Ultralow Distortion Differential ADC Driver
ADA4937-1/ADA4937-2

FEATURES

Extremely low harmonic distortion (HD)
  −112 dBc HD2 @ 10 MHz
  −84 dBc HD2 @ 70 MHz
  −77 dBc HD2 @ 100 MHz
  −102 dBc HD3 @ 10 MHz
  −91 dBc HD3 @ 70 MHz
  −84 dBc HD3 @ 100 MHz
Low input voltage noise: 2.2 nV/√Hz
High speed
  −3 dB bandwidth of 1.9 GHz, G = 1
  Slew rate: 6000 V/μs, 25% to 75%
  Fast overdrive recovery of 1 ns
0.5 mV typical offset voltage
Externally adjustable gain
Differential-to-differential or single-ended-to-differential
  operation
Adjustable output common-mode voltage
Single-supply operation: 3.3 V to 5 V

APPLICATIONS

ADC drivers
Single-ended-to-differential converters
IF and baseband gain blocks
Differential buffers
Line drivers

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The ADA4937-x is a low noise, ultralow distortion, high speed differential amplifier. It is an ideal choice for driving high performance ADCs with resolutions up to 16 bits from dc to 100 MHz. The adjustable level of the output common mode allows the ADA4937-x to match the input of the ADC. The internal common-mode feedback loop also provides exceptional output balance as well as suppression of even-order harmonic distortion products.

With the ADA4937-x, differential gain configurations are easily realized with a simple external feedback network of four resistors that determine the closed-loop gain of the amplifier.

The ADA4937-x is fabricated using Analog Devices, Inc., proprietary silicon-germanium (SiGe), complementary bipolar process, enabling it to achieve very low levels of distortion with an input voltage noise of only 2.2 nV/√Hz. The low dc offset and excellent dynamic performance of the ADA4937-x make it well-suited for a wide variety of data acquisition and signal processing applications.
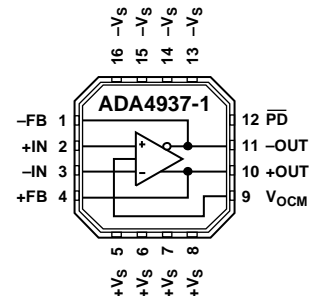
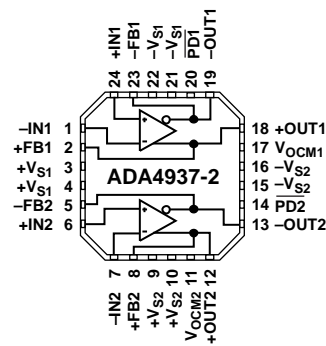## FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAMS

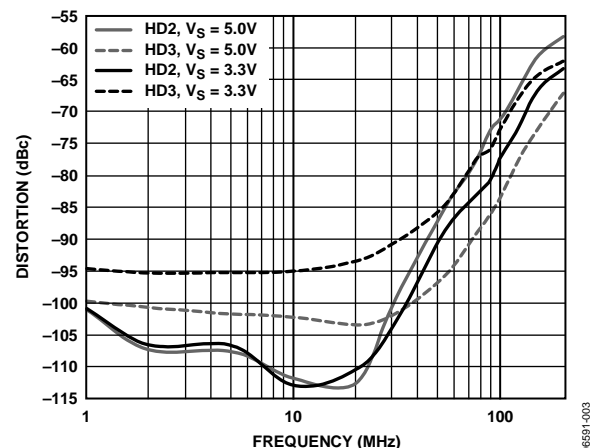*Figure 1. ADA4937-1*

Figure 2. ADA4937-2

Figure 3. Harmonic Distortion vs. Frequency

The ADA4937-x is available in a Pb-free, 3 mm × 3 mm, 16-lead LFCSP (ADA4937-1, single) or a Pb-free, 4 mm × 4 mm, 24-lead LFCSP (ADA4937-2, dual). The pinout has been optimized to facilitate PCB layout and minimize distortion. The ADA4937-x is specified to operate over the automotive (−40°C to +105°C) temperature range and between 3.3 V and 5 V supplies.

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REVISION HISTORY

SPECIFICATIONS

5 V OPERATION

$T_A = 25°C$, $+V_S = 5$ V, $−V_S = 0$ V, $V_{OCM} = +V_S/2$, $R_T = 61.9$ Ω, $R_G = R_F = 200$ Ω, $G = +1$, $R_{L, dm} = 1$ kΩ, unless otherwise noted. All specifications refer to single-ended input and differential outputs, unless otherwise noted.

±D_{IN} to ±OUT Performance

Table 1.

Parameter	Test Conditions/Comments	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE					
−3 dB Small Signal Bandwidth	$V_{OUT, dm} = 0.1$ V p-p		1900		MHz
Bandwidth for 0.1 dB Flatness	$V_{OUT, dm} = 0.1$ V p-p		200		MHz
Large Signal Bandwidth	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		1700		MHz
Slew Rate	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 25% to 75%		6000		V/μs
Settling Time	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		7		ns
Overdrive Recovery Time	$V_{IN} = 0$ V to 1.5 V step; $G = 3.16$		<1		ns
NOISE/HARMONIC PERFORMANCE	See Figure 51 for distortion test circuit				
Second Harmonic	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 10 MHz		−112		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 70 MHz		−84		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 100 MHz		−77		dBc
Third Harmonic	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 10 MHz		−102		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 70 MHz		−91		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 100 MHz		−84		dBc
IMD	$f_1 = 70$ MHz; $f_2 = 70.1$ MHz; $V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		−91		dBc
Voltage Noise (RTI)	$f = 100$ kHz		2.2		nV/√Hz
Input Current Noise	$f = 100$ kHz		4		pA/√Hz
Noise Figure	$G = 4$; $R_T = 136$ Ω; $R_F = 200$ Ω; $R_G = 37$ Ω; $f = 100$ MHz		15		dB
Crosstalk (ADA4937-2)	$f = 100$ MHz		−72		dB
INPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Offset Voltage	$V_{OS, dm} = V_{OUT, dm}/2$; $V_{DIN+} = V_{DIN−} = 2.5$ V	−2.5	±0.5	+2.5	mV
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		±1		μV/°C
Input Bias Current		−30	−21	−10	μA
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		0.01		μA/°C
Input Offset Current		−2	+0.5	+2	μA
Input Resistance	Differential		6		MΩ
	Common mode		3		MΩ
Input Capacitance			1		pF
Input Common-Mode Voltage			0.3 to 3.0		V
CMRR	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_{IN, cm}$; $\Delta V_{IN, cm} = ±1$ V	−69	−80		dB
OUTPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Output Voltage Swing	Maximum ΔV_{OUT}; single-ended output; $R_F = R_G = 10$ kΩ	0.9		4.1	V
Linear Output Current	Per amplifier; $R_{L, dm} = 20$ Ω; $f = 10$ MHz		±70		mA
Output Balance Error	$\Delta V_{OUT, cm}/\Delta V_{OUT, dm}$; $\Delta V_{OUT, dm} = 1$ V; $f = 10$ MHz; see Figure 50 for test circuit		−61		dB

V_{OCM} to ±OUT Performance

Table 2.

Parameter	Test Conditions/Comments	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
V_{OCM} DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE					
−3 dB Bandwidth			440		MHz
Slew Rate	V_{IN} = 1.5 V to 3.5 V; 25% to 75%		1150		V/µs
Input Voltage Noise (RTI)	f = 100 kHz		7.5		nV/√Hz
V_{OCM} INPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Input Voltage Range		1.2		3.8	V
Input Resistance		8	10	12	kΩ
Input Offset Voltage	$V_{OS, cm}$ = $V_{OUT, cm}$; V_{DIN+} = $V_{DIN−}$ = +V_S/2		2	7.1	mV
Input Bias Current			0.5		µA
V_{OCM} CMRR	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_{OCM}$; ΔV_{OCM} = ±1 V	−70	−75		dB
Gain	$\Delta V_{OUT, cm}/\Delta V_{OCM}$; ΔV_{OCM} = ±1 V	0.97	0.98	1.00	V/V
POWER SUPPLY					
Operating Range		3.0		5.25	V
Quiescent Current per Amplifier	Enabled	38.0	39.5	42.0	mA
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		17		µA/°C
	Powered down	0.02	0.3	0.5	mA
Power Supply Rejection Ratio	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_S$; ΔV_S = 1 V	−70	−90		dB
POWER-DOWN ($\overline{PD}$)					
$\overline{PD}$ Input Voltage	Powered down		≤1		V
	Enabled		≥2		V
Turn-Off Time			1		µs
Turn-On Time			200		ns
$\overline{PD}$ Bias Current per Amplifier					
Enabled	$\overline{PD}$ = 5 V	10	30	50	µA
Powered Down	$\overline{PD}$ = 0 V	−300	−200	−150	µA
OPERATING TEMPERATURE RANGE		−40		+105	°C

3.3 V OPERATION

$T_A = 25°C$, $+V_S = 3.3$ V, $-V_S = 0$ V, $V_{OCM} = +V_S/2$, $R_T = 61.9$ Ω, $R_G = R_F = 200$ Ω, $G = 1$, $R_{L, dm} = 1$ kΩ, unless otherwise noted. All specifications refer to single-ended input and differential outputs, unless otherwise noted.

±D_IN to ±OUT Performance

Table 3.

Parameter	Test Conditions/Comments	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE					
−3 dB Small Signal Bandwidth	$V_{OUT, dm} = 0.1$ V p-p		1800		MHz
Bandwidth for 0.1 dB Flatness	$V_{OUT, dm} = 0.1$ V p-p		200		MHz
Large Signal Bandwidth	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		1300		MHz
Slew Rate	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 25% to 75%		4000		V/µs
Settling Time	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		7		ns
Overdrive Recovery Time	$V_{IN} = 0$ V to 1.0 V step; $G = 3.16$		<1		ns
NOISE/HARMONIC PERFORMANCE	See Figure 51 for distortion test circuit				
Second Harmonic	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 10 MHz		−113		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 70 MHz		−85		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 100 MHz		−77		dBc
Third Harmonic	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 10 MHz		−95		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 70 MHz		−77		dBc
	$V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p; 100 MHz		−71		dBc
IMD	$f_1 = 70$ MHz; $f_2 = 70.1$ MHz; $V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p		−87		dBc
Voltage Noise (RTI)	$f = 100$ kHz		2.2		nV/√Hz
Input Current Noise	$f = 100$ kHz		4		pA/√Hz
Noise Figure	$G = 4$; $R_T = 136$ Ω; $R_F = 200$ Ω; $R_G = 37$ Ω; $f = 100$ MHz		15		dB
Crosstalk (ADA4937-2)	$f = 100$ MHz		−72		dB
INPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Offset Voltage	$V_{OS, dm} = V_{OUT, dm}/2$; $V_{DIN+} = V_{DIN−} = +V_S/2$	−2.5	±0.5	+2.5	mV
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		±1		µV/°C
Input Bias Current		−50	−20	−10	µA
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		0.01		µA/°C
Input Resistance	Differential		6		MΩ
	Common mode		3		MΩ
Input Capacitance			1		pF
Input Common-Mode Voltage			0.3 to 1.2		V
CMRR	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_{IN, cm}$; $\Delta V_{IN, cm} = ±1$ V	−67	−80		dB
OUTPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Output Voltage Swing	Maximum ΔV_{OUT}; single-ended output; $R_F = R_G = 10$ kΩ	0.8		2.5	V
Linear Output Current	Per amplifier; $R_{L, dm} = 20$ Ω; $f = 10$ MHz		±47		mA
Output Balance Error	$\Delta V_{OUT, cm}/\Delta V_{OUT, dm}$; $\Delta V_{OUT, dm} = 1$ V; $f = 10$ MHz; see Figure 50 for test circuit		−61		dB

V_OCM to ±OUT Performance

Table 4.

