

Shielded Room Measurement System

**Model SG1000A
Synthesized Signal Generator**

**Model PR1000A
Preamplifier**

User's Manual

February 20, 2003



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1.0 System Description

The SG1000A Signal Generator and PR1000A Preamplifier have been designed to simplify the measurement of shielding integrity in a shielded enclosure. When coupled with a high stability spectrum analyzer and an appropriate selection of test antennas, the SG1000A/PR1000A combination can measure shielding effectiveness at all of the NSA 94-106 (supersedes NSA 65-6) defined test frequencies from 1 kHz to 10 GHz.

The high stability of the SG1000A signal generator is sufficient to allow all measurements to be made with a companion spectrum analyzer operating at an IF resolution bandwidth as low as 10 Hz at 10GHz. The narrow bandwidth coupled with a 3.5 dB preamplifier noise figure and the high signal generator output power, is adequate to achieve measurement dynamic ranges of 160 dB or more.

2.0 Overview of the SG1000A Signal Generator

The SG1000A generates output signals as outlined in DOD specification NSA 94-106. These frequencies include 1 kHz, 10 kHz, 100 kHz, 1 MHz, 10 MHz, 100 MHz, 400 MHz, 1 GHz and 10 GHz. Each frequency except 10 GHz can be varied up to +/- 5 percent in order to avoid interfering signals. The 10 GHz frequency can be varied up to +/- 2 percent.

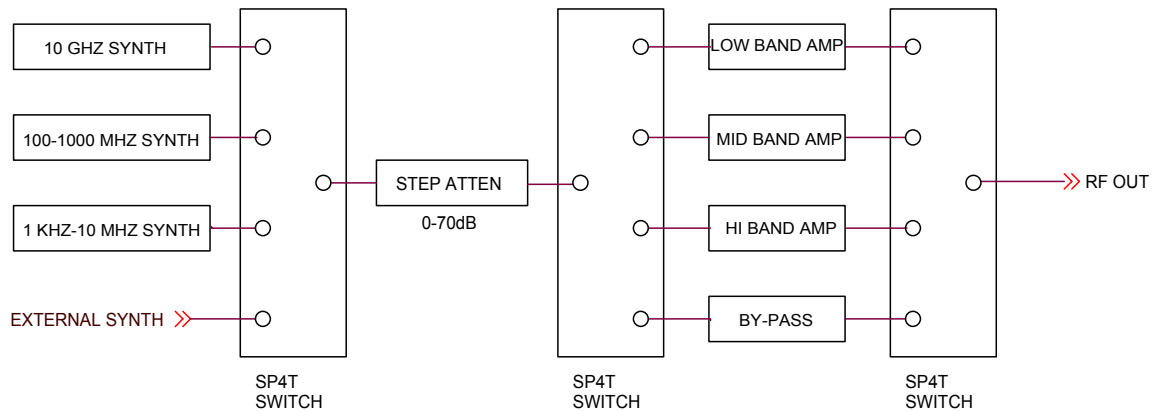


Figure 1
SG1000A Conceptual Block Diagram

Figure 1 is a basic block diagram of the SG1000A. The heart of the SG1000A consists of three synthesizers, one covering the 1kHz through 10 MHz, the second generating 100 MHz through 1 GHz, and the third generating 10 GHz. One of these three synthesizer outputs, or the external input, is switched to the 70dB step attenuator to generate the 9 target frequency bands. Output levels can be adjusted in 10 dB steps over a 110 dB range by either routing the signal to the appropriate nominal 30dB gain linear power amplifier or to the nominal 10dB attenuator by-pass. The output frequency and the attenuator settings are both indicated via front panel LED displays.

Nominal output power levels are 10 watts from 1 kHz to 10 MHz, 1 watt from 100 MHz to 1 GHz, and 1 watt at 10GHz. To ensure operator safety during measurement setup periods, a front panel switch will disable the power amplifiers without turning off the synthesizer. The power amplifiers should be disabled whenever disconnecting the antenna or cables from the RF output connector.

