Microwave/Counter/Analyzer & Integrated Power Meter MCA3000 Series Datasheet



Features & Benefits

Key Performance Specifications

- 27 GHz and 40 GHz Models
- Microwave Analyzer Channel with CW or Burst
- Two 300 MHz General-purpose Channels
- 100 ps Single-shot Time Resolution
- 12 Digit/s Frequency Resolution, 14 Digit Display
- 25 ms (Auto) or Zero (Manual) Acquisition Time
- 3 mV Voltage Resolution
- Optional 1.5×10⁻⁸ Ultra High-stability Oven Time Base
- -35 dBm to +10 dBm Power Range

Measurement Throughput

- 250k Sample/s Data Transfer Rate to Internal Memory (Up to 750k samples stored)
- 5k Sample/s Data Transfer Rate over USB/GPIB Bus (Block mode)

Available Functions and Features

- Automated Measurements: Frequency, Period, Ratio, Time Interval, Time Interval Error, Pulse Width, Rise/Fall Time, Phase Angle, Duty Cycle, Maximum Voltage, Minimum Voltage, Peak-to-Peak Voltage
- Integrated Power Meter
- Multi-parameter Display
- Trend Plot Mode
- Measurement Statistics Mode
- Histogram Mode
- Allan Deviation
- Zero Dead-time Frequency/Period Measurements

Connectivity

- USB Device and GPIB Ports on Rear Panel for Quick PC Connectivity
- GPIB Interface Supports Full SCPI-compatible Programmability and offers an Emulation Mode for Plug-and-Play Replacement in Existing ATE Systems
- External Arming Input
- 10 MHz Reference Oscillator Output
- Includes National Instrument's LabVIEW SignalExpress™ TE Limited Edition Software for Connecting Your Bench
- Optional TimeView™ Software Available for Modulation Domain Analysis

3-year Warranty



Feature-rich Tools for Precision Measurements

The MCA3000 Microwave Counter Series outperforms every microwave counter on the market today in terms of resolution, speed, and acquisition time. Including an integrated power meter, the MCA Series packs many different functions into one feature-rich instrument.

With industry-leading frequency and time resolution, the MCA Series comes standard with internal memory and a fast data transfer rate of 250k Samples/s to memory. In addition, the multi-parameter display shows auxiliary measurements alongside your main measurement to provide you with the results you need at a glance. With the industry's most comprehensive analysis modes, including measurement statistics, histograms, and trend plots, you have the tools you need to quickly and accurately analyze your signal.

Besides being an outstanding microwave counter, the MCA3000 Series also serves as a general-purpose timer/counter with two additional 300 MHz inputs.

Industry-leading Performance for Demanding Designs

Fast high-resolution frequency or power measurements with a very short acquisition time of 25 ms (Auto) or zero (Manual) is essential for validating today's complex designs. For calibration and metrology applications, the MCA Series offers very high accuracy through a stable internal OCXO time base, low systematic time interval A-B error, and high resolution.

Fast Throughput Reduces Test Time

The MCA Microwave Counter Series offers industry-best throughput, saving you up to 90% on your testing time compared to other microwave timer/counters on the market. Up to 250,000 measurement results per second can be stored in the internal memory. Alternatively, you can transfer up to 5,000 measurement results per second in Block mode through the GPIB or USB interface.

Power Measurements

With an integrated power meter, the MCA Series provides measurement of frequency and power with a single connection at any supported frequency

MEAS Frequency A: 1.000 000 001 85 MHz

Umax: 2.376 U Umin:-2.368 U Up-p: 4.745 U

Multi-parameter Display.

level. For the first time, variations in signal power can be seen, collected, and analyzed in the same manner as frequency, both numerically and graphically. With 0.01 dBm at 100 ms measuring time resolution and a wide power range from -35 dBm to +10 dBm, you have the flexibility for a broad range of power measurement applications.

