

OPERATING NOTE 16 JUNE 1967



Figure 1. Models 423A and 8470A Crystal Detectors and Model 11523A Load Resistor

1. INTRODUCTION.

2. The 423A and 8470A Crystal Detectors are 50-ohm (nominal) devices designed for measurement use in coaxial systems. They measure relative power up to 100 mW, and have a BNC output jack to connect the detected output to a meter, such as the 415E. Frequency range of the 423A is 10 MHz to 12.4 GHz. The 8470A has additional range up to 18 GHz.

3. Output polarity of the Detectors is negative unless the Option 03 version is purchased. Specifications and Options are listed in Table 1.

4. The optional Load Resistor, Model 11523A, is mounted in a separate housing to permit easy conversion from optimum square law to maximum output. Each load is identified by the serial number of the Detector to which it is matched. If you have more than one Model 11523A, always be sure that the proper one is in use for the Detector you are using.

5. PRECAUTIONS.

6. ELECTRICAL SHOCK.

7. DISCHARGE OF STORED ELECTRICAL ENERGY CAN EASILY DAMAGE THE CRYSTAL DETECTOR. A 100-pF capacitor, the equivalent of four feet of coaxial cable, charged to 14 volts stores 0.1 erg of energy which is the maximum safe pulse rating of the detector. Be certain that a cable is connected to associated equipment and discharged before connecting it to crystal detector.

8. HANDLING DETECTOR ELEMENT.

9. DO NOT HANDLE DETECTOR ELEMENT USED IN CRYSTAL DETECTOR NEEDLESSLY. Static electricity which builds up on a person, especially on a cold, dry day, must never be allowed to discharge through the Crystal Detector. Avoid exposed leads to or from the Crystal Detector, since these are often touched accidentally. Refer to Paragraph 24 for proper precautions.

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Table 1. Specifications

<u>Frequency Range:</u>	<u>Connectors:</u>
423A: 10 MHz to 12.4 GHz.	423A:
8470A: 10 MHz to 18 GHz (Below 1 GHz, RF may leak through the video output connector. It can be eliminated, if objectionable, with suitable low pass filter.)	Option 01: Matched pair. Frequency response characteristics (exclusive of basic sensitivity) track within ± 0.2 dB per octave from 10 MHz to 8 GHz, ± 0.3 dB from 8 to 12.4 GHz.
<u>Frequency Response:</u> *	Option 02: Furnished with matched load resistor (11523A) for optimum square law characteristics at 24°C (75°F), * $< \pm 0.5$ dB variation from square law over a range of at least 30 dB up to 50 mV peak output working into an external load $> 75\text{k}$ ohms. Sensitivity typically > 0.1 mV/ μW when load resistor is used. Overall length 4-1/2 in. (144 mm).
423A: ± 0.2 dB/octave 10 MHz to 8 GHz; ± 0.5 dB overall.	Option 03: Positive polarity output.
8470A: ± 0.2 dB/octave 10 MHz to 8 GHz; ± 0.5 dB to 12.4 GHz; ± 1.0 dB overall.	8470A:
<u>Maximum Power:</u> 100 mW, peak or average.	Option 01: Matched pair. Frequency response characteristics (exclusive of basic sensitivity) track within ± 0.2 dB per octave from 10 MHz to 8 GHz, ± 0.3 dB from 8 to 12.4 GHz, ± 0.6 dB from 12.4 to 18 GHz.
<u>Sensitivity:</u>	Option 02: Furnished with matched load resistor (11523A) for optimum square law characteristics at 24°C (75°F), * $< \pm 0.5$ dB variation from square law over a range of at least 30 dB up to 50 mV peak output working into an external load $> 75\text{k}\Omega$. Sensitivity typically > 0.1 mV/ μW when load resistor is used. Overall length 4-1/2 in. (144 mm).
High Level: < 0.35 mW produces 100 mW output.	Option 03: Positive polarity output.
Low Level: > 0.4 mVdc/ μW CW.	Option 12: Furnished with stainless steel type N male connector.
<u>Impedance:</u> 50 ohms.	Option 13: Furnished with stainless steel type N female connector.
<u>Reflection Coefficient:</u>	
423A and 8470A: 10 MHz to 4.5 GHz, 0.091 (1.2 SWR); 4.5 GHz to 7.0 GHz, 0.15 (1.35 SWR); 7.0 GHz to 12.4 GHz, 0.2 (1.5 SWR).	
8470A: 12.4 GHz to 18.0 GHz, 0.26 (1.7 SWR).	
<u>Output Impedance:</u> $< 15\text{k}\Omega$ shunted by 10 pF.	
<u>Detector Element:</u> Supplied. (Refer to Table 2 for replacement assemblies.)	
<u>Output Polarity:</u> Negative. (Refer to options for positive polarity units.)	
<u>Noise:</u> < 200 μV p-p, with CW applied to produce 100 mVdc output.	
*As read on a meter calibrated for square-law detectors (such as HP 415E SWR Meter).	

