Anritsu Advancing beyond

easyTest Tools™ – Carry Less and Test Faster

Testing in the Field

When it comes to testing in the field, the instrument is only one piece of many that a person must bring with them. Along with the instrument, a person will often have to bring test manuals, a help guide, instructions, calibration kits, a laptop, and much more. In addition, all the additional equipment needs to be protected from the elements. Therefore, testing in the field is very different from testing in the lab.

Today's Challenges
Carrying Manuals and Documents Out Into the Field
Depending on the application, a person may have to carry several manuals and supporting documents to perform a test in the field. Often this means having it in a weatherproof case or laminated, making it bulky and more to carry.
Setting Up the Instrument to Make the Measurements (often referring to documents)
Although a person in the field may have the manuals, their setup time will vary greatly depending on their experience. A long, complex setup combined with a harsh field environment can lead to mistakes.
It is Often a Manual Process in the Field
Even though the test may be simple, this often requires a person to drive out to a location, manually set up the instrument, and save the measurements.
There Are No Tables in the Field
It is not practical for many users to carry manuals with them as they may have to climb towers and there are no tables on-site for setup.

Figure 1. Sample of a Case Used to Carry Manuals

Figure 2. Example of an Instrument Case

Anritsu Puts Your Test Procedures and Setup Into Your Hands

Anritsu easyTest Tools (part of the Anritsu Tool Box) is a tool that helps to eliminate the need for manuals, help guides, and instructions and helps the user setup their instruments for them. A simple graphical interface allows a user to create complete test procedures and automate setup and testing. The easyTest file can be transferred to multiple instruments via USB, email, and preload to instruments.

Command Selection	Specifications
Display Image	Enables the user to load the image displayed into the instrument.
Recall Setup	Will recall an instrument's setup. This includes all limit lines and alerts. If a unit is connected to a PC, a user can set it up on their PC, save the setting, and put it into easyTest directly. Users can also transfer setup via USB to the PC to be used in easyTest. The setup has the ability to auto advance to the next step.
Prompt	Instructions and prompts can be displayed and are the same as on the instrument's screen. In addition, the message can lock the screen until advanced or be displayed for a set time.
Save	Saves the file name automatically or this can be done manually. It can be set to saved automatically or manually. It can also save the measurement or a screenshot.
Repeat Script	The entire script can be set to repeat. When activated, it will repeat the number of times the user has it set to.

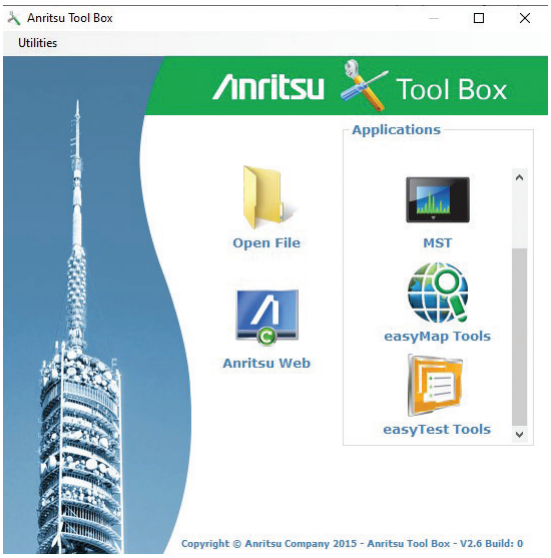

Figure 3. easyTest Tool, Part of Anritsu Tool Box

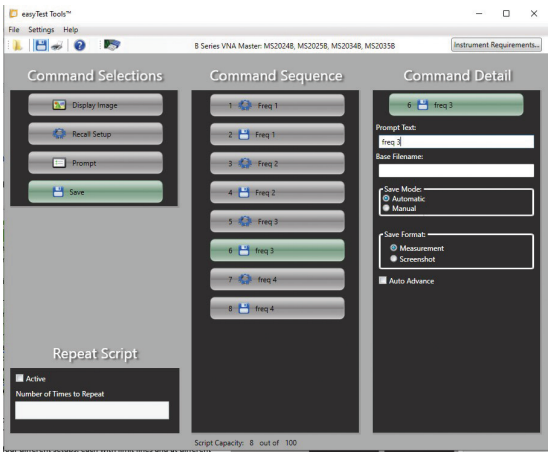

Figure 4. easyTest's Graphical Interface

Up to 100 commands can be captured in a single script. By dragging the icon from the command selection to the command sequence, a user can create their own scripts.

