



THE BIG DEAL

- Wide attenuation range, 120 dB
- Fine attenuation resolution, 0.25 dB
- Short attenuation transition time (650 ns)
- Compact size, 2.50 x 3.00 x 0.85"
- USB and Ethernet control

APPLICATIONS

- LTE, 5G FR1, DVB fading simulators
- Wi-Fi device testing
- Signal level calibration
- Automated gain control
- Laboratory instrumentation



Generic photo used for illustration purposes only

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Mini-Circuits' RCDAT-4000-120 is a general purpose, single channel programmable attenuator suitable for a wide range of signal level control applications from 1 to 4000 MHz. The attenuator provides 0 to 120 dB attenuation in 0.25 dB steps. Its unique design maintains linear attenuation change per dB, even at the highest attenuation settings.

The attenuator is housed in a compact and rugged package with SMA female connectors on the bi-directional input and output RF ports, a standard Ethernet port (RJ45) and a USB type Mini-B power and control port.

Full software support is provided, including our user-friendly GUI application for Windows and a full API with programming instructions for Windows and Linux environments (both 32-bit and 64-bit systems).

KEY FEATURES

Feature	Advantages
Programmable attenuation sequences	Configure timed sweep and hop sequences to run unaided without additional user interaction.
120 dB attenuation range	The module provides high-accuracy attenuation up to 120 dB in 0.25 dB steps, allowing the user precise level control over a broad attenuation and frequency range.
High linearity	Typical input IP3 of +53 dBm up to 4000 MHz.
USB and Ethernet control	USB HID and Ethernet (HTTP / Telnet) interfaces provide easy compatibility with a wide range of software setups and programming environments.

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ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS ¹, 0 TO +50°C

Parameter	Conditions	Frequency (MHz)	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Unit
Attenuation Range	0.25 dB step	1 - 4000	0	–	120	dB
Attenuation Accuracy ²	0.25 - 10 dB	1 - 2000	–	±0.15	±(0.25+8.0% of setting)	dB
		2000 - 4000	–	±0.15	±(0.20+6.0% of setting)	
	10.25 - 40 dB	1 - 2000	–	±0.55	±(0.40+5.0% of setting)	
		2000 - 4000	–	±0.50	±(0.80+3.0% of setting)	
	40.25 - 90 dB	1 - 2000	–	±0.50	±(0.80+2.0% of setting)	
		2000 - 4000	–	±0.25	±(1.10+1.0% of setting)	
Insertion Loss	0 dB	1 - 2000	–	6.5	8.5	dB
		2000 - 4000	–	9.0	10.5	
Isolation	In-Out ³	1 - 4000	–	134	–	dB
Return Loss In	0 - 20 dB	1 - 500	–	15	–	dB
	20.25 - 120 dB	500 - 4000	–	23	–	
Return Loss Out	0 - 10 dB	1 - 500	–	15	–	dB
		500 - 3500	–	23	–	
		3500 - 4000	–	15	–	
	10.25 - 120 dB	1 - 4000	–	17	–	
IP3 Input ⁴	0 dB setting (P _{IN} = +10 dBm)	1 - 4000	–	+53	–	dBm
Attenuation Transition Time ⁵	–	1 - 4000	–	650	–	ns
Minimum Dwell Time ⁶	High-speed mode	1 - 4000	–	600	–	µs

1. Attenuator RF ports support simultaneous, bi-directional signal transmission, within the specified power limits. However the specifications are guaranteed for the RF In and RF Out as noted on the label. There may be minor changes in performance when injecting signals to the RF Out port.

2. Max accuracy defined as $\pm[\text{absolute error} + \% \text{ of attenuation setting}]$. For example, if a 20 dB attenuation at a given frequency is defined as max accuracy of " $\pm(0.5 + 3.0\%)$ " then the maximum error at those settings will be: $\pm(0.5 + 0.03 \times 20) = \pm(0.5 + 0.6) = \pm 1.1$ dB.

3. Isolation within a channel is defined as max attenuation plus insertion loss; this is the path loss through the attenuator when initially powered up. After a brief delay (~0.5 sec typically) the attenuator will revert to a user defined "power-up" state (either max attenuation or a pre-set value).

4. Tested with 1 MHz span between signals.

5. Attenuation Transition Time is specified as the time between starting to change the attenuation state and settling on the requested attenuation state.

6. Minimum Dwell Time is the minimum time from settling on one attenuation level to settling to a new one in response to command (without communication protocol delays).



ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS, 0 TO +50°C (CONTINUED)

Parameter	Conditions	Frequency (MHz)	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Unit
Supply Voltage (V_{DC})	USB port	–	4.75	5.00	5.25	V
Supply Current (I_{DC})		–	–	190	250	mA
Operating Input Power ⁷	0 - 120 dB	1 - 50	–	–	Note 8	dBm
		50 - 4000	–	–	+23	

7. Total Operating Input Power from both RF In and RF Out ports. Compression level not noted as it exceeds max safe operating power level.

8. Derates linearly from +23 dBm at 50 MHz to +9 dBm at 1 MHz.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS ^{9, 10}

Operating Temperature		0°C to +50°C
Storage Temperature		-20°C to +85°C
DC Voltage @ RF Ports		16 V
V_{USB} MAX		6 V
Max RF Power	1 - 50 MHz	Derates linearly from +26 dBm at 50 MHz to +12 dBm at 1 MHz
	50 - 4000 MHz	+26 dBm

9. Permanent damage may occur if any of these limits are exceeded.

10. Operating in the range between operating power limits and absolute maximum ratings for extended periods of time may result in reduced life and reliability.



USB & ETHERNET

Programmable Attenuator

RCDAT-4000-120

Mini-Circuits

50Ω

1 to 4000 MHz

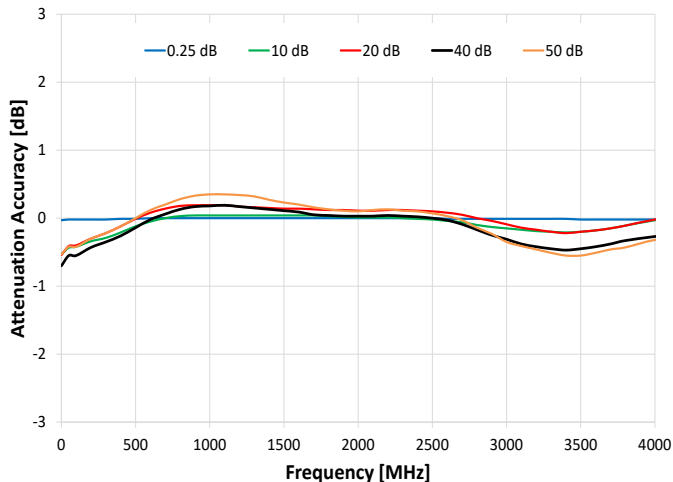
0 to 120 dB

0.25 dB Step

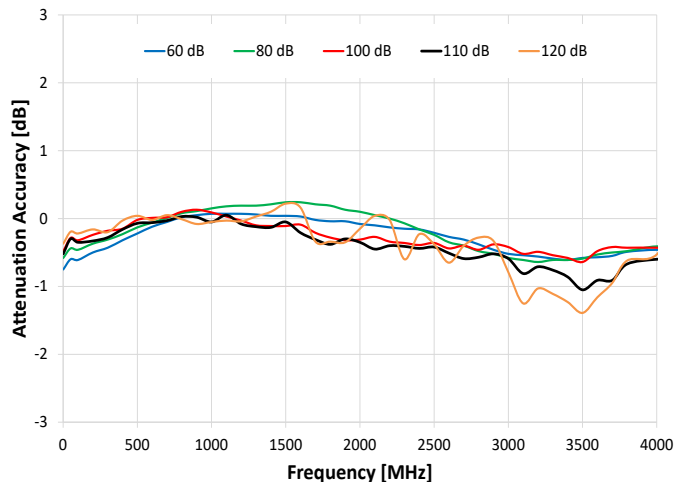
SMA Female

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE GRAPHS

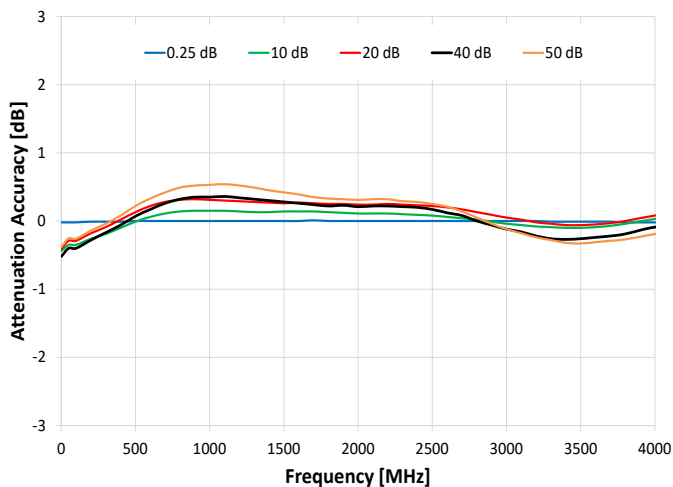
Attenuation Accuracy @ 0°C vs. Frequency



