



# Low-noise, High-dynamic-range AM/FM Antenna Amplifier IC

#### **DATASHEET**

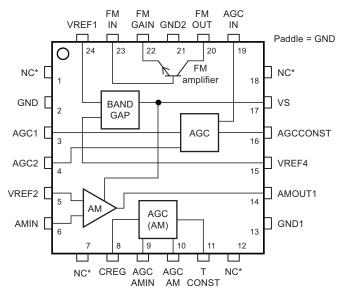
#### **Features**

- High dynamic range for AM and FM
- Integrated AGC for AM and FM
- High intercept point 3rd order for FM
- FM amplifier adjustable to various cable impedances
- High intercept point 2nd and 3rd order for AM
- Low noise output voltage
- Low power consumption
- Low output impedance AM

### 1. Description

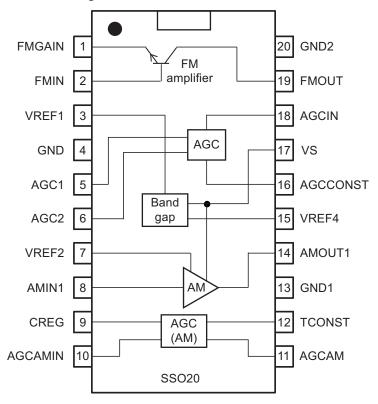
The Atmel® ATR4251C is an integrated low-noise AM/FM antenna amplifier with integrated AGC in BiCMOS2S technology. The device is designed in particular for car applications, and is suitable for windshield and roof antennas.

Figure 1-1. Block Diagram QFN24 Package



<sup>\*</sup> Pin must not be connected to any other pin or supply chain except GND.

Figure 1-2. Block Diagram SSO20 Package





## 2. Pin Configuration

Figure 2-1. Pinning QFN24

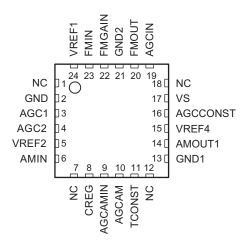


Table 2-1. Pin Description QFN24

Fill Description QFN24					
Symbol	Function				
NC	Pin must not be connected to any other pin or supply chain except GND.				
GND	Ground FM				
AGC1	AGC output for pin diode				
AGC2	AGC output for pin diode				
VREF2	Reference voltage for pin diode				
AMIN	AM input, impedance matching				
NC	Pin must not be connected to any other pin or supply chain except GND.				
CREG	AM - AGC time constant capacitance 2				
AGCAMIN	AM - AGC input				
AGCAM	AM - AGC output for pin diode				
TCONST	AM - AGC - time constant capacitance 1				
NC	Pin must not be connected to any other pin or supply chain except GND.				
GND1	Ground AM				
AMOUT1	AM output, impedance matching				
VREF4	Bandgap				
AGCCONST	FM AGC time constant				
VS	Supply voltage				
NC	Pin must not be connected to any other pin or supply chain except GND.				
AGCIN	FM AGC input				
FMOUT	FM output				
GND2	Ground				
FMGAIN	FM gain adjustment				
FMIN	FM input				
VREF1	Reference voltage 2.7V				
GND	Ground Paddle				
	Symbol NC GND AGC1 AGC2 VREF2 AMIN NC CREG AGCAMIN AGCAM TCONST NC GND1 AMOUT1 VREF4 AGCCONST VS NC AGCIN FMOUT GND2 FMGAIN FMIN VREF1				



Figure 2-2. Pinning SSO20

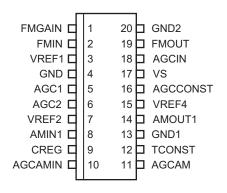


Table 2-2. Pin Description SSO20

Pin	Symbol	Function
1	FMGAIN	FM gain adjustment
2	FMIN	FM input
3	VREF1	Reference voltage 2.7V
4	GND	FM ground
5	AGC1	AGC output for PIN diode
6	AGC2	AGC output for PIN diode
7	VREF2	Reference voltage for PIN diode
8	AMIN1	AM input, impedance matching
9	CREG	AM AGC constant capacitance 2
10	AGCAMIN	AM input, AM AGC
11	AGCAM	AM AGC output for PIN diode
12	TCONST	AM AGC constant capacitance 1
13	GND1	AM ground
14	AMOUT1	AM output, impedance matching
15	VREF4	Band gap 6V
16	AGCCONST	FM AGC constant
17	VS	Supply voltage
18	AGCIN	FM AGC input
19	FMOUT	FM output
20	GND2	FM ground



