

GaAs MMIC SMT VOLTAGE-VARIABLE ATTENUATOR, DC - 8 GHz



Typical Applications

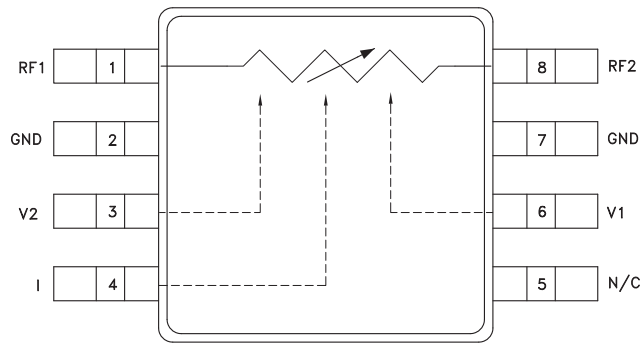
This attenuator is ideal for use as a VVA for DC - 8 GHz applications:

- Point-to-Point Radio
- VSAT Radio

Features

- Wide Bandwidth: DC - 8 GHz
- Low Phase Shift vs. Attenuation
- 32 dB Attenuation Range

Functional Diagram



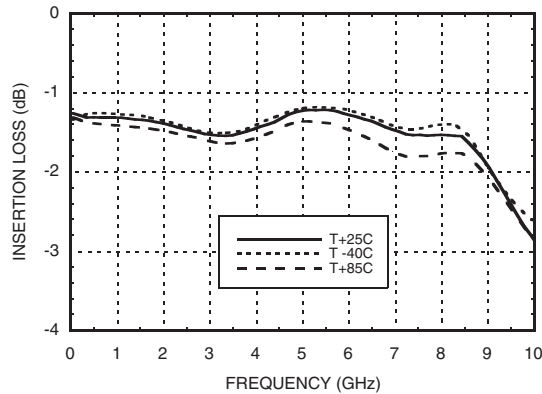
General Description

The HMC346MS8G & HMC346MS8GE are absorptive Voltage Variable Attenuators (VVA) in 8 lead surface-mount packages operating from DC - 8 GHz. It features an on-chip reference attenuator for use with an external op-amp to provide simple single voltage attenuation control, 0 to -3V. The device is ideal in designs where an analog DC control signal must control RF signal levels over a 30 dB amplitude range. Applications include AGC circuits and temperature compensation of multiple gain stages in microwave point-to-point and VSAT radios.

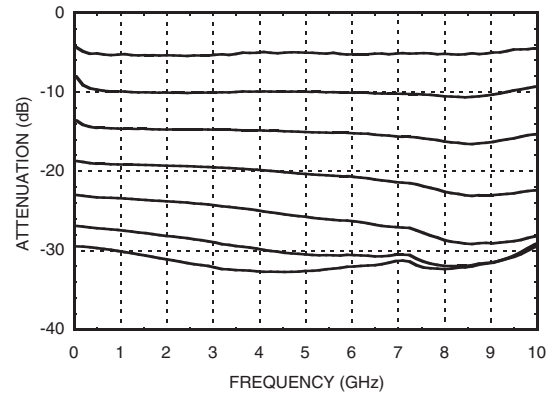
Electrical Specifications, $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$, 50 ohm system

Parameter	Min	Typical	Max	Units
Insertion Loss DC - 8 GHz		1.5	2.5	dB
Attenuation Range DC - 8 GHz	27	32		dB
Return Loss DC - 8 GHz	5	10		dB
Switching Characteristics	t_{RISE}, t_{FALL} (10/90% RF)	2		ns
	t_{ON}, t_{OFF} (50% CTL to 10/90% RF)	8		ns
Input Power for 0.25 dB Compression (0.5 - 8 GHz)	Min. Atten.	+8		dBm
	Atten. >2 dB	-2		dBm
Input Third Order Intercept (0.5 - 8 GHz) (Two-tone Input Power = -8 dBm Each Tone)	Min. Atten.	+25		dBm
	Atten. >2 dB	+10		dBm

