

DET3 and 4 Contractor Series Earth/Ground Resistance Testers



- 2 and 3 point testing
- 4 point testing with DET4TD
- ART (Attached Rod Technique) testing capability with DET3TC
- Choice of digital or analog (DET3TA) display
- Warning indicators prevent test failure
- IP54 rated
- Complete with lead and stake kit
- Simple one button operation
- Rugged carry case
- Calibration test certificate included (except DET3TA)

DESCRIPTION

The new ground testing instrument family from Megger offers a unique solution to your ground rod testing needs. The four models comprise a digital 3-terminal instrument for grounding and bonding tests, a digital 4-terminal model that adds resistivity measurement, an analog 3-terminal model, and a revolutionary new 3-terminal tester that adds a current measuring function for **ART (Attached Rod Technique)** testing capabilities. With this added function, on-site grounds can be tested separately without having to remove the utility connection.

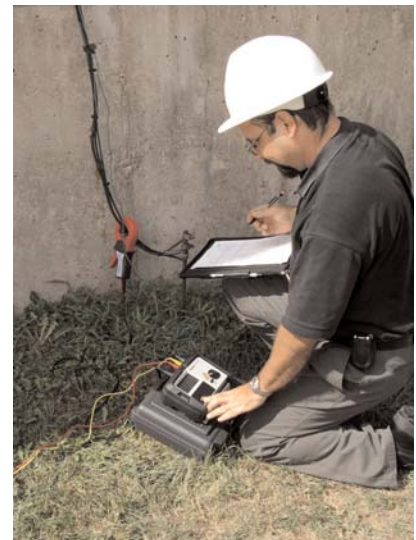
The complete kit of instrument, test leads, stakes, batteries and calibration certificate are delivered in a tough polypropylene carry case — everything you need to start testing in one package. (Certificate not included with analog model.) Optional terminal adapters are available for acceptance of a variety of test leads.

All models are rated to IP54, making them truly outdoor instruments. The ground testers have been designed to be easy to use — a large selector switch makes selection of 2-pole, 3-pole or 4-pole (DET4TD) tests easy with gloved hands — and the design makes the fitting of shorting links to perform 2-pole tests a thing of the past. A large, clear, easy to read LCD or analog (DET3TA) display and thumb sized test button also make the instruments particularly well suited to the outdoor conditions of ground testing. In addition to this ease of use, the ground tester automatically checks the connection and condition of the P spike, C spike, and also the level of ground noise, indicating the status on the display. (The analog model allows the operator to check the condition of the spikes.)

The instruments also include a voltmeter to enable measurement of ground voltage. The testers can measure resistance from 0.01 ohm to 2000 ohms and earth voltages up to 100V. To allow accurate testing in noisy environments, the instruments are capable of rejecting noise of up to 40V peak to peak.

The Megger digital and analog ground testers are powered by eight AA batteries which are widely available and also give excellent testing time — the status of these batteries is given by a bar graph on the LCD display, allowing the operator to decide when to change the batteries before they expire. (On the analog model, battery status is indicated by selecting the function on the selector switch.)

The Megger ground testers are designed to meet stringent safety standards and are rated CAT IV 100V.



Using ART method with the DET3TC to test commercial ground without disconnecting the system

SELECTION GUIDE	DET3TD	DET3TA	DET3TC	DET4TD
2-wire Resistance	■	■	■	■
3-wire Resistance	■	■	■	■
4-wire Resistance				■
ART (Attached Rod Technique) Resistance Measurement			■	
Resistance Range	0.01 to 2000 Ω 2% ± 3d	0.01 to 2000 Ω 2.5% ± 3d of scale length	0.01 to 2000 Ω 2% ± 3d	0.01 to 2000 Ω 2% ± 3d
Earth Voltage Range	0..100V	0..100V	0..100V	0..100V
Earth Current Range (with optional current measuring clamp)			0.5mA..19.9A	
Display	Digital	Analog	Digital	Digital

APPLICATIONS

The maintenance of an adequate low resistance ground connection is essential to both the protection and performance of any electrical system. Ground testing should be performed both upon installation, to meet design specification, and periodically thereafter in order to maintain service. All models can also perform bonding tests (using an ac signal), to determine that adequate connection has been made from equipment to the grounding system, while four-terminal models are necessary to perform soil resistivity tests. This additional function can be used in prospecting, locating, and designing new grounding electrodes and systems. Furthermore, the addition of a built-in current clamp capability enables the testing of attached grounds (ART) without lifting the utility connection.

