



# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

MAX3558

## General Description

The MAX3558 broadband quad-output low-noise amplifier (LNA) is designed for digital set tops and digital terrestrial applications. The LNA covers a 50MHz to 878MHz input frequency range, while integrating a separate automatic gain-control (AGC) function with over 30dB of control range for each of four balanced outputs. Each output has its own shutdown control to reduce power consumption when not used. The MAX3558 also includes a power detector that can be used to close the loop on any of the AGCs to prevent overload conditions. The LNA's attack point is adjustable with an external resistor. The MAX3558 is available in a very small 28-pin QFN package with exposed paddle (EP).

## Features

- ◆ Quad Outputs with Independent AGCs and Shutdown
- ◆ 50MHz to 878MHz Broadband Operation
- ◆ Integrated Power Detector
- ◆ High Linearity: 15.6dBm IIP3

## Applications

Digital Set-Top Boxes  
Digital Terrestrial Receivers  
Tuner Preamps

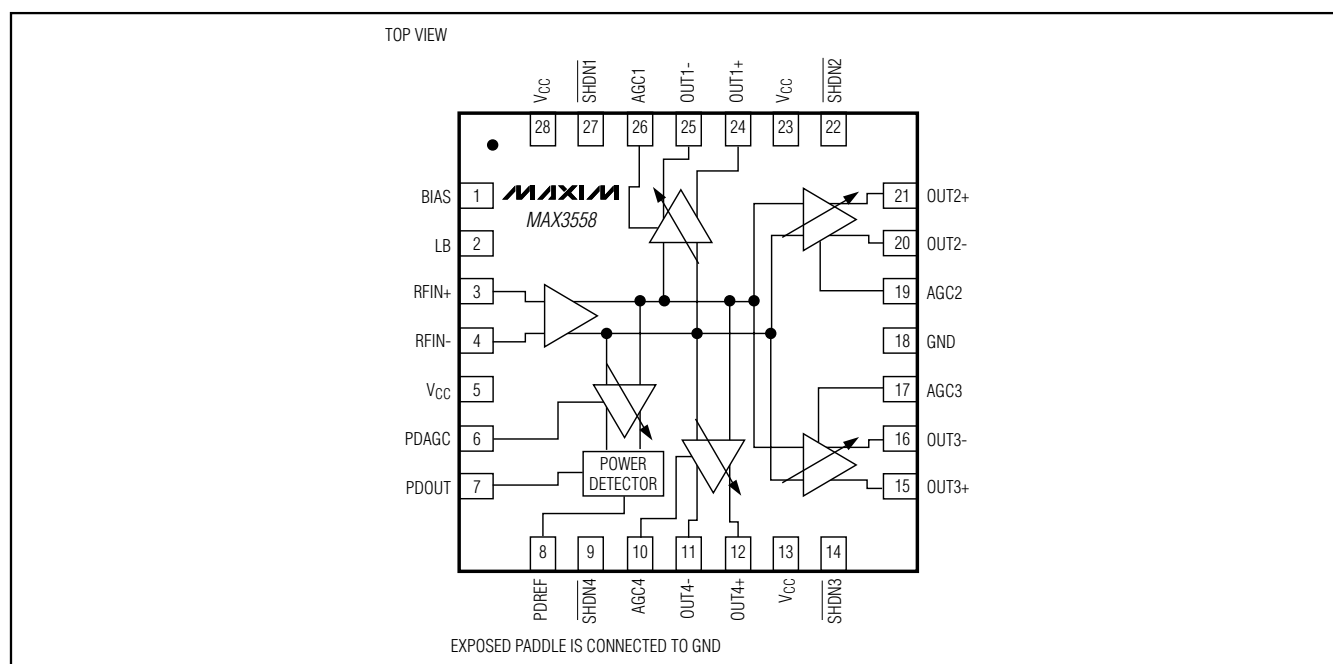
## Ordering Information

| PART        | TEMP RANGE   | PIN-PACKAGE               | PKG CODE |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|
| MAX3558CGI  | 0°C to +70°C | 28 QFN-EP*<br>(5mm x 5mm) | g2855-2  |
| MAX3558CTI+ | 0°C to +70°C | 28 QFN-EP*<br>(5mm x 5mm) | t2855-3  |

\*EP = Exposed paddle.

