



PowerLab[®]
Teaching Series

Owner's Guide



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Contents

Safety Notes	5
1 Overview	11
How to Use This Guide	12
Software Installation	12
PowerLab Check.	12
The PowerLab	13
The Front Panel	13
Indicators	13
Trigger	13
Analog Output	15
Analog Inputs	15
Isolated Stimulator	16
The Bio Amp Inputs (Inputs 3 and 4)	16
The Back Panel	17
Audio Connector	18
I ² C Connector	18
USB Connector	18
Digital Input and Output Connectors	18
Ground Connector	19
Power Connector	19
The Bio Amp Cable	19
Other ADInstruments Hardware	20
2 Setting Up	21
The PowerLab Self-test	22
Connecting the PowerLab	23
ADInstruments Software	23
LabTutor Software	23
LabChart Software	23
The Isolated Stimulator	24
Choosing How Stimulation Should Start	24
Choosing a Stimulus Type	26
Creating a Custom Stimulus Waveform	26

Setting Stimulus Parameters	26
Marker Channel	27
The Stimulator Panel	27
The Bio Amp	28
Signal Display	28
Setting the Range	28
Filtering	29
Inverting the Signal	31
Units	31

A Technical Aspects 33

How it Works	34
The Analog Inputs	35
The Analog Outputs	35
The External Trigger	36
Bio Amp Input (Inputs 3 & 4)	37
The Isolated Stimulator Output	38
PowerLab Accuracy	39
Connectors	39
Digital Input and Output	39
I ² C Expansion Connector	40
Input Connectors	41
USB Connection	41
Earthing and Ground Loop Noise	42

B Specifications 43

Analog Inputs	43
Pod Connectors (DIN)	44
Sampling	44
Bio Amp Input – Inputs 3 & 4 (PowerLab 15T & 26T)	45
Output Amplifier	46
Isolated Stimulator Output (PowerLab 15T & 26T)	46
External Trigger (not on PowerLab 15T)	47
Expansion Ports (not on PowerLab 15T)	47
Microprocessor and Data Communication	47
Physical Configuration	47
Operating Requirements	48
Electromagnetic Compatibility	48
Emissions	48
Immunity	48
Separation Distances	50

C Glossary 51

Index 57



Safety Notes

Statement of Intended Use

All products manufactured by ADInstruments are intended for use in teaching and research applications and environments only. ADInstruments products are NOT intended to be used as medical devices or in medical environments. That is, no product supplied by ADInstruments is intended to be used to diagnose, treat or monitor a subject. Furthermore no product is intended for the prevention, curing or alleviation of disease, injury or handicap.

Where a product meets IEC 60601-1 it is under the principle that:

- it is a more rigorous standard than other standards that could be chosen, and
- it provides a high safety level for subjects and operators.

The choice to meet IEC 60601-1 is in no way to be interpreted to mean that a product:

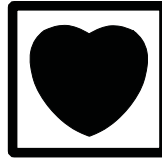
- is a medical device,
- may be interpreted as a medical device, or
- is safe to be used as a medical device.

Safety Symbols

Devices manufactured by ADInstruments that are designed for direct connection to humans are tested to IEC 601-1:1998 (including amendments 1 and 2) and 60601-1-2, and carry one or more of the safety symbols below. These symbols appear next to those inputs and output connectors that can be directly connected to human subjects.



BF symbol: Body-protected equipment



CF symbol: Cardiac-protected equipment



Warning symbol: 'see documentation'

The three symbols are:

- BF (body protected) symbol. This means that the input connectors are suitable for connection to humans provided there is no direct electrical connection to the heart.
- CF (cardiac protected) symbol. This means that the input connectors are suitable for connection to human subjects even when there is direct electrical connection to the heart.
- Warning symbol. The exclamation mark inside a triangle means that the supplied documentation must be consulted for operating, cautionary or safety information before using the device.

Further information is available on request.

Bio Amp Safety Instructions

The Bio Amp inputs displaying any of the safety symbols are electrically isolated from the mains supply in order to prevent current flow that may otherwise result in injury to the subject. Several points must be observed for safe operation of the Bio Amp:

- All Bio Amp front-ends (except for the ML138 Octal Bio Amp) and PowerLab units with a built-in Bio Amp are supplied with a 3-lead or 5-

lead Bio Amp subject cable and lead wire system. The ML138 Octal Bio Amp is supplied with unshielded lead wires (1.8 m). Bio Amps are only safe for human connection if used with the supplied subject cable and lead wires.

- All Bio Amp front-ends and PowerLab units with a built-in Bio Amp are not defibrillator-protected. Using the Bio Amp to record signals during defibrillator discharges may damage the input stages of the amplifiers. This may result in a safety hazard.
- Never use damaged Bio Amp cables or leads. Damaged cables and leads must always be replaced before any connection to humans is made.

Isolated Stimulator Safety Instructions

The Isolated Stimulator outputs of a front-end signal conditioner or PowerLab with a built-in isolated stimulator are electrically isolated. However, they can produce pulses of up to 100 V at up to 20 mA. Injury can still occur from careless use of these devices. Several points must be observed for safe operation of the Isolated Stimulator:

- The Isolated Stimulator output must only be used with the supplied bar stimulus electrode.
- The Isolated Stimulator output must not be used with individual (physically separate) stimulating electrodes.
- Stimulation must not be applied across the chest or head.
- Do not hold one electrode in each hand.
- Always use a suitable electrode cream or gel and proper skin preparation to ensure a low-impedance electrode contact. Using electrodes without electrode cream can result in burns to the skin or discomfort for the subject.
- Subjects with implantable or external cardiac pacemakers, a cardiac condition, or a history of epileptic episodes must not be subject to electrical stimulation.
- Always commence stimulation at the lowest current setting and slowly increase the current.
- Stop stimulation if the subject experiences pain or discomfort.
- Do not use faulty cables, or those that have exhibited intermittent faults.
- Do not attempt to measure or record the Isolated Stimulator waveform while connected to a subject using a PowerLab input or any other piece of equipment that does not carry the appropriate safety symbol (see Safety Symbols above).

Always check the status indicator on the front panel. It will always flash green each time the stimulator delivers a current pulse. A yellow flash indicates an 'out-of-compliance' (OOC) condition that may be due to the electrode contact drying up. Always ensure that there is good electrode contact at all times. Electrodes that are left on a subject for some time need to be checked for dry contacts. An electrode impedance meter can be used for this task.

- Always be alert for any adverse physiological effects in the subject. At the first sign of a problem, stimulation must be stopped, either from the software or by flicking down the safety switch on the front panel of any built-in Isolated Stimulator or the ML180 Stimulus Isolator.
- The ML180 Stimulus Isolator is supplied with a special transformer plug pack. The plug pack complies with medical safety requirements. Therefore, under no circumstances should any other transformer be used with the Stimulus Isolator. For a replacement transformer plug pack please contact your nearest ADInstruments representative.

General Safety Instructions

To achieve the optimal degree of subject and operator safety, consideration should be given to the following guidelines when setting up a PowerLab system either as stand-alone equipment or when using PowerLab equipment in conjunction with other equipment. Failure to do so may compromise the inherent safety measures designed into PowerLab equipment. The following guidelines are based on principles outlined in the international safety standard IEC60601-1-1: *General requirements for safety - Collateral standard: Safety requirements for medical systems*. Reference to this standard is required when setting up a system for human connection.

PowerLab systems (and many other devices) require the connection of a personal computer for operation. This personal computer should be certified as complying with IEC60950 and should be located outside a 1.8 m radius from the subject (so that the subject cannot touch it while connected to the system). Within this 1.8 m radius, only equipment complying with IEC60601-1 should be present. Connecting a system in this way obviates the provision of additional safety measures and the measurement of leakage currents.

Accompanying documents for each piece of equipment in the system should be thoroughly examined prior to connection of the system.

While it is not possible to cover all arrangements of equipment in a system, some general guidelines for safe use of the equipment are presented below:

-
- Any electrical equipment which is located within the SUBJECT AREA should be approved to IEC60601-1.
 - Only connect those parts of equipment that are marked as an APPLIED PART to the subject. APPLIED PARTS may be recognized by the BF or CF symbols which appear in the Safety Symbols section of these Safety Notes.
 - Only CF-rated APPLIED PARTS must be used for direct cardiac connection.
 - Never connect parts which are marked as an APPLIED PART to those which are not marked as APPLIED PARTS.
 - Do not touch the subject to which the PowerLab (or its peripherals) is connected at the same time as making contact with parts of the PowerLab (or its peripherals) that are not intended for contact to the subject.
 - Cleaning and sterilization of equipment should be performed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The isolation barrier may be compromised if manufacturer's cleaning instructions are not followed.
 - The ambient environment (such as the temperature and relative humidity) of the system should be kept within the manufacturer's specified range or the isolation barrier may be compromised.
 - The entry of liquids into equipment may also compromise the isolation barrier. If spillage occurs, the manufacturer of the affected equipment should be contacted before using the equipment.
 - Many electrical systems (particularly those in metal enclosures) depend upon the presence of a protective earth for electrical safety. This is generally provided from the power outlet through a power cord, but may also be supplied as a dedicated safety earth conductor. Power cords should never be modified so as to remove the earth connection. The integrity of the protective earth connection between each piece of equipment and the protective earth should be verified regularly by qualified personnel.
 - Avoid using multiple portable socket-outlets (such as power boards) where possible as they provide an inherently less safe environment with respect to electrical hazards. Individual connection of each piece of equipment to fixed mains socket-outlets is the preferred means of connection.

If multiple portable socket outlets are used, they are subject to the following constraints:

- They shall not be placed on the floor.
- Additional multiple portable socket outlets or extension cords shall not be connected to the system.
- They shall only be used for supplying power to equipment which is intended to form part of the system.

Cleaning and Sterilization

ADInstruments products may be wiped down with a lint free cloth moistened with industrial methylated spirit. Refer to the manufacturer's guidelines or the Data Card supplied with transducers and accessories for specific cleaning and sterilizing instructions.

Preventative Inspection and Maintenance

PowerLab systems and ADInstruments front-ends are all maintenance-free and do not require periodic calibration or adjustment to ensure safe operation. Internal diagnostic software performs system checks during power up and will report errors if a significant problem is found. There is no need to open the instrument for inspection or maintenance, and doing so within the warranty period will void the warranty.

Your PowerLab system can be periodically checked for basic safety by using an appropriate safety testing device. Tests such as earth leakage, earth bond, insulation resistance, subject leakage and auxiliary currents and power cable integrity can all be performed on the PowerLab system without having to remove the covers. Follow the instructions for the testing device if performing such tests.

If the PowerLab system is found not to comply with such testing you should contact your PowerLab representative to arrange for the equipment to be checked and serviced. Do not attempt to service the device yourself.

Environment

Electronic components are susceptible to corrosive substances and atmospheres, and must be kept away from laboratory chemicals.

Storage Conditions

- Temperature in the range 0–40 °C
- Non-condensing humidity in the range 0–95%.

Operating Conditions

- Temperature in the range 5–35 °C
- Non-condensing humidity in the range 0–90%.

Disposal

- Forward to recycling center or return to manufacturer.

Overview

Your PowerLab® recording unit, together with a range of specialized application programs, provides a versatile data recording and analysis system when used with a Windows or Macintosh computer. This chapter provides an overview of the PowerLab system and describes the basic features, connectors and indicators of the PowerLab.

Note that the software supplied with the PowerLab should be installed before you connect the PowerLab to your computer.

