

INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AVL-3AH-C-M-EA-P 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.

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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-3-C may provide a peak output power in excess of 4.0 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 one turn potentiometer (PW). The pot should initially be set mid-range and the pulse width adjusted using an oscilloscope. The output will degenerate to an impulse and eventually vanish as the pot is turned fully counter clockwise.
- 6) TR Control. The one turn TR control adjusts the shape of the leading edge of the output waveform. This control should be adjusted to minimize the rise time. Note that the instrument may require an initial warm-up time of several minutes before the leading edge waveform stabilizes.
- 7) TF Control. The one turn TF control adjusts the shape of the falling edge of the output waveform. The control should be adjusted to minimize the fall time.

- 8) The output pulse amplitude is controlled by means of the one turn potentiometer (AMP) and the HIGH-LOW switch adjacent to the AMP control. With the switch in the HIGH position, the output amplitude is variable over the range of 100 to 450 Volts while in the LOW position the output amplitude is variable over the range of about 0 to 320 Volts. For units with the –EA option the front panel AMP control must be set fully clockwise. The rear panel AMP switch should be set in the EXT position and 0 to +10 VDC applied to the “A” BNC Connector ($R_{IN} \square 10K$).
- 9) 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-3AH may fail if triggered at a PRF greater than 5 kHz.
- 10) Model AVL-3AH can withstand an infinite VSWR on the output port but is intended for operation with 50 Ohm loads.
- 11) 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.
- 12) MONITOR Output. The back panel monitor output provides an attenuated replica (20 dB down) of the output. The monitor output is designed to operate into a 50 Ohm load. (option).
- 13) The unit can be converted from 120 to 240V 50-60 Hz operation by adjusting the voltage selector card in the rear panel fused voltage selector-cable connector assembly.
- 14) For additional assistance:

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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 (9). This delay is variable over the range of about 0 to 150 ns.
- (4) TRIG Output. This output precedes the main output (9) 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) TR Control. The one turn TR control adjusts the shape of the leading edge of the output waveform. This control should be adjusted to minimize the rise time. Note that the instrument may require an initial warm-up time of several minutes before the leading edge waveform stabilizes.
- (7) TF Control. The one turn TF control adjusts the shape of the falling edge of the output waveform. The control should be adjusted to minimize the fall time.
- (8) AMP Control. The output pulse amplitude is controlled by means of the one-turn potentiometer (AMP) and the HIGH-LOW switch adjacent to the AMP control. With the switch in the HIGH position, the output amplitude is variable over the range of 100 to 450 Volts while in the LOW position the output amplitude is variable over the range of about 0 to 320 Volts.
- (9) OUT Connector. BNC connector provides output to a fifty Ohm load.
- (10) 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 50ns (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 A SB)
- (2) 1.0 A SB This fuse limits the current supplied to the output stage.
- (3) MONITOR Output. The back monitor output provides an attenuated replica (20 dB down) of the output. The monitor output is designed to operate into a 50 Ohm load. (Option).
- (4) AMP To control the output amplitude electronically, set the front panel amplitude control fully clockwise and then set the rear panel two-position INT-EXT switch in the EXT position and then apply 0 to +10 VDC to the "A" BNC Connector ($R_{IN} \square 10K$).

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:
- (3) Metal chassis
Pulse generator module (AVL-2-PG)
Delay line module (AVL-2-DL)
Timing module (AVL-2-T)
Power supply module (AVL-2-PS)
Clock module (AVL-2-C)
- (4) The five modules are interconnected as shown in Fig. 4.
- (5) 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 un-triggered, 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 un-triggered 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

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 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. (e.g. AVL-3-PG) from Avtech.

+15 VOLT POWER SUPPLY

The AVL-3AH-C consists of the five standard modules and a power supply board which supplies +15 Volts (600 mA max) to the pulse generator modules. In the event that the AVL-3AH-C unit malfunctions, remove the instrument cover by removing the two screws on each side of the unit, thereby exposing the modules. Measure the voltage at the +15 V pin of the PS module. If this voltage is substantially less than +15 Volts, unsolder the line connecting the power supply board output and connect a 50 Ohm 10 W load to the power supply output. The voltage across this load should be about 15 V DC. If this voltage is substantially less than 15 Volts the power supply board is defective and should be repaired or replaced. If the voltage is near +15V then see instructions in preceding section.

FIG. 6: POWER SUPPLY BOARD

PERFORMANCE CHECK SHEET