

Product Preview AMAX Stereo Chipset

The MC13027 and MC13122 have been specifically designed for AM radio which can meet the EIA/NAB AMAX requirements. They are essentially the same as the MC13022A and MC13025 with the addition of noise blanking circuitry. The noise blanker consists of a wide band amplifier with an RF switch for blanking ahead the IF amplifier and a stereo audio blanker with adjustable delay and blanking times.

- Operating Voltage Range of 6.0 V to 10 V
- RF Blanker with Built–In Wide Band AGC Amplifier
- Audio Noise Blanker with Audio Track and Hold
- Mixer Third Order Intercept of 8.0 dBm (115 dBµV)
- Wide Band AGC Detector for RF Amplifier
- Local Oscillator VCO Divide–by–4 for Better Phase Noise
- Buffered Local Oscillator Output at the Fundamental Frequency
- Fast Stereo Decoder Lock
- Soft Stereo Blend
- Signal Quality Detector to Control Variable Q–Notch Filters for Adaptive Audio Bandwidth and Whistle Reduction
- Signal Quality Detector for AM Stereo
- Very Low Distortion Envelope and Synchronous Detectors
- Variable Bandwidth IF

ORDERING INFORMATION

MC13027 MC13122

AMAX STEREO IC CHIPSET

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MC13027 MAXIMUM RATINGS

NOTE: ESD data available upon request.

MC13027

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (T_A = 25°C, 8.0 V_{CC} Test Circuit as shown in Figure 1.)

Figure 1. MC13027 Test Circuit

NOTE: 1. General purpose NPN transistor 2N3904 or equivalent.

MC13122 MAXIMUM RATINGS

NOTE: ESD data available upon request.

MC13122

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (V_{CC} = 8.0 V, T_A = 25°C, Test Circuit of Figure 2.)

Figure 2. MC13122 Test Circuit

MC13027 MC13122 AMAX STEREO CHIPSET

What is AMAX?

In 1993, a joint proposal by the EIA (Electronic Industries Association) and the NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) was issued. It included a unified standard for pre–emphasis and distortion for broadcasters as well as a set of criteria for the certification of receivers. The purpose of this proposal was to restore quality and uniformity to the AM band and to make it possible for the consumer to receive high quality signals using the AM band. The FCC has been supportive of this initiative and has required all new broadcast licensees to meet AMAX standards. The NAB and EIA have continued to encourage receiver manufacturers by offering the AMAX certification logo to be displayed on all qualifying radios. This logo is shown below.

The Receiver Criteria

An AMAX receiver must have wide bandwidth: 7.5kHz for home and auto, 6.5 kHz for portables. It must have some form of bandwidth control, either manual or automatic, including at least two bandwidth provisions, such as "narrow" and "wide". It must meet NRSC receiver standards for distortion and deemphasis. It must have provisions for an external antenna. It must be capable of tuning the expanded AM band (up to 1700 kHz). And finally, home and auto receivers must have effective noise blanking. All of these requirements, except the noise blanking, have been met by Motorola's previous AM radio products, such as MC13025 Front End and the MC13022A C–QUAM stereo decoder. It is the Noise Blanker requirement which is met by the two devices on this data sheet, the MC13027 and MC13122.

Noise blanking, especially in AM auto radios, has become extremely important. The combination of higher energy ignitions, using multiple spark coils, along with increased use of plastic in the auto body, have increased the noise energy at the radio. Also, the consumer has learned to expect higher quality audio due to advances in many other media. For the AM band to sustain interest to the consumer, a truly effective noise blanker is required.

The block diagram below shows the Motorola AMAX stereo chipset. It offers a two–pronged approach to noise blanking which is believed to be the most effective yet offered in the consumer market. The initial blanking takes place in the output of the mixer, using a shunt circuit triggered by a carefully defined wideband receiver. For most noises, some residual audible disturbance is almost always still present after this process. The disturbance becomes stretched and delayed as it passes through the rest of the selectivity in the receiver. The stretching and delay are predictable, so the MC13027 can provide a noise blanking pulse with the correct delay and stretch to the output stages of the MC13122 decoder. The MC13122 has a Track and Hold circuit which receives the blanking signal from the Front End and uses it to gently hold the audio wherever it is as the pulse arrives, and hold that value until the noise has passed. The combined effect is dramatic. A wide range of types of noise is successfully suppressed and the resulting audio seems almost clean until the noise is so intense that the blanking approaches full–time.

The amount of extra circuitry to accomplish noise blanking is relatively small. The external components for this added capability are shown in Figure 3. In the MC13027 Front end, the noise receiver/detector requires two capacitors. The presettings for blanking timing and blanking delay require three external fixed resistors. Finally the decoder requires two track and hold capacitors to store the "audio" voltage during the track and hold function.

