

Application Guide of EMI Filter

CitrusCom Corporation

www.citruscomsemi.com

Outline

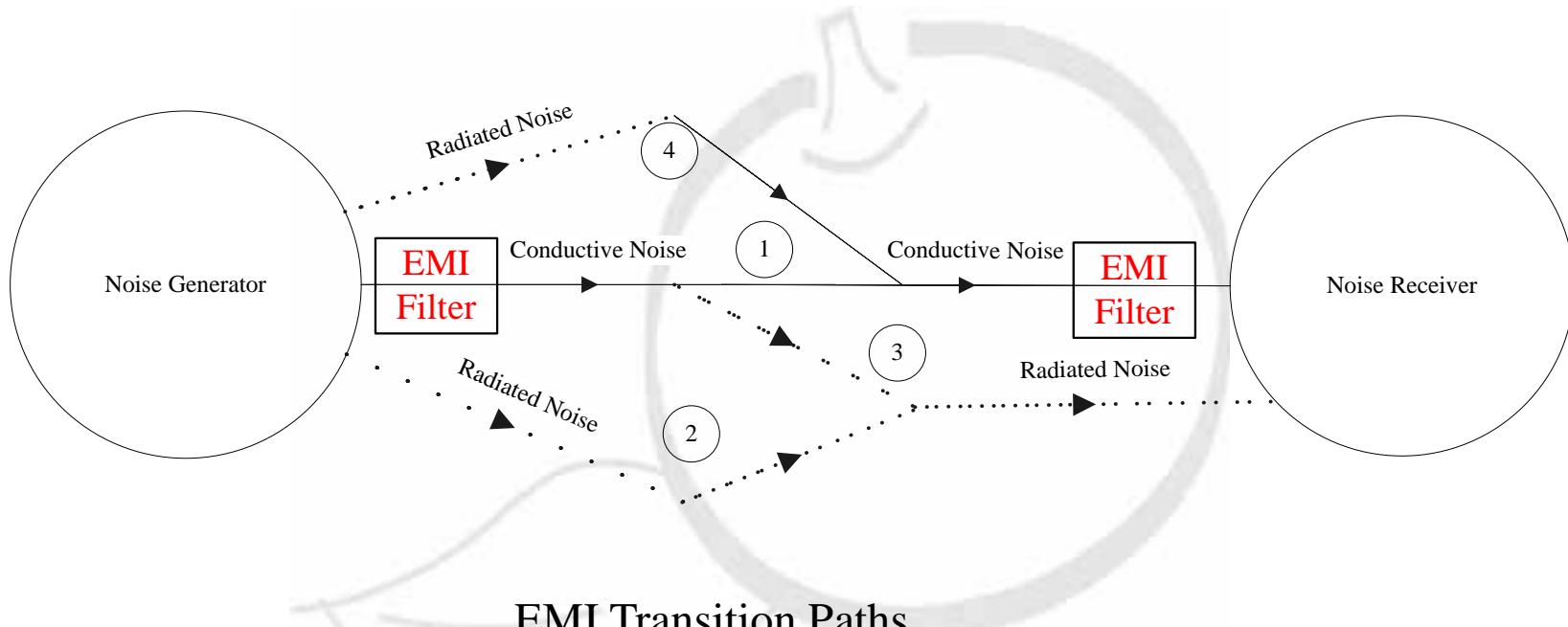
- EMI and ESD Hazards to Electronic Devices
- Applications of EMI Filter
- Structure of EMI filters: RC Filter vs. LC Filter
- How to Select an EMI Filter
- EMI Filter vs. Discrete Components
- Package

