

Keithley Instruments
28775 Aurora Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44139
1-800-935-5595
tek.com/keithley

CONTENTS

General Information	2
Supported Models	2
Installation Instructions.....	2
Version 1.7.0 Release	3
Overview.....	3
Critical Fixes	3
Known Issues	5
Enhancements.....	5
Version v1.6.7c Release	8
Version v1.6.6s Release	12



GENERAL INFORMATION

SUPPORTED MODELS

This firmware is used on the following Keithley Instruments product models:

Model 2461-SYS SourceMeter® Instrument

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Firmware upgrade and downgrade instructions

CAUTION

Do not turn off power or remove the USB flash drive until the upgrade process is complete.

From the front panel:

1. Copy the firmware upgrade file (.upg file) to a USB flash drive.
2. Verify that the upgrade file is in the root subdirectory of the flash drive and that it is the only firmware file in that location.
3. Disconnect any terminals that are attached to the instrument.
4. Turn the instrument power off. Wait a few seconds.
5. Turn the instrument power on.
6. Insert the flash drive into the USB port on the front panel of the instrument.
7. From the instrument front panel, press the **MENU** key.
8. Under System, select **Info/Manage**.
9. Choose an upgrade option:
 - To upgrade to a newer version of firmware: Select **Upgrade to New**.
 - To return to a previous version of firmware: Select **Downgrade to Older**.
10. When the upgrade is complete, reboot the instrument.

A message is displayed while the upgrade is in progress.

For additional firmware installation instructions, refer to the “Upgrading the firmware” topic in the “Maintenance” section of the *Model 2461 High-Current SourceMeter Instrument Reference Manual* (document number 2461-901-01). This manual is available online at tek.com/keithley.

VERSION 1.7.0 RELEASE

OVERVIEW

Version 1.7.0 is a significant maintenance firmware release for the 2461-SYS that brings numerous updates along with stability and reliability improvements. See *Model 2461-SYS High Current SourceMeter Instrument Information* (document number 0771472xx) for additional details.

CRITICAL FIXES

Reference number:	AR41750, AR41769, AR42131, AR42243, AR42807, AR50058, AR50059, NS-422
Symptom:	<p>The effective source limit of the SMU is the lesser of either the programmed source limit or 105% of the active measure range. If you use fixed measure ranges, the instrument prevents you from selecting different limit and measure ranges.</p> <p>However, if measure autorange is selected, it is possible for the autorange process to cause the ranges to differ because the instrument may go down to a range that is lower than the one on which the source limit is programmed. This causes the effective source limit to drop to 105% of the newly selected measure range. The source limit will remain at this value until either you make another measurement that causes a range change or you explicitly select another range.</p> <p>If you take no action to change the measure range before you change the source level, or perhaps test a new device, you may find that the output voltage or current level is less than expected due to the reduced source limit. This may prevent your device from properly turning on or otherwise operating as expected.</p>
Resolution:	These issues have been addressed. The front panel display now indicates if the SMU output is limited by the programmed source limit or by the active measure range. A new autorange mode was also added to automatically set the measure range equal to the source limit range after a measurement is completed (see "Enhancements").
Reference number:	AR55036, AR62150, NS-339
Symptom:	Repeated creation and deletion of user-defined buffers may cause out-of-memory errors. Error messages indicating the maximum size for buffers being created are wrong and provide misleading guidance.
Resolution:	Reading buffer memory management now allows users to easily allocate the largest size available when creating a reading buffer. Documentation has been clarified to explain the creation process. Improved buffer memory management also reduces the possibility of getting out-of-memory errors.
Reference number:	AR56349, AR60259, NS-929
Symptom:	USB communication issues.
Resolution:	To better accommodate the variety of VISA installation options available to users, the STALLing USBTMC is not active as it had been before.