+Denotes lead-free package.

## Pin Configuration/Functional Diagram



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## ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

V<sub>CC</sub>, OUT\_ to GND .....-0.3V to + 6.3V  
 BIAS, LB, RFIN\_, PDAGC, PDOUT, PDREF,  
 SHDN\_, AGC\_ to GND .....-0.3V to (V<sub>CC</sub> + 0.3V)  
 OUT\_ Short-Circuit Duration.....Continuous  
 Continuous Power Dissipation (T<sub>A</sub> = +70°C)  
 28-Pin QFN.....2.1W

Operating Temperature Range.....0°C to +70°C  
 Junction Temperature.....+150°C  
 Storage Temperature Range .....-65°C to +150°C  
 Lead Temperature (soldering ,10s).....+300°C



**CAUTION!** ESD SENSITIVE DEVICE

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

(V<sub>CC</sub> = 4.75V to 5.25V, no RF signal applied, R<sub>BIAS</sub> = 1.1kΩ, R<sub>PDREF</sub> = 10kΩ, L<sub>LB</sub> = 82nH, T<sub>A</sub> = 0°C to +70°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at V<sub>CC</sub> = 5V, T<sub>A</sub> = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

| PARAMETER                     | CONDITIONS                                    | MIN  | TYP | MAX  | UNITS |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------|-----|------|-------|
| Supply Voltage                |                                               | 4.75 |     | 5.25 | V     |
| Supply Current                | Four outputs active, V <sub>AGC_</sub> = 3V   |      | 241 | 287  | mA    |
|                               | Three outputs active, V <sub>AGC_</sub> = 3V  |      | 206 | 245  |       |
|                               | Four outputs active, 10dB gain reduction      |      | 306 | 366  |       |
|                               | Four outputs active, V <sub>AGC_</sub> = 0.5V |      | 329 | 396  |       |
|                               | Four outputs shut down                        |      | 103 | 121  |       |
| Power-Detector Output Current | PDOUT = V <sub>CC</sub> - 0.5V                | 1    |     |      | mA    |
|                               | PDOUT = 0.5V                                  | -0.8 |     |      |       |
| Analog Input Current          | AGC_, PDAGC = 0 to 5V                         | -100 |     | +100 | μA    |
| Logic-Low Input Voltage       |                                               |      |     | 0.8  | V     |
| Logic-High Input Voltage      |                                               | 2.0  |     |      | V     |
| Logic Input Current           |                                               | -100 |     | +10  | μA    |

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MAX3558

## AC ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

( $V_{CC} = 4.75V$  to  $5.25V$ ,  $f_{RFIN} = 50MHz$  to  $878MHz$ ,  $75\Omega$  system impedance,  $V_{AGC\_} = 3V$ ,  $V_{SHDN\_} = V_{CC}$ ,  $R_{BIAS} = 1.1k\Omega$ ,  $R_{PDREF} = 10k\Omega$ ,  $L_{LB} = 82nH$ ,  $T_A = 0^{\circ}C$  to  $+70^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $V_{CC} = 5V$ ,  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted.) (Note 1)

