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(54) **Low profile full wavelength meander type antenna**

(57) A low profile antenna has a meander length based on the full electrical wavelength of the signal being transmitted or received. The antenna can have either an open-loop structure or a closed-loop structure with a matching network. The low profile enables the antenna

to be used in a card for a device such as a personal computer, personal digital assistant, wireless telephone and so on with minimal risk of the antenna breaking off, as compared with a prior art antenna having a higher height and thus more likelihood of being broken from its card.

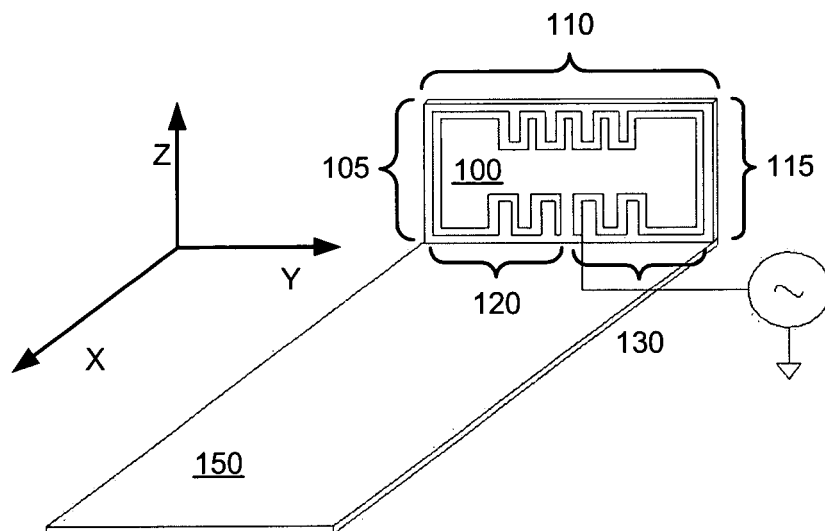


Fig. 4A

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a low-profile antenna for use in mobile computing devices, and more particularly, to an antenna having a meandering configuration.

[0002] Various configurations have been proposed for antennas used in mobile computing devices.

[0003] Fig. 1 shows a portion of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) card having a wireless modem. U.S. Patent No. 5,373,149, assigned to AT&T Bell Laboratories, shows circuit card 76 having located thereon battery 80, antenna 82, infrared transceiver 84, transmit/receive electronics 86 and electrical contacts 92. Antenna 82 depends on circuit card 76 to radiate. Since the personal computer used with the wireless modem also naturally radiates energy, the personal computer and the wireless modem interfere with each other.

[0004] Fig. 2 shows an end of a PCMCIA wireless modem package opposite the end inserted into a PCMCIA slot of a computing device. U.S. Patent No. 5,583,521, assigned to GEC Plessey Semiconductors, Inc., shows PCMCIA package 3 with transparent containment 5 (suggested in phantom) that contains a low profile, paired L-shape antenna system including vertical legs 6a', 6b' and horizontal legs 6a'', 6b'' made of copper wire and separated in a diversity pattern. Horizontal legs 6a'', 6b'' meander in a horizontal plane within transparent containment 5. The antenna system avoids use of a conventional monopole whip antenna that cannot readily fit into a low profile enclosure. Shielded package 3 acts as a ground plane system for the antenna system.

[0005] Fig. 3 shows an extendable whip antenna for use in a mobile telephone having a radiating element with a meandering and cylindrical configuration. U.S. Patent No. 6,351,241, assigned to Allgon AB, shows elongated dielectric portion 30 having a length essentially equal to the length of cylindrically configured meander element 35. Impedance matching means 32 connects to a feed point of meander element 35, is integrated on dielectric carrier 33, and includes contacts at its base for connection to signal and ground connectors of the telephone. As compared to a helical antenna, the meander antenna provides a greater bandwidth, improved production tolerances leading to less rejections, a lower degree of coupling to any adjacent radiators greatly improving multi-band operability and integration of a matching network using at least partly the same manufacturing technique. Unfortunately, as mentioned, the whip antenna cannot fit into a low-profile package.

[0006] Since the wireless modem, as well as the personal computer used with the wireless modem, naturally radiates energy, the personal computer and the wireless modem interfere with each other. Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a wireless modem in a low-profile package

that is more immune to interference from the computing device with which the wireless modem is used.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In accordance with an aspect of this invention, there is provided an antenna, comprising a first portion having a meandering path and two ends, and second and third portions, each having a straight path and connected to respective ends of the first portion.

[0008] In some cases, the meander length is based on the full electrical wavelength of a signal being transmitted or received. The antenna may have an open-loop configuration, or a closed-loop configuration and a matching network coupled to the second and third portions. The antenna typically has a low-profile configuration, the first portion being horizontal, and the second and third portions being vertical. The antenna has an average gain of -2.5 dBi or better, and a peak gain of 0.1 dBi or better.

[0009] In some cases, the antenna also has fourth and fifth portions each having a meandering path, the fourth portion connected to the second portion, the fifth portion connected to the third portion, so that the first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions are in series.

[0010] In accordance with another aspect of this invention, there is provided an open-loop antenna, comprising first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions connected serially. The first, third and fifth portions have meandering paths, and the fifth portion is coupled to a current source or transceiver.

[0011] In accordance with a further aspect of this invention, there is provided a closed-loop antenna, comprising a matching network that is coupled to a current source or transceiver, and first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions connected serially. The first, third and fifth portions have meandering paths, and the first and fifth portions are connected to the matching network. It is not intended that the invention be summarized here in its entirety. Rather, further features, aspects and advantages of the invention are set forth in or are apparent from the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012]

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing a PCMCIA card with an antenna element that depends on the circuit card to radiate;

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing a PCMCIA card with a meandering antenna projecting from an end of the PCMCIA package and which depends on the circuit card to radiate;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing a whip antenna with a radiating element having a meandering and cylindrical configuration;

Figs. 4A and 4B are diagrams showing an open-loop antenna;

Figs. 5A-5C are diagrams showing different meander configurations; and

Figs. 6A and 6B are diagrams showing a closed-loop antenna;

Figs. 7A-7C are antenna gain patterns for the open-loop antenna in the XY, XZ and YZ planes, respectively;

Figs. 8A-8C are antenna gain patterns for the closed-loop antenna in the XY, XZ and YZ planes, respectively;

Fig. 9 shows return loss for the open-loop antenna;

Fig. 10 shows return loss for the closed-loop antenna;

Fig. 11 shows impedance for the open-loop antenna; and

Fig. 12 shows impedance for the closed-loop antenna.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] A low profile antenna has a meander length based on the full electrical wavelength of the signal being transmitted or received. The antenna can have either an open-loop structure or a closed-loop structure with a matching network.

