

# A Switchable Bandpass Filter for Broadband, Dual-Band and Tri-Band Operations

Zizhuo Sun, *Graduate Student Member, IEEE*, Xiaolong Wang, *Member, IEEE* and Kun Li, *Member, IEEE*

**Abstract**— In this letter, a novel microstrip switchable bandpass filter (BPF) is presented. By switching RF p-i-n diodes on/off, the proposed topology could provide three different filtering states: broadband bandpass filter (BBPF), dual-band bandpass filter (DBPF) and tri-band bandpass filter (TBPF). For each state, the relationship between bandwidths and return losses are newly analyzed by proposed algorithm, then the design charts can be easily summarized. In order to improve selectivity and stopband rejection, two cascaded proposed topologies are also considered and discussed briefly. For demonstration, two switchable circuits are designed, fabricated and measured in the experiment. Simulated and measured results are matched very well.

**Index Terms**—Bandpass filter (BPF), broadband, dual-band, switchable filter, tri-band.

## I. INTRODUCTION

MICROWAVE bandpass filter (BPF) [1]-[3] has been widely applied as a basic microwave passive component in modern wireless communication systems. With the rapid development of radio frequency microwave technology, RF components could be able to realize more functionalities within the limited circuit space are in a great demand. Therefore, switchable/multifunctional BPFs have attracted a lot of attentions through using RF p-i-n diodes [1], varactors [4], single-pole double-throw (SPDT) switches [5], liquid metal actuation [6] and so on.

In recent years, increasing the number of switchable/multi-functional BPFs with various circuit topologies have been put forward. For example, a switchable BPF with reconfigurable on-state frequency responses [7] through two switchable delay lines is proposed. Chen and Chu report a dual-band BPF with less tuning elements [8] which could independently control passbands and constant absolute bandwidths, meanwhile,

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Zizhuo Sun and Xiaolong Wang are with State Key Laboratory of Integrated Optoelectronics, College of Electronic Science and Engineering, International Center of Future Science, Jilin University, 2699 Qianjin Street, Changchun 130012, China (e-mail: [brucewang@jlu.edu.cn](mailto:brucewang@jlu.edu.cn)).

Kun Li is with the Faculty of Engineering and Design, Kagawa University, Takamatsu 761-0396, Japan (e-mail: [li.kun@kagawa-u.ac.jp](mailto:li.kun@kagawa-u.ac.jp)).

[9]-[10] could also perform similar functionality. Besides dual-band response, [11] implemented by parallel combination of open-circuited and short-circuited stub loaded resonators performs wideband and tri-band operations respectively, however, tri-band bandwidth topologies are quite limited. A series of multi-functional or multi-band reconfigurable BPFs and their analytical synthesis design are presented in [12]-[13], tunable or switchable filtering responses are obtained when the dual-mapping functions are simultaneously controlled to support band-shaping conditions. Furthermore, multi-functional filters are reported with transversal signal-interaction technology [14] or coupled-line structure [15], they could provide both bandpass and bandstop states by turning on/off p-i-n diodes. In [16], by using SPDT switches and varactors, bandpass and bandstop can be switched with controllable bandwidths. Furthermore, a reconfigurable power divider with adjustable phase difference is also considered in [17]. To the best of authors' knowledge, a compact filter with multi-switchable passband has not been reported yet, where multi-passband can be combined by each switchable state with the same bandwidths.

In this letter, a novel microstrip switchable bandpass filter is presented, where three different filtering states: broadband bandpass filter (BBPF), dual-band bandpass filter (DBPF) and tri-band bandpass filter (TBPF) can be easily realized into a single compact component by switching p-i-n diodes on/off. For each state, the relationship between bandwidths and return losses are newly analyzed by proposed algorithm, then the design charts can be easily summarized. In the experiment, two fabricated circuits are selected for verification. Simulated and measured results are matched very well. It is worth mentioning that TBPF can be considered as a combination of BBPF and DBPF approximately. Because the bandwidths and their center frequencies are almost the same when proposed filter is switched from BBPF to TBPF (or from DBPF to TBPF). Such performance is quite useful in wireless communication systems, software-defined radios and electronic warfare support measurement scenarios.