### 3. Functional Description

The Atmel® ATR4251C is an integrated AM/FM antenna impedance matching circuit. It compensates cable losses between the antenna (for example windshield, roof, or bumper antennas) and the car radio which is usually placed far away from the antenna

AM refers to the long wave (LW), medium wave (MW) and short wave (SW) frequency bands (150kHz to 30MHz) that are usually used for AM transmission, and FM means any of the frequency bands used world-wide for FM radio broadcast (70MHz to 110MHz).

Two separate amplifiers are used for AM and FM due to the different operating frequencies and requirements in the AM and FM band. This allows the use of separate antennas (for example, windshield antennas) for AM and FM. Of course, both amplifiers can also be connected to one antenna (for example, the roof antenna).

Both amplifiers have automatic gain control (AGC) circuits in order to avoid overdriving the amplifiers under large-signal conditions. The two separate AGC circuits prevent strong AM signals from blocking FM stations, and vice versa.

#### 3.1 AM Amplifier

Due to the long wavelength in AM bands, the antennas used for AM reception in automotive applications must be short compared to the wavelength. Therefore these antennas do not provide  $50\Omega$  output impedance, but have an output impedance of some pF. If these (passive) antennas are connected to the car radio by a long cable, the capacitive load of this cable (some 100pF) dramatically reduces the signal level at the tuner input.

In order to overcome this problem, Atmel ATR4251C provides an AM buffer amplifier with low input capacitance (less than 2.5pF) and low output impedance ( $5\Omega$ ). The low input capacitance of the amplifier reduces the capacitive load at the antenna, and the low impedance output driver is able to drive the capacitive load of the cable. The voltage gain of the amplifier is close to 1 (0dB), but the insertion gain that is achieved when the buffer amplifier is inserted between antenna output and cable may be much higher (35dB). The actual value depends, of course, on antenna and cable impedance.

The input of the amplifier is connected by an external 4.7M $\Omega$  resistor to the bias voltage (pin 7, SSO20) in order to achieve high input impedance and low noise voltage.

AM tuners in car radios usually use PIN diode attenuators at their input. These PIN diode attenuators attenuate the signal by reducing the input impedance of the tuner. Therefore, a series resistor is used at the AM amplifier output in the standard application. This series resistor guarantees a well-defined source impedance for the radio tuner and protects the output of the AM amplifier from short circuit by the PIN diode attenuator in the car radio.

#### 3.2 AM AGC

The IC is equipped with an AM AGC capability to prevent overdriving of the amplifier in case the amplifier operates near strong antenna signal level, for example, transmitters.

The AM amplifier output AMOUT1 is applied to a resistive voltage divider. This divided signal is applied to the AGC level detector input pin AGCAMIN. The rectified signal is compared against an internal reference. The threshold of the AGC can be adjusted by adjusting the divider ratio of the external voltage divider. If the threshold is reached, pin AGCAM opens an external transistor which controls PIN diode currents and limits the antenna signal and thereby prevents overdriving the AM amplifier IC.

### 3.3 FM Amplifier

The FM amplifier is realized with a single NPN transistor. This allows use of an amplifier configuration optimized on the requirements. For low-cost applications, the common emitter configuration provides good performance at reasonable bills of materials (BOM) cost<sup>(1)</sup>. For high-end applications, common base configuration with lossless transformer feedback provides a high IP3 and a low noise figure at reasonable current consumption<sup>(2)</sup>. In both configurations, gain, input, and output impedance can be adjusted by modification of external components.

The temperature compensated bias voltage (VREF1) for the base of the NPN transistor is derived from an integrated band gap reference. The bias current of the FM amplifier is defined by an external resistor.

Notes: 1. See test circuit (Figure 8-1 on page 11)

2. See application circuit (Figure 9-1 on page 12)



### 3.4 FM/TV AGC

The IC is equipped with an AGC capability to prevent overdriving the amplifier in cases when the amplifier is operated with strong antenna signals (for example, near transmitters).

It is possible to realize an external TV antenna amplifier with integrated AGC and external RF transistor. The bandwidth of the integrated AGC circuit is 900MHz.

