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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FREQUENCY
 UP-CONVERSION WITH MODULATION
 EMBODIMENTS**

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(75) Inventors: **David F. Sorrells**, Middleburg, FL (US); **Michael J. Bultman**, Jacksonville, FL (US); **Robert W. Cook**, Switzerland, FL (US); **Richard C. Looke**, Jacksonville, FL (US); **Charley D. Moses, Jr.**, Jacksonville, FL (US)

(73) Assignee: **ParkerVision, Inc.**, Jacksonville, FL (US)

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See application file for complete search history.

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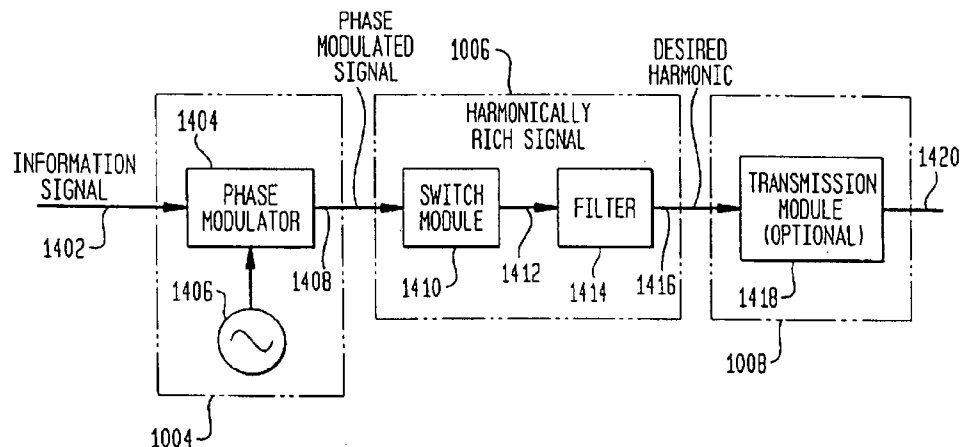
Primary Examiner—Charles N. Appiah

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system is described wherein an information signals is gated at a frequency that is a sub-harmonic of the frequency of the desired output signal. In the modulation embodiments, the information signal is modulated as part of the up-conversion process. In a first modulation embodiment, one information signal is phase modulated onto the carrier signal as part of the up-conversion process. In a second modulation embodiment, two information signals are multiplied, and, as part of the up-conversion process, one signal is phase modulated onto the carrier and the other signal is amplitude modulated onto the carrier. In a third modulation embodiment, one information signal is phase modulated onto the "I" phase of the carrier signal as part of the up-conversion process and a second information signal is phase modulated onto the "Q" phase of the carrier as part of the up-conversion process. In a fourth modulation embodiment, four information signals are phase and amplitude modulated onto the "I" and "Q" phases of the carrier as part of the up-conversion process. There are at least two implementations of each of the aforementioned embodiments.

131 Claims, 89 Drawing Sheets



US 7,039,372 B1

Page 2

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FIG. 1
(RELATED ART)

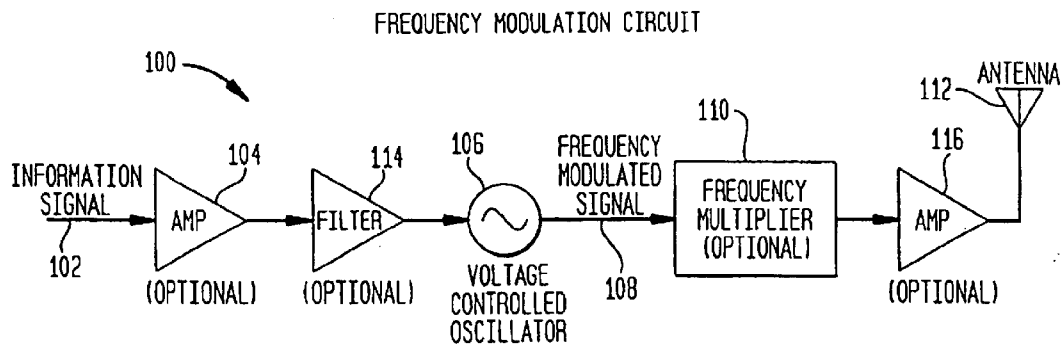


FIG. 2A
(RELATED ART)

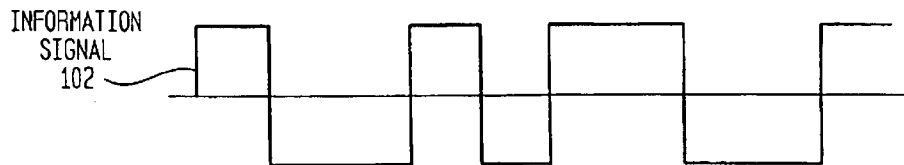


FIG. 2B
(RELATED ART)

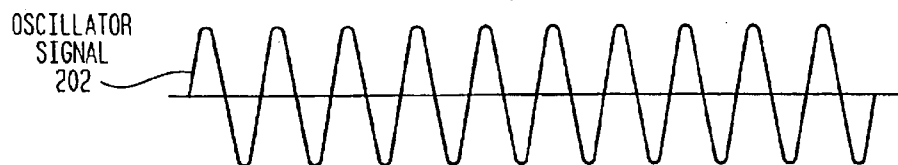


FIG. 2C
(RELATED ART)

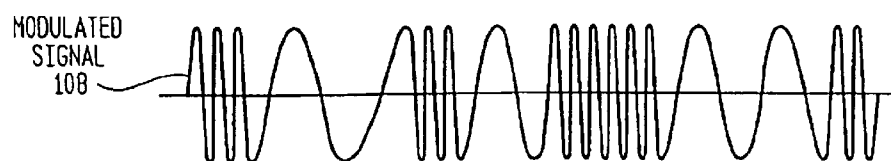


FIG. 3
(RELATED ART)

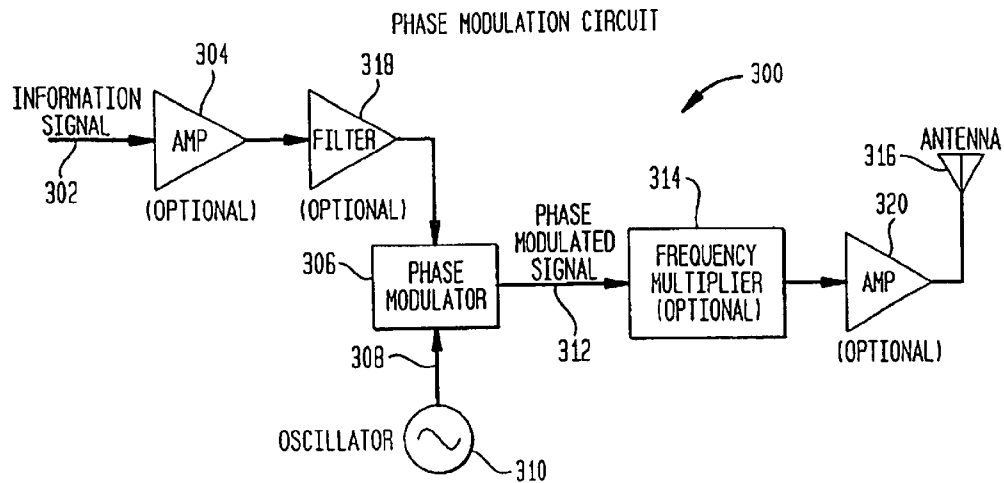


FIG. 4A
(RELATED ART)

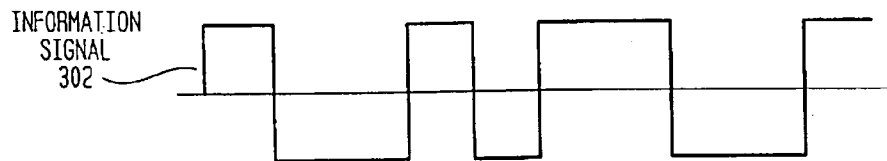


FIG. 4B
(RELATED ART)

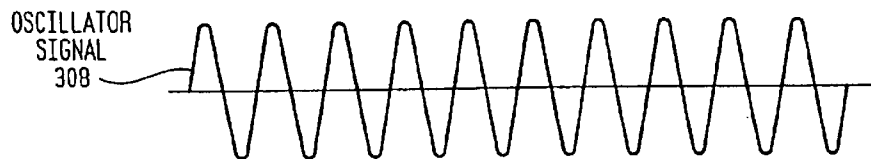


FIG. 4C
(RELATED ART)

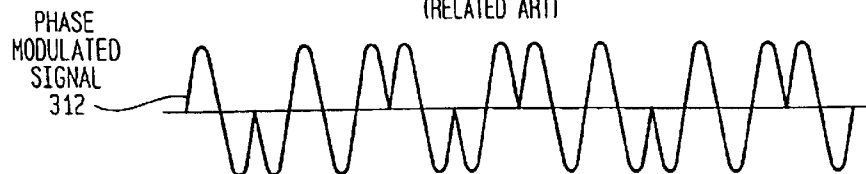


FIG. 5
(RELATED ART)

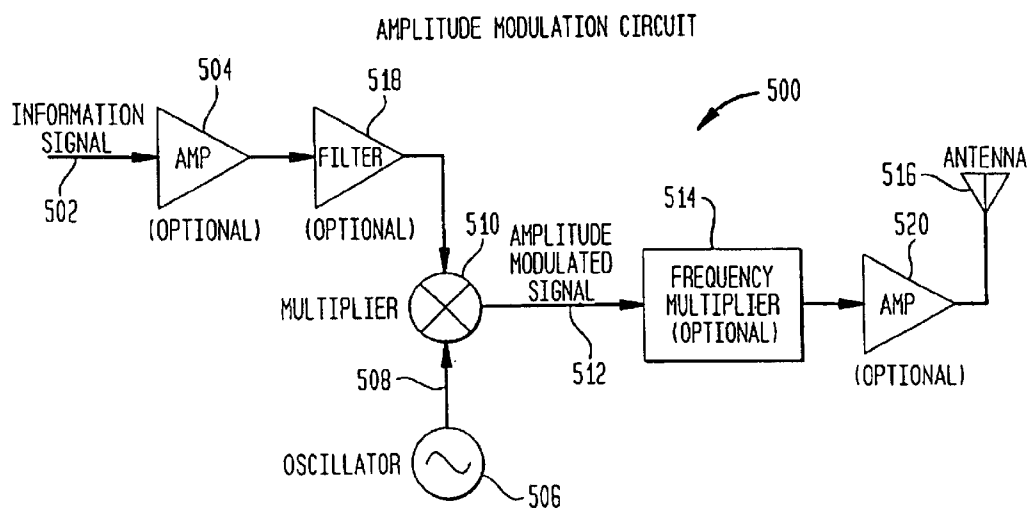


FIG. 6A
(RELATED ART)

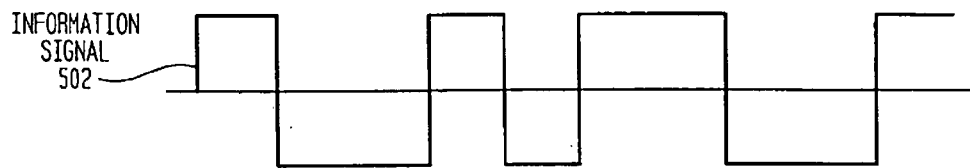


FIG. 6B
(RELATED ART)

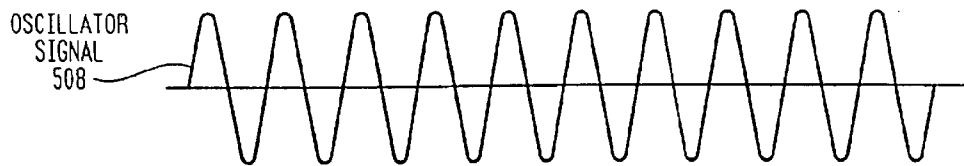


FIG. 6C
(RELATED ART)

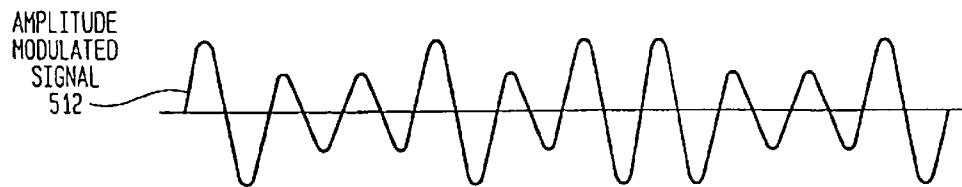
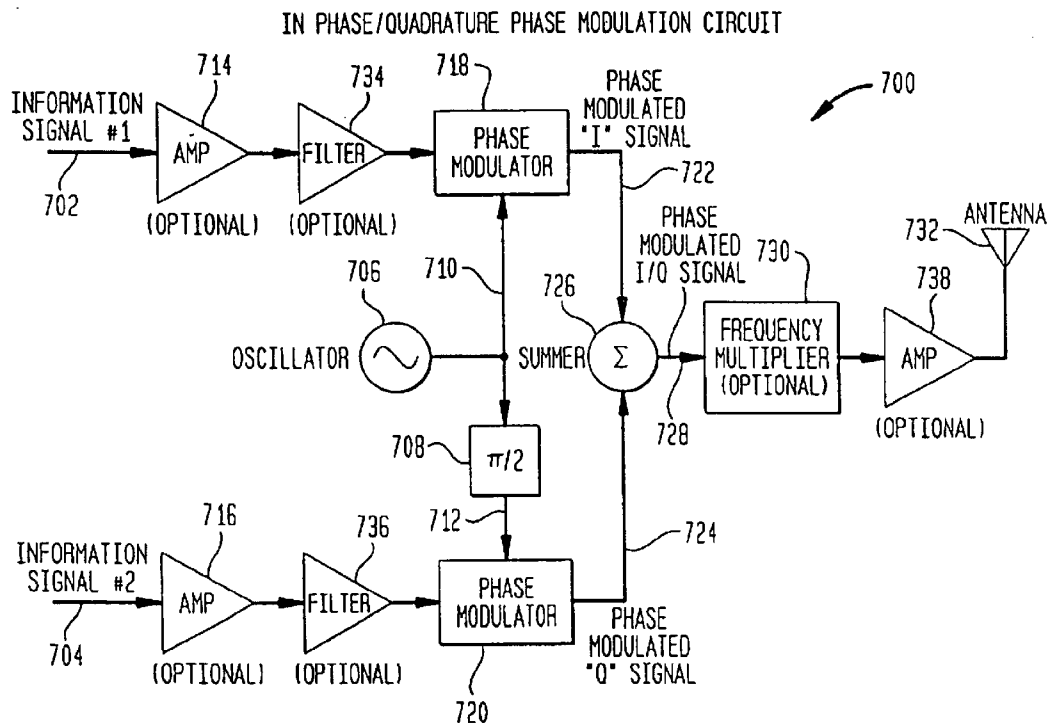


FIG. 7
(RELATED ART)



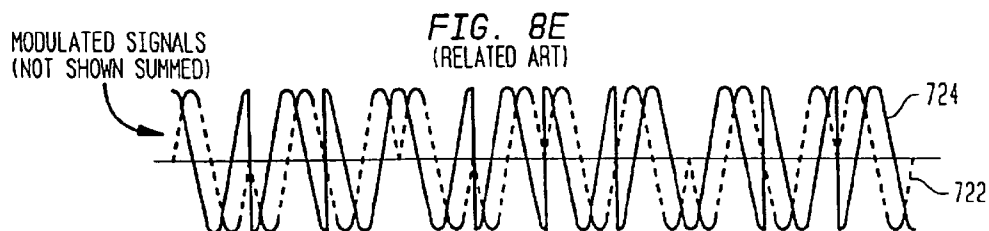
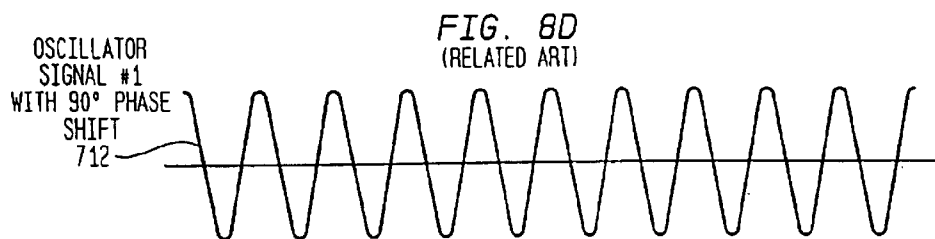
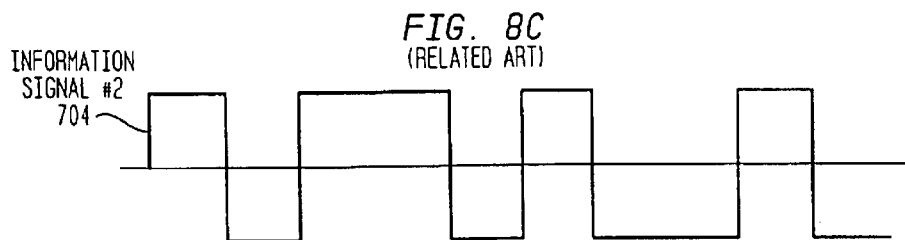
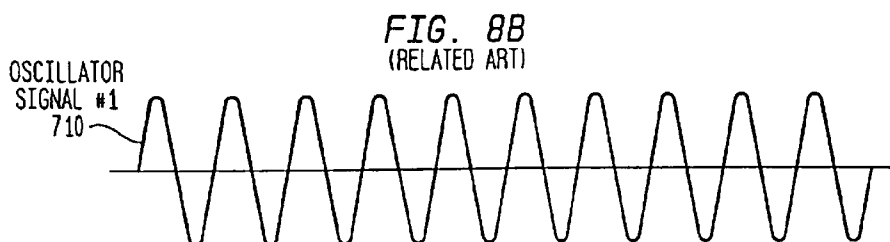
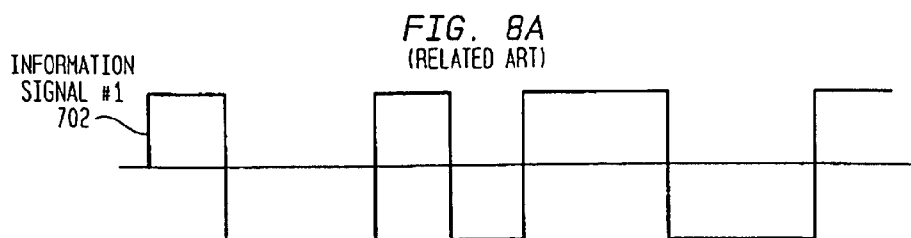


FIG. 9

TRANSMITTER

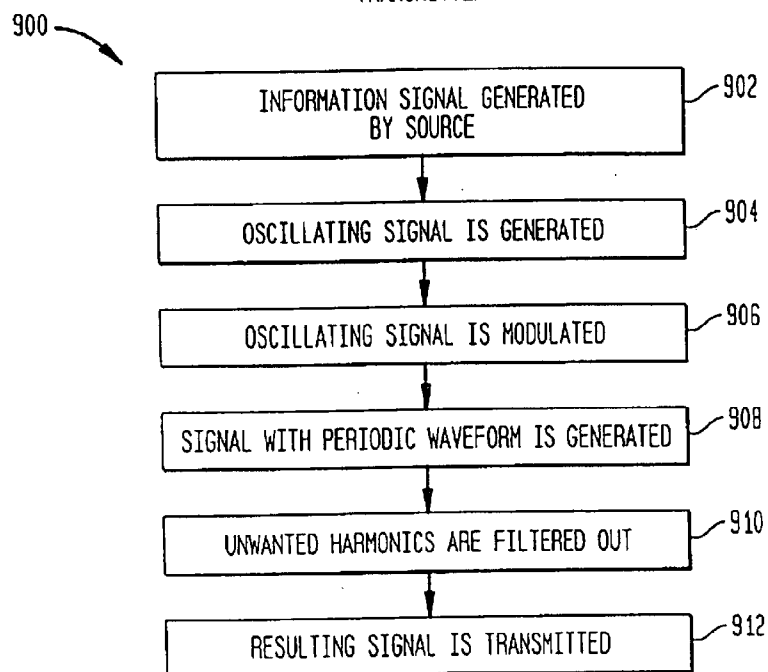


FIG. 10

TRANSMITTER EMBODIMENT

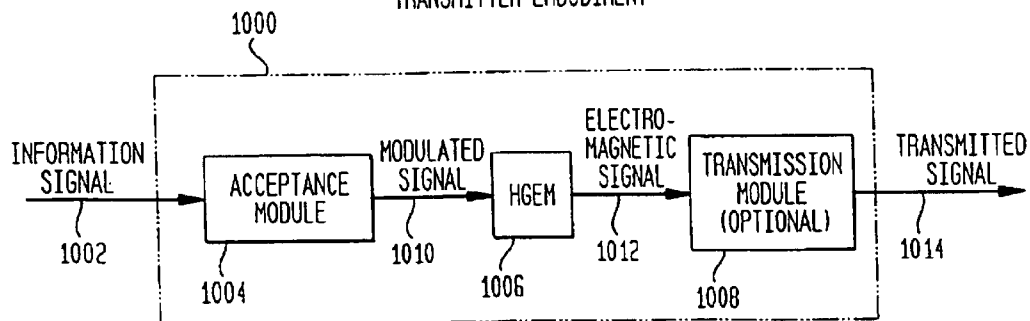


FIG. 11
FREQUENCY MODULATION MODE

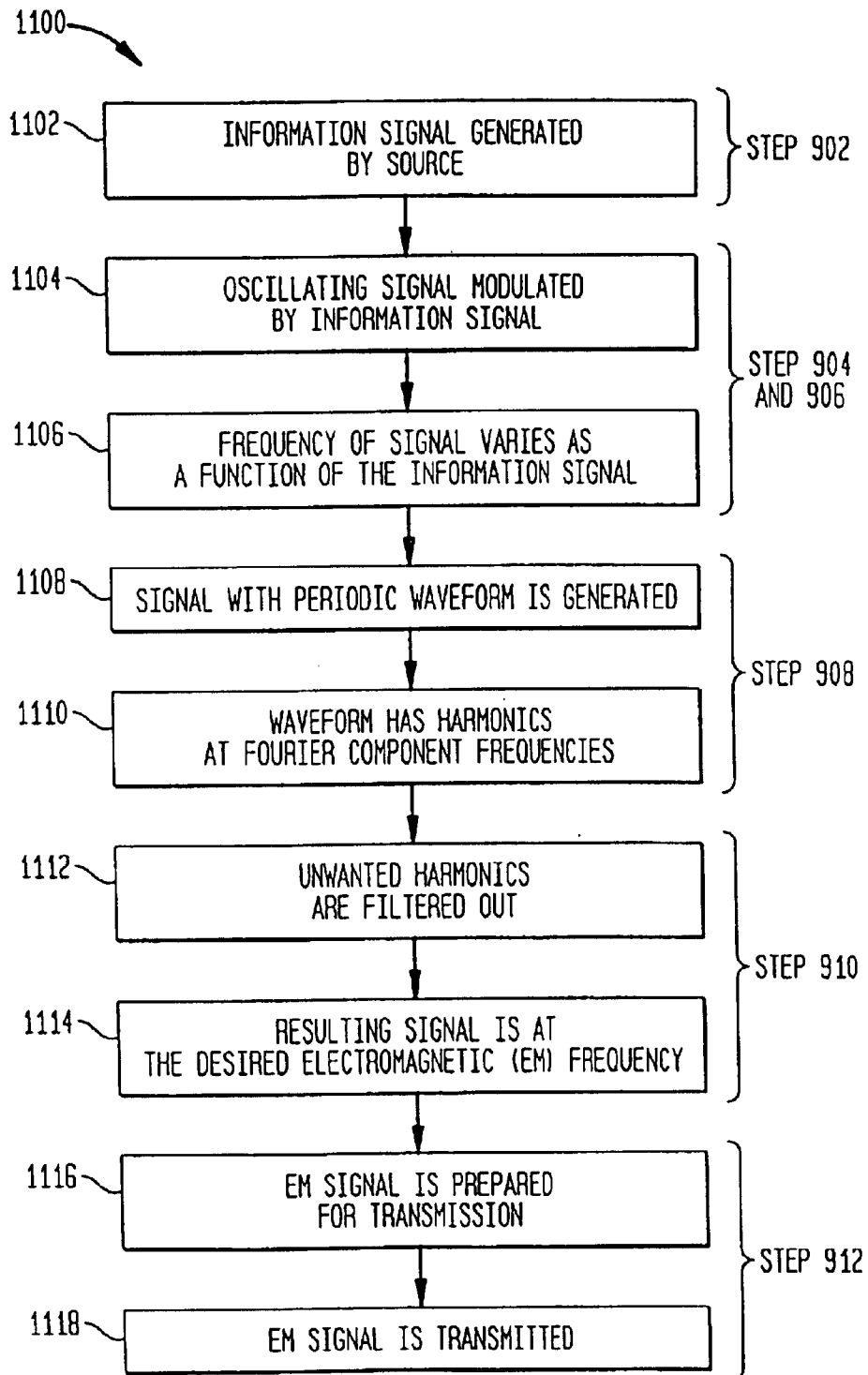


FIG. 12

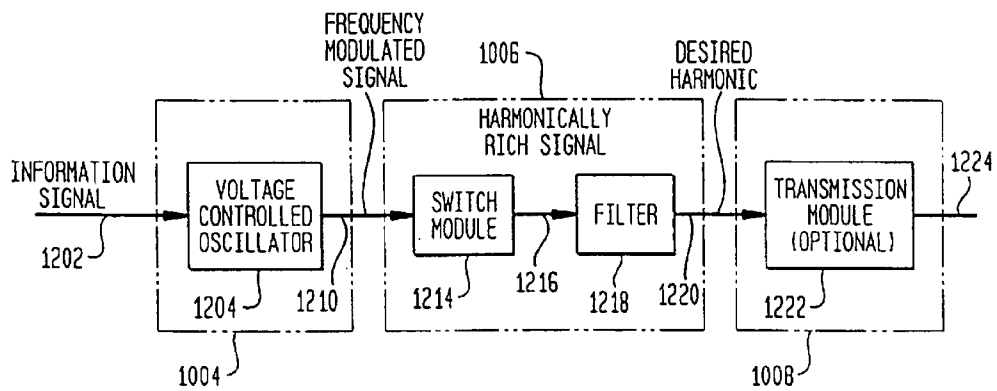


FIG. 13

PHASE MODULATION MODE

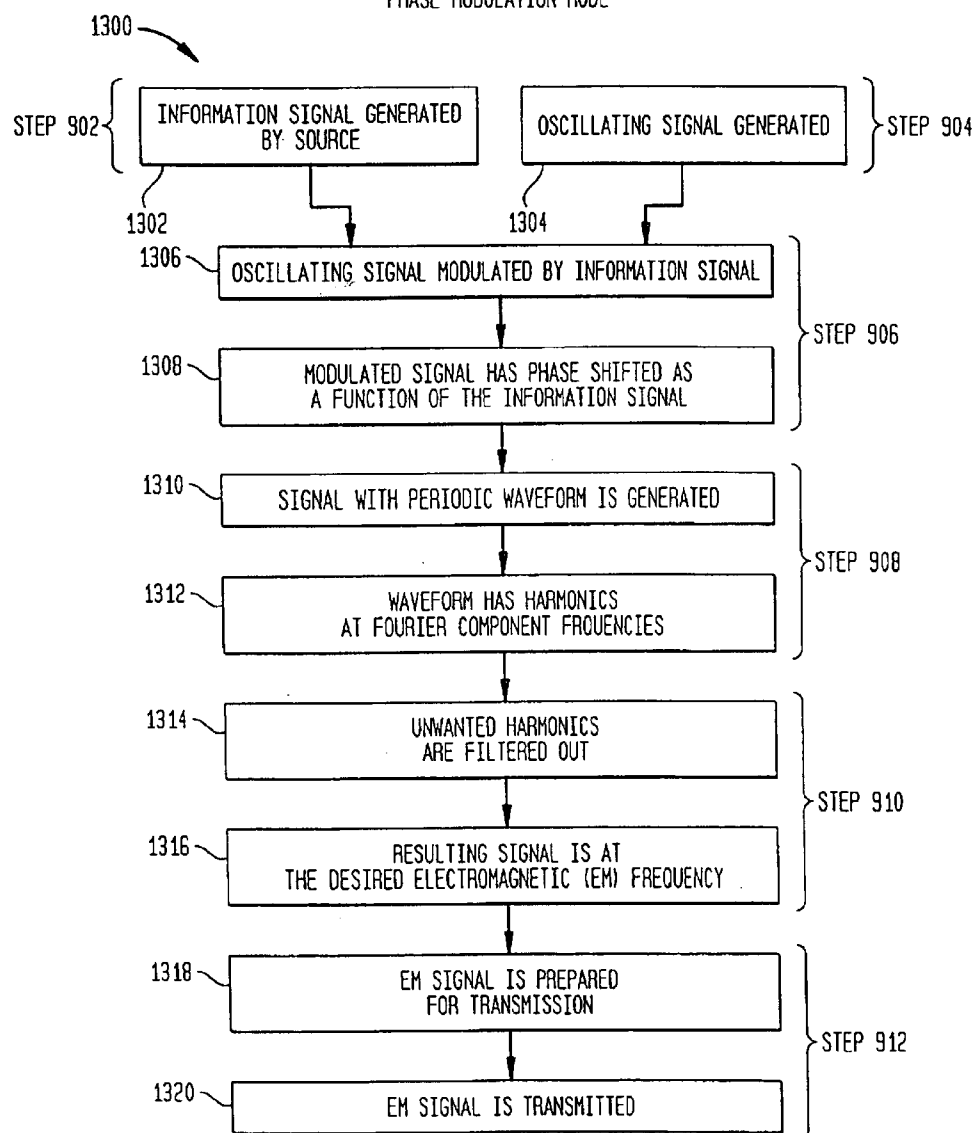


FIG. 14

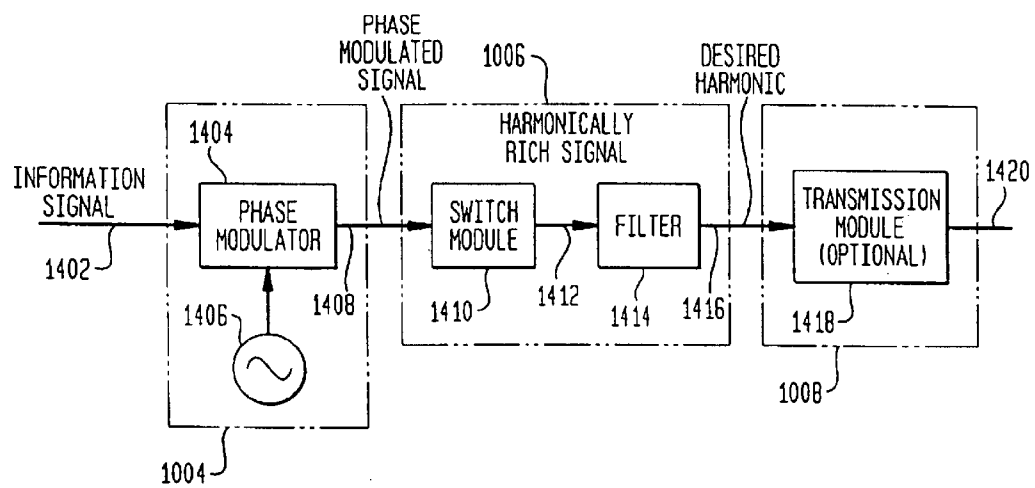


FIG. 15
AMPLITUDE MODULATION MODE

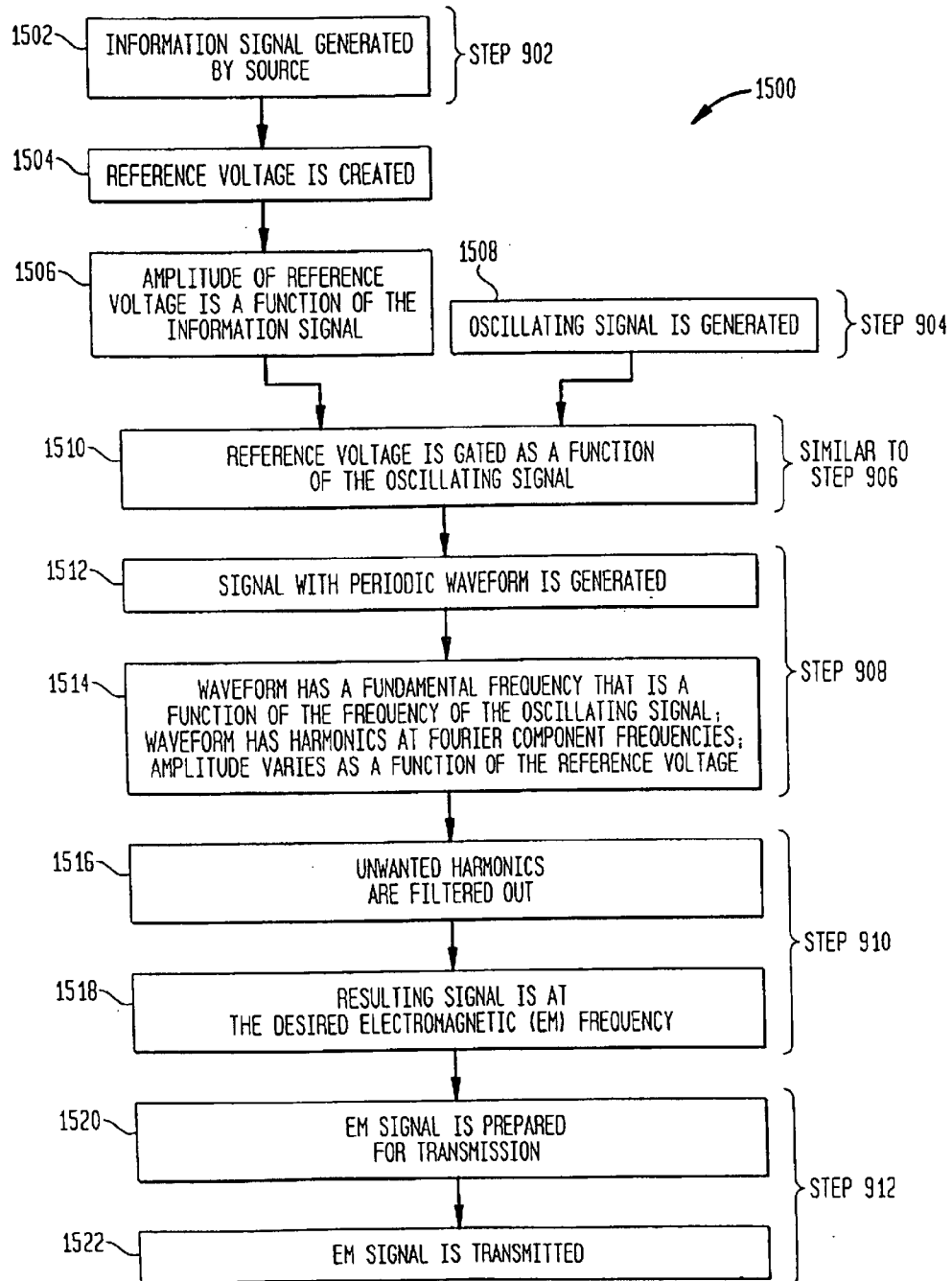


FIG. 16

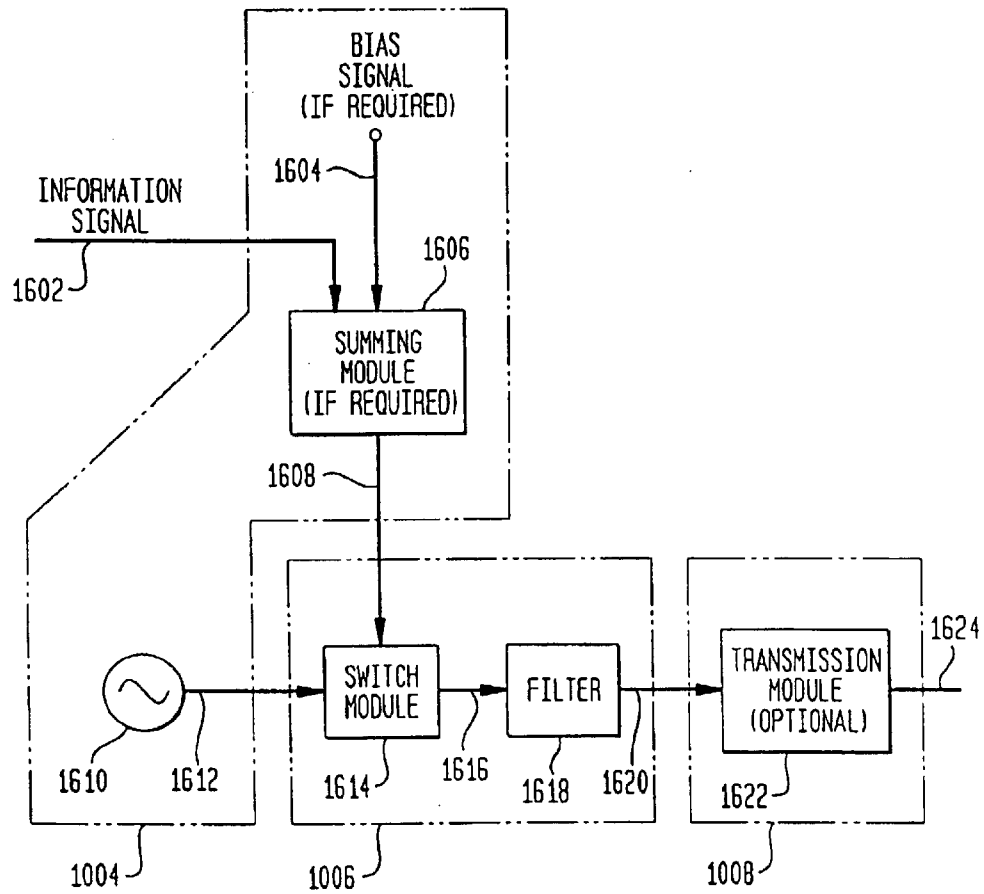


FIG. 17

I/O MODULATION MODE

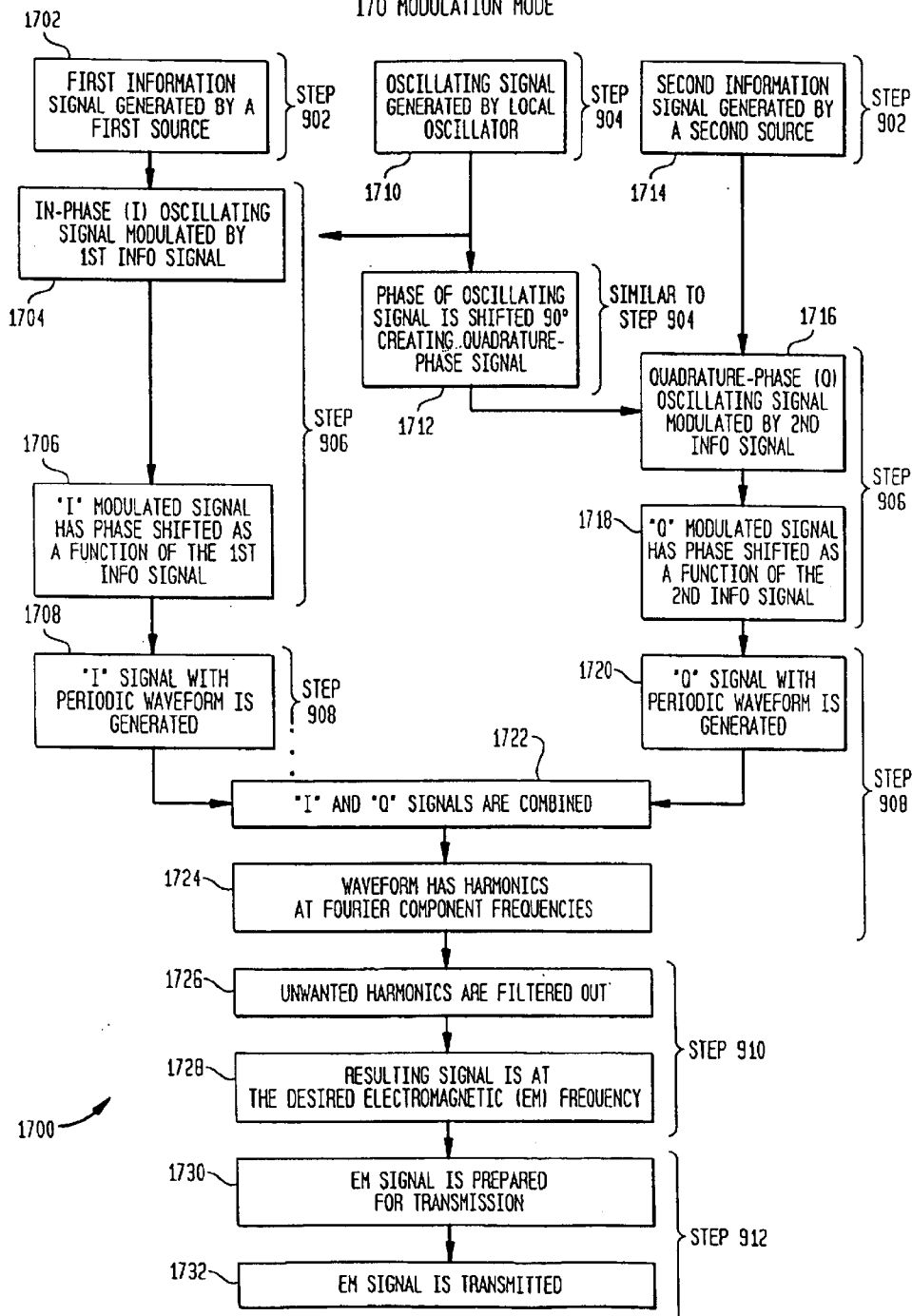


FIG. 18

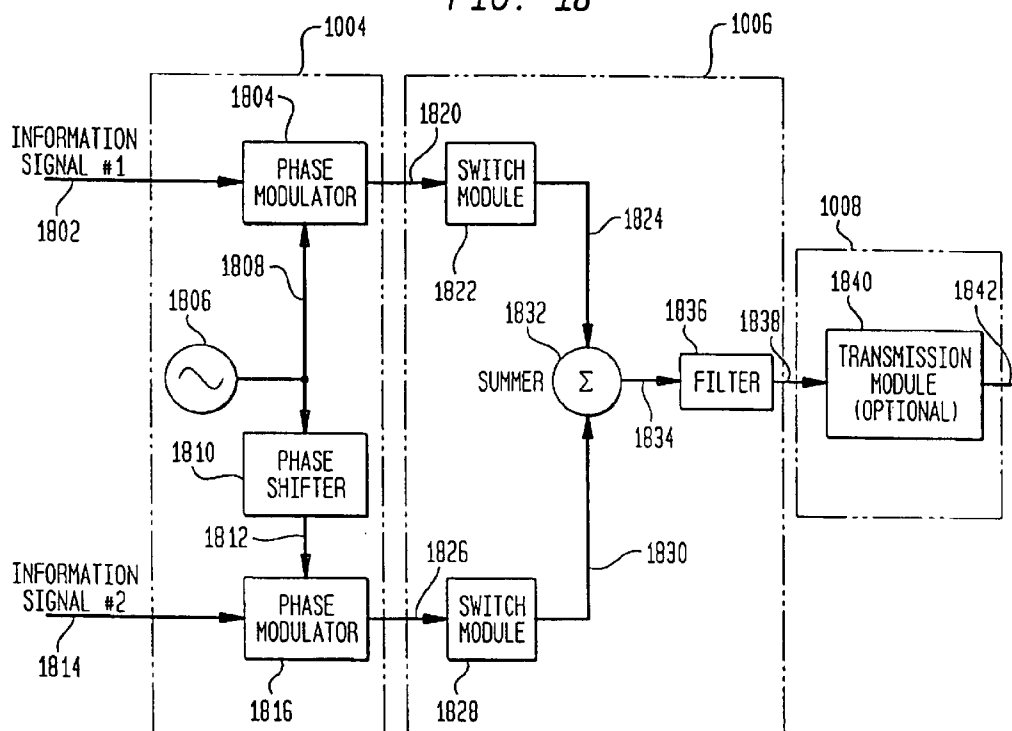


FIG. 19A

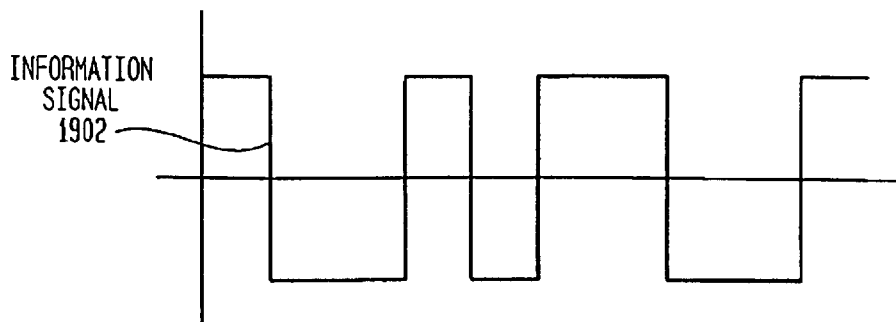


FIG. 19B

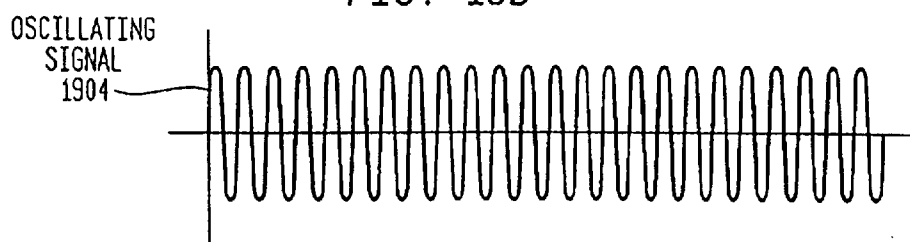


FIG. 19C

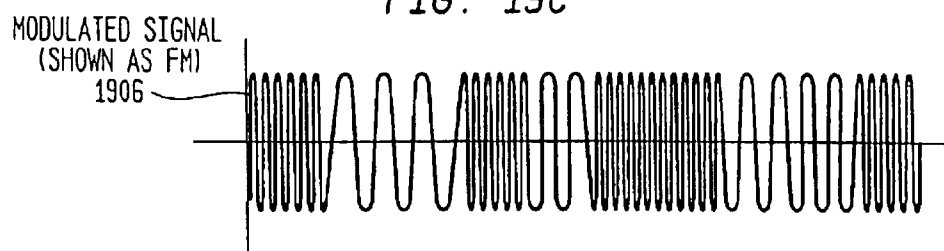


FIG. 19D

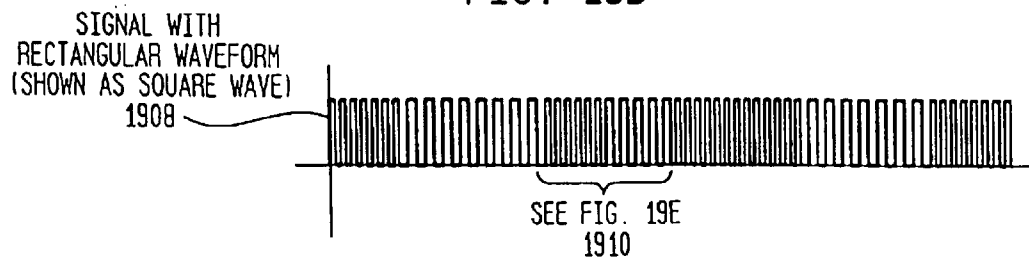


FIG. 19E

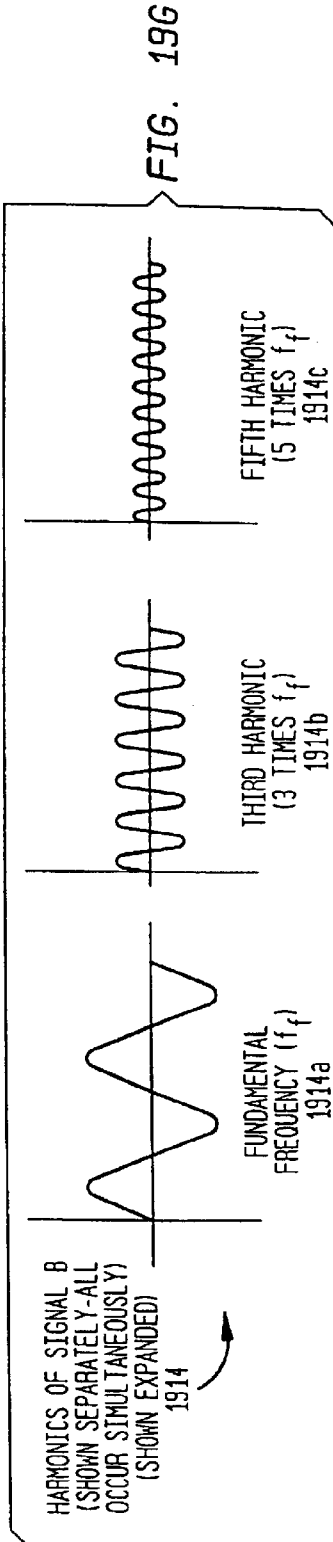
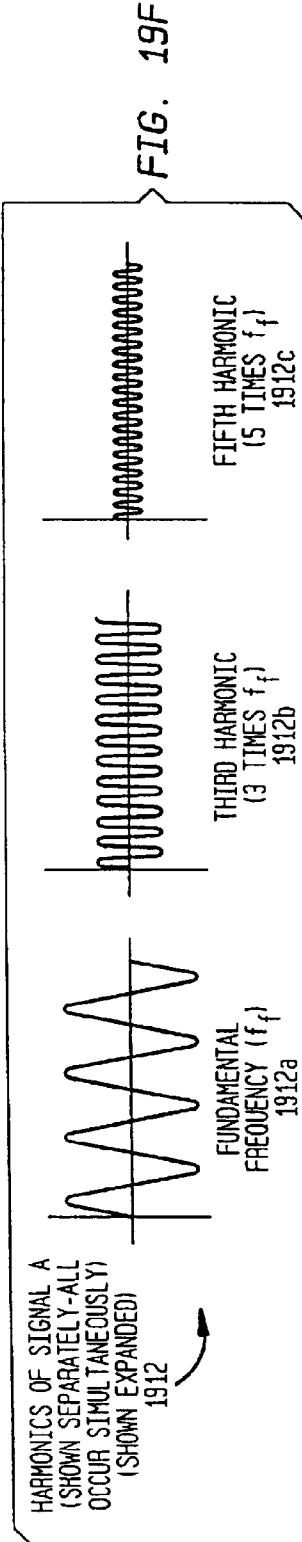
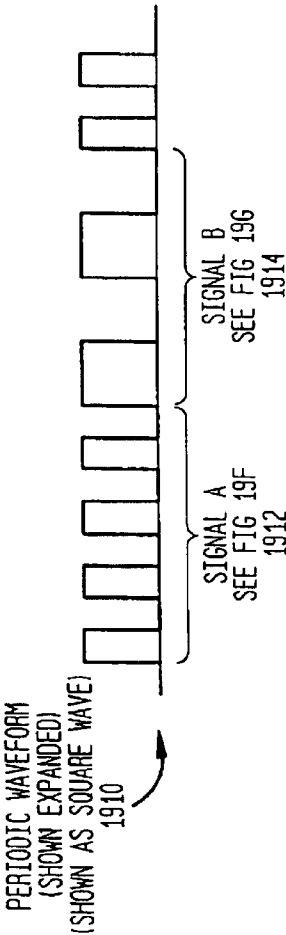


FIG. 19H

HARMONICS OF
SIGNAL A & B
(SHOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY
BUT NOT SUMMED)
(SHOWN EXPANDED)
1916

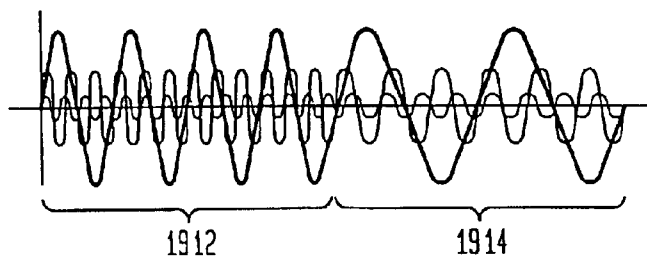


FIG. 19I

FILTERED
SIGNAL A & B
(SHOWN EXPANDED)
1918

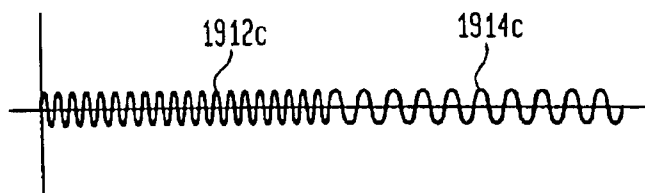


FIG. 20A
(RELATED ART)

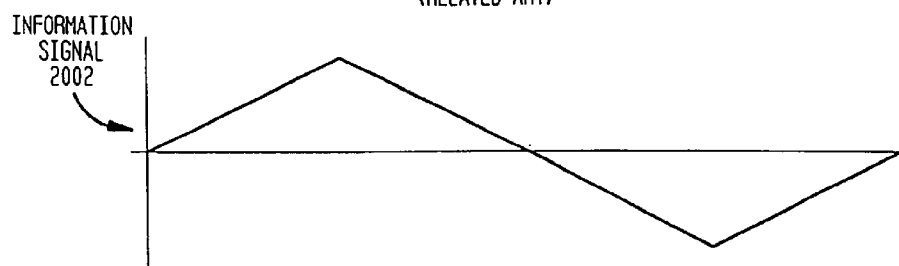


FIG. 20B
(RELATED ART)

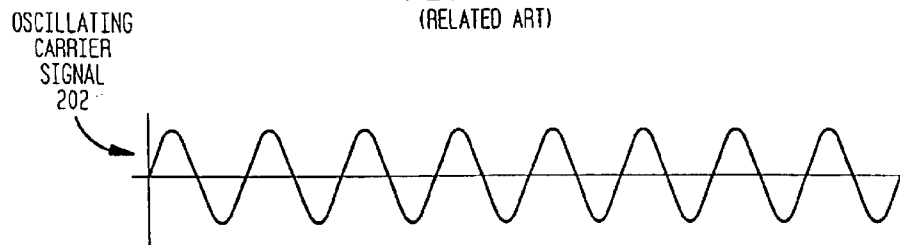


FIG. 20C
(RELATED ART)

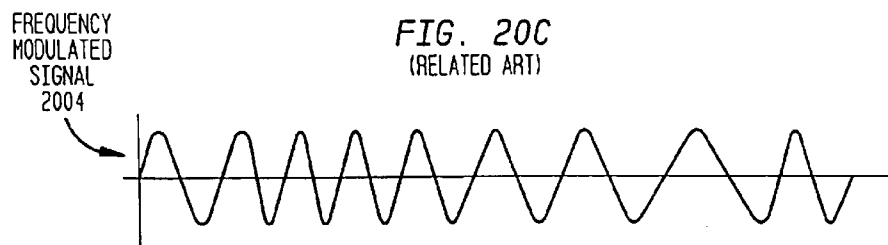


FIG. 21A
(RELATED ART)

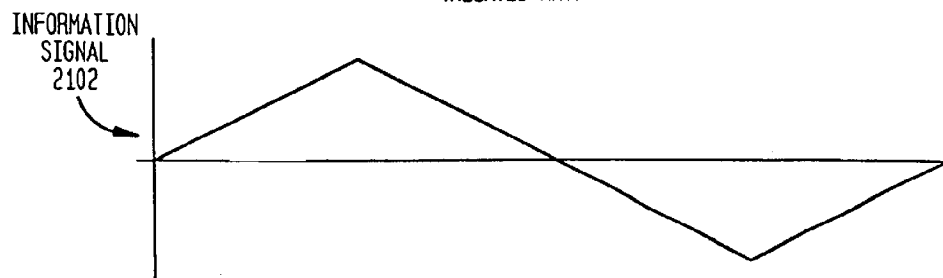


FIG. 21B
(RELATED ART)

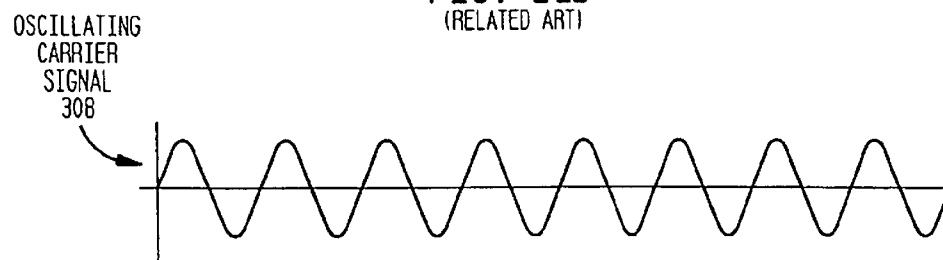


FIG. 21C
(RELATED ART)

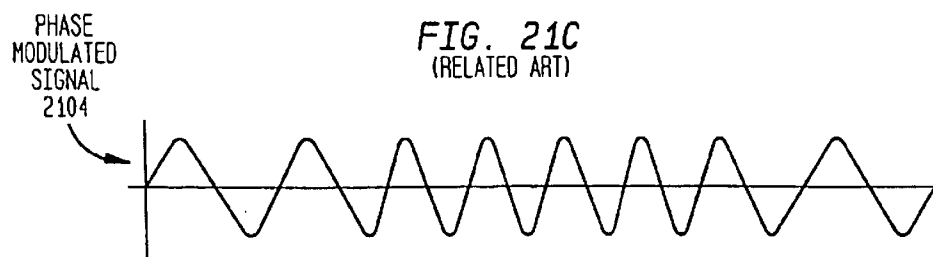


FIG. 22A
(RELATED ART)

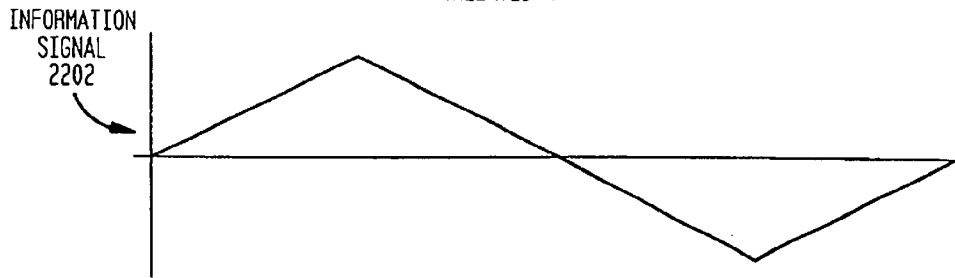


FIG. 22B
(RELATED ART)

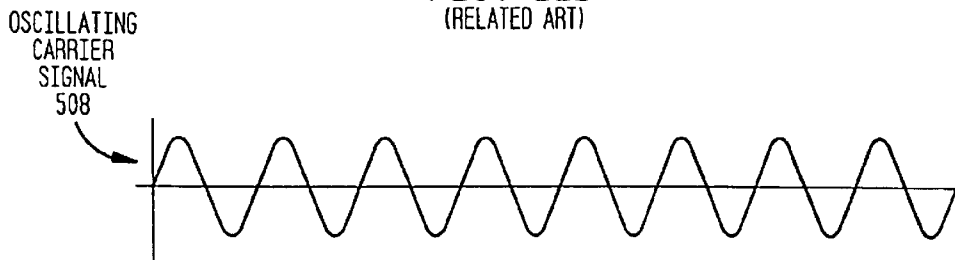


FIG. 22C
(RELATED ART)

