HP 8566B, 8567A, 8568B Spectrum Analyzers

The HP 8566B, 8567A, and 8568B are high-performance spectrum analyzers for bench and ATE system use. The HP 8566B has the highest performance of the three, with a frequency range from 100 Hz to 22 GHz that can be extended to 325 GHz using external mixers. The HP 8567A and 8568B are RF spectrum analyzers with frequency coverage to 1500 MHz. See pages 254 and 255 for specification summaries on all analyzers.

Each analyzer is designed around its own internal bus and controlled by its own microcomputer to yield significant improvements in operational and data processing features as well as flexibility under computer control. Each analyzer has 16 KB of user RAM for storing trace data, instrument states, or custom downloadable programs (DLPs).

HP 8566B Turbo Option

Increase the measurement speed of your HP 8566B spectrum analyzer. A new turbo option (Option 002) nearly doubles the analyzer’s processing rate, so your measurements can be made up to 50 percent faster, with 25 percent improvement typical. If you already own an HP 8566B, a turbo retrofit kit is available as Option R02.

Performance

The exceptional frequency stability of both the HP 8566B and the HP 8568B makes it possible to make measurements with a 10 Hz resolution bandwidth. This narrow resolution bandwidth yields sensitivities to –135 dBm in both instruments. Excellent frequency stability, sensitivity, and frequency-reference accuracy combine to allow very accurate measurement of small signals in the presence of large ones.

For applications that don’t require the high performance of the HP 8568B, the HP 8567A offers the same speed, versatility, and automatic operation capability at a lower price. Resolution bandwidths as narrow as 1 kHz yield sensitivities as low as –115 dBm.

Flexibility

These spectrum analyzers fit into many applications, such as EMC testing (see page 263), broadband signal surveillance, and component stimulus-response testing. The HP 8444A Option 059 tracking generator adds stimulus-response capabilities to the RF models for a minimal cost. The HP 8564A and 85645A tracking sources add 6.5 GHz and 22 GHz high-performance scalar capability to the HP 8566B (see page 252). Preselcted external mixers simplify millimeter-wave measurements from 26.5 to 75 GHz (see page 257).

Usability

The instrument control settings are conveniently shown on the CRT for easy reference. Functions are activated by pressing a front-panel key, then selecting the function value using the knob, step keys, or numeric keyboard. To maintain a calibrated display, certain functions are automatically coupled in the analyzer. For example, resolution bandwidth, video bandwidth, and sweep time are automatically adjusted by the instrument when the frequency span is reduced.

Up to four tunable display markers are available to aid in measuring and analyzing signals. Two markers can be used to make relative measurements by displaying their amplitude and frequency differences. Marker information allows you to step between evenly spaced portions of a spectral display (such as signal harmonics) or "zoom in" on a selected portion of the spectrum. Analyzer control settings can be saved in the non-volatile memory of the analyzer.

Versatile CRT Display and Plotting Capabilities

All displayed information resides in the analyzer’s digital memory, which refreshes the CRT at a flicker-free rate. Multiple traces can be displayed to measure residual FM or drift, or to conduct real-time surveillance over a wide frequency range.

By adding an HP-IB plotter, hard copy of all information on the display of the analyzer can be made for analysis, documentation, or presentation. Plots can be produced directly or with the aid of a controller.

Custom Softkey Programming

You can create complex measurement routines on an external controller, store the programs in user RAM, and execute them using a single custom softkey.

Simple measurement routines can be entered from the instrument front panel, stored in user RAM, and executed using a single custom softkey.