

Re: AVOMeter compared to cheap modern digital meter

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- *From:* Peter Duck <pduck@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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In message <9681A7E72BF5264A18E@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
Zak <zak@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

- > ... Today I can buy a regularly stocked item like the super-cheapo
- > single-chip digital multimeter from a UK shop like Maplins for £8
- > (\$8) and that includes the battery. Although Maplins call it a
- > "domestic tester" it is more than just that:

- > 600V-200V-20V-2000mV-200mV plus 600VAC-200VAC
- > 10A-200mA-20mA-2000uA-200uA
- > 2000kO-200kO-20kO-2000O-200O
- > transistor and functions
- > overall accuracy approx +/-0.5% to +/-1.0%

- > <<http://www.maplin.co.uk/module.aspx?ModuleNo=37279&doy=26m6>>

- > How does something as ridiculously cheap as this meter compare, in
- > terms of measurement accuracy, to an old stye AVOMeter?

At least as well (within their more limited ranges), plus being quicker/easier to read, or listen-to for continuity-checks: perfectly adequate for most purposes.

I've three of these (I couldn't resist the last two - 'buy one, get one free' for, at the time, £4.99 IIRC), and use them far more than either my 'upmarket' digital meter or venerable Avo 8, still needed for measuring DC kilovolts, AC <current or signal-voltages>, and the fluctuating values for which 'analogue' beats 'digital'.

The mechanical construction of the switching-arrangements is the main weak point, but (as so many products nowadays) they're a constant reminder of how hard the Chinese have to work to scratch a living, and how difficult it is for the affluent West to retain/regain our competitiveness ...

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Peter Duck <pduck@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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