Reference number:	AR61116, AR62660, NS-529, NS-1558
Symptom:	Repeatedly saving a buffer to a file on a USB flash drive using the <code>buffer.saveappend</code> command eventually causes Error 2203, "Cannot open file."
Resolution:	This issue has been corrected.
Reference number:	AR62310
Symptom:	Exercising various combinations of front panel settings for the Event Log may cause the front panel to lock up.
Resolution:	This issue has been corrected.
Reference number:	AR62342, NS-1483
Symptom:	Pulse train generation is inconsistent when configuring the SMU to Source Voltage and Digitize Voltage, and then creating a Trigger Model to generate an Infinite Pulse Train (10 ms ON and 1 ms OFF) more than once.
Resolution:	This issue has been corrected.
Reference number:	AR62390, AR62391, AR62392, NS-1382
Symptom:	Executing a Configuration List sweep that changes the source level, function, limit, range, and measure function and range may not be repeatable. The following issues may be observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duration of a step in the sweep alternates between two values in consecutive cycles of the sweep. • The first step in the sweep is not reproduced in subsequent consecutive cycles of the sweep. • The first step in a sweep is missing in alternating consecutive cycles of the sweep.
Resolution:	This issue has been resolved.
Reference number:	AR63013, NS-1738
Symptom:	The trigger model may cause the instrument to become unresponsive when you configure the SMU to perform a pulsed voltage sweep using the Trigger Model. The current measure range is initially set to 1 uA and measure autorange is enabled. You connect a 1 ohm load to the SMU and you initiate the Trigger Model. You observe that if the first step in the sweep does not produce at least 700mA of current, then the Trigger Model will hang up.
Resolution:	This issue has been resolved.
Reference number:	AR63231
Symptom:	If you change the source function while you are at the Pulse Settings screen, the change will not go into effect unless you go to the Main Menu and then re-select Pulse.
Resolution:	This issue has been resolved.

KNOWN ISSUES

Reference number:	AR62218, NS-1241
Symptom:	Rapidly changing the Quickset performance slider between medium and fast settings can result in the slider becoming unresponsive.
Workaround:	Switch to another screen and back to Quickset.

ENHANCEMENTS

Category	Reading buffers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading buffer memory management now allows users to easily allocate the largest size available when creating a reading buffer. • Additional options are now available when saving data to a USB flash drive. • Buffer statistics and options for accessing data from reading buffers have been added. • Added reading buffer math and unit support. • Added formatting options for writable buffers. • Added a method to clear the active buffer by pressing the MENU + EXIT keys. • When selecting the active buffer, an option now exists to create a new user buffer. • Added the <code>display.activebuffer</code> TSP command and <code>DISPlay:BUFFer:ACTive</code> SCPI command to specify the active buffer for the instrument using remote commands.
Category	Measurement speed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A priority voltage option has been added which allows you to select the power supply rail to prevent excessive switching between rails (<code>smu.priorityvoltage</code> and <code>:SYSTEM:PRIority:VOLTage</code>). • A fast range change option has been added, which allows you to suppress checks for transients and overshoots that are normally done before range changes (<code>smu.fastrangechange</code> and <code>:SYSTEM:FAST:RANGE:CHANGe</code>). • These options are only supported in instrument serial numbers 4400794 and above.
Category	Configuration lists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced user interface screen for accessing configuration list settings. • Added the ability to use remote commands to store inactive source and measure function settings in a configuration list index. • Added the ability to use remote commands to query or configure inactive source and measure function attributes.

Category	Trigger model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Measure and Digitize trigger blocks have been combined into a single Measure and Digitize block. The new trigger block either measures or digitizes based on the active function. When used with a Measure Configuration list, this trigger block lets you make sequential measurements with the analog-to-digital converter and the digitizer (when available) in the same trigger model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SCPI command is <code>:TRIGger:BLOCK:MDIGitize</code>. The TSP command is <code>trigger.BLOCK_MEASURE_DIGITIZE</code>. The remote commands for the original Measure and Digitize trigger blocks are still accepted to provide compatibility with existing test programs and scripts. However, the trigger models generated with the original commands automatically use the new, combined Measure and Digitize block.
Category	LXI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instrument is now compliant with LXI version 1.5. An LXI/LAN ID indicator has been added to the System Communications screen. To discover the instrument, use the LXI Discovery Tool.
Category	Apps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When applications are available, the APPS Manager screen displays the apps for the instrument.
Category	New commands and options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added an interlock on and off setting to the user interface and remote commands, <code>:OUTPut[1]:INTERlock:STATe</code> (SCPI) and <code>smu.interlock.enable</code> (TSP). When enabled, the SMU will not allow the output to be turned on when the interlock is not engaged. The interlock base behavior has also changed. The SMU output will turn off whenever the interlock is engaged or disengaged. Added an autorange rebound setting to the user interface and the remote commands <code>[:SENSe[1]] :<function> :RANGe:AUTO:REBound</code> (SCPI) and <code>smu.measure.autorangerebound</code> (TSP). If autorange rebound is enabled, then after an autoranged measurement is completed, the measure range is restored to match the limit range. Added a method to automatically install any scripts to internal storage memory that reside in an autoinstall directory on the USB drive when inserted into the instrument. Added <code>fs.*</code> TSP commands for accessing and managing file system settings. Added an option to show a Processing screen in the user interface to increase test execution speeds when screen updates are not required. Added remote commands to set continuous measurement. Added the <code>smu.digitize.sense</code> commands for TSP and <code>[:SENSe[1]] :<function> :RSENse</code> for SCPI when the digitize function is set to voltage or current.

