

TABLE 2 GUIDE TO SELECTING WAVEFORM GENERATORS BY APPLICATION

Criteria	Generator category			
	Function/ sweep	Arbitrary/ function (SFG)	Arbitrary waveform	Vector signal
Frequency				
To 20 MHz	X	X		
20 to 240 MHz		X	X	
Greater than 240 MHz			X	X
Waveform characteristics				
Standard (sine, square, triangle, sawtooth, ramp, noise, etc)	X	X		
Long, complex, fast transitions			X	X
IQ-modulation signals		X	X	X
Application				
High-speed serial data (PCI Express, SATA, HDMI)			X	
Low-speed serial data (I ² C, CAN, and others)		X		
RF test (wireless communication, RF, baseband, UWB, defense)		X	X	X
Optical- and magnetic-storage testing			X	
Digital test (mixed-device components, DAC, ADC, memory)			X	
Image-device test (capture and display)		X	X	
Other (automotive, education, medical)	X	X	X	
Available budget				
To \$1500	X			
\$1500 to \$10,000		X		
More than \$10,000			X	X

(Table courtesy Tektronix)