

**GaAs MMIC I/Q MIXER**  
**15 - 23.6 GHz**

**Typical Applications**

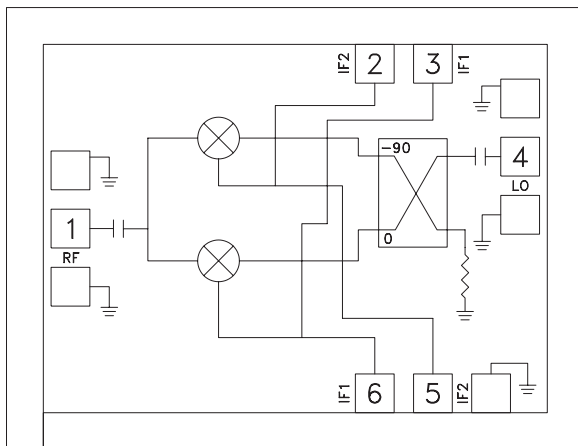
The HMC523 is ideal for:

- Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multi-Point Radio
- Digital Radio
- Military
- VSAT

**Features**

- Wide IF Bandwidth: DC - 3.5 GHz
- Image Rejection: 27 dB
- LO to RF Isolation: 50 dB
- High Input IP3: +25 dBm

**Functional Diagram**



**General Description**

The HMC523 is a compact I/Q MMIC mixer which can be used as either an Image Reject Mixer or a Single Sideband Upconverter. The chip utilizes two standard Hittite double balanced mixer cells and a 90 degree hybrid fabricated in a GaAs MESFET process. All data shown below is taken with the chip mounted in a 50 Ohm test fixture and includes the effects of 1 mil diameter x 20 mil length bond wires on each port. A low frequency quadrature hybrid was used to produce a 100 MHz USB IF output. This product is a much smaller alternative to hybrid style Image Reject Mixers and Single Sideband Upconverter assemblies.

**Electrical Specifications,  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ , IF= 100 MHz, LO = +17 dBm\***

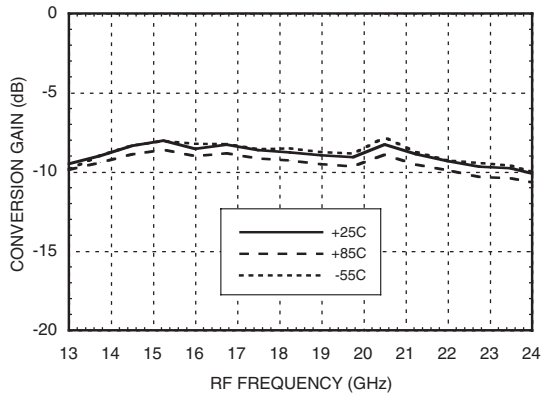
Parameter	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Units
Frequency Range, RF/LO	15 - 21			21 - 23.6			GHz
Frequency Range, IF	DC - 3.5			DC - 3.5			GHz
Conversion Loss (As IRM)		8	10		9.5	11.5	dB
Image Rejection	20	27		20	25		dB
1 dB Compression (Input)		+15			+18		dBm
LO to RF Isolation	40	50		40	50		dB
LO to IF Isolation	20	25		17	22		dB
IP3 (Input)		+25			+20		dBm
Amplitude Balance		0.3			0.3		dB
Phase Balance		2			3		Deg

\* Unless otherwise noted, all measurements performed as downconverter.

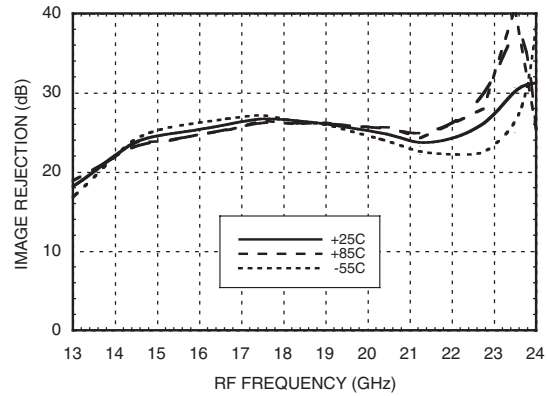
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Data Taken As IRM With External IF Hybrid

