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2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA With BFU730F

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Document information

Info	Content
Keywords	BFU730F, Broadband LNA, WiFi (WLAN)
Abstract	This document provides circuit simulation, schematic, layout, BOM and typical EVB performance for a broadband WiFi (WLAN) LNA

Revision history

Rev	Date	Description
v.1	20121026	First publication

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1. Introduction

The BFU730F is a discrete HBT that is produced using NXP Semiconductors' advanced 110 GHz fT SiGe:C BiCmos process. SiGe:C is a normal silicon germanium process with the addition of Carbon in the base layer of the NPN transistor. The presence of carbon in the base layer suppresses the boron diffusion during wafer processing. This allows a steeper and narrower SiGe HBT base and a heavier doped base. As a result, lower base resistance, lower noise and higher cut off frequency can be achieved.

The BFU730F is one of a series of transistors made in SiGe:C.

BFU710F, BFU760F and BFU790F are the other types. BFU710F is intended for ultra low current applications. The BFU760F and BFU790F are high current types and are intended for application where linearity is key.

New 6th & 7th Generation Wideband transistors from NXP offer best RF noise figure / gain tradeoff at 12GHz drawing lowest current which means best signal reception at low power, enabling products to be more sensitive in noisy environments and friendlier to the environment.

Key Benefits:

- Application up to 18 GHz and higher
- Broad choice of parts for the perfect fit in the application
- Lowest current consumption meaning greener products
- SOT343F package for high performance and easy manufacturing

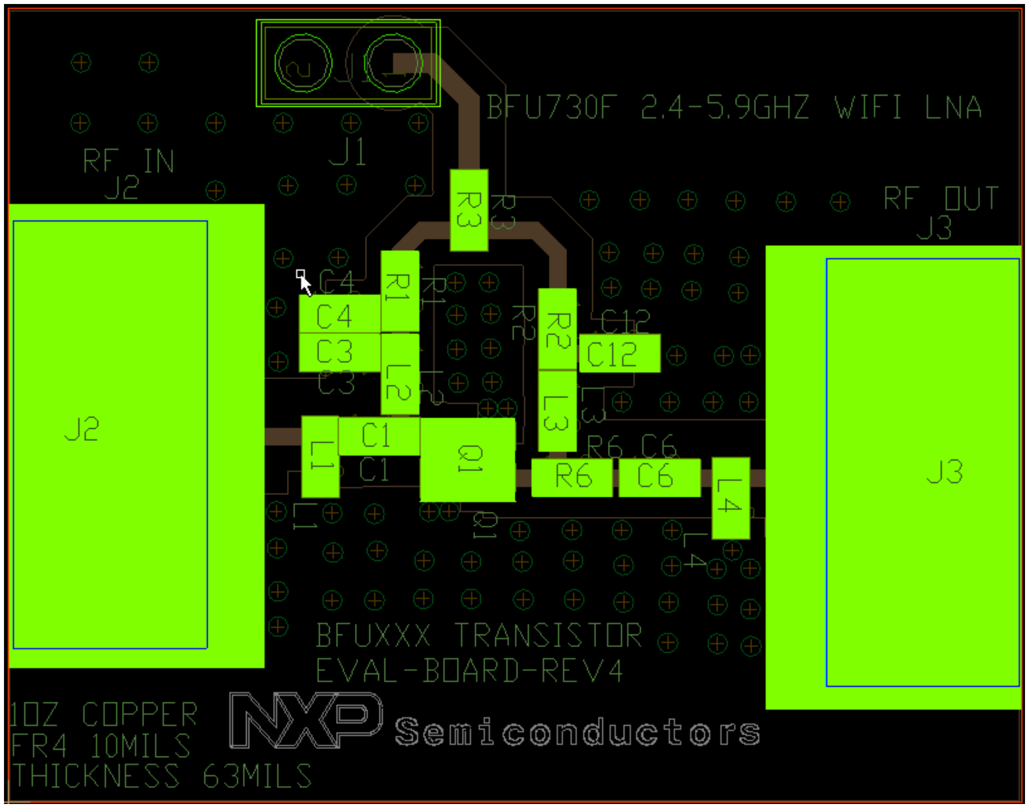


Fig 1. BFUXXX Universal Demo Board/BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz broadband WiFi LNA EVB Demo Board

2. Requirements and design of the 2.4-5.9GHz broadband WiFi LNA

The circuit shown in this application note is intended to demonstrate the performance of the BFU730F in a 2.4-5.9 GHz LNA for e.g. 802.11a/b/g & 802.11n “MIMO” WiFi (WLAN) applications.