How to Use This Guide

This owner's guide describes how to set up and begin using your PowerLab recording unit. The chapters provide an overview of the PowerLab system (the combined software and hardware package), and a more detailed look at the features of your recording unit and its connection to your computer. The appendices provide technical information about the recording unit and solutions to problems. At the end of this guide is a glossary of hardware terms and an index.

Software Installation

You should install ADInstruments application software before connecting or using your PowerLab.

The *Getting Started with LabTutor* manual provides full installation instructions for the LabTutor software.

The *Getting Started with PowerLab* manual provides full installation instructions for the LabChart and Scope software.

PowerLab Check

Please do not attempt to connect the PowerLab to a power outlet or computer or turn it on until you have checked it as described below.

1. Check that all items in the accompanying packing list are included in the box.
2. Check that there are no obvious signs of external damage to the PowerLab.
3. Check that there are no obvious signs of internal damage, such as rattling. Pick up the PowerLab, tilt it gently from side to side, and listen for anything that appears to be loose.

If anything is missing, or the PowerLab seems to be damaged in any way, contact your authorized ADInstruments representative immediately. Up-to-date contact addresses are available from the ADInstruments website.

Connection information is in Chapter 2.

The PowerLab

This section describes the connectors and indicators of the PowerLab 15T, 2/26, 4/26 and 26T.

The Front Panel

The front panel (Figure 1–1 to Figure 1–4) provides the connectors for obtaining external signals, and indicators for various functions. This section describes each of the front panel features:

- Power and Status indicator LEDs
- Trigger indicator LED and BNC connector (not on PowerLab 15T)
- Output BNC connectors
- Input DIN connectors
- Input BNC connectors (PowerLab 2/26 and 4/26 only)

For the PowerLab 15T and 26T:

- Isolated Stimulator switch, indicator LEDs and output connectors
- Bio Amp connector.

Indicators

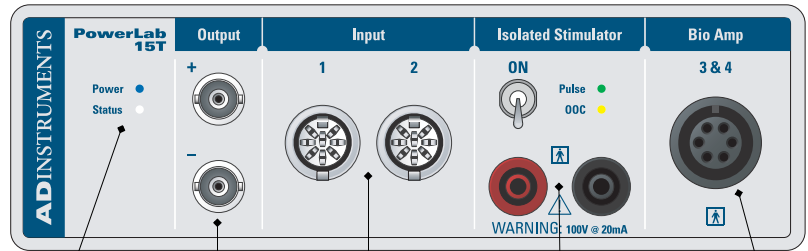
The Power and Status indicators on the front panel should flash briefly while the PowerLab is starting up. Under normal conditions, the Power indicator should glow blue and stay lit. This simply shows that the PowerLab is getting power.

The Status indicator should flash yellow and then stay green when the PowerLab is switched on, and again when an ADInstruments application is opened. It provides some visual indication of what the PowerLab is doing, and will flash different patterns and colors depending on the state of the PowerLab. See Table 2–1 for details.

Trigger

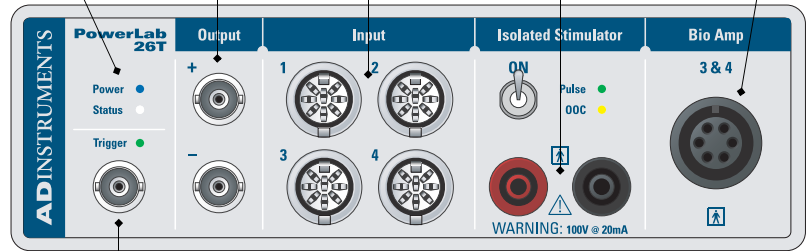
The external trigger connector of the PowerLab 2/26, 4/26 and 26T allows you to use an external signal to synchronize recording to an external event. This input can handle voltages of up to ± 12 V. The threshold voltage (the voltage above which the trigger circuit activates) is 2.0 volts for a rising edge. When the trigger threshold is crossed, the indicator beside the external trigger connector will glow yellow. The external trigger is described in more detail in Appendix A, and the software documentation covers its practical use in normal recording.

Figure 1-1
The front panel of the
PowerLab 15T



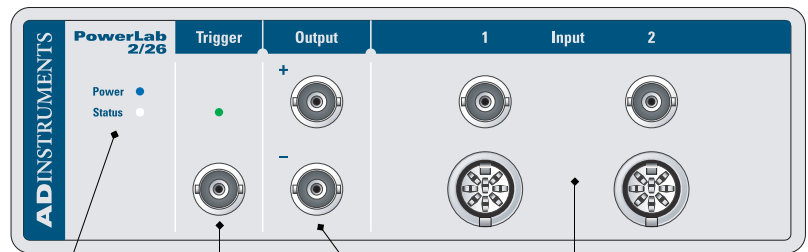
Power and Status indicators Analog output connectors Analog input connectors Isolated Stimulator connectors Bio Amp connector

Figure 1-2
The front panel of the
PowerLab 26T



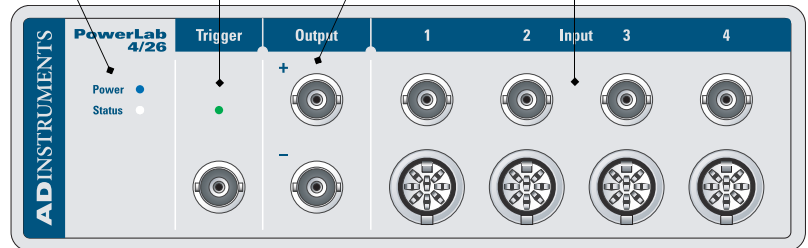
Trigger indicator and connector

Figure 1-3
The front panel of the
PowerLab 2/26



Power and Status indicators Trigger indicator and connector Analog output connectors Analog input connectors

Figure 1-4
The front panel of the
PowerLab 4/26



Analog Output

The PowerLab can generate a stimulus voltage through its analog output sockets (marked Output + and –), giving positive, negative, differential, or independent stimuli, depending on the sockets used and the software settings. By default, the outputs are used for complementary (differential) stimulation, where Output + is positive and Output – is negative.

When Output + is used, a positive stimulus voltage (set up in the software) gives a positive voltage output, and a negative voltage a negative one. When Output – is used, the voltage outputs are inverted. When both output sockets are used, the stimulus is the difference between the voltages at the positive and negative outputs: you could generate up to a 20-volt pulse, using a setting of ± 10 V.

You can use either the analog output or the isolated stimulator, but not both at once.

Analog Inputs

The analog inputs can record external signals from ± 10 V down to the microvolt (μ V) range, without the need for additional external amplification.

Each analog input has an independently programmable gain amplifier with its own filtering. Note that applying more than ± 15 V to the analog inputs can damage the circuitry.

The PowerLab 15T and 2/26 have two independent analog inputs marked Input 1 and 2; the PowerLab 26T and 4/26 have four such inputs marked 1–4. These 8-pin DIN connectors and BNC connectors can be used as:

- Single-ended inputs, where the difference between the signal and ground is recorded.
- Differential inputs, where the difference between the positive and negative input signals is recorded.
- Pod connectors, which allow the connection of ADInstruments pods, or those transducers designed for direct connection.

On the 15T and /26 model PowerLabs, the impedance between the earthing stud (ground connection) and the input connector grounds is close to zero.

Note that with the PowerLab 26T:

- ADInstruments front-ends, such as the ML221 Bridge Amp, can be used with inputs 1 and 2 (but not inputs 3 or 4) by connecting them with the DIN-to-BNC adaptor.
- When an ADInstruments pod is connected to either input 3 or 4, the corresponding Bio Amp input is turned off.

▲ WARNING
PowerLab inputs and outputs are not electrically isolated (except for the Bio Amp input and the Isolated Stimulator outputs) and so should never be connected to human subjects.

Isolated Stimulator

The PowerLab 15T and 26T have a built-in, isolated, constant-current pulse stimulator that can be used for any general-purpose stimulation with humans. The Isolated Stimulator section of the front panel has two output sockets, two indicator lights and a safety switch. Note that you cannot use the analog output and the isolated stimulator at the same time.

The stimulus output is supplied via two 4 mm shrouded banana sockets; the left-hand (red) socket is positive, the right-hand (black) socket is negative. These are designed for use with shrouded male 4 mm plugs (the shrouding is to prevent accidental stimulation while fitting or removing the plugs). The bar stimulus electrode supplied with the PowerLab uses such plugs.

The output is capable of supplying 100 V pulses at currents up to 20 mA, so it should be treated with caution. The Isolated Stimulator Pulse indicator is an LED that indicates the current status of the Stimulator. It will flash green for every stimulus pulse, and may seem to glow green constantly at higher stimulus frequencies. The OOC (out-of-compliance) indicator is a yellow LED. When lit, it indicates that the output is overloaded or out of compliance (compliance is the ability to supply voltage to meet the required current). This means that the impedance of the tissue being stimulated is too high, or there is a poor electrical connection (possibly due to electrode drying), and that the Isolated Stimulator can no longer supply constant current stimulation. If this should happen, try reducing the output current amplitude, and check all connections.

To provide an additional level of safety, a safety switch is located on the front panel to allow the output to be switched on and off as needed. The switch should be flicked down to turn the output off: doing so disconnects the output sockets from the internal circuitry, allowing connections to be made safely while the PowerLab is on.

The Bio Amp Inputs (Inputs 3 and 4)

The PowerLab 15T and 26T have a connector for two Bio Amp inputs, marked Bio Amp Input 3 & 4. These biological amplifiers perform electrically isolated measurements of biological signals, such as electrocardiograms (ECG) and electromyograms (EMG). The two Bio Amp inputs have a common six-pin connector with a shared ground signal and are internally configured to use channels 3 and 4 of the PowerLab.

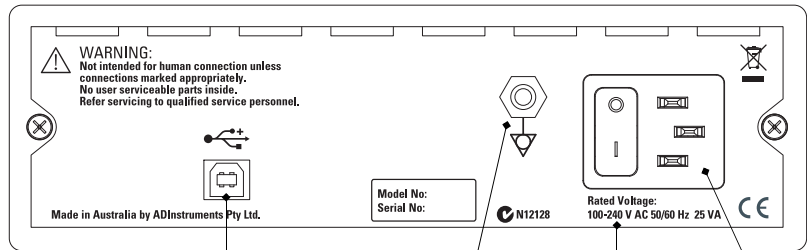
The PowerLab comes supplied with a 5-lead Bio Amp cable and lead wires. The Bio Amp inputs should only be used with the supplied Bio Amp cable and approved leads. Other cables may not meet safety requirements. Note: with the PowerLab 26T, connecting an ADInstruments pod to either analog input 3 or 4 turns off the corresponding Bio Amp input.

The Back Panel

The back panels of the PowerLab (Figure 1-5 to Figure 1-7) provide the sockets to connect the PowerLab to the computer, other devices and the power outlet. This section describes each of the back panel features:

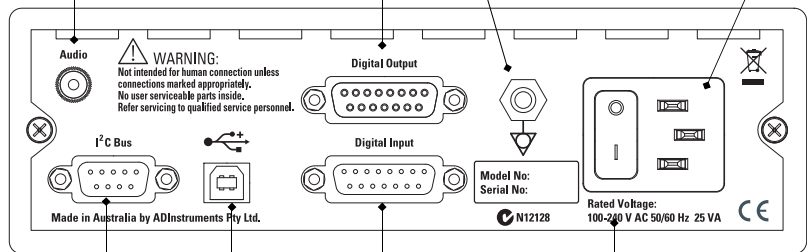
- Audio connector (PowerLab 26T only)
- I²C connector (not on PowerLab 15T)
- USB connector
- Digital input and output connectors (PowerLab 26T only)
- Ground connector
- Power switch and socket.

