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HFA1113

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225MHz, Low Power, Output Limiting, Closed Loop Buffer Amplifier

The HFA1115 is a high speed closed loop Buffer featuring both user programmable gain and output limiting. Manufactured on Intersil's proprietary complementary bipolar UHF-1 process, the HFA1115 also offers a wide -3dB bandwidth of 225MHz, very fast slew rate, excellent gain flatness and high output current.

This buffer is the ideal choice for high frequency applications requiring output limiting, especially those needing ultra fast overload recovery times. The limiting function allows the designer to set the maximum positive and negative output levels, thereby protecting later stages from damage or input saturation. The HFA1115 also allows for voltage gains of +2, +1, and -1, without the use of external resistors. Gain selection is accomplished via connections to the inputs, as described in the "Application Information" text. The result is a more flexible product, fewer part types in inventory, and more efficient use of board space.

Compatibility with existing op amp pinouts provides flexibility to upgrade low gain amplifiers, while decreasing component count. Unlike most buffers, the standard pinout provides an upgrade path, should a higher closed loop gain be needed at a future date. For Military product, refer to the HFA1115/883 data sheet.

Pinout

Pin Descriptions

Features

- User Programmable Output Voltage Limiting
- High Input Impedance $\dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots$ 1M Ω ï Differential Gain . 0.02% ï Differential Phase. 0.03 Degrees • Wide -3dB Bandwidth $(A_V = +2)$ 225MHz ï Very Fast Slew Rate (AV = -1) 1135V/μs
- ï Low Supply Current . 7.1mA
- ï High Output Current . 60mA
- Excellent Gain Accuracy 0.99V/V
- User Programmable For Closed-Loop Gains of +1, -1 or +2 Without Use of External Resistors
- ï Fast Overdrive Recovery . <1ns
- Standard Operational Amplifier Pinout

Applications

- Flash A/D Drivers
- Video Cable Drivers
- High Resolution Monitors
- Professional Video Processing
- Medical Imaging
- Video Digitizing Boards/Systems
- Battery Powered Communications

Part # Information

Absolute Maximum Ratings **Thermal Information**

Operating Conditions

CAUTION: Stresses above those listed in "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress only rating and operation of the *device at these or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational sections of this specification is not implied.*

NOTES:

- 1. θ_{JA} is measured with the component mounted on an evaluation PC board in free air.
- 2. Output is protected for short circuits to ground. Brief short circuits to ground will not degrade reliability, however, continuous (100% duty cycle) output current should not exceed 30mA for maximum reliability.

Electrical Specifications V_{SUPPLY} = ±5V, A_V = +1, R_L = 100Ω, Unless Otherwise Specified (Continued)

Electrical Specifications $V_{\text{SUPPLY}} = \pm 5V$, $A_V = +1$, $R_L = 100\Omega$, Unless Otherwise Specified **(Continued)**

NOTE:

3. Test Level: A. Production Tested; B. Typical or Guaranteed Limit Based on Characterization; C. Design Typical for Information Only.

4. See Typical Performance Curves for more information.

5. Slew rates are asymmetrical if the output swings below GND (e.g., a bipolar signal). Positive unipolar output signals have symmetric positive and negative slew rates comparable to the +SR specification. See the "Application Information" section, and the pulse response graphs for details.

Application Information

Relevant Application Notes

The following Application Notes pertain to the HFA1115:

- AN9653-Use and Application of Output Limiting **Amplifiers**
- AN9752-Sync Stripper and Sync Inserter for Composite Video

These publications may be obtained from Intersil's web site (http://www.intersil.com).

HFA1115 Advantages

The HFA1115 features a novel design which allows the user to select from three closed loop gains, without any external components. The result is a more flexible product, fewer part types in inventory, and more efficient use of board space. Implementing a gain of 2, cable driver with this IC eliminates

the two gain setting resistors, which frees up board space for termination resistors.

Like most newer high performance amplifiers, the HFA1115 is a current feedback amplifier (CFA). CFAs offer high bandwidth and slew rate at low supply currents, but can be difficult to use because of their sensitivity to feedback capacitance and parasitics on the inverting input (summing node). The HFA1115 eliminates these concerns by bringing the gain setting resistors on-chip. This yields the optimum placement and value of the feedback resistor, while minimizing feedback and summing node parasitics. Because there is no access to the summing node, the PCB parasitics do not impact performance at gains of $+2$ or -1 (see "Unity Gain Considerations" for discussion of parasitic impact on unity gain performance).

The HFA1115ís closed loop gain implementation provides better gain accuracy, lower offset and output impedance, and better distortion compared with open loop buffers.

