Re: Oscilloscope grounding question...

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2008−04/msg04019.html

- *From*: "Paul Hovnanian P.E." <paulh@xxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Fri, 25 Apr 2008 10:34:43 −0700

Jim Yanik wrote:

> "Paul Hovnanian P.E." <paul@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
> news:481170D7.DCC8885C@xxxxxxxxxxxxx:
>
> > Phil Allison wrote:
> >
> > > <seegoon99@xxxxxxxxx
> > >
> > > > Running your mains powered test equipment
> > > > (ie: scope) though an
> > > > isolation transformer would probably be a
> > > > good idea.
> > >
> > > ** They all have one of them inside already !!!
> > >
> > > YOU ASININE FUCKWIT MORON !!!
> > >
> > > ... Phil
> >
> > My Tektronix 'scope chassis is tied to the AC supply ground. Since I'm
> > not always certain of how the unit under test is wired, I always check
> > voltage differences before connecting it.
>
> You want to isolate the DUT,not the scope.
> That way,the scope chassis stays grounded,and you don't get fried if you or
> someone else lays their hand on the scope case.
>
> TEK used to print a nice booklet on isolation measurement techniques and
> do's and don'ts.I used to include one with every scope I serviced that had
> the ground pin removed,after replacing the power cord[mandatory].

TEK also made some nice isolated probes.

That's a better approach, if you can do it.

It depends on what sort of DUT you are working with. If I'm poking around in the metering/protection circuits of a BPA substation, odds are that I don't have a suitable isolation transformer sized for that application handy. :−)

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