AntennaGuard 0402/0603
AVX Low Capacitance Multilayer Varistors
ESD Protection for Antennas and Low Capacitor Loading Applications

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
AVX’s 0402/0603 AntennaGuard products are an ultra-low capacitance extension of the proven TransGuard® TVS (transient voltage suppression) line of multilayer varistors. RF designers now have a single chip option over conventional protection methods (passive filters with diode clamps), which not only gives superior performance over traditional schemes, but also provides the added benefits of reduced PCB real estate and lower installation costs.

AVX’s AntennaGuard products are available in capacitance ratings of ≤3pF (0402 & 0603 chips), 2 and 12pF (0603 chip). These low capacitance values have low insertion loss, as well as give other TransGuard® advantages such as small size, sub-nanosecond response time, low leakage currents and unsurpassed reliability (FIT Rate of 0.2) compared to diodes.

RF antenna/RF amplifier protection against ESD events is a growing concern of RF circuit designers today, given the combination of increased signal “gain” demands, coupled with the required downsizing of the transistor package. The ability to achieve both objectives is tied to a reduced thickness of the SiO₂ gate insulator layer within the semiconductor. The corresponding result of such a change increases the Power Amplifier’s (PA’s) vulnerability to ESD strikes — a common event with handheld electronic products with RF transmitting and/or receiving features. AVX Low Capacitance AG Series parts are ideal solution for this type of applications as well as for many more where low capacitance ESD protection is needed.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
• Operating Temperature: -55°C to +125°C
• Working Voltage: ≤18Vdc
• Case Size: 0402, 0603

FEATURES
• Smallest TVS Component
• Single Chip Solution
• Low Insertion Loss
• Fastest Response Time to ESD Strikes
• Capacitance: 2, 3 and 12pF

APPLICATIONS
• RF Amplifiers
• Antennas
• Laser Drivers
• Sensors
• Radars
• RFID
• Keyless entry
• Near field communication
• Datalines
• Capacitance sensitive applications and more

HOW TO ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VC</th>
<th>04</th>
<th>AG</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>3R0</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Varistor Chip Size</td>
<td>04 = 0402</td>
<td>06 = 0603</td>
<td>Varistor Series</td>
<td>AntennaGuard</td>
<td>Working Voltage (DC)</td>
<td>Capacitance</td>
<td>Non-Std. Cap Tolerance</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Termination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pF = 2R0</td>
<td>3pF = 3R0</td>
<td>12pF = 120</td>
<td>C = ±0.25pF (2R0)</td>
<td>Y = Max (3R0)</td>
<td>Y = +4, -2pF (120)</td>
<td>T = Ni/Sn (Plated)</td>
<td>1 = 7&quot; W = 7&quot;</td>
<td>(i.e., 1A = 4,000 3A = 10,000)</td>
<td>WA = 10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AVX Low Capacitance Multilayer Varistors
ESD Protection for Antennas and Low Capacitor Loading Applications

RoHS COMPLIANT
**AVX Low Capacitance Multilayer Varistors**

**ESD Protection for Antennas and Low Capacitor Loading Applications**

### ANTENNAGUARD CATALOG PART NUMBERS/ELECTRICAL VALUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVX Part Number</th>
<th>( V_W ) (DC)</th>
<th>( V_W ) (AC)</th>
<th>( I_L )</th>
<th>Cap</th>
<th>Cap Tolerance</th>
<th>Case Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VC04AG183R0YAT</td>
<td>( \leq 18 )</td>
<td>( \leq 14 )</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>0402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC06AG182R0CAT</td>
<td>( \leq 18 )</td>
<td>( \leq 14 )</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>+4, -2pF</td>
<td>0603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC06AG183R0YAT</td>
<td>( \leq 18 )</td>
<td>( \leq 14 )</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>±0.25pF</td>
<td>0603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Termination Finish Code**

