PXI 6GHz Triple Solid State Attenuator 41-182A

- 10MHz To 6GHz Programmable Attenuator
- 0 to 31.75dB in 0.25dB Steps For Fine Level Control
- Three or Six Channels Per Module
- Solid State Switching For Long Service Life
- Robust SMA Connectors
- VISA, IVI & Kernel Drivers Supplied for Windows
- Supported in PXI or LXI Chassis
- 3 Year Warranty

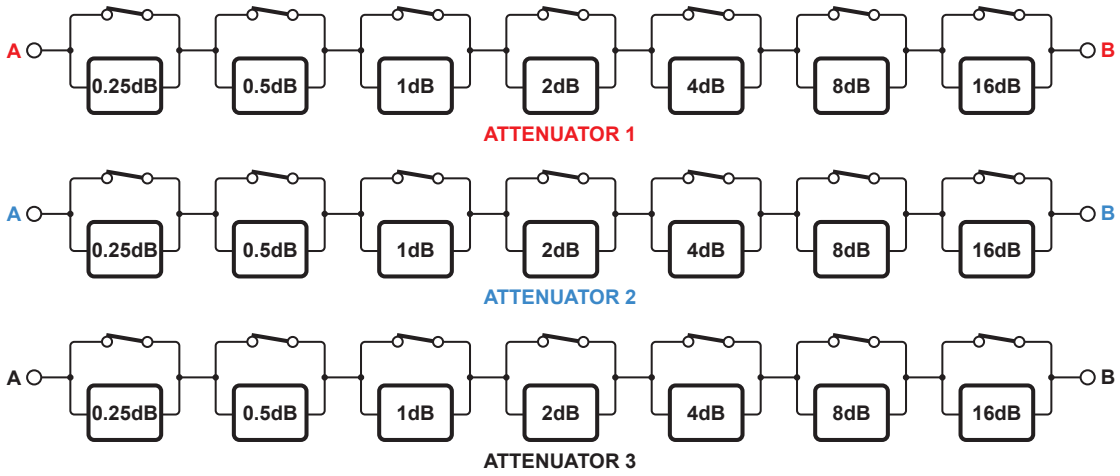
The 41-182A is a programmable RF attenuator module that has 3 (one slot) or 6 (two slots) channels each capable of inserting a signal loss of 0 to 31.75dB in 0.25dB steps. The attenuator uses solid state switches for a long service life and fast operation with minimum settling time and no signal bounce. The inclusion of DC blocking reduces the risk of damage to the switches by the accidental application of DC sources from amplifiers or other bias devices.

The 41-182A is ideal for conditioning signal levels in RF test systems to ensure equipment is used in its optimal signal level range. Fast attenuator operating speed ensures minimal system delays in setting up the required attenuation and a service life which is independent of the number of operations allows the sequence of RF tests to be arranged to optimize the life of other switching components in the system.

The attenuators can be connected in series to increase the attenuation range available and the high isolation minimizes signal leakage.

The attenuators can be used for the back to back testing of devices, providing the ability to condition the signal level between the two devices. It is also ideal for the conditioning of special to type signal sources which lack fine level control.

SMA connectors ensure that the attenuators can be used with standard cabling and the input and output ports are fully interchangeable.



41-182A Triple 6GHz Solid State Attenuator Functional Diagram (Default Condition Shown - All Channels Set To 0dB Attenuation)

