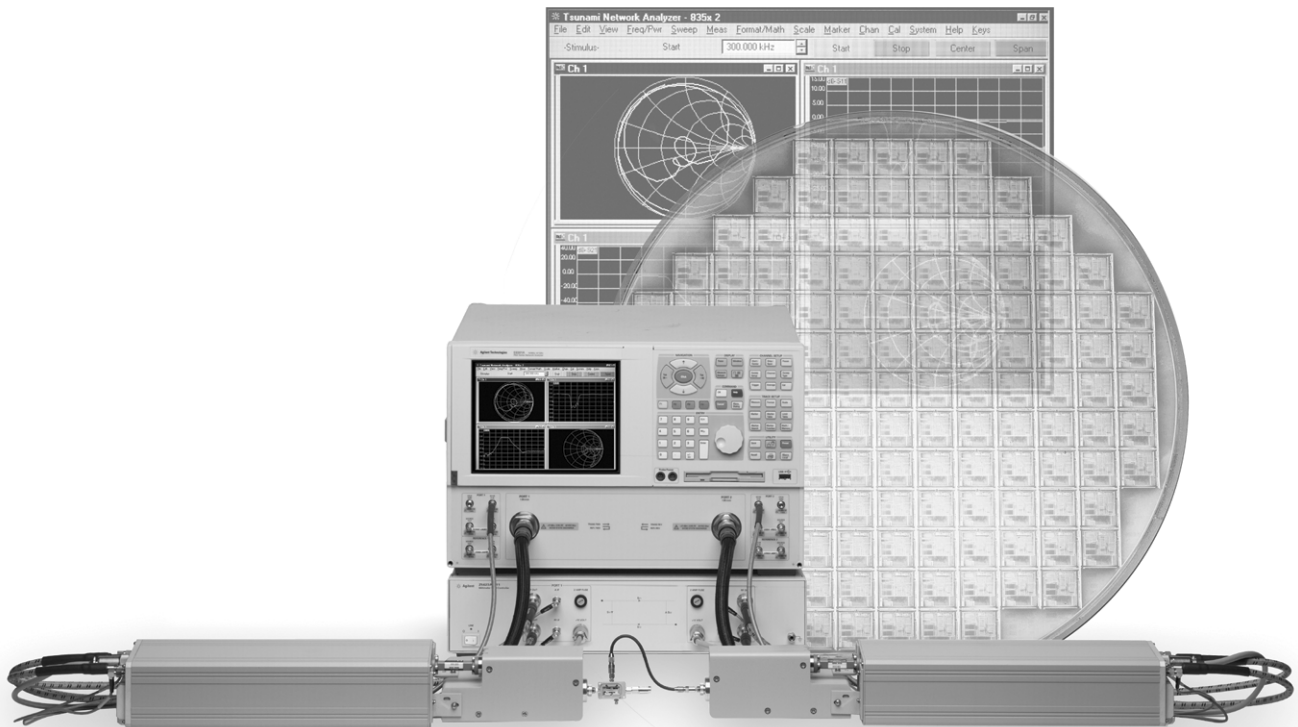


Agilent N5250A PNA Millimeter-Wave Network Analyzer 10 MHz to 110 GHz

Technical Overview



High Performance Bench-Top Network Analyzer

- Maximize your frequency coverage with a single sweep from 10 MHz to 110 GHz
- Minimize space and maintenance costs with compact test heads and two built-in synthesizers
- Optimize your test setup with 29 IFBW settings, 32 channels, 64 traces, and 16,001 points
- Capitalize on high performance with exceptionally accurate measurements inherent to the PNA Series of network analyzers



Agilent Technologies

*Built on a solid foundation, the new Agilent N5250A 110 GHz system brings PNA Series **performance, flexibility, ease-of-use, and connectivity** to your design and test challenges in millimeter-wave applications. This system enables you to characterize your broadband coaxial and on-wafer devices with exceptional accuracy and speed.*



N5250A Key Features and Benefits

- 10 MHz to 110 GHz frequency range in a single sweep.
- Achieve sweep speeds up to 42 times faster than the 8510XF network analyzer.
- 16,001 points allow you to calibrate once over a wide frequency range and then focus in on frequencies of interest.
- Two new calibration capabilities, data-based calibration standards and expanded calibration algorithm, offer enhanced accuracy and design confidence.
- 8510 Series to PNA Series code conversion assistant helps current 8510 users convert their code to the innovative and flexible PNA Series platform.

