

Dielectric Resonator Antenna

In this example, a slot antenna is augmented by placing a dielectric block structure above the antenna. This block has additional metallic elements patterned on it that act as a lens and guide the radiation pattern and increase the directivity. The model is shown in Figure 1.

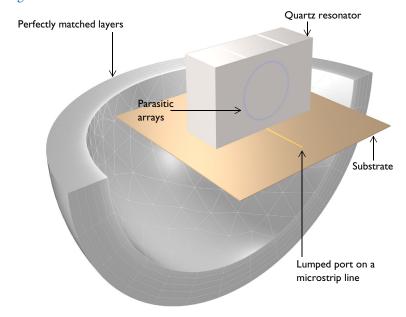


Figure 1: Slot coupled dielectric resonator antenna with parasitic arrays. Only one-quarter of the entire PMLs are shown in this figure.

Model Definition

A slot antenna is formed by cutting out a rectangular section from a ground plane. This slot antenna is fed from a 50 Ω . microstrip line which is fed from a 50 Ω . lumped port, representing the power source. The microstrip line extends some distance past the slot, forming a tuning stub. Both the ground plane and the microstrip line are treated as being infinitely thin, and are assumed to be perfect electric conductor (PEC) surfaces.

A block of quartz dielectric, is placed above the slot antenna. This block acts as a resonant structure, but also as a radiating element. The directivity of the radiation pattern is improved by patterning additional metal layers onto the block. In this example, two strips are added along the top, and two loops are added along each face. These layers are

modeled as infinitely thin PEC faces. The dimensions of these elements are chosen such that they are resonant at the operating frequency of 2.9 GHz. These additional unfed elements act to increase the directivity of the antenna structure.

The entire antenna structure is modeled within a sphere with the properties of vacuum. This sphere is truncated by a perfectly matched layer (PML) domain that acts as a boundary to free space. The distance from the antenna to the PML is a variable that does require some study. The PML should not be within the reactive near-field region of the antenna structure. However, the size of the reactive near-field is not strictly definable, so the distance from the antenna to the PML should be studied for each model. It should be placed far enough away as not have negligible effect upon the results. The thickness of the PML itself is not critical, and can be made approximately one-tenth the air sphere diameter.

The meshing of radiating structures requires some care. As a rule of thumb, at least five elements per wavelength in each material are suggested, although if absolutely necessary, as few as three elements can be used. Additionally, curved edges and surfaces should be meshed with at least two elements per 90 ° chord, and the stricter of the two criteria should always be used. Additionally, tetrahedral elements of approximately unit aspect ratio are preferred in most modeling regions, with the exception of the PML domains. Since the PML domain preferentially absorbs radiated energy in one direction, the mesh should conform to this. A swept mesh is thus recommended in PML regions.

The structure is solved for an operating frequency of 2.9 GHz. The far-field radiation patterns are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. The radiation guided by the dielectric resonator and metallic strips is directional toward the top side.

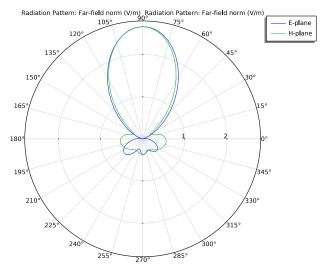


Figure 2: Far-field radiation pattern on the E-plane at 2.9 GHz.

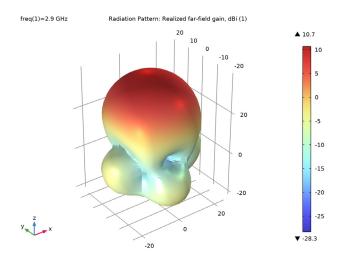


Figure 3: 3D far-field radiation pattern shows the directivity is increased by the dielectric resonator and the metallic strips.

Application Library path: RF Module/Antennas/dielectric resonator antenna

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **3D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Radio Frequency>Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain (emw).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔵 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Frequency Domain.
- 6 Click **Done**.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description		
thickness	20[mil]	5.08E-4 m	Substrate thickness		
1_substrate	110[mm]	0.11 m	Length, substrate		
w_line	1.13[mm]	0.00113 m	Width, feed line		
l_line	40 [mm]	0.04 m	Length, feed line		
w_resonator	70[mm]	0.07 m	Width, dielectric resonator		
1_resonator	25[mm]	0.025 m	Length, dielectric resonator		
h_resonator	45[mm]	0.045 m	Height, dielectric resonator		
w_matching	1.13[mm]	0.00113 m	Width, matching stub		
l_matching	35.2[mm]	0.0352 m	Length, matching stub		
w_slot	2.9[mm]	0.0029 m	Width, slot		
l_slot	18.5[mm]	0.0185 m	Length, slot		
d_array	30[mm]	0.03 m	Array displacement		
f0	2.9[GHz]	2.9E9 Hz	Current frequency		
lda0	c_const/f0	0.10338 m	Wavelength, air		
h_max	0.2*lda0	0.020675 m	Maximum mesh element size, air		

Here, mil refers to the unit milliinch. c_const is a predefined COMSOL constant for the speed of light in vacuum.

