Aki Riuttanen

AUDIO CALIBRATION TOOL DEVELOPMENT FOR JOT G3 FINAL TESTER
The object of this Master’s thesis was to develop audio calibration tools, both hardware and software for JOT G3 Final Tester robot acoustic interfaces. The main target was to calibrate speaker frequency response to be able to produce flat frequency response. JOT Automation is one of the leading test automation solution providers companies in Finland, acts on four different continents. JOT G3 Final tester is an all-in-one test handler used for the production testing of final assembled hand held devices. This work was done between spring 2014 and 2015 at JOT Automation R&D office in Oulu.

The work included specifying the needed features for hardware and software. A flow chart was created for describing the interaction between the operator, calibration hardware and software. The extra challenge was to develop a tool that could be used without a graphical user interface.

As a result of this thesis, an audio calibration product specific part (test adapter) was designed to the JOT G3 Final Tester. PSP integrates a high precision microphone and sound source, an internal data acquisition card together with a PSP printed circuit board, developed during the thesis to the G3 Final Tester. The calibration software uses PSP PCB indication LEDs and pneumatic actuators to guide the operator during the calibration process. The calibration SW controls a DAQ card during measurements and stores the needed compensation values. An additional graphical user interface is provided to visualize measurement results and guide the operator but, it is not mandatory for the calibration execution.

Preliminary results from the frequency response calibration are available. Hardware changes during thesis work prevented the execution of the final measurements. A verification plan and future development ideas are listed in their own chapter.

Keywords:
Audio calibration, frequency response, production testing, audio verifications, mobile devices, handheld devices
PREFACE

This Master’s thesis was made for JOT Automation Oulu R&D center between spring 2014 and 2015. The aim of the thesis was to develop audio calibration tools for G3 Final Tester used for handheld devices production testing. The calibration tools developed during this thesis work will be used in future for G3 Final Tester calibrations both at JOT production and in customer premises. Other new learnings will be used as an input for new JOT G-tester family products.

Eino Niemi, senior lecturer from School of Engineering and Natural Resources, acted as supervisor from the Oulu University of Applied Sciences. Tapio Marttila, application specialist and Tuomas Piikivi, SW architect and G3 Final Tester program manager supervised and guided the thesis work from JOT Automation’s side. I would like to thank all my supervisors for good advice related to thesis work, helping to re-adjust goals during this journey and keeping the target setting clear all the way to the finalization of the thesis.

I have also received a great deal of help and support from other colleagues from JOT Automation and I would like to mention a few names from this group. Rami Rahikkala SW designer, Mika Madetoja senior HW designer, Marko Pahikkala HW designer, Markku Koskela senior mechanics designer and last but not least my line manager and G3 Final Tester product owner Tuomas Nieminen. They all have given the best possible support during this thesis development work.

All above mentioned colleagues together with Tapio and Tuomas have shared a lot of their valuable time during challenging times to help me to understand the root causes of unexpected behaviors. They gave me numerous improvement ideas, helped to evaluate new proposals and eventually enabled all the design changes needed. The hard work and our uncompromising attitude as a team made it possible to create the final product which we all can be proud of.

Finally, I would like to give my warmest and biggest thanks to my wife Sari who has kept things rolling at home during my studies and has been very patient and supportive during my absences. I would also like to thank my son Leo, who has been wondering where daddy is in so many late evenings. I’m looking forward to spend more time with the ones who mean the world to me.

Oulu, Finland, May 2015

Aki Riuttanen
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TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AC  Alternating Current
API  Application Programming Interface
C#   C sharp Programming Language
DAQ  Data Acquisition
DUT  Device Under Test
GUI  Graphical User Interface
IHF  Integrated Hands Free
NI-DAQ National Instruments Data Acquisition instrument
Pa   Pascal, Pressure unit
PCB  Printed Circuit Board
PSP  Product Specific Part (G3 adapter for DUT interfaces)
RF   Radio Frequency
RMS  Root Mean Square, effective value of AC signal
SPL  Sound Pressure Level
THD  Total Harmonic Distortion
THD+N Total Harmonic Distortion plus Noise
V_p  Voltage, Amplitude Peak
V_pp  Voltage, Peak-to-Peak
V_rms Voltage, Root Mean Square
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The main purpose of this thesis work was to develop acoustic calibration tools including both hardware and software for JOT G3 Final Tester microphone (artificial ear) and speaker (artificial mouth). A new tool planned to be compatible with JOT Automation production as well as enable the recalibration by customers on the field. As a side project it was also agreed to execute typical audio performance measurements for JOT G3 Final Tester and provide an outcome as an input for product data sheets. The third purpose of this thesis was to provide more detailed information for the JOT G3 Final Tester audio documentation. The initial thought was to provide an application note, a reference manual type of documentation from the JOT G3 Final Tester audio measurements to help customers to integrate JOT G3 Final Tester to their test systems.

1.2 JOT Automation

JOT Automation was founded in 1988 to support the growth of mobile telecom industry. Currently JOT Automation provides production and test solutions for a wide variety of customer industries including telecom, automotive and healthcare. The main products are automated product handlers and testing equipment. JOT Automation operates on four continents, employing in excess of 300 people in 13 countries providing a global support for hundreds of manufacturing facilities around the globe. (1)

1.3 JOT G3 Final Tester

JOT G3 Final Tester is designed to be an all-in-one type test handler, which enables several types of tests in the production environment for final assembled handheld devices in a single test box. This reduces the operator handling time and thus increases productivity. On the other hand, this means that the tester cannot provide an ideal environment for all type of tests, which leads to compromises e.g. in audio and RF testing environments.
1.4 Theory of audio measurements

Sound is a vibration or a series of vibrations that move through the air, like ripples (waves) in the water if you throw a stone in it. Sound source is anything which causes air particles to move to the same direction with the sound wave and generates a vibration within our hearing range. Human hearing range covers 20 Hz to 20 kHz with high end being very age dependent, about 20 kHz at 15 years and falling roughly by 1 Hz/day so that 2–4 kHz would be quite typical at 70 years (2, Ch.1.4.2.1).

