

100W 3:2 HF Switch Matrix

Having three antennas and two HF rigs located in different parts of the house presented the opportunity to design a remote controlled switch matrix that would allow connecting any of the three antennas to the two rigs.

Described here is a 3:2 HF switch matrix controlled via a RaspberryPi 3B+. A rudimentary web server is used to allow control from a webpage.

The critical RF design criteria are VSWR, isolation and power handling. My two rigs are low power ($\leq 100\text{W}$) therefore the switch matrix was designed to handle 150W.

Six relays are mounted on a 4-layer FR4 PCB. PCBWay (<https://www.pcbway.com/>), a low cost PCB fab located in China was used to manufacture the PCB. To keep the cost low, the default 4-layer stackup was used. This resulted in acceptable VSWR at 30 MHz. Four layers were needed to implement ground layers between the two rig I/O ports. Two layers did not provide sufficient isolation.

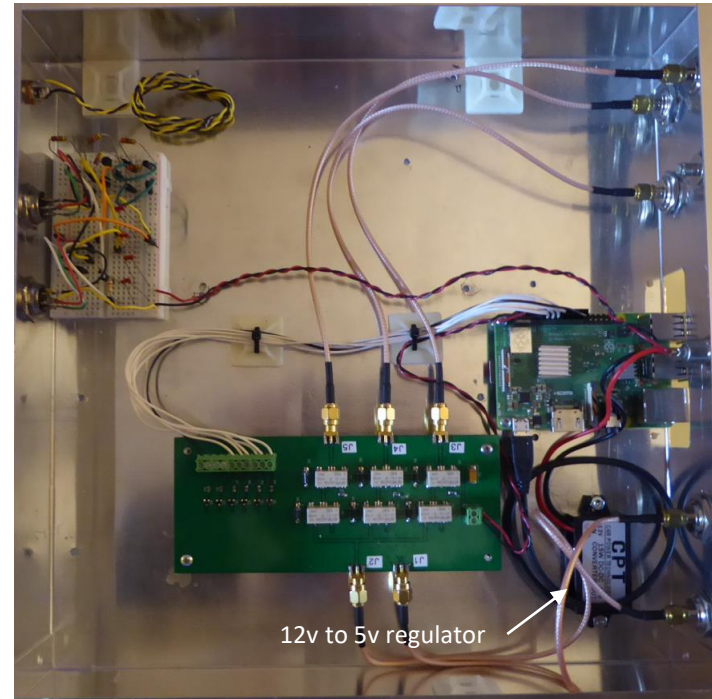
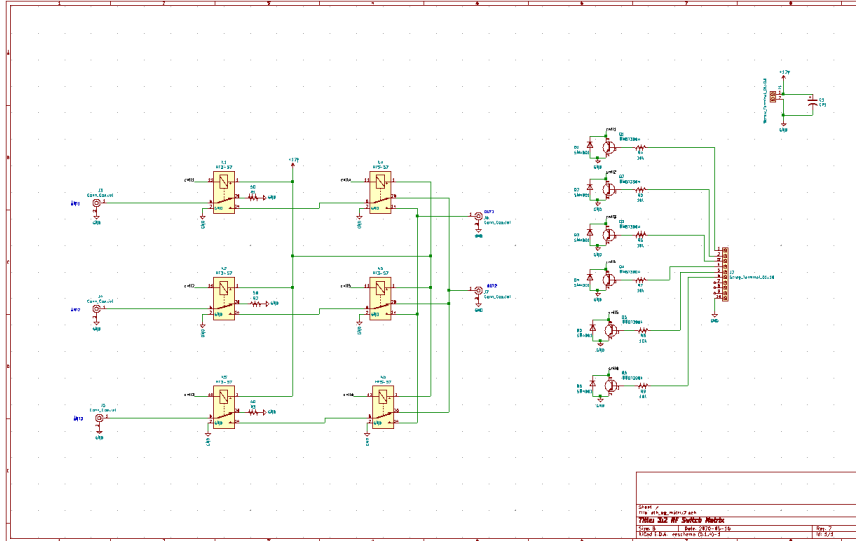


