A Band-Notched UWB Monopole Antenna With High Notch-Band-Edge Selectivity

Chao-Tang Chuang, Ting-Ju Lin, and Shyh-Jong Chung, Senior Member, IEEE

Abstract-In this paper, a novel band-notched ultrawideband (UWB) monopole antenna with high notch-band-edge selectivity is proposed and demonstrated. The proposed antenna consists of a radiation patch and an embedded second-order bandstop filter. Using the same substrate area as a fundamental UWB antenna, a bandstop filter composed of a nonuniform short-circuited stub and coupled open-/short-circuited stub resonators, is designed into the fundamental antenna. A detail design procedure for the proposed antenna with a second-order maximally flat bandstop filter at 5.5 GHz is presented. As compared to the fundamental antenna, the proposed UWB antenna provides good notch-band suppression from 5.15 to 5.95 GHz, in which the normalized total radiated powers in the notch band are lower than -12 dB. Also, the proposed structure provides high band-edge selectivity and flat return loss in the notch band. The measured results, including the return loss and total radiated power, agree with the designed ones.

Index Terms—Band-notched antennas, bandstop filter, coupled open-/short-circuited stub, nonuniform short-circuited stub, notch-band-edge selectivity, ultrawideband (UWB).

I. INTRODUCTION

S INCE the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released the 3.1–10.6-GHz bandwidth [1], ultrawideband (UWB) communication systems attract great attention in the wireless world due to their advantages, including high-speed data rate, low power consumption, high capacity, low cost, and low complexity. These UWB systems for communications are especially applied to home networking systems as a technology of wireless personal area networks. As a key component of UWB communication systems, UWB antennas with the fascinated features, such as wide bandwidth, simple structure, and omnidirectional radiation pattern, have been widely investigated.

Among the planar UWB antenna designs in the recent literature, the focus is mainly on the slot and monopole antennas. The advantages of slot antennas include wide bandwidth performance and low cost in the printed circuit board (PCB) process [2]–[4]. The wideband slot antennas can be realized by utilizing a unique tapered-slot feeding structure [2] or a feeding scheme to generate multiple resonances of close bands [3], [4]. Planar monopole antennas have been found as good candidates for

Manuscript received July 22, 2011; revised March 17, 2012; accepted May 04, 2012. Date of publication July 10, 2012; date of current version October 02, 2012. This work was supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan, under Contract 100-EC-17-A-03-S1-195.

The authors are with the Institute of Communication Engineering, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu 30050, Taiwan (e-mail: sjchung@cm.nctu.edu. tw).

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Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TAP.2012.2207327

UWB applications owing to their attractive merits, such as ultrawide impedance bandwidth, simple structure and ease of fabrication, and good radiation properties. Typical shapes of these antennas are half-disc [5], circle, ellipse [6], [7], rectangle [8], [9], and binomial curved [10].

In practice, interference is a serious problem for UWB application systems. Despite the approval of the FCC for UWB to operate over 3.1–10.6 GHz, it may be necessary to notch-out portions of the band in order to avoid interference with the existing wireless networking technologies such as IEEE 802.11a in the United States (5.15-5.35 GHz, 5.725-5.825 GHz) and HIPERLAN/2 in Europe (5.15-5.35 GHz, 5.47-5.725 GHz). This is due to the fact that UWB transmitters should not cause any electromagnetic interference to nearby communication system such as the wireless local area network (WLAN) applications, and vice versa. Therefore, UWB antennas with notched characteristics in the WLAN frequency band are required. There are various methods to achieve the band-notched function. The conventional methods are cutting a slot on the patch [11]-[14], inserting a slit on the patch [15]-[17], or embedding a quarter-wavelength tuning stub within a large slot on the patch [18]. Recently, the band-notched UWB antenna have been realized by using a pair of T-shaped stubs inside an ellipse slot cut in the radiation patch [19] or embedding loop or multiple stub resonators in a conventional UWB [20]–[22]. Even though these approaches may have good rejection performance, the achieved notch bandwidth is usually limited since only one radiation null is designed in most of these researches. Also, the required transition bandwidth between the pass and notch bands is extended, which will thus encroach upon the usable pass band.