Parameter	Test Conditions/Comments	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
V_OCM DYNAMIC PERFORMANCE					
−3 dB Bandwidth			440		MHz
Slew Rate	V_{IN} = 0.9 V to 2.4 V; 25% to 75%		900		V/µs
Input Voltage Noise (RTI)	f = 100 kHz		7.5		nV/√Hz
V_OCM INPUT CHARACTERISTICS					
Input Voltage Range		1.2		2.1	V
Input Resistance			10		kΩ
Input Offset Voltage	$V_{OS, cm}$ = $V_{OUT, cm}$; V_{DIN+} = $V_{DIN−}$ = 1.67 V		2	7.1	mV
Input Bias Current			0.5		µA
V_OCM CMRR	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_{OCM}$; ΔV_{OCM} = ±1 V	−70	−75		dB
Gain	$\Delta V_{OUT, cm}/\Delta V_{OCM}$; ΔV_{OCM} = ±1 V	0.97	0.98	1.00	V/V
POWER SUPPLY					
Operating Range		3.0		5.25	V
Quiescent Current per Amplifier	Enabled	36	38	40	mA
	T_{MIN} to T_{MAX} variation		17		µA/°C
	Powered down	0.02	0.2	0.5	mA
Power Supply Rejection Ratio	$\Delta V_{OUT, dm}/\Delta V_S$; ΔV_S = 1 V	−70	−90		dB
POWER-DOWN ($\overline{PD}$)					
$\overline{PD}$ Input Voltage	Powered down		≤1		V
	Enabled		≥2		V
Turn-Off Time			1		µs
Turn-On Time			200		ns
$\overline{PD}$ Bias Current per Amplifier					
Enabled	$\overline{PD}$ = 3.3 V	10	20	30	µA
Powered Down	$\overline{PD}$ = 0 V	−200	−120	−100	µA
OPERATING TEMPERATURE RANGE		−40		+105	°C

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Table 5.

Parameter	Rating
Supply Voltage	5.5 V
Power Dissipation	See Figure 4
Storage Temperature Range	−65°C to +125°C
Operating Temperature Range	−40°C to +105°C
Lead Temperature (Soldering, 10 sec)	300°C
Junction Temperature	150°C

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

THERMAL RESISTANCE

θ_{JA} is specified for the device (including exposed pad) soldered to a high thermal conductivity 2s2p circuit board, as described in EIA/JESD51-7.

Table 6. Thermal Resistance

Package Type	θ_{JA}	Unit
16-Lead LFCSP (Exposed Pad)	95	°C/W
24-Lead LFCSP (Exposed Pad)	67	°C/W

Maximum Power Dissipation

The maximum safe power dissipation in the ADA4937-x packages is limited by the associated rise in junction temperature (T_J) on the die. At approximately 150°C, which is the glass transition temperature, the plastic changes its properties. Even temporarily exceeding this temperature limit can change the stresses that the package exerts on the die, permanently shifting the parametric performance of the ADA4937-x. Exceeding a junction temperature of 150°C for an extended period can result in changes in the silicon devices, potentially causing failure.

The power dissipated in the package (P_D) is the sum of the quiescent power dissipation and the power dissipated in the package due to the load drive. The quiescent power is the voltage between the supply pins (V_S) times the quiescent current (I_S). The power dissipated due to the load drive depends upon the particular application. The power due to load drive is calculated by multiplying the load current by the associated voltage drop across the device. RMS voltages and currents must be used in these calculations.

Airflow increases heat dissipation, effectively reducing θ_{JA}. In addition, more metal directly in contact with the package leads/exposed pad from metal traces, through holes, ground, and power planes reduces θ_{JA}.

Figure 4 shows the maximum safe power dissipation in the package vs. the ambient temperature for the ADA4937-1 single 16-lead LFCSP (95°C/W), and the ADA4937-2 dual 24-lead LFCSP (67°C/W) on a JEDEC standard 4-layer board.
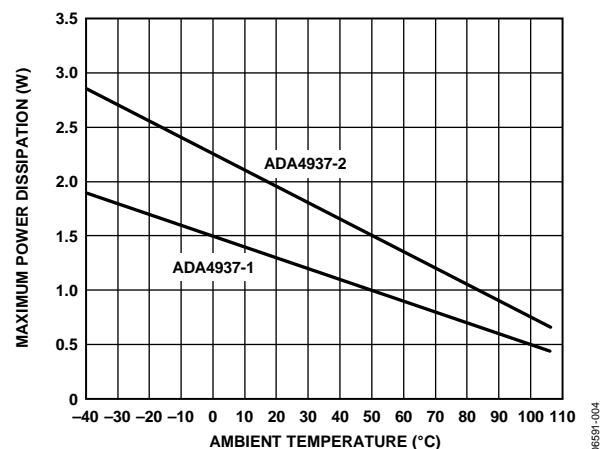

Figure 4. Maximum Power Dissipation vs. Temperature, 4-Layer Board

ESD CAUTION

ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device. Charged devices and circuit boards can discharge without detection. Although this product features patented or proprietary protection circuitry, damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy ESD. Therefore, proper ESD precautions should be taken to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.
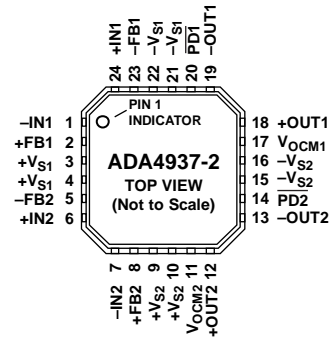
PIN CONFIGURATIONS AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS
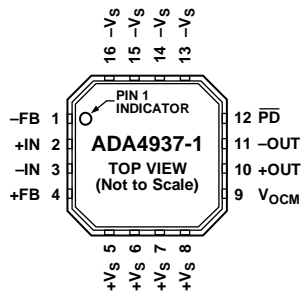
Figure 5. ADA4937-1 Pin Configuration

Figure 6. ADA4937-2 Pin Configuration

Table 7. ADA4937-1 Pin Function Descriptions

Pin No.	Mnemonic	Description
1	−FB	Negative Output for Feedback Component Connection.
2	+IN	Positive Input Summing Node.
3	−IN	Negative Input Summing Node.
4	+FB	Positive Output for Feedback Component Connection.
5 to 8	+V_S	Positive Supply Voltage.
9	V_{OCM}	Output Common-Mode Voltage.
10	+OUT	Positive Output for Load Connection.
11	−OUT	Negative Output for Load Connection.
12	$\overline{PD}$	Power-Down Pin.
13 to 16	−V_S	Negative Supply Voltage.
EP		Exposed Paddle. The exposed pad is not electrically connected to the device. It is typically soldered to ground or a power plane on the PCB that is thermally conductive.

Table 8. ADA4937-2 Pin Function Descriptions

Pin No.	Mnemonic	Description
1	−IN1	Negative Input Summing Node 1.
2	+FB1	Positive Output Feedback Pin 1.
3, 4	+V_{S1}	Positive Supply Voltage 1.
5	−FB2	Negative Output Feedback Pin 2.
6	+IN2	Positive Input Summing Node 2.
7	−IN2	Negative Input Summing Node 2.
8	+FB2	Positive Output Feedback Pin 2.
9, 10	+V_{S2}	Positive Supply Voltage 2.
11	V_{OCM2}	Output Common-Mode Voltage 2.
12	+OUT2	Positive Output 2.
13	−OUT2	Negative Output 2.
14	$\overline{PD2}$	Power-Down Pin 2.
15, 16	−V_{S2}	Negative Supply Voltage 2.
17	V_{OCM1}	Output Common-Mode Voltage 1.
18	+OUT1	Positive Output 1.
19	−OUT1	Negative Output 1.
20	$\overline{PD1}$	Power-Down Pin 1.
21, 22	−V_{S1}	Negative Supply Voltage 1.
23	−FB1	Negative Output Feedback Pin 1.
24	+IN1	Positive Input Summing Node 1.
EP		Exposed Paddle. The exposed pad is not electrically connected to the device. It is typically soldered to ground or a power plane on the PCB that is thermally conductive.

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

$T_A = 25°C$, $+V_S = 5$ V, $−V_S = 0$ V, $V_{OUT, dm} = 2$ V p-p, $V_{OCM} = +V_S/2$, $R_T = 61.9$ Ω, $R_G = R_F = 200$ Ω, $G = 1$, $R_{L, dm} = 1$ kΩ, unless otherwise noted. Refer to Figure 49 for the test setup circuit.
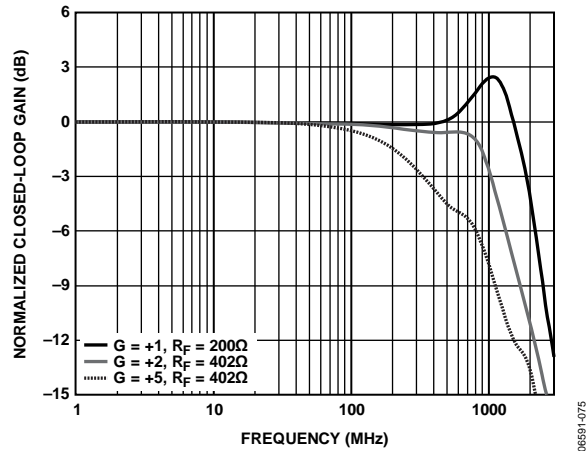

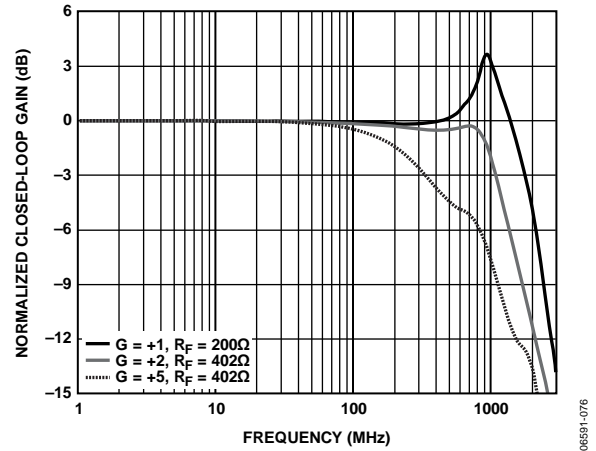Figure 7. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains, $V_{OUT, dm} = 100$ mV p-p

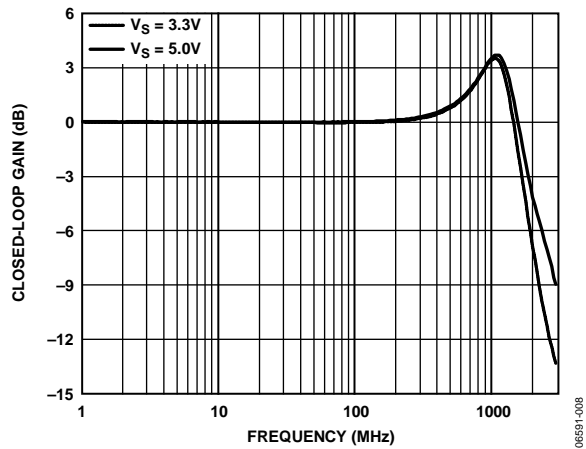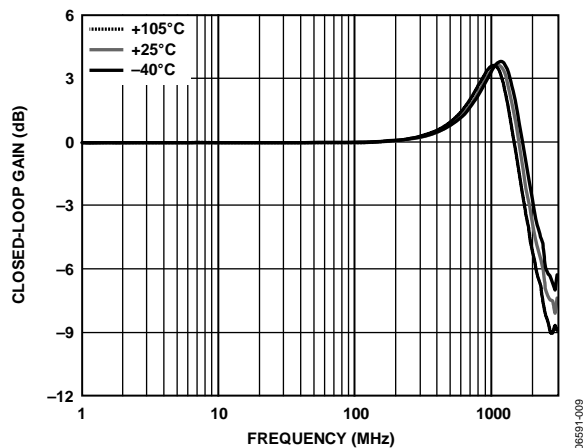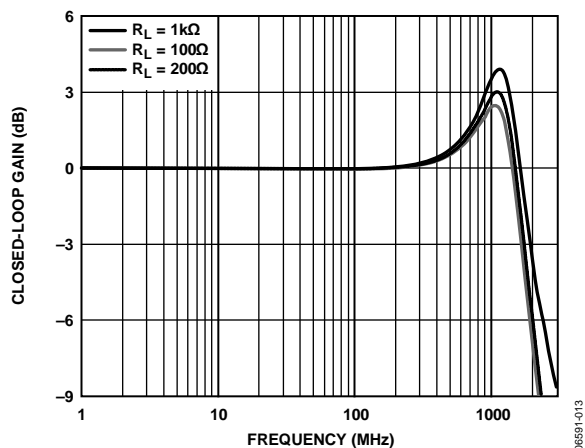Figure 10. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains

Figure 8. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Supplies, $V_{OUT, dm} = 100$ mV p-p
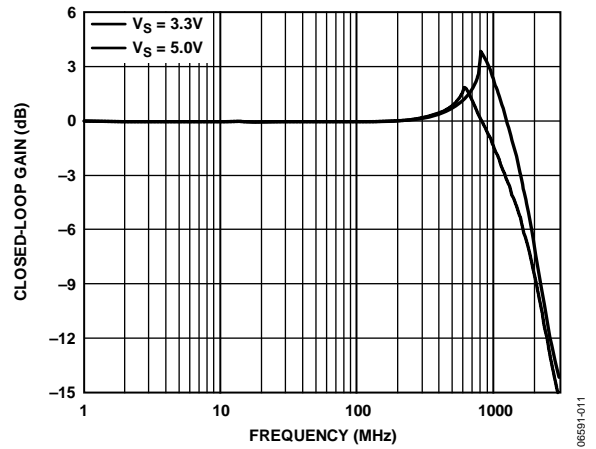
Figure 11. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Supplies

Figure 9. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Temperatures, $V_{OUT, dm} = 100$ mV p-p
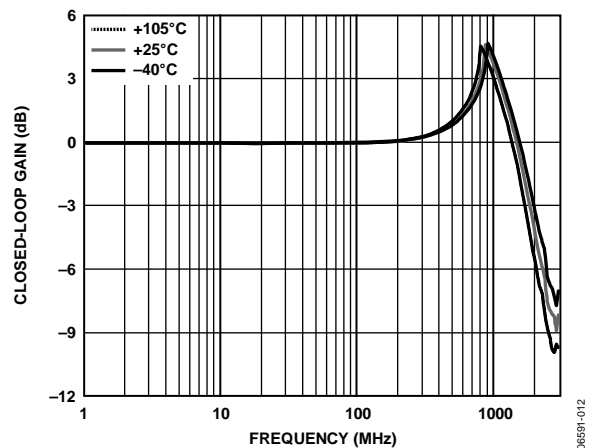
Figure 12. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Temperatures

Figure 13. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Loads,
$V_{OUT, dm} = 100\ mV\ p\text{-}p$
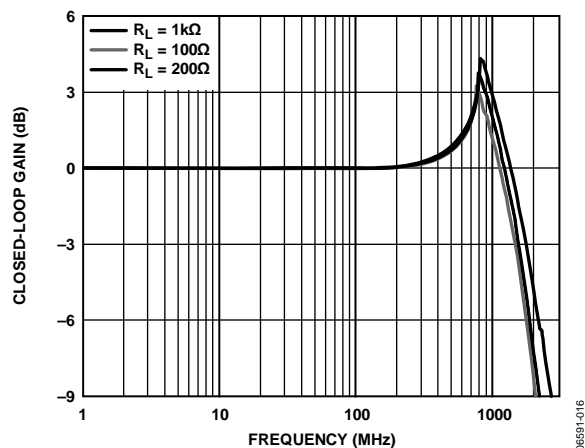
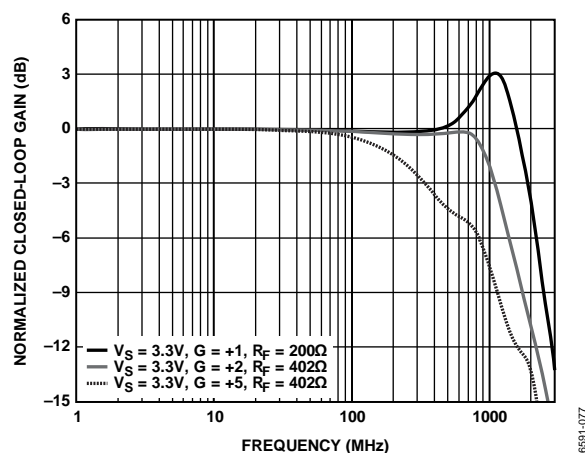Figure 16. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Loads

Figure 14. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains,
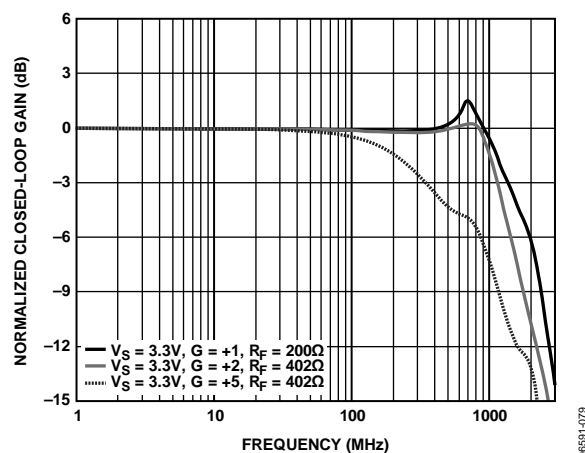$V_S = 3.3\ V$, $V_{OUT, dm} = 100\ mV\ p\text{-}p$

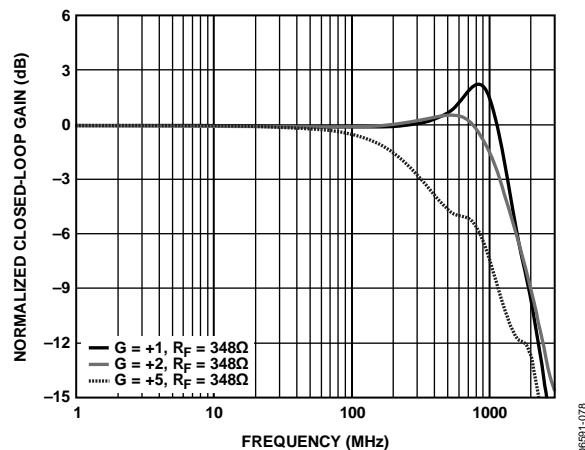Figure 17. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains, $V_S = 3.3\ V$

Figure 15. Small Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains,
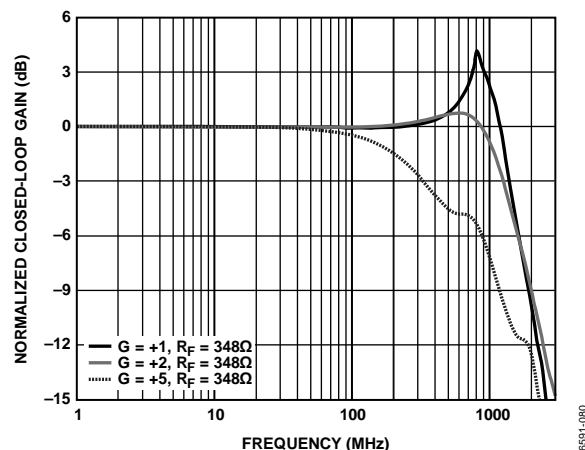$V_{OUT, dm} = 100\ mV\ p\text{-}p$, $R_F = 348\ \Omega$

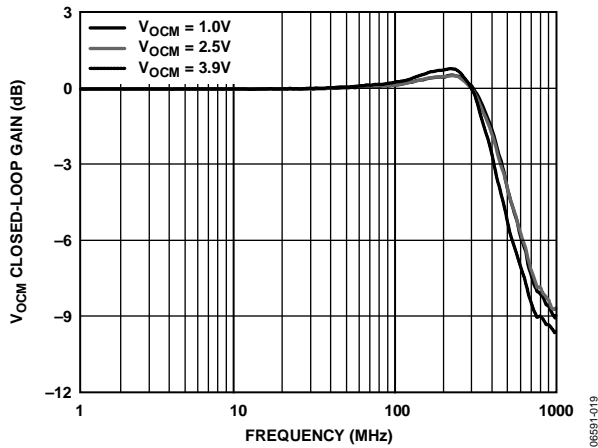Figure 18. Large Signal Frequency Response for Various Gains, $R_F = 348\ \Omega$

Figure 19. Small Signal Frequency Response
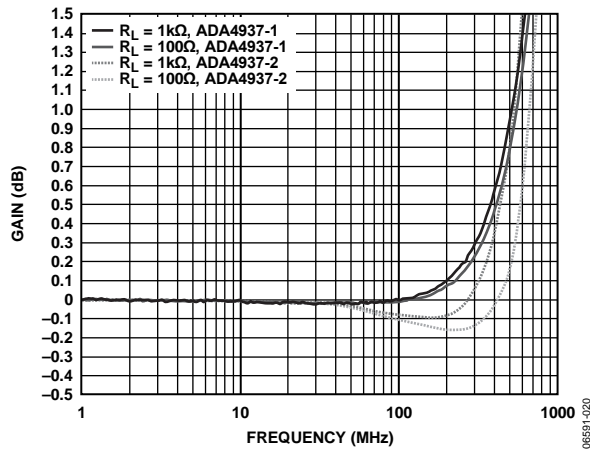for Various V_OCM

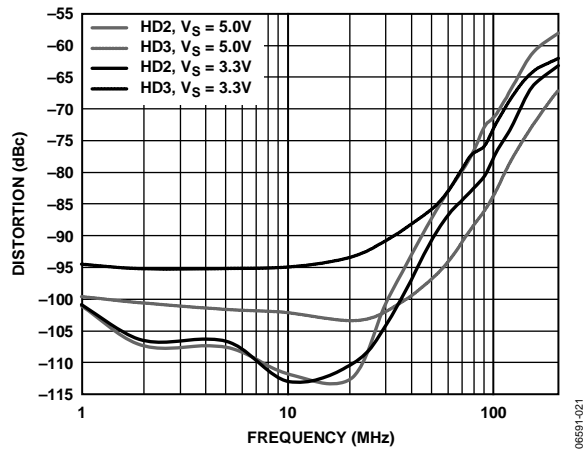Figure 20. 0.1 dB Flatness Response for Various Loads

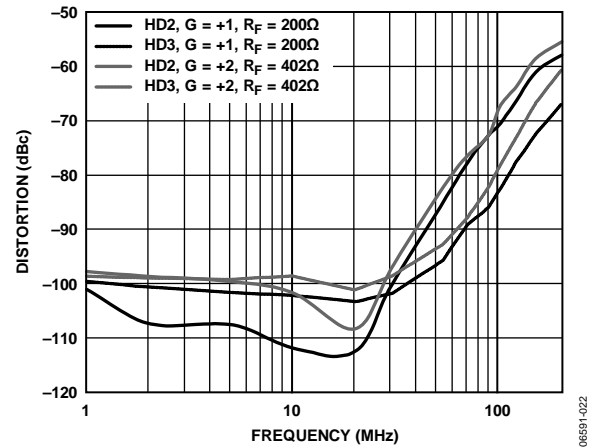Figure 21. Harmonic Distortion vs. Frequency and Supply Voltage

