

VOLTCRAFT®

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS



Version 06/09

Digital Multimeter VC-11

Item-No. 12 29 99

Intended Use

- Measuring and displaying electric parameters in the range of excess voltage category III (up to max. 250V against ground potential, pursuant to EN 61010-1) or lower
- Measuring direct and alternating voltage up to a maximum of 250 V
- Measurement of direct current up to max. 200 mA
- Also designed to measure resistance values of up to 2000 kOhm.
- Diode test
- Battery test for 9 and 1.5V batteries under load condition
- Rectangular signal generator

Operation is only permissible using the stated battery type (2 x LR44 or identical). The measuring instrument must not be operated when it is open, i.e. with an open battery or fuse compartment. Measuring in damp rooms or under unfavourable ambient conditions is not admissible.

Unfavourable ambient conditions are:

- Wetness or high air humidity
- Dust and flammable gases, vapours or solvent,
- Thunderstorms or similar conditions such as strong electrostatic fields etc.

Any use other than the one described above damages the product. Moreover, this involves dangers such as e.g. short circuit, fire, electric shock, etc. No part of the product must be modified or rebuilt!

The multimeter (referred to as DMM in the following) indicates measured values on the digital display. The measuring value display of the DMM comprises 2000 counts (count = smallest display value).

The individual measuring ranges are selected via a rotary switch.

The measuring circuit is protected against overload with a fine-wire fuse. The fuse is located in the red test prod.

For safety reasons, the measuring cables are permanently connected to the measuring device and cannot be changed. The measuring device can be used for do-it-yourself or for professional applications.

The safety instructions must be followed unconditionally!

Explanations of symbols and units on the multimeter

- V Alternating voltage
- V Direct voltage
- V Volt (unit of electric potential)
- mV Millivolt (exp.-3)
- mA Milliampere (unit of electric current, exp.-3)
- µA Microampere (exp.-6)
- Ω Ohm (unit of electric resistance)
- kΩ Kilo Ohm (exp.3)
- Diode test
- Battery test
- Rectangular signal generator
- CAT III Overvoltage category 3

Safety instructions

Please read through the operating instructions carefully before putting the device into operation. They contain important information concerning proper operation. The guarantee will be void if damage is incurred resulting from non-compliance with the operating instructions! We assume no liability for any consequential damage! We do not assume liability for personal injury or material damage resulting from improper use or disregarding the safety instructions! In such cases the warranty is voided!

This device left the manufacture's factory in a safe and perfect condition. We kindly request the user to observe the safety instructions and warnings contained in this operating manual to preserve this condition and to ensure safe operation! Please observe the following symbols:

A triangle containing an exclamation mark indicates important information in these operating instructions which is to be observed without fail.

The triangle containing a lightning symbol warns of danger of an electric shock or of the impairment of the electrical safety of the device.

The "hand" symbol indicates special information and advice on operation of the device.

This product has been CE-tested and meets the necessary European guidelines.

Class 2 insulation (double or reinforced insulation)

CAT III Overvoltage category III for measuring building wiring installation (e.g. outlets or sub-distributions). This category also covers all smaller categories (e.g. CAT II for measuring electronic devices).

Ground potential

The unauthorised conversion and/or modification of the unit is inadmissible because of safety and approval reasons (CE).

Consult an expert when in doubt about the operation, the safety or the connection of the device.

Measuring instruments and accessories are not toys and have no place in the hands of children.

In commercial and industrial facilities the regulations for the prevention of accidents as laid down by the professional trade association for electrical equipment and devices need to be observed.

In schools, training centres, computer and self-help workshops, handling of measuring instruments must be supervised by trained personnel in a responsible manner.

Before measuring voltages, always make sure that the measuring instrument is not set to a measuring range for currents. The voltage between the measuring instrument and earth must never exceed 250 V DC/AC in CAT III.

The test prods have to be removed from the measured object every time the measuring range is changed.

Take particular care when dealing with voltages exceeding 25V AC or 35V DC! Even at these voltages it is possible to get a fatal electric shock if you touch electric conductors.

Check the measuring device and its measuring lines for damage before each measurement. Never carry out any measurements if the protecting insulation is defect (torn, ripped off etc.)