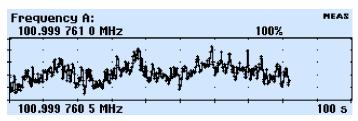
Analyze Your Device with the Industry's Only Graphical Display

With the unique display of the MCA Series, you can measure multiple parameters of the same signal from one test connection. To reveal signal quality issues like drift, intermittent transients, and stability, you can view the data as a real-time trend plot or a histogram with the MCA Series graphical display mode, or you can use measurement statistics to track how signal parameters are changing over time. A single-button Analyze mode gives you fast insight into the behavior of your device right on the timer/counter's display.

Multi-parameter Display

With the multi-parameter display, you can read important auxiliary measurement values (such as V_{max} , V_{min} , $V_{\text{p-p}}$, and more) displayed with your main frequency, time, period, or phase measurements. With one glance, you can see the information you need to quickly assess your device's performance.

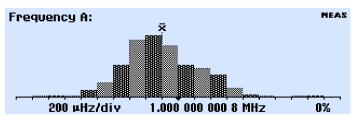
With 3 input channels, you can measure the relationship between different signals. For example, you can measure the phase relationship between the input and output signals of your device. You can read other critical parameters simultaneously, such as the test frequency of the signal and the voltage ratio (in dB), in one glance with the multi-parameter display.



Trend Plot Analysis.



Measurement Statistics.



Histogram Plot.

Measurement Trend Plots

Depending on your test case, your signal parameters may change from instant to instant. With the Trend Plot Analysis mode, you can graphically plot the trend of a measured value over time.

Measurement Statistics

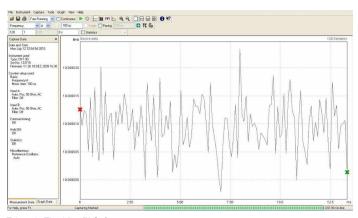
With integrated statistics processing, you can calculate the average, standard, and Allan deviation of a measurement, as well as track the minimum and maximum measured values, all with the push of a button.

Histogram Plots

To graphically see the average and standard deviation of a set of measurements, you can use the histogram function to see the distribution of measurement results.

Optional Modulation Domain Analysis

With the optional Tektronix TimeView™ software (TVA3000), the MCA Series products become high-performance modulation domain analyzers. With high measurement speeds (up to 250k measurement/s) and memory



Tektronix TimeView™ Software.

depth at 750k, fast frequency changes can be captured in real time and then analyzed with TimeView. This comprehensive software tool allows for remote instrument control, and the analysis and display of measurement results in a choice of graphs. For example, results can be displayed as raw data, statistical histogram, waveform graph (as if you were using an oscilloscope), or as an FFT spectrum graph. TimeView further allows analysis of modulation parameters like modulation depth or frequency modulation index.

Designed to Make Your Work Easier

The MCA Microwave Counter Series are designed with the ease of use and familiar operation you have come to expect from Tektronix.

Intuitive Operation

Menu-oriented settings reduce the risk of mistakes. With dedicated and menu-driven front-panel buttons, you will have fast access to frequently used functions and parameters, reducing setup time. For example, a single-touch Analyze key toggles you between Statistics, Trend Plot, and Histogram modes.

Autoset Function

Similar to Tektronix oscilloscopes, the front-panel Autoset button will automatically set optimum trigger levels and hysteresis adapted to the actual signal applied.

Easy PC Connectivity

Connect to your PC with the rear-panel GPIB or USB device ports. The GPIB interface operates in SCPI/GPIB for plug-and-play replacement in existing ATE systems or easy integration into larger test systems. If desired, an emulation mode for existing timer/counters is available.

Connect Your Bench for Intelligent Debug

Easily capture, save, and analyze measurement results from your MCA Microwave Counter Series with the special Tektronix Edition of National Instruments LabVIEW SignalExpress™ software. Every MCA3027 and MCA3040 ships with a free copy of the Limited Edition version of SignalExpress for basic instrument control, data logging, and analysis. The optional Professional Edition offers over 200 built-in functions that provide additional signal processing, advanced analysis, sweeping, limit testing, and user-defined step capabilities.

SignalExpress supports the range of Tektronix bench instruments*1 enabling you to connect your entire test bench. You can then access the feature-rich tools packed into each instrument from one intuitive software interface. This allows you to automate complex measurements requiring multiple instruments, log data for an extended period of time, time-correlate data from multiple instruments, and easily capture and analyze your results, all from your PC. Only Tektronix offers a connected test bench of intelligent instruments to simplify and speed debug of your complex design.