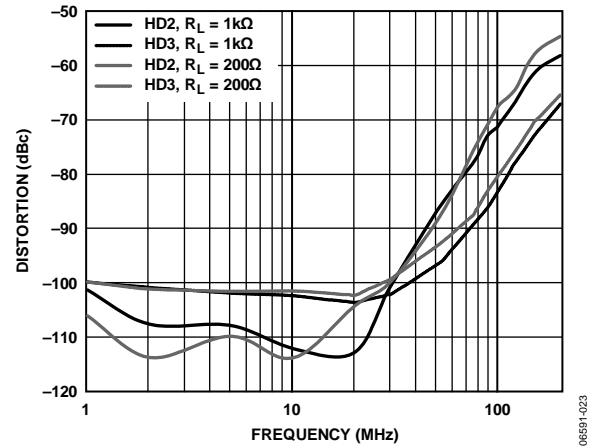Figure 22. Harmonic Distortion vs. Frequency and Gain

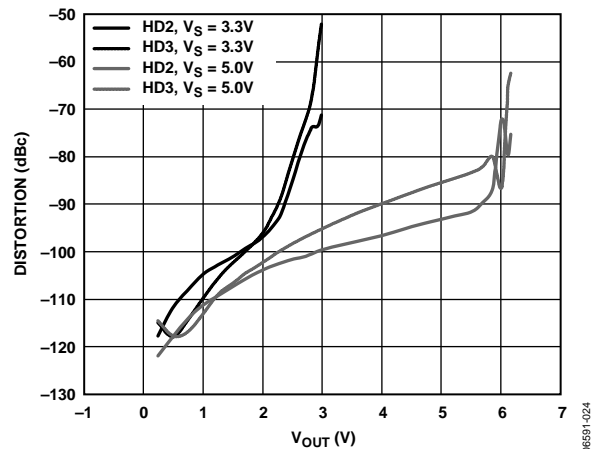Figure 23. Harmonic Distortion vs. Frequency and Load

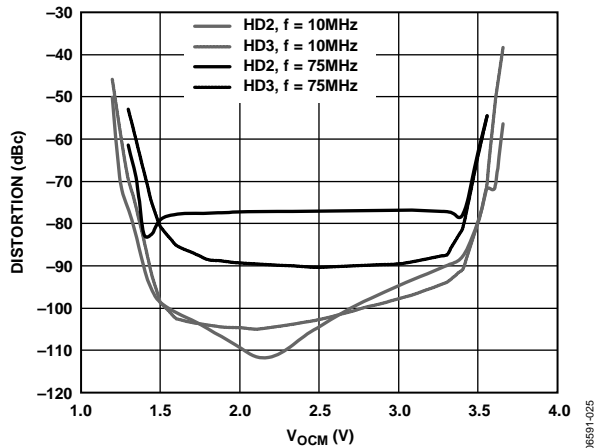Figure 24. Harmonic Distortion vs. V_OUT and Supply Voltage

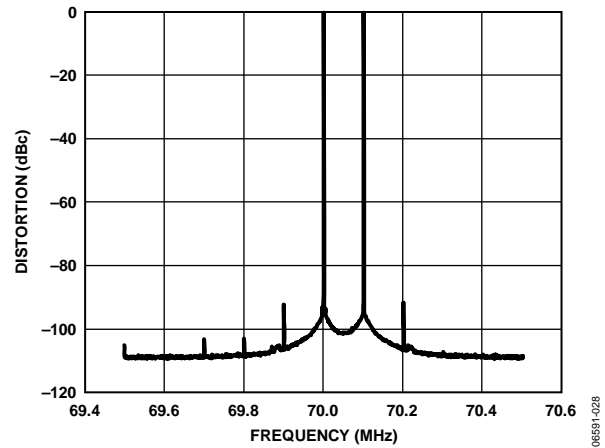Figure 25. Harmonic Distortion vs. V_OCM and Frequency

Figure 28. 70 MHz Intermodulation Distortion
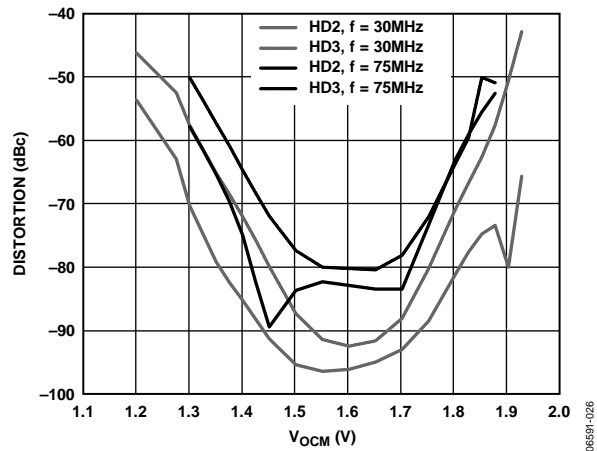

Figure 26. Harmonic Distortion vs. V_OCM and Frequency, V_S = 3.3 V
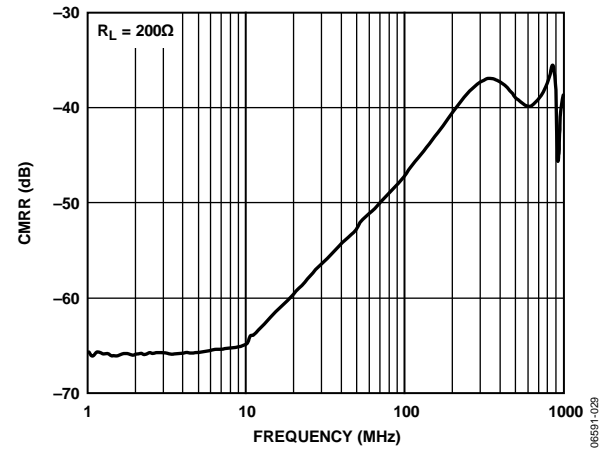
Figure 29. CMRR vs. Frequency
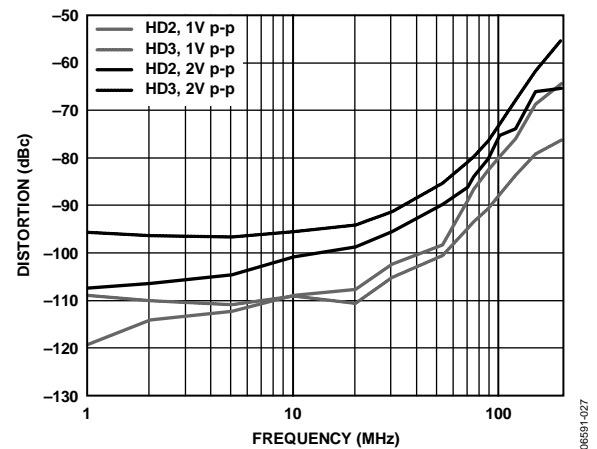
Figure 27. Harmonic Distortion vs. Frequency and V_OUT, V_S = 3.3 V
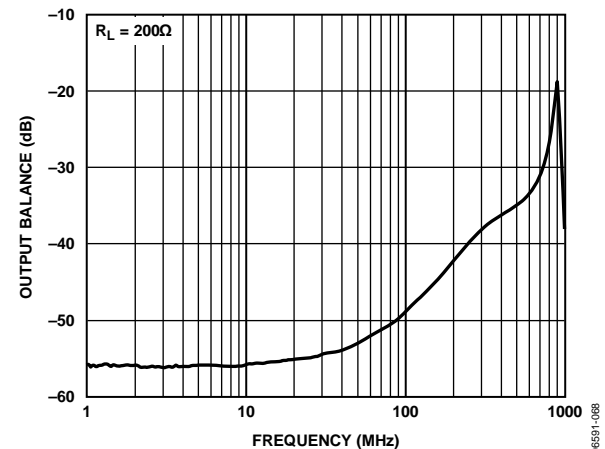
Figure 30. Output Balance vs. Frequency
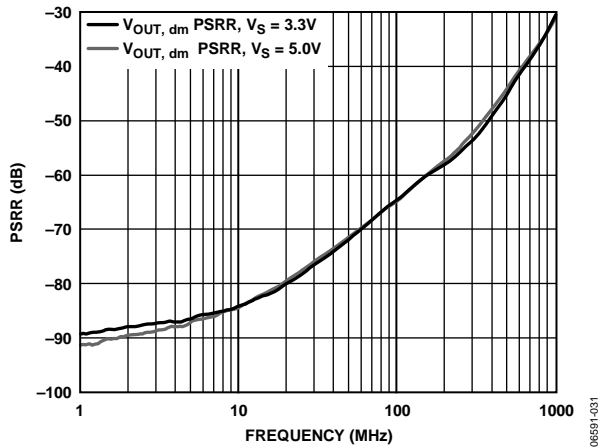
Figure 31. PSRR vs. Frequency, $R_L = 200\,\Omega$
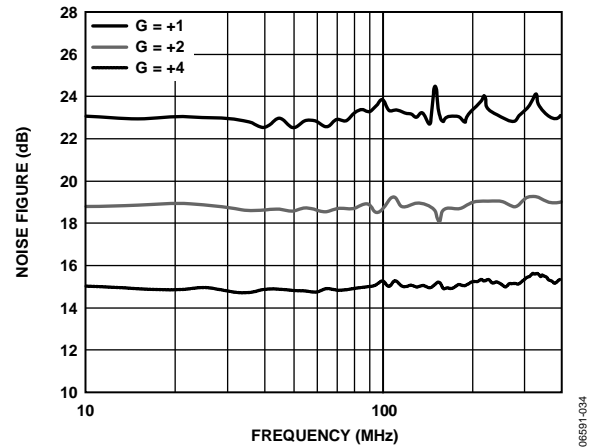
Figure 34. Noise Figure vs. Frequency
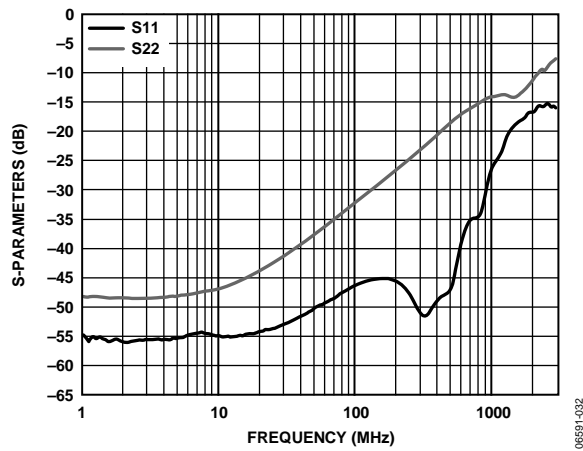
Figure 32. Return Loss (S11, S22) vs. Frequency
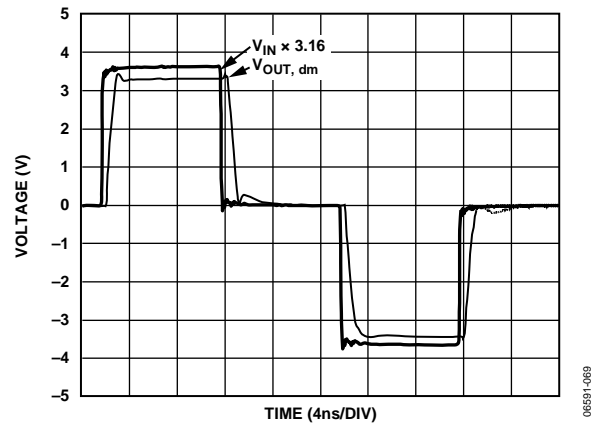
Figure 35. Overdrive Recovery Time (Pulse Input)
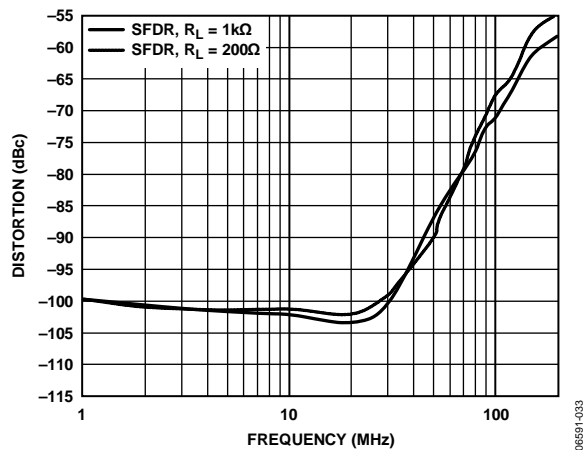
Figure 33. Spurious-Free Dynamic Range vs. Frequency and Load
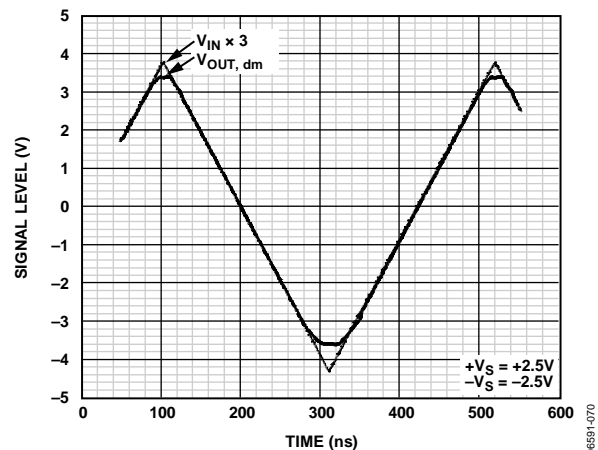
Figure 36. Overdrive Amplitude Characteristics (Triangle Wave Input)
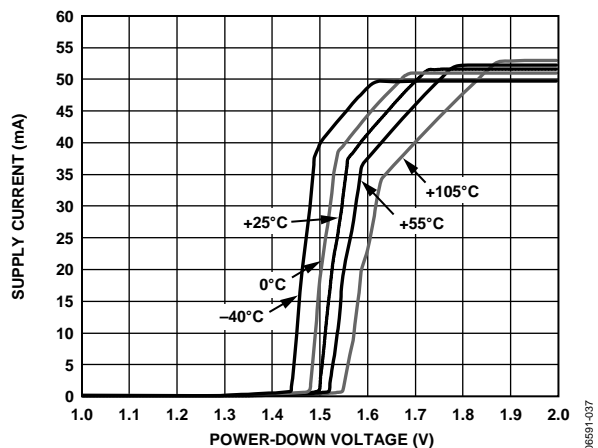
Figure 37. Supply Current vs. $\overline{PD}$ for Various Temperatures

