



SIGNAL FORGE 1000™
DIGITALLY SYNTHESIZED SIGNAL GENERATOR

User Manual



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Introduction

The Signal Forge 1000 Digitally Synthesized Signal Generator is a portable, high performance signal source and function generator, which incorporates three dedicated outputs and numerous waveform modulation functions into a single unit. The RF, Digital and Differential outputs and 1 GHz range make the Signal Forge 1000 (SF1000) ideal for a wide range of test applications, from wireless RF receiver calibration to margin testing of integrated circuits.



Waveform modulation features include AM, ASK, BPSK, Chirp, FSK, FM, Frequency sweep, and OOK.

An integral TCXO oscillator ensures a high level of signal accuracy and stability. For applications in which greater accuracy and stability is required, a model is available (SF1000E) which accepts an external 10 MHz clock source. The accuracy and stability of the SF1000E is determined by the specifications of the external clock source.

A wide, stable frequency range with RF (AC-coupled), differential, and digital outputs in a portable, easy to use package combine to make the Signal Forge 1000 (SF1000) the ideal tool for a full range of RF and digital electronics test and development applications.

General Features

The Signal Forge 1000 supports the following features:

- 1 Hz to 1 GHz frequency range
- RF (AC-coupled), Digital and Differential outputs
- Sine wave , square wave 
- FM, AM, FSK, OOK, ASK, Arbitrary, Linear Sweep, BPSK, and Chirp modulation modes
- Auxiliary UART for data input to control ASK, BPSK, FSK, and OOK
- External and internal control of Start, ASK, BPSK, FSK, and OOK
- TCXO oscillator provides high level of signal stability and accuracy
- Wave Manager software pre-installed on SF1000 (no client software needed)
- Auto-run feature ideal for PC-free test operation
- Small, portable package (8.5" x 5.4" x 1.5")

Applications

The list below shows some of the possible applications where the Signal Forge 1000 may be used:

- Digital output in sweep mode can be used to test setup and hold of digital systems—ICs and circuit boards—up to 110 MHz
- Differential output can be used to test digital systems—ICs and circuit boards—up to 1 GHz
- Programmable clock generator
- IF and RF sections of receivers as well as the mobile bands up to 1 GHz and some telemetry bands
- Test amplifiers for gain and for the 1 dB compression point
- Portable, bench top and ATE system applications
- Local Oscillator (L.O.) source
- Receiver calibration
- FSK and frequency sweep may be used to test FM receivers
- RF exciter
- Test low frequency filters (down to 1 Hz)
- BPSK may be used for low data-rate applications such as IEEE 802.11g wireless LAN standard, RFID and Zigbee devices

Harmonics

2 MHz to 50 MHz.....	< -40 dBc
50 MHz to 100 MHz.....	< -40 dBc
100 MHz to 3500 MHz.....	< -20 dBc
300 MHz to 500 MHz.....	<- 20dBc
500 MHz to 1GHz.....	< -20 dBc

Non-Harmonics

100 KHz to 100 MHz.....	< -50 dBc
100 MHz to 500 MHz.....	< -30 dBc
500 MHz to 1GHz.....	< -30 dBc

Clock feed-through..... < -85 dBm

Output Match (VSWR)

1 MHz to 7 MHz.....	< 1.5:1 @ +7 dBm output
7 MHz to 1 GHz.....	< 1.3:1 @ +7dBm output

Operating Temperature..... 0°C to 50 °C

Operating Power Supply Requirements..... 10V DC to 15VDC and 600mA to 700mA

The AC power adapter included with the SF1000 supplies an output of 15 VDC and 1.3A.

Note

Output ratings at 100 MHz, 0 dBm output power and 25 °C, unless otherwise specified

Note

For maximum stability, allow the SF1000 to warm up (TCXO soak) for 1 hour before use.

Connections

Front Panel Connections

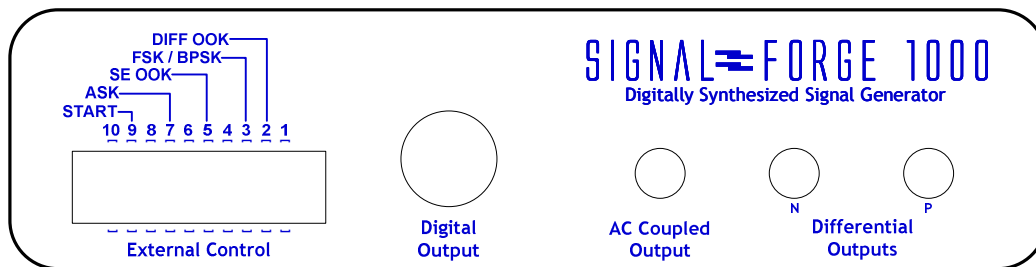


Figure 1. Front Panel

Differential Outputs. Two SMA connectors for driving the differential clock output. LVPECL compatible, 50 MHz to 1 GHz.

RF (AC Coupled) Output. One SMA connector for sourcing the AC coupled, unfiltered, sine wave output with a frequency range of 100 KHz to 1 GHz. The AC coupled output is capacitively connected to the output thus allowing the sine wave output to be floated at any level desired.

Digital Output. BNC connector. Digital voltage levels supported are: TTL, LVTTTL, STTL over a frequency range of 1 Hz to 110 MHz.

External Control. Dual-row 10-position header provides 10 two-pin connectors for:

- Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) control
- Binary (or Bipolar) Phase Shift Keying (BPSK) control
- Differential Clock On/Off Keying (OOK) control
- AC-coupled OOK control
- ASK control (RF output only)
- Remote START control

The recommended connectors for the External Control are:

- 20-pin connector and cable assembly: p/n: M3AAA-2006J-ND
- 2-pin connector housing and contacts for use if not all control signals are needed
 - o 2-position housing p/n: A26921-ND
 - o Contacts (2 required) p/n: A26951-ND
- These items may be purchased from www.Digi-Key.com.

LED. The front panel LED will be turned on solid if the SF1000 has powered up correctly. If the LED does not turn on, then a power error has occurred and the SF1000 may not be operational. Note: the LED is also turned off during some operations to signify a change of operational state.

Note

At power-up, all outputs are disabled, unless a waveform has been previously saved and programmed to automatically start at power up.

Rear Panel Connections

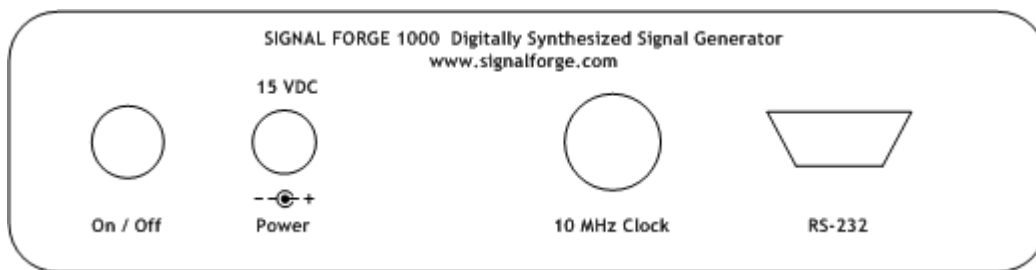


Figure 2. Rear Panel

RS-232. The RS-232 port is a female DB-9 serial connector, which connects the SF1000 to the serial port on your PC.

The required RS-232 port settings are: 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no-parity; flow control: XON/XOFF only, no hardware handshake pins are implemented. The baud rate must be set to 57,600. Only the TX, RX and GND pins of the DB9 connector are implemented on the SF1000.

RS-232 cables and USB to RS-232 serial adapters may be purchase from Signal Forge.

10 MHz Clock. BNC connector that provides a 10 MHz TTL reference output signal derived from the internal TCXO timebase. Output impedance is approximately 50 Ω . The accuracy of the 10 MHz output is 0.83 ppm. This square wave clock output has 70/30 symmetry

Note

*The rear BNC connector for the 10 MHz clock is a reference clock **input** on the **SF1000E** enabling it to be driven by an external standard. It is a clock output on the SF1000.*

Power. Input for the AC power adapter (provided). The AC adapter provides 15 VDC and 1.3A output. The actual operating requirements of the SF1000 are: 10V to 15V and 600mA to 700mA.

On/Off. Power on/off button. The LED on the front panel will be on solid if the SF1000 has powered up correctly. If the LED does not turn on, then a power error has occurred and the SF1000 may not be operational. In this case contact technical support for assistance.

Getting Started

Power Adapter

An AC power adapter is provided. The specifications are: Input 110-240V, 50/60 Hz; Output +15VDC, 1.3A. The power connector is on the rear panel. Use only the power adapter that came with your SF1000. Note: The operating requirements of the SF1000 are: 10V to 15V, 600mA to 700mA

Connecting the SF1000 to Your Computer

1. Connect your PC to the serial port on the SF1000

Serial Port: Attach a standard serial port cable with a male DB-9 connector and straight through pin out to the RS-232 port on the rear panel of the SF1000 and the other end to the serial port on your computer.

Standard serial cables may be purchased many sources including Signal Forge.

USB: To connect your computer to the SF1000 via USB connection, use an inline serial port to USB adapter. A USB to serial adapter is available from the Signal Forge web site, www.signalforge.com.

2. Start and configure your terminal communication software such as the Signal Forge EZ Terminal or HyperTerminal

Start EZ Terminal (Vista, XP, W2K) HyperTerminal (XP, W2K), XTerm (Linux) or other serial communication software and configure it as follows:

- 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no-parity, flow control: XON/XOFF, baud rate must be set to 57,600

3. Access Wave Manager User Interface: Once the serial cable is connected and the serial communication software started and configured, turn on the SF1000 and the Wave Manager user interface will load.

Wave Manager software is installed on the SF1000 so ***you do NOT need to install any special software on your PC.***

Note

If HyperTerminal is started after the SF1000 has been turned on, press ESC to refresh the Wave Manager user interface.

Wave Manager Software

Setup, configuration and programming is accomplished using Wave Manager, the menu-driven software which comes pre-installed on the SF1000. No client-side software is required.