In this study, a new band-notched UWB monopole antenna, as shown in Fig. 1, is developed. The antenna is mainly composed of a radiation patch with good radiation performance from 3.1 to 10.6 GHz. In order to obtain a uniform rejection performance over the whole interference band and to shrink the transition bandwidth, a new second-order bandstop filter structure, which consists of a nonuniform stub resonator and a coupled-line resonator, is proposed to embed in the radiation patch. This compact bandstop filter would produce two radiation nulls in the notch band and thus yield high skirt selectivity in the band transition region.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II depicts the configuration and equivalent circuit of the proposed UWB antenna. The design of each component in the proposed antenna, as well as the design procedure for the whole structure, is described in Section III. Simulated and measured results are then presented in Section IV. Section V gives the conclusions.

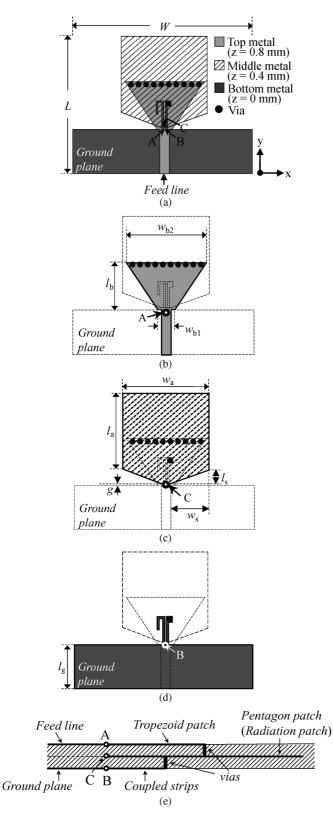


Fig. 1. Geometry of the proposed band-notched UWB monopole antenna. (a) Perspective view. (b) Top view. (c) Middle view. (d) Bottom view. (e) Cross-section view.

II. CONFIGURATION AND EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT

Fig. 1(a) shows the geometry of the proposed UWB antenna, which is a three-layer structure with two FR4 substrates in between. Each substrate has a thickness of 0.4 mm, dielectric

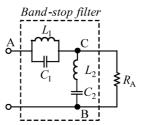


Fig. 2. Equivalent circuit of the proposed band-notched UWB monopole antenna around the notch band.

constant of 4.4, and loss tangent of 0.02. Fig. 1(b)-(d) depicts, respectively, the top view, the middle view, and the bottom view of the antenna layout. A signal is to be fed from a 50- Ω microstrip feed line with the signal line on the top layer and the ground plane on the bottom layer. The signal line is connected to a trapezoid patch (with dimensions of w_{b1}, w_{b2}, l_b) at point A, as shown in Fig. 1(b). The trapezoid patch is then connected to a pentagon patch on the middle layer through a row of vias [heavy dots in Fig. 1(b) and (c)]. Here, the pentagon patch (with dimensions of l_a, w_a, l_s, w_s), together with the ground plane on the bottom layer, is the main UWB radiator. Apparently, as illustrated in Fig. 1(e), these two metal patches form a nonuniform short-circuited stub when looking at the port between points A and C [Fig. 1(c)]. The length l_b of the stub is about a quarter guided wavelength at the center frequency of the notch band. On the bottom layer, two closely spaced strips of different lengths are joined to the ground plane at point B as shown in Fig. 1(d). The shorter strip is connected to the radiation patch on the middle layer through a via. Therefore, when looking at the port between points C and B, one sees a coupled short-circuited stub and open-circuited stub in shunt [Fig. 1(e)]. The lengths of these two stubs are both near a quarter guided wavelength at the notch band. Note that the pentagon patch not only behaves as a radiator but also the ground plane of these stub resonators. The whole antenna size $W \times L$ measures 30 mm \times 27.6 mm, including the ground plane size $W \times l_q$ of 30 mm \times 10 mm.