Closed Loop Gain Selection

This "buffer" operates in closed loop gains of -1 , $+1$, or $+2$, and gain selection is accomplished via connections to the ±inputs. Applying the input signal to +IN and floating -IN selects a gain of +1 (see next section for layout caveats), while grounding -IN selects a gain of +2. A gain of -1 is obtained by applying the input signal to -IN with +IN grounded through a 50Ω resistor.

The table below summarizes these connections:

Unity Gain Considerations

Unity gain selection is accomplished by floating the -Input of the HFA1115. Anything that tends to short the -Input to GND, such as stray capacitance at high frequencies, will cause the amplifier gain to increase toward a gain of +2. The result is excessive high frequency peaking, and possible instability. Even the minimal amount of capacitance associated with attaching the -Input lead to the PCB results in approximately 3dB of gain peaking. At a minimum this requires due care to ensure the minimum capacitance at the -Input connection. .

TABLE 1. UNITY GAIN PERFORMANCE FOR VARIOUS IMPLEMENTATIONS

Table 1 lists five alternate methods for configuring the HFA1115 as a unity gain buffer, and the corresponding performance. The implementations vary in complexity and involve performance trade-offs. The easiest approach to implement is simply shorting the two input pins together, and applying the input signal to this common node. The amplifier bandwidth drops from 400MHz to 200MHz, but excellent gain flatness is the benefit. Another drawback to this approach is that the amplifier input noise voltage and input offset voltage terms see a gain of +2, resulting in higher noise and output offset voltages. Alternately, a 100pF

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capacitor between the inputs shorts them only at high frequencies, which prevents the increased output offset voltage but delivers less gain flatness.

Another straightforward approach is to add a 620Ω resistor in series with the positive input. This resistor and the HFA1115 input capacitance form a low pass filter which rolls off the signal bandwidth before gain peaking occurs. This configuration was employed to obtain the datasheet AC and transient parameters for a gain of +1.

Non-inverting Input Source Impedance

For best operation, the DC source impedance seen by the non-inverting input should be ≥50Ω. This is especially important in inverting gain configurations where the noninverting input would normally be connected directly to GND.

Pulse Undershoot and Asymmetrical Slew Rates

The HFA1115 utilizes a quasi-complementary output stage to achieve high output current while minimizing quiescent supply current. In this approach, a composite device replaces the traditional PNP pulldown transistor. The composite device switches modes after crossing 0V, resulting in added distortion for signals swinging below ground, and an increased undershoot on the negative portion of the output waveform (see Figures 9, 13, and 17). This undershoot isn't present for small bipolar signals, or large positive signals. Another artifact of the composite device is asymmetrical slew rates for output signals with a negative voltage component. The slew rate degrades as the output signal crosses through 0V (see Figures 9, 13, and 17), resulting in a slower overall negative slew rate. Positive only signals have symmetrical slew rates as illustrated in the large signal positive pulse response graphs (see Figures 7, 11, and 15).

PC Board Layout

This amplifier's frequency response depends greatly on the care taken in designing the PC board. **The use of low inductance components such as chip resistors and chip capacitors is strongly recommended, while a solid ground plane is a must!**

Attention should be given to decoupling the power supplies. A large value (10μ F) tantalum in parallel with a small value $(0.1\,\text{µF})$ chip capacitor works well in most cases.

Terminated microstrip signal lines are recommended at the input and output of the device. Capacitance directly on the output must be minimized, or isolated as discussed in the next section.

For unity gain applications, care must also be taken to minimize the capacitance to ground at the amplifierís inverting input. At higher frequencies this capacitance tends to short the -INPUT to GND, resulting in a closed loop gain which increases with frequency. This causes excessive high frequency peaking and potentially other problems as well.

An example of a good high frequency layout is the Evaluation Board shown in Figure 2.

Driving Capacitive Loads

Capacitive loads, such as an A/D input, or an improperly terminated transmission line degrade the amplifier's phase margin resulting in frequency response peaking and possible oscillations. In most cases, the oscillation can be avoided by placing a resistor (R_S) in series with the output prior to the capacitance.

Figure 1 details starting points for the selection of this resistor. The points on the curve indicate the R_S and C_l combinations for the optimum bandwidth, stability, and settling time, but experimental fine tuning is recommended. Picking a point above or to the right of the curve yields an overdamped response, while points below or left of the curve indicate areas of underdamped performance.

