Low-Cost, Versatile, 10/100kHz Frequency to Voltage Converters

MODELS 451, 453

FEATURES
Low Cost
Versatility: Adjustable Threshold, Gain & Output Offset
Guaranteed Low Nonlinearity: 80ppm Max, 451L and 453L
Accepts TTL, CMOS, HN1L, Sinewave, Pulse, Squarewave and Triangle Wave Input Signals
No External Components to Meet Rated Performance
+20mA Output to Operate Relays and Meters
Low Profile Package, 0.4" Case Height
Meet MIL-STD-202E Environmental Testing

APPLICATIONS
Motor Control and Speed Monitor
Line Frequency Monitor and Alarm Indicator
Fluid Flow Measurements and Control
FM Demodulation and VCO Stabilization
Frequency vs. Amplitude Response Measurements

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
Models 451 and 453 are low cost 10kHz and 100kHz frequency to voltage converters that feature excellent low nonlinearity to less than 80ppm, output current of +20mA and the capability of interfacing with TTL, HN1L, CMOS, sinewave, squarewave, pulse and triangular input signals. External components are not required to achieve rated performance, however, extreme versatility is maintained by allowing access to all critical points of the design. This versatility allows programmable input threshold, gain, and output offset voltage.

Both models 451 and 453 are available in three selections, each offering guaranteed maximum nonlinearity error as well as maximum gain drift error. Models 451L and 453L offer 0.03% max nonlinearity and 100ppm/°C max gain drift. Models 451K and 453K offer 0.015% max nonlinearity and 50ppm/°C max gain drift. Models 451L and 453L offer 0.008% max nonlinearity and 50ppm/°C max gain drift.

WHERE TO USE FREQUENCY TO VOLTAGE CONVERTERS
Pin compatible with existing popular models, these versatile new designs offer economical solutions to a wide variety of applications where it is required to convert frequency to an analog voltage.

Process Control Systems: For motor speed controllers, power line frequency monitoring and fluid flow measurements where flow transducers, such as variable reluctance magnetic pickups, provide pulse train outputs as a linear function of flow rate.

Audio and Acoustic Systems: For wow and flutter measurements with tape recorders and turntables, FM demodulation and speaker response measurements.

Test Instrumentation: For VCO stabilization, analog readout frequency meter, vibrational analysis and frequency versus amplitude X-Y plots where the vertical axis presents the normal amplitude signal and the horizontal axis presents the output signal from the F/V converter.

Data Acquisition Systems: For converting serially transmitted data back to analog voltages.

DESIGN FEATURES AND USER BENEFITS
The combination of low cost and high performance provided by models 451 and 453 offers exceptional quality and value to the OEM designer. These compact modules have been designed to provide maximum versatility, thereby increasing their utility in a broad scope of applications.

Adjustable Input Threshold: Threshold level is externally resistor programmable from 0 to ±12V, permitting simple, direct interface with low level signals, e.g. 10mV p-p, as well as with high level inputs such as CMOS and HN1L logic levels, e.g. 0 to +12V.

Adjustable Gain: Model 451 can be adjusted to provide full scale output voltage for any input frequency from 100kHz to 20kHz. Model 453 can be adjusted to provide full scale output voltage for any input frequency from 1kHz to 200kHz. This adjustable gain feature enables the user to easily match the maximum frequency output from a wide class of frequency transducers to the +10V full scale output from models 451 and 453. Increased signal conversion sensitivity with higher resolution results.