1.4.1 Characteristics of the sine wave

Microphones can be used to convert acoustic energy to electrical energy and speakers can be used to convert electrical energy back to acoustic energy. A pure electrical audio signal is a sine wave. Figure 1 illustrates the most important characteristics of a sine wave related to this thesis. An effective value from the signal can be obtained by calculating the RMS value.

![Diagram of sine wave characteristics](image)

**FIGURE 1. Main characteristics of sine wave (3)**

Amplitude ($V_{PK}$ or $V_{p}$) is associated with the height of a sound wave and is related to a volume. Loud sounds with a greater volume have a higher amplitude while quiet sounds with a less volume have lower amplitudes. Increasing the amplitude of a sound will increase the sound pressure level. Amplitude can be measured in
decibels (dB). Most people can recognize about 3 dB change in the amplitude. (4, Ch.1.)

Signal frequency is measured in hertz (Hz), one cycle at a second equals to 1 Hz. Figure 2 presents frequency ranges from human voice together with different instruments.

**FIGURE 2. Frequency ranges from different instruments (4, Ch.1.)**

It should be noted that the fundamental frequencies of speech and music only go up to about 4 kHz, but the harmonics may in some circumstances go well into the 10–20 kHz range or even higher (2, Ch.1.3.7.).

When a signal is passed through a device with a non-linear transfer function, the device causes measurable additional tones or harmonics which are at multiples of the test frequency. Total harmonic distortion (THD) is measured by driving the device under test with a pure sinusoidal test tone and removing the fundamental component at the output with a notch filter before measuring what remains. (2,
Figure 3 illustrates additional harmonics caused by a non-linear device.

![Diagram showing harmonics caused by non-linear device](image)

**FIGURE 3. Harmonics caused by non-linear device (5, p.16)**

The term THD+N is used to describe everything else from the device output than the intended input signal itself. THD and THD+N are often expressed as percentage from the total signal.

### 1.4.2 Sound pressure

Sound pressure is a local pressure change compared to ambient pressure caused by a sound wave. The unit for sound pressure is Pascal (Pa). One Pascal is one Newton per square meter N/m$^2$. (2, Ch. 1.1.2.)

Sound pressure at a given time can be calculated with Formula 1 (5, p.14.).

$$P = \frac{F}{A}$$  

**FORMULA 1**

- $P$ = sound pressure (Pa)
- $F$ = force (N)
- $A$ = surface area (m$^2$)

Unless otherwise stated, the sound pressure is given as an RMS value, Formula 2 (5, p.14.).
\[ P_{\text{rms}} = \frac{p}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{FORMULA 2} \]

\[ P = \text{sound pressure at given time} \]

Sound-wave pressures fall in the range from 0.00002 Pa to around 200 Pa. 0.00002 Pa corresponds approximately to the pressure required to create an audible sensation in the average human ear at its most sensitive frequency. 200 Pa is around the pain threshold. (2, Ch. 1.3.1.)

Sound pressure level is convenient to be expressed as a logarithmic decibel scale related to the lowest human hearable sound, Formula 3 (6).

\[ L_p = 10 \log_{10} \left( \frac{p_{\text{rms}}^2}{p_{\text{ref}}^2} \right) = 20 \log_{10} \left( \frac{p_{\text{rms}}}{p_{\text{ref}}} \right) \text{ dB} = \text{dB SPL} \quad \text{FORMULA 3} \]

\( L_p = \) sound pressure level (dB)
\( P_{\text{rms}} = \) sound pressure (Pa)
\( P_{\text{ref}} = \) reference sound pressure 20 (\(\mu\)Pa)

### 1.4.3 Relation between different units

Table 1 illustrates a relation between a decibel unit and sound pressure levels with real life examples.

**TABLE 1. Relation between decibel and sound pressure with typical sound sources (7)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPL (dB) Lp dB SPL</th>
<th>Sound pressure (P) N/m² = Pa</th>
<th>Sound sources (noise) Examples with distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Jet aircraft, 50 m away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>63.2</td>
<td>Threshold of pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Threshold of discomfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Chainsaw, 1 m distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Disco, 1 m from speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>Diesel truck, 10 m away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Kerbside of busy road, 5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>0.063</td>
<td>Vacuum cleaner, distance 1 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>Conversational speech, 1 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.0063</td>
<td>Average home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>Quiet library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International standards have established 1 pascal (Pa) as 94 dB SPL (sound pressure level) in 1 kHz. This reference point is used for specifying the sensitivity of microphones.

When sound pressure is doubled, the sound pressure level (dB SPL) rises by 3 decibels. Likewise, doubling the power equals to 3 dB increase in the power level. A two times higher voltage is seen as 6dB rise in the voltage level. (8, p.29.)

**1.4.4 Frequency weighting**

The sensitivity of the human ear is not flat with frequency. Frequency response varies with the amplitude of the sound level. Figure 4 illustrates equal loudness curves from Robinson and Dadson (1956), although such curves were first produced by Fletcher and Munson (1933). (2, 1.4.2.1)

![Equal-loudness contours](image)

*FIGURE 4. Equal-loudness contours (2, Ch. 1.4.2.1.)*
Several different weighting filters have been developed over the years to simulate the response of the ear. Figure 5 shows example frequency response graphs from 4 different specifications: an ANSI A-weighting filter, a CCIR 468 weighting filter, a C-weighting filter, and a C message weighting filter.

