Chapter 5
Detailed Alignment Procedures

This transmitter was aligned at the factory and should not require additional adjustments to achieve normal operation.

This transmitter takes the baseband audio and video inputs or, if the (Optional) 4.5-MHz composite input kit is purchased, either a single composite video + 4.5-MHz input or separate baseband video and audio inputs, and converts them to the desired UHF On Channel RF Output at the systems output power level.

The exciter/amplifier of the LX Series transmitter is of a Modular design and when a Module fails that module needs to be changed out with a replacement module. The failed module can then be sent back to Axcera for repair. Contact Axcera Customer Service Department at 724-873-8100 or fax to 724-873-8105, before sending in any module.

5.1 Module Replacement

Module replacement on the LX series products is a relatively simple process. All modules plug directly into the backplane board except for the power amplifier module, and in higher power units, the power supply and power amplifier modules, that plug into a blind mating connector. To replace a module, refer to the following procedure.

Loosen the two grip lock connectors, located on the front panel, at the top and bottom of the module, counterclockwise until the module releases. The Modulator, IF Processor, Upconverter and Controller/Power Supply can then be gently pulled from the unit. There are two cables connected to the rear of the Power Amplifier Module in the exciter/amplifier chassis assembly. These two cables must first be removed before the PA module will slide out.

After removal of the failed module, slide the replacement module in place and make certain it connects to the backplane board. If the replacement module is a PA Module replace the two cables on the rear of the exciter/amplifier chassis assembly. If the replacement module does not slide in easily, verify it is properly aligned in the nylon tracks, located on both the top and bottom of the module.

Note: Each Module has an assigned slot and will not fit properly in the incorrect slot. Do not try to place a Module in the wrong slot as this may damage the slot or the connectors on the backplane board.

Each module has the name of the module on the front, bottom for identification and correct placement. The Modules are placed in the unit from left to right; (1) Blank panel, (2) Modulator (for analog transmitters) or a Blank panel for a Translator or digital transmitter, (3) IF Processor, (4) Upconverter, (5) Controller/Power Supply and (6) Power Amplifier.

5.1.1 Initial Test Set Up

Check that the RF output at the coupler is terminated into a dummy load of at least 100 watts. While performing the alignment, refer to the Test Data Sheet for the transmitter and compare the final readings from the factory with the readings on each of the modules. The readings should be very similar. If a reading is way off, the problem is likely to be in that module.

Switch On the main AC for the system.

5.2 LX Series Exciter/Amplifier Chassis Assembly

This transmitter operates using the baseband audio and video inputs or, if the (optional) 4.5-MHz composite input kit is purchased, either a single composite video + 4.5-MHz input or separate baseband video and audio inputs.

On the LCD Display, located on the Controller/Power Supply Module, in Transmitter Set-Up, push the button to switch the transmitter to Operate. The check of and the setup of the Audio and Video input levels are completed using the LCD Display and the front panel adjustments on the Modulator assembly. The level of the RF output includes adjustments of the drive level to the Power Amplifier and the adjustment of the linearity and phase predistortion to compensate for any nonlinear response of the Power Amplifier. The adjustments are located on the front panel of the IF Processor module.

Modulator Module Assembly

NOTE: Not present in a Translator systems.

The Modulator Assembly has adjustments for video levels and audio modulation levels, and other related parameters.

Connect an NTSC baseband video test signal input (1 Vpk-pk) to the transmitter video input jack J7 on the rear of the tray. Jacks J7 and J17 are loop-through connected; the J17 jack can be used as a video source for another transmitter. Connect a baseband audio input (+10 dBm) to the balanced audio input terminal block TB02-1 [+], TB02-2 [-], and TB02-3 [ground] or, if stereo/composite audio is provided, connect it to BNC jack J3, the composite audio input jack.

Verify that all LEDs located on the front panel of the Modulator are Green. The following details the meaning of each LED:

AURAL UNLOCK (DS5) – Red Indicates that 4.5 MHz Aural IF is unlocked from the Nominal 45.75 MHz visual IF.

VISUAL UNLOCK (DS6) – Red Indicates that the Nominal 45.75 MHz visual IF is unlocked from the 10 MHz reference.