Standard serial terminal communication software on your PC is all that is required to load the Wave Manager software. Simply connect a serial cable between your PC and the SF1000, start the terminal communication software (i.e. EZ Terminal), turn on the SF1000 and Wave Manager loads automatically.

At power up, the main menu is displayed, presenting the current configuration, operational status and programming options. The menu screens are organized such that *only* the options allowable for the selected waveform and output type are displayed making the software easy to learn and navigate.

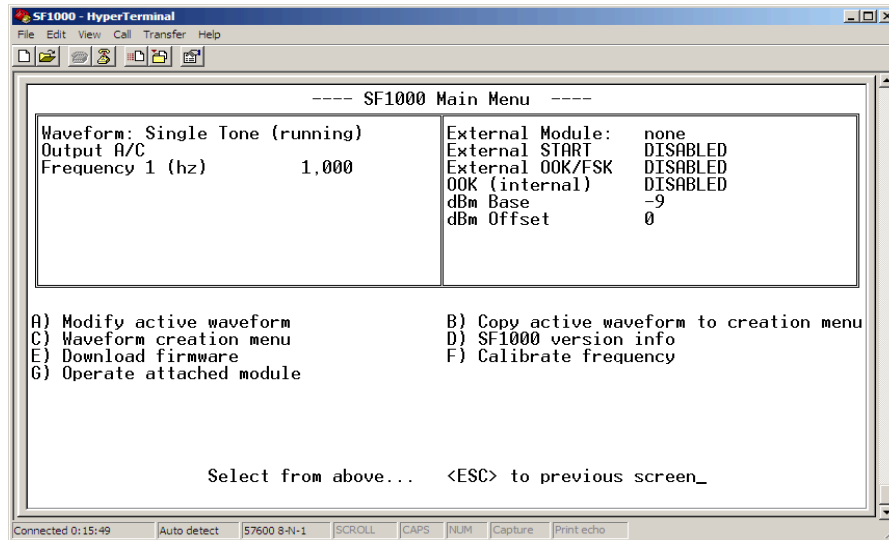


Figure 3. Wave Manager Main Menu

Creating a Waveform

To configure a new waveform, select the *Waveform Creation Menu*.

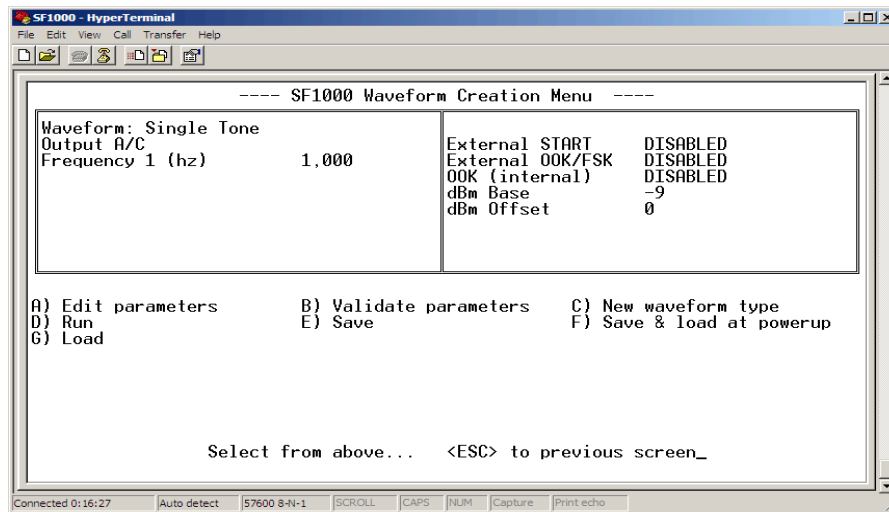


Figure 4. Waveform Creation Menu

First select *New Waveform Type* and choose the desired waveform from the list.

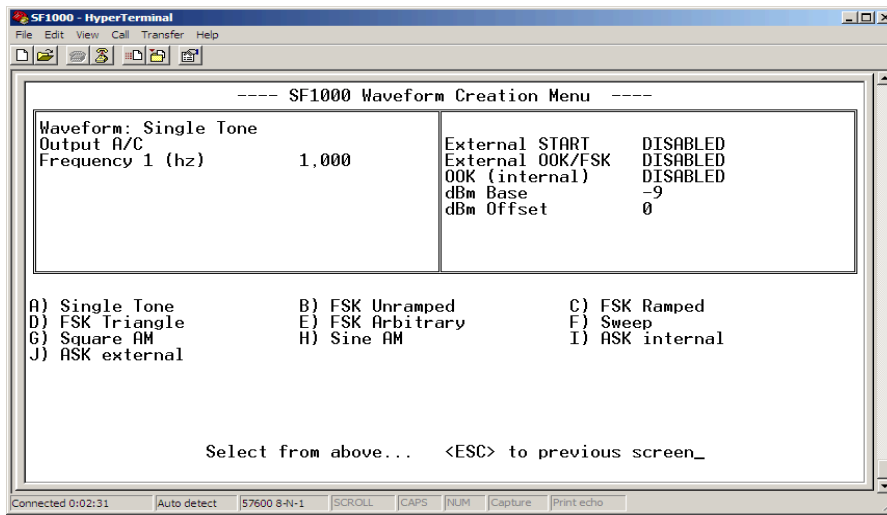


Figure 5. Select New Waveform Menu

Hit ESC to return to the main *Waveform Creation Menu*, then select *Edit Parameters*.

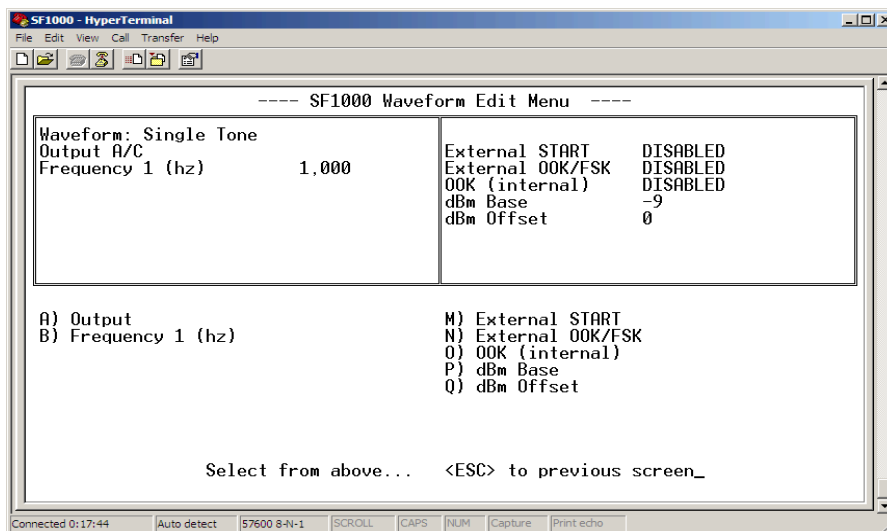


Figure 6. Edit Parameters Menu

Then select Output from the menu to configure the output type from the list displayed.

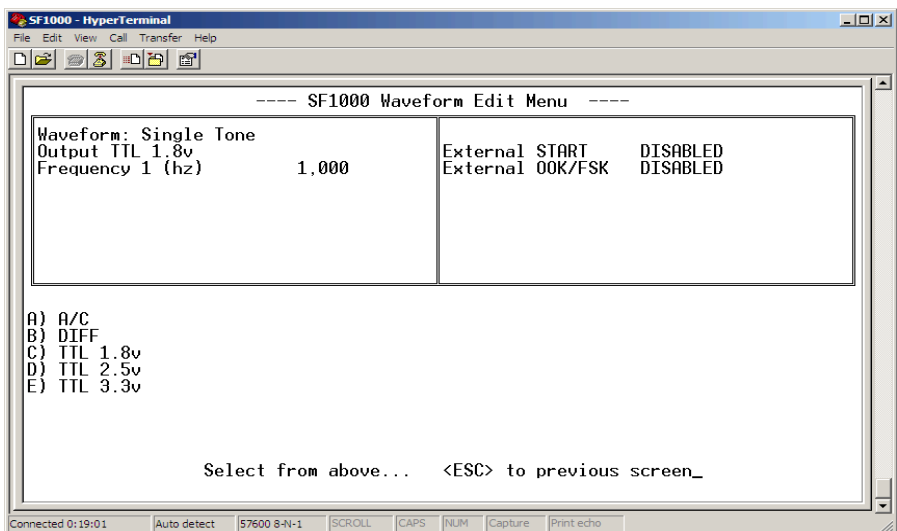


Figure 7. Output Selection Menu

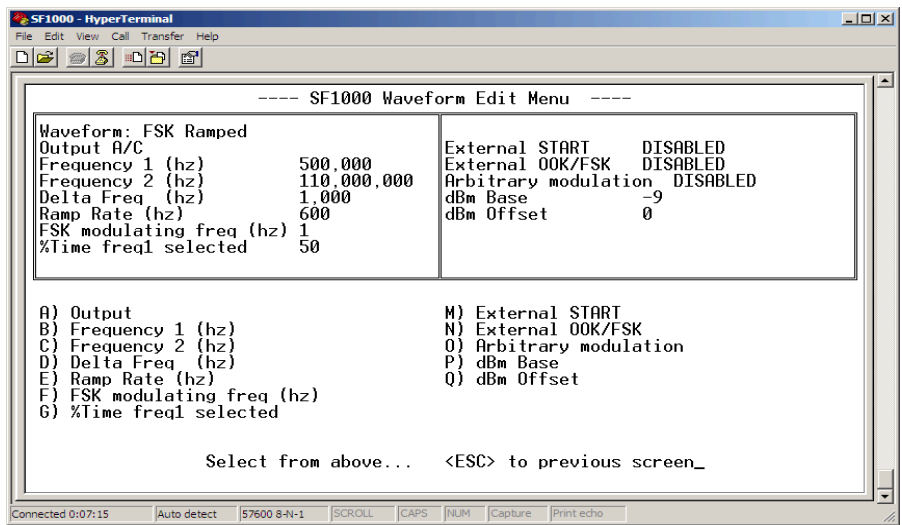


Figure 8. Edit Parameters Menu

Hit ESC to return to the main *Edit Parameters* menu and configure all other applicable parameters such as frequency, output power, etc.

