



Wideband Microstrip-Line-Fed Suspended Rectangular Microstrip Antenna

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ABSTRACT: In this paper a wide band microstrip-line-fed suspended rectangular microstrip antenna is presented. The basic parameters of the antenna such as radiation pattern and return loss are simulated and measured by using IE3D software and Vector Network Analyzer. The antenna gives the wide bandwidth of the order of 44.97% which is 9 times more than that of reference antenna. A glass epoxy substrate is employed providing a good solution i.e. cheap both in material and manufacturing cost.

KEYWORDS: Microstrip antenna, Suspended, Wide band, Microstrip-Line-Feed, Rectangular, Air.

I.INTRODUCTION

The microstrip antenna now a days has become so popular because of its low cost, low profile and easy fabrication and conformabilities. However, they suffer from the disadvantage of narrow bandwidth. Many techniques were reported in literature to overcome the inherent disadvantage of narrow bandwidth of microstrip antennas. [1, 2]. Impedance matching techniques have been implemented to increase the bandwidth of the microstrip antenna [3]. Other method is to increase the bandwidth is the use of thicker substrate. This increases higher dielectric losses and hence lower efficiency and gain of the antenna.

To improve upon the bandwidth and efficiency of the microstrip antenna a suspended configuration is used [4, 5]. Here, an air gap is introduced between the patch and the ground plane that offers improved efficiency and enhanced bandwidth. Recently V. Gupta [4] has reported investigation on suspended microstrip patch antenna at X-band with dielectric resonator loading and he achieved about 12.3% impedance bandwidth. There have been many different element designs proposed for bandwidth improvement. In sense these can be categorized into the following methods: Impedance matching using co-planar and multilayer parasitic elements and increasing antenna volume. The aim of this paper is to study the bandwidth and radiation characteristic of suspended rectangular microstrip antenna.

II.ANTENNA DESIGN

In the proposed design, the antennas have been designed for 6 GHz and are fed using microstrip line feed. In the suspended rectangular microstrip antenna configuration, two layers of glass epoxy substrates ($\epsilon_r = 4.4$, $h = 1.6$ mm and $\tan \delta = 0.0245$) separated by air gap (Δ) is shown in Fig. 1. This method is equally useful for achieving the wide bandwidth with other patch geometries. The rectangular patch antenna has a length “L” and width “W”. The advantage of suspended technique is simplicity of design, since the single patch is used only on the top layer of glass epoxy substrate. The artwork after designing the microstrip antenna has been done in AUTOCAD-2006.

A laser printout of the artwork is taken. The print dimensions were achieved on one side of the double-sided PCB using photolithographic process. And the two prototypes were fabricated these two prototypes were tested using Vector Network Analyzer ZVK series 1127.8651.60.

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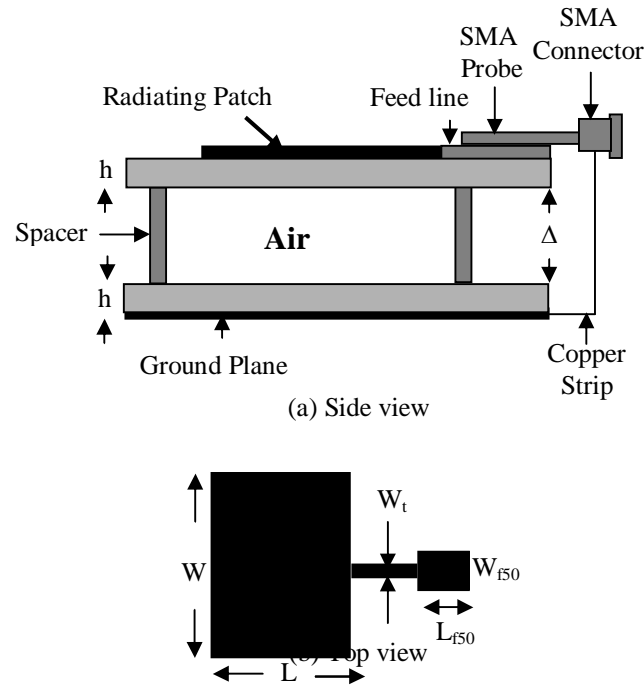


Fig. 1 Schematic diagram of suspended rectangular microstrip antenna

III.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Keeping the parameters h and ϵ_r fixed and varying Δ two prototype suspended rectangular microstrip antennas have been designed, fabricated, simulated and measured experimentally. Table 1. Shows the simulation results and the obtained experimental results are tabulated in Table 2.