easyTest Applications

Phase adjustment is one of many applications for which a handheld VNA can be used in the field. However, it is often a complex process. For example, requiring the user to refer to a manual to know where to connect to the reference, manually set up the measurement, and adjust the scale for finer tuning.

With easyTest, test procedures can all be saved and recalled on the instrument with the Prompt and Image commands. These two commands enable a user to take images and display them on the instrument as the user performs the task. See Figure 5.

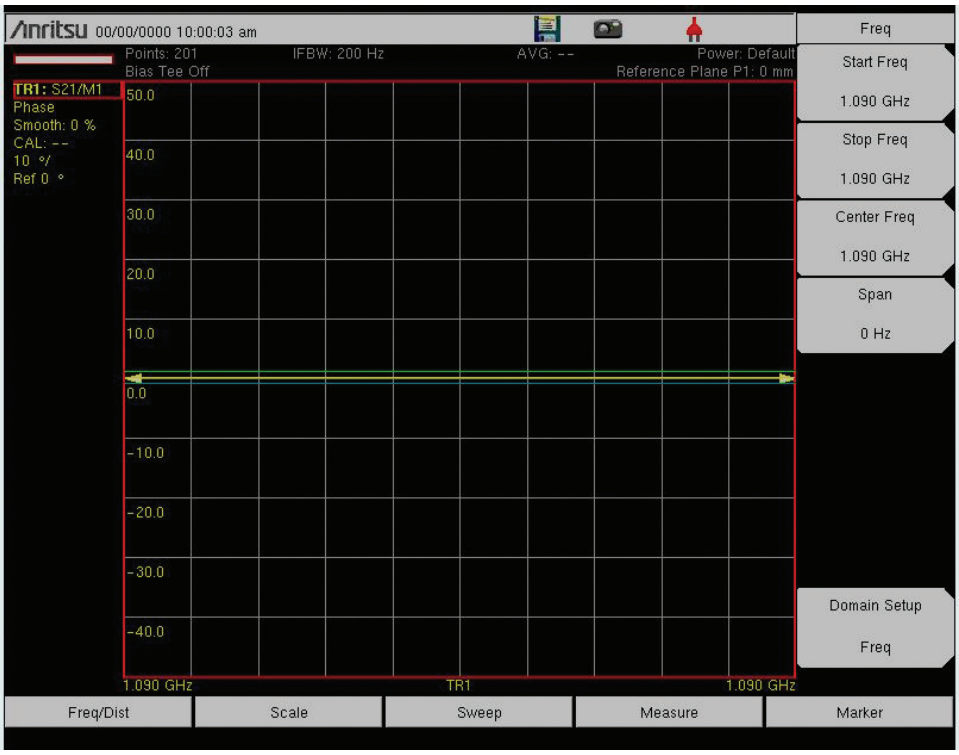

Figure 5. Press "Next or > to Continue"

Setting up the measurement manually can also be time-consuming and prone to error. The user has to set the graph to phase, the correct span, scale, trace setting, limit lines, and much more as part of the setup. This can be extremely frustrating if a user is not familiar with the instrument. With the Recall command, the entire measurement setup can be done automatically, as seen below.