External Controls. The *Edit Parameters* menu also allows you to enable the external controls, where applicable. See the External Controls section for a description of the external control connector.

Note

The Arbitrary Modulation selection enables you to upload a file containing a user defined modulation pattern. See the Arbitrary Modulations and Arbitrary Waveforms chapter below for information on creating an Arbitrary Modulation file.

Note

Entering a frequency value greater than the maximum supported will be flagged as an error or automatically reset to the highest valid value.

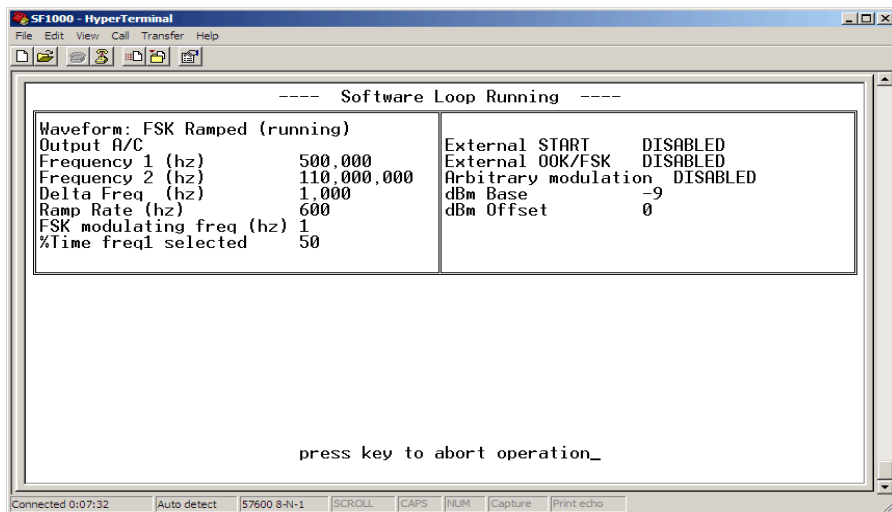


Figure 9. Running New Waveform

Running the Waveform

Return to the main *Waveform Creation* menu and select Run to start the new waveform. You may run the waveform with or without saving it.

Saving Waveforms

From the *Waveform Creation* menu, you may chose to save the new waveform to one of the four non-volatile memory locations.

You also have the option to save your waveform with the Load at Power-up option. The Load at Power Up feature causes the selected waveform to be loaded and started when the SF1000 is first turned on. This feature enables the SF1000 to operate in a repeatable stand-alone mode.

Note

Saving a new configuration overwrites any previously saved configuration at that location.

In addition to the four memory locations, one set of user-developed arbitrary waveform data may be saved (see the Arbitrary Waveform Modulation section below).

Modifying Waveforms “On-The-Fly”

Some of the parameters of the **Single Tone** and **FSK** type waveforms may be modified during runtime providing you with increased flexibility to exercise specific areas of the device under test.

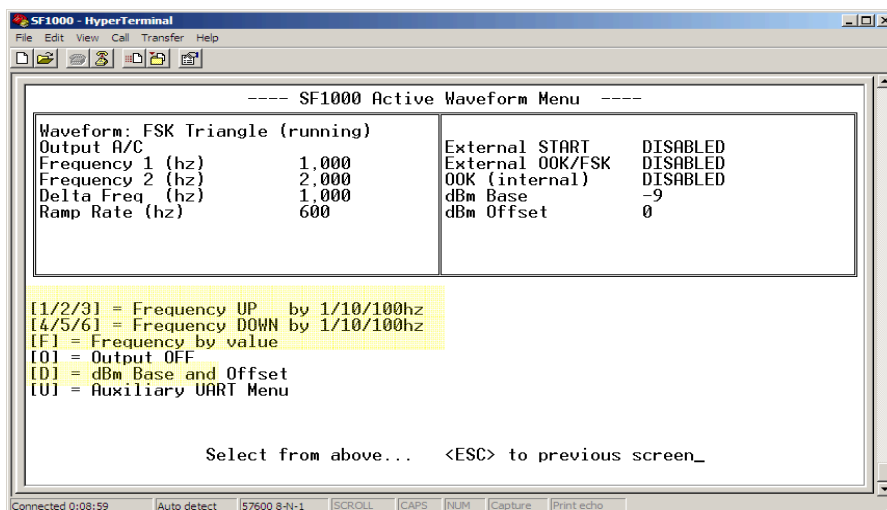


Figure 10. Modify Active Waveform Menu

Frequency Step Up, Step Down

While either the Single Tone or FSK type waveform is running, the frequency may be changed by stepping it up or down in discrete steps using the selections on the *Modify Active Waveform* menu (in the case of FSK, Frequency 1 is changed only). The frequency may be repeatedly stepped up or down in increments of 1 Hz, 10 Hz or 100 Hz. You may also enter a new frequency value by using menu selection [F].

Power Level / Attenuation Control (dBm Base and Offset)

The Wave Manager software allows you to change the Base power level and the Offset during operation when the AC Coupled output is enabled. The power values are entered in dBm.

- **Base Power (dBm Base).** Base power may be increased or decreased within the supported range, which is -13 dBm to +7 dBm.
- **Offset.** Allows you to adjust the Base Power to offset the losses of external connections (i.e. interconnect cables). For example: You enter a frequency of 500 MHz and require an output of 5 dBm; you then enter an offset of 2 dB causing the SF1000 to drive the output at 7dBm. After a cable loss of 2 dBm, the output power measured at the Device Under Test should be 5 dBm (7-2 = 5 dBm) In all cases; the total power must not exceed the maximum dBm provided by the SF1000.

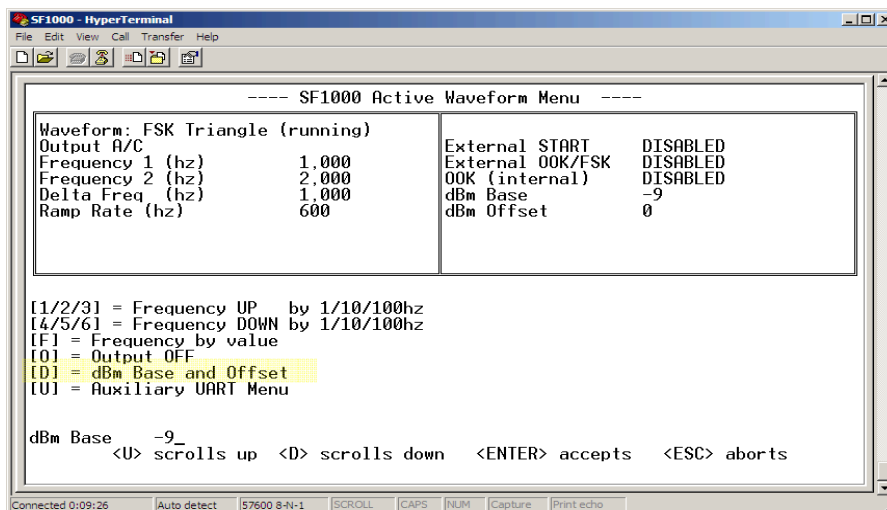


Figure 11. Modify Power Setting

Output Types

The SF1000 provides three different output types:

- **RF (AC Coupled)**
- **Differential**
- **Digital**

All outputs have a resolution of 1Hz.

When an output type is selected, all other output types are automatically disabled (e.g. when AC Coupled is selected, the TTL output is tri-stated and the differential output is at 0 MHz).

RF (AC Coupled) Output

The output driver of the RF (AC Coupled) signal source provides a nominal 50-Ohm output impedance—the output driver implementation is described in the drawing below. AC coupled output is capacitively connected to the output allowing the sine wave output to be floated at any level desired.

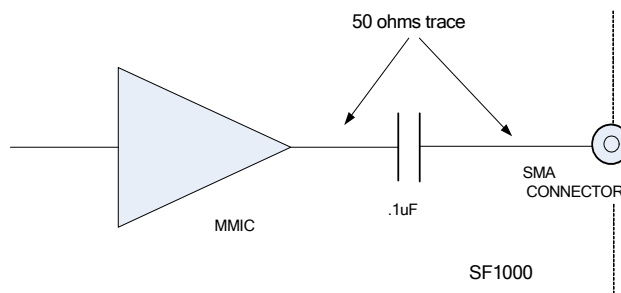


Figure 12. AC-Coupled Output Driver

Differential Output

The outputs of the differential driver conform to the LVPECL standard. The driver and the recommended method of interfacing to it are described in the drawing below. This differential driver is designed to work in 50-Ohm systems. The rise and fall times for the differential outputs are: 175ps (min) to 425ps (max) - 20% to 80% measure with a 50ohm load.

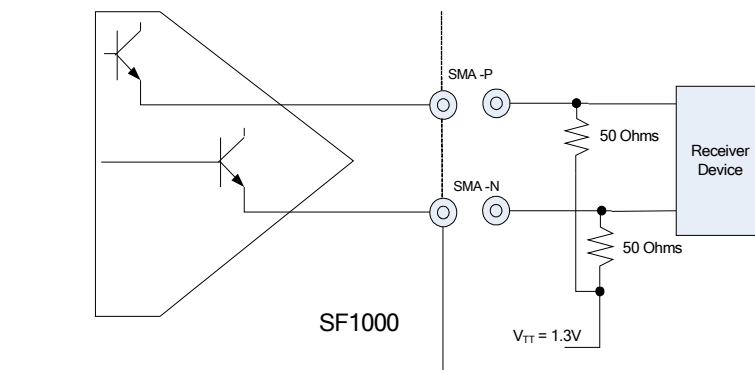


Figure 13. Differential Output Driver

Digital Output

The following block diagram shows the implementation of the programmable TTL output buffer. The rise and fall times for the rise and fall times for the digital output are: 1.2ns (0.7V to 2.0V) max.

