Avetek’s SAM 4040, a next generation signal analysis meter, is more like a hand-held broadband communication service monitor, with a broad scope of practical test capabilities. It performs essential cable TV system preventive maintenance tests with accuracy and ease. Signal levels, hum, and C/N can be quickly tested without interrupting subscribers’ reception. In no time, technicians are up and running the full range of tests with unprecedented speed.

The hand-held, lightweight, rugged, and water resistant SAM 4040 utilizes down-sized electronics including surface mount components and multilayer PC boards. The measurement information is clearly displayed on a high resolution (320 X 240) LCD.

The SAM 4040 is the first signal level meter available with Avetek’s trade-marked Sweepless Sweep®, in which active system carriers are measured and compared to a stored reference to determine system frequency response.

In addition to its sweep reception capabilities, the SAM 4040 performs a battery of signal level measurements, including a full scan of the cable spectrum to 1 GHz, and a built-in spectrum analyzer with spans from 3 to 50 MHz. A proprietary digital signal processing (DSP) technique is used to measure hum and carrier-to-noise on modulated (unscrambled) carriers.
Comprehensive Level Display
The streamlined, hand-held SAM 4040 shows measurement data in both graphical and numerical form. When tuned to a specific channel, a comprehensive set of information is provided: tuned channel, video frequency and level, audio frequency and level, the difference between video and audio carrier levels, and the battery charge condition.

A "scan limits" feature enables a quick Go/No-Go test based on user defined limits for minimum video carrier levels, maximum and minimum difference between video and audio carrier levels, maximum level difference between adjacent video carriers, and maximum level difference over the entire band. This allows the operator to quickly check to make sure the subscriber drop is within FCC specifications before initiating the 24 hour test.

Informative Tilt Display
Before initiating a sweep at a specific amplifier test point, the technician typically balances the pilot levels. The "tilt" mode simplifies this step by displaying a bar graph with up to nine different user selected video carrier levels represented. The levels of high and low pilots are shown, along with the difference between these carrier levels. From this mode, the operator can quickly switch to sweep by pressing the "sweep" key.

In-Service Hum Measurement
For a hum measurement, simply press the "hum" key. The hum modulation of the last tuned channel will be displayed in either % or dB as selected by the operator. Soft keys allow the operator to select 60, 120, or <1,000 Hz filters for NTSC systems and 50, 100, or <1,000 Hz filters for PAL systems to help in troubleshooting. Stealth’s hum measurement technique permits testing on modulated carriers.

Channel Scan Mode
To get a quick look at absolute carrier levels, the “scan” mode is used. In this mode a bar graph showing all carrier levels is displayed. A marker selects which of the carriers’ levels is displayed on the bottom of the screen. Pressing the “level” key quickly changes the mode to show more detailed measurement information about the marked channel.
In-Service C/N Measurement

For a C/N measurement, simply press the “C/N” key. The C/N ratio of the tuned channel will be displayed, along with the noise measurement frequency and bandwidth. The C/N measurement bandwidth and the frequency offset for the noise measurement may be controlled from the measurement screen. The SAM 4040 automatically searches for a quiet line in the vertical interval and makes the noise measurement during that line. Preselection is not required for up to 78 channels at a +10 dBmV input level.

Sweepless Sweep Display

The SAM 4040 is the first SAM with Sweepless Sweep®, which provides a passive sweep method based on comparative measurements of system signals. The levels are measured and stored at a reference point (headend, hub site, or first amplifier) and then compared on a sweep display at subsequent test points.

Dynamic nonvolatile memory enables the storage of at least 50 sweep traces for later viewing or printing, and at least 16 references may be stored, enabling the operator to test the response from any specific point in the system (bridger, fiber node, splitter, etc.).

Spectrum Analyzer Display

SAM 4040’s spectrum analyzer display provides a view of the system spectrum with variable spans from 3 MHz to 50 MHz and a dynamic range of better than 60 dB. The “Max Hold” function ensures that the highest signal over multiple sweeps is displayed. Even the FCC in-channel response measurement can be made with the spectrum analyzer display.

Extensive Auto Test Capability

Automated tests can be scheduled to perform either FCC compliance tests, or they can be initiated immediately in order to log performance at individual nodes, amplifiers, or other test points.

A wide range of tests can be performed automatically, including signal levels, C/N, hum and depth of modulation. Providing unprecedented flexibility, the SAM 4040 enables the operator to designate which tests to perform on which channels. Because tests are non-intrusive, it’s no problem to test all parameters on all channels.

After a test is performed, results can be displayed on the screen with a pass/fail indication on a variety of limits. Limits can be set for FCC or other government standards, or to system preferences. Data taken during any automated test, or sequence of automated tests, can be viewed with a pass/fail indication for each of the limits, and the operator can scroll through the stored data to look at specific measurement results. Automated test results can be printed directly to a printer or uploaded to a PC using StealthWare to store and manage the data or format reports.

