



**Model 3741E12100G**

**DC Response Accelerometer**

**Installation and Operating Manual**

**For assistance with the operation of this product,  
contact PCB Piezotronics, Inc.**

**Toll-free: 800-828-8840  
24-hour SensorLine: 716-684-0001  
Fax: 716-684-0987  
E-mail: [info@pcb.com](mailto:info@pcb.com)  
Web: [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com)**



## Repair and Maintenance

PCB guarantees Total Customer Satisfaction through its “Lifetime Warranty Plus” on all Platinum Stock Products sold by PCB and through its limited warranties on all other PCB Stock, Standard and Special products. Due to the sophisticated nature of our sensors and associated instrumentation, **field servicing and repair is not recommended and, if attempted, will void the factory warranty.**

Beyond routine calibration and battery replacements where applicable, our products require no user maintenance. Clean electrical connectors, housings, and mounting surfaces with solutions and techniques that will not harm the material of construction. Observe caution when using liquids near devices that are not hermetically sealed. Such devices should only be wiped with a dampened cloth—never saturated or submerged.

In the event that equipment becomes damaged or ceases to operate, our Application Engineers are here to support your troubleshooting efforts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call or email with model and serial number as well as a brief description of the problem.

## Calibration

Routine calibration of sensors and associated instrumentation is necessary to maintain measurement accuracy. We recommend calibrating on an annual basis, after exposure to any extreme environmental influence, or prior to any critical test.

PCB Piezotronics is an ISO-9001 certified company whose calibration services are accredited by A2LA to ISO/IEC 17025, with full traceability to SI through N.I.S.T. In addition to our standard calibration services, we also offer specialized tests, including: sensitivity at elevated or cryogenic temperatures, phase response, extended high or low frequency response, extended range, leak testing, hydrostatic pressure testing, and others. For more information, contact your local PCB Piezotronics distributor, sales representative, or factory customer service representative.

## Returning Equipment

If factory repair is required, our representatives will provide you with a Return Material Authorization (RMA) number, which we use to reference any information you have already provided and expedite the repair process. This number should be clearly marked on the outside of all returned package(s) and on any packing list(s) accompanying the shipment.

## Contact Information

PCB Piezotronics, Inc.  
3425 Walden Ave.  
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Repair inquiries: [rma@pcb.com](mailto:rma@pcb.com)

For a complete list of distributors, global offices and sales representatives, visit our website, [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com).

## Safety Considerations

This product is intended for use by qualified personnel who recognize shock hazards and are familiar with the precautions required to avoid injury. While our equipment is designed with user safety in mind, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired if equipment is used in a manner not specified by this manual.

Discontinue use and contact our 24-Hour Sensorline if:

- Assistance is needed to safely operate equipment
- Damage is visible or suspected
- Equipment fails or malfunctions

For complete equipment ratings, refer to the enclosed specification sheet for your product.

## Definition of Terms and Symbols

The following symbols may be used in this manual:



### **DANGER**

Indicates an immediate hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in death or serious injury.

**CAUTION**

Refers to hazards that could damage the instrument.

**NOTE**

Indicates tips, recommendations and important information. The notes simplify processes and contain additional information on particular operating steps.

**The following symbols may be found on the equipment described in this manual:**



This symbol on the unit indicates that high voltage may be present. Use standard safety precautions to avoid personal contact with this voltage.



This symbol on the unit indicates that the user should refer to the operating instructions located in the manual.



This symbol indicates safety, earth ground.



PCB工业监视和测量设备 - 中国RoHS2公布表

PCB Industrial Monitoring and Measuring Equipment - China RoHS 2 Disclosure Table

部件名称	有害物质					
	铅 (Pb)	汞 (Hg)	镉 (Cd)	六价铬 (Cr(VI))	多溴联苯 (PBB)	多溴二苯醚 (PBDE)
住房	O	O	O	O	O	O
PCB板	X	O	O	O	O	O
电气连接器	O	O	O	O	O	O
压电晶体	X	O	O	O	O	O
环氧	O	O	O	O	O	O
铁氟龙	O	O	O	O	O	O
电子	O	O	O	O	O	O
厚膜基板	O	O	X	O	O	O
电线	O	O	O	O	O	O
电缆	X	O	O	O	O	O
塑料	O	O	O	O	O	O
焊接	X	O	O	O	O	O
铜合金/黄铜	X	O	O	O	O	O
本表格依据 SJ/T 11364 的规定编制。						
O：表示该有害物质在该部件所有均质材料中的含量均在 GB/T 26572 规定的限量要求以下。						
X：表示该有害物质至少在该部件的某一均质材料中的含量超出 GB/T 26572 规定的限量要求。						
铅是欧洲RoHS指令2011/65/ EU附件三和附件四目前由于允许的豁免。						

CHINA RoHS COMPLIANCE

Component Name	Hazardous Substances					
	Lead (Pb)	Mercury (Hg)	Cadmium (Cd)	Chromium VI Compounds (Cr(VI))	Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)
Housing	O	O	O	O	O	O
PCB Board	X	O	O	O	O	O
Electrical Connectors	O	O	O	O	O	O
Piezoelectric Crystals	X	O	O	O	O	O
Epoxy	O	O	O	O	O	O
Teflon	O	O	O	O	O	O
Electronics	O	O	O	O	O	O
Thick Film Substrate	O	O	X	O	O	O
Wires	O	O	O	O	O	O
Cables	X	O	O	O	O	O
Plastic	O	O	O	O	O	O
Solder	X	O	O	O	O	O
Copper Alloy/Brass	X	O	O	O	O	O

This table is prepared in accordance with the provisions of SJ/T 11364.