The signal generator can be configured for bench top or rack mount operation. Power requirement is 230 watts at 110/220 VAC.

3.0 Overview of the PR1000A Preamplifier

The PR1000A amplifies the received signal from the test antenna and masks the high noise figure of the companion test receiver or spectrum analyzer. The PR1000A, when used with an Agilent 8562E spectrum analyzer (or equivalent) will ensure that the system noise figure will be less than 4.5 dB at all test frequencies from 1 kHz to 10 GHz. When used with a spectrum analyzer measurement bandwidth of 100 Hz, the system exhibits a sensitivity of -150 dBm at the test antenna output.

A block diagram of the PR1000A is shown in Figure 2. At frequencies from 1 kHz to 1 GHz, the test antenna is connected to the low band preamplifier. The preamp output is switched by an SPDT electro-mechanical coaxial switch to the test receiver.

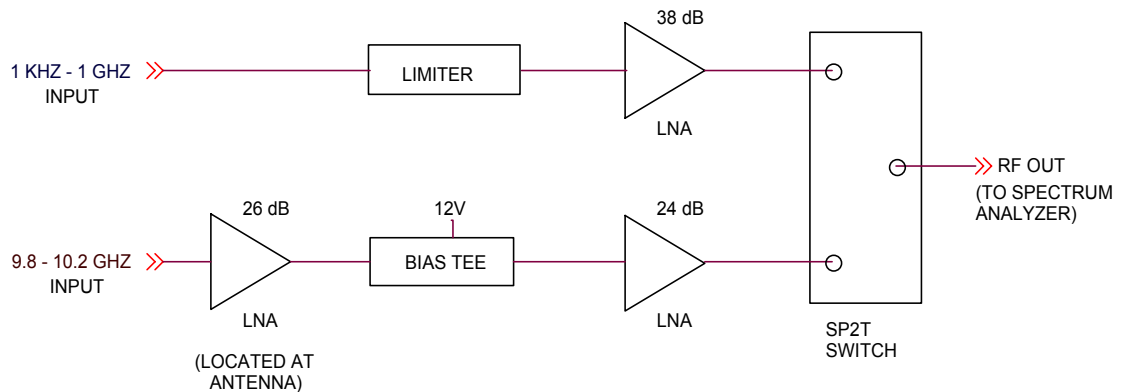


Figure 2
PR1000A Conceptual Block Diagram

To overcome high cable loss between the test antenna and the PR1000A assembly at 10 GHz, a remote low noise pre-amplifier (Praxsym PN 310-010091-001) is mounted directly onto the 10 GHz antenna. A bias tee inside the PR1000A chassis powers the remote preamp through the coax cable interconnecting the PR1000A and the 10 GHz test antenna. Additional gain at 10 GHz is provided by a second pre-amplifier in the PR1000A chassis. The 10 GHz amplified signal is routed to the test receiver through the SPDT coaxial switch. Using this configuration, the PR1000A can be interfaced to the 10 GHz test antenna with cables having insertion loss as high as 20 dB without significantly degrading the overall system sensitivity.

The PR1000A is supplied in a 19" wide x 1.75" high x 10" deep chassis. The unit can be configured for bench top or rack mount operation. Power requirement is 15 watts at 110/220 VAC.

System Noise Figure

Several factors need to be considered when calculating the system noise figure of the receiver. The noise figure of a spectrum analyzer is the difference (in dB) between the theoretical value of noise power density in a 1 Hz bandwidth given by KTB (Boltzman's constant, temperature in degrees Kelvin, and bandwidth) which is -174dBm/Hz at room temperature and the spectrum analyzer's displayed average noise level normalized to 1 Hz. For example if the spectrum analyzer has a specified noise level of -145dBm in a 1 Hz bandwidth at a specified frequency, the difference between this and -174dBm/Hz is 29dB and is the noise figure of the spectrum analyzer at that frequency. The displayed average noise level specification requires that the input RF attenuator be set to 0dB. Every dB that the input attenuator setting is increased from a setting of zero will add as many dB to the noise figure of the spectrum analyzer calculated above.

