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TECHNICAL TRAINING PUBLICATION

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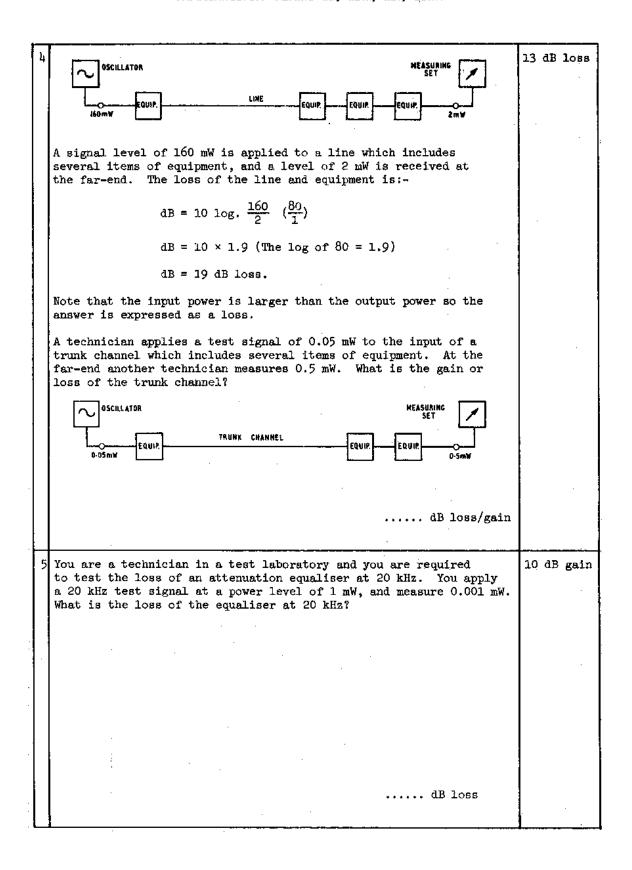
TRANSMISSION TERMS dB. dBm. dBr. dBm0

	PROGRAMMED LESSON	
	PUBLISHED 1972	•
	Pag	<u>ce</u>
1.		_
2.	PROGRAMMED LESSON	!
1. IN	ITRODUCTION	
fac communic equipmen	mmunication circuits are used to transmit speech, telegraph, data and csimile information from one point to another. One of the main aims in cation is to convey to the distant end sufficient power to operate such nt as a telephone receiver, a telegraph machine, or data or facsimile ecase may be.	luipmen
inc which in	mmunications circuits include transmission paths and items of equipment crease or decrease the power level of signals passing through them. An ncreases the signal power is said to have a gain and an item which decremal power is said to have a loss.	item
express, and for indicate	ensure that a satisfactory signal level is always received by the mmunication equipment it is necessary that we can measure, and clearly, losses, gains and power levels. In addition, as an aid to fault locat general circuit performance testing, it is necessary for us to be able e clearly the losses, gains and power levels that we can normally expect, and also any deviation from these values that may occur.	to:
eto	number of terms are used to express power losses, power gains and power c.; these are dB (decibel), dBm, dBr and dBm0. At the end of the prograuld be able to apply the terms dB, dBm, dBr, and dBm0 in communication s.	levels mme
1.5 The	e programme will teach you in the following order:	
	Revision of the term dB.	
•	Revision of the term dBm.	
•	Definition of the term dBr.	}
	Definition of the term dBmO.	
	Simple applications of all terms to communication circuits.	

