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INSTRUCTIONS

MODEL AVR-E4-C

0 TO 100 VOLTS, 100 kHz, 1 – 5 ns

HIGH SPEED PULSE GENERATOR

WITH 0.4 ns RISE & FALL TIMES

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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INTRODUCTION

The AVR-E4-C is a high performance instrument capable of generating up to 100V into 50 Ω loads at repetition rates up to 100 kHz. The output pulse width is variable from 1 to 5 ns. The rise and fall times are 0.4 ns or less.

Instruments with the "-P" model suffix can generate 0 to +100V, whereas instruments with the "-N" model suffix can generate 0 to -100V. Instruments with the "-PN" suffix can generate both polarities.

The output is designed to drive 50 Ω loads. (A 50 Ω load is required for proper operation.) The output is AC-coupled.

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

AVAILABLE OPTIONS

This instrument is available with several options:

-EA Option: the amplitude can be controlled by an externally generated 0 to +10V analog control voltage.

-EW Option: the pulse width can be controlled by an externally generated 0 to +10V analog control voltage.

-OS Option: an externally generated DC offset can be added to the output.

-D Option: this option adds a 0-6 ns adjustable delay feature, which operates in both the internal and external trigger modes.

-SMA option: all connectors are SMA type, instead of BNC.

SPECIFICATIONS

| | |
|--|---|
| Model: | AVR-E4-C ¹ |
| Amplitude ^{3,4} : (50 Ohm load) | 0 to 100 Volts |
| Rise time (20%-80%): | 0.4 ns |
| Fall time (80%-20%): | 0.4 ns |
| Pulse width ^{3,5} : | 1 to 5 ns |
| PRF: | 0 to 100 kHz |
| Polarity ⁶ : | Positive or negative or both (specify ⁶) |
| Propagation delay: | ≤ 60 ns (Ext trig in to pulse out) |
| Jitter: | ± 35ps ± 0.015% of sync delay (Ext trig in to pulse out) |
| DC offset or bias insertion: | Option available. Apply required DC offset or bias in the range of ± 25 Volts, (250 mA max) to back panel solder terminals. See note 7. |
| Trigger required: | Ext trig mode: + 5 Volts, 10 ns or wider (TTL) |
| Sync delay: | Variable 0 to ± 500 ns |
| Sync output: | + 3 Volts, 200 ns, will drive 50 Ohm loads |
| Connectors: | Out: SMA, Trig: BNC, Sync: BNC |
| Power requirements: | 100 - 240 V, 50 - 60 Hz |
| Dimensions (H x W x D): | 100 mm x 215 mm x 375 mm (3.9" x 8.5" x 14.8") |
| Chassis material: | cast aluminum frame and handles, blue vinyl on aluminum cover plates |
| Mounting: | Any |
| Temperature range: | +5°C to +40°C |

- 1) -C suffix indicates stand-alone lab instrument with internal clock and line powering. (See page 112 for additional details of the four basic instrument formats).
- 2) -B suffix indicates IEEE-488.2 GPIB and RS-232 control of amplitude, pulse width, PRF and delay. (See page 8).
- 3) For electronic control (0 to + 10 V) of amplitude or pulse width, suffix model number with -EA or -EW. Electronic control units also include the standard front-panel controls. -EW available on -C units only.
- 4) For operation at amplitudes of less than 10% of full-scale, best results will
- 5) be obtained by setting the amplitude near full-scale and using external attenuators on the output.
- 6) For 50 ns to 5 us range suffix model number with -W.
- 7) Indicate desired polarity by suffixing model number with -P or -N (i.e. positive or negative) or -PN for dual polarity option. Polarity reversal achieved by means of a two-position switch that controls the polarity of the signal output port on -C units, and via keypad control on -B units.
- 8) For DC offset option suffix model number with -OS.

EC DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We

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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 mainframe and the transformer module, examine to ensure that they have not been damaged in shipment. Visually inspect all connectors, knobs, and handles. Confirm that a power cord and an instrumentation manual (this manual), 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 57 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.)

