

Signal Strength Enhancement Using Cellular Repeater On Three Frequency Bands For Low Signal Coverage Areas (GSM900, GSM 1800/DCS, 3G)

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ABSTRACT

The intended application of our Cellular Repeater is a system of duplex reception, amplification and transmission used to enhance uplink(UL) and downlink(DL) signals in areas of low signal coverage i.e.; for the situations where signal quality between the base station and the receiver is poor and communication fails. This will be helpful for cellular providers to rectify the problems of poor signal service. This Tri-Band Cellular Repeater consists of Bidirectional amplifier, receiving and transmitting antennas. This paper discusses our assembling process, beginning with component selection and our difficulty in obtaining the required gain according to the user requirement in the process of testing. This cellular repeater can be operated in 3 different operating frequency bands namely, GSM 900, DCS and 3G. The operation of the repeater can be switched between the three bands depending on the user requirement using a triplexer which provides proper switching among the bands. This model helps a lot in providing efficient signal service in the weaker coverage areas in the specified band of frequency.

Keywords: Bi-Directional Amplifier (BDA), Yagi-Uda antenna, Patch panel antenna, power amplifier, GSM 900, DCS, 3G

Introduction

A Tri-band cellular repeater basically helps the service provider to rectify the poor signal service. It can be operated in three different operational frequencies according to the user's convenience and requirement. This cellular repeater is economical as all the components used are of low cost and hence total cost has been integrated. It is user-friendly and eco-friendly.

These are similar to the cellular broadcast towers used by the network providers for broadcasting, but are much smaller in size and are recommended to use for a particular building only. Modern cellular repeater amplifiers rebroadcast cellular signals inside the building. The systems usually use an external directional antenna to collect the best cellular signal, which is then transmitted to an amplifier unit which amplifies the signal, and

retransmits it locally, providing significantly improved signal strength.

The more advanced models often also allow multiple cell phones to use the same repeater at the same time, so are suitable for commercial as well as home use. Yagi-Uda antenna will be mounted vertically at the roof top to the wall or pole such that it receives the maximum signal from the nearest base station and the channel to channel difference should be greater than 10db. Booster should be protected from rain and moisture such that it can give maximum radiations to patch panel antenna. The working of patch panel antenna is to radiate the amplified signal to various mobile stations. Indoor antenna should be kept at the weak coverage areas. The bandwidth specifications should be taken care as specified above. For indoor purpose the gain should be not more the 70db, if gain exceeds the specifications it has to be controlled by Manual gain control (MGC) and noise should not be more than 6 db.

I. Methodology

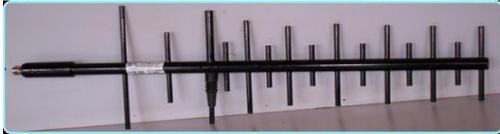
1. Different Operating Frequencies:

Repeaters are available for all the different GSM frequency bands, some repeaters will handle different types of network such as multi-mode GSM, DCS, 3G repeaters however dual- and tri-band systems cost significantly more. Repeater systems are available for certain Satellite phone systems, allowing the satellite phones to be used indoors without a clear line of sight to the satellite. The frequency table for GSM, DCS, 3G:

S.No.	Frequency Band	Uplink Frequency(MHz)	Downlink Frequency (MHz)
1	Global System For Mobile Communications (GSM 900)	890-915 MHz	935-960Mhz
2	Digital Communication System (GSM 1800)	1710-1785 MHz	1805-1880 MHz
3	3 rd Generation (3G)	1920-1980Mhz	2110-2170Mhz

2. External directional antenna (Yagi-Uda Antenna):

Although some of the less expensive models do not include an external directional antenna, they are crucial for providing significant gain in signal strength. This is because of the feasibility of antenna which can be oriented and located outside to provide the best possible signal available, usually aligned with the nearest cell tower. Generally speaking the larger the external antenna we locate the better the signal we receive-although even a small and correctly oriented external antenna should provide better signal than the internal antenna on any cell phone. These can either be fitted by professionals or will include a signal strength monitor for easy alignment.

