

Portable power supply current measurement





Overview

This application note describes considerations and techniques for making accurate current measurements on power converters using an oscilloscope and a current probe. When used in conjunction with a.

How do you measure power supply current?

If your product relies on stable voltage and current delivery, routine power supply current measurement should be part of your process—especially before deployment or shipment. The most common method for measuring current is to place a multimeter in series with the circuit.

How to measure power supply current in a fixed circuit?

For best results, aim for a reading where the digits are active and not all zeros. This gives better accuracy and makes the data more useful in analysis. For repeated testing in a fixed circuit, placing a resistor of known value in series with the load can be a convenient and effective technique for power supply current measurement.

What is a power supply?

A power supply is a component, subsystem, or system that converts electrical power from one form to another; commonly from alternating current (AC) utility power to direct current (DC) power.

Can a high-performance current probe be used to measure power?

Using the measurement techniques described in this application note, accurate power measurements can be made using high-performance current probes (plus voltage probes) and a compatible oscilloscope, when proper setup techniques are applied.



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