Adjustable Output Offset Voltage: The output offset is adjustable from -10V to +10V, enabling bipolar outputs or expanded scale measurements or setting the input frequency where zero output voltage occurs.
## Specifications

(typical @ +25°C and V<sub>G</sub> = ±15V dc unless otherwise noted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODEL</th>
<th>10kHz FULL SCALE</th>
<th>100kHz FULL SCALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>K J</td>
<td>K J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSFER FUNCTION</td>
<td>$E_0 = (10^{-3} \text{V}/\text{Hz})</td>
<td>F_{\text{IN}}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREQUENCY INPUT</td>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>dc to 10kHz min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overrange</td>
<td>10% min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waveforms</td>
<td>Sine, Square, Triangle, Pulse Train</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulse Width (Pulse Train Input)</td>
<td>20µs min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Threshold</td>
<td>+1.4V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With External Adjustment</td>
<td>0V to ±12V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hysteresis</td>
<td>±12V to +13.5V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Levels (TTL Compatible)</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>±12V to +13.5V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Safe Input Voltage&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.1MΩ±10pF</td>
<td>0.1MΩ±10pF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impedance</td>
<td>10MΩ±10pF</td>
<td>10MΩ±10pF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCURACY</td>
<td>Warm-Up Time</td>
<td>one minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nonlinearity&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>±0.03% max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{IN}} = 111$ to 11kHz</td>
<td>±0.01% max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gain vs. Temperature&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>±0.008% max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0 to +70°C)</td>
<td>±100ppm/°C max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. Supply Voltage</td>
<td>±50ppm/°C max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. Time</td>
<td>±50ppm/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONSE</td>
<td>Step Response to 0.5% of Final Value</td>
<td>4ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{IN}} = \text{dc to Full Scale}$</td>
<td>30ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{OUT}} = \text{Full Scale to dc}$</td>
<td>20µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internal Filter Time Constant</td>
<td>20µs/JF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTPUT&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Voltage ($F_{\text{IN}} = \text{Full Scale}$)</td>
<td>+9.85V min, +9.95V max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current ($E_0 = +10V$, -10V)</td>
<td>±200, -3mA min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Offset Voltage&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>±75µV max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. Temperature (0 to +70°C)</td>
<td>±10µV/°C max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. Supply Voltage</td>
<td>±10µV/°C max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vs. Time</td>
<td>±10µV/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ripple</td>
<td>±5µV/µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{IN}} = 1$Hz</td>
<td>3µV p-p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{IN}} = 10$kHz</td>
<td>80µV rms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$F_{\text{IN}} = 100$kHz</td>
<td>80µV rms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impedance</td>
<td>0.1Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Offset Scaling Factor&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>+50µA/V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWER SUPPLY&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Voltage, Rated Performance</td>
<td>±15V dc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voltage, Operating</td>
<td>±12 to ±18V dc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current, Quiescent</td>
<td>(+10, -8)mA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMPERATURE RANGE</td>
<td>Rated Performance</td>
<td>0 to +70°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>-25°C to +85°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>-55°C to +85°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECHANICAL</td>
<td>Case Size</td>
<td>1.5&quot; x 1.5&quot; x 0.4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>25 grams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES**

1. $F_{\text{IN}}$ and REF terminals can be shorted to $V_{\text{G}}$ indefinitely without damage.
2. Nonlinearity error is specified as a percentage of 1V full scale output level.
3. Gain/temperature drift is specified in ppm of output signal level.
4. Output power supply can be used with this unit.
5. Output current can be adjusted without damage.
6. Adjustable to +10.000V using FULL SCALE ADJUST trim pot.

---

**Outline Dimensions**

Dimensions shown in inches and (mm)

---

**Table I. Environmental Specifications**
Applying the Frequency-to-Voltage Converter

FREQUENCY TO VOLTAGE OPERATION
Models 451 and 453 accept virtually any signal waveshape providing accurate conversion into an output voltage proportional to the input signal frequency. The only restriction is that the input signal must remain above the threshold level for 20µs when using model 451, and 2µs when using model 453. Linear, stable conversion over four decades of input range for model 451 and five decades of input range for model 453, is achieved using a precision charge-dispensing design approach. Figure 1 represents a functional block diagram for both models 451 and 453 frequency to voltage converters.

