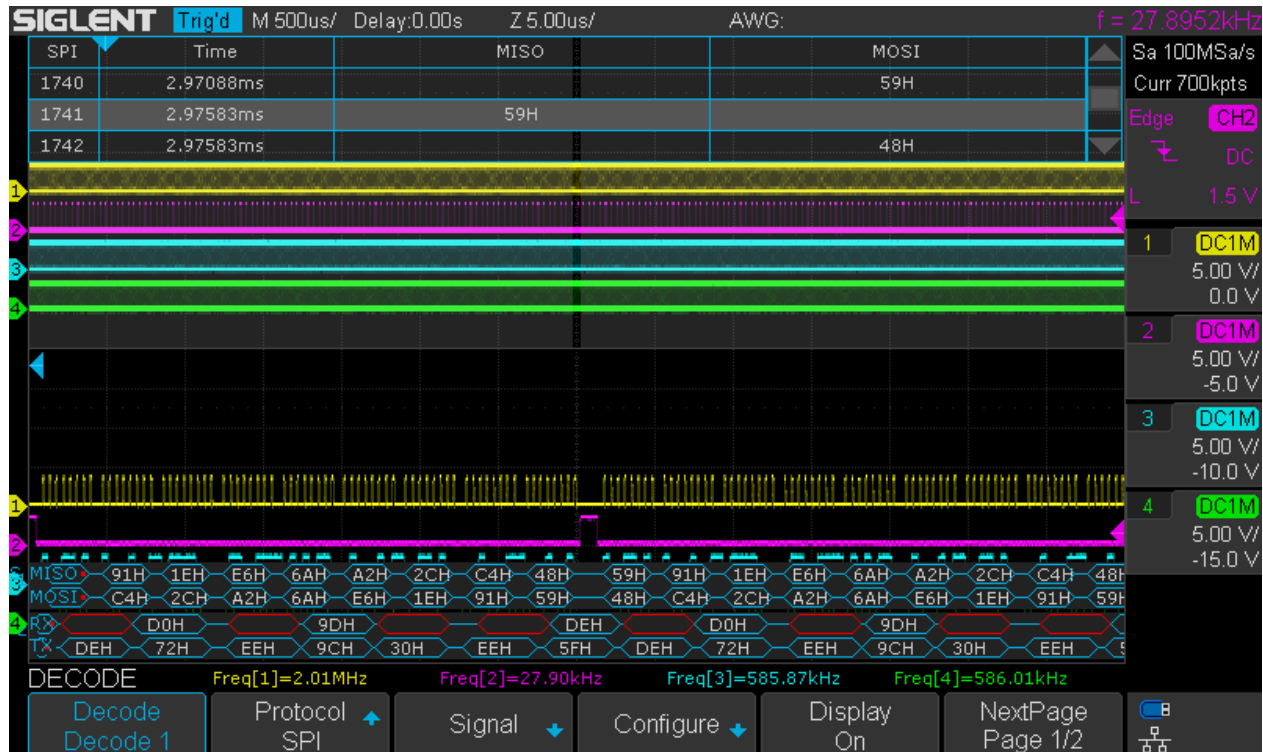


# Serial Decode

## General

The Siglent SDS1104X-E has the potential to be an excellent tool for low level debugging of serial communication links. It has 4 analog channels, reasonably deep memory and it supports the most popular serial protocols. Most importantly, two independent full duplex decoders are available that can work in parallel. The screenshot below demonstrates such a situation with zoom view centered on a 700kpts record, containing 3484 8bit data words decoded from SPI at 2.35Mbit/s and slightly less for UART at 2Mbaud.



SDS1104X-E\_SPI\_UART\_Zoom\_2

The serial decoding has been redesigned for the SDS1000X-E series; there are still a few decoder specific issues (which will be mentioned in the related chapters) and I'd like to see some refinement in general – but this list is quite short by now:

- When in zoom view, changing the position of the zoom window scrolls the corresponding excerpt of the decode list into view quite nicely. But the alignment isn't perfect, we would like the data at the center of the decoder bar to correspond with the entry in the middle of the list window.
- Decode list cannot be used for navigation, i.e. scrolling through the list doesn't update the zoom window position.

As mentioned before, the SDS1104X-E has two full duplex decoders, referred to as Decode 1 and Decode 2. Each of these two decoders can be set up for any of the available protocols and both can work in parallel. In an embedded system, we'd be able to monitor the internal SPI and I<sup>2</sup>C bus at the same time or we could just as well use both decoders on different UART interfaces.

In order to set up a serial decoder, the signals and possibly other parameters have to be configured in the *Signal* and *Configure* submenus. After that there are a few common steps for all decoders.

After signals and protocol options for a decoder are configured, proceed as follows:

- Switch *Display* menu item on.
- In the *List* submenu, the list display can be turned on for one of the two decoders if so desired.
- If the list display has been turned on, set the number of display lines between 1 and 7 (the height of the list display window) and there is a soft menu button for scrolling through the list.
- In the *Format* submenu, select between binary, decimal, hex and ASCII representation of the data. This setting applies to the list as well as the decoder bar at the bottom of the screen.
- The *Copy Setting* menu item sets the trigger type to serial and copies the decoder settings to the trigger, which is quite convenient.

Be aware that there is a decoder-specific limit for the number of list entries which is also the maximum number of decoded data words in general. Since serial decoders usually don't require excessive oversampling, it looks like the SDS1104X-E would have enough acquisition memory to decode more than that. Even though this might actually be true, the limits are still sensible and high enough to not pose serious limitations to the kind of work a DSO/MSO is supposed to do. For most applications it might be a good idea to limit the record length to 700kpts in the *Acquire* menu, which speeds up operation and also gives us the opportunity to keep up to 35 previous records in the history.

The following chapters deal with the individual decoders. Please bear in mind that these are just examples and it is next to impossible to cover all possible scenarios. I have to admit that I personally rarely ever use serial decoders, as they aren't really necessary for a signal integrity check, which would be the main purpose of a DSO. As an MSO, it is also useful to trigger on a certain serial telegram and check the reaction of the DUT, which would usually be digital and/or analog signals changes, as well as the corresponding time delays. For high level protocol analysis though, I prefer dedicated tools that let me work on a large PC screen comfortably. But then I know there are also some folks who seem to look at serial decoding as the single most important feature of a DSO...

Anyway, I'm trying to provide a brief demonstration of the basic capabilities for the individual decoders.

## SPI

With 4 analog channels, we can have one full duplex SPI decoding with SCK, MISO, MOSI and CS. Triggering on the falling edge of the active low CS signal is usually all that's needed to get the messages properly displayed and decoded.

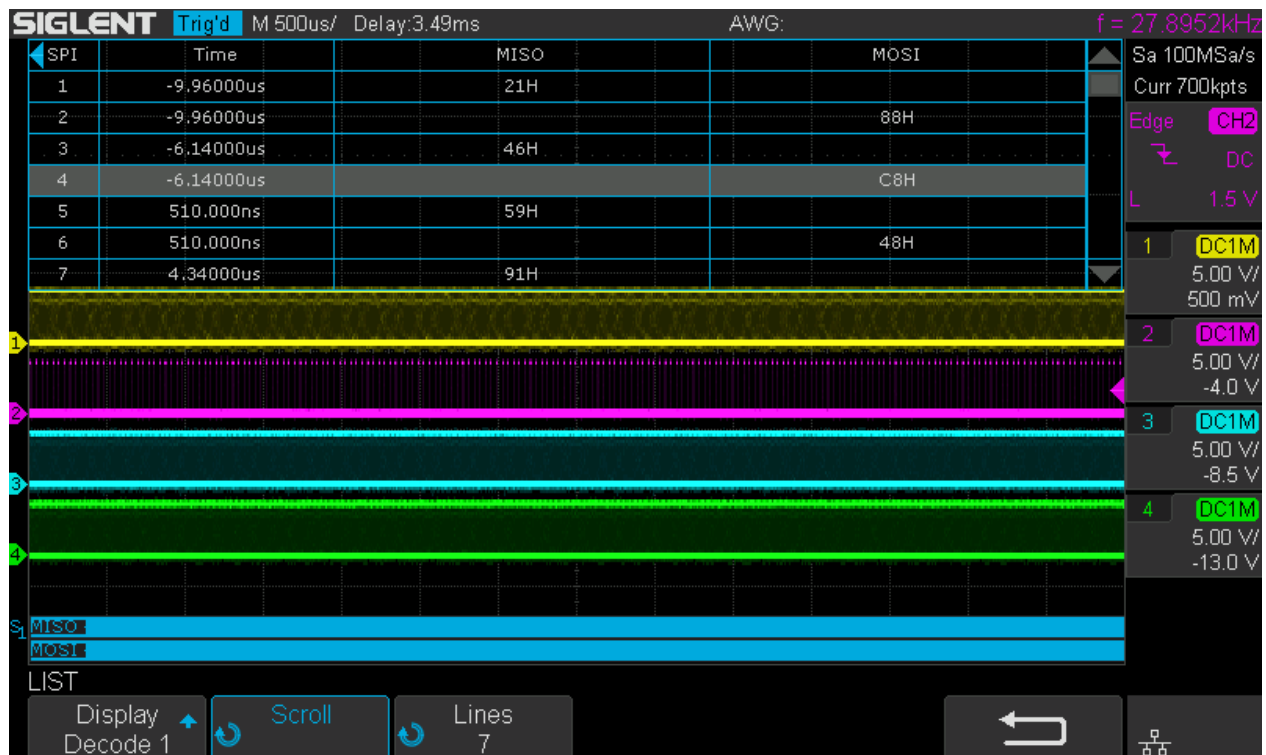
## SPI Decoder

To set up an SPI decoder, proceed as follows:

- Go to the *Signal* menu and configure the channels and signal thresholds for CLK, MISO, MOSI and CS.
- For CLK, select rising or falling edge accordingly.
- For CS, we have the choice of positive/negative logic or clock timeout, i.e. no chip select signal at all.
- Go to the *Configure* menu and set the *Bit Order* (MSB/LSB first) and the *Data Length* (4-32 bits).

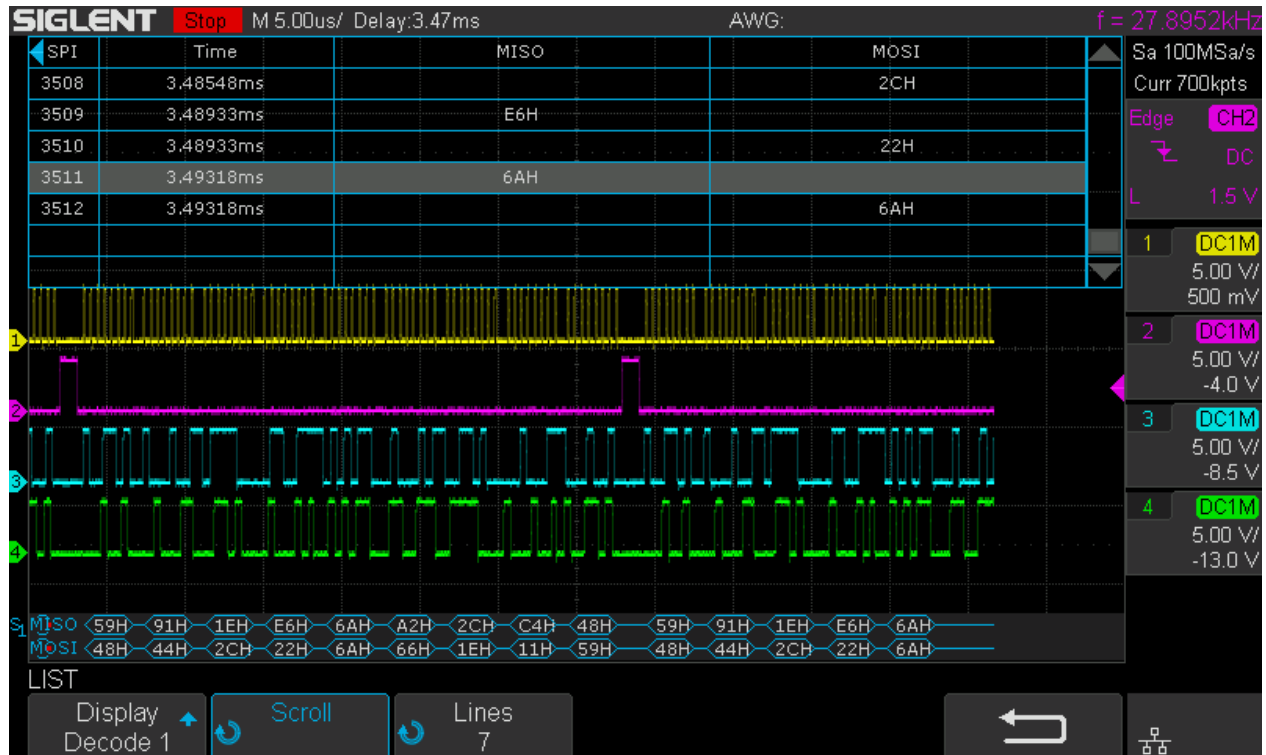
There is a limit of 6000 decoded data words regardless of the number of bits, so that limit applies to 32bit data words as well. As a consequence, we can capture up to 24k bytes or 192k bits with a single record. We don't need excessive oversampling, a sample rate of ten times the bit rate has shown to be plenty enough for a symmetrical clock signal.

The following screenshot shows a full duplex SPI transfer for 8bit data words at a bit rate of 2.35Mbit/s. Time base is 500µs/div, so we're looking at a time window of 7ms at a sample rate of 100MSa/s, resulting in a record length of 700kpts. Of course the signal traces as well as the decoder bar at the bottom of the screen are way too compressed to show anything meaningful at that time scale, but the list view contains all the decoded data.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit

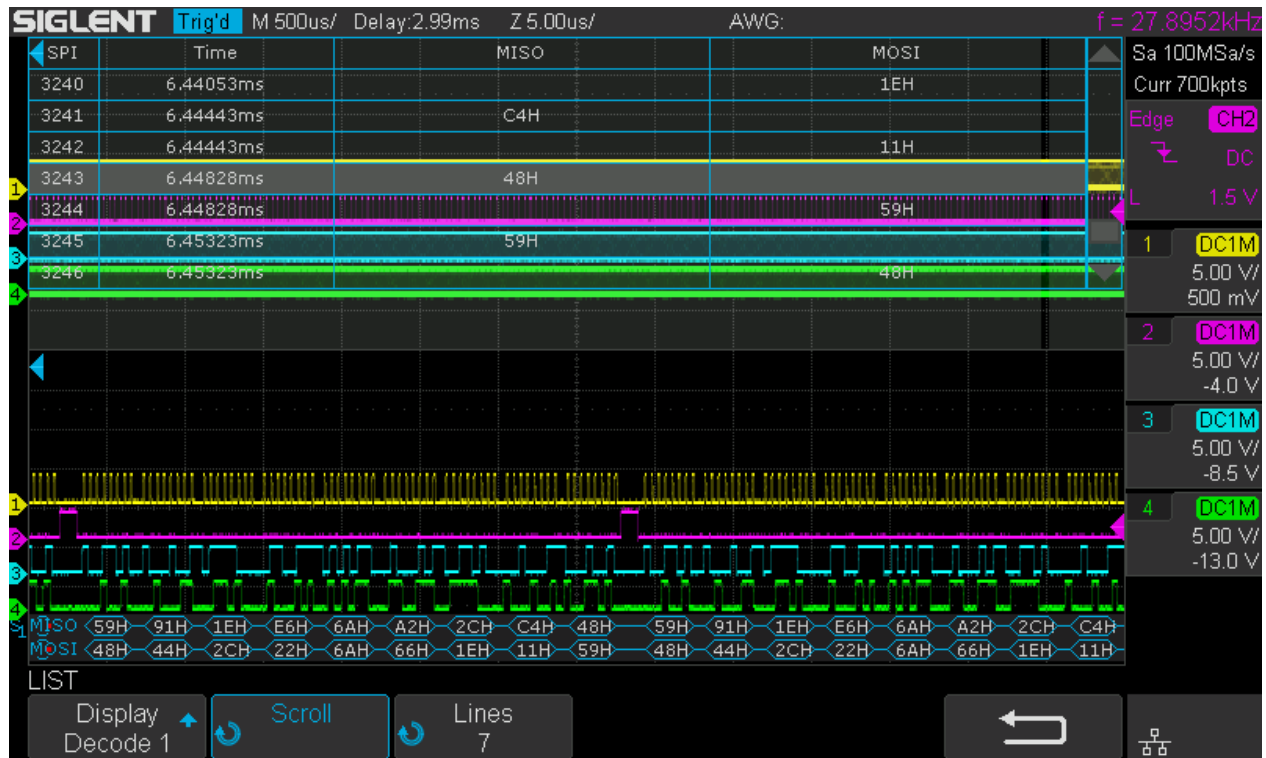
We can stop the acquisition, lower the time base in order to zoom into the waveform until the data in the decoder bar become readable and of course we can also scroll through the record as we like. The screenshot below shows this situation where the view has been positioned to the end of the record.