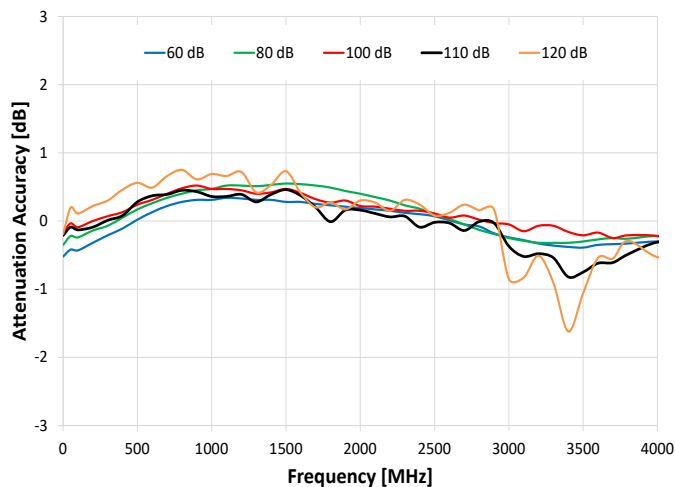
Attenuation Accuracy @ 0°C vs. Frequency



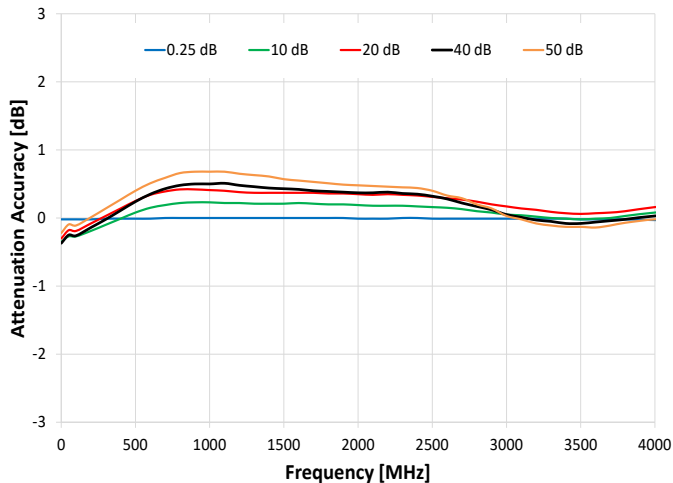
Attenuation Accuracy @ 25°C vs. Frequency



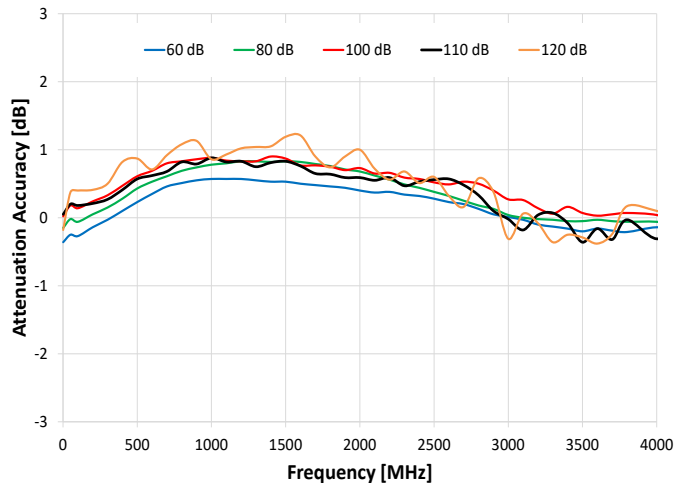
Attenuation Accuracy @ 25°C vs. Frequency



