

INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AVL-3A-C PULSE GENERATOR

S.N.:

### 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.

### 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](mailto:info@avtechpulse.com)

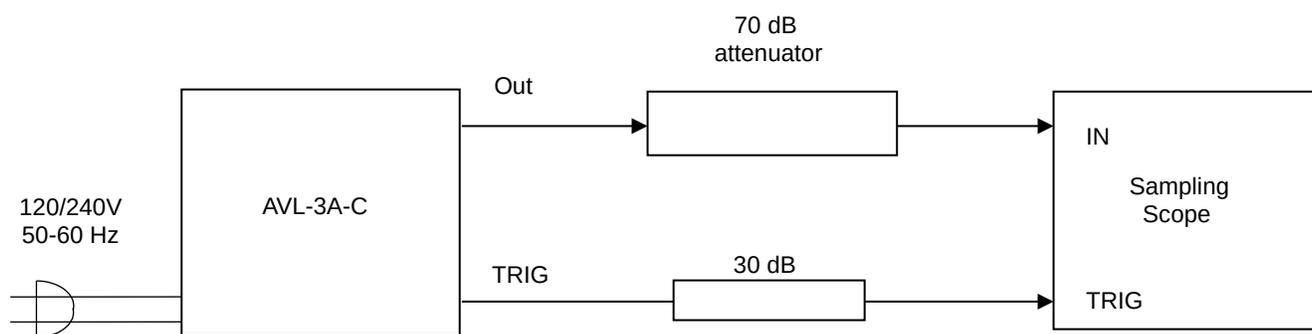
World Wide Web: <http://www.avtechpulse.com>



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FIG. 1: PULSE GENERATOR TEST ARRANGEMENT



## GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) The bandwidth capability of components and instruments used to display the pulse generator output signal (attenuators, cables, connectors, etc.) should exceed one gigahertz.
- 2) The use of 70 dB attenuator at the sampling scope vertical input channel will insure a peak input signal to the sampling scope of less than one Volt.  
WARNING: Model AVL-3A-C may provide a peak output power in excess of 2.0 KW. The peak power rating of the attenuator must exceed this limit.
- 3) The TRIG output channel provides TTL level signals. To avoid overdriving the TRIG input channel of some sampling scopes, a 30 dB attenuator should be placed at the input to the sampling scope trigger channel.
- 4) To obtain a stable output display the PRF controls on the front panel should be set mid-range. The front panel TRIG toggle switch should be in the INT position. The front panel DELAY control and the scope triggering controls are then adjusted to obtain a stable output. The scope may then be used to set the desired PRF by rotating the PRF controls. The main output is delayed with respect to the TRIG output by about 250 to 450 ns depending on the DELAY control setting.
- 5) The output pulse width is controlled by means of the front panel one-turn PW control. The control should initially be set maximum clockwise and the pulse width adjusted using an oscilloscope.
- 6) The output pulse amplitude is controlled by means of the one turn potentiometer (AMP).
- 7) An external clock may be used to control the output PRF of the AVL unit by setting the front panel TRIG toggle switch in the EXT position and applying a 50 ns (or wider) TTL level pulse to the TRIG BNC connector input. For operation in this mode, the scope time base must also be triggered by the external clock.  
WARNING: Model AVL-3A may fail if triggered at a PRF greater than 5 kHz.
- 8) Model AVL-3A can withstand an infinite VSWR on the output port but is intended for operation with 50 Ohm loads.

