

QUICK START GUIDE FOR DEMONSTRATION CIRCUIT 1524A-A

200MHZ TO 6000MHZ QUADRATURE MODULATOR WITH ULTRAHIGH OIP3

LTC5588-1

DESCRIPTION

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A is a high linearity direct quadrature modulator featuring the LTC[®]5588-1.

The LTC5588-1 is a direct conversion I/Q modulator designed for high performance wireless applications. It allows direct modulation of an RF signal using differential baseband I and Q signals. It supports LTE, GSM, EDGE, TD-SCDMA, CDMA, CDMA2000, W-CDMA, Wi-Max and other communication standards. It can also be configured as an image reject upconverting mixer, by applying 90° phase-shifted signals to the I and Q inputs.

The LTC5588-1 accepts externally applied balanced I and Q baseband input signals with a common-mode voltage level of 0.5V. These voltage signals are converted to currents and translated to RF frequency by means of double-balanced upconverting mixers. The mixer outputs are combined to single-ended through an on-chip RF output balun, which also transforms the output impedance to 50Ω for a wide RF frequency range. A single-ended or differential LO input signal

drives a precision quadrature phase shifter followed by LO buffers, which in-turn drive the upconverting mixers.

The LTC5588-1 offers exceptional linearity performance. An external voltage can be applied to the LINOPT pin to further improve its output 3rd-order intercept. The LTC5588-1's supply voltage range is 3.15V to 3.45V, and consumes about 303mA current.

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A is designed for evaluating the LTC5588-1 IC at RF frequencies from 700MHz to 5GHz. With a few component changes, it can be easily optimized for evaluations at lower or higher frequencies. Refer to "Application Note" section and the LTC5588-1 data sheet for details.

Design files for this circuit board are available. Call the LTC factory.


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Table 1. Typical Demo Circuit Performance Summary

$T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$; $V_{CC} = 3.3\text{V}$, $EN = 3.3\text{V}$; BBPI, BBMI, BBPQ, BBMQ common-mode DC Voltage $V_{CMBB} = 0.5V_{DC}$, I and Q baseband input signal = 100kHz CW, 1V_{P-P(DIFF)} each (two-tone I and Q baseband input signal are at 4.5MHz and 5.5MHz), I and Q 90° shifted, lower side-band selection; $P_{LOM} = 0\text{dBm}$; $f_{RF} = f_{LO} - f_{BB}$, unless otherwise noted.

PARAMETER	CONDITIONS	TYPICAL PERFORMANCE
Supply Voltage		3.15V to 3.45V
Supply Current	$I_{CC1} + I_{CC2}$, $EN = \text{High}$	303mA
Sleep Current	$I_{CC1} + I_{CC2}$, $EN = 0V$	33μA
Baseband Bandwidth	-1dB Bandwidth, $R_{SOURCE} = 25\Omega$, Single-ended	430MHz
Baseband Input Current	Single-Ended	-136μA
Baseband Input Resistance	Single-Ended	-3kΩ
Baseband DC Common-Mode Voltage	Externally Applied	0.5V
Baseband Amplitude Swing	No Hard Clipping, Single-Ended	0.86V _{P-P}
LO Match Frequency Range	Standard Demo Board, $S_{11} < -10\text{dB}$	600MHz to 6000MHz
RF Match Frequency Range	Standard Demo Board, $S_{22} < -10\text{dB}$	700MHz to 5000MHz

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$T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$; $V_{CC} = 3.3\text{V}$, $V_{EN} = 3.3\text{V}$; BBPI, BBMI, BBPQ, BBMQ common-mode DC Voltage $V_{CMBB} = 0.5V_{DC}$, I and Q baseband input signal = 100kHz CW, $1V_{P-P(DIFF)}$ each (two-tone I and Q baseband input signal are at 4.5MHz and 5.5MHz), I and Q 90° shifted, lower side-band selection; $P_{LOM} = 0\text{dBm}$; $f_{RF} = f_{LO} - f_{BB}$; LINOPT pin floating unless otherwise noted.

