USER MANUAL
HIGH INTERCEPT LOW NOISE AMPLIFIER (HILNA™)
MODEL NUMBER: HILNA LS

NuWaves engineering

Trusted RF Solutions™

RF, Wireless, and Embedded Systems Engineering

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1 HILNA™ PRODUCT LINE OVERVIEW

NuWaves’ HILNA family of amplifiers is designed to achieve high RF gain while maintaining extremely low noise, and high third-order intercept point across a wide band. HILNA’s robust power supply also operates over a very broad range easily allowing the unit to be integrated into systems without regard to power supply precision.

1.1 HILNA™ PRODUCT LINE HIGHLIGHTS

- **High Performance - Noise, Gain, Intercept, Dynamic Range:** Unique combination of extremely low noise, high gain, high output intercept, and wide band frequency coverage.

- **Robust Power Supply:** Operates over a very broad range of power supply voltages. Included with each amplifier is a mating power connector with cable attached.

- **Enclosures:**
  - HILNA V1, HILNA G2V1, HILNA GPS, HILNA HF, and HILNA CF are housed in a black or silver anodized extruded aluminum enclosure with mounting flanges.
  - µHILNA is housed in a miniature sleek black anodized milled aluminum enclosure.
  - HILNA LS is housed in a black anodized milled aluminum enclosure with mounting holes incorporated into the chassis.
  - HILNA CX is housed in a nickel plated rugged aluminum enclosure with mounting holes incorporated into the chassis.

- **Completely Characterized:** The HILNA family of low noise amplifiers has been completely characterized over temperature, voltage, and frequency. The amplifiers are robust, offering significant value for the OEM user or the Systems Integrator.

- **User Friendly:** Reverse-voltage protection and regulator thermal shutdown provide defenses against user interface issues.

- **High Reliability:** NuWaves’ selection of conservatively rated components provides high reliability delivering high Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) numbers. Each HILNA is inspected to IPC-A-610 Class III quality standards.

- **ESD Protection:** The HILNA Amplifiers are suitable for many types of applications where ESD susceptibility is prominent. The amplifiers are designed to withstand up to 1000 V utilizing ESD waveforms described in IEC 61000 4-2.

- **Applications:** IF or RF Buffer Amplifier • Overcome Systematic RF Losses • Increase Antenna Signal Levels • Military Radios • RF Wideband Front-Ends • RF Pre-Amp • TV • Final Stage Amplifier for Low-Level Repeaters • Long Cable Runs to Antenna • Ultra Low Noise Applications • LNA for Cellular Base Station • High Linearity Systems • General Purpose Amplification • High
NuWaves’ HILNA™ LS is a broadband low noise amplifier covering L- & S-bands, and designed to achieve extremely high gain while maintaining low noise and a high third-order intercept point.

This high-performance module delivers 50 dB of gain over the broad range of 1 GHz to 3 GHz with a noise figure of less than 2 dB and OIP3 of +33 dBm. The HILNA LS is also usable from 500 MHz to 3.75 GHz with over 40 dB of gain. The HILNA LS’s small form factor (3.3 in³) makes it ideal for small communication system installations, co-located to the antenna. In addition, the HILNA LS has a built in bias-T capability eliminating the need for a separate power cable run.

**Figure 1: HILNA LS Functional Diagram**
2.1 HILNA LS ELECTRICAL DATA

### Table 1: HILNA LS Absolute Maximum Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Voltage</td>
<td>+15 VDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF $P_{in}$</td>
<td>+20 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature</td>
<td>-20 to +60 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Temperature</td>
<td>-40 to +85 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: HILNA LS Power Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Typ</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Voltage</td>
<td>VDC</td>
<td>+5</td>
<td>+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Consumption</td>
<td>mA</td>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3: HILNA LS RF Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>HILNA LS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Typ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>MHz</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Figure</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIP3</td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td>+33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1dB</td>
<td>dBm</td>
<td>+17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSWR In</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSWR Out</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Isolation</td>
<td>dB</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 FREQUENCY RESPONSE GRAPH