Figure 1 – Switch Matrix Enclosure

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Ref Des	Vendor Part Number	DigiKey Part Number	Description	Vendor	Cost Ea.		
K1 - K6	1462051-1	PB1102CT-ND	RF Relay	TE Connectivity	\$14.25		
Q1 - Q6	MMBT2222ALT1G	MMBT2222ALT1GOSCT-ND	NPN Transistor	Onsemi	\$0.18		
D1 - D6	1N4001-G	641-1310-1-ND	Diode	Comchip Technology	\$0.21		
R1 - R3	RNCP0805FTD49R9	RNCP0805FTD49R9CT-ND	50Ω Resistor	Stackpole Electronics	\$0.10		
R4 - R9	RNCP0805FTD10K0	RNCP0805FTD10K0CT-ND	10kΩ Resistor	Stackpole Electronics	\$0.10		
J1	1984617	277-1721-ND	2 Pos Terminal Block Connector	Phoenix Contact	\$0.55		
J2	1984691	277-1727-ND	10 Pos Terminal Block Connector	Phoenix Contact	\$2.59		
J3 - J7	142-0711-821	J629-ND	SMA Edge Launch Connector	Cinch Connectivity Solutions Johnson	\$7.20		
PCB	W10332ASV11		Standard 4-layer	PCBWay	\$23.00	\$115 for 5 pcs	

Most parts were purchased from DigiKey with the exception of the edge launch SMA connectors. I had a stash of these acquired from a surplus house. Ebay may be a possibility for lower cost SMA connectors.

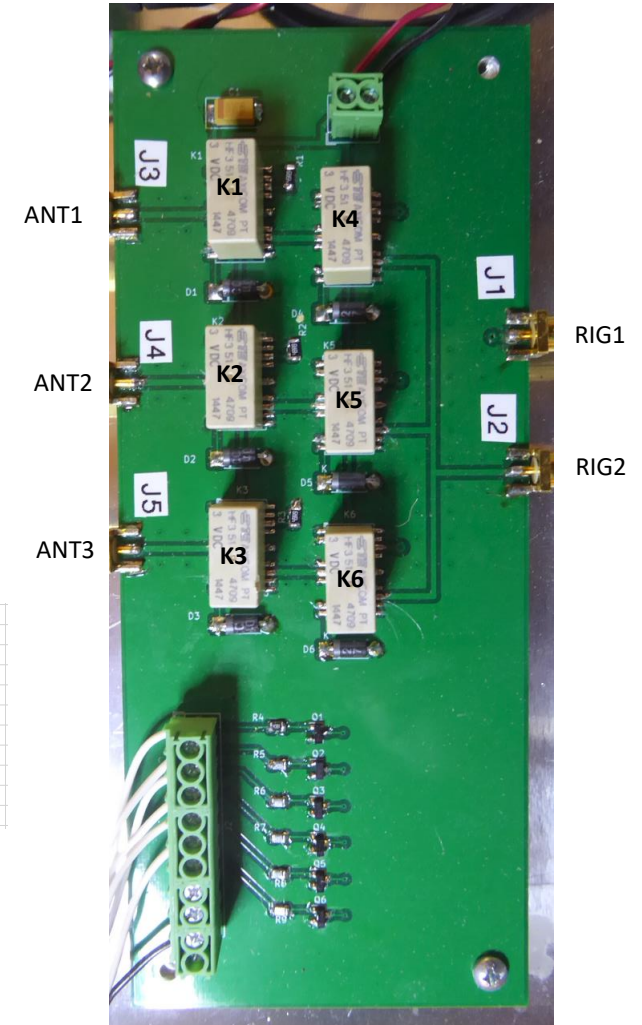


Figure 2 – Switch Matrix PWB

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The default 4-layer PCB stackup is shown in Figure 3. The relatively thin first and third dielectrics make the default 50 ohm microstrip trace width quite narrow. To allow for the voltage and current requirements (Figure 2), a 30 mil CPWG (co-planar waveguide) linewidth was chosen (Figure 4). This results in an impedance of 22.5Ω (VSWR = 2.2). Being that the PCB traces are relatively short with respect to a wavelength at 30MHz, this is an acceptable tradeoff.