To achieve a 4.5dB system noise figure at 10GHz using a spectrum analyzer with a noise figure of 29dB, the external LNA provides 26dB of gain with a noise figure of less than 2.5dB, followed by a transmission line with up to 20dB of loss, followed by the PR1000A with 24dB of gain with a noise figure of 3.5dB.

4.0 Shield Measurement Techniques

A typical test setup is shown in Figure 3. The shielding effectiveness measurement is made with RF substitution techniques.

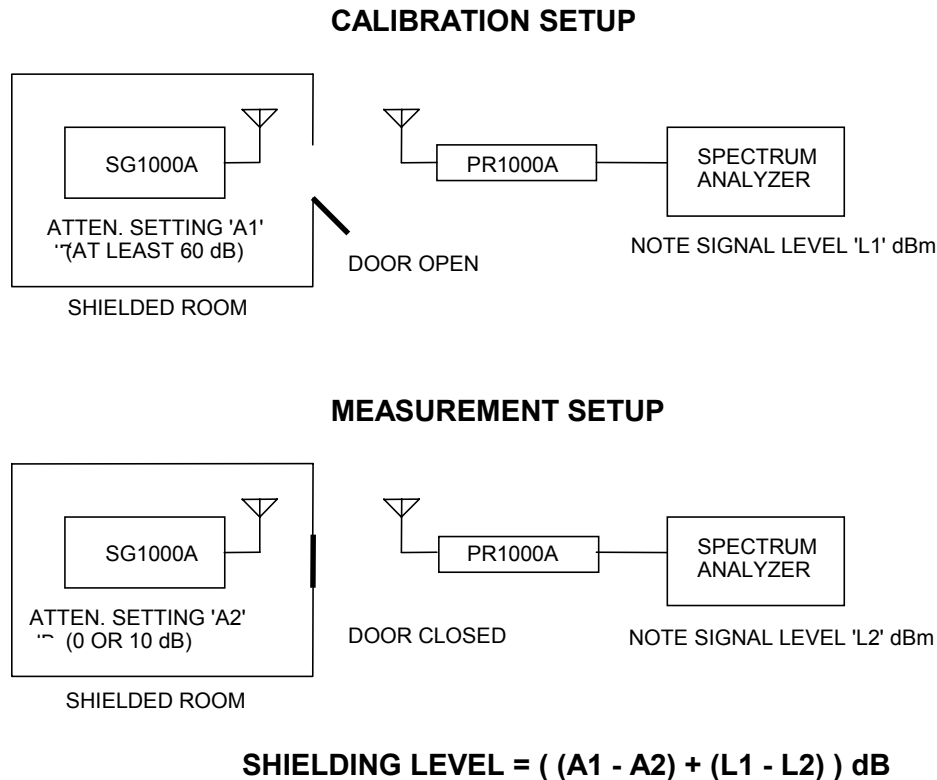


Figure 3
Typical Measurement Setup

The SG1000A is installed inside the enclosure with the appropriate antenna. The PR1000A, spectrum analyzer, and receive antenna are located outside the enclosure. An initial measurement is made with the enclosure door in an open position, and the receive and transmit antennas separated by the prescribed distance. The SG1000A attenuator is set to “A1” (at least 60 dB of attenuation), and a reference signal level, “L1”, is measured on the spectrum analyzer and recorded.

With the door closed and the SG1000A attenuator set to “A2” (0 or 10 dB of attenuation), a new signal level, “L2”, is measured on the spectrum analyzer. The addition of the change in the SG1000A attenuator setting (A1-A2) and the spectrum analyzer signal level (L1-L2) yields the shielding level offered by the enclosure between the two antennas. The antennas can then be relocated to check the shielding level at different locations in the enclosure.

5.0 Operating the SG1000A

Plug the SG1000A into 110/220 VAC 50/60Hz power source. The instrument contains a universal power supply that automatically adjusts to any power source in this range.

