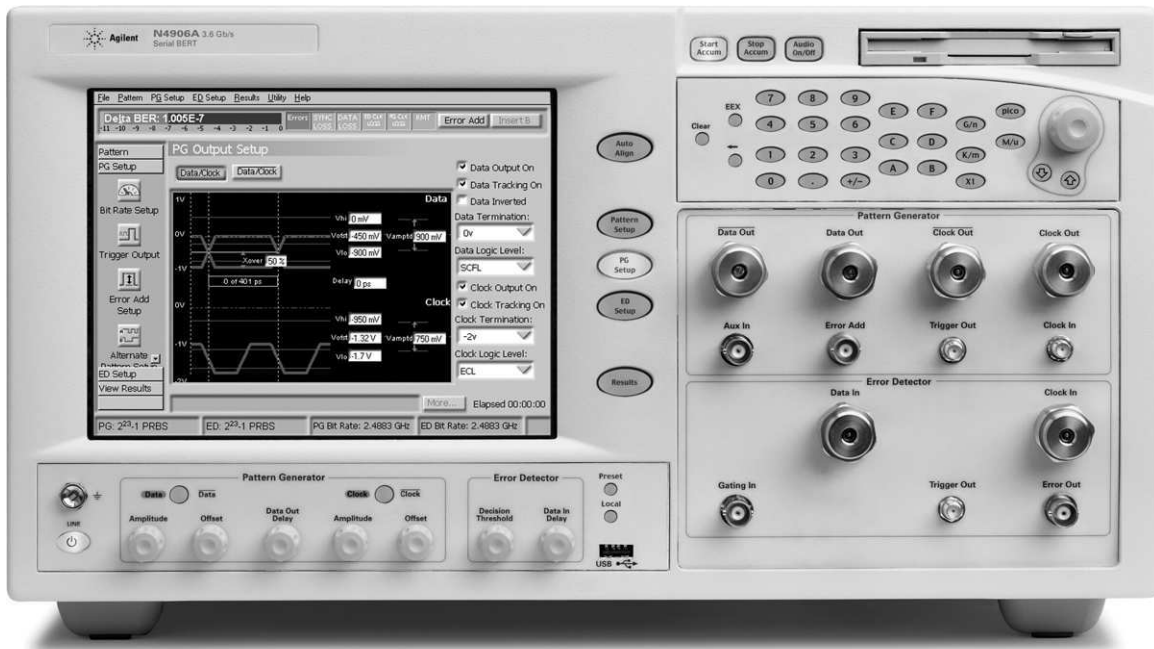


# Agilent N4906A Serial BERT 3.6 Gb/s Bit Error Ratio Tester

## Technical Specifications



### General features

#### Internal hard disk

For local storage of user patterns and data

#### Removable storage

MS-DOS<sup>®</sup> compatible 3.5" Superdrive (accepts 1.4 Mbyte HD disks & 120 Mbyte SuperDisks<sup>™</sup>)

#### Data entry

Touch-sensitive display, numeric keypad with up/down arrows, analogue feel position controls, or provided USB keyboard and mouse if desired.

#### Display

Internal 8" (diagonal) backlit LCD touch-screen

#### Interfaces

GPIO (IEEE 488), LAN ("10 Base T" Ethernet) for printing and file transfer, Parallel/Centronics printer port, external VGA output.

### On-line help

Context-sensitive On-Line help is included. Operation, programming and quick-start guides are also included and supplied on MS-Windows<sup>®</sup> compatible CD-ROM.

### Accessories supplied

USB compatible keyboard; mouse; stylus; Quick Start Manual on paper; Quick Start Card.

MS-Windows<sup>®</sup> compatible CD-ROM containing "PDF" files of Operating, Quick-Start, and Programming guides.

Power Cord; 6x APC-3.5 connector savers (female to female); 6x 50 Ω APC-3.5 (male) terminations, 3x 1 metre SMA (male to male) cables.