Key requirements for this application are:

- Broadband Frequency 2.4 – 5.9GHz
- Gain
- Input/output Match
- Linearity
- NF
- Turn ON/OFF Time

Table 1. Broadband WiFi LNA Design Target Spec

Target specification for 2.4 – 5.9GHz broadband WiFi LNA

VCC	Icc	NF	Gain	IP1dB	IIP3	ORL	IRL	Turn ON/OFF Time
3.3	12	<2	>10	>-14	>-4	>10	>10	<500
V	mA	dB	dB	dBm	dBm	dB	dB	nS

3. Design and Simulation

The 2.4-5.9 GHz broadband WiFi LNA consists of one stage BFU730F amplifier. For this amplifier 12 external components are used for broadband matching, DC biasing and decoupling.

The design has been simulated using Agilent's Advanced Design System (ADS), and the simulation results are given in the following figures.

The LNA shows a Gain of 20dB @2.4GHz with NF 0.7dB and 10dB @5.9 GHz with best-in-class NF of 1.2 dB. With only 12mA it shows a high input P1 dB compression of –8dBm@5.9GHz, as well as high input IP3 of +3dBm. The designed LNA is unconditionally stable at 10 MHz-20 GHz.

3.1 BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Simulation

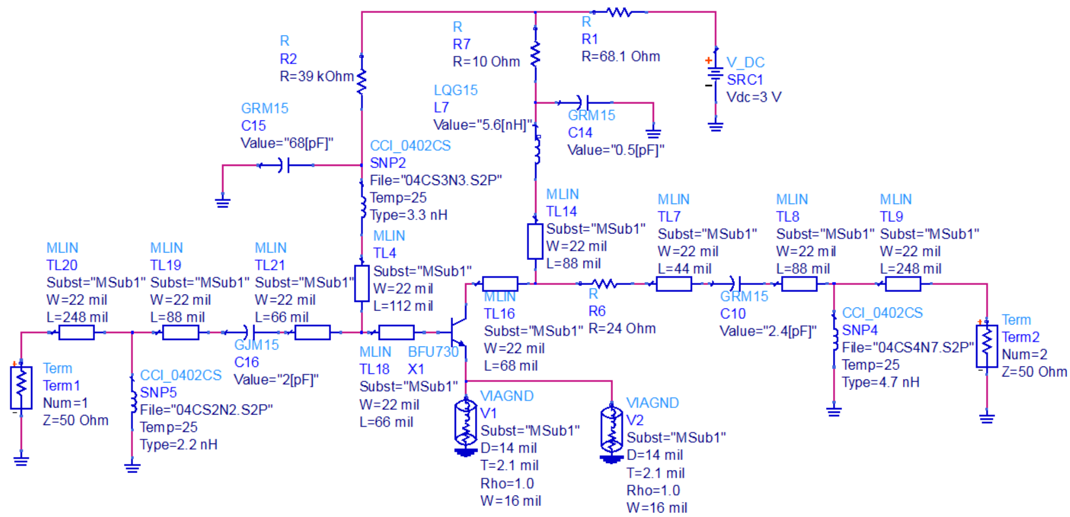


Fig 2. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Simulation: Circuit

3.2 BFU730F WiFi Broadband LNA Simulation Result

3.2.1 Gain and Match in 2.4GHz and 5.9GHz Band

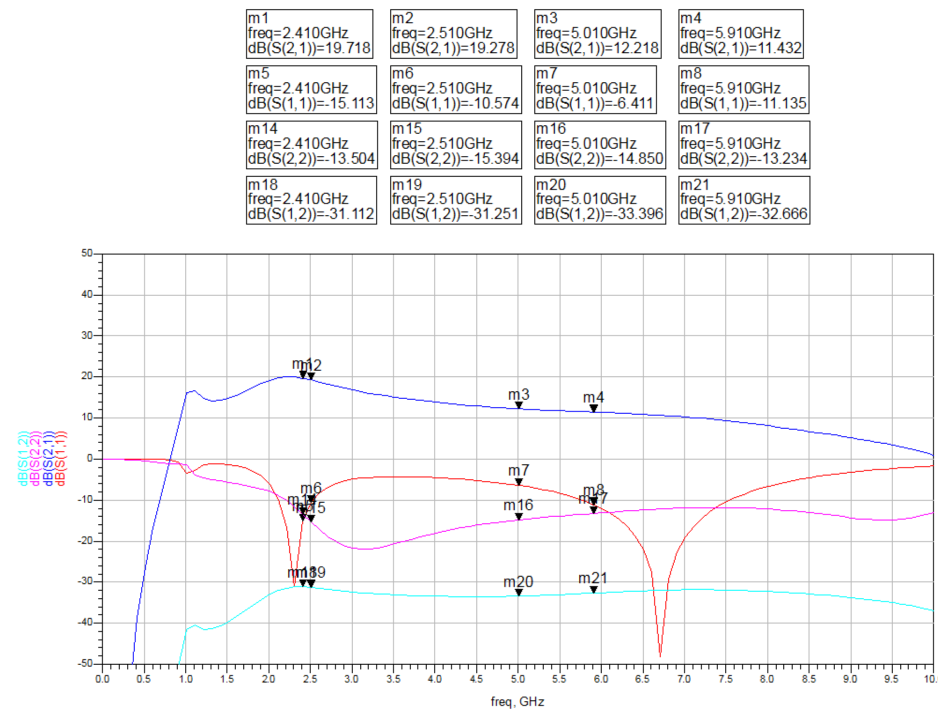


Fig 3. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Simulation: Gain and Match

3.2.2 Noise Figure in 2.4GHz and 5.9GHz Band

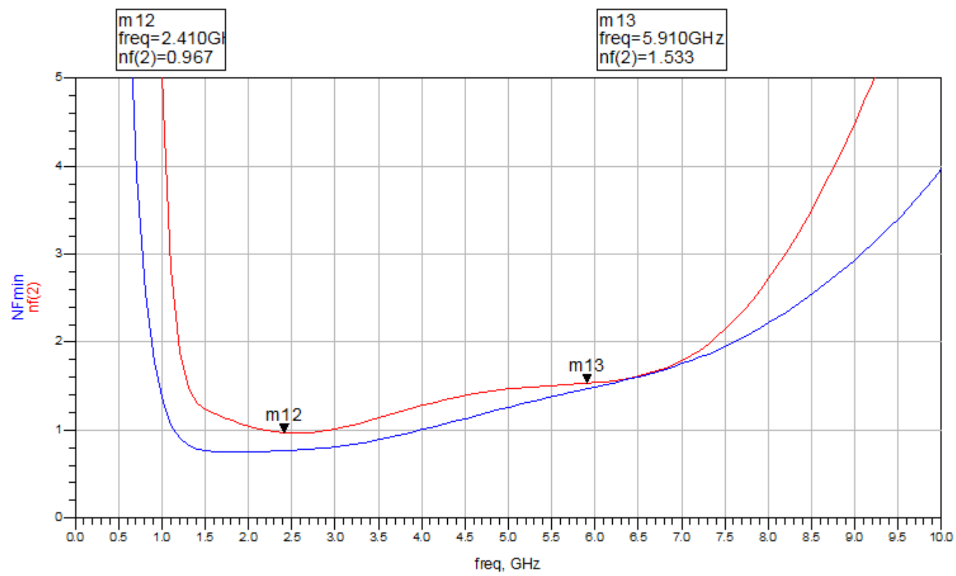


Fig 4. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Simulation: Noise Figure