N5250A PNA Millimeter-Wave Network Analyzer

Performance

The N5250A offers unsurpassed performance for broadband, mm-wave measurements. Figure 1 demonstrates the superb dynamic range of the N5250A system compared to Agilent's previous 8510XF system when measuring a connectorized bandpass filter at 94 GHz.

The N5250A also offers superb speed, with measurements up to 42 times faster than the 8510XF. All of this performance comes in a compact package that requires no external synthesizers. The port 1 mm-wave test head has a 25 dB attenuator to control power using a continuously adjustable micrometer.

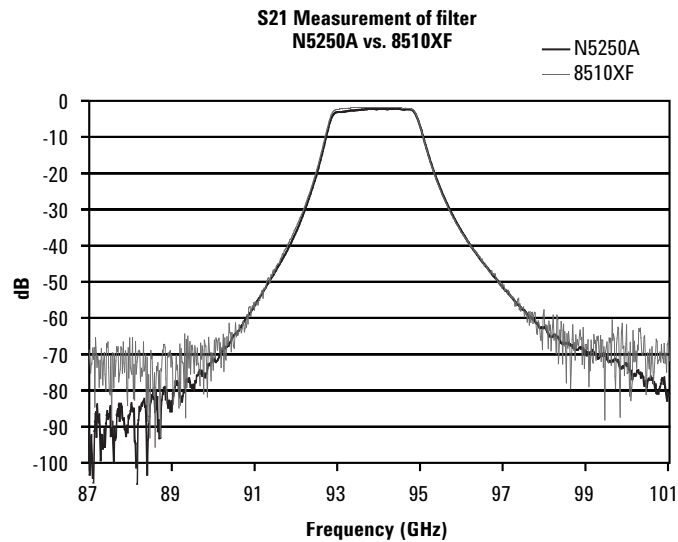


Figure 1. S21 filter measurement comparisons with Agilent's N5250A and 8510XF systems.

The N5250A offers excellent performance for on-wafer measurements as well. Option 017 and 018 add 67 GHz bias-tees to the combiner assembly, between the input to the combiner and the 67 GHz coupler. The bias-tees have tri-axial connectors for force, sense, and ground. Positioning the bias-tees close to the DUT greatly improves stability for on-wafer and in-fixture devices.



Figure 2. N5250A 110 GHz mm-wave system with Cascade Microtech's probe station.

Figure 3 shows an S11 measurement of a 40 ps transmission line made on a Cascade Microtech¹ Summit probe station with an Infinity probe. The N5250A is fully compatible with the Wavevue Measurement Studio Software from Cascade.

