

# Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit

## Installation, Operation and Maintenance



Made in the  
United States of America



Figure 1. Desco Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit

### Description

The Desco [19787](#) Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit is an instrument designed to measure resistance point-to-point (R<sub>tt</sub>) or surface to ground (R<sub>tg</sub>) in accordance with ESD Association Standard ANSI/ESD S4.1.

Its test functions include:

- Resistance measurement accuracy of  $\pm 10\%$  ( $\pm 20\%$  for resistance values  $1 \times 10^{11}$  and greater)
- Resistance range of  $<1 \times 10^3$  ohms to  $>1 \times 10^{12}$  ohms
- Under load voltages of 10 and 100 volts  $\pm 5\%$
- Electrification period of approximately 15 seconds

The Digital Surface Resistance Meter also measures ambient temperature and relative humidity.

The Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit and its accessories are available in the following item numbers:

Item	Description
<a href="#">19787</a>	Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit
<a href="#">19788</a>	Digital Surface Resistance Meter
<a href="#">19783</a>	Shielded Test Leads
<a href="#">50003</a>	Five Pound Electrodes, 1 Pair
<a href="#">50004</a>	Replacement T-Handles for Electrodes, 1 Pair
<a href="#">50005</a>	Concentric Ring Probe

The Surface Resistance Meter Kit (or its Meter) is referenced and designed to be used to make measurements in accordance with the test procedures in:

- Compliance Verification - ESD TR53 - Resistance Measurements
- Worksurfaces - ANSI/ESD S4.1 Worksurfaces
- Floors - ANSI/ESD S7.1- Resistive Characterization of Materials Floor Materials
  - Foot Grounders - ESD SP9.2 - Foot Grounders Resistive Characterization
- Garments - ANSI/ESD STM2.1 Garments
- Seating - ANSI/ESD STM12.1- Seating - Resistive Measurement
- Floor/Footwear - ANSI/ESD STM97.1 - Floor Materials and Footwear- Resistance Measurement in Combination with a Person

"A Compliance Verification Plan shall be established to ensure the Organization's fulfillment of the technical requirements of the ESD Control Program Plan. Process monitoring (measurements) shall be conducted in accordance with a Compliance Verification Plan that identifies the technical requirements to be verified, the measurement limits and the frequency at which those verifications shall occur. The Compliance Verification Plan shall document the test methods and equipment used for process monitoring and measurements. If the test methods used by the Organization differ from any of the standards referenced in this document, then there must be a tailoring statement that is documented as part of the ESD Control Program Plan. Compliance verification records shall be established and maintained to provide evidence of conformity to the technical requirements.

The test equipment selected shall be capable of making the measurements defined in the Compliance Verification Plan." (ANSI/ESD S20.20 section 7.3)

### Reference Literature

In addition to those noted above:

ANSI/ESD S20.20 - Development of ESD Control Program  
ESD ADV1.0 - Glossary of Terms  
ANSI/ESD S6.1 Grounding

These documents can be obtained directly from the ESD Association, 7902 Turin Rd., Suite 4, Rome, NY 13440-2069, (315) 339-6937 or [www.ESDA.org](http://www.ESDA.org).

## Packaging

### 19787 Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit

- 1 Digital Surface Resistance Meter
- 2 Shielded Test Leads, 5' Length
- 2 Five Pound Electrodes
- 2 AA Alkaline Batteries
- 1 Gator Clip
- 1 Plastic Carrying Case
- 1 Certificate of Calibration



Figure 2. Desco 19787 Digital Surface Resistance Meter Kit

### 19788 Digital Surface Resistance Meter

- 1 Digital Surface Resistance Meter
- 2 AA Alkaline Batteries
- 1 Certificate of Calibration