PCB TRACE POWER HANDLING CALCULATOR

Inputs

Current: 3 Amps

Thickness: 1 oz/ft²

Optional Inputs

Temperature Rise: 10 °C

Ambient Temperature: 25 °C

Trace Length: 2 inch

Peak Voltage: 87 Volts

Outputs

Internal Layers

Required Trace Width: 140.0099 mil

Resistance: 0.0072 Ω Ohms

Voltage Drop: 0.0216 Volts

Power Loss: 0.0649 Watts

External Layers in Air

Required Trace Width: 53.8202 mil

Resistance: 0.0188 Ω Ohms

Voltage Drop: 0.0563 Volts

Power Loss: 0.1688 Watts

Required Track Clearance: 40.4000 mil

Figure 2 – PCB trace power calculation

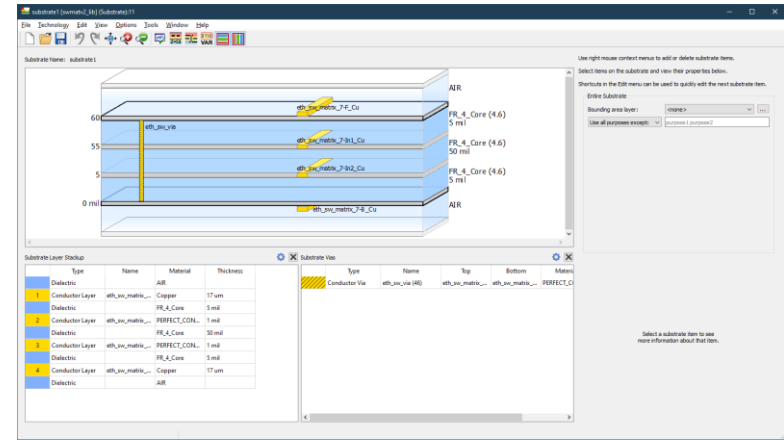


Figure 3 – 4 layer PCB stackup

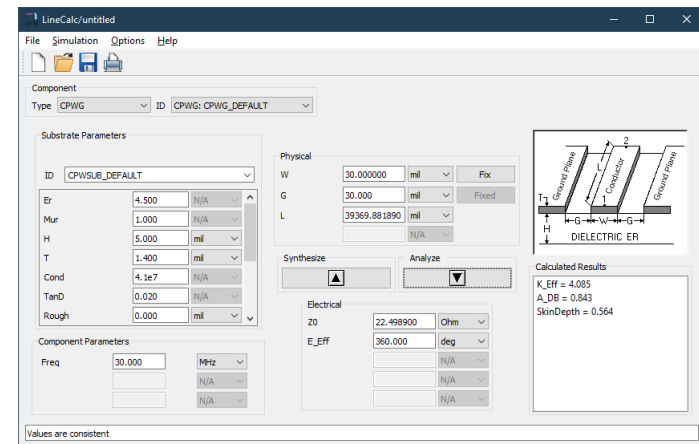


Figure 4 – PCB trace impedance

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The schematic / layout was first performed in KiCad, then the individual layers were imported into Keysight ADS where an EM (Keysight Momentum) simulation was performed to get a handle on the expected insertion loss and isolation.

Keysight is very good at allowing experimenters 30 day trial licenses for projects such as this. The only issue with EM simulation is that it is very memory intensive. My computer setup consists of a 16GB i7 machine running Win10 Pro.