Fig. 2 illustrates the equivalent circuit of the proposed antenna around the notch band. To realize this circuit, let us start from the feed point A of the antenna. Since the nonuniform short-circuited stub is a quarter-wavelength long, a shunt LC resonator (L_1, C_1) with resonant frequency at 5.5 GHz appears in between points A and C. Between point C and ground point B, two circuit components are connected in parallel. The first is the coupled stub resonator, which functions as a series LC resonator (L_2, C_2) , mainly due to the open-circuited stub. And the second is the UWB antenna, formed by the pentagon patch on the middle layer and the ground plane on the bottom layer. Here, since the antenna is to be designed with good performance covering the whole UWB, it is thus modeled as a radiation resistance R_A (about 50 Ω) around the notch band [6].

From the equivalent circuit in Fig. 2, it is obvious that the proposed structure has the function of not only an UWB antenna but also a second-order bandstop filter. When a signal of frequency in the notch band enters the structure, it will be reflected back due to the presence of the stub resonators, while as the signal is of other frequency, it will be successfully delivered to the radiation patch and radiated out.

III. DESIGN

In this section, the design of the fundamental UWB monopole antenna covering the full UWB (3.1–10.6 GHz) is first introduced. Then, the nonuniform short-circuited stub resonator and the coupled open-/short-circuited stub resonator are tackled. Finally, the synthesis of the proposed band-notched UWB monopole antenna is summarized.

A. Fundamental UWB Antenna

Various radiation patch shapes of the planar monopole antennas have been studied and utilized to attain the UWB properties. Fig. 3(a) shows the fundamental UWB monopole antenna used in this study. The radiation patch is connected to the 50- Ω microstrip line on the top side of the FR4 substrate with thickness of 0.4 mm. The pentagonal shape of the radiator is obtained by trimming the lower edge of a square patch so as to enhance the upper bandwidth. Since a monopole-like UWB antenna at higher frequency usually behaves as a slot antenna [9], properly designing the shape of the bevels on the lower side will certainly improve the excitation of the slot-mode radiation. On the other hand, the current at low frequency is mainly distributed over the patch and the ground plane, which is similar to that of a printed finite-ground monopole antenna. For a given ground plane length (l_q) , the patch length l_a will determine the lowest operation frequency. The gap g between the pentagon patch and the ground plane is also an important parameter, which will influence the impedance matching of the antenna. The final design of the fundamental UWB antenna measures the following structure dimensions: $w_a \times l_a = 14 \text{ mm} \times 15.7 \text{ mm}, w_s \times l_s =$ 6.24 mm \times 1.4 mm, g = 0.5 mm, and $W \times l_g = 30$ mm \times 10 mm. Fig. 3(b) shows the simulated input impedance by using the full-wave simulation solver High-Frequency Structure Simulator (HFSS) [23]. As expected, the real part of the impedance is near 50 Ω and the imaginary part almost zero, especially in the range from 4 to 7.5 GHz. The input impedance of the antenna can be further improved over a wider frequency range by properly shaping the ground plane edge.

B. Nonuniform Short-Circuited Stub Resonator

Since the quality factor Q of a shunt LC resonator is proportional to C ($Q = 2\pi fRC$, where R is the parallel resistance of the shunt circuit [24]), to design a shunt LC resonator with narrow bandwidth, a high-quality factor, and thus a high capacitance, is needed. Generally, a high-capacitance LC resonator can be implemented by using a wide $\lambda/4$ short-circuited microstrip stub. However, the large strip width of the resonator may cause transverse resonance, thus destroying the resonator function. The intrusion of the wide strip into the slot region between the radiation patch and the ground plane may also deteriorate the slot-mode radiation of the antenna. To avoid these problems, here a nonuniform $\lambda/4$ short-circuited microstrip stub, as shown in Fig. 1(b), is utilized. Fig. 4 shows the extracted capacitance C_1 of this nonuniform stub by using the circuit simulation tool Applied Wave Research (AWR) [25]. By keeping a small strip width ($w_{b1} = 2.5$ mm) so as not to destroy the radiation slot mode, a $\lambda/4$ short-circuited stub resonator with sufficient