Figure 3. Desco 19788 Digital Surface Resistance Meter

## Features and Components

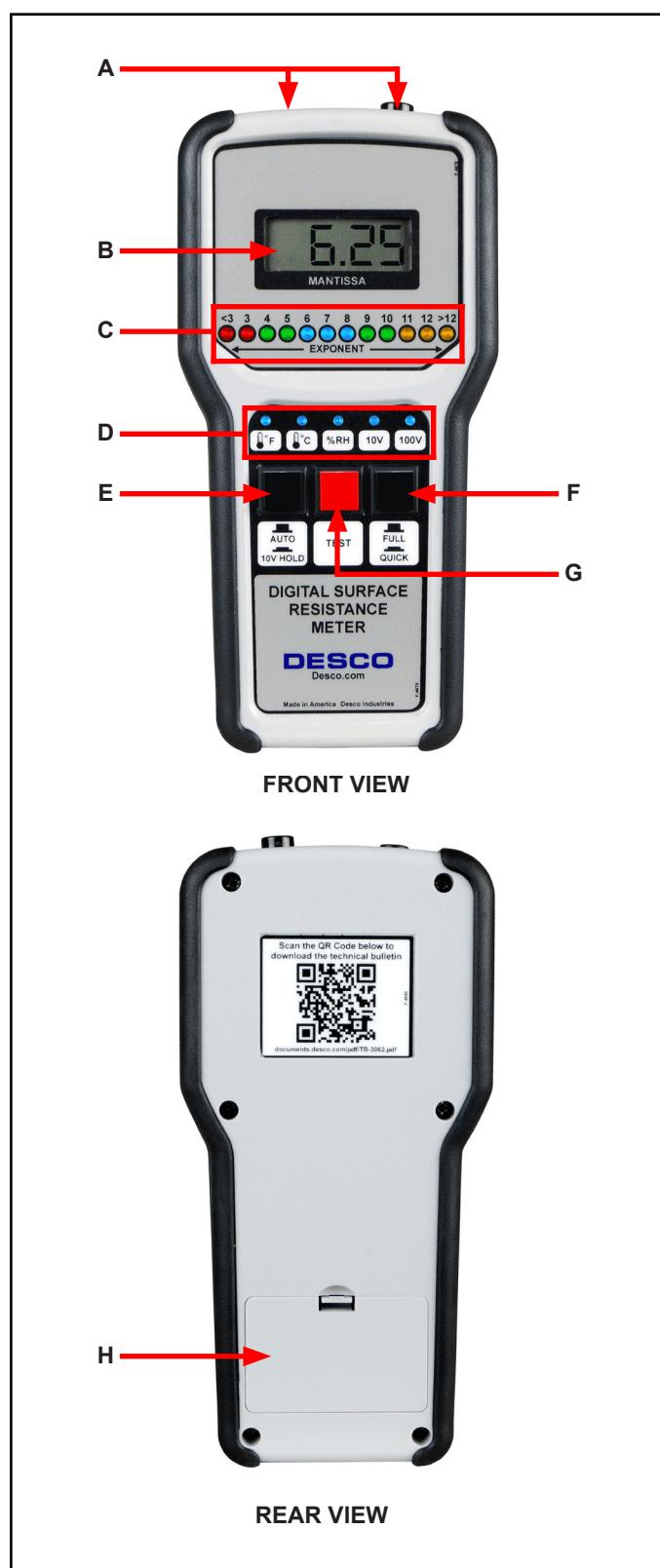


Figure 4. Digital Surface Resistance Meter features and components

**A. Test Jacks:** The shielded test leads connect here. The black test lead's 3.5mm plug connects into the stereo jack, and the white test lead's banana plug connects into the banana jack.

**B. Display:** Temperature, Relative Humidity and Surface Resistance Mantissa values appear on this display.

When the test button is depressed and the meter is set to FULL test mode, the following information will display in sequence:

- Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit ( $\pm 10\%$ )
- Temperature in degrees Celsius ( $\pm 10\%$ )
- Relative Humidity as a percentage ( $\pm 10$  integers)
- Surface Resistance Mantissa (with exponent displayed via LED, measurement in ohms)

Surface resistance ohm values are expressed with a mantissa and exponent (power) of the number. For example, if the #8 exponent LED illuminates and the meter displays "7.14", the measurement is  $7.14 \times 10^8$  ohms or 714,000,000 ohms.

