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FM receiver with dynamic intermediate frequency (IF) filter tuning.

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The invention relates to an FM receiver comprising a radio frequency (RF) section, means for a down-conversion of a desired RF FM reception signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) FM signal, an IF section comprising a tunable IF filter, an FM demodulator for demodulating the baseband modulation signal of the IF FM signal, which demodulator is coupled to a baseband signal processing device, and an IF tuning control loop via which the FM demodulator is coupled to a tuning control input of the IF filter for an instantaneous tuning control of the IF filter by means of the baseband modulation signal.

10 An FM receiver of this type is known from the international PCT Application WO 88/08223.

Said means for a down-conversion of a desired RF FM reception signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) FM signal of the known FM receiver comprise a tunable first mixer stage with which a desired RF FM reception signal from an RF FM reception range is converted down to a first intermediate frequency of 10.7 MHz. After a first IF selection in this known FM receiver, the first intermediate frequency (IF) signal thus obtained is subsequently converted down again by means of a fixed second mixer stage, which results in a second IF signal having an average intermediate frequency of 700 kHz. After a second IF selection in said tunable IF filter, this second IF signal is applied to the FM demodulator for demodulating the second IF signal, which results in the desired baseband modulation signal. An output of the FM demodulator is coupled to the tuning control input of the tunable IF filter for a dynamic control of the tuning of the IF filter in dependence upon the baseband modulation signal. Consequently, the resonance frequency of the IF filter instantaneously tracks the frequency modulation of the IF FM signal, so that the IF filter may have a comparatively narrow band, which enhances the selectivity.

In order to prevent that a neighbouring transmitter carrier, whose



frequency approaches the carrier of the desired signal and which comes within the capturing range of the IF tuning control loop, gives rise to a tuning of the IF filter at this neighbouring transmitter, the tuning control of the known FM receiver is switched off at a given amplitude level of the tuning control signal, which is directly followed by
5 a reset of the tuning of the IF filter at an initial value, for example at the 700 kHz intermediate frequency. Switching off the tuning control of the IF filter and recapturing the IF tuning control at the desired carrier when it reappears in the passband of the IF filter tuned by means of said initial reset, gives rise to clearly audible noise peaks which may subsist through comparatively long periods and/or may lead to comparatively long
10 muting periods if these noise signals are suppressed by means of a muting circuit.

It is, *inter alia*, an object of the invention to obviate these drawbacks in a simple manner.

According to the invention, an FM receiver of the type described in the
15 opening paragraph is characterized in that a first amplifier-limiter is arranged in the IF tuning control loop between an output of the FM demodulator and the tuning control input of the IF filter, the gain of said first amplifier-limiter gradually decreasing at an increasing input signal amplitude and supplying an output signal whose amplitude increases monotonically to a limiting value for a continuous and gradual limitation of
20 the tuning control signal in the IF tuning control loop at an increasing output signal amplitude of the FM demodulator.

The invention is based on the recognition that the capture-and-hold behaviour of the IF tuning control loop is greatly enhanced by uninterruptedly maintaining the tuning control and by limiting the amplitude of the tuning control
25 signal.

When the measure according to the invention is used, tuning to an unwanted neighbouring transmitter is prevented, *i.e.* after the IF tuning control loop has captured a strong neighbouring transmitter, the tuning of the IF filter tracks the average carrier frequency of this neighbouring transmitter. The amplitude limitation of the
30 tuning control signal also results in the IF filter remaining tuned during the period of limitation at a frequency which renders rapid capturing by the IF tuning control loop of the desired transmitter carrier possible without extra measures being required for an

initial reset of the tuning of the IF filter.

Such an FM receiver according to the invention is preferably characterized in that the FM demodulator comprises a multiplier circuit and means for deriving, from the IF FM signal, a pair of FM-modulated signals having a mutually
5 equal modulation signal and a phase difference which is 90 degrees on average at the carrier frequency and which varies with the FM modulation signal, said means comprising a tunable frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit having a tuning control input, said FM demodulator also comprising a demodulator tuning control loop including a low-pass filter *via* which an output of the multiplier circuit is coupled to the
10 tuning control input of the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit, the gain in the IF tuning control loop being smaller than that in the demodulator tuning control loop.