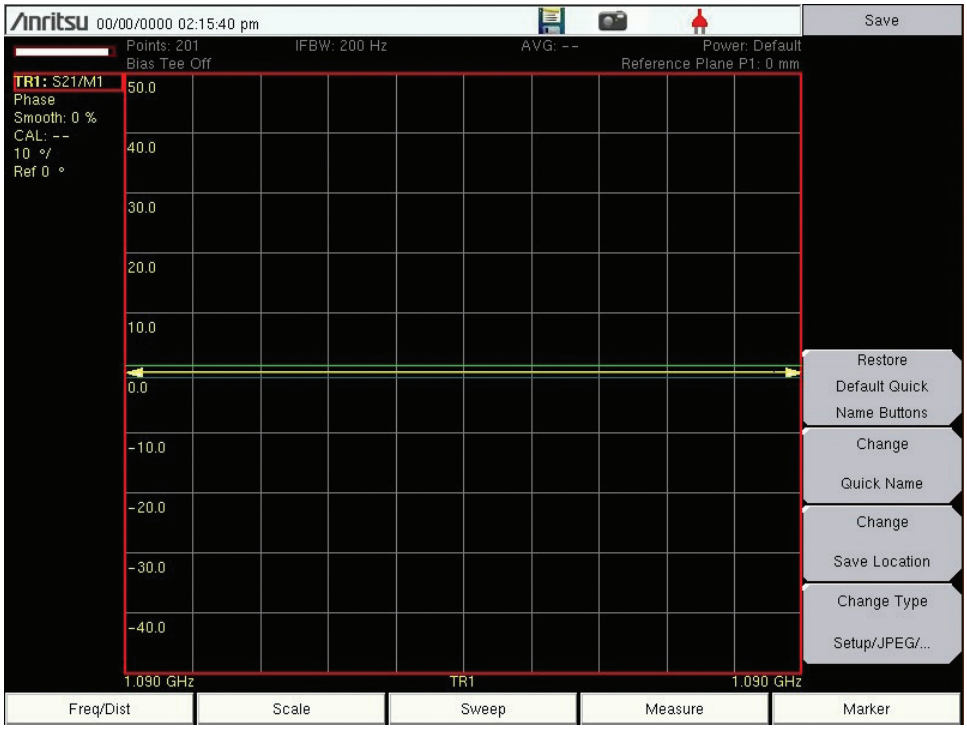

Figure 6. Instrument Configured Through the Recall Command

With the Save command, the user does not need to save measurements manually. The Save feature also enables the file names to be present, keeping the same standards throughout, as seen in Figure 7.

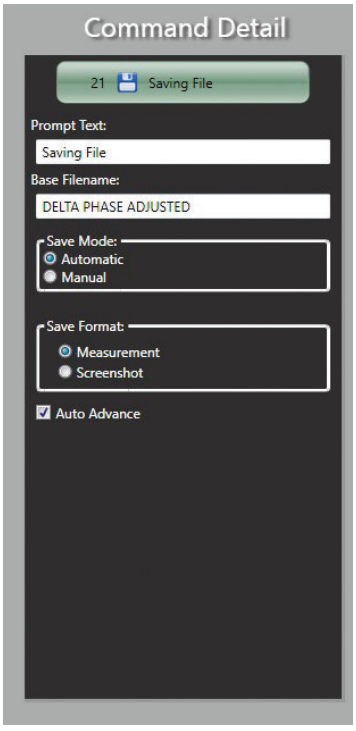

Figure 7. Command Detail Showing the Saving Command

Creating an easyTest Script

To start creating an easyTest script, open the Anritsu Tool Box and select easyTest, as seen previously in Figure 3. From there, a screen will appear, and the user can select the instrument they want to build the script for.

