

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

BK PRECISION[®]

Model 4012A



**5 MHz
SWEEP FUNCTION
GENERATOR**
with DIGITAL DISPLAY

BK PRECISION[®]

TEST INSTRUMENT SAFETY

WARNING

Normal use of test equipment exposes you to a certain amount of danger from electrical shock because testing must sometimes be performed where exposed voltage is present. An electrical shock causing 10 milliamps of current to pass through the heart will stop most human heartbeats. Voltage as low as 35 volts dc or ac rms should be considered dangerous and hazardous since it can produce a lethal current under certain conditions. Higher voltages pose an even greater threat because such voltage can more easily produce a lethal current. Your normal work habits should include all accepted practices to prevent contact with exposed high voltage, and to steer current away from your heart in case of accidental contact with a high voltage. You will significantly reduce the risk factor if you know and observe the following safety precautions:

1. Don't expose high voltage needlessly. Remove housings and covers only when necessary. Turn off equipment while making test connections in high-voltage circuits. Discharge high-voltage capacitors after removing power.
2. If possible, familiarize yourself with the equipment being tested and the location of its high voltage points. However, remember that high voltage may appear at unexpected points in defective equipment.
3. Use an insulated floor material or a large, insulated floor mat to stand on, and an insulated work surface on which to place equipment; and make certain such surfaces are not damp or wet.
4. Use the time proven "one hand in the pocket" technique while handling an instrument probe. Be particularly careful to avoid contacting a nearby metal object that could provide a good ground return path.
5. When testing ac powered equipment, remember that ac line voltage is usually present on some power input circuits such as the on-off switch, fuses, power transformer, etc. any time the equipment is connected to an ac outlet, even if the equipment is turned off.

(continued on inside back cover)

INTRODUCTION

The **B+K Precision** Model 4012ASweep/Function Generator is a versatile signal source which combines several functions into one unit—waveform generation, pulse generation (through variable symmetry), and frequency sweep. Additionally, the instrument provides the added convenience of a built-in frequency counter. This permits more accurate determination of output frequency than is possible with a simple calibrated dial. Coarse and fine tuning controls permit precision settability of the output frequency.

With this versatility, the unit has a vast number of applications in both analog and digital electronics in the engineering, manufacturing, servicing, educational, and hobbyist fields.

The heart of the function generator is a VCG (voltage-controlled generator) that produces precision sine, square, or triangle waves over

the 0.5 Hz to 5 MHz range. This encompasses subaudible, audio, ultrasonic, and RF applications. A continuously variable dc offset allows the output to be injected directly into circuits at the correct bias level.

The sweep generator offers linear or log sweep with variable sweep rate and adjustable sweep time.

Variable symmetry of the output waveform converts the instrument to a pulse generator capable of generating rectangular waves or pulses, ramp or sawtooth waves, and slewed sine waves.

In addition to the above features, an external voltage may be used to control operating frequency. This is useful in situations where an externally controlled frequency is desirable.

SPECIFICATIONS

FREQUENCY CHARACTERISTICS

Waveforms
Sine, Square, Triangle, \pm Pulse, \pm Ramp

Range
0.5 Hz to 5 MHz in 7 ranges

Resolution
4 digits

Tuning Range
Coarse: 10:1, Fine: $\pm 5\%$ of Coarse Setting

Variable Duty Cycle
15:85:15 Continuously Variable

Operating Modes
Normal, VCG (Voltage Controlled Generator)

Frequency Stability
Output frequency will not change more than 0.09% in 15 minutes after 1 hour warmup

OUTPUT CHARACTERISTICS

Impedance
50 Ω $\pm 10\%$

Level
20 V p-p Open-circuit, 10V p-p into 50 Ω

Amplitude Control
Variable, 20 db range typical

Attenuation
-20 db ± 1 db

DC Offset
Preset: ± 0.1 V typical
Variable: ± 10 V open-circuit, ± 5 V into 50 Ω

SINE WAVE

Distortion
 $\leq 3\%$ Typical at 1 KHz

Flatness
 $\pm 5\%$ (-15 dB)

