



# Dual, Low-Noise Variable-Gain Amplifier with Preamp

## FEATURES

- **VERY LOW NOISE:**  $0.7nV/\sqrt{Hz}$
- **LOW-NOISE PREAMP (LNP)**
  - Active Termination
  - Programmable Gains: 3, 12, 18, 22dB
  - Programmable Input Impedance ( $R_F$ )
  - Buffered, Differential Outputs for CW Processing
  - Excellent Input Signal Handling Capabilities
- **LOW-NOISE VARIABLE-GAIN AMPLIFIER**
  - High/Low-Mode (0/+6dB)
  - 52dB Gain Control Range
  - Linear Control Response: 22dB/V
  - Switchable Differential Inputs
  - Adjustable Output Clipping-Level
- **BANDWIDTH:** 42MHz
- **HARMONIC DISTORTION:** –55dB
- **5V SINGLE SUPPLY**
- **LOW-POWER:** 154mW/Channel
- **POWER-DOWN MODES**

## APPLICATIONS

- **MEDICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ULTRASOUND SYSTEMS**
  - Suitable for 10-Bit and 12-Bit Systems
- **TEST EQUIPMENT**

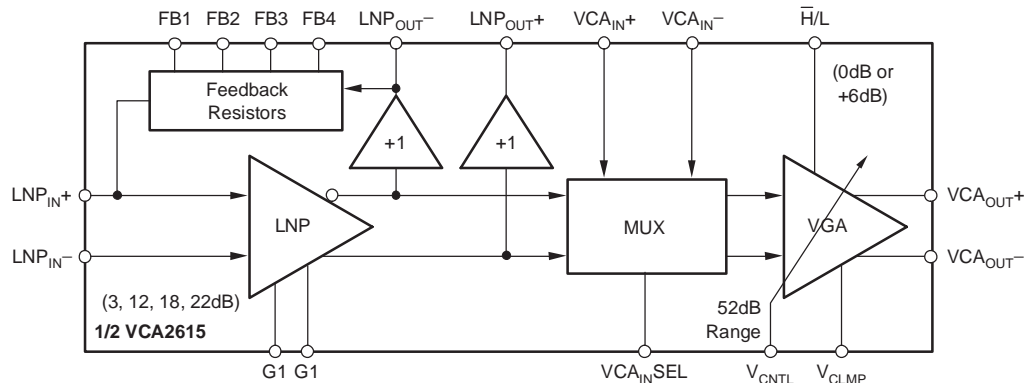
## DESCRIPTION

The VCA2615 is a dual-channel, variable gain amplifier consisting of a Low-Noise Preamplifier (LNP) and a Variable-Gain Amplifier (VGA). This combination along with the device features makes it well-suited for a variety of ultrasound systems.

The LNP offers a high level of flexibility to adapt to a wide range of systems and probes. The LNP gain can be programmed to one of four settings (3dB, 12dB, 18dB, 22dB), while maintaining excellent noise and signal handling characteristics. The input impedance of the LNP can be controlled by selecting one of the built-in feedback resistors. This active termination allows the user to closely match the LNP to a given source impedance, resulting in optimized overall system noise performance. The differential LNP outputs are provided either as buffered outputs for further CW processing, or fed directly into the variable-gain amplifier (VGA). Alternatively, an external signal can be applied to the differential VGA inputs through a programmable switch.

Following a linear-in-dB response, the gain of the VGA can be varied over a 52dB range with a 0.2V to 2.5V control voltage common to both channels of the VCA2615. In addition, the overall gain can be switched between a 0dB and +6dB postgain, allowing the user to optimize the output swing of VCA2615 for a variety of high-speed Analog-to-Digital Converters (ADCs). As a means to improve system overload recovery time, the VCA2615 provides an internal clipping function where an externally applied voltage sets the desired clipping level.

The VCA2615 operates on a single +5V supply and is available in a small QFN-48 (7x7mm) or TQFP package.



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**ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS(1)**

|                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Power Supply (V <sub>DD</sub> ) | +6V                               |
| Analog Inputs                   | -0.3V to (+V <sub>S</sub> + 0.3V) |
| Logic Inputs                    | -0.3V to (+V <sub>S</sub> + 0.3V) |
| Case Temperature                | +100°C                            |
| Junction Temperature            | +150°C                            |
| Storage Temperature             | -40°C to +150°C                   |

(1) Stresses above those listed under *Absolute Maximum Ratings* may cause permanent damage. Exposure to absolute maximum conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.



This integrated circuit can be damaged by ESD. Texas Instruments recommends that all integrated circuits be handled with appropriate precautions. Failure to observe proper handling and installation procedures can cause damage.

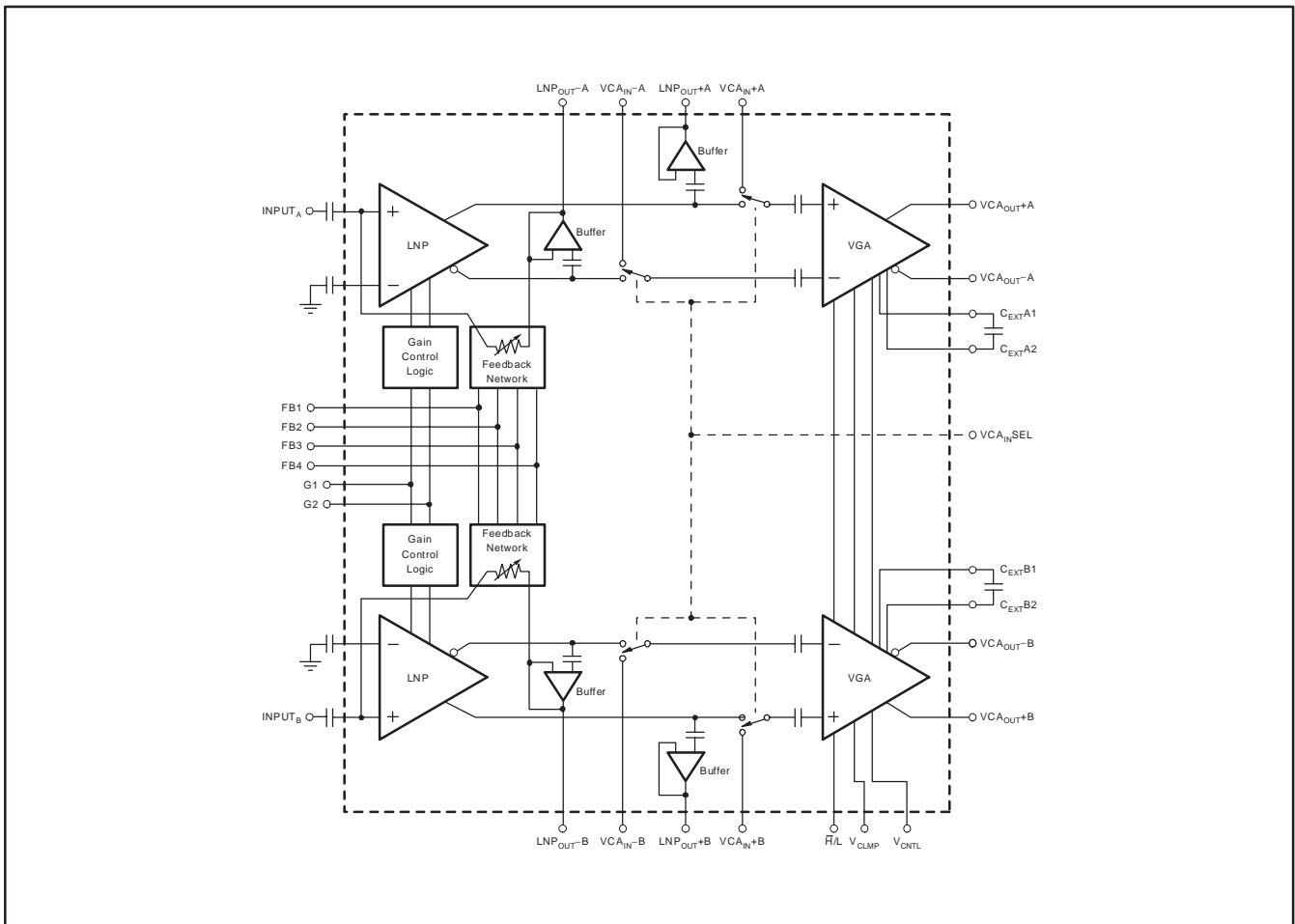
ESD damage can range from subtle performance degradation to complete device failure. Precision integrated circuits may be more susceptible to damage because very small parametric changes could cause the device not to meet its published specifications.

**PACKAGE/ORDERING INFORMATION(1)**

| PRODUCT | PACKAGE-LEAD | PACKAGE DESIGNATOR | SPECIFIED TEMPERATURE RANGE | PACKAGE MARKING | ORDERING NUMBER | TRANSPORT MEDIA, QUANTITY |
|---------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| VCA2615 | QFN-48       | RGZ                | -40°C to +85°C              | VCA2615         | VCA2615RGZR     | Tape and Reel, 2500       |
|         |              |                    |                             |                 | VCA2615RGZT     | Tape and Reel, 250        |
|         | TQFP-48      | PFB                | -40°C to +85°C              | VCA2615         | VCA2615PFBR     | Tape and Reel, 1000       |
|         |              |                    |                             |                 | VCA2615PFBT     | Tape and Reel, 250        |

(1) For the most current package and ordering information, see the Package Option Addendum at the end of this document, or see the TI website at [www.ti.com](http://www.ti.com).

**FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM**



**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $\overline{H/L} = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{PP}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

| PARAMETER   | CONDITIONS  | VCA2615 |             |     | UNIT                         |
|---|---|---------|-------------|-----|------------------------------|
|   |   | MIN     | TYP         | MAX |                              |
| <b>PREAMPLIFIER (LNP and Buffer)</b>                          |   |         |             |     |                              |
| Input Resistance, $R_{IN}$                                    | With Active Feedback Termination                                |         | See Note(1) |     | $k\Omega$                    |
| Input Resistance  | Feedback Termination Open                                       |         | 100         |     | $k\Omega$                    |
| Input Capacitance   |   |         | 45          |     | $\text{pF}$                  |
| Maximum Input Voltage   | LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 00 – Linear Operation(2)              |         | 2.3         |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
|   | LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 01 – Linear Operation(2)              |         | 0.78        |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
|   | LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10 – Linear Operation(2)              |         | 0.39        |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
|   | LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 11 – Linear Operation(2)              |         | 0.23        |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
| Maximum Input Voltage   | Any LNP Gain – Overload (symmetrical clipping)                  |         | 5           |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
| Input Voltage Noise   | $R_S = 0\Omega$ ; Includes Buffer Noise, LNP Gain = 11          |         | 0.8         |     | $\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ |
| Input Current Noise   |   |         | 1           |     | $\text{pA}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ |
| Bandwidth   |   |         | 50          |     | $\text{MHz}$                 |
| 2nd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$  |         | -55         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| 3rd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$  |         | -55         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| LNP Gain Change Response Time                                 | LNP Gain 00 to 11; to 90% Signal Level                          |         | 0.1         |     | $\mu\text{s}$                |
| <b>BUFFER (LNP<sub>OUT+A/B</sub>, LNP<sub>OUT-A/B</sub>)</b>  |   |         |             |     |                              |
| Output Signal Range(2)  | $R_L > = 500\Omega$   |         | 3.3         |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
| Output Common-Mode Voltage                                    |   |         | 1.85        |     | $\text{V}$                   |
| Output Short-Circuit Current                                  |   |         | 60          |     | $\text{mA}$                  |
| Output Impedance  |   |         | 3           |     | $\Omega$                     |
| <b>ACTIVE TERMINATION</b>                                     |   |         |             |     |                              |
| Feedback Resistance(3), $R_F$                                 | FB (1-4) = 0111   |         | 1500        |     | $\Omega$                     |
|   | FB (1-4) = 1011   |         | 1000        |     | $\Omega$                     |
|   | FB (1-4) = 1101   |         | 500         |     | $\Omega$                     |
|   | FB (1-4) = 1110   |         | 250         |     | $\Omega$                     |
|   | FB (1-4) = 0000   |         | 130         |     | $\Omega$                     |
| <b>VARIABLE-GAIN AMPLIFIER (VGA)</b>                          |   |         |             |     |                              |
| Peak Input Voltage  | Linear Operation(2), $V_{CNTL} = 0.7\text{V}$                   |         | 2           |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
| Upper -3dB Bandwidth  |   |         | 50          |     | $\text{MHz}$                 |
| 2nd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ , $1\text{V}_{PP}$ Differential Output |         | -60         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| 3rd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ , $1\text{V}_{PP}$ Differential Output |         | -63         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| Slew-Rate   |   |         | $\pm 100$   |     | $\text{V}/\mu\text{s}$       |
| <b>PREAMPLIFIER AND VARIABLE-GAIN AMPLIFIER (LNP AND VGA)</b> |   |         |             |     |                              |
| Input Voltage Noise   |   |         | 0.7         |     | $\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ |
| Clipping Voltage Range ( $V_{CLMP}$ )                         |   |         | 0.25 to 2.6 |     | $\text{V}$                   |
| Clipping Voltage Variation                                    | $V_{CLMP} = 0.5\text{V}$ , $V_{CAOUT} = 1.0\text{V}_{PP}$       |         | $\pm 50$    |     | $\text{mV}$                  |
| Output Impedance  | $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , Single-Ended, Either Output            |         | 3           |     | $\Omega$                     |
| Output Short-Circuit Current                                  |   |         | 60          |     | $\text{mA}$                  |
| Overload Distortion (2nd-Harmonic)                            | $V_{IN} = 250\text{mV}_{PP}$                                    |         | -44         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| Crosstalk   | $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$  |         | -70         |     | $\text{dBc}$                 |
| Delay Matching  |   |         | $\pm 1$     |     | $\text{ns}$                  |
| Overload Recovery Time  |   |         | 25          |     | $\text{ns}$                  |
| Maximum Output Load   |   |         | 100         |     | $\Omega$                     |
| Maximum Capacitive Output Loading                             | 50 $\Omega$ in Series   |         | 80          |     | $\text{pF}$                  |
| Maximum Output Signal(2)                                      |   |         | 6           |     | $\text{V}_{PP}$              |
| Output Common-Mode Voltage                                    |   |         | 2.5         |     | $\text{V}$                   |
| 2nd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | Input Signal = 5MHz, $V_{CNTL} = 1\text{V}$                     | -45     | -55         |     | $\text{dB}$                  |
| 3rd-Harmonic Distortion                                       | Input Signal = 5MHz, $V_{CNTL} = 1\text{V}$                     | -45     | -55         |     | $\text{dB}$                  |
| Upper -3dB Bandwidth  | $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$  |         | 42          |     | $\text{MHz}$                 |

(1)

$$R_{IN} = \frac{R_F}{\left(1 + \frac{A_{LNP}}{2}\right)}$$

(2) 2nd-harmonic, 3rd-harmonic distortion less than or equal to -30dBc.

(3) See Table 5.

(4) Referred to best-fit dB linear curve.

(5) Parameters ensured by design; not production tested.

(6) Do not leave inputs floating; no internal pull-up/pull-down resistors.

**ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)**

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $\overline{H/L} = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

| PARAMETER  | CONDITIONS   | VCA2615 |            |      | UNIT               |
|--|--|---------|------------|------|--------------------|
|  |  | MIN     | TYP        | MAX  |                    |
| <b>ACCURACY</b>  |  |         |            |      |                    |
| Gain Slope   | $V_{CNTL} = 0.4\text{V to } 2.0\text{V}$   |         | 22         |      | dB/V               |
| Gain Error <sup>(4)</sup>  | $V_{CNTL} = 0.4\text{V to } 2.0\text{V}$   | -1.5    | $\pm 0.9$  | +1.5 | dB                 |
| Gain Range   | $V_{CNTL} = 0.2\text{V to } 2.5\text{V}$   |         | 52         |      | dB                 |
| Gain Range   | $V_{CNTL} = 0.4\text{V to } 2.0\text{V}$   |         | 36.5       |      | dB                 |
| Gain Range ( $\overline{H/L}$ )  | $\overline{H/L} = 0$ (+6dB); VGA High Gain; $V_{CNTL} = 0.2\text{V to } 2.5\text{V}$ |         | -12 to +40 |      | dB                 |
|  | $\overline{H/L} = 1$ (0dB); VGA Low Gain; $V_{CNTL} = 0.2\text{V to } 2.5\text{V}$   |         | -18 to +34 |      | dB                 |
| Output Offset Voltage, Differential  |  |         | $\pm 50$   |      | mV                 |
| Channel-to-Channel Gain Matching   | $V_{CNTL} = 0.4\text{V to } 2.0\text{V}$ , CHA to CHB                                |         | $\pm 0.33$ |      | dB                 |
| <b>GAIN CONTROL INTERFACE (<math>V_{CNTL}</math>)</b>                                      |  |         |            |      |                    |
| Input Voltage Range  |  |         | 0.2 to 2.5 |      | V                  |
| Input Resistance   |  |         | 1          |      | $\text{M}\Omega$   |
| Response Time  | $V_{CNTL} = 0.2\text{V to } 2\text{V}$ ; to 90% Signal Level                         |         | 0.6        |      | $\mu\text{s}$      |
| <b>DIGITAL INPUTS<sup>(5), (6)</sup></b>   |  |         |            |      |                    |
| ( $G_1, G_2, \text{PDL}, \text{PDV}, \overline{H/L}, \text{FB1-FB4}, \text{VCA}_{INSEL}$ ) |  |         |            |      |                    |
| $V_{IH}$ , High-Level Input Voltage  |  | 2.0     |            |      | V                  |
| $V_{IL}$ , Low-Level Input Voltage   |  |         |            | 0.8  | V                  |
| Input Resistance   |  |         | 1          |      | $\text{M}\Omega$   |
| Input Capacitance  |  |         | 5          |      | pF                 |
| <b>POWER SUPPLY</b>  |  |         |            |      |                    |
| Supply Voltage   |  | 4.75    | 5.0        | 5.25 | V                  |
| Power-Up Response Time   |  |         | 25         |      | $\mu\text{s}$      |
| Power-Down Response Time   |  |         | 2          |      | $\mu\text{s}$      |
| Total Power Dissipation  | PDV, PDL = 1   |         | 308        | 350  | mW                 |
| VGA Power-Down   | PDV = 0, PDL = 1   |         | 236        |      | mW                 |
| LNP Power-Down   | PDL = 0, PDV = 1   |         | 95         |      | mW                 |
| <b>THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>   |  |         |            |      |                    |
| Temperature Range  | Ambient, Operating   | -40     |            | +85  | $^\circ\text{C}$   |
| Thermal Resistance, $\theta_{JA}$  | QFN-48 Soldered Pad; Four-Layer PCB with Thermal Vias                                |         | 29.1       |      | $^\circ\text{C/W}$ |
| $\theta_{JC}$  |  |         | 2.2        |      | $^\circ\text{C/W}$ |
| $\theta_{JA}$  | TQFP-48  |         | 58         |      | $^\circ\text{C/W}$ |

(1)

$$R_{IN} = \frac{R_F}{\left(1 + \frac{A_{LNP}}{2}\right)}$$

(2) 2nd-harmonic, 3rd-harmonic distortion less than or equal to -30dBc.