Figure 3. AMAX Stereo Receiver with Noise Blanker

Figure 4. MC13027 Internal Block Diagram

MC13027 FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

The MC13027 contains the mixer, wide band AGC system, local oscillator, IF pre–amplifier and noise blanker for an AM radio receiver. It is designed to be used with the MC13122 to produce a complete AM stereo receiver. The VCO runs at 4 (F_{in} + F_{IF}) and is divided internally by 4 for the mixer input and local oscillator buffered output. Dividing the VCO reduces the phase noise for AM stereo applications.

The noise blanker input is connected in parallel with the mixer input at Pin 6. The noise blanker circuitry contains a high gain amplifier with its own AGC so it remains linear throughout the mixer's linear range. It can detect noise pulses as low as 120 µV and generates three pulses when the noise threshold is exceeded. The width and timing of the blanking pulses is set by the resistors connected to Pins 15, 17 and 19. The resistor on Pin 15 sets the length of the RF blanking pulse and determines the time the transistor on Pin 12 is "on". The audio blanking pulse delay is set by the resistor on Pin 17 and the width by the resistor on Pin 19. This is necessary because the IF filtering delays and stretches the noise as it arrives at the detector. The transistor on Pin 18 goes "on" to cause noise blanking in the track and hold circuit in the MC13122 (Pin 15).

Wideband AGC is used in auto receivers to prevent overload – it drives the base of a cascode transistor RF amplifier and also a pin diode at the antenna (See Figures 6 and 7).

A low gain IF amplifier between Pins 14 and 16 is used as a buffer amplifier between the mixer output filter and IF filter. The input resistance of the IF amplifier is designed to match a ceramic IF filter. The gain of the IF amplifier is determined by the impedance of the load on Pin 16.

Figure 5. MC13122 Internal Block Diagram

MC13122 FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

The MC13122 is designed to accept a 450 kHz C–QUAM input signal from approximately 1.0 mV to 1.0 V and produce L and R audio output signals. It has additional features: stop signal, variable bandwidth IF and audio response, stereo indicator driver and track and hold noise blanking.

The IF amplifier on Pin 5 has its own AGC system. It operates by varying the input resistance on Pin 5. With weak signals below approximate 5.0 mV, the input resistance is very high and the amplifier is at maximum gain. For this AGC to be effective, it is necessary to feed the IF input signal from a relatively high impedance. The input resistance variation also reduces the Q of the coil (T1 in the application) so the receiver bandwidth is narrow for weak signals and wide for strong signals. The value of the input resistor (R5) is selected for the desired loading of the IF coil. The impedance of the IF coil on Pin 2 determines the IF gain. Pin 2 is also the input to the C–QUAM decoder.

The IF signal drives the envelope (E), in–phase (I), quadrature (Q) and (L–R) detectors. The E detector is a quasi–synchronous true envelope detector. The others are true synchronous detectors. The E detector output provides the L+R portion of the C–QUAM signal directly to the matrix. The AGC signal of the IF amplifier drives the signal strength output at Pin 6. An external resistor on Pin 6 (sets the gain of the AGC). The Pin 6 voltage is used to control the Q of the audio notch filter, causing the audio bandwidth and depth of the 10 kHz notch to change with signal strength. It is also used as one of the inputs to the signal quality detector which generates the stop–sense and blend signal on Pins 6 and 23 respectively and tells the signal quality detector that the RF input is below the AGC threshold.

VCO

The 3.6 MHz ceramic resonator on Pins 19 and 20 is part of a phase locked loop which locks to the 450 kHz IF signal. The 3.6 MHz is divided by 8 to produce in–phase and quadrature signals for the I, Q and L–R detectors. It is also divided by 32, and 137/144 to provide signals for the pilot I and Q detectors. The pilot detector is a unique circuit which does not need filtering to detect the 25 Hz pilot.

Blend Circuit

The purpose of the blend circuit is to provide an AM stereo radio with the capability of very fast lock times, protection against stereo falsing when there is no pilot present and control of the L–R signal so as to provide as much stereo information as possible, while still sounding good in the presence of noise or interference. The circuit also provides an optional stop–sense usable by a radio with seek and/or scan. The stop–sense signal provides a "stop" signal only when the radio is locked on station, signal strength is above minimum level, and the level of interference is less than a predetermined amount. The last feature prevents stopping on frequencies where there is is a multiplicity of strong co–channel stations. It is common for AM radios without this capability to stop on many frequencies with unlistenable stations, especially at night.

The blend circuit controls the PLL fast lock, pilot detector, IF amplifier AGC rate, decoder L–R gain, cosθ compensation and stop–sense as a function of the voltage on a signal external blend capacitor. Timing is determined by the rate of change of voltage on the blend cap. Timing is changed by varying charge and discharge current and pulled down by a current source, switch, and optionally an external switch. The current sources and switches are controlled by various measures of signal quality, signal strength, and presence or absence of pilot tone.

