5G IoT antenna design in smallest PCB size

APPLICATION NOTE
DUO mXTEND™ (NN03-320)
DUO mXTEND™: 5G TINY ANTENNA FOR IOT WITH NO CLEARANCE BEYOND THE FOOTPRINT

- **Antenna Component:** DUO mXTEND™ NN03-320
- **Dimensions:** 7.0 mm x 3.0 mm x 2.0 mm
- **Frequency regions:** 3.4 GHz to 3.8 GHz

This is DUO mXTEND™, the tiny antenna booster that enables full 5G connectivity and does not require further clearance area than its reduced footprint.

Forget the clearance troubles on your next 5G wireless design, DUO mXTEND™ doesn’t need any clearance beyond its footprint. This new antenna booster is **modular, multipurpose** and **multi-port** and enables **top-quality high-speed connectivity to IoT and Mobile devices using 5G**. It is fully **reconfigurable**, so it can be mounted either at the corner or at the center edge of your 5G device, thanks to this modular and **dual port** nature.

This antenna booster has been designed for providing a **top-quality mobile operation** at 3400-3800 MHz, regardless of the antenna position on your device, either if the mounting of the component is at a corner of the PCB or just at the center edge of the printed circuit board.

Doesn’t matter the size or form factor of your next wireless device, DUO mXTEND™ fits in about all of them because is tiny, **only 7.0 x 3.0 x 2.0 mm**. Since the device does not need any clearance on the PCB ground beyond its antenna footprint, you can use the proximity area in the component to arrange other element in the PCB. And since the performance of the antenna component is optimized whether you are mounting it on a device corner or at the center edge, DUO mXTEND™ provides maximum flexibility to the RF designer, whether he is struggling with limited space inside a 5G device or he needs to arrange multiple antennas on several locations for MIMO operation. With DUO mXTEND™, upgrading your 5G device to the 3400-3800 MHz will be fast and easy!
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1. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION NN03-320

The DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster has been specifically designed for providing 5G (sub 6GHz) performance in wireless devices with small space requirements. It presents high antenna efficiency values. Also, the DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster does not require further clearance area beyond its 7 mm x 3 mm footprint. Moreover, it has two feeding ports allowing the integration at the corner or at the center edge of your device depending which port is excited. In particular, this application note illustrates how to use it for operating at 5G: 3.4GHz-3.8GHz

If you need assistance to design your matching network beyond this application note, please contact support@ignion.io, or if you are designing a different device size or a different frequency band, we can assist you in less than 24 hours. Please, try our free-of-charge Antenna Intelligence Cloud, which will get you a complete design report including a custom matching network for your device in 24h. Additional information related to NN’s range of R&D services is available at: https://ignion.io/rdservices/

Material: The DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster is built on glass epoxy substrate.

APPLICATIONS

- IoT devices
- Smart metering
- Smart city
- Smart agriculture
- Smart home
- Sensors

BENEFITS

- High efficiency
- Small size
- Cost-effective
- Easy-to-use (pick and place)
- Off-the-Shelf Product (no customization is required)

The DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster belongs to a new generation of antenna solutions based on Virtual Antenna™ technology owned by Ignion. The technology is focused on replacing conventional antenna solutions by miniature and off-the-shelf components.

1 See terms and conditions for a free Antenna Intelligence Cloud service in 24h at: https://www.ignion.io/antenna-intelligence/
EVALUATION BOARD 5G

1.1. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical features</th>
<th>3.4 – 3.8 GHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Efficiency</td>
<td>&gt; 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Gain</td>
<td>2.6 dBi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSWR</td>
<td>&lt; 3.0:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation Pattern</td>
<td>Omnidirectional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarization</td>
<td>Linear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (approx.)</td>
<td>0.11 g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>-40 to + 125 ºC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impedance</td>
<td>50 Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions (L x W x H)</td>
<td>7.0 mm x 3.0 mm x 2.0 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1** – Technical Features. Measures from the Evaluation Board. See Figure 1.

1.2. EVALUATION BOARD

This Evaluation Board EB_NN03-320-m-5G integrates a UFL cable to connect the DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster with the SMA connector. The DUO mXTEND™ provides operation in the frequency region going from 3.4 GHz to 3.8 GHz (5G band), through a single input/output port.

