



# Design Of Circular Slot Microstrip Patch Antenna With Thin-line Stub For Wideband And Multiband Wireless Applications

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## **Abstract—**

In this paper, a circular slot microstrip patch antenna with a rotated square patch and two thin-line stubs attached to the back side of the antenna for enhancing bandwidth and operational effectiveness is presented. Results show that the antenna operates from 10.5GHz-18GHz with a reflection coefficient of less than -10dB and obtains better bandwidth (7.5GHz). The gain of the circular slot antenna is 6.6dB, providing good performance when compared with the rotated square slot antenna. The antenna is suitable for wideband and multiband wireless applications such as radar and satellite.

**Index Terms—**Microstrip antenna, Bandwidth, Tuning stub.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Microstrip antennas are popular because of their thin planar characteristics. Microstrip antennas are used in wireless communication systems including RFID tags, WLAN and Bluetooth. The advantages of microstrip patch antenna include simplicity, ruggedness, lightness, and small volume. Nowadays, the most researched issue in wireless communication systems is how to reduce the size of microstrip antennas [6]. Several researchers are introducing more effective methods to get lower size antenna. Most microstrip antennas are created from a two-dimensional array of microstrip patches. Microstrip line wires are often used to interconnect the antenna to either the receiver or the transmitter. The application of radio frequency occurs at the antenna or base station (or, with receiving antenna, the received signal is generated). Compact and wideband slotted antennas have drawn a lot of attention because it is mainly used in wireless communication systems. Microstrip antennas having appealing qualities like high bandwidth and inexpensive price, simplicity, adaptability, flexibility, compatibility and ease of monolithic integration devices [26-30].

Circular slot microstrip patch antenna with thin-line stub having enhanced impedance bandwidth depends on the feeding techniques [14]. There are 4 types of feeding techniques: Coaxial Probe Feed, Microstrip Line Feed, Aperture Coupled Feed, and Proximity Coupled Feed. The coaxial feeding method has advantages such as simple construction and effective feeding. Microstrip Line Feed is simple to manufacture and integrate. This proximity feeding technique offers the maximum bandwidth and minimizes spurious radiation, but it is somewhat difficult to fabricate. The microstrip patch and feed line are connected in the aperture-coupled feeding method through a slot in the ground plane. Pure polarization and minimization of interference are two benefits of this technique. There are many types of fed slot antenna structures available in different shapes may be fractal shaped, circular shaped or square shaped are suitable for different applications and also depending on their performance [22-25]. The impedance of the bandwidth varied by location, width and orientation of the feed line [5].

A large number of printed slot antennas in a variety of configurations have been developed for broadband

operations. When the length of the antenna increases and the resonance mode's bandwidth expands, the stub creates a high frequency resonance [20]. The antenna's existing resonance mode and the new resonance mode combine to produce a broader bandwidth when they are close enough to each other. As a result, this stub is known as a thin-line stub because it can be used to adjust the operating frequency for practical purposes. As the width of stub is extended, the bandwidth gradually becomes better until it reaches its maximum value. Advanced wireless communication systems require antennas like Microstrip rectangular patch antenna with a broad bandwidth, high gain and compact size is designed to improve performance over a wide frequency range [9]. When microstrip antennas are equivalent to pairs of magnetic dipoles, the length of the feeding line is decreased by two, since the resonant frequency is not inversely proportional to it [8]. At lower resonance frequencies the length of the slot extends as the frequency and antenna's size is reduced [12], [18], [4], [17].