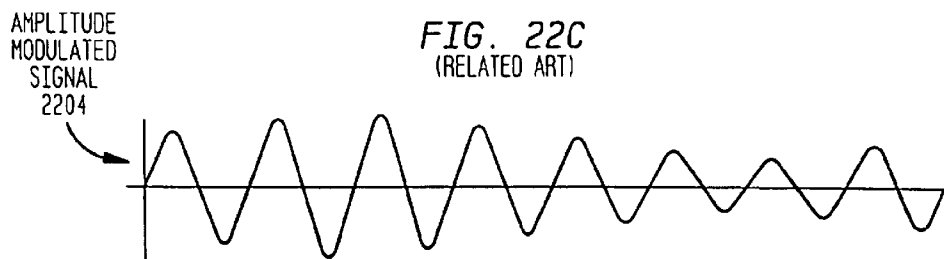


FIG. 23

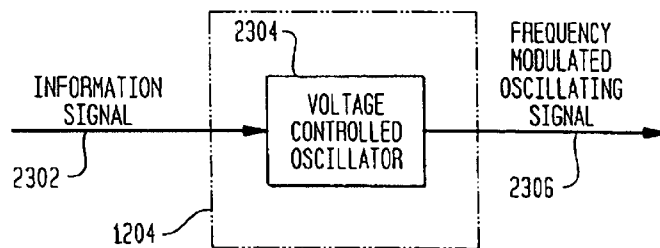


FIG. 24

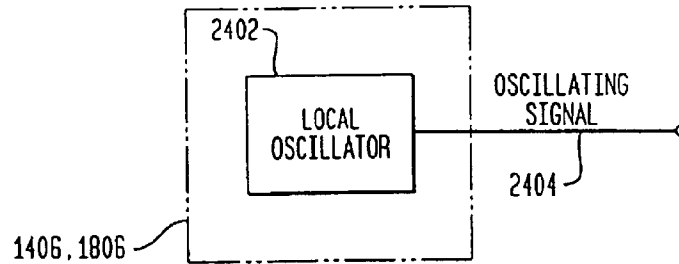


FIG. 25

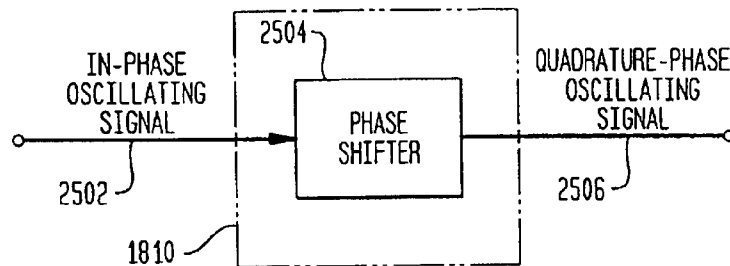


FIG. 26

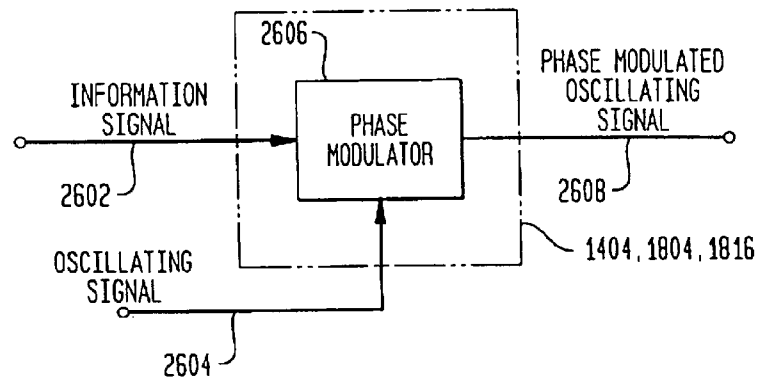


FIG. 27

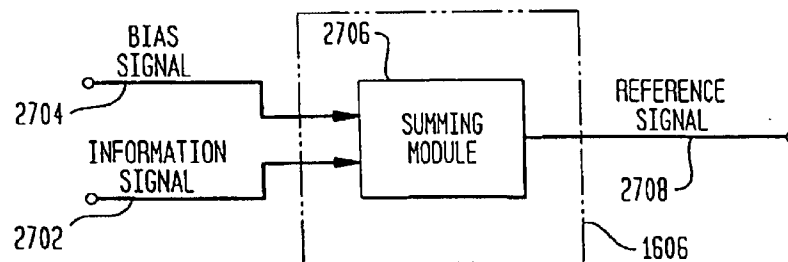


FIG. 28A

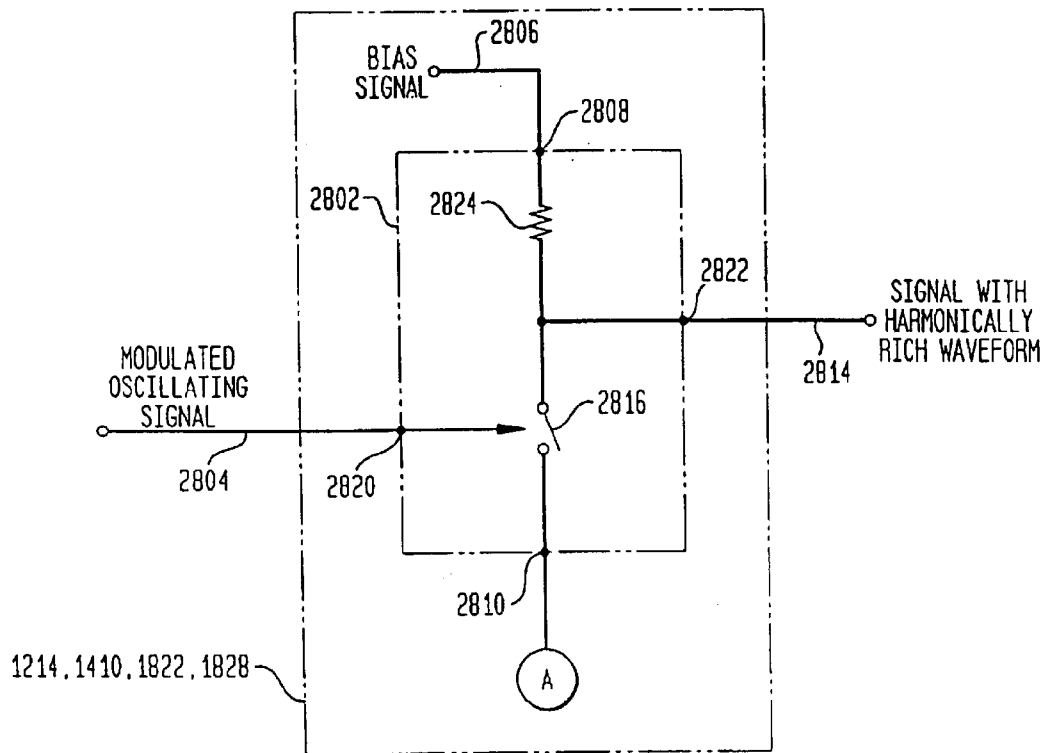


FIG. 28B

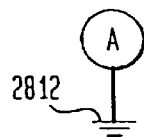


FIG. 28C

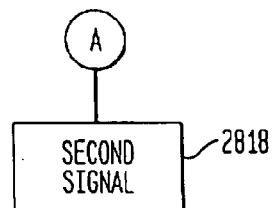


FIG. 29A

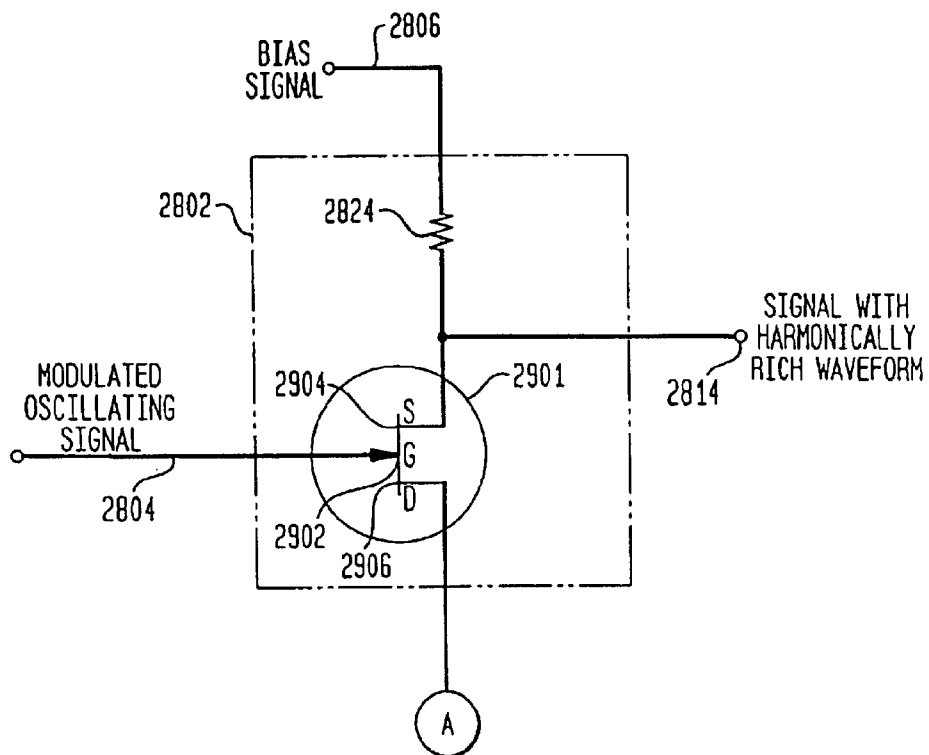


FIG. 29B

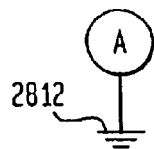


FIG. 29C

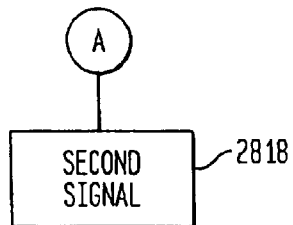


FIG. 30A

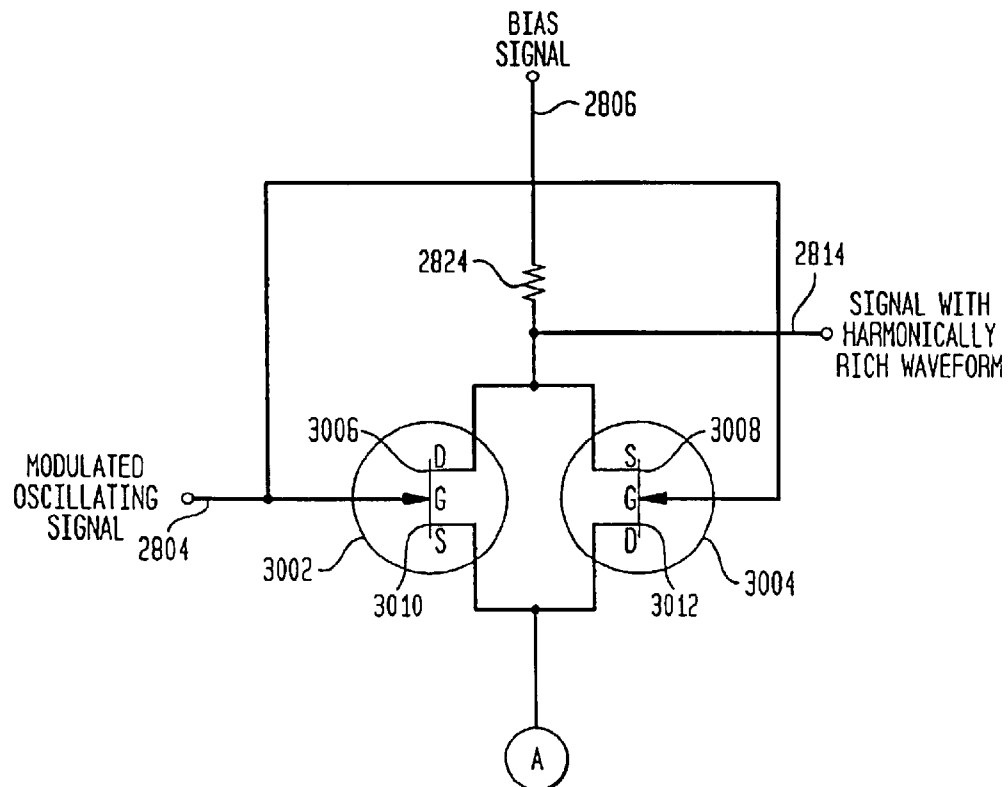


FIG. 30B

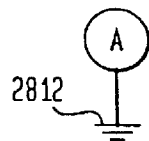


FIG. 30C

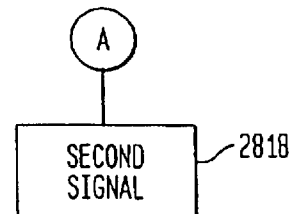


FIG. 31A

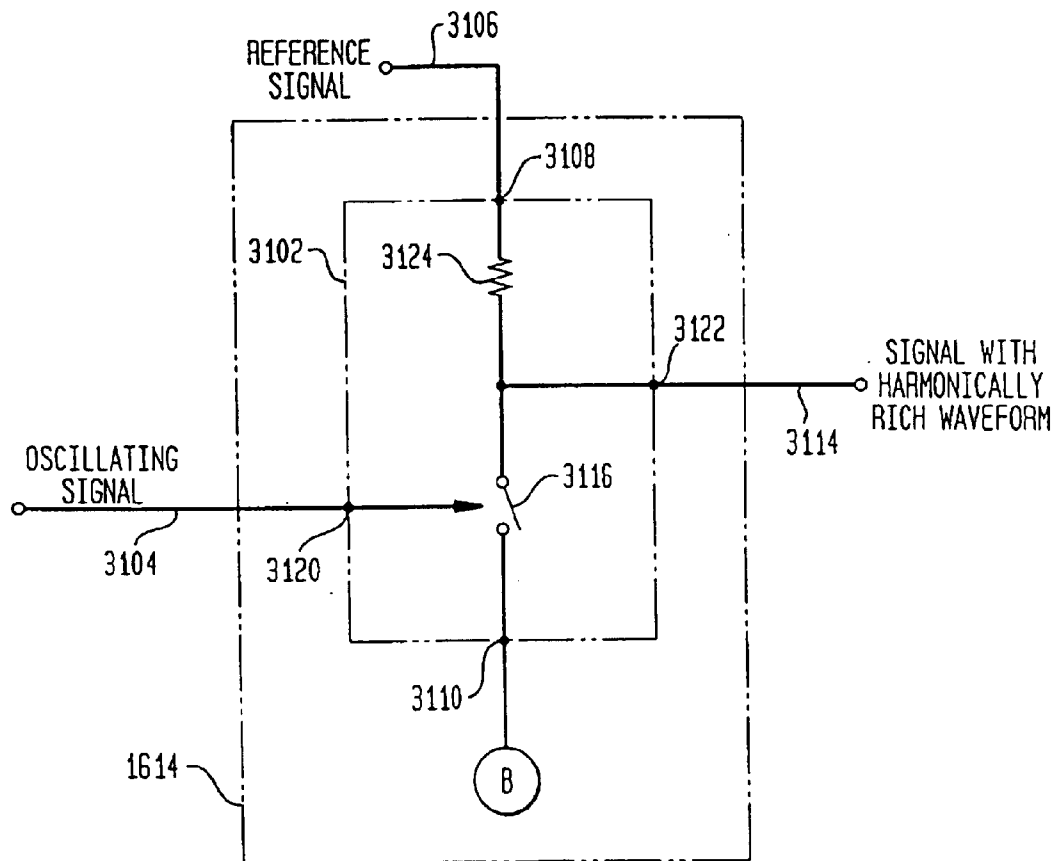


FIG. 31B

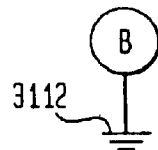


FIG. 31C

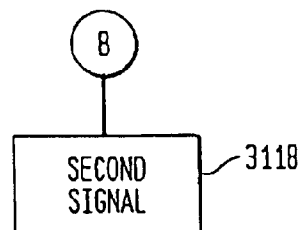


FIG. 32A

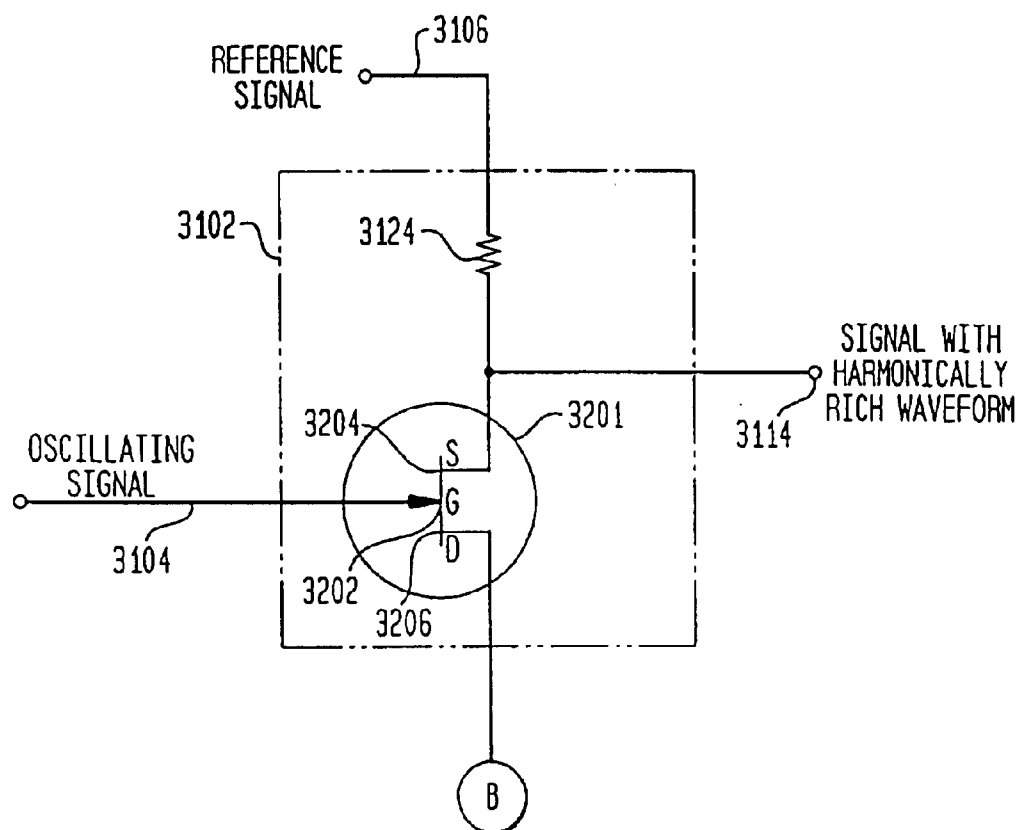


FIG. 32B

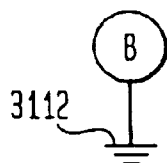


FIG. 32C

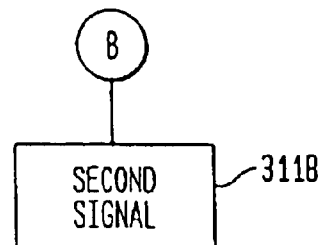


FIG. 33A

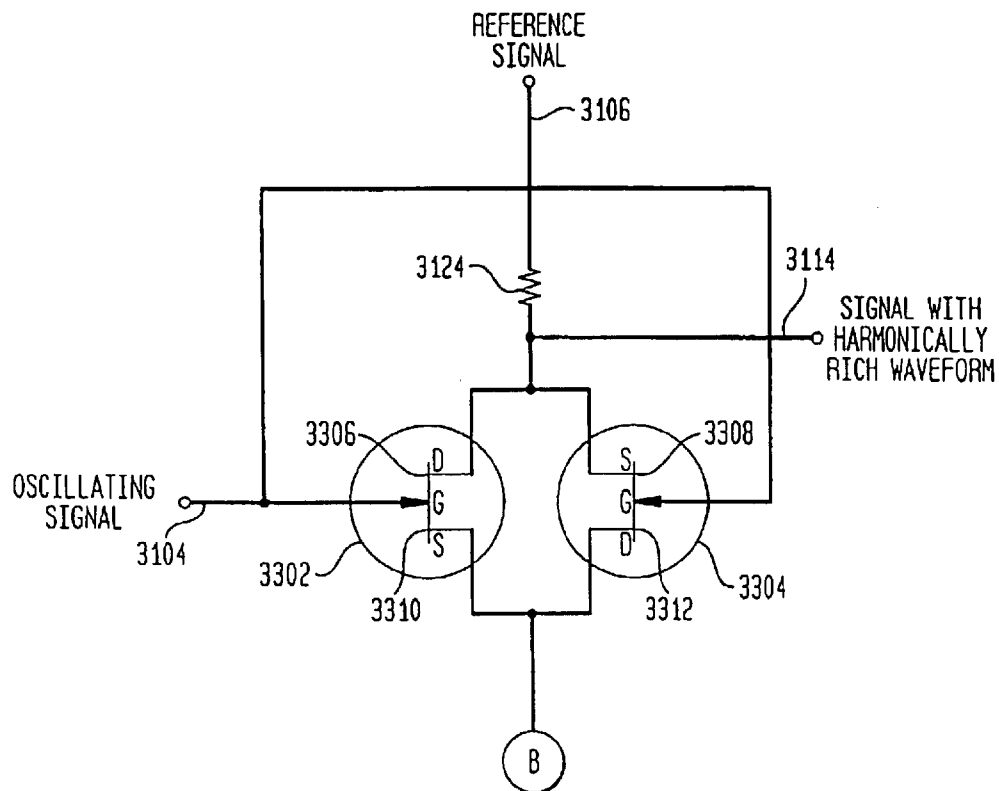


FIG. 33B

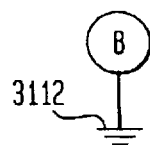


FIG. 33C

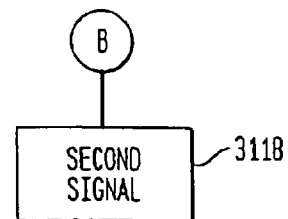


FIG. 34

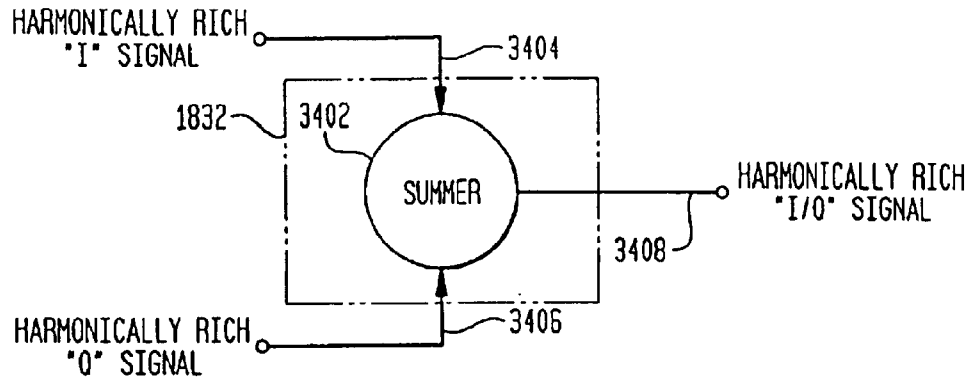


FIG. 35

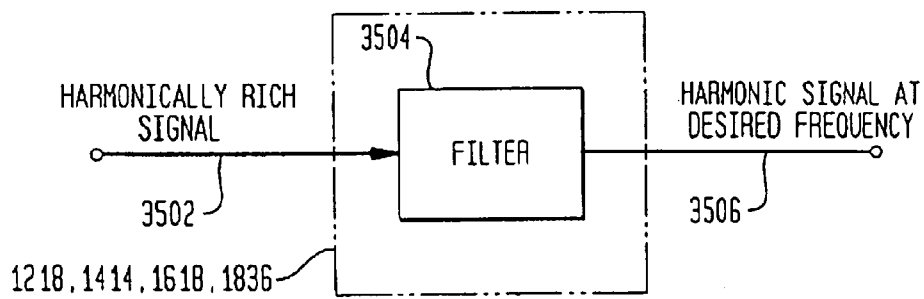


FIG. 36

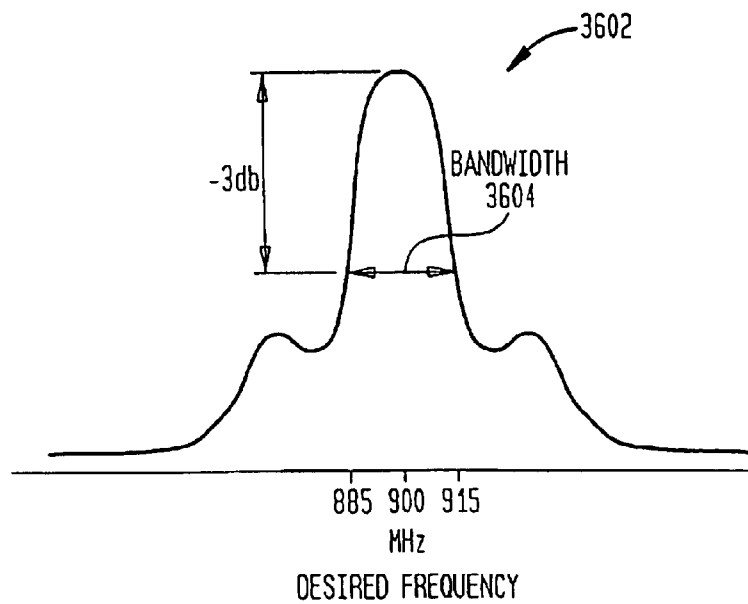


FIG. 37A

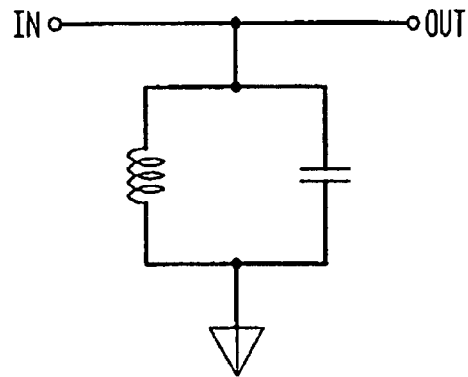


FIG. 37B

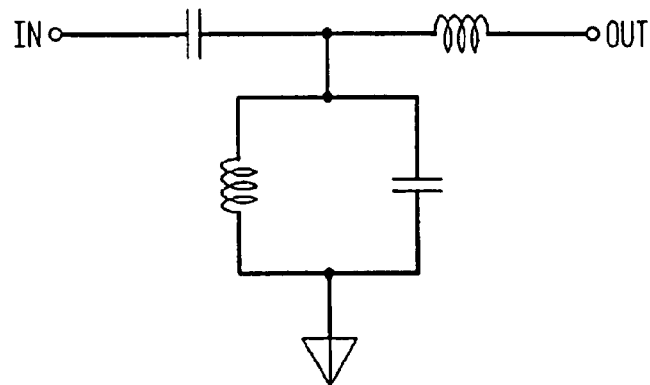


FIG. 38

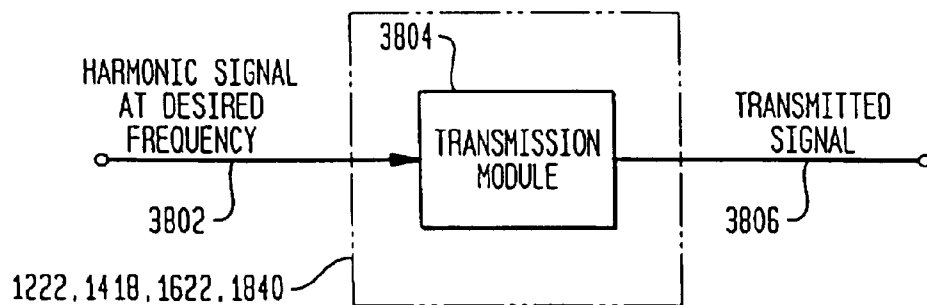


FIG. 39A

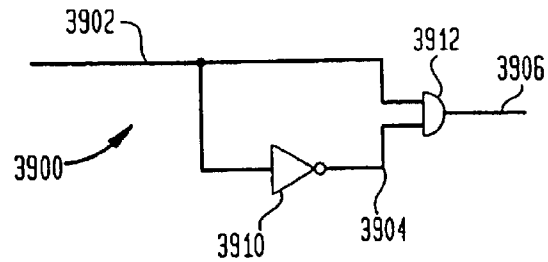


FIG. 39B

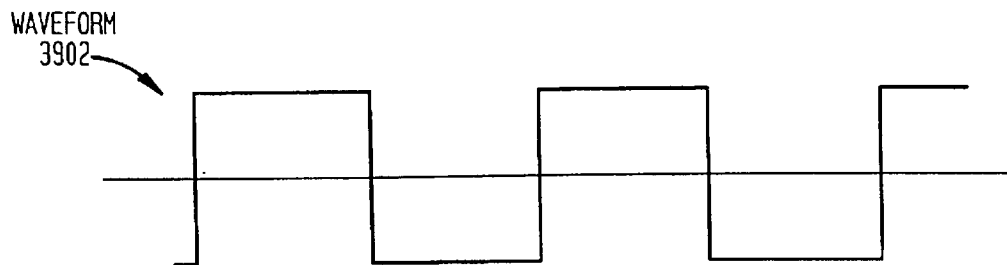


FIG. 39C

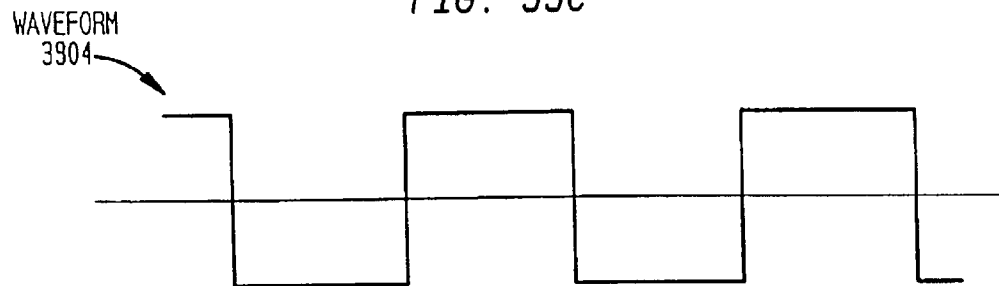


FIG. 39D

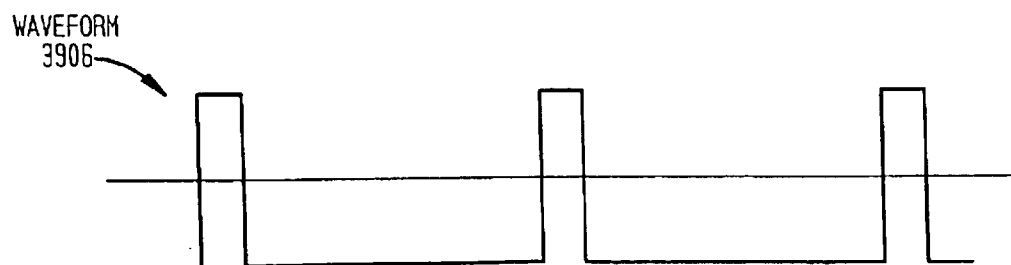


FIG. 40A

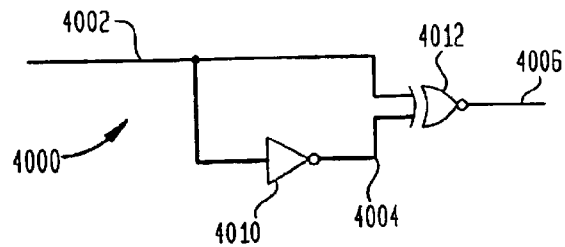


FIG. 40B

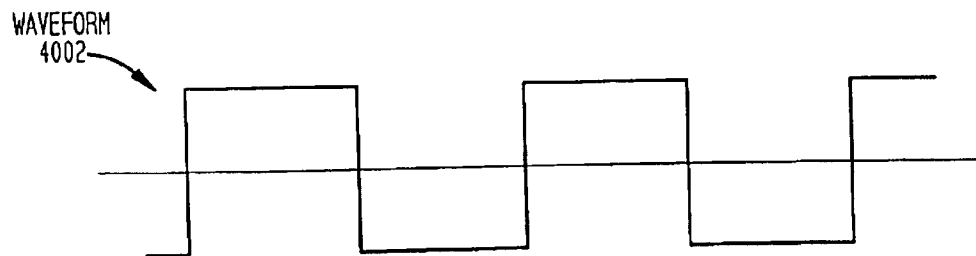


FIG. 40C

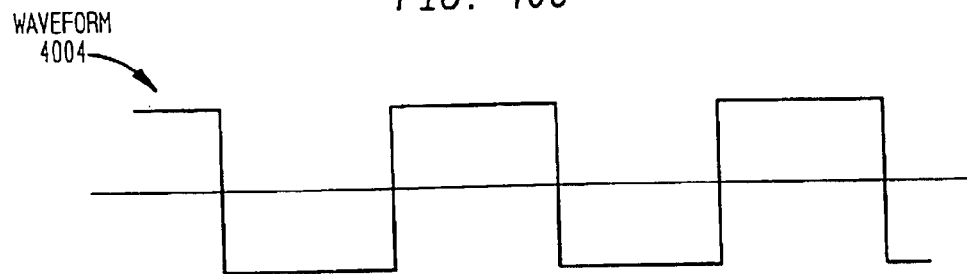


FIG. 40D

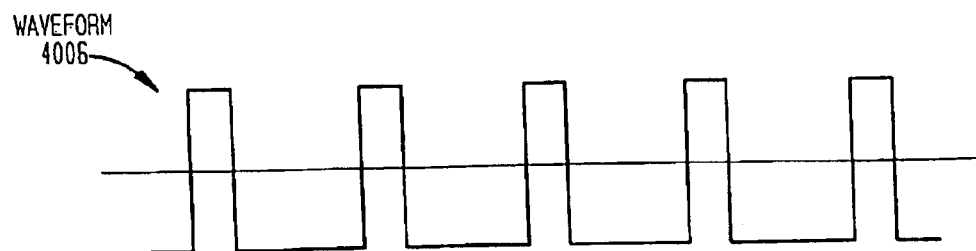


FIG. 41

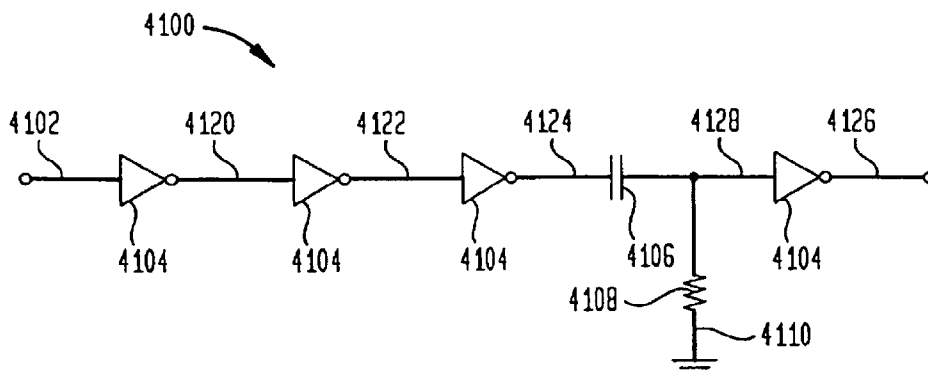


FIG. 42A

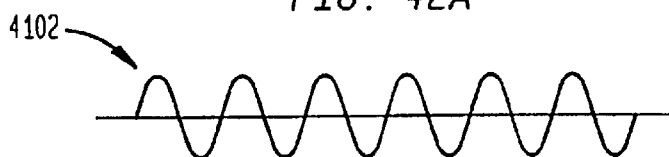


FIG. 42B

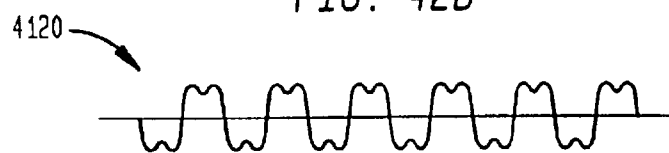


FIG. 42C

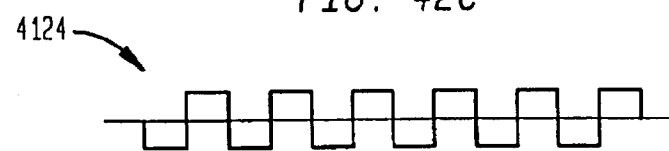


FIG. 42D

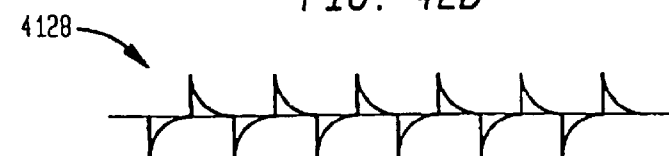


FIG. 42E

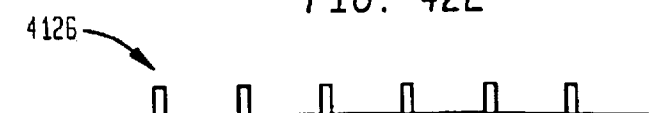
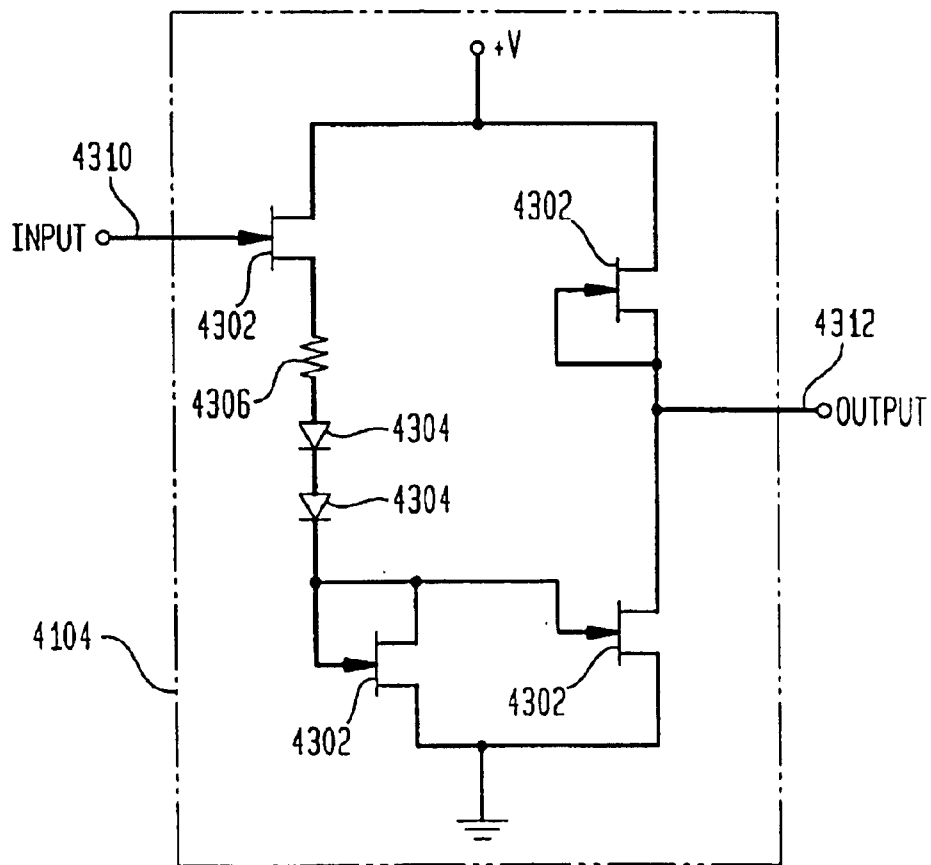
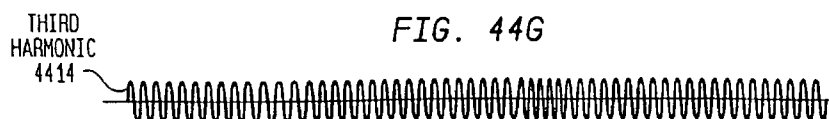
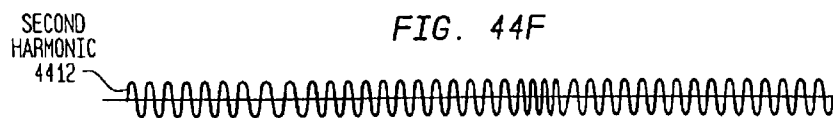
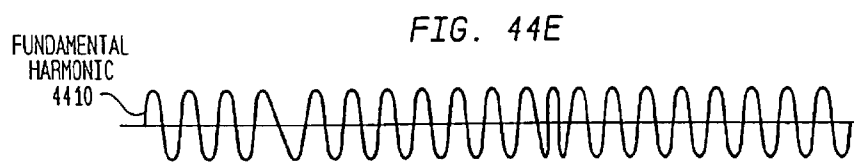
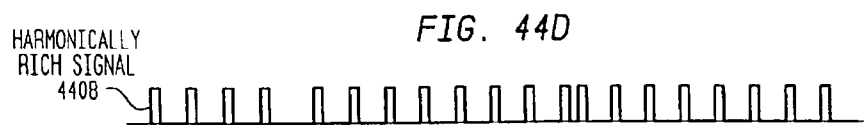
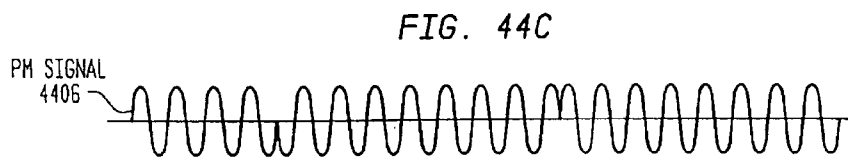
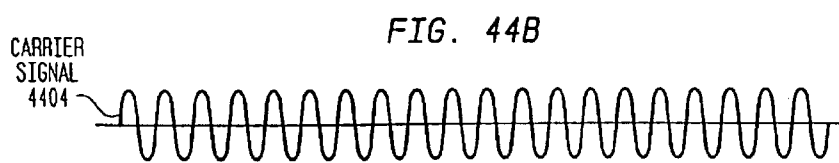
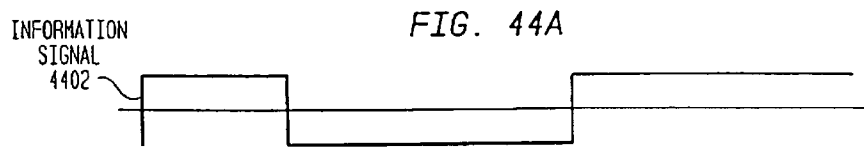


FIG. 43





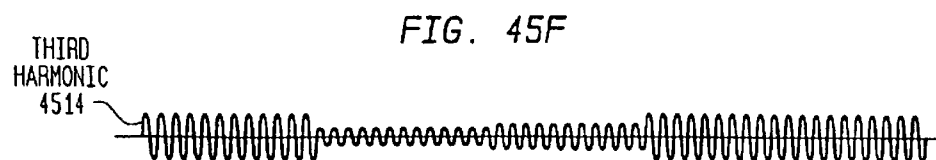
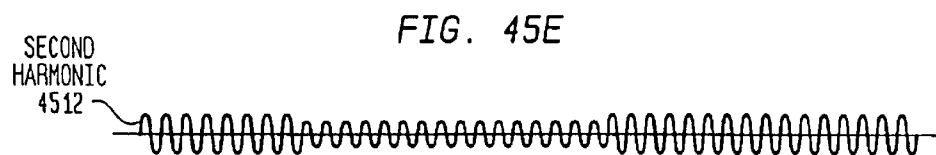
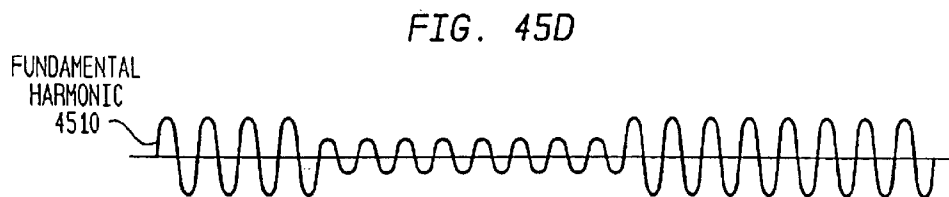
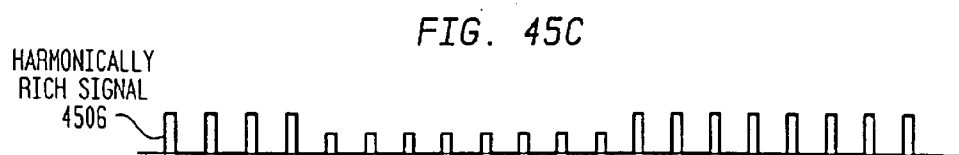
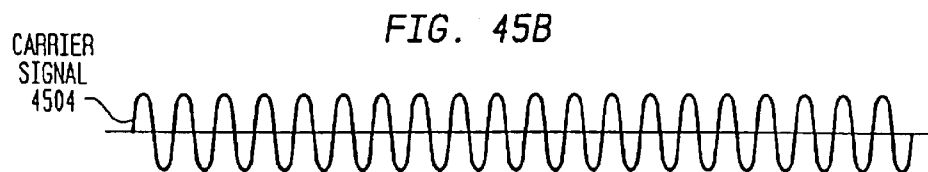
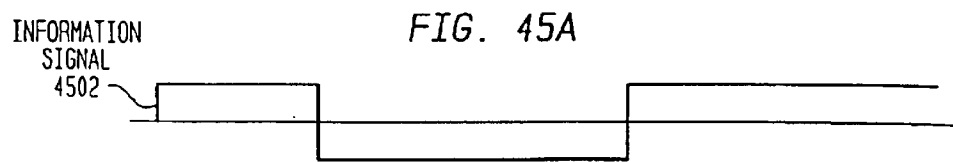


FIG. 46

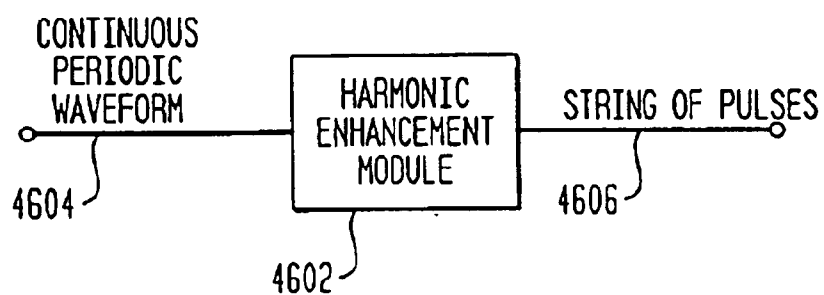


FIG. 47

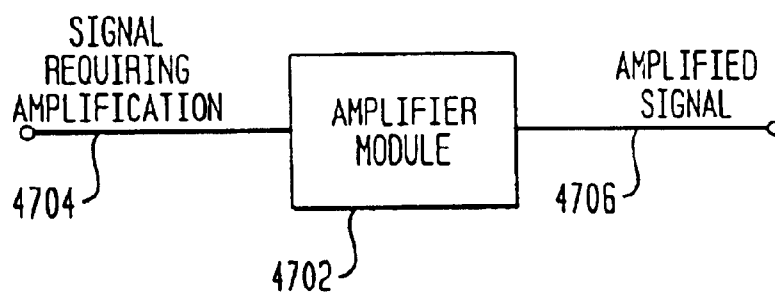


FIG. 48B

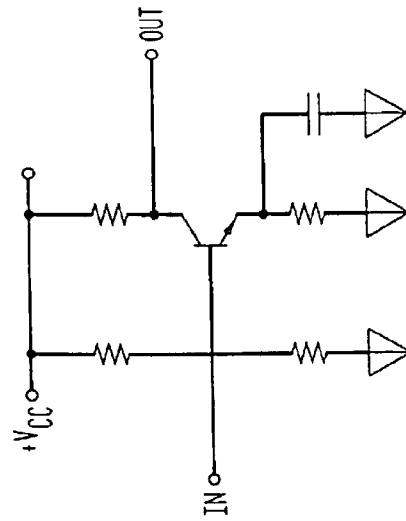


FIG. 49

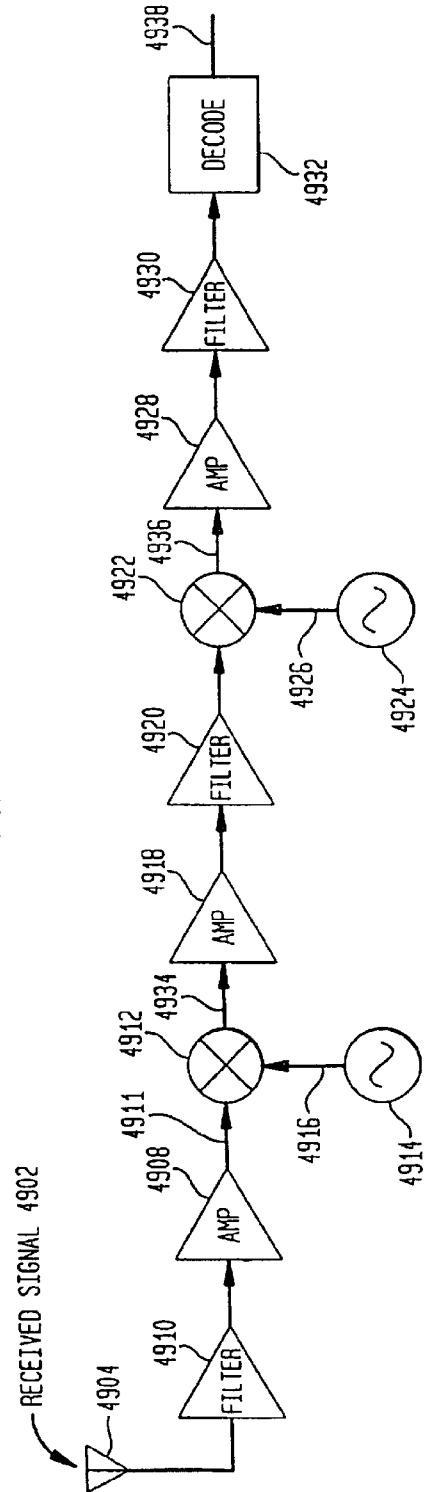


FIG. 50

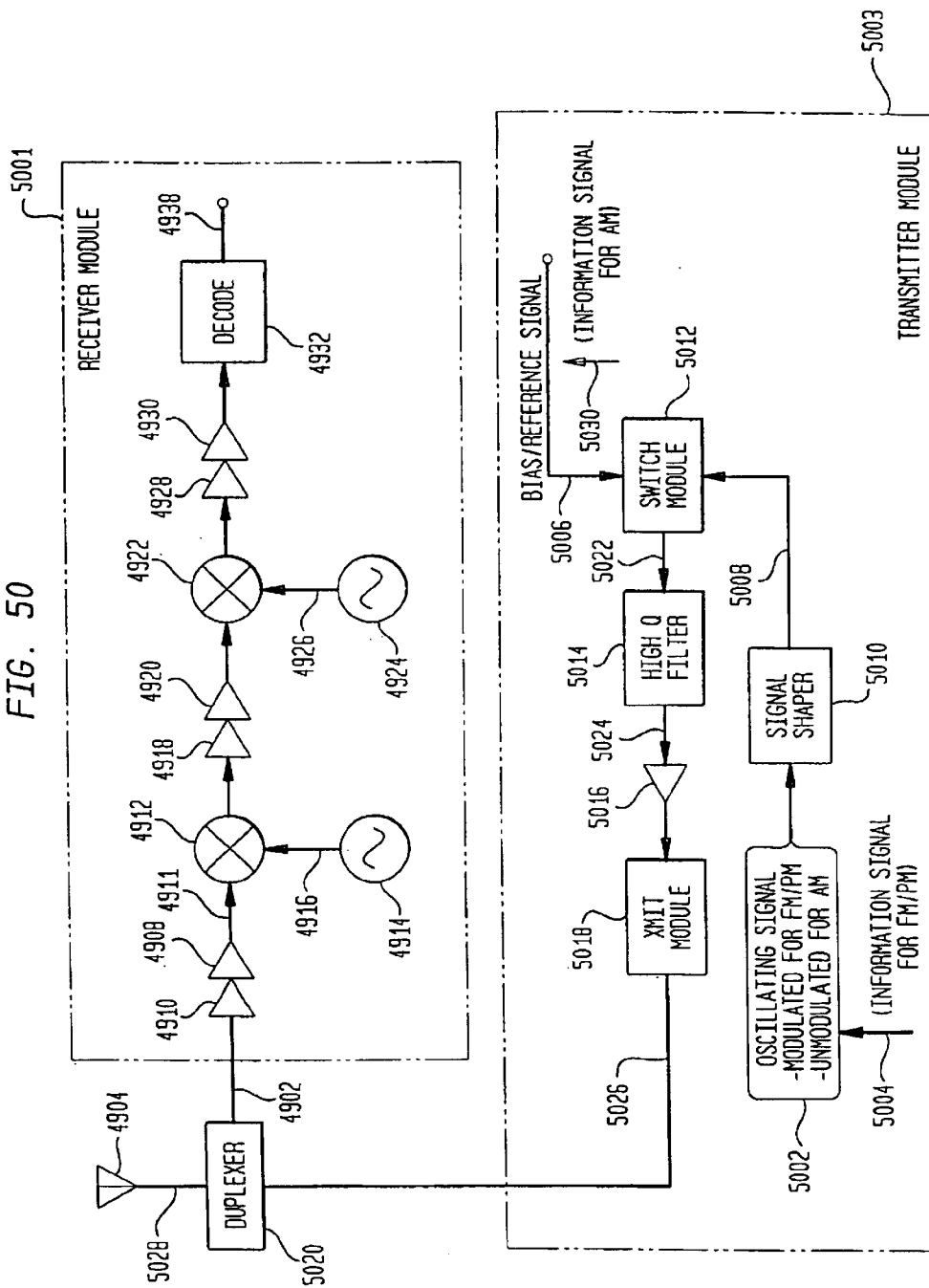


FIG. 51A

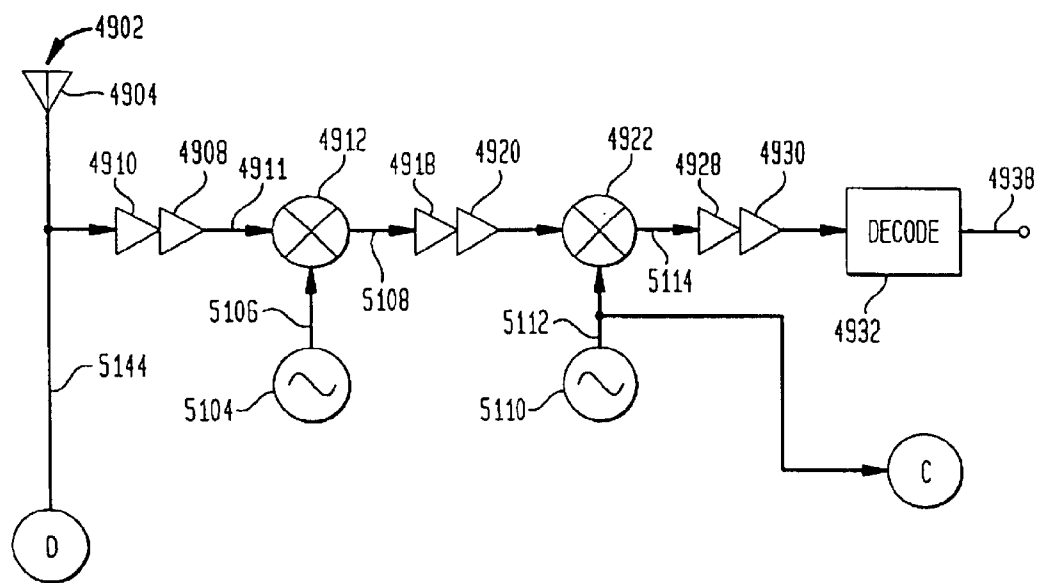


FIG. 51B

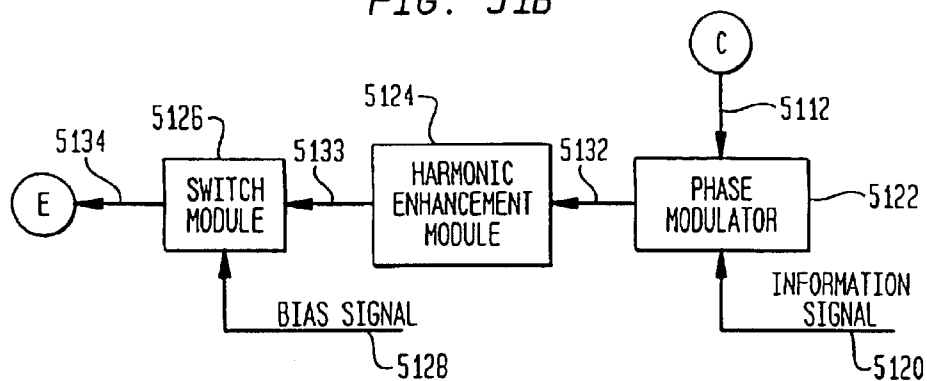


FIG. 51C

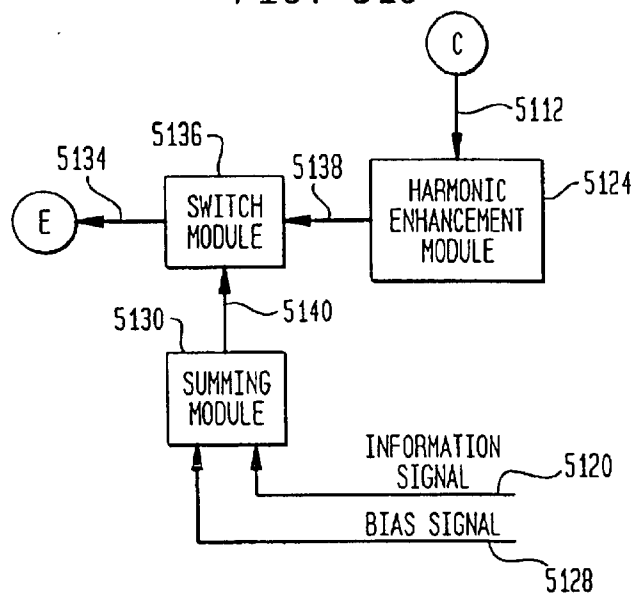


FIG. 51D

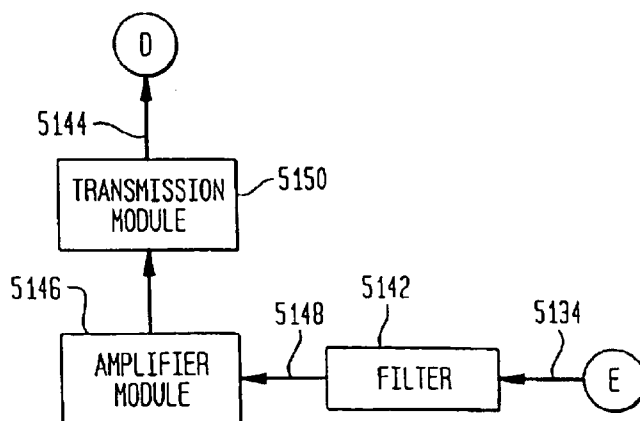


FIG. 52

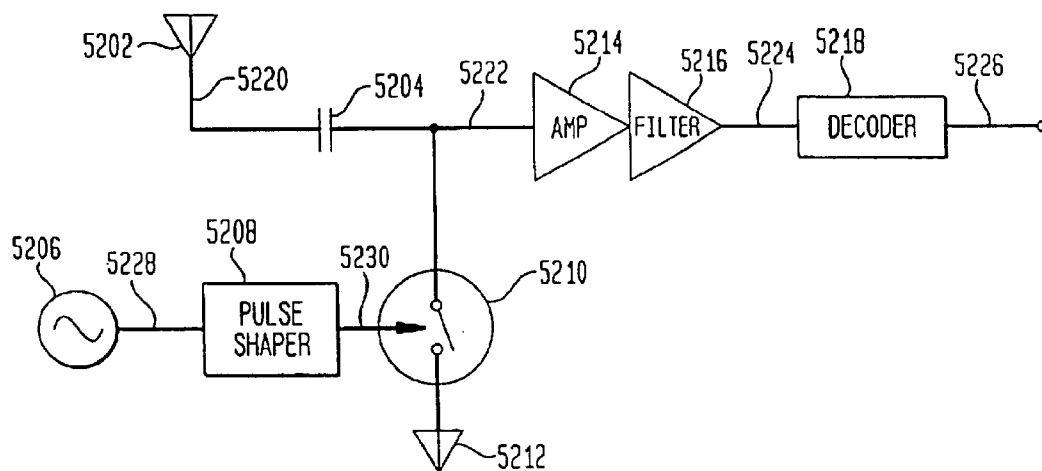
EXEMPLARY RECEIVER FOR
UNIVERSAL FREQUENCY DOWN-CONVERSION

FIG. 53

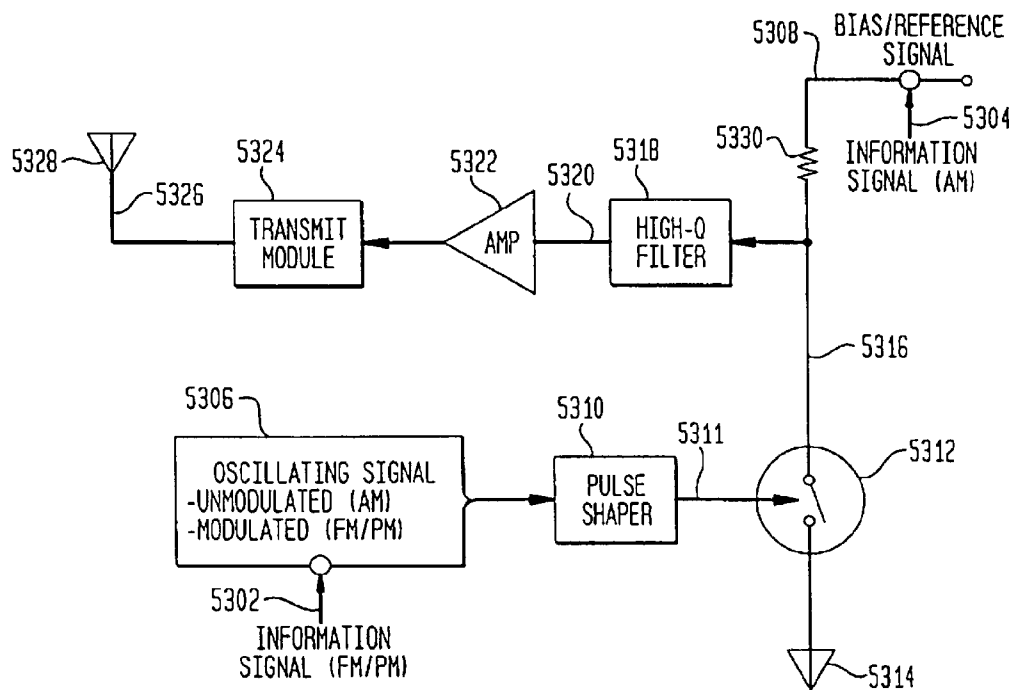
EXEMPLARY TRANSMITTER USING
THE PRESENT INVENTION

FIG. 54A

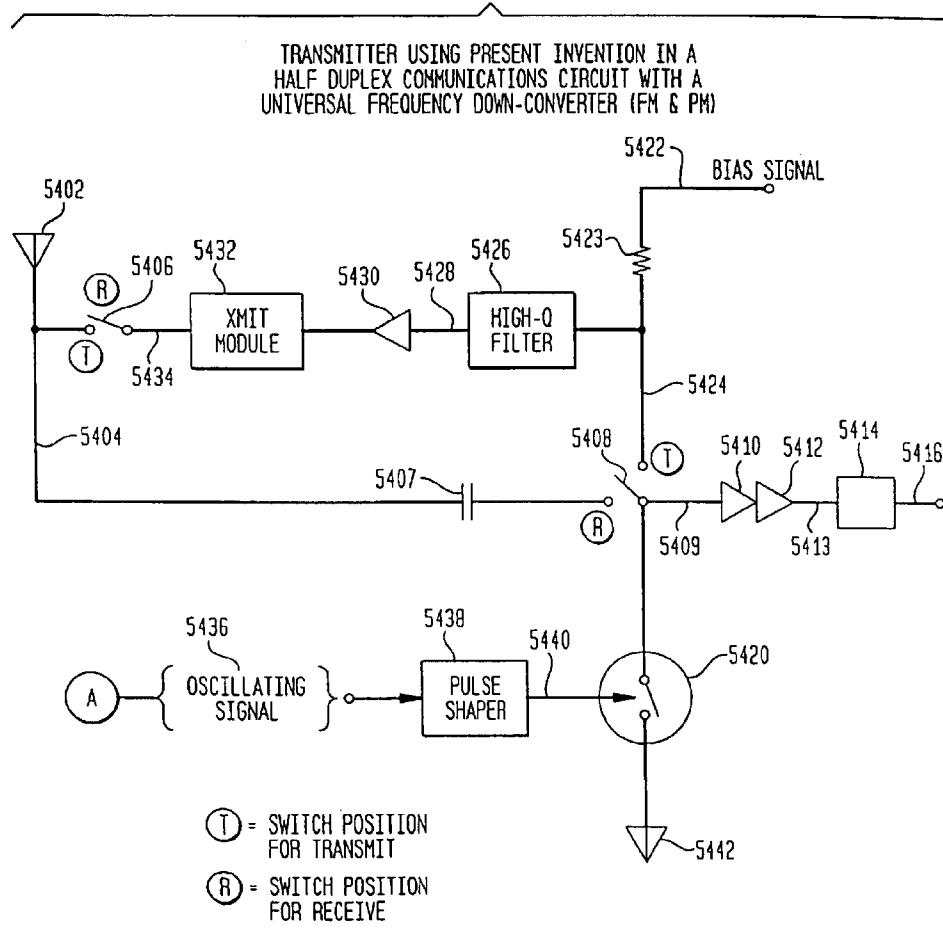


FIG. 54B

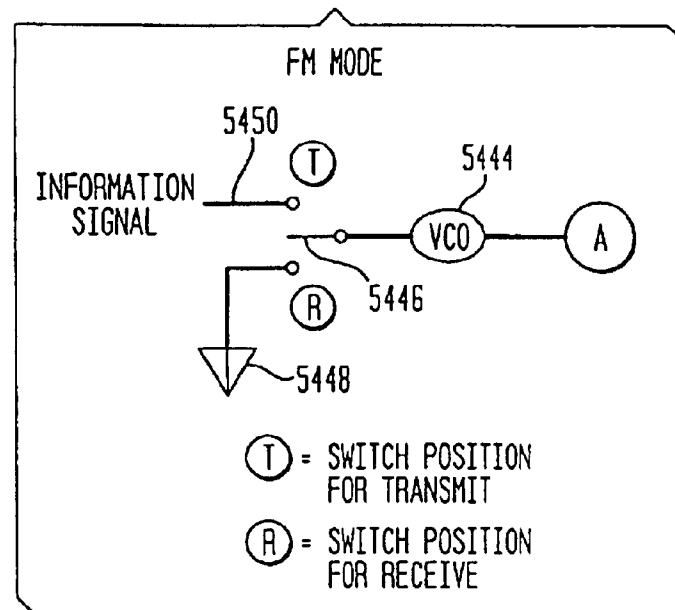


FIG. 54C

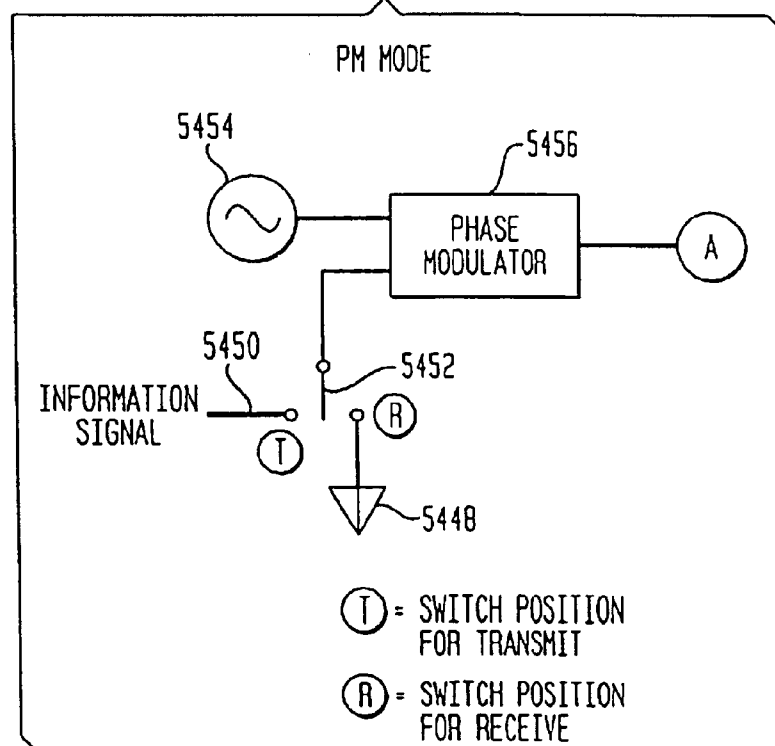


FIG. 55

TRANSMITTER USING PRESENT INVENTION IN
A HALF-DUPLEX COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT
WITH A UNIVERSAL FREQUENCY DOWN-CONVERTER (AM)

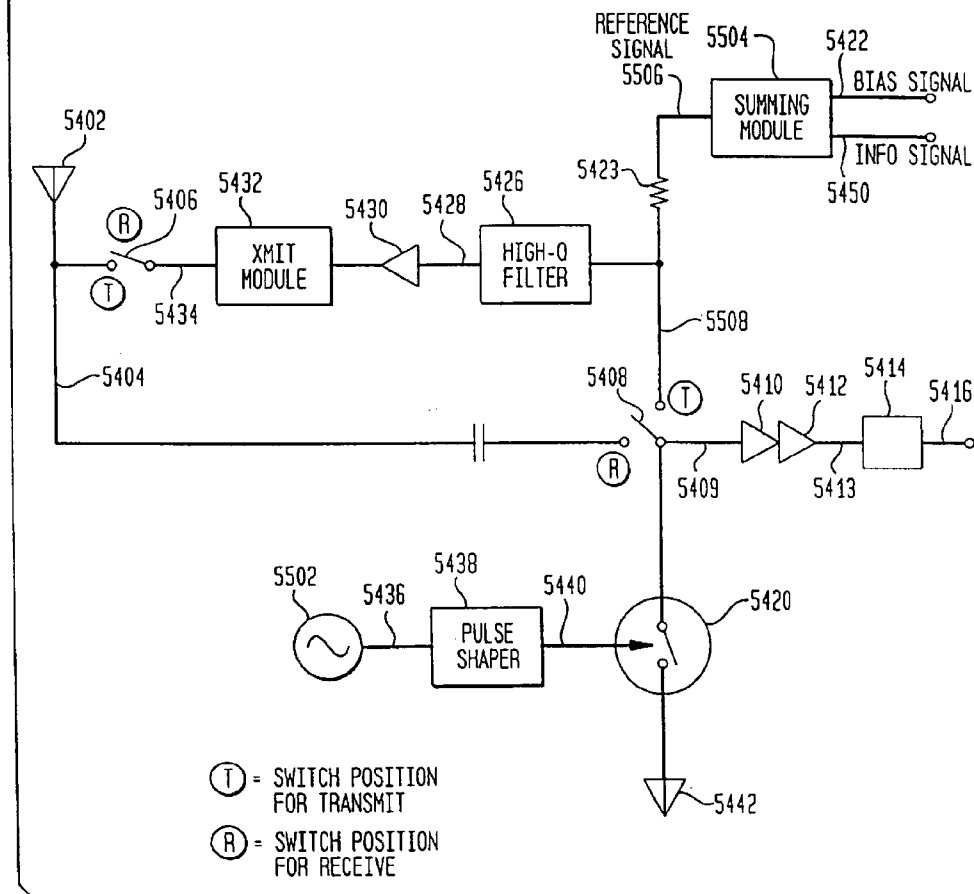


FIG. 56

TRANSMITTER USING PRESENT INVENTION IN
FULL DUPLEX COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT WITH
UNIVERSAL FREQUENCY DOWN-CONVERTER

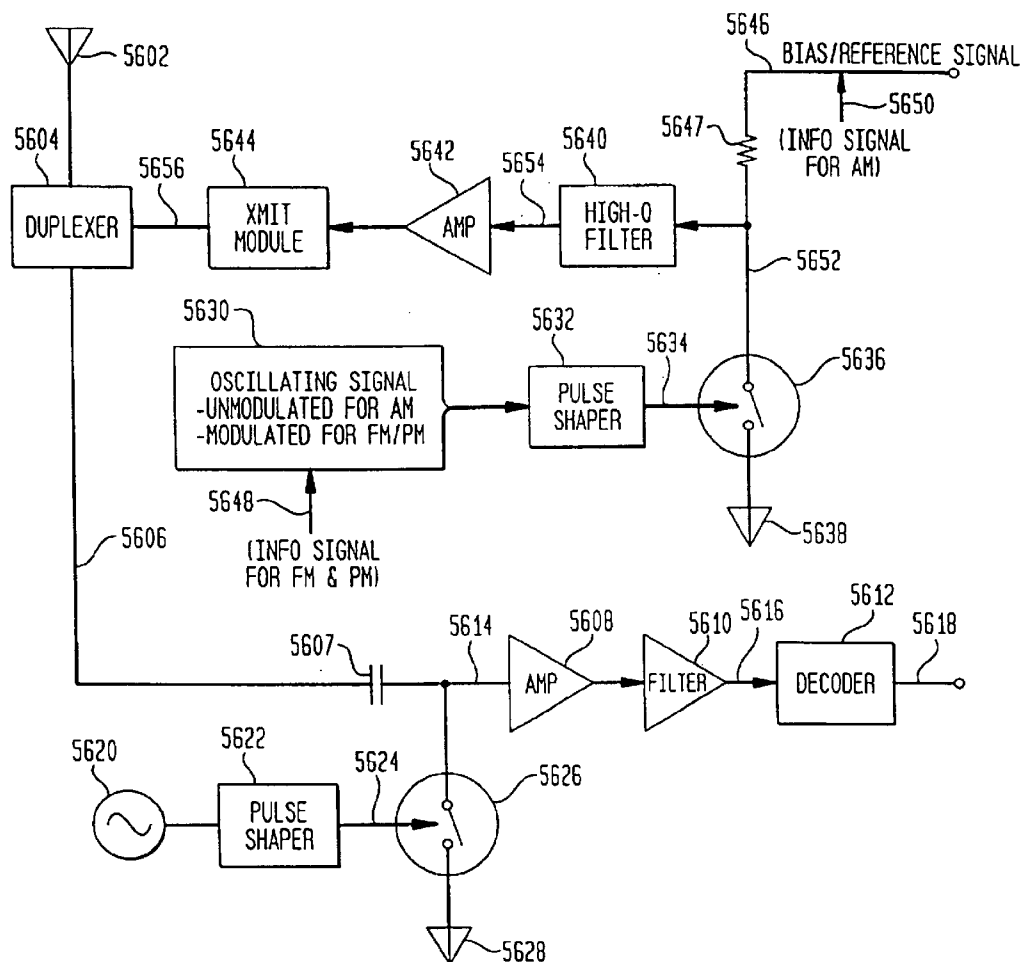


FIG. 57A

TRANSMITTER IN THE FM EMBODIMENT

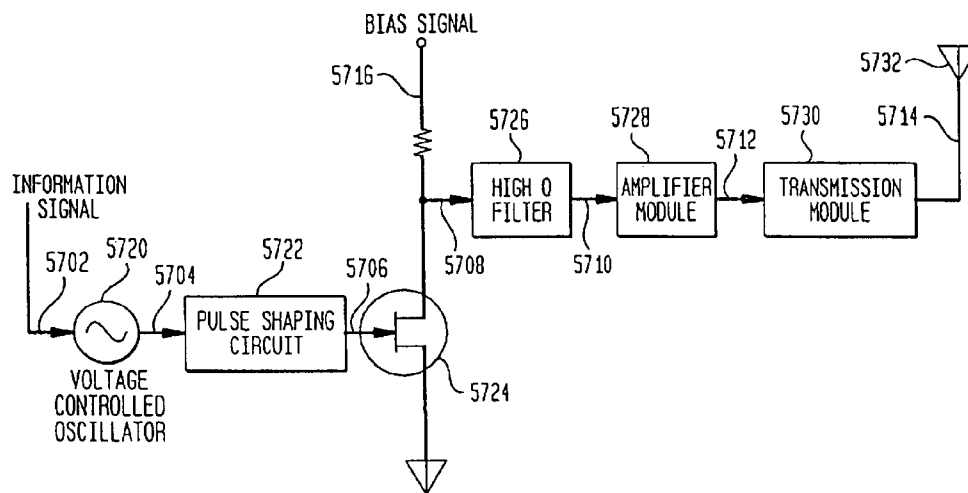
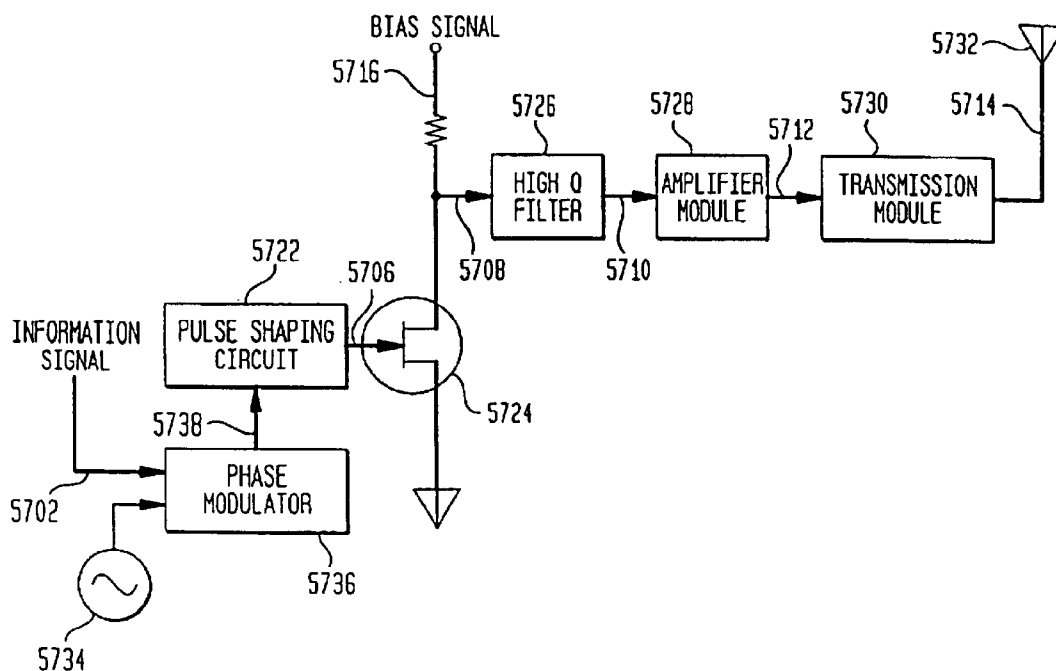