1.6 Log. tables are required for some exercises in the lesson.

2. PROGRAMMED LESSON

2,	PROGRAMMED LESSON	
1	Let's first consider the term decibel which expresses the logarithmic ratio of powers in a circuit; that is, it expresses power gains or losses as a logarithmic ratio.	
	The formula used to calculate loss and gain in dB is:-	
	$dB = 10 \log_{\bullet} \frac{P1}{P2}$	
	(To simplify calculations Pl is always the larger power).	
	When calculating the loss of an item of equipment which has an input of 100 mW and an output power of 5 mW, the equation is written.	
	$dB = 10 \log_{10} \frac{100}{5}$	
	The loss of an item of equipment with an input of 10 mW and an output of 6 mW is calculated using the formula:-	
	$dB = 10 \log_{\bullet} \frac{P1}{P2}$	
	is substituted for Pl and is substituted for P2.	
2	The power gain of an amplifier with an input of 0.1 mW and an output of 200 mW is calculated using the equation:-	10, 6
	$dB = 10 \log_{10} \frac{200}{0.1}$	·
	An amplifier has an output of 150 mW and an input of 2 mW. Show how these values are substituted in the dB formula.	
	dB =	
3	A technician testing an amplifier applies a test signal of 0.1 mW at the input and measures 100 mW at the output. The gain of the amplifier is:-	10 log. $\frac{150}{2}$
	$dB = 10 \log_{100} \left(\frac{1000}{1} \right)$	
	dB = 10 × 3 (The log, of 1000 is 3)	
	dB = 30 dB gain	
	The technician now applies a test signal of 200 mW to an attenuator, and measures 10 mW at the output. What is the loss of the attenuator?	
	dB loss	



6	The table below shows the losses or gains (in dB) that occur for various power ratios. DON'T PANIC, you don't have to learn the table. It is included to give you some idea of the power losses that occur for various power ratios. The range of ratios shown are typical of those encountered in the communication network. The table may also be used to solve several of the following exercises.	30 dB	
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Power Ratio	Loss/Gain	Power Ratio	Loss/Gain	Power Ratio	Loss/Gain	Power Ratio	Loss/Gain
1:1	O dB	2.5:1	4 dB	100:1	20 d B	10000:1	40 dB
2:1	3 dB	5:1	7 àB	200;1	23 dB	20000:1	43 dB
4:1	6 dB	10:1	ro dB	400:1	26 d B	40000:1	46 dB
8:1	9 dB	20:1	13 dB	800:1	29 dB	80000:1	49 dB
16:1	12 dB	40:1	16 dB	1000:1	30 dB	160000:1	52 dB
32:1	15 49	80:1	19 dB	2000:1	33 dB	320000:1	55 dB
64:1	18 dB	160:1	22 dB	4000:1	36 dB	. 640000:1	58 dB
128:1	21 dB	320:1	25 dB	8000:1	39 dB	1280000:1	61 dB
256:1	24 dB	640:1	28 dB	16000:1	42 dB	2560000:1	64 ав

TABLE 1. TYPICAL POWER RATIOS EXPRESSED IN dB.

7	Using the table, it can be calculated that an amplifier with an input of 0.1 mW and an output of 3.2 mW (Power ratio 32:1 - in first column) has a gain of 15 dB.	
	Use the table to determine the gain or loss of an item of equipment with an input of 0.001 mW and an output of 10 mW.	
]		· .
	dB gain/loss	: '
8	From the table determine the gain or loss of an item of equipment with an input of 2000 mW and an output of 0.1 mW.	40 dB gain
	dB gain/loss	;
9	To calculate the gain of an amplifier which has an input power level of 0.0005 mW and an output power level of 2 mW the equation is written	43 dB loss
	dB = and the amplifier gain is	

