

User Manual

Tektronix

**SD-30
Sampling Head**

070-7904-02

Instrument Serial Numbers

Each instrument manufactured by Tektronix has a serial number on a panel insert or tag, or stamped on the chassis. The first letter in the serial number designates the country of manufacture. The last five digits of the serial number are assigned sequentially and are unique to each instrument. Those manufactured in the United States have six unique digits. The country of manufacture is identified as follows:

B010000	Tektronix, Inc., Beaverton, Oregon, USA
E200000	Tektronix United Kingdom, Ltd., London
J300000	Sony/Tektronix, Japan
H700000	Tektronix Holland, NV, Heerenveen, The Netherlands

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Tektronix, Inc., P.O. Box 500, Beaverton, OR 97077

Printed in U.S.A.

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Introduction

The SD-30 is a single channel, high-performance sampling head that can be installed in the 11800 Series Digital Sampling Oscilloscopes, the SM-11 Multi-Channel Unit, or the CSA 803 Series Communications Signal Analyzers.

The SD-30 Sampling Head provides the following features:

- Greater than 40 GHz bandwidth.
- 8.8 ps calculated rise time.
- Precision 2.9 mm connector (Wiltron Co. – K type) that is mechanically compatible with 3.5 mm and SMA connectors.
- A SELECT CHANNEL button for quick trace selection from the sampling head front panel.

As shown in Figure 1, the sampling head consists of a single acquisition channel.

The sampling head acquisition system performs the function of a very fast sample-and-hold circuit for the mainframe instrument. It uses local analog feedback to achieve high accuracy and high throughput for repetitive input signals. For random input signals such as those found in eye diagram measurements, accuracy depends on the dot transient response of the sampling head. Dot response can easily be adjusted through the enhanced accuracy menu in the mainframe.

The strobe drive signal from the instrument controls the timing of the strobe assertion to the acquisition system.

The strobe sense signal is a part of the strobe signal returned to the instrument. The instrument monitors the time duration of the strobe drive/strobe sense loop and adjusts a delay inside the instrument to maintain correct strobe timing.

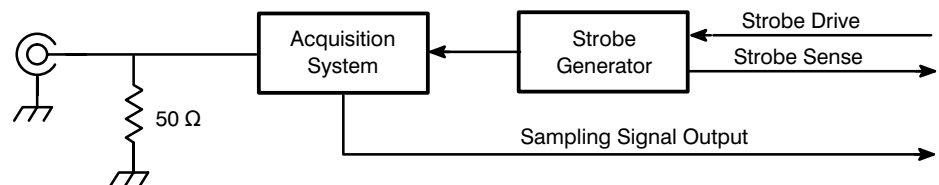


Figure 1: Block Diagram of the Sampling Head

Safety

Terms in Manuals

CAUTION statements identify conditions or practices that could result in damage to the equipment or other property.

WARNING statements identify conditions or practices that could result in personal injury or loss of life.

Terms on Equipment

CAUTION indicates a personal injury hazard not immediately accessible as one reads the marking, or a hazard to property including the equipment itself.

DANGER indicates a personal injury hazard immediately accessible as one reads the marking.

Symbols in Manuals



Static Sensitive Devices

Symbols on Equipment



DANGER
High Voltage



Protective
ground (earth)
terminal



ATTENTION
Refer to
manual

Grounding the Instrument

The sampling head is grounded through the instrument. To avoid electric shock, make sure that the instrument is plugged into a properly wired receptacle where earth ground has been verified by a qualified service person. Without the protective ground, all parts of the instrument and the sampling head are shock hazards. This includes knobs and controls that may appear to be insulators.

Do Not Operate in Explosive Atmospheres

The sampling head provides no explosion protection from static discharges or arcing components. Do not operate the instrument in an atmosphere of explosive gases.

Electrostatic Discharge

To prevent electrostatic damage to the instrument and sampling heads, follow the precautions described in this manual and the manuals accompanying your sampling head and instrument.

