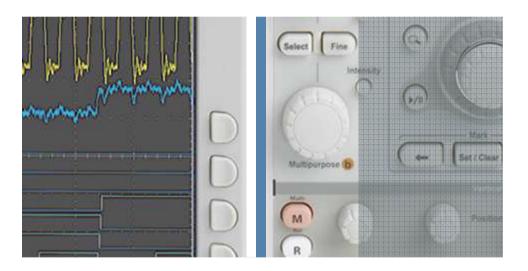
# Critical Considerations for Probing









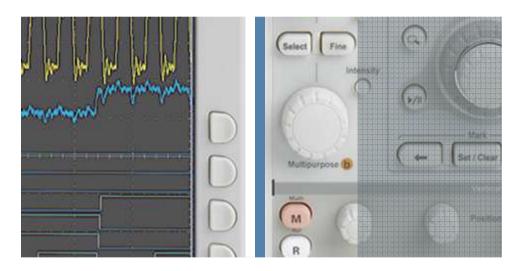
# Agenda

- Types of Probes
- Probe Selection Criteria
- How Probes Affect Your Measurement
- Choosing a Probe



# Types of Probes





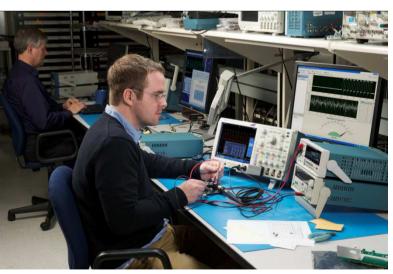




### Probes: Critical Elements of the Measurement System

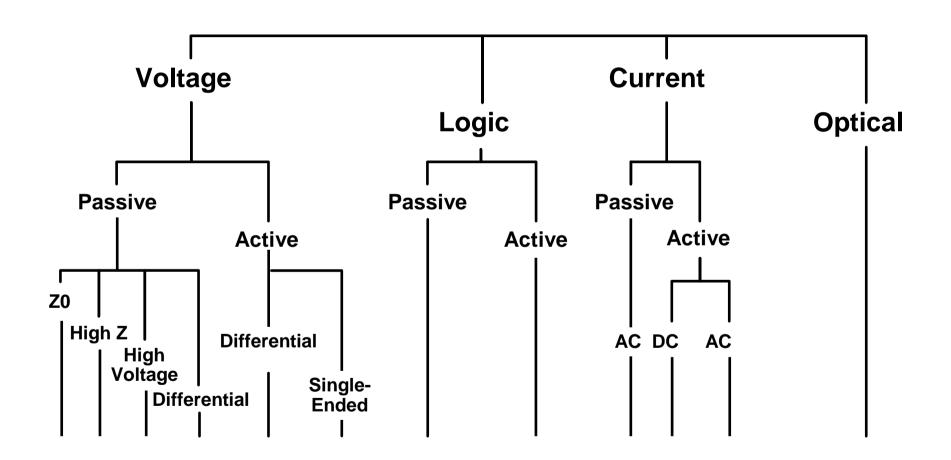
- The oscilloscope probe makes the physical and electrical connection between the circuit and the oscilloscope.
- The correct probe is critical to measurement quality.
- A poor choice will result in incorrect or misleading measurements.
- There are three defining characteristics for choosing the right probe:
  - Physical attachment (Connectivity)
  - Minimum impact on circuit operation (Signal Loading)
  - Quality signal transmission to the oscilloscope (Measured Response)







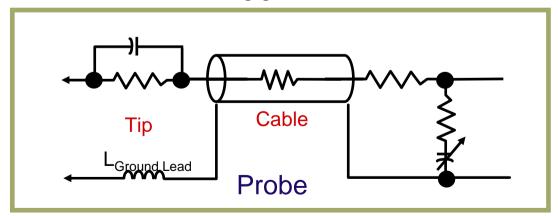
### **Basic Probe Types**





### Passive Voltage Probes

- Most basic probe with no active components
- Available in 1X, 2X, 10X, 100X and switchable
- Advantages
  - Inexpensive
  - Mechanically Rugged
  - Wide Dynamic Range
  - High Input R
- Disadvantages
  - High Input C
  - Inductance of long ground lead



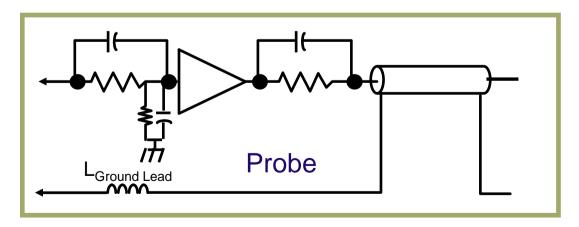


**Tektronix P2220 Probe** *1/10X, 200 MHz* 



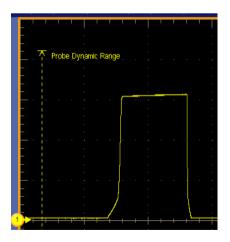
### **Active Voltage Probe**

- Uses active components
- Advantages
  - Low Input C
  - Wide Bandwidth
  - High Input R
  - Better Signal Fidelity
- Disadvantages
  - Higher Cost
  - Limited Dynamic Range
  - Mechanically Less Rugged





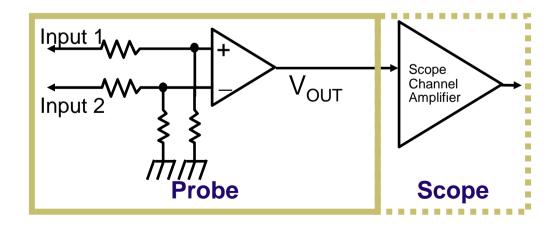
Tektronix TAP1500 Active Voltage Probe 10X, 1.5 GHz





### Differential Active Voltage Probes

- Differential Probes measure signals that are referenced to each other instead of earth ground.
- Advantages
  - Wide bandwidth
  - Large Common Mode Rejection Ratio (CMRR)
  - Minimal skew between inputs
  - Small input capacitance





Tektronix TDP0500 and TDP1000 Differential Probe 500 MHz or 1 GHz, 42V



### **Current Probes**

- Measures the electromagnetic flux field around a conductor to determine the current flow
- Two Major Types:
  - AC current probes (passive)
  - AD/DC current probes (active)
- Features to Consider:
  - Automatic scaling and units
  - Split-core vs. fixed-core connection to the device



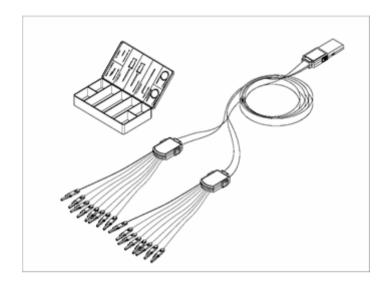


Tektronix TCP0150 AC/DC Current Probe 150 A, DC to 20 MHz

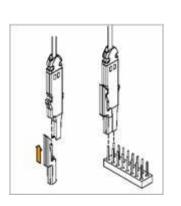


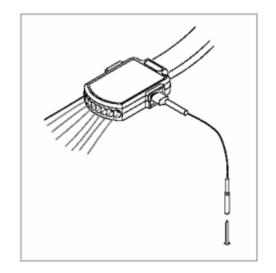
### **Logic Probes**

- The MSO4000B Series Oscilloscope offers 16 digital channels
- Recommend the P6616 digital probe:
  - 16 Channels, 2 Groups of (8) channels
  - First coax in each group is colored blue for easy identification
  - Standard automotive spade connection for the common ground
  - 3 pF loading



**Tektronix P6616** 

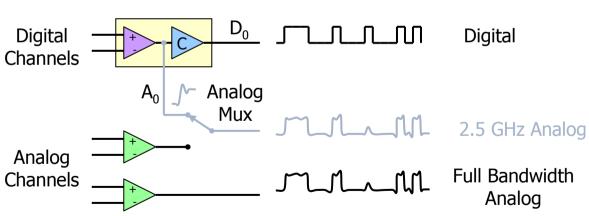






# iCapture™ - One Connection for Analog and Digital

- iCapture<sup>™</sup> (Analog Mux)
  - Acquire digital channels with digital time resolution (80ps)
  - Simultaneously route any (4) digital channels to analog channels
    - Validate signal connection
    - Check signal integrity
    - Validate logic threshold
    - Improve timing resolution



