Keysight Technologies
N77-Series Attenuators

Data Sheet

N7751A 1-Channel Optical Attenuator and Power Meter
N7752A 2-Channel Optical Attenuator and Power Meter
N7761A 1-Channel Optical Attenuator
N7762A 2-Channel Optical Attenuator
N7764A 4-Channel Optical Attenuator
N7766A 2-Channel Multimode Optical Attenuator
N7768A 4-Channel Multimode Optical Attenuator
Introduction

The Keysight Technologies, Inc. N775xA and N776xA series compact multi-channel attenuators and power meters are a new class of remote controlled fiberoptic instruments for optical transceiver and network integration test. High setting speed of attenuation and power as well as power measurement capability, combined with USB, LAN and GPIB interfaces provides increased throughput and operational efficiency to meet today’s challenges in manufacturing.

Operation Modes

All attenuators feature both attenuation mode and power control mode.

In attenuation mode, the calibrated value of attenuation in dB can be set. The attenuation can be changed at up to 1000 dB/s or the rate can be set to values in the range 0-1000 dB/s for single-mode and 0-80dB/s for multimode units.

The power control functionality allows you to set the power level at the attenuator output. The instrument uses the feedback signal from a photodiode after a monitor tap, both integrated in the instrument, to set the desired power level at the output of the module (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

When the power control mode is enabled, the module automatically corrects for power changes at the input so that the output power level you set is maintained. Absolute power levels can be set with high accuracy after an initial offset calibration for the uncertainties at connector interfaces.
Power measurements

In addition, the Keysight N7751A and N7752A attenuators include two extra optical power meter channels for convenient power measurements and setup calibration.

User calibration processes

Comprehensive offset functionality allows you to calibrate the optical path in various test set-ups. There is an offset for the attenuation factor, and an independent offset for the output power level, to calibrate for losses due to patch cords, connectors and switches. Additionally, wavelength and offset value pairs can be stored in a table to compensate for wavelength-dependent effects in the optical path of the set-up. This allows you to precisely set the optical power level directly at the input interface of your device under test. With the extra optical power meter channel, calibration is even easier and more convenient. All power related offsets can be determined by a firmware function that reads a value from the reference power meter. The difference between the power value read by the reference power meter and the actual value of the attenuator is automatically stored as the offset.

Key specifications and features

- 0.05 dB relative power setting accuracy, 0.1 dB for multimode
- Settling time: 20 ms attenuation, 100 ms power, 200 ms multimode
- Accurate built-in power monitor
- Miniature bulk optics for multimode for best transfer of modal distribution
- Choice of FC/PC or FC/APC connectors for 9/125 µm SMF models
- Choice of 50, 62.5 or 80 µm core fiber type for multimode models
- 0.1 to 1000 dB/s or for multimode to 80 and 1000 dB/s attenuation transition speed (selectable)
- +23 dBm max. input power
- ± 1.2 dB (typ. 1.3 dB MMF) insertion loss
- 45 dB single-mode attenuation range (typ.)
- 35 dB multimode attenuation range
- −50 dBm to +20 dBm power setting range (−35 to +20 dBm MMF)
- One half-width rack unit
- Fully compatible with setups and programs developed using the Keysight 8157x modular attenuators
- Powerful and user-friendly GUI software
- Two instrument configurations can be stored and recalled
The Multi-Channel Attenuator Series – Product Configurations

N776xA multi-channel optical attenuators with internal power control
The Keysight N776xA multichannel optical attenuators with 1, 2 and 4 attenuator channels in one unit provide an excellent combination of versatility and density.

1-channel variable attenuator N7761A

Benefits
Compact instrument combines and integrates multiple functions for setting attenuation and power levels and optical power measurement to reduce CAPEX and floor space.

– Fast and precise setting of optical power levels in parallel with settling times of 100 ms (200ms multimode) for improved throughput.
– The multichannel attenuator sets and measures several ports at the same time, saving significant time characterizing multiport and multi-channel components and network equipment.
– Miniature bulk optics for multimode avoids distortion of modal distribution and assures stability and accurate power monitoring.
– Active power control keeps output power constant.
– The instrument can be controlled via LAN and USB, as well as GPIB for compatibility with existing equipment.
– An easy-to-use and intuitive graphical user interface speeds up the integration process.

2-channel N7762A SMF attenuator or N7766A MMF attenuator

4-channel N7764A SMF attenuator or N7768A MMF attenuator

N775xA multi-channel optical attenuators with internal power control and external power meter channels
The Keysight N775xA multichannel optical attenuators offer 1 or 2 attenuator channels combined with two power meter channels in one unit.

1-channel attenuator with two power meter channels N7751A

2-channel attenuator with two power meter channels N7752A
The N77xx-Viewer: An easy-to-use graphical user interface

The N77xx Windows-based graphical user interface offers flexible and convenient control of the instrument.
- Easy switching between channels with tabs.
- Overview window with all channels at a glance.
- Two instrument configurations can be stored and recalled.
- Enable or disable the attenuator’s output with one click.
- Choose between setting an attenuation or an output power.

