

TekVPI® Probe Power Requirements On Digital Phosphor Oscilloscopes

The TekVPI probe interface on the Tektronix MDO/MSO/DPO Series oscilloscopes provides power to most of the TekVPI voltage and current probes and accessories. The image below shows an example of the TekVPI inputs on an oscilloscope:



The internal power supplies of these oscilloscopes provide power to the TekVPI probe inputs located on the front of the oscilloscope (Channels 1, 2, 3, 4, Aux In, and RF). Because some of the available TekVPI probes can draw a significant amount of power, it is possible that multiple probes may exceed the oscilloscope's available internal power.

In the cases where the probe power requirements exceed the oscilloscope's available internal power, the oscilloscope will display a message that the power limit has been exceeded. For these applications, Tektronix offers an external power supply accessory (Tek Part Number 119-7465-xx). The TekVPI external power supply can provide up to 50W of power to the TekVPI front panel probe inputs, enabling the usage of any combination of qualifying probes without exceeding power requirements.

Oscilloscope Series	Maximum Internal Probe Power Available
DPO7000, DPO7000C	50W (no external power adapter required)
MSO5000, DPO5000	15W ¹ (external power adapter required when probe power requirements exceed 15 W)
MSO4000, DPO4000, MSO4000B, DPO4000B, MDO4000	50W (no external power adapter required)
MSO3000, DPO3000	20W (external power adapter required when probe power requirements exceed 20 W)
MSO2000, DPO2000	external power adapter required whenever probe power is required

The table below lists the maximum power draw² associated with each type of TekVPI probe or accessory that can be used with the MDP/MSO/DPO Series oscilloscopes. This table can help you determine if you potentially need the external power supply for your application.

TekVPI Probe/Accessory	Description	Max Power Draw
TAP1500³ 	1.5 GHz Single-ended Active FET Voltage Probe	1.5W
TAP2500³ 	2.5 GHz Single-ended Active FET Voltage Probe	1.5W
TAP3500³ 	3.5 GHz Single-ended Active FET Voltage Probe	1.5W
TCP0030 	30 A, 120MHz, AC/DC Current Probe	8.4W
TCP0150 	150 A, 20 MHz, AC/DC Current Probe	9.2W
TDP0500³ 	500 MHz Differential High Voltage Probe (± 42 V)	1.5W
TDP1000³ 	1 GHz Differential High Voltage Probe (± 42 V)	1.5W
TDP1500³ 	1.5 GHz Differential Voltage Probe (± 8.5 V)	1.9W

TekVPI Probe/Accessory	Description	Max Power Draw
 TDP3500³	3.5 GHz Differential Voltage Probe (± 8.5 V)	1.5W
 THDP0100	100 MHz High-Voltage Differential Probe (± 6 kV)	2.7W
 THDP0200	200 MHz High-Voltage Differential Probe (± 1.5 kV)	2.7W
 TMDP0200	200 MHz High-Voltage Differential Probe (± 750 V)	2.7W
 TPA-BNC^{4, 5}	TekVPI Interface Adapter that adapts TekProbe Level II Probes to Connect to a TekVPI Probe Input	2.5W
TPA-N-VPI	N-to-TekVPI Adapter for MDO4000 Series	0.0W
 TEK-DPG	TekVPI Deskew Pulse Generator	1.5W
TPP0500⁶	500 MHz, 10x, <4pF Input Capacitance, 300V CAT II Passive Probe	0.0W
TPP0502⁶	500 MHz, 2x, 12.7pF Input Capacitance, 300V CAT II Passive Probe	0.0W
TPP0850⁶	850 MHz, 50x, 1.8pF Input Capacitance, 1000V CAT II Passive Probe	0.0W
TPP1000⁶	1 GHz, 10x, <4pF Input Capacitance, 300V CAT II Passive Probe	0.0W

Note 1: With MSO/DPO5000 instrument software versions <6.3.0, the power was limited to 12W.

Note 2: The power numbers listed in the table are theoretical maximum values which are reported to the oscilloscope when the probe is attached. The actual power draw from the probe depends on several factors, including the parameters of the circuit being measured (especially for current probes) and the type of probe connected to the TPA-BNC adapter.

Note 3: The bandwidth of probe is lowered when used with oscilloscopes with 1 MOhm termination (such as the DPO2000 and MSO2000 series).

Note 4: The TPA-BNC will only draw a maximum of 2.5W of power from the oscilloscope no matter which TekProbe Level 2 interface probe is used with it.

Note 5: To use TekProbe Level 2 interface probes that are designed to drive 50 ohms inputs with oscilloscopes with only 1 MOhm termination (such as the DPO2000 or MSO2000 series), an 1103 probe power supply and a 50 Ohm feed-thru terminator are required.

Note 6: The TPP0500, TPP0502, TPP0850 and TPP1000 passive probes are compatible only with DPO4000B, DPO5000, MDO4000, MSO4000B, and MSO5000 Series oscilloscopes.