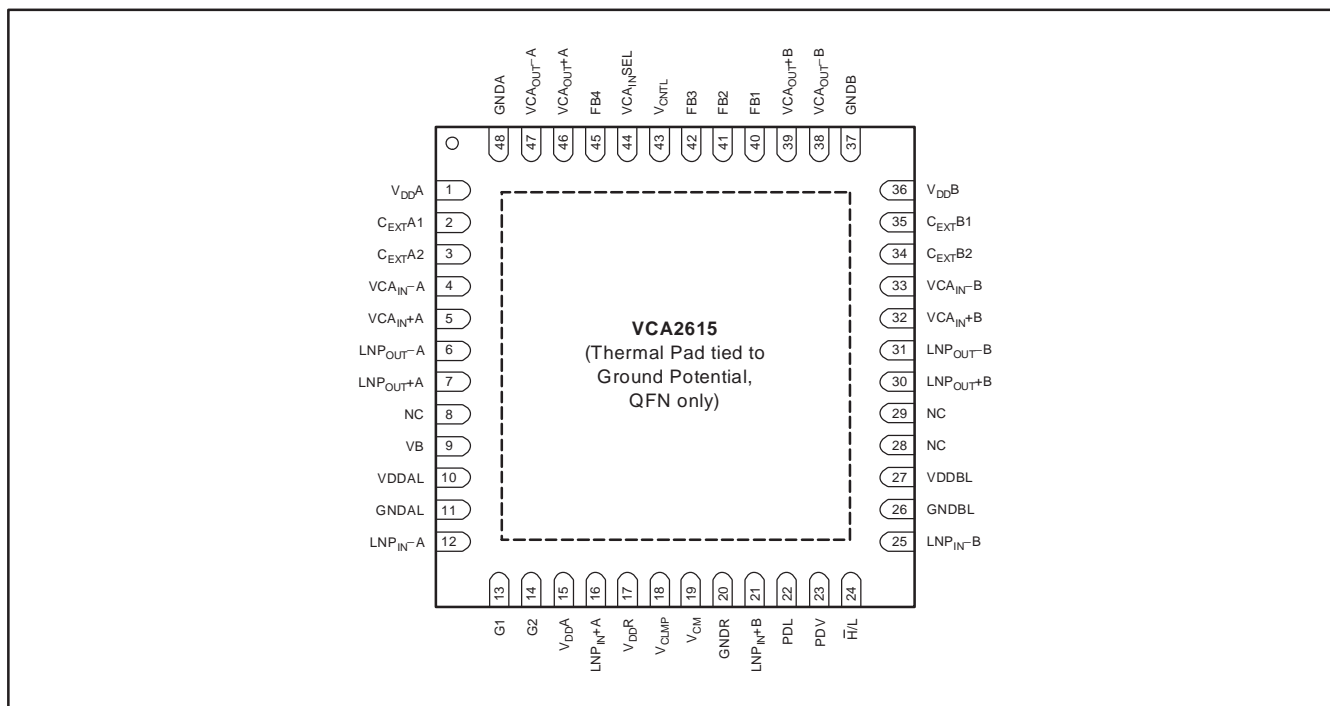
(3) See Table 5.

(4) Referred to best-fit dB linear curve.

(5) Parameters ensured by design; not production tested.

(6) Do not leave inputs floating; no internal pull-up/pull-down resistors.

## PIN CONFIGURATION



## PIN CONFIGURATION

| PIN | DESIGNATOR | DESCRIPTION                      | PIN | DESIGNATOR | DESCRIPTION                     |
|-----|------------|----------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1   | VDDA       | Channel A + Supply               | 25  | LNPIN-B    | Channel B LNP Inverting Input   |
| 2   | CEXTA1     | External Capacitor               | 26  | GNDBL      | GND B Channel LNP               |
| 3   | CEXTA2     | External Capacitor               | 27  | VDDBL      | VDD B Channel LNP               |
| 4   | VCAIN-A    | Channel A VCA Negative Input     | 28  | NC         | Do Not Connect                  |
| 5   | VCAIN+A    | Channel A VCA Positive Input     | 29  | NC         | Do Not Connect                  |
| 6   | LNP OUT-A  | Channel A LNP Negative Output    | 30  | LNP OUT+B  | Channel B LNP Positive Output   |
| 7   | LNP OUT+A  | Channel A LNP Positive Output    | 31  | LNP OUT-B  | Channel B LNP Negative Output   |
| 8   | NC         | Do Not Connect                   | 32  | VCAIN+B    | Channel B VCA Positive Input    |
| 9   | VB         | 0.01μF Bypass                    | 33  | VCAIN-B    | Channel B VCA Negative Input    |
| 10  | VDDAL      | VDD A Channel LNP                | 34  | CEXTB2     | External Capacitor              |
| 11  | GNDAL      | GND A Channel LNP                | 35  | CEXTB1     | External Capacitor              |
| 12  | LNP IN-A   | Channel A LNP Inverting Input    | 36  | VDD B      | Channel B + Supply              |
| 13  | G1         | LNP Gain Setting Pin (MSB)       | 37  | GNDB       | Channel B Ground                |
| 14  | G2         | LNP Gain Setting Pin (LSB)       | 38  | VCAOUT-B   | Channel B VCA Negative Output   |
| 15  | VDDA       | Supply Pin for Gain Setting      | 39  | VCAOUT+B   | Channel B VCA Positive Output   |
| 16  | LNP IN+A   | Channel A LNP Noninverting Input | 40  | FB1        | Feedback Control Pin            |
| 17  | VDDR       | Supply for Internal Reference    | 41  | FB2        | Feedback Control Pin            |
| 18  | VCLMP      | VCA Clamp Voltage Setting Pin    | 42  | FB3        | Feedback Control Pin            |
| 19  | VCM        | 0.1μF Bypass                     | 43  | VCNTL      | VCA Control Voltage Input       |
| 20  | GNDR       | Ground for Internal Reference    | 44  | VCAINSEL   | VCA Input Select, Hi = External |
| 21  | LNP IN+B   | Channel B LNP Noninverting Input | 45  | FB4        | Feedback Control Pin            |
| 22  | PDL        | Power Down LNPs                  | 46  | VCAOUT+A   | Channel A VCA Positive Pin      |
| 23  | PDV        | Power Down VCAs                  | 47  | VCAOUT-A   | Channel A VCA Negative Pin      |
| 24  | H/L        | VCA High/Low Gain Mode           | 48  | GNDA       | Channel A Ground                |

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $H/L = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is 1Vpp differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

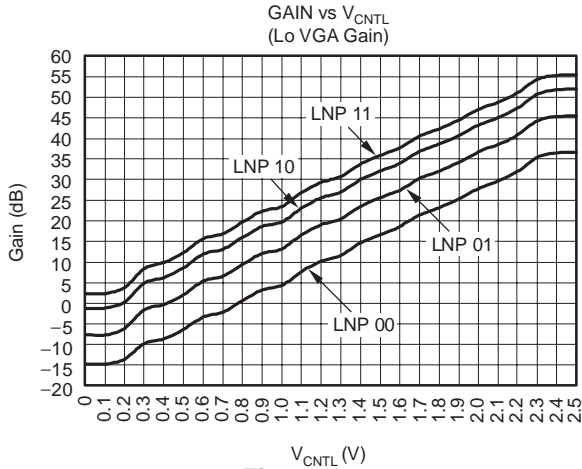


Figure 1

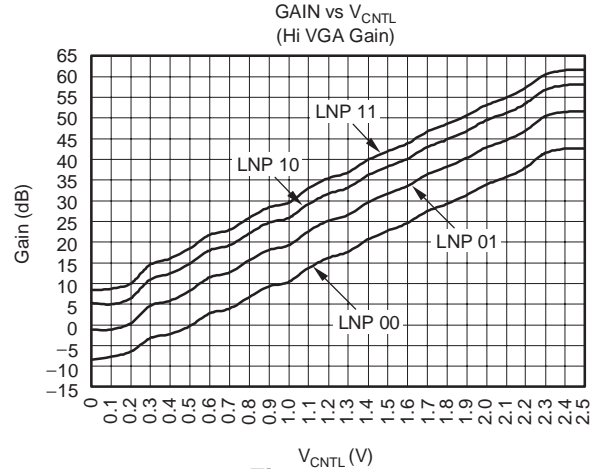


Figure 2

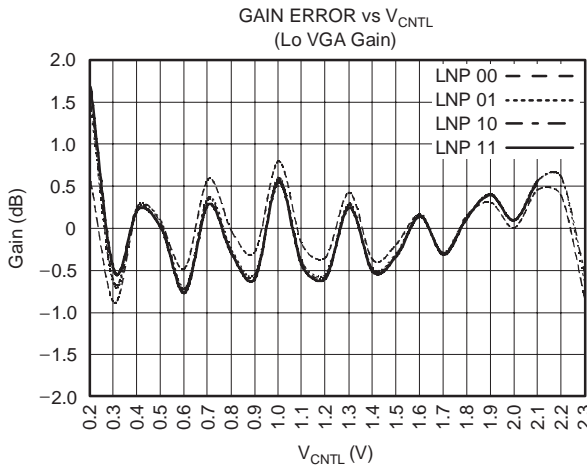


Figure 3

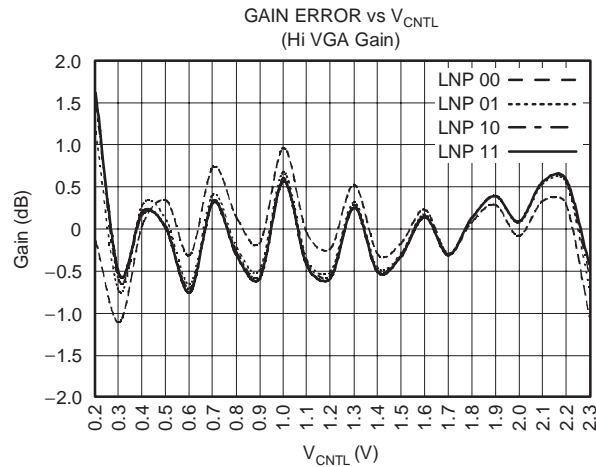


Figure 4

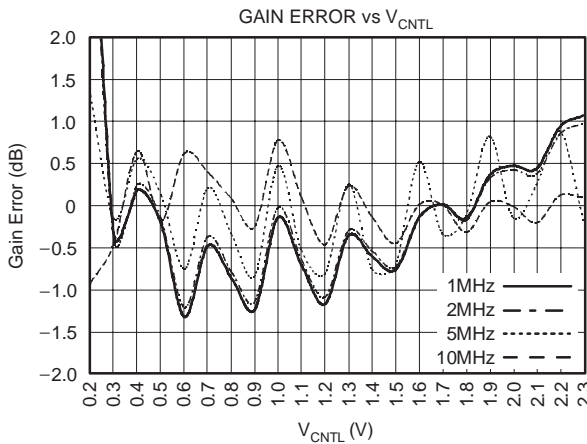


Figure 5

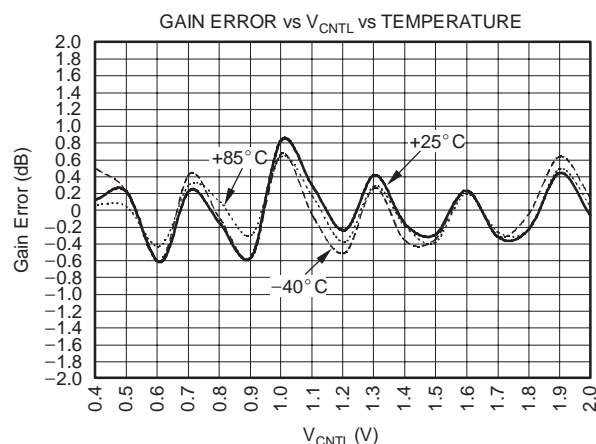


Figure 6

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10, H/L = 0,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

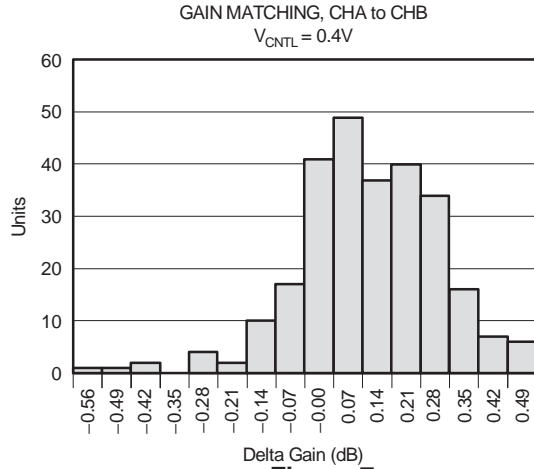


Figure 7

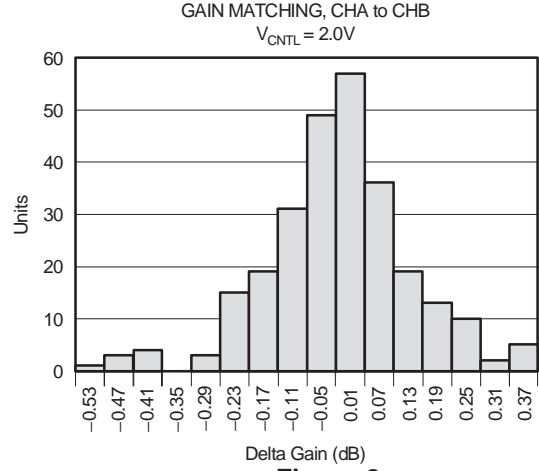


Figure 8

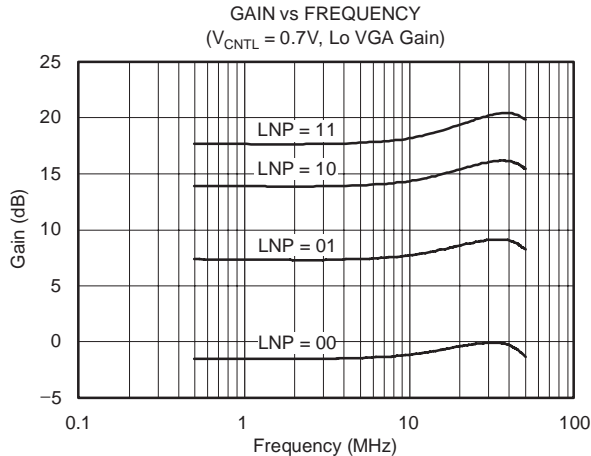


Figure 9

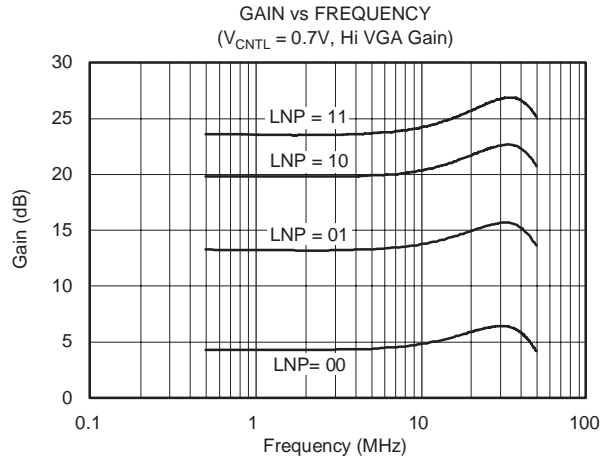


Figure 10

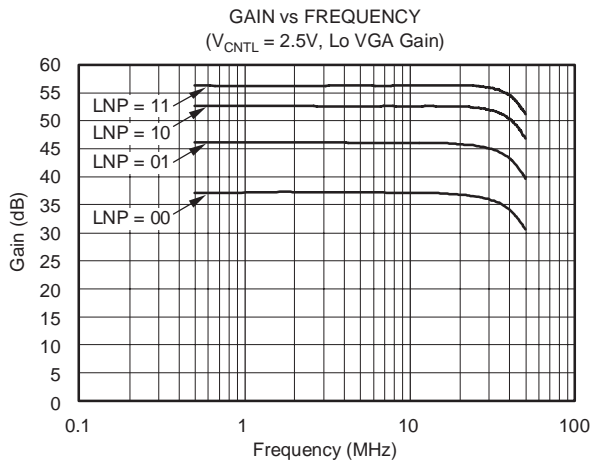


Figure 11

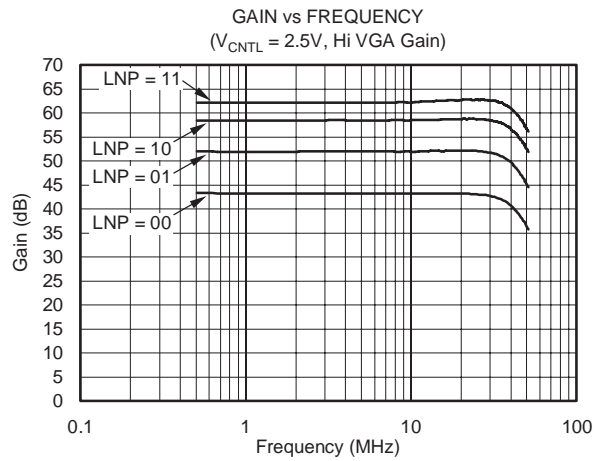


Figure 12

### TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain (G1, G2) = 10, H/L = 0,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

