
Application Note

External Mixer Mode Installation and Quick Start Guide



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Contents

General Operating Guidelines	3
Recommended Operation Procedures and Precautions.....	3
Signal/Spectrum Analyzer Compatibility.....	3
External Mixer Setup on Anritsu Signal Analyzer	4
Load External Mixer Conversion Loss File on Anritsu Signal Analyzer	6



General Operating Guidelines

Recommended Operation Procedures and Precautions

This document provides information on how to setup a VDI SAX-Z-M Module on an Anritsu MS2850A or similar spectrum analyzer in Spectrum Analyzer Extension (External Mixer) Mode.

Input power limitations, safety guidelines, general operating practices and recommendations for the SAX-Z-M Module are provided in the SAX-Z-M Product Manual (VDI-731.5). Please review VDI-731.5 prior to reading this document.

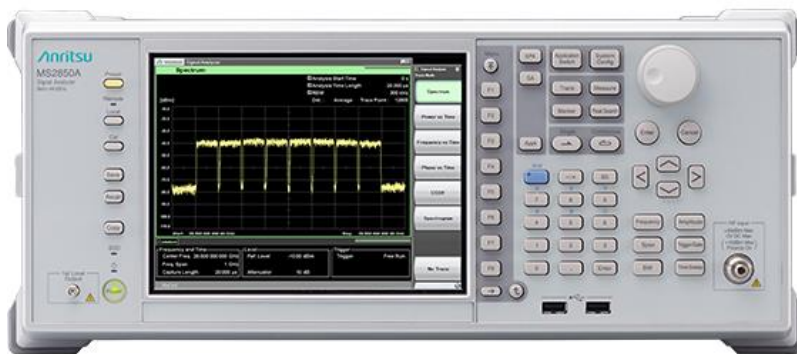
This document is accurate as of October 1, 2025.

Signal/Spectrum Analyzer Compatibility

All SAX-Z-M Modules are compatible with the following Anritsu Analyzers:

- MS2830A
- MS2840A
- MS2850A

The MX284090A External Mixer Connection Function Option is required for the above analyzers. The following document assumes the proper firmware and software licenses are installed correctly on the analyzer.