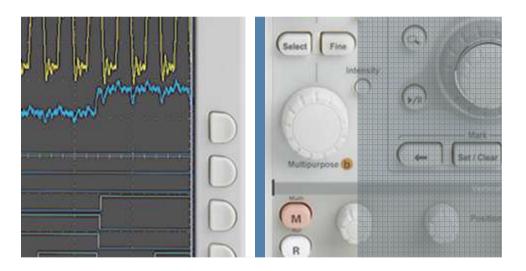






## **Probe Selection Criteria**









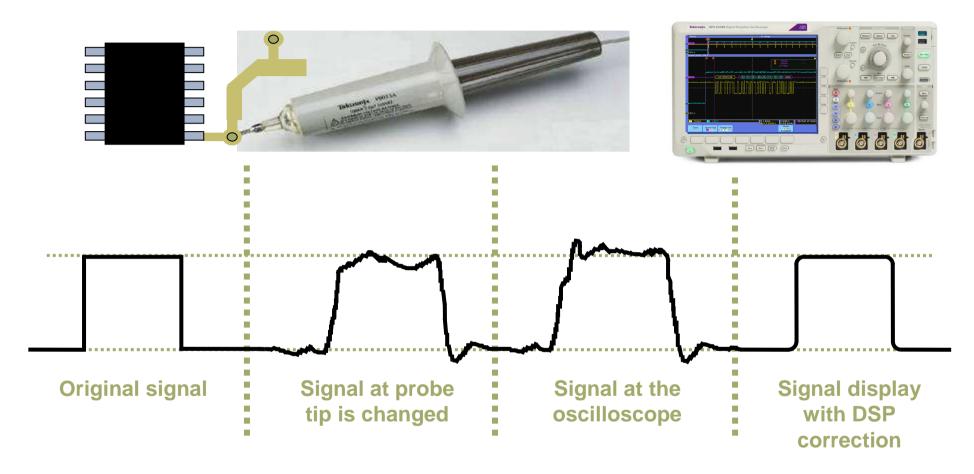
### What is Your Probe Selection Process?

- The first one you spot in a drawer
- Distract a co-worker and take theirs



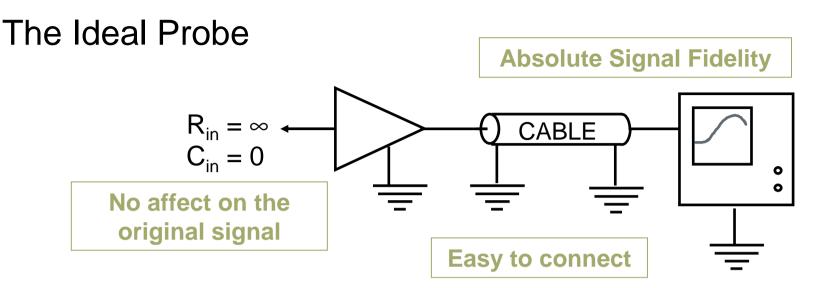


### What is Your Probe Selection Process?



# Deliver a Signal to the Scope with Good Fidelity



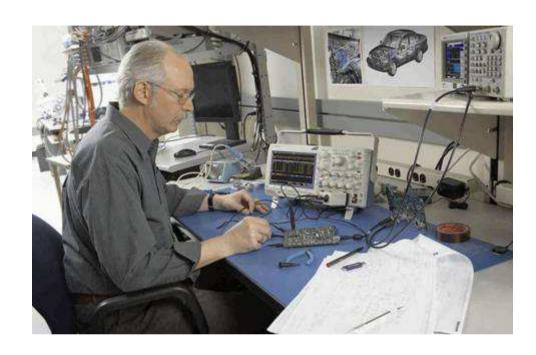


- No affect on the original signal No signal source loading!
  - Zero Input Capacitance
  - Infinite Input Resistance
- Absolute Signal Fidelity
  - Unlimited bandwidth "zero to infinity"
  - Unlimited rise time "instant 0 s"
  - Zero attenuation "one-to-one"
  - Linear phase across all frequencies
- A convenient and easy way to connect to the device-under-test
  - Mechanically well suited to application



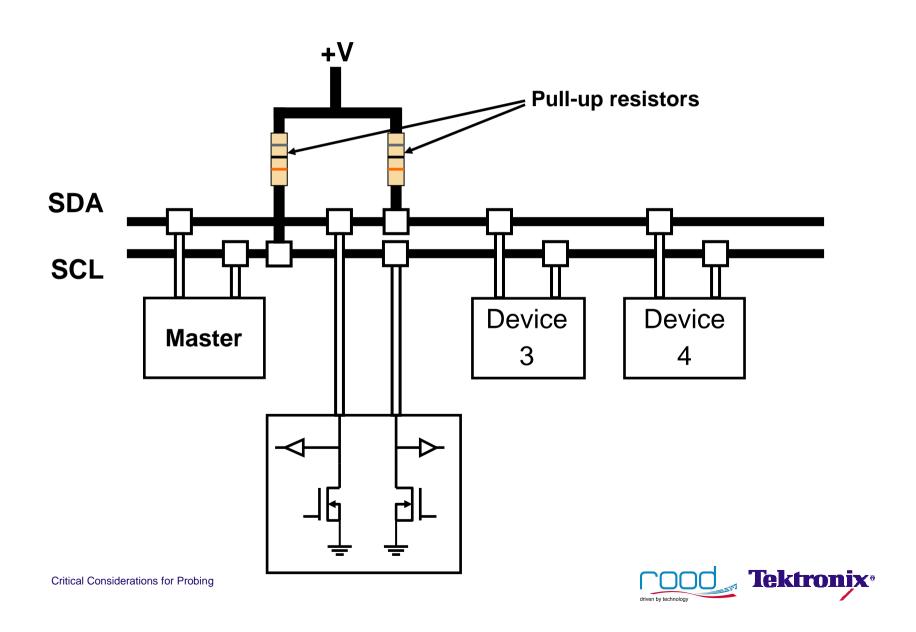
# The Measurement System (Scope and Probe)

- No easy formula to <u>calculate</u>
   Measurement System specifications
- Tektronix provides specifications for scope & probe combinations
- For best results, use the probes recommended for your scope

