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Data Sheet

August 15, 2026

AGILENT / KEYSIGHT

Agilent/Keysight N4980A

Keysight N4980A Multi Instrument BERT Software The Keysight N4980A is Windows multi-instrument BERT software that discovers and controls Keysight N496x/N497x BERT and clock instruments over GPIB or USB for single and multi-channel BER, bathtub, and optional JTOL measurements from one GUI. Multi-lane BER characterization, jitter tolerance automation, de-emphasis tap optimization from S-parameters, and unified control of N4960A-class serial BERT systems. Discover mode for GPIB and USB instruments The Keysight N4980A is Windows multi-instrument BERT software that discovers and controls Keysight N496x/N497x BERT and clock instruments over GPIB or USB for single and multi-channel BER, bathtub, and optional JTOL measurements from one GUI. Multi-lane BER characterization, jitter tolerance automation, de-emphasis tap optimization from S-parameters, and unified control of N4960A-class serial BERT systems. Discover mode for GPIB and USB instruments Bathtub curve measurements in base package



MODEL

**Agilent / Keysight
N4980A**

CALIBRATION

**Available on
request**

CONDITION

Used

STATUS

In stock

RFQ / SKU

N4980A

LISTING

<https://aumictechlabs.com/products/n4980a-2/>

NIST-traceable cal

SAM registered

30-day returns

NAICS 423690 • 811210 • 541380

This unit

The Keysight N4980A is a multi-instrument BERT software platform that centralizes control of high-speed serial data test equipment through a unified graphical interface. It enables simultaneous Bit Error Rate (BER) and Jitter Tolerance (JTOL) measurements across single and

multi-channel configurations, supporting unlimited channel capacity. Engineers use the N4980A for signal integrity analysis, compliance testing, and characterization of serial data receivers, multi-lane devices, and SERDES components operating at data rates from 12.5 Gb/s to 32 Gb/s.

Technical Specifications

BER Measurement Capability: Supports single-channel and multi-channel BER testing with unlimited channel count. Real-time instantaneous BER monitoring via strip chart display. Bathtub curve visualization across variable BER confidence levels for eye opening analysis.

JTOL Testing: Optional N4980A-JTS extension enables both single and multi-channel jitter tolerance characterization. Parallel testing accelerates multi-lane device measurement.

Pattern Generation: Programmable pattern editor supports patterns up to 8 Mb in length with sub-pattern definition for complex sequences. Integrated de-emphasis tap weight computation tool for equalization calculation.

Key Features

- Windows-based GUI with centralized multi-instrument control
- Automatic instrument discovery via GPIB or USB
- Strip chart BER history tracking
- Bathtub curve graphical analysis for performance visualization
- Tabular and graphical results output

Compatible Instruments

The N4980A controls Keysight serial BERT and pattern generation hardware:

- N4960A Serial BERT (17 and 32 Gb/s)
- N4962A Serial BERT (12.5 Gb/s)
- N4963A Clock Synthesizer (13.5 GHz)
- N4965A Multi-channel BERT (12.5 Gb/s)
- N4971A Pattern Generator (13 Gb/s)
- N4972A Clock Synthesizer (16 GHz)
- N4951A/B Pattern Generator (17/32 Gb/s remote head)
- N4952A Error Detector (17/32 Gb/s remote head)
- N4955A Pattern Generator (12.5 Gb/s remote head)
- N4956A Error Detector (12.5 Gb/s remote head)
- N4957A Clock Doubler (remote head)

Typical Applications

Signal integrity analysis, standards compliance verification, receiver characterization, and multi-lane serial link validation.

N4980A Characteristics / Specifications

PARAMETER	VALUE
Model	N4980A
Instrument Type	multi instrument BERT control software
Host OS Class	Windows PC application
Discovery Buses	GPIB and USB
Base Package BER Single Channel	yes
Base Package BER Multi Channel	unlimited channels
Base Package Bathtub	yes
JTOL Extension	optional licensed
Multi Channel N4960A Max Instruments	4
Resulting BERT Channels With Four N4960A	4
Supported BERT Example	N4960A 17 and 32 Gb/s
Supported Multi Channel BERT Example	N4965A 12.5 Gb/s
Supported Pattern Generator Example	N4971A 13 Gb/s
Supported Serial BERT Example	N4962A 12.5 Gb/s
Supported Clock Example N4963A	13.5 GHz
Supported Clock Example N4972A	16 GHz
Remote Heads Class	N4951 N4952 family pattern generator and error detector heads
De Emphasis Tool Input	S parameter file of channel
Connect All	single click connect discovered instruments
Install Default Path Class	Program Files Keysight N4980A
Measurement Views	strip charts bathtub curves
Primary Role	unified BERT system GUI

N4980A Specifications

PARAMETER	VALUE
Keysight N4980A Multi Instrument BERT Software	Overview
Technical Specifications	Model: N4980A
Notes	Capability rows from Keysight N4980A Multi-Instrument BERT Software data sheet and user/getting started guides.

Full OEM specifications

Complete technical content extracted from the manufacturer datasheet. Sparse OEM tables are reconstructed as tables below; other text is preserved as paragraphs.

Specifications	
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Primary Role	unified BERT system GUI
Notes	
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Available from Aumictech

Used and refurbished unit evaluated in-house. Calibration: Available on request. Used · In stock.

Request a quote: sales@aumictech.com · +1 (484) 841-9341

Aumictech

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NIST-traceable calibration · SAM registered ·
30-day returns
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Technical content from manufacturer specifications. Unit photo/stock from Aumictech listing when available. Specifications subject to OEM documentation and unit condition.