EMI and ESD Hazards to Electronic Devices

- EMI: **Electro-Magnetic Interference**
- ESD: **Electro-Static Discharge**



EMI and ESD Hazards to Electronic Devices



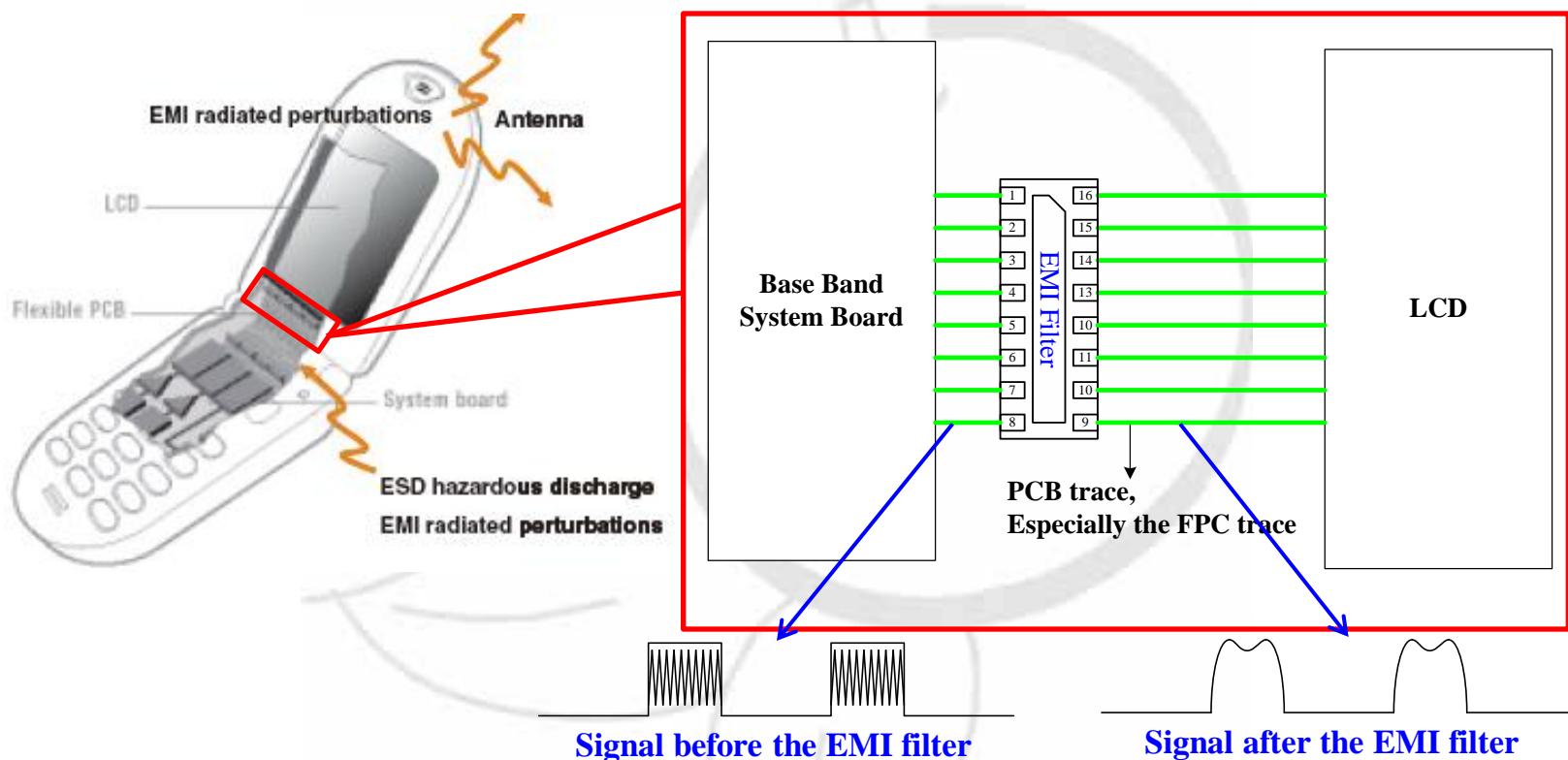
EMI Transition Paths

EMI Transition Path	Can be filtered by EMI filter
Conductive – Conductive	YES
Radiated – Radiated	NO
Conductive – Radiated	YES
Radiated – Conductive	YES

Applications of EMI Filter

- LCD and camera data lines in mobile devices
- High-speed electronic devices, especially wireless handsets and smart phones
- I/O port protection for mobile handsets, notebook computers, PDAs etc.

