

Project 2

Experiments with Standard Power Amplifier Circuits

Three classes of power amplifier were designed and tested. Transistors used were TIP31C (npn) and TIP32C (pnp) type. Total power dissipation for both was 2W, for a transistor with no heat sink and ambient temperature of 25°C. Classes of power amplifiers were class-A, class-B and class-AB.

Class-A

This class of amplifier was easy to design, with biasing current and voltage, but low efficiency. As mentioned earlier, $P_T = 2W$ however 1.8W was chosen as a starting point for additional safety, thus:



Figure 1, below showed the design of the class-A amplifier. V_{CC} was chosen to be 12V, and $R_L = 20\Omega$ was assigned.

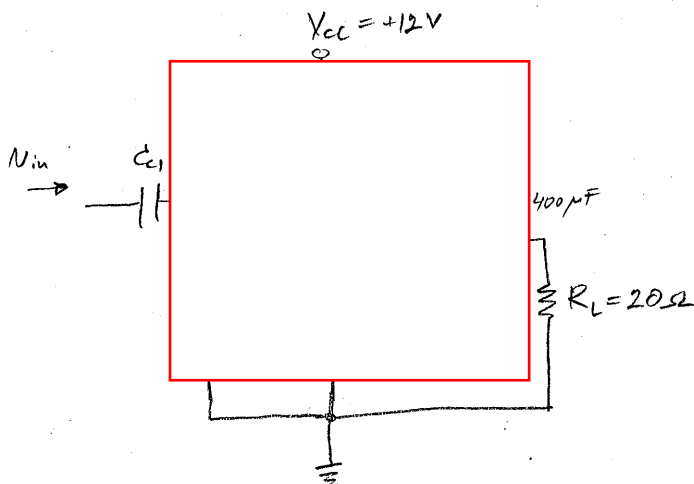


Figure 1. Design of a Class A Amplifier

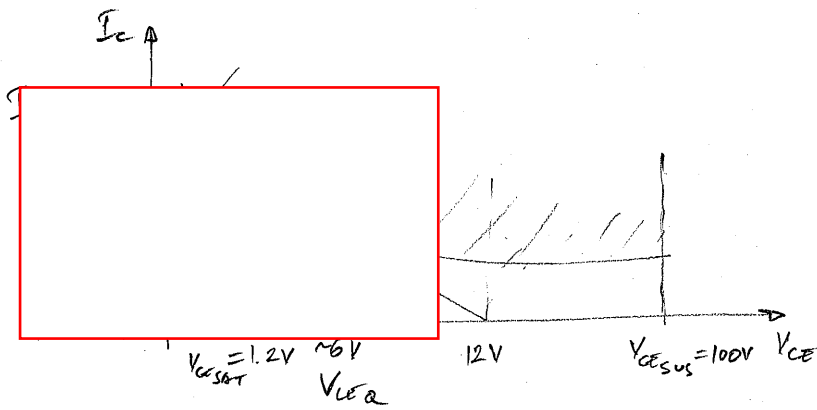


Figure 2. Safe Operating Area (SOA) Diagram

Diagram of a safe operating area was drawn based on the values from

2, where:



$I_{CR} =$

Small circuit analysis was also performed in order to acquire the value of C_{c2} , and was based on figure 3, below.

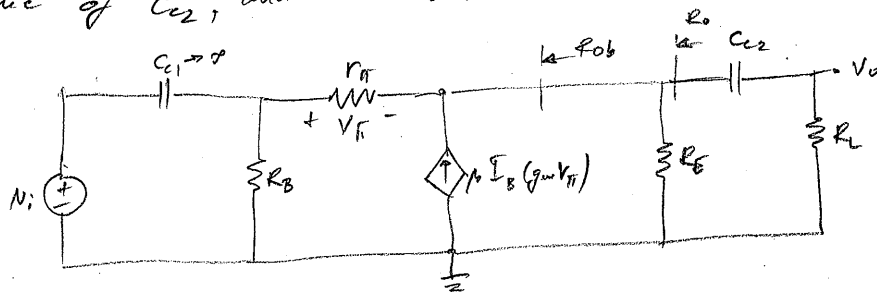


Figure 3. Small circuit equivalent

$$R_{ob} = \frac{V}{I} = \frac{V}{\frac{V}{R_E}(1+\beta)} = \frac{r_E}{1+\beta}$$

