

Agilent Technologies M9403A and M9404A

User's and Service Guide



Agilent Technologies

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Statement of Compliance

This instrument has been designed and tested in accordance with CAN/CSA 22.2 No. 61010-1-04, UL Std No. 61010-1 (2nd Edition).

Declaration of Conformity

A copy of the declaration of conformity is available upon request, or a copy is available on the Agilent Technologies web site at <http://regulations.corporate.agilent.com/DoC/search.htm>

Safety Notices

The following safety notes are used throughout this document. Familiarize yourself with each of these notes and its meaning before performing any of the procedures in this document.

WARNING **Warning denotes a hazard. It calls attention to a procedure which, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in injury or loss of life. Do not proceed beyond a warning note until the indicated conditions are fully understood and met.**

CAUTION Caution denotes a hazard. It calls attention to a procedure that, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in damage to or destruction of the product. Do not proceed beyond a caution sign until the indicated conditions are fully understood and met.

General Safety Information

Introduction

This product is intended for use by qualified personnel that are familiar with the safety precautions required to avoid any possible injury. Read and follow all installation, operation, and maintenance information carefully before using this product. Refer to the user documentation for complete product specifications

This product has been designed and tested in accordance with accepted industry standards, and has been supplied in a safe condition. The documentation contains information and warnings that must be followed by the user to ensure safe operation and to maintain the product in a safe condition.

Cleaning Precautions

To clean the connectors use alcohol in a well ventilated area. Allow all residual alcohol moisture to evaporate, and fumes to dissipate prior to energizing the instrument.

WARNING **To prevent electrical shock, remove the Agilent Technologies M9403A and M9404A from the chassis before cleaning. Use a dry cloth or one slightly dampened with water to clean the external case parts. Do not attempt to clean internally. To clean the connectors, use alcohol in a well-ventilated area. Allow all residual alcohol moisture to evaporate, and the fumes to dissipate prior to energizing the instrument.**

Instrument Markings



This symbol indicates separate collection for electrical and electronic equipment, mandated under EU law as of August 13, 2005. All electric and electronic equipment are required to be separated from normal waste for disposal (Reference WEEE Directive, 2002/96/EC).



The CE mark is a registered trademark of the European Community. (If accompanied by a year, it is when the design was proven).



This is a required mark signifying compliance with an EMC requirement. The C-Tick mark is a registered trademark of the Australian Spectrum Management Agency.



Indicates the time period during which no hazardous or toxic substance elements are expected to leak or deteriorate during normal use. Forty years is the expected useful life of the product.



This symbol indicates that PXI is a U.S. registered trademark of the PXI System Alliance.



Maximum RF Input power. (Option H01)



Maximum RF Input power. (Option H02)



Class 3R Laser warning label. Denoting invisible laser radiation and wavelength.



Maximum Optical Input power.



Laser Radiation

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Contents

M9403A & M9404A

Introduction

The scope of this User's and Service Guide is to detail the processes of receiving and installing the M9403A and M9404A module, installing the required software, and verifying basic module operations. If you have any inquiries after reviewing this information, contact your local Agilent Technologies Inc. representative or refer to "[Contacting Agilent](#)" on page 20.

Description

Congratulations on your purchase from Agilent Technologies, Inc.

The M9403A is a 2-slot, 3U PXIe RF to optical converter, modulating the RF signal onto a 1550 nm single mode optical signal. The M9404A is a one-slot, 3U PXIe Optical to RF converter, demodulating the optical signal and delivering the recovered RF signal to the output connector. The M9403A and M9404A operate over a frequency range of 300 kHz to 26.5 or 50 GHz and both modules offer an optional, built in 30 dB amplifier.

To get the most out of your purchase, it is recommended that this User's and Service guide be read carefully and completely.

Table 1 Model and Options

Module	Option	Description
M9403A	H01	E/O Converter
	H02	E/O Converter with Amplifier
	F26	Frequency 300 kHz to 26.5 GHz
	F50	Frequency 300 kHz to 50 GHz
M9404A	H01	O/E Converter
	H02	O/E Converter with Amplifier
	F26	Frequency 300 kHz to 26.5 GHz
	F50	Frequency 300 kHz to 50 GHz

Verifying the Shipment

To verify the content shipped with your module, refer to the “Box Content List” included with the shipment.