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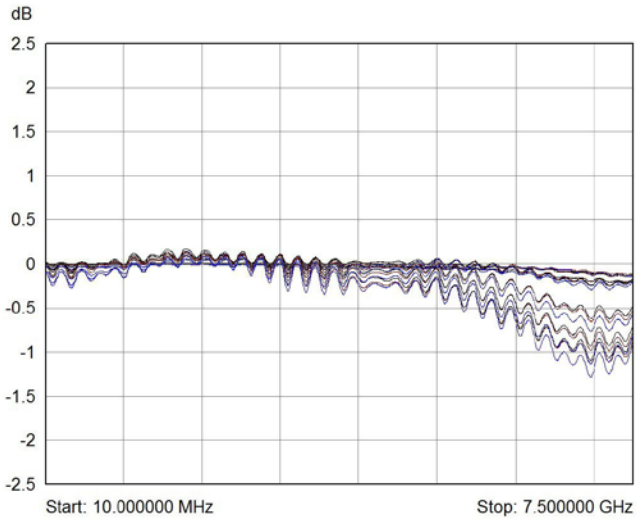
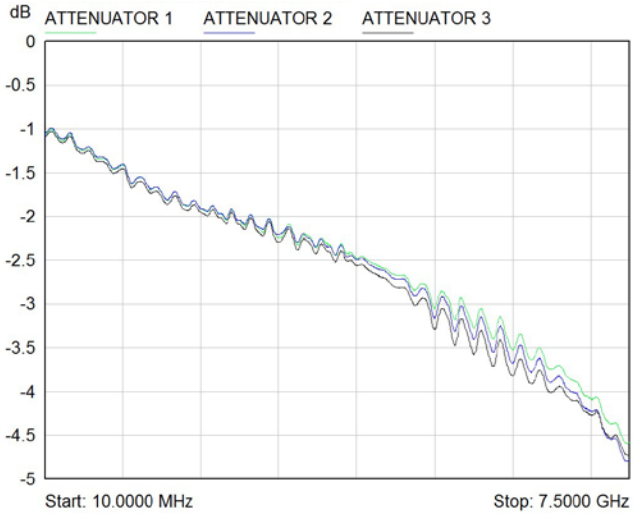
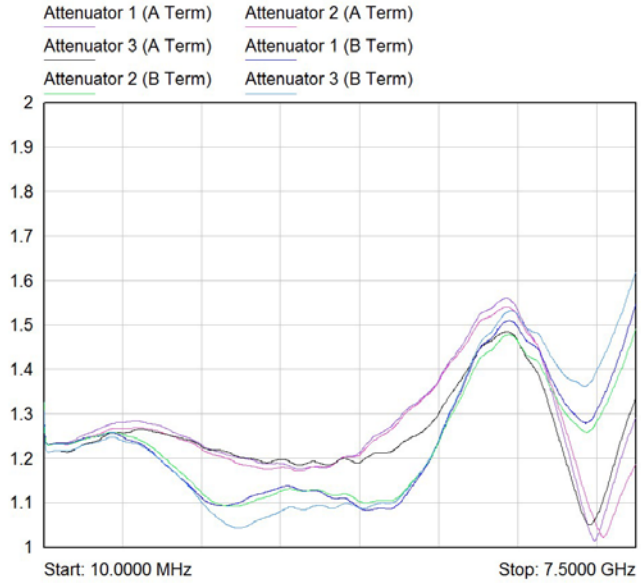


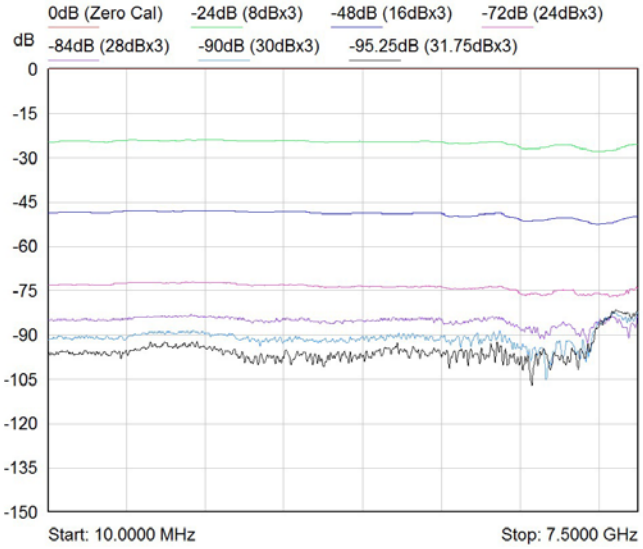
Insertion loss for every discrete attenuator setting for all channels of 41-182A-003 (normalized to 0dB)



Insertion loss for 41-182A-003 with each attenuator channel set to 0dB



VSWR for 41-182A-003 with all attenuator channels set to 0dB



Attenuation values for 41-182A-003 with three attenuator channels in series (set to major step values)

General Specification

Frequency range:	10MHz to 6GHz, usable to 7GHz
Maximum Input Power ≥48MHz: 10MHz to <48MHz:	 +23dBm CW +28dBm Pulsed +19dBm
Input Impedance:	50Ω, AC coupled
VSWR at 0dB:	<1.4:1 to 4GHz <1.6:1 to 5GHz <1.7:1 to 6GHz
RF Connectors:	SMA
Number of Attenuation Channels:	3 or 6
Switch Lifetime:	Indefinite when used within range
Operating Time:	50µs