3.2.3 Stability

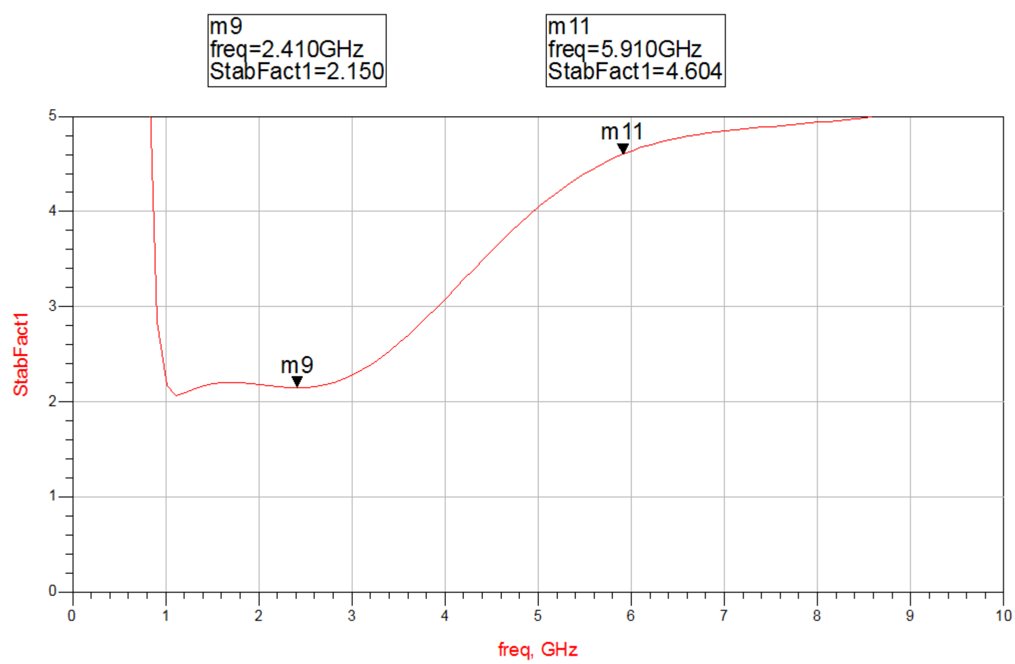


Fig 5. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Simulation: Stability

4. Application Board

The 2.4-5.9GHz broadband WiFi LNA evaluation board simplifies the evaluation of the BFU730F application. The evaluation board enables testing of the device performance and requires no additional support circuitry. The board is fully assembled with the BFU730F transistor, including input and output matching components, to optimize performance.

The board is supplied with two SMA connectors for input and output connection to RF test equipment.

4.1 Application Circuit Schematic

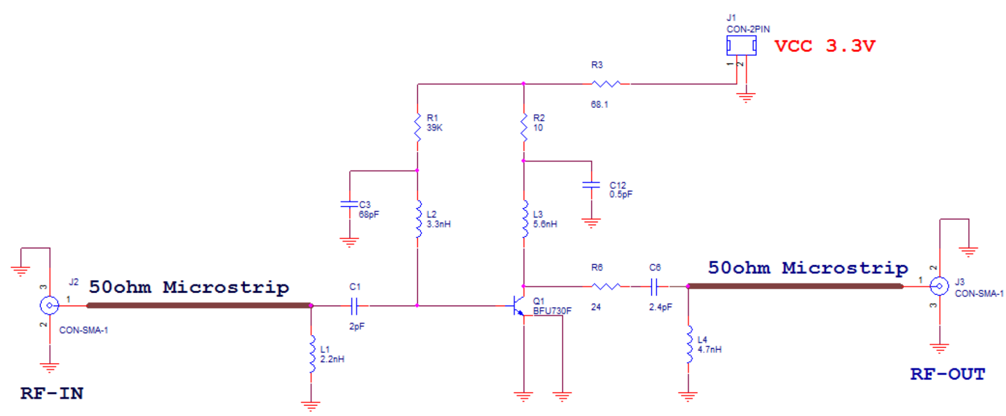


Fig 6. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: Schematic

4.2 Application Board Bill-Of-Material

Table 2. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Part List

Customer can choose their preferred vendor but should be aware that the performance could be affected.