Performance You Can Count On

In addition to industry-leading service and support, every MCA Series Microwave/Counter/Analyzer comes backed with a three-year standard warranty.

Characteristics

Measuring Functions

All measurements are displayed with a large main parameter value and smaller auxiliary parameter values (with less resolution). Some measurements are only available as auxiliary parameters.

Frequency A, B, C

| Characteristic | Description |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Range | |
| Input A, B | DC to 300 MHz |
| Input C | 300 MHz to 27 GHz or 40 GHz |
| Resolution | 12 digits in 1 s measuring time |
| Acquisition C | Auto or Manual |
| Acquisition time | 25 ms in Auto (typical) |
| Aux Parameters | |
| Input A, B | V_{max} , V_{min} , V_{p-p} |
| Input C | Power C in dBm or W |

Frequency Burst A, B, C

| Characteristic | Description |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Range | |
| Input A, B | 0.001 Hz to 300 MHz |
| Input C | 300 MHz to 27 GHz or 40 GHz |
| Acquisition C | Manual |
| Minimum Burst Duration | Down to 40 ns |
| Minimum Pulses in Burst | |
| Input A, B | 3 (6 above 160 MHz) |
| Input C | 3 × prescaler factor |
| PRF Range | 0.5 Hz to 1 MHz |
| Start Delay | 10 ns to 2 s, 10 ns resolution |
| Aux Parameters | PRF |

Period A, B (Single or Average), C (Average)

| Characteristic | Description |
|------------------|---|
| Mode | Single, Average |
| Range | |
| Input A, B | 3.3 ns to 1000 s (single, average) |
| Input C | 3.3 ns down to 37 ps (27 GHz) or 25 ps (40 GHz) |
| Resolution | 100 ps (single); 12 digit/s (average) |
| Acquisition C | Auto or Manual (within ±40 MHz) |
| Acquisition time | 25 ms in Auto (typical) |
| Aux Parameters | |
| Input A, B | V_{max},V_{min},V_{p-p} |
| Input C | Power C in dBm or W |
| Input C | Power C in dBm or W |

Ratio A/B, B/A, C/A, C/B

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Range | (10-9) to 10 ¹¹ |
| Input Frequency | |
| Input A, B | 0.1 Hz to 300 MHz |
| Input C | 300 MHz to 27 GHz or 40 GHz |
| Aux Parameters | Freq 1, Freq 2 |

Time Interval A to B, B to A, A to A, B to B

| Characteristic | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| Range | Normal calculation: 0 ns to +10 ⁶ s Smart calculation: -10 ⁶ s to +10 ⁶ s |
| Resolution | 100 ps single |
| Min Pulse Width | 1.6 ns |
| Smart Calculation | Smart Time Interval to determine sign (A before B or A after B) |

Positive and Negative Pulse Width A, B

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Range | 2.3 ns to 10 ⁶ s |
| Min Pulse Width | 2.3 ns |
| Aux Parameters | $V_{max}, V_{min}, V_{p-p}$ |

Rise and Fall Time A, B

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| Range | 1.5 ns to 10 ⁶ s |
| Trigger Levels | 10% and 90% of signal amplitude |
| Min Pulse Width | 1.6 ns |
| Aux Parameters | Slew rate, V _{max} , V _{min} |

^{*1} For a complete listing of Tektronix instruments supported by NI LabVIEW Signal Express, visit www.tektronix.com/signalexpress.

Positive and Negative Duty Factor A, B

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Range | 0.000001 to 0.999999 |
| Frequency Range | 0.1 Hz to 300 MHz |
| Aux Parameters | Period, pulse width |

Phase A Relative B, B Relative A

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| Range | –180° to +360° |
| Resolution | Single cycle: 0.001° to 10 kHz, decreasing to 1° >10 MHz. Resolution can be improved by averaging (statistics) |
| Frequency Range | Up to 160 MHz |
| Aux Parameters | Freq (A), Va/Vb (in dB) |