PARAMETER	CONDITIONS	TYPICAL PERFORMANCE			
		$f_{LO} = 900\text{MHz}$	$f_{LO} = 1900\text{MHz}$	$f_{LO} = 2140\text{MHz}$	$f_{LO} = 2600\text{MHz}$
Conversion Voltage Gain	$20 \cdot \text{Log} (V_{RF(OUT)(50\Omega)} / V_{IN(DIFF)(I \text{ OR } Q)})$	0dB	0.4dB	0.2dB	-0.2dB
Absolute Output Power	$1V_{P-P(DIFF)}$ CW Signal, I and Q	4.0dBm	4.4dBm	4.2dBm	3.8dBm
Output 1dB Compression		12.1dBm	12.4dBm	12.0dBm	11.4dBm
Output 2nd Order Inter-	IM2 is Measured at $f_{LO} - 10\text{MHz}$	73.6dBm	58.8dBm	58.5dBm	61.1dBm
Output 3 rd Order Intercept	IM3 is Measured at $f_{LO} - 3.5\text{MHz}$ and $f_{LO} - 6.5\text{MHz}$				
	LINOPT pin floating	31.3dBm	30.3dBm	30.9dBm	29.2dBm
	LINOPT pin voltage optimized for best OIP3	35.1dBm	32.7dBm	35.1dBm	39.5dBm
RF Output Noise Floor	No Baseband AC Input Signal (6MHz offset)	-161.6dBm/Hz	-160.6dBm/Hz	-160.6dBm/Hz	-160.5dBm/Hz
Image Rejection	Without nulling (unadjusted)	-45.5dBc	-54.4dBc	-56.6dBc	-48.8dBc
LO Feedthrough	Without nulling (unadjusted)	-43.1dBm	-40.9dBm	-39.6dBm	-35.5dBm

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APPLICATION NOTE

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

NOTE: Stresses beyond Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the device. Exposure to any Absolute Maximum Rating condition for extended periods may affect device reliability and lifetime.

Supply Voltage	3.8V
Common Mode Level of BBPI, BBMI and BBPQ, BBMQ	0.55V
Voltage on Any Pin	-0.3V to $V_{CC} + 0.3V$
T_{JMAX}	150°C
Operating Temperature Range	-40°C to 85°C
Storage Temperature Range	-65°C to 150°C

POWER SUPPLY CONSIDERATION

In demonstration circuit 1524A-A (see Figure 3 for schematic), resistors R1 and R2 reduce the charging current in the power supply bypass capacitors C1 and C2 and reduce supply ringing during a fast power ramp-up in case an inductive cable is connected to the V_{CC} and GND. While the LTC5588-1 IC is enabled, the voltage drop across R1 and R2 is approximately 0.15V. The supply voltages applied directly to the chip can be monitored by measuring at the test points TP1 and TP2. If the power supply used ramps up slower than 7V/ μ s and limits its output overshoot to below 3.8V, R1 and R2 can be omitted.

ENABLE INTERFACE

The EN input in demonstration circuit 1524A-A controls the operation of the LTC5588-1 IC. When a voltage of 2V or higher is applied, the IC is turned on. When the input voltage falls below 1V, the IC is turned off and enters sleep mode. If the EN input is not connected, the LTC5588-1's 100k Ω on-chip pull-up resistor assures the IC is enabled. The voltage applied to the EN input must never exceed V_{CC} by more than 0.3V. Surpassing this limit may cause permanent damage to the IC.

BASEBAND INPUT INTERFACE

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A has two channels of high impedance differential inputs to which external I

and Q baseband signals can be applied. BBPI and BBMI are the differential I-channel baseband inputs. BBPQ and BBMQ are the differential Q-channel baseband inputs.

Because the LTC5588-1 baseband inputs' single-ended impedance is -3k each, it is important to keep the source resistance low enough such that the parallel value remains positive for the entire baseband frequency range.

A common-mode voltage of 0.5V (maximum 0.55V) must be externally applied to the baseband inputs for proper operation. In any case, the baseband inputs must NOT be left floating to avoid damages to the LTC5588-1 IC.

LO INPUT INTERFACE

The standard demonstration circuit 1524A-A can accept either single-ended or differential LO inputs. If single-ended LO input is used, the LO signal should be applied to the LOM port, and the LOP port should be terminated in 50 Ω for best image rejection performance. In most cases, single-ended LO drive should be sufficient. However, the LOP and LOM inputs can also be driven differentially when an exceptionally low large-signal output noise floor is required.

