

Hewlett Packard

HP 3048A

PHASE NOISE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

(Including Options 001, 002, 003, 004, 005, and 006)

Calibration Manual

SERIAL NUMBERS

This manual applies directly to instruments with serial number prefixes and software version numbers:

HP 11848A: 2637A to 2720A
HP 3048A Software Version: REV: A.01.00

First Edition

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Calibration Manual HP Part 03048-90015

Other Documents Available:

Microfiche Calibration Manual HP Part 03048-90016
Operation Manual HP Part 03048-90001
Microfiche Operation Manual HP Part 03048-90014
Reference Manual HP Part 03048-90002
Microfiche Reference Manual HP Part 03048-90017
HP 11848A Service Manual HP Part 11848-90004
Microfiche HP 11848A Service Manual HP Part 11848-90012
HP 3048A System Software Discs HP Part 03048-90018



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SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

GENERAL

This product and related documentation must be reviewed for familiarization with safety markings and instructions before operation.

This product is a Safety Class I instrument (provided with a protective earth terminal).

BEFORE APPLYING POWER

Verify that the product is set to match the available line voltage and the correct fuse is installed.

SAFETY EARTH GROUND

An uninterruptible safety earth ground must be provided from the main power source to the product input wiring terminals, power cord, or supplied power cord set.

SAFETY SYMBOLS



Instruction manual symbol: the product will be marked with this symbol when it is necessary for the user to refer to the instruction manual (refer to Table of Contents.)



Indicates hazardous voltages.



Indicates earth (ground) terminal.

WARNING

The WARNING sign denotes a hazard. It calls attention to a procedure, practice, or the like, which, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in personal injury. Do not proceed beyond a WARNING sign until the indicated conditions are fully understood and met.

CAUTION

The CAUTION sign denotes a hazard. It calls attention to an operating procedure, practice, or the like, which, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in damage to or destruction of part or all of the product. Do not proceed beyond a CAUTION sign until the indicated conditions are fully understood and met.

WARNING

Any interruption of the protective (grounding) conductor (inside or outside the instrument) or disconnecting the protective earth terminal will cause a potential shock hazard that could result in personal injury. (Grounding one conductor of a two conductor outlet is not sufficient protection).

Whenever it is likely that the protection has been impaired, the instrument must be made inoperative and be secured against any unintended operation.

If this instrument is to be energized via an autotransformer (for voltage reduction) make sure the common terminal is connected to the earth terminal of the power source.

Servicing instructions are for use by service trained personnel only. To avoid dangerous electric shock, do not perform any servicing unless qualified to do so.

Adjustments described in the manual are performed with power supplied to the instrument while protective covers are removed. Energy available at many points may, if contacted, result in personal injury.

Capacitors inside the instrument may still be charged even if the instrument has been disconnected from its source of supply.

For continued protection against fire hazard, replace the line fuse(s) only with 250V fuse(s) of the same current rating and type (for example, normal blow, time delay, etc.) Do not use repaired fuses or short circuited fuseholders.

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General Information

INTRODUCTION

This manual documents the procedures which calibrate the HP 3048A Phase Noise Measurement System. System calibration assures that the System meets its published specifications. The procedures consist of system checks, adjustments, performance tests, and signal path characterization. Calibration of the HP 11848A Phase Noise Measurement Interface results from calibration of the System.

NOTE

"Calibration" as referred to in this manual should not be confused with the measurement calibration referred to in the normal course of making a phase noise measurement. Measurement calibration (especially, a measurement with phase lock) refers to the characterization of such parameters as the detector constant, tuning sensitivity of the signal source's FM input, and determination of the phase lock loop bandwidth.

The need for calibration is governed by the situation. It is usually not necessary nor even desirable to recalibrate the System frequently. Testing guidelines are summarized below.

Most tests are automatic. Operator intervention is documented in the System's test software. It is recommended, however, that the user follow along in this manual as the tests are running.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Equipment required, but not part of the System, is minimal. A feature of the System is the four sources built into the Interface which substitute for external sources in many cases.

Extensive use is made of the HP 3561A Dynamic Signal Analyzer both as a signal source (using its built-in noise source) and as a signal analyzer. Any calibrated HP 3561A can be used in calibrating the System; it does not need to be the specific HP 3561A in the System.

The external test equipment requirements are given in Table 1.

PERFORMANCE TEST RECORD

Most test results can be hardcopied on the System's printer. This practice is recommended. It is also recommended that the serial number of the Interface under test be recorded in the System Configuration Table so that it will appear on the printouts.

SYSTEM CALIBRATION TRACEABILITY

The measurement of phase noise, as implemented in the HP 3048A, is a ratio measurement where both the numerator (the noise power) and the denominator (the carrier's power) are measured by the same system spectrum analyzer(s). The accuracy of the measured ratio depends on the amplitude linearity of the spectrum analyzer. If a precision attenuator is used to verify the linearity specification of the spectrum analyzer, the accuracy of the ratio is as accurate as the linearity specification of the spectrum analyzer. The amplitude linearity calibration of the spectrum analyzer will be traceable to the U.S. National Bureau of Standards (NBS) if the precision attenuator and other instrumentation used to perform the spectrum analyzer's calibration is traceable to NBS.

WHEN AND WHAT TO TEST

Use Table 2 as a guideline for verifying the performance of the System.

The checks and tests are summarized below. The procedures are listed in the order in which they are described except for the *Source Options Spectral Purity Tests* which follow the Adjustments.

Quick Check is a confidence check which performs a complete phase-locked measurement of the phase noise of the 10 MHz A vs. B internal sources.

Performance Tests verify that the System meets its published specifications. The tests are as follows:

Spur Accuracy Test verifies the accuracy of noise measurements by measuring the level of phase modulation on a carrier with a known discrete sideband level. (In the context of phase noise measurements, discrete sidebands are often referred to as spurious signals or "spurs".)

Noise Flatness Test measures the unflatness of noise signals at offsets greater than 500 kHz. This test needs to be performed only when an RF spectrum analyzer is in the System's Configuration Table.

Noise Floor Test verifies the measurement sensitivity.

Microwave Phase Detector Conversion Loss (Option 201) Test measures the conversion loss of the 1.2 to 18 GHz phase detector. If the detector is not within specification, the noise floor will be degraded when the detector is used. (Option 201 adds the 1.2 to 18 GHz input to the Interface.)

Source Options Spectral Purity Tests verify the contribution of optional sources to the noise floor. (The procedures for these tests follow the Adjustments.)

Functional Tests verify the functionality of the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface. The tests measure the paths for proper switching, DC offsets, amplifier gains, filter responses, etc. (Adjustments to the HP 11848A can be made when Functional Tests show a problem.)

DAC Tests verify the accuracy of the three DACs in the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface. (Adjustments to the DACs should be made if a DAC is out of limits.) The DAC Tests require accessing the interior of the Interface.

Option 1 Calibration totally characterizes the HP 11848A measurement paths and generates new calibration data. The data collected replaces the data generated during the previous calibration. The new data may be stored in mass storage. (However, it does not replace the extra data obtained from the Option 2 Calibration.)

Option 2 Calibration is the same as Option 1 Calibration but includes the characterization of two additional reference paths.

Internal Sources Calibration determines and records as data the nominal DAC 2 and DAC 3 voltages (VNOMs) required to set the three tuneable, internal sources (VCOs) to their center frequencies.

Adjustments are made when other tests or checks indicate the need. Adjustments require accessing the interior of the Interface.

A3 Adjustments are made to the A3 Analyzer Interface Assembly.

A4 Adjustments are made to the A4 Phase Detector Assembly.

Quick Check

DESCRIPTION

The Quick Check is a straight-forward, phase-lock-loop measurement of the phase noise of the two internal 10 MHz sources (A vs. B). Though the check is easy to run, a large portion of the circuitry in the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface is exercised. A completed measurement with good results verifies that the System is operating correctly but does not verify its accuracy.

The check uses only equipment that is part of the System. Measurement definition parameters for this test are retrieved from a Test File named "DEFAULT".

NOTE

This check duplicates some of the guided tour in the Getting Started section of the Operating Manual.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **System Preset** softkey. This softkey appears at the Main Software Level menu.
2. Press the **New Msrmnt** softkey to initiate the measurement.
3. Press the **Yes, Proceed** softkey to indicate that new measurement data is desired. The System now addresses each instrument listed in the System's Configuration Table. If an instrument does not respond to the HP-IB address listed for it, the System will inform you with a display message. (For details on adding an instrument to the System's Configuration Table or verifying an HP-IB address, refer to *Setting Up the HP-IB Addresses* in the installation section of the *HP 3048A Operating Manual*.)
4. Connect the HP 3561A input and the two 10 MHz source outputs to the HP 11848A as shown in the connect diagram on the computer display and in Figure 1. Note especially the rear-panel connections.

NOTE

The Interface's SPECTRUM ANALYZER output should either be terminated in 50 Ω or an RF spectrum analyzer should be connected to it.

5. Press the **Proceed** softkey to run the test. The measurement should proceed without error messages, and the measured noise results should be within 10 dB of that in Figure 2. (The plot in Figure 2 is typical for a System without an RF spectrum analyzer. The measurement takes about 10 minutes depending on the controller and the presence of the RF spectrum analyzer.)

Spur Accuracy Test

DESCRIPTION

In this test an external audio tone is input to the phase modulator of the internal 10 MHz B Oscillator to generate a 10 MHz carrier with discrete, phase-modulation sidebands. The sideband level (relative to the carrier) is calibrated with the HP 3561A Dynamic Signal Analyzer then measured as a normal phase noise measurement (with the 10 MHz A Oscillator phase locked to 10 MHz B Oscillator). The measurements are made with audio tones of 5.5, 55, 550, 5500, 55 000, and (if an RF spectrum analyzer is present) 550 000 Hz.

To calibrate the sideband level (relative to the carrier), the two 10 MHz Oscillators (A and B) are set 785 Hz apart and fed into the RF Phase Detector. The amplitude of the 785 Hz beatnote is measured by the HP 3561A. This level is the carrier reference level. Then the phase modulation sidebands for each modulation rate are measured with the HP 3561A and the relative sideband level is computed as the ratio of the two measurements.

The RF signal simulates the spurious discrete phase modulation (often called "spurs") frequently appearing in phase noise measurements. Although testing is done on discrete tone sidebands, the general accuracy of the noise sideband measurement is verified.

If an RF spectrum analyzer is not present, the test covers offsets of 1 Hz to 100 kHz. If an RF analyzer is present the range is 1 Hz to 1 MHz.

EQUIPMENT

Printer. The test requires the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table.

Audio Source. The Spur Accuracy Test will run automatically if an HP 3325A Function Generator is in the System's Configuration Table. If this function generator is not available, any manually controlled function generator or audio source having exact decade frequency switching covering 5 Hz to 55 kHz can be used. (The range must be 5 Hz to 550 kHz if an RF spectrum analyzer is configured in the System.) The HP 3312A Function Generator is a typical manual audio source which can be used in this test. If no function generator is found in the system instrument configuration table, the software assumes you have only a manual audio source and you will be prompted for the proper settings.

NOTE

The flatness of the audio source must be better than ± 0.3 dB when switching from 55 kHz to 550 kHz. The 550 kHz span is only used when an RF spectrum analyzer is present.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey. This softkey appears at the Main Software Level menu.

NOTE

If an RF spectrum analyzer is not present, the test covers offsets of 1 Hz to 100 kHz. If an RF analyzer is present the range is 1 Hz to 1 MHz.

CAUTION

In the following step, do not apply more than $3V_{peak}$ to the HP 11848A rear-panel TONE INPUT or the internal protection fuse may blow.

8. If the function generator or audio source is under manual control, set the initial level to $0.25V_{rms}$ (+1 dBm) into a 50Ω load as prompted by the display. Press the **Proceed** softkey to continue.
9. Set the audio source to the first measurement frequency as prompted on the display and then set the amplitude, as read on the HP 3561A Dynamic Signal Analyzer (FFT Analyzer), as prompted by the display. Press the **Proceed** softkey after completing each setting.

NOTE

Do not change the frequency vernier or amplitude setting of the audio source after these initial settings have been made. The frequency must be changed only by using decade switching of the audio source.

10. The test will pause after each frequency is measured and prompt for a new frequency setting. This will be done twice: once for calibrating the phase modulation and once for reading the demodulated phase modulation. Press the **Proceed** softkey after completing each setting. When the measurement is complete, the measured spurs should be similar to the ones shown in Figure 4 with no failures listed.

NOTE

If this test fails, check the level of the calibration spur versus the measured spurs in the printed results to help determine what caused the failure.

*After the Spur Accuracy Test has been run, two additional softkeys (**Recal Spurs** and **Repeat Msrmt**) are available.*

*The **Recal Spurs** softkey allows you to remeasure all spurs from 5.5 Hz to 55 kHz.*

*The **Repeat Msrmt** softkey allows you to repeat the measurement without recalibrating the reference spurs.*

These additional softkeys allow you to repeat the measurement with the same data as the original measurement, or to recalibrate the spurs and then repeat the measurement.

Noise Flatness Test

DESCRIPTION

This test verifies that the calibration data used for phase noise measurements above 500 kHz offsets is accurate. It also provides an opportunity to update the calibration data should the flatness be marginal.