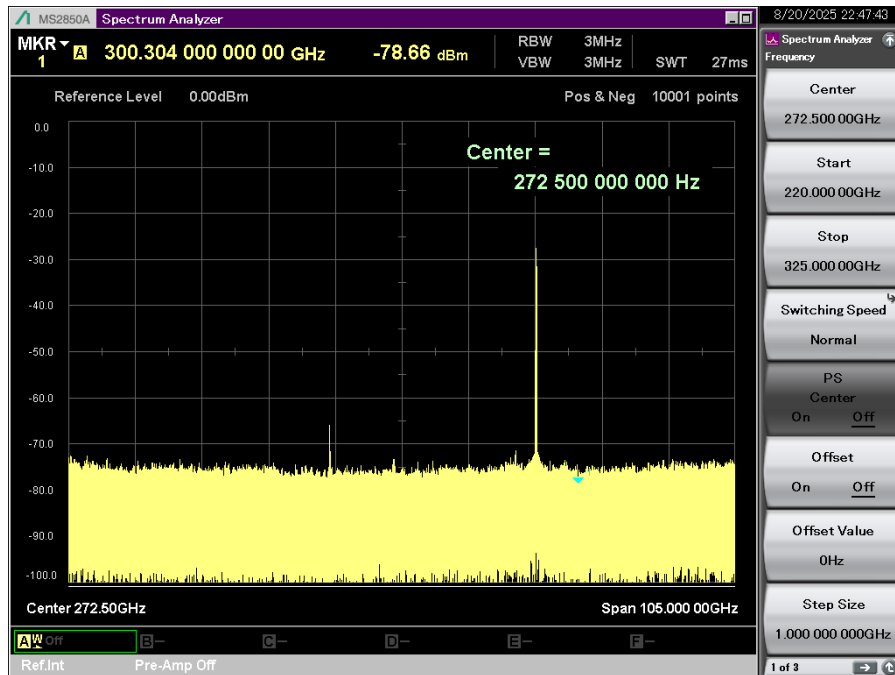


External Mixer Setup on Anritsu Signal Analyzer

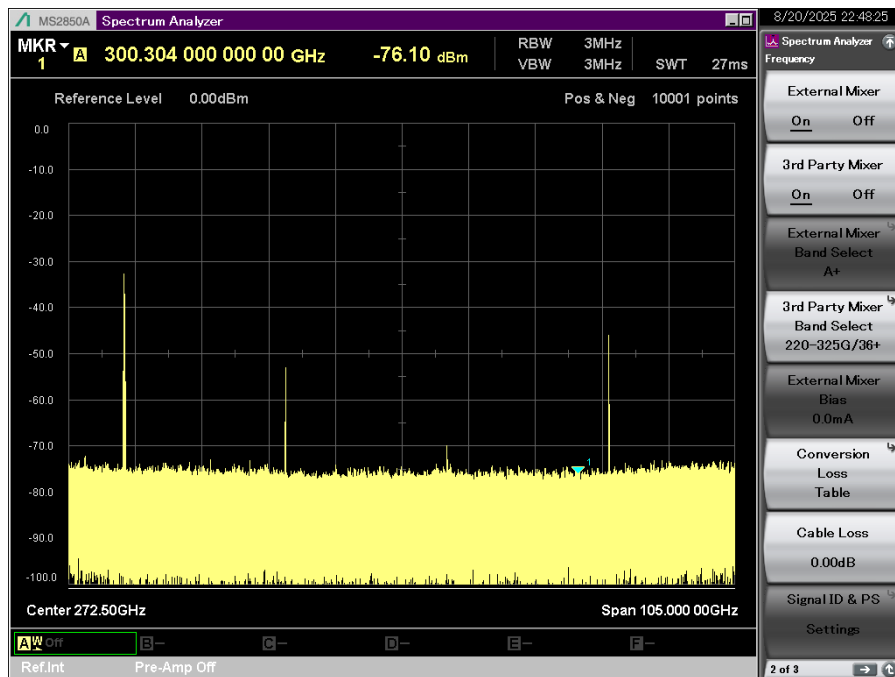
Turn On Signal/Spectrum Analyzer

Press [SPA] for Spectrum Analyzer Mode

Press [Frequency]