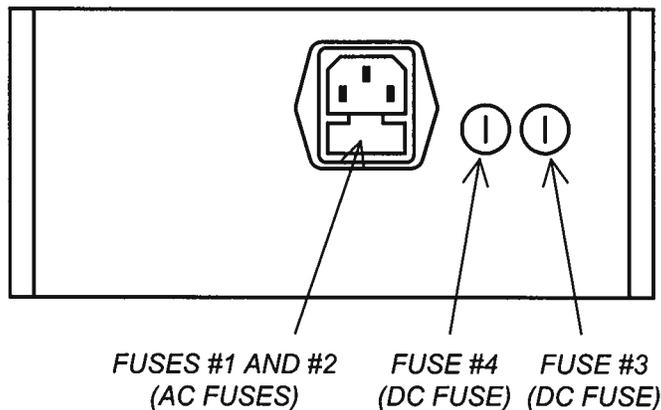
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

This instrument is intended for use under the following conditions:

- a) indoor use;
- b) altitude up to 2 000 m;
- c) temperature 5 °C to 40 °C;
- d) maximum relative humidity 80 % for temperatures up to 31 °C decreasing linearly to 50 % relative humidity at 40 °C;
- e) Mains supply voltage fluctuations up to ± 10 % of the nominal voltage;
- f) no pollution or only dry, non-conductive pollution.

