

Active Filtering in Automotive Audio Applications



Phone calls, emergency alerts, and music are just a few of the reasons that a high quality audio system is vital in automotive infotainment and clusters. Operational amplifiers (op amps) are one of the most common building blocks of automotive audio circuits. Many designers choose to incorporate op amps into their automotive audio circuits to increase audio performance. Higher-order filters, which can be created through a combination of second-order filters, attenuate noise more aggressively than lower-order filters. Additionally, active filters remove the chance of unwanted interference with the audio signal.

Why Audio Filtering?

Filtering is vital for car audio systems to ensure high-quality sound. A filter with an op amp, or an active filter, maintains the frequency response while amplifying the audio signal. High-pass filters (HPF) reject the DC components of a signal, leaving only the DC offset that matches the rest of the op amp. Often, a capacitor is added in parallel with a feedback resistor to achieve additional filtering, and to improve the stability of the circuit. See the [inverting](#) or [non-inverting](#) AC-coupled HPF amplifier circuits, which are available online with example circuits and accessible calculations. As seen in [Figure 1](#), active low-pass filters (LPF) can be used to create the frequency band needed for a subwoofer, or an anti-aliasing filter, for audio signals at the input of an ADC.

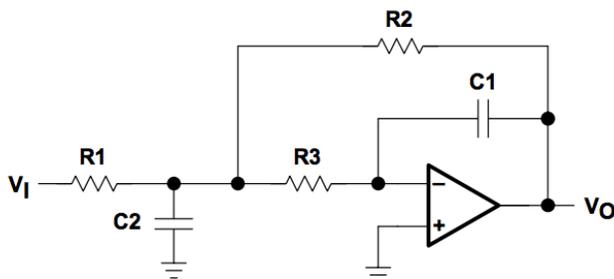


Figure 1. A Multiple-Feedback Low-Pass Filter Circuit

Another common use of op amp filters in an automotive audio system is to separate frequency ranges for individual speakers throughout the car. Lower frequency ranges require higher power amplifiers to drive larger speakers, as human hearing

is less sensitive to these frequencies. However, the power required to drive a large subwoofer could damage a higher frequency speaker, especially at higher volumes. HPFs and LPFs can be used to set cutoff frequencies that deliver frequencies to the correct speakers.

As shown in [Figure 2](#), filters that separate frequency bands must be designed so that there are no dips in the frequency response of the sound produced by the speaker. All of these HPF and LPF networks can be designed using the [WEBENCH filter design tool](#).

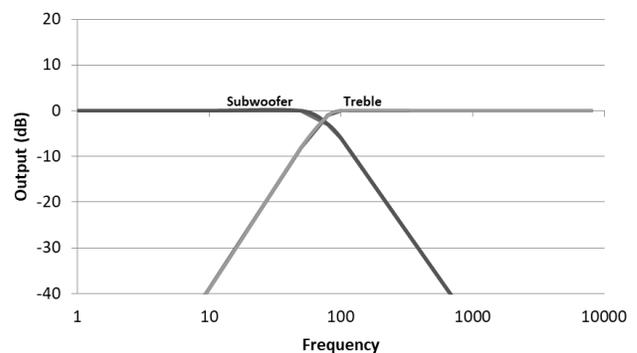


Figure 2. Splitting Frequencies Using Active Filters to Reach Multiple Speakers

Audio Filtering in the Automotive Space

Designers concerned with automotive audio can use these principles to create a quality audio filtering system. While there are many different filter circuits, the multiple-feedback filter circuit is the most commonly used in automotive audio signal chains. More op amps can be added to additionally filter circuits in order to filter out DC and high-frequency noise.

TI's [PMP11769](#) is an automotive audio amplifier design that incorporates these active filters to create a subwoofer system. As seen in [Figure 3](#), this design incorporates a high-pass, non-inverting amplifier, which is simply designed to reject any DC signal from the original analog audio signal.

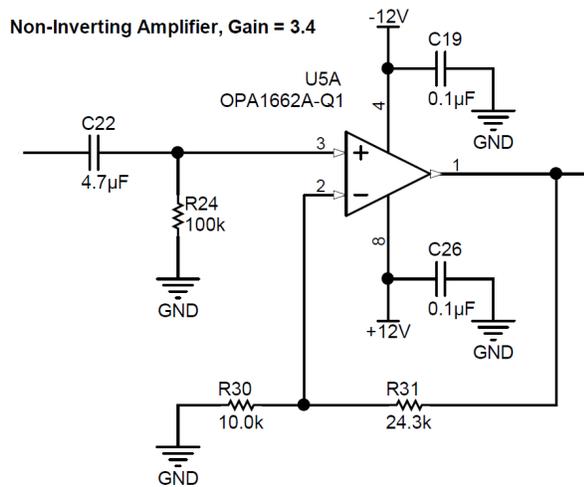


Figure 3. Active, Non-Inverting, High-Pass Filter at 0.3 Hz with a Gain of 3.4

As seen in [Figure 4](#), the audio signal is then fed into a second-order LPF with a cutoff frequency of 80 Hz. The range of 0-80 Hz is the true bottom half of the audio, so the output is fed to the subwoofer speakers. The audio signal is later passed through an additional HPF to deliver each frequency to the correct speaker. The signal may also be inverted to deliver complementary signals to either side of the speaker as an input.