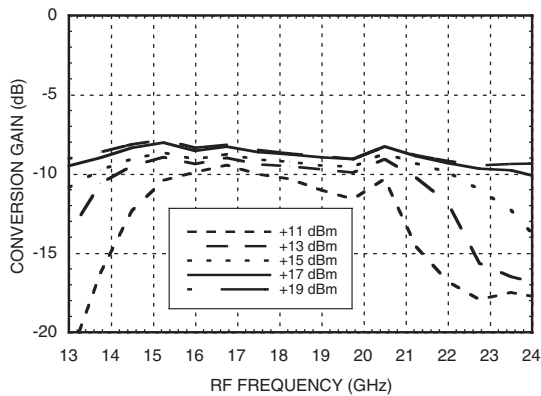
**Conversion Gain vs. Temperature**



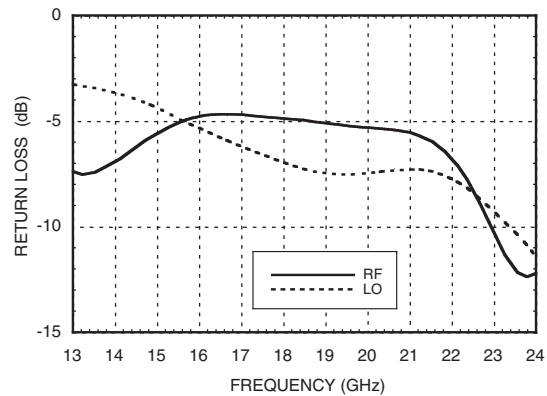
**Image Rejection vs. Temperature**



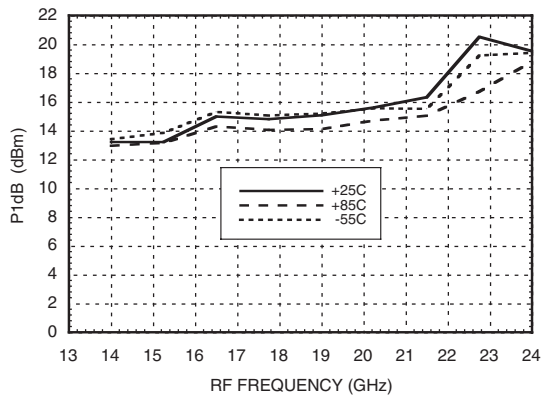
**Conversion Gain vs. LO Drive**



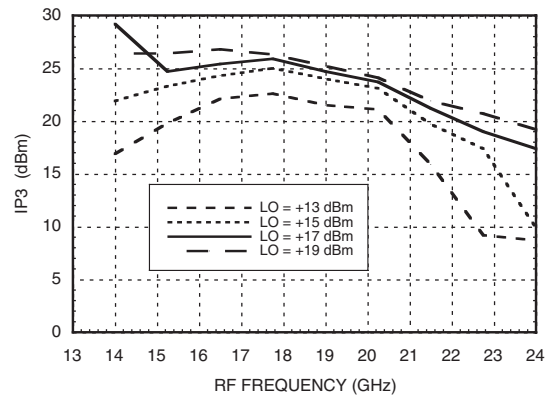
**Return Loss**



**Input P1dB vs. Temperature**



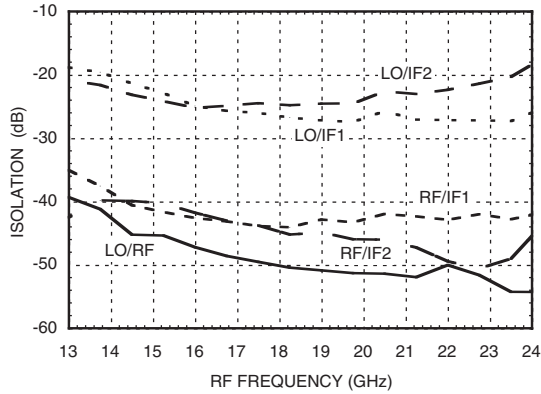
**Input IP3 vs. LO Drive**



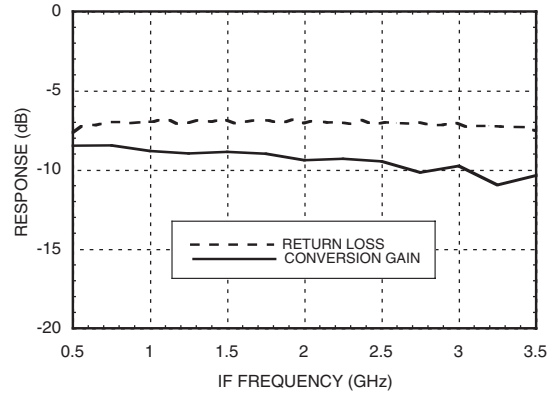
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**Quadrature Channel Data Taken Without IF Hybrid**