The test requires an RF spectrum analyzer in the System's Configuration Table and needs to be run only when an RF analyzer is used while making measurements. (An HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer is supplied with Systems having Option 101.) The test is a standard phase-lock-loop measurement of the phase noise of the internal 400 MHz and 350-500 MHz Oscillators. The frequency offset range of the measurement is 500 kHz to 40 MHz. The 400 MHz Oscillator has a flat or white phase noise distribution from 500 kHz to 40 MHz.

This test measures the maximum unflatness above 500 kHz relative to the measured noise value at a 500 kHz offset. If the unflatness is equal to or greater than 2 dB, the "CALDATAHI" data file will have supplementary data appended to it to adjust for the unflatness.

EQUIPMENT

Printer. The test requires the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.

NOTE

*If troubleshoot mode has been selected (by pressing the **Test Mode** softkey) you will be prompted for the setup diagram two times. Press the **Proceed** softkey after the second setup diagram is displayed.*

2. Press the **3048A Sys Chk** softkey.
3. Press the **Perf. Tests** softkey.
4. Press the **Noise Flat.** softkey. The System will then load the Noise Flatness Test File.
5. Press the **New Msrmt** softkey.
6. Connect the instruments as shown on the on-screen connection diagram and in Figure 5.
7. Press the **Proceed** softkey. The measurement should proceed automatically without error messages (but see the following note) and the measured noise should be similar to that shown in Figure 6. (The measurement takes about 5 minutes depending on the controller.)

30 Dec 1987, 15:45:23
HP11848A S/N 2621A00106

HP11848A NOISE FLATNESS PERFORMANCE TEST

OFFSET FREQ (Hz.)	MAX UNFLATNESS RELATIVE TO 500 KHz. (+/- dB.)
----- 6.2E+6	----- 0.83

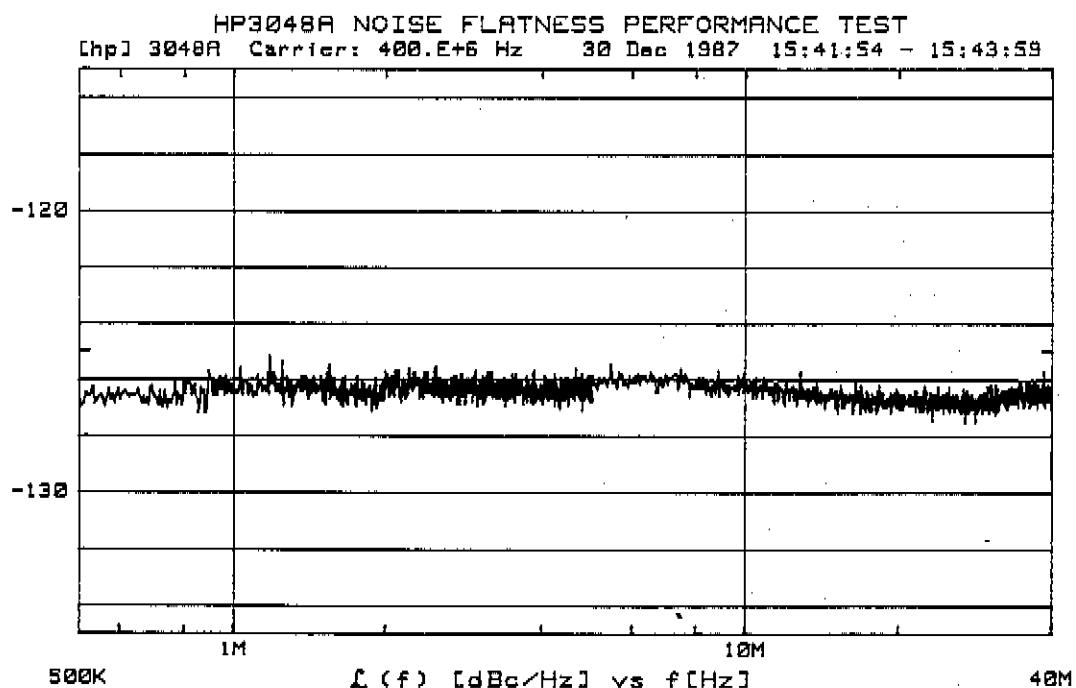


Figure 6. Typical Noise Flatness Test Results.

NOTE

If no RF spectrum analyzer is present, the test covers offsets of 0.01 Hz to 100 kHz. If an RF analyzer is present the range is 0.01 Hz to 40 MHz.

The phase detector constant is not measured for this test. A phase detector constant of 0.6 V/radian is used for the Noise Floor Test because at the specified R-port power level, the phase detector constant is typically 0.6 V/radian.

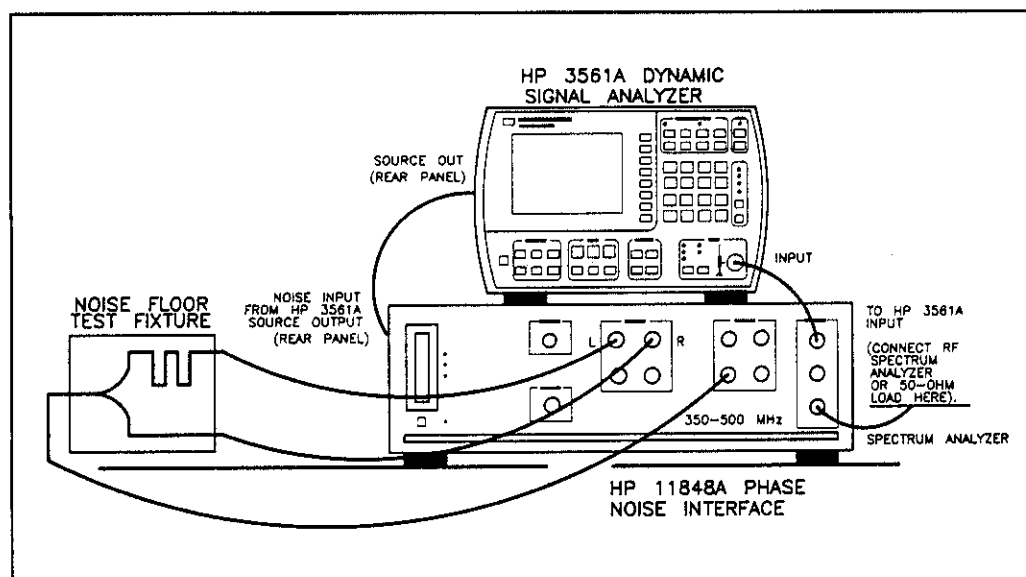


Figure 7. Noise Floor Test Setup

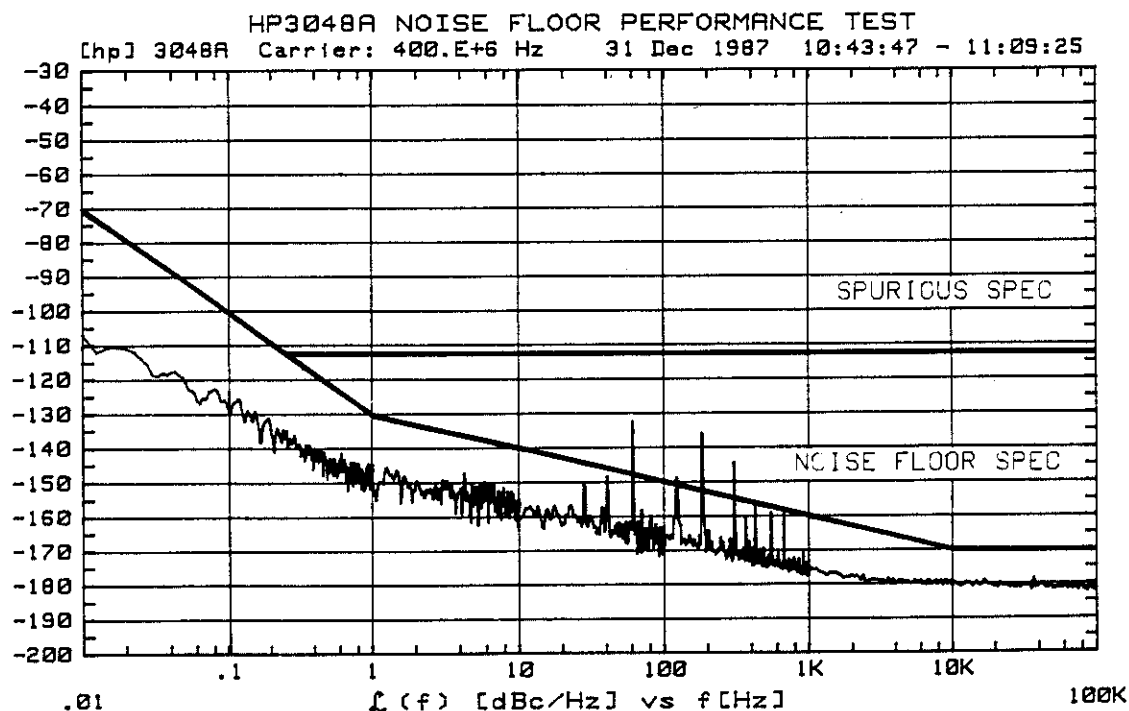


Figure 8. Typical Noise Floor Test Results

- c. Preset the HP 3561A for a 0 to 100 kHz frequency span. Connect the HP 3561A's input to the Interface's front-panel TO HP 3561A INPUT output. (If an RF spectrum analyzer is used, set it to view a 1 MHz signal.)

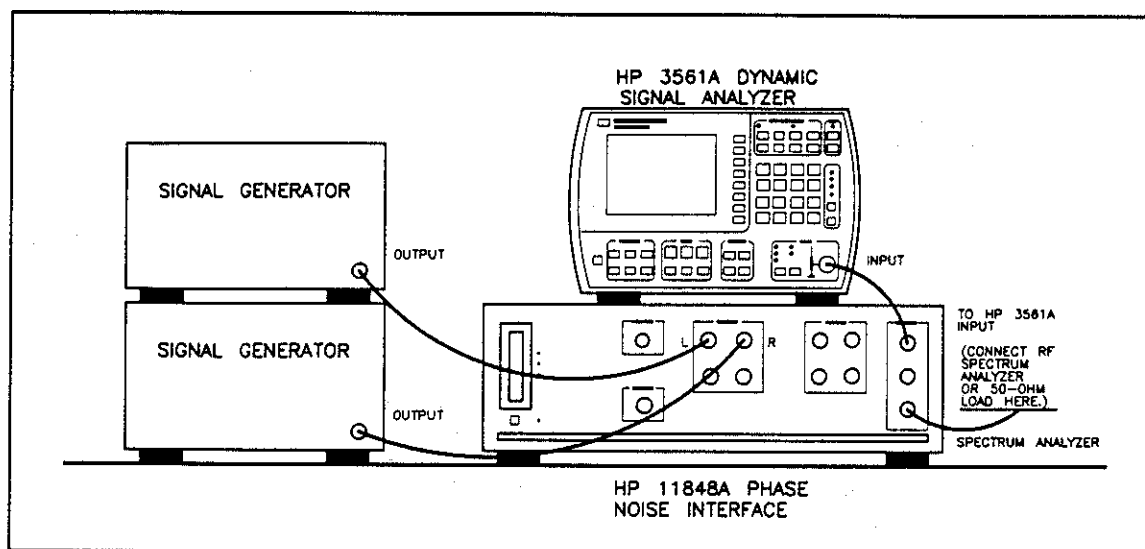


Figure 9. Microwave Phase Detector Conversion Loss Test Setup

2. Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.
3. Press the **11848A Control** softkey.
4. Set up the HP 11848A internal configuration as follows.
 - a. Press the **Preset** softkey.
 - b. Use the cursor control keys to move the cursor to the "SELECTED 'K' SWITCHES:" line then key in 12 and 13.
 - c. Use the cursor control keys to move the cursor to the "H SWITCH NUMBER:" line then key in 6.
 - d. Press the **Send Command** softkey. This routes the microwave phase detector output to the front-panel spectrum analyzer output port. The display should appear as in Figure 10. (With 6 showing on the H switch line and 12 and 13 showing on the K switches line, the position of the switch levers of K12 and K13 is in the state opposite that shown on the Block Diagram foldout at the end of this manual.)
5. Set one of the microwave sources to the frequencies indicated in Table 3 below. Set the other source 50 kHz above or below the frequency of the first source. (If an RF spectrum analyzer is being used, set the other source 1 MHz above or below the first source.) For each pair of frequencies, remeasure the power of both sources, reconnect the sources to the phase detector, and read the level of the 50 kHz (or 1 MHz) signal from the spectrum analyzer. The level should be -25 dBV (-12 dBm) or higher.

Functional Tests

DESCRIPTION

The Functional Tests exercise the hardware in the Interface and check for proper functioning. Examples of the hardware checked are switches, amplifiers, attenuators, DACs, filters, etc. The program permits a run-through of all checks or in some cases a single function can be individually tested.

In a typical test such as the testing of a filter, the program routes the noise source of the HP 3561A Dynamic Signal Analyzer through a reference path to the input of the HP 3561A and measures the signal level at several frequencies. The program then inserts the filter in the path and remeasures the levels.