## II. DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF THE SWITCHABLE FILTER

Fig. 1 shows the symmetrical topology of proposed switchable filter, where all the characteristic impedances with electrical length  $\theta$  and p-i-n diode switches are labeled in Fig. 1,  $\theta = 90^\circ$  @ center frequency  $f_0$ . By switching p-i-n diodes on/off, three different filtering states (BBPF, DBPF and TBPF) can be realized into a single topology. To understand the above

filtering states easily, a scheme of general  $S$ -parameters is shown in Fig. 2. The realizable range of characteristic impedance is defined from  $20 \Omega$  to  $150 \Omega$  in this letter.

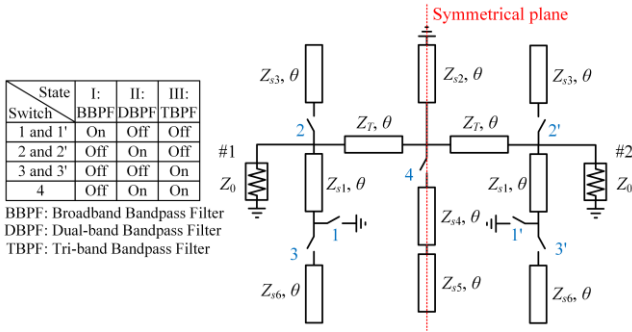


Fig. 1. The topology of proposed switchable filter.

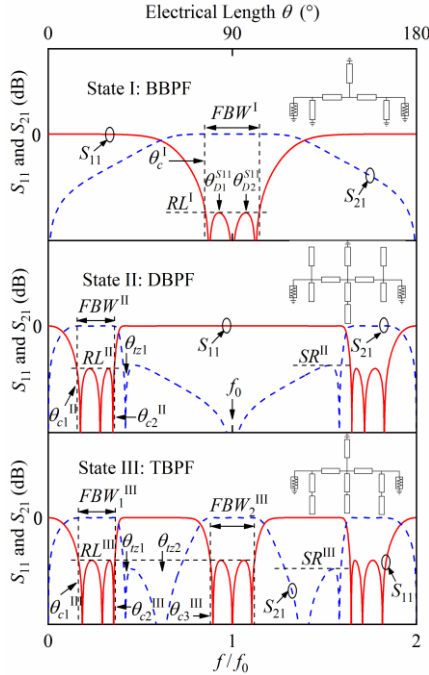


Fig. 2. Corresponding to the three filtering states (BBPF, DBPF and TBPF) of proposed topology in Fig. 1, a scheme of general  $S$ -parameters.

### A. State I: BBPF

From Fig. 1, when the switches 1 and 1' are turned ON and the other switches are turned OFF, the proposed switchable filter becomes a BBPF, which previously appeared in [18]. Due to the existence of three short-circuited stubs, signal cannot be transported from port 1 to 2, thence,  $\theta_{z1} = 0$  or  $\pi$  can be derived when considering the requirement of  $|S_{21}| = 0$ . According to (1), input impedances of short-circuited stubs are equal to  $\infty$  at center  $f_0$ , consequently, the proposed filter shows a bandpass response at state I.

$$Z_{inm} = jZ_{sm} \tan \theta \quad (m = 1, 2) \quad (1)$$

In this letter, the characteristic impedance  $Z_T = 70 \Omega$  and  $Z_{s2} = 140 \Omega$  are selected for facilitate design and analysis. The fractional bandwidth of  $S_{11}$  on state I is defined as  $FBW^I = (1 - \theta_c^I) \times 200\%$ , where  $\theta_c^I$  represents electrical length at cutoff frequency. By using the synthesis theory in [19], the constraint equations can be summarized:  $\partial S_{11} / \partial \theta \Big|_{\theta = \theta_{c1}^{SI} \text{ (or } \theta_{c2}^{SI})} = 0$  and