O: Indicates that said hazardous substance contained in all of the homogeneous materials for this part is below the limit requirement of GB/T 26572.

X: Indicates that said hazardous substance contained in at least one of the homogeneous materials for this part is above the limit requirement of GB/T 26572.

Lead is present due to allowed exemption in Annex III or Annex IV of the European RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU.

# General OPERATING GUIDE

for use with

## High Sensitivity DC ACCELEROMETERS

### SPECIFICATION SHEET, INSTALLATION DRAWING AND CALIBRATION INFORMATION ENCLOSED

PCB ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED TO THIS PRODUCT AS A RESULT OF PROCEDURES THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS OPERATING GUIDE.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on the purchase of a quality, DC acceleration sensor. PCB's high sensitivity DC accelerometers provide optimal performance characteristics in a high quality package. In order to ensure the highest level of performance for this product, it is imperative that you properly familiarize yourself with the correct mounting and installation techniques before attempting to operate this device. If, after reading this manual, you have any additional questions concerning this sensor or its application, feel free to call a factory Application Engineer at 716-684-0001 or your nearest PCB sales representative.

#### 2.0 HIGH SENSITIVITY DC ACCELEROMETERS

High sensitivity DC accelerometers are devices which require stable power. Unlike standard non-amplified piezoresistive accelerometer designs, this stable power is provided by an internal voltage regulator. Therefore PCB's high sensitivity DC accelerometers may be supplied with a positive unregulated DC supply voltage, provided it falls within the specified range of the particular model number. The change in the silicon strain-sensing element is approximately proportional to the applied acceleration. The sensor element is electrically connected in a Wheatstone-bridge circuit. The integral amplifier provides a low impedance output to follow-on instrumentation. These particular accelerometers provide a dc or steady state acceleration measurement capability as opposed to a predetermined low frequency cut off associated with charge or ICP® type accelerometers.

Examples where High Sensitivity DC accelerometers may be used:

- Automotive Crash Simulation Sleds
- Automotive Road / Load Rigs
- Aircraft Flutter, Load Testing
- Whole-Body Vibration Studies

Lower range, higher sensitivity DC accelerometers, allow for simple 2 g turn-over testing as a means of determining the health of the unit prior to use. By simply placing the unit in a +1g position and noting the output, then turning the unit on its side to the null position and noting the 0g output error, followed by the same technique, only in the -1g position, the user can verify the health of the accelerometer. The +1g, null and -1g values are now apparent to the user.

#### General High Sensitivity DC Accelerometer Terms

Excitation-	+ 10 V dc typical.
Sensitivity-	mV/g
ZMO-	Zero Measurand Output (mV output with no acceleration applied)
TSS-	Thermal Sensitivity Shift (sensitivity variation due to temperature change)
TZS-	Thermal Zero Shift (ZMO variation due to temperature change)
Resolution	Minimum acceleration measurement level based on output sensitivity and inherent noise floor of accelerometer

#### High Sensitivity DC Accelerometers typically have:

- Low-impedance output signal
- Steady-state acceleration measurement capability
- Stable operation over temperature
- Low cross axis sensitivity

PCB's High Sensitivity DC accelerometers are designed utilizing a MEMS (Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems) silicon sensor approach. The micro machining design process provides sensor design flexibility, reliability & stability over time. Compared to standard strain gages, silicon sensor accelerometers have a much higher gage factor. The sensor element of the 3741 series features a proof mass, ringframe, and an attachment system between the two. These features are micromachined from the same single-crystal silicon wafer. The sensor is connected as a bridge element in the circuit. The electrical characteristics of one portion of the bridge increases while the other decreases, when exposed to acceleration. The sensor element itself is kept small through the use of cutting edge processes such as DRIE (Deep Reactive Ion Etching). Ruggedness is enhanced through the use of mechanical stops on the two outer wafers to restrict the travel of the proofmass. Gas damping is used to mitigate high frequency inputs. **An on board voltage regulator allows a wide range in excitation voltage with low current draw.** The positive output signal line increases with acceleration while the negative line decreases proportionally. The output lines have a common mode voltage above circuit ground.

Consult the individual accelerometer data sheet on how to order the particular model most appropriate for your application. Adhesive mounting plates and triaxial mounting blocks are available. If you have any questions or concerns regarding optional configurations, consult the Vibration Division's product catalog or contact a PCB factory representative.

