

# Frequency Counter 50 MHz

The frequency counter is a flexible device with programmable IF offset allow make measurement guaranteed up to 50MHz frequency. Frequency counter could display the actual frequency of with user defined IF offset.

- PIC16F628A processor
- 16x2 character LCD
- Pre-programmed IF offsets
- Direct frequency measurement (no IF offsets)
- Indirect frequency measurement (IF+VFO, VFO-IF, IF-VFO)
- Accuracy  $\pm 10\text{Hz}$
- Frequency resolution 10Hz
- PCB dimensions: 82 x 38 mm
- Power supply +7..12V, 20mA
- Input frequency: 100Hz..50MHz

## Operation

All normal Operating modes required Jumper J3 “A”-“B” to be fitted.

The LCD display contrast can be adjusted by R1. The input buffer sensitivity can be adjusted by R5. It's optimum sensitivity is usually found when the voltage on Q1 collector is between 1.8 to 2.2 volts.

### Switch settings (SW1-SW4)

*The default switch settings are switches SW1 to SW4 all OFF (not fitted)*

|     |     |  |
|-----|-----|--|
| SW1 | OFF | Normal operation – the frequency displayed is the actual frequency of input signal   |
|     | ON  | IF Offset Operation – the frequency displayed using the IF offset (as selected by SW2)   |
| SW2 | OFF | Frequency + IF   |
|     | ON  | Frequency - IF   |
| SW3 | OFF | Extended mode disabled   |
|     | ON  | Extended mode – the IF offset frequency is displayed on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> line of LCD and power up sequence has additional information |
| SW4 | OFF | Compact mode – the frequency is displayed as 0.00000 MHz   |
|     | ON  | Compact mode – the frequency is displayed as 0.000 MHz   |

## Selecting IF offsets

IF Offset select required Jumper J3 “B” – “C” to be fitted at power up of device

Any IF offset frequency can be programmed into the memory of process. To make life easy there is a preprogrammed table of most used IF offset frequencies. Also, possible to define the IF offset manually.

### IF offset select using the table of frequencies (step by step)

- Power device off
- Jumper SW1 to be fitted. SW2, SW3, SW4 to OFF.
- Remove the shorting link from jumper pins “A” and “B”
- Put the shorting link between jumper pins “B” and “C”
- Power device on
- The frequency counter will display the IF offset frequency
- Change the Switch SW3&SW4 settings whilst in this mode till you have the desired IF offset
  - SW4 – ON, steps forward in table (SW4=OFF – do nothing)
  - SW3 – ON, steps backwards in table (SW3=OFF – do nothing)
- To store the new IF Offset simply remove the jumper from Pins “B” and “C”
- The display will show “Saving settings” for 1 second and device will revert to normal operation
- Put the shorting link back on Pins “A” and “B” to normal mode.
- Reboot the device.

| Pos | Frequency | Pos | Frequency | Pos | Frequency | Pos | Frequency  |
|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|------------|
| 1   | 0.000 MHz | 8   | 0.480 MHz | 15  | 3.180 MHz | 22  | 9.216 MHz  |
| 2   | 0.450 MHz | 9   | 1.560 MHz | 16  | 3.955 MHz | 23  | 9.720 MHz  |
| 3   | 0.455 MHz | 10  | 1.600 MHz | 17  | 5.138 MHz | 24  | 10.700 MHz |
| 4   | 0.460 MHz | 11  | 1.650 MHz | 18  | 5.500 MHz | 25  | 11.200 MHz |
| 5   | 0.465 MHz | 12  | 2.075 MHz | 19  | 6.000 MHz | 26  | 11.700 MHz |
| 6   | 0.470 MHz | 13  | 3.035 MHz | 20  | 8.000 MHz | 27  | 11.800 MHz |
| 7   | 0.475 MHz | 14  | 3.045 MHz | 21  | 9.000 MHz | 28  | 21.400 MHz |

### **IF offset select using the Manual setup (step by step)**

- Power device off
- SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4 to OFF.0
- Remove the shorting link from jumper pins “A” and “B”
- Put the shorting link between jumper pins “B” and “C”
- Power device on
- The frequency counter will display the IF offset frequency
- Change the Switch SW3&SW4 settings whilst in this mode till you have the desired IF offset
  - SW4 – ON, increment the IF offset in 1 MHz steps (SW4=OFF – do nothing)
  - SW3 – ON, increment the IF offset in 100 KHz steps (SW3=OFF – do nothing)
  - SW2 – ON, increment the IF offset in 10 KHz steps (SW2=OFF – do nothing)
  - SW1 – ON, increment the IF offset in 1 KHz steps (SW1=OFF – do nothing)
- To store the new IF Offset simply remove the jumper from Pins “B” and “C”
- The display will show “Saving settings” for 1 second and device will revert to normal operation
- Put the shorting link back on Pins “A” and “B” to normal mode.

Note: the maximum IF offsets that can be set is 45.999 MHz

## **Calibration**

### **Method 1 – Hardware**

Simply connect to a known frequency source and adjust the trimmer capacitor so the correct value is displays. If you are unable to adjust the displayed frequency, then use the software method, described below.

## Method 2 – Software

*Software calibration setup required all switches SW1 – SW4 to be OFF and jumper J3 “A” to “C” to be fitted at power up.*

- Power device off
- SW1, SW2, SW3, SW4 to OFF.
- Remove the shorting link from jumper pins “A” and “B”
- Put the shorting link between jumper pins “A” and “C”
- Power device on
- The frequency counter will display input frequency
- To increase the displayed frequency set SW1 to ON position – frequency will step up.
- To decrease the displayed frequency set SW2 to ON position – frequency will step down.
- Once you are satisfied with the adjustment, remove the jumper from Pins “A” and “C”
- The display will show “Saving settings” for 1 second and device will revert to normal operation
- Put the shorting link back on Pins “A” and “B” to normal mode.
- Reboot the device
- Final adjustment should be done as for Method 1 (hardware)



