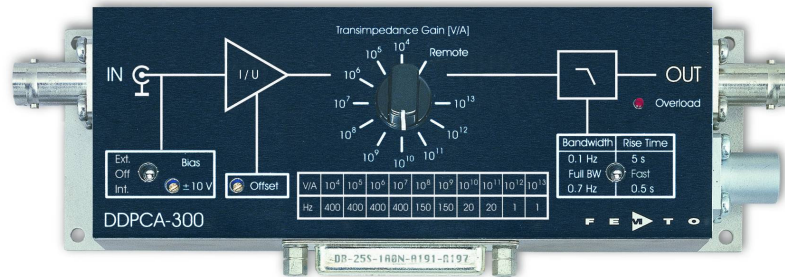


# Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier



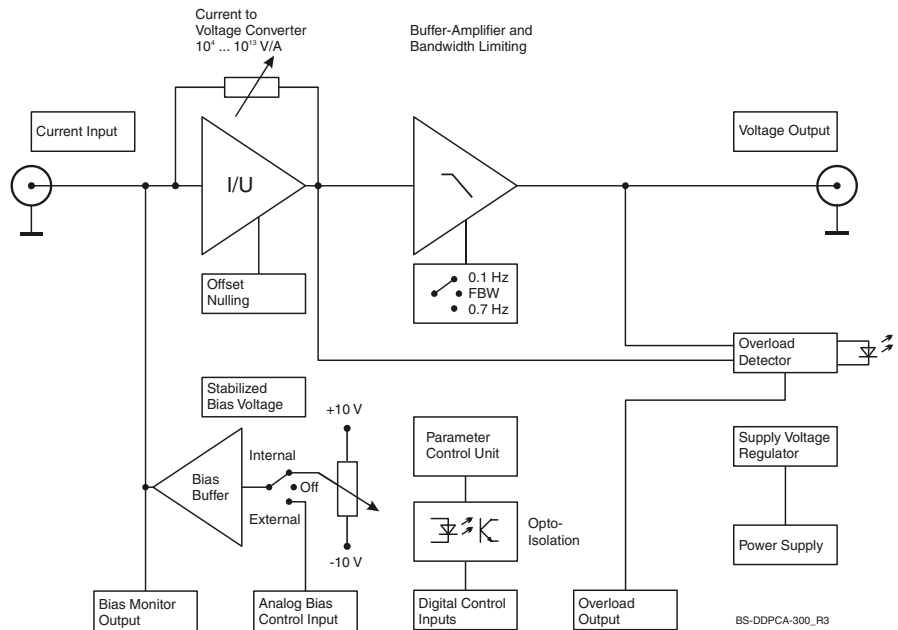
Features

- **0.4 fA Peak-Peak Noise**
- **Very High Dynamic Range: Sub-fA to 1 mA (> 240 dB)**
- **Transimpedance (Gain) Switchable from  $1 \times 10^4$  to  $1 \times 10^{13}$  V/A**
- **Bandwidth up to 400 Hz, Rise Time Down to 0.8 ms - Independent of Source Capacitance (up to 10 nF)**
- **Adjustable Bias Voltage on Input Relative to Ground**
- **Compact Housing for Use Close to the Signal Source**
- **Local and Remote Control**
- **Easy to Use:**  
**Convert Your Standard Digital Voltmeter or DAQ Board to a High-End Digital Sub Femto Amperemeter**

Applications

- **Photodetector Amplifier**
- **I/V Characterization of Small MOS Structures**
- **DC Measurements of Ultra Low Currents**
- **Ionization Detectors, Mass Spectrometry, Quantum and Biotech Experiments**
- **Characterization of High Impedance Nanomaterials**
- **Spectroscopy**
- **High Resistance Measurements**

