

EXPERT REPORT

31th of May 2019

Ordered by: **GEOVITAL**
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Device under Test: **GEOVITAL GPA** – Shielding mesh

Subject: Measuring the shielding efficiency against electromagnetic waves from **100 MHz to 20 GHz**

Regulations: ASTM D-4935-10 and IEEE 299-2006
(ASTM = American Society of Testing and Materials)

Date of Measurements: 28th of May 2019

Content: 5 pages of text and 1 appendix

Results: The shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA** has been tested with electromagnetic waves showing polarizations in all directions. As the meshes of the GPA mesh are shaped like squares, the results of the shielding efficiency are valid as well for vertically as also for horizontally polarized waves. Table 1 presents the values of shielding efficiency (SE), measured at some interesting frequencies:

| Communication services: | Shielding Efficiency in dB |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| C-Net, TETRA, 450 MHz | 39 dB |
| D-Net, GSM 900, 900 MHz | 36 dB |
| E-Net, GSM1800, 1800 MHz | 33 dB |
| Blue-Tooth, WLAN 2450 MHz | 30 dB |
| 5G (Sub 6GHz-Band) 3.4 – 3.8GHz | 26 dB |
| W-LAN (new generation) 5.8 GHz | 22 dB |

Table 1: Shielding efficiency at different frequencies

1. Introduction

To analyse the measured diagram, it is helpful to use this table. You can easily find the relation between shielding in „dB“ and transmitted power in „%“.

To calculate the dB-value from the incident power P_1 respectively field strength E_1 and the transmitted power P_2 or field strength E_2 , one has to use the following

equation:
$$a_{Shield} = 10 \cdot \log \frac{P_2}{P_1} = 20 \cdot \log \frac{E_2}{E_1} \text{ in decibel (dB)}$$

The network analyzer presents the results of the shielding measurements in „Decibel“ (dB). The mode of measurement is a typical transmission measurement (S_{21} -measurement). This dB value indicates, how much the level of an incident power or power flux density has decreased, passing the device under test.

It describes values of field-strengths as well. But the calculation of the percent-values in the table at the right refers to the **power-relationships**.

So it tells - for example - that 20 dB shielding reduces the penetrating power down to 1%.

| Conversion of Decibel to Percent of transmitted Power | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| dB | Power Transmission in % | dB | Power Transmission in % |
| 0 | 100.00 | | |
| 1 | 81.00 | 21 | 0.78 |
| 2 | 62.80 | 22 | 0.63 |
| 3 | 50.00 | 23 | 0.50 |
| 4 | 40.00 | 24 | 0.39 |
| 5 | 31.00 | 25 | 0.31 |
| 6 | 25.00 | 26 | 0.25 |
| 7 | 20.00 | 27 | 0.20 |
| 8 | 16.00 | 28 | 0.18 |
| 9 | 12.50 | 29 | 0.12 |
| 10 | 10.00 | 30 | 0.10 |
| 11 | 7.90 | 31 | 0.08 |
| 12 | 6.25 | 32 | 0.06 |
| 13 | 5.00 | 33 | 0.05 |
| 14 | 4.00 | 34 | 0.04 |
| 15 | 3.13 | 35 | 0.03 |
| 16 | 2.50 | 36 | 0.02 |
| 17 | 2.00 | 37 | 0.02 |
| 18 | 1.56 | 38 | 0.02 |
| 19 | 1.20 | 39 | 0.02 |
| 20 | 1.00 | 40 | 0.01 |
| | | 50 | 0.001 |

Table 2: Conversion of shielding-efficiency-values, given in dB, to %-values of transmitted power

2. Measurement Setup according to ASTM D 4935-10 from 100 MHz to 8 GHz

This standard was published by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM).

The DUT (**D**evice **U**nder **T**est) was installed between two coaxial TEM-adapters. The test signal was emitted from port 1 of the network analyzer. The transmitted signal was received by port 2 of the NWA. During a S_{21} -calibration without DUT but with a neutral distance holder of the same thickness as the DUT, the transmission value was set to “0” dB.

