

Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps



DATASHEET

[Return to the Webpage](#)



Features

- Low Drive Voltage, RF V_{π} Voltage 3.5V@32GBaud
- 256Gbps (32GBaud) Mach-Zehnder Modulator for DP-QPSK Transmission Format
- Separated DC Bias Port for Each Mach-Zehnder Interferometer
- Dual QPSK modulators and Polarization Beam Combiner are Integrated in One Package
- Integrated Monitor Photodiode for Auto Bias Control
- Low Insertion Loss, ≤ 12 dB

Applications

- DP-QPSK 256Gbps Optical Transmission System

Note: The specifications provided are for general applications with a cost-effective approach. If you need to narrow or expand the tolerance, coverage, limit, or qualifications, please [click this link](#):



The DQPSK-series fiber-optic modulator has an analog bandwidth of 64 GHz that supports 200 G / 400 G coherent digital transmission using the DP-QPSK format, integrating four independently driven Mach-Zehnder interferometers (each offering ~64 GHz bandwidth, a low 4.2 V V_{π} , dedicated DC-bias ports, and monitor photodiodes for automatic bias control) in a single package. Two MZI pairs form dual I/Q modulators for the X- and Y-polarization paths, where the two arms correspond to the in-phase (I) and quadrature (Q) electrical inputs, enabling full complex modulation. A single-polarization CW laser is split into two orthogonal polarization channels, modulated independently, and recombined to produce a dual-polarization output. The design achieves 256 Gbps by combining two 64-Gbaud symbol rates with QPSK modulation (2 bits/symbol) and dual polarization, effectively utilizing all four MZIs to quadruple the data rate compared to a single-polarization modulator. The device provides ≤ 12 dB insertion loss and supports the full C+L band. Matching dual-channel RF amplifiers and an automatic bias controller are also available to simplify system integration.

The device is based on a traveling push-pull waveguide electrode design. We offer an option to mount the device on an automatic bias control PCB for convenient application.

Warning: The photodetector pins are highly sensitive to electrostatic discharge (ESD). Extreme caution must be exercised during handling to prevent permanent damage.

Note: Without a bias controller, the device will not function properly.

Note: This component is intended for OEM system integration and is not designed for standalone laboratory use. Units supplied without a protective benchtop enclosure are provided without warranty, as they are susceptible to damage from improper handling, installation, or operation.

Specifications *

Parameter	Min	Typical	Max	Unit
Operating Wavelength	1530		1610	nm
Optical Bandwidth (-3dB Down)	35		38	GHz
Insertion Loss (for each polarization)			14	dB
RF Drive Voltage (V_p @20GHz)			4.2	Vpp
Bias Half Wave Voltage		12	14	V
Monitor PD Responsivity			0.001	A/W
RF Impedance		50		ohm
DC Extinction Ratio for Parent MZI ^[1]	22			dB
DC Extinction Ratio for Child MZI ^[1]	20			dB
Optical Delay (between X and Y)	*1	-6	-1	ps
	*2	13.5	18.5	
Operating Temperature	-5		75	°C
Package Size (L x W x H)	90.5 x 13.2 x 7.0			mm

Notes:

[1]. With bias control

Note: Applying over the maximum RF control voltage or optical power will burn the device. Only the protected benchtop package has warranty.

Legal notices: All product information is believed to be accurate and is subject to change without notice. Information contained herein shall legally bind Agiltron only if it is specifically incorporated into the terms and conditions of a sales agreement. Some specific combinations of options may not be available. The user assumes all risks and liability whatsoever in connection with the use of a product or its application.

Rev 09/08/26

P +1 781-935-1200

E sales@agiltron.com

W www.agiltron.com

Information contained herein is deemed to be reliable and accurate as of the issue date. We reserve the right to change the design or specifications at any time without notice. Agiltron is a registered trademark of Optowares Corporation in the U.S. and other countries.