To avoid an electric shock, make sure not to touch the connections/measuring points to be measured neither directly nor indirectly during measurement. When during measuring, do not grip beyond the grip range markings present on the test prods. Do not use the multimeter immediately before, during or after thunder and lightning (thunderstrike / high-energy overvoltages!). Please make sure that your hands, your shoes, your clothing, the floor, switches and switching components are dry.

Avoid an operation near:

- strong magnetic or electromagnetic fields
 - transmitter aenials or HF generators,
- This may falsify the measuring value.

If you have reason to assume that safe operation is no longer possible, disconnect the device immediately and secure it against inadvertent operation. It can be assumed that safe operation is no longer possible if:

- the device is visibly damaged,
- the unit does not operate any longer and
- the unit was stored under unfavourable conditions for a long period of time or
- if it has been subjected to considerable stress in transit.

Do not switch the measuring instrument on immediately after it has been taken from a cold to a warm environment. Condensation water that forms might destroy your device. Leave the device switched off and wait until it has reached room temperature. Do not leave the packaging material lying around carelessly since such materials can become dangerous toys in the hands of children.

You should also heed the safety instructions in each chapter of these instructions.

Delivery scope

Multimeter with permanently attached measuring leads
2 LR44 batteries (or identical batteries)
Operating instructions

Initial operation

The batteries are already inserted in the DMM upon delivery.

Rotary switch

The individual measuring functions can be set via the rotary switch. If the rotary switch is set to „OFF“, the measuring device is switched off. Always turn the measuring device off when it is not in use.

Measuring

Do not exceed the maximum permitted input values. Do not contact circuits or parts of circuits if there could be voltages higher than 25 V ACrms or 35 V DC present within them. Mortal danger!
 Before measuring, check the connected measuring cable for damage such as, for example, cuts, cracks or squeezing. Defective measuring cables must no longer be used. Mortal danger!

a) Voltage measuring „V“

Proceed as follows to measure DC voltages (V):
- Turn the DMM on on the rotary switch and select the right measuring range for your voltage „V “.
- Now connect the two test prods to the object to be measured (battery, circuit etc.).
The red measuring tip indicates the positive pole, the black measuring tip the negative pole.
- The polarity of the respective measuring value is indicated on the together with the current measuring value.

As soon as a minus „-“ appears for the direct voltage in front of the measuring value, the measured voltage is negative (or the measuring tips have been mixed up).

- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to "OFF".

Proceed as follows to measure AC voltages (V):
- Turn the DMM on on the rotary switch and select the right measuring range for your voltage „V “.
- Now connect the two measuring prods to the object to be measured (generator, switching etc.).
- The measuring value is indicated on the display

he voltage range „V DC/AC“ shows an input resistance of >1 MOhm.

- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

b) Resistance measuring

Make sure that all the circuit parts, switches and components and other objects of measurement are disconnected from the voltage at all times.

Proceed as follows to measure the resistance:
- Turn the DMM on on the rotary switch and select the right measuring range for your voltage „Ω“.
- Check the measuring leads for continuity by connecting both measuring prods to one another. After that the resistance value must be approximately 3 Ohm.
- Now connect the measuring prods to the object to be measured. As long as the object to be measured is not high-resistive or interrupted, the measured value will be indicated on the display.
- As soon as „1“ (= overflow) appears on the display, you have exceeded the measuring range or the measuring circuit has been interrupted. Switch to the next higher measuring range.
- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

If you carry out a resistance measurement, make sure that the measuring points which you contact with the test prods are free from dirt, oil, solderable lacquer or the like. An incorrect measurement may result under such circumstances.

c) Diode test

Make sure that all the circuit parts, switches and components and other objects of measurement are disconnected from the voltage at all times.

Select the measuring range →
- Check the measuring leads for continuity by connecting both measuring prods to one another. After that the value must be approx. 0.