Except for checks of dc offset and VCO control path, test limits are loose because only the general functioning of the filter is checked. (Measurement path filters are tightly characterized by the Option 1 or Option 2 Calibration program.)

These tests are similar to the tests on the *Diagnostic* disc. The diagnostic program also includes failure analysis information and thus may be more useful in tracking down a fault than the Functional Tests. (Refer to the HP 11848A *Service Manual*.)

EQUIPMENT

Printer. These tests will run without the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table. However, the test results in some instances will not remain on the display long enough to be observed; therefore, it is recommended that the tests be run with a printer.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.
2. Press the **3048A Sys Chk** softkey.
3. Press the **Functl. Chk.** softkey.

NOTE

The tests may be run as an entire sequence or tests may be run individually as outlined in the following steps. Before proceeding with the tests, you should read the Comments section below.

4. To perform all tests sequentially, press the **Test All** softkey and follow the displayed instructions. To perform a specific test, perform the following steps.
 - a. Press the **Select Test** softkey.
 - b. Move the cursor to the desired test.
 - c. With the cursor at Test 01, Test 02, or Test 03, press the **Select Path** softkey then move the cursor to the desired path of the selected test. Press the **Sngl Path** softkey to test a single path of the selected test or press the **Test all** softkey to test all paths. (Refer to *Comments* for a description of the test paths.)
 - d. If Test 04 through Test 10 is selected, press the **Run Test** softkey.

DAC Tests

DESCRIPTION

The output of the three Digital-to-Analog Converters (DACs) is measured with each input bit individually set high. DAC 1 can be tested via a front-panel output. DACs 2 and 3 can only be tested at internal test points. This requires removal of the top cover of the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface. The HP 3561A Dynamic Signal Analyzer is used as a dc voltmeter in this test.

Since this test requires accessing the interior of the Interface, precautions should be taken to prevent electrical shock. Care should also be taken to minimize electro-static discharge that could damage sensitive electrical devices.

EQUIPMENT

Printer. These tests will run without the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table. However, the test results in some instances will not remain on the display long enough to be observed; therefore, it is recommended that the tests be run with a printer.

PROCEDURE

1. The testing of DACs 2 and 3 requires removal of the top cover of the Interface. To do this:
 - a. Switch LINE to OFF.
 - b. Remove the line cord.
 - c. If the rear panel of the Interface has two feet in the upper corners, remove them.
 - d. Unscrew the screw in the middle of the rear edge of the top cover. This is a captive screw and will cause the top cover to push away from the frame. (A slight tapping on the top cover will aid in removal.) Slide the cover back about 6.5 mm (0.25 inch) and lift it off.
 - e. Reinsert the line cord and switch LINE back to ON.
2. Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.
3. Press the **3048A Sys Chk** softkey.

NOTE

Before proceeding with the tests, you should read the Comments section below.

4. Press the **Dac Tests** softkey and follow the displayed instructions.

Comments

Printer On/Off. If a printer is on HP-IB and in the System's Configuration Table, the printout can be inhibited by pressing the **Printer Off** softkey. To re-enable the printer, press the **Printer On** softkey. This softkey function is not present at all times during the execution of the tests. It is recommended that tests be run with the printer, otherwise the test results in some instances will not remain on the display long enough to be observed.

If it is desired to have the Interface's serial number appear on the printout, the serial number must appear in the appropriate column of the System's Configuration Table. This practice is recommended.

Connections. To test DACs 2 and 3, you will be prompted to connect the HP 3561A input to testpoints on the A3 Analyzer Interface Assembly. A3 is the large printed circuit board under the top cover. (Refer to the HP 11848A Service Manual for details.) The testpoint locations are shown in Figure 11.

A3 Adjustments

DESCRIPTION

The A3 Analyzer Interface Assembly in the HP 11848A has ten adjustments. The adjustments are guided by the system software but the software neither displays the actual measurement values nor indicates whether the adjustment is within the proper limits; rather, the operator simply reads the value from the HP 3561A and adjusts the specified component until the reading is within limits.

The following adjustments are made:

Component	Circuit	Purpose
A3R68	AC/DC Adaptive Coupler	Minimize dc offset
A3R74	1 Hz High-Pass Filter	Minimize dc offset
A3R80	10 Hz High-Pass Filter	Minimize dc offset
A3R86	100 Hz High-Pass Filter	Minimize dc offset
A3R92	1 kHz High-Pass Filter	Minimize dc offset
A3R98	10 kHz High-Pass Filter	Minimize dc offset
A3R132	Floating Amplifier 2	Maximize ground isolation
A3R134	Floating Amplifier 1	Maximize ground isolation
A3R210	DAC 2	Set reference level
A3R206	DAC 3	Set reference level

Since these procedures require accessing the interior of the Interface, precautions should be taken to prevent electrical shock. Care should also be taken to minimize electrostatic discharge that could damage sensitive electrical devices.

PROCEDURE

Initial Setup

- The adjustments to the A3 Analyzer Interface Assembly require removal of the top cover of the Interface. To do this:
 - Switch LINE to OFF.
 - Remove the line cord.
 - If the rear panel of the Interface has two feet in the upper corners, remove them.
 - Unscrew the screw in the middle of the rear edge of the top cover. This is a captive screw and will cause the top cover to push away from the frame. Slide the cover back about 6.5 mm (0.25 inch) and lift it off.
 - Reinsert the power cord and switch LINE back to ON.
- Set the HP 3561A input switch to the FLOAT position.
- Press the **Spcl. Funct'n** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.
- Press the **3048A Sys Chk** softkey.
- Press the **Int. Adj'mnt** softkey.
- Press the **Adjust A3** softkey.

Ground Isolation Adjustments

9. The prompt

CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE (REAR PANEL) TO
HP3561A INPUT.

instructs you to connect the HP 3561A as shown in Figure 13. This sets up a reference for the following measurements.

10. The prompt

CONNECT A BNC TEE TO THE HP11848A AT
'PHASE DETECTOR OUTPUT TO 3561A INPUT'
AND
CONNECT CABLE FROM BNC TEE TO HP3561A INPUT

followed by

USING A BNC TO CLIP LEAD ADAPTER
CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE AS FOLLOWS:
GROUND LEAD TO HP11848A CHASSIS GROUND
SIGNAL LEAD TO BNC 'TEE' (ISOLATED GROUND)

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 14.

NOTE

Connect the ground (outer conductor) lead of the cliplead adapter to chassis ground in the HP 11848A. (Testpoint A3 TP46 is a convenient ground connection point.)

Connect the other lead (the signal lead or inner conductor) of the cliplead adapter to the outer conductor of the BNC tee. Note that the outer conductor of the tee is not chassis ground; it is an isolated, floating ground.

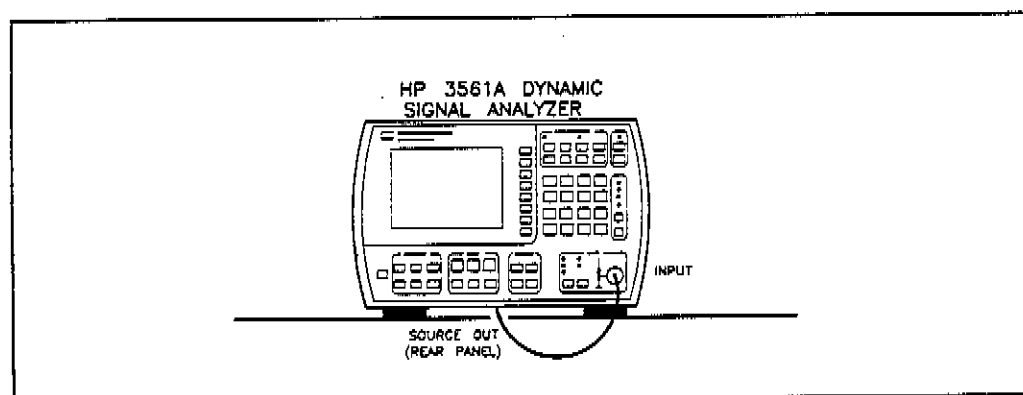


Figure 13. Second A3 Adjustment Setup

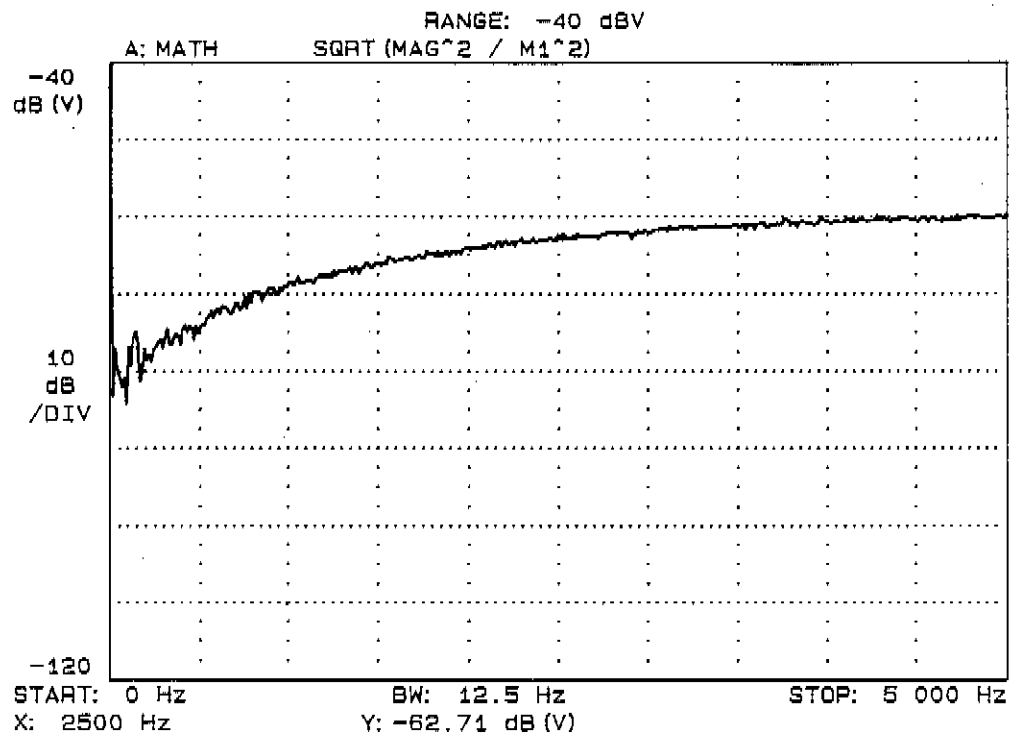


Figure 15. Typical Ground Isolation Adjustment

A4 Adjustments

DESCRIPTION

The A4 Phase Detector Assembly in the HP 11848A has six adjustments. The adjustments are guided by the system software but the software neither displays the actual measurement values nor indicates whether the adjustment is within the proper limits; rather, the operator simply reads the value from the measuring instrument (usually the HP 3561A) and adjusts the specified component until the reading is within limits.

The following adjustments are made:

Component	Circuit	Purpose
A4R67 A4R51 A4R70	Low-Noise Amplifier Low-Noise Amplifier Low-Noise Amplifier	Minimize dc offset Match input impedance (50 Ω) Match low/high frequency gains
A4R38	PLL 12 dB Amplifier	Zeros panel meter at maximum sensitivity
A4R278	DAC 1	Set reference level
A4C32	Low-Noise Amplifier	High-frequency peaking ⁽¹⁾
⁽¹⁾ This adjustment can be done only with the HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer in the System's Configuration Table.		

Since these procedures require accessing the interior of the Interface, precautions should be taken to prevent electrical shock. Care should also be taken to minimize electrostatic discharge that could damage sensitive electrical devices.

EQUIPMENT

RF Spectrum Analyzer. The adjustment of A4C32 requires an HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer. This adjustment is necessary only if phase noise measurements to 40 MHz offsets are made. Since an RF spectrum analyzer with a tracking generator must be used and since the program software controls only the HP 3585A, no substitution of equipment is possible. (The software will not run the A4C32 adjustment if an HP 3585A is not in the System's Configuration Table.)

PROCEDURE

Initial Setup

1. The adjustments to the A4 Phase Detector Assembly require that the assembly be pulled out from the front panel. (It will be helpful to refer to the figure and procedure for accessing the A4 assembly in the HP 11848A *Service Manual*.) To do this:
 - a. Switch LINE to OFF.
 - b. Remove the line cord.
 - c. Remove the plastic trim strip from the top of the front frame.
 - d. Remove the three Torx screws in the top of the front frame.
 - e. Remove the three Torx screws in the bottom of the front frame.

8. Make the adjustment for A4R67 as instructed.

NOTE

The adjustment limit prompt "0 VDC +/- 20 mV" means that the adjusted value should be between -20 and +20 millivolts dc.

The value you are monitoring and adjusting appear as the value for "Y:" at the bottom center of the HP 3561A display.

*On some A4 adjustments the **Next adj.** softkey appears. This key permits you to skip the current adjustment and go on to the next one.*

9. The prompt

TERMINATE HP3561A INPUT IN 50 OHMS USING 'BNC TEE'
AND
CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE (REAR PANEL) TO
HP3561A INPUT AT 'BNC TEE'

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 18. This sets up a 50 Ω reference for the following measurements.