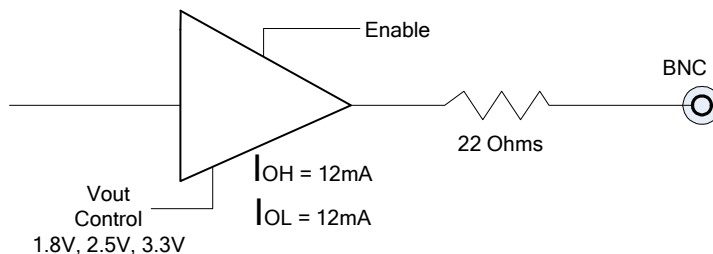


Figure 14. Digital Output Driver

Operating Limits

- RF output 100 KHz to 1 GHz
- Differential output 50 MHz to 1 GHz
- Digital (TTL) output 1 Hz - 110 MHz
- Internal Max FSK and CHIRP deviation range is as follows:
 - Digital (TTL) Any deviation allowed
 - AC Coupled from 100 KHz to 100 MHz Any deviation allowed
 - AC Coupled above 100 MHz 100-200 MHz / 200-400 MHz / 400-800 MHz / 800 MHz-1 GHz
 - Differential 50-100 MHz / 100-200 MHz / 200-400 MHz / 400-800 MHz / 800 MHz-1 GHz
 - The duty cycle (Frequency1 direction) 10% to 90%
- External OOK/FSK (User-driven signal) 150 KHz maximum
- Internal OOK 500 KHz maximum

- OOK is supported for:
 - AC Coupled output Up to 100 MHz
 - Differential output Full range
 - The duty cycle (ON percentage) 10 to 90% except near the highest modulating frequency

- BPSK is supported for
 - AC Coupled output Up to 100 MHz
 - Digital (TTL) Full range
 - Duty cycle (ON percentage) 10 to 90%

Operating Ranges

Waveform / Operation	Range
OOK	Modulating frequency 0.1 Hz to 500 KHz
FSK ramped / unramped	Modulating frequency 0.1 Hz to 500 KHz
FSK Arbitrary	Sample Rate 0.1 Hz to 26 KHz
Sweep	Frequency sweep time: Minimum step time for frequencies ≤ 100 MHz = 5ms Minimum step time for frequencies > 100 MHz = 10ms Step time programmable in 5ms and 10ms increments, respectively. Maximum step time = 60 seconds.
Square AM wave	Modulating frequency 0.1 Hz to 45 KHz
Sine AM wave	Modulating frequency 0.1 Hz to 6.5 KHz
BPSK	Modulating frequency 0.1 Hz to 500 KHz

Table 1. Operating Ranges

Waveforms

The SF1000 provides a wide range of waveform modulation features from which you can create a variety of waveforms. Numerous waveform modifiers may be applied to customize the output to meet your specific testing needs. The waveforms, modifiers and options are configured using the Wave Manager software.

In addition, you may develop arbitrary modulation files to create your own unique type of FSK or AM modulated output. An *Arbitrary Modulation* option will be displayed on the *Edit Parameters* screen of any waveform that supports user-developed waveform modulation files.

ASK

Output types

- RF

Options

- Internal control
- External control

ASK (Asynchronous Shift Keying) operation is supported in firmware (FW) revision 3.0 or higher. ASK may be controller internally or by an external controller. The supported frequency range is 1 Hz to 200 KHz. The default symmetry setting is 50%.

For external control, the ASK control pin on the External Control connector block on the front panel may be used as an arbitrary modulation source to control the output carrier. The supported frequency range is 1 Hz to 1000 KHz (see drawing below).

ASK Operation

Using the Wave Manager software, select the high power value from the supported range. The supported range is calculated using an internal output-power range table and varies depending on the frequency selected. Use the Wave Manager software to determine the supported range at a given frequency.

7 dBm is supported for all frequencies and is the recommended setting for ASK operation. If lower power output is needed, an external attenuator, such as the Mini-Circuits Inline BW-SXW2 Series Precision Fixed Attenuator is recommended.

The low power value is automatically set to 16dB below the high power value (i.e 5dBm – 16dB = -13dBm).

External ASK Operation

ASK may be controlled externally using the External Control header on the front panel.

- Use the Wave Manager software, set ASK control to ENABLED.
- Connect your ASK controller to the top pin at position 7 of the External Control header. The bottom pin of location 7 should be left open. Use the top pin at location 6 for a GND return connection.
- The input control signal must be 3.3V to 5V (the SF800/1000 input is 5V tolerant)
- Proper filtering be applied to the ASK control pin to avoid excessive overshoot or undershoot (due to long traces for example)

The drawing below describes ASK operation:

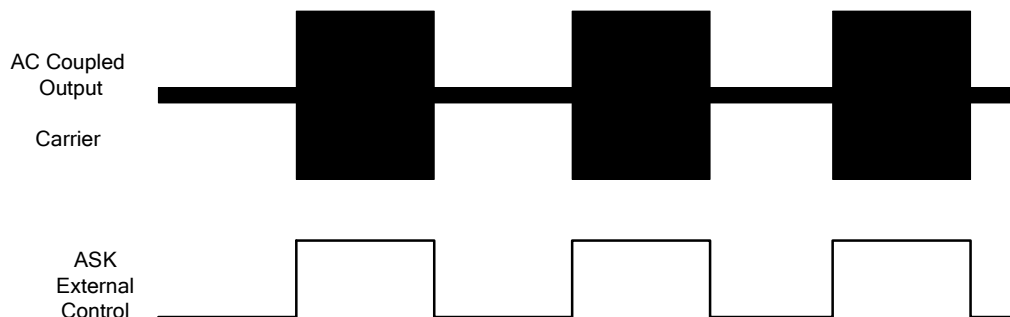


Figure 15. ASK Operation

BPSK

The BPSK (binary or bipolar phase shift keying) waveform outputs a single frequency that quickly changes between two user-selected phase offsets. When the phase selection changes to phase 1, the phase jumps by phase 1. When the phase selection changes to phase 2, the phase jumps by phase 2.

BPSK is a form of PSK which uses two phases separated by 180° and is sometimes called 2-PSK. It modulates at 1bit/symbol and is used for testing low data-rate applications such as IEEE 802.11g wireless LAN standard.

BPSK is also suitable for testing low-cost passive transmitters such as those used in the RFID standards which have been adopted for biometric passports, credit cards and other applications. ZigBee devices which operate in the 868–915 MHz frequency band also employ BPSK.

Due to synchronization the phase changes are not instantaneous, but the user can inspect the timing and adjust the phase values if compensation is desired.

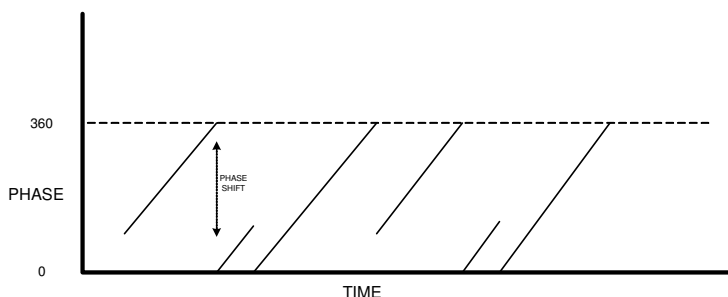


Figure 16. BPSK Operation

Output types

- RF to 100 MHz
- Digital (TTL)

Options

- Internally controlled
- Externally controlled BPSK (same pin as FSK) – low selects Phase 1
- Externally controlled Start
- Arbitrary modulation (from a user created file)

Chirp

The Chirp waveform ramps the output from frequency 1 to frequency 2 over a specified time, then jumps to the starting frequency to begin the next chirp. A rising or falling chirp is allowed.

The pulse width menu entry specifies the duration of the chirp. The Wave Manager software automatically calculates the delta frequency and ramp rate for the chirp, using up to 50 KHz frequency steps (based on the pulse width and frequency range).

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL)

Options

- Externally controlled Start

Chirp Operation for High Frequencies

When using the TTL output or the AC coupled output with a frequency setting of 100 MHz or less, chirp can be configured to immediately jump from F2 (frequency 2) to F1 (frequency 1) at the end of the chirp ramp.

When using the differential output (any frequency) or the AC coupled output at a frequency setting above 100 MHz, the chirp frequency ramps to F1 instead of jumping to F1.

Some frequencies are lost close to F1 due to internal hardware limitations.. The amount of lost frequency depends on the rate of change from F1 to F2, the frequency difference between F1 and F2, and the internal lock time.

It is possible to account for lost frequencies near F1 by entering a slightly lower F1 value for a rising chirp or higher F1 value for a falling chirp. It is left up to the user to manually compensate for lost frequencies. As an example of compensating for lost frequencies, assume your SF1000 locks in 500us and you want to chirp 300 MHz to 400 MHz in 4ms. This puts you in the operating range of 200-400 MHz. Since you are doing 1/2 the possible frequency range, you would expect the lock time in this example to be 250us. You need to lower F1 by a value that will represent 250us.

Step 1: ramp rate is 300-400 MHz in 4ms = 100 MHz/4ms = 25 MHz/ms = 25 KHz/us

Step 2: 25 KHz/us * 250us lock time = 6.25 MHz

so you need to subtract 6.25 MHz from F1 (menu entry F1 = 293.75 MHz).

Of course, the most accurate method is to use a spectrum analyzer to change F1 until the desired range is seen.

Pulsed Chirp (Pulsed FM)

The pulsed-chirp (sometimes referred to as pulsed FM) waveform ramps the output from frequency 1 to frequency 2 over a specified time, jumps to the starting frequency, then idles at frequency 1 until the next chirp. A rising or falling chirp is allowed.

The pulsed-chirp width menu entry specifies the duration of the chirp (frequency 1 to frequency 2). The pulse-to-pulse time menu entry specifies the time between chirps. The Wave Manager software automatically calculates the delta frequency and ramp rate for the chirp, using up to 50 KHz frequency steps (based on the pulse width and frequency range). "Idle

time” (the amount of time at frequency 1 between chirps) can be calculated as <pulse-to-pulse> minus <chirp pulse width>.

