

10 Northern Blvd, Suite 1, Amherst, NH 03031-2328 USA

T: +1 (603) 578-1842 www.silent-solutions.com

Applying Practical EMI Design & Troubleshooting Techniques

This course gives engineering professionals the ability to successfully recognize, solve and avoid challenging EMI problems. Demonstrations using working hardware illustrate concepts such as radiated emissions, high frequency antennas, radiated and conducted immunity and crosstalk in connectors, cables and IC packages. Integrating over 30 years of hands-on troubleshooting experience and the latest EMC research, this course is appropriate for experienced circuit and system design engineers, EMC engineers, as well as those who are new to EMI problem solving.

Course Instructor



Lee Hill is Founding Partner of SILENT, an independent EMC and RF design firm established in 1992 that specializes in EMC and RF design, troubleshooting, and training. Lee received his MSEE from the Missouri University of Science & Technology EMC Laboratory, emclab.mst.edu. He teaches a graduate course in EMC as a member of adjunct faculty at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), and is also an EMC course instructor for Texas Instruments, the University of Oxford (England) and the IEEE EMC Society's Global University, which he currently chairs. He is a past EMC instructor for UC Berkeley, Agilent, and Hewlett Packard.

With over 30 years of EMC design and troubleshooting experience, Lee consults and teaches world-wide, and has presented courses in Taiwan, China, Poland, Singapore, Mexico, Norway, Canada, South Korea, France, Germany and United Kingdom. Lee is a past member of the IEEE EMC Society's Board of Directors (2004-2007).

After Attending This Course, You Will Be Able To:

- Systematically analyze and solve noise problems by using the noise model to create and analyze a noise circuit schematic
- Minimize radiated EMI by designing low inductance signal interconnects
- Understand ground loops, how to represent them in an equivalent circuit, and how to eliminate them
- Clearly identify and manage the different types of "ground" in schematics and physical circuits
- Identify "accidental antennas" in new designs
- Understand, measure, and reduce common-mode current in emissions and immunity, and functional noise problems
- Improve the quality of sensor and instrumentation signals in the presence of noise

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Applying Practical EMI Design & Troubleshooting Techniques

Day 1

Section 1: **Measuring and Inducing Noise**

- 1) The electrical noise model
- 2) Distinguishing the four noise paths by name, electrical driving function, necessary physical features, and impact of source to victim distance
- 3) Troubleshooting techniques based on the noise model
- 4) Far-field versus Near-field coupling + DEMONSTRATION
- 5) Practical antenna theory for radiated emissions and immunity + DEMONSTRATION
- 6) Problems inherent in predicting radiated emissions and radiated immunity test results
- 7) Conducted emissions—mode separation, LISNs, troubleshooting

Section 2: **Predicting and Solving Noise Problems**

- 1) Capacitance—in ESD, PD boards, decoupling networks, filter networks, cables + DEMONSTRATION
- 2) Electrostatic discharge (ESD). IC and system ESD tests. Problems with test repeatability. Design techniques to improve PCB ESD immunity + DEMONSTRATION
- 3) Inductance—in PC boards, connectors, ICs, high speed signal paths, decoupling networks,
- 4) How to use connectors for improved signal quality, reduced emissions, & improved immunity
- 5) Behavior of current paths at low and high frequencies + DEMONSTRATION

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Day 2

Section 3: The Four Noise Coupling Paths, Functions of “Ground” and “Ground” Loops

- 1) Common impedance - in PCB power planes, ground planes, cables
- 2) Capacitive - in PCB power filtering, transformers, heatsinks, connectors +DEMONSTRATION
- 3) Inductive - in PCB ground planes, connectors, and IC packages
- 4) Radiative - from small electronic products +DEMONSTRATION
- 5) Ground - the three distinct functions, ground loop problems, +DEMONSTRATION

Section 4: Optimum Use of EMI Control Components

- 1) Control components: capacitors, inductors, ferrite beads, common-mode filters +DEMONSTRATION
- 2) Coping with and improving non-ideal characteristics such as interconnect inductance, DC bias

Section 5: Measuring and Diagnosing Effects of Common and Differential-Mode Sources and Filters

- 1) Differential-mode current, voltages
- 2) Common-mode currents, voltages, +DEMONSTRATION
- 3) Understanding the common-mode current and antenna path for emissions and immunity
- 4) Antenna currents and relevance to filter networks and troubleshooting
- 5) Common and differential-mode filtering. Filter network topology and function
- 6) Inherent difficulties in EMC filter design. Effects of filters on intended and unintended signals
- 7) Where to use common-mode filters—application circuits
- 8) Where to use differential-mode filters—application circuits

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Advanced Printed Circuit Board Design for EMC + SI

This course provides a unique blend of theory, applications, and numerous hardware demonstrations to describe effective PCB design strategies to eliminate EMC problems such as radiated emissions & immunity, and ESD, and to improve low and high frequency signal integrity of analog and digital sensors.