Acquisition circuitry in the sampling heads is very susceptible to damage from electro-static discharge and from overdrive signals and DC voltages. Be sure to operate the sampling head only in a static-controlled environment. Be sure to discharge to ground any electrostatic charge that may be present on cables before attaching the cable to the sampling head.



To prevent damage to the sampling head or instrument from electrostatic discharge, install short-circuit terminations on the sampling head connectors when you remove a sampling head from the instrument. Be sure to store the head in a static-free container, such as the shipping container. When you move the sampling head from one instrument to another, use a static-free container to carry the head.

Always use a wrist strap (provided with your instrument) when handling sampling heads or making connections.

Be sure to follow the other precautions described in the manuals accompanying your instrument to guard against electrostatic damage to the instrument and sampling heads.

Electrostatic Discharge

Connector Care

The front of the sampling head contains a single precision 2.9 mm connector. It is used to attach a signal cable or the device under test. This is a high-precision connector with a mechanical tolerance that is closer than the tolerance in standard SMA connectors. Never attach a cable to a sampling head connector if the cable has a worn or damaged connector because the sampling head connector can be damaged.

Coaxial connectors and cables on all equipment should frequently be visually inspected and gauged to MIL–C–39012C minimum interface dimensions. This will detect out-of-tolerance conditions that may cause mechanical damage to devices to be tested and to the sampling unit. Inspection and gauging will ensure good electrical performance and accurate data.

Use extra care when attaching or removing a cable from the connectors. Turn only the nut, not the cable. When attaching a cable to a sampling head connector, align the connectors carefully before turning the nut. Use light finger pressure to make this initial connection. Then tighten the nut lightly with a wrench.

For best repeatability and to prolong the life of both connectors, use a torque wrench and tighten the connection to the range of 5–8 lb-in (79–112 N-cm).

If you are using sampling head connectors extensively, such as in a production environment, you should install an adapter (connector saver) on the sampling head to make connections to the device under test.

Installing the Sampling Head

The sampling head fits into the front panel of a compatible instrument such as the 11801 Series Digital Sampling Oscilloscope or the CSA 803 Series Communications Signal Analyzer. Figure 2 shows the front panel of an 11801B Digital Sampling Oscilloscope and a CSA 803A Communications Signal Analyzer and the locations of the sampling head compartments. Note that on the CSA 803 Series, only two compartments provide signal acquisition capability. The other two compartments only provide power, for example to power an optical-to-electrical converter.

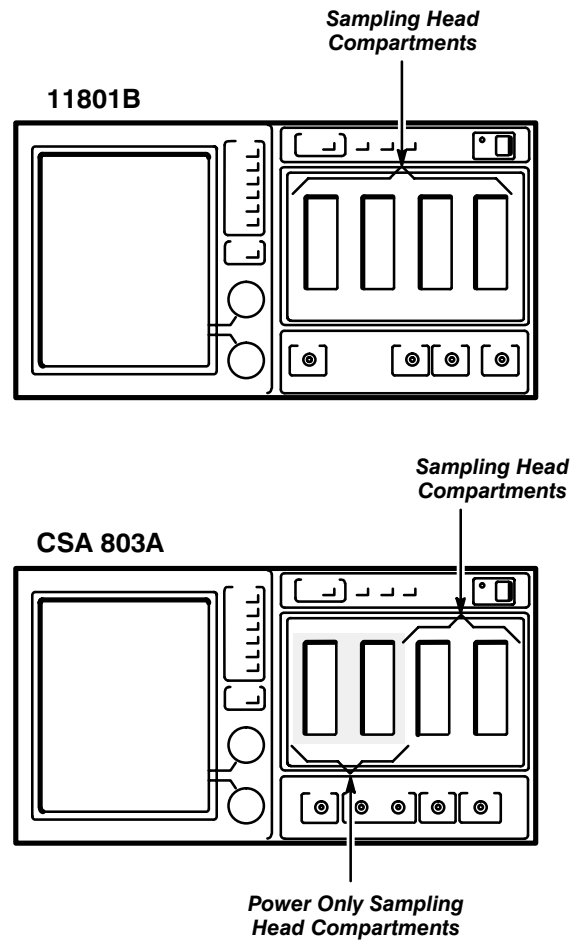


Figure 2: Sampling Head Compartments in an 11801B and a CSA 803A

Installing the Sampling Head

At least one sampling head must be installed in an 11800 Series or a CSA 803 Series instrument to sample signals.