V_{max} , V_{min} , $V_{\text{p-p}}$ A, B

| Characteristic | Description | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Range | -50 V to +50 V, -5 V to +5 V | |
| | Range is limited by the specification for max input voltage without damage (see input A, B) | |
| Frequency Range | DC, 1 Hz to 300 MHz | |
| Mode | V_{max} , V_{min} , V_{p-p} | |
| Resolution | 3 mV | |
| Uncertainty (5 V range, typical) | | |
| DC, 1 Hz to 1 kHz | 1% + 15 mV | |
| 1 kHz to 20 MHz | 3% + 15 mV | |
| 20 to 100 MHz | 10% + 15 mV | |
| 100 to 300 MHz | 30% + 15 mV | |
| Aux Parameters | V_{min} , V_{max} , V_{p-p} | |

Time Stamping A, B, C

Raw time-stamp data together with pulse counts on inputs A, B, or C, accessible through GPIB or USB only.

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Max Sample Speed | See GPIB specifications |
| Max Frequency | 160 MHz |
| Time-stamp Resolution | 100 ps |

Power C

| Characteristic | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| Range | |
| Power | -35 dBm to +10 dBm |
| Frequency | 300 MHz to 27 GHz or 40 GHz |
| Display Units | dBm (default) or W |
| Resolution | 0.01 dBm at 100 ms measuring time |
| Accuracy (Typical) | <1 dBm to 27 GHz <4 dBm to 40 GHz (MCA3040 only) |
| Acquisition | Auto or Manual (within ±40 MHz) |
| Acquisition Time | 20 to 30 ms in Auto (typical) |
| Aux Parameters | Frequency C |

Input and Output Specifications

Inputs A and B

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Frequency Range | DC Coupled: DC to 300 MHz AC Coupled: 10 Hz to 300 MHz |
| Impedance | 1 MΩ / 20 pF or 50 Ω (VSWR ≤ 2:1) |
| Trigger Slope | Positive or negative |
| Max Channel Timing Difference | 500 ps |
| Sensitivity | 15 mV _{RMS} (DC-200 MHz) 25 mV _{RMS} (200-300 MHz) |
| Attenuation | X1, X10 |
| Dynamic Range (X1) | 30 mV _{p-p} to 10 V _{p-p} within ±5 V window |
| Trigger Level | Readout on display |
| Resolution | 3 mV |
| Uncertainty (X1) | ±(15 mV + 1% of trigger level) |
| AUTO trigger level | Trigger level is automatically set to 50% point of input signal (10% and 90% for rise/fall time) |
| Auto Hysteresis | |
| Time | Min hysteresis window (hysteresis compensation) |
| Frequency | One-third of input signal amplitude |
| Analog LP Filter | Nominal 100 kHz, RC type |
| Digital LP Filter | 1 Hz to 50 MHz cutoff frequency |
| Max Voltage without Da | mage |
| 1 ΜΩ | $350~V~(DC$ + AC peak) to 440 Hz, falling to 12 $V_{\text{RMS}}~(\text{X1})$ at 1 MHz |
| 50 Ω | 12 V _{RMS} |
| Connector | BNC |
| | |

Input C - 27 GHz or 40 GHz (MCA3027, MCA3040)

| Characteristic | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Frequency Range | 0.3 to 27 GHz or 40 GHz |
| Operating Input Voltage | e Range |
| 0.3 to 18 GHz | -33 to +13 dBm |
| 18 to 20 GHz | -29 to +13 dBm |
| 20 to 27 GHz | –27 to +13 dBm |
| 27 to 40 GHz | –23 to +13 dBm |
| Impedance | 50 Ω nominal, AC coupled |
| VSWR | |
| 0.3 to 27 GHz | < 2.0:1 (typ.) |
| 27 to 40 GHz | < 2.5:1 (typ.) |
| FM Tolerance | |
| Manual acq. | 50 MHz _{p-p} ; Frequency C >3.5 GHz 30 MHz _{p-p} ; Frequency C <3.5 GHz |
| Auto acq. | 20 MHz _{p-p} ; for any Frequency C and modulation frequency >0.1 MHz |
| AM Tolerance | Any modulation index (minimum signal must be within sensitivity range) |
| Automatic Amplitude Discrimination | 10 dB separation between 2 signals within 30 MHz, 20 dB otherwise |
| Max Voltage without Damage | +27 dBm (27 and 40 GHz models) |
| Overload Indication | ON when Input C power > +10 dBm |
| Connector | 2.92 mm spark plug female |
| | <u> </u> |