Inspect the shipping container for damage. Report any damage to the shipping agent immediately, such damage is not covered by the warranty (warranty information can be found at the beginning of this manual). Keep the damaged shipping materials (if any) for inspection by the carrier and an Agilent Technologies representative. Refer to [“Contacting Agilent” on page 20](#).

Carefully remove the contents from the shipping container and verify that your order is complete. Confirm that the options you ordered are included with the shipment. Refer to the serial number label on the side panel and the packing literature included with the shipment.

Electrostatic Discharge Protection

Electrostatic discharge (ESD) can damage or destroy electronic components. The module is shipped in materials which prevent damage from static, and should only be removed from the packaging in an anti-static area ensuring that the correct anti-static precautions are taken.

Two types of ESD protection are listed below. Purchase acceptable ESD accessories from your local supplier.

- Conductive table-mat and wrist-strap combination
- Conductive floor-mat and heel-strap combination

Both types, when used together, provide a significant level of ESD protection. To ensure user safety, static-safe accessories must provide at least 1 MW of isolation from ground.

WARNING **These techniques for a static-safe work station should not be used when working on circuitry with a voltage potential greater than 500 volts.**

General Characteristics

Table 2 Link Performance¹

Frequency Range	300 kHz to 50 GHz	
Input Power at Compression (0.1 dB and 1 dB compression with amplifier Option H02)		0.1 dB 1 dB
	1 GHz	–36 –28
	10 GHz	–34 –26
	26.5 GHz	–34 –23
	50 GHz	–26 –19
Maximum Input Power M9403A Option H01 Option H02	+7 dBm –25 dBm	
Damage Input Power Level M9403A Option H01 Option H02	+20 dBm –10 dBm	
Impedance	50 Ohms	
	Option F26	Option F50
Return Loss Source Receiver	26.5 GHz ≥ 6 dB 26.5 GHz ≥ 8 dB	50 GHz ≥ 4 dB 50 GHz ≥ 6 dB
Frequency Response Option H01 Option H02	–31 dB @ 26.5 GHz –1 dB @ 26.5 GHz	– 37 dB @ 50 GHz –12 dB @ 50 GHz
NF (The conversion loss of the link is the primary contributor to the NF results. Amplification is recommended to reduce NF).	42 dB @ 26.5 GHz	43 dB @ 50 GHz
RF Connector	3.5 mm	2.4 mm

1. Specifications for the family of OXI modules are typical. Performance listed is only characteristic and intended as non-warranted information. Only a functional certificate is provided for the optical extenders product family.