Block Diagram



## Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

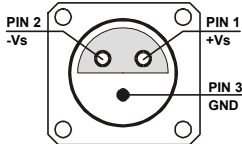
Specifications	<i>Test Conditions</i>	<i>V<sub>s</sub> = ± 15 V, T<sub>a</sub> = 25°C, Relative Humidity &lt; 35 %</i>				
Gain	Transimpedance	1 x 10 <sup>4</sup> ... 1 x 10 <sup>13</sup> V/A				
	Gain Accuracy	± 1 %				
	Gain Drift	see table below				
Frequency Response	Lower Cut-Off Frequency	DC				
	Upper Cut-Off Frequency	up to 400 Hz (see table below)				
	Adjustable Low Pass Filter	switchable to 3 settings (full bandwidth, 0.7 Hz and 0.1 Hz)				
		<u>Upper Cut-Off</u>	<u>Rise Time</u>			
		Full BW (see table below)	Fast (see table below)			
		0.7 Hz	0.5 s			
		0.1 Hz	5 s			
		Setting the low pass filter to full bandwidth is recommended for high measurement speed. By setting the low pass filter to 0.7 Hz or 0.1 Hz the peak-peak noise performance can be improved but the signal settling time will be longer.				
Input	Equ. Input Noise Current	gain setting dependent, see table below minimum input noise is 0.4 fA peak-peak (at gain setting 10 <sup>12</sup> or 10 <sup>13</sup> V/A with low pass filter switched to 0.1 Hz)				
	Input Bias Current	< 10 fA typ.				
	Input Bias Current Drift	factor 2 / 10 °C				
	Max. Input Current (Full Scale)	see table below (value for linear amplification)				
	Input Offset Compensation	adjustable by offset trimpot, ± 100 fA				
Performance Depending on Gain Setting	Gain Setting (V/A)	10 <sup>4</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup>	10 <sup>7</sup>	10 <sup>8</sup>
	Upper Cut-Off Frequency (- 3 dB)*	400 Hz	400 Hz	400 Hz	400 Hz	150 Hz
	Rise / Fall Time (10 % - 90 %)*	0.8 ms	0.8 ms	0.8 ms	0.8 ms	2.3 ms
	Integrated Input Noise Current (Peak-Peak)*	7 nA	7 nA	70 pA	70 pA	1.2 pA
	Spectral Input Noise Current Density (√Hz)	45 pA	45 pA	0.45 pA	0.45 pA	15 fA
	Measured at	10 Hz	10 Hz	10 Hz	10 Hz	10 Hz
	Gain Drift (°C)	0.01 %	0.01 %	0.01 %	0.01 %	0.01 %
	Max. Input Current (± Full Scale)	1 mA	0.1 mA	10 μA	1 μA	0.1 μA
	DC Input Impedance (// 5 pF)	< 1 Ω	< 1 Ω	< 1 Ω	< 1 Ω	< 100 Ω
	Gain Setting (continued) (V/A)	10 <sup>9</sup>	10 <sup>10</sup>	10 <sup>11</sup>	10 <sup>12</sup>	10 <sup>13</sup>
	Upper Cut-Off Frequency (- 3 dB)*	150 Hz	20 Hz	20 Hz	1 Hz	1 Hz
	Rise / Fall Time (10 % - 90 %)*	2.3 ms	17 ms	17 ms	350 ms	350 ms
	Integrated Input Noise Current (Peak-Peak)*	1.2 pA	50 fA	50 fA	2 fA	2 fA
	Spectral Input Noise Current Density (√Hz)	15 fA	1.3 fA	1.3 fA	0.2 fA	0.2 fA
	Measured at	10 Hz	1 Hz	1 Hz	0.4 Hz	0.4 Hz
	Gain Drift (°C)	0.01 %	0.03 %	0.03 %	0.03 %	0.03 %
	Max. Input Current (± Full Scale)	10 nA	1 nA	0.1 nA	10 pA	1 pA
	DC Input Impedance (// 5 pF)	< 100 Ω	< 10 kΩ	< 10 kΩ	< 1 MΩ	< 1 MΩ
	* The values for upper cut-off frequency, rise / fall time and integrated input noise current stated in the table above are achieved with the low pass filter set to "Full BW / Fast" (full bandwidth / fast rise time). Lower peak-peak noise values can be achieved by setting the low pass filter to 0.7 Hz or 0.1 Hz. In that case the bandwidth will be lower and the signal rise / fall time will be longer though.					

## Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Specifications (continued)

Output	Output Voltage	$\pm 10\text{ V}$ (@ $\geq 1\text{ M}\Omega$ load)
	Output Impedance	$50\ \Omega$ (terminate with $\geq 1\text{ M}\Omega$ load for best performance)
	Max. Output Current	$\pm 30\text{ mA}$
Adjustable Bias Voltage	General	An adjustable bias voltage is provided for directly biasing the device under test DUT (e.g. photodiode, high resistance semiconductor component). The bias voltage is connected to the inner conductor of the BNC input socket; the BNC-shield is always connected to analog ground. The bias voltage can be set either locally at the amplifier or through the remote interface. For measurements not requiring a bias voltage it can be fully disabled.
	Bias Voltage Range	$\pm 10\text{ V}$ at inner conductor of BNC input socket
	Bias Current	max. $\pm 10\text{ mA}$
Local Bias Adjustment	Bias Switch Setting	set bias switch to position "Int."
	Bias Adjustment	adjust bias voltage by bias trimpot
Remote Bias Adjustment	Bias Switch Setting	set bias switch to position "Ext."
	Bias Adjustment	adjust bias by analog control voltage fed to pin 8 of Sub-D connector (referred to AGND pin 3)
	Input Impedance of Control Pin 8	$200\text{ k}\Omega$
	Bias Control Voltage Range	$\pm 10\text{ V}$ at pin 8 (referred to AGND pin 3)
	Bias Control Polarity	inverting
	Example:	feeding a control voltage of $+ 2\text{ V}$ to pin 8 of the Sub-D connector leads to $- 2\text{ V}$ bias voltage at the inner conductor of the BNC input socket referred to BNC shield (analog ground, AGND)
Bias Deactivation	Bias Switch Setting	set bias switch to position "Off"
Bias Monitor Output	Range	$\pm 10\text{ V}$ , mirrors the adjusted bias voltage at the BNC input (inner conductor referred to AGND pin 3)
	Connector	pin 7 of Sub-D connector (referred to AGND pin 3)
	Output Impedance	$50\ \Omega$ (terminate with $\geq 1\text{ M}\Omega$ load for best performance)
Overload Indication	LED	lights when overload is detected
	Digital Output	active when overload is detected (non active: $0\text{ V}$ , max. $- 1\text{ mA}$ , active: $5.1\text{ V}$ , max. $7\text{ mA}$ ; referred to AGND pin 3)
Digital Control	Control Input Voltage Range	LOW bit: $- 0.8 \dots + 1.2\text{ V}$ , HIGH bit: $+ 2.3 \dots + 12\text{ V}$
	Control Input Current	$0\text{ mA}$ @ $0\text{ V}$ ; $1.5\text{ mA}$ @ $+ 5\text{ V}$ ; $4.5\text{ mA}$ @ $+ 12\text{ V}$
Auxiliary Power Output	Voltage	$\pm 12\text{ VDC}$ , stabilized, max. $\pm 50\text{ mA}$ (at Sub-D, may be used for supplying external devices up to $\pm 50\text{ mA}$ )
Power Supply	Supply Voltage	$\pm 15\text{ V}$
	Supply Current	$+ 70\text{ mA}$ / $- 15\text{ mA}$ typ. (depends on operating conditions, recommended power supply capability minimum $\pm 150\text{ mA}$ )
Case	Weight	$320\text{ g}$ ( $0.74\text{ lb.}$ )
	Material	AlMg4.5Mn, nickel-plated
Temperature Range	Storage Temperature	$- 40 \dots + 100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$
	Operating Temperature	$0 \dots + 50\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

## Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Absolute Maximum Ratings	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Signal Input Voltage</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><math>\pm 15</math> V relative to bias</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Transient Input Voltage</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><math>\pm 2</math> kV (discharge from 1 nF source)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Digital Control Input Voltage</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">- 5 V / + 16 V</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Bias Control Input Voltage</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><math>\pm 12</math> V</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Power Supply Voltage</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><math>\pm 20</math> V</td> </tr> </table>	Signal Input Voltage	$\pm 15$ V relative to bias	Transient Input Voltage	$\pm 2$ kV (discharge from 1 nF source)	Digital Control Input Voltage	- 5 V / + 16 V	Bias Control Input Voltage	$\pm 12$ V	Power Supply Voltage	$\pm 20$ V
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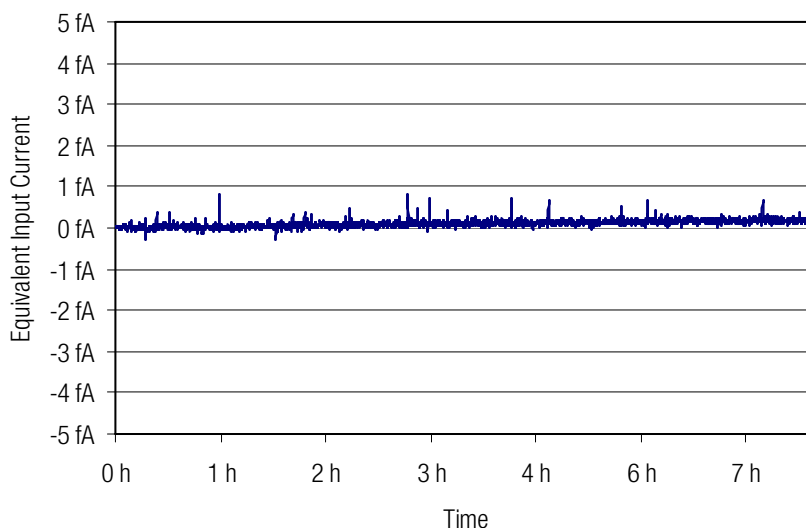
## Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Remote Control Operation	<p>General</p> <p>Remote control input bits are opto-isolated. For remote control operation set the rotary gain switch to the "Remote" position and select the desired gain setting via a bit code at the digital inputs.</p> <p>Switch settings "0.1 Hz / Full BW / 0.7 Hz" and "Bias Ext. / Off / Int." are not remote controllable.</p>																																																											
	<p>Gain Setting</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;"> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Gain (V/A)</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pin 13 MSB</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pin 12</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pin 11</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Pin 10 LSB</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^4</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^5</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^6</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^7</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^8</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^9</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^{10}</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^{11}</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^{12}</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"><math>10^{13}</math></td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">LOW</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">HIGH</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Gain (V/A)	Pin 13 MSB	Pin 12	Pin 11	Pin 10 LSB	$10^4$	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	$10^5$	LOW	LOW	LOW	HIGH	$10^6$	LOW	LOW	HIGH	LOW	$10^7$	LOW	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	$10^8$	LOW	HIGH	LOW	LOW	$10^9$	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	$10^{10}$	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	LOW	$10^{11}$	LOW	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	$10^{12}$	HIGH	LOW	LOW	LOW	$10^{13}$	HIGH	LOW	LOW	HIGH			
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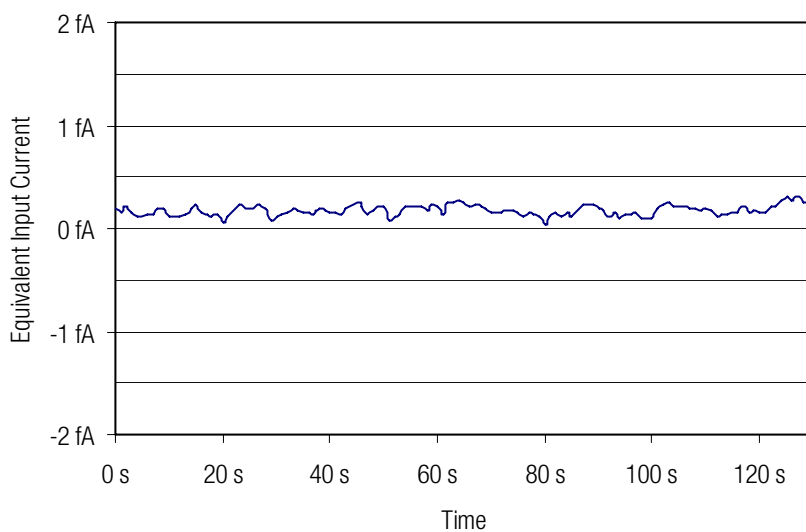
# Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Typical Performance  
Characteristics