[0014] As used herein, "low profile" means having a height that is generally less than the height of the device, such as a personal computer, to which the antenna including the circuit board for the antenna is coupled, and without an extendable whip antenna.

[0015] The low profile enables the antenna to be used in a card for a device such as a personal computer, personal digital assistant, wireless telephone and so on with minimal risk of the antenna breaking off, as compared with a prior art antenna having a higher height and thus more likelihood of being broken from its card.

[0016] The low profile antenna is carefully designed so that it avoids using its card as a radiator, that is, its radiation pattern is based on the low profile antenna and not associated structures such as the card or the device that the card is used with.

[0017] Fig. 4A shows open-loop antenna 100 on PC-MCIA card 150 having side portions 105, 115, top portion 110, bottom left portion 120 and bottom right portion 130. Side portions 105, 115 have straight paths. Top and bottom portions 110, 120, 130 have meandering paths. Bottom left portion 120 has a floating end. Bottom right portion 130 is coupled to a current source or transceiver.

[0018] In other embodiments, side portions 105, 115 have meandering paths.

[0019] Open-loop antenna 100 generally has a width that is determined by the width of PCMCIA card 150, and a height that is about one-half of its width. Increasing the height of open-loop antenna 100 reduces the length of the meander portions needed to obtain a full wavelength, thereby allowing more current to flow in the vertical direction and increasing the antenna's efficiency.

[0020] Fig. 4B shows measurements of open-loop an-

tenna 100 in mm. Its overall width is seen to be about 64 mm and its height is about 32 mm. Figs. 5A-5C show different meander configurations: a Roman key-type meander, a sinusoidal meander and a sawtooth meander.

The meander sections are electrical delay lines and could be any shape such as those shown in Figs. 5A-5C, an inverted Ω shape, and so on.

[0021] Fig. 6A shows closed-loop antenna 200 on PC-MCIA card 250 having side portions 205, 215, top portion 210, bottom left portion 220 and bottom right portion 230. All of portions 205, 215, 210, 220, 230 have meandering paths. Bottom left portion 220 and bottom right portion 230 are coupled to matching network 240, which is coupled to a current source or transceiver.

[0022] In other embodiments, side portions 205, 215 have straight, non-meandering paths.

[0023] Matching network 240 is designed to match antenna 200 to a typical 50 ohm load presented by the source or transceiver that antenna 200 is coupled to. A typical matching network is a T-type or Pi-type, known to those of ordinary skill in the art of antenna design. Fig. 6B shows measurements of closed-loop antenna 200 in mm. Its overall width is seen to be about 42 mm and its height is about 30 mm.

[0024] Figs. 7A-7C are antenna gain patterns for open-loop antenna 100 in the XY, XZ and YZ planes, respectively, for a signal at 915 MHz. The peak antenna gain is 0.59 dBi. The average gain is -2.11 dBi. The X-plane corresponds to the long dimension of card 150. The Y-plane corresponds to the short dimension of card 150. The Z-plane corresponds to the height of card 150. Theta and phi refer to (r, θ, ϕ) spherical coordinates, instead of (x, y, z) Cartesian coordinates. It will be recalled that a gain of -3 dBi corresponds to half of the signal energy being dissipated, whereas a gain of -2 dBi means less than half of the signal energy is dissipated.

[0025] Figs. 8A-8C are antenna gain patterns for closed-loop antenna 200 in the XY, XZ and YZ planes, respectively, for a signal at 915 MHz. The antenna gain is 0.19 dBi. The average gain is -2.42 dBi.

[0026] Fig. 9 shows return loss for open-loop antenna 100.

[0027] Fig. 10 shows return loss for closed-loop antenna 200.

[0028] Fig. 11 shows impedance for open-loop antenna 100.

[0029] Fig. 12 shows impedance for closed-loop antenna 200.

[0030] Although illustrative embodiments of the present invention, and various modifications thereof, have been described in detail herein with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to these precise embodiments and the described modifications, and that various changes and further modifications may be effected therein by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

Claims**1.** An antenna, comprising:

a first portion having a meandering path and two ends, and
second and third portions, each having a straight path and connected to respective ends of the first portion.

2. The antenna of claim 1, wherein the meander length is based on the full electrical wavelength of a signal being transmitted or received.**3.** The antenna of claim 1, having an open-loop configuration.**4.** The antenna of claim 1, having a closed-loop configuration and a matching network coupled to the second and third portions.**5.** The antenna of claim 1, having a low-profile configuration.**6.** The antenna of claim 1, wherein the first portion is horizontal.**7.** The antenna of claim 1, wherein the second and third portions are vertical.**8.** The antenna of claim 1, having an average gain of -2.5 dBi or better.**9.** The antenna of claim 1, having a peak gain of 0.1 dBi or better.**10.** The antenna of claim 1, further comprising fourth and fifth portions each having a meandering path, the fourth portion connected to the second portion, the fifth portion connected to the third portion, so that the first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions are in series.**11.** The antenna of claim 10, wherein the fourth and fifth portions are bottom portions.**12.** The antenna of claim 1, wherein the first portion is a top portion, and the second and third portions are side portions.**13.** The antenna of claim 1, wherein the meandering path has a configuration that is one of a roman key-type meander, a sinusoidal meander, a sawtooth meander and an inverted Ω meander.**14.** An open-loop antenna, comprising:

first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions con-

nected serially,
the first, third and fifth portions having meandering paths, and
the fifth portion being coupled to a current source or transceiver.

