



# REALTEK

## RTL8821AU

### Combo module User's Manual

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## **USING THIS DOCUMENT**

This document is intended for the software engineer's reference and provides detailed programming information.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that this document is current and accurate, more information may have become available subsequent to the production of this guide.

## **REVISION HISTORY**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
0.1	2013/12/20	Preliminary release.

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## 1. General Description

The Realtek RTL8821AU is a highly integrated single-chip 802.11a/b/g/n/ac 1T1R USB2.0 WLAN controller. It combines a WLAN MAC, a 1T1R capable WLAN baseband, BT Protocol Stack (LM, LL, and LE), BT Baseband, modem, and WLAN/BT RF in a single chip. The RTL8821AU provides a complete solution for a high throughput performance integrated wireless LAN and Bluetooth device.

The RTL8821AU WLAN baseband implements Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) with 1 transmit and 1 receive path and is compatible with the 802.11ac specification. Features include one spatial stream transmission, short guard interval (GI) of 400ns, spatial spreading, and transmission over 20MHz, 40MHz and 80MHz channel bandwidth.

For legacy compatibility, Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS), Complementary Code Keying (CCK) and OFDM baseband processing are included to support all 802.11b and 802.11g data rates. Differential phase shift keying modulation schemes, DBPSK and DQPSK with data scrambling capability, are available, and CCK provides support for legacy data rates, with long or short preamble. The high-speed FFT/IFFT paths, combined with BPSK, QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM and 256-QAM modulation of the individual subcarriers and rate compatible punctured convolutional coding with coding rate of 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, and 5/6, provide up to 433.3Mbps for 802.11ac OFDM.

A RTL8821AU built-in enhanced signal detector, adaptive frequency domain equalizer, and a soft-decision Viterbi decoder help to alleviate multi-path effects and mutual interference in the reception of multiple streams. Robust interference detection and suppression are provided to protect against Bluetooth, cordless phone, and microwave oven interference.

Efficient IQ-imbalance, DC offset, phase noise, frequency offset, and timing offset compensations are provided for the radio frequency front-end. Selectable digital transmit and receive FIR filters are provided to meet transmit spectrum mask requirements and to reject adjacent channel interference, respectively.

The RTL8821AU WLAN Controller supports fast receiver Automatic Gain Control (AGC) with synchronous and asynchronous control loops among antennas, antenna diversity functions, and adaptive transmit power control function to obtain better performance in the analog portions of the transceiver.

The RTL8821AU WLAN MAC supports 802.11e for multimedia applications, 802.11i for security, and 802.11n/802.11ac Draft 2.0 for enhanced MAC protocol efficiency. Using packet aggregation techniques such as A-MPDU with BA and A-MSDU, protocol efficiency is significantly improved. Power saving mechanisms such as Legacy Power Save, and U-APSD, reduce the power wasted during idle time, and compensate for the extra power required to transmit OFDM. The RTL8821AU provides simple legacy and 20MHz/40MHz/80MHz co-existence mechanisms to ensure backward and network compatibility.

The RTL8821AU Bluetooth controller complies with Bluetooth core specification v4.0, and supports dual mode (BR/EDR + AMP + Low Energy Controllers). It is compatible with previous versions, including v2.1 + EDR and v3.0 + HS. For BR/EDR, it supports scatternet topology and allows four active links in slave mode, and seven active links in master mode. For Low Energy, it supports multiple states and allows eight active links in master mode. The links in BR/EDR and LE can be active simultaneously.

## 2. Product specifications

### 2.1. Environmental

#### 2.1.1. Operating

Operating Temperature: -20 to 70 °C  
 Relative Humidity: 5-90% (non-condensing)

#### 2.1.2. Storage

Temperature: -55 to 125 °C  
 Relevant Humidity: 5-95% (non-condensing)

### 2.2. Functional Specifications

**Table 1. Functional Specifications**

<b>Standards</b>	<b>WiFi:</b> IEEE 802.11a/b/g/n/e/i/h/k/r/draft-ac <b>BT:</b> V2.1+EDR/BT v3.0/BT v3.0+HS/BT v4.0
<b>Bus Interface</b>	<b>WiFi:</b> USB <b>BT:</b> USB
<b>Form Factor</b>	USB module
<b>Data Rate</b>	<b>802.11b:</b> 11, 5.5, 2, 1 Mbps; <b>802.11g:</b> 54, 48, 36, 24, 18, 12, 9, 6 Mbps <b>802.11n:</b> MCS 0 to 15 for HT20MHz; MCS 0 to 15 for HT40MHz <b>802.11ac:</b> MCS 0 to 8 for HT20MHz; MCS 0 to 9 for HT40MHz; MCS 0 to 9 for HT80MHz
<b>Media Access Control</b>	<b>WiFi:</b> CSMA/CA with ACK <b>WiFi + BT:</b> AFH, Time Division
<b>Modulation Techniques</b>	<b>802.11b:</b> CCK, DQPSK, DBPSK <b>802.11a/g/n:</b> 64 QAM, 16 QAM, QPSK, BPSK <b>802.11ac:</b> 256QAM, 64 QAM, 16 QAM, QPSK, BPSK <b>BT:</b>

