

# Re: Inexpensive fairly good quality home brew or kit RF power meter

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- *From:* msg <msg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 18 Apr 2008 21:29:19 -0500
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captainvideo462002@xxxxxxxx wrote:

I have a need for a power meter for general low band and VHF work. I would like it to have at least two scales. One, a 0 – 10 W or so scale and if possible another which would enable it to measure up to around 125 W as well. The immediate need to satisfy the requirements of a job we're doing is for an instrument that can measure 1.0 W at 72.0 MHZ. The signal is AM with a duration of .50 sec. and there is some type of digital alarm transmission which modulates the carrier. The only way I think that I can do this now is to measure the RMS voltage across a 52 ohm dummy load with my Boonton, and then calculate the power. I feel though that this is clumsy and may be potentially inaccurate. I'd love to have a Bird with all the bells and whistles but I really can't afford one. Does anyone know of a home brew project for doing this or even an inexpensive accurate kit?  
Thanks, Lenny.

Some thoughts:

1. find a bolometer head that covers your frequency of interest on eBay and build the rest of the meter (or perhaps buy the whole thing if cheap enough).
2. look for old military RF power test sets that included a mess of attenuators, directional couplers and a bolometer head together with the meter in a steel case (used to be very cheap and readily available but perhaps times have changed).
3. build something out of the ARRL handbook.

Michael

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