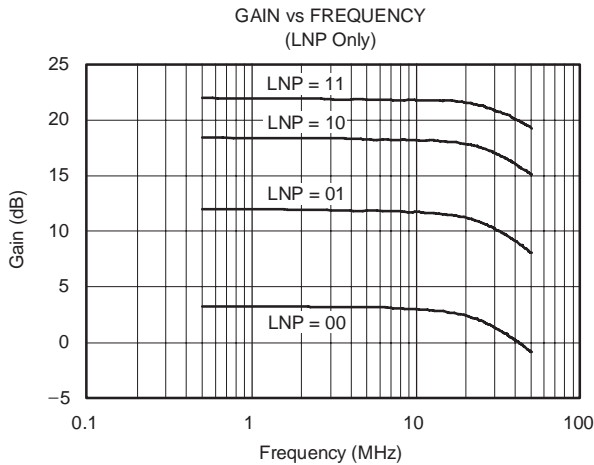


Figure 13

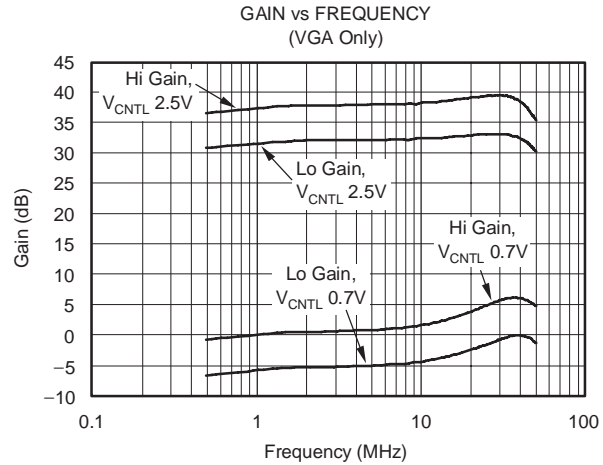


Figure 14

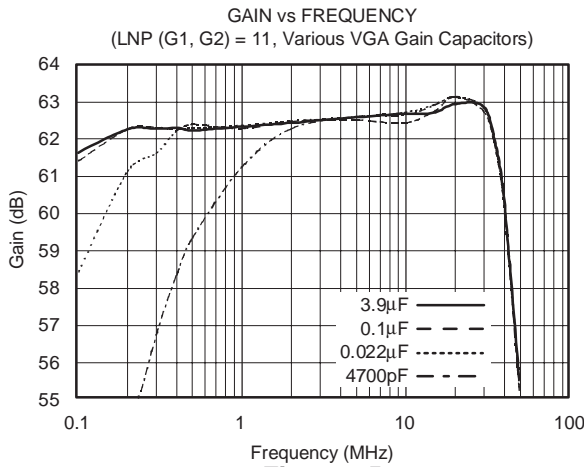


Figure 15

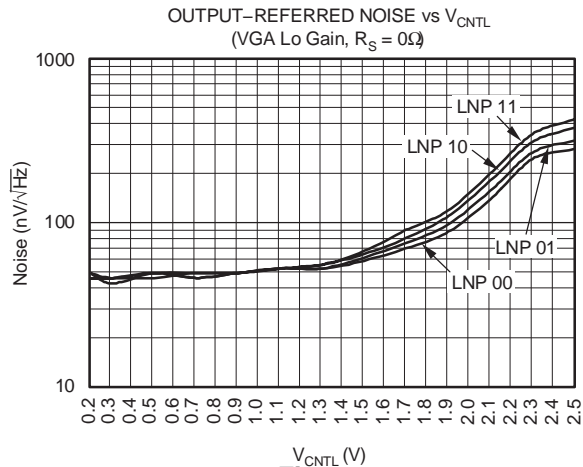


Figure 16

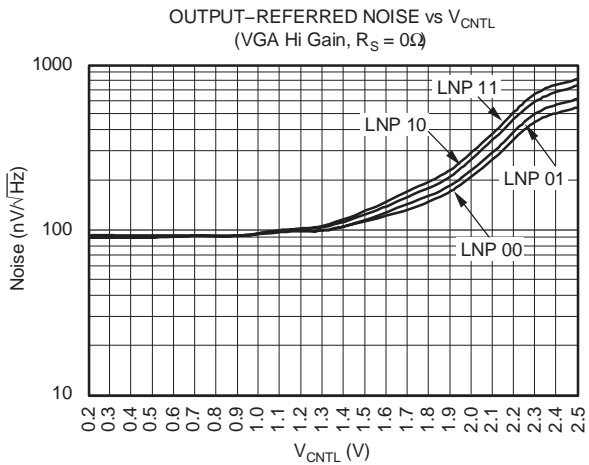


Figure 17

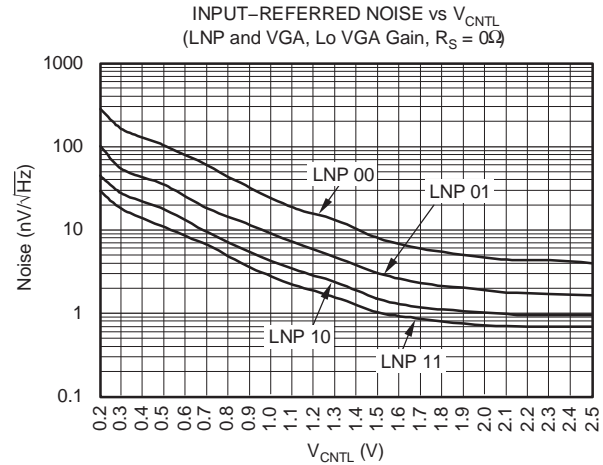


Figure 18



## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $H/L = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

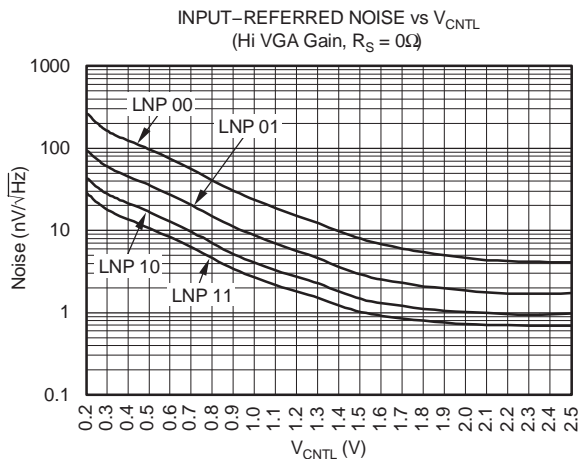


Figure 19

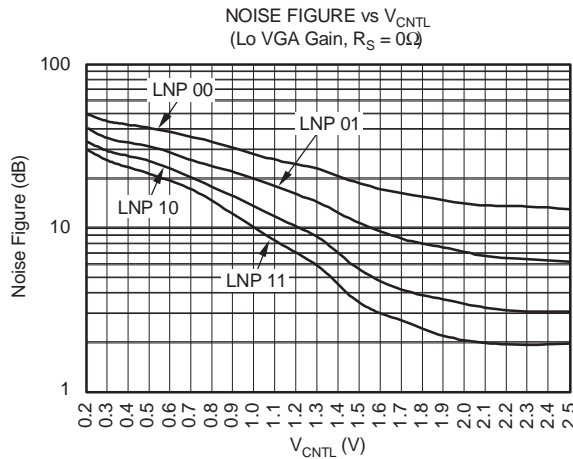


Figure 20

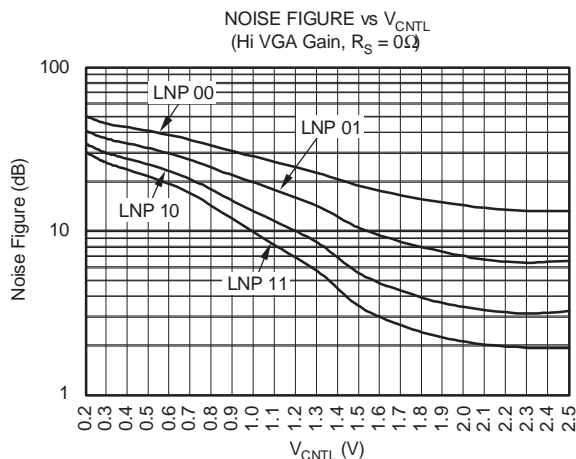


Figure 21

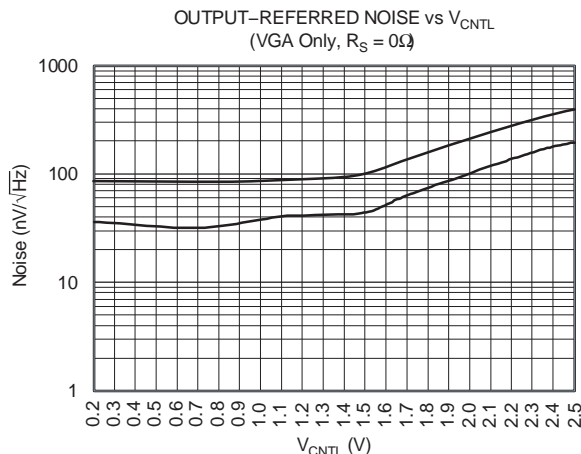


Figure 22

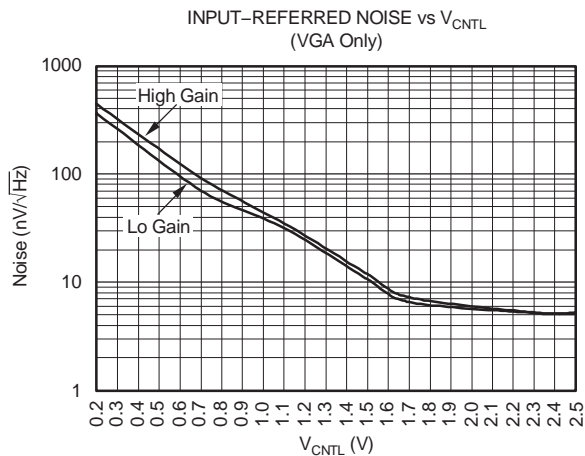


Figure 23

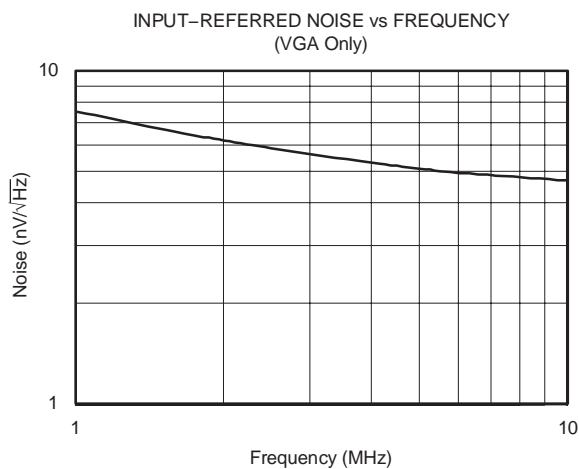


Figure 24

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $H/L = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

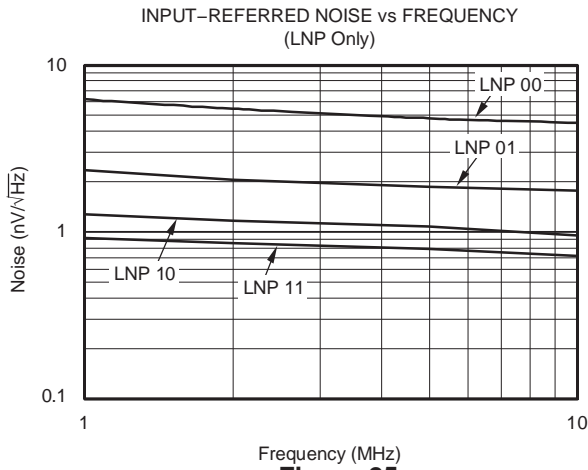


Figure 25

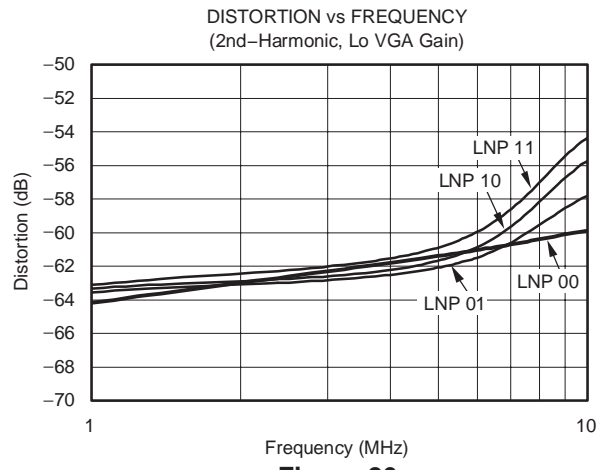


Figure 26

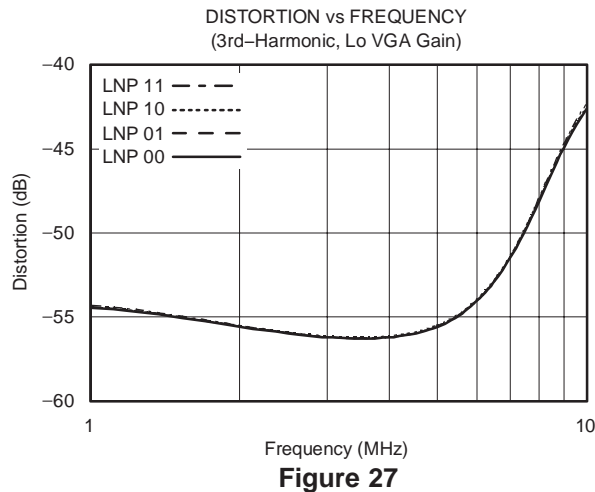


Figure 27

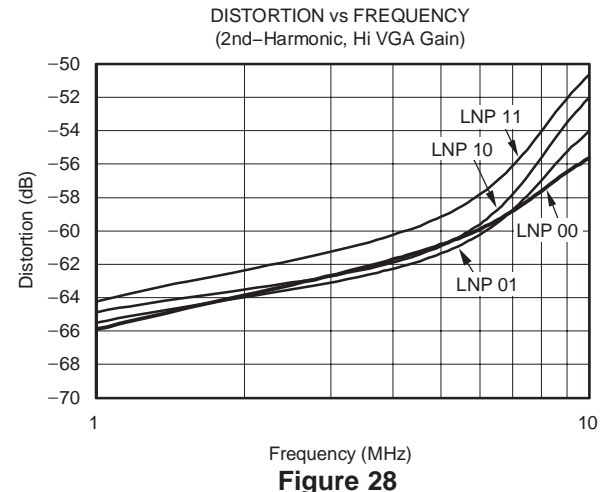


Figure 28

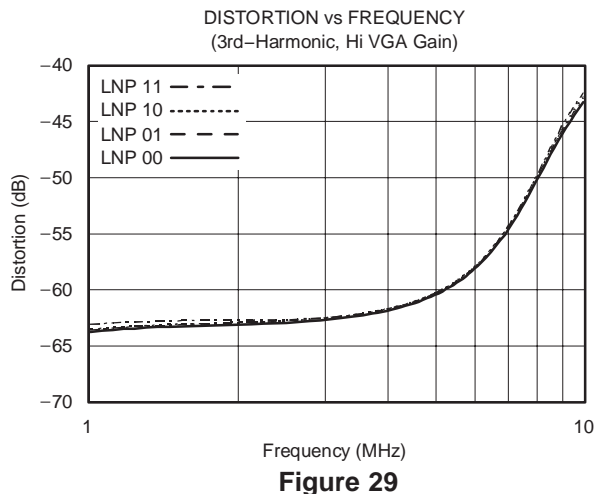


Figure 29

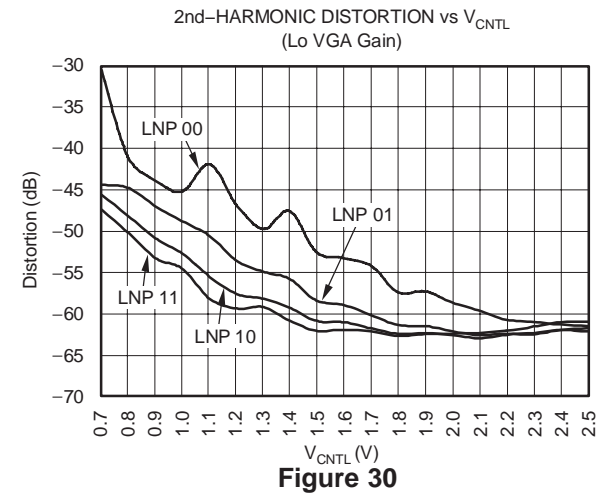


Figure 30

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10, H/L = 0,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

