Agilent U9391C/F/G Comb Generators

U9391C (10 MHz to 26.5 GHz)
U9391F (10 MHz to 50 GHz)
U9391G (10 MHz to 67 GHz)

Technical Overview

Key Features

- Excellent amplitude and phase flatness enable it to be used as a precision calibration phase reference standard for the NVNA
- NIST referenced phase calibration guarantees a reliable reference to international standards
- Embedded calibration data can be easily accessed via the plug-and-play USB interface
- The USB interface facilitates frequency divider control and calibration data retrieval via the PNA-X
- Rugged 1.85-mm, 2.4-mm, and 3.5-mm bulk-head connectors guarantee high repeatability throughout multiple connects and disconnects
- Sine to square wave converter provided as standard accessory (U9391F/G only) ensures the comb generator functions at its optimum level for output frequencies above 26.5 GHz
- Handgrip (U9391G only) designed for better gripping and as heat insulator for user handling
The U9391C/F/G comb generators were developed to provide precision phase calibration, referenced to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standard, for non-linear measurements using the PNA-X nonlinear vector network analyzer (NVNA)\(^1\). NVNA component characterization software converts a 4-port PNA-X with Option 510 into an innovative, high-performance, non-linear network analyzer which uses U9391C/F/G comb generators as a precision phase calibration standard. Comb generators generate frequency harmonics at integer multiples from an RF input signal. Generally, comb generators available in the open market today are made with SRD diodes, U9391C/F/G comb generators are based on Agilent InP MMIC technology\(^2\) to ensure superior phase stability of the combs.

U9391C/F/G modules are solid state devices which provide excellent phase and amplitude flatness in the combs making them ideal for use in phase calibration applications. A built-in frequency divider, selectable via the PNA-X, reduces the noise of the combs. You can set drive frequency at 1, 2, 4, 8 or 16 times the pulse repetition frequency (PRF). Combining a frequency divider with a wide input signal frequency range allows for a broad range of possible harmonics spacing, making this suitable for characterizing non-linear devices. This module has a trigger output which enables synchronization with the pulse’s repetition frequency. Calibration data stored inside the U9391C/F/G can be accessed directly by the PNA-X via the USB interface for phase calibration. The comb generator comes with the option of female or male output connectors.

Agilent’s new patented-pending comb generators offers the advantage of wide bandwidth output (10 MHz - 26.5 GHz, 10 MHz to 50 GHz, and 10 MHz to 67 GHz) and small minimum tone spacing (10 MHz). When driven by low phase noise sources, this comb generator will operate at frequencies lower than 10 MHz, but performance is not guaranteed. The input power and fundamental frequency have lower sensitivity than other comb generators. This means a comb generator calibrated at a single power level and frequency can be used across a wide range of input power levels and frequencies.

Agilent characterizes the U9391C/F/G comb generators’ phase standard using a precision calibration technique that is traceable to NIST. Each comb generator’s amplitude and phase data is stored in the module’s memory. The N5242A-510 NVNA component characterization software uses the phase data from the U9391C/F/G to calculate the non-linear error terms for the PNA-X network analyzers.

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1. NOTE: The U9391C/F/G was designed for use with the PNA-X ONLY.
2. Indium phosphide monolithic microwave integrated circuit
The U9391C comb generator is controlled by the N5242A 26 GHz PNA-X network analyzer via a USB connection (options required: 400, 419, 080, 510). The U9391F comb generator can be used with the N5245A 50 GHz PNA-X network analyzer via USB connection (options required: 400, 419, 080, 510). The U9391G comb generator can be used with the N5247A 67 GHz PNA-X network analyzer via USB connection (options required: 400, 419, 080, 510). The N5242A/45A/47A PNA-X network analyzers can be upgraded to perform nonlinear component characterization.

Two units of U9391C/F/G are required to carry out non-linear measurements. One unit is used as the phase reference module and the second unit as the phase calibration module.

The U9391C/F/G units need to be powered by separate power supplies. The NVNA software automatically controls the U9391C/F/G units via USB after they have been designated as phase reference and calibration modules respectively.

The phase calibration procedure is carried out by following the on-screen instructions on the PNA-X. After completing the calibration, the U9391C/F/G unit used for phase calibration can be disconnected. The other unit will be used as the phase reference and must remain connected while the measurement is carried out.
**Alternative configuration with squaring unit**

If a signal generator is not available, the 10 MHz reference output on the back panel of the PNA-X can be used as a signal source. However, the U9391-60009 sine to square wave converter is needed as the comb generator will not function at its optimum level for output frequencies above 26.5 GHz, with a sine wave input of less than 100 MHz. Therefore, U9391-60009 is included as a standard accessory for U9391F and U9391G.

**DC power supply compatibility**

The U9391C/F/G can be powered by any DC power supply that is capable of supplying at least 300 mA (nominal) at 15 ± 10% Vdc (via the banana plug cables provided).

- **Recommended DC power supply for U9391C/F:** E3620A
- **Recommended DC power supply for U9391G:** E3615A
- **Compatible DC power supply:** All E36XXA series power supply (except E3612A and E3614A)

**U9391C/F/G Drive Power Supply Specification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>U9391C/F</th>
<th>U9391G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voltage</strong></td>
<td>+15V +/- 10% Vdc</td>
<td>+15V +/- 10% Vdc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current</strong></td>
<td>300 mA (nominal)</td>
<td>850 mA (nominal)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Current drawn will change when drive voltage changes.
Options

Output connectors
- Option FFF – female (output port)
- Option FFM – male (output port)

Specifications

Specifications refer to the performance standards or limits against which the U9391C/F/G comb generators are tested.