Attenuation Accuracy @ 50°C vs. Frequency



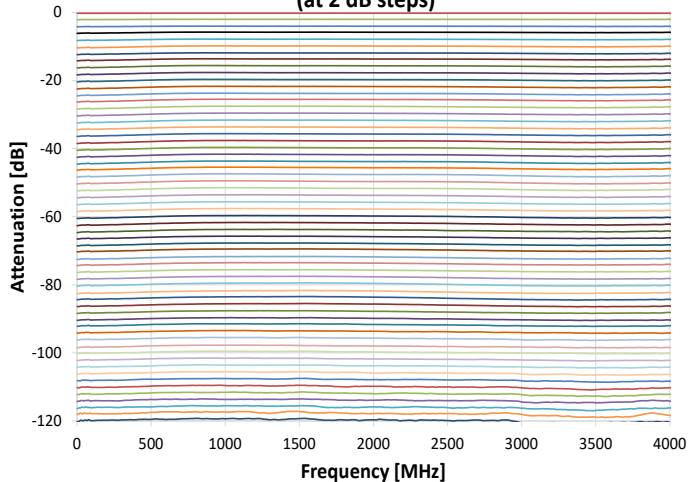
Attenuation Accuracy @ 50°C vs. Frequency



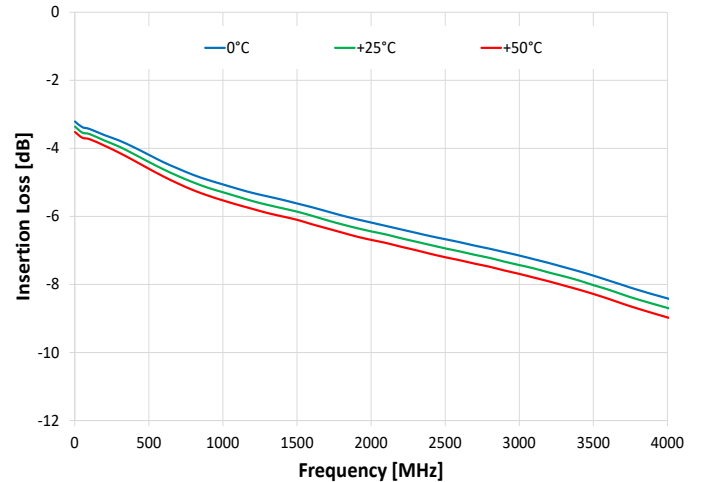
Mini-Circuits



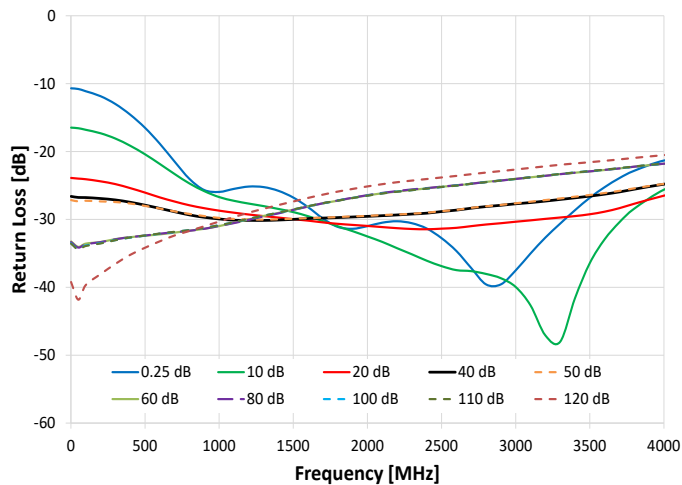
TYPICAL PERFORMANCE GRAPHS (CONTINUED)

Attenuation relative to Insertion Loss vs. Frequency
(at 2 dB steps)

