

# GBPPR 'Zine



Issue #92 / The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker / December 2011

***"So high is the level of education in our country that Japan's is an intelligent society. Our average score is much higher than those of countries like the U.S. There are many Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and Mexicans in America. In consequence, the average score over there is exceedingly low."***

--- October 1986 quote from Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister of Japan.  
([www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,962472,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,962472,00.html))

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# 5ESS Switch Input Message – OP:ILHB

## OP:ILHB

**Software Release:** 5E14 and later  
**Command Group:** MAINT  
**Application:** 5  
**Type:** Input

## Purpose

Requests the report of the Incoming Line History Block (ILHB) information for Local Area Signaling Services (LASS).

## Format

1. OP:ILHB, DN=aaaaaaaa;

2. OP:ILHB, b[, PTY=c];

## Explanation of Message

aaaaaaaaaa = Ten-digit Directory Number (DN) of the line.

b = Line equipment numbers. Valid value(s):

1. ILEN=d-e-f-g (Integrated Line Equipment Number)
2. LCEN=d-u-t-j (Line Card Equipment Number)
3. LCKEN=d-u-i-r-s (Line Circuit Equipment Number)
4. LEN=d-h-k-l-m-n (Line Equipment Number)
5. SLEN=d-o-p-q (SLC Line Equipment Number)

- d = Switching Module (SM) number
- e = Integrated Digital Carrier Unit (IDCU) number
- f = Remote Terminal (RT) number or IDCU digital signal level 1 (DS1) serving PUB43801 number
- g = RT line number or PUB43801 channel
- h = Line unit number
- i = Line group number
- j = Line card number
- k = Grid number
- l = Switch board number
- m = Switch number
- n = Level number
- o = Digital Carrier Line Unit (DCLU) number
- p = RT number
- q = RT line number
- r = Line board number
- s = Line circuit number
- t = Line group controller number
- u = ISDN line unit (ISLU/ISLU2)

c = Party.

For an analog ILEN, LEN, LCEN, or SLEN (refer to RC/V View 1.6 for the specified Office Equipment [OE] number):

- 0-9 = Multi-party (4, 5, 8, or 10 party lines)
- I = Individual line (default)
- R = 2-party ring
- T = 2-party tip

For an ISDN LCEN, ILEN, or LCKEN (refer to RC/V View 23.1 for the specified OE number):

- 0-7 = Multi-point
- I, 0 = Point-point (default)

### **System Response**

NG = No good. Valid value(s):

- INVALID OFFICE EQUIPMENT NUMBER = This request was denied because an invalid office equipment number was entered.
- MUST ENTER TEN NUMERIC DIGITS = This request was denied because ten numeric digits must be entered.

PF = Printout follows. The request has been accepted and is followed by the OP: ILHB output message.

RL = Retry later. The request has been denied, probably due to system load.

# 5ESS Switch Output Message – OP:ILHB

## OP:ILHB

```
Software Release: 5E14 and later
Command Group: MAINT
Application: 5
Type: Output
```

### Format

1. OP ILHB DN=aaaaaaaaa  
DATE:bb/bb TIME:cc:cc  
LICDN=ddddddddd  
MULT\_CALL=e PRIV\_INC=f TRACE=g IDP=h  
SCREENING=i ADDR\_TYPE=j NUM\_PLAN=k UNIQ=l  
CNPR\_INC=m
2. OP ILHB n PTY=o  
DATE:bb/bb TIME:cc:cc  
LICDN=ddddddddd  
MULT\_CALL=e PRIV\_INC=f TRACE=g IDP=h  
SCREENING=i ADDR\_TYPE=j NUM\_PLAN=k UNIQ=l  
CNPR\_INC=m
3. OP ILHB DN=aaaaaaaaa  
p
4. OP ILHB n PTY=o  
p

### Reason for Output

To report the Incoming Line History Block (ILHB) or an error message in response to an OP:ILHB input message.

*Format 1* displays the ILHB status of a Directory Number (DN).

*Format 2* displays the ILHB status of an Office Equipment (OE) number, which includes the following: an Integrated Digital Carrier Unit Line Equipment Number (ILEN), an Integrated Services Line Card Equipment Number (LCEN), a Line Equipment Number (LEN) of a line, an SLC Line Equipment Number (SLEN), or an Integrated Services Line Circuit (LCKEN).

*Format 3* reports an error response for a DN.

*Format 4* reports an error response for an OE number, which includes the following: an ILEN, a LCEN, a LEN, a SLEN, a LCKEN.