#### 4.0 INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

PCB's high sensitivity DC accelerometers are supplied with a silicone jacketed, shielded, multi-conductor, integral cable assembly. With each conductor being 30 AWG, Teflon coated. The supplied cable length for a standard DC accelerometer is 10 ft. or 120 in. (~3 m). Custom cable length requirements should be specified at time of ordering. When applications involve very long cable runs, the user is advised to take into consideration the added resistance of the cable wires and additional capacitance values, as this may affect the voltage available at the accelerometers input voltage regulator. Ensure the recommended torque is used for the supplied 4-40 mounting cap screws.

The high sensitivity DC accelerometer output signal is considered a differential signal which should be routed to a differential amplifier or bridge conditioner (see Fig. 6).

The bridge conditioner should supply a regulated dc supply and have proper amplification features. Although a simple unregulated DC voltage supply is an acceptable

condition for operation, bridge conditioning equipment typically has ZMO adjustment capability and standard connector accessories included which provide a "plug & play" environment.

Excitation input and Voltage output wiring conform to the following color coding practice.

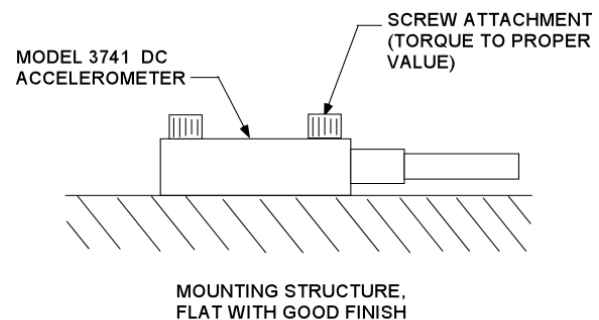
- + Excitation input (red)
- excitation input (black),
- + signal output (yellow)
- signal output (white).

**Multi-pin connectors:** For accelerometer versions with detachable cabling, make connection by inserting the sensor's mating pins onto the cable connector's mating sockets. Then thread the connector into place by turning the cable connector's outer shell onto the accelerometer's electrical connector.

#### 4.1 SCREW MOUNT

This mounting technique requires smooth, flat contact surfaces for proper operation and is recommended for permanent and/or secure installations. Screw mounting is recommended when testing at high frequencies.

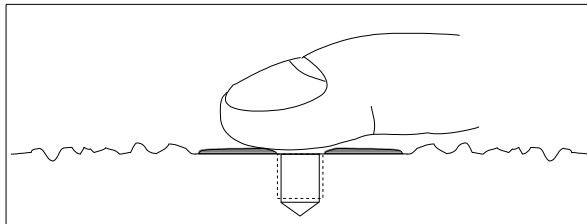
**STEP 1:** First, prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface, then drill and tap mounting holes for mounting as shown in Figure 3 and in accordance with the enclosed **Installation Drawing**.



**Figure 3.** Mounting Surface Preparation

A precision-machined mounting surface with a minimum finish of 32  $\mu\text{in}$  (0.0008 mm) is recommended. (If, and only if, it is not possible to properly prepare the test structure mounting surface, consider adhesive mounting as a possible alternative). Inspect the area, checking that there are no burrs or other foreign particles interfering with the contact surface.

**STEP 2:** Wipe clean the mounting surface and spread on a light film of grease, oil, or similar coupling fluid prior to installation.



**Figure 4.** Mounting Surface Lubrication

Adding a coupling fluid improves vibration transmissibility by filling small voids in the mounting surface and increasing the mounting stiffness. For semi-permanent mounting, substitute epoxy or another type of adhesive.

**STEP 3:** Attach supplied washers, insert screws through hole in accelerometer case, and torque to specified value per **Installation Drawing**.

**NOTE:** *It is important to use a torque wrench during this step. Under torquing the sensor may not adequately couple the device; over torquing may result in screw failure.*

## 4.2 ADHESIVE MOUNT

Adhesives like hot glue and wax perform well for temporary installations whereas two-part epoxies and quick-bonding gels (super glue) provide a more permanent installation. PCB recommends mounting DC accelerometers via an adhesive mounting base. The base acts as a sacrificial part allowing safe removal of accelerometer after test is completed.

**NOTE:** *Adhesively mounted sensors often exhibit a reduction in high-frequency range. Generally, smooth surfaces and stiff adhesives provide the best high frequency response.*

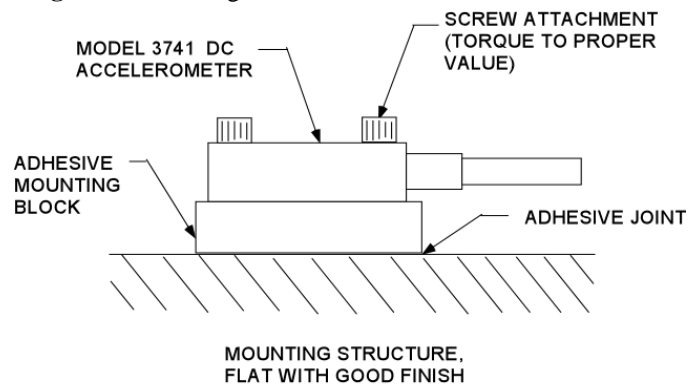
### METHOD 1 - Adhesive Mounting Base

This method involves attaching a base to the test structure, then securing the sensor to the base. This allows for easy removal of the accelerometer. Contact the PCB factory representative for optional mounting plate details.

