NanoVNAH-4

Vector Network Analyzer



West Chester Amateur Radio Association Presentation by Bob Fay - WBØNPN NanoVNAH-4

Donated By

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Contents

a) Two short coaxial cables (normally: RG174) with SMA connectors on both ends
b) A USB-C connection cable to a PC
c) A SOLT calibration set (SOLT = Short / Open / Load / Through). It consists of four parts:
Short = Ideal short circuit in an SMA plug
Open = Ideal open circuit in the form of an SMA plug
that just has a small open tube inside.
Load = Ideal SMA Termination (male) of 50Ω
Through = SMA coupling with sockets at both ends
(SMA, Female to Female adaptor.



What Is A Vector Analyzer?

An instrument that measures both amplitude and phase of an electrical signal.

A Vector Network Analyzer contains both a source, used to generate a known stimulus signal, and a set of receivers, used to determine changes to this stimulus caused by the device-under-test or DUT.



Capabilities of a VNA

Measure the frequency parameters of most circuits

Resistance, capacitance, inductance

Characteristics of filters

Antenna resonance & SWR

Coax parameters – Time domain - velocity factor, length

Review Some Basic Electricity

Electrical Circuits Contain

Resistance

Capacitance

Inductance.

These are the parameters that a VNA will analyze and display

Phase Relationships



Here Is The NanoVNAH-4



The upper socket is the transmit port (CH0) and is also the channel for S11 measurements (reflection).

The lower socket is the receive input (CH1) and used for transmission measurements (S21) conductive.

There are two types of S parameters of this two port device. The convention is letter "S" followed by two numeric digits first one is the port from where output is derived while second one is the port where input is to be fed.

For EXAMPLE: S12 -> Here Port-1 is the output port and Port-2 is the input port.



This represents the stand alone mode. The device can also be connected to a computer using available software.

The menu tree is displayed either by touching the screen or depressing the rocker switch on the top of the unit.

Connecting the VNR

This is a two port VNR

Reflected measurements connect to port 0 (S11)

Conductive measurements connect between port 0 and port 1 (S21)





The screen displays the traces that are available for circuit analyzation. The most recognizable is the Smith Chart. The other traces represent various programmable inputs from the two ports.

The upper part of the screen shows the parameters of each trace.

Trace Definitions

- LogMag Logarithm of absolute value of measured value
- Phase Phase angle in the range of -180 to +180 degrees
- Delay Delay time in seconds
- Smith Smith Chart
- SWR Standing Wave Ratio
- Polar Polar coordinate format
- Linear Absolute value of the measured value.
- Real Real number of measured value
- Imag Imaginary number of measured value
- Resistance Resistance component of the measured impedance
- Reactance The reactance component of the measured impedance.



The unit contains a low level transmitter with a frequency range of 50 KHz to 300 MHz. Output is on CH0. Output frequency range is programmable and displayed at the bottom of the screen.

Receiver measurement range is 50 KHz to 1500 MHz.



The transmitter sweeps between the low and high ranges programmed. As it powers up, it is sweeping the entire 50 KHz to 300 MHz in 100 steps.



To check a 2m antenna for SWR, the unit would be programmed for 144 MHz to 148 MHz. As you might have already guessed, programming of the unit may be a challenge.

Tapping the screen or depressing the stepper switch on the top displays the menu bar.

Here is the truth table for menu selection.





S: Source Match, T: Transmission Tracking and X: Isolation

By: AE5CZ Date: 26 July 2019 Release: 1.1





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Set Up Steps – SWR Measurement

- Determine what you want to measure
- Select the trace you want to display
- Set the format you want to use (SWR)
- Set the frequency spread you want to measure
- Perform calibration
- Use the NVA menu to perform the operations.















Calibration



Three calibration plugs are provided.

Open Short Load

Identify by looking into them. You can see the obvious difference.

Calibration must be done for each frequency range, and can be saved in a memory. Calibrate in the Open, Short, Load order. Next area to calibrate highlights. The yellow marker may be moved around the chart to view values at each location.

Calibration



Calibration must be redone if the cable extensions or the feed through are used. The reason is that these change the timing delays by a few pico seconds which affect the testing results.

SHORT: Delay = 51.16ps OPEN: C0 = 50fF Delay = 48.63ps LOAD: R = 49.86Ω Delay = 61.59ps THROUGH: Delay = 50.7ps

WBØNPN 2 Hy-Gain 14AVQ Phased For 20m & Oriented NE – SW 40 m – 20 m – 15 m – 10 m



WSPR Directional Pattern Of Phased Andtennas



SWR – 2 Phased 14AVQ Verticals - WBØNPN



A flash drive has been added to the box containing the VNA. It contains two of the programming manuals that have been developed for the unit, and information for adding and using the computer program.



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But Wait – There's More







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Vector Network Analyzer – The Final End



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