$$r_E = \frac{V_T \cdot \beta}{I_{CQ}} = \frac{0.026V \cdot 25}{0.3A} = 2.167\Omega$$

$$R_o = (R_E \parallel R_{ob})$$

$$R_o = \left(20\Omega \parallel \frac{2.167}{1+25} \right) = 0.083\Omega$$

$$\tau_s = C_{c2} (R_L + R_o)$$

$$\text{for } f_L \leq 20\text{Hz} \quad \tau_s \leq \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot 20\text{Hz}} \quad \text{Thus } C_{c2} \geq \frac{1}{2\pi \cdot 20\text{Hz} \cdot 20.083\Omega}$$

$$C_{c2} \geq 396\mu\text{F}, \quad C_{c2} = 400\mu\text{F} \text{ was chosen}$$

Noting $R_{th} = 0.1(1+\beta)R_E$ gave an R_{th} value of 52Ω . This value seemed low, since R_1 and R_2 would have been 74Ω and 175Ω respectively.

These seemed as too low values, since current through them would have

bee
valu
Vole
a



05k Ω and R_1
 I_{CQ} close to $0.3A$,
input circuit,

Figure 4. Input circuit

Efficiency of the class-A amplifier was calculated using the measured



As mentioned previously, this class of amplifier has low efficiency.

Class-B

This class of amplifiers had much higher efficiency, however it produced crossover distortion due to a dead band portion of the output curve.

Design of the class-B circuit was shown in figure 5.

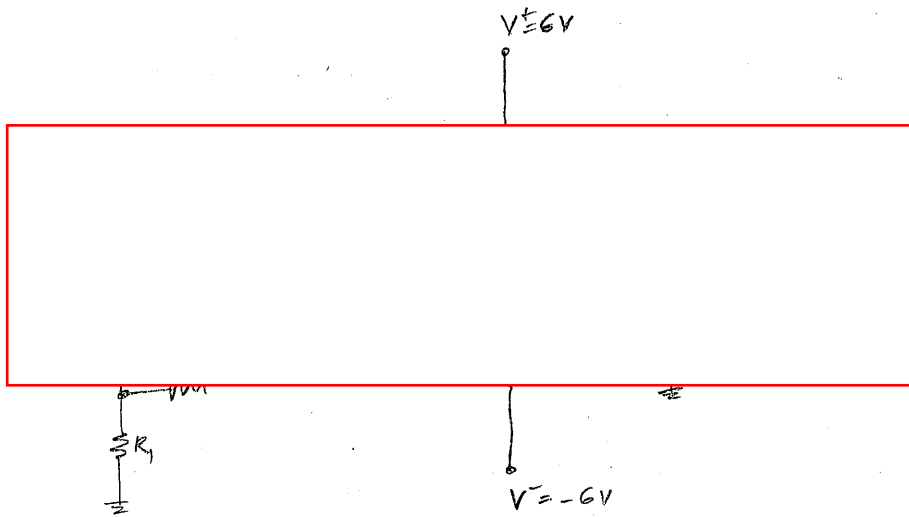


Figure 5. Class-B Amplifier

Based on the measured values, efficiency of the class-B amplifier was calculated :



This value was much higher than the efficiency of the class-A, however the clipping of the output signal was present (as expected).

Class-AB

Sacrificing some efficiency, class AB eliminates crossover distortion. Design of this circuit was shown in figure 6.