To prevent damage to the sampling head or instrument, never install or remove a sampling head when the instrument's PRINCIPAL POWER SWITCH is ON (powered-on).

To install a sampling head, first power-off the instrument. Then place the sampling head in a compartment and slowly push it in with firm pressure. Once the head is seated, turn the lock-down screw on the sampling head to tighten the head into place. See Figure 3.

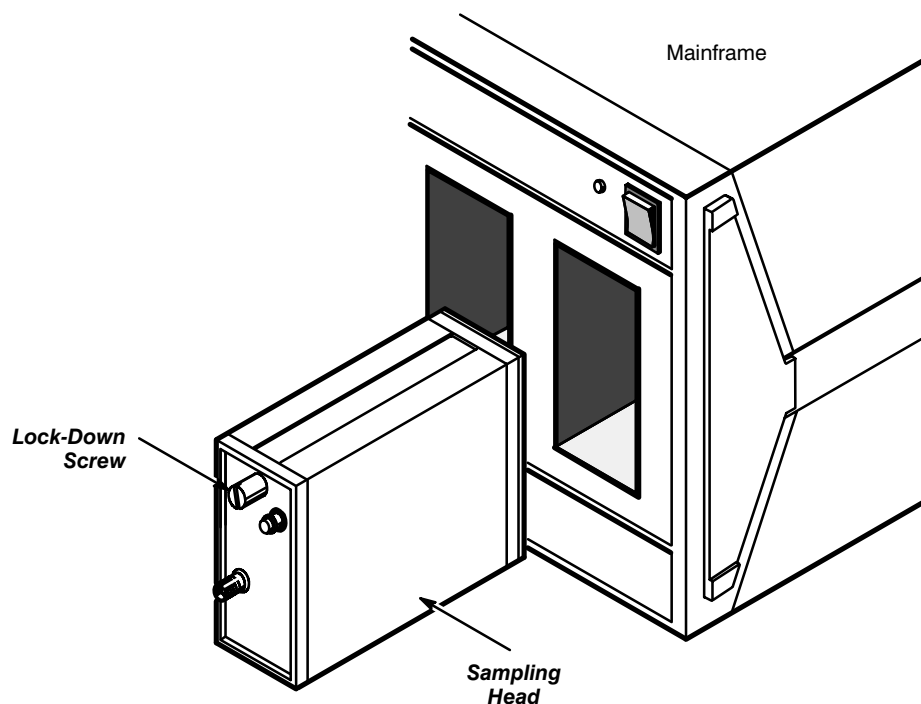


Figure 3: Installing a Sampling Head in an Instrument

Using the Sampling Head

Figure 4 shows the front panel of the sampling head and identifies the components, which include a 2.9 mm connector, yellow channel indicator light, and a SELECT CHANNEL button.



To prevent damage to the sampling head, do not apply a voltage outside the range of ± 2 V. Always follow electrostatic discharge precautions.

The input diodes used in the sampling heads are very susceptible to damage from overdrive signals and electrostatic discharge. Never apply a voltage outside the range of ± 2 V. Operate the instrument and sampling head only in a static-controlled environment. Always use a wrist strap when handling sampling heads or making connections.