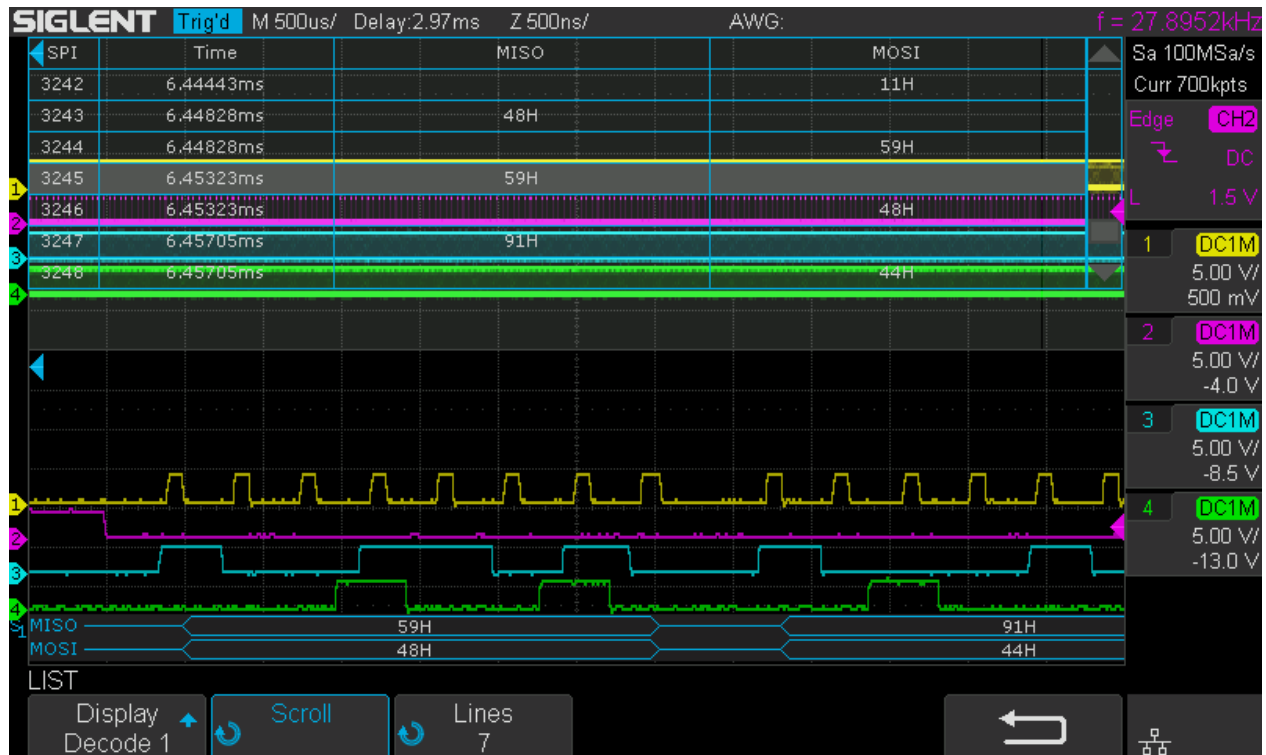
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit\_Stop5us\_last

The list view in the upper part of the screen is automatically centered on a data word near the center of the decoding bar and if necessary we can scroll the list a few positions down in order to see the very last data entry, which is the index 3512 for the MOSI line in this example.

We can also inspect the signals and decoded data while acquisition is still running if we use zoom mode. Of course we can zoom in and out anytime and also scroll through the record as we like. The following screenshots demonstrate this situation for a zoomed time base of 5 $\mu$ s and 500ns respectively, with the zoom view approximately centered on index 3245 of the decoder list.

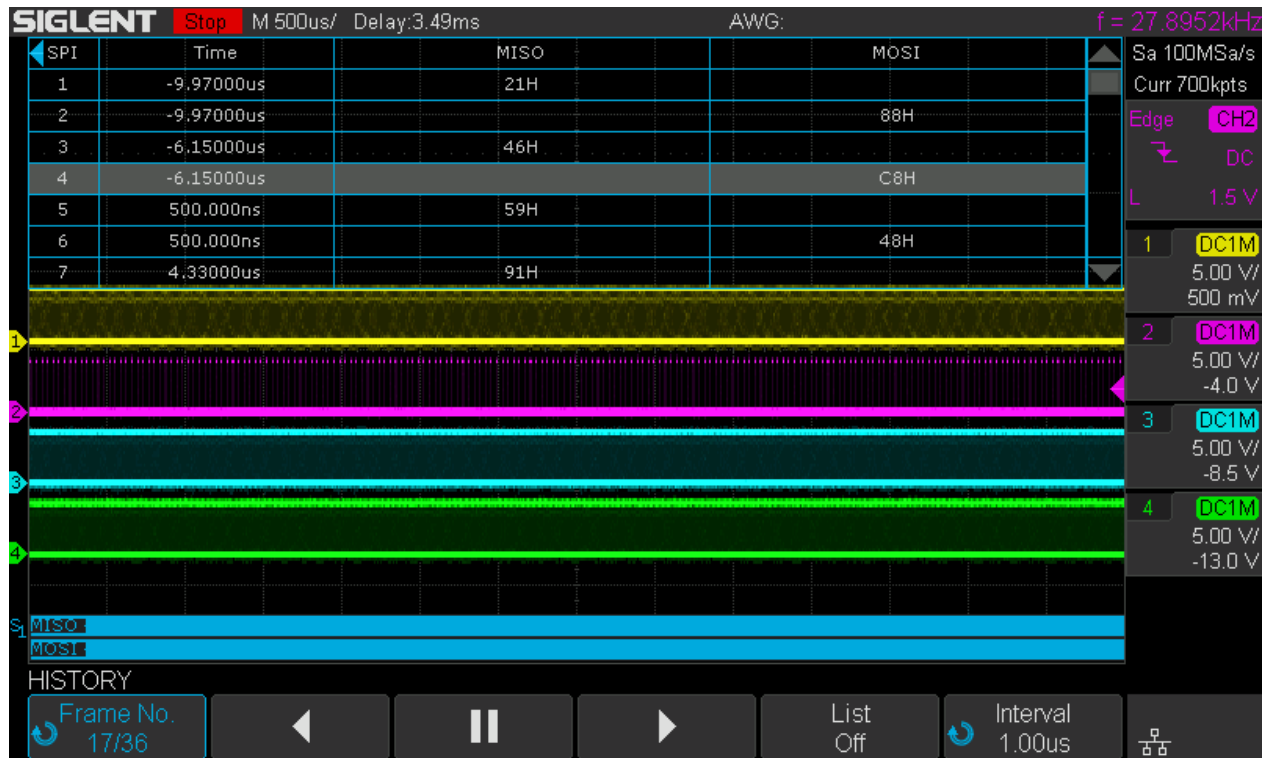


SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit\_zoom5us



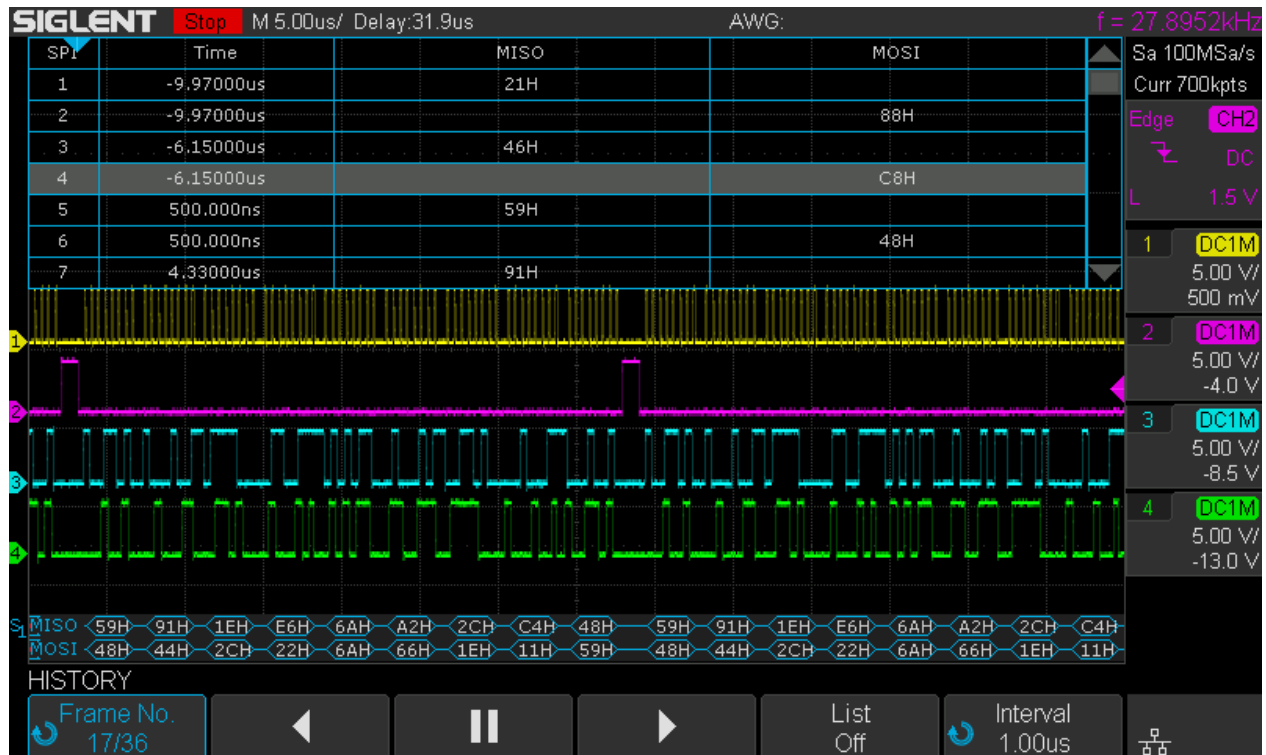
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit\_zoom500ns

We can also stop the acquisition and enter history in order to analyze the current or any previous record stored in the history, e.g. number 17 out of 36 as shown below.



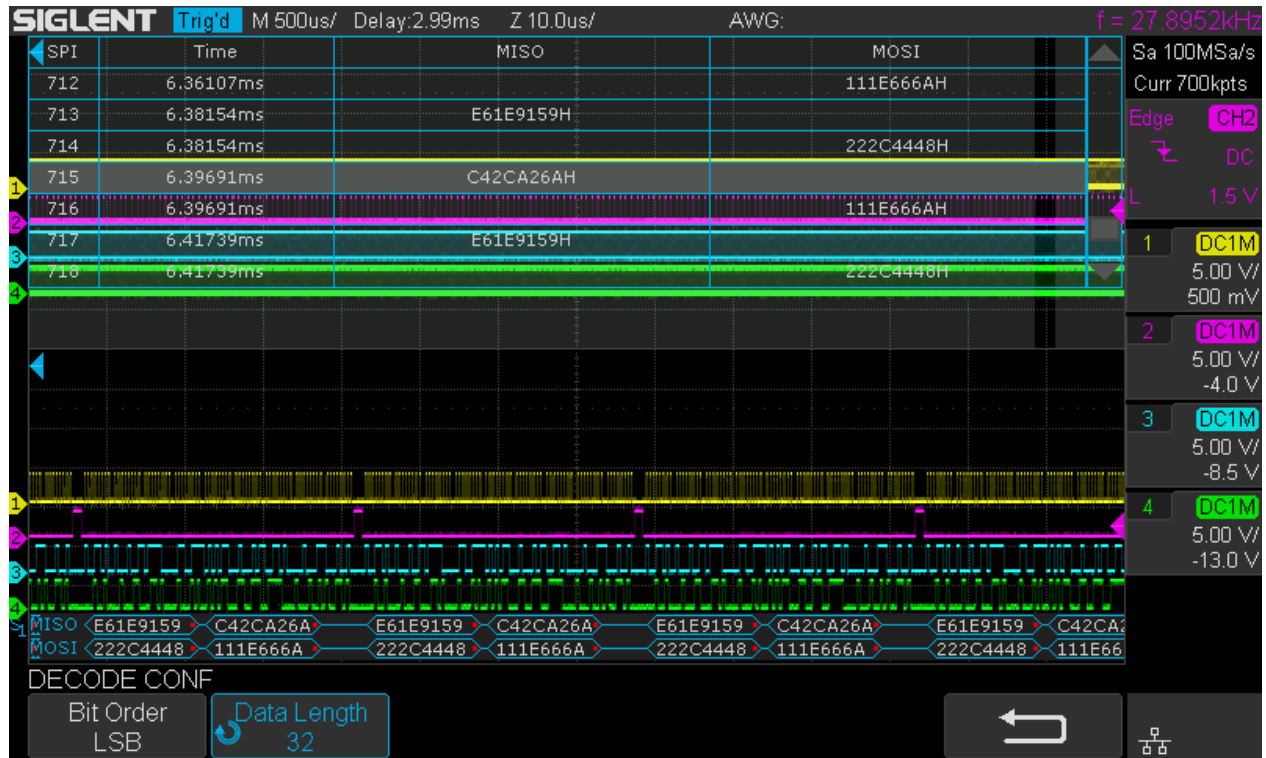
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit\_History.png

Once again we can lower the time base and scroll through the record for closer inspection of certain parts of the message, like 5 $\mu$ s/div in the example below.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_8bit\_History\_5us

Finally there is an example for 32 bit data words. Same time base and record length as before, zoomed in at 10 $\mu$ s/div and centered on index 713 of the list during acquisition.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_SPI\_32bit\_zoom10us

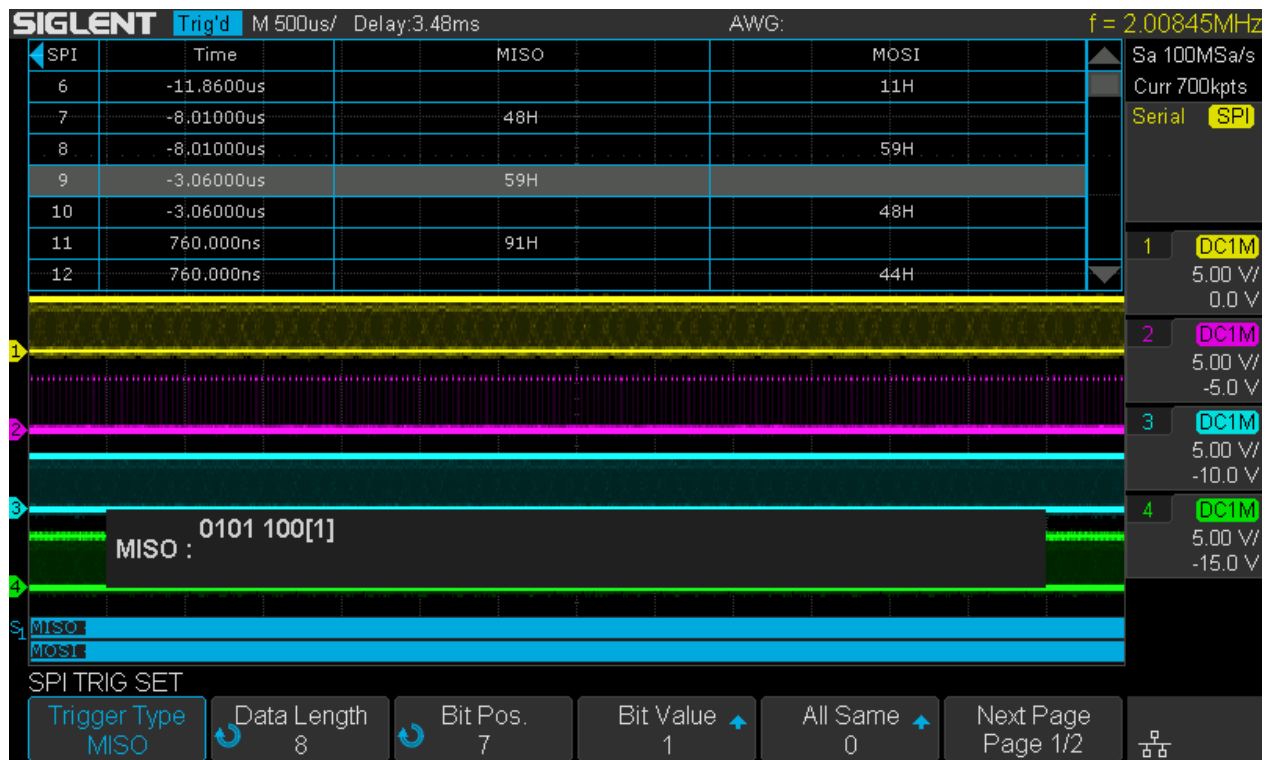
## SPI Trigger

The following screenshots show examples for some SPI triggers:

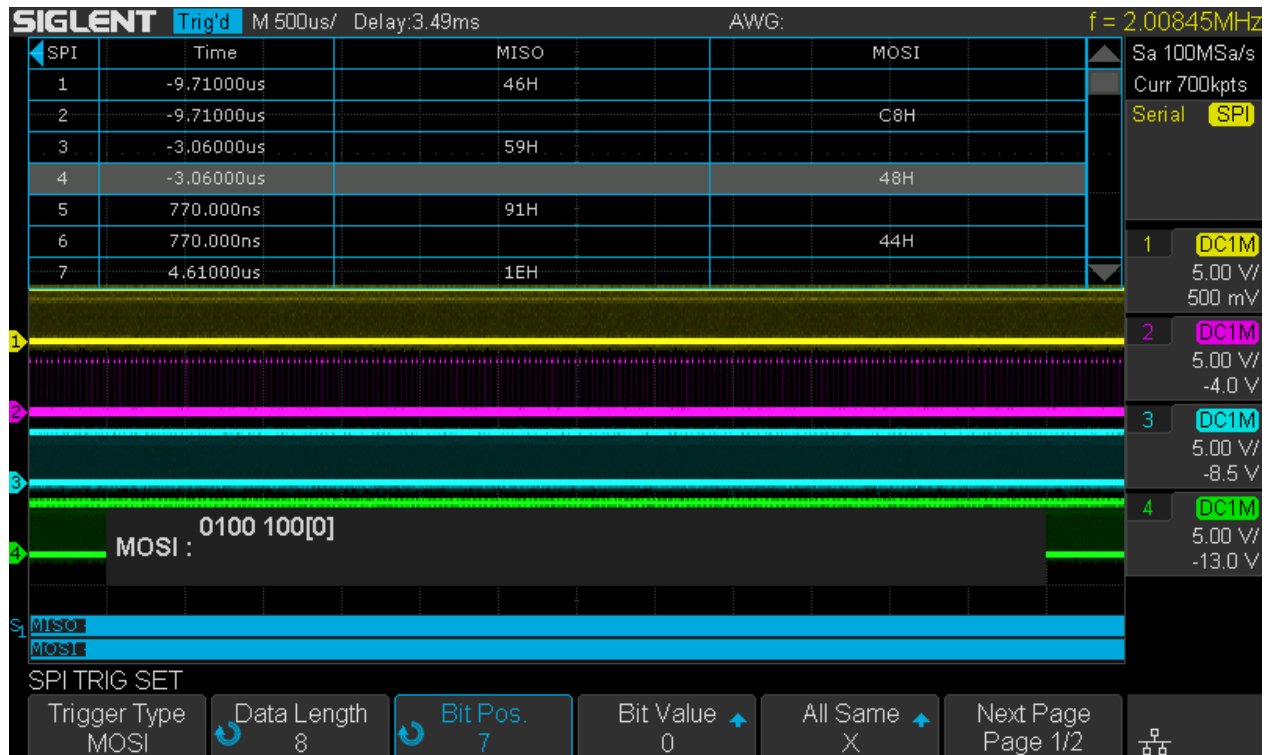
1. 8bit Trigger on 8bit MISO data 0101 1001b = 59h
2. 8bit Trigger on 8bit MOSI data 0100 1000b = 48h
3. 32bit Trigger on 32bit MOSI data 0010 0010 0010 1100 0100 0100 0100 1000b = 222C4448h
4. 40bit Trigger on 32bit MOSI data 0110 1010 0010 0010 0010 1100 0100 0100 0100 1000b = 6A222C4448h

The 4<sup>th</sup> example demonstrates triggering on a 40bit sequence even though a data word cannot exceed 32 bits. The trigger pattern can be up to 96 bits and is totally independent of the data word size.



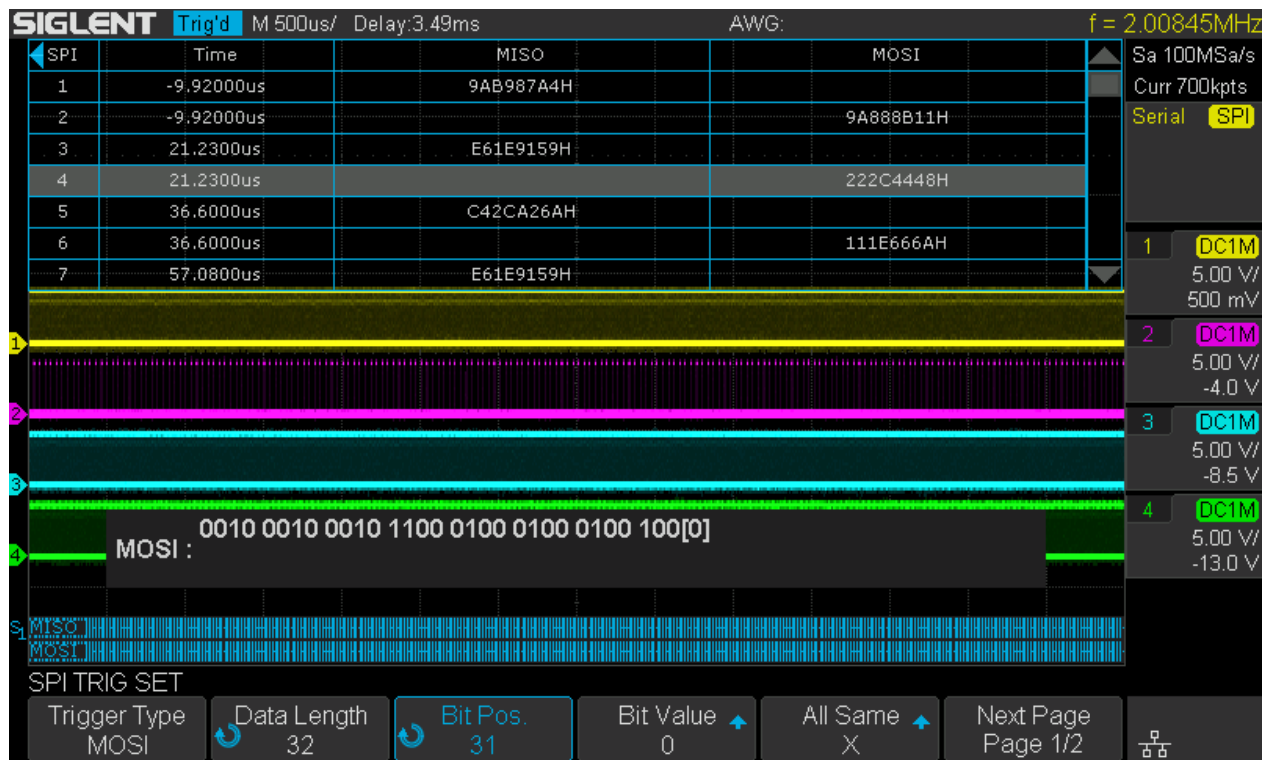


SDS1104X-E\_SPI\_Trigger\_MISO\_8bit

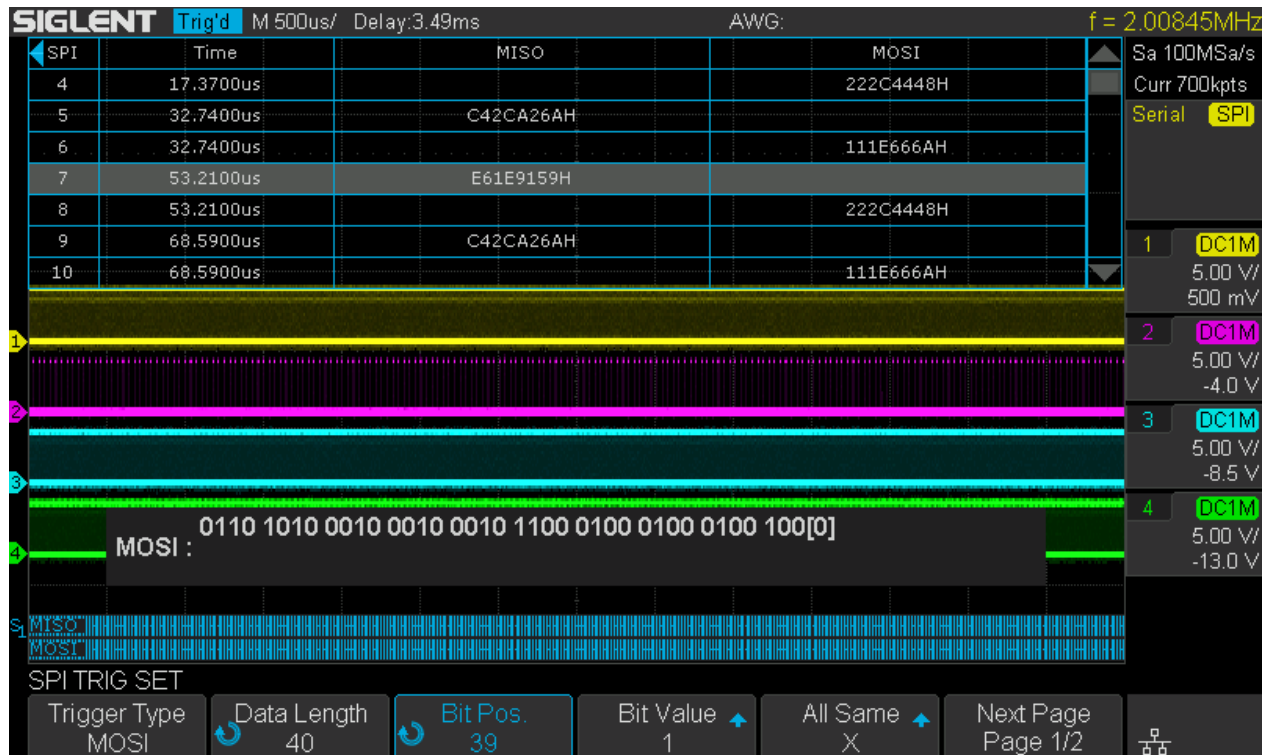


SDS1104X-E\_SPI\_Trigger\_MOSI\_8bit





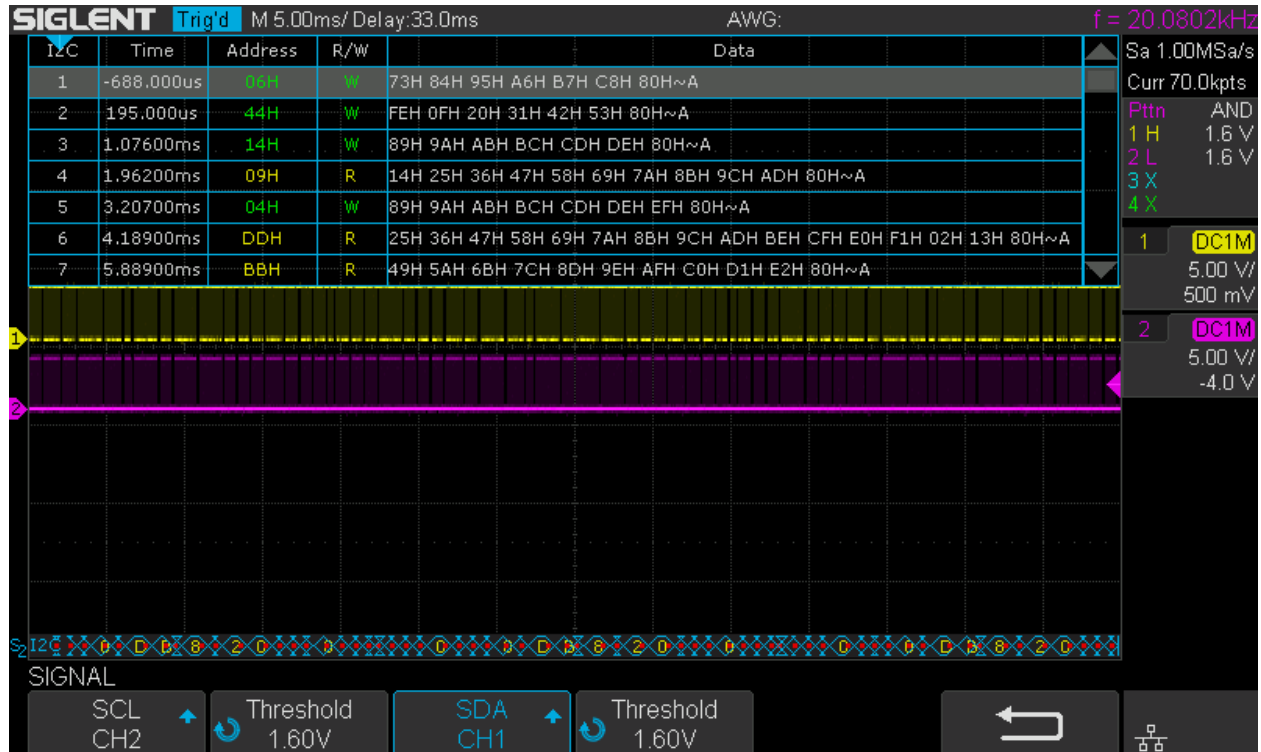
SDS1104X-E\_SPI\_Trigger\_MOSI\_32bit



SDS1104X-E\_SPI\_Trigger\_MOSI\_40bit

## I<sup>2</sup>C

By using 2 channels, we can have half duplex I<sup>2</sup>C decoding with SCL and SDA. Triggering behind a stop condition can be accomplished by setting up a pattern trigger for the break before the following start condition, when SCL is low and SDA is high and this condition is stable for a certain time that should be slightly longer than one period of the SCL clock.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Setup

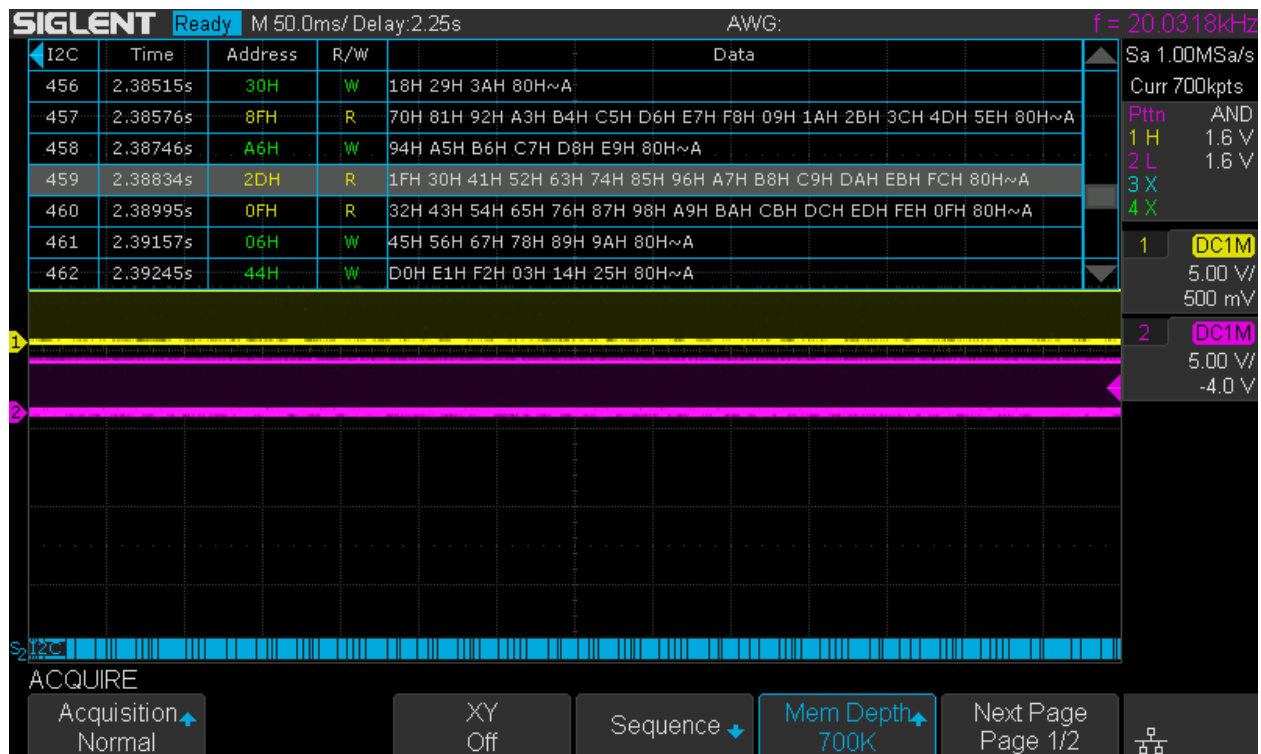
## I<sup>2</sup>C Decoder

To set up an I<sup>2</sup>C decoder, proceed as follows:

- Go to the *Signal* menu and configure the channels and signal thresholds for SCL and SDA.
- In the *Configure* menu there is an *Include R/W bit* option that can be turned on or off. It is used for in/excluding the r/w bit into the address byte as displayed in the decoder bar and the list view.

