AVTECH ELECTROSYSTEMS LTD.

NANOSECOND WAVEFORM ELECTRONICS
SINCE 1975

P.O. BOX 265
OGDENSBURG, NY
U.S.A. 13669-0265
TEL: (315) 472-5270
FAX: (613) 226-2802

TEL: 1-800-265-6681
FAX: 1-800-561-1970

e-mail: info@avtechpulse.com
http://www.avtechpulse.com/

BOX 5120, LCD MERIVALE
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
CANADA K2C 3H4
TEL: (613) 226-5772
FAX: (613) 226-2802

INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AV-151A-B-GUA

0 to ±50V AMPLITUDE, ±450 DC OFFSET
HIGH-VOLTAGE FUNCTION GENERATOR
AND VARIABLE-GAIN LINEAR AMPLIFIER
WITH IEEE 488.2 AND RS-232 CONTROL

SERIAL NUMBER: _____

WARRANTY

Avtech Electrosystems Ltd. warrants products of its manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship under conditions of normal use. If, within one year after delivery to the original owner, and after prepaid return by the original owner, this Avtech product is found to be defective, Avtech shall at its option repair or replace said defective item. This warranty does not apply to units which have been dissembled, modified or subjected to conditions exceeding the applicable specifications or ratings. This warranty is the extent of the obligation assumed by Avtech with respect to this product and no other warranty or guarantee is either expressed or implied.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Phone: 613-226-5772 or 1-800-265-6681
Fax: 613-226-2802 or 1-800-561-1970

E-mail: info@avtechpulse.com
World Wide Web: http://www.avtechpulse.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Manual Reference: /fileserver1/officefiles/instructword/av-151-153/obsolete/AV-151A-B-GUA,edition1.sxw.
Last modified February 29, 2024.

INTRODUCTION

The AV-151A-B-GUA is a high-performance GPIB and RS232-equipped function generator that can produce square, sine, triangle, and pulse outputs at frequencies up to 3 kHz, with peak amplitudes of 0 to 50V. For the sine, triangle, and square wave modes, this produces peak-to-peak amplitudes of up to 100V. A 0 to ±450V DC offset may be added to the output. The AV-151A-B-GUA will drive load impedances of 100 kΩ or higher.

When supplied with an external voltage input, the AV-151A-B-GUA may be used as a DC to 3 kHz variable-gain linear amplifier. The gain is variable from +1 to +25.

The AV-151A-B-GUA features front panel keyboard and adjust knob control of the output pulse parameters along with a four line by 40 character back-lit LCD display of the output amplitude, waveshape, and frequency. The instrument includes memory to store up to four complete instrument setups. The operator may use the front panel or the computer interface to store a complete “snapshot” of all key instrument settings, and recall this setup at a later time.

This instrument is intended for use in research and development laboratories.

PRODUCTION NOTE

The AV-151A-B-GUA, S/N 10622, was originally manufactured as an AV-151A-C-GUA (without any IEEE-488.2 GPIB / RS-232 ports), and was later converted into an AV-151A-B-GUA.

HIGH-VOLTAGE PRECAUTIONS

⚠ **CAUTION:** This instrument provides output voltages as high as ±500 Volts, so extreme caution must be employed when using this instrument. The instrument should only be used by individuals who are thoroughly skilled in high voltage laboratory techniques. The following precaution should always be observed:

1. Keep exposed high-voltage wiring to an absolute minimum.

2. Wherever possible, use shielded connectors and cabling.

3. Connect and disconnect loads and cables only when the amplifier is turned off.

4. Keep in mind that all cables, connectors, oscilloscope probes, and loads must have an appropriate voltage rating.

5. Do not attempt any repairs on the instrument, beyond the fuse replacement procedures described in this manual. Contact Avtech technical support (see page 2 for contact information) if the instrument requires servicing.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	AV-151A-C-GUA
GPIB and RS-232 control:	included
Output amplitude (max):	±50 Volts
Load impedance:	≥ 100 kΩ
Internal oscillator frequency range:	0.3 Hz to 3 kHz
-3dB bandwidth, external mode	3 kHz
Waveforms:	sine, square, triangle
DC offset:	±450 Volts
Rise time (for max output):	< 35 us
Ext trig mode:	Input amplitude for maximum output: ±2 Volts
Connectors:	BNC
Power requirement:	120 / 240 Volts (switchable), 50 - 60 Hz
Dimensions:	100 mm x 430 mm x 375 mm (3.9” x 17” x 14.8”)
Operating temperature:	+5°C to + 40°C

ORIGINAL QUOTATION (AV-151A-C-GUA)

Feb. 25, 2003
To: Ron Dombro
Guidant
651-582-7836
ron.dombro@guidant.com

Ron,

Following our telephone conversation, I am pleased to quote as follows:

Quote number: 11421

Model number: AV-151A-C-GUA

Description: High-Voltage Function Generator

Amplitude: Variable from 0 to 100V peak-to-peak (-GUA option)

DC offset: Variable from 0 to +/- 450V DC (-GUA option)

Other: as per the standard AV-151A-C. See http://www.avtechpulse.com/function/av-151a/ for details.