10. GENERAL.

11. The Crystal Detector can be used as a demodulator to obtain a pulse envelope which can then be observed on an oscilloscope. It can also be used as a general purpose detector.

12. When using the Crystal Detector with an oscilloscope and the waveshapes to be observed have rise times of less than $5\ \mu\text{sec}$, the coaxial cable connecting oscilloscope and detector should be as short as possible and shunted with a resistor. Ideally, this resistor should be 50 ohms to terminate the coaxial cable properly. However, with 50 ohms resistance, possibly the output video pulse may be too small to drive some oscilloscopes. Therefore, the cable should be shunted with the smallest value of resistance that will obtain suitable deflection on the oscilloscope; typically the value will lie between 50 and 2k ohms. The larger the resistance the more degradation of rise time.

13. The power applied to the Detector can be either modulated or continuous wave (CW). If modulated at a 1000-cps rate, the sensitive HP Model 415B/E can be used as the indicator. For CW detection, a dc milli-ammeter or millivoltmeter such as the HP Model 425A Microvolt-Ammeter can be used as the indicator.

14. PEAK POWER MEASUREMENT.

15. The arrangement of equipment for peak power measurement is shown in Figure 2. The procedure involves calibration of an oscilloscope which in turn is used to calibrate a CW generator. The output of the calibrated CW generator is measured with a power meter; the peak power of a pulse is thereby measured. The procedure is as follows:

- Connect equipment as shown in Figure 2, step 1.
- Observe pulse on a dc-coupled oscilloscope. Using a marking pencil, mark on the graticule the base-to-peak amplitude of the pulse envelope.

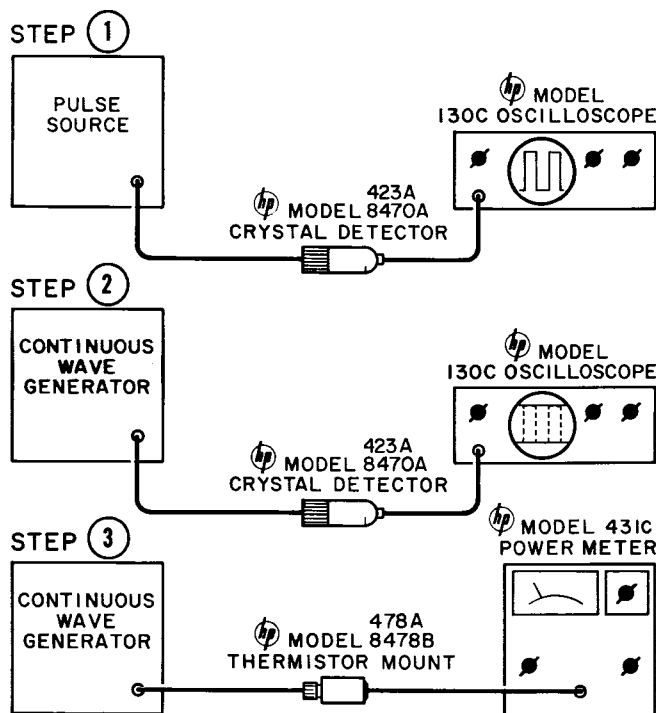


Figure 2. Peak Power Measurement

c. Replace the pulse source with a CW generator (step 2). While observing the oscilloscope trace, adjust amplitude of CW generator output to make crystal output equal to that of pulse generator as indicated by markings on graticule (step b).

d. While performing the next step, leave CW generator at setting obtained in step c. Disconnect Detector from CW generator. Connect output of CW generator to a thermistor and power meter. Measure adjusted level (step c) of CW generator output.

e. The peak power of the pulse envelope observed in step b is equal to the output power of the CW generator.