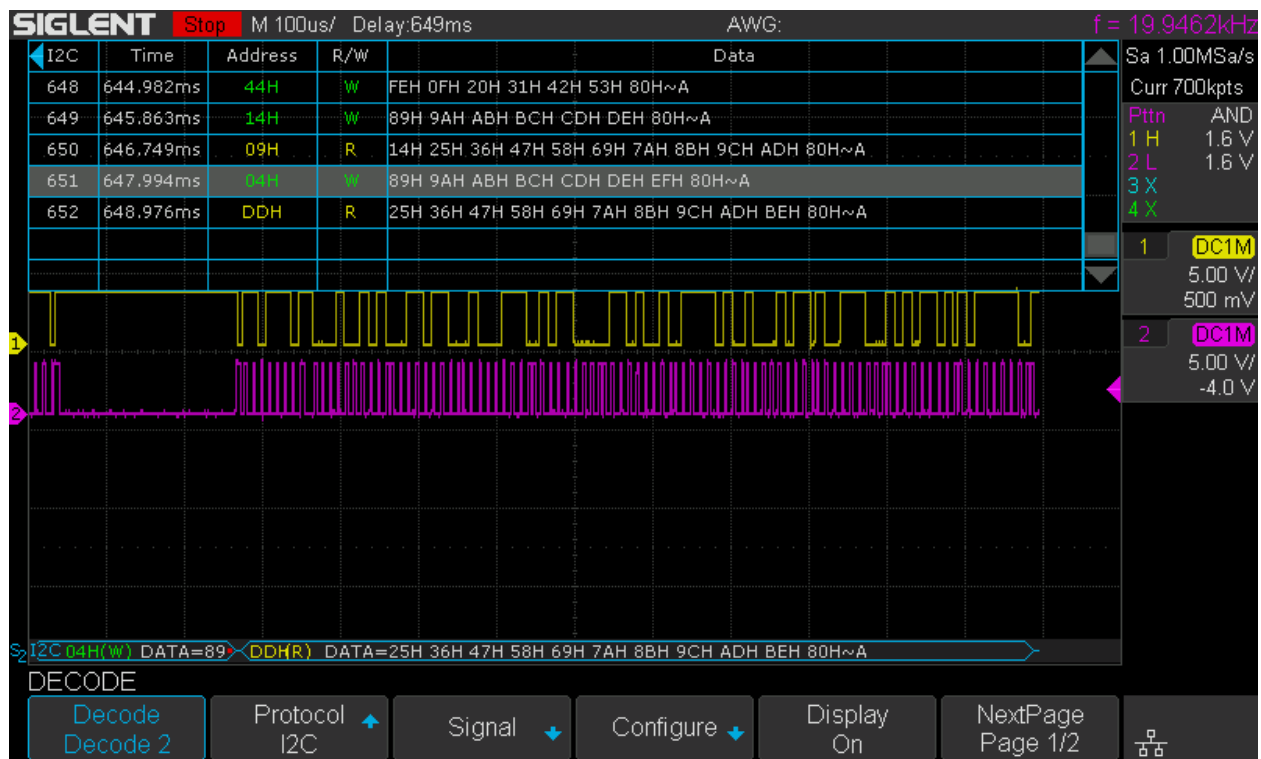
There is a limit of 1000 list entries, i.e. decoded messages, where the list view can display the address together with up to 16 data bytes. This means we can decode and display up to 17k bytes or 136kbits in the list view. We don't need excessive oversampling, a sample rate of ten times the bit rate is usually more than sufficient.

The following screenshot shows a half duplex I<sup>2</sup>C transfer for 8bit data words at a bit rate of ~100kbit/s. Time base is 50ms/div, so we're looking at a time window of 700ms at a sample rate of 1MSa/s, resulting in a record length of 700kpts. Of course the signal traces as well as the decoder bar at the bottom of the screen are way too compressed to show anything meaningful at that time scale, but the list view contains all the decoded messages.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C

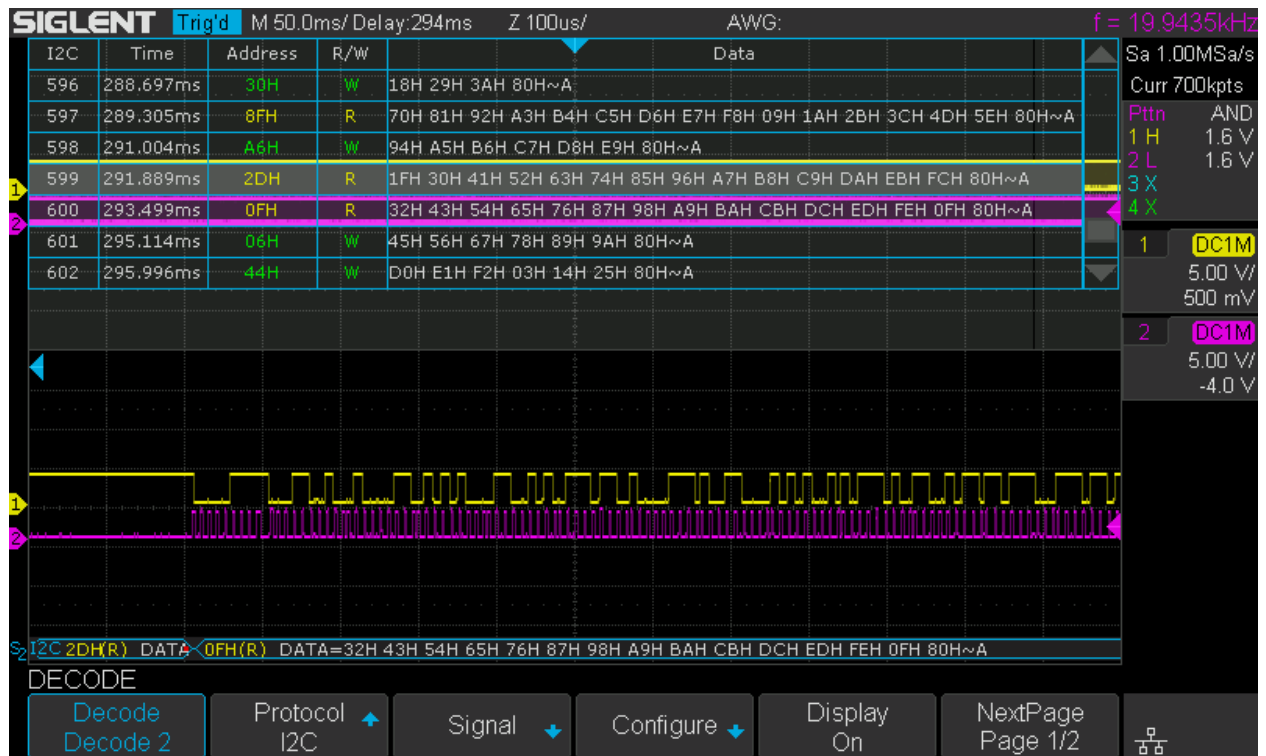
We can stop the acquisition, lower the time base in order to zoom into the waveform until the data in the decoder bar become readable and of course we can also scroll through the record as we like. The screenshot below shows this situation where the view has been positioned to the end of the record.



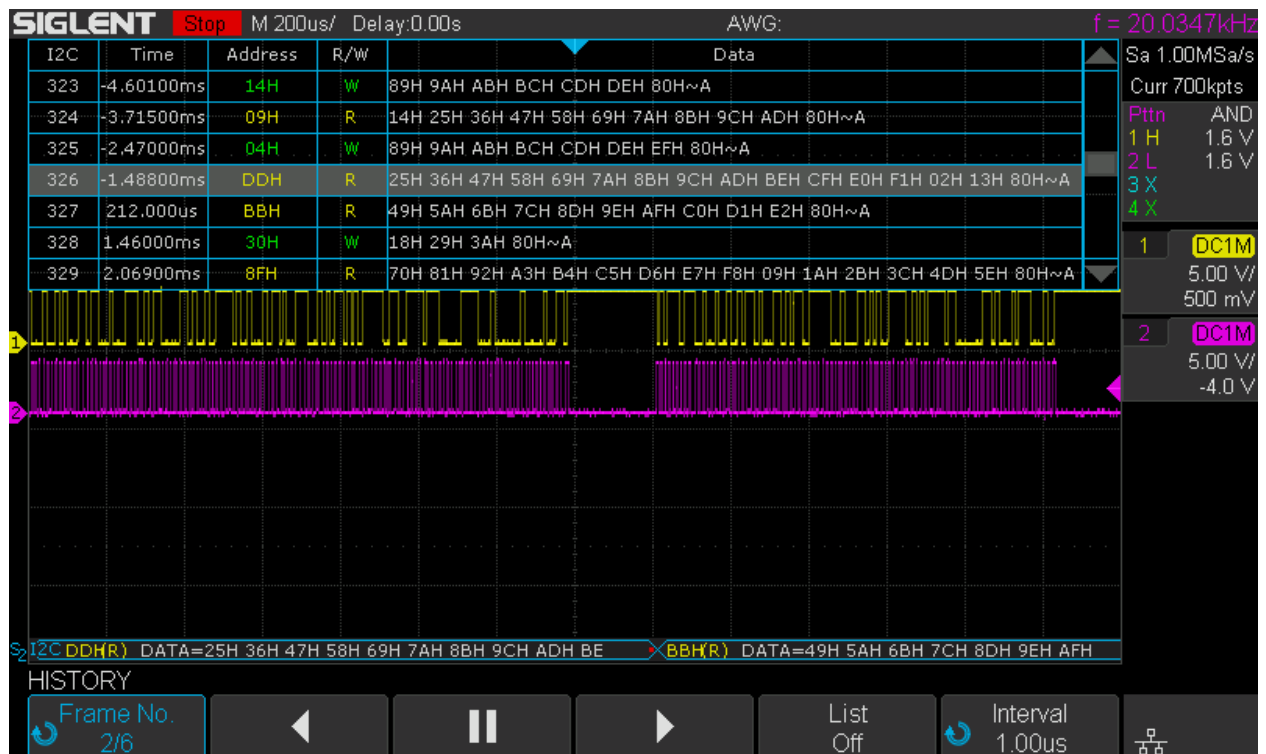
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Stop100us\_last

The list view in the upper part of the screen is automatically adjusted to show the message(s) visible in the decoding bar and we can see the very last message with the index 652.

We can also inspect the signals and decoded data while acquisition is still running if we use zoom mode. Of course we can zoom in and out and scroll through the record as we like. The following screenshot demonstrates this situation for a zoomed time base of 100 $\mu$ s, with the zoom view centered on index 599 of the decoder list.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Zoom100us



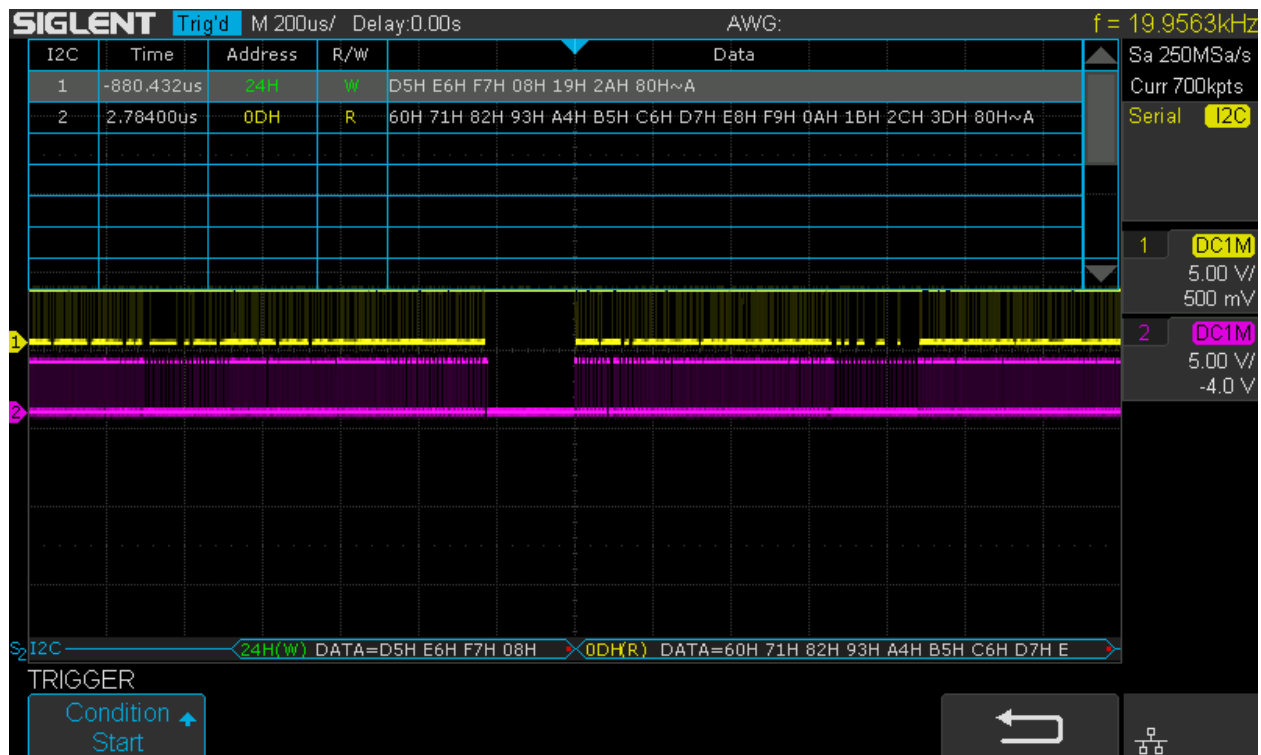
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_History\_200us

We can also stop the acquisition and enter history to analyze the current or any previous record stored in the history. Once again we can lower the time base and scroll through the record for closer inspection of certain parts of the message. The example above shows this for history record 2 of 6 and 200 $\mu$ s/div.

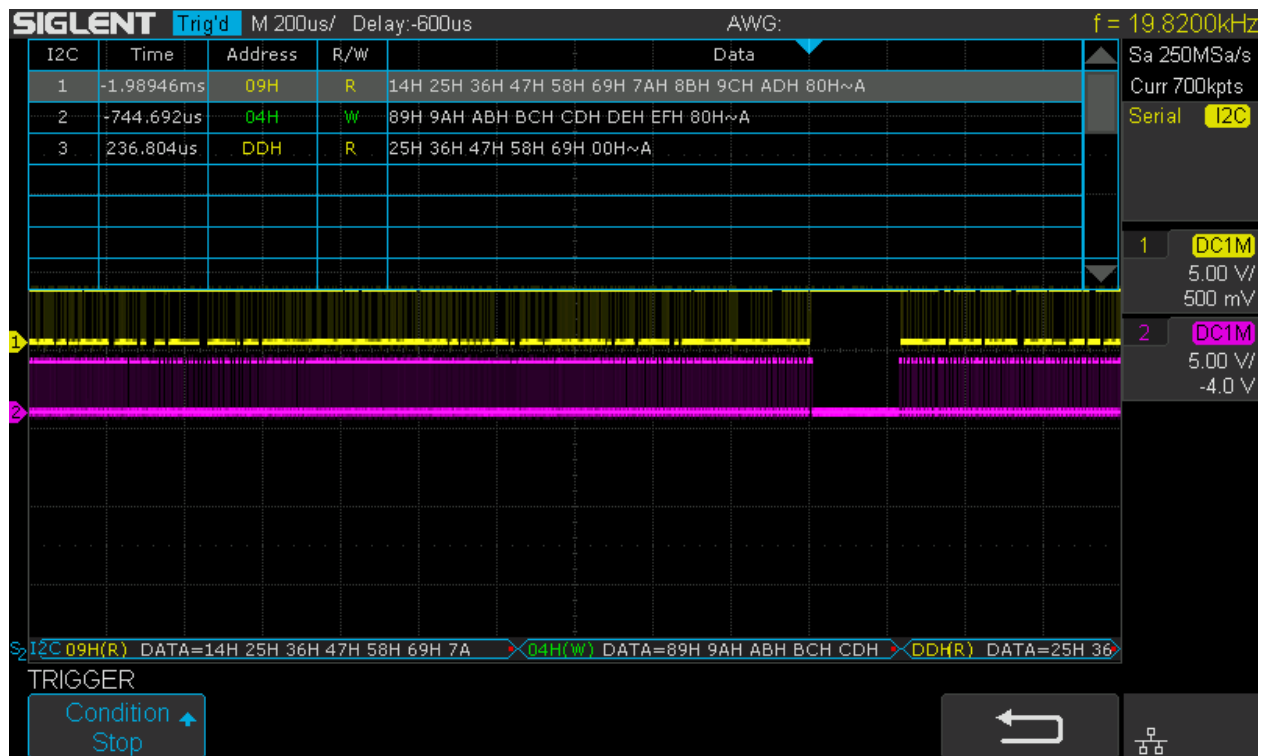
## I<sup>2</sup>C Trigger

The following screenshots show examples for some I<sup>2</sup>C triggers:

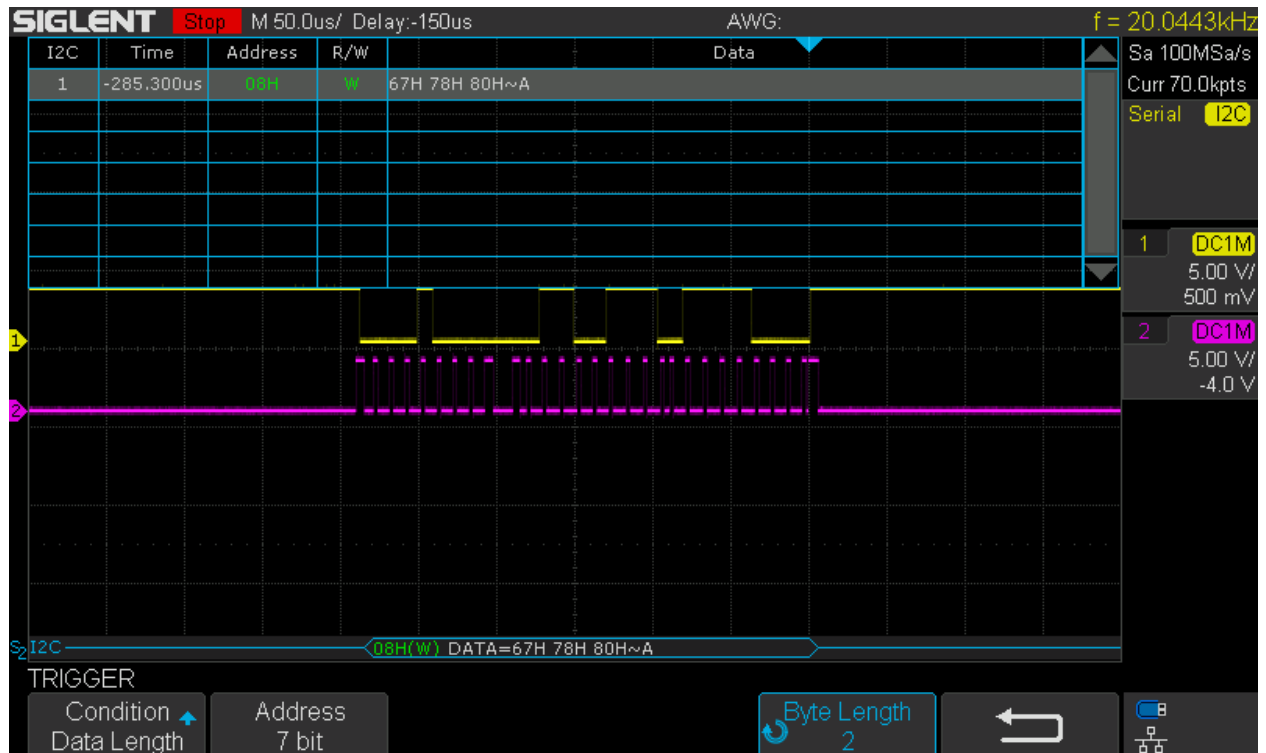
1. Trigger on I<sup>2</sup>C start condition
2. Trigger on I<sup>2</sup>C stop condition
3. Trigger on I<sup>2</sup>C address bit length & data byte count 7bit / 2bytes
4. Trigger on I<sup>2</sup>C 7bit address 47h & 2 data bytes = 2Bh, 3Ch (these two consecutive bytes can be anywhere within the message and it's the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> byte in the example)
5. Trigger on I<sup>2</sup>C EEPROM access, data = 94h



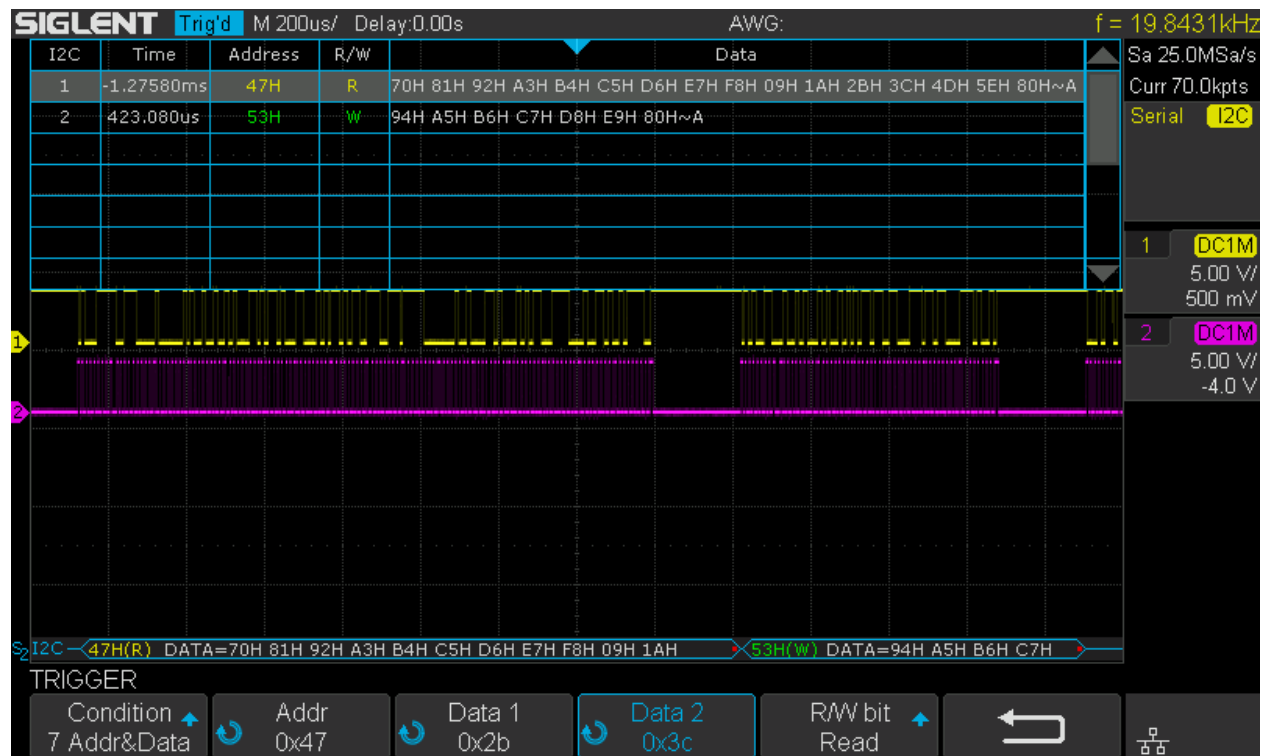
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Trigger\_Start



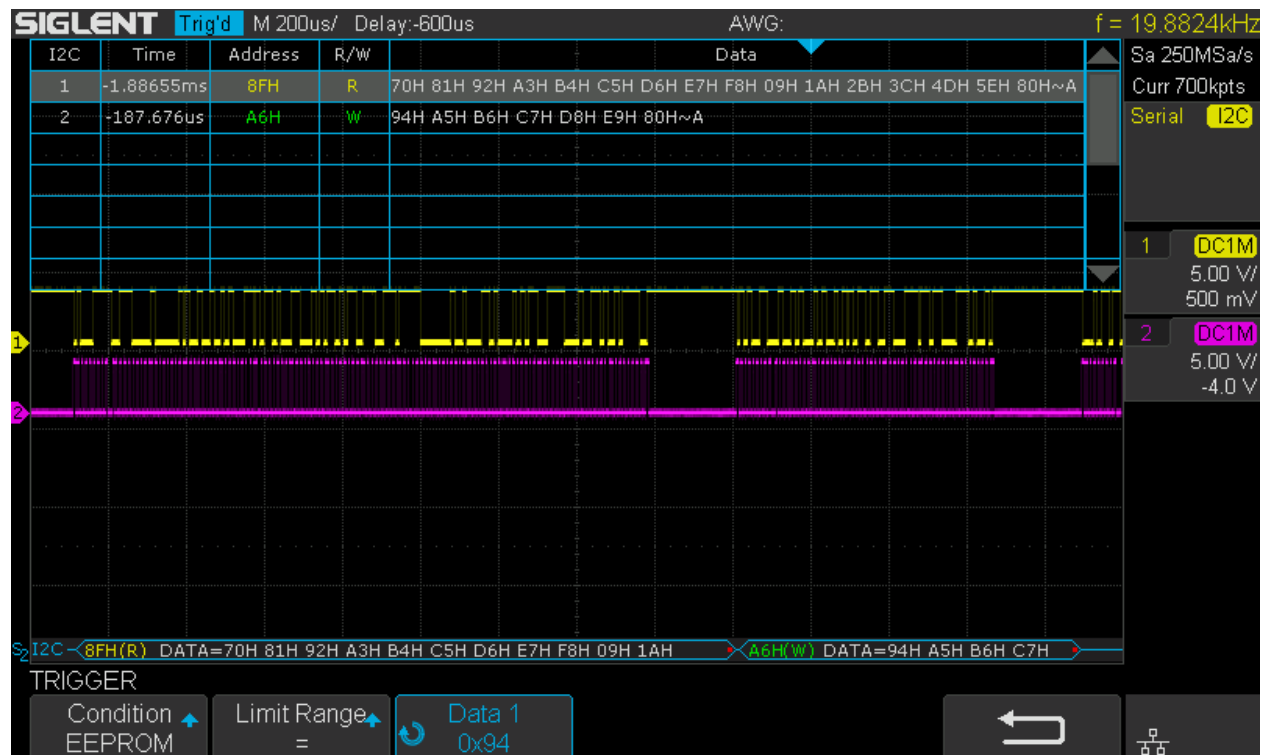
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Trigger\_Stop



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Trigger\_Length\_2



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Trigger\_A7&amp;D\_47h\_2Bh\_3Ch

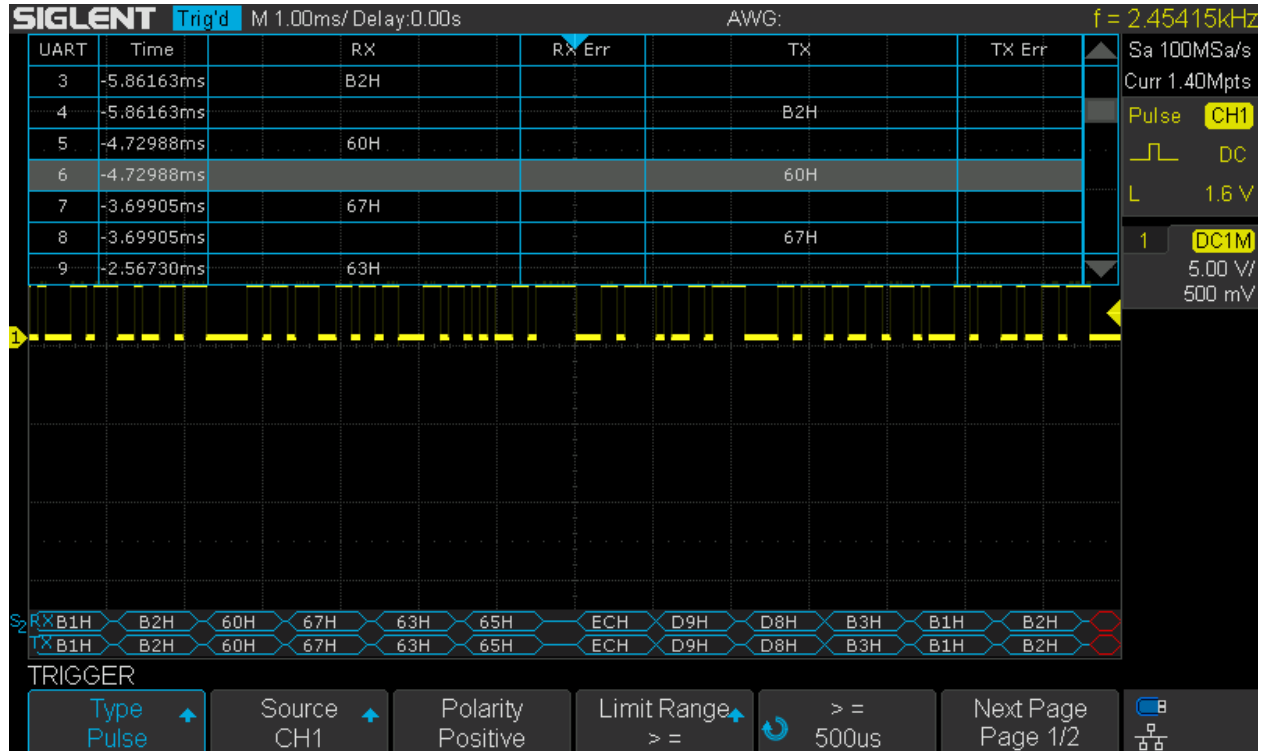


SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_I2C\_Trigger\_EEPROM\_94h



## UART

By using 2 channels, we can have full duplex UART decoding with RX and TX. Triggering on the gap between messages can be achieved by using a pulse trigger for the idle level with a duration greater than a byte length which is about  $8/\text{baudrate}$  (e.g. positive pulse  $>833\mu\text{s}$  for 9600 baud and idle level = high).



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Trig

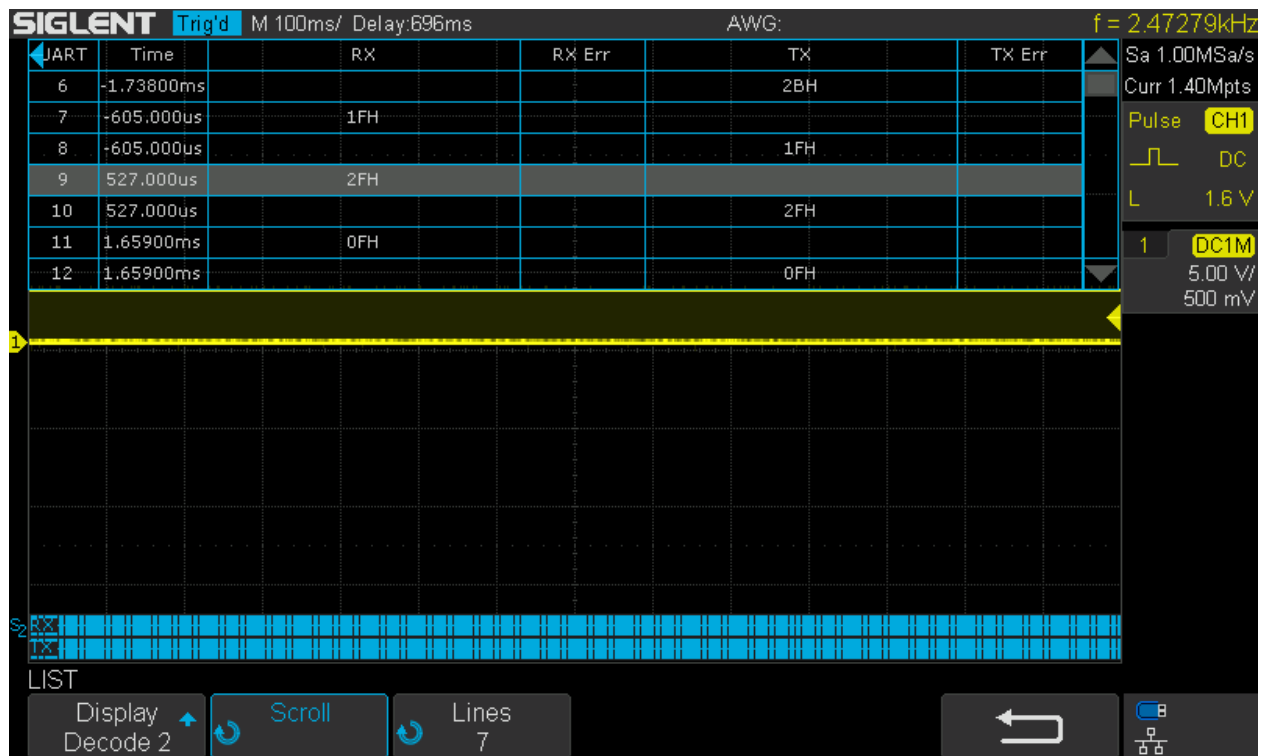
## UART Decoder

To set up an UART decoder, proceed as follows:

- Go to the *Signal* menu and configure the channels and signal thresholds for RX and TX.
- In the *Configure* menu page 1, set the *Baud rate* (up to 5Mbaud), *Data Length* (5~8), *Parity* (even/odd/none) and *Stop Bit* (1/1.5/2) according to the frame format.
- In the *Configure* menu page 2, set the *Idle Level* (high/low) and the *Bit Order* (MSB/LSB first).