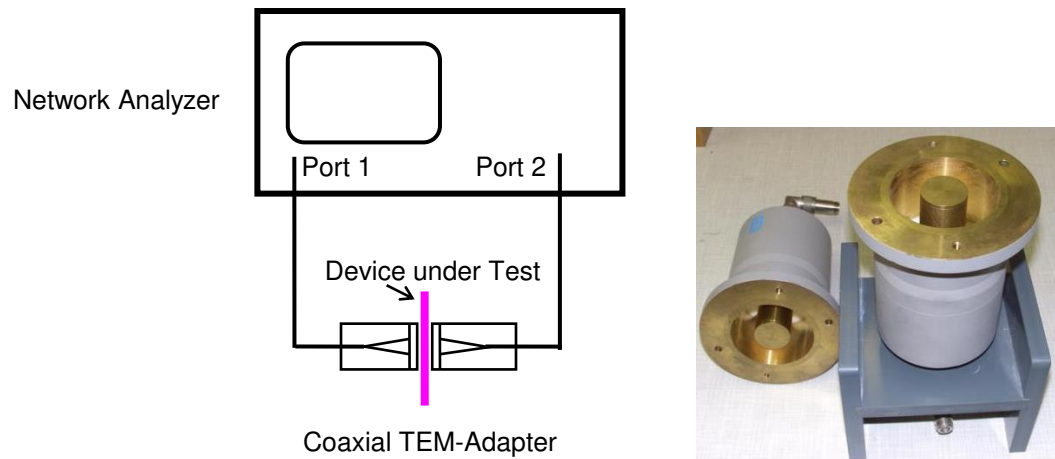


Fig. 1: Set-up to measure the shielding efficiency by means of TEM-adapters

Test equipment:

Vector Network Analyzer, type ZVRE, 30 kHz – 8 GHz, Rohde & Schwarz
A pair of coaxial TEM-Adapters, (100 kHz – 8 GHz) Wandel + Goltermann
Documentation: OfficeJet 500, H & P

Due to the coaxial structure of the adapters they transmit a TEM-wave. Thus the DUT was hit by **E-field vectors in all transverse directions**.

The consequence is: If the measured shielding is very good, you can assume, that the DUT will shield as well against vertically as also horizontally polarized waves in the same quality.

The results correspond closely to the reality, where the polarization of the incident waves cannot be predicted.

2.1 Shielding measurements according to IEEE 299-2006 from 6 GHz to 20 GHz

The measurements were performed according to IEEE 299 on 28th of May 2019 at the EMC-test site of the Radar Laboratories at the German Armed Forces University Munich in Neubiberg at frequencies from 6 GHz to 20 GHz. Linear polarisation was radiated by double ridged exponential horn antennas. Normally, the device under test is attached to a specific aperture (height 40 cm, width 40 cm) as shown in the picture below in a metallic shelter wall.

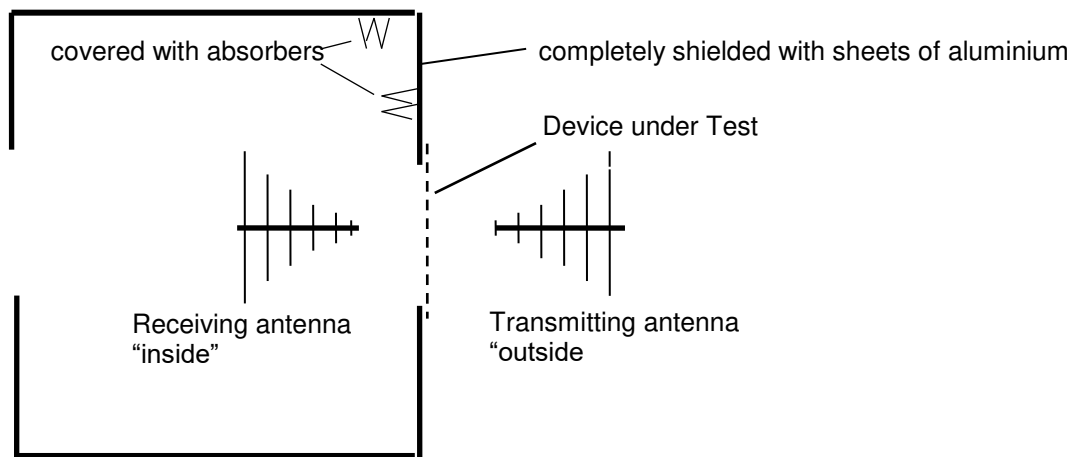


Fig. 1 Setup for Shielding Measurements (schematically)

The test range was calibrated without any object between the two antennas, to adjust the zero-dB-transmission-value.