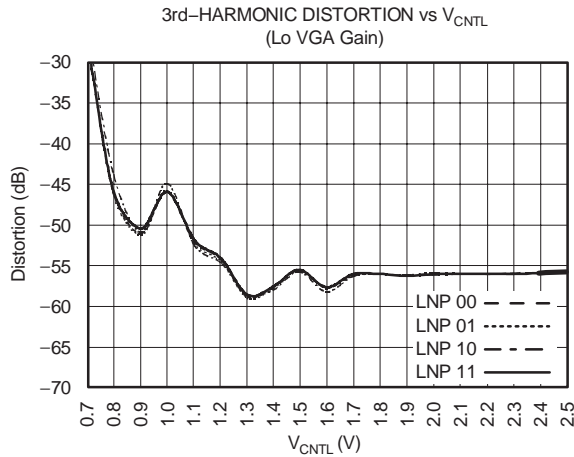


Figure 31

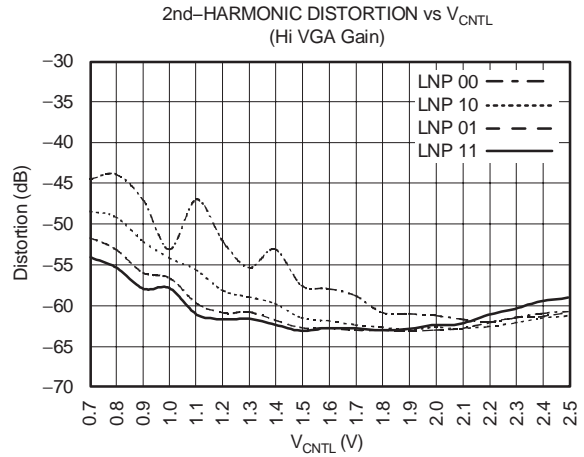


Figure 32

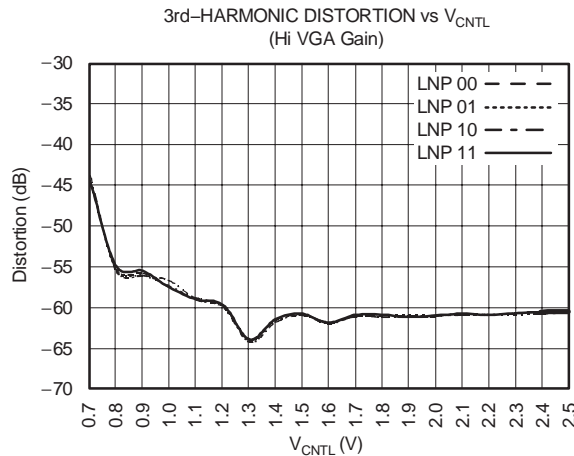


Figure 33

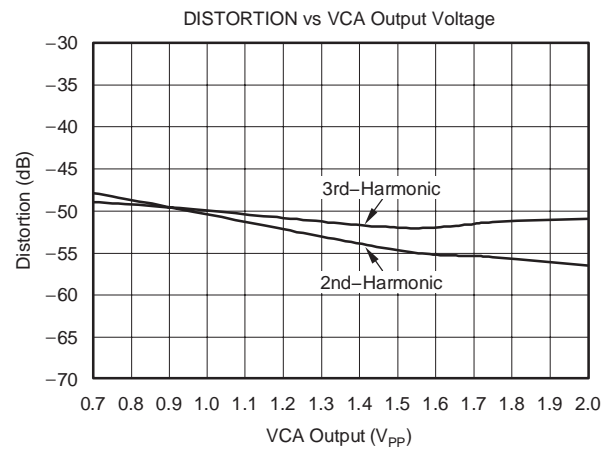


Figure 34

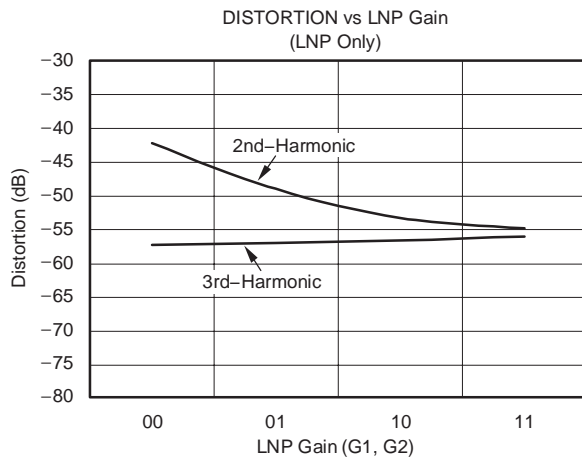


Figure 35

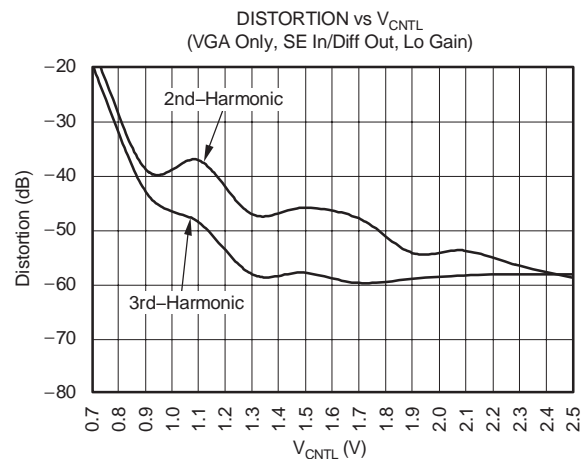


Figure 36

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $H/L = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

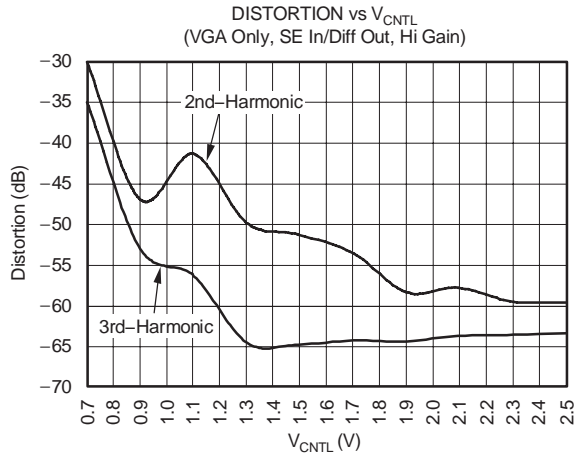


Figure 37

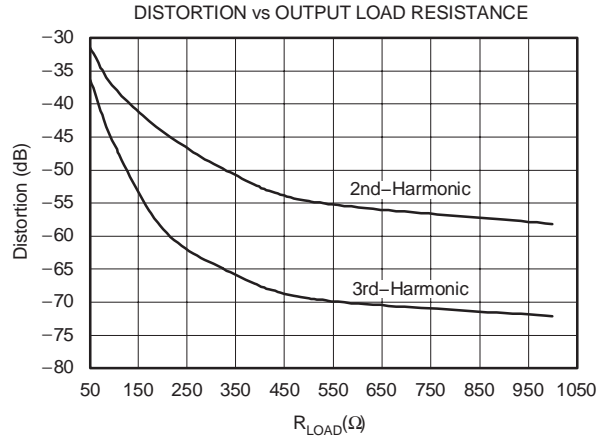


Figure 38

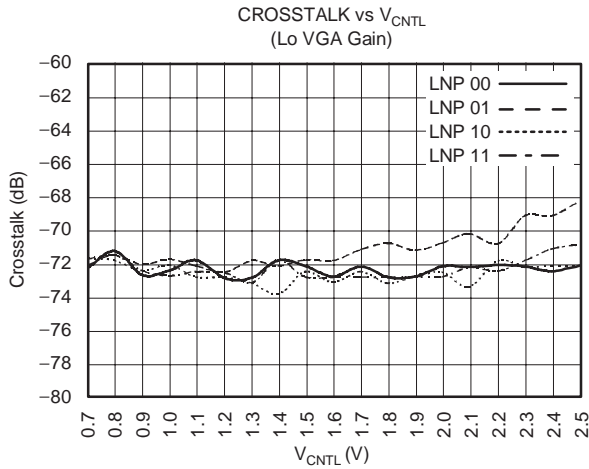


Figure 39

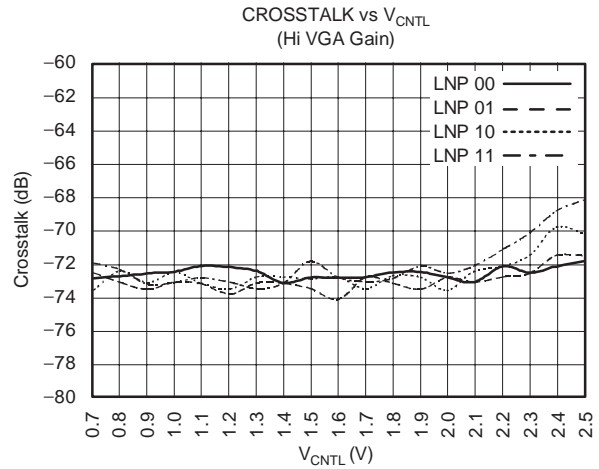


Figure 40

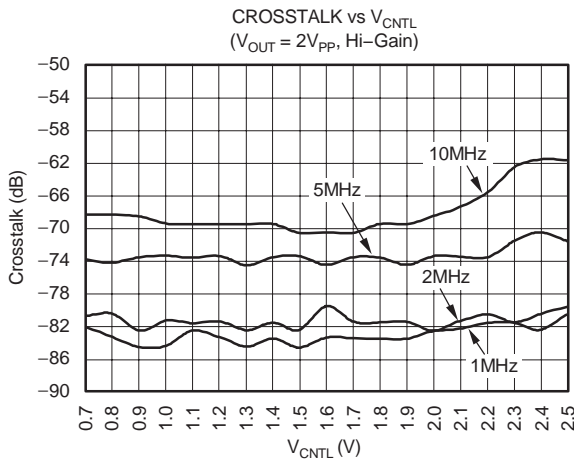


Figure 41

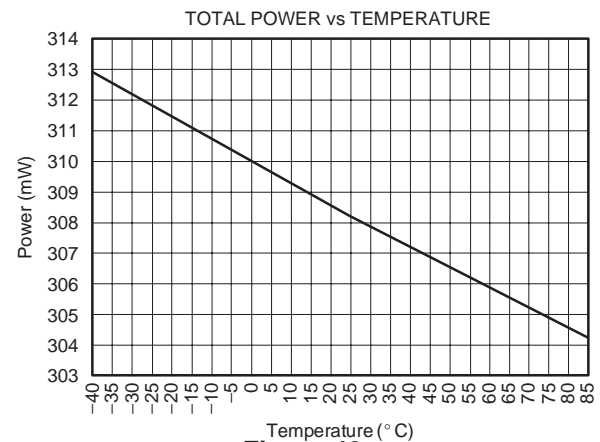


Figure 42

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10, H/L = 0,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{pp}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

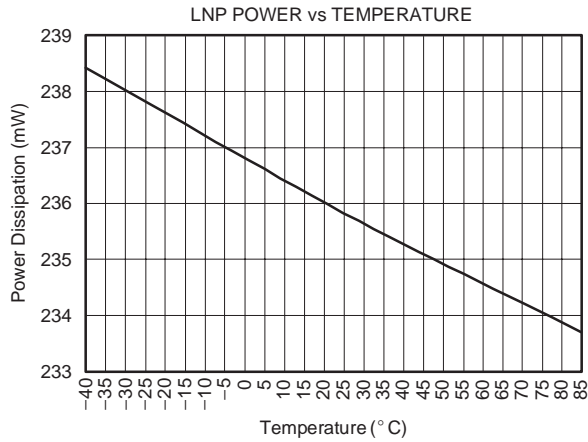


Figure 43

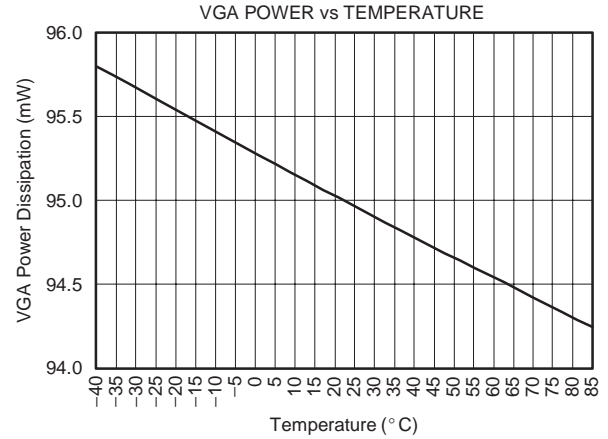


Figure 44

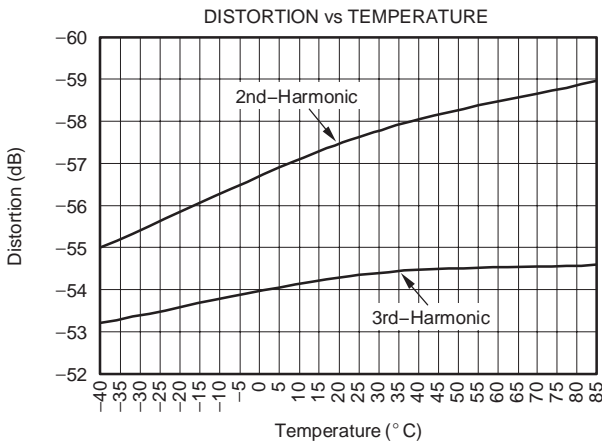


Figure 45

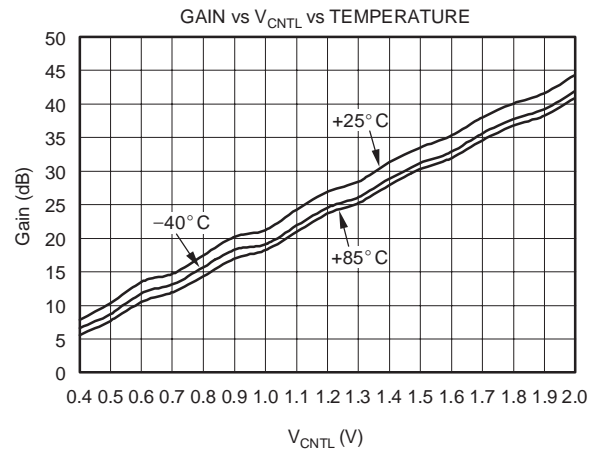


Figure 46

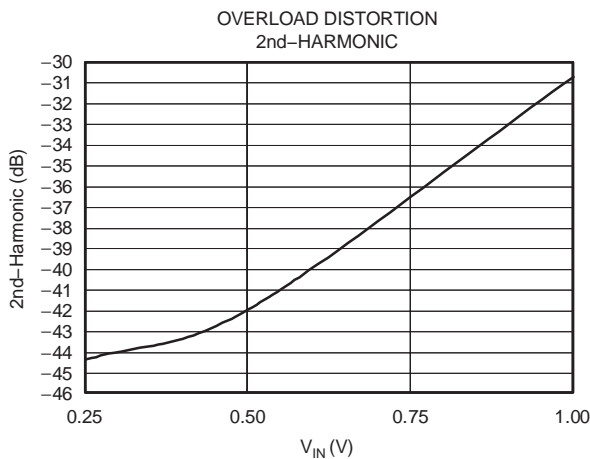


Figure 47

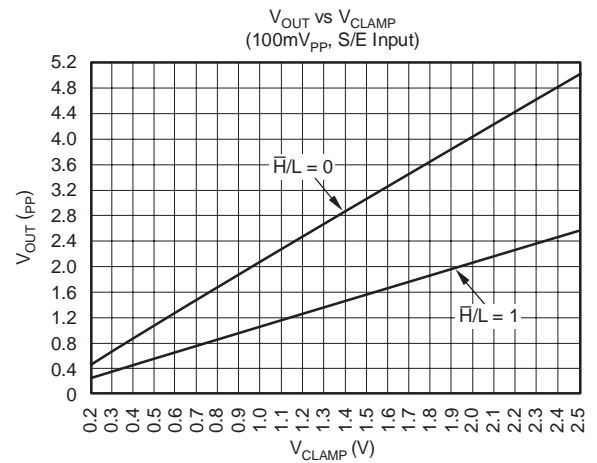


Figure 48

### TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

All specifications at  $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $V_{DD} = 5\text{V}$ , load resistance =  $500\Omega$  on each output to ground; the input to the preamp (LNP) is single-ended;  $f_{IN} = 5\text{MHz}$ , LNP Gain ( $G_1, G_2$ ) = 10,  $H/L = 0$ ,  $V_{CNTL} = 2.5\text{V}$ ; VCA output is  $1\text{V}_{PP}$  differential; CA, CB =  $3.9\mu\text{F}$ , unless otherwise noted.