GEOMETRY I

First, create a block for the dielectric resonator.

Dielectric resonator

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, type Dielectric resonator in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Size and Shape section. In the Width text field, type w_resonator.
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 1_resonator.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type h_resonator.
- 6 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 7 In the z text field, type h_resonator/2.

Add a block for the substrate.

Substrate

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, type Substrate in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Size and Shape section. In the Width text field, type 1 substrate.
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 1_substrate.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type thickness.
- 6 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 7 In the z text field, type -thickness/2.
- 8 Click the Wireframe Rendering button in the Graphics toolbar.

Add a block for the microstrip feed line.

Feed line

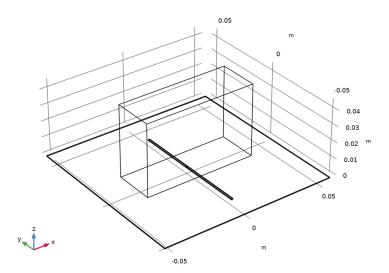
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Block.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, type Feed line in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Size and Shape section. In the Width text field, type w line.
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 1_line.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type thickness.
- 6 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 7 In the y text field, type -1_line/2.
- 8 In the z text field, type -thickness/2.

Add a block for the matching stub which is extended from the end of the feed line.

Matching stub

- I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Block**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Block, type Matching stub in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Size and Shape section. In the Width text field, type w_matching.
- 4 In the **Depth** text field, type 1 matching.
- 5 In the Height text field, type thickness.
- 6 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 7 In the y text field, type 1 matching/2.
- 8 In the z text field, type -thickness/2.

9 Click | Build Selected.



Then, add a work plane for the slot. The slot is located between the dielectric resonator and substrate.

Work Plane I (wpl)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Work Plane.
- 2 In the Settings window for Work Plane, click Show Work Plane.

Work Plane I (wp I)>Plane Geometry

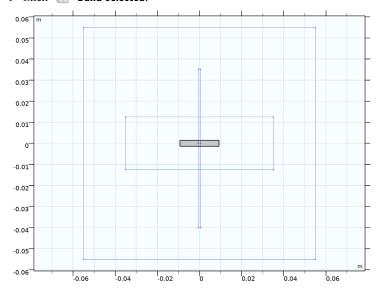
In the Model Builder window, click Plane Geometry.

Create a rectangle for the slot.

Work Plane I (wpl)>Rectangle I (rl)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.
- 3 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 4 In the Width text field, type 1_slot.
- 5 In the **Height** text field, type w_slot.
- **6** Locate the **Position** section. From the **Base** list, choose **Center**.

7 Click 🖺 **Build Selected.**



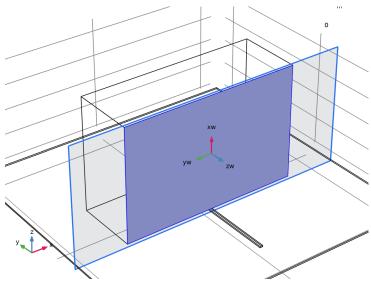
Add a work plane on one of the side walls of the dielectric resonator. You may click Close in the current Work Plane toolbar to access the Geometry toolbar.

Work Plane 2 (wp2)

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Geometry I and choose Work Plane.
- 2 In the Settings window for Work Plane, locate the Plane Definition section.
- 3 From the Plane type list, choose Face parallel.

4 On the object blk1, select Boundary 3 only.

It might be easier to select the correct boundary by using the Selection List window. To open this window, in the Home toolbar click Windows and choose Selection List. (If you are running the cross-platform desktop, you find Windows in the main menu.)



5 Click Show Work Plane.

Work Plane 2 (wp2)>Plane Geometry Create a circle for the ring strip.

