

## 0.5dB LSB GaAs MMIC 6-BIT DIGITAL ATTENUATOR, DC - 13 GHz

### Typical Applications

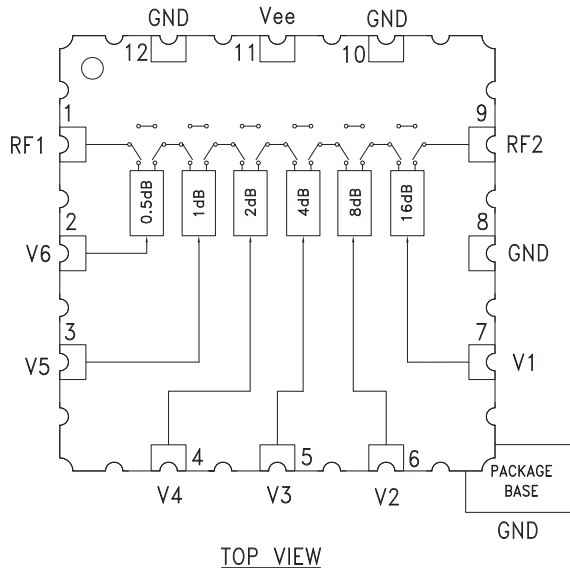
The HMC424LH5 is ideal for:

- Telecom Infrastructure
- Military Radio, Radar & ECM
- Space Systems
- Test Instrumentation

### Features

- 0.5 dB LSB Steps to 31.5 dB
- Single Control Line Per Bit
- ± 0.3 dB Typical Bit Error
- Hermetic SMT Package, 25mm<sup>2</sup>
- Screening to MIL-PRF-38535 (Class B or S) Available

### Functional Diagram



### General Description

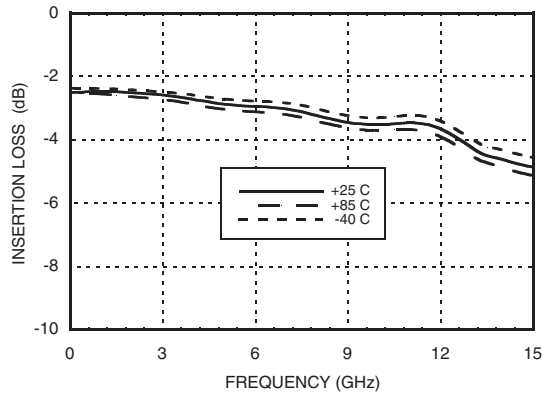
The HMC424LH5 is a broadband 6-bit GaAs MMIC digital attenuator housed in a hermetic SMT leadless package. Covering DC to 13 GHz, the insertion loss is less than 3.5 dB typical. The attenuator bit values are 0.5 (LSB), 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 dB for a total attenuation of 31.5 dB. Attenuation accuracy is excellent at ±0.5 dB typical step error with an IIP3 of +32 dBm. Six control voltage inputs, toggled between 0 and -5V, are used to select each attenuation state. A single Vee bias of -5V allows operation at frequencies down to DC. The HMC424LH5 is compatible with standard and lead free surface mount manufacturing techniques and is suitable for high reliability military, industrial and space applications.