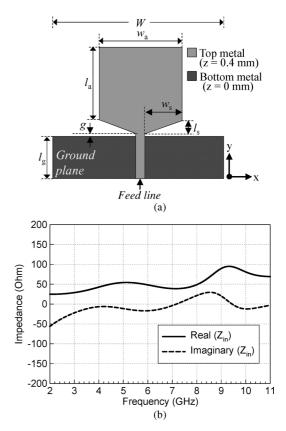


Fig. 3. Fundamental UWB antenna. (a) Configuration. (b) Full-wave simulated input impedance.

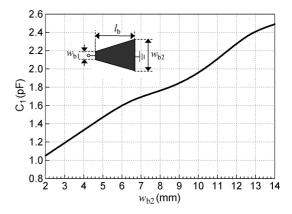


Fig. 4. The extracted capacitance C_1 of the nonuniform short-circuited microstrip stub resonator as a function of the strip width w_{b2} ($w_{b1}=2.5$ mm and $l_b=90^\circ$ at $f_0=5.5$ GHz).

capacitance can be obtained by choosing a suitable strip width (w_{b2}) at the short-circuited end.

C. Coupled Open-/Short-Circuited Stub Resonator

To realize the series LC resonator (L_2, C_2) in Fig. 2, one usually uses a $\lambda/4$ open-circuited microstrip stub. However, this resonant stub shows only a transmission zero at the resonant frequency, and thus presents low skirt selectivity at the band edges. A $\lambda/4$ open-/short-circuited stub resonator [26], as shown in Fig. 5(a), had been proposed to increase the band-edge selectivity. This circuit behaves as a series LC resonator at the center frequency due to the $\lambda/4$ open-circuited stub. And at

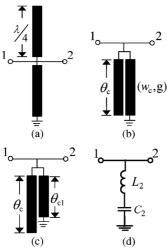


Fig. 5. The open-/short-circuited stub resonator: (a) conventional type with equal lengths; proposed coupled type (b) with equal lengths and (c) with unequal lengths. (d) The equivalent series LC resonator near the center frequency of these stub resonators.

a frequency lower (higher) than the center one, the open-circuited (short-circuited) stub shows a capacitive reactance and the short-circuited (open-circuited) stub shows an inductive reactance, so that the whole circuit behaves as a shunt LC resonator. It turns out that the open-/short-circuited stub resonator exhibits a transmission zero at the center frequency and a pair of symmetric transmission poles at the two sides. Nevertheless, due to the low inductance of the series LC resonator near the center frequency, this stub resonator presents wider notch-band bandwidth [24], which is not suitable for designing a narrowband bandstop filter as that in this study. To solve this problem, here we propose a coupled $\lambda/4$ open-/short-circuited stub resonator, as shown in Fig. 5(b). Moreover, an extended version with different lengths of coupled stubs, as shown in Fig. 5(c), is also introduced. As shown below, this new structure exhibits higher inductance near the center frequency due to the introduction of the coupling mechanism, which fits the requirement of the current design. It also has the advantage of producing a pair of asymmetric transmission poles that is contributive to the design flexibility. Besides these good points, the new structure occupies less circuit area due to the close spacing of the two stubs. As the conventional structure, the coupled stub resonator can be equivalent to a series LC resonator [Fig. 5(d)] near the center frequency.