**Agilent Technologies**

# Pattern Generator

## Pattern generator parameters

### *Operating frequency*

#### **Operating frequency**

50 MHz to 3.6 GHz with external clock (optional)

50 MHz to 3.0 GHz with internal clock source

### *Internal clock source*

#### **Frequency range**

50 MHz to 3.0 GHz

#### **Frequency accuracy**

±20 ppm

## *Test patterns*

### **2<sup>N</sup>-1 PRBS**

2<sup>31</sup>-1, 2<sup>23</sup>-1, 2<sup>15</sup>-1, 2<sup>10</sup>-1, 2<sup>7</sup>-1

### **2<sup>N</sup> PRBS**

2<sup>23</sup>, 2<sup>15</sup>, 2<sup>10</sup>, 2<sup>7</sup>

#### **Variable mark density**

1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 7/8

### **User defined patterns**

Variable length patterns from 1 to 8 Mbits

### **Alternating patterns**

Change between two equal length user patterns, each up to 4 Mbits long. Changeover is synchronous with the end of a pattern, under the control of the front panel or the Auxiliary Input.

### **Error add**

Single, continuously variable between 1x10<sup>-2</sup> and 1x10<sup>-9</sup>, and user specified bursts of errors.

### **Pattern editor**

Fully flexible pattern editor included with “cut”, “copy” and “paste” functions.

# Pattern Generator Input/Output Specifications

## Data and Data outputs

Data and  $\overline{\text{Data}}$  outputs are independently settable

**Format:** NRZ

**Polarity:** Normal or Inverted

**Amplitude:** 0.5 to 2 V in 10 mV steps

**Offset:** See figure below. 10 mV resolution.

**Data outputs on/off:** 'Off' goes to high impedance state

**Supported terminations:**

0 V (LVTTTL, SCFL, etc.), -2 V (ECL), +1.3 V (3.3 V PECL), AC-coupled

**Jitter (pk-pk):** < 20 ps, < 12 ps typical (w/internal source)

**Transition time (10-90%):** < 42 ps, < 30 ps typical (25C)

**Variable crossover:** Supported

**Clock/data delay range:** 0-1 bit period or 10 ns, whichever is less. 1 ps resolution.

**Interface:** DC-coupled  
50  $\Omega$  reverse terminated,  
APC-3.5 connector

## Clock and Clock outputs

Clock and  $\overline{\text{Clock}}$  outputs are independently settable

**Amplitude:** 0.5 to 2 V in 10 mV steps

**Offset:** See figure below.

10 mV resolution.

**Clock outputs on/off:** 'Off' goes to high impedance state

**Supported terminations:**

0 V (LVTTTL, SCFL, etc.), -2 V (ECL), +1.3 V (3.3 V PECL), AC-coupled

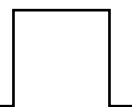
**Transition time (10-90%):** < 42 ps, < 35 ps typical (25C, 3 GHz)

**Interface:** DC-coupled 50  $\Omega$  reverse terminated, APC-3.5 connector

Intrinsic Clock to data delay is constant at all frequencies.

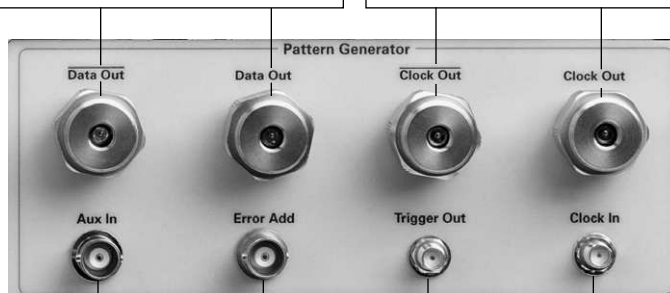
### Data/ $\overline{\text{Data}}$ /Clock/ $\overline{\text{Clock}}$ Amplitudes and Offsets

0.5 min  
to  
2 V max



**Termination:**

|                     | -2 V | 0 V   | +1.3 V |
|---------------------|------|-------|--------|
| Maximum High Level: | 0 V  | 2.5 V | 2.5 V  |
| Minimum Low Level:  | -3 V | -3 V  | -3 V   |



## Auxiliary input

This has two functions.

1. Blanks the data outputs to allow the user to create bursts of data
2. If in Alternating Pattern mode, used to change between 'A' and 'B' patterns

**Minimum pulse width:** 128 clock periods

**Interface:** TTL compatible, 50  $\Omega$  BNC female connector

## Clock input

Allows connection of an external clock source in order to extend the operating range of the instrument. Recommended clock sources are the Agilent E4422B and the 83752A.