**STEP 1:** Prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface. A minimum surface finish of 32  $\mu\text{in}$  (0.0008 mm) generally works best.

**STEP 2:** Attach mounting screws of the sensor to the flat side of the appropriate adhesive mounting base according to the guidelines set forth in **STEPS 2 and 3** of the Screw Mount Procedure presented above.

**Figure 5.** Mounting Base: Adhesive Installation



**STEP 3:** Place a small portion of adhesive on the underside of the mounting base/block. Firmly press down on the assembly to displace any extra adhesive remaining under the base.

When the accelerometer/base/block assembly is to be removed, unscrew the accelerometer from its' mounting base / block, prior to removal of base/block from test article.

### METHOD 2 - Direct Adhesive Mount

**Caution:** It is recommended to use a mounting base with high sensitivity DC accelerometers (**Method 1**), if at all possible! Method 2 should be avoided, as a general rule, to avoid damage to the accelerometer during removal.

**STEP 1:** Prepare a smooth, flat mounting surface. A minimum surface finish of 32  $\mu\text{in}$  (0.0008 mm) generally works best.

**STEP 2:** Place a small portion of adhesive on the underside of the sensor. Firmly press down on the top of the assembly to displace any adhesive. Be aware that excessive amounts of adhesive can make sensor removal difficult. Also, adhesive that may invade the mounting holes in the sensor will compromise future ability to screw mount the unit.



#### 4.2-1 ADHESIVE MOUNT REMOVAL (other than wax)

**Caution:** It is usually difficult or near impossible to remove a direct adhesive mounted high sensitivity DC transducer without damaging it. That is, adhesive mounted with cyanoacrylate or epoxy, without use of an intermediary mounting base. However, adhesive mounting is often used for temporary installation or when the test object surface cannot be adequately prepared for screw mounting.

**NOTE:** *A chemical debonder should always be used to avoid sensor damage. Care should be exercised to avoid excessive force being applied to case body during removal.*

To avoid damaging the accelerometer, a de-bonding agent must be applied to the adhesive prior to sensor removal. With so many adhesives in use (everything from super glues, dental cement, epoxies, etc), there is no universal de-bonding agent available. The de-bonder for the Loctite 454 adhesive that PCB offers is Acetone. If you are using anything other than Loctite 454, you will have to check with the individual manufacturers for their de-bonding recommendations. The de-bonding agent must be allowed to penetrate the surface in order to properly react with the adhesive, so it is advisable to wait a few minutes before removing the sensor.

After the de-bonding agent has softened the adhesive, use a gentle shearing (or twisting) motion (by hand only) to remove the sensor from the test structure.

## 5.0 CABLING

### 5.1 Units with integral connectors

Care and attention to cable installation and cable condition is essential as the reliability and accuracy of any measurement system is no better than that of its weakest link. Due to the nature of vibration and shock measurements, all sensor cables will ultimately fatigue and fail. Good installation practice will extend the life of a cable, however, it is highly recommended to keep spare cables on hand to enable continuation of the test in the event of a cable failure.

**STEP 1:** Ascertain that you have the correct cable type.

Note: Most high sensitivity DC accelerometers have integral cable connections; therefore the cable leads at the opposite end from the accelerometer are the main focus and will apply to the specific connector plugs associated with follow-on electronics/signal conditioning equipment.

One cable type cannot satisfy all applications. Industrial applications often require shielded, twisted-pair cables to reduce the effects of EMI and RFI that is present near electrical motors and machinery. Teflon-jacketed cabling may be necessary to withstand corrosive environments and higher temperatures. Feel free to contact a factory representative for a specific recommendation on cables that are best suited for your application.

**STEP 2:** Connect the cable to the accelerometer.

A small amount of thread-locking compound placed on the connector threads prior to attachment helps secure the cable during testing. In wet, oily, or dirty environments, the connection can be sealed with silicone rubber sealant, O-rings, and flexible, heat-shrink tubing.

**Multi-Conductor Cables:** Make accelerometer cable connection to appropriate connector plug via soldering or crimping leads to plug sockets. Specific instructions for this activity are completely dependant on the plug required (D-sub, circular, Lemo, Fischer, etc.) to mate to follow-on conditioning equipment's input receptacle. Refer to instrumentation interface guidelines for proper mating of accelerometer cabling.

**Pigtail Connections:** Certain high sensitivity DC accelerometers are provided with lightweight cables having "Pigtail" connections. This type of connection reduces overall weight and incidence of connection intermittency under shock conditions. In the event of a cable or connection failure, the cables may be repaired in the field simply by re-soldering the stripped leads to the exposed pins on the sensor. (Check the **Installation Drawing** to determine pin functions). In many cases, it is also helpful to protect the solder joint with heat-shrink tubing or epoxy. It should be noted that cable breaks too close to the accelerometer case, may not be repairable due to insufficient cable material for repair.