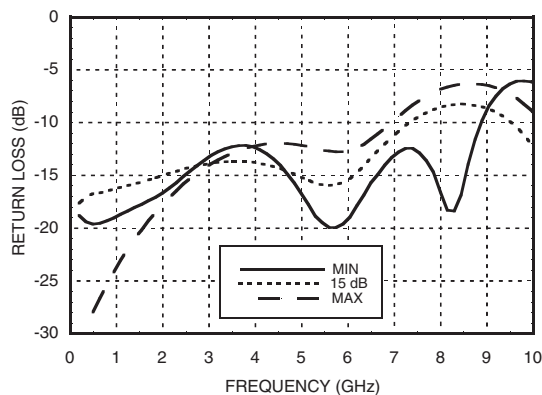
Insertion Loss vs. Temperature



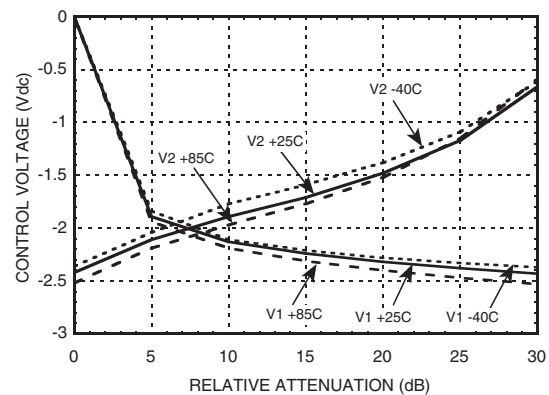
Relative Attenuation



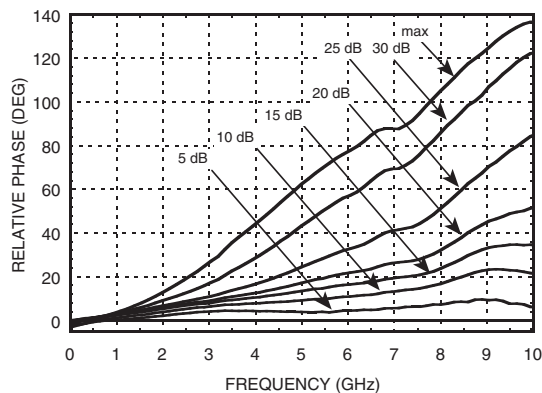
Return Loss vs. Attenuation



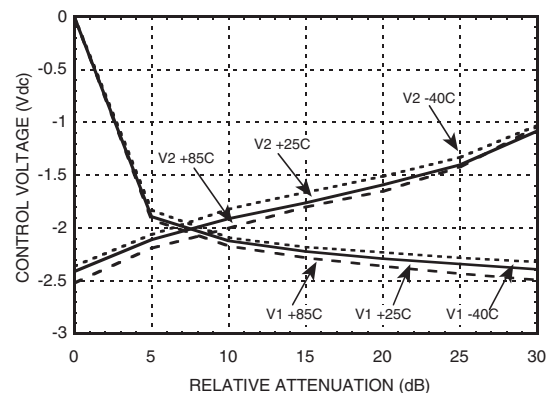
**Relative Attenuation vs.
Control Voltage @ 4 GHz**

