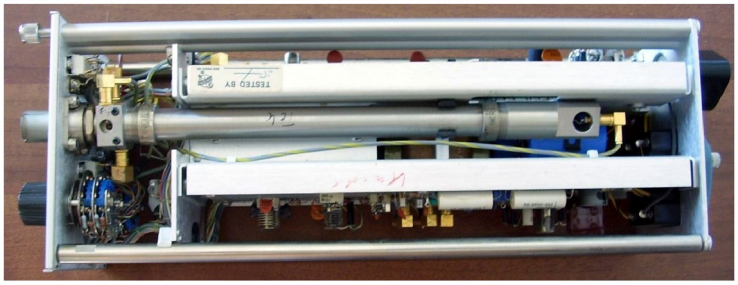
Tektronix 284 - Pulse Generator







Tektronix 284 was a clean example of the solid state approach in the top instrumentation sets of the late sixties. It was a compact instrument, intended for laboratory use, mainly in the evaluation of fast oscilloscopes and in TDR calibration.

The 284 included three different switchable signal sources. It could generate constant amplitude sine waves at 100 or at 1.000 MHz, 100 mV. It could also operate as square wave generator at 10, 1 and 0.1 MHz, with output level selectable at 10 mV, 100 mV and 1 V. Finally it could operate as pulse generator with 50 kHz p.r.r., 1 µs pulse duration and 70 ps risetime. Yes, 70 picoseconds, the time the light just travels 7 mm!

Introduced in 1967, it was all solid-state, with a tunnel diode to generate the fast pulses and a snap-off diode to start them.

The unit in the above photos was decommissioned after the latest calibration, dated February 2005. It is fully working.