Figure 38. Small Signal Pulse Response

Figure 39. Small Signal V_{OCM} Pulse Response

Figure 40. Supply Current vs. $\overline{PD}$ for Various Temperatures, $V_S = 3.3\ V$

Figure 41. Large Signal Pulse Response
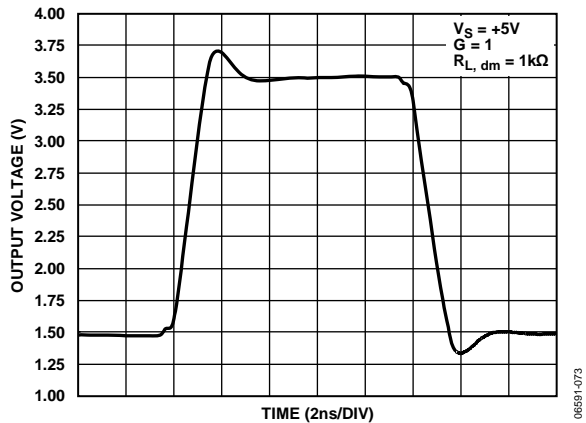
Figure 42. Large Signal V_{OCM} Pulse Response
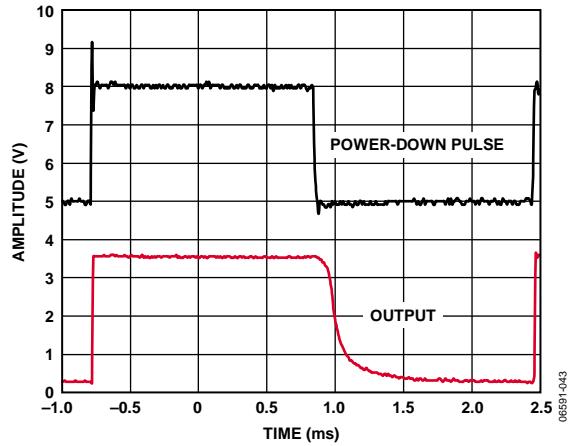
Figure 43. PD Response vs. Time
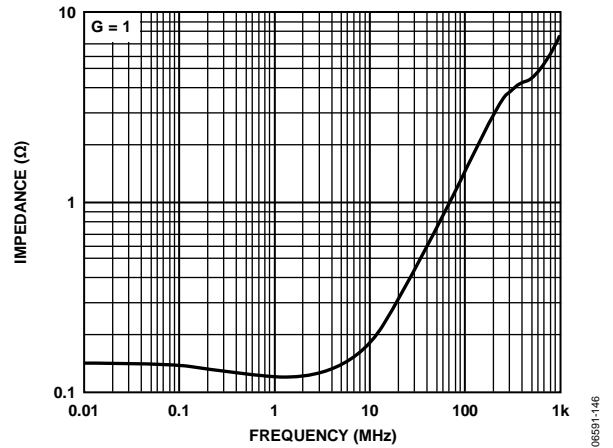
Figure 46. Closed-Loop Output Impedance
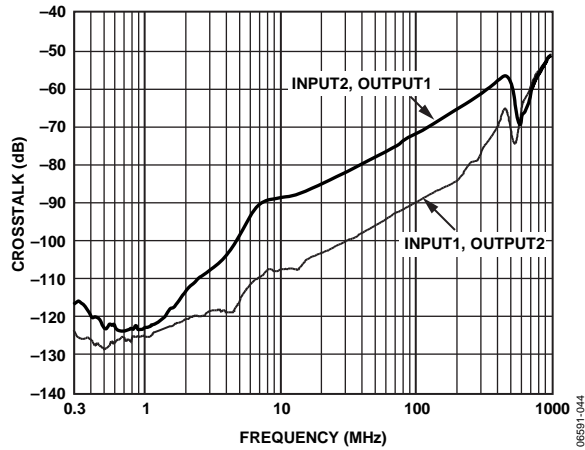
Figure 44. Crosstalk vs. Frequency for ADA4937-2
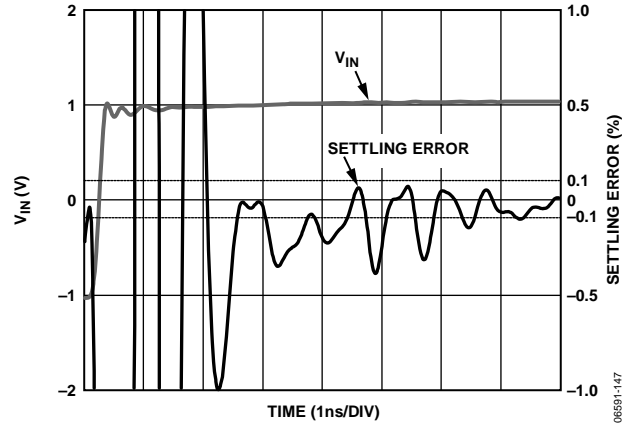
Figure 47. 0.1% Settling Time
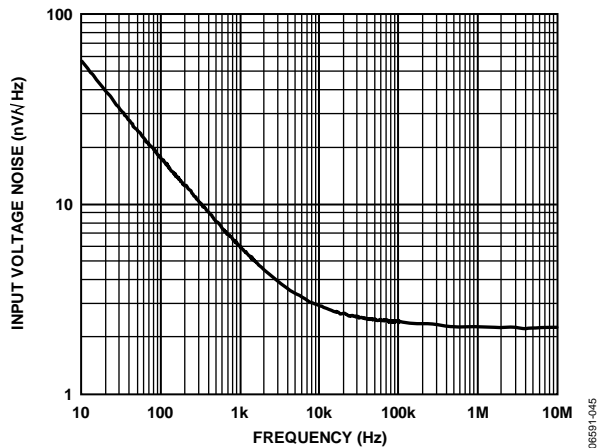
Figure 45. Voltage Spectral Noise Density, RTI
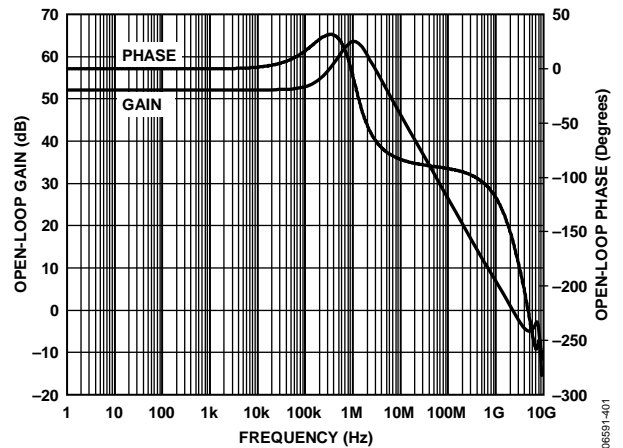
Figure 48. Open-Loop Gain and Phase vs. Frequency

TEST CIRCUITS
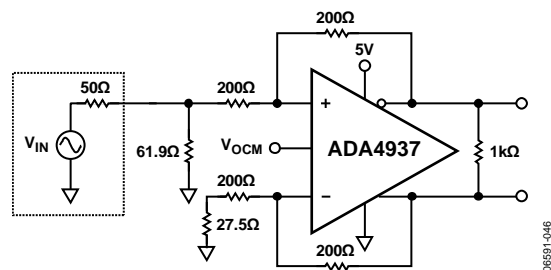
Figure 49. Equivalent Basic Test Circuit
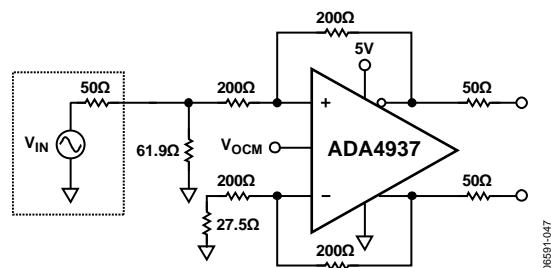
Figure 50. Test Circuit for Output Balance
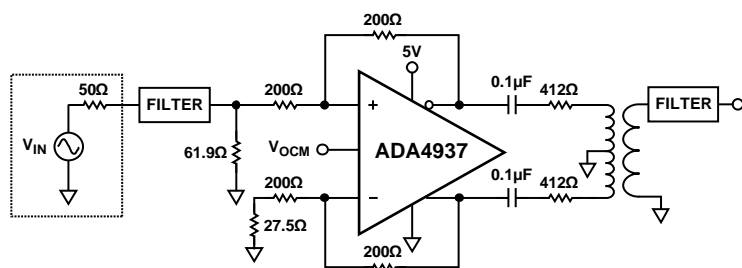
Figure 51. Test Circuit for Distortion Measurements

TERMINOLOGY
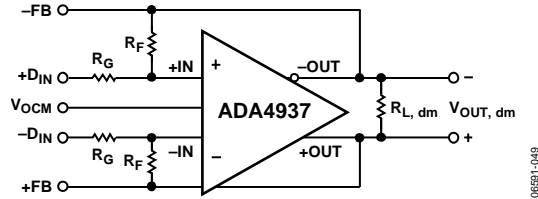
Figure 52. Circuit Definitions

Differential Voltage

Differential voltage refers to the difference between two node voltages. For example, the output differential voltage (or equivalently, output differential-mode voltage) is defined as

$$V_{OUT,\,dm} = (V_{+OUT} - V_{-OUT})$$

where V_{+OUT} and V_{-OUT} refer to the voltages at the +OUT and −OUT terminals with respect to a common reference.