SQUARE WAVE

Symmetry
0.5 Hz to 100 KHz $\leq 2\%$

Rise Time
 ≤ 120 nS

TRIANGLE WAVE

Linearity
 $\geq 98\%$ to 100 KHz

SPECIFICATIONS

TTL OUTPUT

Level
0.8V to 4V p-p $+0.5$ V p-p

Rise Time
 ≤ 20 nS

Duty Cycle
50% typical

CMOS OUTPUT

Max Frequency
2 MHz

Level
4V to 14 V ± 0.5 V p-p,
Continuously variable

Rise Time
 ≤ 120 nS

VCG (Voltage Controlled Generator) INPUT

Input Voltage
0 - 10V ± 1 V causes a 100:1 frequency change

Impedance
10K Ω $\pm 5\%$

SWEEP OPERATION

Mode
LIN / LOG

Width
100:1, Continuously variable

Rate
0.5 sec to 30 sec, continuously variable

Sweep Output
0 to 10V

FREQUENCY COUNTER

Accuracy
Time Base Accuracy ± 1 count

Time Base Accuracy
 ± 10 PPM (23°C ± 5 °C)

Display
4 digit LED

POWER SOURCE

120 / 230 VAC $\pm 10\%$, 50 / 60 Hz, internal jumper selectable

DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)

4.5" x 10.5" x 12.25"

WEIGHT

4 lb. (1.8 kg.)

ACCESSORIES

Instruction Manual
Output Cable, BNC to Alligator Clips

CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

FRONT PANEL (Refer to Fig.1)

1. **POWER Switch.** Turns power on and off.
2. **RANGE Switch.** Selects output frequency range. Seven ranges from 1 Hz to 10MHz. Switch indicates maximum frequency of range and is adjusted with COARSE FREQUENCY control to 0.1 times the maximum. For example, if the 100KHz range is selected, the output frequency can be adjusted from 10KHz to 100KHz.
3. **FUNCTION Switch.** Selects sine, square, or triangle waveform at OUTPUT jack.
4. **OUTPUT LEVEL Control.** Controls the amplitude of the signal at the OUTPUT jack. Output level can be decreased by approximately 20db with this control.
5. **DC OFFSET Control.** Enabled by the DC OFFSET Switch (12). Clockwise rotation from center changes the DC offset in a positive direction while counterclockwise rotation from center changes the DC offset in a negative direction.
6. **OUTPUT Jack.** Waveform selected by FUNCTION switch as well as the superimposed DC OFFSET voltage is available at this jack.
7. **TTL/CMOS Jack.** TTL or CMOS square wave, depending on the position of the CMOS LEVEL switch (13) is output at this jack This output is independent of the OUTPUT LEVEL and DC OFFSET controls.
8. **CMOS LEVEL Control.** Rotating this control clockwise increases the amplitude of the CMOS square wave at the TTL/CMOS jack.
9. **VCG/SWEEP Jack.** Controlled by SWEEP EXT/INT Switch (12). When SWEEP EXT is selected, jack is the Voltage Controlled Generator input and permits external control of generator output frequency by a DC voltage input at this jack. A positive voltage will decrease frequency. When SWEEP INT is selected the internally generated sweep voltage is available at this jack for connection to an oscilloscope.
10. **DUTY CYCLE Control.** Enabled by the DUTY CYCLE Switch (14). Rotation from center position adjusts the duty cycle of the main OUTPUT signal.
11. **-20DB Switch.** When engaged, the signal at the OUTPUT jack is attenuated by 20db.
12. **SWEEP INT/EXT Switch.** When engaged (INT) enables the sweep mode of operation. Sweep rate is controlled by SWEEP TIME control (18) and sweep magnitude is controlled by the SWEEP WIDTH control (16). When released (EXT), allows external control of generator output frequency by a DC voltage input at the VCG/SWEEP jack (9).
13. **SWEEP LIN/LOG Switch.** When engaged (LOG) selects logarithmic sweep characteristic and in the released (LIN) position selects a linear sweep characteristic.
14. **DC OFFSET Switch.** When engaged, enables operation of the DC OFFSET control (5).
15. **CMOS LEVEL Switch.** When engaged, changes the TTL signal to CMOS signal at the TTL/CMOS jack.

CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

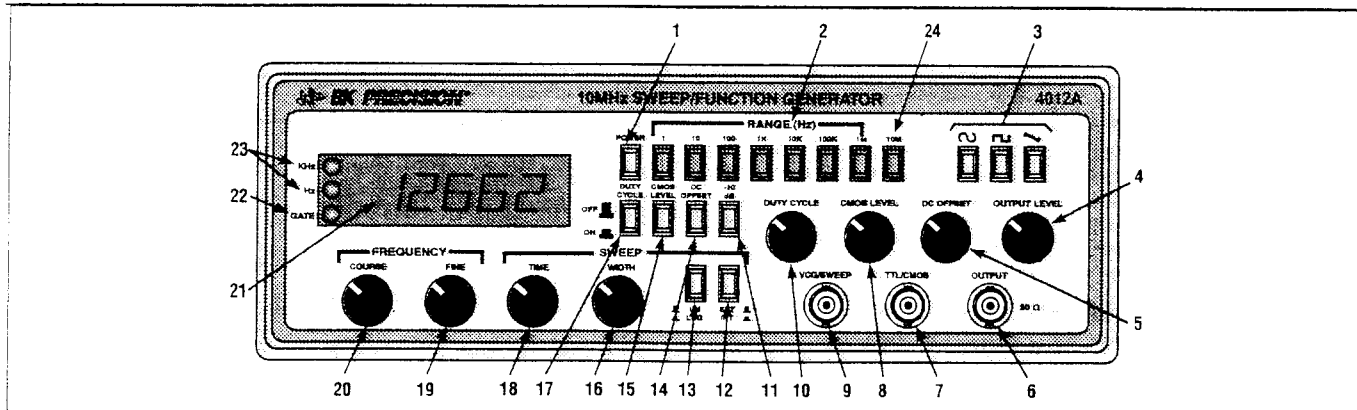


Figure 1. Model 4012A Front Panel.

16. **SWEEP WIDTH Control.** Rotation determines sweep width by adjusting sweep stop frequency.
17. **DUTY CYCLE Switch.** When engaged, enables operation of DUTY CYCLE control (10).
18. **SWEEP TIME Control.** In sweep mode, rotation determines amount of time to sweep from the start frequency to the stop frequency.
19. **FINE FREQUENCY Control.** Vernier adjustment of the output frequency for ease of setting frequency.
20. **COARSE FREQUENCY Control.** Coarse adjustment of the output frequency from 0.1 to 1 times the selected range.
21. **COUNTER DISPLAY.** Displays frequency of internally generated waveform.
22. **GATE LED.** Indicates when the frequency counter display is updated. When the 100K through 10M ranges are selected, the LED will flash 10 times per second (every 0.1 seconds). When the 10 through 10K ranges are selected, the LED will flash once every second and when the 1 range is selected, the LED will flash every 10 seconds. As the LED turns off, the display is updated.
23. **Hz and KHz LED.** Indicates whether the counter is reading in Hz or KHz.
24. **Invert Button.** Used to invert the output signal.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The **B+K PRECISION Model 4012A Sweep/Function Generator** is a versatile instrument, capable of producing a variety of output waveforms over a broad range of frequencies. To gain a working familiarity with the unit, it is recommended that it be connected initially to an oscilloscope, so that the effects of the various controls on the output waveforms can be observed. Use this manual as required for reference until becoming accustomed to the operating procedures.