### Variable Field Definitions

aaaaaaaaaa = Ten-digit directory number of the line.

b = Date of the last incoming call. Listed in the form of month/day.

c = Time of day of the last incoming call. Listed in the form of hour and minute.

dddddddddd = Last incoming calling DN.

e = Multiple call indicator. Valid value(s):

- NO = No call was active when this call updated the last incoming call.
- YES = A call was already active when this call updated the last incoming call.

f = Incoming privacy indicator (used for per-call privacy and all call privacy features). Valid value(s):

- NO = The Last Incoming Call Directory Number (LICDN) was marked public for display.
- YES = The LICDN was marked private for display.

g = Local Area Switching Services (LASS) Customer Originated Trace (COT) indicator. Valid value(s):

- NO = The LICDN has not been traced using COT.
- YES = The LICDN has already been traced using COT.

h = Individual Dialing Plan (IDP) indicator. Valid value(s):

- NO = The calling party did not use IDP intercom dialing.
- YES = The calling party (identified by the LICDN) used IDP intercom dialing.

i = LICDN screening indicator. Valid value(s):

- NP = Network-provided
- UPNS = User-provided – not screened
- UPSP = User-provided – screened and passed
- UPSF = User-provided – screened and failed

j = LICDN type of address. Valid value(s):

- INTL = International
- LOC = Local
- NATL = National
- UNK = Unknown

k = LICDN numbering plan. Valid value(s):

- ISDN = Integrated Services Digital Network
- PRIV = Private
- PUB = Public
- UNK = Unknown

l = Uniqueness of the LICDN. Valid value(s):

- NO = Calling DN is not unique
- YES = Calling DN is unique
- UNK = Unknown

m = Calling name and calling number presentation indicator for the calling DN (the LICDN). Valid value(s):

- NAP = Name presentation indicator was invoked by the calling DN
- NNDA = Name and number display code was invoked by the calling DN
- NNP = Name and number presentation access code was invoked by the calling DN
- NOP = No name and number presentation access code was invoked by the calling DN

n = Valid value(s):

1. ILEN=q-r-s-t (Integrated Line Equipment Number)
2. LCEN=q-h1-i1-w (Line Card Equipment Number)
3. LCKEN=q-h1-v-f1-g1 (Line Circuit Equipment Number)
4. LEN=q-u-e1-y-z-a1 (Line Equipment Number)
5. SLEN=q-b1-c1-d1 (SLC Line Equipment Number)

- a1 = Level number
- b1 = Digital Carrier Line Unit (DCLU) number
- c1 = Remote Terminal (RT) number
- d1 = RT line number
- e1 = Grid number
- f1 = Line board number
- g1 = Line circuit number
- h1 = ISDN line unit (ISLU/ISLU2)
- i1 = Line group controller number

o = Party. For an analog ILEN, LEN, LCEN, or SLEN, valid values are:

- I = Individual line
- T = 2-party tip
- R = 2-party ring
- 0-9 = Multi-party (4, 5, 8, or 10 party lines)

For an ISDN LCEN, ILEN, and LCKEN valid values are:

- I, 0 = Point-point
- 0-7 = Multi-point

p = Error message in response to an OP : ILHB input message. Valid value(s):

- DATA BASE READ FAILURE - r1AR\_CF = Data from the relation r1AR\_CF could not be successfully retrieved, because a database read failure occurred.
- DATA BASE READ FAILURE - r1FC\_LINE = Data from the relation r1FC\_LINE could not be successfully retrieved, because a database read failure occurred.
- DATA BASE READ FAILURE - r1LPT\_PT = Data from the relation r1LPT\_PT could not be successfully retrieved, because a database read failure occurred.
- DN CONTAINS AN INVALID NPA = The DN contains a Numbering Plan Area (NPA) that is invalid or does not exist.
- DN CONTAINS AN INVALID NXX = The DN contains an office code that is invalid or does not exist.
- DN IS INVALID = The hundreds group is not populated for the specified DN, or the specified DN is invalid or does not exist.
- INCOMING LINE HISTORY BLOCK NOT AVAILABLE = The specified DN or OE is not allowed for LASS feature requests, or the ILHB is not available for this request.
- NOT PROCESSED: LASS SUPPORT PACKAGE NOT LOADED = The switch does not have the appropriate LASS software loaded to handle the request.
- OE OR PTY IS INVALID = The OE number or the party is invalid or does not exist.
- PTY IS INVALID = The party is invalid or does not exist.
- RETRY LATER: REQUEST COULD NOT BE PROCESSED = Switch resources were not available to allow processing of the request.

- SM REDUNDANT DATA MISMATCH = This request was not processed, because data was inconsistent across Switching Modules (SM).
- UNEXPECTED DATA VALUE = A software fault has occurred. Refer to the "Technical Assistance" portion of the "Introduction" section of the Output Messages manual.

q = Switching Module (SM) number.

r = Integrated Digital Carrier Unit (IDCU) number.

s = Remote terminal (RT) number or IDCU Facility (IFAC) number.

t = RT line number or IFAC channel number.

u = Line unit number.

v = Line group number.

w = Line card number.

y = Switch board number.

z = Switch number.

# RF Phase Detector Using an AD8302

## Overview

This is a simple project for a RF phase detector which can be used at frequencies up to 2.7 GHz. RF phase detectors are designed to compare the phase (or magnitude) relationship between two incoming RF signals. Observing the phase or magnitude of two RF signals (incoming and outgoing) is very useful when analyzing the impedance match of a RF amplifier, mixer, or other RF stage. But, for this application, we'll be using it for an upcoming phase-detecting microwave interferometer surveillance device project.

