AM Section

The AM modulator transfer function in Figure 3 shows that the video input can be of either polarity (and can be applied at either input). When the voltages on Pin 1 and Pin 11 are equal, the RF output is theoretically zero. As the difference between $V_{Pin\ 11}$ and $V_{Pin\ 1}$ increases, the RF output increases linearly until all of the current from both I_1 current sources (Q8 and Q9) is flowing in one side of the modulator. This occurs when $\pm(V_{Pin11} - V_{Pin1}) = I_1 R_G$, where I_1 is typically 1.15 mA. The peak–to–peak RF output is the $2I_1 R_L$. Usually the value of R_L is chosen to be 75 Ω to ease the design of the output filter and match into TV distribution systems. The theoretical range of input voltage and R_G is quite wide, but noise and available sound level limit the useful video (sync tip) amplitude to between 0.25 Vpk and 1.0 Vpk. It is recommended that the value of R_G be chosen so that only about half of the dynamic range will be used at sync tip level.

The operating window of Figure 5 shows a cross–hatched area where Pin 1 and Pin 11 voltages must always be in order to avoid saturation in any part of the modulator. The letter ϕ represents one diode drop, or about 0.75 V. The oscillator Pins 6 and 7 must be biased to a level of $V_{CC} - \phi - 2I_1 R_L$ (or lower) and the input Pins 1 and 11 must always be at least 2ϕ below that. It is permissible to operate down to 1.6 V, saturating the current sources, but whenever possible, the minimum should be 3ϕ above ground.

The oscillator will operate dependably up to about 105 MHz with a broad range of tank circuit component values. It is desirable to use a small L and a large C to minimize the dependence on IC internal capacitance. An operating Q between 10 and 20 is recommended. The values of R_1, R_2 and R_3 are chosen to produce the desired Q and to set the Pin 6 and 7 dc voltage as discussed above. Unbalanced operation, i.e., Pin 6 or 7 bypassed to ground, is not recommended. Although the oscillator will still run, and the modulator will produce a useable signal, this mode causes substantial base–band video feedthrough. Bandswitching, as Figure 1 shows, can still be accomplished economically without using the unbalanced method.

The oscillator frequency with respect to temperature in the test circuit shows less than ±20 kHz total shift from 0° to 50°C as shown in Figure 7. At higher temperatures the slope approaches 2.0 kHz/°C. Improvement in this region would require a temperature compensating tuning capacitor of the N75 family.

Crystal control is feasible using the circuit shown in Figure 21. The crystal is a 3rd overtone series type, used in series resonance. The L1, C2 resonance is adjusted well below the crystal frequency and is sufficiently tolerant to permit fixed values. A frequency shift versus temperature of less than 1.0 Hz/°C can be expected from this approach. The resistors Ra and Rb are to suppress parasitic resonances.

Coupling of output RF to wiring and components on Pins 1 and 11 can cause as much as 300 kHz shift in carrier (at 67 MHz) over the video input range. A careful layout can keep this shift below 10 kHz. Oscillator may also be inadvertently coupled to the RF output, with the undesired effect of preventing a good null when $V_{11} = V_1$. Reasonable care will yield carrier rejection ratios of 36 to 40 dB below sync tip level carrier.

In television, one of the most serious concerns is the prevention of the intermodulation of color (3.58 MHz) and sound (4.5 MHz) frequencies, which causes a 920 kHz signal to appear in the spectrum. Very little (3rd order) nonlinearity is needed to cause this problem. The results in Figure 6 are unsatisfactory, and demonstrate that too much of the available dynamic range of the MC1374 has been used. Figures 8 and 10 show that by either reducing standard signal level, or reducing gain, acceptable results may be obtained.

At VHF frequencies, small imbalances within the device introduce substantial amounts of 2nd harmonic in the RF output. At 67 MHz, the 2nd harmonic is only 6 to 8 dB below the maximum fundamental. For this reason, a double pi low pass filter is shown in the test circuit of Figure 3 and works well for Channel 3 and 4 lab work. For a fully commercial application, a vestigial sideband filter will be required. The general form and approximate values are shown in Figure 19. It must be exactly aligned to the particular channel.

Figure 3. AM Modulator Transfer Function

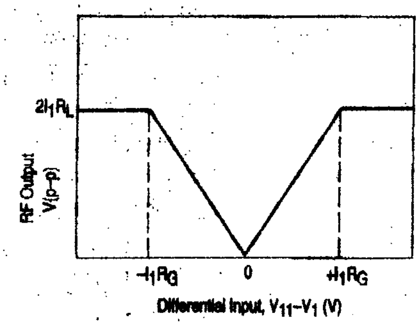

Figure 4. AM Test Circuit