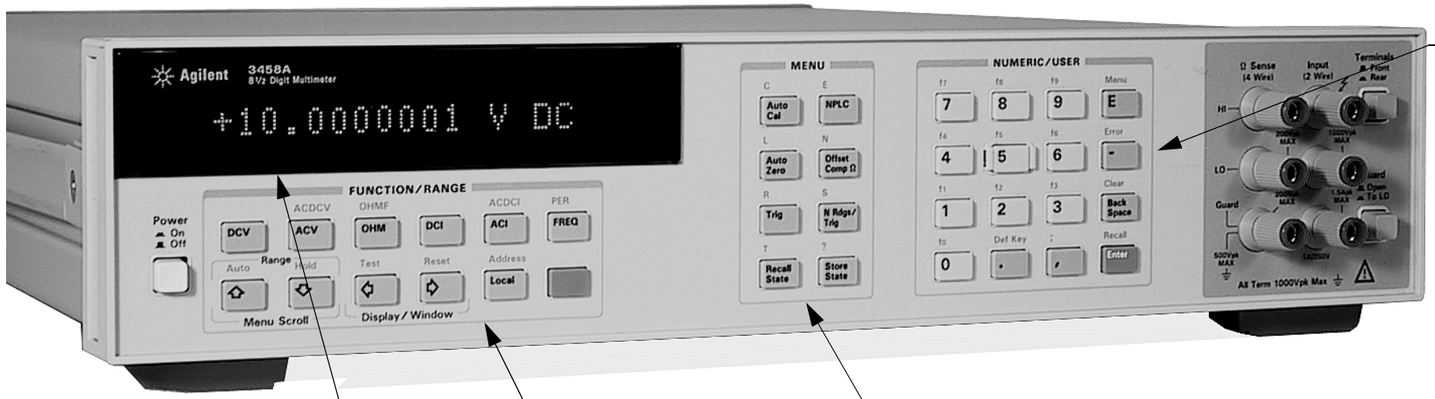
A User's Guide to Agilent 3458A Front Panel Operation



Reading/Menu Display
- Alphanumeric Reading, Units, and Functions
- Command Menu
- Status Annunciators
- MORE INFO (additional information viewable with [shift] [shift])

Function/Range Keys
- Immediate Execute Function Keys
- MAnual Range and Menu [shift] [shift]
- Display Window [shift] [shift]
- GPIB Bus Address

Menu Keys
- Commonly Used Commands
- Shifted Alphabetic Entry Points into Command Menu

Numeric/User Keys
- 10-Key Pad for Numeric Entry
- Deep RECALL buffer of Executed Commands
- MENU type selection
- 10 Battery Backed Up User Definable Keys F0-F9

A 5-Minute Tutorial of Front Panel Operation

Example 1: Making a measurement with any function after turning on the Agilent 3458A. The ACV function serves as a typical example of the immediate execute keys found in the Function/Range key group. Connect the appropriate signal to the input terminals and press the keys shown.

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
ACV	Function/Range	[ACV]

(Any other function key in the Function/Range Key Group acts similarly; the Agilent 3458A changes function, automatically ranges, and begins measurements.)

RESET	Function/Range	[blue] **Reset**

(RESET returns the Agilent 3458A to the powered-on state.)

Example 2: Making a precision Vdc measurement on the 10 V range.

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
RESET	Function/Range	[blue] **Reset**
DCV	Function/Range	[DCV]
10 V Range	Function/Range	[shift] or [shift]

(The [shift] and [shift] keys are pressed until the desired range is displayed: in this case, XX.XXXXX V DC (X is any number). Leading zeros are always displayed for easy range identification.)

NPLC 100	Menu	[NPLC]
	Numeric/User	[1] [0] [0] [Enter]

(Measurement will take about 3 seconds.)

NDIG 8	Function/Range	[blue]
	Menu	**N**
	Numeric/User	[8] [Enter]

(Sets the display to 8 1/2 digits.)

The shifted Menu Keys allow alphabetic access to all Agilent 3458A commands and command parameters. The commands and command parameters are scrolled from A to Z by using the Menu Scroll keys ([shift] and [shift]) found in the Function/Range keys. Command parameters are accessed by using the Display/Window keys [shift] and [shift], also found in the Function/Range keys, after the command is located.

Example 3: Making a very precise Vac measurement using the Synchronous ACV measurement function. (At power-on, the Agilent 3458A is set to the generally more useful Analog ACV measurement function if you select ACV, but you should use Synchronous ACV for very precise measurements of periodic waveforms.)

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
RESET	Function/Range	[blue] **Reset**
ACV	Function/Range	[ACV]
SETACV SYNC	Function/Range	[blue]
	Menu	**S**
	Function/Range	[shift] [shift] [shift]
	Numeric/User	[Enter]

(The MORE INFO annunciator should be illuminated. The MORE INFO annunciator indicates that some part of the measurement configuration is in a non-standard state. To view this information press [shift]. Your display should show SETACV SYNC. Now press [shift] again; the display is returned to the measurement state.)

RES .002	Function/Range	[blue]
	Menu	**R**
	Function/Range	[shift]
	Numeric/User	[.] [0] [0] [2] [Enter]

(The RES command sets the % resolution of the measurement. A function change causes RES to default to RES .01 (0.01%) with reading rate of 1 per 3 s.)

LFILTER ON	Function/Range	[blue]
	Menu	**L**
	Function/Range	[shift] [shift] [shift]
	Numeric/User	[Enter]

(Suggested for inputs with frequencies below 50kHz.)

