MAGNETIC PICKUPS & IN-LINE PREAMPLIFIER

SIMPLE, RELIABLE & ECONOMICAL PULSE GENERATORS FOR:

SPEED SWITCHES
DIGITAL TACHOMETERS
FREQUENCY TO D.C. CONVERTERS

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION

A Magnetic Pickup consists of a permanent magnet, a pole-piece, and a sensing coil all encapsulated in a cylindrical case. An object (target) of iron, steel, or other magnetic material, passing closely by its pole-piece causes distortion of the magnetic flux field passing through the sensing coil and pole-piece, which in turn generates a signal voltage. The magnitude of the signal voltage depends on the relative size of the magnetic target, its speed of approach, and how close it approaches. The polarity of the signal depends on whether the target is moving toward or away from the pole-piece.

Magnetic Pickups are most frequently used to sense passing teeth on a gear, sprocket, or timing belt wheel, to bolt-heads, key-ways, or other moving machine mounted targets. Typical targets and resulting signal wave forms are shown below in Fig. 1.

SELECTING A MAGNETIC PICKUP

Selecting a magnetic pickup is a matter of matching a pickup to a gear (or other target), to provide enough input signal to a tachometer, speed-switch, or other device for operation at the required minimum speed. The open-circuit output from a magnetic pickup is directly proportional to speed, and once the minimum operating speed conditions have been met, excess signal will always be available at higher speeds.

The “1-Volt Threshold Speed” column in the Application and Ordering Table (next pg.) provides a convenient guide for estimating minimum operating speeds. This value is the linear surface-speed of a reference gear required to generate a 1-Volt peak, open-circuit output at an air-gap of 0.005”. The reference gear listed for each pickup is near the optimum size for that pickup, as defined by the criteria in Fig. 1B. The RPM listed is for a reference gear with 60 teeth running at that surface-speed. Gears with larger teeth will yield lower outputs. The “Minimum Gear Size” column lists the Diametral Pitch size at which the output drops to 40-60% of the output when the reference gear is used. Gears with very small teeth in relation to the pole-piece diameter, deliver greatly reduced outputs, as shown in Fig. 1A. Threshold outputs when using targets other than gear teeth can be estimated by their relative size with respect to the reference gear teeth. For more information on gears, definitions and relationships, see Sensing Gears.

The 1-Volt Threshold Speeds are based on a 0.005” air-gap. In applications where this air-gap cannot be maintained or where the air-gap can vary due to eccentricity of the sensing gear, a correction factor can be applied from the curve in Fig. 2. The effect of electrical loading is usually minimal at low speeds and low output frequencies, however, output voltage drop due to loading at high frequency or with low impedance inputs can be estimated based on the Output Impedance data.

Note: Magnetic Pickups are used primarily for tachometer and other speed related functions. They are not normally used for counting since loss of counts will occur at low speeds. Therefore, counters are not designed to accept outputs directly from conventional magnetic pickups. In special applications where counting occurs only at running speed or where low-speed count loss is acceptable, a Model LMPC or ASTC can be used.

TYPICAL APPLICATION EXAMPLE

A Digital Tachometer, with an input sensitivity of 0.25 V is to be used with a Magnetic Pickup and gear to indicate speed down to 75 RPM. What are the alternative choices?

Since the input voltage required by the tachometer is only 0.25 V, the surface speeds and reference gear RPM’s required would only be 2 of the 1-Volt Threshold Speeds listed. The MP-25TA with a 60-tooth, 24 D.P. reference gear would obviously fall short since this combination will not develop 0.25 V until the reference gear speed reaches 250 RPM.

The MP-37CA with the 60-tooth, 20 C.P. reference gear would both prove suitable since they would deliver the required 0.25 V at 50 and 45 RPM respectively. They would also provide some additional margin for air-gap variation. The curve of Fig. 2 shows a typical output drop of about 25% when the air-gap is increased from 0.005” to 0.0075”. Since the minimum operating speed in this application is 75 RPM, the additional sensitivity can be traded for a wider air-gap allowance.

The MP-62TA and MP-75TX with their respective reference gears would allow operation at even lower speeds. With both of these pickups it would be possible to drop to a smaller gear pitch for this application.

FIG. 1  OUTPUT WAVEFORMS WITH VARIOUS TARGET SHAPES & SIZES

FIG. 2  TYPICAL OUTPUT/AIR-GAP
NOTES:
1) Surface speed of listed reference gear to produce 0.8 volt peak min., open-circuit output @ 0.005" air-gap.
2) Gear pitch where output will drop to 40-60% of that generated by the reference gear size, at the same surface speed.
3) UL Listed CSA Certified, Class I Group A, B, C and D; Class II Group E, F and G. (VDO Control Systems, Inc.) PN#AIRPAX/70085-1010-005, UL File #E40545 (N), CSA File #042648.
4) Polarity, all pickups: white output lead goes positive with respect to black when target approaches pole.
5) 2-Wire shielded cable is recommended for all magnetic pickup outputs. Connect the shield to the “COMMON” or “GROUND” terminal of the instrument being used and leave the shield un-connected at the pickup. Magnetic Pickup signal leads should never be run in conduit, troughs, or bundles with other power or control voltage lines.
6) Lead length of magnetic pickup should not be extended. An in-line pre-amplifier (ASTC) can be placed on the end of the provided length which would allow longer length after the in-line pre-amplifier.

MODEL ASTC IN-LINE PREAMPLIFIER & PULSE SHAPER FOR MAGNETIC PICKUPS

- CURRENT SINKING OUTPUT
- PROVIDES ULTRA-LOW THRESHOLD SPEEDS
- ALLOWS LARGER AIR-GAPS
- PROVIDES HIGH NOISE IMMUNITY

The ASTC boosts magnetic pickup signals by a factor of more than 100, and provides and NPN Open-Collector pulse output which is compatible with practically all Red Lion Controls’ Tachometers, Motion Monitors and Counters. Low speed input sensitivity is 20 millivolts which permits operation at 1/50th of the 1-Volt Threshold Speeds listed in the Magnetic Pickup Specifications and Ordering Table. The ASTC can be used at pulse rates to 10 KHZ. The NPN O.C. output is current limited to 40 mA. The unit is epoxy-encapsulated in a 3/4” Dia. stainless steel shell, with overall dimensions of 0.9” D X 4.5” L including Neoprene strain-reliefs on each end. In installations where long signal runs are to be made it is advisable to keep the ASTC close to the pickup and let its output cable make the long run. Input and output cables should not be run in conduit, cable troughs, or bundles with power or control voltage lines. Operating temperature is -18° to +60° C.

ORDERING INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODEL NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PART NUMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASTC</td>
<td>In-Line Amplifier</td>
<td>ASTC0000</td>
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