Fig. 6 shows the extracted equivalent inductance L_2 at the center frequency ($f=5.5~{\rm GHz}$) of the coupled open-/short-circuited stub, as a function of the strip width w_c that fabricated on a 0.4-mm-thick FR4 substrate by using AWR Microwave Office. The result for the conventional structure is also shown for reference. It is obvious that, for each strip width, the proposed structure gets more than twice the equivalent inductance of the conventional one. Fig. 7 depicts the simulated reflection coefficient (S_{11}) and transmission coefficient (S_{21}) of the coupled stub resonator with different lengths. Here the open-circuited stub has a fixed length $\theta_c=90^\circ$ (or a quarter wavelength) at 5.5 GHz. The results for different short-circuited stub lengths ($\theta_{c1}=90^\circ, 80^\circ, 70^\circ$) are shown for comparison. It is first observed that the response near the center frequency (5.5 GHz) is

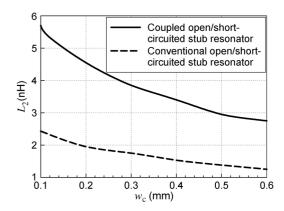


Fig. 6. The inductance L_2 of the coupled open-/short-circuited stub resonator as a function of the strip width w_c in comparison with the one of the conventional structure ($g=0.12~{\rm mm}$ and $\theta_{c1}=\theta_c=90^\circ$ at $f=5.5~{\rm GHz}$).

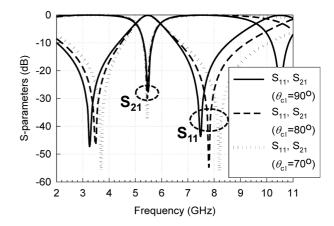


Fig. 7. Circuit simulation of the coupled open-/short-circuited stub resonator with unequal lengths for different θ_{c1} ($w_c = 0.5$ mm).

unchanged as the stub length θ_{c1} decreases from 90° to 70°. This means that the corresponding equivalent circuit (the series LCresonator) is not influenced by θ_{c1} . The structure possesses two transmission poles symmetrically located at 3.3 and 7.5 GHz when the two stubs are with equal length ($\theta_{c1} = \theta_c = 90^{\circ}$). As the length of short-circuited stub decreases, both transmission poles move to higher frequencies while the transmission zero remains at 5.5 GHz. The frequency shifts for the two transmission poles are different. The higher transmission pole moves faster than the lower one. For designing a bandstop filter, the controlling of transmission poles' locations is important since they will influence the filter's out-band (passband) bandwidth and performance. The proposed coupled stub resonator not only possesses high inductance near the center frequency but also provides an extra degree of freedom in controlling the passband characteristics.

D. Synthesis of the Antenna

After designing all the required components as above, one may now integrate them together to synthesize the band-notched UWB antenna by using the following steps.

1) Suitably design the fundamental UWB antenna, as shown in Fig. 3(a), with the bandwidth covering from 3.1 to 10.6 GHz.

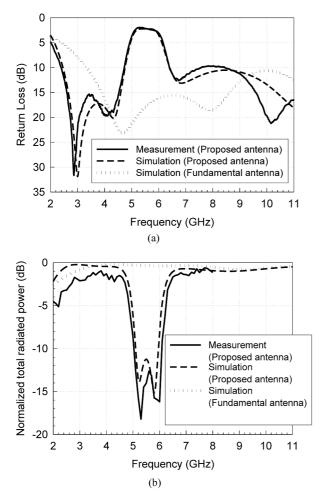


Fig. 8. Simulated and measured results of the proposed UWB monopole antenna in comparison with the simulated ones of the fundamental UWB antenna. (a) Return losses. (b) Normalized total radiated powers.

