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## INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AV-156F-B

0 to 10 AMP, 0 to +25 V, 4  $\mu$ s RISE TIME

DUAL CHANNEL

PULSED CONSTANT CURRENT GENERATOR

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 disassembled, 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.

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Manual Reference: /fileserver1/officefiles/instructword/av-156/AV-156F-B,edition1.sxw.  
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## INTRODUCTION

The Model AV-156F-B pulsed constant current generator is capable of producing two channels of rectangular pulses with amplitudes as high as 10 Amperes into load voltages up to 25V, with < 4 us rise and fall times. The internal trigger source can be used to trigger the instrument at frequencies between 0.5 and 50 Hz. An external TTL trigger pulse, a front-panel pushbutton, and a computer can also be used to trigger the instrument. The maximum duty cycle is 5%.

This instrument has two output channels. The pulses on one channel may be delayed up to  $\pm 1000$ ms with respect to the pulses on the other channel.

The Model AV-156F-B pulse generator is a current pulser. The current amplitude is largely independent of the load voltage. For proper operation, the load voltage ( $V_{\text{LOAD}} = I_{\text{LOAD}} \times R_{\text{LOAD}}$ ) must lie in the range of 0 to +25V.

The AV-156F-B features front panel keyboard and adjust knob control of the output pulse parameters along with a four line by 40-character backlit LCD display of the output amplitude, pulse width, pulse repetition frequency, and delay. 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.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Model:	AV-156F-B
GPIB and RS-232 control:	Standard feature.
LabView drivers:	Check <a href="http://www.avtechpulse.com/labview">http://www.avtechpulse.com/labview</a> for availability and downloads
Number of output channels:	Two, with independent control of amplitude and pulse width.
Amplitude:           Pulse:	0.01 - 10.0 A
DC offset:	N/A
Peak (pulse + offset):	10.0 A
Pulse width:	1 ms to 100 ms
Pulse repetition frequency:	0.5 to 50 Hz
Duty cycle: (max)	5%
Rise time, fall time <sup>1</sup> :	4 $\mu$ s
Polarity:	Positive (i.e., sources current)
Output current regulation:	$\leq 2\%$ load voltage change from 0 Volts to maximum rated voltage
Load voltage range: (Compliance voltage)	0 to +25 Volts
Overshoot <sup>2</sup> :	$\leq 5\%$
Noise (RMS):	$\leq 800$ $\mu$ A
Stability:	$\leq 200$ ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C
Jitter: (Ext trig in to pulse out)	$< \pm 200$ ps $\pm 0.03\%$ of sync delay
Trigger required:	TTL, PW $> 50$ ns
Sync delay: (Sync out to pulse out)	Ch1: 0 to 1.0 seconds Ch2: 0 (fixed)
Sync output:	+3 Volts, 200 ns, will drive 50 Ohm loads
Gate input:	Active high or low, switchable. Suppresses triggering when active.
Monitor output:	Back-panel BNC connector provides a coincident replica of the output current.
Connectors:	Main output <sup>6</sup> and SYNC connectors: BNC, front-panel Trig, Gate, and Monitor connectors: BNC, rear-panel -VI option input: BNC, rear-panel
Power requirement:	100 - 240 Volts, 50 - 60 Hz
Dimensions (H x W x D):	3.9" x 17" x 18.8" (100 x 430 x 475 mm)
Chassis material:	anodized aluminum, with blue plastic trim
Mounting:	Any
Temperature range:	+5 $^{\circ}$ C to +40 $^{\circ}$ C

1) Valid when driving a load impedance that is between zero Ohms and the impedance given by (Maximum Compliance Voltage)  $\div$  (Maximum Rated Current). For load impedances higher than this value, de-rate the rise and fall times proportionally.

2) Valid for amplitudes greater than 5% of the full-scale value.

EC DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We

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Canada K2C 3H4

declare that this pulse generator meets the intent of Directive 89/336/EEC for Electromagnetic Compatibility. Compliance pertains to the following specifications as listed in the official Journal of the European Communities:

EN 50081-1 Emission

EN 50082-1 Immunity

and that this pulse generator meets the intent of the Low Voltage Directive 72/23/EEC as amended by 93/68/EEC. Compliance pertains to the following specifications as listed in the official Journal of the European Communities:

EN 61010-1:2001 Safety requirements for electrical equipment for measurement, control, and laboratory use



## 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.

### POWER RATINGS

This instrument is intended to operate from 100 - 240 V, 50 - 60 Hz.

The maximum power consumption is 150 Watts. Please see the “FUSES” section for information about the appropriate AC and DC fuses.

This instrument is an “Installation Category II” instrument, intended for operation from a normal single-phase supply.

### CONNECTION TO THE POWER SUPPLY

An IEC-320 three-pronged recessed male socket is provided on the back panel for AC power connection to the instrument. One end of the detachable power cord that is supplied with the instrument plugs into this socket. The other end of the detachable power cord plugs into the local mains supply. Use only the cable supplied with the instrument. The mains supply must be earthed, and the cable used to connect the instrument to the mains supply must provide an earth connection. (The supplied cable does this.)