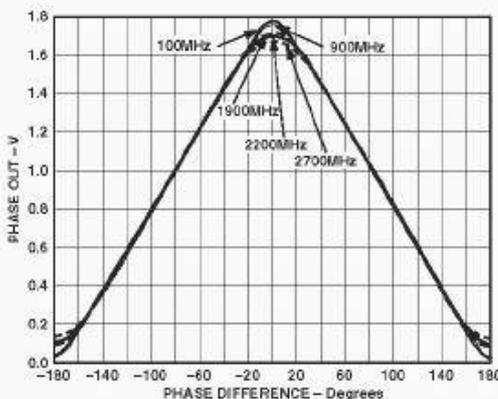
This phase detector project will be based around an Analog Devices AD8302 LF–2.7 GHz RF/IF Gain and Phase Detector. It's available from Digi–Key for under \$20. If you ask nicely, you may get one as a free sample from Analog Devices. The AD8302 is in a 14–pin TSSOP package, so you may wish to also get a 14–pin TSSOP–to–DIP adapter board.

The Analog Devices AD8302 is really a quite remarkable device, only requiring a few passive external components for operation. This little chip basically gives the same phase and magnitude relationship information which a multi–thousand dollar RF vector network analyzer would give.

We'll only be using the phase difference output information in this project. The AD8302 provides an accurate measurement of phase over a  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$  range which is scaled to a 10 mV/degree voltage output. This works out to an output range of 0 to 1.8 volts. Unfortunately, the AD8302 doesn't distinguish the *sign* of this phase relationship. For example, a  $-45^\circ$  and a  $+45^\circ$  phase difference would both give the same output voltage.

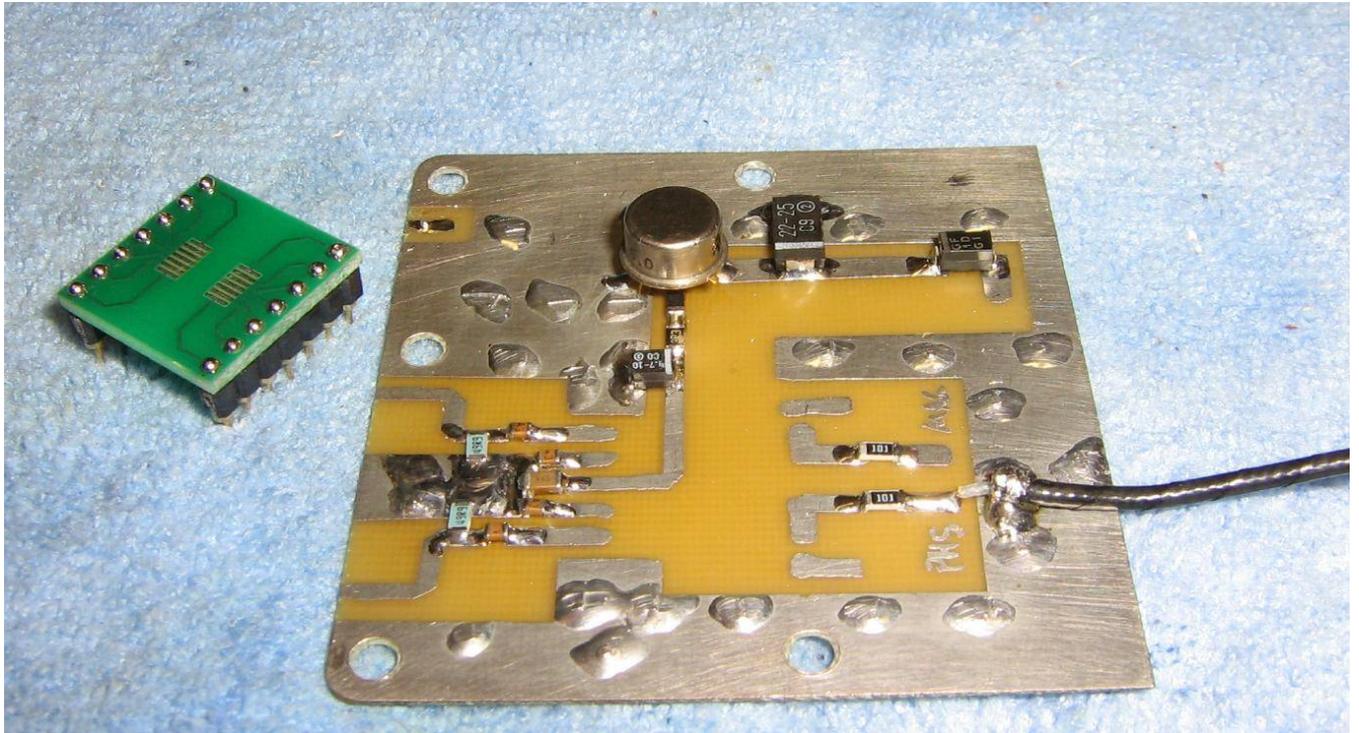
Refer to *Figure TPC 25* "Phase Output vs. Input Phase Difference" from the AD8302's datasheet for a visual display of the phase output information. A  $0^\circ$  phase difference between the two incoming RF signals should give an output of around 1.7 to 1.8 volts.