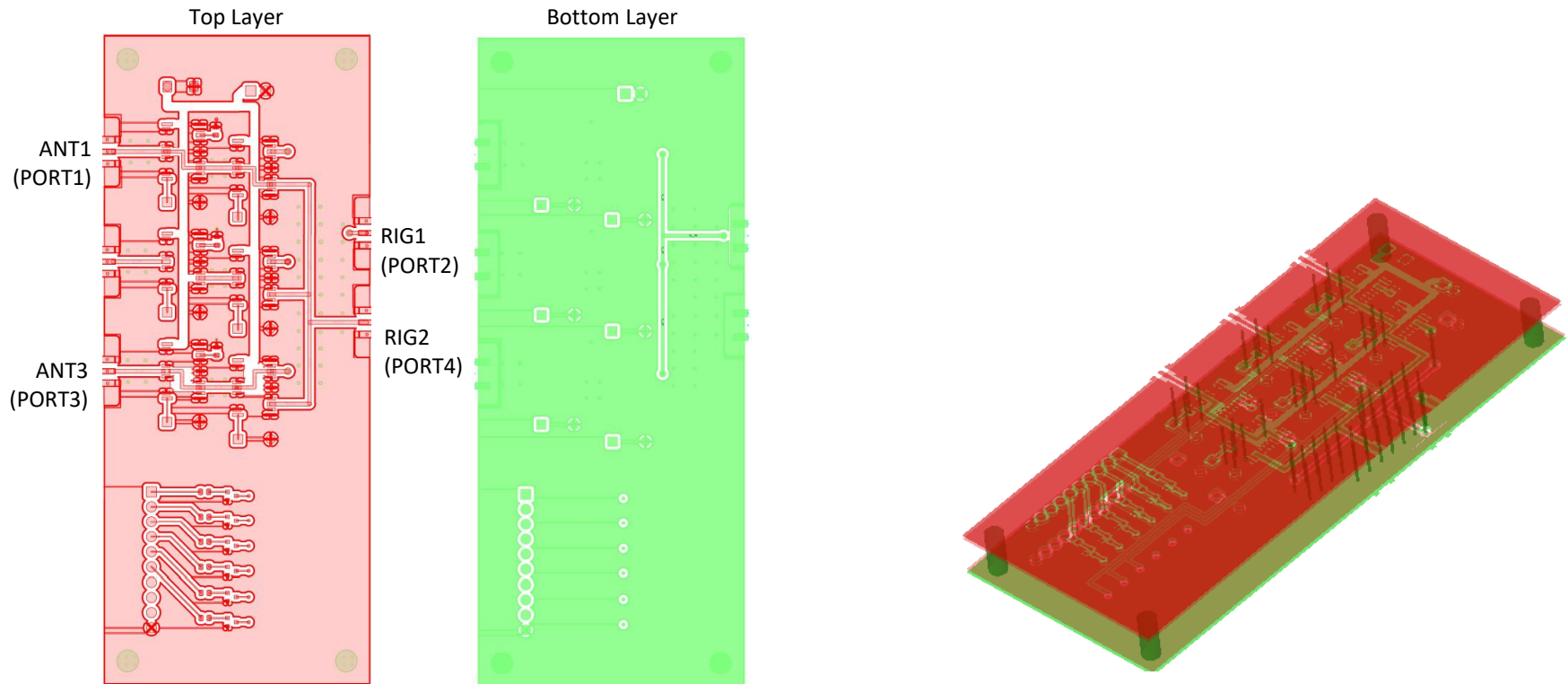


Figure 5 – PCB layout

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EM simulation and measured results (Figure 6)
show port VSWR below 1.5:1 and port to port
isolation below 60dB @ 30 MHz.

