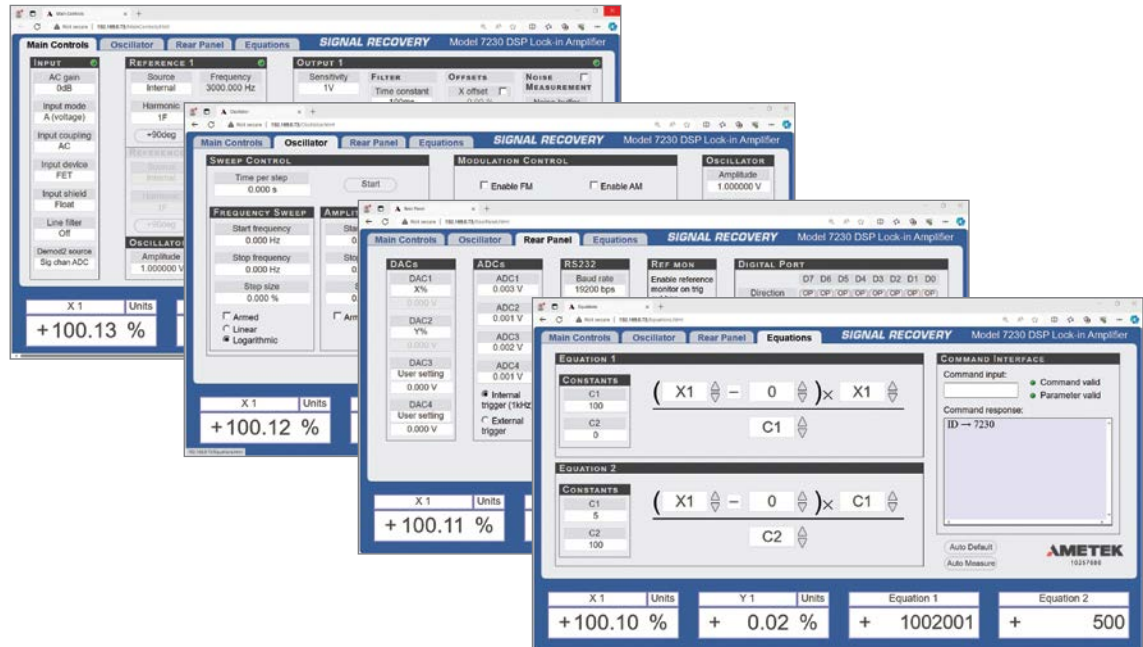


Model 7230A

DSP Lock-in Amplifier

...as easy to use as your favorite web browser



Just plug it in to your network!



Model 7230A DSP Lock-in Amplifier

Outstanding performance at a surprisingly low price

Overview

The model 7230A is a new concept in general-purpose DSP lock-in amplifiers. It offers the excellent signal recovery performance that users expect from our instruments but at a lower price than many competitive models. We've achieved this improvement in price/performance ratio by replacing traditional control buttons and display with easy-to-use control panels that can be operated from any computer via your favorite browser. No longer do you need to be in front of the instrument to operate it—now you can set up your experiment in the lab but return to the office while it runs, monitoring what is happening via your computer. And if you need to make a change to a setting, then it's as easy as clicking a button on a web page.

You can use any web compatible device to operate the model 7230A, ranging from a simple netbook to the most powerful development machine, from an Android smartphone to the latest iPad. No special software is needed, since the panels work directly through the device's browser. All that is necessary is that the computer and instrument be connected to the same Ethernet network.

The instrument is also much more compact than traditional designs, making it easier to accommodate in crowded laboratories. And, it does not include any cooling fans so it is completely silent, which is especially useful for acoustic research.

Model 7230A offers an operating frequency range of 1 mHz to 250 kHz.

Versatility

In common with other models in our range, the 7230A offers much more than just dual phase lock-in detection at the reference frequency of an applied signal. It includes features unique to SIGNAL RECOVERY instruments such as dual reference and dual harmonic detection, which allow signals at two different frequencies to be measured simultaneously, and tandem demodulation. It also includes virtual reference mode, allowing reference-free measurement of suitable signals.