Category	Ease of use <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numerical entries on the user interface now support Minimum, Maximum, and Infinite options when applicable to the setting.• Option to display the virtual front panel in low resolution to improve communication speed with the instrument. The default screen display resolution of 800 x 480 is reduced to 400 x 240 resolution.• Graph and Histogram settings are now shared for ease of viewing data between the two screens. Also added other graphing enhancements.
Category	General changes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum TSP node ID is now 63. The previous maximum was 64.• The Access Mode option on the front panel has been changed to Interface Access.• The user swipe screen is only displayed if user text is defined.• The home screen indication of source limiting has been enhanced to show whether the source limit setting or the measure range is limiting the instrument output.

VERSION V1.6.7C RELEASE

Overview

Version 1.6.7c is an audited minor release which fixes several different bugs all listed below.
[RELEASED 12-NOV-2018](#)

Critical Fixes

NIHK6320 TSP-Link® node number 64 is no longer selectable.
NIHK6306

Models affected:

All 2450 models, 2460 models, 2461 models

Symptom:

Using TSP-Link node number 64 could cause compatibility issues with older TSP-Link products.

Resolution:

The maximum TSP-Link node number has been limited to 63.

NS1115 Trigger timer does not generate the event at the correct time for long delay settings.

Models affected:

All 2450 models, 2460 models, 2461 models

Symptom:

Steps to reproduce:

```
trigger.timer[1].reset()  
trigger.timer[1].delay = delay_time  
trigger.timer[1].start.generate = trigger.ON
```

The event should be generated immediately but will not be generated if `delay_time` is greater than 65.5 ms.

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

NS284 Source range limit checking should generate error on invalid value.

Models affected:

All 2450 models, 2460 models, 2461 models

Symptom:

Setting the source range to a value greater than the maximum value would select the highest range but would not generate an error. For 2461-SYS models, the voltage range maximum value is 105 V and for current it is 1.05 A.

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

NS967 Output is still ON after turning it OFF and output light is off.

Models affected:

All 2450 models, 2460 models, 2461 models

Symptom:

Under certain conditions, creating a configuration list with the output OFF and then recalling it during the execution of a TriggerFlow® can result in the output state showing as OFF even when the output is still ON.

Steps to reproduce:

```
reset()
smu.measure.func = smu.FUNC_DC_CURRENT
smu.measure.configlist.create('mList')
smu.source.configlist.create('sList')
smu.measure.configlist.store('mList')
smu.source.configlist.store('sList')
smu.source.func = smu.FUNC_DC_CURRENT
smu.source.output = smu.ON
trigger.model.load('ConfigList', 'mList', 'sList', 0.1)
trigger.model.initiate()
waitcomplete()
smu.measure.func = smu.FUNC_RESISTANCE
print("Expect OFF, found: "..smu.source.output)
smu.source.output = smu.OFF
print("Expect OFF, found: "..smu.source.output)
```

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

NS525 2461 allows settings outside of power limits.

Models affected:

All 2461 models

Symptom:

Using TSP commands, it is possible to configure the settings to exceed the power limits supported by the instrument.

Example steps to reproduce:

```
reset()
smu.measure.range = 7
smu.source.ilimit.level = 7
smu.source.func = smu.FUNC_DC_VOLTAGE
```

```
smu.source.level = 105.
```

This attempts to configure the instrument for source 105 V with a 7 A source limit. This is outside the power limits, but does not generate an error.

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

NS560 SCPI voltage pulse sweep commands use incorrect default values.

Models affected:

All 2461 models

Symptom:

The default values *xBiasLimit* and *xPulseLimit* are incorrect for the following SCPI commands:

```
:SOURce[1]:PULSe:SWEEp:VOLT:LINear.  
:SOURce[1]:PULSe:SWEEp:VOLT:LINear:STEP.  
:SOURce[1]:PULSe:SWEEp:VOLT:LOG.
```

This problem can result in unexpected errors being generated.

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

NS1119 Voltage source level not achieving full resolution.

Models affected:

All 2461-SYS models

Symptom:

The source level fine adjustment was not being set correctly due to a rounding error.

Resolution:

This issue has been corrected.

VERSION V1.6.6S RELEASE

Overview

Version 1.6.6s is the initial firmware release for the Model 2461-SYS. No fixes are listed since this is the very first firmware release. Known Issues, Usage Notes, and Upcoming Enhancements are listed below in this document.

Compatibility concerns

N/A

Critical fixes

N/A

Enhancements

N/A

Noncritical fixes

N/A

Known issues

N/A