THEORY OF OPERATION
Input signals are applied directly to a comparator, A1, which is internally set to provide a +1.4V threshold with ±50mV hysteresis for model 451 and ±100mV hysteresis for model 453. This threshold level offers excellent noise immunity for TTL input levels. Following the input comparator is a precision charge dispensing circuit and output amplifier where the comparator signal is converted to a dc voltage. When the input comparator changes state, Cg is alternately charged from a precision voltage reference and discharged through the summing point of an output amplifier, A2. A fixed amount of charge, Q, is controlled during each charge/discharge cycle. The higher the input frequency, the higher the average current into the summing point of A2. A current to voltage conversion is then accomplished by Rp. The current pulses from the charge dispensing circuit are integrated by Cg to reduce ripple. Added filtering for low frequency input signals is provided by an adaptive filter at the output of the charge dispensing circuit.

BASIC F/V HOOK-UP
Models 451 and 453 can be applied directly to achieve rated performance without external trim potentiometers or other components. Figure 2 illustrates the basic wiring connection for either F/V converter model. Using the basic hookup as shown, full scale output voltage accuracy is +10V, -2% to -11%. The output offset voltage is 0V to ±7.5mV. The Full Scale and Output Offset errors can be eliminated by using the FINE TRIM PROCEDURE.

FINE TRIM PROCEDURE
Connect the F/V converter as shown in Figure 3 and allow a five minute warm-up after initial power turn-on. Adjust the OFFSET ADJUST pot, RO, for an output of 0.000V. The input terminal, FIN, can be left open or tied to COM without affecting OFFSET ADJUST. Using a precision, stable frequency source connected to FIN terminal, set the input frequency to 100.000kHz for model 451 or 100.000kHz for model 453. Adjust the FULL SCALE ADJUST trim pot, R5, for an output of ±0.000V.

ADDITIONAL TRIM CAPABILITY
Adjusting Input Threshold: The input comparator of models 451 and 453 shown in Figure 1, conditions the input signals providing protection against noisy environments as well as preventing double triggering with slow rise-time signals. Input levels up to the supply voltages, ±Vs, will not cause damage to the input comparator.

Threshold voltage level, V_T, is internally set for both models 451 and 453 at +1.4V. Hysteresis, Vs, for model 451 is ±50mV, and ±100mV for model 453. Signals of virtually any waveshape which exceed the combined threshold and hysteresis levels, V_T ±Vs, will trigger the F/V converter. The REF terminal permits the user to conveniently adjust the input threshold over the range from 0 to ±12V to achieve optimum noise rejection or increased triggering sensitivity.

Increasing Threshold for Greater Noise Immunity: Connecting an external resistor from the REF terminal to the positive supply voltage, +Vs, increases the input threshold level above +1.4V, offering increased input noise immunity. Optimum noise immunity is generally determined by adjusting the threshold level to a point mid-way between the high and low input signal levels. For example, for a 0 to +12V input swing — representative of MOS and HN logic signals — a 17.6kΩ resistor from +15V to the REF terminal results in a +6V threshold.

Changes in impedance at the REF terminal result in changes to the hysteresis. Hysteresis levels can be calculated by assuming the comparator output is switching between ±12V. This ±12V signal is attenuated by a resistor-divider network formed by
R\textsubscript{H} (see Figure 1) and the parallel combination of all resistors attached at the comparator positive input. For example, with a 17.6kΩ resistor connected to the REF terminal, the hysteresis becomes ±35mV for model 451 and ±75mV for model 453. The F/V converter will, therefore, trigger at +6V ±35mV for model 451 and +6V ±75mV for model 453.

**Decreasing Threshold for Signals Less Than +1.4V:** A resistor connected from the REF terminal to the negative power supply, \(-V_\text{g}\), will increase the input triggering sensitivity for operation with signals below +1.4V\text{ref}. As shown in Figure 5, a minimum threshold of zero volts is obtained with a 100kΩ resistor. The triggering level, \(V_T \pm V_\text{H} \text{REF}\), will be established by the resulting hysteresis levels. With a 100kΩ to -15V, model 451 hysteresis will be ±50mV and model 453 hysteresis will be ±60mV.