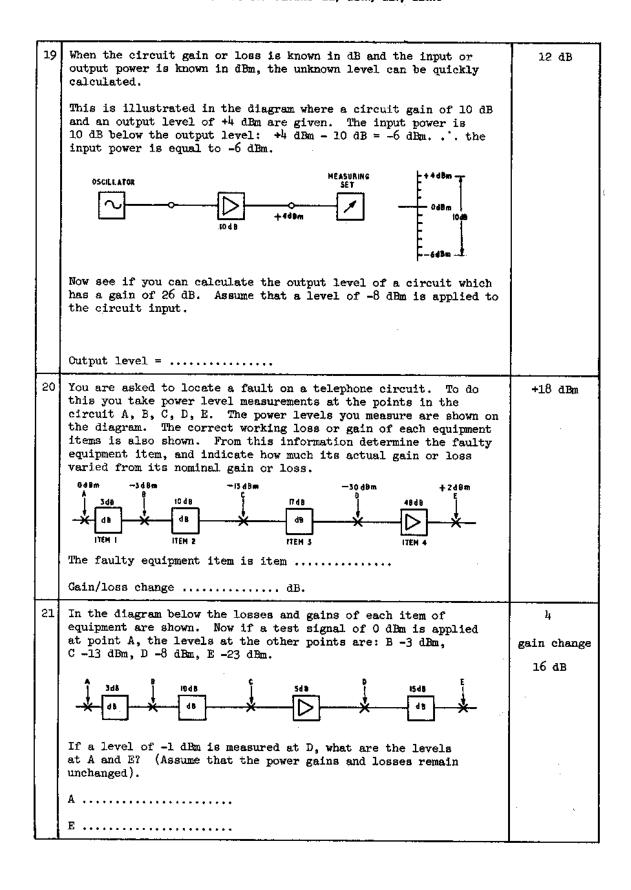
 $dB = 10 \log$. A communication circuit consists of a transmission line plus many items of equipment. Some equipment items introduce gain and some introduce loss so that the transmitted signal is subjected 0.0005 to both gains and losses. 36 dB The overall gain or loss of a circuit is the difference between the sum of the gains and the sum of the losses. That is the overall power gain/loss = total circuit gain - total circuit loss. Note - here means 'difference between'. A typical circuit is shown. It consists of some components which introduce gain (shown with the symbol D) and some which introduce loss (shown with the symbol |dB|). The gain or loss of each item is indicated. 1048 448 20d8 16 dè OUTPUT INPUT The overall gain/loss of the circuit = total gain ~ total total gain = 20 + 16 = 36 dBtotal loss = 10 + 25 + 4 = 39 dBIn this example: Overall loss = total loss - total gain. = 39 dB - 36 dBOverall loss = 3 dB. What is the overall gain/loss of the circuit shown below? dB gain/loss 10 dB gain You are a technician at Port Popalong and have a trunk circuit to Coroach Sound. The circuit consists of carrier equipment and a physical line. The 'active' items of equipment introduce a gain of 4 dB; the 'passive' items of equipment introduce a loss of 1 dB, a loss of 7 dB occurs on the line. What is the overall gain or loss of the circuit? gain/loss

