GF-232B

DUAL-CHANNEL ARBITRARY WAVEFORM GENERATOR





- 0 MI2103 -

SAFETY NOTES

Read the user's manual before using the equipment, mainly "**SAFETY RULES**" paragraph.

The symbol \triangle on the equipment means "**SEE USER'S MANUAL**". In this manual may also appear as a Caution or Warning symbol.

WARNING AND CAUTION statements may appear in this manual to avoid injury hazard or damage to this product or other property.

QUICK ACCESS TO CONTENT

You can access instantly to any chapter by clicking on the title of the chapter in the table of contents.

Click on the arrow *at the top right of the page to return to the table of contents.*

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USER'S MANUAL VERSION



SAFETY RULES 🚹

This chapter contains important safety instructions that you must follow when operating GF-232B and when keeping it in storage. Read the following before any operation to insure your safety and to keep the best condition for GF-232B.

Safety Symbols

These safety symbols may appear in this manual or on GF-232B.



Warning: Identifies conditions or practices that could result in injury or loss of life.



Caution: Identifies conditions or practices that could result in damage to GF-232B or to other properties.

Attention Refer to the Manual

Earth (ground) Terminal

Safety Guideline

- General
 - * Do not place any heavy object on GF-232B.
 - * Avoid severe impacts or handling that leads to damage.
 - * Do not discharge static electricity to GF-232B.
 - * Use only mating connectors, for the terminals.
 - * Do not block or obstruct cooling vent opening.
 - * Do not perform measurements at power source and building installation site (Note below).
 - * Do not disassemble GF-232B unless you are qualified as service personnel.
 - * (Note) EN 61010-1:2001 specifies the measurement categories and their requirements as follows. GF-232B falls under category II.
 - * Measurement category IV is for measurement performed at the source of low-voltage installation.
 - * Measurement category III is for measurement performed in the building installation.
 - * Measurement category II is for measurement performed on the circuits directly connected to the low voltage installation.



• Power Supply

- * Input voltage: 100 / 120 / 220 / 240 V AC \pm 10 %, 50 / 60 Hz (fixed voltage rating, factory installed).
- * The power supply voltage should not fluctuate more than 10 %.
- * Connect the protective grounding conductor of the power cord to earth ground, to avoid electrical shock.

• Fuse

- * Fuse type: T0.16 A / 250 V (for 220 V / 240 V ±10 % rating), T0.315 A / 250 V (for 100 / 120 V ±10 % rating).
- * Replace the fuse with the specified type and rating only, for continued fire protection. For fuse replacement details, see page 30.
- * Disconnect the power cord before fuse replacement.
- * Make sure the cause of the fuse blowout is fixed before fuse replacement.

Cleaning

- * Disconnect the power cord before cleaning.
- * Use a soft cloth dampened in a solution of mild detergent and water. Do not spray any liquid into GF-232B.
- * Do not use chemicals or cleaners containing harsh materials such as benzene, toluene, xylene, and acetone.

• Operation Environment

- * Location: Indoor, no direct sunlight, dust free, almost non-conductive pollution (Note below)
- * Relative Humidity: < 80 %
- * Altitude: < 2000 m
- * Temperature: 0° C to 40° C (Note) EN 61010-1:2001 specifies the pollution degrees and their requirements as follows. GF-232B falls under degree 2. Pollution refers to "addition of foreign matter, solid, liquid, or gaseous (ionized gases), that may produce a reduction of dielectric strength or surface resistivity".
- * Pollution degree 1: No pollution or only dry, non-conductive pollution occurs. The pollution has no influence.
- * Pollution degree 2: Normally only non-conductive pollution occurs. Occasionally, however, a temporary conductivity caused by condensation must be expected.
- * Pollution degree 3: Conductive pollution occurs, or dry, non-conductive pollution occurs which becomes conductive due to condensation which is expected. In such conditions, equipment is normally protected against exposure to direct sunlight, precipitation, and full wind pressure, but neither temperature nor humidity is controlled.



• Storage Environment

- * Location: Indoor
- * Relative Humidity: < 70 %
- * Temperature: -10° C to 70° C

• Symbols related with safety:



• Descriptive Examples of Over-Voltage Categories

Cat I Low voltage installations isolated from the mains.