Auto-Calibration (ACAL)

The Agilent 3458A Auto-Calibration (ACAL) function removes measurement errors caused by component temperature and time drift. For maximum accuracy, ACAL should be performed every 24 hours. For example, additional Vdc volts gain errors due to temperature changes are reduced from 1 ppm/°C to 0.15 ppm/°C (over 6:1) using ACAL. In ACV volts, additional gain error due to temperature changes are reduced from 30 ppm/°C to less than 1 ppm/°C (over 30:1) using ACAL. The time to perform a complete ACAL is about 12 minutes. ACAL ACV takes about 1 minute, ACAL DCV takes about 2 minutes, and ACAL OHM takes about 9 minutes. For monitoring temperature changes, the Agilent 3458A provides the TEMP? command (found in the command Menu) to measure the internal instrument temperature. Refer to the User's Guide for more details. **ACAL keystroke sequence.** [Auto Cal] [shift] [shift] [shift] [shift] [,] [3] [4] [5] [8] [Enter]

Configuration for Highly Accurate Measurements with the Agilent 3458A

(You should perform an ACAL every 24 hours for the appropriate function after the Agilent 3458A has been powered-on and in a stable temperature environment for a minimum of four hours.)

Function	Comment	Key Sequence
DCV		
RESET	Power-on state (VDC)	[blue] **Reset**
NPLC 200	Integration Time (1)	[NPLC] [2] [0] [0] [Enter]
NDIG 8	8 1/2 Digits	[blue] **N** [8] [Enter]
ACV		
RESET	Power-on state	[blue] **Reset**
ACV	Function Vac	[ACV]
SETACV SYNC	Synchronous AC	[blue] **S** [shift] [shift] [shift] [Enter]
RES .002	Max AC Reading Res.	[blue] **R** [shift] [.] [0] [0] [2] [Enter]
LFILTER ON	Internal LP Filter (2)	[blue] **L** [shift] [shift] [shift] [Enter]
OHMS		
RESET	Power-on state	[blue] **Reset**
OHMF	Function Four-Wire Ohms	[blue] **OHMF**
OCOMP ON	For R <= 100 kOhms (3)	[Offset Comp Ω] [shift] [Enter]
DELAY 1	Adds 1 s delay (4)	[blue] **C** [shift] [shift] [1] [Enter]
NPLC 200	Integration Time	[NPLC] [2] [0] [0] [Enter]

1. *Longer integration times reduce measurement noise and increase measurement resolution.*
2. *Recommended for frequencies less than 50kHz.*
3. *OCOMP ON turns on the offset compensation feature of the Agilent 3458A. OCOMP ON minimizes the effect of any thermally generated offset voltage from creating errors in resistance measurements.*
4. *Adds 1 s settling delay to reduce effects of dielectric absorption errors of cabling and the resistor under test*

Short Cuts

Store and Recall Instrument Setups
Store and Recall can significantly reduce the number of keystrokes necessary for a complex configuration. Simply pressing [Store State], pressing a Numeric Key X (0-127) and pressing [Enter], stores the state of the Agilent 3458A as a state to recall by pressing [Recall State] X. Shipped with the Agilent 3458A is a small plastic overlay that fits on key 5 to document your User Key and Stored State definitions. Use Example 3 and perform the following:

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
SSTATE 1	Menu	[Store State]
	Numeric/User	[1] [Enter]

(Stores the Agilent 3458A's state in stored state 1.)

RESET	Function/Range	[blue] **Reset**

(RESET returns the Agilent 3458A to the powered-on state.)

RSTATE 1	Menu	[Recall State]
	Numeric/User	[1] [Enter]

(Returns the Agilent 3458A to stored state 1.)

User Definable Keys
In addition to the State Store and Recall commands, you can also define any of the User keys, F0-F9, in the Numeric/User Key Group to be any string of commands.

Let's use Example 3 one more time to show how this feature works.

Command	Key Sequence
DEFKEY DEFAULT	[blue] **Def Key** [shift] [Enter]

(Clears all previously defined User Definable keys.)

DEFKEY F0, "	[0]

(Ready to accept commands.)

FUNC ACV	[blue] **E** [shift] (three times) [shift] [shift] (four times) [blue] **;**

(The delimiter used to separate commands is " ; ".
The delimiter used to separate parameters is " , ".)

SETACV SYNC	[blue] **S** [shift] [shift] [shift] [blue] **;**
RES .002	[blue] **R** [shift] [.] [0] [0] [2] [blue] **;**
LFILTER ON	[blue] **L** [shift] [shift] [shift] [Enter]
DEFKEY F1, "	[1]
MATH NULL	[blue] **L** [shift] (four times) [shift] [shift] (eight times) [Enter]

(MATH NULL displays the difference between the first and subsequent measurements.)

Now Use It!
[blue] **f0** [Enter]
[blue] **f1** [Enter]
(Note the MATH annunciator is turned on.)

Command Recall Buffer Operation
The command recall buffer recalls previously entered commands. If you have performed the sequence in the User Definable Keys you can expect to have the results listed below.

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
RECALL	Function/Range	[blue]
	Numeric/User	**Recall**

(MATH NULL should appear in the Display.)

The MENU Command
To access the commands alphabetically, you use the Menu Keys. As the Agilent 3458A is shipped, only the most commonly used commands are available in this "SHORT" menu. To access all the commands, you have to use the Menu Key with the "FULL' parameter.

Command	Key Group	Key Sequence
MENU FULL	Function/Range	[blue]
	Numeric/User	**Menu**
	Function/Range	[shift]
	Numeric/User	[Enter]

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