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A's LO inputs are optimized for 600MHz to 6GHz operations with better than 10dB input return loss. At lower LO frequencies, the image rejection and the large-signal noise performance can be improved with higher LO drive levels. However, if the single-ended drive level causes internal clipping, the LO leakage degrades. Using a balun such as the Anaren B0310J50100A00 increases the LO drive level without internal clipping and provides a relatively broadband LO port impedance match. The balun (U2) can be installed by removing the DC blocking capacitors C5 and C6. However, for this particular balun, an external DC block is required.

Refer to the LTC5588-1 datasheet for more information and impedance data.

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RF OUTPUT INTERFACE

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A's RF output is single-ended and is 50 Ω matched across a wide RF frequency range from 700MHz to 5GHz with better than 10dB return loss using C7=6.8pF and C8=0.2pF. For 240MHz operation, C7=4.7nH and C8=10pF is recommended. For 450MHz, C7=2.7nH and C8=10pF is recommended.

The frequency of the best match is purposefully set lower than the band center frequency to compensate for the gain roll-off of the on-chip RF output balun at lower frequencies. Refer to the LTC5588-1 datasheet for more information and impedance data.

LINEARITY OPTIMIZATION

The LTC5588-1 features a LINOPT input pin for optimizing the linearity of the RF circuitry. The nominal DC bias voltage of the LINOPT pin is 2.56V, and the typical adjustment range is from 2V to $V_{CC}+0.3V$. The LINOPT pin's input impedance is about 150 Ω while the IC is enabled. The LINOPT voltage for optimum linearity is a function of LO frequency, temperature, supply voltage, baseband frequency, high-side or low-side LO injection, process, signal bandwidth, and RF output level.

TEST EQUIPMENT AND SETUP

The LTC5588-1 is a high linearity direct quadrature modulator IC with very high output 2nd and 3rd order intercepts. Accuracy of its performance measurement is highly dependent on equipment setup and measurement technique. Then following precautions are recommended:

1. Use high performance signal generators with fully configurable differential I and Q outputs, such as the Rohde & Schwarz SMJ100A vector signal generator or equivalent.
2. The third harmonic content of the LO can degrade image rejection severely. It should be kept at least 6dB lower than the desired image rejection. Although the second harmonic content of the LO is less damaging, it can still be significant, and should be kept as low as possible.
3. Cables connecting the baseband signal source to the demonstration circuit baseband inputs should provide a well-defined match for the entire baseband frequency range up to 500MHz. Therefore, short, high quality coaxial cables are recommended.
4. If possible, use small attenuator pads with good VSWR on the demonstration circuit LO input and RF output ports to improve source and load match to reduce reflections, which may degrade measurement accuracy.
5. Use narrow resolution bandwidth (RBW) and engage video averaging on the spectrum analyzer to lower the displayed average noise level (DANL) in order to improve sensitivity and to increase dynamic range. However, the trade off is increased sweep time.
6. Spectrum analyzers can produce significant internal distortion products if they are overdriven. Generally, spectrum analyzers are designed to operate at their best with about -30dBm to -40dBm at their input filter or preselector. Sufficient spectrum analyzer input attenuation should be used to avoid saturating the instrument, but too much attenuation reduces sensitivity and dynamic range.
7. Before taking measurements, the system performance should be evaluated to ensure that: 1) clean input signal can be produced, 2) the LO harmonics are minimized, 3) the spectrum analyzer's internal distortion is minimized, 4) the spectrum analyzer has enough dynamic range and sensitivity, and 5) the system is accurately calibrated for power and frequency.

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QUICK START PROCEDURE

Demonstration circuit 1524A-A is easy to set up to evaluate the performance of the LTC5588-1. Refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 for proper measurement equipment connections and follow the procedure below:

NOTE: Care should be taken to never exceed absolute maximum input ratings. Observe standard ESD precautions and avoid static discharge.

