

GaAs MMIC mmWave IQ Mixer

1. Device Overview

1.1 General Description

The MMIQ-40100L is a low LO drive, passive GaAs MMIC IQ mixer. This is an ultra-broadband mixer spanning 40 to 100 GHz on the RF and LO ports with an IF from DC to 20 GHz. With a typical image rejection of 30dBc from the V through W band, this mixer is an ideal candidate for mmWave I/Q frequency conversion. Both wire bondable die and connectorized modules are available.



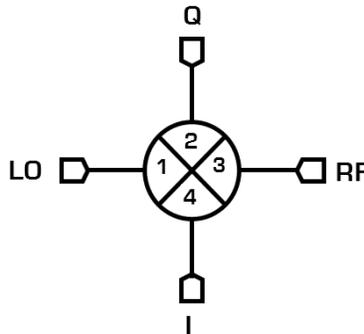
1.2 Electrical Summary

Parameter	Typical	Unit
RF/LO Frequency Range	40 - 100	GHz
IF Frequency Range	DC - 20	GHz
I+Q Conversion Loss	10	dB
Image Rejection	30	dBc

1.3 Applications

- mmWave Frequency Conversion
- Single Side Band & Image Rejection Mixing
- IQ Modulation/Demodulation
- Vector Amplitude Modulation
- Band Shifting

1.4 Functional Block Diagram



1.5 Part Ordering Options¹

Part Number	Description	Package	Green Status	Product Lifecycle	Export Classification
MMIQ-40100LCH-2	Wire bondable die	CH	RoHS	Active	EAR99
MMIQ-40100LM	Connectorized module, die wire bonded onto PCB	M	RoHS	Active	EAR99

¹ Refer to our [website](#) for a list of definitions for terminology presented in this table.

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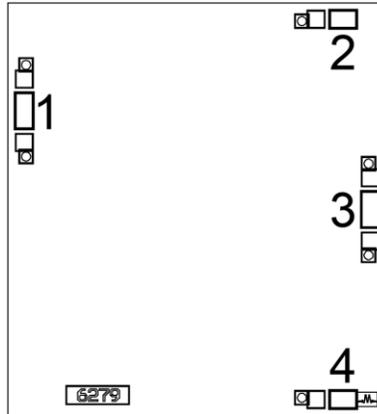
Revision History

Revision Code	Revision Date	Comment
-	May 2022	Datasheet Pre-Release

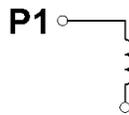
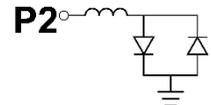
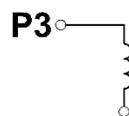
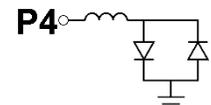
2. Port Configurations and Functions

2.1 Port Diagram

A top-down view of the MMIQ-40100L's CH-2 package outline drawing is shown below. The mixer may be operated as either a downconverter or an upconverter. Use of the RF or I/Q as the input or output port will depend on the application.



2.2 Port Functions

Port	Function	Description	Equivalent Circuit
Port 1	LO Input	Port 1 is DC open for the CH and M packages.	
Port 2	Q Input/Output	Port 2 is diode coupled and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified Q port frequency range.	
Port 3	RF Input/Output	Port 3 is DC open for the CH and M packages.	
Port 4	I Input/Output	Port 4 is diode coupled and AC matched to 50Ω over the specified I port frequency range.	
GND	Ground	CH package ground path is taken through the substrate. M package ground taken through metal housing.	

3. Specifications

3.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

The Absolute Maximum Ratings indicate limits beyond which damage may occur to the device. If these limits are exceeded, the device may be inoperable or have a reduced lifetime.

Parameter	Maximum Rating	Units
Port 1 DC Current	N/A	mA
Port 3 DC Current	N/A	mA
Power Handling, at any Port	+30	dBm
Operating Temperature	-55 to +100	°C
Storage Temperature	-65 to +125	°C

3.2 Package Information

Parameter	Details	Rating
ESD	Human Body Model (HBM), per MIL-STD-750, Method 1020	1A
Weight	M package	23.5 g

3.3 Recommended Operating Conditions

The Recommended Operating Conditions indicate the limits, inside which the device should be operated, to guarantee the performance given in Electrical Specifications. Operating outside these limits may not necessarily cause damage to the device, but the performance may degrade outside the limits of the electrical specifications. For limits, above which damage may occur, see Absolute Maximum Ratings.

