

U1281A-01

# Modification Recommended Service Note

Supersedes:  
NONE

## U1281A Handheld Digit Multimeter

Serial Numbers: "See Appendix (A)"

**The Problem** – Capacitance measurement may be out of specification at 100nF range and below.

### Parts Required:

P/N Description Qty.  
Pomona 2BC-36 double banana plug both ends cable assembly

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

|               |   |                            |  |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| ACTION        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON SPECIFIED FAILURE            | STANDARDS                  |  |
| CATEGORY:     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGREEABLE TIME                             | LABOR:                     | 0.1 Hours                                    |
| LOCATION      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CUSTOMER INSTALLABLE            | SERVICE:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN              |
| CATEGORY:     | <input type="checkbox"/> ON-SITE (active On-site contract required) | INVENTORY:                 | <input type="checkbox"/> SCRAP               |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE CENTER                             |                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCRAP               |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> CHANNEL PARTNERS                           |                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEE TEXT |
| AVAILABILITY: | PRODUCT'S SUPPORT LIFE  | NO CHARGE AVAILABLE UNTIL: | 20 April 2017                                |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Calibration Required                       | PRODUCT LINE:              | WC   |
|               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calibration NOT Required        | AUTHOR:                    | SJ   |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

**Situation:**

U1281A within the serial number range may not meet the specification for capacitance measurement in 100nF range and below. This is due to improper open adjustment performed at factory which the cable has been used to perform the open adjustment, has caused a negative offset stored in the multimeter's memory.

**Solution/Action:**

To verify whether the multimeter is impacted with capacitance measurement in 100nF range and below:

1. Turn the knob to the Capacitance measurement position.
2. Manual set the range to 10 nF range.
3. Plug in one end of the Pomona 2BC-36 cable assembly across the capacitance measurement terminal, leave the other end of the cable assembly open.
4. The U1281A should read between 0.8nF to 1.1nF, otherwise the "Open" calibration adjustment was performed incorrectly.

To correct the multimeter capacitance measurement in 100nF range and below:

5. Unplug any cable from the multimeter's terminal.
6. By referring to the service guide procedure (<http://literature.cdn.keysight.com/litweb/pdf/U1281-90002.pdf>), unsecure the meter to enter into the calibration adjustment mode.
7. Turn the knob to the Capacitance measurement position.
8. Perform **ONLY** the "Open" adjustment in Capacitance measurement without any cable connected to the multimeter.
9. Exit calibration adjustment mode after the "Open" adjustment is done.
10. Verify the "Open" adjustment has been performed correctly by repeating step 1 to step 4.

Customers who have purchased the U1281A Multimeter within the serial number range stated in this service note will receive a complementary Pomona 2BC-36 cable assembly. Each customer is entitled to one free Pomona 2BC-36 cable assembly.

To request a free Pomona 2BC-36 cable assembly, please click [HERE](#) (<http://www.keysight.com/find/pomona2BCcablerequest>) and provide the following information on the web form:

1. Instrument Model Number
2. Serial Number
3. Name of distributor who sold this unit
4. Date of purchase
5. Delivery details:
  - Receiver's Name
  - Receiver's Address
  - Receiver's Telephone number

Keysight will arrange for the shipment of the free Pomona 2BC-36 cable assembly to the customer.

Revision History:

| Date          | Service Note Revision | Author | Reason for Change |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 20 April 2016 | 01                    | SJ     | As Published      |
|               |                       |        |                   |
|               |                       |        |                   |
|               |                       |        |                   |

Appendix (A):

|            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| MY55290003 | MY55420010 | MY55430044 |
| MY55290015 | MY55420017 | MY55430045 |
| MY55290017 | MY55430011 | MY55430046 |
| MY55300012 | MY55430016 | MY55430053 |
| MY55410021 | MY55430017 | MY55430055 |
| MY55410025 | MY55430025 | MY55430056 |
| MY55410032 | MY55430027 | MY55430061 |
| MY55410036 | MY55430028 | MY55460018 |
| MY55410045 | MY55430030 |            |
| MY55410053 | MY55430041 |            |