If the measured surface resistance is over  $10^{12}$  ohms, "1—" will appear on the display.

**C. Exponent LEDs:** These LEDs indicate the surface resistance exponent value. They are color coded for quick checks.

Exponent	Color
<3, 3	Red
4, 5	Green
6, 7, 8	Blue
9, 10	Green
11, 12, >12	Yellow

#### Quick Checks

The surface resistance exponent number illuminates immediately (i.e.  $8 = 10^8$  ohms or 100,000,000 ohms).

**D. Function LEDs:** These LEDs indicate the measurement type indicated on the display. The surface resistance mantissa is displayed when either the "10V" or "100V" LED is illuminated.

These LEDs will flash when the battery voltage drops to approximately 2 volts. Replace the batteries when this occurs.

**E. Test Voltage Button:** When set to AUTO, the meter will automatically switch to the appropriate test voltage for the measured resistance range. The Function LEDs will indicate the applied test voltage. Material that is  $9 \times 10^5$  ohms or less should be measured at 10 volts. Material that is  $1 \times 10^6$  ohms or greater should be tested at 100 volts. When the switch is set to 10V HOLD, the test voltage will be fixed at 10 volts regardless of the measured resistance value.

**F. Quick Check Button:** When set to FULL, the meter will cycle through the 15 second period that displays the temperature and relative humidity before the surface resistance mantissa is displayed. When set to QUICK, the meter will skip the 15 second period and immediately display the measured surface resistance mantissa.

**G. Test Button:** Push and hold this button to make a measurement with the meter. Testing in accordance with ANSI/ESD S4.1 requires 15 seconds of electrification. These 15 seconds are included when the meter is set to FULL test mode. The surface resistance mantissa will display on the meter after temperature and relative humidity measurements are displayed.

The surface resistance exponent number illuminates immediately, and the meter first displays the temperature and relative humidity during a 15 second electrification period. The mantissa is then displayed at the end of the test sequence. For example, if the #8 exponent LED illuminates and the meter displays "7.14", the measurement is  $7.14 \times 10^8$  ohms or 714,000,000 ohms.

**H. Battery Compartment:** Open this compartment to install the two AA alkaline batteries needed to power the meter. Replace the batteries once the Function LEDs begin flash.

## Operation

### General Guidelines

- Use both 5 pound electrodes for Rtt measurements.
- Use one 5 pound electrode and connect the black test lead to ground for Rtg measurements.
- Ensure that the item being measured is electrically isolated (placed on an insulative surface). The meter will measure the lowest resistance path.
- Ensure that the test leads are separated and uncrossed as a best practice.
- When using 5 pound electrodes:
  - Place them no closer than 2" from the edge of the surface being measured
  - Place them no closer than 3" to any groundable point
  - Place them about 10" apart from each other for Rtt measurements of a worksurface
  - Place them about 3' apart from each other for Rtt measurement of a floor
- Preferable electrode placements include:
  - Most commonly used area of a surface
  - Most worn area
  - Center of surface
  - Furthest area from a grounded point
- If the surface to be measured has sections (i.e. floor tiles, garment panels), place the 5 pound electrodes on different sections for Rtt measurements.
- Clean the material's surface for Test Lab measurements, but do not clean the surface for materials that are already installed. Only clean and re-test the installed material if failure occurs.

- Push and hold the Test Button until the surface resistance mantissa is displayed.

### Measure Resistance to Ground (Rtg)

Test Procedure in accordance with ANSI/ESD S4.1 section 6.4 Periodic Worksurface Testing:

- Do not clean the surface.
- Remove from the surface only those items that might interfere with the test.
- ESD sensitive devices shall also be removed.
- Clip the black test lead to a grounded point.
- Use one 5 pound electrode on the other test lead and place the electrode on the furthest convenient point on the surface.
- Push and hold the Test Button until the surface resistance mantissa is displayed.
- Perform additional measurements by placing the electrode on the most commonly used or worn area. Set the meter to QUICK test mode to skip the 15 second period if preferred.

