6220
6221

6220 and 6221

- Source and sink (programmable load) 100fA to 100mA
- $10^{-14}$Ω output impedance ensures stable current sourcing into variable loads
- 65000-point source memory allows executing comprehensive test current sweeps directly from the current source
- Built-in RS-232, GPIB, Trigger Link, and digital I/O interfaces
- Reconfigurable triax output simplifies matching the application's guarding requirements
- Model 220 emulation mode eliminates need to reprogram existing applications
- Instrument control software available for both Macintosh and PC controllers

6221 Only

- Source AC currents from 2pA to 100mA for AC characterization of components and materials. The 6221’s 10MHz output update rate generates smooth sine waves up to 100kHz
- Built-in standard and arbitrary waveform generators with 1MHz to 100kHz frequency range. Applications include use as a complex programmable load or sensor signal and for noise emulation
- Programmable pulse widths as short as 5µs, limiting power dissipation in delicate components. Supports pulsed I-V measurements down to 50µs when used with Model 2182A Nanovoltmeter
- Built-in Ethernet interface for easy remote control without a GPIB controller card

The Model 6220 DC Current Source and Model 6221 AC and DC Current Source combine ease of use with exceptionally low current noise. Low current sourcing is critical to applications in test environments ranging from R&D to production, especially in the semiconductor, nanotechnology, and superconductor industries. High sourcing accuracy and built-in control functions make the Models 6220 and 6221 ideal for applications like Hall measurements, resistance measurements using delta mode, pulsed measurements, and differential conductance measurements.

**The need for precision, low current sourcing.** Device testing and characterization for today’s very small and power-efficient electronics requires sourcing low current levels, which demands the use of a precision, low current source. Lower stimulus currents produce lower—and harder to measure—voltages across the device. Combining the Model 6220 or 6221 with a Model 2182A Nanovoltmeter makes it possible to address both of these challenges.

AC current source and current source waveform generator. The Model 6221 is the only AC current source on the market. Before its introduction, researchers and engineers were forced to build their own AC current sources. This cost-effective source provides better accuracy, consistency, reliability, and robustness than “home-made” solutions. The Model 6221 is also the only commercially available current source waveform generator, which greatly simplifies creating and outputting complex waveforms.

Simple programming. Both current sources are fully programmable via the front panel controls or from an external controller via RS-232 or GPIB interfaces; the Model 6221 also features an Ethernet interface for remote control from anywhere there’s an Ethernet connection. Both instruments can source DC currents from 100fA to 105mA; the Model 6221 can also source AC currents from 1pA to 100mA. The output voltage compliance of either source can be set from 0.1V to 105V in 10mV steps. Voltage compliance (which limits the amount of voltage applied when sourcing a current) is critical for applications in which over-voltages could damage the device under test (DUT).

Drop-in replacement for the Model 220 current source. These instruments build upon Keithley’s popular Model 220 Programmable Current Source; a Model 220 emulation mode makes it easy to replace a Model 220 with a Model 6220/6221 in an existing application without rewriting the control code.

Define and execute current ramps easily. Both the Models 6220 and 6221 offer tools for defining current ramps and stepping through predefined sequences of up to 65,536 output values using a trigger or a timer. Both sources

**TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

- Nanotechnology
  - Differential conductance
  - Pulsed sourcing and resistance
- Optoelectronics
  - Pulsed I-V
- Replacement for AC resistance bridges (when used with Model 2182A)
  - Measuring resistance with low power
- Replacement for lock-in amplifiers (when used with Model 2182A)
  - Measuring resistance with low noise
DC Current Source
AC and DC Current Source

support linear, logarithmic, and custom sweeps. The Model 6221’s combination of high source resolution and megahertz update rates makes it capable of emulating high fidelity current signals that are indistinguishable from analog current ramps.