| PARAMETER                                       | CONDITIONS                                                                                        | MIN   | TYP       | MAX   | UNITS |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Frequency Range                                 | Gain specification is met across the frequency band                                               | 50    |           | 878   | MHz   |
| Voltage Gain                                    | Differential output load, maximum gain (Note 2)                                                   | 4.0   | 6.8       | 9.3   | dB    |
|                                                 | Differential output load, $V_{AGC\_} = 0.5V$ , minimum gain                                       |       | -27.6     | -15.7 |       |
| Gain Flatness                                   | 50MHz to 878MHz                                                                                   |       | $\pm 0.4$ |       | dB    |
| Noise Figure                                    | Worst case across band, $75\Omega$ source, at maximum gain                                        |       | 8.4       | 9.9   | dB    |
| Input P1dB Compression Point                    | Maximum gain                                                                                      | -1.1  |           |       | dBm   |
|                                                 | 10dB gain reduction                                                                               | +1.3  |           |       |       |
| Input 3rd-Order Intercept Point (IIP3) (Note 3) | Maximum gain, $P_{IN} = -9dBm$                                                                    |       | 14.4      |       | dBm   |
|                                                 | 10dB gain reduction, $P_{IN} = -9dBm$ (Note 2)                                                    |       | 15.6      |       |       |
| Input 2nd-Order Intercept Point (IIP2) (Note 3) | Maximum gain, $P_{IN} = -9dBm$                                                                    |       | +45.9     |       | dBm   |
|                                                 | 10dB gain reduction, $P_{IN} = -9dBm$ (Note 2)                                                    | +29.5 |           |       |       |
| Input Return Loss                               | Any gain setting                                                                                  |       | 9         |       | dB    |
| Output Return Loss                              | $75\Omega$ differential output load                                                               | 8     |           |       | dB    |
| OUT_ to RFIN Isolation                          |                                                                                                   | 65    |           |       | dB    |
| RFIN to OUT_ Shutdown Isolation                 | VGA in shutdown, $f_{RFIN} = 54MHz$ to $72MHz$                                                    | 40    |           |       | dB    |
| Output-to-Output Isolation                      | Between any two outputs                                                                           | 45    |           |       | dB    |
| Power-Detector Operating Range (per Channel)    | $f_{RFIN} = 50MHz$ to $878MHz$ (Note 4)                                                           | -3    |           | +17   | dBmV  |
| AGC Attack Range (per Channel)                  | $R_{PDREF} = 800\Omega$ to $12k\Omega$ , flat input of 130 channel loading (Notes 4, 5)           | -3    |           | +6    | dBmV  |
| AGC Attack Accuracy (per Channel)               | 130 channel loading (Notes 2, 4)                                                                  | -2.2  |           | +2.2  | dBmV  |
| Attack Point Variation                          | Any one output in shutdown mode (Note 4)                                                          | -0.5  |           | +0.5  | dBm   |
| AGC Attack Slope                                | Change of $P_{OUT\_}$ over 12dB change in $P_{RFIN}$ after reaching AGC attack point (Notes 2, 4) | -2    |           | +2    | dB    |

**Note 1:** Guaranteed by design and characterization.

**Note 2:** Guaranteed by production test.

**Note 3:** Measured with two input tones ( $f_1 = 800MHz$ ,  $f_2 = 845MHz$ ).

**Note 4:**  $P_{DOUT}$  connected to  $P_{DAGC}$  and  $AGC\_$ .

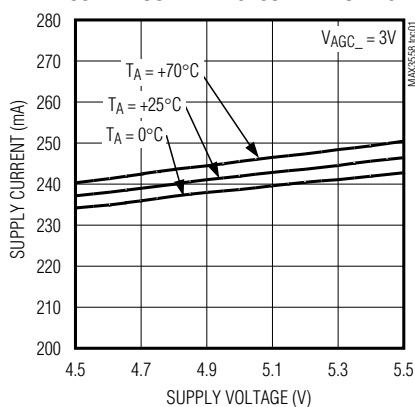
**Note 5:**  $P_{IN}$  is single-tone equivalent to 130 channel loading.

# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

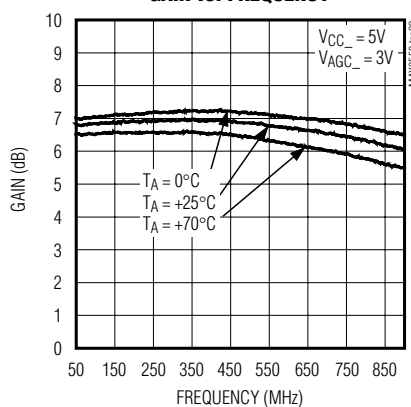
## Typical Operating Characteristics

(MAX3558 EV kit,  $V_{CC} = 5V$ ,  $f_{RFIN} = 50MHz$  to  $878MHz$ ,  $V_{AGC-} = 3V$ ,  $V_{SHDN-} = V_{CC}$ ,  $R_{BIAS} = 1.1k\Omega$ ,  $R_{PDREF} = 10k\Omega$ ,  $L_{LB} = 82nH$ ,  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ , unless otherwise noted.)