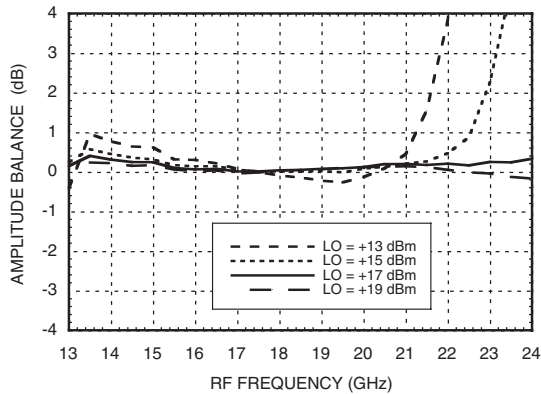
**Isolations**



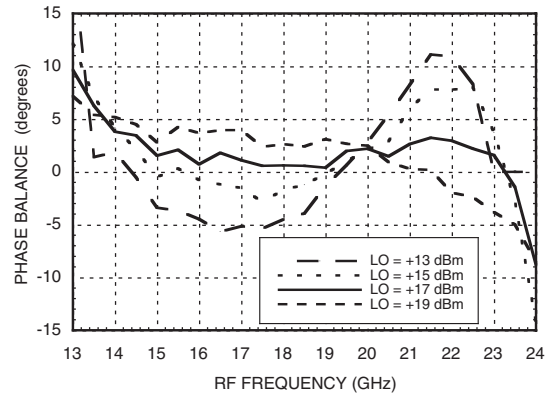
**IF Bandwidth\***



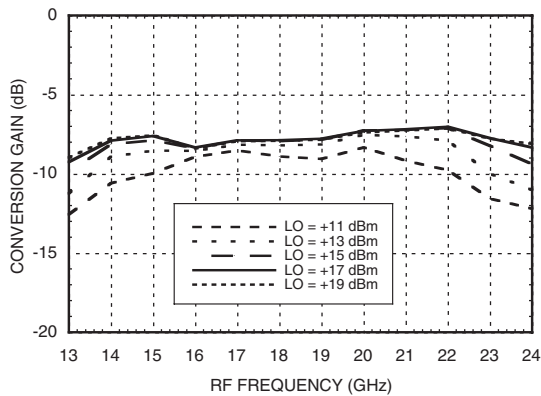
**Amplitude Balance vs. LO Drive**



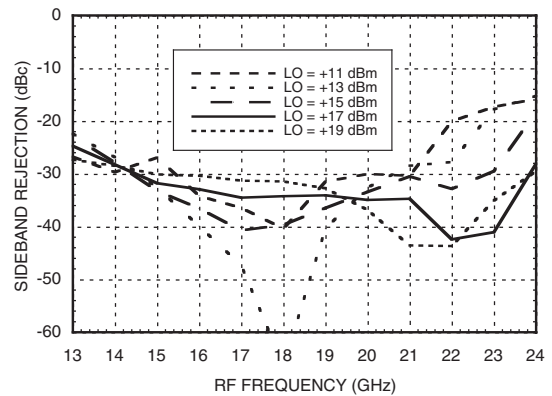
**Phase Balance vs. LO Drive**



**Upconverter Performance Conversion Gain vs. LO Drive**



**Upconverter Performance Sideband Rejection vs. LO Drive**



\* Conversion gain data taken with external IF hybrid

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**Harmonics of LO**

LO Freq. (GHz)	nLO Spur at RF Port	
	1	2
15.5	47	51
17	49	56
18.5	50	63
20	47	73
21.5	50	72
23	53	71

LO = + 15 dBm  
Values in dBc below input LO level measured at RF Port.

**MxN Spurious Outputs**

mRF	nLO				
	0	1	2	3	4
0	xx	-9	29	xx	xx
1	34	0	46	61	xx
2	87	65	82	62	87
3	xx	87	92	86	90
4	xx	xx	84	92	92

RF = 17.6 GHz @ -10 dBm  
LO = 17.5 GHz @ +15 dBm  
Data taken without IF hybrid  
All values in dBc below IF power level

**Absolute Maximum Ratings**

RF / IF Input	+20 dBm
LO Drive	+ 27 dBm
Channel Temperature	150°C
Continuous P <sub>diss</sub> (T=85°C) (derate 5.22 mW/°C above 85°C)	340 mW
Thermal Resistance (R <sub>TH</sub> ) (junction to die bottom)	191.5 °C/W
Storage Temperature	-65 to +150 °C
Operating Temperature	-55 to +85 deg °C
ESD Sensitivity (HBM)	Class 1A