For enhancing the bandwidth of the microstrip patch antenna different methods are adopted, some of these methods are discussed below. In [11], the authors describe a microstrip line-fed, multiple-slot printed antenna with dual-stub loading having a high-frequency range and 4 slabs composed of three slots: a lateral slot, a vertical slot, and a round slot by connecting the two slots. A rotatable planar monopole antenna with slots for RF energy harvesting was discussed

[15] and it attains maximum efficiency and good design for UWB applications. In [16], the authors describe a Circular monopole UWB Antenna with Hexagonal Slots of dimension  $27\text{mm} \times 20\text{mm} \times 1.6\text{mm}$  for cognitive Radio application. In [3], the authors describe a Reconfigurable cognitive radio ultra-wideband (UWB) tapered slot antenna (TSA), and its reconfiguration operation principle relies upon two concepts. In [1], the authors describe circularly polarized, unidirectional and bidirectional square slot antenna with enhanced axial ratio bandwidth, increased gain, and decreased CPBW. In [2] the authors describe a printed ultra-wideband stepped circular slot with stubs, the antenna exhibiting good impedance matching. In [10], the authors describe a circular microstrip patch antenna with slots for C Band applications, and its benefits include size miniaturization, power consumption, simplicity, compatibility with printed-circuit technology, low profile,



lightweight, lower return loss, good radiation properties, small size, a planar structure, and ease of fabrication. By attaching a circular slot to a microstrip patch antenna it affects the bandwidth, resonance frequency, and maximum gain of the antenna. The majority of researchers turn to other methods like fractal approaches since using slots is the greatest way to increase an antenna's effectiveness. Fractal geometry is also a method for designing broadband and multiband antennas [7], [19]. Use of high permittivity dielectric substrates, reactive or resistive loading, and resistive loading are a few techniques that used to reduce the size of antennas [13]. The antennas enable flexibility in their design due to the combination of the slot element and switchable feed network [21].

Section II gives the description about antenna design and geometry followed by antenna analysis in section III, section IV gives the results and discussions followed by section V which gives the conclusion.

## II. DESIGN OF ANTENNA

Fig.1(a) and (b) show the geometry of the proposed antenna respectively. A circular slot rotated square shaped microstrip patch antenna designed on an FR4 substrate with a permittivity of  $\epsilon_r=4.4$ , loss of  $\tan\delta=0.02$ , substrate height of 1.6mm and an overall size of 37mm 37mm. FR4 epoxy is used as a substrate and its advantages are easy fabrication, low cost, and easy availability. The additional thin-line stub is attached to the antenna structure in form of a key for enhancing the bandwidth. The antenna consists of the rotated patch having an overall size 12mm 12mm and circular slot on one side substrate and the feedline is attached to another side of the substrate. The diameter of the circular slot is 14mm and it depends bandwidth, return loss, gain. Copper is used as material in the metal part since it is twice as conductive as aluminum and six times more conductive than steel. Impedance matching can greatly improve the efficiency of an antenna. Ansys HFSS is the simulation tool used to design this antenna. Ansys HFSS is a 3D electromagnetic software used to design and simulate high-frequency products such as antenna, antenna arrays, etc. The dimensions of the antenna are calculated by using basic equations of the microstrip patch antenna. Transmission line equations are used to determine the stub dimensions.

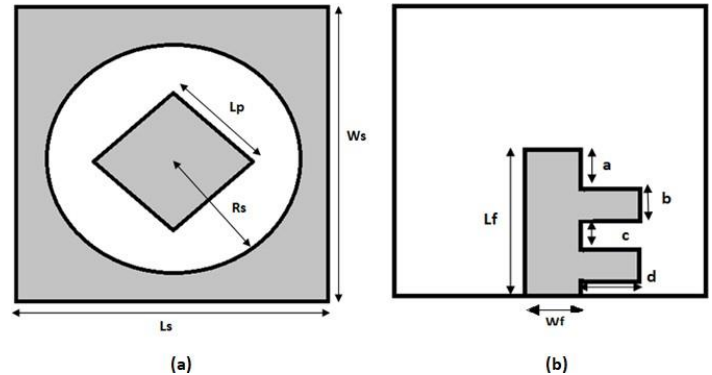


Fig. 1. (a) Top view and (b) Bottom view of the proposed antenna

The parasitic patch is a feed structure for a circular slot microstrip antenna and it acts as a radiator. The stubs have dimensions of length "d", width "b". The two stubs separated by distance "c". The width "a" is the distance away from the feedline. The impedance matching enhanced at high frequency by introducing stubs to the antenna. The dimensions of the antenna design are given in TABLE I.

