# +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Variation 

## General Description

The MAX9987 and MAX9988 LO buffers/splitters each integrate a passive two-way power splitter with highisolation input and output buffer amplifiers. These buffers are designed to provide the high output $(+14 \mathrm{dBm}$ to $+20 \mathrm{dBm})$ necessary to drive the LO inputs of high-linearity passive mixers, while offering 40 dB reverse isolation to prevent LO pulling. The MAX9987 is internally matched for the cellular/GSM bands, and the MAX9988 is matched for the DCS/PCS/UMTS bands.
The typical application circuit provides a nominal +17 dBm output power with $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ variation over supply, temperature, and input power. With two optional resistors, the output power can be precision set from +14 dBm to +20 dBm . The devices offer more than 30 dB output-to-output port isolation, and are offered in $5 \mathrm{~mm} \times$ 5 mm 20-pin thin QFN packages with exposed paddle.

Applications
Cellular/GSM/DCS/PCS/UMTS Base Station
Tx/Rx LO Drive
Base Station Main and Diversity Channels
Coherent Receivers
ISM Wireless LAN
Wireless Local Loop
Local Multipoint Distribution Service
Point-to-Point Systems

Features

- $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Output Power Variation
$\bullet+14 \mathrm{dBm}$ to +20 dBm Adjustable Output Power
- Two-Way Power Splitting
- 40dB Reverse Isolation
- More than 30dB Output-to-Output Isolation
- Low Output Noise: -170dBc/Hz at +17dBm
- 160mA Supply Current at +17dBm
- Isolated PLL Output (+3dBm)

Ordering Information

| PART | TEMP <br> RANGE | PIN- <br> PACKAGE | FREQUENCY <br> RANGE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MAX9987ETP-T | $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 20 Thin <br> QFN-EP* | 700 MHz to <br> 1100 MHz |
| MAX9988ETP-T | $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 20 Thin <br> QFN-EP* | 1500 MHz to <br> 2200 MHz |

*EP = Exposed paddle.

Typical Operating Circuit and Block Diagram


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ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS<br>vCC1, vCC2, VCC3,<br>VCCREF to GND................................................-0.3V to +6.0V<br>IN to GND. -0.3 V to ( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}+0.3 \mathrm{~V}$ )<br>OUT1, OUT2,<br>OUTPLL to GND<br>$\qquad$<br>-0.3 V to ( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}+0.3 \mathrm{~V}$ )<br>REF to GND .Source/Sink 5mA<br>INBIAS, OUTBIAS, to GND<br>$\qquad$ -0.3 V to +0.75 V<br>PLLBIAS<br>$\qquad$ Sink 25 mA<br>RF Input Power $+20 \mathrm{dBm}$

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX9987
(Typical Application Circuit, $\mathrm{V}_{C C}=4.75 \mathrm{~V}$ to 5.25 V , input and outputs terminated in $50 \Omega, \mathrm{~T}_{\mathrm{A}}=-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Typical specifications are for $\mathrm{V}_{C C}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$ and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supply Voltage | VCC |  | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.25 | V |
| Supply Current | IcC | Low power setting (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 110 |  | mA |
|  |  | Nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) | 139 | 155 | 171 |  |
|  |  | High power setting (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 221 |  |  |

## DC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS—MAX9988

(Typical Application Circuit, $V_{C C}=4.75 \mathrm{~V}$ to 5.25 V , input and outputs terminated in $50 \Omega, T_{A}=-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Typical specifications are for $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$ and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supply Voltage | VCC |  | 4.75 | 5.00 | 5.25 | V |
| Supply Current | IcC | Low power setting (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 120 |  | mA |
|  |  | Nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) | 150 | 162 | 175 |  |
|  |  | High power setting (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 229 |  |  |

## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\mathbf{\pm 1 d B}$ Variation

## AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS-MAX9987

(Typical Application Circuit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=4.75 \mathrm{~V}$ to $5.25 \mathrm{~V}, 50 \Omega$ environment, $+4 \mathrm{dBm}<\operatorname{PIN}<+10 \mathrm{dBm}, 700 \mathrm{MHz}<\mathrm{f} / \mathrm{N}<1100 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are for $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{IN}}=+7 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{IN}}=900 \mathrm{MHz}$, and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operating Frequency | $f$ |  | 700 |  | 1100 | MHz |
| Output Power (Main Drivers) | Poutlo | Low power setting, $\mathrm{PIN}=+4 \mathrm{dBm}$ (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 14.3 |  | dBm |
|  |  | Nominal power setting, $\begin{aligned} & +4 \mathrm{dBm}<\mathrm{PIN}<+10 \mathrm{dBm}, 4.75 \mathrm{~V}<\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}< \\ & 5.25 \mathrm{~V},-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}<\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}<+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\ & \left(\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}, \text { and } \mathrm{R}_{5} \text { not installed }\right) \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 17.3 \\ & \pm 0.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
|  |  | High power setting, $\mathrm{PIN}=+10 \mathrm{dBm}$ (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 19.7 |  |  |
| Output Power (PLL Driver) | Poutpll |  |  | 3.7 |  | dBm |
| Input VSWR | VSWRIN |  |  | 1.2:1 |  |  |
| Output VSWR | VSWRout |  |  | 1.7:1 |  |  |
| Output-Noise Power Density | PNoise | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}, \pm 100 \mathrm{MHz}$ offset <br> ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | -152 |  | $\mathrm{dBm} / \mathrm{Hz}$ |
| OUT1 to OUT2 Isolation | S23 | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | 45 |  | dB |
| OUT2 to OUT1 Isolation | S32 | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | 39 |  | dB |
| OUT1 to RFIN Isolation | S12 | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | 48 |  | dB |
| OUT2 to RFIN Isolation | S13 | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $R_{1}, R_{2}, R_{4}$, and $R_{5}$ not installed) |  | 50 |  | dB |

## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 d B$ Variation

## AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS-MAX9988

(Typical Application Circuit, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=4.75 \mathrm{~V}$ to 5.25 V , $50 \Omega$ environment, $+6 \mathrm{dBm}<\mathrm{PIN}<+12 \mathrm{dBm}, 1500 \mathrm{MHz}<\mathrm{f} \mathrm{IN}<2200 \mathrm{MHz}$, and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are for $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{PIN}=+9 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{f} / \mathrm{N}=1800 \mathrm{MHz}$, and $\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ unless otherwise noted.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER | SYMBOL | CONDITIONS | MIN | TYP | MAX | UNITS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operating Frequency | f |  | 1500 |  | 2200 | MHz |
| Output Power (Main Drivers) | Poutlo | Low power setting, $\mathrm{PIN}_{\mathrm{IN}}=+6 \mathrm{dBm}$ (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 14.2 |  | dBm |
|  |  | Nominal power setting, $\begin{aligned} & +6 \mathrm{dBm}<\mathrm{PIN}_{\mathrm{IN}}<+12 \mathrm{dBm}, 4.75 \mathrm{~V}<\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}< \\ & 5.25 \mathrm{~V},-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}<\mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}<+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \\ & \text { (R1, } \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4} \text {, and } \mathrm{R}_{5} \text { not installed) } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 17.3 \\ & \pm 0.8 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
|  |  | High power setting, PIN $=+12 \mathrm{dBm}$ (see Table 1 for resistor values) |  | 19.5 |  |  |
| Output Power (PLL Driver) | Poutpll |  |  | 3.6 |  | dBm |
| Input VSWR | VSWRIN |  |  | 1.5:1 |  |  |
| Output VSWR | VSWRout |  |  | 1.4:1 |  |  |
| Output-Noise Power Density | PNoise | $\mathrm{VCC}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}, \pm 100 \mathrm{MHz}$ offset |  | -152 |  | $\mathrm{dBm} / \mathrm{Hz}$ |
| OUT1 to OUT2 Isolation | S23 | $\mathrm{V}_{C C}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | 33 |  | dB |
| OUT2 to OUT1 Isolation | S32 | $V_{C C}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $\mathrm{R}_{1}, \mathrm{R}_{2}, \mathrm{R}_{4}$, and $\mathrm{R}_{5}$ not installed) |  | 44 |  | dB |
| OUT1 to RFIN Isolation | S12 | $\mathrm{V}_{C C}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $R_{1}, R_{2}, R_{4}$, and $R_{5}$ not installed) |  | 49 |  | dB |
| OUT2 to RFIN Isolation | S13 | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal power setting ( $R_{1}, R_{2}, R_{4}$, and $R_{5}$ not installed) |  | 47 |  | dB |

Note 1: Devices are 100\% DC screened and AC production tested for functionality. Data sheet typical specifications are derived from the average of 30 units from a typical lot, and are tested under the conditions specified for the typical specifications.

## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\mathbf{\pm 1 d B}$ Variation

Typical Operating Characteristics
$\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}\right.$, nominal bias, $\mathrm{f} / \mathrm{N}=900 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{PIN}_{\mathrm{I}}=+7 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Shaded regions are outside the guaranteed operating range, and are provided for reference only.)

## MAX9987



OUTPUT POWER vs. INPUT POWER, OUTPLL



OUTPUT POWER vs. INPUT POWER OUT1


OUTPUT POWER vs. FREQUENCY, OUT1


OUTPUT POWER AND SUPPLY CURRENT



OUTPUT POWER vs. FREQUENCY, OUT2


## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 d B$ Variation

$\qquad$
$\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}\right.$, nominal bias, $\mathrm{fIN}_{\mathrm{I}}=900 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{PIN}=+7 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Shaded regions are outside the guaranteed operating range, and are provided for reference only.)