	Min	Nominal	Max	Units
T _A , Ambient Temperature	-55	+25	+100	°C
LO drive power	+15			dBm

3.4 Sequencing Requirements

There is no requirement to apply power to the ports in a specific order. However, it is recommended to provide a 50Ω termination to each port before applying power. This is a passive diode mixer that requires no DC bias.

3.5 Electrical Specifications

The electrical specifications apply at $T_A=+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ in a 50Ω system. Typical data shown is for a down conversion application with a sine wave LO input.²

Min and Max limits apply only to our connectorized units and are guaranteed at $T_A=+25^{\circ}\text{C}$. All bare die are 100% DC tested and visually inspected.

Parameter	Test Conditions	Min	Typical	Max	Units
RF (Port 3) Frequency Range		40		100	GHz
LO (Port 1) Frequency Range		40		100	
I (Port 4) Frequency Range		0		20	
Q (Port 2) Frequency Range		0		20	
Single Sided Conversion Loss (CL) ³	RF/LO = 40 - 100 GHz I = DC - 0.2 GHz		12		dB
Image Reject/Single Sideband Conversion Loss (CL)	RF/LO = 40 - 100 GHz I+Q = DC - 0.2 GHz		10		
Noise Figure (NF) ⁴	RF/LO = 40 - 100 GHz I+Q = DC - 0.2 GHz		10		dB
Image Rejection (IR) ⁵	RF/LO = 40 - 100 GHz I+Q = DC - 0.2 GHz		30		dBc

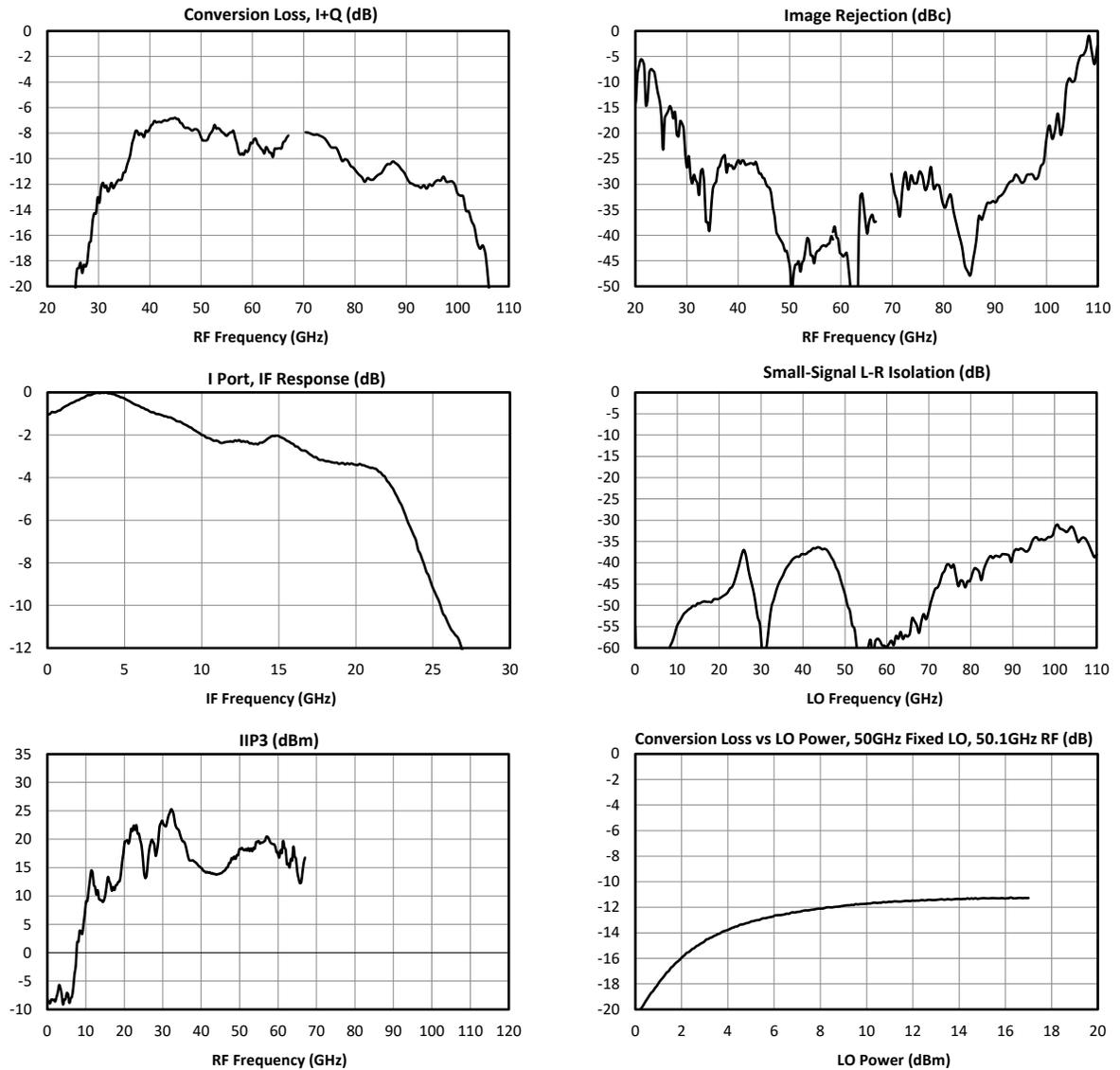
² LO power used for characterization varies by band. Saturated amplifiers used were AMM-6702, and A-3567