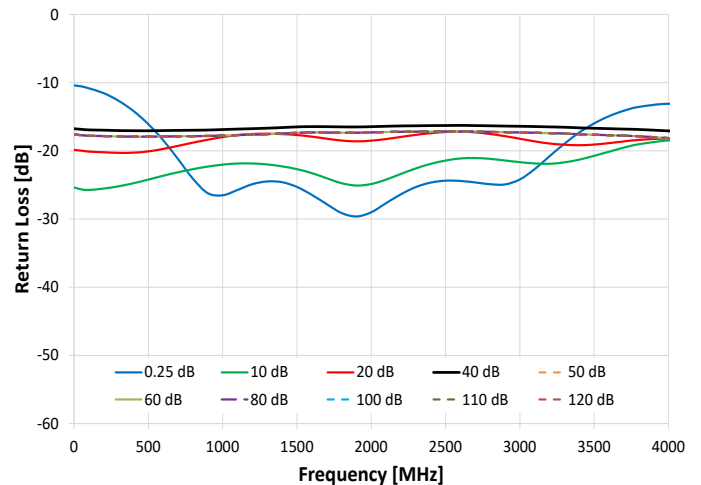
Insertion Loss vs. Frequency



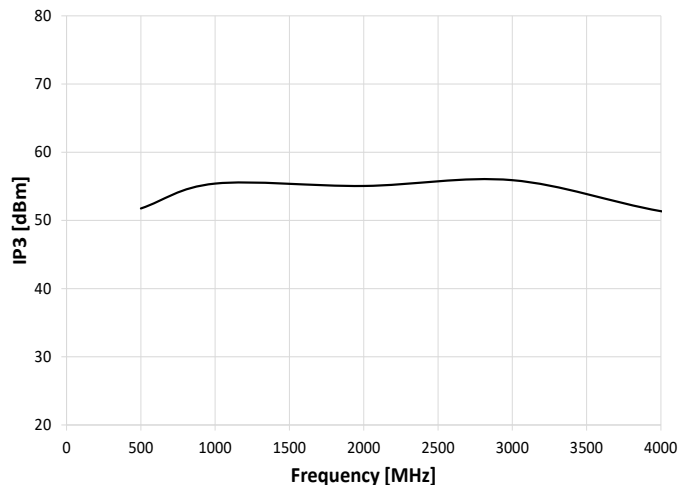
Return Loss In vs. Frequency



Return Loss Out vs. Frequency



IP3 @ 0 dB Attenuation vs. Frequency





CONTROL INTERFACES

USB Control	Protocol	HID (Human Interface Device) - Full-speed
	Min Communication Time ¹¹	3 ms typical (full transmit/receive cycle)
Ethernet Control	Supported Protocols	TCP / IP, HTTP, Telnet, DHCP, UDP (limited)
	Max Data Rate	10 Mbps (10 Base-T Half Duplex)

11. USB Min Communication Time is based on the polling interval of the USB HID protocol (1 ms polling interval, 64 bytes per packet), medium CPU load and no other high-speed USB devices using the USB bus.

SOFTWARE & DOCUMENTATION

Mini-Circuits' full software and support package including user guide, Windows GUI, API, programming manual and examples can be downloaded free of charge (refer to the last page for the download path).

A comprehensive set of software control options is provided:

- GUI for Windows – Simple software interface for control via Ethernet and USB.
- Programming / automation via Ethernet:
 - Complete set of control commands which can be sent via any supported protocol.
 - Simple to implement in the majority of modern programming environments.
- Programming / automation via USB:
 - DLL files provide a full API for Windows with a set of intuitive functions which can be implemented in any programming environment supporting .Net Framework or ActiveX.
 - Direct USB programming is possible in any other environment (not supporting .Net or ActiveX).

Please contact testsolutions@minicircuits.com for support.

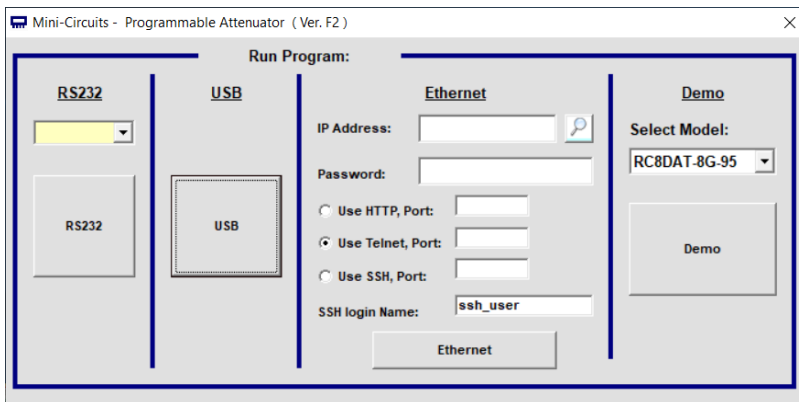
MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

GUI	Windows 7 or later
USB API DLL	Windows 7 or later and programming environment with ActiveX or .NET support
USB Direct Programming	Linux, Windows 7 or later
Hardware	Intel i3 (or equivalent) or later