15. The open-loop antenna of claim 14, wherein the first, third and fifth portions are horizontal.**16.** The open-loop antenna of claim 14, wherein the second and fourth portions are vertical.**17.** The open-loop antenna of claim 14, wherein the second and fourth portions have meandering paths.**18.** The open-loop antenna of claim 14, having an average gain of -2.5 dBi or better.**19.** A closed-loop antenna, comprising:

a matching network that is coupled to a current source or transceiver, and
first, second, third, fourth and fifth portions connected serially,
the first, third and fifth portions having meandering paths, and
the first and fifth portions connected to the matching network.

20. The closed-loop antenna of claim 19, wherein the first, third and fifth portions are horizontal.**21.** The closed-loop antenna of claim 19, wherein the second and fourth portions are vertical.**22.** The closed-loop antenna of claim 19, wherein the second and fourth portions have meandering paths.**23.** The closed-loop antenna of claim 19, having an average gain of -2.5 dBi or better.

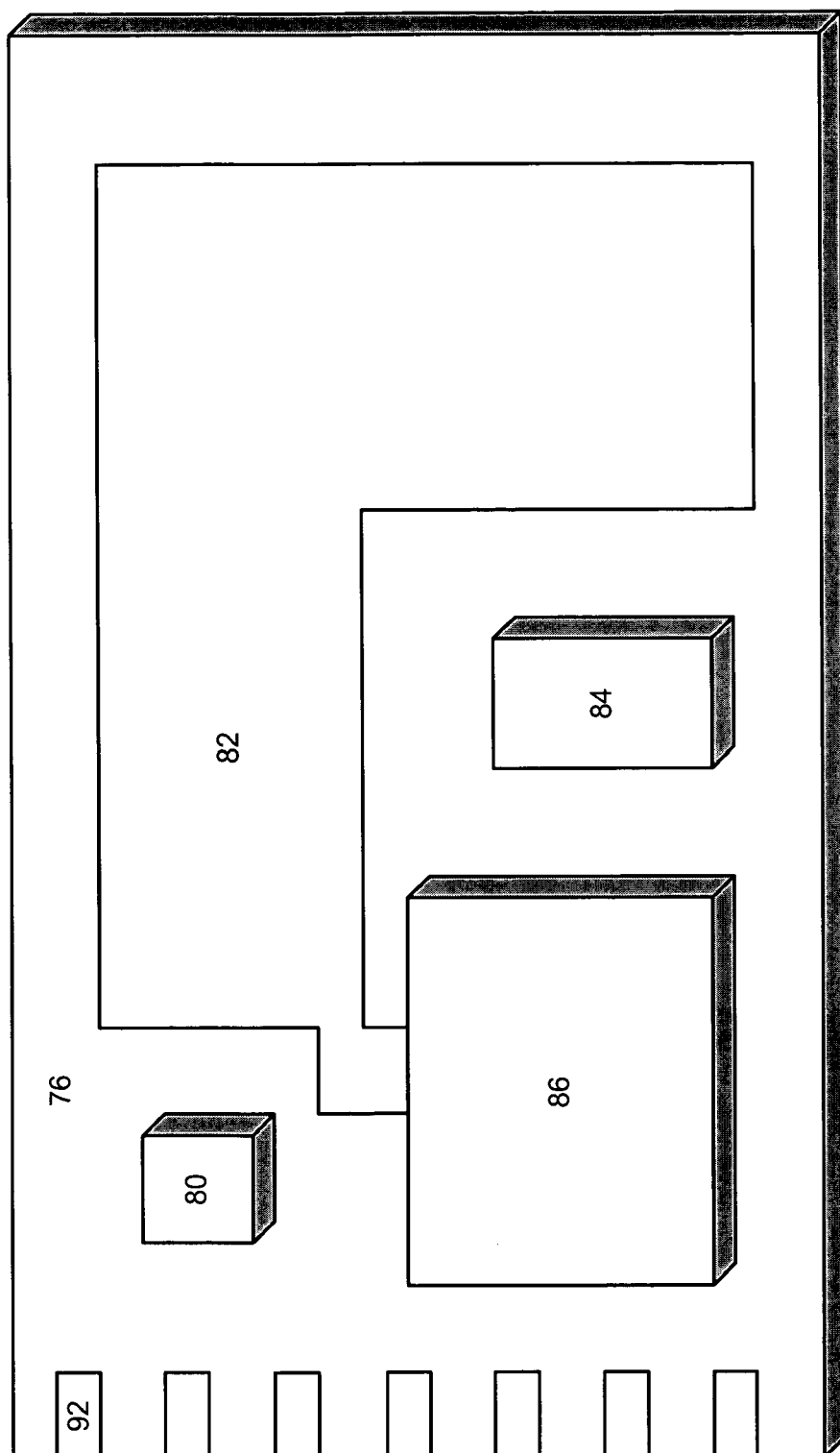


Fig. 1 (Prior Art)

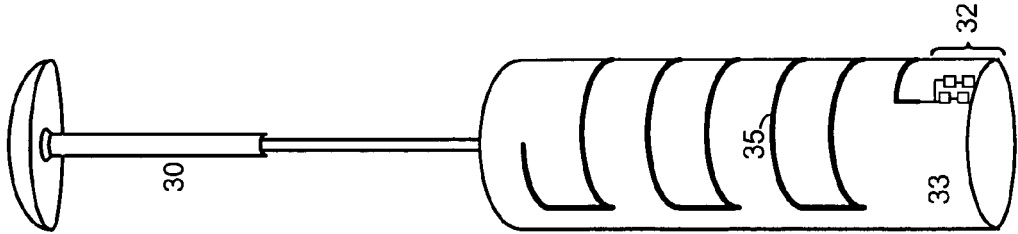


Fig. 3 (Prior Art)