**Packaging Code**

- \( V_W \) (DC) DC Working Voltage (V)
- \( V_W \) (AC) AC Working Voltage (V)
- \( I_L \) Maximum Leakage Current at the Working Voltage (μA)
- Cap Maximum Capacitance (pF) @ 1 MHz and 0.5 Vrms; VC06AG18120YAT capacitance tolerance: +4, -2pF

### PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS

**mm (inches)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size (EIA)</th>
<th>Length (L)</th>
<th>Width (W)</th>
<th>Max Thickness (T)</th>
<th>Land Length (t)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0402</td>
<td>1.00±0.10 (0.40±0.004)</td>
<td>0.50±0.10 (0.20±0.004)</td>
<td>0.60 (0.024)</td>
<td>0.25±0.15 (0.010±0.006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0603</td>
<td>1.60±0.15 (0.63±0.006)</td>
<td>0.80±0.15 (0.31±0.006)</td>
<td>0.90 (0.035)</td>
<td>0.35±0.15 (0.14±0.006)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOLDERING PAD DIMENSIONS

**mm (inches)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suppression Device</th>
<th>Pad Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( C )</td>
<td>( A ) ( B ) ( C ) ( D )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVX 0402</td>
<td>1.70 (0.067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVX 0603</td>
<td>2.54 (0.100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Antenna Varistors

AVX offers a series of 0402 and 0603 chip varistors, designated the AntennaGuard series, for RF antenna/RF amplifier protection. These devices offer ultra-low capacitance (<3pF in 0402 chips, and ≤3pF & ≤12pF in 0603 packages), as well as low insertion loss. Antenna varistors can replace output capacitors and provide ESD suppression in cell phones, pagers and wireless LANs.

It is very common to employ some form of a FET in many types of efficient/miniature RF amplifiers. Typically, these RF transistors have nearly ideal input gate impedance and outstanding noise figures. However, FETs are very susceptible to ESD damage due to the very thin layer of SiO₂ uses as the gate insulator. The ultra-thin SiO₂ layer is required to improve the gain of the transistor. In other words, the upside of the performance enhancement becomes the downside of the transistors survival when subjected to an ESD event.

ESD damage to the RF Field Effect Transistors (FETs) is a growing concern among RF designers due to the following trends: (1) RF amplifiers continue to shrink in size, and (2) FET gains figures continue to increase. Both trends relate to decreasing gate oxide thickness, which in turn, is directly proportional to increased ESD sensitivity. As miniaturization trends accelerate, the traditional methods to protect against ESD damage (i.e., PC board layout, passive filters, and diode clamps) are becoming less and less effective.

AVX’s AntennaGuard varistor can be used to protect the FET and offer superior performance to the previously mentioned protection methods given above. The standard EIA 0603 chip size, and particularly the 0402 chip, offer designers an ESD protection solution consistent with today’s downsizing trend in portable electronic products. Savings in component volume up to 86%, and PC board footprint savings up to 83% are realistic expectations. These percentages are based upon the following table and Figures 1A and 1B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suppression Device</th>
<th>Pad Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVX 0402 TransGuard®</td>
<td>1.70 (0.067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVX 0603 TransGuard®</td>
<td>2.54 (0.100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor’s SOT23 Diode</td>
<td>See Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Antenna varistors offer excellent ESD repetitive strike capability compared to a SOT23 diode when subjected to IEC 61000-4-2 8kV contact discharge. A performance summary is shown in Figure 2.

**ESD TEST OF ANTENNAGUARD RATINGS**

![Figure 2. Repetitive 8kV ESD Strike](image)

Antenna varistors also turn on and divert ESD overvoltages at a much faster rate than SOT23 devices (typically 300pS vs 1500pS - 5000pS). See Figure 3.

![Figure 3. Turn On Time](image)

The equivalent circuit model for a typical antenna varistor is shown in Figure 4.

![Figure 4. Antenna Varistor](image)

The varistor shown exhibits a capacitance of ≤3pF which can be used to replace the parallel capacitance typically found prior to the antenna output of an RF amplifier. In the off state, the varistor acts as a capacitor and helps to filter RF output. The varistor is not affected by RF output power or voltage and has little insertion loss. See Figure 3.