

Re: Smith Chart Amusements

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2008-05/msg03933.html>

- *From:* "Joel Koltner" <zapwireDASHgroups@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 27 May 2008 18:42:14 -0700
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"Joerg" <notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:xQ1%j.2535\\$N87.591@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:xQ1%j.2535$N87.591@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It was not that long ago and it was a high-end ultrasound company. Still is, just under different ownership. Some have tried but no other company was ever able to copy our products.

If the company had a decent number of true "design" engineers (as opposed to "copy and paste the data sheet's example circuit, possibly with some minor tweaking"), I'm not surprised... such companies are unusual, as far as I can tell, and difficult to compete with.

A lot of stuff we wrote ourselves. Had to. IIRC MatLab was pretty much the most expensive program we used.

If you purchase enough toolkits you can readily push Matlab over the \$10k mark these days.

Matlab is a good tool, although (as you alluded to) if you're looking to avoid spending Big Bucks and either don't need the toolboxes or can readily program them yourself, something like Python, NymPy, and Matplotlib make a compelling alternative. I believe someone posted this link --> <http://vnoel.wordpress.com/2008/05/03/bye-matlab-hello-python-thanks-sage/> ...discussing SAGE, which packages up a bunch of the Python libraries to make it easy to transition.

Well, the MRP cost us a whole lot more than \$10k.

Sure seems to me that building your own MRP system is a lot easier than building a cutting-edge ultrasound machine...

OO is kind of ok but very bloated and not nearly as fas