0.25Watt 0- -30dB Switched Attenuator (10-000701)

General Application

In many practical applications for Cell Enhancers etc., the gain in each path is found to be excessive. Therefore, provision is made within the unit for the setting of attenuation in each path, to reduce the gain.

Switched Attenuators

The AFL switched attenuators are available in two different types; 0 – 30dB in 2 dB steps (as in this case), or 0 – 15dB in 1 dB steps. The attenuation is simply set using the four miniature toggle switches on the top of each unit. Each switch is clearly marked with the attenuation it provides, and the total attenuation in line is the sum of the values switched in. They are designed to maintain an accurate 50Ω impedance over their operating frequency at both input and output.

Wide Dynamic Range AGC (17-001105, Det. & 17-001201, Atten.)

Description

The equipment is fitted with a wide dynamic range Automatic Gain Control (AGC) system. This is generally fitted in the Uplink path (not usually needed in the downlink path, as the signal here is at an almost constant level), to avoid overloading the amplifiers (with the associated performance degradation) should a mobile be operated very close to the unit.

The AFL wide dynamic range Automatic Gain Control system consists of two units, a detector/amplifier and an attenuator. The detector/amplifier unit is inserted in the RF path on the output of the power amplifier, and the attenuator is situated in the RF path between the 1st and 2nd stages of amplification.

Normally the attenuator is at minimum attenuation. The detector/amplifier unit monitors the RF level being delivered by the power amplifier, and when a certain threshold is reached it begins to increase the value of the attenuator to limit the RF output to the (factory set) threshold. Therefore overloading of the power amplifier is avoided.

The factory set threshold is 1dB below the Enhancer 1dB compression point. Some adjustment of this AGC threshold level is possible, a 10dB range is mostly achieved. It is not recommended under any circumstances to adjust the AGC threshold to a level greater than the 1dB compression point as system degradation will occur.

The detector comprises of a 50Ω transmission line with a resistive tap which samples a small portion of the mainline power. The sampled signal is amplified and fed to a conventional half wave diode rectifier, the output of which is a DC voltage proportional to the RF input signal.

This DC voltage is passed via an inverting DC amplifier with integrating characteristics, to the output, which drives the attenuation control line of the corresponding AGC attenuator. This unit is fitted at some earlier point in the RF circuit.

The unit contains a 12V DC regulator in the detector module, which supplies stabilised voltage to the DC amplifier and via an external cableform to the AGC attenuator.

For small signals, below AGC onset, the output control line will be close to 12V and the AGC attenuator will have minimum attenuation. As the signal level increases the control line voltage will fall, increasing the attenuator value and keeping the system output level at a constant value.
The AGC onset level is adjusted by the choice of sampler resistor R1 and by the setting of potentiometer VR1, (factory set @ time of system test) do not adjust unless able to monitor subsequent RF levels.
The attenuator comprises a 50Ω P.I.N diode, voltage-variable attenuator with a range of 3 to 30dB. The attenuation is controlled by a DC voltage which is derived from the associated AGC detector unit.

Technical Specification

PARAMETER		SPECIFICATION
Frequency Range:		up to 1000MHz
Attenuation Range:		3 to 30dB
Attenuation Steps:		continuously variable
VSWR:		better than 1.2:1
RF Connectors:		SMA female
Power Handling:	attenuator:	1W
	detector/amp:	>30W (or as required)
Temperature Range:	operation:	-10°C to +60°C
	storage:	-20°C to +70°C
Size:	attenuator (pcb)	50 x 42 x 21mm
	Detector (pcb)	54 x 42 x 21mm
Weight:	attenuator:	90grams
	detector/amp:	100grams

Automatic Gain Control (17-001117, Det. & 17-001201, Atten.)

Description

The equipment is fitted with an Automatic Gain Control (AGC) system. This is generally fitted in the Uplink path (not usually needed in the downlink path, as the signal here is at an almost constant level), to avoid overloading the amplifiers (with the associated performance degradation) should a mobile be operated very close to the unit.

Normally the attenuator is at minimum attenuation. The detector/amplifier unit monitors the RF level being delivered by the power amplifier, and when a certain threshold is reached it begins to increase the value of the attenuator to limit the RF output to the (factory set) threshold. Therefore overloading of the power amplifier is avoided.

The factory set threshold is 1dB below the Enhancer 1dB compression point. Some adjustment of this AGC threshold level is possible, a 10dB range is mostly achieved. It is not recommended under any circumstances to adjust the AGC threshold to a level greater than the 1dB compression point as system degradation will occur.

The detector comprises of a 50Ω transmission line with a resistive tap which samples a small portion of the mainline power. The sampled signal is amplified and fed to a conventional half wave diode rectifier, the output of which is a DC voltage proportional to the RF input signal.

This DC voltage is passed via an inverting DC amplifier with integrating characteristics, to the output, which drives the attenuation control line of the corresponding AGC attenuator. This unit is fitted at some earlier point in the RF circuit.