2) Specify the requirements of the bandstop filter to be synthesized, including the operating frequency f_0 , the fractional bandwidth Δ , and the type of the filter (e.g., bandstop filter with maximally flat response), from which the circuit elements (L_1, C_1, L_2, C_2) of a typical bandstop filter in Fig. 2 can be obtained by using the following [24]:

$$L_1 = \frac{Z_0 g_1 \Delta}{2\pi f_0} \tag{1}$$

$$L_2 = \frac{Z_0}{2\pi f_0 g_2 \Delta} \tag{2}$$

where $f_0 = (1/2\pi\sqrt{L_1C_1}) = (1/2\pi\sqrt{L_2C_2})$, and g_1, g_2 are the component values of the low-pass prototype filter [24].

- 3) Using the component values of C_1 and L_2 obtained above, determine the dimensions of the nonuniform short-circuited stub and the coupled stub resonators with equal stub length according to Figs. 4 and 6, respectively.
- 4) Properly shorten the short-circuited stub's length (θ_{c1}) in the coupled stub resonator so as to adjust the positions of the transmission poles until the bandwidth of the whole UWB antenna is enough.

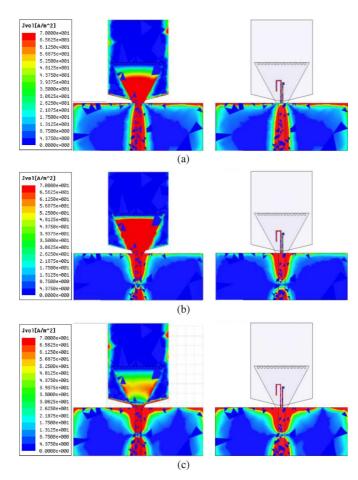


Fig. 9. Simulated current distributions of the proposed UWB monopole antenna at (a) f = 4 GHz, (b) f = 5.5 GHz, and (c) f = 8 GHz.

IV. RESULTS

Following the above design procedures, first, the fundamental UWB monopole antenna is designed with dimensions of $w_a \times$ $l_a = 14 \text{ mm} \times 15.7 \text{ mm}, w_s \times l_s = 6.24 \text{ mm} \times 1.4 \text{ mm}, \text{ and}$ g = 0.5 mm. Second, based on the requirement of band notch from 5.0 to 6.0 GHz, the embedded bandstop filter is specified as one with maximally flat response, center frequency $f_0 = 5.5$ GHz, fractional bandwidth $\Delta = 18\%$, and $Z_0 = 50$. Here, the maximally flat filter is targeted since it has a 50- Ω load that can be easily realized by a common UWB antenna. (As a note, the second-order Chebyshev filter possesses load impedance near 100 Ω .) Thus, with the specifications and using (1) and (2), the circuit components of the filter can be calculated as $L_1 = 0.37$ nH, $C_1 = 2.27$ pF, $L_2 = 5.68$ nH, and $C_2 = 0.15$ pF. Before going further, it is observed that the single null of the insertion loss at the center frequency of the bandstop filter does not benefit the band-edge selectivity. However, from a simple circuit simulation, it is found that the single null can be easily separated into two (for high band-edge selectivity) by slightly decreasing the original value of L_2 to 5.42 nH, with very limited deterioration in other performances. Then, with the value of C_1 and from Fig. 4, the dimensions of the nonuniform short-circuited stub can be decided, which are $w_{b1} = 2.5$ mm, $w_{b2} = 12$ mm, and $l_b = 8.6$ mm. Also, the strip width w_c of the coupled open-/short-circuited stub is determined to be 0.12 mm from

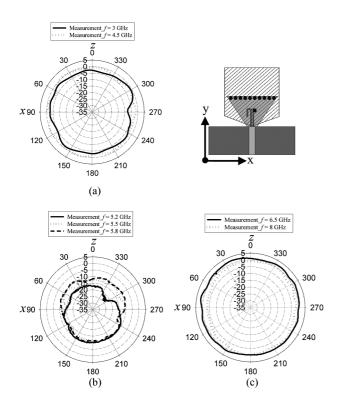


Fig. 10. Measured total-field radiation patterns of the proposed UWB antenna at (a) low-, (b) notch-, and (c) high-frequency bands in the xz-plane. (Unit: dBi.)