Cat II Portable domestic installations.

Cat III Fixed domestic installations.

Cat IV Industrial installations.

Power cord for the United Kingdom

When using GF-232B in the United Kingdom, make sure the power cord meets the following safety instructions.

Note: This lead / appliance must only be wired by competent persons.



IMPORTANT: The wires in this lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:

Green/ Yellow:

Blue:

Earth

Brown:

Neutral

Live (Phase)

N L

As the colours of the wires in main leads may not correspond with the colours marking identified in your plug/appliance, proceed as follows:

The wire which is coloured Green & Yellow must be connected to the Earth terminal marked with the letter E or by the earth symbol \textcircled or coloured Green or Green & Yellow.

The wire which is coloured Blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured Blue or Black.

The wire which is coloured Brown must be connected to the terminal marked with the letter L or P or coloured Brown or Red.

If in doubt, consult the instructions provided with the equipment or contact the supplier.

This cable/appliance should be protected by a suitably rated and approved HBC mains fuse: refer to the rating information on the equipment and/or user instructions for details. As a guide, cable of 0.75 mm² should be protected by a 3 A or 5 A fuse. Larger conductors would normally require 13 A types, depending on the connection method used.

Any moulded mains connector that requires removal /replacement must be destroyed by removal of any fuse & fuse carrier and disposed of immediately, as a plug with bared wires is hazardous if a engaged in live socket. Any re-wiring must be carried out in accordance with the information detailed on this label.



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DUAL-CHANNEL ARBITRARY WAVEFORM GENERATOR GF-232B

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Description

GF-232B uses the latest Direct Digital Synthesis (DDS) technology to generate stable, high resolution output frequency. The DDS technology solves several problems encountered in traditional function generators, as follows.

Constant current circuit methodology.

This analog function generating method uses a constant current source circuit built with discrete components such as capacitors and resistors. Temperature change inside the generator greatly affects the components characteristics which lead to output frequency change. The results are poor accuracy and stability.



Figure 1.

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1.2 DDS Methodology

In DDS, the waveform data is contained in and generated from a memory. A clock controls the counter which points to the data address. The memory output is converted into analog signal by a digital to analog converter (DAC) followed by a low pass filter. The resolution is expressed as fs/2k where fs is the frequency and k is the control word, which contains more than 28 bits. Because the frequency generation is referred to clock signal, this achieves much higher frequency stability and resolution than the traditional function generators.

1.3

Block Diagram

DDS synthesizer consists of Phase accumulator (counter), lookout table data (ROM), Digital-to-analog converter (DAC), and Low-pass filter (LPF).



Figure 2.

The phase accumulator adds the frequency control word K at every clock cycle fs. The accumulator output points to a location in the Table ROM/RAM. The DAC converts the digital data into an analog waveform. The LPF filters out the clock frequency to provide a pure waveform.



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1.4 Main features

Performance:

- High resolution using DDS technology
- High frequency accuracy: ±20 ppm
- Low distortion: -55 dBc @ ≤200 kHz
- High resolution 100 MHz

► Features:

- Digital user interface with 6-digit LED display
- Various output waveforms: Sine, Square, and Triangle
- TTL output
- Amplitude control
- –40 dB attenuation
- Duty control
- Variable DC offset control
- Output On/Off control
- Voltage display
- Output overload protection

► Interface:

- Frequency output
- TTL output

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1.5





Main Display

7 segment LED		Shows frequency and voltage.		
TTL indicator	TTL	Indicates that the TTL output is enabled.		
Waveform indicator	\sim L \sim	Indicates the waveform shape: Sine, Square, and Triangle.		
Frequency indicator	MkHz	Indicates the output frequency: MHz, kHz, or Hz.		



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Entry keys

Waveform key	WAVE	Selects the waveform: sine, square, and triangle.
TTL activation	ΠL	Activates TTL output.
Numerical keys		Specifies frequency.
Frequency unit	MHz	Specifies the frequency unit: MHz,
selection		kHz, or Hz.
	KHZ HZ	
	(9 , 0)	
Cursor selection		Moves the cursor (frequency
		editing point) left or right.
	4 or 5	
Shift key		Selects the 2nd function
	SHIFT	associated to the entry keys. The LED lights when Shift is activated.
Output		Turns the output On/Off. The LED
On/Off key	OUTPUT	lights when the output is On.