Typical characteristics are included for additional information only and they are not specifications. These are denoted as “typical”, “nominal” or “approximate” and are printed in italic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>U9391C</th>
<th>U9391F</th>
<th>U9391G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output frequency range</td>
<td>10 MHz to 26.5 GHz</td>
<td>10 MHz to 50 GHz</td>
<td>10 MHz to 67 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input frequency range</td>
<td>10 MHz to 6 GHz</td>
<td>10 MHz to 6 GHz</td>
<td>10 MHz to 6 GHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input power range</td>
<td>-15 to +15 dBm</td>
<td>-15 to +15 dBm</td>
<td>-15 to +15 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min output power per picket</td>
<td>at 10 MHz Input PRF</td>
<td>-80 dBm</td>
<td>-95 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amplitude flatness vs. output frequency</td>
<td>at 10 MHz Input PRF</td>
<td>&lt; 12 dB</td>
<td>&lt; 25 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase flatness/degree</td>
<td>10 MHz to 3 GHz</td>
<td>± 8.5</td>
<td>+ 10 / -10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 GHz to 20 GHz</td>
<td>± 6.5</td>
<td>+ 10 / -10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 GHz to 26.5 GHz</td>
<td>± 8.5</td>
<td>+ 10 / -10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.5 GHz to 28 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 20 / -10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28 GHz to 38 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 20 / -15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38 GHz to 45 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 20 / -15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 GHz to 50 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 35 / -35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 GHz to 67 GHz</td>
<td></td>
<td>± 10 / -10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse width</td>
<td>&lt; 23 ps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divide ratio</td>
<td>1,2,4,8,16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input return loss, S11</td>
<td>10 MHz to 6 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output return loss, S22</td>
<td>10 MHz to 10 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 GHz to 50 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 GHz to 26.5 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 7 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.5 GHz to 45 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 7 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 GHz to 50 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 6 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 GHz to 67 GHz</td>
<td>&gt; 10 dB</td>
<td>&gt; 6 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative humidity</td>
<td>50% to 95% RH at 40 °C, 24 hours cycling, repeated 5 times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>90% RH at 85 °C, one 24 hour cycle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shock</td>
<td>Half-sine waveform, 2-3 ms duration, 60 in/s (1.6 ms) delta-V</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation shock</td>
<td>Trapezoidal waveform, 18-22 ms duration, 337 in/s (8.56 ms) delta-V</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibration</td>
<td>Random: 5 to 500 Hz, 0.21 grms, 10 min/axis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Random: 5 to 500 Hz, 2.08 grms, 10 min/axis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude</td>
<td>Swept sine: 5 to 500 Hz, 0.5 grms, 10 min/axis, 4 resonance search, 10 min dwell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESD immunity</td>
<td>Direct discharge: 8.0 kV per IEC 61000-4-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Air discharge: 15 kV per IEC 61000-4-2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. To outer conductor

1. Note: The U9391C/F/G was specially designed for use with the PNA-X ONLY.
### Mechanical Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifications</th>
<th>U9391C/F/G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pin Depth</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input</td>
<td>0 to -0.0508 mm (0 to -0.0020&quot;&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>0 to -0.0508 mm (0 to -0.0020&quot;&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trigger</td>
<td>0 to -0.1270 mm (0 to -0.0050&quot;&quot;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net weight</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U9391C/F</td>
<td>0.370 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U9391G</td>
<td>0.435 kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The 87205-20006 can also be used.

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**Specifications U9391C/F/G**

- **Pin Depth**
  - Input: 0 to -0.0508 mm (0 to -0.0020"")
  - Output: 0 to -0.0508 mm (0 to -0.0020"")
  - Trigger: 0 to -0.1270 mm (0 to -0.0050"")

- **Net weight**
  - U9391C/F: 0.370 kg
  - U9391G: 0.435 kg

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**Mechanical dimension for U9391C**

**Mechanical dimension for U9391F**

**Mechanical dimension for U9391G**

**Mechanical dimension for cable U9391-20013**

Note: The 87205-20006 can also be used.
Typical Performance

Figure 2. U9391C/F pulse

Figure 3. U9391C Comb Generator Phase at 10 MHz PRF

Figure 4. U9391F Comb Generator Phase at 10 MHz PRF
Typical Performance
continued

Figure 5. U9391G Comb Generator Phase at 10 MHz PRF

Figure 6. U9391C Comb Generator Output Power at 10 MHz PRF

Figure 7. U9391F Comb Generator Output Power at 10 MHz PRF
Typical Performance

continued

![Graph of U9391G Comb Generator Output Power at 10 MHz PRF]

**Figure 8.** U9391G Comb Generator Output Power at 10 MHz PRF

Ordering Information

**Product**

U9391C 26.5 GHz Comb Generator

U9391F 50 GHz Comb Generator

U9391G 67 GHz Comb Generator

**Connector options**

There are two connector options available for the Agilent U9391C/F/G comb generator.

- Option FFF - female (output connector)
- Option FFM - male (output connector)

U9391-60009 squaring circuit is available for the U9391F and U9391G only.

**Warranty, calibration and services**

- Option 1A7 ISO 17025 compliant calibration
- Option A6J ANSI Z540 compliant calibration

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1. U9391C/F/G comb generators are devices (patented design) designed as a phase reference standard for N5242A/N5245A/N5247A PNA-X network analyzers. PNA-X Options 400, 419, 080, 510 are required.

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