In our microwave interferometer surveillance project, the phase detector will be used to measure the difference in phase relationship between the transmitted and received microwave RF beams. This should, theoretically, allow us to remotely detect sub–millimeter vibrations as the slight shift in phase response between these two RF beams.



TPC 25. Phase Output (VPHS) vs. Input Phase Difference, Input Levels  $-30$  dBm, Frequencies 100 MHz, 900 MHz, 1900 MHz, 2200 MHz, Supply 5 V, 2700 MHz

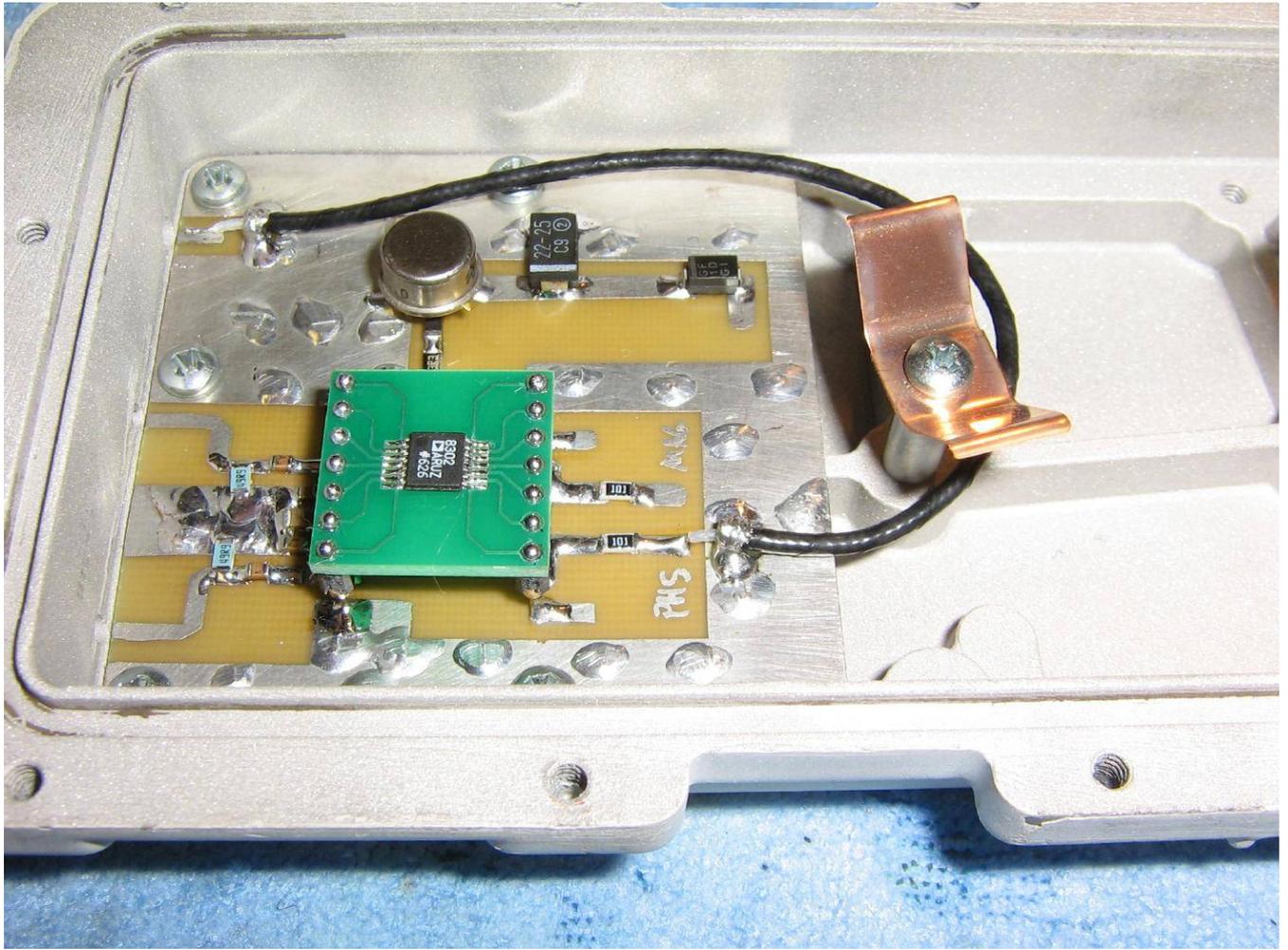
## Pictures & Construction Notes



Overview of the Analog Devices AD8302 phase detector circuit board and a 14-pin TSSOP-to-DIP adapter board.

Using the 14-pin TSSOP-to-DIP adapter board will limit the overall high frequency response of the AD8302.

A LM140-5.0 provides the main +5 VDC voltage regulation.



Completed Analog Devices AD8302 phase detector circuit board.

That's it!

Just a couple of resistors, capacitors, and a +5 VDC voltage regulator.



Alternate view.

It's mounted in an old California Amplifier MMDS downconverter case with two N connectors for the A & B channel RF inputs and a BNC connector for the phase relation voltage output.