³ Measured as an I/Q down converter (i.e., I and Q powers are not combined)

⁴ Mixer Noise Figure typically measures within 0.5 dB of conversion loss for IF frequencies greater than 5 MHz.

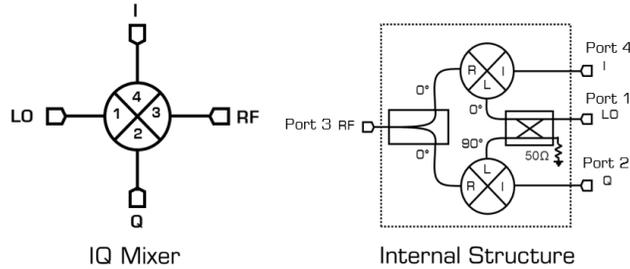
⁵ Image Rejection and Single sideband performance plots are defined by the upper sideband (USB) or lower sideband (LSB) with respect to the LO signal. Plots are defined by which sideband is selected by the external IF quadrature hybrid.

3.6 Typical Performance Plots⁶



⁶ Due to difficulty generating strong LO signals at mmWave frequencies LR Isolation is measured with a small signal LO. Isolation will improve with a stronger LO signal. Discontinuity in conversion loss and Image Rejection measurements is due to splitting the measurement into two bands. IIP3 is only measured up to 67GHz due to limitations in measurement setup.

4. Application Information



4.1 Detailed Description

MMIQ-40100 belongs to Marki Microwave's MMIQ family of mixers. The MMIQ product line consists of passive GaAs MMIC mixers designed and fabricated with GaAs Schottky diodes. MMIQ mixers offer excellent amplitude and phase balance due to its on-chip LO quadrature hybrid. Up to 30 dB of image rejection (i.e., single sideband suppression) can be obtained by using the MMIQ-40100 as an image rejection or single sideband mixer. The MMIQ-40100H is the sister mixer of the MMIQ-40100L. The MMIQ-40100H requires a higher LO drive to operate the mixer. In exchange, the MMIQ-40100H displays higher linearity (i.e., higher IIP3, P1dB, Spurious Suppression) than the MMIQ-40100L. Marki H and L diodes correspond to different diode forward turn on voltages.

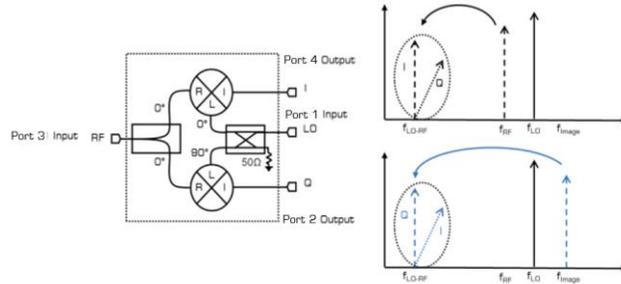
Support for from the Ka through mmWave bands are offered by the ultra-broadband performance of the mixer's RF and LO ports (ports 3 and 1). Traditional use of this mixer to do image reject or single sideband mixing is available with an external IF quadrature hybrid. The MMIQ-40100 is also suitable for use as a Vector Modulator through DC bias of the I and Q ports (ports 3 and 4).

