versus VCC (2.45 GHz), Attenuator Off



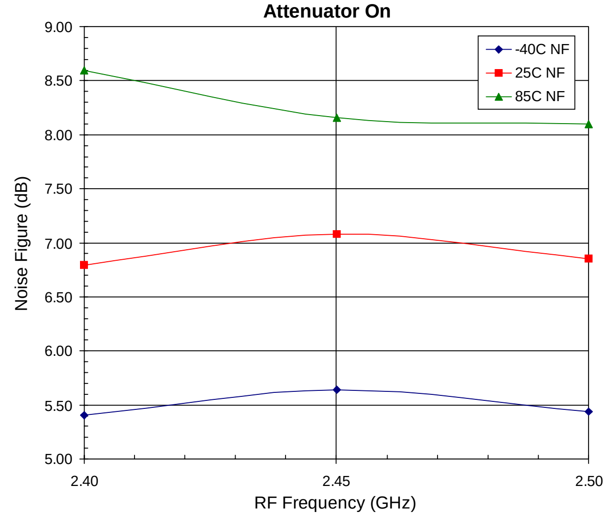
LNA Noise Figure versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator Off



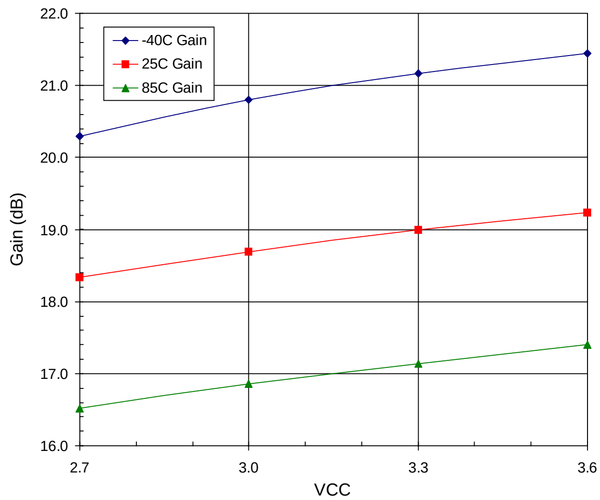
LNA Noise Figure versus VCC (2.45 GHz), Attenuator On



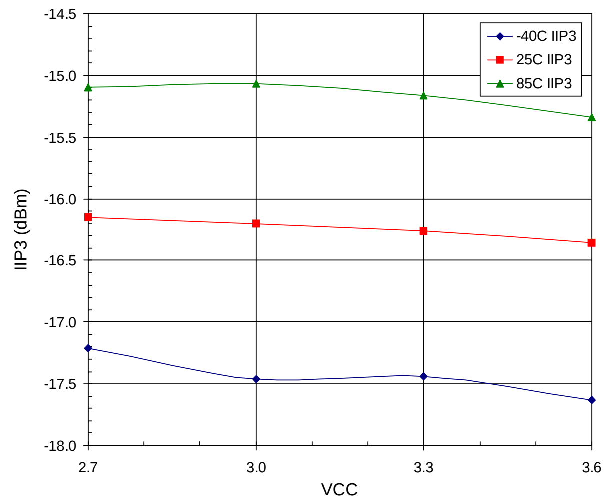
LNA Noise Figure versus RF Frequency (3.3 V), Attenuator On



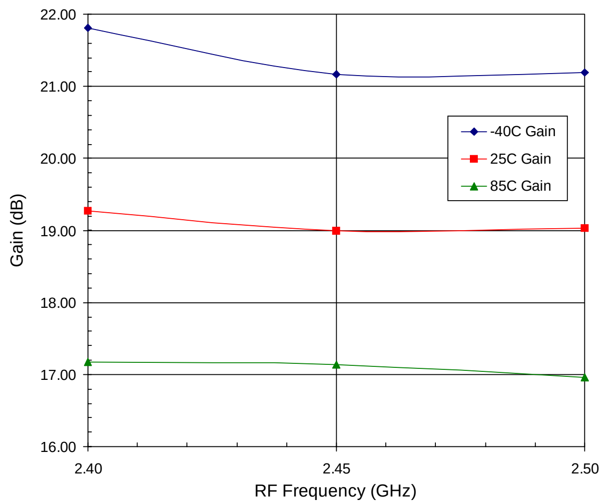
Mixer Gain versus VCC (2.45 GHz)



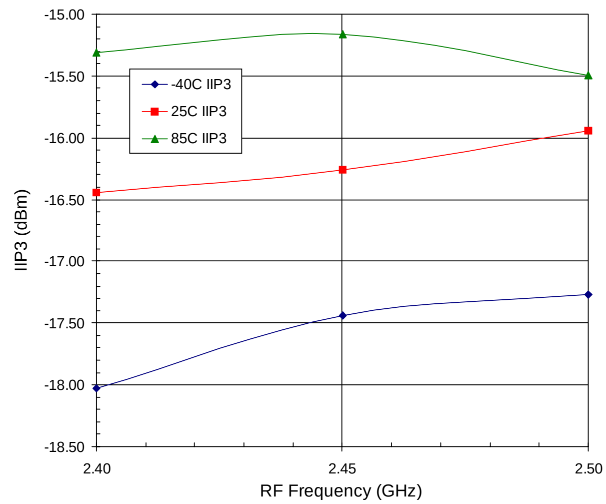
Mixer IIP3 versus VCC (2.45 GHz)



