

sysmocom

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sysmocom gps-spl-16 User Manual

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1 Introduction

This manual describes the sysmocom `gps-spl-16`, a 16-way active GPS antenna RF splitter with built-in filters and LNA (low noise amplifier).

The target audience are test lab engineers or system integrators who use the `gps-spl-16`.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the device is to split a GPS signal received by an external (not included) GPS antenna to pass it along to a variety of GPS receivers. There is sufficient (30 dB) internal amplification of the GPS signal to (more than) compensate for the losses of the splitter.

The typical gain between the input antenna port and any of the 16 output ports is specified at 8dB.

1.2 Designated Use

The typical use case would be for building-internal distribution of GPS signals, for example in case of laboratories with many devices containing internal GPS-DO (GPS disciplined oscillators).

1.3 Intended Audience

The intended audience of this manual is the technical staff of the systems integrator who integrates the `gps-spl-16` into a customer-specific product/appliance/lab-setup within the designated use stated above.

1.4 Regulatory compliance

The product is designed to be conforming with all applicable harmonized standards in the EU.

However, only a given reference configuration of the product is submitted to related conformance testing. This reference configuration includes

- a set of 16 CE conforming GPS receivers
- a typical shielded metal enclosure (for the BGT 19" 3U variant)
- a CE conforming AC power supply for supplying 12V
- a CE conforming active GPS antenn

Due to the many variable parameters of any customer-specific appliance built from the `gps-spl-16`, it is the responsibility of said system integrator to test and declare conformity with all applicable norms and standards on his final product.

2 Hardware

2.1 KOH variant

This variant of the hardware is built in a desktop enclosure.



2.2 BGT variant

This variant of the hardware is built as a module for mounting in standard 3U component carriers



3 Supply Voltage

The input supply voltage for the unit is nominally 12V DC. However, any voltage in the range between 8V to 26V is supported. The input can be supplied either

- from the front side (K1), using a 5.5/2.5mm barrel type connector (positive center).

- from the rear side (K2) , using a 2.54mm pitch header. The polarity is marked on the circuit board.

The device is internally fused at 0.5A.

4 LEDs

4.1 LEDs at the input connector

The input connector has two green LEDs next to it.

- the top LED (further from PCB) indicates status of the 5V voltage plane, i.e. the output of the 12V-to-5V DC/DC converter at the input
- The bottom LED (closer to PCB) indicates status of the 3V voltage plane, generated by an internal LDO from the 5V plane.

4.2 LEDs at the output connectors

Each output connector has one green LED next to it. This LED indicates whether or not a phantom voltage is supplied from the attached GPS receiver.

The phantom voltage supplied by GPS receivers to the output connectors of the splitter is just used for those status LEDs. It is not required that phantom voltage is supplied by attached GPS receivers.

5 Phantom voltage for GPS Antenna

The `gps-spl-16` can supply a DC phantom voltage to the external GNSS antenna connected to the main PCBA X1 /ANT SMA connector.

There are four different options:

- providing 12V DC
- providing 5V DC from the integrated 12V → 5V DC/DC converter
- providing 3V DC from an integrated 3V LDO
- feeding an externally-supplied phantom voltage

In all three configurations, there is an on-board 10 ohms series resistor (R3) to limit the current through the cable in case of a cable or antenna short-circuit.

5.1 12V GPS antenna phantom voltage

- Connect the jumper JP1 to the 12V position (jumper between center pin and 12V pin)

5.2 5V GPS antenna phantom voltage

- Connect the jumper JP1 to the 5V position (jumper between center pin and 5V pin)

5.3 3V GPS antenna phantom voltage

- Connect the jumper JP1 to the 3V position (jumper between center pin and 3V pin)

5.4 External GPS antenna phantom voltage

- Remove the jumper JP1
- Use a regular 2.54mm pitch jumper wire to feed the external voltage to the center pin of JP1
- Externally connect the GND of the phantom voltage supply with the GND of the power supply for gps-spl-16 (which you connected to K1/K2)
- Ensure your external phantom voltage supply has a reasonable current limit in place, such as a classic fuse, a polyfuse or a current limiting IC.