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

This instrument is intended for use under the following conditions:

1. indoor use;
2. altitude up to 2 000 m;
3. temperature 5 °C to 40 °C;
4. maximum relative humidity 80 % for temperatures up to 31 °C decreasing linearly to 50 % relative humidity at 40 °C;
5. Mains supply voltage fluctuations up to  $\pm 10$  % of the nominal voltage;
6. no pollution or only dry, non-conductive pollution.

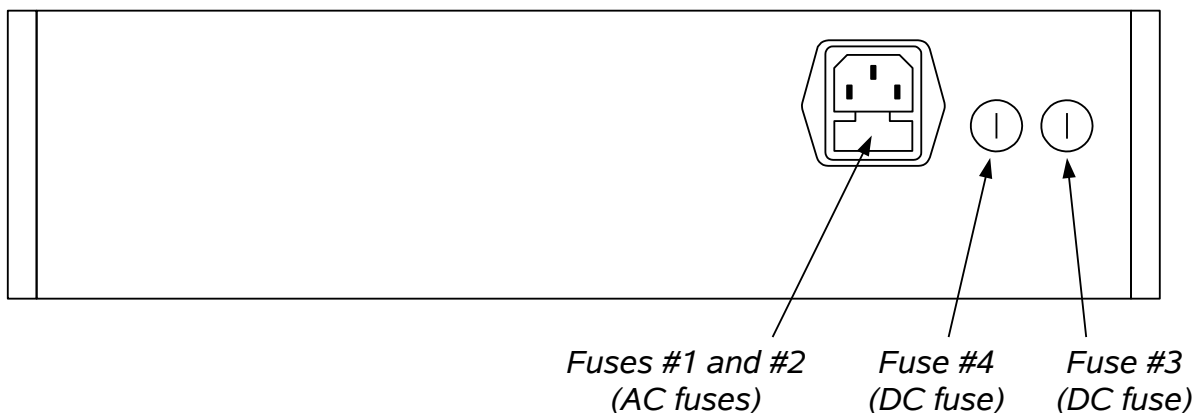


## LABVIEW DRIVERS

A LabVIEW driver for this instrument is available for download on the Avtech web site, at <http://www.avtechpulse.com/labview>. A copy is also available in National Instruments' Instrument Driver Library at <http://www.natinst.com/>.

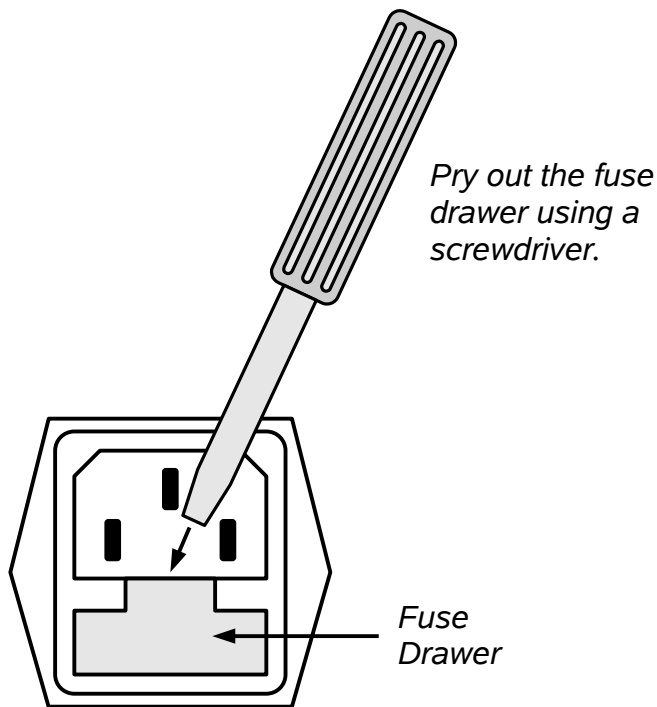
## FUSES

This instrument contains four fuses. All are accessible from the rear-panel. Two protect the AC prime power input, and two protect the internal DC power supplies. The locations of the fuses on the rear panel are shown in the figure below:



### AC FUSE REPLACEMENT

To physically access the AC fuses, the power cord must be detached from the rear panel of the instrument. The fuse drawer may then be extracted using a small flat-head screwdriver, as shown below:



## DC FUSE REPLACEMENT

The DC fuses may be replaced by inserting the tip of a flat-head screwdriver into the fuse holder slot, and rotating the slot counter-clockwise. The fuse and its carrier will then pop out.

