



Electro Optical Components, Inc.

5460 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Toll Free: 855-EOC-6300

www.eoc-inc.com | info@eoc-inc.com



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QBU-BT series Pockels cell driver

User Manual

Warning! This equipment produces high voltages that can be very dangerous.
Please read user manual before starting operations

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Overview

QBU-BT series Pockels cell driver produces high voltage pulses with high repetition rates, fast risetimes and fast falltimes, adjustable voltage amplitude and pulse width.



Description

Front panel:

- POWER switch – turns the driver on / off
- VOLTAGE indicator – shows installed voltage (in kV units)
- VOLTAGE buttons – increase / decrease voltage

WIDTH indicator – shows installed pulse width (in us and ms units, pulse width of us range has \sqcup sign instead of the last digit)

WIDTH buttons – increase / decrease pulse width

REP. RATE indicator – shows installed repetition rate (in Hz and kHz units, repetition rate of Hz range has \sqcap sign instead of the last digit)

REP. RATE buttons – increase / decrease repetition rate

EXT button – switches the module between three modes

- pulses up – when this mode is selected normal state of the output is 0V, during the pulse output voltage is switched to high voltage
when this mode is selected green LED nearby the \sqcup sign is on
- pulses down – when this mode is selected normal state of the output is high voltage level, during the pulse output voltage is switched to zero
when this mode is selected green LED nearby the \sqcap sign is on
- external synchronization mode – in this mode module receives from SYNCHRO connector and repeats at its output external logical signal
when this mode is selected both LEDs are on

SYNCHRO connector – synchronization input for operations in external synchronization mode

START button – enables output and starts operations in selected mode with selected parameters; the second pressure on this button stops operations
when START button is pressed the red LED nearby indicates this

Back panel:

MAINS connector (supplied with the driver) – connects module to the mains (110/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz). This connector contains also 5A fuse.

HV OUTPUT connector (supplied with the driver) – connects the load to the module

RS-232 connector (optionally) – connects module to the computer

Safety

Warning! This equipment produces high voltages that can be very dangerous. Don't be careless around this equipment

- Do not remove coverage case from the Pockels cell driver
- Do not self-repair the driver
- Do not operate with disconnected load
- Avoid casual contacts of personnel with output cables and with the load
- Do not connect / disconnect cables while driver is turned on
- Do not turn the driver on if it was already damaged with water, chemicals, mechanical or electrical shock

Operations

1. Connect Pockels cell to the driver, connect driver to the mains
2. Turn POWER switch on
3. Select desired VOLTAGE, REP. RATE, PULSE WIDTH, and desired OPERATING MODE using corresponding buttons
4. Press START button. Since that moment module starts operations.
It must be indicated with corresponding LED
5. Press START button again to stop operations
6. Turn POWER switch off

Operations (RS-232 interface)

1. Ensure that POWER switch is off, ensure that computer is off
2. Connect Pockels cell driver to the computer using corresponding cable
3. Turn POWER switch on, turn the computer on
4. Run HyperTerminal or analogous software
5. Send to the driver commands that set desired parameters of operations.
Send to the driver “r” command to start operations
6. Send to the driver “i” command to stop operations
7. Turn POWER switch off

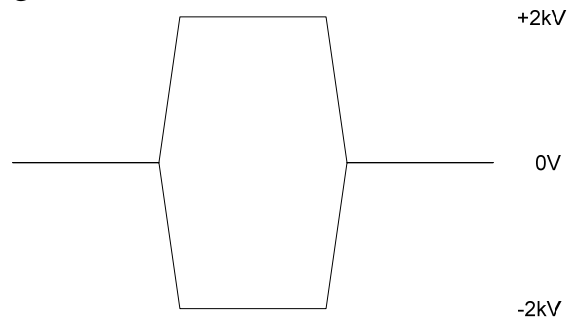
Note: it's possible but it's not recommended to use RS-232 and front panel user interfaces at the same time

Technical notes

- Performance of the module greatly depends on load capacitance. Full performance (see Performance section) is achievable only under condition of 11 pF load and below.

Higher load capacitance decreases maximal allowed repetition rate

- **Module's output is bipolar.** It means that 4kV pulse is physically formed by applying +2kV to positive output wire and -2kV to negative (see figure)



Nevertheless, all descriptions of HV output are given in terms of voltage differences. Please keep it in mind!