$-20 \log_{10} |S_{11}| = RL @ (\theta_c^I, \theta_{D1}^{SI})$ . Then, the relationship among  $FBW^I$ ,  $RL^I$  (return loss of  $S_{11}$  on state I) and  $Z_{s1}$  can be calculated and shown in Fig. 3. As  $RL^I$  increases,  $Z_{s1}$  is raised, however,  $FBW^I$  becomes narrower. The realizable range of  $RL^I$  and  $FBW^I$  are  $15.49 \text{ dB} < RL^I$  and  $FBW^I < 44.69\%$ , respectively.

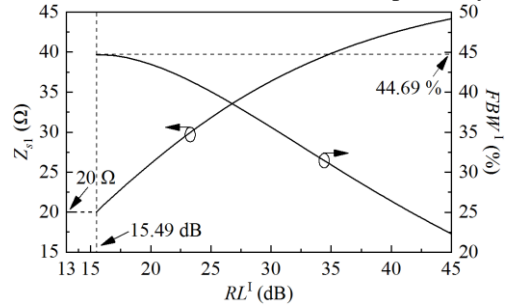


Fig. 3. The relationship among  $FBW^I$ ,  $RL^I$  and  $Z_{s1}$ , which is on the state I under the condition of  $Z_T = 70 \Omega$  and  $Z_{s2} = 140 \Omega$ .

### B. State II: DBPF

From Fig. 1, when the switches 2, 4 and 2' are turned ON and the other switches turned OFF, the proposed switchable filter becomes a DBPF. The stepped impedance branch with characteristic impedances  $Z_{s4}$  and  $Z_{s5}$  is shunted to the middle of circuit topology. Open-circuited stubs ( $Z_{s1}, \theta$ ) are shunted to the input and output ports. Another open-circuited stubs ( $Z_{s3}, \theta$ ) are used to adjust the sum of parallel impedance ( $Z_{s1}$  and  $Z_{s3}$ ). Input impedances of open-circuited stubs are equal to 0 at  $f_0$ , which means filter exhibits  $|S_{21}| = 0$  at  $f_0$ . On the other hand, input impedance of the stepped impedance branch ( $Z_{in3}$ ) can be derived as

$$Z_{in3} = jZ_{s4} (Z_{s4} \tan \theta - Z_{s5} \cot \theta) / (Z_{s4} + Z_{s5}) \quad (2)$$

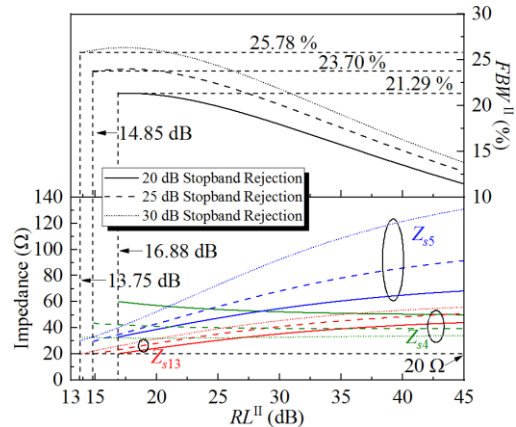


Fig. 4. Relationship among  $FBW^{II}$ ,  $RL^{II}$  and characteristic impedances, which is on the state II under the condition of  $Z_T = 70 \Omega$  and  $Z_{s2} = 140 \Omega$ .