![Audio Precision Frequency Response, Four Common Noise Weighting Filters](image)

**FIGURE 5. Examples from different frequency weightings (9, p.17.)**

1.5 Audio testing in production

The audio testing at production is typically concentrating on finding manufacturing failures. This means checking that all components are placed in the correct location and assembled in the correct way. Also the component functionality is checked. Typically, main components are already tested by component suppliers so it is enough to test the process quality of a manufacturer’s own production. Before a mass production phase, mobile device audio characteristics are investigated in details during R&D phase. (5, p.12.)

Typically, during a prototyping phase, the development team gathers audio measurements data from the developed product with R&D instruments and dedicated audio testers, which are often much more precise and capable to find weaknesses from products than the test equipment used in production. This
information is then used to define critical measurements which are verified with prototype series. Finally, only a minimum set of the most effective measurements to catch possible process failures are used in the mass production phase.

1.6 Why audio calibration is needed

The tolerance from a component such as a speaker, an amplifier or a signal cable causes a variation in the audio signal path. It is as seen as unexpected outcome from the signal path. Calibration is done to equalize the measurements between different JOT G3 Final Testers. The audio paths in G3 are complex due to the all-in-one type of structure and this increases the need for compensation. More information from JOT G3 Final Tester signal routing can be found in chapter 2.5.

Calibration is carried out with the known accurate microphone or sound source to be able to measure a signal response through the whole signal path. Based on the measured offset, the compensation values are used to compensate the signal path losses. Depending on the implementation, the compensation can be done in different ways. In JOT G3 Final Tester the sensitivity of microphone and speaker amplifiers can be adjusted by changing the amplifier gain with a software controllable potentiometer to compensate losses in the signal path. The speaker frequency compensation on the other hand is done only with a software by compensating a DAQ card input to produce a flat response from the speaker output.
2 INTRODUCTION TO G3 FINAL TESTER

2.1 Overview of G3 Final Tester

JOT G3 Final Tester is an automated all-in-one test solution for the production testing of electronic handheld devices. JOT G3 Final Tester supports the testing of mechanical, RF, electrical, audio and visual interfaces of mobile devices. JOT G3 Final tester includes a microphone (artificial ear) and a speaker (artificial mouth) for the audio interface testing of a device under test, later DUT. Both input and output signals are routed via a National Instruments digital acquisition card, which can be controlled either by a JOT G3 Final Tester on-board computer or a test system computer.

![Figure 6](image.png)

**FIGURE 6. The main parts of G3 Final Tester (10, p.33)**

The main parts of JOT G3 Final Tester are introduced in Figure 6:

1. A hatch audio isolation with an outer cover
2. A frame audio isolation with an outer cover
3. An RF shielded front door
4. A Base plate (a tester frame isolated with shock absorbers)
5. An RF shielded tester frame and a robot base
6. An electrical panel ventilation with RF shielded low noise fans
7. An electrical panel (Drawer)
The tester frame is isolated from the base plate with shock absorbers to reduce the effect of external vibrations which could cause an extra noise to audio measurements. RF and audio shielding covers which are highlighted in Figure 7, are installed on top of the tester frame to reduce the effect of external interferences.

FIGURE 7. Audio and RF shielding of G3 Final Tester (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

2.2 Test features of G3 Final Tester robot assembly

JOT G3 Final Tester robot is in big role to enable the marketing promise of the all-in-one tester. The microphone and speaker of JOT G3 Final Tester are also located in the robot assembly among other test features, which are shown in Figure 8. Including test features in the robot assembly allows more flexibility for the DUT testing since the tester side components related to individual tests can be moved to different locations in the robot’s work area.
Testing features of JOT G3 Final Tester robot are shown in Figure 8:

1. An ambient light source (moves on X-Y direction)
2. A robot Z-axis with a changeable fingertip (moves on X-Y-Z directions)
3. A microphone (artificial ear) for the DUT loudspeaker testing (moves on X-Y-Z directions)
4. A light-cube for the DUT front-camera testing (moves on X-Y-Z directions)
5. A speaker (artificial mouth) for the DUT microphone testing (moves on X direction)
6. A Z-axis processor card for controlling robot test features

2.3 Customer and product specific parts of G3 Final Tester

DUT in JOT G3 Final Tester is located under the robot on top of a product specific adapter sometimes also called as a test jig. The test adapter consists of a customer specific part (CSP), which has interfaces shared on all products with a specific customer, and a product specific part (PSP), which has interfaces which may vary between different products.
FIGURE 9. Customer (CSP) and product specific parts (PSP) interfaces of G3 Final Tester (10, p.52)

JOT G3 Final Tester electrical adaptation boards related to a product specific adapter are shown in Figure 9:

1. A mechanics part of the adapter
2. A product specific PCB
3. A customer specific PCB
4. The main connector board with a processor board controlling CSP and PSP test features

Motherboard is the same in all JOT G3 Final Testers with a standard interface to a CSP board which can be varied between different customers. From CSP there is again a standard interface towards a PSP board which can be different for all customer device types. In many cases also the PSP PCB can be shared with multiple device types and there are differences between adapters only at the PSP mechanics and test applications connected to the PSP PCB.
Most electrical interfaces from JOT G3 Final Tester to DUT are routed thru a motherboard, a CSP and PSP printed circuit boards which are located below the robot’s work area and above the instrument drawer. The control of PSP features is done with a motherboard processor card. Additionally, the PSP usually also includes pneumatic valves and RF connections which can also be controlled by the motherboard processor card. The test features located at the robot assembly are controlled by a Z-axis processor card.