When this measure is used, an accurate matching of the loop parameters of the IF tuning control loop with those of the demodulator tuning control loop is possible in a simple manner. The capture-and-hold behaviour of the demodulator tuning
15 control loop can be set in a correct manner with respect to that of the IF tuning control loop so as to prevent neighbouring transmitters from disturbing the control action of the IF tuning control. Such an FM quadrature demodulator is known *per se*, for example from German Patent Application no. 26 36 268.

A further preferred embodiment of the FM receiver according to the
20 invention is characterized in that the demodulator tuning control loop of the FM demodulator incorporates a second amplifier-limiter, an output of which is coupled to the tuning control input of the tunable frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit and to the baseband signal processing device, the gain of said second amplifier-limiter gradually decreasing at an increasing input signal amplitude and supplying an output
25 signal whose amplitude increases monotonically to a limiting value for a continuous and gradual limitation of the tuning control signal in the demodulator tuning control loop at an increasing output signal amplitude of the FM demodulator, the tuning frequency deviation in the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit occurring at the limiting value of the second amplifier-limiter being larger than the tuning frequency deviation in
30 the IF filter occurring at the limiting value of the first amplifier-limiter.

When this measure is used, a low-distortion demodulation of the baseband modulation signal is obtained, and, without interrupting the loop action,



unwanted tuning variations are simply prevented from occurring. A considerable reduction of interference is then obtained.

An embodiment of such an FM receiver which can be realised at relatively low cost is characterized by a loop filter which is common for said two tuning
5 control loops and is arranged between an output of the multiplier circuit of the FM demodulator and inputs of the first and second amplifier-limiters.

A further simplification is obtained by realising each of the two amplifier-limiters by means of an emitter-coupled transistor pair.

Another preferred embodiment of an FM receiver according to the
10 invention, which can be very easily integrated, is characterized in that the IF filter and the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit comprise first and second cascade-arranged resonance amplifiers, respectively, each having in-phase and quadrature inputs and outputs, said in-phase and quadrature inputs of the first resonance amplifier receiving in-phase and quadrature components of the IF signal, said in-phase and
15 quadrature outputs of the first resonance amplifier being coupled to first inputs of first and second multiplier stages of the multiplier circuit, and in-phase and quadrature outputs of the second resonance amplifier being coupled to second inputs of the second and first multiplier stages, respectively, outputs of the two multiplier stages being coupled to inputs of a superposition circuit for a mutual superposition of the output
20 signals of the first and second multiplier stages, said superposition circuit being coupled to a low-pass filter which is arranged in common in said two tuning control loops.

Resonance amplifiers of this type are known *per se* from European Patent Application EP 0 420 974.

25 These and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from and elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter. Elements having corresponding functions are denoted by the same reference indications. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows an FM receiver according to the invention;

30 Fig. 2 shows an amplifier-limiter for use in the receiver of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows the variation of the gain of amplifier-limiters for use in the FM receiver of Fig. 1 as a function of the input signal amplitude;





Fig. 4 shows some signal waveforms to illustrate the low-distortion signal processing in the FM receiver of Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 shows an FM receiver according to the invention having a radio
5 frequency (RF) antenna input for connecting an antenna ANT thereto, to which an RF
input section RF for an RF amplification and selection of a desired RF FM reception
signal is coupled, followed by means for a down-conversion of a desired RF FM
reception signal to an intermediate frequency, and comprising a tunable first mixer stage
M1 to which a tunable oscillator signal is applied from a tuning oscillator TO for tuning
10 at, and frequency conversion of the desired RF FM reception signal to a first
intermediate frequency (IF) signal having a carrier frequency located on average at a
first intermediate frequency f_1 , and comprising a first IF section IF1 for selecting the
first IF signal, followed by a second mixer stage M2 for a down-conversion of the first
IF signal to a second IF signal having a carrier frequency located on average at a
15 second intermediate frequency f_2 .