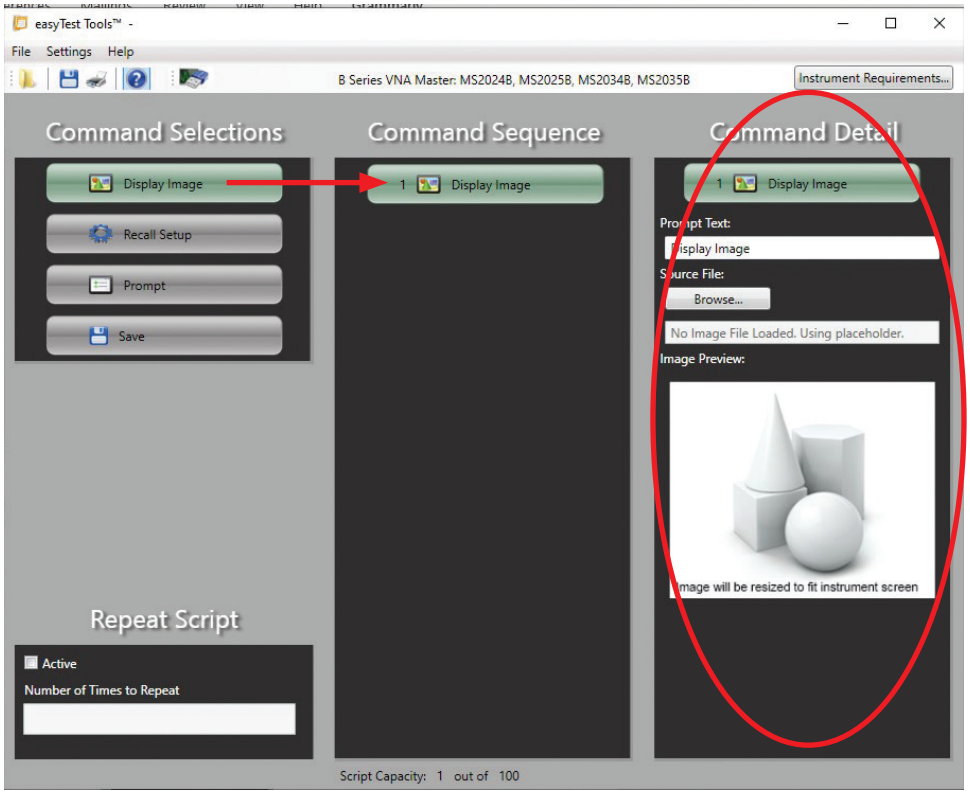

Figure 8. Main Screen for easyTest

From the easyTest main screen, all the user has to do is drag the command they want from the command selection to the command sequence, as seen in Figure 8. Then, in the command detail, the user can fill in the command details.