Figure 4 depicts the front panel of the SG1000A.



Figure 4
SG1000A Front Panel

Power-On State

Toggle the AC power switch. The embedded light will illuminate. The DC Status LED will light indicating that the power supply is operating correctly. The instrument will power-on in the 'Internal' mode, employing the on-board synthesizers. The Output Frequency readout will display '1.0000 GHz,' the power-on default band. The Attenuation readout will show '110 dB', maximum attenuation. The Power Amp Enable button is not lit, indicating that the power amp is not powered.

The absence of any lit LEDs in the 'EXTERNAL' sector of the front panel together with a valid frequency in the Output Frequency readout indicates that one of the internal synthesizers is selected.

Warm Up Period

The SG1000A contains an oven controlled crystal oscillator (OCXO) that is used as a reference for the synthesizer circuits. Once the generator is powered on, the user should wait five minutes to insure that the oven has stabilized. Once stabilized, the output frequency of the SG1000A will normally drift less than +/-0.2ppm across the temperature range. This high stability reference is installed in generators starting with serial number 201.

Frequency Fine-Tuning

Use the ‘Vernier’ control in the Output Frequency sector to adjust the frequency up or down. This list indicates the adjustment range and step sizes for the available bands.

Frequency Band	Adjustment Range	Step Size
1 kHz	.95 to 1.05 kHz (+/-5%)	1 Hz
10 kHz	9.5 to 10.5 kHz (+/-5%)	10 Hz
100 kHz	95 to 105 kHz (+/-5%)	100 Hz
1 MHz	.95 to 1.05 MHz (+/-5%)	1 kHz
10 MHz	9.5 to 10.5 MHz (+/-5%)	10 kHz
100 MHz	95 to 105 MHz (+/-5%)	100 kHz
400 MHz	380 to 420 MHz (+/-5%)	100 kHz
1 GHz	.95 to 1.05 GHz (+/-5%)	1 MHz
10 GHz	9.8 to 10.2 GHz (+/-2%)	1 MHz

Pressing the ‘Center’ switch will return the frequency to the center of the selected band.

Switching Bands

Use the ‘Band’ arrow pushbuttons to move from band to band. The last selected target frequency in each band will be stored and recalled when that band is selected. At power-on the target frequency for each band defaults to the band-center frequency. Each changing of the band will cause the ‘Power Amp’ to be disabled.

Enabling Power Output

Pressing the ‘Power Amp Enable’ switch will enable one of the three power amplifiers. The LED in the Enable switch will indicate this state. Depending on the selected ATTENUATION, signal levels as high as 10 watts are directed to the OUTPUT connector. A load should always be connected to the OUTPUT connector when the power amplifiers are enabled. Any change of band will cause the output to be disabled, requiring it to be manually enabled again.

When the Enable switch is pressed, the RF output will not appear on the connector for about five seconds, the Enable LED rapidly blinking during this time. After the RF signal is present and the LED is lit steadily, a depression of the Enable switch will immediately shut off the signal, extinguishing the LED.

If the Enable switch is pressed during the five seconds while the LED is rapidly blinking, the turn-on of the Output will be delayed an additional two minutes. During this period the LED assumes a slower blink rate. If the Enable switch is depressed again during this two-minute period, the request for Output will immediately be terminated. Once the OUTPUT has been enabled via the ‘two minute’ delay mode, the output will remain on for 10 minutes and will then be automatically disabled.

Note: Do not change the state of any front panel control while the Power Amp Output is in a blinking state. To do so may throw the frequency or attenuation readouts out of sync with the true state of the instrument. The request for Output should first be terminated by pressing the Enable once (in slow blink mode) or twice (in fast blink mode.)

The ‘Overtemp’ LED will illuminate if the low band power amplifier becomes overheated. This is an abnormal condition. Output will be disabled and will remain disabled and the LED will remain ON until the instrument is power cycled. It’s a good idea to let the instrument continue to run for a few minutes in the ‘Overtemp’ condition to give the fans an opportunity to cool the overheated amplifier. Check the fan inlets for obstructions. Move the instrument to a cooler environment if the problem persists.