- **Sometimes output is delayed.** If no switching of output voltage occurs for a long time (about 150 μ s) the driver needs to refresh its state. During refreshment it's prohibited to switch the output.

As a result if pulse width is more than 150 μ s or if the distance between two sequential pulses is more than 150 μ s, sometimes switching of the high voltage output may be delayed. The delay time is about 1 μ s.

Specifications

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATION

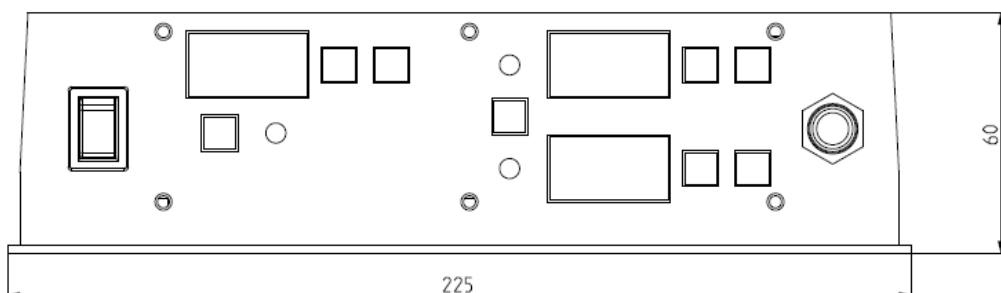
Input	110/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz; 1.0 A max
Output	
	<p>push up scheme pull down scheme repetition of external signal mode</p> <p>high level is adjustable</p>
Working modes	Pulses up mode, pulses down mode, repetition of external signal mode (= external synchronization mode)
Pulse amplitude	adjustable in HVmin – HVmax range (see Part numbers section)
Pulse basement	fixed, 0 V
Pulse width	1 us – DC in external synchronization mode; 1 us – 1/f (f is repetition rate in Hz) in internal synchronization modes
Max. repetition rate	see Performance section
Risetime / falltime	< 20 ns ¹
Jitter	± 10 ns (± 1 ns in LJ-modification)
Delay time	1 us (100 ns in LJ-modification)
Protections	from overheating
Environment	
Operation Temperature	0...+40 C
Storage Temperature	-20...+60 C
Humidity	90%, non-condensing

¹ 10-90% level, warranted at load capacitance 23 pF and below

MECHANICAL SPECIFICATION

Size (LxWxH)	225 x 200 x 60 mm
Weight	1,5 kg

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS



Performance

For continuous operation in internal synchronization modes (pulses up and pulses down modes) we warrant the performance table as follows:

11 pF load capacitance							
Voltage, kV	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
Max. rep. rate, kHz	56	40	31	24	18	15	12
23 pF load capacitance							
Voltage, kV	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0
Max. rep. rate, kHz	45	32	24	18	14	12	9

External synchronization mode shows usually a little higher performance.

In the burst-mode (= short time operations) performance is increasing approximately twice and may achieve 100 kHz value at low operating voltage and load capacitance.

Higher load capacitance decreases the performance.

Note: modules with the higher performance are available on request

Part numbers

Part Number	HVmax	HVmin
QBU-BT-6024	6000	2400
QBU-BT-5020	5000	2000
QBU-BT-4016	4000	1600
QBU-BT-3012	3000	1200
QBU-BT-2008	2000	800

Options:

- **LJ** – low jitter and low delay time modification
- **RS232** – additional input to control module via RS-232 interface

Example: QBU-BT-4016-RS232

Options

LOW JITTER AND LOW DELAY TIME MODIFICATION

Standard modules have pulse delay time about 1 μ s, jitter about ± 10 ns. Low jitter modification greatly decreases these parameters: delay time is decreased to 100 ns, jitter to ± 1 ns.

RS-232 INTERFACE

RS-232 connection parameters: 38400 bps, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity.