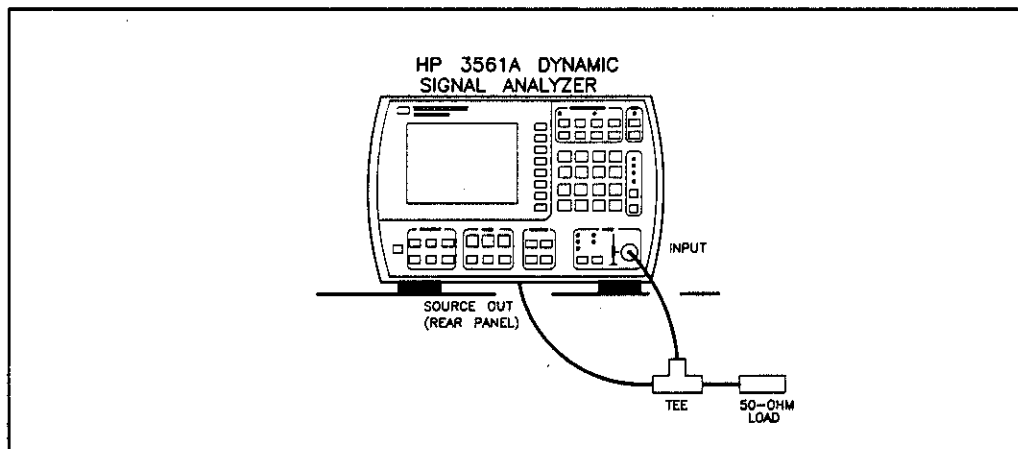


Figure 18. Second A4 Adjustment Setup

10. The prompt

REMOVE 50 OHM TERMINATION FROM BNC TEE
AND
CONNECT CABLE FROM BNC TEE TO HP11848A NOISE INPUT

instructs you to remove the 50 Ω load from the BNC tee and to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 19. This allows the HP 3561A to compare the loading of the noise input port to the loading of a 50 Ω termination.

12. The prompt

CONNECT HP11848A
'PHASE DETECTOR OUTPUTS TO HP3561A INPUT'
TO
HP3561A INPUT

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 17 (the same as in step 7).

13. The prompt

CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE TO HP11848A AT
'NOISE INPUT FROM HP3561A SOURCE OUTPUT'
(REAR PANEL)

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 21.

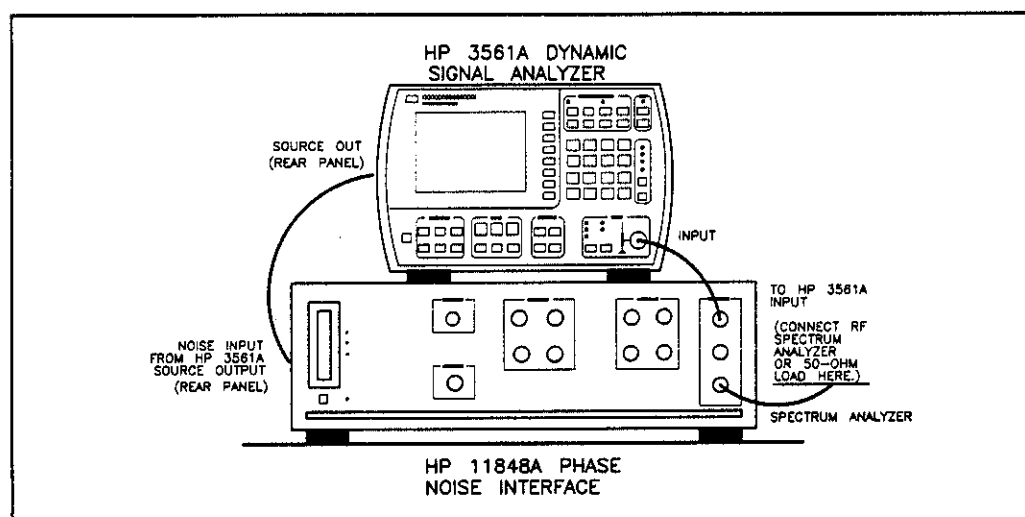


Figure 21. Fourth A4 Adjustment Setup

14. Adjust A4R70 as instructed. The result should be similar to the one in Figure 20.

Phase Lock Loop 12 dB Amplifier Adjustment

15. Adjust A4R38 to zero the panel meter as instructed.

DAC 1 Adjustment

16. Adjust A4R278 as instructed.

NOTE

The adjustment limit prompt "+10 VOLTS +/- .05 VOLTS" means that the adjusted value should be between +9.95 and +10.05 volts.

If there is no HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer on HP-IB, the adjustments will end after this adjustment.

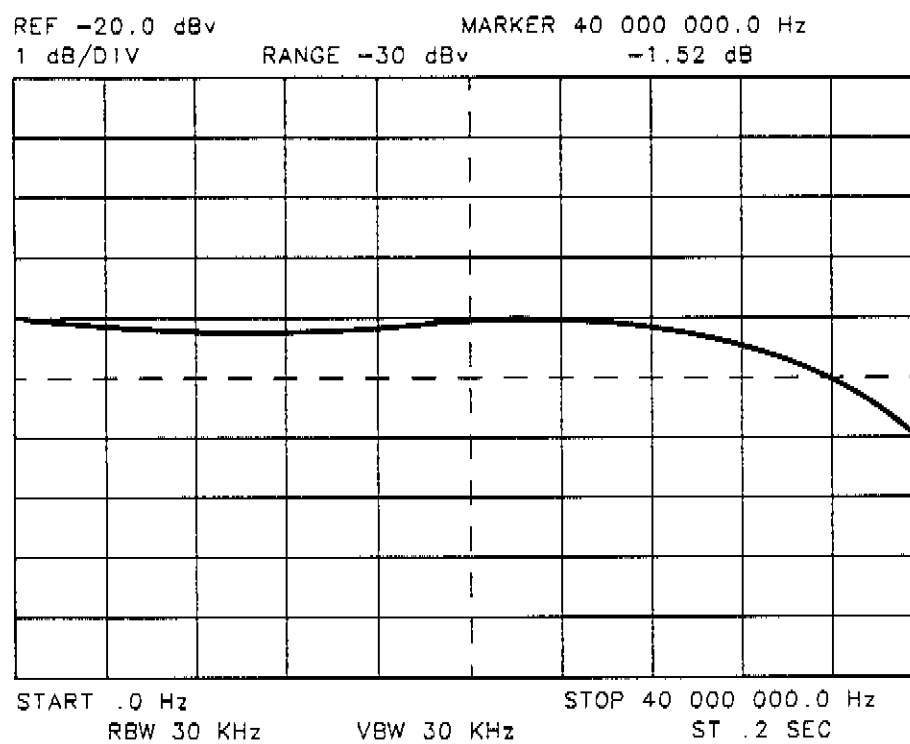


Figure 23. Typical Low-Noise Amplifier Peaking Adjustment

Option 1 Calibration

DESCRIPTION

The Option 1 Calibration program characterizes the gain and flatness of signal paths internal to the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface. These unique characteristics are calibration factors which scale the measurement results for best noise measurement accuracy.

NOTE

Option 1 Calibration is similar to Option 2 Calibration. However, Option 2 Calibration collects data to characterize two additional reference paths. Perform Option 2 Calibration annually. Perform Option 1 Calibration when significant ambient changes occur.

For frequencies of 100 kHz and below, the calibration program sets up the HP 3561A as a scalar network analyzer. The internal noise source of the HP 3561A is the input signal to the network under test and the spectrum analyzer function measures the magnitude of the output from the network. For frequencies of 100 kHz through 40 MHz, the HP 3585A (which is required for this frequency range) is used with its internal tracking generator used as the stimulus.

The collected data is stored in two files in mass media storage titled "CALDATALO" and "CALDATAHI". Since the data is unique to each individual HP 11848A, it is important that the two files be transferred along with the Interface should the Interface be moved to another System. The data should be tagged to the serial number of the Interface it represents. (The Interface's serial number is logged in the System's Configuration Table.) Note, however, that the data is not unique to the HP 3561A (or HP 3585A) spectrum analyzer.

EQUIPMENT

RF Spectrum Analyzer. The System collects data through offsets of 100 kHz with the HP 3561A. Data through 40 MHz offsets requires, in addition, an HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer. Since an RF spectrum analyzer with a tracking generator must be used and since the program software controls only the HP 3585A, no substitution of equipment is possible.

PROCEDURE

Initial Setup

1. Set the HP 3561A input switch to the FLOAT position.
2. Press the **[Spcl. Funct'n]** softkey available at the Main Software Level menu.
3. Press the **[3048A Sys Chk]** softkey.

NOTE

Before proceeding with the measurements, you should read the Comments section below.

4. Press the **[Cal System]** softkey.

Comments

Printer On/Off. If a printer is in the System's Configuration Table, the feature which permits printing of measurement results can be enabled or disabled. When the **Printer On** or **Printer Off** softkey appears, pressing the key will toggle the printout feature. It is recommended that the tests be run with the printer.

Plot On/Off. A feature which permits plotting of the measured transfer functions can be enabled or disabled. When the **Plot On** or **Plot Off** softkey appears, pressing the key will toggle the plot feature.

When plotting is enabled, as measurement of a path is completed, a plot of the transfer function is displayed and the program pauses to permit examination of the plot. The display also shows the insertion loss and frequency of one of two markers. The position of the markers can be moved by the cursor control keys (or knob). If the **Marker 1** softkey is displayed, the marker and displayed values are for unsmoothed ("raw") transfer function data. If the **Marker 2** softkey is displayed (by toggling the marker softkey), the marker and displayed values are for smoothed data (which is actually the data used by the System in making phase-noise measurements).

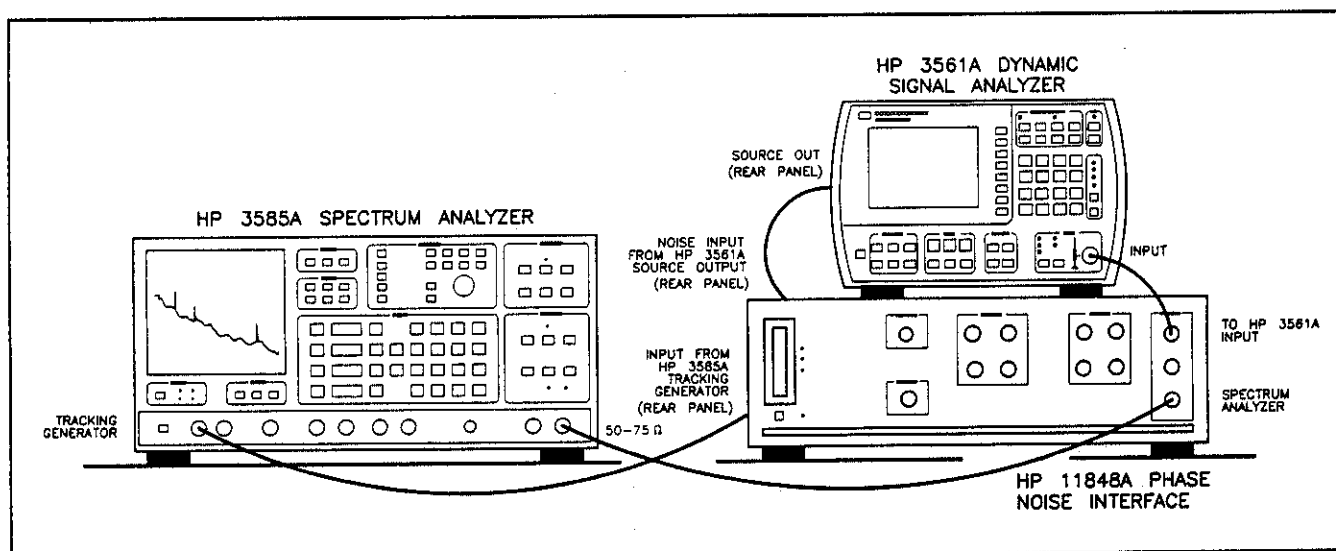


Figure 26. Second Option 1 Calibration Setup

Calibration to 100 kHz Offsets

5. Press the **Cal to 100 kHz** softkey.
6. Press the **Option 2** softkey.
7. Connect the cables as prompted on the display and as shown in Figure 27.