16. REFLECTOMETER APPLICATION.

17. For information about reflectometer systems and measurements, see HP Application Notes 54 and 61 and Hewlett-Packard Journal Vol. 12, No. 4, copies of which are available upon request.

18. HARMONIC FREQUENCY-COMPARISON MEASUREMENTS.

19. The Detector can be used as a mixer in harmonic-frequency comparison measurements. See HP Application Note 2.

20. REPLACEMENT OF PARTS.

21. Succeeding paragraphs give instructions for repair of the Detector, and the Option 02 Load Resistor, Model 11523A. Additional maintenance information can be

obtained from your local Hewlett-Packard field office. Stock numbers for replaceable parts are given in Table 2.

22. The detector element assembly includes a detector element, an Option 02 load resistor for the 11523A, capacitive washer and a capsule spacer. The resistor is to load the diode for square-law operation, the capacitive washer is to match the diode for VSWR, while the capsule spacer is mainly for flatness of sensitivity. All should be replaced as a unit when the diode is replaced.

23. DETECTOR ELEMENT REPLACEMENT.

WARNING

The special detector element (see Figure 3) contained in the Detector can be damaged in handling, removal, or installation if certain precautions are not taken. The handling precautions which follow should be read before performance of any operation with the detector element when it is out of either the housing or the detector element shipping container.

24. DETECTOR ELEMENT HANDLING PRECAUTIONS.

a. Before installing detector into mount, touch exposed metal on mount with your hand to discharge static electricity. Then insert detector into mount.

b. When handing crystal to another person, touch hands first to ensure there is no difference in static electricity potential between you.

c. Ohmmeters should NOT be used to measure forward- and back-resistance since it is rather easy to damage these diodes. (The difficulty arises because of the ohmmeter open-circuit voltages and short-circuit currents. It is easy for these currents or voltages to damage the diode.)

25. REPLACING DETECTOR ELEMENT.

26. Parts mentioned in the following procedure are identified in Figure 3.

a. Remove connector cap from body. To remove connector cap, use a pair of gas pliers with plastic teeth or protect body with heavy paper or tape.

b. Remove old detector element, capsule spacer, and capacitive washer, and discard them.

c. Install the new capacitive washer, capsule spacer, and detector element. Install the washer first, the spacer with its polyiron side against the washer. Finally, install the detector element by inserting the resistive end into the center contact inside the Detector body.

CAUTION

When inserting the detector element, do not force the tip (resistive end) into the center conductor in the body as the fingers of the center conductor might be damaged.