FM amplifier output FMOUT is connected to a capacitive voltage divider and the divided signal is applied to the AGC level detector at pin AGCIN. This level detector input is optimized for low distortion. The rectified signal is compared against an internal reference. The threshold of the AGC can be adjusted by adjusting the divider ratio of the external voltage divider. If the threshold is reached, pin AGC1 opens an external transistor which controls the PIN diode current, this limits the amplifier input signal level and prevents overdriving the FM amplifier.



### 4. Absolute Maximum Ratings

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of this specification is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

Reference point is ground (pins 4 and 13 for SSO20 and pins 2, 13, 21 and Paddle for QFN24 package).

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Parameters	Symbol	Value	Unit
Supply voltage	$V_S$	12	V
Power dissipation, P <sub>tot</sub> at T <sub>amb</sub> = 90°C	P <sub>tot</sub>	550	mW
Junction temperature	$T_j$	150	°C
Ambient temperature SSO20 package	$T_{amb}$	-40 to +90	°C
Ambient temperature QFN24 package	$T_{amb}$	-40 to +105	°C
Storage temperature	$T_{stg}$	-50 to +150	°C
ESD HMB QFN24	Pins 1 to 19, 21 and 24	±2000	V
ESD TIMB QFIN24	Pins 20, 22 and 23	±1500	V
ESD HMB SSO20	Pins 2 to 18	±2000	V
LOD HIVID GGOZO	Pins 1, 19 and 20	±1500	V
ESD MM	All pins	±200	V

#### 5. Thermal Resistance

Parameters	Symbol	Value	Unit
Junction ambient, soldered on PCB, dependent on PCB Layout for SSO 20 package	$R_{thJA}$	92	K/W
Junction ambient, soldered on PCB, dependent on PCB Layout for QFN package	$R_{thJA}$	40	K/W

### 6. Operating Range

Parameters	Symbol	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit
Supply voltage	$V_S$	8	10	11	V
Ambient temperature SSO20 package	T <sub>amb</sub>	-40		+90	°C
Ambient temperature QFN 24 package	$T_{amb}$	-40		+105	°C



### 7. Electrical Characteristics

See Test Circuit, Figure 8-1 on page 11;  $V_S = 10V$ ,  $T_{amb} = 25$ °C, unless otherwise specified. Pin numbers in () are referred to the QFN package.

No.	Parameters	Test Conditions	Pin	Symbol	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit	Type*
1.1	Supply currents		17 (17)	I <sub>S</sub>	11	14	17	mA	Α
1.2	Reference voltage 1 output	I <sub>vref1</sub> = 1mA	3 (24)	$V_{Ref1}$	2.65	2.8	2.95	V	Α
1.3	Reference voltage 2 output		7 (5)	$V_{Ref2}$	0.38V <sub>S</sub>	0.4V <sub>S</sub>	0.42V <sub>S</sub>	V	В
1.4	Reference voltage 4 output	I <sub>vref4</sub> = 3mA	15 (15)	$V_{Ref4}$	6.0	6.35	6.7	V	Α
2	AM Impedance Matchin	g 150kHz to 30MHz (The Fr	equency Re	sponse from	Pin 8 to Pir	14)			
2.1	Input capacitance	f = 1MHz	8 (6)	C <sub>AMIN</sub>	2.2	2.45	2.7	pF	D
2.2	Input leakage current	$T_{amb} = 85^{\circ}C$	8 (6)				40	nA	С
2.3	Output resistance		14 (14)	R <sub>OUT</sub>	4	5	8	Ω	D
2.4	Voltage gain	f = 1MHz	8/14 (6/14)	Α	0.94	0.97	1		Α
2.5	Output noise voltage (rms value)	Pin 14 (14), $R_{78} = 4.7 M\Omega$ , $B = 9 kHz$ , $C_{ANT} = 30 pF$ 150kHz 200kHz 500kHz 1MHz	14	V <sub>N1</sub> V <sub>N2</sub> V <sub>N3</sub> V <sub>N4</sub>		-8 -9 -11 -12	-6 -7 -9 -10	dBµV dBµV dBµV dBµV	С
2.6	2 <sup>nd</sup> harmonic	$V_s$ = 10V, 50 $\Omega$ load, $f_{AMIN}$ = 1MHz, input voltage = 120dB $\mu$ V	AMOUT1			-60	<b>–</b> 58	dBc	С
2.7	3 <sup>rd</sup> harmonic	$V_s$ = 10V, 50 $\Omega$ load, $f_{AMIN}$ = 1MHz, input voltage = 120dB $\mu$ V	AMOUT1			-53	<b>–</b> 50	dBc	С
3	AM AGC								
3.1	Input resistance		10 (9)	R <sub>AGCAMIN</sub>	40	50		kΩ	D
3.2	Input capacitance	f = 1MHz	10 (9)	C <sub>AGCAMIN</sub>	2.6	3.2	3.8	pF	D
3.3	AGC input voltage threshold	f = 1MHz	10 (9)	$V_{AMth}$	75	77	79	dΒμV	В
3.4	3 dB corner frequency	AGC threshold increased by 3dB			10			MHz	D
3.5	Minimal AGCAM output voltage	ViHF = $90dB\mu V$ at pin 10 (9)	10/11 (9/10)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 2.4	V <sub>S</sub> – 2.1	V <sub>S</sub> – 1.7	V	Α
3.6	Maximal AGCAM output voltage	ViHF = 0V at pin 10 (9)	10/11 (9/10)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 0.2	V <sub>S</sub> – 0.1		V	Α
3.7	Maximal AGCAM output voltage <sup>(1)</sup>	ViHF = 0V at pin 10 (9) T = +85°C	10/11 (9/10)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> - 0.4	$V_{S} - 0.3$		V	С
3.8	Maximum AGC sink current	ViHF = 0V at pin 10 (9) U (pin 12 (11)) = 2V	12 (11)	I <sub>AMsink</sub>	-150	-120	-90	μΑ	Α