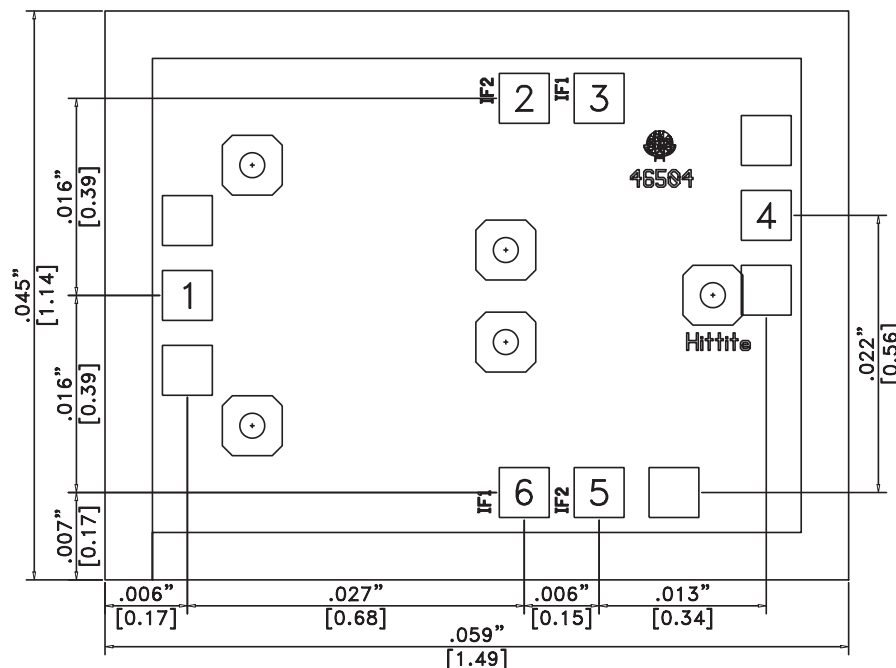
ELECTROSTATIC SENSITIVE DEVICE  
OBSERVE HANDLING PRECAUTIONS

**Die Packaging Information [1]**

Standard	Alternate
GP-2	[2]

[1] Refer to the "Packaging Information" section for die packaging dimensions.  
[2] For alternate packaging information contact Hittite Microwave Corporation.

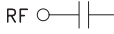
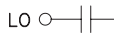
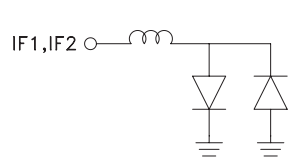

**Outline Drawing**



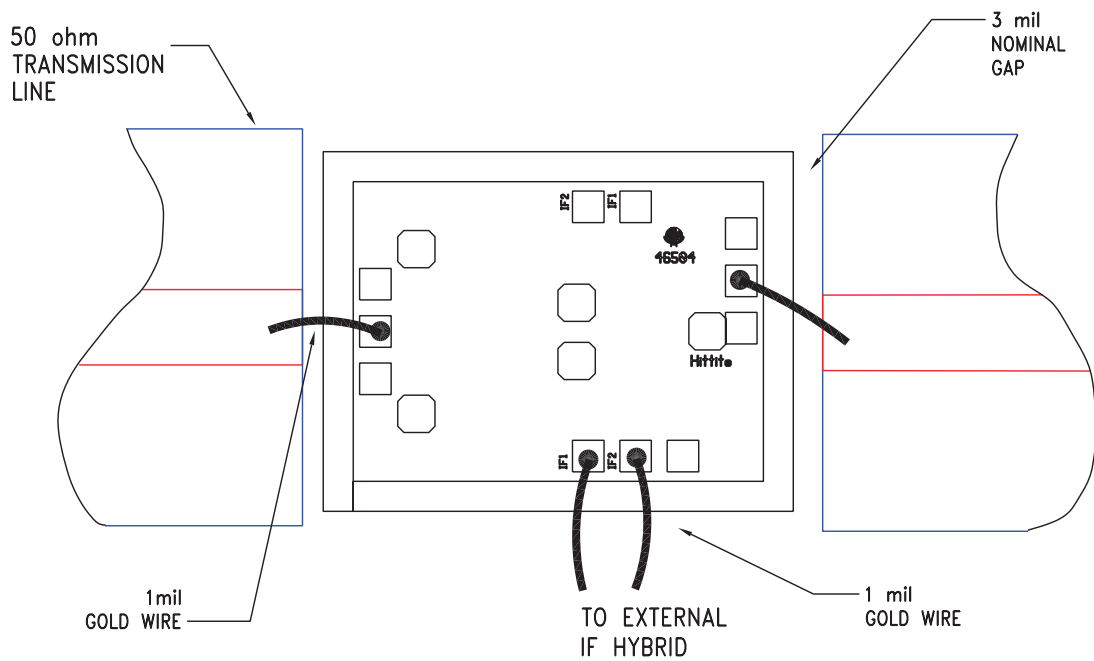
- NOTES:
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES [MM]
  - DIE THICKNESS IS .004"
  - TYPICAL BOND PAD IS .004"
  - BACKSIDE METALIZATION: GOLD
  - BOND PAD METALIZATION: GOLD
  - BACKSIDE METAL IS GROUND
  - CONNECTION NOT REQUIRED FOR UNLABELED BOND PADS.
  - OVERALL DIE SIZE ±.002"