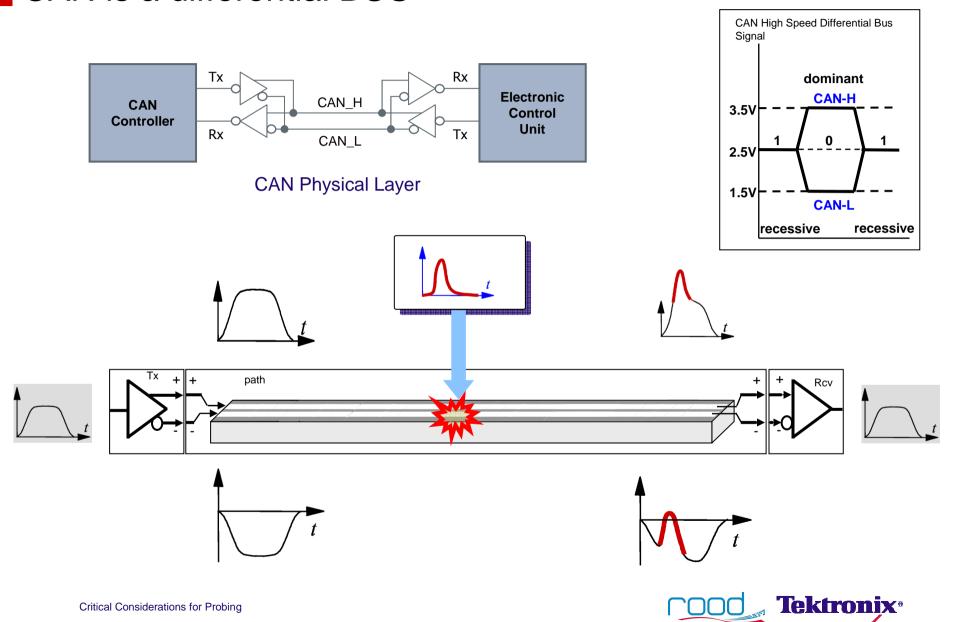




# I<sup>2</sup>C (Physical Part)

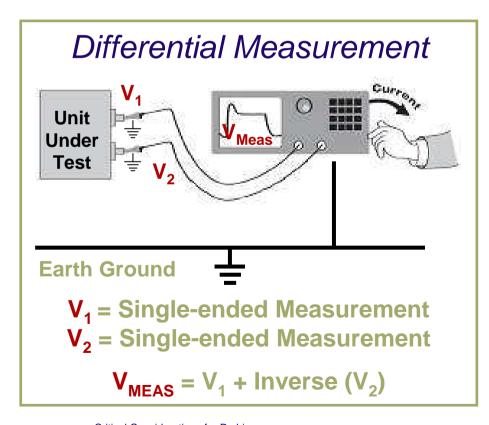


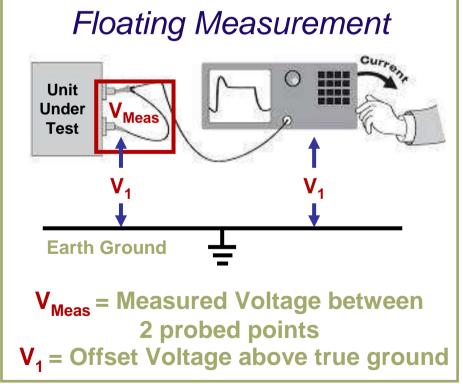
### CAN is a differential BUS



### Differential & Floating Measurements

- A differential measurement is the difference in voltage levels between two input signals.
- For a floating measurement, neither input is at ground potential.

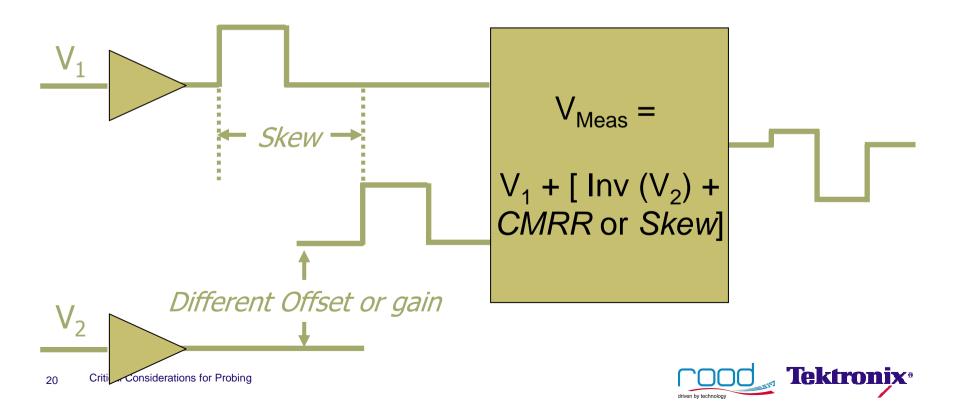






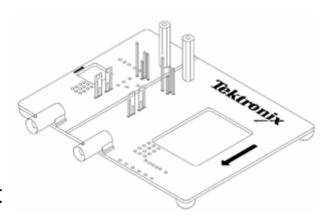
### Differential Measurements with Single-ended Probes

- Poor CMRR
  - Inaccurate measurement (combination of offset and gain)
  - Noisier measurement
- Skew
  - Amplitude and timing errors



### Deskew is a Source of Error

- Deskew is important when measuring:
  - Pseudo-differential (CH1 + (Inv (CH2))
  - Timing/Propagation Delay
- Include Probe adapters in deskew adjustment
- If possible, use the same probe family



**Deskew Fixture** 









# Result of "Floating" Measurements with Ground Connection



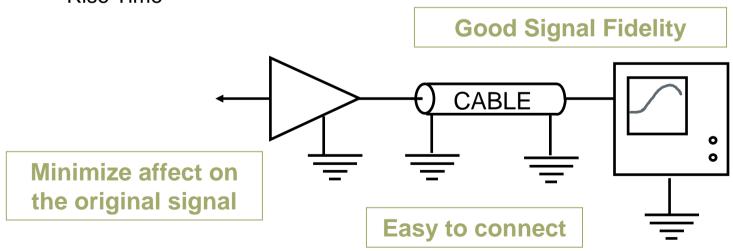


### How Probes Affect Your Measurement



### Probes Will Affect Your Measurement

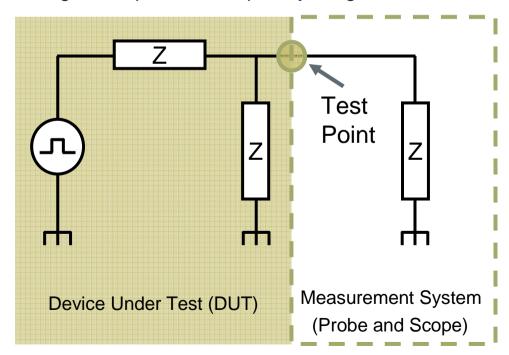
- Signal Source Loading
  - Measurement system's impedance is critical
    - Input Resistance
    - Input Capacitance
    - Inductance
- Signal Fidelity
  - Measurement system parameters also crucial
    - Bandwidth
    - Rise Time





### Signal Source Loading

- When the probe is connected to the DUT, the probe will draw some current.
- The impedance values of the probe and scope will affect the measured signal.
- The Measurement System impedance (Z) consists of:
  - Resistive Elements (Resistance, R)
  - Reactive Elements (Capacitance, C and Inductance, L) which vary over frequency
- Good probe design uses R, L, and C elements to influence signal fidelity, attenuation, and source loading over specified frequency ranges.

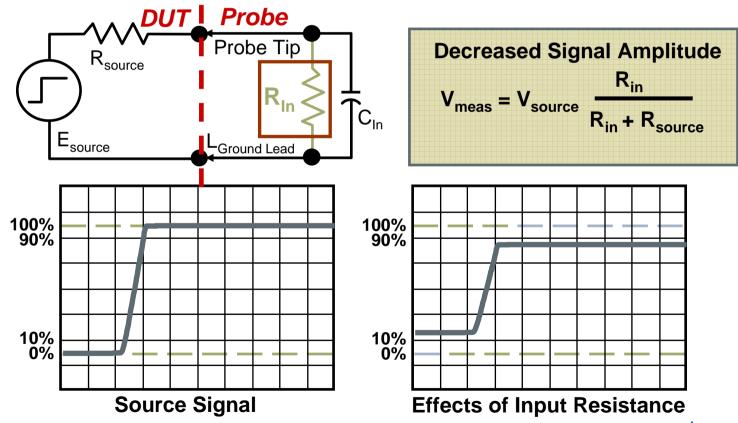






### Source Loading - Input Resistance

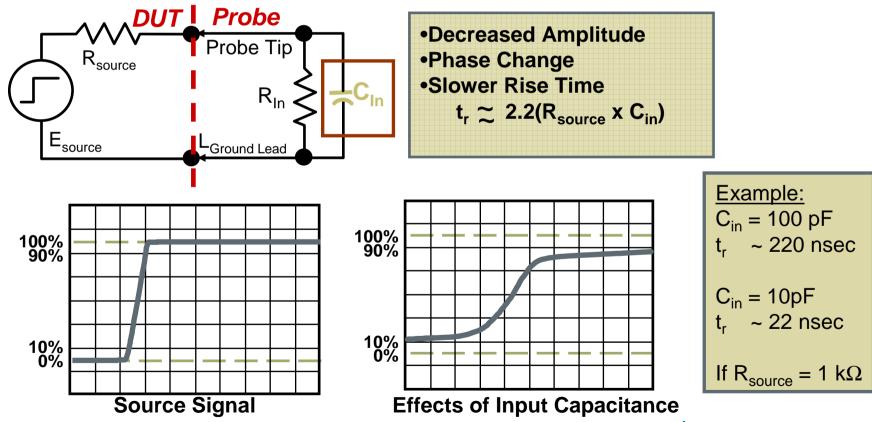
- R<sub>in</sub> acts like a voltage divider
- Higher input resistance less loading
- Lower source resistance less loading