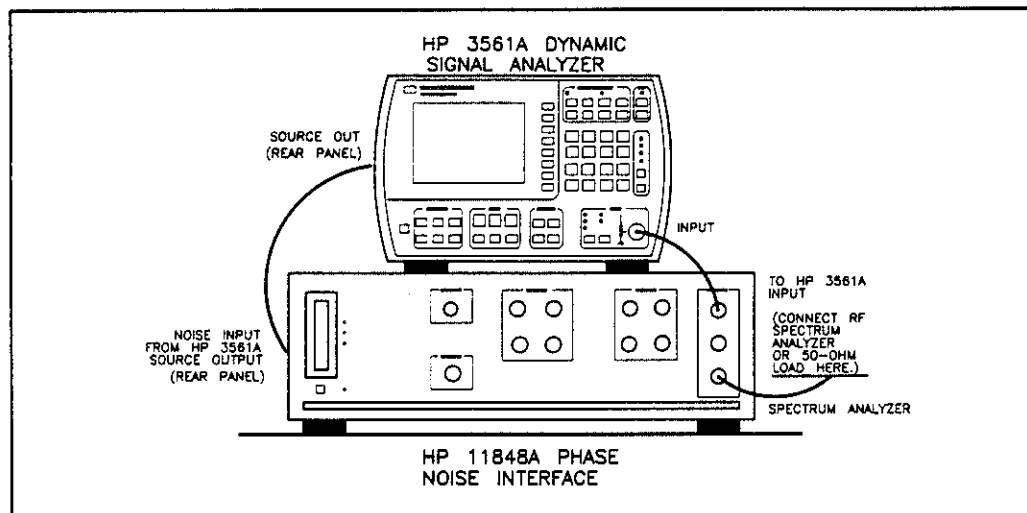


Figure 27. First Option 2 Calibration Setup

8. The prompt

TERMINATE HP3561A INPUT IN 50 OHMS USING 'BNC TEE'

followed by

CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE (REAR PANEL) TO
HP3561A INPUT AT 'BNC TEE'

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 28. This sets up a 50Ω reference for the following measurements.

9. The prompt

CONNECT HP3561A NOISE SOURCE (REAR PANEL) TO
HP11848A NOISE INPUT (FRONT PANEL)

followed by

REMOVE 50 OHM TERMINATION AND 'BNC TEE' FROM
HP3561A INPUT.

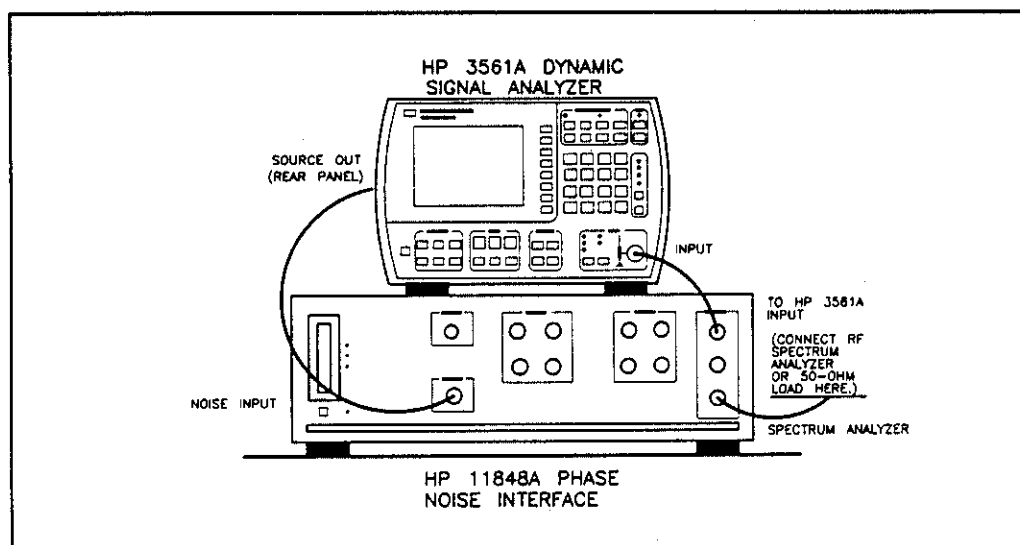


Figure 29. Third Option 2 Calibration Setup

NOTE

Difficulties encountered in storing calibration data in mass storage generate prompts to assist in clearing the problem. A common example of a problem is a write-protected floppy disc.

This is the end of Option 2 Calibration if no HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer is present.

Calibration 100 kHz through 40 MHz Offsets

12. Press the **Cal System** softkey.
13. Press the **Cal to 40 MHz** softkey.
14. Make the cable connections as prompted on the display and as shown in part in Figure 30.
15. Press the **Option 2** softkey and continue with the cable connections as show in Figure 30. Also, check that the tracking generator level is maximum.
16. The prompt

CONNECT HP3585A TRACKING GENERATOR TO
HP3585A 50 OHM INPUT

instructs you to connect the HP 3585A as shown in Figure 31.

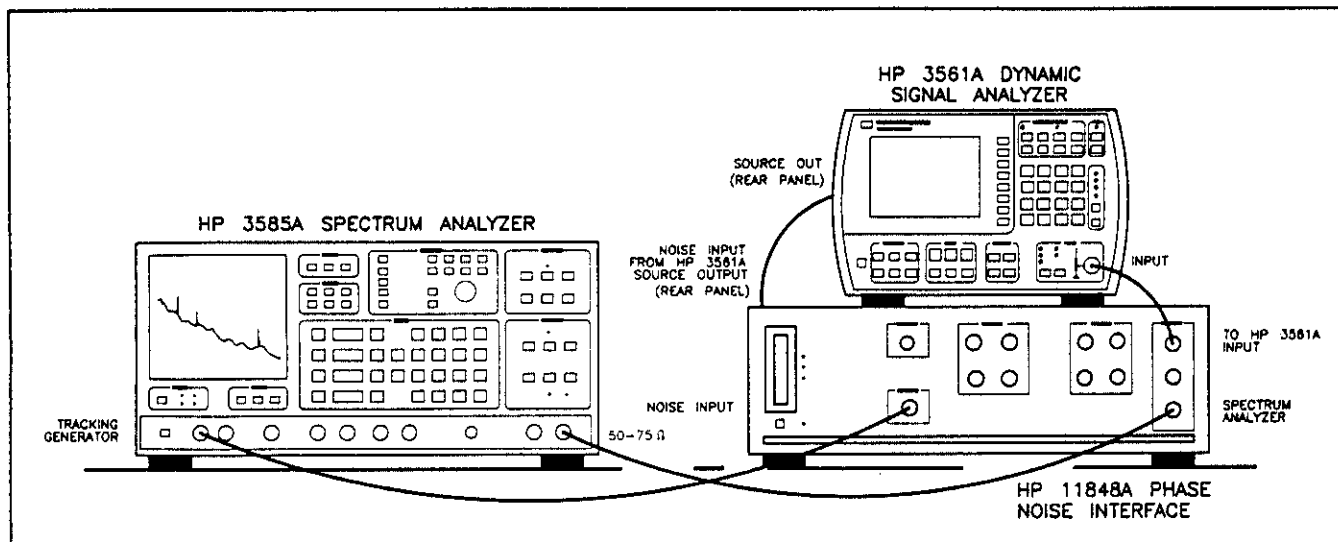


Figure 32. Sixth Option 2 Calibration Setup

18. The prompt

RE-CONNECT HP3585A TRACKING GENERATOR OUTPUT TO
HP11848A REAR PANEL AT:
'INPUT FROM HP3585A TRACKING GENERATOR

instructs you to connect the instruments as shown in Figure 30 (the same as in step 15).

19. Store the data as outlined in step 11 above.

Comments

Printer On/Off. If a printer is in the System's Configuration Table, the feature which permits printing of measurement results can be enabled or disabled. When the **Printer On** or **Printer Off** softkey appears, pressing the key will toggle the printout feature. It is recommended that the tests be run with a printer.

Plot On/Off. A feature which permits plotting of the measured transfer functions can be enabled or disabled. When the **Plot On** or **Plot Off** softkey appears, pressing the key will toggle the plot feature.

When plotting is enabled, as measurement of a path is completed, a plot of the transfer function is displayed and the program pauses to permit examination of the plot. The display also shows the insertion loss and frequency of one of two markers. The position of the markers can be moved by the cursor control keys (or knob). If the **Marker 1** softkey is displayed, the marker and displayed values are for unsmoothed ("raw") transfer function data. If the **Marker 2** softkey is displayed (by toggling the marker softkey), the marker and displayed values are for smoothed data (which is actually the data used by the System in making phase-noise measurements).

NOTE

For all oscillators increasing the voltage decreases the frequency.

The 10 MHz A Oscillator has a tuning sensitivity of approximately 20 Hz/V.

DAC2 can be set only in 50 mV increments; DAC3 in 1 mV increments. The acceptable range of voltages are listed below the last entry of the display.

If an unacceptable value is entered, the DAC voltage, after giving the send command, will either be unchanged, rounded off, or a prompt will indicate that the entry needs modification.

Calibration of the 10 MHz B Oscillator

10. Connect the cable from the HP 11848A front-panel 10 MHz B source output to the counter's input as prompted.
11. The prompt

Press 'Proceed' TO ACCESS HP11848A FRONT PANEL
Then adjust DAC2 and DAC3 for a frequency reading of
10 MHz +/- 50 Hz.
You may return from 'Front Panel' by pressing 'DONE'

readies you for the HP 11848A CONTROL display.

12. To adjust the DACs, proceed as in step 9 to bring the frequency within ± 50 Hz of 10 MHz, then press the **DONE** softkey and continue on to step 13. (The tuning sensitivity is about 200 Hz/V.)

Calibration of the 350-500 MHz Oscillator

13. Connect the cable from the HP 11848A front-panel 350-500 MHz source output to the counter's input as prompted.
14. The prompt

Press 'Proceed' TO ACCESS HP11848A FRONT PANEL
Then adjust DAC2 and DAC3 for a frequency reading of
400 MHz +/- 1 MHz.
You may return from 'Front Panel' by pressing 'DONE'

readies you for the HP 11848A CONTROL display.

15. To adjust the DACs, proceed as in step 9 to bring the frequency between 399 and 401 MHz, then press the **DONE** softkey. (The tuning sensitivity is about 20 MHz/V.)

Storing the Data

16. As you are prompted for the 10 MHz A oscillator, press either the **Proceed** softkey to indicate that you want to store the new VNOM in mass storage or the **Abort** softkey to indicate you want to retain the old VNOM. Actual storing of data is in step 19.
17. As you are prompted for the 10 MHz B oscillator, press either the **Proceed** softkey to indicate that you want to store the new VNOM in mass storage or the **Abort** softkey to indicate you want to retain the old VNOM. Actual storing of data is in step 19.
18. As you are prompted for the 350-500 MHz oscillator, press either the **Proceed** softkey to indicate that you want to store the new VNOM in mass storage or the **Abort** softkey to indicate you want to retain the old VNOM. Actual storing of data is in step 19.

Spectral Purity Tests for Options 001 and 002

DESCRIPTION

Option 001 adds an HP 8662A Synthesized Signal Generator as a System reference source. Option 002 adds an HP 8663A Synthesized Signal Generator as a System reference source. To test the spectral purity of these options, an absolute, phase-lock-loop, phase-noise measurement is made with the signal generator in the System vs. another signal generator of the same type. The test is run only for a carrier of 1270 MHz.

NOTE

The phase noise measurement result is the combined noise of both signal generators. Both generators together must meet the specified noise level. If one or both generators do not meet the specification, a third generator must be measured vs. each of the other two generators to determine which generator is not within specification. This procedure is known as a three-oscillator comparison test.

EQUIPMENT

Printer. These tests will run without the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table. It is recommended that the test be run with a printer.

Reference Signal Generator. The reference generator can be either an HP 8662A Option 003 or an HP 8663A Option 003 Synthesized Signal Generator.

RF Spectrum Analyzer. The System collects data to 100 kHz offsets with the HP 3561A. Data to 40 MHz offsets requires, in addition, an RF spectrum analyzer. Any supported RF spectrum analyzer can be used in this test. However, all specified effects are covered with the HP 3561A. An RF analyzer is needed only if informational data beyond 100 kHz is desired.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **Define Msrmnt** softkey. This softkey appears at the Main Software Level Menu.
2. Press the **Test Files** softkey.
3. Press the **Next Page** softkey until the file name "HP TEST HP 8662/63 vs HP 8662/63 ABS @ 1270MHz" appears in the table of file names. Move the cursor until it encompasses the file name and press the **Load File** softkey.
4. When the file has been loaded, press the **DONE** softkey.

NOTE

This file has been set up specifically to measure the HP 8662A and HP 8663A Synthesized Signal Generators and all entries in the Define Measurement Parameter Table have been set for best measurement accuracy for these sources. It is assumed that the System's HP 8662A or HP 8663A is in the System's Configuration Table.

5. Press the **DONE** softkey to select the Main Software Level Menu.
6. Press the **New Msrmnt** softkey.
7. Connect the instruments as shown on the on-screen connection diagram and in Figure 33.

Spectral Purity Tests for Options 003 and 004

DESCRIPTION

Option 003 adds an HP 11729C Carrier Noise Test Set as a down-converter to the System reference source. Option 004 adds an HP 11729C Option 130 Carrier Noise Test Set (with an AM detector) as a down-converter to the System reference source. The reference source can be either an HP 8662A Option 003 or an HP 8663A Option 003.

This test measures the absolute noise floor of the System including the contributions of two reference sources and two down-converters. (Refer to the functional diagram of Figure 34.) The test method measures the sum of the noise of two down-converters (including the noise of their respective 640 MHz reference sources—Source 2 and Source 3) by having each one down-convert a common source (Source 1). The noise of the common source is then cancelled in the phase detector. Quadrature is maintained by phase locking.