Long Term Drift



Short Term Drift

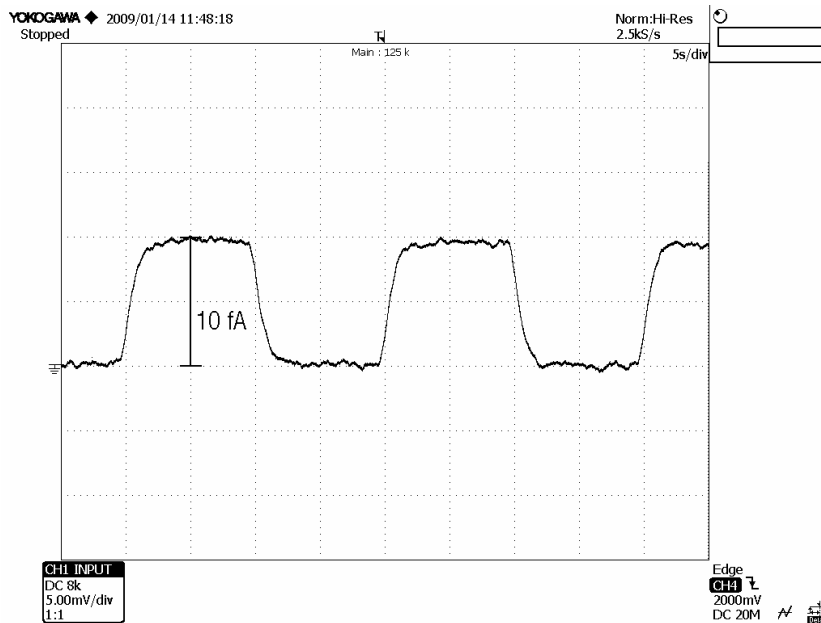


Both drift curves were recorded with shielded input in the gain setting  $10^{12}$  V/A, filter setting 0.1 Hz.

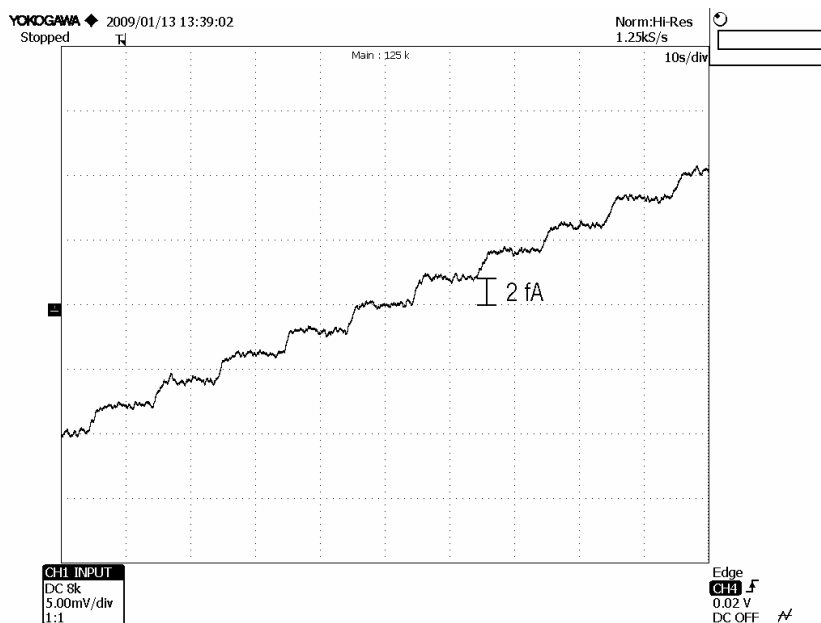
# Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Typical Performance  
Characteristics

10 fA square wave



2 fA step curve

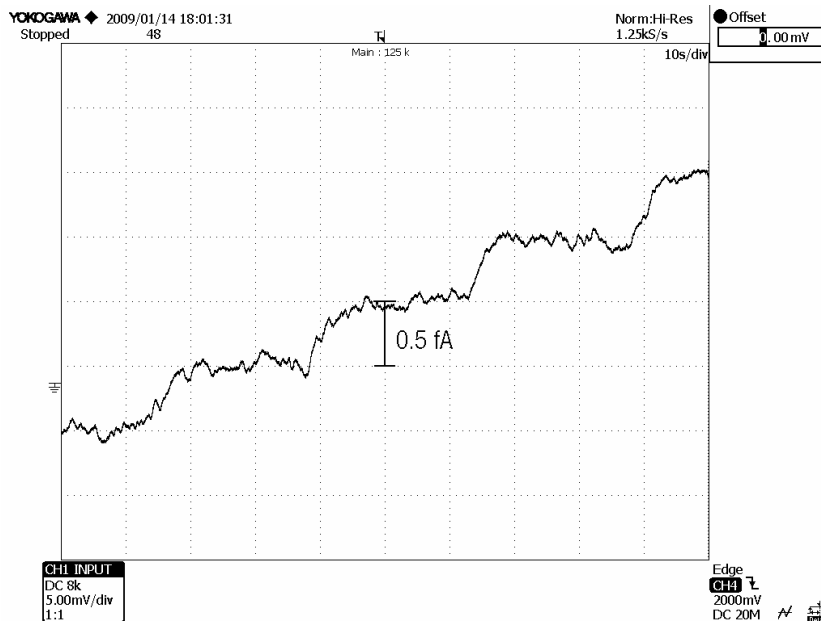


Both curves were recorded in the gain setting  $10^{12}$  V/A, filter setting 0.7 Hz, no external averaging.

