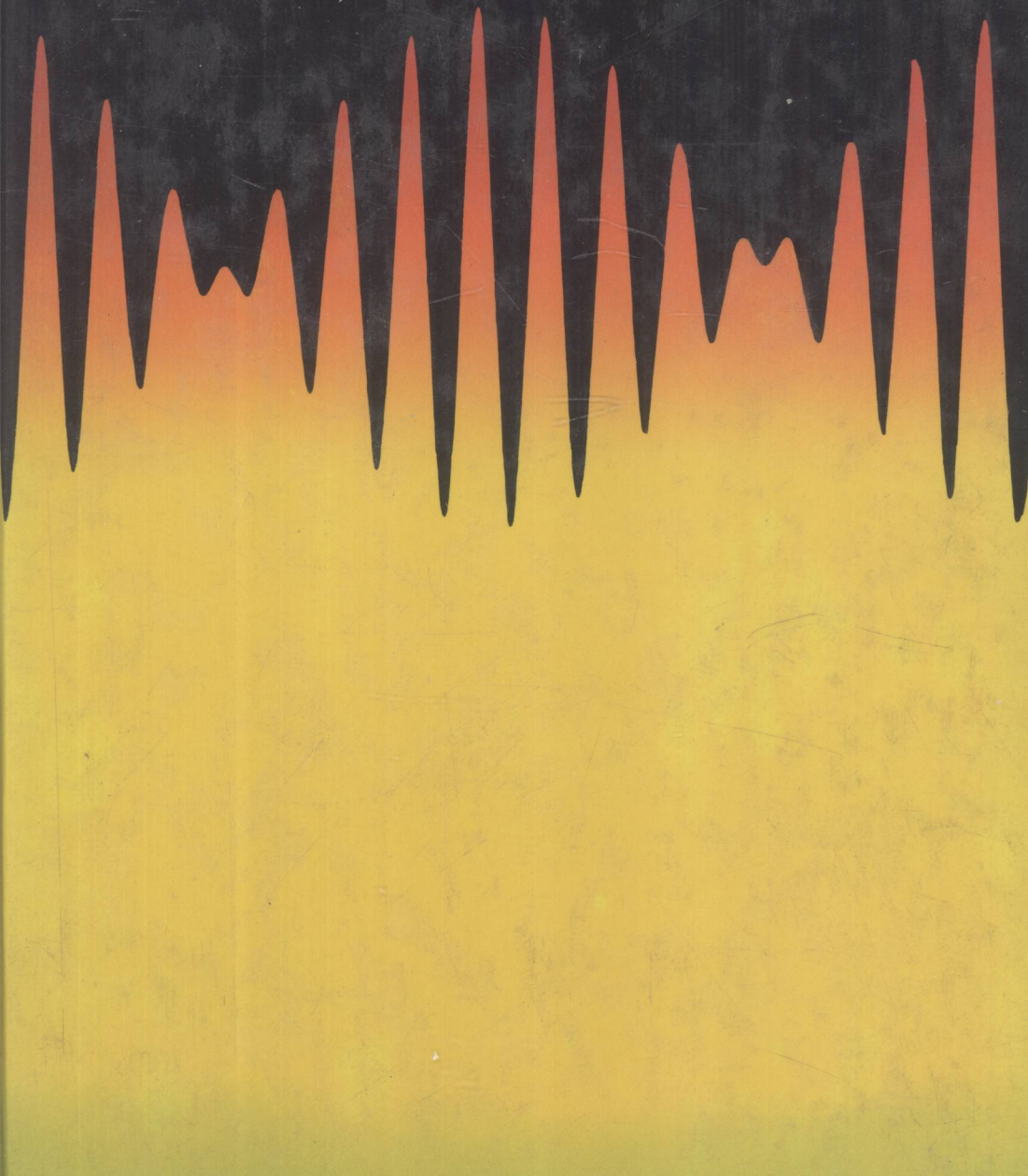


SINGLE-SIDEBAND SYSTEMS & CIRCUITS

Edited by William E. Sabin & Edgar O. Schoenike



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Single-Sideband Systems and Circuits