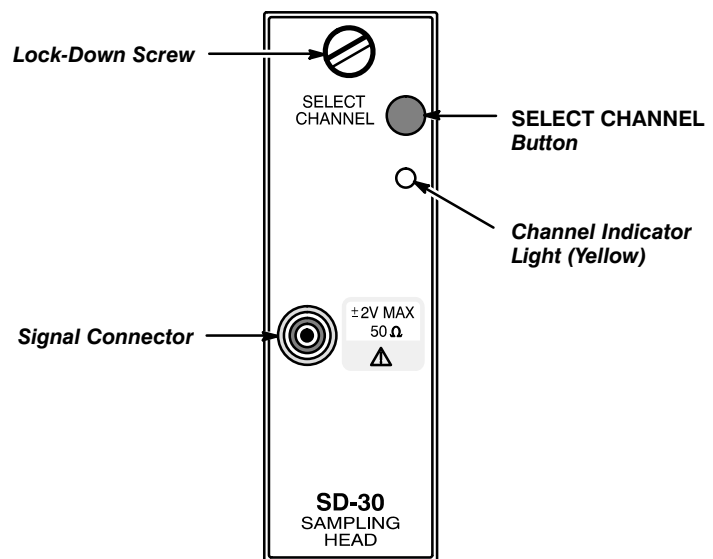


Figure 4: Sampling Head Front Panel

Connecting Signals

The signal connector lets you connect signals that you want to sample. This is a precision 2.9 mm connector that is mechanically compatible with the SMA standard.

Use extra care with sampling head connectors. See Connector Care earlier in this manual.

Button and Light

The sampling head has a SELECT CHANNEL button and a yellow channel light.

The channel light can have three states: off, on steady, or blinking. The operation of the channel button depends on the state:

- If the yellow light is off, then the channel is not acquiring trace data, and no trace is displayed from that channel. When the light is off and you press the SELECT CHANNEL button, the channel acquires trace data and displays a trace. The signal input from that channel creates the selected trace, so now the yellow light blinks.
- If the yellow light is on steady, the channel is acquiring trace data. The trace data is displayed as a single trace and/or may be part of another displayed trace. However, the trace is not the selected trace. When the light is on steady and you press the SELECT CHANNEL button, the trace becomes selected and the light blinks.
- If the yellow light is blinking, the channel is a part or all of the selected trace. When the light is blinking and you press the button, *all* traces displaying that channel are removed. The channel stops acquisitions and the yellow light turns off.

Note that for the SD-30 Sampling Head, the host instrument only recognizes the upper channel labeled on the instrument (for example, CH 1), since the SD-30 is a one channel sampling head.

Instrument/Sampling Head Interaction

The sampling head is a part of a larger system. Most of the sampling head functions are controlled automatically from the instrument. These functions include vertical scaling and horizontal sampling rate. You do not directly control these parameters, but they are tasks that the instrument performs. From the instrument you can also select smoothing and External Channel Attenuation. Smoothing reduces the noise in the signal before it is digitized.

Controlling Smoothing

There are two ways to set smoothing, from the instrument front panel or by sending a command from an ASCII interface.

To control smoothing from the instrument front panel, access the WAVEFORM major menu and the **Sampling Head Fnc's** pop-up menu. Figure 5 shows these two menus.

First, you select the channel for which you want to set smoothing. The **Selected Channel** section of the pop-up menu selects the channel. Touch the **Smoothing** selector to turn smoothing on or off.