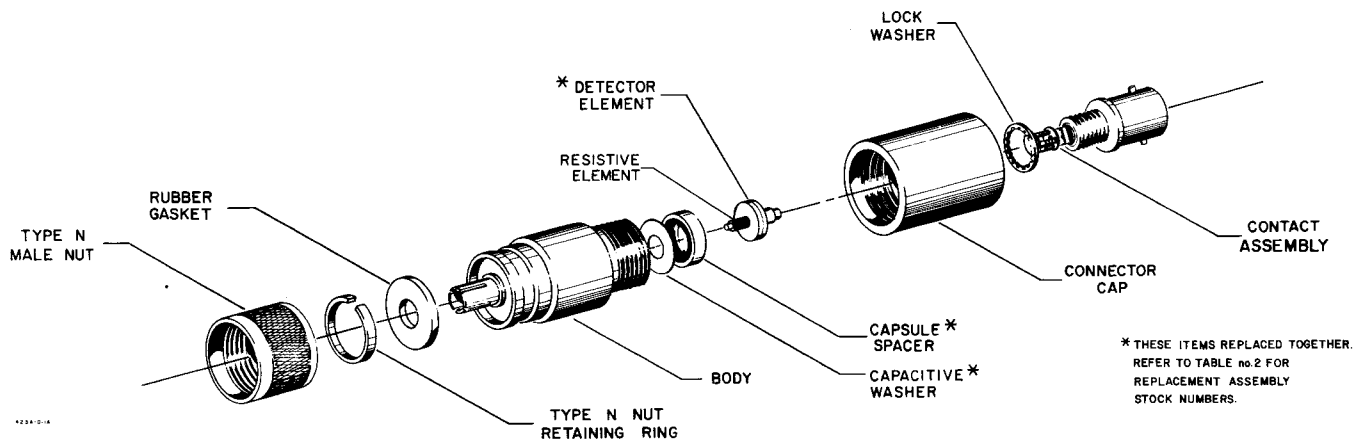


Figure 3. Model 423A Assembly

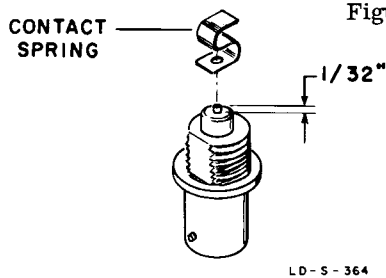


Figure 4. Cutting Center Conductor Lead to Accommodate Contact Spring

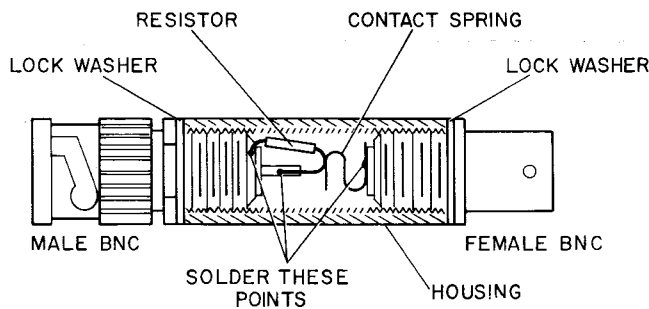


Figure 5. Model 11523A Load Resistor, Cutaway View

29. PROCEDURE. Parts mentioned in the following procedure are identified in Figures 3 and 4.

- a. Remove BNC connector and lockwasher.
- b. Unsolder contact spring soldered to center conductor lead.
 - (1) Cut center conductor lead to approximately 1/32 inch (see Figure 4).
 - (2) With flat file, smooth end of lead; wipe off burr with tweezers or similar metal instrument.
- c. Slip contact spring over center conductor lead, and solder.

CAUTION

Use solder sparingly or it will creep back on spring. Solder on spring destroys its usefulness, and solder is difficult to remove from spring.

- d. Let spring cool, and then replace lockwasher and connector in connector cap.

30. REPLACEMENT OF 11523A PARTS.

31. Parts mentioned in the following procedure are identified in Figures 4 and 5. Tools required are listed in Paragraph 28.

32. REPLACING MALE BNC CONNECTOR.

- a. Remove male BNC connector and lock washer from housing. To remove BNC, use a 3/8-inch open-end wrench and hold the housing either in a vise or with gas pliers. Before putting pliers on, protect the housing of the 11523A with material such as heavy paper.
- b. Unsolder resistor.
- c. Solder resistor to new BNC.
- d. Let resistor cool and then check resistance from male BNC pin through resistor; resistance measured should be $\pm 10\%$ that indicated by the coding.
- e. Replace lockwasher and male BNC.

- d. Replace connector cap and TIGHTEN FIRMLY.

Note

The Option 02 Detector Element Assembly includes a detector element and a resistor. The resistor is for use in the Model 11523A and must be installed to match it to the Detector.

27. REPLACING OUTPUT BNC CONNECTOR.

28. TOOLS REQUIRED.

- a. Needle-point soldering iron
- b. Wire cutters
- d. Flat file, #4
- d. Tweezers

