

The Half-Wave Rectifier

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Table of Contents

The Half-Wave Rectifier 2
 Measurements on the Half-Wave Rectifier with the Oscilloscope 2

The Half-Wave Rectifier

In a half-wave rectifier, only one half-wave of the AC voltage is rectified; the other half-wave is not used. Such a rectifier consists only of a single diode. During the half-period in which the diode is operated in forward direction, a voltage is built up at the output (s. [figure 1](#)). In the second half-period, the diode is operated in reverse direction. If the diode is operated in reverse direction, no current can flow because the diode does not become conductive. As a result, no current can flow through the resistor. Thus, the entire negative voltage of the second half-wave lies across the diode and not across the resistor.

Disadvantages of half-wave rectification are the comparatively large ripple on the DC side and the poor efficiency. In addition, the upstream transformer becomes magnetized because it is only traversed by current in one direction.



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Fig. 1: Principle of a half-wave rectifier

Measurements on the Half-Wave Rectifier with the Oscilloscope

Build the half-wave rectifier circuit shown in [figure 2](#) with the diode and the load resistor. Take the transformer output voltage u_{Sec} from the variable low-voltage terminals (**L1** and **N** at your table). The voltages u_{Sec} and u_{R} are to be measured with the oscilloscope. Draw the connection between the circuit and the oscilloscope in [figure 2](#).



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Fig. 2: Half-wave rectifier circuit

Sketch the oscilloscope display with the voltages u_{Sec} and u_{R} in the screen image [figure 3](#).

Also document the settings of the channels used, the time base and the GND line on the left side of the screen image.



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Fig. 3

Channel 1: $\frac{V}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Channel 2: $\frac{V}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Time basis: $\frac{T}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Switch now a capacitor (electrolytic capacitor) with $100 \mu\text{F}$ in parallel to the resistor R_L and sketch the voltage curve of u_{Sec} and u_R again.

Warning: When using an electrolytic capacitor, observe the correct polarity!



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Fig. 4

Channel 1: $\frac{V}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Channel 2: $\frac{V}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Time basis: $\frac{T}{\text{DIV}} = \$$

Measure the following values with the help of the oscilloscope and enter the results in [table 1](#) ($C = 100 \mu\text{F}$):

- Secondary-side voltage of the transformer \hat{u}_{Sec}
- Frequency of the secondary transformer voltage f_{Sec}
- Peak-to-peak ripple voltage $u_{\text{PP-ripple}}$
- Ripple frequency f_{Ripple}
- Average value of the rectified voltage \bar{u}_R
- Peak value of the rectified voltage $u_{R,\text{max}}$



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Tab. 1: Rectifier

Consider a measure with which the ripple voltage can be reduced. Sketch the circuit with your solution in [figure 5](#) and measure the voltages u_{Sec} and u_{R} . Enter these **with another color** into the screen image shown above [figure 4](#).



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Fig. 5

Carry out the corresponding measurements - as above - again on the half-wave rectifier. These were the secondary-side voltage of the transformer \hat{u}_{Sec} , the frequency of the secondary transformer voltage f_{Sec} , the peak-to-peak value of the ripple voltage $u_{\text{PP-ripple}}$, the ripple frequency f_{Ripple} , the average value of the rectified voltage $|\bar{u}_{\text{R}}|$ and the peak value of the rectified voltage $u_{\text{R,~max}}$. Enter the results in the second free line of [table 1](#).

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Last update: 2026/04/03 01:53

