N5

Alternating and Direct Current

Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the electron directions for each type of current flow as viewed on an oscilloscope.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Direct Current (d.c)

Figure 2

Alternating Current (a.c)

- Figure 1, direct current shows that electrons always flow in one direction around the circuit.
- Figure 2, alternating current shows that electrons flow around in one direction then the direction changes and the electrons flow in the opposite direction.

Alternating and direct currents are produced from different sources of electrical energy. Alternating current is produced from the mains supply and direct current from a battery.