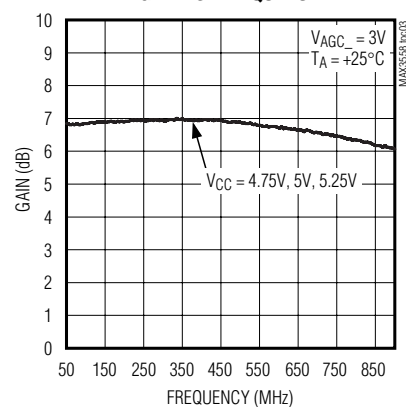
**SUPPLY CURRENT vs. SUPPLY VOLTAGE**



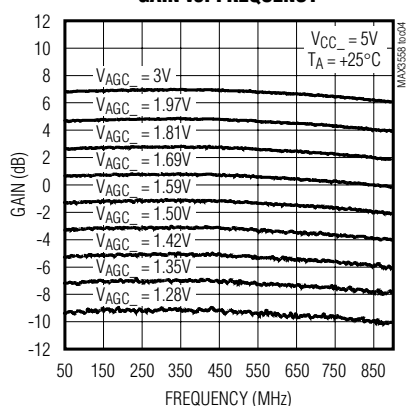
**GAIN vs. FREQUENCY**



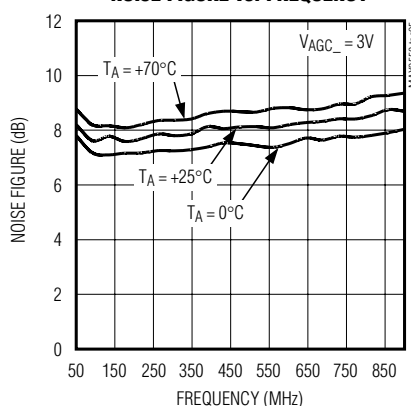
**GAIN vs. FREQUENCY**



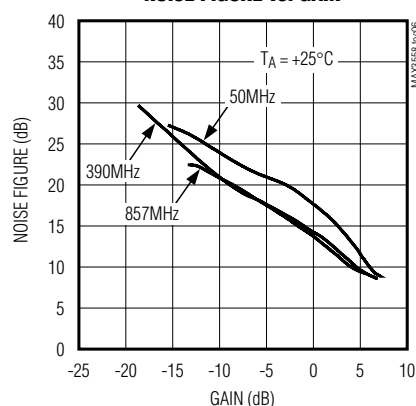
**GAIN vs. FREQUENCY**



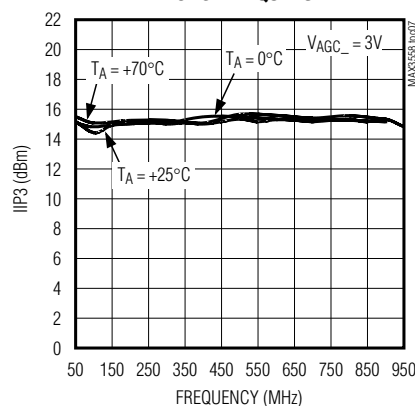
**NOISE FIGURE vs. FREQUENCY**



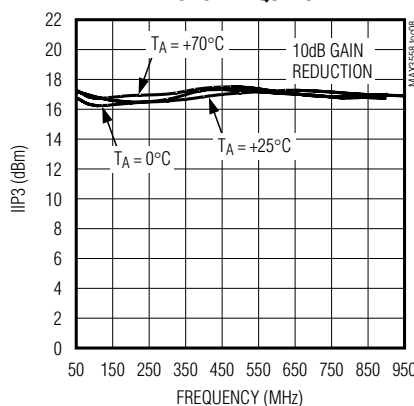
**NOISE FIGURE vs. GAIN**



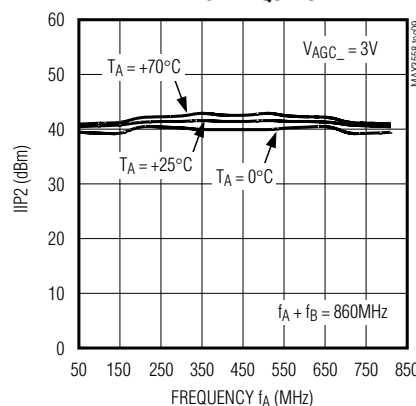