Fast Data Processing

The main ADC sampling rate and the rate at which the analog signal outputs are updated is 1 MSa/s, giving excellent performance when used at short output filter time constant settings, such as in scanned probe measurements. The maximum rate at which data can be stored to the internal curve buffer is 1 μ s per point, allowing direct capture of instrument outputs when using these short time constants. The buffer length of 100,000 sets of points gives a recording time of 100 ms at the fastest sampling rate.

Remote Control

The built-in web control pages allow full operation via the Ethernet interface, which with the USB and RS-232 connections, can also be used to operate the instrument from our comprehensive software package, Acquire, from our ActiveX control and toolkit (SRInstComms), or using the free LabVIEW driver.

See what you've been missing...

In summary, the Model 7230A offers a very cost-effective solution to users who need a lock-in amplifier suitable for straightforward applications but with the versatility to also be used in complex experiments.

- Built-in web pages for control from any computer on the same network
- 1 mHz to 250 kHz operating frequency range
- Voltage and current mode inputs
- 1 MHz main ADC sampling rate
- 10 μ s to 100 ks output filter time constants
- Precision DDS sinewave oscillator with adjustable amplitude and frequency
- Oscillator output can be amplitude or frequency modulated
- Harmonic measurements up to $127 \times F$
- Dual Reference, Dual Harmonic and Virtual Reference operating modes
- Auxiliary analog and digital inputs and outputs
- Internal data buffer for recording instrument outputs at rates down to 1 μ s per point
- Ethernet, USB and RS-232 computer interfaces
- Free LabVIEW driver

Instrument Format

The 7230A is packaged as a very compact benchtop unit with separate power supply module. It uses powerful DSP algorithms running in a dedicated field-programmable gate array (FPGA), supported by a ColdFire processor, to deliver the best possible performance.

Signal and Reference Connections



The front-panel signal input connectors can be switched to operate in single-ended or differential voltage mode, or in current mode with a choice of two transimpedance settings. They can also be used to switch between two single-ended voltage signals, for simple sequential measurement

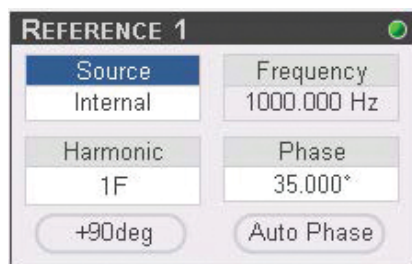
under computer control of two inputs. In cases where further preamplification is needed, then one of the SIGNAL RECOVERY remote preamplifiers can be used with its output connected to the 7230A's "A" input connector. This flexible choice of input modes allows the best possible connection to be made to the experiment.

If using an external reference signal, then either analog or TTL logic signals can be used. For internal reference work, a precision DDS oscillator generates a sinewave signal of adjustable frequency and amplitude that is available at the front panel OSC OUT connector.

Signal Path

Following input amplification, the signal can optionally be passed through an analog line-frequency rejection filter, with configurable center frequency and mode, before reaching the main anti-aliasing filter. It is then applied to the signal channel precision ADC. This operates at 1 MHz, delivering an accurate digital representation of the signal to be measured and the noise accompanying it to

the signal inputs of the inphase and quadrature demodulators, which are implemented in an FPGA.



Reference Channel

The reference channel signal drives a phase locked loop, which in turn drives the reference channel. When the instrument is set to Internal Reference mode, the internal precision quartz stabilized oscillator is used to generate the sinewave output at the OSC OUT connector.

When set to the Harmonic Detection mode, an internal frequency multiplier permits measurement of signals at frequencies up to 127 times the reference frequency, allowing distortion measurements to be easily made.

The reference channel also includes a precision phase shifter to permit the phase of the reference inputs to the demodulator to be adjusted.

The output of the reference channel is a series of digital phase values, updated at the same 1 MHz rate as the signal channel ADC sampling rate. These are used to derive digital representations of cosinusoidal and sinusoidal waveforms, which are applied to the reference channel inputs of the inphase and quadrature demodulators respectively.

Digital Demodulators

At the heart of the instrument are the demodulators, implemented using DSP techniques. Unlike the analog multipliers or switches used in older lock-in amplifiers, this type of demodulator does not use DC coupled electronics. Hence it is immune from the potential errors caused by DC drift and offset introduced by such designs.

