ANT-916-µSP

Data Sheet

AntennaFactor
by **Linx**

Product Description

The µSplatch™ uses a grounded-line technique to achieve outstanding performance from a tiny surface-mount element. This unique antenna is designed for hand or reflow-mounting directly to a product's circuit board. Its low cost makes it ideal for volume applications. Unlike many compact antennas, the µSplatch™ exhibits good proximity performance, making it an appropriate choice for handheld applications such as remote controls, pagers and alert devices.
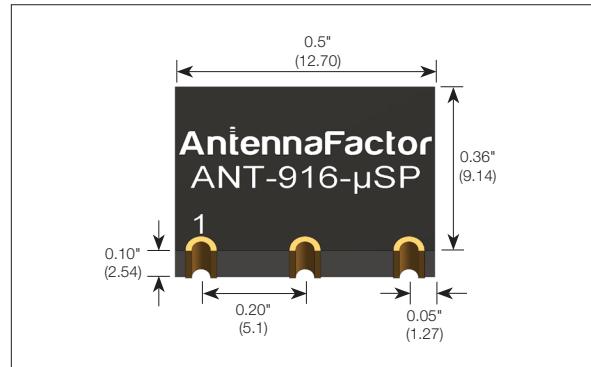
Features

- Very low cost
- Ultra-compact package
- Direct PCB attachment
- Ideal for concealed / internal mounting
- Perfect for compact portable devices
- Suitable for hand- or reflow-assembly
- Resistant to proximity effects

Electrical Specifications

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Center frequency:	916MHz
Bandwidth:	25MHz
Wavelength:	¼-wave
VSWR:	≤ 2.0 typical at center
Peak gain:	0.3dBi
Impedance:	50-ohms
Connection:	Surface-mount

Electrical specifications and plots measured with a 1.53" x 3.145" reference ground plane.
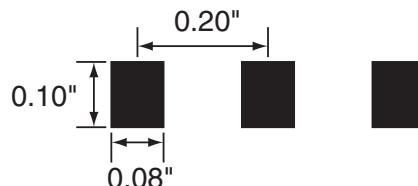
Ordering Information

ANT-916-USP (supplied in tubes of 63 pieces)


Recommended Footprint

Recommended Mounting

Counterpoise

Quarter-wave or monopole antennas require an associated ground plane counterpoise for proper operation. The size and location of the ground plate relative to the antenna will affect the overall performance of the antenna in the final design. When used in conjunction with a ground plane smaller than that used to tune the antenna, the center frequency typically will shift higher in frequency and the bandwidth will decrease. The proximity of other circuit elements and packaging near the antenna will also affect the final performance. For further discussion and guidance on the importance of the ground plane counterpoise, please refer to Linx Application Note AN-00501: Understanding Antenna Specifications and Operation.

VSWR Graph

VSWR ▽1.47 Reflected Power
3:1 — 25%
2:1 — 11%
1:1 — 0%
866MHz 916MHz 966MHz
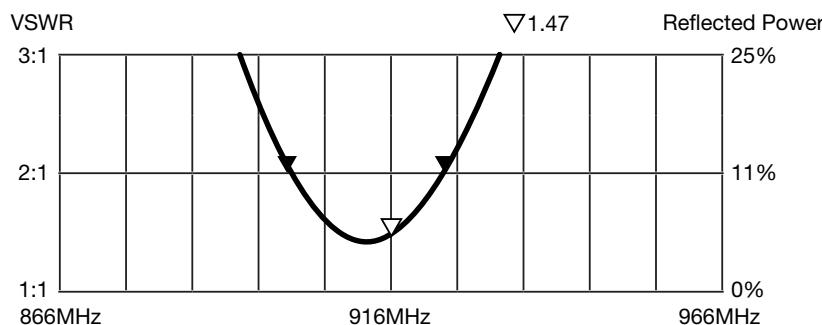
What is VSWR?

The Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR) is a measurement of how well an antenna is matched to a source impedance, typically 50-ohms. It is calculated by measuring the voltage wave that is headed toward the load versus the voltage wave that is reflected back from the load. A perfect match will have a VSWR of 1:1. The higher the first number, the worse the match, and the more inefficient the system. Since a perfect match cannot ever be obtained, some benchmark for performance needs to be set. In the case of antenna VSWR, this is usually 2:1. At this point, 88.9% of the energy sent to the antenna by the transmitter is radiated into free space and 11.1% is either reflected back into the source or lost as heat on the structure of the antenna. In the other direction, 88.9% of the energy recovered by the antenna is transferred into the receiver. As a side note, since the ":1" is always implied, many data sheets will remove it and just display the first number.

How to Read a VSWR Graph

VSWR is usually displayed graphically versus frequency. The lowest point on the graph is the antenna's operational center frequency. In most cases, this will be different than the designed center frequency due to fabrication tolerances. The VSWR at that point denotes how close to 50-ohms the antenna gets. Linx specifies the recommended bandwidth as the range where the typical antenna VSWR is less than 2:1.

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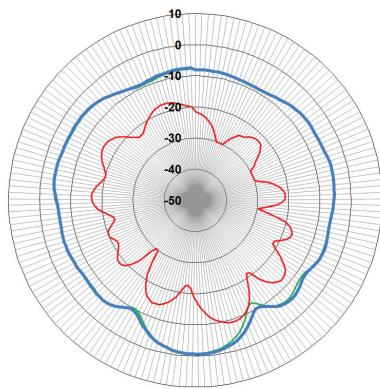
Gain Plots
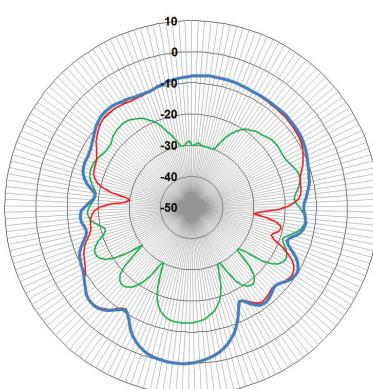
XZ-Plane Gain

YZ-Plane Gain
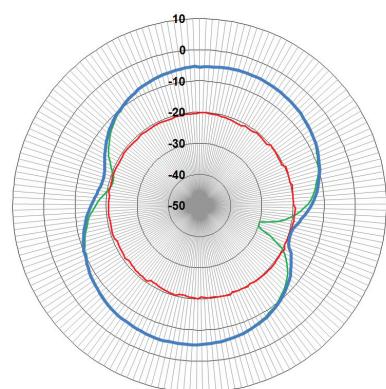
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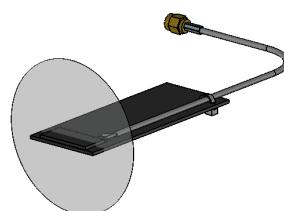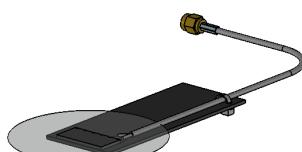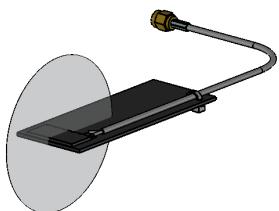
About Gain Plots

The true measure of the effectiveness of an antenna in any given application is determined by the gain and radiation pattern measurement. For antennas gain is typically measured relative to a perfect (isotropic) radiator having the same source power as the antenna under test, the units of gain in this case will be decibels isotropic (dBi). The radiation pattern is a graphical representation of signal strength measured at fixed distance from the antenna.

Gain when applied to antennas is a measure of how the antenna radiates and focuses the energy received into free space. Much like a flashlight focuses light from a bulb into a specific direction, antennas can focus RF energy into specific directions. Gain in this sense refers to an increase in energy in one direction over others.

It should also be understood that gain is not "free", gain above 0dBi in one direction means that there must be less gain in another direction. Pictorially this can be pictured as shown in the figures to the right. The orange pattern represents the radiation pattern for a perfect dipole antenna, which is shaped like a donut. The pattern for an omnidirectional antenna with gain is shown in blue. The gain antenna is able to work with a device located further from the center along the axis of the pattern, but not with devices closer to the center when they are off the axis – the donut has been squished.

Gain is also related to the overall physical size of the antenna, as well as surrounding materials. As the geometry of the antenna is reduced below the effective wavelength (considered an electrically small antenna) the gain will decrease. As well, the relative distance between an electrically small antenna and its associated ground will impact antenna gain.

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