Considering the condition of  $Z_{in3} = 0$ ,  $|S_{21}| = 0$  can be obtained and the transmission zeros are calculated as  $\theta_{z1} = \tan^{-1} \sqrt{Z_{s5}/Z_{s4}}$ ,  $90^\circ$  and  $\pi - \theta_{z1}$ , respectively. These three transmission zeros constitute a wide stopband, besides, passband response appears on both sides of the stopband. Therefore, a dual-band bandpass response is established. The fractional bandwidth of  $S_{11}$  on state II is defined as  $FBW^{II} = (\theta_{c2}^{II} - \theta_{c1}^{II}) \times 100\%$ , where  $\theta_{c1}^{II}$  and  $\theta_{c2}^{II}$  represent electrical length at cutoff frequency on state II. The relationship among  $FBW^{II}$ ,  $RL^{II}$  (return loss of  $S_{11}$  on state II) and characteristic impedances ( $Z_{s13}$ ,  $Z_{s4}$  and  $Z_{s5}$ ) is shown in Fig.

4, where  $Z_{s13} = Z_{s1} // Z_{s3}$ . As  $RL^{II}$  increases,  $Z_{s13}$  and  $Z_{s5}$  will be higher,  $Z_{s4}$  will be lower, meanwhile,  $FBW^{II}$  becomes narrower. Under the condition of 20 dB stopband rejection (SR), the realizable range of  $RL^{II}$  and  $FBW^{II}$  are  $16.88 \text{ dB} < RL^{II}$  and  $FBW^{II} < 21.29\%$ , respectively.

### C. State III: TBPF

When the switches 3, 4 and 3' are turned ON and the other switches turned OFF, the proposed switchable filter becomes a TBPF. Three stepped impedance branches and a short-circuited stub are all equal to  $\infty$  at  $f_0$ , signal can be transported from port 1 to 2. Therefore, bandpass response is achieved around  $f_0$ . Under the condition of  $|S_{21}| = 0$ , the transmission zeros can be similarly derived as  $\theta_{t1} = \tan^{-1} \sqrt{Z_{s5}/Z_{s4}}$ ,  $\theta_{t2} = \tan^{-1} \sqrt{Z_{s6}/Z_{s1}}$ ,  $\pi - \theta_{t1}$  and  $\pi - \theta_{t2}$ , respectively. These four transmission zeros are dividing a period into three parts, whilst, signal cannot be transported from port 1 to 2 at  $\theta = 0$  and  $\pi$ . Hence, TBPF can be achieved. Similarly, the fractional bandwidth of  $S_{11}$  on state III is defined as  $FBW_1^{III} = (\theta_{c2}^{III} - \theta_{c1}^{III}) \times 100\%$  and  $FBW_2^{III} = (1 - \theta_{c3}^{III}) \times 200\%$ , where,  $\theta_{c1}^{III}$ ,  $\theta_{c2}^{III}$  and  $\theta_{c3}^{III}$  stand for electrical length at cutoff frequency on state III.

The relationship among  $FBW_1^{III}$ ,  $FBW_2^{III}$ ,  $RL^{III}$  (return loss of  $S_{11}$  on state III) and characteristic impedances ( $Z_{s1}$ ,  $Z_{s4}$ ,  $Z_{s5}$  and  $Z_{s6}$ ) is shown in Fig. 5. As  $RL^{III}$  increases,  $Z_{s1}$ ,  $Z_{s5}$  and  $Z_{s6}$  will be higher,  $Z_{s4}$  will be lower, meanwhile, both  $FBW_1^{III}$  and  $FBW_2^{III}$  become narrower. Under the condition of  $SR = 20 \text{ dB}$ , the realizable range of  $RL^{III}$ ,  $FBW_1^{III}$  and  $FBW_2^{III}$  are  $13 \text{ dB} < RL^{III}$ ,  $FBW_1^{III} < 18.64\%$  and  $FBW_2^{III} < 29.51\%$ , respectively.