Output Channels

Following the demodulators, the first stage of output filtering, providing time constants in the range 10 μ s to 500 ms, is carried out using digital finite impulse response (FIR) filters implemented within the FPGA and updated at the 1 MHz signal sampling rate. Further filtering, if required, is provided using similar filters implemented in the instrument's main microprocessor.

After filtering, the output signals are potentially further modified by offset and expansion controls, before being displayed via the web panels either as basic X-output and Y-output values or being processed to give derived outputs, including signal vector magnitude and phase. The instrument can also be used to measure the noise accompanying the signal and the ratio or logarithm of the ratio of the X-channel output to other signals, such as the voltage at the auxiliary ADC inputs.

There are four rear-panel DAC outputs that can be set to convert the internal digital output values back to analog signals, at the same 1 MHz update rate, thereby making them usable down to the shortest possible output filter time constant settings.



- **Dual Reference**—Simultaneously measure two signals at different frequencies
- **Dual Harmonic**—Simultaneously measure two harmonics of the reference frequency
- **Virtual Reference**—Make reference-free measurements even on noisy signals
- **VCO**—Use external analog signal to control the frequency or amplitude of the precision internal oscillator
- **Synchronous Oscillator Output**—Access the sinewave being used for demodulation, including any frequency multiplication and/or phase shift

Extended Operating Modes

The instrument includes the extended operating modes made popular by other SIGNAL RECOVERY lock-in amplifiers, such as the 7265, 7124, 7270 and 7280.

In normal Single Reference mode, measurements can be made at harmonics of up to $127 \times F$, while in Dual Harmonic mode, the signals at two harmonics of the reference signal can be simultaneously measured. The instrument can therefore be used to measure a fundamental frequency and one harmonic of it at the same time.

Dual Reference mode permits measurement of two signals at two unrelated frequencies to be performed simultaneously. For example, in an optical experiment the signals passing through two different paths can be independently

measured if they are modulated at two different frequencies.



Control from your iPad...

A variant of the Dual Reference mode is tandem demodulation, which allows an amplitude-modulated signal at a (high) “carrier” frequency to be demodulated at that frequency. The resulting in-phase output, at short time constant settings, is a signal at the modulating frequency that is then passed forward to a second set of demodulators to give an output proportional to the amplitude of the modulation.

In Virtual Reference mode, the instrument extracts a reference from the applied signal, allowing reference-free measurements where signals are derived from stable frequency sources.

The Synchronous Oscillator output is an analog sinusoidal signal equivalent to that being used to drive the in-phase demodulator, and available in both internal and external reference modes. Hence, for example, if the instrument is set to 2F reference mode and a 1 kHz reference is applied, then this output will be a 2 kHz sinewave.

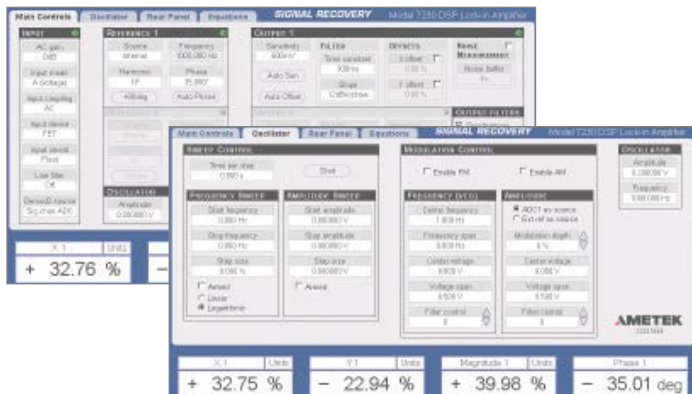
Browser Operation

Just like other SIGNAL RECOVERY instruments, the 7230A is exceptionally easy to use. Plug it in to your network and if a DHCP server is present (most networks include one), then it will be allocated an IP address; simply type this address into any browser on a device on the same network, and the main display panel will be shown. It is also possible to set the instrument to a manual IP address.

The web pages use tabbed panels containing both drop-down selectors and text boxes to set the instrument controls, and four digital indicators to show selected outputs.

The Main Controls panel is used to configure the signal channel input settings, the reference source and mode, the output filter settings, and the internal oscillator frequency and amplitude. Status indicators give an immediate indication of conditions such as input or output overload, or loss of reference lock.