Port 3, the RF port, and port 1, the LO port, supports a 40-100 GHz signal. Ports 4 and 2, the I and Q ports, support a DC-20 GHz signal. A signal may be input into any port of the mixer which supports that signal's frequency. This is the basis of using the mixer as a band shifter.

For a given LO power within the recommended operating range, the RF (in the case of a down conversion) or IF (in the case of an up conversion) input power should be below the input 1 dB compression point to avoid signal distortion. The input 1 dB compression point will vary across the mixer's operating bandwidth and with LO input power. Careful characterization is required for optimal performance for each application. There is no minimum small signal input power required for operation. Excessive RF/IF input power increases non-desired spurious output power and degrades the fundamental conversion loss. Excessive LO input power can also cause this effect. The table below describes how to use an IQ mixer and quad hybrid to select a single sideband.

Up Conversion		
Hybrid Port	Mixer Port	Sideband Selected
0	I	Lower Sideband
90	Q	
90	I	Upper Sideband
0	Q	
Down Conversion		
Hybrid Port	Mixer Port	Sideband Selected
0	I	Upper Sideband
90	Q	
90	I	Lower Sideband
0	Q	

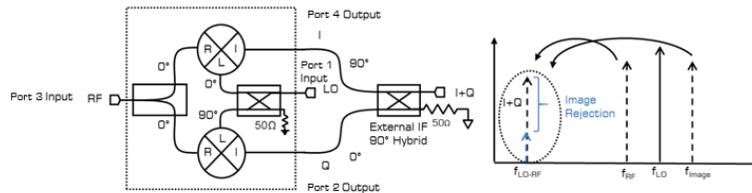
4.2 Down-Converter



A down converter is a mixer application which takes a high frequency small signal RF input, and a high frequency large signal LO input and mixes the signals together to produce a low frequency IF output. The fundamental $1RF \times 1LO$ outputs present at the IF port are the f_{LO-RF} and f_{LO+RF} tones. The desired output in a down conversion is typically the f_{LO-RF} term. An image frequency at $f_{image} = f_{2LO-RF}$ will also down convert to the f_{LO-RF} frequency. The above illustration shows the relative location of the image frequency for a highside LO, or the frequency plan for which $f_{LO} > f_{RF}$.

To use the IQ mixer as a down converter, input a high frequency small signal RF input into port 3, a high frequency large signal LO input into port 1, and pull the low frequency IF output from ports 2 and 4. Ports 2 and 4 will output the IF signals I and Q. I and Q IF outputs will be at the same frequency but 90° out of phase (i.e., I and Q are in quadrature). If only a single IF output is desired, terminate either the I or Q ports with a wideband 50Ω load.

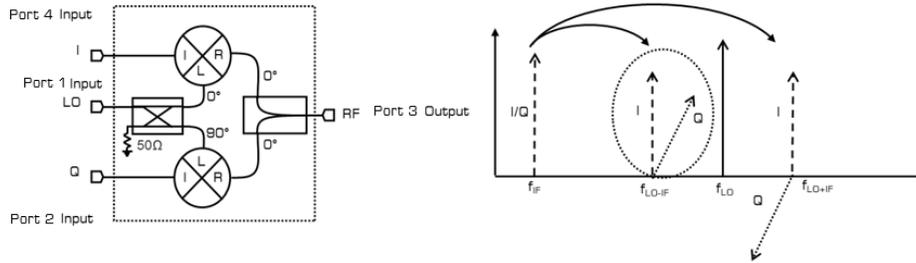
4.2.1 Image Reject Down-Converter



An image reject mixer is a mixer which rejects the down converted image frequency from the IF output. Image reject mixers are constructed using an external quadrature hybrid attached to the I and Q (i.e., IF) output ports. Using the external IF quadrature hybrid, one can select the whether the upper sideband or lower sideband signal is suppressed with respect to the LO signal.

To use the IQ mixer as an image reject mixer, input the high frequency small signal RF into port 3 and a high frequency large signal LO input into port 1. Take the combined I+Q down converted signal through the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by connecting the I port to the 0° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by attaching the I port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the 0° port of the IF quadrature hybrid.