**IIP3 vs. FREQUENCY**



**IIP3 vs. FREQUENCY**



**IIP2 vs. FREQUENCY**

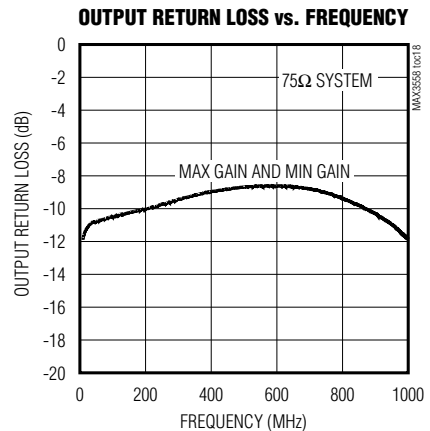
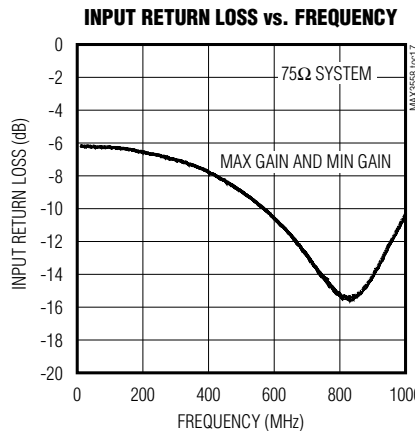
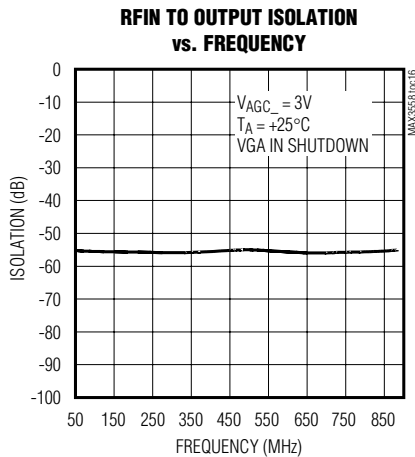
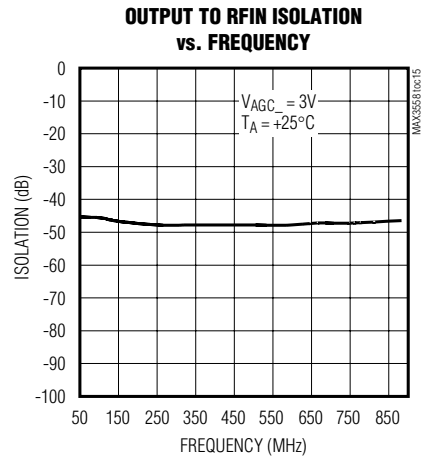
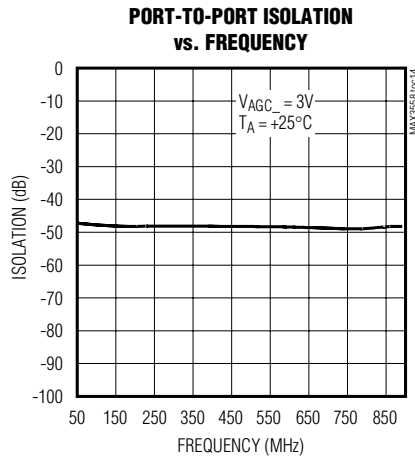
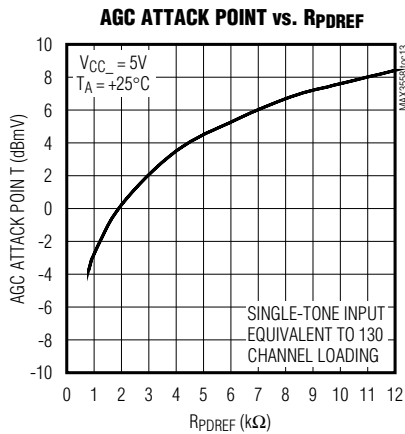
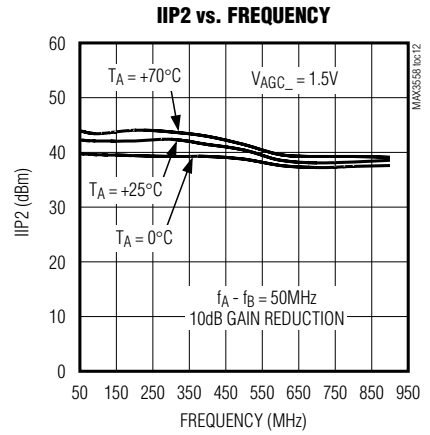
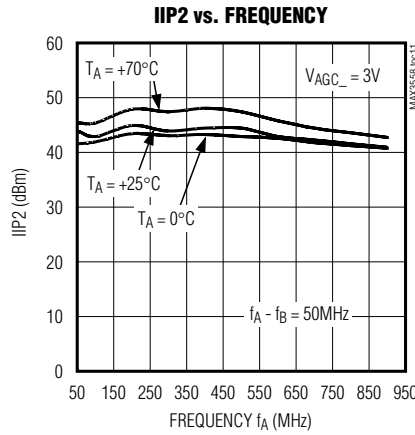
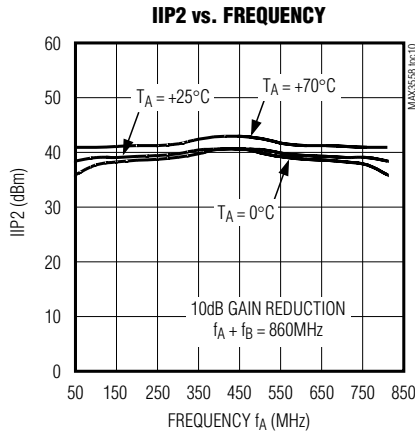


# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

MAX3558

## Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(MAX3558 EV kit,  $V_{CC} = 5V$ ,  $f_{RFIN} = 50MHz$  to  $878MHz$ ,  $V_{AGC\_} = 3V$ ,  $V_{SHDN\_} = V_{CC}$ ,  $R_{BIAS} = 1.1k\Omega$ ,  $R_{PDREF} = 10k\Omega$ ,  $L_{LB} = 82nH$ ,  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ , unless otherwise noted.)



# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

## Pin Description

| PIN           | NAME                      | FUNCTION                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1             | BIAS                      | External Bias. Connect an external $1.1k\Omega \pm 1\%$ resistor to set the bias current.                                         |
| 2             | LB                        | Inductor Bias. Connect an 82nH inductor to ground for proper operation.                                                           |
| 3, 4          | RFIN+,<br>RFIN-           | Differential LNA RF Input. Requires external DC-blocking capacitors. For single-ended input, AC-couple RFIN- to GND.              |
| 5, 13, 23, 28 | V <sub>CC</sub>           | V <sub>CC</sub> Power Supply. Bypass each V <sub>CC</sub> with a 0.01μF capacitor to ground as close to the device as possible.   |
| 6             | PDAGC                     | Power-Detector AGC Input. Connect PDAGC to PDOUT for closed-loop AGC control.                                                     |
| 7             | PDOUT                     | Power-Detector Output. PDOUT can be connected to AGC_ for closed-loop operation. PDOUT bandwidth is set by an external capacitor. |
| 8             | PDREF                     | Power-Detector Reference Input. Connect an external resistor to ground to lower the attack point.                                 |
| 9             | $\overline{\text{SHDN4}}$ | Shutdown Input 4. Drive logic low to disable OUT4_ and AGC4. Drive logic high for normal operation.                               |
| 10            | AGC4                      | Automatic Gain-Control Input 4. AGC4 sets the gain of the LNA output OUT4_.                                                       |
| 11, 12        | OUT4-,<br>OUT4+           | Differential LNA Output 4. Requires external DC-blocking capacitors.                                                              |
| 14            | $\overline{\text{SHDN3}}$ | Shutdown Input 3. Drive logic low to disable OUT3_ and AGC3. Drive logic high for normal operation.                               |
| 15, 16        | OUT3+,<br>OUT3-           | Differential LNA Output 3. Requires external DC-blocking capacitors.                                                              |
| 17            | AGC3                      | Automatic Gain-Control Input 3. AGC3 sets the gain of the LNA output OUT3_.                                                       |
| 18            | GND                       | Ground                                                                                                                            |
| 19            | AGC2                      | Automatic Gain-Control Input 2. AGC2 sets the gain of the LNA output OUT2_.                                                       |
| 20, 21        | OUT2-,<br>OUT2+           | Differential LNA Output 2. Requires external DC-blocking capacitors.                                                              |
| 22            | $\overline{\text{SHDN2}}$ | Shutdown Input 2. Drive logic low to disable OUT2_ and AGC2. Drive logic high for normal operation.                               |
| 24, 25        | OUT1+,<br>OUT1-           | Differential LNA Output 1. Requires external DC-blocking capacitors.                                                              |
| 26            | AGC1                      | Automatic Gain-Control Input 1. AGC1 sets the gain of the LNA output OUT1_.                                                       |
| 27            | $\overline{\text{SHDN1}}$ | Shutdown Input 1. Drive logic low to disable OUT1_ and AGC1. Drive logic high for normal operation.                               |
| —             | EP                        | Exposed Paddle Ground. The exposed paddle must be soldered to GND for DC and RF return and better thermal dissipation.            |

# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

## Detailed Description

The MAX3558 broadband LNA consists of a single input and four independent outputs. Each output has its own AGC and shutdown function. The LNA covers the 50MHz to 878MHz cable and terrestrial TV frequency range. In addition, the device includes a power detector that can be used to control the AGC function. The MAX3558 is available in a space-saving 28-pin QFN package.

### Broadband LNA

The broadband LNA input is differential and internally matched to  $75\Omega$ . The LNAs require only DC-blocking capacitors while maintaining 6dB input return loss. The input stage drives four variable-gain amplifiers (VGAs).

### RF VGAs

The RF VGAs feature an independent gain-control range of more than 30dB. The voltage applied at the AGC pin controls the gain. Minimum gain corresponds to AGC\_ voltage of 0.5V and maximum gain corresponds to AGC\_ voltage of 3V. AGC inputs can be driven from a demodulator's AGC output, which normally controls a tuner's RF AGC, or from the MAX3558's on-chip power detector. Should an overload condition occur, the closed-loop AGC circuitry continues to reduce the gain to ensure good distortion performance. For optimum distortion and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) performance, set the AGC attack point between +3dBmV to +5dBmV with an external resistor connected to PDREF.

The VGA outputs are differentially balanced to achieve good IIP2 performance while providing at least 8dB return loss. The outputs are internally matched to  $75\Omega$ . Each output has its own shutdown pin. The shutdown function disables the selected VGA to reduce power consumption while also providing significant input-to-output isolation.

### Power Detector

The MAX3558 includes on-chip power-detector circuitry that can be used to control the gain of any of the four RF VGAs to prevent overload conditions. The broadband power detector allows the circuit to automatically limit the gain when the total input power reaches a set level. This level, or attack point, is user adjustable with

an external resistor connected to PDREF. Because the power detector has a broadband frequency response, the MAX3558 allows the RF AGC attack point to be set according to the total input power, as opposed to the tuned channel. This minimizes the linearity requirements while ensuring good SNR and distortion performance. The on-chip power detector allows the device to be used with multiple tuners without complicated RF AGC circuitry.

## Applications Information

### Using a Power Detector to Set the Attack Point

The on-chip power detector can be used closed loop as an automatic gain-control circuit for any one (or all) of the LNA outputs. The power detector is designed for the attack point to be set in the -3dBmV to +6dBmV range with the resistor RPDREF. The resistor value is chosen between  $800\Omega$  and  $12k\Omega$ . A larger resistor value sets a higher output attack point. See Attack Point vs. RPDREF in the *Typical Operating Characteristics*.

For on-chip closed-loop operation, PDAGC must be connected to PDOUT. Connect a  $0.1\mu\text{F}$  capacitor from PDOUT to ground for filtering. The PDOUT can be connected to any one of the AGC input pins to prevent overload conditions.

