

TxIII Transmitter

1800 W

Instruction Manual



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1. INTRODUCTION

The GDD Tx III transmitter is used for time-domain induced polarization survey. Its transmission cycle is 2 seconds ON, 2 seconds OFF. Other timings are available upon request. It is sturdy and can operate in extreme climatic conditions (40 °C to 65 °C).

The GDD Tx III transmitter can be powered directly from a 120 VAC power source (240 VAC optional), such as a portable regulated generator. The Tx III transmits up to 10 A in a highly conductive ground or sends up to 2400 V in a resistive ground for a total power of 1800 W.

Because of its power and light weight, the Tx III increases the average daily productivity of an IP crew doing a dipole-dipole survey. For example, Géosig Inc., a Québec contractor, averages a productivity of over 4 km a day for $n=6$, $a=25$ m, and a crew of 5 persons.

The GDD Tx III is easy to use. Although, it automatically stops within microseconds if a short circuit occurs or if the circuit becomes open.

Caution: Always wear electrically insulated shoes and gloves when operating the transmitter.

2. TRANSMITTER DESCRIPTION

2.1 Equipment list

When receiving a GDD 1800W I.P. Transmitter, model TX III, ensure that it contains the following elements:

- One (1) Tx III transmitter built in a transportation box from Pelican
- One (1) instruction manual

Optional

- One (1) blue packing case
- 2, 25 or 50 meter electrical extension cord
- 120 V generator, Honda or equivalent (700, 1400 or 1900 W)

Do not hesitate to communicate with GDD Instrumentation Inc. if needed.

