High Speed Precision Rectifier

by James Wong

The low offsets and excellent load driving capability of the OP-27 are key advantages in this precision rectifier circuit. The summing impedances can be as low as 1KΩ which helps to reduce the effects of stray capacitance.

For positive inputs, D2 conducts and D1 is biased OFF. Amplifiers A1 and A2 act as a follower with output-to-input feedback and the R1 resistors are not critical. For negative inputs, D1 conducts and D2 is biased OFF. A1 acts as a follower and A2 serves as a precision inverter. In this mode, matching of the two R1 resistors is critical to gain accuracy.

Typical component values are 30pF for C1, and 2kΩ for R3. The drop across D1 must be less than the drop across the FET diode D2. A 1N914 for D1 and a 2N4393 for the JFET were used successfully.

The circuit provides full-wave rectification for inputs of up to ±10V and up to 20kHz in frequency. To assure frequency stability, be sure to decouple the power supply inputs and minimize any capacitive loading. An OP-227, which is two OP-27 amplifiers in a single package, can be used to improve packaging density.