

RF CURRENT MONITORING PROBE

1 Introduction

The TBCP2-3M900 is a snap-on RF current monitoring probe, expanding the Tekbox product range of affordable test equipment.

The probe is characterized over the frequency range from 10 kHz to 1 GHz. It has a typical transfer impedance of 10 dB Ω and a 3dB bandwidth from 3 MHz – 900 MHz.

The TBCP2-3M900 can handle currents up to 400 A from DC to 400 Hz without affecting transfer impedance.



Picture 1: TBCP2-3M900 RF current monitoring probe

The aperture of the RF current monitoring probe is 32 mm. It is equipped with a hinge for easy installation.

RF CURRENT MONITORING PROBE

2 Specification

Characterized frequency range:	10 kHz to 1 GHz
3dB bandwidth:	3 MHz – 900 MHz, typ.
Transfer impedance:	10 dBΩ, 1 V/A, typ.
Max. primary current (DC - 400Hz):	100A, see graph in chapter 5
Max. primary current (RF):	3 A
Max. pulse current:	40 A
Current-time product:	0.0001 As
Max. core temperature:	125 °C
Connector type:	N female
Aperture diameter:	32 mm
Outside diameter:	73 mm
Height:	20 mm
Weight:	320 g



3 Transfer impedance

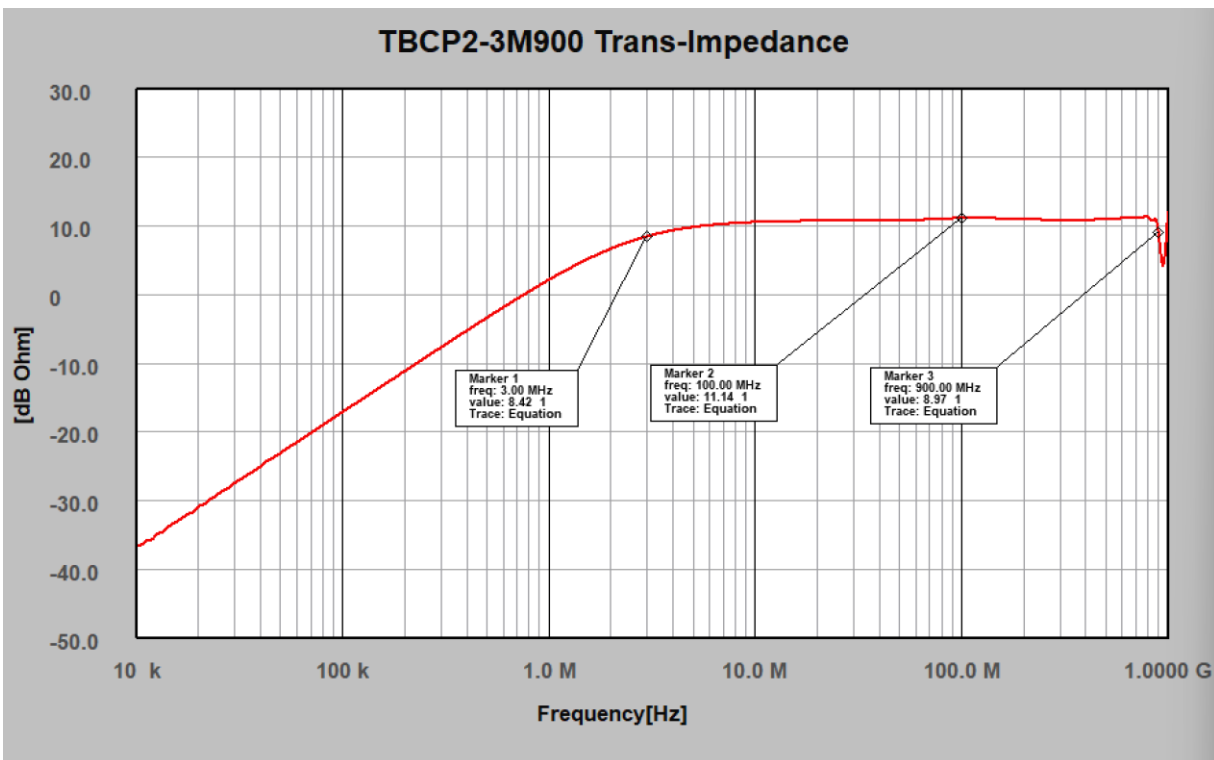


Figure1: typical transfer impedance: 10 kHz to 1 GHz

RF CURRENT MONITORING PROBE

4 Typical transfer impedance table

The table below shows typical transfer impedance data of a TBCP2-3M900 current probe. Each current probe is delivered with its corresponding measurement protocol. This data can be used for the creation of a correction file for EMCview or similar EMC measurement software. The transfer impedance in dBΩ subtracted from the analyzer reading in dBμV gives the corrected reading in dBμA.

Refer to the EMCview application notes on how to create a current probe correction file.