If the measurement is outside acceptable limits, clean the surface with an ESD cleaner containing no insulative silicone such as [Reztore™ Antistatic Surface & Mat Cleaner](#), and re-test to determine if the cause of failure is an insulative dirt layer or the ESD worksurface material.



Figure 5. Rtg test setup

### Measure Resistance Point-to-Point (Rtt) on the Surface

- Do not clean the surface.
- Remove from the surface only those items that might interfere with the test.
- ESD sensitive devices shall also be removed.
- Use two 5 pound electrodes and place them on the most commonly used area of the surface. Ensure that the electrodes are about 10" apart from each other and 2" away from any edge and 3" away from any grounded point.
- Push and hold the Test Button until the surface resistance mantissa is displayed.
- If the most used area is not obvious, use two points near the center of the surface.

- Perform additional measurements by placing the electrode on the most commonly used or worn area. Set the meter to QUICK test mode to skip the 15 second period if preferred.

If the measurement is outside acceptable limits, clean the surface with an ESD cleaner containing no insulative silicone such as [Reztore™ Antistatic Surface & Mat Cleaner](#), and re-test to determine if the cause of failure is an insulative dirt layer or the ESD worksurface material.

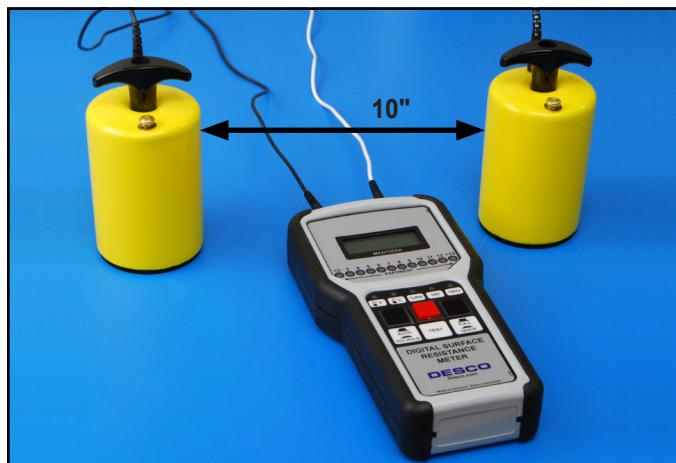


Figure 6. Rtt test setup - set the electrodes about 10" apart for worksurfaces and about 36" apart for flooring

### Reporting and Using Test Results

Different standards have different requirements; however, follow the requirements as specified in the user's ESD control plan. Examples are:

#### Per ANSI/ESD 4.1 (Worksurfaces), report:

- Rtg maximum and minimum values measured for resistance-to-ground in ohms
- Rtt maximum and minimum values measured for point-to-point resistance in ohms

#### Per ANSI/ESD 7.1 (Floors), report:

- Rtg all values in ohms for resistance-to-ground
- Rtt all values in ohms for point-to-point resistance
- Voltage level
- Test date
- Temperature
- Relative humidity
- Test equipment used and latest calibration date

Summarize the test data by reporting the minimum, maximum, median and mean values that were obtained. Include a diagram showing the approximate electrode positions and ground connections used.

## Frequency of Compliance Verification Testing

NOTE: "The frequency of periodic testing is normally specified in corporate operating procedures. ...The frequency of testing is driven by the amount of risk exposure that can occur between tests. For, example, what is the quantity of product handled between test periods?" (See ESD Handbook ESD TR20.20)

Per ANNEX A of Compliance Verification ESD TR53 "Test Frequency, The objective of the periodic test procedures listed in this document is to identify if significant changes in ESD equipment and materials performance have occurred over time. Test frequency limits are not listed in this document, as each user will need to develop their own set of test frequencies based on the critical nature of those ESD sensitive items handled and the risk of failure for the ESD protective equipment and materials."