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$ ) Type means: A = 100% tested, B = 100% correlation tested, C = Characterized on samples, D = Design parameter

Notes: 1. Leakage current of PIN diode can be adjusted by an external resistor between pin 11 and VS

- 2. Demo board measurements (see Figure 8-1 on page 11 "Common Emitter Configuration")
- 3. Demo board measurements (see Figure 9-1 on page 12 "Common Base Configuration")



### 7. Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

See Test Circuit, Figure 8-1 on page 11;  $V_S = 10V$ ,  $T_{amb} = 25$ °C, unless otherwise specified. Pin numbers in () are referred to the QFN package.

No.	Parameters	Test Conditions	Pin	Symbol	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit	Type*
3.9	Transconductance of Level detector	ViHF = V <sub>AMth</sub> at pin 10 (9)	10/12 (9/11)	$\frac{I_{AM sin k}}{V_{AMth}}$		20		$\frac{\mu A}{mV_{rms}}$	С
3.10	IP3 at level detector input	Figure 9-2 on page 13, 1MHz and 1.1MHz, 120dBµV	10 (9)		150	170		dΒμV	D
3.11	PIN diode current generation	$d(20 \log I_{Pin-diode}) / dU_{Pin12}$ $T = 25^{\circ}C, U_{Pin12} = 2V$				30		dB/V	D
3.12	Output resistance		9 (8)	$R_{OUT}$	27	35	45	kΩ	D
4	FM Amplifier								
4.1	Emitter voltage		1 (22)		1.85	1.95	2.05	V	Α
4.2	Emitter voltage	T = -40°C to +85°C	1 (22)		1.8	2.0	2.2	V	С
4.3	Supply current limit	$R_{\epsilon}$ = 56 $\Omega$	19 (20)	I <sub>19</sub>			37	mA	D
4.4	Maximum output voltage	V <sub>S</sub> = 10V	19 (20)		12			$V_{pp}$	D
4.5	Input resistance	f = 100MHz	2 (23)	$R_{FMIN}$		50		Ω	D
4.6	Output resistance	f = 100MHz	19 (20)	$R_{FMOUT}$		50		Ω	D
4.7	Power gain <sup>(2)</sup>	f = 100MHz	FMOUT/ FMIN	G		5		dB	Α
4.8	Output noise voltage (emitter circuit) <sup>(2)</sup>	f = 100MHz, B = 120kHz	19 (20)	$V_N$		-5.1		dΒμV	D
4.9	OIP3 (emitter circuit) <sup>(2)</sup>	f = 98 + 99MHz	19 (20)	I <sub>IP3</sub>		140		dΒμV	С
4.10	Gain <sup>(3)</sup>					6		dB	С
4.11	Noise figure <sup>(3)</sup>					2.8		dB	С
4.12	OIP3 <sup>(3)</sup>	f = 98 + 99MHz				148		dΒμV	С
Param	eters Dependent of Ex	ternal Components in App	lication Circ	cuit: R <sub>FMIN</sub> , R	<sub>FMOUT</sub> , G, V	<sub>N</sub> , IIP3			
5	FM AGC								