### Bias Current

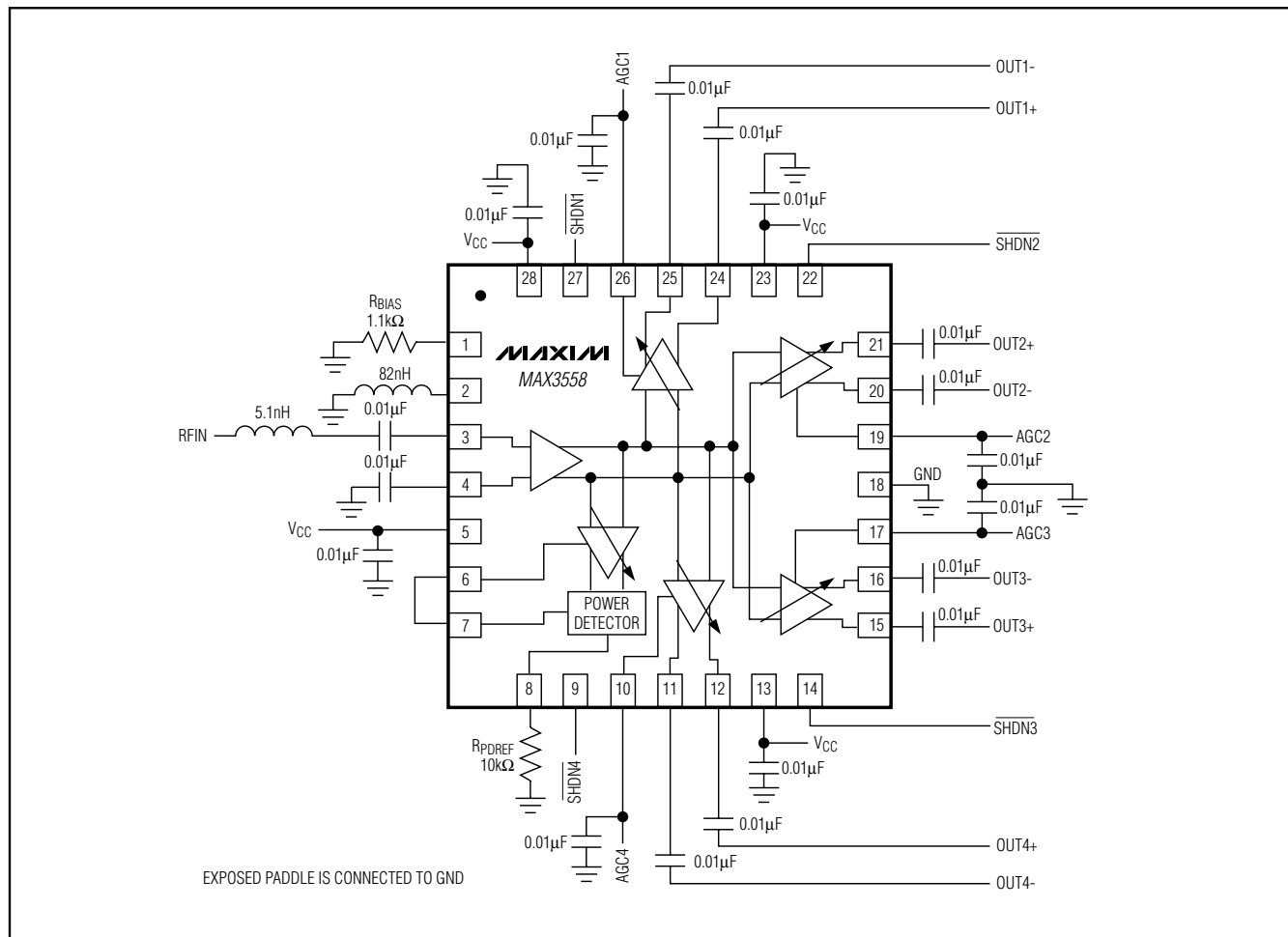
The MAX3558 uses an external resistor for adjusting the biasing current. A resistor, RBIAS, connected from BIAS to ground sets the supply current. To achieve the specified distortion and noise-figure performance, set RBIAS to  $1.1k\Omega \pm 1\%$ .

### Layout Considerations

The EV kit serves as a guide for PC board layout. Keep RF signal lines as short as possible to minimize losses and radiation. Use controlled impedance on all high-frequency traces. For proper operation, solder the exposed paddle evenly to the ground plane. Use abundant vias beneath the exposed paddle for maximum heat dissipation. Use abundant ground vias between RF traces to minimize undesired coupling. Each VCC pin must have its own bypass capacitor placed close to the pin.

# Quad-Output LNA with AGC for Cable TV Applications

## Typical Application Circuit



### Chip Information

TRANSISTOR COUNT: 4930

PROCESS: Bipolar

### Package Information

For the latest package outline information, go to [www.maxim-ic.com/packages](http://www.maxim-ic.com/packages).

REFERENCE: 28-pin QFN 5mm × 5mm

PACKAGE CODE: G2855-2

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