Addition information includes:

- **Worksurface** - at least quarterly (see ESD TR20.20 section 5.3.1.13 Periodic Tests)
- **Footwear** - "Incoming inspection on a lot sampling basis should be performed for all static control footwear." (see ESD TR20.20 section 5.3.3.4 Testing)
- **Floor** - "The types of monitoring and type of equipment are considerations. In some cases, a simple electrical resistance test with a megohmmeter may suffice. In others, a static charge generation test may be required." (see ESD TR20.20 section 5.3.4.13 Performance Monitoring)
- **Seating** - "The recommended electrical resistance range for seating is less than  $1 \times 10^9$  ohms as tested in accordance with ANSI/ESD STM 12.1. This value should be during acceptance testing, installation and periodically thereafter." (see ESD TR20.20 section 5.3.5.3 Testing)
- **Garments** - "To maintain process control, it is imperative that the garment be tested per ANSI/ESD STM 2.1. The point-to-point and sleeve-to-sleeve resistance test should be made." (see ESD TR20.20 section 5.3.13.3.1.8 Periodic Testing)

## Surface Resistivity

Theoretically, Resistivity is 10 times greater than Resistance.

For example, a material that measures  $10^7$  ohms in surface resistance should measure  $10^8$  ohms/square in surface resistivity.\*

Ref: ANSI/ESD STM11.11 section 12.0 Conversion to Resistivity states, "When it is appropriate to convert a resistance obtained by this test method to an equivalent resistivity in ohms per square, multiply the resistance measurements obtained by this method by 10. The conversion factor of 10 is derived from the geometry of the electrode assembly."

\*Note: Although STM11.11 uses ohms/square, per ESD TR20.20, the correct unit of measure for resistivity is just ohms.

## Product Qualification Test Lab Test Procedure Guideline

For test lab use of ESD Worksurfaces, Floor Materials, Footwear, Garments or Seating, the best advice is to follow the test methods in applicable ESD Association documents which include details such as:

- Cleaning (For example per S4.1, "The test specimens and electrodes shall be cleaned twice with a minimum 70% isopropanol-water solution using a clean, low-linting cloth each time). Allow to the material to dry.
- Environmental chamber (For example per S4.1, control relative humidity to  $12 \pm 3\%$  relative humidity and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity and temperature to  $23 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ )
- Specimen support surface (For example per S4.1, greater than  $1 \times 10^{12}$  ohms such as PMMA, PTFE or polycarbonate)
- Specimen Pre-Conditioning (For example per S4.1, at  $23 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ; 3 specimens at  $12 \pm 3\%$  relative humidity for up to 72 hours minimum, and 3 specimens at  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity for up to 72 hours minimum)
- Reporting Test Results: For example per S4.1 Reporting Test Results, report:
  - Minimum, median and maximum readings for both resistance-to-groundable point and point-to-point resistance in ohms at low relative humidity
  - Minimum, median and maximum readings for both resistance-to-groundable point and point-to-point resistance in ohms at moderate relative humidity
  - Temperature
  - Relative humidity
  - Actual duration of conditioning
  - Test equipment used and latest calibration date

## Desco [50005](#) Concentric Ring Probe



Figure 7. Desco [50005](#) Concentric Ring Probe

The Desco [50005](#) Concentric Ring Probe is an instrument to be used in conjunction with a resistance meter, such as the Desco [19787](#) Digital Surface Resistance Meter, to measure surface resistance per ANSI/ESD STM11.11 the test method listed in Packaging standard ANSI/ESD S541 for surface resistance of planar materials.

The Concentric Ring Probe (Ref: ANSI/ESD STM11.12) can measure the volume resistance of planar materials using a flat conductive metal plate (not included).

