Features
- Low Noise Figure: 1.6 dB
- High Input IP3: -6 dBm at 3 V, 6.5 mA bias
- High Gain: 18 dB
- Single Supply: +3 to +8 VDC
- Adjustable current: 3 to 20 mA with external resistor
- Lead-Free SOT-26 Plastic Package
- 100% Matte Tin Plating over Copper
- Halogen-Free “Green” Mold Compound
- 260°C Reflow Compatible
- RoHS* Compliant Version of AM50-0006

Description
M/A-COM’s MAALSS0048 is a high dynamic range, GaAs MMIC, low noise amplifier in a lead-free, SOT-26 miniature surface mount, plastic package. It employs external input matching to obtain optimum noise figure performance and operating frequency flexibility.

The MAALSS0048 also features flexible biasing to control the current consumption vs. dynamic range trade-off. The MAALSS0048 can operate from any positive supply voltage in the 3 V to 8 V range. Its current can be controlled over a range of 3 mA to 20 mA with an external resistor.

The MAALSS0048 is ideally suited for use where low noise figure, high gain, high dynamic range, and low power consumption are required. Typical applications included receiver front ends in PDC, DCS-1800, DCS-1900 and other PCN/PCS applications. It is also useful as a gain block, buffer, driver, and IF amplifier in both fixed or portable PDC and PCN/PCS systems.

The MAALSS0048 is fabricated using a low-cost 0.5-micron gate length GaAs process. The process features full passivation for increased performance and reliability. The MAALSS0048 is 100% RF tested to ensure performance specification compliance.

Functional Block Diagram

Pin Configuration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pin No.</th>
<th>Pin Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>VDD</td>
<td>Positive supply voltage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>GND</td>
<td>RF and DC Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>RF Output</td>
<td>RF Output of the amplifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>GND</td>
<td>RF and DC Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>REXT</td>
<td>External Current Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CEXT</td>
<td>By-Pass Capacitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>RF Input</td>
<td>RF Input of the amplifier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ordering Information 1,2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAALSS0048</td>
<td>SOT-26 Plastic Package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAALSS0048TR-3000</td>
<td>3000 piece reel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAALSS0048PDC</td>
<td>1400-1520 MHz Designer's Kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAALSS0048PCS</td>
<td>1700-2000 MHz Designer's Kit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Reference Application Note M513 for reel size information.
2. All sample boards include 5 loose parts.

Low Noise Amplifier
1400 - 2000 MHz

Electrical Specifications\(^3\): \( T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}, Z_0 = 50 \, \Omega, P_{in} = -30 \, \text{dBm} \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Test Conditions</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>1500 MHz</th>
<th>1900 MHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gain</td>
<td>( V_{DD} = 3 , \text{Volts} )</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Figure</td>
<td>( V_{DD} = 3 , \text{Volts} )</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input VSWR</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2.2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output VSWR</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1.5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 1 dB Compression</td>
<td>( V_{DD} = 3 , \text{Volts} )</td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input IP3</td>
<td>( V_{DD} = 3 , \text{Volts} )</td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Isolation</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drain Current</td>
<td>( V_{DD} = 3 , \text{Volts} )</td>
<td>mA</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Absolute Maximum Ratings\(^4,5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Absolute Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( V_{DD} )</td>
<td>+10 VDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input Power</td>
<td>+17 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current(^6)</td>
<td>30 mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Temperature(^7)</td>
<td>+150°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-40°C to +85°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Temperature</td>
<td>-65°C to +150°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Exceeding any one or combination of these limits may cause permanent damage to this device.
5. M/A-COM does not recommend sustained operation near these survivability limits.
6. When pin #5 is used to increase current (see note 8).
7. Thermal resistance \((\theta_jc)\) = +150°C/W

Handling Procedures

Please observe the following precautions to avoid damage:

Static Sensitivity

Gallium Arsenide Integrated Circuits are sensitive to electrostatic discharge (ESD) and can be damaged by static electricity. Proper ESD control techniques should be used when handling these devices.

Lead-Free SOT-26\(^\dagger\)

\(^\dagger\) Reference Application Note M538 for lead-free solder reflow recommendations.