TURNING ON THE DEMONSTRATION CIRCUIT

1. Remove the demonstration circuit from its protective packaging in an ESD-safe working area.
2. Turn off DC power supply. Turn off baseband and LO signal sources outputs.
3. With the power supply and the signal sources turned off, connect the four baseband inputs: BBPI, BBMI, BBPQ, and BBMQ.
4. Turn on baseband signal source DC bias, and slowly increase the DC common-mode voltage (V_{CMBB}) to 0.5V. Do not exceed 0.55V.
5. Connect DC power supply, and slowly increase supply voltage to 3.45V. Using a voltmeter, verify the voltages at the LTC5588-1 V_{CC} pins 18 (TP2) and 24 (TP1) are 3.3V. Adjust if necessary. Do not exceed 3.8V at pins 18 and 24.
6. Apply 3.3V to demonstration circuit 1524A-A's enable control (EN). The enable voltage must never exceed the LTC5588-1's V_{CC} supply voltage (TP1 and TP2) by 0.3V or drop below -0.3V.
7. Verify the total V_{CC} supply current is approximately 303mA. The demonstration circuit is now turned on and is ready for measurements.
8. The turn off procedure is the reverse of the turn on procedure. Make sure V_{CC} is removed before V_{CMBB} .

RETURN LOSS MEASUREMENTS (FIGURE 1)

1. Turn on the demonstration circuit by following the procedures above.

2. Configure the Network Analyzer for return loss measurement, set appropriate frequency range, and set the test signal to 0dBm.
3. Calibrate the Network Analyzer.
4. Connect a 50 Ω termination to the LOP input.
5. Connect the Network Analyzer test-set cable to the LOM input, and measure single-ended LO input return loss.
6. Connect the Network Analyzer test-set cable to the RF output, and measure RF output return loss.

VOLTAGE CONVERSION GAIN, OUTPUT 1dB COMPRESSION, IMAGE REJECTION, AND LO FEEDTHROUGH MEASUREMENTS (FIGURE 2)

1. Turn on the demonstration circuit by following the procedures above.
2. Connect the RF output to the Spectrum Analyzer.
3. Connect a 50 Ω termination to the LOP input.
4. Connect the LO source to LOM input and apply a 1900MHz, 0dBm, CW signal.
5. Set the baseband signal source to provide a 100kHz, 1V_{P-P(DIFF)} baseband input signal. The I- and the Q-channels should be 90° shifted and set for lower side-band selection.
6. Measure the modulator RF output on the Spectrum Analyzer at 1899.9MHz.
7. Calculate Conversion Voltage Gain:
$$G_V = 20 \cdot \text{Log} (V_{RF(OUT)(50\Omega)} / V_{IN(DIFF)(I \text{ OR } Q)})$$
8. Measure Output 1dB Compression point by increasing input signal level until the Conversion Voltage Gain degrades by 1dB.
9. Measure Image Rejection at 1900.1MHz.
10. Measure LO Feedthrough at 1900MHz.

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OUTPUT 2ND ORDER AND 3RD ORDER INTERCEPT MEASUREMENTS (FIGURE 2)

1. Set the baseband signal source to provide a two-tone baseband input signal at 4.5MHz and 5.5MHz with $1V_{P-P(DIFF)}$ each tone. The I- and the Q-channels should be 90° shifted and set for lower side-band selection.
2. Measure the modulator RF output on the Spectrum Analyzer:
 - a. The two-tone RF output signals are located at 1894.5MHz and 1895.5MHz.
 - b. The 2nd order intermodulation product is located at 1890MHz.
 - c. The 3rd order intermodulation products are located at 1893.5MHz and 1896.5MHz.
3. Calculate the Output 2nd and 3rd Order Intercepts:

$$OIP2 = 2 \cdot P_{OUT} - P_{IM2}$$

$$OIP3 = (3 \cdot P_{OUT} - P_{IM3}) / 2$$

Where P_{OUT} is the lowest power level of the two RF output signals at either 1894.5MHz or 1895.5MHz, P_{IM2} is the 2nd order intermodulation product level at 1890MHz, and P_{IM3} is the largest 3rd order inter-

modulation product level at either 1893.5MHz or 1896.5MHz. All units are in dBm.

Alternatively, the output intercept can be calculated using the power difference between the desired output signal and the intermodulation products:

$$OIP2 = \Delta_{IM2} + P_{OUT}$$

$$OIP3 = (\Delta_{IM3})/2 + P_{OUT}$$

Where $\Delta_{IM(2 \text{ OR } 3)} = P_{OUT} - P_{IM(2 \text{ OR } 3)}$.