Figure 1 Transmission Distance vs Frequency¹

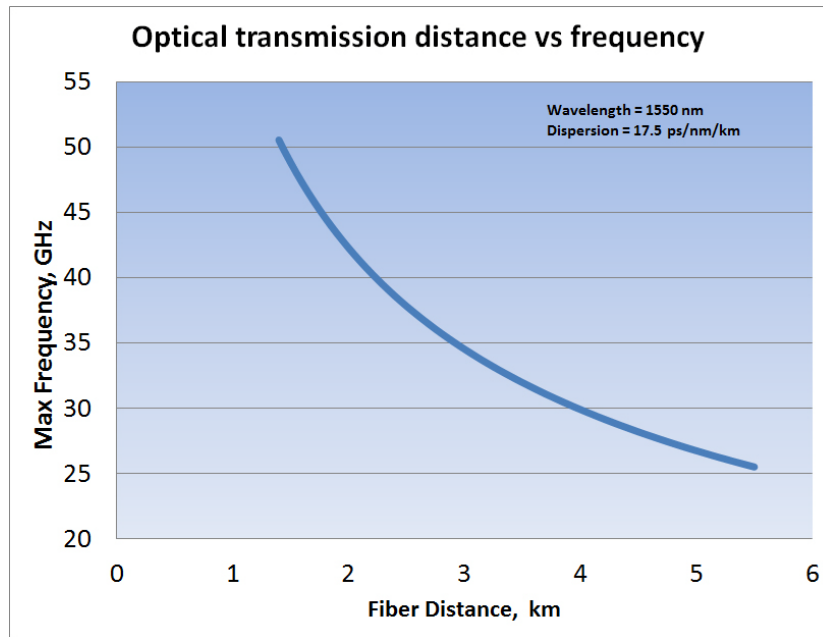
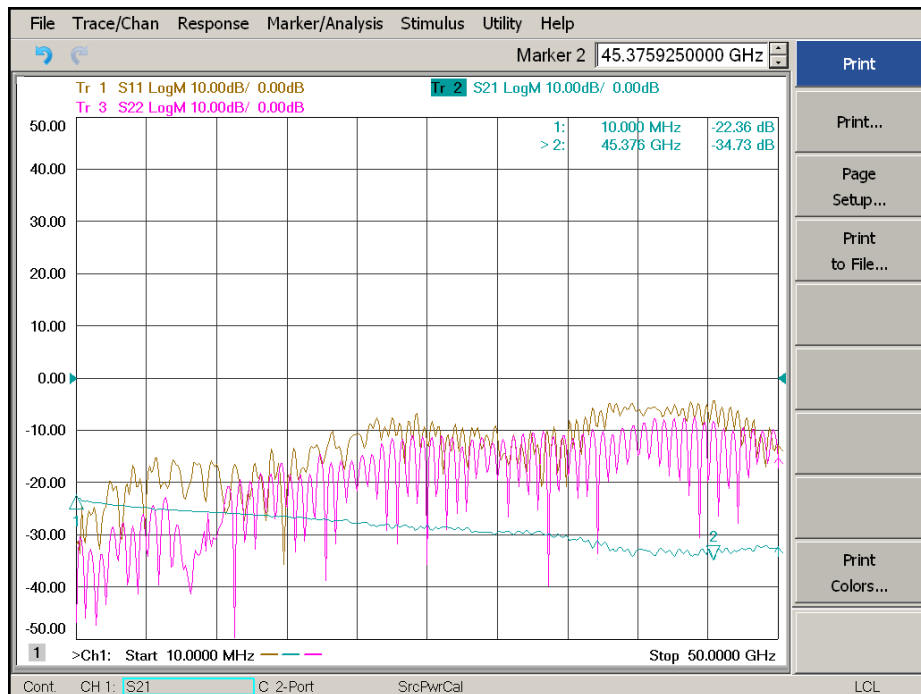
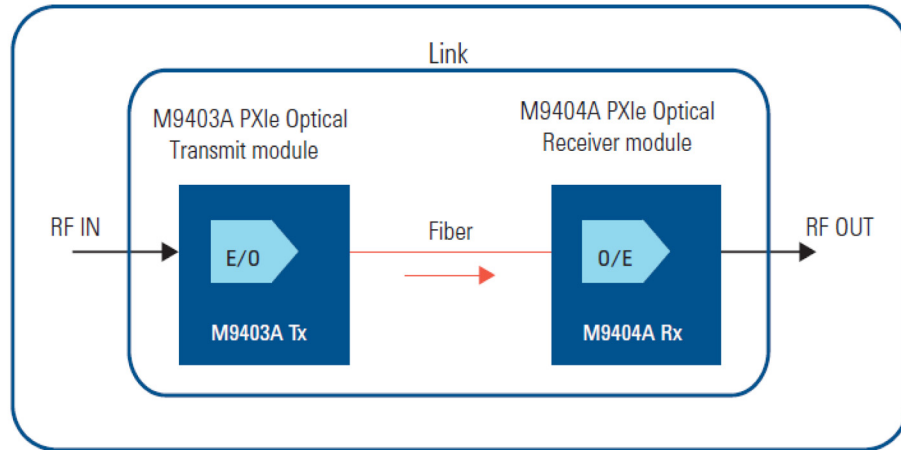


