

Re: How much does brand matter with regards to oscilloscopes?

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On Apr 20, 11:40 am, Michael <nleah...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi – I'm looking at getting an oscilloscope for myself. Prices range drastically for oscilloscopes – from nearly free for 70s era equipment, to tens of thousands of dollars for really nice stuff.

The name brands (Tek, Agilent, etc.) seem to (not surprisingly) always be the most expensive. Are they really that much better? I mean, for example, I ran into this scope:<http://www.tequipment.net/OWONEDU5022.html> (25MHz, color LCD, USB, battery powered, 2 channels, \$368). An equivalent scope from a better known brand would I suspect be well over a thousand dollars.

Not really, look at the specs.

Are the name brands worth the cost? Do you get what you pay for?

Yes and no.

A *free* 20 year old scope can easily be better than a \$1000 brand new one.

Yes, the good brands are almost always worth the extra \$\$\$\$, when it comes to a digital scope, you do get what you pay for.

Even Agilent are now re-badging the cheaper Chinese models like Rigol. You can buy an exact same Agilent 3000 series scope from Rigol for less.

Although I have not seen one, that Owon unit would fall into the "suspect" category, I'd be very surprised if it has the performance (and firmware stability) of other "budget" (but fairly well known) models like say a Rigol or Goodwill. But the Owon is cheap because of the specs, only 25MHz analog bandwidth and an effective single shot bandwidth of around 10MHz (100MS/s / 10). That's pretty awful these

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days. But if it suits your needs and that's all you can afford then it's "worth the money". The big names don't really offer anything with that low a performance.

I'm curious to know how the Owon performs though.

When it comes to digital scopes, bandwidth, sample rate, and big memory do not come for free, the more of each you want the more you will pay.

Old analog scopes on the other hand give unbeatable bandwidth/\$\$\$, but if you need a digital scope then you will have to pay for it.

Dave.

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