Table 2. Replaceable Parts, Models 423A, 8470A, and 11523A

Description	Ⓜ Stock No.	Description	Ⓜ Stock No.
Connector, male BNC for 11523A	1250-0045	<u>8470A Diode Replacement Assemblies*</u>	
Connector, female BNC	1250-0251	Single Detector Assembly: Negative Polarity	08470-6001
Connector Assembly, female BNC, including contact assembly	00423-600	Positive Polarity (Option 03)	08470-6002
Connector, Cap	00423-601	Single Detector Assembly with matching load resistor (Option 02): Negative Polarity	08470-6003
Housing for 11523A	5020-3215	Positive Polarity (Option 03)	08470-6004
11523A without resistor, includes serial plate to be attached to 423A	11523-600	Matched Pairs of assemblies (Option 01): Negative Polarity	08470-6005
		Positive Polarity (Option 03)	08470-6006
<u>423A Diode Replacement Assemblies*</u>		Matched pairs of assemblies with load resistors (Option 02): Negative Polarity	08470-6007
Single detector assembly: Negative polarity	00423-802	Positive Polarity (Option 03)	08470-6008
Positive polarity (Option 03)	00423-803	<u>APC-7 Connector Assembly</u>	1250-0745
Single detector assembly with matching load resistor (Option 02): Negative polarity	00423-800	Inner conductor contact	1250-0907
Positive polarity (Option 03)	00423-801	Inner conductor contact mechanism (contact plus outer body; assembled)	1250-0816
Matched pairs of assembly (Option 01): Negative polarity	00423-605	Support bead	5040-0273
Positive polarity (Option 03)	00423-606	Coupling nut	1250-0909
Matched pairs of elements with matching load resistor (Option 02): Negative polarity	00423-603	Center Conductor	08470-2001
Positive polarity (Option 03)	00423-604	<u>Tools:</u>	
		APC-7 contact extractor	5060-0236
		APC-7 Spanner wrench	5060-0237
		Open-end wrench	8710-0877
*Refer to Table 1 for description of options			

33. REPLACING FEMALE CONNECTOR.

a. Remove BNC connector. To remove or install BNC, use a BNC wrench or use a male BNC connector as a wrench.

b. Unsolder contact spring.

c. Prepare replacement BNC connector:

(1) Cut center conductor lead to approximately 1/32 inch.

(2) With flat file, smooth end of lead; wipe off burr with tweezers or similar metal instrument.

d. Slip contact spring over center conductor lead, and solder.

CAUTION

Use solder sparingly or it will creep back on spring. Solder on spring destroys its usefulness and is difficult to remove.

e. Let contact spring cool and then screw connector into mount.

34. REPLACEABLE PARTS.

35. This section contains information pertaining to replaceable parts (see Table 2) and the ordering of these parts for the Models 423A, 8470A, and 11523A.

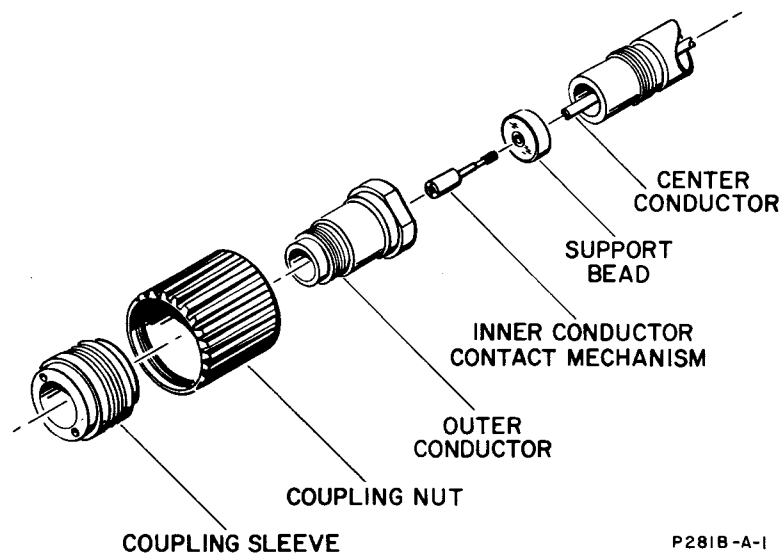
36. To order a replacement part, address order or inquiry to your local Hewlett-Packard field office (see list at rear of this Note).

37. Specify the following information for each part:

- a. Model number
- b. Hewlett-Packard stock number
- c. Description of part.

38. PERFORMANCE CHECKS.

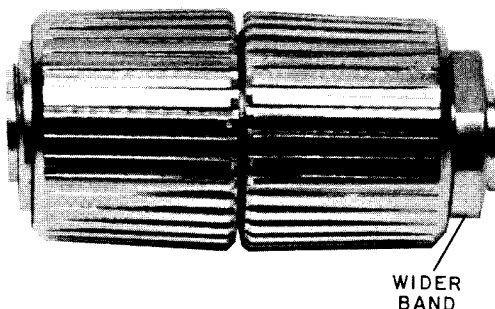
39. The following paragraphs suggest methods to use for checking detector specifications. For these checks the instrument operator should refer to the manuals of the equipment involved for operating instructions.