Table 3 Link Performance

Frequency Range	300 kHz to 50 GHz
Fiber type	SMF 28e
Optical connector	E2000 APC
Temperature/drift	fiber dependent
Bandwidth	300 kHz to 50 GHz full range available
Optical wavelength	1550 nm
Optical power out	+5 dBm
Maximum distance	1500 meters @ 26.5 GHz 1400 meters @ 50 GHz
Number of PXI slots occupied	
M9403A	2-slot
M9404A	1-slot
Software	None required
Slot compatibility	PXIe, PXI hybrid

1. Optical loss graph with fiber length from 26.5 to 50 GHz.

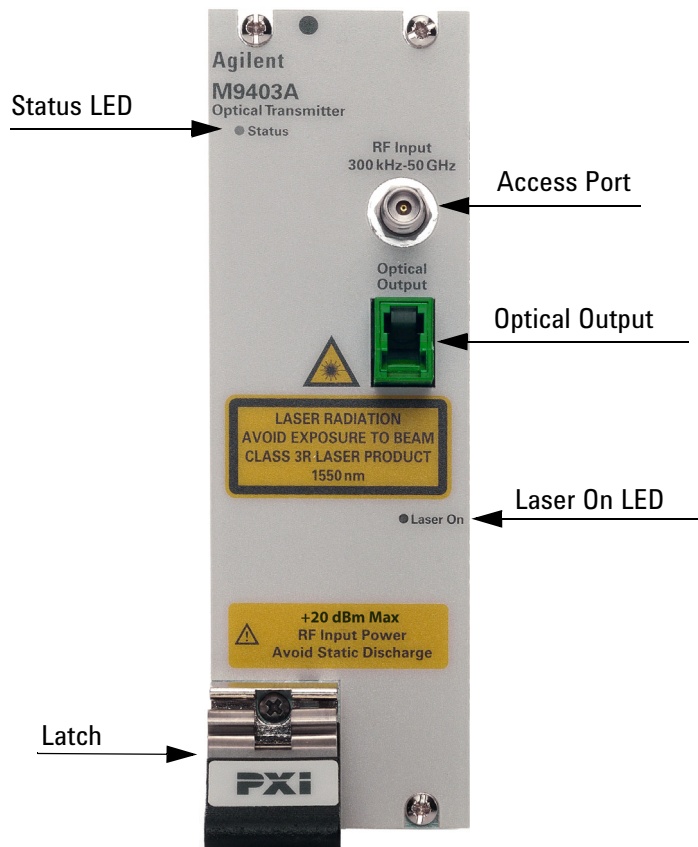
Figure 2 Link Conversion Loss ¹



1. Typical link conversion loss using the Agilent M9403A optical transmitter and M9404A optical receiver without an amplifier.

Front Panel Features

Figure 3 M9403A Front Panel



Status LED

- Green, the status LED indicates the chassis is powered on and communicating with the module when the soft front panel is opened (SFP).

Access Ports 3.5 or 2.4 mm (female)

- RF Input 300 kHz to 26.5 or 50 GHz

Test Port Optical Links - E2000/PC- Class 3R Laser

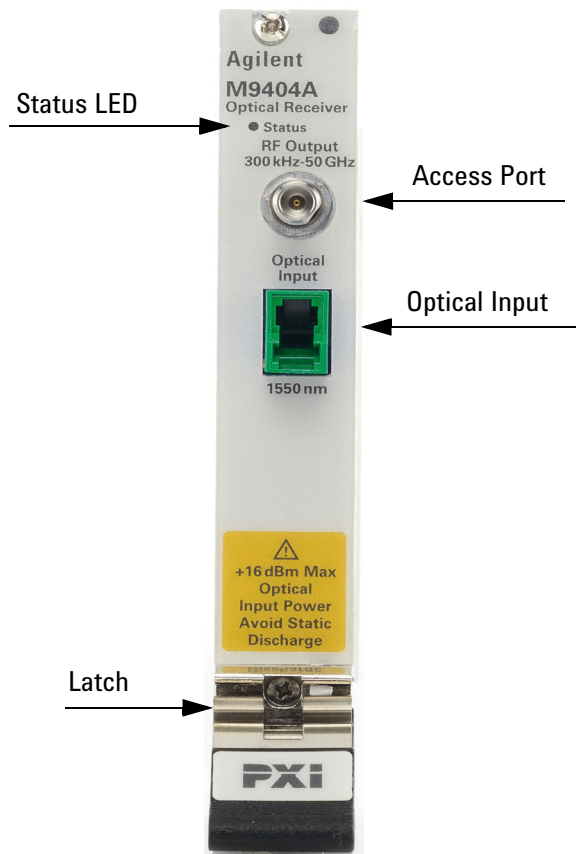
- Optical Output

Test Port Optical Links LED

- Laser On

PXI Latch

- Secures the modules to the mainframe.