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TABLE I  
 DIMENSIONS OF THE MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA (VALUES IN mm)

Antenna dimensions	Values
Length of the substrate(Ls)	37mm
Width of the substrate(Ws)	37mm
Length of the patch(Lp)	12mm
Radius of the slot(Rs)	14mm
Length of the feedline(Lf)	15mm
Width of the feedline(Ws)	3mm
length of the stub(d)	3.2mm
Width of the stub(b)	1.5mm



Separation of width(c)	2mm
Distance away from the feedline(a)	5.5m

### III. ANTENNA ANALYSIS

#### A. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

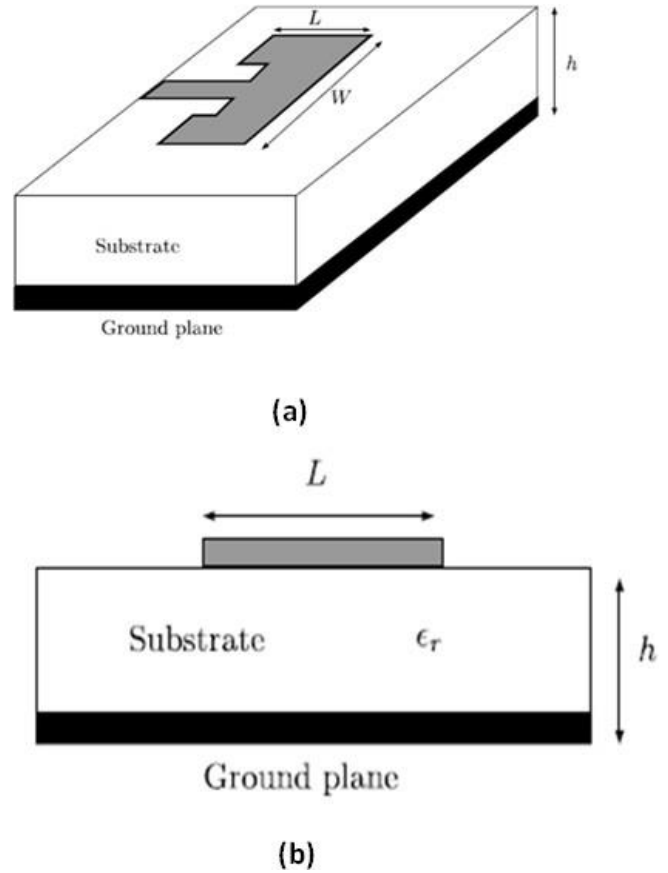
The microstrip patch antenna structure consists of a rotated square patch and circular slot on the dielectric substrate and the feedline attached with a stub on the back side of the dielectric substrate. For the design of the microstrip patch antenna, we have to select the resonance frequency and dielectric medium and its thickness(h). The dimensions of an antenna are not directly proportional to the dielectric constant of the substrate. In this design, a high dielectric substrate is used which leads to smaller antenna dimensions. The basic structure of the microstrip patch antenna is given in Fig.2. The dimensions of the proposed antenna are calculated by using the basic design formulas of the microstrip patch antenna is given below

The width of the antenna is given by,

$$w = \frac{c}{2f_r} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\epsilon_r + 1}}$$

$f_r$ -resonant frequency

$\epsilon_r$ -relative permittivity



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Fig. 2. Basic framework of a microstrip antenna



The resonant frequency of the microstrip antenna is given by,

$$f = \frac{c}{2L\sqrt{\epsilon_{\text{eff}}}}$$

where  $c$  is the velocity of light  
 The effective dielectric constant of the antenna is given by,