Price: $4911 US, FOB destination.

Delivery: 30 days after receipt of order.

Please call or email me if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,
Dr. Michael J. Chudobiak
VP, New Product Development

--- Avtech Electrosystems Ltd. ---------- since 1975 ---

PO Box 265 ph: 1-800-265-6681 or 613-226-5772 Box 5120 Stn. F
Ogdensburg, NY fax: 1-800-561-1970 or 613-226-2802 Ottawa, Ontario
USA 13669-0265 email: info@avtechpulse.com Canada K2C 3H4
http://www.avtechpulse.com/

Nanosecond Waveform Generators
for general purpose, R&D and OEM applications

Pulse Generators - Laser Diode Drivers - Pulse Amplifiers
Impulse Generators - Current Pulsers - Delay Generators - Splitters
Function Generators - Monocycle Generators - Frequency Dividers + more!

ORIGINAL QUOTATION (AV-151A-B-GUA)

Dec 11, 2003
To: John Marcucci
Guidant
651-582-6146
john.marcucci@guidant.com

John,

We spoke earlier today, when you called to inquire about adding the GPIB feature to your AV-151A-C-GUA, S/N 10622.

It is possible to retrofit your current instrument with the GPIB feature, but it will require considerable re-working of the instrument. I have quoted on this upgrade, and on a new instrument as well.

I am pleased to quote as follows:

Quote number: 11868.01

Model number: AV-151A-B-GUA

Description: Brand-New Function Generator with IEEE-488.2 GPIB and RS-232 computer-control ports.

Amplitude: Variable from 0 to 100V peak-to-peak (-GUA option)

DC offset: Variable from 0 to +/- 450V DC (-GUA option)

Other: as per the standard AV-151A-B. See http://www.avtechpulse.com/function/av-151a/ for details.

Price: $7884 US each, FOB destination.

Estimated delivery: 30 days after receipt of order.

Quote number: 11868.02

Task: convert the existing AV-151A-C-GUA (S/N 10622) into an AV-151A-B-GUA, whose specifications are described above.

Price: $4498 US each, FOB destination.

Conversion time: 2-3 weeks at the factory. (Please note that the factory is closed from Dec 22/03 to Jan 2/04, inclusive.)

If you prefer the conversion approach, please let me know, and I will send you instructions for returning the unit to the factory.

Please call or email me if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,
Dr. Michael J. Chudobiak
VP, New Product Development

--- Avtech Electrosystems Ltd. ---------- since 1975 ---

PO Box 265 ph: 1-800-265-6681 or 613-226-5772 Box 5120,
Ogdensburg, fax: 1-800-561-1970 or 613-226-2802 LCD Merivale
New York email: info@avtechpulse.com Ottawa, Ontario
USA 13669-0265 http://www.avtechpulse.com/ Canada K2C 3H4

Nanosecond Waveform Generators
for general purpose, R&D and OEM applications

Pulse Generators - Laser Diode Drivers - Pulse Amplifiers
Impulse Generators - Current Pulsers - Delay Generators - Splitters
Function Generators - Monocycle Generators - Frequency Dividers + more!

INSTALLATION

VISUAL CHECK

After unpacking the instrument, examine to ensure that it has not been damaged in shipment. Visually inspect all connectors, knobs, liquid crystal displays (LCDs), and the handles. Confirm that a power cord, a GPIB cable, and two instrumentation manuals (this manual and the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments”) are with the instrument. If the instrument has been damaged, file a claim immediately with the company that transported the instrument.

PLUGGING IN THE INSTRUMENT

Examine the rear of the instrument. There will be a male power receptacle, a fuse holder and the edge of the power selector card visible. Confirm that the power selector card is in the correct orientation.