### Source Loading – Input Capacitance

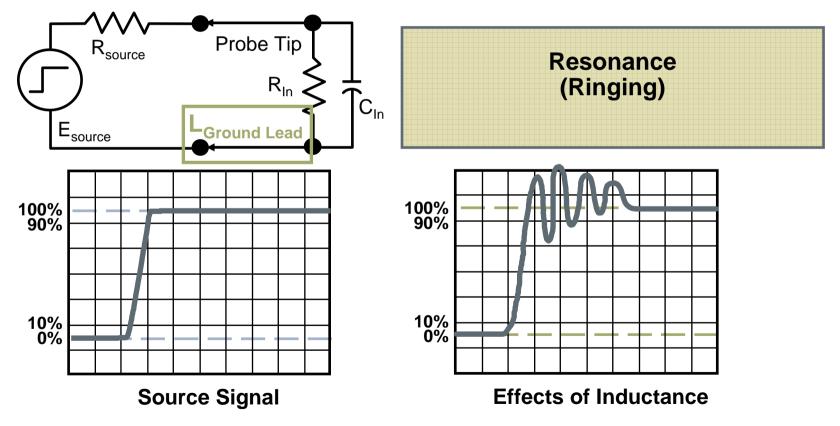
- Smaller input capacitance higher probe impedance, less loading
- As signal frequency increases, capacitance increases and loading increases





### Source Loading - Inductance

- The longer the ground lead, the higher the probe inductance.
- Keep ground leads as short as possible to avoid ringing!

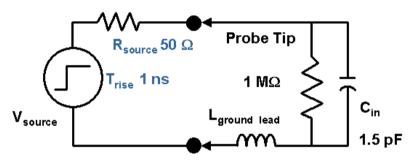




### Resonance:

### How Does Added Inductance Affect the Measurement?

#### T<sub>rise</sub> of 1 ns ~ 350 MHz BW Equivalent



0.05 - 0.1 μH (combined typical)

For a 10X Active Probe with  $C_{in} = 1.5 pF$  and a 6"Ground Lead



Ring Frequency Using a 1.5 pF Input Capacitance 10X High Z Active Probe and 6" Ground Lead.

Ring Frequency = 
$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$$
 = 350 MHz to 500 MHz



# Calculating Resonant Frequency

Resonant Frequency = 
$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$$

In practice, the resonant frequency should be >5 times the signal's BW equivalent based on rise and /or fall times. This gives a guideline to the maximum inductance (or maximum allowable probe-connection loop.)

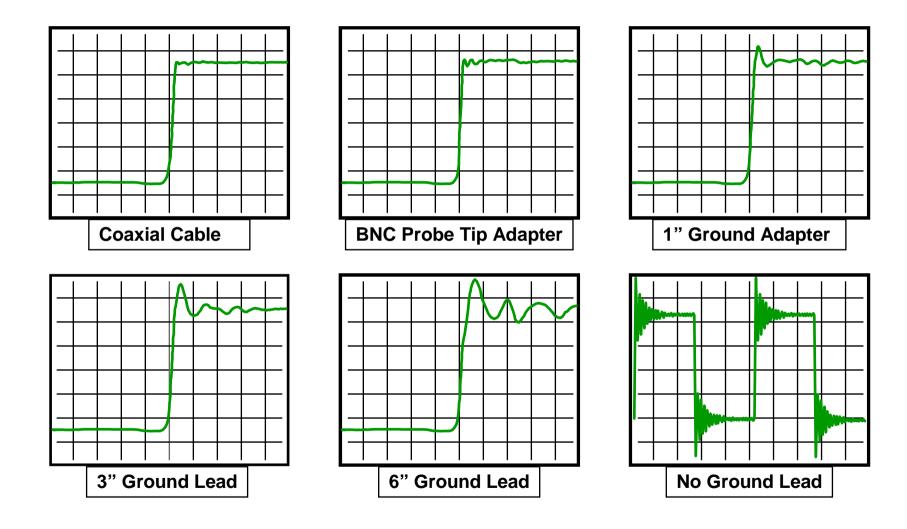
#### Rules of Thumb:

 $L \approx 20$  nH/inch for typical lead lengths around 0" - 3" (probe tip and ground lead)

C ≈ Probe rated C plus 1 to 2 pF/inch of added lead length (probe tip)



## Probing Tips and Tricks: Ground Lead Length Effects





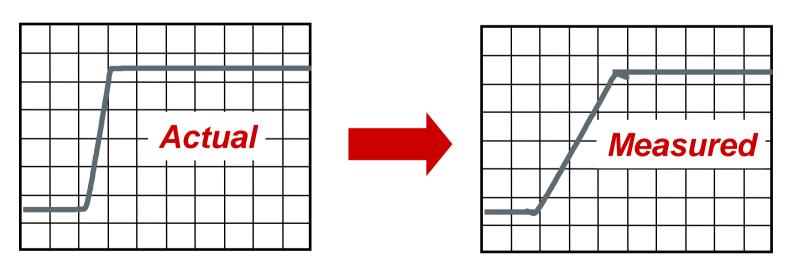
## Signal Fidelity – Rise Time

- Insufficient rise time also affects the signal
- To accurately characterize your signal, follow the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Rule

$$T_{r, \text{ system}} < \frac{T_{r, \text{ signal}}}{5}$$

Measured rise time depends on the signal and scope rise times

$$T_{r,Measured} = \sqrt{(T_{r,signal})^2 + (T_{r,system})^2}$$

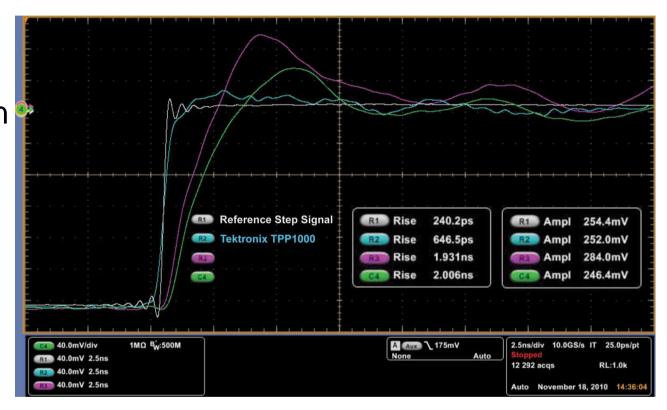




### Low-Capacitance Passive Voltage Probing

 Comparison of different probes and compensation capabilities

- very different results
- Source of error





# Probing Tips and Tricks: Probe Adapters will Affect the Measurement

- Ease of connectivity and signal fidelity are a trade-off.
- Accessories may impact rise time and cause aberrations.







### Probe Accessories - The Connection to the DUT

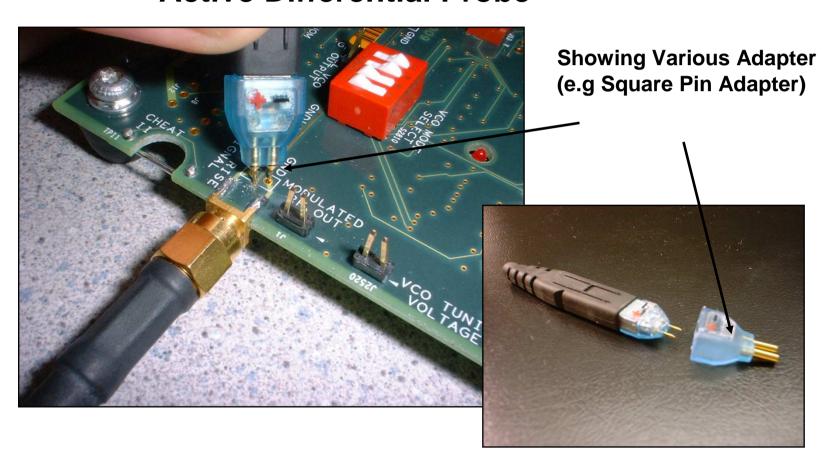
- Connects the Probe to the DUT
- Adjustment tools
- Marker bands
- 9-digit part numbers are found on the web or in the User Manual
- Probe Tip Adapters
- Ground Leads (Short and Long)
- Attachment Klips
- Square Pin Adapters
- Solder Down Adapters