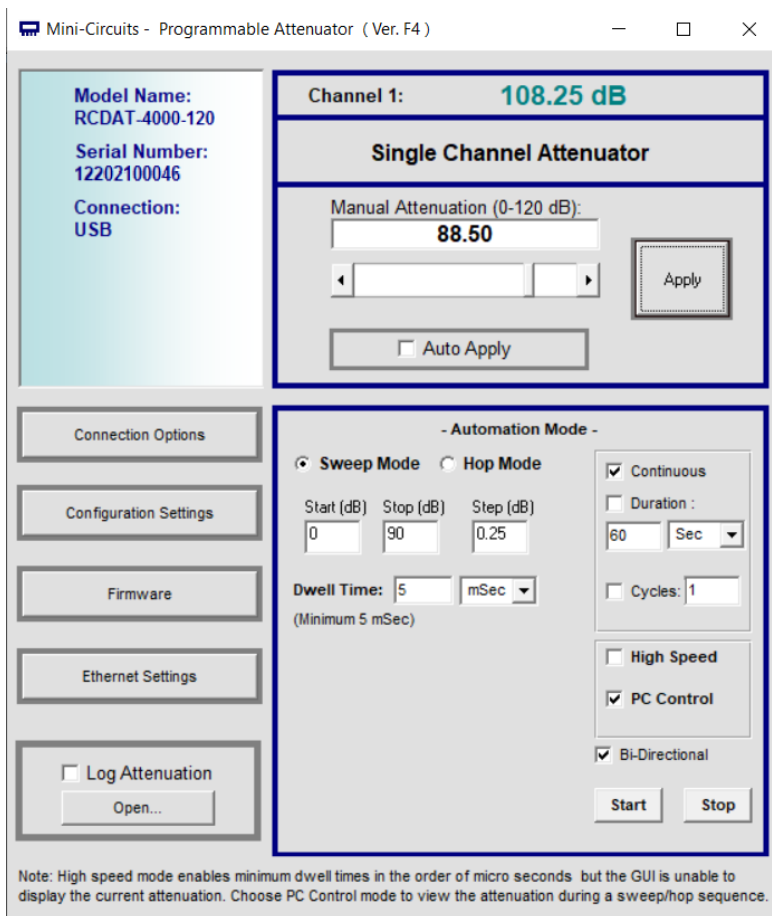


GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE (GUI) FOR WINDOWS - KEY FEATURES

- Connect via USB or Ethernet to control the module.
- Run GUI in "demo mode" to evaluate software without a hardware connection.

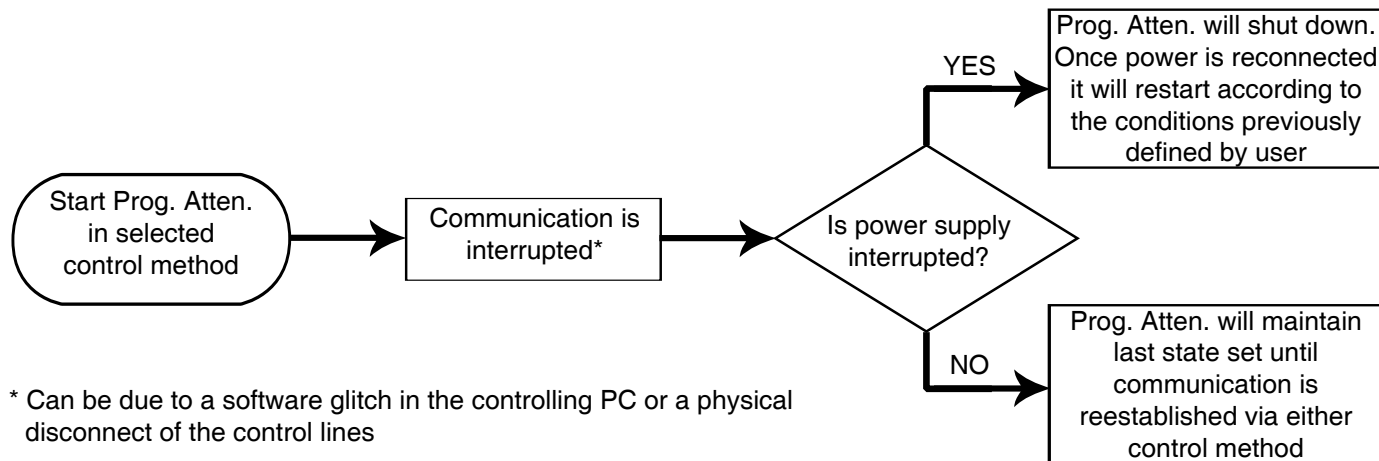


- Manual attenuation setting.
- Sweep and Hop attenuation sequences directed from the PC, or entire sequence loaded into the module.
- Attenuator address configuration and firmware upgrade.
- Attenuation at power up may be set to selected attenuation level or last attenuation state recorded.