When using the TTL output, or the AC coupled output at a frequency rate of 100 MHz or less, there is an option to idle at 0 Hz instead of frequency 1.

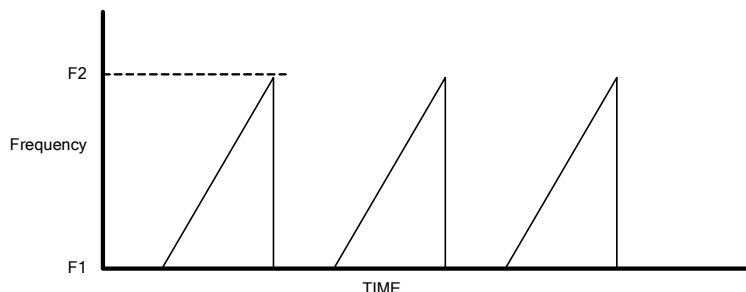


Figure 17. Pulsed Chirp Operation

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL)

Options

- Externally controlled Start

Pulsed Chirp Operation for High Frequencies

As described in the chirp waveform section, when using the differential output at any frequency or the AC-coupled output at a frequency above 100 MHz, the chirp cannot jump immediately back to frequency F1. There will instead be a ramp back to F1. Since there is an idle time at F1, then F1 will be reached so no frequencies are lost.

FSK Arbitrary Waveform

For FSK Arbitrary Waveforms, a user developed file describing a set of frequency variations is uploaded to the SF1000 and optionally saved in internal non-volatile memory. One arbitrary data set may be saved at a time.

FSK Arbitrary descriptor files may be created using a text editor or waveform generator software.

Arbitrary FSK allows the user to specify a set of frequency variations, the user-entered data includes:

- Center frequency
- Maximum deviation
- Sample rate
- A set of descriptors that define the deviation for each sample point

The output frequency changes at a time defined by the sample rate. The actual output frequency is determined using the formula

$$F_{out} = \text{<center frequency >} + (\text{deviation} * \text{descriptor})$$

Where each descriptor is a floating point value in the range -1.0 to 1.0. For example, a center frequency of 50 MHz with deviation 10 MHz and descriptor -0.5 will create a frequency of 45 MHz.

The file format and number of descriptors supported is described in the Creating Arbitrary Waveforms chapter below.

The drawing below illustrates how FSK Arbitrary Waveforms operate.

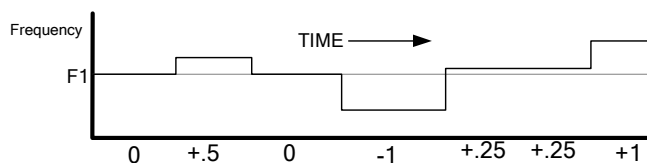


Figure 18. Example FSK Arbitrary Waveform

The FSK waveform shown above was created from the following text file:

```

number_of_points 7
// start with highest output frequency for 1 sample times
1.0
//go down to center frequency and then back to highest using 25% freq X 2
.50 0 -.10 .25 .25 1.0
    
```

Figure 19. Sample - FSK Arbitrary Text File

FSK Ramped

The FSK Ramped waveform varies the output frequency within a specified range. The rate of frequency change is determined by the delta frequency (the amount that the frequency is changed at each step) and the ramp rate (at what interval the frequency is changed).

The direction of frequency change is determined by internal timers or by the front panel FSK signal (when external control is enabled). For internal FSK operation, the modulating frequency and duty cycle determine how long frequency1 and frequency2 are selected. When frequency2 is selected, the direction of change is towards frequency2. Once frequency2 is reached, the frequency will remain there until the internal timer signal selects frequency1 (which causes the frequency to ramp towards frequency1).

The user would normally select a modulating frequency and duty cycle such that the ramp has time to complete (i.e. If the FSK signal changes before the ramp is complete, then you will not have reached full range). See drawing below:

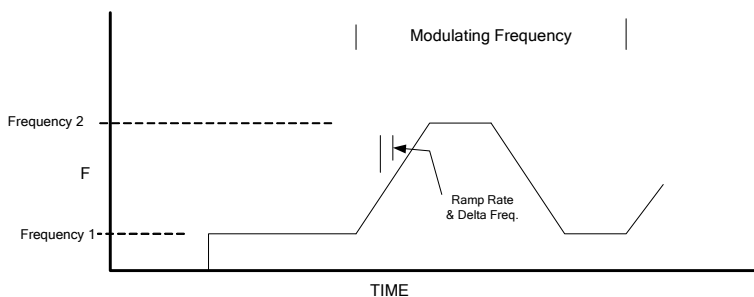


Figure 20. FSK Ramped Modulation

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL: 3.3V, LVTTTL: 2.5V, SVTTL: 1.8V)

Options

- Externally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start
- Arbitrary modulation (from a user created file)

FSK Triangle

FSK Triangle is similar to FSK ramped, except that ramping from one frequency to the next occurs automatically. When an end frequency is reached, the direction changes and ramping continues towards the other frequency. See drawing below:

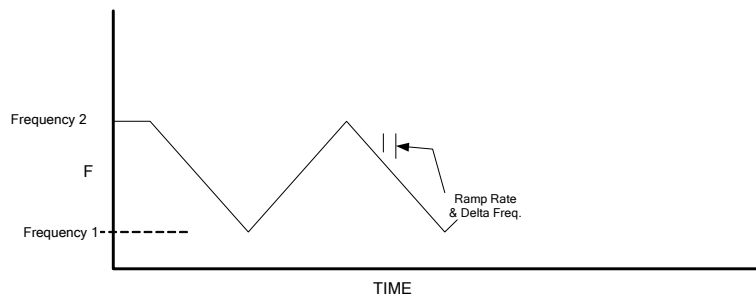


Figure 21. FSK Triangle Modulation

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL: 3.3V, LVTTTL: 2.5V, SVTTL: 1.8V)

Optionsx

- Externally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start

FSK Unramped

The Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) Unramped waveform allows you to select two output frequencies which are alternately driven at a preprogrammed rate. For internal FSK operation, the modulating frequency that determines the rate at which the frequencies change is selected from the *Edit Parameters* menu. The duty cycle menu entry determines the duration that frequency1 is asserted versus frequency2. The alternate frequency selection is determined either by internal timers, or by the front panel FSK signal (when external control is enabled).

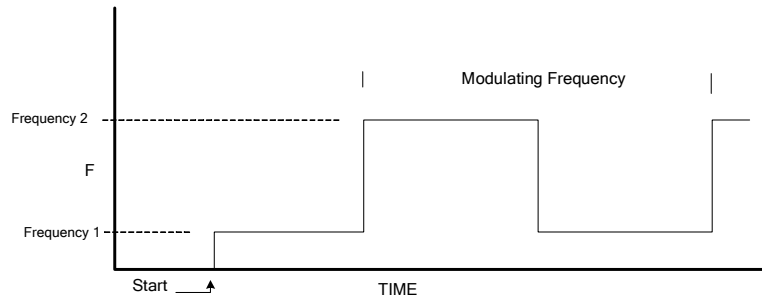


Figure 22. FSK Unramped Modulation

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL: 3.3V, LVTTTL: 2.5V, SVTTTL: 1.8V)

Options

- Externally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start
- Arbitrary modulation (from a user created file)

Single Tone

The Single Tone waveform outputs a continuous tone at the user-selected output frequency.

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL: 3.3V, LVTTTL: 2.5V, SVTTTL: 1.8V)

Options

- Externally or internally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start

Note

External control requires an external user-provided modulating source (TTL level).

Sine AM

A Sine Wave AM waveform modulates power using a sinusoidal pattern. The SF1000 outputs a discrete number of power levels as shown in the drawing below. The existence of these discrete power steps is normally not an issue since an AM demodulator includes a low pass filter at its output that will remove any high frequency components (higher than the maximum modulating frequency).

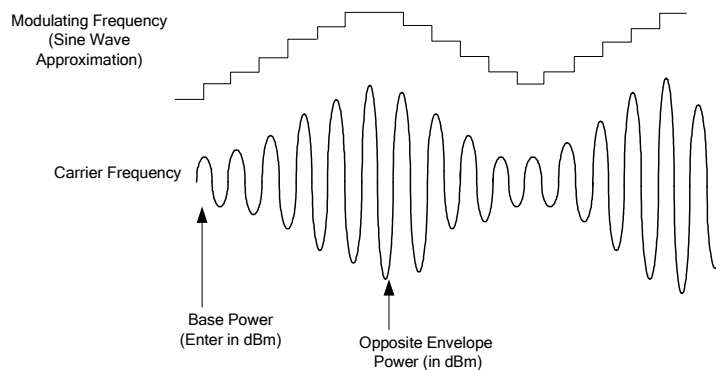


Figure 23. Example - Sine AM Waveform

Output types

- RF

Options

- Externally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start
- Arbitrary modulation (from a user created file)

The modulating frequency affects the number of sample points that are used to create the waveform as shown in the following table:

Modulating frequency	Samples per cycle
7500 Hz	12
2500 Hz	36
1500 Hz	60
750 Hz	120
500 Hz	180
250 Hz	360

Table 2. Sine AM Samples per Cycle Table

The Arbitrary Modulation mode may be used to completely customize an AM waveform by downloading a user-generated arbitrary descriptor file. In this case, each descriptor defines the output power using values of -1.0 to 1.0, where -1.0 is the lowest power and +1.0 is the highest power.

Note

Maximum Square AM modulating frequency is 40 KHz. Maximum Sine AM modulating Frequency is 6.5 KHz.