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Others

Frequency editing knob	\bigcirc	Increases (right turn) or decreases (left turn) the frequency.
Main output		Outputs sine, square, and triangle waveform. BNC, 50 Ω output impedance.
TTL output	TTL OUTPUT	Outputs TTL output waveform, BNC terminal.
Amplitude contro	AMPL	Sets the sine/square/triangle waveform amplitude. Turn left (decrease) or right
		(increase).
	MIN • • MAX	When pulled out, attenuates the
	-40dB	sine / square / triangle waveform amplitude by –40 dB.
DC offset control	OFFSET	
	$\langle \rangle$	When pulled out, sets the DC offset
	ADJ	left (decrease) or right (increase). The range is $-5 \text{ V} \sim +5 \text{ V}$, in 50 Ω load.
Duty cycle	DUTY	
	$\left(\right)$	When pulled out, sets the square or TTL wave duty cycle. Turn left (decrease)
	ADJ	or right (increase). The range is 25 $\% \sim$ 75 $\%.$
Power		Turns the main power On/Off.
SWILLII		
	\mathbb{Q}	



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1.6 Rear Panel



AC Rating Information	Fixed AC line voltage: 100,120, 220, or 240 V (factory installed setting). The label shows the applicable rating.	
AC Power Input	Accepts the AC power cord. 100,120, 220, or 240 V, $\pm 10\%$, 50/60 Hz.	
Ground Terminal	The safety ground terminal. Use this terminal for common ground connection.	



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Observe the output waveform: 1 kHz, sine wave.



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2 SINE/SQUARE/TRIANGLE/WAVE





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2.2		Set Frequency	
Enter		Enter the waveform f	requency using the numerical keys
freque	ency	1.2 MHz	MHz
		37 kHz	KHz KHz
		45 Hz	Hz
Edit freque	ency		Left cursor key moves the active cursor left.
			<i>100.0→100.0</i>
			Right cursor key moves the active cursor right.
			Turn the Frequency knob left to decrease the frequency.
			<i>100.0→99.0</i>
			Turn the frequency knob right to increase the frequency.
Maxim	num		Sine and square waveform frequency is
limit e	ency error		3 MHz. When the input exceeds it, an error
			message (Err-1) appears and forces the frequency to 3 MHz.
		\sim	Triangle waveform frequency is limited to
		Erred	it, an error message (Err-2) appears and forces the frequency to 1 MHz.
Minim freque limit e	um ency error	Err - 4	The minimum frequency is 0.1 Hz. When the frequency input becomes less than 0.1 Hz, an error message (Err-4) appears and forces the frequency to 0.1 Hz.

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2.3 Set Amplitude

Amplitude setting does not apply to TTL output.

Set Amplitude		Turn the Amplitude knob right (increase) or left (decrease). The range is 2 mVpp ~ 10 Vpp for 50 Ω output impedance.
View amplitude	V/F SHIFT → ●	To view the voltage level (amplitude), press the Shift key and dot (V/F) key. The display shows the voltage level. Repeat this procedure to go back to the frequency level view.
		$\square \rightarrow \square \square$
Attenuate by -40 dB	Can attenuate the ma method.	in output by -40 dB, in different
	AMPL	Pull out the Amplitude knob. The output amplitude is attenuated by -40 dB.
	-40dB SHIFT → 3	Press the Shift key, then 3 (-40 dB) . The main output is attenuated by -40 dB , and the -40 dB display indicator in the display turns On.
	\sim	k Hz
	-40dB	



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2.4 Set Duty Cycle (Square Waveform)

The duty cycle setting is not available in sine/triangle waveform.

Enter duty cycle	DUTY ADJ	Pull out the Duty knob. Turn right (left) to increase (decrease) the duty cycle. The default is set at 50 %.
Range	25 % ~ 75 %	

2.5

Set Offset

Activate offset Can add or delete offset to the sine/square/triangle waveform, thus changing the waveform vertical position.