Figure 4 M9404A Front Panel**Status LED**

- Green, the status LED indicates the chassis is powered on and communicating with the module when the soft front panel is opened (SFP).

Access Ports 3.5 or 2.4 mm (female)

- RF Input 300 kHz to 26.5 or 50 GHz

Test Port Optical Links - E2000/PC- Class 3R Laser

- Optical Input

PXI Latch

- Secures the modules to the mainframe.

Install the Software

Table 4 System and Hardware Requirements

Topic	Requirements	
System Requirements		
Operating System	Window XP, Service Pack 3	Windows Vista®, SP1 and SP2 (32-bit and 64-bit), Windows 7 (32 bit and 64 bit)
Processor speed	600 MHz or higher required 800 MHz recommended	1 GHz 32-bit (x86), 1 GHz 64-bit (x64), no support for Itanium64
Available memory	256 MB minimum (1 GB or greater recommended)	1 GB minimum
Available disk space ¹	1.5 GB available hard disk space, includes: 1 GB available for Microsoft.NET Framework 3.5 SP1 ² 100 MB for Agilent IO Libraries Suite	
Video	Super VGA (800x600) 25 colors or more	Support for DirectX 9 graphics with 128 MB graphics memory recommended (Super VGA graphics is supported)
Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or greater	Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or greater
Hardware Requirements		
Chassis	PXIe system/ host controller A PXI or PXI Express embedded controller or remote controller (external PC connected to the chassis via a PCI-to-PXI interface) is required.	
PXIe System/ host Controller	A PXI or PXI Express embedded controller or remote controller (external PC connected to the chassis via a PCI-to-PXI interface) is required.	
Embedded Controller	Agilent M9036A or an embedded controller that meets the following requirements: - PXIe system controller (PXI-1 embedded controllers are not compatible) - Utilize a 2x8, 4x4, or 1x4 PXIe system slot link configuration. - Run one of the operating systems listed in System Requirements (above).	
Remote Controller	(for Agilent M9018A chassis use only) Agilent M9021 Cable Interface x8 with one of the following PC interface options: - Agilent M9045 PCIe ExpressCard Adaptor x1, with cable (for a laptop PC) - Agilent M9047 PCIe Desktop Adaptor x8, with cable (for desktop PCs) Or an equivalent remote controller using a PC running one of the operating systems listed in System Requirements (above).	

1. This is the required disk space for installation. Typically, less disk space is required for operation than is required for installation.
2. NET Framework Runtime Components are installed by default with Windows Vista. Therefore, you may not need this amount of disk space.

Power up the Controller

CAUTION If you are using a remote controller and you have installed the interface cable, you must power up the chassis *before* you power up the PC. As well, you must power down the PC *before* you power down the chassis.

If you are using an embedded controller, complete the following steps:

1. Install the embedded controller module into the compatible chassis. The Agilent M9036A PXIe Embedded Controller and Agilent M9018A PXIe Chassis are recommended. Please refer to the embedded controller and chassis documentation for further details.
2. Connect peripherals (mouse, keyboard and monitor).
3. Turn On the chassis.

Install the Software

NOTE Administrator privileges will be needed for software and hardware installation. This includes first-time installation of a module in a different chassis slot.

The software installation includes the following:

NOTE Version 16.2 (or newer) of the Agilent IO Libraries Suite is required.

- The Agilent IO Libraries Suite CD (E2094-60003), includes the Agilent Connection Expert. It is also available at www.agilent.com/find/iosuite.
- Instrument software, which includes the soft front panel (SFP), device driver (IVI-COM) and documentation for the M9403A and M9404A. This software CD is included with your shipment (M9499-10002).