MAX9987


IN ISOLATION vs. FREQUENCY


INPUT RETURN LOSS vs. FREQUENCY


OUT1 AND OUT2 ISOLATION vs. FREQUENCY


OUTPUT NOISE POWER
vs. INPUT POWER


# +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\mathbf{\pm 1 d B}$ Variation 

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)
( $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}$, nominal bias, $\mathrm{fiN}_{\mathrm{I}}=1800 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{IN}}=+7 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Shaded regions are outside the guaranteed operating range, and are provided for reference only.)



OUTPUT POWER vs. FREQUENCY, OUT2



## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Variation

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)
$\left(V_{C C}=5.0 \mathrm{~V}\right.$, nominal bias, $\mathrm{fIN}_{\mathrm{I}}=1800 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{PIN}=+7 \mathrm{dBm}, \mathrm{T}_{\mathrm{A}}=+25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, unless otherwise noted.) (Shaded regions are outside the guaranteed operating range, and are provided for reference only.)



PLL ISOLATION vs. FREQUENCY


MAX9988



INPUT RETURN LOSS vs. FREQUENCY


OUT TO OUT ISOLATION vs. FREQUENCY


OUTPUT NOISE vs. INPUT POWER


# +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Variation 

Pin Description

| PIN | NAME | FUNCTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} 1,4,8,9,13 \\ 17,18, E P \end{gathered}$ | GND | Ground |
| 2 | IN | Input. Internally matched $50 \Omega$ RF input. AC couple to this pin. |
| 3 | VCCREF | Supply. Supply connection for on-chip voltage and current references. See Applications Information for information on decoupling. |
| 5 | REF | Voltage Reference Output. Output for on-chip 1.5V bandgap voltage reference. See Applications Information section for information on decoupling. |
| 6 | BIASIN | Bias Connection for Input Buffer. Set compressed power point for input amplifier with a resistor to REF or GND. For +17 dBm output power, no external biasing resistors are required. See Applications Information section for information. |
| 7 | BIASOUT | Bias Connection for Output Amplifiers. Set compressed power point for OUT1 and OUT2 with a resistor to REF or ground. For +17 dBm output power, no external biasing resistors are required. See Applications Information section for information. |
| 10 | OUT2 | Output 2. Internally matched $50 \Omega$ RF output. AC couple to this pin. |
| 11, 12 | VCC3 | Supply. Supply connection for OUT2. |
| 14, 15 | VCC2 | Supply. Supply connection for OUT1. |
| 16 | OUT1 | Output 1. Internally matched $50 \Omega$ RF output. AC couple to this pin. |
| 19 | VCC1 | Supply. Supply connection for input amplifier. |
| 20 | OUTPLL | Output PLL. Output for driving optional external PLL. |

## Detailed Description

The MAX9987/MAX9988 LO amplifiers/splitters each consist of a single input amplifier, a two-way passive power splitter, two separate output amplifiers, as well as a third buffer amplifier to drive the LO's PLL. The bias currents for the amplifiers are adjustable through off-chip resistors. This allows the output level to be precision set anywhere from +14 dBm to +20 dBm . The PLL output is preset to +3 dBm (about 900mVp-p into $50 \Omega$ ).
Power levels are typically $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ over the full supply, input power, frequency, and temperature range. Precision power control is achieved by internal control circuitry. Maintaining tight power control keeps the system engineer from over specifying the LO drive in order to guarantee a linearity specification in the base-station mixer.
More than 40dB isolation between the LO outputs and the input prevents VCO pulling, and the 30 dB output-to-output isolation reduces branch-to-branch coupling.
The MAX9987 is specified from 700 MHz to 1100 MHz , and the MAX9988 is specified from 1500 MHz to 2200 MHz . Both are offered in compact $5 \mathrm{~mm} \times 5 \mathrm{~mm} 20-$ pin QFN packages with exposed paddle.

## Input Amplifier

A single low-noise input amplifier before the passive splitter provides gain and isolation. The compressed output power for this stage is controlled by the bias setting resistors $\mathrm{R}_{1}$ or $\mathrm{R}_{4}$ (see Typical Application Circuit). These resistors are not required for the nominal +17 dBm output; see Table 1 for bias resistor values to obtain +14 dBm to +20 dBm output power.
The input is internally matched to $50 \Omega$, and typical VSWR is no more than 2:1 over all operating conditions. Since the input is internally biased, provide a DC block at the input pin.