**NOTE:** *If you do not have the experience or resources to attach pigtail leads, consult PCB to discuss factory attachment. Damage to internal electronics may be caused by excessive heat during soldering and such failure is not covered by warranty.*

**STEP 3:** Route the cable to the signal conditioner, making certain to relieve stress on the sensor/cable connection. Also, minimize cable motion by securing it with tape, clamps or ties at regular intervals.

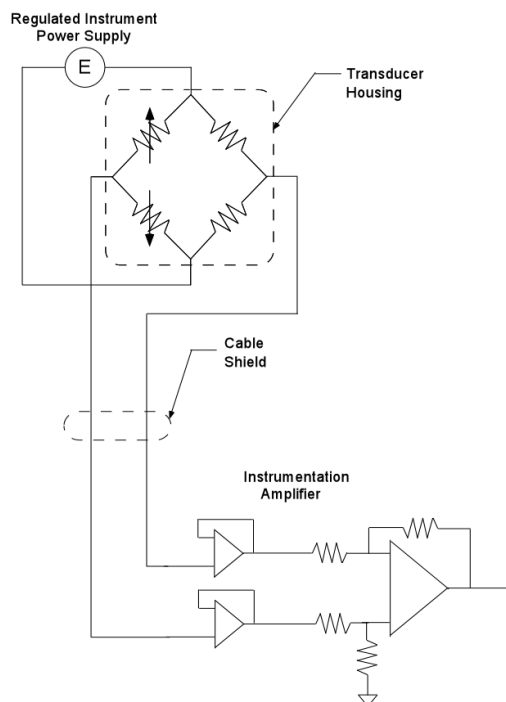
Common sense should be used to avoid physical damage and minimize electrical noise. For instance, avoid routing cables near high-voltage wires. Do not route cables along floors or walkways where they may be stepped on or become contaminated. To avoid ground loops, shielded cables should have the shield grounded at one end only, typically at the signal conditioner.

**STEP 4:** Finally, connect the remaining cable end to the signal conditioner.

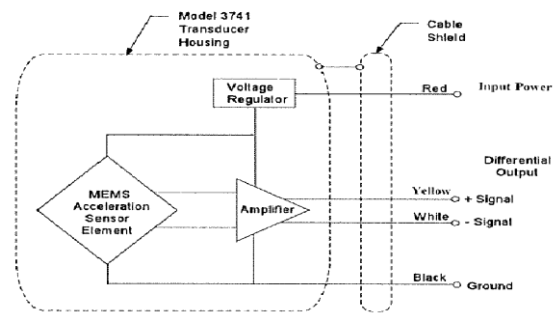
## 6.0 Signal Conditioning

For optimum performance and flexibility, high sensitivity DC accelerometers benefit from a good stable, low noise dc power supply for excitation (Fig. 6). It should be regulated and stable to within 0.1% or better. Noise and ripple should be equally low, since noise will be transmitted directly to the signal leads of the bridge. However, an unregulated DC supply may be used due to the high sensitivity DC accelerometer having its' own on-board voltage regulator. The signal should be connected to a good instrumentation grade differential input amplifier. The amplifier should have high input impedance ( $>1\text{ M}\Omega$ ) and good common mode rejection. The amplifier should also have adequate bandwidth to accommodate the measurement application.

**NOTE:** Damage to the sensor elements resulting from the application of incorrect power, or the use of an unapproved power source, is NOT covered by warranty.



**Figure 6. Typical DC Accelerometer Signal Conditioning System Schematic**



**Figure 7. Typical High Sensitivity DC Accelerometer System Schematic**

In general, battery-powered devices offer versatility for portable, low-noise measurements, whereas line-powered units provide the capability for continuous monitoring. Note; High sensitivity DC Accelerometers feature on-board differential amplification.

## 7.0 OPERATING

**NOTE:** Always operate the accelerometer within the limitations listed on the enclosed **Specification Sheet**. Operating the device outside these parameters can cause temporary or permanent damage to the sensor.

## 8.0 ACCELEROMETER CALIBRATION

Accelerometer calibration provides, with a definable degree of accuracy, the necessary link between the physical quantity being measured and the electrical signal generated by the sensor. In addition, other useful information concerning operational limits, physical parameters, electrical characteristics, or environmental influences may also be determined. Without this link, analyzing data becomes a nearly impossible task. Fortunately, most sensor manufacturers provide a calibration record that documents the exact characteristics of each sensor. (The type and amount of data varies depending on the manufacturer, sensor type, contractual regulations, and other special requirements).

Under normal conditions, high sensitivity DC sensors are extremely stable, and their calibrated performance characteristics do not change over time. However, the sensor may be temporarily or permanently affected by harsh environments influences or other unusual conditions that may cause the sensor to experience dynamic phenomena outside of its specified operating range.

For these reasons, it is recommended that a recalibration cycle be established for each accelerometer. This schedule is unique and is based on a variety of factors, such as: extent of use, environmental conditions, accuracy requirements, trend information obtained from previous calibration records, contractual regulations, frequency of “cross-checking” against other equipment, manufacturer recommendation, and any risk associated with incorrect readings. International standards, such as ISO 10012-1, provide insight and suggest methods for determining recalibration intervals for most measuring equipment. With the above information in mind and under “normal” circumstances, PCB conservatively suggests a 12- to 24-month recalibration cycle for most piezoresistive accelerometers.