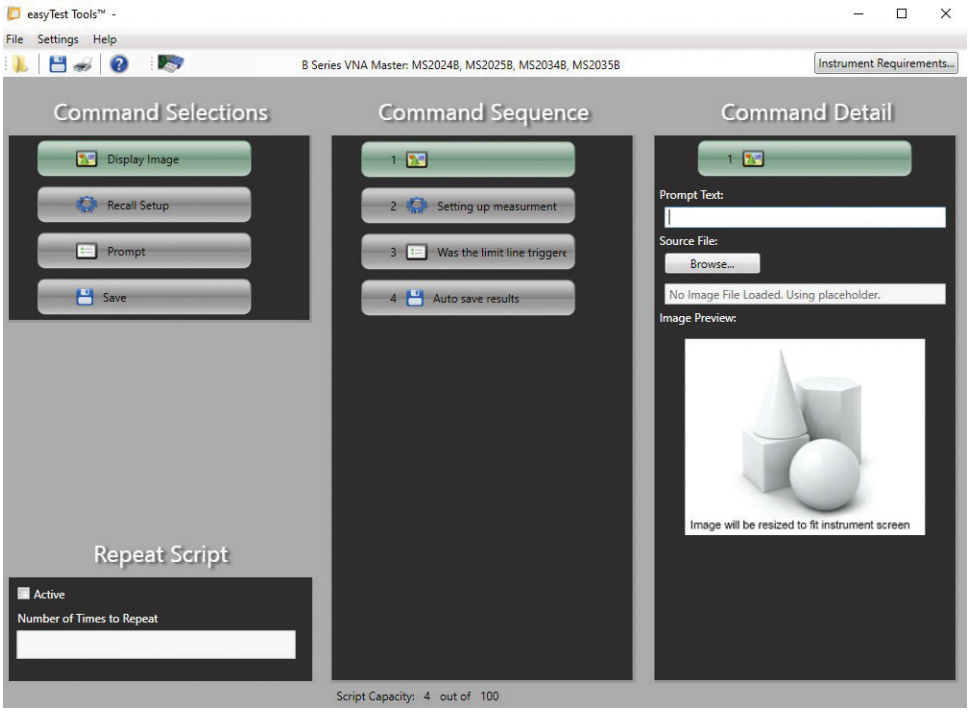

Figure 9. Simple Script, Setting Instrument to Correct Frequency and Span with Limit Line and Alert

Figure 9 demonstrates a simple script; the script shows an image to the user, then it will recall the settings, notify the user with a prompt, then save the measurement. In this example, the setup has a limit line set with audio notification at 890 MHz with a span of 600 kHz. The instrument will then save the measurement automatically. For recalling the setting, there are several ways this can be done. The first method is to set up the instrument, press Shift and File, and select Save, as seen below. Then transfer the setting via USB and load it into easyTest. The second method is to connect the unit via USB or Ethernet as seen in Figure 11. Once connected, the user can select “Load Setup” when the current instrument state is selected. Note: when “Load Setup” is pressed, a pop-up window will ask you to name the file and determine the location where the user wants to save the setup.