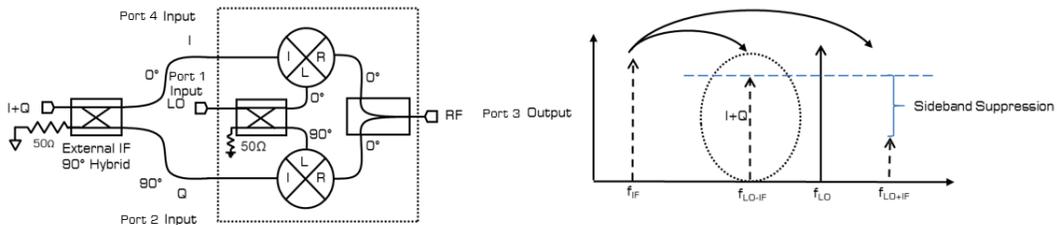
4.3 Up-Converter



An up converter is a mixer application which takes a low frequency small signal IF input, and a high frequency large signal LO input and mixes the signal together to produce a high frequency RF output. The fundamental $1f_{IF} \times 1f_{LO}$ outputs present at the RF port are the f_{LO-IF} and f_{LO+RF} tones. An up conversion can select either the f_{LO-IF} or the f_{LO+IF} tones. The above illustration shows both up converted sidebands with either an I or Q port input signal.

To use the IQ mixer as an up converter, input a low frequency small signal IF input into port 2 or 4, a high frequency large signal LO input into port 1, and pull the high frequency RF output from port 3. Input into the Q port will result in a up converted signal that is 90° out of phase with the up converted I port input signal. If only a single IF input is desired, terminate either the I or Q ports with a wideband 50Ω load.

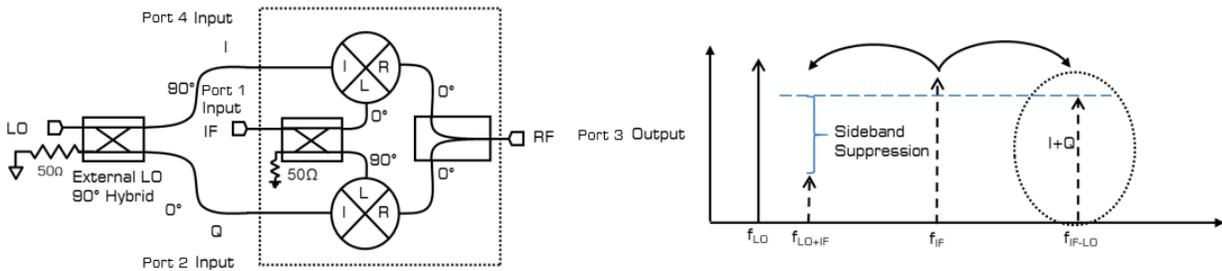
4.3.1 Single Sideband Up-Converter



A single sideband mixer is a mixer which suppress the up converted image frequency from the RF output. Single sideband mixers are constructed using an external quadrature hybrid attached to the I and Q (i.e., IF) input ports. Using an external IF quadrature hybrid, one can select whether the upper sideband of the lower sideband signal is suppressed with respect to the LO signal.

To use the IQ mixer as a single sideband mixer, input the low frequency small signal I+Q IF signal into the IF quadrature hybrid. The IF quadrature hybrid is attached to the I and Q ports of the IQ mixer. Input the high frequency large signal LO input into port 1 and take the up converted high frequency RF signal from port 3. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by attaching the I port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the 0° port of the IF quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by attaching the I port to the 0° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and attach the Q port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid.

4.4 Band Shifter



A band shifter is an unusual application for a mixer. Band shifters take an IF signal and shift it to a different band, generally to either avoid interference or for rebroadcast at a different frequency. For cases in which the desired band shift cannot be employed by using a standard up or down conversion scheme, an exotic input scheme is required.

A passive diode mixer is reciprocal on all ports. Port 3, the RF port, supports a 40-100GHz signal. Port 1, the LO port, supports a 40-100GHz signal. Ports 2 and 4, the IF ports, support a DC-20GHz signal. 2 signals input into any combination of the 3 ports, RF, LO, or IF, will result in an output signal at the 3rd port. In addition, an output signal will be present at both input ports. By using the IF port, as a large signal input port, low frequency LO applications can be supported.