Square AM

For Square AM, the user specifies a single frequency (the carrier frequency) and two power values. The duty cycle may be programmed to a value other than 50%, which will result in the creation of an asymmetrical wave instead of a square wave (50% at the first power value and 50% at the lower power value). The drawing below depicts AM Square Wave operation (in this example, the modulation is set to 50%)

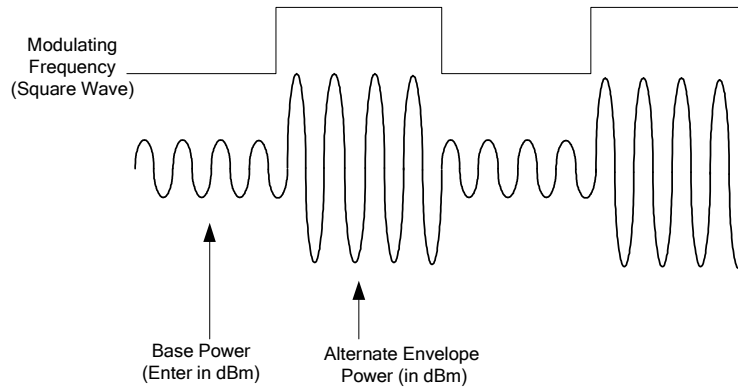


Figure 24. Example - Square AM Waveform

Arbitrary waveform modulation may be used to completely customize an AM type waveform by downloading arbitrary amplitude descriptors from a user-generated file.

Output types

- RF

Options

- Externally controlled OOK
- Externally controlled Start
- Arbitrary modulation (from a user created file)

Sweep

Sweep is similar to the FSK ramped mode of operation except that it allows frequencies to span the full operational range. It also allows any delta frequency. Sweep allows the user to pause, change direction, or single-step. When a sweep range completes, it starts over at the first frequency.

The SF1000 sweep step size (and minimum sweep rate) is 5ms for frequencies ≤ 100 Mhz or less and 10ms for frequencies over 100 MHz

Output types

- RF
- Differential
- Digital (TTL: 3.3V, LVTTTL: 2.5V, SVTTTL: 1.8V)

Options

- Externally controlled or OOK
- Externally controlled Start

Arbitrary Waveforms

Arbitrary Waveforms allow the user to define specific frequency or power values at a specified sample rate. CHIRP testing can be executed easily with the SF1000 by creating the appropriate arbitrary waveforms. The following sections describe how to create, upload and save Arbitrary Modulation files to the SF1000.

An Arbitrary Modulation selection will be displayed on the *Edit Parameters* menu of all waveforms that support arbitrary modulation.

Arbitrary Modulation Operation

The Arbitrary Modulation mode of operation enables you to specify data points that describe a waveform and the rate of execution. The maximum rates are shown in the following table.

Operation	Sample Rate
OOK	90 KHz
FSK / BPSK	90 KHz
Square AM	80 KHz
Sine AM	80 KHz

Table 3. Arbitrary Waveform: Max. Sample Rate

Waveform Descriptors

Two types of descriptors are supported: digital and floating point.

Digital Descriptors

Digital descriptors are used in cases where the output is only in one of two states, such as on/off or frequency high/low. Up to 2048 digital descriptors are supported. For example, digital descriptors would be used for OOK operation or Square Wave AM.

Digital descriptors may be in floating point or integer format where values greater than 0 are considered TRUE and other values are considered FALSE.

Floating Point Descriptors

Floating-point descriptors are used in cases, such as FSK Arbitrary or Sine AM, where the output is in more than two states. Up to 512 floating point descriptors are supported.

Floating point descriptors must be in the range -1.0 to 1.0 , and are used to define the amount of deviation to apply at each sample point. The output is determined by multiplying the descriptor and deviation, then adding the result to the center value.

Creating a Modulation File

An Arbitrary Modulation file must comply with the following criteria. The file may be created using a text editor, or any program that creates an ASCII file:

- One line should contain the keyword “number_of_points “ followed by the number of sample points described (e.g. “number_of_points 22”). This may be on any line.
- Sample points separated by spaces, commas, or tabs

Comments may be inserted anywhere in the file starting with any character other than characters used for numbers (“0123456789.+”), or matching the keyword “number_of_points”. When a comment character is recognized, the rest of the line is ignored.

The file must contain, at a minimum, the number of sample points indicated on the “number_of_points” line. If you include more samples than specified, they will be ignored.

Digital Descriptors

Operation	Description
OOK	FALSE means output is OFF, else ON
FSK	FALSE means output frequency one, else frequency two
AM square wave	FALSE means output low power, else high power
BPSK	FALSE selects phase 1, else phase 2

Table 4. Digital Descriptor Definitions

The following sample file describes how to create a floating point set of data points to control an FSK type or AM sine wave type of output:

Sample File

```

// file sine.txt
// Half Sine wave data points for FSK arbitrary or Sine AM
number_of_points 15
-1.0 -.8 -.6 -.4 -.3 -.2 -.1 0
.1 .2 .3 .4 .6 .8 1.0
    
```

Figure 25. Sample - Arbitrary Modulation File

Uploading A Modulation File

Once created, the Arbitrary Modulation file may be uploaded to the SF1000 and optionally saved in its non-volatile memory.

Before uploading the file, you must first setup the waveform that will be modulated by your set of arbitrary data points. There are two ways to setup the waveform:

- ❑ Select either the FSK Arbitrary waveform from the *New Waveform Type* menu
- ❑ ENABLE Arbitrary Waveform from the *Edit Parameters* menu (where applicable).

Once enabled, an Upload Arbitrary Modulation File selection will appear on the *Edit Parameters* menu.

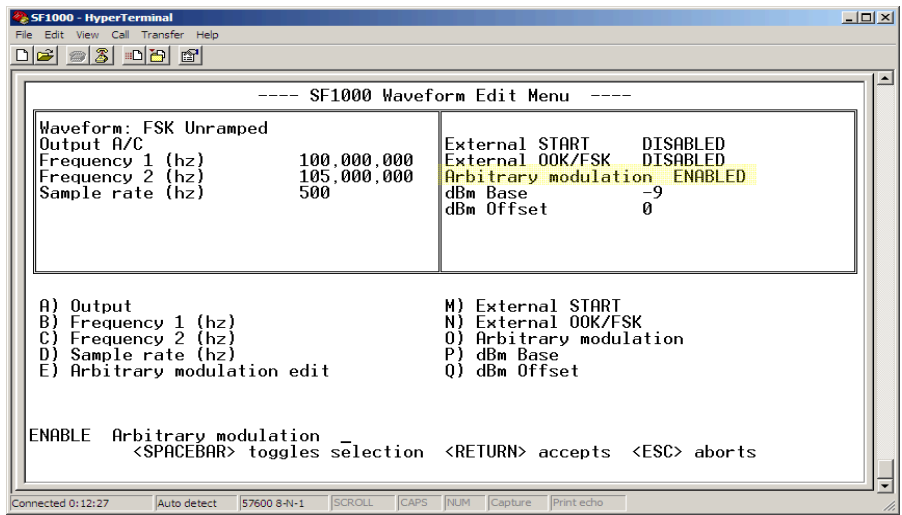


Figure 26. Enable Arbitrary Waveform Option

Next select Upload Arbitrary Waveform File and follow the onscreen instructions.

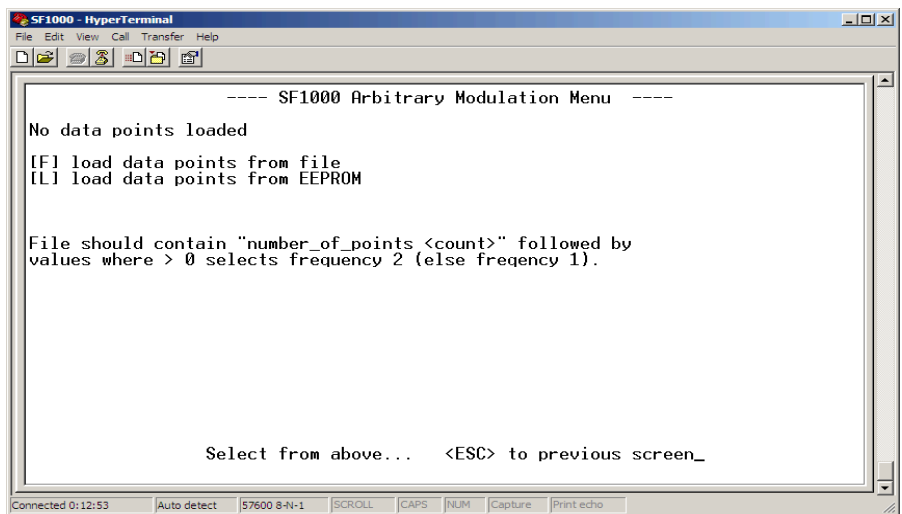


Figure 27. Upload Arbitrary Waveform File

Note

If you wish to save the arbitrary data to non-volatile memory, use the save option before exiting the arbitrary modulation menu.

Auxiliary UART

The SF1000 provides a transmit only UART port (TX_MOD – pin 8) that may be used to send ASCII data characters to an internal or external modulation device. This port is completely separate from the UART port used for the console.

The data that is sent by the auxiliary UART port can be ASCII data generated by a keyboard or from a file. The baud rate is programmable at these rates: 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, and 57600 baud (SF1000 HW version C also supports 150, 300, 600, and 1200).

The Wave Manager software provides support for this UART port on the *Auxiliary UART Menu* (under the *Modify Active Menu* entry).

You may connect the Auxiliary UART output using the appropriate filtering/interface (i.e. polarity control) to an external modulating device or to the OOK/FSK control pins of the same SF1000. In this way, you can create modulated waveform outputs, which are actually encoding UART driven data. The diagram below depicts how to configure the UART TX_MOD pin to create an ASCII data keyed OOK Waveform:

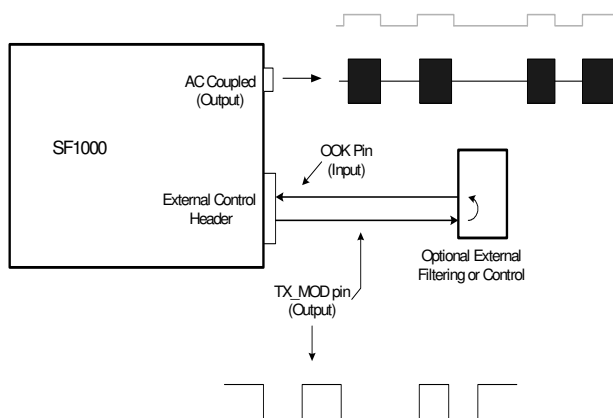


Figure 28: Auxiliary UART Usage

Calibration

Calibration Interval

The signal generator should be checked 1 year intervals to determine if the carrier frequency needs to be calibrated. Be aware that modulation depth, modulation frequency and output level are not adjustable. The output level may be adjusted using external amplifiers or attenuators.