2.4 Instrument drawer of G3 Final Tester

For easy access to JOT G3 Final Tester components, the majority of the electrical instrumentation is located at a bottom of tester at the instrument drawer, which can be pulled out from the tester during a maintenance work. As shown in Figure 10, also a National Instruments DAQ card which is taking care of signal generating and analyzing together with the JOT DAQ adapter PCB which controls signal routing for a DAQ card are stacked at the bottom of instrument drawer. Signal cables to robot speaker and microphone are routed through energy chains to a robot assembly where the rest of the audio related components locates.

FIGURE 10. Electrical instruments drawer of G3 Final Tester (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)
The main components of JOT G3 Final Tester related to audio measurements inside electrical instruments drawer are follows:

1. A National Instruments data acquisition card (USB-6361)
2. A JOT DAQ adapter PCB (for signal route switching and filtering)
3. A JOT Power Lines Divider PCB
4. An optional USB connection to the DAQ card for a test system PC
5. A G3 Final Tester on board computer
6. A power supply 12 V
7. A power supply 24 V

2.5 Audio signal routing of G3 Final Tester

As shown in Figure 8, the robot assembly includes a speaker and a microphone for the DUT audio testing. Shielded signal cables go through the robot energy chain to a National Instruments DAQ card. The DAQ card is used for generation a signal from a speaker and for analyzing the signal from a microphone. The DAQ card is located at the very bottom of the instrument drawer under the JOT DAQ adapter PCB, both shown in Figure 10.

The DAQ card can be controlled either by the G3 Final Tester onboard computer or optionally directly with the test system computer. Note that in both cases the audio signal routing for the DAQ card is controlled by G3 Final Tester. Signal routing can happen in JOT DAQ adapter, CSP and PSP PCBs which all are controlled by G3 Final Tester onboard computer via a motherboard processor PCB. The complexity of the signal routing originates from the all-in-one requirement for G3 Final Tester.

Additional speakers or microphones for the DUT testing can also be located in the product specific part (PSP) of the tester. Additional speakers are sometimes requested when testing DUT with multiple microphones. The calibration of these PSP related additional features is not part of this thesis, except a reference microphone which is used at the calibration PSP.
**FIGURE 11. Simplified audio routing of G3 Final Tester (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)**
3 AUDIO CALIBRATION STATUS OF THE G3 FINAL TESTER BEFORE THE THESIS

Earlier, audio calibrations of JOT G3 Final Tester consisted of a single point gain calibration for a robot microphone and a speaker. Electrical and acoustic self-tests for both the microphone and the speaker are performed during a manufacturing verification phase. The self-diagnostic PSP of JOT G3 Final Tester, which includes its own microphone and speaker, is in use for signal routing during the production testing of JOT G3 Final Tester.

3.1 Old calibration procedure

The gain for the microphone and speaker amplifier is adjusted during the audio calibration for a 1 kHz single frequency. The gain setting is done against a known sound source (B&K Sound Calibrator Type 4231) to achieve the wanted sensitivity level. The gain is adjusted by a software adjustable hardware potentiometer, the actual value being stored to a registry of the potentiometer.

3.1.1 Old microphone calibration method

A B&K sound source with a 1 kHz 94 dB SPL signal produces a reference signal for the microphone. The gain for the microphone amplifier is adjusted to produce the output response as close as possible to 400 mV (RMS). Audio levels for other frequencies are not compensated.

3.1.2 Old speaker calibration method

The artificial mouth calibration method of JOT G3 Final Tester was based on a self-diagnostic PSP calibrated with a B&K sound source with a 1 kHz 94 dB SPL signal and a National Instruments Test Stand sequence. The speaker gain is adjusted to the produce at the same output level with a 1 kHz and 100 mV (RMS) input signal as the reference level stored to a diagnostic adapter memory.
3.2 Feedback from old calibration methods

Especially, a speaker sound pressure level (SPL) calibration over several frequencies was requested to enable the tester to produce a flat frequency response over requested SPL levels.

Often customers used their own method, usually a so called golden unit (a known good sample device from the mean of deviation) method to compare the results between good and bad units and to set production limits based on those measurements. Speaker output levels were balanced by requesting different output voltages from DAQ cards until the response from the golden unit was in line with the reference tester.

3.3 Plan for a new calibration procedure

Based on feedback from the evaluation testers delivered to customers and JOT internal measurements, it was proven that more robust adjustments were needed in JOT G3 Final Tester production to prove a sufficient acoustic performance.

Below is a robot speaker SPL calibration definition from the JOT G3 Final Tester audio calibration specification: “Level of each Tone frequency from DAQ is selected so that acoustic output (SPL) from JOT G3 system speaker is constant in DUT microphone position. Correction values for DAQ are defined in G3 tester.” (11, p.1.)
To fulfill this requirement in addition to the original single frequency speaker gain compensation, also a sample from each predefined calibration frequency is measured and a compensation factor is calculated to be able to flatten the frequency response.

To enable an easy programming interface for the end user, G3 Final Tester also does SPL to voltage and voltage to SPL conversions automatically. The end user can request a sound pressure level from the G3 robot speaker in decibels and return microphone measurements either in decibels or AC voltages. The visualization of the calibration concept is in Figure 12.
4 G3 FINAL TESTER CALIBRATION HARDWARE

4.1 Calibration hardware

Calibration hardware is a product specific adapter which has a place for a sound source (Brüel & Kjaer Sound Calibrator Type 4231), a high-precision condenser microphone (G.R.A.S. MIC 40AG) and a pre-amplifier (G.R.A.S. Preamplifier Type 26AM). The reference sound source and microphone selection was done based on the earlier good experiences at JOT Automation.

The selected sound source conforms to the EN/IEC 60942 (2003) Class LS and Class 1, and ANSI S1.40–2006 which means it is classified for the calibration of sound level meters and other sound measurement equipment in laboratory environments. According to the data sheet a sound source is capable to produce a 1 kHz (±0.1%) signal with sound pressure levels 94.0 dB (±0.2 dB principal SPL) or 114.0 dB (±0.2 dB re 20µPa at reference conditions). (12, p.1.)