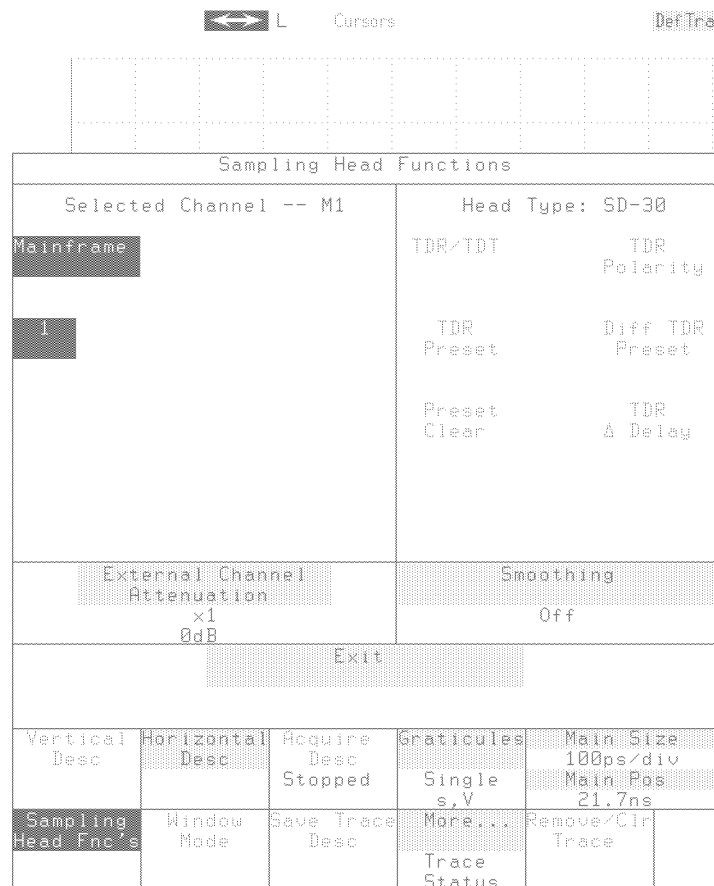


Figure 5: The Sampling Head Fnc's Pop-Up Menu

To set smoothing on or off from a remote interface (IEEE-488 or RS-232-C), use the following command:

- `CH<alpha><ui> SMOOTHING: ON | OFF`

where *<alpha>* indicates the unit letter (M for mainframe or A, B, C, or D for an SM-11 Multi-Channel unit; for the CSA 803 Series *<alpha>* is always M) and *<ui>* indicates the channel number for the channel you want to affect. For complete information about how to use the sampling head to display traces, see the appropriate *User Manual* for your instrument.

External Attenuation

To set External Channel Attenuation, use the following command:

- `CH<alpha><ui> EXTAttenuation: <NRx>`

where *<alpha>* indicates the unit letter (M for mainframe or A, B, C, or D for an SM-11 Multi-Channel unit; for the CSA 803 Series *<alpha>* is always M) and *<ui>* indicates the channel number for the channel you want to affect. For complete information about how to use the sampling head to display traces, see the appropriate *User Manual* for your instrument.

Displaying a Trace

The following example shows you how to acquire and display a trace using the sampling head and an instrument. For this procedure you will need one 8-inch, 2.9 mm compatible cable.

- Step 1:** Initialize the instrument to default settings using the **Initialize** selector which appears in the UTILITY major menu.
- Step 2:** Connect your wrist strap to the antistatic connector on the front of your instrument.
- Step 3:** Connect an SMA cable from the CALIBRATOR output to the input connector of the installed sampling head.
- Step 4:** From the TRIGGER major menu, set the **Trigger Source** to **Internal**.
- Step 5:** Press the SELECT CHANNEL button on the sampling head that has the input connected to the calibrator.

The yellow light on the sampling head blinks, indicating that the channel acquisition circuit is enabled and output from the channel is the selected trace.

- Step 6:** Press the AUTOSET button above the sampling heads.

A display should appear similar to Figure 6.

