

Re: zener diode

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"Allan Adler" <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
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I have what I believe is a zener diode. One end is red and the other end is blue. What kind of zener diode is this and which end is which?

Search the web for home brew zener tester, the usual setup is a small circuit to supply a limited current with a decent voltage overhead, as long as the supplied current is not too high so as to damage the device you can measure the device volt drop each way round – this will give you some clues as to what it is and which way round it goes.

If you have a DMM, have a look whether it has a diode check function, this reads the forward volt drop of a single diode junction, its worth measuring a few sample diodes that you can identify to get the idea – most diodes read somewhere around 0.7V but different types vary slightly, fast soft recovery tend to read slightly lower while zeners often fill the top end of the rang. If it reads just under 0.2V don't be too hasty to bin it – it could be a Germanium or Schottky-barrier diode, both of which have their uses – Germanium are becoming rare and S-B are a little more expensive.