	•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		- FIVILIA?	FINIOU I/ -/	147			
5	FM AGC								
5.1	AGC threshold	f = 100MHz f = 900MHz	18 (19)	$V_{th1,100} \ V_{thl,900}$	81 81	83 85	85 87	dΒμV dΒμV	B B
5.2	AGC1 output voltage	AGC1 active, V <sub>pin16 (16)</sub> = 5V	5 (24)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 2.1V	V <sub>S</sub> – 1.9V	V <sub>S</sub> – 1.7V	V	С
5.3	AGC1 output voltage	AGC1 inactive, $V_{pin16 (16)} = 1.7V$	5 (24)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 0.2V	$V_S$		V	С
5.4	AGC2 output voltage	AGC2 active, $V_{pin16}$ (16) = 1.7V	6 (4)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 2.1V	V <sub>S</sub> – 1.9V	V <sub>S</sub> – 1.7V	V	С
5.5	AGC2 output voltage	AGC2 inactive, $V_{pin16}$ (16) = 5V	6 (4)	$V_{AGC}$	V <sub>S</sub> – 0.2V	$V_S$		V	С
5.6	Input resistance		18 (19)	R <sub>Pin18</sub>	17	21	25	kΩ	D
5.7	Input capacitance	F = 100MHz	18 (19)	$C_{\text{Pin18}}$	1.5	1.75	1.9	pF	D

<sup>\*)</sup> Type means: A = 100% tested, B = 100% correlation tested, C = Characterized on samples, D = Design parameter

Notes: 1. Leakage current of PIN diode can be adjusted by an external resistor between pin 11 and VS

- 2. Demo board measurements (see Figure 8-1 on page 11 "Common Emitter Configuration")
- 3. Demo board measurements (see Figure 9-1 on page 12 "Common Base Configuration")



### 7. Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

See Test Circuit, Figure 8-1 on page 11;  $V_S = 10V$ ,  $T_{amb} = 25$ °C, unless otherwise specified. Pin numbers in () are referred to the QFN package.

No.	Parameters	Test Conditions	Pin	Symbol	Min.	Тур.	Max.	Unit	Type*
5.8	IP3 at AGC input	Figure 9-2 on page 13, 100MHz and 105MHz, V <sub>Gen</sub> = 120dΒμV	18 (19)			150		dΒμV	D
5.9	IP3 at AGC input	900MHz and 920MHz $V_{Gen}$ = 120dB $\mu$ V	18 (19)			148		dΒμV	D
5.10	Max. AGC sink current	$V_{iHF} = 0V$	16	I <sub>Pin16</sub>	-11	<b>-</b> 9	<b>–</b> 7	μA	С
5.11	Transconductance	$V_{iHF} = V_{th1,100},$ $dI_{Pin16(16)} / dU_{Pin18(19)}$		dI <sub>Pin16</sub> / dU <sub>Pin18</sub>	0.8	1.0	1.3	mA/V (rms)	С
5.12	Gain AGC1, AGC2	$\begin{split} &U_{Pin16} = 3V, \\ &dU_{Pin5(3)} \ / \ dU_{Pin16(16)}, \\ &-dU_{Pin6(4)} \ / \ dU_{Pin16(16)} \end{split}$			0.5	0.56	0.6		С

<sup>\*)</sup> Type means: A = 100% tested, B = 100% correlation tested, C = Characterized on samples, D = Design parameter