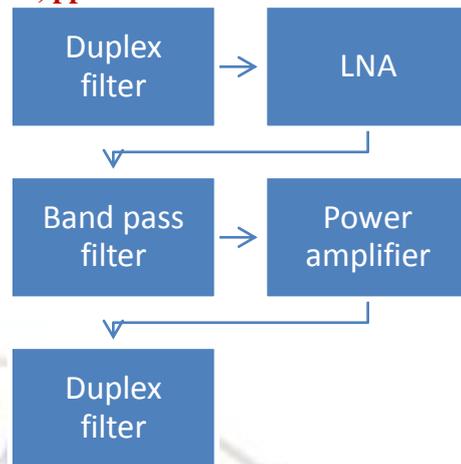


3. Internal rebroadcast antenna (Patch Panel Antenna):

The better systems will generally include an internal monopole antenna (although this type of antenna is far from standardized) for rebroadcasting the signal internally - the advantage of using a monopole antenna is that the signal will be equally distributed in all directions (subject, of course, to attenuation from obstacles). Because all radio antennas are intrinsically polarized, cell phones perform best when their antennas are oriented parallel to the booster's antenna - although within reasonable proximity the booster's signal will be strong enough that the orientation of the cell phone's antenna will not make a significant difference in usability.



4. Bi-Directional Amplifier:



A basic Repeater mainly consists of Low noise Amplifier, Band Pass filter, Power Amplifier and Duplex filters.

The signal from the Yagi-Uda Antenna is guided to the Duplex filter and is then directed to Low noise Amplifier module.

Low noise amplifier as a module is made up of MGA 31589, Sawfilters and ABA54563. These are the amplifiers which provide a sufficient amount of gain to the signal and are sent to the band pass filter. All these amplifiers are provided with biasing components which include capacitors and inductors. Attenuation pads are provided to get the required amount of gain at each and every stage.

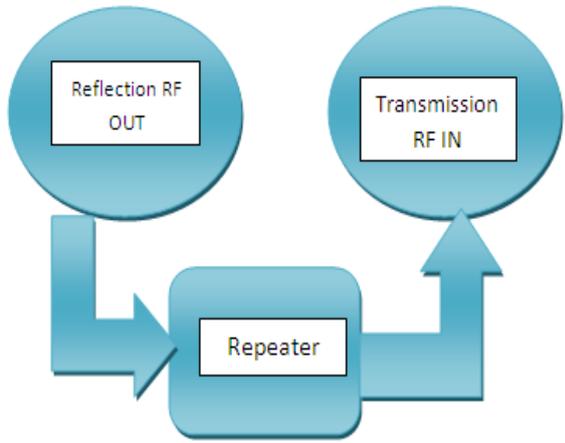
Signal from the Low Noise Amplifier (LNA) is sent to the Band Pass filter which selects the particular bandwidth in which the signal has to be amplified. The Bandwidth is selected as per the user requirement in the three frequency bands (GSM, DCS, and 3G).

The required signal is sent to the Power amplifier module. This contains saw filters, ASL 19w and ABA54563, Amplifier which amplifies the signal in the required bandwidth. All the Amplifiers are provided with the required biasing components. The Amplified signal is given to the Duplex filter which separates out the low frequencies and high frequencies and is given to the Mobile Server.

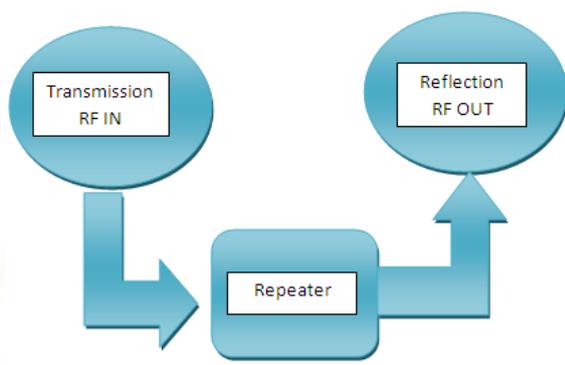
In Each and every module 220pf capacitors are placed in the RF path to block the DC voltage. When tested through a Network analyzer it should not receive any DC voltage hence the 220pf capacitors are placed in the RF path.

The Repeater is supplied with a 5V power supply. Uplink and downlink frequency Response for GSM, DCS and 3G are tested in the network analyzer and the results obtained are mentioned below.