### Electrical Specifications, $T_A = +25^\circ\text{C}$ , With $V_{ee} = -5\text{V}$ & $V_{CTL} = 0/-5\text{V}$

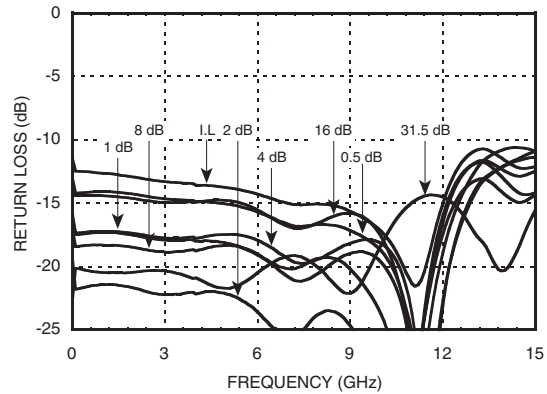
| Parameter   | Frequency (GHz)      | Min.                            | Typ.                             | Max. | Units |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-------|
| Insertion Loss  | DC - 4 GHz           |                                 | 2.7                              | 3.2  | dB    |
|   | 4.0 - 8.0 GHz        |                                 | 3.3                              | 3.8  | dB    |
|   | 8.0 - 13.0 GHz       |                                 | 4.2                              | 4.7  | dB    |
| Attenuation Range   | DC - 13.0 GHz        |                                 | 31.5                             |      | dB    |
| Return Loss (RF1 & RF2, All Atten. States)                                    | DC - 13.0 GHz        |                                 | 12                               |      | dB    |
| Attenuation Accuracy: (Referenced to Insertion Loss)                          | 0.5 - 16.5 dB States |                                 | ± 0.4 + 4% of Atten. Setting Max |      | dB    |
|   | 17 - 31.5 dB States  |                                 | ± 0.5 + 5% of Atten. Setting Max |      | dB    |
| Input Power for 0.1 dB Compression  | 1.0 - 13.0 GHz       |                                 | 22                               |      | dBm   |
| Input Third Order Intercept Point<br>(Two-Tone Input Power = 0 dBm Each Tone) | REF State            |                                 | 46                               |      | dBm   |
|   | All Other States     |                                 | 32                               |      | dBm   |
| Switching Characteristics   | DC - 13.0 GHz        |                                 |                                  |      |       |
|   |                      | tRISE, tFALL (10/90% RF)        |                                  | 30   | ns    |
|   |                      | tON/tOFF (50% CTL to 10/90% RF) |                                  | 50   | ns    |

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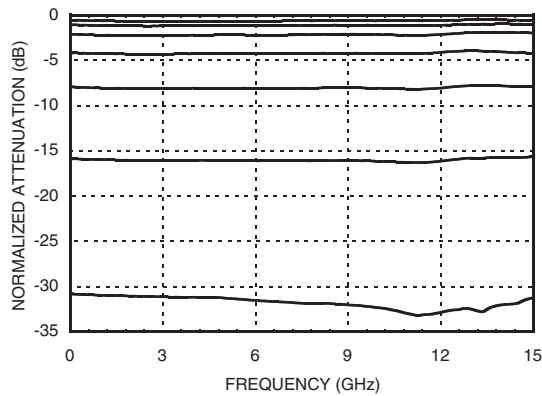
**Insertion Loss**



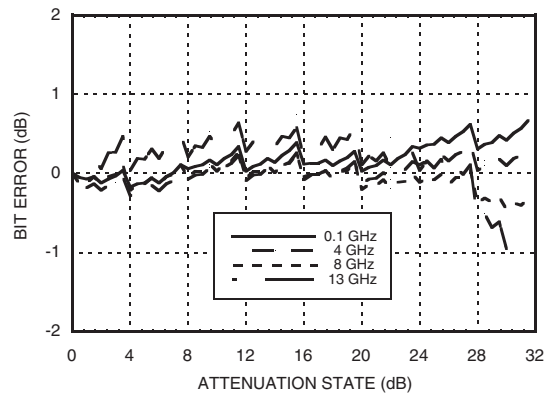
**Return Loss RF1, RF2**  
(Only Major States are Shown)



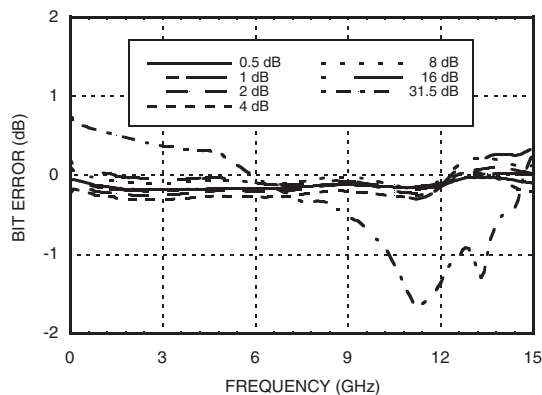
**Normalized Attenuation**  
(Only Major States are Shown)