PLL Amplifier and Output A small amount of power is tapped off from the input amplifier's output, and fed to a high-isolation buffer to drive the PLL output at +3 dBm . If the PLL output is not required, it can be disabled by removing R3; disabling the PLL output saves 12 mA supply current.

## Passive Two-Way Splitter

The input amplifier drives an integrated power splitter. All impedance matching between stages is on-chip, so no external tuning components are required.

# +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Variation 

## Table 1. External Resistor Values for +14 dBm to +20 dBm Output Power

| NOMINAL <br> OUTPUT POWER <br> $\mathbf{( d B m})$ | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{1}}(\Omega)$ | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{2}}(\Omega)$ | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{4}}(\Omega)$ | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{5}}(\Omega)$ | MAX9987 <br> INPUT DRIVE <br> $\mathbf{( d B m )}$ | MAX9988 <br> INPUT DRIVE <br> $\mathbf{( d B m )}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| +20 | 1.35 k | 2.0 k | Open | Open | $10 \pm 3$ | $12 \pm 3$ |
| +19 | 2.2 k | 3.0 k | Open | Open | $9 \pm 3$ | $11 \pm 3$ |
| +18 | 5.0 k | 6.0 k | Open | Open | $8 \pm 3$ | $10 \pm 3$ |
| +17 | Open | Open | Open | Open | $7 \pm 3$ | $9 \pm 3$ |
| +16 | Open | Open | 1.8 k | 3.0 k | $6 \pm 3$ | $8 \pm 3$ |
| +15 | Open | Open | 0.9 k | 1.1 k | $5 \pm 3$ | $7 \pm 3$ |
| +14 | Open | Open | 0.6 k | 0.6 k | $4 \pm 3$ | $6 \pm 3$ |

Table 2. Component Values for Typical Application Circuit

| DESIGNATION | COMPONENT VALUE |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MAX9987 <br> (LOWBAND) | MAX9988 <br> (HIGHBAND) |
| $\mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{C} 6$ | 100 nF | 100 nF |
| C 3 | 100 pF | 100 nF |
| $\mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{C} 4, \mathrm{C} 5, \mathrm{C} 7, \mathrm{C} 8$, <br> $\mathrm{C} 9, \mathrm{C} 12, \mathrm{C} 13, \mathrm{C} 14$ | 47 pF | 22 pF |
| $\mathrm{C} 10, \mathrm{C} 11$ | 5 pF | 10 pF |
| R1, R2, R4, R5 | See Table 1 | See Table 1 |
| R3 | $100 \Omega$ | $100 \Omega$ |

Driver Amplifiers and Outputs
Each of the output amplifiers are similar to the input amplifier, except they are biased higher to provide more output power. For example, with an input power of +10 dBm , the MAX9987 can deliver +20 dBm at both outputs. The bias is adjustable; see Table 1 for details.
Both RF outputs are internally matched to $50 \Omega$, with a typical VSWR limit of 2:1. Provide DC blocking capacitors at the outputs.

## Applications Information

## Input and Output Matching

All input and output matching is accomplished on-chip; no external matching circuitry is required. Use a DC block of about 47pF (lowband) or 22pF (highband) at the input and the outputs. Because these parts are internally broadband matched, adjusting external component values can optimize performance for a particular band.

Input Drive Level
In the case of the MAX9987, the typical required input drive level is +7 dBm for +17 dBm output, or +10 dBm for +20 dBm output. The MAX9988 uses slightly higher input levels (see Table 1). The typical VCO cannot provide sufficient drive by itself; the typical application follows the VCO with attenuation (about +3 dB ), and then with a low-noise gain block. This allows the VCO to drive the MAX9987/MAX9988 input at the required level without being load-pulled.

## Output Drive Level

The output drive of the MAX9987/MAX9988 is nominally $+17 \mathrm{dBm} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$. This is the typical application, with no external bias-setting resistors at INBIAS and OUTBIAS. Output power can be set from +14 dBm to +20 dBm by using the bias-setting resistor values listed in Table 1.

## Layout Considerations

A properly designed PC board is an essential part of any $\mathrm{RF} /$ microwave circuit. Keep RF signal lines as short as possible to reduce losses, radiation, and inductance. For best performance, route the ground pin traces directly to the exposed pad underneath the package. This pad must be connected to the ground plane of the board by using multiple vias under the device to provide the best RF/thermal conduction path. Solder the exposed pad on the bottom of the device package to a PC board exposed pad.

Chip Information
TRANSISTOR COUNT: 89
PROCESS: BiCMOS

## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\mathbf{\pm 1 d B}$ Variation

Typical Application Circuit/Pin Configuration


## +14dBm to +20dBm LO Buffers/Splitters with $\pm 1 d B$ Variation

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information, go to www.maxim-ic.com/packages.)


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