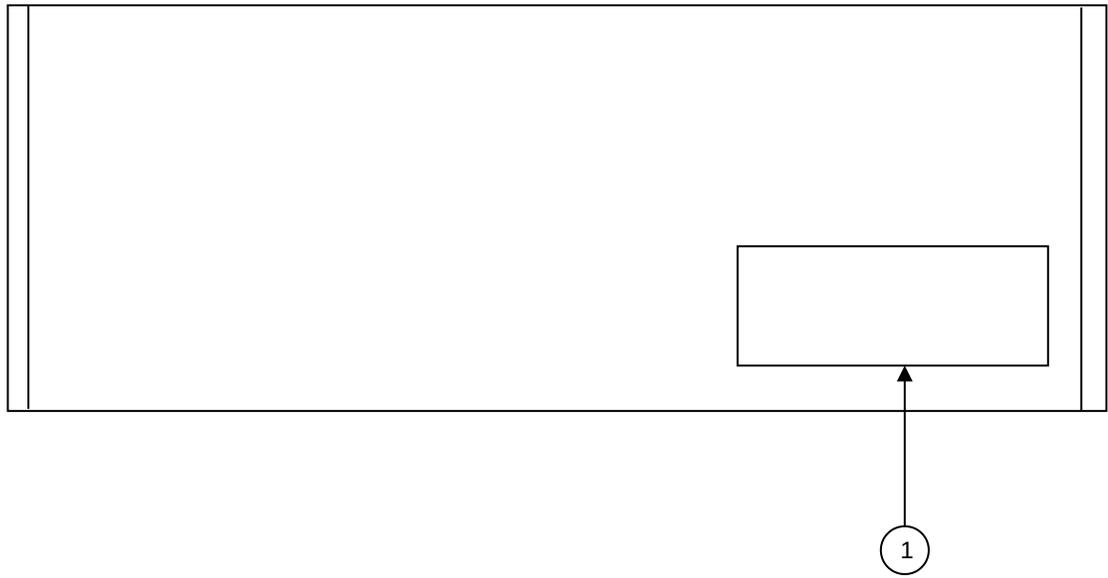
- 9) NOTE: The lifetime of the switching elements in the pulse generator module is proportional to the running time of the instrument. For this reason the prime power to the instrument should be turned off when the instrument is not in use. In the case of failure, the switching elements are easily replaced following the procedure described in the following section.
- 10) For additional assistance:
- Tel: (613) 226-5772  
Fax: (613) 226-2802  
Email: [info@avtechpulse.com](mailto:info@avtechpulse.com)

FIG. 2: FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

## FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

- (1) ON-OFF Switch. Applies basic prime power to all stages.
- (2) PRF Control. Varies PRF from about 5 Hz to about 5 kHz. The operating PRF should be set using a sampling scope.
- (3) DELAY Control. Controls the relative delay between the reference output pulse provided at the TRIG output (4) and the main output. This delay is variable over the range of about 0 to 150 ns.
- (4) TRIG Output. This output precedes the main output (7) and is used to trigger the sampling scope time base. The output is a TTL level 100 ns (approx.) pulse capable of driving a fifty Ohm load.
- (5) PW Control. A one-turn control, which varies the output pulse width from 0 to 100 ns.
- (6) AMP Control. The output pulse amplitude is controlled by means of the one-turn potentiometer (AMP).
- (7) OUT Connector. SMA connector provides output to a fifty Ohm load.
- (8) EXT-INT Control. With this toggle switch in the INT position, the PRF of the AVL unit is controlled via an internal clock, which in turn is controlled by the PRF and PRF FINE controls. With the toggle switch in the EXT position, the AVL unit requires a 50 ns (or wider) TTL level pulse applied at the TRIG input in order to trigger the output stages. In addition, in this mode, the scope time base must be triggered by the external trigger source.

FIG. 3: BACK PANEL CONTROLS



## BACK PANEL CONTROLS

- (1) FUSED CONNECTOR, VOLTAGE SELECTOR. The detachable power cord is connected at this point. In addition, the removable cord is adjusted to select the desired input operating voltage. The unit also contains the main power fuse (0.5 Amp).

## REPAIR PROCEDURE

- 1) **WARNING:** Before attempting any repairs, note that potentials as high as 400 Volts are employed in the chassis structure.
  
- 2) The pulse generator is constructed from the following basic subsystems or modules:
  - a) Metal chassis
  - b) Pulse generator module (AVL-3A-PG)
  - c) Delay line module (AVL-3A-DL)
  - d) Timing module (AVL-3A-T)
  - e) Power supply module (AVL-3A-PS)
  - f) Clock module (AVL-3A-C)

The five modules are interconnected as shown in Fig. 4.