	GFSK, $\pi/4$ DQPSK, 8DPSK
<b>Network Architecture</b>	<b>WiFi:</b> Ad-hoc mode (Peer-to-Peer ) Infrastructure mode
<b>Operating Channel</b>	<b>BT 2.4GHz:</b> Ch. 0 ~78  <b>WiFi 2.4GHz:</b>  11: (Ch. 1-11) – United States 13: (Ch. 1-13) – Europe 14: (Ch. 1-14) – Japan  <b>WiFi 5GHz:</b>  20MHz band width : Ch 36, 40, 44, 48, Ch 52, 56, 60, 64, Ch 100, 104, 108, 112, 116, 120, 124, 128,132,136, 140, Ch 149,153, 157,161, 165.  40MHz band width : Ch 38, 46, Ch 54, 62, Ch 102, 110, 118, 126, 134, Ch 151, 159.  80MHz band width : Ch 42 Ch 58 Ch 105, 122 Ch 155.
<b>Frequency Range</b>	2.400GHz ~ 2.4835 GHz 5.1500GHz ~ 5.3500GHz 5.4700GHz ~ 5.7250GHz 5.7250GHz ~ 5.8500GHz
<b>Security</b>	<b>WiFi :</b> WPA, WPA-PSK, WPA2, WPA2-PSK, WEP 64bit & 128bit, IEEE 802.11x, IEEE 802.11i <b>BT:</b> Simple Paring
<b>Operating Voltage</b>	3.3 V $\pm$ 9% I/O supply voltage

## 2.3. Warning

### 3.5.1 Federal Communication Commission Interference Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**FCC Caution:** Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

#### **FCC Radiation Exposure Statement:**

This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator & your body.

Operations in the 5.15-5.25GHz band are restricted to indoor usage only.

IEEE 802.11abgn 2.4G operation of this product in the U.S.A. is firmware-limited to channels 1 through 11.

#### **This device is intended only for OEM integrators under the following conditions:**

- 1) The antenna must be installed such that 20 cm is maintained between the antenna and users, and
- 2) This device and its antenna(s) must not be co-located with any other transmitters except in accordance with FCC multi-transmitter product procedures.
- 3) For all products market in US, OEM has to limit the operation channels in CH1 to CH11 for 2.4G band by supplied firmware programming tool. OEM shall not supply any tool or info to the end-user regarding to Regulatory Domain change.

As long as 3 conditions above are met, further transmitter test will not be required. However, the OEM



integrator is still responsible for testing their end-product for any additional compliance requirements required with this module installed (for example, digital device emissions, PC peripheral requirements, etc.).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In the event that these conditions can not be met (for example certain laptop configurations or co-location with another transmitter), then the FCC authorization is no longer considered valid and the FCC ID can not be used on the final product. In these circumstances, the OEM integrator will be responsible for re-evaluating the end product (including the transmitter) and obtaining a separate FCC authorization.

### **End Product Labeling**

This transmitter module is authorized only for use in device where the antenna may be installed such that 20 cm may be maintained between the antenna and users. The final end product must be labeled in a visible area with the following: “Contains FCC ID: TX2-RTL8821AU”.

### **Manual Information To the End User**

This module is intended for OEM integrator. The OEM integrator is responsible for the compliance to all the rules that apply to the product into which this certified RF module is integrated.

Additional testing and certification may be necessary when multiple modules are used.

Devices will not permit operations on channels 120-132 for 11a and 11n/a which overlap the 5600 - 5650 MHz band.

## **3.5.2 Industry Canada Statement**

This device complies with RSS-210 of the Industry Canada Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

- 1) this device may not cause interference and
- 2) this device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device

### French translation:

Ce dispositif est conforme à la norme CNR-210 d'Industrie Canada applicable aux appareils radio exempts de licence. Son fonctionnement est sujet aux deux conditions suivantes: (1) le dispositif ne doit pas produire de brouillage préjudiciable, et (2) ce dispositif doit accepter tout brouillage reçu, y compris un brouillage susceptible de provoquer un fonctionnement indésirable.