Command format is: {command} {data (optionally)} {end-of-line}

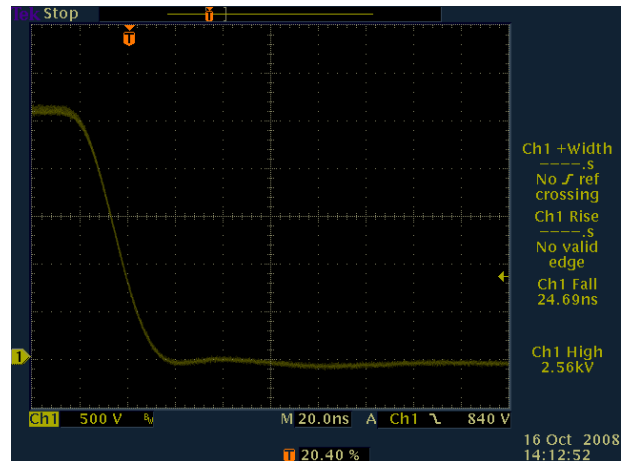
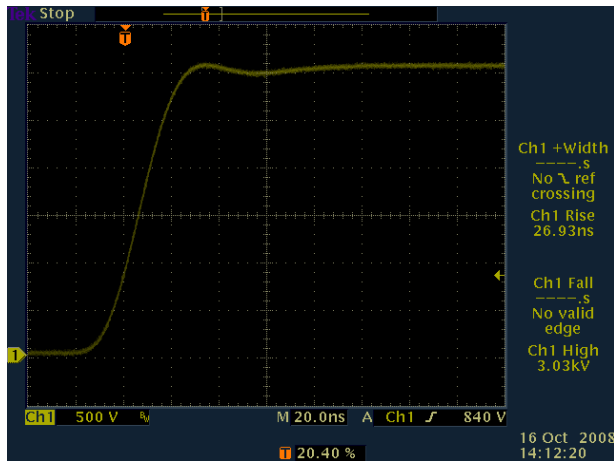
- command is 1 character long (see list below)
- data is ASCII-string of adjusting value
- end-of-line symbols are `\r\n` or `\n`

List of available commands:

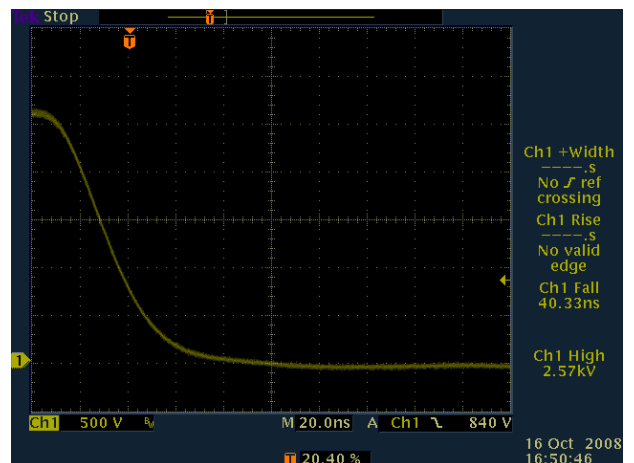
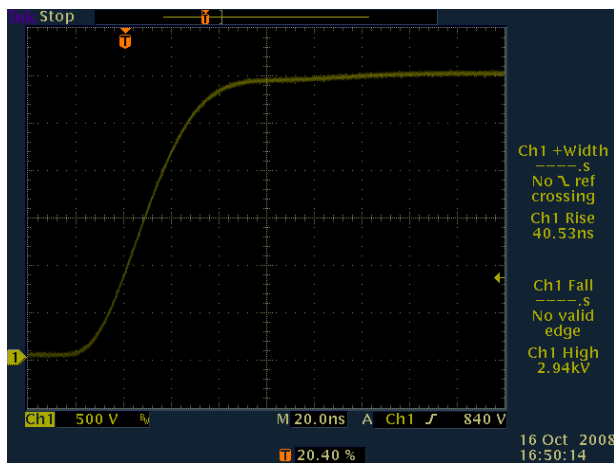
- f {frequency} – set frequency (repetition rate)
- p {pulse width} – set pulse width (in microseconds)
- v {voltage} – set voltage (in volts)
- s {sync} – set synchronization type (0 – positive pulse, 1 – negative pulse, 2 – external synchronization)
- r – start
- i – stop
- ? – get all adjusted parameters (format: frequency pulse_width voltage synchronization op_mode)
- F – get adjusted frequency
- P – get adjusted length
- V – get adjusted voltage
- T – get temperature monitor
- U – get voltage monitor
- m – get both voltage and temperature monitors
- Q – get current version
- e {0/1} – turns on/off echoing of symbols in RS-232 (turned on by default)

Example: v 2500 sets voltage to 2500 volts.

Output oscillogrames



Capacitance load 33 pF. Risetime/falltime ~25ns



Capacitance load 77 pF. Risetime/falltime ~40ns