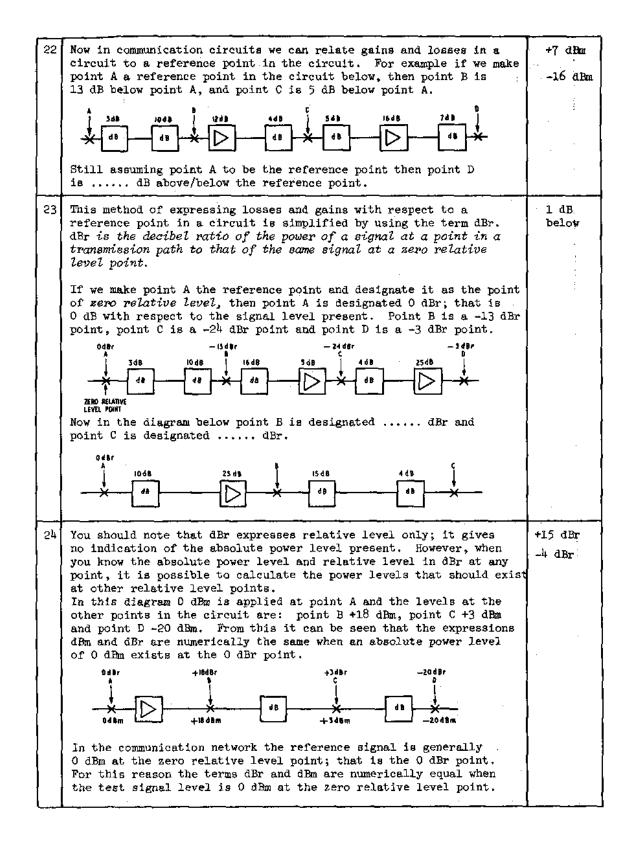
12	You have seen that the decibel is a unit of power ratio. When you state the loss or gain of a circuit in dB you give no indication of the input or output powers but merely indicate the ratio by which the power will change.	4 dB loss
	For example a pad with a loss of 20 dB (power ratio 100:1) will change a power of 100 mW to 1 mW - a reduction of 99 mW. The same pad will change a power of 10 mW to 0.1 mW - a reduction of 9.9 mW. (Refer to Table 1).	
	An amplifier with a gain of 30 dB will change a power of 0.1 mW to mW. The term 30 dB, however, gives no indication of power levels or of the actual power change but indicates that a power ratio of exists from input to output of the amplifier. (Refer to Table 1).	
13	In some of the previous exercises you have calculated gains and losses in dB from given input and output power levels expressed in mWs. In practice, power levels throughout a circuit can also be expressed using the same logarithmic ratio as losses and gains but referred to a reference signal power.	100 mW 1:1000
	In telecommunication, power levels are normally expressed as a logarithmic ratio to a reference power level of 1 mW.	
	For example, a power level of 100 mW, which is 100 times 1 mW is expressed as being 20 dB above 1 mW. To obtain this result the	:
	formula dB = 10 log. $\frac{P1}{P2}$ is used; 100 mW is substituted for P1 and 1 mW for P2.	
	Thus dB = 10 log. $\frac{100}{1}$ ($\frac{100 \text{ mW}}{1 \text{ mW} - \text{Reference power level}}$)	
	$dB = 10 \times 2 \text{ (The log. 100 = 2)}$	
	dB = 20 dB	
	100 mW is 20 dB above 1 mW.	
	Using the same reasoning, calculate the relationship of 200 mW to the arbitrary power of 1 mW.	
	200 mW is expressed as being above 1 mW.	
Щ		<u> </u>

14	To express a power level of 0.005 mW as a logarithmic ratio with	23 dB
	respect to 1 mW we use the formula dB = 10 log. $\frac{P1}{P2}$ but now because	above 1 mW
	0.005 mW is less than 1 mW, Pl becomes 1 and P2 becomes 0.005 mW.	I T TITW
	Remember dB calculations are simplified by keeping the larger power in the numerator (P1 in the formula).	:
	The equation is written dB = 10 log. $\frac{1}{0.005} \left(\frac{200}{1}\right)$	
	$dB = 10 \times 2.3$ (The log of 200 = 2.3)	:
	dB = 23	
	0.005 mW is expressed as being 23 dB below 1 mW.	
	Now, you take a power level of 0.01 mW and express this relative to 1 mW.	,
	0.01 mW is expressed as being	
15	Now to simplify the expression of power levels, and to avoid confusion between dB units expressing power gains and losses and dB units expressing power levels, a designation of dBm has been adopted to indicate power levels. dBm is 'dB with respect to a reference level of 1 mW'. Any figure given in dBm is therefore an expression of a power level.	20 dB below 1 mW
	1 mW is always 0 dBm. (This statement is true regardless of circuit impedance).	· .
	Power levels greater than 1 mW are indicated by a +sign preceding dBm. (Example 2 mW is expressed as $+3$ dBm).	
	Power levels less than 1 mW are indicated by a -sign preceding dBm (Example 0.001 mW is expressed as -30 dBm).	
	WITH THE EXCEPTION OF O dBm (1 mW), NEVER WRITE THE EXPRESSION dBm WITHOUT a + or a - PREFIX. IT IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT THIS.	
	Now this is how you convert power levels into dBm. Take 128 mW as an example.	
	The formula is written dB = 10 log. $\frac{P1}{P2}$	
	$dB = 10 \log_{10} \frac{128}{1}$	٠
	$= 10 \times 2.1 $ (The log of $128 = 2.1$)	
-	= 21	
-	128 mW expressed in dBm = +21 dBm	
	See if you can convert 0.05 mW to dBm.	
	0.05 mW expressed in dBm is	
1		