The tuning oscillator TO is tuned at a frequency which deviates by the
value of f_1 from that of the carrier frequency of the desired RF FM reception signal by
means of a tuning voltage applied *via* a tuning control terminal V_t , while a mixing
signal having a fixed oscillator frequency deviating by the value of f_2 from the first
20 intermediate frequency f_1 is applied to the second mixer stage M2 from a fixed local
oscillator device LO.

The down-conversion in the second mixer stage M2 is accompanied by a
conversion from single phase to phase quadrature. To this end the second mixer stage
M2 comprises an in-phase multiplier circuit M2i and a quadrature multiplier circuit
25 M2q to which the first IF signal on the one hand and in-phase and quadrature mixing
signal components on the other hand are applied in common from a fixed local
oscillator device LO. These in-phase and quadrature mixing signal components are
obtained by dividing the frequency of the oscillator signal of an FO by a correct even
factor in a frequency divider FD. In a practical embodiment the first intermediate
30 frequency was 10.7 MHz, the second intermediate frequency was 300 kHz, the
oscillator frequency of the FO was 22 MHz and the division factor of the FD was 2.

The second mixer stage M2 has in-phase and quadrature outputs which



are coupled *via* in-phase and quadrature signal paths I and Q to a first tunable resonance amplifier RA1 operating as a tunable IF filter for selecting the second IF signal. Such a resonance amplifier is known *per se* from European Patent Application EP 0 420 974 and is particularly suitable to be integrated. It is known from the last-mentioned Patent Application that such resonance amplifiers in their relevant use as a tunable polyphase filter of the phase-quadrature type have a linear tuning behaviour also at very large values of the resonance frequency f_{res} and have a bandpass characteristic which is symmetrical around f_{res} and a point-symmetrical phase characteristic so that a low-distortion selection is obtained.

10 The first resonance amplifier RA1 is coupled to a phase-quadrature FM demodulator DEM, preceding a baseband modulation signal processing device ASP for processing the baseband audio modulation signal and a sound reproducing device L for reproducing the desired audio signal.

A first output O1 of the FM demodulator DEM is coupled *via* a first amplifier-limiter AL1 and a low-pass filter operating as a first loop filter LF1 to a tuning control input of the first tunable resonance amplifier RA1. The first amplifier-limiter AL1 is to be used for an amplification and gradual limitation (soft limiting) of the IF filter tuning control signal and the first loop filter LF1 for a selection thereof, which will be described hereinafter. An IF tuning control loop is thereby obtained which varies the tuning frequency of the first resonance amplifier RA1 operating as the second IF filter instantaneously with the baseband modulation signal of the second IF signal. The bandwidth of the first tunable resonance amplifier RA1 can thus be chosen to be considerably smaller than the bandwidth of the baseband modulation signal so that a comparatively high IF selectivity is feasible without any loss of useful signal information.

25 The gain of the amplifier-limiter AL1 gradually decreases at an increasing input voltage, such that the output voltage increases at an increasing value of the input voltage, for example, in accordance with a tangent hyperbola function and, due to saturation phenomena at an input voltage increasing towards infinity, asymptotically approaches a given limiting value. The choice of the limiting value will be described hereinafter. Such a transistor difference pair is shown in Fig. 2 and comprises an emitter-coupled transistor pair T1, T2 with a common emitter current source and

collector resistors R1 and R2. In the embodiment shown without emitter resistors said tangent hyperbola function is obtained. By using emitter resistors there may be a deviation from this function while maintaining the character of a gradual limitation. The first amplifier-limiter AL1 shown supplies an output voltage and a gain which vary as a function of the input voltage as is shown by means of curves C1 and C2, respectively in Fig. 3. For the sake of completeness, this Fig. 3 shows corresponding characteristics by means of curves C3 and C4 of a second amplifier-limiter AL2 to be further described. The circuit configuration of such amplifier-limiters as well as their behaviour at a varying input voltage is known to those skilled in the art and does not need any further description for understanding the invention.