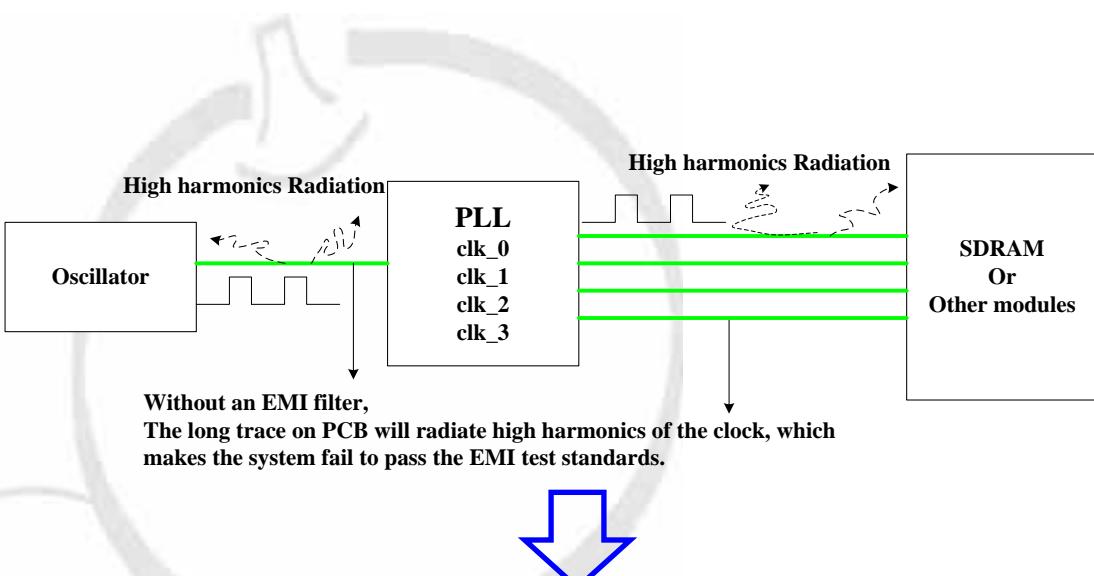
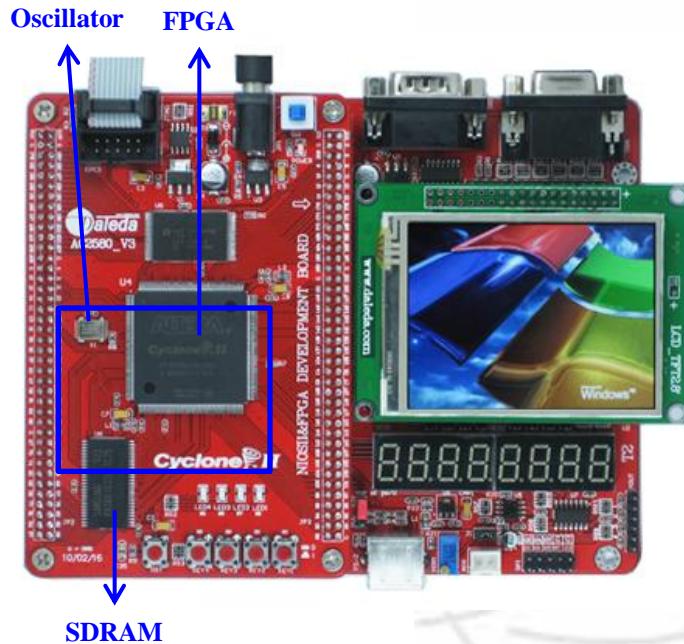
Example for LCD Module in Mobile Phone



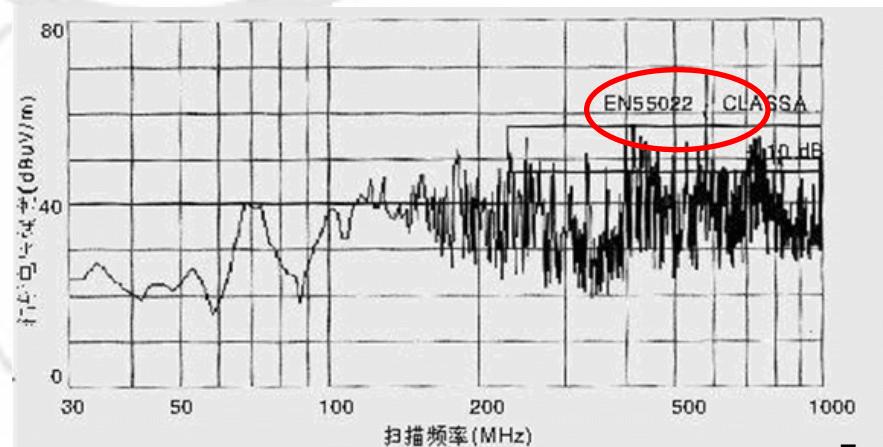
The long PCB trace, especially the FPC trace, connecting the system board and the LCD module, will work as an antenna to radiate the RF noise. Then the radiated RF noise will distort the communication terribly. With the EMI filter, the noise will be rejected.

Therefore, to get the best performance, the EMI filter should be put as close to the I/O ports of the Base Band System Board as possible.

