

Using the 8566B Capture Tool

Introduction

The 8566B Capture Tool was designed to capture the 8566B screen data using the GPIB. The software requires National Instruments NI 488.2 to be installed, available at <http://www.ni.com>.

For sweep times of 20 msec or longer, all 85662A top boxes digitize the data and store to video memory. This memory is directly accessible over GPIB. The 8566B Capture Tool software captures and displays exactly what you see on the CRT or LCD.

For sweep times of 10 msec or faster, where SPAN = 0 Hz, the data is not traditionally digitized, but is displayed in analog form on the CRT. However, with the LCD retrofit installed, sweep times of 1 µsec up to 10 msec are digitized and available in video memory for display and printing.

Selecting HP-IB Address

To select the correct HP-IB address, turn on the 8566B. On the left side of the display, look for “HP-IB ADRS: 2R 18” or similar. The last number on this line, in this case 18, represents the HP-IB address.

Launch the 8566B Capture Tool by double-clicking on the program icon. If your HP-IB address is not 18, select **Interface⇒Set HP-IB Address**. Enter the address of your 8566B.

Capturing the Display Data

Make sure the GPIB (HP-IB) cable is connected from the 8566B to the PC's GPIB card. Make sure the 8566B is on. Set the 8566B to the desired settings with the signal connected, then launch the 8566B Capture Tool application.

For best results when sweep time is 20 msec or greater, press **SWEEP SINGLE** on the 8566 top box, wait for the sweep to finish, then select **Interface⇒Capture Screen** or press the **F2** key, or **double-click** the display area. Capturing the screen with continuous sweep also works, but occasional gaps in data may result from the computer accessing the video memory while it is changing.

Note: Always close the software before turning off the instrument or disconnecting the GPIB cable.

Changing Title and Comment

To change the title, select **Edit⇒Set Title** or press the **F3** key, or **double-click** the current title.

To change the comment, select **Edit⇒Set Comment** or press the **F4** key, or **double-click** the current comment.

Saving and Opening Files

To save a screen capture, select **File⇒Save**. The default file extension is .d8l. Once you exit the program, you will not be able to edit the title, comment, or captured image, preserving data integrity.

To open a previously saved capture, select **File⇒Open**. You can view and print previously saved captures, but you cannot edit them.

Printing Screen Captures

The screen capture may be printed on any standard monochrome or color printer. The background is changed from black to white for printing to save toner and ink. Just select **File⇒Print** to print a hard copy of the screen capture.

If you select **landscape** orientation, the comments will print to the right of the screen capture. If you select **portrait** paper orientation, the comments will appear below the screen capture.

You may also print to PDF files using PDF995 software. Select **File⇒Print Setup...** then select **PDF995** as current printer. When you print, a PDF file will be generated instead of a paper printout.