Procedure

Calibration should take place in an environment in which the temperature is the same as the temperature at which the unit will be used.

Note

If you have an "E" model, either attach an external clock source or reconfigure it so that the internal clock source is enabled.

1. Power up the SF1000 for 1 hour prior to calibration to allow for temperature soak.
2. Connect the SF1000 to an accurate frequency counter.
3. Use the Wave Manager software to select the TTL or the AC-coupled output
4. Set the frequency to 1 MHz, 10 MHz or 100 MHz. 10 MHz is used at the factory for initial calibration.
5. Select "Calibration" from the Main Menu.
6. Enter the frequency displayed on the external frequency counter into the space provided on the calibration menu. The difference between frequency counter reading and the frequency setting is used to calibrate the device. The calibration information is stored in non-volatile memory, loaded at power up, and used until the device is calibrated again.

External Control Connector

The SF1000 provides ten 2-pin connectors labeled External Control on the front panel. These connectors enable you to control several modulation functions, such as frequency shift keying (FSK) or On/Off Keying (OOK). The function assignments are listed below.

POSITION	NAME (bottom row)	POSITION	NAME (top row)
1	Reserved	1	Reserved
2	DIFF OOK	2	GND
3	FSK / BPSK	3	GND
4	TX_MOD	4	GND
5	SE OOK	5	GND
6	Reserved	6	GND
7	15V	7	ASK
8	15V	8	GND
9	START	9	GND
10	Reserved	10	GND

Table 5. External Control Header Pinout

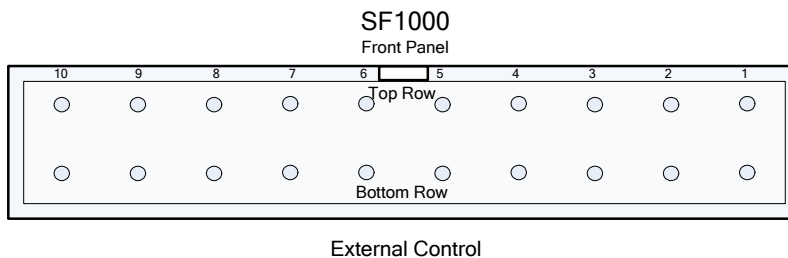


Figure 29: External Control Header Pin Locations

Recommended Cables/Connectors

You may attach either a 20-pin connector and cable assembly to a entire External Control block or individual 2-pin assemblies to control a single function. The recommended connector are:

- 20-pin connector and cable assembly P/N: M3AAA-2006J-ND

- 2-pin connector housing and contacts may be used to connect to individual control positions
 - o 2-position housing P/N: A26921-ND
 - o Contacts (2 required) P/N: A26951-ND

Items may be purchased from www.Digi-Key.com.

External Connector Pin Description

DIFF OOK. The differential clock output supports OOK for the frequency range of 50 MHz to 1 GHz. This input pin controls the differential output: driving this pin low will stop the differential output. By default this pin is set to a high state.

FSK / BPSK. For FSK waveforms, this pin allows the user to shift the frequency output as defined previously. For BPSK waveforms, this pin selects between phase 1 and phase 2 and as defined previously.

TX_MOD. This is the TX output from the internal Auxiliary UART port. The Wave Manager software provides support for this UART port on the *Auxiliary UART Menu* (under the *Modify Active Menu* entry). The user can connect this output, using the appropriate filtering/interface to the OOK or FSK external control pins of the SF1000 and create UART data modulated waveforms if so desired.

SE OOK. The SF1000 supports OOK (On/Off Keying) for the AC Coupled output in frequency range of 100 KHz to 100 MHz only. This input pin provides for external control of the output: placing this pin low stops the output of the SF1000. This pin is normally set to a high state.

ASK. This control pin allows you to modulate the AC Coupled output in order to implement an externally controlled Asynchronous Shift Keying. When this pin is driven low the AC coupled output will be attenuated by 16 dB over the full output power (when the signal is high).

Note:

The ASK control pin is the only control pin that does not have a GND pin as its opposite, Any other GND pin on the External Control connector may be used instead.

START. External START is an output control option. A high to low transition causes the SF1000 to start outputting its preprogrammed frequency. This feature is available for the AC Coupled, Differential and TTL outputs. When waiting for START the front panel LED is OFF until a valid START polarity is received. FSK unramped or triangle waveforms with external FSK control do not support the wait for START (output is as selected by the FSK external control pin).

The time from assertion of the START signal to output valid will vary depending on the type of output/frequency chosen and modifiers used. The user must first measure this time delay and account for it - if it will affect the type of operation being performed.

As described above, the SF1000 gives you the ability to control the output frequency using external control pins. Each one of the control pins has a low pass filter placed at its input, except for the Start pin. The low pass filter has a 3 dB cutoff point of 150 KHz. The input signals must be driven by 3.3V compatible signals and be referenced to the SF1000 GND (any of the GND pins of the 20-pin header). Input impedance is 2K ohms.

The External Control inputs are 5V tolerant and include a certain level of protection as described in the following block diagram:

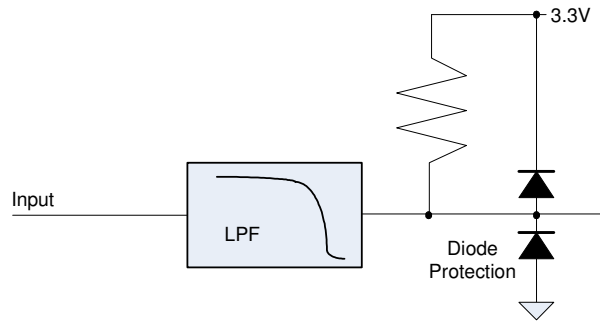


Figure 30: External Control Pin Filter

The Figure below gives an example of external control of a waveform. In the example chosen, an external signal controls the FSK signal pin of the SF1000.

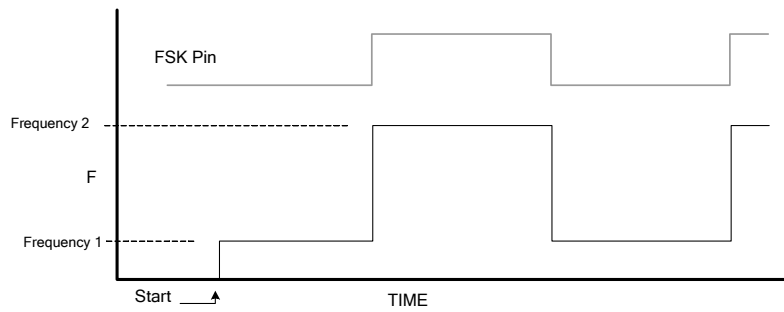


Figure 31: FSK Control Pin Operation

General Safety and Warranty Information

Review the following safety precautions to avoid injury and prevent damage to this product or any products connected to it. To avoid potential hazards, use this product only as specified.

Only qualified service personnel should perform service procedures.

To Avoid Fire or Personal Injury

Use Proper Power Adapter. Use only the power module provided with this product.

Connect and Disconnect Properly. Do not connect or disconnect external header pin leads while they are connected to a voltage source (turn the SF1000 and external control logic simultaneously).

Observe All Terminal Ratings. Consult the product manual for ratings information before making connections to the product.

Do Not Operate Without Cover. Do not operate this product with the cover removed.

Do Not Operate With Suspected Failures. If you suspect there is damage to this product, have it inspected by qualified service personnel.

Operate Within Operating Range. Do not operate this product outside the operating ranges specified on the manual.

Do not operate in Wet/Damp Conditions.

Do Not Operate in Explosive Atmosphere.

Keep Product Surfaces Clean and Dry.

Warranty

Signal Forge warrants that the products that it manufactures and sells will be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of shipment. If a product proves defective within the respective period, Signal Forge will repair or replacement the product without charge.

EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, SIGNAL FORGE MAKES NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. IN NO EVENT SHALL SIGNAL FORGE BE LIABLE FOR INDIRECT, SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

SF1000E

Clock Requirements

The SF1000E is designed to operate using an external 10 MHz source as its reference clock. The external clock should be attached to the BNC connector on the rear panel (labeled 10 MHz Clock). The SF1000E will not operate without this external reference clock source.

The 10 MHz external reference input clock **must** meet the following guidelines:

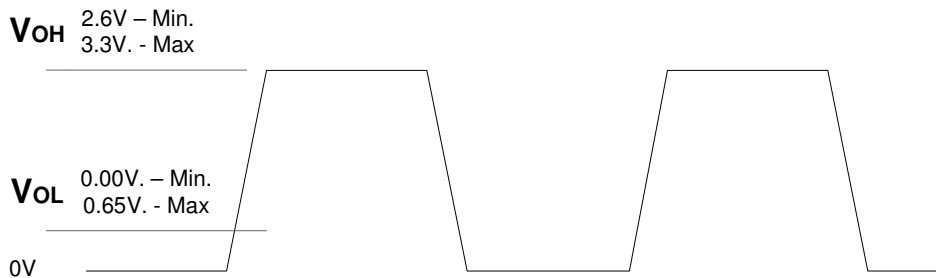


Figure 32: FSK Control Pin Operation

If you have any questions, please contact Signal Forge Technical Support at: support@signalforge.com or 512.275.3733.

Reconfiguring SF1000E to SF1000

The SF1000E may be converted to an SF1000 by changing internal jumper settings as described below. Converting an SF1000E to an SF1000 enables the internal TCXO clock source, eliminating need for an external source.

The conversion requires that the strap on jumpers J3 and J5 be reposition as indicated below.