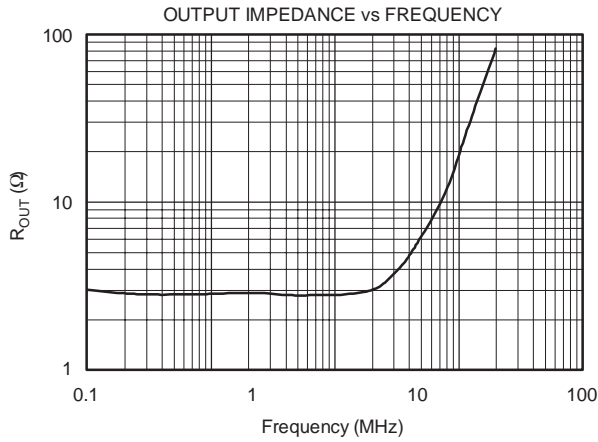


Figure 49

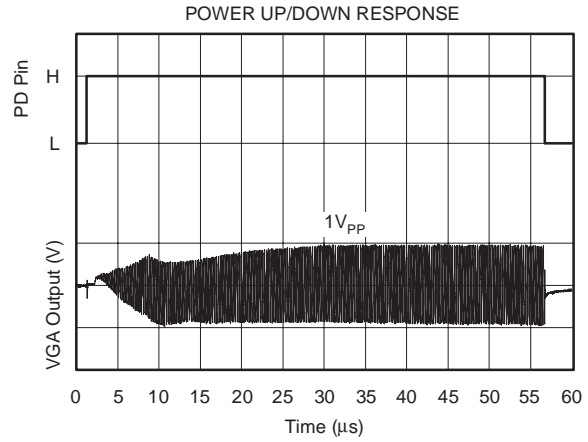


Figure 50

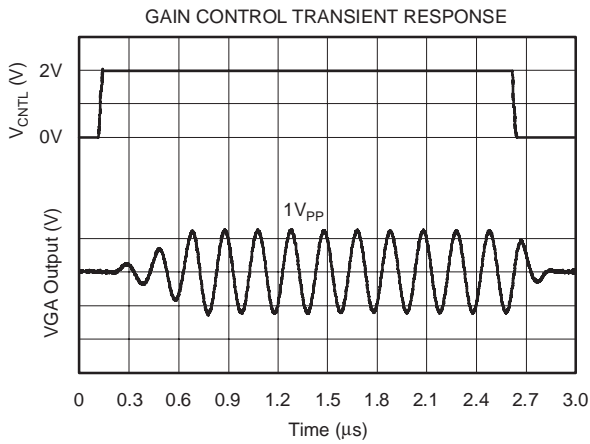


Figure 51

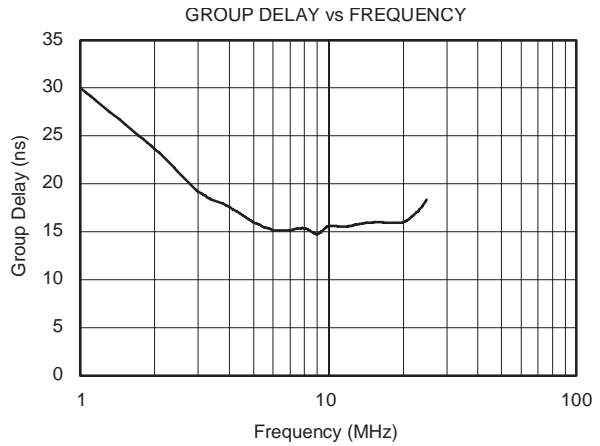


Figure 52

## THEORY OF OPERATION

The VCA2615 is a dual-channel system consisting of two primary blocks: a low noise preamplifier (LNP) and a variable gain amplifier (VGA), which is driven from the LNP. The LNP is very flexible; both the gain and input impedance can be programmed digitally without using external components. The LNP is coupled to the VGA through a multiplexer to facilitate interfacing with an external signal processor. The VGA is a true variable-gain amplifier, achieving lower noise output at lower gains. The output amplifier has two gains, allowing for further optimization with different analog-to-digital converters. Figure 53 shows a simplified block diagram of a single channel of the dual-channel system. Both the LNP and the VGA can be powered down together or separately in order to conserve system power when necessary.

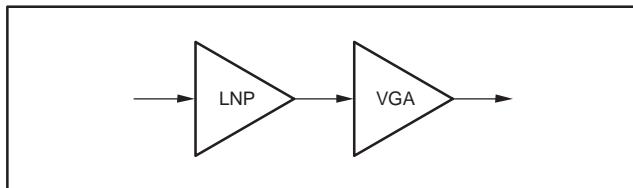


Figure 53. Simplified Block Diagram of VCA2615

### LNP—OVERVIEW

The LNP has differential input and output capability. It also has exceptionally low noise voltage and input current noise. At the highest gain setting (of 22dB), the LNP achieves  $0.7\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  voltage noise and typically  $1\text{pA}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  current noise. The LNP can process fully differential or single-ended signals in each channel. Differential signal processing reduces second harmonic distortion and offers improved rejection of common-mode and power-supply noise. The LNP gain can be electronically programmed to have one of four values that can be selected by a two-bit word (see Table 2). The gain of the LNP when driving the VGA is approximately 1dB higher because of the loss in the buffer.

The LNP also has four programmable feedback resistors that can be selected by a four-bit word to create 16 different values in order to facilitate the easy use of active feedback. With this combination of both programmable gain and feedback resistors, as many as 61 different values of input impedance can be created to provide a wide variety of input-matching resistors (see Table 5). By using active

feedback with this wide selection of feedback resistors, the user is able to provide a low-noise means of terminating input signal while incurring only a 3dB loss in signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), instead of a 6dB loss in SNR which is usually associated with the conventional type of signal termination. More information is given in the section of this document that provides a detailed description of the LNP.

The LNP output drives a buffer that in turn drives the feedback network and supplies the LNP to a multiplexer. The multiplexer can be configured to supply the signal off-chip for further processing, or can be set to drive the internal VGA directly from the LNP. An external coupling capacitor is not required to couple the LNP to the VGA.

### VGA—OVERVIEW

The VGA that is used with the VCA2615 is a true variable-gain amplifier; as the gain is reduced, the noise contribution from the VGA itself is also reduced. A block diagram of the VGA is shown in Figure 53. This design is in contrast with another popular device architecture (used by the VCA2616), where an effective VCA characteristic is obtained by a voltage variable-attenuator succeeded by a fixed-gain amplifier. At the highest gain, systems with either architecture are dominated by the noise produced by the LNP. At low gains, however, the noise output is dominated by the contribution from the VGA. Therefore, the overall system with lower VGA gain will produce less noise.

The following example will illustrate this point. Figure 53 shows a block diagram of an LNP driving a variable-gain amplifier; Figure 54 shows a block diagram of an LNP driving a variable attenuation attenuator followed by a fixed gain amplifier. For purposes of this example, let us assume the performance characteristics shown in Table 1; these values are the typical performance data of the VCA2615 and the VCA2616.

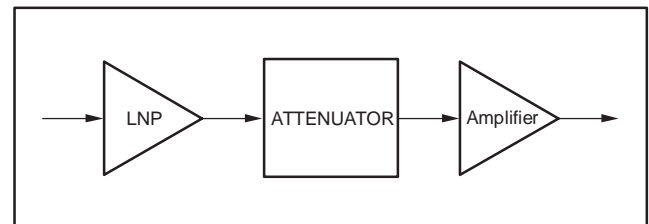


Figure 54. Block Diagram of Older VCA Models

**Table 1. Gain and Noise Performance of Various VCA Blocks**

| BLOCK                | GAIN (Loss) dB | NOISE nV/√Hz |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| LNP1 (VCA2615)       | 20             | 0.82         |
| LNP2 (VCA2616)       | 20             | 1.1          |
| Attenuator (VCA2616) | 0              | 1.8          |
| Attenuator (VCA2616) | -40            | 1.8          |
| VCA1 (VCA2615)       | 40             | 3.8          |
| VCA1 (VCA2615)       | 0              | 90           |
| VCA2 (VCA2616)       | 40             | 2.0          |

When the block diagram shown in Figure 53 has a combined gain of 60dB, the noise referred to the input (RTI) is given by the expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Noise (RTI)} &= \sqrt{(\text{LNP Noise})^2 + (\text{VCA Noise}/\text{LNP Gain})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(0.82)^2 + (3.8/10)^2} = 0.90\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

When the block diagram shown in Figure 54 has the combined gain of 60dB, the noise referred to the input (RTI) is given by the expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Noise (RTI)} &= \sqrt{(\text{LNP Noise})^2 + (\text{ATTEN Noise}/\text{LNP Gain})^2 + (\text{VCA Noise}/\text{LNP Gain})^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(1.1)^2 + (1.8/10)^2 + (2.0/10)^2} = 1.13\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Repeating the above measurements for both VCA configurations when the overall gain is 20dB yields the following results:

For the VCA with a variable gain amplifier (Figure 53):

$$\text{Total Noise (RTI)} = \sqrt{(0.82)^2 + (90/10)^2} = 9.03\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \quad (3)$$

For the VCA with a variable attenuation attenuator (Figure 54):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Noise} &= \sqrt{(1.1)^2 + (1.8/10)^2 + (2.0/0.10)^2} \\ &= 14\text{nV}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

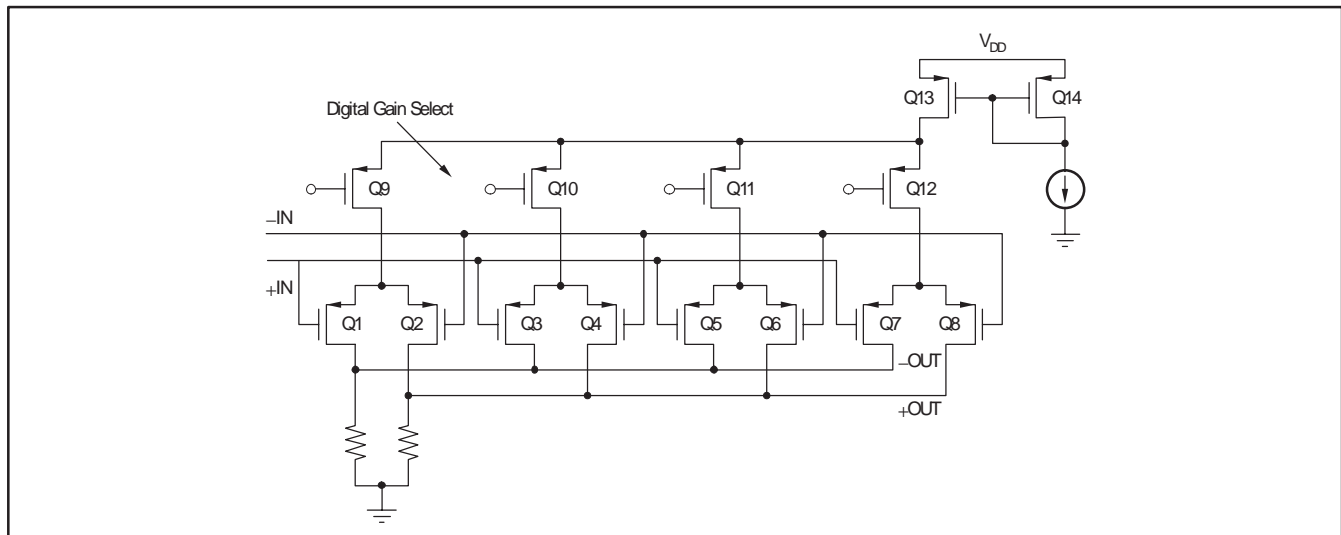
The VGA has a continuously-variable gain range of 52dB with the ability to select either of two options. The gain of the VGA can either be varied from -12dB to 40dB, or from -18dB to 34dB. The VGA output can be programmed to clip precisely at a predetermined voltage that is selected by the user. When the user applies a voltage to pin 18 (V<sub>CLMP</sub>), the output will have a peak-to-peak voltage that is given by the graph shown in Figure 48.

**LOW NOISE PREAMPLIFIER (LNP)—DETAIL**

The LNP is designed to achieve exceptionally low noise performance when employed with or without active feedback. The proprietary LNP architecture can be electronically programmed, eliminating the need for off-board components to alter the gain. A simplified schematic of this amplifier is shown in Figure 55. FET pairs Q1-Q2, Q3-Q4, Q5-Q6 and Q7-Q8 each represent a different LNP gain. The four switches are 22dB, 18dB, 12dB and 3dB. One of the unique gain settings is selected when one of the four switches Q9 through Q12 are selected. Table 2 shows the relationship between the gain selection bits, G1 and G2, and the corresponding gain.

**Table 2. Gain Selection of LNP**

| G1 | G2 | LNP GAIN (dB) |
|----|----|---------------|
| 0  | 0  | 3             |
| 0  | 1  | 12            |
| 1  | 0  | 18            |
| 1  | 1  | 22            |



**Figure 55. Programmable LNP**



The ability to change the gain electronically offers additional flexibility for optimizing the gain in order to achieve either maximum signal-handling capability or maximum sensitivity. Table 3 lists the input and output signal-handling capability of the LNP.

Table 4 shows the voltage noise of the LNP for different gain settings.

**Table 3. Signal Handling Capability of LNP**

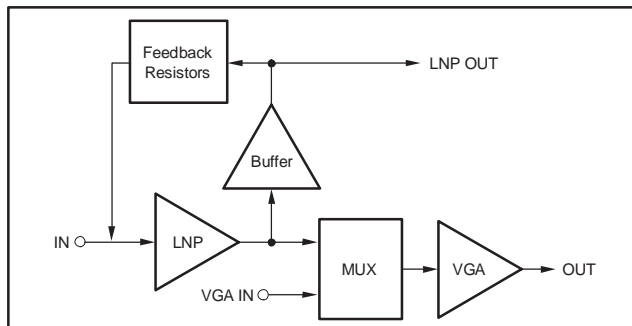
| GAIN (dB) | G1, G2 | MAX INPUT (V <sub>pp</sub> Single-Ended) | MAX OUTPUT (V <sub>pp</sub> Differential) |
|-----------|--------|--|---|
| 22        | 11     | 0.23                                     | 3.5                                       |
| 18        | 10     | 0.39                                     | 3.5                                       |
| 12        | 01     | 0.78                                     | 3.5                                       |
| 3         | 00     | 2.3                                      | 3.0                                       |

**Table 4. LNP Gain vs Voltage Noise**

| LNP GAIN (dB) | VOLTAGE NOISE (nV/√Hz) at 5MHz |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 22            | 0.8                            |
| 18            | 1.1                            |
| 12            | 1.9                            |
| 3             | 4.9                            |

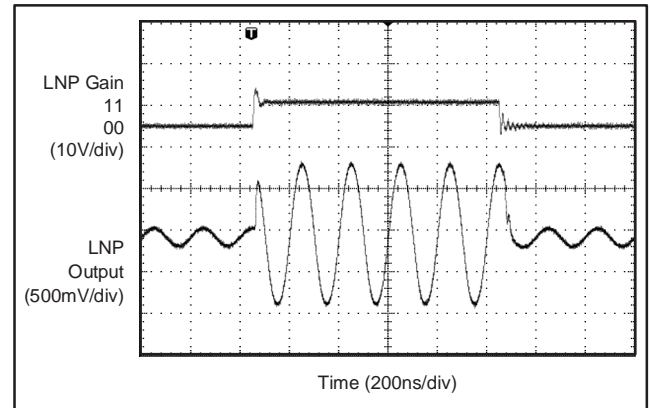
The current noise for the LNP is  $1\text{pA}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  for all gain settings. The input capacitance of the LNP is 45pF.

The LNP output drives a buffer and a multiplexer (MUX) along with a feedback network that can be used to program the input impedance. Figure 56 shows a block diagram of how these circuits are connected together. The output of the LNP feeds a buffer to avoid the loading effect of the feedback resistors and to achieve a more robust capability for driving external circuits.



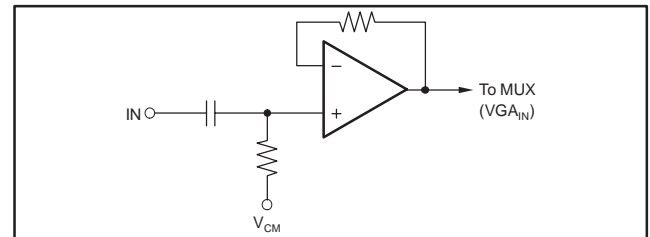
**Figure 56. Block Diagram of LNP/VGA Interface**

See Figure 57, which shows the response time of the LNP gain changing from minimum to maximum.



**Figure 57. LNP Gain Change Response**

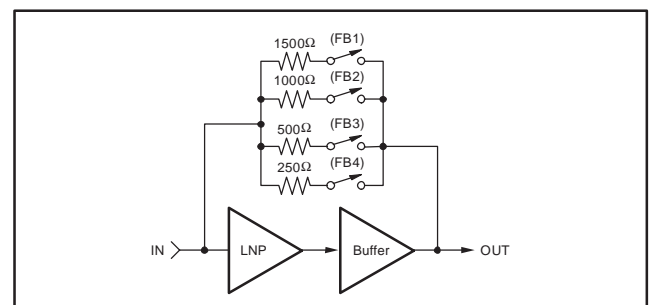
The LNP also feeds a MUX, which accepts the LNP signal or can receive an external signal. When applying an external signal to the MUX ( $V_{CA_{IN}}$ ), the signal should be biased to a common-mode voltage in the range of 1.85V to 3.15V. This biasing could be accomplished by using the 2.5V level of the  $V_{CM}$  pin (19) of the VCA2615.



**Figure 58. Recommended Circuit for Coupling an External Signal into the MUX**

## INPUT IMPEDANCE

Figure 59 shows a simplified schematic of the resistor feedback network along with Table 5 that relates the FB1, FB2, FB3 and FB4 code to the selected value. When the selection bits leave the feedback network in the open position, the input resistance of the LNP will become 100kΩ.