The real-time hardware demonstrations use a spectrum analyzer, oscilloscope and signal generators to illustrate inductance, common-impedance coupling, and ground loops in PCBs, cables, and systems. Specific examples of single-point, multi-point, "good", and "bad" grounds will be discussed. We will also apply the course learning by discussing and examining actual SILENT client case histories as well as examples of integrated circuit application notes

After Attending This Course, You Will Be Able To:

- Place decoupling capacitors to obtain best performance for a given layer stackup, based on the latest university research
- Explain the pros and cons of different PCB stackups, and know where to route and not to route high frequency noise sources
- Control trace inductance for signal integrity and low noise design
- Correctly identify the possible noise paths that can disrupt PCB operation and choose appropriate solutions
- Explain the problems that split ground planes cause and how to use them correctly
- Choose & place connectors and assign signals for lowest crosstalk, best signal integrity, and lowest EMI
- How to identify mutual inductance and improve the effectiveness of filter capacitors
- Identify good and bad design practices when viewing actual PCB layout screenshots

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Advanced Printed Circuit Board Design for EMC + SI

Section 1: PCB Noise Models

1. Review of the noise coupling model
2. Review of the four noise coupling paths
3. Emissions and immunity

Section 2: Capacitance, Inductance and Current Paths in PC Boards

1. Good and bad capacitance
2. Good and bad inductance
3. Current loops
4. Low versus high frequency current paths
5. Inductance and low versus high frequency current paths + DEMONSTRATION
6. "Ground plane" splits - appropriate and inappropriate uses
7. Connectors, cables, and I/O wires connected to the PCB

Section 3: Signals on PC Boards

1. Which signals are important?
2. What do they look like? + DEMONSTRATION
3. Transmission lines, characteristic impedance, terminations + SIMULATIONS
4. Harmonic content versus duty cycle + DEMONSTRATION

Section 4: Power Distribution

1. Functions of PCB "grounds"
2. Vcc noise
3. Decoupling and filtering
4. Board layer stack-ups
5. Funny design ideas, current research, new design applications

Section 5: Design Techniques and Examples

1. Component placement
2. Signal routing + stackup
3. Examining vendor applications notes that give bad EMC advice for PCB design
4. Examining past SILENT PCB design review findings

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Mechanical Design for EMC

This course for mechanical engineers provides clear applications, theory and demonstrations for the successful design of mechanical enclosures for good system emissions and immunity performance. Key topics include grounding at the PCB and enclosure, system ground maps, PCB component placement and control drawings, enclosure and cable shielding, PCB device "cans", resonant slots and enclosures, heat sinks, unintentional antennas, as well as connector, screw, and conductive gasket placement.

After Attending This Course, You Will Be Able To:

- Effortlessly identify unintentional antennas using pictures of past SILENT projects with EMI problems
- Easily and simply visualize common-mode current in cables and enclosures
- Explain the four noise coupling paths, & identify near-field coupling in real designs
- Understand the function of grounds in electronic product design
- Understand shielding of enclosures and cables, without electromagnetics mathematics
- Design a "good enough" high frequency shield
- Design a "good enough" low frequency shield
- Identify the most common types of grounding and shielding defects
- Apply the concepts of conductivity, transfer impedance, and skin depth to practical designs
- Estimate the resonant frequencies of enclosures, slots, and waveguides
- Specify shielded connectors and cable assemblies to ensure good system EMC

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Mechanical Design for EMC

Section 1: Review of Key Concepts and Introduction to Shielding

1. The theoretical, perfectly shielded enclosure
2. The expensive, practical enclosure
3. Review of the four noise paths
4. Understanding & visualizing common-mode current + DEMONSTRATION
5. Accidental antennas and antenna circuits
6. Regulatory and functional emissions and immunity tests
7. The three properties of electromagnetic shields

Section 2: PCB and Mechanical Control Drawings

1. Placement and location of grounds, and connectors
2. Effects of heat sinks
3. "Ground" / reference maps
4. External shielded connector interfaces

Section 3: Shielding

1. Why EMC shielding math in textbooks is wrong
2. Classical shielding and shielding for EMC
3. Problems with the prediction of shielding effectiveness
4. Practical aspects of shielding enclosures
5. Slot and cavity resonances in shielded enclosures + DEMONSTRATION
6. Review: The three properties of electromagnetic shields
7. Reflective and absorptive properties of shields + low frequency shielding
8. Magnetically conductive materials
9. Transfer impedance for base materials, connectors, cables and enclosures

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Mechanical Design for EMC

Section 3: Shielding (continued)

10. Transfer impedance for base materials, connectors, cables and enclosures
11. Effects of apertures
12. Latest research on apertures and cavities
13. Simple tests to verify performance of enclosures and transfer impedance + DEMONSTRATION
14. Overall shielding using enclosures
15. PCB level shields + factors that affect performance
16. Prevention of “accidental antennas”
17. Troubleshooting techniques

Section 4: Shielding of Cables

1. Cable shielding and terminations
2. Applying transfer impedance concepts to cables, connectors, and system interconnect
3. Examples and discussions of common shielded connectors and their defects (ENET, d-sub, video)
4. Shield terminations + DEMONSTRATION
5. What to ground, where, and why
6. Examples of bad cable shielding designs

Section 5: System Design Review Practice

1. During class, review and recommend EMC design changes for a prototype system design.