16	Most transmission measuring sets (T.M.S.5) used for measurements in the communication network are calibrated to record power levels in dBm. When the power level at a point in a circuit is 0.05 mW the meter would record -13 dBm. That is, a 20:1 power ratio exists between 0.05 mW and the arbitrary reference level of 1 mW. What level (in dBm) would a T.M.S. record when measuring at a point in a circuit with a power level of 0.001 mW present?	-13 dBm
<u> </u>		
17	You have now revised the use of two transmission units used in the communication network. Each term has a special use.	~30 &Bm
	Try yourself out on these questions.	
:	The gain of an amplifier is expressed in: dB/dBm	
	A power level of 2 mW is expressed as: +3 dB/+3 dBm/-3 dBm/3 dBm	
	A power level of 1 mW is expressed as: 1 dB/0 dBm/+0 dBm.	,
	A circuit which includes items of equipment which introduce 15 dB gain and items which introduce 20 dB loss has an: overall gain of 5 dB/overall loss of 5 dB/overall gain of 35 dB/overall loss of -5 dBm.	

18	For communication circuits we rarely talk or write of power levels in mW, or of power gains or losses as numerical ratios. We talk and write in dEm and dB because when input and output powers are expressed in dEm the power gain or loss in dB is the difference between them.	dB +3 dBm OdBm
	In the simple circuit below the input power is -10 dBm and the output power is +18 dBm. The circuit gain is the difference between -10 dBm and +18 dBm; that is, 28 dB gain.	Overall Loss of 5 dB
	MEASURING OSCILLATOR SET	,
	-10 dBm + 18 dBm	
	You are a technician checking the loss of an attenuator. You apply a test signal of +23 dBm to the input and measure +11 dBm at the output.	:
	The attenuator loss is	i



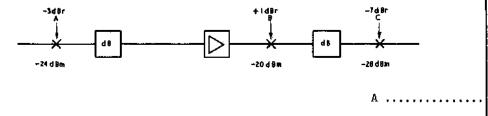


25	In the diagram below the points A, B, C and D are designated O dBr, -13 dBr, +18 dBr and +17 dBr respectively. Assuming that a signal with a power level of -6 dBm exists at point A, then the levels at points B, C and D are -19 dBm, +12 dBm and +11 dBm respectively.	
	The designations in dBr are still correct because the relative losses and gains in the circuit, with respect to point A (the reference point), are unchanged. However, in this example, dBr and dBm are not numerically the same, because a level other than 0 dBm exists at point A.	٠.
	068r -13d8r +18d8r +17d8r 3d8 1068 3168 1d8 48	į
	From the diagram, calculate the level in dBm at point D, when the level measured at point B is -10 dBm.	
26	OdBr +17dBr15dBr +4dBr A B Ç D	+20 d.Bm
	O X 1 2 X 3 X 4 S Z5dB GAIM	
	Assume that a level of -3 dBm is applied at point A of the circuit. What are the levels (in dBm) at the other points in the circuit?	
	Point B	
	Point C	
	Point D	
	What are the losses or gains of equipment items 2, 3 and 4?	
	<u>Item 2</u>	
	<u>Item 3</u>	
	<u>Item 4</u>	
27	You learnt in frame 24 that the terms dBm and dBr are numerically	+14 d.Bm
	the same in the communication network when 0 dBm is applied at the 0 dBr point. You might well ask, why introduce a new term?	-18 dBm
	Consider the example given in frame 25. With a test level of -6 dBm applied at point A, the absolute levels at all other	+1 dBm
	points are 6 dB below the relative level. Therefore, the expression dBm will equal the dBr figure only when the nominal	27 dB gain
	line-up level exists in the circuit. However, although the absolute power levels can change in the circuit, the power losses	32 dB loss 6 dB loss
	and gains should remain the same. The expressions in dBr (which in effect represent losses and gains with respect to the circuit zero relative level point) are accurate regardless of the actual	
l l	power levels that exist in the circuit.	