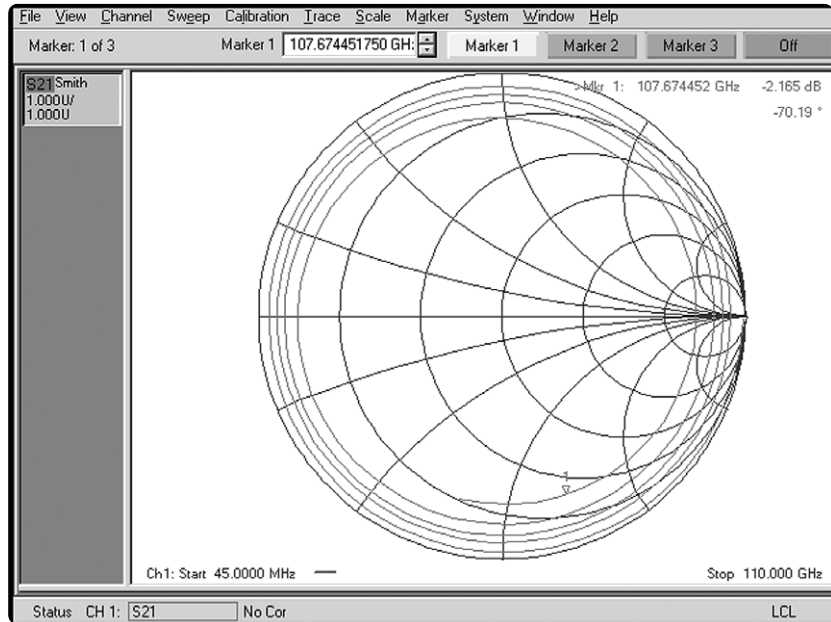


Figure 3. S11 measurement of a 40 ps transmission line made on a Cascade Microtech Summit probe station with an Infinity probe.

Flexibility

The N5250A builds on the flexibility and performance of Agilent's PNA series of network analyzers. Purchase the full N5250A system initially, and have the flexibility of both a 10 MHz to 67 GHz PNA and mm-wave heads covering 67 GHz to 110 GHz, which combine to create a broadband, high performance 110 GHz system.

Alternatively, purchase an E8361A PNA with Option H11 (covering 10 MHz to 67 GHz) now, and you can easily upgrade in the future to the 110 GHz system by simply adding the N5260A mm-wave controller and test heads.

Ease of use

The N5250A uses the standard PNA firmware, allowing you to: leverage software between PNA series network analyzers, regardless of the frequency range of your measurement; manually control the instrument, using either the front panel or a mouse to access the simple pull-down menus; and utilize the Cal Wizard, which will guide you step-by-step through the most complicated of calibrations.

Also, an extensive, context-sensitive Help system thoroughly explains all of the PNA's features. In any dialogue box, simply click on the "Help" button to see a detailed explanation of the feature you are using. Programming examples in both SCPI and COM are also included.

1. Cascade Microtech is an Agilent channel partner.

Connectivity

Windows® built-in operating system and familiar user interface provides both ease-of-use and connectivity.

- Capture images quickly easily and in .jpg, .bmp, and .png formats for easy data analysis, archiving, and printing.
- Control the analyzer using SCPI commands or gain the speed and connectivity advantage of COM/DCOM.
- Develop code in programming environments such as Visual Basic®, Visual Basic.NET, Visual C++, Visual C++.NET, Agilent-VEE, or LabView.
- Execute code directly from the analyzer or remotely with an external PC through LAN or GPIB, or multiple USB ports.
- Use multiple USB ports to control a variety of peripherals.

The N5250A PNA and the entire series of microwave PNA instruments are based on the Windows® 2000 operating system, which makes operation and programming simple, and provides a powerful environment in which easy-to-use measurement functions and PC capabilities are seamlessly linked. In addition, the new millimeter-wave PNA has linkages to Agilent's Advanced Design System (ADS) and IC-CAP modeling software.

Typical Performance¹

Test port power (dBm)	1.0 mm test port (standard configuration ² or Option 017 ³)	1.85 mm PNA port
10 to 45 MHz	-8	-7
45 to 500 MHz	-3	-1
500 MHz to 2 GHz	0	+2
2 to 10 GHz	-2	+2
10 to 24 GHz	-5	0
24 to 30 GHz	-7	0
30 to 40 GHz	-10	-1
40 to 45 GHz	-15	-5
45 to 50 GHz	-12	-1
50 to 60 GHz	-17	-4
60 to 67 GHz	-22	-8
67 to 70 GHz	-9	n/a
70 to 75 GHz	-7	n/a
75 to 80 GHz	-6	n/a
80 to 100 GHz	-5	n/a
100 to 110 GHz	-8	n/a

Noise floor ⁴ (dBm)	1.0 mm test port	1.85 mm PNA port
10 to 45 MHz	-71	-72
45 to 500 MHz	-97	-98
500 MHz to 2 GHz	-120	-121
2 to 10 GHz	-118	-121
10 to 24 GHz	-116	-121
24 to 30 GHz	-107	-112
30 to 40 GHz	-102	-108
40 to 45 GHz	-99	-106
45 to 50 GHz	-97	-104
50 to 60 GHz	-97	-104
60 to 67 GHz	-97	-103
67 to 70 GHz	-77	n/a
70 to 75 GHz	-81	n/a
75 to 80GHz	-91	n/a
80 to 100 GHz	-94	n/a
100 to 110 GHz	-95	n/a

1. Typical performance is expected performance of an average unit which does not include guardbands. It is not covered by the product warranty.

