Frequently asked Questions:

Q1: Does the CDR recover fixed data patterns of 10101010.
A1: No. The CDR does recover fixed patterns as fast as 11001100.

Q2: I don't see a signal at the line rate clock outputs?
A2: Double check the "HS CLK Enable" box is selected.

Q3: Can I use an Apple computer/iPad to run the pocketBERT pB10A GUI?
A3: pocketBERT currently only supports PC based systems.

Q4: Will the pB10A GUI run under Windows8?
A4: Yes. All you have to do is instead of double-click on "setup32.exe", right click on it and select "Run as Administrator".

Q5: Can I power the unit via the USB link and run without the external power supply?
A5: Yes, the pB10A (for s/n >030 with exception not including 032-034, 036, 042, 043, 045 and 047 can be powered via the USB cable from a PC. Very noisy PC power rails may potentially impact the performance of the pB10A.

Q6: Can the XFP or SFP/SFP+ evaluation board inputs and outputs be connected directly to the pB10A or does additional amplification need to be provided?
A6: The evaluation boards can be connected directly, no amplification needed. Short, high quality, matched SMA cables provide best results.

Q7: Does pocketBERT offer a pB10A with an optical front end?
A7: We are currently evaluating a version with a SFP/SFP+ and/or XFP cage. Please contact support@pocketbert.com with your specific application needs.

Q8: Will pocketBERT offer a serial 40 Gb/s version?
A8: There are currently no plans for a serial 40 Gb/s unit. pB40A4 is a quad 10 Gb/s new product development, see web site for details

Q9: Will pocketBERT offer a quad 10 Gb/s BERT?
A9: Yes by 2nd half of 2014 the pB40A4 will be available. It is a quad 10 Gb/s version, quite similar to the quad 28 Gb/s pB100A4 version. Please check www.pocketbert.com for updates.

Q9: Is the 100 Gb/s version of pocketBERT available?
A9: pB100A is not available yet. There are still openings for alpha customers. Please contact support@pocketbert.com if you and your company are interested.

Q10: Can I use differential Tx but single-ended Rx (50 Ohm on the other port) set-up?
A10: Yes, that is no problem.

Q11: What does the Tx De-emphasis do?
A11: Tx De-emphasis is a 3-tap FIR filter (pre-main-post) with controls the adjustment of post (tap2); to correct for dispersion raise the tap2 value.

Q12: How can I reset a pB10A if hung up?
A12: disconnect and reconnect 5V external power supply and USB cable (for serial numbers > 030 (and exceptions as in A5), as these units can be powered through the USB link).

Q13: I'm having problems with the log file under Windows8?
A13: GUI had to be started up in Administrator Mode for Windows 8. This can be set (after installation) by going to the "Properties" menu and setting it to be "Always run as Administrator". There may also be a window that pops up asking to allow the "Unknown" program to modify the system – except it.

Q14: The data sheet specifies the max output jitter to be 0.22 UI_{pk-pk}, what would be a typical value?
A14: Typical jitter is 0.15 UI_{pk-pk}

Q15: How does a pocketBERT pB10A compare to the big test boxes from Agilent, Anritsu and Tektronix, just to name a few?
A15: pB10A in general is not a replacement unit for these testers. pB10A does offer a reduced and basic 10 Gb/s test suite, which will cover a wide variety of applications for a fraction of the cost. Co-existence is justified next to the larger, heavy and bulky, feature loaded and expensive BERTs and provides an ideal affordable and portable tool to engineers for quick checks, production control, etc. without disrupting e.g. important validation tasks.

***Always be gentle with SMA connectors – hand tight is fine for most applications – don't over torque ***
*** Work in an ESD safe work environment ***