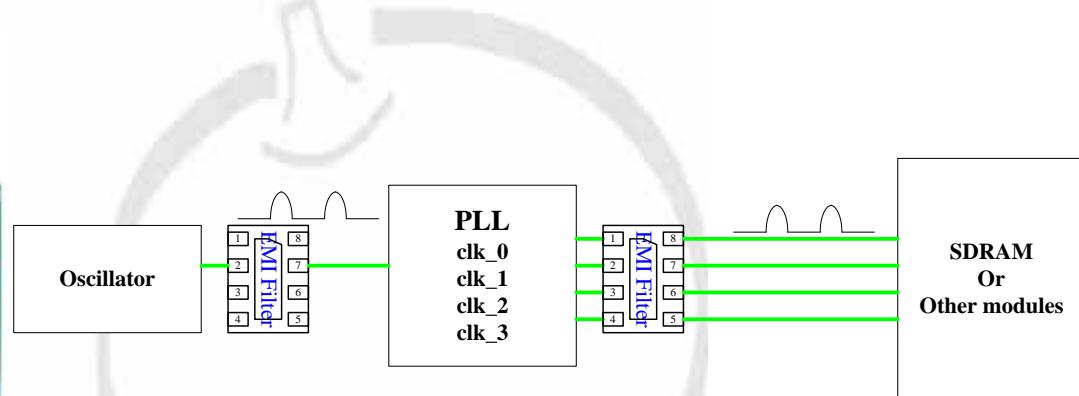
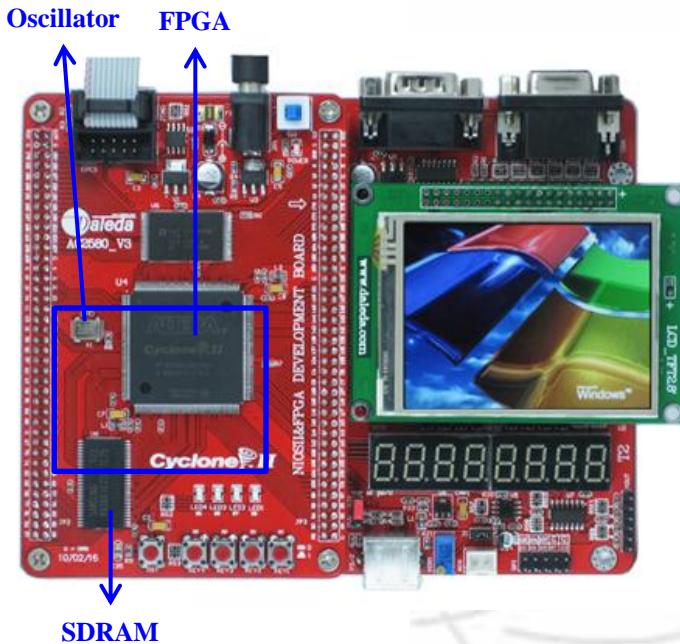
Example for System EMI Suppression



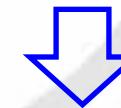
The high harmonics radiation makes the system fail to pass CLASS A of CISPR.



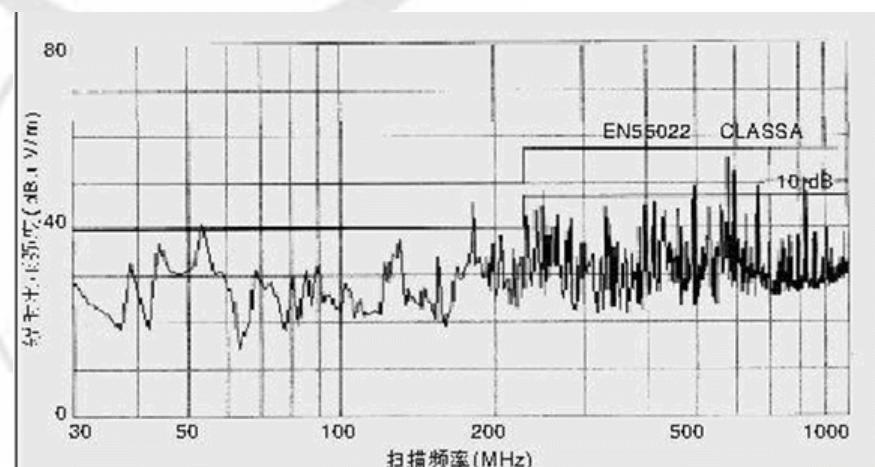
Example for System EMI Suppression



The high harmonics of the clock are rejected by the EMI filter. Therefore, there's no radiation any more.



The high harmonics radiation is limited by the EMI filter.



