

OnTV-21 or Stay in touch while watching TV

Abstract

OnTV-21 is a small and relatively simple device that allows its owner to stay in touch while watching TV. *OnTV-21* includes a wireless link to a PC that can collect information about incoming E-mails and chat requests. *OnTV-21* is also coupled to a telephone line so it can collect Caller ID information. *OnTV-21* displays the information it gets in the TV using the Closed Caption decoder. *OnTV-21* gets its name from the fact that Closed Caption information is broadcasted on the 21st line of the video frame.

OnTV-21 is inserted in the video link between a TV receiver (Tuner) and a TV that has been set to accept an external video input. The information collected by *OnTV-21* is displayed seamlessly using the Closed Caption decoder that every modern TV set includes (mandated by law since 1993). Despite the relatively high bit rate of the Closed Caption information (503.5 KHz), the Closed Caption bit stream is generated in software by *OnTV-21*. To stay in touch, the TV has to be set to permanently decode the Closed Caption information. *OnTV-21* automatically strips the Closed Caption information generated by the network or cable operator.

OnTV-21 is based on a Cypress PsoC™ 26443 microcontroller that handles the following tasks:

- Interface to a small wireless receiver
- Decode frames from the wireless receiver
- Analog interface to the telephone line
- Caller ID demodulation
- Maintain the synchronization with the incoming video
- Filter unwanted Closed Caption data
- Generate the Closed Caption bit stream

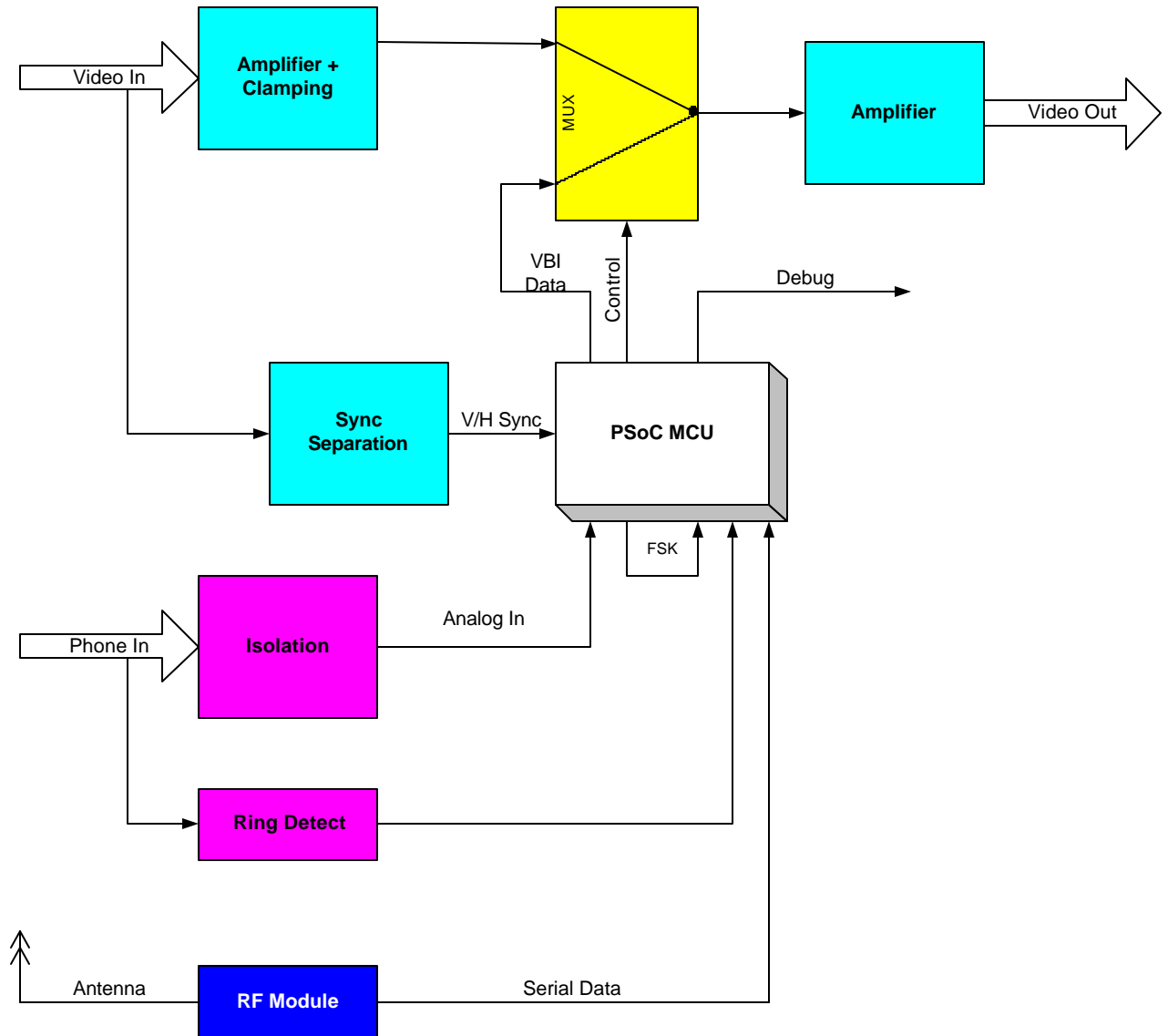
OnTV-21 is enclosed in a small plastic box. The front panel has 2 LED's and a push button. The rear panel has 2 RCA connectors (Video In and Video Out) and an RJ 11 connector for the telephone line. The first LED labeled STATUS shows the status of *OnTV-21* (Steady off: OFF, Steady on: ON, Blinking: Closed Caption pass through mode). The second LED labeled LINK shows the status of the wireless link (the LED stays on for 2 seconds every time a valid frame is received). The push button allows the user to select the mode of operation.