As a result of the limitation of the output signal of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 in the case of a demodulator output signal increasing in amplitude at the first output O1, and when the IF tuning control loop captures an unwanted neighbouring transmitter carrier, the IF filter RA1 will only track the frequency modulation of this neighbouring transmitter carrier in so far and as long as this frequency modulation takes place within the control range of this IF tuning control loop. If the neighbouring transmitter carrier exceeds this control range, the tuning control is maintained and the IF filter RA1 will be held at the tuning frequency determined by the limiting level of the IF tuning control signal. When the desired carrier reappears within the tuning control range of the IF tuning control loop in the last-mentioned position of the IF filter RA1, RA1 will track this desired carrier in tuning frequency again. Since the gain of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 gradually decreases with a demodulator output signal increasing in amplitude at the first output O1, an effective reduction of interference due to capturing phenomena is obtained.

The FM demodulator DEM comprises a second resonance amplifier RA2 operating as a tunable frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit and having in-phase and quadrature inputs Vi and Vq which are coupled to said in-phase and quadrature signal paths I and Q, respectively, and in-phase and quadrature outputs VI and VQ, a multiplier circuit M3 operating as a phase-quadrature third mixer stage having first and second multiplier stages M31 and M32 operating as first and second phase comparison circuits having first and second inputs I11 and I12, I21 and I22, respectively, a superposition circuit SS having successively coupled thereto a low-pass filter operating



as a second loop filter LF2 and the afore-mentioned second amplifier-limiter AL2. An output of the second loop filter LF2 is connected to the first output O1, while an output of the second amplifier-limiter AL2 is connected to a second output O2 of the FM demodulator DEM.

5 In the embodiment shown the quadrature input signal path Q of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 operating as a frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit is coupled to the first input I11 of the first multiplier stage M31 and to the quadrature input Vq of the resonance amplifier RA2. The in-phase input signal path I of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 is coupled to the first input I21 of the
10 second multiplier stage M32 and to the in-phase input Vi of the resonance amplifier RA2. The in-phase output VI of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 is coupled to the second input I12 of the first multiplier stage M31, while the quadrature output VQ of the resonance amplifier RA2 is coupled to the second input I22 of the second multiplier stage M32. Outputs of the first and second multiplier stages M31 and M32
15 are coupled to inputs of the superposition circuit SS in which a suitable superposition is formed from the output signals of the first and second multiplier stages M31 and M32, which will hereinafter be described in greater detail.

 The second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 realises a frequency-dependent phase shift of the in-phase input signal applied to the in-phase input Vi and of
20 the quadrature signal applied to the quadrature input Vq, which phase shift varies with the modulation signal and is zero at the second intermediate frequency f2. Consequently, a pair of FM-modulated signals having a mutually equal modulation signal and a phase difference which is 90° on average at the carrier frequency and varies with the FM modulation signal is applied to each of the first and second
25 multiplier stages M31 and M32 operating as first and second phase comparison circuits of the multiplier circuit M3. The desired baseband modulation signals which may occur, for example in a mutually opposite phase are obtained in the DC components at the outputs of the first and second multiplier stages M31 and M32 of the multiplier circuit M3. Moreover, second-order interference products are obtained which occur with a
30 mutually equal phase in the given example. By suitable superposition in the superposition circuit SS - forming a difference in this example - a compensation of said second-order interference components is obtained, while the desired DC components in