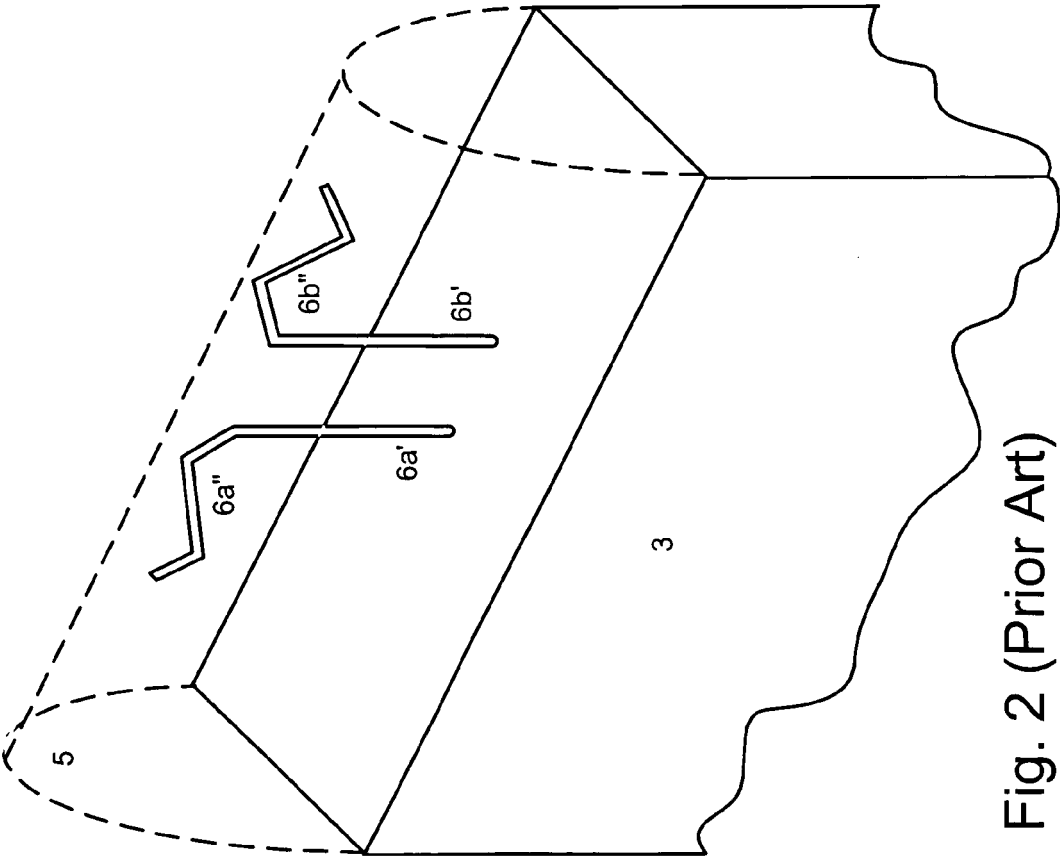


Fig. 2 (Prior Art)

