

Re: Scoping a SMPS primary side...

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- *From:* Jim Yanik <jyanik@xxxxxxxxx>
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The Schneids <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in news:11kqj4o2dhagme7@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

> Kirk S. wrote:
>> Hi,
>>
>> I'm trying to figure out a dead monitor power supply that uses a
>> UC3842B controller. I'd like to hook my scope to the chip and
>> observe any signals during startup, etc. Since this is connected to
>> rectified line voltage on the ground plane and a large power resistor
>> on the vcc line, I'm unsure where to hook my ground for the scope
>> probe. I'm using an isolation transformer, variac and series light
>> bulb in addition to the scope.
>>
>> I'm just a tinkerer used to scoping clock signals on TTL circuits and
>> hesitant to do something that will toast my scope.
>>
>> Any suggestions? Oh yeah, no schematics for the monitor either. I'm
>> looking at a similar schematic using the same control chip. I see
>> the startup voltage of +16vdc and no reference voltage or output
>> strobe signals.
>>
>> Help!
>>
>> Kirk S.
>>
>>
>
> I've worked on these a lot – I don't use the scope anymore.
> When I did, I made sure the ground of the scope was floating –

The WRONG way.

You're supposed to isolate the DUT, not the test equipment.

> use one of those 2 prong to 3 prong adapters to isolate the
> ground.

Leaving the scope chassis potentially HOT, a clear hazard.

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- Prev by Date: [**Re: Zenith Z27a11s inputs**](#)
 - Next by Date: [**Re: Telephone tap**](#)
 - Previous by thread: [**Re: Scoping a SMPS primary side...**](#)
 - Next by thread: [**Re: Scoping a SMPS primary side...**](#)
 - Index(es):
 - ◆ [**Date**](#)
 - ◆ [**Thread**](#)