Detectors

In AM stereo operation, the Q detector delivers pilot signal via an external low–pass filter to the pilot detector input (Pin 18). The E and I detectors drive the C–QUAM comparator. The L–R signal and the output of the envelope detector are combined in the matrix to produce the L and R signals. The C–QUAM system modifies the in–phase and quadrature components of the transmitted signal by the cosine of the phase angle of the resultant carrier, for proper stereo decoding. An uncompensated L–R would be distorted, primarily by second harmonics. Where there is noise or interference in the L–R, it has been subjectively determined that reducing the cosθ compensation at the expense of increased distortion sounds better than full decoding. The blend line operates over a small voltage range to eliminate cosine compensation.

Signal Quality Detector – Blend Voltage Control

The signal quality detector output is dependent on signal strength, over–modulation, and whether or not the blend pin has been pulled low prior to searching. Over–modulation usually occurs when a radio is tuned one channel away from a desired strong signal, so this prevents stopping one channel away from a strong signal.

In a radio tuned to a strong, interference free C–QUAM station, the blend voltage will be approximately 3.6 V. In the presence of noise or interference, when the modulation envelope is at a minimum, it is possible for the I detector to produce a negative, or below zero carrier signal. The Signal Quality Detector produces an output each time the negative I exceeds 4%. The output of the detector sets a latch. The output of the latch turns on current source which pulls down the voltage of the blend cap at a predetermined rate. The latch is then reset by a low frequency signal from the pilot detector logic. This produces about a 200 mV change each time 4% negative I is detected. Tables 1 and 2 describe the blend behavior under various conditions.

When the blend voltage reaches 2.2 V a blend control circuit starts to reduce the amplitude of the L–R signal fed to the decoder matrix. By 1.5 V the L–R has been reduced by about 40 dB. At lower voltages it is entirely off and the decoder output is monaural. This reduction of L–R signal, or blend as it is commonly called when done in FM stereo radios, reduces undesirable interference effects as a function of the amount of interference present.

Stop–Sense

Stop–sense is enabled when the blend voltage is externally pulled below 0.45 V. An input from the AGC indicating minimum signal, or detection of 10% negative I will cause the stop–sense pin to be pulled low. With signals greater than the AGC corner and less than 10% interference the stop–sense will be a minimum of 1.0 V below the 3.0 V line. Very rapid scanning is possible because the radio can scan to the next frequency as soon as the stop–sense goes low. The maximum wait time, set by the radio, is only reached on good stations.

The decoder will not lock on an adjacent channel because it is out of the lock range of the PLL. The beat note produced in the I detector by the out of lock condition will trigger the 10% negative I detector.

Sequence For Seek Scan

- Change Station Pull–Down Blend
- Wait Approximately 50 ms for Synthesizer and Decoder PLL to Lock
- Observe Pin 6 Voltage
- If it is Above 2.0 V and Stays Above 2.0 V for Approximately 800 ms, Stay on the Station
- No IF Count Now Needed
- No AGC Level Detector Needed

Table 1. Normal Sequence When Changing Stations

Table 2. Operation In Adverse Conditions

MC13027 PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

MC13122 PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

MC13027 MC13122 CAR RADIO APPLICATION

Figure 6 shows a car radio circuit using a TOKO pre–tuned RF module. The RF module includes a 4 diode tracking circuit to eliminate mistracking between the oscillator and RF circuits over the 530 to 1700 kHz AM band. This is important for stereo performance because mistracking will cause mono distortion and will significantly reduce the stereo separation. The THB122 module contains the variable 10 kHz notch filter. This module can be replaced with discrete components as shown in Figure 8, using 1% resistors and 5% capacitors.

Some manufacturers add a PIN diode attenuator at the antenna input. An example is shown in Figure 7.

The WB AGC sensitivity can be adjusted by changing R4 in series with the WB AGC input, Pin 1. The internal input resistance is 15 k.

R15, R17 and R19 are the blanker timing resistors. They were setup for this circuit and can be changed if desired.

FL1 is a linear phase IF filter . We recommend a Gaussian (rounded) filter, such as SFG or SFH for lower distortion and better separation than one with a flatter amplitude response. The SFG types of filters have poorer selectivity than the ones with flat GDT (group delay time) so some compromise has been made on adjacent channel selectivity.

The blanker can be disabled for testing by grounding the blanker AGC on Pin 2 in the MC13027.

The blanker and mixer inputs must be biased from the 4.0 V regulator through a low dc resistance like the secondary winding of the RF coil.

The receiver VCO operates at 4 times the local oscillator frequency and is divided internally in the MC13027 so that both the mixer input and the LO out is the same as in other receivers. This receiver can be connected to an existing synthesizer. For AM stereo, the synthesizer must have low phase noise. The Motorola MC145173 is recommended. For bench testing of this receiver, the Motorola MC145151 parallel input synthesizer may be useful. It will operate on 9.0 V and the phase detector can provide tuning voltage without a buffer amplifier.

