

Subject: Pico Newsletter : June 2002

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1. New software - R5.08.2 beta release

New beta versions of PicoScope, PicoLog and EnviroMon software are now available for free download from our web site. The main improvements are as follows:

PicoScope

- + Sampling rate increased to 5GS/s for repetitive signals*
- + Faster download of data from oscilloscope to PC*
- + New min / max display mode
- + Ability to save waveforms as .jpg files
- * ADC212/50 and ADC212/100 only

PicoLog

- + Support for longer equations
- + Ability to save waveforms as .jpg files

EnviroMon

- + Ability to save waveforms as .jpg files
- + Support for up to 6 alarm time ranges
- + Support for longer alarm hold off periods

Please note that R5.08.2 is a beta release. As such it has not been fully tested and may contain bugs. The software can be downloaded from:
<http://www.picotech.com/software/beta.html>

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2. Technical tip - faster meter / scope updates

PicoScope software used on a modern PC gives a fast 'real time'

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update on the oscilloscope / spectrum analyser. The meter however updates much more slowly and will reduce the update rate of open scope / spectrum windows.

To avoid this reduction in update rate, we recommend that rather than using a separate meter to make measurements, you make use of the automated measurements within the oscilloscope/ spectrum analyser. The measurements (available by selecting Settings | Measurements) include all the functions of the meter (AC volts, DC volts, frequency, dB) and many more as well (rise time, duty cycle, THD, SINAD to name a few). The only time we recommend using the meter is when a very large numerical display is needed.

The reason that the meter is slower than the automated measurements is that the meter has no knowledge of the frequency of the signal being measured. To cope with this it usually has to make multiple readings at different sampling rates. The automated measurements work with the data displayed in the scope or spectrum so do not require additional data to be collected.

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3. Special offer for automotive customers

One of our favourite automotive web sites is that of Auto-Solve. It is a membership only site that contains 100s of pages of regularly updated technical information for professional mechanics and technicians. It also contains a discussion board so that you can tap into the collective experience of all the members. The site makes extensive use of waveforms captured using the Pico ADC-212/3 oscilloscope.

Subscription to the site normally costs £120, however we have negotiated a £60 GBP half price offer for Pico customers. To take advantage of this offer, mention that you are a Pico customer and quote offer code PTAS. This offer is open until the end of June. For more details, visit the Auto-Solve web site at:

<http://www.auto-solve.com/>

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4. Call for interesting applications

We would like to hear from customers who are using our products for interesting or unusual applications. This is for use in the 'interesting applications' section of our web site. If you would welcome some free publicity for your application or company then please e-mail marketing@picotech.com with brief details of your application. We will then get back in touch to discuss what is involved.

Our PR agency is also keen to talk to customers who are using our products to make high accuracy temperature measurements. Once again, please e-mail marketing@picotech.com.

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5. New Science experiments

Our library of science experiments for data loggers and oscilloscopes continues to grow. New this month is a physics / electronics experiment investigating the efficiency of a light bulb.

See this and 56 other interesting and educational experiments at:
<http://www.picotech.com/experiments/index.html>

If you are interested in contributing an experiment to our library, please contact experiments@picotech.com. Currently we are most interested in new biology and chemistry experiments. To encourage people to submit experiments, we will donate a DrDAQ data logger or ADC-40 for each experiment we use on our web site.

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6. TC-08 Thermocouple data logger - special offer

This month's special offer is for the TC-08 thermocouple data logger.

We have reduced the price of the TC-08 from £ 199.00 GBP to £ 169.15 GBP (approx \$ 245 USD / € 275 EUR). This offer is only available for e-commerce orders through our web site. For details of the product and this special offer, follow the link below:

<http://www.picotech.com/news.html>

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7. Dropping eggs

Last month we asked for help with a customers question concerning dropping an egg off a roof without breaking it. We were totally overwhelmed with responses (no more please!!).

Some of our favourite replies were:

1. Drop the egg whilst it is still in the hen. (just make sure its not a hen with clipped wings).
2. Put the egg inside a tin can with is larger than the egg and fill it with water. Add salt so that the egg will float in the solution. The salt water will behave like a shock absorber. It can work very well up to 14 meters.
3. Hold the egg carefully in your hands and jump off the roof

Rather than fill the entire newsletter with answers more can be found on our web site at:
http://www.picotech.com/experiments/dropping_eggs.html

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8. Employment Opportunities

We currently have vacancies for the following posts

- * Analog design engineers
- * Digital design engineers
- * Technical specialists

For more information, visit:
<http://www.picotech.com/employment.html>

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9. Latest software releases

As soon as we release new software, it is made available for FREE download from our web site. To check which version you are using, start the software (PicoScope, PicoLog or EnviroMon) and select HELP | ABOUT.

The current production release is R5.07.4
The current beta release R5.08.2

Software can be downloaded from:
<http://www.picotech.com/download.html>

(Note : the above web page also contains a link to our 'what's new' page which describes recent changes and additions to the software).

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10. Back issues of this newsletter

Back issues of this newsletter are available online at
<http://www.picotech.com/maillist.html>

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11. Subscribe / Unsubscribe Information

This e-mail list is an 'opt in' mailing list. Names are only added by request. Pico Technology will not pass your name on to any third party.

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with 'join mail list' as the subject

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 with 'leave mail list' as the subject

Contact Details

Interworld Electronics & Computer Industries Inc.

E-Mail: sales@interworldna.com
web <http://www.interworldna.com>

Tel : 800- 663- 6001
Tel : 877- 902- 2979

International #: 1-604-925-6150