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**Recommended Citation**  
doi:10.1002/mop.21109

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Optimisation of Impedance Bandwidth for the Printed Rectangular Monopole Antenna

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Abstract
This paper describes a printed rectangular-plate monopole, fed by microstrip line. The effect of varying plate width, feed-gap height and feedline width on the impedance bandwidth is examined. It is shown that for a fixed ground-plane size, that optimisation of these parameters can yield an impedance bandwidth ratio of 4.3:1, without using any broadbanding techniques.

Introduction
The planar monopole antenna has been shown to be a useful candidate for wideband communications systems. Broadbanding techniques such as the use of shorting posts and bevels have enhanced the bandwidth [1]. Recently, these antennas have been fabricated onto printed circuit boards, which enables easy integration. [2]. Multiband printed monopoles have been reported [3, 4] and techniques employed to reduce the lower edge frequency [5]. The printed rectangular antenna described, has been optimised to provide an impedance bandwidth of 1.59GHz to 6.89GHz. This makes it suitable for systems such as GSM1800, PCS1900, IMT-2000, WLANs and UWB. Radiation patterns for a similar printed geometry have been reported [6] to be suitable for wireless communications and are not shown here for brevity.
**Antenna Geometry**

The structure of the antenna is shown in Figure 1. A rectangular monopole is printed on one side of an FR4 substrate with the groundplane located on the other side. The dimensions for the substrate are $l=90$ mm and $w=50$ mm. With $h_g=50$ mm the groundplane is $50 \times 50$ mm. This size yielded the optimum impedance bandwidth. The antenna plate is fed by a microstrip feedline ($w_f=2.5$ mm) using an SMA connector. The dimensions of the plate are $w_p=20$ mm and $h_p=30$ mm. It is located $h_{gap}=2$ mm above the groundplane, as shown in Figure 1. The substrate is 1.52 mm thick and the metallization thickness is 35 $\mu$m.

**Measurements and Simulation**

The antenna was simulated in CST Microwave Studio using the finite-integration time-domain technique. Figure 2 shows the measured and simulated return loss from 1 GHz to 10 GHz, which are in good agreement. The measured return loss is greater than 10 dB from 1.59 GHz to 6.89 GHz.

**Parameter Dependence**

For printed monopole type antennas, the impedance bandwidth is heavily dependent on the ground-plane size. In many cases, the ground-plane size is fixed, due to physical limitation. Hence, it is useful to optimise using parameters such as plate width, $w_p$, feedgap height, $h_{gap}$ and feedline width, $w_f$. The optimisation sweeps were carried out using a quasi-Newton interpolation optimiser.
Feed-Gap

The height of the gap ($h_{gap}$) between the ground-plane and the rectangular plate was varied from 0 mm to 4 mm. The return loss was measured and the impedance bandwidth (10 dB return loss) variation with feed-gap is shown in Figure 3. It can be seen that the maximum bandwidth is achieved when the gap is between 2 mm and 3 mm with a peak at 2 mm.

Feedline Width

The width of the microstrip feedline was varied from 1mm to 4mm. This represents varying the characteristic impedance of the feedline from 85 Ω to 41 Ω. The plot of impedance bandwidth against feedline width is illustrated in Figure 4. It can be seen that the bandwidth is relatively constant between 1.5 mm and 3 mm, implying that the bandwidth is not very sensitive to feedline width.

Plate Width

The width of the rectangular antenna element was varied from 10 mm to 30 mm. Figure 5 shows the behaviour of impedance bandwidth when the plate width is varied. The plot shows that the maximum bandwidth is achieved for a 20 mm wide plate.

Conclusions

A wideband printed rectangular plate monopole has been presented. The Dependence of the bandwidth on the plate width and feed gap has been investigated. The results have shown that a plate width of 20 mm and a feed gap of 2 mm yield the widest bandwidth. The achieved impedance bandwidth ratio is 4.3:1.
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Figure Captions

Figure 1: Geometry of the printed plate monopole

Figure 2: Plot of measured and simulated return loss for the printed antenna

Figure 3: Plot of bandwidth sensitivity to feedgap

Figure 4: Bandwidth dependence on feedline width

Figure 5: Bandwidth dependence on feedline width
Figure 1  Geometry of the printed plate monopole
Figure 2  Plot of measured and simulated return loss for the printed antenna
Figure 3  Plot of bandwidth sensitivity to feedgap
Figure 4 Bandwidth dependence on feedline width
Figure 5  Bandwidth dependence on feedline width