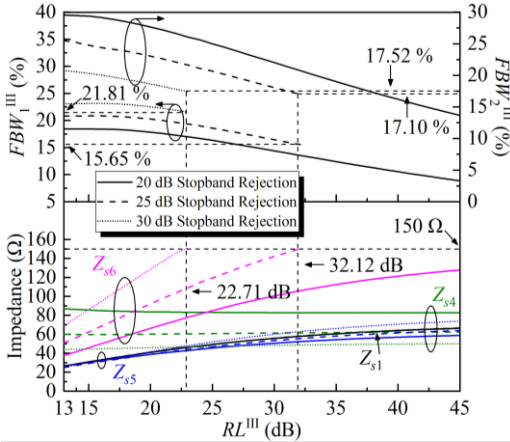


Fig. 5. The relationship among  $FBW_1^{III}$ ,  $FBW_2^{III}$ ,  $RL^{III}$  and characteristic impedances, which is on the state III under the condition of  $Z_T = 70 \Omega$  and  $Z_{s2} = 140 \Omega$ .

### D. Flowchart With Algorithm

To demonstrate the design method of proposed switchable filter, its algorithm is summarized as a flowchart in Fig. 6. The brief design steps are described as follows.

**Step 1:** Specify the desired  $\theta_c$ ,  $FBW$ ,  $RL$  and  $SR$  on three states respectively.

**Step 2:** Based on the above-mentioned specifications, select suitable characteristic impedance  $Z_T$  and  $Z_{s2}$ .

**Step 3:** Choose  $Z_{s1}$  to match the specifications ( $\theta_c^I$ ,  $FBW^I$  and  $RL^I$ ) of state I. The similar process is reported in Section II. A.

**Step 4:** Calculate  $Z_{s13}$ ,  $Z_{s4}$  and  $Z_{s5}$  to match the specifications ( $\theta_{c1}^{II}$ ,  $\theta_{c2}^{II}$ ,  $FBW^{II}$ ,  $RL^{II}$  and  $SR^{II}$ ) of state II. The similar process is reported in Section II. B. Because  $Z_{s13}$  is the parallel of  $Z_{s1}$  and  $Z_{s3}$ ,  $Z_{s1} \geq Z_{s13}$  must be maintained.

**Step 5:** Similarly, choose  $Z_{s6}$  to match the specifications ( $\theta_{c1}^{III}$ ,  $\theta_{c2}^{III}$ ,  $\theta_{c3}^{III}$ ,  $FBW_1^{III}$ ,  $FBW_2^{III}$ ,  $RL^{III}$  and  $SR^{III}$ ) of state III. The similar process is reported in Section II. C. Although all characteristic impedances are determined in this step, they need slight adjustment to fit total specifications for realization.

**Step 6:** Perform EM simulation and adjust the physical dimensions toward optimized target if necessary.

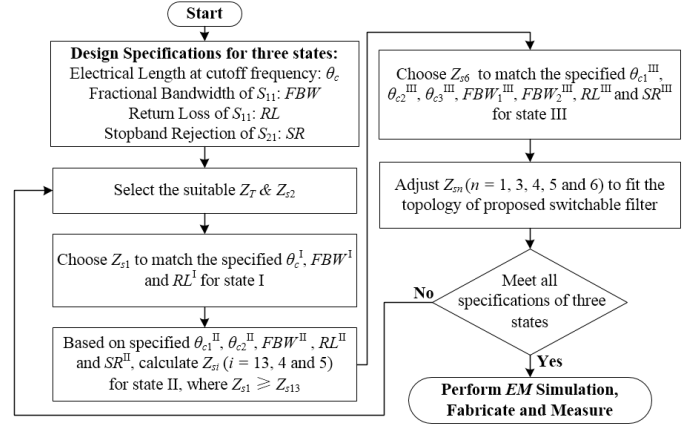


Fig. 6. Design flowchart for the proposed switchable filter.

Furthermore, by cascading multiple proposed switchable filter, equal-ripple numbers can be easily increased with higher selectivity and enhanced SR. Fig. 7 shows two cascaded example and its circuit simulation results.