Common-Mode Voltage

Common-mode voltage refers to the average of two node voltages. The output common-mode voltage is defined as

$$V_{OUT,\,cm} = (V_{+OUT} + V_{-OUT})/2$$

Output Balance

Output balance is a measure of how close the differential signals are to being equal in amplitude and opposite in phase. Output balance is most easily determined by placing a well-matched resistor divider between the differential voltage nodes and comparing the magnitude of the signal at the midpoint of the divider with the magnitude of the differential signal (see Figure 50). By this definition, output balance is the magnitude of the output common-mode voltage divided by the magnitude of the output differential mode voltage.

$$Output\ Balance\ Error = \left| \frac{V_{OUT,cm}}{V_{OUT,dm}} \right|$$

THEORY OF OPERATION

The ADA4937-x differs from conventional op amps in that it has two outputs whose voltages move in opposite directions. Like an op amp, it relies on open-loop gain and negative feedback to force these outputs to the desired voltages. The ADA4937-x behaves much like a standard voltage feedback op amp, which makes it easier to perform single-ended-to-differential conversions, common-mode level shifting, and amplifications of differential signals. Also like an op amp, the ADA4937-x has high input impedance and low output impedance.

Two feedback loops control the differential and common-mode output voltages. The differential feedback loop, set with external resistors, controls only the differential output voltage. The common-mode feedback loop controls only the common-mode output voltage. This architecture makes it easy to set the output common-mode level to any arbitrary value. It is forced, by internal common-mode feedback, to be equal to the voltage applied to the V_{OCM} input without affecting the differential output voltage.

The ADA4937-x architecture results in outputs that are highly balanced over a wide frequency range without requiring tightly matched external components. The common-mode feedback loop forces the signal component of the output common-mode voltage to zero. This results in nearly perfectly balanced differential outputs that are identical in amplitude and are exactly 180° apart in phase.

ANALYZING AN APPLICATION CIRCUIT

The ADA4937-x uses open-loop gain and negative feedback to force its differential and common-mode output voltages in such a way as to minimize the differential and common-mode error voltages. The differential error voltage is defined as the voltage between the differential inputs labeled +IN and −IN (see Figure 52). For most purposes, this voltage can be assumed to be zero. Similarly, the difference between the actual output common-mode voltage and the voltage applied to V_{OCM} can also be assumed to be zero. Starting from these two assumptions, any application circuit can be analyzed.

SETTING THE CLOSED-LOOP GAIN

The differential-mode gain of the circuit in Figure 52 can be determined by

$$\left| \frac{V_{OUT,dm}}{V_{IN,dm}} \right| = \frac{R_F}{R_G}$$

This assumes that the input resistors (R_G) and feedback resistors (R_F) on each side are equal.

ESTIMATING THE OUTPUT NOISE VOLTAGE

The differential output noise of the ADA4937-x can be estimated using the noise model in Figure 53. The input-referred noise voltage density, v_{nIN}, is modeled as a differential input, and the noise currents, i_{nIN-} and i_{nIN+}, appear between each input and ground. The noise currents are assumed to be equal and produce a voltage across the parallel combination of the gain and feedback resistances. $v_{n,cm}$ is the noise voltage density at the V_{OCM} pin. Each of the four resistors contributes $(4kTR_x)^{1/2}$.

Table 9 summarizes the input noise sources, the multiplication factors, and the output-referred noise density terms.
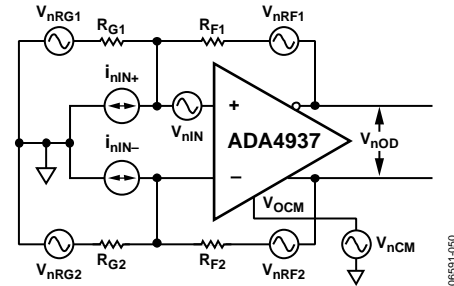
Figure 53. ADA4937-x Noise Model

Table 9. Output Noise Voltage Density Calculations

Input Noise Contribution	Input Noise Term	Input Noise Voltage Density	Output Multiplication Factor	Output Noise Voltage Density Term
Differential Input	v_{nIN}	v_{nIN}	G_N	$v_{nO1} = G_N(v_{nIN})$
Inverting Input	i_{nIN-}	$i_{nIN-} \times (R_{G2}\|\|R_{F2})$	G_N	$v_{nO2} = G_N[i_{nIN-} \times (R_{G2}\|\|R_{F2})]$
Noninverting Input	i_{nIN+}	$i_{nIN+} \times (R_{G1}\|\|R_{F1})$	G_N	$v_{nO3} = G_N[i_{nIN+} \times (R_{G1}\|\|R_{F1})]$
V_{OCM} Input	$v_{n,cm}$	$v_{n,cm}$	$G_N(\beta_1 - \beta_2)$	$v_{nO4} = G_N(\beta_1 - \beta_2)(v_{n,cm})$
Gain Resistor R_{G1}	v_{nRG1}	$(4kTR_{G1})^{1/2}$	$G_N(1 - \beta_1)$	$v_{nO5} = G_N(1 - \beta_1)(4kTR_{G1})^{1/2}$
Gain Resistor R_{G2}	v_{nRG2}	$(4kTR_{G2})^{1/2}$	$G_N(1 - \beta_2)$	$v_{nO6} = G_N(1 - \beta_2)(4kTR_{G2})^{1/2}$
Feedback Resistor R_{F1}	v_{nRF1}	$(4kTR_{F1})^{1/2}$	1	$v_{nO7} = (4kTR_{F1})^{1/2}$
Feedback Resistor R_{F2}	v_{nRF2}	$(4kTR_{F2})^{1/2}$	1	$v_{nO8} = (4kTR_{F2})^{1/2}$

Similar to the case of a conventional op amp, the output noise voltage densities can be estimated by multiplying the input-referred terms at +IN and −IN by the appropriate output factor, where:

$$G_N = \frac{2}{(\beta_1 + \beta_2)} \text{ is the circuit noise gain.}$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{R_{G1}}{R_{F1} + R_{G1}} \text{ and } \beta_2 = \frac{R_{G2}}{R_{F2} + R_{G2}} \text{ are the feedback factors.}$$

When $R_{F1}/R_{G1} = R_{F2}/R_{G2}$, then β1 = β2 = β, and the noise gain becomes

$$G_N = \frac{1}{\beta} = 1 + \frac{R_F}{R_G}$$

Note that the output noise from V_{OCM} goes to zero in this case. The total differential output noise density, v_{nOD}, is the root-sum-square of the individual output noise terms.

$$v_{nOD} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{8} v_{nOi}^2}$$

IMPACT OF MISMATCHES IN THE FEEDBACK NETWORKS

As previously mentioned in the Setting the Closed-Loop Gain section), even if the external feedback networks (R_F/R_G) are mismatched, the internal common-mode feedback loop still forces the outputs to remain balanced. The amplitudes of the signals at each output remain equal and 180° out of phase. The input-to-output differential mode gain varies proportionately to the feedback mismatch, but the output balance is unaffected.

As well as causing a noise contribution from V_{OCM}, ratio matching errors in the external resistors result in a degradation of the ability of the circuit to reject input common-mode signals, much the same as for a four-resistor difference amplifier made from a conventional op amp.

In addition, if the dc levels of the input and output common-mode voltages are different, matching errors result in a small differential-mode output offset voltage. When G = 1, with a ground referenced input signal and the output common-mode level set to 2.5 V, an output offset of as much as 25 mV (1% of the difference in common-mode levels) can result if 1% toler-ance resistors are used. Resistors of 1% tolerance result in a worst-case input CMRR of approximately 40 dB, a worst-case differential-mode output offset of 25 mV due to 2.5 V level shift, and no significant degradation in output balance error.

CALCULATING THE INPUT IMPEDANCE FOR AN APPLICATION CIRCUIT

The effective input impedance of a circuit depends on whether the amplifier is being driven by a single-ended or differential signal source. For balanced differential input signals, as shown in Figure 54, the input impedance ($R_{IN, dm}$) between the inputs (+D_{IN} and −D_{IN}) is simply $R_{IN, dm} = 2 \times R_G$.
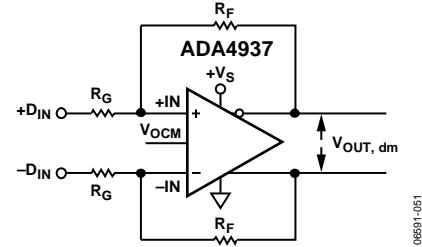
Figure 54. ADA4937-x Configured for Balanced (Differential) Inputs

For an unbalanced, single-ended input signal (see Figure 55), the input impedance is

$$R_{IN, cm} = \left(\frac{R_G}{1 - \dfrac{R_F}{2 \times (R_G + R_F)}} \right)$$
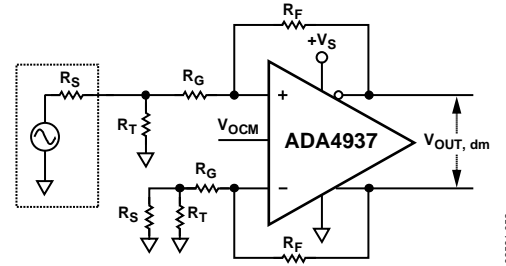
Figure 55. ADA4937-x Configured for Unbalanced (Single-Ended) Input

The input impedance of the circuit is effectively higher than it would be for a conventional op amp connected as an inverter because a fraction of the differential output voltage appears at the inputs as a common-mode signal, partially bootstrapping the voltage across the Input Gain Resistor R_G.

Terminating a Single-Ended Input

This section explains how to properly terminate a single-ended input to the ADA4937-x. Using a simple example with an input source of 2 V and a source resistor of 50 Ω, four simple steps must be followed.

1. The input impedance must be calculated using the formula

$$R_{IN} = \left(\frac{R_G}{1 - \dfrac{R_F}{2 \times (R_G + R_F)}} \right) = \left(\frac{200}{1 - \dfrac{200}{2 \times (200 + 200)}} \right) = 267 \text{ Ω}$$
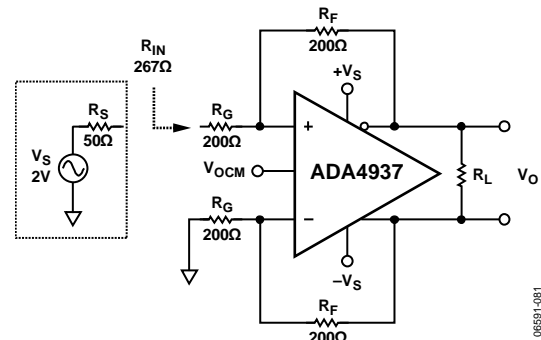
Figure 56. Single-Ended Input Impedance R_{IN}

2. For the source termination to be 50 Ω, the termination resistor (R_T) is calculated using $R_T||R_{IN} = 50\ \Omega$, which makes R_T equal to 61.9 Ω.

Figure 57. Adding Termination Resistor R_T

3. To compensate for the imbalance of the gain resistors, a correction resistor (R_{TS}) is added in series with the inverting Input Gain Resistor R_G. R_{TS} is equal to the Thevenin equivalent of the Source Resistance $R_S||R_T$.