- Now connect the two measuring prods with the object to be measured (diode).
- The display shows the continuity voltage in Millivolt (mV). Usual voltage values: silicon diode ca. 700 mV, germanium diode ca. 250 mV). If „1“ is indicated, the diode is measured in reverse direction or the diode is faulty (interruption).
- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

d) Battery test

With the two measuring ranges, you can test all batteries and accumulators with a nominal voltage of 9 V/1.5V or 1.2 V. The cells are slightly charged during testing, which corresponds to actual operation.

Select the respective measuring range →
For 1.2 V accumulators, select the 1.5 V range

- Connect the red measuring tip with the positive pole and the black measuring tip with the negative pole.
- The contact voltage of the battery/accumulator is indicated on the display.

With new batteries or completely charged accumulators, the contact voltage is slightly higher than the stated nominal voltage.

- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

e) Rectangular signal generator

In this range, the DMM works as a rectangular generator for testing audio switching or similar. In this measuring range, the measuring tips carry a signal of 75 Hertz and an amplitude of 3 Vpp. Do not short-circuit the measuring cables in this measuring range.

Select the measuring range →

- Connect the two measuring tips with the measuring object (red = signal, black = reference mass).
- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

f) Direct current measuring A

Current measuring is possible in three ranges from 0 to 200 mA. All current measuring ranges are provided with fuses and thus protected against overload.

Proceed as follows to measure DC voltages:
- If you want to measure currents up to max. 2000 µA, set the rotary switch to the position „2000 µA“ or the matching measuring range.
- Now connect the two test prods in series with the object to be measured (battery, circuit etc.); the display indicates the polarity together with the currently measured value.

Never measure currents above 200 mA in the µA/mA range, since this would cause the fuse to trip. The voltage in the measuring circuit may not exceed 250 V. In current measuring range the two test prods have a low-impedance connection. Merely touching a metal end poses the risk of an electric shock.

If measuring is no longer possible (measuring value does not change, etc.), the internal fuse may have been triggered. See the next chapter to read about replacing the fuse.

- After you finish testing, always switch the measuring device off. Turn the rotary switch to „OFF“.

Maintenance and cleaning

The safety instructions below must be observed before the device is cleaned or maintained:

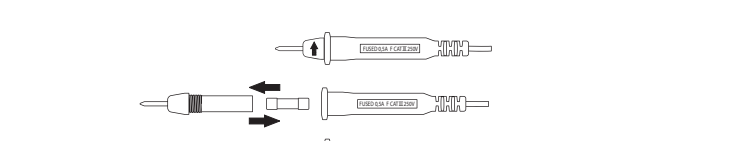
Live components may be exposed if the covering is opened or components are removed. The connected lines must be disconnected from all measuring objects prior to cleaning or repairing the device.

Do not use scrubbing agents or chemical agents containing petrol, alcohol or the like to clean the product. These could corrode the surface of the measuring instrument. The fumes are furthermore a health hazard and are explosive. Moreover, you should not use sharp-edged tools, screwdrivers or metal brushes or similar for cleaning.

To clean the device, the display or measurement lines, use a clean, dry lint-free anti-static cleaning cloth.

Replacing the fuse

If no measurement data is shown on the display, the fuse is probably defective. The fuse is integrated in the red test prod in a user-friendly position. To replace the fuse, proceed as follows:



Turn off the measuring instrument and remove both test prods from the device under test. Unscrew the front end of the red test prod from the reaching area of the hands. Replace the defective fuse with a fuse of the same type and nominal current (quick-acting 0.5 A/250 V fine-wire fuse). Carefully screw the red test prod back together.

Inserting/changing the batteries

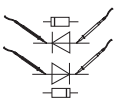
Operation of the measuring device requires two button cell batteries (LR44 or identical). A battery replacement is required when the display becomes weaker. To insert/replace the battery, proceed as follows:
- Disconnect the measuring device from the measuring circuit and turn it off.
- Loosen the casing screw on the rear and open the casing.
- Place new batteries into the battery compartment observing the correct polarity. Always observe the indicated polarity.
- Now, close the cover carefully again.