Work Plane 2 (wp2)>Circle 1 (c1)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Circle.
- 2 Click the Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.
- 3 In the Settings window for Circle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 4 In the Radius text field, type 16.8[mm].
- **5** Click to expand the **Layers** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

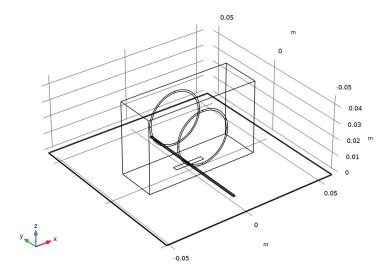
Layer name	Thickness (m)		
Layer 2	1 [mm]		

Copy I (copy I)

I Right-click Geometry I and choose Transforms>Copy.

You may click Close in the current Work Plane toolbar to access the Geometry toolbar.

- **2** Select the object **wp2** only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Copy, locate the Displacement section.
- 4 In the y text field, type 1_resonator.
- 5 Click | Build Selected.



Add a work plane on the top of the dielectric resonator.

Work Plane 3 (wp3)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Swork Plane.
- 2 In the Settings window for Work Plane, locate the Plane Definition section.
- 3 From the Plane type list, choose Face parallel.
- 4 On the object blk1, select Boundary 4 only.
- 5 Click Show Work Plane.

Work Plane 3 (wp3)>Plane Geometry Create a rectangle for the short strip.

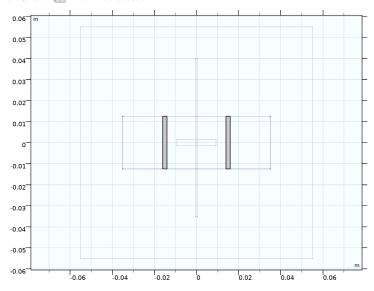
Work Plane 3 (wp3)>Rectangle 1 (r1)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 Click the Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.
- 3 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 4 In the Width text field, type 2[mm].

- 5 In the **Height** text field, type 1_resonator.
- 6 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 7 In the xw text field, type -d array/2.

Work Plane 3 (wp3)>Array I (arr1)

- I In the Work Plane toolbar, click Transforms and choose Array.
- 2 Select the object rI only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Array, locate the Size section.
- 4 In the xw size text field, type 2.
- **5** Locate the **Displacement** section. In the **xw** text field, type **d_array**.
- 6 Click | Build Selected.



Finish geometry creation by adding a sphere for the PMLs.

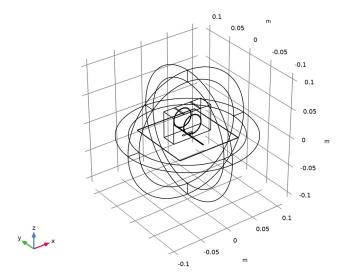
PMLs

- I Right-click Geometry I and choose Sphere.
- 2 In the Settings window for Sphere, type PMLs in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Size section. In the Radius text field, type 0.11.

4 Click to expand the **Layers** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer name	Thickness (m)		
Layer 1	0.02		

- 5 Click **Build All Objects**.
- 6 Click the **Q** Zoom Out button in the Graphics toolbar.



The finished geometry describes the dielectric resonator antenna on a thin substrate enclosed by PMLs.

DEFINITIONS

Perfectly Matched Layer I (pml1)

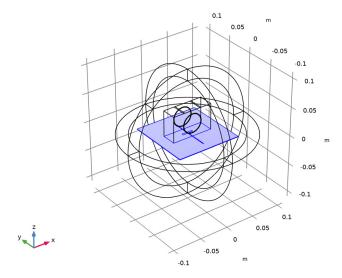
- I In the Definitions toolbar, click Perfectly Matched Layer.
- 2 Select Domains 1–4 and 10–13 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Perfectly Matched Layer, locate the Geometry section.
- 4 From the Type list, choose Spherical.

Create a set of selections for use before setting up the physics. First, create a selection for the substrate.

Substrate

I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click 堶 **Explicit**.

- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Substrate in the Label text field.
- **3** Select Domains 6, 8, and 9 only.

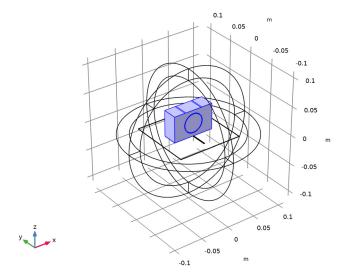


Add selections for the dielectric resonator, microstrip line, ground plane, and metal strips.

Dielectric resonator

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **\(\bigcap_{\text{a}} \) Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Dielectric resonator in the Label text field.

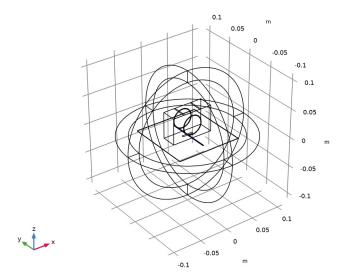
3 Select Domain 7 only.