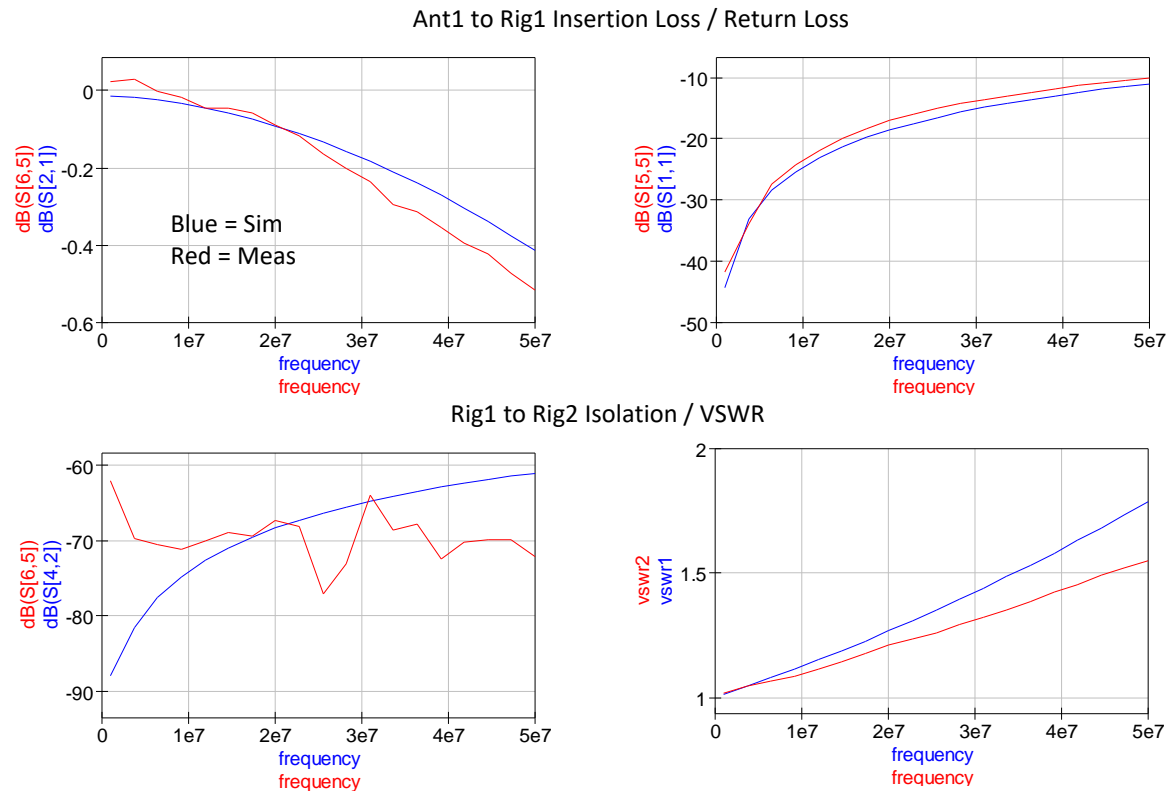


Figure 6 – Simulation vs Measured Results

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The Raspberry Pi GPIO outputs are 0 / 3.3V. The GPIOs used to control the relays are shown in Figure 7.

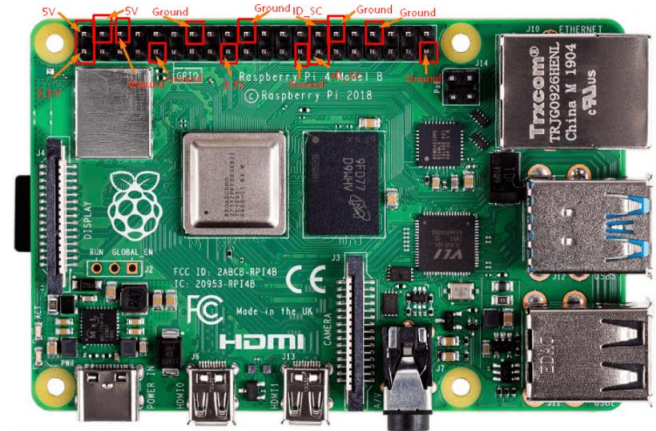
The standard Raspberry Pi OS is used to implement the control program.

(<https://www.raspberrypi.com/software/operating-systems/>). Using the version with desktop and recommended software allows for implementing remote desktop and includes python3. Install 'xrdp' to utilize windows like remote desktop.

My setup uses the ethernet connection, the Raspberry Pi 3 also includes a WiFi option. WiFi setup can be configured via the raspi-config command line routine.