J3	J5	Source Used	Model
1-2	1-2	Internal TCXO	SF1000
2-3	2-3	External 10Mhz	SF1000E

Table 6. External Control Header

Procedure:

- Remove the two rear panel screws
- Slide the top cover off (away from the front panel)
- Change the jumpers as indicated to enable or disable the internal TCXO
- Reassemble

The drawing below shows the location of the jumpers:

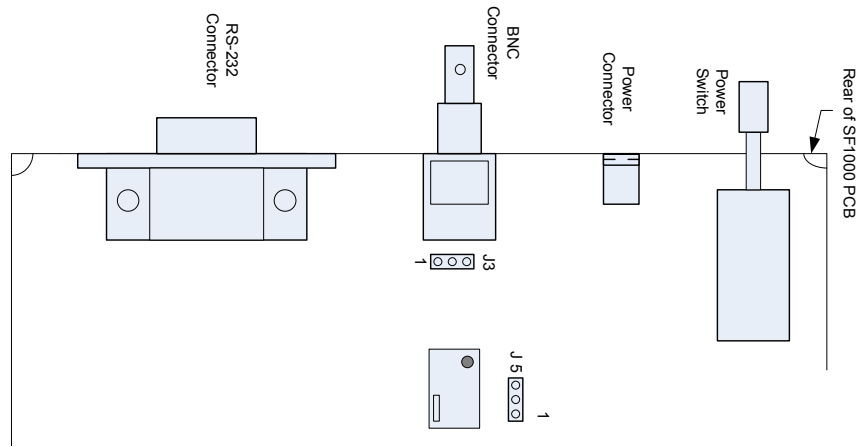


Figure 33: SF1000 to SF1000E Jumper Positions

Power Conversion Tables

The Signal Forge 1000 Signal Generator provides a power output range of +7dBm to -13 dBm. This range is adjustable in 1dB increments. Units of dBm are decibels relative to 1 mW of power, hence, 0 dBm equals 1 mW. 1/100 mW is -20 dBm and 100 mW is +20 dBm. Power values less than 1 mW are always negative dBm values, and power values greater than 1 mW are always positive. The power formulas are listed below:

$$P\{\text{dBm}\}=10*\log_{10}[P\{\text{mW}\}] \quad P\{\text{mW}\}=10(P\{\text{dBm}\}/10)$$

The table below translates between dBm, Volts and Watts within the power range of the SF1000.

dBm	Volts _{RMS}	Volts _{peak-peak}	Volts _{peak}	Watts
7 dBm	500.59 mV	1416 mV	708 mV	5.01 mW
6 dBm	446.15 mV	1262 mV	631 mV	3.98 mW
5 dBm	397.64 mV	1125 mV	562 mV	3.16 mW
4 dBm	354.39 mV	1002 mV	501 mV	2.51 mW
3 dBm	315.85 mV	893 mV	447 mV	2.00 mW
2 dBm	281.50 mV	796 mV	398 mV	1.58 mW
1 dBm	250.89 mV	710 mV	355 mV	1.26 mW
0 dBm	223.61 mV	632 mV	316 mV	1.00 mW
-1 dBm	199.29 mV	564 mV	282 mV	0.7943 mW
0	177.62 mV	502 mV	251 mV	0.6309 mW
-2 dBm				
-3 dBm	158.30 mV	448 mV	224 mV	0.5011 mW
-4 dBm	141.09 mV	399 mV	200 mV	0.3981 mW
-5 dBm	125.74 mV	256 mV	178 mV	0.3162 mW
-6 dBm	112.07 mV	317 mV	158 mV	0.2511 mW
-7 dBm	99.88 mV	283 mV	141 mV	0.1995 mW
-8 dBm	89.02 mV	252 mV	126 mV	0.1584 mW
-9 dBm	79.34 mV	224 mV	112 mV	0.1258 mW
-10 dBm	70.71 mV	200 mV	100 mV	0.1000 mW
-11 dBm	63.02 mV	178 mV	89 mV	0.0794 mW
-12 dBm	56.15 mV	159 mV	79 mV	0.0631 uW
-13 dBm	50.05 mV	143 mV	71 mV	0.0501 mW

Table 7. RF Power Conversion Table

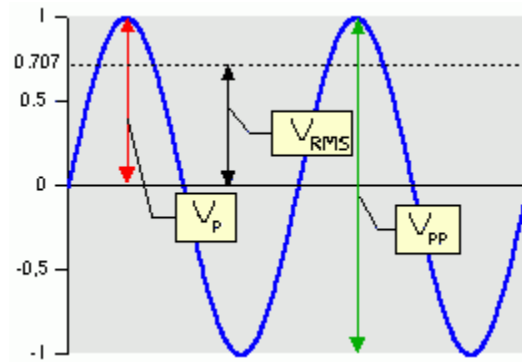


Figure 34. Voltage Definitions

Software Update Procedure

Wave Manager, the embedded operating software (firmware) of the Signal Forge signal generators may be updated by the user if new revisions become available by following the procedure below. Note that all output activity will be suspended while the software update is in process.

Wave Manager software updates are posted to the [Support](http://www.signalforge.com/home/sf1/support_main.html) page of the Signal Forge web site, http://www.signalforge.com/home/sf1/support_main.html.

Procedure

1. Download the desired revision. The filename format is "SF1000_dwn_X_Y" where X is the version and Y the revision.
2. Set your terminal communication program to **XON/XOFF enabled**. If using HyperTerminal, this selection is made in the "Create a New Connection" window. Go to: Port Settings, Flow Control and select XON/XOFF. Note: If XON/XOFF is not enabled you may receive a buffer error during download and the operation will not be successful. EZ Terminal users skip this step since EZ Terminal is automatically configured.
3. Connect to the SF1000 or 800 using the terminal communication software, then select "Download Firmware" from the Wave Manager menu, press "Y" to confirm that you want to perform the download.

WARNING –Pressing "Y" marks the current firmware invalid so you must download new firmware after this point.

4. A new screen will be displayed that states "Application Code Invalid" and prompt you to download new firmware by entering "D" to "Download Application Code".

Do not enter any more key strokes.

5. When the message: "Start PC File Transfer" will appear, **user your mouse** to select the File Transfer menu on the main menu bar of the terminal communications software.
6. If you are using HyperTerminal, select "Transfer" then " **Send Text File**" (not the default "Send File" option). NOTE: You may have to select "All Files" in the "Files of type" pulldown sub-menu, in order to locate the firmware file since Hyperterminal by default only displays ".txt" files and the SF1000/800 firmware is file type .HEX.

To start the download. locate the firmware revision you wish to install and select it with your mouse.

The screen will display the download status during download and prompt you to reboot the signal generator when completed. Downloading will take a few minutes.

EZ Terminal Software

EZ Terminal is a serial communication software utility for use with the Signal Forge line of signal generators. EZ Terminal provides support for macros, terminal window screen capture, downloading firmware (Wave Manager software for the SF1000), and downloading arbitrary waveform descriptor files.

Operating Systems Supported

Windows Vista, Win XP and Win 2000

EZ Terminal is easy to install and use and there is practically no learning curve. It is pre-configured (baud rate, COM port, etc) to operate with Signal Forge products.

Features

Download Firmware

This menu selection allows the user to load a new version of the Wave Manager software (user interface and operating firmware) into the SF1000 signal generator. To download firmware:

1. First invoke the 'Download firmware' command from SF1000 Wave Manager Main Menu and follow the on-screen instructions.
2. When Wave Manager prompts you to begin the download, go to **EZ Terminal menu**: File -> Download Firmware. Find the firmware file (.hex) to be downloaded on your disk, select it and the download will start. (The firmware file will be named similar to: SF1000B_dwn_5_6.hex)

Download Arbitrary Data File

Allows you to upload an arbitrary data file to the SF1000 (see the FSK Arbitrary Waveform section above). The procedure is similar to downloading firmware. Start by go to the Wave Manager Edit Parameters submenu, select Custom Mode Edit. When prompted by the SF1000 to download the file, navigate **EZ Terminal** to 'File -> Download Arbitrary Data File'.

Macros

Macros are used to store and replay waveform configurations and test procedures. The wise use of macros can be a great time saver.

You can edit/add macros, save macros to a file and load one or multiple macro files (using the "Append" loading option). You may enter comment text for each macro, and the comment text will be visible when the cursor is over that macro's button. This allows you to use short macro names to take up less screen space, but see as much description as you desire in the comments.

Macro Hints

When programming for a completely new waveform, start the macro with four <escape> key presses to ensure that you have returned to the main menu window before you begin entering the command sequence for the new waveform. This is because most SF1000 menus and operations are exited using the <escape> key.

Capture Terminal Window

This feature captures the SF1000 screen to a text file. The file created is Unicode UTF-8 format. If you view the file with a UTF-8 knowledgeable program such as Windows Wordpad, the display should look just like it does when displayed by EZ Terminal.

Free Download

EZ Terminal is free for Signal Forge signal generator users. To download EZ Terminal, go the Products page of the Signal Forge web site: http://www.signalforge.com/home/sf1/multilist_1/SignalForge_Products.html

Product Line

Model Number	Description
SF1000	Signal Forge 1000 Synthesized Signal Generator
SF1000E	Signal Forge 1000 Synthesized Signal Generator (driven by external reference)
1800M	RF Expansion Module 950 MHz to 1.8 GHz Frequency Band (Add-on to the SF1000/1000E signal generator)
2500M	RF Expansion Module 1.5 GHz to 2.6 GHz Frequency Band (Add-on to the SF1000/1000E signal generator)
EZTerminal	EZ Terminal Serial Communication Software for Vista, XP, W2K (Free download for Signal Forge users)
SF-BRK	1U Rack Mount Bracket - Holds 3 SF800/1000's and attaches to a standard 19" chassis.
Cable-6	Serial Cable, DB9 Male to DB9 Female, 6Ft
USB Adapter	USB 2.0 to DB9 Serial converter (with 2.5ft cable) Plug and play, USB Type A male to D-9 male

Table 8. Signal Forge Product Line

Ordering Information

For a complete description, pricing and ordering information, visit the Product page of the Signal Forge web site:
www.signalforge.com.

SIGNAL FORGE, LLC

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