The selected reference microphone and preamplifiers are designed for laboratory and production environments. The frequency accuracy for a reference microphone is ±1 dB from 5 to 12.5 kHz and ±2 dB from 3.15 to 20 kHz. (13, p.1.)

The preamplifier frequency accuracy is ±0.2 dB from 2.5 to 200 kHz (with 18 pF dummy microphone) and typical noise is 1.8 µV. (14, p.1.)

4.1.1 Calibration PSP printed circuit board

The special PSP PCB for calibration PSP was developed together with hardware specialists from JOT Automation to power a high accuracy microphone and adjust the microphone output level suitable for the DAQ card which is used for generating a signal for a speaker and analyzing a signal from a microphone.

The calibration PSP includes a button for the operator input and a few digital inputs and outputs to enable the calibration flow control. Some LEDs, one inside the PSP button, are used to indicate the calibration progress and needed user actions. Some inputs and outputs are needed to control indication LEDs and pneumatic actuators are used to release a sound source locking mechanism and
to control the sound source. All above mentioned features are placed in the audio calibration PSP PCB and controlled by the motherboard processor board of G3 Final Tester.

4.1.2 Calibration PSP mechanics

The calibration PSP mechanics was specified based on the input from a PCB designer and thesis work author. A mechanical designer made the actual design and provided the first prototype for verifications. Based on trials, it was decided to add a locking mechanism for all loose parts and a pneumatic release cylinder for a sound source locker for the second adapter version. In the latest, third adapter version a sound source height on the adapter is changed according to the latest robot microphone design and the second cylinder for the sound source is added to enable both 94dB and 114 dB outputs. The main parts from the audio calibration HW are introduced in the Figure 13.
4.1.3 G3 Final Tester reference sound source adapter

G3 Final Tester robot microphone needs a mechanical adapter to seal properly against the reference sound source (B&K Sound Calibrator Type 4231) during calibration measurements. Figure 14 presents a cross-sectional view from the used sound source and the intended placement for the calibrated microphone.

**FIGURE 13. Audio calibration PSP mechanics (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)**
FIGURE 14. Cross-sectional view of the B&K calibrator Type 4231 (12, p. 2)

The original G3 Final Tester artificial ear adapter was designed as a low leakage coupler and thus it was not sealing properly against the sound source during microphone gain calibration. The mechanical designer created a designated adapter (Figure 15) for calibration purposes. Due to mechanical restrictions in G3 Final tester, the microphone could not be located inside the sound source.

FIGURE 15. The first version of an artificial earpiece adapter between a robot microphone and the B&K sound source standard half inch interface (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)
4.2 Calibration software

The audio calibration software consists of an audio calibration PSP configuration file and an audio calibration application and both of them are delivered with JOT G3 Final Tester server software installer.

The PSP configuration file defines the needed digital and pneumatic inputs and outputs for controlling adapter cylinders and indication LEDs. The audio calibration application is C# code which includes all methods for JOT G3 Final Tester server software to be able to execute JOT G3 Final Tester audio calibration procedure.

The original idea was to create the calibration functionality without any graphical software user interface (GUI) and thus, the calibration PSP is including indication LEDs to guide the operator thru the calibration process. This approach enables a faster calibration at mass production lines with typically multiple G3 Final Testers which need to be calibrated one by one.

During the development work, it came clear that some extra info is needed to both guide the operator for the first few times to learn about the calibration flow and also to give more detailed information from the calibration than pass or fail LED. Eventually, it was decided to create an AudioCalibrationUI-application which presents advice messages and the most important measurement results to the operator. According to the original requirement, the calibration can still be executed also without a graphical user interface. Figure 16 introduces typical view from AudioCalibrationUI- application after a successful calibration.
FIGURE 16. AudioCalibrationUI graphical user interface (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

Table 2 lists the available results on the AudioCalibrationUI-application GUI after the G3 Final Tester robot speaker frequency compensation calibration. On the left side is a message window showing advices for the operator together with the results from single frequency measurements. On the right side the frequency response results from the speaker are visualized in the graphs. From the reference microphone measurements an AC amplitude voltage from a 94 dB (1 kHz) reference is also shown in the graph. THD and THD+N values are shown in the message window.

TABLE 2. Measurement results provided at AudioCalibrationUI GUI (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Stimulus</th>
<th>Available results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 dB (1 kHz) reference</td>
<td>Reference sound source</td>
<td>AC amplitude voltage ($V_{rms}$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD+N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amplitude uncompensated</td>
<td>Robot speaker 100mV fixed level</td>
<td>AC amplitude voltage ($V_{rms}$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD+N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPL compensated</td>
<td>Robot speaker</td>
<td>AC amplitude voltage ($V_{\text{rms}}$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94 dB SPL</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPL (dB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>THD+N (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AudioCalibrationUI stores automatically the needed compensation files for reference microphone (used only during calibration) and for G3 Final Tester robot speaker to hard drive of the G3 Final Tester PC. Files include the needed compensation factors for the server software to automatically compensate the frequency response for audio routes.

During microphone and speaker gain calibrations, hardware compensation values for microphone and speaker amplifiers are stored automatically to gain resistors located on corresponding PCBs.

All measurements and application logs are stored to the server PC to enable a later data analysis if needed. Also, graphs and messages shown at GUI are stored to a log file folder. If the compensation cannot be completed successfully, original gain values are restored to microphone and speaker PCBs.

**4.3 Calibration flow**

JOT G3 Final Tester Audio calibration flow chart (APPENDIX 1) was originally created to visualize and specify the needed features for the calibration PSP and software. Currently, it is used to visualize the needed actions during a calibration procedure for both JOT G3 Final Tester control software and the operator.