2.2 Transmitter components

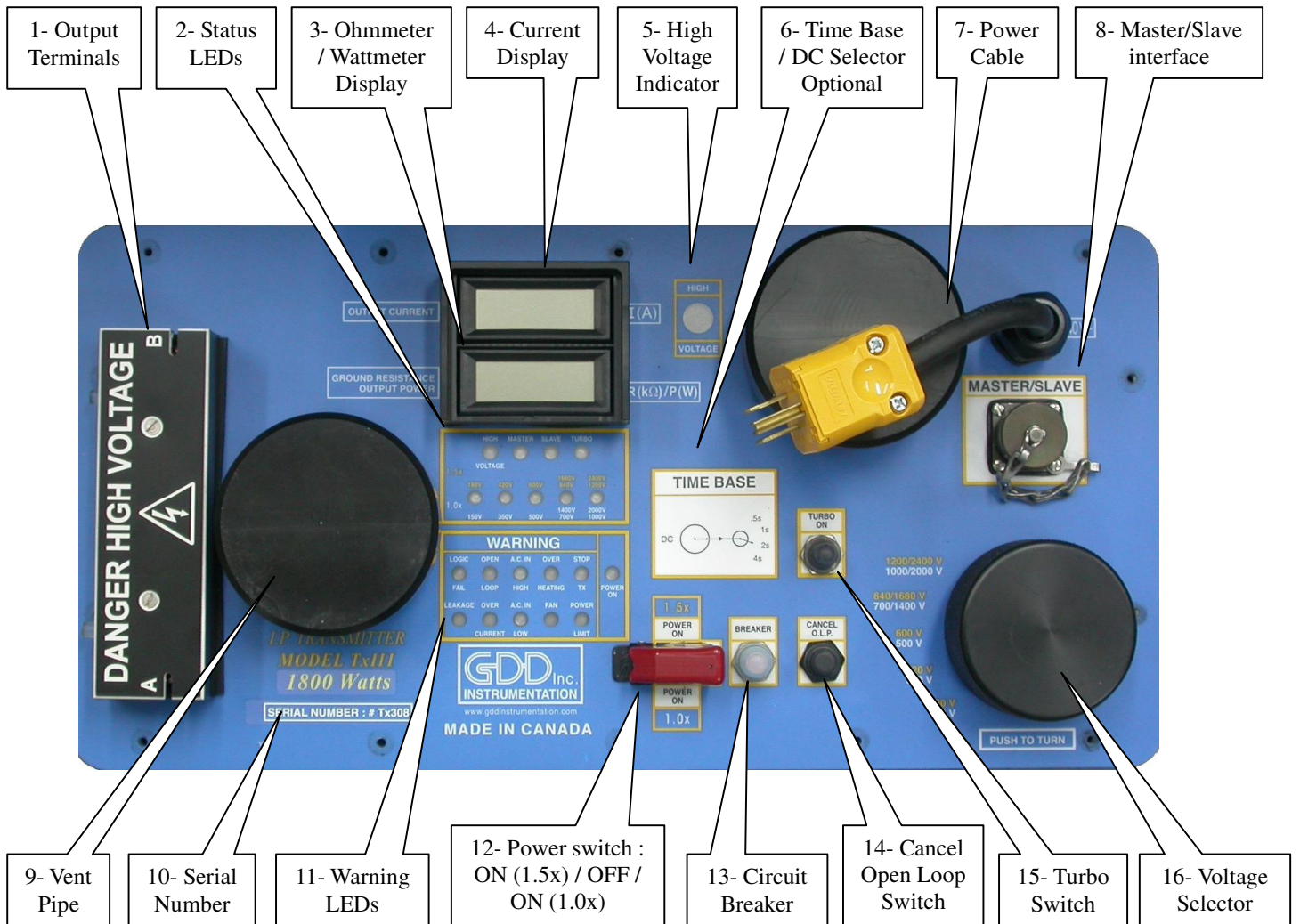


Figure 1: Control panel

2.1.1. Output Terminals

This is where the electrodes are connected. Press the button over each terminal to insert wires. Be careful, the terminals can reach up to 2400 V.

2.1.2. Status LEDs

The red lights indicate the following elements:

HIGH VOLTAGE: This LED turns ON and OFF to indicate the presence of high voltage on the output terminals, allowing the operator to follow the Tx III transmission cycle.

MASTER: This LED lights up for two reasons: when the transmitter is in stand-alone or in MASTER configuration.

SLAVE: This LED lights up when the transmitter is in SLAVE configuration.

TURBO: This LED turns on when the turbo mode is activated, that is to say when the output voltage changes from 700 V/840 V to 1400 V/1680 V or from 1000 V/1200 V to 2000 V/2400 V.

The lighted 150, 350, 500, 700/1400 or 1000/2000 red LEDs indicate the rated voltage present at the output while transmitting. These values increase 120 % when the selector is on the 1.5X mode.

2.1.3. Ohmmeter and Wattmeter Display

GROUND RESISTANCE: It displays the ground resistance when the generator is plugged and the transmitter is powered *OFF*. The value shown is the contact resistance in kilo-ohms ($\times 1000\Omega$).

OUTPUT POWER: When the transmitter is transmitting (power switch in mode 1.0x or 1.5x), the output power expressed in Watt is indicated instead of the contact resistance.

2.1.4. Current Display

Displays the output current and refresh this value four times per second. The first and the last reading may overlap the off cycle and have to be rejected.

2.1.5. High Voltage Indicator

This LED turns ON and OFF to indicate the presence of high voltage on the output terminals, allowing the operator to follow the Tx III transmission cycle.

2.1.6. Time Base / DC Selector (optional)

There are two different possible time base selectors. These optional time base selectors allow the following modes: 1s, 2s, 4s, 8s or 0.5s, 1s, 2s, 4s. The DC option is also available, allowing the transmitter to work as a DC voltage source.

2.1.7. Power Cable

The termination of the power cable can be plugged into any 120 VAC / 60 Hz voltage source. The rated input voltage can be modified upon request to 220-240 VAC / 50-60 Hz. Please check transmitter's nameplate for specificity.

2.1.8. Master-Slave Interface

The Master-Slave interface allows to link two transmitters with a synchronization cable to increase the total output power and the output voltage of the system.

2.1.9. Vent Pipe

There are two vent pipes on the control panel. The *FAN* warning light indicates if the fan is running. Make sure that the airflow is not being obstructed by any object (e.g.: leaves, snow, etc.).

2.1.10. Serial Number

Each instrument has its own serial number to identify it.

2.1.11. Warning LEDs

The red lights indicate the following problems:

LOGIC FAIL: Caused by an internal electronic failure.

LEAKAGE: A synchronization trouble caused a leakage current.

OPEN LOOP: This alarm trigs when there is infinite resistance between the two output terminals (the circuit is open) or when the output current is less than 30 mA (highly resistive ground). See section **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable. Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** for details.

OVER CURRENT: This alarm trigs when the current limit is exceeded. The current limit is set to 10 A in normal mode and 5 A in DC mode.

A.C. IN HIGH: High or irregular voltage from the generator. An unregulated generator can trig this alarm.

A.C. IN LOW: Low or irregular voltage from the generator. An unregulated generator can trig this alarm. The power transformer may overheat.

OVERHEATING: The internal temperature of the transmitter is too high. Leave the transmitter in this state until the LED turns off to let it cool off.

FAN: The *FAN* indicator lights up when the fan is running. The fan starts automatically to cool down the transmitter.

STOP TX: Indicates that the transmitter stopped transmitting. This LED lights up with the warning LEDs.