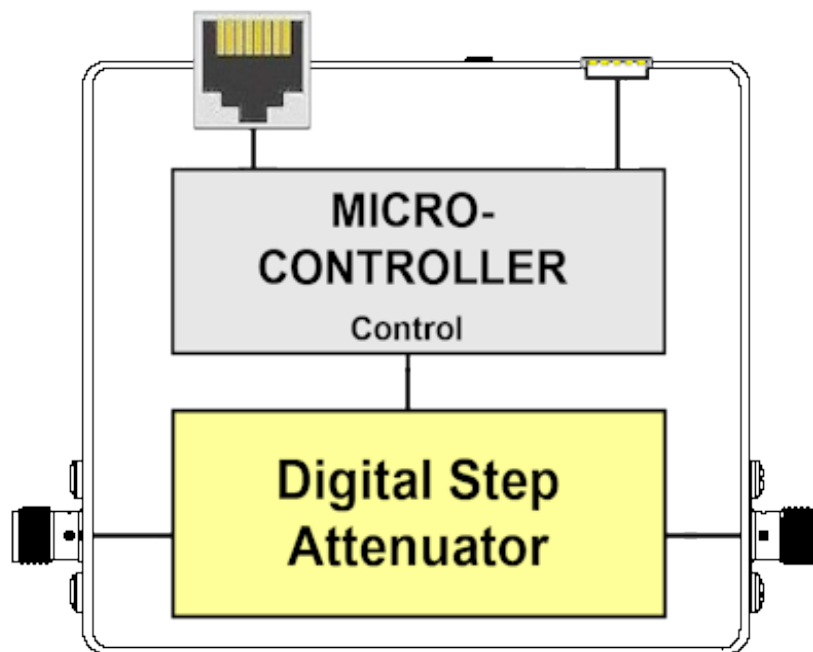




PROGRAMMABLE ATTENUATOR RESPONSE TO COMMUNICATION INTERRUPT



BLOCK DIAGRAM



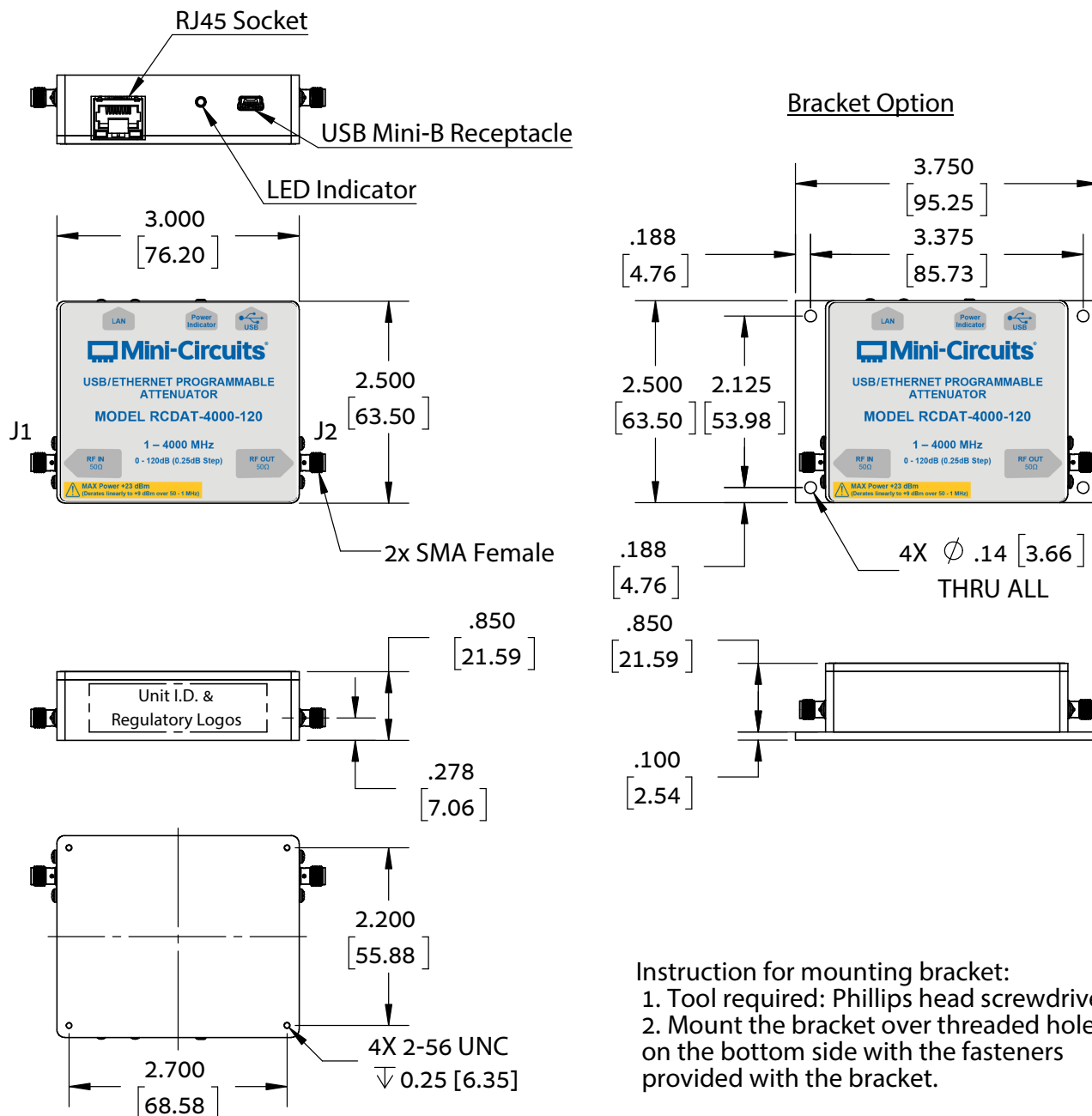
Simultaneous, bidirectional RF signal transmission with symmetrical performance