**NOTE:** *It is good measurement practice to verify the performance of each accelerometer with a calibration device before and after each measurement.*

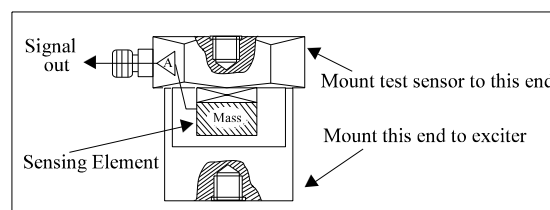
## 8.1 RECALIBRATION SERVICE

PCB offers recalibration services for our piezoresistive accelerometers, as well as units produced by other manufacturers. Our internal metrology laboratory is certified to ISO 9001, accredited by A2LA to ANSI/IEC 17025 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1, complies with ISO 10012-1 (and former MIL-STD-45662A), and uses equipment directly traceable to NIST. Our investment in equipment, traceability and conformance to industry standards ensures accurate calibration against relevant specifications, in a timely fashion.

## 8.2 BACK-TO-BACK CALIBRATION THEORY

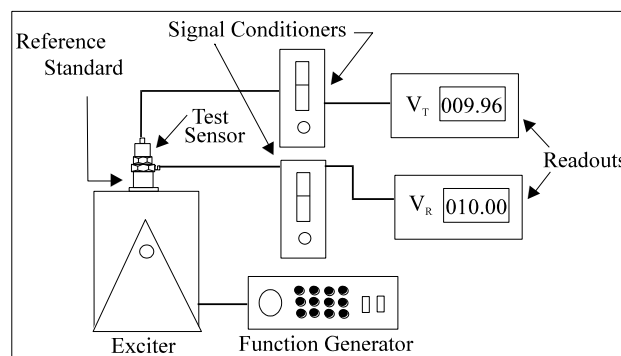
Many companies choose to purchase the equipment necessary to perform the recalibration procedure in house. While this may result in both a savings of time and money, it has also been attributed to incorrect readings and costly errors. Therefore, in an effort to prevent the common mistakes associated with customer-performed calibration, this document includes a broad overview of the Back-to-Back Calibration technique. This technique provides a quick and easy method for determining the sensitivity of a test accelerometer over a wide frequency range.

Back-to-Back Calibration is perhaps the most common method for determining the sensitivity of piezoresistive accelerometers. This method relies on a simple comparison to a previously calibrated accelerometer, typically referred to as a reference standard.



**Figure 9.** Reference Standard Accelerometer

These high-accuracy devices, which are directly traceable to a recognized standards laboratory, are designed for stability, as well as configured to accept a test accelerometer. By mounting a test accelerometer to the reference standard and then connecting this combination to a suitable vibration source, it is possible to vibrate both devices and compare the data as shown in Figure 10. (Test set-ups may be automated and vary, depending on the type and number of accelerometers being calibrated).

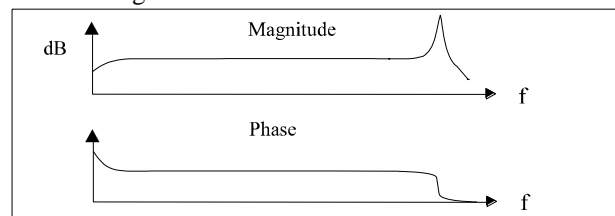


**Figure 10.** Typical Back-to-Back Calibration System

Because the acceleration is the same on both sensors, the ratio of their outputs ( $V_T/V_R$ ) must also be the ratio of their sensitivities. With the sensitivity of the reference standard ( $S_R$ ) known, the exact sensitivity of the test sensor ( $S_T$ ) is easily calculated by using the following equation:

$$S_T = S_R (V_T/V_R)$$

By varying the frequency of the vibration, the sensor may be calibrated over its entire operating frequency range. The typical response of an unfiltered accelerometer is shown in Figure 11.

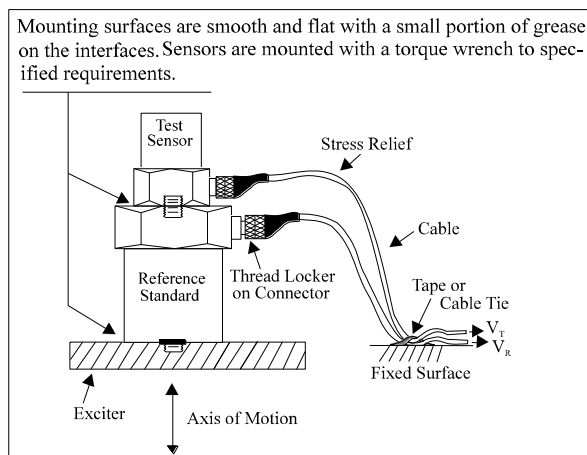


**Figure 11.** Typical Test Accelerometer Response

## 8.3 PCB CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

Numerous precautions are taken at PCB to insure accurate and repeatable results. This section provides a brief overview of the primary areas of concern.