Layout Guidelines of PCB for EMI Filter

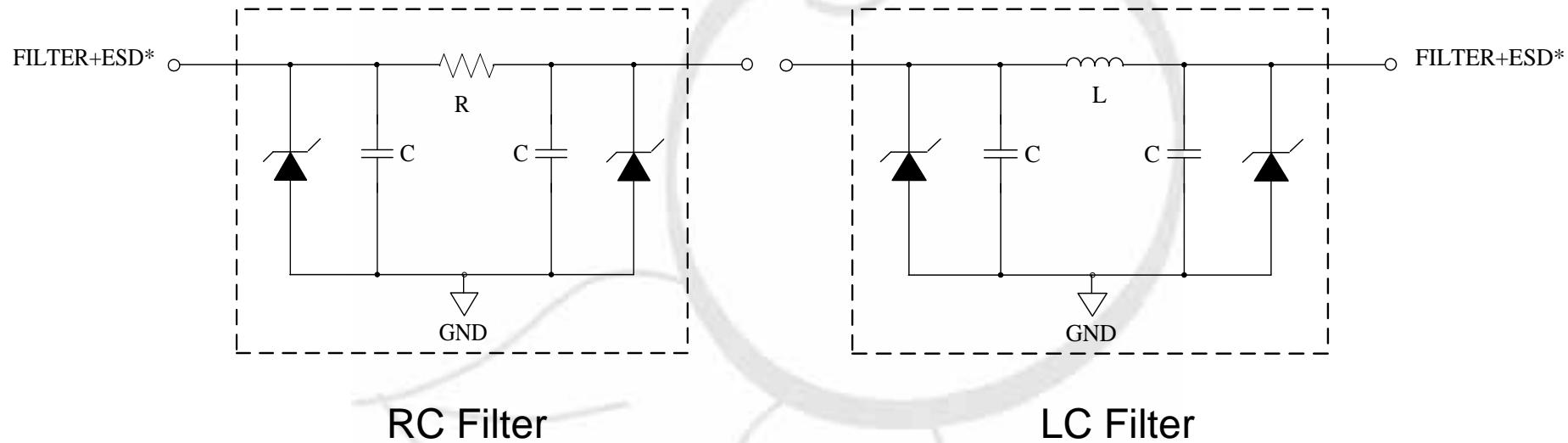
Optimizing the performance of the EMI filter

- Keep all traces as short as possible.
- Filter all I/O signals entering / leaving the noisy environment
- Locate the EMI filter as close to the I/O connector as possible
- Use ground planes to minimize the PCB's ground inductance

Ground Connection Recommendation

- Use multiple vias to make the connection to the ground plane
- Bringing the ground plane closer to the signal layer

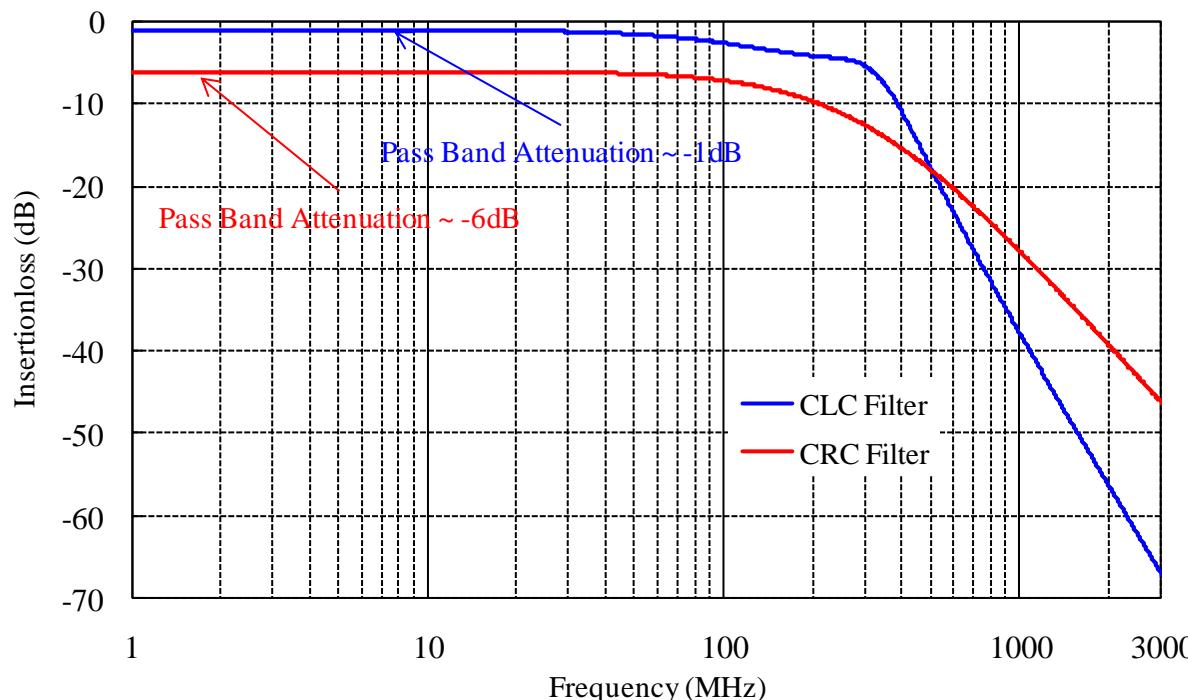
Structure of EMI Filters: RC Filter vs. LC Filter