Figure 1-5
The back panel of the
PowerLab 15T



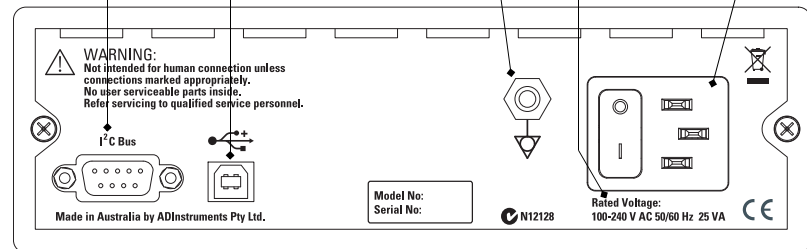
Audio connector USB connector Digital Output connector Ground Device rating information Power switch and socket

Figure 1-6
The back panel of the
PowerLab 26T



I²C connector USB connector Digital Input connector Ground Device rating information Power switch and socket

Figure 1-7
The back panel of the
PowerLab 2/26 and 4/26



Audio Connector

The PowerLab 26T has an audio output to monitor the Bio Amp channels. It provides stereo sound (using signals from Inputs 3 and 4). The 3.5 mm stereo socket can be used with a wide range of headphones or externally powered speakers. The audio output is particularly helpful when monitoring nerve firings, to assist in the placement of electrodes, for instance.

I²C Connector

The I²C output port (not on PowerLab 15T) provides power and control signals for front-ends manufactured by ADInstruments.

Many front-ends can be daisy-chained together and connected through the I²C ports, so long as there are enough analog inputs on the PowerLab. A maximum current of 50 mA can be provided through this bus, so it should not be used for third-party devices that require more current than that.

USB Connector

The PowerLab connects to your computer using a USB 2.0 connector and cable, therefore your computer must have USB connectors or a PCI USB card to receive data from the PowerLab.

You can safely disconnect or reconnect a USB-connected PowerLab while the computer remains on. However, ADInstruments software (LabTutor, LabChart or Scope) should not be running while you do this. Read the details on USB in Appendix A of this guide before connecting your PowerLab to your computer.

Digital Input and Output Connectors

The digital input and output ports (PowerLab 26T only) let you monitor and control external devices, respectively, with the PowerLab.

The digital input monitors state changes: you can have a predefined comment automatically inserted during recording when a digital input changes to a particular state. The eight lines of the connector allow monitoring of up to eight devices. The digital output can turn on and off external devices, for example pumps, relays, and indicator lights, or can signal to some other device. The eight lines of the connector allow control of up to eight devices.

Technical details of the digital input and output connectors are given in Appendix A. Note that any cables connected to either the digital input or output must be less than 3 m in length in order to maintain EMC compliance.

More information on the use of digital inputs and outputs is given in the Help for the software.

Ground Connector

A special earthing (grounding) stud is provided on the rear panel of the PowerLab. This is an equipotential bonding connection post compatible with the DIN 42801 standard. The earthing stud is directly connected to the earth pin of the power socket and the PowerLab chassis. It is used as a primary earth connection (equipotential connection point) in situations that require this type of connection, or if there is no ground provided via the power cord. Safety standards in laboratories and similar environments may require additional grounding protection when connecting equipment to human subjects, and their relevant standards or guidelines should be observed.

Power Connector

The power switch on the back right of the PowerLab turns the PowerLab on and off; the 3-pin IEC power socket is used to connect your PowerLab to a power cable. The power supply is universal, and can use all common international mains power supplies (100–240 V AC, 50/60 Hz).

The PowerLabs are not fitted with replaceable fuses. The power supply is short-circuit protected, and should not damage the internal fuses unless a major fault develops. If that happens, the unit must be returned for service by qualified service personnel. Do not attempt to replace internal power supply fuses yourself. For further assistance please contact your nearest ADInstruments representative.

The Bio Amp Cable

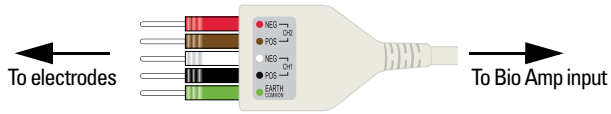
Connections are made to the Bio Amp inputs using the supplied Bio Amp cable and leads. The cable plugs into the six-pin input socket on the front panel: a notch in the plug ensures that polarity is correct. Only the supplied Bio Amp cable and leads should be used. Other cables may not meet safety requirements. The PowerLab 26T and 15T are supplied with a 5-lead Bio Amp cable and lead wires; it uses a shared ground signal for its Bio Amp channels. The cable is of the sort often used for ECG or EMG work, a Tronomed D-1540 cable, and has a cable yoke with five sockets for the leads.

The supplied leads click into place in the cable yoke, and have snap connectors at the other end to connect to typical ECG electrodes. The leads are color-coded for ease of identification.

ADInstruments supplies other types of lead wires that connect to the Bio Amp cable yoke, such as EEG Flat Electrodes and dry earth straps. Also available are disposable and reusable electrodes, electrode cream (for reusable

electrodes), electrode paste, and abrasive gel for lightly abrading the skin before the electrodes are attached.

Figure 1-8
The Bio Amp cable yoke,
with 5 leads attached



Other ADInstruments Hardware

ADInstruments has a range of optional devices that can be connected to your PowerLab. They extend the types of experiments you can conduct and the data you can record, and include:

- Pods — small, low-cost signal conditioners for specific tasks, for use with precalibrated transducers, and which are automatically recognized by the PowerLab and application software.
- Front-ends — advanced signal conditioners which are automatically recognized by the PowerLab and software, and which provide specialized data acquisition features (not used with the PowerLab 15T).
- Transducers — either for use with a specific pod, or which plug directly into the PowerLab, depending on their type.

A PowerLab can usually have as many pods or transducers connected to it as it has appropriate connectors. All are easily transferred between PowerLabs. Full information on such hardware is available from your local ADInstruments representative or from the ADInstruments website.

This chapter describes:

- The PowerLab's internal self-test.
- The USB connection between the PowerLab and the computer.
- The software features specific to the built-in Isolated Stimulator and Bio Amp.

The PowerLab Self-test

The PowerLab performs a diagnostic self-test each time it is switched on. Before connecting it to the computer for the first time, you should test that your PowerLab is functioning properly, as follows:

1. Connect the PowerLab to a power outlet using the power cable that came with your unit. Turn on the power at the wall.
2. Turn on the power switch located on the rear of the unit, and observe the Power and Status indicators on the front panel while the PowerLab is starting up:
 - The Power indicator should glow blue while the PowerLab is on.
 - The Status indicator should flash yellow and then stay green.

If the Status indicator stays green, the internal diagnostic check has completed successfully. The PowerLab can now be switched off and connected to the computer.

Table 2-1
Status indicator codes

<i>Status Indicator</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Off	Idle and not yet initialized by the software.
Green	Idle, initialized, and waiting for a command from the computer.
Yellow	Sampling, or communicating with the computer.
Four red flashes then one yellow	The PowerLab has detected a low-level software or hardware fault. It will repeat until the PowerLab is turned off.
Red flashes	The PowerLab has detected an internal fault during the power-up test. It will repeat until the PowerLab is turned off.

If the Power indicator does not glow blue when the power switch is turned on, then there is a problem with the power source, power cable or PowerLab itself. Check the connections and cables.

If the Status indicator is flashing red, then the PowerLab has detected an error during the self-test. Restarting the PowerLab should clear a temporary problem.

If the PowerLab does not seem to be getting power, or the Status indicator flashes red, even after restarting, refer to the ADInstruments website (www.adinstruments.com/support/tsupport/education) or contact your authorized ADInstruments representative. Do not attempt to repair the PowerLab yourself.

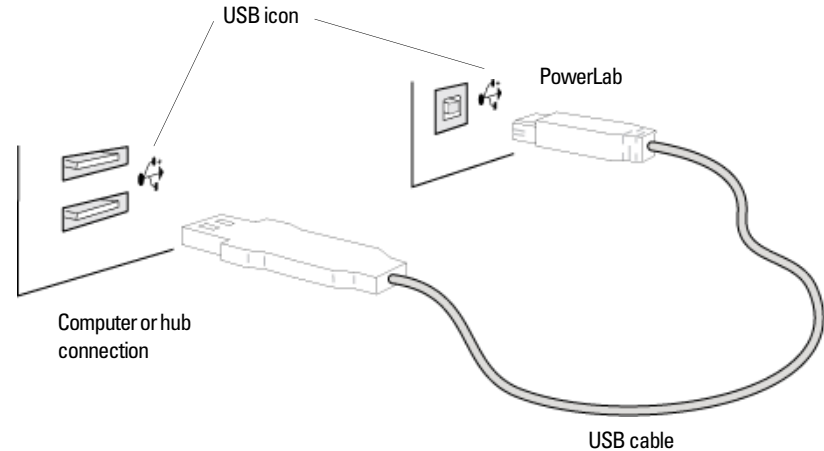
Figure 2-1
USB Icon



Connecting the PowerLab

Use the USB cable supplied with your PowerLab to connect the USB port on the back panel to the USB port on the computer, or to an active USB hub connected to the computer (see Figure 2-2). USB ports and cables should be marked with a trident-like icon (Figure 2-1). Further detail about USB connections is provided on page 41 of Appendix A.

Figure 2-2
Connecting a PowerLab to a computer with USB



ADInstruments Software

The integration of hardware and software in the PowerLab system allows all hardware functions, including those of any connected signal conditioners, to be controlled from within the software.

LabTutor Software

When the PowerLab is used with the LabTutor application, the LabTutor experiments have pre-configured settings for the PowerLab, and for any signal conditioners needed for the experiment. For more information about the LabTutor application please refer to *LabTutor 4 Suite Administrator's Guide*.

LabChart Software

When the PowerLab is used with the LabChart (or Scope) application, the PowerLab functions are set up from within that software. The software controls for most functions, such as sampling speed, are described in the

documentation for LabChart (or Scope). For more information about the LabChart application please refer to the LabChart Help.

The software controls specific to the signal conditioners built into the PowerLab 26T and 15T (an Isolated Stimulator and two Bio Amps) are described below.

The Isolated Stimulator

The PowerLab 26T and 15T have both normal and isolated outputs, and you can switch between them in software. The Isolated Stimulator provides software-controlled, isolated, constant-current pulse stimuli that can be used with human subjects. The stimulus is produced at the outputs on the front panel of the Stimulus Isolator. The stimulus is independent of the PowerLab sampling rate and can be generated whether the PowerLab is sampling or not. The stimulus is set up using the Stimulator dialog.

Choose **Setup > Stimulator....** to display the Stimulator dialog (Figure 2-3). This dialog is named **Stimulus Isolator** on the Macintosh (Figure 2-4). When setting up the Stimulus Isolator, you:

- Choose how stimulation should start.
- Choose a preconfigured stimulus type or mode.
- Optionally, on Windows, create a custom stimulus waveform.
- Set stimulus parameters, such as start delay, pulse width and current amplitude.

Scope has a different Stimulator dialog to that of LabChart: in the Stimulator dialog you can choose **Pulse** and **Multiple** in the **Mode** pop-up menu (to produce single or multiple pulses, respectively).

Note that if you connect a Stimulus Isolator front-end to a PowerLab 15T or 26/T, only the external stimulator is used.