More complex control of the internal oscillator, such as frequency or amplitude sweeps, is possible via the Oscillator panel. The Rear Panel tab includes controls for setting the voltages at the DAC outputs, and for reading the voltages present at the auxiliary ADC inputs.

Calculations can be performed between any of the instrument's outputs and the digitized ADC inputs, allowing corrections for such variations as signal strength and standing offsets to be made. These are specified on the Equations tab.

Auto Functions

Any one of the four auto functions can be reached with just a single click on a button on the Main Controls tab. When activated, these functions adjust the associated control to the optimum setting for the present input signal, and the effect is immediately visible on the digital indicators.

Remote Operation

There are some situations where the built-in web control panels do not offer sufficient flexibility. This is typically when data from the instrument needs to be stored to a disk file, or where the model 7230A needs to be used in conjunction with other instruments. It therefore also includes USB and RS-232, as well as the Ethernet, interfaces, allowing controls to be set or interrogated, and instrument outputs to be read.

The command set is based on the use of simple ASCII mnemonics, making user-written source code very easy to read and understand.

An internal, 100,000 point buffer memory can be used to store selected outputs. Digitized information from the auxiliary ADCs can also be stored, which is especially useful when using the highest ADC sampling rates. If required, the data buffer can be sub-divided to allow several outputs to be stored simultaneously giving, for example, the ability to store lock-in amplifier outputs and auxiliary ADC input signals on the same time axis.

The resulting data curves can be transferred via the interfaces to the controlling computer for storage or further manipulation.

Auxiliary Features

The model 7230A is much more than just a lock-in amplifier because it includes a number of auxiliary inputs and outputs to further increase its versatility.

Four sampled analog-to-digital (ADC) inputs on the rear panel of the instrument can be used to digitize external voltage signals, such as those from transducers measuring variables like temperature, pressure, flow rate, optical intensity or liquid level. Various trigger modes are provided. For example, the instrument can function as a 15-bit ADC 200 kSa/s transient recorder with a 100,000 point data memory.

The instrument also has four digital-to-analog converter (DAC) outputs that can be used to generate analog signals representing the instrument outputs (e.g., X, Y, Magnitude and Phase values) and voltages for the control of external equipment, such as motor speed, lamp intensity or fluid flow rate.

The instrument includes an 8-bit bidirectional TTL port that can be used to switch external equipment, such as relay input or output multiplexers.



...or your desktop

User-Upgradeable Firmware

In common with most other SIGNAL RECOVERY instruments, the 7230A's operating firmware can be updated via the USB or RS-232 port simply by downloading new code into it using a firmware update pack, which can be obtained free of charge from our website. You can therefore be sure you are always using the latest code.