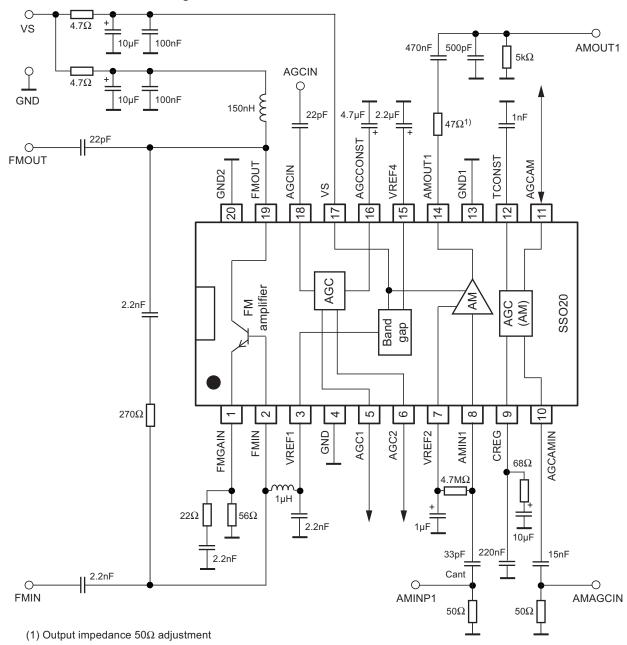
Notes: 1. Leakage current of PIN diode can be adjusted by an external resistor between pin 11 and VS

- 2. Demo board measurements (see Figure 8-1 on page 11 "Common Emitter Configuration")
- 3. Demo board measurements (see Figure 9-1 on page 12 "Common Base Configuration")



### 8. Test Circuit FM/AM

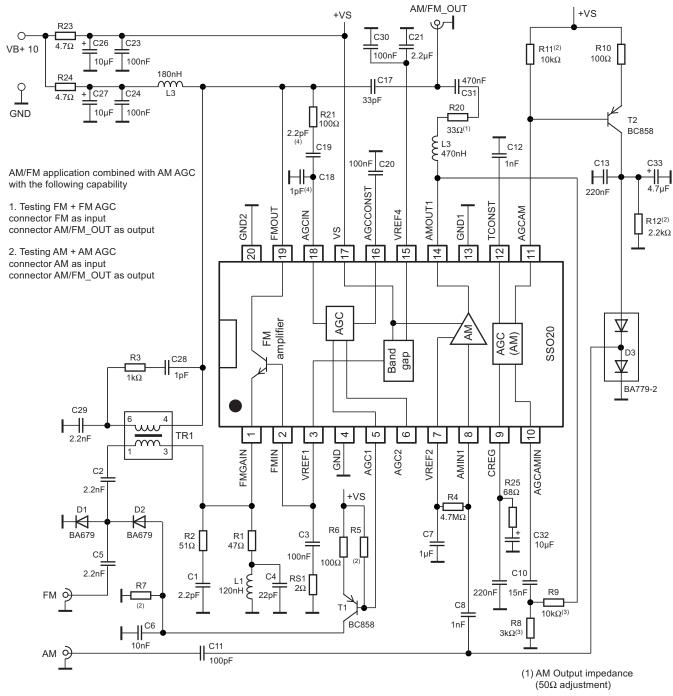
Figure 8-1. Common Emitter Configuration





### 9. Application Circuit (Demo Board)

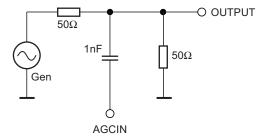
Figure 9-1. Common Base Configuration



- (2) Leakage current reduction
- (3) AM AGC threshold
- (4) AM AGC threshold



Figure 9-2. Antenna Dummy for Test Purposes





# 10. Internal Circuitry

Table 10-1. Equivalent Pin Circuits (ESD Protection Circuits Not Shown)

PIN SSO20	PIN QFN24	cuits (ESD Protection Symbol	Equivalent Circuit
1 2 19	22 23 20	FMGAIN FMIN FMOUT	190
3	24	VREF1	30
4, 13, 20	2, 13, 21	GND	
5 6	3 4	AGC1 AGC2	VS O 5
	1, 7, 12, 18	NC	
7	5	VREF2	7



Table 10-1. Equivalent Pin Circuits (ESD Protection Circuits Not Shown) (Continued)

PIN SSO20	PIN QFN24	Symbol	Circuits Not Shown) (Continued)  Equivalent Circuit
8	6	AMIN1	8 O
9	8	CREG	
10	9	AGCAMIN	
11	10	AGCAM	



Table 10-1. Equivalent Pin Circuits (ESD Protection Circuits Not Shown) (Continued)

PIN SSO20	PIN QFN24	Symbol	Circuits Not Shown) (Continued) Equivalent Circuit
12	11	TCONS	120
14	14	AMOUT1	0 14
15	15	VREF4	015
16	16	AGCCONST	016
17	17	VS	



Table 10-1. Equivalent Pin Circuits (ESD Protection Circuits Not Shown) (Continued)