How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection

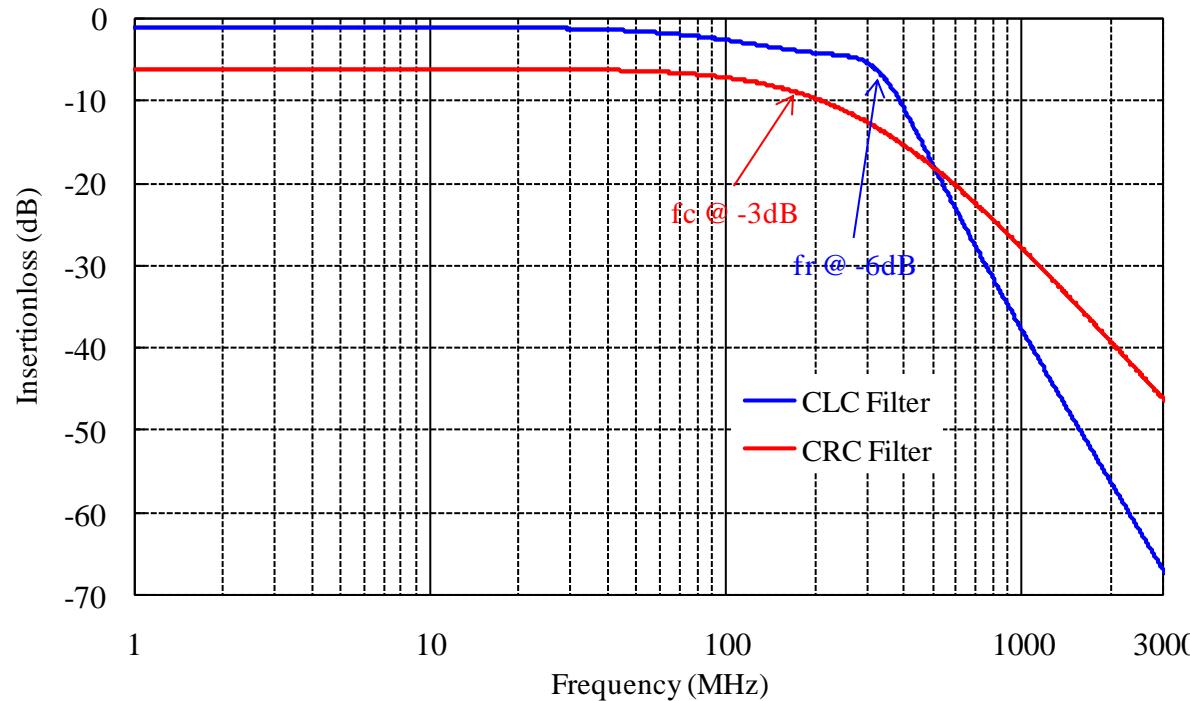
- High f_C (cut-off frequency): to support high data rates and maintain the highest level of signal integrity
- Minimum Insertion Loss (S21) in the pass band
- Sharp roll-off after f_R (roll-off frequency) in S21 curve
- Great level of attenuation in the rejection band
- High level of ESD protection

How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection by Pass Band



The pass band attenuation is determined by the sensitivity of the receiving end of the network. If the insertion loss in the pass-band is high, a receiver with greater sensitivity is needed to acquire the signal. **So Lower pass band attenuation is preferred.**