 R_S and C_L form a low pass network at the output, thus limiting system bandwidth well below the amplifier bandwidth of 200MHz ($A_V = +1$). By decreasing R_S as C_L increases (as illustrated by the curves), the maximum bandwidth is obtained without sacrificing stability. In spite of this, bandwidth still decreases as the load capacitance increases. For example, at $A_V = +1$, $R_S = 50\Omega$, $C_V = 22pF$, the overall bandwidth is 185MHz, but the bandwidth drops to 50MHz at $A_V = +1$, $R_S = 15\Omega$, $C_I = 330pF$.

FIGURE 1. RECOMMENDED SERIES RESISTOR vs LOAD CAPACITANCE

Evaluation Board

The performance of the HFA1115 may be evaluated using the HFA11XX Evaluation Board, slightly modified as follows:

- 1. 1. Remove the 510 Ω feedback resistor (R₂), and leave the connection open.
- 2. 2. a. For A_V = +1 evaluation, remove the 510 Ω gain setting resistor (R_1) , and leave pin 2 floating.
	- b. For A_V = +2, replace the 510 Ω gain setting resistor with a 0Ω resistor to GND.

The layout and modified schematic of the board are shown in Figure 2.

To order evaluation boards (Part Number HFA11XXEVAL), please contact your local sales office.

FIGURE 2. EVALUATION BOARD SCHEMATIC (AFTER MODIFICATION FOR BUFFER USE) AND LAYOUT

Limiting Operation

General

The HFA1115 features user programmable output clamps to limit output voltage excursions. Limiting action is obtained by applying voltages to the $\rm V_H$ and $\rm V_L$ terminals (pins 8 and 5) of the amplifier. V_H sets the upper output limit, while V_L sets the lower limit level. If the amplifier tries to drive the output above V_H , or below V_L , the clamp circuitry limits the output voltage at V_H or V_L (\pm the limit accuracy), respectively. The low input bias currents of the limit pins allow them to be driven by simple resistive divider circuits, or active elements such as amplifiers or DACs.

Limit Circuitry

Figure 3 shows a simplified schematic of the HFA1115 input stage, and the high limit (V_H) circuitry. As with all current feedback amplifiers, there is a unity gain buffer $(Q_{X1} - Q_{X2})$ between the positive and negative inputs. This buffer forces -IN to track +IN, and sets up a slewing current of: $I_{SLEW} = (V_{-IN} - V_{OUT})/R_F + V_{-IN}/R_G$

FIGURE 3. HFA1115 SIMPLIFIED VH LIMIT CIRCUITRY

This current is mirrored onto the high impedance node (Z) by Q_{X3} - Q_{X4} , where it is converted to a voltage and fed to the output via another unity gain buffer. If no limiting is utilized, the high impedance node may swing within the limits defined by $\mathsf{Q}_{\mathsf{P}4}$ and $\mathsf{Q}_{\mathsf{N}4}$. Note that when the output reaches its quiescent value, the current flowing through -IN is reduced to only that small current (-I_{BIAS}) required to keep the output at the final voltage.

Tracing the path from V_H to Z illustrates the effect of the limit voltage on the high impedance node. V_H decreases by $2V_{BE}$ (Q_{NG}) and Q_{PG}) to set up the base voltage on Q_{PS} . Q_{PS} begins to conduct whenever the high impedance node reaches a voltage equal to Q_{PS} 's base voltage + $2V_{BF}$ (Q_{PS} and Q_{N5}). Thus, Q_{PS} limits node Z whenever Z reaches V_{H} . R_1 provides a pull-up network to ensure functionality with the limit inputs floating. A similar description applies to the symmetrical low limit circuitry controlled by V_1 .

When the output is limited, the negative input continues to source a slewing current (I_{Limit}) in an attempt to force the output to the quiescent voltage defined by the input. Q_{P5} must sink this current while limiting, because the -IN current is always mirrored onto the high impedance node. The limiting current is calculated as:

 $I_{LIMIT} = (V_{-IN} - V_{OUIT + IMITED})/R_F + V_{-IN}/R_G$.

As an example, a unity gain circuit with $V_{IN} = 2V$, and $V_H = 1V$, would have $I_{LIMIT} = (2V - 1V)/350\Omega + 2V/\infty = 2.8mA$ (R_G = ∞ because -IN is floated for unity gain applications). Note that I_{CC} increases by $I₁$ MIT when the output is limited.

