

User Manual



Autoranging Clamp Meters

with NIST-Traceable Calibration

**Models 20250-57 (1000 A AC),
20250-58 (1000 A AC/DC, True RMS)**



THE STANDARD IN PRECISION MEASUREMENT

Introduction

The Digi-Sense Autoranging Clamp Meters (1000 A AC Model 20250-57; 1000 A AC/DC True RMS Model 20250-58) offer all the basic features needed for measurement. The double-molded plastic housing and jaw are designed for use in tight places. A large backlit display provides easy-to-read measurements. The instruments are fully tested and calibrated to NIST-traceable standards. Careful use of the meter will provide years of reliable service.

Safety

International Safety Symbols



This symbol, adjacent to another symbol or terminal, indicates the user must refer to the manual for further information.



This symbol, adjacent to a terminal, indicates that, under normal use, hazardous voltages may be present



Double insulation

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not exceed the maximum allowable input range of any function.
- Do not apply voltage to meter when resistance function is selected.
- Set the function switch OFF when the meter is not in use.

WARNINGS

- Set rotary function switch to the appropriate position before measuring.
- When measuring volts, do not switch to current/resistance modes.
- When changing ranges using the rotary function switch, always disconnect the test leads from the circuit under test.
- Do not exceed the maximum rated input limits:

Input Limits		
Function	Maximum Input, Model 20250-57	Maximum Input, Model 20250-58
A	1000 A AC	1000 A AC/DC
V	600 V AC/DC	600 V AC/DC
Frequency, Duty cycle, Resistance, Diode, Continuity, Capacitance Test	250 V AC/DC	250 V AC/DC
Temperature (°C/°F)	—	60 V DC, 24 V AC

CAUTIONS

- Improper use of this meter can cause damage, shock, injury or death. Read and understand this user manual before operating the meter.
- Always remove the test leads before replacing the battery.
- Inspect the condition of the test leads and the meter itself for any damage before operating the meter. Repair or replace any damage before use.
- Use great care when making measurements if the voltages are greater than 25 VAC rms or 35 VDC. These voltages are considered a shock hazard.
- Remove the battery if the meter is to be stored for long periods.
- Always discharge capacitors and remove power from the device under test before performing Diode, Resistance, or Continuity tests.
- Voltage checks on electrical outlets can be difficult and misleading because of the uncertainty of connection to the recessed electrical contacts. Other means should be used to ensure that the terminals are not "live".
- If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

Unpacking

Check individual parts against the list of items below. If anything is missing or damaged, please contact your instrument supplier immediately.

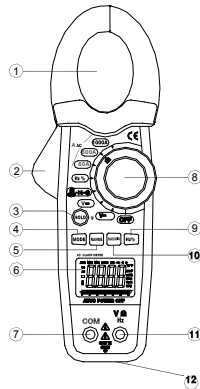
1. Meter
2. Test leads
3. Temperature probe (model 20250-58 only)
4. Carrying case
5. 9 V battery
6. User manual
7. NIST-traceable calibration report with data

Key Features

1. Durable double-molded housing
2. 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ " (30 mm) jaw opening
3. CAT III 600 V safety rating
4. Electronic overload protection
5. Autoranging with auto power-off

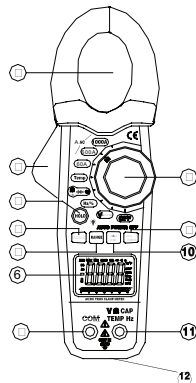
Meter Description (Model 20250-57)

1. Current clamp
2. Clamp trigger
3. Data HOLD and Backlight button
4. MODE select button
5. RANGE select button
6. LCD
7. COM input jack
8. Rotary function switch
9. Hz% Hold button
10. Max/Min button
11. V Ω \rightarrow \rightarrow Hz jack
12. Battery compartment (on rear)



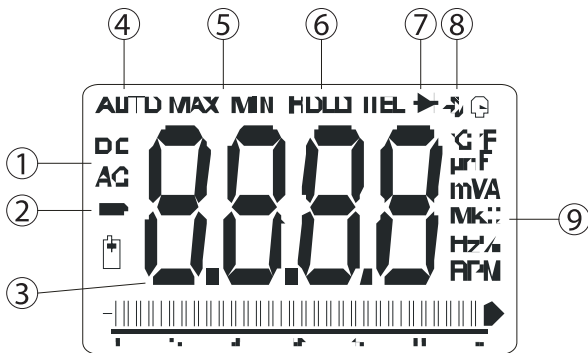
Meter Description (Model 20250-58)

