

PG-3 ultra-fast rise time pulse generator

- 20 ps rise time (19 ps typical), 10-90%
- 1000 mV amplitude, 50% duty cycle
- 10 MHz repetition
- Separate trigger output
- USB powered



DESCRIPTION

The PG-3 pulse generator produces a 50% duty cycle square wave pulse train where the positive-going edges have a 10-90% rise time of 20 ps (picoseconds) or less, with a typical rise time of 19 ps.

These ultra-fast edges are useful for a variety of purposes, including bandwidth characterization of oscilloscopes, time-domain reflectometry (TDR), and ultra-wideband (UWB) sources.

The high amplitude (1000 mVpp, typical) helps to keep the signal above the noise in even the most demanding applications. The 10 MHz repetition rate and low jitter enable rapid and reliable measurements even with sampling oscilloscopes.

SPECIFICATIONS

DC characteristics

Parameter	Notes	Minimum	Typical	Maximum
Supply voltage	Via USB	4.8 V	5 V	5.5 V
Current drain	Via USB			300 mA
Operating temperature		0 °C	25 °C	40 °C
Storage temperature		-20 °C		60 °C

Trigger output

Conditions: The trigger and signal output are both connected to individual 50 Ω loads, 25 °C ambient, 5 V supply voltage, 30 minute warmup

Parameter	Notes	Minimum	Typical	Maximum
Amplitude			1 Vpp	
Rise/fall time	10%-90% voltage		400 ps	
Output impedance			50 Ω	
Output port			SMA female	
Coupling			AC	

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PG-3 ultra-fast rise time pulse generator datasheet

Revision 20260811.0

Fast-rise-time signal output

Conditions: The trigger and signal output are both connected to individual 50 Ω loads, 25 °C ambient, 5 V supply voltage, 30 minute warmup

Parameter	Notes	Minimum	Typical	Maximum
Rise time	10%-90% voltage ^a		19 ps	20 ps
Duty cycle			50%	
Frequency			10 MHz	
Frequency tolerance		-1 ppm	+/- 500 ppb	+1 ppm
Jitter (relative)	Relative to trigger output zero-crossing point		1.1 ps RMS	2.5 ps RMS
Jitter (absolute)	Referencing the signal output alone, without regard to the trigger		<3.9 ps RMS ^b	
High level	After settling	-100 mV	0 mV	+100 mV
Low level	After settling	-1100 mV	-1000 mV	-900 mV
Amplitude	Peak-to-peak	900 mV	1000 mV	1100 mV
Overshoot			20%	30%
Settling time	To within $\leq 1\%$ of long-term average amplitude (25-35 ns post-edge)		5 ns	
Output impedance			50 Ω	
Coupling			DC	
Output port	Tight-tolerance (26.5 GHz bandwidth) type		SMA female	
Edge shape			Gaussian	

^a Referenced to the short-term average top and bottom of the pulse (2 ns before and after the rising edge)

^b Calculated

PORTS

There are three ports on the pulser: USB-C Power In, Trigger Out, and Signal Out.

USB-C Power In

The USB-C port is located on the same end of the pulse generator as the Trigger Out port. Connect a USB-C cable (not included) to this port and to any USB power source, such as a stand-alone wall adapter, a port on another lab instrument, or a computer. The use of a USB-C to USB-A cable is acceptable.

Trigger Out

The Trigger Out port signal is a square wave synchronized to the Signal Out port output and has a similar amplitude, but its rising and falling edges are slower than those of the Signal Out signal. Unlike the Signal Out port, it is AC coupled. The Trigger Out port is primarily intended for use with sampling oscilloscopes, which require a separate trigger signal (unlike "real time" oscilloscopes, which can trigger on and observe the same signal).

The delay between the rising edge of the Trigger Out signal and the rising edges of the Signal Out signal is very stable, but those rising edges are not concurrent. Stated differently, the phase of the Signal Out signal relative to the Trigger Out signal is fixed but non-zero.