Item	Quantity	Reference	Part Number	Vendor	Value
1	1	C1	GRM1555C1H2R0CZ01D	Murata	2pF
2	1	C3	GRM1555C1H680JZ01D	Murata	68pF
3	1	C6	GRM1555C1H2R4CZ01D	Murata	2.4pF
4	1	C12	GRM1555C1HR50CZ01	Murata	0.5pF
5	1	J1	90120-0762	Molex	CON-2PIN
6	2	J2,J3	901-10110	Amphenol	CON-SMA-1
7	1	L1	0402CS-2N2X_L_	Coilcraft	2.2nH
8	1	L2	0402CS-3N3X_LU	Coilcraft	3.3nH
9	1	L3	LQG15HN5N6S02	Murata	5.6nH
10	1	L4	0402CS-4N7X_LU	Coilcraft	4.7nH
11	1	Q1	BFU730F	NXP SEMICONDUCTORS	BFU730F
12	1	R1	ERJ-2GEJ393X	Panasonic - ECG	39K
13	1	R2	ERJ-2RKF10R0X	Panasonic - ECG	10
14	1	R3	ERJ-2RKF68R1X	Panasonic - ECG	68.1
15	1	R6	ERJ-2GEJ240X	Panasonic - ECG	24

4.3 Typical Application Board Test Result

4.3.1 S-Parameter – Gain and Match

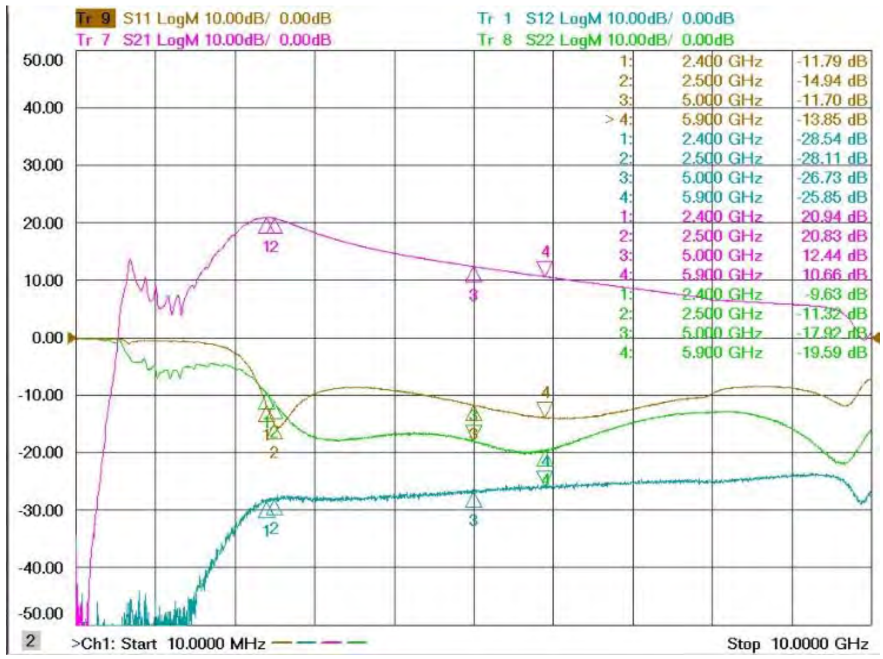
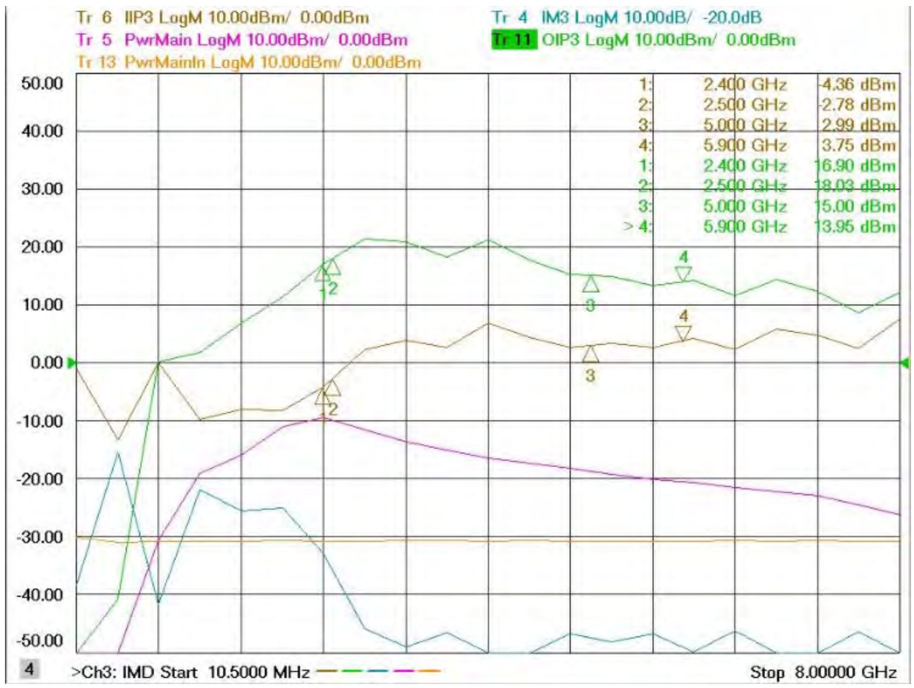