**Figure 59. Feedback Resistor Network**

**Table 5. Feedback Resistor Settings**

| FEEDBACK RESISTOR (Ω) | FB4 | FB3 | FB2 | FB1 |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 130                   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 143                   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
| 150                   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| 167                   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   |
| 176                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   |
| 200                   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   |
| 214                   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   |
| 250                   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| 273                   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 333                   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1   |
| 375                   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 0   |
| 500                   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   |
| 600                   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   |
| 1000                  | 1   | 1   | 0   | 1   |
| 1500                  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   |
| Open                  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   |

As explained previously, the LNP gain can have four different values while the feedback resistor can be programmed to have 16 different values. This variable gain means that the input impedance can take on 61 different values given by the formula shown below:

$$R_{IN} = \frac{R_F}{\left(1 + \frac{A_{LNP}}{2}\right)} \tag{5}$$

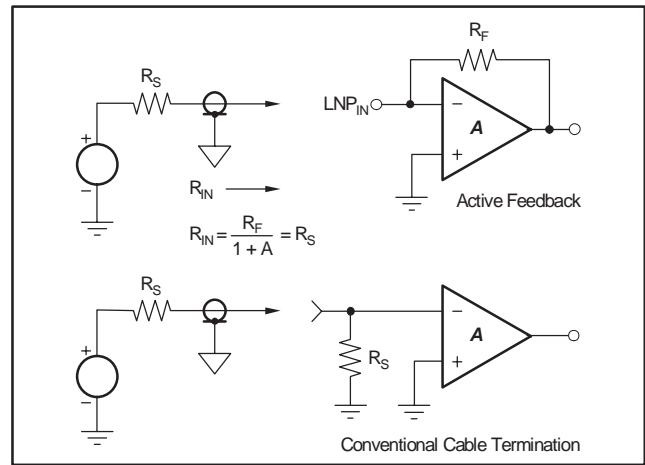
Where  $R_F$  is the value of the feedback resistor and  $A_{LNP}$  is the differential gain of the LNP in volts/volt. The variable gain enables the user to most precisely match the LNP input impedance to the various probe and cable impedances to achieve optimum performance under a variety of conditions. No additional components are required in order to determine the input impedance.

The resistor values shown in Table 5 represent typical values. Due to process variation, the actual values of the resistance can differ by as much as 20%.

**ACTIVE FEEDBACK TERMINATION**

One of the key features of an LNP architecture is the ability to employ active-feedback termination in order to achieve superior noise performance. Active-feedback termination achieves a lower noise figure than conventional shunt termination essentially because no signal current is

wasted in the termination resistor itself. Another example may clarify this point. First, consider that the input source, at the far end of the signal cable, has a cable-matching source resistance of  $R_S$ . Using a conventional shunt termination at the LNP input, a second terminating resistor  $R_S$  is connected to ground. Therefore, the signal loss is 6dB because of the voltage divider action of the series and shunt  $R_S$  resistors. The effective source resistance has been reduced by the same factor of two, but the noise contribution has been reduced only by the  $\sqrt{2}$ , which is only a 3dB reduction. Therefore, the net theoretical SNR degradation is 3dB, assuming a noise-free amplifier input. In practice, the amplifier noise contribution will degrade both the un-terminated and the terminated noise figures. Figure 60 shows an amplifier using active feedback.



**Figure 60. Configurations for Active Feedback and Conventional Cable Termination**

This diagram appears very similar to a traditional inverting amplifier. However,  $A$  in this case is not a very large open-loop op-amp gain; rather, it is the relatively low and controlled gain of the LNP itself. Thus, the impedance at the inverting amplifier terminal will be reduced by a finite amount, as given in the familiar relationship of:

$$R_{IN} = \frac{R_F}{(1 + A)} \tag{6}$$

where  $R_F$  is the programmable feedback resistor,  $A$  is the user-selected gain of the LNP, and  $R_{IN}$  is the resulting amplifier input impedance with active feedback.

In this case, unlike the conventional termination shown in Figure 60, both the signal voltage and the  $R_S$  noise are attenuated by the same factor of two (or 6dB) before being re-amplified by the  $A$  gain setting. This configuration avoids the extra 3dB degradation because of the square-root effect described above, which is the key advantage of the active termination technique. As noted, the previous explanation ignored the input noise contribution of the LNP itself. Also, the noise contribution of the feedback resistor must be included for a completely correct analysis. The curves shown in Figure 61 and Figure 62 allow the VCA2615 user to compare the achievable noise figure for active and conventional termination methods.

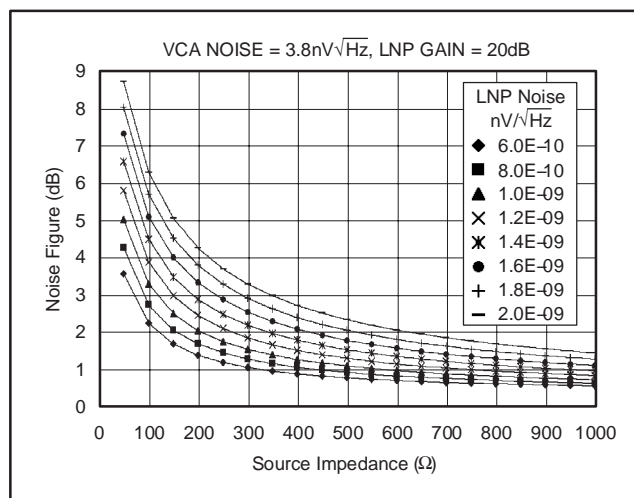


Figure 61. Noise Figure for Active Termination

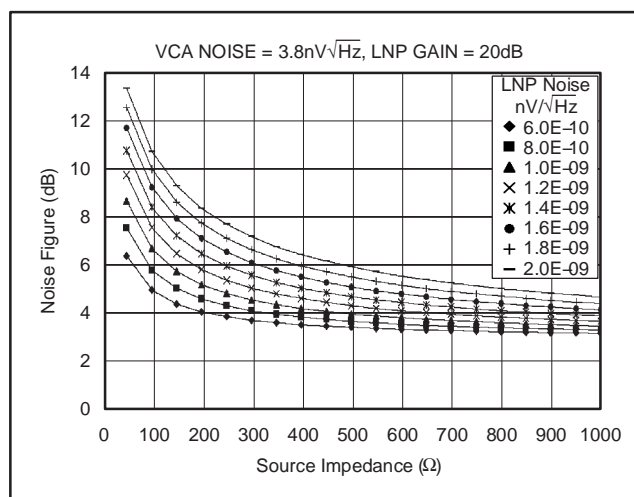


Figure 62. Noise Figure for Conventional Termination

## VOLTAGE-CONTROLLED AMPLIFIER (VCA)—DETAIL

Figure 63 shows a simplified schematic of the VCA. The VCA2615 is a true voltage-controlled amplifier, with the gain expressed in dB directly proportional to a control signal. This architecture compares to the older VCA products where a voltage-controlled attenuator was followed by a fixed-gain amplifier. With a variable-gain amplifier, the output noise diminishes as the gain reduces. A variable-gain amplifier, where the output amplifier gain is fixed, will not show diminished noise in this manner. Refer to Table 6, which shows a comparison between the noise performance at different gains for the VCA2615 and the older VCA2616.

Table 6. Noise vs Gain ( $R_G = 0$ )

| PRODUCT | GAIN (dB) | NOISE RTI (nV/√Hz) |
|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| VCA2615 | 60        | 0.7                |
| VCA2615 | 20        | 9.0                |
| VCA2616 | 60        | 1.1                |
| VCA2616 | 20        | 14.0               |

The VCA accepts a differential input at the +IN and –IN terminals. Amplifier A1, along with transistors Q2 and Q3, forms a voltage follower that buffers the +IN signal to be able to drive the voltage-controlled resistor. Amplifier A3, along with transistors Q27 and Q28, plays the same role as A1. The differential signal applied to the voltage-controlled resistor network is converted to a current that flows through transistors Q1 through Q4. Through the mirror action of transistors Q1/Q5 and Q4/Q6, a copy of this same current flows through Q5 and Q6. Assuming that the signal current is less than the programmed clipping current (that is, the current flowing through transistors Q7 and Q8), the signal current will then go through the diode bridge (D1 through D4) and be sent through either R2 or R1, depending upon the state of Q9. This signal current multiplied by the feedback resistor associated with amplifier A2, determines the signal voltage that is designated –OUT. Operation of the circuitry associated with A3 and A4 is identical to the operation of the previously described function to create the signal +OUT.

A1 and its circuitry form a voltage-to-current converter, while A2 and its circuitry form a current-to-voltage converter. This architecture was adapted because it has excellent signal-handling capability. A1 has been designed to handle a large voltage signal without overloading, and the various mirroring devices have also been sized to handle large currents. Good overload capability is achieved as both the input and output amplifier are not required to amplify voltage signals.

Voltage amplification occurs when the input voltage is converted to a current; this current in turn is converted back to a voltage as amplifier A2 acts as a transimpedance amplifier. The overall gain of the output amplifier A2 can be altered by 6dB by the action of the  $\overline{H/L}$  signal. This enables more optimum performance when the VCA interfaces with either a 10-bit or 12-bit analog-to-digital converter (ADC). An external capacitor (C) is required to provide a low

impedance connection to join the two sections of the resistor network. Capacitor C could be replaced by a short-circuit. By providing a DC connection, the output offset will be a function of the gain setting. Typically, the offset at this point is  $\pm 10\text{mV}$ ; thus, if the gain varies from 1 to 100, the output offset would vary from  $\pm 10\text{mV}$  to  $\pm 100\text{mV}$ .

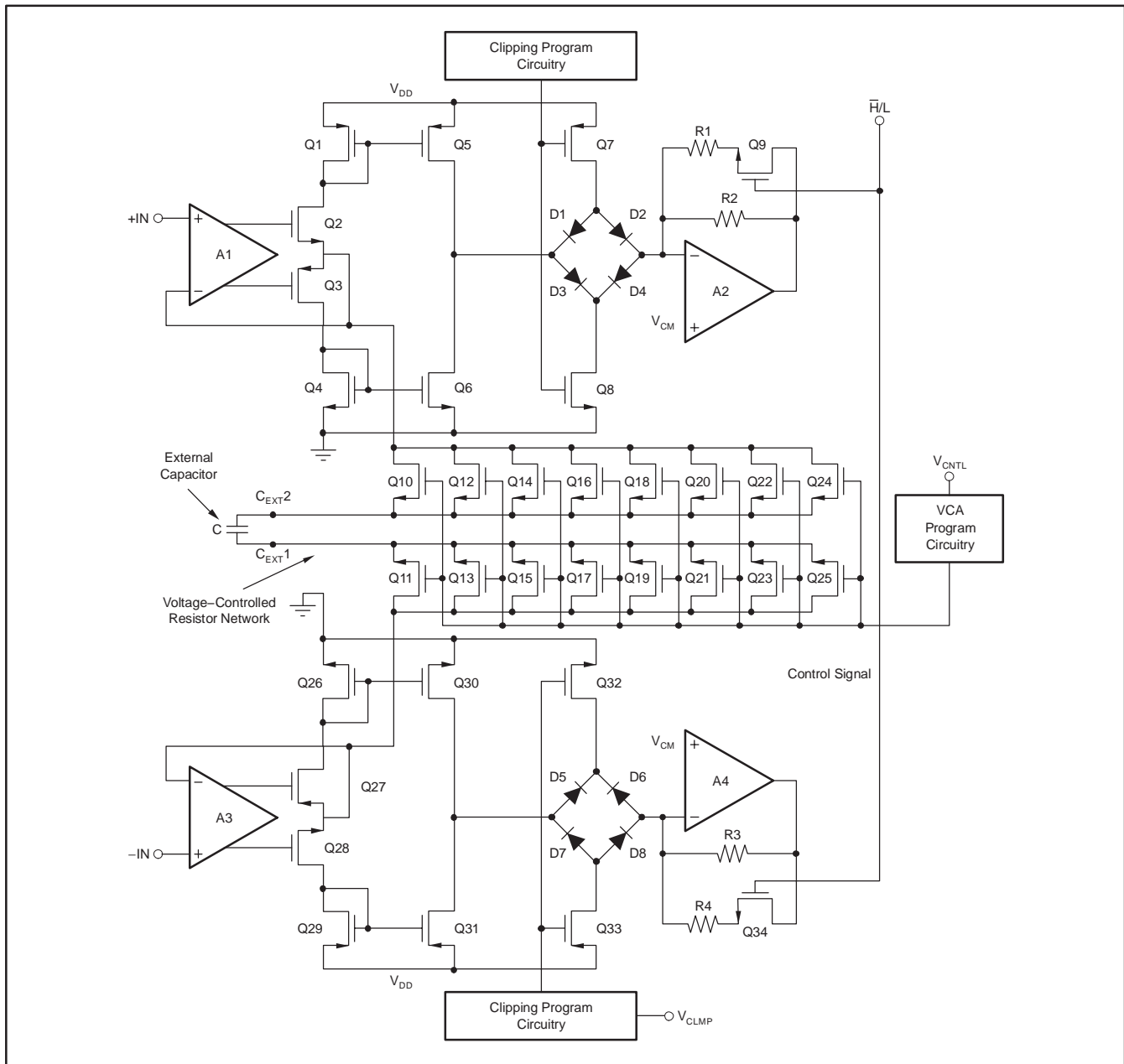


Figure 63. Block Diagram of VCA

## VARIABLE GAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Transistors Q10, Q12, Q14, Q16, Q18, Q20, Q22, and Q24 form a variable resistor network that is programmed in an exponential manner to control the gain. Transistors Q11, Q13, Q15, Q17, Q19, Q21, Q23, and Q25 perform the same function. These two groups of FET variable resistors are configured in this manner to balance the capacitive loading on the total variable-resistor network. This balanced configuration is used to keep the second harmonic component of the distortion low. The common source connection associated with each group of FET variable resistors is brought out to an external pin so that an external capacitor can be used to make an AC connection. This connection is necessary to achieve an adequate low-frequency bandwidth because the coupling capacitor would be too large to include within the monolithic chip. The value of this variable resistor ranges in value from  $15\Omega$  to  $5000\Omega$  to achieve a gain range of about 44dB. The low-frequency bandwidth is then given by the formula:

$$\text{Low Frequency BW} = 1/2\pi RC \quad (7)$$

where:

R is the value of the attenuator.

C is the value of the external coupling capacitor.

For example, if a low-frequency bandwidth of 500kHz was desired and the value of R was  $15\Omega$ , then the value of the coupling capacitor would be approximately 22nF.

One of the benefits of this method of gain control is that the output offset is independent of the variable gain of the output amplifier. The DC gain of the output amplifier is extremely low; any change in the input voltage is blocked by the coupling capacitor, and no signal current flows through the variable resistor. This method also means that any offset voltage existing in the input is stored across this coupling capacitor; when the resistor value is changed, the DC output will not change. Therefore, changes in the control voltage do not appear in the output signal. Figure 64 shows the output waveform resulting from a step change in the control voltage, and Figure 65 shows the output voltage resulting when the control voltage is a full-scale ramp.

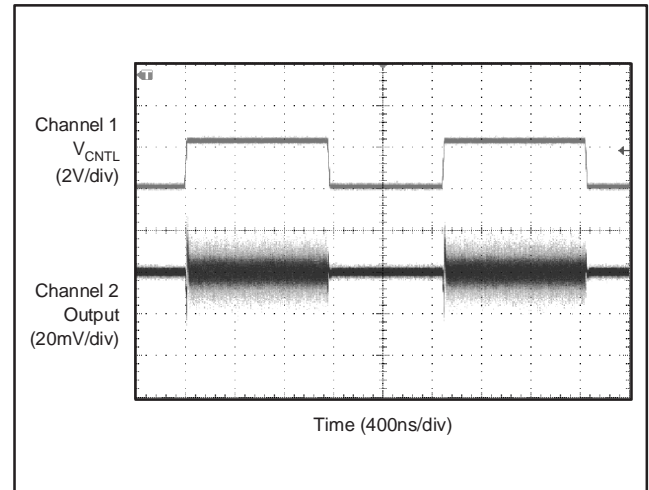


Figure 64. Response to Step Change of  $V_{CTL}$

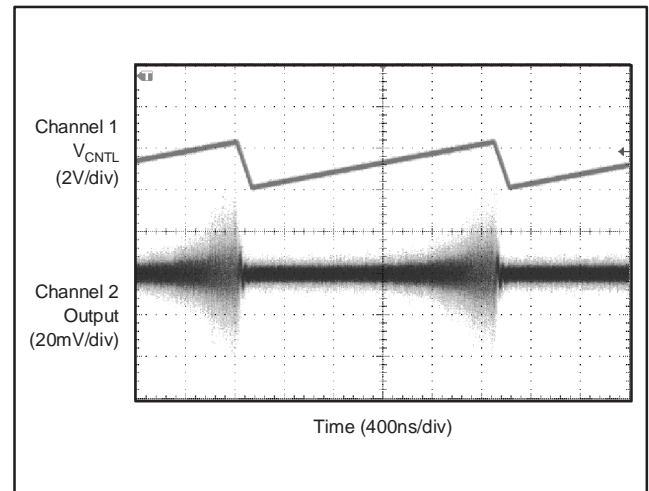


Figure 65. Response to Ramp Change of  $V_{CTL}$

The exponential gain control characteristic is achieved through a piecewise approximation to a perfectly smooth exponential curve. Eight FETs, operated as variable resistors whose value is progressively 1/2 of the value of the adjacent parallel FET, are turned on progressively, or their value is lowered to create the exponential gain characteristic. This characteristic can be shown in the following way. An exponential such as  $y = e^x$  increases in the y dimension by a constant ratio as the x dimension increases by a constant linear amount. In other words, for a constant  $(x_1 - x_2)$ , the ratio  $e^{x_1}/e^{x_2}$  remains the same. When FETs used as variable resistors are placed in parallel, the attenuation characteristic that is created behaves according to this same exponential characteristic at discrete points as a function of the control voltage. It does not perfectly obey an ideal exponential characteristic at other points; however, an 8-section approximation yields a  $\pm 1\text{dB}$  error to an ideal curve.

## PROGRAMMABLE CLIPPING

The clipping level of the VCA can be programmed to a desired output. The programming feature is useful when matching the clipped level from the output of the VCA to the full-scale range of a subsequent VCA, in order to prevent the VCA from generating false spectral signals; see the circuit diagram shown in Figure 66. The signal node at the drain junction of Q5 and Q6 is sent to the diode bridge formed by diode-connected transistors, D1 through D4. The diode bridge output is determined by the current that flows through transistors Q7 and Q8. The maximum current that can then flow into the summing node of A2 is this same current; consequently, the maximum voltage output of A2 is this same current multiplied by the feedback resistor associated with A2. The maximum output voltage of A2, which would be the clipped output, can then be controlled by adjusting the current that flows through Q7 and Q8; see the circuit diagram shown in Figure 63. The circuitry of A1, R2, and Q2 converts the clamp voltage ( $V_{CLMP}$ ) to a current that controls equal and opposite currents flowing through transistors Q5 and Q6.