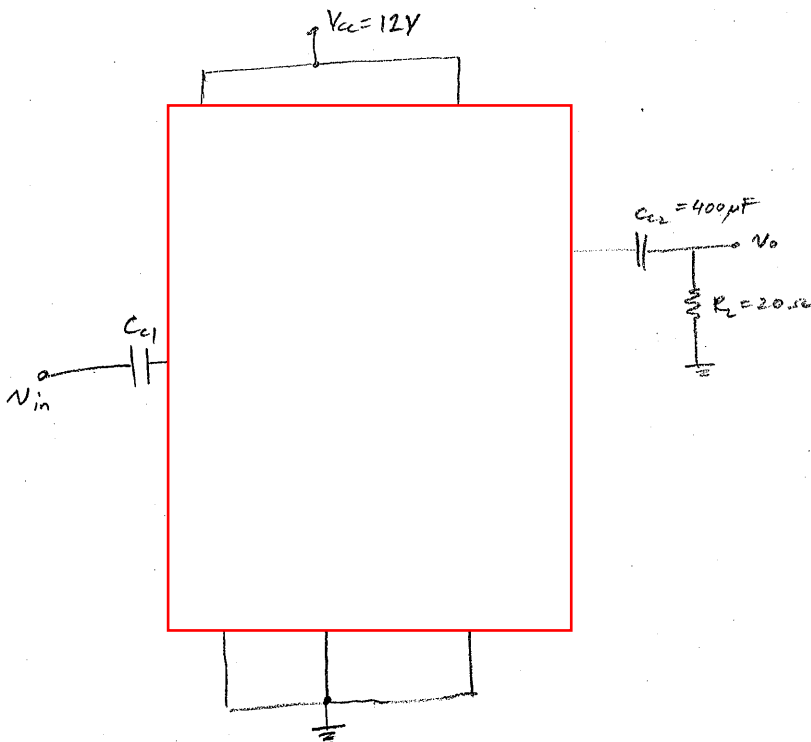
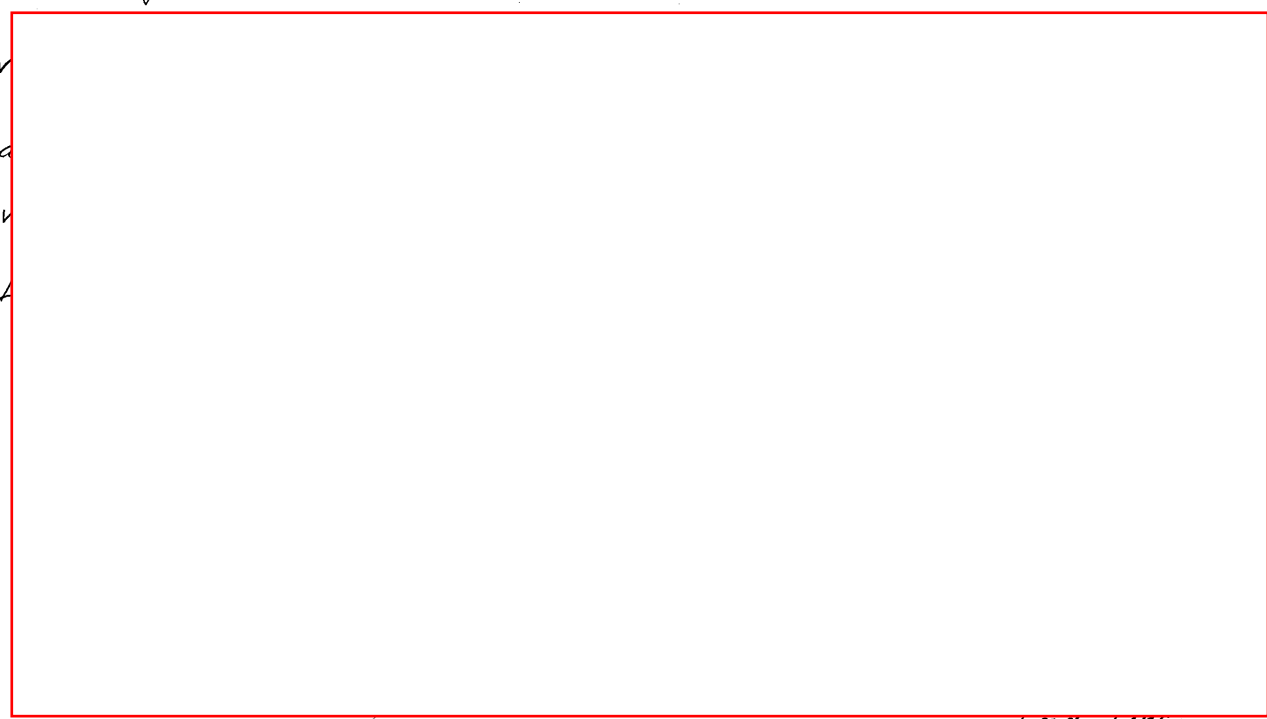