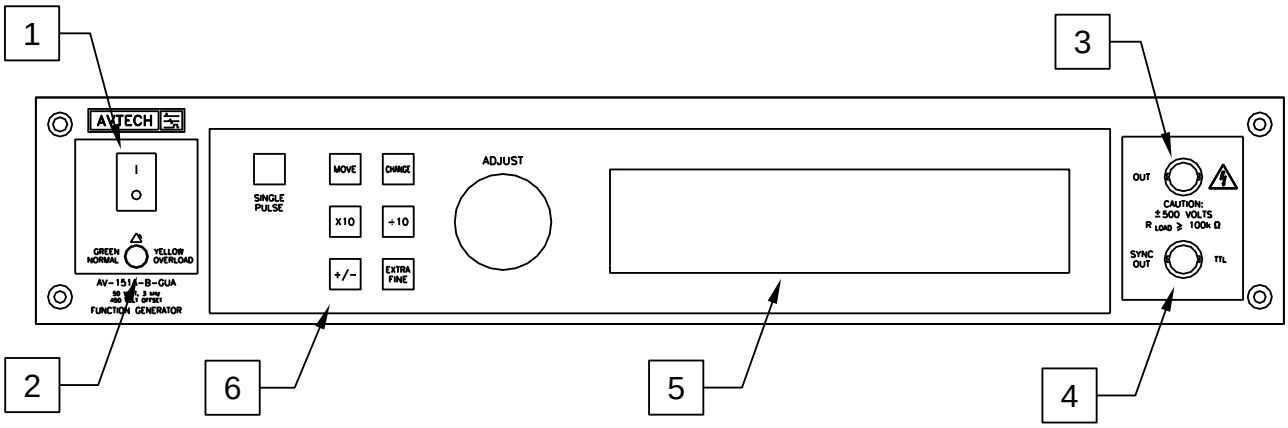
For AC line voltages of 110-120V, the power selector card should be installed so that the “120” marking is visible from the rear of the instrument, as shown below:

For AC line voltages of 220-240V, the power selector card should be installed so that the “240” marking is visible from the rear of the instrument, as shown below:

If it is not set for the proper voltage, remove the fuse and then grasp the card with a pair of pliers and remove it. Rotate horizontally through 180 degrees. Reinstall the card and the correct fuse.

In the 120V setting, a 1.0A slow blow fuse is required. In the 240V setting, a 0.5A slow blow fuse is required.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS



1. POWER Switch. This is the main power switch. When turning the instrument on, there may be a delay of several seconds before the instrument appears to respond.

2. OVERLOAD Indicator. When the instrument is powered, this indicator is normally green, indicating normal operation. If this indicator is yellow, an internal automatic overload protection circuit has been tripped. If the unit is overloaded (by operating at an exceedingly high duty cycle or by operating into a very low impedance), the protective circuit will disable the output of the instrument and turn the indicator light yellow. The light will stay yellow (i.e. output disabled) for about 5 seconds after which the instrument will attempt to re-enable the output (i.e. light green) for about 1 second. If the overload condition persists, the output will be disabled again (i.e. light yellow) for another 5 seconds. If the overload condition has been removed, the instrument will resume normal operation.

   This overload indicator may flash yellow briefly at start-up. This is not a cause for concern.

   Note that the output stage will safely withstand a short-circuited load condition.

3. OUT Connector. This BNC connector provides the main output signal, into load impedances of > 100 kΩ.

   ⚠ Caution: Voltages as high as ±500V may be present on the center conductor of this output connector. Avoid touching this conductor. Connect to this connector using standard coaxial cable, to ensure that the center conductor is not exposed.

4. SYNC OUT. This connector supplies a SYNC output that can be used to trigger other equipment, particularly oscilloscopes. This signal has an approximate amplitude of +3 Volts to R_L > 1 kΩ with a pulse width of approximately 100 ns.