Choosing How Stimulation Should Start

Stimulation can be set to start in different ways:

- **When sampling starts:** stimulation begins automatically when the LabChart **Start** button is clicked, and continues until sampling stops. Use the **On** and **Off** buttons to control pulse delivery, if necessary.
- **Manually:** stimulation begins when **Stimulate** in the dialog is clicked, and continues until sampling stops. Use the **On** and **Off** buttons to control pulse delivery, if necessary.
- **Independently of sampling:** stimulation begins when **On** in the dialog is clicked, whether or not LabChart is sampling. Available in LabChart for Windows only.

Figure 2-3
The Stimulator dialog,
Windows

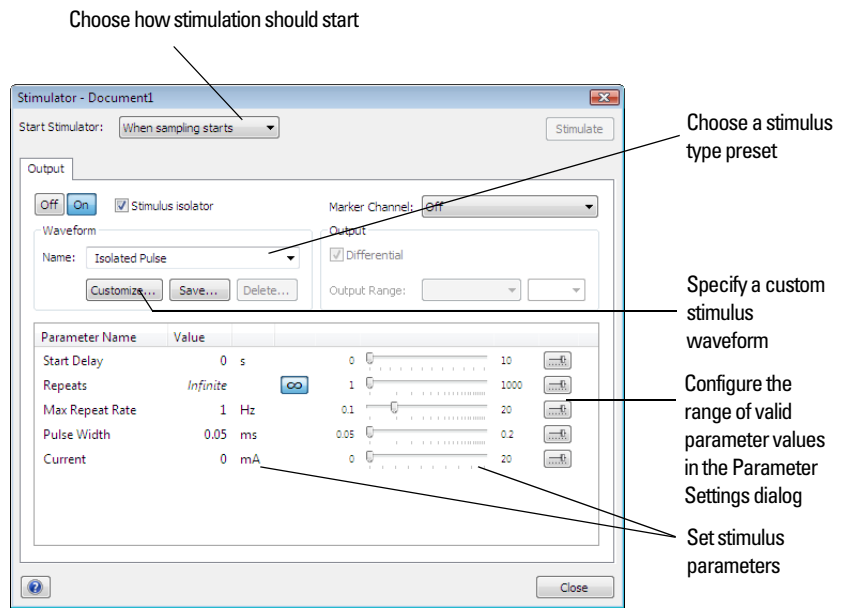
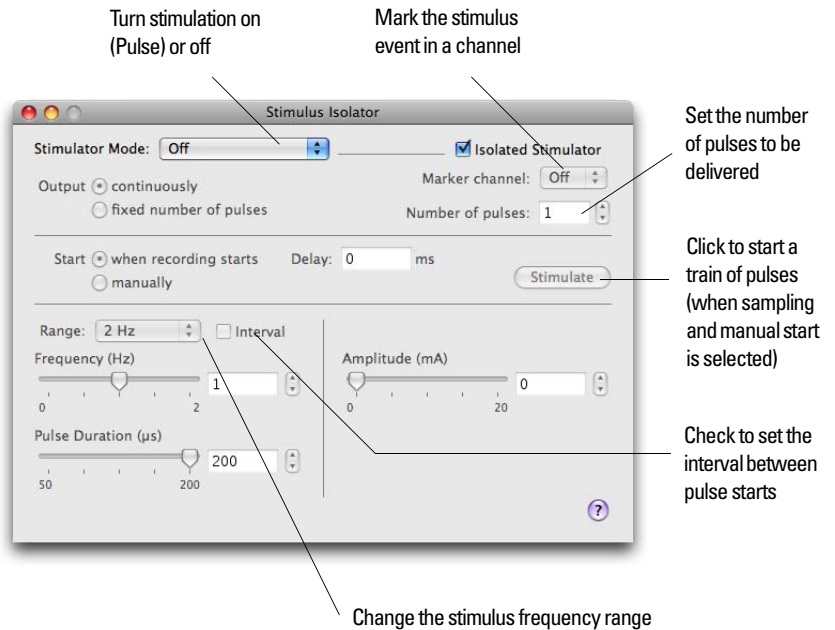


Figure 2-4
The Stimulus Isolator
dialog, Macintosh



In all three modes, you can immediately restart a stimulus waveform by clicking **Stimulate**.

Choosing a Stimulus Type

The Stimulator only offers the **Isolated Pulse** stimulation mode (**Pulse** on Macintosh). This generates a rectangular pulse stimulus that starts at zero current, is raised to the set current amplitude for the set pulse width (duration), and then falls to zero current again. By default, the stimulator is off and the current amplitude is set to zero.

Creating a Custom Stimulus Waveform

In LabChart for Windows, you can:

- Specify whether parameter controls are displayed in the Stimulator and Stimulator Panel dialogs.
- Define a sequence of segments to create a custom stimulus waveform.

Click **Custom...** to display the Waveform Customization dialog. Further details about using this dialog are available in the LabChart Help.

Setting Stimulus Parameters

You use the text boxes and sliders to set values for the stimulus parameters. In LabChart for Windows, you can use the Settings dialog for each parameter to configure the range of values available to the parameter text box and slider controls. Using suitable values can improve the precision of control over the stimulus parameter when using the slider and spinner controls.

Windows

In LabChart for Windows, the following stimulus parameters can be set:

Start Delay: the wait time before stimulation is delivered, once the stimulus waveform has been started.

Repeats: the number of times the stimulus waveform is repeated, once started.

Max Repeat Rate: the maximum frequency with which the stimulus waveform is repeated (either 0.1—20 Hz or 6—1200 /min), or the interval between each pulse start (0.05—10 s).

Pulse Width: the duration of each pulse. The pulse duration is restricted to the range from 50 μ s to 200 μ s for safety reasons.

Current: the amplitude of the stimulus current (0 to 20 mA).

End Delay: the wait time at the end of a stimulus segment, after which the next segment is delivered. This is not the same as a Delay segment.

Macintosh

In LabChart for Macintosh, the following stimulus parameters can be set:

Range: lets you select the range for the **Frequency** control; either 0.1—2 Hz, 0.1—20 Hz, or 2—200 PPM (~0.033 Hz to ~3.3 Hz). PPM (pulses per minute) can sometimes be a more convenient expression of the pulse frequency.

Frequency: the rate at which pulses are delivered; available values are within those set with **Range**.

Pulse duration: the time for which the pulse lasts, from 50 μ s to 200 μ s (0.05 ms to 0.2 ms). The pulse duration is limited to 200 μ s for safety reasons.

Amplitude: the exact amplitude of the stimulus current, from 0 to 20 mA.

Marker Channel

If you choose a channel from the **Marker Channel** pop-up menu, then the start time of a stimulus pulse is marked by a small data spike (this adds to any data in that channel).

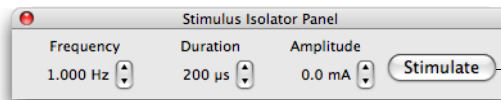
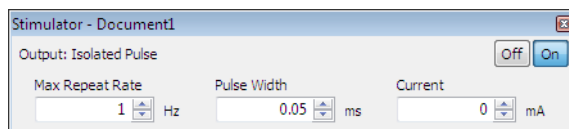
The Stimulator Panel

Once you have set up stimulation using the Stimulator dialog, you can easily start or stop stimulation or change settings while sampling, by using the Stimulator Panel. Choose **Stimulator Panel** from the Setup menu to open it (**Stimulus Isolator Panel** on Macintosh).

On Windows, you can specify which parameter controls are displayed in the panel using checkboxes in the **Panel** column of the Waveform Customization dialog. See the LabChart Help for details.

The Stimulator Panel ‘floats’ in front of the active window, can be moved around with its title bar, and can only be dismissed by clicking its close box.

Figure 2-5
The Stimulator Panel
Windows (upper)
Macintosh (lower): manual
control of stimuli



This button appears when manual stimulation is selected

The Bio Amp

The PowerLab 26T and 15T have two-channel Bio Amps, which are internally configured to use channels 3 and 4. The Bio Amp dialog allows software control of the combined input amplifiers and filters in the PowerLab and Bio Amps. The signal present at a channel's input is displayed so that you can see the effects of changes straight away. Once settings in the dialog are changed, click **OK** to apply them.

The Bio Amp dialog appears when you choose **Bio Amp...** from a Channel Function pop-up menu (or click **Bio Amp...** in the Input Settings column in the Channel Settings dialog). To set up many channels quickly, click the arrows by the dialog title, or press the right or left arrow keys on the keyboard, to move to the equivalent dialogs for adjacent channels. This skips channels that are turned off. The channel number is shown next to the arrows, and the channel title (if any) is shown in the vertical Amplitude axis of the dialog.

Signal Display

The input signal is displayed so you can see the effect of changing the settings — no data is recorded while the Bio Amp dialog is open. Slowly changing waveforms will be represented quite accurately, whereas rapidly changing signals will be displayed as a solid dark area showing only the envelope (shape) of the signal formed by the minimum and maximum recorded values. The average signal value is shown at the top left of the display area.

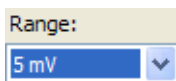


You can stop the signal scrolling by clicking the Pause button at the bottom left (Macintosh) or top right (Windows) of the data display area. This changes to the Scroll button on the Macintosh. Click the Scroll button to start scrolling again.

Shift and stretch the vertical Amplitude axis, by clicking and dragging it in various ways, to make the best use of the available display area.

It functions the same as the Amplitude axis of the Chart Window, controls are identical and any change is applied to the Chart Window.

Setting the Range



The Range pop-up menu lets you select the input range, or sensitivity, of the channel — the combined range of the PowerLab and Bio Amp. Changing the range in the Bio Amp dialog is equivalent to changing it in the Chart window. The default setting (if you have not loaded a settings file) is **20 mV**, rather than **10 V**, and the ranges go down to **100 μ V** in eight steps.