Attenuation Characteristics

Each attenuator is made from 0.25dB, 0.5dB, 1dB, 2dB, 4dB, 8dB and 16dB pads controlled by solid state switches to give an attenuation range of 0 to 31.75dB relative to the straight thru path.	
Insertion Loss (0dB set):	<1.5dB @ 10MHz, <2.5dB @ 3GHz, <4.0dB @ 6GHz
Monotonicity:	0.25dB monotonic to 4GHz, 0.5dB monotonic to 5GHz, 1dB monotonic to 6GHz
Usable attenuation range (3 in series):	84dB to 6GHz
Attenuator Change Characteristics:	Rise/fall time <10µs, bounce and positive transient free.

Linearity

Two Tone Intermodulation:	+57dBm @ 4GHz +56dBm @ 6GHz (20MHz tone separation, third order intercept point).
1dB Compression:	Typically +31dBm 48MHz to 6GHz (pulsed operation type test, not a usable user power).

Power Requirements

+3.3V	+5V	+12V	-12V
30mA	100mA	0	0

Mechanical Characteristics

3 Channel Attenuator:
Single slot 3U PXI (CompactPCI) instrument module.

6 Channel Attenuator:
Two slot 3U PXI (CompactPCI) instrument module.

3D models for all versions in a variety of popular file formats are available on request.

Connectors

PXI bus via 32-bit P1/J1 backplane connector.
Signals via front panel SMA connectors.

Operating/Storage Conditions

Operating Conditions

Operating Temperature:	0°C to +55°C
Humidity:	Up to 90% non-condensing
Altitude:	5000m

Storage and Transport Conditions

Storage Temperature:	-20°C to +75°C
Humidity:	Up to 90% non-condensing
Altitude:	15000m

PXI & CompactPCI Compliance

The module is compliant with the PXI Specification 2.2. Local Bus, Trigger Bus and Star Trigger are not implemented.

Uses a 33MHz 32-bit backplane interface.

Safety & CE Compliance

All modules are fully CE compliant and meet applicable EU directives: Low-voltage safety EN61010-1:2010, EMC Immunity EN61326-1:2013, Emissions EN55011:2009+A1:2010.*

Product Order Codes

6GHz Solid State Attenuator, Triple	**41-182A-003**
6GHz Solid State Attenuator, Hex	**41-182A-006**

Product Customization

Pickering PXI modules are designed and manufactured on our own flexible manufacturing lines, giving complete product control and enabling simple customization to meet very specific requirements.

All customized products are given a unique part number, fully documented and may be ordered at any time in the future. Please contact your local sales office to discuss.

Mating Connectors & Cabling

For connection accessories for the 41-182A module please refer to the 90-011D RF Cable Assemblies data sheet where a complete list and documentation can be found for accessories, or refer to the Connection Solutions catalog.

Chassis Compatibility

This PXI module must be used in a suitable chassis. It is compatible with the following chassis types:

- All chassis conforming to the 3U PXI and 3U Compact PCI (cPCI) specification
- Legacy and Hybrid Peripheral slots in a 3U PXI Express (PXIe) chassis
- Pickering Interfaces LXI or LXI/USB Modular Chassis

Chassis Selection Guide

Standard PXI or hybrid PXIe Chassis from any Vendor:

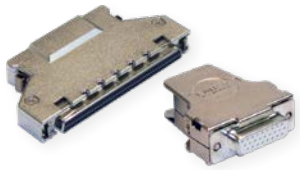
- Mix our 1000+ PXI switching & simulation modules with any vendor's PXI instrumentation
- Embedded or remote Windows PC control
- Real-time Operating System Support
- High data bandwidths, especially with PXI Express
- Integrated module timing and synchronization

Pickering LXI or LXI/USB Modular Chassis—only accept our 1000+ PXI Switching & Simulation Modules:

- Ethernet or USB control enables remote operation
- Low-cost control from practically any controller
- LXI provides manual control via Web browsers
- Driverless software support
- Power sequencing immunity
- Ethernet provides chassis/controller voltage isolation
- Independence from Windows operating system

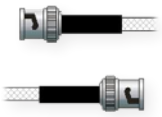
Connectivity Solutions

We provide a full range of supporting cable and connector solutions for all our switching products—20 connector families with 1200+ products. We offer everything from simple mating connectors to complex cables assemblies and terminal blocks. All assemblies are manufactured by Pickering and are guaranteed to mechanically and electrically mate to our modules.