FREQUENCY AND WAVEFORM SELECTION

1. Initially, verify that the **DUTY CYCLE** (17), **CMOS LEVEL** (15), **DC OFFSET** (14), **-20dB** (11), and **SWEEP INT/EXT** (12), switches are in the **OUT** position (released). This will produce a symmetrical waveform unaffected by the sweep generator and other controls.
2. Plug the unit into an appropriate power source and turn it on by engaging the **POWER** switch (1).
3. Select the desired waveform (**SINE**, **SQUARE**, or **TRIANGLE**) by engaging one of the **FUNCTION** switches (3). Phase relationships of the waveforms are shown in Fig. 2.
4. Select the frequency of the waveform by depressing one of the **RANGE** switches (2). The output frequency is displayed, along with the appropriate measurement units, **KHz** or **Hz** (23), on the **LED** display.
5. Rotate the **COARSE** (20) frequency control to quickly set the output frequency to the approximate desired value. The **FINE** (19) frequency control can then be used to easily set the output to the specific desired value. The frequency selected is available at the **OUTPUT** jack (6). In addition, a digital signal, either **TTL** or **CMOS** is

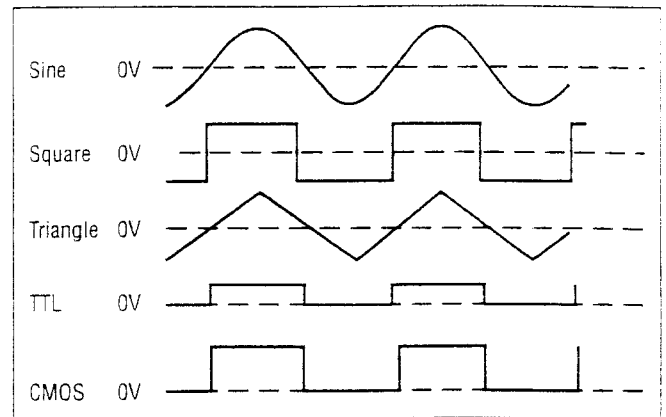


Figure 2. Output Waveform and Phase Relationship

- available at the **TTL/CMOS** jack (7) (refer to the "TTL/CMOS OUTPUT" section of this manual).
6. Adjust the amplitude of the output as desired using the **OUTPUT LEVEL** control (4). Rotation of this control varies the amplitude from maximum to 20 db below maximum. An additional attenuation of -20db is available by engaging the **-20dB** switch (11). The attenuation factors can be combined for a total of -40db. The maximum signal level is 10 V p-p (into 50 Ω).

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

7. A superimposed DC component can be added to the output signal by engaging the **DC OFFSET** switch (14) to enable operation of the **DC OFFSET** control (5). Rotation of this control adds a positive or negative DC component to the output signal. The DC component introduced is independent of the **OUTPUT LEVEL** control and can be varied by ± 10 volts open circuited or ± 5 volts into 50 Ω . The DC Offset does not affect the **TTL/CMOS** output jack. The effect of DC OFFSET is shown in Fig. 3.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Counterclockwise rotation of the **COARSE** frequency control decreases the output frequency to approximately one-tenth of the maximum for the range selected (10:1). For example, if the 10 K range is selected and the **COARSE** frequency control is set to full counterclockwise, the output frequency is approximately 1 kHz.
2. It is advisable to set the **FINE** frequency control to the approximate center of its rotation before setting the **COARSE** frequency control. This assures that the **FINE** control will not reach its limit while trying to finalize the frequency setting.
3. The **FINE** frequency control provides approximately $\pm 5\%$ frequency deviation from the **COARSE** control setting. This provides vernier adjustment to easily set the frequency to a precise value.
4. When the 1 Hz range is selected, the gate time is 10 seconds and the display is updated once every 10 seconds. The result of a frequency change will not be displayed until 10 seconds later. Adjust the frequency in progressively smaller steps, waiting for the display to update until the desired frequency is obtained.