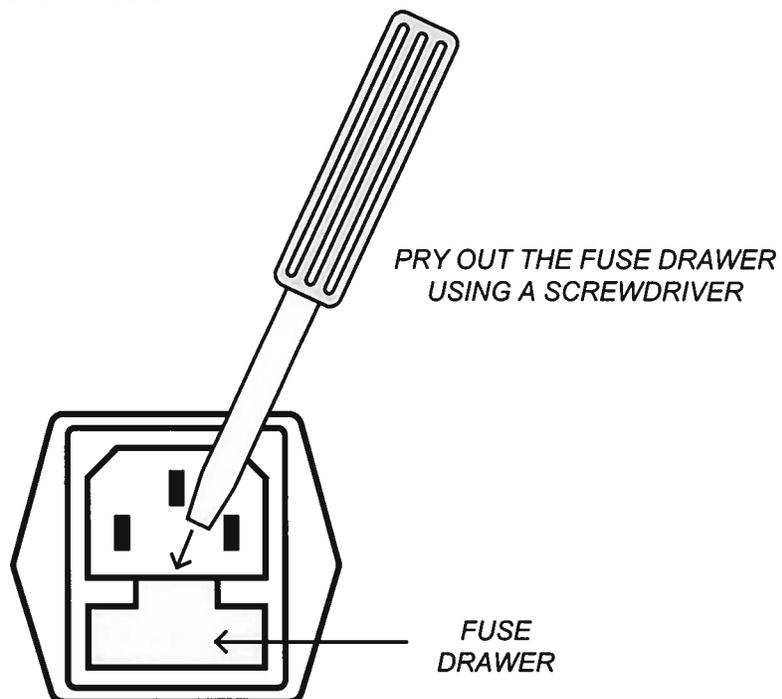
FUSES

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

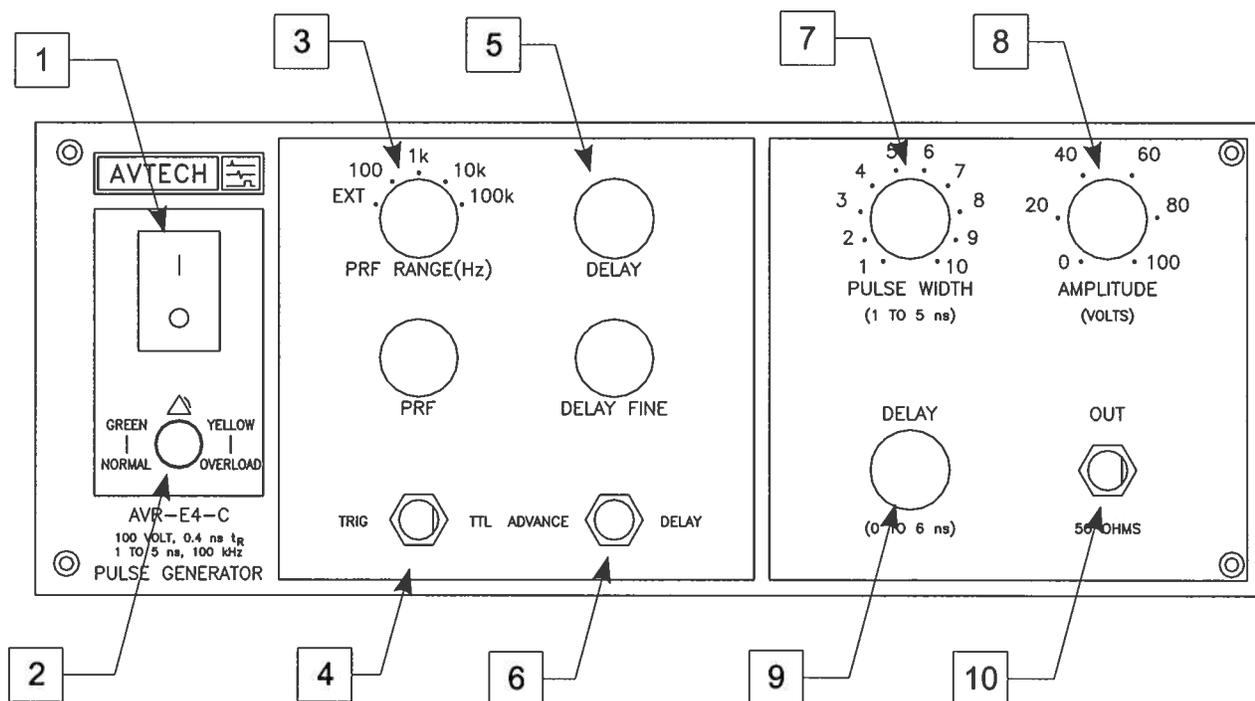
The following table lists the required fuses:

| Fuses | Mains Voltage | Rating | Case Size | Manufacturer's Part Number (Wickmann) | Distributor's Part Number (Digi-Key) |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| #1, #2 (AC) | 115 V | 0.25A, 250V, Time-Delay | 5 x 20 mm | 1950250000 | WK5035-ND |
| | 230 V | 0.25A, 250V, Time-Delay | 5 x 20 mm | 1950250000 | WK5035-ND |
| #3 (DC) | 115/230V | 0.8A, 250V, Time-Delay | 5 x 20 mm | 1950800000 | WK5046-ND |
| #4 (DC) | 115/230V | 0.25A, 250V, Time-Delay | 5 x 20 mm | 1950250000 | WK5035-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.
- 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) **PRF Range Switch.** This switch sets the pulse repetition frequency (PRF) range of the internal oscillator. The marked value of each position is the upper limit of the 10:1 range, approximately. The vernier dial directly below the switch varies the PRF within the set range.

If this switched is set to the "EXT" position, the instrument is triggered by a signal

applied to the TRIG connector, rather than by the internal oscillator.

- 4) TRIG Connector. When the PRF Range Switch is set to one of the four internal oscillator ranges, this connector is an output, which supplies a 2V, 200 ns wide pulse for each trigger event. This output may be used to trigger oscilloscopes or other equipment.