Figure 2: HILNA LS Frequency Response

2.3 HILNA LS MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Figure 3: HILNA LS Mechanical Outline
### Table 4: HILNA LS Mechanical Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Specification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RF Bulkhead Connector</td>
<td>SMA female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RF Input and Output Mating Connector</td>
<td>SMA male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC Power Connector</td>
<td>4-pin Mini USB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions (L x W x H)</td>
<td>2.50” x 1.75” x 0.75”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>3.00 oz.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 3 INSTALLING, CONNECTING, AND USING THE HILNA AMPLIFIER

HILNA amplifiers have been designed to be highly reliable under the specified operating conditions. The following installation and interfacing guidelines should be followed to prevent damage to the RF module.

**Caution:** The HILNA amplifier contains components that are sensitive to Electro-Static Discharge (ESD). The use of wrist strap, mats, and ground straps should be adhered to during the installation process.

### 3.1 CABLING

The HILNA LS is equipped with high-performance RF connectors. Gold plated SMA-type receptacles are used because they perform very well across the usable frequency range of the unit. For optimal performance, a high-quality 50 Ω coaxial cable with SMA-type plugs should be used to interface with the amplifier.

**Caution:** Due to the wideband nature of the unit, installation should not be attempted on a tower with transmit antennas.

If cables with the SMA-type connectors are not available, high quality adaptors are available for most coaxial connector types.

The HILNA LS has a built in bias-T capability, allowing the user to supply DC power from the RF circuitry or coaxial cables without affecting the RF signal through the main transmission path.

**Caution:** Due to the bias-T configuration, DC power will always be present on the RF output line.

### 3.2 POWER SUPPLY

The HILNA contains internal linear voltage regulators. These regulators protect the circuitry from voltage variations at the input and allow for the wide operating voltage. The power connector for the units is a mini USB four pin connector. As an option, DC power can also be applied to the RF Output port with an external bias-T. The only restrictions on the power source for the unit are:

- Capable of sourcing 300mA of current
- Capable of sourcing +5 VDC to +15 VDC
Car batteries (through a cigarette lighter adaptor), laboratory DC power supplies, or wall transformers are suitable power sources as long as the superimposed ripple is low in amplitude.

3.3 CONNECTIONS

Caution: Do not apply RF to the unit until after all cable connections are made and power has been applied.

Making the connections from the HILNA LS is easily accomplished:

1. Connect the "RF OUT" connector on the unit to a 50 Ω coaxial cable
2. Apply power to the unit by first plugging in the 4-pin mini USB power cable into the DC power input on the unit, or through the RF Output port using an external bias-T.
3. Connect the black lead to the positive side of the power supply and connect the orange lead to the negative side of the power supply. Power is now ready to be applied to the unit.
4. Connect the RF Source to the RF Destination with a second 50 Ω coaxial cable.
5. Apply RF to the input cable assembly.

Powering down the unit is done by reversing this procedure.

Connection Summary:

- Connect the RF Output to a good load. The characteristic impedance is 50 Ω.
- Apply DC (+12 VDC Typical) at the power connector, or through the RF Output port using an external bias-T.
- Connect an RF source to the RF Input connector.

Caution: Excess drive levels at the input to the amplifier can permanently damage the unit. Under no circumstance should the RF Input level exceed +20 dBm.

3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS

The HILNA LS units are rated for operation from -20 to +60 °C. The enclosure is NOT watertight so the unit must be kept dry. It is recommended that the unit be installed in a well-ventilated area or mounted to a heat sink if the input voltage exceeds +12 VDC. The unit will run warmer as the input voltage increases.
4 GETTING HELP - APPLICATIONS ENGINEERING

NuWaves Engineering offers technical support for basic configuration and troubleshooting, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time.

Technical Assistance, Application Engineering, and Sales:

Phone: (513) 360-0800
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NuWaves Home Page: http://www.nuwaves.com

Product Warranty:


4.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

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