To reduce the hysteresis for greater triggering sensitivity, a 1kΩ resistor can be connected from the REF terminal to COM. Signals exceeding ±5mV (10mV pp) with model 451 and ±15mV (30mV pp) for model 453, will operate the F/V converter. A 1kΩ resistor from REF to COM is the minimum value recommended to reduce hysteresis and achieve reliable operation.

![Figure 5. Decreasing Threshold Below +1.4V to Increase Triggering Sensitivity for Low Level Input Signals](image)

**Figure 6. Selecting External Gain Resistor, \(R_F\)**

**SCALING EXPANSION**

By combining both gain and output offset voltage adjustments, signals which exhibit a center frequency with small frequency changes, can be converted with improved resolution. Representative signals benefitting from the Scale Expansion procedure outlined below, are tachometer and frequency modulated signals. In the case of tachometer outputs, the speed is often set at an idle point and changes in output frequency represent changes in motor loading conditions. In the case of FM signals, the F/V converter can be applied such that the carrier frequency produces zero output. The resulting output voltage from the F/V converter represents the modulating signal.

Procedure for Scale Expansion: The following procedure incorporates both gain and output offset adjustments to achieve scale expansion. An example is illustrated in Figure 8 for an FM signal with a 50kHz carrier frequency and ±5kHz modulating signal.

1) Determine the Gain: \(G = \Delta E_\text{in} / \Delta F_\text{IN}\) where \(\Delta E_\text{in}\) is the total output voltage change desired in volts, and \(\Delta F_\text{IN}\) is the total input frequency change in Hz.

2) Calculate the external gain resistor, \(R_F\):

\[
R_F(\Omega) = G(1.8 \times 10^8), \text{ model 451}
\]

\[
R_F(\Omega) = G(2.2 \times 10^8), \text{ model 453}
\]
Understanding the Frequency-to-voltage Converter Performance

3) Calculate the Output Offset Shift, $\Delta V_{os}$, required to achieve the desired maximum output voltage, $E_O$ (max) with the max input frequency, $f_{in}$ (max), and the new gain,

$$\Delta V_{os} \text{ (volts)} = G \times f_{in} \text{ (max)} - E_O \text{ (max)}$$

4) Calculate the offset current resistor, $R_C$:

$$R_C \text{ (\Omega)} = \frac{V_{S} \cdot G}{(\Delta V_{os}) / k_{C}}$$

$k_C = 56 \times 10^{-6}$, model 451
$k_C = 45 \times 10^{-6}$, model 453

Figure 8. Application of Model 453 in FM Demodulation

INTERFACING SIGNALS WITH DC OFFSETS > 10V
Signals with dc levels up to ±10V can be directly connected to the input terminal of models 451 and 453. Capacitive coupling, as shown in Figures 9 and 10, is used for inputs with dc offsets greater than ±10V. The 1MΩ resistor illustrated in Figure 9 provides a dc return path to ground common for the input comparator bias current. Threshold adjustments can be made following the capacitor to set the F/V input sensitivity to match the ac signal peak-to-peak amplitude. Signals as low as 10mV p-p with model 451 and 30mV p-p model 453 are acceptable. Refer to Figures 4 and 5.

AC signals greater than ±$V_S$ should be attenuated with a resistive divider network following the capacitor. When large input transients (±$V_S$) are possible due to either a noisy environment or power turn-on surges, protection is provided with the addition of two diodes as shown in Figure 10.

Figure 9. Interfacing Signals With DC Offsets Greater Than ±10V

Figure 10. Input Diode Protection for High Voltage Transients

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS
Nonlinearity: Nonlinearity error is specified as a % of 10V full scale output voltage and is guaranteed for each model over the specified input range. Model 451 is rated over 1Hz to 11kHz range and model 453 is rated over 1Hz to 110kHz range. Typical nonlinearity performance is shown for all models in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Nonlinearity Error Versus Input Frequency
Gain Temperature Stability: Gain Drift is specified in ppm of output signal and is guaranteed for each model over the 0 to +70°C temperature range. Models 451K, 451L, 453K and 453L offer ±50ppm/°C maximum gain drift. Models 451J and 453J offer ±100ppm/°C maximum gain drift. Gain drift is typically half the guaranteed limits.