When  $\overline{H/L} = 0$ , the previously described circuitry is designed so that the value of the  $V_{CLMP}$  signal is equal to the peak differential signal developed between  $+V_{OUT}$  and  $-V_{OUT}$ . When  $\overline{H/L} = 1$ , the differential output will be equal to the clamp voltage. This method of controlled clipping also achieves fast and clean settling waveforms at the output of the VCA, as shown in Figure 67 through Figure 70. The sequence of waveforms demonstrate the clipping performance during various stages of overload. The  $V_{CLMP}$  pin represents a high impedance input ( $> 100k\Omega$ ).

In a typical application, the VCA2615 will drive an anti-aliasing filter, which in turn will drive an ADC. Many modern ADCs, such as the ADS5270, are well-behaved with as much as 2x overload. This means that the clipping level of the VCA should be set to overcome the loss in the filter such that the clipped input to the ADC is just slightly over the full-scale input. By setting the clipping level in this manner, the lowest harmonic distortion level will be achieved without interfering with the overload capability of the ADC.

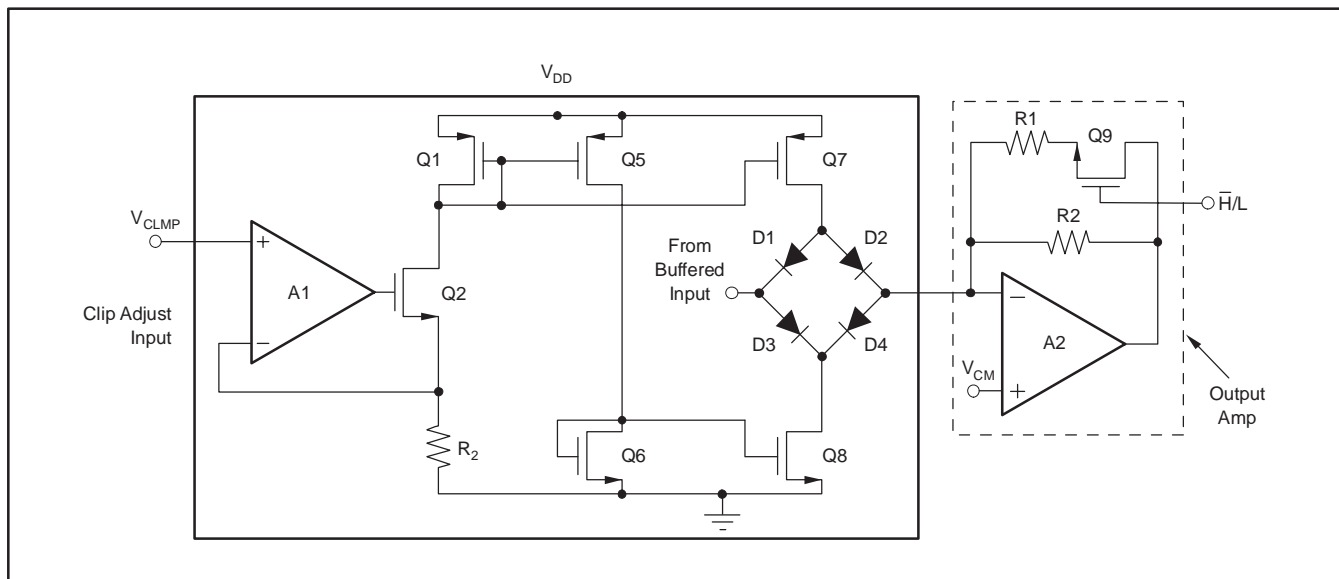


Figure 66. Clipping Level Adjust Circuitry



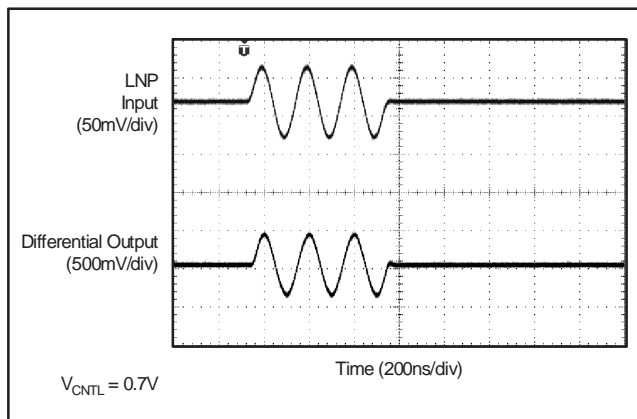


Figure 67. Before Overload (100mV<sub>PP</sub> Input)

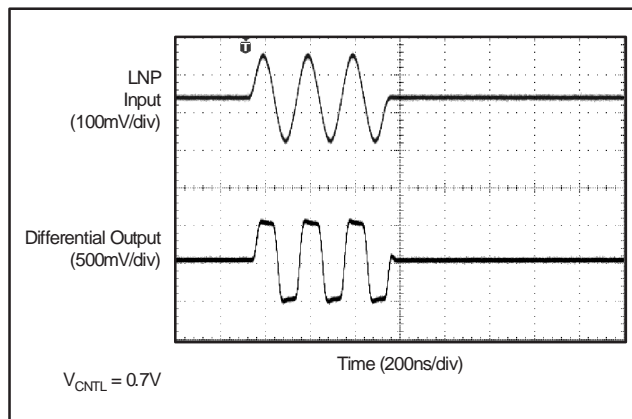


Figure 69. Overload (240mV<sub>PP</sub> Input)

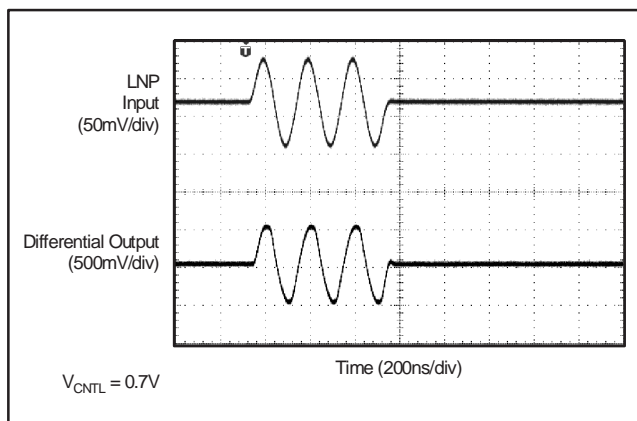


Figure 68. Approaching Overload (120mV<sub>PP</sub> Input)

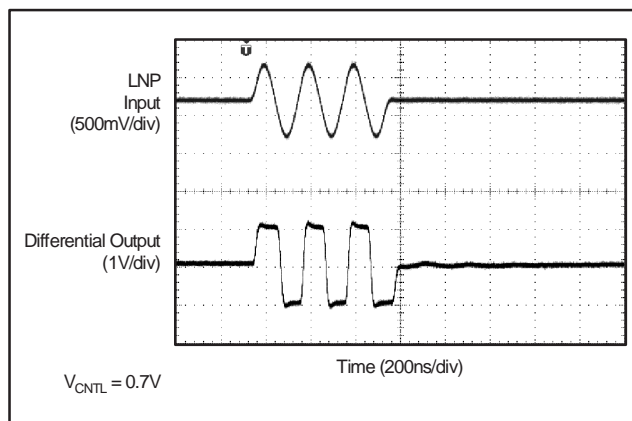


Figure 70. Extreme Overload (2V<sub>PP</sub> Input)

## POWER-DOWN MODES

When  $V_{DD}$  (5V) is applied to the VCA2615, the total power dissipation is typically 308mW. When the power is initially applied to the VCA2615 with both PDV and PDL pins at a logic low, the typical power dissipation will be 5mW. After the VCA2615 has been enabled, if the PDL line is low with the PDV line high, the typical power dissipation will be approximately 100mW. After the VCA2615 has been enabled, if the PDV line is low with the PDL line high, the typical power dissipation will be approximately 200mW.

## Revision History

| DATE  | REV | PAGE | SECTION                    | DESCRIPTION  |
|-------|-----|------|----------------------------|--|
| 10/08 | D   | 1    | Features                   | Deleted SMALL QFN–48 PACKAGE (7x7mm)   |
|       |     | 1    | Description                | Text added to last paragraph.  |
|       |     | 2    | Package/Ordering           | Added TQFP–48 package information.   |
|       |     | 4    | Electrical Characteristics | Thermal Characteristics section; added text.   |
| 8/05  | C   | 1    | Features                   | Changed 20dB/V to 22dB/V under LOW-NOISE VARIABLE-GAIN AMPLIFIER   |
|       |     | 3    | Electrical Characteristics | Added CA, CB = 3.9 $\mu$ F to the overall conditions.  |
|       |     | 4    | Electrical Characteristics | Accuracy section; moved Gain Slope line under accuracy, added " $V_{CNTL} = 0.4V$ to 2.0V" to conditions, and changed typical value from 20dBv to 22dB/V.<br>Thermal Characteristics section; removed "Specified" and added "Operating" to conditions. |
|       |     | 5    | Pin Configuration          | Pin 19 description; changed 0.01 $\mu$ F to 0.1 $\mu$ F.   |
|       |     | 22   | Programmable Clipping      | Reworded paragraph three to clarify description of setting VCA clipping level.   |

NOTE: Page numbers for previous revisions may differ from page numbers in the current version.



**PACKAGING INFORMATION**

| Orderable Device | Status<br>(1) | Package Type | Package Drawing | Pins | Package Qty | Eco Plan<br>(2) | Lead finish/<br>Ball material<br>(6) | MSL Peak Temp<br>(3) | Op Temp (°C) | Device Marking<br>(4/5) | Samples                 |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| VCA2615PFBR      | ACTIVE        | TQFP         | PFB             | 48   | 1000        | RoHS & Green    | NIPDAU                               | Level-2-260C-1 YEAR  | -40 to 85    | VCA2615                 | <a href="#">Samples</a> |
| VCA2615RGZR      | ACTIVE        | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 2500        | RoHS & Green    | NIPDAU                               | Level-3-260C-168 HR  | -40 to 85    | VCA<br>2615             | <a href="#">Samples</a> |
| VCA2615RGZT      | ACTIVE        | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 250         | RoHS & Green    | NIPDAU                               | Level-3-260C-168 HR  | -40 to 85    | VCA<br>2615             | <a href="#">Samples</a> |

(1) The marketing status values are defined as follows:

**ACTIVE:** Product device recommended for new designs.

**LIFEBUY:** TI has announced that the device will be discontinued, and a lifetime-buy period is in effect.

**NRND:** Not recommended for new designs. Device is in production to support existing customers, but TI does not recommend using this part in a new design.

**PREVIEW:** Device has been announced but is not in production. Samples may or may not be available.

**OBSOLETE:** TI has discontinued the production of the device.

(2) **RoHS:** TI defines "RoHS" to mean semiconductor products that are compliant with the current EU RoHS requirements for all 10 RoHS substances, including the requirement that RoHS substance do not exceed 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials. Where designed to be soldered at high temperatures, "RoHS" products are suitable for use in specified lead-free processes. TI may reference these types of products as "Pb-Free".

**RoHS Exempt:** TI defines "RoHS Exempt" to mean products that contain lead but are compliant with EU RoHS pursuant to a specific EU RoHS exemption.

**Green:** TI defines "Green" to mean the content of Chlorine (Cl) and Bromine (Br) based flame retardants meet JS709B low halogen requirements of <=1000ppm threshold. Antimony trioxide based flame retardants must also meet the <=1000ppm threshold requirement.

(3) MSL, Peak Temp. - The Moisture Sensitivity Level rating according to the JEDEC industry standard classifications, and peak solder temperature.

(4) There may be additional marking, which relates to the logo, the lot trace code information, or the environmental category on the device.

(5) Multiple Device Markings will be inside parentheses. Only one Device Marking contained in parentheses and separated by a "-" will appear on a device. If a line is indented then it is a continuation of the previous line and the two combined represent the entire Device Marking for that device.

(6) Lead finish/Ball material - Orderable Devices may have multiple material finish options. Finish options are separated by a vertical ruled line. Lead finish/Ball material values may wrap to two lines if the finish value exceeds the maximum column width.

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**TAPE AND REEL INFORMATION**

**QUADRANT ASSIGNMENTS FOR PIN 1 ORIENTATION IN TAPE**


\*All dimensions are nominal

| Device      | Package Type | Package Drawing | Pins | SPQ  | Reel Diameter (mm) | Reel Width W1 (mm) | A0 (mm) | B0 (mm) | K0 (mm) | P1 (mm) | W (mm) | Pin1 Quadrant |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|------|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|
| VCA2615PFBR | TQFP         | PFB             | 48   | 1000 | 330.0              | 16.4               | 9.6     | 9.6     | 1.5     | 12.0    | 16.0   | Q2            |
| VCA2615RGZR | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 2500 | 330.0              | 16.4               | 7.3     | 7.3     | 1.5     | 12.0    | 16.0   | Q2            |
| VCA2615RGZT | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 250  | 180.0              | 16.4               | 7.3     | 7.3     | 1.5     | 12.0    | 16.0   | Q2            |

**TAPE AND REEL BOX DIMENSIONS**


\*All dimensions are nominal

| Device      | Package Type | Package Drawing | Pins | SPQ  | Length (mm) | Width (mm) | Height (mm) |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|------|------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| VCA2615PFBR | TQFP         | PFB             | 48   | 1000 | 350.0       | 350.0      | 43.0        |
| VCA2615RGZR | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 2500 | 356.0       | 356.0      | 35.0        |
| VCA2615RGZT | VQFN         | RGZ             | 48   | 250  | 210.0       | 185.0      | 35.0        |

