Dynamic Transducers and Systems
21592 Marilla St. • Chatsworth, CA 91311 • Phone 818-700-7818
www.dytran.com • e-mail: info@dytran.com

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OPERATING GUIDE

MODEL 3312A2T

IEPE ACCELEROMETER

WITH TEDS ELECTRONIC DATA SHEET FUNCTION,

HERMETICALLY SEALED AND CASE ISOLATED

NOTE:

Model 3312A2T is an IEPE accelerometer with 100mV/g sensitivity and TEDS electronic data sheet function. A built-in charge amplifier amplifies the signal generated by the piezoceramic shear mode seismic element to obtain the 100 mV/g sensitivity.

Model 3312A2T features hermetically sealed construction and electrically isolated case for "off-ground" performance. Hermeticity is obtained by all-welded construction and glass-to-metal sealed connector. Case ground isolation is by an electrically isolated insert located in the base of the instrument. Signal ground return is electrically isolated from the mounting surface.

This guide contains:

1) Outline/installation drawing 127-3312A2T
2) Specifications, Model 3312A2T

NOTE: IEPE is an acronym for Integrated Electronics Piezoelectric types of low impedance voltage mode sensors with built-in amplifiers operating from constant current sources over two wires. **IEPE** instruments are compatible with other comparable systems labeled **LIVM**™.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
MODEL 3312A2T IEPE ACCELEROMETER

INTRODUCTION

The Dytran Model 3312A2T is a ceramic shear element accelerometer featuring IEPE operation and including the IEEE TEDS data sheet function. The self-generating seismic element, converts acceleration to an analogous voltage signal. This very high impedance signal is fed to the gate of a tiny on-board low-noise charge amplifier which converts the signal to a low impedance voltage signal allowing this instrument to drive long cables without appreciable effect on sensitivity and frequency response.

Simple constant current IEPE type power units supply power to operate the integral IC and separate the signal from the DC bias of the internal amplifier. Power and signal are conducted over the same two-wire coaxial cable from power unit to sensor. Model 3312A2T also features signal ground isolation from the mounting surface to avoid annoying ground loops and is hermetically sealed for normal operation in moist and dirty environments.

DESCRIPTION

The seismic mass, made from a very dense tungsten alloy, is tightly preloaded against the ceramic shear mode crystals by means of a special preload screw under hundreds of pounds of force. This is so there is absolutely no relative motion between mass, crystals and base keeping the non-linearity low and the natural frequency high.

The force from acceleration (vibration or shock) acting upon the mounting base, is transferred to the seismic mass through the crystals, stressing the crystals in shear and producing a voltage exactly analogous to the input acceleration. This voltage is impressed across the gate of the MOSFET IC.

Refer to Figure 1 below. Figure 1 is a simplified schematic of the typical accelerometer/power unit system for Model 3312A2T.

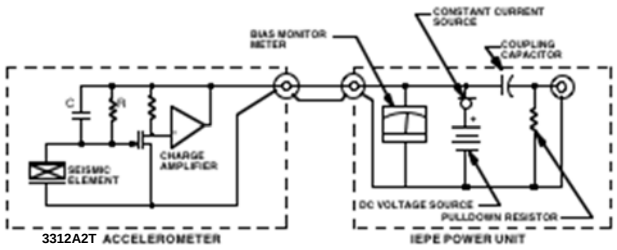

Figure 1 - Electro-mechanical schematic, accelerometer and power unit system.

When constant current from the IEPE power unit is applied to the accelerometer amplifier source terminal, the amplifier "turns on" at approx. +8 Volts DC quiescent bias level. When the accelerometer senses acceleration, the resultant signal is superimposed upon this bias voltage.

In the power unit, in its simplest form, a capacitor blocks the DC bias and allows the dynamic signal voltage to be separated and brought out to an "output" jack on the power unit. At this point the signal may be connected directly to almost any type of readout instrument such as DVM's, oscilloscopes, data collectors, spectrum analyzers, etc. The approximate 100 Ohm output impedance of the signal allows the driving of long cables without adverse effects on sensitivity or frequency response.

Referring to figure 1, the gate resistor R serves to bias the gate of the IC to its proper operating point and it also, in conjunction with total crystal shunt capacitance C, forms a first order high-pass filter which sets the low frequency response of the accelerometer in accordance with the following equation:

$$f_{-3db} = \frac{.16}{RC} \qquad \text{(eq.1)}$$

where:

f_{-3db} = lower -3db frequency (Hz)

R = resistance value R (Ohms)

C = total shunt capacitance C (Farads)

RC = discharge time constant TC (Seconds)

Equation 1 above, defines the low frequency at which the accelerometer sensitivity will be 3db down when compared to the reference sensitivity measured at 100 Hz. The discharge time constant for Model 3306A is 6.2 Sec. yielding a lower -3db frequency of 0.03 Hz, from equation 1. Due to the extremely long dischange time constant the sensor might exhibit spiking during fast thermal transients

As rule of thumb, the lower -5% frequency is three times the -3db frequency or 3 x .03 = 0.09 Hz.

INSTALLATION

(Refer to Outline/Installation drawing 127-3312A2T) To install Model 3312A2T, is necessary to prepare (or find) a flat mounting area of approximately 1 inch diameter. Ideally, the mounting surface should be flat to .001 in. TIR. The flat mounting surface ensures intimate contact between accelerometer base and mounting surface for best high frequency transmissibility, thus accuracy.

