



AD2801

800 MHz \pm 15 V active differential probe

User's guide

Complies with EN 61010-031: 2015, pollution degree 2

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1. Description

This high-bandwidth, low-voltage differential probe is designed for low-noise, high-speed applications such as wireless and data communications, digital circuits, timing analysis, disk drive design, power measurement, differential transmitter and receiver design, and troubleshooting ground bounce problems.

2. Safety

To prevent possible electrical shock, fire, personal injury, or damage to the product, carefully read this safety information before attempting to install or use the product. In addition, follow all generally accepted safety practices and procedures for working with and around electricity.

The product has been designed and tested in accordance with the European standard publication EN 61010-031: 2015 (*Safety requirements for hand-held probe assemblies for electrical measurement and test*) and left the factory in a safe condition.





The following safety descriptions are found throughout this guide:

A **WARNING** identifies conditions or practices that could result in injury or death.

A **CAUTION** identifies conditions or practices that could result in damage to the product or equipment to which it is connected.

Symbols

These safety and electrical symbols may appear on the product or in this guide.

Symbol	Description
	Earth (ground) terminal
	Possibility of electric shock
	Caution.
CAT	IEC 61010 overvoltage category
	Do not dispose of this product as unsorted municipal waste

The terminal can be used to make a measurement ground connection. The terminal is NOT a safety or protective earth.

Appearance on the product indicates a need to read these safety and operation instructions.



WARNING

To prevent injury or death use the product only as instructed and use only accessories that have been supplied or recommended. Protection provided by the product may be impaired if used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer.

Maximum input/output ranges

Observe all terminal ratings and warnings marked on the product.

The table below and/or markings on the product indicate the full-scale measurement range, common mode range and overvoltage protection range. The full-scale measurement ranges are the maximum voltages that can be accurately measured by the instrument. The common-mode voltage is the maximum that can be applied to both differential inputs with respect to the power connector ground to achieve a valid measurement and the overvoltage protection ranges are the maximum voltages that will not damage the instrument.



WARNING

To prevent electric shock, do not attempt to measure voltages outside of the specified full-scale measurement range or with an applied common-mode voltage that is outside specification and do not attempt to connect voltages outside the overvoltage protection range.

Full-scale measurement range	Common-mode voltage range	Overvoltage protection (DC + AC peak)
±15 V (DC + AC peak)	±30 V (DC + AC peak)	±40 V (DC + AC peak)



WARNING

Signals exceeding the voltage limits in the table below are defined as “hazardous live” by EN 61010. To prevent electric shock, take all necessary precautions when working on equipment where hazardous live voltages may be present.

Signal voltage limits of EN 61010-031:2015		
±60 V DC	30 V AC RMS	±42.4 V pk max.

To prevent electric shock, take all necessary safety precautions when working on equipment where hazardous live voltages may be present.



WARNING

To prevent injury or death, do not connect the probe directly to the mains (line power).



WARNING

To prevent injury or death, do not use the product or an accessory if it appears to be damaged in any way, and stop use immediately if you are concerned by any abnormal operations.



CAUTION

Exceeding the overvoltage protection range on any cable, connector or accessory can cause permanent damage to the probe and other connected equipment.

Grounding



WARNING

The probe's ground connection through the BNC cable is for measurement purposes only. The probe does not have a protective safety ground.

WARNING

To prevent electric shock, do not connect the probe's ground to a voltage source. Connect only to a known ground. If you are unsure about the safety of a ground point, check it with a multimeter before connecting the AD2801 probe's ground to it.

External connections



WARNING

To prevent injury or death, only use the power cord and adaptor supplied with the product. These are approved for the voltage and plug configuration in your country.

External DC power supply			
	Voltage (V)	Current (A pk)	Power (W)
5 V nominal	5	0.3	1.5
9 V nominal	9	0.2	1.8

WARNING

To prevent electric shock, do not touch exposed connections and components when power is present.



CAUTION

Take care to avoid mechanical stress or tight bend radii for all connected leads. Mishandling will cause deformation of sidewalls, and will degrade performance and measurement accuracy.

Environment



WARNING

To prevent injury or death, do not use in wet or damp conditions, or near explosive gas or vapor.



CAUTION

To prevent damage, always use and store your probe in appropriate environments as shown below.

	Storage	Operating
Temperature	-30 °C to +70 °C	-10 °C to +40 °C
Humidity	Up to to 85% RH	
Altitude	2000 m	
Pollution	Degree 2	

Care of the product

The product contains no user-serviceable parts. Repair, servicing and calibration require specialized test equipment and must only be performed by Pico Technology or an approved service provider. There may be a charge for these services unless covered by the Pico warranty.

Inspect the probe and all connectors, cables and accessories before use for signs of damage.



WARNING

To prevent electric shock, do not tamper with or disassemble the probe, case parts, connectors or accessories.

WARNING

When cleaning the product, use a soft cloth and a solution of mild soap or detergent in water. To prevent electric shock, do not allow liquids to enter the casing, as this will compromise the electronics or insulation inside. Ensure that the probe is thoroughly dry after cleaning.

WARNING

To prevent injury or death, do not operate this probe with the covers removed.