6 Glossary

2FF

2nd Generation Form Factor; the so-called plug-in SIM form factor

3FF

3rd Generation Form Factor; the so-called microSIM form factor

3GPP

3rd Generation Partnership Project

4FF

4th Generation Form Factor; the so-called nanoSIM form factor

A Interface

Interface between BTS and BSC, traditionally over E1 (*3GPP TS 48.008* [[3gpp-ts-48-008](#)])

A3/A8

Algorithm 3 and 8; Authentication and key generation algorithm in GSM and GPRS, typically COMP128v1/v2/v3 or MILENAGE are typically used

A5

Algorithm 5; Air-interface encryption of GSM; currently only A5/0 (no encryption), A5/1 and A5/3 are in use

Abis Interface

Interface between BTS and BSC, traditionally over E1 (*3GPP TS 48.058* [[3gpp-ts-48-058](#)] and *3GPP TS 52.021* [[3gpp-ts-52-021](#)])

ACC

Access Control Class; every BTS broadcasts a bit-mask of permitted ACC, and only subscribers with a SIM of matching ACC are permitted to use that BTS

AGCH

Access Grant Channel on Um interface; used to assign a dedicated channel in response to RACH request

AGPL

GNU Affero General Public License, a copyleft-style Free Software License

AQPSK

Adaptive QPSK, a modulation scheme used by VAMOS channels on Downlink

ARFCN

Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number; specifies a tuple of uplink and downlink frequencies

AUC

Authentication Center; central database of authentication key material for each subscriber

BCCH

Broadcast Control Channel on Um interface; used to broadcast information about Cell and its neighbors

BCC

Base Station Color Code; short identifier of BTS, lower part of BSIC

BTS

Base Transceiver Station

BSC

Base Station Controller

BSIC

Base Station Identity Code; 16bit identifier of BTS within location area

BSSGP

Base Station Subsystem Gateway Protocol (*3GPP TS 48.018* [[3gpp-ts-48-018](#)])

BVCI

BSSGP Virtual Circuit Identifier

CBC

Cell Broadcast Centre; central entity of Cell Broadcast service

CBCH

Cell Broadcast Channel; used to transmit Cell Broadcast SMS (SMS-CB)

CBS

Cell Broadcast Service

CBSP

Cell Broadcast Service Protocol (*3GPP TS 48.049* [[3gpp-ts-48-049](#)])

CC

Call Control; Part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

CCCH

Common Control Channel on Um interface; consists of RACH (uplink), BCCH, PCH, AGCH (all downlink)

Cell

A cell in a cellular network, served by a BTS

CEPT

Conférence européenne des administrations des postes et des télécommunications; European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.

CGI

Cell Global Identifier comprised of MCC, MNC, LAC and BSIC

CSFB

Circuit-Switched Fall Back; Mechanism for switching from LTE/EUTRAN to UTRAN/GERAN when circuit-switched services such as voice telephony are required.

dB

deci-Bel; relative logarithmic unit

dBm

deci-Bel (milliwatt); unit of measurement for signal strength of radio signals

DHCP

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (*IETF RFC 2131* [[ietf-rfc2131](#)])

downlink

Direction of messages / signals from the network core towards the mobile phone

DSCP

Differentiated Services Code Point (*IETF RFC 2474* [[ietf-rfc2474](#)])

DSP

Digital Signal Processor

dnxload

Tool to program UBL and the Bootloader on a sysmoBTS

EDGE

Enhanced Data rates for GPRS Evolution; Higher-speed improvement of GPRS; introduces 8PSK

EGPRS

Enhanced GPRS; the part of EDGE relating to GPRS services

EIR

Equipment Identity Register; core network element that stores and manages IMEI numbers