The Concentric Ring Probe may be used for the resistance measurements of ESD packaging including static shielding and other bags.

See [TB-3063](#) for more information.

## Maintenance

The Digital Surface Resistance Meter requires little maintenance. There are no user serviceable parts. If your meter requires service beyond cleaning the electrodes or replacing the batteries, please contact the factory.

This product utilizes a high frequency switching circuit to step up the 3 volts from the batteries to the 100 volt test level. Some users are able to discern a slight hum or buzzing when the meter is powered. This is perfectly normal and is not considered a flaw or defect.

## Battery Replacement

The Function LEDs located above the push buttons will flash when the battery voltage drops to approximately 2 volts. This indicates that the meter's batteries should be replaced. Open the compartment located on the back of the meter to replace the batteries. The meter uses two AA alkaline batteries. Ensure that the batteries' polarities are oriented in the correct fashion to avoid any possible circuit damage.

## Cleaning the Digital Surface Resistance Meter

The area surrounding the cable jacks at the top end of the meter should be wiped with a clean, isopropanol-alcohol moistened cloth to remove skin oils that will accumulate and affect the meter's accuracy at high resistances. The frequency of cleaning will depend on usage. Desco recommends cleaning this area once a month. Cable jackets should also be cleaned in this fashion.

## Cleaning the Five Pound Electrodes

Per ANSI/ESD S4.1 "Clean the electrodes with a minimum 70% isopropanol-water solution. Make sure the 5 pound electrodes' conductive pads are dry prior to use."

See specific product test standards for test lab specimen cleaning instructions. Per ANSI/ESD S4.1 Worksurfaces "The test specimens and electrodes shall be cleaned twice with a minimum 70% isopropanol-water solution using a clean, low-linting cloth each time." (Note: The item should then be conditioned for 72 hours minimum)

## Calibration

The Digital Surface Resistance Meter is calibrated to NIST traceable standards. Most users require calibration annually which is our recommendation. Please e-mail [Service@Desco.com](mailto:Service@Desco.com) for details. In-house calibration can be performed by using 1% resistors in each of the meter ranges. Simply attach the resistors to the test leads using clips and record the meter's display. Keep the test leads uncrossed and separated from one another. Should adjustment be necessary, Desco recommends to return the unit to the factory. Special equipment is required to adjust the meter.

## Required Equipment

- Digital Multimeter: accurate to 1.25% @ 10VDC and 100VDC
- Fixed Decade Box with values from  $10^3$  -  $10^{12}$ : accurate to  $\pm 2\%$ , except at  $10^{11}$  and  $10^{12}$  ( $\pm 5\%$ )
- Thermometer: accurate to  $\pm 1^\circ F$
- Relative Humidity Meter: accurate to 2%
- Test Leads
- 99% Isopropyl Alcohol and Cleaning Wipes

## Setup

- **Test Area** - needs to be free of any high voltage transformers or power supplies and away from any type of fluorescent lighting or high power lighting.
- **Worksurface** - needs to be covered with a grounded conductive mat at  $1.0 \times 10^3$  or less.
- **Technician** - needs to be connected to equipment ground with a 0 ohm resistor in the ground cord.
- **Decade Box** - needs to be connected to equipment ground.

## Normalization of the Meter

The temperature inside the testing area needs to be 75°F  $\pm 3^\circ\text{F}$  at 40% to 60% relative humidity. The meter needs to stay at a temperature of 75°F  $\pm 3^\circ\text{F}$  for approximately 2 hours for proper readings. The meter cannot be normalized inside objects, enclosed boxes, containers or cases. The temperature inside an enclosed case will differ from the outside temperature. These cases will act as insulators to the meter. The meter must remain stationary in the testing area for about 2 hours without any significant changes to the temperature.

NOTE: Accuracy is measured after normalizing the meter for a minimum of 2 hours.