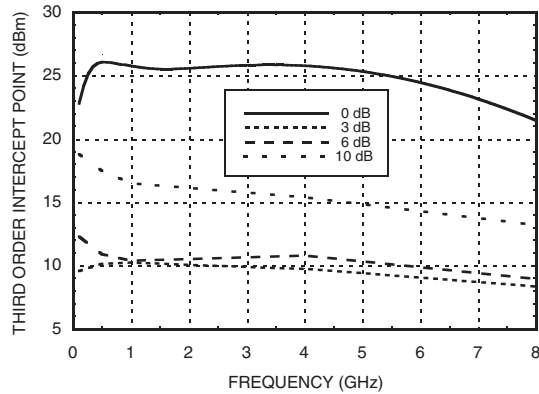
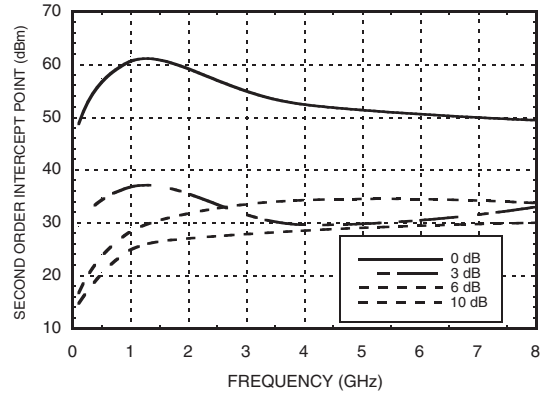
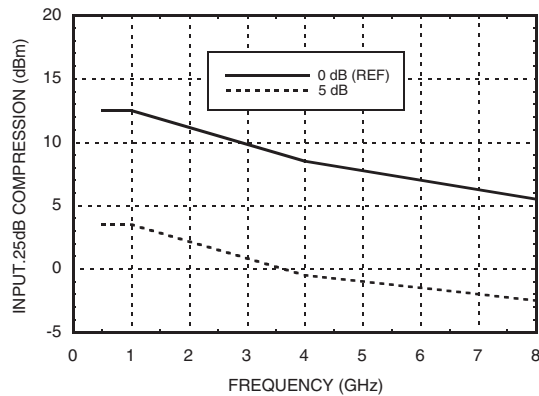
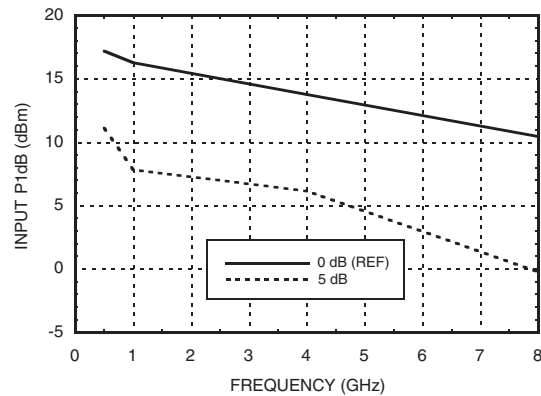
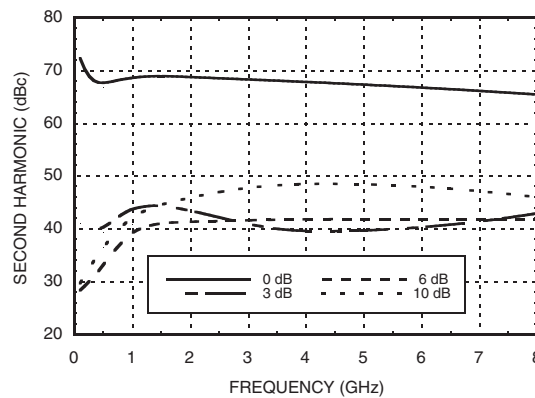


Relative Phase



**Relative Attenuation vs.
Control Voltage @ 8 GHz**




**GaAs MMIC SMT VOLTAGE-VARIABLE
ATTENUATOR, DC - 8 GHz**
**Input Third Order
Intercept vs Attenuation***

**Input Second Order
Intercept vs. Attenuation***

0.25 dB Compression vs. Attenuation

1 dB Compression vs. Attenuation

Second Harmonic vs. Attenuation



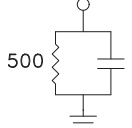
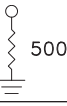
*Two-tone input power = -8 dBm each tone, 1 MHz spacing.