Figure 2-7
The Bio Amp dialog for Windows

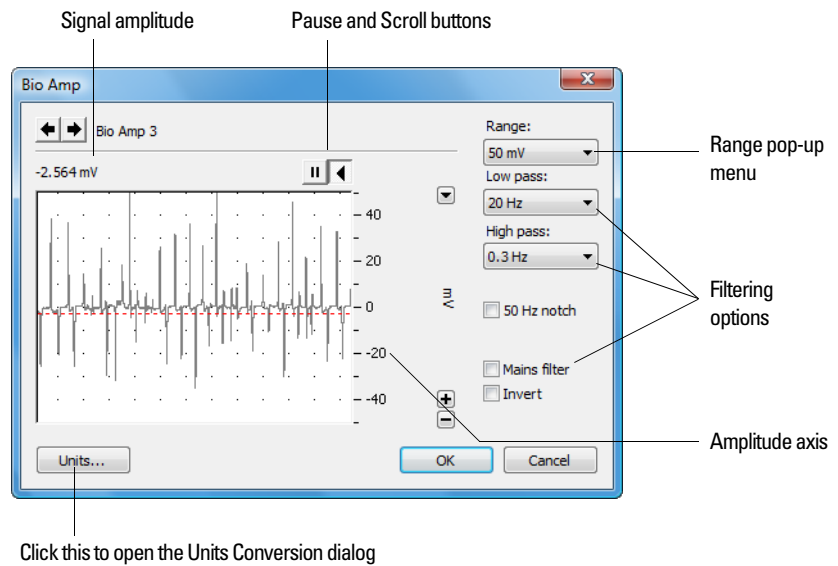
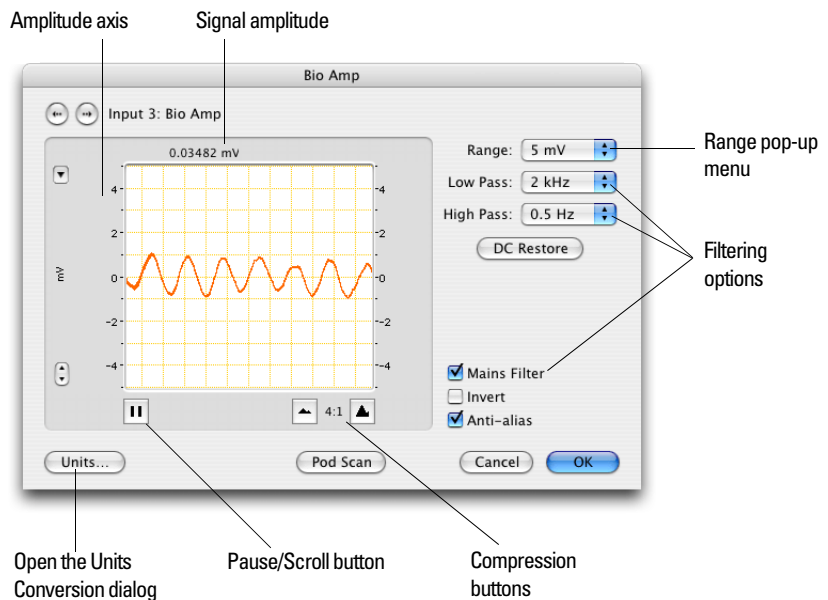


Figure 2-6
The Bio Amp dialog for Macintosh

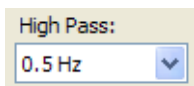


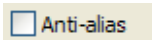
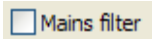
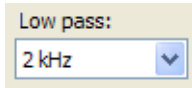
Filtering

Each of the Bio Amps in the PowerLab has low-pass, high-pass and mains-filter circuitry that can be adjusted to suit the recording. Note: the settings for one filter type may restrict the possible settings for the other.

High-pass filtering

The **High pass** pop-up menu gives the choice of two high-pass filters: **0.5** and





10 Hz. The high-pass filter allows high frequencies in the signal to pass, and removes frequency components below the filter frequency (including any DC signal). These filters are useful for removing slowly moving baselines, such as motion or respiration artifacts, particularly in ECG (EKG) recordings.

Low-pass filtering

The **Low pass** pop-up menu gives the choice of eight low-pass filters: **10, 20, 50, 100, 200** and **500 Hz**, and **1** and **2 kHz**. These filters are useful for removing high-frequency signals, such as noise.

DC Restore

Click **DC Restore** to reduce the time constant of the high-pass filter so that the filter can rapidly adjust to an altered baseline value.

Mains filter

The mains filter allows you to remove interference at the mains frequency (typically 50 or 60 Hz). Select **Mains filter** to turn on the mains filter. This is an adaptive filter and should only be used when the signal to mains noise ratio is less than 36 dB, that is the mains noise amplitude is greater than 1/64 of the signal amplitude. More details on the mains filter can be found in the LabChart Help Center.

Anti-alias

Select **Anti-alias** to apply a sample rate-dependent low-pass filter that prevents aliasing artifacts. The input signal is sampled and digitized at 100 kHz. The AD converter is preceded by an analog anti-aliasing (low-pass) filter of fixed cutoff frequency (49 kHz). When LabChart or Scope samples at 100 kHz, the converted samples are passed on unchanged. At all other LabChart or Scope sampling rates, an additional (digital) filter is optionally applied to the AD converter's 100 kHz output stream. This is a decimating FIR filter whose cutoff frequency is set to the Nyquist value: half the LabChart or Scope sampling frequency. It thus acts as an automatic anti-aliasing filter, providing optimum noise rejection in the recorded data. Attenuation in the stop band is at least 40 dB. Note that anti-aliasing is disabled at sampling rates below 100 Hz so as to prevent the delay that otherwise occurs as samples pass through the FIR filters.

The anti-aliasing filter characteristics are chosen to give the fastest step response without overshoot (corresponding to an analog Bessel filter). Such a response is suited to most types of physiological recordings. In the frequency domain, the filter response starts to roll off well below the cutoff frequency. In certain (relatively uncommon) types of measurement, a maximally flat response is desirable; this can be obtained by turning anti-aliasing off.

A rectangular button with a light beige background and a thin border. It contains a small square checkbox icon followed by the text "Invert".

Inverting the Signal

Selecting **Invert** allows you to invert the signal on the screen. It provides a simple way to change the polarity of the recorded signal without having to swap the connections to the recording electrodes.

A rectangular button with a light beige background and a thin border. It contains the text "Units...".

Units

Clicking **Units...** opens the Units Conversion dialog, letting you specify the units for a channel, and, using waveform measurements, to calibrate the channel. A waveform in the data display area of the Bio Amp dialog is transferred to the data display area of the Units Conversion dialog. (Use the Pause button to capture a specific signal.) The units conversion only applies to subsequently recorded signals, so it is more limited than choosing units conversion directly from the Channel Function pop-up menu, as it does not allow conversion of individual blocks of data.

A large, stylized letter 'A' is the central focus of the header. It has a white outline and a grey fill. The background of the header is a light grey with diagonal stripes. The word 'APPENDIX' is written in a bold, sans-serif font above the 'A'.

Technical Aspects

■

This appendix describes some of the important technical aspects of your PowerLab, to give some insight into how they work. You do not need to know the material here to use your PowerLab. It is likely to be of special interest to the technically minded, indicating what the PowerLab can and cannot do, and its suitability for particular purposes. You should not use it as a service manual: user modification of the PowerLab voids your rights under warranty.

How it Works

The PowerLab is essentially a smart peripheral device specifically designed to perform the various functions needed for data acquisition, signal conditioning, and pre-processing. It contains its own microprocessor, memory and specialized analog amplifiers for signal conditioning.

All sampling, output and communication functions are controlled by an internal microprocessor. This microprocessor has access to 16 MB of internal dynamic RAM for data storage and buffering. The PowerLab uses USB 2.0 to communicate with the computer, if the computer is USB 2.0 compliant. This provides data transfer rates of up to 480 Mbits per second. If the computer only supports USB 1.1 the data transfer rate will be slower.

The 15T and 2/26 PowerLabs have two analog inputs, whereas the 26T and 4/26 PowerLabs have four analog inputs. They are used to record external signals prior to digitizing. Each of these input amplifiers connects to a separate 16-bit ADC (analog-to-digital converter) that samples at 100 000 samples per second. The sampling process is handled independently of the processor core through a sampling control engine using direct memory access. The CPU assembles groups of samples into blocks and then transmits them to the computer, where the software receives, records and displays the data.

Two 16-bit DACs (digital-to-analog converter) are used to provide an analog output or stimulation capability through the analog outputs of the PowerLab (marked 'Output' on the front panel). The DACs can produce constant DC voltage levels or waveforms under software control. Stimulation frequency is completely independent of the analog input sampling rate. The output of the DACs is fed through a programmable attenuation network to produce different output ranges. The signal is then split into a positive and negative output through buffer amplifiers. The outputs are capable of driving up to 20 mA into a load.

The PowerLab uses an IEC60601-1 (medically) compliant switching power supply. This provides a universal input that handles all common international voltage supplies and frequencies without the need to change voltage ranges. This power supply is also internally protected in the case of a problem. It is important to note that the PowerLab has a limited amount of power available for external devices. Because of these power limitations, you should not use the PowerLab as a power source for external devices other than those produced by ADInstruments.

The Analog Inputs

▲ **Caution**

Applying more than ± 15 V to the input can damage the input circuits.

PowerLab input amplifiers have been designed with a considerable amount of computer-controlled gain (up to $\times 2000$). Thus it is possible to record a variety of signals without any external pre-amplification. Each analog input is a separate DC amplifier with programmable gain able to be set independently (the gain is set through the software range control). The PowerLab inputs can be set by the software to be either single-ended or differential. In the differential setting, the amplifier measures the difference between the positive and negative inputs, irrespective of ground.

It is important to note that the PowerLab grounds the inputs to amplifiers not in use. It also grounds each amplifier and measures the DC offset voltage when the gain is changed. In this way, the software corrects for any DC drift or offset in the circuits that may develop over time or between readings.

Input impedance is one megohm ($1\text{ M}\Omega$). Each analog input is fitted with a fixed 25 kHz low-pass filter.

On the 15T and /26 model PowerLabs, the impedance between the earthing stud (ground connection) and the input connector grounds is close to zero.

The Analog Outputs

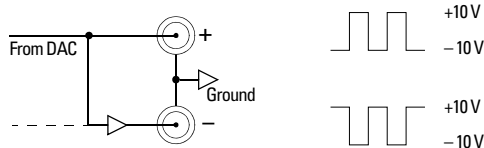
▲ **Warning**

Analog outputs are not to be used for connection to human subjects.

The analog outputs provide computer-controlled variable outputs ($\pm 10\text{pV}$) that can be used with the LabChart and Scope applications either directly as a stimulator, or to control peripheral devices. All stimulation voltage is generated by the PowerLab via the output sockets on the front of the PowerLab (marked Output + and -), giving positive, negative, differential, or independent stimuli, depending on the sockets used and the software settings.

Figure A-1

The analog output stage, set up for a differential stimulus



By default, the outputs are used for complementary (differential) stimulation, where Output + is positive and Output - is negative. When Output + is used, a positive stimulus voltage (set up in LabChart or Scope) gives a positive voltage output, and a negative voltage a negative one. When Output - is used, the voltage outputs are inverted. When both output sockets are used, the stimulus is the difference between the voltages at the positive and negative outputs: you could generate up to a 20-volt pulse, given a ± 10 V range setting.

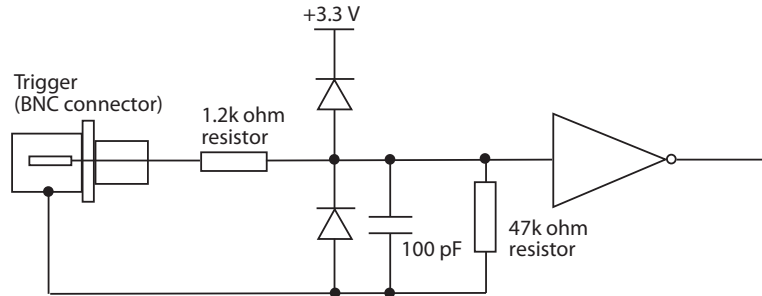
The External Trigger

The external trigger input (not on PowerLab 15T) is marked 'Trigger' on the front panel and provides a digital input for synchronizing sampling with external devices. It allows either a voltage level or a contact closure to trigger recording. Note that for either mode the trigger signal must be present for at least $3\ \mu\text{s}$ to register as an event. When a trigger event occurs, the indicator light will glow yellow.

When set up through software to use a voltage level, above which a rising edge trigger event is registered, the external trigger level is 2 V. The external trigger input is off for input voltages between $-12\ \text{V}$ and the external trigger level, and on between that level and $+12\ \text{V}$. The input will be overloaded if the voltage is outside the range $-12\ \text{V}$ to $+12\ \text{V}$. The trigger input is isolated when set up for a voltage level.