Figure 6. Class-AB Amplifier Design

Maximum current transistor 2N5210 was rated for was 100mA. Therefore, 50mA for I_{ca} was assumed. This value was enough to create biasing

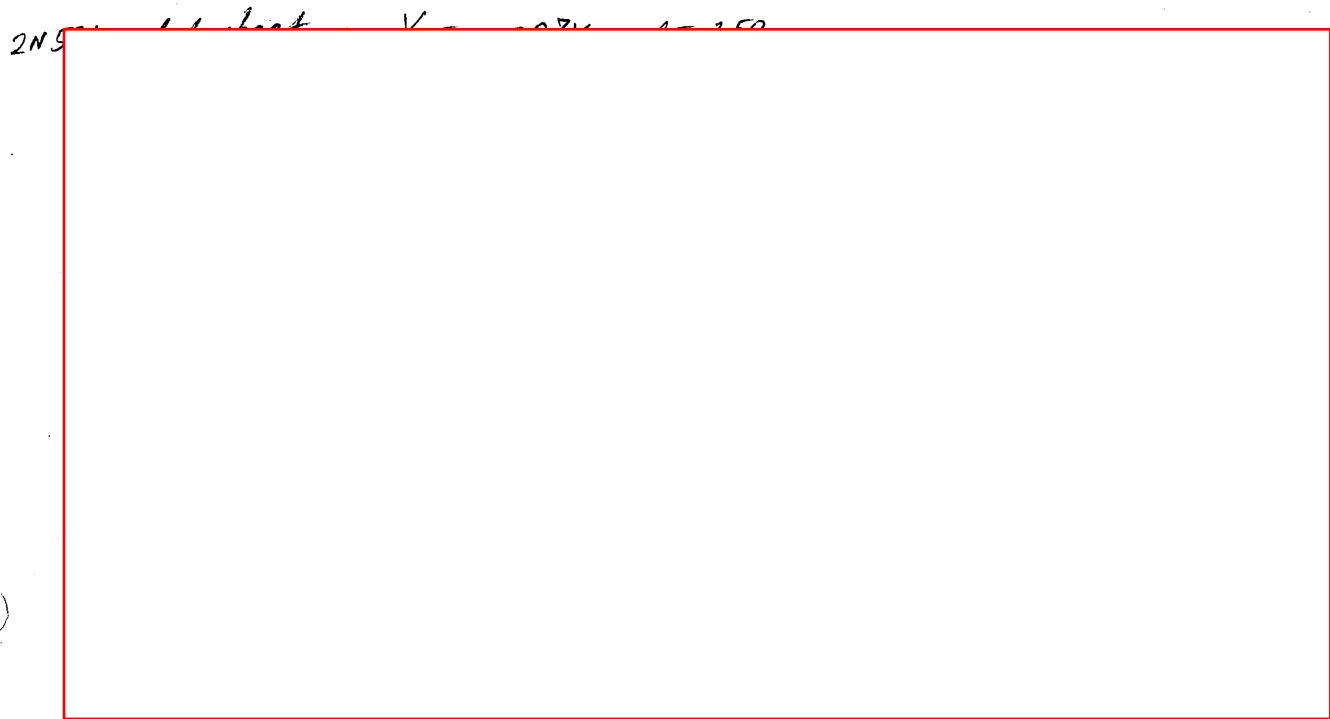


out flow,
This
Load

$V_{ce} = 5V$ Figure 7. Transistor 2N5210 Load Line

$$R_3 = \frac{10.5V}{100mA} = 105\Omega$$

Two resistors of 220Ω were used in parallel for R_3 , to give $R_3 = 110\Omega$.
Biasing resistors, R_1 and R_2 were calculated based on information from