Adjusting the Output Power

Use the ‘Attenuation’ Up or Down switches to control the magnitude of the Output signal. The output signal can be attenuated up to 110 dB (90 dB for the two bottom bands) from the rated output of each power amplifier. The maximum output and the allowable attenuation range for each band are indicated in this table.

Frequency Band	Maximum Power Output	Attenuation Range
1 kHz	10 W	0 to 90 dB
10 kHz	10 W	0 to 90 dB
100 kHz	10 W	0 to 110 dB
1 MHz	10 W	0 to 110 dB
10 MHz	10 W	0 to 110 dB
100 MHz	1 W	0 to 110 dB
400 MHz	1 W	0 to 110 dB
1 GHz	1 W	0 to 110 dB
10 GHz	1 W	0 to 110 dB

When switching bands, the attenuation readout will not change as long as the selected attenuation is within the allowable range for the new target band. For example, when switching from the 100 kHz band to the 10 kHz band, an attenuation level of 100 dB or 110 dB will automatically change to 90 dB. Then, when switching from the 10 kHz band to the 100 kHz band, an attenuation level of 90 dB will remain at 90 dB.

At power-on the attenuation level defaults to 110 dB (at 1 GHz.)

When operating at attenuation levels greater than 70dB, the power amplifiers are disabled, and the signals are routed thru the by-pass channel as shown in Figure 1. The POWER AMP ENABLE LED will remain lit to indicate to the operator that a valid RF signal is being applied to the OUTPUT connector.

External Synthesizer Operation

Frequencies other than those provided by the internal synthesizers can be amplified by connecting an appropriate signal to the EXTERNAL INPUT connector. To operate correctly and to avoid damage to the SG1000A, the synthesized frequency should be in the range of 1 kHz - 1 GHz or 9.8-10.2 GHz with a nominal RF level of 0dBm. Application of signal levels greater than +20dBm will cause permanent damage to the step attenuator.

To activate External mode, press the External Enable switch. You will see these indications:

- The External Enable LED will illuminate and stay lit.
- One of the Range Select LEDs will be lit indicating which Power Amp will be used. (The power-on default is '500-1000 MHz.')
- The Output Frequency will display '-----.'
- The Power Amp Enable LED will extinguish if it was previously lit.

Note: In External Mode, the SG1000A's calibration is not in effect. Attenuation levels of 0 dB to 70 dB will be approximately correct, but an attempted setting of 80 dB to 110 dB will be meaningless and erratic.

When External mode is activated, signals applied to the EXTERNAL INPUT connector are routed thru the 0-70dB step attenuator and then thru the selected amplifier as shown in Figure 1. The low band amplifier (.001 – 10MHz) has nominal gain of 40dB and an output power of 10 watts (+40dBm). The maximum power applied to the low band amplifier is approximately 0dBm before the amplifier will be compressed. The mid band amplifier (10-1000MHz) has nominal gain of 36dB and an output power of 1 watt (+30dBm). The maximum power applied to the mid band amplifier is approximately -6dBm before the amplifier will be compressed. The high band amplifier (9.8-10.2GHz) has nominal gain of 36dB and an output power of 1 watt (+30dBm).

Calibration and Remote Operation:

The SG1000A has been calibrated at the factory to meet the specifications detailed in Section 7.0. A DB9 connector located on the instrument's rear panel allows a PC host or other equipment to communicate via RS232 with the embedded microcontroller for this purpose. This facility is documented in Praxsym document 010039ICD and is reserved for factory test and calibration.

6.0 Operating the PR1000A

Plug the PR1000A into 110/220 VAC 50/60Hz power source. The instrument contains a universal power supply that automatically adjusts to any power source in this range.

Power-On State

Toggle the AC power switch. The embedded light will illuminate. The instrument will power-on with one of the low noise amplifiers enabled.