Never operate the measurement device when it is open. **IRISK OF FATAL INJURY!** Do not leave flat batteries in the device. Even batteries protected against leaking can corrode and thus release chemicals which may be detrimental to your health or destroy the battery compartment. Do not leave batteries lying around carelessly. They might be swallowed by children or pets. If swallowed, consult a doctor immediately. If the device is not used for longer periods of time, remove the batteries in order to prevent leaking. Leaking or damaged batteries may cause alkali burns if they come in contact with the skin. It is therefore advisable to use suitable protective gloves. Make sure that the batteries are not short-circuited. Do not throw batteries into fire! Batteries may not be recharged. Danger of explosion!

Suitable replacement batteries are available under order number 65 20 44 (order 1 set of 2).

Disposal

Disposal of flat batteries



As a consumer you are required (**Battery Ordinance**)to responsibly dispose of all used batteries and rechargeable batteries; it is **forbidden to throw them away with the normal household waste!**



Contaminated batteries/rechargeable batteries are labelled with these symbols to indicate that disposal in domestic waste is forbidden. The description of dangerous heavy metal constituents are: **Cd** = Cadmium, **Hg** = Mercury, **Pb** = Lead. You can return your exhausted batteries/rechargeable batteries free of charge to any authorized disposal station in your local authority, to our stores or to any other store where batteries/rechargeable batteries are sold.

You thus fulfil the legal requirements and make your contribution to the protection of the environment! Disposal



Used electronic devices are raw materials and should not be disposed of in the household waste. When the device has become unusable, dispose of it in accordance with the current statutory regulations at the communal collection points. It is forbidden to dispose of it in the household waste.

Troubleshooting

In purchasing the DMM, you have acquired a product which has been designed to the state of the art and is operationally reliable. Nevertheless, problems or faults may occur. For this reason, the following is a description of how you can eliminate possible malfunctions yourself.



Always adhere to the safety instructions!

Error	Possible cause
The multimeter does not function.	Are the batteries spent? Check the status.
No measuring value change.	Is the wrong measuring function active? The internal overload fuse is defective.



Repairs other than those described should only be carried out by an authorised specialist. If you have queries about handling the measuring device, our technical support is available under the following telephone number:

Voltcraft® 92242 Hirschau, Lindenweg 15, Phone 0180 / 586 582

Technical data

Display	2000 counts
Measuring frequency	2.5 measurements per sec.
Input resistance	>1 MΩ
Operating Voltage	3 V/DC (2 x LR 44 or identical)
Ambient conditions	Operation: 0°C to 40°C, max. 80 % rel. air humidity (non-condensing)
Dimensions (LxWxH)	103 x 52 x 27 (mm)
Weight	ca. 80 g

Measurement tolerances

Statement of accuracy in ± (% of reading + display error in counts (= number of smallest points)). The accuracy is valid for one year at a temperature of +23°C ± 5°C, and at a relative humidity of less than 75 %, non-condensing. The warming-up time is about 1 minute

Type of operation	Measuring range	Accuracy
Direct voltage	200 mV	±(1.5% + 2 counts)
	2,000 mV - 250 V	±(2.5% + 2 counts)
Alternating voltage 50 Hz	200 -250 V	±(2.5% + 9 counts)
	2000 µA - 200 mA	±(2.5% + 9 counts)
Resistance	200 Ohm - 2000 kOhm	±(2.5% + 5 Counts + 3 Ohm)

Diode test Test voltage: 1,3 V / test voltage 0,9 mA
Battery test 50 mA load current in 1.5 V range
5 mA load current in 9 V range

Max. input sizes/overload protection

Voltage measurement	250 VDC or VACrms (rms = effective)
Current measurement	max. 200 mA DC, max. 250 VDC
Overload protection	Fine fuse 5 x 20 mm (F500mA/250V) Quick-acting 500 mA, 250 V. May only be exchanged by an expert.



Do not exceed the maximum permitted input values. Do not touch any circuits or parts of circuits, if they can have higher voltages than 25 V ACrms or 35 V DC. Mortal danger!



Regularly check the technical safety of the device and the measuring cables, e.g. for damage to the casing etc. Do not use the measuring device in case of damage!

The measuring range diodes and the battery test, rectangular signal generator as well as resistance measuring are not protected against excess input voltage or overload. Exceeding the max. admissible input values or overload may damage the measuring device or lead to mortal danger!

Impressum /legal notice in our operating instructions

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