Frequency [MHz]	Transfer impedance [dBΩ]	Frequency [MHz]	Transfer impedance [dBΩ]	Frequency [MHz]	Transfer impedance [dBΩ]
0,01	-36,53	9	10,44	475	10,93
0,025	-29,10	10	10,50	500	10,98
0,05	-23,16	12,5	10,60	525	10,93
0,075	-19,66	15	10,65	550	10,93
0,1	-17,17	17,5	10,67	575	10,99
0,2	-11,22	20	10,69	600	11,09
0,3	-7,76	25	10,71	625	11,20
0,4	-5,32	50	10,85	650	11,19
0,5	-3,46	75	10,92	675	11,14
0,6	-1,95	100	11,14	700	11,12
0,7	-0,69	125	11,11	725	11,10
0,8	0,36	150	11,03	750	11,15
0,9	1,28	175	10,99	775	11,31
1	2,08	200	10,90	800	11,23
1,25	3,69	225	10,86	825	10,85
1,5	4,91	250	10,84	850	10,81
1,75	5,86	275	10,81	875	10,81
2	6,61	300	10,82	900	8,97
3	8,42	325	10,81	925	5,55
4	9,29	350	10,77	950	4,19
5	9,76	375	10,74	975	6,88
6	10,05	400	10,71	1000	11,82
7	10,23	425	10,77		
8	10,35	450	10,88		

Table1: Transfer impedance: 10 kHz to 1 GHz, typical data

RF CURRENT MONITORING PROBE

5 Transfer impedance with different supply currents

RF current monitoring probes are primarily used for common mode disturbance measurements, where forward and return supply current pass the aperture in opposite directions and the magnetic field of the supply current cancels out. Therefore, the supply currents' amplitude is irrelevant in common mode configurations.

When measuring differential mode currents or currents on single conductors, the magnetic field generated by DC currents or AC supply currents will cause core saturation at certain levels.

However, the probe's inductance begins to drop even before it reaches saturation. At lower frequencies, this results in a reduction of the probe trans-impedance.

The plot below shows the behaviour of the trans-impedance of the TBCP2-3M900 for supply currents up to 450A in the frequency range from DC to 400 Hz. Currents up to 100A have no effect on the trans-impedance.

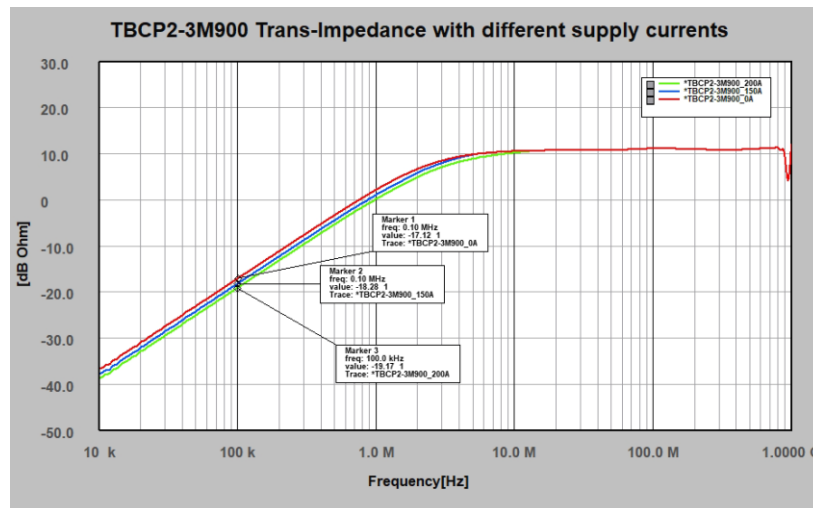
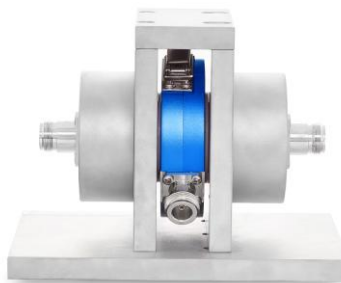


Figure2: transfer impedance versus supply current

6 Accessory

Tekbox supplies a calibrator corresponding with the TBCP2 series of snap on current probes:



Picture 2: TBCP2-CAL RF current probe calibration fixture

RF CURRENT MONITORING PROBE

7 Warning

RF current monitoring probes are primarily used for common mode disturbance measurements, where forward and return current pass the aperture in opposite directions and the magnetic field cancels out. When doing differential mode measurements or just passing a single current carrying wire through the aperture, EUTs with high inrush currents may cause a voltage transient, that might damage the receiver or analyzer frontend. Protect your equipment using attenuators, limiters, or disconnect the RF-input, while powering ON/OFF the EUT.

8 Ordering Information

Part Number	Description
TBCP2-3M900	Snap on RF current monitoring probe, wooden box, calibration protocol 10 kHz – 1 GHz
TBCP2-CAL	Calibration fixture for TBCP2 current probe series

9 History

Version	Date	Author	Changes
V 1.0	22.12.2025	Mayerhofer	Creation of the document