

Data Capture and Storage for Later Reference

In a busy shop, it is important to keep track of the signatures captured for 'second looks' and comparison for a quality check after repairs have been completed. Most PC oscilloscopes allow you to save the data captured in a file with a default name consisting of date and a sequence number, but also allow you to provide a file name in a directory of your choice. This approach is fine unless there are several PCs with oscilloscopes such that the sequence numbers might be repeated in one day on more than one PC.

Data that may be important are:

1. Date that the tests were performed
2. Name of the mechanic doing the tests
3. PC identification and Directory name holding the file
4. File sequence number (Seq#)
5. Vehicle identification: either a number assigned to the vehicle when it was brought in, or perhaps the license plate "number"

Engine data:

6. Engine configuration: {I = straight line (in-line), V = 2 banks of cylinders, ... }
7. Number of cylinders in the engine
8. Manufacturer: {Chevy, Ford, Plymouth, Honda, Toyota, Volkswagen, etc. }
9. Displacement: {CID = cubic inch displacement; cc = cubic cm.; l = liters }
10. Odometer reading in miles or km

Signature data:

11. Condition: {c-c = cold crank; idle; power = power brake }
12. RPM = revolutions per minute
13. Scope channel: (for up to 4 channels) {ex = exhaust; in = intake manifold; oil = oil level indicator tube; trig = trigger; none = no sensor attached }

We include a sample spreadsheet for you to record your tests on the following page. You may download the spreadsheet from our web-site at www.senxtech.com.