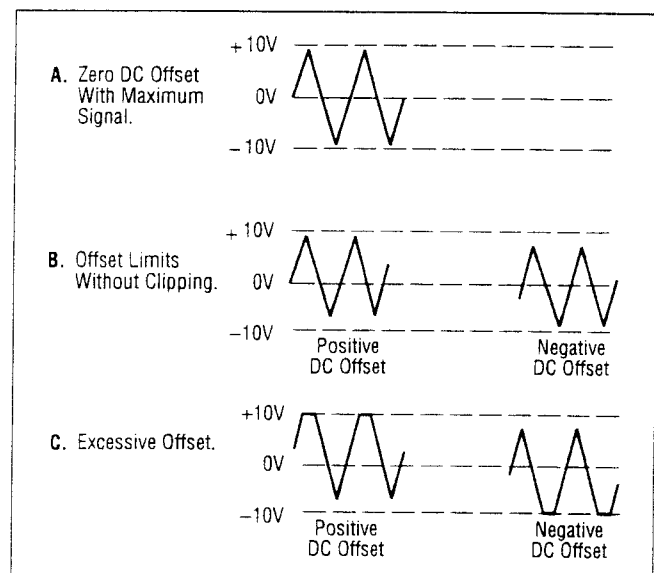


Figure 3. Use of DC OFFSET Control

5. When outputting square waves or when using the **TTL** output, terminate the cable into 50 Ω to minimize ringing. Also, keep cables as short as possible.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- Remember that the output signal swing of the generator is limited to ± 10 volts open circuited or ± 5 volts into 50Ω , and applies to the combined peak-to-peak signal and DC offset. Clipping occurs slightly above these levels. Fig. 3 illustrates the various operating conditions encountered when using the DC offset. If the desired output signal is large or if a large DC offset is required, an oscilloscope should be used to make sure that the desired signal is obtained without undesirable clipping.

DUTY CYCLE CONTROL

The **DUTY CYCLE** control can be used to alter the symmetry of the output waveform, to produce waveshapes such as those shown in Fig. 4. For a square wave, symmetry variation amounts to changing the duty cycle (ratio of "high" to "low" time), effectively converting the instrument into a pulse generator. For a triangle wave, the result is a ramp, and with a sine wave, a distorted waveshape called a slewed sine is produced. The Model 4012A provides for symmetry variation from 15% to 85%.

- Select the waveform desired either SINE, SQUARE or TRIANGLE.
- Engage the **DUTY CYCLE** switch (17) and adjust the **DUTY CYCLE** control (10) for the desired waveshape. Clockwise rotation from center results in an increase in square wave duty cycle, and changes the sine and triangle waves as shown in the top waveform of each pair of Fig. 4. Counter-clockwise rotation results in the bottom waveform in each pair.
- Varying the duty cycle setting results in a slight change in frequency. Adjust the **COARSE** and **FINE** frequency controls as required.

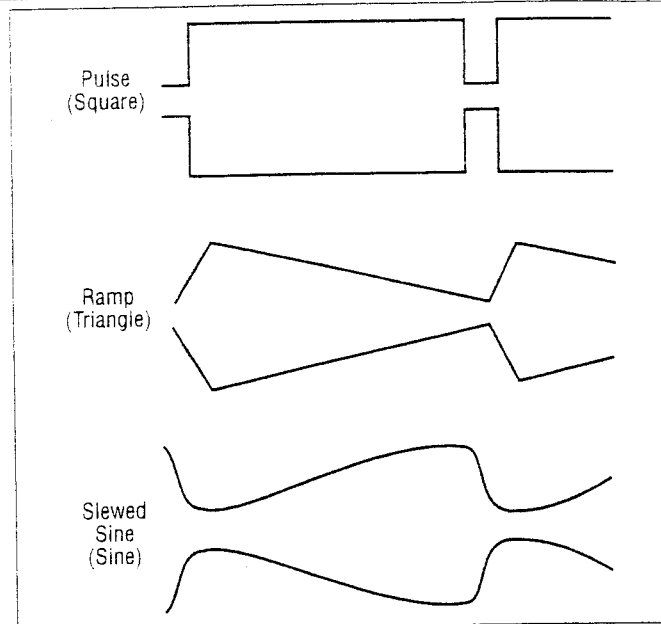


Figure 4. Effects of Symmetry Variation.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

TTL/CMOS OUTPUT

The **TTL/CMOS** output jack provides a fast rise time square wave output. Either a fixed TTL or a variable CMOS output level is available. The output is positive with respect to ground and can be used as an external sync pulse for oscilloscopes or as a variable frequency signal source for exercising logic circuits. Because of the fast rise time of this output, cable length should be minimized to limit ringing and overshoot.