Use the following procedure to install the software:

1. From the Agilent IO Libraries Suite CD (E2094- 60003) browser, launch the installer.
2. Follow the installer prompts to install the IO Libraries Suite.
3. From the Product Software and Information CD (M9499-10002) browser, launch the installer.
4. Follow the installer prompts to install all software and documentation for the module.
5. After installation has completed, power down the host PC.

Install the M9403A and M9404A

NOTE The M9403/04A can be used in a chassis with a PXIh chassis peripheral slot.



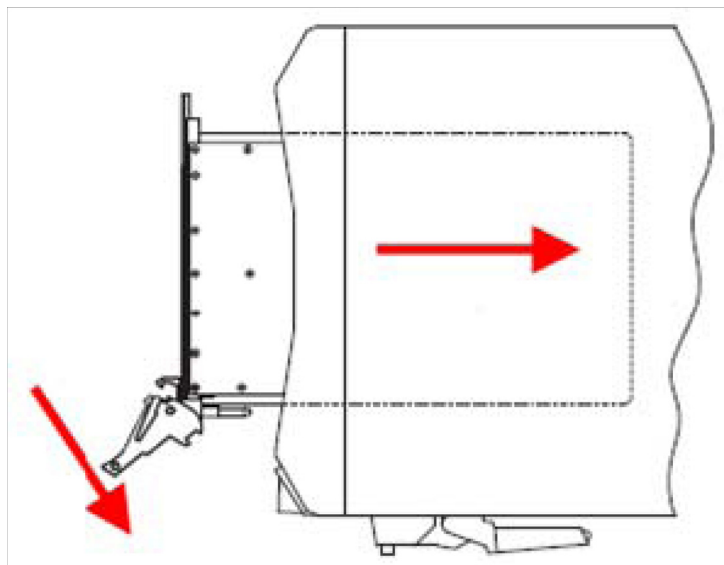
The M9403/04A can also be installed in any hybrid PXI slot marked with a peripheral slot compatibility image (the letter "H" and a solid circle containing the slot number).

CAUTION PXI hardware does not support "hot-swap" capabilities (changing modules while power is applied to the chassis).

Before installing a module into the chassis, the chassis must be powered off to prevent damage to the module.

1. Ensure that the PXI chassis power switch is in the off (Standby) position.
2. If the chassis has multiple fan speed settings, ensure that the fans are set to automatic. Do not set the fan speed to low or turn it off.
3. Position the chassis so that there is ample space between the chassis fan intake and exhaust vents. Blockage by walls or obstructions affects the air flow needed for cooling. (Refer to the chassis documentation for more information about cooling).
4. Holding the module by the injector/ejector handle, slide it into the card edges on the guide slot (top and bottom) as shown in [Figure 5](#).
 - a. Slide the module to the rear of the chassis and ensure that the injector/ejector handle is pushed down in the unlatched (downward) position.
 - b. Slide the module completely into the chassis. When you begin to feel resistance, push up on the injector/ejector handle to fully insert the module into the chassis.

Figure 5 Installing the Module



5. Secure the front panel to the chassis using the front panel mounting screws. Performance may suffer if the screws are not tightened properly.
6. Verify that the PXI chassis fans are operable and free of dust and other contaminants that may restrict air flow.
7. Install all chassis covers and filler panels. Missing filler panels may disrupt necessary air circulation in the chassis.
8. Power up the PXI chassis.

M9403A and M9404A Operational Check Procedure

The operational check measures the signal paths from the RF Input of the M9403A module to the RF Output of the M9404A module. The following procedure verifies that the connectors and circuitry are operating correctly.

CAUTION Do not exceed the damage power level. Refer to [Table 2 on page 4](#).

Equipment Required

To demonstrate that the module works properly requires external equipment with operating frequency range of 10 MHz to 26.5 or 50 GHz. This includes a network analyzer, or optionally, a signal source and power meter or spectrum analyzer.