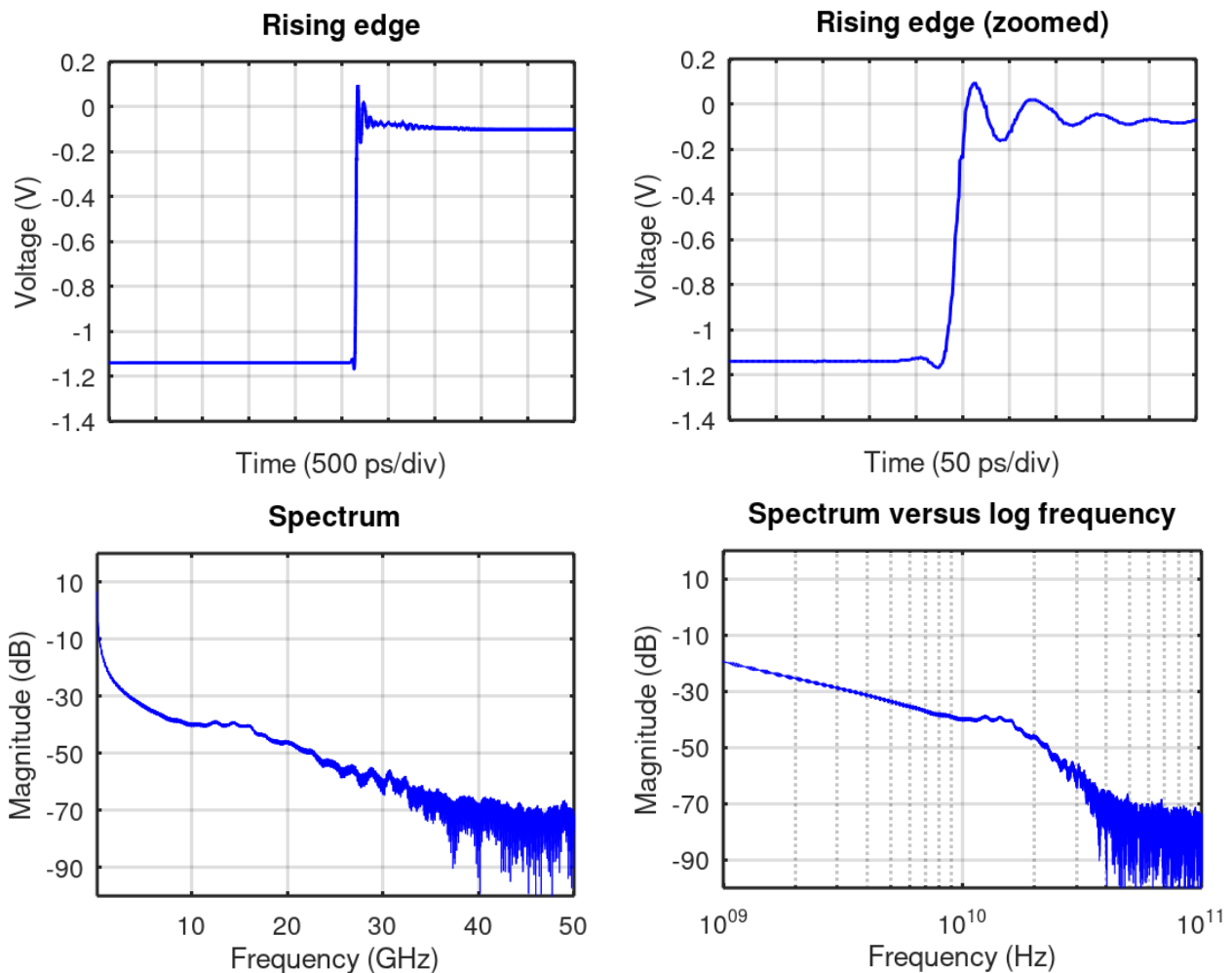
Signal Out

The Signal Out port emits a fast-rise-time square wave. It is back-terminated to $50\ \Omega$ to limit reflections, but for best results the load should also be at $50\ \Omega$.

The length and type of coax and number of adapters between the Signal Out port and the measurement instrument may negatively affect the signal rise time. If possible, directly connect the Signal Out port to the input port of the instrument without any coax between them.

Signal Out is DC coupled and has a DC offset of approximately $-500\ \text{mV}$ (into $50\ \Omega$). Ensure that the instrument connected to this port can handle a non-zero DC offset safely.

TYPICAL RESPONSES



All response chart data collected using a production PG-3 pulse generator connected directly to a Tektronix SD-32 50 GHz sampling head attached to a Tektronix 11801C sampling oscilloscope. Spectrum plots are for a single isolated rising edge. Responses are typical, not guaranteed.



ESD CAUTIONS

Static-sensitive device. Observe standard electronics-lab precautions for handling. Keep trigger and signal outputs capped when not in use.

REVISION HISTORY

Revision number	Notes
20250219.0	Initial revision
20250503.0	Added "Ports" section
20260213.0	Updated photos; updated signal output port type to reflect production change
20260608.0	Updated typical response charts to reflect output port type production change
20260811.0	Cleanup of specification notes; updated typical trigger-to-signal-edge jitter to reflect typical measured value instead of a purely calculated value