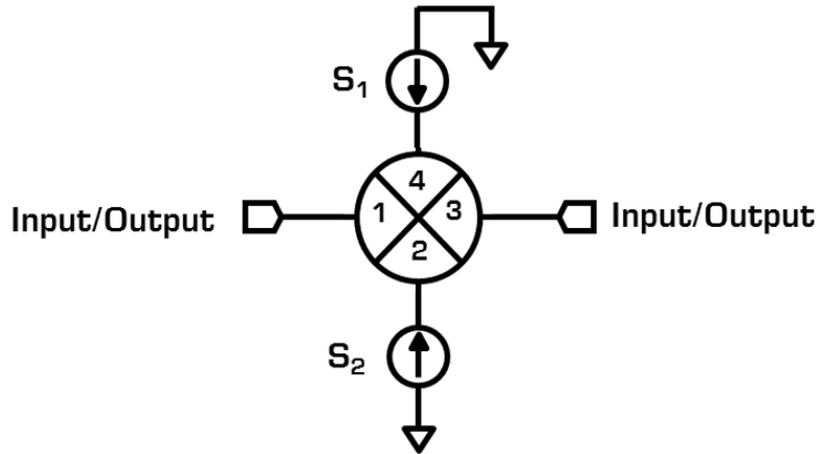
The diagram above shows an IQ mixer being used as a band shifter. Using an IQ mixer as a band shifter allows for sideband suppression. This is identical to using the IQ mixer as a single sideband up converter. However, the large signal input port is now 2+4 versus port 1. Selection of the output tone is done through the orientation of the LO quadrature hybrid.

To use the mixer as a single sideband band shifter, input a low frequency large signal LO into the external LO quadrature hybrid. Input the high frequency small signal IF signal into port 1 and take the high frequency RF output from port 3. Select the upper sideband (i.e., suppress the lower sideband) by connecting the I port to the 90° port of the IF quadrature hybrid and connect the Q port to the 0° port of the LO quadrature hybrid. Select the lower sideband (i.e., suppress the upper sideband) by connecting the I port to the 0° port of the LO quadrature hybrid and connect the Q port to the 90° port of the LO quadrature hybrid.

Using this input scheme requires careful accounting of which input signal is injected which port. Injecting a signal into any port which does not support the correct band will lead to a degraded or no output response. Abide by the maximum DC current input into the I and Q ports of the mixer or otherwise irreversible damage to the mixer will occur.

The limiting factor in use of the mixer as an image reject band shifter is in the bandwidth of the external LO quadrature hybrid and bandwidth of the I and Q ports.

4.5 Vector Modulator



A vector modulator is a device that can modulate an input signal's amplitude and phase. Similar to using a double balanced mixer as a phase modulator or phase shifter, an IQ mixer can be used as a vector modulator. An IQ mixer can be used as a vector modulator by inputting DC current into both the I and Q ports.

Injecting DC current into both the I and Q ports forward biases both mixer cores and causes them to be shorted. This connects the RF and LO baluns allowing the input signal to pass from balun to balun without a frequency conversion. Modulating the DC current into either or both I and Q mixers causes both the phase and amplitude to modulate based on the polarity of the input current and the magnitude of the input current. Modulating only the I or Q mixers causes the device to behave as a biphaser modulator (i.e., the device can only swing the phase from $+90^\circ$ to -90°).

To use the IQ mixer as a vector modulator, supply a DC current sufficient to turn on the mixer through both the I and Q ports. Current limiting the DC source to the maximum DC current value found in section 3.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings is recommended to prevent irreversible damage to the vector modulator. The typical DC current required to turn on the vector modulator is <30 mA.

It is recommended to sequence the vector modulator by slowly increasing the DC bias until the vector modulator is operating at the user desired condition.

Near the band edges of the vector modulator, more current than is typical for mid-band operation may be necessary to achieve the same amplitude and phase shift. This is due to the on chip LO quadrature hybrid operating near its band edge.

5. Die Mounting Recommendations

5.1 Mounting and Bonding Recommendations

Marki MMICs should be attached directly to a ground plane with conductive epoxy. The ground plane electrical impedance should be as low as practically possible. This will prevent resonances and permit the best possible electrical performance. Datasheet performance is only guaranteed in an environment with a low electrical impedance ground.

Mounting

To epoxy the chip, apply a minimum amount of conductive epoxy to the mounting surface so that a thin epoxy fillet is observed around the perimeter of the chip. Cure epoxy according to manufacturer instructions.