FIG. 57B

TRANSMITTER IN THE PM EMBODIMENT

**FIG. 57C**

TRANSMITTER IN THE AM EMBODIMENT

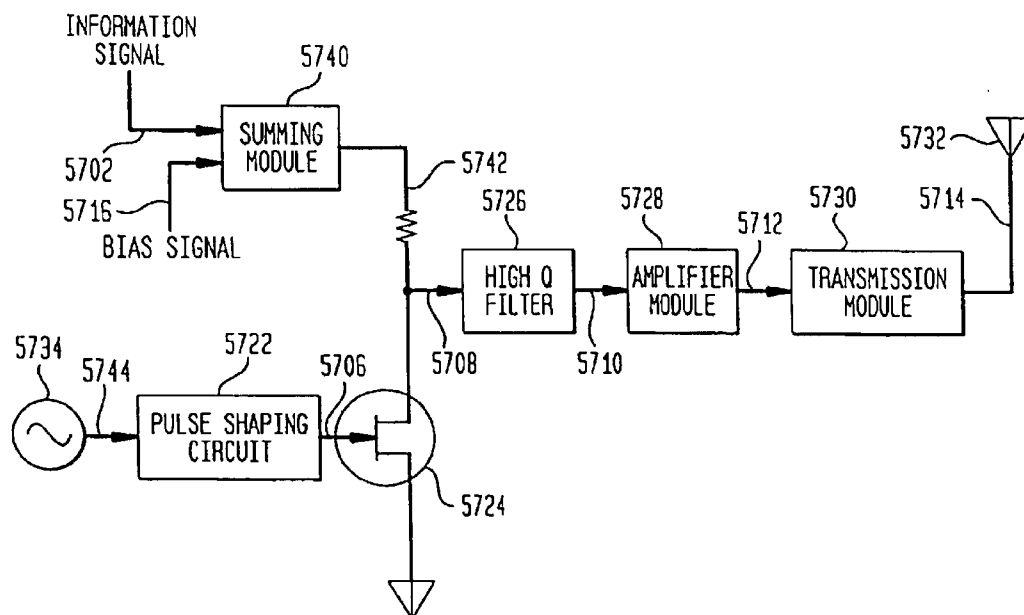


FIG. 58

PW/T RATIO = 0.1

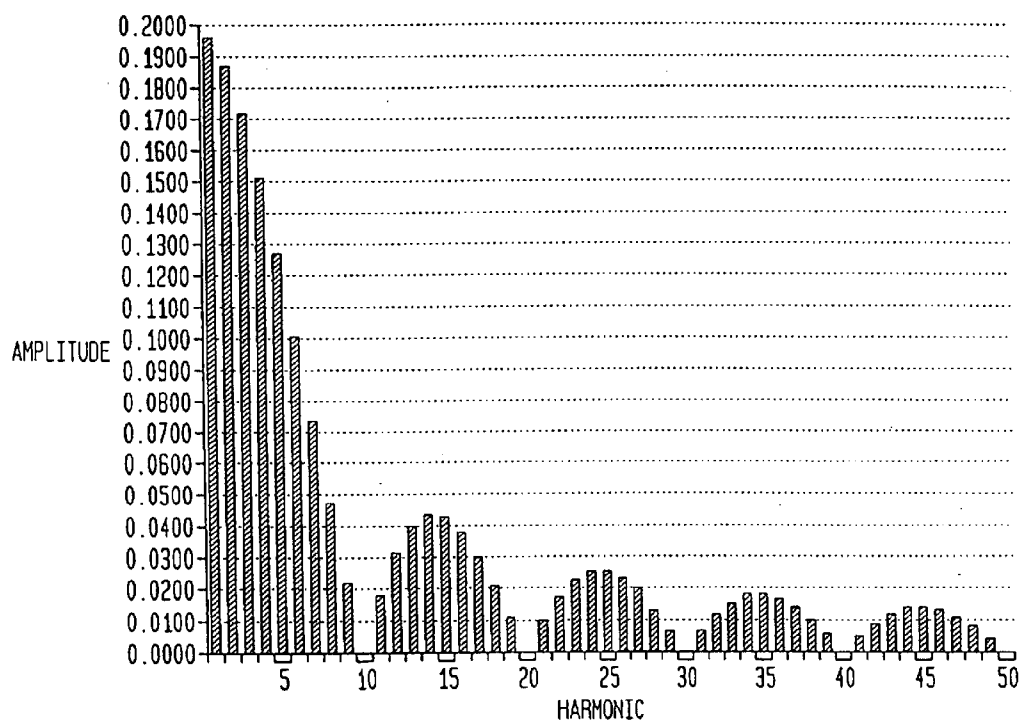


FIG. 59

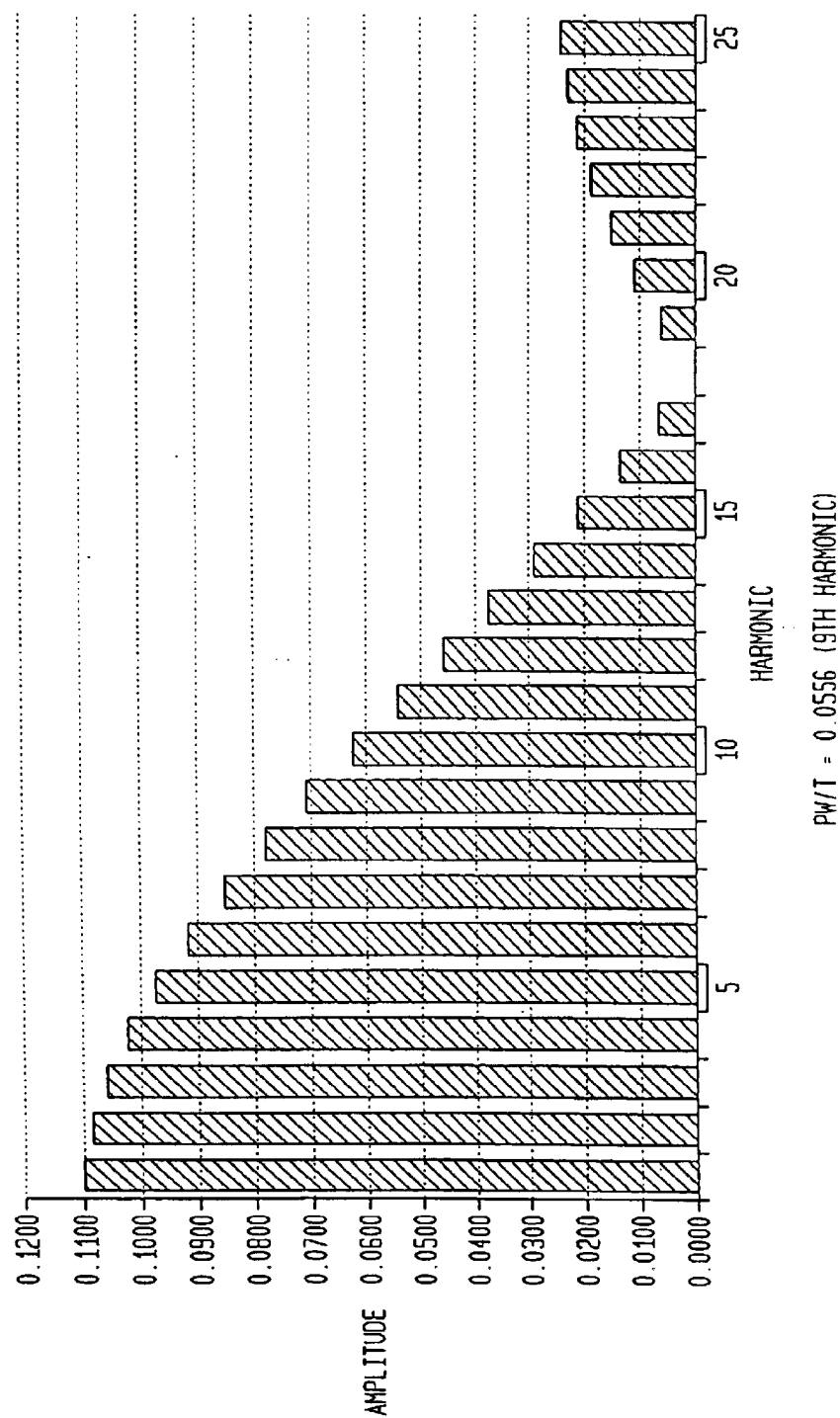


FIG. 60

6000

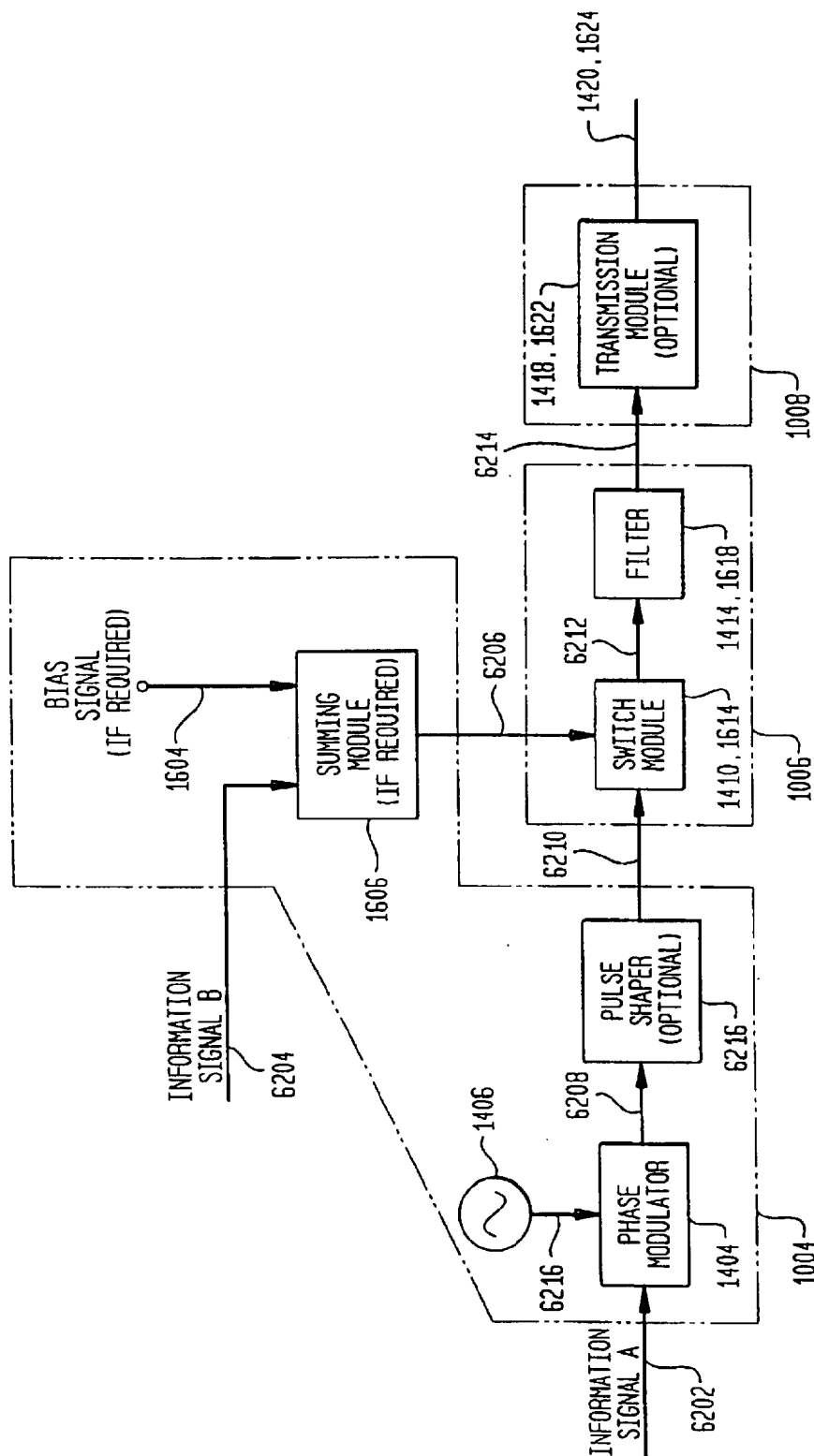
HARMONIC	τ/T	=	0.500	0.250	0.100	0.050	0.010	0.005
1			0.6366	0.4502	0.1967	0.0996	0.0200	0.01000
2			0.00	0.3183	0.1871	0.0984	0.0200	0.01000
3			0.2122	0.1501	0.1717	0.0963	0.0200	0.01000
4			0.00	0.00	0.1514	0.0935	0.0199	0.00999
5			0.1273	0.0900	0.1273	0.0900	0.0199	0.00999
6			0.00	0.1061	0.1009	0.0858	0.0199	0.00999
7			0.0909	0.0643	0.0736	0.0810	0.0198	0.00998
8			0.00	0.00	0.0468	0.0757	0.0198	0.00997
9			0.0707	0.0500	0.0219	0.0699	0.0197	0.00997
10			0.00	0.0637	0.00	0.0637	0.0197	0.00996
11			0.0579	0.0409	0.0179	0.0572	0.0196	0.00995
12			0.00	0.00	0.0312	0.0505	0.0195	0.00994
13			0.0490	0.0346	0.0396	0.0436	0.0194	0.00993
14			0.00	0.0455	0.0432	0.0368	0.0194	0.00992
15			0.0424	0.0300	0.0424	0.0300	0.0193	0.00991
16			0.00	0.00	0.0378	0.0234	0.0192	0.00990
17			0.0374	0.0265	0.0303	0.0170	0.0191	0.00988
18			0.00	0.0354	0.0208	0.0109	0.0190	0.00987
19			0.0335	0.0237	0.0104	0.0052	0.0188	0.00985
20			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0187	0.00984
21			0.0303	0.0214	0.0094	0.0047	0.0186	0.00982
22			0.00	0.0289	0.0170	0.0089	0.0184	0.00980
23			0.0277	0.0196	0.0224	0.0126	0.0183	0.00978
24			0.00	0.00	0.0252	0.0156	0.0182	0.00976
25			0.0255	0.0180	0.0255	0.0180	0.0180	0.00974
26			0.00	0.0245	0.0233	0.0198	0.0178	0.00972
27			0.0236	0.0167	0.0191	0.0210	0.0177	0.00970
28			0.00	0.00	0.0134	0.0216	0.0175	0.00968
29			0.0220	0.0155	0.0068	0.0217	0.0173	0.00966
30			0.00	0.0212	0.00	0.0212	0.0172	0.00963
31			0.0205	0.0145	0.0063	0.0203	0.0170	0.00961
32			0.00	0.00	0.0117	0.0189	0.0168	0.00958
33			0.0193	0.0136	0.0156	0.0172	0.0166	0.00956
34			0.00	0.0187	0.0178	0.0151	0.0164	0.00953
35			0.0182	0.0129	0.0182	0.0129	0.0162	0.00950
36			0.00	0.00	0.0168	0.0104	0.0160	0.00948
37			0.0172	0.0122	0.0139	0.0078	0.0158	0.00945
38			0.00	0.0168	0.0098	0.0052	0.0156	0.00942
39			0.0163	0.0115	0.0050	0.0026	0.0154	0.00939
40			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0151	0.00935
41			0.0155	0.0110	0.0048	0.0024	0.0149	0.00932
42			0.00	0.0152	0.0089	0.0047	0.0147	0.00929
43			0.0148	0.0105	0.0120	0.0067	0.0144	0.00926
44			0.00	0.00	0.0138	0.0085	0.0142	0.00922
45			0.0141	0.0100	0.0141	0.0100	0.0140	0.00919
46			0.00	0.0138	0.0132	0.0112	0.0137	0.00915
47			0.0135	0.0096	0.0110	0.0121	0.0135	0.00912
48			0.00	0.00	0.0078	0.0126	0.0132	0.00908
49			0.0130	0.0092	0.0040	0.0128	0.0130	0.00904
50			0.00	0.0127	0.00	0.0127	0.0127	0.00900

FIG. 61

6100

	τ/Γ	=	0.5000	0.2500	0.1667	0.1250	0.1000	0.0833	0.0714	0.0625	0.0556	0.0500
HARMONIC			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1			0.6366	0.4502	0.3183	0.2436	0.1967	0.1648	0.1417	0.1242	0.1105	0.0996
2			0.0000	0.3183	0.2757	0.2251	0.1871	0.1592	0.1391	0.1218	0.1089	0.0984
3			0.2122	0.1501	0.2122	0.1961	0.1717	0.1501	0.1323	0.1179	0.1061	0.0963
4			0.0000	0.0000	0.1378	0.1592	0.1514	0.1378	0.1244	0.1125	0.1023	0.0935
5			0.1273	0.0900	0.0637	0.1176	0.1273	0.1230	0.1147	0.1059	0.0975	0.0900
6			0.0000	0.1061	0.0000	0.0750	0.1009	0.1051	0.1034	0.0980	0.0919	0.0858
7			0.0909	0.0643	0.0455	0.0348	0.0736	0.0878	0.0909	0.0892	0.0855	0.0810
8			0.0000	0.0000	0.0689	0.0000	0.0468	0.0689	0.0776	0.0796	0.0784	0.0757
9			0.0707	0.0500	0.0707	0.0271	0.0219	0.0500	0.0637	0.0694	0.0707	0.0699
10			0.0000	0.0637	0.0551	0.0450	0.0000	0.0318	0.0498	0.0588	0.0627	0.0637
11			0.0579	0.0409	0.0289	0.0535	0.0179	0.0150	0.0361	0.0481	0.0544	0.0572
12			0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0531	0.0312	0.0000	0.0230	0.0375	0.0459	0.0505
13			0.0490	0.0346	0.0245	0.0452	0.0396	0.0127	0.0109	0.0272	0.0375	0.0436
14			0.0000	0.0455	0.0394	0.0322	0.0432	0.0227	0.0000	0.0174	0.0292	0.0368
15			0.0424	0.0300	0.0424	0.0162	0.0424	0.0300	0.0094	0.0083	0.0212	0.0300
16			0.0000	0.0000	0.0345	0.0000	0.0378	0.0345	0.0173	0.0000	0.0136	0.0234
17			0.0374	0.0265	0.0187	0.0143	0.0303	0.0362	0.0233	0.0073	0.0065	0.0170
18			0.0000	0.0354	0.0000	0.0250	0.0208	0.0354	0.0277	0.0135	0.0000	0.0109
19			0.0335	0.0237	0.0168	0.0310	0.0104	0.0324	0.0302	0.0186	0.0058	0.0052
20			0.0000	0.0000	0.0276	0.0319	0.0000	0.0276	0.0310	0.0225	0.0109	0.0000
21			0.0303	0.0214	0.0303	0.0280	0.0094	0.0214	0.0303	0.0252	0.0152	0.0047
22			0.0000	0.0289	0.0251	0.0205	0.0170	0.0145	0.0282	0.0267	0.0186	0.0089
23			0.0277	0.0196	0.0138	0.0106	0.0224	0.0072	0.0249	0.0271	0.0212	0.0126
24			0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0252	0.0000	0.0207	0.0265	0.0230	0.0156
25			0.0255	0.0180	0.0127	0.0097	0.0255	0.0066	0.0159	0.0250	0.0239	0.0180

FIG. 62



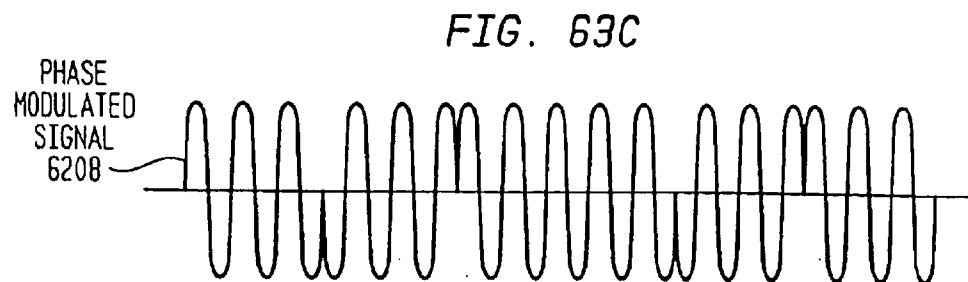
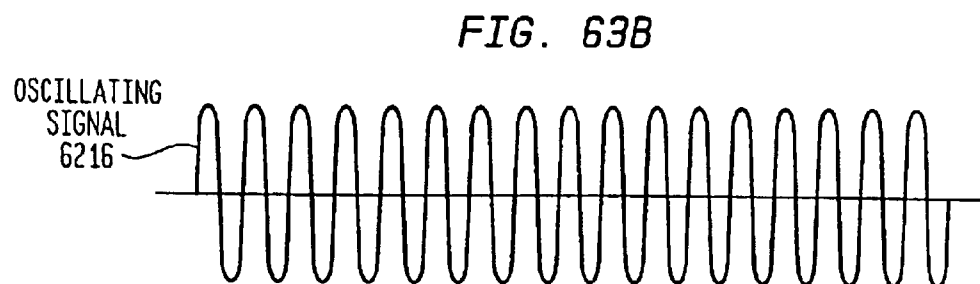
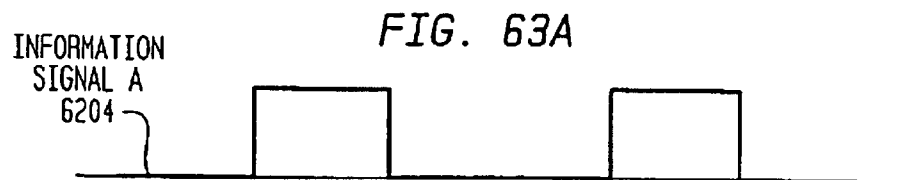


FIG. 63E



FIG. 63F

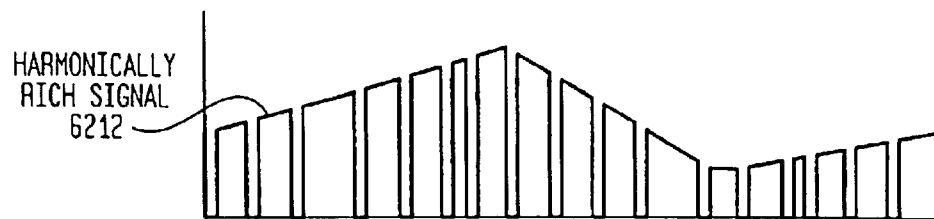


FIG. 63G

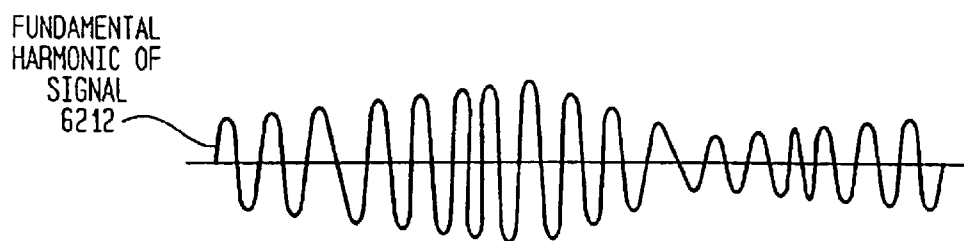


FIG. 63H

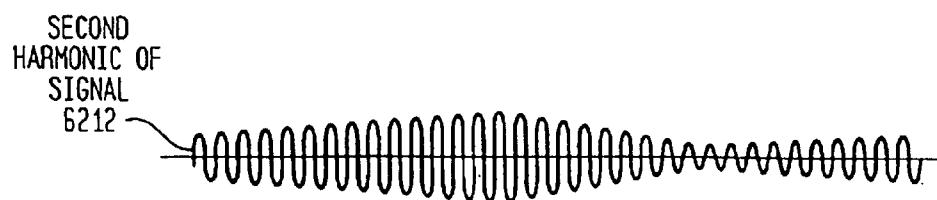


FIG. 64A

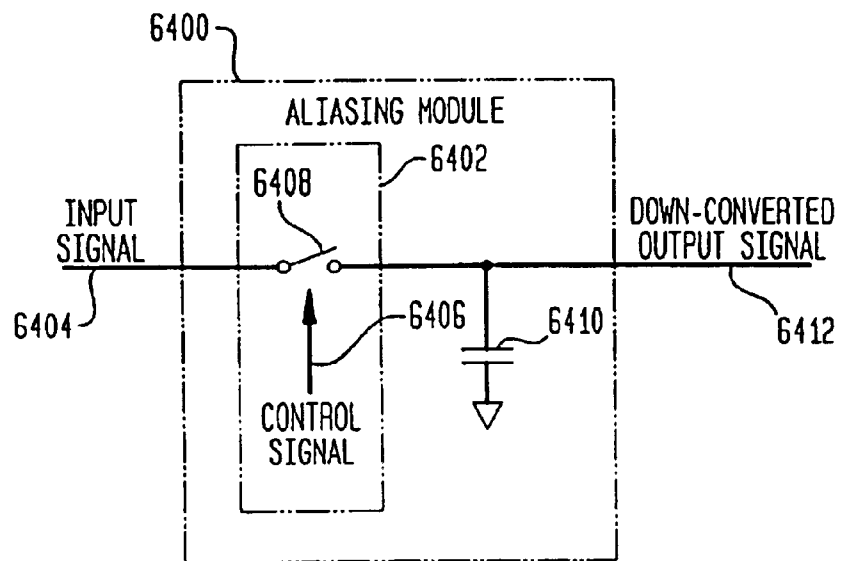


FIG. 64A-1

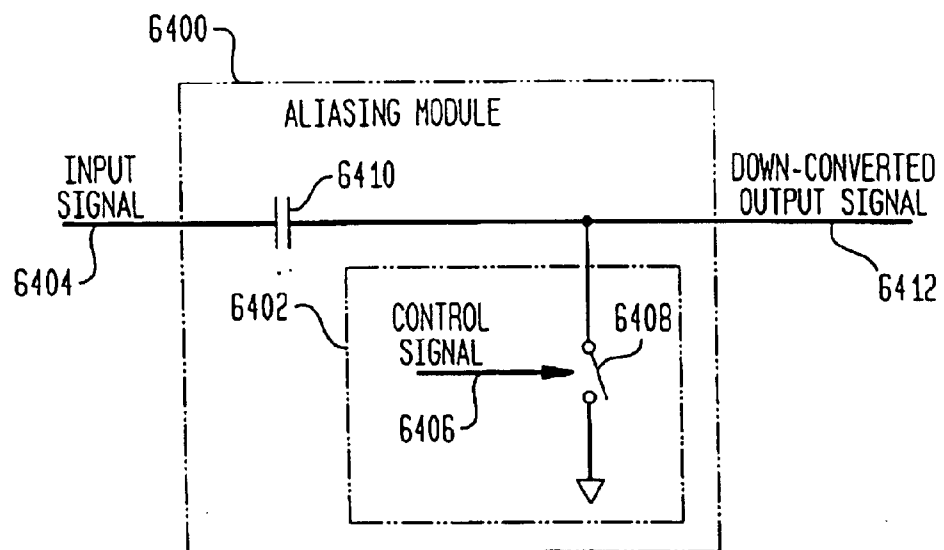


FIG. 64B

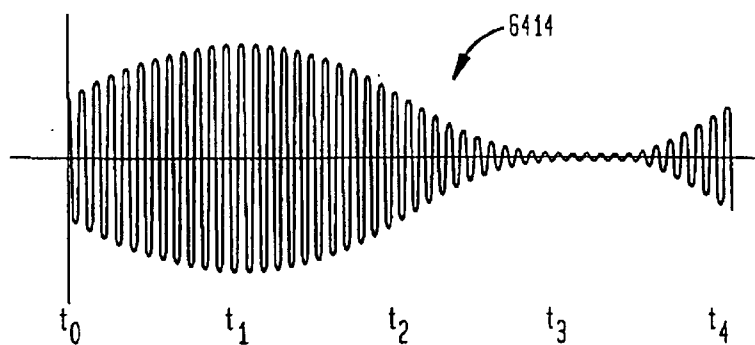


FIG. 64C

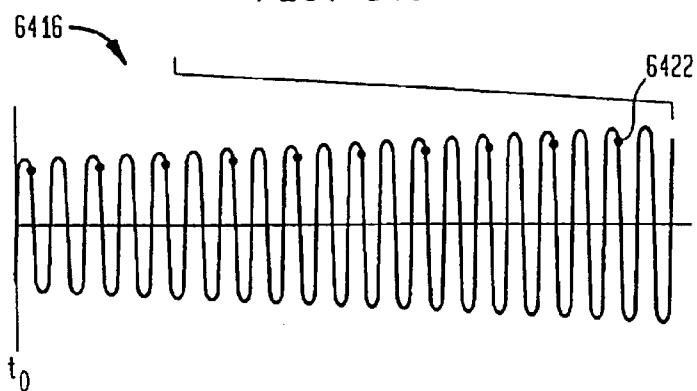


FIG. 64D



FIG. 64E

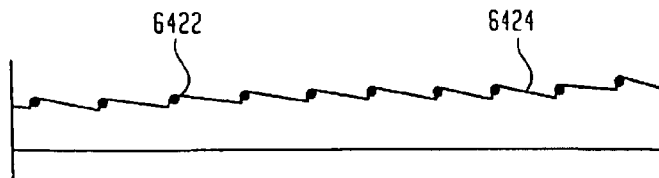


FIG. 64F

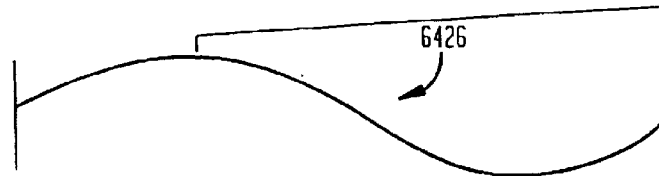


FIG. 65

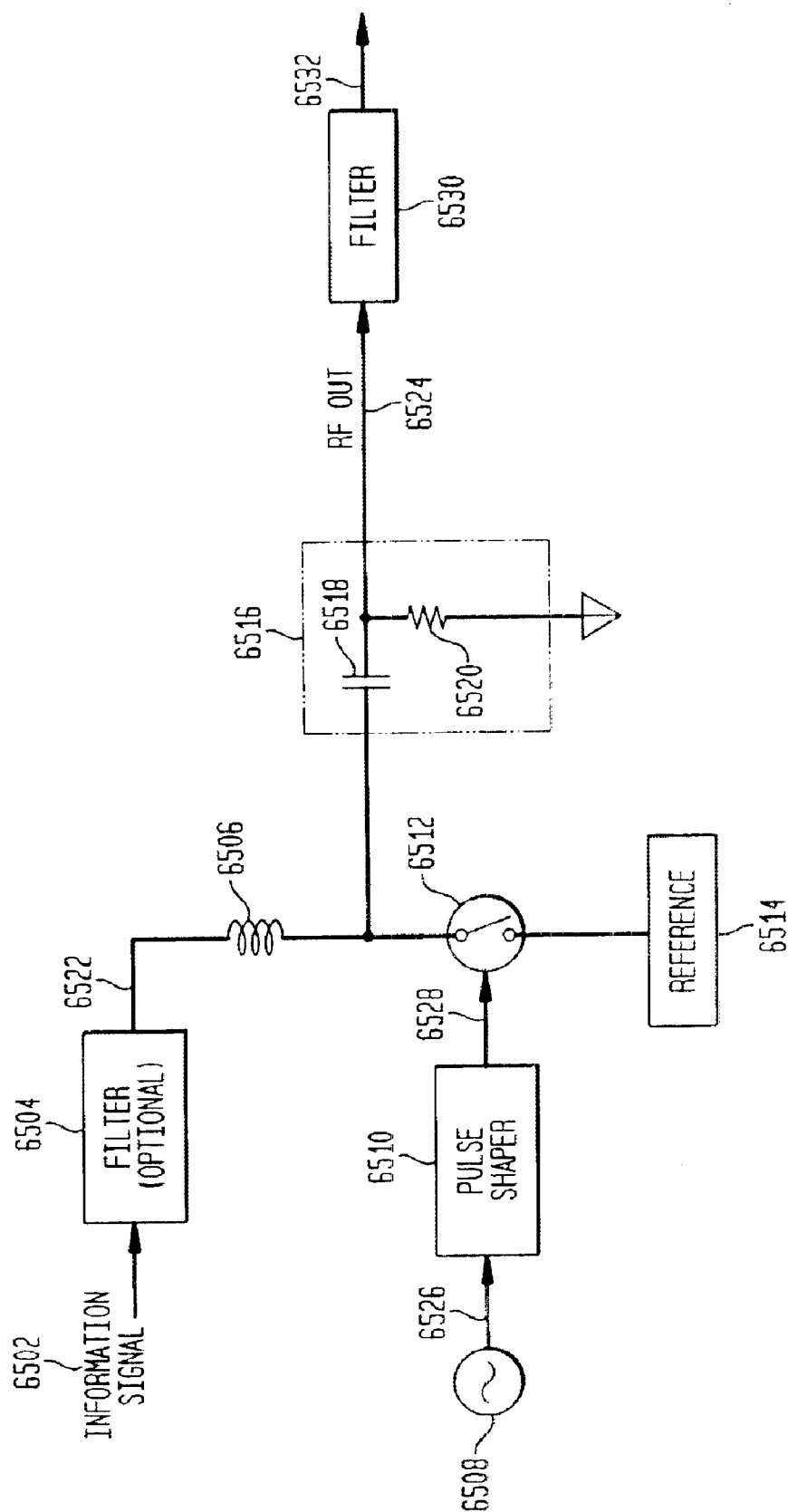


FIG. 66

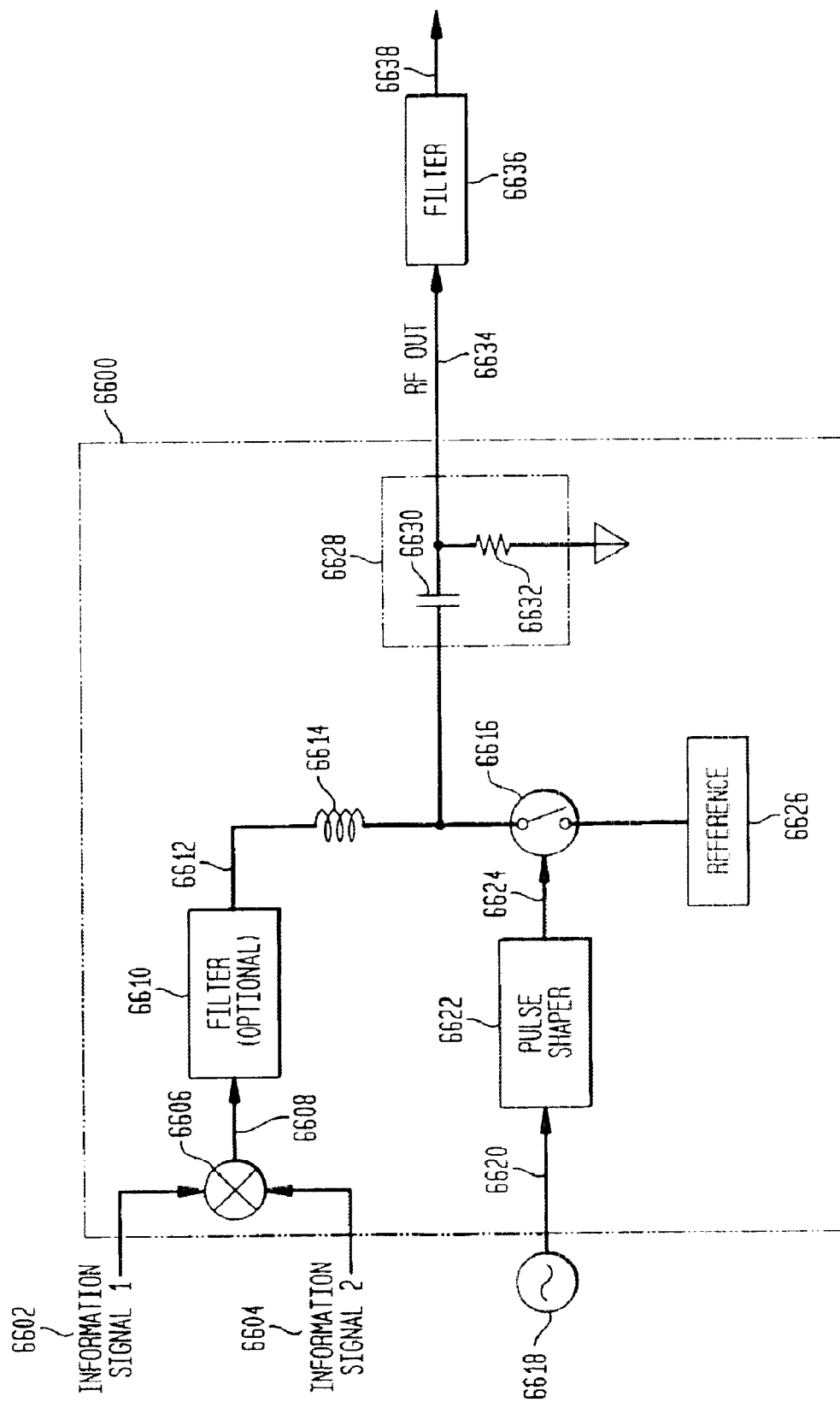


FIG. 67

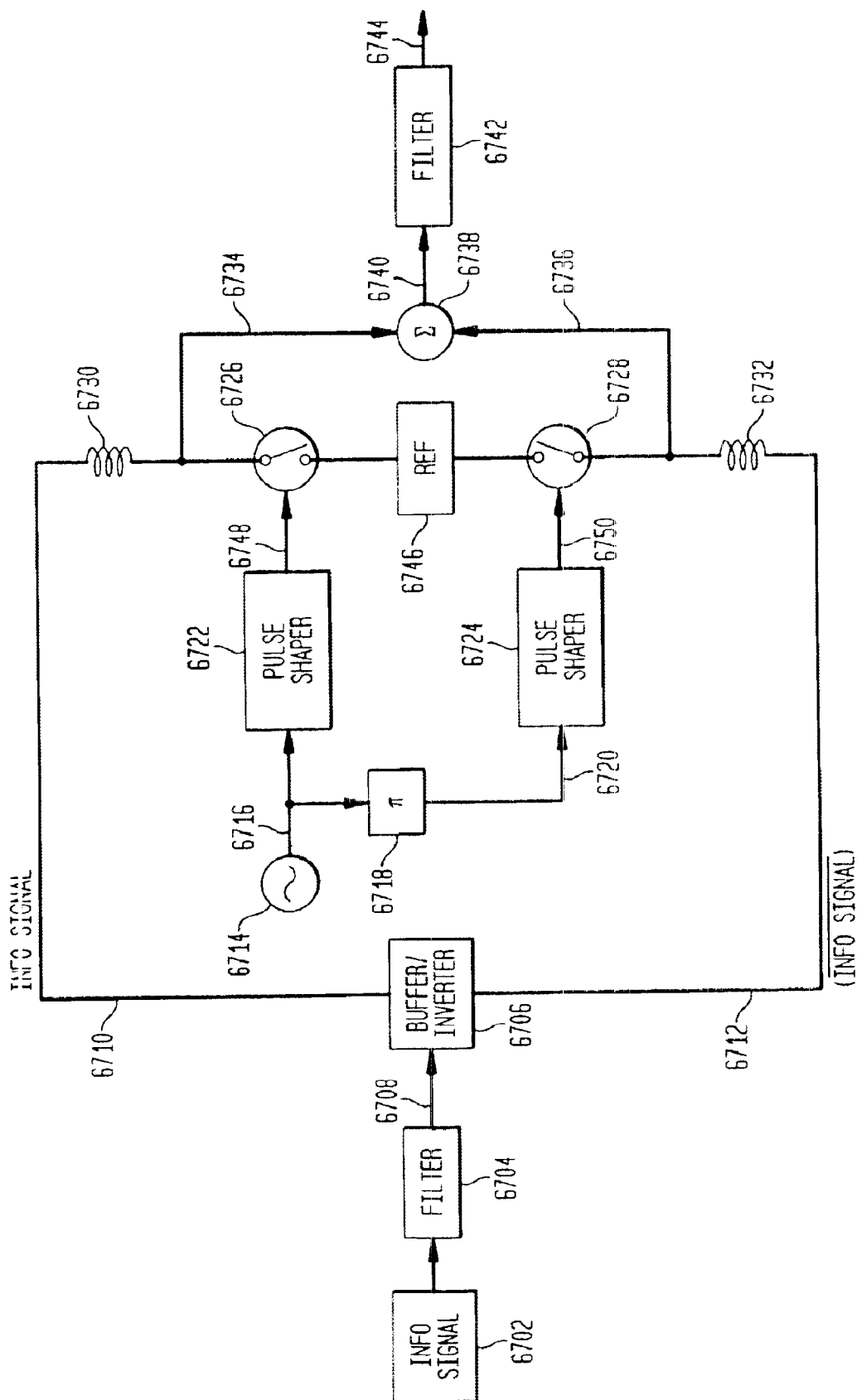
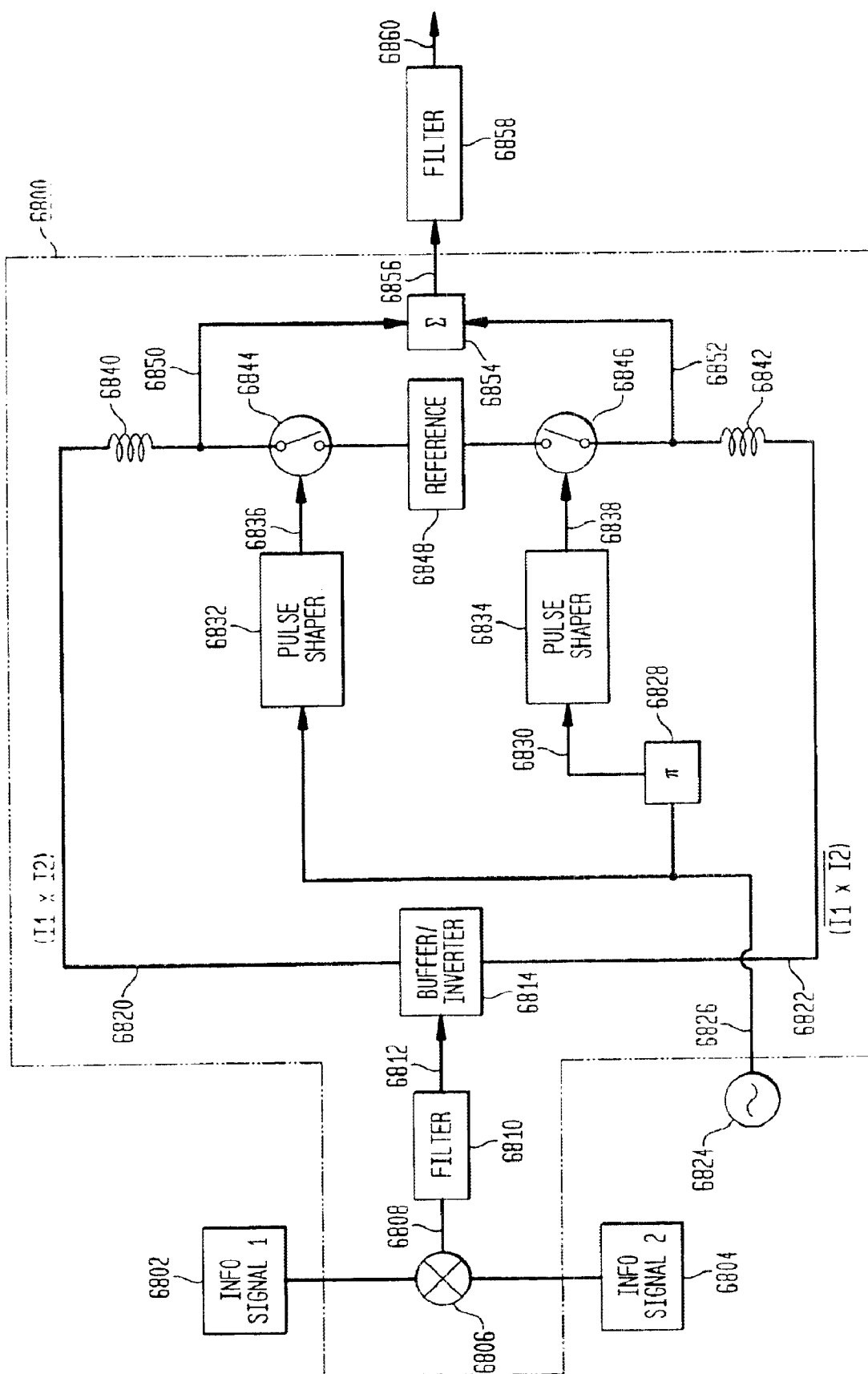


FIG. 68



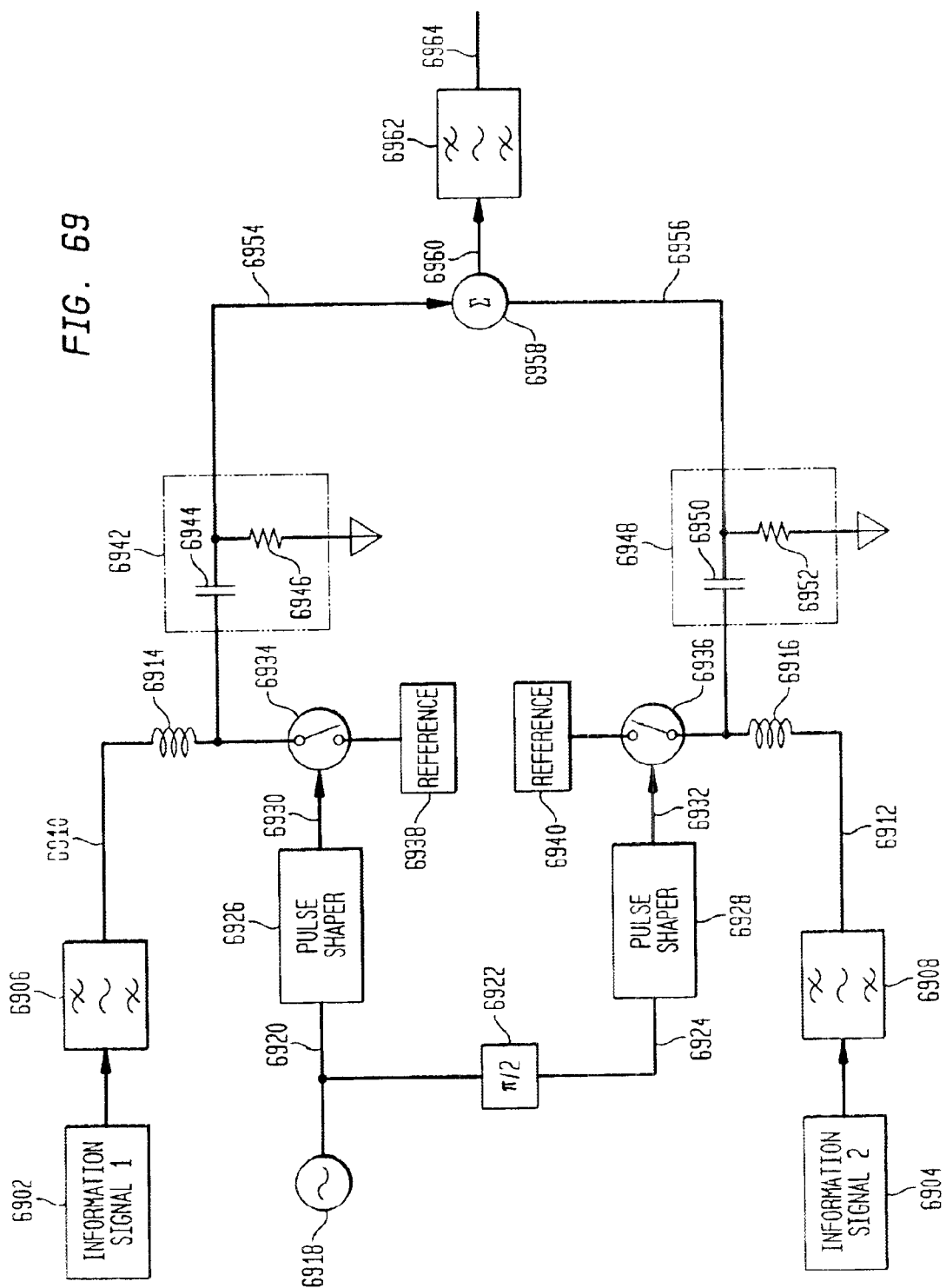


FIG. 70

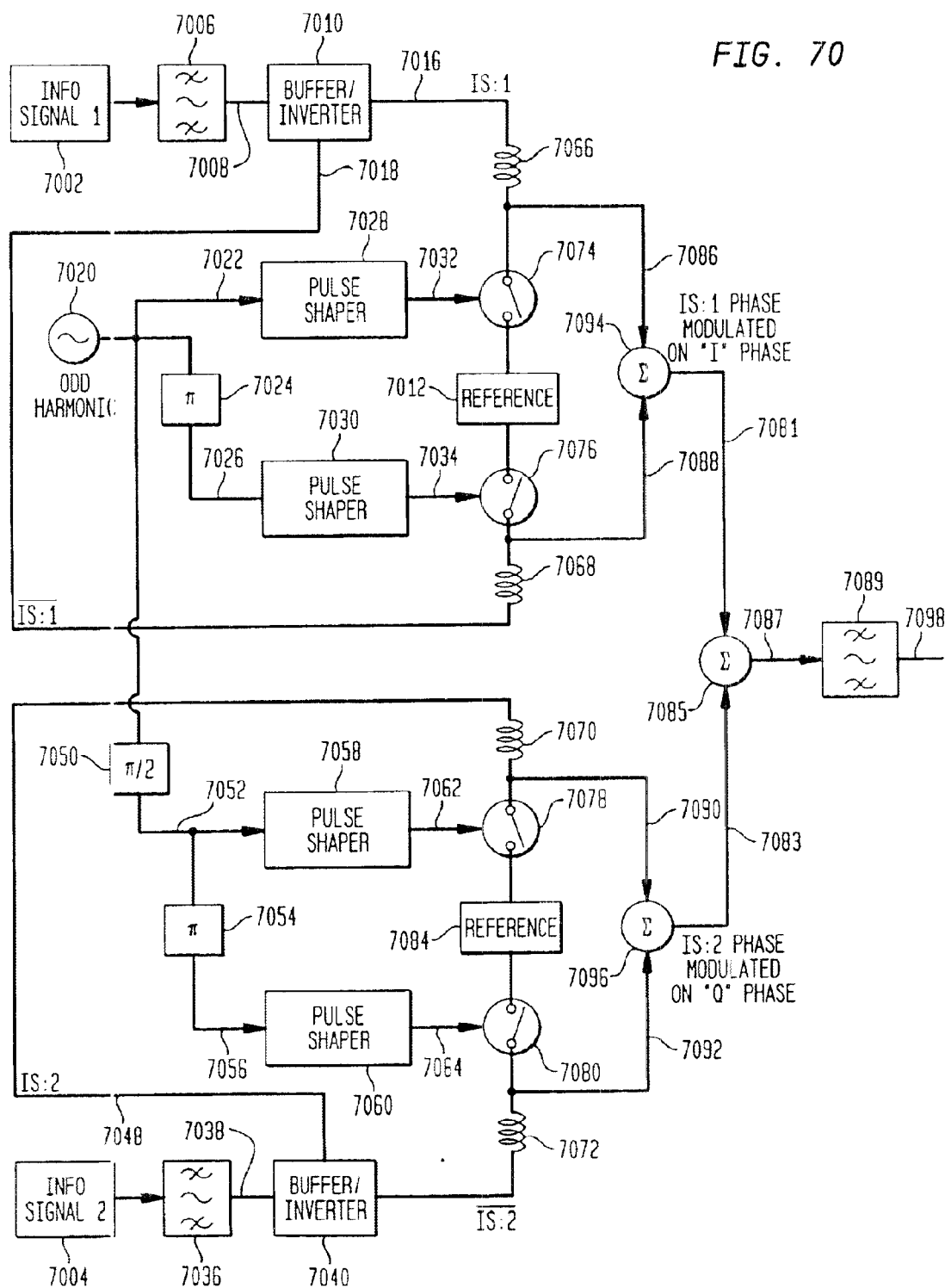


FIG. 71

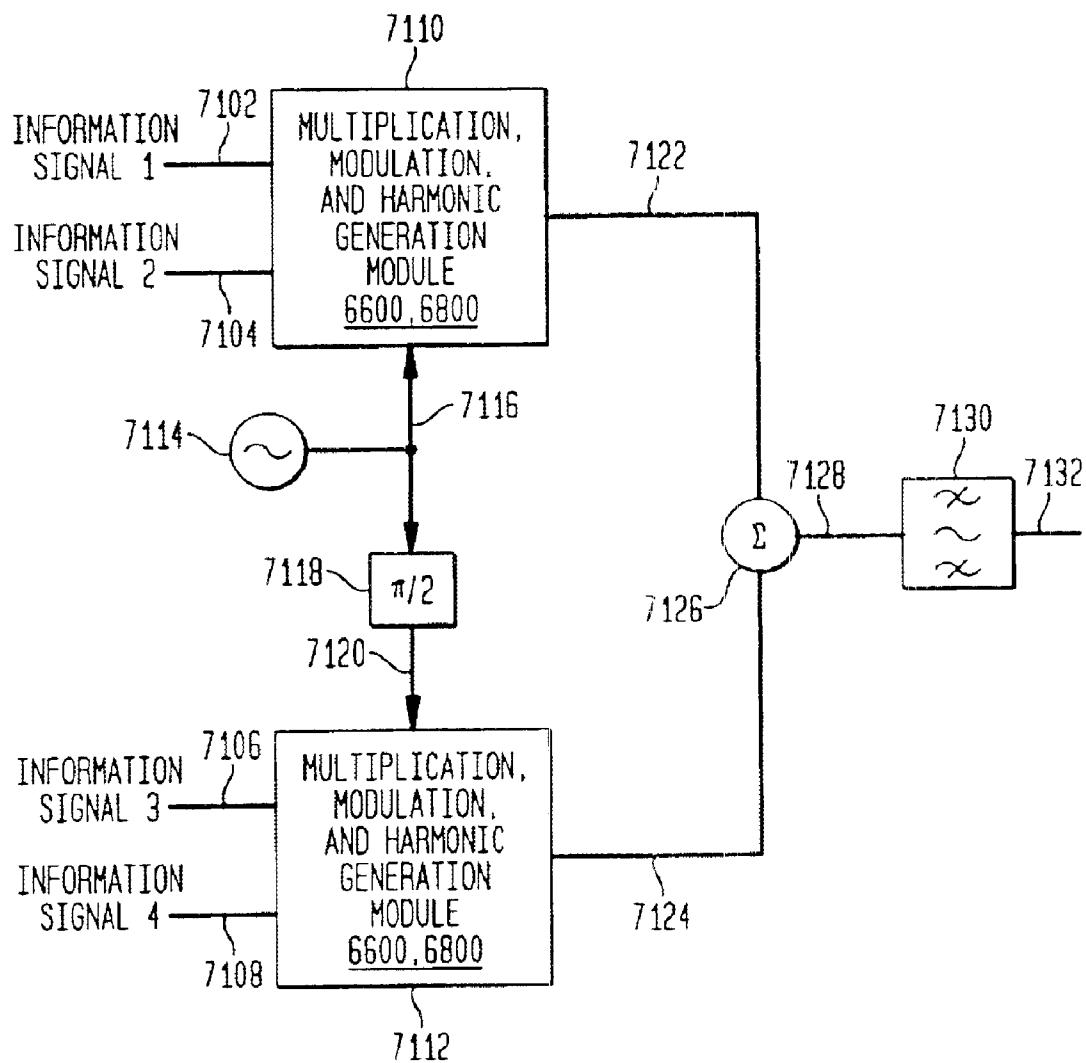


FIG. 72A

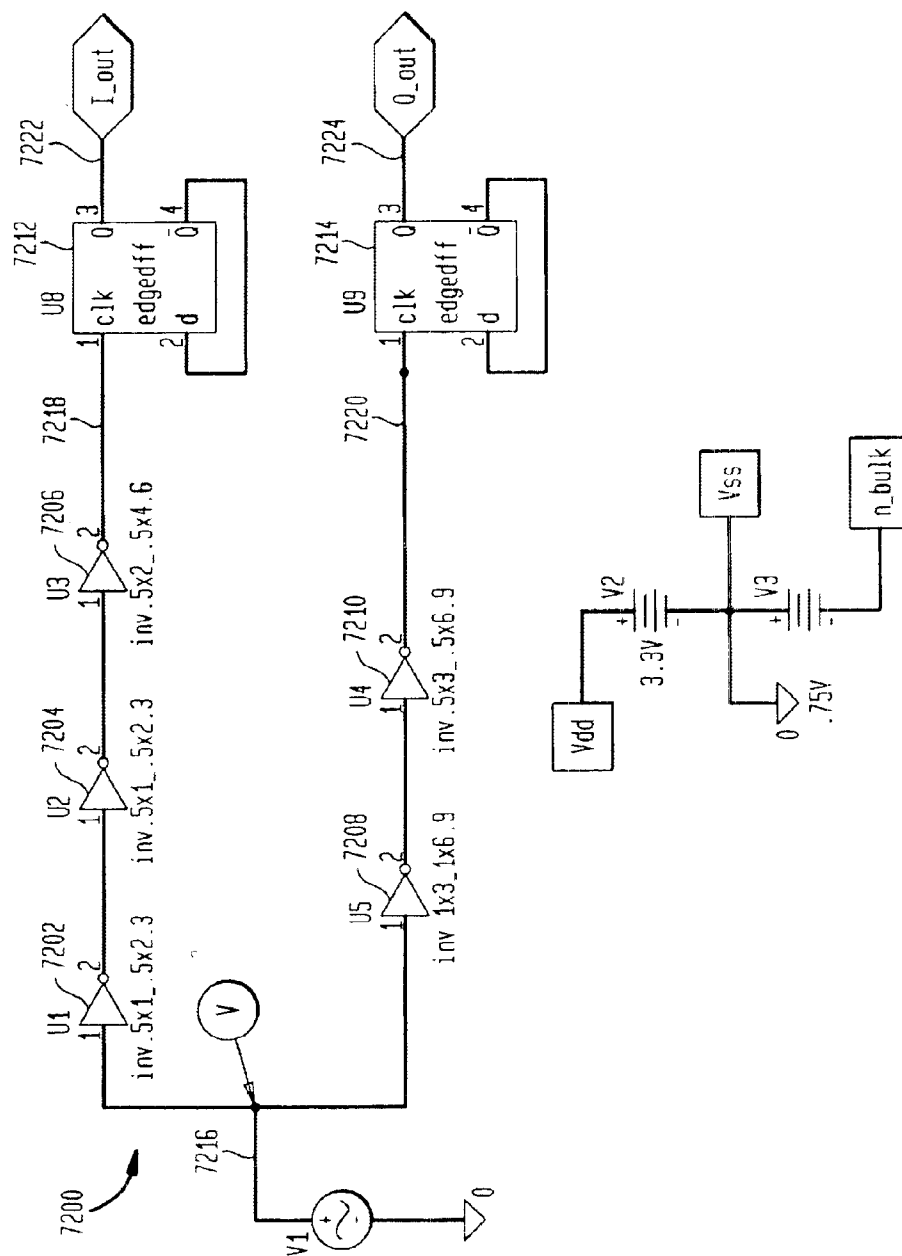
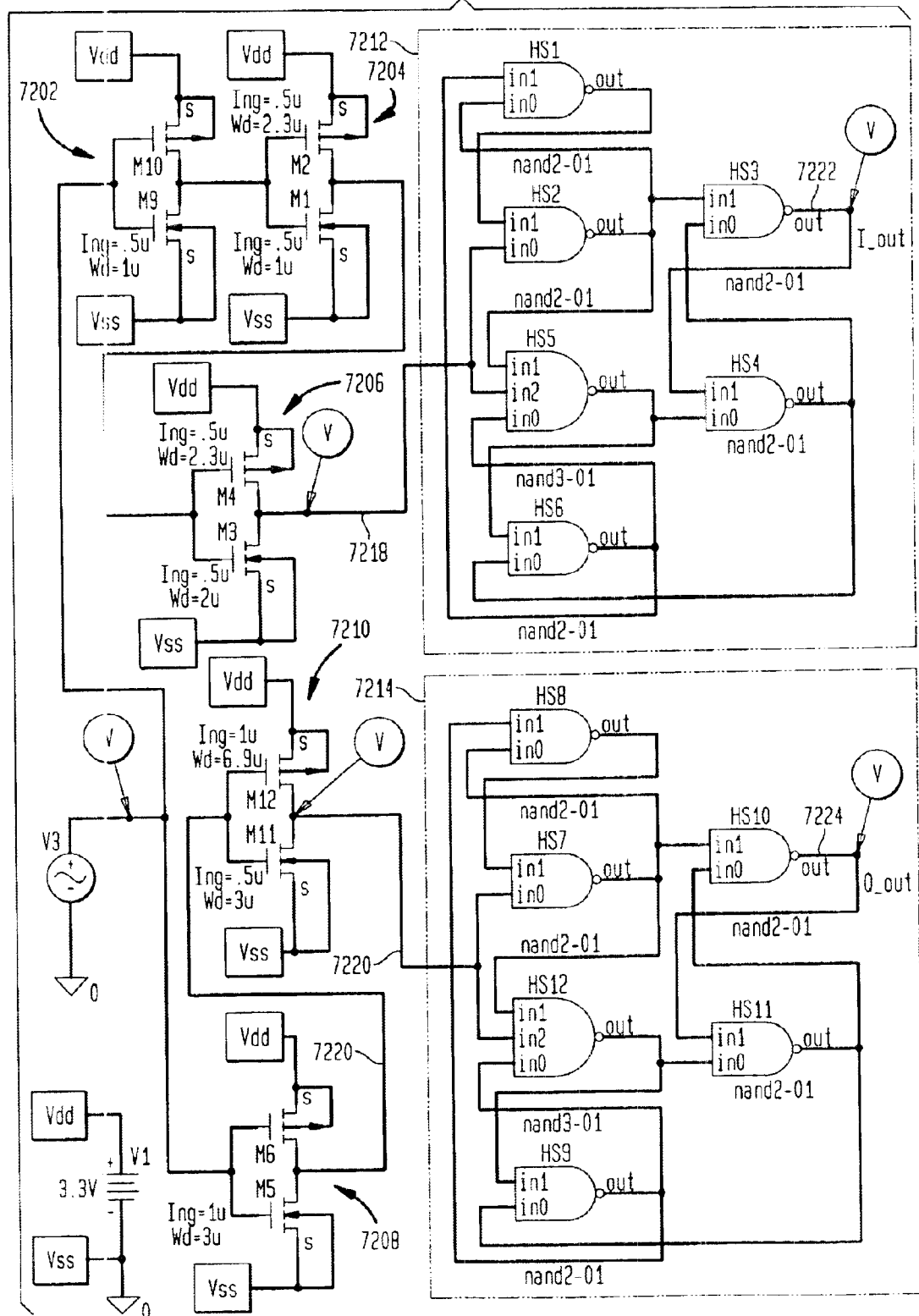


FIG. 72B



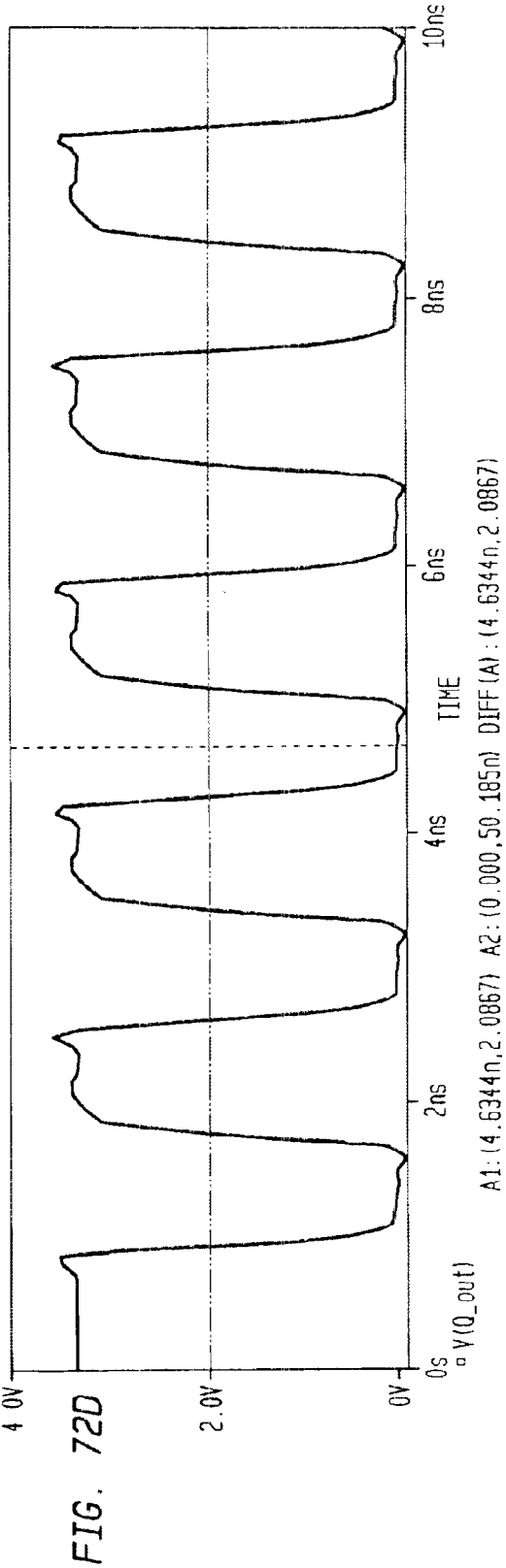
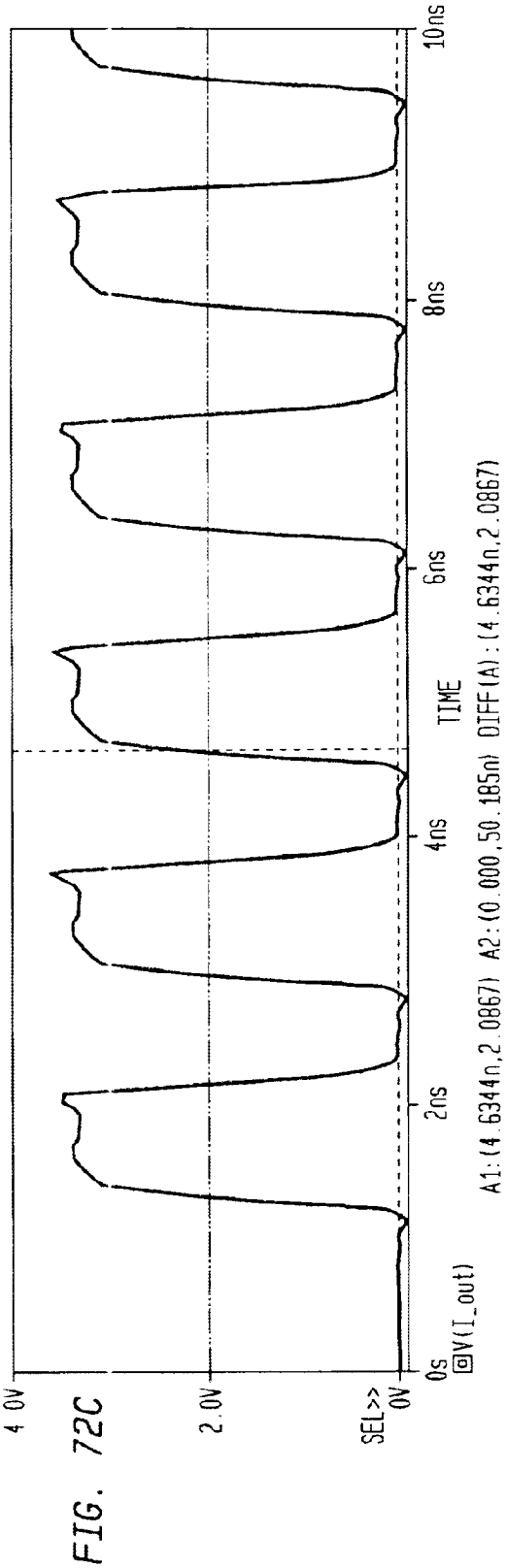