## FUSE RATINGS

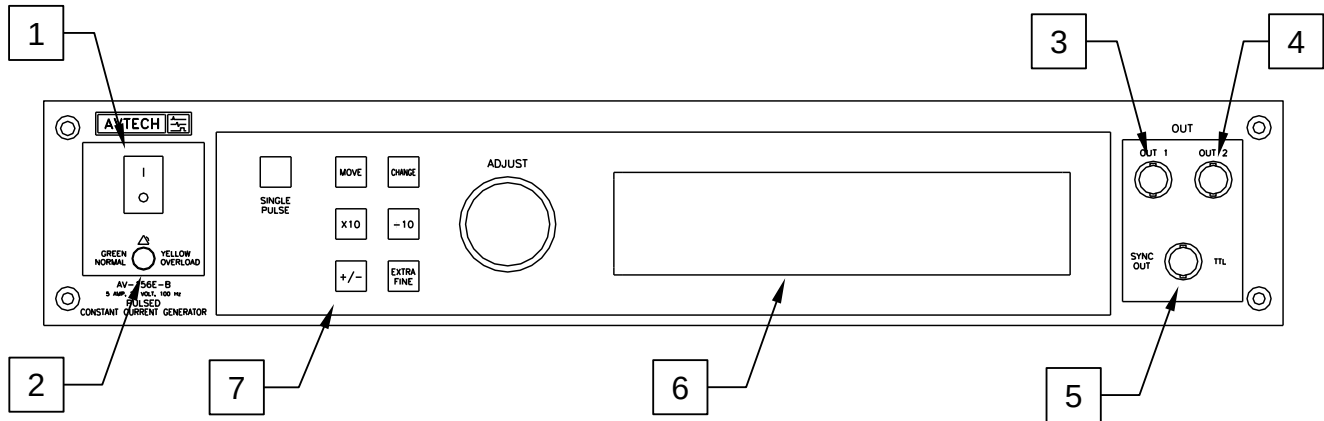
The following table lists the required fuses:

Fuses	Nominal Mains Voltage	Rating	Case Size	Manufacturer's Part Number (Wickmann)	Distributor's Part Number (Digi-Key)
#1, #2 (AC)	115 V	1.6A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	1951160000	WK5053-ND
	230 V	0.8A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	1950800000	WK5046-ND
#3 (DC)	N/A	4.0A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	1951400000	WK5062-ND
#4 (DC)	N/A	4.0A, 250V, Time-Delay	5×20 mm	1951400000	WK5062-ND

The fuse manufacturer is Wickmann (<http://www.wickmann.com/>).

Replacement fuses may be easily obtained from Digi-Key (<http://www.digikey.com/>) and other distributors.

## 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.

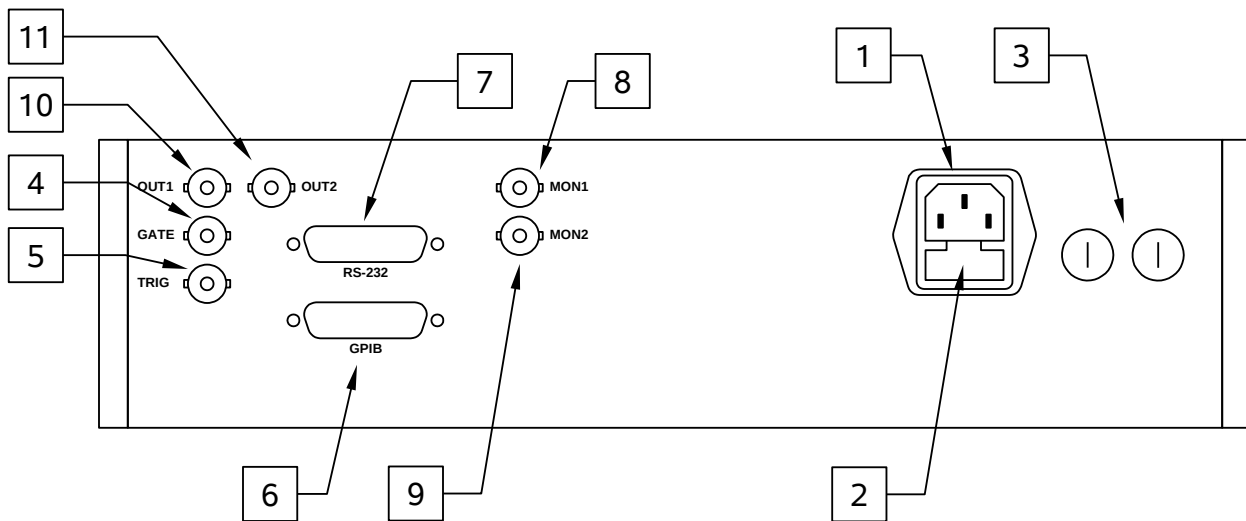
This overload indicator may flash yellow briefly at start-up. This is not a cause for concern.

3. OUT 1 CONNECTOR. This BNC connector provides the Channel 1 output signal.
4. OUT 2 CONNECTOR. This BNC connector provides the Channel 2 output signal.
5. SYNC OUT. This connector supplies a SYNC output that can be used to trigger other equipment, particularly oscilloscopes. This pulse is coincident with pulses on Channel 2. The sync output has an approximate amplitude of +3 Volts to  $R_L > 1\text{ k}\Omega$  with a pulse width of approximately 200 ns.
6. 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.