USETo Connect:

1. On one connector, retract the coupling sleeve by turning the coupling nut counterclockwise until the sleeve and nut disengage.
2. On the other connector, fully extend the coupling sleeve by turning the coupling nut clockwise. To engage coupling sleeve and coupling nut when the sleeve is fully retracted, press back lightly on the nut while turning it clockwise.
3. Push the connectors firmly together, and thread the coupling nut of the connector with retracted sleeve over the extended sleeve.
4. Close the gap between coupling nuts with the nut on the extended-sleeve connector.

To Disconnect:

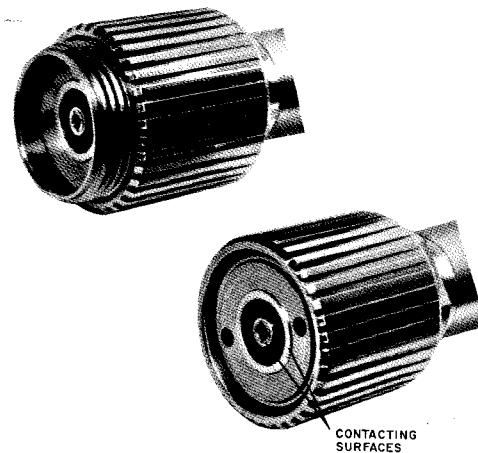
1. Loosen the coupling nut of the connector showing the wider gold band.



2. **IMPORTANT:** Part the connectors carefully to prevent striking the inner conductor contact.

CARE

1. Keep contacting surfaces smooth and clean. Irregularities and foreign particles can degrade electrical performance.



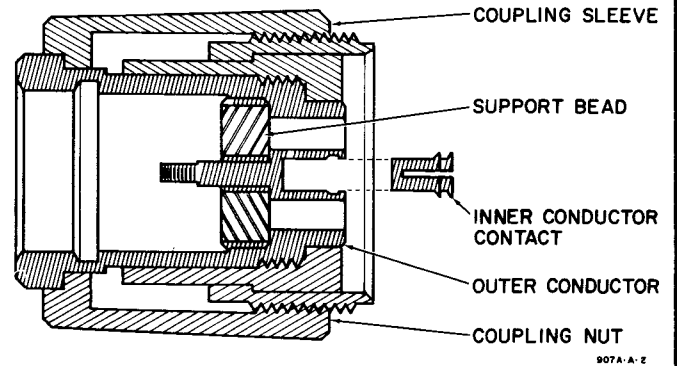
2. Protect the contacting surfaces when the connector is not in use by leaving the coupling sleeve extended.
3. Use lintless material and/or firm-bristled brush such as tooth brush for cleaning. If a cleaning fluid is needed use isopropyl alcohol. **IMPORTANT:** Do not use aromatic or chlorinated hydrocarbons, esters, ethers, terpenes, higher alcohols, ketones, or ether-alcohols such as benzene, toluene, turpentine, dioxane, gasoline, cellosolve acetate, or carbon tetrachloride. Keep exposure of the connector parts to both the cleaning fluid and its vapors as brief as possible.

Figure 6. APC-7 Connectors

REPLACING AMPHENOL APC-7 CENTER CONTACT

Through wear or damage the contact in the center conductor may need replacing. This contact is a small four-pronged collet which snaps into a recess in the center conductor. This contact is normally held in by the spring-action of the four prongs. With a magnifying glass examine this contact to determine if it needs replacement. **DO NOT REMOVE THIS CONTACT FOR INSPECTION** (it may be damaged by removing). The contact should be free of burrs or wear and the prongs should be equally spaced. If the contact is removed do **NOT** re-use it (it may be damaged by removal). This contact is Amphenol* part number 131-129 and HP 1250-0907. If this contact needs replacement and a new contact is available proceed as follows:

1. Place the instrument so the connector faces down, if possible.
2. Tap the connector lightly and the contact should now protrude slightly. Insert the centering pin of the Hewlett-Packard collet remover, Stock Number 5060-0236, with the jaws open. If this tool is not available, an ordinary draftsman's mechanical pencil may be used (the end of the jaws may have to be filed to get a good grasp at the very end).
3. Allow the jaws on the tool used to close and pull straight away from the connector without twisting. The contact should come with the tool. If not, repeat the process. Do **NOT** re-use the contact.