Selection among the four-model family is easy. For basic requirements, DET3TD affords ground testing and bond testing capabilities. For those who prefer an analog tester, DET3TA affords the same testing capabilities with a mechanical movement. The model's prime advantage is reliable performance in extremes of weather, either heat or cold, that stress the limits of digital capabilities. Application to systems that have been connected to the utility feed is simplified with model DET3TC where a built-in clamp input permits individual components of an expanded system to be separately measured without extra calculations. With the addition of a fourth terminal, DET4TD also permits the measurement of soil resistivity.

Grounding electrodes from simple to complex systems can be tested, including:

- Primary and secondary electrical grounding systems
- Utility pole grounds
- Lightning protection systems
- Residential grounds
- Machinery safety grounds
- Computer and communication system grounds
- EMI/RFI system grounds
- Antenna and pedestal grounds
- CATV system grounds

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Microprocessor control for improved error detection
- Clear, unambiguous warnings and error indications ensures the reliability of the reading and reduces test time
- Simple to use, one touch operation improves efficiency
- Rugged, weatherproof case to IP54 makes the units truly outdoor instruments
- Large, clear LCD that can be read in ambient lighting
- Noise rejection to 40 V pk to pk allows accurate testing in noisy environments
- Testing kits and certificates supplied — everything needed to start testing immediately
- Accuracy of 2% of reading enhances reliability of measurements
- Clamp model for Attached Rod Technique allows the testing of the rod without the need for disconnection
- Voltmeter function included which allows you to measure the ground voltage and enhances operator safety
- CAT IV 100V provides increased operator safety

SPECIFICATIONS

Resistance range: 0.01 to 2000 autoranging

Accuracy: 2% ±3 digits (digital models)
2.5% of scale length (analog model)

Earth voltage range: 0 – 100 V

Earth voltage accuracy: 2% ±2 V

2-wire test: Yes, all models

3-wire test: Yes, all models

4-wire test: DET4TD

ART (Attached Rod Technique): with current measuring clamp (DET3TC)

Ground current range (with current measuring clamp):
1 mA to 19.9 A (DET3TC)

Display: LCD (moving coil meter for analog model)

Test frequency: 128 Hz

Test voltage: 25 V or 50 V, user selectable (factory setting 50 V)

Test current: 450 micro-amps at 25 V or 50 V (selectable), 4.5 mA at 25 V

Noise rejection: 40V pk to pk

Noise check: Automatic (by selector switch DET3TA)

C spike check: Automatic (by pushbutton DET3TA)

P spike check: Automatic (by pushbutton DET3TA)

Maximum current loop resistance: 100 k-ohms, 5 k-ohms for 0.01 ohm resolution for readings below 19 ohms

Maximum voltage probe resistance: 100 k-ohms, 5 k-ohms for 0.01 ohm resolution for readings below 19 ohms

Battery type: 8 1.5 V AA cells

Battery life: 3 hours, 700 consecutive tests

Safety: EN61010-1 CAT IV 100 V

Terminals: 4 mm plug type (test leads)

Ingress protection: IP54

EMC: Meets the requirements of EN61326-1:1998 for use in heavy industrial areas

Dimensions: 8 x 5.7 x 3.2 in. (203 x 148 x 78 mm)

Weight: 2.2 lb (1 kg)

Operating temperature range: -5° to +131° F (-15° to +55° C);
DET3TA: -4° to +122° F (-20° to +50° C)

Storage temperature range: -40° to +158° F (-40° to +70° C)

Humidity: 95% RH non-condensing at 104° F (40° C)

ART (ATTACHED ROD TECHNIQUE) TESTING CAPABILITY

The model **DET3TC** includes the additional testing capability that we have termed **ART**, for **Attached Rod Technique**. A nagging problem with traditional ground testing has been the requirement to “lift” (i.e., disconnect) the utility connection. Once the grounding conductor (the main conductor that connects the facility to the ground rod or grid) has been attached to the grounding electrode, the utility ground becomes a parallel resistance. The utility neutral is typically bonded to the ground bus at the service entrance and this connection, during a ground test, causes test current to flow back through the utility ground as well as through the test electrode. Test current divides according to Law of Parallel Resistance, but the tester makes its measurement based on total current flow. The reading is the combined parallel resistance of the on-site ground and the utility protection. This is a valid measurement, but not of the test electrode exclusively.