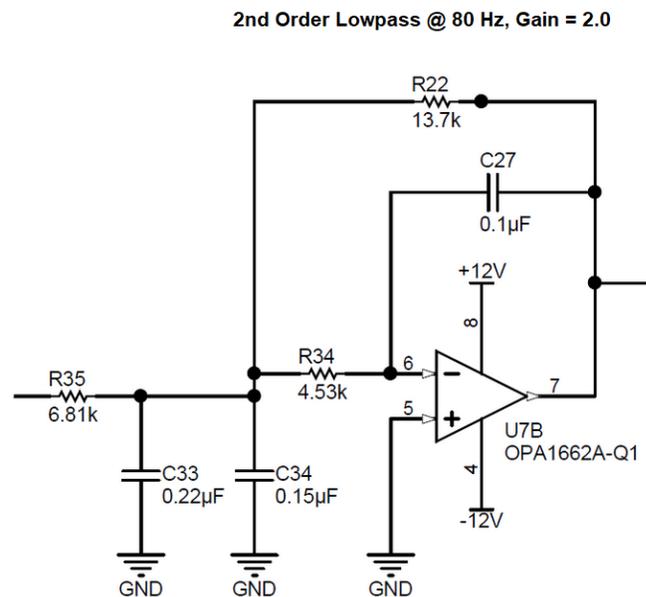


Figure 4. Second-Order Low-Pass Filter at 80 Hz

Many general-purpose op amps smoothly filter out frequencies when placed in a second-order filter configuration. TI's [TLV2314-Q1](#) family consists of single-, dual-, or quad-channel lower power, general-purpose op amps. This device has a gain bandwidth product of 3 MHz, and low broadband voltage noise of 16 nV/√Hz. Therefore, it is a great balance between cost and performance. Alternatively, TI's [TLV316-Q1](#) is another family of lower-power, general-purpose op amps. It features very-low broadband noise of 12 nV/√Hz, and a wide bandwidth of 10 MHz.

TI's [LM2904B-Q1](#) is another very common choice to build these HPF and LPF networks: it consists of two independent, frequency-compensated op amps. However, it has higher broadband voltage noise of 40 nV/√Hz and a gain bandwidth of just 1.2 MHz.

TI has a wide variety of [automotive op amps](#) that can be easily incorporated into just about any active filter design. This provides flexibility for each unique audio system. Incorporating op amps into automotive audio filter design allows effective, customizable, and high-quality systems that will keep drivers delighted.

Table 1. Device Recommendations

Device	V _{CC}	V _{inCM}	V _{out}	V _N	V _{os}	I _q	UGBW	SR	#Channels
TLV314-Q1	1.8 to 5.5 V	Rail-to-Rail	Rail-to-Rail	16 nV/√Hz	3 mV	0.15 mA/Ch	3 MHz	1.5 V/us	1, 2, 4
TLV316-Q1	1.8 to 5.5 V	Rail-to-Rail	Rail-to-Rail	12 nV/√Hz	3 mV	0.4 mA/Ch	10 MHz	6 V/us	1, 2, 4
LM2904B-Q1	3 to 36 V	(V-) to (V+) -2V		40 nV/√Hz	3 mV	0.3 mA/Ch	1.2 MHz	0.5 V/us	2
OPA1662-Q1	3 to 36 V	Rail-to-Rail	Rail-to-Rail	3.3 nV/√Hz	1.5 mV	1.1 mA/Ch	22 MHz	17 V/us	2

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

TI PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND RELIABILITY DATA (INCLUDING DATASHEETS), DESIGN RESOURCES (INCLUDING REFERENCE DESIGNS), APPLICATION OR OTHER DESIGN ADVICE, WEB TOOLS, SAFETY INFORMATION, AND OTHER RESOURCES "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS, AND DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

These resources are intended for skilled developers designing with TI products. You are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate TI products for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and any other safety, security, or other requirements. These resources are subject to change without notice. TI grants you permission to use these resources only for development of an application that uses the TI products described in the resource. Other reproduction and display of these resources is prohibited. No license is granted to any other TI intellectual property right or to any third party intellectual property right. TI disclaims responsibility for, and you will fully indemnify TI and its representatives against, any claims, damages, costs, losses, and liabilities arising out of your use of these resources.

TI's products are provided subject to TI's Terms of Sale (www.ti.com/legal/termsofsale.html) or other applicable terms available either on ti.com or provided in conjunction with such TI products. TI's provision of these resources does not expand or otherwise alter TI's applicable warranties or warranty disclaimers for TI products.

Mailing Address: Texas Instruments, Post Office Box 655303, Dallas, Texas 75265
Copyright © 2019, Texas Instruments Incorporated