- 3) If no output pulse is provided by the AVL-3 unit, turn off the prime power supply and remove the top cover panel by removing the four Phillips screws on the back of the instrument. Apply a scope probe or voltmeter to pin 3 of the AVL-3-PG unit. With the unit untriggered, turn on the prime power supply. A voltage of about 360 to 380 Volts should be read at pin 3. Alternatively, the voltage may be measured on the cases of the SL3 switching elements. If the voltage is zero or much less than 360 Volts, then one of the switching transistors (Part No. SL3) in the AVL-3-PG module has probably failed. With the prime power supply off remove one of the transistors by removing the two 2-56 screws, which secure the transistor in its socket. **CAUTION:** Before touching or removing the transistor, the cases should be briefly shorted to the instrument case to discharge charged capacitors (as high as 400 Volts). Pull the transistor out of the socket. With the unit untriggered turn on the prime power supply and measure the voltage from the case of the remaining transistor to ground. If this voltage is about 360 to 380 Volts then the transistor, which was removed, is defective and should be replaced. If the voltage, which is measured, is less than 360 Volts then the transistor still in position is defective and should be replaced. Note that the two transistors are completely interchangeable (Order Avtech Part No. SL3). Note that with both transistors removed, the voltage at pin 3 on the AVL-3-PG module should be in the range of 360 to 380 Volts. If the voltage is less then the AVL-3-PS module must be replaced. If both the AVL-3-PS module and the AVL-3-PG module are not found to be defective then the AVL-3-T module is suspect.

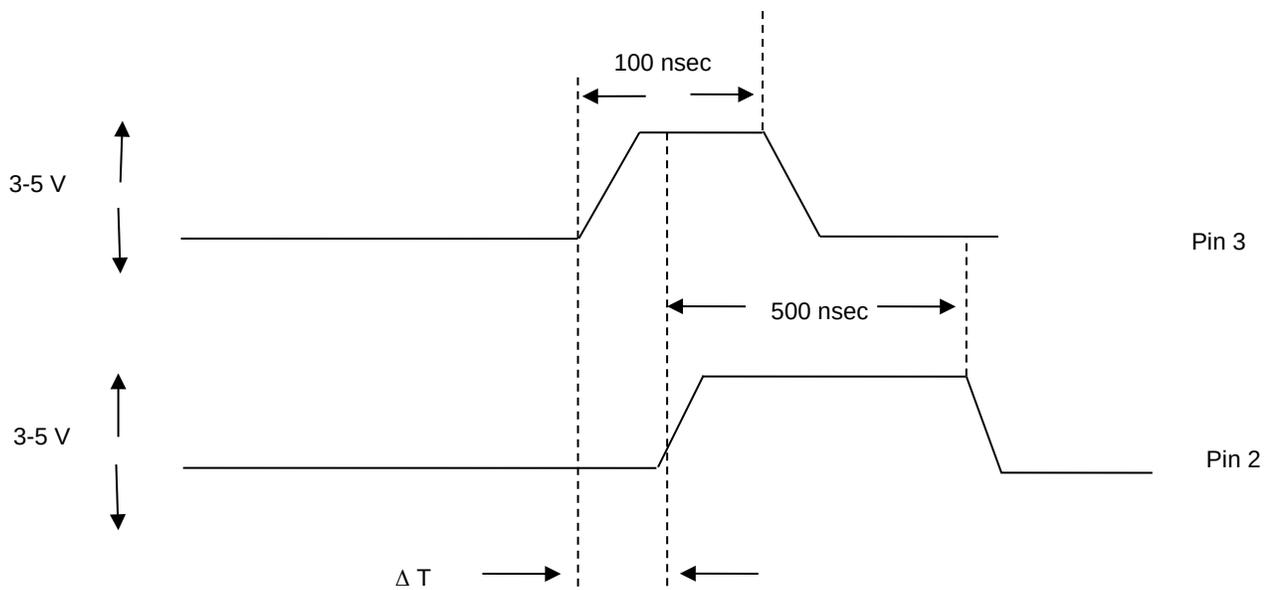
FIG. 4: SYSTEM BLOCK DIAGRAM WITH WIRING AND PIN CONNECTIONS

Note:

- 1) All interconnect lines are ribbon cable.
- 2) All module chassis are grounded to main chassis and to each other via separate ground lines.
- 3) WARNING: The line connecting Pin 1 of AVL-3-PS to Pin 3 of AVL-3-PG is at a potential of 360 to 380 Volts.