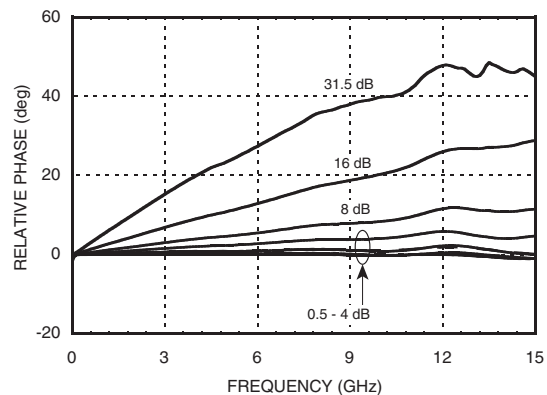
**Bit Error vs. Attenuation State**



**Bit Error vs. Frequency**  
(Only Major States are Shown)



**Relative Phase vs. Frequency**  
(Only Major States are Shown)

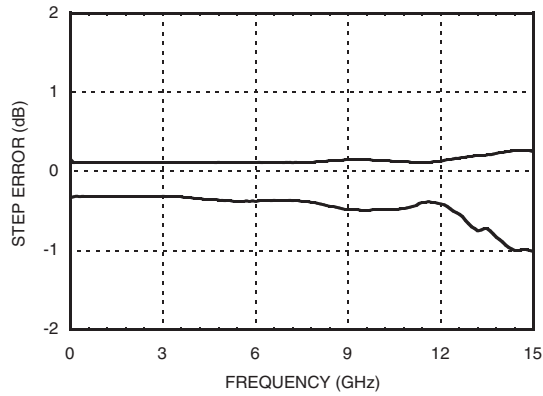


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ATTENUATORS - DIGITAL - SMT

**Worst Case Step Error  
Between Successive Attenuation States**



**Bias Voltage & Current**

| Vee Range= -5 Vdc ± 10% |                 |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vee (VDC)               | Iee (Typ.) (mA) | Iee (Max.) (mA) |
| -5.0                    | 3               | 5               |

**Control Voltage**

| State | Bias Condition               |
|-------|------------------------------|
| Low   | 0 to -3V @ 35 µA Typ.        |
| High  | Vee to Vee +0.8V @ 5 µA Typ. |

**Truth Table**

| Control Voltage Input |            |            |            |            |              | Attenuation State<br>RF1 - RF2 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| V1<br>16 dB           | V2<br>8 dB | V3<br>4 dB | V4<br>2 dB | V5<br>1 dB | V6<br>0.5 dB |                                |
| Low                   | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low          | Reference I.L.                 |
| Low                   | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low        | High         | 0.5 dB                         |
| Low                   | Low        | Low        | Low        | High       | Low          | 1 dB                           |
| Low                   | Low        | Low        | High       | Low        | Low          | 2 dB                           |
| Low                   | Low        | High       | Low        | Low        | Low          | 4 dB                           |
| Low                   | High       | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low          | 8 dB                           |
| High                  | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low        | Low          | 16 dB                          |
| High                  | High       | High       | High       | High       | High         | 31.5 dB                        |

Any Combination of the above states will provide an attenuation approximately equal to the sum of the bits selected.