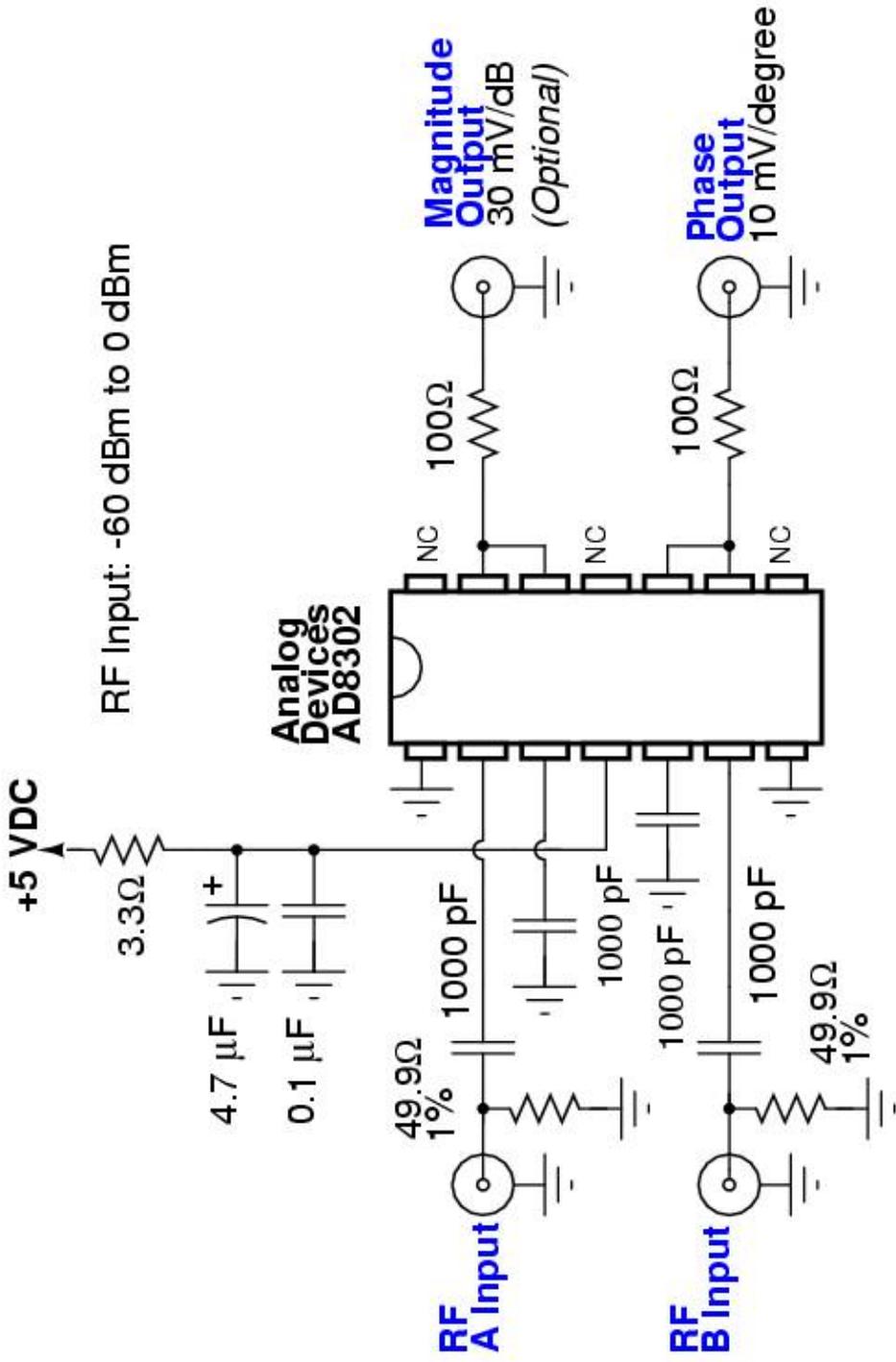


Outside case overview.

Banana jacks are for the main +12 VDC input.

The RF input power level should be between  $-60$  and  $0$  dBm. Because the AD8302 contains internal limiting amplifiers, it should give the same phase output voltage regardless of the input RF power.

# AD8302 Phase Detector



## 2 GHz Converter for the GBPPR Spectrum Analyzer

### Overview

This is a RF converter which can be used to extend the receiving range of the GBPPR Spectrum Analyzer project or any other piece of RF test equipment. It consists of a Mini-Circuits SRA-11 mixer with a phase-locked Local Oscillator (LO) at 2 GHz. The SRA-11 mixer's RF and IF ports are padded with 3 dB attenuator pads to help all the mixer's port "see" 50 ohms, which reduces intermodulation products.