Table 5 Hardware Test Configuration

Hardware	Description
Option I	Network Analyzer
Option II	Signal Source and Power Meter
Option III	Signal Source and Spectrum Analyzer

Equipment Test Configuration Option I (Network Analyzer)

1. Adjust the Network Analyzer Stimulus Power for the M9403A-H02 to -30 dBm, or -10 dBm for the M9403A-H01.
2. Set the Frequency Sweep from 10 MHz to 26.5 or 50 GHz depending on Options F26 or F50.
3. Perform a 2-Port Network Analyzer calibration (normalization response is adequate).
4. Connect the Stimulus Source (Network Analyzer Port 1) to the M9403A Access Port.
5. Connect Port 2 of the Network Analyzer to the M9404A Access Port.

NOTE Depending on your instrument's power handling capability it may be necessary to use a 20 dB attenuator to protect the instrument.

6. Connect optical ports between M9403A and M9404A with an optical cable.
7. Measure the Return Loss (S11 and S22) and Link loss (S21). Compare it to the typical performance in [Table 2 on page 4](#).

NOTE On the M9403A or M9404A Option H02 you should expect to see a 30 dB improvement over the Link Loss. Return Loss may be different as well.

Equipment Test Configuration Option II (Signal Source & Power Meter)

1. Adjust the Signal Source Stimulus Power for the M9403A-H02 to -30 dBm, or -10 dBm for the M9403A-H01.
2. Set the Signal Source to a CW frequency of 50 MHz.
3. Perform a Power Meter calibration.
4. Connect the Stimulus Source to M9403A Access Port.
5. Connect the Power Meter Sensor to M9404A Access Port.

NOTE Depending on your instrument's power handling capability it may be necessary to use a 20 dB attenuator to protect the instrument.

6. Connect optical ports between M9403A and M9404A using an optical cable.
7. Measure the Power and compare Link Loss ($P_{\text{measured}} - P_{\text{stimulus}}$).
8. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 10 GHz.
9. Repeat [step 5](#) thru [step 7](#).
10. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 26.5 GHz.
11. Repeat [step 5](#) thru [step 7](#).
12. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 50 GHz.
13. Compare the Link Loss to [Table 3 on page 5](#).

NOTE On the M9403A or M9404A H02 you should expect to see a 30 dB improvement over the Link Loss. Return Loss may be different as well.

Equipment Test Configuration Option III (Signal Source & Spectrum Analyzer)

1. Adjust the Signal Source Stimulus Power for the M9403A-H02 to -30 dBm, or -10 dBm for the M9403A-H01.
2. Set the CW Frequency Sweep to 50 MHz.
3. Set the Center Frequency to 50 MHz on the Spectrum Analyzer respectively.
4. Connect the Stimulus Source to M9403A Access Port.
5. Connect the Spectrum Analyzer to M9404A Access Port.

NOTE Depending on your instrument's power handling capability it may be necessary to use a 20 dB attenuator to protect the instrument.

6. Connect optical ports between M9403A and M9404A using an optical cable.
7. Measure the Power and compare Link Loss ($P_{\text{measured}} - P_{\text{stimulus}}$).
8. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 10 GHz.
9. Repeat [step 5](#) thru [step 7](#).
10. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 26.5 MHz.
11. Repeat [step 5](#) thru [step 7](#).
12. Set the Signal Source to a CW Frequency of 50 GHz.
13. Compare the Link Loss to [Table 3 on page 5](#).

NOTE For Option H02 on the M9403A or M9404A you should expect to see a 30 dB improvement over the Link Loss. Return Loss may be different as well.

Service

If a Problem is Found

If a problem is found, complete the following procedures:

1. Verify that the relevant hardware is turned on.
2. Verify that the stimulus signal is set to the proper power/frequency and that all cables are properly connected.