Fig 7. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: S-Parameter

4.3.2 P1dB

Fig 8. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: P1dB

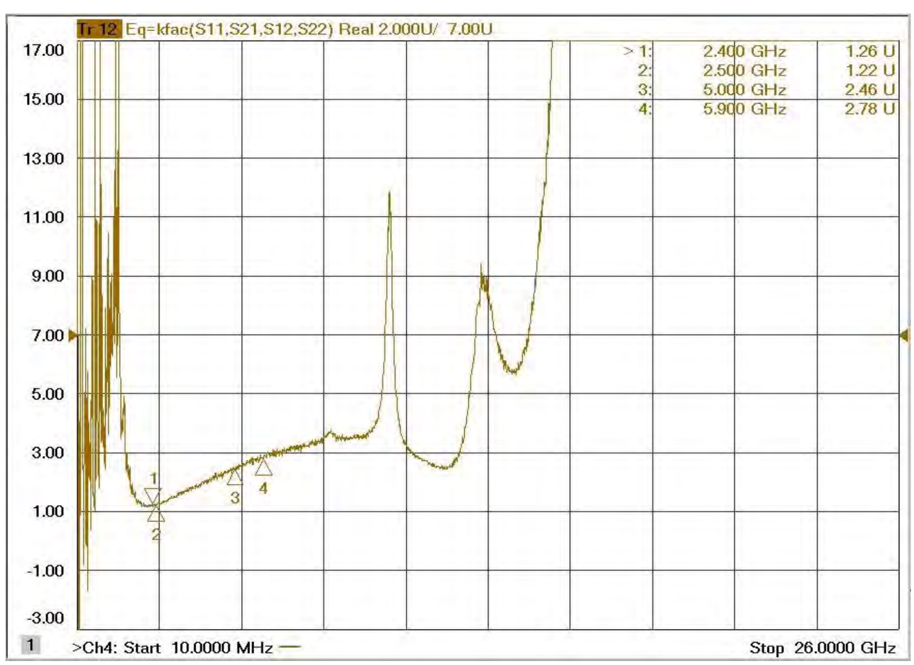
4.3.3 Linearity/IP3



Tone spacing: 1MHz

Fig 9. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: IP3

4.3.4 Stability



K Factor

Fig 10. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: Stability

4.3.5 Noise Figure Measurement

A network analyzer is used to measure the loss between the connector to the first matching component of the device. The measured return loss is 0.2-0.4dB across the band, therefore a 0.1-0.2dB input loss must be de-embedded to get device noise figure.