Limit Accuracy

The limited output voltage will not be exactly equal to the voltage applied to V_H or V_L . Offset errors, mostly due to V_{BF} mismatches, necessitate a limit accuracy parameter which is

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found in the device specifications. Limit accuracy is a function of the limiting conditions. Referring again to Figure 3, it can be seen that one component of limit accuracy is the V_{BE} mismatch between the Q_{X6} transistors, and the Q_{X5} transistors. If the transistors always ran at the same current level there would be no V_{BF} mismatch, and no contribution to the inaccuracy. The Q_{X6} transistors are biased at a constant current, but as described earlier, the current through Q_{X5} is equivalent to I_{Limit} . V_{BE} increases as I_{LIMIT} increases, causing the limited output voltage to increase as well. I_{LIMIT} is a function of the overdrive level $((A_V \times V_{IN} - V_{LIMIT}) / V_{LIMIT})$, so limit accuracy degrades as the overdrive increases (see Figures 28 and 29). For example, accuracy degrades from -20mV to +30mV when the overdrive increases from 100% to 200% ($Ay = +2$, $V_H = 500$ mV).

Consideration must also be given to the fact that the limit voltages have an effect on amplifier linearity. The "Linearity Near Limit Voltage" curves, Figures 30 and 31, illustrate the impact of several limit levels on linearity.

Limit Range

Unlike some competitor devices, both V_H and V_L have usable ranges that cross $0V$. While V_H must be more positive than V_L , both may be positive or negative, within the range restrictions indicated in the specifications. For example, the HFA1115 could be limited to ECL output levels by setting V_H = -0.8V and V_L = -1.8V. V_H and V_L may be connected to the same voltage (GND for instance) but the result won't be a DC output voltage from an AC input signal. A 150mV - 200mV AC signal will still be present at the output.

Recovery from Overdrive

The output voltage remains at the limit level as long as the overdrive condition remains. When the input voltage drops below the overdrive level (V_{LIMIT}/A_V) the amplifier returns to linear operation. A time delay, known as the Overdrive Recovery Time, is required for this resumption of linear operation. Overdrive recovery time is defined as the difference between the amplifier's propagation delay exiting limiting and the amplifier's normal propagation delay, and it is a strong function of the overdrive level. Figure 32 details the overdrive recovery time for various limit and overdrive levels

Benefits of Output Limiting

The plots of "Pulse Response Without Limiting" and "Pulse Response With Limitingî (Figures 4 and 5) highlight the advantages of output limiting. Besides the obvious benefit of constraining the output swing to a defined range, limiting the output excursions also keeps the output transistors from saturating, which prevents unwanted saturation artifacts from distorting the output signal. Output limiting also takes advantage of the HFA1115's ultra-fast overdrive recovery

time, reducing the recovery time from 2.5ns to 0.5ns, based on the amplifier's normal propagation delay of 1.2ns. **Typical Performance Curves** V_{SUPPLY} = ±5V, T_A = 25^oC, R_L = 100Ω, Unless Otherwise Specified

FIGURE 4. PULSE RESPONSE WITHOUT LIMITING FIGURE 5. PULSE RESPONSE WITH LIMITING

FIGURE 6. SMALL SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE FIGURE 7. LARGE SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE

FIGURE 8. SMALL SIGNAL BIPOLAR PULSE RESPONSE FIGURE 9. LARGE SIGNAL BIPOLAR PULSE RESPONSE

FIGURE 10. SMALL SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE FIGURE 11. LARGE SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE

FIGURE 12. SMALL SIGNAL BIPOLAR PULSE RESPONSE FIGURE 13. LARGE SIGNAL BIPOLAR PULSE RESPONSE

FIGURE 14. SMALL SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE FIGURE 15. LARGE SIGNAL POSITIVE PULSE RESPONSE

FIGURE 21. FREQUENCY RESPONSE FOR VARIOUS OUTPUT VOLTAGES

FIGURE 22. FULL POWER BANDWIDTH FIGURE 23. -3dB BANDWIDTH vs TEMPERATURE

FIGURE 24. GAIN FLATNESS FIGURE 25. REVERSE ISOLATION (S12)

FIGURE 32. OVERDRIVE RECOVERY TIME vs OVERDRIVE FIGURE 33. OUTPUT VOLTAGE vs TEMPERATURE

FIGURE 34. SUPPLY CURRENT vs SUPPLY VOLTAGE FIGURE 35. RISE AND FALL TIMES vs TEMPERATURE

Die Characteristics

DIE DIMENSIONS:

59 mils x 58.2 mils x 19 mils 1500μm x 1480μm x 483μm

METALLIZATION:

Type: Metal 1: AICu(2%)/TiW Thickness: Metal 1: 8kÅ ±0.4kÅ

Type: Metal 2: AICu(2%) Thickness: Metal 2: 16kÅ ±0.8kÅ

Metallization Mask Layout

SUBSTRATE POTENTIAL (Powered Up):

Floating (Recommend Connection to V-)

PASSIVATION:

Type: Nitride Thickness: 4kÅ ±0.5kÅ

TRANSISTOR COUNT:

89

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