(The user manual of transmitter devices equipped with detachable antennas shall contain the following information in a conspicuous location: )

This device has been designed to operate with an antenna having a maximum gain of 5 dBi. Antenna having a higher gain is strictly prohibited per regulations of Industry Canada. The required antenna impedance is 50 ohms.

**CAN ICES-3 (B)/NMB-3(B)**

Under Industry Canada regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by Industry Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.

**French translation:**

(Le manuel d'utilisation de dispositifs émetteurs équipés d'antennes amovibles doit contenir les informations suivantes dans un endroit bien en vue:)

Ce dispositif a été conçu pour fonctionner avec une antenne ayant un gain maximum de 5 dBi. Une antenne à gain plus élevé est strictement interdite par les règlements d'Industrie Canada. L'impédance d'antenne requise est de 50 ohms.

Conformément à la réglementation d'Industrie Canada, le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par Industrie Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:****IC Radiation Exposure Statement:**

This equipment complies with IC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator & your body.

**French translation:**

NOTE IMPORTANTE: (Pour l'utilisation de dispositifs mobiles)

Déclaration d'exposition aux radiations:

Cet équipement est conforme aux limites d'exposition aux rayonnements IC établies pour un environnement non contrôlé. Cet équipement doit être installé et utilisé avec un minimum de 20 cm de distance entre la source de rayonnement et votre corps.

**Caution: (DFS band usage-full bands)**

- (i) the device for operation in the band 5150-5250 MHz is only for indoor use to reduce the potential for harmful interference to co-channel mobile satellite systems;
- (ii) the maximum antenna gain permitted for devices in the bands 5250-5350 MHz and 5470-5725 MHz shall comply with the e.i.r.p. limit; and
- (iii) the maximum antenna gain permitted for devices in the band 5725-5825 MHz shall comply with the e.i.r.p. limits specified for point-to-point and non point-to-point operation as appropriate.

(iv) Users should also be advised that high-power radars are allocated as primary users (i.e. priority users) of the bands 5250-5350 MHz and 5650-5850 MHz and that these radars could cause interference and/or damage to LE-LAN devices.

(v) Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS) for devices operating in the bands 5250- 5350 MHz, 5470-5600 MHz and 5650-5725 MHz

French translation:

Avertissement:

Le guide d'utilisation des dispositifs pour réseaux locaux doit inclure des instructions précises sur les restrictions susmentionnées, notamment :

(i) les dispositifs fonctionnant dans la bande 5 150-5 250 MHz sont réservés uniquement pour une utilisation à l'intérieur afin de réduire les risques de brouillage préjudiciable aux systèmes de satellites mobiles utilisant les mêmes canaux;

(ii) le gain maximal d'antenne permis pour les dispositifs utilisant les bandes 5 250-5 350 MHz et 5 470-5 725 MHz doit se conformer à la limite de p.i.r.e.;

(iii) le gain maximal d'antenne permis (pour les dispositifs utilisant la bande 5 725-5 825 MHz) doit se conformer à la limite de p.i.r.e. spécifiée pour l'exploitation point à point et non point à point, selon le cas.

(iv) De plus, les utilisateurs devraient aussi être avisés que les utilisateurs de radars de haute puissance sont désignés utilisateurs principaux (c.-à-d., qu'ils ont la priorité) pour les bandes 5 250-5 350 MHz et 5 650-5 850 MHz et que ces radars pourraient causer du brouillage et/ou des dommages aux dispositifs LAN-EL.

(v) Sélection dynamique de fréquences (DFS) pour les dispositifs fonctionnant dans les bandes 5250-5350 MHz, 5470-5600 MHz et 5650-5725 MHz.

**This device is intended only for OEM integrators under the following conditions:**

- 1) The antenna must be installed such that 20 cm is maintained between the antenna and users, and
- 2) This device and its antenna(s) must not be co-located with any other transmitters except in accordance with IC multi-transmitter product procedures. Referring to the multi-transmitter policy, multiple-transmitter(s) and module(s) can be operated simultaneously without reassessment permissive change.
- 3) For all products market in Canada, OEM has to limit the operation channels in CH1 to CH11 for 2.4G band by supplied firmware programming tool. OEM shall not supply any tool or info to the end-user regarding to Regulatory Domain change.

As long as 3 conditions above are met, further transmitter test will not be required. However, the OEM integrator is still responsible for testing their end-product for any additional compliance requirements required with this module installed.