Since the Back-to-Back Calibration technique relies on each sensor experiencing an identical acceleration level, proper mounting of the test sensor to the reference standard is imperative. Sensors with mounting holes are attached directly to the reference standard with a stud tightened to the recommended mounting torque. A shouldered mounting stud is typically used to prevent the stud from “bottoming out” in the hole. Both mounting surfaces are precision-machined and lapped to provide a smooth, flat interface according to the manufacturer’s specification. A thin layer of silicone grease is placed between the mating surfaces to fill any imperfections and increase the mounting stiffness. The cables are stress-relieved by first routing them to the shaker head, then to a nearby stationary location. This reduces cable motion and helps to prevent extraneous motion or stresses from being imparted into the system. A typical set-up is shown in Figure 12.



**Figure 12.** Typical Calibration Set-Up

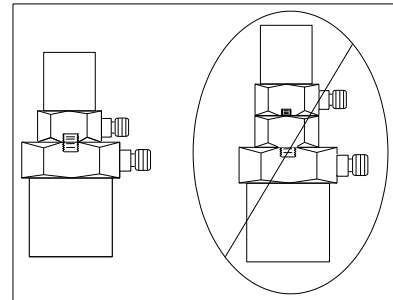
Adhesively mounted sensors use similar practices. However, in this case, a small portion of quick-bonding gel, or similar temporary adhesive, is used to attach the test sensor to a reference standard designed with a smooth, flat mounting surface.

In addition to mounting, the selection of the proper equipment is critical. Some of the more important considerations include: 1) the reference standard must be specified and previously calibrated over the frequency and/or amplitude range of interest; 2) the shaker should be selected to provide minimal transverse (lateral) motion and minimal distortion; and 3) the quality of the meters, signal generator, and other devices should be selected so as to operate within the limits of permissible error.

#### 8.4 COMMON MISTAKES

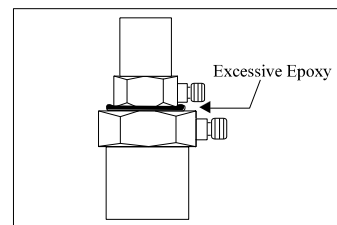
Most calibration errors are caused by simply overlooking some of the fundamental principals of dynamics. This section attempts to address some of the more common concerns.

For stud-mount sensors, always mount the accelerometer directly to the reference standard. Ensure that the mounting surfaces are smooth, flat, and free of any burrs. Always use a coupling fluid, such as silicone grease, in the mounting interface to maintain a high mounting stiffness. Mount the sensor according to the manufacturer’s recommended mounting torque.



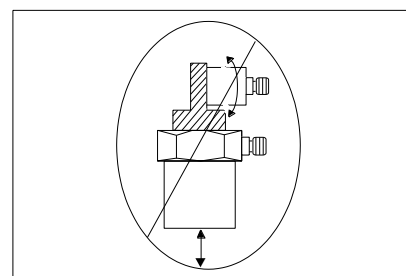
**Figure 13.** Stud Mounting

For adhesive mount sensors, use a thin, stiff layer of temporary adhesive such as quick-bonding gel or superglue. DO NOT use excessive amounts of glue or epoxy, as the mounting stiffness may be reduced and compromise high-frequency performance. It may also damage the sensor during removal.



**Figure 14.** Incorrect Adhesive Mounting

Triaxial accelerometers should always be mounted directly to the reference standard. Use of adaptors may be required for calibration of three individual accelerometers oriented in a triaxial arrangement. The vibration at the test sensor’s sensing element may differ from the vibration at the reference standard due to a “cantilever” effect, seen in Figure 15.



**Figure 15.** Mounting Triaxial Sensors (Incorrect)

Understand Back-to-Back Calibration limitations. Do not expect the uncertainty of calibration to be any better than  $\pm 2\%$ . (In fact, the uncertainty may be as high as  $\pm 3\%$  or  $\pm 4\%$  for frequencies  $<10$  Hz or  $>2$  kHz.) Since large sensors may affect high-frequency accuracy, verify that the test sensor does not mass load the reference standard. Validate your calibration system with another accelerometer prior to each calibration session. Check with the manufacturer for exact system specifications.

## 8.5 CONCLUSIONS

Without an adequate understanding of dynamics, determining what, when, and how to test a sensor is a difficult task. Therefore, each user must weigh the cost,

time, and risk associated with self-calibration versus utilizing the services of an accredited laboratory.

## 9.0 SERVICE

See the supplement sheet, contained in this manual, for information on our warranty, service, repair, and return policies and instructions.

When unexpected measurement problems arise, call our 24-hour SensorLine<sup>SM</sup> to discuss your immediate dynamic instrumentation needs with a factory representative.

Dial 716-684-0001.






3425 Walden Avenue, Depew, NY 14043-2495 USA **Vibration Division toll-free** 888-684-0013  
**24-hour SensorLine<sup>SM</sup>** 716-684-0001 **FAX** 716-685-3886 **E-mail** [sales@pcb.com](mailto:sales@pcb.com) **Website** [www.pcb.com](http://www.pcb.com)

ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

A2LA ACCREDITED to ISO 17025

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Model Number <b>3741E12100G</b>		<b>DC RESPONSE ACCELEROMETER</b>			Revision: B ECN #: 44052											
<b>Performance</b>		<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>SI</b>		<b>OPTIONAL VERSIONS</b>											
Sensitivity(± 3 %)		40 mV/g	4.08 mV/(m/s <sup>2</sup> )	[6]	Optional versions have identical specifications and accessories as listed for the standard model except where noted below. More than one option may be used.											
Measurement Range		± 100 g pk	± 981 m/s <sup>2</sup> pk													
Frequency Range(± 3 dB)		0 to 1250 Hz	0 to 1250 Hz	[7]												
Frequency Range(± 3 dB)		0 to 2500 Hz	0 to 2500 Hz	[2]												
Phase Response(100 Hz)		<10 °	<10 °													
Broadband Resolution(0.5 to 100 Hz)		2.8 mg rms	0.027 m/s <sup>2</sup> rms	[2]	<b>NOTES:</b> [1]Offset tolerance is based on manufacturers supplied cable length. [2]Typical. [3]Case and shield to mounting surface or cable leads. [4]-65 to +250 °F, ref. 75 °F (-54 to +121 °C, ref. 24 °C) [5]FSO = Full Scale Output over the Measurement Range (8VDC). [6]Measured at 100 Hz, 1 grms. [7]Minimum, verified with Calibration data. [8]Least-squares, straight line method, % FSO. [9]See PCB Declaration of Conformance PS027 for details.											
Non-Linearity		≤ 1 %	≤ 1 %	[8]												
Transverse Sensitivity		≤ 5 %	≤ 5 %													
<b>Environmental</b>																
Overload Limit(Shock)		± 5000 g pk	± 49,050 m/s <sup>2</sup> pk													
Temperature Range(Operating)		-65 to 250 °F	-54.0 to 121 °C													
Temperature Range(Storage)		-65 to 250 °F	-54.0 to 121 °C													
Temperature Coefficient of Sensitivity		± 3.0 %	± 3.0 %	[4]												
Zero g Offset Temperature Coefficient		± 2.0 % FSO	± 2.0 % FSO	[5][4]												
Base Strain Sensitivity(Measured at 250 µε)		.0017 g/µε	.017 (m/s <sup>2</sup> )/µε	[2]												
<b>Electrical</b>					<b>SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES:</b> Model 081A103 Mounting screw (2) Model ACS-145 Phase and Amplitude Calibration from 2 Hz to ±3 dB of frequency range (1) Model M081A103 Mounting screw and washer, M3 x 0.5 thread (2)											
Excitation Voltage		6 to 30 VDC	6 to 30 VDC													
Current Consumption		≤ 10 mA	≤ 10 mA													
Output Impedance		≤ 120 Ohm	≤ 120 Ohm													
Offset Voltage(0 g)		± 160 mVDC	± 160 mVDC	[1]												
Common Mode Voltage(± 0.1 VDC)		+2.5 VDC	+2.5 VDC		<b>OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES:</b> Model 080A208 Triaxial mounting block											
Spectral Noise(1 to 100 Hz)		400 µg/√Hz	3924 (µm/sec <sup>2</sup> )/√Hz	[2]												
Electrical Isolation(Case)		>10 <sup>8</sup> Ohm	>10 <sup>8</sup> Ohm	[3]												
<b>Physical</b>																
Housing Material		Anodized Aluminum	Anodized Aluminum													
Sealing		Epoxy	Epoxy		<table><tr><td>Entered: AP</td><td>Engineer: JJD</td><td>Sales: RM</td><td>Approved: NJF</td><td>Spec Number:</td></tr><tr><td>Date: 4/9/2015</td><td>Date: 4/9/2015</td><td>Date: 4/9/2015</td><td>Date: 4/9/2015</td><td><b>60430</b></td></tr></table>		Entered: AP	Engineer: JJD	Sales: RM	Approved: NJF	Spec Number:	Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	<b>60430</b>
Entered: AP	Engineer: JJD	Sales: RM	Approved: NJF	Spec Number:												
Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	Date: 4/9/2015	<b>60430</b>												
Size (Height x Length x Width)		0.30 in x 1.00 in x .85 in	7.5 mm x 25.4 mm x 21.6 mm													
Weight(without cable)		0.35 oz	9.92 gm	[2]												
Electrical Connector		Integral Cable	Integral Cable													
Electrical Connection Position		Side	Side		<table><tr><td colspan="2"></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">All specifications are at room temperature unless otherwise specified. In the interest of constant product improvement, we reserve the right to change specifications without notice.</td></tr></table>				All specifications are at room temperature unless otherwise specified. In the interest of constant product improvement, we reserve the right to change specifications without notice.							
																
All specifications are at room temperature unless otherwise specified. In the interest of constant product improvement, we reserve the right to change specifications without notice.																
Cable Termination		Pigtail Ends	Pigtail Ends													
Cable Type		010 4-cond Shielded	010 4-cond Shielded													
Cable Length		10 ft	10 ft													
Mounting		Through Holes (2)	Through Holes (2)													