Switching Bands

Use the 'SELECT' switch to change the input from the 1kHz-1GHz band to the 10GHz band. The LED will be illuminated next to the RF connector of the selected band.

External Amplifier Bias

The pushbutton switch labeled "BIAS" turns the bias voltage for the external amplifier on and off. The bias voltage is "on" when the switch is depressed and the embedded LED is illuminated. A nominal 12V bias voltage is applied to the center conductor of the 10GHz RF input connector. A 0.5 amp fuse is located on the right side of the "BIAS" switch to protect the bias tee should the output pin be shorted.



Figure 5
PR1000A Front Panel

7.0 Specifications

SG1000A Signal Generator:

Frequency Band	Tuning Range	Step Size	Maximum Power Out	Attenuation Range
1 kHz	.95 to 1.05 kHz (+/-5%)	1 Hz	40 dBm	0 to 90 dB
10 kHz	9.5 to 10.5 kHz (+/-5%)	10 Hz	40 dBm	0 to 90 dB
100 kHz	95 to 105 kHz (+/-5%)	100 Hz	40 dBm	0 to 110 dB
1 MHz	.95 to 1.05 MHz (+/-5%)	1 kHz	40 dBm	0 to 110 dB
10 MHz	9.5 to 10.5 MHz (+/-5%)	10 kHz	40 dBm	0 to 110 dB
100 MHz	95 to 105 MHz (+/-5%)	100 kHz	30 dBm	0 to 110 dB
400 MHz	380 to 420 MHz (+/-5%)	100 kHz	30 dBm	0 to 110 dB
1 GHz	.95 to 1.05 GHz (+/-5%)	1 MHz	30 dBm	0 to 110 dB
10 GHz	9.8 to 10.2 GHz (+/-2%)	1 MHz	30 dBm	0 to 110 dB

Attenuator Accuracy:	+/- 1.2 dB
Harmonic Spurious:	< - 20 dBc
Non-Harmonic Spurious:	< - 40 dBc
Phase Noise:	-90 dBc/Hz at 10kHz offset (1 GHz band) typical -115 dBc/Hz at 500 kHz (1GHz band) typical
Front Panel Fault Display:	Over-temperature, synthesizer unlock
Power Amplifier Disable:	Front panel illuminated switch
External Signal Input:	Front panel input, switch-enabled frequency range select (0 dBm nominal input level)
Operating Temperature:	0 to + 40 degrees Centigrade
Operating Humidity:	95% relative humidity, non-condensing
Power Supply:	110/220 VAC (auto-adjusting), 48–63 Hz, 230 watts
Size:	19" x 5.25" x 20" (Width x Height x Depth)
Weight:	33 pounds nominal

PR1000A Preamplifier (includes 10 GHz remote amplifier):

Frequency:	1 kHz to 1 GHz (low frequency input) 9.8 to 10.2 GHz (high frequency input)
Gain:	Low frequency input – 38 dB minimum High frequency input – 45 dB minimum (including external 10 GHz amplifier)
Noise Figure:	3.5 dB maximum (1 kHz to 500 MHz) 4.5 dB maximum (500 MHz to 1 GHz) 4.5 dB maximum (9.8 to 10.2 GHz) (including remote preamp and 10 dB of cable loss between remote pre-amplifier and PR1000A)
Output Level:	+ 8 dBm minimum at 1 dB gain compression (output to spectrum analyzer)
VSWR:	2.0:1 maximum all ports
Maximum Safe Input Level:	Low frequency input: +20dBm High frequency input: +20dBm
Internal Bias Tee:	Provides +12 VDC via high frequency input Connector to the remote 10 GHz pre-amplifier (0.5 Ampere fast blow fuse)
Operating Temperature:	0 to +40 degrees Centigrade
Operating Humidity:	95% relative humidity, non-condensing
Power Supply:	110/220 VAC (auto-adjusting), 48–63 Hz, 15 watts (1.0 Ampere fast blow fuse)
Size:	19" x 1.75" x 10" (Width x Height x Depth)
Weight:	6 pounds nominal