

Circuit Description/Theory of Operation

There are two PCBs in 21-1855 including RF board and Baseband board. The RF board consists of a Low Noise Amplifier (LNA), a mixer, an IF amplifier, a FM demodulation IC (MC3361), a Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO), a Phase Locked Loop (PLL), a VCO buffer amplifier, two stages of RF driver amplifiers and a RF power amplifier. While the Baseband board consists of a Micro Controller Unit (MCU), MIC amplifier, audio amplifier, power switches, low battery detector, DC charging circuit.

A. VCO

The VCO circuit composes of a Colpitt oscillator (Q206) and 2 stages of RF driver (Q205 and Q208). The transistor Q206 is a standard Colpitt type oscillator, the resonating element is a wire wound type air coil L206. By controlling the bias voltage of varactor diode VD201 (and hence the capacitance), the resonating frequency of the oscillator will then be under controlled. The VCO had a tuning range of about 40MHz which will be used as both transmitting carrier and receiving LO. The second transistors Q205 and Q208 serves as a buffer amplifier to the VCO which can improve the load-pull characteristics of the oscillator. Applying MIC audio signal to another varactor diode VD202 made the FM modulation.

B. RX section

This product employs the traditional double conversion superheterodyne method. It mainly consists of a LNA (low noise amplifier), a LO(local oscillator), a mixer, an IF (intermediate frequency) amplifier and a FM-IF demodulation IC.

The LNA, which is composed by transistor Q202 and Q201, is using cascode configuration with the merits of having low noise figure, highly stabilized and high insertion gain.

The LO signal is generated by the VCO as mentioned before. The spurious generated will be further filtered by the tank circuit L205 and C216 and slightly coupled to the mixer. The LO frequency is controlled by the PLL (phase locked Loop) chip KB8825. The reference frequency of the PLL chip is 10.25MHz which is generated by the TCXO X201.

The first image rejection filter, F202, is a SAW (surface acoustic wave) device, with the merits of having low insertion loss and high stop band attenuation.

The mixer is a common emitter configured transistor Q203. It converts the RF signal to an IF of 10.7MHz. This IF will further be filtered by the ceramic filter F201.

The IF amplifier, Q204, is used to further amplify the filtered IF signal before inputting to the FM-IF (IC3361) chip.

Inside the FM-IF chip, the IF signal is further down converted to 450kHz second IF for demodulation. The second LO signal is generated by the reference oscillator of the PLL chip. The second IF is also further filtered by the ceramic filter for better adjacent channel rejection

response. The second IF signal is then demodulated by the quadrature coil L221. Lastly, the Squelch level of the unit is controlled by adjusting (VR201) the demodulated noise level to the internal op-amp of the FM IF chip 3361.

C. TX section

The TX carrier is also generated by the VCO circuitry with the control from PLL chip. The VCO signal is coupled to VCO buffer amplifiers Q205 and Q208. The amplified signal from Q208 will feed to the driver stage by Q209 and Q210. The output signal is then applied to the class-C power amplifier Q211. The harmonic of the carrier will be suppressed by the low-pass filter realised by L216, L218, L201 and the nearby capacitors.

Baseband Board

The baseband PCB consists of two voltage regulators (U3 and U4), Mic amplifier (U5), audio amplifier (U2), power switches (Q3, Q4 and Q10), and necessary control circuitry that controlled by MCU (U201).

The operating voltage of the circuit is stabilised by the 3V voltage regulator U3 and 2.8V regulator U4. Under receive mode, the demodulated audio signal will go through the de-emphasis process before feeding to the audio amplifier and the volume is controlled by adjusting VR SW7. Then the audio signal is amplified by audio amplifier U2. The amplified audio signal is then applied to the 8 ohm speaker.

While on transmit mode, the acoustic input picked up by the microphone will be pre-emphasised, amplified and level limited by U5B. The audio signal will be then band limited by U5A. Before modulating the carrier, this signal amplitude is controlled by the variable resistor VR2 such that the FM deviation can be controlled.

In order to have a longer battery life, power management is inevitable. Under normal or standby circumstances, the MCU will be in RX mode for a short moment with speaker muted to check whether we need to turn on the speaker to alert the user. However, in most of the time, the MCU will shut down the whole unit to save power. As a result, by turning on and off the units with different duty cycle, the current consumption can be saved to extend the battery life. Transistors of Q10, Q4 and Q3 are used as the switches of PLL_2.8V, RX_3V and TX_3V respectively.

21-1855 has 3 external keys for PTT, Monitor and Call function. When the Call key is pressed, a MCU generated a selectable dual tone signal will modulate the carrier to alert the recipient. The maximum duration of each call tone is less than 15 seconds as required by FCC. When the Monitor key is pressed, the unit will be forced to RX mode to monitor any signal exists in the air.