Specifications

Measurement Modes		Signal Channel, continued	
X In-phase	The instrument can simultaneously show any four of these outputs via the web control pages.	Frequency Response (-3 dB)	
Y Quadrature		Low Noise	1 mHz ≤ F ≤ 500 Hz minimum
R Magnitude		Wide Bandwidth	1 mHz ≤ F ≤ 50 kHz minimum
∅ Phase Angle		Impedance	
Noise		Low Noise	< 2.5 kΩ @ 100 Hz
		Wide Bandwidth	< 250 Ω @ 1 kHz
Harmonic	n × F, n ≤ 127	Noise	
		Low Noise	13 fA/√Hz @ 500 Hz
Dual Harmonic	Simultaneously measures the signal at two different harmonics F ₁ and F ₂ of the reference frequency	Wide Bandwidth	130 fA/√Hz @ 50 kHz
Dual Reference	Simultaneously measures the signal at two different reference frequencies, F ₁ and F ₂ where one is the internal and the other the external reference	Gain Accuracy	
		± 2.0% typ, midband	
Tandem Demodulation	Demodulates the signal using the internal reference frequency, and then passes the resulting X channel output to a second demodulator running at an external reference frequency	Either Input Mode	
		Max. Dynamic Reserve > 100 dB	
Virtual Reference	Locks to and detects a signal without a reference (100 Hz ≤ F ≤ 250 kHz)	Line Filter	Filter can be set to attenuate 50/60 Hz, 100/250 Hz, or both frequency bands
Noise	Measures noise in a selected bandwidth centered at the reference frequency F	Grounding	BNC shields can be grounded or floated via 1 kΩ to ground
Display		Signal Monitor	
Four web control pages showing four selected outputs and controls for all instrument functions.		Amplitude	±1 V FS. This is the signal after preamplification and filtering immediately prior to conversion by the main ADC
Signal Channel		Output Impedance	1 kΩ
Voltage Input		Reference Input	
Modes	A only, -B only or differential (A-B)	TTL setting	
Frequency Response	1 mHz ≤ F ≤ 250 kHz	Frequency Range	
Full-scale Sensitivity	10 nV to 1 V in a 1-2-5 sequence (e.g., 10 nV, 20 nV, 50 nV, 100 nV, etc.)	Analog setting	
Input Impedance		Impedance	
FET Input	10 MΩ // 25 pF, AC or DC coupled	Sinusoidal Input	
Bipolar Input	10 kΩ // 25 pF, input must be DC coupled	Level	1 V rms
Maximum Safe Input	±12 V	Frequency Range	0.5 Hz to 250 kHz
Voltage Noise		Squarewave Input	
FET Input	5 nV/√Hz @ 1 kHz	Level	250 mV rms
Bipolar Input	2 nV/√Hz @ 1 kHz	Frequency Range	2 Hz to 250 kHz
C.M.R.R.	> 100 dB @ 1 kHz degrading by no more than 6 dB/octave with increasing frequency	Reference Channel	
Gain Accuracy	±0.5% typ, ±1.0% max.	Phase Set Resolution	
Distortion	-90 dB THD (60 dB AC gain, 1 kHz)	0.001° increments	
Current Input		Phase Noise at 100 ms TC, 12 dB/octave slope	
Mode	Low noise (10 ⁸ V/A) or wide bandwidth (10 ⁶ V/A)	Internal Reference	< 0.0001° rms
Full-scale Sensitivity		External Reference	< 0.01° rms @ 1 kHz
Low Noise	10 fA to 10 nA in a 1-2-5 sequence	Orthogonality	90° ±0.0001°
Wide Bandwidth	10 fA to 1 μA in a 1-2-5 sequence	Acquisition Time	
		Internal Reference	Instantaneous acquisition
		External Reference	2 cycles + 1 s
		Reference Frequency	4 ppm or 1 mHz, whichever is the greater
		Meter Resolution	

Demodulators and Output Processing

Output Zero Stability

Digital Outputs	No zero drift on all settings
Displays	No zero drift on all settings
DAC Analog Outputs	< 100 ppm/°C

Harmonic Rejection

-90 dB

Output Filters

Time Constant	10 μ s to 100 ks in a 1-2-5 sequence
Slope (roll-off)	
TC < 5 ms	6 or 12 dB/octave
TC $\geq$ 5 ms	6, 12, 18 or 24 dB/octave

Synchronous Filter

Available for F < 20 Hz

Offset

Auto/Manual on X and/or Y: $\pm 300\%$ F.S.

Phase Measurement Resolution

$\leq 0.01^\circ$

Reference Monitor

TTL signal at current reference frequency, internal or external

Oscillator

Frequency

Range	1 mHz to 250 kHz
Setting Resolution	1 mHz
Absolute Accuracy	± 50 ppm

Amplitude

Range	1 μ V to 5 V
Max. Setting Resolution	1 μ V

Output Impedance

50 Ω

Sweep

Frequency	
Output Range	1 mHz to 250 kHz
Law	Linear or logarithmic
Step Rate	1000 Hz maximum (1 ms/step)

Amplitude Sweep

Output Range	0.000 to 5.000 V rms
Law	Linear
Step Rate	20 Hz maximum (50 ms/step)

Auxiliary Inputs

ADC 1, 2, 3 and 4

Maximum Input	± 11 V
Resolution	1 mV
Accuracy	± 20 mV
Input Impedance	1 M Ω // 30 pF
Sample Rate	200 kHz maximum (one ADC only)
Trigger Mode	Internal, external or burst
Trigger Input	TTL compatible, rising or falling edge

Outputs

Analog Outputs

DAC1	X, X1, Mag2, User DAC1, Output function
DAC2	Y, Y1, Pha2, User DAC2, Output function
DAC3	X2, Mag, Mag1, User DAC3, Output function
DAC4	Y2, Pha, Pha2, User DAC4, Output function
Output Functions	Noise, Ratio, Log Ratio and User Equations 1 & 2