Tuning is via the electronic frequency control (EFC) port of one of the 640 MHz sources. Source 1 is an independent microwave signal generator or simply the main RF output of one of the HP 8662As or HP 8663As (which, by multiplying up its time base reference, supplies the 640 MHz Source 2 or Source 3).

NOTE

Since the noise floor measurement result includes the combined noise of both down-converters and signal generators, all sources (except Source 1) together must be better than the specified noise level. If the test results do not meet specification, the 640 MHz references from the HP 8662As or HP 8663As should be tested. The procedure to do this is found in Appendix B.

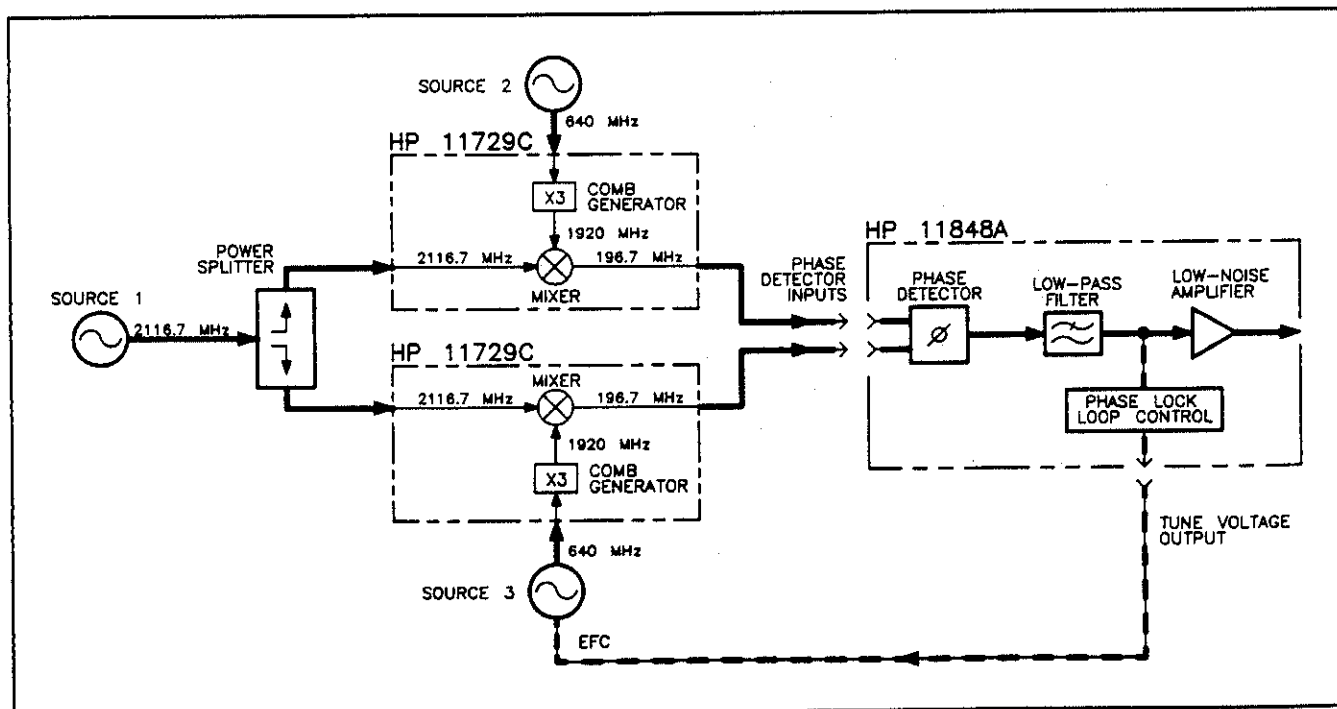


Figure 34. Functional Diagram of the Spectral Purity Tests

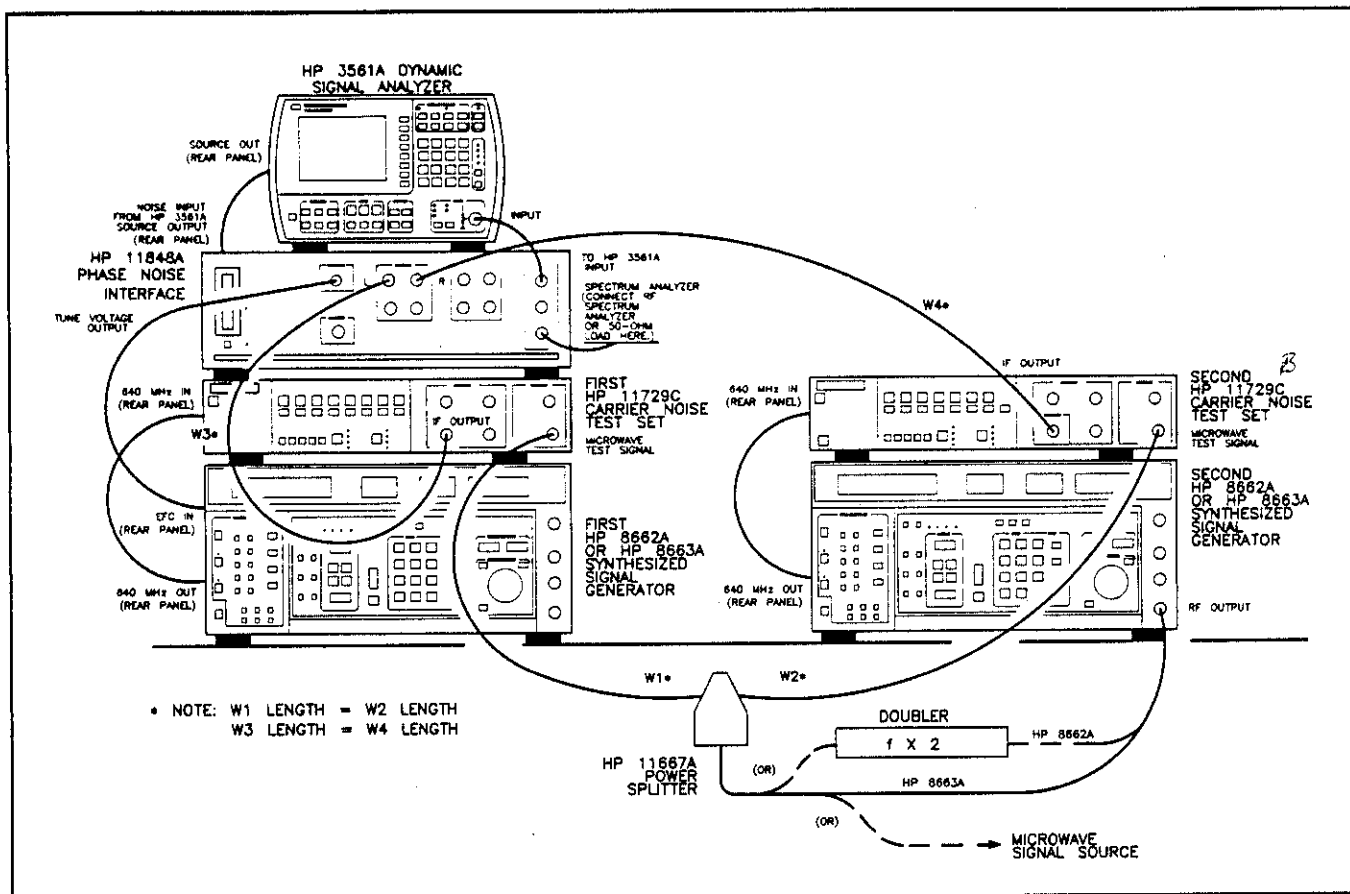


Figure 35. Spectral Purity Tests for Options 003 and 004 Setup

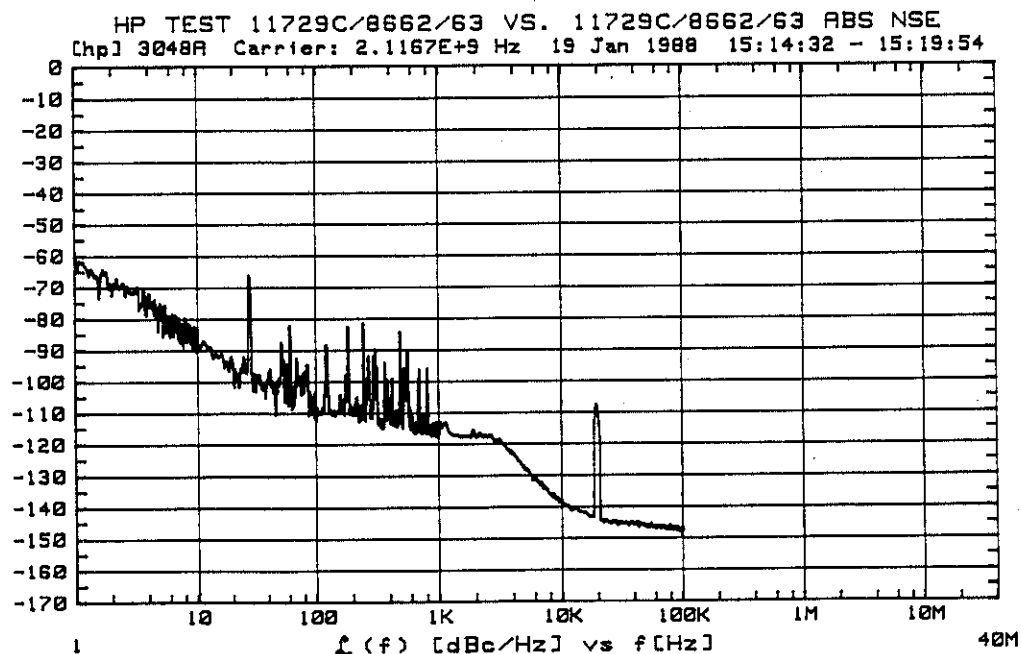


Figure 36. Typical Spectral Purity Tests Results

Spectral Purity Tests for Options 005 and 006

DESCRIPTION

Option 005 adds an HP 8642A Signal Generator Option 001 as a System reference source. Option 006 adds an HP 8642B Signal Generator Option 001 as a System reference source. (Option 001 in the HP 8642A or HP 8642B adds a high-stability timebase reference.) To test the spectral purity of these options, an absolute, phase-lock-loop, phase-noise measurement is made with the signal generator in the System vs. another signal generator of the same performance or better. The test is run only for a carrier of 640 MHz.

NOTE

The phase noise measurement result is the combined noise of both signal generators. If a second HP 8642A or HP 8642B Signal Generator is used, the specified noise level should be raised 3 dB. Then, if one or both generators do not meet the specification, a third generator must be measured vs. each of the other two generators to determine which generator is not within specification. This procedure is known as a three-oscillator comparison test.

EQUIPMENT

Printer. These tests will run without the presence of a printer in the System's Configuration Table. It is recommended that the test be run with a printer.

Reference Signal Generator. The reference signal generator must have phase noise performance that equals or exceeds the specifications for the HP 8642A or HP 8642B under test. Possible reference sources include the 640 MHz reference from an HP 8662A Option 003 or HP 8663A Option 003 Synthesized Signal Generator or a second HP 8642A or HP 8642B Signal Generator (which need not have Option 001). None of the sources need to be in the System's Configuration Table, but one may be. Having the System's HP 8642A or HP 8642B in the table will put it under automatic control.

RF Spectrum Analyzer. The System collects data to 100 kHz offsets with the HP 3561A. Although the System has a specification at 200 kHz offsets, data taken at 100 kHz offsets is adequate and thus eliminates the need for an RF spectrum analyzer. However, any supported RF spectrum analyzer, such as the HP 3585A Spectrum Analyzer, can be used in this test. With an RF spectrum analyzer connected, data to 40 MHz offsets will be displayed.

PROCEDURE

1. Press the **Define Msrmt** softkey. This softkey appears at the Main Software Level menu.
2. Press the **Test Files** softkey.
3. Press the **Next Page** softkey until the file name "HP TEST HP 8642A/B vs HP 8662/63 640 MHZ REF" appears in the table of file names. Move the cursor until it encompasses the file name and press the **Load File** softkey. (This test file allows a reference HP 8642A or HP 8642B even though "HP 8662/63" is in the title.)
4. When the file has been loaded, press the **DONE** softkey.