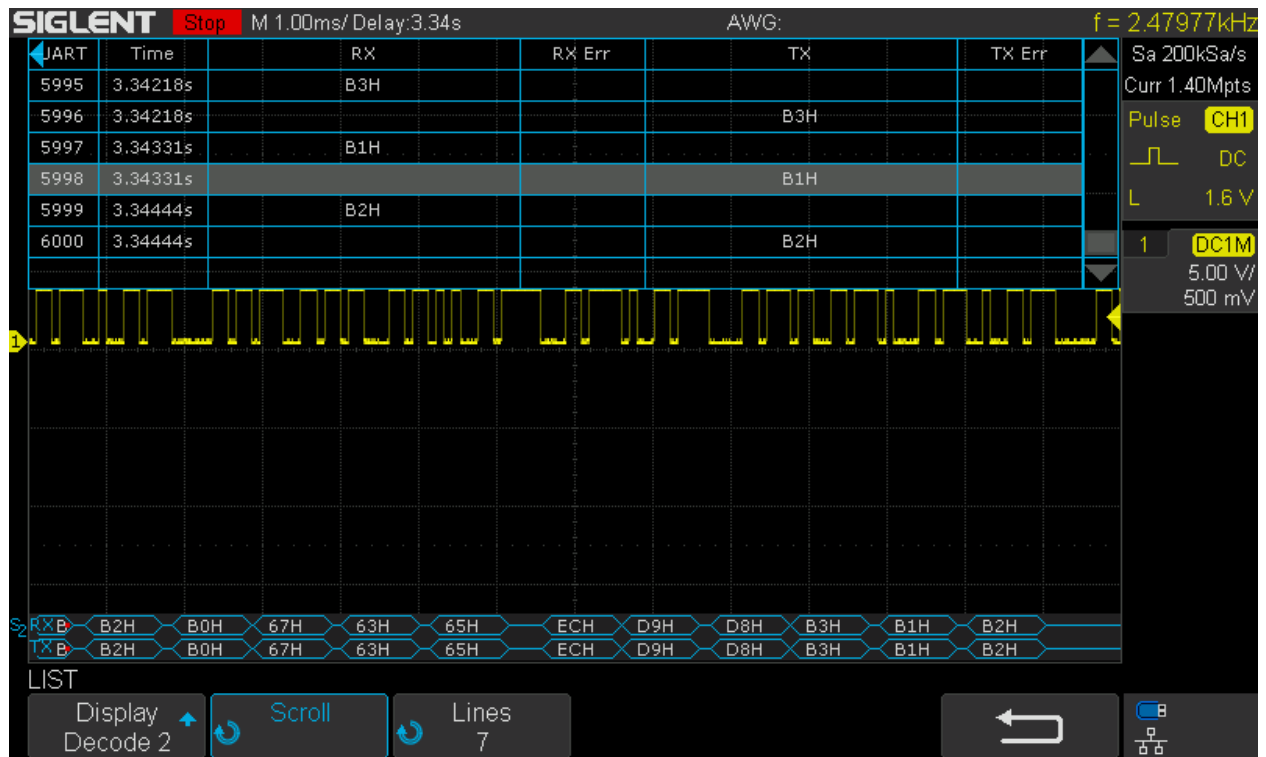
There is a limit of 6000 list entries, i.e. decoded bytes. We don't need excessive oversampling, a sample rate of ten times the baud rate is usually more than sufficient.

The following screenshot shows a half duplex UART transfer for 8N1 data frames at a bit rate of 9600 baud. Time base is 100ms/div, so we're looking at a time window of 1.4s at a sample rate of 1MSa/s, resulting in a record length of 1.4Mpts. Of course the signal traces as well as the decoder bar at the bottom of the screen are way too compressed to show anything meaningful at that, but the list view contains all the decoded bytes.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART

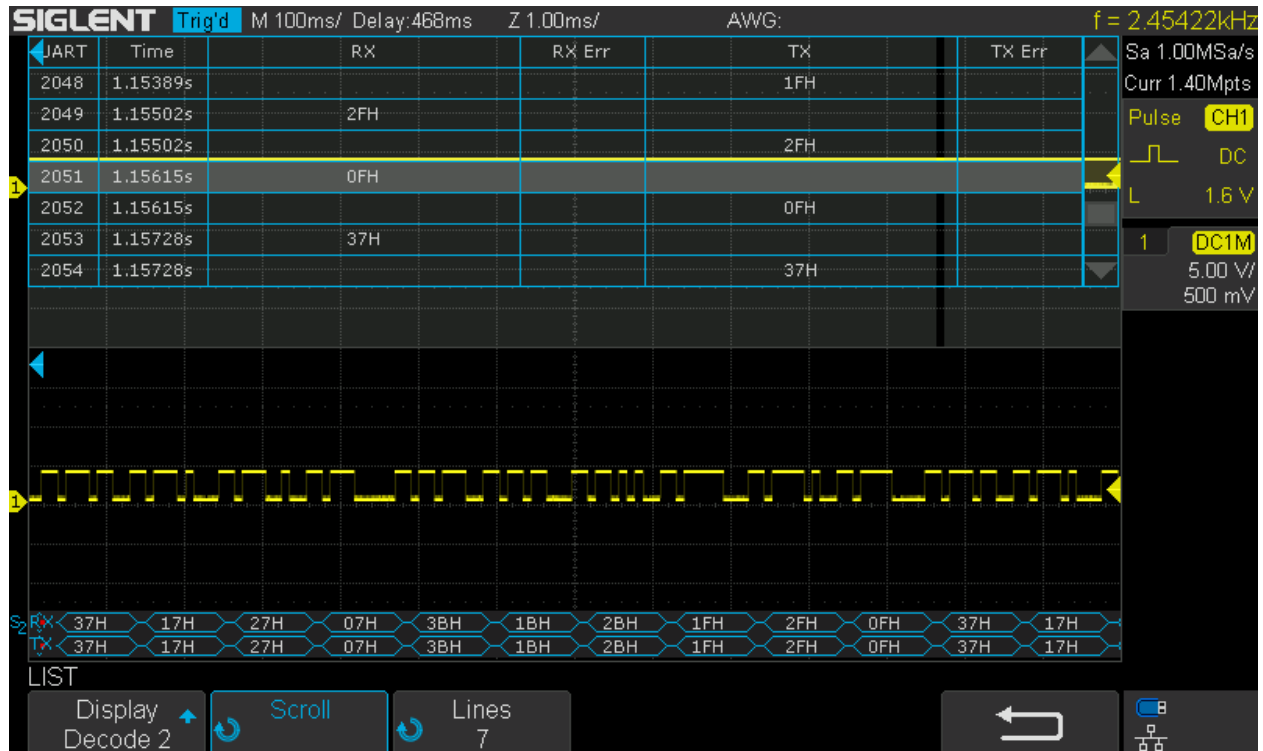
We can stop the acquisition, lower the time base in order to zoom into the waveform until the data in the decoder bar become readable and of course we can also scroll through the record as we like. The screenshot below shows this situation where the view has been positioned to the end of the record.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Stop1ms\_last

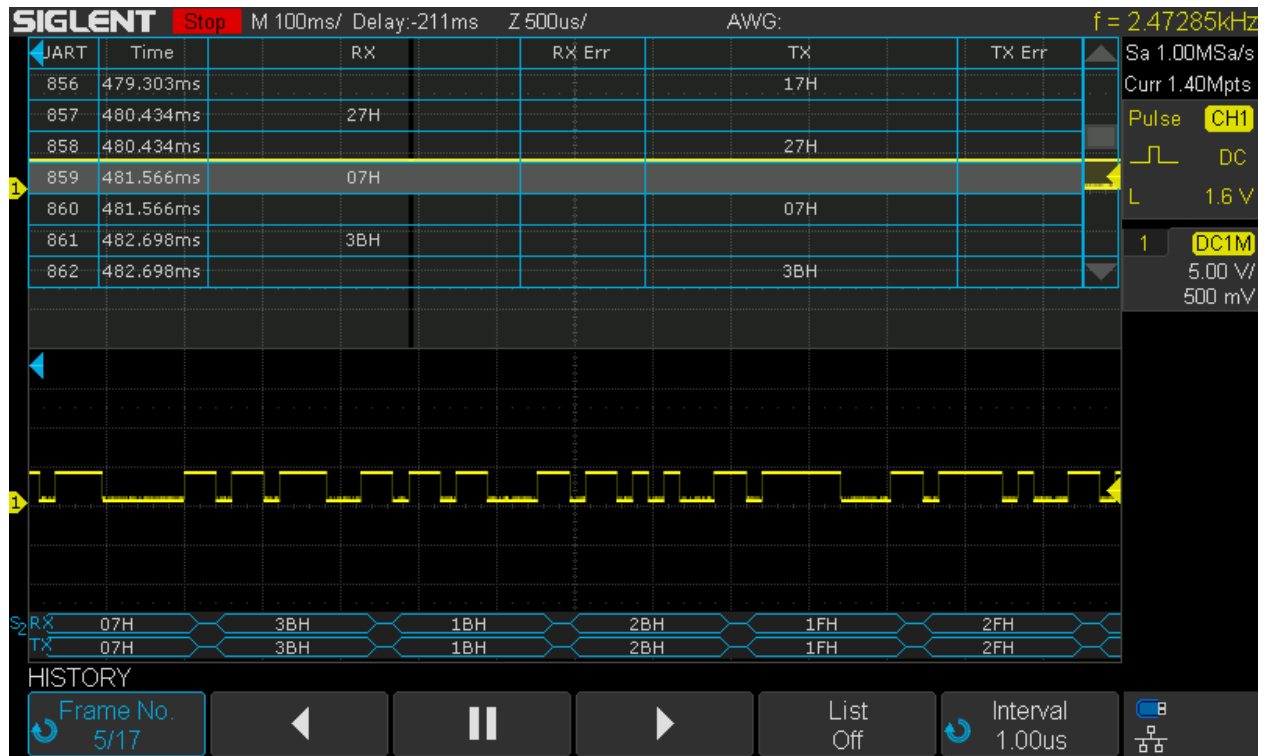
The list view in the upper part of the screen is automatically centered on a data byte near the center of the decoding bar and if necessary we can scroll the list a few positions down in order to see the very last data entry, which is the index 6000 for TX byte B2h in this example.

We can also inspect the signals and decoded data while acquisition is still running if we use zoom mode. Of course we can zoom in and out and scroll through the record as we like. The following screenshot demonstrates this situation for a zoomed time base of 1ms, with the zoom view centered on index 2051 of the decoder list.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Zoom1ms

We can also stop the acquisition and enter history to analyze the current or any previous record stored in the history. Once again we can lower the time base and scroll through the record for closer inspection of certain parts of the message. The example below shows this for history record 5 of 17 and 500µs/div.



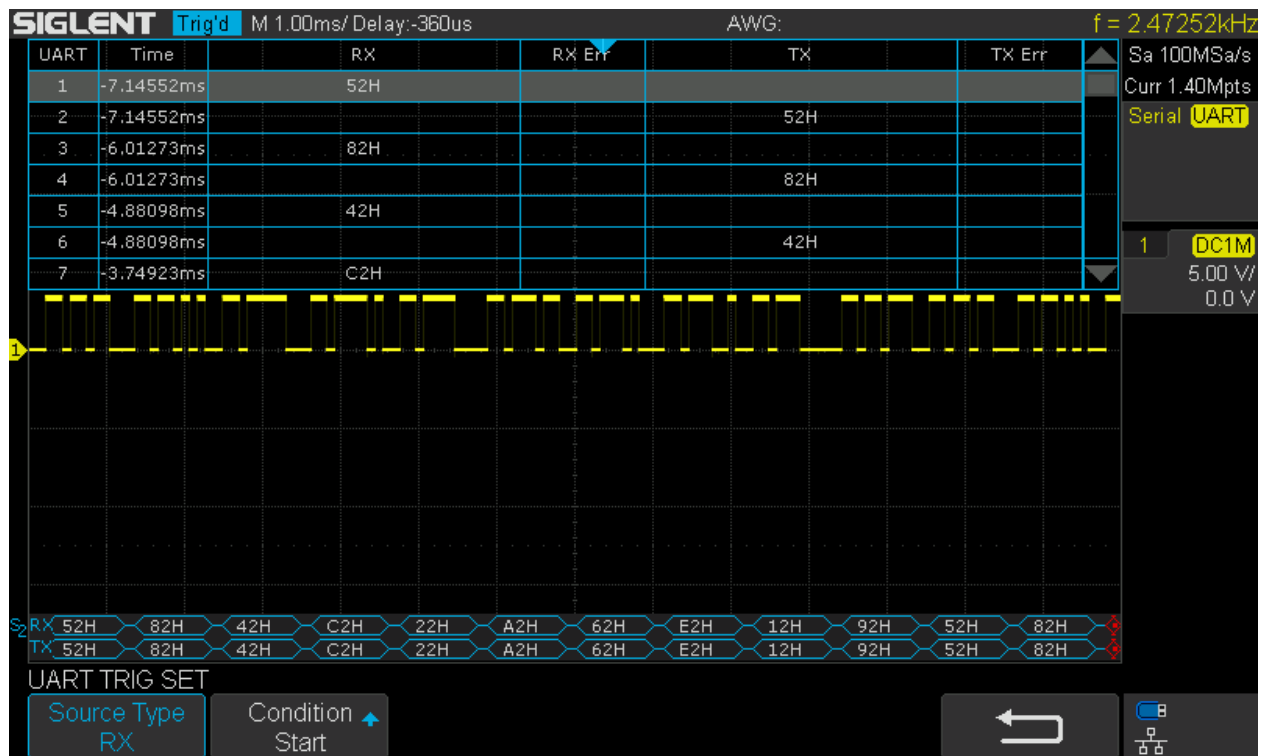
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_History\_Zoom500us

## UART Trigger

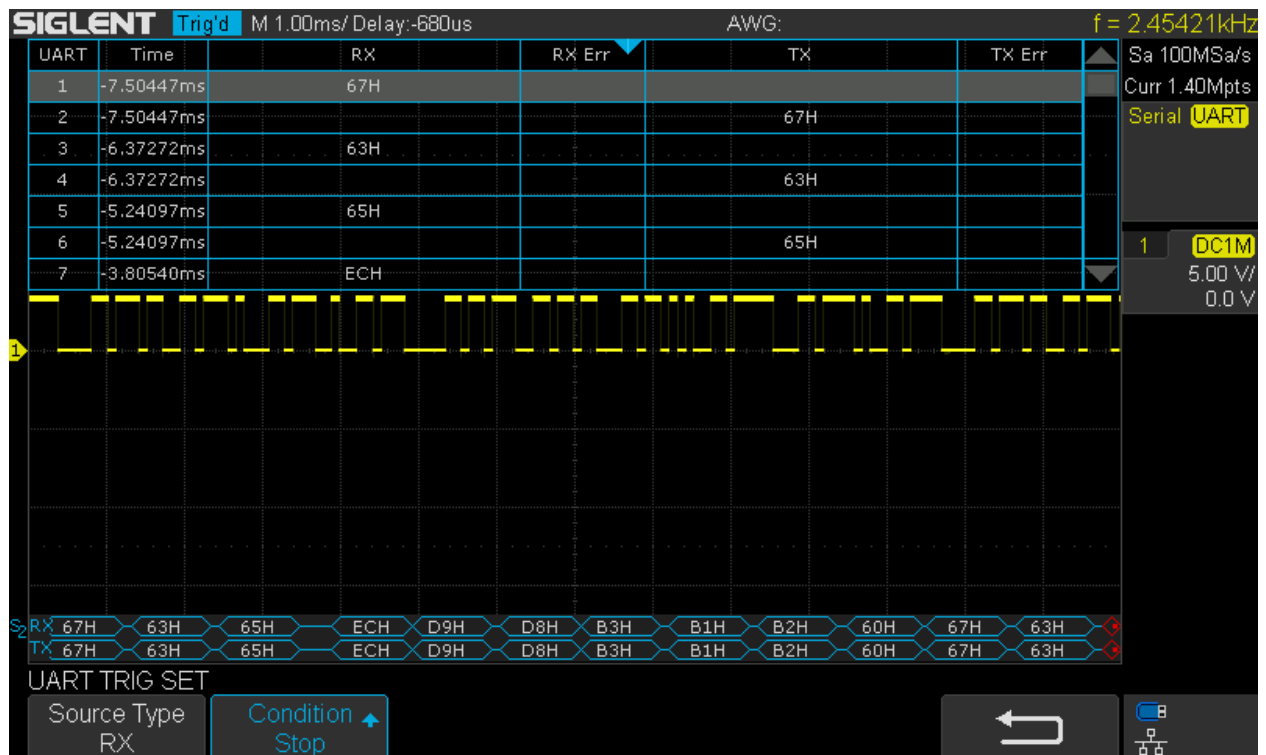
The following screenshots show examples for some UART triggers:

1. Trigger on UART start bit
2. Trigger on UART stop bit
3. Trigger on UART data byte = 1Bh

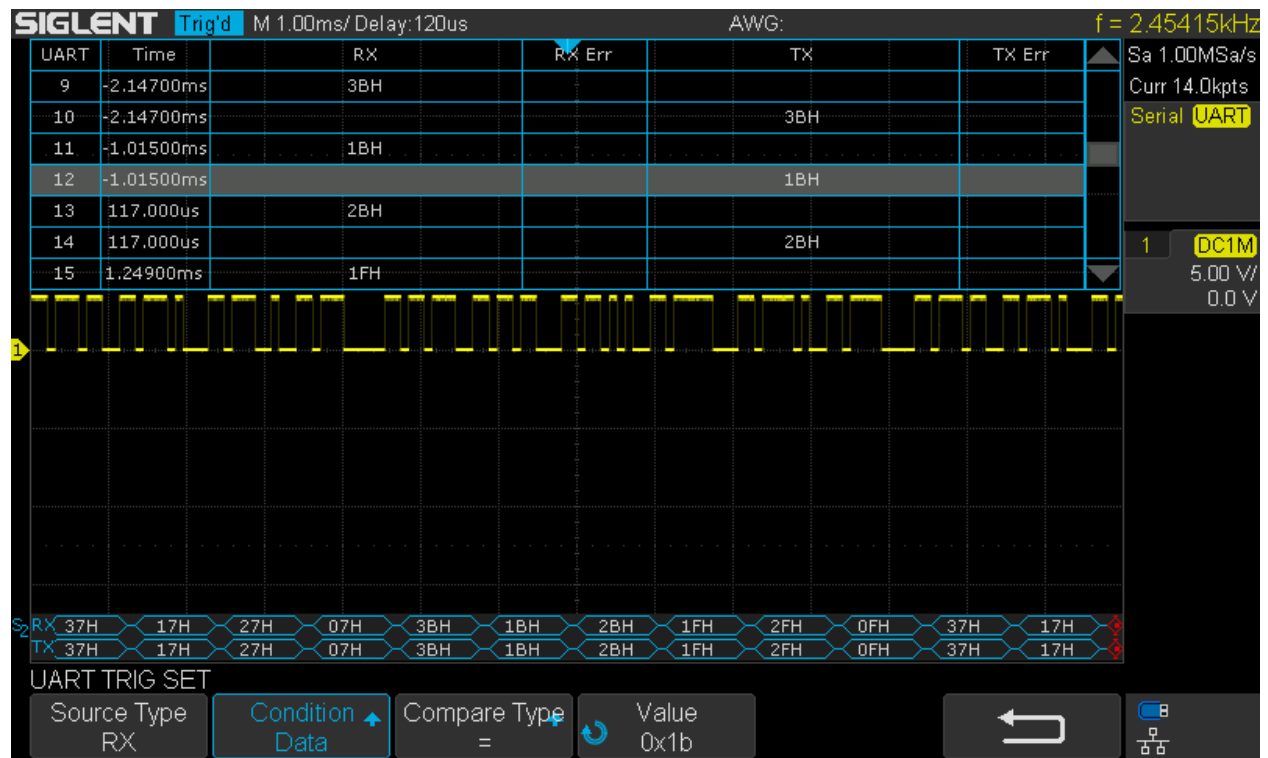
Be aware that the start bit detection is not very reliable and obviously different for trigger and decoder, so a mismatch between trigger condition and decoded data can happen, depending on the trigger position. I do hope Siglent will be able to improve that in a future update. There are no problems if the data stream contains brief idle periods longer than 10/baudrate (and the record includes such an idle period near the beginning), because both trigger and decoder will certainly be in sync after an idle state.