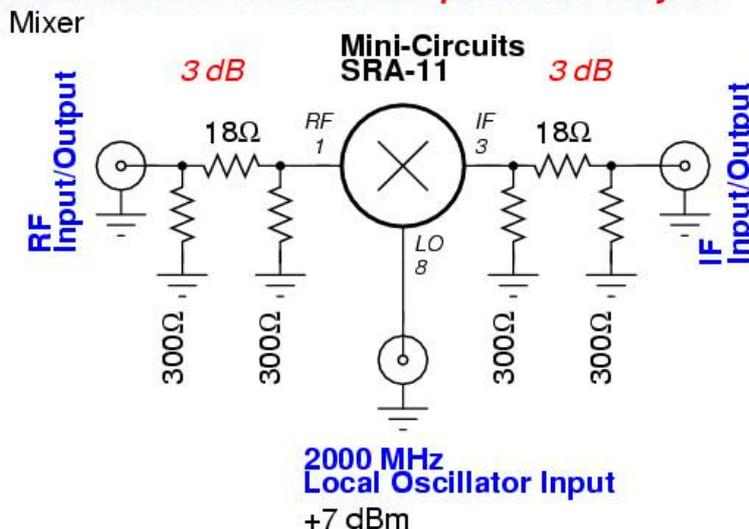
Any signal coming in the converter's RF port is mixed with the 2 GHz LO and the "new" signal is now on the IF port. For example, an incoming signal at 2.45 GHz would be mixed with the 2 GHz LO signal and appear on the IF port as a 450 MHz signal (and 4.45 GHz – but ignore that one). This "new" RF signal will be attenuated 6 dB by the two attenuator pads and another 7 dB or so by the conversion loss in the SRA-11 mixer. This new IF output frequency is now within the tuning range of the GBPPR Spectrum Analyzer.

This mixing process also works in "reverse." If you apply a 144 MHz signal to the converter's IF port, the new mixed frequencies on the RF port would be 2.144 GHz (2 GHz + 144 MHz) and 1.856 GHz (2 GHz – 144 MHz). Harmonics and sub-harmonics of these mixed frequencies will also exist, to a certain point. This is helpful for easily creating fairly high microwave frequencies.

The local oscillator of this circuit will be based around a Mini-Circuits ROS-2082-119 Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO). Other VCOs will work, provided they cover 2 GHz at around 2 to 3 tuning volts. The Phase-Locked Loop (PLL) will be based around a Motorola MC145151 parallel-programmed PLL synthesizer and a Fujitsu MB506 divide-by-256 prescaler. The reference frequency for the PLL will be from a 10 MHz Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator (TCXO). Using a TCXO is a bit of overkill, but in test equipment you don't want any frequency drift.

The Mini-Circuits SRA-11 mixer used in this project isn't ideal, but I had one available. The listed SRA-11 high frequency response is 2 GHz, but it works fine up to 3 GHz with just a slight increase in conversion loss (from 7 to 11 dB). RF power applied to either the mixer's RF or IF port should not exceed 0 dBm (1 mW).

### 2 GHz Converter for GBPPR Spectrum Analyzer



## Pictures & Construction Notes



2 GHz converter overview.

The 10 MHz Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator (TCXO) time base is on the left. It's an EG&G Part Number 1DN14-CV90-2201-1 (Model Number T424), and is from an old Qualcomm OmniTRACS control unit. This TCXO is covered in Issue #72.

The MC145151 PLL synthesizer is the 28-pin PLCC chip in the lower-middle. The raised pins provide a logic "1" for the PLL's N divider.

The Mini-Circuits ROS-2082-119 is in the upper-middle. Its RF output directly drives the LO port on the Mini-Circuits SRA-11 mixer on the upper-right.

The 8-pin IC just below the SRA-11 mixer is the Fujitsu MB506 divide-by-256 prescaler.



Closeup view of the PLL and VCO sections.

The capacitors in the PLL loop filter are polystyrene to minimize microphonics.

A LM140-5.0 provides the +5 VDC for the MC145151, MB506, and ROS-2082-119.

There is an optional tap on the MC145151's reference oscillator output (pin 26). This is handy for tuning the TCXO frequency or for providing a reference for another piece of test equipment.



Outside case overview.

It's mounted in an old California Amplifier MMDS downconverter case with a N connector for the RF port, a BNC connector for the IF port, and a F connector for the optional 10 MHz reference output.

Banana jacks are for the main +15 VDC input.



# If it costs 46% more to repair a car today than in 1961, what about a telephone truck?

With 100 million phones to care for, our fleet now numbers 110,000 trucks.

And with auto repair costs rising 46% since 1961, you can imagine what that's done to our budget.

We've been doing some of our own repair work, but our costs went up just as much—from \$230 to \$340 per truck.

Our total running expenses from \$612 to \$823 a truck.

And to get the money to buy new trucks, we're having to borrow at interest rates that have almost doubled since 1961.

Despite rising costs like these, residential telephone rates have gone up only 8% overall since 1961. And long distance rates have actually gone down. While the cost of living has gone up 37%.

1971  
Consumer  
Price Index  
Up 37%

1971  
Phone Rates  
Up 8%  
(C.P.I.)

1961

Obviously, this can't go on. Because the cost of providing you good telephone service is going up, telephone rates are going up, too—but based on the last ten years, far less than most things you buy.

AT&T and your local Bell Company.



## End of Issue #92



Any Questions?