FIG. 72E

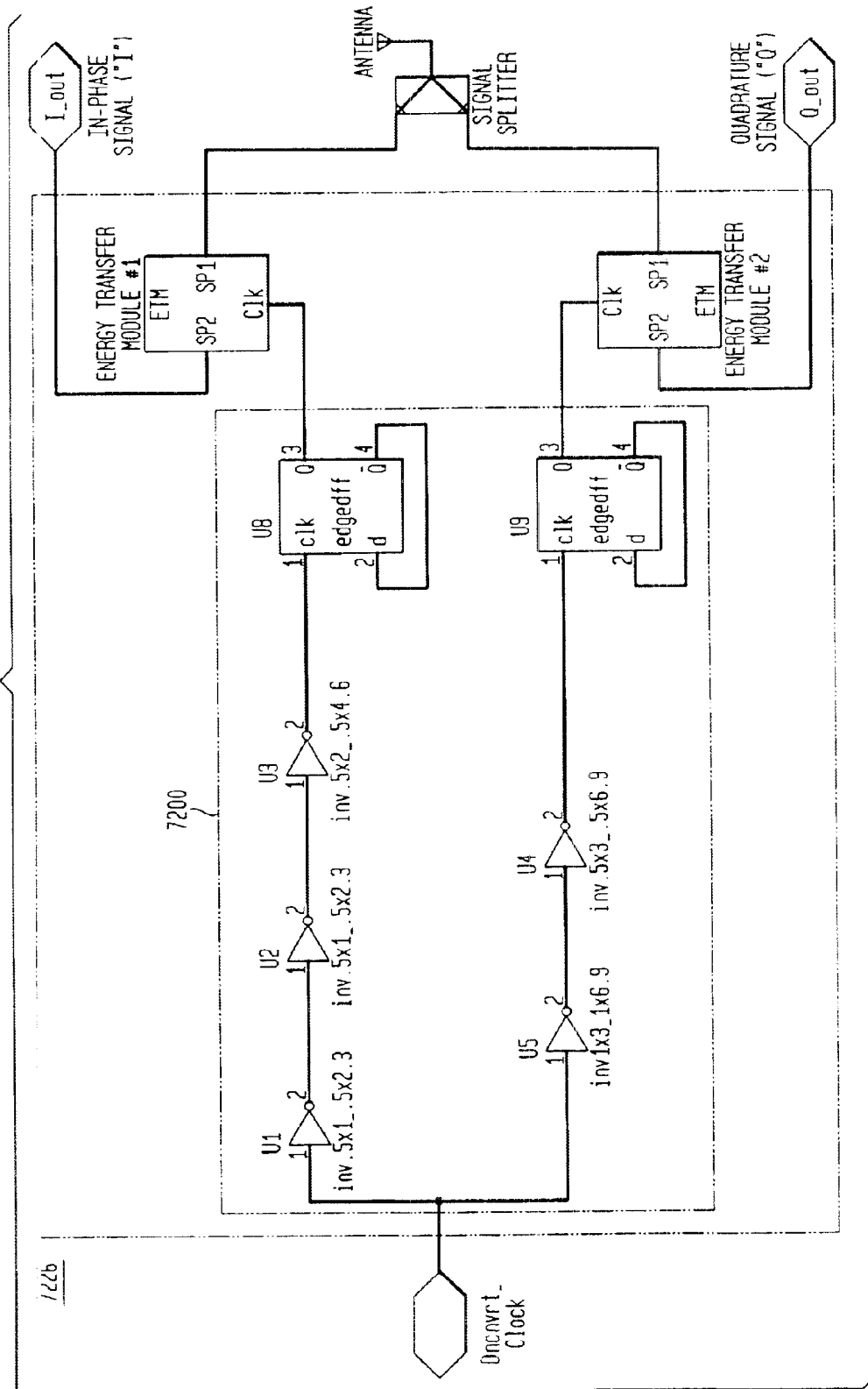


FIG. 72F

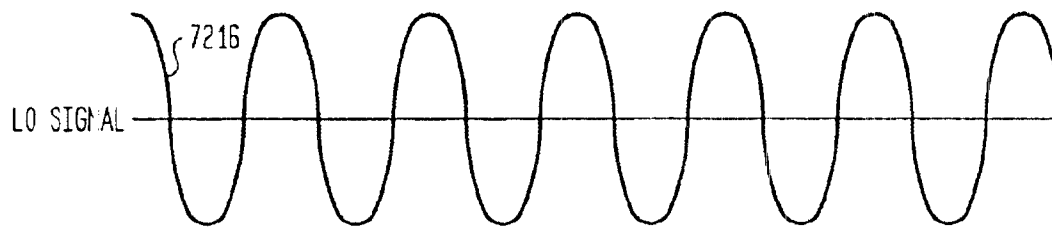


FIG. 72G

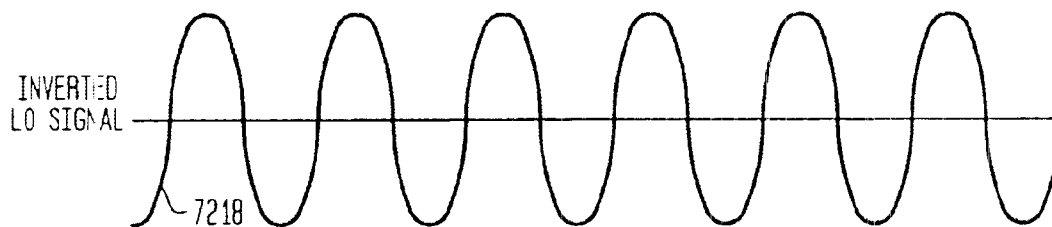


FIG. 72H

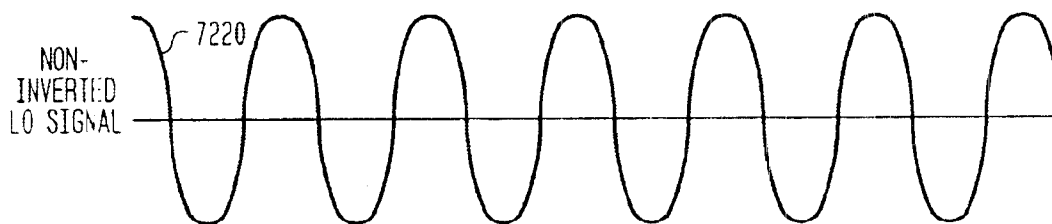


FIG. 72I

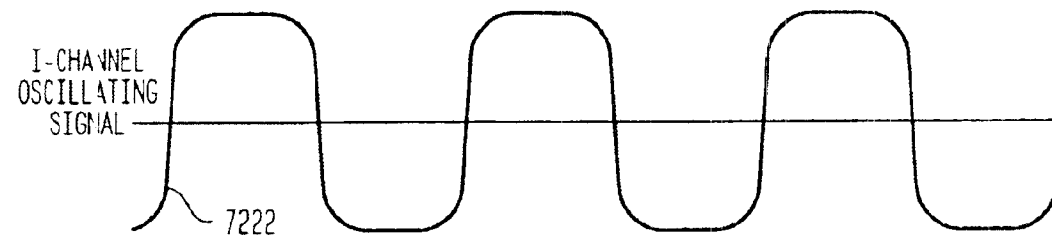


FIG. 72J

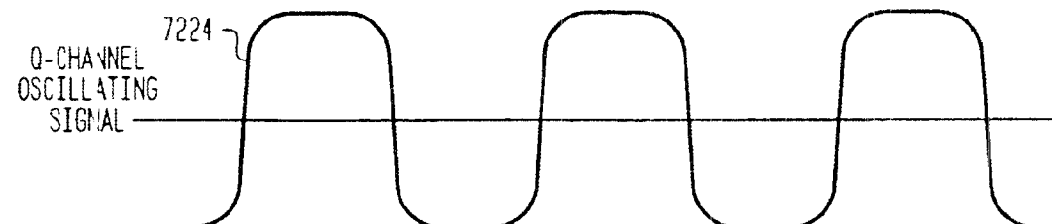


FIG. 73

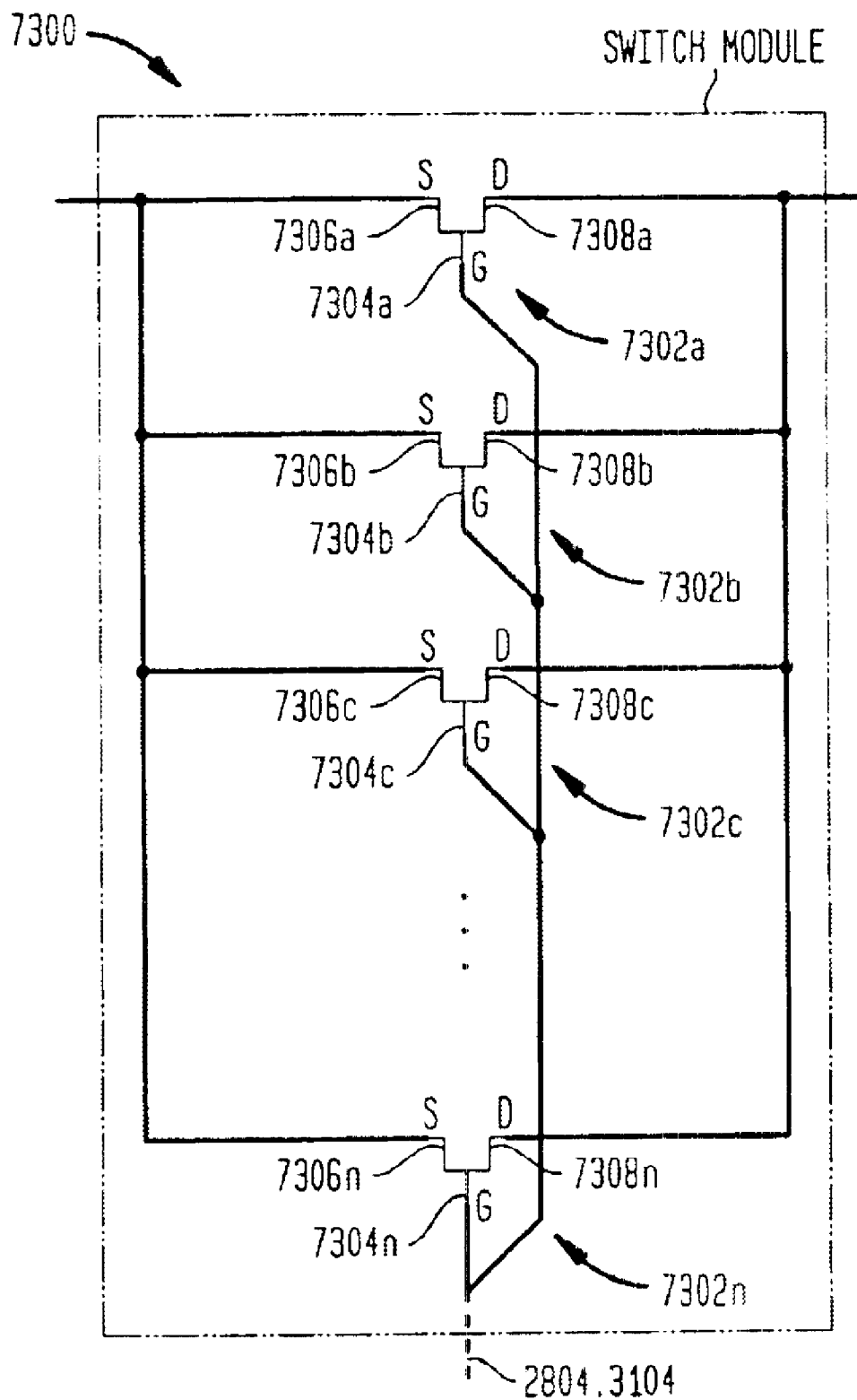
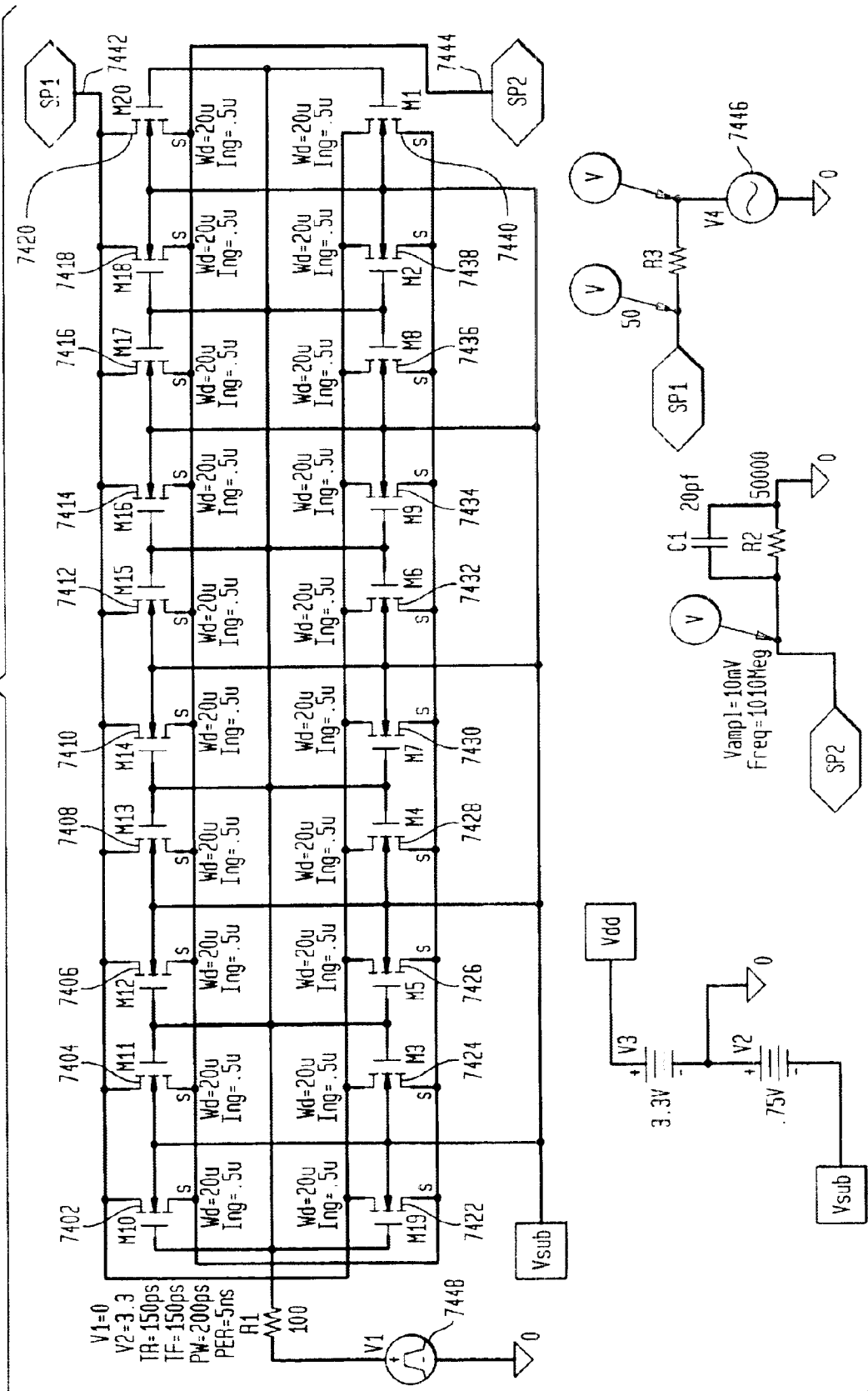


FIG. 74A



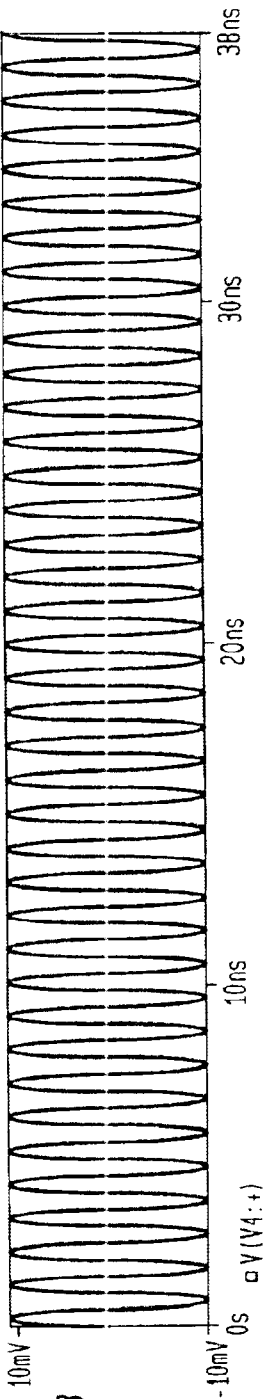


FIG. 74B

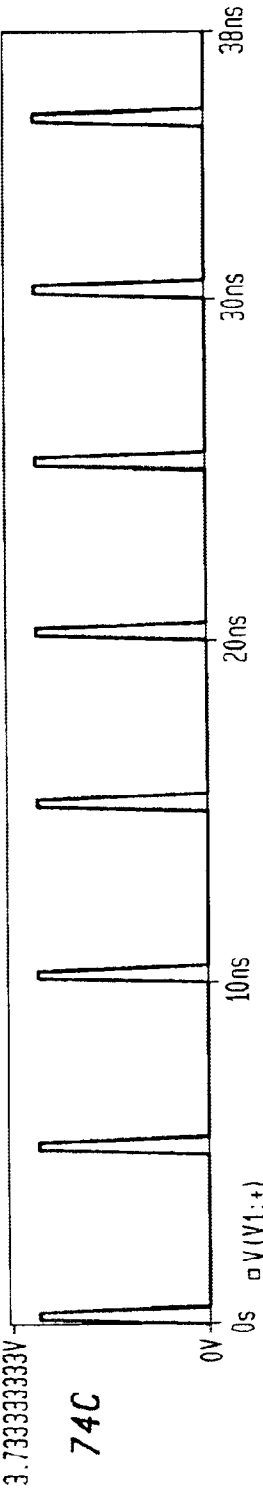


FIG. 74C

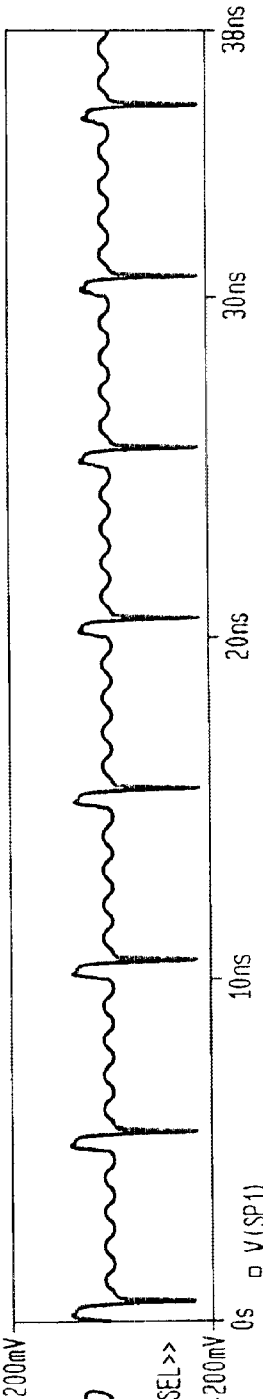


FIG. 74D

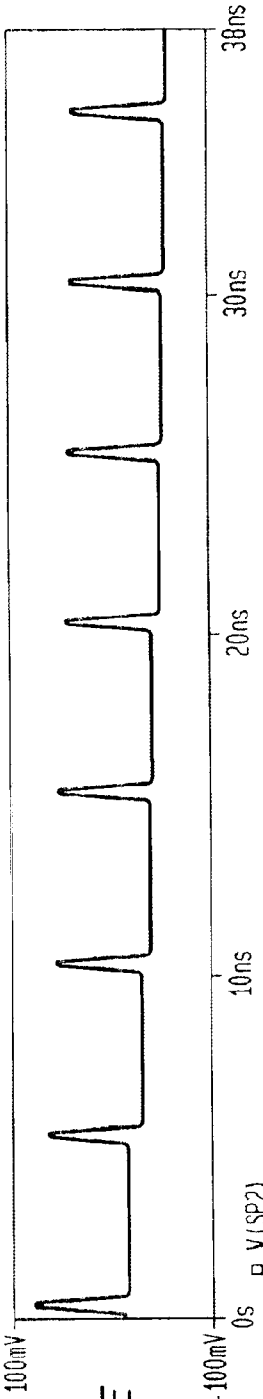
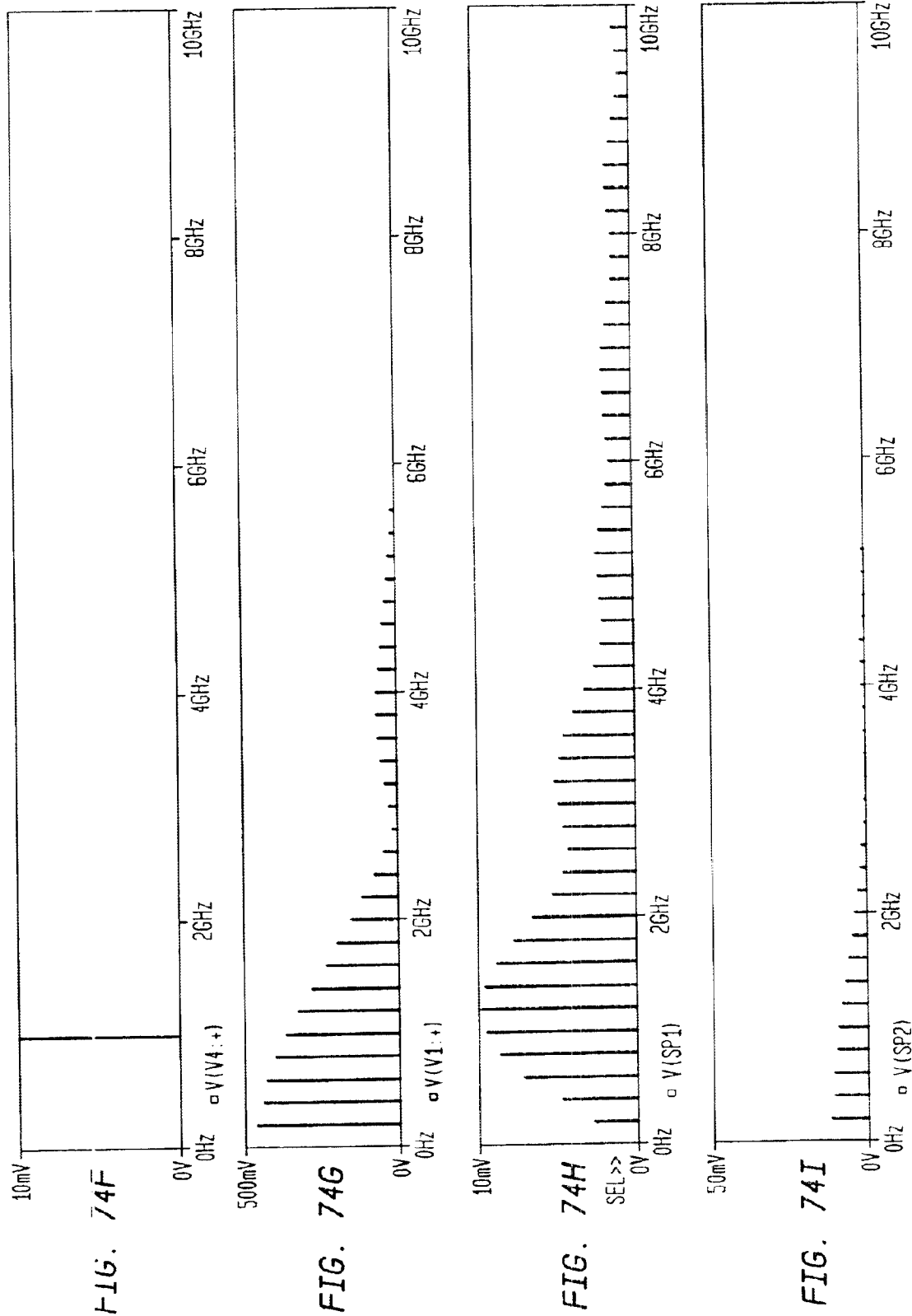
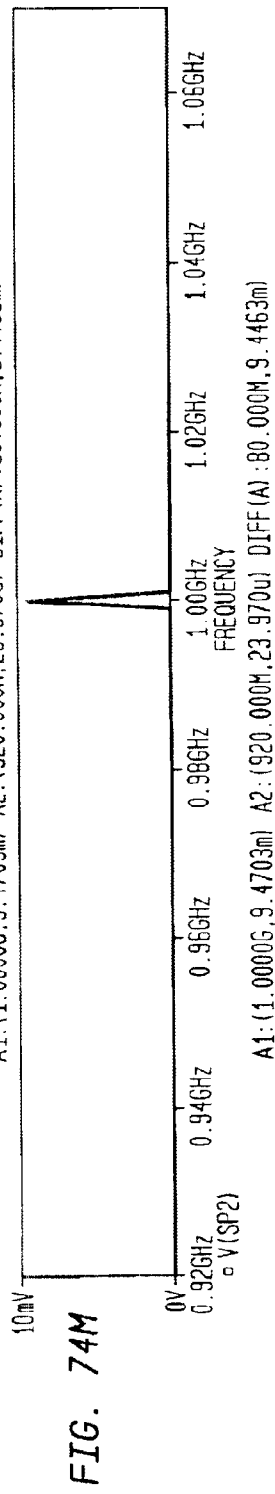
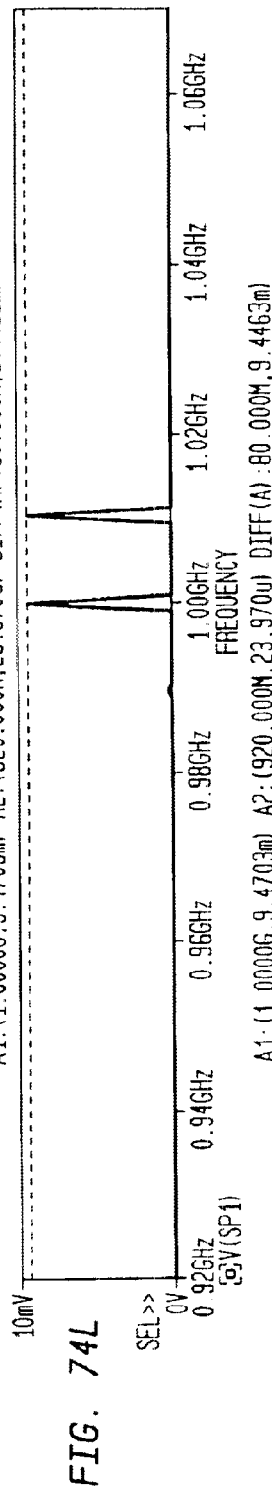
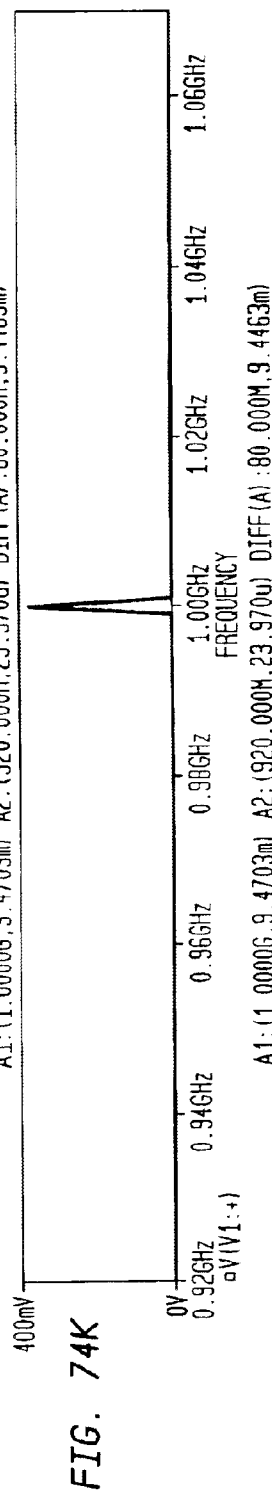
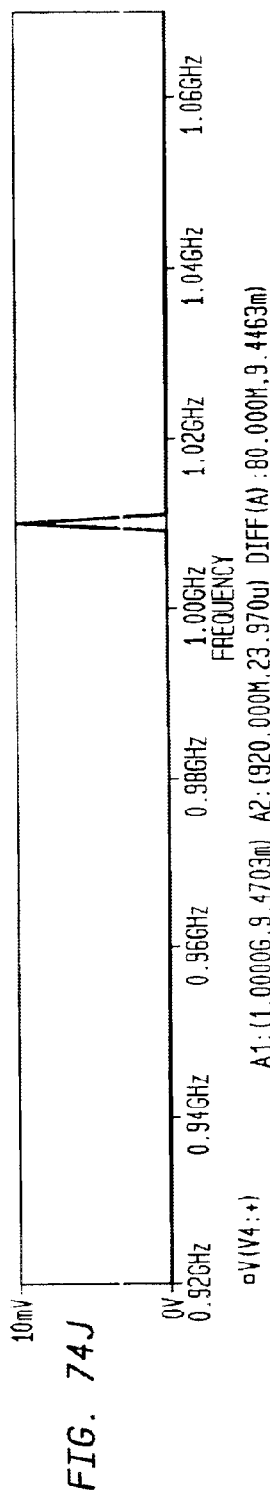


FIG. 74E





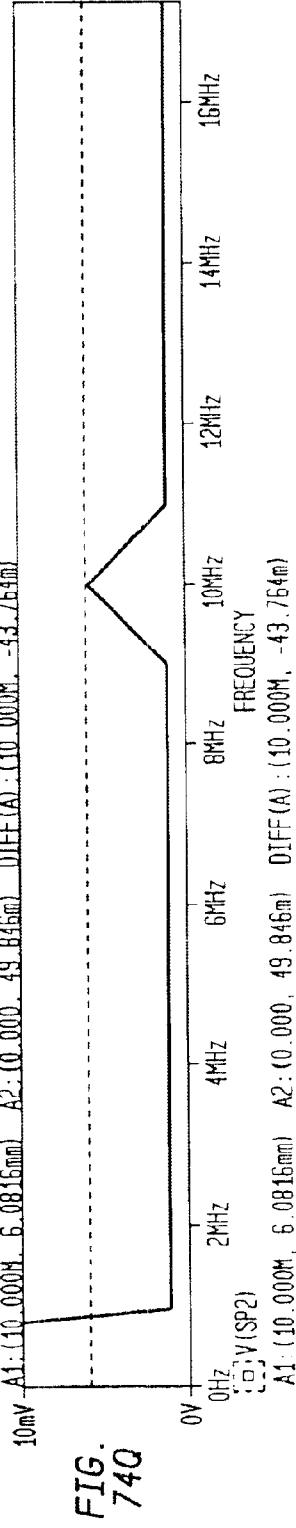
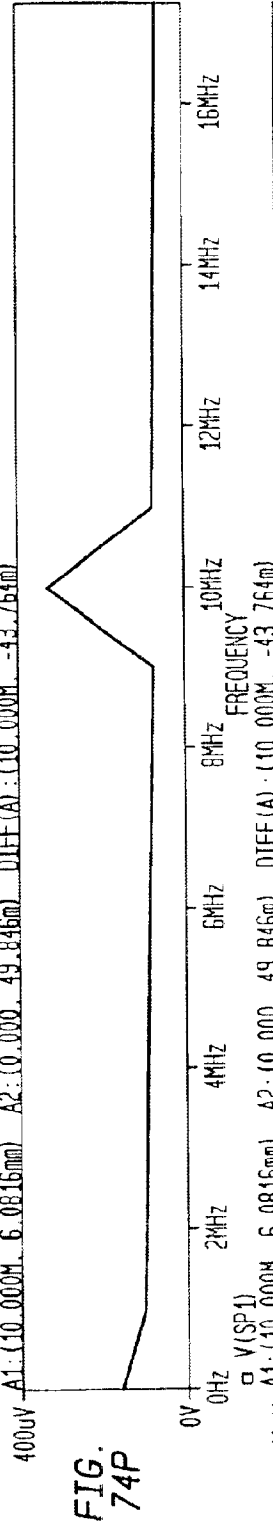
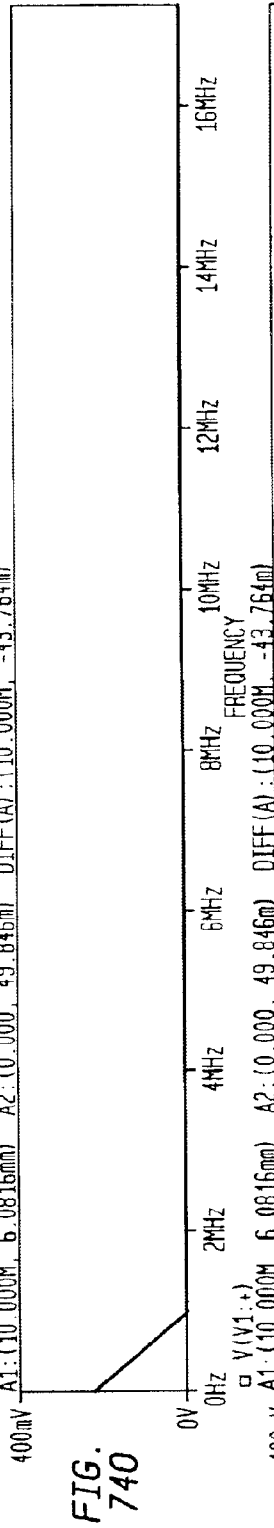
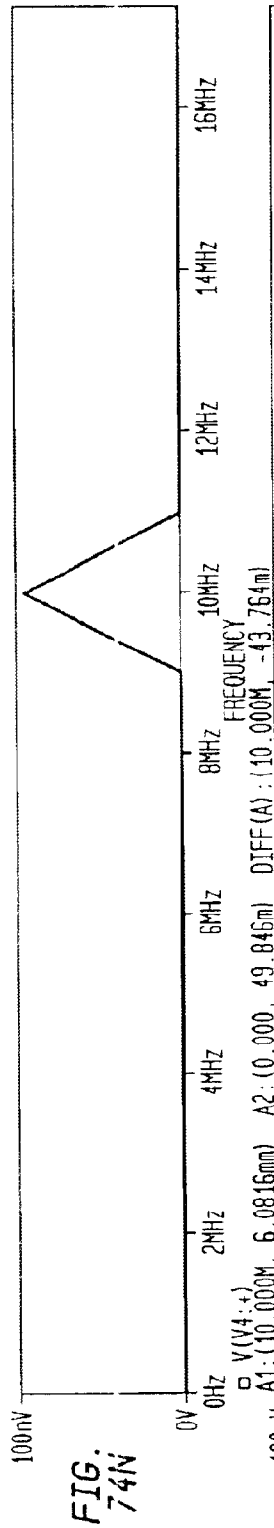
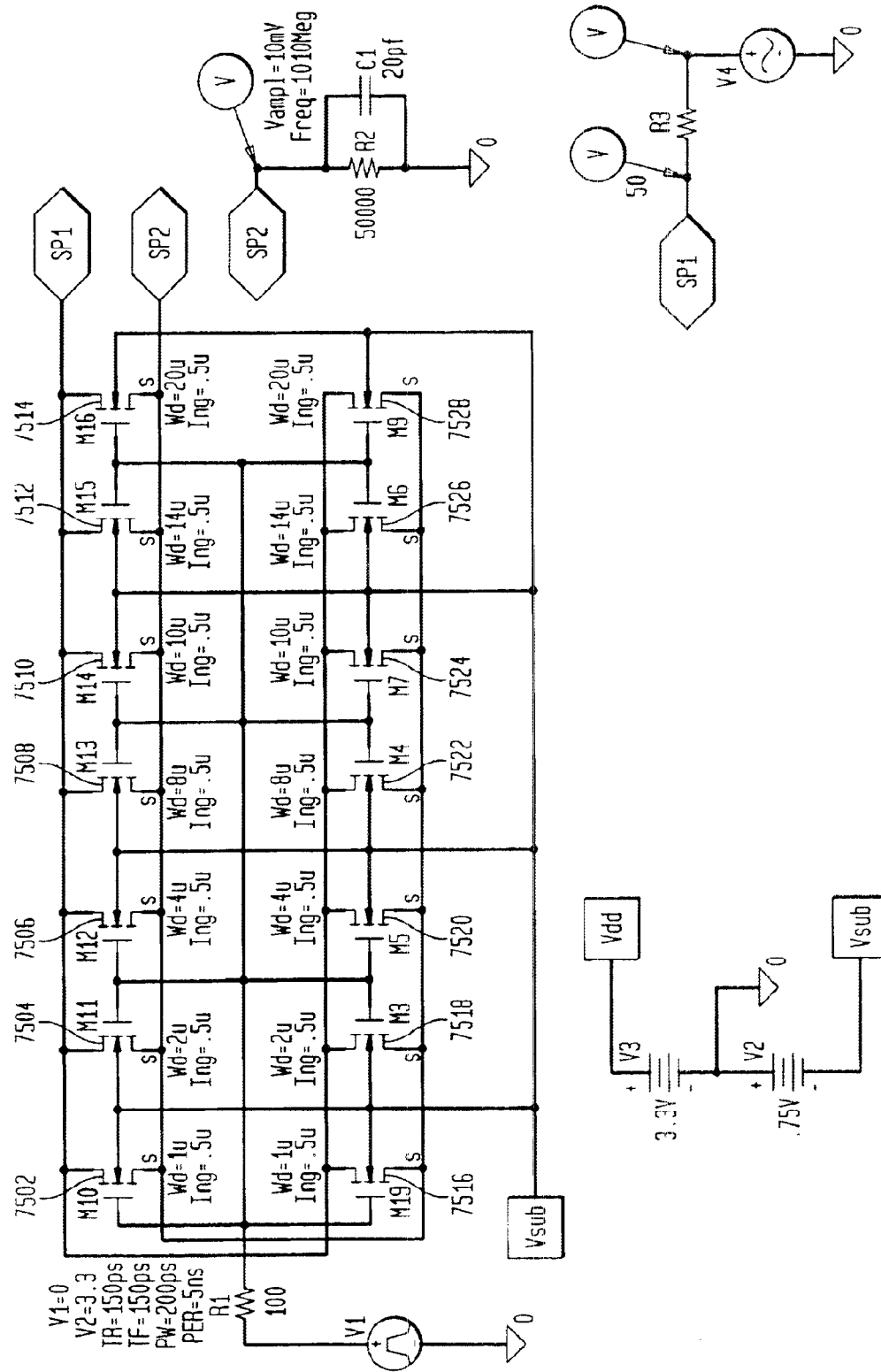
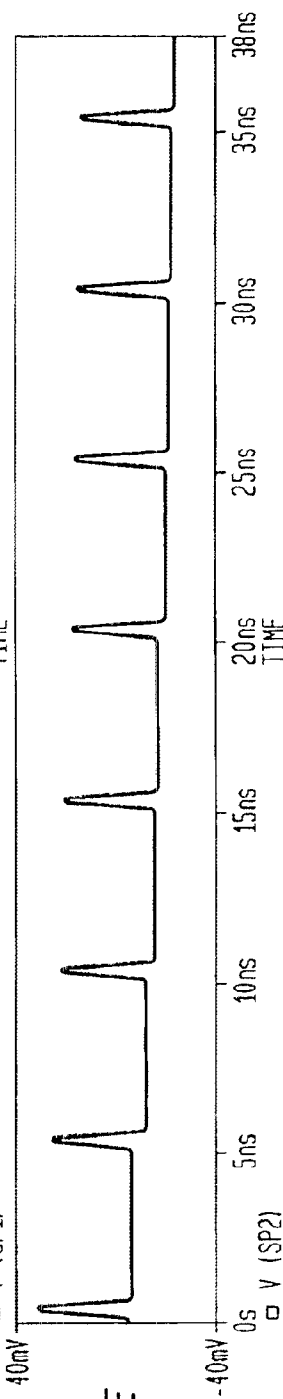
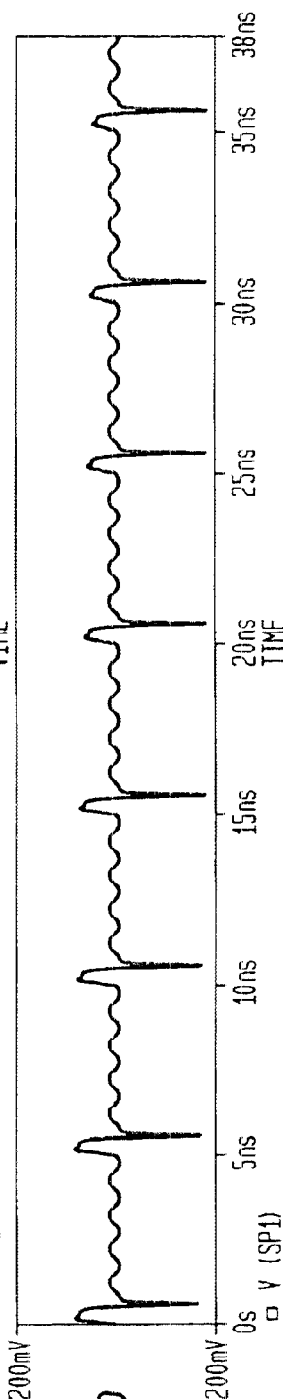
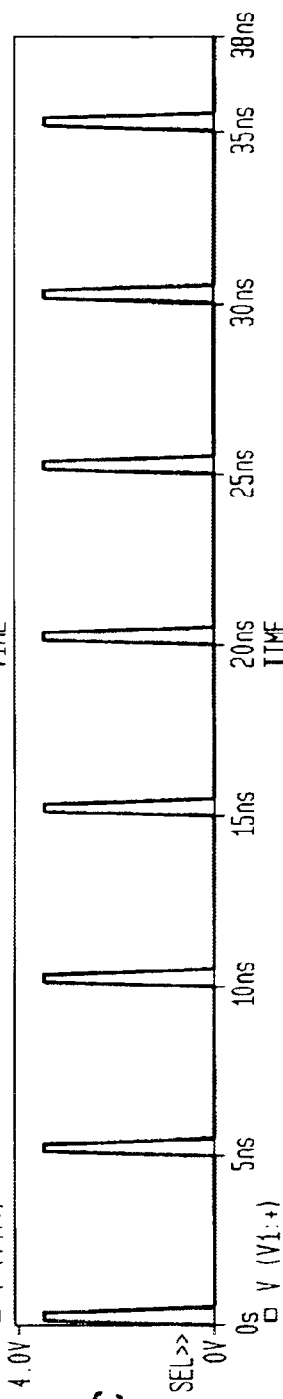
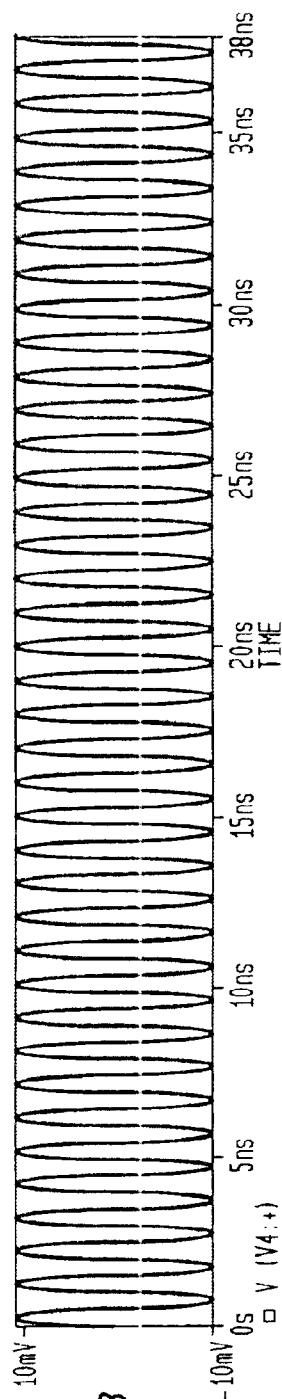
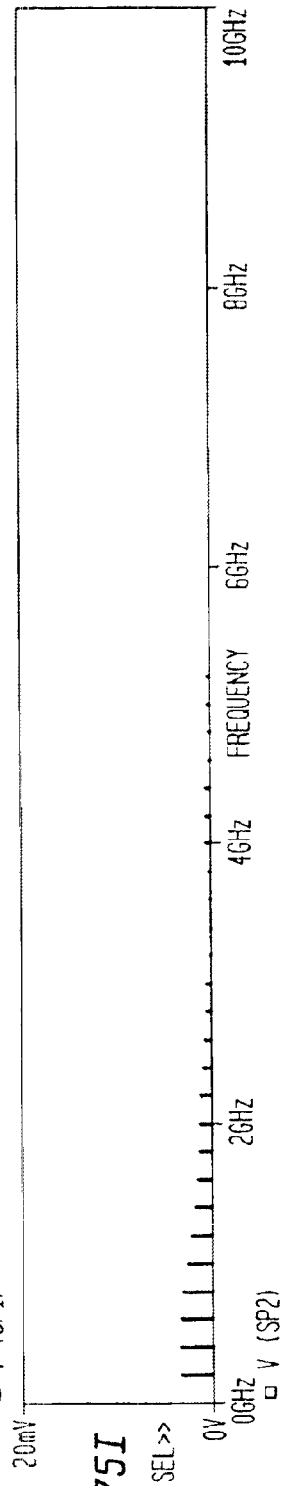
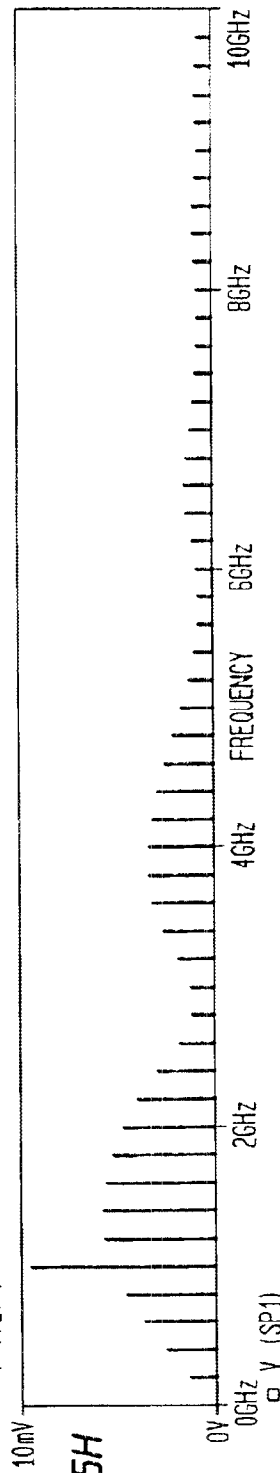
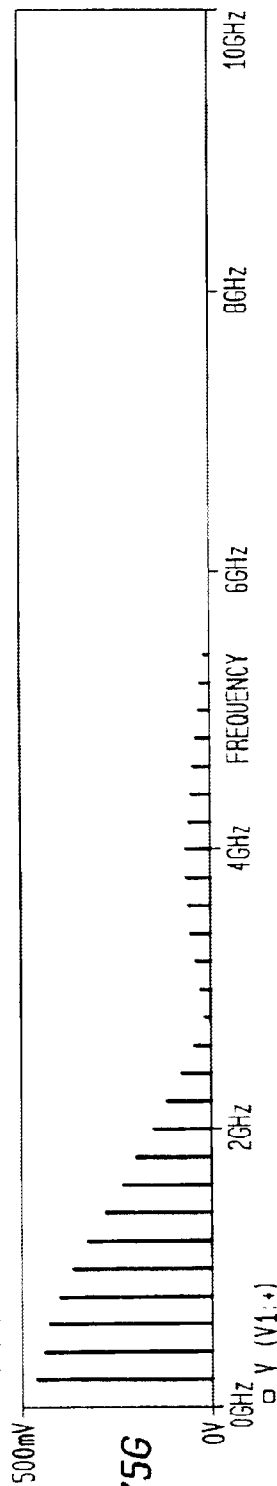
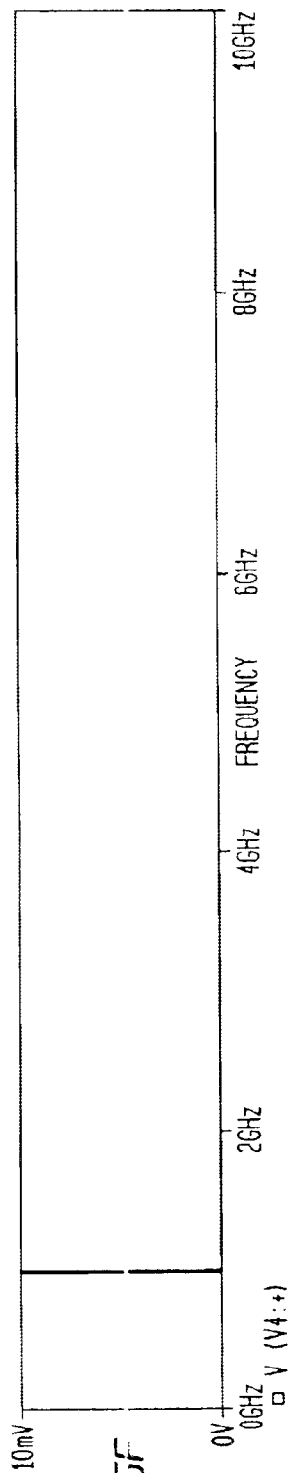
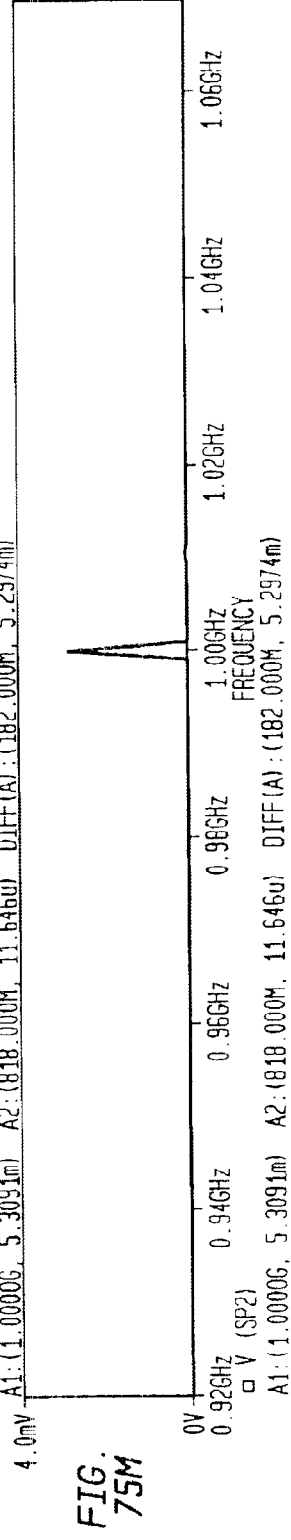
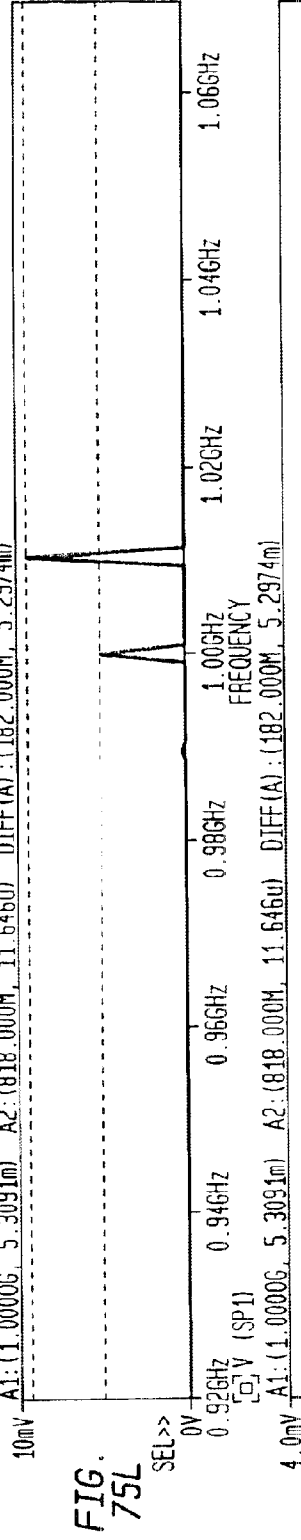
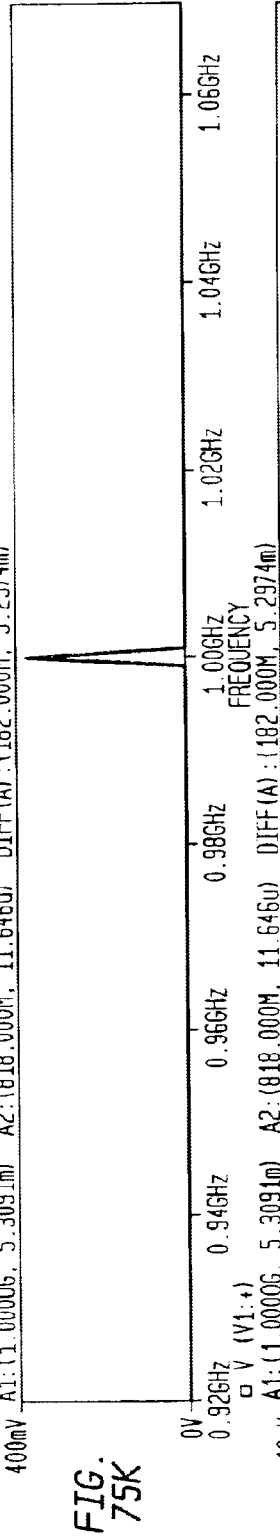
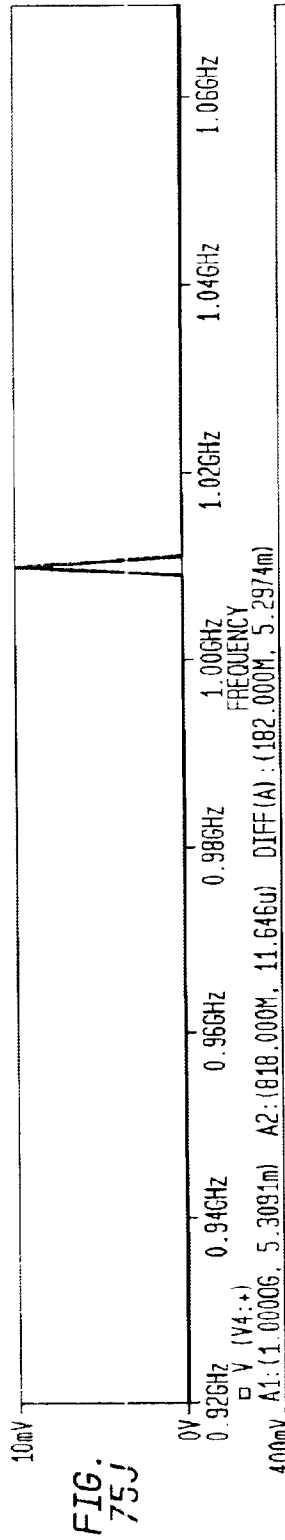


FIG. 75A









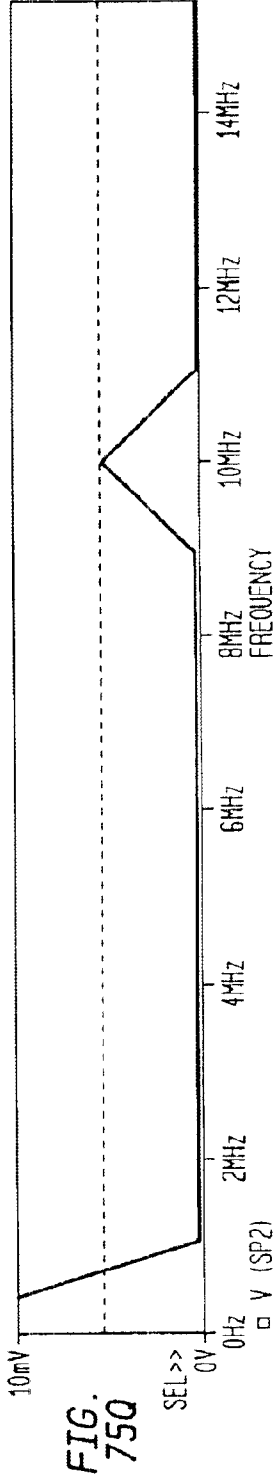
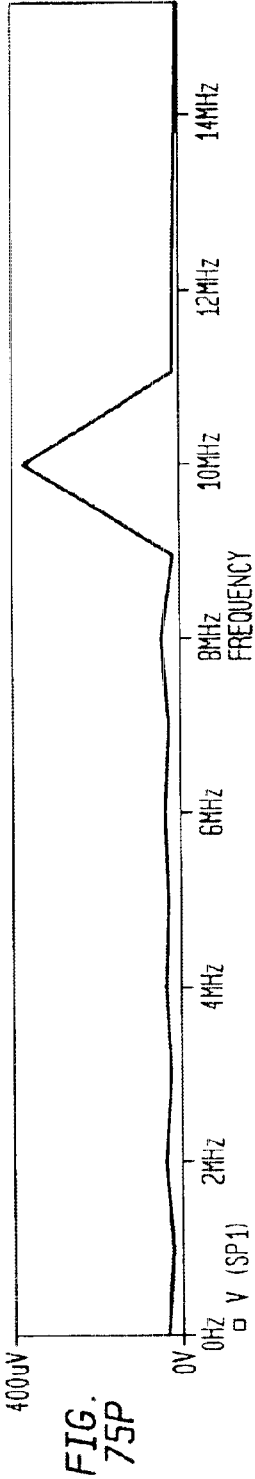
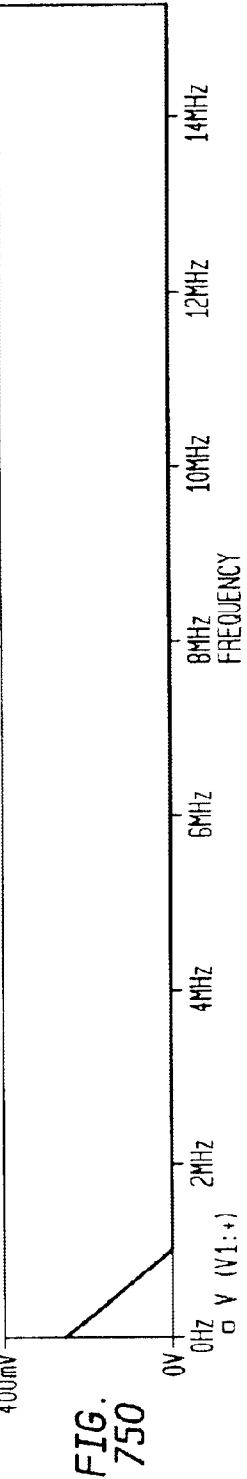
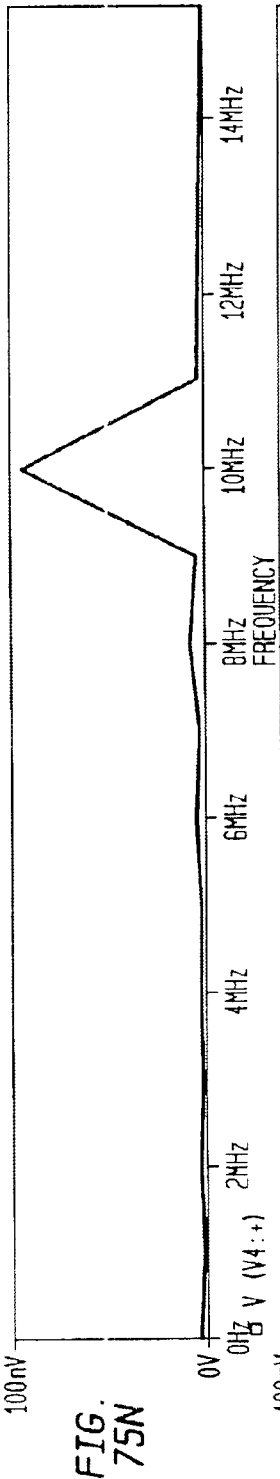


FIG. 76A

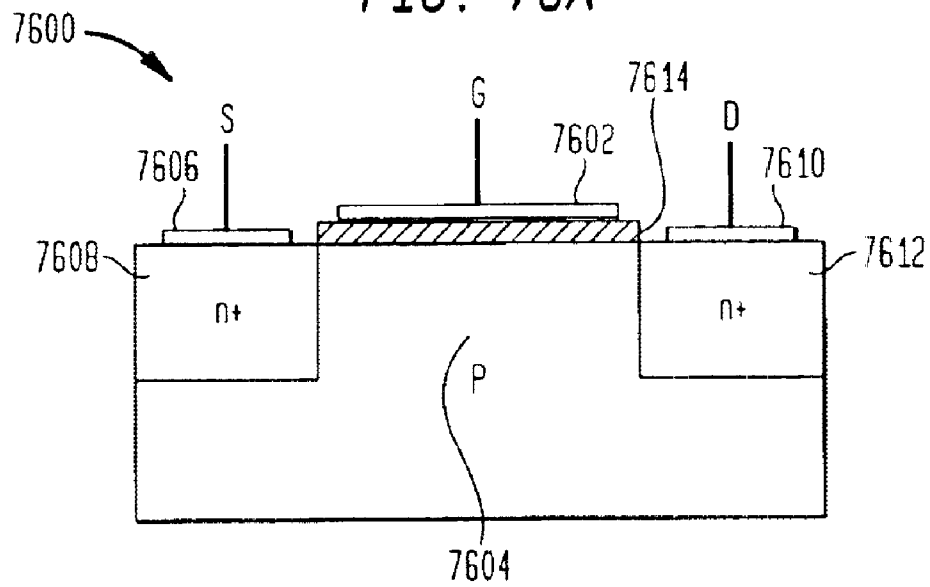


FIG. 76B

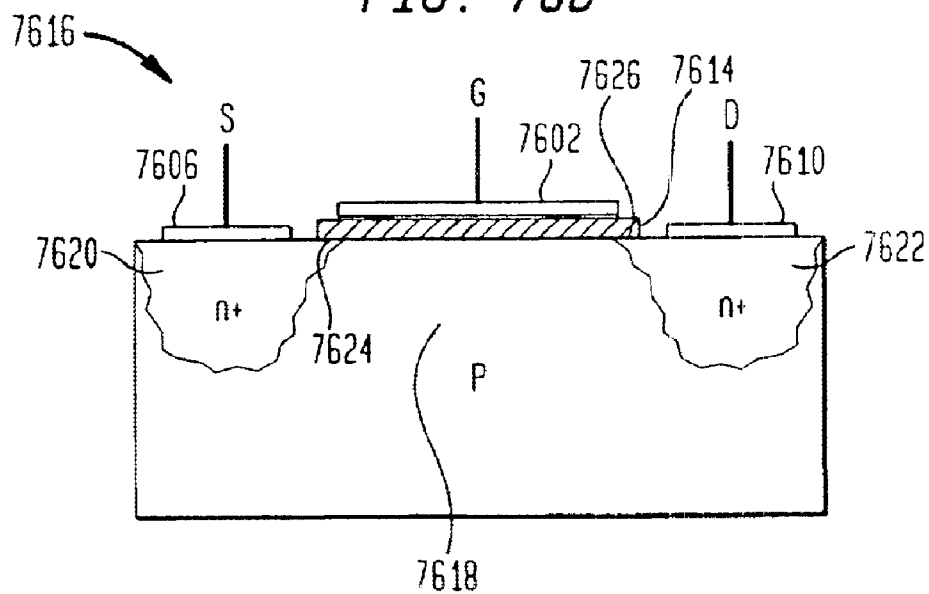
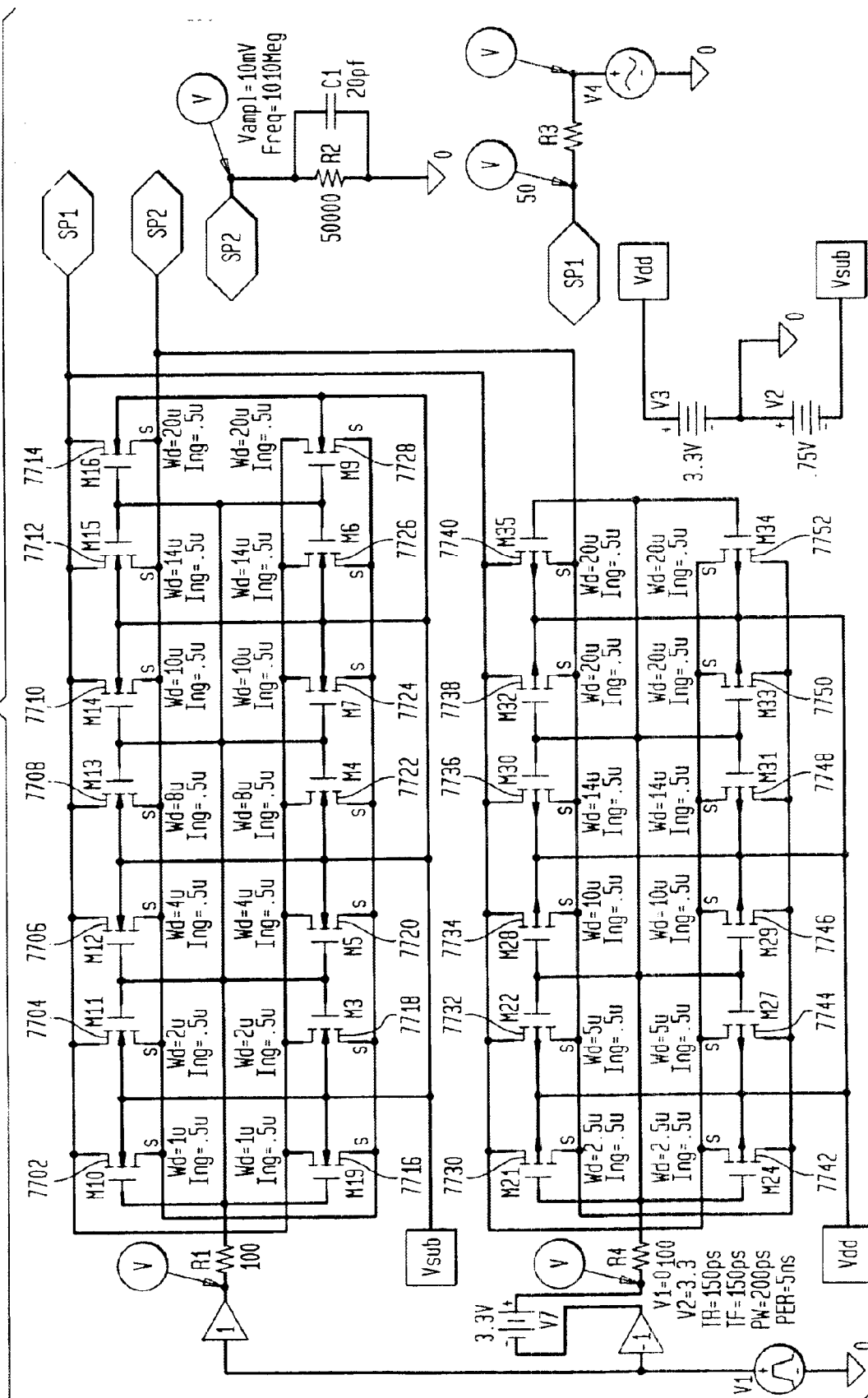