Figure 58. Calculating Thevenin Equivalent

$R_{TS} = R_{TH} = R_S||R_T = 27.4\ \Omega$. Note that V_{TH} is not equal to $V_S/2$, which would be the case if the termination were not affected by the amplifier circuit.

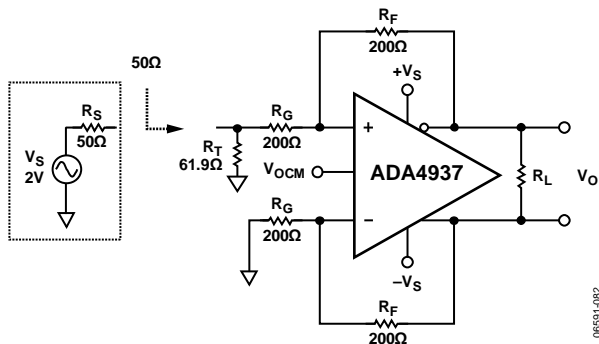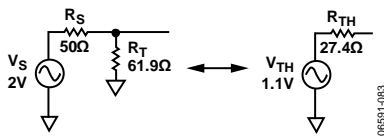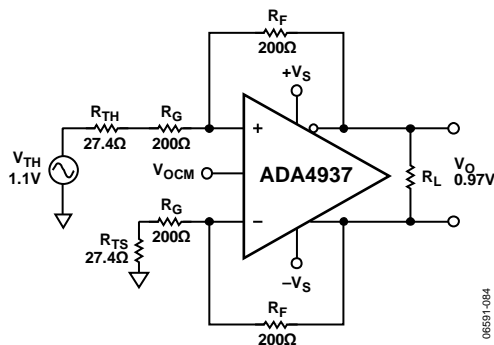*Figure 59. Balancing Gain Resistor R_G*

4. The feedback resistor is calculated to adjust the output voltage.

   a. To make the output voltage $V_{OUT} = 1$ V, R_F must be calculated using the following formula:

   $$R_F = \left(\frac{V_{OUT} \times (R_G + R_{TS})}{V_{TH}} \right) = \left(\frac{1 \times (200 + 27.4)}{1.1} \right) = 207\ \Omega$$

   b. To make $V_O = V_S = 2$ V to recover the loss due to the input termination, R_F should be

   $$R_F = \left(\frac{V_{OUT} \times (R_G + R_{TS})}{V_{TH}} \right) = \left(\frac{2 \times (200 + 27.4)}{1.1} \right) = 414\ \Omega$$
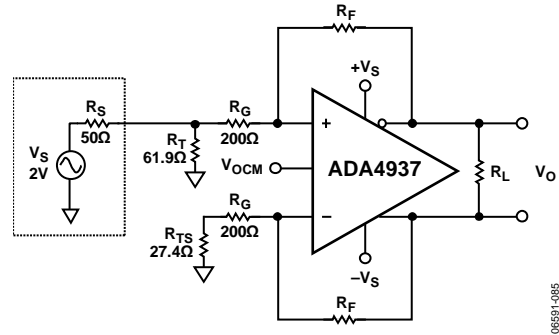
Figure 60. Complete Single-Ended-to-Differential System

INPUT COMMON-MODE VOLTAGE RANGE IN SINGLE-SUPPLY APPLICATIONS

The ADA4937-x is optimized for level-shifting ground-referenced input signals. As such, the center of the input common-mode range is shifted approximately 1 V down from midsupply. For 5 V single-supply operation, the input common-mode range at the summing nodes of the amplifier is 0.3 V to 3.0 V, and 0.3 V to 1.2 V with a 3.3 V supply. To avoid clipping at the outputs, the voltage swing at the +IN and −IN terminals must be confined to these ranges.

SETTING THE OUTPUT COMMON-MODE VOLTAGE

The V_{OCM} pin of the ADA4937-x is internally biased at a voltage approximately equal to the midsupply point, $[(+V_S) + (−V_S)]/2$. Relying on this internal bias results in an output common-mode voltage that is within about 100 mV of the expected value.

In cases where more accurate control of the output common-mode level is required, it is recommended that an external source, or resistor divider (10 kΩ or greater resistors), be used. The output common-mode offset listed in Table 2 and Table 4 assumes that the V_{OCM} input is driven by a low impedance voltage source.

It is also possible to connect the V_{OCM} input to a common-mode level (CML) output of an ADC. However, care must be taken to ensure that the output has sufficient drive capability. The input impedance of the V_{OCM} pin is approximately 10 kΩ. If multiple ADA4937-x devices share one reference output, it is recommended that a buffer be used.

Table 10 and Table 11 list several common gain settings, associated resistor values, input impedances, and output noise density values for both balanced and unbalanced input configurations.

POWER-DOWN OPERATION

The ADA4937-x power-down pin features an internal 25 kΩ pull-up resistor to the positive supply (+V_S). This ensures that, with the power-down pin left unconnected (floating), the ADA4937-x turns on. Applying a voltage of ≤1 V turns the ADA4937-x off.

Table 10. Differential Ground-Referenced Input, DC-Coupled, 1 kΩ Load; See Figure 54

Nominal Gain (dB)	R_F (Ω)	R_G (Ω)	$R_{IN, dm}$ (Ω)	Differential Output Noise Density (nV/√Hz)
0	200	200	400	5.8
6	402	200	400	9.6
10	402	127	254	12.1
14	402	80.6	161	16.2

Table 11. Single-Ended Ground-Referenced Input, DC-Coupled, R_S = 50 Ω, R_L = 1 kΩ; See Figure 55

Nominal Gain (dB)	R_F (Ω)	R_{G1} (Ω)	R_T (Ω)	$R_{IN, cm}$ (Ω)	R_{G2} (Ω)[1]	Differential Output Noise Density (nV/√Hz)
0	200	200	61.9	267	226	5.5
6	402	200	60.4	301	228	8.6
10	402	127	66.5	205	155	10.1
14	402	80.6	76.8	138	111	12.2

[1] $R_{G2} = R_{G1} + (R_S || R_T)$

LAYOUT, GROUNDING, AND BYPASSING

As a high speed device, the ADA4937-x is sensitive to the PCB environment in which it operates. Realizing its superior performance requires attention to the details of high speed PCB design. This section shows a detailed example of how the design issues of the ADA4937-1 were addressed.

The first requirement is a solid ground plane that covers as much of the board area around the ADA4937-1 as possible. However, the area near the feedback resistors (R_F), input gain resistors (R_G), and the input summing nodes (Pin 2 and Pin 3) should be cleared of all ground and power planes (see Figure 61). Clearing the ground and power planes minimizes any stray capacitance at these nodes and prevents peaking of the response of the amplifier at high frequencies.

The thermal resistance, θ_{JA}, is specified for the device, including the exposed pad, soldered to a high thermal conductivity 4-layer circuit board, as described in EIA/JESD 51-7.
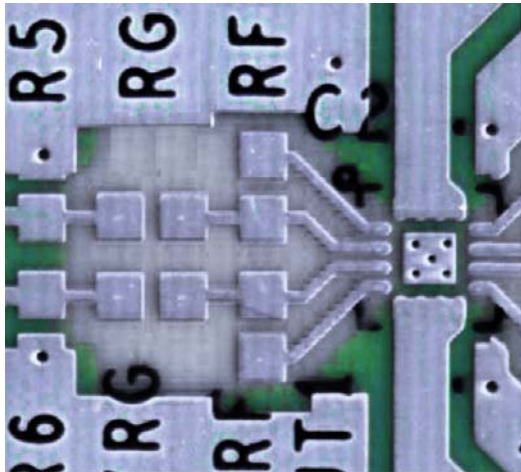
Figure 61. Ground and Power Plane Voiding in Vicinity of R_F and R_G

Bypass the power supply pins as close to the device as possible and directly to a nearby ground plane. Use high frequency ceramic chip capacitors. It is recommended that two parallel bypass capacitors (1000 pF and 0.1 μF) be used for each supply with the 1000 pF capacitor placed closer to the device; further away, provide low frequency bypassing using 10 μF tantalum capacitors from each supply to ground.

Signal routing should be short and direct to avoid parasitic effects. Wherever complementary signals exist, provide a symmetrical layout to maximize balanced performance. When routing differential signals over a long distance, keep PCB traces close together and twist any differential wiring to minimize loop area. Doing this reduces radiated energy and makes the circuit less susceptible to interference.

Figure 62. Recommended PCB Thermal Attach Pad Dimensions (mm)

Figure 63. Cross-Section of 4-layer PCB Showing Thermal Via Connection to Buried Ground Plane (Dimensions in mm)

HIGH PERFORMANCE ADC DRIVING

The ADA4937-x is ideally suited for broadband IF applications. The circuit in Figure 64 shows a front-end connection for an ADA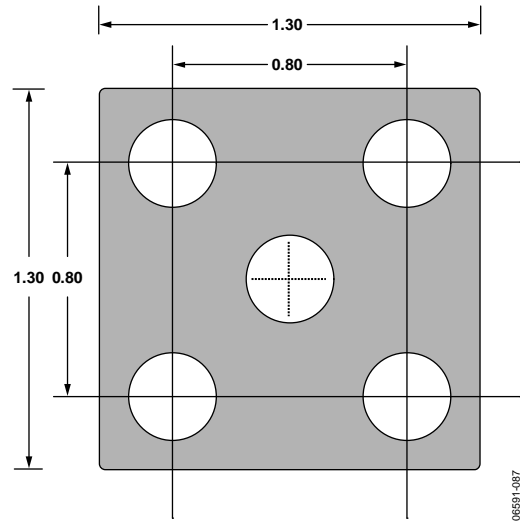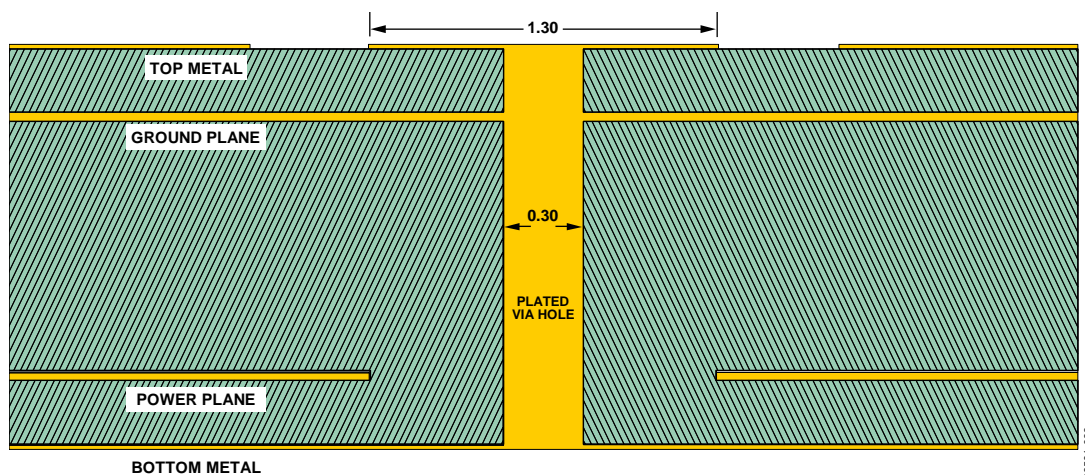4937-1 driving an AD9445, 14-bit, 105 MSPS ADC. The AD9445 achieves its optimum performance when driven differentially. The ADA4937-x eliminates the need for a transformer to drive the ADC and performs a single-ended-to-differential conversion and buffering of the driving signal.

The ADA4937-x is configured with a single 5 V supply and unity gain for a single-ended input to differential output. The 61.9 Ω termination resistor, in parallel with the single-ended input impedance of 267 Ω, provides a 50 Ω termination for the source. The additional 26 Ω (226 Ω total) at the inverting input balances the parallel impedance of the 50 Ω source and the termination resistor driving the noninverting input.

