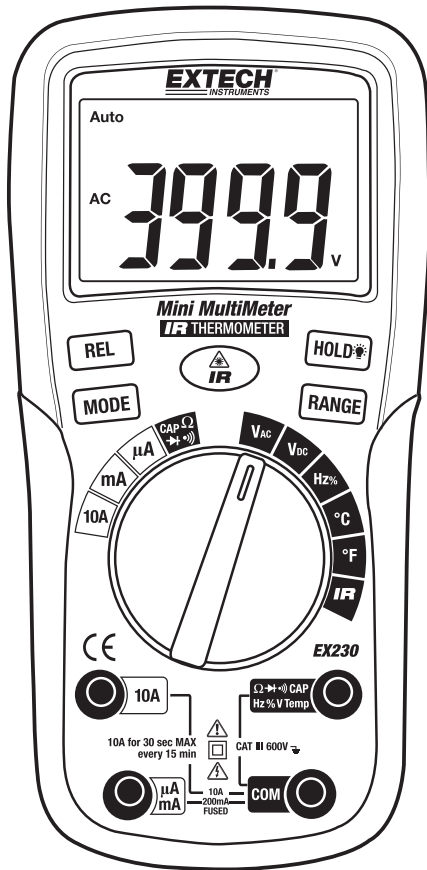


User's Guide

**EXTECH**<sup>®</sup>  
**INSTRUMENTS**  
A FLIR COMPANY

## Multimeter with IR Thermometer

Extech EX230



## Introduction

---

Congratulations on your purchase of the Extech EX230 Autoranging Multimeter. This meter measures AC/DC Voltage, AC/DC Current, Resistance, Capacitance, Frequency, Duty Cycle, Diode Test, and Continuity plus non-contact InfraRed Temperature and contact thermocouple Temperature. Proper use and care of this meter will provide many years of reliable service.

## Safety

---



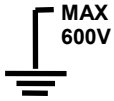
This symbol adjacent to another symbol, terminal or operating device indicates that the operator must refer to an explanation in the Operating Instructions to avoid personal injury or damage to the meter.

### WARNING

This **WARNING** symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.

### CAUTION

This **CAUTION** symbol indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which if not avoided, may result damage to the product.



This symbol advises the user that the terminal(s) so marked must not be connected to a circuit point at which the voltage with respect to earth ground exceeds (in this case) 600 VAC or VDC.



This symbol adjacent to one or more terminals identifies them as being associated with ranges that may, in normal use, be subjected to particularly hazardous voltages. For maximum safety, the meter and its test leads should not be handled when these terminals are energized.



This symbol indicates that a device is protected throughout by double insulation or reinforced insulation.

## PER IEC1010 OVERVOLTAGE INSTALLATION CATEGORY

### OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY I

Equipment of OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY I is equipment for connection to circuits in which measures are taken to limit the transient overvoltages to an appropriate low level.

Note – Examples include protected electronic circuits.

### OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY II

Equipment of OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY II is energy-consuming equipment to be supplied from the fixed installation.

Note – Examples include household, office, and laboratory appliances.

### OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY III

Equipment of OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY III is equipment in fixed installations.

Note – Examples include switches in the fixed installation and some equipment for industrial use with permanent connection to the fixed installation.

### OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY IV

Equipment of OVERVOLTAGE CATEGORY IV is for use at the origin of the installation.

Note – Examples include electricity meters and primary over-current protection equipment

## CAUTIONS

- Improper use of this meter can cause damage, shock, injury or death. Read and understand this user manual before operating the meter.
- Always remove the test leads before replacing the battery or fuses.
- Inspect the condition of the test leads and the meter itself for any damage before operating the meter.
- Use great care when making measurements if the voltages are greater than 25 VAC rms or 35 VDC. These voltages are considered a shock hazard.
- Warning! This is a Class A device. This device can cause interference in residential areas.
- Always discharge capacitors and remove power from the device under test before performing Diode, Resistance or Continuity tests.
- Voltage checks on electrical outlets can be difficult and misleading because of the uncertainty of connection to the recessed electrical contacts. Other means should be used to ensure that the terminals are not "live".
- If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.
- This device must not be used by children. It contains hazardous objects as well as small parts that the children could swallow.
- Do not leave batteries and packing material lying around unattended; they can be dangerous to children.
- In the event that this device will be stored for an extended period of time, remove the batteries.
- Expired or damaged batteries can be hazardous to skin. Use suitable hand gloves in such cases.
- Do not short-circuit the battery. Do not place the battery near a fire.