AUDIO OVER DEVIATION (DS4) – Red Indicates that the input Audio level is too high. (±75 kHz max)

VIDEO LOSS (DS1) – Red Indicates that the input Video level is too low.

OVER MODULATION (DS3) – Red Indicates that the input Video level is too high.

ALTERNATE IF (DS7) – Red Indicates that an external Nominal 45.75 MHz IF is not present to the modulator.

10 MHz PRESENT (DS2) – Red Indicates that an external 10 MHz reference is not present to the modulator.

Look at the front panel LCD meter on the Control/Power Supply Module Assembly. Set the LCD screen to the Modulator Details video output level screen, the screen indicates active video from 0 to 1 Vpk-pk. The normal video input level is 1 Vpk-pk on the front panel screen. If this reading is not at the proper level, the overall video level can be changed by adjusting the VIDEO LEVEL control R42 on the front panel of the Modulator to the 1 Vpk-pk level on the front panel screen.

NOTE: An NTSC or FCC composite signal should be used for video metering calibration.

Switch the LCD display to the Modulator Details screen that indicates the AUDIO DEVIATION (modulation level) of the signal up to 75 kHz.

MONO SET UP: The modulator was factory set for a ±25-kHz deviation with a mono, balanced, audio input of +10 dBm. If the reading is not at the correct level, adjust the MONO Audio Gain pot R110, located on the front panel of the modulator, as necessary, to attain the ±25-kHz deviation on the front panel screen.

STEREO SET UP: The modulator was factory set for a ±75-kHz deviation with a stereo, composite, audio input of 1 Vpk-pk. If this reading is not correct, adjust the STEREO Audio Gain pot R132, located on the front panel of the modulator, as necessary, for the ±75-kHz deviation.

SECONDARY AUDIO SET UP: NOTE: Remove any stereo or mono audio modulation input to the transmitter during the set up of the secondary audio. The modulator was factory set for a ±15-kHz deviation with a secondary audio input of 1 Vpk-pk. If this reading is not correct, adjust the SAP/PRO Audio Gain pot R150, located on the front panel of the modulator, as necessary, for the ±15-kHz deviation.

IF Processor Module Assembly

Verify that all red LEDs located on the IF Processor front panel are extinguished. The following details the meaning of each LED when illuminated:

- DS1 (input fault) – Indicates that either abnormally low or no IF is present at the input of the IF Processor module.
- DS2 (ALC fault) – Indicates that the ALC circuit is unable to maintain the signal level requested by the ALC reference. This is normally due to excessive attenuation in the linearity signal path or the IF phase corrector signal path, or that switch SW1 is in the Manual ALC Gain position.
- DS4 (Mute) – Indicates that a Mute command is present to the system.

Switch the transmitter to Standby. The ALC is muted when the transmitter is in Standby. To monitor the ALC, preset R3, the manual gain adjust pot, located on the front panel of the Upconverter module, fully CCW. Move switch SW1, Auto/Man AGC, on the front panel of the Upconverter module, to the Manual position. Place the transmitter in Operate. Adjust the ALC GAIN pot on the front panel of the IF Processor to obtain 100% output power on the LCD Display mounted on the Controller/Power Supply in the ALC screen. Move the MAN/AUTO ALC switch back to Auto, which is the normal operating position.

To adjust the AGC Cutback setting, raise the output power of the transmitter to 120%. Adjust R2, AGC Cutback, located on the front panel, CCW until the LED DS1, AGC Cutback, just starts to flash. Return the output power of the transmitter to 100%.

5.2.1 Linearity Correction Adjustment

As shipped, the exciter was preset to include amplitude and phase pre-distortion. The pre-distortion was adjusted to approximately compensate the corresponding non-linear distortions of the Power Amplifier.

NOTE: On the IF processor board inside the module the correction enable/disable jumper W12 on J30 will be in the Enable position, on pins 2 & 3.

Set up a spectrum analyzer with 100 kHz resolution bandwidth and 100 kHz video bandwidth to monitor the intermodulation products of the RF output signal of the Power Amplifier.

