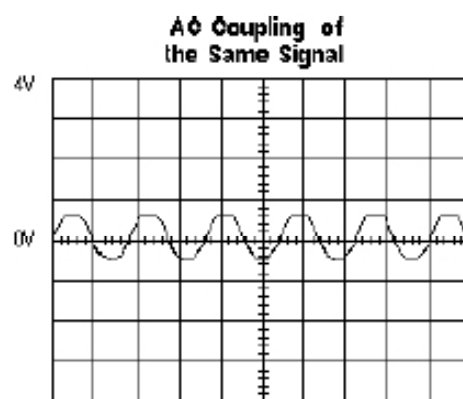
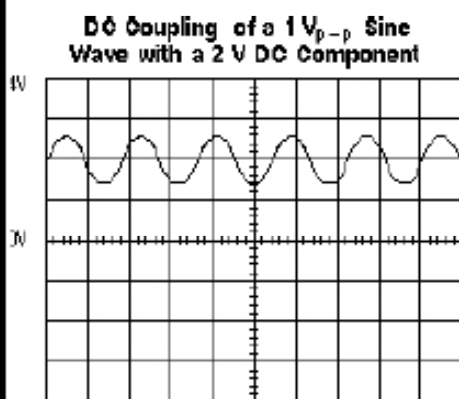


# Input Coupling

Coupling means the method used to connect an electrical signal from one circuit to another. In this case, the input coupling is the connection from your test circuit to the oscilloscope. The coupling can be set to DC, AC, or ground. DC coupling shows all of an input signal. AC coupling blocks the DC component of a signal so that you see the waveform centered at zero volts. Figure 2 illustrates this difference. The AC coupling setting is handy when the entire signal (alternating plus constant components) is too large for the volts/div setting.



The ground setting disconnects the input signal from the vertical system, which lets you see where zero volts is on the screen. With grounded input coupling and auto trigger mode, you see a horizontal line on the screen that represents zero volts. Switching from DC to ground and back again is a handy way of measuring signal voltage levels with respect to ground.