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Voltage Controlled **Amplifier with Balanced Input** 

SKU: EL150155

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#### AUDIO

#### Voltage Controlled Amplifier with Balanced Input



The project presented here is a Voltage Controlled Amplifier (VCA). A VCA board helps users control the audio level from a remote potentiometer. This board requires a balanced audio signal. Gain control voltage can be adjusted through potentiometer R13. The project works with a dual (±15V) power supply. Screw terminal connectors are provided for signal input and signal output. The project is built using THAT2181LA chip which is a VCA, designed for high performance in audio-frequency applications requiring exponential gain control, low distortion, wide dynamic range, and low control-voltage feedthrough. This chip controls the gain by converting an input current signal to a bipolar logged voltage, adding a DC control voltage, and re-converting the summed voltage back to a current through a bipolar antilog circuit. Stereo control of VCA with a single potentiometer is possible.

**THAT2181–series** trimmable Blackmer voltage-controlled amplifier (VCA) ICs are very high-performance current-in/current-out devices with two opposing-polarity, voltage-sensitive control ports. They offer wide-range exponential control of gain and attenuation with low signal distortion.

#### FEATURES

- Power Supply +/-15V DC @ 40mA
- Total Harmonic Distortion 1V 0dB Gain 0.0025%
- Screw Terminal for Balanced Audio Input
- Header Connector for Power Input
- Screw Terminal for Audio Output
- On Board Power LED
- 4X2.5MM Mounting Holes
- PCB Dimensions 53.34X25.72MM



#### Trimming

The trim should be adjusted for minimum harmonic distortion using PR1. This is usually done by applying a middle-level, middle-frequency signal (e.g. 1 kHz at 1 V) to the audio input, setting the VCA to 0 dB gain, and adjusting the SYM trim while observing THD at the output. In 2181, this adjustment coincides closely with the setting which produces minimum control-voltage feedthrough, though the two settings are not always identical.

#### Schematic



# Connections



#### Connections

- CN1: Balance Audio Signal Input, Pin 1 = Audio-Hot, Pin 2 = GND, Pin 3 = Audio Cold
- CN2: Pin 1 = Audio Output, Pin 2 = GND
- CN3: Pin 1 = 15V DC, Pin 2 = GND, Pin 3 = -15V
- D1: Power LED
- R13: Gain Adjust Potentiometer
- PR1: Symmetry Adjust

PCB







SILK SCREEN TOP



BOTTOM LAYER

PCB DIMENSIONS 53.34X25.72MM



TOP LAYER

# **Parts List**

| BOM |       |                 |                                   |              |          |                  |  |
|-----|-------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|--|
| BOM | QNTY. | REF.            | DESC.                             | MANUFACTURER | SUPPLIER | SUPPLIER PART NO |  |
| 1   | 1     | CN1             | 3 PIN SCREW TERMINAL PITCH 5.08MM | PHOENIX      | DIGIKEY  | 277-1248-ND      |  |
| 2   | 1     | CN2             | 2 PIN SCREW TERMINAL PITCH 5.08MM | PHOENIX      | DIGIKEY  | 277-1247-ND      |  |
| 3   | 1     | CN3             | 3 PIN MALE HEADER PITCH 2.54MM    | WURTH        | DIGIKEY  | 732-5316-ND      |  |
| 4   | 2     | C1,C4           | 47PF/50V CERAMIC SMD SIZE 0805    | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 5   | 3     | C2,C5,C10       | 47uF/35V ELEKTROLYTIC             | WURTH        | DIGIKEY  | 732-8508-1-ND    |  |
| 6   | 1     | C3              | 22PF/50V CERAMIC SMD SIZE 0805    | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 7   | 4     | C6,C8,C11,C12   | 100nF/50V CERAMIC SMD SIZE 0805   | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 8   | 2     | C7,C9           | 10uF/25V CERAMIC SMD SIZE 0805    | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 9   | 1     | C13             | 1uF/25V CERAMIC SMD SIZE 0805     | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 10  | 1     | D1              | LED RED SMD SIZE 0805             | OSRAM        | DIGIKEY  | 475-1278-1-ND    |  |
| 11  | 1     | PR1             | 50K TRIMMER POT                   | BOURNS       | DIGIKEY  | 3296W-503LF-ND   |  |
| 12  | 5     | R1,R3,R6,R9,R13 | 10K 5% SMD SIZE 0805              | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 13  | 1     | R2              | 2.2K 5% SMD SIZE 0805             | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 14  | 1     | R4              | 100E 5% SMD SIZE 0805             | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 15  | 2     | R5,R8           | 20K 1% SMD SIZE 0805              | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 16  | 1     | R7              | 51E 1% SMD SIZE 0805              | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 17  | 1     | R10             | 5.1K 1% SMD SIZE 0805             | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 18  | 1     | R11             | 4.12K 1% SMD SIZE 0805            | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 19  | 1     | R12             | 130K 1% SMD SIZE 0805             | YAGEO/MURATA | DIGIKEY  |                  |  |
| 20  | 2     | U1,U3           | BA4560 SOIC8                      | ROHM         | DIGIKEY  | BA4560F-E2CT-ND  |  |
| 21  | 1     | U2              | THAT2181A SOIC8                   | THAT CORP    | MOUSER   | 887-2181AS08-U   |  |

#### **Notes**

|  | APP   |
|--|---|
|  | Android App   |
|  | DOWNLOAD  |
|  | Android App launched<br>in 2017 and has 100k+<br>downloads - rated with<br>4.5 stars. |
|  | SCAN QR CODE  |
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# from ideas to boards