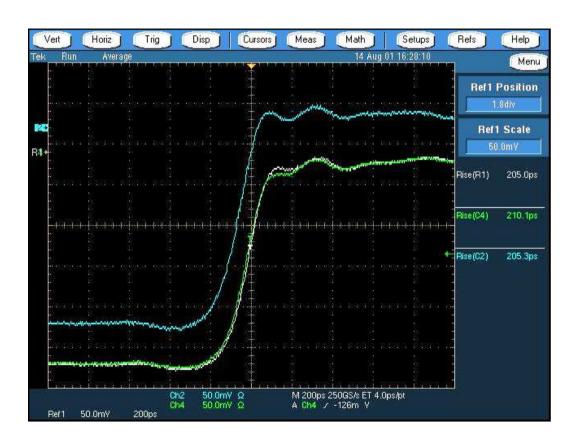
# **Example Probe Loading**

### **Active Differential Probe**





# Reference Signal vs. Probe Output



Green = probe loading (SMA output)

**Blue** = Probe output

White = stored Reference Signal

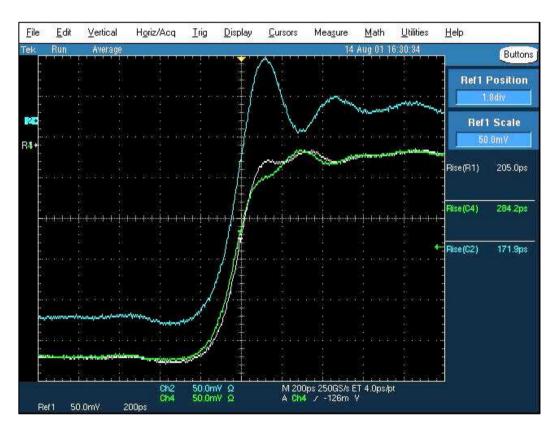


# Effect of Square Pin Adapter





# Reference Signal vs. Probe + Square Pin Adapter + Pins



Green = probe loading (SMA output)

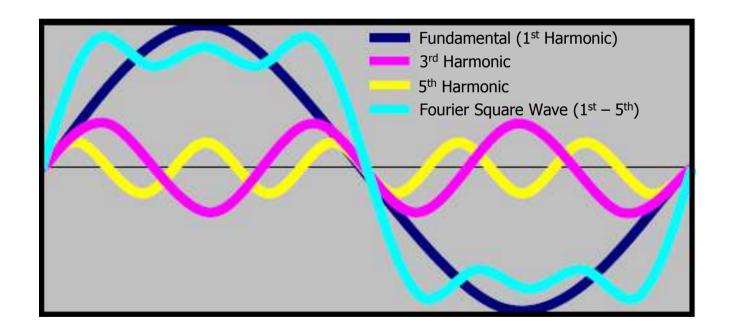
**Blue** = Probe output

White = stored Reference Signal



# Signal Fidelity – Bandwidth Limitation

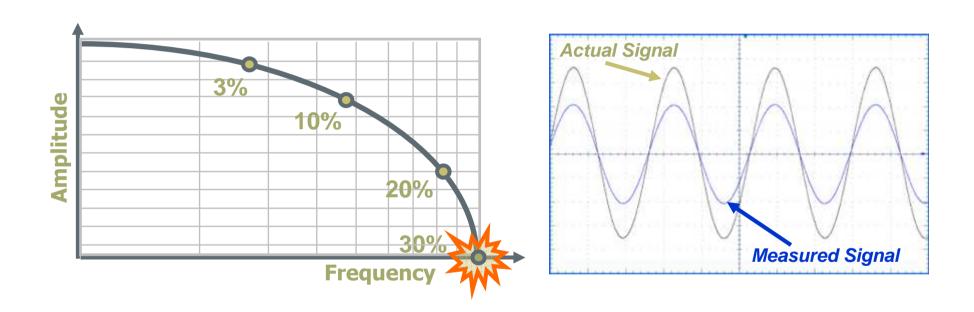
- Complex signals contain many spectral components that cumulatively form a signal over time.
  - Spectral components are sine waves at varying frequencies and varying amplitudes which are added together to collectively form one signal.
- To accurately characterize your signal, follow the 5 Times Rule
   BW of system > 5 x Fundamental Frequency





# Signal Fidelity – Bandwidth Limitation

30% Amplitude error is true for a repetitive sine wave.

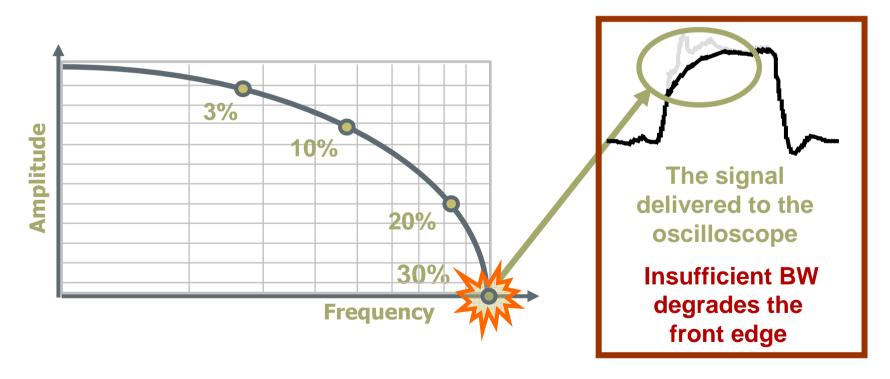


What if you aren't measuring a repetitive sine wave?



# Signal Fidelity - Bandwidth Limitation

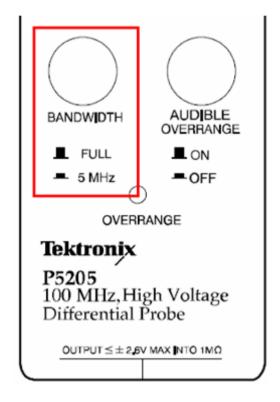
- Insufficient bandwidth affects the signal
  - Why is the front edge affected? The front edge contains the high frequency content.
  - If the measurement system doesn't have enough bandwidth, it won't capture the high frequency portion of the signal.





## Voltage Probes: Bandwidth Limiting Filters

 Some voltage probes provide bandwidth limiting filters to remove unwanted high-frequency signal content.





# **Current Probe Degauss**

- Removes residual magnetic flux from probe's magnetic components
- High impact of measurement result (blue current waveform before and after "degaussing")
- Capability of measuring DC (Hall-Element) and AC Signal Components simultaneously









# Choosing a Probe



# **Choosing The Right Probe**

- Carefully Consider Your Application:
  - Type of signal voltage, current, single-ended, differential...
  - Signal frequency content (bandwidth issue)
  - Signal rise time
  - Source impedance (R and C)
  - Signal amplitudes (maximum and minimum)
  - Test point geometries
- Choose a probe specified for your scope!





#### TekVPI® – Tektronix Versatile Probe Interface

- Smart communication between oscilloscope and probe
  - Automatic units displayed
  - Nominal deskew of signal paths
  - Probe menu on oscilloscope interacts directly with probe
- Provides more power to probes
  - Enables greater flexibility in probe combinations
  - Enables direct connection to current probes (including ac/dc), differential probes, and singleended active probes without external amplifiers





# TekVPI Highlights

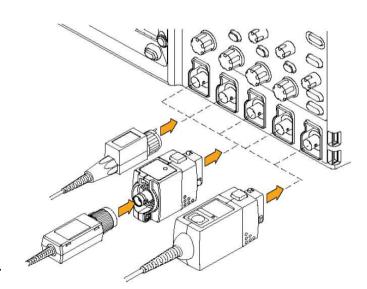
- Comp box controls provides easy and convenient access to controls and indicators plus:
  - Enhanced gain compensation increases accuracy
  - Stored propagation delay speeds critical deskew procedures
  - Auto degauss and probe offset autozero insures repeatable measurements
- Advanced Remote Control is ideal for manufacturing test applications