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This meter has been designed for safe use, but must be operated with caution. The rules listed below must be carefully followed for safe operation.

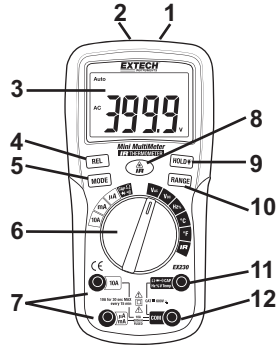
1. **NEVER** apply voltage or current to the meter that exceeds the specified maximum:

Input Protection Limits	
Function	Maximum Input
V AC/DC, Resistance, Capacitance, Frequency, Temperature, Duty Cycle, Diode Test, Continuity	600 VDC/AC rms
$\mu$ A or mA AC/DC	500mA fused
A AC/DC	10A fused

2. **USE EXTREME CAUTION** when working with high voltages.
3. **DO NOT** measure voltage if the voltage on the "COM" input jack exceeds 600V above earth ground.
4. **NEVER** connect the meter leads across a voltage source while the function switch is in the current, resistance, or diode mode. Doing so can damage the meter.
5. **ALWAYS** discharge filter capacitors in power supplies and disconnect the power when making resistance or diode tests.
6. **ALWAYS** turn off the power and disconnect the test leads before opening the covers to replace the fuse or batteries.
7. **NEVER** operate the meter unless the back cover and the battery and fuse covers are in place and fastened securely.
8. If the equipment is used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

## Controls and Jacks

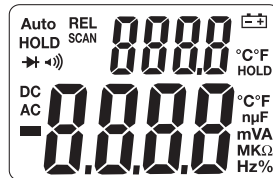
1. IR Thermometer
2. Laser Pointer
3. 4000 count LCD
4. MAX button
5. MODE button
6. FUNCTION switch
7. mA,  $\mu$ A and 10A input jacks
8. IR Thermometer button
9. HOLD button
10. RANGE button
11. Positive input jack
12. COM input jack



**Note:** Tilt stand, test lead holders, and battery compartment are on rear of unit.

## Symbols and Enunciators

$\llcorner$ )	Continuity
$\blacktriangleright$	Diode test
n	nano ( $10^{-9}$ ) (amps, cap)
$\mu$	micro ( $10^{-6}$ ) (amps, cap)
m	milli ( $10^{-3}$ ) (volts, amps, cap)
A	Amps
k	kilo ( $10^3$ ) (ohms, Hz)
M	mega ( $10^6$ ) (ohms, Hz)
$\Omega$	Ohms
V	Volts
AC	Alternating current
DC	Direct current
$^{\circ}$ F	Degrees Fahrenheit
$^{\circ}$ C	Degrees Centigrade
Hz	Frequency
F	Farad (Capacitance)
%	Duty Cycle
AUTO	Autoranging
HOLD	Display hold
SCAN	IR temperature and laser active



## Operating Instructions

**WARNING:** Risk of electrocution. High-voltage circuits, both AC and DC, are extremely dangerous and should be measured with great care.

1. ALWAYS turn the function switch to the **OFF** position when the meter is not in use.
2. If "OL" appears in the display during a measurement, the value exceeds the range you have selected. Change to a higher range.

### AC/DC VOLTAGE MEASUREMENTS

**CAUTION:** Do not measure DC voltages if a motor on the circuit is being switched ON or OFF. Large voltage surges may occur that can damage the meter.

1. Rotate the function switch to the **V** position.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate "**DC**" or "**AC**" on the display.
3. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead banana plug into the positive **V** jack.
4. Touch the black test probe tip to the negative side of the circuit. Touch the red test probe tip to the positive side of the circuit.
5. Read the voltage in the display.



### AC/DC CURRENT MEASUREMENTS

1. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate "**DC**" or "**AC**" on the display.
3. For current measurements up to 2000 $\mu$ A, set the function switch to the  **$\mu$ A** position and insert the red test lead banana plug into the  **$\mu$ A/mA** jack.
4. For current measurements up to 200 mA DC, set the function switch to the **mA** position and insert the red test lead banana plug into the  **$\mu$ A/mA** jack.
5. For current measurements up to 10A DC, set the function switch to the **10A** position and insert the red test lead banana plug into the **10A** jack.
6. Connect the test leads in series with the circuit under test.
7. Apply power to the circuit.
8. Read the current in the display.



## RESISTANCE MEASUREMENTS

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, disconnect power to the unit under test and discharge all capacitors before taking any resistance measurements. Remove the batteries and unplug the line cords.