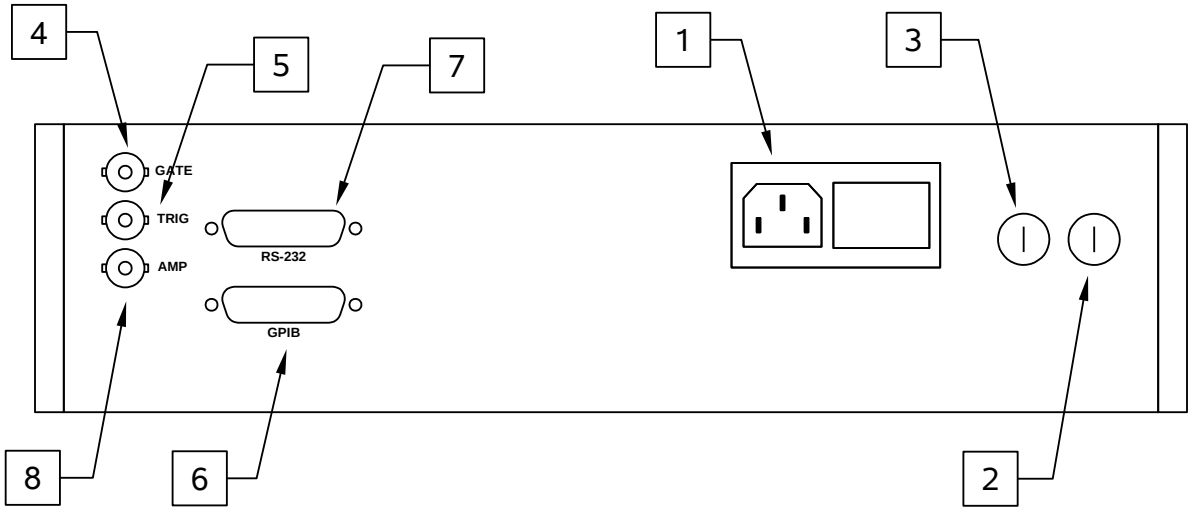
5. LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY (LCD). This LCD is used in conjunction with the keypad to change the instrument settings. Normally, the main menu is displayed, which lists the key adjustable parameters and their current values. The

“Programming Manual for -B Instruments” describes the menus and submenus in detail.

6. KEYPAD.

Control Name	Function
MOVE	This moves the arrow pointer on the display.
CHANGE	This is used to enter the submenu, or to select the operating mode, pointed to by the arrow pointer.
×10	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, this increases the setting by a factor of ten.
÷10	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, this decreases the setting by a factor of ten.
+/-	If one of the adjustable numeric parameters is displayed, and this parameter can be both positive or negative, this changes the sign of the parameter.
EXTRA FINE	This changes the step size of the ADJUST knob. In the extra-fine mode, the step size is twenty times finer than in the normal mode. This button switches between the two step sizes.
ADJUST	This large knob adjusts the value of any displayed numeric adjustable values, such as frequency, pulse width, etc. The adjust step size is set by the "EXTRA FINE" button. When the main menu is displayed, this knob can be used to move the arrow pointer.

REAR PANEL CONTROLS



1. AC POWER INPUT. A three-pronged recessed male connector is provided on the back panel for AC power connection to the instrument. Also contained in this assembly is a slow-blow fuse and a removable power selector card that can be removed and repositioned to switch between 110-120V AC in and 220-240V.

   For AC line voltages of 110-120V, the power selector card should be installed so that the “120” marking is visible from the rear of the instrument.

   For AC line voltages of 220-240V, the power selector card should be installed so that the “240” marking is visible from the rear of the instrument.

   If it is not set for the proper voltage, remove the fuse and then grasp the card with a pair of pliers and remove it. Rotate horizontally through 180 degrees. Reinstall the card and the correct fuse.

   In the 120V setting, a 1.0A slow blow fuse is required. In the 240V setting, a 0.5A slow-blow fuse is required.

2. DC Fuse. This 1.0A slow-blow fuse protects the internal DC power supplies.

3. DC Fuse. This 0.8A slow-blow fuse protects the internal DC power supplies.

4. GATE. This connector is not used in the AV-151A-B-GUA.

5. TRIG. When the AV-151A-B-GUA is set to operate in the amplifier mode, the externally-generated input signal is applied to this connector. The maximum input voltage is ±2V. The input impedance of this input is 1 kΩ. (Depending on the length of cable attached to this input, and the source driving it, it may be desirable to add a coaxial 50 Ohm terminator to this input to provide a proper transmission line termination. The Pasternack (www.pasternack.com) PE6008-50 BNC feed-thru 50

Ohm terminator is suggested for this purpose.)

6. GPIB Connector. A standard GPIB cable can be attached to this connector to allow the instrument to be computer-controlled. See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details on GPIB control.

7. RS-232 Connector. A standard serial cable with a 25-pin male connector can be attached to this connector to allow the instrument to be computer-controlled. See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details on RS-232 control.