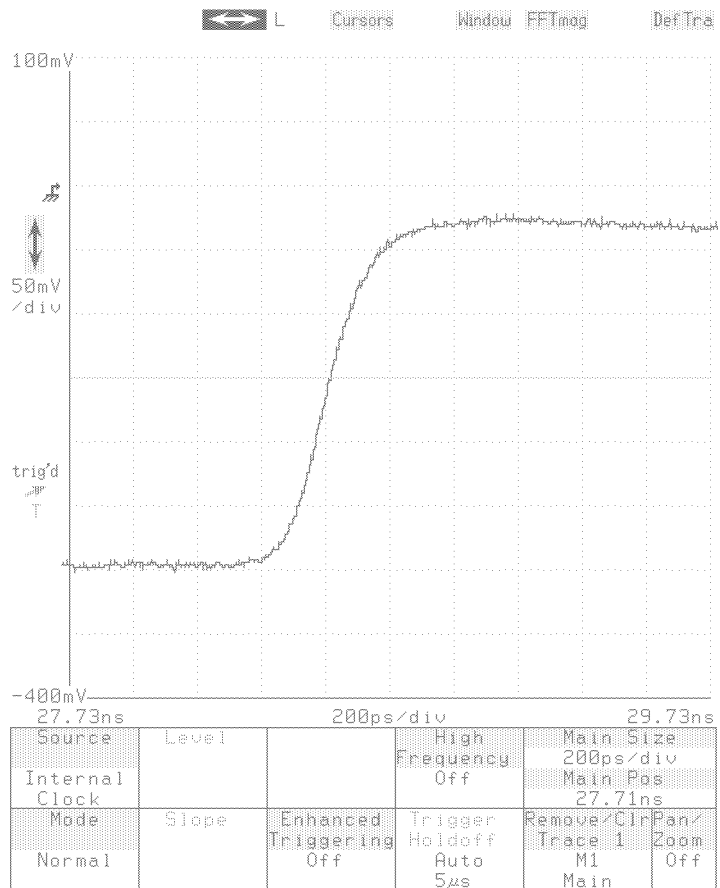


Figure 6: The Calibrator Signal after Pressing Autoset

For detailed information about acquiring, displaying, and measuring traces, see the appropriate *User Manual* for your instrument.

Adjusting Parameters

To get the best performance from your sampling head, you may need to adjust the sampling head parameters. These parameters affect the way the sampling head acquires signals and the accuracy of the resulting trace.

Typically, you may want to adjust sampling head parameters whenever you have moved the sampling head to another slot or if the ambient temperature has changed $\pm 5^{\circ}$ C since the parameters were last adjusted. At the factory, the parameters are set in an environment with an ambient temperature of 25° C.

NOTE

You should adjust the sampling head parameters after a 20 minute warm-up period.

You can adjust sampling head parameters at any time. However, during the warm-up period, the values may change as the temperature varies. You should adjust the sampling head parameters only after the instrument has been on for at least 20 minutes.

You can adjust the following two parameters on your sampling head:

- Loop gain
- Offset null

The actual procedure for performing the adjustment depends on the instrument. For the 11800 Series and CSA 803 Series instruments, you can use the Enhanced Accuracy feature to adjust sampling head parameters. It is a quick and simple process. See the *User Manual* for your instrument for instructions to perform these adjustments.

Stored Parameters

The sampling head contains nonvolatile memory that stores two values, the factory default value and the user constant, for each of the above parameters. These values always remain in the sampling head, even if you remove the sampling head from the instrument.

The factory default values for the sampling head parameters are set at the factory and are appropriate for many conditions.

If you decide to adjust a sampling head parameter, the parameter is immediately applied to the head, but is lost when you power-off the instrument. However, you can store the new parameter value as the user constant. The user constants are stored in an EEPROM in the sampling head, so that they are not lost at power-off and are restored at power-on.

Note that if you initialize the instrument, then the user constants for the sampling head parameters are unaffected.

If you are not confident in the current user value for a sampling head parameter, you can assign the user parameter value to equal the factory default value. The factory default value offers a reasonable parameter value for many conditions. For more information, see the *User Manual* for your instrument.

Loop Gain

Loop gain determines the accuracy with which the sampling head follows an input voltage change that occurs between two adjacent samples. The accuracy of the sampling head output as it follows the input signal is termed the dot transient response.

When loop gain is unity (1), the value of the first sample acquired after an input voltage change accurately reflects the voltage change, indicating a good dot transient response.

If loop gain is adjusted too low, then the value of the first sample acquired after an input voltage change will lie somewhere between the value of the last sample and the new voltage.

If loop gain is adjusted too high, then the value of the first sample acquired after the input voltage change will be greater than the new voltage level.

Figure 7 shows displayed trace results for the three loop gain conditions.