1. Current clamp
2. Clamp trigger
3. Data HOLD and Backlight button
4. MODE select button
5. RANGE select button
6. LCD
7. COM input jack
8. Rotary function switch
9. DC ZERO button
10. Max/Min button
11. V Ω \rightarrow \rightarrow CAP Hz Temp jack
12. Battery compartment (on rear)



Display Layout

1. **AC DC** AC (alternating current) and DC (direct current)
2. **-** Minus sign
3. **8.8.8.8** 6000 count (0 to 5999) measurement reading with 61-segment analog bar graph
4. **AUTO** Autorange mode
5. **MAX MIN** Max and Min readings
6. **HOLD** Data HOLD mode
7. **→|** Diode test mode
8. **•)))** Audible continuity
9. **μ ,m,V,A,K, M, Ω ;** Units of measure list (20250-57);
 $^{\circ}$ C, $^{\circ}$ F, μ ,m,V, A,K,M, Ω Units of measure list (20250-58)



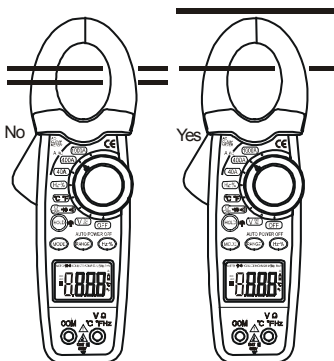
Setup and Operation

Note: Read and understand all warning and precaution statements listed in the safety section of this operation manual prior to using this meter. Set the rotary function switch to the OFF position when the meter is not in use.

AC and AC/DC Current Measurements

WARNING: Ensure that the test leads are disconnected from the meter before making current clamp measurements.

1. Set the Function switch to the **1000A** or **600A** or **60A** range.
2. For model 20250-58 only, select **AC** or **DC** by pressing the **MODE** button.
3. If the range of the measured is unknown, select the higher range first then move to the lower range as necessary.
4. Press the trigger to open jaw. Fully enclose one conductor to be measured (see diagram above). The LCD will display the reading.
5. In DCA mode, to ensure the reading is correct, press the **DC ZERO** button to clear the reading on the LCD before measurement. The LCD will display the reading (model 20250-58 only).



AC/DC Voltage Measurements

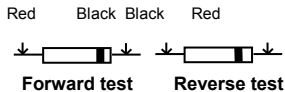
1. Insert the black test lead into the negative COM terminal and the red test lead into the positive V terminal.
2. Set the rotary function switch to the **V** position.
3. For model 20250-58, select **AC** or **DC** by pressing the MODE button.
4. Connect the test leads in parallel to the circuit under test.
5. Read the voltage measurement in the display.

Resistance and Continuity Measurements

1. Insert the black test lead into the negative COM terminal and the red test lead into the positive terminal.
2. Set the rotary function switch to the $\Omega \rightarrow \text{---} \bullet \text{---}$ position.
3. Use the multifunction MODE button to select resistance.
4. Touch the test probe tips across the circuit or component under test. It is best to disconnect one side of the device under test so the rest of the circuit will not interfere with the resistance reading.
5. For Resistance tests, read the resistance value in the display.
6. For Continuity tests, if resistance is $<100 \Omega$, a tone will sound.

Diode and Continuity Measurements

1. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative COM jack and the red test lead banana plug into the positive diode jack.
2. Turn the rotary function switch to the $\rightarrow| \cdot)))$ position.
3. Press the MODE button until “ $\rightarrow|$ ” appears in the display.
4. Touch the test probes to the diode under test. Forward voltage will indicate 0.4 V to 0.7 V. Reverse voltage will indicate “OL”. Shorted devices will indicate near 0 mV and an open device will indicate “OL” in both polarities.



Capacitance Measurements

WARNING: To avoid electric shock, disconnect power to the unit under test and discharge all capacitors before taking any capacitance measurements. Remove the batteries and unplug the line cords.

1. Set the rotary function switch to the $\Omega \rightarrow| \cdot)))$ **CAP** position.
2. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative COM jack and the red test lead banana plug into the positive V jack.
3. Touch the test leads to the capacitor to be tested.
4. Read the capacitance value on the display.

Frequency or % Duty Cycle Measurements

For Model 0250-57:

1. Set the rotary function switch to the **Hz%** position.
2. Press the **Hz%** button to indicate “Hz” in the display.
3. Insert the black lead banana plug into the negative COM jack and the red test lead banana plug into the positive Hz jack.
4. Touch the test probe tips to the circuit under test.
5. Press the **Hz%** button again to indicate “%” on the display. Read the % of duty cycle on the display.

For Model 20250-58:

1. Set the rotary function switch to the **Hz%** position.
2. Insert the black lead banana plug into the negative COM jack and the red test lead banana plug into the positive Hz jack.
3. Press the MODE button to select “Hz” or “%”.
4. Touch the test probe tips to the circuit under test.
5. Read the frequency or % of duty cycle on the display.