POWER LIMIT: Indicates that the power limit has been exceeded. This limit is set to 1800 W.

POWER ON: Indicates that the transmitter is powered on.

2.1.12. Power switch: ON (1.5x) / OFF / ON (1.0x)

There are two Power modes: 1.0x and 1.5x. When the 1.5x mode is selected, the output voltage will be 120 % higher and the power 150% higher compared to the 1.0x mode.

2.1.13. Circuit Breaker

There is a built in circuit breaker to protect the instrument from overload.

2.1.14. Cancel O.L.P. Switch (open loop protection)

The GDD Tx III has an internal open loop protection circuit to prevent direct electric shock to the operator. This protection trigs when the electrodes are not connected to the output terminals or when the current is less than 30 mA.

NOTE: If the ground has a very high resistivity, the open loop protection could disrupt the transmission of signal. To temporarily cancel the O.L.P. turn the Tx III *OFF*, press and hold the *Cancel O.L.P.* button and turn the Tx III *ON*.

2.1.15. Turbo Switch

All voltage scales above 1200 V can be set with the *Turbo* switch. This switch allows to reach the 1400 V/1680 V or 2000 V/2400 V scales while the voltage selector is on the 700 V/840 V or 1000 V/1200 V position.

NOTE: It may take up to 4 seconds before the *Turbo* turns ON or OFF.

2.1.16. Voltage Selector

To set the output voltage, press and turn this selector to the right position. Pressing down this knob will stop the current transmission. The available output voltages are:

- 1.0x mode: 150 V, 350 V, 500 V, 700 V, 1000 V, 1400 V and 2000 V.
- 1.5x mode: 180 V, 420 V, 600 V, 840 V, 1200 V, 1680 V and 2400 V.

3. TRANSMITTER OPERATION

3.1 Steps to follow

Here are the basic steps for a stand-alone operation of the Tx III:

1. Make sure that the Tx III is turned OFF.
2. Drive the electrodes into the ground and connect them to the output terminals with insulated wires.
3. Start the generator.
4. Put the voltage selector to the lowest voltage scale (150 V) and turn the transmitter ON (1.0x).
5. Increase the output voltage to increase the output power. It is not necessary to turn off the transmitter to change the voltage scale or select a different time base (optional). The 1.5x ON mode allows reaching an intermediate output power. Note that the transmitter will automatically stop if you try to transmit more than 1800 W. In this case, select a lower voltage scale and turn the transmitter OFF and ON again to reset the STOP TX alarm.

IMPORTANT:

- Turn the transmitter OFF only when the “HIGH VOLTAGE” LED is off, that is to say in the OFF time of the cycle or when the STOP TX light is triggered.
- Turn the transmitter OFF before shutting down the generator.

3.2 Output Power

If a generator more powerful than 1800 W is used, the output power will be limited to 1800 W by the Tx III. If the generator used cannot deliver up to 1800 W, such as a 700 W generator, the output power will be limited by the generator.

4. MASTER / SLAVE MODE

Here are the basic steps for a Master/Slave operation of the Tx III:

1. Connect the yellow synchronization cable (Master/Slave) to the transmitters. The Master/Slave cable terminations are different: one is labeled *MASTER* and the other one *SLAVE*. The transmitter is *MASTER* or *SLAVE* according to the termination of the cable connected on his interface. The *MASTER* and *SLAVE* LEDs (see section 2.1.2), indicate the mode of each transmitter. (see figure 2, yellow line)
2. Connect an insulated wire between the terminal (A) of one transmitter and the terminal (B) of the other one. (see figure 2, pink lines)
3. Connect the two power cables from the transmitters to the generator. (see figure 2, black lines)
4. Drive the electrodes into the ground and connect them to the unused terminals (A) and (B) by using insulated wires. (see figure 2, pink lines)