In the examples and exercises given in the previous frames, the zero relative level point has been indicated. It should be noted, however, that it is possible to consider relative levels without reference to the zero relative level point in the circuit.

In this diagram, a test signal at a power level of -2^{14} dBm is applied at the -3 dBr point. The power levels at points B and C are -20 dBm and -28 dBm respectively.

What power levels would you expect at points A and B, when you measure a power level of -9 dBm at point C?



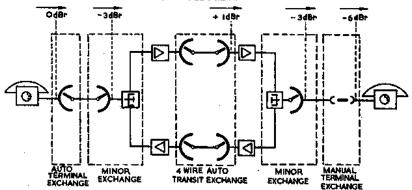
29 In the communication network it is often necessary to consider relative levels without direct reference to the zero relative point.

-5 dBm -1 dBm

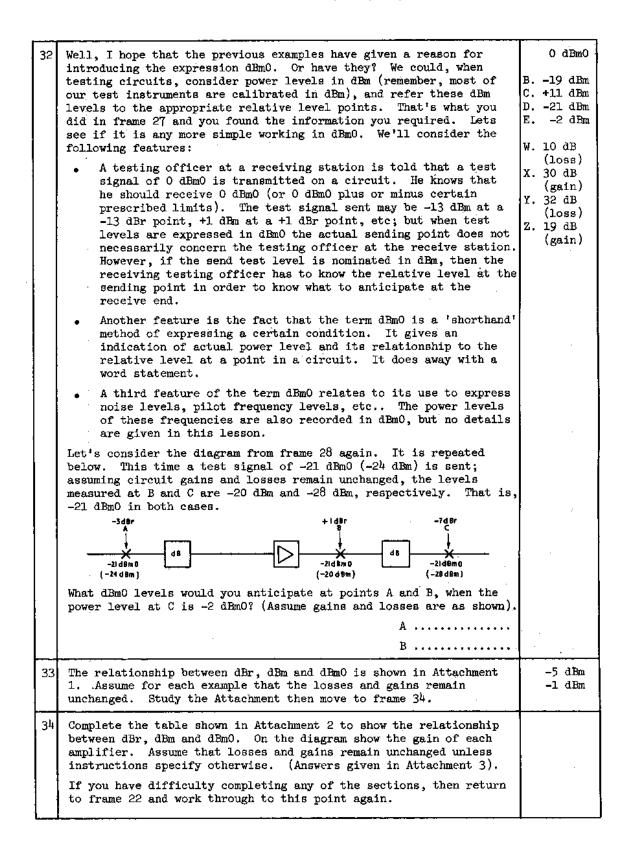
The diagram below shows, in simplified form, a typical subscriber to subscriber call. The <u>send</u> relative levels at the *exchange reference* points are shown for one direction of transmission only.

The exchange reference point is the point at which the relative level is defined for an exchange. With the exception of the terminal exchange reference point (send direction), exchange reference points are not necessarily zero relative level points, but of course are related to the zero relative level points.

This example differs from previous examples in the lesson, in that, at a switching centre, the received relative level may not be the same as the send relative level, with the result that the level sent on from that switching point may not conform with the nominal send level for that switching centre. For this reason, special consideration must be given to testing a circuit with intermediate switching centres. The techniques associated with end-to-end testing on circuits of this nature are not covered in this lesson. This lesson is confined to the application of terms within one circuit.