Temperature Measurements (Model 20250-58 only)

WARNING: To avoid electric shock, disconnect both test probes from any source of voltage before making a temperature measurement.

1. Set the function switch to TEMP.
2. Insert the temperature probe into the negative COM and the V jacks, making sure to observe the correct polarity.
3. Select °C or °F units by pressing the MODE button.
4. Touch the temperature probe head to the part whose temperature you wish to measure. Keep the probe touching the part under test until the reading stabilizes (about 30 seconds).
5. Read the temperature in the display. The digital reading will indicate the proper decimal point and value.

WARNING: To avoid electric shock, be sure the thermocouple has been removed before changing to another measurement function.

MODE Button

To select DC/ACV, OHM/Diode/Continuity/CAP (°C or °F model 20250-58 only).

Data HOLD and Backlight Button

To “freeze” a reading on the screen, press the data **HOLD** button. While data HOLD is active, the “HOLD” display icon appears on the LCD. Press the **HOLD** button again to resume normal operation.

Note: The HOLD feature will activate when the Backlight is turned on.

The backlight function illuminates the display and is used when the ambient light is too low to permit viewing of the displayed readings. Press the **HOLD/backlight** button for one second to turn the backlight on and press the button a second time to turn the backlight off.

RANGE Button

When the meter is first turned on, it defaults to Auto Ranging. This automatically selects the best range for the measurements being made and is generally the optimal mode for most measurements. For measurement situations requiring that a range be manually selected, perform the following:

1. Press the **RANGE** button. The “Auto Range” display indicator will turn off, and the “Manual Range” display indicator will turn on.
2. Press the **RANGE** button again to step through the available ranges until you select the range you want.
3. Press and hold the **RANGE** button for 2 seconds to exit the Manual Ranging mode and return to Auto Ranging.

Note: Manual Ranging does not function in the AC Current, Diode, and Continuity check functions.

Automatic Power-Off

To conserve battery life, the meter automatically turns off after 30 minutes of nonuse.


Specifications


Function	Model 20250-57		Model 20250-58	
	Range & Resolution	Accuracy (% of reading)	Range & Resolution	Accuracy (% of reading)
AC Current	60.00 AAC	$\pm(2.5\% + 10 \text{ digits})$	60.00 AAC (True RMS)	$\pm(3.0\% + 10 \text{ digits})$
	600.0 AAC	$\pm(2.0\% + 5 \text{ digits})$	600.0 AAC (True RMS)	$\pm(3.0\% + 8 \text{ digits})$
	1000 AAC		1000 AAC (True RMS)	$\pm(3.0\% + 5 \text{ digits})$
DC Current	—	—	60.00 ADC	$\pm(2.8\% + 10 \text{ digits})$
	—	—	600.0 ADC	$\pm(2.8\% + 8 \text{ digits})$
	—	—	1000 ADC	$\pm(3.0\% + 5 \text{ digits})$
DC Voltage	600.0 mVDC	$\pm(0.8\% + 3 \text{ digits})$	600.0 mVDC	$\pm(0.8\% + 3 \text{ digits})$
	6.000 VDC	$\pm(1.5\% + 3 \text{ digits})$	6.000 VDC	$\pm(1.5\% + 3 \text{ digits})$
	60.00 VDC		60.00 VDC	
	600.0 VDC		600.0 VDC	
	—	—	800 VDC	$\pm(2.0\% + 3 \text{ digits})$
	1000 VDC	$\pm(2.0\% + 3 \text{ digits})$	—	—
AC Voltage	—	—	600.0 mVAC (True RMS)	$\pm(0.8\% + 20 \text{ digits})$
	6.000 VAC	$\pm(1.5\% + 5 \text{ digits})$	6.000 VAC (True RMS)	$\pm(1.8\% + 5 \text{ digits})$
	60.00 VAC	$\pm(2.0\% + 5 \text{ digits})$	60.00 VAC (True RMS)	
	600.0 VAC		600.0 VAC (True RMS)	
	750 VAC	$\pm(2.0\% + 5 \text{ digits})$	750 VAC (True RMS)	$\pm(2.5\% + 5 \text{ digits})$
Resistance	600.0 Ω	$\pm(1.0\% + 4 \text{ digits})$	600.0 Ω	$\pm(1.0\% + 4 \text{ digits})$
	6.000 K Ω	$\pm(1.5\% + 2 \text{ digits})$	6.000 K Ω	$\pm(1.5\% + 2 \text{ digits})$
	60.00 K Ω		60.00 K Ω	
	600.0 K Ω		600.0 K Ω	
	6.000 M Ω	$\pm(2.5\% + 3 \text{ digits})$	6.000 M Ω	$\pm(2.5\% + 3 \text{ digits})$

Note: No autoranging in 600 mV AC voltage range (model 20250-58).