7. 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. An IEC-320 C14 three-pronged recessed male socket is provided on the back panel for AC power connection to the instrument. One end of the detachable power cord that is supplied with the instrument plugs into this socket.
2. AC FUSE DRAWER. The two fuses that protect the AC input are located in this drawer. Please see the “FUSES” section of this manual for more information.
3. DC FUSES. These two fuses protect the internal DC power supplies. Please see the “FUSES” sections of this manual for more information.
4. GATE. This TTL-level (0 and +5V) logic input can be used to gate the triggering of the instrument. This input can be either active high or active low, depending on the front panel settings or programming commands. (The instrument triggers normally when this input is unconnected). When set to active high mode, this input is pulled-down to ground by a 1 k $\Omega$  resistor. When set to active low mode, this input is pulled-up to +5V by a 1 k $\Omega$  resistor.
5. TRIG. This TTL-level (0 and +5V) logic input can be used to trigger the instrument, if the instrument is set to triggering externally. The instrument triggers on the rising edge of this input. The input impedance of this input is 1 k $\Omega$ . (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](http://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. MON1. This is a current monitor output. This output provides a voltage waveform that is proportional to the current waveform on the Channel 1 output. The monitor relationship is:  $V_{\text{MON}} = I_{\text{OUT}} \times 1\Omega$ , for a load of  $> 1\text{ k}\Omega$ . (This output is short-circuit protected.)
9. MON2. This is a current monitor output. This output provides a voltage waveform that is proportional to the current waveform on the Channel 2 output. The monitor relationship is:  $V_{\text{MON}} = I_{\text{OUT}} \times 1\Omega$ , for a load of  $> 1\text{ k}\Omega$ . (This output is short-circuit protected.)
10. OUT 1 CONNECTOR. (Optional. Present on -RP units only). This BNC connector provides the Channel 1 output signal. The front panel and rear panel “OUT 1” connectors are wired to the same location internally, and may be used interchangeably.
11. OUT 2 CONNECTOR. (Optional. Present on -RP units only). This BNC connector provides the Channel 2 output signal. The front panel and rear panel “OUT 2” connectors are wired to the same location internally, and may be used interchangeably.

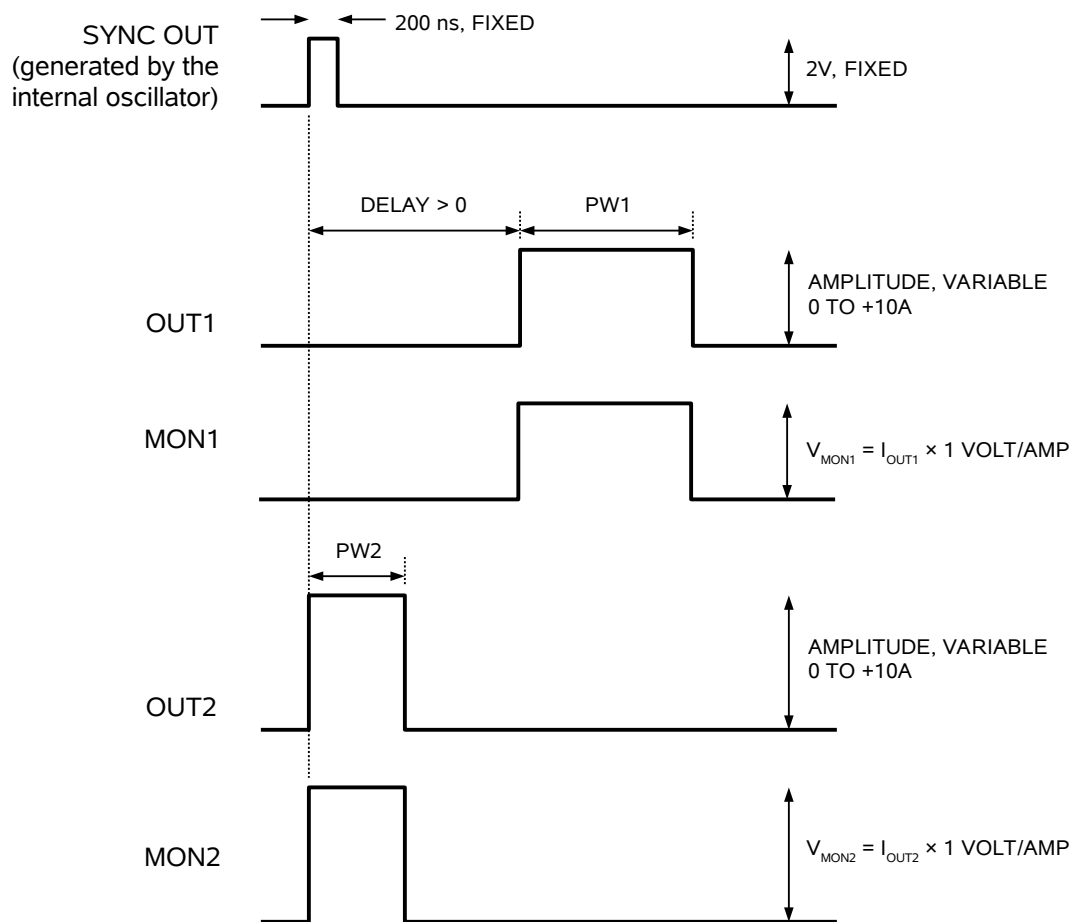
## GENERAL INFORMATION

### BASIC PULSE CONTROL

This instrument can be triggered by several sources - its own internal clock, an external TTL trigger signal, the front-panel "SINGLE PULSE" pushbutton, or by a computer-generated command. In any case, five output channels respond to the trigger: OUT1, OUT2, SYNC, MON1, and MON2. OUT1 and OUT2 are the signals that are applied to the devices under test. Their amplitudes and pulse widths are variable. The SYNC pulse is a fixed-width TTL-level reference pulse used to trigger oscilloscopes or other measurement systems, and is coincident with the OUT2 pulse. The MON1 and MON2 outputs are voltage waveforms that are proportional to the current waveforms on OUT1 and OUT2, respectively.  $V_{MON1} = I_{OUT1} \times 1\Omega$  and  $V_{MON2} = I_{OUT2} \times 1\Omega$  for monitor loads of  $> 1\text{ k}\Omega$ .