Inside the plastic enclosure, a small PCB (4.1" x 4.7") includes the input and output video buffers. In order for the Closed Caption generated by the TV network to be removed, the video must be switched off the video input during the time Closed Caption information can be broadcasted. A CD4066, a veteran in the analog switch world, performs this function. A dedicated IC (LM1881) extracts the synchronization pulses from the incoming video stream and presents the pulses to the microcontroller.

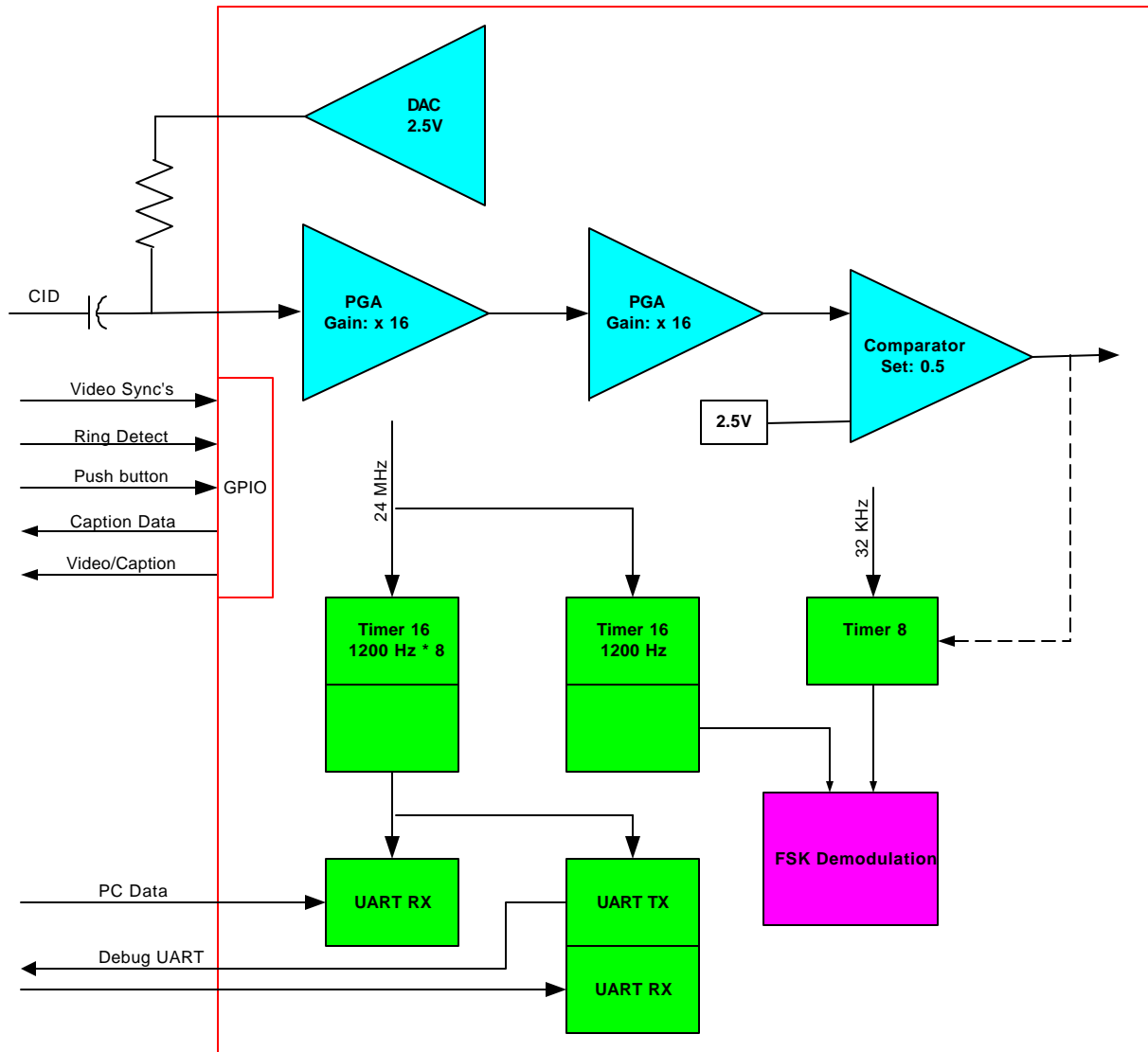
An optocoupler-based ring detector and a transformer-based telephone line pick up are connected to the telephone line on one side and to the microcontroller on other side. Finally, a standalone RF receiver operating at 418 MHz provides a link from the house Personal Computer.

With *OnTV-21*, the “couch potato” will be able to stay in touch, without having to check for a potential new E-Mail every 5 minutes. When the telephone rings, a concise message will give the name and phone number of the caller. Will *OnTV-21* return the family TV set to the role it had before the PC?