1. Rotate the function switch to the  $\Omega$  position.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate  $\Omega$  on the display.
3. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead banana plug into the positive  $\Omega$  jack.
4. Touch the test probe tips across the device under test.
5. Read the resistance in the display.



## CAPACITANCE MEASUREMENTS

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, disconnect power to the unit under test and discharge all capacitors before taking measurements. Remove the batteries and unplug the line cords.

1. Rotate the function switch to the **CAP** position.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate **F** units the display.
3. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead banana plug into the positive **CAP** jack.
4. Touch the test probe tips across the device under test.
5. Read the capacitance in the display.



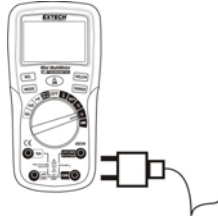
## FREQUENCY AND DUTY CYCLE MEASUREMENTS

1. Rotate the function switch to the **Hz%** position.
2. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack.
3. Insert the red test lead banana plug into the positive **Hz** jack.
4. Use the **MODE** button to select Hz or % (Duty Cycle)
5. Touch the test probe tips across the device under test.
6. Read the frequency or duty cycle in the display.






### CONTACT TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS (THERMOCOUPLE PROBE)

1. Rotate the function switch to the °F or °C position.
2. Insert the temperature probe adaptor into the negative **COM** jack and the positive **TEMP** jack (the adaptor is labeled plus + and minus -)
3. Touch the temperature probe tip to a surface or leave suspended in air.
4. Read the temperature in the display.






### CONTINUITY CHECK

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, never measure continuity on circuits or wires that have a voltage potential.

1. Rotate the function switch to the  position.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate  on the display.
3. Insert the black lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead banana plug into the positive  jack.
4. Touch the test probe tips to the circuit or wire you wish to check.
5. If the resistance is less than the continuity threshold, the audible signal will sound.



### DIODE TEST

1. Rotate the function switch to the green  position.
2. Press the **MODE** button to indicate " " and "**V**" on the display.
3. Insert the black test lead banana plug into the negative **COM** jack and the red test lead banana plug into the positive  jack.
4. Touch the test probes to the diode under test. Forward voltage will typically indicate 0.400 to 0.700V. Reverse voltage will indicate "**OL**". Shorted devices will indicate near 0V and an open device will indicate "**OL**" in both polarities.

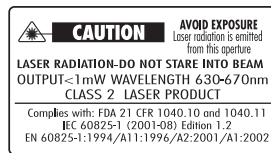




## NON-CONTACT INFRARED TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS

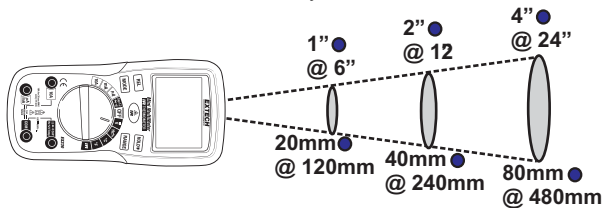
1. Rotate the function switch to the **IR** position. The upper right four digit temperature display will switch on.
2. Press the **MODE** button to select °F or °C.
3. Aim the infrared sensor (top of meter) at the surface to be measured.
4. Press and Hold the **IRT** button to turn on the IR thermometer and laser pointer. The laser pointer identifies the surface spot to be measured and "SCAN" will flash in the display.
5. Read the temperature in the display.
6. The area of the surface to be measured must be larger than the spot size as determined by the distance to spot size values listed in the specification table.
7. Release the **IRT** button to turn the IR thermometer and laser pointer off. "HOLD" and the final measured value will remain in the display.

**WARNING: Do not directly view or direct the laser pointer at an eye.** Low power visible lasers do not normally present a hazard, but may present some potential for hazard if viewed directly for extended periods of time.



### IR Spot to Distance Diagram

The 4:1 spot to distance ratio determines the size of the measured surface area with respect to the distance the meter is held away from the surface.



### IR Measurement Notes

1. The object under test should be larger than the spot (target) size calculated by the field of view diagram.
2. If the surface of the object under test is covered with frost, oil, grime, etc., clean before taking measurements.
3. If an object's surface is highly reflective, apply masking tape or flat black paint to the surface before measuring.
4. The meter will not make measurements through glass steam, dust, and smoke.
5. To find a hot spot, aim the meter outside the area of interest then scan across (in an up and down motion) until the hot spot is located.