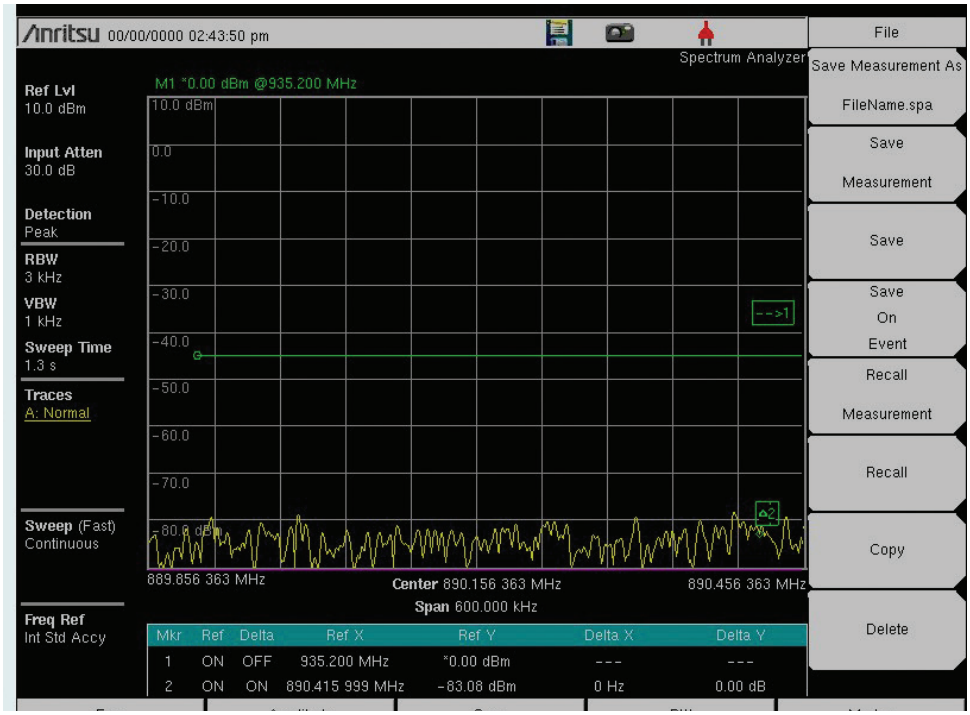

Figure 10. Instrument Set and Saving Setup on Instrument

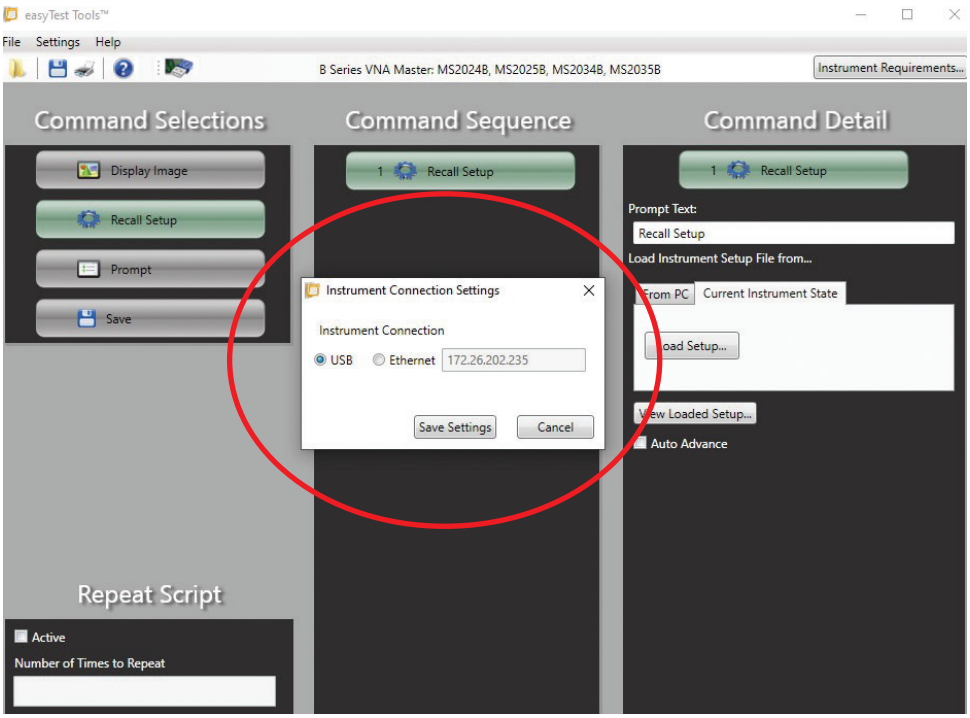

Figure 11. Unit Connected to PC, Showing Connection Setting

To save the script, press the Save button at the top left corner to save the script. Load the easyTest script to a USB drive and transfer the script to the internal memory of the instrument, as seen in Figure 12.