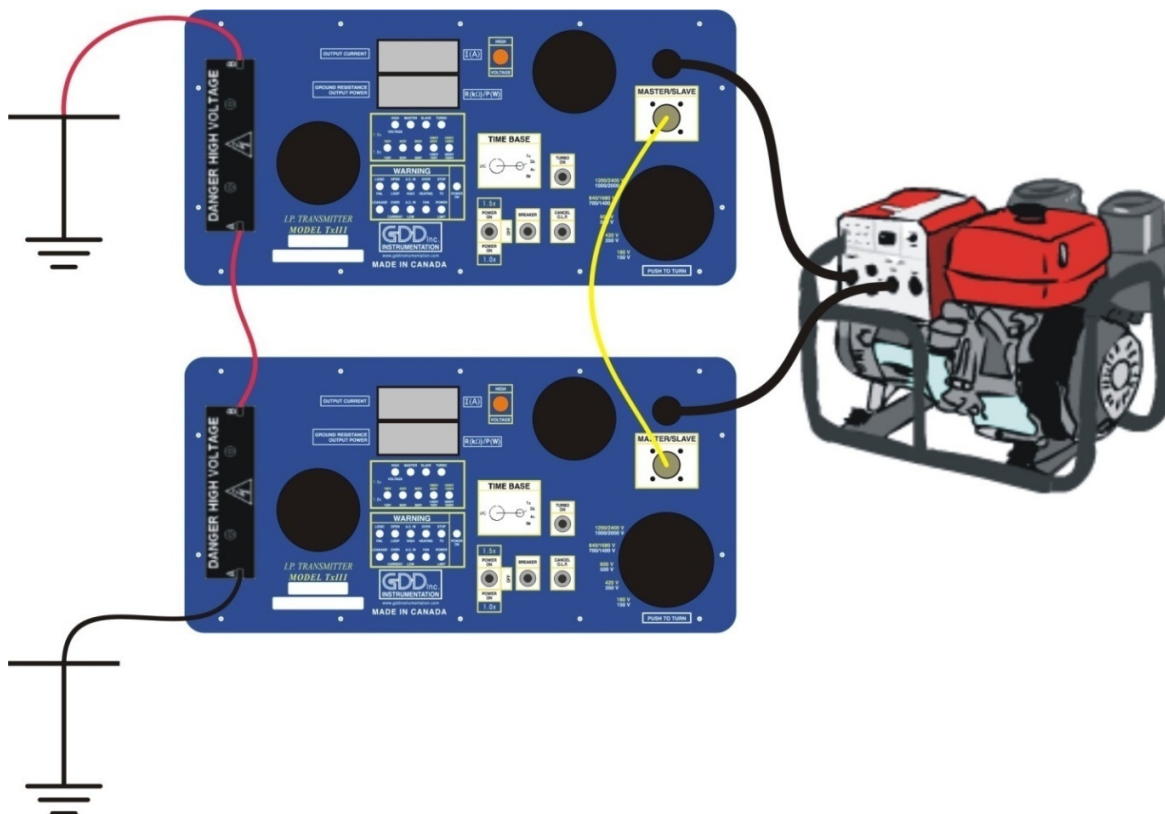


Figure 2 – Master/Slave system diagram

5. Make sure that the voltage selector is at the minimum scale (150V) on both transmitters.
6. Turn on both transmitters in position 1.0X.
7. Gradually increase the output voltages until the transmitters stop.
8. Reduce the output voltage of one transmitter by one step with the voltage selector.
9. Turn OFF and ON the Master transmitter.

NOTES

- If the Master/Slave cable is not connected, the transmitter will work in stand-alone mode.
- Both transmitters can be master or slave.
- It is possible to reach 4800V with two transmitters in a Master/Slave system.
- The current displayed on both transmitters should be the same (± 0.1 A).
- The selected voltage scale on both transmitters should not be more than one step different, in order to have power transmitted by both transmitters closer as possible.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

With a good understanding of the transmitting circuit and a little logic, most of the problems that will happen with the Tx III can often be solved.

1- Nothing seems to work

The ON LED doesn't light up and the display remains blank: check if the power source (generator) is working properly. Check also the power cable and the extension cord. The breaker might also be triggered.

2- The ON LED lights up but the Tx-III does not transmit

First, check if the voltage selector is not pressed down. Then check which warning LEDs also light up:

LOGIC FAIL: Indicates that an internal electronic failure occurred. Turn OFF and ON the Tx III. If it doesn't work, move the Tx III away from the current electrodes.

LEAKAGE: Turn OFF and ON the Tx III. If it doesn't work, move the Tx III away from the current electrodes.

OPEN LOOP: Can be caused by a cut wire or by highly resistive ground. In such a case, you can bypass the open loop protection with the Cancel O.L.P. switch.

OVER CURRENT: The output current is too high. Reduce the output voltage or pull out a bit the electrodes from the ground.

A.C. IN (HIGH or LOW): Indicates that the power source (generator) is defective. The supply voltage must be stable and between 90 VAC and 140 VAC. Try to transmit less power with the Tx III or change for another kind of generator.

WARNING: Always use a regulated generator. An unregulated generator could damage the instrument which could not be covered by the warranty.

OVERHEATING: Indicates that the internal temperature of the Tx III is too high. Don't turn OFF the Tx III but leave it in this state to let the fan running and cool off the instrument (see section **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.** for details)

POWER LIMIT: Reduce the output voltage.