Function	Model 20250-57		Model 20250-58	
	Range & Resolution	Accuracy (% of reading)	Range & Resolution	Accuracy (% of reading)
Capacitance	40.00 nF	$\pm(3.0\%$ reading + 50 digits)	40.00 nF	$\pm(5.0\%$ reading + 100 digits)
	400.0 nF	$\pm(3.5\%$ reading + 10 digits)	400.0 nF	$\pm(3.0\%$ reading + 5 digits)
	4.000 μ F		4.000 μ F	$\pm(3.5\%$ reading + 5 digits)
	40.00 μ F	—	40.00 μ F	$\pm(5.0\%$ reading + 5 digits)
	—	—	100.0 μ F	$\pm(5.0\%$ reading + 5 digits)
	400.0 μ F	$\pm(5.0\%$ reading + 5 digits)	—	—
4000 μ F	—		—	
Frequency	9.999 Hz	$\pm(1.2\%$ reading + 2 digits) Sensitivity: 9 to 1000 kHz: 10 Vrms min. 1000 kHz to 10 MHz: 20 Vrms min. @ 20% to 80% duty cycle	9.999 Hz	$\pm(1.2\%$ reading + 2 digits) Sensitivity: 10 Vrms min.
	99.99 Hz		99.99 Hz	
	999.9 Hz		999.9 Hz	
	9.999 kHz		9.999 kHz	
	99.99 kHz		99.99 kHz	
	999.9 kHz		999.9 kHz	
	10 MHz		10 MHz	
Duty cycle	5.0 to 94.9%	$\pm(1.2\%$ reading + 2 digits)	0.5 to 99.0%	$\pm(1.2\%$ reading + 2 digits)
	Pulse width: 100 μ s to 100 ms; Frequency: 30 Hz to 15 kHz		Pulse width: 100 μ s to 100 ms; Frequency: 5.000 Hz to 100.0 kHz	
Temperature, type K (probe accuracy not included)	—	—	-20 to 1000°C	$\pm(3.0\%$ reading + 5°C)
	—	—	-4 to 1832°F	$\pm(3.0\%$ reading + 7°F)

Specifications (continued)

Clamp size	Opening 1 ³ / ₁₆ " (30 mm) approximately
Diode test	Test current of 0.3 mA typical; Open circuit voltage 1.5V DC typical
Continuity check	Threshold <30 Ω (20250-57), <100 Ω (20250-58), Test current <1 mA
Low-battery indication	"  " is displayed
Overrange indication	" OL " is displayed
Measurement rate	2 per second, nominal
Input impedance	7.8 MΩ (VDC and VAC)
Display	6000 counts LCD
AC Current	50–60Hz (AAC) (20250-57), 50–60Hz (AAC TRMS) (20250-58)
AC Voltage bandwidth	50–60Hz (VAC) (20250-57), 50–60Hz (VAC TRMS) (20250-58)
Operating temperature	14 to 122°F (–10 to 50°C)
Storage temperature	–14 to 140°F (–30 to 60°C)
Operating humidity	90% (0 to 30°C); 75% (30 to 40°C); 45% (40 to 50°C)



Operating altitude	9842 ft (3000 meters), Storage 32,808 ft (10,000 meters)
Overvoltage	Category III 600 V
Battery	One 9 V battery
Auto power-off	30 minutes approximately
Weight	7.1 oz (200 g) model 20250-57; 10.7 oz (303 g) model 20250-58
Dimensions	8 ⁷ / ₈ " x 3 ³ / ₁₆ " x 1 ¹¹ / ₁₆ " (22.6 x 8 x 4.3 cm)
Safety	For indoor use and in accordance with Overvoltage Category II, Pollution Degree 2. Category II includes local level, appliance, portable equipment, etc., with transient overvoltages less than Overvoltage Cat. III



Maintenance, Recalibration, and Repair

Cleaning and Storage

- The meter should be cleaned with a damp cloth and mild detergent when necessary. Do not use solvents or abrasives.
- Store the meter in an area with moderate temperature and humidity.

Battery Replacement

1. Remove the one rear Phillips head screw.
2. Open the battery compartment.
3. Replace the old battery with one 9 V battery.
4. Replace the cover and secure the screw.

It is recommended that Digi-Sense products are calibrated annually to ensure proper function and accurate measurements; however, your quality system or regulatory body may require more frequent calibrations.

To schedule your recalibration, please contact InnoCal, an ISO 17025 calibration laboratory accredited by A2LA.

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