What is claimed is:

1. An RF coupler, comprising:

a pair of dielectrically separated strip conductors, the pair of dielectrically separated strip conductors having a coupling region, the coupling region comprising:

a plurality of serially connected, vertically stacked, coupling sections, each one of the coupling sections comprising a portion of the pair of strip conductors separated by a dielectric gap, the gap forming an electromagnetic coupling region between the portion of the pair of strip conductors;

~~characterised in that~~ the RF coupler comprises a plurality of electrically conductive layers, each one of the electrically conductive layers being disposed between a pair of the vertically stacked coupling sections~~.~~;

an additional electrically conductive layer disposed over an upper most one of the serially connected, vertically stacked coupling sections;

and characterised in that

the additional electrically conductive layer is on sides of the vertically stacked, coupling sections, and wherein the plurality of electrically conductive layers and the additional electrically conductive layer are electrically interconnected to form an electrical shield around the coupling sections.

2. The RF coupler recited in claim 1 wherein the pair of strip conductors in each one of the coupling sections are disposed in a side-by-side relationship in a horizontal plane.

3. The RF coupler recited in claim 1 wherein the pair of strip conductors in each one of the coupling sections are disposed in an overlaying, vertical relationship.

4. An RF coupler, comprising:

a pair of input ports;

a pair of output ports;

o o

a coupling region for coupling:

a portion of an input signal at a first one of the input ports to first of the pair of output ports and another portion of the input signal fed to the first one of the input ports to a second one of the output ports; and

one portion of an input signal fed to a second one of the input ports to the second of the pair of output ports and another portion of the input signals fed to the second one of the input ports to the ~~second~~ first one of the output ports;

wherein the coupling region comprises the RF coupler recited in claim 1.

~~5. The RF coupler recited in claim 4 including an additional electrically conductive layer disposed over an upper most one of the serially connected, vertically stacked, coupling sections.~~

~~6. The RF coupler recited in claim 5 wherein the additional electrically conductive layer is on sides of the vertically stacked, coupling sections.~~

o o