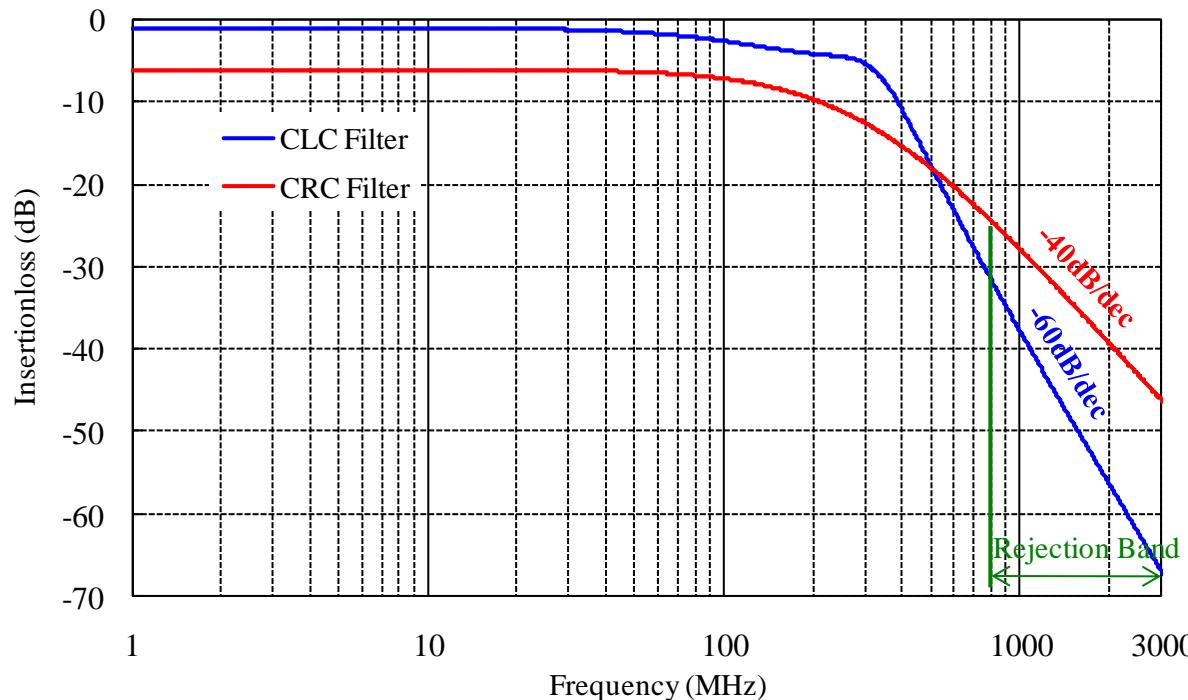
How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection by Cut-off frequency



When applying a filter to a square wave signal, all the harmonics above f_C in RC filter or f_R in LC filter are discarded. So keeping as many harmonics as possible is key in order to preserve signal integrity. Generally, **keeping three or five harmonics is acceptable**.

$$f_C \geq 3f_{signal} \quad \text{Or} \quad f_C \geq 5f_{signal} \quad \text{Better}$$

How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection by Rejection Band



The EMI filter arrays should provide effective filtering performance in the rejection band frequencies (800MHz – 3GHz for example).

25dB or more attenuation is preferred.

How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection by ESD Protection Ability