### **AUTORANGING/MANUAL RANGE SELECTION**

When the meter is first switched on, it automatically enters the AutoRanging mode. This automatically selects the best range for the measurements being made and is generally the best mode for most measurements. For measurement situations requiring that a range be manually selected, perform the following:

1. Press the **RANGE** button. The “**AUTO**” display indicator will turn off.
2. Press the **RANGE** key to step through the available ranges until the range desired is selected.
3. Press and hold the **RANGE** button for 2 seconds to exit manual ranging.

**Note:** Manual ranging does not apply to the Temperature, Diode and Continuity functions.

### **DISPLAY BACKLIGHT**

Press and hold the IRT **HOLD**  button for 2 seconds to turn the backlight on. The backlight will automatically turn off after approximately 10 seconds or press and hold the button again for 2 seconds to manually turn it off.

### **HOLD**

The **HOLD** function freezes the reading in the display. Press the **HOLD** button momentarily to activate or to exit the **HOLD** function.

Note: The HOLD button does not function in the IR measurement mode.

### **AUTO SLEEP**

If no button is pressed the auto sleep feature will place the meter in sleep mode after approximately 30 minutes of operation. If this happens, press any button to wake the meter or switch the meter to OFF if it no longer in use.

## Maintenance

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, disconnect the test leads from any source of voltage before removing the back cover or the battery or fuse covers.

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, do not operate the meter until the battery and fuse covers are in place and fastened securely.

This MultiMeter is designed to provide years of dependable service, if the following care instructions are followed:

1. **KEEP THE METER DRY.** If it gets wet, wipe it off.
2. **USE AND STORE THE METER IN NORMAL TEMPERATURES.** Temperature extremes can shorten the life of the electronic parts and distort or melt plastic parts.
3. **HANDLE THE METER GENTLY AND CAREFULLY.** Dropping it can damage the electronic parts or the case.
4. **KEEP THE METER CLEAN.** Wipe the case occasionally with a damp cloth. DO NOT use chemicals, cleaning solvents, or detergents.
5. **USE ONLY FRESH BATTERIES OF THE RECOMMENDED SIZE AND TYPE.** Remove old or weak batteries so they do not leak and damage the unit.
6. **IF THE METER IS TO BE STORED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME,** the batteries should be removed to prevent damage to the unit.

### BATTERY and FUSE Replacement

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, disconnect the test leads from any source of voltage before removing the battery cover.

1. Turn power off and disconnect the test leads from the meter.
2. Open the rear battery/fuse compartment by removing the Phillips head screw on the lower rear of the meter. .
3. Pull down on the cover to release the latch and then lift it off.
4. Remove the old battery or fuse and install a new one of the correct rating.
5. Place the battery/fuse cover back in place. Secure with the screw.

**WARNING:** To avoid electric shock, do not operate the meter until the battery cover is in place and fastened securely.

**NOTE:** If the meter does not work properly, check the fuses and replace the battery to make sure that they are still good and that they are properly inserted.



You, as the end user, are legally bound (**Battery ordinance**) to return all used batteries and accumulators; **disposal in the household garbage is prohibited!**

You can hand over your used batteries / accumulators at collection points in your community or wherever batteries / accumulators are sold!

**Disposal:** Follow the valid legal stipulations in respect of the disposal of the device at the end of its lifecycle

## Specifications

Function	Range	Resolution	Accuracy
DC Voltage	400 mV	0.1 mV	$\pm(0.8\% \text{ reading} + 6 \text{ digits})$
	4V	0.001V	$\pm(0.5\% \text{ reading} + 2 \text{ digits})$
	40V	0.01V	
	400V	0.1V	$\pm(0.8\% \text{ reading} + 2 \text{ digits})$
	600V	1V	
AC Voltage	400 mV	0.1 mV	$\pm(1.0\% \text{ rdg} + 6 \text{ digits})$
	4V	0.001V	
	40V	0.01V	
	400V	0.1V	
	600V	1V	
	Note: All AC voltage ranges are specified from 5% of range to 100% of range		
DC Current	400 $\mu\text{A}$	0.1 $\mu\text{A}$	$\pm(1.5\% \text{ reading} + 5 \text{ digits})$
	4000 $\mu\text{A}$	1 $\mu\text{A}$	
	40 mA	0.01 mA	
	400 mA	0.1 mA	
	4.000	0.001 A	$\pm(2.5\% \text{ reading} + 5 \text{ digits})$
	10 A	0.01 A	
	Note: 10A for 30 sec max		
AC Current	400 $\mu\text{A}$	0.1 $\mu\text{A}$	$\pm(1.5\% \text{ rdg} + 5 \text{ digits})$
	4000 $\mu\text{A}$	1 $\mu\text{A}$	
	40 mA	0.01 mA	
	400 mA	0.1 mA	
	4.000	0.001 A	$\pm(3.0\% \text{ reading} + 5 \text{ digits})$
	10 A	0.01 A	
	Note: 10A for 30 sec max		