**4.4 Calibration output values and how to use them**

AudioCalibrationUI application generates automatically the compensation files for the G3 server software which is used to control G3 Final Tester. Compensation files include amplitude compensation values for each defined frequency and sound pressure levels. Based on these compensation values JOT G3 Final Tester server software can do the needed conversion from amplitude to SPL levels and vice versa. The server SW does not interpolate between compensation values which means that all frequencies where an end user needs compensated audio
measurements need to be defined to a dedicated frequency list file before executing the calibration process.

**TABLE 3. Calibration file format used in compensation files (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freq,Hz</th>
<th>Ampl,mV</th>
<th>SPL,00000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>58.18</td>
<td>94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600.00</td>
<td>44.66</td>
<td>94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>29.10</td>
<td>94.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 MEASUREMENT RESULTS

5.1 Reference microphone measurements

Reference microphone verification measurements were carried out with the second version of the calibration PSP PCB. The measurements revealed 0.5 Vp extra noise in the sound source 94dB reference signal measurement, shown in Figure 17.

![Figure 17. Extra noise in the reference microphone output with PSP PCB version 2 (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)](image)

After several trials and verification measurements done with the audio calibration PSP PCB, the root cause for extra noise was confirmed to be the bad quality of supply voltages from G3 Final Tester internal power supplies used for the reference microphone bias and power amplifiers in the PSP PCB.

As a workaround to enable the software development, a reference microphone biasing was changed to use batteries instead of power supplies from G3 Final Tester, but still there was a small noise shown in the reference microphone signal. Later, the PCB designer managed to find better quality switched-mode power supplies to regulate the voltages from G3 power supplies for reference
microphone bias and power amplifiers. This caused a new design round for the calibration PSP PCB.

One PSP PCB version 2 was hand modified to verify the design changes introduced in the version 3 PSP PCB. The measurement from the 94 dB and 1 kHz reference sound source stimulus is presented in Figure 18. Based on these results the reference microphone signal quality is proven to be sufficient to be used in the calibration PSP.

![Amplitude vs Time Graph](image)

*FIGURE 18. Reference microphone output with regulated power supplies (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)*

### 5.2 Robot microphone measurements

After verification measurements done for the first sound source adapter prototype (Figure 15), it was clear that a re-design of the adapter was needed because reference sound source measurement results differ too much compared to the reference measurement with other sound source adapter designs. Different adapter types are introduced later in this chapter and results comparison is shown in Table 4.
When comparing different adapter types, the main change is the increased distance from a sound source to a microphone which increases the effects of other physical characteristics in the sound source adapters. A PSP integrated hands free microphone adapter (Figure 19) was used as reference because a microphone goes inside a sound source in a similar way as commercial reference microphones as can be seen in (Figure 14).

![PSP IHF microphone sound source adapter](image)

*FIGURE 19. PSP IHF microphone sound source adapter (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)*

Based on this new information, the verification measurements for the original G3 Final Tester production calibration adapter (Figure 20) were carried out. The measurements revealed that a similar offset problem was also with this adapter, but opposite to expectations the measured signal level was amplified at the end of the pipe instead of extra loss due to a longer distance to sound source.

The long and narrow tube design in the original production adapter was caused by the design of G3 Final Tester robot microphone assembly which blocked a direct access to the microphone when the microphone PCB is placed to G3 Final Tester.
Based on the findings, it was decided to re-design the robot microphone PCB and add a fixed adapter for a sound source to the robot microphone assembly. Other reason to favor this decision was the new customer requirement to support a wider operational range for robot microphone measurements which also meant a new PCB design and this way we managed to combine two changes on the same design round. More background information about the requirement of a wider measurement range can be found in the chapter 6.2, Future plans for robot microphone gain calibration.

The target of the new design was to have a fixed half inch adapter at the robot microphone assembly to enable an automatic insertion to a standard half inch adapter plate at the B&K sound source and thus enabling a more automated calibration process in the future. The new sound source adapter proposal with a reduced acoustic chamber size and distance from the sound source to a robot microphone is visualized in the Figure 21.
FIGURE 21. The second proposal for a sound source adapter with a reduced acoustic chamber size and microphone distance to the sound source (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

The measurement results for a new sound source adapter and the hand modified old microphone PCB, where the microphone is lowered closer to the sound source, confirms that the results are really close to the original IHF microphone adapter. A comparison of the different sound source adapter responses are presented in the Table 4. The final PCB design with a wider operational range and thus final verification results with the real implementation will not be available in time for this thesis work.

TABLE 4. Comparison of different types of sound source adapters with a microphone PCB gain set to maximum (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adapter type</th>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>94 dB response ($V_{rms}$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calibration adapter prototype 1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHF adapter used in PSPs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Production</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New fixed half inch adapter</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The lack of the final microphone PCB hardware and new requirements related to a microphone gain calibration concept lead to a decision to leave gain calibration verification measurements out from the scope of this thesis work even if the SW functionality for the calibration is already available. JOT Automation production will
continue using the old calibration method for the old robot microphone PCB until the new PCB and calibration method are verified according to the plans presented in the chapter 6.

5.3 Robot speaker measurements

5.3.1 Robot speaker frequency response calibration

The most urgent task related to this thesis work from the start of the project was to create tools for a robot speaker frequency response calibration. The reason for this is quite obvious when comparing speaker uncompensated (red line) and compensated amplitude (purple line) responses from AudioCalibrationUI (Figure 22). Typically, reference microphone results for a fixed 100mV speaker stimulus reveals a close to \( V_{\text{rms}} \) variation for uncompensated frequency response.