2. Assumes a 30-inch cable from PNA 1.85 mm Test Port Out is used to provide the 10 MHz to 67 GHz source signal. The standard configuration does not have a bias tee in the 1.0 mm head.

3. Assumes a 30-inch cable from PNA Source Out bulkhead connector is used to provide the 10 MHz to 67 GHz source signal. Option 017 includes a bias tee in the 1.0 mm head.

4. Measured at test port in a 10 Hz bandwidth.

System dynamic range¹ (dBm)	1.0 mm test port	1.85 mm PNA port
10 to 45 MHz	63	65
45 to 500 MHz	94	97
500 MHz to 2 GHz	120	123
2 to 10 GHz	116	123
10 to 24 GHz	111	121
24 to 30 GHz	100	112
30 to 40 GHz	92	107
40 to 45 GHz	84	101
45 to 50 GHz	85	103
50 to 60 GHz	80	100
60 to 67 GHz	70	95
67 to 70 GHz	68	n/a
70 to 75 GHz	74	n/a
75 to 80 GHz	85	n/a
80 to 100 GHz	89	n/a
100 to 110 GHz	87	n/a

Test port damage level (dBm)	1.0 mm test port	1.85 mm PNA port
10 MHz to 110 GHz	+27	+27

Measurement cycle time² (ms) *Forward sweep, uncorrected*

	Number of points					
	51	101	201	401	801	1601
10 MHz to 110 GHz 10 kHz IFBW	300	400	500	600	700	1000
58 to 62 GHz 10 kHz IFBW			111			
75 to 79 GHz 10 kHz IFBW			93			

Cycle time vs. IF bandwidth *Forward sweep, uncorrected, 201 points*

IF bandwidth (Hz)	45 MHz to 100 GHz cycle time (ms)	75 to 79 GHz cycle time (ms)
10000	500	93
1000	800	267
100	3500	2000
10	20900	18200

1. Measured at test port in a 10 Hz bandwidth.
2. "Cycle time" includes sweep time, retrace time, and band-crossing time. For a full 2-port corrected measurement with forward and reverse sweeps, the cycle times above should be approximately double.

On-wafer applications

For on-wafer applications, Cascade Microtech provides complete probing systems using the N5250A. These include both new probing systems and upgrades to existing Cascade Microtech products. Cascade can also provide on-wafer verification and probing system training. Once the N5250A system is verified in coax, Cascade Microtech will verify the system through its wafer probes.

1.0 mm accessories

The following accessories are available for use with the N5250A system, but are not included in the system.

- 11500I 1.0 mm (f-f) test port cable (8.8 cm)
- 11500J 1.0 mm (m-f) test port cable (16.0 cm)¹
- 11500K 1.0 mm (m-f) test port cable (20.0 cm)¹
- 11500L 1.0 mm (m-f) test port cable (24.0 cm)¹
- 85059A DC to 110 GHz precision calibration/verification kit
- V281C 1.0 mm (f) to V-band waveguide adapter
- V281D 1.0 mm (m) to V-band waveguide adapter
- W281C 1.0 mm (f) to W-band waveguide adapter
- W281D 1.0 mm (m) to W-band waveguide adapter
- 11920A 1.0 mm (m) to 1.0 mm (m) adapter
- 11920B 1.0 mm (f) to 1.0 mm (f) adapter
- 11920C 1.0 mm (m) to 1.0 mm (f) adapter
- 11921A 1.0 mm (m) to 1.85 mm (m) adapter
- 11921B 1.0 mm (f) to 1.85 mm (f) adapter
- 11921C 1.0 mm (m) to 1.85 mm (f) adapter
- 11921D 1.0 mm (f) to 1.85 mm (m) adapter
- 11922A 1.0 mm (m) to 2.4 mm (m) adapter
- 11922B 1.0 mm (f) to 2.4 mm (f) adapter
- 11922C 1.0 mm (m) to 2.4 mm (f) adapter
- 11922D 1.0 mm (f) to 2.4 mm (m) adapter
- 11923A 1.0 mm (f) connector launch assembly