Rear Panel Inputs and Outputs

| Characteristic | Description |
|------------------|---|
| Reference Input | 1, 5, or 10 MHz; 0.1 to 5 V_{RMS} sine; impedance \geq 1 k Ω |
| Reference Output | 10 MHz; >1 V_{RMS} sine into 50 Ω |
| Arming Input | Arming of all measuring functions |
| Impedance | Approx. 1 kΩ |
| Frequency range | DC to 80 MHz |

Auxiliary Functions

Trigger Holdoff

| Characteristic | Description |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Time Delay Range | 20 ns to 2 s, 10 ns resolution |

External Start and Stop Arming

Arming can be used to synchronize the frequency and power measurements with the start of a burst signal. Minimum burst length must exceed 100 $\mu s.$

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|---|--------------------------------|
| Characteristic | Description |
| Modes | Start and Stop Arming |
| Input Channels | A, B, or E (Ext. arming input) |
| Max Rep. Rate for Armir | ng Signal |
| Channel A, B | 160 MHz |
| Channel E | 80 MHz |
| Start-time Delay Range | 20 ns to 2 s. 10 ns resolution |

Statistics

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|------------|
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| or outside |
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Mathematics

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------|---|
| Functions | (K*X+L)/M, (K/X+L)/M, or X/M-1. X is current reading and K, L, and M are constants; set using the keyboard or as frozen reference value (X ₀) |

Other Functions

| Characteristic | Description |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Measuring Time | 20 ns to 1000 s for frequency, burst, and period average. Single cycle for other measuring functions |
| Time-base Reference | Internal, external, or automatic |
| Display Hold | Freezes the result, until a new measurement is initiated through a restart |
| Limit Alarm | Graphical indication on front panel and/or SRQ through GPIB |
| Limit Values | Lower limit, upper limit |
| Settings | Off, or alarm if value is above, below, inside, or outside limits |
| On Alarm | Stop or Continue |
| Display | Numeric + Graphic |
| Stored Instrument Setups | 20. Instrument setups can be saved/recalled from internal nonvolatile memory. 10 can be user protected |
| Display | Backlit LCD graphics screen for menu control, numerical readout, and status information |
| Number of digits | 14 digits in Numerical mode |
| Resolution | 320 × 97 pixels |

GPIB Interface

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| Compatibility | IEEE 488.2-1987, SCPI 199953131A Compatibility mode |
| Interface Functions | SH1, AH1, T6, L4, SR1, RL1, DC1, DT1, E2 |
| Max Measurement Rate | |
| GPIB | 5k readings/s (Block mode) 500 readings/s (individual GET triggered) |
| To internal memory | 250k readings/s |
| Internal Memory Size | 750k readings |

USB Interface

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| USB Version | 2.0 full speed (11 Mb/s) |

Calibration

| Characteristic | Description |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mode | Closed case, menu controlled |
| Calibration Frequencies | 0.1, 1, 5, 10, 1.544, and 2.048 MHz |

General Specifications

Environmental Data

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------|---|
| Class | MIL-PRF-28800F, Class 3 |
| Operating Temp | 0 °C to +50 °C |
| Storage Temp | –40 °C to +71 °C |
| Humidity | 5-95% (10-30 °C) 5-75% (30-40 °C) 5-45% (40-50 °C) |
| Altitude | Operating: 2,000 m Storage: 12,000 m |
| Safety | Directive 2006/95/EC, EN61010-1, UL61010-1, CAN/CSA C22.2 No. 61010-1 |
| EMC | EU Directive 2004/108/EC, EN61326-1, EN61326-2-1, Class A |

Power Requirements

| Characteristic | Description |
|----------------|--|
| Basic Version | 90 to 265 V _{RMS} , 45 to 440 Hz, <40 W |