TekVPI to TekConnect Adapter

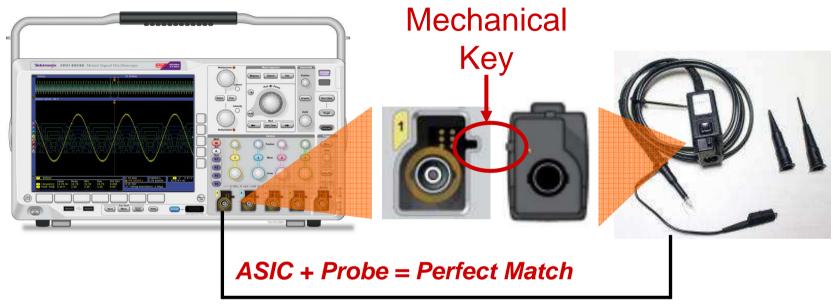


TekProbe to TekVPI Adapter





#### Breakthrough in Passive Probing



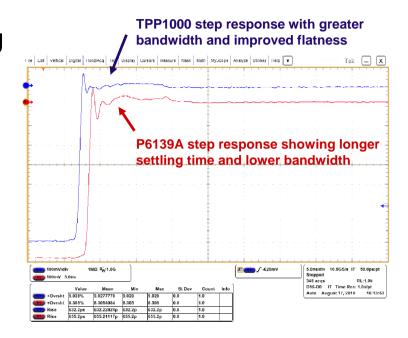
- Custom ASIC inside the oscilloscope is matched to the probes
- Probe notifies oscilloscope what type of probe it is via TekVPI
  - Sets input in oscilloscope to special path (not  $1M\Omega$  or  $50 \Omega$ )
- Scope can optimize signal input path to remove differences in hardware
  - AC compensation across frequency band
- Mechanical keying so TPP0500 and TPP1000 cannot be plugged into an oscilloscope without the matched ASIC



#### Low-Capacitance Passive Voltage Probing

- Industry leading 3.9pF capacitive loading
- TPP0500: 500 MHz passive voltage probe
  - Standard with 350 MHz and 500 MHz models
- TPP1000: 1 GHz passive voltage probe
  - Standard with 1 GHz and 2 GHz models
- Multiple ground connections included
  - Six inch ground lead
  - Short spring clip ground leads
- AC calibration routine optimizes frequency response
- Application usage
  - Digital system debug

Half the loading with twice the bandwidth





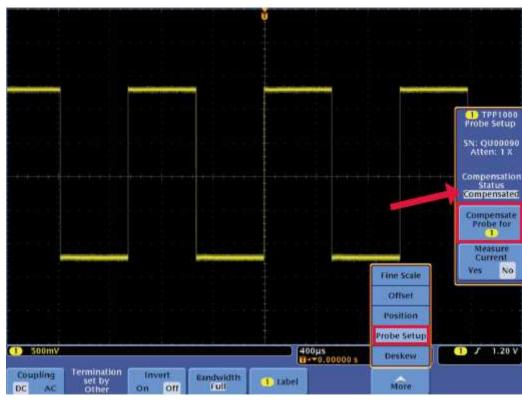


#### Low-Capacitance Passive Voltage Probing

automated Procedure

- frequency response adjustment
- High accuracy results







# **Voltage Probes Specifications**



#### Probe Specifications

I. Voltage Probes
Passive Probes

Туре	Cable Length		tionBandwi 3 d		System Input Resistance	Typical Input C		Max Voltage	Compensation Range	Read Out	ID/Gnd Ref.	Tip/Head Style
1X Pass	ive Pro	be										
P6101B	2 m	1	15 N	ИНz	1 ΜΩ	100 pF	30	0 V <sub>RMS</sub> CAT I	NA			5 mm (Min.)
10X Pas	sive Pr	obes										
P3010	2 m	10	100 1	MHz	10 ΜΩ	13 pF	42	0 V <sub>RMS</sub> CAT I	10 to 15 pF	X		5 mm (Min.)
P5050	1.3 m	10	500 1	MHz	10 ΜΩ	11.1 pF	30	0 V <sub>RMS</sub> CAT II	16 to 22 pF	Х		3.5 mm (Comp.)
P6109B	2 m	10	100 1	MHz	10 ΜΩ	13 pF	4	120 V CAT I	15 to 35 pF	Х		5 mm
P6015A		3.0 m	1000	75 MH	z 100 N	1Ω 3	.0 pF	20,000 V	7 to 49 pF			HVP

#### Differential Probes

Туре	Cable Length	Attenuation	Bandwidth at -3 dB	Differential Input Resistance	Differential Input C	Max Nondestruct Voltage RMS	Differential Input Voltage	Common Mode Input Voltage	Typical CMRR	Interface Style
ADA400A		X 100	1 MHz	1 ΜΩ	55 pF	N/A	±10 V	0.01V	>80 dB at	TEKPROBE
		X 10					±10 V	1 V	10 kHz	
		X 1					±40 V	10 V	1	
		X 0.1					±40 V	80 V		
P5200*7 1.8 m		50	25 MHz	4 MΩ	7 pF	N/A	1300 V <sub>RMS</sub>	1000 V <sub>RMS</sub>	>50 dB at	BNC*7
		500						CAT II	1 MHz	
P5205	1.8 m	50	100 MHz	4 ΜΩ	7 pF	N/A	1300 V <sub>RMS</sub>	1000 V <sub>RMS</sub>	>50 dB at 1 MHz	TEKPROBE
		500						CAT II		
P5210	1.8 m	100	50 MHz	8 MΩ	7 pF	N/A	4400 V <sub>RMS</sub>	2200 V <sub>RMS</sub>	>50 dB at	TEKPROBE
		1000						CATII	1 MHz	
P6246	1.2 m	1	400 MHz	200 kΩ	<1 pF	±25 V	±850 mV	±7 V	>60 dB at 1 MHz	TEKPROBE
		10					±8.5 V			
P6247	1.2 m	1	1 GHz	200 kΩ	<1 pF	±25 V	±850 mV	±7 V	>60 dB at	TEKPROBE
		10					±8.5 V		1 MHz	
TDP0500	1.2 m	5	500 MHz	1 ΜΩ	<1 pF	±100V	±4.2 V	±35 V	>60 dB at 1 MHz	TekVPI™
		50					±42 V			DPO7000





#### Differential Probe Capabilities

- Selectable attenuation factors
- Excellent CMRR capabilities
- Low noise floor
- Reduced probe loading effects
- Selectable bandwidth limiting filters
- DC Reject / AC coupling to eliminate the DC offset in the measured signal
- Remote access and control
- Versatile DUT connectivity accessories.
- Small Probe head
- Status Indicator



**TDP Probes** 



# Differential & Floating Measurements



Characteristic	TMDP0200	THDP0200	THDP0100
Attenuation	25X/250X	50X/500X	100X/1000X
Differential Voltage	250X: +/- 750 V 25X: +/- 75V	500X: +/- 1500 V 50X: +/- 150 V	1000X: +/- 6000 V 100X: +/- 600 V
Common Mode Voltage	+/- 750 V	+/- 1500 V	+/- 6000 V
Max Input Voltage- to-Earth	550 V CAT I 300 V CAT III	1000 V CAT II 600 V CAT III	2300 V CAT I 1000 V CAT III
Bandwidth	200 MHz	200 MHz	100 MHz
Rise Time	< 1.8 ns	< 1.8 ns	< 3.5 ns
Slew Rate	< 275 V/ns @ 1/250 gain	< 650 V/ns @ 1/500 gain	< 2500 V/ns @ 1/1000 gain
Input Impedance at the Probe Tip	5 MΩ    < 2 pF	10 MΩ    < 2 pF	40 MΩ    < 2.5 pF
Common Mode Rejection Ratio	DC: > - 80 dB 1 MHz: > - 60 dB 3.2 MHz: > - 30 dB 50 MHz: > - 26 dB	DC: > - 80 dB 1 MHz: > - 60 dB 3.2 MHz: > - 30 dB 50 MHz: > - 26 dB	DC: > - 80 dB 1 MHz: > - 60 dB 3.2 MHz: > - 30 dB 50 MHz: > - 26 dB
Cable Length	1.5 m	1.5 m	1.5 m



#### TCP0030 AC/DC Current Probe

- Accurate and simplified current measurements by TCP0030 AC/DC current probe
  - Wide Dynamic Range
    - Measures 1mA to 30A
  - DC to 120 MHz Bandwidth
    - Captures high frequency harmonic components
  - TekVPI Probe Architecture
    - Connects directly to the DPO7000 Series oscilloscopes
    - User setups controlled via the Probe Compensation box buttons and LED indicators or via the easily accessible Scope Probe Menu
    - Remote programmable probe control via GPIB, USB or Ethernet