Wire Bonding

Ball or wedge bond with 0.025 mm (1 mil) diameter pure gold wire. Thermosonic wirebonding with a nominal stage temperature of 150 °C and a ball bonding force of 40 to 50 grams or wedge bonding force of 18 to 22 grams is recommended. Use the minimum level of ultrasonic energy to achieve reliable wirebonds. Wirebonds should be started on the chip and terminated on the package or substrate. All bonds should be as short as possible <0.31 mm (12 mils).

Circuit Considerations

50 Ω transmission lines should be used for all high frequency connections in and out of the chip. Wirebonds should be kept as short as possible, with multiple wirebonds recommended for higher frequency connections to reduce parasitic inductance. In circumstances where the chip is more than .001" thinner than the substrate, a heat spreading spacer tab is optional to further reduce bondwire length and parasitic inductance.

5.2 Handling Precautions

General Handling

Chips should be handled with care using tweezers or a vacuum collet. Users should take precautions to protect chips from direct human contact that can deposit contaminants, like perspiration and skin oils on any of the chip's surfaces.

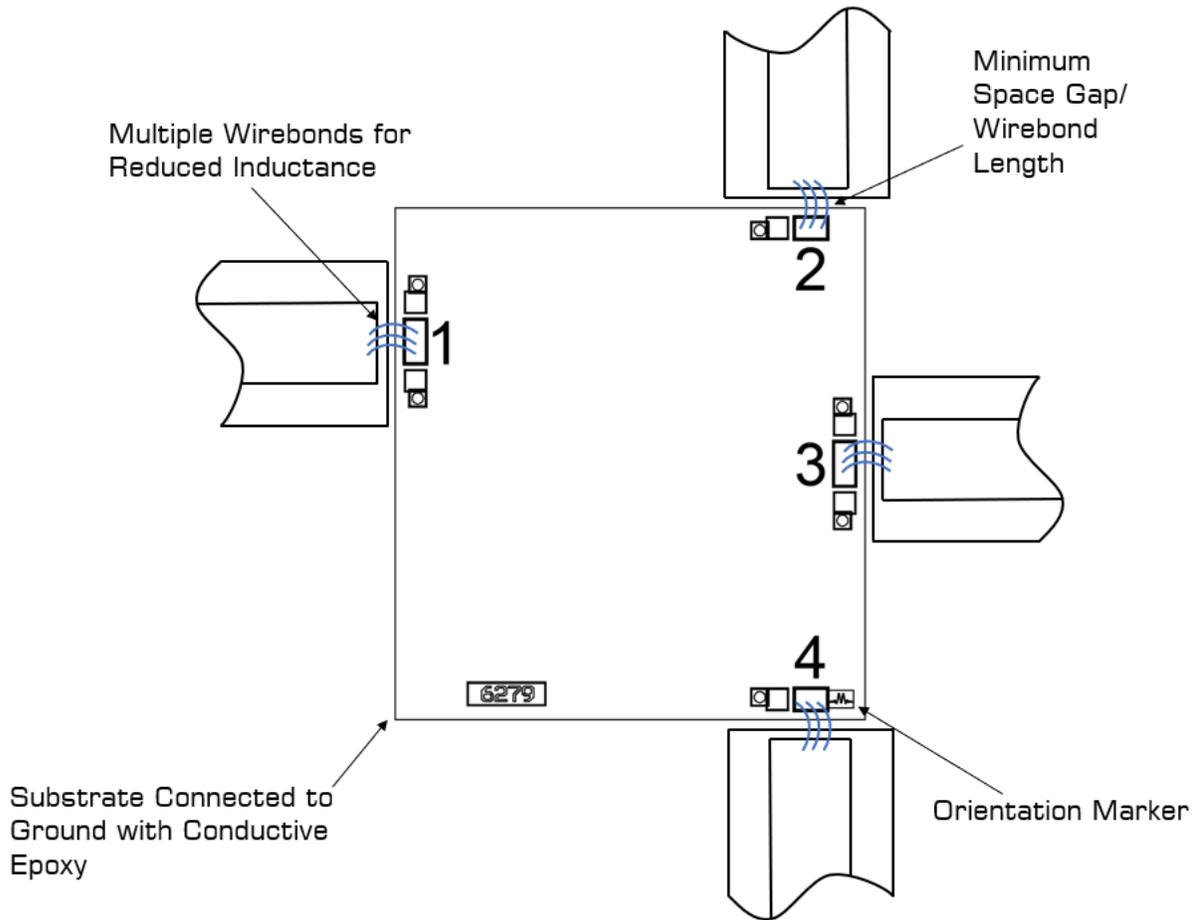
Static Sensitivity

GaAs MMIC devices are sensitive to ESD and should be handled, assembled, tested, and transported only in static protected environments.