USING LINEARITY OPTIMIZATION

1. Apply a 2.5V DC voltage to demonstration circuit 1524A-A's linearity optimization control input (LINOPT).
2. Measure Output 3rd Order Intercept by following the procedures above.
3. Adjust LINOPT voltage and re-measure OIP3 until desired performance is achieved. The LINOPT adjustment range is 2V to $V_{CC}+0.3V$. The LINOPT voltage must not exceed the LTC5588-1's V_{CC} supply voltage (TP1 and TP2) by 0.3V or drop below -0.3V.
4. To disable linearity optimization, disconnect LINOPT, and leave it floating.

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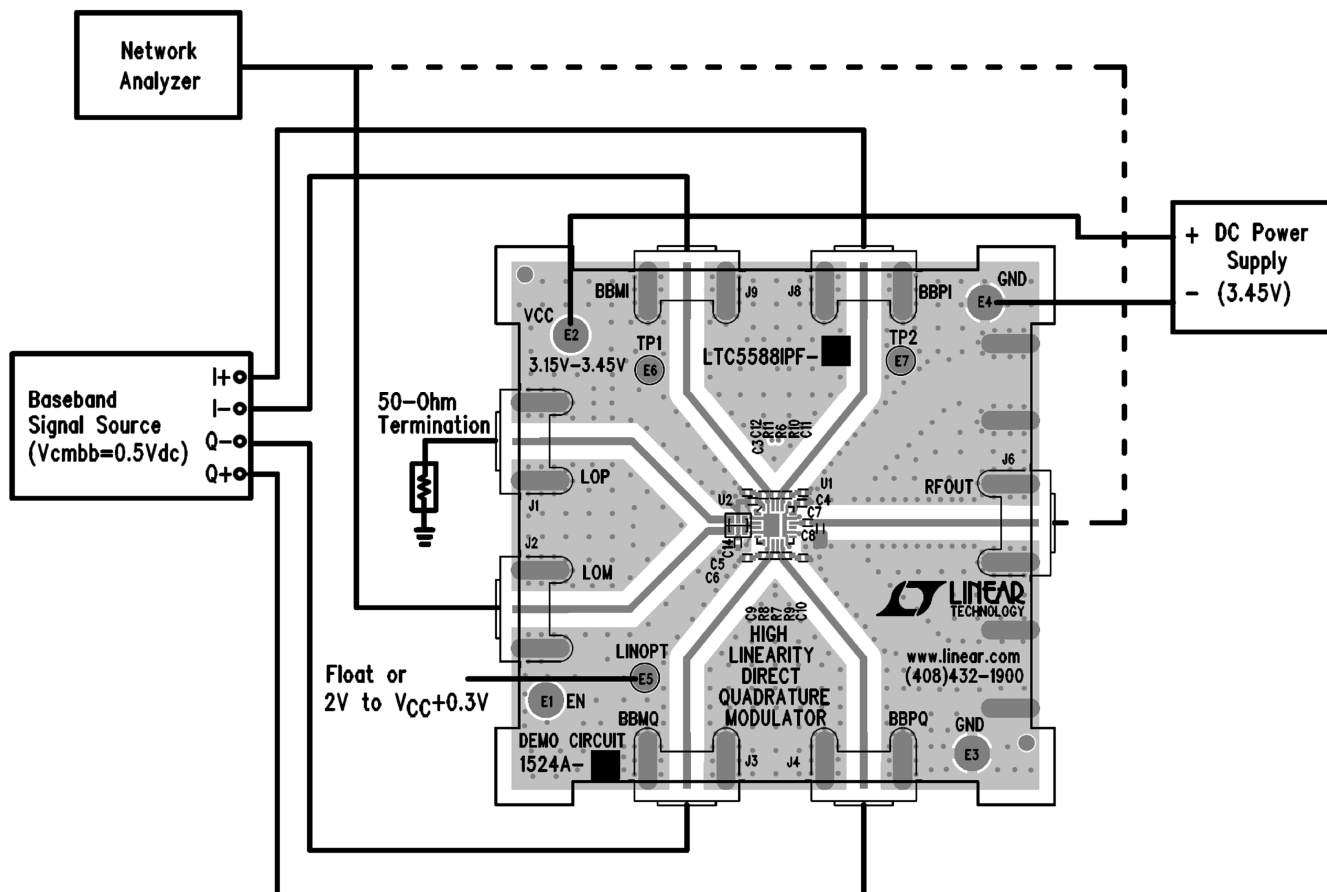