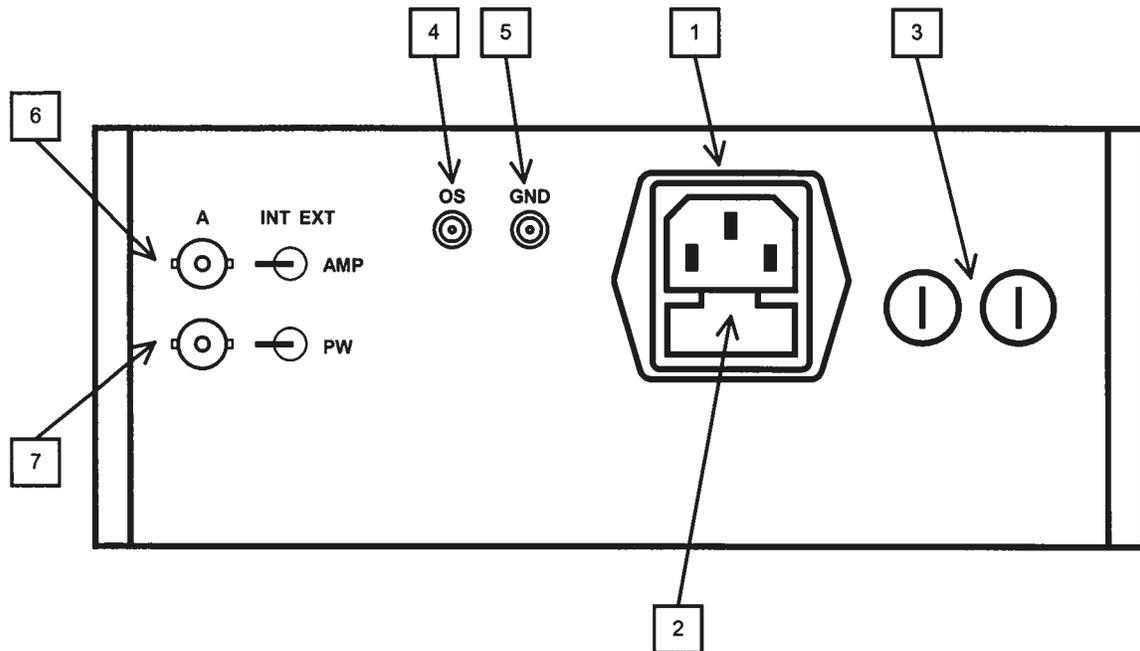
When the PRF Range Switch is set to "EXT", the instrument is triggered by a TTL pulse applied to this connector. The pulse must be at least 50 ns wide. The input impedance of this input is 1 k Ω .

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. For systems using SMA connectors, the PE6026 SMA feed-thru 50 Ohm terminator is suggested.

- 5) Delay Controls. When the PRF Range Switch is set to one of the four internal oscillator ranges, the main output is advanced or delayed relative to the TRIG output pulse (item 3). The delay is variable up to 500 ns, approximately, using the DELAY and DELAY FINE dials.
- 6) Advance/Delay Switch. When the PRF Range Switch is set to one of the four internal oscillator ranges, this switch determines whether the TRIG output precedes the main output (ADVANCE mode), or whether the TRIG output occur after the main output (DELAY mode).
- 7) Pulse Width Control. This dial controls the pulse width.
- 8) Amplitude Control. This dial controls the pulse amplitude.
- 9) Relative Delay Control. (Optional feature. Present on -D units only.) This dial varies the propagation delay of the output over a 0 to 6 ns range. This delay functions in both the internally-triggered and externally-triggered mode. (The other delay control, item #5, only functions in the internally-triggered mode.)
- 10) OUT Connector. This BNC connector provides the main output signal, into load impedances of 50 Ω .

 Caution: Voltages as high as $\pm 100\text{V}$ 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.

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. OS INPUT CONNECTOR. (For units with -OS option only.) A DC offset in the range of $\pm 50\text{V}$ (250 mA max) may be applied to this solder terminal. The DC offset will appear on the output. When this feature is not used, the OS input should be connected to ground (using the adjacent GND connector). This is especially important when driving loads containing a diode.
5. GND CONNECTOR. (For units with -OS option only.) This solder terminal is connected to ground. It may be used to ground the OS input connector.
6. EA SWITCH AND INPUT. (For units with -EA option only.) When this switch is set to the “INT” position, the output amplitude is controlled by the front-panel amplitude dial. When this switch is set to the “EXT” position, the output amplitude is controlled by the voltage applied to the “A” BNC connector. 0V in corresponds to zero amplitude, and +10V DC in corresponds to maximum amplitude (+100V). The input