The Noise figure data in the graphic below is the noise figure after de-embedding the connector and input loss.

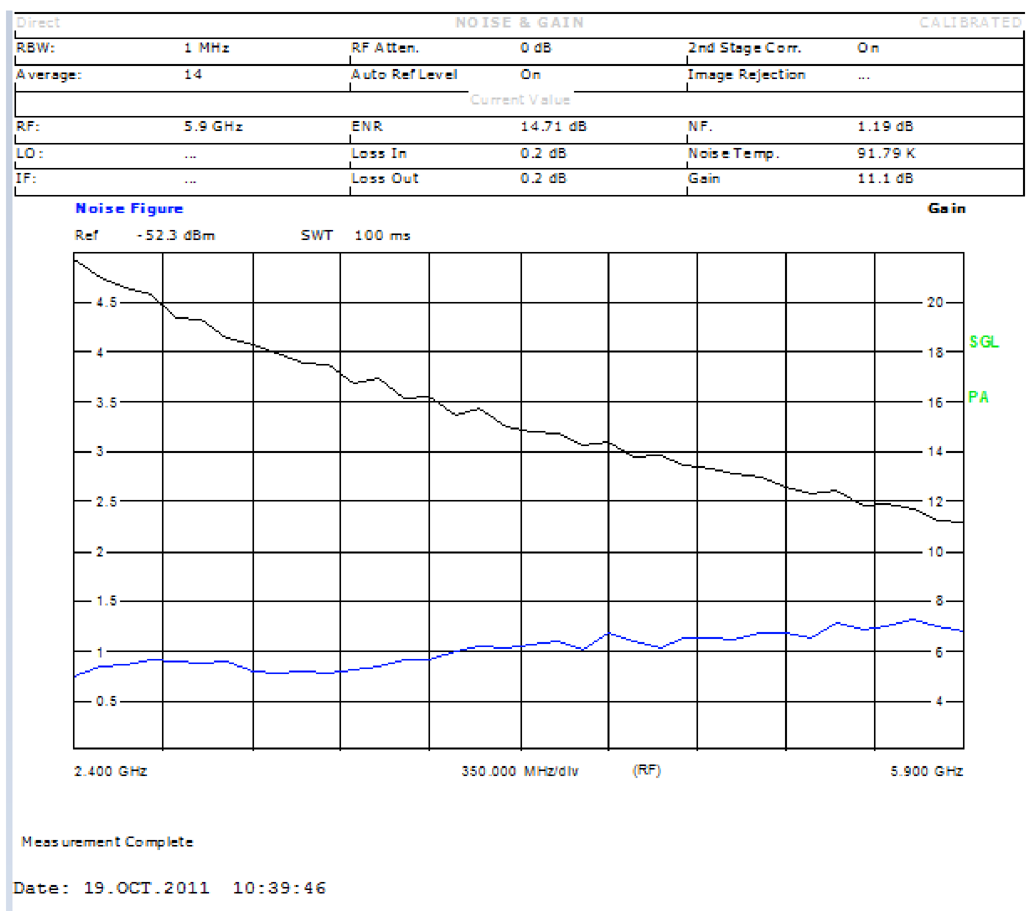


Fig 11. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: Noise Figure

4.3.6 LNA Turn ON/OFF Time

The following diagram shows the setup to test LNA Turn ON and Turn OFF time. The LNA Turn ON and Turn OFF time are mainly determined by the R-C time constant of the biasing circuitries: on the Base bias path the $\tau 1$ = R3*C3 and on the Collector bias path $\tau 2$ = (R2+R3)*C12.

Set the waveform generator output to square mode and the output amplitude at 3Vrms with high output impedance. The waveform generator has adequate output current to drive the LNA therefore no extra DC power supply is required which simplifies the test setup.

Set the RF signal generator output level to -25dBm at 2.4GHz and increase its level until the output DC on the oscilloscope is at 25mV on 5mV/division, the signal generator RF output level is approximately -13dBm.

It is very important to keep the cables as short as possible at input and output of the LNA so the propagation delay difference on cables between the two channels is minimized.