When the delay is set to a positive value the OUT2 and SYNC pulses precede the channel 1 pulse. This order is reversed for negative delays.

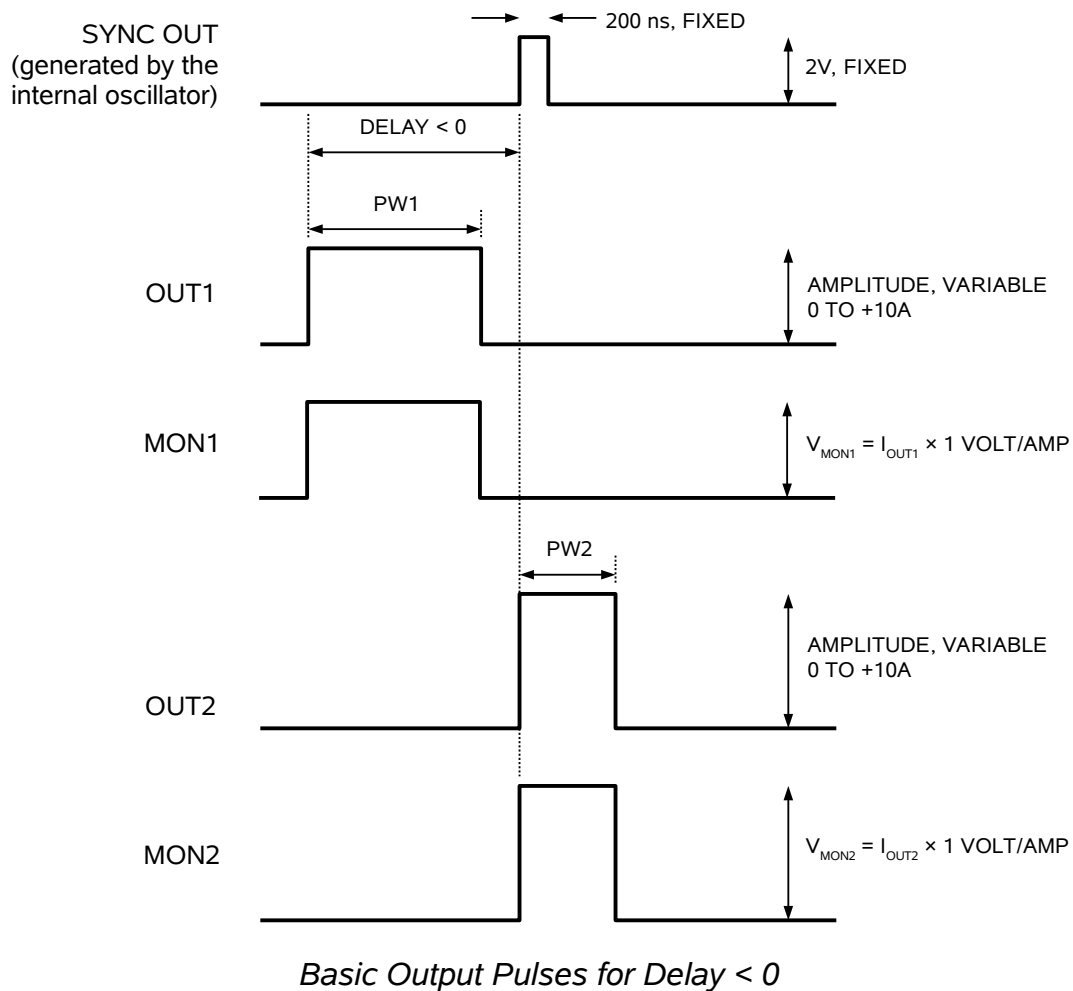
These pulses are illustrated below for a positive delay:



*Basic Output Pulses for Delay > 0*



The order of the output pulses is reversed for negative delays:



The delay, pulse width, and frequency (when in the internal mode), of the OUT pulse can be varied with front panel controls or via the GPIB or RS-232 computer interfaces.

### MONITOR CIRCUIT

As noted in the previous section, current monitor outputs are available. The current monitor output also measures amplitude of the most recent pulse, in amperes, and displays it on the front panel LCD.

### TRIGGER MODES

This instrument has four front-panel trigger modes:

- Internal Trigger: the instrument controls the trigger frequency, and generates the clock internally.