- Select the desired frequency range and adjust the frequency controls as required. The **OUTPUT LEVEL** and **DC OFFSET** controls have no effect on the signal at the **TTL/CMOS** jack.
- When the **CMOS LEVEL** switch (15) is OFF, a TTL signal is output at the **TTL/CMOS** jack. Select a CMOS signal by engaging the **CMOS LEVEL** switch and adjust the level of the signal by rotating the **CMOS LEVEL** control (8).

SWEEP OPERATION

- Select **LINEAR** sweep by leaving the **SWEEP LIN/LOG** switch (13) in the released position or **LOG** sweep by engaging the **LN/LOG** switch.
- Set the starting frequency (highest frequency) of the sweep by adjusting the **COARSE** frequency control and observing the counter.
- Engage the **SWEEP EXT/INT** switch (12). The duration of the sweep can be varied by adjusting the **SWEEP TIME** control (18). Sweep time is the same whether the sweep is linear or logarithmic, and is not affected by the sweep width.

- The end frequency of the sweep (lowest frequency) can be adjusted by rotating the **SWEEP WIDTH** control (16). This adjustment should generally be made after setting the starting frequency, because it is largely dependent on that setting.
- The front panel **VCG/SWEEP** jack (9) provides the internal ramp signal which can be used as the horizontal deflection signal for an oscilloscope, to give an X-Y display of signal amplitude vs. frequency. This method is commonly used when testing the frequency response of audio equipment or the bandwidth of amplifiers or other equipment. The response will be displayed high frequency to low frequency from left to right on the X-Y display.

If the output of the circuit to be tested is connected to the vertical scope input, and the **SWEEP** output to the horizontal, setting the scope to X-Y mode produces the amplitude vs. frequency plot mentioned above. However, note that switching to **LOG** sweep still produces a linear display on the scope. This is because the horizontal sweeping signal, the internal log ramp, also becomes logarithmic when the sweep does. To view a true logarithmic graph, put the scope back in time base operation and use the **Sweep** output solely as a scope trigger. Use the scope's linear time base as a horizontal deflection source.

VOLTAGE CONTROLLED FREQUENCY OPERATION

The Model 4012A can be operated as a voltage-controlled generator by using an external control voltage applied to the **VCG/SWEEP** input jack. The externally applied voltage will vary the frequency which is preselected by the range switches and the frequency controls. Applying approximately +10 V with the **COARSE** control at full clockwise decreases the output frequency by about 100 times (a 100:1 ratio).

- Select the desired frequency range and waveform.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2. Set the starting frequency with the **COARSE** control. Apply a positive DC voltage to the **VCG/SWEEP** input jack (9) to decrease the frequency. A voltage from 0 to +10 V will cause the frequency to decrease by a factor of 100 if the **COARSE** frequency control is set at maximum CW rotation. For example, if the starting frequency is 100 kHz, applying +10 V will change the output frequency to 1 kHz.
3. To operate the function generator as a sweep generator, apply a positive going ramp signal to the **VCG/SWEEP** input jack. As the ramp voltage increases, the frequency decreases. The rate of sweep can be adjusted by varying the frequency of the ramp signal.
4. Specific frequencies can be selected by applying a fixed dc voltage to the **VCG/SWEEP** input jack or the frequencies can be stepped by applying a stepped dc voltage.
5. Do not apply more than ± 15 volts (dc or dc + ac peak) to the **VCG/SWEEP** input jack. Inputs of more than 15 volts will not cause any further shift in the frequency and could cause damage to the generator.

OUTPUT PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

Use care when connecting the function generator output to a signal injection point. Excessive voltage at the point of signal injection of the function generator can cause internal damage. Under normal operation, the generator output should never be connected to an external voltage other than low dc values that can be matched with the **DC OFFSET** control. The Model 4012A is overload protected so that shorting the output,

even continuously, will not cause damage. A fuse has been added in series with the **OUTPUT** jack to help protect the instrument from damage by connection to excessive external voltage.