STOP TX: This LED lights up when one of the previous problems is detected.

3- The Tx III works well but the output power is very low

First, check if it is possible to increase the voltage. Every time you increase the voltage scale by one step, the output power is approximately doubled. It is therefore possible to send 1000 W at a given scale (e.g.: 2000 mA at 500 V) but the Tx III will stop transmitting on the next higher scale (e.g.: 2800 mA at 700 V) since it would try to transmit around 2000 W. In such a case, try the 1.5x mode at the 500 V scale in order to have an intermediate output power, e.g. around 1400 W (2400 mA at 600 V). You can also raise or lower the electrodes in the ground in order to alter the overall resistivity of the circuit. This could allow you to transmit 1800 W at 700 V.

4- Ground with very high resistivity

If the ground is highly resistive, it is possible that the output current is too low even at the maximum voltage. In such a case, you have to improve the electrode contact with the ground.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Move the electrodes to get a better contact;
- Double (or more) the number of electrodes;
- Water the electrodes (with salt water if available).

5- Noise, Bad signal (Receiver)

The noise is an undesired interference or a disturbance that affects the signal.

The source of noise may be a second IP or EM transmitter operating in the area; the interference zone may be as large as 10 kilometers, depending on the power of the instrument and the system used. If a recurrent signal is received while the transmitter is powered off, this is certainly due to a second transmitter. The receiver could even synchronize with the signal if compatible.

Telluric currents may also cause the noise: they occur naturally near the surface of the earth and concentrate in conductive zones such as overburdens, shale or graphite formation, etc. To continue the survey in spite of telluric currents, one should improve the electrode contacts and increase the output current of the transmitter in order to increase the signal-to-noise ratio.

Finally, the noise may originate from a defective transmitter or receiver. First, check the electrodes, decrease the contact resistance and make sure there is no loose contact. The signal timings of the receiver and the transmitter must be the same. If necessary, take a reading at a precedent station or repeat tests with another receiver or transmitter.

6. TECHNICAL HELP

If you encounter a problem that can't be fixed or that is not described in the troubleshooting section, or for any particular information, don't hesitate to contact Instrumentation GDD Inc.:

Phone: (418) 877-4249
Fax: (418) 877-4054
Toll free line (for Canada): (877) 977-4249
e-mail: gdd@gddinstrumentation.com

Emergency (out of business hours):

Pierre Gaucher:

Home tel.: (418) 657-5870
Mobile phone: (418) 261-5552

Régis Desbiens:

Home tel.: (418) 658-8539
Mobile phone: (418) 570-3408

Any GDD Tx III transmitter that breaks down while under warranty or service will be replaced free of charge upon request for the duration of repairs, subject to instruments availability, except for shipping charges. Although this service is subject to instrument availability, we have been able to honour this commitment until now.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Size:	Packing case: 56 x 35.5 x 56 cm (22.00" x 14.00" x 22.00") Transmitter only: 50 x 30.5 x 45.7 cm (19.70" x 12.00" x 18.00")
Weight:	Packing case: 12 kg (26.5 pounds) Transmitter only: 26.5 kg (58.5 pounds)
Operating temperature:	-40 °C to 65 °C (-40 °F to 150 °F)
Time Base:	2 s ON, 2 s OFF Optional: - 1s, 2s, 4s, 8s - 0.5s, 1s, 2s, 4s - DC
Rated output current:	0.030 A to 10 A (normal operation) 0.0 A to 10 A (cancel open loop) Maximum of 5 A in DC mode
Rated output voltage:	150 V to 2400 V
LCD Displays:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Output current, 0,001 A resolution▪ Output power▪ Ground resistance (when the transmitter is turned off)
Power source:	120 V / 60 Hz 240 V / 50 Hz (Optional)

8. GLOSSARY

Induced polarisation (I.P.) is a geophysical technique: an electric current is induced into the ground and the voltage decay is monitored through electrodes to measure its conductivity and chargeability. The GDD Tx III is one of the principal components for an I.P. survey system.

Short circuit: Very low resistance connection between two nodes resulting in a fault current.

Transmitting circuit: The whole system associated with the Tx III: wires, electrodes, ground and transmitter.

Open circuit: Infinite resistance between two nodes. It is the electrical opposite of a short circuit.

Conductive ground: Ground with a low electrical resistivity. Such grounds are usually associated with thick overburden and water presence (e.g.: swamp).

Resistive ground: Ground with a high electrical resistivity. Such grounds are usually associated with bare rock or sand, with little overburden.