Flask is used to implement the webserver. Flask and xrdp can be installed via apt.

```
sudo apt-get install python3-flask
sudo apt-get install xrdp
```



PIN	NAME		NAME	PIN
01	3.3V DC Power	Red	5V DC Power	02
03	GPIO02 (SDA1, I ² C)	Red	5V DC Power	04
05	GPIO03 (SDL1, I ² C)	Blue	Ground	06
07	GPIO04 (GPCLK0)	Green	GPIO14 (TXD0, UART)	08
09	Ground	Black	GPIO15 (RXD0, UART)	10
11	GPIO17	Green	GPIO18(PWM0)	12
13	GPIO27	Green	Ground	14
15	GPIO22	Green	GPIO23	16
17	3.3V DC Power	Red	GPIO24	18
19	GPIO10 (SP10_MOSI)	Purple	Ground	20
21	GPIO09 (SP10_MISO)	Purple	GPIO25	22
23	GPIO11 (SP10_CLK)	Purple	GPIO08 (SPI0_CE0_N)	24
25	Ground	Black	GPIO07 (SPI0_CE1_N)	26
27	GPIO00 (SDA0, I ² C)	Yellow	GPIO07 (SCL0, I ² C)	28
29	GPIO05	Green	Ground	30
31	GPIO06	Green	GPIO12 (PWM0)	32
33	GPIO13 (PWM1)	Green	Ground	34
35	GPIO19	Green	GPIO16	36
37	GPIO26	Green	GPIO20	38
39	Ground	Black	GPIO21	40

Figure 7 – Raspberry Pi GPIO pinout

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I have yet to master website design although have been become somewhat proficient in Python with the Raspberry Pi OS. Python has a simple web server package called Flask (<https://pythonbasics.org/what-is-flask-python/>).

With this package, It is quite easy to design a simple web server. The web server provides control of each of the relays by pressing the respective button. The webpage is initiated by inserting the IP address in a web browser.

Relay Status

relay1 ON
relay2 OFF
relay3 OFF
relay4 ON
relay5 OFF
relay6 OFF

Ant1 = Rig2
Ant2 term
Ant3 term

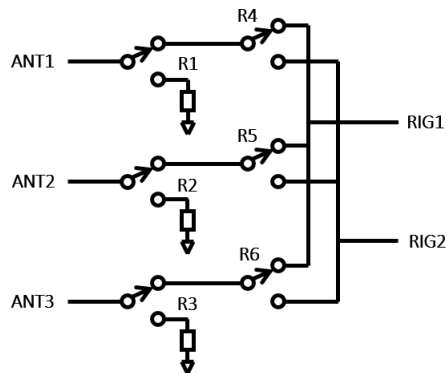


Figure 8– Flask Webpage

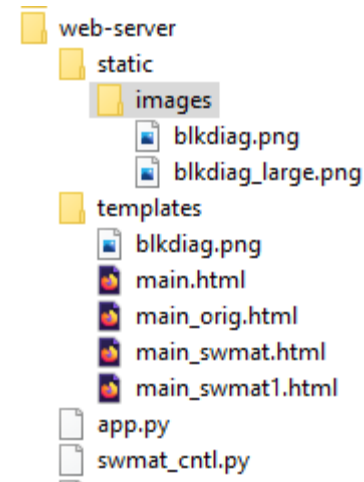


Figure 9 – Raspberry Pi Flask Directory Structure

The Flask directory structure is shown in Figure 9. The server is initiated by running the command 'sudo python3 swmat_cntl.py' from the web-server directory.

All of the web server and KiCad files are available on my git hub page:

https://github.com/greggdaug/hf_switch_matrix

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Conclusion:

The completed switch matrix performs well for power levels at 100W and below. It should be noted that at 100W (+50dBm), 60dB isolation would result in -10dBm at the alternate output. Therefore care must be taken to insure that a receiver connected to the alternate port is not overdriven. It is also recommended that switching should be initiated with the transmitters off.

I have not tested the switch matrix with antennas that present very high VSWRs. This may further limit the power output that could be used due to increased peak voltages. To alleviate this, automatic tuner(s) could be attached to the high VSWR antenna port(s).