1. For on-wafer applications, two 11500J/K/L cables are required; one cable for each test port.

N5250A System Block Diagram

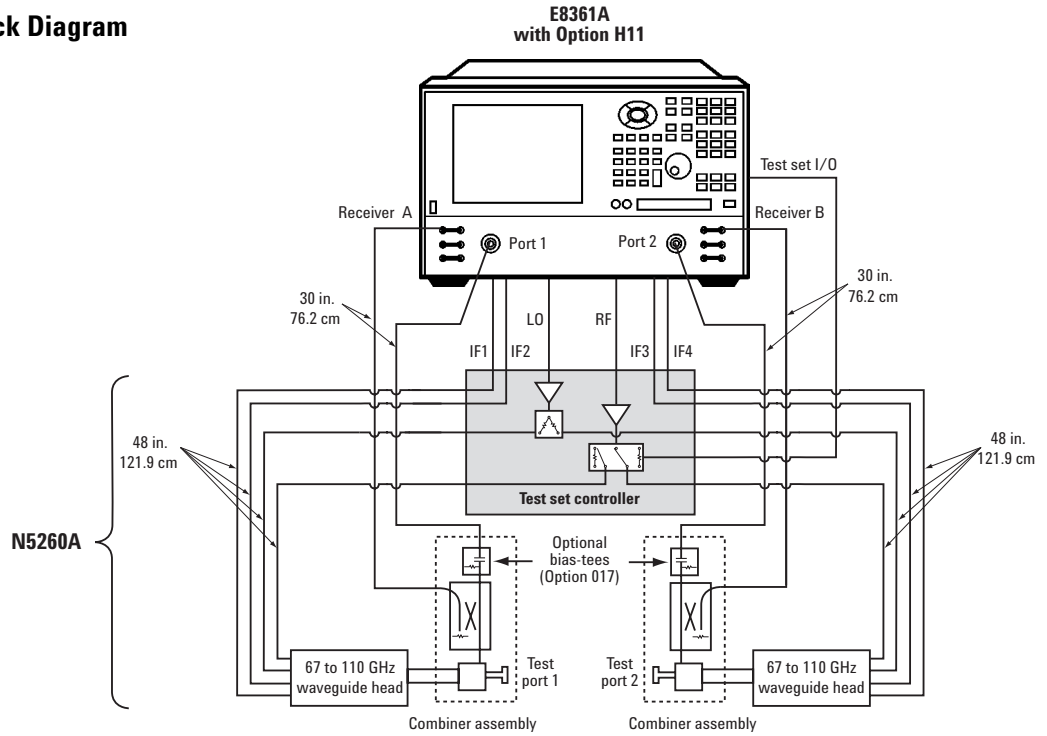


Figure 4. With Option 017, the signal is routed out of PNA from the front panel jumpers rather than the ports. Without Option 017, the signal is routed from the front panel ports to the combiner assembly, allowing access to the PNA's internal bias-tees.