- External Trigger: the instrument is triggered by an external TTL-level clock on the back-panel TRIG connector.
- Manual Trigger: the instrument is triggered by the front-panel “SINGLE PULSE” pushbutton.
- Hold Trigger: the instrument is set to not trigger at all.

These modes can be selected using the front panel trigger menu, or by using the appropriate programming commands. (See the “Programming Manual for -B Instruments” for more details.)

When being controlled by a computer, there is a fifth trigger mode:

- Immediate Trigger: generates a single trigger event. This is the computer-control equivalent of pressing the front-panel “SINGLE PULSE” pushbutton.

### GATING MODES

Triggering can be suppressed by a TTL-level signal on the rear-panel GATE connector. The instrument can be set to stop triggering when this input high or low, using the front-panel gate menu or the appropriate programming commands.

This gate signal acts synchronously - i.e., when gated, the output will complete the full pulse width if the output is high, and then stop triggering. No pulses are truncated in this mode.

### AVOID EXCESS POWER DISSIPATION

To prolong the life of the output stages of the instrument, the internal power dissipation should be minimized whenever practical. The power dissipated in each of the two output stages can be calculated using:

$$P_{DISS} = (36 \text{ Volts} - V_{LOAD}) \times I_{PEAK} \times \text{Duty Cycle}$$

To minimize power dissipation, keep the current amplitude and duty cycle as low as practical. Operation into larger load resistance is preferred over operation into a low load resistance, since  $V_{LOAD} = I_{PEAK} \times R_{LOAD}$ .

## LOAD PROTECTION

### LENZ'S LAW AND INDUCTIVE VOLTAGE SPIKES

This instrument is designed to pulse resistive and diode loads and will exhibit a large output spike when used to drive a load with significant inductance (as predicted by LENZ'S LAW). For this reason the load should be connected to the output using low inductance leads (as short as possible and as heavy a gauge as possible).

The voltage developed across an inductance L (in Henries), when the current is changing at a rate given by  $di_{LOAD}/dt$  (in Amps/sec), is:  $V_{SPIKE} = L \times di_{LOAD}/dt$ .

### APPROPRIATE TEST LOAD RESISTORS

The load should have very low inductance (see the discussion of Lenz's Law above), and must be capable of dissipating considerable power. The power dissipated in a resistive load may be calculated from:

$$P_{RESISTOR} \approx (\text{Duty Cycle}) \times I_{PROGRAMMED}^2 \times R_{LOAD}$$

or

$$P_{RESISTOR} \approx (\text{Duty Cycle}) \times I_{PROGRAMMED} \times V_{LOAD}$$

The worst-case dissipation is  $5\% \times 10A \times 25V = 12.5$  Watts.

The best approach for obtaining a low-value, low-inductance resistor is to connect several higher-value resistors in parallel. Connecting resistors in parallel reduces the total effective resistance and inductance.

Avtech does not recommend the use of single, high-power resistors, even if they are low-inductance types. These resistors experience high failure rates in pulsed applications. Do not use wire-wound resistors. Their inductance is much too high.

The Ohmite OY series of 2 Watt ceramic composition resistors are extremely rugged and well suited to pulsed applications. (These resistors are readily available from Digi-Key, [www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com).) Use several (e.g., 5 or 6) of these resistors in parallel to construct a high-current, high-power, low-inductance load.

### OSCILLATIONS ON THE OUTPUT

If oscillations are observed on the output, it is probably because the load is too inductive for the instrument to operate properly. This can normally be corrected by adding a small resistance (i.e., 0.5 or 1.0 Ohms) in series with the load. This has the effect of increasing the rise time, and thus decreasing the size of the inductive voltage spike.

## OUTPUT ON/OFF

The main outputs may be switched on and off using the front-panel controls or via programming commands. When the output is set “OFF”, the main outputs are short-circuited to ground with a relay, and the trigger source is removed from the output stage.

## ATTACHING AND DETACHING LOADS

To avoid damaging the loads connected to main outputs, the loads should only be connected to or removed from the instrument when:

- the instrument is off
- the instrument is on, but the outputs are turned off (i.e. the LCD display reads “OUTPUT OFF”)

Do not connect loads when the instrument is on and the outputs are turned on. This can cause mild sparking.

## CHANGING PARAMETERS WHEN A LOAD IS ATTACHED

If your load is easily damaged, the outputs should be turned off when changing the trigger source, frequency, pulse width, or other pulse parameters. This protects the loads from possible short transient effects.