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Trigger\_Start



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Trigger\_Stop



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_UART\_Trigger\_Data1Bh

## CAN

By using 2 channels, we can have half duplex CAN decoding with CAN\_H and CAN\_L. Triggering on the gap between messages can be achieved by using a positive pulse trigger for the CAN\_L signal with a duration greater than a byte length which is about 8/bitrate (e.g. positive pulse >64µs for 125 kbit/s).

## CAN Decoder

To set up a CAN decoder, proceed as follows:

- Go to the *Signal* menu and configure the channels and signal thresholds for CAN\_H and CAN\_L. For best results, select CANH-CANL as *Source* whenever feasible.
- Go to the *Configure* menu and set the *Baud* rate (up to 1Mbit/s).

There is a limit of 2000<sup>1</sup> list entries, i.e. decoded messages. We don't need an excessive oversampling, a sample rate of ten times the baud rate is usually more than sufficient.

The following screenshot shows a half duplex CAN transfer at a bit rate of 125kbit/s. Time base is 500ms/div, so we're looking at a time window of 7s at a sample rate of 1MSa/s, resulting in a record length of 7Mpts. Of course the signal traces as well as the decoder bar at the bottom of the screen can't show anything meaningful at that time scale, but the list view contains all the decoded messages.

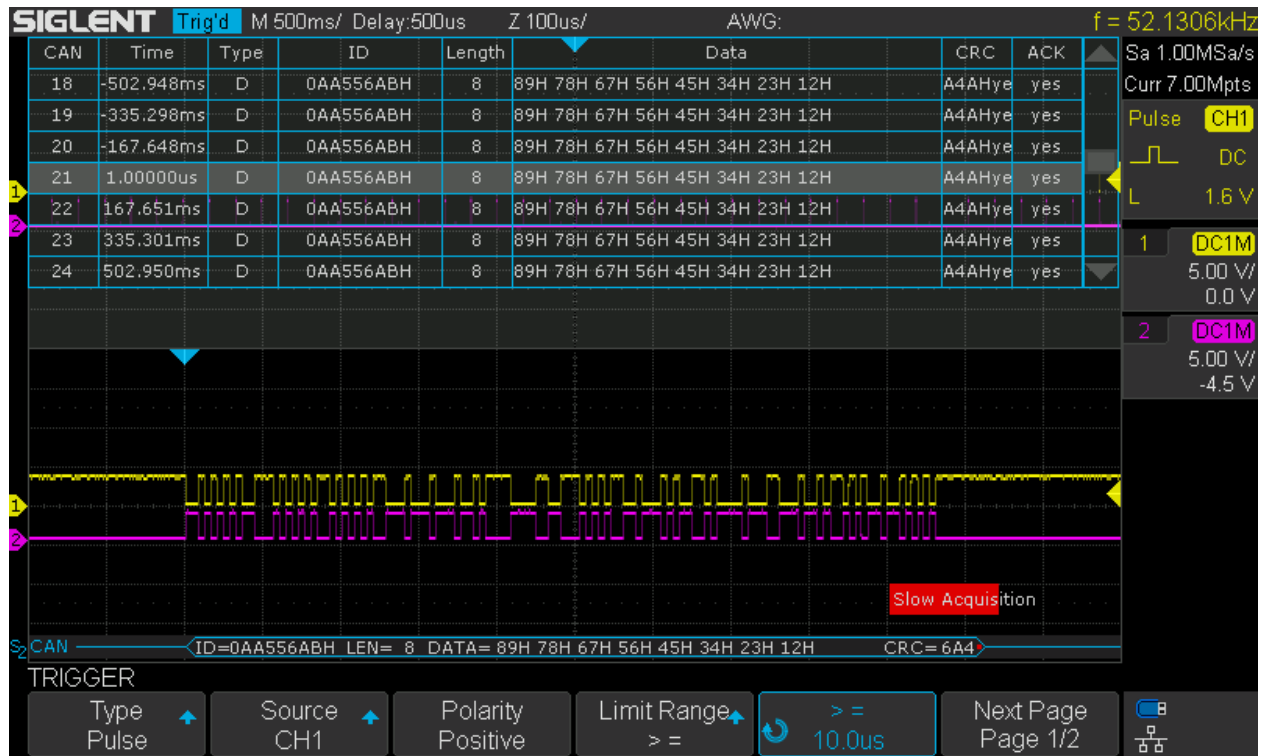


SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN

We can stop the acquisition, lower the time base in order to zoom into the waveform until the data in the decoder bar become readable and then scroll through the record as we like. We can also inspect the signals and decoded data while acquisition is still running if we use zoom mode. The following screenshot demonstrates this for a zoomed time base of 100µs, with the zoom view centered on list index 21.

<sup>1</sup> This is an estimation only. I have not been able to test this.





SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN\_Zoom100us

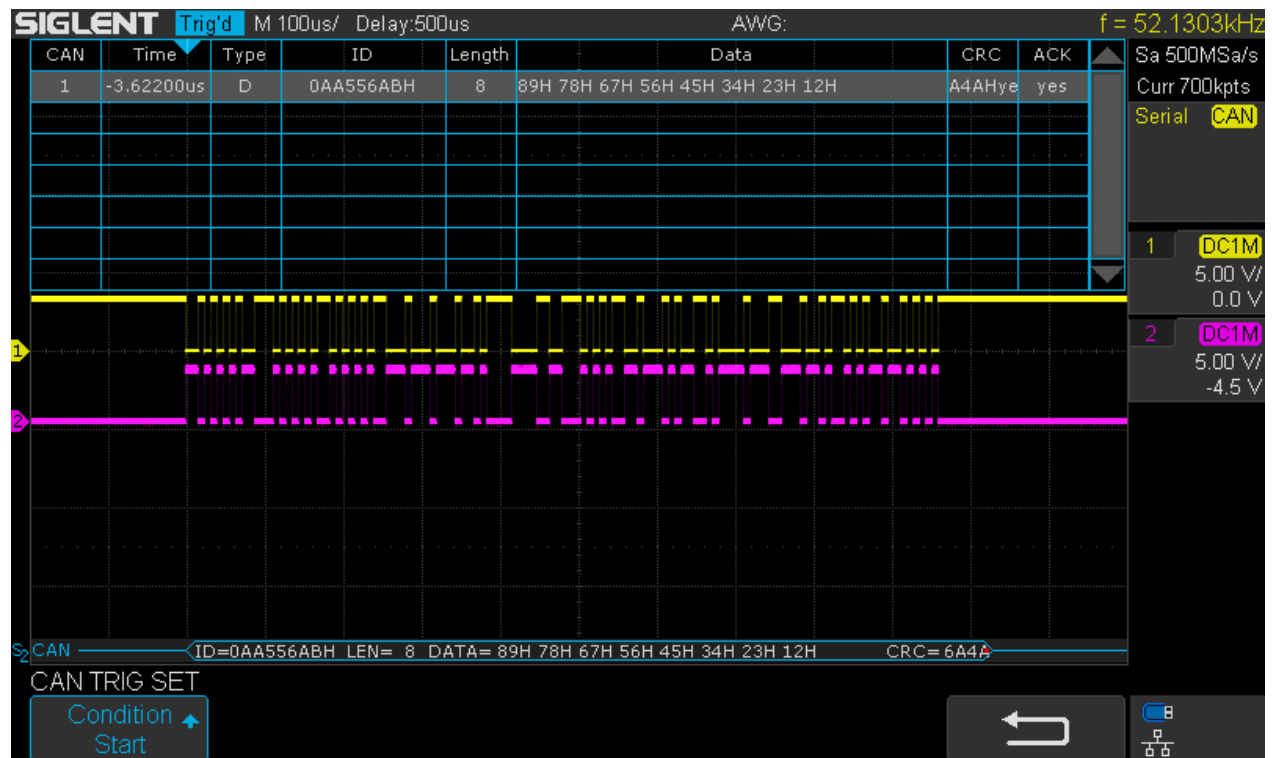
Of course we can do the same as with the other decoders, so it's also possible to analyze each individual record stored in the history.

**Bug:** As can be seen from the screenshots, the CRC is a mess as it is merged with the acknowledgement and doesn't fit into the table column because of this. The CRC is also truncated in the decoder bar for some weird reason. This has been tested with an early firmware and I expect this to be fixed by now.

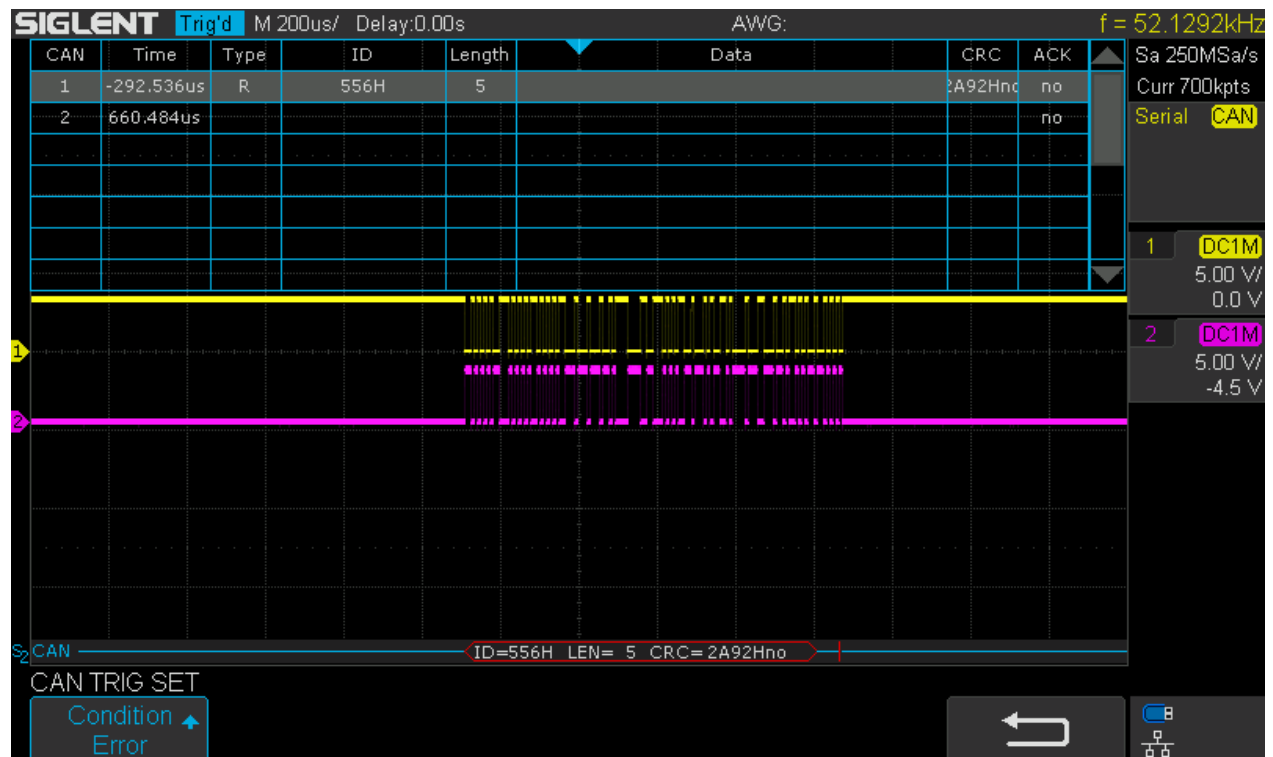
## CAN Trigger

The following screenshots show examples for some CAN triggers:

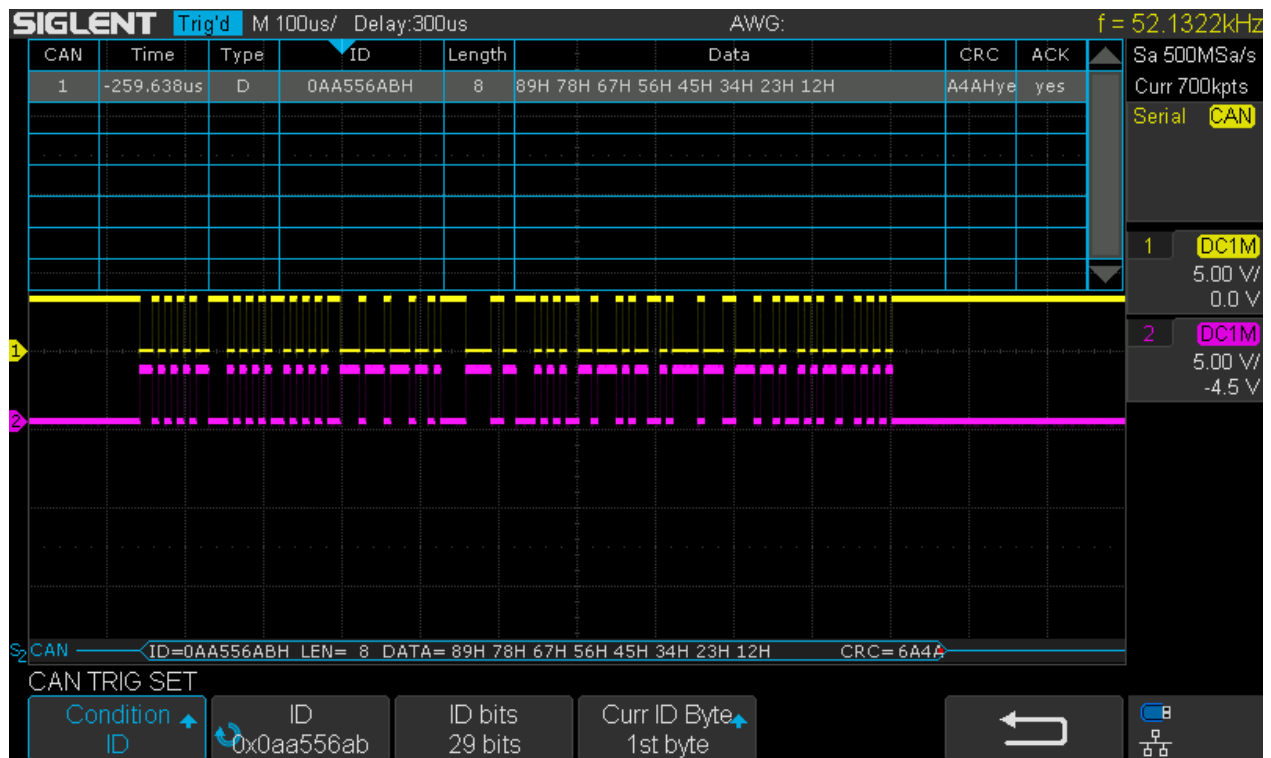
1. Trigger on CAN start
2. Trigger on CAN error
3. Trigger on CAN ID = 0AA556ABh
4. Trigger on CAN ID = 0AA556ABh & data = 67h, 56h (these two consecutive bytes can be anywhere within the message and it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> byte in the example)