# TCP0030 AC/DC Current Probe







# **Current Probes Specification**

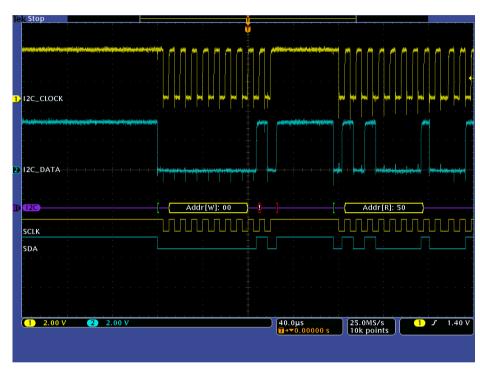
#### II. Current Probes

	Bandwidth Hz to MHz				Derate Above	Max DC	Amp-S Product	Current/Div Display	Rise Time	Insertion Impedance			Cable Length
TCP300 and	TCP400 S	eries P	roduct	s For T	EKPROE	BE, Tek(	Connect and S	Range Standard 50	Ω/1Μ	at 1 MHz Ω BNC Osc	Voltage	Diameter Systems	
TCP312 w/TCPA300	DC to 100		60 A	N/A	50 kHz		50 A-μS*6– 1 A/V	1 A/V 10 A/V		0.08 Ω	Insulated Wire Only	3.8 mm	1.5 m
TCP312 using CT4	0.5 to 20	20 kA* <sup>3</sup>	2 kA*4	50 Hz	1.2 kHz	20A	0.5 A-S	20 A/V 10 kA/V	<17.5 ns	2.5 mΩ	3 kV	38 mm (1.5 in.)	1.5 m
TCP305 w/TCPA300	DC to 50	50 A	100 A	N/A	2 kHz	25A - 5 A/V 50 A - 10 A/V	500 A-μS*6– 5 A/V NA – 10A/V	5A/V 10A/V	€7 ns	0.035 Ω	Insulated Wire Only	3.8 mm (0.15 in.)	1.5 m
Direct Conn	ect Curren	t Prob	es										
TCP0030 (TekVPI™)	DC to 120	50 A	84 A	N/A	5 kHz	5 A 30 A	50 A-μS – 1 A/V 500 A-μS – 10 A/V	1 A/V*5	≤ 14.5 ns	0.08 Ω	Insulated Wire Only	3.8 mm (0.15 in.)	2 m
TCP0030 w/CT4	0.5 to 20	20 kA* <sup>3</sup>	2 kA*4	50 Hz	1.2 kHz	30 A	0.5 A-S		≤ 24.5 ns	30 mΩ	3 kV	38 mm (1.5 in.)	2 m
TCP0150	DC to 20	150 A	424 A	N/A	2 kHz		3,000A* <sup>5</sup> μS - 5 A/V 15,000 A* <sup>5</sup> μS	5 A/V 50 A/V	≤ 17.5 ns	0.03 Ω	600 V <sub>RMS</sub> CAT I & II 300 V <sub>RMS</sub>	21 mm × 25 mm (0.83 × 1.0 in.)	2 m
TCP202 (TekProbe®)	DC to 50	50 A	40 A	N/A	20 kHz	50 A/V 15 A	- 50 A/V 500 A-μS		≤7.0 ns	0.07 Ω	CAT III 300 V CAT I	0.15 in.	2.2 m



#### How do I probe serial digital buses?

- Digital buses are <u>not</u> digital
- Digital signals do <u>not</u> necessarily have only two discrete levels
- Digital probes are <u>not</u> digital
- Everything you know about analog probing still applies
  - Minimize DC and AC loading
  - Voltage measurements are always differential
  - Minimize lead inductance

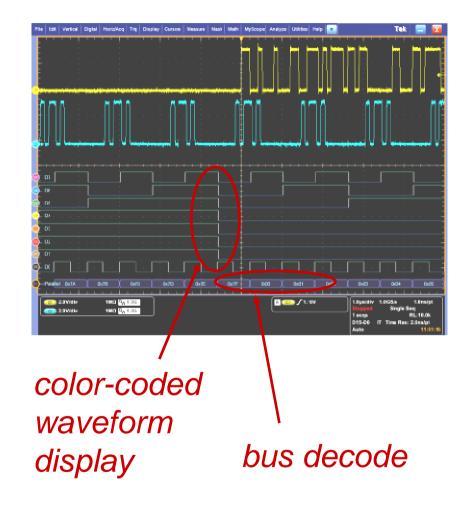


Bus and Waveforms display of I<sup>2</sup>C signal

 The real signal must be delivered to the oscilloscope's hardware or software comparator, where it can be compared to the digital threshold value(s)



# Digital Bus Analysis with Logic Probes

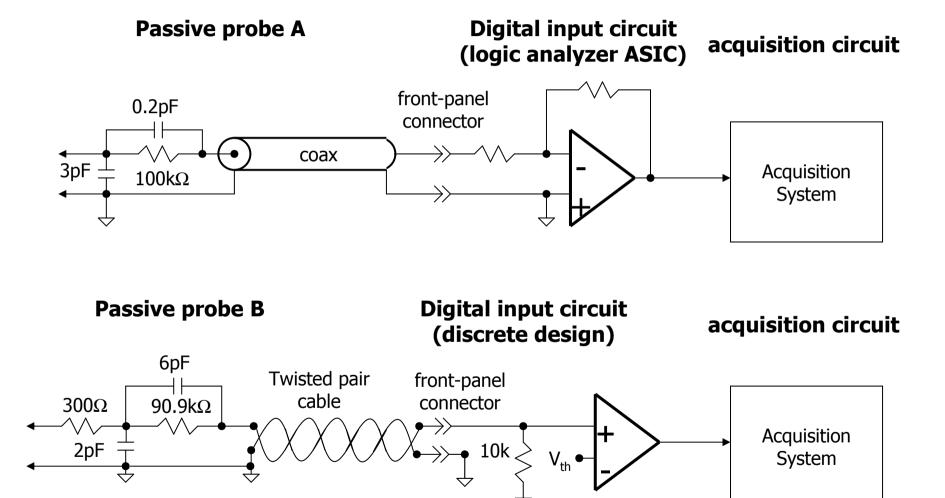


Specification	DPO4000B / MSO5000
Maximum Sample Rate	500MS/s 16.5GS/s with MagniVu
Maximum Input Toggle Rate	500 MHz
DC Input Voltage Range	± 42 Vpeak
Maximum Input Voltage Swing	30 Vp-p ≤200MHz 10 Vp-p >200 MHz
Input Impedance	100 kOhm
Input Capacitance	3 pF
Threshold Range	$\pm$ 40 V
Minimum Input Swing	400 mVp-p
Minimum Detectable Pulse	1 ns





# What do the probing and acquisition architectures look like



Critical Considerations for Probing

Tektronix<sup>\*</sup>

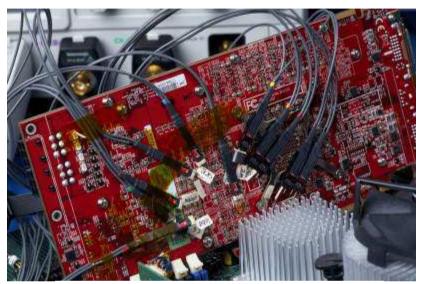
# Logic Probe Specifications for iCapture™

	P6780 Differential Probe	P6750 D-Max Probe P6717A General Purpose Probe
Analog Bandwidth	2.5 GHz	1 GHz
Input Impedance	40 k $\Omega$ $\pm$ 2.0% (differential-mode), 0.5pF	$20~\text{k}\Omega \pm 1.0\%$ , $3~\text{pF}$
Input Voltage Range	-2V to +4,5V	- 1,5V to +4V