Free Instrument Control Start-up Software
The instrument control software provided with the sources simplifies both performing basic sourcing tasks and coordinating complex measurement functions with the Keithley Model 2182A. Both Macintosh- and PC-compatible versions of the software are supplied. The software, developed in the LabVIEW™ programming environment, includes a step-by-step measurement guide that helps users set up their instruments and make proper connections, as well as program basic sourcing functions. The advanced tools in the package support delta mode, differential conductance, and pulse mode measurements. From this package, users can print out the instrument commands for any of the pre-programmed functions, which provides a starting point for incorporating these functions into customized applications.

Differential Conductance
Differential conductance measurements are among the most important and critical measurements made on non-linear tunneling devices and on low temperature devices. Mathematically, differential conductance is the derivative of a device’s I-V curve. The Model 6220 or 6221, combined with the Model 2182A Nanovoltmeter, is the industry’s most complete solution for differential conductance measurements. Together, these instruments are also the fastest solution available, providing 10× the speed and significantly lower noise than other options. Data can be obtained in a single measurement pass, rather than by averaging the result of multiple sweeps, which is both time-consuming and prone to error. The Model 622X and Model 2182A are also easy to use because the combination can be treated as a single instrument. Their simple connections eliminate the isolation and noise current problems that plague other solutions.

**Figure 1.** Perform, analyze, and display differential conductance measurements.

Delta Mode
Keithley originally developed the delta mode method for making low noise measurements of voltages and resistances for use with the Model 2182 Nanovoltmeter and a triggerable external current source. Essentially, the delta mode automatically triggers the current source to alternate the signal polarity, then triggers a nanovoltmeter reading at each polarity. This current reversal technique cancels out any constant thermoelectric offsets, ensuring the results reflect the true value of the voltage. This same basic technique has been incorporated into the Model 622X and Model 2182A delta mode, but its implementation has been dramatically enhanced and simplified. The technique can now cancel thermoelectric offsets that drift over time, produce results in half the time of the previous technique, and allow the source to control and configure the nanovoltmeter, so setting up the
measurement takes just two key presses. The improved cancellation and higher reading rate reduces measurement noise to as little as 1nV.

The delta mode enables measuring low voltages and resistances accurately. Once the Model 622X and the Model 2182A are connected properly, the user simply presses the current source’s Delta button, followed by the Trigger button, which starts the test. The Model 622X and the Model 2182A work together seamlessly and can be controlled via the GPIB interface (GPIB or Ethernet with the Model 6221). The free control software provided with the Model 622X includes a tutorial that “walks” users through the delta mode setup process.

Pulsed Tests
Even small amounts of heat introduced by the measurement process itself can raise the DUT’s temperature, skewing test results or even destroying the device. The Model 6221’s pulse measurement capability minimizes the amount of power dissipated into a DUT by offering maximum flexibility when making pulsed measurements, allowing users to program the optimal pulse current amplitude, pulse interval, pulse width, and other pulse parameters.

The Model 6221 makes short pulses (and reductions in heat dissipation) possible with microsecond rise times on all ranges. The Model 6221/2182A combination synchronizes the pulse and measurement—a measurement can begin as soon as 16µs after the Model 6221 applies the pulse. The entire pulse, including a complete nanovolt measurement, can be as short as 50µs. Line synchronization between the Model 6221 and Model 2182A eliminates power line related noise.

Standard and Arbitrary Waveform Generator
The Model 6221 is the only current source waveform generator on the market. It can be programmed to generate both basic waveforms (sine, square, triangle, and ramp) and customizable waveforms with an arbitrary waveform generator (ARB) that supports defining waveforms point by point. It can generate waveforms at frequencies ranging from 1mHz to 100kHz at an output update rate of 10 megasamples/second.
Performance Superior to AC Resistance Bridges and Lock-In Amplifiers

The Model 622X/2182A combination provides many advantages over AC resistance bridges and lock-in amplifiers, including lower noise, lower current sourcing, lower voltage measurements, less power dissipation into DUTs, and lower cost. It also eliminates the need for a current pre-amplifier.

The Model 6221 can also expand the capabilities of lock-in amplifiers in applications that already employ them. For example, its clean signals and its output synchronization signal make it an ideal output source for lock-in applications such as measuring second and third harmonic device response.