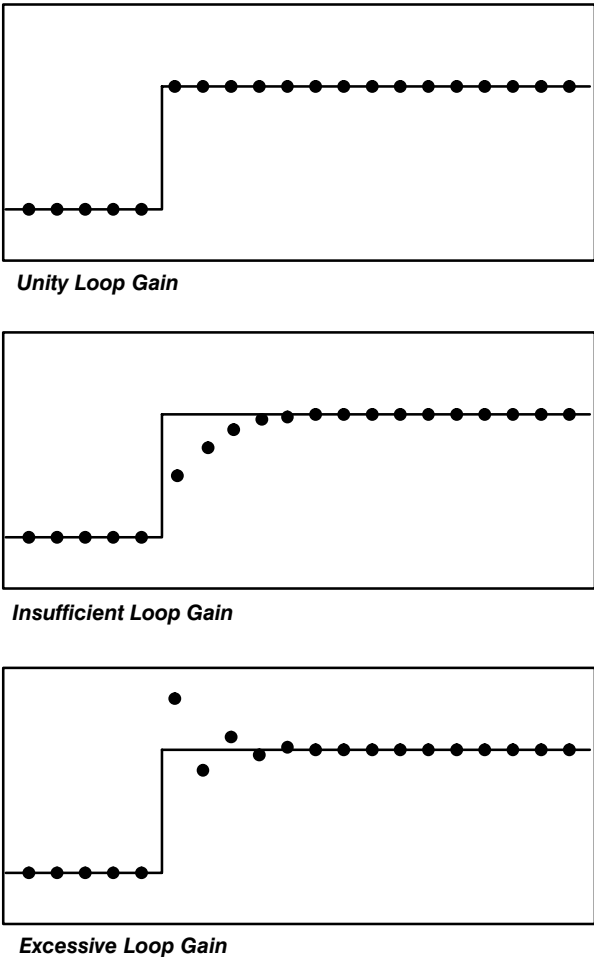


Figure 7: Displayed Trace at Various Loop Gain Settings

Adjusting Loop Gain

For the 11800 Series or CSA 803 Series, you can adjust loop gain automatically or manually from the **Enhanced Accuracy** portion of the UTILITY major menu (11801A/B and CSA 803 Series) or the ENHANCED ACCURACY major menu (11801/2). If you prefer to adjust loop gain manually, the instrument also provides a divide-by-two feature. This feature is helpful if you are using the Calibrator signal to adjust loop gain. You can also use the divide-by-two feature if you are using the trigger output of the instrument to trigger an external generator.

NOTE

After completing a loop gain adjustment, offset null should also be adjusted.

You might consider adjusting the loop gain whenever you are sampling a multi-valued trace, such as an eye diagram, that has a substantially different peak-to-peak amplitude than previously measured signals.

For instructions on how to adjust the loop gain, see the Enhanced Accuracy section of the *User Manual* for your instrument.

The sampling head contains nonvolatile memory that stores two values, the factory default value and the user value, for the loop gain adjustment. These were discussed at the beginning of this section.

Offset Null

The offset null adjustment removes unwanted DC offset that may be present in the sampling head. This adjustment effectively zeroes the sampling head so that an input signal with 0 V of amplitude delivers a 0 V output.

If offset null is not adjusted correctly, measurements taken at the instrument will be incorrect. The absolute voltage values for any cursors displayed in the trace will also be incorrect.

Changes in loop gain also affect sampling head offset, so offset null should always be adjusted after loop gain.

Adjusting Offset Null

For the 11800 Series of CSA 803 Series, you can adjust offset null automatically or manually from the Enhanced Accuracy menu.

Note that the sampling head stores four offset null values, the two factory default values for when smoothing is on and smoothing is off; and the two user constants for when smoothing is on and when smoothing is off.

If you adjust offset null automatically using the **Enhanced Accuracy** portion of the UTILITY major menu (11801A/B and CSA 803 Series) or the ENHANCED ACCURACY major menu (11801/2), then the instrument adjusts both offset null values (smoothing on and smoothing off).

