

## Re: S-parameter test sets

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-06/msg03594.html>

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- *From:* Mike Monett <[no@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 26 Jun 2005 00:20:17 -0400
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Terry Given wrote:

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> Joerg wrote:

[...]

>> Seems prices have gone up since the 300k GPIB is now a whopping 285  
>> Euros. These used to be around \$100 or so. They also have a USB-GPIB but  
>> that's really expensive.

>>

>> Regards, Joerg

>

> thats consistent with what I found – perhaps a dozen unknown brands, all  
> around the US\$300-\$400 mark, and NI & agilent at \$500.

>

> Cheers

> Terry

Terry,

The GPIB bus is really simple. You can ignore most of the commands and just use the ones you need. There are plenty of examples that use the parallel port on your pc and a bit of glue logic to interface. Here's one, and google has lots more:

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/djg/wwwhpr/gpibpage.html>

The trick in working with the gpib is to have a simple way to monitor the bus and set the data and command bits. Ziatech used to sell an inexpensive box for about \$250 with a bunch of leds and switches that allowed you to act as a talker or listener and walk through all the bus transactions. It was very easy to use. You could make one yourself for the cost of the leds and switches. It is invaluable for debugging the interface.

Mike Monett

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