FIG. 77A



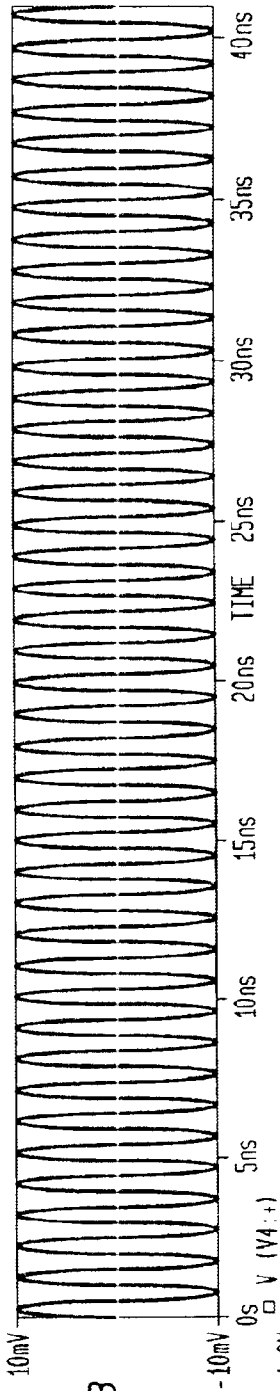


FIG. 77B

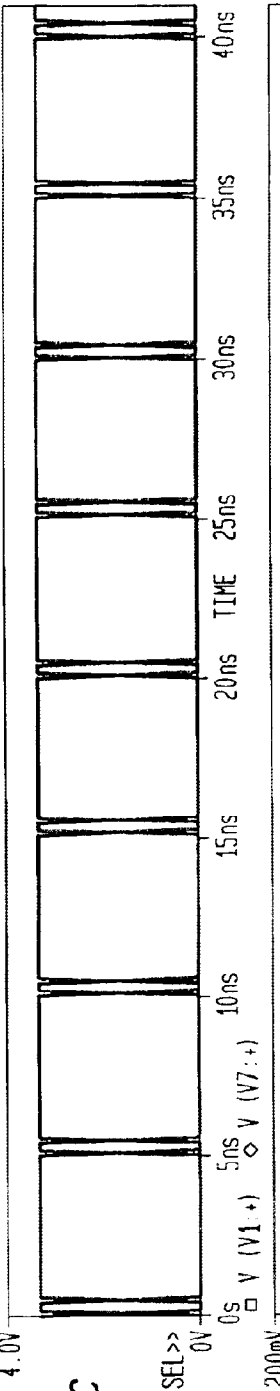


FIG. 77C

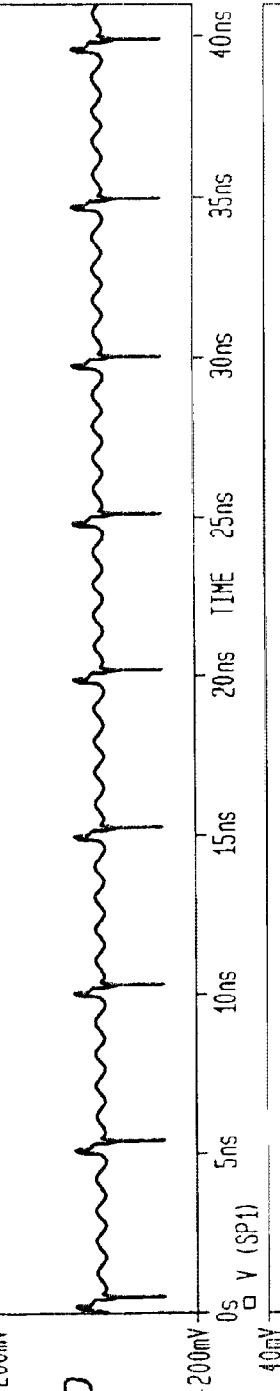


FIG. 77D

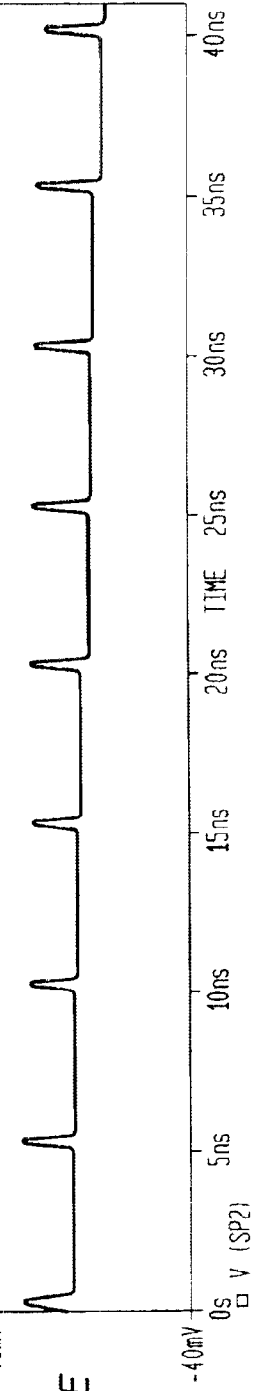
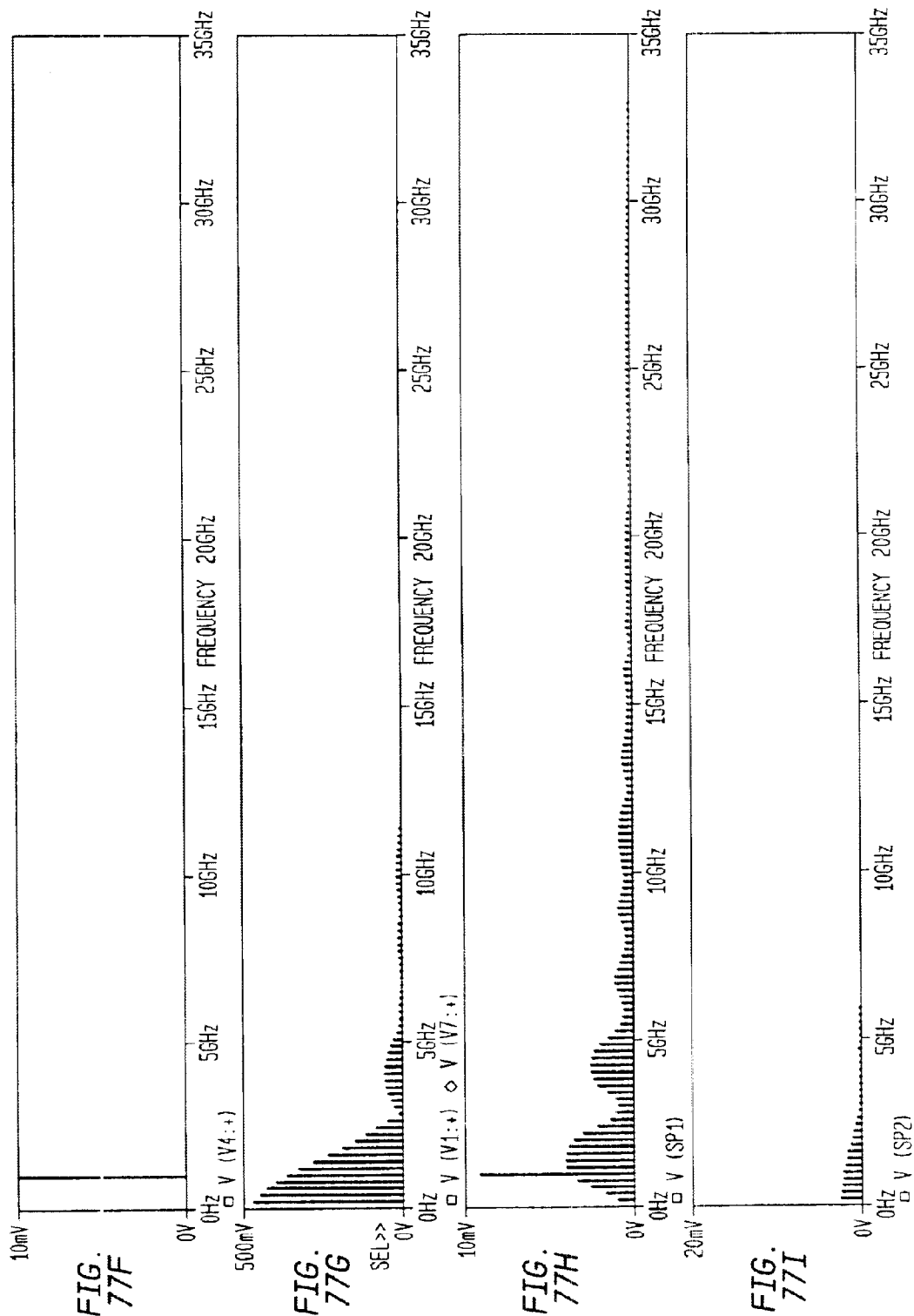
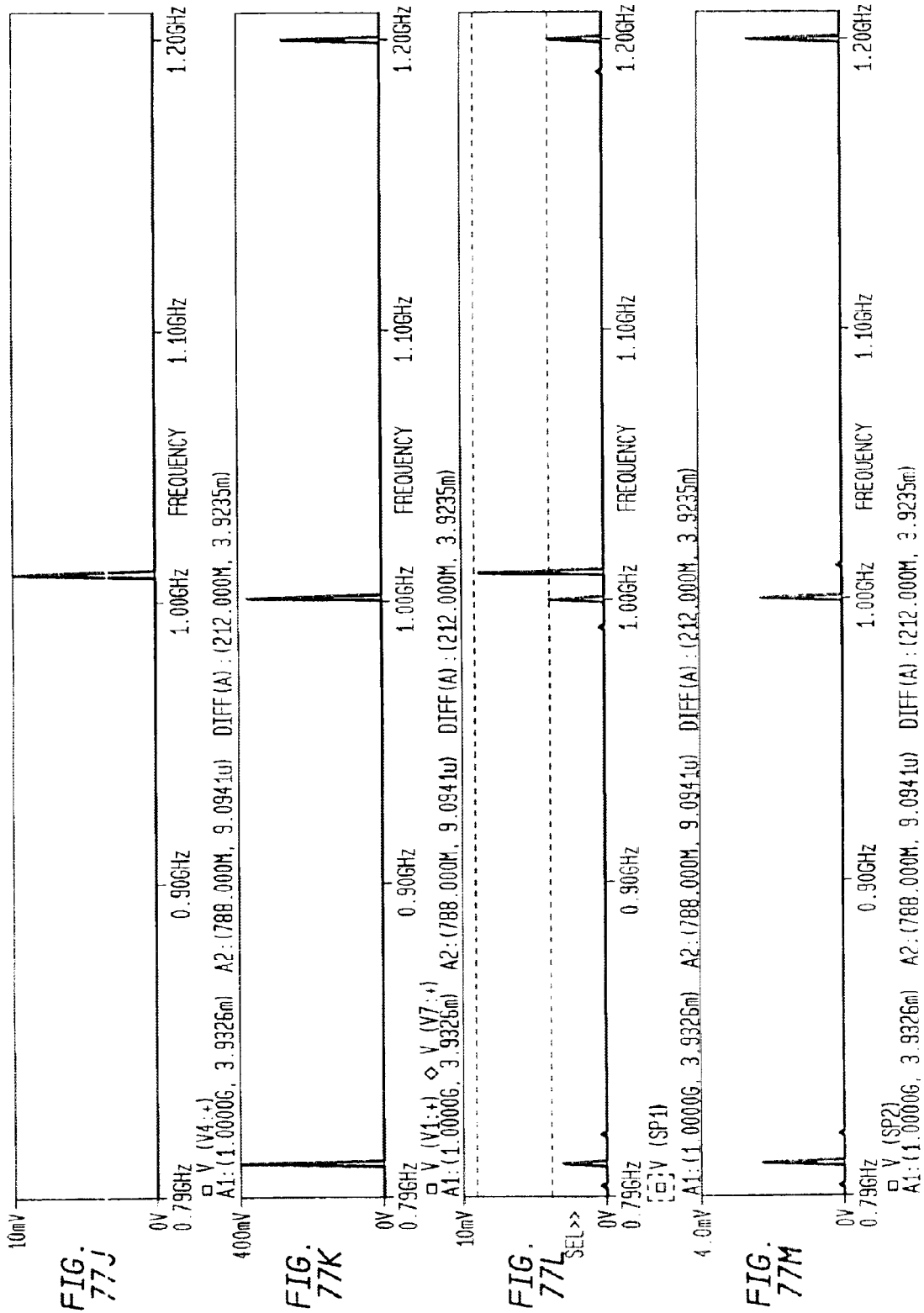
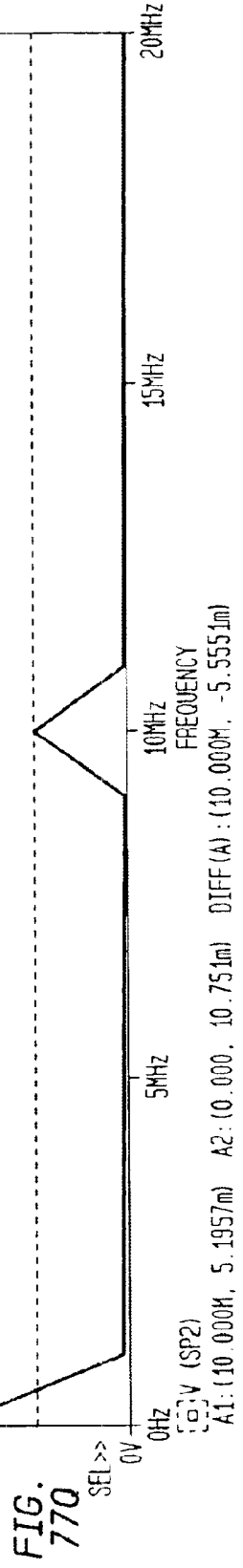
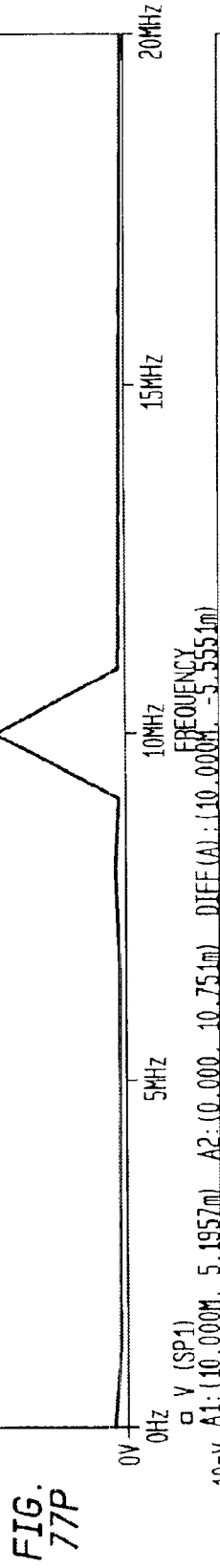
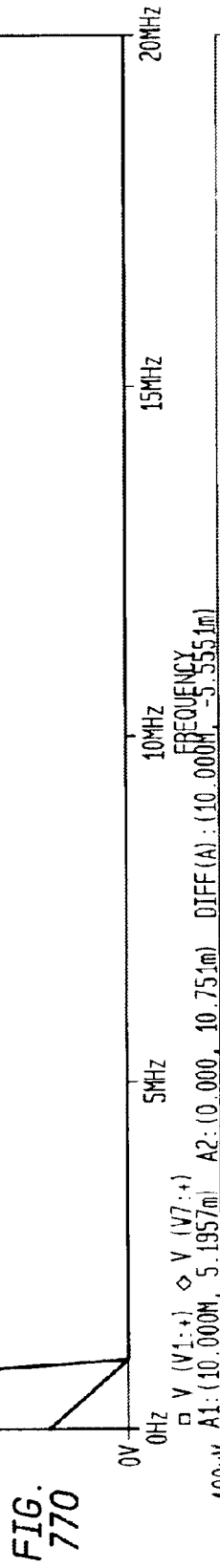
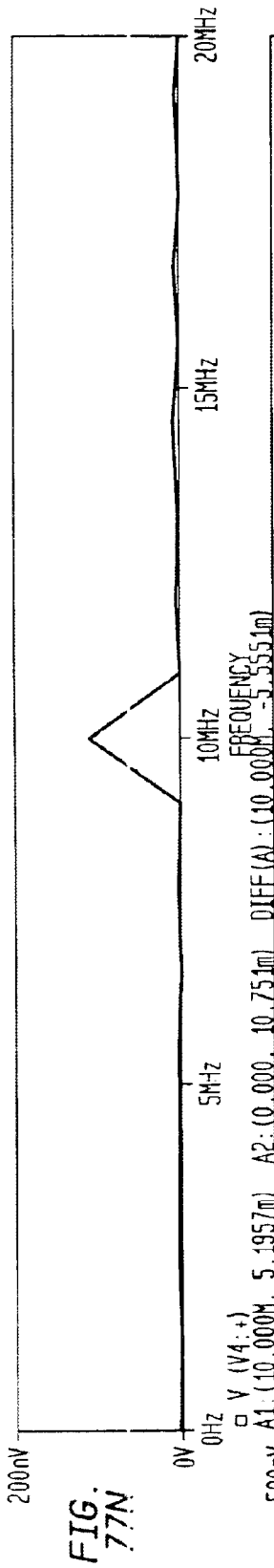


FIG. 77E







1

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FREQUENCY UP-CONVERSION WITH MODULATION EMBODIMENTS

This is a continuation-in-part application of pending U.S. application "Method and System for Frequency Up-Conversion," Ser. No. 09/379,497, filed Aug. 23, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. application "Method and System for Frequency Up-Conversion," Ser. No. 09/176,154, filed Oct. 21, 1998 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,091,940, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO OTHER APPLICATIONS

The following applications of common assignee are related to the present application, and are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties:

"Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals," Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

"Method and System for Ensuring Reception of a Communications Signal," Ser. No. 09/176,415, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

"Integrated Frequency Translation and Selectivity," Ser. No. 09/175,966, filed Oct. 21, 1998, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,706.

"Applications of Universal Frequency Translation," Ser. No. 09/261,129, filed Mar. 3, 1999.

"Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals Having Optimized Switch Structures," Ser. No. 09/293,095, filed Apr. 16, 1999.

"Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals Including Resonant Structures for Enhanced Energy Transfer," Ser. No. 09/293,342, filed Apr. 16, 1999.

"Method and System for Frequency Up-Conversion With a Variety of Transmitter Configurations," Ser. No. 09/293,580, filed Apr. 16, 1999.

"Integrated Frequency Translation And Selectivity With a Variety of Filter Embodiments," Ser. No. 09/293,283, filed Apr. 16, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention is generally directed to frequency up-conversion of electromagnetic (EM) signals.

2. Related Art

Modern day communication systems employ components such as transmitters and receivers to transmit information from a source to a destination. To accomplish this Typically, the carrier signal is at a frequency higher than the baseband frequency of the information signal. Typical ways that the information is imparted on the carrier signal are called modulation.

Three widely used modulation schemes include: frequency modulation (FM), where the frequency of the carrier wave changes to reflect the information that has been modulated on the signal; phase modulation (PM), where the phase of the carrier signal changes to reflect the information imparted on it; and amplitude modulation (AM), where the amplitude of the carrier signal changes to reflect the information. Also, these modulation schemes are used in combination with each other (e.g., AM combined with FM and AM combined with PM).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to methods and systems to up-convert a signal from a lower frequency to a higher frequency, and applications thereof.

2

In one embodiment, the invention uses a stable, low frequency signal to generate a higher frequency signal with a frequency and phase that can be used as stable references.

In another embodiment, the present invention is used as a transmitter. In this embodiment, the invention accepts an information signal at a baseband frequency and transmits a modulated signal at a frequency higher than the baseband frequency.

The methods and systems of transmitting vary slightly depending on the modulation scheme being used. For some embodiments using frequency modulation (FM) or phase modulation (PM), the information signal is used to modulate an oscillating signal to create a modulated intermediate signal. If needed, this modulated intermediate signal is "shaped" to provide a substantially optimum pulse-width-to-period ratio. This shaped signal is then used to control a switch which opens and closes as a function of the frequency and pulse width of the shaped signal. As a result of this opening and closing, a signal that is harmonically rich is produced with each harmonic of the harmonically rich signal being modulated substantially the same as the modulated intermediate signal. Through proper filtering, the desired harmonic (or harmonics) is selected and transmitted.

For some embodiments using amplitude modulation (AM), the switch is controlled by an unmodulated oscillating signal (which may, if needed, be shaped). As the switch opens and closes, it gates a reference signal which is the information signal. In an alternate implementation, the information signal is combined with a bias signal to create the reference signal, which is then gated. The result of the gating is a harmonically rich signal having a fundamental frequency substantially proportional to the oscillating signal and an amplitude substantially proportional to the amplitude of the reference signal. Each of the harmonics of the harmonically rich signal also have amplitudes proportional to the reference signal, and are thus considered to be amplitude modulated. Just as with the FM/PM embodiments described above, through proper filtering, the desired harmonic (or harmonics) is selected and transmitted.

Further features and advantages of the invention, as well as the structure and operation of various embodiments of the invention, are described in detail below with reference to the accompanying figures. The left-most digit(s) of a reference number typically identifies the figure in which the reference number first appears.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 illustrates a circuit for a frequency modulation (FM) transmitter;

FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 1 FM circuit for a digital information signal;

FIG. 3 illustrates a circuit for a phase modulation (PM) transmitter;

FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 3 PM circuit for a digital information signal;

FIG. 5 illustrates a circuit for an amplitude modulation (AM) transmitter;

FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 5 AM circuit for a digital information signal;

FIG. 7 illustrates a circuit for an in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") transmitter;

FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, and 8E illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 7 "I/Q" circuit for digital information signal;

FIG. 9 illustrates the high level operational flowchart of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 illustrates the high level structural block diagram of the transmitter of an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 illustrates the operational flowchart of a first embodiment (i.e., FM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 12 illustrates an exemplary structural block diagram of the first embodiment (i.e., FM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 13 illustrates the operational flowchart of a second embodiment (i.e., PM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 14 illustrates an exemplary structural block diagram of the second embodiment (i.e., PM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 15 illustrates the operational flowchart of a third embodiment (i.e., AM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 16 illustrates an exemplary structural block diagram of the third embodiment (i.e., AM mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 17 illustrates the operational flowchart of a fourth embodiment (i.e., "I/Q" mode) of the present invention;

FIG. 18 illustrates an exemplary structural block diagram of the fourth embodiment (i.e., "I/Q" mode) of the present invention;

FIGS. 19A–19I illustrate exemplary waveforms (for a frequency modulation mode operating in a frequency shift keying embodiment) at a plurality of points in an exemplary high level circuit diagram;

FIGS. 20A, 20B, 20C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 1 FM circuit for an analog information signal;

FIGS. 21A, 21B, 21C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 3 PM circuit for an analog information signal;

FIGS. 22A, 22B, 22C illustrate typical waveforms associated with the FIG. 5 AM circuit for an analog information signal;

FIG. 23 illustrates an implementation example of a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO);

FIG. 24 illustrates an implementation example of a local oscillator (LO);

FIG. 25 illustrates an implementation example of a phase shifter;

FIG. 26 illustrates an implementation example of a phase modulator;

FIG. 27 illustrates an implementation example of a summing amplifier;

FIGS. 28A–28C illustrate an implementation example of a switch module for the FM and PM modes;

FIGS. 29A–29C illustrate an example of the switch module of FIGS. 28A–28C wherein the switch is a GaAsFET;

FIGS. 30A–30C illustrate an example of a design to ensure symmetry for a GaAsFET implementation in the FM and PM modes;

FIGS. 31A–31C illustrate an implementation example of a switch module for the AM mode;

FIGS. 32A–31C illustrate the switch module of FIGS. 31A–31C wherein the switch is a GaAsFET;

FIGS. 33A–33C illustrate an example of a design to ensure symmetry for a GaAsFET implementation in the AM mode;

FIG. 34 illustrates an implementation example of a sum-

FIG. 35 illustrates an implementation example of a filter;

FIG. 36 is a representative spectrum demonstrating the calculation of "Q;"

FIGS. 37A and 37B are representative examples of filter circuits;

FIG. 38 illustrates an implementation example of a transmission module;

FIG. 39A shows a first exemplary pulse shaping circuit using digital logic devices for a squarewave input from an oscillator;

FIGS. 39B, 39C, and 39D illustrate waveforms associated with the FIG. 39A circuit;

FIG. 40A shows a second exemplary pulse shaping circuit using digital logic devices for a squarewave input from an oscillator;

FIGS. 40B, 40C, and 40D illustrate waveforms associated with the FIG. 40A circuit;

FIG. 41 shows a third exemplary pulse shaping circuit for any input from an oscillator;

FIGS. 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D, and 42E illustrate representative waveforms associated with the FIG. 41 circuit;

FIG. 43 shows the internal circuitry for elements of FIG. 41 according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 44A–44G illustrate exemplary waveforms (for a pulse modulation mode operating in a pulse shift keying embodiment) at a plurality of points in an exemplary high level circuit diagram, highlighting the characteristics of the first three harmonics;

FIGS. 45A–45F illustrate exemplary waveforms (for an amplitude modulation mode operating in an amplitude shift keying embodiment) at a plurality of points in an exemplary high level circuit diagram, highlighting the characteristics of the first three harmonics;

FIG. 46 illustrates an implementation example of a harmonic enhancement module;

FIG. 47 illustrates an implementation example of an amplifier module;

FIGS. 48A and 48B illustrate exemplary circuits for a linear amplifier;

FIG. 49 illustrates a typical superheterodyne receiver;

FIG. 50 illustrates a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention in a transceiver circuit with a typical superheterodyne receiver in a full-duplex mode;

FIGS. 51A, 51B, 51C, and 51D illustrate a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention in a transceiver circuit using a common oscillator with a typical superheterodyne receiver in a half-duplex mode;

FIG. 52 illustrates an exemplary receiver using universal frequency down conversion techniques according to an embodiment;

FIG. 53 illustrates an exemplary transmitter of the present invention;

FIGS. 54A, 54B, and 54C illustrate an exemplary transmitter of the present invention in a transceiver circuit with a universal frequency down conversion receiver operating in a half-duplex mode for the FM and PM modulation embodiment;

FIG. 55 illustrates an exemplary transmitter of the present invention in a transceiver circuit with a universal frequency down conversion receiver operating in a half-duplex mode for the AM modulation embodiment;

FIG. 56 illustrates an exemplary transmitter of the present invention in a transceiver circuit with a universal frequency down conversion receiver operating in a full-duplex mode;

5

FIGS. 57A–57C illustrate an exemplary transmitter of the present invention being used in frequency modulation, phase modulation, and amplitude modulation embodiments, including a pulse shaping circuit and an amplifier module;

FIG. 58 illustrates harmonic amplitudes for a pulse-width-to-period ratio of 0.01;

FIG. 59 illustrates harmonic amplitudes for a pulse-width-to-period ratio of 0.0556;

FIG. 60 is a table that illustrates the relative amplitudes of the first 50 harmonics for six exemplary pulse-width-to-period ratios;

FIG. 61 is a table that illustrates the relative amplitudes of the first 25 harmonics for six pulse-width-to-period ratios optimized for the 1st through 10th subharmonics;

FIG. 62 illustrates an exemplary structural block diagram for an alternative embodiment of the present invention (i.e., a mode wherein AM is combined with PM);

FIGS. 63A–63H illustrate exemplary waveforms (for the embodiment of FIG. 62) at a plurality of points in an exemplary high level circuit diagram, highlighting the characteristics of the first two harmonics;

FIGS. 64A and 64A1 illustrate exemplary implementations of aliasing modules;

FIGS. 64B–64F illustrate exemplary waveforms at a plurality of points in the FIGS. 64A and 64A1 circuits;

FIG. 65—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a first implementation for phase modulating an information signal as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 66—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a first implementation for phase modulating one information signal and amplitude modulating a second information signal as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 67—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a second implementation for phase modulating an information signal as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 68—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a second implementation for phase modulating one information signal and amplitude modulating a second information signal as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 69—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a first implementation for phase modulating one information signal onto the “I” phase of a carrier and for phase modulating a second information signal onto the “Q” phase of a carrier as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 70—illustrates an exemplary circuit for a second implementation for phase modulating one information signal onto the “I” phase of a carrier and for phase modulating a second information signal onto the “Q” phase of a carrier as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 71—illustrates an exemplary circuit for phase modulating a first information signal and amplitude modulating a second information signal onto the “I” phase of a carrier, and for phase modulating a third information signal and amplitude modulating a fourth information signal onto the “Q” phase of a carrier as part of the up-conversion process;

FIG. 72A is a block diagram of a splitter according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 72B is a more detailed diagram of a splitter according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 72C and 72D are exemplary waveforms related to the splitter of FIGS. 72A and 72B;

FIG. 72E is a block diagram of an I/Q circuit with a splitter according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 72F–72J are exemplary waveforms related to the diagram of FIG. 72A;

6

FIG. 73 is a block diagram of a switch module according to an embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 74A is an implementation example of the block diagram of FIG. 73;

FIGS. 74B–74Q are exemplary waveforms related to FIG. 74A;

FIG. 75A is another implementation example of the block diagram of FIG. 73;

FIGS. 75B–75Q are exemplary waveforms related to FIG. 75A;

FIG. 76A is an exemplary MOSFET embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 76B is an exemplary MOSFET embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 76C is an exemplary MOSFET embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 77A is another implementation example of the block diagram of FIG. 73; and

FIGS. 77B–77Q are exemplary waveforms related to FIG. 75A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Table of Contents

1. Terminology.
2. Overview of the Invention.
 - 2.1 Discussion of Modulation Techniques.
 - 2.2 Explanation of Exemplary Circuits and Waveforms.
 - 2.2.1 Frequency Modulation.
 - 2.2.2 Phase Modulation.
 - 2.2.3 Amplitude Modulation.
 - 2.2.4 In-phase/Quadrature-phase Modulation.
 - 2.3 Features of the Invention.
3. Frequency Up-conversion.
 - 3.1 High Level Description.
 - 3.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 3.2 Exemplary Embodiments.
 - 3.2.1 First Embodiment: Frequency Modulation (FM) Mode.
 - 3.2.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.2.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 3.2.2 Second Embodiment: Phase Modulation (PM) Mode.
 - 3.2.2.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.2.2.2 Structural Description.
 - 3.2.3 Third Embodiment: Amplitude Modulation (AM) Mode.
 - 3.2.3.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.2.3.2 Structural Description.
 - 3.2.4 Fourth Embodiment: In-phase/Quadrature-phase (“I/Q”) Modulation Mode.
 - 3.2.4.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.2.4.2 Structural Description.
 - 3.2.5 Other Embodiments.
 - 3.2.5.1 Combination of Modulation Techniques
 - 3.2.5.2 Modulation as Part of the Up-Conversion Process.
 - 3.3 Methods and Systems for Implementing the Embodiments.
 - 3.3.1 The Voltage Controlled Oscillator (FM Mode).
 - 3.3.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.1.2 Structural Description.

- 3.3.2 The Local Oscillator (PM, AM, and “I/Q” Modes).
 - 3.3.2.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.2.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.3 The Phase Shifter (PM Mode).
 - 3.3.3.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.3.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.4 The Phase Modulator (PM and “I/Q” Modes).
 - 3.3.4.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.4.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.5 The Summing Module (AM Mode).
 - 3.3.5.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.5.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.6 The Switch Module (FM, PM, and “I/Q” Modes).
 - 3.3.6.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.6.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.7 The Switch Module (AM Mode).
 - 3.3.7.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.7.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.8 The Summer (“I/Q” Mode).
 - 3.3.8.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.8.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.9 The Filter (FM, PM, AM, and “I/Q” Modes).
 - 3.3.9.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.9.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.10 The Transmission Module (FM, PM, AM, and “I/Q” Modes).
 - 3.3.10.1 Operational Description.
 - 3.3.10.2 Structural Description.
- 3.3.11 Other Implementations.
- 4. Harmonic Enhancement.
 - 4.1 High Level Description.
 - 4.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 4.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 4.2 Exemplary Embodiments.
 - 4.2.1 First Embodiment: When a Square Wave Feeds the Harmonic Enhancement Module to Create One Pulse per Cycle.
 - 4.2.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 4.2.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 4.2.2 Second Embodiment: When a Square Wave Feeds the Harmonic Enhancement Module to Create Two Pulses per Cycle.
 - 4.2.2.1 Operational Description.
 - 4.2.2.2 Structural Description.
 - 4.2.3 Third Embodiment: When Any Waveform Feeds the Harmonic Enhancement Module.
 - 4.2.3.1 Operational Description.
 - 4.2.3.2 Structural Description.
 - 4.2.4 Other Embodiments.
 - 4.3 Implementation Examples.
 - 4.3.1 First Digital Logic Circuit.
 - 4.3.2 Second Digital Logic Circuit.
 - 4.3.3 Analog Circuit.
 - 4.3.4 Other Implementations.
- 5. Amplifier Module.
 - 5.1 High Level Description.
 - 5.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 5.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 5.2 Exemplary Embodiment.
 - 5.2.1 Linear Amplifier.
 - 5.2.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 5.2.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 5.2.2 Other Embodiments.

- 5.3 Implementation Examples.
 - 5.3.1 Linear Amplifier.
 - 5.3.1.1 Operational Description.
 - 5.3.1.2 Structural Description.
 - 5.3.2 Other Implementations.
- 6. Receiver/Transmitter System.
 - 6.1 High Level Description.
 - 6.2 Exemplary Embodiments and Implementation Examples.
 - 6.2.1 First Embodiment: The Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used in a Circuit with a Superheterodyne Receiver.
 - 6.2.2 Second Embodiment: The Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used with a Universal Frequency Down Converter in a Half-Duplex Mode.
 - 6.2.3 Third Embodiment: The Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used with a Universal Frequency Down Converter in a Full-Duplex Mode.
 - 6.2.4 Other Embodiments and Implementations.
 - 6.3 Summary Description of Down-conversion Using a Universal Frequency Translation Module.
- 7. Designing a Transmitter According to an Embodiment of the Present Invention.
 - 7.1 Frequency of the Transmission Signal.
 - 7.2 Characteristics of the Transmission Signal.
 - 7.3 Modulation Scheme.
 - 7.4 Characteristics of the Information Signal.
 - 7.5 Characteristic of the Oscillating Signal.
 - 7.5.1 Frequency of the Oscillating Signal.
 - 7.5.2 Pulse Width of the String of Pulses.
 - 7.6 Design of the Pulse Shaping Circuit.
 - 7.7 Selection of the Switch.
 - 7.7.1 Optimized Switch Structures.
 - 7.7.2 Phased D2D-Splitter in CMOS
 - 7.8 Design of the Filter.
 - 7.9 Selection of an Amplifier.
 - 7.10 Design of the Transmission Module.
- 1. Terminology.
 - Various terms used in this application are generally described in this section. Each description in this section is provided for illustrative and convenience purposes only, and is not limiting. The meaning of these terms will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the entirety of the teachings provided herein.
 - Amplitude Modulation (AM): A modulation technique wherein the amplitude of the carrier signal is shifted (i.e., varied) as a function of the information signal. The frequency of the carrier signal typically remains constant. A subset of AM is referred to as “amplitude shift keying” which is used primarily for digital communications where the amplitude of the carrier signal shifts between discrete states rather than varying continuously as it does for analog information.
 - Analog signal: A signal in which the information contained therein is continuous as contrasted to discrete, and represents a time varying physical event or quantity. The information content is conveyed by varying at least one characteristic of the signal, such as but not limited to amplitude, frequency, or phase, or any combinations thereof.
 - Baseband signal: Any generic information signal desired for transmission and/or reception. As used herein, it refers to both the information signal that is generated at a source prior to any transmission (also referred to as the modulating baseband signal), and to the signal that is to be used by the recipient after transmission (also referred to as the demodulated baseband signal).

Carrier signal: A signal capable of carrying information. Typically, it is an electromagnetic signal that can be varied through a process called modulation. The frequency of the carrier signal is referred to as the carrier frequency. A communications system may have multiple carrier signals at different carrier frequencies.

Control a switch: Causing a switch to open and close. The switch may be, without limitation, mechanical, electrical, electronic, optical, etc., or any combination thereof. Typically, it is controlled by an electrical or electronic input. If the switch is controlled by an electronic signal, it is typically a different signal than the signals connected to either terminal of the switch.

Demodulated baseband signal: The baseband signal that is to be used by the recipient after transmission. Typically it has been down converted from a carrier signal and has been demodulated. The demodulated baseband signal should closely approximate the information signal (i.e., the modulating baseband signal) in frequency, amplitude, and information.

Demodulation: The process of removing information from a carrier or intermediate frequency signal.

Digital signal: A signal in which the information contained therein has discrete states as contrasted to a signal that has a property that may be continuously variable.

Direct down conversion: A down conversion technique wherein a received signal is directly down converted and demodulated, if applicable, from the original transmitted frequency (i.e., a carrier frequency) to baseband without having an intermediate frequency.

Down conversion: A process for performing frequency translation in which the final frequency is lower than the initial frequency.

Drive a switch: Same as control a switch.

Frequency Modulation (FM): A modulation technique wherein the frequency of the carrier signal is shifted (i.e., varied) as a function of the information signal. A subset of FM is referred to as "frequency shift keying" which is used primarily for digital communications where the frequency of the carrier signal shifts between discrete states rather than varying continuously as it does for analog information.

Harmonic: A harmonic is a frequency or tone that, when compared to its fundamental or reference frequency or tone, is an integer multiple of it. In other words, if a periodic waveform has a fundamental frequency of "f" (also called the first harmonic), then its harmonics may be located at frequencies of "n·f" where "n" is 2, 3, 4, etc. The harmonic corresponding to n=2 is referred to as the second harmonic, the harmonic corresponding to n=3 is referred to as the third harmonic, and so on.

In-phase ("I") signal: The signal typically generated by an oscillator. It has not had its phase shifted and is often represented as a sine wave to distinguish it from a "Q" signal. The "I" signal can, itself, be modulated by any means. When the "I" signal is combined with a "Q" signal, the resultant signal is referred to as an "I/Q" signal.

In-phase/Quadrature-phase ("I/Q") signal: The signal that results when an "I" signal is summed with a "Q" signal. Typically, both the "I" and "Q" signals have been phase modulated, although other modulation techniques may also be used, such as amplitude modulation. An "I/Q" signal is used to transmit separate streams of information simultaneously on a single transmitted carrier. Note that the modulated "I" signal and the modulated "Q" signal are both carrier signals having the same frequency. When combined, the resultant "I/Q" signal is also a carrier signal at the same frequency.

Information signal: The signal that contains the information that is to be transmitted. As used herein, it refers to the original baseband signal at the source. When it is intended that the information signal modulate a carrier signal, it is also referred to as the "modulating baseband signal." It may be voice or data, analog or digital, or any other signal or combination thereof.

Intermediate frequency (IF) signal: A signal that is at a frequency between the frequency of the baseband signal and the frequency of the transmitted signal.

Modulation: The process of varying one or more physical characteristics of a signal to represent the information to be transmitted. Three commonly used modulation techniques are frequency modulation, phase modulation, and amplitude modulation. There are also variations, subsets, and combinations of these three techniques.

Operate a switch: Same as control a switch.

Phase Modulation (PM): A modulation technique wherein the phase of the carrier signal is shifted (i.e., varied) as a function of the information signal. A subset of PM is referred to as "phase shift keying" which is used primarily for digital communications where the phase of the carrier signal shifts between discrete states rather than varying continuously as it does for analog information.

Quadrature-phase ("Q") signal: A signal that is out of phase with an in-phase ("I") signal. The amount of phase shift is predetermined for a particular application, but in a typical implementation, the "Q" signal is 90° out of phase with the "I" signal. Thus, if the "I" signal were a sine wave, the "Q" signal would be a cosine wave. When discussed together, the "I" signal and the "Q" signal have the same frequencies.

Spectrum: Spectrum is used to signify a continuous range of frequencies, usually wide, within which electromagnetic (EM) waves have some specific common characteristic. Such waves may be propagated in any communication medium, both natural and manmade, including but not limited to air, space, wire, cable, liquid, waveguide, microstrip, stripline, optical fiber, etc. The EM spectrum includes all frequencies greater than zero hertz.

Subharmonic: A subharmonic is a frequency or tone that is an integer submultiple of a referenced fundamental frequency or tone. That is, a subharmonic frequency is the quotient obtained by dividing the fundamental frequency by an integer. For example, if a periodic waveform has a frequency of "f" (also called the "fundamental frequency" or first subharmonic), then its subharmonics have frequencies of "f/n," where n is 2, 3, 4, etc. The subharmonic corresponding to n=2 is referred to as the second subharmonic, the subharmonic corresponding to n=3 is referred to as the third subharmonic, and so on. A subharmonic itself has possible harmonics, and the i^{th} harmonic of the i^{th} subharmonic will be at the fundamental frequency of the original periodic waveform. For example, the third subharmonic (which has a frequency of "f/3") may have harmonics at integer multiples of itself (i.e., a second harmonic at "2·f/3," a third harmonic at "3·f/3," and so on). The third harmonic of the third subharmonic of the original signal (i.e., "3f/3") is at the frequency of the original signal.

Trigger a switch: Same as control a switch.

Up conversion: A process for performing frequency translation in which the final frequency is higher than the initial frequency.

2. Overview of the Invention.

The present invention is directed to systems and methods for frequency up-conversion, and applications thereof.

In one embodiment, the frequency up-converter of the present invention is used as a stable reference frequency

11

source in a phase comparator or in a frequency comparator. This embodiment of the present invention achieves this through the use of a stable, low frequency local oscillator, a switch, and a filter. Because it up-converts frequency, the present invention can take advantage of the relatively low cost of low frequency oscillators to generate stable, high frequency signals.

In a second embodiment, the frequency up-converter is used as a system and method for transmitting an electromagnetic (EM) signal.

Based on the discussion contained herein, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that there are other, alternative embodiments in which the frequency up-converter of the present invention could be used in other applications, and that these alternative embodiments fall within the scope of the present invention.

For illustrative purposes, various modulation examples are discussed below. However, it should be understood that the invention is not limited by these examples. Other modulation techniques that might be used with the present invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teaching contained herein.

Also for illustrative purposes, frequency up-conversion according to the present invention is described below in the context of a transmitter. However, the invention is not limited to this embodiment. Equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the following will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., are within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

2.1 Discussion of Modulation Techniques.

Techniques by which information can be imparted onto EM signals to be transmitted are called modulation. These techniques are generally well known to one skilled in the relevant art(s), and include, but are not limited to, frequency modulation (FM), phase modulation (PM), amplitude modulation (AM), quadrature-phase shift keying (QPSK), frequency shift keying (FSK), phase shift keying (PSK), amplitude shift keying (ASK), etc., and combinations thereof. These last three modulation techniques, FSK, PSK, and ASK, are subsets of FM, PM, and AM, respectively, and refer to circuits having discrete input signals (e.g., digital input signals).

For illustrative purposes only, the circuits and techniques described below all refer to the EM broadcast medium. However, the invention is not limited by this embodiment. Persons skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that these same circuits and techniques can be used in all transmission media (e.g., over-the-air broadcast, point-to-point cable, etc.).

2.2 Explanation of Exemplary Circuits and Waveforms.

2.2.1 Frequency Modulation.

FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a frequency modulation (FM) circuit 100 and FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C, and FIGS. 20A, 20B, and 20C illustrate examples of waveforms at several points in FM circuit 100. In an FM system, the frequency of a carrier signal, such as an oscillating signal 202 (FIG. 2B and FIG. 20B), is varied to represent the data to be communicated, such as information signals 102 of FIGS. 2A and 2002 of FIG. 20A. In FIG. 20A, information signal 2002 is a continuous signal (i.e., an analog signal), and in FIG. 2A, information signal 102 is a discrete signal (i.e., a digital signal). In the case of the discrete information signal 102, the FM circuit 100 is referred to as a frequency shift keying (FSK) system, which is a subset of an FM system.

Frequency modulation circuit 100 receives an information signal 102, 2002 from a source (not shown). Information

12

signal 102, 2002 can be amplified by an optional amplifier 104 and filtered by an optional filter 114 and is the voltage input that drives a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) 106. Within VCO 106, an oscillating signal 202 (seen on FIG. 2B and FIG. 20B) is generated. The purpose of VCO 106 is to vary the frequency of oscillating signal 202 as a function of the input voltage, i.e., information signal 102, 2002. The output of VCO 106 is a modulated signal shown as modulated signal 108 (FIG. 2C) when the information signal is the digital information signal 102 and shown as modulated signal 2004 (FIG. 20C) when the information signal is the analog signal 2002. Modulated signal 108, 2004 is at a relatively low frequency (e.g., generally between 50 MHz and 100 MHz) and can have its frequency increased by an optional frequency multiplier 110 (e.g., to 900 MHz, 1.8 GHz) and have its amplitude increased by an optional amplifier 116. The output of optional frequency multiplier 110 and/or optional amplifier 116 is then transmitted by an exemplary antenna 112.

2.2.2 Phase Modulation.

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a phase modulation (PM) circuit 300 and FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C, and FIGS. 21A, 21B, and 21C illustrate examples of waveforms at several points in PM circuit 300. In a PM system, the phase of a carrier signal, such as a local oscillator (LO) output 308 (FIG. 4B and FIG. 21B), is varied to represent the data to be communicated, such as an information signals 302 of FIGS. 4A and 2102 of FIG. 21A. In FIG. 21A, information signal 2102 is a continuous signal (i.e., an analog signal), and in FIG. 4A, information signal 302 is a discrete signal (i.e., a digital signal). In the case of the discrete information signal 302, the PM circuit is referred to as a phase shift keying (PSK) system. This is the typical implementation, and is a subset of a PM system.

Phase modulation circuit 300 receives information signal 302, 2102 from a source (not shown). Information signal 302, 2102 can be amplified by an optional amplifier 304 and filtered by an optional filter 318 and is routed to a phase modulator 306. Also feeding phase modulator 306 is LO output 308 of a local oscillator 310. LO output 308 is shown on FIG. 4B and FIG. 21B. Local oscillators, such as local oscillator 310, output an electromagnetic wave at a predetermined frequency and amplitude.

The output of phase modulator 306 is a modulated signal shown as a phase modulated signal 312 (FIG. 4C) when the information signal is the discrete information signal 302 and shown as a phase modulated signal 2104 (FIG. 21C) when the information signal is the analog information signal 2102. The purpose of phase modulator 306 is to change the phase of LO output 308 as a function of the value of information signal 302, 2102. That is, for example in a PSK mode, if LO output 308 were a sine wave, and the value of information signal 302 changed from a binary high to a binary low, the phase of LO output 308 would change from a sine wave with a zero phase to a sine wave with, for example, a phase of 180°. The result of this phase change would be phase modulated signal 312 of FIG. 4C which would have the same frequency as LO output 308, but would be out of phase by 180° in this example. For a PSK system, the phase changes in phase modulated signal 312 that are representative of the information in information signal 302 can be seen by comparing waveforms 302, 308, and 312 on FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C. For the case of an analog information signal 2102 of FIG. 21A, the phase of LO output 308 of FIG. 21B changes continuously as a function of the amplitude of the information signal 2102. That is, for example, as information signal 2102 increases from a value of "X" to "X+δx",

13

the PM signal **2104** of FIG. **21C** changes from a signal which may be represented by the equation $\sin(\omega t)$ to a signal which can be represented by the equation $\sin(\omega t + \phi)$, where ϕ is the phase change associated with a change of δx in information signal **2102**. For an analog PM system, the phase changes in phase modulated signal **2104** that are representative of the information in information signal **2102** can be seen by comparing waveforms **2102**, **308**, and **2104** on FIGS. **21A**, **21B**, and **21C**.

After information signal **302**, **2102** and LO output **308** have been modulated by phase modulator **306**, phase modulated signal **312**, **2104** can be routed to an optional frequency multiplier **314** and optional amplifier **320**. The purpose of optional frequency multiplier **314** is to increase the frequency of phase modulated signal **312** from a relatively low frequency (e.g., 50 MHz to 100 MHz) to a desired broadcast frequency (e.g., 900 MHz, 1.8 GHz). Optional amplifier **320** raises the signal strength of phase modulated signal **312**, **2104** to a desired level to be transmitted by an exemplary antenna **316**.

2.2.3 Amplitude Modulation.

FIG. **5** illustrates an example of an amplitude modulation (AM) circuit **500** and FIGS. **6A**, **6B**, and **6C**, and FIGS. **22A**, **22B**, and **22C** illustrate examples of waveforms at several points in AM circuit **500**. In an AM system, the amplitude of a carrier signal, such as a local oscillator (LO) signal **508** (FIG. **6B** and FIG. **22B**), is varied to represent the data to be communicated, such as information signals **502** of FIGS. **6A** and **2202** of FIG. **22A**. In FIG. **22A**, information signal **2202** is a continuous signal (i.e., an analog signal), and in FIG. **6A**, information signal **502** is a discrete signal (i.e., a digital signal). In the case of the discrete information signal **502**, the AM circuit is referred to as an amplitude shift keying (ASK) system, which is a subset of an AM system.

Amplitude modulation circuit **500** receives information signal **502** from a source (not shown). Information signal **502**, **2202** can be amplified by an optional amplifier **504** and filtered by an optional filter **518**. Amplitude modulation circuit **500** also includes a local oscillator (LO) **506** which has an LO output **508**. Information signal **502**, **2202** and LO output **508** are then multiplied by a multiplier **510**. The purpose of multiplier **510** is to cause the amplitude of LO output **508** to vary as a function of the amplitude of information signal **502**, **2202**. The output of multiplier **510** is a modulated signal shown as amplitude modulated signal **512** (FIG. **6C**) when the information signal is the digital information signal **502** and shown as modulated signal **2204** (FIG. **22C**) when the information signal is the analog information signal **2202**. AM signal **512**, **2204** can then be routed to an optional frequency multiplier **514** where the frequency of AM signal **512**, **2204** is increased from a relatively low level (e.g., 50 MHz to 100 MHz) to a higher level desired for broadcast (e.g., 900 MHz, 1.8 GHz) and an optional amplifier **520**, which increases the signal strength of AM signal **512**, **2204** to a desired level for broadcast by an exemplary antenna **516**.

2.2.4 In-phase/Quadrature-Phase Modulation.

FIG. **7** illustrates an example of an in-phase/quadrature-phase ("I/Q") modulation circuit **700** and FIGS. **8A**, **8B**, **8C**, **8D**, and **8E** illustrate examples of waveforms at several points in "I/Q" modulation circuit **700**. In this technique, which increases bandwidth efficiency, separate information signals can be simultaneously transmitted on carrier signals that are out of phase with each other. That is, a first information signal **702** of FIG. **8A** can be modulated onto the in-phase ("I") oscillator signal **710** of FIG. **8B** and a second information signal **704** of FIG. **8C** can be modulated

14

onto the quadrature-phase ("Q") oscillator signal **712** of FIG. **8D**. The "I" modulated signal is combined with the "Q" modulated signal and the resulting "I/Q" modulated signal is then transmitted. In a typical usage, both information signals are digital, and both are phase modulated onto the "I" and "Q" oscillating signals. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that the "I/Q" mode can also work with analog information signals, with combinations of analog and digital signals, with other modulation techniques, or any combinations thereof.

This "I/Q" modulation system uses two PM circuits together in order to increase the bandwidth efficiency. As stated above, in a PM circuit, the phase of an oscillating signal, such as **710** (or **712**) (FIG. **8B** or **8D**), is varied to represent the data to be communicated, such as an information signal such as **702** (or **704**). For ease of understanding and display, the discussion herein will describe the more typical use of the "I/Q" mode, that is, with digital information signals and phase modulation on both oscillating signals. Thus, both signal streams are phase shift keying (PSK), which is a subset of PM.

"I/Q" modulation circuit **700** receives an information signal **702** from a first source (not shown) and an information signal **704** from a second source (not shown). Examples of information signals **702** and **704** are shown in FIGS. **8A** and **8C**. Information signals **702** and **704** can be amplified by optional amplifiers **714** and **716** and filtered by optional filters **734** and **736**. It is then routed to phase modulators **718** and **720**. Also feeding phase modulators **718** and **720** are oscillating signals **710** and **712**. Oscillating signal **710** was generated by a local oscillator **706**, and is shown in FIG. **8B**, and oscillating signal **712** is the phase shifted output of local oscillator **706**. Local oscillators, such as local oscillator **706**, output an electromagnetic wave at a predetermined frequency and amplitude.

The output of phase modulator **718** is a phase modulated signal **722** which is shown using a dotted line as one of the waveforms in FIG. **8E**. Similarly, the output of phase modulator **720**, which operates in a manner similar to phase modulator **718**, is a phase modulated signal **724** which is shown using a solid line as the other waveform in FIG. **8E**. The effect of phase modulators **718** and **720** on oscillating signals **710** and **712** is to cause them to change phase. As stated above, the system shown here is a PSK system, and as such, the phase of oscillating signals **710** and **712** is shifted by phase modulators **718** and **720** by a discrete amount as a function of information signals **702** and **704**.

For simplicity of discussion and ease of display, oscillating signal **710** is shown on FIG. **8B** as a sine wave and is referred to as the "I" signal in the "I/Q" circuit **700**. After the output of oscillator **706** has gone through a phase shifter **708**, shown here as shifting the phase by $-\pi/2$, oscillating signal **712** is a cosine wave, shown on FIG. **8D**, and is referred to as the "Q" signal in the "I/Q" circuit. Again, for ease of display, phase modulators **718** and **720** are shown as shifting the phase of the respective oscillating signals **710** and **712** by 180° . This is seen on FIG. **8E**. Modulated signal **722** is summed with modulated signal **724** by a summer **726**. The output of summer **726** is the arithmetic sum of modulated signal **722** and **724** and is an "I/Q" signal **728**. (For clarity of the display on FIG. **8E**, the combined signal **728** is not shown. However, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that the arithmetic sum of 2 sinusoidal waves having the same frequency is also a sinusoidal wave at that frequency.)

"I/Q" signal **728** can then be routed to an optional frequency multiplier **730**, where the frequency of "I/Q"

15

signal **718** is increased from a relatively low level (e.g., 50 MHz to 100 MHz) to a higher level desired for broadcast (e.g., 900 MHz, 1.8 GHz); and to an optional amplifier **738** which increases the signal strength of "I/Q" signal **728** to a desired level for broadcast by an exemplary antenna **732**.

2.3 Features of the Invention.

As apparent from the above, several frequencies are involved in a communications system. The frequency of the information signal is relatively low. The frequency of the local oscillator (both the voltage controlled oscillator as well as the other oscillators) is higher than that of the information signal, but typically not high enough for efficient transmission. A third frequency, not specifically mentioned above, is the frequency of the transmitted signal which is greater than or equal to the frequency of the oscillating signal. This is the frequency that is routed from the optional frequency multipliers and optional amplifiers to the antennas in the previously described circuits.

Typically, in the transmitter subsystem of a communications system, upconverting the information signal to broadcast frequency requires, at least, filters, amplifiers, and frequency multipliers. Each of these components is costly, not only in terms of the purchase price of the component, but also because of the power required to operate them.

The present invention provides a more efficient means for producing a modulated carrier for transmission, uses less power, and requires fewer components. These and additional advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description.

3. Frequency Up-Conversion.

The present invention is directed to systems and methods for frequency up-conversion and applications of the same. In one embodiment, the frequency up-converter of the present invention allows the use of a stable, low frequency oscillator to generate a stable high frequency signal that, for example and without limitation, can be used as a reference signal in a phase comparator or a frequency comparator. In another embodiment, the up-converter of the present invention is used in a transmitter. The invention is also directed to a transmitter. Based on the discussion contained herein, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that there are other, alternative embodiments and applications in which the frequency up-converter of the present invention could be used, and that these alternative embodiments and applications fall within the scope of the present invention.

For illustrative purposes, frequency up-conversion according to the present invention is described below in the context of a transmitter. However, as apparent from the preceding paragraph, the invention is not limited to this embodiment.

The following sections describe methods related to a transmitter and frequency up-converter. Structural exemplary embodiments for achieving these methods are also described. It should be understood that the invention is not limited to the particular embodiments described below. Equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the following will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., are within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

3.1. High Level Description.

This section (including its subsections) provides a high-level description of up-converting and transmitting signals according to the present invention. In particular, an operational process of frequency up-conversion in the context of transmitting signals is described at a high-level. The operational process is often represented by flowcharts. The flow-

16

charts are presented herein for illustrative purposes only, and are not limiting. In particular, the use of flowcharts should not be interpreted as limiting the invention to discrete or digital operation. In practice, those skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate, based on the teachings contained herein, that the invention can be achieved via discrete operation, continuous operation, or any combination thereof. Furthermore, the flow of control represented by the flowcharts is also provided for illustrative purposes only, and it will be appreciated by persons skilled in the relevant art(s) that other operational control flows are within the scope and spirit of the invention.

Also, a structural implementation for achieving this process is described at a high-level. This structural implementation is described herein for illustrative purposes, and is not limiting. In particular, the process described in this section can be achieved using any number of structural implementations, one of which is described in this section. The details of such structural implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

3.1.1 Operational Description.

The flow chart **900** of FIG. **9** demonstrates the operational method of frequency up-conversion in the context of transmitting a signal according to an embodiment of the present invention. The invention is directed to both frequency up-conversion and transmitting signals as represented in FIG. **9**. Representative waveforms for signals generated in flow chart **900** are depicted in FIG. **19**. For purposes of illustrating the high level operation of the invention, frequency modulation of a digital information signal is depicted. The invention is not limited to this exemplary embodiment. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that other modulation modes could alternatively be used (as described in later sections).

In step **902**, an information signal **1902** (FIG. **19A**) is generated by a source. This information signal may be analog, digital, and any combination thereof, or anything else that is desired to be transmitted, and is at the baseband frequency. As described below, the information signal **1902** is used to modulate an intermediate signal **1904**. Accordingly, the information signal **1902** is also herein called a modulating baseband information signal. In the example of FIG. **19A**, the information signal **1902** is illustrated as a digital signal. However, the invention is not limited to this embodiment. As noted above, the information signal **1902** can be analog, digital, and/or any combination thereof.

An oscillating signal **1904** (FIG. **19B**) is generated in step **904**. In step **906**, the oscillating signal **1904** is modulated, where the modulation is a result of, and a function of, the information signal **1902**. Step **906** produces a modulated oscillating signal **1906** (FIG. **19C**), also called a modulated intermediate signal. As noted above, the flowchart of FIG. **9** is being described in the context of an example where the information signal **1902** is a digital signal. However, alternatively, the information signal **1902** can be analog or any combination of analog and digital. Also, the example shown in FIG. **19** uses frequency shift keying (FSK) as the modulation technique. Alternatively, any modulation technique (e.g., FM, AM, PM, ASK, PSK, etc., or any combination thereof) can be used. The remaining steps **908-912** of the flowchart of FIG. **9** operate in the same way, whether the information signal **1902** is digital, analog, etc., or any combination thereof, and regardless of what modulation technique is used.

A harmonically rich signal **1908** (FIG. **19D**) is generated from the modulated signal **1906** in step **908**. Signal **1908** has

17

a substantially continuous and periodically repeated waveform. In an embodiment, the waveform of signal **1908** is substantially rectangular, as is seen in the expanded waveform **1910** of FIG. **19E**. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving an exact or perfect rectangular waveform and it is not the intent or requirement of the present invention that a perfect rectangular waveform be generated or needed. However, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used herein and will refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, and will include but will not be limited to those waveforms that are generally referred to as square waves or pulses. It should be noted that if the situation arises wherein a perfect rectangular waveform is proven to be both technically and mathematically feasible, that situation will also fall within the scope and intent of this invention.

A continuous periodic waveform (such as waveform **1908**) is composed of a series of sinusoidal waves of specific amplitudes and phases, the frequencies of which are integer multiples of the repetition frequency of the waveform. (A waveform's repetition frequency is the number of times per second the periodic waveform repeats.) A portion of the waveform of signal **1908** is shown in an expanded view as waveform **1910** of FIG. **19E**. The first three sinusoidal components of waveform **1910** (FIG. **19E**) are depicted as waveforms **1912a**, **b**, & **c** of FIG. **19F** and waveforms **1914a**, **b**, & **c** of FIG. **19G**. (In the examples of FIGS. **19F** & **G**, the three sinusoidal components are shown separately. In actuality, these waveforms, along with all the other sinusoidal components which are not shown, occur simultaneously, as seen in FIG. **19H**. Note that in FIG. **19H**, the waveforms are shown simultaneously, but are not shown summed. If waveforms **1912** and **1914** were shown summed, they would, in the limit, i.e., with an infinite number of sinusoidal components, be identical to the periodic waveform **1910** of FIG. **19E**. For ease of illustration, only the first three of the infinite number of sinusoidal components are shown.) These sinusoidal waves are called harmonics, and their existence can be demonstrated both graphically and mathematically. Each harmonic (waveforms **1912a**, **b**, & **c** and **1914a**, **b**, & **c**) has the same information content as does waveform **1910** (which has the same information as the corresponding portion of waveform **1908**). Accordingly, the information content of waveform **1908** can be obtained from any of its harmonics. As the harmonics have frequencies that are integer multiples of the repetition frequency of signal **1908**, and since they have the same information content as signal **1908** (as just stated), the harmonics each represent an up-converted representation of signal **1908**. Some of the harmonics are at desired frequencies (such as the frequencies desired to be transmitted). These harmonics are called "desired harmonics" or "wanted harmonics." According to the invention, desired harmonics have sufficient amplitude for accomplishing the desired processing (i.e., being transmitted). Other harmonics are not at the desired frequencies. These harmonics are called "undesired harmonics" or "unwanted harmonics."

In step **910**, any unwanted harmonics of the continuous periodic waveform of signal **1908** are filtered out (for example, any harmonics that are not at frequencies desired to be transmitted). In the example of FIG. **19**, the first and second harmonics (i.e., those depicted by waveforms **1912a** & **b** of FIGS. **19F** and **1914a** & **b** of FIG. **19G**) are the unwanted harmonics. In step **912**, the remaining harmonic, in the example of FIG. **19**, the third harmonic (i.e., those depicted by waveforms **1912c** of FIGS. **19F** and **1914c** of

18

FIG. **19G**), is transmitted. This is depicted by waveform **1918** of FIG. **19I**. In the example of FIG. **19**, only three harmonics are shown, and the lowest two are filtered out to leave the third harmonic as the desired harmonic. In actual practice, there are an infinite number of harmonics, and the filtering can be made to remove unwanted harmonics that are both lower in frequency than the desired harmonic as well as those that are higher in frequency than the desired harmonic.

3.1.2 Structural Description.

FIG. **10** is a block diagram of an up-conversion system according to an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment of the up-conversion system is shown as a transmitter **1000**. Transmitter **1000** includes an acceptance module **1004**, a harmonic generation and extraction module **1006**, and a transmission module **1008** that accepts an information signal **1002** and outputs a transmitted signal **1014**.

Preferably, the acceptance module **1004**, harmonic generation and extraction module **1006**, and transmission module **1008** process the information signal in the manner shown in the operational flowchart **900**. In other words, transmitter **1000** is the structural embodiment for performing the operational steps of flowchart **900**. However, it should be understood that the scope and spirit of the present invention includes other structural embodiments for performing the steps of flowchart **900**. The specifics of these other structural embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

The operation of the transmitter **1000** will now be described in detail with reference to the flowchart **900**. In step **902**, an information signal **1002** (for example, see FIG. **19A**) from a source (not shown) is routed to acceptance module **1004**. In step **904**, an oscillating signal (for example, see FIG. **19B**) is generated and in step **906**, it is modulated, thereby producing a modulated signal **1010** (for an example of FM, see FIG. **19C**). The oscillating signal can be modulated using any modulation technique, examples of which are described below. In step **908**, the harmonic generation and extraction module (HGEM) generates a harmonically rich signal with a continuous and periodic waveform (an example of FM can be seen in FIG. **19D**). This waveform is preferably a rectangular wave, such as a square wave or a pulse (although, the invention is not limited to this embodiment), and is comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal waves whose frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the waveform. These sinusoidal waves are referred to as the harmonics of the underlying waveform. A Fourier series analysis can be used to determine the amplitude of each harmonic (for example, see FIGS. **19F** and **19G**). In step **910**, a filter (not shown) within HGEM **1006** filters out the undesired frequencies (harmonics), and outputs an electromagnetic (EM) signal **1012** at the desired frequency (for example, see FIG. **19I**). In step **912**, EM signal **1012** is routed to transmission module **1008** (optional), where it is prepared for transmission. The transmission module **1008** then outputs a transmitted signal **1014**.

3.2 Exemplary Embodiments.

Various embodiments related to the method(s) and structure(s) described above are presented in this section (and its subsections). These embodiments are described herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. Alternate embodiments (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the embodiments described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. The invention is intended and adapted to include such alternate embodiments.

3.2.1 First Embodiment: Frequency Modulation (FM) Mode.

In this embodiment, an information signal is accepted and a modulated signal whose frequency varies as a function of the information signal results.

3.2.1.1 Operational Description.

The flow chart of FIG. 11 demonstrates the method of operation of a transmitter in the frequency modulation (FM) mode according to an embodiment of the present invention. As stated above, the representative waveforms shown in FIG. 19 depict the invention operating as a transmitter in the FM mode.

In step 1102, an information signal 1902 (FIG. 19A) is generated by a source by any means and/or process. (Information signal 1902 is a baseband signal, and, because it is used to modulate a signal, may also be referred to as a modulating baseband signal 1902.) Information signal 1902 may be, for example, analog, digital, or any combination thereof. The signals shown in FIG. 19 depict a digital information signal wherein the information is represented by discrete states of the signal. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) that the invention is also adapted to working with an analog information signal wherein the information is represented by a continuously varying signal. In step 1104, information signal 1902 modulates an oscillating signal 1904 (FIG. 19B). The result of this modulation is the modulated signal 1906 (FIG. 19C) as indicated in block 1106. Modulated signal 1906 has a frequency that varies as a function of information signal 1902 and is referred to as an FM signal.

In step 1108, a harmonically rich signal with a continuous periodic waveform, shown in FIG. 19D as rectangular waveform 1908, is generated. Rectangular waveform 1908 is generated using the modulated signal 1906. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving an exact or perfect rectangular waveform and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect rectangular waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular. In a similar manner, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave be generated or needed. A portion of rectangular waveform 1908 is shown in an expanded view as periodic waveform 1910 in FIG. 19E. The first part of waveform 1910 is designated "signal A" and represents information signal 1902 being "high," and the second part of waveform 1910 is designated "signal B" and information signal 1902 being "low." It should be noted that this convention is used for illustrative purposes only, and alternatively, other conventions could be used.

As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a rectangular wave 1908 as indicated in block 1110 of flowchart 1100, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (i.e., at the Fourier component frequencies). Three harmonics of periodic waveform 1910 are shown separately, in expanded views, in FIGS. 19F and 19G. Since waveform 1910 (and also waveform 1908) is shown as a square wave in this exemplary embodiment, only the odd harmonics are present, i.e., the first, third, fifth, seventh, etc. As shown in FIG. 19, if rectangular waveform 1908 has a fundamental frequency of f_1 (also known as the first harmonic), the third harmonic will have a frequency of $3 \cdot f_1$, the fifth harmonic will have a

frequency of $5 \cdot f_1$, and so on. The first, third, and fifth harmonics of signal A are shown as waveforms 1912a, 1912b, and 1912c of FIG. 19F, and the first, third, and fifth harmonics of signal B are shown as waveforms 1914a, 1914b, and 1914c of FIG. 19G. In actuality, these harmonics (as well as all of the higher order harmonics) occur simultaneously, as shown by waveform 1916 of FIG. 19H. Note that if all of the harmonic components of FIG. 19H were shown summed together with all of the higher harmonics (i.e., the seventh, the ninth, etc.) the resulting waveform would, in the limit, be identical to waveform 1910.

In step 1112, the unwanted frequencies of waveform 1916 are removed. In the example of FIG. 19, the first and third harmonics are shown to be removed, and as indicated in block 1114, the remaining waveform 1918 (i.e., waveforms 1912c and 1914c) is at the desired EM frequency. Although not shown, the higher harmonics (e.g., the seventh, ninth, etc.) are also removed.

The EM signal, shown here as remaining waveform 1918, is prepared for transmission in step 1116, and in step 1118, the EM signal is transmitted.