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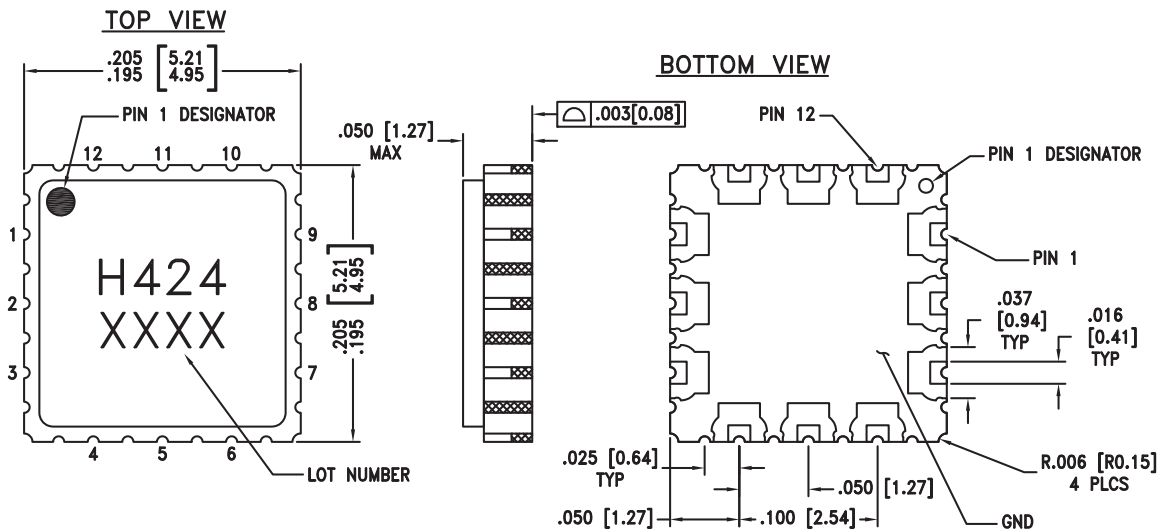
### Absolute Maximum Ratings

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Control Voltage (V1 to V6)   | Vee - 0.5 Vdc   |
| Bias Voltage (Vee)   | -7 Vdc          |
| Channel Temperature  | 150 °C          |
| Thermal Resistance   | 344 °C/W        |
| Continuous P <sub>diss</sub> (T= 85 °C)<br>(derate 2.9 mW/ °C above 85 °C) | 0.18 W          |
| Storage Temperature  | -65 to + 150 °C |
| Operating Temperature  | -40 to +85 °C   |
| RF Input Power (0.5 - 13 GHz)  | +25 dBm         |



ELECTROSTATIC SENSITIVE DEVICE  
OBSERVE HANDLING PRECAUTIONS

### Outline Drawing



NOTES:

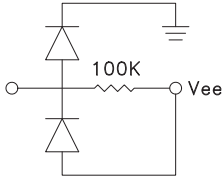

1. PACKAGE BODY MATERIAL: CERAMIC & KOVAR
2. LEAD AND GROUND PADDLE PLATING: GOLD 40 - 80 MICROINCHES.
3. DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES [MILLIMETERS].
4. LEAD SPACING TOLERANCE IS NON-CUMULATIVE
5. PAD BURR LENGTH 0.15mm MAX.  
PAD BURR HEIGHT 0.25mm MAX.
6. ALL GROUND LEADS AND GROUND PADDLE MUST BE SOLDERED TO PCB RF GROUND.

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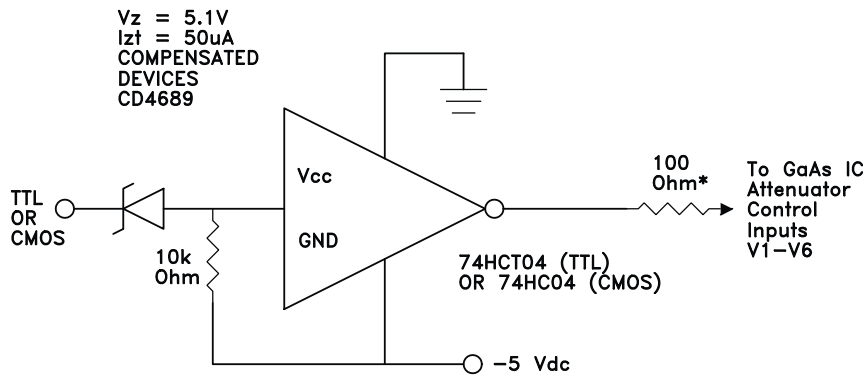
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ATTENUATORS - DIGITAL - SMT