8. AMP Connector. This connector is not used in the AV-151A-B-GUA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WAVESHAPE SELECTION

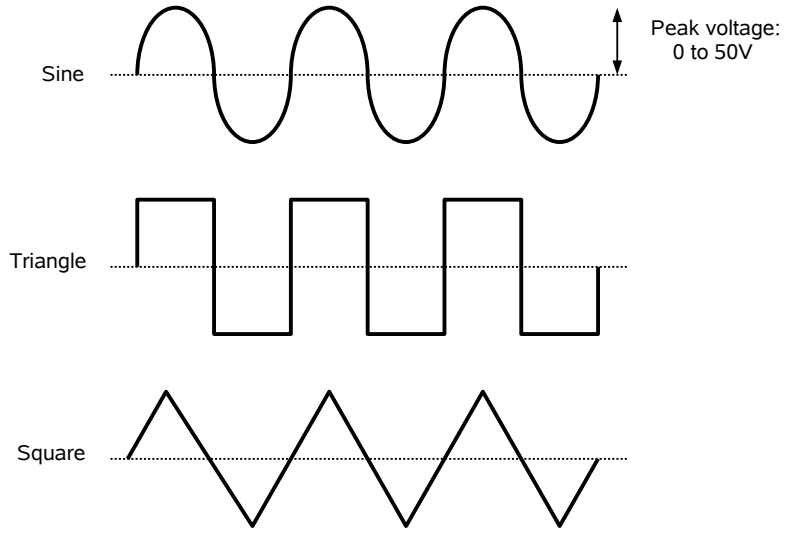
The front-panel “SHAPE” menu or the “sour:func” computer command can be used to set the output waveform to one of five possible modes:

SINE – This mode generates a bipolar sinusoidal signal with 50% duty cycle.
TRIANGLE – This mode generates a bipolar triangle-wave signal with 50% duty cycle.
SQUARE – This mode generates a bipolar square-wave signal with 50% duty cycle.
PULSE – This mode generates a unipolar pulse signal, with adjustable pulse width.
AMPLIFY – This mode causes the instrument to amplify an externally-generated signal.

SINE, TRIANGLE, AND SQUARE WAVE GENERATION

When set to the SINE, TRIANGLE, or SQUARE modes, the output frequency and peak amplitude are controlled from the front panel (or by computer command). The output signal is these modes is bipolar (i.e., the signal swings from a positive value to an approximately equal negative amplitude), and the duty cycle is nominally 50% (i.e., time that the signal is positive is equal in length to the time that the signal is negative.)

These waveforms are illustrated below:

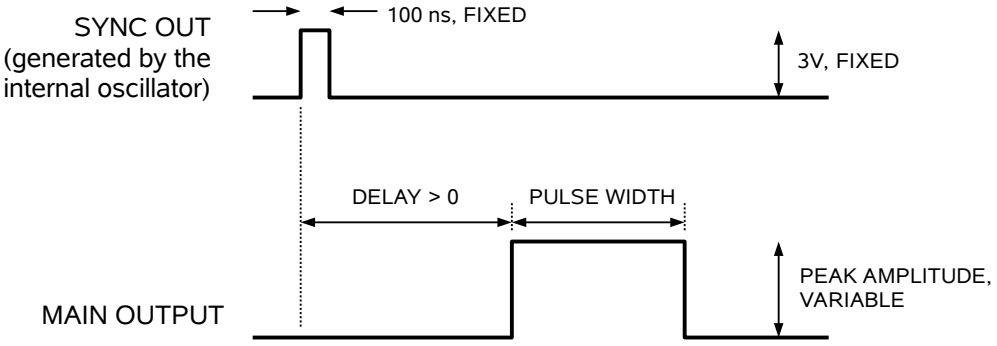


A SYNC output is provided on the front-panel. This provides a 100 ns, 3V signal for triggering oscilloscopes or other equipment. In these modes, the delay (or relative phase) between the main output and the SYNC output is not adjustable.