		Pull the OFFSET knob to turn On Offset setting.
Adjust offset	OFFSET ADJ	Turn the knob right (higher position) or left (lower position).
	Range	-5 V ~ $+5$ V for 50 Ω output load



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3 TTL OUTPUT





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				Turn decre Turn incre	the Frequency knob left to ease the frequency. $300 \rightarrow 990$ the frequency knob right to ease the frequency. $300 \rightarrow 1000$
M fr li	laxim reque mit ei	um ncy rror	Err	-	TTL frequency is limited to maximum 3 MHz. When the input exceeds it, an error message (Err-1) appears and forces the frequency to 3 MHz.
M fr li	linimu reque mit ei	ım ncy rror	Err	- '-¦	The minimum frequency is 0.1 Hz. When the frequency input becomes less than 0.1 Hz, an error message (Err-4) appears and forces the frequency to 0.1 Hz.
3.3		Set Duty	Cycle		
Enter duty cycle		luty cycle	DUTY ADJ	1. Pul (left) duty 50 %.	l out the Duty knob. Turn right to increase (decrease) the cycle. The default is set at
				2. Pre cycle	ess the Duty knob. The duty is reset to 50 %.

Range

25 % ~ 75 %

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4 APPLICATION EXAMPLES



Description The output can be used as a cost-effective reference signal for Phase-Locked-Loop system. Directly connect GF-232B output to PLL input.

Block diagram

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4.2 Trouble-Shooting Signal Source

Description The output can be used as the signal source to test the failed part in a circuit system. Isolate the problematic part from the rest, feed the GF-232B output as a stimulus, and observe the outcome using an oscilloscope.

Block diagram



Circuit System



4.3 Transistor DC Bias Characteristics Test

Description Use as the signal source for a transistor. Compare the transistor input/output waveform using the oscilloscope. Adjust the DC voltage source to find out the maximum output without distorting the waveform.

Block diagram







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4.4 Amplifier Over-Load Characteristic Test

Description Use the triangle wave output to check the amplifier output distortion caused by overload. The common sine wave is not the ideal source in this case. Observe the linearity of the triangle waveform using an oscilloscope.



Amplifier Transient Characteristics Test

Description Use the square wave output to check the transient frequency response of an amplifier. The common sine wave is not the ideal source in this case. Observe the waveform using an oscilloscope.





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Test step
Apply a triangle waveform to the amplifier first. Adjust the waveform amplitude to make sure there is no clipping. Switch to square waveform and adjust its frequency to the middle of the amplifier pass band, such as 20 Hz, 1k Hz, and 10 kHz.
3. Observe the shape of the amplifier output. The following table shows the possible output distortions and their

	explanations.	
Transient characteristi c list		Amplitude reduction at low frequency No phase shift
		Low frequency boosted (accentuated fundamental)
		High frequency loss No phase shift
		Low frequency phase shift Trace thickened by hum-voltage
		High frequency loss Phase shift
		Low frequency loss Phase shift
	\searrow	Low frequency loss Low frequency phase shift
	$\overline{\langle}$	High frequency loss Low frequency phase shift
		Damped oscillation

Note: For narrow band amplifier testing, square wave may not be suitable.



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4.6 Logic Circuit Test

Description Use the TTL output to test digital circuits. Observe the timing relation of input/output waveform using an oscilloscope.



4.7

Impedance Matching Network Test

Description Use for impedance matching network: testing its frequency characteristic and matching the impedance.



Test stepAdjust the potentiometer until V2 becomes the half of V1
(V2=0.5 V1). Then the impedance Z of the network becomes
identical to the potentiometer.



4.8 **Speaker Driver Test**

Description Use for testing the frequency characteristics of audio speakers. Record the volt reading versus the input signal frequency.

Block diagram



The peak voltage occurs on the resonant frequency of the Graph speaker.

Peak of Audio Drive Response





5 TROUBLESHOOTING

• I pressed the Power switch on the front panel but nothing happens.

Make sure the AC source voltage is set at the rating ± 10 %, 50/60 Hz. For power up sequence, see page 14. Otherwise the internal fuse might be blown out.