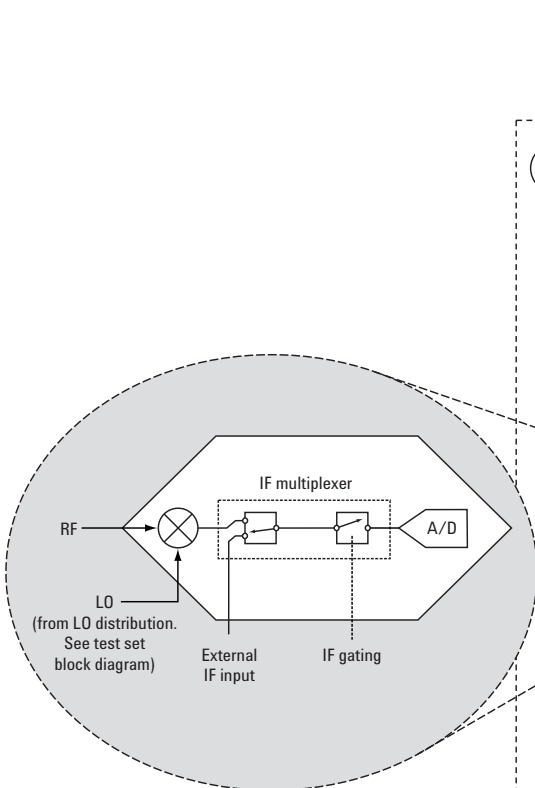


Figure 5. Simplified receiver block diagram

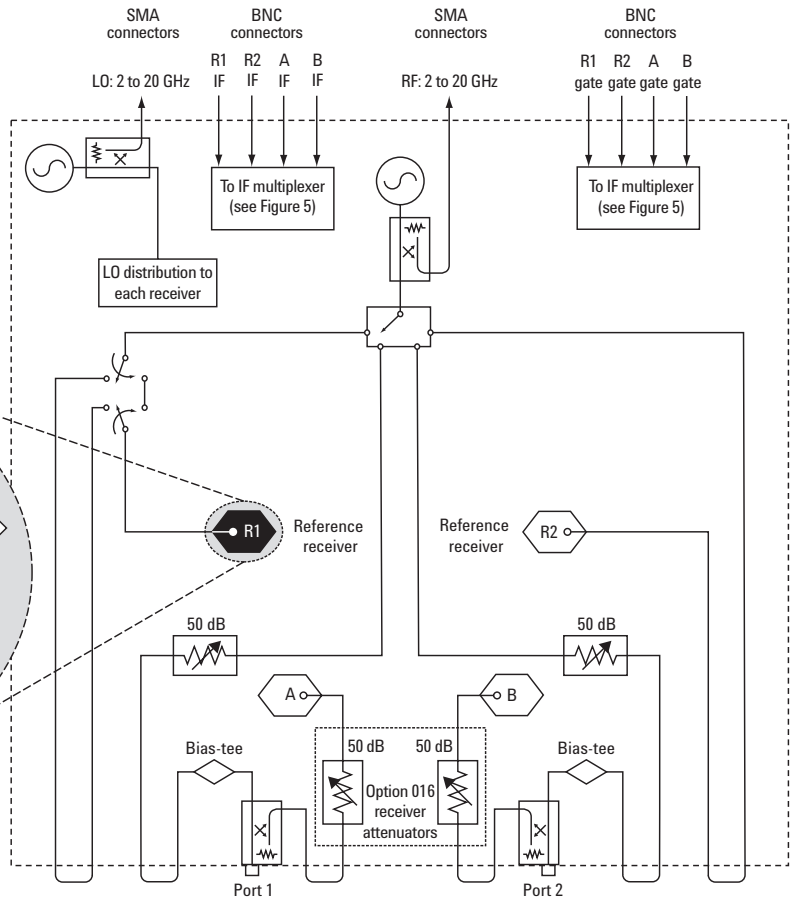


Figure 6. PNA test set block diagram

N5250A Configuration *(block diagram detail shown in Figure 4)*

- E8361A PNA microwave network analyzer which supplies the signal for frequencies up to 67 GHz
- Millimeter-wave test set controller drives the mm-wave test heads for performance up to 110 GHz
- The combiner assembly contains a 67 GHz coupler and a combiner that combines the 10 MHz to 67 GHz signal from the PNA with the 67 GHz to a 110 GHz signal from the mm-wave test heads. Option 017 allows you to add bias-tees to the combiner assembly for added measurement stability for on-wafer and in-fixture devices.
- Millimeter-wave test heads provide the signal from 67 GHz to 110 GHz
- Miscellaneous cables

N5250A Ordering Information

With the N5250A, you receive all of the features and flexibility of the PNA platform including:

- Windows architecture
- LAN, GPIB, and multiple USB ports
- 29 IFBW settings, 32 channels, 64 traces, and 16,001 points per trace
- Frequency converter measurements¹, pulsed-RF measurements¹, and time-domain transform applications

N5250A PNA MW system, 10 MHz to 110 GHz, includes:

E8361A MW PNA with IF access (Option H11)

- Configurable test set – Option 014 (required)
- Extended power range and bias-tees – Option UNL (required)
- Frequency-offset mode – Option 080 (required)
- Reference channel switch – Option 081 (required)

Standard millimeter-wave test set controller

- 67 GHz to 110 GHz test heads, micrometer attenuator on port 1
- 1.0 mm combiner assembly
- Interconnecting cables
- Installation and productivity assistance

Additional options available:

- Millimeter-wave modules with bias-tees – Option 017
- Millimeter-wave modules with bias-tees and port 2 attenuator – Option 018
- Receiver attenuator – Option 016¹
- Time-domain capability – Option 010
- Extended memory (512 MB) – Option 022
- Pulsed-RF measurement capability – Option H08¹
- Frequency converter application – Option 083¹

Factory integration of the N5250A system integrates the E8361A with Option H11 and the N5260A millimeter-wave test set controller. On-site installation is included, and the entire system carries a full one-year, on-site warranty (where available).

1. Up to 67 GHz.

Available separately

E8361A MW PNA with IF access (Option H11) enabled for 110 GHz operation, includes:

- Configurable test set – Option 014 (required)
- Extended power range and bias-tees – Option UNL (required)
- Frequency-offset mode – Option 080 (required)
- Reference channel switch – Option 081 (required)

Additional options available:

- Receiver attenuator – Option 016
- Time-domain capability – Option 010
- Extended memory (512 MB) – Option 022
- Pulsed-RF measurement capability – Option H08¹
- Frequency converter application – Option 083¹

In the future when you require measurements up to 110 GHz, you can purchase the N5260A millimeter-wave controller separately to complete the system.

N5260A millimeter-wave test set controller, includes:

- Millimeter-wave test set controller
- Interconnecting cables
- Installation and productivity assistance

Additional options available:

- 67 GHz to 110 GHz test heads with combiner assembly - Option 110
- 67 GHz to 110 GHz test heads with combiner assembly and bias-tees- Option 120
- 67 GHz to 110 GHz test heads with combiner assembly, bias-tees, and port 2 attenuator - Option 130

Banded waveguide solution

In order to assemble a banded waveguide solution, the following components are needed:

- Microwave PNA network analyzer (E8361A, E8362/3/4B) with the following options:
 - IF access – Option H11
 - Configurable test set – Option 014
 - Extended power range and bias-tees – Option UNL
 - Frequency-offset mode – Option 080
 - Reference channel switch – Option 081
- Millimeter-wave test set controller (N5260A) with no options
- Oleson Microwave Millimeter Wave VNA Frequency Extension Modules (VNA2) in your frequency range of choice (please visit: www.omlmmw.com)

Option Descriptions

• Millimeter-wave modules with bias-tees (Option 017)

Adds 67 GHz bias-tees to the combiner assembly between the input to the combiner and the 67 GHz coupler. The bias-tees have tri-axial connectors for force, sense, and ground. Positioning the bias-tees close to the DUT greatly improves stability for on-wafer and in-fixture devices. The bias-tees added for this option have a voltage rating of 40 volts and a maximum of 0.5 amps.

• Millimeter-wave modules with bias-tees and port 2 attenuator (Option 018)

Adds 67 GHz bias-tees to the combiner assembly between the input to the combiner and the 67 GHz coupler. The bias-tees have tri-axial connectors for force, sense, and ground. Positioning the bias-tees close to the DUT greatly improves stability for on-wafer and in-fixture devices. The bias-tees added for this option have a voltage rating of 40 volts and a maximum of 0.5 amps. Additionally, Option 018 adds a 25 dB micrometer attenuator to the port 2 test head.