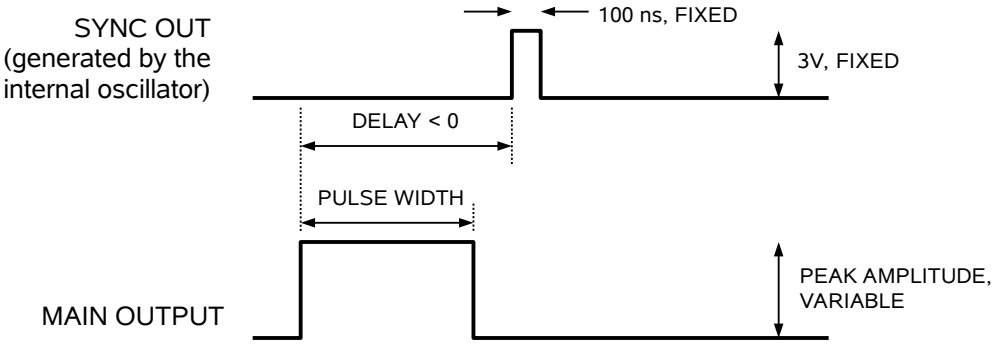
PULSE GENERATION

The AV-151A-B-GUA can also act as a pulse generator, with variable delay between the SYNC output and the main output. In this mode, the pulse width may be varied over a wide range (1 us to 500 ms), and the amplitude may be varied from 0 to +50V. (Negative pulses can not be generated directly. However, they can be generated indirectly by adding a negative DC offset. See the offset discussion below.) The maximum duty cycle (100% x Pulse Width / Period) is 80%.

The outputs in this mode are shown below, assuming that the delay is set to a positive value:



If the delay is negative, the order of the SYNC and OUT pulses is reversed:

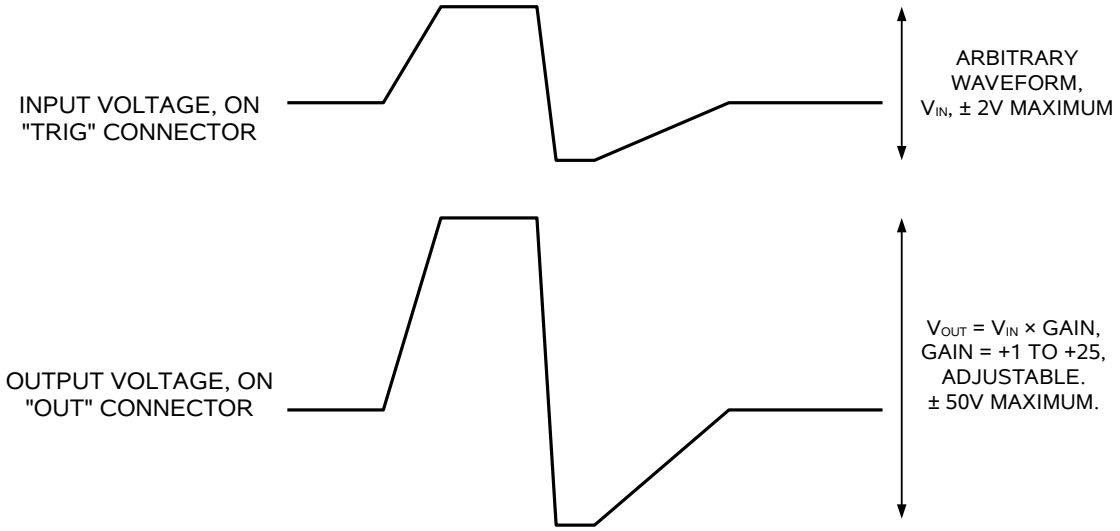


AMPLIFY MODE

When the AMPLIFY mode is enabled, AV-151A-B-GUA may be used as a DC-3 kHz variable-gain linear amplifier. The maximum gain is +25. The maximum input signal is ±2V. The gain is adjusted by varying the amplitude setting, which corresponds to the output that would be obtained for a +2V input. (For instance, to obtain a gain of +20, set the amplitude to +40V. If a -0.8V signal is applied, for instance, the actual output would be -16V, not +40V.)

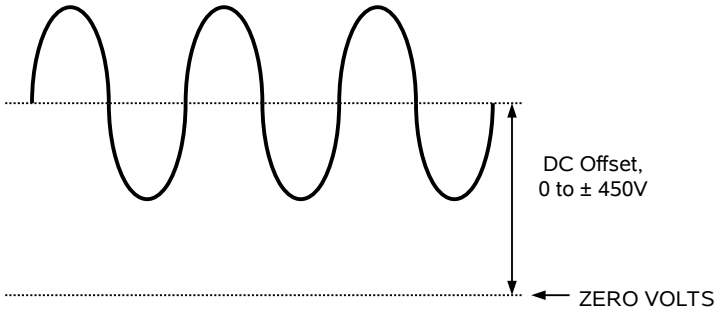
The required voltage input signal is applied at TRIG for this mode of operation.

This mode is illustrated below:



DC OFFSET

In all modes, a DC offset may be added to the output signal. The DC offset can be set between -450V and +450V. The total output (amplitude + offset) can not exceed ±500V. This mode is illustrated below:



MECHANICAL INFORMATION

TOP COVER REMOVAL

If necessary, the interior of the instrument may be accessed by removing the four Phillips screws on the top panel. With the four screws removed, the top cover may be slid back (and off).