Damage of this type usually occurs by accidentally connecting the output of the function generator to a voltage in the equipment under test. The following protective measures are strongly recommended:

1. The user should understand the equipment under test well enough to identify valid signal injection points (ie: the base of a transistor, a logic input of a gate, etc.). The voltage at valid signal injection points is rarely high enough to damage the instrument.
2. If in doubt about the safety of a signal injection point, measure the voltage present at the intended point of signal injection before connecting the function generator output to that point.
3. When applying the main output of the function generator to a circuit point containing a dc level, adjust the **DC OFFSET** control so that the dc level at the main output matches the circuit voltage.
4. Connect the **TTL** output only to TTL-level circuits. Connect the **CMOS** output only to CMOS circuits. Measure the V_{cc} of the circuit under test and adjust the **CMOS LEVEL** control as instructed in the manual.
5. When the function generator is used by students or other inexperienced users, the circuit of Fig. 5 could be added into your TTL output probe or test clip set. It will protect the TTL output of the generator against external voltages up to ± 20 volts.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

FUNCTION GENERATOR APPLICATIONS GUIDEBOOK

B+K Precision offers a "Guidebook to Function Generators" which describes numerous applications for this instrument, including hook-up details. It also includes a glossary of function generator terminology and an explanation of function generator circuit operation. It may be obtained free of charge by filling out and mailing the postage paid card enclosed with the Model 4012A

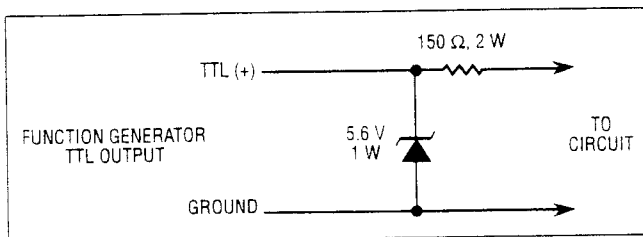


Figure 5. Circuit for Protection of TTL Output.

MAINTENANCE

WARNING

The following instructions are for use by qualified service personnel only. To avoid electrical shock, do not perform servicing other than contained in the operating instructions unless you are qualified to do so.

Remember that ac line voltage is present on line voltage input circuits any time the instrument is plugged into an ac outlet, even if turned off. Always unplug the function generator before performing service procedures.

DISASSEMBLY AND REASSEMBLY

In order to access the line selector jumper, the bottom half of the case must be removed. Disassembly and reassembly procedures are as follows:

DISASSEMBLY

1. Unplug the function generator from power source. Remove the Blue rubber bezel that borders the front panel and turn the unit upside down.
2. Remove the four screws from the bottom of the case. To access the two bottom screws toward the front of the case you may need to remove the two caps that hold the tilt stand shafts.
3. Lift off the bottom cover.

REASSEMBLY

1. Line up the slots in the bottom case half with the front panel and the back panel.
2. Carefully push the bottom half down onto the top half.
3. Replace the four screws, the two caps that hold the tilt stand shafts, and the protective Blue bezel.

FUSE REPLACEMENT

1. To replace the line fuse, use a flat blade screw driver to pull out the fuse holder located under the line cord receptacle. Ensure that the correct fuse value is used.
2. To replace the output fuse, disassemble the case as previously described.
3. Locate the fuse holder. It is located on the output amplifier PC board mounted to the front panel. Replace only with the correct value fuse 0.2A slow blow fuse.
4. Reassemble case as previously described.

LINE VOLTAGE SELECTION

1. Disassemble the case as previously described.
2. Locate the line voltage selection connector. It is located on the PC board behind the power transformer.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

3. Unplug the connector by pulling straight up.
4. Push the connector onto the desired voltage selection pin. Be sure that the correct fuse is installed in the fuse holder. (0.2 A slow blow for 120 V operation or 0.1 A slow blow for 230 V operation).
5. Reassemble case as described above.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR SERVICE

Because of the specialized skills and test equipment required for instrument repair and calibration, many customers prefer to rely upon **B+K PRECISION** for this service. We maintain a network of **B+K PRECISION** authorized service agencies for this purpose. To use this service, even if the instrument is no longer under warranty, follow the instructions given in the **WARRANTY SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS** portion of this manual. There is a nominal charge for instruments out of warranty.