OUTPUT RIPPLE
The output contains an ac ripple signal which increases in amplitude with input frequency. Adding external capacitance in parallel with the internal filter capacitor will reduce output ripple as shown in Figures 12 and 13.

Figure 12. Output Ripple Versus External Filter Capacitor ($C_F$) - Model 451

Figure 13. Output Ripple Versus External Filter Capacitor ($C_F$) - Model 453
SETTLING TIME
Increasing the external filter capacitor to reduce output ripple will increase the settling time to step changes in frequency occurring at the input. Figure 14 shows curves of settling time to 40.5% of final value for both increasing and decreasing full scale step changes. As \( C_F \) increases in value, the total filter time constants for models 451 and 453 approach equal values, resulting in identical settling time.

![Figure 14. Settling Time Versus External Filter Capacitor](image)

APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS

MOTOR CONTROLLER
In making rpm measurements, transducers are often encountered that have pulse-train outputs from variable-reluctance magnetic pickups (in which the output frequency is a function of rpm). These low level signals are generally in the range of 0 to 200mV peak. The adjustable input threshold feature of models 451 and 453 enables direct connection to low level transducers, offering simple, reliable interfacing.

The motor speed control and monitoring application shown in Figure 15 illustrates the F/V converter applied in a closed loop control system. R1 sets the threshold to +60mV with ±50mV hysteresis for model 451.

The +20mA output current capability of both models 451 and 453, enables direct interface to low impedance loads, up to 500Ω, such as analog meters or relays.

![Figure 15. Application of F/V Converter to Control and Monitor Motor Speed in Closed Loop System](image)

SPEED SWITCH
With the addition of a low cost comparator and relay, the F/V converter provides a reliable approach to controlling heavy generator loads after the generator has reached a specified speed. As shown in Figure 16, the relay will remain open until the output from the F/V converter reaches a preset POWER ON trip level. The F/V output signal is linearly related to the speed of the motor, permitting precise control of the POWER ON set point.

![Figure 16. Application of F/V Converter to Control Load Power](image)

APPLICATION IN INSTRUMENTATION SYSTEMS

FREQUENCY MONITORING
Small input frequency changes can be monitored more readily by using the programmable gain feature of models 451 and 453 to achieve greater signal sensitivity. In the application of model 451 illustrated in Figure 17, gain has been set to 0.1V/Hz, resulting in a 100Hz full scale frequency range. The output resolution for small changes occurring in the 60Hz line frequency has been improved. An additional advantage of this approach is the reduced accuracy and stability requirements placed on the relay trip levels, set by the voltage levels at the comparators. A precision voltage reference supply is not required.

Since both models 451 and 453 tolerate input signals up to the supply levels, ±Vg, costly input protection is eliminated in most applications.

![Figure 17. Application of F/V Converter to Monitor 60Hz Line Frequency](image)

APPLICATION IN DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEMS

HIGH NOISE IMMUNITY TRANSMISSION
F/V converters are excellent companion products to V/F converters for use in low cost, two wire data transmission systems. As shown in Figure 18, this V/F/V approach utilizes the continuous self-clocking feature of the V/F converter thereby eliminating the need for costly additional twisted pair cable for external synchronization. Model 610 instrumentation amplifier amplifies the low level differential transducer signal to the 10V full scale of models 450 and 456 10kHz V/F converters. A differential line driver is used to drive a twisted pair cable through a noisy environment. A differential line receiver is used to drive model 451 10kHz F/V converter. The low cost of the V/F and F/V converters in addition to the simple twisted pair cabling approach make it economical to use a V/F/V converter pair for each channel in a data acquisition system.

![Figure 18. Application of F/V Converter in a Low Cost, High Noise Rejection Two-Wire Data Transmission System](image)