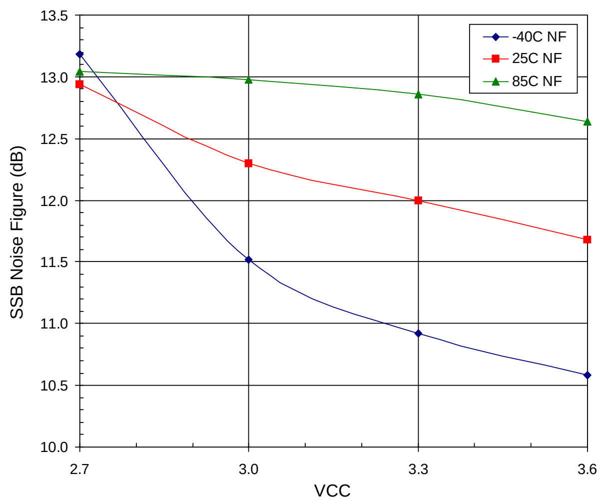
Mixer Gain versus RF Frequency (3.3 V)



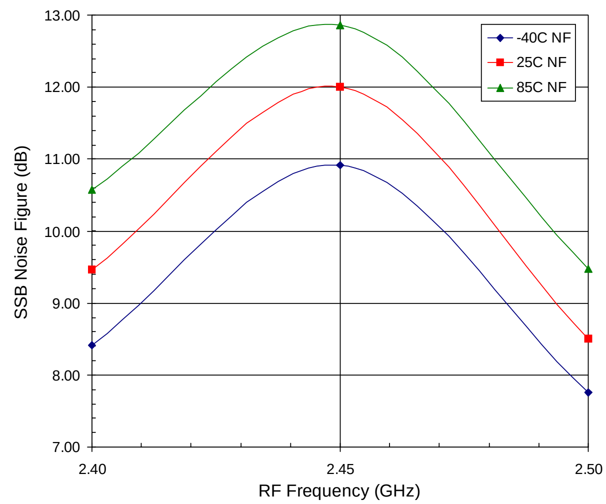
Mixer IIP3 versus RF Frequency (3.3 V)

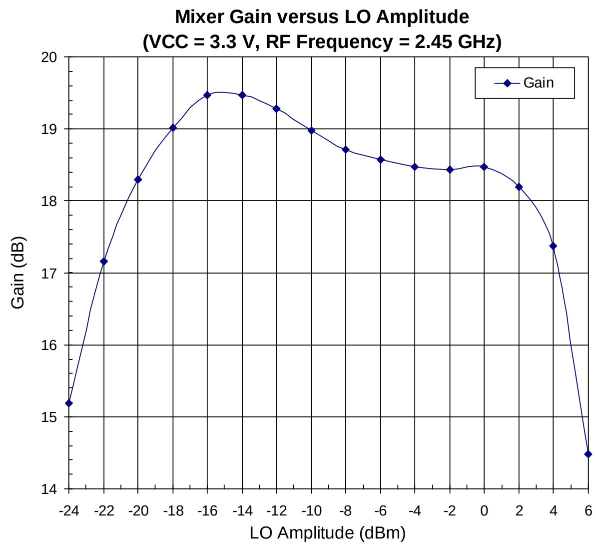


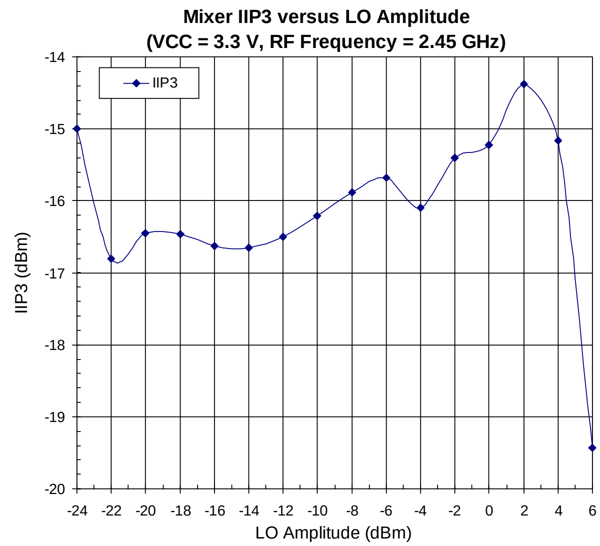
Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus VCC (2.45 GHz)



Mixer SSB Noise Figure versus RF Frequency (3.3 V)




Mixer Gain versus LO Amplitude
(VCC = 3.3 V, RF Frequency = 2.45 GHz)
Gain
Gain (dB)
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
-24 -22 -20 -18 -16 -14 -12 -10 -8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6
LO Amplitude (dBm)


Mixer IIP3 versus LO Amplitude
(VCC = 3.3 V, RF Frequency = 2.45 GHz)
IIP3
IIP3 (dBm)
-14
-15
-16
-17
-18
-19
-20
-24 -22 -20 -18 -16 -14 -12 -10 -8 -6 -4 -2 0 2 4 6
LO Amplitude (dBm)