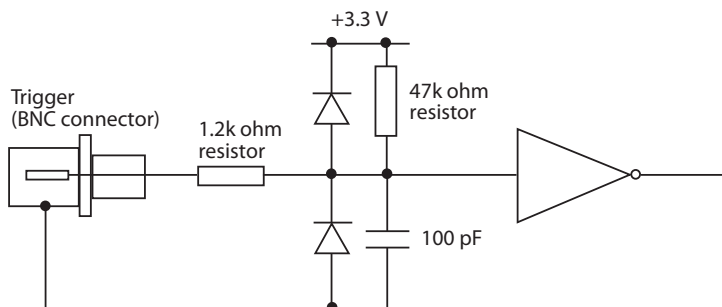
The equivalent circuit of the external trigger has two diode protection. In the external contact closure mode, the trigger input will respond to a direct short between the center pin and outer ring of the BNC. This can be achieved with an external relay contact, a manual push-button or a microswitch. The trigger input is not electrically isolated when set up for contact closure.

Figure A-2
The equivalent circuit of the external trigger input, when set up for a voltage level



The equivalent circuit for the external closure trigger is shown in Figure A-3. The BNC input connects to a TTL circuit via a resistor circuit and has two-diode protection.

Figure A-3
The equivalent circuit of the external trigger input, when set up for contact closure



In order for the external trigger to work, a voltage must be applied between the outer ring and the inner pin of the connector. Applying a voltage just to the center pin may not work.

Bio Amp Input (Inputs 3 & 4)

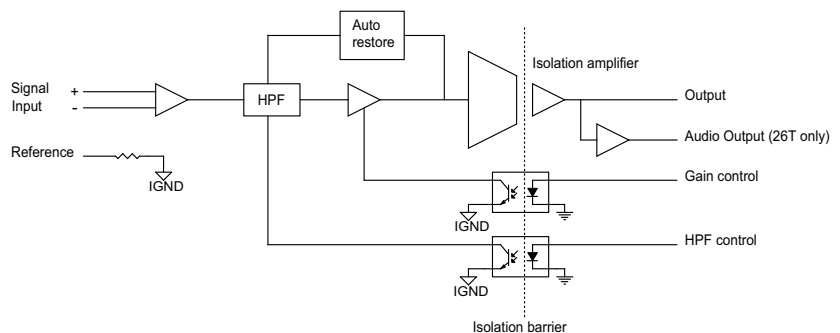
The PowerLab 15T and 26T have one common connector for two Bio Amp channels, marked Bio Amp 3 & 4. These two independently controllable, electrically isolated, biological amplifiers are suitable for a range of basic physiological measurements. The two Bio Amp inputs are internally configured to use channels 3 and 4 of the PowerLab. The Bio Amps have a common six-pin connector with a shared ground.

Each amplifier consists of an electrically isolated, AC coupled, differential amplifier with programmable gain able to be set independently (the gain is set through the software range control: the less the range, the more the gain). The gain is controlled by optically isolated digital control signals from the non-isolated section. The signal is then applied to an isolation amplifier which provides electrical isolation of the input stage from the supply.

The non-isolated stage consists of a series of filters and amplifiers. The first part of the stage is a high-pass filter designed to remove any DC components from the signal and the isolated stage. This is followed by amplification and an active notch filter. The notch can be turned on or off under software control as needed. The frequency of the notch filter is automatically set to either 50 or 60 Hz to match the frequency of the connected power supply.

The low-pass filter is an eighth-order, switched-capacitance, Bessel-type filter, with a software-selectable range of frequencies. The output of the biological amplifier is then passed to the standard PowerLab input amplifier circuit. On the PowerLab 26T an amplifier connected to the output of the biological amplifier is used to provide an audio output facility that can be used with headphones or powered speakers.

Figure A-4
Block diagram for one of
the two Bio Amplifiers
(Input 3 & 4)



The Isolated Stimulator Output

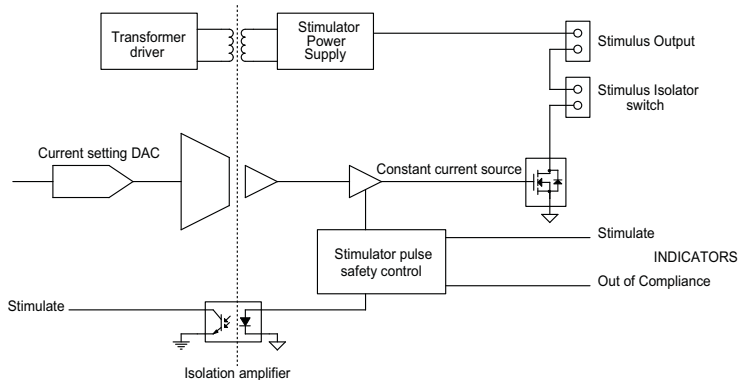
The Isolated Stimulator output provides a software-controlled, isolated, constant-current pulse stimulator that can be used for any general purpose stimulation.

The output stage consists of a high-voltage, constant-current source that can produce pulses of variable duration and amplitude under full software control. The current source can deliver pulses up to 20 mA at 100 V maximum compliance levels; its amplitude is controlled by optically isolated digital control signals from the non-isolated section. The output to the subject is through high-isolation optical couplers.

Software and hardware safety features limit the energy delivered by the pulses to within international safety standards. The pulse duration of the stimulator can be set from 50 μ s to 200 μ s, and the pulse frequency can be adjusted between 1 pulse per minute and 20 pulses per second on Windows (and between 2 pulse per minute and 20 pulses per second on Macintosh).

The Isolated Stimulator Pulse indicator is an LED that is used to indicate the current status of the Stimulator. It will flash green forevery stimulus pulse, and may seem to glow green constantly at higher stimulus frequencies. The OOC (out-of-compliance) indicator is a yellow LED. When lit, it indicates that the output is overloaded or out of compliance (compliance is the ability to supply voltage to meet the required current). This means that the impedance of the tissue being stimulated is too high, or there is a poor electrical connection (possibly due to electrode drying), and that the Isolated Stimulator can no longer supply constant current stimulation. If this should happen, try reducing the output current amplitude, and check all connections.

Figure A-5
Block diagram of the
Isolated Stimulator



PowerLab Accuracy

The PowerLab was calibrated at the factory to an accuracy of better than 0.1%. Some ‘zero drift’ or ‘gain drift’ can occur with time. This can affect the accuracy of measurements, especially at the highest input gains. The unit can be recalibrated, but in most circumstances this is not necessary in its lifetime.

Calibration facilities. It is good practice to calibrate a measuring system from the transducer to the output. After applying two known values to a transducer (say at 20% and 80% of full scale) and recording the signal, you can use the units conversion feature of ADInstruments software to convert and display transducer readings in the appropriate units. This will compensate for any minor inaccuracies in amplifier gain and transducer calibration.

DC drift compensation. When a recording is started manually or by triggering, or the gain is changed, the input signal to the amplifier is grounded and any DC, due to amplifier drift of temperature and age, is measured. The measured voltage is removed from the input signal through software correction, in a process transparent to the user.

Connectors

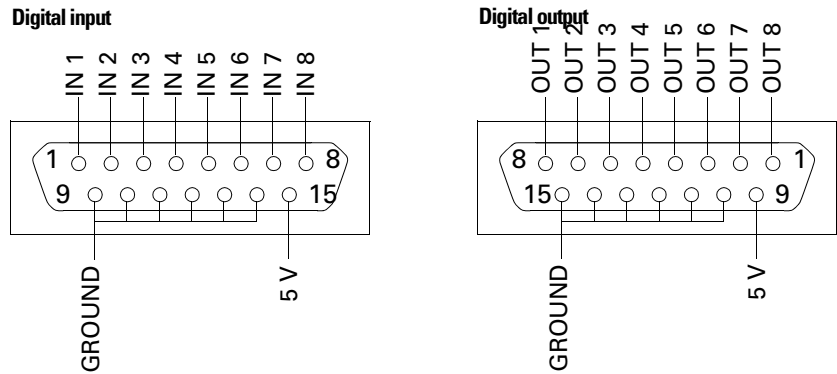
This section of the appendix contains ‘pinout’ and electrical details of some of the connectors fitted to the PowerLab. You should read it carefully before attempting to connect cables other than those supplied with the unit to the PowerLab. Using cables that are wired incorrectly can cause internal damage to the PowerLab and will void your rights under warranty. For further information or advice please contact your nearest ADInstruments representative.

Digital Input and Output

The digital input port and digital output port are 15-pin connectors situated on the back panel of the PowerLab 26T. The eight digital input lines respond to 3.3 V logic signals with a threshold of 1.2 V, and have a 10 k Ω input impedance. The eight digital output lines can turn on and off, or signal to, up to eight external TTL devices. The digital output lines are capable of driving 8 mA each.

The inputs and outputs conform to industry standard HCMOS structures powered with a 5 V supply. The digital input and output ports both have a pin which can supply power to solid-state relays or similar devices. Total

Figure A-6
The pin assignments for the digital input and output connectors



aggregate current from these pins is 200 mA continuous at 5 V. The digital input signals should not exceed 5 V.

Note that any cables connected to either the digital input or output must be less than 3 m in length in order to maintain EMC compliance.

I²C Expansion Connector

The I²C port on the back panel of the PowerLab 2/26, 4/26 and 26T provides expansion support for ADInstruments front-ends. This port provides both power and control signals for these front-ends. The I²C bus has a daisy-chain structure that allows simple connection of additional front-ends to the system. A PowerLab can have as many front-ends connected to it as it has appropriate connections. You should not attempt to run other external devices from the I²C port: it is designed for use only with ADInstruments front-ends. Only 50 mA maximum current can be provided through this bus, so it should not be used for third-party devices as they may draw more current.

Figure A-7
The pin assignments for the I²C connector

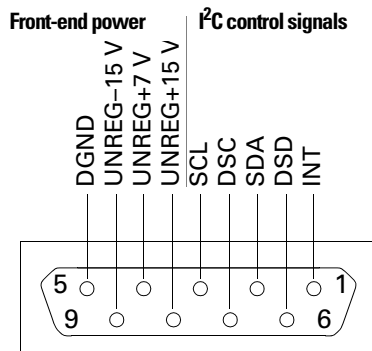
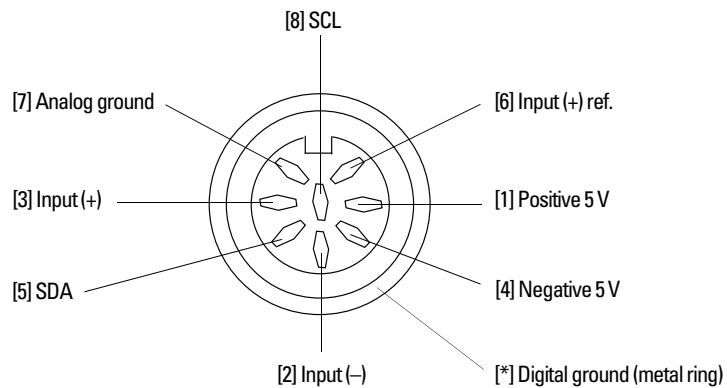


Figure A-8
The pin assignments for the analog inputs



Input Connectors

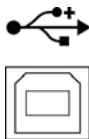
The input connectors (Figure A-8) of the PowerLab 15T, 2/26, 4/26 and 26T are 8-pin DIN connectors. They allow the connection of ADInstruments pods — small, low-cost signal conditioners for specific tasks, for use with precalibrated transducers. Transducers designed for direct connection can be provided with power and control through the connectors.

The PowerLab 2/26 and 4/26 also have BNC input connectors as well as the 8-pin DIN connectors.