Time-base Options

| Time-base options | | | |
|--|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Characteristic | Standard, Medium Stability | High Stability (HS) | Ultra High Stability (US) |
| Time-base Type | OCXO | OCXO | OCXO |
| Uncertainty Due to - | | | |
| Aging | | | |
| Per 24h | <5×10-9*1 | <5×10 ^{-10*1} | <3×10 ^{-10*1} |
| Per month | <6×10-8 | <1×10-8 | <3×10 ⁻⁹ |
| Per year | <2×10-7 | <5×10-8 | <1.5×10 ⁻⁸ |
| Temperature variation (typ. values) | | | |
| 0-50 °C | <5×10-8 | <5×10-9 | <2.5×10-9 |
| 20-26 °C | <2×10-8 | <1×10-9 | <4×10 ⁻¹⁰ |
| Short-term Stability: t = 1 s | <1×10-10 | <1×10-11 | <5×10 ⁻¹² |
| Root Allan Variance: t = 10 s | <1×10 ⁻¹⁰ | <1×10 ⁻¹¹ | <5×10 ⁻¹² |
| Power-on Stability | <1×10 ⁻⁷ | <1×10 ⁻⁸ | <5×10 ⁻⁹ |
| Deviation versus final value after 24h ON time, after a warm-up time of: | 30 min | 10 min | 10 min |
| Total Uncertainty, for Confidence Interval | Total Uncertainty, for Operating Temperature 20 °C to 26 °C, at 2σ (95%) Confidence Interval | | |
| 1 year after calibration | <2.4×10 ⁻⁷ | <0.6×10 ⁻⁷ | <1.8×10 ⁻⁸ |

^{*1} After 1 month of continuous operation.

Physical

2 years after calibration

| Dimension | mm | in. |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Height | 90 | 3.6 |
| Width | 210 | 8.25 |
| Depth | 395 | 15.6 |
| Weight | kg | lb. |
| Net | 2.7 | 5.8 |
| Shipping | 3.5 | 7.5 |

<1.2×10-7

<3.5×10⁻⁸

<4.6×10-7

Ordering Information

Models

| Model | Description | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| MCA3027 | Microwave/Counter 27 GHz / 100 ps | |
| MCA3040 | Microwave/Counter 40 GHz / 100 ps | |

MCA3000 Series Includes: Microwave/Counter, line cord, calibration certificate, Quick Start User Manual, CD-ROM with user manual (English, French, German, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Russian, Japanese),
Programmer's Guide, Technical Specifications, Trial version of TimeView™ Software, and CD-ROM with National Instruments LabVIEW SignalExpress™ Tektronix Edition, Limited Edition Software.

Note: Please specify power plug when ordering.

Instrument Options

| Option | Description | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--|
| HS | High-stability Oven Time Base | |
| US | Ultra High-stability Oven Time Base | |

Power Plug Options

| Option | Description |
|----------------------|----------------|
| A0 | North America |
| A1 A2 A3 A5 | Universal Euro |
| A2 | United Kingdom |
| A3 | Australia |
| A5 | Switzerland |
| A6 | Japan |
| A10 | China |
| A11 | India |

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Service Options

| Option | Description |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| C3 | Calibration Service 3 Years |
| C5 | Calibration Service 5 Years |
| D1 | Calibration Data Report |
| R5 | Repair Service 5 Years |
| SILV600 | Standard Warranty Extended to 5 Years |

Recommended Accessories and Software

| Accessory | Description |
|-------------|---|
| RMU2U | Rackmount Shelf Kit for 2 Units |
| HCTEK4321 | Hard Carrying Case |
| ACD4000 | Soft Carrying Case |
| 174-4401-xx | USB Host to Device Cable, 3 ft. |
| 012-0991-xx | GPIB Cable, Double Shielded |
| 012-1256-xx | BNC Male to BNC Male, Cable Shielded, 9 ft., 50 Ω |
| 012-0482-xx | BNC Male to BNC Male, Cable Shielded, 3 ft., 50 Ω |
| SIGEXPTE | National Instruments SignalExpress™ Tektronix Edition Interactive Measurement Software – Professional Version |
| TVA3000 | TimeView™ Modulation Domain Analysis Software |

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Product(s) complies with IEEE Standard 488.1-1987, RS-232-C, and with Tektronix Standard Codes and Formats.

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