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Recommended Practice 011.1**

IEST-RP-DTE011.1

**Mechanical Shock and Vibration
Transducer Selection**

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CONTENTS

SECTION

1 SCOPE AND LIMITATION	7
2 REFERENCES	7
3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	7
4 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE	11
5 TRANSDUCER TYPES FOR SHOCK AND VIBRATION	11
6 DYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS	24
7 ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS	28
8 TRANSDUCER INSTALLATION	31
9 TRANSDUCER RECALIBRATION	33
10 TRANSDUCER SELECTION BY APPLICATION	34

TABLE

1 COMPARISON OF PE AND IEPE TRANSDUCERS	19
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FIGURE

1 PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIALS	12
2 CLASSIFICATIONS OF CRYSTAL TYPES	13
3 EQUIVALENT CIRCUIT OF A PE SENSOR AND A CHARGE AMPLIFIER	14
4 COMMON PIEZOELECTRIC ACCELEROMETER DESIGNS	15
5 SCHEMATICS OF IEPE TRANSDUCER	15
6 FREQUENCY RESPONSE DROOP	16
7 WHEATSTONE BRIDGE	20
8 MONOLITHIC SILICON SENSING ELEMENT OF A PR ACCELEROMETER	20
9 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF A VC ACCELEROMETER	21
10 EXPLODED VIEW OF A MICROMACHINED VC ACCELEROMETER	22
11 BLOCK DIAGRAM OF A PENDULOUS SERVO ACCELEROMETER WITH ELECTROMAGNETIC SERVO MECHANISM	23
12 BLOCK DIAGRAM AND EXPLODED VIEW OF A PENDULOUS SERVO ACCELEROMETER WITH ELECTROSTATIC SERVO MECHANISM	23
13 PHASE RESPONSE OF A SINGLE DOF SYSTEM VS. NORMALIZED FREQUENCY	26
14 TRANSVERSE SENSITIVITY	27
15 ADHESIVE MOUNTING	32
16 MAGNETIC MOUNTING	32
17 ANGULAR ACCELEROMETER USING A LINEAR PAIR	39

APPENDIX

A BIBLIOGRAPHY	41
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1 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The purpose of this Recommended Practice is to provide guidelines for selecting transducers to measure shock and vibration in laboratory and field testing environments. Some special applications are not covered because of their unique nature and the rapid advancements taking place in their disciplines. These include a variety of biodynamic and biomechanical tests. Even in those applications not specifically addressed, however, these recommendations may be helpful.

There are basically two classes of motion transducers: fixed-reference and mass-spring (relative motion). Non-contact transducers, such as laser interferometric displacement and laser Doppler velocity transducers, are fixed-reference designs. Although they offer some unique properties, these instruments are used to measure shock and vibration only in applications where a fixed reference is available, and where their cost, size, and physical space and geometry requirements are acceptable. Similarly, video and photographic displacement measurement techniques are sometimes useful for motion analysis of large, complex structures or mechanisms, but they are used mostly for verification. These fixed-reference techniques, which have different constraints, are discussed elsewhere.^{1,2,3} This Recommended Practice will concentrate on the more common mass-spring type transducers, with the sensing element represented by the spring.

The following recommendations apply to dynamic measurements on objects over 10 grams, with frequencies ranging from DC (0 Hz) to over 100 kHz. Only measurements of linear (translational) motion are considered; measurement of angular or rotational motion is addressed as an application at the end of the document.

Recent developments^{4,5,6} in smart sensor technology have the potential to revolutionize the measurement industry, and play an important role in transducer selection. However, part of the IEEE standard directly related to transducer selection had not been finalized as of publication of this Recommended Practice. We therefore limit our discussion in this document to the basic concept of mixed-mode, point-to-point smart sensor where it is relevant. A complete look at multi-drop smart sensor technology will be included in future revisions.

2 REFERENCES

It is recommended that the user reference manufacturers' specification and application data in the selection and use of equipment. Please see Appendix A: Bibliography for informative resources.

3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

accelerometer

A transducer whose instantaneous output is proportional to the instantaneous acceleration input.

acoustic sensitivity

The rated output produced by a non-acoustic transducer in the presence of a specified acoustic field.

back-to-back comparison method

A method of performing a sensitivity/frequency response calibration of an accelerometer by mounting the unit under test to the "back" of a reference standard and comparing the outputs of the two devices.