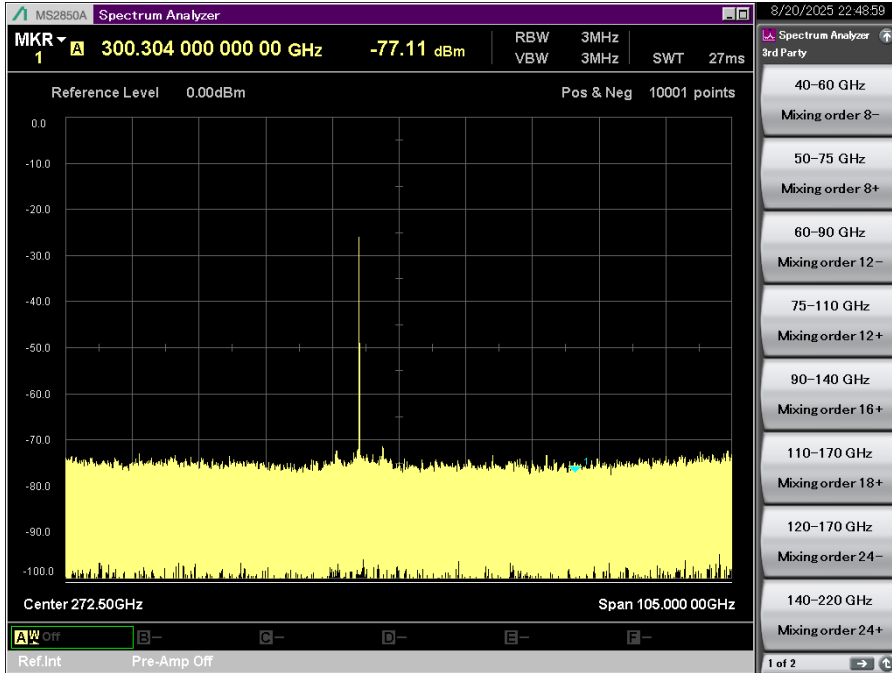
Press [→] for additional menu options



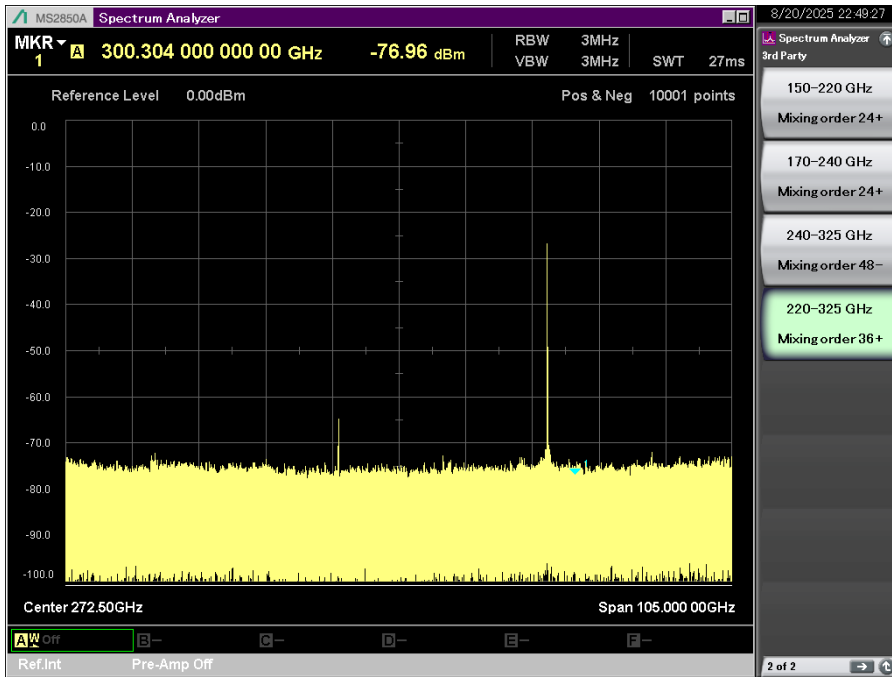
Press [F1] to Turn ON External Mixer Mode

Press [F2] to Turn ON 3rd Party Mixer

Press [F4] to select the appropriate 3rd Party Mixer model.



User may need to press [→] to see additional high frequency options

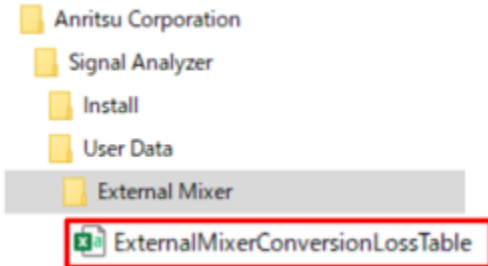


Select appropriate external mixer model and return to previous menu.



