19-1248; Rev 2; 2/02 **MAXM EVALUATION KIT AVAILABLE** 10MHz to 1050MHz Integrated RF Oscillator with Buffered Outputs

_________________General Description

The MAX2620 combines a low-noise oscillator with two output buffers in a low-cost, plastic surface-mount, ultra-small µMAX package. This device integrates functions typically achieved with discrete components. The oscillator exhibits low-phase noise when properly mated with an external varactor-tuned resonant tank circuit. Two buffered outputs are provided for driving mixers or prescalers. The buffers provide load isolation to the oscillator and prevent frequency pulling due to load-impedance changes. Power consumption is typically just 27mW in operating mode (V_{CC} = 3.0V), and drops to less than 0.3µW in standby mode. The MAX2620 operates from a single +2.7V to +5.25V supply.

________________________Applications

Analog Cellular Phones Digital Cellular Phones

- 900MHz Cordless Phones
- 900MHz ISM-Band Applications
- Land Mobile Radio
- Narrowband PCS (NPCS)

Features

- ♦ **Low-Phase-Noise Oscillator: -110dBc/Hz (25kHz offset from carrier) Attainable**
- ♦ **Operates from Single +2.7V to +5.25V Supply**
- ♦ **Low-Cost Silicon Bipolar Design**
- ♦ **Two Output Buffers Provide Load Isolation**
- ♦ **Insensitive to Supply Variations**
- ◆ Low, 27mW Power Consumption (V_{CC} = 3.0V)
- ♦ **Low-Current Shutdown Mode: 0.1µA (typ)**

_______________Ordering Information

*Dice are tested at $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$, DC parameters only.

Pin Configuration appears at end of data sheet.

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For pricing, delivery, and ordering information, please contact Maxim/Dallas Direct! at 1-888-629-4642, or visit Maxim's website at www.maxim-ic.com.

Typical Operating Circuit

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(Vcc1, Vcc2 = +2.7V to +5.25V, FDBK = open, TANK = open, OUT and \overline{OUT} connected to V_{CC} through 50 Ω , \overline{SHDN} = 2V, TA = -40°C to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values measured at Vcc1 = Vcc2 = 3.0V, TA = +25°C.) (Note 1)

Note 1: Specifications are production tested and guaranteed at $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ and $T_A = +85^{\circ}C$. Specifications are guaranteed by design and characterization at $T_A = -40^{\circ}C$.

AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(Test Circuit of Figure 1, Vcc = +3.0V, \overline{SHDN} = Vcc, ZLOAD = ZSOURCE = 50 Ω , PIN = -20dBm (50 Ω), f $TEST$ = 900MHz, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

Note 2: Guaranteed by design and characterization at 10MHz, 650MHz, 900MHz, and 1050MHz. Over this frequency range, the magnitude of the negative real impedance measured at TANK is greater than one-tenth the magnitude of the reactive impedances at TANK. This implies proper oscillator start-up when using an external resonator tank circuit with Q > 10. C3 and C4 must be tuned for operation at the desired frequency.

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TYPICAL OPERATING CIRCUIT PERFORMANCE—900MHz Band Ceramic-Resonator-Based Tank

(Typical Operating Circuit, V_{CC} = +3.0V, V_{TUNE} = 1.5V, \overline{SHDN} = V_{CC}, load at OUT = 50 Ω , load at \overline{OUT} = 50 Ω , L1 = coaxial ceramic resonator: Trans-Tech SR8800LPQ1357BY, $C6 = 1pF$, $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.)

Note 3: Guaranteed by design and characterization.

TYPICAL OPERATING CIRCUIT PERFORMANCE—900MHz Band Inductor-Based Tank

(Typical Operating Circuit, V_{CC} = +3.0V, V_{TUNE} = 1.5V, \overline{SHDN} = V_{CC} load at OUT = 50 Ω , load at \overline{OUT} = 50 Ω , L1 = 5nH (Coilcraft A02T), $C6 = 1.5p\overline{F}$, $TA = +25\overline{°C}$, unless otherwise noted.)

Note 3: Guaranteed by design and characterization.

Typical Operating Characteristics

(Test Circuit of Figure 1, V_{CC} = +3.0V, \overline{SHDN} = V_{CC}, Z_{LOAD} = Z_{SOURCE} = 50 Ω , P_{IN} = -20dBm/50 Ω , f_{TEST} = 900MHz, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

Table 1. Recommended Load Impedance at OUT or OUT **for Optimum Power Transfer**

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(Typical Operating Circuit, V_{CC} = +3.0V, V_{TUNE} = 1.5V, \overline{SHDN} = V_{CC} load at OUT = 50Ω, load at \overline{OUT} = 50Ω, L1 = coaxial ceramic resonator: Trans-Tech SR8800LPQ1357BY, $C6 = 1pF$, $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.)

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Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(Typical Operating Circuit, V_{CC} = +3.0V, V_{TUNE} = 1.5V, \overline{SHDN} = V_{CC}, load at OUT = 50Ω, load at \overline{OUT} = 50Ω, L1 = coaxial ceramic resonator: Trans-Tech SR8800LPQ1357BY, $CG = 1pF$, $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.)

Pin Description

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Figure 1. 900MHz Test Circuit

_______________Detailed Description

Oscillator

The oscillator is a common-collector, negativeresistance type that uses the IC's internal parasitic elements to create a negative resistance at the baseemitter port. The transistor oscillator has been optimized for low-noise operation. Base and emitter leads are provided as external connections for a feedback capacitor and resonator. A resonant circuit, tuned to the appropriate frequency and connected to the base lead, will cause oscillation. Varactor diodes may be used in the resonant circuit to create a voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO). The oscillator is internally biased to an optimal operating point, and the base and emitter leads need to be capacitively coupled due to the bias voltages present.