To prevent signals passing the DUT uncontrolled, the mesh was positioned directly between the two double ridged exponential horn antennas.

Test equipment:

Scalar Networkanalyzer type 562+6669B (10 MHz – 40 GHz) Wiltron
2 Double-ridged exponential horn antennas type HF 906, (1 – 18 GHz) R & S

Scalar Networkanalyzer type 562+6669B (10 MHz – 40 GHz) Wiltron
2 Exponential horn K-band antennas (20 GHz – 40 GHz) NARDA

3. Results of the Measurements

The diagram in the appendix presents the measured transmission values i.e. shielding efficiency of the shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA** in decibels as a function of frequency.

At the right of the diagram, some dB-values are printed for some typical frequencies of mobile services.

| Communication services: | Shielding Efficiency in dB |
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| W-LAN new generation 5.8 GHz | 22 dB |

Table 3: Shielding efficiency at different frequencies

Device under Test: Shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA**

Subject: Measuring the shielding efficiency against electromagnetic waves from **6 GHz to 20 GHz**

Regulations: According to IEEE 299-2006 and MILSTD 285
 Scalar Networkanalyzer type 562+6669B (10 MHz – 40 GHz) Wiltron
 2 K-Band exponential horn antennas (20 GHz – 40 GHz)
 NARDA

Date of Measurements: 28th of May 2019

| Frequency | Shielding efficiency in dB |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 6 GHz | 18 dB |
| 10 GHz | 16 dB |
| 12 GHz | 16 dB |
| 16 GHz | 15 dB |
| 18 GHz | 13 dB |
| 20 GHz | 12 dB |

Table 3: Shielding efficiency at different frequencies

4. Final conclusions

The shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA** presents a shielding effectiveness of **36 dB** in the most interesting frequency range of **GSM 900 (at 900MHz)**.

36dB shielding means a reduction of the transmitted power down to a factor of 1:2500. This promises very good shielding, assumed, the shielding fabric is mounted correctly: This means no wholes or slots in the fabric and an overlapping of 5cm between two adjacent layers of the fabric.

Even at the new 5G-Cellphone-Services between **3.4GHz and 3.8GHz**, the shielding of the **GEOVITAL GPA** is **26dB**. Only 0,25% of the incident power can be measured behind the shielding mesh. 99.75% of it is prevented to penetrate the fabric.

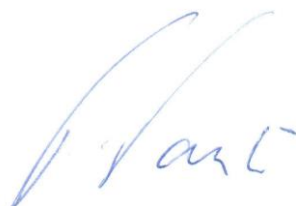
The reduction of shielding at higher frequencies happens due to the shorter wavelengths in the microwave range.

Due to physical rules, the shielding efficiency of a mesh decreases, if the width of the meshes (4mm x 4mm) is no longer very small compared to the applied wavelengths.

At **10 GHz** ($\lambda = 3$ cm) the shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA** presents a shielding efficiency of **16 dB**. In this case, 2.5% of the incident power is penetrating the mesh, 97.5% of it is removed by reflection.

At **18 GHz** ($\lambda = 1.7$ cm) the shielding is **13 dB**. 5% of the incident power is penetrating and 95% is being reflected by the mesh.

In practice, these values guarantee a very good to excellent shielding effectiveness of Geovital GPA mesh, to protect sensitive areas, homes or persons from electromagnetic radiation.



Device under test: Shielding mesh **GEOVITAL GPA**
Frequency Range: 100 MHz to 8 GHz