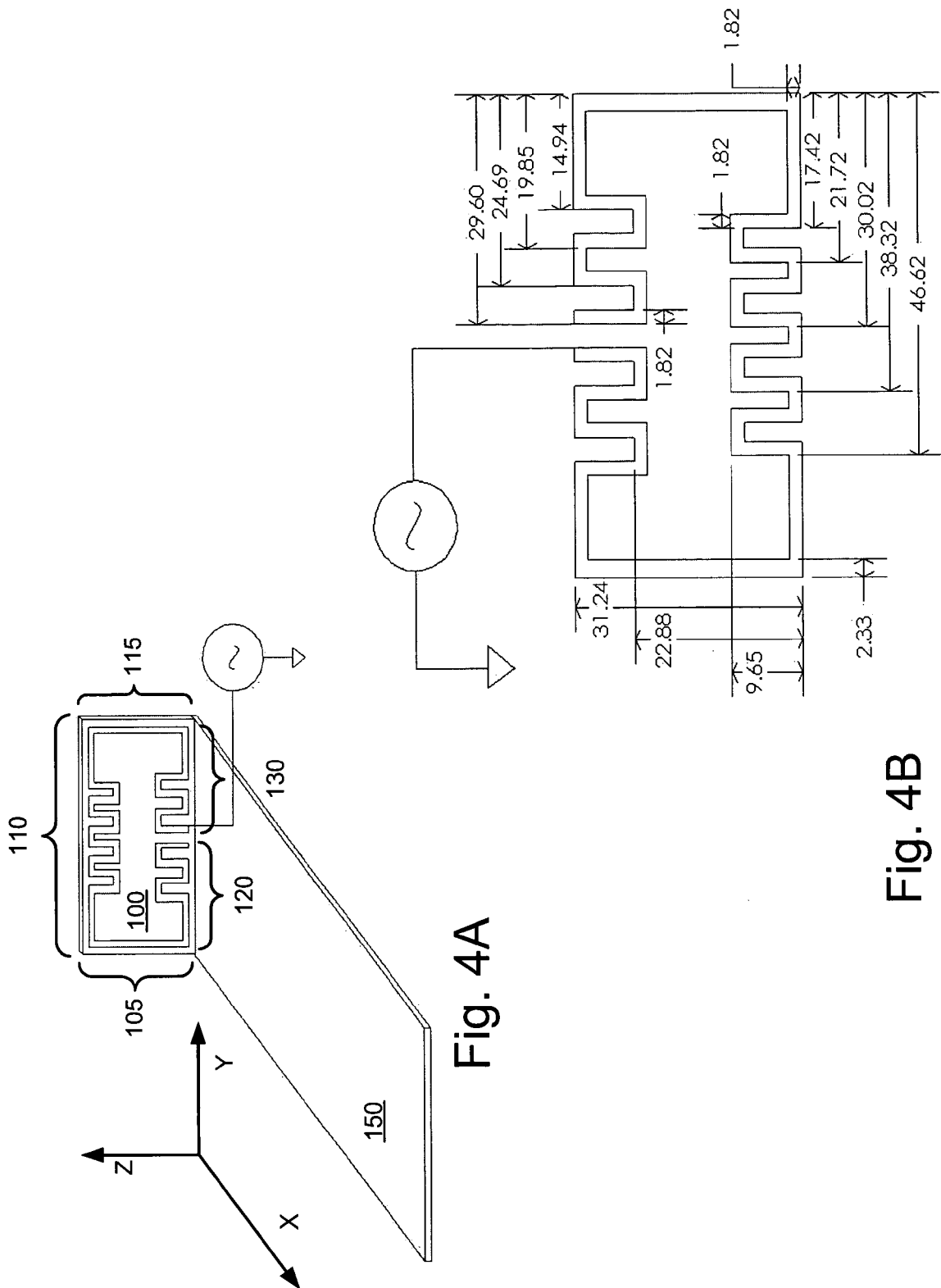


Fig. 4B

Fig. 5A

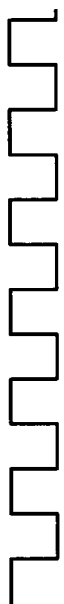


Fig. 5B



Fig. 5C



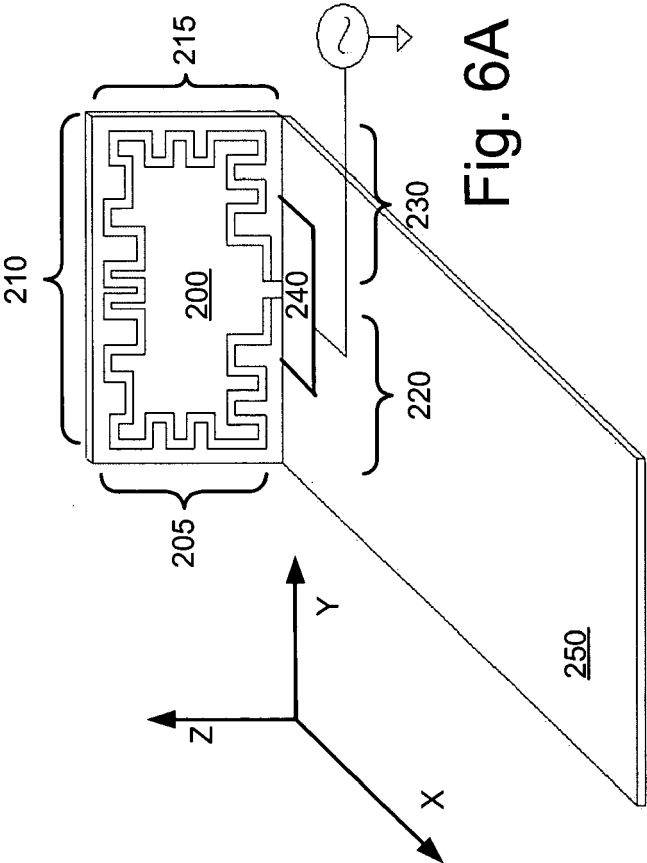


Fig. 6A

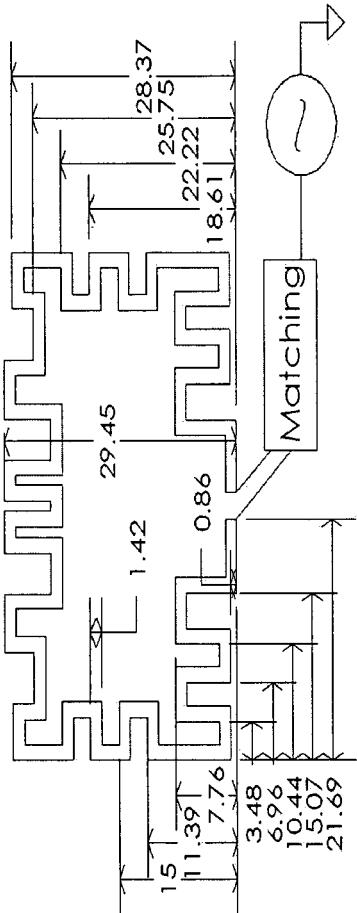