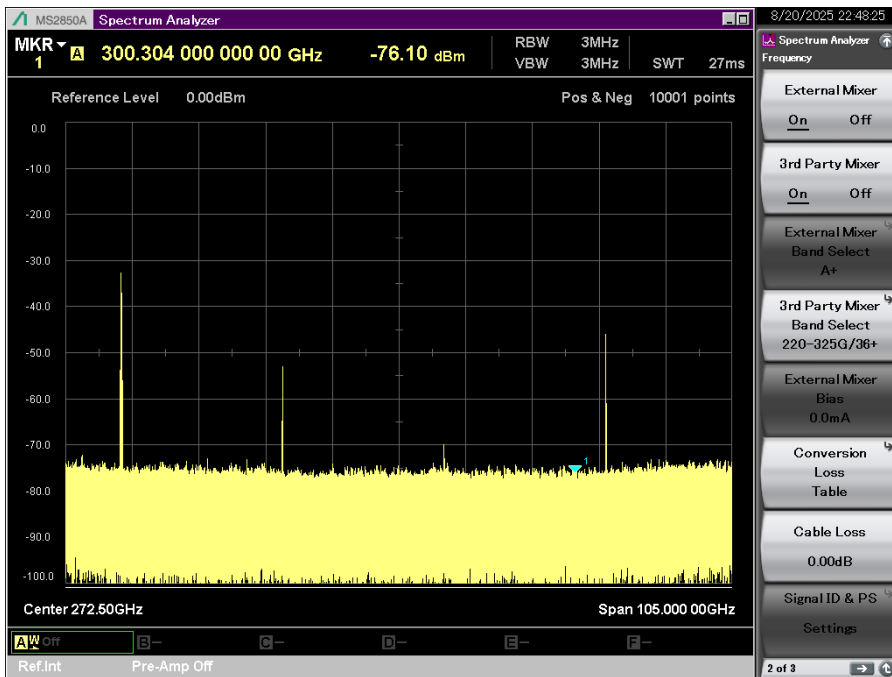
Load External Mixer Conversion Loss File on Anritsu Signal Analyzer

USB Drive with appropriate External Mixer Conversion Loss Table file is included with all SAX-Z-M Modules. After unzipping the file, the file should be located in the folder path similar to what is shown below. If the file is not in this specific folder path, the Anritsu Analyzer will be unable to recall the External Mixer Conversion Loss Table.



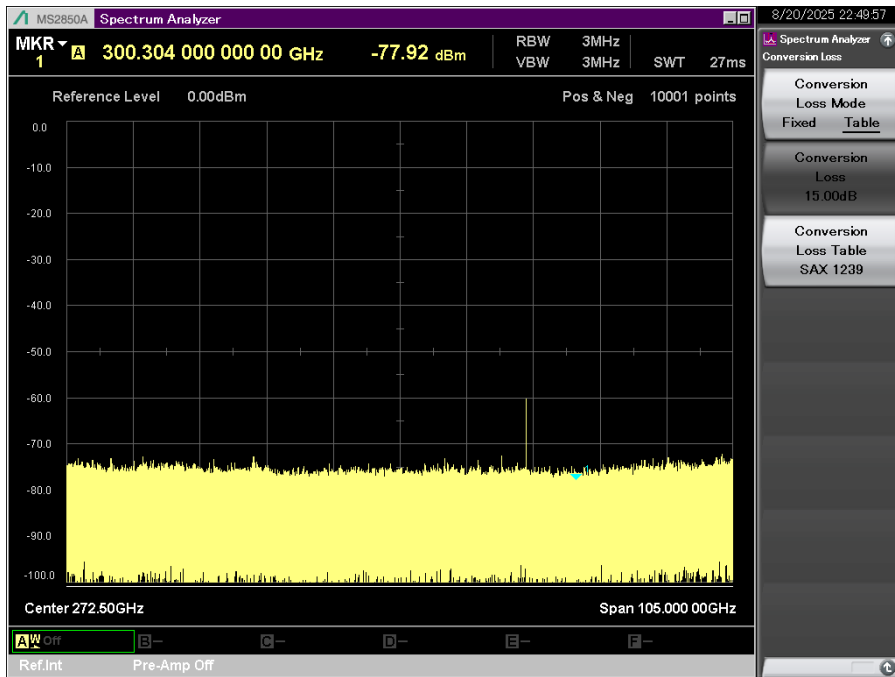
Insert USB Drive into the Anritsu Analyzer

Navigate to the [Spectrum Analyzer] > [Frequency] menu



Press [F6] for Conversion Loss Table





Press [F3] for Conversion Loss Table

The Anritsu Analyzer should recall the Conversion Loss file for the specific SAX-Z-M module.