CONNECTIONS

Port Name	Connector Type
RF In & Out (50Ω)	SMA female
USB	USB type Mini-B female
Ethernet	RJ45 socket



CASE STYLE DRAWING (MS1897)



NOTES:

1. Case material: Aluminum alloy.
2. Case Finish: Nickel Plate.
3. Dimensions: Inches [mm]. Tolerances 2 Pl. ± 0.03 inch; 3 Pl. ± 0.015 inch.
4. Weight: 200 grams
5. Marking may contain other features or characters for internal lot control.



USB & ETHERNET

Programmable Attenuator

RCDAT-4000-120



50Ω 1 to 4000 MHz 0 to 120 dB 0.25 dB Step SMA Female

DETAILED MODEL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

[CLICK HERE](#)

Performance Data & Graphs	Data Graphs
Case Style	MS1897
Environmental Rating	ENV55T1
Software, User Guide & Programming Manual	https://www.minicircuits.com/softwaredownload/patt.html
Regulatory Compliance	Refer to user guide for compliance information CE FC UK CA https://www.minicircuits.com/app/AN49-011.pdf
Support	testsolutions@minicircuits.com

INCLUDED ACCESSORIES ¹²

	Part No.	Description	Qty.
	MUSB-CBL-3+	3.3 ft (1.0 m) USB cable: USB type A (Male) to USB type Mini-B (Male)	1

¹². Additional quantities are available for purchase as optional accessories.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

	Part No.	Description
	MUSB-CBL-7+	6.6 ft (2.0 m) USB cable: USB type A (Male) to USB type Mini-B (Male)
	CBL-RJ45-MM-5+	5.0 ft (1.5 m) Ethernet cable: RJ45 (Male) to RJ45 (Male) Cat 5E cable
	USB-AC/DC-5+	AC/DC +5V power adaptor with USB connector ^{13, 14}
(N/A)	BKT-66-02+	Bracket kit including 3.75" x 2.50" bracket, mounting screws and washers

¹³. The power adaptor may be used to provide additional power via USB port when connecting several units in daisy chain control.

¹⁴. Includes power plugs for US, UK, EU, IL, AU & China. Plugs for other countries are also available. If you need a power cord for a country not listed, please contact testsolutions@minicircuits.com

NOTES:

- Performance and quality attributes and conditions not expressly stated in this specification document are intended to be excluded and do not form a part of this specification document.
- Electrical specifications and performance data contained in this specification document are based on Mini-Circuit's applicable established test performance criteria and measurement instructions.
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