### Pin Description

| Pad Number | Function | Description   | Interface Schematic   |
|------------|----------|---|---|
| 1, 9       | RF1, RF2 | This pin is DC coupled and matched to 50 Ohm. Blocking capacitors are required if RF line potential is not equal to 0V. |   |
| 2 - 7      | V6 - V1  | See truth table and control voltage table.  |  |
| 8, 10, 12  | GND      | Package base must also be connected to RF ground  |  |
| 11         | Vee      | Supply Voltage -5V ± 10%  |   |

### Suggested Driver Circuit (One Circuit Required Per Bit Control Input)

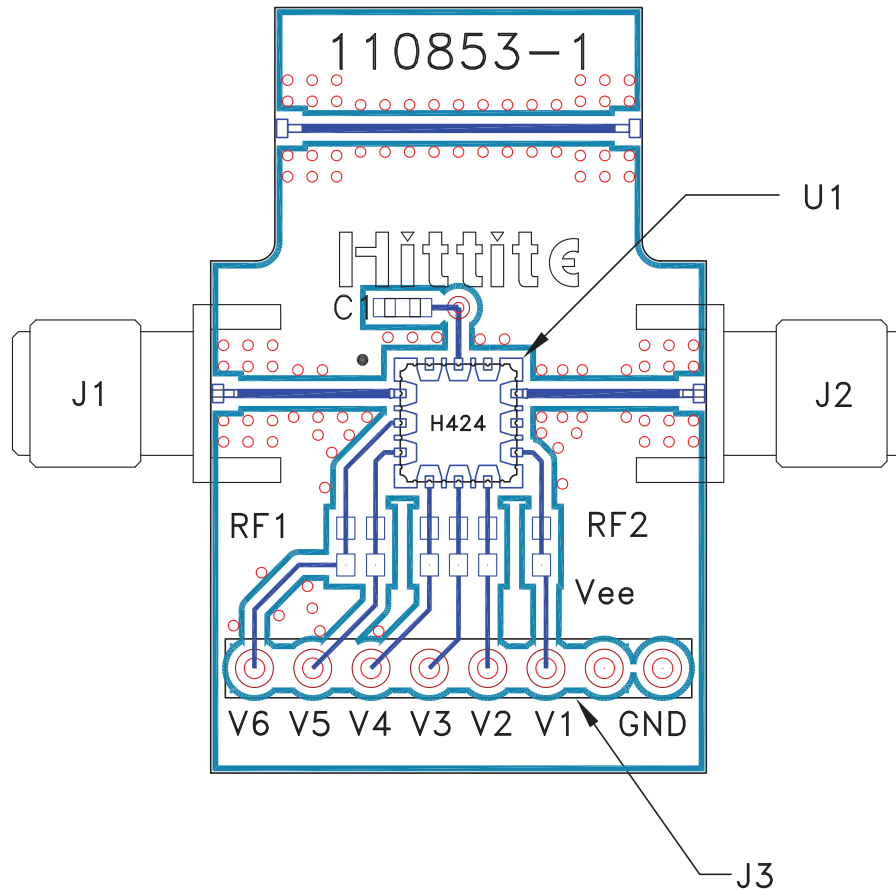


Simple driver using inexpensive standard logic ICs provides fast switching using minimum DC current.

\* Recommended value to suppress unwanted RF signals at V1 - V6 control lines.

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**Evaluation PCB**



**List of Materials for Evaluation PCB 110855 [1]**

| Item    | Description                       |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| J1 - J2 | PCB Mount SMA SRI Connector       |
| J3      | 8 Pin DC Connector .1" Thruhole   |
| C1      | 0.01 $\mu$ F Capacitor, 0603 Pkg. |
| U1      | HMC424LH5 Digital Attenuator      |
| PCB [2] | 110853 Evaluation PCB             |

[1] Reference this number when ordering complete evaluation PCB

[2] Circuit Board Material: Rogers 4350

The circuit board used in the final application should use RF circuit design techniques. Signal lines should have 50 ohm impedance while the package ground leads and exposed paddle should be connected directly to the ground plane similar to that shown. A sufficient number of via holes should be used to connect the top and bottom ground planes. The evaluation circuit board shown is available from Hittite upon request.