Always disconnect the power cord before opening the instrument.

There are no user-adjustable internal circuits. For repairs other than fuse replacement, please contact Avtech (info@avtechpulse.com) to arrange for the instrument to be returned to the factory for repair.

⚠ Caution: High voltages are present inside the instrument during normal operation. Do not operate the instrument with the cover removed.

RACK MOUNTING

A rack mounting kit is available. The -R5 rack mount kit may be installed after first removing the one Phillips screw on the side panel adjacent to the front handle.

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE

To prevent electromagnetic interference with other equipment, all used outputs should be connected to shielded loads using shielded cables. Unused outputs should be terminated with shielded terminators or with shielded dust caps, to prevent unintentional electromagnetic radiation. All cords and cables should be less than 3m in length.

MAINTENANCE

REGULAR MAINTENANCE

This instrument does not require any regular maintenance.

On occasion, one or more of the four rear-panel fuses may require replacement. All fuses can be accessed from the rear panel. See the “INSTALLATION” section for details.

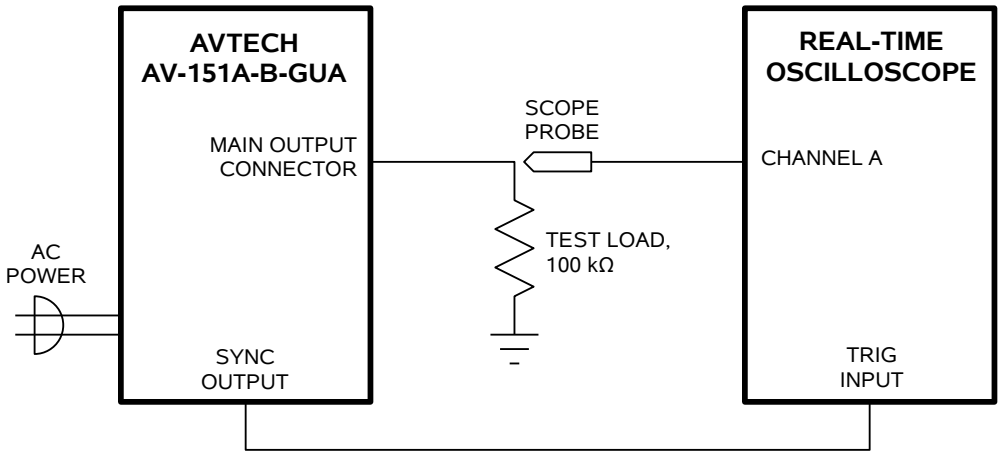
CLEANING

If desired, the interior of the instrument may be cleaned using compressed air to dislodge any accumulated dust. (See the “TOP COVER REMOVAL” section for instructions on accessing the interior.) No other cleaning is recommended.

OPERATIONAL CHECK

This section describes a sequence to confirm the basic operation of the instrument. It should be performed after receiving the instrument. It is a useful learning exercise as well.

Before proceeding with this procedure, finish reading this instruction manual thoroughly. Then read the “Local Control” section of the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” thoroughly. The “Local Control” section describes the front panel controls used in this operational check - in particular, the MOVE, CHANGE, and ADJUST controls.



Basic Test Arrangement

1. Connect a non-inductive 100 kΩ, 3W test load between the OUT connector and ground. (Note: wirewound resistors are very inductive. Avoid them. Factory tests are conducted using two 47 kΩ, 2W Ohmite OY-series resistors connected in series. See www.ohmite.com for information on OY resistors. These resistors may be purchased readily at www.digikey.com.)

   Confirm that the oscilloscope and the test load are rated for ±500 Volt operation.

2. Connect a cable from the SYNC connector to the TRIG input of an oscilloscope. Set the oscilloscope to trigger externally.

3. Connect an oscilloscope probe to the load. On the oscilloscope, set the vertical scale to 200 V/div, and the horizontal scale to 1 ms us/div.

4. Turn on the AV-151A-B-GUA. The main menu will appear on the LCD.

5. To set the AV-151A-B-GUA to trigger from the internal clock at a PRF of 1 kHz:

a) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the frequency menu item. If it is not, press the MOVE button until it is.

b) Press the CHANGE button. The frequency submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the frequency is set at 1 kHz.

c) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

6. To set the waveshape to a sinusoid:

a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the shape menu item.

b) Press the CHANGE button. The delay submenu will appear.

c) Press MOVE until the arrow pointer is pointing at the “SINE” choice.

d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

7. At this point, nothing should appear on the oscilloscope.

8. To enable the output:

a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the output menu item.

b) Press the CHANGE button. The output submenu will appear.

c) Press MOVE until the arrow pointer is pointing at the “ON” choice.

d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

9. To change the output amplitude:

a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the amplitude menu item.

b) Press the CHANGE button. The amplitude submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the amplitude is set at +200V.

c) Observe the oscilloscope. You should see a 1 kHz, 200V peak (400V peak-to-peak) sine wave.

d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

This completes the operational check.