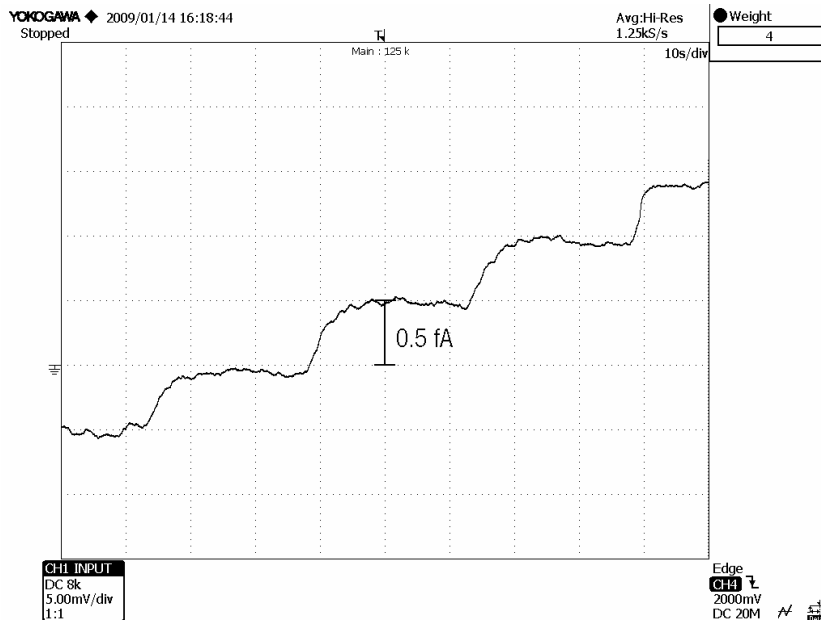
# Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Typical Performance  
Characteristics

0.5 fA step curve, no averaging



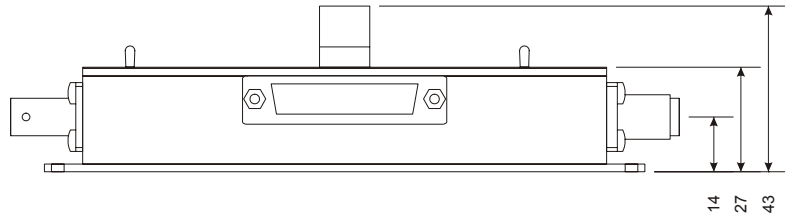
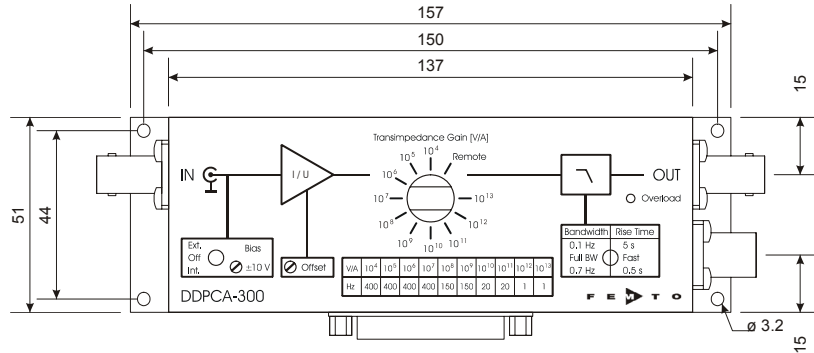
0.5 fA step curve, 4 times external averaging



Both curves were recorded in the gain setting  $10^{13}$  V/A, filter setting 0.1 Hz.

# Variable Gain Sub Femto Ampere Current Amplifier

Dimensions



all measures in mm unless otherwise noted

DZ-DDPCA-300\_R3

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