Table 1. IEC61000-4-2 Test Levels

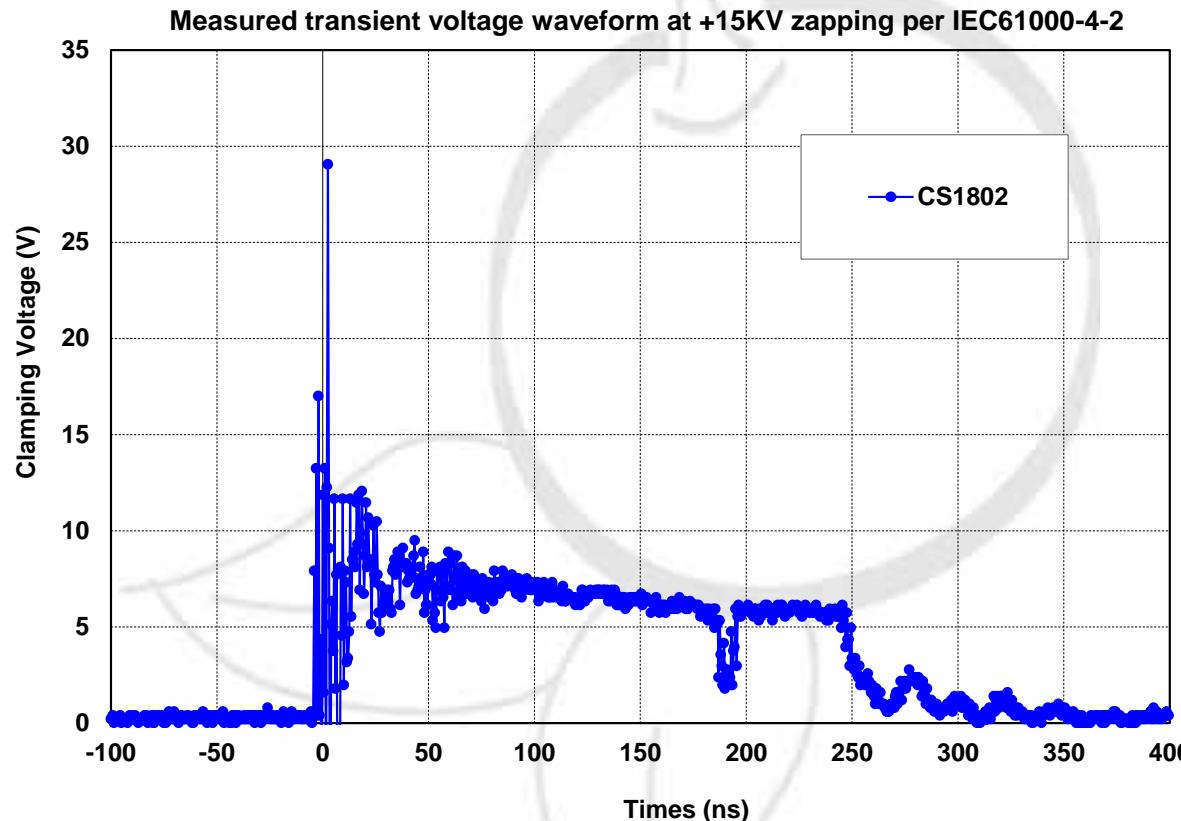
Contact Discharge		Air Discharge	
Level	Test Voltage (kV)	Level	Test Voltage (kV)
1	2	1	2
2	4	2	4
3	6	3	8
4	8	4	15
X ^[1]	Special	X ^[1]	Special

Notes

1. “X” is an open level. The level has to be specified in the dedicated equipment specification. If higher voltages than those are specified, special test equipment may be required.

All EMI filters from CitrusCom are over IEC61000-4-2 Contact Discharge Level 4, most of which can provide a excellent protection over IEC61000-4-2 15kV.

How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection by ESD Protection



Low Clamping Voltage is always preferred for the protected devices. Too high Clamping Voltage may fail the protected devices even before the protection devices are damaged.

How to Select an EMI Filter with ESD Protection

Comparison between RC and LC EMI filters

Critical Parameter	RC	LC	COMMENTS
Attenuation of Insertion Loss in Pass Band	~-6dB	~-1dB	LC filter is better as it degrades the signals less and needs less sensitive receiver.
Cut-off Frequency	Lower	Higher	LC filter is better as it can afford higher operation frequency in data line and preserve better signal integrity.
Attenuation of Insertion Loss in Rejection Band	Lower	Higher	LC filter is better as it can filter more EMI in the rejection band.
Roll-off	Lower	Higher	LC filter is better as it can provide higher attenuation in rejection band.
ESD Protection	Decided by the ESD ability of ESD protection devices in EMI filter. High f_C RC filters usually has lower ESD protection ability than LC filters with similar f_C .		

This comparison is based on typical RC and LC filters.

Generally, performance of RC filters cannot be better than LC filters in all key parameters simultaneously. However, it has its own benefits. RC filter has simpler structure and is comparatively easy to design. It is also influenced less by impedance mismatch.

EMI Filter vs. Discrete Components

EMI Filter with ESD Protection	Discrete Components
Integrated	Not integrated
One chip for several channels	each protected line needs one or more components
Save PCB area	Use more PCB area
Include high ESD protection ability	Usually no ESD protection ability
Parasitic Parameter is carefully considered and controlled	Larger parasitic parameters which are difficult to control will influence the performance

Package

EMI Filters can be provided in these packages with low profile and small PCB size.

- uDFN-8L, -12L, -16L
- TDFN-8L, -12L, -16L
- CSP-10, -15, -20

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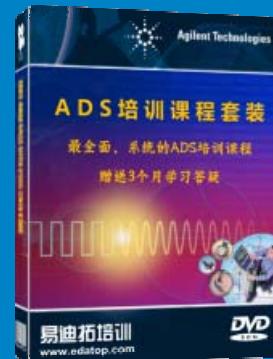
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