Applications

Optical transceiver testing
One of the challenges in testing transceivers is parallelization of bit-error-ratio measurements for multiple-device and multichannel device measurements. Sensitivity measurements require fast and precise setting of optical power levels in parallel at the receiver inputs with settling times like 100 ms for improved throughput.

Modal fidelity for multimode fiber setups
Signals in multimode fibers are distributed over a range of mode groups that can have different loss and delay in a link. For dependable multimode transceiver testing, the instrument used to set the power level should not change this modal distribution. The bulk-optic filter and collimated beam path of Keysight multimode attenuators are the best way to assure homogeneous attenuation of all input modes and to optimize stability.

Optical network integration testing
When integrating and testing network equipment to test network transmission performance and network management, including meshed networks using ROADM, attenuators represent link spans between network nodes or amplifier stages.

The very fast attenuation and power setting response of the Keysight N775xAX and N776xAX attenuators allows simulation of many network configurations in a short time. In the path-blocking mode, fiber network cuts are emulated. With the attenuation and power ramp feature, the attenuation and/or the output power is changed at a defined rate of 0.1 dB/s to 1000 dB/s. This feature simulates slow and fast changes in the fiber network for testing the network management system.

Definitions

Generally, all specifications are valid at the stated operating and measurement conditions and settings, with uninterrupted line voltage.
Specifications (guaranteed) describe warranted product performance that is valid under the specified conditions. Specifications include guard bands to account for the expected statistical performance distribution, measurement uncertainties changes in performance due to environmental changes and aging of components.

Typical values (characteristics) describe the product performance that is usually met but not guaranteed. Typical values are based on data from a representative set of instruments.

General characteristics give additional information for using the instrument. These are general descriptive terms that do not imply a level of performance.
# Technical Specifications

Table 1. Single-mode fiber optical attenuators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N7751A, N7752A, N7761A, N7762A, N7764A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connectivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC/APC angled (Option -022) or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC/PC straight (Option -021) contact connector interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiber type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/125 µm SMF 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wavelength range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1260 nm to 1640 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenuation range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 dB to 40 dB (45 dB typ.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Table 1. Single-mode fiber optical attenuators</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenuation setting mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeatability¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy (uncertainty) ¹⁻³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative accuracy (uncertainty) ¹⁻²⁻⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarization dependent loss ⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settling time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insertion loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attenuation transition speed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative uncertainty of monitor power meter ²⁻¹⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averaging time of monitor power meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum safe input power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical path blocking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. At constant operating conditions.
2. For unpolarized light. Temperature constant and between (23 ± 5) °C.
3. For (1310 ± 15) nm, (1490 ± 10) nm and (1550 ± 15) nm.
4. Output power > −40 dBm, input power < +10 dBm. For input power > +10 dBm add typ. ± 0.02 dB.
5. For (1550 ± 15) nm. Add typ. 0.05 dB for (1310 ± 15) nm and (1490 ± 10) nm.
6. Output power > −30 dBm, input power < +10 dBm.
7. For 20 dB step.
8. For (1550 ± 15) nm. Add typ. 0.20 dB for (1310 ± 15) nm and (1490 ± 10) nm.
10. For (1550 ± 15) nm.
## Technical Specifications (continued)