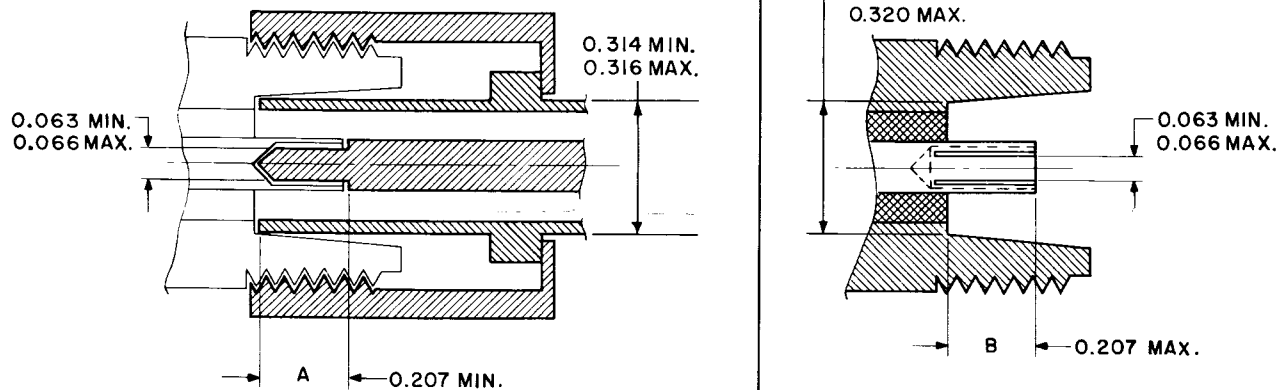


4. Snap in a new contact by pushing a new contact in place.

(Amphenol* Part number 131-129; HP Part number 1250-0907)

*Amphenol RF Division, Danbury, Conn.

Figure 7. APC-7 Connector



ALL DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

907A-A-18

Figure 8. Type N Connector

40. FREQUENCY RESPONSE CHECK.

a. Using a 10 Mc to 12.4 Gc signal source and an SWR Meter as the indicator, connect the Detector to the signal source and set any convenient upper scale reference on the SWR meter.

b. Without changing the RF output level of the SWR meter settings, disconnect the Detector from the signal source.

c. Using a power meter/thermistor mount combination, measure the signal source RF output level and record.

d. Change the frequency to another point and reset the RF output level to that measured in step c.

e. Disconnect the power meter/thermistor mount from the signal source and connect the Detector. The SWR meter indication should be within 1.0 dB of original reference.

f. Repeat steps b, c, d, and e at all points of interest across the frequency band.

41. SENSITIVITY CHECK.

a. Using a 10 MHz to 12.4 GHz signal source and a dc voltmeter as the indicator, connect the Detector to the signal source and adjust the RF power level for a 100 mW detected output from the Detector.

b. Disconnect the Detector from the signal source and measure the RF output level. Specification: less than 0.355 mW should produce 100 mV detected output.

42. SWR CHECK.

a. Equipment required:

- (1) HP 250A RX Meter
- (2) HP 803A VHF Bridge
- (3) HP 417A Detector
- (4) HP 809B/806B/444A Slotted Line

(5) HP 805C Slotted Line

(6) Signal sources: 10 MHz to 18.4 GHz

b. To measure the SWR of the Detector in the 10 to 250 MHz range an RX meter should be used. The method of measurement is explained below.

c. Using the HP 250A RX Meter, measure the resistance (R) and capacitance (C) of the Detector. Calculate the reactance of the Detector from the equation: X equals 1 divided by 2 times 3.1416 times the frequency of measurement (neglecting the sign of C). Calculate the Q (when Q equals R divided by X).

d. Calculate the Detector load impedance Z_L from the equation:

$$Z_L = R \sqrt{1 + (R/X)^2}$$

where Z_L = Detector load impedance

e. Calculate the SWR of the Detector from the following two equations:

$$(1) \quad \rho = \frac{(Z_L/Z_0) - 1}{(Z_L/Z_0) + 1};$$

$$(2) \quad SWR = \frac{1 + \rho}{1 - \rho}$$

where ρ = reflection coefficient

Z_0 = characteristic impedance

f. To measure SWR in the 250-MHz to 500-MHz range use HP 803A and HP 417A.

g. To measure SWR in 500- to 4000-MHz use 805C Slotted Line and 415E SWR Meter.

h. To measure SWR in 4- to 12.4-GHz range use the HP 809B/806B/444A Slotted Line combination.

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