ESME

External SMS Entity; an external application interfacing with a SMSC over SMPP

ETSI

European Telecommunications Standardization Institute

FPGA

Field Programmable Gate Array; programmable digital logic hardware

Gb

Interface between PCU and SGSN in GPRS/EDGE network; uses NS, BSSGP, LLC

GERAN

GPRS/EDGE Radio Access Network

GGSN

GPRS Gateway Support Node; gateway between GPRS and external (IP) network

GMSK

Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying; modulation used for GSM and GPRS

GPL

GNU General Public License, a copyleft-style Free Software License

Gp

Gp interface between SGSN and GGSN; uses GTP protocol

GPRS

General Packet Radio Service; the packet switched 2G technology

GPS

Global Positioning System; provides a highly accurate clock reference besides the global position

GSM

Global System for Mobile Communications. ETSI/3GPP Standard of a 2G digital cellular network

GSMTAP

GSM tap; pseudo standard for encapsulating GSM protocol layers over UDP/IP for analysis

GSUP

Generic Subscriber Update Protocol. Osmocom-specific alternative to TCAP/MAP

GT

Global Title; an address in SCCP

GTP

GPRS Tunnel Protocol; used between SGSN and GGSN

HLR

Home Location Register; central subscriber database of a GSM network

HNB-GW

Home NodeB Gateway. Entity between femtocells (Home NodeB) and CN in 3G/UMTS.

HPLMN

Home PLMN; the network that has issued the subscriber SIM and has his record in HLR

IE

Information Element

IMEI

International Mobile Equipment Identity; unique 14-digit decimal number to globally identify a mobile device, optionally with a 15th checksum digit

IMEISV

IMEI software version; unique 14-digit decimal number to globally identify a mobile device (same as IMEI) plus two software version digits (total digits: 16)

IMSI

International Mobile Subscriber Identity; 15-digit unique identifier for the subscriber/SIM; starts with MCC/MNC of issuing operator

IP

Internet Protocol (*IETF RFC 791* [[ietf-rfc791](#)])

IPA

ip.access GSM over IP protocol; used to multiplex a single TCP connection

Iu

Interface in 3G/UMTS between RAN and CN

IuCS

Iu interface for circuit-switched domain. Used in 3G/UMTS between RAN and MSC

IuPS

Iu interface for packet-switched domain. Used in 3G/UMTS between RAN and SGSN

LAC

Location Area Code; 16bit identifier of Location Area within network

LAPD

Link Access Protocol, D-Channel (*ITU-T Q.921* [[itu-t-q921](#)])

LAPDm

Link Access Protocol Mobile (*3GPP TS 44.006* [[3gpp-ts-44-006](#)])

LLC

Logical Link Control; GPRS protocol between MS and SGSN (*3GPP TS 44.064* [[3gpp-ts-44-064](#)])

Location Area

Location Area; a geographic area containing multiple BTS

LU

Location Updating; can be of type IMSI-Attach or Periodic. Procedure that indicates a subscriber's physical presence in a given radio cell.

M2PA

MTP2 Peer-to-Peer Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (*RFC 4165* [[ietf-rfc4165](#)])

M2UA

MTP2 User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (*RFC 3331* [[ietf-rfc3331](#)])

M3UA

MTP3 User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (*RFC 4666* [[ietf-rfc4666](#)])

MCC

Mobile Country Code; unique identifier of a country, e.g. 262 for Germany

MF

Machine-to-Machine Form Factor; a SIM chip package that is soldered permanently onto M2M device circuit boards.