Model 2182A Nanovoltmeter

The Model 2182A expands upon the capabilities of Keithley’s original Model 2182 Nanovoltmeter. Although the Model 6220 and 6221 are compatible with the Model 2182, delta mode and differential conductance measurements require approximately twice as long to complete with the Model 2182 as with the Model 2182A. Unlike the Model 2182A, the Model 2182 does not support pulse mode measurements.

Applications of 622X/2182A Combination:

- Easy instrument coordination and intuitive example software simplifies setup and operation in many applications.
- Measure resistances from 10nΩ to 100MΩ. One measurement system for wide ranging devices.
- Low noise alternative to AC resistance bridges and lock-in amplifiers for measuring resistances.
- Coordinates pulsing and measurement with pulse widths as short as 50µs (6221 only).
- Measures differential conductance up to 10x faster and with lower noise than earlier solutions allow. Differential conductance is an important parameter in semiconductor research for describing density of states in bulk material.
- Delta mode reduces noise in low resistance measurements by a factor of 1000.
- For low impedance Hall measurements, the delta mode operation of the Model 622X/2182A combination provides industry-leading noise performance and rejection of contact potentials. For higher impedance Hall measurements (greater than 100MΩ), the Model 4200-SCS can replace the current source, switching, and multiple high impedance voltage measurement channels. This provides a complete solution with pre-programmed test projects.
DC Current Source
AC and DC Current Source

SOURCE SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANGE (±5% over range)</th>
<th>ACCURACY (1 Year)</th>
<th>PROGRAMMING RESOLUTION</th>
<th>TEMPERATURE COEFFICIENT/°C</th>
<th>TYPICAL NOISE (peak-peak)/rms^3 0.1Hz–10Hz</th>
<th>TYPICAL NOISE (peak-peak)/rms^3 10Hz–50°C</th>
<th>OUTPUT RESPONSE BANDWIDTH (BW) INTO SHORT</th>
<th>OUTPUT RESPONSE FAST (Typical)</th>
<th>OUTPUT SLOW (Max.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 nA</td>
<td>0.4 % + 2 pA</td>
<td>100 µA</td>
<td>0.02 % + 200 nA</td>
<td>250 / 50 pA</td>
<td>10 kHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 nA</td>
<td>0.3 % + 10 pA</td>
<td>10 pA</td>
<td>0.02 % + 200 nA</td>
<td>250 / 50 pA</td>
<td>10 kHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 nA</td>
<td>0.1 % + 100 nA</td>
<td>10 pA</td>
<td>0.01 % + 20 pA</td>
<td>25 / 5.0 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 µA</td>
<td>0.1 % + 1 µA</td>
<td>100 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 200 nA</td>
<td>25 / 5.0 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 10 nA</td>
<td>1 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 2 nA</td>
<td>1.0 / 0.2 µA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 100 nA</td>
<td>10 nA</td>
<td>0.05% + 2 nA</td>
<td>5.0 / 1.0 µA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 1 µA</td>
<td>100 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 2 nA</td>
<td>20 / 4.0 µA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 10 µA</td>
<td>1 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 2 nA</td>
<td>20 / 4.0 µA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 100 µA</td>
<td>10 µA</td>
<td>0.05% + 2 nA</td>
<td>20 / 4.0 µA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>200 / 40 nA</td>
<td>1 MHz</td>
<td>100 µs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL SOURCE SPECIFICATIONS

OUTPUT RESISTANCE: >10 kΩ (20mA range).
OUTPUT CAPACITANCE: <10pF, <100pF Filter ON (2mA/20mA range).
LOAD IMPEDANCE: Stable into 10kΩ typical, 100kΩ for 6220, or for 6221 with Output Response SLOW.
VOLTAGE LIMIT (Compliance): Bipolar voltage limit set with single value 0.1V to 105V in 0.01V programable steps.
MAX. OUTPUT POWER: 11W, four quadrant source or sink operation.