### Table 2. Multimode fiber optical attenuators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N7766A and N7768A</th>
<th>Connectivity</th>
<th>FC/PC straight contact connector interface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connectivity</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fiber type</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wavelength range</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fiber type</strong></td>
<td>50/125 µm (Option 050) or 62.5/125 µm (Option 062)</td>
<td>800 nm to 1370 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wavelength range</strong></td>
<td>80 µm-core (Option 080) MMF</td>
<td><strong>Attenuation range</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attenuation range</strong></td>
<td>0 dB to 35 dB</td>
<td><strong>Attenuation setting mode</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Range</strong></td>
<td>0 dB to 35 dB</td>
<td><strong>Power setting mode</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resolution</strong></td>
<td>0.03 dB</td>
<td>–35 dBm to +20 dBm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Repeatability</strong></td>
<td>± 0.025 dB</td>
<td>± 0.025 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy (uncertainty)</strong></td>
<td>± 0.25 dB; typ. ± 0.15 dB</td>
<td>± 0.1 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relative accuracy (uncertainty)</strong></td>
<td>± 0.1 dB</td>
<td>± 0.1 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Settling time (for 20 dB step)</strong></td>
<td>typ. 200 ms</td>
<td>typ. 200 ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Insertion loss</strong></td>
<td>± 2.0 dB; typ. ± 1.3 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attenuation transition speed</strong></td>
<td>Selectable from 0.1 to 80 and 1000 dB/s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relative uncertainty of monitor power meter</strong></td>
<td>± 0.1 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Averaging time of monitor power meter</strong></td>
<td>2 ms to 1 s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Return loss</strong></td>
<td>typ. 25 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum safe input power</strong></td>
<td>+23 dBm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Optical path blocking</strong></td>
<td>typ. 60 dB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. At constant operating conditions.
2. Effective spectral bandwidth of input signal > 30 nm.
3. For mode launch conditions from IEEE 802.3: encircled flux < 30% in 4.5 µm radius and > 86% inside 19 µm for 50/125 µm fiber; < 25% inside 4.5 µm and > 75% inside 15 µm for 62.5/125 µm fiber; encircled flux < 30% in 7 µm radius and > 86% inside 30 µm for 80 µm-core fiber (scaled from 50/125 µm conditions).
4. For unpolarized light. Temperature constant and within (23 ± 5) °C.
5. For unpolarized light. Temperature constant and within (23 ± 5) °C.
6. For 2 ms averaging time. Output power > –30 dBm, input power < +10 dBm, attenuation setting ≤ 30 dB.
7. The return loss is primarily limited by the return loss of the front-panel connections.
8. Keysight assumes no responsibility for damage caused by scratched or poorly cleaned connectors.
Table 4. Optical power meter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N7751A and N7752A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensor element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wavelength range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specification wavelength range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum safe power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averaging time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicable fiber type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainty at reference conditions 1, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total uncertainty 2, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linearity 7 at (23 ± 5)°C over operating temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarization dependent responsivity (PDR) 3, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectral ripple (due to interference) 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drift (dark) 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise pp (dark) 3, (1s averaging time, 300s observation time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return loss 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Reference conditions:
   Single mode fiber SMF 9 µm. Power level: –20 dBm to 0 dBm.
   On day of calibration (add ± 0.3% for aging over one year; add ± 0.6% for aging over two years).
   Spectral width of source < 10 nm FWHM.
   Wavelength setting of power sensor corresponds to source wavelength ± 0.4 nm.

2. Operating conditions:
   Single mode fiber SMF. For multimode fiber, typical.
   Within one year of calibration; add ± 0.3% for second year.
   Spectral width of source < 10 nm FWHM.
   Wavelength setting of power sensor corresponds to source wavelength ± 0.4 nm.

3. Ambient temperature (23 ± 5) °C.
4. Temperature constant within ± 1 K after zeroing.
5. Excluding noise and offset drift.
6. Power range –60 dBm to +10 dBm.
7. Power range –40 dBm to +10 dBm. For power < –40 dBm add 0.05 dB.
8. Straight connector, SMF.
9. Angled connector 8°, ceramic ferrule, SMF.
10. For constant state of polarization, source linewidth < 100 MHz, angled connector 8°, wavelength range 1260 nm to 1625 nm. Add ± 0.01 dB typ. within specification wavelength range for straight connector with ceramic ferrule.
General Characteristics

Dimensions (D x W x H):
1U half-rack mount kit
372 mm x 212 mm x 43 mm
for N7766A and N7768A
460 mm x 212 mm x 43 mm
(excluding front and back rubber cushions)

Weight:
Approx. 3 kg

Recommended recalibration period
24 month

Operating temperature
+5 °C to +40 °C

Operating humidity
15% to 95%, non-condensing

Altitude
The maximum operating altitude is 2000 m.

Pollution protection
The Keysight N775xA/6xA is designed for pollution degree 2.

Warm-up time
20 minutes

Interfaces
The instruments can be controlled via LAN, USB or GPIB interfaces

Power consumption
Line power: AC 100 - 240 V ± 10%, 50/60 Hz, 60 VA max.

Ordering Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N7751A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (1 channel) with optical power meter (2 channels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7752A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (2 channels) with optical power meter (2 channels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7761A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (1 channel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7762A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (2 channels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7764A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (4 channels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7766A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (2 channels multimode)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N7768A</td>
<td>Optical attenuator (4 channels multimode)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connector interface options
(for N7751A, N7752A, N7761A, N7762A, N7764A)

-021 Straight-contact FC/PC, 9/125 μm SMF
-022 Angled-contact FC/APC, 9/125 μm SMF

Multimode fiber options (for N7766A, N7768A)

-050 50/125 μm MMF, straight-contact FC/PC connector
-062 60/125 μm MMF, straight-contact FC/PC connector
-080 80 μm-Core MMF, straight-contact FC/PC connector

Accessories
N7744-100 Rack Mount Kit for 1 or 2 Units

Calibration

Select Keysight calibration plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calibration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R-50C-011-3</td>
<td>3-year calibration assurance plan (return to Keysight): Priority calibration service covering all calibration costs for 3 years; 15% cheaper than buying stand-alone calibrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R-50C-011-5</td>
<td>5-year calibration assurance plan (return to Keysight): Priority calibration service covering all calibration costs for 5 years; 20% cheaper than buying stand-alone calibrations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Published in USA, December 1, 2017
5990-4394EN
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