## OPEN AND SHORT CIRCUITS

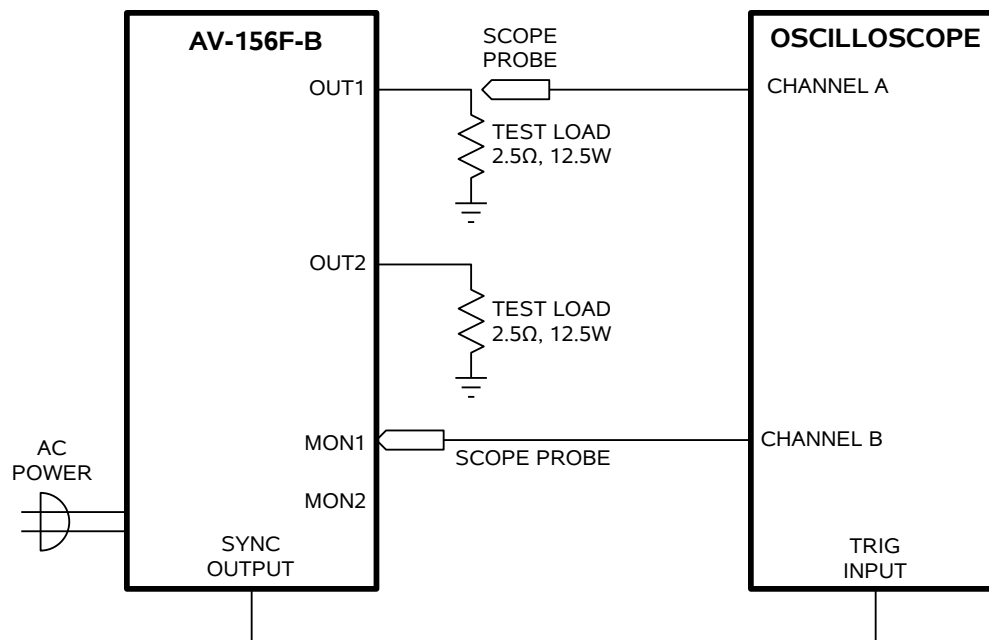
The AV-156F-B will operate properly into a short circuit to ground. (However, if the “short circuit” has significant parasitic inductance, some oscillations may be observed. Please see the “Oscillations on the Output” section above for details.)

Operation into an open circuit will not damage the instrument in any way, although the monitor circuit may not give the correct reading (which should be zero).

## 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 12.5W, 2.5Ω test load between the OUT1 connector and ground. (See the “APPROPRIATE TEST LOAD RESISTORS” section for suggested load resistor configurations.)
2. Connect a 12.5W, 2.5Ω test load between the OUT2 connector and ground.
3. Connect a cable from the SYNC OUT connector to the TRIG input of an oscilloscope. Set the oscilloscope to trigger externally.
4. Connect one oscilloscope probe (channel A) to the OUT1 load. Connect the other probe to the MON1 output (on the rear panel). On the oscilloscope, set the channel A vertical scale to 10 V/div, the channel B vertical scale to 5 V/div, and the horizontal scale to 1 ms/div.

5. Turn on the AV-156F-B. The instrument will execute a warm-up sequence for 45 seconds, during which time the internal capacitor banks are charged. Wait for this sequence to complete. After this delay, the main menu will appear on the LCD.
6. To set the AV-156F-B to trigger from the internal clock at a PRF of 10 Hz:
  - 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 10 Hz.
  - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Internal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.
  - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
7. To set the delay to 2 ms:
  - a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the delay menu item.
  - b) Press the CHANGE button. The delay submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the delay is set at 2 ms.
  - c) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
8. To set the OUT1 pulse width to 1.5 ms:
  - a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the “PW1” menu item.
  - b) Press the CHANGE button. The pulse width submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the pulse width is set at 1.5 ms.
  - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Normal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.
  - d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.
9. To set the OUT2 pulse width to 2 ms:
  - a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the “PW2” menu item.
  - b) Press the CHANGE button. The pulse width submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the pulse width is set at 2 ms.
  - c) The arrow pointer should be pointing at the “Normal” choice. If it is not, press MOVE until it is.

d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

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

11. 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.

12. To change the OUT1 output amplitude:

a) Press the MOVE button until the arrow pointer is pointing at the AMP1 menu item.

b) Press the CHANGE button. The amplitude submenu will appear. Rotate the ADJUST knob until the amplitude is set at 10A.

c) Observe the oscilloscope. You should see 1.5 ms wide, 25V pulses (i.e.,  $10A \times 2.5\Omega = 25V$ ) on the probe connected to the OUT1 main output. The other probe, connected to the MON1 monitor output, should show 1.5ms, 10V pulses (i.e.  $10A \times 1V/A$ ).

d) Press CHANGE to return to the main menu.

13. Try varying the pulse width, by repeating step (8). As you rotate the ADJUST knob, the pulse width on the oscilloscope will change. It should agree with the displayed value. Stay below 5% duty cycle.

14. Move the oscilloscope probes from OUT1 and MON1 to OUT2 and MON2, respectively, and repeat steps 12 and 13 using the AMP2 and PW2 menus to change the second channel output.

15. This completes the operational check.

If additional assistance is required:

Tel: (613) 226-5772

Fax: (613) 226-2802

Email: [info@avtechpulse.com](mailto:info@avtechpulse.com)

## CALIBRATION

### TIMING AND AMPLITUDE CALIBRATION

The amplitude, frequency, pulse width and delay of this instrument can be re-calibrated, if required.

Timebase calibration is discussed in detail in Avtech Technical Brief 4, "How Can I Calibrate the Timebase of my Avtech Pulse Generator?", on the web at <http://www.avtechpulse.com/appnote/techbrief4>.

Amplitude calibration is discussed in detail in Avtech Technical Brief 5, " How Can I Calibrate the Amplitude and Offset of my Avtech Pulse Generator?", on the web at <http://www.avtechpulse.com/appnote/techbrief5>.