Microstrip line

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click 堶 **Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Microstrip line in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.

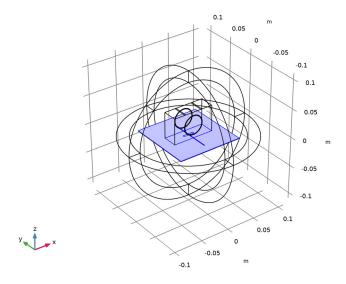
4 Select Boundaries 34 and 40 only.



Ground plane

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click 🔓 **Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Ground plane in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.

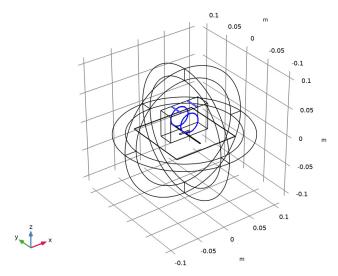
4 Select Boundaries 16, 20, 35, 36, 42, 43, and 66 only.



Metal strips

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click 🔓 **Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Metal strips in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.

4 Select Boundaries 23–27, 52, 53, 62, 63, and 69 only.



5 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

To get a better view, suppress some of the boundaries. Furthermore, by assigning the resulting settings to a View node, you can easily return to the same view later by clicking the Go to View 5 button in the Graphics toolbar.

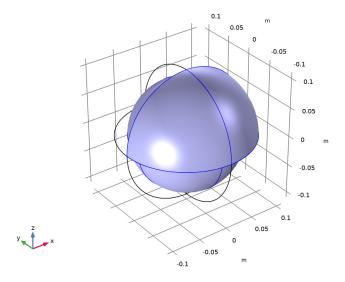
View 5

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **View**.
- 2 Click the Wireframe Rendering button in the Graphics toolbar.

Hide for Physics I

- I Right-click View 5 and choose Hide for Physics.
- 2 In the Settings window for Hide for Physics, click Show Entities in Selection.

3 Select Domains 2, 5, and 11 only.



ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, FREQUENCY DOMAIN (EMW)

Perfect Electric Conductor 2

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Electromagnetic Waves, Frequency Domain (emw) and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.
- 2 In the Settings window for Perfect Electric Conductor, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Microstrip line.

Perfect Electric Conductor 3

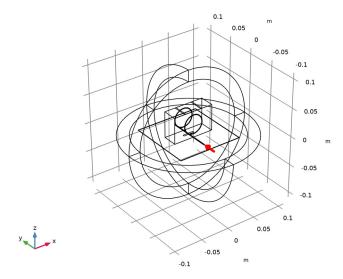
- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.
- 2 In the Settings window for Perfect Electric Conductor, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Ground plane.

Perfect Electric Conductor 4

- In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.
- 2 In the Settings window for Perfect Electric Conductor, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Metal strips.

Lumped Port I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Lumped Port**.
- 2 Click the 🔍 Zoom In button in the Graphics toolbar, a couple of times to see the port boundary clearly.
- 3 Select Boundary 33 only.



For the first port, wave excitation is **on** by default.

4 Click the Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.

Far-Field Domain 1

In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Far-Field Domain.

MATERIALS

Next, assign material properties on the model. Begin by specifying air for all domains.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click 4 Add Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.

MATERIALS

Override the substrate with the dielectric material of $\varepsilon_r = 3.38$.

Substrate

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp I) right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type Substrate in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Geometric Entity Selection section. From the Selection list, choose Substrate.
- **4** Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Relative permittivity	epsilonr_iso; epsilonrii = epsilonr_iso, epsilonrij = 0	3.38	I	Basic
Relative permeability	mur_iso; murii = mur_iso, murij = 0	1	I	Basic
Electrical conductivity	sigma_iso; sigmaii = sigma_iso, sigmaij = 0	0	S/m	Basic

Override the dielectric resonator with the quartz.

ADD MATERIAL

- I Go to the Add Material window.
- 2 In the tree, select AC/DC>Quartz.
- 3 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 4 In the Home toolbar, click Radd Material to close the Add Material window.

MATERIALS

Quartz (mat3)

- I In the Settings window for Material, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 2 From the Selection list, choose Dielectric resonator.

MESH I

Choose the maximum mesh size in the air domain smaller than 0.2 wavelengths using the parameter h_max that you defined earlier. For the dielectric materials, scale the mesh size by the inverse of the square root of the relative dielectric constant.

Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Mesh I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.
- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 5 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.
- 7 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- **8** Click the **Custom** button.
- 9 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. Select the Maximum element size check box.
- 10 In the associated text field, type h max.