BLOCK DIAGRAM OF UPLINK:



BLOCK DIAGRAM OF DOWNLINK



III. CELLULAR REPEATER INSTALLATION PROCEDURE:

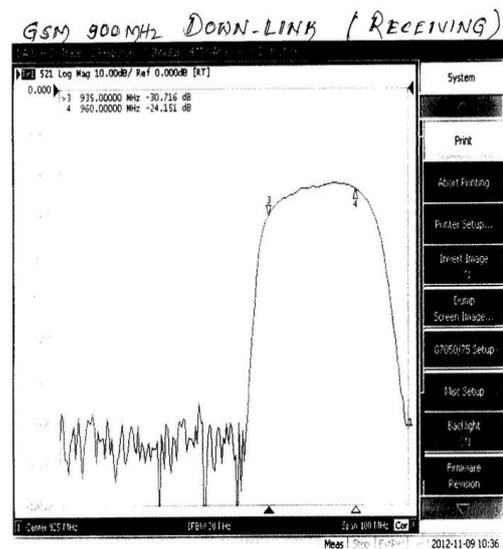
- Check Rx level, Receiving Quality and Channel to Channel power difference using cell phone, which has net monitor software. The following specifications have to be met at pick up point.
 - Rx level: -60 ± 10 dBm.
 - Receiving Quality: 0 to +3
 - Channel to Channel power difference : >7 dB.
- If the above parameters do not meet; then change the pickup position, such that above specifications are met.
- Fix Yagi-Uda antenna in vertical orientation towards BTS direction, such that maximum Rx level is received.
- Connect one end of the RF cable to Yagi-Uda antenna and other end to BTS/Yagi antenna port of the Booster. Ensure that connections are proper and effective and avoid loose contacts.
- Locate convenient place and position for booster and fix it. If it is outdoor installation, ensure that booster is protected from rain, moisture and dust.
- Fix the power cord to the booster and connect the PSU to the supply point.

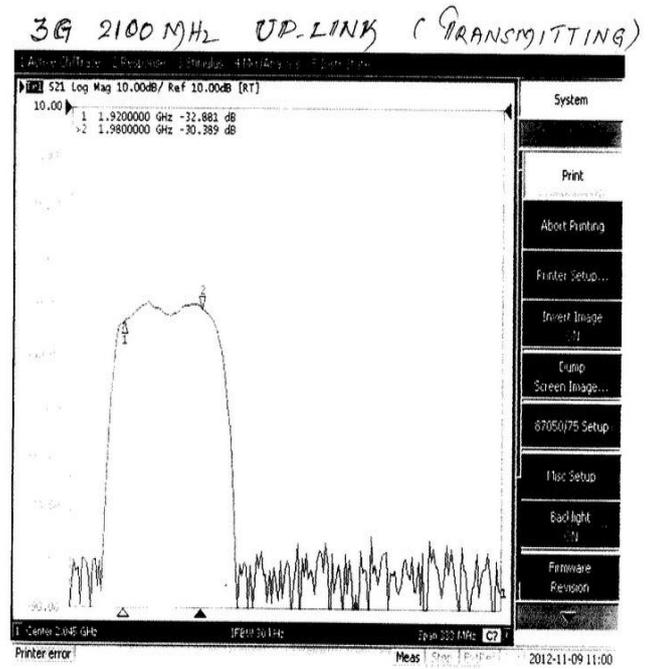
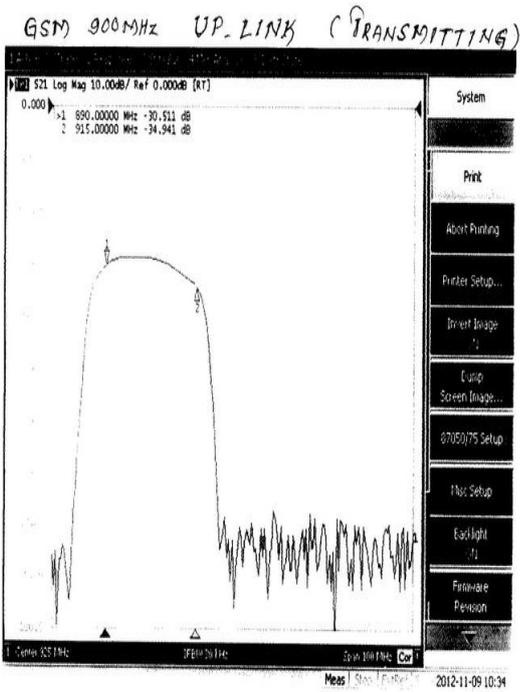
- Fix Patch antenna in vertical position, where the boosted signal is required. Ensure that Patch antenna is fixed at least 2 meters away from the booster. Ensure that cables connected to the booster do not overlap each other.
- Minimize cable length to avoid cable loss as far as possible.
- Switch on the booster and adjust the manual gain control if required.
- Finally note down CID, CH & LAC.