### CURRENT MONITOR CALIBRATION

If it is found that the current monitor readings (as displayed on the front-panel) do not agree exact with measured values of amplitude (i.e., by examining the output on an oscilloscope), the monitor calibration can be updated using software commands.

The following procedure is suggested:

- 1) Connect a precision resistive load to the output. (As an example, suppose  $2.5\Omega$  is used.)
- 2) Connect the pulse generator to a computer using the GPIB or RS232 ports.
- 3) Turn on the pulse generator, and set the time controls (frequency, delay, pulse width) to typical values.
- 4) Turn on the outputs.
- 5) Set the output amplitude to 300 mA.
- 6) Observe the voltage across the load. (Continuing the  $2.5\Omega$  example, suppose that 800mV is observed.) From this, calculate the measured current (320 mA).
- 7) Send one of the following commands to the instrument via the computer interface:

diag:mon:cal1 0.320A      (if channel 1 is being checked)  
diag:mon:cal2 0.320A      (if channel 2 is being checked)

The internal software compares the supplied measured value to the monitor reading, and adjusts the internal calibration data to null out any differences.



- 8) Observe the voltage across the load again. The monitor reading should now agree with the measured value.
- 9) Set the output amplitude to 10.0 A.
- 10) Observe the voltage across the load. (Continuing the  $2.5\Omega$  example, suppose that 25.25V is observed.) From this, calculate the measured current (10.1 A).
- 11) Send one of the following commands to the instrument via the computer interface:

diag:mon:cal1 10.1 A      (if channel 1 is being checked)  
diag:mon:cal2 10.1 A      (if channel 2 is being checked)

The internal software compares the supplied measured value to the monitor reading, and adjusts the internal calibration data to null out any differences.

- 12) Observe the voltage across the load again. The monitor reading should now agree with the measured value.

The current monitor should be calibrated at 300 mA and 10 A, for channels 1 and 2.

Note that this procedure affects the current monitor readings shown on the front-panel display (or read using the “measure:amplitude?” commands) only. It does not change the waveforms present on the rear-panel monitor connectors.

## 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)
trigger:source internal	(selects internal triggering)
frequency 10 Hz	(sets the frequency to 10 Hz)
pulse:width1 1 ms	(sets the channel 1 pulse width to 1 ms)
pulse:width2 3 ms	(sets the channel 1 pulse width to 3 ms)
pulse:delay 10 ms	(sets the inter-channel delay to 10 ms)
output on	(turns on the output for both channels)
source:current1 500 mA	(sets the channel 1 current amplitude to 0.5 amperes)
source:current2 5 A	(sets the channel 2 current amplitude to 5 amperes)
measure:amplitude1?	(this returns the current amplitude, in amperes, as measured by the monitor circuit on channel 1)
measure:amplitude2?	(this returns the current amplitude, in amperes, as measured by the monitor circuit on channel 2)

For triggering a single event, this sequence would be more appropriate:

*rst	(resets the instrument)
trigger:source hold	(turns off all triggering)
pulse:width1 1 ms	(sets the channel 1 pulse width to 1 ms)
pulse:width2 3 ms	(sets the channel 1 pulse width to 3 ms)
pulse:delay 10 ms	(sets the inter-channel delay to 10 ms)
output on	(turns on the output for both channels)
source:current1 500 mA	(sets the channel 1 current amplitude to 0.5 amperes)
source:current2 5 A	(sets the channel 2 current amplitude to 5 amperes)
trigger:source immediate	(generates a single non-repetitive trigger event)
trigger:source hold	(turns off all triggering)
output off	(turns off both outputs)

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.)

Note that the pulse width, amplitude, and monitor-related commands should be suffixed with the channel number, as illustrated in the previous section. If the suffix is not included, channel 1 will be assumed. The remaining commands will generate an error if a channel suffix is attached, since their effects are common to both channels.

<u>Keyword</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Notes</u>
LOCAL		
MEASure:		
:AMPLitude?		[query only]
OUTPut:		
:[STATe]	<boolean value>	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
REMOTE		
[SOURce]:		
:FREQuency		
[:CW   FIXed]	<numeric value>	
[SOURce]:		
:CURRent		
[:LEVe]		
[:IMMediate]		
[:AMPLitude]	<numeric value>   EXTeRnal	
:PROTection		
:TRIPped?		[query only]
[SOURce]:		
:PULSe		
:PERiod	<numeric value>	
:WIDTh	<numeric value>	
:DCYClE	<numeric value>	
:HOLD	WIDTh   DCYClE	
:DELay	<numeric value>	
:GATE		
:LEVe	High   Low	
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	[no query form]
*CLS		
*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]


## 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.

 Caution: Significant stored charge is present in the instrument. Before removing the top cover, unplug the instrument and allow it to sit unpowered for 30 minutes. Do not service the instrument if any internal LEDs (indicators) are still lit.

### 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 coaxial cables. Unused outputs should be terminated with shielded coaxial terminators or with shielded coaxial 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 “FUSES” 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.

PERFORMANCE CHECK SHEET