Fig. 6 with the obtained L_2 value. (Here the gap between the coupled lines has been chosen as 0.12 mm.) To this step, one now assembles all the components according Fig. 1 to form the band-notched UWB antenna. Finally, to achieve the required antenna bandwidth, the electric length θ_{c1} of the short-circuited stub is shorten from 90° to 50° by full-wave simulation for the whole structure.

Fig. 8(a) shows the full-wave simulated and measured return loss of the designed UWB antenna. The simulated result of the fundamental UWB antenna without band notch is also shown for reference. The measured return loss of the proposed UWB antenna is in close agreement with the simulated one. It is obvious that the low-frequency band of the proposed UWB antenna is wider than the one of the fundamental UWB antenna due to the existence of the transmission pole at low frequency generated by the coupled stub resonator. Apparently, the embedded bandstop filter in the proposed antenna successfully blocks the input signal from 5 to 6 GHz to radiate. The return loss in this frequency range is quite flat with a value of about 2.5 GHz. Outside this notch band, it rapidly increases to be larger than 10 dB. Good band-edge selectivity is achieved. Note that the nonzero decibel return loss in the notch band is due to the substrate and metal losses produced in the filter resonators.

Fig. 8(b) shows the full-wave simulated and measured total radiated powers of the proposed band-notched UWB antenna, together with simulated one of the fundamental UWB antenna. Here, the total radiated power has been normalized to the input power, which is thus equal to the efficiency of the antenna. Note that the total radiated power is measured only from 2 to 8 GHz due to the limited frequency range of the available 3-D

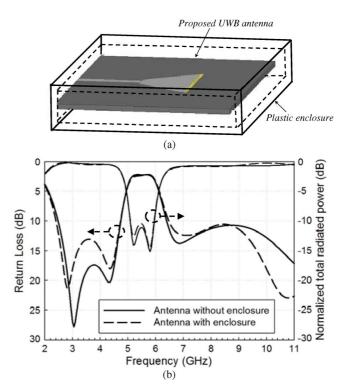


Fig. 11. (a) The proposed UWB antenna with plastic enclosure. (b) Simulated results of return losses and normalized total radiated powers for the proposed antenna with and without enclosure.

radio-frequency (RF) anechoic chamber. It is seen that the simulated result of the proposed UWB antenna has two radiation nulls at 5.25 and 5.8 GHz. As compared to the fundamental UWB antenna, the proposed antenna provides good notch-band suppression from 5 to 6 GHz in which the normalized total radiated power is lower than -10 dB. Also, the proposed structure possesses high notch-band-edge selectivity. The simulated radiation efficiency of the proposed UWB antenna at the frequency of 5.5 GHz is only 7.5% and at the two radiation nulls are less than 5%. While outside the notch band, the proposed antenna has about the same total radiation power (or antenna efficiency) as the fundamental UWB antenna. The measured result of the proposed structure agrees quite well with the simulated one.

Fig. 9 illustrates the simulated current distributions at 4, 5.5, and 8 GHz for the proposed antenna structure. It is seen that at frequencies (4 and 8 GHz) in the passband, more currents are distributed around the radiation patch and the ground plane, which contribute to the radiation of the antenna. On the contrary, the current at the notch frequency (5.5 GHz) is mainly concentrated on the nonuniform short-circuited stub and the coupled stub resonator. The current on the radiation patch and the ground plane is much weaker, thus resulting in a negligible radiation field as compared to those at frequencies in the passband.

The measured total-field radiation patterns of the proposed UWB antenna at the low, notch, and high-frequency bands in the xz-plane are depicted, respectively, in Fig. 10(a)–(c). All the radiation patterns are quite omnidirectional. The antenna gains at the low- and high-frequency bands are about 0 dBi, while those at the notch band are below -10 dBi.