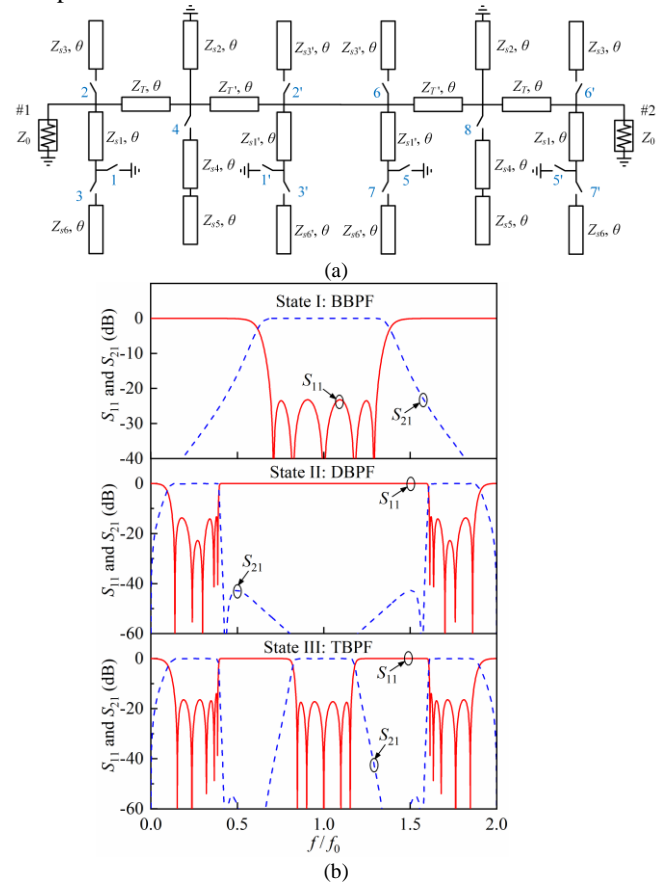


Fig. 7. (a) Configuration of the two cascaded switchable filters. (b) Circuit simulation results of cascaded broadband state (switches 1, 1' and 5, 5' are at ON states), cascaded dual-band state (switches 2, 2' and 6, 6' and 4 and 8 are at ON states) and Circuit simulation results of cascaded tri-band state (switches 3, 3' and 7, 7' and 4 and 8 are at ON states). The parameters are  $Z_T = 64.7 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S1} = 63.9 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S1'} = 42.8 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S1''} = 44.8 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S2} = 181 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S3} = 50.3 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S3'} = 40.3 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S4} = 60.7 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S5} = 39 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S6} = 82.6 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S6'} = 76.5 \Omega$ .

### III. FABRICATION AND EXPERIMENT

To experimentally validate the proposed switchable filter concept, two filters are designed, fabricated, and measured, respectively. The parameters of the Rogers RT 5880 substrate are  $\epsilon_r = 2.2$ ,  $\tan\delta = 0.0009$ ,  $h = 0.787 \text{ mm}$ , and  $t = 0.0175 \text{ mm}$ .

For the first filter, the design parameters are  $Z_T = 70 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S1} = 40.9 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S2} = 140 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S3} = 54.4 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S4} = 64.2 \Omega$ ,  $Z_{S5} = 38.5 \Omega$  and  $Z_{S6} = 85.5 \Omega$  under the condition of  $FBW^I = 29.2\%$ ,  $FBW^{II} = 20.4\%$ ,  $FBW_1^{III} = 20.0\%$  and  $FBW_2^{III} = 25.2\%$ . From the measured results, we could easily find that: (1) When the proposed filter is switched from BBPF to TBPF, the bandwidth of the center frequency is almost the same, where  $FBW^I \approx FBW_2^{III}$ . (2) Similarly, when the proposed filter is switched from DBPF to TBPF, the bandwidth of the dual-frequency is almost the same, where  $FBW^{II} \approx FBW_1^{III}$ . Therefore, TBPF can be considered as a combination of BBPF and DBPF approximately, and the above performance is quite useful for wireless communication systems application. The layout and photograph of fabricated circuit are shown in Fig. 8 (a), where, the capacitors and the resistors applied in the biasing networks of the RF p-i-n diodes are  $C_{bia} = 1000 \text{ pF}$  and  $R_{bia} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$  respectively. RF p-i-n diodes SMP1345-079LF from Skyworks were used for switching three states. The EM simulated and measured results are shown in Fig. 8 (b), and they are matched very well. For the second filter, the design parameters are listed in Fig. 7. The photograph of fabricated circuit is shown in Fig. 9 (a), and its EM simulated and measured results are shown in Fig. 9 (b).

