

Re: (Using Lab-Volt System) Have the books, how do I get a trace on my 465 Tektronix oscilloscope

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Chris L (clusardi2k@xxxxxxx) writes:

Hello,

I already own the books "How to Use Oscilloscopes and Other Test Equipment" by R. Penfold, "The XYZ's of Oscilloscopes" by Tektronix, and "101 Ways to use your ... Oscilloscope" by R. Middleton.

How do I get something to show up on my scope?

I haven't used one in 10 years.

I set the channel 1 button, turned power on, hooked up correct lead to a circuit board (Lab-Volt simulation of circuit where computer sim told me to hook it up) from scope, hooked up a function generator where the simulation told me to hook it up (sine wave, range 10X and freq knob set to about 1) to circuit, tried focusing, tried intensity, tried varying volt/div, and delay, but nothing would show up.

How do I get something?

You're probably starting with too much complication.

With the sensitivity up, any scope will show 60Hz sort of sinewave (50Hz if that's what you've got coming out of your AC sockets) when you touch the probe.

What you didn't say is what kind of oscilloscope. IN the old days, the average scope was pretty rudimentary, and it required no skill to get some sort of display. But when they got fancier, the triggered sweep often confuses people, because they forget to set one of the often numerous switches, and that causes a lack of display.

Focusing won't do anything. Given a trace, it will merely allow you to get a narrow trace. But it won't cause the trace to

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Intensity can be a factor, because if it's set too low, you won't get a display, and if the sweep is really fast, you may need to turn up intensity to see the trace.

Positioning is a really important factor. There should be knobs for moving the trace vertically and horizontally, I'm not sure the exact labelling or even if there is standard labelling. If the trace is off-screen, you may never realize there is a trace. Fancier scopes will have a momentary switch which compresses the display, so no matter how far off-screen the trace is, you will see it and be able to get it centered. Otherwise, setting the adjustments to more or less center should get you something which can then be perfected.

But, if there's no trace, none of that will help.

Delay is usually about adding some delay between a trigger and the display. I can't see it being a factor here.

Usually the lack of trace is because one of the switches for setting the sweep triggering is in the wrong position. If it's in a single-shot mode, the trace will go from left to right once, each time it receives a trigger voltage of suitable level. If the level isn't right, you may not be triggering the sweep and hence no trace.

Something like "auto" is usually a good mode to start with.

The fancier sweep modes, the more work you have to do with all the controls, so if the sweep trigger switch is set to the "wrong" position, you may have to fiddle with the trigger level controls to get the thing to trigger.

Of course, there's always the possibility that the scope isn't working. If it's new to you, that's always a possibility. Even if you've had it around for ten years, there is always the possibility that something has gone wrong in that time.

Michael

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