### Editorial and Rants

The *real* fascists of "Occupy Wall Street" and their attack on free speech:

- **Safer Space.** Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, ableist, etc. content is subject to moderation. We understand that many such behaviors are unfortunately common in society (like calling things "gay" or "retarded") so bans will be reserved for the worst/repeat offenders.
  - **No Platform.** Conspiracy theories, including any attempt to spam material by David Icke, Lyndon LaRouche, David Duke or Alex Jones, will be removed immediately and the spammer will receive a *swift* global network ban. Fascist propaganda (including any attempt to spam these four people again), will be treated with the similar actions. In that we are very specific about what fascism is: the word has a meaning.
  - **Stay On target.** Off topic posts, low content posts, worthless posts, bumping, etc, will be moderated and removed. Repeat posting of the same off topic posts and spamming of links that have nothing to do with the subject at hand (case in point the Dylan bullshit) will be banned outright. Similarly posters who constantly post off-topic nonsense are straddling the line very close to a ban.
  - We do not support an election campaign for 2012. At all. We have removed election material for Obama, Paul, Warren, Paul, Cain, Paul, Perry, Paul, the green party, Paul, Nader, Paul, and did I mention Paul? The spamming by the Ron Lawl 2012 fan club was getting out of hand. We will continue to remove such material and any call for the Paul 2012 campaign will, at this point, be considered spamming. End of. We're tired of hearing about it. Main street debates are also largely off topic.
  - Red baiting will be moderated, as this is not 1952 and we are able to debate ideas without insulting anyone even slightly to the left as though they were Stalin reborn. Similarly, people on the right are not necessarily nazis.
  - Trolling will be squashed whenever possible/reported/found out.
  - Posting people's personal information on the website is prohibited.
  - The continuous spamming of lies from various sources (like the non story about turning away the homeless, which was, as mentioned, a lie, or the mythical 500,000\$, which a) doesn't exist, as our donate page can attest, and b) the 300,000\$ account is being used constantly to pay for food, equipment, etc. (already on top of helping other occupations with more difficulty fundraising) will
- 1 comments 11 minutes ago by [Avress](#)  
[I need your help - Congress Members' Healthcare Plan](#)  
0 comments 20 minutes ago by [Droid24JG](#)  
[Please sign petition against Police Brutality!](#)  
0 comments 20 minutes ago by [TLydon007](#)  
[Cut Our Politicians From Office](#)  
2 comments 27 minutes ago by [Crimzon](#)  
[Recall your senator or representative if they were on the supercommittee!!](#)  
1 comments 34 minutes ago by [fixedgrin](#)  
[Occupy Christmas! Tell St. Nick to buy American!](#)  
10 comments 39 minutes ago by [aaronwayneodonahue](#)  
[A movement for change...](#)  
1 comments 43 minutes ago by [grif713](#)  
[Teargas](#)  
[Manufacture--Combined Systems, Inc. | 388 Kinsman Rd. Jamestown, PA 16134 | Tel: 724-932-2177 | Fax: 724-932-2166](#)  
3 comments 45 minutes ago by

[occupywallst.org/forum/moderating-policies-will-be-reposted-somewhere-pro](http://occupywallst.org/forum/moderating-policies-will-be-reposted-somewhere-pro)

*In this time of "multiculturalism and diversity," you'd think a school would be more supportive of people celebrating Christmas. Oh, wait... that's right... "multiculturalism and diversity" really means attacking the foundation of Western countries. I'll bet you're not really surprised by the fact the person behind all this has "berg" in their lastname! See the Jew...*

## **School Board Defends Bumping Christmas Concert**

December 2, 2011 – From: [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca)

Mary Ellen Schellenberg said she wonders why the concert can't be more inclusive but continue to be held in December. Mary Ellen Schellenberg said she wonders why the concert can't be more inclusive but continue to be held in December.

**An Ottawa–area school's decision to move a traditional concert in December to February and take the emphasis off Christmas isn't sitting well with some of the parents.**

**Cambridge Public School in Embrun, Ont., made the decision to push the concert to February and make it more inclusive, so some students who do not celebrate Christmas would not be left out of the concert.**

Parent Mary Ellen Schellenberg has three children at the school and said she was shocked to learn the concert wouldn't be happening and contacted the principal of the school.

"I just said that I didn't think that it was right to take that promise [of a concert] from the children. It is important to families," she said.

Schellenberg, who attended the school when she was young, said the Christmas concert at the public school was always less about the Christian Christmas and more about the secular elements of the holiday.

Schellenberg also said last year's concert had Hanukkuh songs and marked Chinese New Year.

"I am happy with this concert in February and I don't want to come across that I'm not," she said. "I just think that this concert is a tradition at that school and has been for a long time. And I don't think our children should have to give it up."

Upper Canada District School Board spokesperson Terry Simzer said in a statement Friday that while the concert is moving to February, there will be a number of activities planned at the school, including "the Christmas tree decorating contest, a family craft evening complete with a drumming session and carol sing-along.

"And once again, students will visit a local seniors' residence to sing carols," said Simzer.

"The only change is that the annual school concert has been postponed to February to ensure that all students have the opportunity to prepare for and participate in that presentation. This decision supports inclusivity...it demonstrates respect for all cultures," said Simzer.