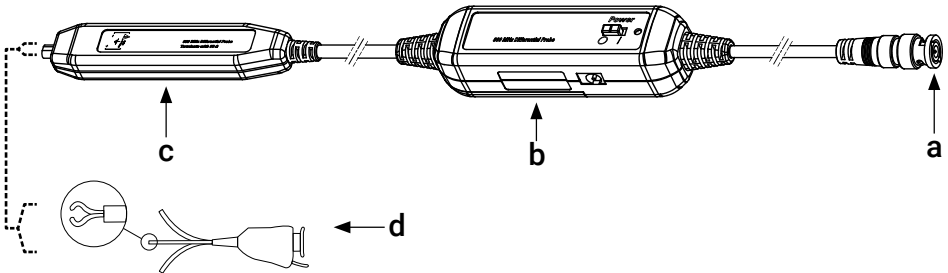
CAUTION

To prevent damage to the probe and other connected equipment, do not immerse the probe in any liquid.

3. Pack contents

Description	Quantity
AD2801 probe body, power unit and BNC assembly	1
Test wires, red and black, 0.8 mm x 70 mm	1 pair
Test wires, red and black, 0.8 mm x 130 mm	1 pair
Large grabbers, 5 mm wide, red and black	1 pair
Small grabbers, 2.5 mm wide, red and black	1 pair
Test tip, 0.8 mm	6
2-pin prods, assorted lengths	3
9 V battery	1
USB power cable	1

4. Appearance



- Output cable. The BNC output connector is for connection to the oscilloscope.
- Power unit. This can be connected to the following sources:
 - PS008 mains adaptor (not included)
 - Internal 9 V battery
 - USB power lead
- Probe body
- Test leads and grabbers (example shown). For convenient connection to the circuit under test.

5. Installation

Follow these instructions to install and start using your differential probe.

- Plug the BNC output connector into the vertical input of a general-purpose oscilloscope or other measurement instrument. The measurement instrument must have 50 Ω input impedance or be fitted with an external 50 Ω feedthrough terminator.
- Connect the probe to an appropriate power source:
 - Internal 9 V battery
 - Mains adaptor
 - Power leads
- Turn the probe on.
- Using the appropriate probe accessories, connect the input to the circuit under test.



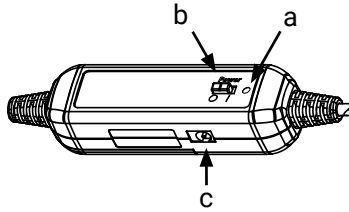
WARNING

To protect against electric shock, use only the accessories designed for use with this differential probe.

WARNING

To avoid injury or death, observe all safety precautions appropriate to the circuit under test.

6. Power unit



- a. LED indicator (green for normal operation; turns red when the voltage is too low)
- b. On/off switch
- c. Power jack

7. Overrange indicator

The overrange indicator lights up red if the voltage of the input signal exceeds the linear operating range of the probe. When this happens, the signal on the probe output may not accurately represent the signal on the probe input.

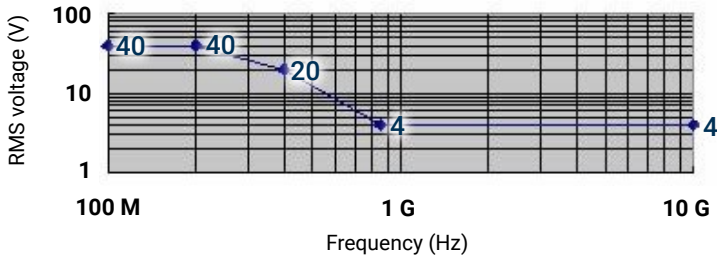
8. Specifications

Bandwidth (-3 dB)	DC to 800 MHz
Attenuation ratio	10:1
DC accuracy (gain error)	±2%
Rise time	220 ps
Input impedance	100 kΩ 2 pF each side to ground
Input voltages	
Differential range	±15 V (DC + AC peak)
Common mode range	±30 V (DC + AC peak)
Absolute maximum voltage (either input to ground)	±40 V (DC + AC peak)
Output	
Swing	±1.5 V into 50 Ω load
Offset (typical)	< ±5 mV
Noise (typical)	
Source impedance (typical)	50 Ω (for use with 50 Ω oscilloscope input)
CMRR (typical)	60 dB at 60 Hz 15 dB at 500 MHz
Temperature	-10 °C to +40 °C (operating) -30 °C to +70 °C (storage)
Humidity	Up to 85% RH (operating and storage)
Power requirements	
Battery *	9 V (PP3, 6LR61)
Mains adaptor(s) *	6 V DC 500 mA or 9 V DC 300 mA
USB power lead *	5 V DC
Overall length	1300 mm
Weight	150 g
Dimensions	Probe body: 112 x 22 x 15 mm Power unit: 111 x 32 x 32 mm

- * a. The supplied voltage must be between 3.3 V and 16 V. Voltages outside of this range may damage the probe or affect performance.
- b. Polarity is “+” inside and “-” outside. The device is reverse-polarity protected.
- c. When the voltage of the cells becomes too low, the power indicator on the panel will change color and switch off.

9. Derating curve

The derating curve for absolute maximum input voltage is shown below.



10. Test procedure

1. Connect the BNC output connector to the vertical input of a general-purpose oscilloscope. The oscilloscope input must have 50 Ω impedance or be fitted with an external 50 Ω feedthrough terminator.
2. Connect the probe to an appropriate power source.
3. Turn on the probe using the power switch.
4. Set the oscilloscope input to DC coupling and 0.5 V/div. Center the trace on the display.
5. Connect the inputs of the probe to a sine-wave signal source of 100 kHz and 10 V p-p.
6. A 100 kHz sine wave with 1 V amplitude will be displayed on the screen of the oscilloscope. This demonstrates that the probe is working properly.

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