Meets JEDEC moisture sensitivity level 1 requirements.
Low Noise Amplifier
1400 - 2000 MHz
Rev. V2

Data for 1700 - 2000 MHz Operation

Functional Schematic

External Circuitry Parts List

Part | Value | Purpose
--- | --- | ---
C1 | 47 pF | DC Block
C2 | 470 pF | By-Pass
L1 | 2.7 nH | Tuning
L2 | 22 nH | RF Choke
R1 | See note 9 | Optional current control
C3 | 470 pF | By-Pass

8. All external circuitry parts are readily available, low cost surface mount components (0.060 in. x .030 in. or .080 in. x .050 in.)
9. Pin 5 allows use of an external resistor to ground for optional, higher current.
   For IDD ~ 5 mA, R1 = 150 Ω;
   IDD ~ 6.5 mA, R1 = 120 Ω;
   IDD ~ 20 mA, R1 = 27 Ω.

Input Reflection Coefficient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>1700 MHz</th>
<th>1850 MHz</th>
<th>2000 MHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Γin (mag)</td>
<td>0.699</td>
<td>0.674</td>
<td>0.649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Γin (ang)</td>
<td>48.47°</td>
<td>38.68°</td>
<td>29.27°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended PCB Configuration

Layout View

Cross Section View

The PCB dielectric between RF traces and RF ground layers should be chosen to reduce RF discontinuities between 50 Ohm lines and package pins. M/A-COM recommends an FR-4 dielectric thickness of 0.008” (0.20 mm) yielding a 50 Ohm line width of 0.015” (0.38 mm). The recommended RF metalization thickness is 1 ounce copper.

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Typical Performance Curves, 1700 - 2000 MHz

**Gain vs. Bias @ +25°C**

![Gain vs. Bias @ +25°C graph](image)

**Input IP3 vs. Bias @ +25°C**

![Input IP3 vs. Bias @ +25°C graph](image)

**Noise Figure (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

![Noise Figure (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA) graph](image)

**VSWR (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

![VSWR (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA) graph](image)

**Output P1 dB vs. Bias @ +25°C**

![Output P1 dB vs. Bias @ +25°C graph](image)

**Input IP3 vs. Drain Current (Frequency = 1900 MHz)**

![Input IP3 vs. Drain Current (Frequency = 1900 MHz) graph](image)
Typical Performance Curves, 1700 - 2000 MHz

Gain vs. Temperature (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)

Noise Figure vs. Temperature (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)
**Low Noise Amplifier**

**1400 - 2000 MHz**

**Rev. V2**

**Data for 1400 - 1520 MHz Operation**

### Functional Schematic

```
RF Input
   |  C1
   |  L1
   |  R1 (See note 11)
   |  L2
   |  VDD
   |  2, 4
   |  1
   |  3
   |  5
RF Output
```

### External Circuitry Parts List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>47 pF</td>
<td>DC Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>470 pF</td>
<td>By-Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>10 nH</td>
<td>Tuning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>3.9 nH</td>
<td>Tuning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>22 nH</td>
<td>RF Choke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>See note 11</td>
<td>Current control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>470 pF</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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10. All external circuitry parts are readily available, low cost surface mount components (.060 in. x .030 in. or .080 in. x .050 in.)

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Typical Performance Curves, 1400 - 1520 MHz

**Gain vs. Bias @ +25°C**

- **Input IP3 vs. Bias @ +25°C**

- **Noise Figure (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

- **VSWR (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

- **Output P1 dB vs. Bias @ +25°C**

- **Input IP3 vs. Drain Current (Frequency = 1500 MHz)**

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MAALSS0048

Low Noise Amplifier

1400 - 2000 MHz

Rev. V2

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Low Noise Amplifier
1400 - 2000 MHz

Typical Performance Curves, 1400 - 1520 MHz

**Gain vs. Temperature (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

![Gain vs. Temperature Graph]

**Noise Figure vs. Temperature (Bias = 3V, 6.5 mA)**

![Noise Figure vs. Temperature Graph]