Note that with the PowerLab 26T:

- ADInstruments front-ends, such as the ML221 Bridge Amp, can be used with inputs 1 and 2 (but not inputs 3 or 4) by connecting them with the DIN-to-BNC adaptor.
- When an ADInstruments pod is connected to either input 3 or 4, the corresponding Bio Amp input is turned off.

Figure A-9
The USB icon and port



USB Connection

PowerLabs have a USB 2.0 port, and connect to a computer with USB ports or a PCI USB card installed, allowing high data transfer rates to USB 2.0-compliant computers (slower transfer to USB 1.1-compliant computers).

The signal must be transmitted in a certain time; in practical terms this means cables between any USB devices, including hubs, must be no more than 5 meters (16 feet) in length, and with hubs in the chain, devices must be no more than 30 meters (98 feet) from the computer. For proper use and reliable results, the PowerLab needs a high-speed connection. Your PowerLab is supplied with a high-speed USB cable. If you replace the USB cable, buy a high-speed cable (fully shielded, twisted-pair and standard USB connections:

a narrow rectangular plug at one end and a square plug with a bevelled top at the other).

When devices that transfer a lot of information, such as scanners and video cameras, are connected to the same USB tree and are used at the same time as a PowerLab, sampling rates may be limited considerably (in LabChart) or delay times between sweeps may increase (in Scope). Newer computers (both PC and Macintosh) usually have several independent USB ports. Using these, rather than a hub, to connect multiple devices will avoid them competing for capacity (bandwidth).

You can safely turn on or off, or disconnect or reconnect, a USB-connected PowerLab while the computer remains on, as long as the application program (LabChart or Scope) is off when you do it.

Earthing and Ground Loop Noise

The prime function of earthing is safety, that is, protection against fatal electrocution. Safety concerns should always override concerns about signal quality. Secondary functions of earthing are to provide a reference potential for the electrical equipment and to mitigate against interference.

The earthing (grounding) stud provided on the back panel of the PowerLab is a potential equalization post and is compatible with the DIN 42801 standard. It is directly connected to the earth pin of the power socket and the PowerLab chassis. The earthing stud can be used where other electronic equipment is connected to the PowerLab, and where conductive shields are used to reduce radiative electrical pick-up. Connection to the stud provides a common earth for all linked devices and shields, to reduce ground-loops.

The earthing stud can also be used where a suitable ground connection is not provided with the mains supply by connecting the stud to an earthed metal infra-structure, such as a metal stake driven into the ground, or metal water piping. This may also be required in laboratories where safety standards require additional grounding protection when equipment is connected to human subjects. Always observe the relevant safety standards and instructions.

Note that magnetically-induced interference in the recorded signal can be reduced by minimizing the loop area of signal cables, for example by twisting them together, or by moving power supplies away from sensitive equipment. This can reduce the inductive pick-up of mains frequency fields. Please consult a good text for further discussion of noise reduction.

B

Specifications

Analog Inputs

Number of input channels:	15T:	2 DIN
	2/26:	2 DIN and BNC
	4/26:	4 DIN and BNC
	26T:	4 DIN
Configuration:	DIN are single-ended or differential BNC are single-ended	

Amplification ranges:	<i>Range</i>	<i>Resolution</i>
	±10 V	313 µV
	±5 V	156 µV
	±2 V	62 µV
	±1 V	31 µV
	±500 mV	15 µV
	±200 mV	6 µV
	±100 mV	3 µV
	±50 mV	1.5 µV
	±20 mV	625 nV

Maximum input over-voltage: ±15 V

Input impedance:	15T:	1 MΩ // 150 pF
	2/26:	1 MΩ // 150 pF
	26T:	1 MΩ // 150 pF (Inputs 1 & 2)
		1 MΩ // 200 pF (Inputs 3 & 4)
	4/26:	1 MΩ // 150 pF (Inputs 1 & 2)
	1 MΩ // 200 pF (Inputs 3 & 4)	

Input coupling:	DC or 0.15 Hz (software selectable)
Maximum bandwidth:	25 kHz
DC drift:	Software corrected
CMRR:	> 105 dB at a gain of 100
Interchannel crosstalk:	> 90 dB
Signal-noise ratio:	> 100 dB (± 10 V range)
Accuracy error:	Less than 0.2 %
Non-linearity (max):	0.1 %
Filters - Low pass:	1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 Hz and Anti-alias
- Notch:	Mains

Pod Connectors (DIN)

General features:	Combined power, I ² C and single-ended or differential analog input signals on one connector, support SmartPod transducers, etc.
Supply voltage:	± 5 V regulated
Maximum current:	50 mA per pod connector
Communications:	2-wire I ² C
Signal input:	Positive and negative analog inputs and analog return
Connector type:	8-pin DIN with metal surrounds

Sampling

ADC configuration	Each channel has its own ADC (2/26 and 15T have 2; 4/26 and 26T have 4)
ADC resolution:	24-bits
ADC linearity:	± 0.0006 % FSR (INL)
Maximum sampling rates:	100 000 samples/s per channel (concurrent); 400 000 samples/s (aggregate)
Available sampling rates:	100 000 samples/s down to 10 min/sample

Bio Amp Input – Inputs 3 & 4 (PowerLab 15T & 26T)

Number of channels:	2																		
Input configuration:	Differential with common isolated ground																		
Amplification ranges:	<table><thead><tr><th><i>Range</i></th><th><i>Resolution</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>±20 mV</td><td>625 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±10 mV</td><td>313 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±5 mV</td><td>156 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±2 mV</td><td>62 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±1 mV</td><td>31 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±500 µV</td><td>15 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±200 µV</td><td>6 nV</td></tr><tr><td>±100 µV</td><td>3 nV</td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>Range</i>	<i>Resolution</i>	±20 mV	625 nV	±10 mV	313 nV	±5 mV	156 nV	±2 mV	62 nV	±1 mV	31 nV	±500 µV	15 nV	±200 µV	6 nV	±100 µV	3 nV
<i>Range</i>	<i>Resolution</i>																		
±20 mV	625 nV																		
±10 mV	313 nV																		
±5 mV	156 nV																		
±2 mV	62 nV																		
±1 mV	31 nV																		
±500 µV	15 nV																		
±200 µV	6 nV																		
±100 µV	3 nV																		
Gain accuracy:	1 %																		
Non-linearity:	1 %																		
Noise:	< 1 µV _{rms} (0.5 – 2 kHz)																		
Maximum input over-voltage:	±5 V																		
Input leakage current:	< 4 µA _{rms} @ 120 V, 60 Hz < 4 µA _{rms} @ 240 V, 50 Hz																		
DC blocking:	±0.3 V																		
Baseline restoration:	Automatic or user-controlled																		
Input impedance:	100 MΩ to isolated ground (~500 pF per lead) using supplied Bio Amp subject cable and lead wires																		
Safety:	IEC60601-1 and CSA approval																		
Isolation rating:	4000 V AC _{rms} (1 minute)																		
IMRR:	130 dB																		
CMRR:	110 dB																		
Filters - High pass:	Single pole 0.5 Hz and 10 Hz																		
- Low pass	10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 Hz																		
- Notch	Mains																		
Audio output (26T only):	Stereo output socket supplying an analog audio signal from both bio amp channels. Suitable for earphones, headphones and																		

most externally powered speakers.
Output is 300 mV at full scale.

Output Amplifier

Output configuration:	2 Outputs – Complementary
Output resolution:	16-bit
Maximum output current:	20 mA
Accuracy error:	Less than 0.2 %
Linearity error:	±0.5 LSB (INL) (typical) ±0.5 LSB (DNL) (typical)
Output ranges:	±10 V ±5 V ±2 V ±1 V ±500 mV ±200 mV
Output slew rate:	2.3 V/μs
Settling time (G=1, 10 V step):	5 μs
Output impedance:	0.001 Ω

Isolated Stimulator Output (PowerLab 15T & 26T)

Output configuration:	Constant-current stimulator with hardware limited repetition rate
Isolation rating:	4000 V _{rms} to ground as per IEC60601-1 2000 V _{rms} to Bio Amp inputs
Pulse duration:	50 – 200 μs (software selectable)
Compliance voltage:	100–110 V typical
Output current:	0 – 20 mA in 0.1 mA steps (software selectable)
Pulse rate:	Software selectable, but hardware-limited to a maximum of 1000 Hz and 200 μs for safety.
Safety indicators:	Green and yellow indicators. Green flash indicates delivery of a valid stimulus. Concurrent green and yellow flash indicates an out-of-compliance condition.

Safety switch: Provides physical disconnection of the stimulator from the subject.

External Trigger (not on PowerLab 15T)

Trigger mode: TTL level or contact closure, software selectable

Trigger threshold: +1.3 V (rising edge), +1.1 V (falling edge)

Hysteresis: 0.3 V

Input load: HCMOS

Maximum input over-voltage: ± 12 V

Minimum event time: 3 μ s

Expansion Ports (not on PowerLab 15T)

I²C expansion port: Power and control bus for front-end units. Supports a number of front-ends equal to the number of PowerLab analog inputs. Interface communications rate of up to 10 Kbits/s.

Digital ports (26T only)

- Output: 8 independent lines, TTL output level (8 mA maximum load per line)

- Input: 8 independent lines, TTL input level, threshold 1.2 V, 10 k Ω input impedance, 5V maximum

Microprocessor and Data Communication

CPU: Digital Signal Processor – Freescale DSP56858

RAM: 4 Mbit SRAM

ROM: 1 Mbit Flash ROM

Data communication: Hi-speed USB 2.0 (max of 480 Mb/s transfer) compatible with USB 1.1 hosts.

Physical Configuration

Dimensions (h \times w \times d): 65 mm \times 200 mm \times 250 mm (2.56" \times 7.9" \times 9.8")

Weight: 1.8 kg

Operating Requirements

Operating voltage range:	95–264 V AC, 47–63 Hz
Rated power:	25 VA
Operating conditions:	5–35 °C, 0–90 % humidity (non-condensing)

ADInstruments reserves the right to alter these specifications at any time.

Electromagnetic Compatibility

The ML818 PowerLab 15T, ML826 PowerLab 2/26, ML846 PowerLab 4/26 and ML856 PowerLab 26T (the devices) have been tested to comply with IEC 60601-1-2:2004 (AS/NZS 3200.1.2) including IEC 61000-3-2, IEC 61000-3-3, IEC 61000-4-2, IEC 61000-4-3, IEC 61000-4-4, IEC 61000-4-5, IEC 61000-4-6, IEC 61000-4-8, IEC 61000-4-11 and CISPR 11 Group 1 Class A.

Emissions

- The devices are suitable for use in all establishments other than domestic and those directly connected to the public low-voltage power supply network that supplies buildings used for domestic purposes. There may be potential difficulties in ensuring electromagnetic compatibility in other environments, due to conducted as well as radiated disturbances.

Immunity

See Table B–1 p. 49.

- Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment. If the user of the devices requires continued operation during power mains interruptions, it is recommended that the devices be powered from an uninterruptible power supply or a battery.
- Power frequency magnetic fields should be at levels characteristic of a typical location in a typical commercial or hospital environment.
- Floors should be wood, concrete or ceramic tile. If floors are covered with synthetic material, the relative humidity should be at least 30%.