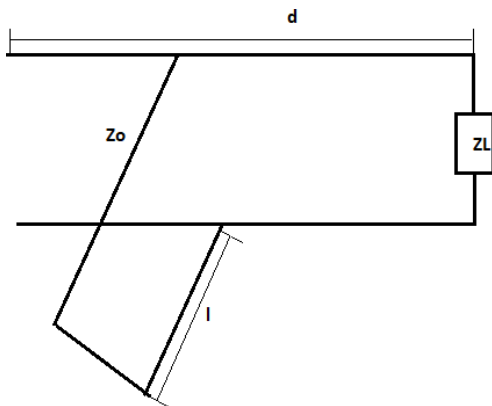
$$\epsilon_{\text{reff}} = \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{2} + \frac{\epsilon_r - 1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 + \frac{12h}{W})}}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2f_r\sqrt{\epsilon_{\text{eff}}\sqrt{\mu_0\epsilon_0}}} - 2\Delta L$$

$$\Delta L = \frac{(\epsilon_{\text{eff}} + 0.3) (\frac{w}{h} + 0.264)}{(\epsilon_{\text{eff}} - 0.2583) (\frac{w}{h} + 0.8)} * 0.412h$$

The length of the microstrip antenna is given by,  
 $h$ -height of the dielectric material  
 $\mu_0$ -Permittivity of free space  
 $\epsilon_0$ -Permeability of vacuum

Fig. 3. Configuration of single stub matching



The bandwidth can be varies by making changes in the feed line even become double by attaching thin-line stubs. When the open circuit stub's length is almost a quarter wavelength. Stub provides dual frequency response is caused by capacitive and inductive impedances, which are capacitive for frequencies below the patch resonance frequency and inductive for frequencies above it. The configuration of single stub matching is depicted in Fig.3.

The dimensions of the stub calculated by using the trans- mission line equations

The location of the stub is given by,

$$l_s = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi} \tan^{-1} \left( \sqrt{\frac{z_R}{z_0}} \right)$$

The length of the stub is given by,

$$l_t = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\sqrt{z_R z_0}}{z_R - z_0} \right)$$

$Z_R$ -input impedance  
 $Z_o$ -characteristics impedance

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Fig.4. depicts the Simulated layout of the proposed circular slot microstrip patch antenna with a thin-line stub having a circular slot attached front side of the substrate and a feed line with stub in the form of the key-like structure attached to the back side of the substrate.



antenna with stub

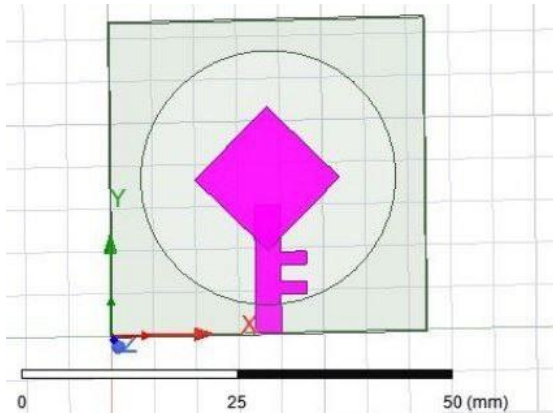


Fig. 4. Simulated layout of the proposed circular slot microstrip patch antenna with thin-line stub.

**A. BANDWIDTH**

The simulated result reflection coefficient in dB of circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub and wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub are depicted in Fig.5. and Fig.6. It can be observed that the antenna is resonating from 10.5GHz-18GHz with enhanced impedance bandwidth of 7.5GHz with the reflection coefficient less than -10dB. The bandwidth is enhanced by introducing a circular slot instead of a rotated square slot. By the insertion stub, the bandwidth become double when compared with the normal feed line.

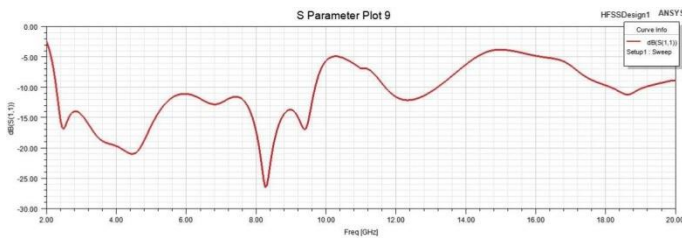


Fig. 5. S11(dB) plot of the wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