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**Pad Descriptions**

Pad Number	Function	Description	Interface Schematic
1	RF	This pad is AC coupled and matched to 50 Ohms from 15 to 23.6 GHz.	RF 
4	LO	This pad is AC coupled and matched to 50 Ohms from 15 to 23.6 GHz.	LO 
2 (5)	IF2	This pad is DC coupled. For applications not requiring operation to DC, this port should be DC blocked externally using a series capacitor whose value has been chosen to pass the necessary IF frequency range. For operation to DC, this pad must not source/sink more than 3mA of current or die non-function and possible die failure will result. Pads 5 and 6 are alternate IF ports.	
3 (6)	IF1		
	GND	The backside of the die must be connected to RF/DC ground.	GND 

**Assembly Diagrams**



## GaAs MMIC I/Q MIXER 15 - 23.6 GHz

### Mounting & Bonding Techniques for Millimeterwave GaAs MMICs

The die should be attached directly to the ground plane eutectically or with conductive epoxy (see HMC general Handling, Mounting, Bonding Note).

50 Ohm Microstrip transmission lines on 0.127mm (5 mil) thick alumina thin film substrates are recommended for bringing RF to and from the chip (Figure 1). If 0.254mm (10 mil) thick alumina thin film substrates must be used, the die should be raised 0.150mm (6 mils) so that the surface of the die is coplanar with the surface of the substrate. One way to accomplish this is to attach the 0.102mm (4 mil) thick die to a 0.150mm (6 mil) thick molybdenum heat spreader (moly-tab) which is then attached to the ground plane (Figure 2).

Microstrip substrates should be brought as close to the die as possible in order to minimize bond wire length. Typical die-to-substrate spacing is 0.076mm (3 mils).

#### Handling Precautions

Follow these precautions to avoid permanent damage.

**Storage:** All bare die are placed in either Waffle or Gel based ESD protective containers, and then sealed in an ESD protective bag for shipment. Once the sealed ESD protective bag has been opened, all die should be stored in a dry nitrogen environment.

**Cleanliness:** Handle the chips in a clean environment. DO NOT attempt to clean the chip using liquid cleaning systems.

**Static Sensitivity:** Follow ESD precautions to protect against > ± 250V ESD strikes.

**Transients:** Suppress instrument and bias supply transients while bias is applied. Use shielded signal and bias cables to minimize inductive pick-up.

**General Handling:** Handle the chip along the edges with a vacuum collet or with a sharp pair of bent tweezers. The surface of the chip has fragile air bridges and should not be touched with vacuum collet, tweezers, or fingers.

#### Mounting

The chip is back-metallized and can be die mounted with AuSn eutectic preforms or with electrically conductive epoxy. The mounting surface should be clean and flat.

**Eutectic Die Attach:** A 80/20 gold tin preform is recommended with a work surface temperature of 255 °C and a tool temperature of 265 °C. When hot 90/10 nitrogen/hydrogen gas is applied, tool tip temperature should be 290 °C. DO NOT expose the chip to a temperature greater than 320 °C for more than 20 seconds. No more than 3 seconds of scrubbing should be required for attachment.

**Epoxy Die Attach:** Apply a minimum amount of epoxy to the mounting surface so that a thin epoxy fillet is observed around the perimeter of the chip once it is placed into position. Cure epoxy per the manufacturer's schedule.

#### Wire Bonding

Ball or wedge bond with 0.025 mm (1 mil) diameter pure gold wire is recommended. 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).