![Figure 1 – EB_NN03-320-m-5G. Evaluation Board providing operation at 5G band (from 3.4 GHz to 3.8 GHz). Notice that the clearance area is equal to the DUO mXTEND™ footprint.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tolerance:** ±0.2 mm

**Material:** The evaluation board is built on FR4 substrate. Thickness is 1 mm.

This product and/or its use is protected by at least one or more of the following patents and patent applications US 62,777,835, EP 18211745.7, US 15,835,007; and other domestic and international patents pending. Additional information about patents related to this product is available at [www.ignion.io/virtual-antenna/](http://www.ignion.io/virtual-antenna/).
1.3. MATCHING NETWORK

The antenna performance is always conditioned by its operating environment. Different devices with different printed circuit board sizes, components nearby the antenna, LCD’s, batteries, covers, connectors, etc. affect the antenna performance. Accordingly, it is highly recommended placing pads compatible with 0402 and 0603 SMD components for a matching network as close as possible to the feeding point of the antenna element. Do it in the ground plane area, not in the clearance area. This provides a degree of freedom to tune the DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster once the design is finished and taking into account all elements of the system (batteries, displays, covers, etc.).

This section will present the proposed matching network and specs measured in the corresponding evaluation board (Figure 1), which is an ideal case. Please note that different devices with different ground planes and different components nearby the DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster may need a different matching network. To ensure optimal results, the use of high-quality factor (Q) and tight tolerance components is highly recommended (e.g. Murata components (Figure 2)).

If you need assistance to design your matching network beyond this application note, please contact support@ignion.io, or try our free-of-charge¹ NN Wireless Fast-Track design service, you will get your chip antenna design including a custom matching network for your device in 24h². Other related to NN’s range of R&D services is available at: https://www.ignion.io/rdservices/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.8 pF</td>
<td>GJM1555C1HR80WB01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 nH</td>
<td>LQW15AN2N8G80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2 – Matching Network implemented in the evaluation board (Figure 1).

¹See terms and conditions for a free NN Wireless Fast-Track service in 24h at: https://www.ignion.io/fast-track-project/

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1.4. VSWR AND TOTAL EFFICIENCY

VSWR (Voltage Standing Wave Ratio) and Total Efficiency versus Frequency (GHz).

Figure 3 – VSWR and Total Efficiency for 5G band (3.4 – 3.8 GHz) from the evaluation board Figure 1.

1.5. RECOMMENDED ANTENNA FOOTPRINT FOR NN03-320

Assuming that the DUO mXTEND™ antenna booster (NN03-320) is placed in the middle of the PCB, see below the recommended footprint dimensions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tolerance: ±0.05mm

Figure 4 – Footprint dimensions for the NN03-320 in the middle for 5G.

For additional support in the integration process, please contact support@ignion.io.
1.6. RADIATION PATTERNS (3.4, 3.6 and 3.8 GHz), GAIN, AND EFFICIENCY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement System Set-Up</th>
<th>$\theta = 90^\circ$ Plane XY at 3.4 GHz, 3.6 GHz and 3.8 GHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation Board in Plane XY</td>
<td>$\phi = 0^\circ$ Plane XZ at 3.4 GHz, 3.6 GHz and 3.8 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\phi = 90^\circ$ Plane YZ at 3.4 GHz, 3.6 GHz and 3.8 GHz</td>
<td>$\phi = 90^\circ$ Plane YZ at 3.4 GHz, 3.6 GHz and 3.8 GHz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gain</th>
<th>Peak Gain</th>
<th>2.6 dBi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Gain across the band</td>
<td>2.2 dBi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain Range across the band (min, max)</td>
<td>1.7 $\leftrightarrow$ 2.6 dBi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efficiency</th>
<th>Peak Efficiency</th>
<th>71.9 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Efficiency across the band</td>
<td>64.9 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency Range across the band (min, max)</td>
<td>52.55 – 71.9 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 – Antenna Gain and Total Efficiency from the evaluation board (Figure 1) for 3.4GHz-3.8GHz band. Measures made in the Satimo STARGATE 32 anechoic chamber.
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Ignion is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company. All our antennas are lead-free and RoHS compliant.

ISO 9001: 2015 Certified

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