Amplitude

X(1), Y(1), Mag(1), Pha(1)	± 2.5 V full-scale; linear to $\pm 300\%$ F.S.
User DACs and Output Functions	± 10 V full-scale

Impedance

1 k Ω

Update Rate

X(1/2), Y(1/2), Mag(1/2), Pha(1/2) @ TC < 1 s	1 MHz
User DACs, Output Functions and TCs ≥ 1 s	1 kHz

8-bit Digital Port

Mode	0 to 8 lines can be configured as inputs, with the remainder being outputs
Status	Each output line can be set high or low and the status of each input line read

Data Storage Buffer

Size

100,000 data points

Max. Storage Rate

Fast Mode	1 MHz (X1, Y1, X2, Y2, ADC1, Demod I/P 1, Demod I/P 2)
Normal Mode	1 kHz

Interfaces

USB 2.0, Ethernet and RS-232 allow complete control of instrument settings and data readout.

General

Power

Via external universal power supply (NRTL certified)

Voltage	100 – 250 VAC
Frequency	50/60 Hz
Power	40 VA max.

Dimensions

Width	15" (390 mm)
Depth	10" (250 mm)
Height	
With feet	3" (75 mm)
Without feet	2½" (64 mm)

Weight

6.6 lb (3.0 kg)



Power Supply



Model 7230A Rear Panel

Acquire™ Applications Software

The Acquire Data Acquisition Software significantly extends the capabilities of the instrument by, for example, adding the ability to make swept frequency measurements. The software is suitable for Windows 11 and later operating systems and allows up to ten compatible SIGNAL RECOVERY instruments to be controlled at the same time. A free demonstration version is available at www.ameteksi.com, which can be upgraded to the full version by purchase of an activation key.

LabVIEW® Driver Software

A free LabVIEW driver is available for the instrument, offering example VIs for all its controls and outputs, as well as the usual Getting Started and Utility VIs. It also includes example soft-front panels built using these VIs, demonstrating how you can incorporate them in more complex LabVIEW programs.



Acquire Software

Ordering Information

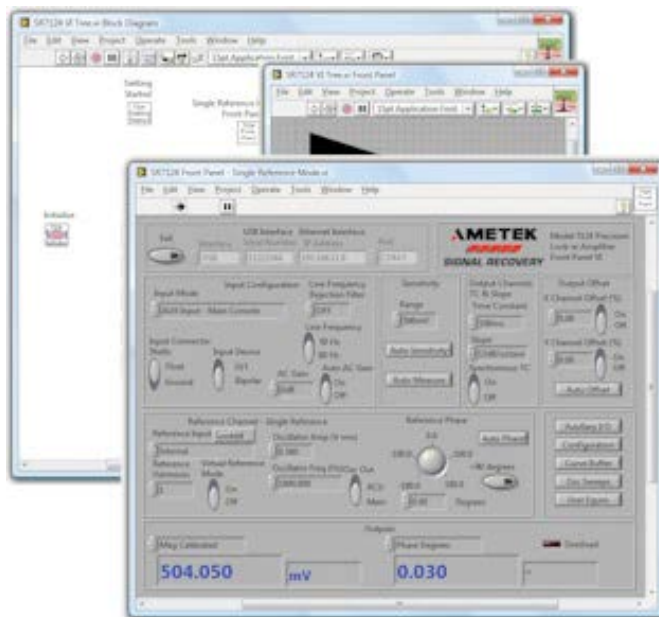
Each model 7230A is supplied complete with line power cord and comprehensive instruction manual.

Optional Accessories

SRInstComms	ActiveX Control and Software Toolkit for simple instrument control from a PC. Includes sample programs in C#, C++, Visual Basic, HTML, etc.
Acquire	Comprehensive control and acquisition software for use with Windows 10/Windows 11 operating systems

External Preamplifiers

The model 7230A may also be used in conjunction with preamplifiers. Please contact us for details.



Free LabVIEW Driver

For more information, please visit our website at www.ameteksi.com



801 SOUTH ILLINOIS AVENUE
OAK RIDGE
TN 37831-2011
USA
Phone: (865) 483 2118
Fax: (865) 481 2410

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