Table B-1
Immunity test compliance

<i>Immunity test</i>	<i>IEC 60601 test level</i>	<i>Compliance level</i>	<i>Electromagnetic environment guidance</i>
Conducted RF IEC 61000-4-6	3 Vrms 150 kHz to 80 MHz	3 V	Recommended separation distance (see Table B-2 p. 50)
Radiated RF IEC 61000-4-3	3 V/m 80 MHz to 2.5 GHz	3 V/m	Recommended separation distance (see Table B-2 p. 50)
Electrostatic discharge IEC61000-4-2	±6 kV contact ±8 kV air	±4 kV contact ±8 kV air	Floors should be wood, concrete or ceramic tile. If floors are covered with synthetic material, the relative humidity should be at least 30%.
Electrical fast transient/burst IEC61000-4-4	±2 kV for power supply lines ±1 kV for input/output lines	±2 kV for power supply lines ±1 kV for input/output lines	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment.
Surge IEC 61000-4-5	±1 kV differential mode ±2 kV common-mode	±1 kV differential mode ±2 kV common-mode	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment.
Voltage dips, short interruptions and voltage variations on power supply input lines IEC61000-4-11	<5% UT (>95% dip in UT) for 0.5 cycle 40% UT (60% dip in UT) for 5 cycles 70% UT (30% dip in UT) for 25 cycles <5% UT (>95% dip in UT) for 5 sec	<5% UT (>95% dip in UT) for 0.5 cycle 40% UT (60% dip in UT) for 5 cycles 70% UT (30% dip in UT) for 25 cycles	Mains power quality should be that of a typical commercial or hospital environment. If the user of the devices require continued operation during power mains interruptions, it is recommended that the devices be powered from an uninterruptible power supply or a battery.
Power frequency (50/60Hz) magnetic field IEC 61000-4-8	3 A/m	3 A/m	Power frequency magnetic fields should be at levels characteristic of a typical location in a typical commercial or hospital environment.

Separation Distances

- The devices are intended for use in an electromagnetic environment in which radiated RF disturbances are controlled.
- Portable and mobile RF communications equipment should be used no closer to any part of the devices, including cables, than the recommended separation distance in the table below.
- Field strengths from fixed RF transmitters, as determined by an electromagnetic site survey, should be less than the compliance level in each frequency range.

Table B-2
Separation distances

Rated maximum output power of transmitter, P	<i>Separation distance</i>	
	150 kHz to 800 MHz $d = 1.17\sqrt{P}$	800 MHz to 2.5 GHz $d = 2.33\sqrt{P}$
0.01 W	0.1 m	0.2 m
0.1 W	0.4 m	0.7 m
1 W	1.2 m	2.3 m
10 W	3.7 m	7.4 m
100 W	11.7 m	23.4 m

Glossary

AC coupling. A filter option. When AC coupling is chosen, a 0.1 Hz high-pass filter before the first amplification stage removes DC and frequency components below 0.1 Hz. This removes slowly changing baselines.

ADC (analog-to-digital converter). A device that converts analog information into some corresponding digital voltage or current.

amplitude. The maximum vertical distance of a periodic wave from the zero or mean position about which the wave oscillates.

analog. Varying smoothly and continuously over a range. An analog signal varies continuously over time, rather than changing in discrete steps.

analog input. This refers to the connectors on the front of the PowerLab marked 'Input'. These inputs are designed to accept up to ± 10 volts. Inputs can be either single-sided or differential (the latter only in the case of the pod connectors).

analog output. This refers to the connectors on the front of the PowerLab marked 'Output'. The analog output provides a software-controlled variable output (± 10 V) that can be used with applications either directly as a stimulator, or to control peripheral devices. Not for use with human subjects.

analysis. When the PowerLab is not physically connected to the computer, then ADInstruments software can be used to analyze and manipulate existing files if the analysis option is chosen.

BNC (bayonet nut connector). A type of cable or connector; a BNC-to-BNC cable connects two BNC connectors.

bridge transducer. A type of transducer using a Wheatstone bridge circuit. In its basic form, the bridge consists of four two-terminal elements (usually strain gauges) connected to form a quadrilateral. An excitation source is

connected across one diagonal, and the transducer output is taken across the other.

bus. A data-carrying electrical pathway (cables and connectors).

connector. A plug, socket, jack or port used to connect one electronic device to another (via a cable): a PowerLab to a computer, say.

CPU (central processing unit). A hardware device that performs logical and arithmetical operations on data as specified in the instructions: the heart of most computers.

DAC (digital-to-analog converter). A device that converts digital information into some corresponding analog voltage or current.

DC offset. The amount of DC (direct current) voltage present at the output of an amplifier when zero voltage is applied to the input; or the amount of DC voltage present in a transducer in its equilibrium state.

differential input. Input using both positive and negative inputs on a PowerLab. The recorded signal is the difference between the positive and negative input voltages: if both were fed exactly the same signal, zero would result. Can reduce the noise from long leads.

DIN (Deutsche Industrie Norm). A type of cable or connector; there are various sorts with different numbers of pins.

envelope form. The overall shape of a signal, outlined by the minimum and maximum recorded values. Often used to display quickly changing signals.

excitation voltage. The voltage supplied to a bridge circuit from which the transducer output signal is derived. Manipulating the transducer changes the measurement elements of the bridge circuit, producing a change in its output voltage.

external trigger. The input connector on the front of the PowerLab marked 'Trigger'. This lets you start recording from an external source. The trigger level (the voltage needed to have an effect) depends on the hardware and cannot be changed. Recording can also be triggered by contact closure, if this is set up in the software.

filter. An electronic device or a program that alters data in accordance with specific criteria. Filters in hardware and software can be used to reduce or to eliminate electronic noise or drift from data readings.

frequency. The number of complete cycles per second of a waveform. Frequency is usually expressed in hertz: Hz (cycles per second), kilohertz:

kHz (thousands of cycles per second), or megahertz: MHz (millions of cycles per second).

frequency response. The bandwidth in which a circuit passes a signal without too much attenuation. A low-pass filter's frequency response is the frequency where the output voltage becomes 0.707 ($1/\sqrt{2}$) of the input voltage or has been attenuated by 3 decibels. If a low-pass filter has a frequency response of 200 Hz, say, then the signal is effectively unattenuated up to 150 Hz, and is 0.707 of the original value at 200 Hz.

front-end. An ancillary device that extends PowerLab capabilities, providing additional signal conditioning and features for specialized work. Front-ends are recognized automatically by the PowerLab system and seamlessly integrated into its applications, operating under full software control.

gain. The amount of amplification of a signal.

half-bridge transducer. A bridge transducer only using half of the full-bridge circuit. It consists of two elements of equal value with an excitation voltage applied across them. The output of the transducer is taken at the junction of the two elements.

hertz (Hz). The unit of frequency of vibration or oscillation, defined as the number of cycles per second. For example, the minimum sampling rate for a human ECG experiment should be 400 Hz (400 samples/s).

high-pass filter (HPF). A filter that passes high-frequency signals, but filters low ones, by blocking DC voltages and attenuating frequencies below a certain value (the cut-off, or -3 dB, frequency).

I²C ('eye-squared-sea'). This connection is used by the PowerLab to control front-ends. It provides power and communication using a 4-wire serial bus (two wires for standard I²C and two control lines).

IEC. International Electrotechnical Commission.

LabChart. An ADInstruments software application that emulates a multi-channel chart recorder, with other powerful options. (Macintosh and Windows versions differ slightly.)

LabTutor. An ADInstruments application for teaching physiology that integrates the experiment protocol, real-time data acquisition, analysis and reporting as interactive pages in the Internet Explorer browser.

low-pass filter (LPF). A filter that passes low-frequency signals and DC voltages, but filters high ones, attenuating frequencies above a certain value (the cut-off, or -3 dB, frequency).

MacLab. An earlier name for the PowerLab, before it became cross-platform.

PCI (peripheral component interconnect). A protocol for connecting peripheral devices (such as USB cards) to computers and so on.

pod connector. A special 8-pin DIN connector on some PowerLabs giving differential or single-sided connections for analog inputs. Pods can connect to them, and they can also provide power and control for some types of transducers.

pods. Small, low-cost units that connect to the PowerLab's pod connectors. They give alternatives to front-ends for specific tasks, for use with precalibrated transducers and so on.

port. A socket where you plug in a cable for connection to a network or a peripheral device. Also, any connection for transferring data, for instance between the CPU and main memory.

PowerLab. The PowerLab hardware unit is a self-contained data acquisition hardware unit that connects to a Windows or Macintosh computer. When used in conjunction with programs such as LabTutor, LabChart and Scope, it functions as a versatile laboratory instrument.

PowerLab system. The system consists of a hardware unit and applications software (and possibly ancillary devices). It provides a multi-purpose data recording, display, and analysis environment for experimental data.

range. In LabChart and Scope, the range is the greatest positive and negative voltage that can be displayed, usually from ± 5 mV to ± 10 V, in 11 steps. (Range is inversely proportional to gain, the extent of amplification.)

Scope. An ADInstruments software application that emulates a two-channel storage oscilloscope, with added powerful options. (Macintosh and Windows versions are very similar.)

serial. A connection protocol for sending information sequentially, one bit at a time, over a single wire.

transducer. A physical device that converts a mechanical, thermal or electrical stimulus into a proportional electrical output. For example, there are common transducers to measure force, displacement, temperature, pressure, and similar parameters.

trigger. A signal, such as a voltage pulse, used to determine when sampling will begin. Sampling can be made to begin when the trigger level is reached, after it, or even prior to it. See also external trigger.

TTL (transistor-transistor logic). A family of integrated circuits (ICs) with bipolar circuit logic, used in computers and related devices.

TTL is also a standard for interconnecting such ICs, defining the voltages used to represent logical zeroes and ones (binary 0 and 1).

USB. Universal Serial Bus.

waveform. The shape of a wave; a graph of a wave's amplitude over time.

Index

A

ADC (analog-to-digital converter) 34
ADInstruments contacts 12
analog input 15, 35
analog output 15, 34, 35
analog-to-digital converter 34
anti-aliasing 30
audio connector 18

B

back panel 17–19
Bio Amp
 cable 19–20
 inputs 16, 37
 software 28–31

C

calibration 39
checking the PowerLab 12
compliance 16, 38
connections
 audio 18
 digital 18
 front-ends 15, 41
 ground 19
 I²C 18, 40
 pod 15, 41
 power 19
 PowerLab to computer 23, 41–42
 safe, to humans 15
 USB 18, 23, 41
contact addresses 12

D

DAC (digital-to-analog converter) 34
DC drift 35, 39
DC restore 30
digital input 18, 39
digital output 18, 39
digital-to-analog converter 34

E

earthing 42
electromagnetic compatibility 48–50
error patterns 22
external trigger 13, 36

F

filtering 29
front panel 13–16
front-ends 20

G

ground connection 19
ground loops 42

H

high-pass filter 30

I

Isolated Stimulator
 output 16, 38
 software 24–27
Isolated Stimulator panel 27
I²C connector 18, 40

L

LabChart 23

low-pass filter 30

M

mains filter 30

marker 27

P

pod connection 15, 41

pods 20

Power indicator 13, 22

power switch 19

PowerLab

- accuracy 39

- back panel 17–19

- calibration 39

- connectors 39–42

- front panel 13–16

- input amplifiers 35

- power supply 34

- safety 15

- self-test 22

S

safety 15

Safety Notes 5–10

safety switch 16

Scope 24

self-test 22

Status indicator 13, 22

stimulator controls 24–27

Stimulator Pulse indicator 16, 38

Stimulator software 24–27

storage 10

T

technical specifications 43–48

transducers 20

trigger 13

Trigger indicator 13

U

USB

- connection 18, 23, 41

- high-speed cables 41

- port 42

user modification voids warranty 33