This poses a considerable problem in many common testing situations. If a commissioning test were required to determine if design specifications had been met for a new facility, such a reading would be insufficient. Lightning protection requiring a short, straight path into the earth, could also not be properly validated. But lifting the utility connection poses several problems, not the least of which is the breaking of what is often a welded bond, in addition to the temporary loss of protection.

Clamp-on ground testers, which measure ground resistance by clamping around the rod and inducing a test current onto it, are only a limited solution. They can accurately measure resistance of a single rod in a parallel system by inducing the test current onto the clamped rod and utilizing all the parallel grounds as the return. Collectively, these returns, typically the multiple grounds of the utility, contribute little to the loop measurement. This is essentially the reverse of the operation of a traditional tester, which uses the current probe as the return while current “goes to ground” through all parallels

collectively. This technique solves the problem of separately measuring an attached rod, but leaves the problem that it cannot be proven.

A clamp-on measurement has to be accepted on faith and its reliability is based squarely on the knowledge and experience of the operator, leaving a large margin for “human error.” In complex, multiply connected grids and other grounding schemes, return paths may exist that are entirely metallic, not including earth at all. The clamp-on test current will circulate through such paths and give a reading, essentially a continuity reading of the grid structure having nothing to do with soil resistance. Such readings will be low, and appear to the uninformed as acceptable grounds. The responsibility for making these determinations falls squarely on the operator. But even when properly addressed, there is no way of demonstrating the competence of the readings to a third party, such as a client. They must simply be accepted.

The **ART** testing capability combines the advantages of both of these technologies to produce a method that can reliably measure an attached ground, and prove it! A built-in clamp input, used in conjunction with the optional ICLAMP accessory, connected below the point of separation of the parallel test currents, measures only the current flowing through the test ground, not that going back through the utility. This current value is then used by the microprocessor to calculate ground resistance, strictly in accordance with **Fall of Potential** or its derivative procedures, supported by IEE Standard 81 for proper ground testing, and subject to the appropriate proofs.

The **ART** method employs leads and probes just as does any traditional tester. Ground resistance can be profiled and graphed by moving the potential probe against the position of the current probe, and a Fall of Potential graph, Slope Method mathematical proof, or any of the other proven methods utilized to demonstrate the accuracy of the test. The only thing different from the operation of a familiar, traditional ground tester is that the clamp permits separation of the test currents in an attached or otherwise parallel-grounded system. This technique enables local grounds to be tested without lifting the utility connection, yet with the ease, reliability and confidence of a separate commissioning test.



**Current measuring clamp (inset)
for ART testing capability**



Each instrument comes complete with three sets of leads, two test spikes, instruction manual CD, and a rugged carrying case. (Current measuring clamp, shown, is an optional accessory for performing the ART testing capability using the DET3TC only.)



Terminal Adapters are optional accessories used to allow the DET3 and DET4 Series units' terminals to accept alternative cable connections.



OPTIONAL ACCESSORY KITS

Standard Kit, Cat. No. 250579

Set of three color-coded test leads, 25, 50, 100 ft. (8, 15, 30 m); two 20-in. (51 cm) ground rods; canvas accessory case for leads and rods only



Soil Resistivity Kit Cat. No. 250586

Set of four test leads, 50 ft. (15 m); two pair of 20 in. (51 cm) ground rods; padded case to hold instrument, leads and rods



Deluxe Kit, Cat. No. 250581

Set of three color-coded test leads, 25, 50, 100 ft. (8, 15, 30 m); two 20-in. (51 cm) ground rods; padded case to hold instrument, leads and rods



Standard Kit Cat. No. EV6310-755

Hammer, 2.5 lb (1.13 kg); four galvanized steel spikes, 0.5 in. (12 mm); two spike extractors; four leads in carrying case



ORDERING INFORMATION

Item (Qty)	Cat. No.	Item (Qty)	Cat. No.
Analog ground tester, 2 and 3 terminal	DET3TA	Optional Accessories	
Digital ground tester, 2 and 3 terminal, ART capability	DET3TC	2 replacement earth test spikes	6220-804
Digital ground tester, 2 and 3 terminal	DET3TD	3 replacement test spikes	6220-805
Digital ground tester, 2, 3 and 4 terminal	DET4TD	4 replacement test spikes	6220-806
Included Accessories		Right angled terminal adapter set	6220-803
Hard carry case	5410-409	Current clamp for stakeless or selective earth testing	ICLAMP
Stake and wire kit		Accessory kits	See above

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