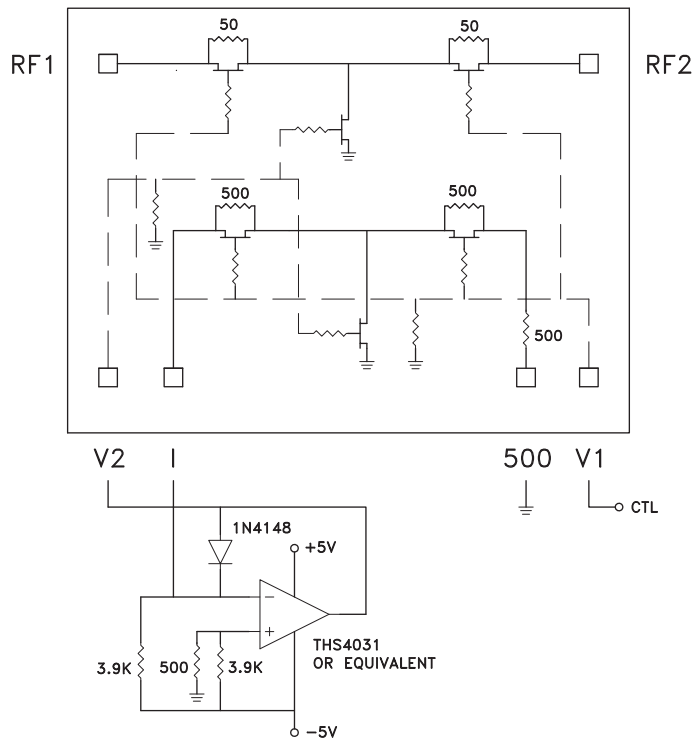


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Pin Descriptions

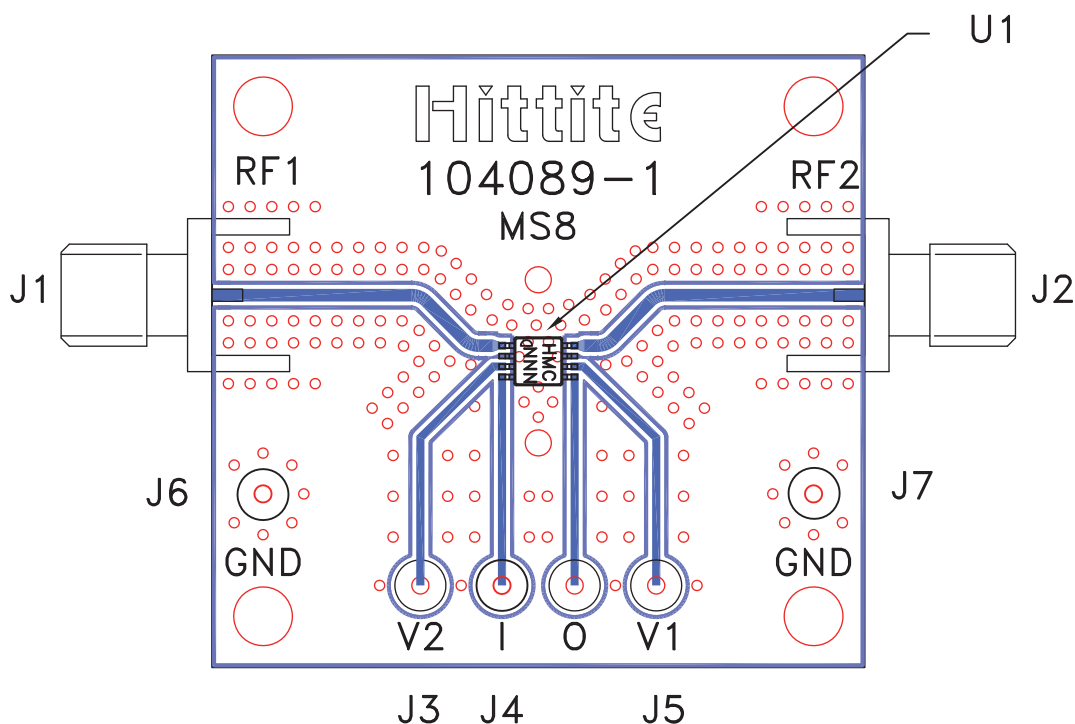
Pin Number	Function	Description	Interface Schematic
1, 8	RF1 RF2	This pin is DC coupled and matched to 50 Ohm. Blocking capacitors are required if RF line potential is not equal to 0V.	
2, 7	GND	This pin must be DC grounded.	
3, 6	V2, V1	Control Input (Master).	
4	I	Control Input (Slave).	
5	N/C	Not Connected.	

Single-Line Control Driver



External op-amp control circuit maintains impedance match while attenuation is varied. Input control ranges from 0 Volts (min. attenuation) to -2.5 Volts (max. attenuation.)

Evaluation PCB



List of Materials for Evaluation PCB 104091 [1]

Item	Description
J1 - J2	PCB Mount SMA RF Connector
J3 - J7	DC PIN
U1	HMC346MS8G / HMC346MS8GE
PCB [2]	104089 Eval Board

[1] Reference this number when ordering complete evaluation PCB

[2] Circuit Board Material: Rogers 4350

The circuit board used in the final application should be generated with proper RF circuit design techniques. Signal lines at the RF ports should be 50 ohm impedance and the package ground leads and package bottom should be connected directly to the PCB RF ground plane, similar to that shown above. The evaluation circuit board shown above is available from Hittite Microwave Corporation upon request.