The device could automatically discontinue transmission in case of absence of information to transmit, or operational failure. Note that this is not intended to prohibit transmission of control or signaling information or the use of repetitive codes where required by the technology.

French translation :

Cet appareil est conçu uniquement pour les intégrateurs OEM dans les conditions suivantes: (Pour utilisation de dispositif module)

- 1) L'antenne doit être installée de telle sorte qu'une distance de 20 cm est respectée entre l'antenne et les utilisateurs, et
- 2) Cet appareil et son antenne (s) ne doit pas être co-localisés ou fonctionnement en association avec une autre antenne ou transmetteur.
- 3) Pour tous les produits vendus au Canada, OEM doit limiter les fréquences de fonctionnement CH1 à CH11 pour bandes de fréquences 2.4G grâce aux outils de microprogrammation fournis. OEM ne doit pas fournir d'outil ou d'informations à l'utilisateur final en ce qui concerne le changement de réglementation de domaine.

Tant que les 3 conditions ci-dessus sont remplies, des essais supplémentaires sur l'émetteur ne seront pas nécessaires. Toutefois, l'intégrateur OEM est toujours responsable des essais sur son produit final pour toutes exigences de conformité supplémentaires requis pour ce module installé.

Le dispositif pourrait automatiquement cesser d'émettre en cas d'absence d'informations à transmettre, ou une défaillance opérationnelle. Notez que ce n'est pas l'intention d'interdire la transmission des informations de contrôle ou de signalisation ou l'utilisation de codes répétitifs lorsque requis par la technologie.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In the event that these conditions can not be met (for example certain laptop configurations or co-location with another transmitter), then the IC authorization is no longer considered valid and the IC ID can not be used on the final product. In these circumstances, the OEM integrator will be responsible for re-evaluating the end product (including the transmitter) and obtaining a separate IC authorization.

French translation:

**NOTE IMPORTANTE:**

Dans le cas où ces conditions ne peuvent être satisfaites (par exemple pour certaines configurations d'ordinateur portable ou de certaines co-localisation avec un autre émetteur), l'autorisation du Canada n'est

plus considéré comme valide et l'ID IC ne peut pas être utilisé sur le produit final. Dans ces circonstances, l'intégrateur OEM sera chargé de réévaluer le produit final (y compris l'émetteur) et l'obtention d'une autorisation distincte au Canada.

### **End Product Labeling**

This transmitter module is authorized only for use in device where the antenna may be installed such that 20 cm may be maintained between the antenna and users. The final end product must be labeled in a visible area with the following: "Contains IC: 6317A-RTL8821AU".

#### French translation:

Plaque signalétique du produit final

Ce module émetteur est autorisé uniquement pour une utilisation dans un dispositif où l'antenne peut être installée de telle sorte qu'une distance de 20cm peut être maintenue entre l'antenne et les utilisateurs. Le produit final doit être étiqueté dans un endroit visible avec l'inscription suivante: "Contient des IC: 6317A-RTL8821AU".

### **Manual Information To the End User**

The OEM integrator has to be aware not to provide information to the end user regarding how to install or remove this RF module in the user's manual of the end product which integrates this module.

The end user manual shall include all required regulatory information/warning as show in this manual.

#### French translation:

Manuel d'information à l'utilisateur final

L'intégrateur OEM doit être conscient de ne pas fournir des informations à l'utilisateur final quant à la façon d'installer ou de supprimer ce module RF dans le manuel de l'utilisateur du produit final qui intègre ce module. Le manuel de l'utilisateur final doit inclure toutes les informations réglementaires requises et avertissements comme indiqué dans ce manuel.

### **3.5.3 NCC 警語**

經型式認證合格之低功率射頻電機，非經許可，公司、商號或使用者均不得擅自變更頻率、加大功率或變更原設計之特性及功能。

低功率射頻電機之使用不得影響飛航安全及干擾合法通信；經發現有干擾現象時，應立即停用，並改善至無干擾時方得繼續使用。前項合法通信，指依電信法規定作業之無線電通信。低功率射頻電

機須忍受合法通信或工業、科學及醫療用電波輻射性電機設備之干擾。

在5.25-5.35GHz頻帶內操作之無線資訊傳輸設備，限室內使用。

本模組於取得認證後將依規定於模組本體標示審合格籤，並要求平台上標示「本產品內含射頻模組：ID編號」

### **3.5.4 Japan Statement**

Host system must be labeled with "Contains MIC ID:xxxxxx", MIC ID displayed on label.

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