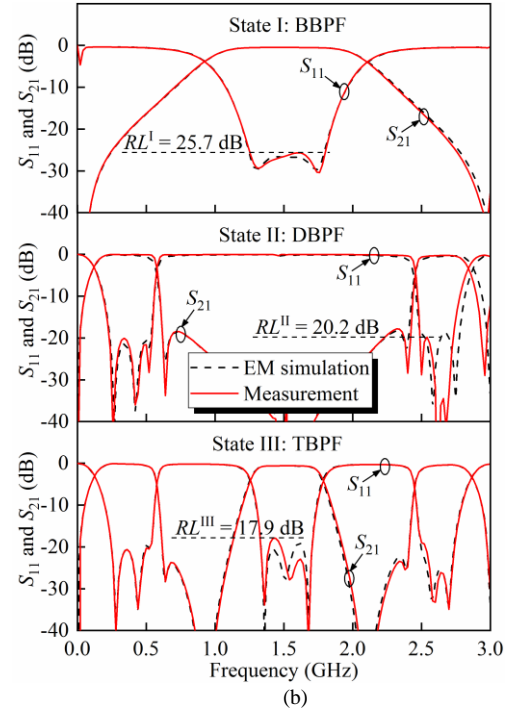
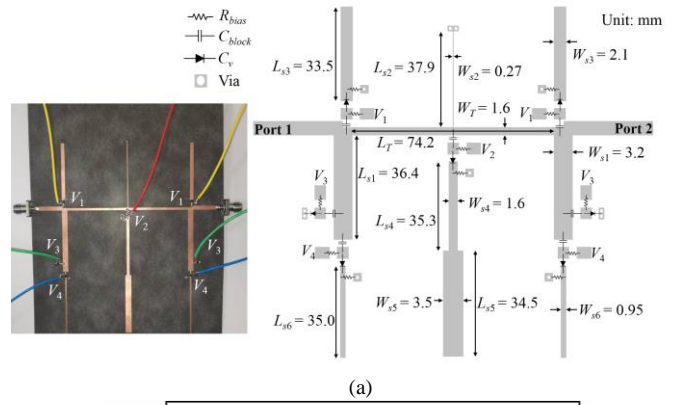


Fig. 8. The first experimental switchable filter. (a) The layout and photograph of proposed work. (b) The EM simulation and measurement.