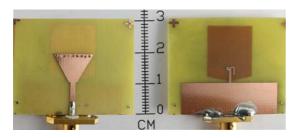


Fig. 12. Photograph of the proposed UWB antenna (left-hand side: top view; right-hand side: bottom view).

In practical application, an antenna is usually put inside a plastic enclosure for mechanical support and waterproofing. To investigate the influence of the enclosure, as illustrated in Fig. 11(a), the designed antenna is inserted into a commonly used enclosure made of 1-mm-thick acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) with dielectric constant of 2.9 and loss tangent 0.01. The gap between the antenna and the enclosure is set as 2 mm. Fig. 11(b) depicts the simulated results for the antenna with and without the enclosure. It is seen that the normalized total radiated powers for the two cases are almost identical, and the return losses agree well with each other except a little deterioration from 17 to 13 dB in the passband around 3–4 GHz. The high band-edge selectivity and high and flat normalized radiated power are retained, which implies that the proposed antenna is insensitive to the proximity plastic enclosure.

Fig. 12 shows the photograph of the fabricated band-notched UWB antenna.

V. CONCLUSION

A new UWB monopole antenna with band-notched characteristic in the frequency range from 5 to 6 GHz has been proposed and demonstrated. Occupying about the same substrate area as a conventional UWB antenna, a second-order bandstop filter, realized by a nonuniform short-circuited stub and an open-/short-circuited stub resonator, has been designed to merge into the UWB antenna. The measured 10-dB return loss bandwidth covered the range from 2.4 to over 11 GHz with a 3-dB notched band from 5.0 to 6.0 GHz. Good notch-band rejection and notch-band-edge selectivity were achieved. Also, the measured radiation patterns of the proposed antenna in the H-plane are omnidirectional, with antenna gains about 0 dBi at frequencies in the passband and below -10 dBi at notch frequencies. Finally, the measured results, including the return loss and total radiated power, showed good agreement with the design ones.

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Chao-Tang Chuang was born in Hualien, Taiwan, on June 2, 1981. He received the B.S. degree in physics from the National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan, in 2004, the M.S. degree in electrical engineering from the National Central University, Jungli, Taiwan, in 2006, and the Ph.D. degree in communication engineering from the National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, in 2011.

Currently, he is a Senior Engineer with the Advanced Ceramic X Corporation, Ltd., Hsinchu,

Taiwan. His research interests include design of microwave circuits, antennas, and low-temperature cofired ceramics (LTCC) passive component for RF applications.



Ting-Ju Lin was born in Ilan, Taiwan. She received the B.S. degree in communication engineering from the National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, in 2010, where she is currently working toward the M.S. degree in communication engineering.

Her research interests include the design of antennas and multilayer circuit.



Shyh-Jong Chung (M'92–SM'06) was born in Taipei, Taiwan. He received the B.S.E.E. and Ph.D. degrees from the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, in 1984 and 1988, respectively.

Since 1988, he has been with the Department of Communication Engineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering, National Chiao Tung University (NCTU), Hsinchu, Taiwan, where he is currently a Professor. He served as the director of the Institute of Communication Engineering, NCTU, from 2009 to 2011. From September 1995 to August 1996, he

was a Visiting Scholar with the Department of Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station. His areas of interest include the design and applications of active and passive planar antennas, low-temperature cofired ceramics (LTCC)-based radio-frequency (RF) components and modules, packaging effects of microwave circuits, vehicle collision warning radars, and communications in intelligent transportation systems (ITSs).

Dr. Chung received the Outstanding Engineering Professor Award of the Chinese Institute of Engineers in 2012, the Outstanding Electrical Engineering Professor Award of the Chinese Institute of Electrical Engineering in 2006, and the Teaching Excellence Award of National Chiao Tung University in 2005. He served as the Treasurer of the IEEE Taipei Section from 2001 to 2003 and the Chairman of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) Taipei Chapter from 2005 to 2007.