Fig. 6B

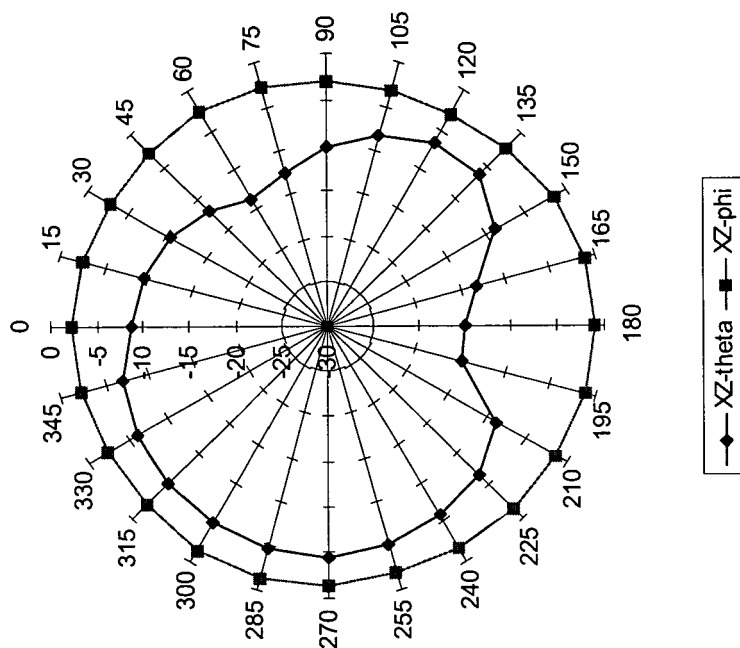


Fig. 7B

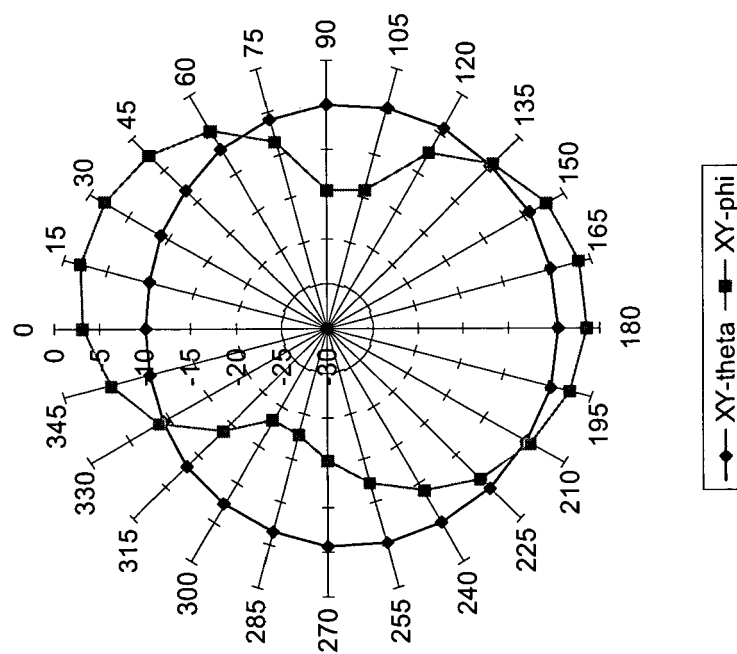
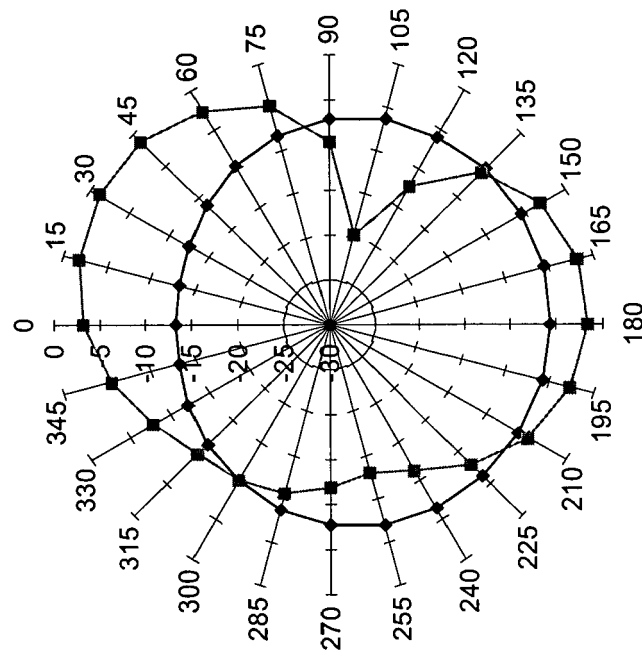
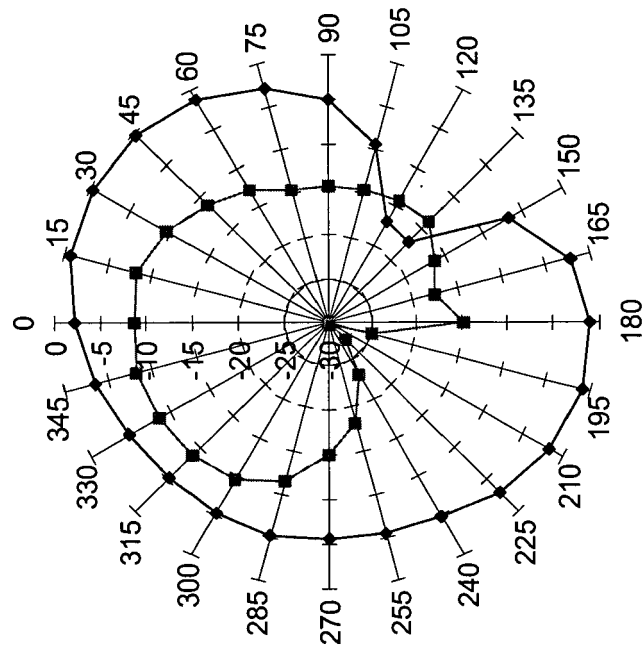