1. Up to 67 GHz.

- **IF access (Option H11)**
 Provides hardware to enable antenna, point-in pulse, and broadband millimeter-wave measurements to 110 GHz. For each of the MW PNA's measurement receivers, IF gates (enabled with pulsed measurement capability, Option H08) and external IF inputs are added. In addition, access to the PNA's internal RF and LO source is provided for remote mixing applications. For basic antenna measurements, only Option H11 is necessary. Pulsed antenna applications also require the pulsed measurement capability (Option H08). Broadband measurements to 110 GHz, also requires an N5260A.

 - Use external IF access for up to 20 dB more sensitivity when making antenna measurements with a remote mixing configuration
 - Add Option H08 (Pulsed-RF Measurement Capability) to enable advanced pulsed measurements
 - Upgrade an E8361A with Option H11 to a broadband (10 MHz to 110 GHz) VNA system simply by purchasing an N5260A controller test set
- **Time-domain capability (Option 010)**
 Used for viewing reflection and transmission responses in time or distance domain.
- **Configurable test set (Option 014)**
 Provides six front panel access loops. The loops provide access to the signal path between (a) the source output and the reference receiver, (b) the source output and directional coupler thru arm and (c) the coupled arm of the directional coupler and the port receiver.
- **Extended power range and bias tees (Option UNL)¹**
 A 50 dB step attenuator and bias-tee set is inserted between the source and test port one and another set between the source and test port two.
- **Frequency offset (Option 080)¹**
 This option enables the PNA Series microwave network analyzers to set the source frequency independently from where the receivers are tuned.
- **Reference receiver switch (Option 081)**
 Option 081 adds a solid-state internal RF transfer switch in the R1 reference-receiver path. The switch allows the instrument to easily switch between standard S-parameter (non-frequency-offset) measurements and frequency-offset measurements such as relative phase or absolute group delay that require an external reference mixer.
- **Frequency converter measurement application (Option 083)¹**
 The frequency converter application adds an intuitive and easy-to-use user interface, advanced calibration choices that provide exceptional amplitude and phase accuracy, and control of external signal sources for use as local oscillators.
- **Add receiver attenuators (Option 016)¹**
 A 50 dB step attenuator is added between each test port and its corresponding receiver.
- **Pulsed-RF measurement capability (Option H08)¹**
 Provides software to set up and control pulsed-RF measurements with point-in-pulse capability. The software sets the coefficients of the MW PNA 's digital-IF filter to null out unwanted spectral components, enables the IF gates provided with IF Access (Option H11), and controls selected Agilent pulse generators. It can be run on the PNA or an external computer. A ".dll" file containing the IF-filter algorithms is included for automated pulsed-RF testing. The pulsed application is configured to work with the Agilent 81110A series pulse generator. For more detailed information regarding pulsed measurement capabilities with the PNA refer to the Agilent Web site www.agilent.com/find/pna and download the *PNA Series MW Configuration Guide for Pulsed Measurements*, literature number 5988-9833EN.
- **Rack mount kit without handles (Option 1CM)**
 Adds a rack mount (5063-9217) and rail kit (E3663AC) for use without handles.
- **Rack mount kit with handles (Option 1CP)**
 Adds rack mount (5063-9237) and rail kit (E3663AC) for use with previously supplied handles.

1. Up to 67 GHz.

Key Web Resources

8510 Trade-up program

Safeguard your financial and engineering investments in your older equipment as you transition to the more advanced PNA Series platform. Trade-up your 8510 or 8530 Series today and take advantage of the performance and flexibility of the PNA Series through this limited time offer. For more information visit: www.agilent.com/find/8510

Engineering services for 8510 to PNA Series migration

Agilent's network analyzer experts can save you time and money by working with you to migrate your 8510 instruments and transition your test code quickly and easily. For more information visit: www.agilent.com/find/8510

Information resources

For more information on the N5250A PNA visit: www.agilent.com/find/pna



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Agilent Channel Partners

Our channel partners offer accessories and measurement solutions that extend your network analysis capabilities.

For information about probing equipment and accessories, contact:

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Telephone: (503) 601-1000
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E-mail: sales@cmicro.com

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