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*Outrageous! More proof that non-White third-worlders are not compatible with Western civilization. Imagine the outrage from the Jews at the ACLU if these same Muslims were not permitted to worship Allah! Again, note how "multiculturalism" is only one way...*

### **One Fewer Stop for Santa This Year: He's Banned from Head Start Classes in St. Peter**

December 16, 2011 – From: [minnpost.com](http://minnpost.com)

By Joe Kimball

Santa Claus, as portrayed by Dennis Jackson, won't be visiting students at the Head Start classes in St. Peter this year.

Jackson has made appearances the past four years at the classes for students who need help preparing for school, but this year officials said, "No, no, no."

**The reason: The classes have many immigrant children who don't celebrate Christmas, says the Mankato Free Press.**

Santa's a little frosted, the paper says.

"It kind of burnt me up," he said.

The official explanation from Chris Marben, who coordinates regional Head Start programs through Mankato-based Minnesota Valley Action Council: "We have Somali families in the program. We're respecting the wishes of families in the program."

She didn't say how many objections were made, but said more than one would be enough to cancel Santa.

"The simple truth is that southern Minnesota has become a much more culturally diverse society than it was a few decades ago," she told the paper. "Part of our challenge in Head Start is providing an environment where young children from many different cultures can all feel comfortable."

Jackson said rather than depriving the rest of the group of the Santa experience, parents who object should take their kids out of the class during the half hour he spends talking to the kids and giving them candy.

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*Why is it so bad asking hard-working White people to show an ID before voting? Oh, wait... It's "those" kinds of minorities. Funny, this affirmative action nigger has no problems with White people being harrassed or molested during airport security screenings, but as soon as you ask some lazy non-White to show an ID to vote – he goes crazy! Note that rape, murder, and burglary laws also "hurt" minorities...*

## **Eric Holder: Voter I.D. Laws Hurt Minorities**

December 13, 2011 – From: [politico.com](http://politico.com)

By Josh Gerstein

Under increasing pressure from civil rights groups to take action against a wave of state voter identification laws, Attorney General Eric Holder issued a public warning Tuesday that the new laws could disenfranchise minority voters, but he stopped short of promising the broad legal crackdown many activists are seeking.

"It is time to ask: What kind of nation and what kind of people do we want to be? Are we willing to allow this era -- our era -- to be remembered as the age when our nation's proud tradition of expanding the franchise ended?" Holder said in a speech at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin, Texas.

This year, eight states have passed laws that require voters to show identification at the polls. Two of those states, South Carolina and Texas, need so-called pre-clearance from the Justice Department or a court, which has not yet been granted. Some states are also rolling back early voting options and adding new registration procedures, while others are imposing rules that could make it more difficult for college students and the elderly to vote.

Critics complain that the measures will have a disproportionate impact on minorities and the poor and are aimed at suppressing turnout of voters who tend to support Democrats. Supporters generally cite a need to fight fraud, though some have on occasion admitted seeking to discourage voting by specific groups, such as students.

Holder suggested that the new voter ID laws are unnecessary but was vague about what action the Justice Department plans to take against them, particularly in those states free to craft election procedures without the prior approval from the DOJ or the courts required by the Voting Rights Act. Under Section 5 of that law, most parts of nine states and a smattering of other counties and towns with a history of election-related discrimination must apply to the Justice Department or a court for permission to change voting procedures.

"Since January, more than a dozen states have advanced new voting measures. Some of these new laws are currently under review by the Justice Department, based on our obligations under the Voting Right Act," Holder said. "Although I cannot go into detail about the ongoing review of these and other state law changes, I can assure you that it will be thorough -- and fair. We will examine the facts and we will apply the law."

Holder's message seemed as much a public exhortation to fight voter ID laws as a vow that the Justice Department would take action to block them.

"Speak out. Raise awareness about what's at stake," Holder said. "Call on our political parties to resist the temptation to suppress certain votes in the hope of attaining electoral success and, instead, encourage and work with the parties to achieve this success by appealing to more voters. And urge policymakers at every level to re-evaluate our election systems — and to reform them in ways that encourage, not limit, participation."

In his remarks, Holder addressed the question of voter fraud that has been cited repeatedly by advocates of the new state laws such as Republican state Sen. Troy Fraser, a sponsor of Texas's voter ID law, who said at the time the bill was passed: "Voter impersonation is a serious crime, but without a photo ID requirement, we can never have confidence in our system of voting."

Holder said he prosecuted voter fraud cases earlier in his career but that "in-person voting fraud is uncommon."

"We must be honest about this," he said.

Holder's speech followed a private meeting he held recently where civil rights leaders expressed a growing impatience with the Justice Department's failure to act against the new laws, especially those in states that don't require prior clearance from the department or the courts, according to sources who participated in the sessions.

"We were very concerned about the lack of enforcement from the Department of Justice," said Barbara Arnwine of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. "We have expected more from them in terms of voting rights. ... We reviewed how many cases civil rights groups were bringing versus the number of cases brought by DOJ."

Asked about the message delivered to the attorney general, Arnwine said: "It was that they were not doing enough. ... We said that this was his watch."



**How things used to be.**