Size 2

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Substrate.
- **5** Locate the **Element Size** section. Click the **Custom** button.
- 6 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. Select the Maximum element size check box.
- 7 In the associated text field, type h max/sqrt(3.38).

Size 3

- I Right-click Mesh I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Dielectric resonator.
- **5** Locate the **Element Size** section. Click the **Custom** button.
- 6 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. Select the Maximum element size check box.
- 7 In the associated text field, type h max/sqrt (4.2).

Free Tetrahedral I

- I In the Mesh toolbar, click A Free Tetrahedral.
- 2 In the Settings window for Free Tetrahedral, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.
- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 5-9 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.

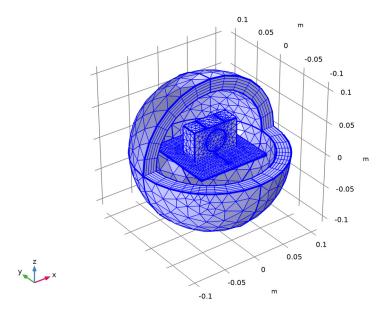
Use a swept mesh for the PMLs.

Swept I

In the Mesh toolbar, click A Swept.

Distribution I

- I Right-click Swept I and choose Distribution.
- 2 Right-click Distribution I and choose Build All.



3 In the Settings window for Distribution, in the Graphics window toolbar, click ▼ next to Go to Default View, then choose Go to View I, to reset the visibility state of the hidden domains in preparation of the results processing.

STUDY I

Step 1: Frequency Domain

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Frequency Domain.
- 2 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Frequencies text field, type f0.
- 4 In the Home toolbar, click **Compute**.

Adjust settings to see the E-field norm as a dB scale.

RESULTS

Electric Field (emw)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Electric Field (emw).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Plot Settings section.
- 3 Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

Surface 1

Right-click Electric Field (emw) and choose Surface.

Selection 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Surface I and choose Selection.
- 2 In the Settings window for Selection, locate the Selection section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 13-44, 52, 53, 62, 63, 65-72 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.

Surface I

- I In the Model Builder window, click Surface I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type 20*log10(emw.normE).
- 4 In the Electric Field (emw) toolbar, click Plot.
- 5 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Color table list, choose HeatCameraLight.
- 6 From the Color table transformation list, choose None.

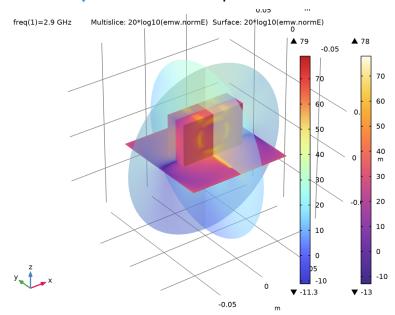
Multislice

I In the Model Builder window, click Multislice.

- 2 In the Settings window for Multislice, locate the Multiplane Data section.
- 3 Find the **Z-planes** subsection. In the **Planes** text field, type 0.
- 4 Locate the Expression section. In the Expression text field, type 20*log10 (emw.normE).

Transparency I

- I Right-click Multislice and choose Transparency.
- 2 In the Electric Field (emw) toolbar, click Plot.
- 3 Click the **Q** Zoom In button in the Graphics toolbar.



Radiation Pattern I

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>2D Far Field (emw) node, then click Radiation Pattern 1.
- 2 In the Settings window for Radiation Pattern, locate the Evaluation section.
- 3 Find the Angles subsection. In the Number of angles text field, type 100.
- 4 Find the Reference direction subsection. In the x text field, type 0.
- 5 In the y text field, type 1.
- 6 Find the Normal vector subsection. In the x text field, type 1.
- 7 In the z text field, type 0.
- 8 Click to expand the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.

9 In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends

E-plane

10 In the 2D Far Field (emw) toolbar, click Plot.

Radiation Pattern 2

- I Right-click Results>2D Far Field (emw)>Radiation Pattern I and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Radiation Pattern, locate the Evaluation section.
- 3 Find the Reference direction subsection. In the x text field, type 1.
- **4** In the **y** text field, type 0.
- **5** Find the **Normal vector** subsection. In the **x** text field, type **0**.
- **6** In the **y** text field, type -1.
- 7 Locate the **Legends** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends

H-plane

8 In the 2D Far Field (emw) toolbar, click Plot.

This is the far-field radiation patterns on the E-plane and H-plane (Figure 2).

3D Far Field, Gain (emw)

Compare the 3D far-field radiation pattern plot with Figure 3.

Inspect the input matching property (S_{11}) at the simulated frequency.