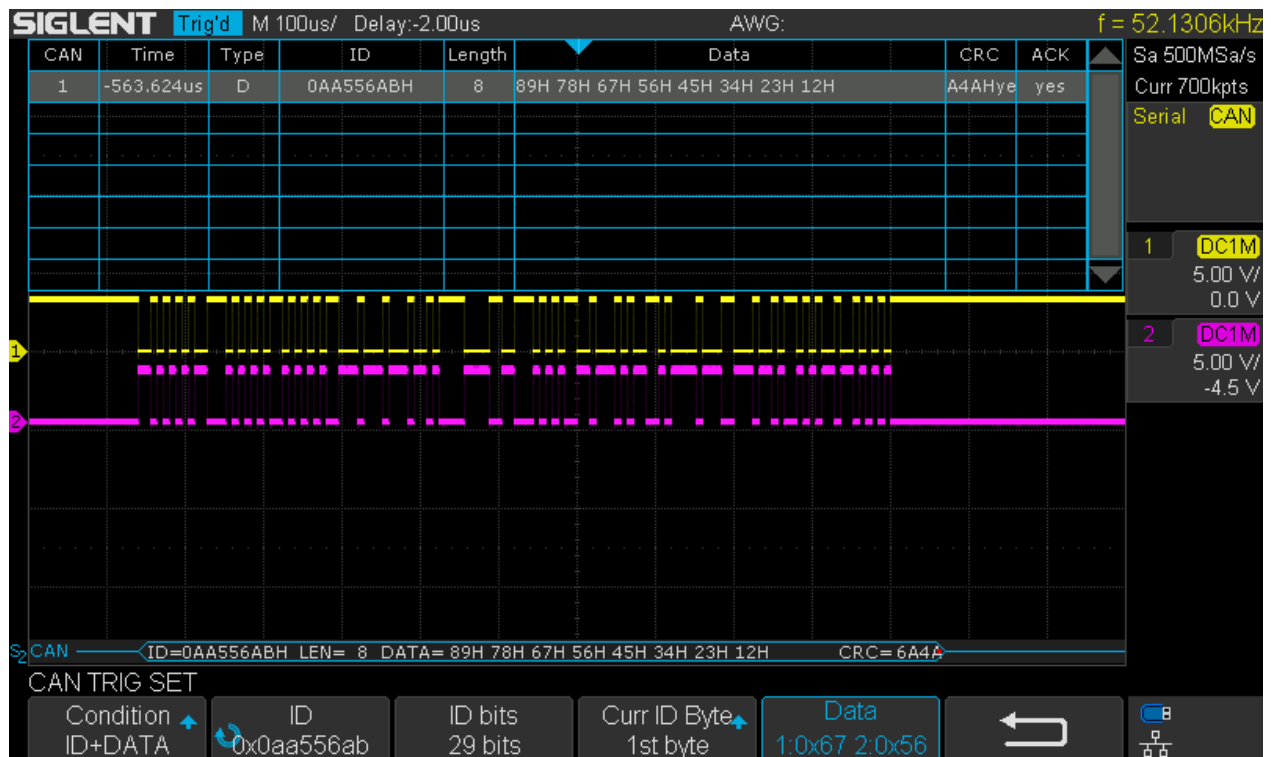
SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN\_Trigger\_Start



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN\_Trigger\_Error



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN\_Trigger\_ID



SDS1104X-E\_Serial\_CAN\_Trigger\_ID+Data

## LIN

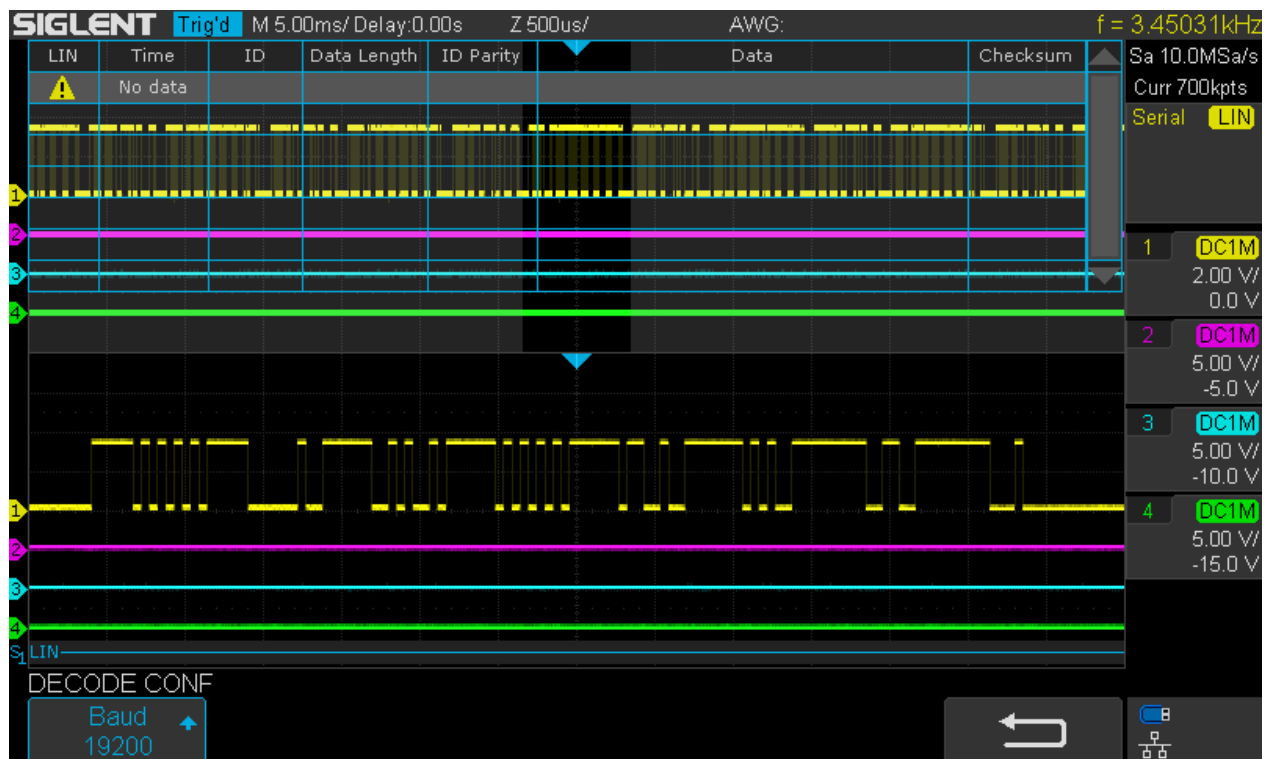
By using just one channel, we can have half duplex LIN decoding. Triggering on the gap between messages can be achieved by using a negative pulse trigger for the LIN signal with a duration greater than a byte length which is about  $8/\text{bitrate}$  (e.g. negative pulse  $>417\mu\text{s}$  for 19.2 kbit/s).

## LIN Decoder

To set up a LIN decoder, proceed as follows:

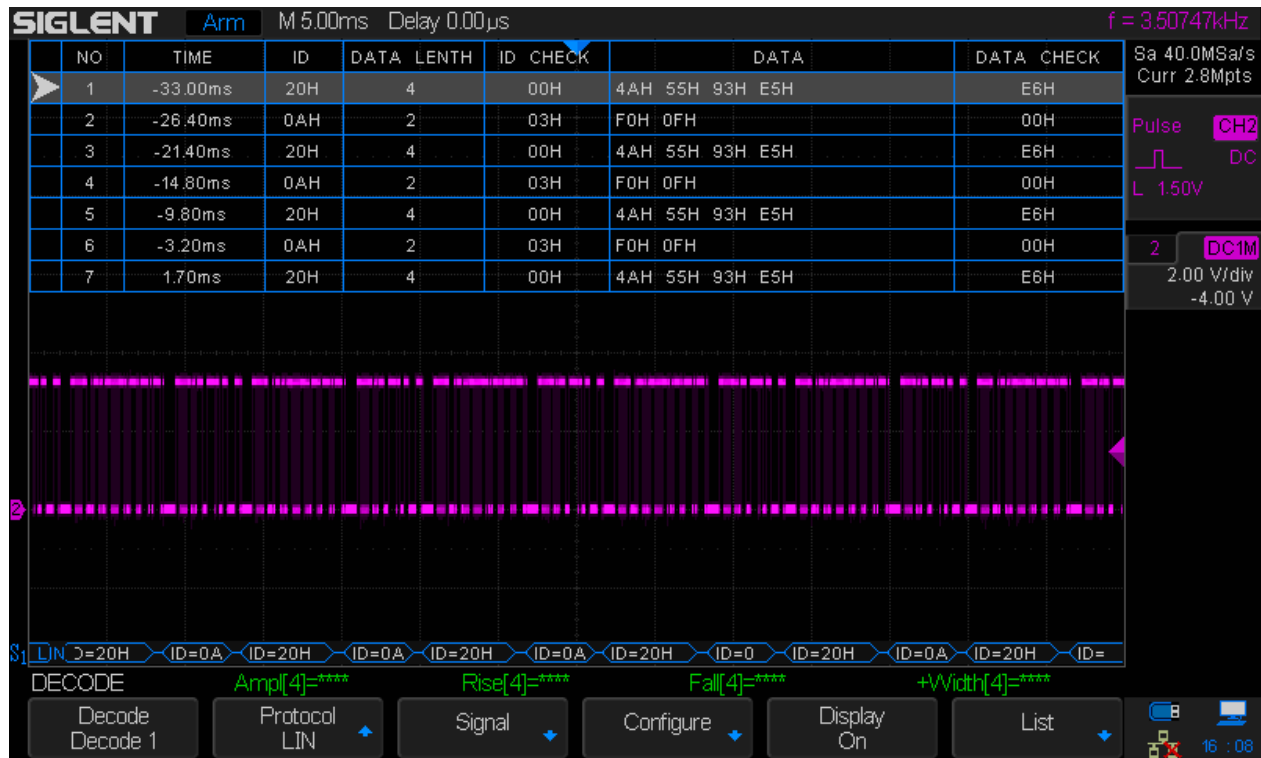
- Go to the *Signal* menu and configure the channel and signal threshold for LIN.
- Go to the *Configure* menu and set the *Baud* rate (up to 20kbit/s).

**Bug:** The LIN decoder doesn't seem to like my signals, even though LIN ID & data trigger does. This has been tested with an early firmware and I expect this to be fixed by now.



SDS1104X-E\_LIN\_Zoom\_10M

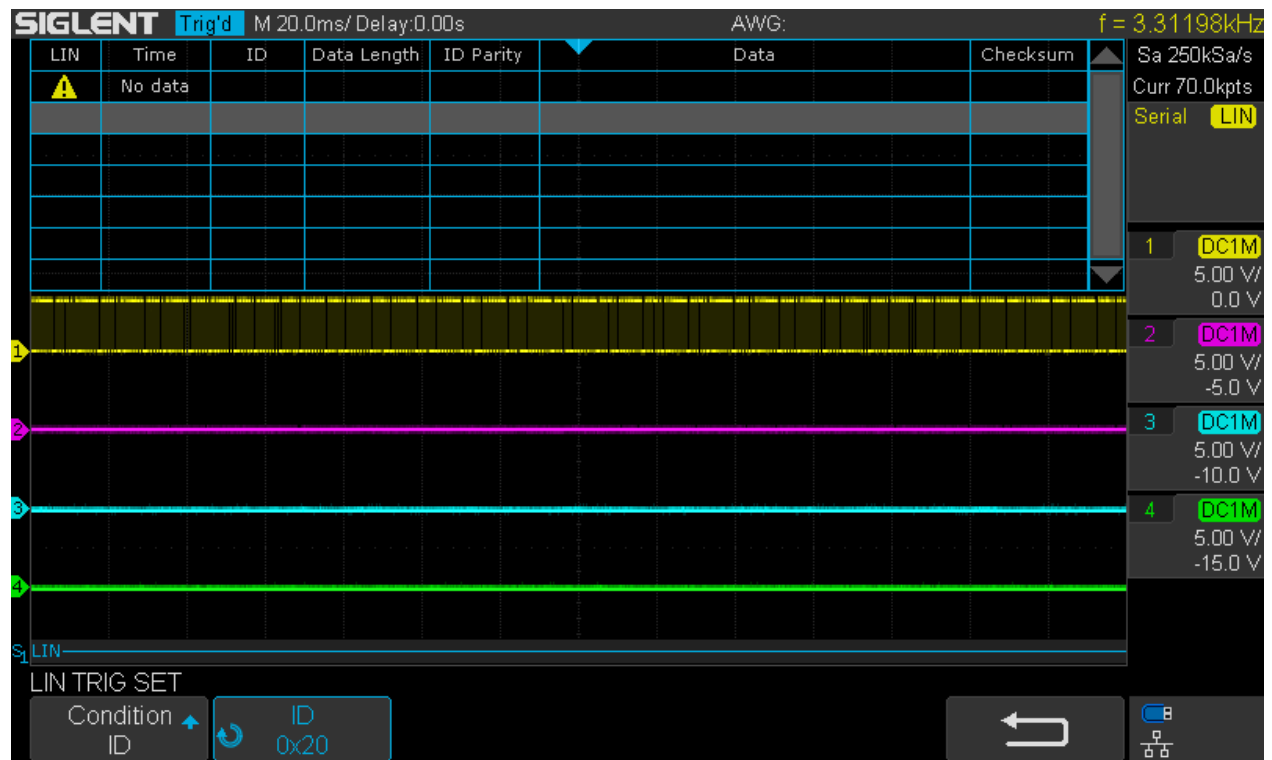
For the time being, the decoding from a SDS2304X is shown instead:



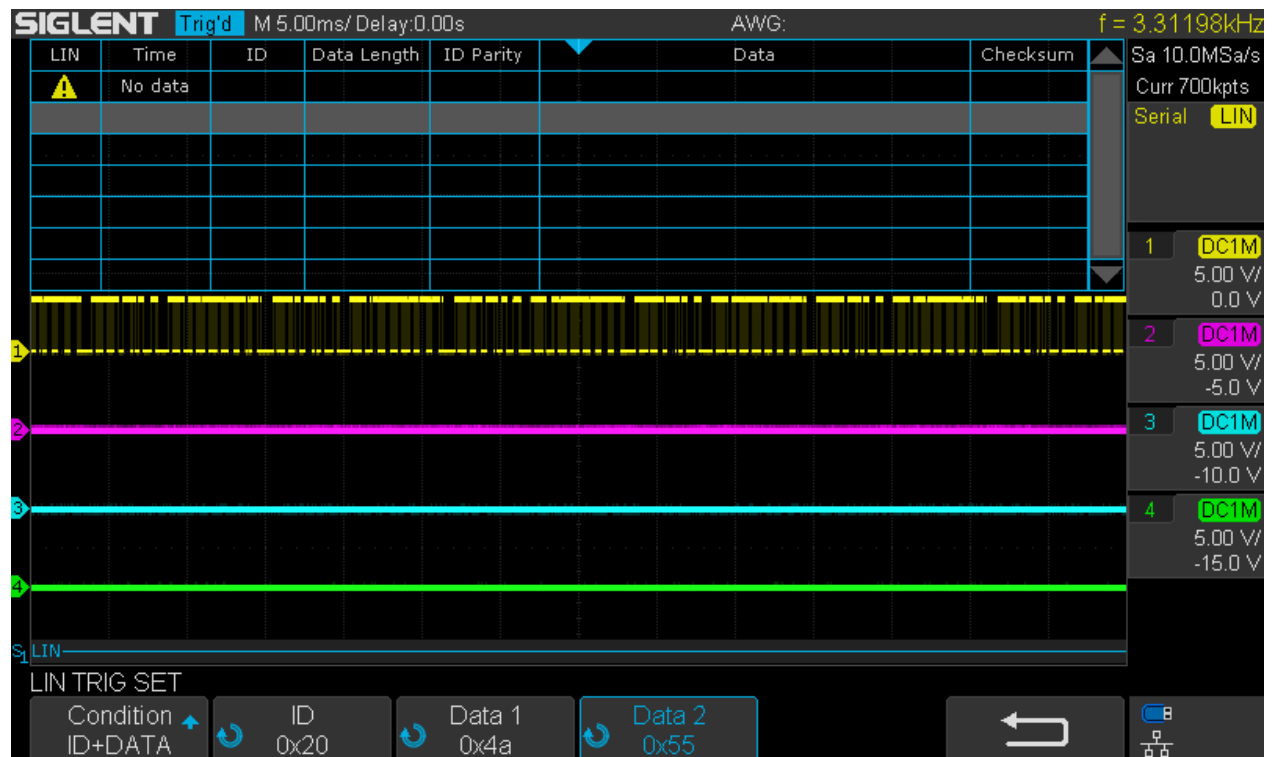
## LIN Trigger

The following screenshots show examples for some LIN triggers:

1. Trigger on LIN ID = 20h
2. Trigger on LIN ID = 20h & data = 4Ah, 55h (these two consecutive bytes can be anywhere within the message and it's the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> byte in the example)



SDS1104X-E\_LIN\_Trig\_ID



SDS1104X-E\_LIN\_Trig\_ID\_Data\_10M