To adjust offset null automatically, terminate the channel INPUT connector with a 50 Ω termination and follow the procedure outlined in your instrument's *User Manual* (See "Enhanced Accuracy").

To adjust offset null manually, terminate the channel input connector with a 50 Ω termination and follow the procedure in the instrument *User Manual* to assign one of the control knobs to offset null and adjust it so the displayed trace is set to the 0 V position on the screen.

The new offset null position is valid only for the current setting of the smoothing parameter (on or off). If desired, change the smoothing parameter and repeat the procedure.

Adjusting Parameters

Specifications

Table 1: Acquisition Electrical Specifications

Characteristics	Specifications
Bandwidth	Better than $\pm 3\text{dB}$ to 40 GHz
Sampling Repetition Rate	
Maximum	200 kHz
Minimum	100 Hz
Rise Time	8.8 ps, or less (calculated from bandwidth)
Aberrations	
10 ns to 20 ps before step	$\pm 3\%$ or less, typical
< 300 ps after step	+12%, -5% or less, typical
300 ps to 3 ns after step	+5.5%, -3% or less, typical
3 ns to 100 ns	$\pm 1\%$ or less, typical
elsewhere	$\pm 0.5\%$ or less, typical
Maximum Safe Input Signal Voltage	$\pm 2\text{ V}$
Maximum Operating Input	$1.6 V_{\text{p-p}}$ (AC plus offset)
Maximum Signal Voltage	$1.0 V_{\text{p-p}}$
Dot Transient Response	
Accuracy after calibration at operating temperature	$\pm 5\%$ for signals up to $0.5 V_{\text{p-p}}$
Delayed Noise	
Unity Dot Response	< $2.3\text{ mV}_{\text{RMS}}$, 1.8 mV typical
With Smoothing	< 1 mV_{RMS} , 700 mV typical
Input Termination Impedance	$50\ \Omega \pm 0.5\ \Omega$

Table 2: Environmental and Mechanical Specifications

Characteristics	Specifications
Weight	271 grams (9.6 oz)
Height	71.05 mm (2.9 in)
Width	23.28 mm (0.95 in)
Depth	91.39 mm (3.8 in)
MilSpec	Meets MIL-T-28800E, Type III, Class 5
Ambient Temperature	
Operating	0° C to 50° C (32° F to 122° F)
Non-operating	-40° C to 75° C (-40° F to 167° F)
Altitude	
Operating	to 4.5 km (15,000 feet)
Non-operating	to 15 km (50,000 feet)
Humidity	to 95% relative humidity at up to 50° C (122°F)
Electromagnetic Compatibility	
United States	MIL-STD-461B: CE-03 Pt 4 Curve 1, CS-01 Pt 7, CS-02 Pt 4, CS-06 Pt 5, RE-02 Pt 7, RS-01 Pt 4, RS-02, Pt 5, RS- 03 Pt 7 (limited to 1 GHz)

Glossary

Autoset

A means of letting the instrument mainframe set itself to provide a stable and meaningful display of a given trace.

Channel

A place to connect a signal or attach a network or transmission line to sampling heads. Also, the smallest component of a trace expression.

Channel Number

The number assigned to a specific signal input connector. The top channel of the left-most sampling head compartment of the instrument mainframe is always mainframe channel 1, regardless of any repositioning or omission of sampling heads.

Default Measurement Parameter

A value from the default set of measurement parameters. The operator can change the default values. Whenever a trace is created, the measurement parameters are copied from the default set.

Initialize

Setting the instrument mainframe to a completely known, default condition.

Internal Clock

A trigger source that is synchronized with the Calibrator signal.

Setting

The state of the front panel and system at a given time.

Smoothing

Processing applied by the sampling head prior to the digitization of a trace, to reduce apparent noise. With smoothing, the sampling head samples the signal 8 times instead of once, and the average of the samples is then used by hardware measurements and the digitizing circuitry.

Trigger

An electrical event that initiates acquisition of a trace as specified by the time base.

Waveform

The visible representation of an input signal or combination of signals. Identical to trace.

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