Data Analysis and Management With StealthWare

Any stored Stealth measurement information can be uploaded to a PC using StealthWare, a Windows™ based data management package. Stored sweep, scan, or spectrum screens can be viewed on the PC and analyzed with marker movement and readout information just as on the actual unit. StealthWare allows the operator to build channel plans and edit site locations which can then be downloaded to multiple Stealth instruments. Additionally, channel plans can be uploaded to the PC, modified in StealthWare, and then downloaded back to the Stealth instrument.
Video Depth of Modulation
Another first for SAMs is the Video Depth of Modulation test, in which the percent of modulation is displayed in both graphical and precise numeric format.

Specifications

Frequency
Range: 5 to 1,000 MHz
Accuracy: ±10 ppm at 25°C; ±10 ppm drift over temp.; ±3 ppm/year aging
Resolution Bandwidth: 280 kHz
Tuning Resolutions: 10 kHz
Sweep Resolution: 250 kHz maximum

Level Measurement
Range: -40 to +60 dBmV
Resolution: 0.1 dB
Accuracy: ±1.0 dB from -20 to +50°C 1,2
16/64 QAM Digital Carrier Power Measurement Option: ±1.8dB @ 25°C

Hum Measurement
Carrier level must be ≥-5 dBmV.
Non-scrambled channels only.
Range: 0 to 10%
Resolution: < 0.2%
Accuracy: ±0.7%

Carrier to Noise Measurement
Non-scrambled channels only. No preselection required for 78 channels at +10 dBmV input level.
Range: 52 dB maximum
Resolution: 0.5 dB

Depth of Modulation
Assumes presence of white reference VITS.
Non-scrambled channels only.
Range: 80 to 100%
Resolution: < 0.5% at 85%

Spectrum Mode
Spans: 3, 5, 10, 20, and 50 MHz
Sweep Rates: 2 seconds (50 & 5 MHz)
Display Scaling and Range: 0.5, 1, 2, 5, and 10 dB/division; 6 vertical divisions.
Spurious Free Dynamic Range: 60 dB 1

Serial Interface
RS232; Epson, IBM printers

General
Log Linearity: ±0.5 dB 1
Flatness: ±0.5 dB 3
Dimensions: 15.2 cm (W) x 25.4 cm (H) x 5.1 cm (D)
Weight: 1.95 kg (4.3 lbs.)
Operating Temperature Range: -20 to +50°C; 0 to 120°F

Powering
Battery Life: 2.5 hours continuous (absolute worst case), replaceable battery cartridge
Charge Time: 4 hours fast charge; 30 hour slow charge (with unit operating)

Ordering Information
SAM 4040 Includes soft carrying case, battery charger/adapter (charges battery installed on instrument), two spare type “F” input connectors, and operating manual.

Options
4040 DIG: Digital Carrier Level Measurement Option
StealthWare
Windows™ compatible Data Management Package for Stealth Products.

Optional Accessories
Stealth Battery Cartridge
Field replaceable spare battery cartridge for SAM 4040 or Stealth 3SR Receiver.

CBC-1: Cigarette lighter adapter that charges battery in unit - can be used along with SBC-1 to charge spare battery cartridge in vehicle.

SBC-1: Charger for 1 spare battery cartridge
SBC-6: Charger for up to 6 spare battery cartridges.
P-Stealth: Stealth portable serial thermal fusion printer kit (Citizen PN60). Includes cables and adapters required for printing.

1217-50-0159: Stealth serial printer cable (included with P-Stealth)
81217-50-0149: Channel plan transfer cable
3010-12-0050: Soft carrying case (included with Model SAM 4040)
4010-00-0105: Charger/Adapter 120VAC to 18VDC
1019-00-0437: Charger/Adapter 220VAC to 18VDC

Worldwide Sales Offices

Austria (Vienna)
Tel: (43) 1-214-5110
Fax: (43) 1-214-5109

China (Beijing)
Tel: (86) 10-592-8044
Fax: (86) 10-500-2255

France (Paris)
Tel: (33) 1-4746-6800
Fax: (33) 1-4746-5656

Germany (Munich)
Tel: (49) 89-996-4100
Fax: (49) 89-996-41160

Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2788-6221
Fax: (852) 2788-6220

Japan (Tokyo)
Tel: (81) 427-57-3444
Fax: (81) 427-57-5722

Singapore
Tel: (65) 356-2522
Fax: (65) 356-2553

United Kingdom (Norwich)
Tel: (44) 1603-404-824
Fax: (44) 1603-483-670

North America (Indianapolis, IN)
Tel: (1) 317-788-9351
Fax: (1) 782-4607

WAVETEK is a registered trademark of Wavetek Corporation
Windows™ is a registered trademark of the Microsoft Corporation
1 Typical Specifications 2 Relative to 25°C 3 @ 25°C, @ 20 dBmV
Specifications are subject to change without notice
Printed in the U.S.A. on recycled paper ©Wavetek Corporation, 1995