3.2.1.2 Structural Description.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment of the transmitter is shown as an FM transmitter 1200. FM transmitter 1200 includes a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) 1204, a switch module 1214, a filter 1218, and a transmission module 1222 that accepts an information signal 1202 and outputs a transmitted signal 1224. The operation and structure of exemplary components are described below: an exemplary VCO is described below at sections 3.3.1–3.3.1.2; an exemplary switch module is described below at sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2; an exemplary filter is described below at sections 3.3.9–3.3.9.2; and an exemplary transmission module is described below at sections 3.3.10–3.3.10.2.

Preferably, the voltage controlled oscillator 1204, switch module 1214, filter 1218, and transmission module 1222 process the information signal in the manner shown in the operational flowchart 1100. In other words, FM transmitter 1200 is the structural embodiment for performing the operational steps of flowchart 1100. However, it should be understood that the scope and spirit of the present invention includes other structural embodiments for performing the steps of flowchart 1100. The specifics of these other structural embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

The operation of the transmitter 1200 will now be described in detail with reference to the flowchart 1100. In step 1102, an information signal 1202 (for example, see FIG. 19A) from a source (not shown) is routed to VCO 1204. In step 1104, an oscillating signal (for example, see FIG. 19B) is generated and modulated, thereby producing a frequency modulated signal 1210 (for example, see FIG. 19C). In step 1108, the switch module 1214 generates a harmonically rich signal 1216 with a continuous and periodic waveform (for example, see FIG. 19D). This waveform is preferably a rectangular wave, such as a square wave or a pulse (although, the invention is not limited to this embodiment), and is comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal waves whose frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the waveform. These sinusoidal waves are referred to as the harmonics of the underlying waveform, and a Fourier analysis will determine the amplitude of each harmonic (for example, see FIGS. 19F and 19G). In step 1112, a filter 1218 filters out the undesired frequencies

(harmonics), and outputs an electromagnetic (EM) signal **1220** at the desired harmonic frequency (for example, see FIG. **19I**). In step **1116**, EM signal **1220** is routed to transmission module **1222** (optional), where it is prepared for transmission. In step **1118**, transmission module **1222** outputs a transmitted signal **1224**.

3.2.2 Second Embodiment: Phase Modulation (PM) Mode.

In this embodiment, an information signal is accepted and a modulated signal whose phase varies as a function of the information signal is transmitted.

3.2.2.1 Operational Description.

The flow chart of FIG. **13** demonstrates the method of operation of the transmitter in the phase modulation (PM) mode. The representative waveforms shown in FIG. **44** depict the invention operating as a transmitter in the PM mode.

In step **1302**, an information signal **4402** (FIG. **44A**) is generated by a source. Information signal **4402** may be, for example, analog, digital, or any combination thereof. The signals shown in FIG. **44** depict a digital information signal wherein the information is represented by discrete states of the signal. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) that the invention is also adapted to working with an analog information signal wherein the information is represented by a continuously varying signal. In step **1304**, an oscillating signal **4404** is generated and in step **1306**, the oscillating signal **4404** (FIG. **44B**) is modulated by the information signal **4402**, resulting in the modulated signal **4406** (FIG. **44C**) as indicated in block **1308**. The phase of this modulated signal **4406** is varied as a function of the information signal **4402**.

A harmonically rich signal **4408** (FIG. **44D**) with a continuous periodic waveform is generated at step **1310** using modulated signal **4406**. Harmonically rich signal **4408** is a substantially rectangular waveform. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving an exact or perfect rectangular waveform and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect rectangular waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular. In a similar manner, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave be generated or needed. As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as the harmonically rich signal **4408** as indicated in block **1312**, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). The first three harmonic waveforms are shown in FIGS. **44E**, **44F**, and **44G**. In actual fact, there are an infinite number of harmonics. In step **1314**, the unwanted frequencies are removed, and as indicated in block **1316**, the remaining frequency is at the desired EM output. As an example, the first (fundamental) harmonic **4410** and the second harmonic **4412** along with the fourth, fifth, etc., harmonics (not shown) might be filtered out, leaving the third harmonic **4414** as the desired EM signal as indicated in block **1316**.

The EM signal is prepared for transmission in step **1318**, and in step **1320**, the EM signal is transmitted.

3.2.2.2 Structural Description.

FIG. **14** is a block diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment of the transmitter is shown as a PM transmitter **1400**. PM trans-

mitter **1400** includes a local oscillator **1406**, a phase modulator **1404**, a switch module **1410**, a filter **1414**, and a transmission module **1418** that accepts an information signal **1402** and outputs a transmitted signal **1420**. The operation and structure of exemplary components are described below: an exemplary phase modulator is described below at sections 3.3.4–3.3.4.2; an exemplary local oscillator is described below at sections 3.3.2–3.3.2.2; an exemplary switch module is described below at sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2; an exemplary filter is described below at sections 3.3.9–3.3.9.2; and an exemplary transmission module is described below at sections 3.3.10–3.3.10.2.

Preferably, the local oscillator **1406**, phase modulator **1404**, switch module **1410**, filter **1414**, and transmission module **1418** process the information signal in the manner shown in the operational flowchart **1300**. In other words, PM transmitter **1400** is the structural embodiment for performing the operational steps of flowchart **1300**. However, it should be understood that the scope and spirit of the present invention includes other structural embodiments for performing the steps of flowchart **1300**. The specifics of these other structural embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

The operation of the transmitter **1400** will now be described in detail with reference to the flowchart **1300**. In step **1302**, an information signal **1402** (for example, see FIG. **44A**) from a source (not shown) is routed to phase modulator **1404**. In step **1304**, an oscillating signal from local oscillator **1406** (for example, see FIG. **44B**) is generated and modulated, thereby producing a modulated signal **1408** (for example, see FIG. **44C**). In step **1310**, the switch module **1410** generates a harmonically rich signal **1412** with a continuous and periodic waveform (for example, see FIG. **44D**). This waveform is preferably a rectangular wave, such as a square wave or a pulse (although, the invention is not limited to this embodiment), and is comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal waves whose frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the waveform. These sinusoidal waves are referred to as the harmonics of the underlying waveform, and a Fourier analysis will determine the amplitude of each harmonic (for an example of the first three harmonics, see FIGS. **44E**, **44F**, and **44G**). In step **1314**, a filter **1414** filters out the undesired harmonic frequencies (for example, the first harmonic **4410**, the second harmonic **4412**, and the fourth, fifth, etc., harmonics, not shown), and outputs an electromagnetic (EM) signal **1416** at the desired harmonic frequency (for example, the third harmonic, see FIG. **44G**). In step **1318**, EM signal **1416** is routed to transmission module **1418** (optional), where it is prepared for transmission. In step **1320**, the transmission module **1418** outputs a transmitted signal **1420**.

3.2.3 Third Embodiment: Amplitude Modulation (AM) Mode.

In this embodiment, an information signal is accepted and a modulated signal whose amplitude varies as a function of the information signal is transmitted.

3.2.3.1 Operational Description.

The flow chart of FIG. **15** demonstrates the method of operation of the transmitter in the amplitude modulation (AM) mode. The representative waveforms shown in FIG. **45** depict the invention operating as a transmitter in the AM mode.

In step **1502**, an information signal **4502** (FIG. **45A**) is generated by a source. Information signal **4502** may be, for example, analog, digital, or any combination thereof. The signals shown in FIG. **45** depict a digital information signal

wherein the information is represented by discrete states of the signal. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) that the invention is also adapted to working with an analog information signal wherein the information is represented by a continuously varying signal. In step 1504, a “reference signal” is created, which, as indicated in block 1506, has an amplitude that is a function of the information signal 4502. In one embodiment of the invention, the reference signal is created by combining the information signal 4502 with a bias signal. In another embodiment of the invention, the reference signal is comprised of only the information signal 4502. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that any number of embodiments exist wherein the reference signal will vary as a function of the information signal.

An oscillating signal 4504 (FIG. 45B) is generated at step 1508, and at step 1510, the reference signal (information signal 4502) is gated at a frequency that is a function of the oscillating signal 4504. The gated referenced signal is a harmonically rich signal 4506 (FIG. 45C) with a continuous periodic waveform and is generated at step 1512. This harmonically rich signal 4506 as indicated in block 1514 is substantially a rectangular wave which has a fundamental frequency equal to the frequency at which the reference signal (information signal 4502) is gated. In addition, the rectangular wave has pulse amplitudes that are a function of the amplitude of the reference signal (information signal 4502). One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving an exact or perfect rectangular waveform and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect rectangular waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term “rectangular waveform” will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular. In a similar manner, the term “square wave” will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave be generated or needed.

As stated before, a harmonically rich signal 4506, such as the rectangular wave as indicated in block 1514, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). The first three harmonic waveforms are shown in FIGS. 45D, 45E, and 45F. In fact, there are an infinite number of harmonics. In step 1516, the unwanted frequencies are removed, and as indicated in block 1518, the remaining frequency is at the desired EM output. As an example, the first (fundamental) harmonic 4510 and the second harmonic 4512 along with the fourth, fifth, etc., harmonics (not shown) might be filtered out leaving the third harmonic 4514 as the desired EM signal as indicated in block 1518.

The EM signal is prepared for transmission in step 1520, and in step 1522, the EM signal is transmitted.

3.2.3.2 Structural Description.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment of the transmitter is shown as an AM transmitter 1600. AM transmitter 1600 includes a local oscillator 1610, a summing module 1606, a switch module 1614, a filter 1618, and a transmission module 1622 that accepts an information signal 1602 and outputs a transmitted signal 1624. The operation and structure of exemplary components are described below: an exemplary local oscillator is described below at sections 3.3.2–3.3.2.2; an exemplary a switch module is described below at sections 3.3.7–3.3.7.2; an exemplary filter is described below at sections 3.3.9–3.3.9.2; and an exemplary

transmission module is described below at sections 3.3.10–3.3.10.2.

Preferably, the local oscillator 1610, summing module 1606, switch module 1614, filter 1618, and transmission module 1622 process an information signal 1602 in the manner shown in the operational flowchart 1500. In other words, AM transmitter 1600 is the structural embodiment for performing the operational steps of flowchart 1500. However, it should be understood that the scope and spirit of the present invention includes other structural embodiments for performing the steps of flowchart 1500. The specifics of these other structural embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

The operation of the transmitter 1600 will now be described in detail with reference to the flowchart 1500. In step 1502, information signal 1602 (for example, see FIG. 45A) from a source (not shown) is routed to summing module 1606 (if required), thereby producing a reference signal 1608. In step 1508, an oscillating signal 1612 is generated by local oscillator 1610 (for example, see FIG. 45B) and in step 1510, switch module 1614 gates the reference voltage 1608 at a rate that is a function of the oscillating signal 1612. The result of the gating is a harmonically rich signal 1616 (for example, see FIG. 45C) with a continuous and periodic waveform. This waveform is preferably a rectangular wave, such as a square wave or a pulse (although, the invention is not limited to this embodiment), and is comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal waves whose frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the waveform. These sinusoidal waves are referred to as the harmonics of the underlying waveform, and a Fourier analysis will determine the relative amplitude of each harmonic (for an example of the first three harmonics, see FIGS. 45D, 45E, and 45F). When amplitude modulation is applied, the amplitude of the pulses in rectangular waveform 1616 vary as a function of reference signal 1608. As a result, this change in amplitude of the pulses has a proportional effect on the absolute amplitude of all of the harmonics. In other words, the AM is embedded on top of each of the harmonics. In step 1516, a filter 1618 filters out the undesired harmonic frequencies (for example, the first harmonic 4510, the second harmonic 4512, and the fourth, fifth, etc., harmonics, not shown), and outputs an electromagnetic (EM) signal 1620 at the desired harmonic frequency (for example, the third harmonic, see FIG. 45F). In step 1520, EM signal 1620 is routed to transmission module 1622 (optional), where it is prepared for transmission. In step 1522, the transmission module 1622 outputs a transmitted signal 1624.

Note that the description of the AM embodiment given herein shows the information signal being gated, thus applying the amplitude modulation to the harmonically rich signal. However, it would be apparent based on the teachings contained herein, that the information signal can be modulated onto the harmonically rich signal or onto a filtered harmonic at any point in the circuit.

3.2.4 Fourth Embodiment: in-Phase/Quadrature-Phase Modulation (“I/Q”) Mode.

In-phase/quadrature-phase modulation (“I/Q”) is a specific subset of a phase modulation (PM) embodiment. Because “I/Q” is so pervasive, it is described herein as a separate embodiment. However, it should be remembered that since it is a specific subset of PM, the characteristics of PM also apply to “I/Q.”

In this embodiment, two information signals are accepted. An in-phase signal (“I”) is modulated such that its phase

varies as a function of one of the information signals, and a quadrature-phase signal ("Q") is modulated such that its phase varies as a function of the other information signal. The two modulated signals are combined to form an "I/Q" modulated signal and transmitted.

3.2.4.1 Operational Description.

The flow chart of FIG. 17 demonstrates the method of operation of the transmitter in the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode. In step 1702, a first information signal is generated by a first source. This information signal may be analog, digital, or any combination thereof. In step 1710, an in-phase oscillating signal (referred to as the "I" signal) is generated and in step 1704, it is modulated by the first information signal. This results in the "I" modulated signal as indicated in block 1706 wherein the phase of the "I" modulated signal is varied as a function of the first information signal.

In step 1714, a second information signal is generated. Again, this signal may be analog, digital, or any combination thereof, and may be different than the first information signal. In step 1712, the phase of "I" oscillating signal generated in step 1710 is shifted, creating a quadrature-phase oscillating signal (referred to as the "Q" signal). In step 1716, the "Q" signal is modulated by the second information signal. This results in the "Q" modulated signal as indicated in block 1718 wherein the phase of the "Q" modulated signal is varied as a function of the second information signal.

An "I" signal with a continuous periodic waveform is generated at step 1708 using the "I" modulated signal, and a "Q" signal with a continuous periodic waveform is generated at step 1720 using the "Q" modulated signal. In step 1722, the "I" periodic waveform and the "Q" periodic waveform are combined forming what is referred to as the "I/Q" periodic waveform as indicated in block 1724. As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a "I/Q" rectangular wave as indicated in block 1724, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). In step 1726, the unwanted frequencies are removed, and as indicated in block 1728, the remaining frequency is at the desired EM output.

The "I/Q" EM signal is prepared for transmission in step 1730, and in step 1732, the "I/Q" EM signal is transmitted.

3.2.4.2 Structural Description.

FIG. 18 is a block diagram of a transmitter according to an embodiment of the invention. This embodiment of the transmitter is shown as an "I/Q" transmitter 1800. "I/Q" transmitter 1800 includes a local oscillator 1806, a phase shifter 1810, two phase modulators 1804 & 1816, two switch modules 1822 & 1828, a summer 1832, a filter 1836, and a transmission module 1840. The "I/Q" transmitter accepts two information signals 1802 & 1814 and outputs a transmitted signal 1420. The operation and structure of exemplary components are described below: an exemplary phase modulator is described below at sections 3.3.4-3.3.4.2; an exemplary local oscillator is described below at sections 3.3.2-3.3.2.2; an exemplary phase shifter is described below at sections 3.3.3-3.3.3.2; an exemplary switch module is described below at sections 3.3.6-3.3.6.2; an exemplary summer is described below at sections 3.3.8-3.3.8.2; an exemplary filter is described below at sections 3.3.9-3.3.9.2; and an exemplary transmission module is described below at sections 3.3.10-3.3.10.2.

Preferably, the local oscillator 1806, phase shifter 1810, phase modulators 1804 & 1816, switch modules 1822 &

1828, summer 1832, filter 1836, and transmission module 1840 process the information signal in the manner shown in the operational flowchart 1700. In other words, "I/Q" transmitter 1800 is the structural embodiment for performing the operational steps of flowchart 1700. However, it should be understood that the scope and spirit of the present invention includes other structural embodiments for performing the steps of flowchart 1700. The specifics of these other structural embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

The operation of the transmitter 1800 will now be described in detail with reference to the flowchart 1700. In step 1702, a first information signal 1802 from a source (not shown) is routed to the first phase modulator 1804. In step 1710, an "I" oscillating signal 1808 from local oscillator 1806 is generated and in step 1704, "I" oscillating signal 1808 is modulated by first information signal 1802 in the first phase modulator 1804, thereby producing an "I" modulated signal 1820. In step 1708, the first switch module 1822 generates a harmonically rich "I" signal 1824 with a continuous and periodic waveform.

In step 1714, a second information signal 1814 from a source (not shown) is routed to the second phase modulator 1816. In step 1712, the phase of oscillating signal 1808 is shifted by phase shifter 1810 to create "Q" oscillating signal 1812. In step 1716, "Q" oscillating signal 1812 is modulated by second information signal 1814 in the second phase modulator 1816, thereby producing "Q" modulated signal 1826. In step 1720, the second switch module 1828 generates a harmonically rich "Q" signal 1830 with a continuous and periodic waveform. Harmonically rich "I" signal 1824 and harmonically rich "Q" signal 1830 are preferably rectangular waves, such as square waves or pulses (although, the invention is not limited to this embodiment), and are comprised of pluralities of sinusoidal waves whose frequencies are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the waveforms. These sinusoidal waves are referred to as the harmonics of the underlying waveforms, and a Fourier analysis will determine the amplitude of each harmonic.

In step 1722, harmonically rich "I" signal 1824 and harmonically rich "Q" signal 1830 are combined by summer 1832 to create harmonically rich "I/Q" signal 1834. In step 1726, a filter 1836 filters out the undesired harmonic frequencies, and outputs an "I/Q" electromagnetic (EM) signal 1838 at the desired harmonic frequency. In step 1730, "I/Q" EM signal 1838 is routed to transmission module 1840 (optional), where it is prepared for transmission. In step 1732, the transmission module 1840 outputs a transmitted signal 1842.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that an alternate embodiment exists wherein the harmonically rich "I" signal 1824 and the harmonically rich "Q" signal 1830 may be filtered before they are summed, and further, another alternate embodiment exists wherein "I" modulated signal 1820 and "Q" modulated signal 1826 may be summed to create an "I/Q" modulated signal before being routed to a switch module.

3.2.5 Other Embodiments.

Other embodiments of the up-converter of the present invention being used as a transmitter (or in other applications) may use subsets and combinations of modulation techniques, and may include modulating one or more information signals as part of the up-conversion process.

3.2.5.1 Combination of Modulation Techniques

Combinations of modulation techniques that would be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings disclosed herein include, but are not limited to,

quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), and embedding two forms of modulation onto a signal for up-conversion.

An exemplary circuit diagram illustrating the combination of two modulations is found in FIG. 62. This example uses AM combined with PM. The waveforms shown in FIG. 63 illustrate the phase modulation of a digital information signal "A" 6202 combined with the amplitude modulation of an analog information signal "B" 6204. An oscillating signal 6216 (FIG. 63B) and information signal "A" 6202 (FIG. 63A) are received by phase modulator 1404, thereby creating a phase modulated signal 6208 (FIG. 63C). Note that for illustrative purposes, and not limiting, the information signal is shown as a digital signal, and the phase modulation is shown as shifting the phase of the oscillating signal by 180°. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that the information signal could be analog (although typically it is digital), and that phase modulations other than 180° may also be used. FIG. 62 shows a pulse shaper 6216 receiving phase modulated signal 6208 and outputting a pulse-shaped PM signal 6210. The pulse shaper is optional, depending on the selection and design of the phase modulator 1404. Information signal "B" 6304 and bias signal 1604 (if required) are combined by summing module 1606 (optional) to create reference signal 6206 (FIG. 63E). Pulse-shaped PM signal 6210 is routed to switch module 1410, 1614 where it gates the reference signal 6206 thereby producing a harmonically rich signal 6212 (FIG. 63F). It can be seen that the amplitude of harmonically rich signal 6212 varies as a function of reference signal 6206, and the period and pulse width of harmonically rich signal 6212 are substantially the same as pulse-shaped PM signal 6210. FIG. 63 only illustrates the fundamental and second harmonics of harmonically rich signal 6212. In fact, there may be an infinite number of harmonics, but for illustrative purposes (and not limiting) the first two harmonics are sufficient to illustrate that both the phase modulation and the amplitude modulation that are present on the harmonically rich signal 6212 are also present on each of the harmonics. Filter 1414, 1618 will remove the unwanted harmonics, and a desired harmonic 6214 is routed to transmission module 1418, 1622 (optional) where it is prepared for transmission. Transmission module 1418, 1622 then outputs a transmitted signal 1420, 1624. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not limiting.

The embodiments described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These embodiments are not intended to limit the invention. Alternate embodiments, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate embodiments include, but are not limited to, combinations of modulation techniques in an "I/Q" mode. Such alternate embodiments fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

3.2.5.2 Modulation as Part of the Up-Conversion Process.

Alternate embodiments of the present invention include implementations wherein one or more information signals are modulated as part of the up-conversion process. For ease of discussion, these implementations will be referred to as "modulation embodiments" and will be discussed in more detail below.

In a first modulation embodiment, one information signal is phase modulated onto the carrier signal as part of the up-conversion process. Two exemplary implementations of this modulation embodiment are herein described. One involves using a differentiation circuit and the other involves using parallel switches that are controlled by signals that are 180° out of phase with each other.

In a second modulation embodiment, two information signals are multiplied. As part of the up-conversion process, one signal is phase modulated onto the carrier and the other signal is amplitude modulated onto the carrier. Again, as described in the first modulation embodiment above, two exemplary implementations of this modulation embodiment are herein described.

In a third modulation embodiment, one information signal is phase modulated onto the "I" phase of the carrier signal as part of the up-conversion process and a second information signal is phase modulated onto the "Q" phase of the carrier as part of the up-conversion process. As described above, two exemplary implementations of this modulation embodiment are herein described.

In a fourth modulation embodiment, a first information signal is multiplied with a second information signal, and the result is modulated onto the "I" phase of a carrier as part of the up-conversion process. The first information signal is phase modulated and the second information signal is amplitude modulated. Additionally, a third information signal is multiplied with a fourth information signal, and the result is modulated onto the "Q" phase of a carrier as part of the up-conversion process. The third information signal is phase modulated and the fourth information signal is amplitude modulated. As described above, two exemplary implementations of this modulation embodiment are herein described.

It is noted that the exemplary implementations are described herein for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these examples. Other implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

One exemplary implementation of the first modulation embodiment is shown in FIG. 65. An information signal 6502 is routed through an optional filter 6504. This results in a filtered information signal 6522. Typically, information signal 6502 (as well as filtered information signal 6522) is a digital signal, although the invention may work with analog signals. Filtered information signal 6522 is connected through a load, shown as an inductor 6506, to the first input of a switch 6512. The second input of switch 6512 is connected to a reference 6514. In one implementation, reference 6514 is at ground and, in a second implementation, reference 6514 is at a non-zero voltage.

A local oscillator 6508 generates an oscillating signal 6526. The frequency of oscillating signal 6526 is a sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. Oscillating signal 6526 is routed through a pulse shaper 6510. Pulse shaper 6510 is optional, and, when used, outputs a string of pulses 6528. String of pulses 6528 is connected to the control input of switch 6512, and controls the frequency at which switch 6512 closes and opens.

The first input of switch 6512 is also connected to the input of a differentiation circuit 6516. Differentiation circuit 6516 is shown as being comprised of a capacitor 6518 in series and a resistor 6520 shunted to ground. This circuit diagram is shown for illustrative purposes only, and persons skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that other differentiating circuits may be used. The output of differentiation circuit 6516 is a harmonically rich signal 6524 that is phase modulated. Harmonically rich signal 6524 is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter 6530. Filter 6530 extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired output signal 6532.

A second exemplary implementation of the first modulation embodiment is shown in FIG. 67. An information signal 6702 is routed through an optional filter 6704. This results

in a filtered information signal **6708**. Typically, information signal **6702** (as well as filtered information signal **6708**) is a digital signal, although the invention may work with analog signals. Filtered information signal **6708** is connected to a buffer/inverter module **6706**. Buffer/inverter module **6706** outputs a buffered information signal **6710** and an inverted information signal **6712**. Buffered information signal **6710** is substantially the same as filtered information signal **6708** and inverted information signal **6712** is substantially equal to the inverse of buffered information signal **6710**. A number of circuits, such as off-the-shelf buffers and off-the-shelf inverters, or customer designed buffers and inverters, can be used to accomplish the function of buffer/inverter module **6706**, as can be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s).

Buffered information signal **6710** is then routed through a load, shown as an inductor **6730**, to the first input of a switch **6726**, and inverted information signal **6712** is routed through a load, shown as an inductor **6732**, to the first input of a switch **6728**. The second input of switch **6726** and the second input of switch **6728** are connected to a reference **6746**. As shown in FIG. **67**, the second input of switch **6726** and the second input of switch **6728** are connected to the same reference **6746**. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that this does not need to be the same reference. In one implementation, reference **6746** is at ground and in another implementation reference **6746** is at a non-zero voltage.

A local oscillator **6714** generates an oscillating signal **6716**. The frequency of oscillating signal **6716** is preferably an odd sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. Oscillating signal **6716** is routed through a 180° phase shifter **6718** to generate a phase shifted oscillating signal **6720**. Oscillating signal **6716** is also routed through a pulse shaper **6722**, and phase shifted oscillating signal **6720** is routed through a pulse shaper **6724**. Pulse shaper **6722** and pulse shaper **6724** are both optional, and, when used, output a string of pulses **6748** and a string of pulses **6750**, respectively. String of pulses **6748** is connected to the control input of switch **6726** and controls the frequency at which switch **6726** closes and opens. String of pulses **6750** is connected to the control input of switch **6728** and controls the frequency at which switch **6728** closes and opens.

A signal **6734** from the first input of switch **6726** and a signal **6736** from the first input of switch **6728** are combined by a summer **6738**. The output of summer **6738** is a harmonically rich signal **6740** that is phase modulated. Harmonically rich signal **6740** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **6742**. Filter **6742** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired output signal **6744**.

One exemplary implementation of the second modulation embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. **66** wherein a multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6600** generates a signal that is phase and amplitude modulated, as described below. A first information signal **6602** and a second information signal **6604** are multiplied by a multiplier **6606**. For ease of discussion, and not meant to be limiting, first information signal **6602** will be considered to be a digital signal, and second information signal **6604** will be considered to be an analog signal. The output of multiplier **6606** is a combined signal **6608**. Combined signal **6608** is preferably a digital signal having a baud rate substantially the same as the baud rate of first information signal **6602** and whose bits have amplitudes that are a function of the amplitude of second information signal **6604**.

Combined signal **6608** is routed through an optional filter **6610**. This results in a filtered combined signal **6612**.

Filtered combined signal **6612** is connected through a load, shown as an inductor **6614**, to the first input of a switch **6616**. The second input of switch **6616** is connected to a reference **6626**. Preferably, reference **6626** is at the potential about which first information signal **6602** switches. That is, if first information signal **6602** is a digital signal whose “low” value is 0 volts and whose “high” value is 5 volts, then reference **6626** will be between 0 and 5 volts, such as, for example, 2.5 volts. This example is for illustrative purposes only, and is not meant to be limiting. A person skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that there are a number of values for the “high,” “low,” and reference voltages which will result in a phase shift of the carrier when the “state” of the information signal crosses the reference voltage.

A local oscillator **6618** generates an oscillating signal **6620**. The frequency of oscillating signal **6620** is a sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. Oscillating signal **6620** is routed through a pulse shaper **6622**. Pulse shaper **6622** is optional, and, when used, outputs a string of pulses **6624**. String of pulses **6624** is connected to the control input of switch **6616**, and controls the frequency at which switch **6616** closes and opens.

The first input of switch **6616** is also connected to the input of a differentiation circuit **6628**. In FIG. **66**, differentiation circuit **6628** is shown as being comprised of a capacitor **6630** in series and a resistor **6632** shunted to ground. This circuit diagram is shown for illustrative purposes only, and persons skilled in the art(s) will appreciate that other differentiating circuits may be used. The output of differentiation circuit **6628** is a harmonically rich signal **6634** that is both phase and amplitude modulated. In summary, first information signal **6602**, the digital signal, phase modulates harmonically rich signal **6634**, and second information signal **6604**, the analog signal, amplitude modulates harmonically rich signal **6634**.

Harmonically rich signal **6634** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **6636**. Filter **6636** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired output signal **6638**.

Although the discussion herein was directed toward a digital and an analog signal, the invention is not limited to this implementation. The output of differentiation circuit **6628** is such that the phase modulation is a function of an information signal whose high and low states are above and below the reference voltage, and the amplitude modulation is a function of the information signal whose voltage remains either above or below the reference voltage, but does not cross it.

A second exemplary implementation of the second modulation embodiment is shown in FIG. **68** wherein a multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6800** generates a signal that is phase and amplitude modulated, as described below. A first information signal **6802** and a second information signal **6804** are multiplied by a multiplier **6806**. For ease of discussion, and not meant to be limiting, first information signal **6802** will be considered to be a digital signal, and second information signal **6804** will be considered to be an analog signal. The output of multiplier **6806** is a combined signal **6808**. Combined signal **6808** is a digital signal having a baud rate substantially the same as the baud rate of first information signal **6802** and whose bits have amplitudes that are a function of the amplitude of second information signal **6804**.

Combined signal **6808** is routed through an optional filter **6810**. This results in a filtered combined signal **6812**. Filtered combined signal **6812** is connected to a buffer/inverter module **6814**. Buffer/inverter module **6814** outputs

31

a buffered combined signal **6820** and an inverted combined signal **6822**. Buffered combined signal **6820** is substantially the same as filtered combined signal **6812** and inverted combined signal **6822** is substantially equal to the inverse of buffered combined signal **6820**. A number of circuits, such as off-the-shelf buffers and off-the-shelf inverters, or custom designed buffers and inverters, can be used to accomplish the function of buffer/inverter module **6814**, as can be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s).

Buffered combined signal **6820** is then routed through a load, shown as an inductor **6840**, to the first input of a switch **6844**, and inverted combined signal **6822** is routed through a load, shown as an inductor **6842**, to the first input of a switch **6846**. The second input of switch **6844** and the second input of switch **6846** are connected to a reference **6848**. As shown in FIG. 68, the second input of switch **6844** and the second input of switch **6846** are connected to the same reference **6848**. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that this does not need to be the same reference. Typically, reference **6848** is at the potential about which first information signal **6802** switches. That is, if first information signal **6802** is a digital signal whose "low" value is 0 volts and whose "high" value is 5 volts, then reference **6848** will be between 0 and 5 volts, such as, for example, 2.5 volts. This example is for illustrative purposes only, and is not meant to be limiting. A person skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that there are a number of values for the "high," "low," and reference voltages which will result in a phase shift of the carrier when the "state" of the information signal crosses the reference voltage.

A local oscillator **6824** generates an oscillating signal **6826**. The frequency of oscillating signal **6826** is preferably an odd sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. Oscillating signal **6826** is routed through a 180° phase shifter **6828** to generate a phase shifted oscillating signal **6830**. Oscillating signal **6826** is also routed through a pulse shaper **6832**, and phase shifted oscillating signal **6830** is routed through a pulse shaper **6834**. Pulse shaper **6832** and pulse shaper **6834** are both optional, and, when used, output a string of pulses **6836** and a string of pulses **6838**, respectively. String of pulses **6836** is connected to the control input of switch **6844** and controls the frequency at which switch **6844** closes and opens. String of pulses **6838** is connected to the control input of switch **6846** and controls the frequency at which switch **6846** closes and opens.

A signal **6850** from the first input of switch **6844** and a signal **6852** from the first input of switch **6846** are combined by a summer **6854**. The output of summer **6854** is a harmonically rich signal **6856** that is both phase and amplitude modulated. In summary, first information signal **6802**, the digital signal, phase modulates harmonically rich signal **6854**, and second information signal **6804**, the analog signal, amplitude modulates harmonically rich signal **6856**.

Harmonically rich signal **6856** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **6858**. Filter **6858** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired output signal **6860**.

Although the discussion herein was directed toward a digital and an analog signal, the invention is not limited to this implementation. The output of the circuit is such that the phase modulation is a function of an information signal whose high and low states are above and below the reference voltage, and the amplitude modulation is a function of the information signal whose voltage remains either above or below the reference voltage, but does not cross it. Thus the amplitude is preserved.

32

One exemplary implementation of the third modulation embodiment is the "I/Q" embodiment shown in FIG. 69. A first information signal **6902** is routed through an optional filter **6906**. This results in a first filtered information signal **6910**. Typically, first information signal **6902** (as well as first filtered information signal **6910**) is a digital signal, although the invention may be able to operate with analog signals. First filtered information signal **6910** is connected through a load, shown as an inductor **6914**, to the first input of a switch **6934**. The second input of switch **6934** is connected to a reference **6938**. In one implementation, reference **6938** is at ground and, in another implementation, reference **6938** is at a non-zero voltage.

A second information signal **6904** is routed through an optional filter **6908**. This results in a second filtered information signal **6912**. Typically, second information signal **6904** (as well as second filtered information signal **6912**) is a digital signal, although the invention may operate with analog signals. Second filtered information signal **6912** is connected through a load, shown as an inductor **6916**, to the first input of a switch **6936**. The second input of switch **6936** is connected to a reference **6940**. In one implementation, reference **6940** is at ground and, in another implementation, reference **6940** is at a non-zero voltage.

A local oscillator **6918** generates an in-phase, "I," oscillating signal **6920**. The frequency of "I" oscillating signal **6920** is a sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. "I" oscillating signal **6920** is routed through a pulse shaper **6926**. Pulse shaper **6926** is optional, and, when used, outputs an "I" string of pulses **6930**. "I" string of pulses **6930** is connected to the control input of switch **6934**, and controls the frequency at which switch **6934** closes and opens.

"I" oscillating signal **6920** is also routed through a 90° phase shifter **6922**. The output of 90° phase shifter **6922** is a quadrature-phase, "Q" oscillating signal **6924**. "Q" oscillating signal **6924** is routed through a pulse shaper **6928**. Pulse shaper **6928** is optional, and, when used, outputs a "Q" string of pulses **6932**. "Q" string of pulses **6932** is connected to the control input of switch **6936**, and controls the frequency at which switch **6936** closes and opens.

The first input of switch **6934** is also connected to the input of a differentiation circuit **6942**. In FIG. 69, differentiation circuit **6942** is shown as being comprised of a capacitor **6944** in series and a resistor **6946** shunted to ground. This circuit diagram is shown for illustrative purposes only, and persons skilled in the art(s) will appreciate that other differentiating circuits may be used. The output of differentiation circuit **6942** is a harmonically rich "I" signal **6954** that is phase modulated.

The first input of switch **6936** is also connected to the input of a differentiation circuit **6948**. In FIG. 69, differentiation circuit **6948** is shown as being comprised of a capacitor **6950** in series and a resistor **6952** shunted to ground. This circuit diagram is shown for illustrative purposes only, and persons skilled in the art(s) will appreciate that other differentiating circuits may be used. The output of differentiation circuit **6948** is a harmonically rich "Q" signal **6956** that is phase modulated. Harmonically rich "I" signal **6954** and harmonically rich "Q" signal **6956** are then routed to a summer **6958** where they are combined. Summer **6958** outputs harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **6960**. Harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **6960** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **6962**. Filter **6962** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired "I/Q" output signal **6964**.

A second exemplary implementation of the third modulation embodiment is the "I/Q" embodiment shown in FIG.

33

70. A first information signal **7002** is routed to an optional filter **7006**. This results in a first filtered information signal **7008**. Typically, first information signal **7002** (as well as first filtered information signal **7008**) is a digital signal, although the invention may operate with analog signals. First filtered information signal **7008** is connected to a first buffer/inverter module **7010**. First buffer/inverter module **7010** outputs a buffered first information signal **7016** and an inverted first information signal **7018**. Buffered first information signal **7016** is substantially the same as first filtered information signal **7008** and inverted first information signal **7018** is substantially equal to the inverse of buffered first information signal **7016**. A number of circuits, such as off-the-shelf buffers and off-the-shelf inverters, or custom designed buffers and inverters, can be used to accomplish the function of buffer/inverter module **7010**, as can be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s).

Buffered first information signal **7016** is then routed through a load, shown as an inductor **7066**, to the first input of a switch **7074**, and inverted first information signal **7018** is routed through a load, shown as an inductor **7068**, to the first input of a switch **7076**. The second input of switch **7074** and the second input of switch **7076** are connected to a reference **7082**. As shown in FIG. 70, the second input of switch **7074** and the second input of switch **7076** are connected to the same reference **7082**. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that this does not need to be the same reference. In one implementation, reference **7082** is at ground and in another implementation reference **7082** is at a non-zero voltage.

A second information signal **7004** is routed to an optional filter **7036**. This results in a second filtered information signal **7038**. Typically, second information signal **7004** (as well as second filtered information signal **7038**) is a digital signal. Second filtered information signal **7038** is connected to a second buffer/inverter module **7040**. Second buffer/inverter module **7040** outputs a buffered second information signal **7046** and an inverted second information signal **7048**. Buffered second information signal **7046** is substantially the same as second filtered information signal **7038** and inverted second information signal **7048** is substantially equal to the inverse of buffered second information signal **7046**. A number of circuits, such as off-the-shelf buffers and off-the-shelf inverters, or custom designed buffers and inverters, can be used to accomplish the function of buffer/inverter module **7040**, as can be appreciated by those skilled in the relevant art(s).

Buffered second information signal **7046** is then routed through a load, shown as an inductor **7070**, to the first input of a switch **7078**, and inverted second information signal **7048** is routed through a load, shown as an inductor **7072**, to the first input of a switch **7080**. The second input of switch **7078** and the second input of switch **7080** are connected to a reference **7084**. As shown in FIG. 70, the second input of switch **7078** and the second input of switch **7080** are connected to the same reference **7084**. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that this does not need to be the same reference. In one implementation, reference **7084** is at ground and in another implementation reference **7084** is at a non-zero voltage.

A local oscillator **7020** generates an in-phase, "I," oscillating signal **7022**. The frequency of "I" oscillating signal **7022** is preferably an odd sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency of the up-converter. "I" oscillating signal **7022** is routed through a 180° phase shifter **7024** to generate a 180° phase shifted "I" oscillating signal **7026**. "I" oscillating signal **7022** is also routed through a pulse shaper

34

7028, and 180° phase shifted "I" oscillating signal **7026** is routed through a pulse shaper **7030**. Pulse shaper **7028** and pulse shaper **7030** are both optional, and, when used, output an "I" string of pulses **7032** and an "I" string of pulses **7034**, respectively. "I" string of pulses **7032** is connected to the control input of switch **7074** and controls the frequency at which switch **7074** closes and opens. "I" string of pulses **7034** is connected to the control Co input of switch **7076** and controls the frequency at which switch **7076** closes and opens.

An "I" signal **7086** from the first input of switch **7074** and an "I" signal **7088** from the first input of switch **7076** are combined by a summer **7094**. The output of summer **7094** is a harmonically rich "I" signal **7081** that is phase modulated.

"I" oscillating signal **7022** is also routed through a 90° phase shifter **7050** to generate a quadrature-phase, "Q," oscillating signal **7052**. "Q" oscillating signal **7052** is routed through a 180° phase shifter **7054** to generate a 180° phase shifted "Q" oscillating signal **7056**. "Q" oscillating signal **7052** is also routed through a pulse shaper **7058**, and 180° phase shifted "Q" oscillating signal **7056** is routed through a pulse shaper **7060**. Pulse shaper **7058** and pulse shaper **7060** are both optional, and, when used, output a "Q" string of pulses **7062** and a "Q" string of pulses **7064**, respectively. "Q" string of pulses **7062** is connected to the control input of switch **7078** and controls the frequency at which switch **7078** closes and opens. "Q" string of pulses **7064** is connected to the control input of switch **7080** and controls the frequency at which switch **7080** closes and opens.

A "Q" signal **7090** from the first input of switch **7078** and a "Q" signal **7092** from the first input of switch **7080** are combined by a summer **7096**. The output of summer **7096** is a harmonically rich "Q" signal **7083** that is phase modulated.

Harmonically rich "I" signal **7081** and harmonically rich "Q" signal **7083** are combined by summer **7085** which outputs a harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **7087**. Harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **7087** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **7089**. Filter **7089** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired "I/Q" output signal **7098**.

In the fourth modulation embodiment, four information signals are modulated onto an "I/Q" carrier as shown in the example of FIG. 71. A first information signal **7102** and a second information signal **7104** are received by a multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7110**. A first exemplary implementation of multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7110** is shown in FIG. 66 as multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6600** and a second exemplary implementation of multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7110** is shown in FIG. 68 as multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6800**. Based on the teachings contained herein, other implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

A local oscillator **7114** generates an in-phase; "I," oscillating signal **7116**. The frequency of "I" oscillating signal **7116** is a sub-harmonic frequency of the desired output frequency of the up-converter, and is received by multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7110**, and causes it to output a harmonically rich "I" signal **7122** that is both phase and amplitude modulated. In the exemplary implementation wherein the multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7110** is multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6800**, the frequency of "I" oscillating signal **7116** is an odd sub-harmonic of the desired output frequency.

35

A third information signal **7106** and a fourth information signal **7108** are received by a multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7112**. A first exemplary implementation of multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7112** is shown in FIG. **66** as multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6600** and a second exemplary implementation of multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7112** is shown in FIG. **68** as multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **6800**. Based on the teachings contained herein, other implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

"I" oscillating signal **7116** is routed to 90° phase shifter **7118**. The output of 90° phase shifter **7118** is a quadrature-phase, "Q," oscillating signal **7120**. "Q" oscillating signal **7120** is received by multiplication, modulation, and harmonic generation module **7112** and causes it to output a harmonically rich "Q" signal **7124** that is both phase and amplitude modulated.

Harmonically rich "I" signal **7122** and harmonically rich "Q" signal **7124** are combined by a summer **7126**. The output of summer **7126** is a harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **7128**. Harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **7128** is comprised of a plurality of harmonics and is routed to a filter **7130**. Filter **7130** extracts one or more of the harmonics as desired "I/Q" output signal **7132**. Desired "I/Q" output signal **7132** is phase and amplitude modulated on the "I" phase and phase and amplitude modulated on the "Q" phase, as discussed above in the discussion of the second modulation embodiment.

3.3 Methods and Systems for Implementing the Embodiments.

Exemplary operational and/or structural implementations related to the method(s), structure(s), and/or embodiments described above are presented in this section (and its subsections). These components and methods are presented herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to the particular examples of components and methods described herein. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

3.3.1 The Voltage Controlled Oscillator (FM Mode).

As discussed above, the frequency modulation (FM) mode embodiment of the invention uses a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO). See, as an example, VCO **1204** in FIG. **12**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the VCO. Exemplary embodiments of the VCO **2304** (FIG. **23**) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.1.1 Operational Description.

The information signal **2302** is accepted and an oscillating signal **2306** whose frequency varies as a function of the information signal **2302** is created. Oscillating signal **2306** is also referred to as frequency modulated intermediate signal **2306**. The information signal **2302** may be analog or digital or a combination thereof, and may be conditioned to ensure it is within the desired range.

In the case where the information signal **2302** is digital, the oscillating signal **2306** may vary between discrete frequencies. For example, in a binary system, a first frequency corresponds to a digital "high," and a second frequency corresponds to a digital "low." Either frequency may correspond to the "high" or the "low," depending on the conven-

36

tion being used. This operation is referred to as frequency shift keying (FSK) which is a subset of FM. If the information signal **2302** is analog, the frequency of the oscillating signal **2306** will vary as a function of that analog signal, and is not limited to the subset of FSK described above.

The oscillating signal **2306** is a frequency modulated signal which can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed.

3.3.1.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a voltage controlled oscillator **2304** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). The VCO **2304** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components, or it may be purchased "off the shelf." VCO **2304** accepts an information signal **2302** from a source. The information signal **2302** is at baseband and generally is an electrical signal within a prescribed voltage range. If the information is digital, the voltage will be at discrete levels. If the information is analog, the voltage will be continuously variable between an upper and a lower level. The VCO **2304** uses the voltage of the information signal **2302** to cause a modulated oscillating signal **2306** to be output. The information signal **2302**, because it is a baseband signal and is used to modulate the oscillating signal, may be referred to as the modulating baseband signal **2302**.

The frequency of the oscillating signal **2306** varies as a function of the voltage of the modulating baseband signal **2302**. If the modulating baseband signal **2302** represents digital information, the frequency of the oscillating signal **2306** will be at discrete levels. If, on the other hand, the modulating baseband signal **2302** represents analog information, the frequency of the oscillating signal **2306** will be continuously variable between its higher and lower frequency limits. The oscillating signal **2306** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform.

The frequency modulated oscillating signal **2306** may then be used to drive a switch module **2802**.

3.3.2 The Local Oscillator (PM, AM, and "I/Q" Modes).

As discussed above, the phase modulation (PM) and amplitude modulation (AM) mode embodiments of the invention use a local oscillator. So too does the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode embodiment. See, as an example, local oscillator **1406** in FIG. **14**, local oscillator **1610** in FIG. **16**, and local oscillator **1806** in FIG. **18**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the local oscillator. Exemplary embodiments of the local oscillator **2402** (FIG. **24**) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.2.1 Operational Description.

An oscillating signal **2404** is generated. The frequency of the signal **2404** may be selectable, but generally is not

considered to be "variable." That is, the frequency may be selected to be a specific value for a specific implementation, but generally it does not vary as a function of the information signal **2302** (i.e., the modulating baseband signal).

The oscillating signal **2404** generally is a sinusoidal wave, but it may also be a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed.

3.3.2.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a local oscillator **2402** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A local oscillator **2402** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components or it may be purchased "off the shelf." A local oscillator **2402** is generally set to output a specific frequency. The output can be "fixed" or it can be "selectable," based on the design of the circuit. If it is fixed, the output is considered to be substantially a fixed frequency that cannot be changed. If the output frequency is selectable, the design of the circuit will allow a control signal to be applied to the local oscillator **2402** to change the frequency for different applications. However, the output frequency of a local oscillator **2402** is not considered to be "variable" as a function of an information signal **2302** such as the modulating baseband signal **2302**. (If it were desired for the output frequency of an oscillator to be variable as a function of an information signal, a VCO would preferably be used.) The oscillating signal **2404** generally is a sinusoidal wave, but it may also be a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform.

The output of a local oscillator **2402** may be an input to other circuit components such as a phase modulator **2606**, a phase shifting circuit **2504**, switch module **3102**, etc.

3.3.3 The Phase Shifter ("I/Q" Mode).

As discussed above, the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode embodiment of the invention uses a phase shifter. See, as an example, phase shifter **1810** in FIG. **18**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the phase shifter. Exemplary embodiments of the phase shifter **2504** (FIG. **25**) are described below. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. The description contained herein is for a "90° phase shifter." The 90° phase shifter is used for ease of explanation, and one skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that other phase shifts can be used without departing from the intent of the present invention.

3.3.3.1 Operational Description.

An "in-phase" oscillating signal **2502** is received and a "quadrature-phase" oscillating signal **2506** is output. If the in-phase ("I") signal **2502** is referred to as being a sine wave, then the quadrature-phase ("Q") signal **2506** can be referred to as being a cosine wave (i.e., the "Q" signal **2506** is 90° out of phase with the "I" signal **2502**). However, they may also be rectangular waves, triangular waves, pulses, or any other continuous and periodic waveforms. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical

limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed. Regardless of the shapes of the waveforms, the "Q" signal **2506** is out of phase with the "I" signal **2506** by one-quarter period of the waveform. The frequency of the "I" and "Q" signals **2502** and **2506** are substantially equal.

The discussion contained herein will be confined to the more prevalent embodiment wherein there are two intermediate signals separated by 90°. This is not limiting on the invention. It will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that the techniques taught herein and applied to the "I/Q" embodiment of the present invention also apply to more exotic embodiments wherein the intermediate signals are shifted by some amount other than 90°, and also wherein there may be more than two intermediate frequencies.

3.3.3.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a phase shifter **2504** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A phase shifter **2504** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components or it may be purchased "off the shelf." A phase shifter accepts an "in-phase" ("I") oscillating signal **2502** from any of a number of sources, such as a VCO **2304** or a local oscillator **2402**, and outputs a "quadrature-phase" ("Q") oscillating signal **2506** that is substantially the same frequency and substantially the same shape as the incoming "I" signal **2502**, but with the phase shifted by 90°. Both the "I" and "Q" signals **2502** and **2506** are generally sinusoidal waves, but they may also be rectangular waves, triangular waves, pulses, or any other continuous and periodic waveforms. Regardless of the shapes of the waveforms, the "Q" signal **2506** is out of phase with the "I" signal **2502** by one-quarter period of the waveform. Both the "I" and "Q" signals **2502** and **2506** may be modulated.

The output of a phase shifter **2504** may be used as an input to a phase modulator **2606**.

3.3.4 The Phase Modulator (PM and "I/Q" Modes).

As discussed above, the phase modulation (PM) mode embodiment including the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode embodiment of the invention uses a phase modulator. See, as an example, phase modulator **1404** of FIG. **14** and phase modulators **1804** and **1816** of FIG. **18**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the phase modulator. Exemplary embodiments of the phase modulator **2606** (FIG. **26**) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.4.1 Operational Description.

An information signal **2602** and an oscillating signal **2604** are accepted, and a phase modulated oscillating signal **2608** whose phase varies as a function of the information signal **2602** is output. The information signal **2602** may be analog or digital and may be conditioned to ensure it is within the desired range. The oscillating signal **2604** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the

physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed. The modulated oscillating signal **2608** is also referred to as the modulated intermediate signal **2608**.

In the case where the information signal **2602** is digital, the modulated intermediate signal **2608** will shift phase between discrete values, the first phase (e.g., for a signal represented by $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0)$) corresponding to a digital "high," and the second phase (e.g., for a signal represented by $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0 + \delta)$, where δ represents the amount the phase has been shifted) corresponding to a digital "low." Either phase may correspond to the "high" or the "low," depending on the convention being used. This operation is referred to as phase shift keying (PSK) which is a subset of PM.

If the information signal **2602** is analog, the phase of the modulated intermediate signal **2608** will vary as a function of the information signal **2602** and is not limited to the subset of PSK described above.

The modulated intermediate signal **2608** is a phase modulated signal which can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform, and which has substantially the same period as the oscillating signal **2604**.

3.3.4.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a phase modulator **2606** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A phase modulator **2606** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components, or it may be purchased "off the shelf." A phase modulator **2606** accepts an information signal **2602** from a source and an oscillating signal **2604** from a local oscillator **2402** or a phase shifter **2504**. The information signal **2602** is at baseband and is generally an electrical signal within a prescribed voltage range. If the information is digital, the voltage will be at discrete levels. If the information is analog, the voltage will be continuously variable between an upper and a lower level as a function of the information signal **2602**. The phase modulator **2606** uses the voltage of the information signal **2602** to modulate the oscillating signal **2604** and causes a modulated intermediate signal **2608** to be output. The information signal **2602**, because it is a baseband signal and is used to modulate the oscillating signal, may be referred to as the modulating baseband signal **2604**.

The modulated intermediate signal **2608** is an oscillating signal whose phase varies as a function of the voltage of the modulating baseband signal **2602**. If the modulating baseband signal **2602** represents digital information, the phase of the modulated intermediate signal **2608** will shift by a discrete amount (e.g., the modulated intermediate signal **2608** will shift by an amount δ between $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0)$ and $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0 + \delta)$). If, on the other hand, the modulating baseband signal **2602** represents analog information, the phase of the modulated intermediate signal **2608** will continuously shift between its higher and lower phase limits as a function of the information signal **2602**. In one exemplary embodiment, the upper and lower limits of the modulated intermediate signal **2608** can be represented as $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0)$ and $\sin(\omega t + \theta_0 + \pi)$. In

other embodiments, the range of the phase shift may be less than π . The modulated intermediate signal **2608** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform.

The phase modulated intermediate signal **2608** may then be used to drive a switch module **2802**.

3.3.5 The Summing Module (AM Mode).

As discussed above, the amplitude modulation (AM) mode embodiment of the invention uses a summing module. See, as an example, summing module **1606** in FIG. 16. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the summing module. Exemplary embodiments of the summing module **2706** (FIG. 27) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. It may also be used in the "I/Q" mode embodiment when the modulation is AM. The summing module **2706** need not be used in all AM embodiments.

3.3.5.1 Operational Description.

An information signal **2702** and a bias signal **2702** are accepted, and a reference signal is output. The information signal **2702** may be analog or digital and may be conditioned to ensure it is within the proper range so as not to damage any of the circuit components. The bias signal **2704** is usually a direct current (DC) signal.

In the case where the information signal **2702** is digital, the reference signal **2706** shifts between discrete values, the first value corresponding to a digital "high," and the second value corresponding to a digital "low." Either value may correspond to the "high" or the "low," depending on the convention being used. This operation is referred to as amplitude shift keying (ASK) which is a subset of AM.

If the information signal **2702** is analog, the value of the reference signal **2708** will vary linearly between upper and lower extremes which correspond to the upper and lower limits of the information signal **2702**. Again, either extreme of the reference signal **2708** range may correspond to the upper or lower limit of the information signal **2702** depending on the convention being used.

The reference signal **2708** is a digital or analog signal and is substantially proportional to the information signal **2702**.

3.3.5.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a summing module **2706** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A summing module **2706** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components, or it may be purchased "off the shelf." A summing module **2706** accepts an information signal **2702** from a source. The information signal **2702** is at baseband and generally is an electrical signal within a prescribed voltage range. If the information is digital, the information signal **2702** is at either of two discrete levels. If the information is analog, the information signal **2702** is continuously variable between an upper and a lower level. The summing module **2706** uses the voltage of the information signal **2702** and combines it with a bias signal **2704**. The output of the summing module **2706** is called the reference signal **2708**. The purpose of the summing module **2706** is to cause the reference signal **2708** to be within a desired signal range. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that the information signal **2702** may be used directly, without being summed with a bias signal **2704**, if it is already within the desired range. The information signal **2702** is a baseband signal, but typically, in an AM embodiment, it is not used to directly modulate an oscillating signal. The amplitude of the reference signal **2708** is at discrete levels if the information signal **2702** represents digital information. On the other hand, the amplitude of the reference signal **2708** is continu-

ously variable between its higher and lower limits if the information signal **2702** represents analog information. The amplitude of the reference signal **2708** is substantially proportional to the information signal **2702**, however, a positive reference signal **2708** need not represent a positive information signal **2702**.

The reference signal **2708** is routed to the first input **3108** of a switch module **3102**. In one exemplary embodiment, a resistor **2824** is connected between the output of the summing module **2706** (or the source of the information signal **2702** in the embodiment wherein the summing amplifier **2706** is not used) and the switch **3116** of the switch module **3102**.

3.3.6 The Switch Module (FM, PM, and "I/Q" Modes).

As discussed above, the frequency modulation (FM), phase modulation (PM), and the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode embodiments of the invention use a switching assembly referred to as switch module **2802** (FIGS. **28A–28C**). As an example, switch module **2802** is a component in switch module **1214** in FIG. **12**, switch module **1410** in FIG. **14**, and switch modules **1822** and **1828** in FIG. **18**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the switch module. Exemplary embodiments of the switch module **2802** are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. The switch module **2802** and its operation in the FM, PM, and "I/Q" mode embodiments is substantially the same as its operation in the AM mode embodiment, described in sections 3.3.7–3.3.7.2 below.

3.3.6.1 Operational Description.

A bias signal **2806** is gated as a result of the application of a modulated oscillating signal **2804**, and a signal with a harmonically rich waveform **2814** is created. The bias signal **2806** is generally a fixed voltage. The modulated oscillating signal **2804** can be frequency modulated, phase modulated, or any other modulation scheme or combination thereof. In certain embodiments, such as in certain amplitude shift keying modes, the modulated oscillating signal **2804** may also be amplitude modulated. The modulated oscillating signal **2804** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. In a preferred embodiment, modulated oscillating signal **2804** would be a rectangular wave. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed.

The signal with harmonically rich waveform **2814**, hereafter referred to as the harmonically rich signal **2814**, is a continuous and periodic waveform that is modulated substantially the same as the modulated oscillating signal **2804**. That is, if the modulated oscillating signal **2804** is frequency modulated, the harmonically rich signal **2814** will also be frequency modulated, and if the modulated oscillating signal **2804** is phase modulated, the harmonically rich signal **2814** will also be phase modulated. (In one embodiment, the

harmonically rich signal **2814** is a substantially rectangular waveform.) As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a rectangular wave, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, the harmonically rich signal **2814** is composed of sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself.

3.3.6.2 Structural Description.

The switch module **2802** of an embodiment of the present invention is comprised of a first input **2808**, a second input **2810**, a control input **2820**, an output **2822**, and a switch **2816**. A bias signal **2806** is applied to the first input **2808** of the switch module **2802**. Generally, the bias signal **2806** is a fixed voltage, and in one embodiment of the invention, a resistor **2824** is located between the bias signal **2806** and the switch **2816**. The second input **2810** of the switch module **2802** is generally at electrical ground **2812**. However, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that alternative embodiments exist wherein the second input **2810** may not be at electrical ground **2812**, but rather a second signal **2818**, provided that the second signal **2818** is different than the bias signal **2806**.

A modulated oscillating signal **2804** is connected to the control input **2820** of the switch module **2802**. The modulated oscillating signal **2804** may be frequency modulated or phase modulated. (In some circumstances and embodiments, it may be amplitude modulated, such as in on/off keying, but this is not the general case, and will not be described herein.) The modulated oscillating signal **2804** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. In a preferred embodiment, it would be a rectangular wave. The modulated oscillating signal **2804** causes the switch **2816** to close and open.

The harmonically rich signal **2814** described in section 3.3.6.1 above, is found at the output **2822** of the switch module **2802**. The harmonically rich signal **2814** is a continuous and periodic waveform that is modulated substantially the same as the modulated oscillating signal **2804**. That is, if the modulated oscillating signal **2804** is frequency modulated, the harmonically rich signal **2814** will also be frequency modulated, and if the modulated oscillating signal **2804** is phase modulated, the harmonically rich signal **2814** will also be phase modulated. In one embodiment, the harmonically rich signal **2814** has a substantially rectangular waveform. As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a rectangular wave, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, the harmonically rich signal **2814** is composed of sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself. Each of these sinusoidal signals is also modulated substantially the same as the continuous and periodic waveform (i.e., the modulated oscillating signal **2804**) from which it is derived.

The switch module **2802** operates as follows. When the switch **2816** is "open," the output **2822** of switch module **2802** is at substantially the same voltage level as bias signal **2806**. Thus, since the harmonically rich signal **2814** is connected directly to the output **2822** of switch module **2802**, the amplitude of harmonically rich signal **2814** is equal to the amplitude of the bias signal **2806**. When the modulated oscillating signal **2804** causes the switch **2816** to become "closed," the output **2822** of switch module **2802**

becomes connected electrically to the second input **2810** of switch module **2802** (e.g., ground **2812** in one embodiment of the invention), and the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **2814** becomes equal to the potential present at the second input **2810** (e.g., zero volts for the embodiment wherein the second input **2810** is connected to electrical ground **2812**). When the modulated oscillating signal **2804** causes the switch **2816** to again become "open," the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **2814** again becomes equal to the bias signal **2806**. Thus, the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **2814** is at either of two signal levels, i.e., bias signal **2806** or ground **2812**, and has a frequency that is substantially equal to the frequency of the modulated oscillating signal **2804** that causes the switch **2816** to open and close. The harmonically rich signal **2814** is modulated substantially the same as the modulated oscillating signal **2804**. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that any one of a number of switch designs will fulfill the scope and spirit of the present invention as described herein.

In an embodiment of the invention, the switch **2816** is a semiconductor device, such as a diode ring. In another embodiment, the switch is a transistor, such as a field effect transistor (FET). In an embodiment wherein the FET is gallium arsenide (GaAs), switch module **2802** can be designed as seen in FIGS. **29A–29C**, where the modulated oscillating signal **2804** is connected to the gate **2902** of the GaAsFET **2901**, the bias signal **2806** is connected through a bias resistor **2824** to the source **2904** of the GaAsFET **2901**, and electrical ground **2812** is connected to the drain **2906** of GaAsFET **2901**. (In an alternate embodiment shown in FIG. **29C**, a second signal **2818** may be connected to the drain **2906** of GaAsFET **2901**.) Since the drain and the source of GaAsFETs are interchangeable, the bias signal **2806** can be applied to either the source **2904** or to the drain **2906**. If there is concern that there might be some source-drain asymmetry in the GaAsFET, the switch module can be designed as shown in FIGS. **30A–30C**, wherein two GaAsFETs **3002** and **3004** are connected together, with the source **3010** of the first **3002** connected to the drain **3012** of the second **3004**, and the drain **3006** of the first **3002** being connected to the source **3008** of the second **3004**. This design arrangement will balance substantially all asymmetries.

An alternate implementation of the design includes a "dwell capacitor" wherein one side of a capacitor is connected to the first input of the switch and the other side of the capacitor is connected to the second input of the switch. The purpose of the design is to increase the apparent aperture of the pulse without actually increasing its width. For additional detail on the design and use of a dwell capacitor, see co-pending application entitled "Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals Having Optimized Switch Structures," Ser. No. 09/293,095, filed Apr. 16, 1999, and other applications as referenced above.

Other switch designs and implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

The output **2822** of the switch module **2802**, i.e., the harmonically rich signal **2814**, can be routed to a filter **3504** in the FM and PM modes or to a Summer **3402** in the "I/Q" mode.

3.3.7 The Switch Module (AM Mode).

As discussed above, the amplitude modulation (AM) mode embodiment of the invention uses a switching assembly referred to as switch module **3102** (FIGS. **31A–31C**). As an example, switch module **3102** is a component in switch module **1614** of FIG. **16**. The invention supports numerous

embodiments of the switch module. Exemplary embodiments of the switch module **3102** are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. The switch module **3102** and its operation in the AM mode embodiment is substantially the same as its operation in the FM, PM, and "I/Q" mode embodiments described in sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2 above.

3.3.7.1 Operational Description.

A reference signal **3106** is gated as a result of the application of an oscillating signal **3104**, and a signal with a harmonically rich waveform **3114** is created. The reference signal **3106** is a function of the information signal **2702** and may, for example, be either the summation of the information signal **2702** with a bias signal **2704** or it may be the information signal **2702** by itself. In the AM mode, the oscillating signal **3104** is generally not modulated, but can be.

The oscillating signal **3104** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. In a preferred embodiment, it would be a rectangular wave. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed. Again, as stated above, for ease of discussion, the term "rectangular waveform" will be used to refer to waveforms that are substantially rectangular, the term "square wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially square, the term "triangular wave" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially triangular, and the term "pulse" will refer to those waveforms that are substantially a pulse, and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect square wave, triangle wave, or pulse be generated or needed.

The signal with a harmonically rich waveform **3114**, hereafter referred to as the harmonically rich signal **3114**, is a continuous and periodic waveform whose amplitude is a function of the reference signal. That is, it is an AM signal. In one embodiment, the harmonically rich signal **3114** has a substantially rectangular waveform. As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a rectangular wave, will have sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, harmonically rich signal **3114** is composed of sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself.

Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that alternative embodiments exist wherein combinations of modulations (e.g., PM and ASK, FM and AM, etc.) may be employed simultaneously. In these alternate embodiments, the oscillating signal **3104** may be modulated. These alternate embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s), and thus will not be described herein.

3.3.7.2 Structural Description.

The switch module **3102** of the present invention is comprised of a first input **3108**, a second input **3110**, a control input **3120**, an output **3122**, and a switch **3116**. A reference signal **3106** is applied to the first input **3108** of the switch module **3102**. Generally, the reference signal **3106** is a function of the information signal **2702**, and may either be the summation of the information signal **2702** with a bias signal or it may be the information signal **2702** by itself. In one embodiment of the invention, a resistor **3124** is located between the reference signal **3106** and the switch **3116**. The

second input **3110** of the switch module **3102** is generally at electrical ground **3112**, however, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that alternative embodiments exist wherein the second input **3110** may not be at electrical ground **3112**, but rather connected to a second signal **3118**. In an alternate embodiment, the inverted value of the reference signal **3106** is connected to the second input **3110** of the switch module **3102**.

An oscillating signal **3104** is connected to the control input **3120** of the switch module **3102**. Generally, in the AM mode, the oscillating signal **3104** is not modulated, but a person skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that there are embodiments wherein the oscillating signal **3104** may be frequency modulated or phase modulated, but these will not be described herein. The oscillating signal **3104** can be a sinusoidal wave, a rectangular wave, a triangular wave, a pulse, or any other continuous and periodic waveform. In a preferred embodiment, it would be a rectangular wave. The oscillating signal **3104** causes the switch **3116** to close and open.

The harmonically rich signal **3114** described in section 3.3.7.1 above is found at the output **3122** of the switch module **3102**. The harmonically rich signal **3114** is a continuous and periodic waveform whose amplitude is a function of the amplitude of the reference signal. In one embodiment, the harmonically rich signal **3114** has a substantially rectangular waveform. As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as a rectangular wave, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, harmonically rich signal **3114** is composed of sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself. As previously described, the relative amplitude of the harmonics of a continuous periodic waveform is generally a function of the ratio of the pulse width of the rectangular wave and the period of the fundamental frequency, and can be determined by doing a Fourier analysis of the periodic waveform. When the amplitude of the periodic waveform varies, as in the AM mode of the invention, the change in amplitude of the periodic waveform has a proportional effect on the absolute amplitude of the harmonics. In other words, the AM is embedded on top of each of the harmonics.

The description of the switch module **3102** is substantially as follows: When the switch **3116** is "open," the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **3114** is substantially equal to the reference signal **3106**. When the oscillating signal **3104** causes the switch **3116** to become "closed," the output **3122** of the switch module **3102** becomes connected electrically to the second input **3110** of the switch module **3102** (e.g., ground **3112** in one embodiment), and the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **3114** becomes equal to the value of the second input **3110** (e.g., zero volts for the embodiment wherein the second input **3110** is connected to electrical ground **3112**). When the oscillating signal **3104** causes the switch **3116** to again become "open," the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **3114** again becomes substantially equal to the reference signal **3106**. Thus, the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal **3114** is at either of two signal levels, i.e., reference signal **3106** or ground **3112**, and has a frequency that is substantially equal to the frequency of the oscillating signal **3104** that causes the switch **3116** to open and close. In an alternate embodiment wherein the second input **3110** is connected to the second signal **3118**, the harmonically rich signal **3114** varies between the reference signal **3106** and the second signal **3118**. One skilled in the

relevant art(s) will recognize that any one of a number of switch module designs will fulfill the scope and spirit of the present invention.

In an embodiment of the invention, the switch **3116** is a semiconductor device, such as a diode ring. In another embodiment, the switch is a transistor, such as, but not limited to, a field effect transistor (FET). In an embodiment wherein the FET is gallium arsenide (GaAs), the module can be designed as seen in FIGS. **32A–32C**, where the oscillating signal **3104** is connected to the gate **3202** of the GaAsFET **3201**, the reference signal **3106** is connected to the source **3204**, and electrical ground **3112** is connected to the drain **3206** (in the embodiment where ground **3112** is selected as the value of the second input **3110** of the switch module **3102**). Since the drain and the source of GaAsFETs are interchangeable, the reference signal **3106** can be applied to either the source **3204** or to the drain **3206**. If there is concern that there might be some source-drain asymmetry in the GaAsFET **3201**, the switch **3116** can be designed as shown in FIGS. **33A–33C**, wherein two GaAsFETs **3302** and **3304** are connected together, with the source **3310** of the first **3302** connected to the drain **3312** of the second **3304**, and the drain **3306** of the first **3302** being connected to the source **3308** of the second **3304**. This design arrangement will substantially balance all asymmetries.

An alternate implementation of the design includes a "dwell capacitor" wherein one side of a capacitor is connected to the first input of the switch and the other side of the capacitor is connected to the second input of the switch. The purpose of the design is to increase the apparent aperture of the pulse without actually increasing its width. For additional detail on the design and use of a dwell capacitor, see co-pending application entitled "Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals Having Optimized Switch Structures," Ser. No. 09/293,095, filed Apr. 16, 1999, and other applications as referenced above.

Other switch designs and implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

The output **3122** of the switch module **3102**, i.e., the harmonically rich signal **3114**, can be routed to a filter **3504** in the AM mode.

3.3.8 The Summer ("I/Q" Mode).

As discussed above, the in-phase/quadrature-phase modulation ("I/Q") mode embodiment of the invention uses a summer. See, as an example, summer **1832** in FIG. **18**. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the summer. Exemplary embodiments of the summer **3402** (FIG. **34**) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.8.1 Operational Description.

