Protocol 2: Finger Pulse Transducer Setup

1. Connect the finger pulse transducer to Input 1 on the PowerLab. On the 26T it will be a pod connector, on the 4/25 it will be a BNC connector.

2. Place the pressure pad of the finger pulse transducer against the distal segment (the tip) of the middle finger. Use the Velcro strap to attach it just enough so that it won't slip or fall (Fig. 1). This is a sensitive mechanical transducer so do not squeeze or press it.

If the strap is too loose, the signal will be weak, intermittent, or noisy. If the strap is too tight, this will cut off blood flow to the finger, producing no signal and pain.
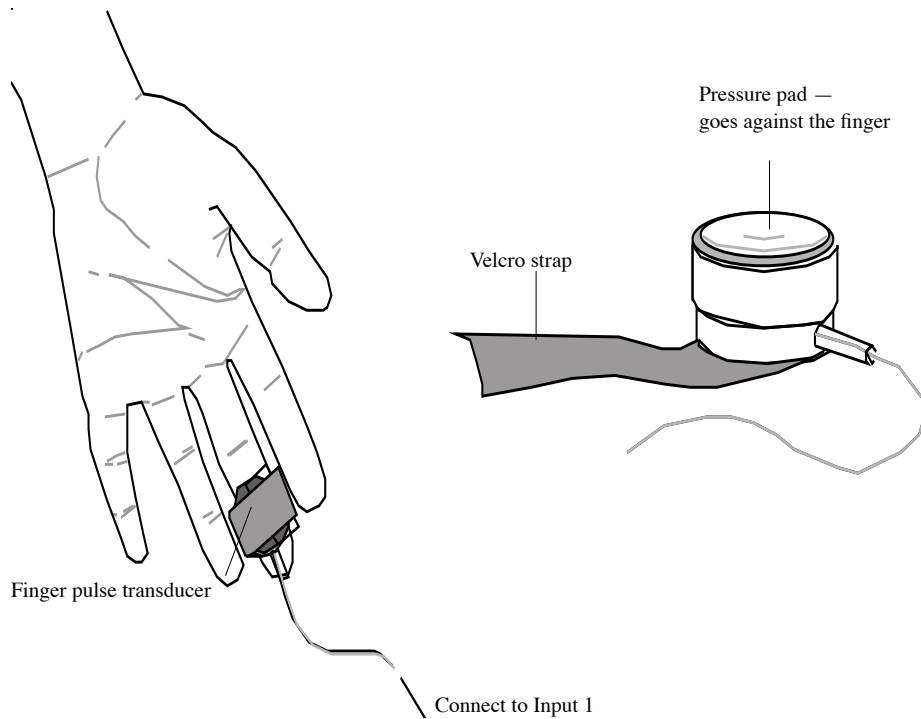

Figure 1. Connecting the finger pulse transducer to the PowerLab and the finger.

Use the Input Amplifier dialog box to optimally display signal

IMPORTANT: If you have the display range set to values inappropriate for your signal, you may not be able to see your signal at all. For example, measuring the diameter of your hair with a meter stick will not be very accurate – you'll get a much better measurement if you match the scale of the ruler to the hair.
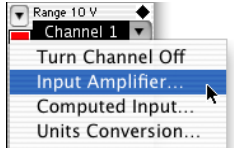
1. Find the pop-up menu from the Channel label. Choose **Input Amplifier**.

2. Adjust the sensitivity of the channel by changing the range setting. The number indicates the maximum input voltage (i.e., the 10 V indicates ±10 V). Try a number of ranges to find a nice waveform that fills about a third of the window (Figure 2). Did the signal change in magnitude?
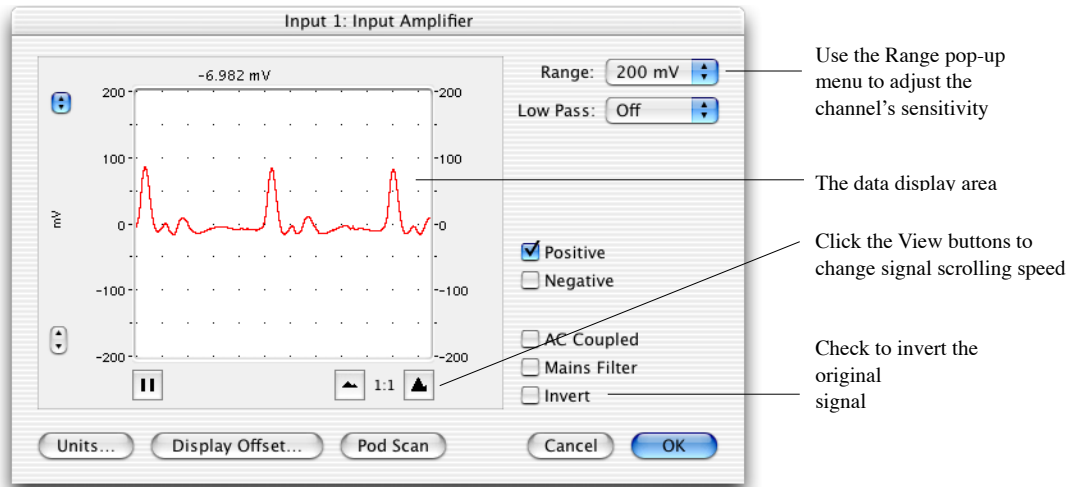

Figure 2. The Input Amplifier dialog box.