In frame 25 the levels measured at the test points were below the nominal levels for those points. We express this variation from the nominal level by using the expression dBmO. dBmO is the power level of a signal expressed in dBm but referred to a zero relative level point. It can be thought of as the numerical difference between the power level of a signal at a point in a transmission path, and the relative level at that point. For example, when a test signal measured at a +5 dBr point, has an absolute level of -5 dBm, it is said to be a test signal of -10 dBm0, because at a zero relative level (OdBr) point its absolute level would be -10 dBm. Similarly a test level of -13 dBm applied at a -13 dBr point is a test signal of 0 dBm0, and a test power level of +3 dBm applied at a +1 dBr point is a test signal of +2 dBm0. A test signal of -6 dBm is measured at V.F. EQUIP. OUT. This is 7 dB above the relative level and is expressed as +7 dBmO. HYB. LINE HYB. QUT V.F. EQUIP. OUT = 13 dBe Referring to the diagram assume that a test signal of -3 dBmO is applied at HYB. LINE. What are the absolute power levels you would anticipate at HYB. OUT and M.B.F. OUT? HYB. OUT M.B.F. OUT -7 dBm Work through the following exercises to see if you can relate the expressions dB, dBm, dBmO and dBr. -35 d.Bm A test signal of -3 dBm applied at point A is expressed as dBmO. With -6 dBmO applied at point A, the levels at the other reference point should be: B dBm, C dBm, D dBm, E dBm. The gains/losses of items W to Z are: W gain/loss X gain/loss Y gain/loss Z gain/loss



35	Complete the table shown in Attachment 4 to show the relationship between dBr, dBm and dBmO. Once again assume that losses and gains remain unchanged unless otherwise specified. On the diagram indicate losses and gains of any items of equipment not already designated. (Answers given in Attachment 5).	
36	Referring to Attachment 4, technicians testing the circuit between points B and C would send a test signal at a level of -13 dBm and would expect to measure +4 dBm.	
	What send test level would you use to test the circuit between points D and G, and what power level would you expect to receive? (Assume a O dBmO test signal level is to be used).	
37	Answer frame.	-3 dBm +1 dBm

ATTACHMENT NO. 1

	Г
14 dis calin	7
;	-10
SS + 1+ 20 dB GAIN	-30
SS ++ 11 4B LOSS ++ 11 4B LOSS	-13
ZERO RELATIVE LEVEL POINT A A A A B A A B A A B A A B A B A B A	0
	GRY LEVELS

EXAMPLES	<u> </u>	₹.	£	3	ď	; (4)
WITH O dEm APPLIED AT A. THEN LEVELS AT B, C, D,	STEART THE	O d.Bm	-13 dEn	-30 dBm	-10 dBn	題やす
AND E ARE:	STEART OURP	0 (1840)	0 dBm0	o dBao	0 विभिन्न	0 dBa0
WITH -20 dbg APPLIED AT A, THEN LEVELS AT B, C,	GBm LEVELS	-20 dBn	-33 dBn	-50 dBn	±E⊅ 0€−	–16 dBn
D AND E ARE:	STEART OFER	-20 dBm0	-20 dBm0	-20 dBm0	04Ep 02-	-20 dBm0
WITH -10 den MEASURED AT B, THEM LEVELS AT A, C,	dBm levels	+3 dBm	-10 àBm	-27 dBm	wap ≟-	47 dBm
D AND E ARE:	ราสงสา อพระ	०म्बर्भ ६+	+3 dBm0	t-3 dismo	ეஷு €+	+3 dBm0
WITH -10 dbm0 APPLIED AT B. THEN LEVELS AT C. D	STEAST WED	•	-23 dBn	–lu≎ dEm	-20 dBn	-6 dBm
AND E ARE:	STEART OWED		-10 dBm0	-10 1Bm0	-10 dBm0	-10 dBm0

RELATIONSHIP BEIWEEN 43, 480, dBr and 4800.

ATTACHMENT NO. 3.

