

PIM Master™ MW82119A

Transmit Frequency Range

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Overview:

The MW82119A PIM Master™ from Anritsu is a family of high power, battery operated PIM test instruments designed for maximum portability. These instruments utilize a filter combiner to maximize RF efficiency and minimize battery consumption during use. The F₁ and F₂ frequency range for each analyzer has been designed to cover the maximum possible range of IM3 frequencies for that band. The fact that some frequencies in the downlink band are not able to be selected (guard band frequencies) has no impact on the instrument's ability to test the full range of possible IM3 frequencies.

Background:

Passive intermodulation (PIM) is interference generated by the downlink signals at a cell site interacting with non-linear junctions or non-linear materials (PIM sources) in the RF path. These PIM sources act like a mixer, generating new frequencies that are mathematical combinations of the downlink frequencies present. PIM that falls in an operator's uplink band can elevate the noise floor, resulting in higher dropped call rates, higher access failures and lower data transmission rates.

The MW82119A PIM Master from Anritsu is a specialized test instrument designed to help operators find and eliminate PIM sources at a cell site. The MW82119A generates two equal power test signals at frequencies F₁ and F₂, combines these test signals together and feeds them into the system under test. The specified intermodulation product (2F₁ ± F₂), (2F₂ ± F₁) etc. that falls within an operator's uplink band is measured and displayed to the test operator.

The third order intermodulation products (IM3) typically represent the worst case condition of these unwanted signals. By measuring the magnitude of the IM3 produced by the test signals F₁ and F₂, operators are able to characterize the linearity of that system. The higher the linearity, the lower IM3 will be. When the linearity of the system is improved, all IM products that might fall in an operator's uplink band can be reduced to a level that will not cause interference.

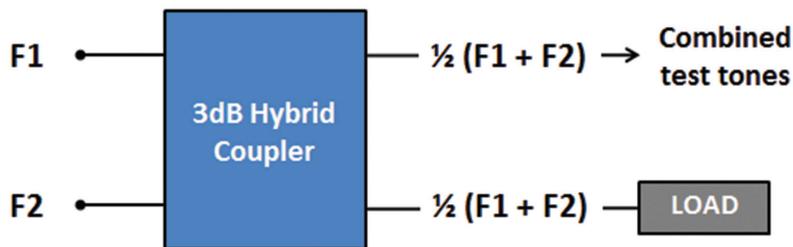
PIM test equipment uses either a Filter Combiner or a Hybrid Combiner to combine the two test signals before presenting them to the system under test. Each combining technology has advantages and disadvantages that must be considered when designing PIM test instruments.

Hybrid Combiner:

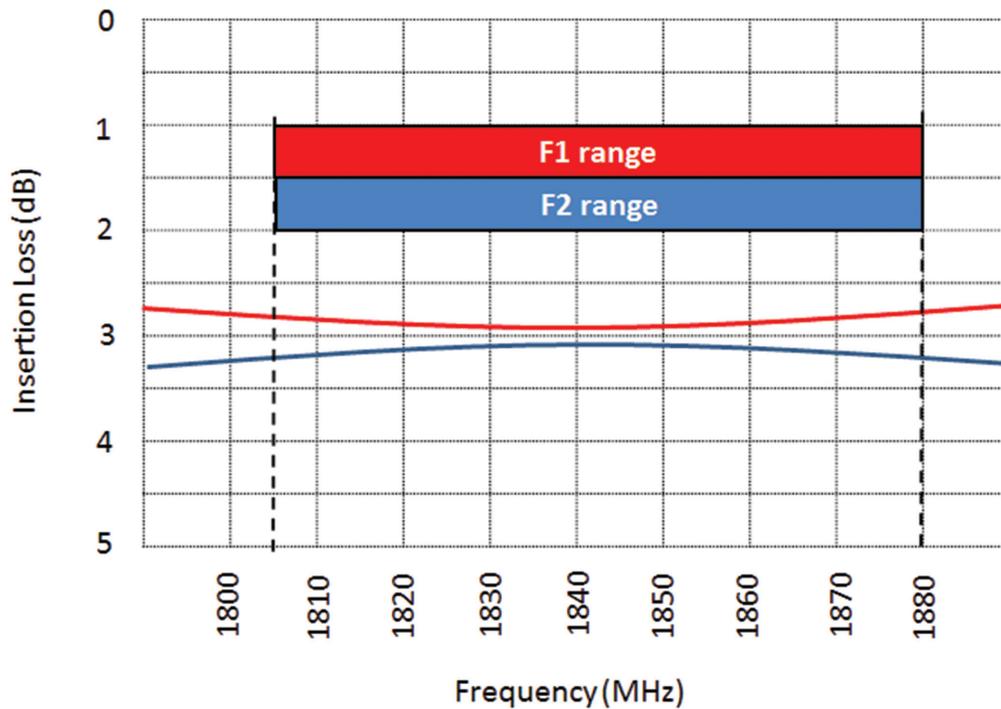
A hybrid combiner design utilizes a 3 dB quadrature hybrid coupler to split the two input signals F_1 and F_2 equally between the two output ports of the coupler. Advantages of this approach include small size, low cost and broad operating bandwidth. PIM test equipment utilizing a hybrid combiner allow the user to choose any combination of transmit frequencies within the operator's downlink band.

The down side of a hybrid combiner is power consumption. Since the hybrid coupler splits one half of each signal between the two output ports of the device, it requires two times the input power to achieve a given output level. In addition, the port not feeding the system under test is terminated into a RF load. Fans must be installed in this type of system to remove the heat dissipated by the load in addition to the heat dissipated by the RF amplifiers. As a result, hybrid combiners are typically used only for ground based PIM test instruments where AC power is readily available.

Hybrid Combiner



Hybrid Combiner

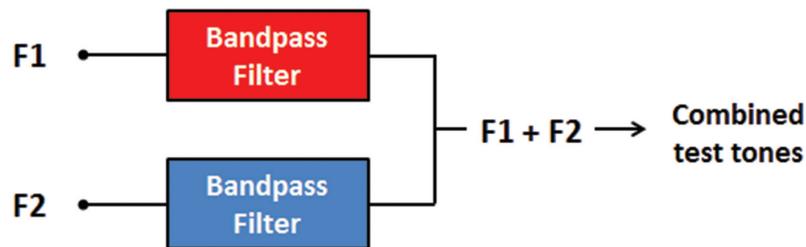


Filter Combiner:

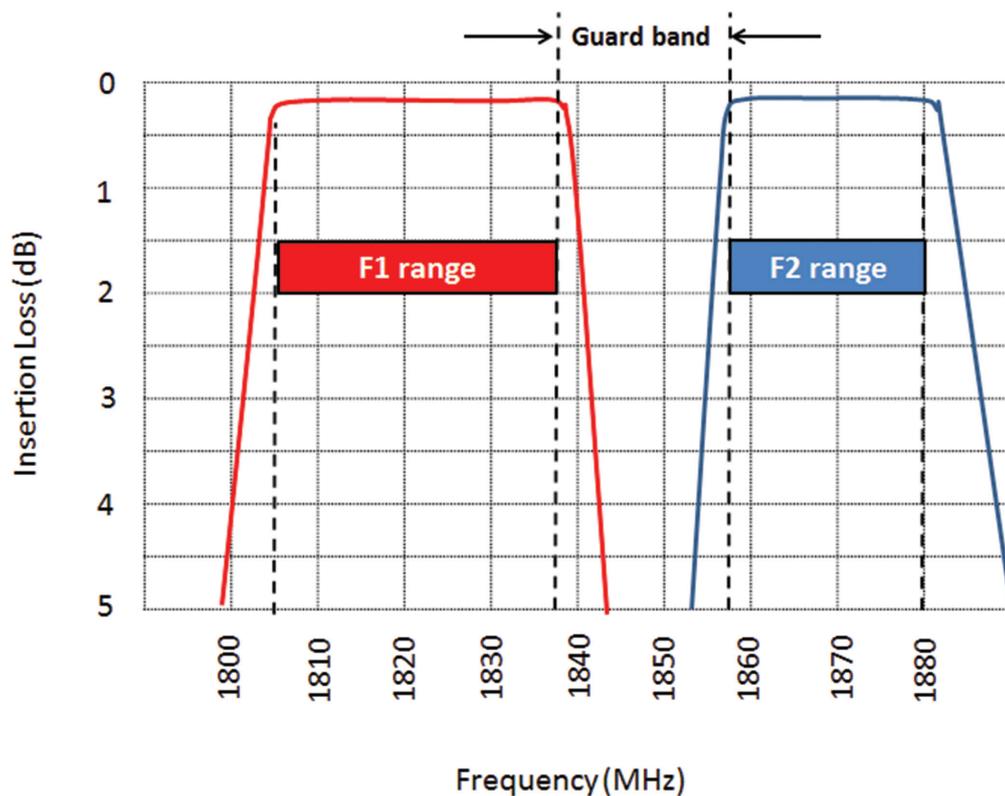
A filter combiner design utilizes cavity bandpass filters to efficiently combine signals from two neighboring frequency bands onto a common output port. Cavity bandpass filters are machined from solid blocks of aluminum and often silver plated to minimize conductive losses. As a result, very little RF energy is lost as F_1 and F_2 pass through the combiner. Since the amplifiers run at lower power and very little heat is dissipated through the filter, these systems can often be designed to operate without fans. Due to the lower over-all power consumption, filter combiners are very useful for battery operated PIM test solutions where long battery life is a chief concern.

The down side of a filter combiner is size, weight, cost and frequency bandwidth. Filter combiners do not allow all frequencies in the downlink band to be selected for PIM testing. Rather, a space or guard band is required to achieve isolation between neighboring frequency bands. As the guard band becomes smaller, more cavities are required, causing the size and the insertion loss of the filter to increase. Guard band spacing should be designed to be as large as possible to minimize the overall size and weight of the PIM test equipment.

Filter Combiner



Filter Combiner

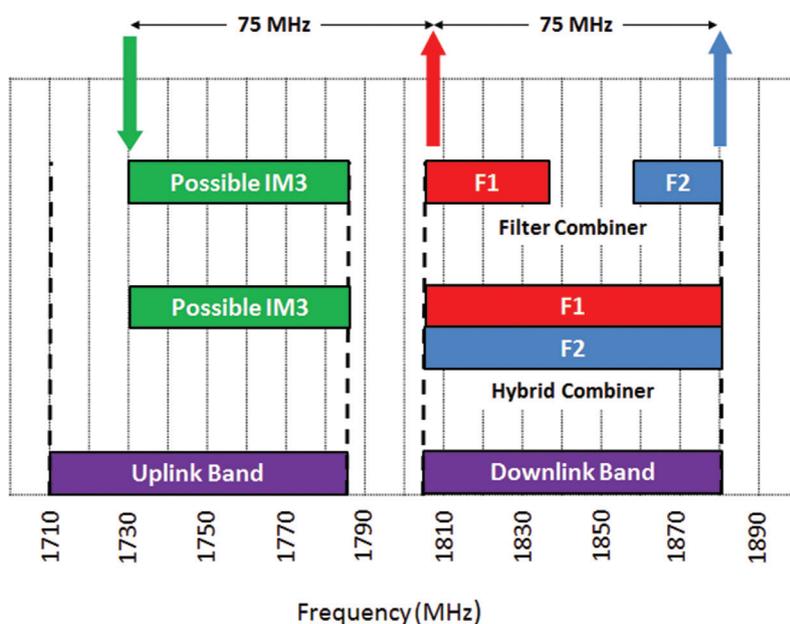


F₁ and F₂ frequency range:

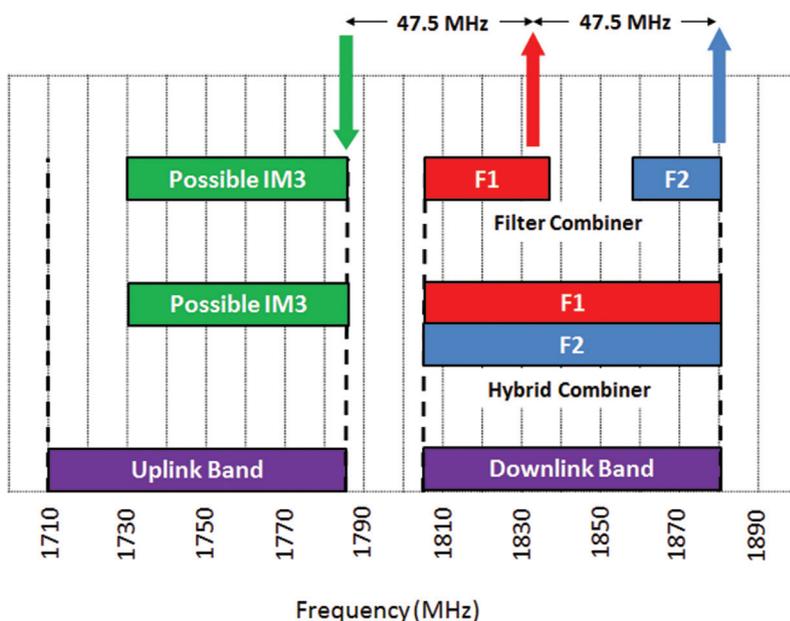
The MW82119A is designed to maximize the range of IM3 frequencies that can be generated in the uplink band using F₁ and F₂ test signals from the downlink band of that system. Placing F₁ and F₂ at the farthest allowable spacing will identify the far limit of the IM3 range. The near limit to the IM3 range coincides with the near limit of the uplink band itself.

As it turns out, the full range of possible IM3 frequencies can be achieved using F₁ and F₂ frequencies from only a subset of the total downlink frequency range. This is why a filter combiner design is able to produce the same range of IM3 frequencies in the uplink band that a hybrid combiner design is able to produce.

Lowest Possible IM3 Frequency



Highest Possible IM3 Frequency



MW82119A PIM Master:

The chart shows the licensed uplink and downlink frequency ranges for the LTE 700, LTE 800, Cellular 850, E-GSM 900, DCS 1800, PCS 1900, AWS 1700/2100, UMTS 2100 and LTE 2600 operating bands. Using the licensed downlink frequency range, all IM3 frequencies falling in the licensed uplink frequency range can be calculated. This range is then compared to the IM3 frequencies able to be produced by the associated PIM Master.

Band ID	Downlink Frequency Range (s)	Uplink Frequency Range	Possible IM3 Range	MW82119A IM3 range	MW82119A vs. Possible
700U/L	U: 746 - 757 MHz L: 728 - 746 MHz	U: 776 - 787 MHz L: 698 - 716 MHz	U: None possible L: 710 - 716 MHz	U: 779.5 - 802 MHz L: 700 - 716 MHz	Larger
800	791 - 821 MHz	832 - 862 MHz	832 - 851 MHz	832 - 851 MHz	Same
850	869 - 894 MHz	824 - 849 MHz	844 - 849 MHz	844 - 849 MHz	Same
900	925 - 960 MHz	880 - 915 MHz	890 - 915 MHz	890 - 915 MHz	Same
1800	1805 - 1880 MHz	1710 - 1785 MHz	1730 - 1785 MHz	1730 - 1785 MHz	Same
1900	1930 - 1990 MHz	1850 - 1910 MHz	1870 - 1910 MHz	1870 - 1910 MHz	Same
2100	2110 - 2170 MHz	190 - 1980 MHz	None possible	2050 - 2090 MHz	Larger
2600	2620 - 2690 MHz	2500 - 270 MHz	2550 - 2570 MHz	2550 - 2570 MHz	Same
PCS/AWS	1930 - 1990 MHz 2110 - 2155 MHz	1710 - 1755 MHz	1710 - 1755 MHz	1710 - 1755 MHz	Same

In each case, the PIM Master is able to produce the equivalent (or larger) range of IM3 products as can be produced by the licensed downlink frequencies. The fact that the PIM Master does not use some downlink frequencies has no impact on the instrument's ability to test the full range of possible IM3 frequencies.



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Application Note No. 11410-00715, Rev. C Printed in United States 2014-06
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