**Frequency range:** 50 MHz to 3.6 GHz

**Amplitude range:** +3 dBm to -3 dBm

**Interface:** SMA female 50  $\Omega$ , DC coupled to 0 V

## Error add input

This allows injection of single errors by an external pulse generator into the transmitted test pattern synchronous with the rising edge of the pulse

**Minimum pulse width:** 128 clock periods

**Interface:** TTL compatible, 50  $\Omega$  BNC female connector

## Trigger output

Provides a pulse to trigger a communication analyzer etc. It has two modes:

1. Divided Clock mode: pulses at 1/8th of the clock rate.
2. Pattern mode: pulse at a settable bit position within the pattern.

**Min.pulse width:** (Pattern mode) 64 bits

**Output levels:** High -0.3 V, Low -0.8 V

**Interface:** 50  $\Omega$  SMA female

# Error Detector

## Error detector parameters

### Operating frequency

50 MHz to 3.6 GHz.

### Test patterns

As specified for Pattern Generator

### Auto-align

Includes synchronizing, data polarity, clock/data align, clock invert, 0/1 threshold center.

### Data in delay

Manual Data In Delay/Auto Clock-Data Align

### Threshold setting

Manual set, Average DC level set, Auto 0/1 center

### Synchronization

Manual, Automatic, Burst, Capture. Sync threshold adjustable from  $10^{-1}$  to  $10^{-9}$ .

## Results

Accumulated measurements may be run once, repetitively or manual start/stop.

Delta (instantaneous) BER always available.

## Accumulation

### Time

Accumulate for periods from 1 second to 100 days

### Errors

Until at least 10/100/1000 errors

### Bits

$10E^7$  to  $10E^{15}$  bits

Results are logged periodically to the hard disk for later export (in 'CSV' format) and analysis in a PC spreadsheet program.

## Result displays

Results are displayed under the following headings.

### Delta BER results

Delta Error Ratio, Delta Error Count, Graph of BER vs Time

### Accumulated results

Bit Count, Error Ratio, Error Count, Errored One Count, Errored Zero Count, Error Free Seconds, Errored Seconds, Elapsed Accumulation Time, Sync Loss Seconds, Power Loss Seconds, Graph vs Time

### Burst mode results

Burst Duty Cycle, Burst Sync Ratio, Total Burst Count, BAD Burst Count

### Eye results

Eye Width, Eye Height, Eye Voltage Center value, Eye Time Center value, Delta Error Ratio at Eye Center on completion of Autoalign

## Audible error indicator

Selectable to indicate Isolated Errors, Delta Error Ratio, Errors above user-defined threshold. On/Off Volume Control. Audible pitch changes, with higher pitch corresponding to higher BER.

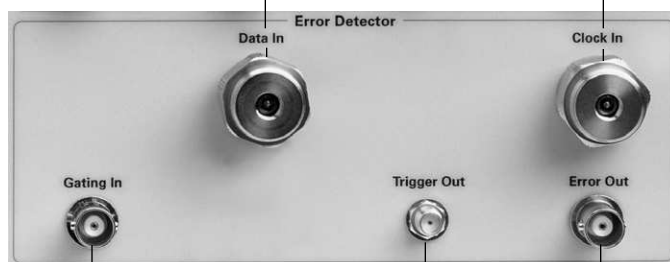
# Error Detector Input/Output Specifications

## Data input

**Polarity:** Normal or Inverted  
**Input amplitude:** 0.1 to 2 V (typical)  
**Threshold range:** +3 to -3 V  
**Threshold resolution:** 0.5 mV  
**Terminations:** Via 50  $\Omega$  to -2 V, 0 V, +1.3 V  
**Data input delay range:** 0-1 bit period, or 10 ns whichever is less. 1 ps resolution  
**Interface:** DC-coupled 50  $\Omega$ , APC-3.5 female connector

## Clock input

Clock Input functions—switchable termination voltages, input frequency measurement, clock invert.  
**Bit rate:** 50 MHz to 3.6 GHz  
**Data sampling clock edge:** Selectable Rising or Falling  
**Input amplitude:** 0.2 to 2 V (typical)  
**Terminations:** Via 50  $\Omega$  to -2 V, 0 V, +1.3 V  
**Interface:** DC-coupled 50  $\Omega$ , APC-3.5 female