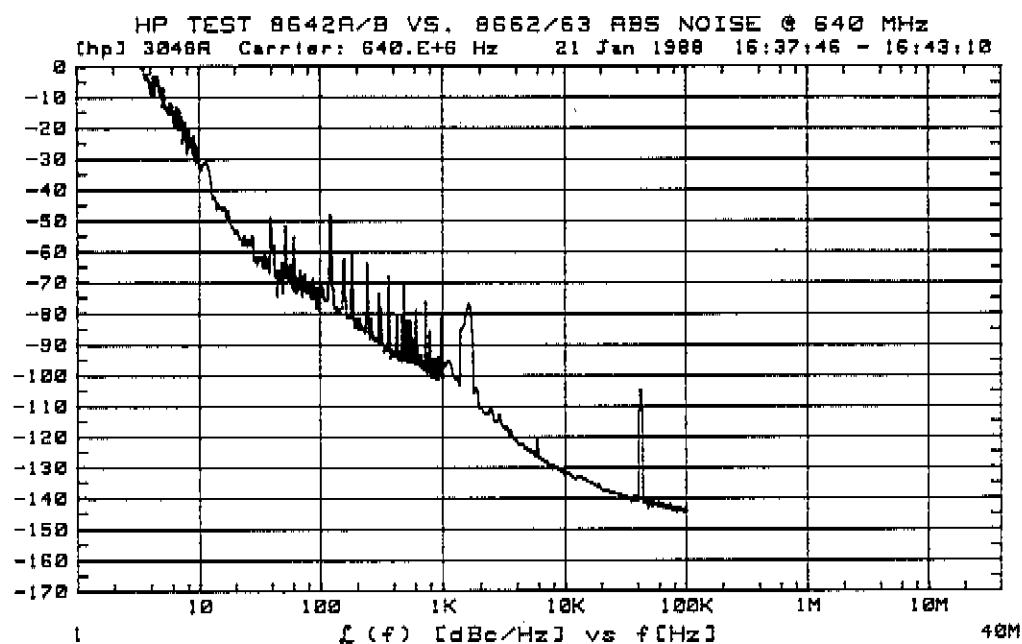


Figure 38. Typical Spectral Purity Tests Results with HP 8662A Reference Source

Appendix A: Block Diagram and System Troubleshooting

BLOCK DIAGRAM

The foldout at the back of this manual is a block diagram of the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface. When calibrating the System, the diagram helps to visualize what circuit functions are being tested. It is also very useful when running the HP 11848A Control feature which is required in several of the tests. The HP 11848A Control feature permits arbitrary control over all programmable circuits; the Block Diagram documents those circuits. For more information about the Block Diagram (such as theory of operation), refer to the *HP 11848A Service Manual*.

SYSTEM TROUBLESHOOTING

The tests described in this manual can often assist in isolating System faults down to a System device. Some aspects of the main software tests as they apply to isolating faulty System devices are described in the following list.

NOTE

A Diagnostic program for troubleshooting specifically the HP 11848A Phase Noise Interface is supplied on a separate mass media disc. The Diagnostic program is independent of the main software, and it is usually more efficient to use the main software programs until they point to the Interface as the faulty System device. The Diagnostic program can then be loaded to troubleshoot the Interface itself. Refer to the HP 11848A Service Manual.

Calibrate System. A series of transfer function measurements are made on various signal paths in the Interface. The measurement data is stored as calibration factors which the controller uses (either directly or in more involved calculations) to correct the measured phase noise data whenever that signal path is used. Normally the Calibrate System program is invoked only for the annual System calibration or when the Interface has been repaired. Any difficulties encountered when the calibration program is being run may point to the Interface. For example, a catastrophic failure of a high-pass filter in the Interface will generate data that is too far out of limits to be accepted as a legitimate transfer function; the program will then abort the measurement.

Performance Tests. To verify that the system meets its published specifications, a series of Performance Tests can be run. The failure of a test may contain enough clues to point to a failure in the Interface.

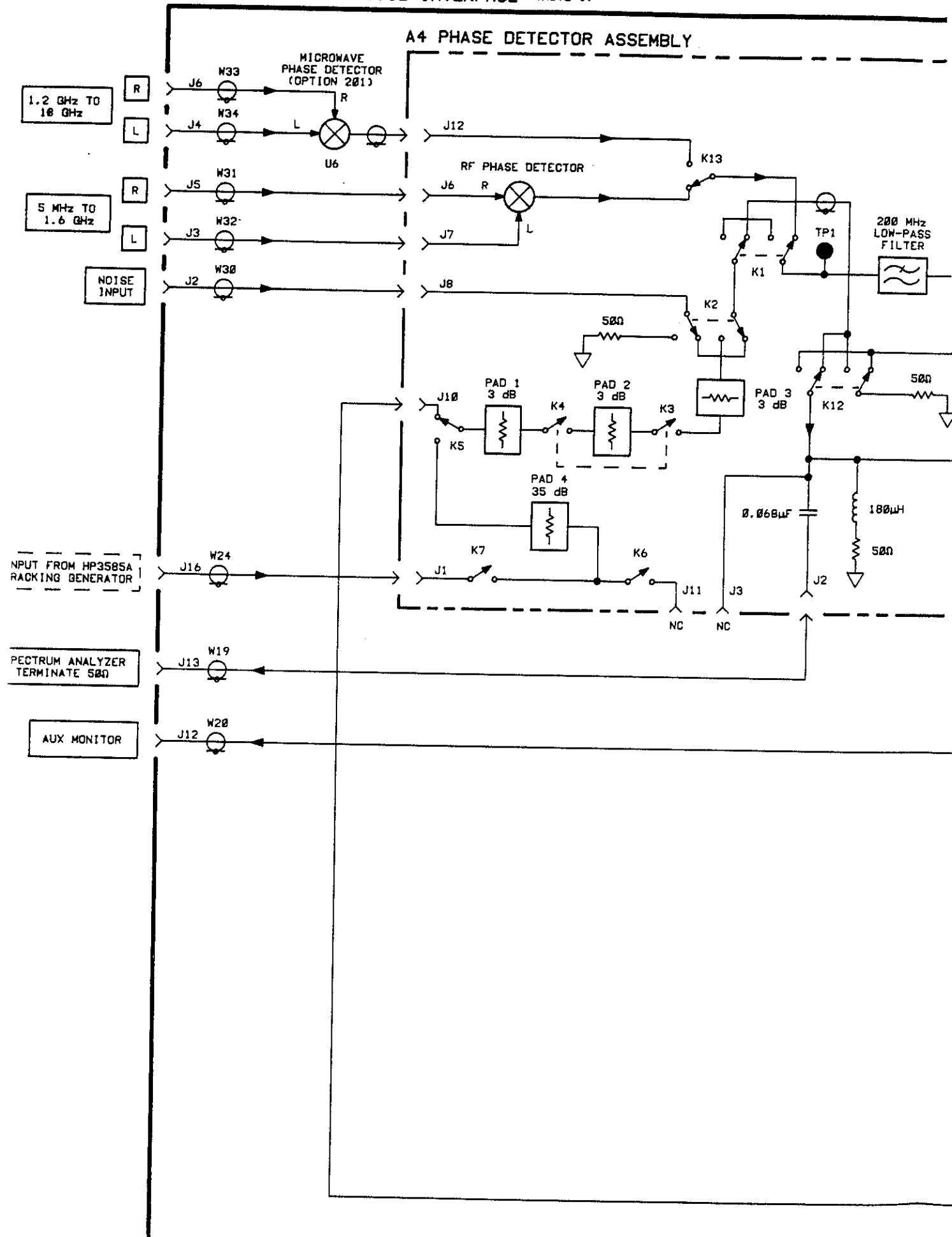
Internal Adjustments. Often small out-of-specification results of the Performance Tests or Functional Checks can be corrected by means of adjustments, particularly if the condition is due to a dc offset voltage that is out of limits.

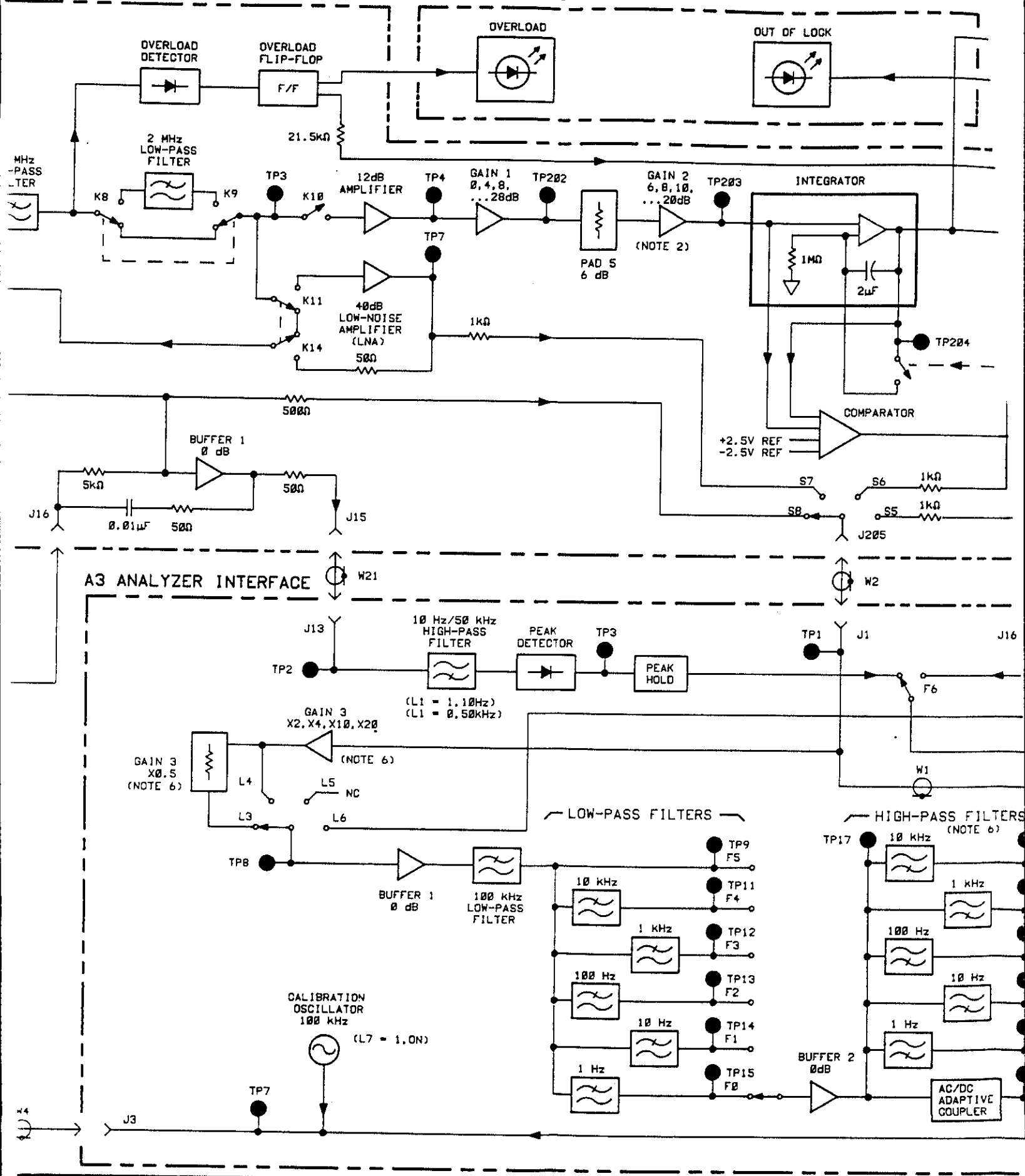
Functional Checks. These tests are an extension of the Performance Tests that test the general operational integrity of the Interface itself. The test limits are generally loose. (The tests in the Diagnostic program are similar to the Functional Checks, but they attempt to diagnose the failure in addition to simply indicating out-of-limits data.)

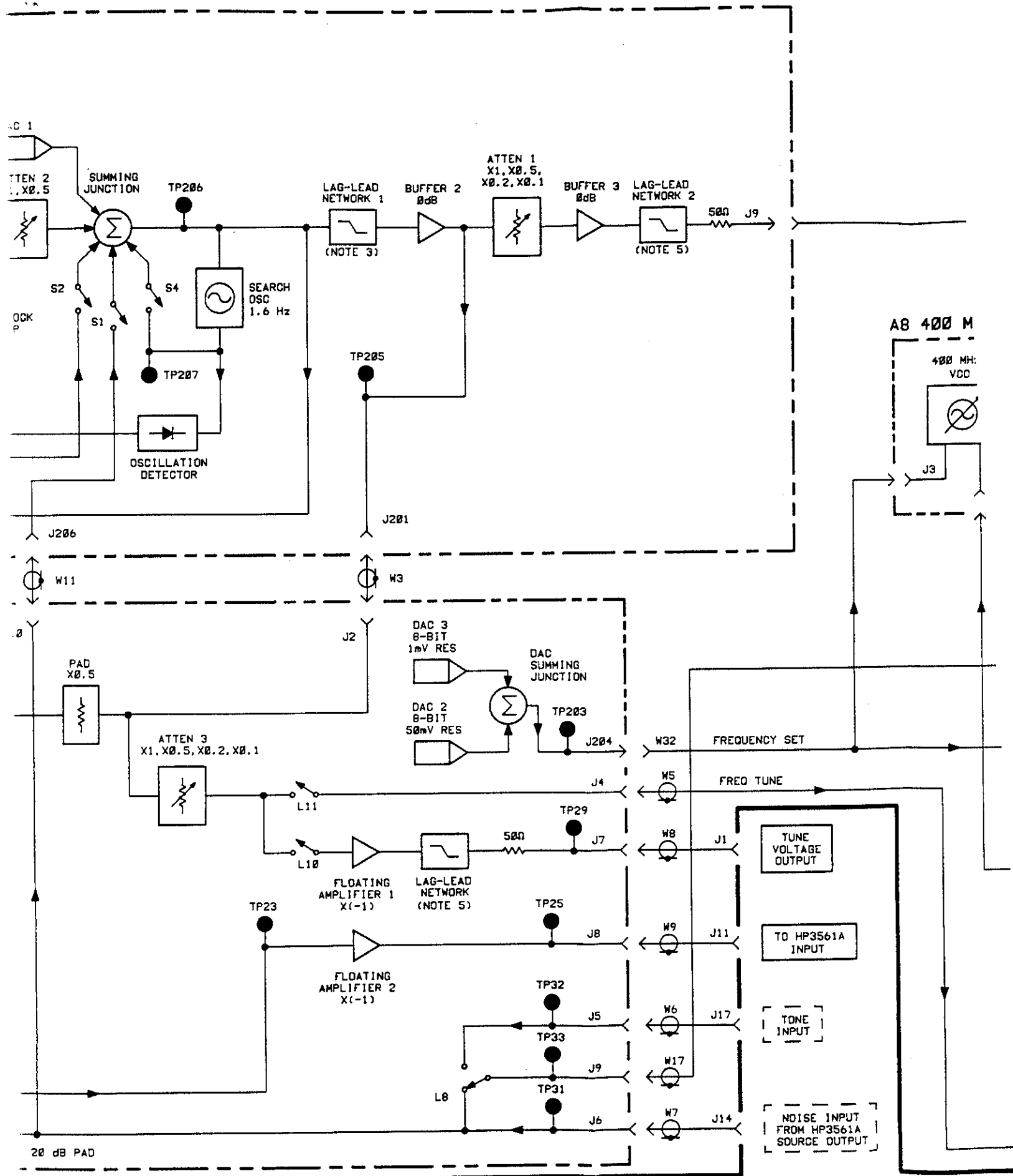
HP 11848A Control. Arbitrary and complete control of the programmable functions of the Interface from the controller keyboard is provided by the HP 11848A Control program. A single display contains all the Interface state information. Because of the compactness of the state information, you should consult the *HP 3048A Reference Manual* when running the program. (The keyboard control feature of the Diagnostic program is similar to this program.)