Cleaning and Storage

Do not attempt to clean the chip with a liquid cleaning system or expose the bare chips to liquid. Once the ESD sensitive bags the chips are stored in are opened, chips should be stored in a dry nitrogen atmosphere.

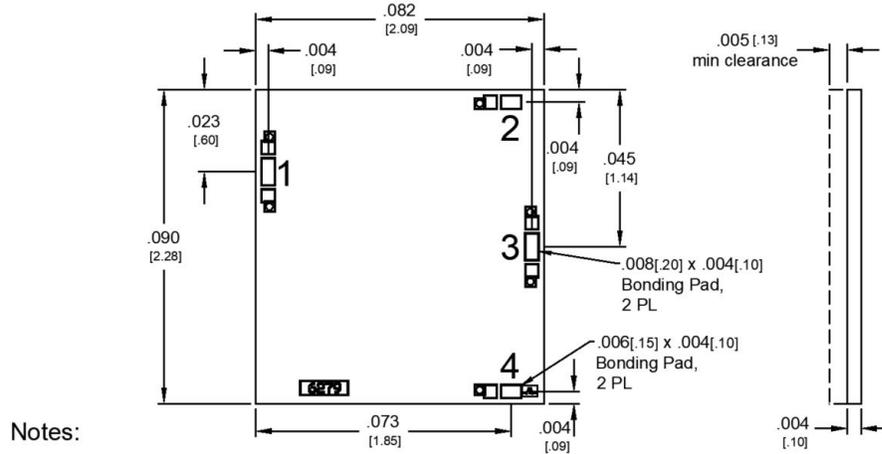
5.3 Bonding Diagram



6. Mechanical Data

6.1 CH Package Outline Drawing

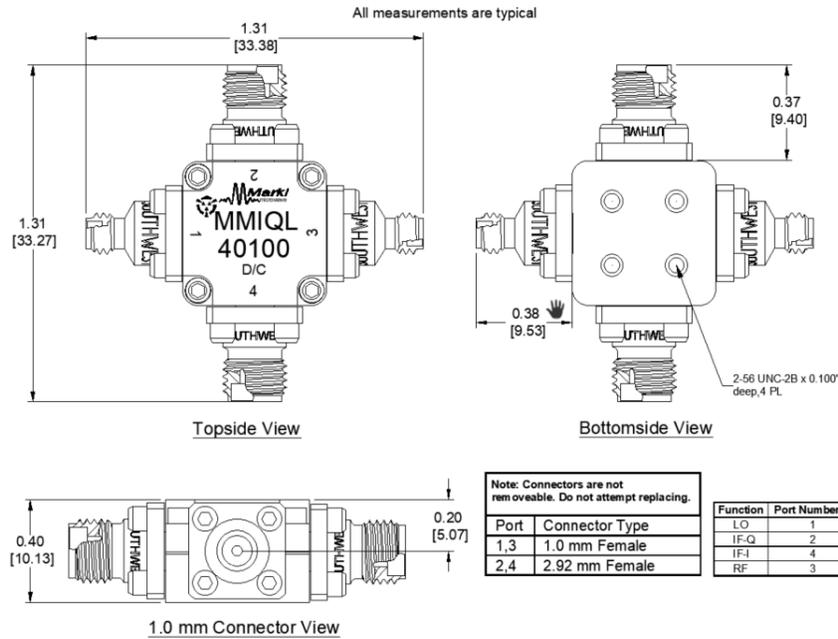
Function	Port Number
LO	1
IF-Q	2
IF-I	4
RF	3



Notes:

- CH substrate is .004 in Thick GaAs.
- I/O traces plane finish is 4 microns Au. Ground plane finish is 5 microns Au.
- Tolerance for X, Y dimensions is ± 0.002 in.
Tolerance for Z dimension is ± 0.0005 in.
Tolerance for pad location is ± 0.0001 in.
- Compatible with RF probes 150 μ m pitch or greater.

6.2 M Package Outline Drawing



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