A typical red field spectrum is shown in Figure 5-1. There are three Linearity Corrector stage adjustments located on the front panel of the IF Processor

Module. The adjustments are threshold settings that are adjusted as needed to correct for any amplitude or phase intermod problems. Adjust the top linearity correction adjustment R211 threshold cut in for the in phase amplitude distortion pre-correction that is needed. Next adjust the middle linearity correction adjustment R216 threshold cut in also for the in phase amplitude distortion pre-correction that is needed. Finally adjust the bottom linearity correction adjustment R231 threshold cut in for the quadrature phase distortion pre-correction that is needed. The above pots are adjusted for the greatest separation between the peak visual carrier and the intermod products. **NOTE:** These pots affect many other video parameters, so care should be taken when adjusting the linearity correction.

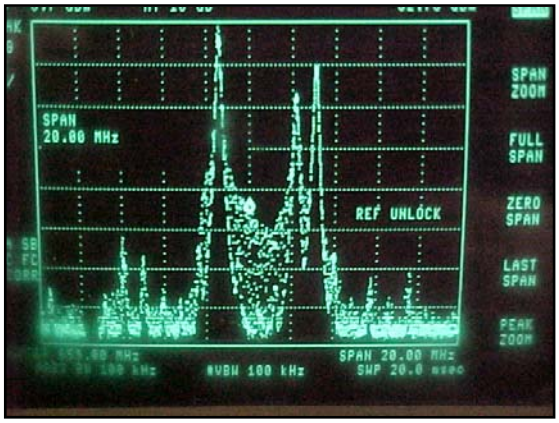

Figure 5-1. Typical Red Field Spectrum

5.2.2 Frequency Response Delay Equalization Adjustment

The procedure for performing a frequency response delay equalization adjustment for the transmitter is done at IF and is described in the following steps:

The center frequency for the first stage is 45 MHz. Adjust R103, the top frequency response equalizer pot, located on the front panel of the IF Processor Module, for the best depth of frequency response correction at 45 MHz.

The center frequency for the second stage is 42 MHz. Adjust R106, the middle frequency response equalizer pot, located on the front panel of the IF Processor Module, for the best depth of frequency response correction at 42 MHz.

The center frequency for the second stage is 43.5 MHz. Adjust R274, the bottom frequency response equalizer pot, located on the front panel of the IF Processor Module, for the best depth of frequency response correction at 43.5 MHz.

After the three delay attenuation equalizers have been adjusted, fine tune, as needed, for the best frequency response across the channel.

5.2.3 Calibration of Output Power and Reflected Power of the transmitter

Note: Perform the following procedure only if the power calibration is suspect.

Switch the transmitter to Standby and place the Upconverter into Manual Gain. Preset R205, the aural null pot on the Amp Control board, fully CCW. Adjust R204, the null offset pot on the Amp

Control board, for 0% visual output. Perform the following adjustments with no aural present by removing the aural IF carrier jumper on the back of the chassis assembly. Connect a sync and black test signal to the video input jack of the test modulator. Switch the transmitter to Operate.

Next, set up the transmitter for the appropriate average output power level:

Example is for 100 Watt Transmitter.

- Sync + black 0 IRE setup/wattmeter=59.5 watts

- Sync + black 7.5 IRE setup/wattmeter=54.5 watts

Note: The transmitter must have 40 IRE units of sync.

Adjust R202, visual calibration, on the Amp Control board for 100% on the front panel LCD display in the % Visual Output position.

With the spectrum analyzer set to zero span mode, obtain a peak reference on the screen. Reconnect the aural carrier jumper on the rear of the chassis assembly. Turn the power adjust pot on the front panel until the original peak reference level is attained. Adjust R203 for a 100% aural power reading. Switch to the Visual Output Power position and adjust R205 (aural null pot) for 100% visual power.

To calibrate the reflected output power reading of the transmitter. Reduce manual gain pot R3 to a 10% reading on the LCD front panel display in the % Output Power position. Place the transmitter in Standby. Remove the PA Module Sled. Remove the load from J4 on the (A4) Directional Coupler Board and switch the LCD Display screen to the Reflected Output Power position. Reinstall the PA Module. Switch the transmitter to operate. Adjust the reflected power calibration adjust pot R163 on the power amplifier module to a 10% reading. A reflected power fault should be present on the LCD Display. Reconnect the load to J4 in the module.