IV. SIMULATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

The Graphs mentioned below depict the gain obtained for uplink and downlink frequencies for the GSM 900, DCS/GSM 1800 and 3G frequency bands. The GSM, DCS and 3G are connected to a triplexer and we can operate all the three at a time or individually as it depends upon the user requirement. All the three uplink frequencies can be observed at a time and similarly all the three downlink frequencies can be observed at a time on the network analyzer screen. We can also observe the increase in bandwidth as the frequency of operation increases. Hence when GSM, DCS and 3G are maintained at same gain we can observe that 3G has more bandwidth when compared to DCS and GSM frequencies.

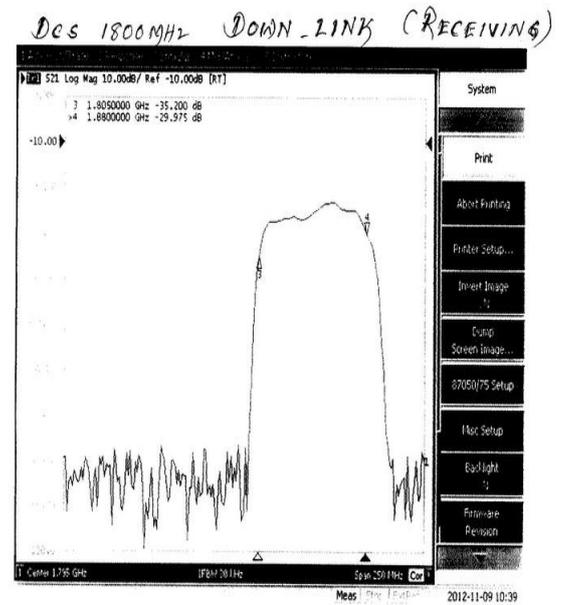
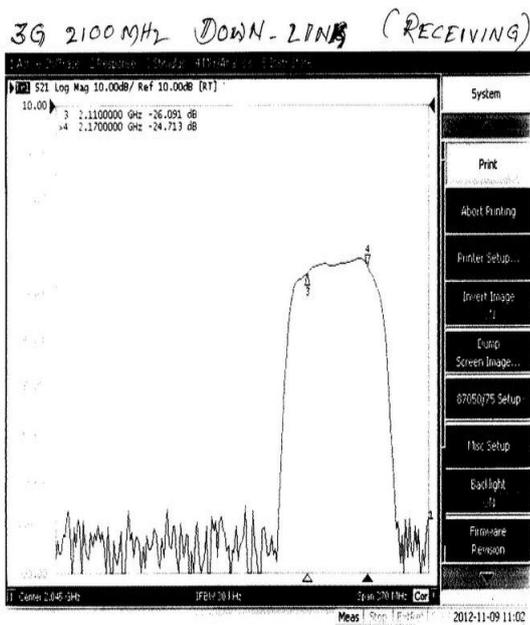
GSM 900 MHz Frequency Responses