At the center of the mounting area, drill and tap a 10-32 mounting port in accordance with instructions on drawing 127-3312A2T. Clean the area to remove all traces of machining chips, burrs, etc.

Next, thread the Mod. 6200 mounting stud into the base of the 3312A2T. The stud should enter easily and thread in up to the raised collar of the stud by hand. This collar prevents the stud from bottoming inside the tapped hole in the 3312A2T where it could possibly cause stresses in the base structure which could, in turn, cause anomalous behavior of the accelerometer at higher frequencies.

After seating the stud, spread a light coating of silicone grease, or other lubricant, on either of the mating surfaces and thread the accelerometer/stud combination into the tapped hole by hand, until the accelerometer base seats against the mounting surface. Check to see that the mating surfaces are meeting properly, i.e., that they are meeting flush and that there is not an angle formed between the two surfaces indicating that they are not co-planar. If this condition is observed, torquing the accelerometer down will strain the base causing possible poor frequency response and even erroneous reference sensitivity. Inspect the perpendicularity of the tapped hole.

If the hand-tight meeting between the two surfaces is satisfactory, torque the 3312A2T to the mating surface with 20 to 25 lb-inches of torque, preferably measuring the torque with a torque wrench torquing on the hex surface only.

Proper torque will ensure the best high frequency performance from the instrument as well as repeatability of sensitivity when mounting and remounting.

Connect the cable (typically Model 6019AXX to the accelerometer snugging up the threaded lock ring tightly by hand.

> **NOTE:** Do not use a pliers or vise grips on the knurled lock ring. This could damage the connector of the 3312A2T and/or the cable connector.

To avoid stressing the cables which could lead to early failure, especially under larger excursions of the test object, it is good practice to tie the cable down to a fixed surface near the mounting area at a point approximately one inch from the accelerometer.

If there is excessive motion between the accelerometer and the nearest tie point, allow a strain loop of cable to let relative motion occur without stressing the cable.

Connect the other end of the cable to the "Sensor" jack of the Dytran power unit (Models 4102, 4103, 4110, 4114, etc.) and switch the power on.

Observe the monitor voltmeter located at the front panel of each of the power units. If the meter reads in the mid-scale region, (labeled "Normal"), this tells you that the cables, accelerometer and power unit are functioning normally and you should be able to proceed with the measurement.

Check for shorts in the cables and connectors if the meter reads in the "Short" region. Check for open cables or connections if the meter reads in the "Open" area. In this manner, the meter becomes a trouble shooting tool for the measurement system.

HIGH FREQUENCY RESPONSE

All piezoelectric accelerometers are basically rigid spring mass systems, i.e., second order systems with essentially zero damping. As a result, these instruments will exhibit a rising characteristic as the resonance is approached. A filter incorporated into Model 3312A2T compensates for this rise.

The frequency at which the sensitivity may increases or decrease by 5% is approximately 4000 Hz, the frequency to which the 3312A2T is calibrated. The accelerometer is usable above this frequency but

to use it above 4000 Hz, it must be calibrated at the specific frequencies of intended use because sensitivity deviations will increase drastically as you greatly exceed this high frequency calibration limit. Consult the factory for special calibrations required above 4000 Hz.

CAUTIONS

1) Do not store or use the 3312A2T above 250°F. To do so can damage the IC amplifier.

2) Do not allow cables to vibrate unrestrained. This will eventually destroy the cable and could lead to system inaccuracies.

3) If the 3312A2T is to be used in rapidly changing thermal environments, call the factory to ask about our thermal insulating boot, Model 6215.

4) Avoid dropping or striking the accelerometer, especially against rigid materials such as concrete and metals. While Model 3312A2T is protected against shock induced overloads, the very high overloads induced by dropping can do permanent damage to the JFET amplifier or to the mechanical structure of the accelerometer. This type of damage is not covered by the warranty.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

The welded construction of the Model 3312A2T precludes field repair.

Should the mounting surface become distorted, nicked and otherwise distressed, it can be redressed by **CAREFULLY** wiping on a new sheet of 400 grit emery paper on top of a clean surface plate. We stress "carefully" because if not done properly, this procedure can do more harm than good. Press the surface firmly against the paper and draw directly toward you in several short precise strokes making sure that the surface remains in full contact with the paper and does not "rock". Rotate the accelerometer 90 degrees and repeat the procedure. When you observe the bottom surface it should appear perfectly flat with straight marks across it. If you cannot achieve flatness with several attempts, return the instrument to the factory for repair.

Should the electrical connector become contaminated with moisture, oil, grease, etc., the entire instrument may be immersed in degreasing solvents to remove the contaminants. After degreasing, place the instrument in a 200 to 250°F oven for one hour to remove all traces of the solvent.

Should a problem be encountered with the operation of the instrument, contact the factory for trouble shooting advice. Often our service engineers may point out something which may have been overlooked and which may save the expense and time of returning the 3312A2T to the factory.

If the instrument must be returned, the service department will issue you a **R**eturned **M**aterials **A**uthorization (**RMA**) number to aid in tracking the repair through the system.

Do not send the instrument back without first obtaining an RMA number. At this time you will be advised of the preferred shipping method.

A short note describing the problem, included with the returned instrument, will aid in trouble shooting at the factory and will be appreciated.

We will not proceed with a non-warranty repair without first calling to notify you of the expected charges. There is no charge for evaluation of the unit.