7V
23k Ω
k Ω

when the circuit was built and tested, $R_2 = 6.49 \text{ k}\Omega$ was used to achieve $\approx 100 \text{ dB}$. The discrepancy was due to low $V_{BE(on)}$ variations.

ions.

and R_5).

current

were

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Ver was

for low

signal distortion. It was noticed and shown in figure 10, some small distortion was still present. This distortion was increasing and becoming significant as the signal input was raised into the clipping region.

Figures 8 to 10 show the signals of all three classes of amplifiers built.

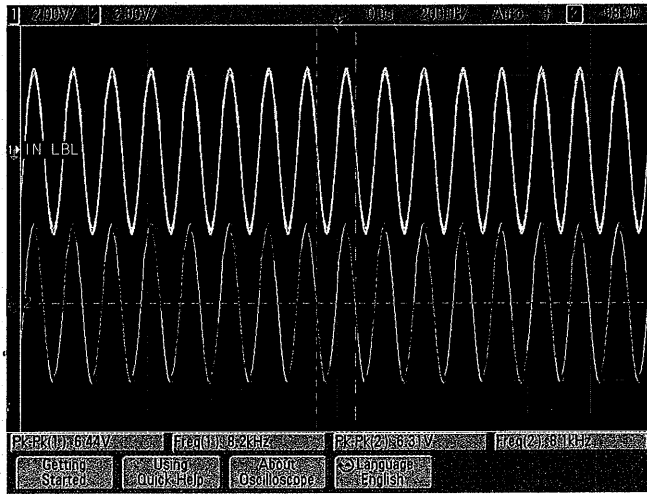


Figure 8. Class-A, Input (CH1) and Output (CH2) Signals

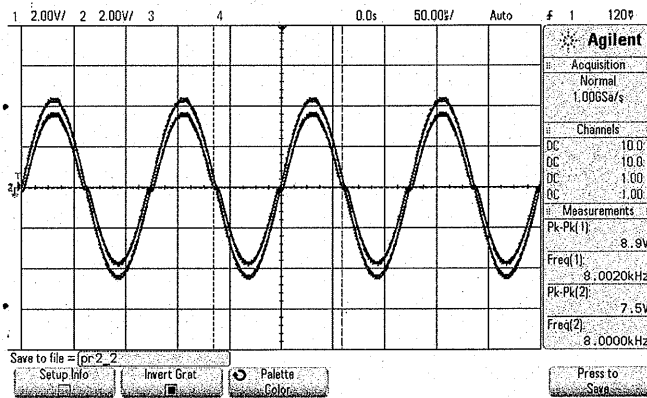


Figure 9. Class-B, Input (CH1) and Output (CH2) Signals

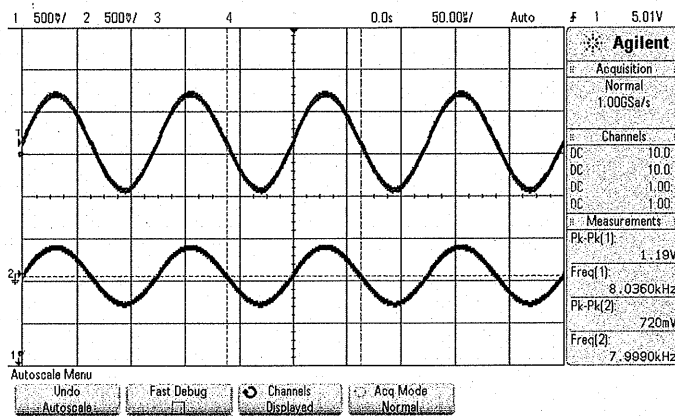


Figure 10. Class-AB, Input (CH1) and Output (CH2) Signals