Figure 1. Proper Equipment Setup for Return Loss Measurements

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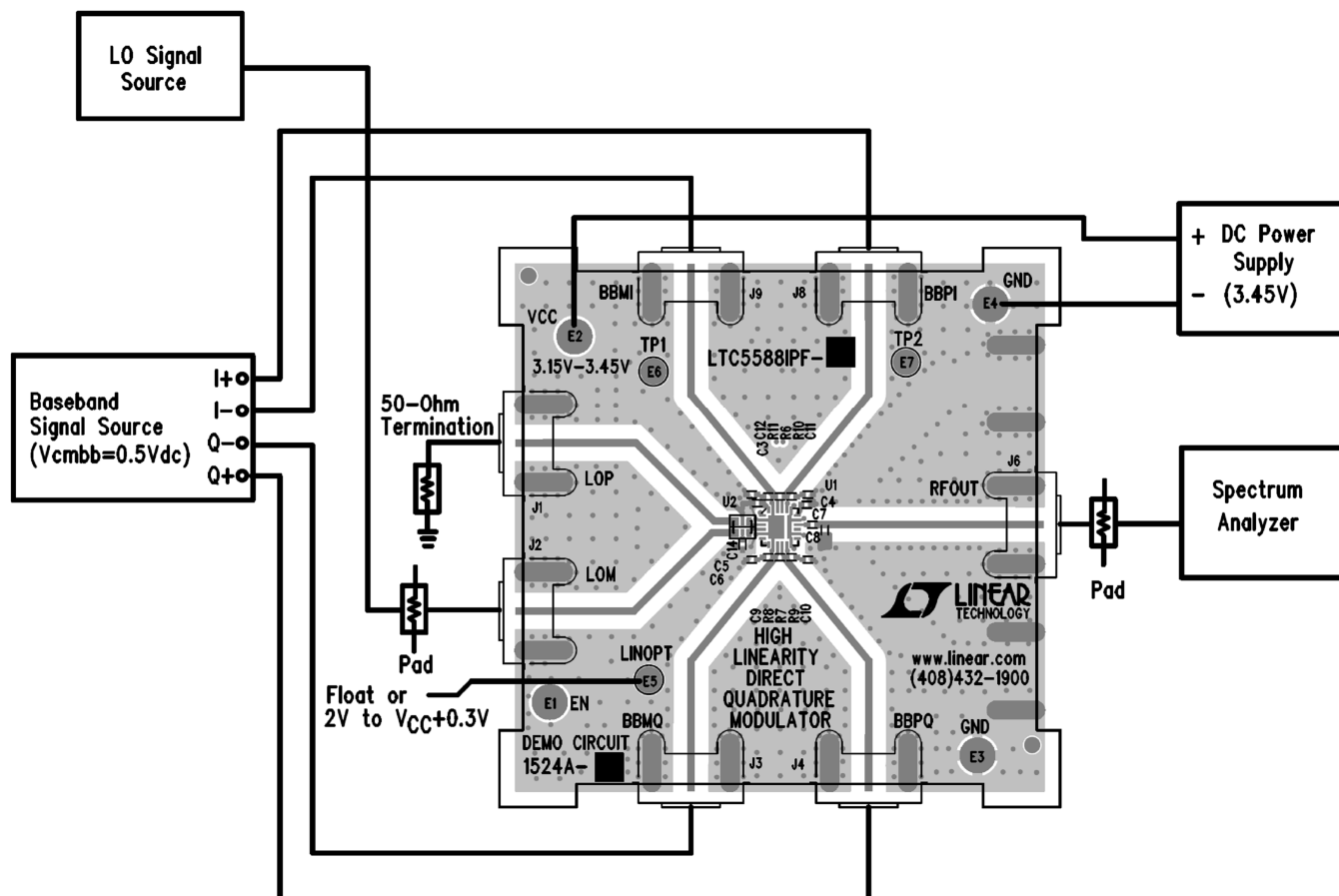