## Gating input

This is used to inhibit error counting  
**Minimum pulse width:** 128 clock periods  
**Interface:** TTL compatible, BNC female connector

## Error output

Provides a pulse if one or more errors have been detected within the preceding 128 bit block.  
**Pulse width:** 64 bits  
**Output levels:** High +2.4 V, Low +0.4 V  
**Interface:** DC-coupled, reverse terminated BNC female connector

## Trigger output

Provides a pulse to trigger a communication analyzer etc. It has two modes:  
1. Divided Clock mode: pulses at 1/8th of the clock rate.  
2. Pattern mode: pulse at a fixed bit position within the pattern.  
**Pulse width (Pattern mode):** 64 bits  
**Output levels:** High -0.3V, Low -0.8 V  
**Interface:** 50  $\Omega$  SMA female

## External parameters

### Environmental

#### Warm-up time

30 minutes

#### Operating temperature range to specification

10 to 45 °C

#### Humidity

15 to 95% at 45 °C non-condensing

### Electrical

#### Supply voltage parameters

90 V–250 V AC, 50–60 Hz

#### Power consumption

< 300 W

#### EMC

EU EMC Directive (CE-Marked)

### Support

#### Warranty

1 year

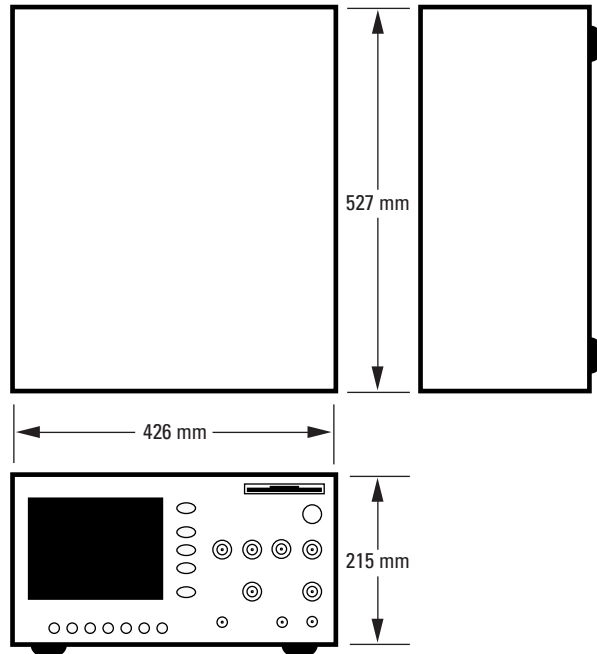
#### Calibration

2 year cycle, return to Agilent Technologies

## Physical

### Dimensions

426 W x 215 H x 527 D mm approx (16.8" W x 8.5" H x 20.7" D approx)



### Weight

23 kg (50 lbs)

# Ordering Information

- N4906A Serial BERT** Serial BERT 3 Gb/s (for 3.0 Gbit/s BER measurement and analysis with internal clock source, 3.6 Gbit/s with external clock source)
- Clock Source** Add E4422B 4.0 GHz external synthesized signal source
- Option N4906A-0B1** Hard copy programming manuals
- Option N4906A-AX4** Mounting kit for 19" rack, without handles
- Option N4906A-AXE** Mounting kit for 19" rack, including front handles

## Recommended product accessories

### Torque wrench:

- 8710-1765** For APC 3.5 connectors

### Cable:

- 8120-4948** 1m SMA cable

### Blocking capacitor:

- 11742A** 45 MHz to 26.5 GHz, APC-3.5 mm

### Bias network:

- 11612A** 45 MHz to 26.5 GHz, APC-3.5 mm

### Attenuators:

- Option 8493C-003** 3 dB APC 3.5 pad
- Option 8493C-006** 6 dB APC 3.5 pad
- Option 8493C-010** 10 dB APC 3.5 pad
- Option 8493C-020** 20 dB APC 3.5 pad

### Transition time convertors:

Used to slow the output waveform rise/fall times if desired. SMA male to SMA female connectors.

- 15435A** 150 ps output transition time
- 15432B** 250 ps output transition time
- 15433B** 500 ps output transition time
- 15434B** 1000 ps output transition time
- 15438A** 2000 ps output transition time

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