GUARD OUTPUT ACCURACY: ±1mV for output currents <2mA (excluding output lead voltage drop).
PROGRAM MEMORY: Number of Locations: 64K. Offers point-by-point control and triggering, e.g. sweeps.
MAX. TRIGGER RATE: 1000/s.
RMS NOISE 10Hz–20MHz (2nA–20mA Range): Less than 1mVrms, 5mVp-p (into 50Ω).

SOURCE NOTES

1. Settling times are specified into a resistive load, with a maximum resistance equal to 2V/I for 6220, or 8V/I for 6221. See manual for other load conditions.
2. Settling times to 0.1% of final value are typically <2% of 1 settling times.
3. Typical values are non warranted, apply at 23°C, represent the 50th percentile, and are provided solely as useful information.
4. These specifications are only valid for the 20mA range and a resistive load.

2182 MEASUREMENT FUNCTIONS

DUT RESISTANCE: Up to 1GΩ (1ms) (100Ω maximum for pulse mode).
DELTA MODE MEASUREMENTS AND DIFFERENTIAL CONDUCTANCE: Controls Keithley Model 2182A.
Nanovoltmeter at up to 24kHz reversal rate (2182 at up to 12kHz).
PULSE MEASUREMENTS (6221 ONLY):
- Pulse Widths: 50µs to 12ms, 1µs to 100mA.
- Repetition Interval: 85.3ms to 5s.

ARBITRARY FUNCTION GENERATOR

(6221 only)
WAVEFORMS: Sine, Square, Ramp, and 4 user defined arbitrary waveforms.
FREQUENCY RANGE: 1mHz to 100kHz.
FREQUENCY ACCURACY: ±1ppm (1 year).
SAMPLE RATE: 10 MSPS.
AMPLITUDE: ±10V into 50Ω.
AMPLITUDE RESOLUTION: 0.1% programming resolution.
AMPLITUDE ACCURACY (<1kHz):
- Magnitude: ±(1% rdg. + 0.2% range).
- Offset: ±(0.2% rdg. + 0.2% range).
SINE WAVE CHARACTERISTICS:
- Amplitude Flatness: Less than 1dB up to 100kHz.
- SQUARE WAVE CHARACTERISTICS:
- Overshoot: 2.5% max.
- Jitter (RMS): 100ns ± 0.1% of period.
- RAMP WAVE CHARACTERISTICS:
- Linearity: <0.1% of peak output up to 10kHz.
- ARBITRARY WAVE CHARACTERISTICS:
- Waveform Length: 2 to 64k points.
- Jitter (RMS): 100ns ± 0.1% of period.

WAVEFORM NOTES

1. These specifications are only valid for the 20mA range and a resistive load.
2. Amplitude accuracy is applicable into a maximum resistive load of 2VRMS for 6222, or 8VRMS for 6221. Amplitude attenuation will occur at higher frequencies dependent upon current range and load impedance.
3. These specifications are only valid for the 20mA range and a resistive load.

GENERAL

COMMON MODE VOLTAGE: 250V rms, DC.
COMMON MODE ISOLATION: >100Ω, <2nF.
REMOTE INTERFACE: SCPI (Standard Commands for Programmable Instruments).
DIGITAL I/O: 1 trigger input, 4 TTL/relay drive outputs.
OUTPUT CONNECTIONS:
- Teflon insulated 3-lug trax connector for output.
- Banana safety jack for GUARD, OUTPUT LO.
- Screw Terminal for CHASSIS.
- DB-9 connector for EXTERNAL TRIGGER INPUT, OUTPUT, and DIGITAL I/O.
- Two position screw terminal for INTERLOCK.
WARRANTY: 1 year.
ENVIRONMENT: Operating: 0°C–50°C, 70%RH up to 35°C.
- VIBRATION: MIL-PRF-28800F Class 3, Random.
- WARMUP: 1 hour to rated accuracies.
- PASSIVE COOLING: No fan.

1.888.KEITHLEY (U.S. only)
www.keithley.com