PIN S	SO20	PIN QFN24	Symbol	Equivalent Circuit
1	8	19	AGCIN	18 0



## 11. Ordering Information

Extended Type Number	Package	Remarks	MOQ
ATR4251C-TKQY	SSO20	Taped and reeled	4000 pieces
ATR4251C-PFQY	QFN24, $4mm \times 4mm$	Taped and reeled	6000 pieces
ATR4251C-PFPY	QFN24, 4mm × 4mm	Taped and reeled	1500 pieces

### 12. Package Information

Figure 12-1. SSO20

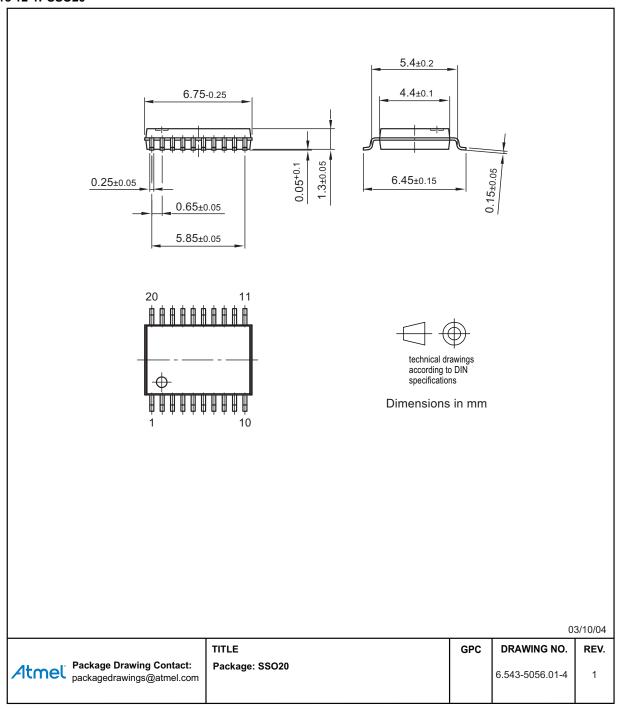
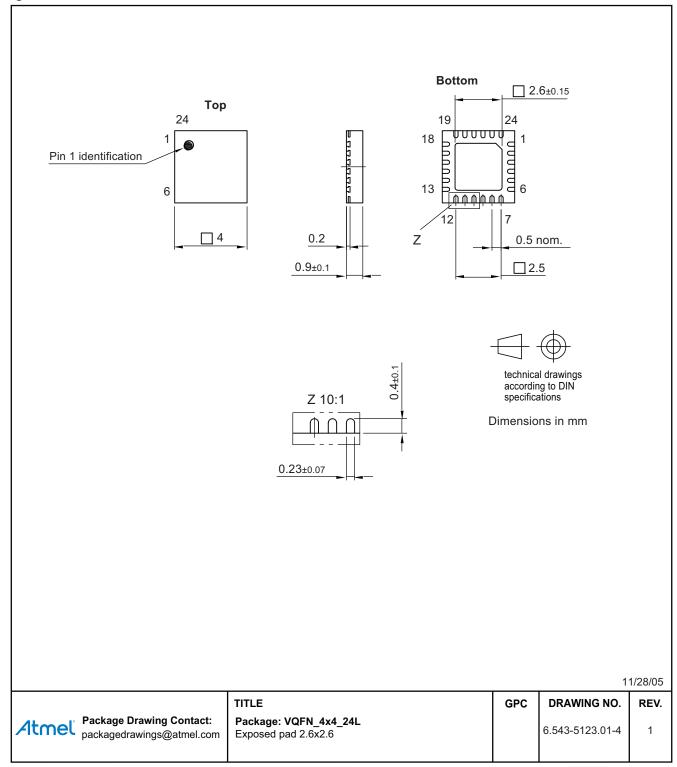




Figure 12-2. VQFN 4x4 24L





# 13. Revision History

Please note that the following page numbers referred to in this section refer to the specific revision mentioned, not to this document.

Revision No.	History
	Section 7 "Electrical Characteristics" number 1.1 min. values on page 8 updated
9258C-AUDR-01/14	<ul> <li>Section 7 "Electrical Characteristics" numbers 1.2, 1.4, 2.4 min., typ. and max.values on page 8 updated</li> </ul>
9258B-AUDR-07/13	Section 4 "Absolute Maximum Ratings" on page 7 updated





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