

## Re: zener diode

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- *From:* Allan Adler <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* 08 Dec 2007 02:40:57 -0500
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Allan Adler <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

I decided to take an even closer look at the diode using a pocket microscope with magnification between 30x and 70x. It helped a little.

Well, that was fun and will lead to future projects. But meanwhile, I was musing on the fact that the two leads of the second zener diode DZ2 (the red-blue one) each connect to wires that go directly to pins on the mouse port. I don't actually know which wire is connected to which pin, so I can't use that information to determine the polarity of the diode from the pinout of the PS/2 mouse port, but it does potentially tell me the voltage difference between the two ends of DZ2, just not the polarity. Then I started wondering whether the other zener diode DZ1 on the PCB is also connected to mouse port pins in this way and reached for my 7x monacle. That was the right thing to wonder about, since it turns out that the two leads of DZ1 are connected to the very same mouse port pins as the two leads of DZ2. Furthermore, unlike DZ2, the markings on the PCB for DZ1 show very clearly what is the intended polarity of DZ1. Therefore, I now know the polarity of DZ2 in terms of the known polarity of DZ1, and I potentially know the voltage across each diode in terms of the voltage differences between pins of the mouse port.

So, that's progress and, so far, I haven't had to use any test equipment.

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Ignorantly,

Allan Adler <ara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

\* Disclaimer: I am a guest and \*not\* a member of the MIT CSAIL. My actions and

\* comments do not reflect in any way on MIT. Also, I am nowhere near Boston.

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