Note that this version of AGC system runs from a 12V DC supply and the circuit diagram shown in 5.7.4 is for the standard 24V version. The 12V circuit diagram is currently unavailable.

For small signals, below AGC onset, the output control line will be close to 12V and the AGC attenuator will have minimum attenuation. As the signal level increases the control line voltage will fall, increasing the attenuator value and keeping the system output level at a constant value.
The AGC onset level is adjusted by the choice of sampler resistor R1 and by the setting of potentiometer VR1.
The attenuator comprises a 50Ω P.I.N diode, voltage-variable attenuator with a range of 3 to 30dB. The attenuation is controlled by a DC voltage which is derived from the associated AGC detector unit.

Technical Specification

PARAMETER		SPECIFICATION
Frequency range:		up to 1000MHz
Attenuation range:		3 to 30dB
Attenuation steps:		continuously variable
VSWR:		better than 1.2:1
RF Connectors:		SMA female
Power handling:	attenuator:	1W
	detector/amp:	>30W (or as required)
Temperature range:	operation:	-10°C to +60°C
	storage:	-20°C to +70°C
Size:	attenuator pcb	50 x 42 x 21mm
	detector/amp pcb	54 x 42 x 21mm
Weight:	attenuator:	90grams
	detector/amp:	100grams

24V Relay Board (20-001602)

Description

The General Purpose Relay Board allows the inversion of signals and the isolation of circuits. It is equipped with two dual pole change-over relays RL1 and RL2, with completely isolated wiring, accessed via screw terminals.

Both relays are provided with polarity protection diodes and diodes for suppressing the transients caused by "flywheel effect" which can destroy switching transistors or induce spikes on neighbouring circuits. It's common use is to amalgamate all the alarm signals into one, volts-free relay contact pair for the main alarm system.

Note that the board is available for different voltages (12 or 24V) depending on the type of relays fitted at RL1 and RL2.

Technical Specification

PARAMETER		SPECIFICATION
Operating voltage:		8 to 30V (floating earth)
Alarm Threshold:		Vcc - 1.20 volt ±15%
Alarm output relay contacts:		
Max. switch current:		1.0Amp
Max. switch volts:		120Vdc/60VA
Max. switch power:		24W/60VA
Min. switch load:		10.0µA/10.0mV
Relay isolation:		1.5kV
Mechanical life:		>2x10^7 operations
Relay approval:		BT type 56
Connector details:		Screw terminals
Temperature range	operational:	:-10°C to +60°C
	storage:	:-20°C to +70°C

1Watt Low Power Amplifier (11-007901)

Description

This amplifier is dedicated to be a 1.0 W driver from 380 MHz to 470 MHz. It is a 2 stage amplifier where each stage is in balanced configuration. It demonstrates very high linearity and good input/output VSWR. There is a Current Fault Alarm Function, which indicates failure of each one of the RF transistors by various alarm output options. The amplifier is housed in an aluminium case (Alocrom 1200 finish) with SMA connectors for the RF input/output and a 9way D-type connector for DC and alarm outputs.

Technical Specifications

PARAMETER		SPECIFICATION
Frequency range:		380-470MHz
Small signal gain:		37.5dB
Gain flatness:		±0.5dB
Gain vs. temperature:		1.5dB
Temperature range:	operational:	-10°C to +60°C
	storage:	-20°C to +70°C
Input/output return loss:		18dB
Maximum output power:		30.4dBm (@ 1dB comp. point)
OIP3:		43dBm
Supply voltage:		10-15V DC
Current consumption:		780mA (typical)
Noise Figure:		<1.75dB

Low Noise Amplifier (11-007402)

Description

The low noise amplifier used is a double stage solid-state low-noise amplifier. Class A circuitry is used in the unit to ensure excellent linearity over a very wide dynamic range. The two active devices are very moderately rated to provide a long trouble-free working life. There are no adjustments on this amplifier, and in the unlikely event of failure then the entire amplifier should be replaced.

Technical Specification, 11-007402

PARAMETER		SPECIFICATION
Frequency range:		380-500MHz
Bandwidth:		<140MHz
Gain:		30dB
1dB Compression Point:		+22dB (typical)
3rd order intercept:		+34.8dB (typical)
Input/Output return loss:		>19dB
Noise figure:		<1.3dB
Connectors:		SMA female
Supply:		300-330mA @ 10-24V DC
Temperature range:	operational:	-10°C to +60°C
	storage:	-20°C to +70°C
Weight:		<300gm
Size:		90 x 55 x 30.2 (case only)

LNA 'D' Connector Pin-out details

Connector pin	Signal
1	+Ve input (10-24V)
2	GND
3	Alarm RelayO/P bad
4	Alarm Relay common
5	Alarm Relay good
6	No connection
7	TTL voltage set
8	TTL alarm/0V (good)
9	O/C good/0V bad