Troubleshoot Mode. When the Troubleshoot Mode (a subset of Test Mode) is enabled, information beyond simple error messages can be invoked. For example, tests can be aborted to the HP 11848A Control mode which shows the Interface state when the abort occurred.

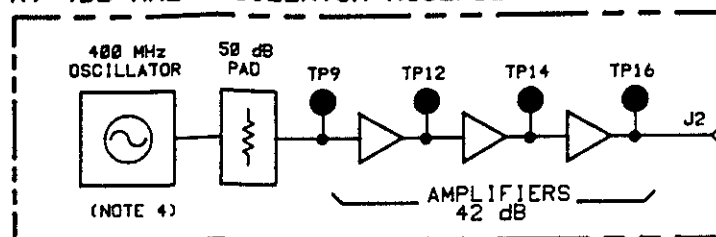
HP 11848A PHASE NOISE INTERFACE (NOTE 1)







A9 400 MHz OSCILLATOR ASSEMBLY



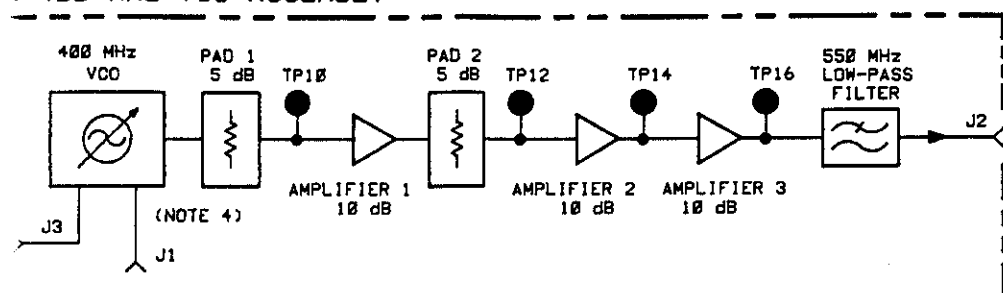
W16 J18

400 MHz
-5 dBm

W18 J18

TUNE
VOLTAGE
OUTPUT

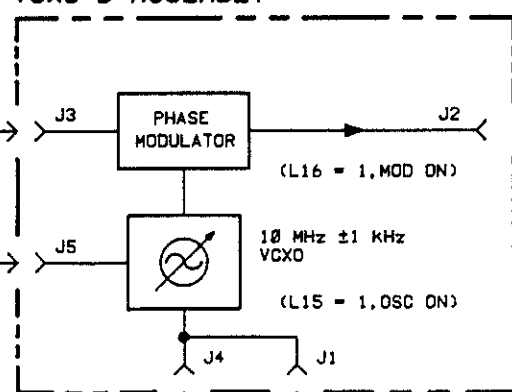
3 400 MHz VCO ASSEMBLY



W12 J8

350-500 MHz
+17 dBm

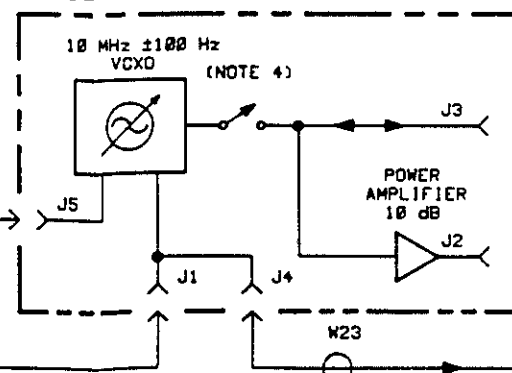
A7 10 MHz MODULATED VCXO B ASSEMBLY



W15 J9

10 MHz B
+6 dBm

A6 10 MHz VCXO A ASSEMBLY



W14 J15

10 MHz
SOURCE A OUTPUT
OR AMP INPUT
+7 dBm

W18 J7

10 MHz A
+15 dBm

BLOCK
DIAGRAM

5. When the file has been loaded, press the **DONE** softkey.
6. Press the **DONE** softkey again to select the Main Software Level menu.
7. Press the **New Msrmt** softkey.
8. Connect the instruments as shown in Figure B-1.

NOTE

The on-screen connection diagram, while showing the general measurement technique, is incomplete. Also note that neither of the HP 8662As or HP 8663As in Figure B-1 are under HP-IB control.

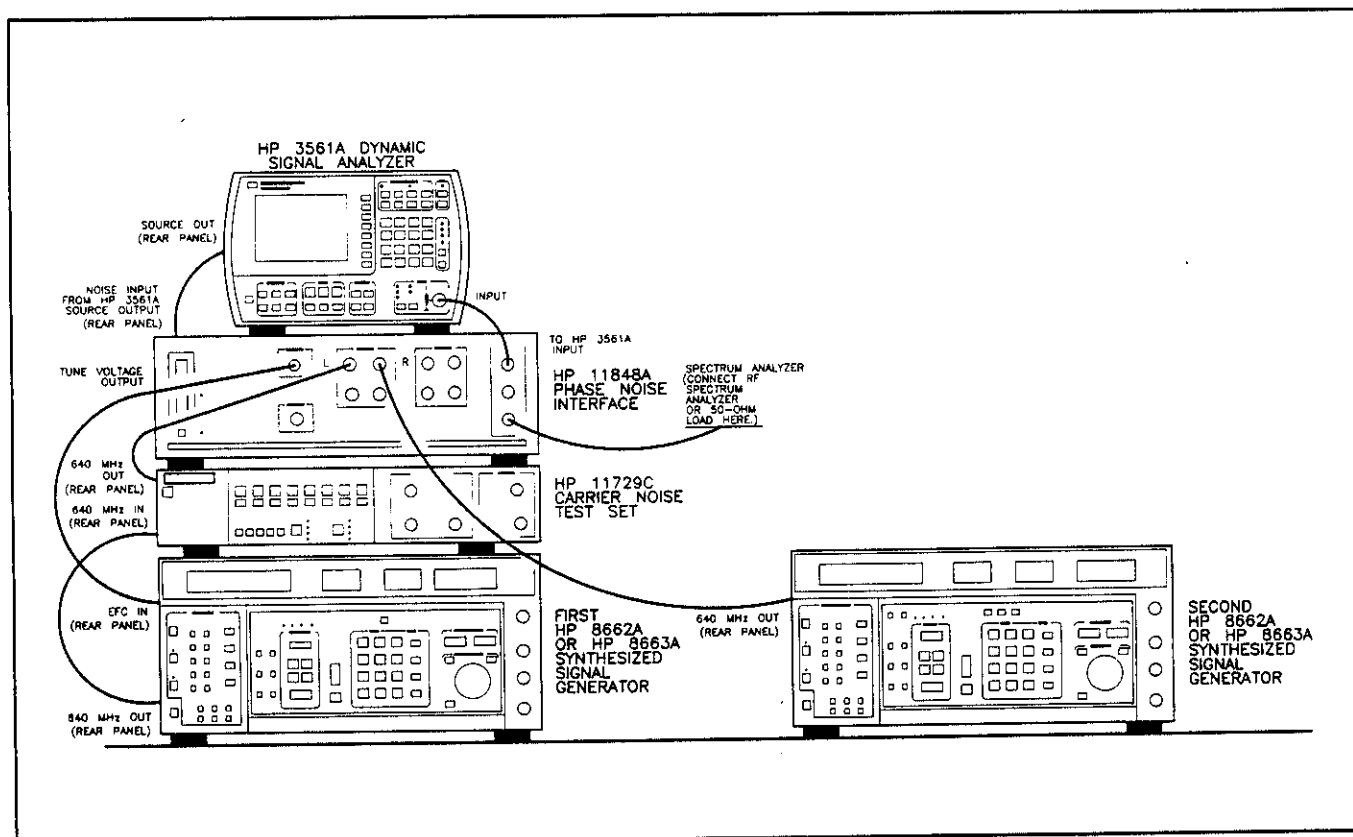


Figure B-1. HP 8662A or HP 8663A 640 MHz Spectral Purity Test

9. Press the **Proceed** softkey. The measurement should proceed automatically. The measured noise should be similar to that shown in Figure B-2 and should be within the limits given in the following table.

NOTE

If the beatnote frequency is too high, the System cannot tune the (EFC) source close enough to acquire phase lock. Various error messages on the display warn of this condition. You must then manually adjust either 640 MHz source (in the HP 8662As or HP 8663As) to bring the difference frequency of the sources within the loop's capture range. (For the HP 8662A and HP 8663A, the adjustment is located on the rear panel and is labeled "FINE FREQUENCY ADJUST".)

Offset Frequency (Hz)	Noise Level (dBc)	
	Actual	Maximum
1	_____	-54
10	_____	-84
100	_____	-104
1 000	_____	-118
10 000	_____	-142
100 000	_____	-154

NOTE

At some frequency offsets, phase noise levels may be obscured by spurious signals. When this is the case, estimate the phase noise level by averaging the levels at the bases of the spurious signals.

In the table above the noise level limits for offsets of 1000, 10 000, and 100 000 Hz are 3 dB higher than the published specification for the HP 8662A Option 003 or HP 8663A Option 003. This is because of the increased likelihood that the noise level of each source is similar and close to the specification. In that case, the combined noise is 3 dB higher than either source alone.

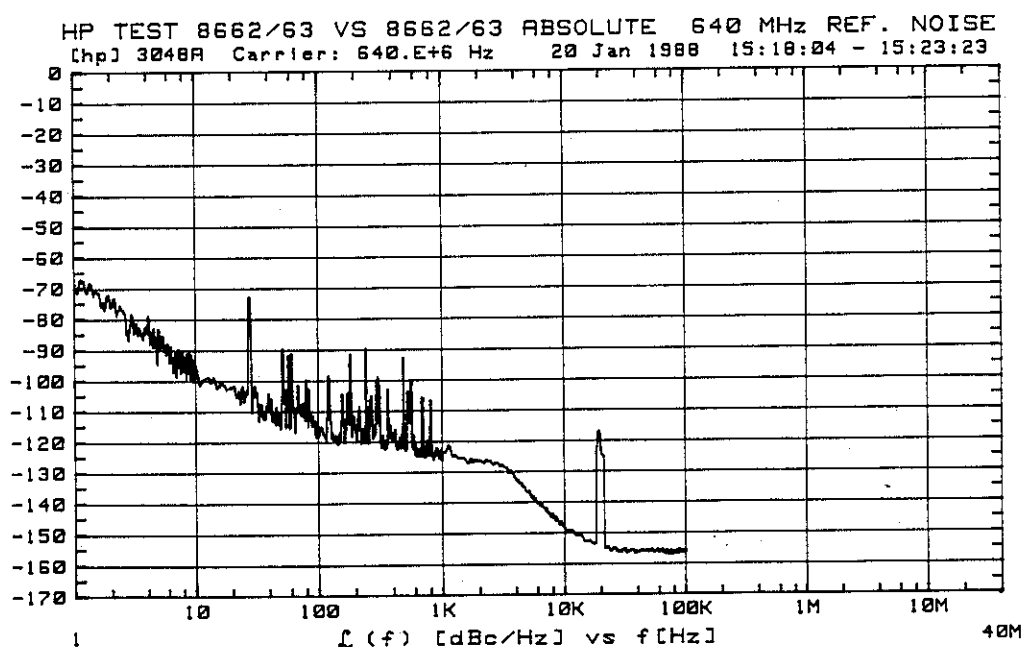


Figure B-2. Typical Spectral Purity Tests Results