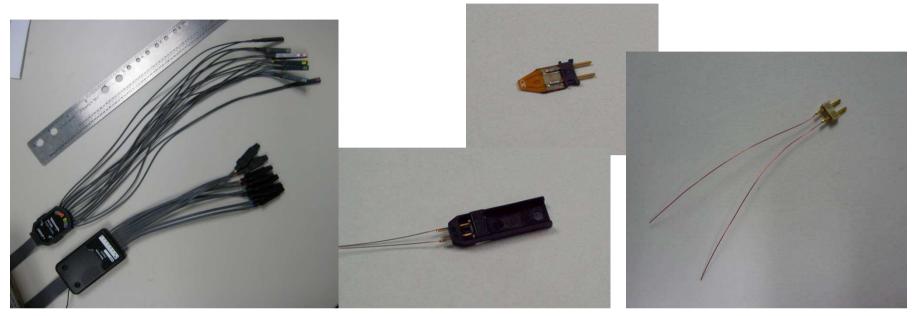
# P6780 Probe Access to Tightly Spaced Test Points

- Industry's only differential active probes for MSOs
  - Excellent signal fidelity
- Industry's best versatility in access points
  - Device Leads
  - Solder-in
  - VIA's and Traces
  - BGA packages
  - Square Pins
- Reduces fixturing costs and development time





# P6780 Probe and Accessories









# High Bandwidth Solder-In Probing Solutions







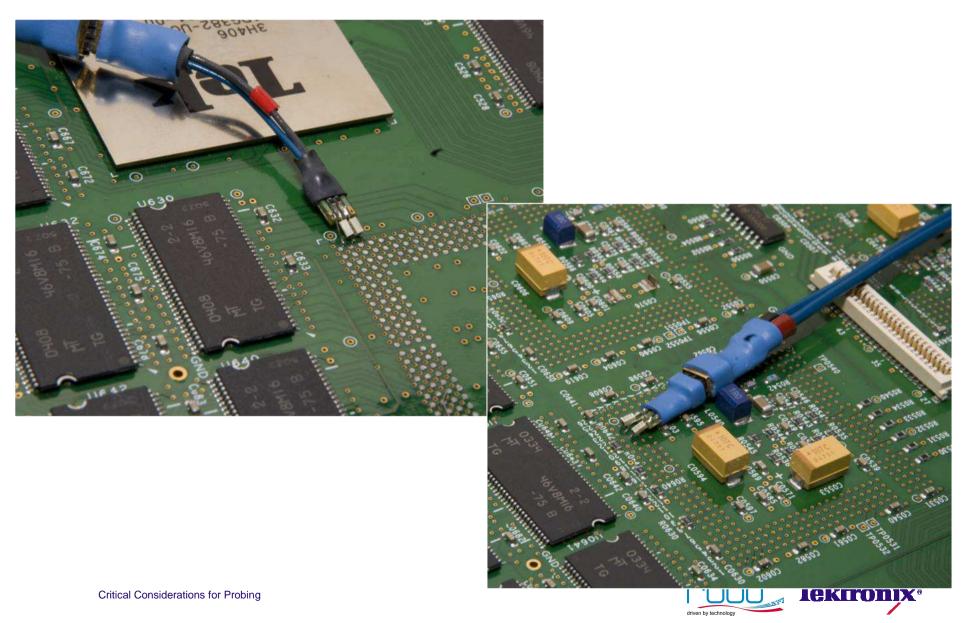
P7500 Series Tri-Mode Probes



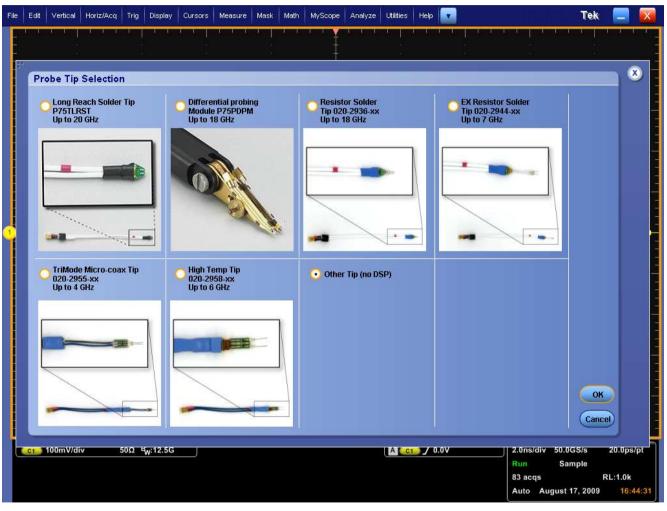


#### **Accessories - Flexible Solutions**

New tips solder to small vias



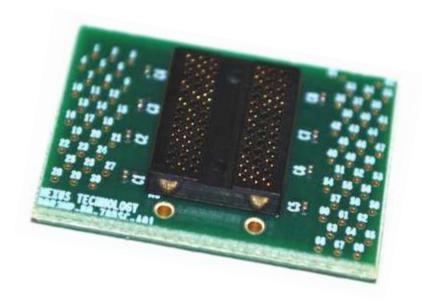
# Selection on Oscilloscope Screen for the used Adapter



- Selection of different probe tips
- Clean signals, high fidelity with the best probes available
- Optimize performance for the signal-path scope/probe/tip



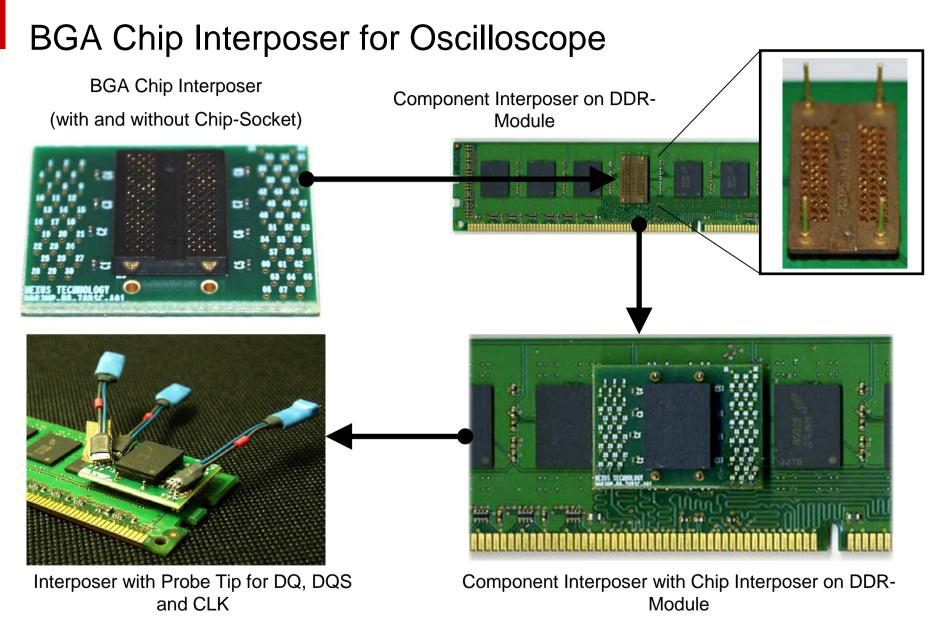
# **BGA Chip Interposer for Oscilloscopes**





- Unique Socket Design allows for multiple chip exchanges
  - Solder-in version is also available
- Recommended probes: P7500 Series
  - New TriMode<sup>™</sup> solder tips matched to Interposer (order #020-3022-00)
  - Interposer has embedded  $100\Omega$  resistors near BGA balls
    - in place of probe tip resistors
    - Designed as a Probe-Interposer System

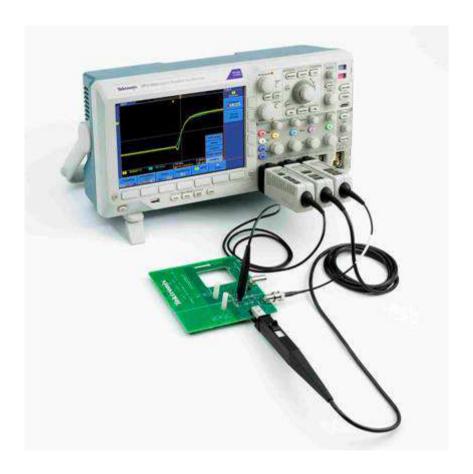






# Summary

- Probes are a critical element of your measurement system
- To maximize measurement accuracy, carefully choose your probe;
  - Type of signal
  - Bandwidth
  - Rise time
  - Impedance
- Tektronix offers a wide range of probes and accessories to meet your needs





#### **Tektronix Probe Selector**

Visit: www.tektronix.com/probes