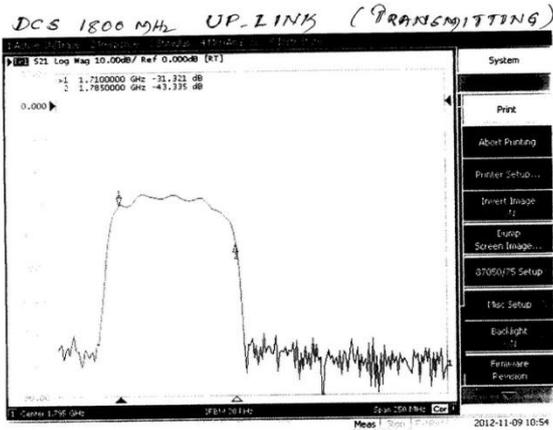


3G 2100 MHz Frequency Response

DCS 1800MHz Frequency Response



Frequency Range 890MHz - 915MHz



GSM DOWN LINK

Gain 65.849dB

Frequency Range 935MHz - 960MHz

DCS UPLINK

Gain 58.679dB

Frequency Range 1710MHz – 1785MHz

DCS DOWNLINK

Gain 60.025dB

Frequency Range 1805MHz – 1880 MHz

3G UPLINK

Gain 59.611dB

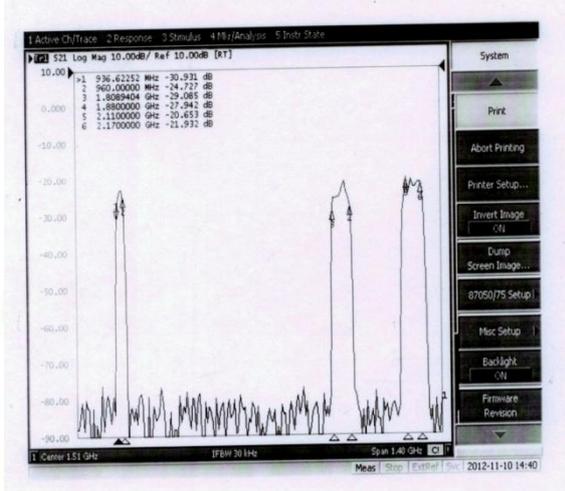
Frequency Range 1920MHz – 1980MHz

3G DOWNLINK

Gain 65.287dB

Frequency Range 2110MHz – 2170MHz

TRI BAND (GSM 900, DCS, 3G) FREQUENCY RESPONSE



Performance of 3G:

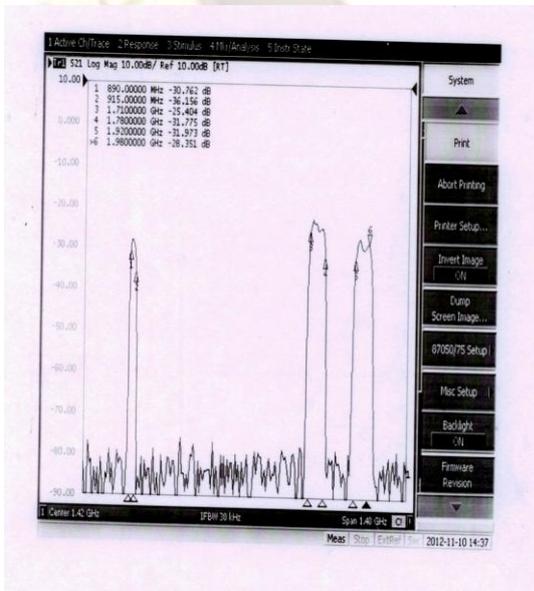
Variation of the signal strength before and after switching of the cellular repeater:

When the cellular repeater is in **OFF** state

DOWNLINK (Mb/s)	UPLINK (Mb/s)	LATENCY (ms)
0.31	0.1	57
0.45	0.12	45
0.66	0.28	80

When the cellular repeater is in **ON** state

DOWNLINK (Mb/s)	UPLINK (Mb/s)	LATENCY (ms)
1.92	1.15	58
2.21	2.31	49
2.42	0.54	60



Observations:
GSM UPLINK
Gain 59.489dB

If we observe from above table, the amplification of signal is almost seven times the normal signal.

Calculation of the final output gain:

- By using the net monitor software the gain in the required channel and its neighbor channels can also be calculated.
- Using that process the signal gain in a particular channel is obtained.

- Then the gain of the External Directional antenna is added to that signal gain, to the resultant gain the return loss of the cable is added.
- To that gain the Internal Rebroadcast antenna gain is added.
- Finally the resultant gain gives the output gain with which the weaker signal is boosted to increase the signal service in the particular area.

Conclusion

We analyzed from our observations that signal can be enhanced in low coverage areas with the help of these boosters. We have observed the amplifications of 3G speed when booster is ON and OFF. Hence, practically also proved the importance of repeater in enhancing the signal. Finally, we conclude by saying that repeaters can improve the signal strength in low signal coverage areas to such an extent that everyone can receive signals without having any disturbances.

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