## Calibration Test Procedure

- Use only the test leads that were supplied with the meter.
- Clean around the banana jack and stereo jack located at the top of the meter with 99% isopropyl alcohol. Oil from human fingers can affect the accuracy of the meter.
- Set the Test Voltage Button to 10V HOLD. Press and hold the Test Button. The measured voltage between the two test leads should be 10V  $\pm 5\%$ .
- Set the Test Voltage Button to AUTO. Press and hold the Test Button. The measured voltage between the two test leads should be 100V  $\pm 5\%$ .
- Ensure that the Test Voltage Button is set to AUTO when performing the following measurements. Always measure from  $1.0 \times 10^{12}$  ohms and work your way down to  $1.0 \times 10^3$ . Never start your measurements from  $1.0 \times 10^3$ .

Temperature: 75°F  $\pm 3^\circ\text{F}$  (23.9°C  $\pm 1.7^\circ\text{C}$ )

Relative Humidity:  $\pm 10$  integers

### A. $1.0 \times 10^{12}$

+20%	LED = 12 Yellow	Mantissa 1.20
0%	LED = 12 Yellow	Mantissa 1.00
-20%	LED = 11 Yellow	Mantissa 8.00

### B. $1.0 \times 10^{11}$

+20%	LED = 11 Yellow	Mantissa 1.20
0%	LED = 11 Yellow	Mantissa 1.00
-20%	LED = 10 Green	Mantissa 8.00

### C. $1.0 \times 10^{10}$

+10%	LED = 10 Green	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 10 Green	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 9 Green	Mantissa 9.00

### D. $1.0 \times 10^9$

+10%	LED = 9 Green	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 9 Green	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 8 Blue	Mantissa 9.00

### E. $1.0 \times 10^8$

+10%	LED = 8 Blue	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 8 Blue	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 7 Blue	Mantissa 9.00

### F. $1.0 \times 10^7$

+10%	LED = 7 Blue	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 7 Blue	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 6 Blue	Mantissa 9.00

### G. $1.0 \times 10^6$

+10%	LED = 6 Blue	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 6 Blue	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 5 Green	Mantissa 9.00

### H. $1.0 \times 10^5$

+10%	LED = 5 Green	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 5 Green	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 4 Green	Mantissa 9.00

### I. $1.0 \times 10^4$

+10%	LED = 4 Green	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 4 Green	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = 3 Red	Mantissa 9.00

### J. $1.0 \times 10^3$

+10%	LED = 3 Red	Mantissa 1.10
0%	LED = 3 Red	Mantissa 1.00
-10%	LED = <3 Red	Mantissa <0.90

## Specifications

Resistance Ranges	$1 \times 10^3$ - $1 \times 10^{12}$ ohms @ 10 Volts, complies with ANSI/ESD S4.1
	$1 \times 10^6$ - $1 \times 10^{12}$ ohms @ 100 Volts, complies with ANSI/ESD S4.1
Accuracy	Resistance measurements within $\pm 10\%$ ( $\pm 20\%$ for resistance values $1 \times 10^{11}$ and greater), complies with ANSI/ESD-S4.1. Under load voltages of 10 Volts $\pm 5\%$ and 100 Volts $\pm 5\%$ exceeds requirements of ANSI/ESD S4.1
Power Supply	2 AA alkaline batteries
Battery Life	Approx. 1,500 measurements
Operating Temperature	32°F to 104°F (0 to 40°C)
Meter Dimensions	8.1" x 4.1" x 1.5" (20.6cm x 10.4cm x 3.8cm)
Meter Weight	0.7 lbs (0.3 kg)
Kit Dimensions	13.5" x 10.8" x 4.0" (34.3cm x 27.4cm x 10.2cm)
Kit Weight	13.0 lbs (5.9 kg)
External Electrode	5 lbs ( $\pm 2$ oz), 2.5" in diameter, complies with ANSI/ESD S4.1

## Limited Warranty, Warranty Exclusions, Limit of Liability and RMA Request Instructions

See [Desco Terms and Conditions](#)