Figure 2. Proper Equipment Setup for RF Performance Measurements

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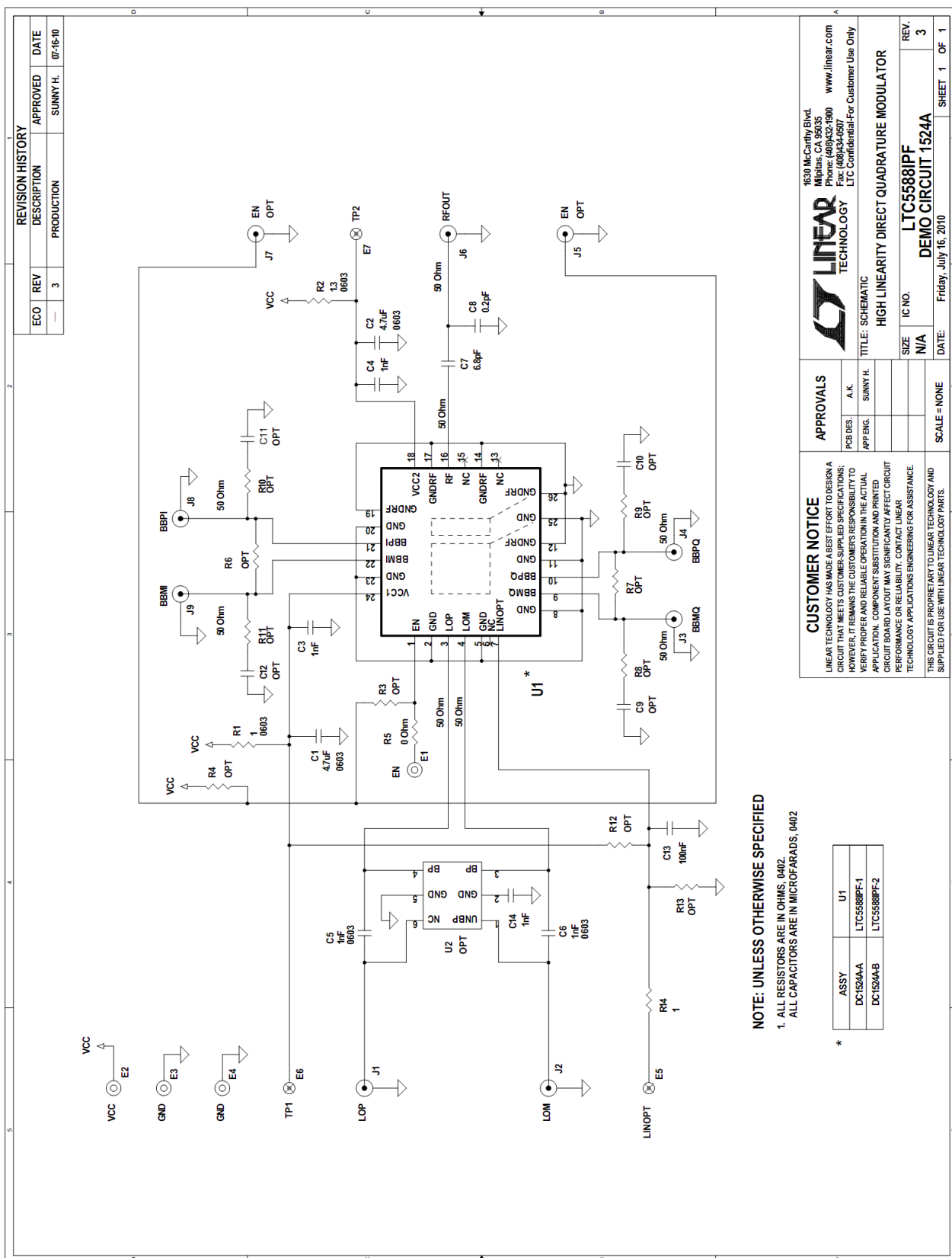


Figure 3. Demonstration Circuit Schematic

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