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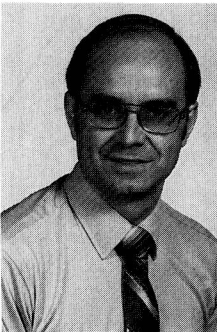
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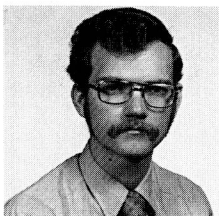
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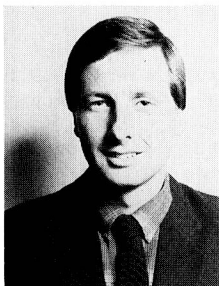
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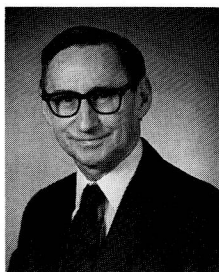
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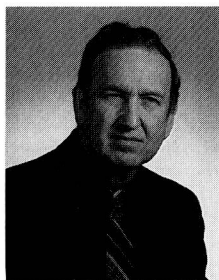
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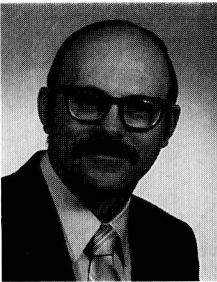
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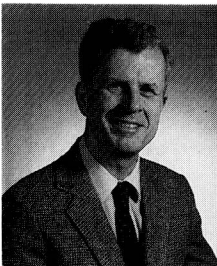
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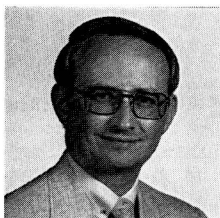
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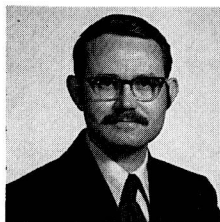
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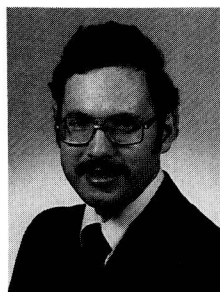
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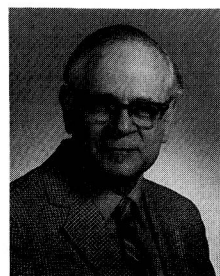
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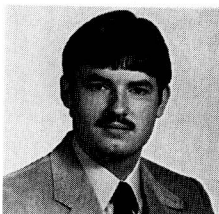
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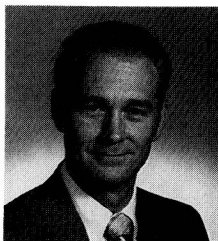
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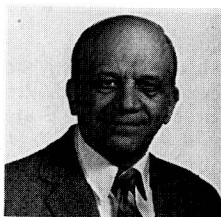
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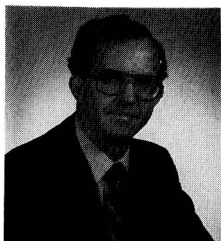
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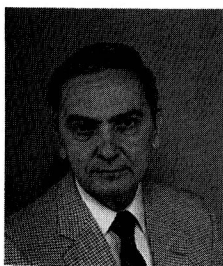


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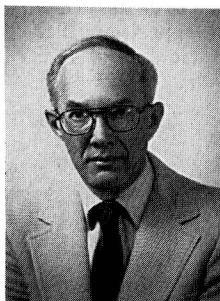


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Preface

It was 23 years ago that McGraw-Hill published *Single Sideband Principles and Circuits*, by E. W. Pappenfus, W. B. Bruene, and E. O. Schoenike. Since then many changes have occurred in the components, circuits, and systems analysis used in SSB technology. In 1964 transistors were just beginning to become dominant in low-power amplifiers and oscillators, while vacuum tubes still reigned supreme for medium- and high-power amplifiers. Integrated circuits were just beginning to be used in SSB equipment, and microprocessors were unknown. The development of these new electronic components has led to new circuits, greater flexibility in design, and more sophisticated equipment control.

One aim of this book is to incorporate an explanation of the developments that have taken place in the design of SSB equipment while retaining explanations of those techniques which have withstood the test of time. Thus, solid-state power amplifiers and power supplies are discussed in detail, but advances in high-power vacuum tube amplifiers are not overlooked. Similarly, balanced diode mixers and modulators, instead of being superseded, are used today perhaps more widely than ever before, and so are also fully covered.

This book was written at the level of the practicing engineer, although it will be appreciated by the engineering student and advanced amateur as well. Most explanations are intended to be practical in nature, but the theoretical basis of SSB is treated in some detail, design principles are not overlooked, and, when relevant, performance tradeoffs are discussed. However, only amplitude modulation SSB is discussed. Angle-modulated single sideband is beyond the scope of the book.

Special emphasis is placed on the system analysis and system design of the SSB communications link. The cost and complexity of modern communications equipment and systems are such that accurate estimates of performance, prior to commitment of resources, are essential.

Greater sophistication in design has led to specialization, and it is therefore appropriate that a large number of experts in specialized areas should contribute to this book. It is almost impossible for one person to com-

pletely master all of the disciplines involved; therefore the editors have gathered together some of the leading equipment designers and analysts from the Collins Division of the Rockwell Corporation to contribute chapters in their fields of specialization.