MGW

Media Gateway

MM

Mobility Management; part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

MNC

Mobile Network Code; identifies network within a country; assigned by national regulator

MNCC

Mobile Network Call Control; Unix domain socket based Interface between MSC and external call control entity like osmo-sip-connector

MNO

Mobile Network Operator; operator with physical radio network under his MCC/MNC

MO

Mobile Originated. Direction from Mobile (MS/UE) to Network

MS

Mobile Station; a mobile phone / GSM Modem

MSC

Mobile Switching Center; network element in the circuit-switched core network

MSC pool

A number of redundant MSCs serving the same core network, which a BSC / RNC distributes load across; see also the "MSC Pooling" chapter in OsmoBSC's user manual [[userman-osmobsc](#)] and *3GPP TS 23.236* [[3gpp-ts-23-236](#)]

MSISDN

Mobile Subscriber ISDN Number; telephone number of the subscriber

MT

Mobile Terminated. Direction from Network to Mobile (MS/UE)

MTP

Message Transfer Part; SS7 signaling protocol (*ITU-T Q.701* [[itu-t-q701](#)])

MVNO

Mobile Virtual Network Operator; Operator without physical radio network

NCC

Network Color Code; assigned by national regulator

NITB

Network In The Box; combines functionality traditionally provided by BSC, MSC, VLR, HLR, SMSC functions; see OsmoNITB

NRI

Network Resource Indicator, typically 10 bits of a TMSI indicating which MSC of an MSC pool attached the subscriber; see also the "MSC Pooling" chapter in OsmoBSC's user manual [[userman-osmobsc](#)] and *3GPP TS 23.236* [[3gpp-ts-23-236](#)]

NSEI

NS Entity Identifier

NVCI

NS Virtual Circuit Identifier

NWL

Network Listen; ability of some BTS to receive downlink from other BTSs

NS

Network Service; protocol on Gb interface (*3GPP TS 48.016* [[3gpp-ts-48-016](#)])

OCXO

Oven Controlled Crystal Oscillator; very high precision oscillator, superior to a VCTCXO

OML

Operation & Maintenance Link (*ETSI/3GPP TS 52.021* [[3gpp-ts-52-021](#)])

OpenBSC

Open Source implementation of GSM network elements, specifically OsmoBSC, OsmoNITB, OsmoSGSN

OpenGGSN

Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

OpenVPN

Open-Source Virtual Private Network; software employed to establish encrypted private networks over untrusted public networks

Osmocom

Open Source MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS; collaborative community for implementing communications protocols and systems, including GSM, GPRS, TETRA, DECT, GMR and others

OsmoBSC

Open Source implementation of a GSM Base Station Controller

OsmoNITB

Open Source implementation of a GSM Network In The Box, combines functionality traditionally provided by BSC, MSC, VLR, HLR, AUC, SMSC

OsmoSGSN

Open Source implementation of a Serving GPRS Support Node

OsmoPCU

Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

OTA

Over-The-Air; Capability of operators to remotely reconfigure/reprogram ISM/USIM cards

PC

Point Code; an address in MTP

PCH

Paging Channel on downlink Um interface; used by network to page an MS

PCP

Priority Code Point (*IEEE 802.1Q* [?])

PCU

Packet Control Unit; used to manage Layer 2 of the GPRS radio interface

PDCH

Packet Data Channel on Um interface; used for GPRS/EDGE signalling + user data

PIN

Personal Identification Number; a number by which the user authenticates to a SIM/USIM or other smart card

PLMN

Public Land Mobile Network; specification language for a single GSM network

PUK

PIN Unblocking Code; used to unblock a blocked PIN (after too many wrong PIN attempts)

RAC

Routing Area Code; 16bit identifier for a Routing Area within a Location Area

RACH

Random Access Channel on uplink Um interface; used by MS to request establishment of a dedicated channel

RAM

Remote Application Management; Ability to remotely manage (install, remove) Java Applications on SIM/USIM Card

RF

Radio Frequency

RFM

Remote File Management; Ability to remotely manage (write, read) files on a SIM/USIM card

Roaming

Procedure in which a subscriber of one network is using the radio network of another network, often in different countries; in some countries national roaming exists

Routing Area

Routing Area; GPRS specific sub-division of Location Area

RR

Radio Resources; Part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

RSL

Radio Signalling Link (*3GPP TS 48.058* [[3gpp-ts-48-058](#)])

RTP

Real-Time Transport Protocol (*IETF RFC 3550* [[ietf-rfc3550](#)]); Used to transport audio/video streams over UDP/IP

SACCH

Slow Associate Control Channel on Um interface; bundled to a TCH or SDCCH, used for signalling in parallel to active dedicated channel

SCCP

Signaling Connection Control Part; SS7 signaling protocol (*ITU-T Q.711* [[itu-t-q711](#)])

SDCCH

Slow Dedicated Control Channel on Um interface; used for signalling and SMS transport in GSM

SDK

Software Development Kit

SGs

Interface between MSC (GSM/UMTS) and MME (LTE/EPC) to facilitate CSFB and SMS.