the output signals of the first multiplier stage M31 and the second multiplier stage M32 are mutually added to each other. The baseband modulation signal is selected by means of the second loop filter LF2, which second loop filter LF2 precedes the second amplifier-limiter AL2. The gain characteristic of the second amplifier-limiter AL2 corresponds to that of the first amplifier-limiter AL1, on the understanding that also the gain of the amplifier-limiter AL2 gradually decreases at an increasing input voltage, such that the output voltage monotonically increases at an increasing value of the input voltage, for example, in accordance with a tangent hyperbola function and asymptotically approaches a given limiting value due to saturation phenomena at an input voltage increasing towards infinity. The gain characteristic and function of the second amplifier limiter AL2 correspond to those of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 but it has a gain and limiting level which are preferably larger than those of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 as is shown by means of curves C3 and C1 in Fig. 3.

The output of the second amplifier-limiter AL2 is coupled to a tuning control input of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 for controlling the tuning of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 in dependence upon the baseband modulation signal and is coupled to said baseband modulation signal processing device ASP. A demodulator tuning control loop with which a tuning, varying the baseband modulation signal, of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 operating as a frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit is obtained is realised *via* the superposition circuit SS, the second loop filter LF2, the second amplifier-limiter AL2 and the feedback to the tuning control input of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2. Consequently, the trajectory through which the second IF signal traverses the phase characteristic of the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2 is greatly reduced, resulting in a linearization of the demodulation action of the FM demodulator DEM.

In the embodiment shown the IF tuning control loop and the demodulator tuning control loop have a number of circuits in common, *inter alia* the second loop filter LF2.

In order to avoid signal distortion in the demodulator tuning control loop as a result of the non-linear gain characteristic of the AL2, the gain in this loop is to be chosen to be comparatively high. Starting from a sinusoidal baseband modulation signal, any deviation from this sine shape is negatively fed back to a strong extent and thereby



reduced. The sinusoidal baseband modulation signal as is shown by means of curve S2 in Fig. 4B is then obtained substantially without any distortion at the second output O2 of the FM demodulator DEM.

This undistorted signal, hereinafter referred to as signal S2, is obtained
5 by the non-linear gain, occurring in the second amplifier-limiter AL2, of the strongly distorted input signal of the second amplifier-limiter AL2, *i.e.* the signal at the first output O1 of the FM demodulator DEM. The last-mentioned signal is shown by means of curve S1 in Fig. 4A and will hereinafter be denoted as signal S1. Due to stability requirements the gain in the IF tuning control loop should be comparatively small. To
10 obtain a sinusoidal signal from the strongly distorted signal S1, the gain characteristic of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 is to correspond to that of the second amplifier-limiter AL2, on the understanding that the gain and the limiting level of the first amplifier-limiter AL1 should be smaller than those of the second amplifier-limiter AL2. In the case of a suitably chosen scaling factor of the gain of the first amplifier-limiter AL1
15 with respect to the second amplifier-limiter AL2, a substantially undistorted signal, in the given case a sinusoidal signal, is obtained as a tuning control signal for the IF filter RA1 at the output of the first amplifier-limiter AL1.

Consequently, the effect of an amplifier-limiter with a straight gain characteristic is obtained, *viz.* a signal processing without distortion while maintaining a
20 low-interference capturing behaviour as a result of the actual gradual limitation which is obtained with the first and second amplifier-limiters AL1 and AL2.

The use of circuits with a mutually corresponding operation, such as the first tunable resonance amplifier RA1 and the second tunable resonance amplifier RA2, the first amplifier-limiter AL1 and the second amplifier-limiter AL2, the in-phase and
25 quadrature multiplier circuits in the second mixer stage M2 and the multiplier circuit M3, as well as the common use of circuits in the two tuning control loops provides the possibility of considerable matching and hence simple and accurate manufacture.

It will be evident that the invention is not limited to the embodiment shown. For example, it is possible to realise a phase split by means of a resonance
30 amplifier preceded by a single-phase tunable mixer stage, to use a conventional FM quadrature demodulator, for example as known from German Patent Application 26 36 268 instead of the FM demodulator shown, to form the amplifier-limiters AL1 and



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second amplifier-limiter AL2 in a different manner (for example, asymmetrically), to derive the tuning control signal for the IF filter RA1 from the undistorted output signal at the second output O2 by means of a current or voltage divider instead of from the distorted signal at the first output O2 by means of the first amplifier-limiter AL1, to
5 omit the second mixer stage M2 and to tune the tunable IF filter RA2 and the FM demodulator DEM to the first intermediate frequency, and to form the tunable IF filter with a plurality of cascade-arranged resonance amplifier stages.

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CLAIMS:

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1. An FM receiver comprising a radio frequency (RF) section, means for a down-conversion of a desired RF FM reception signal to an intermediate frequency (IF) FM signal, an IF section comprising a tunable IF filter, an FM demodulator for demodulating the baseband modulation signal of the IF FM signal, which demodulator
5 is coupled to a baseband signal processing device, and an IF tuning control loop *via* which the FM demodulator is coupled to a tuning control input of the IF filter for an instantaneous tuning control of the IF filter by means of the baseband modulation signal, characterized in that a first amplifier-limiter is arranged in the IF tuning control loop between an output of the FM demodulator and the tuning control input of the IF
10 filter, the gain of said first amplifier-limiter gradually decreasing at an increasing input signal amplitude and supplying an output signal whose amplitude increases monotonically to a limiting value for a continuous and gradual limitation of the tuning control signal in the IF tuning control loop at an increasing output signal amplitude of the FM demodulator.
- 15 2. An FM receiver as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the FM demodulator comprises a multiplier circuit and means for deriving, from the IF FM signal, a pair of FM-modulated signals having a mutually equal modulation signal and a phase difference which is 90 degrees on average at the carrier frequency and which varies with the FM modulation signal, said means comprising a tunable frequency-
20 dependent phase-shifting circuit having a tuning control input, said FM demodulator also comprising a demodulator tuning control loop including a low-pass filter *via* which an output of the multiplier circuit is coupled to the tuning control input of the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit, the gain in the IF tuning control loop being smaller than that in the demodulator tuning control loop.
- 25 3. An FM receiver as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the demodulator tuning control loop of the FM demodulator incorporates a second





amplifier-limiter, an output of which is coupled to the tuning control input of the tunable frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit and to the baseband signal processing device, the gain of said second amplifier-limiter gradually decreasing at an increasing input signal amplitude and supplying an output signal whose amplitude increases

- 5 monotonically to a limiting value for a continuous and gradual limitation of the tuning control signal in the demodulator tuning control loop at an increasing output signal amplitude of the FM demodulator, the tuning frequency deviation in the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit occurring at the limiting value of the second amplifier-limiter being larger than the tuning frequency deviation in the IF filter occurring at the
10 limiting value of the first amplifier-limiter.

4. An FM receiver as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, characterized by a loop filter which is common for said two tuning control loops and is arranged between an output of the multiplier circuit of the FM demodulator and inputs of the first and second amplifier-limiters.

- 15 5. An FM receiver as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 3 to 4, characterized in that each of the two amplifier-limiters comprises an emitter-coupled transistor pair.

6. An FM receiver as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 2 to 5, characterized in that the IF filter and the frequency-dependent phase-shifting circuit
20 comprise first and second cascade-arranged resonance amplifiers, respectively, each having in-phase and quadrature inputs and outputs, said in-phase and quadrature inputs of the first resonance amplifier receiving in-phase and quadrature components of the IF signal, said in-phase and quadrature outputs of the first resonance amplifier being coupled to first inputs of first and second multiplier stages of the multiplier circuit, and
25 in-phase and quadrature outputs of the second resonance amplifier being coupled to second inputs of the second and first multiplier stages, respectively, outputs of the two multiplier stages being coupled to inputs of a superposition circuit for a mutual superposition of the output signals of the first and second multiplier stages, said superposition circuit being coupled to low-pass filter which is arranged in common in
30 said two tuning control loops.