Connect one scope probe to Pin 3 of the -T module and a second probe to Pin 2 of the -T module. With the scope triggered externally by the pulse generator providing the trigger input signal to the AVL unit, the waveform at Pins 2 and 3 of the -T module should resemble:

FIG. 5: -T MODULE WAVEFORMS



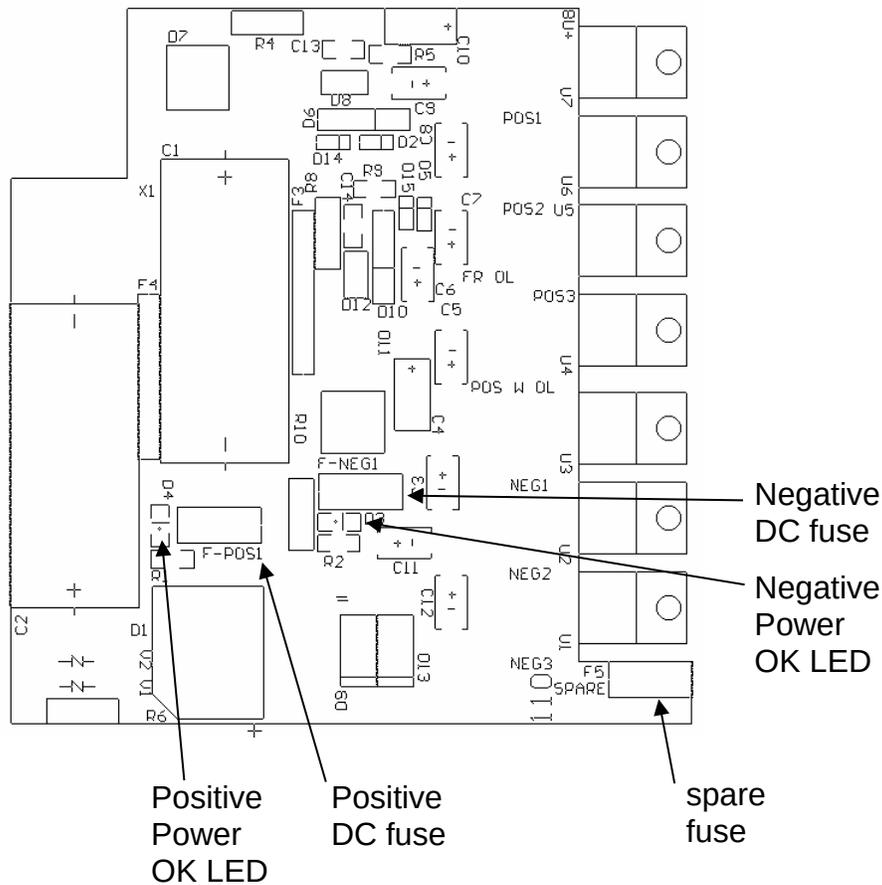
As the PW pot is varied over its full range  $\Delta T$  should vary from about 0 to approximately 100 ns. If the waveforms at Pins 2 and 3 do not resemble the above, then the -T module is defective and should be replaced. If the waveforms do resemble the above then the -PG module is at fault and should be replaced.

Replacement modules should be ordered by part No. (eg. AVL-3-PG) from Avtech.

## POWER SUPPLY AND FUSE REPLACEMENT

This instrument has three fuses (plus one spare). One, which protects the AC input, is located in the rear-panel power entry module, as described in the “Rear Panel Controls” section of this manual. If the power appears to have failed, check the AC fuse first.

The other two fuses (plus one spare) are located on the internal DC power supply, as shown below:



The spare fuse may be used to replace one of the other fuses, if required.

The three fuses on this circuit board are 0.5A slow-blow fuses, Littlefuse part number R452.500. (This fuse can be ordered from Digikey, [www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com). The Digikey part number is F1341CT-ND).

If you suspect that the DC fuses are blown, follow this procedure:

1. Remove the top cover, by removing the four Phillips screws on the top cover and then sliding the cover back and off.
2. Locate the two "Power OK" LEDs on the power supply circuit board, as illustrated above.
3. Turn on the instrument.
4. Observe the "Power OK" LEDs. If the fuses are not blown, the two LEDs will be lit (bright red). If one of the LEDs is not lit, the fuse next to it has blown.
5. Turn off the instrument.
6. If a fuse is blown, use needle-nose pliers to remove the blown fuse from its surface-mount holder.
7. Replace the fuse.

PERFORMANCE CHECK SHEET