SGSN

Serving GPRS Support Node; Core network element for packet-switched services in GSM and UMTS.

SIGTRAN

Signaling Transport over IP (*IETF RFC 2719* [[ietf-rfc2719](#)])

SIM

Subscriber Identity Module; small chip card storing subscriber identity

Site

A site is a location where one or more BTSs are installed, typically three BTSs for three sectors

SMPP

Short Message Peer-to-Peer; TCP based protocol to interface external entities with an SMSC

SMSC

Short Message Service Center; store-and-forward relay for short messages

SS7

Signaling System No. 7; Classic digital telephony signaling system

SS

Supplementary Services; query and set various service parameters between subscriber and core network (e.g. USSD, 3rd-party calls, hold/retrieve, advice-of-charge, call deflection)

SSH

Secure Shell; *IETF RFC 4250* [[ietf-rfc4251](#)] to 4254

SSN

Sub-System Number; identifies a given SCCP Service such as MSC, HLR

STP

Signaling Transfer Point; A Router in SS7 Networks

SUA

SCCP User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (*RFC 3868* [[ietf-rfc3868](#)])

syslog

System logging service of UNIX-like operating systems

System Information

A set of downlink messages on the BCCH and SACCH of the Um interface describing properties of the cell and network

TCH

Traffic Channel; used for circuit-switched user traffic (mostly voice) in GSM

TCP

Transmission Control Protocol; (*IETF RFC 793* [[ietf-rfc793](#)])

TFTP

Trivial File Transfer Protocol; (*IETF RFC 1350* [[ietf-rfc1350](#)])

TOS

Type Of Service; bit-field in IPv4 header, now re-used as DSCP (*IETF RFC 791* [[ietf-rfc791](#)])

TRX

Transceiver; element of a BTS serving a single carrier

TS

Technical Specification

u-Boot

Boot loader used in various embedded systems

UBI

An MTD wear leveling system to deal with NAND flash in Linux

UBL

Initial bootloader loaded by the TI Davinci SoC

UDP

User Datagram Protocol (*IETF RFC 768* [[ietf-rfc768](#)])

UICC

Universal Integrated Chip Card; A smart card according to *ETSI TR 102 216* [[etsi-tr102216](#)]

Um interface

U mobile; Radio interface between MS and BTS

uplink

Direction of messages: Signals from the mobile phone towards the network

USIM

Universal Subscriber Identity Module; application running on a UICC to provide subscriber identity for UMTS and GSM networks

USSD

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data; textual dialog between subscriber and core network, e.g. **100 → Your extension is 1234*

VAMOS

Voice services over Adaptive Multi-user channels on One Slot; an optional extension for GSM specified in Release 9 of 3GPP GERAN specifications (*3GPP TS 48.018* [[3gpp-ts-48-018](#)]) allowing two independent UEs to transmit and receive simultaneously on traffic channels

VCTCXO

Voltage Controlled, Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator; a precision oscillator, superior to a classic crystal oscillator, but inferior to an OCXO

VLAN

Virtual LAN in the context of Ethernet (*IEEE 802.1Q* [[ieee-802.1q](#)])

VLR

Visitor Location Register; volatile storage of attached subscribers in the MSC

VPLMN

Visited PLMN; the network in which the subscriber is currently registered; may differ from HPLMN when on roaming

VTY

Virtual Teletype; a textual command-line interface for configuration and introspection, e.g. the OsmoBSC configuration file as well as its telnet link on port 4242

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