If additional assistance is required:

Tel: (613) 226-5772
Fax: (613) 226-2802
Email: info@avtechpulse.com

PROGRAMMING YOUR PULSE GENERATOR

KEY PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

The “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” describes in detail how to connect the pulse generator to your computer, and the programming commands themselves. A large number of commands are available; however, normally you will only need a few of these. Here is a basic sample sequence of commands that might be sent to the instrument after power-up, using the internal trigger source:

```
*rst                    (resets the instrument)
sour:func sin           (selects a sine wave output)
frequency 1000 Hz       (sets the frequency to 1000 Hz)
output on               (turns on the output)
volt 50                 (sets the amplitude to 50 V)
volt:low -100           (sets the offset to +10 V)
```

To generate a pulse output, use:

```
*rst                    (resets the instrument)
sour:func pulse         (selects a unipolar pulse output)
frequency 1000 Hz       (sets the frequency to 1000 Hz)
pulse:width 10 us       (sets the pulse width to 10 us)
pulse:delay 1 us        (sets the delay to 1 us)
output on               (turns on the output)
volt 50                 (sets the amplitude to 50 V)
volt:low -100           (sets the offset to -100 V)
```

To amplify an external signal, use:

```
*rst                    (resets the instrument)
sour:func amp           (enables the amplifier mode)
output on               (turns on the output)
volt 150                (sets the gain to 150 / 2 = 75)
volt:low -100           (sets the offset to -100 V)
```

These commands will satisfy 90% of your programming needs.

ALL PROGRAMMING COMMANDS

For more advanced programmers, a complete list of the available commands is given below. These commands are described in detail in the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments”. (Note: this manual also includes some commands that are not implemented in this instrument. They can be ignored.)

Keyword	Parameter	Notes
LOCAL		
OUTPut:		
:[STATe]	<boolean value>	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
REMOTE		
[SOURce]:		
:FREQuency		
[:CW | FIXed]	<numeric value>	
:FUNCtion		
:[SHAPe]	AMPlify | PULSe | SINusoid | SQUare | TRIangle	
:PULSe		
:PERiod	<numeric value>	
:WIDTh	<numeric value> | IN	
:DELay	<numeric value>	
:VOLTage		
[:LEVel]		
[:IMMediate]		
[:AMPLitude]	<numeric value>	
:LOW	<numeric value>	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
STATUS:		
:OPERation		
:[EVENt]?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:CONDition?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:ENABle	<numeric value>	[implemented but not useful]
:QUEStionable		
:[EVENt]?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:CONDition?		[query only, always returns "0"]
:ENABle	<numeric value>	[implemented but not useful]
SYSTem:		
:COMMunicate		
:GPIB		
:ADDRess	<numeric value>	
:SERial		
:CONTrol		
:RTS	ON | IBFull | RFR	
:[RECeive]		
:BAUD	1200 | 2400 | 4800 | 9600	
:BITS	7 | 8	
:ECHO	<boolean value>	
:PARity		
:[TYPE]	EVEN | ODD | NONE	
:SBITS	1 | 2	
:ERRor		
:[NEXT]?		[query only]

:COUNT?		[query only]
:VERSion?		[query only]
TRIGger:		
:SOURce	INTernal | EXTernal | MANual | HOLD | IMMediate	
*CLS		[no query form]
*ESE	<numeric value>	
*ESR?		[query only]
*IDN?		[query only]
*OPC		
*SAV	0 | 1 | 2 | 3	[no query form]
*RCL	0 | 1 | 2 | 3	[no query form]
*RST		[no query form]
*SRE	<numeric value>	
*STB?		[query only]
*TST?		[query only]
*WAI		[no query form]

OTHER INFORMATION

APPLICATION NOTES

Application notes are available on the Avtech web site, at http://www.avtechpulse.com/appnote.

MANUAL FEEDBACK

Please report any errors or omissions in this manual, or suggestions for improvement, to info@avtechpulse.com. Thanks!

PERFORMANCE CHECK SHEET