As noted from Table.2 a variation in air gap (Δ) can affect the performance of the antenna. For our proposed antenna, the measured resonant frequency is 6.27GHz and hence, the corresponding bandwidth is 44.97%.

The reference antenna radiates at 5.77 GHz and gives the bandwidth 5.02%. After making the stacking i.e. when $\Delta=0$ mm there is increase in bandwidth. When antenna is constructed in suspended manner i.e. $\Delta=1$ mm the bandwidth is further increased as compared to earlier antenna. But one thing we realized that when the thickness is perfectly sufficient then bandwidth is increased. Hence the antenna-2 as gap (Δ) of 1 mm which gives the wide bandwidth of the order of 44.97% as compared to V. Gupta [4].

Table 1: IE3D Simulation results of Suspended Rectangular Microstrip antenna

Parameter & Antennas	Resonant frequency (GHz)	Return loss (dB)	Band width (%)
Reference Antenna	5.85	-14.37	3.19
Antenna-1 $\Delta = 0$ mm	5.67	-19.78	16.96
Antenna-2 $\Delta = 1$ mm	6.75	-19.56	26.81

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Table 2: Experimental results of Suspended Rectangular Microstrip antenna

Parameter & Antennas	Resonant frequency (GHz)	Return loss (dB)	Band width (%)
Reference Antenna	5.77	-21.15	5.02
Antenna-1 $\Delta = 0 \text{ mm}$	6.05	-33.02	37.19
Antenna-2 $\Delta = 1 \text{ mm}$	6.27	-39.74	44.97

The radiation pattern of reference antenna (Fig. 2) shows wide band with better cross-polarization. The radiation pattern of the antenna-1 & antenna-2 are shown in Fig 3 & Fig 4 respectively. Antenna-1 & antenna-2 shows the maximum radiation in broadside direction. The proposed antenna is useful in wireless communication field.

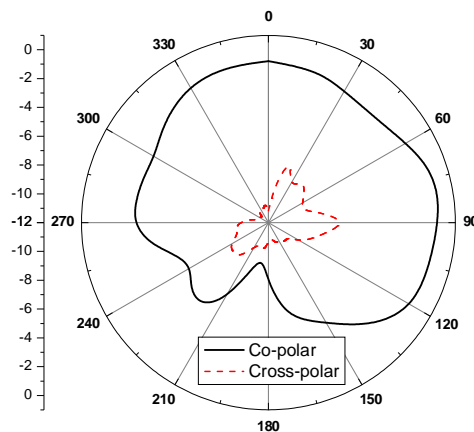


Fig. 2 Radiation pattern of Reference antenna at 5.77GHz

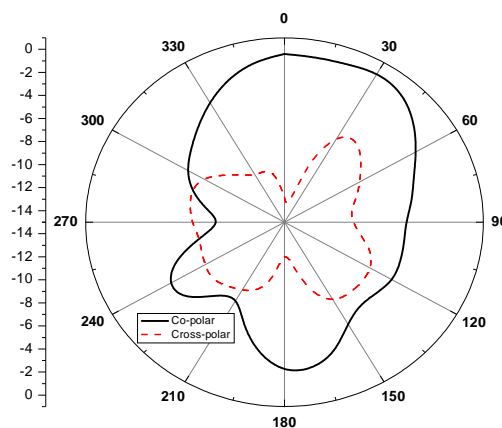


Fig. 3 Radiation pattern of Antenna-1 at 6.05GHz

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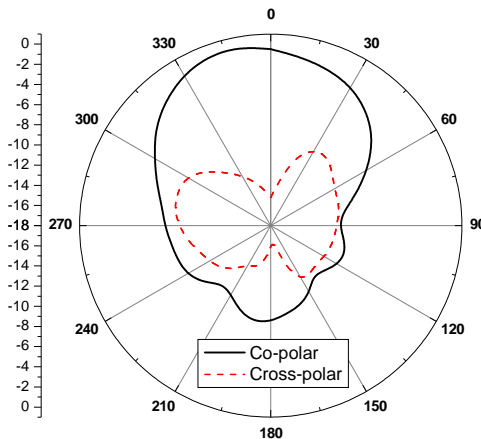


Fig.4 Radiation pattern of Antenna-2 at 6.27GHz

IV.CONCLUSION

In this paper, a wide band microstrip-line-fed suspended rectangular microstrip antenna is presented. The bandwidth enhancement of the microstrip antenna is obtained by introducing an air gap between the patch and the ground plane. We have achieved 44.97% impedance bandwidth with an air gap (Δ) of 1 mm whereas it is 5.02% in case of reference antenna.

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