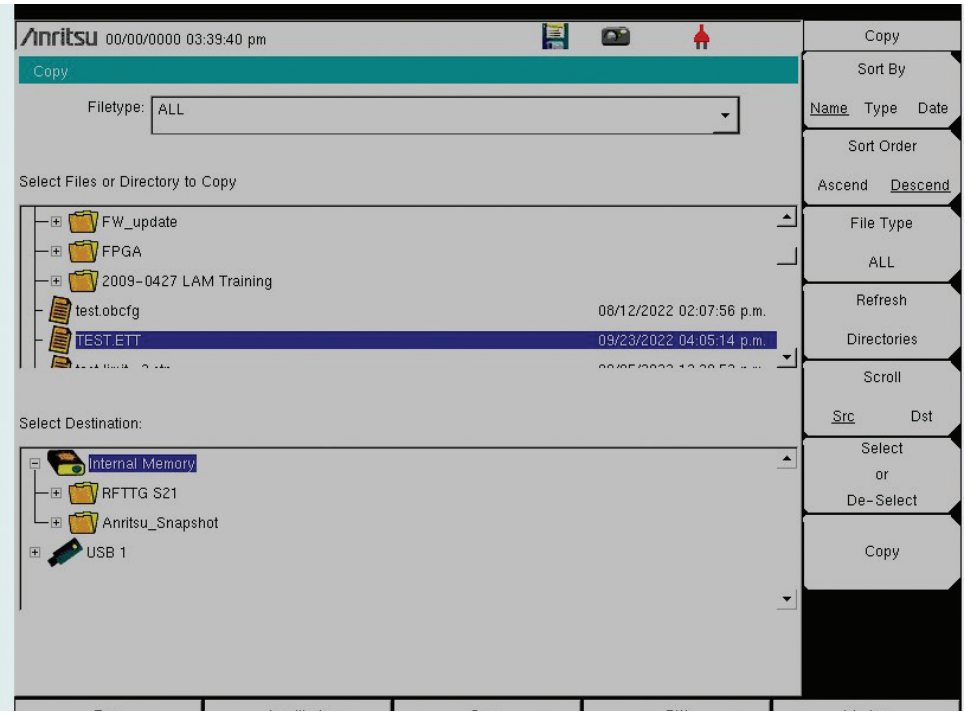

Figure 12. Transferring Test Script to the Instrument

Once the script is loaded to the instrument, to execute and run the script, press the menu button and then the easyTest button, as seen in Figure 13.

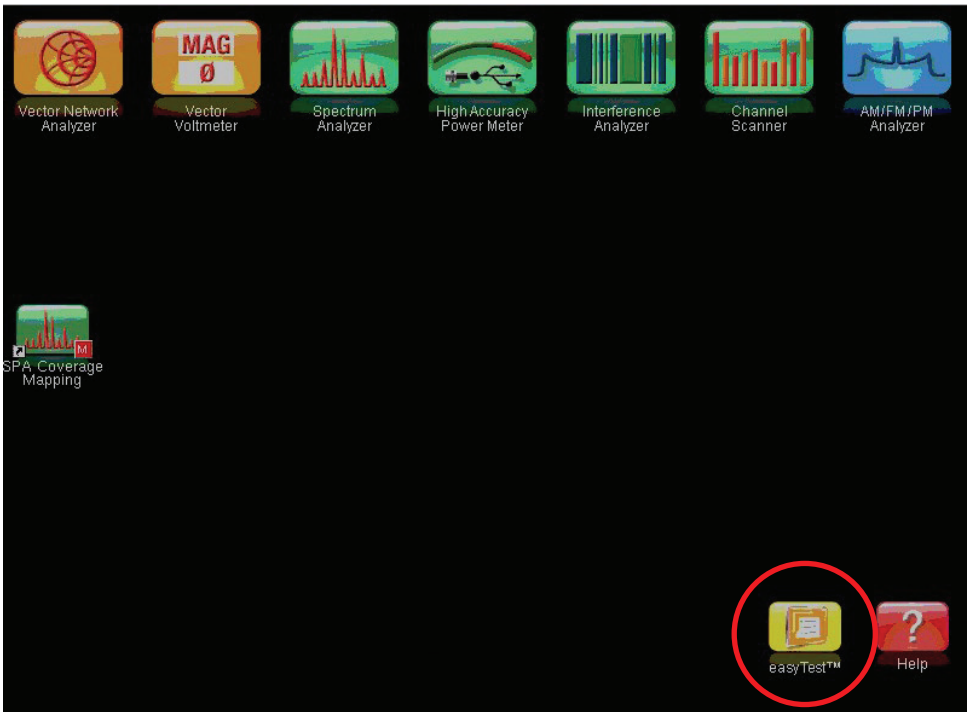

Figure 13. To Execute the Test Script

Conclusion

The field environment is very different from the lab, the less an operator has to carry, the better. Anritsu's easyTest tool replaces manuals, reference guides, and other documents and places this all into the instrument. This saves the operator from having to carry it all. Plus, easyTest aids in the processes by automating part of the testing procedures. The easy graphical scripting process is simple and can be distributed quickly. Anritsu easyTest is a powerful tool that can enhance the user experience in the field where it matters the most.

Anritsu Advancing beyond

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