0	-6 dBm	0 dBm0	-12 dBm	-6 dBm0	-8 dPm	-2 dBm0	9		0	æEP 7;+	+h dBm0	agp 0	0 යිකර	J	
49	-3 dBz	0 distric	-9 d Bri	Ower 9-	-5 dBn	Owerp 2-	-3	\$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2	1	+1 d3m	+ [†] dBmO	-7 dBa	-L dBmO		ਰੇਇक, ਵੇਇਸ ਨਸ਼ਵੇ ਫ਼ੈਲਿਸ਼ਹੇ.
A	9 dB#	O dEmO	~6 dBm	-6 dBwO	wap. 2	-2 dBm0	0	**************************************	9-	-2 dBm	+4 dBm0	-10 48=	of design	A	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN dB, dBm, dBr and dEmo.
	dem LEVELS	SIZAZI OWER	dBm levels	deno levels	dBm LEVELS	STEAST OMED	dBr Levels		ABZ LEVELS	den levels	demo veveus	SIZAZI WED	CHEO LEVELS		, E
EXAMPLES	1. WITH O den Applied AT A		2. WITH -6 dBm APPLIED AT A		3. WITH -8 dBm MEASURED AT C				EXAMPLES	4. VITH +1 CHE MEASURED AT D		5. WITH O dem APPLIED AT C BUT	INCREASED FROM 4 dB TO 8 dB		

ATTACHMENT NO. 4.

EXAMPLES		¥	д	٥	Ω
1. WITH -13 dBm APPLIED AT B	dBm lEVELS	1			
	dBmo LEVELS	1			
2. WITH -5 dBm MEASURED AT C	dBm LEVKLS				
	dBmo LEVELS				
3. WITH -10 GBm APPLIED AT A	dBm LEVELS				
	dBmo LEVELS				
	dBr LEVELS	-7	-13	44	-3
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KXAMPLES	dBr levels	- 7	77+	-13	-3
4. WITH -3 GER APPLIED AT D.	dBm LEVELS				
DECREASED BY 6 dB	demo levels				
5. WITH +2 dBm MEASURED AT G	dem levels				
	demo levels				
		G	Ŗ	झ्य	Ð
	. 88	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN dB, dBm, dBr and dBmO.	dBm, dBr eand dBmO.		

ATTACHMENT NO. 5.

SETAMBLES	L	Ą	 ma .	D	Œ
1. WITH -13 dBm APPLIED AT B	den levels		-13 dBn	++ dBn	-3 dBm
:	dBmO LEVELS		Ometr o	0 13810	0 ፈንመር
2. WITH -5 dem Measured at c	dBn LEVELS	-9 dBm	-15 dBm	+2 dBt	-5 dBm
	diemo levels	-2 dBm0	-2 dBm0	~2 dBm0	-2 dBm0
3. WITH -10 dBm APPLIED AT A	dBn LEVELS	-10 dEa	-16 dBm	+1 dBm	-6 dEm
	dbao levels	-3 dBm0	-3 dBm0	-3 dBm0	–3 dBm
	dBr LEVELS	1-	-13	ή+	-3
	,	43 dB		(1) 48 (5) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4	
EXAMPLES	dBr LEVELS		#	-13	-3
4. WITH O dem APPLIED AT D BUT	dam levels	-5 dBm	-2 dBn	-13 dBn	-3 disa
CAIN BETWEEN E AND F DECREASED BY 6 AB	demo levels	-6 dBm0	-6 dBm0	୦ ଘଞ୍ଜାଦ	OHED O
5. WITH +2 GRM MEASURED AT G	dBm LEVELS	+2 dBm	+5 dBm	-12 dBn	-2 dBn
	CHEVELS	+1 dBm0	+1 dBnO	+1 d3500	+1 dBm0
		o	La .	Ю:	Д
	i K	REMANIONSHIP BETWEEN dB, dBm, dBr and dBmO.	3, dEm, dBr and dEmO.		: