

# ISOLATION TRANSFORMERS

(For Noise Suppression)

Ordinary isolation transformers isolate one circuit from another while magnetically coupling wanted energy from one to the other. Such a transformer is adequate for use with low-gain circuits or insensitive instruments. However, if the transformer must work into a high-gain load or sensitive instrumentation, noise potentials between the primary circuit and ground must be prevented from affecting the secondary circuits due to capacitive and resistive coupling between the transformer's windings.

Traditional techniques for keeping noise from reaching the transformer secondary, e.g., the standard Faraday shield (a grounded single turn of conducting foil between the windings) will divert much of the primary noise current to ground. But noise still can be coupled into the secondary because of the electrostatic field around the Faraday shield and will cause serious problems in the secondary circuits.

Unique box-shielding techniques employed in Topa Ultra-Isolation Transformers (See pages 74 to 75) effectively overcome this problem. The impedances between windings are among the highest commercially obtainable.

Isolation transformers should be conservatively rated so that they remain cool under full load conditions and have good regulation. They should be especially designed for these five important applications:

1. For isolating sensitive instrumentation from noisy power lines.
2. For maximum common-mode noise rejection.
3. For isolating noisy equipment from noise-sensitive equipment, both of which share the same power line.
4. For minimizing transverse noise (noise across winding) resulting from common-mode noise (noise between winding and ground).
5. For complete electrostatic guarding. When the complete electrostatic shield surrounding the transformer secondary is extended around the equipment being electrostatically guarded, shielding is maximized.

FIG. 1

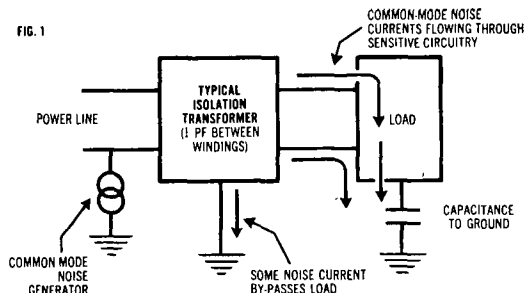


FIG. 2

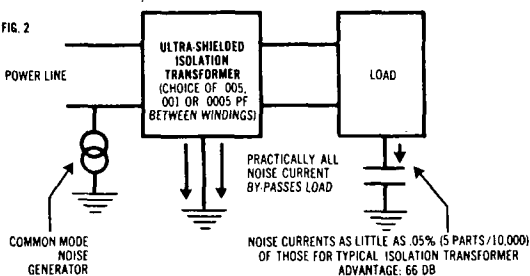
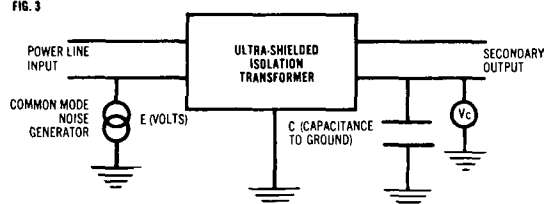


FIG. 3



## Common-Mode Noise Rejection

Box-shielding techniques employed in the construction of Isolation Transformers should achieve maximum impedance between windings while offering a very low impedance path for common-mode noise to ground. To accomplish this, the leakage resistance should be kept at a high level (10,000 megohms) and the effective interwinding capacitance maintained at the guaranteed low values stated below. This provides a significant advantage over the typical isolation transformer using traditional shielding methods (Fig 1-2).

Three basic categories of shielding excellence that are commercially available are:

1. .005 picofarads
2. .001 picofarads
3. .0005 picofarads

Common-mode noise voltage ( $V_c$ ) in dB is measured relative to input noise voltage ( $E$ ), as in Figure 3. Measurements are over the audio frequency band.

For each category of interwinding capacitance, the common-mode noise rejection, stated in dB relative to input noise  $E$ , is shown in the following table.  $V_c$  is measured across  $C$ , a .01  $\mu$ f capacitor to ground.

$C_x$ (picofarads)	$V_c^*$
.005	-126 dB
.001	-140 dB
.0005	-146 dB

\*For noise across capacitances to ground other than  $C = .01 \mu$ f, add -20 dB to above numbers for each factor of 10 increase in  $C$ , or add +20 dB for each factor of 10 decrease in  $C$ .

## Electromagnetic Noise Suppression

Often the instrumentation in the secondary circuits is sensitive enough to be affected by electromagnetic noise fields emanating from the isolation transformer itself. Precautions are taken in Ultra-Isolation Transformers to keep these stray fields to a minimum. A typical level at a distance of 18 inches from the geometric center of the transformer is 0.1 gauss. The noise will roughly obey an inverse cube law.

## Neutralizing Transformers

Neutralizing transformers are used to neutralize such types of interference as electric power ground potential rise, electric power longitudinally induced voltages, transients induced into telecommunications cables during power line switching surges, etc.

Dealing with the former, it is not the least unusual today to find power station ground potential rise values of upwards of 25,000 volts. These voltages are impressed as interfering voltages on wire line telecommunications facilities, associated with the electric power station, and must be prevented from getting into the cables and thus into the terminal equipments. Neutralizing transformers are designed to offset such hazards.

A similar type of situation is encountered where a telecommunications cable is in close proximity and in parallel with a high tension power transmission line, and is therefore subjected to longitudinally induced voltages. Again, neutralizing transformers are used for this purpose. An example of such a situation is one we recently had concerning a television station, wherein their composite cable had an induced 60 cycle voltage of some 70 volts, which made their operation quite hazardous. The United States Sanguine Project in northern Wisconsin was also similarly affected, and neutralizing transformers of our manufacture were used to combat this type of interference.

Where control cables are used within the confines of high voltage electric power stations, they are subjected to switching surge transients caused by the operation of circuit breakers or tap changing on series capacitor banks. Again, this interference is combated by the use of neutralizing transformers.