An "I" modulated signal **3404** and a "Q" modulated signal **3406** are combined and an "I/Q" modulated signal **3408** is generated. Generally, both "I" and "Q" modulated signals **3404** and **3406** are harmonically rich waveforms, which are referred to as the harmonically rich "I" signal **3404** and the harmonically rich "Q" signal **3406**. Similarly, "I/Q" modulated signal **3408** is harmonically rich and is referred to as the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal. In one embodiment, these harmonically rich signals have substantially rectangular waveforms. As stated above, one skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize the physical limitations to and mathematical obstacles against achieving exact or perfect waveforms and it is not the intent of the present invention that a perfect waveform be generated or needed.

In a typical embodiment, the harmonically rich "I" signal **3404** and the harmonically rich "Q" signal **3406** are phase

modulated, as is the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408**. A person skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that other modulation techniques, such as amplitude modulating the "I/Q" signal, may also be used in the "I/Q" mode without deviating from the scope and spirit of the invention.

As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408**, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408** is composed of sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself. These sinusoidal signals are also modulated substantially the same as the continuous and periodic waveform from which they are derived. That is, in this embodiment, the sinusoidal signals are phase modulated, and include the information from both the "I" modulated signal and the "Q" modulated signal.

3.3.8.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a summer **3402** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A summer **3402** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components, or it may be purchased "off the shelf." A summer **3402** accepts a harmonically rich "I" signal **3404** and a harmonically rich "Q" signal **3406**, and combines them to create a harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408**. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the harmonically rich "I" signal **3404** and the harmonically rich "Q" signal **3406** are both phase modulated. When the harmonically rich "I" signal **3404** and the harmonically rich "Q" signal **3406** are both phase modulated, the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408** is also phase modulated.

As stated before, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408**, has sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform (the Fourier component frequencies). Thus, the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408** is composed of "I/Q" sinusoidal signals at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of itself. These "I/Q" sinusoidal signals are also phase modulated substantially the same as the continuous and periodic waveform from which they are derived (i.e., the harmonically rich "I/Q" signal **3408**).

The output of the summer **3402** is then routed to a filter **3504**.

3.3.9 The Filter (FM, PM, AM, and "I/Q" Modes).

As discussed above, all modulation mode embodiments of the invention use a filter. See, as an example, filter **1218** in FIG. 12, filter **1414** in FIG. 14, filter **1618** in FIG. 16, and filter **1836** in FIG. 18. The invention supports numerous embodiments of the filter. Exemplary embodiments of the filter **3504** (FIG. 35) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.9.1 Operational Description.

A modulated signal with a harmonically rich waveform **3502** is accepted. It is referred to as the harmonically rich signal **3502**. As stated above, a continuous and periodic waveform, such as the harmonically rich signal **3502**, is comprised of sinusoidal components (harmonics) at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying waveform from which they are derived. These are called the Fourier component frequencies. In one embodiment of the invention, the undesired harmonic frequencies are removed, and the desired fre-

quency **3506** is output. In an alternate embodiment, a plurality of harmonic frequencies are output.

The harmonic components of the harmonically rich signal **3502** are modulated in the same manner as the harmonically rich signal **3502** itself. That is, if the harmonically rich signal **3502** is frequency modulated, all of the harmonic components of that signal are also frequency modulated. The same is true for phase modulation, amplitude modulation, and "I/Q" modulation.

3.3.9.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a filter **3504** is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A filter **3504** may be designed and fabricated from discrete components or it may be purchased "off the shelf." The filter **3504** accepts the harmonically rich signal **3502** from the switch module **2802** or **3102** in the FM, PM, and AM modes, and from the summer **3402** in the "I/Q" mode. The harmonically rich signal **3502** is a continuous and periodic waveform. As such, it is comprised of sinusoidal components (harmonics) that are at frequencies that are integer multiples of the fundamental frequency of the underlying harmonically rich signal **3502**. The filter **3504** removes those sinusoidal signals having undesired frequencies. The signal **3506** that remains is at the desired frequency, and is called the desired output signal **3506**.

To achieve this result, according to an embodiment of the invention, a filter **3504** is required to filter out the unwanted harmonics of the harmonically rich signal **3502**.

The term "Q" is used to represent the ratio of the center frequency of the desired output signal **3506** to the half power band width. Looking at FIG. 36 we see a desired frequency **3602** of 900 MHz. The filter **3504** is used to ensure that only the energy at that frequency **3602** is transmitted. Thus, the bandwidth **3604** at half power (the so-called "3 dB down" point) should be as narrow as possible. The ratio of frequency **3602** to bandwidth **3604** is defined as "Q." As shown on FIG. 36, if the "3 dB down" point is at plus or minus 15 MHz, the value of Q will be $900/(15+15)$ or 30. With the proper selection of elements for any particular frequency, Qs on the order of 20 or 30 are achievable.

For crisp broadcast frequencies, it is desired that Q be as high as possible and practical, based on the given application and environment. The purpose of the filter **3504** is to filter out the unwanted harmonics of the harmonically rich signal. The circuits are tuned to eliminate all other harmonics except for the desired frequency **3506** (e.g., the 900 MHz harmonic **3602**). Turning now to FIGS. 37A and 37B, we see examples of filter circuits. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that a number of filter designs will accomplish the desired goal of passing the desired frequency while filtering the undesired frequencies.

FIG. 37A illustrates a circuit having a capacitor in parallel with an inductor and shunted to ground. In FIG. 37B, a capacitor is in series with an inductor, and a parallel circuit similar to that in FIG. 37A is connected between the capacitor and inductor and shunted to ground.

The modulated signal at the desired frequency **3506** may then be routed to the transmission module **3804**.

3.3.10 The Transmission Module (FM, PM, AM, and "I/Q" Modes).

As discussed above, the modulation mode embodiments of the invention preferably use a transmission module. See, as an example, transmission module **1222** in FIG. 12, transmission module **1418** in FIG. 14, transmission module **1622** in FIG. 16, and transmission module **1840** in FIG. 18. The transmission module is optional, and other embodiments may not include a transmission module. The invention

supports numerous embodiments of the transmission module. Exemplary embodiments of the transmission module **3804** (FIG. **38**) are described below. However, it should be understood that these examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. The invention is not limited to these embodiments.

3.3.10.1 Operational Description.

A modulated signal at the desired frequency **3802** is accepted and is transmitted over the desired medium, such as, but not limited to, over-the-air broadcast or point-to-point cable.

3.3.10.2 Structural Description.

The transmission module **3804** receives the signal at the desired EM frequency **3802**. If it is intended to be broadcast over the air, the signal may be routed through an optional antenna interface and then to the antenna for broadcast. If it is intended for the signal to be transmitted over a cable from one point to another, the signal may be routed to an optional line driver and out through the cable. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that other transmission media may be used.

3.3.11 Other Implementations.

The implementations described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These implementations are not intended to limit the invention. Other implementation embodiments are possible and covered by the invention, such as but not limited to software, software/hardware, and firmware implementations of the systems and components of the invention. Alternate implementations and embodiments, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate implementations fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

4. Harmonic Enhancement

4.1 High Level Description.

This section (including its subsections) provides a high-level description of harmonic enhancement according to the present invention. In particular, pulse shaping is described at a high-level. Also, a structural implementation for achieving this process is described at a high-level. This structural implementation is described herein for illustrative purposes, and is not limiting. In particular, the process described in this section can be achieved using any number of structural implementations, one of which is described in this section. The details of such structural implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

It is noted that some embodiments of the invention include harmonic enhancement, whereas other embodiments do not.

4.1.1 Operational Description.

To better understand the generation and extraction of harmonics, and the purpose behind shaping the waveforms to enhance the harmonics, the following discussion of Fourier analysis as it applies to the present invention is offered.

A discovery made by Baron Jean B. J. Fourier (1768–1830) showed that continuous and periodic waveforms are comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal components, called harmonics. More importantly, the frequency of these components are integer multiples of the frequency of the original waveform (called the fundamental frequency). The amplitude of each of these component waveforms depends on the shape of the original waveform. The derivations and proofs of Baron Fourier's analysis are well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s).

The most basic waveform which is continuous and periodic is a sine wave. It has but one harmonic, which is at the

fundamental frequency. This is also called the first harmonic. Since it only has one component, the amplitude of the harmonic component is equal to the amplitude of the original waveform, i.e., the sine wave itself. The sine wave is not considered to be "harmonically rich."

An impulse train is the other extreme case of a periodic waveform. Mathematically, it is considered to have zero width. The mathematical analysis in this case shows that there are harmonics at all multiples of the frequency of the impulse. That is, if the impulse has a frequency of F_i , then the harmonics are sinusoidal waves at $1 \cdot F_i$, $2 \cdot F_i$, $3 \cdot F_i$, $4 \cdot F_i$, etc. As the analysis also shows in this particular case, the amplitude of all of the harmonics are equal. This is indeed, a "harmonically rich" waveform, but is realistically impractical with current technology.

A more typical waveform is a rectangular wave, which is a series of pulses. Each pulse will have a width (called a pulse width, or " τ "), and the series of pulses in the waveform will have a period (" T ") which is the inverse of the frequency, i.e., $T = 1/F_\tau$, where " F_τ " is the fundamental frequency of the rectangular wave. One form of rectangular wave is the square wave, where the signal is at a first state (e.g., high) for the same amount of time that it is at the second state (e.g., low). That is, the ratio of the pulse width to period (τ/T) is 0.5. Other forms of rectangular waves, other than square waves, are typically referred to simply as "pulses," and have $\tau/T < 0.5$ (i.e., the signal will be "high" for a shorter time than it is "low"). The mathematical analysis shows that there are harmonics at all of the multiples of the fundamental frequency of the signal. Thus, if the frequency of the rectangular waveform is F_τ , then the frequency of the first harmonic is $1 \cdot F_\tau$, the frequency of the second harmonic is $2 \cdot F_\tau$, the frequency of the third harmonic is $3 \cdot F_\tau$, and so on. There are some harmonics for which the amplitude is zero. In the case of a square wave, for example, the "null points" are the even harmonics. For other values of τ/T , the "null points" can be determined from the mathematical equations. The general equation for the amplitude of the harmonics in a rectangular wave having an amplitude of A_{pulse} is as follows:

$$\text{Amplitude}(n^{\text{th}} \text{ harmonic}) = A_n = \{[A_{pulse}][(2/\pi)/n] \sin[n \cdot \pi \cdot (\tau/T)]\} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

Table **6000** of FIG. **60** shows the amplitudes of the first fifty harmonics for rectangular waves having six different τ/T ratios. The τ/T ratios are 0.5 (a square wave), 0.25, 0.10, 0.05, 0.01, and 0.005. (One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that A_{pulse} is set to unity for mathematical comparison.) From this limited example, it can be seen that the ratio of pulse width to period is a significant factor in determining the relative amplitudes of the harmonics. Notice too, that for the case where $\tau/T = 0.5$ (i.e., a square wave), the relationship stated above (i.e., only odd harmonics are present) holds. Note that as τ/T becomes small (i.e., the pulse approaches an impulse), the amplitudes of the harmonics becomes substantially "flat." That is, there is very little decrease in the relative amplitudes of the harmonics. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand how to select the desired pulse width for any given application based on the teachings contained herein. It can also be shown mathematically and experimentally that if a signal with a continuous and periodic waveform is modulated, that modulation is also present on every harmonic of the original waveform.

From the foregoing, it can be seen how pulse width is an important factor in assuring that the harmonic waveform at the desired output frequency has sufficient amplitude to be useful without requiring elaborate filtering or unnecessary amplification.

Another factor in assuring that the desired harmonic has sufficient amplitude is how the switch **2816** and **3116** (FIGS. **28A** and **31A**) in the switch module **2802** and **3102** responds to the control signal that causes the switch to close and to open (i.e., the modulated oscillating signal **2804** of FIG. **28** and the oscillating signal **3104** of FIG. **31**). In general, switches have two thresholds. In the case of a switch that is normally open, the first threshold is the voltage required to cause the switch to close. The second threshold is the voltage level at which the switch will again open. The convention used herein for ease of illustration and discussion (and not meant to be limiting) is for the case where the switch is closed when the control signal is high, and open when the control signal is low. It would be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s) that the inverse could also be used. Typically, these voltages are not identical, but they may be. Another factor is how rapidly the switch responds to the control input once the threshold voltage has been applied. The objective is for the switch to close and open such that the bias/reference signal is “crisply” gated. That is, preferably, the impedance through the switch must change from a high impedance (an open switch) to a low impedance (a closed switch) and back again in a very short time so that the output signal is substantially rectangular.

It is an objective of this invention in the transmitter embodiment that the intelligence in the information signal is to be transmitted. That is, the information is modulated onto the transmitted signal. In the FM and PM modes, to achieve this objective, the information signal is used to modulate the oscillating signal **2804**. The oscillating signal **2804** then causes the switch **2816** to close and open. The information that is modulated onto the oscillating signal **2804** must be faithfully reproduced onto the signal that is output from the switch circuit (i.e., the harmonically rich signal **2814**). For this to occur efficiently, in embodiments of the invention, the switch **2816** preferably closes and opens crisply so that the harmonically rich signal **2814** changes rapidly from the bias/reference signal **2806** (or **3106**) to ground **2812** (or the second signal level **2818** in the alternate embodiment). This rapid rise and fall time is desired so that the harmonically rich signal **2814** will be “harmonically rich.” (In the case of AM, the oscillating signal **3104** is not modulated, but the requirement for “crispness” still applies.)

For the switch **2816** to close and open crisply, the oscillating signal **2804** must also be crisp. If the oscillating signal **2804** is sinusoidal, the switch **2816** will open and close when the threshold voltages are reached, but the pulse width of the harmonically rich signal **2814** may not be as small as is needed to ensure the amplitude of the desired harmonic of the harmonically rich signal **2814** is sufficiently high to allow transmission without elaborate filtering or unnecessary amplification. Also, in the embodiment wherein the switch **2816** is a GaAsFET **2901**, if the oscillating signal **2804** that is connected to the gate **2902** of the GaAsFET **2901** (i.e., the signal that causes the switch **2816** to close and open) is a sinusoidal wave, the GaAsFET **2901** will not crisply close and open, but will act more like an amplifier than a switch. (That is, it will conduct during the time that the oscillating signal is rising and falling below the threshold voltages, but will not be a “short.”) In order to make use of the benefits of a GaAsFET’s capability to close and open at high frequencies, the oscillating signal **2804** connected to the gate **2902** preferably has a rapid rise and fall time. That is, it is preferably a rectangular waveform, and preferably has a pulse width to period ratio the same as the pulse width to period ratio of the harmonically rich signal **2814**.

As stated above, if a signal with a continuous and periodic waveform is modulated, that modulation occurs on every

harmonic of the original waveform. Thus, in the FM and PM modes, when the information is modulated onto the oscillating signal **2804** and the oscillating signal **2804** is used to cause the switch **2816** to close and open, the resulting harmonically rich signal **2814** that is output from the switch module **2802** will also be modulated. If the oscillating signal **2804** is crisp, the switch **2816** will close and open crisply, the harmonically rich signal **2814** will be harmonically rich, and each of the harmonics of the harmonically rich signal **2814** will have the information modulated on it.

Because it is desired that the oscillating signal **2804** be crisp, harmonic enhancement may be needed in some embodiments. Harmonic enhancement may also be called “pulse shaping” since the purpose is to shape the oscillating signal **2804** into a string of pulses of a desired pulse width. If the oscillating signal is sinusoidal, harmonic enhancement will shape the sinusoidal signal into a rectangular (or substantially rectangular) waveform with the desired pulse width to period ratio. If the oscillating signal **2804** is already a square wave or a pulse, harmonic enhancement will shape it to achieve the desired ratio of pulse width to period. This will ensure an efficient transfer of the modulated information through the switch.

Three exemplary embodiments of harmonic enhancement are described below for illustrative purposes. However, the invention is not limited to these embodiments. Other embodiments will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

4.1.2 Structural Description.

The shape of the oscillating signal **2804** causes the switch **2816** to close and open. The shape of the oscillating signal **2804** and the selection of the switch **2816** will determine how quickly the switch **2816** closes and opens, and how long it stays closed compared to how long it stays open. This then will determine the “crispness” of the harmonically rich signal **2814**. (That is, whether the harmonically rich signal **2814** is substantially rectangular, trapezoidal, triangular, etc.) As shown above, in order to ensure that the desired harmonic has the desired amplitude, the shape of the oscillating signal **2804** should be substantially optimized.

The harmonic enhancement module (HEM) **4602** (FIG. **46**) is also referred to as a “pulse shaper.” It “shapes” the oscillating signals **2804** and **3104** that drive the switch modules **2802** and **3102** described in sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2 and 3.3.7–3.3.7.2. Harmonic enhancement module **4602** preferably transforms a continuous and periodic waveform **4604** into a string of pulses **4606**. The string of pulses **4606** will have a period, “T,” determined by both the frequency of the continuous and periodic waveform **4604** and the design of the pulse shaping circuit within the harmonic enhancement module **4602**. Also, each pulse will have a pulse width, “ τ ,” determined by the design of the pulse shaping circuit. The period of the pulse stream, “T,” determines the frequency of the switch closing (the frequency being the inverse of the period), and the pulse width of the pulses, “ τ ” determines how long the switch stays closed.

In the embodiment described above in sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2 (and 3.3.7–3.3.7.2), when the switch **2816** (or **3116**) is open, the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) will have an amplitude substantially equal to the bias signal **2806** (or reference signal **3106**). When the switch **2816** (or **3116**) is closed, the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) will have an amplitude substantially equal to the potential of signal **2812** or **2818** (or **3112** or **3118**) of the second input **2810** (or **3110**) of the switch module **2802** (or **3102**). Thus, for the case where the oscillating signal **2804** (or **3104**) driving the switch module **2802** (or **3102**) is substantially

rectangular, the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) will have substantially the same frequency and pulse width as the shaped oscillating signal **2804** (or **3104**) that drives the switch module **2802** (or **3102**). This is true for those cases wherein the oscillating signal **2804** (or **3104**) is a rectangular wave. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that the term “rectangular wave” can refer to all waveforms that are substantially rectangular, including square waves and pulses.

The purpose of shaping the signal is to control the amount of time that the switch **2816** (or **3116**) is closed. As stated above, the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) has a substantially rectangular waveform. Controlling the ratio of the pulse width of the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) to its period will result in the shape of the harmonically rich signal **2814** (or **3114**) being substantially optimized so that the relative amplitudes of the harmonics are such that the desired harmonic can be extracted without unnecessary and elaborate amplification and filtering.

4.2 Exemplary Embodiments.

Various embodiments related to the method(s) and structure(s) described above are presented in this section (and its subsections). These embodiments are described herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to these embodiments. Alternate embodiments (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the embodiments described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. The invention is intended and adapted to include such alternate embodiments.

4.2.1 First Embodiment: When a Square Wave Feeds the Harmonic Enhancement Module to Create One Pulse per Cycle.

4.2.1.1 Operational Description.

According to this embodiment, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** is received and a string of pulses **4606** is output. The continuous periodic waveform **4604** may be a square wave or any other continuous periodic waveform that varies from a value recognized as a “digital low” to a value recognized as a “digital high.” One pulse is generated per cycle of the continuous and periodic waveform **4604**. The description given herein will be for the continuous periodic waveform **4604** that is a square wave, but one skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that other waveforms may also be “shaped” into waveform **4606** by this embodiment.

4.2.1.2 Structural Description.

In this first embodiment of a harmonic enhancement module **4602**, herein after referred to as a pulse shaping circuit **4602**, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** that is a square wave is received by the pulse shaping circuit **4602**. The pulse shaping circuit **4602** is preferably comprised of digital logic devices that result in a string of pulses **4606** being output that has one pulse for every pulse in the continuous periodic waveform **4604**, and preferably has a τ/T ratio less than 0.5.

4.2.2 Second Embodiment: When a Square Wave Feeds the Harmonic Enhancement Module to Create Two Pulses per Cycle.

4.2.2.1 Operational Description.

In this embodiment, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** is received and a string of pulses **4606** is output. In this embodiment, there are two pulses output for every period of the continuous periodic waveform **4604**. The continuous periodic waveform **4604** may be a square wave or any other continuous periodic waveform that varies from a value recognized as a “digital low” to a value recognized as a “digital high.” The description given herein will be for a

continuous periodic waveform **4604** that is a square wave, but one skilled in the relevant art(s) will appreciate that other waveforms may also be “shaped” into waveform **4606** by this embodiment.

4.2.2.2 Structural Description.

In this second embodiment of a pulse shaping circuit **4602**, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** that is a square wave is received by the pulse shaping circuit **4602**. The pulse shaping circuit **4602** is preferably comprised of digital logic devices that result in a string of pulses **4606** being output that has two pulses for every pulse in the continuous periodic waveform **4604**, and preferably has a τ/T ratio less than 0.5.

4.2.3 Third Embodiment: When Any Waveform Feeds the Module.

4.2.3.1 Operational Description.

In this embodiment, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** of any shape is received and a string of pulses **4606** is output.

4.2.3.2 Structural Description.

In this third embodiment of a pulse shaping circuit **4602**, a continuous periodic waveform **4604** of any shape is received by the pulse shaping circuit **4602**. The pulse shaping circuit **4602** is preferably comprised of a series of stages, each stage shaping the waveform until it is substantially a string of pulses **4606** with preferably a τ/T ratio less than 0.5.

4.2.4 Other Embodiments.

The embodiments described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These embodiments are not intended to limit the invention. Alternate embodiments, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate embodiments fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

4.3 Implementation Examples.

Exemplary operational and/or structural implementations related to the method(s), structure(s), and/or embodiments described above are presented in this section (and its subsections). These components and methods are presented herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to the particular examples of components and methods described herein. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

4.3.1 First Digital Logic Circuit.

An exemplary implementation of the first embodiment described in sections 4.2.1–4.2.1.2 is illustrated in FIG. 39. In particular, the circuit shown in FIG. 39A is a typical circuit design for a pulse shaping circuit **4602** using digital logic devices. Also shown in FIGS. 39B–39D are representative waveforms at three nodes within the circuit. In this embodiment, pulse shaper **3900** uses an inverter **3910** and an AND gate **3912** to produce a string of pulses. An inverter, such as inverter **3910**, changes the sign of the input, and an AND gate, such as AND gate **3912**, outputs a digital “high” when all of the input signals are digital “highs.” The input to pulse shaper **3900** is waveform **3902**, and, for illustrative purposes, is shown here as a square wave. The output of inverter **3910** is waveform **3904**, which is also a square wave. However, because of the circuitry of the inverter **3910**, there is a delay between the application of the input and the corresponding sign change of the output. If waveform **3902** starts “low,” waveform **3904** will be “high”

because it has been inverted by inverter 3910. When waveform 3902 switches to “high,” AND gate 3912 will momentarily see two “high” signals, thus causing its output waveform 3906 to be “high.” When inverter 3910 has inverted its input (waveform 3902) and caused waveform 3904 to become “low,” AND gate 3912 will then see only one “high” signal, and the output waveform 3906 will become “low.” Thus, the output waveform 3906 will be “high” for only the period of time that both waveforms 3902 and 3904 are high, which is the time delay of the inverter 3910. Accordingly, as is apparent from FIGS. 39B–39D, pulse shaper 3900 receives a square wave and generates a string of pulses, with one pulse generated per cycle of the square wave.

4.3.2 Second Digital Logic Circuit.

An exemplary implementation of the second embodiment described in sections 4.2.2–4.2.2.2 is illustrated in FIG. 40. In particular, the circuit of FIG. 40A is a typical circuit design for a pulse shaping circuit 4602 using digital logic devices. Also shown in FIGS. 40B–40D are representative waveforms at three nodes within the circuit. In this embodiment, pulse shaping circuit 4000 uses an inverter 4010 and an exclusive NOR (XNOR) gate 4012. An XNOR, such as XNOR 4012, outputs a digital “high” when both inputs are digital “highs” and when both signals are digital “lows.” Waveform 4002, which is shown here as a square wave identical to that shown above as waveform 3902, begins in the “low” state. Therefore, the output of inverter 4010 will begin at the “high” state. Thus, XNOR gate 4012 will see one “high” input and one “low” input, and its output waveform 4006 will be “low.” When waveform 4002 changes to “high,” XNOR gate 4012 will have two “high” inputs until the waveform 4004 switches to “low.” Because it sees two “high” inputs, its output waveform 4006 will be “high.” When waveform 4004 becomes “low,” XNOR gate 4012 will again see one “high” input (waveform 4002) and one “low” input (waveform 4004). When waveform 4002 switches back to “low,” XNOR gate 4012 will see two “low” inputs, and its output will become “high.” Following the time delay of inverter 4010, waveform 4004 will change to “high,” and XNOR gate 4012 will again see one “high” input (waveform 4004) and one “low” input (waveform 4002). Thus, waveform 4006 will again switch to “low.” Accordingly, as is apparent from FIGS. 40B–40D, pulse shaper 4000 receives a square wave and generates a string of pulses, with two pulses generated per cycle of the square wave.

4.3.3 Analog Circuit.

An exemplary implementation of the third embodiment described in sections 4.2.3–4.2.3.2 is illustrated in FIG. 41. In particular, the circuit shown in FIG. 41 is a typical pulse shaping circuit 4602 where an input signal 4102 is shown as a sine wave. Input signal 4102 feeds the first circuit element 4104, which in turn feeds the second, and so on. Typically, three circuit elements 4104 produce incrementally shaped waveforms 4120, 4122, and 4124 before feeding a capacitor 4106. The output of capacitor 4106 is shunted to ground 4110 through a resistor 4108 and also feeds a fourth circuit element 4104. An output signal 4126 is a pulsed output, with a frequency that is a function of the frequency of input signal 4102.

An exemplary circuit for circuit elements 4104 is shown in FIG. 43. Circuit 4104 is comprised of an input 4310, an output 4312, four FETs 4302, two diodes 4304, and a resistor 4306. One skilled in the relevant art(s) would recognize that other pulse shaping circuit designs could also be used without deviating from the scope and spirit of the invention.

4.3.4 Other Implementations.

The implementations described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These implementations are not intended to limit the invention. Alternate implementations, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate implementations fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

5. Amplifier Module.

5.1 High Level Description.

This section (including its subsections) provides a high-level description of the amplifier module according to the present invention. In particular, amplification is described at a high-level. Also, a structural implementation for achieving signal amplification is described at a high-level. This structural implementation is described herein for illustrative purposes, and is not limiting. In particular, the process described in this section can be achieved using any number of structural implementations, one of which is described in this section. The details of such structural implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

5.1.1 Operational Description.

Even though the present invention is intended to be used without requiring amplification, there may be circumstance when, in the embodiment of the present invention wherein it is being used as a transmitter, it may prove desirable to amplify the modulated signal before it is transmitted. In another embodiment of the invention wherein it is being used as a stable signal source for a frequency or phase comparator, it may also be desirable to amplify the resultant signal at the desired frequency.

The requirement may come about for a number of reasons. A first may be that the bias/reference signal is too low to support the desired use. A second may be because the desired output frequency is very high relative to the frequency of the oscillating signal that controls the switch. A third reason may be that the shape of the harmonically rich signal is such that the amplitude of the desired harmonic is low.

In the first case, recall that the amplitude of the bias/reference signal determines the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal which is present at the output of the switch circuit. (See sections 3.3.6–3.3.6.2 and 3.3.7–3.3.7.2.) Further recall that the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal directly impacts the amplitude of each of the harmonics. (See the equation in section 4.1, above.)

In the second instance, if the frequency of the oscillating signal is relatively low compared to the desired output frequency of the up-converter, a high harmonic will be needed. As an example, if the oscillating signal is 60 MHz, and the desired output frequency is at 900 MHz, the 15th harmonic will be needed. In the case where τ/T is 0.1, it can be seen from Table 6000 of FIG. 60 that the amplitude of the 15th harmonic (A_{15}) is 0.0424, which is 21.5% of the amplitude of the first harmonic ($A_1=0.197$). There may be instances wherein this is insufficient for the desired use, and consequently it must be amplified.

The third circumstance wherein the amplitude of the output may need to be amplified is when the shape of the harmonically rich signal is not “crisp” enough to provide harmonics with enough amplitude for the desired purpose. If, for example, the harmonically rich signal is substantially triangular, and given the example above where the oscillating signal is 60 MHz and the desired output signal is 900 MHz, the 15th harmonic of the triangular wave is 0.00180.

57

This is significantly lower than the amplitude of the 15th harmonic of the “0.1” rectangular wave (shown above to be 0.0424) and can be mathematically shown to be 0.4% of the amplitude of the 1st harmonic of the triangular wave (which is 0.405). Thus, in this example, the 1st harmonic of the triangular wave has an amplitude that is larger than the amplitude of the 1st harmonic of the “0.1” rectangular wave, but at the 15th harmonic, the triangular wave is significantly lower than the “0.1” rectangular wave.

Another reason that the desired harmonic may need to be amplified is that circuit elements such as the filter may cause attenuation in the output signal for which a designer may wish to compensate.

The desired output signal can be amplified in a number of ways. One is to amplify the bias/reference signal to ensure that the amplitude of the harmonically rich wave form is high. A second is to amplify the harmonically rich waveform itself. A third is to amplify the desired harmonic only. The examples given herein are for illustrative purposes only and are not meant to be limiting on the present invention. Other techniques to achieve amplification of the desired output signal would be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s).

5.1.2 Structural Description.

In one embodiment, a linear amplifier is used to amplify the bias/reference signal. In another embodiment, a linear amplifier is used to amplify the harmonically rich signal. And in yet another embodiment, a linear amplifier is used to amplify the desired output signal. Other embodiments, including the use of non-linear amplifiers, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

5.2 Exemplary Embodiment.

An embodiment related to the method(s) and structure(s) described above is presented in this section (and its subsections). This embodiment is described herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to this embodiment. Alternate embodiments (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the embodiment described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. The invention is intended and adapted to include such alternate embodiments.

5.2.1 Linear Amplifier.

The exemplary linear amplifier described herein will be directed towards an amplifier composed of solid state electronic devices to be inserted in the circuit at one or more points. Other amplifiers suitable for use with the invention will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s). As shown in FIG. 47, an amplifier module 4702 receives a signal requiring amplification 4704 and outputs an amplified signal 4706. It would be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s) that a plurality of embodiments may be employed without deviating from the scope and intent of the invention described herein.

5.2.1.1 Operational Description.

The desired output signal can be amplified in a number of ways. Such amplification as described in the section may be in addition to the techniques described above to enhance the shape of the harmonically rich signal by pulse shaping of the oscillating signal that causes the switch to close and open.

5.2.1.2 Structural Description.

In one embodiment, a linear amplifier is placed between the bias/reference signal and the switch module. This will increase the amplitude of the bias/reference signal, and as a result, will raise the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal that is the output of the switch module. This will have the effect of not only raising the amplitude of the harmoni-

58

cally rich signal, it will also raise the amplitude of all of the harmonics. Some potential limitation of this embodiment are: the amplified bias/reference signal may exceed the voltage design limit for the switch in the switch circuit; the harmonically rich signal coming out of the switch circuit may have an amplitude that exceeds the voltage design limits of the filter; and/or unwanted distortion may occur from having to amplify a wide bandwidth signal.

A second embodiment employs a linear amplifier between the switch module and the filter. This will raise the amplitude of the harmonically rich signal. It will also raise the amplitude of all of the harmonics of that signal. In an alternate implementation of this embodiment, the amplifier is tuned so that it only amplifies the desired frequencies. Thus, it acts both as an amplifier and as a filter. A potential limitation of this embodiment is that when the harmonically rich signal is amplified to raise a particular harmonic to the desired level the amplitude of the whole waveform is amplified as well. For example, in the case where the amplitude of the pulse, A_{pulse} , is equal to 1.0, to raise the 15th harmonic from 0.0424 volts to 0.5 volts, the amplitude of each pulse in the harmonically rich signal, A_{pulse} , will increase from 1.0 to 11.8 volts. This may well exceed the voltage design limit of the filter.

A third embodiment of an amplifier module will place a linear amplifier between the filter and the transmission module. This will only raise the amplitude of the desired harmonic, rather than the entire harmonically rich signal.

Other embodiments, such as the use of non-linear amplifiers, will be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s), and will not be described herein.

5.2.2 Other Embodiments.

The embodiments described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These embodiments are not intended to limit the invention. Alternate embodiments, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate embodiments fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

5.3 Implementation Examples.

Exemplary operational and/or structural implementations related to the method(s), structure(s), and/or embodiments described above are presented in this section (and its subsections). These components and methods are presented herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to the particular examples of components and methods described herein. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

5.3.1 Linear Amplifier.

Although described below as if it were placed after the filter, the amplifier may also be placed before the filter without deviating from the intent of the invention.

5.3.1.1 Operational Description.

According to embodiments of the invention, a linear amplifier receives a first signal at a first amplitude, and outputs a second signal at a second amplitude, wherein the second signal is proportional to the first signal. It is a objective of an amplifier that the information embedded onto the first signal waveform will also be embedded onto the second signal. Typically, it is desired that there be as little distortion in the information as possible.

In a preferred embodiment, the second signal is higher in amplitude than the first signal, however, there may be

implementations wherein it is desired that the second signal be lower than the first signal (i.e., the first signal will be attenuated).

5.3.1.2 Structural Description.

The design and use of a linear amplifier is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). A linear amplifier may be designed and fabricated from discrete components, or it may be purchased "off the shelf."

Exemplary amplifiers are seen in FIG. 48. In the exemplary circuit diagram of FIG. 48A, six transistors are used in a wideband amplifier. In the more basic exemplary circuit of FIG. 48B, the amplifier is composed of one transistor, four resistors, and a capacitor. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that numerous alternative designs may be used.

5.3.2 Other Implementations.

The implementations described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These implementations are not intended to limit the invention. Alternate implementations, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate implementations fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

6. Receiver/Transmitter System.

The present invention is for a method and system for up-conversion of electromagnetic signals. In one embodiment, the invention is a source of a stable high frequency reference signal. In a second embodiment, the invention is a transmitter.

This section describes a third embodiment. In the third embodiment, the transmitter of the present invention to be used in a receiver/transmitter communications system. This third embodiment may also be referred to as the communications system embodiment, and the combined receiver/transmitter circuit is referred to as a "transceiver." There are several alternative enhancements to the communications systems embodiment.

The following sections describe systems and methods related to exemplary embodiments for a receiver/transmitter system. It should be understood that the invention is not limited to the particular embodiments described below. Equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of the following will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., are within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

6.1 High Level Description.

This section provides a high-level description of a receiver/transmitter system according to the present invention. The implementations are described herein for illustrative purposes, and are not limiting. In particular, any number of functional and structural implementations may be used, several of which are described in this section. The details of such functional and structural implementations will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein.

According to a first embodiment of the transmitter of the present invention is used with a traditional superheterodyne receiver. In this embodiment, the transmitter and the receiver can operate either in a full-duplex mode or in a half-duplex mode. In a full duplex mode, the transceiver can transmit and receive simultaneously. In the half-duplex mode, the transceiver can either transmit or receive, but cannot do both simultaneously. The full-duplex and the half-duplex modes will be discussed together for this embodiment.

A second embodiment of the transceiver is for the transmitter of the present invention to be used with a universal

frequency down conversion circuit being used as a receiver. In this embodiment the transceiver is used in a half-duplex mode.

A third embodiment of the transceiver is for the transmitter of the present invention to be used with a universal frequency down conversion circuit, where the transceiver is used in a full-duplex mode.

These embodiments of the transceiver are described below.

6.2 Exemplary Embodiments and Implementation Examples.

Various embodiments related to the method(s) and structure(s) described above and exemplary operational and/or structural implementations related to those embodiments are presented in this section (and its subsections). These embodiments, components, and methods are described herein for purposes of illustration, and not limitation. The invention is not limited to these embodiments or to the particular examples of components and methods described herein. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention, and the invention is intended and adapted to include such alternatives.

6.2.1 First Embodiment: the Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used in a Circuit with a Superheterodyne Receiver.

A typical superheterodyne receiver is shown in FIG. 49. An antenna 4904 receives a signal 4902. Typically, signal 4902 is a radio frequency (RF) signal which is routed to a filter 4910 and an amplifier 4908. The filter 4910 removes all but a frequency range that includes the desired frequency, and the amplifier 4908 ensures that the signal strength will be sufficient for further processing. The output of amplifier 4908 is a signal 4911.

A local oscillator 4914 generates an oscillating signal 4916 which is combined with signal 4911 by mixer 4912. The output of mixer 4912 is a signal 4934 which is amplified by an amplifier 4918 and filtered by a filter 4920. The purpose of amplifier 4918 is to ensure that the strength of signal 4934 is sufficient for further processing, and the purpose of filter 4920 is to remove the undesired frequencies.

A second local oscillator 4924 generates a second oscillating signal 4926 which is combined with the amplified/filtered signal 4934 by a mixer 4922. The output of mixer 4922 is signal 4936. Again, an amplifier 4928 and a filter 4930 ensure that the signal 4936 is at the desired amplitude and frequency. The resulting signal is then routed to decoder 4932 where the intelligence is extracted to obtain baseband signal 4938.

Signal 4934 is referred to as the first intermediate frequency (IF) signal, and signal 4936 is referred to as the second IF signal. Thus, the combination of local oscillator 4914 and mixer 4912 can be referred to as the first IF stage, and the combination of local oscillator 4924 and mixer 4922 can be referred to as the second IF stage.

Exemplary frequencies for the circuit of FIG. 49 are as follows. Signal 4902 may be 900 MHz. The oscillator signal 4916 may be at 830 MHz, which will result in the frequency of the first IF signal, signal 4934, being at 70 MHz. If the second oscillating signal 4926 is at 59 MHz, the second IF signal, signal 4936, would be at 11 MHz. This frequency is typical of second IF frequencies.

Other superheterodyne receiver configurations are well known and these can be used in the transceiver embodiments

61

of the invention. Also, the exemplary frequencies mentioned above are provide for illustrative purposes only, and are not limiting.

FIG. 50 shows a transmitter of the present invention in a transceiver circuit with a typical superheterodyne receiver. Accordingly, FIG. 50 illustrates an exemplary transceiver circuit of the invention. The transceiver includes a receiver module 5001, which is implemented using any superheterodyne receiver configuration, and which is described above. The transceiver also includes a transmitter module 5003, which is described below.

In the FM and PM modes, an information signal 5004 modulates an intermediate signal to produce the oscillating signal 5002. Oscillating signal 5002 is shaped by signal shaper 5010 to produce a string of pulses 5008 (see the discussion above regarding the benefits of harmonic enhancement). The string of pulses 5008 drives the switch module 5012. In the FM/PM modes, a bias/reference signal 5006 is also received by switch module 5012. The output of switch module 5012 is a harmonically rich signal 5022. Harmonically rich signal 5022 is comprised of a plurality of sinusoidal components, and is routed to a "high Q" filter that will remove all but the desired output frequency(ies). The desired output frequency 5024 is amplified by an amplifier 5016 and routed to a transmission module 5018 which outputs a transmission signal 5026 which is routed to a duplexer 5020. The purpose of duplexer 5020 is to permit a single antenna to be used simultaneously for both receiving and transmitting signals. The combination of received signal 4902 and transmission signal 5026 is a duplexed signal 5028.

In the AM mode, the same circuit of FIG. 50 applies, except: (1) an information signal 5030 replaces information signal 5004; (2) bias/reference signal 5006 is a function of the information signal 5030; and (3) oscillating signal 5002 is not modulated.

This description is for the full-duplex mode of the transceiver wherein the transmitting portion of the communications system is a separate circuit than the receiver portion. A possible embodiment of a half-duplex mode is described below.

Alternate embodiments of the transceiver are possible. For example, FIGS. 51A through 51D illustrate an embodiment of the transceiver wherein it may be desired, for cost or other considerations, for an oscillator to be shared by both the transmitter portion and the receiver portion of the circuit. To do this, a trade off must be made in selecting the frequency of the oscillator. In FIG. 51A, a local oscillator 5104 generates an oscillating signal 5106 which is mixed with signal 4911 to generate a first IF signal 5108. A local oscillator 5110 generates a second oscillating signal 5112 which is mixed with the first IF signal 5108 to generate a second IF signal 5114. For the example herein, the frequencies of the oscillating signals 5106 and 5112 will be lower than the frequencies of signal 4911 and first IF signal 5108, respectively. (One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that, because the mixers 4912 and 4922 create both the sum and the difference of the signals they receive, the oscillator frequencies could be higher than the signal frequencies.)

As described in the example above, a typical second IF frequency is 11 MHz. The selection of this IF frequency is less flexible than is the selection of the first IF frequency, since the second IF frequency is routed to a decoder where the signal is demodulated and decoded. Typically, demodulators and decoders are designed to receive signals at a predetermined, fixed frequency, e.g., 11 MHz. If this is the

62

case, the combination of the first IF signal 5108 and the second oscillating signal 5112 must generate a second IF signal with a second IF frequency of 11 MHz. Recall that the received signal 4902 was 900 MHz in the example above. To achieve the second IF signal frequency of 11 MHz, the frequencies of the oscillating signals 4916 and 4926 were set at 830 MHz and 59 MHz. Before setting the frequencies of the oscillating signals 5106 and 5112, the desired frequency of the transmitted signal must be determined. If it, too, is 900 MHz, then the frequency of the oscillating signal that causes the switch in the present invention to open and close must be a "sub-harmonic" of 900 MHz. That is, it must be the quotient of 900 MHz divided by an integer. (In other words, 900 MHz must be a harmonic of the oscillating signal that drives the switch.) The table below is a list of some of the sub-harmonics of 900 MHz:

sub-harmonic	frequency
1 st	900 MHz
2 nd	450
3 rd	300
4 th	225
5 th	180
10 th	90
15 th	60

Recall that the frequency of the second oscillating signal 4926 in FIGS. 49 and 50 was 59 MHz. Notice that the frequency of the 15th sub-harmonic is 60 MHz. If the frequency of oscillating signal 5112 of FIG. 51 were set at 60 MHz, it could also be used as the oscillating signal to operate the switches in switch module 5126 of FIG. 51B and switch module 5136 of FIG. 51C. If this were done, the frequency of the first IF signal would be 71 MHz (rather than 70 MHz in the previous example of a stand-alone receiver), as indicated below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{First IF frequency} &= \text{Second IF frequency} + \\ &\quad \text{Second oscillating frequency} \\ &= 11 \text{ MHz} + 60 \text{ MHz} \\ &= 71 \text{ MHz} \end{aligned}$$

The frequency of the first oscillating signal 5106 can be determined from the values of the first IF frequency and the frequency of the received signal 4902. In this example, the frequency of the received signal is 900 MHz and the frequency of the first IF signal is 71 MHz. Therefore, the frequency of the first oscillating signal 5106 must be 829 MHz, as indicated below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{First oscillating frequency} &= \text{Freq of received signal} - \text{First IF freq} \\ &= 900 \text{ MHz} - 71 \text{ MHz} \\ &= 829 \text{ MHz} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the frequencies of the oscillating signals 5106 and 5112 are 829 MHz and 60 MHz, respectively.

In FIG. 51B, the PM embodiment is shown. The second oscillating signal 5112 is routed to a phase modulator 5122 where it is modulated by the information signal 5120 to generate a PM signal 5132. PM signal 5132 is routed to a harmonic enhancement module 5124 to create a string of pulses 5133. The string of pulses 5133 is also a phase

63

modulated signal and is used to cause the switch in switch module **5126** to open and close. Also entering switch module **5126** is a bias signal **5128**. The output of switch module **5126** is a harmonically rich signal **5134**.

In FIG. **51C**, the AM embodiment is shown. The second oscillating signal **5112** directly enters the harmonic enhancement module **5124** to create a string of pulses **5138**. String of pulses **5138** (not modulated in this embodiment) then enters a switch module **5136** where it causes a switch to open and close. Also entering switch module **5136** is a reference signal **5140**. Reference signal is created by summing module **5130** by combining information signal **5120** with bias signal **5128**. It is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that the information signal **5120** may be used as the reference signal without being combined with the bias signal **5128**. The output of switch module **5136** is a harmonically rich signal **5134**.

The scope of the invention includes an FM embodiment wherein the oscillator **5110** of the receiver circuit is used as a source for an oscillating signal for the transmitter circuit. In the embodiments discussed above, the FM embodiment requires a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) rather than a simple local oscillator. There are circuit designs that would be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein, wherein a VCO is used in place of a local oscillator in the receiver circuit.

In FIG. **51D**, the harmonically rich signal **5134** is filtered by a filter **5142**, which removes all but the desired output frequency **5148**. The desired output frequency **5148** is amplified by amplifier module **5146** and routed to transmission module **5150**. The output of transmission module **5150** is a transmission signal **5144**. Transmission signal **5144** is then routed to the antenna **4904** for transmission.

Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that there are numerous combinations of oscillator frequencies, stages, and circuits that will meet the scope and intent of this invention. Thus, the description included herein is for illustrative purposes only and not meant to be limiting.

6.2.2 Second Embodiment: the Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used with a Universal Frequency Down-Converter in a Half-Duplex Mode.

An exemplary receiver using universal frequency down conversion techniques is shown in FIG. **52** and described in section 6.3, below. An antenna **5202** receives an electromagnetic (EM) signal **5220**. EM signal **5220** is routed through a capacitor **5204** to a first terminal of a switch **5210**. The other terminal of switch **5210** is connected to ground **5212** in this exemplary embodiment. A local oscillator **5206** generates an oscillating signal **5228** which is routed through a pulse shaper **5208**. The result is a string of pulses **5230**. The selection of the oscillator **5206** and the design of the pulse shaper **5208** control the frequency and pulse width of the string of pulses **5230**. The string of pulses **5230** control the opening and closing of switch **5210**. As a result of the opening and closing of switch **5210**, a down converted signal **5222** results. Down converted signal **5222** is routed through an amplifier **5214** and a filter **5216**, and a filtered signal **5224** results. In a preferred embodiment, filtered signal **5224** is at baseband, and a decoder **5218** may only be needed to convert digital to analog or to remove encryption before outputting the baseband information signal. This then is a universal frequency down conversion receiver operating in a direct down conversion mode, in that it receives the EM signal **5220** and down converts it to baseband signal **5226** without requiring an IF or a demodulator. In an alternate embodiment, the filtered signal **5224** may be at an "offset" frequency. That is, it is at an intermediate frequency, similar

64

to that described above for the second IF signal in a typical superheterodyne receiver. In this case, the decoder **5218** would be used to demodulate the filtered signal so that it could output a baseband signal **5226**.

An exemplary transmitter using the present invention is shown in FIG. **53**. In the FM and PM embodiments, an information signal **5302** modulates an oscillating signal **5306** which is routed to a pulse shaping circuit **5310** which outputs a string of pulses **5311**. The string of pulses **5311** controls the opening and closing of the switch **5312**. One terminal of switch **5312** is connected to ground **5314**, and the second terminal of switch **5312** is connected through a resistor **5330** to a bias/reference signal **5308**. In the FM and PM modes, bias/reference signal **5308** is preferably a non-varying signal, often referred to simply as the bias signal. In the AM mode, the oscillating signal **5306** is not modulated, and the bias/reference signal is a function of the information signal **5304**. In one embodiment, information signal **5304** is combined with a bias voltage to generate the reference signal **5308**. In an alternate embodiment, the information signal **5304** is used without being combined with a bias voltage. Typically, in the AM mode, this bias/reference signal is referred to as the reference signal to distinguish it from the bias signal used in the FM and PM modes. The output of switch **5312** is a harmonically rich signal **5316** which is routed to a "high Q" filter which removes the unwanted frequencies that exist as harmonic components of the harmonically rich signal **5316**. Desired frequency **5320** is amplified by amplifier module **5322** and routed to transmission module **5324** which outputs a transmission signal **5326**. Transmission signal is output by antenna **5328** in this embodiment.

For the FM and PM modulation modes, FIGS. **54A**, **54B**, and **54C** show the combination of the present invention of the transmitter and the universal frequency down-conversion receiver in the half-duplex mode according to an embodiment of the invention. That is, the transceiver can transmit and receive, but it cannot do both simultaneously. It uses a single antenna **5402**, a single oscillator **5444/5454** (depending on whether the transmitter is in the FM or PM modulation mode), a single pulse shaper **5438**, and a single switch **5420** to transmit and to receive. In the receive function, "Receiver/transmitter" (R/T) switches **5406**, **5408**, and **5446/5452** (FM or PM) would all be in the receive position, designated by (R). The antenna **5402** receives an EM signal **5404** and routes it through a capacitor **5407**. In the FM modulation mode, oscillating signal **5436** is generated by a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) **5444**. Because the transceiver is performing the receive function, switch **5446** connects the input to the VCO **5444** to ground **5448**. Thus, VCO **5444** will operate as if it were a simple oscillator. In the PM modulation mode, oscillating signal **5436** is generated by local oscillator **5454** which is routed through phase modulator **5456**. Since the transceiver is performing the receive function, switch **5452** is connected to ground **5448**, and there is no modulating input to phase modulator. Thus, local oscillator **5454** and phase modulator **5456** operate as if they were a simple oscillator. One skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize based on the discussion contained herein that there are numerous embodiments wherein an oscillating signal **5436** can be generated to control the switch **5420**.

Oscillating signal **5436** is shaped by pulse shaper **5438** to produce a string of pulses **5440**. The string of pulses **5440** cause the switch **5420** to open and close. As a result of the switch opening and closing, a down converted signal **5409** is generated. The down converted signal **5409** is amplified

65

and filtered to create a filtered signal **5413**. In an embodiment, filtered signal **5413** is at baseband and, as a result of the down conversion, is demodulated. Thus, a decoder **5414** may not be required except to convert digital to analog or to decrypt the filtered signal **5413**. In an alternate embodiment, the filtered signal **5413** is at an “offset” frequency, so that the decoder **5414** is needed to demodulate the filtered signal and create a demodulated baseband signal.

When the transceiver is performing the transmit function, the R/T switches **5406**, **5408**, and **5446/5452** (FM or PM) are in the (T) position. In the FM modulation mode, an information signal **5450** is connected by switch **5446** to VCO **5444** to create a frequency modulated oscillating signal **5436**. In the PM modulation mode switch **5452** connects information signal **5450** to the phase modulator **5456** to create a phase modulated oscillating signal **5436**. Oscillation signal **5436** is routed through pulse shaper **5438** to create a string of pulses **5440** which in turn cause switch **5420** to open and close. One terminal of switch **5420** is connected to ground **5442** and the other is connected through switch R/T **5408** and resistor **5423** to a bias signal **5422**. The result is a harmonically rich signal **5424** which is routed to a “high Q” filter **5426** which removes the unwanted frequencies that exist as harmonic components of harmonically rich signal **5424**. Desired frequency **5428** is amplified by amplifier module **5430** and routed to transmission module **5432** which outputs a transmission signal **5434**. Again, because the transceiver is performing the transmit function, R/T switch **5406** connects the transmission signal to the antenna **5402**.

In the AM modulation mode, the transceiver operates in the half duplex mode as shown in FIG. **55**. The only distinction between this modulation mode and the FM and PM modulation modes described above, is that the oscillating signal **5436** is generated by a local oscillator **5502**, and the switch **5420** is connected through the R/T switch **5408** and resistor **5423** to a reference signal **5506**. Reference signal **5506** is generated when information signal **5450** and bias signal **5422** are combined by a summing module **5504**. It is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that the information signal **5450** may be used as the reference signal **5506** without being combined with the bias signal **5422**, and may be connected directly (through resistor **5423** and R/T switch **5408**) to the switch **5420**.

6.2.3 Third Embodiment: the Transmitter of the Present Invention Being Used with a Universal Frequency Down Converter in a Full-Duplex Mode.

The full-duplex mode differs from the half-duplex mode in that the transceiver can transmit and receive simultaneously. Referring to FIG. **56**, to achieve this, the transceiver preferably uses a separate circuit for each function. A duplexer **5604** is used in the transceiver to permit the sharing of an antenna **5602** for both the transmit and receive functions.

The receiver function performs as follows. The antenna **5602** receives an EM signal **5606** and routes it through a capacitor **5607** to one terminal of a switch **5626**. The other terminal of switch **5626** is connected to ground **5628**, and the switch is driven as a result of a string of pulses **5624** created by local oscillator **5620** and pulse shaper **5622**. The opening and closing of switch **5626** generates a down converted signal **5614**. Down converted signal **5614** is routed through an amplifier **5608** and a filter **5610** to generate filtered signal **5616**. Filtered signal **5616** may be at baseband and be demodulated or it may be at an “offset” frequency. If filtered signal **5616** is at an offset frequency, decoder **5612**

66

will demodulate it to create the demodulated baseband signal **5618**. In a preferred embodiment, however, the filtered signal **5616** will be a demodulated baseband signal, and decoder **5612** may not be required except to convert digital to analog or to decrypt filtered signal **5616**. This receiver portion of the transceiver can operate independently from the transmitter portion of the transceiver.

The transmitter function is performed as follows. In the FM and PM modulation modes, an information signal **5648** modulates an oscillating signal **5630**. In the AM modulation mode, the oscillating signal **5630** is not modulated. The oscillating signal is shaped by pulse shaper **5632** and a string of pulses **5634** is created. This string of pulses **5634** causes a switch **5636** to open and close. One terminal of switch **5636** is connected to ground **5638**, and the other terminal is connected through a resistor **5647** to a bias/reference signal **5646**. In the FM and PM modulation modes, bias/reference signal **5646** is referred to as a bias signal **5646**, and it is substantially non-varying. In the AM modulation mode, an information signal **5650** may be combined with the bias signal to create what is referred to as the reference signal **5646**. The reference signal **5646** is a function of the information signal **5650**. It is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that the information signal **5650** may be used as the bias/reference signal **5646** directly without being summed with a bias signal. A harmonically rich signal **5652** is generated and is filtered by a “high Q” filter **5640**, thereby producing a desired signal **5654**. The desired signal **5654** is amplified by amplifier **5642** and routed to transmission module **5644**. The output of transmission module **5644** is transmission signal **5656**. Transmission signal **5656** is routed to duplexer **5604** and then transmitted by antenna **5602**. This transmitter portion of the transceiver can operate independently from the receiver portion of the transceiver.

Thus, as described above, the transceiver embodiment the present invention as shown in FIG. **56** can perform full-duplex communications in all modulation modes.

6.2.4 Other Embodiments and Implementations.

Other embodiments and implementations of the receiver/transmitter of the present invention would be apparent to one skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion herein.

The embodiments and implementations described above are provided for purposes of illustration. These embodiments and implementations are not intended to limit the invention. Alternatives, differing slightly or substantially from those described herein, will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternate embodiments and implementations fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

6.3 Summary Description of Down-Conversion Using a Universal Frequency Translation Module.

The following discussion describes down-converting using a Universal Frequency Translation Module. The down-conversion of an EM signal by aliasing the EM signal at an aliasing rate is fully described in co-pending U.S. patent application entitled “Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals,” Ser. No. 09/176,022 filed Oct. 21, 1998, the full disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. A relevant portion of the above mentioned patent application is summarized below to describe down-converting an input signal to produce a down-converted signal that exists at a lower frequency or a baseband signal.

FIG. **64A** illustrates an aliasing module **6400** for down-conversion using a universal frequency translation (UFT) module **6402** which down-converts an EM input signal **6404**. In particular embodiments, aliasing module **6400**

67

includes a switch 6408 and a capacitor 6410. The electronic alignment of the circuit components is flexible. That is, in one implementation, the switch 6408 is in series with input signal 6404 and capacitor 6410 is shunted to ground (although it may be other than ground in configurations such as differential mode). In a second implementation (see FIG. 64A-1), the capacitor 6410 is in series with the input signal 6404 and the switch 6408 is shunted to ground (although it may be other than ground in configurations such as differential mode). Aliasing module 6400 with UFT module 6402

can be easily tailored to down-convert a wide variety of electromagnetic signals using aliasing frequencies that are well below the frequencies of the EM input signal 6404. In one implementation, aliasing module 6400 down-converts the input signal 6404 to an intermediate frequency (IF) signal. In another implementation, the aliasing module 6400 down-converts the input signal 6404 to a demodulated baseband signal. In yet another implementation, the input signal 6404 is a frequency modulated (FM) signal, and the aliasing module 6400 down-converts it to a non-FM signal, such as a phase modulated (PM) signal or an amplitude modulated (AM) signal. Each of the above implementations is described below.

In an embodiment, the control signal 6406 includes a train of pulses that repeat at an aliasing rate that is equal to, or less than, twice the frequency of the input signal 6404. In this embodiment, the control signal 6406 is referred to herein as an aliasing signal because it is below the Nyquist rate for the frequency of the input signal 6404. Preferably, the frequency of control signal 6406 is much less than the input signal 6404.

The train of pulses 6418 as shown in FIG. 64D controls the switch 6408 to alias the input signal 6404 with the control signal 6406 to generate a down-converted output signal 6412. More specifically, in an embodiment, switch 6408 closes on a first edge of each pulse 6420 of FIG. 64D and opens on a second edge of each pulse. When the switch 6408 is closed, the input signal 6404 is coupled to the capacitor 6410, and charge is transferred from the input signal to the capacitor 6410. The charge stored during successive pulses forms down-converted output signal 6412.

Exemplary waveforms are shown in FIGS. 64B–64F.

FIG. 64B illustrates an analog amplitude modulated (AM) carrier signal 6414 that is an example of input signal 6404. For illustrative purposes, in FIG. 64C, an analog AM carrier signal portion 6416 illustrates a portion of the analog AM carrier signal 6414 on an expanded time scale. The analog AM carrier signal portion 6416 illustrates the analog AM carrier signal 6414 from time t_0 to time t_1 .

FIG. 64D illustrates an exemplary aliasing signal 6418 that is an example of control signal 6406. Aliasing signal 6418 is on approximately the same time scale as the analog AM carrier signal portion 6416. In the example shown in FIG. 64D, the aliasing signal 6418 includes a train of pulses 6420 having negligible apertures that tend towards zero (the invention is not limited to this embodiment, as discussed below). The pulse aperture may also be referred to as the pulse width as will be understood by those skilled in the art(s). The pulses 6420 repeat at an aliasing rate, or pulse repetition rate of aliasing signal 6418. The aliasing rate is determined as described below, and further described in co-pending U.S. patent application entitled “Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals,” Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

As noted above, the train of pulses 6420 (i.e., control signal 6406) control the switch 6408 to alias the analog AM carrier signal 6416 (i.e., input signal 6404) at the aliasing

68

rate of the aliasing signal 6418. Specifically, in this embodiment, the switch 6408 closes on a first edge of each pulse and opens on a second edge of each pulse. When the switch 6408 is closed, input signal 6404 is coupled to the capacitor 6410, and charge is transferred from the input signal 6404 to the capacitor 6410. The charge transferred during a pulse is referred to herein as an under-sample. Exemplary under-samples 6422 form down-converted signal portion 6424 (FIG. 64E) that corresponds to the analog AM carrier signal portion 6416 (FIG. 64C) and the train of pulses 6420 (FIG. 64D). The charge stored during successive under-samples of AM carrier signal 6414 form the down-converted signal 6424 (FIG. 64E) that is an example of down-converted output signal 6412 (FIG. 64A). In FIG. 64F a demodulated baseband signal 6426 represents the demodulated baseband signal 6424 after filtering on a compressed time scale. As illustrated, down-converted signal 6426 has substantially the same “amplitude envelope” as AM carrier signal 6414. Therefore, FIGS. 64B–64F illustrate down-conversion of AM carrier signal 6414.

The waveforms shown in FIGS. 64B–64F are discussed herein for illustrative purposes only, and are not limiting. Additional exemplary time domain and frequency domain drawings, and exemplary methods and systems of the invention relating thereto, are disclosed in co-pending U.S. patent application entitled “Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals,” Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

The aliasing rate of control signal 6406 determines whether the input signal 6404 is down-converted to an IF signal, down-converted to a demodulated baseband signal, or down-converted from an FM signal to a PM or an AM signal. Generally, relationships between the input signal 6404, the aliasing rate of the control signal 6406, and the down-converted output signal 6412 are illustrated below:

$$(\text{Freq. of input signal } 6404) = n \cdot (\text{Freq. of control signal } 6406) \pm (\text{Freq. of down-converted output signal } 6412)$$

For the examples contained herein, only the “+” condition will be discussed. The value of n represents a harmonic or sub-harmonic of input signal 6404 (e.g., $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3, \dots$).

When the aliasing rate of control signal 6406 is off-set from the frequency of input signal 6404, or off-set from a harmonic or sub-harmonic thereof, input signal 6404 is down-converted to an IF signal. This is because the under-sampling pulses occur at different phases of subsequent cycles of input signal 6404. As a result, the under-samples form a lower frequency oscillating pattern. If the input signal 6404 includes lower frequency changes, such as amplitude, frequency, phase, etc., or any combination thereof, the charge stored during associated under-samples reflects the lower frequency changes, resulting in similar changes on the down-converted IF signal. For example, to down-convert a 901 MHz input signal to a 1 MHz IF signal, the frequency of the control signal 6406 would be calculated as follows:

$$(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}}) / n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}} (901 \text{ MHz} - 1 \text{ MHz}) / n = 900 / n$$

For $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4$, etc., the frequency of the control signal 6406 would be substantially equal to 1.8 GHz, 900 MHz, 450 MHz, 300 MHz, 225 MHz, etc.

Exemplary time domain and frequency domain drawings, illustrating down-conversion of analog and digital AM, PM and FM signals to IF signal, and exemplary methods and systems thereof, are disclosed in co-pending U.S. patent application entitled “Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals,” Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

Alternatively, when the aliasing rate of the control signal **6406** is substantially equal to the frequency of the input signal **6404**, or substantially equal to a harmonic or sub-harmonic thereof, input signal **6404** is directly down-converted to a demodulated baseband signal. This is because, without modulation, the under-sampling pulses occur at the same point of subsequent cycles of the input signal **6404**. As a result, the under-samples form a constant output baseband signal. If the input signal **6404** includes lower frequency changes, such as amplitude, frequency, phase, etc., or any combination thereof, the charge stored during associated under-samples reflects the lower frequency changes, resulting in similar changes on the demodulated baseband signal. For example, to directly down-convert a 900 MHz input signal to a demodulated baseband signal (i.e., zero IF), the frequency of the control signal **6406** would be calculated as follows:

$$(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}})/n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}}(900 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 900 \text{ MHz}/n$$

For $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4$, etc., the frequency of the control signal **6406** should be substantially equal to 1.8 GHz, 900 MHz, 450 MHz, 300 MHz, 225 MHz, etc.

Exemplary time domain and frequency domain drawings, illustrating direct down-conversion of analog and digital AM and PM signals to demodulated baseband signals, and exemplary methods and systems thereof, are disclosed in the co-pending U.S. patent application entitled "Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals," Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

Alternatively, to down-convert an input FM signal to a non-FM signal, a frequency within the FM bandwidth must be down-converted to baseband (i.e., zero IF). As an example, to down-convert a frequency shift keying (PSK) signal (a sub-set of FM) to a phase shift keying (PSK) signal (a subset of PM), the mid-point between a lower frequency F_1 and an upper frequency F_2 (that is, $[(F_1 + F_2)/2]$) of the FSK signal is down-converted to zero IF. For example, to down-convert an FSK signal having F_1 equal to 899 MHz and F_2 equal to 901 MHz, to a PSK signal, the aliasing rate of the control signal **6406** would be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Frequency of the input} &= (F_1 + F_2) \div 2 \\ &= (899 \text{ MHz} + 901 \text{ MHz}) \div 2 \\ &= 900 \text{ MHz} \end{aligned}$$

Frequency of the down-converted signal = 0 (i.e., baseband)

$$(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}})/n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}}(900 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 900 \text{ MHz}/n$$

For $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3$, etc., the frequency of the control signal **6406** should be substantially equal to 1.8 GHz, 900 MHz, 450 MHz, 300 MHz, 225 MHz, etc. The frequency of the down-converted PSK signal is substantially equal to one half the difference between the lower frequency F_1 and the upper frequency F_2 .

As another example, to down-convert a FSK signal to an amplitude shift keying (ASK) signal (a subset of AM), either the lower frequency F_1 or the upper frequency F_2 of the FSK signal is down-converted to zero IF. For example, to down-convert an FSK signal having F_1 equal to 900 MHz and F_2 equal to 901 MHz, to an ASK signal, the aliasing rate of the control signal **6406** should be substantially equal to:

$$\begin{aligned} &(900 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 900 \text{ MHz}/n, \text{ or} \\ &(901 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 901 \text{ MHz}/n. \end{aligned}$$

For the former case of 900 MHz/n, and for $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4$, etc., the frequency of the control signal **6406** should be substantially equal to 1.8 GHz, 900 MHz, 450 MHz, 300 MHz, 225 MHz, etc. For the latter case of 901 MHz/n, and for $n=0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4$, etc., the frequency of the control signal **6406** should be substantially equal to 1.802 GHz, 901 MHz, 450.5 MHz, 300.333 MHz, 225.25 MHz, etc. The frequency of the down-converted AM signal is substantially equal to the difference between the lower frequency F_1 and the upper frequency F_2 (i.e., 1 MHz).

Exemplary time domain and frequency domain drawings, illustrating down-conversion of FM signals to non-FM signals, and exemplary methods and systems thereof, are disclosed in the co-pending U.S. patent application entitled "Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals," Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

In an embodiment, the pulses of the control signal **6406** have negligible apertures that tend towards zero. This makes the UFT module **6402** a high input impedance device. This configuration is useful for situations where minimal disturbance of the input signal may be desired.

In another embodiment, the pulses of the control signal **6406** have non-negligible apertures that tend away from zero. This makes the UFT module **6402** a lower input impedance device. This allows the lower input impedance of the UFT module **6402** to be substantially matched with a source impedance of the input signal **6404**. This also improves the energy transfer from the input signal **6404** to the down-converted output signal **6412**, and hence the efficiency and signal to noise (s/n) ratio of UFT module **6402**.

Exemplary systems and methods for generating and optimizing the control signal **6406**, and for otherwise improving energy transfer and s/n ratio, are disclosed in the co-pending U.S. patent application entitled "Method and System for Down-Converting Electromagnetic Signals," Ser. No. 09/176,022, filed Oct. 21, 1998.

7. Designing a Transmitter According to an Embodiment of the Present Invention.

This section (including its subsections) provides a high-level description of an exemplary process to be used to design a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention. The techniques described herein are also applicable to designing a frequency up-converter for any application, and for designing the applications themselves. The descriptions are contained herein for illustrative purposes and are not limiting. Alternatives (including equivalents, extensions, variations, deviations, etc., of those described herein) will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the teachings contained herein. Such alternatives fall within the scope and spirit of the present invention, and the invention is intended and adapted to include such alternative.

The discussion herein describes an exemplary process to be used to design a transmitter according to an embodiment of the present invention. An exemplary circuit for a transmitter of the present invention operating in the FM embodiment is shown in FIG. 57A. Likewise, FIG. 57B illustrates the transmitter of the present invention operating in the PM embodiment, and FIG. 57C shows the transmitter of the present invention operating in the AM embodiment. These circuits have been shown in previous figures, but are presented here to facilitate the discussion of the design. As the "I/Q" embodiment of the present invention is a subset of the PM embodiment, it will not be shown in a separate figure here, since the design approach will be very similar to that for the PM embodiment.

Depending on the application and on the implementation, some of the design considerations may not apply. For example, and without limitation, in some cases it may not be necessary to optimize the pulse width or to include an amplifier.

7.1 Frequency of the Transmission Signal.

The first step in the design process is to determine the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714**. This is typically determined by the application for which the transmitter is to be used. The present invention is for a transmitter that can be used for all frequencies within the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum. For the examples herein, the explanation will focus on the use of the transmitter in the 900 MHz to 950 MHz range. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will recognize that the analysis contained herein may be used for any frequency or frequency range.

7.2 Characteristics of the Transmission Signal

Once the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714** is known, the characteristics of the signal must be determined. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, whether the transmitter will operate at a fixed frequency or over a range of frequencies, and if it is to operate over a range of frequencies, whether those frequencies are continuous or are divided into discrete "channels." If the frequency range is divided into discrete channels, the spacing between the channels must be ascertained. As an example, cordless phones operating in this frequency range may operate on discrete channels that are 50 KHz apart. That is, if the cordless phones operate in the 905 MHz to 915 MHz range (inclusive), the channels could be found at 905.000, 905.050, 905.100, . . . , 914.900, 914.950, and 915.000.

7.3 Modulation Scheme.

Another characteristic that must be ascertained is the desired modulation scheme that is to be used. As described above in sections 2.1–2.2.4, above, these modulation schemes include FM, PM, AM, etc., and any combination or subset thereof, specifically including the widely used "I/Q" subset of PM. Just as the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714** is typically determined by the intended application, so too is the modulation scheme.