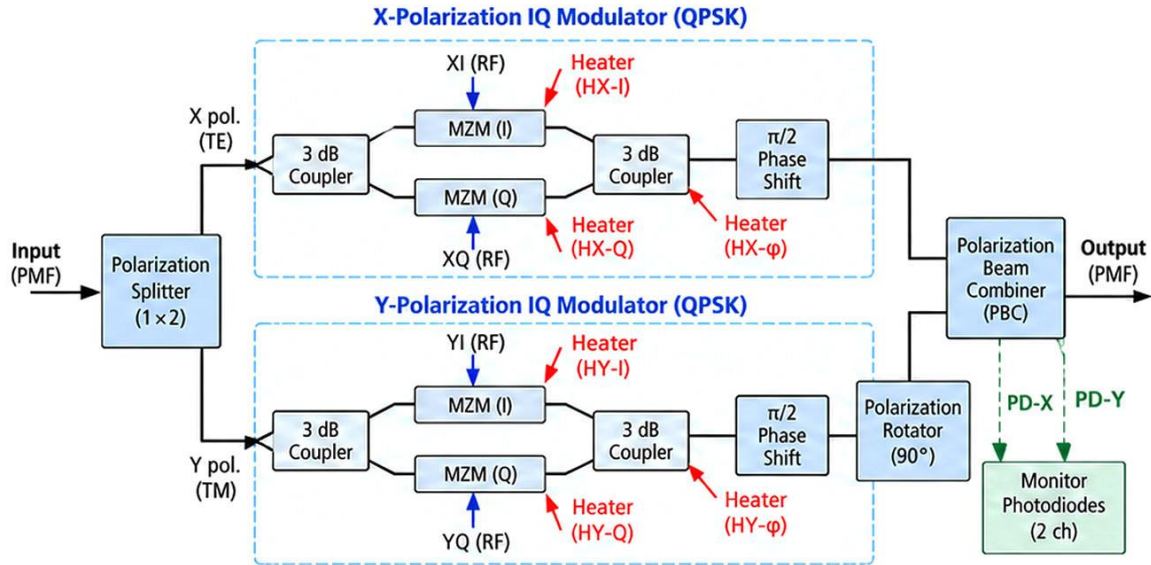
Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps

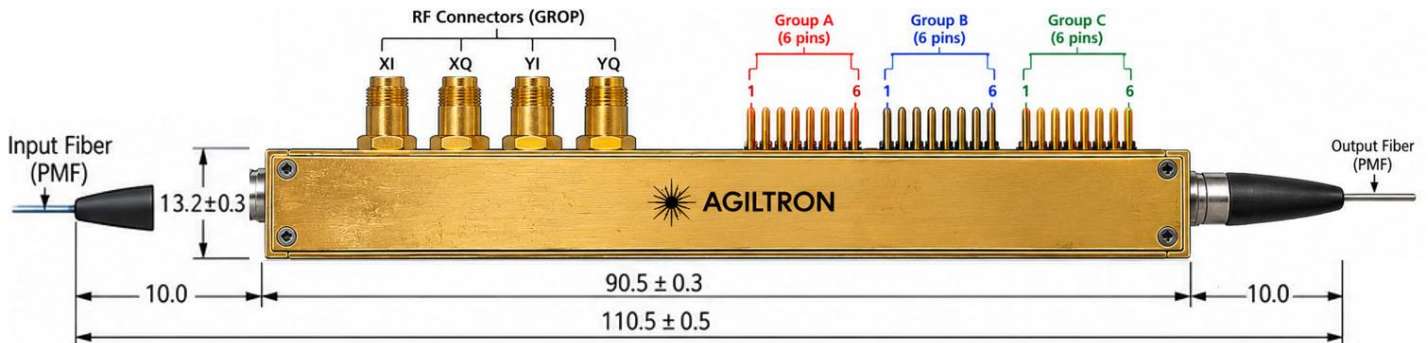


DATASHEET

Functional Diagram



Mechanical Dimensions (mm)



*Product dimensions may change without notice. This is sometimes required for non-standard specifications.

Pin Definition

Group A – X-pol Control (pins 1–6)			Group B – Y-pol Control (pins 1–6)			Group C – Common / PD (pins 1–6)		
Pin No.	Symbol	Function	Pin No.	Symbol	Function	Pin No.	Symbol	Function
1	HX-I+	Heater (X I)	1	HY-I+	Heater (Y I)	1	PD-X+	Monitor PD (X) anode
2	HX-I-	Heater (X I)	2	HY-I-	Heater (Y I)	2	PD-X-	Monitor PD (X) cathode
3	HX-Q+	Heater (X Q)	3	HY-Q+	Heater (Y Q)	3	PD-Y+	Monitor PD (Y) anode
4	HX-Q-	Heater (X Q)	4	HY-Q-	Heater (Y Q)	4	PD-Y-	Monitor PD (Y) cathode
5	HX-φ+	Heater (X phase)	5	HY-φ+	Heater (Y phase)	5	GND	Ground
6	HX-φ-	Heater (X phase)	6	HY-φ-	Heater (Y phase)	6	GND	Ground

P +1 781-935-1200

E sales@agiltron.com

W www.agiltron.com

Information contained herein is deemed to be reliable and accurate as of the issue date. We reserve the right to change the design or specifications at any time without notice. Agiltron is a registered trademark of Optowares Corporation in the U.S. and other countries.

Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps



DATASHEET

Device Mounted On Automatic Bias Controller



Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps



DATASHEET

Ordering Information (Part Number)

	6	☐	☐	☐	5	5	☐	☐
Prefix	Symbol Rate	Auto Bias Controller	Connector ^[1]	RF Amplifier	Input Fiber	Output Fiber	Benchtop ^[2]	RF Connector
DPSD-	64 = 6	Non = 1 Yes = 2 Special = 0	Non = 1 FC/APC = 2	Non = 1 Yes = 2	PM1550 = 5	PM1550 = 5	None = 1 Yes = 2	G3PO = 1 SMA = 2

[1]. The default connector configuration uses fiber with 0.9 mm buffer protection. The connector cannot be installed directly onto bare fiber because the bare fiber is prone to damage during shipping. However, the connector can be assembled on bare fiber if a 3 cm protective loose tube is added for reinforcement. The customer may remove this protective tube after testing. The optical power handling of a standard connector is less than 0.5 W for SMF-28 fiber and decreases further for smaller-core fibers.

[2]. Turn-key package integrates two differential RF linear amplifiers, auto bias controller, and power supply.

Application Notes

Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps



DATASHEET

Instruction for Comprehensive Characterization Procedure for LiNbO₃ Modulator

1. Initial Setup and Inspection

- **Visual inspection:** Check for fiber integrity, waveguide cleanliness, electrode contacts.
- **Connector integrity:** Inspect RF and optical connectors for damage or debris.
- **Polish & clean fibers:** Use fiber scope and fiber wipes if necessary.
- **Thermal stabilization:** Place the device on a temperature-controlled stage (if needed).

2. Electrical & RF Interface Check

- Measure **RF return loss (S11)** using a VNA.
- Confirm **50 Ω impedance matching** across the modulator's bandwidth.
- Verify the **bias-T (if present)** does not short or distort the signal.
- Check for **electrode continuity** and isolation between electrodes.

3. Optical Characterization

a. Insertion Loss

- Use a narrow-linewidth laser (e.g., at 1550 nm).
- Launch light into input fiber and measure output power.
- Insertion Loss = $10 \cdot \log(P_{in} / P_{out})$
(Typical LiNbO₃ insertion loss: 3–7 dB).

b. Extinction Ratio (for MZIs)

- Apply DC voltage sweep to modulation electrodes.
- Record maximum and minimum output powers.
- ER = $10 \cdot \log(P_{max} / P_{min})$
(Good ER: >20 dB for analog, >30 dB for digital).

c. V π Measurement (Half-wave voltage)

- Apply a slowly varying triangular or sinusoidal voltage.
- Measure output optical power vs. voltage.
- Determine V π = voltage required to induce a π phase shift (first null).
- Also check **V π ·L** product (performance metric).

4. Electrical & RF Interface Check

- Connect modulator RF input to a signal generator or VNA (S21 test).
- Bias the MZI at quadrature (linear point of transfer curve).
- Apply RF sweep from 100 kHz to >20 GHz (or device limit).
- Use a fast photodiode and spectrum analyzer or VNA.
- Record **modulation response (S21)**:
 - Bandwidth = -3 dB point from peak response.
 - Watch for peaking or drop-offs due to impedance mismatch or piezoelectric resonances.

5. Linearity Tests (for Analog Applications)

- Use two-tone RF input (e.g., f1 = 10 GHz, f2 = 10.01 GHz).
- Measure intermodulation distortion (IMD3).
- Calculate **Spurious-Free Dynamic Range (SFDR)**.

6. Bias Drift / Stability Testing

- Apply DC bias and monitor optical output over time.
- Check for **DC drift**, typically caused by photorefractive or charge trapping effects.
- Test under light-on and light-off conditions.
- Optional: Integrate **auto-bias control loop**.

7. Thermal Response (Optional)

- Vary modulator temperature (e.g., from 20°C to 70°C).
- Track **V π , insertion loss, and ER** as a function of temperature.
- Identify thermal sensitivity and hysteresis.
- Important for packaged systems or field deployments.

8. High-Power Handling & Backreflection

- Gradually increase optical input power (with isolator).
- Watch for power-induced drift or photorefractive effects.
- Check backreflections using an **optical return loss meter (ORL)**.

9. Data Logging and Reporting

- Capture all test data in a structured format.
- Plot:
 - Optical power vs. voltage (transfer function)
 - S21 vs. frequency
 - V π vs. temperature
 - Drift vs. time
- Include tables for:
 - Insertion loss
 - ER
 - V π and bandwidth
 - Bias stability
 - RF return loss

Optional Advanced Tests:

- **Jitter analysis** (for digital modulators)
- **Bit Error Rate Testing (BERT)** for NRZ or PAM signals
- **Eye diagram measurements**
- **Pulse response and rise/fall time**
- **Photorefractive damage threshold test**

Fiber Optical Modulator DP-QPSK (I-Q) Dual Polarizations

1530–1610 nm, 64 Gbaud, 200/400 Gbps



DATASHEET

RF Performance