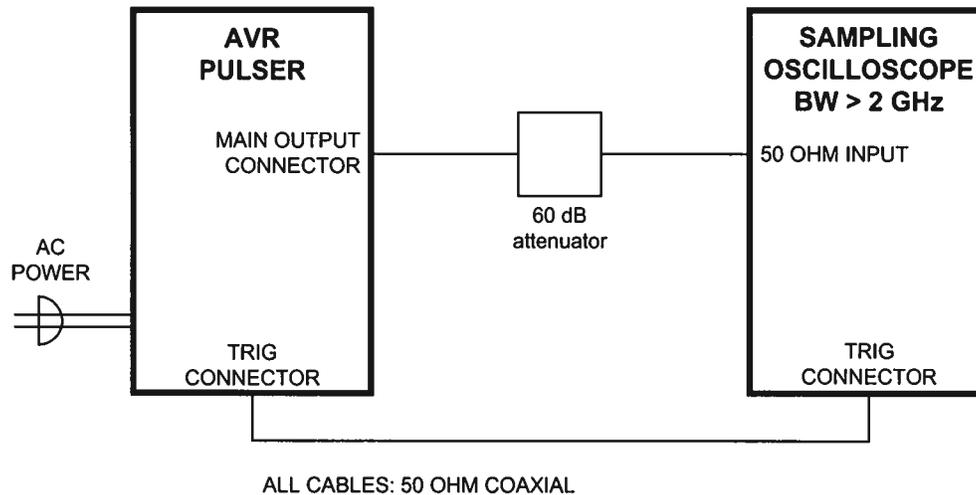
impedance of the "A" connector is $> 10 \text{ k}\Omega$.

7. EW SWITCH AND INPUT. (For units with -EW option only.) When this switch is set to the "INT" position, the output pulse width is controlled by the front-panel pulse width dial. When this switch is set to the "EXT" position, the output pulse width is controlled by the voltage applied to the "A" BNC connector. 0V in corresponds to minimum pulse width, and +10V DC in corresponds to maximum pulse width. The input impedance of the "A" connector is $> 10 \text{ k}\Omega$.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BASIC TEST ARRANGEMENT

The AVR-E4-C should be tested with a sampling oscilloscope with a bandwidth of at least 2 GHz to properly observe the high-speed waveform. A typical test arrangement is shown below:



The attenuator is required to prevent damage to the sampling oscilloscope.

GENERAL OPERATING NOTES

- 1) The bandwidth capability of components and instruments used to display the pulse generator output signal (attenuators, cables, connectors, etc.) should exceed 2 GHz.
- 2) The use of a 60 dB attenuator at the sampling scope vertical input channel will ensure a peak input signal to the sampling scope of less than 1 Volt.
- 3) The TRIG output channel provides TTL level signals. The TRIG output precedes the main output when the front panel ADVANCE-DELAY switch is in the ADVANCE position. The TRIG output lags the main output when the switch is in the DELAY position.
- 4) To obtain a stable output display the PRF control on the front panel should be set mid-range. The front panel MODE switch should be in the INT position. The DELAY controls 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.

- 5) The output pulse amplitude is normally controlled by means of the front panel AMP control. To voltage-control the output amplitude, set the rear panel switch in the EXT position and apply 0 to +10V to connector B ($R_{IN} > 10K$). (-EA option).
- 6) To DC offset the output pulse connect a DC power supply set to required DC offset value to the back panel terminals marked OS. The maximum attainable DC offset voltage is 50 Volts / 250 mA (for units with the -OS option only).

MINIMIZING WAVEFORM DISTORTIONS

USE 50 OHM TRANSMISSION LINES AND LOADS

Connect the load to the pulse generator with 50Ω transmission lines (e.g. RG-58 or RG-174 cable).

This instrument requires a 50Ω load for proper operation. It will not properly drive a high-impedance load. The output stage will be damaged if it is operated into an open circuit (or any other high impedance). Failures due to improper output loading are not covered by the warranty.

USE LOW-INDUCTANCE LOADS

Lenz's Law predicts that for an inductive voltage spike will be generated when the current through an inductance changes. Specifically, $V_{\text{SPIKE}} = L \times di_{\text{LOAD}}/dt$, where L is the inductance, i_{LOAD} is the load current change, and t is time. For this reason, it is important to keep any parasitic in the load low. This means keeping wiring short, and using low inductance components. In particular, wire-wound resistors should be avoided.

PREVENTING DAMAGE

The AVR-E4-C may fail if triggered at a PRF greater than 100 kHz.

This unit is designed to operate into a load impedance of 50 Ohms and the output stage will be damaged if it is operated into an open circuit (or any other high impedance). Failures due to improper output loading are not covered by the warranty.

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.

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.

ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE

To prevent electromagnetic interference with other equipment, all used outputs should be connected to shielded 50 Ω loads using shielded 50 Ω coaxial cables. Unused outputs should be terminated with shielded 50 Ω 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.

Nov. 4 / 03