Module Core Replacement

Replaceable Parts

Description	Agilent Part Numbers	Part Number Description
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F26	M9403-60001	Replacement core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F26	M9403-69001	Exchange core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F50	M9403-60002	Replacement core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F50	M9403-69002	Exchange core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F26	M9403-60003	Replacement core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F26	M9403-69003	Exchange core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F50	M9403-60004	Replacement core assembly
M9403A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F50	M9403-69004	Exchange core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F26	M9404-60001	Replacement core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F26	M9404-69001	Exchange core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F50	M9404-60002	Replacement core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H01, F50	M9404-69002	Exchange core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F26	M9404-60003	Replacement core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F26	M9404-69003	Exchange core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F50	M9404-60004	Replacement core assembly
M9404A PXIe Optical Transmitter Options H02, F50	M9404-69004	Exchange core assembly

Ordering a Core Replacement Module

1. Contact Agilent (www.agilent.com/find/assist).
2. Order a core replacement for your module.
3. When the core replacement arrives, the package includes:
 - Entitlement Certificate
 - Replacement module
 - Functional Certificate for the replacement module
 - RMA number
 - Return instructions

Replacing the Defective Module

CAUTION Before opening a packaged module for troubleshooting, ensure that all electrostatic discharge (ESD) precautions are observed. Refer to “[Electrostatic Discharge Protection](#)” on [page 3](#) for details.

1. Power down the chassis.
2. Remove the defective module from the chassis.
3. Write down the serial number shown on the side shield of the defective module. You will assign this serial number to the replacement module using the Agilent M9403A or M9404A Simple Module (SFP).
4. Remove the replacement module from the box and shipping material.
5. Remove the side shield from the defective module using a Torx #8 driver.
 - a. There are four screws, the two toward the rear of the module include two nuts to secure the side shield to the module. Important: Keep the screws and nuts, new ones are not included with the replacement module.
6. Remove the side shield from the replacement module using this same process.
7. Attach the original side shield from the defective module to the replacement module.
8. Install the replacement module into the chassis.
9. Power up the chassis.
10. If you are using a remote controller, power up the computer. (If you are using an embedded controller, continue to the [step 11](#).)
11. Program the replacement module with the serial number from the defective module.
 - a. If you don't already have the Agilent M9403A (or M9404A) Simple Module SFP, download it from www.agilent.com/find/M9403A or M9404A (from this site, select Technical Support > Drivers, Firmware & Software), and install it on your computer or embedded controller.
 - b. Launch the Agilent M9403A (or M9404A) Simple Module SFP (launch from the Start menu program group “Agilent/SimpleModuleSFP”) and follow the embedded instructions for programming the serial number.

12. Attach the side shield from the replacement module to the defective module, and return it to Agilent according to the following procedure:
 - a. Review the warranty information shipped with your product.
 - b. Write the following information on a tag and attach it to the malfunctioning equipment:
 - Name and address of owner. A P.O. box is not acceptable as a return address.
 - Product model number (for example, M9403A).
 - Product serial number. The serial number label is located on the side panel of the module. The serial number can also be read from the Soft Front Panel interface, but only after the hardware is installed.
 - Description of failure or service required.
 - Return Material Authorization (RMA) number.
 - c. Pack the module in its original ESD bag and packing carton. If the original carton is not available, use bubble wrap or packing peanuts and place the instrument in a sealed container and mark the container "FRAGILE".
 - d. On the shipping label, write ATTENTION REPAIR DEPARTMENT and the RMA number.

NOTE If any correspondence is required, refer to the product by serial number and model number or refer to ["Agilent Support, Services, and Assistance"](#) on page 20.

Agilent Support, Services, and Assistance

Service and Support Options

There are many other repair and calibration options available from the Agilent Technologies support organization. These options cover a range of service agreements with varying response times. Contact Agilent for additional information on available service agreements for this product.

Contacting Agilent

Assistance and information or finding a local Agilent office are available on the internet at:

<http://www.agilent.com/find/assist>

If you do not have access to the Internet, contact your field engineer.

NOTE In any correspondence or telephone conversation, refer to the Agilent product by its model number and full serial number. With this information, the Agilent representative can determine the warranty status of your unit.

Return for Service or Repair

Should it be necessary to return the product for repair or service, please include the following information:

- Contact Agilent for instructions on where to ship your analyzer.
- Your company's name and address.
- A technical contact person within your company and the person's complete telephone number, including county code and area code.
- A detailed description of the problem and how the device was begin used when the problem occurred (such as calibration, measurement, failed test or error message).