Besides the chapter authors, the editors give special thanks to our engineering colleagues for their ideas and contributions to this book, and to Rockwell International for its permission to publish.

We also owe a special debt to the many secretaries who contributed their spare time to the word processor typing chores.

In chapters where multiple authors appear, names are listed in alphabetical order.

One final note: Recognizing as we do the important and growing role of women in the sciences, every effort has been made to use gender-neutral language in the writing of this book. In the single instance of "specsmanship," however, no generally recognized gender-neutral equivalent exists; thus the term should be taken in a purely generic sense, intended to apply to both women and men.

WILLIAM E. SABIN
EDGAR O. SCHOENIKE

This book is the result of a difficult and comprehensive team effort by many members of the Engineering Staff of the Collins Divisions of Rockwell International. It is dedicated to them and to all the employees, past and present, of the Collins Divisions of the Rockwell International Corporation on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Collins Radio Company.

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Overview of Single Sideband

William E. Sabin

1.1 The Radio Link

The principal task which confronts a radio communications link between two or many mutually distant points is to provide, within the framework of a limited available transmitter power, reliable, high-quality communication. Very often, real-time voice contact is desired. Opposing this goal are the inimical characteristics of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum. Among these are noise from the ionosphere and the galaxy, artificially produced electrical noise, severe variations in the received signal strength (fading) which are observed over time spans from milliseconds to hours or days, propagation disturbances, interference from other users of the spectrum, and multiple arrivals of the signal along different paths. Interference caused to other users is aggravated by technical limitations in transmitter spectral purity and directional antenna design. Interference experienced from other users is increased by deficiencies in receiver design and receiving antennas. One especially difficult mode of interference is between transmitters and receivers which are in close proximity (colocated). Also involved here is the creation of false signals (intermodulation or IM) due to nonlinearities within the colocated environment.

The approach to reliable communication used by radio engineers is to obtain from a given amount of available transmitter power the maximum amount of intelligibility of a speech signal or the minimum error rate of a digital signal (at the distant receiver) under the conditions described above. Two important constraints in this design are the conservation of bandwidth

and time. That is, the spectrum in use very often requires a small ratio of RF bandwidth to baseband message bandwidth in order to accommodate a large number of users. Also, the time used to transmit a message is very often required to be nearly the same as the duration of the original message; in this situation the amounts of redundancy and encoding available must be small. An equivalent statement is that the ideal communication channel, in the sense described by Shannon [1], is, in most near-real-time situations, not approached. In practice, voice or digital messages usually contain inherently high levels of redundancy or predictability, except for key elements which may be repeated several times by a good operator.

One of the principal system design approaches used is to select a method of modulation which is optimal within the environment and the constraints described above. For real-time speech communication, from 10 kHz to 250 Mhz, and in recent times up to as high as 10 GHz, the use of single-sideband (SSB) suppressed-carrier (or quite often reduced-carrier) modulation has provided a very satisfactory answer. A long period (65 years) of analytical and experimental investigation has proven the efficacy of this method, especially in the high-frequency (HF) band, which is a difficult arena.

A further consideration in situations where the volume and weight of the transmitter are critical is that SSB is competitive with narrow band frequency modulation (FM), in terms of communications effectiveness for a given weight and size. The results of recent studies will be considered in later sections. SSB also is a decisive improvement, in nearly all respects, over high-level double-sideband amplitude modulation (AM).

One of the costs involved in SSB, as compared with AM, is the additional complexity of the receiver vs. the conventional low-cost AM broadcast receiver. Various responses to this will be considered in this book. In the transmitter, the need for large amounts of linear amplification of the RF signal is a technical and economic burden.

The development of phase-locked loop (PLL) techniques has opened up many uses of reduced-carrier SSB, where the reduced pilot carrier provides frequency-locked and phase-locked reception and serves other functions. The improvements in frequency synthesizer design and low-cost, portable frequency standards have made SSB practical at much higher frequencies than were possible a few years ago.

A further enhancement of SSB has been the development of speech processors which utilize the peak power capabilities of the transmitter more effectively by compressing the dynamic range of human speech, thereby increasing the average power. The Lincompex system and other companders have the ability to restore the original dynamic range at the receiver, providing a telephone-grade signal. Vocoder and other techniques which help to reduce bandwidth with no appreciable loss of intelligibility have been undergoing a continuous development.

In long-distance HF (2- to 30-MHz) communication, a major problem is to locate a favorable frequency very quickly and automatically tune to it (automatic connectivity). The extensive application of microprocessor technology has produced highly programmable, remotely controllable radios