Fig. 7A



—◆— XY-theta —■— XY-phi

Fig. 8A



—◆— YZ-theta —■— YZ-phi

Fig. 7C

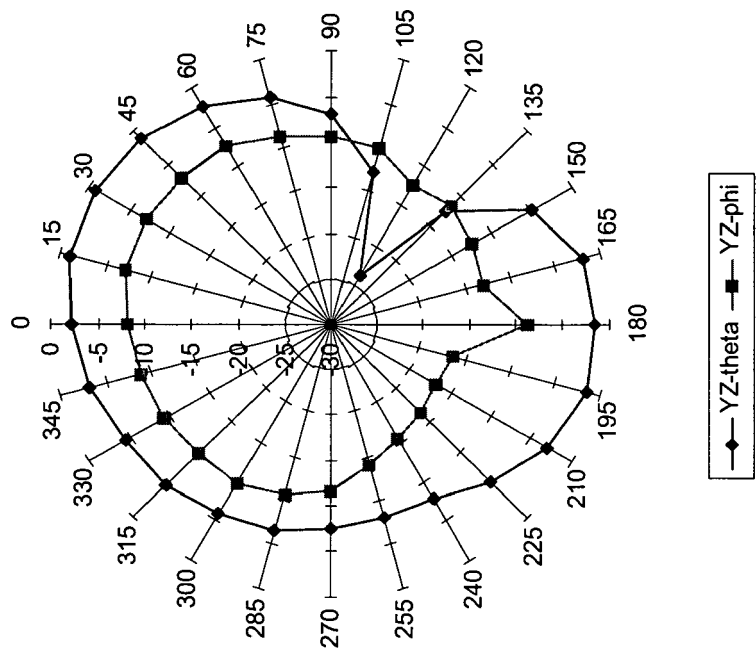


Fig. 8C

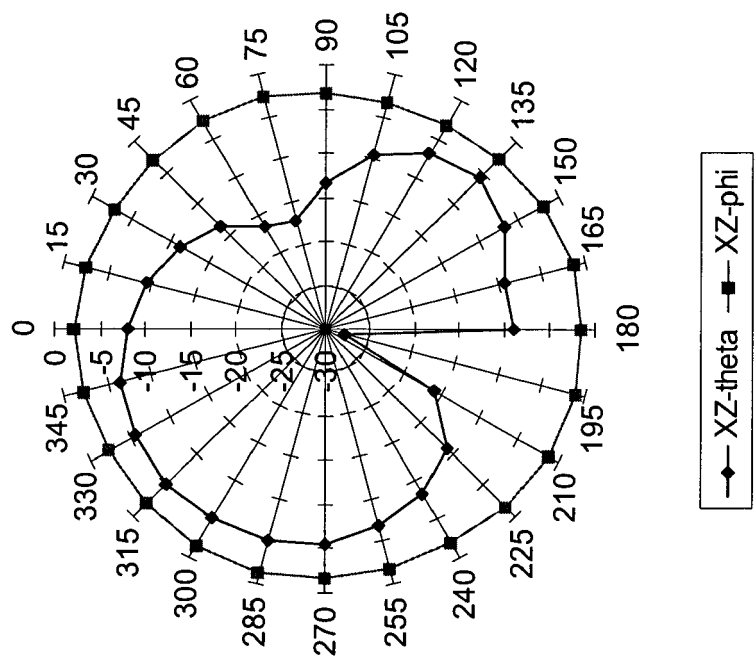
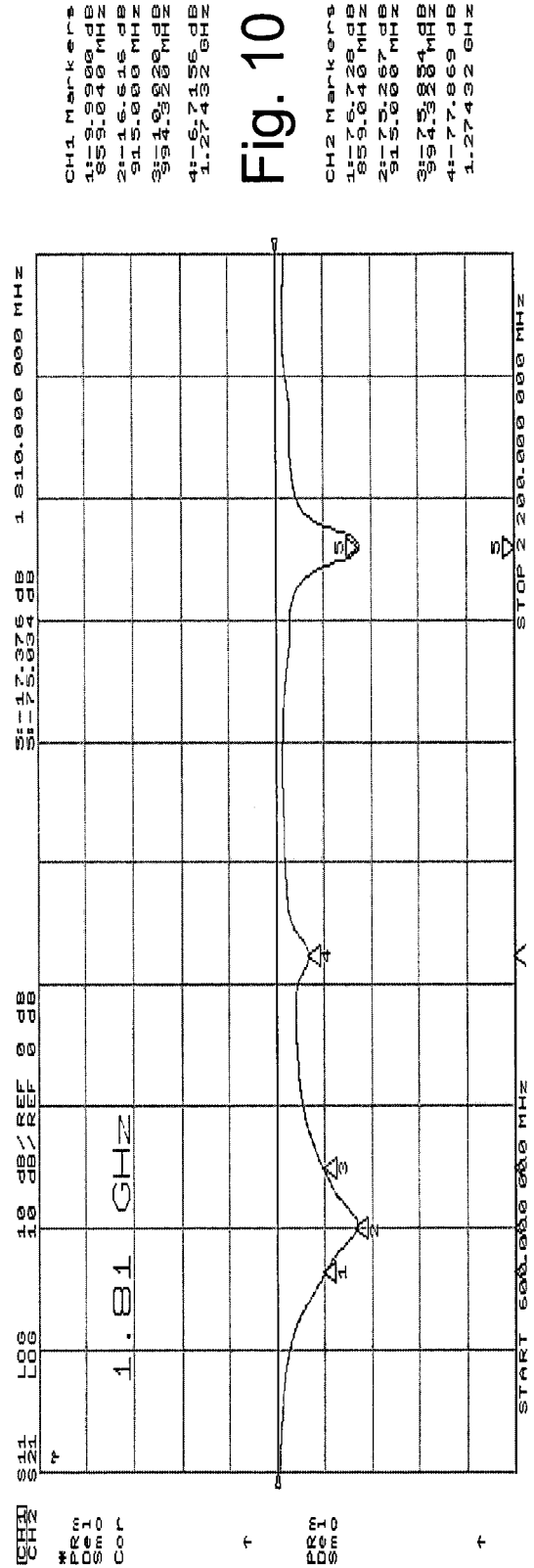
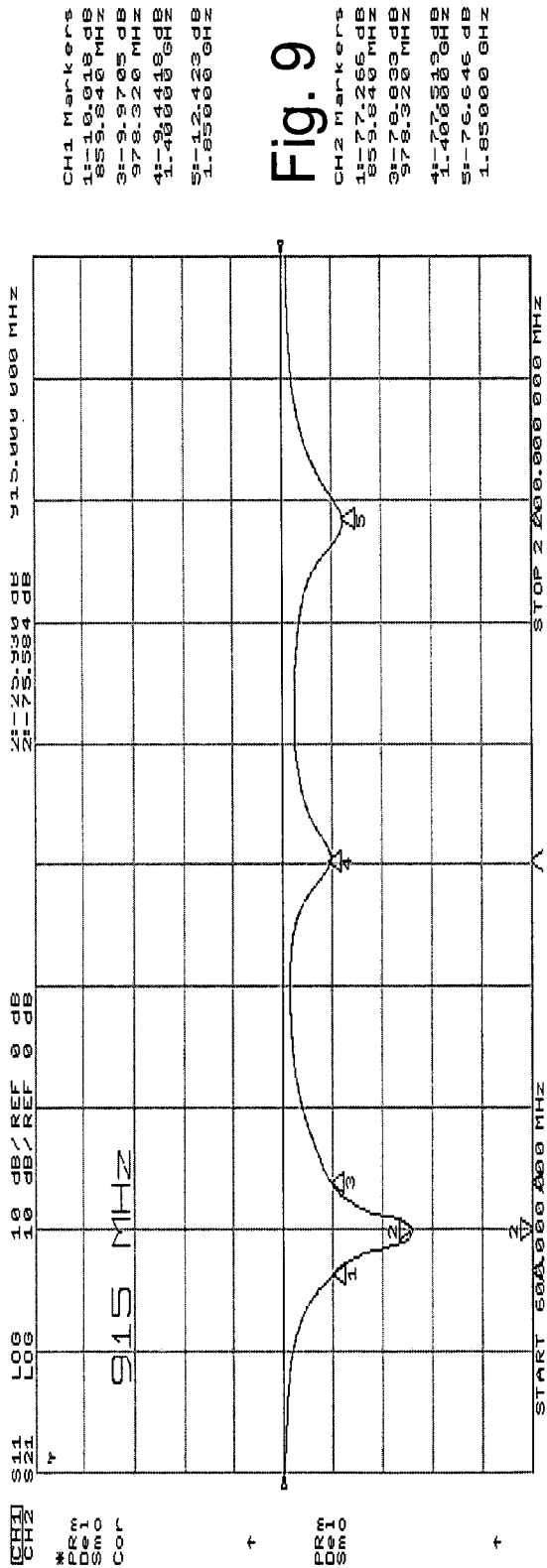