7.4 Characteristics of the Information Signal.

The characteristics of an information signal **5702** are also factors in the design of the transmitter circuit. Specifically, the bandwidth of the information signal **5702** defines the minimum frequency for an oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** (for the FM, PM, and AM modes, respectively).

7.5 Characteristics of the Oscillating Signal.

The desired frequency of the oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** is also a function of the frequency and characteristics of the desired transmission signal **5714**. Also, the frequency and characteristics of the desired transmission signal **5714** are factors in determining the pulse width of the pulses in a string of pulses **5706**. Note that the frequency of the oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** is substantially the same as the frequency of the string of pulses **5706**. (An exception, which is discussed below, is when a pulse shaping circuit **5722** increases the frequency of the oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** in a manner similar to that described above in section 4.3.2.) Note also that the frequency and pulse width of the string of pulses **5706** is substantially the same as the frequency and pulse width of a harmonically rich signal **5708**.

7.5.1 Frequency of the Oscillating Signal.

The frequency of the oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** must be a subharmonic of the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714**. A subharmonic is the quotient

obtained by dividing the fundamental frequency, in this case the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714**, by an integer. When describing the frequency of certain signals, reference is often made herein to a specific value. It is understood by those skilled in the relevant art(s) that this reference is to the nominal center frequency of the signal, and that the actual signal may vary in frequency above and below this nominal center frequency based on the desired modulation technique being used in the circuit. As an example to be used herein, if the frequency of the desired transmission signal is 910 MHz, and it is to be used in an FM mode where, for example, the frequency range of the modulation is 40 KHz, the actual frequency of the signal will vary ± 20 KHz around the nominal center frequency as a function of the information being transmitted. That is, the frequency of the desired transmission signal will actually range between 909.980 MHz and 910.020 MHz.

The first ten subharmonics of a 910.000 MHz signal are given below.

harmonic	frequency
1 st	910.000 MHz
2 nd	455.000
3 rd	303.333...
4 th	227.500
5 th	182.000
6 th	151.666...
7 th	130.000
8 th	113.750
9 th	101.111...
10 th	91.000

The oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** can be at any one of these frequencies or, if desired, at a lower subharmonic. For discussion herein, the 9th subharmonic will be chosen. Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that the analysis herein applies regardless of which harmonic is chosen. Thus the nominal center frequency of the oscillating signal **5704**, **5738**, **5744** will be 101.1111 MHz. Recalling that in the FM mode, the frequency of the desired transmission signal **5714** is actually 910.000 MHz ± 0.020 MHz, it can be shown that the frequency of the oscillating signal **5704** will vary ± 0.00222 MHz (i.e., from 101.10889 MHz to 101.11333 MHz). The frequency and frequency sensitivity of the oscillating signal **5704** will drive the selection or design of the voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) **5720**.

Another frequency consideration is the overall frequency range of the desired transmission signal. That is, if the transmitter is to be used in the cordless phone of the above example and will transmit on all channels between 905 MHz and 915 MHz, the VCO **5720** (for the FM mode) or the local oscillator (LO) **5734** (for the PM and AM modes) will be required to generate oscillating frequencies **5704**, **5738**, **5744** that range from 100.5556 MHz to 101.6667 MHz. (That is, the 9th subharmonic of 910 MHz ± 5 MHz). In some applications, such as the cellular phone, the frequencies will change automatically, based on the protocols of the overall cellular system (e.g., moving from one cell to an adjacent cell). In other applications, such as a police radio, the frequencies will change based on the user changing channels.

In some applications, different models of the same transmitter will transmit signals at different frequencies, but each model will, itself, only transmit a single frequency. A possible example of this might be remote controlled toy cars, where each toy car operates on its own frequency, but, in order for several toy cars to operate in the same area, there

are several frequencies at which they could operate. Thus, the design of the VCO 5720 or LO 5734 will be such that it is able to be tuned to a set frequency when the circuit is fabricated, but the user will typically not be able to adjust the frequency.

It is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) that several of the criteria to be considered in the selection or design of an oscillator (VCO 5720 or LO 5734) include, but are not limited to, the nominal center frequency of the desired transmission signal 5714, the frequency sensitivity caused by the desired modulation scheme, the range of all possible frequencies for the desired transmission signal 5714, and the tuning requirements for each specific application. Another important criterion is the determination of the subharmonic to be used, but unlike the criteria listed above which are dependent on the desired application, there is some flexibility in the selection of the subharmonic.

7.5.2 Pulse Width of the String of Pulses.

Once the frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744 has been selected, the pulse width of the pulses in the stream of pulses 5706 must be determined. (See sections 4–4.3.4, above, for a discussion of harmonic enhancement and the impact the pulse-width-to-period ratio has on the relative amplitudes of the harmonics in a harmonically rich signal 5708.) In the example used above, the 9th subharmonic was selected as the frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744. In other words, the frequency of the desired transmission signal will be the 9th harmonic of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744. One approach in selecting the pulse width might be to focus entirely on the frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744 and select a pulse width and observe its operation in the circuit. For the case where the harmonically rich signal 5708 has a unity amplitude, and the pulse-width-to-period ratio is 0.1, the amplitude of the 9th harmonic will be 0.0219. Looking again at Table 6000 and FIG. 58 it can be seen that the amplitude of the 9th harmonic is higher than that of the 10th harmonic (which is zero) but is less than half the amplitude of the 8th harmonic. Because the 9th harmonic does have an amplitude, this pulse-width-to-period ratio could be used with proper filtering. Typically, a different ratio might be selected to try and find a ratio that would provide a higher amplitude.

Looking at Eq. 1 in section 4.1.1, it is seen that the relative amplitude of any harmonic is a function of the number of the harmonic and the pulse-width-to-period ratio of the underlying waveform. Applying calculus of variations to the equation, the pulse-width-to-period ratio that yields the highest amplitude harmonic for any given harmonic can be determined.

From Eq. 1, where A_n is the amplitude of the n^{th} harmonic,

$$A_n = [A_{\text{pulse}}] \left[(2/\pi)/n \right] \sin[n\pi\tau/T] \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

If the amplitude of the pulse, A_{pulse} , is set to unity (i.e., equal to 1), the equation becomes

$$A_n = [2/(n\pi)] \sin[n\pi\tau/T] \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

From this equation, it can be seen that for any value of n (the harmonic) the amplitude of that harmonic, A_n , is a function of the pulse-width-to-period ratio, τ/T . To determine the highest value of A_n for a given value of n , the first derivative of A_n with respect to τ/T is taken. This gives the following equations.

$$\delta(A_n)/\delta(\tau/T) = \delta\{[2/(n\pi)]\sin[n\pi\tau/T]\}/\delta(\tau/T) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

$$= [2/(n\pi)]\delta[\sin[n\pi\tau/T]]/\delta(\tau/T) \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

$$= [2/(n\pi)]\cos[n\pi\tau/T] \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

From calculus of variations, it is known that when the first derivative is set equal to zero, the value of the variable that will yield a relative maximum (or minimum) can be determined.

$$\delta(A_n)/\delta(\tau/T)=0 \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

$$[2/(n\pi)]\cos[n\pi\tau/T]=0 \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

$$\cos[n\pi\tau/T]=0 \quad \text{Eq. 9}$$

From trigonometry, it is known that for Eq. 9 to be true,

$$n\pi\tau/T = \pi/2 \text{ (or } 3\pi/2, 5\pi/2, \text{ etc.)} \quad \text{Eq. 10}$$

$$\tau/T = (\pi/2)/(n\pi) \quad \text{Eq. 11}$$

$$\tau/T = 1/(2\cdot n) \text{ (or } 3/(2\cdot n), 5/(2\cdot n), \text{ etc.)} \quad \text{Eq. 12}$$

The above derivation is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). From Eq. 12, it can be seen that if the pulse-width-to-period ratio is equal to $1/(2\cdot n)$, the amplitude of the harmonic should be substantially optimum. For the case of the 9th harmonic, Eq. 12 will yield a pulse-width-to-period ratio of $1/(2\cdot 9)$ or 0.0556. For the amplitude of this 9th harmonic, Table 6100 of FIG. 61 shows that it is 0.0796. This is an improvement over the previous amplitude for a pulse-width-to-period ratio of 0.1. Table 6100 also shows that the 9th harmonic for this pulse-width-to-period ratio has the highest amplitude of any 9th harmonic, which bears out the derivation above. The frequency spectrum for a pulse-width-to-period ratio of 0.0556 is shown in FIG. 59. (Note that other pulse-width-to-period ratios of $3/(2\cdot n)$, $5/(2\cdot n)$, etc., will have amplitudes that are equal to but not larger than this one.)

This is one approach to determining the desired pulse-width-to-period ratio: Those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that other techniques may also be used to select a pulse-width-to-period ratio.

7.6 Design of the Pulse Shaping Circuit.

Once the determination has been made as to the desired frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744 and of the pulse width, the pulse shaping circuit 5722 can be designed. Looking back to sections 4–4.3.4 it can be seen that the pulse shaping circuit 5722 can not only produce a pulse of a desired pulse width, but it can also cause the frequency of the string of pulses 5706 to be higher than the frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744. Recall that the pulse-width-to-period ratio applies to the pulse-width-to-period ratio of the harmonically rich signal 5708 and not to the pulse-width-to-period ratio of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744, and that the frequency and pulse width of the harmonically rich signal 5708 mirrors the frequency and pulse width of the string of pulses 5706. Thus, if in the selection of the VCO 5720 or LO 5734 it was desired to choose an oscillator that is lower than that required for the selected harmonic, the pulse shaping circuit 5733 can be used to increase the frequency. Going back to the previous example, the frequency of the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744 could be 50.5556 MHz rather than 101.1111 MHz if the pulse shaping circuit 5722 was designed such as discussed in sections 4.2.2–4.2.2.2 (shown

in FIGS. 40A–40D) not only to shape the pulse, but also to double the frequency. While that discussion was specifically for a square wave input, those skilled in the relevant art(s) will understand that similar techniques will apply to non-rectangular waveforms (e.g., a sinusoidal wave). This use of the pulse shaping circuit to double the frequency has a possible advantage in that it allows the design and selection of an oscillator (VCO 5720 or LO 5734) with a lower frequency, if that is a consideration.

It should also be understood that the pulse shaping circuit 5722 is not always required. If the design or selection of the VCO 5720 or LO 5734 was such that the oscillating signal 5704, 5738, 5744 was a substantially rectangular wave, and that substantially rectangular wave had a pulse-width-to-period ratio that was adequate, the pulse shaping circuit 5722 could be eliminated.

7.7 Selection of the Switch.

The selection of a switch 5724 can now be made. The switch 5724 is shown in the examples of FIGS. 57A, 57B, and 57C as a GaAsFET. However, it may be any switching device of any technology that can open and close “crisply” enough to accommodate the frequency and pulse width of the string of pulses 5706.

7.7.1 Optimized Switch Structures.

Switches of Different Sizes

In an embodiment, the switch modules discussed herein can be implemented as a series of switches operating in parallel as a single switch. The series of switches can be transistors, such as, for example, field effect transistors (FET), bi-polar transistors, or any other suitable circuit switching devices. The series of switches can be comprised of one type of switching device, or a combination of different switching devices.

For example, FIG. 73 illustrates a switch module 7300. In FIG. 73, the switch module is illustrated as a series of FETs 7302a–n. The FETs 7302a–n can be any type of FET, including, but not limited to, a MOSFET, a JFET, a GaAsFET, etc. Each of FETs 7302a–n includes a gate 7304a–n, a source 7306a–n, and a drain 7308a–n. The series of FETs 7302a–n operate in parallel.

Gates 7304a–n are coupled together, sources 7306a–n are coupled together, and drains 7308a–n are coupled together. Each of gates 7304a–n receives the control signal 2804, 3104 to control the switching action between corresponding sources 7306a–n and drains 7308a–n. Generally, the corresponding sources 7306a–n and drains 7308a–n of each of FETs 7302a–n are interchangeable. There is no numerical limit to the number of FETs. Any limitation would depend on the particular application, and the “a–n” designation is not meant to suggest a limit in any way.

In an embodiment, FETs 7302a–n have similar characteristics. In another embodiment, one or more of FETs 7302a–n have different characteristics than the other FETs. For example, FETs 7302a–n may be of different sizes. In CMOS, generally, the larger size a switch is (meaning the larger the area under the gate between the source and drain regions), the longer it takes for the switch to turn on. The longer turn on time is due in part to a higher gate to channel capacitance that exists in larger switches. Smaller CMOS switches turn on in less time, but have a higher channel resistance. Larger CMOS switches have lower channel resistance relative to smaller CMOS switches. Different turn on characteristics for different size switches provides flexibility in designing an overall switch module structure. By combining smaller switches with larger switches, the channel conductance of the overall switch structure can be tailored to satisfy given requirements.

In an embodiment, FETs 7302a–n are CMOS switches of different relative sizes. For example, FET 7302a may be a switch with a smaller size relative to FETs 7302b–n. FET 7302b may be a switch with a larger size relative to FET 7302a, but smaller size relative to FETs 7302c–n. The sizes of FETs 7302c–n also may be varied relative to each other. For instance, progressively larger switch sizes may be used. By varying the sizes of FETs 7302a–n relative to each other, the turn on characteristic curve of the switch module can be correspondingly varied. For instance, the turn on characteristic of the switch module can be tailored such that it more closely approaches that of an ideal switch. Alternately, the switch module could be tailored to produce a shaped conductive curve.

By configuring FETs 7302a–n such that one or more of them are of a relatively smaller size, their faster turn on characteristic can improve the overall switch module turn on characteristic curve. Because smaller switches have a lower gate to channel capacitance, they can turn on more rapidly than larger switches.

By configuring FETs 7302a–n such that one or more of them are of a relatively larger size, their lower channel resistance also can improve the overall switch module turn on characteristics. Because larger switches have a lower channel resistance, they can provide the overall switch structure with a lower channel resistance, even when combined with smaller switches. This improves the overall switch structure's ability to drive a wider range of loads. Accordingly, the ability to tailor switch sizes relative to each other in the overall switch structure allows for overall switch structure operation to more nearly approach ideal, or to achieve application specific requirements, or to balance trade-offs to achieve specific goals, as will be understood by persons skilled in the relevant arts(s) from the teachings herein.

It should be understood that the illustration of the switch module as a series of FETs 7302a–n in FIG. 73 is for example purposes only. Any device having switching capabilities could be used to implement the switch module, as will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

Reducing Overall Switch Area

Circuit performance also can be improved by reducing overall switch area. As discussed above, smaller switches (i.e., smaller area under the gate between the source and drain regions) have a lower gate to channel capacitance relative to larger switches. The lower gate to channel capacitance allows for lower circuit sensitivity to noise spikes. FIG. 74A illustrates an embodiment of a switch module, with a large overall switch area. The switch module of FIG. 74A includes twenty FETs 7402–7440. As shown, FETs 7402–7440 are the same size (“Wd” and “Lg” parameters are equal). Input source 7446 produces the input EM signal. Pulse generator 7448 produces the energy transfer signal for FETs 7402–7440. Capacitor C1 is the storage element for the input signal being sampled by FETs 7402–7440. FIGS. 74B–74Q illustrate example waveforms related to the switch module of FIG. 74A. FIG. 74B shows a received 1.01 GHz EM signal to be sampled and downconverted to a 10 MHz intermediate frequency signal. FIG. 74C shows an energy transfer signal having an aliasing rate of 200 MHz, which is applied to the gate of each of the twenty FETs 7402–7440. The energy transfer signal includes a train of energy transfer pulses having non-negligible apertures that tend away from zero time in duration. The energy transfer pulses repeat at the aliasing rate. FIG. 74D illustrates the affected received EM signal, showing effects of transferring energy at the

77

aliasing rate, at point **7442** of FIG. **74A**. FIG. **74E** illustrates a down-converted signal at point **7444** of FIG. **74A**, which is generated by the down-conversion process.

FIG. **74F** illustrates the frequency spectrum of the received 1.01 GHz EM signal. FIG. **74G** illustrates the frequency spectrum of the received energy transfer signal. FIG. **74H** illustrates the frequency spectrum of the affected received EM signal at point **7442** of FIG. **74A**. FIG. **74I** illustrates the frequency spectrum of the down-converted signal at point **7444** of FIG. **74A**.

FIGS. **74J–74M** respectively further illustrate the frequency spectra of the received 1.01 GHz EM signal, the received energy transfer signal, the affected received EM signal at point **7442** of FIG. **74A**, and the down-converted signal at point **7444** of FIG. **74A**, focusing on a narrower frequency range centered on 1.00 GHz. As shown in FIG. **74L**, a noise spike exists at approximately 1.0 GHz on the affected received EM signal at point **7442** of FIG. **74A**. This noise spike may be radiated by the circuit, causing interference at 1.0 GHz to nearby receivers.

FIGS. **74N–74Q** respectively illustrate the frequency spectra of the received 1.01 GHz EM signal, the received energy transfer signal, the affected received EM signal at point **7442** of FIG. **74A**, and the down-converted signal at point **7444** of FIG. **74A**, focusing on a narrow frequency range centered near 10.0 MHz. In particular, FIG. **74Q** shows that an approximately 5 mV signal was downconverted at approximately 10 MHz.

FIG. **75A** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the switch module, this time with fourteen FETs **7502–7528** shown, rather than twenty FETs **7402–7440** as shown in FIG. **74A**. Additionally, the FETs are of various sizes (some “Wd” and “Lg” parameters are different between FETs).

FIGS. **75B–75Q**, which are example waveforms related to the switch module of FIG. **75A**, correspond to the similarly designated figures of FIGS. **74B–74Q**. As FIG. **75L** shows, a lower level noise spike exists at 1.0 GHz than at the same frequency of FIG. **74L**. This correlates to lower levels of circuit radiation. Additionally, as FIG. **75Q** shows, the lower level noise spike at 1.0 GHz was achieved with no loss in conversion efficiency. This is represented in FIG. **75Q** by the approximately 5 mV signal downconverted at approximately 10 MHz. This voltage is substantially equal to the level downconverted by the circuit of FIG. **74A**. In effect, by decreasing the number of switches, which decreases overall switch area, and by reducing switch area on a switch-by-switch basis, circuit parasitic capacitance can be reduced, as would be understood by persons skilled in the relevant art(s) from the teachings herein. In particular this may reduce overall gate to channel capacitance, leading to lower amplitude noise spikes and reduced unwanted circuit radiation.

It should be understood that the illustration of the switches above as FETs in FIGS. **74A–74Q** and **75A–75Q** is for example purposes only. Any device having switching capabilities could be used to implement the switch module, as will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

Charge Injection Cancellation

In embodiments wherein the switch modules discussed herein are comprised of a series of switches in parallel, in some instances it may be desirable to minimize the effects of charge injection. Minimizing charge injection is generally desirable in order to reduce the unwanted circuit radiation resulting therefrom. In an embodiment, unwanted charge injection effects can be reduced through the use of complementary n-channel MOSFETs and p-channel MOSFETs. N-channel MOSFETs and p-channel MOSFETs both suffer

78

from charge injection. However, because signals of opposite polarity are applied to their respective gates to turn the switches on and off, the resulting charge injection is of opposite polarity. As a result, n-channel MOSFETs and p-channel MOSFETs may be paired to cancel their corresponding charge injection. Hence, in an embodiment, the switch module may be comprised of n-channel MOSFETs and p-channel MOSFETs, wherein the members of each are sized to minimize the undesired effects of charge injection.

FIG. **77A** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the switch module, this time with fourteen n-channel FETs **7702–7728** and twelve p-channel FETs **7730–7752** shown, rather than twenty FETs **7402–7440** as shown in FIG. **74A**. The n-channel and p-channel FETs are arranged in a complementary configuration. Additionally, the FETs are of various sizes (some “Wd” and “Lg” parameters are different between FETs).

FIGS. **77B–77Q**, which are example waveforms related to the switch module of FIG. **77A**, correspond to the similarly designated figures of FIGS. **74B–74Q**. As FIG. **77L** shows, a lower level noise spike exists at 1.0 GHz than at the same frequency of FIG. **74L**. This correlates to lower levels of circuit radiation. Additionally, as FIG. **77Q** shows, the lower level noise spike at 1.0 GHz was achieved with no loss in conversion efficiency. This is represented in FIG. **77Q** by the approximately 5 mV signal downconverted at approximately 10 MHz. This voltage is substantially equal to the level downconverted by the circuit of FIG. **74A**. In effect, by arranging the switches in a complementary configuration, which assists in reducing charge injection, and by tailoring switch area on a switch-by-switch basis, the effects of charge injection can be reduced, as would be understood by persons skilled in the relevant art(s) from the teachings herein. In particular this leads to lower amplitude noise spikes and reduced unwanted circuit radiation.

It should be understood that the use of FETs in FIGS. **77A–77Q** in the above description is for example purposes only. From the teachings herein, it would be apparent to persons of skill in the relevant art(s) to manage charge injection in various transistor technologies using transistor pairs.

Overlapped Capacitance

The processes involved in fabricating semiconductor circuits, such as MOSFETs, have limitations. In some instances, these process limitations may lead to circuits that do not function as ideally as desired. For instance, a non-ideally fabricated MOSFET may suffer from parasitic capacitances, which in some cases may cause the surrounding circuit to radiate noise. By fabricating circuits with structure layouts as close to ideal as possible, problems of non-ideal circuit operation can be minimized.

FIG. **76A** illustrates a cross-section of an example n-channel enhancement-mode MOSFET **7600**, with ideally shaped n+regions. MOSFET **7600** includes a gate **7602**, a channel region **7604**, a source contact **7606**, a source region **7608**, a drain contact **7610**, a drain region **7612**, and an insulator **7614**. Source region **7608** and drain region **7612** are separated by p-type material of channel region **7604**. Source region **7608** and drain region **7612** are shown to be n+material. The n+material is typically implanted in the p-type material of channel region **7604** by an ion implantation/diffusion process. Ion implantation/diffusion processes are well known by persons skilled in the relevant art(s). Insulator **7614** insulates gate **7602** which bridges over the p-type material. Insulator **7614** generally comprises a metal-oxide insulator. The channel current between source region **7608** and drain region **7612** for MOSFET **7600** is controlled by a voltage at gate **7602**.

Operation of MOSFET 7600 shall now be described. When a positive voltage is applied to gate 7602, electrons in the p-type material of channel region 7604 are attracted to the surface below insulator 7614, forming a connecting near-surface region of n-type material between the source and the drain, called a channel. The larger or more positive the voltage between the gate contact 7606 and source region 7608, the lower the resistance across the region between.

In FIG. 76A, source region 7608 and drain region 7612 are illustrated as having n+ regions that were formed into idealized rectangular regions by the ion implantation process. FIG. 76B illustrates a cross-section of an example n-channel enhancement-mode MOSFET 7616 with non-ideally shaped n+ regions. Source region 7620 and drain region 7622 are illustrated as being formed into irregularly shaped regions by the ion implantation process. Due to uncertainties in the ion implantation/diffusion process, in practical applications, source region 7620 and drain region 7622 do not form rectangular regions as shown in FIG. 76A. FIG. 76B shows source region 7620 and drain region 7622 forming exemplary irregular regions. Due to these process uncertainties, the n+ regions of source region 7620 and drain region 7622 also may diffuse further than desired into the p-type region of channel region 7618, extending underneath gate 7602. The extension of the source region 7620 and drain region 7622 underneath gate 7602 is shown as source overlap 7624 and drain overlap 7626. Source overlap 7624 and drain overlap 7626 are further illustrated in FIG. 76C. FIG. 76C illustrates a top-level view of an example layout configuration for MOSFET 7616. Source overlap 7624 and drain overlap 7626 may lead to unwanted parasitic capacitances between source region 7620 and gate 7602, and between drain region 7622 and gate 7602. These unwanted parasitic capacitances may interfere with circuit function. For instance, the resulting parasitic capacitances may produce noise spikes that are radiated by the circuit, causing unwanted electromagnetic interference.

As shown in FIG. 76C, an example MOSFET 7616 may include a gate pad 7628. Gate 7602 may include a gate extension 7630, and a gate pad extension 7632. Gate extension 7630 is an unused portion of gate 7602 required due to metal implantation process tolerance limitations. Gate pad extension 7632 is a portion of gate 7602 used to couple gate 7602 to gate pad 7628. The contact required for gate pad 7628 requires gate pad extension 7632 to be of non-zero length to separate the resulting contact from the area between source region 7620 and drain region 7622. This prevents gate 7602 from shorting to the channel between source region 7620 and drain region 7622 (insulator 7614 of FIG. 76B is very thin in this region). Unwanted parasitic capacitances may form between gate extension 7630 and the substrate (FET 7616 is fabricated on a substrate), and between gate pad extension 7632 and the substrate. By reducing the respective areas of gate extension 7630 and gate pad extension 7632, the parasitic capacitances resulting therefrom can be reduced. Accordingly, embodiments address the issues of uncertainty in the ion implantation/diffusion process it will be obvious to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) how to decrease the areas of gate extension 7630 and gate pad extension 7632 in order to reduce the resulting parasitic capacitances.

It should be understood that the illustration of the n-channel enhancement-mode MOSFET is for example purposes only. The present invention is applicable to depletion mode MOSFETs, and other transistor types, as will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

7.7.2 Phased D2D-Splitter in CMOS.

FIG. 72A illustrates an embodiment of a splitter circuit 7200 implemented in CMOS. This embodiment is provided for illustrative purposes, and is not limiting. In an embodiment, splitter circuit 7200 is used to split a local oscillator (LO) signal into two oscillating signals that are approximately 90° out of phase. The first oscillating signal is called the I-channel oscillating signal. The second oscillating signal is called the Q-channel oscillating signal. The Q-channel oscillating signal lags the phase of the I-channel oscillating signal by approximately 90°. Splitter circuit 7200 includes a first I-channel inverter 7202, a second I-channel inverter 7204, a third I-channel inverter 7206, a first Q-channel inverter 7208, a second Q-channel inverter 7210, an I-channel flip-flop 7212, and a Q-channel flip-flop 7214.

FIGS. 72F–J are example waveforms used to illustrate signal relationships of splitter circuit 7200. The waveforms shown in FIGS. 72F–J reflect ideal delay times through splitter circuit 7200 components. LO signal 7216 is shown in FIG. 72F. First, second, and third I-channel inverters 7202, 7204, and 7206 invert LO signal 7216 three times, outputting inverted LO signal 7218, as shown in FIG. 72G. First and second Q-channel inverters 7208 and 7210 invert LO signal 7216 twice, outputting non-inverted LO signal 7220, as shown in FIG. 72H. The delay through first, second, and third I-channel inverters 7202, 7204, and 7206 is substantially equal to that through first and second Q-channel inverters 7208 and 7210, so that inverted LO signal 7218 and non-inverted LO signal 7220 are approximately 180° out of phase. The operating characteristics of the inverters may be tailored to achieve the proper delay amounts, as would be understood by persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

I-channel flip-flop 7212 inputs inverted LO signal 7218. Q-channel flip-flop 7214 inputs non-inverted LO signal 7220. In the current embodiment, I-channel flip-flop 7212 and Q-channel flip-flop 7214 are edge-triggered flip-flops. When either flip-flop receives a rising edge on its input, the flip-flop output changes state. Hence, I-channel flip-flop 7212 and Q-channel flip-flop 7214 each output signals that are approximately half of the input signal frequency. Additionally, as would be recognized by persons skilled in the relevant art(s), because the inputs to I-channel flip-flop 7212 and Q-channel flip-flop 7214 are approximately 180° out of phase, their resulting outputs are signals that are approximately 90° out of phase. I-channel flip-flop 7212 outputs I-channel oscillating signal 7222, as shown in FIG. 72I. Q-channel flip-flop 7214 outputs Q-channel oscillating signal 7224, as shown in FIG. 72J. Q-channel oscillating signal 7224 lags the phase of I-channel oscillating signal 7222 by 90°, also as shown in a comparison of FIGS. 72I and 72J.

FIG. 72B illustrates a more detailed circuit embodiment of the splitter circuit 7200 of FIG. 72. The circuit blocks of FIG. 72B that are similar to those of FIG. 72A are indicated by corresponding reference numbers. FIGS. 72C–D show example output waveforms relating to the splitter circuit 7200 of FIG. 72B. FIG. 72C shows I-channel oscillating signal 7222. FIG. 72D shows Q-channel oscillating signal 7224. As is indicated by a comparison of FIGS. 72C and 72D, the waveform of Q-channel oscillating signal 7224 of FIG. 72D lags the waveform of I-channel oscillating signal 7222 of FIG. 72C by approximately 90°.

It should be understood that the illustration of the splitter circuit 7200 in FIGS. 72A and 72B is for example purposes only. Splitter circuit 7200 may be comprised of an assortment of logic and semiconductor devices of a variety of

types, as will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s) based on the discussion contained herein.

7.8 Design of the Filter.

The design of the filter **5726** is determined by the frequency and frequency range of the desired transmission signal **5714**. As discussed above in sections 3.3.9–3.3.9.2, the term “Q” is used to describe the ratio of the center frequency of the output of the filter to the bandwidth of the “3 dB down” point. The trade offs that were made in the selection of the subharmonic to be used is a factor in designing the filter. That is, if, as an excursion to the example given above, the frequency of the desired transmission signal were again 910 MHz, but the desired subharmonic were the 50th subharmonic, then the frequency of that 50th subharmonic would be 18.2000 MHz. This means that the frequencies seen by the filter will be 18.200 MHz apart. Thus, the “Q” will need to be high enough to avoid allowing information from the adjacent frequencies being passed through. The other consideration for the “Q” of the filter is that it must not be so tight that it does not permit the usage of the entire range of desired frequencies.

7.9 Selection of an Amplifier.

An amplifier module **5728** will be needed if the signal is not large enough to be transmitted or if it is needed for some downstream application. This can occur because the amplitude of the resultant harmonic is too small. It may also occur if the filter **5726** has attenuated the signal.

7.10 Design of the Transmission Module.

A transmission module **5730**, which is optional, ensures that the output of the filter **5726** and the amplifier module **5728** is able to be transmitted. In the implementation wherein the transmitter is used to broadcast EM signals over the air, the transmission module matches the impedance of the output of the amplifier module **5728** and the input of an antenna **5732**. This technique is well known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). If the signal is to be transmitted over a point-to-point line such as a telephone line (or a fiber optic cable) the transmission module **5730** may be a line driver (or an electrical-to-optical converter for fiber optic implementation).

What is claimed is:

1. A system for up-converting and modulating an information signal, comprising:

a gating module and a differentiation module, wherein

(1) said gating module comprises a control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(a) said control input accepts a control signal, wherein said control signal controls the frequency at which said gating module closes and opens;

(b) said first input accepts an input signal, wherein said input signal is a function of the information signal;

(c) said second input is coupled to a reference potential; and

(d) said first input is further coupled to said differentiation module; and

(2) said differentiation module comprises an output.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein present at said output is a harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated, said phase modulation being a function of said input signal.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein said gating module is a switch.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a pulse shaping module, wherein:

said pulse shaping module accepts an oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said control signal.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an input impedance that accepts a first signal and outputs said input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of the information signal.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein said reference potential is ground.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the information signal is a digital information signal.

8. A system for up-converting and modulating an information signal, comprising:

a first gating module, a summer, a phase shifter, an inverter, and a second gating module; wherein

(1) said first gating module comprises a first control input, a first input, and a second input;

(a) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal is a function of a first oscillating signal, and said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

(b) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of the information signal;

(c) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and

(d) said first input is further coupled to said summer;

(2) said phase shifter outputs a phase shifted oscillating signal;

(3) said inverter accepts the information signal and outputs an inverted information signal;

(4) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein

(a) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function of said phase shifted oscillating signal, and said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;

(b) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of said inverted information signal;

(c) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and

(d) said third input is further coupled to said summer; and

(5) said summer has an output.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein present at said output is a harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated, said phase modulation being a function of the information signal.

10. The system of claim 8, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module and a second pulse shaping module, wherein:

said first pulse shaping module accepts said first oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said first control signal, and

said second pulse shaping module accepts said phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a phase shifted string of pulses, wherein said phase shifted string of pulses is said second control signal.

11. The system of claim 8, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance and a second input impedance, wherein:

said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of the information signal, and

said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of said inverted information signal.

83

12. The system of claim 8, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein said first reference potential is substantially equal to said second reference potential.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein said phase shifted oscillating signal is 180 degrees out of phase with said first oscillating signal.

15. The system of claim 8, wherein the information signal is a digital information signal.

16. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a multiplier, a gating module, and a differentiation module, wherein

(1) said multiplier combines the first information signal with the second information signal to create a combined signal;

(2) said gating module comprises a control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(a) said control input accepts a control signal, wherein said control signal controls the frequency at which said gating module closes and opens;

(b) said first input accepts an input signal, wherein said input signal is a function of said combined signal;

(c) said second input is coupled to a reference potential; and

(d) said first input is further coupled to said differentiation module; and

(3) said differentiation module has an output.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein present at said output is a harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, said phase modulation being a function of the first information signal and said amplitude modulation being a function of the second information signal.

18. The system of claim 16, further comprising a pulse shaping module, wherein:

said pulse shaping module accepts an oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said control signal.

19. The system of claim 16, further comprising:
an input impedance that accepts a first signal and outputs said input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of said combined signal.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein said reference potential is ground.

21. The system of claim 16, wherein the first information signal is a digital information signal.

22. The system of claim 16, wherein the second information signal is an analog information signal.

23. The system of claim 16, wherein said combined signal results from multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal.

24. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a multiplier, a first gating module, an inverter, a phase shifter, a second gating module, and a summer; wherein

(1) said multiplier combines the first information signal and the second information signal to create a combined signal;

(2) said first gating module comprises a first control input, a first input, and a second input;

(a) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal is a function of a first

84

oscillating signal, and said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

(b) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of said combined signal;

(c) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and

(d) said first input is further coupled to said summer;

(3) said inverter accepts said combined signal and outputs an inverted combined signal;

(4) said phase shifter outputs a phase shifted oscillating signal;

(5) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein

(a) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function or said phase shifted oscillating signal, and said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;

(b) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of said inverted combined signal;

(c) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and

(d) said third input is further coupled to said summer; and

(6) said summer has an output.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein said output is a harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, the phase modulation being a function of the first information signal and the amplitude modulation being a function of the second information signal.

26. The system of claim 24, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module and a second pulse shaping module, wherein:

said first pulse shaping module accepts said first oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said first control signal, and

said second pulse shaping module accepts said phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a phase shifted string of pulses, wherein said phase shifted string of pulses is said second control signal.

27. The system of claim 24, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance and a second input impedance, wherein:

said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of said combined signal, and

said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of said inverted combined signal.

28. The system of claim 24, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

29. The system of claim 24, wherein said first reference potential is substantially equal to said second reference potential.

30. The system of claim 24, wherein said phase shifted oscillating signal is 180 degrees out of phase with said first oscillating signal.

31. The system of claim 24, wherein the first information signal is a digital information signal.

32. The system of claim 24, wherein the second information signal is an analog information signal.

33. The system of claim 24, wherein said combined signal results from multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal.

85

34. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a first gating module, a first differentiation module, a quadrature phase shifter, a second gating module, and a second differentiation module; wherein

(A) said first gating module comprises a first control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(1) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

(2) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of the first information signal;

(3) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and

(4) said first input is further coupled to said first differentiation module;

(B) said first differentiation module comprises a first output;

(C) said quadrature phase shifter outputs a phase shifted oscillating signal, wherein said phase shifted oscillating signal has a phase shifted frequency and a phase shifted phase, and further, said first control signal has a first frequency and a first phase, and said phase shifted frequency is substantially equal to said first frequency;

(D) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein

(1) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function of said phase shifted oscillating signal, and further, said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;

(2) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of the second information signal;

(3) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and

(4) said third input is further coupled to said second differentiation module; and

(E) said second differentiation module has a second output.

35. The system of claim 34, further comprising a summer.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein said summer accepts said in-phase harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal and outputs an in-phase/quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.

37. The system of claim 34, wherein said first output is an in-phase harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated, the phase modulation being a function of said first input signal and said second output is a quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal that is phase modulated, said phase modulation being a function of said second input signal.

38. The system of claim 34, wherein said phase shifted phase is substantially 90 degrees out of phase with said first phase.

39. The system of claim 34, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module and a second pulse shaping module, wherein:

said first pulse shaping module accepts an oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said first control signal, and

said second pulse shaping module accepts said phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a phase shifted

86

string of pulses, wherein said phase shifted string of pulses is said second control signal.

40. The system of claim 34, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance and a second input impedance, wherein:

said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of the first information signal, and

said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of the second information signal.

41. The system of claim 34, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

42. The system of claim 34, wherein said second reference potential is ground.

43. The system of claim 34, wherein the first information signal is a first digital information signal.

44. The system of claim 34, wherein the second information signal is a second digital information signal.

45. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

(1) a first gating module, a first phase shifter, a first inverter, a second gating module, and a first summer; wherein

(A) said first gating module comprises a first control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(i) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal is a function of a first oscillating signal, said first oscillating signal having a first frequency and a first phase, and wherein said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

(ii) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of the first information signal;

(iii) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and

(iv) said first input is further coupled to said first summer;

(B) said first phase shifter outputs a first phase shifted oscillating signal;

(C) said first inverter accepts the first information signal and outputs a first inverted information signal;

(D) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein

(i) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function of said first phase shifted oscillating signal, and said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;

(ii) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of said first inverted information signal;

(iii) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and

(iv) said third input is further coupled to said first summer; and

(E) said first summer has a first output, wherein said first output is an in-phase harmonically rich signal;

(2) a second phase shifter, wherein said second phase shifter outputs a second phase shifted oscillating signal, wherein said second phase shifted oscillating signal has a second shifted frequency and a second shifted phase,

87

and said second shifted frequency is substantially equal to said first frequency;

(3) a third gating module, a third phase shifter, a second inverter, a fourth gating module, and a second summer; wherein

(A) said third gating module comprises a third control input, a fifth input, and a sixth input; wherein

(i) said third control input accepts a third control signal, wherein said third control signal is a function of said second phase shifted oscillating signal, and said third control signal controls the frequency at which said third gating module closes and opens;

(ii) said fifth input accepts a third input signal, wherein said third input signal is a function of the second information signal;

(iii) said sixth input is coupled to a third reference potential; and

(iv) said fifth input is further coupled to said second summer;

(B) said third phase shifter outputs a third phase shifted oscillating signal;

(C) said second inverter accepts the second information signal and outputs a second inverted information signal;

(D) said fourth gating module comprises a fourth control input, a seventh input, and an eighth input; wherein

(i) said fourth control input accepts a fourth control signal, wherein said fourth control signal is a function of said third phase shifted oscillating signal, and said fourth control signal controls the frequency at which said fourth gating module closes and opens;

(ii) said seventh input accepts a fourth input signal, wherein said fourth input signal is a function of said second inverted information signal;

(iii) said eighth input is coupled to a fourth reference potential; and

(iv) said seventh input is further coupled to said second summer; and

(E) said second summer has a second output, wherein said second output is a quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.

46. The system of claim 45, wherein said in-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated as a function of the first information signal.

47. The system of claim 45, wherein said second shifted phase is substantially 90 degrees out of phase with said first phase.

48. The system of claim 45, wherein said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated as a function of the second information signal.

49. The system of claim 45, further comprising:

(4) a third summer, wherein said third summer accepts said in-phase harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal and outputs an in-phase/quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.

50. The system of claim 45, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module, a second pulse shaping module, a third pulse shaping module, and a fourth pulse shaping module, wherein:

said first pulse shaping module accepts said first oscillating signal and outputs a first string of pulses, wherein said first string of pulses is said first control signal;

said second pulse shaping module accepts said first phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a second string of

88

pulses, wherein said second string of pulses is said second control signal;

said third pulse shaping module accepts said second phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a third string of pulses, wherein said third string of pulses is said third control signal; and

said fourth pulse shaping module accepts said third phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a fourth string of pulses, wherein said fourth string of pulses is said second control signal.

51. The system of claim 45, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance, a second input impedance, a third input impedance, and a fourth input impedance, wherein:

said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of the first information signal;

said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of said first inverted information signal;

said third input impedance accepts a third signal and outputs said third input signal, wherein said third signal is a function of the second information signal;

said fourth input impedance accepts a fourth signal and outputs said fourth input signal, wherein said fourth signal is a function of said second inverted information signal.

52. The system of claim 45, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

53. The system of claim 45, wherein said first reference potential is substantially equal to said second reference potential.

54. The system of claim 45, wherein said third reference potential is ground.

55. The system of claim 45, wherein said third reference potential is substantially equal to said fourth reference potential.

56. The system of claim 45, wherein said first phase shifted oscillating signal is substantially 180 degrees out of phase with said first oscillating signal, and said third phase shifted oscillating signal is substantially 180 degrees out of phase with said second phase shifted oscillating signal.

57. The system of claim 45, wherein the first information signal is a first digital information signal.

58. The system of claim 45, wherein the second information signal is a second digital information signal.

59. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, a third information signal, and a fourth information signal, comprising:

(1) a first multiplier, wherein said first multiplier combines the first information signal and the second information signal to create a first combined signal;

(2) a first gating module, a first phase shifter, a first inverter, a second gating module, and a first summer; wherein

(A) said first gating module has a first control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(i) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal is a function of a first oscillating signal, said first oscillating signal having a first frequency and a first phase, and wherein said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

89

- (ii) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of said first combined signal;
- (iii) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and
- (iv) said first input is further coupled to said first summer;
- (B) said first phase shifter outputs a first phase shifted oscillating signal;
- (C) said first inverter accepts said first combined signal and outputs a first inverted combined signal;
- (D) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein
 - (i) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function of said first phase shifted oscillating signal, and said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;
 - (ii) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of said first inverted combined signal;
 - (iii) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and
 - (iv) said third input is further coupled to said first summer, and
- (E) said first summer has a first output, wherein said first output is an in-phase harmonically rich signal;
- (3) a second phase shifter, wherein said second phase shifter outputs a second phase shifted oscillating signal, wherein said second phase shifted oscillating signal has a second shifted frequency and a second shifted phase, and said second shifted frequency is substantially equal to said first frequency;
- (4) a second multiplier, wherein said second multiplier combines the third information signal and the fourth information signal to create a second combined signal;
- (5) a third gating module, a third phase shifter, a second inverter, a fourth gating module, and a second summer; wherein
 - (A) said third gating module comprises a third control input, a fifth input, and a sixth input; wherein
 - (i) said third control input accepts a third control signal, wherein said third control signal is a function of said second phase shifted oscillating signal, and further, said third control signal controls the frequency at which said third gating module closes and opens;
 - (ii) said fifth input accepts a third input signal, wherein said third input signal is a function of said second combined signal;
 - (iii) said sixth input is coupled to a third reference potential; and
 - (iv) said fifth input is further coupled to said second summer;
 - (B) said third phase shifter outputs a third phase shifted oscillating signal;
 - (C) said second inverter accepts said second combined signal and outputs a second inverted combined signal;
 - (D) said fourth gating module has a fourth control input, a seventh input, and an eighth input; wherein
 - (i) said fourth control input accepts a fourth control signal, wherein said fourth control signal is a function of said third phase shifted oscillating signal, and further, said fourth control signal con-

90

- trols the frequency at which said fourth gating module closes and opens;
 - (ii) said seventh input accepts a fourth input signal, wherein said fourth input signal is a function of said second inverted combined signal;
 - (iii) said eighth input is coupled to a fourth reference potential; and
 - (iv) said seventh input is further coupled to said second summer; and
 - (E) said second summer has a second output, wherein said second output is a quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.
60. The system of claim 59, wherein said in-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, the phase modulation being a function of the first information signal and the amplitude modulation being a function of the second information signal.
61. The system of claim 59, wherein said and said second shifted phase is substantially 90 degrees out of phase with said first phase.
62. The system of claim 59, wherein said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, the phase modulation being a function of the third information signal and the amplitude modulation being a function of the fourth information signal.
63. The system of claim 59, further comprising:
- (6) a third summer, wherein said third summer accepts said in-phase harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal and outputs an in-phase/quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.
64. The system of claim 59, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module, a second pulse shaping module, a third pulse shaping module, and a fourth pulse shaping module, wherein:
- said first pulse shaping module accepts said first oscillating signal and outputs a first string of pulses, wherein said first string of pulses is said first control signal;
 - said second pulse shaping module accepts said first phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a second string of pulses, wherein said second string of pulses is said second control signal;
 - said third pulse shaping module accepts said second phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a third string of pulses, wherein said third string of pulses is said third control signal; and
 - said fourth pulse shaping module accepts said third phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a fourth string of pulses, wherein said fourth string of pulses is said second control signal.
65. The system of claim 59, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance, a second input impedance, a third input impedance, and a fourth input impedance, wherein:
- said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of the information signal;
 - said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of said inverted information signal;
 - said third input impedance accepts a third signal and outputs said third input signal, wherein said third signal is a function of the second information signal;
 - said fourth input impedance accepts a fourth signal and outputs said fourth input signal, wherein said fourth signal is a function of said second inverted information signal.

91

66. The system of claim 59, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

67. The system of claim 59, wherein said first reference potential is substantially equal to said second reference potential.

68. The system of claim 59, wherein said third reference potential is ground.

69. The system of claim 59, wherein said third reference potential is substantially equal to said fourth reference potential.

70. The system of claim 59, wherein said first phase shifted oscillating signal is substantially 180 degrees out of phase with said first oscillating signal, and said third phase shifted oscillating signal is substantially 180 degrees out of phase with said second phase shifted oscillating signal.

71. The system of claim 59, wherein the first information signal is a first digital information signal, and said second information signal is a first analog information signal.

72. The system of claim 59, wherein the third information signal is a second digital information signal, and said fourth information signal is a second analog information signal.

73. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, a third information signal, and a fourth information signal, comprising:

(1) a first multiplier, wherein said first multiplier combines the first information signal with the second information signal to create a first combined signal;

(2) a first gating module and a first differentiation module, wherein:

(A) said first gating module comprises a first control input, a first input, and a second input; wherein

(i) said first control input accepts a first control signal, wherein said first control signal controls the frequency at which said first gating module closes and opens;

(ii) said first input accepts a first input signal, wherein said first input signal is a function of said first combined signal;

(iii) said second input is coupled to a first reference potential; and

(iv) said first input is further coupled to said first differentiation module;

(B) said first differentiating module has a first output, said first output being an in-phase harmonically rich signal;

(3) a second multiplier, wherein said second multiplier combines the third information signal with the fourth information signal to create a second combined signal;

(4) a phase shifter, wherein said phase shifter outputs a phase shifted oscillating signal, wherein said phase shifted oscillating signal has a phase shifted frequency and a phase shifted phase, and further, said first control signal has a first frequency and a first phase, and said phase shifted frequency is substantially equal to said first frequency; and

(5) a second gating module and a second differentiation module, wherein:

(A) said second gating module comprises a second control input, a third input, and a fourth input; wherein

(i) said second control input accepts a second control signal, wherein said second control signal is a function of said phase shifted oscillating signal, and further, said second control signal controls the frequency at which said second gating module closes and opens;

92

(ii) said third input accepts a second input signal, wherein said second input signal is a function of said second combined signal;

(iii) said fourth input is coupled to a second reference potential; and

(iv) said third input is further coupled to said second differentiation module; and

(B) said second differentiating module comprises a second output, said second output being a quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.

74. The system of claim 73, wherein said in-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, the phase modulation being a function of the first information signal and the amplitude modulation being a function of the second information signal.

75. The system of claim 73, wherein said phase shifted phase is substantially 90 degrees out of phase with said first phase.

76. The system of claim 73, wherein said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal is phase modulated and amplitude modulated, the phase modulation being a function of the third information signal and the amplitude modulation being a function of the fourth information signal.

77. The system of claim 73, further comprising:

(6) a summer, wherein said summer accepts said in-phase harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal and outputs an in-phase/quadrature-phase harmonically rich signal.

78. The system of claim 73, further comprising at least one of a first pulse shaping module and a second pulse shaping module, wherein:

said first pulse shaping module accepts an oscillating signal and outputs a string of pulses, wherein said string of pulses is said first control signal, and

said second pulse shaping module accepts said phase shifted oscillating signal and outputs a phase shifted string of pulses, wherein said phase shifted string of pulses is said second control signal.

79. The system of claim 73, further comprising at least one of a first input impedance and a second input impedance, wherein:

said first input impedance accepts a first signal and outputs said first input signal, wherein said first signal is a function of said first combined signal, and

said second input impedance accepts a second signal and outputs said second input signal, wherein said second signal is a function of said second combined signal.

80. The system of claim 73, wherein said first reference potential is ground.

81. The system of claim 73, wherein said second reference potential is ground.

82. The system of claim 73, wherein the first information signal is a first digital information signal, and said second information signal is a first analog information signal.

83. The system of claim 73, wherein the third information signal is a second digital information signal, and said fourth information signal is a second analog information signal.

84. A system for up-converting and modulating an information signal, comprising:

a control signal having a control frequency;

a gating means for gating having a control input, said control signal being coupled to said control input, said control signal causing said gating means to gate the information signal at a rate that is a function of said control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated information signal;

93

a differentiation module accepting said gated information signal and creating a phase-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic; and

a filter accepting said phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

85. The system of claim **84**, wherein said first gating means includes a means for switching said information signal to a reference potential.

86. The system of claim **84**, wherein said reference potential is ground.

87. The system of claim **84**, further comprising a shaping means for shaping said control signal into having a plurality of pulses.

88. A system for up-converting and modulating an information signal, comprising:

an inversion means for inverting the information signal and outputting an inverted information signal;

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a first reference potential and a second reference potential;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said second control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said first control phase;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input, a first signal input, and a first reference input, wherein said first control signal is coupled to said first control input, said reference signal is coupled to said first reference input, and said information signal is coupled to said first signal input, causing said first gating means to gate the information signal to said first reference potential at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated information signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input, a second signal input, and a second reference input, wherein said second control signal is coupled to said second control input, a second reference potential is coupled to said second reference input, and said inverted information signal is coupled to said second signal input, causing said second gating means to gate said inverted information signal to said second reference potential at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated inverted information signal; and

a summer accepting said gated information signal and said gated inverted information signal, thereby creating a phase-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

89. The system of claim **88**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

90. The system of claim **88**, wherein said first reference potential is the same as said second reference potential.

91. The system of claim **90**, wherein said first reference potential and said second reference potential are ground.

92. The system of claim **88**, further comprising a shaping means for shaping said first control signal so as to have a plurality of pulses.

93. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

94

a multiplier accepting the first information signal and the second information signal and creating a combined signal;

a gating means for gating having a control input, said control input accepting a control signal having a control frequency, said control signal causing said gating means to gate said combined signal at a rate that is a function of said control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated combined signal; and

a differentiation module accepting said gated combined signal and creating a phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

94. The system of claim **93**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

95. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a multiplier accepting the first information signal and the second information signal and creating a combined signal;

an inversion means for inverting said combined signal and outputting an inverted combined signal;

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said second control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said first control phase;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input; said first control signal being coupled to said first control input, said first control signal causing said first gating means to gate said combined signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated combined signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input;

said second control signal being coupled to said second control input of said second gating means, said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate said inverted combined signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a gated inverted combined signal;

a summer accepting said gated combined signal and said gated inverted combined signal creating a phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

96. The system of claim **95**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

97. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input; said first control signal being coupled to said first control input, said first control signal causing said first gating

95

means to gate the first information signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in an in-phase gated information that is a function of the first information signal;

a first differentiation module accepting said in-phase gated information signal and creating an in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency, and said second control phase is substantially 90° out of phase with said first control phase;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input;

said second control signal being coupled to said second control input, said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate the second information signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a quadrature-phase gated information signal that is a function of the second information signal;

a second differentiation module accepting said quadrature-phase gated information signal and creating a quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal; and

a summing means for summing said in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal thereby creating an in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

98. The system of claim **97**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

99. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a first inversion means for inverting the first information signal and outputting a first inverted information signal;

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said second control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said first control phase;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input; said first control signal being coupled to said first control input, said first control signal causing said first gating means to gate the first information signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated information signal that is a function of the first information signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input;

said second control signal being coupled to said second control input, said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate said first inverted information signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated inverted information signal that is a function of said first inverted information signal;

96

a first summer accepting said first gated information signal and said first gated inverted information signal thereby creating an in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a second inversion means for inverting the second information signal and outputting a second inverted information signal;

a third control signal having a third control frequency and a third control phase, wherein said third control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said third control phase is substantially 90° out of phase with said first control phase;

a fourth control signal having a fourth control frequency and a fourth control phase, wherein said fourth control frequency is substantially equal to said third control frequency and said fourth control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said third control phase;

a third gating means for gating having a third control input;

said third control signal being coupled to said third control input, said third control signal causing said third gating means to gate the second information signal at a rate that is a function of said third control frequency, thereby resulting in a second gated information signal that is a function of the second information signal;

a fourth gating means for gating having a fourth control input;

said fourth control signal being coupled to said fourth control input, said fourth control signal causing said fourth gating means to gate said second inverted information signal at a rate that is a function of said fourth control frequency, thereby resulting in a second gated inverted information signal that is a function of said second inverted information signal;

a second summer accepting said second gated information signal and said second gated inverted information signal thereby creating a quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a summing means for summing said in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal thereby creating an in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

100. The system of claim **99**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

101. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising:

a first inversion means for inverting the first information signal and outputting a first inverted information signal;

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said second control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said first control phase;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input; said first control signal being coupled to said first control input, said first control signal causing said first gating

97

means to gate the first information signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated information signal that is a function of the first information signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input;

said second control signal being coupled to said second control input, said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate said first inverted information signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated inverted information signal that is a function of said first inverted information signal;

a first summer accepting said first gated information signal and said first gated inverted information signal creating an in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a second inversion means for inverting the second information signal and outputting a second inverted information signal;

a third control signal having a third control frequency and a third control phase, wherein said third control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said third control phase is substantially 90° out of phase with said first control phase;

a third gating means for gating having a third control input;

said third control signal being coupled to said third control input, said third control signal causing said third gating means to gate the second information signal at a rate that is a function of said third control frequency, thereby resulting in a quadrature-phase gated information signal that is a function of the second information signal;

a differentiation module accepting said quadrature-phase gated information signal and creating a quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal; and

a summing means for summing said in-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal thereby creating an in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

102. The system of claim **101**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

103. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, a third information signal, and a fourth information signal, comprising:

a first multiplier accepting the first information signal and the second information signal and creating a first combined signal;

an first inversion means for inverting said first combined signal and outputting a first inverted combined signal;

a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase;

a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said second control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said first control phase;

98

a first gating means for gating having a first control input; said first control signal being coupled to said first control input, said first control signal causing said first gating means to gate said first combined signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated combined signal that is a function of said first combined signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input;

said second control signal being coupled to said second control input, said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate said first inverted combined signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in a first gated inverted combined signal that is a function of said first inverted combined signal;

a first summer accepting said first gated combined signal and said first gated inverted combined signal thereby creating an in-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a second multiplier accepting the third information signal and the fourth information signal and creating a second combined signal;

an second inversion means for inverting said second combined signal and outputting a second inverted combined signal;

a third control signal having a third control frequency and a third control phase wherein said third control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency and said third control phase is substantially 90° out of phase with said first control phase;

a fourth control signal having a fourth control frequency and a fourth control phase, wherein said fourth control frequency is substantially equal to said third control frequency and said fourth control phase is substantially 180° out of phase with said third control phase;

a third gating means for gating having a third control input;

said third control signal being coupled to said third control input, said third control signal causing said third gating means to gate said second combined signal at a rate that is a function of said third control frequency, thereby resulting in a second gated combined signal that is a function of said second combined signal;

a fourth gating means for gating having a fourth control input;

said fourth control signal being coupled to said fourth control input, said fourth control signal causing said fourth gating means to gate said second inverted combined signal at a rate that is a function of said fourth control frequency, thereby resulting in a second gated inverted combined signal that is a function of said second inverted combined signal;

a second summer accepting said second gated combined signal and said second gated inverted combined signal thereby creating a quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal; and

a summing means for summing said in-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal thereby creating an in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

104. The system of claim **103**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

105. A system for up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, third information signal, and a fourth information signal, comprising:

a first multiplier accepting the first information signal and the second information signal and creating a first combined signal;

a first gating means for gating having a first control input, said first control input accepting a first control signal having a first control frequency and a first control phase, said first control signal causing said first gating means to gate said first combined signal at a rate that is a function of said first control frequency, thereby resulting in an in-phase gated combined signal that is a function of said first combined signal;

a first differentiation module accepting said in-phase gated combined signal and creating an in-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal;

a multiplier accepting the third information signal and the fourth information signal and creating a second combined signal;

a second gating means for gating having a second control input, said second control input accepting a second control signal having a second control frequency and a second control phase, wherein said second control frequency is substantially equal to said first control frequency, and said second control phase is substantially 90° out of phase with said first control phase;

said second control signal causing said second gating means to gate said second combined signal at a rate that is a function of said second control frequency, thereby resulting in an quadrature-phase gated combined signal that is a function of said second combined signal;

a second differentiation module accepting said quadrature-phase gated information signal and creating a quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal; and

a summing means for summing said in-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and said quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal thereby creating an in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal having a plurality of harmonics, at least one of said plurality of harmonics being a desired harmonic.

106. The system of claim **105**, further comprising:

a filter accepting said in-phase/quadrature-phase phase-and-amplitude-modulated harmonically rich signal and outputting said desired harmonic.

107. A method of up-converting and modulating an information signal, comprising the steps of:

(1) inverting the information signal to create an inverted information signal;

(2) gating a first input signal using a first reference potential, said first input signal being a function of the information signal, thereby creating a first gated information signal;

(3) gating a second input signal using a second reference potential, said second input signal being a function of said inverted information signal, thereby creating a second gated information signal; and

(4) combining said first gated information signal and said second gated information signal to create a modulated harmonically rich signal.

108. The method of claim **107**, further comprising the step of:

(5) isolating at least one desired signal from said modulated harmonically rich signal.

109. The method of claim **107**, wherein said first reference potential and said second reference potential are the same.

110. The method of claim **109**, wherein said first reference potential and said second reference potential are ground.

111. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising the steps of:

(1) multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal to create a combined signal;

(2) gating an input signal, said input signal being a function of said combined signal, thereby creating a gated information signal; and

(3) differentiating said gated information signal to create a modulated harmonically rich signal.

112. The method of claim **111**, further comprising the step of:

(4) isolating at least one desired signal from said modulated harmonically rich signal.

113. The method of claim **111**, wherein said step of gating includes the step of switching said input signal to a reference potential.

114. The method of claim **113**, wherein said reference potential is a ground voltage.

115. The method of claim **113**, wherein said reference potential is a non-zero voltage.

116. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising the steps of:

(1) multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal to create a combined signal;

(2) inverting said combined signal to create an inverted combined signal;

(3) gating a first input signal, said first input signal being a function of said combined signal, thereby creating a first gated combined signal;

(4) gating a second input signal, said second input signal being a function of said inverted combined signal, thereby creating a second gated combined signal; and

(5) combining said first gated combined signal and said second gated combined signal to create a modulated harmonically rich signal.

117. The method of claim **116**, further comprising the step of:

(6) isolating at least one desired signal from said modulated harmonically rich signal.

118. The method of claim **116**, wherein said step of gating a first input signal includes the step of switching said first input signal to a first reference potential.

119. The method of claim **118**, wherein said step of gating a second input signal includes the step of switching said second input signal to a second reference potential.

120. The method of claim **119**, wherein said first reference potential is the same as said second reference potential.

121. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising the steps of:

(1) gating a first input signal, said first input signal being a function of the first information signal, thereby creating a first gated information signal;

(2) differentiating said first gated information signal to create a first modulated harmonically rich signal;

101

- (3) gating a second input signal, said second input signal being a function of the second information signal, thereby creating a second gated information signal;
- (4) differentiating said second gated information signal to create a second modulated harmonically rich signal; and
- (5) combining said first modulated harmonically rich signal and said second modulated harmonically rich signal to create a combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

122. The method of claim 121, further comprising the step of:

- (6) isolating at least one desired harmonic from said combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

123. The method of claim 121, wherein said step of gating a first input signal includes the step of switching said first input signal to a first reference potential.

124. The method of claim 123, wherein said step of gating a second input signal includes the step of switching said second input signal to a second reference potential.

125. The method of claim 124, wherein said first reference potential is the same as said second reference potential.

126. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal and a second information signal, comprising the steps of:

- (1) inverting the first information signal, thereby creating a first inverted signal;
- (2) inverting the second information signal, thereby creating a second inverted signal;
- (3) gating a first input signal, said first input signal being a function of the first information signal, thereby creating a first gated signal;
- (4) gating a second input signal, said second input signal being a function of the first inverted signal, thereby creating a second gated signal;
- (5) gating a third input signal, said first input signal being a function of the second information signal, thereby creating a third gated signal;
- (6) gating a fourth input signal, said first input signal being a function of the second inverted signal, thereby creating a fourth gated signal;
- (7) combining said first gated signal and said second gated signal to create a first modulated harmonically rich signal;
- (8) combining said third gated signal and said fourth gated signal to create a second modulated harmonically rich signal; and
- (9) combining said first modulated harmonically rich signal and said second modulated harmonically rich signal to create a combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

127. The method of claim 126, further comprising the step of:

- (10) isolating at least one desired harmonic from said combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

128. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, a third information signal, and a fourth information signal comprising the steps of:

- (1) multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal, thereby creating a first combined signal;
- (2) multiplying the third information signal and the fourth information signal, thereby creating a second combined signal;

102

- (3) gating a first input signal, said first input signal being a function of said first combined signal, thereby creating a first gated signal;
- (4) gating a second input signal, said second input signal being a function of said second combined signal, thereby creating a second gated signal;
- (5) differentiating said first gated signal, thereby creating a first modulated harmonically rich signal;
- (6) differentiating said second gated signal, thereby creating a second modulated harmonically rich signal; and
- (7) combining said first modulated harmonically rich signal and said second modulated harmonically rich signal to create a combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

129. The method of claim 128, further comprising the step of:

- (8) isolating at least one desired harmonic from said combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

130. A method of up-converting and modulating a first information signal, a second information signal, a third information signal, and a fourth information signal comprising the steps of:

- (1) multiplying the first information signal and the second information signal, thereby creating a first combined signal;
- (2) multiplying the third information signal and the fourth information signal, thereby creating a second combined signal;
- (3) inverting said first combined signal, thereby creating a first inverted combined signal;
- (4) inverting said second combined signal, thereby creating a second inverted combined signal;
- (5) gating a first input signal, said first input signal being a function of the first combined signal, thereby creating a first gated signal;
- (6) gating a second input signal, said second input signal being a function of the first inverted combined signal, thereby creating a second gated signal;
- (7) gating a third input signal, said first input signal being a function of the second combined signal, thereby creating a third gated signal;
- (8) gating a fourth input signal, said first input signal being a function of the second combined inverted signal, thereby creating a fourth gated signal;
- (9) combining said first gated signal and said second gated signal to create a first modulated harmonically rich signal;
- (10) combining said third gated signal and said fourth gated signal to create a second modulated harmonically rich signal; and
- (11) combining said first modulated harmonically rich signal and said second modulated harmonically rich signal to create a combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

131. The method of claim 130, further comprising the step of:

- (12) isolating at least one desired harmonic from said combined modulated harmonically rich signal.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,039,372 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/548923
DATED : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Sorrells et al.

Page 1 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the Title page, in the References Cited Section Item (56) under U.S. Patent Documents, please insert:

-- 6,421,534 B1	07/2002 Cook <i>et al.</i>
6,330,244 B1	12/2001 Swartz <i>et al.</i>
4,384,357	05/1983 deBuda <i>et al.</i>
4,470,145	09/1984 Williams
5,600,680	02/1997 Mishima <i>et al.</i>
5,606,731	02/1997 Pace <i>et al.</i>
5,870,670	02/1999 Ripley <i>et al.</i>
6,314,279 B1	11/2001 Mohindra
5,633,815	05/1997 Young
3,246,084	04/1966 Kryter
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3,767,984	10/1973 Shinoda <i>et al.</i>
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6,560,301 B1	05/2003 Cook <i>et al.</i>
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Page 2 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the front page, in the References Cited Section (56) under Foreign Patent Documents, please insert:

-- EP	0 254 844 A2	02/1988
EP	0 632 577 A1	01/1995
JP	60-130203	07/1985
DE	196 27 640 A1	01/1997
EP	0 087 336 A1	08/1983
EP	0 087 336 B1	07/1986
EP	0 789 449 A2	08/1997
FR	2 669 787 A1	05/1992
GB	2 324 919 A1	11/1998
JP	61-30821	02/1986
JP	5-327356	12/1993
WO	00/31659 A1	06/2000
JP	9-36664	02/1997
DE	196 48 915 A1	06/1998 --

On the front page, in the References Cited Section (56) under Other Publications, please insert:

--Translation of Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-130203, 3 pages (July 11, 1985 - date of publication of application).

Razavi, B., "A 900-MHz/1.8-GHz CMOS Transmitter for Dual-Band Applications," *Symposium on VLSI Circuits Digest of Technical Papers*, IEEE, pp. 128-131 (1998).

Ritter, G.M., "SDA A New Solution for Transceivers," *16th European Microwave Conference*, Microwave Exhibitions and Publishers, pp. 729-733 (September 8, 1986).

DIALOG File 351 (Derwent WPI) English Language Patent Abstract for FR 2 669 787, 1 page (May 29, 1992- Date of publication of application).

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,039,372 B1
APPLICATION NO. : 09/548923
DATED : May 2, 2006
INVENTOR(S) : Sorrells et al.

Page 3 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Akos, D.M. *et al.*, "Direct Bandpass Sampling of Multiple Distinct RF Signals," *IEEE Transactions on Communications*, IEEE, Vol. 47, No. 7, pp. 983-988 (July 1999).

Patel, M. *et al.*, "Bandpass Sampling for Software Radio Receivers, and the Effect of Oversampling on Aperture Jitter" *VTC 2002*, IEEE, pp. 1901-1905 (2002).

English-language Abstract of Japanese Patent Publication No. 61-030821, 1 Page (February 13, 1986- Date of publication of application).

English-language Abstract of Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-327356, 1 Page (December 10, 1993 - Date of publication of application).

Tayloe, D., "A Low-noise, High-performance Zero IF Quadrature Detector/Preamplifier," *RF Design*, Primedia Business Magazines & Media, Inc., pp. 58, 60, 62 and 69 (March 2003).

Dines, J.A.B., "Smart Pixel Optoelectronic Receiver Based on a Charge Sensitive Amplifier Design," *IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics*, IEEE, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 117-120 (April 1996).

Simoni, A. *et al.*, "A Digital Camera for Machine Vision," *20th International Conference on Industrial Electronics, Control and Instrumentation*, IEEE, pp. 879-883 (September 1994).

Stewart, R.W. and Pfann, E., "Oversampling and sigma-delta strategies for data conversion," *Electronics & Communication Engineering Journal*, IEEE, pp. 37-47 (February 1998).--

In column 3, line 61, delete "FIGS. 32A-31C" and insert therefor
-- FIGS. 32A-32C --.

In column 68, delete line 57 and insert therefor

-- $(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}})/n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}} (901 \text{ MHz} - 1 \text{ MHz})/n = 900/n$ --.

In column 69, delete line 19 and insert therefor

-- $(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}})/n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}} (900 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 900 \text{ MHz}/n$ --.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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PATENT NO. : 7,039,372 B1
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Page 4 of 4

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In column 69, delete line 50 and insert therefor

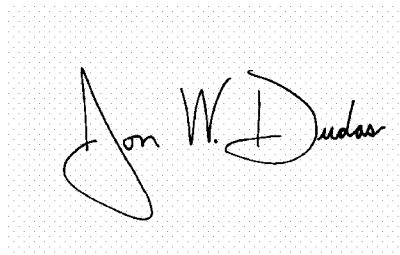
-- $(\text{Freq}_{\text{input}} - \text{Freq}_{\text{IF}})/n = \text{Freq}_{\text{control}} (900 \text{ MHz} - 0 \text{ MHz})/n = 900 \text{ MHz}/n$ --.

In column 74, line 19, delete "or 32" and insert therefor -- or $3\pi/2$ --.

In column 84, line 18, delete "or said phase" -- of said phase --.

Signed and Sealed this

Twelfth Day of December, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray dotted background. The signature reads "Jon W. Dudas" in a cursive, stylized script. The first name "Jon" is written with a large, sweeping initial 'J'. The last name "Dudas" is written with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

JON W. DUDAS

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office