Output Buffers

The output buffers (OUT and OUT) are an opencollector, differential-pair configuration and provide load isolation to the oscillator. The outputs can be used differentially to drive an integrated circuit mixer. Alternatively, isolation is provided between the buffer outputs when one output drives a mixer (either upconversion or downconversion) and the other output drives a prescaler. The isolation in this configuration prevents prescaler noise from corrupting the oscillator signal's spectral purity.

A logic-controlled SHDN pin turns off all bias to the IC when pulled low.

__________Applications Information

Design Principles

At the frequency of interest, the MAX2620 portion of Figure 2 shows the one-port circuit model for the TANK pin (test port in Figure 1).

For the circuit to oscillate at a desired frequency, the resonant tank circuit connected to TANK must present an impedance that is a complement to the network (Figure 2). This resonant tank circuit must have a positive real component that is a maximum of one-half the magnitude of the negative real part of the oscillator device, as well as a reactive component that is opposite in sign to the reactive component of the oscillator device.

Figure 2. Simplified Oscillator Circuit Model

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MAX2620

Keeping the resonant tank circuit's real component less than one-half the magnitude of the negative real component ensures that oscillations will start. After start-up, the oscillator's negative resistance decreases, primarily due to gain compression, and reaches equilibrium with the real component (the circuit losses) in the resonant tank circuit. Making the resonant tank circuit reactance tunable (e.g., through use of a varactor diode) allows for tuneability of the oscillation frequency, as long as the oscillator exhibits negative resistance over the desired tuning range. See Figures 3 and 4.

The negative resistance of the MAX2620 TANK pin can be optimized at the desired oscillator frequency by proper selection of feedback capacitors C3 and C4. For example, the one-port characteristics of the device are given as a plot of 1/S11 in the Typical Operating Characteristics. 1/S11 is used because it maps inside the unit circle Smith chart when the device exhibits negative resistance (reflection gain).

Figure 3. 10MHz VCO LC Resonator

Figure 4. 10MHz Crystal Oscillator

Sample Calculation

According to the electrical model shown in Figure 5, the resonance frequency can be calculated as: [Equation 1]

$$
f_{\text{O}} = \frac{1}{2\pi \sqrt{\text{L1}\left[\text{C}_{\text{STRAY}} + \frac{\text{C}_{17} \times \text{C}_{\text{D1}}}{\text{C}_{17} + \text{C}_{\text{D1}}} + \text{C}_{6} + \frac{\text{C}_{5} \times \text{C}_{\text{n}}}{\text{C}_{5} + \text{C}_{\text{n}}}\right]}}
$$
\nwhere $C_{\text{n}} = \frac{(\text{C}_{3} + \text{C}_{03})(\text{C}_{4} + \text{C}_{04})}{\text{C}_{3} + \text{C}_{03} + \text{C}_{4} + \text{C}_{04}}$

Rn, the negative real impedance, is set by C3 and C4 and is approximately:

[Equation 2]

$$
R_n = g_m \left(\frac{1}{2\pi f \left(C_3 + C_{03} \right)} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi f \left(C_4 + C_{04} \right)} \right)
$$

where $g_m = 18 \text{mS}$.

Using the circuit model of Figure 5, the following example describes the design of an oscillator centered at 900MHz.

Choose: L1 = 5nH ±10%
Q = 140
Calculate: R_p = Q × 2
$$
\pi
$$
 × f × L1

Using Equation 1, solve for varactor capacitance (C_{D1}) . C_{D1} is the capacitance of the varactor when the voltage applied to the varactor is approximately at halfsupply (the center of the varactor's capacitance range). Assume the following values:

CSTRAY = 2.7pF, C17 = 1.5pF, C6 = 1.5pF, C5 = 1.5pF, $C_{03} = 2.4pF$, $C_{04} = 2.4pF$, $C_{3} = 2.7pF$, and $C_{4} = 1pF$

The value of CSTRAY is based on approximate performance of the MAX2620 EV kit. Values of C3 and C4 are chosen to minimize R_n (Equation 2) while not loading the resonant circuit with excessive capacitance. C03 and C04 are parasitic capacitors.

The varactor's capacitance range should allow for the desired tuning range. Across the tuning frequency range, ensure that $R_s < 1/2$ $|R_n|$.

The MAX2620's oscillator is optimized for low-phasenoise operation. Achieving lowest phase-noise characteristics requires the use of high-Q (quality factor) components such as ceramic transmission-line type

Figure 5. Electrical Model of MAX2620 Circuit

resonators or high-Q inductors. Also, keep C5 and C17 (see the Typical Operating Circuit) as small a value as possible while still maintaining desired frequency and tuning range to maximize loaded Q.

There are many good references on the topic of oscillator design. An excellent reference is "The Oscillator as a Reflection Amplifier, an Intuitive Approach to Oscillator Design," by John W. Boyles, Microwave Journal, June 1986, pp. 83–98.

Output Matching Configuration

Both of the MAX2620's outputs (OUT and \overline{OUT}) are open collectors. They need to be pulled up to the supply by external components. An easy approach to this pull-up is a resistor. A 50 $Ω$ resistor value would inherently match the output to a 50 Ω system. The Typical Operating Circuit shows OUT configured this way. Alternatively, a choke pullup (Figure 1), yields greater output power (approximately -8dBm at 900MHz).

When maximum power is required, use an inductor as the supply pull-up, and match the inductor's output impedance to the desired system impedance. Table 1 in the Typical Operating Characteristics shows recommended load impedance presented to OUT and OUT

for maximum power transfer. Using this data and standard matching-network synthesis techniques, a matching network can be constructed that will optimize power output into most load impedances. The value of the inductor used for pullup should be used in the synthesis of the matching network.

Package Information

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)

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