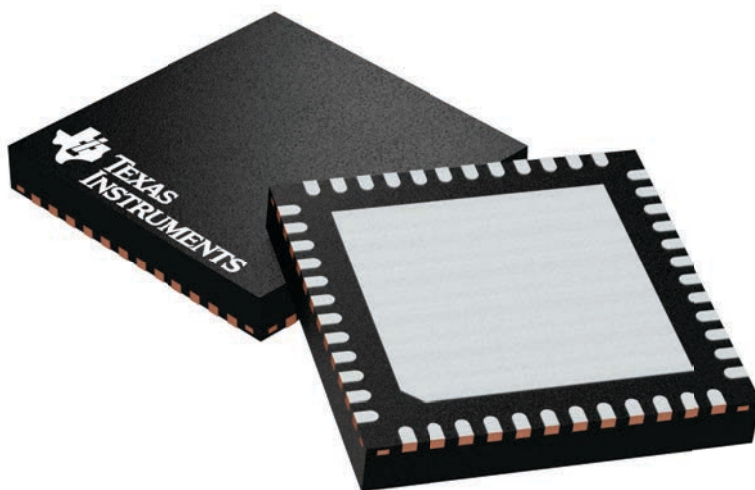
## GENERIC PACKAGE VIEW

**RGZ 48**

**VQFN - 1 mm max height**

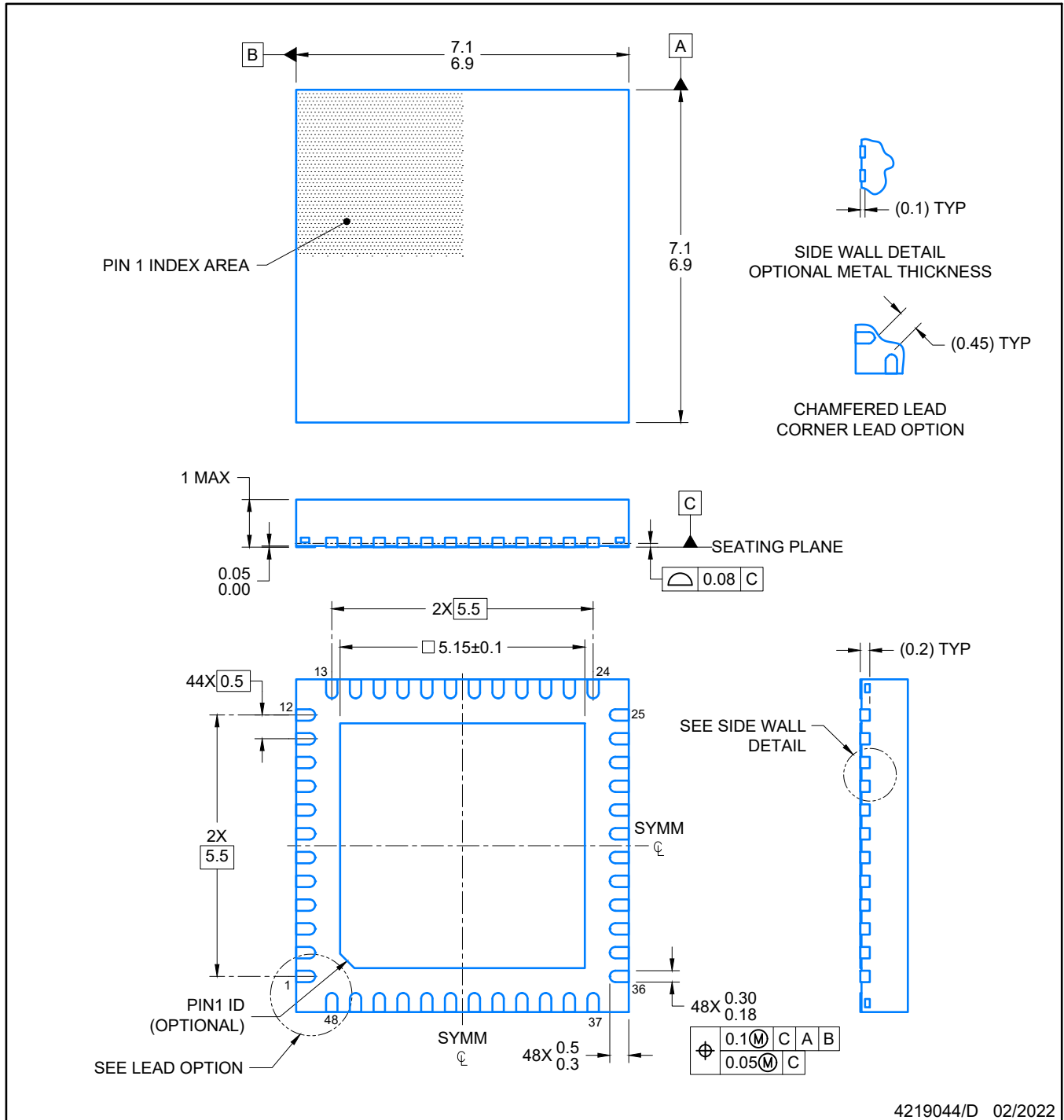
7 x 7, 0.5 mm pitch

PLASTIC QUADFLAT PACK- NO LEAD



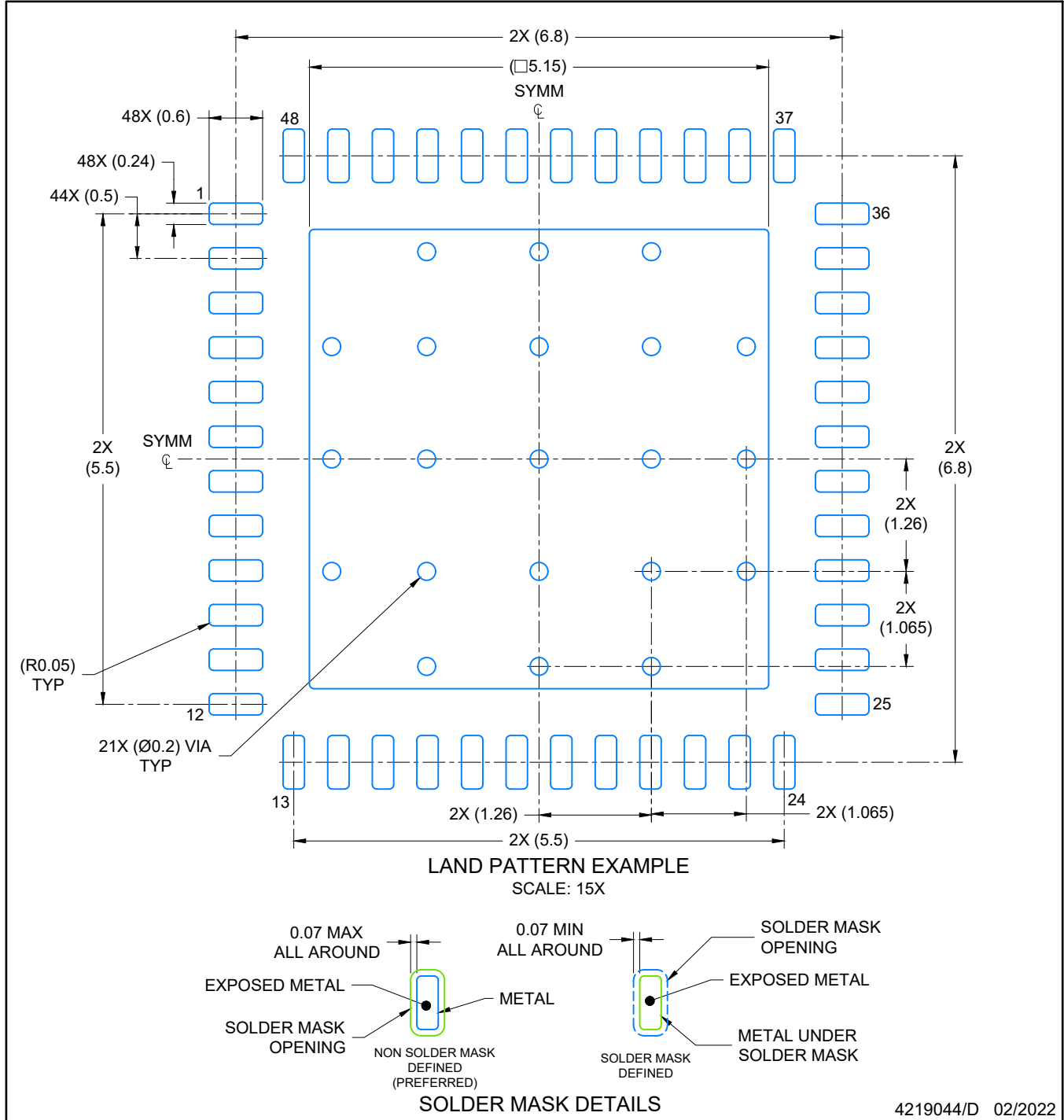
Images above are just a representation of the package family, actual package may vary.  
Refer to the product data sheet for package details.

4224671/A



NOTES:

1. All linear dimensions are in millimeters. Any dimensions in parenthesis are for reference only. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.
2. This drawing is subject to change without notice.
3. The package thermal pad must be soldered to the printed circuit board for optimal thermal and mechanical performance.



NOTES: (continued)

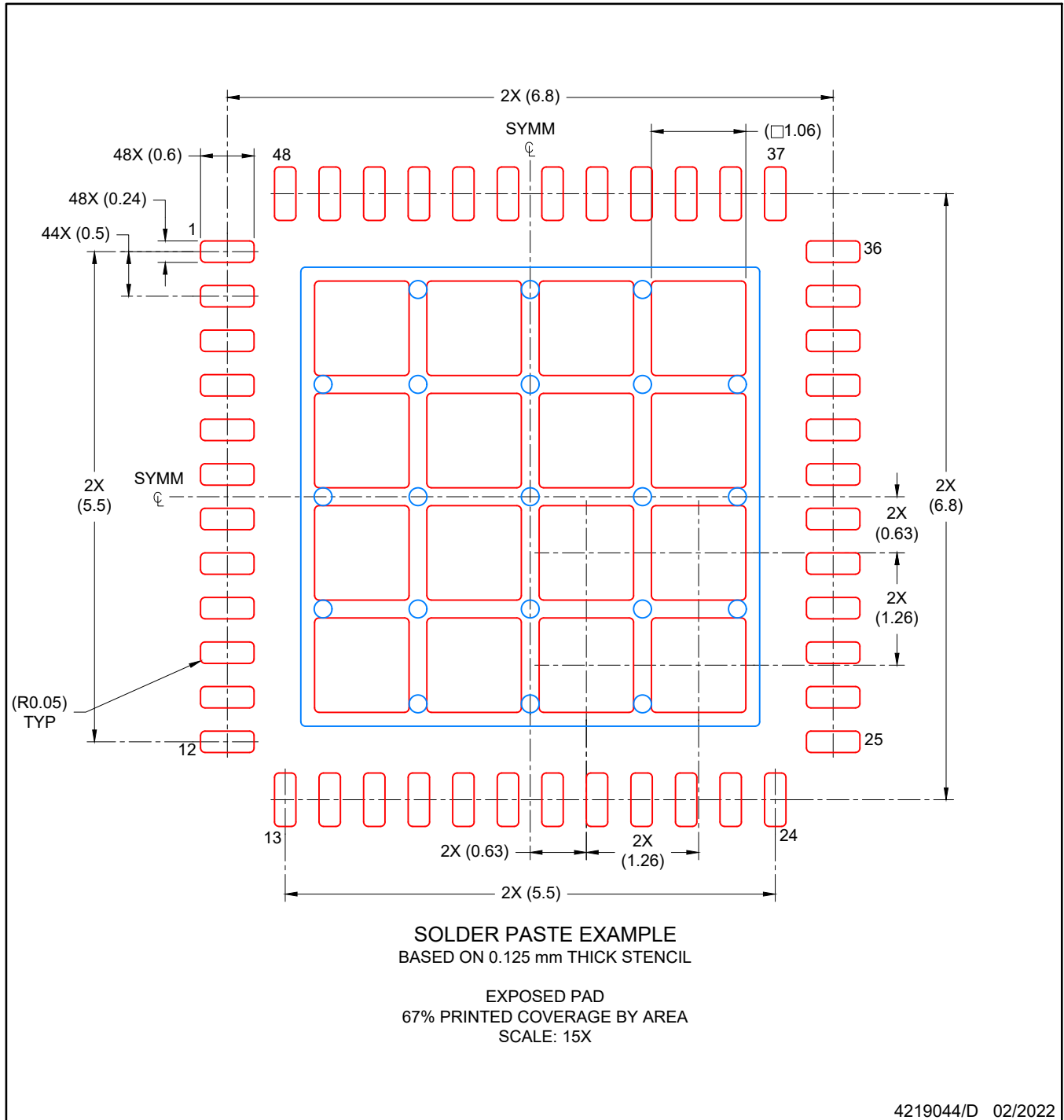
4. This package is designed to be soldered to a thermal pad on the board. For more information, see Texas Instruments literature number SLUA271 ([www.ti.com/lit/sluea271](http://www.ti.com/lit/sluea271)).
5. Vias are optional depending on application, refer to device data sheet. If any vias are implemented, refer to their locations shown on this view. It is recommended that vias under paste be filled, plugged or tented.

# EXAMPLE STENCIL DESIGN

RGZ0048A

VQFN - 1 mm max height

PLASTIC QUADFLAT PACK- NO LEAD



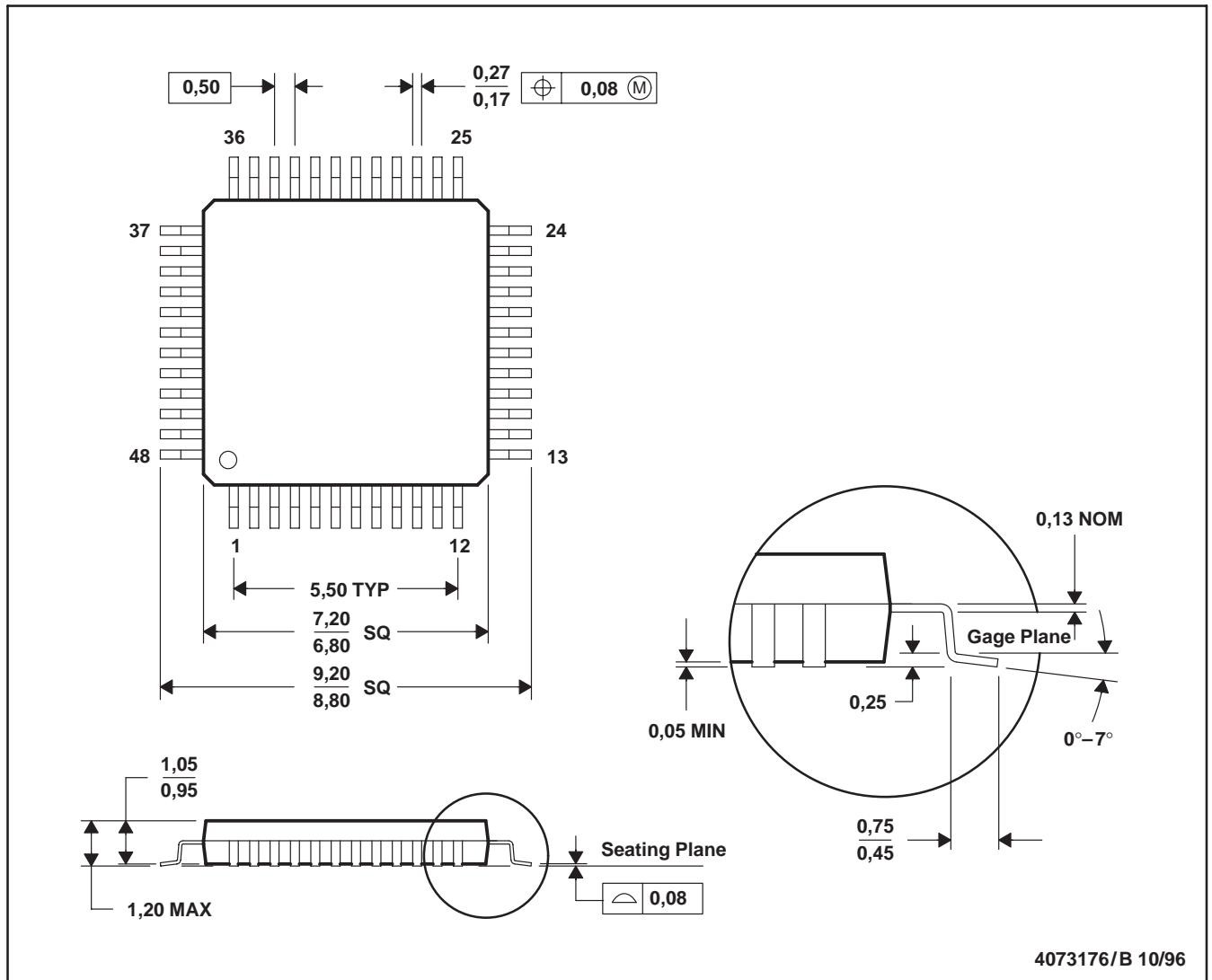
NOTES: (continued)

6. Laser cutting apertures with trapezoidal walls and rounded corners may offer better paste release. IPC-7525 may have alternate design recommendations.



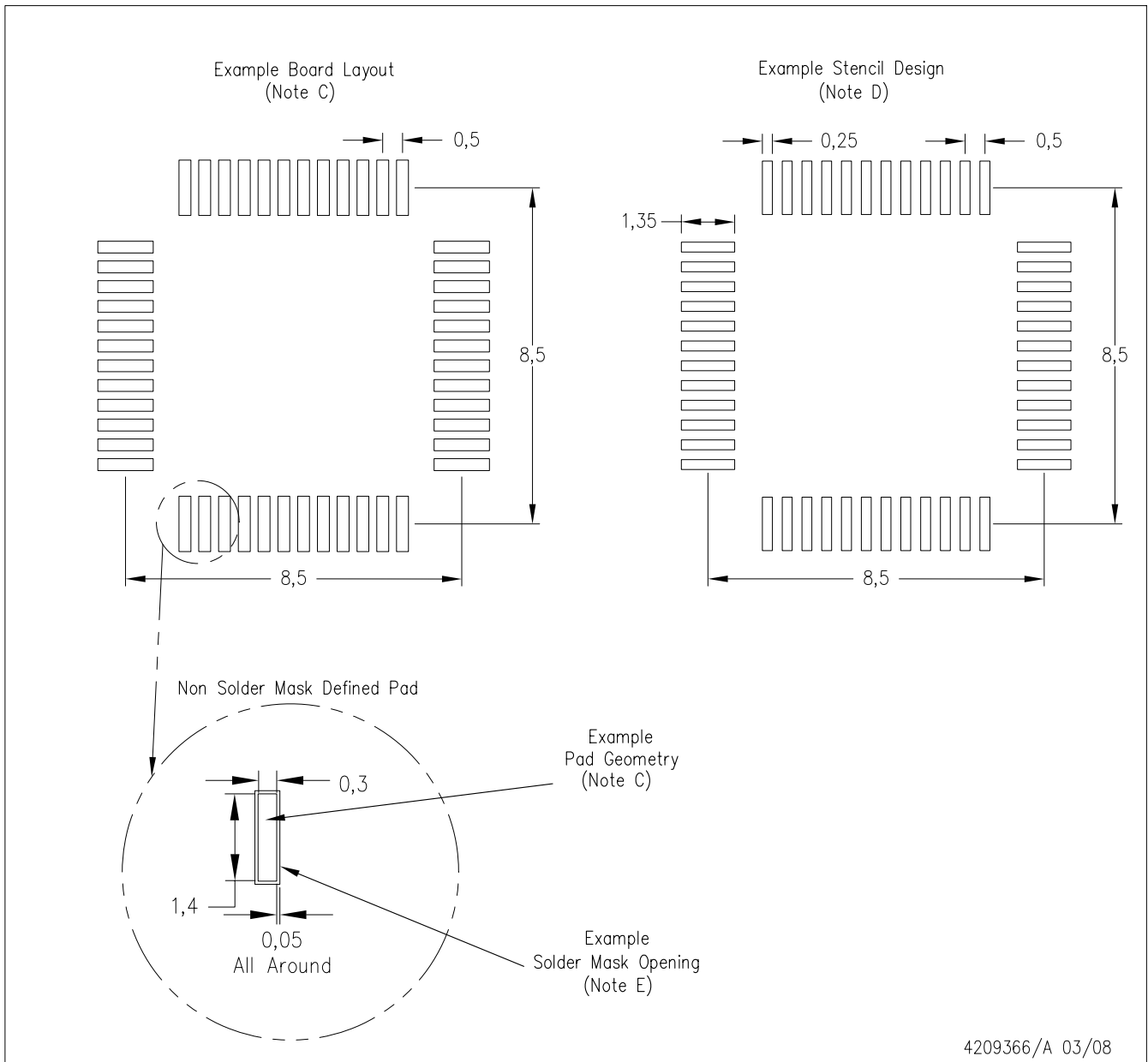
PFB (S-PQFP-G48)

PLASTIC QUAD FLATPACK



- NOTES: A. All linear dimensions are in millimeters.  
 B. This drawing is subject to change without notice.  
 C. Falls within JEDEC MS-026

PFB (S-PQFP-G48)



- NOTES:
- A. All linear dimensions are in millimeters.
  - B. This drawing is subject to change without notice.
  - C. Publication IPC-7351 is recommended for alternate designs.
  - D. Laser cutting apertures with trapezoidal walls and also rounding corners will offer better paste release. Customers should contact their board assembly site for stencil design recommendations. Refer to IPC-7525.
  - E. Customers should contact their board fabrication site for solder mask tolerances between and around signal pads.

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