It is also critical to set the oscilloscope input impedance to 50ohm on channel 2 so the diode detector can discharge quickly to avoid a false result on the Turn OFF time testing.

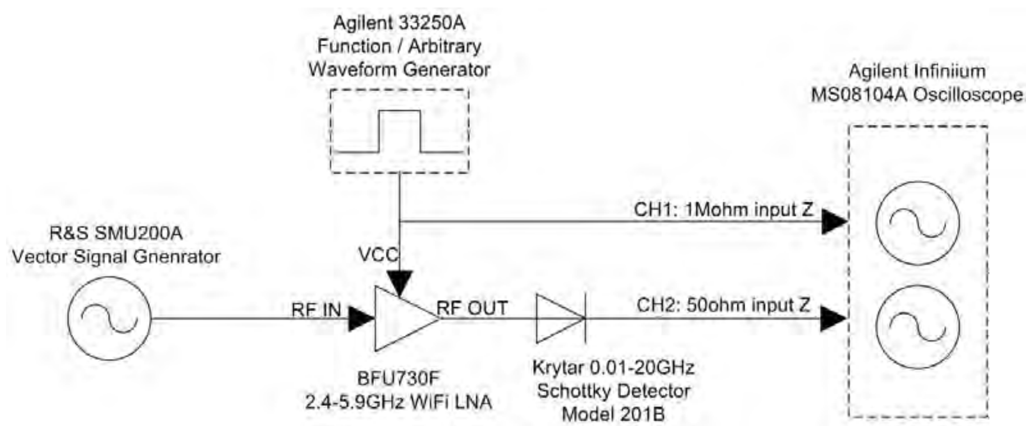


Fig 12. LNA Turn ON and Turn OFF time test setup

4.3.6.1 LNA Turn ON Time

3.3Vrms, 100KHz and 50% duty cycle pulse applied on VCC pin, measured from 50% of input pulse to 90% of max. output power

Fig 13. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: Turn ON time

4.3.6.2 LNA Turn OFF Time

3.3Vrms, 100KHz and 50% duty cycle pulse applied on VCC pin, measured from 50% of input pulse to 10% of max. output power

Fig 14. BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA: Turn OFF time

4.3.7 Summary Of the Typical Evaluation Board Test Result

Table 3. Typical results measured on the BFU730F 2.4-5.9GHz Broadband WiFi LNA Evaluation Board

Operating frequency 2.4-5.9GHz, testing at 2.4GHz and 5.9GHz unless otherwise specified, Temp = 25°C.

Parameter		Symbol	Value	Unit
Supply Voltage		Vcc	3.3	V
Supply Current		Icc	12	mA
Noise Figure	@2.4GHz	NF	0.7	dB
	@5.9GHz	NF	1.2	dB
Power Gain	@2.4GHz	Gp	20.9	dB
	@5.9GHz	Gp	10.6	dB
Input Return Loss	@2.4GHz	IRL	11.8	dB
	@5.9GHz	IRL	13.8	dB
Output Return Loss	@2.4GHz	ORL	9.7	dB
	@5.9GHz	ORL	19.7	dB

Parameter		Symbol	Value	Unit
Reverse Isolation	@2.4GHz	ISLrev	28.5	dB
	@5.9GHz	ISLrev	25.8	dB
Input 1dB Gain Compression Point	@2.4GHz	Pi1dB	-13.1	dBm
	@5.9GHz	Pi1dB	-7.6	dBm
Output 1dB Gain Compression Point	@2.4GHz	PL1dB	7.1	dBm
	@5.9GHz	PL1dB	1.7	dBm
Input Third Order Intercept Point	@2.4GHz	IIP3	-4.3	dBm
@1MHz tone spacing	@5.9GHz	IIP3	3.8	dBm
Output Third Order Intercept Point	@2.4GHz	OIP3	16.8	dBm
@1MHz tone spacing	@5.9GHz	OIP3	14	dBm
Stability (0- 26GHz)		K	>1	
LNA Turn ON/OFF Time		Ton	391	nS
		Toff	19	nS

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