After this calibration is completed, move switch SW1 on the upconverter module to the Automatic AGC position. This is the normal operating position for the switch. Adjust the ALC pot on the IF Processor is needed to attain 100% output power. Switch to Manual Gain (Manual AGC) and adjust the Manual Gain pot for 100 % output power. Switch the upconverter back to Automatic AGC.

The Transmitter is now aligned, calibrated, and ready for normal operation.

This completes the detailed alignment procedures for the LX Series transmitter.

If a problem occurred during the alignment, help can be found by calling Axcera field support at 724-873-8100.

5.3 Alignment Procedure for the Bandpass Filter Assembly

The Bandpass Filter Assembly is tuned to reject unwanted distortion products generated when the signals are diplexed and also during the amplification process.

The Bandpass Filter is factory tuned to the proper bandwidth and should not need tuned. If you think tuning is needed consult Axcera Field Support Department before beginning the adjustment.

The Traps are labeled with their Center Frequency relative to the Frequency of the Carrier. (For Example: The Traps labeled -4.5 MHz are tuned for a Center Frequency of 4.5 MHz Lower than the Frequency of the Visual Carrier.)

The Trap Sections are Reflective Notches, adjustable across the entire UHF Frequency Band. The electrical length of

the Outer Sleeve and the Center Rod of the Notch can be adjusted to tune the Notch Frequency. The Depth of the Notch is set by the gap between the Center Conductor of the Trap Section and the Center Conductor of the Main Line. Tight Coupling makes a Deep Notch, while Loose Coupling makes a Shallow Notch.

NOTE: The Trap Sections have been factory tuned and should not need major adjustments. The Frequency, relative to Visual Carrier, that the Trap is tuned to is marked on the Notch. Fine Tuning of the Notches Center Frequency can be accomplished with the Tuning Bolts located on the side of the Filter Section. Loosen the nut locking the Bolt in place and adjust the Bolt to change the Frequency of the Notch. Monitor the output of the Transmitter with a Spectrum Analyzer and Null the Distortion Product with the Bolt.

Red Field is a good Video Test Signal to use to see the out-of-band Products. Tighten the nut when the tuning is completed. Hold the bolt in place with a screwdriver as the nut is tightened to prevent it from slipping.

For major tuning, such as changing the Notch Depth or moving the Notch Frequency more than 1 MHz, the Outer Conductor and the Center Conductor of the Trap Section must both be moved. This requires an RF Sweep Generator to accomplish. Apply the Sweep signal to the Input of the Trap Filter and monitor the Output. Loosen the Clamp holding the Outer Conductor in place and make the length longer to Lower the frequency of the Notch or shorter to Raise the frequency of the Notch. Loosen the Center Conductor with an Allen Wrench and move it Deeper for a Lower Frequency Notch or out for a Higher Frequency Notch. These adjustments must both be made to change the Notch Frequency. Moving only the Center Conductor or the Outer Conductor will effect the Notch Depth in addition to the Center Frequency. The variable that is being adjusted with this procedure is the length of the Center Conductor inside the Trap Filter. The gap between the Trap and the Main Line should not be changed. Moving only the Inner or the Outer Conductors by itself will effect the Gap and the Notch depth.

To effect the Notch Depth Only, both sections will have to be moved. The Notch Depth is controlled by the Gap between the Center Conductor and the Trap Section. This Gap also has an effect on the Center Frequency. To Deepen the Notch, Shorten the Outer Conductor and pull the Center Conductor Out until the Notch is back in the same place. Move the Sections in the opposite direction to make a Shallow Notch.

After tuning has been completed, tighten the Clamp and the Allen Screws which hold the Conductors. Use the Fine Tuning Bolts to bring the Frequency In. The Final Tuning Adjustments should be completed with the Transmitter driving the Output Trap Filter for at least one hour to allow for warm-up drift.

This completes the Alignment Procedure for the Bandpass Filter Assembly and the exciter/amplifier assembly of the LX Series Transmitter.