TABLE I  
COMPARISONS WITH RECENT SWITCHABLE/MULTIFUNCTIONAL FILTERS

Reference	Responses	Fractional bandwidth (%)	Return loss (dB)	In-band insertion loss (dB)	Number of diodes	Circuit size ( $\lambda_g \times \lambda_g$ )	Excellent multi-band switching configuration
[11]	BBPF / TBPF	102 / 11.6 & 4.2 & 6.7	>10 / >10	<1.7 / <1.7	10	0.71 × 0.45	No
[13]	BBPF / DBPF	34 <sup>#</sup> / 16.7 & 13.0 <sup>#</sup>	- / -	<0.5 / <0.6	9	0.80 × 0.60	No
	BPF / DBPF / TBPF / QBPF	7.5 <sup>#</sup> / 5.5 & 6.0 <sup>#</sup> / 3.5 & 5.9 & 1.8 <sup>#</sup> / 3.4 & 3.0 & 2.7 & 2.2 <sup>#</sup>	- / - / - / -	<1.6 / <3.2 / <3.2 / <3.0	16	1.15 × 0.88	No
[14]	BBPF / BPF / BSF	95.7 / 25.3 / 106	>11.4 / >15 / -	<0.9 / <0.8 / <15.0	6	0.50 × 0.25	No
[15]	BBPF / BSP / DBPF	53.1 / 30.2 / 3.8 & 2.7	>10 / - / >10	<0.9 / <15.5 / <2.2	6	0.44 × 0.29	No
[16]	BBPF / BSF	55.6 / 12.6	>15 / -	<3.0 / <15.0	4	0.80 × 0.45	No
	DBPF / DBSF	14.0 & 8.5 / 13.2 & 3.6	>15 / -	<4.7 / <15.0	7	0.84 × 0.55	No
<b>This work</b>	<b>BBPF / DBPF / TBPF</b>	<b>36.7 / 20.7 &amp; 16.1 / 20.0 &amp; 27.4 &amp; 18.1</b>	<b>&gt;25.7 / &gt;20.2 / &gt;17.9</b>	<b>&lt;0.5 / &lt;0.4 / &lt;0.6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.75 × 0.40</b>	<b>Yes</b>

QBPF: Quad-band Bandpass Filter, #: 3-dB  $FBW$ .



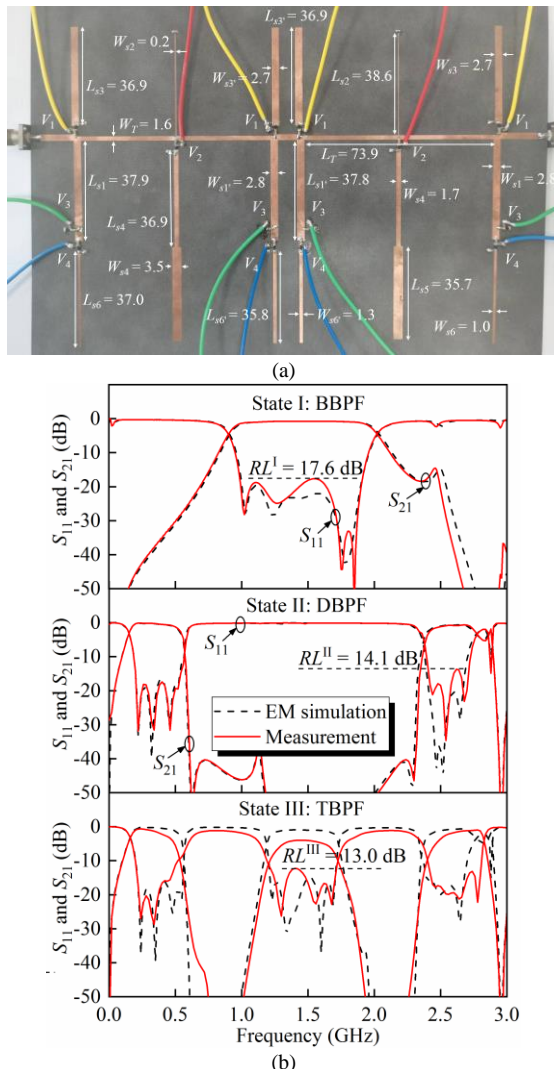


Fig. 9. The second experimental switchable filter. (a) The photograph of proposed work. (b) The EM simulation and measurement.

Comparing with former switchable/multifunctional filters, the advantages of proposed work are listed in Table I. The main improvements are listed as follows: (1) The proposed work provides BBPF, DBPF and TBPF into a single component, where, TBPF can be considered as a combination of BBPF and DBPF approximately. (2) Based on the design charts of three states, different bandwidths and return losses can be controlled for the proposed filter. (3) Three different states can be realized with less diodes and compact size and better performance.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

A novel switchable filter with three different states is proposed in this letter. The proposed filter with compact size simple circuit topology structure provides an excellent innovation for multi-band application scenarios in wireless communication systems, software-defined radios and electronic warfare support measurement scenarios.

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