The signal generator has a symmetric, ground-referenced bipolar output. The V_{OCM} pin of the ADA4937-x remains unconnected allowing the internal divider to set the output common-mode voltage at midsupply; one half of the common-mode voltage is fed back to the summing nodes, biasing −IN and +IN at 1.25 V. For a common-mode voltage of 2.5 V, each ADA4937-x output swings between 2.0 V and 3.0 V, providing a 2 V p-p differential output.

The output of the amplifier is ac-coupled to the ADC through a second-order, low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of 100 MHz. This reduces the noise bandwidth of the amplifier and isolates the driver outputs from the ADC inputs.

The AD9445 is configured for a 2 V p-p full-scale input by connecting the SENSE pin to AGND, as shown in Figure 64.
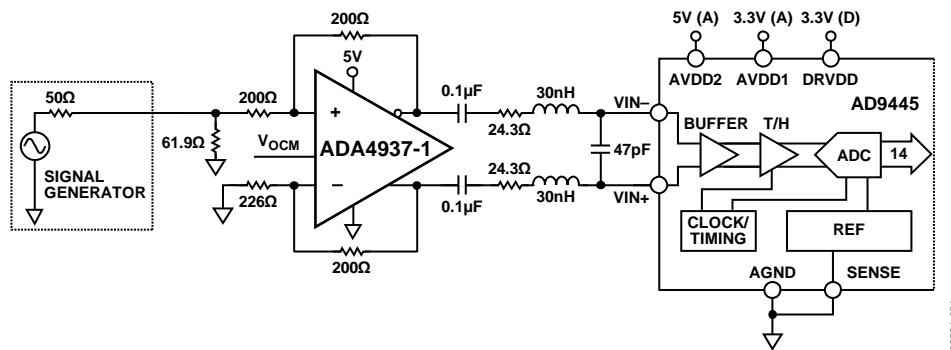

Figure 64. Driving an AD9445, 14-Bit, 105 MSPS ADC

The circuit in Figure 66 shows a simplified front-end connection for an ADA4937-1 driving an AD9246, 14-bit, 125 MSPS ADC. The AD9246 achieves its optimum performance when driven differentially. The ADA4937-x performs the single-ended-to-differential conversion, eliminating the need for a transformer to drive the ADC.

The ADA4937-x is configured with a single 5 V supply and a gain of ~2 V/V for a single-ended input to differential output. The 76.8 Ω termination resistor, in parallel with the single-ended input impedance of 137 Ω, provides a 50 Ω ac termination for the source. The additional 30 Ω (120 Ω total) at the inverting input balances the parallel ac impedance of the 50 Ω source and the termination resistor driving the noninverting input.

The signal generator has a symmetric, ground-referenced bipolar output. The V_{OCM} pin of the ADA4937-x remains unconnected; therefore, the internal pull-ups set the output common-mode voltage to midsupply. A portion of this is fed back to the summing nodes, biasing −IN and +IN at 0.55 V. For a common-mode voltage of 2.5 V, each ADA4937-x output swings between 2.0 V and 3.0 V, providing a 2 V p-p differential output.

The output is ac-coupled to a single-pole, low-pass filter. This reduces the noise bandwidth of the amplifier and provides some level of isolation from the switched capacitor inputs of the ADC.

The AD9246 is set for a 2 V p-p full-scale input by connecting the SENSE pin to AGND. The inputs of the AD9246 are biased at 1 V by connecting the CML output, as shown in Figure 66.

The circuit was tested with a −1 dBFS signal at various frequencies Figure 65 shows a plot of the second- and third-order harmonic distortion (HD2/HD3) vs. frequency.
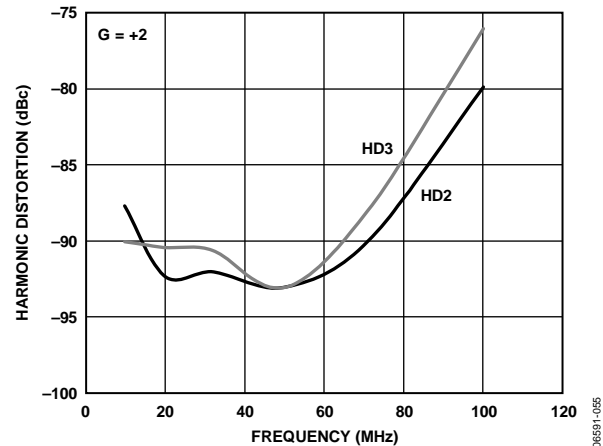

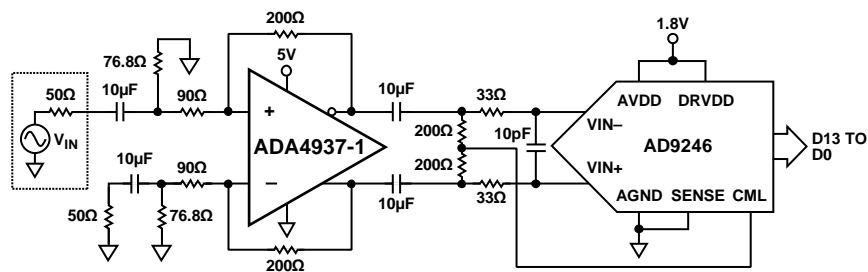Figure 65. HD2/HD3 for Combination of ADA4937-x and AD9246 ADC

Figure 66. Driving an AD9246, 14-Bit, 125 MSPS ADC

3.3 V OPERATION

The ADA4937-x provides excellent performance in 3.3 V single-supply applications. Significant power savings can be realized when the ADA4937-x is used in combination with a low voltage ADC.

The circuit in Figure 67 is an example of the ADA4937-1 driving an AD9230, 12-bit, 250 MSPS ADC that is specified to operate with a single 1.8 V supply. The performance of the ADC is optimized when it is driven differentially, making the best use of the signal swing available within the 1.8 V supply. The ADA4937-x performs the single-ended-to-differential conversion, common-mode level-shifting, and buffering of the driving signal.

The ADA4937-x is configured with a single 3.3 V supply and a gain of 2 V/V for a single-ended input to differential output. The

59 Ω termination resistor, in parallel with the single-ended input impedance of 306 Ω, provides a 50 Ω termination for the source. The additional 26 Ω (226 Ω total) at the inverting input balances the parallel impedance of the 50 Ω source and the termination resistor that drives the noninverting input. The signal generator has a symmetric, ground-referenced bipolar output. The V_{OCM} pin is connected to the CML output of the AD9230, and sets the output common mode of the ADA4937-x at 1.4 V. One third of the output common-mode voltage of the amplifier is fed back to the summing nodes, biasing −IN and +IN at ~0.5 V. For a common-mode voltage of 1.4 V, each ADA4937-x output swings between 1.09 V and 1.71 V, providing a 1.25 V p-p differential output.

A third-order, 125 MHz, low-pass filter between the ADA4937-x and the AD9230 reduces the noise bandwidth of the amplifier and isolates the driver outputs from the ADC inputs.
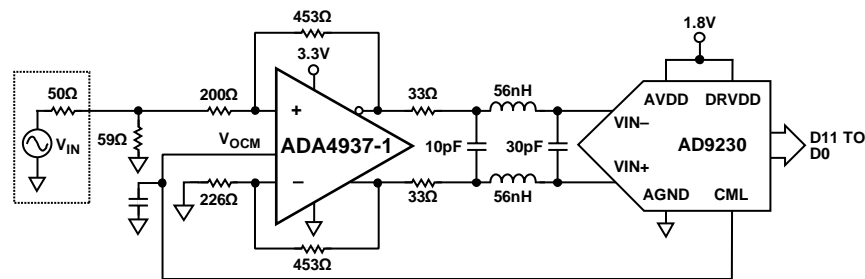

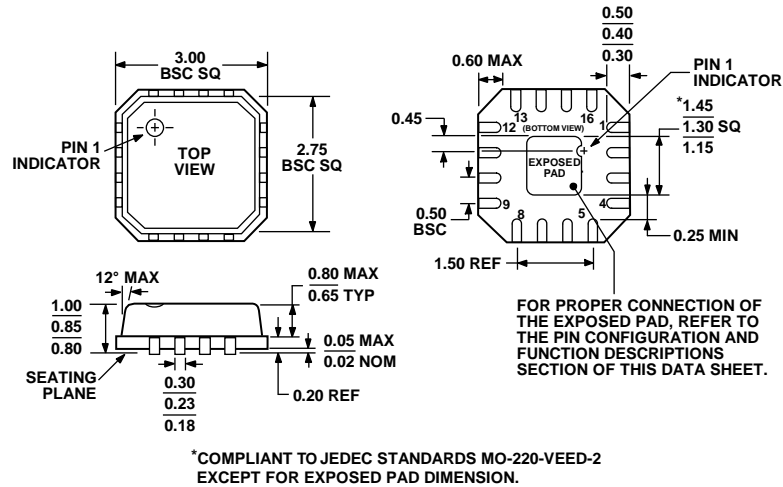Figure 67. Driving an AD9230, 12-Bit, 250 MSPS ADC

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

*COMPLIANT TO JEDEC STANDARDS MO-220-VEED-2
EXCEPT FOR EXPOSED PAD DIMENSION.

072208-A

*Figure 68. 16-Lead Lead Frame Chip Scale Package [LFCSP_VQ]
3 mm × 3 mm Body, Very Thin Quad
(CP-16-2)
Dimensions shown in millimeters*

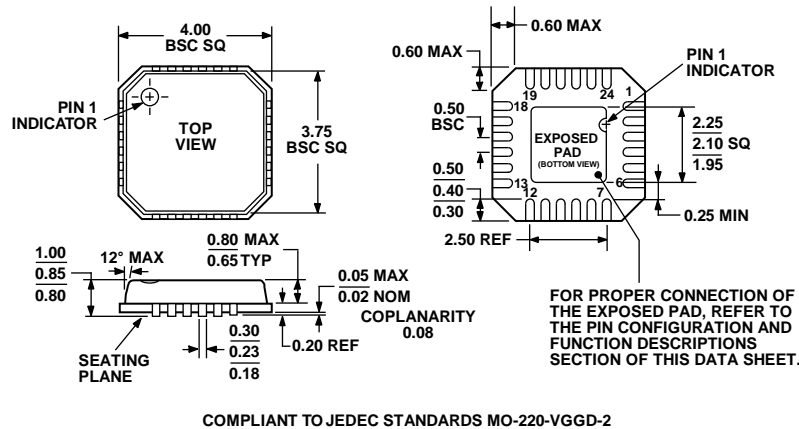COMPLIANT TO JEDEC STANDARDS MO-220-VGGD-2

072208-A

*Figure 69. 24-Lead Lead Frame Chip Scale Package [LFCSP_VQ]
4 mm × 4 mm Body, Very Thin Quad
(CP-24-1)
Dimensions shown in millimeters*

ORDERING GUIDE

Model[1]	Temperature Range	Package Description	Package Option	Ordering Quantity	Branding
ADA4937-1YCPZ-R2	−40°C to +105°C	16-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-16-2	250	H1S
ADA4937-1YCPZ-RL	−40°C to +105°C	16-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-16-2	5,000	H1S
ADA4937-1YCPZ-R7	−40°C to +105°C	16-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-16-2	1,500	H1S
ADA4937-2YCPZ-R2	−40°C to +105°C	24-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-24-1	250	
ADA4937-2YCPZ-RL	−40°C to +105°C	24-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-24-1	5,000	
ADA4937-2YCPZ-R7	−40°C to +105°C	24-Lead LFCSP_VQ	CP-24-1	1,500	

[1] Z = RoHS Compliant Part.

NOTES

NOTES

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