• TTL does not activate (pressed Shift + Wave key)

You need to turn On the output first. Press the Output key, then press Shift+Wave.

How can I get out of TTL/-40 dB mode?

For TTL: press the Shift key, then the wave key. For -40 dB mode, press the Shift key, then 3.

• The device accuracy does not match the specification.

Make sure the device is powered On for at least 30 minutes, within $+18^{\circ}$ C \sim +28° C. This is necessary to stabilize the unit to match the specification.

• What are these error messages?

Several messages appear when trying to set the frequency in irregular ways.

• Error Messages

Frequency error



Err-1 Sine, square, and TTL wave frequency over range. This message appears when entering sine / square / TTL waveform frequency larger than 3 MHz. The frequency is automatically forced to 3 MHz.

Err-2 Triangle wave Frequency over range. This message appears when entering triangle waveform frequency larger than 1 MHz. The frequency is automatically forced to 1 MHz.

Err-4 Frequency over resolution. This message appears when trying to enter frequency less than 0.1 Hz. The frequency is automatically forced to 0.1 Hz.



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6 SPECIFICATIONS

Must be powered for at least 30 minutes within the ambient temperature 18° C \sim 28° C to meet this spec.

Main	Output Function	Sine, Square, Triangle
	Amplitude Range	10 Vpp (50 Ω load)
	Amplitude Accuracy	±20 % at maximum position
	Impedance	50 Ω ± 10 %
	Attenuator	-40 dB ± 1 dB x1
	DC Offset	< -5 V ~ >+5 V (50 Ω load)
	Duty Range	25 % ~ 75 %, ≤1 MHz (Square Wave)
	Display	6 digits LED display
Frequency	Sine/Square Waveform Range	0.1 Hz ~ 3 MHz
	Triangle Waveform Range	0.1 Hz ~ 1 MHz
	Resolution	0.1 Hz maximum
	Stability	±20 ppm
	Accuracy	±20 ppm
	Aging	±5 ppm/year
Sine Wave	Harmonic Distortion	\geq -55 dBc, 0.1 Hz ~ 200 kHz \geq -40 dBc, 0.2 MHz ~ 2 MHz \geq -35 dBc, 2 MHz ~ 3 MHz (At maximum position without any attenuation to 1/10 of any combination setting, TTL Off)
	Flatness	< \pm 0.3 dB, 0.1 Hz ~ 1 MHz < \pm 0.5 dB, 1 MHz ~ 2 MHz < \pm 1 dB, 2 MHz ~ 3 MHz (At the max amplitude relating to 1kHz)
Triangle Wave	Linearity	≥ 98%, 0.1 Hz ~ 100 kHz ≥ 95%, 100 kHz ~ 1 MHz
Square Waye	Symmetry	±5 % of period + 4ns, 0.1 Hz ~ 100 kHz
Square wave	Rise/Fall Time	\leq 100ns at maximum output, 50 Ω load
TTL Output	Level	≥ 3 Vpp
	Fan Out	20 TTL Load
	Rise/Fall Time	≤ 25ns
General	Power Source	AC100/120/220/240 V \pm 10 %, 50/60 Hz (Line voltage setting is factory installed)
	Operation Environment	Indoor Use, Altitude Up to 2000 m Ambient Temperature 0 ~ 40° C Relative Humidity \leq 80 %, 0 ~ 40° C Install Category II / Pollution Degree 2
	Storage Environment	Temperature –10 ~ 70° C Humidity ≤70 %
	Accessories	Instruction Manual x 1 GTL-101 x 1
	Dimension	251 (W) x 91 (H) x 291 (D)
	Weight	Approx. 2.1 kg



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7 APPENDIX



1. Take off the In order to detach the handle from the unit, turn the handle down 90 degrees, then pull it off sideways.



2. Take off the Take off the two metal holdings from the handle joint. Then take the top screw off from the rear panel.





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Slide the upper case to the rear side and take off the top cover.



3. Replace the Replace the blown fuse located on the rear printed circuit board.



Fuse rating	AC 100 / 120 V	T0.315 A / 250 V
	AC 220 / 240 V	T0.16 A / 250 V



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