![Speaker frequency response results](image)

**FIGURE 22. Typical AudioCalibrationUI application speaker frequency response graph** (Riutinan Aki, 2015)

AudioCalibrationUI combines both AC amplitude (\( V_{\text{rms}} \)) and sound pressure level (dB SPL) results to same speaker frequency response graph. To make the graph easier to read, y-axis ranges are selected to show the amplitude measurements at the bottom of the graph and the sound pressure level measurements at the top of the graph.
5.3.2 Robot speaker frequency response calibration repeatability study

A repeatability study was executed with two G3 Final Testers and one version 2 audio calibration adapter. The PSP PCB was manually modified to be as close as possible to the version 3 PCB. The main change being added power regulators for reference microphone biasing and power amplifiers. In the upcoming version 3, the adapter reference microphone will be moved 1 centimeter away from the PSP button closer to a PSP center for better access to the button when the sound source is on top of the reference microphone. This change was not done for the study.

In this study the reference microphone measurement and speaker frequency response calibrations were executed with the same PSP total 11 times (6 times in G3BOX10760073 and 5 times in G3BOX10762159). After each calibration execution was ready, the adapter was moved to other tester to simulate a normal use case. Figure 23 presents an Excel graph from all measurements. Red and orange lines are from G3BOX10760073 and blue lines are from G3BOX10762159. Based on this study the calibration accuracy is inside the targeted ± 1dB SPL window.
FIGURE 23. G3 Final Tester compensated frequency response 500 – 22000 Hz in Excel graph (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

With the existing data from the small population, it is difficult to make any hard judgements. Even if the population of the measurements is not statistically significant, Minitab boxplot graphs (Figures 24 - 25) indicate that repeatability is better than the calibration accuracy which still is clearly inside the ± 1dB SPL target.
FIGURE 24. G3 Final Tester robot speaker compensate frequency response 500 – 5000Hz in Minitab boxplot graph (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)

FIGURE 25. G3 Final Tester robot speaker compensate frequency response 6000 – 22000 Hz in Minitab boxplot graph (Riuttanen Aki, 2015)
6 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The audio calibration PSP developed during this thesis work can be also used for the G3 Final Tester robot microphone and speaker gain calibration which would then enable all G3 Final Tester audio calibrations with one tool.

Due to findings from the audio performance measurements during this thesis work and the amount of unexpected extra work, it was decided to leave these calibrations outside of the thesis scope. Waiting all mechanical and electrical changes to the G3 Final Tester robot microphone module together with the verification measurements would have postponed the finalization of the thesis work too far.

6.1 General development plans

The plan is to add an AudioCalibrationUI configuration file to pass the parameters affecting to a calibration flow and measurements. For example, certain measurements and logs can be either enabled or disabled for more detailed R&D verifications and repeatability studies but they are not mandatory for a normal calibration flow executed at production. Other configurable parameters can be the amount of measurements, accuracy thresholds and sensitivity targets. Defining the above mentioned parameters at the configuration file instead of hard coded values can help to adjust the application to unexpected findings at the real live use cases without recompiling the software.

6.2 Future plans for a robot microphone gain calibration

Originally, the G3 Final Tester robot microphone was designed to measure the earpiece speakers of mobile devices. Typically sound pressure levels for earpiece speakers have been below 94dB SPL because earpieces are designed to be used against a human ear.

Recently, some mobile device manufacturers have introduced combined earpiece and integrated hands free speakers which means that a robot microphone should be able to measure much higher sound pressures. Due to this fact JOT
Automation has started a new design round to introduce a wider measurement range.

Originally, the robot microphone amplifier PCB included one fixed coarse gain setting and a digital potentiometer to fine tune sensitivity by adjusting an amplifier gain based on the 94dB SPL sound source reference. A new wider operational range means at least two separated gain settings: a low range one calibrated with 94 dB SPL reference and a high range one with 114 dB SPL.

The current approach is to change also the coarse gain setting to be controlled by a digital potentiometer. In theory this enables the robot microphone to measure a much wider range of signals with a reasonable signal to noise ratio. The gain value settings for a low and high range selection would be handled by a G3 server software based on the end user range selection passed with an audio API call together with used route information.

Enabling two different gain ranges means changes to both SW and to the calibration PSP. In the AudioCalibrationUI software new measurements and gain calculations for a higher reference level and most likely the gain sensitivity level also for the 94dB reference need to be changed. For the calibration PSP a new pneumatic cylinder is needed to enable a 114 dB SPL signal from the sound source (already available in the latest version 3 PSP design).

### 6.3 Future plans for a robot speaker gain calibration

Currently, the robot speaker amplifier gain calibration can be done using a G3 Final Tester self-diagnostic PSP which includes a reference microphone and memory where reference result is stored. This means that the implementation of the robot speaker gain calibration to the audio calibration PSP is not time critical and the main reason to do the implementation would be to enable all robot audio calibrations with a single PSP.

In the future the implementation of the speaker gain calibration should be relatively straightforward and most parts of the current production calibration can be inherited. The main task is to replace the self-diagnostic PSP microphone, which
happens to be the same type as in G3 robot, with a more accurate high precision microphone located in the audio calibration PSP.

On the software side the needed actions include the integration of the current calibration methods to the AudioCalibrationUI application and additional printings of measurement results to GUI and log files.

### 6.4 Future plans for robot speaker frequency response measurements

#### 6.4.1 Final verification for a speaker frequency response calibration

The plan is to repeat the measurements done in chapter 5.3.2 as soon as more G3 Final Testers (3 to 4) and at least 2 audio calibration PSPs are available to get more reliable results from the repeatability and reproducibility. Unfortunately, in an R&D environment it is not feasible to get enough G3 Final Testers and PSPs under measurements at the same time for a proper Gauge R&R study.