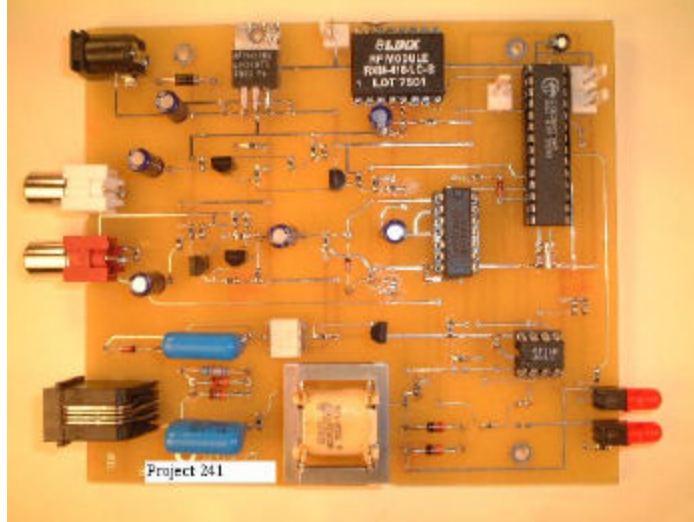
Block Diagrams



OnTV-21 Block Diagram



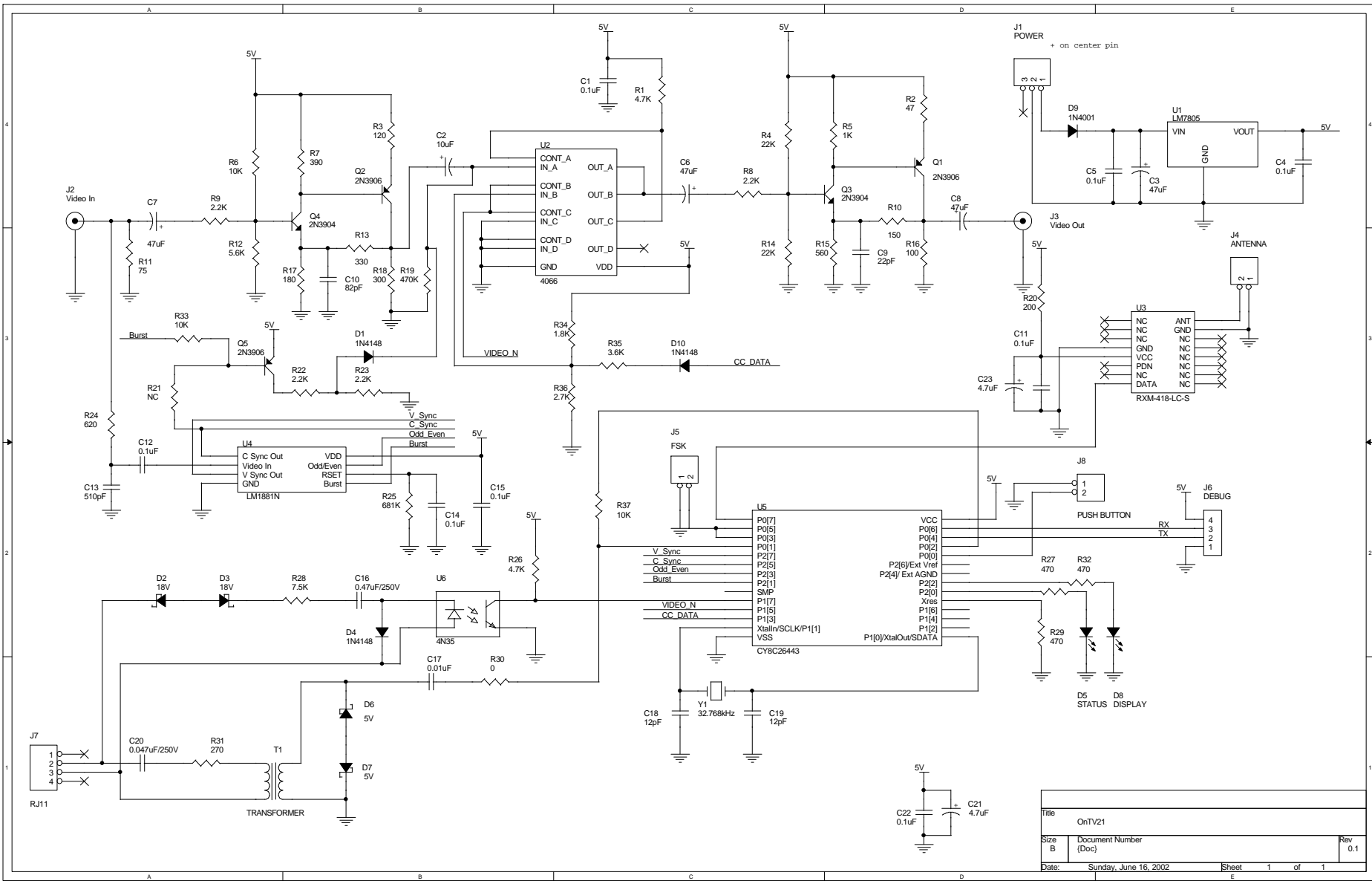
PsoC Blocks Usage



The board



OnTV-21 at work



Title		
OnTV21		
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