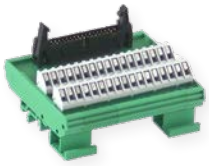


Connectors & Backshells

Multiway Cable Assemblies



RF Cable Assemblies



Connector Blocks

We also offer customized cabling and have a free online **Cable Design Tool** that can be used to create custom cable solutions for many applications.
Visit: pickeringtest.com/cdt to start your design.

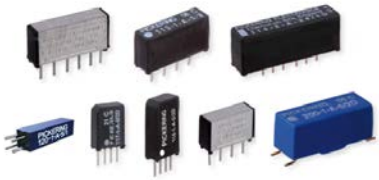
Mass Interconnect

We recommend the use of a mass interconnect solution when an Interchangeable Test Adapter (ITA) is required for a PXI or LXI based test system. Our modules are fully supported by both Virginia Panel and MacPanel.

Pickering Reed Relays

We are the only switch provider with in-house reed relay manufacturing capability via our Relay Division. These instrument grade reed relays feature ***SoftCenter***™ technology, ensuring long service life and repeatable contact performance.

To learn more, please go to: pickeringrelay.com



Programming

Pickering provide kernel, IVI and VISA (NI & Keysight) drivers which are compatible with all Microsoft supported versions of Windows and popular older versions. For a list of all supporting operating systems, please see: pickeringtest.com/os

The VISA driver is also compatible with Real-Time Operating Systems such as LabVIEW RT. For other RTOS support contact Pickering. These drivers may be used with a variety of programming environments and applications including:

- **Pickering Interfaces Switch Path Manager**
- **National Instruments** products (LabVIEW, LabWindows/CVI, Switch Executive, MAX, TestStand, VeriStand, etc.)
- **Microsoft Visual Studio** products (Visual Basic, Visual C+)
- **Keysight** VEE and OpenTAP
- **Mathworks** Matlab
- **Marvin** ATEasy
- **MTQ Testsolutions** Tecap Test & Measurement Suite

Drivers for popular Linux distributions are available, other environments are also supported, please contact Pickering with specific enquiries. We provide Soft Front Panels (SFPs) for our products for familiarity and manual control, as well as comprehensive documentation and example programs to help you develop test routines with ease.
To learn more about software drivers and development environments, please go to: pickeringtest.com/software

Signal Routing Software

Our signal routing software, Switch Path Manager, automatically selects and energizes switch paths through Pickering switching systems. Signal routing is performed by simply defining test system endpoints to be connected together, greatly accelerating Test System software development. To learn more, please go to: pickeringtest.com/spm

Diagnostic Relay Test Tools

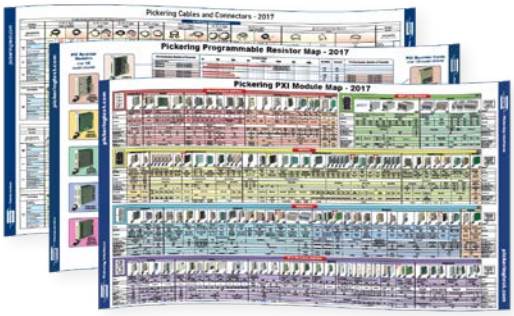
eBIRST Switching System Test Tools are designed specifically for our PXI, PCI or LXI products, these tools simplify switching system fault-finding by quickly testing the system and graphically identifying the faulty relay.
To learn more, please go to: pickeringtest.com/ebirst

Three Year Warranty & Guaranteed Long-Term Support

All standard products manufactured by Pickering Interfaces are warranted against defective materials and workmanship for a period of three years from the date of delivery to the original purchaser. Extended warranty and service agreements are available for all our modules and systems with various levels to suit your requirements. Although we offer a 3-year warranty as standard, we also include guaranteed long-term support—with a history of supporting our products for typically 15-20 years. To learn more, please go to: pickeringtest.com/support

Available Product Resources

We have a large library of product resources including success stories, product and support videos, articles, as well as complete product catalogs and product reference maps to assist when looking for the switching, simulation and cable and connector solutions you need. We have also published handy reference books on Switching Technology and for the PXI and LXI standards.



To view, download or request any of our product resources, please visit: pickeringtest.com/resources