

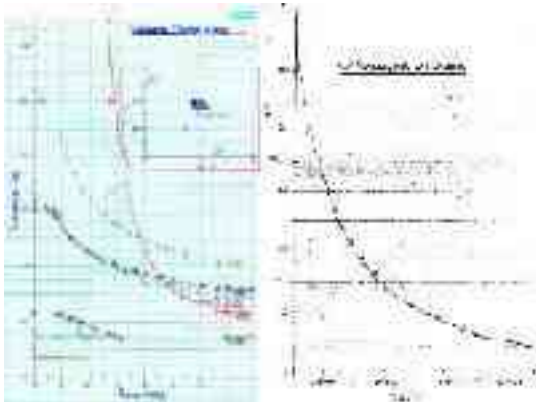
## Varicap diodes (varactors)

Written by Hans Summers

Tuesday, 01 September 2009 04:18 - Last Updated Wednesday, 04 January 2012 13:42

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Varicap (a.k.a. varactor) diodes exhibit a variable capacitance when they are reverse biased with a variable voltage. Unfortunately specific varicap diode part numbers are often very hard to obtain and seem to go obsolete much more quickly than other types of semiconductor. Hence if you are attempting to build a project more than a few years old you might find it hard to get the specified varicap. However, in fact all diodes have the variable capacitance in reverse bias. On this page are the results from various experiments with ordinary diodes used as varicaps.



### My early experiments in 1994.

Way back in 1994 (actually [Read More...](#) it might have been 1993) when I'd recently built a simple 8-digit frequency



### LED's as varicaps.

Here we are in 2007 and [David Wood](#) knows that I am fond of [LED's](#) and requested some further

[Read More...](#)

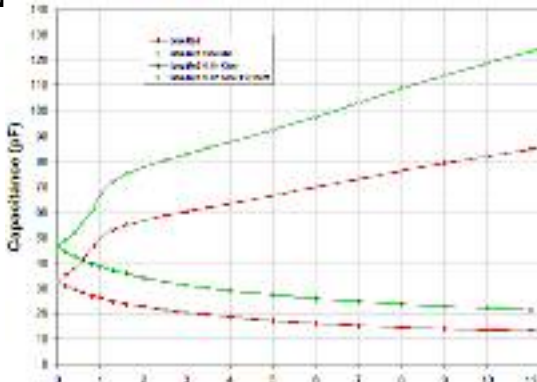
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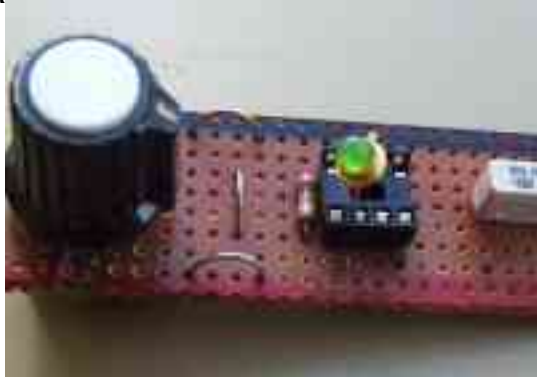
Rectifier diodes vs. [Diode Meas](#) 2007 LED testing results here on my web site, than the (also disting



Forward bias with [LED Meas](#) eventually discovered that LED's exhibit a variable capacitance even w



Photo of [LED Meas](#) (finished) wasted very little time in warning me that the capacitance



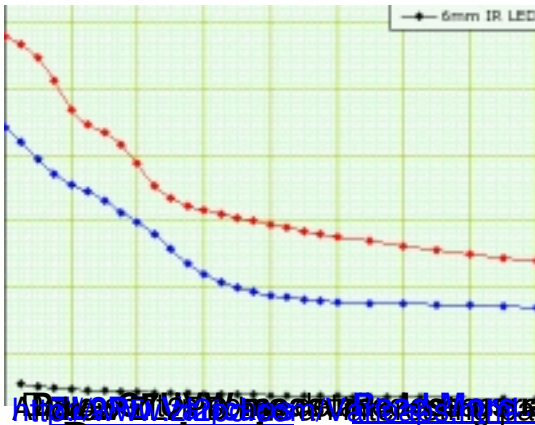
My other LED results [LED Meas](#) JWA made some further LED measurements in both forward and

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Downloads [Download the excel spreadsheet containing page of Varicap](#) Investigating the variable capacitance of three slightly less u LEDs

These excel spreadsheets contain all the data and charts used in these pages.

[CLICK HERE](#) for original 1994 measurements

[CLICK HERE](#) LED and rectifier Diode measurements from 2007

[CLICK HERE](#) for Fwd Bias measurements

[CLICK HERE](#) for Dave G7UVW measurements