The SS (stop–sense) output can be used for station searching and scanning. The best way to use it is to connect the SS signal to a comparator or A–D converter in the control microprocessor. If Pin 23 is grounded during searching by turning on Q3, the SS voltage changes from less than 0.5 V to around 2.2 V when an RF threshold is exceeded, as is shown in the graph in Figure 15. This system results in very reliable stopping on usable signals and fast detection of AM stereo signals. After a station is detected, Q3 should be turned off.

This receiver is very easy to set up because the TOKO module is pre–aligned. The only adjustments are to tune T1 and T2 for maximum voltage of the SS out line or maximum audio with a weak signal. If desired, they can be changed slightly to maximize stereo separation.

If different components are used, the blanker resistors can be setup as follows:

Ground Pin 2 of the MC13027. Apply a 1.0 µs pulse or 50 Hz square wave of about 10 mV through a dummy antenna and synchronize an oscilloscope to the pulse generator. Observe the signal at the mixer collector (Pin 11). It should be a sine wave burst. Remove the ground on Pin 2 and adjust R15 so the burst is just suppressed. Check the performance at the ends and middle of the band because the width might change due to RF circuit bandwidth.

Mix the pulse signal with a CW signal of about 300 μ V with a power combiner and connect the oscilloscope to Pin 7 or Pin 14 of the MC13122. Adjust R17 so the blanking starts at the beginning of the audio pulse and R19 so the audio blanking is just long enough to suppress the audio pulse. The audio blanking time should not be made longer than necessary because it will be more noticeable in the normal program. The effectiveness of the blanker can be determined in field testing by connecting a switch from Pin 2 of the MC13027 to ground and bringing it outside the radio.

Figures 10 to 19 refer to the performance of the Application Circuit of Figure 6.

Figure 6. AMAX Chipset Application Circuit **Figure 6. AMAX Chipset Application Circuit**

Figure 7. RF Pin Diode

Figure 8. MC13027/MC13122 Discrete RF and Notch Filters

Figure 9. Overall Selectivity of a Typical Receiver versus Filter Control Voltage

NOTE: The radio stays in mono until the stereo signal is sufficiently large and then makes a smooth transition to stereo. This is similar to FM receivers with variable blend.

notch filter in the output.

with a 10 k series input resistor. It will enable the designer to determine the stop–sense level if the gain of receiver RF section is known. Note that if Pin 23 is held low, the SS voltage on Pin 6 rises from about 0.3 to 2.2 V over a small change in RF level. This can be used to generate a very reliable stop signal. If Pin 23 is not held low, the SS voltage starts out at 2.2 V and rises slowly to a maximum of around 4.0 V.

Figure 18. Audio Blanking Time versus R19 1000 AF BLANKING TIME (µs) AF BLANKING TIME (µs)100 10 1.0 10 33 100 330 1000 R19 (kΩ)

Figure 19. WB AGC Output Voltage (Pin 20)

adding a resistor in series with the input.

MC13027 MC13122 AMAX STEREO CHIPSET

The RF Module

In the early development phase of this AMAX Stereo Chipset, Motorola worked with TOKO America Inc. to develop an RF tuning module. Part number TMG522E was assigned and is available from TOKO now. This module provides the "tracked" tuning elements for the RF (T1 and T2 and associated capacitors and varicaps) and the VCO (T3 et al). Some radio designers may prefer to develop their own tuning system using discrete coils and components, but the TOKO approach offers good performance, compactness and ease of application. Motorola recommends that every designer use this approach at least for initial system development and evaluation.

As refinement of the application progressed, it was found that a modification of the TMG522E was needed which would reduce the amount of VCO leakage into the Mixer through the power supply connections. This modification is described below. Motorola will work with TOKO to develop a new part number incorporating this change. In the meantime, it is necessary that the user perform these simple changes, because the radio circuits throughout this data sheet assume this modified design.

Modifying the TMG522E

Referring to Figures 20 and 21, there are three simple steps to the modification:

- 1. Cut the thin copper trace from Pin 2 to Pin 5 as shown.
- 2. Cut the thin copper trace from Pin 8 to the bottom of the 120 $Ω$ resistor. Removal of the resistor is optional.
- 3. Connect a wire from Pin 5 to the top of the 120 Ω resistor (or the upper pad for the resistor).

Figure 20. TMG522E Schematic

Figure 21. TMG522E Physical Modifications

Figure 22. AMAX Chipset Printed Circuit Board

(Top View)

Figure 23. AMAX Chipset Printed Circuit Board (Bottom View)

Figure 24. AMAX Chipset Printed Circuit Board (Copper View)

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

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