Fig. 8B



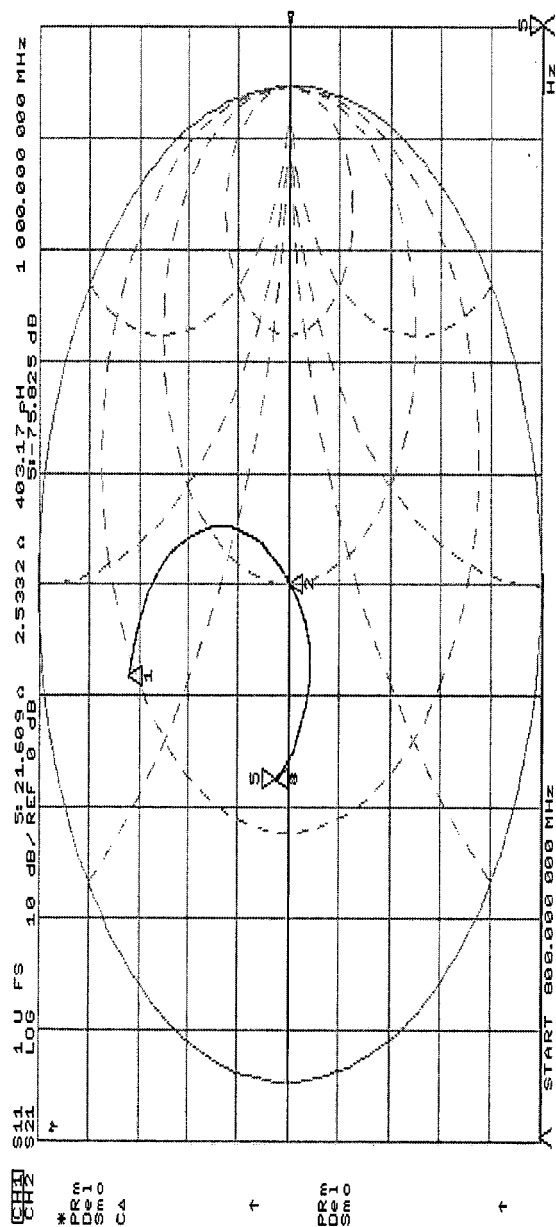


Fig. 11

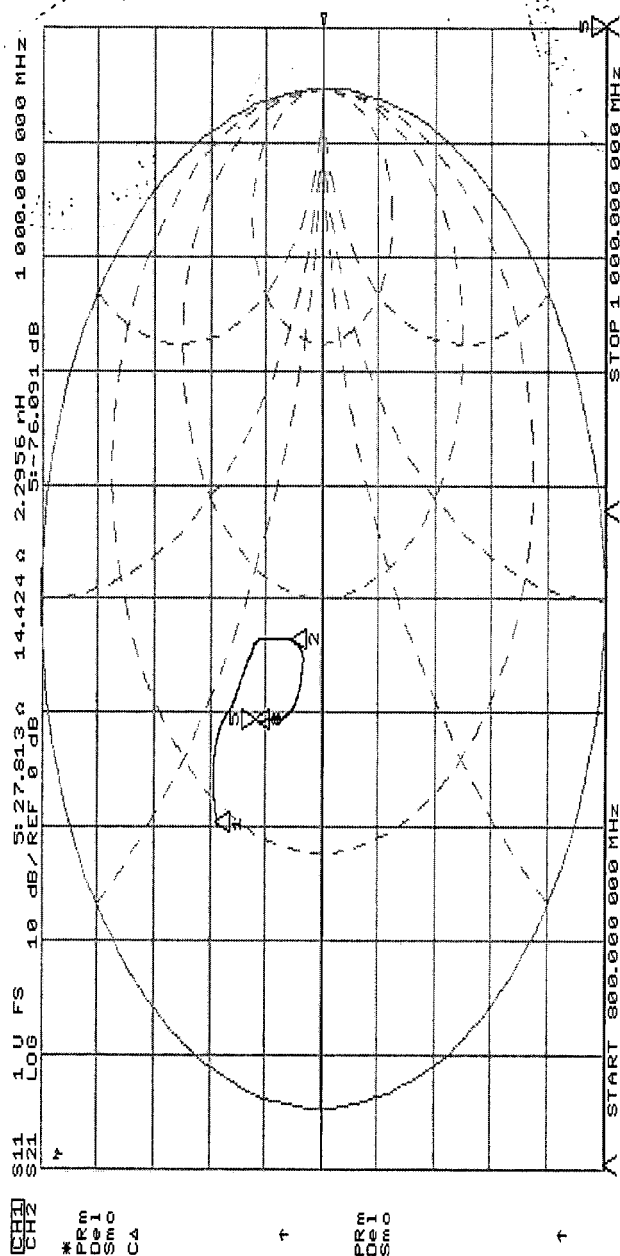


Fig. 12



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 25 7844

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 1 189 304 A (SONY CORPORATION) 20 March 2002 (2002-03-20)	1-3,5,6, 14-18	H01Q1/22 H01Q1/38
Y	* abstract; figures 7,8 *	4-13, 19-23	
	* column 3, paragraph 17 *		
	* column 8, paragraph 34 - column 9, paragraph 35 *		
Y	----- US 6 147 655 A (ROESNER ET AL) 14 November 2000 (2000-11-14)	4-13, 19-23	
	* abstract; figure 5 *		
	* column 1, lines 6-12 *		
	* column 2, lines 18-21,26-55 *		
	* column 3, lines 31-42 *		
	* column 6, lines 34-66 *		
A	----- US 2002/080088 A1 (BOYLE KEVIN R) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27)	13	
	* abstract; figures 1-7 *		
	* page 1, paragraphs 1,2,8 *		
	* page 2, paragraph 28-31 *		

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H01Q
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 17 May 2005	Examiner Cordeiro J-P.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 25 7844

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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