Gauge R&R is a statistical tool to find a variation from the measurements system caused either by a measurement device (Gauge) or the operator (people) using the gauges. To verify the calibration PSP PSBs design robustness, one option to gain more data for analyses is to use several PCBs and swap a PCB to the same mechanics. Even with this approach, final repeatability and reproducibility verifications will be left to be done in co-operation with customers when the first mass production deliveries are done.

#### 6.4.2 Future improvements for a speaker frequency response calibration

Currently, calibration measurements take quite a lot of time (10 minutes for 40 frequencies). Most of the time is spent to measure every frequency multiple times. A few measurements are used to find a correct level and after that several measurements are done to check the accuracy of the measurements and protect them against random noises.

When more G3 Final Testers and calibration PSPs are available and when a calibration hardware and software stabilizes, a repeatability study should be carried out to find the best parameters for the calibration. Moving parameters to
configuration files, as proposed earlier in this chapter, would make trials more convenient and faster.

One way to save time spent during the calibration phase could be using a variable sample rate at the DAQ card for each measured frequency. At the current implementation the same sample rate is used for all frequencies. The advantages of a dynamic sample rate would be a faster calibration process at the low frequencies where a smaller sample rate could be used and the potentially increased calibration accuracy at the high frequencies in case the default sample rate is not suitable.

The fastest way to minimize the time used for calibration is to minimize the used frequencies and it is already available with the current implementation. In the R&D phase more measurements and the frequency points might be needed but typically during the mass production phase all extra measurements from the test sequence are removed to minimize the time consumed for testing and that opens an opportunity to calibrate only those few specific frequencies used in the mass production test plan.
7 CONCLUSIONS

The initial main targets for this thesis work were to develop calibrations tools for a JOT G3 Final Tester, execute the typical performance measurements and update audio documentation to help the integration to the tester features. Due to unexpected findings during the thesis work and thus changed schedules, the original requirements of final verification results and creation of audio application notes were removed from the final targets. The verification plan and the measurement for the data sheets will still be provided internally at JOT Automation after the finalization of this thesis work.

The work started more than one year before the actual implementation was ready by specifying hardware and software features needed for the calibration. The specification work proceeded well after all minor issues were found during the implementation phase from the calibration concepts itself. The main findings were related to JOT G3 Final Tester design which caused unexpected delays to the thesis in the form of new design rounds.

A new design was needed for the calibration PSP PCB due to JOT Final Tester power supplies do not provide as good a signal quality as is needed for a high sensitivity microphone powering. This problem is only related to a high voltage needed for the reference microphone powering and should not affect other test features which the JOT G3 Final Tester provides.

Other design change found during this thesis work, which affected both to JOT G3 Final Tester and calibration PSP, was the robot microphone design issue, which caused an unwanted offset to the robot microphone calibration. Based on the findings, a new design round is ongoing and a verification work will be started as soon as a new hardware is available. Unfortunately, this thesis documentation has to be returned before all the verification measurements are done.

The most important new frequency response calibration is implemented and is usable based on the preliminary measurements done by hand soldered prototypes. The final confirmation will be given when the new hardware versions from both mechanics and the PSP PCB are available and the Gauge R&R study is
made in the production environment with several JOT G3 Final Testers and calibration PSPs. The gain calibration for a microphone and speaker amplifiers is possible to do with the existing self-diagnostic adapter and it is thus left to be integrated after the frequency response calibration is verified and a new microphone design with two gain ranges is available.

Due to the audio calibration work spread over a longer period of time than expected, the majority of the audio documentation updates were done together with the G3 audio API interface transformation work from the .NET to HTTP interface by the software designer. This removed the original target setting related to the audio application note and reference manual creation during this thesis work. Instead of creating the document, more attention was directed to review the audio documentation. In the end a lot of valuable feedback was given to the API documentation and eventually most of the documentation in the API documentation was replaced by the SW developer with real life functional audio measurement example codes. This enables a much faster integration of G3 Final Tester audio measurement to customer’s own test systems. Other advantage from this approach is up to date and verified codes because example codes are part of a software release testing process.

This thesis work has given a lot of valuable information for JOT Automation. The understanding of JOT G3 Final Tester audio performance has increased due to the measurements done for the robot microphone and speaker. Also, the output qualities of the G3 Final Tester internal power supplies are now understood more deeply. All the measurements done during this thesis work are added to an internal issue tracking system where they can be used as an input to product data sheets. As an outcome of this thesis work JOT Automation has a new calibration PSP which can be used in its own production as well as a customer’s premises to re-calibrate robot audio interfaces.

Personally, I learned a lot from the audio measurements and physics related to audio measurements during this thesis work. New experience was gained during the AudioCalibrationUI-application development from a C# chart handling which was not used prior to this thesis work neither by me nor my closest colleagues.
When looking back to this journey the most valuable information for me was the insights for the whole calibration PSP development and all the actions and the difference stakeholders related to that work.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES

G3 Final Tester Audio calibration flow chart
G3 Final Tester audio calibration flow chart

Remarks:
- Calibration GUI (not mandatory at testers)
- Data files and results
- Log files saved to "C:\U01\ud43_guar\Audible\brackets\logs\" folder
- Sensors & LED: Sound source & Artificial ear
- Motion-activated直到 sound source & artificial ear in place
- Operator checks when MIC not used (production line calibration)
- Stop or long press PSP button aborts calibration

Calibrations executed/Door open:
- Ref MIC
- Robot MIC gain calibrations (service mode)

Calibrations executed/Door closed:
- Robot MIC gain calibrations (manual mode)
- Speaker gain and frequency response calibrations

Indication LEDs icons:
- OK
- Warning (pending user action)
- Actions ongoing
- Ready

"Place sound source on top of reference microphone and enable the 94 dB signal."
"Press PSP button to start reference measurement."
"Set RCD led: Adapter calibration error; check that sound source is set to 94dB and placed on top of reference microphone."
"Wait: "SoundSourceDetect" active"