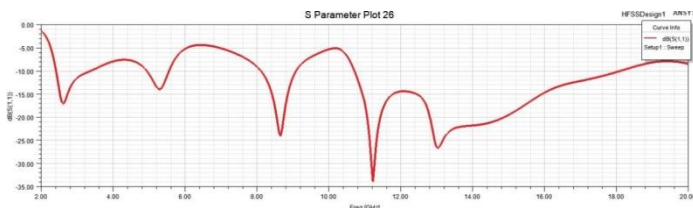


Fig. 6. S11(dB) plot of the circular slot microstrip patch

The TABLE II below shows the Comparison of bandwidth and frequency range for a microstrip patch antenna with different slots. Circular slot have better results compared with square slot.

TABLE II  
 COMPARISON TABLE OF BANDWIDTH AND FREQUENCY RANGE FOR A MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA WITH DIFFERENT SLOTS

Type of slot	Max. antenna gain
Square slot	5.1dB
Circular slot	6.6dB

Type of slot	Frequency range	Bandwidth
Square slot	2.4GHz-9.26GHz	6.86GHz
Circular slot	10.5GHz-18GHz	7.5GHz

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TABLE III  
 COMPARISON TABLE OF MAXIMUM ANTENNA GAIN FOR A MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA WITH DIFFERENT SLOTS



**B. GAIN**

The simulated gain plot of circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub and wide band rotated square slot microstrippatch antenna with stub are depicted in Fig.7. and Fig.8. The results show that the comparison of antenna gain of wideband rotated microstrip patch antenna between the circular slot microstrip patch antenna. Apparently, the square slot antenna can normally provide the peaked gain. On the other hand, by introducing circular slot instead of square slot, it is clearly seen that the higher antenna gain of 6.6dB can be obtained. The antenna gain is varies with different slots. The antenna gain is attained maximum by increasing the slot area. At the receiver, high-gain antennas have the following effects: In- creases the received signal from certain directions and reduces the signal from others. Gain will also increase the received external noise. The TABLE III below shows the Comparison of maximum antenna gain with different slots in microstrip patch antenna.

**C. VSWR**

The simulated VSWR plot of circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub and wide band rotated square slot microstrippatch antenna with stub are depicted in Fig.9. and Fig.10. Theoretically the voltage standing wave ratio(VSWR) at the resonant frequency should be 1, although anything less than 2 is acceptable. As per Fig.10. VSWR reaches 1 at 8.2GHz. The circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub having better performance because VSWR is 1 for ideal systems. In this antenna actually improves the VSWR more than it decreases the radiation of the antenna. The TABLE IV below shows the Comparison of voltage standing wave ratio with different slots in microstrip patch antenna.

Fig. 7. Gain plot of the wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

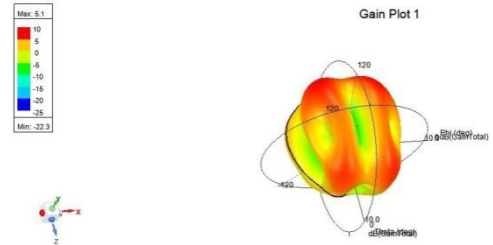
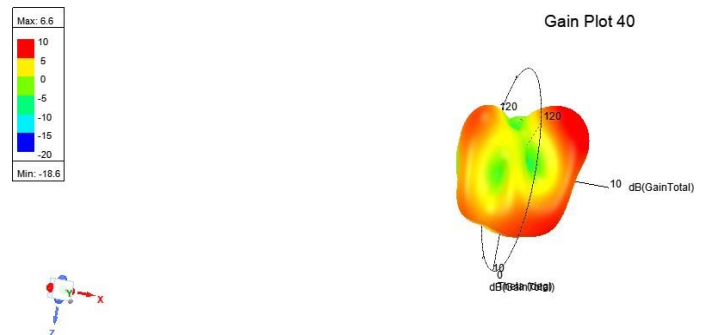


Fig. 8. Gain plot of the circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub



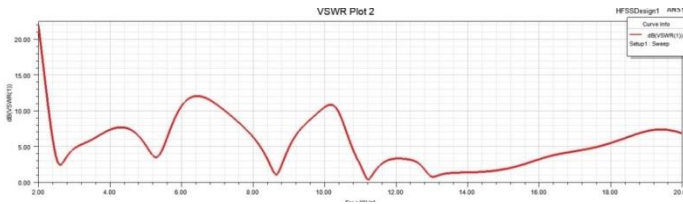


Fig. 9. VSWR plot of the wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

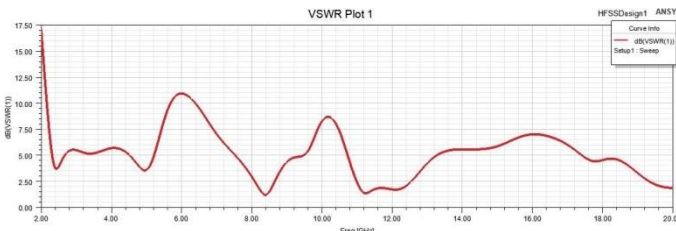


Fig. 10. VSWR plot of the circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

TABLE IV  
 COMPARISON TABLE OF VSWR FOR A MICROSTRIP PATCH ANTENNA WITH DIFFERENT SLOTS

Type of slot	VSWR
Square slot	0.2
Circular slot	1

**D. RADIATION PATTERN**

The simulated 2-D radiation pattern of the wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub and circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub are depicted in Fig.11. and Fig.12. The electric field is obtained by taking theta value as 90 degrees and the magnetic field is obtained by taking theta value as 0 degrees. Horizontal pattern and vertical pattern are two resultant patterns of antenna. When the antenna gain increases also the lobe became narrow range The

results show that the antenna was found to be an omnidirectional pattern.

Fig. 11. 2-D radiation pattern of the wide band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

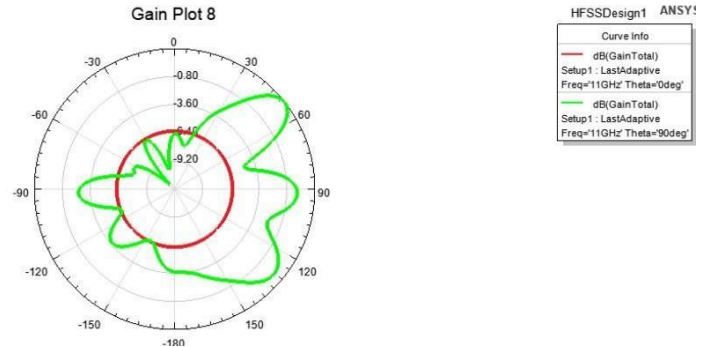
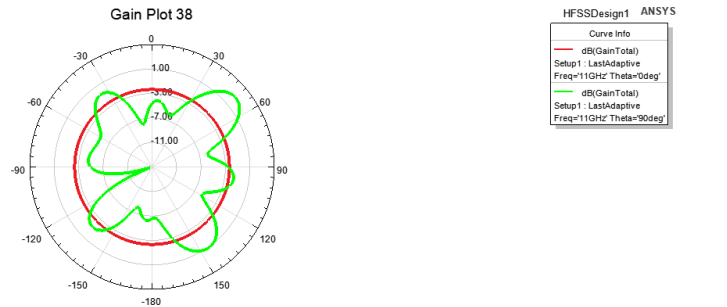


Fig. 12. 2-D radiation pattern of the circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stub

**V. CONCLUSION**

A circular slot microstrip patch antenna with a pair of tuning stubs for bandwidth enhancement is designed. To improve impedance matching the additional stub is attached to the feedline. Circular slot microstrip patch antenna with stubs have better performance when compared with broad band rotated square slot microstrip patch antenna with stubs. Measurement results indicate that bandwidth enhancement reaches 7.5GHz from 10.5GHz to 18GHz with an antenna gain of 6.6dB. Modern wireless communication applications like radar and satellite may be suitable for the proposed antenna design.

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