**NOTE:** Accuracy is stated at 18°C to 28°C (65°F to 83°F) and less than 75% RH.

Function	Range	Resolution	Accuracy
Resistance	400 Ω	0.1 Ω	±(0.8% reading + 5 digits)
	4 kΩ	0.001 kΩ	
	40 kΩ	0.01 kΩ	
	400 kΩ	0.1 kΩ	±(0.8% reading + 2 digits)
	4 MΩ	0.001 MΩ	
	40 MΩ	0.01 MΩ	
Capacitance	40.00 nF	10 pF	±(5.0% reading + 7 digits)
	400.0 nF	0.1 nF	
	4.000 μF	1 nF	
	40.00 μF	10 nF	
	100.0 μF	0.1 μF	
	Note: Auto ranging; Input protection 600Vdc and AC rms		
Frequency	5.000 Hz	0.001Hz	±(1.0% reading + 3 digits)
	50.00 Hz	0.01 Hz	
	500.0 Hz	0.1 Hz	
	5.000 kHz	1 Hz	
	50.00 kHz	10 Hz	
	500.0 kHz	100Hz	
	5.000 MHz	1kHz	±(1.2% reading + 4 digits)
	10.00 MHz	10kH	
	Notes: Sensitivity: >0.5V rms (≤1MHz); >3V rms (>1MHZ); Input protection: 600V dc or ac rms		
Duty Cycle	0.1 to 99.9%	0.1%	±(1.2% reading + 2 digits)
	Notes: Pulse width: >100 μS <100ms; Frequency: 5Hz to 150kHz; Sensitivity: <0.5V rms; Overload protect: 600V dc or ac rms		
Temperature	-4 to + 1400°F	0.1°F	±(3.0% reading +9°F)
	-20 to +760°C	0.1°C	±(3.0% reading + 5°C)
	Sensor: Thermocouple type 'K'; Overload protection: 600V dc or ac rms		
Temperature IR	-20 to 0°C	0.1°C/°F	±4°C
	0 to 93°C		±(2.0%rdg or 2°C)
	93 to 230		±(3.0%rdg or 3°C)
	-5 to 32°F		± 8°F
	32 to 200°F		±(2.0%rdg or 4°F)
	200 to 446°F		±(3.0%rdg or 6°F)

<b>Enclosure</b>	Double molded
<b>Diode Test</b>	Test current of 0.9mA maximum, open circuit voltage 2.8V DC typical
<b>Continuity</b>	Threshold 20 to 100Ω, test current <1.5mA
<b>Input Impedance</b>	10MΩ VDC/VAC
<b>AC Response</b>	Average responding
<b>ACV Bandwidth</b>	40Hz to 1000Hz
<b>IR Spectral response</b>	6 to 16μm
<b>IR Emissivity</b>	0.95 fixed
<b>IR distance ratio</b>	6:1
<b>Laser pointer</b>	Class 2 laser < 1mW power; Wavelength is 630 to 670nm
<b>Display</b>	4000 count backlit liquid crystal display
<b>Overrange indication</b>	"OL" is displayed
<b>Auto Power Off</b>	30 minutes (approximately)
<b>Polarity</b>	Automatic (no indication for positive); Minus (-) sign for negative
<b>Measurement Rate</b>	2 times per second, nominal
<b>Battery</b>	One 9 volt (NEDA 1604) battery
<b>Fuses</b>	mA, μA ranges; 500mA 250V ceramic fast blow A range; 10A 600V ceramic fast blow
<b>Operating Temperature</b>	-10°C to 40°C (14°F to 122°F)
<b>Storage Temperature</b>	-10°C to 60°C (14°F to 140°F)
<b>Operating Humidity</b>	Max 80% up to 31°C (87°F) decreasing linearly to 50% at 40°C (104°F)
<b>Storage Humidity</b>	<80%
<b>Operating Altitude</b>	2000 meters (7000 ft) maximum
<b>Weight</b>	260 g (9.17oz)
<b>Size</b>	147x76x42 mm (5.8x2.9x1.6")
<b>Safety</b>	This meter is intended for origin of installation use and provides user protection through double insulation per IEC/EN 61010-1:2001 and IEC/EN 61010-031:2002 to Category III 600V; Pollution Degree 2.
<b>Approvals</b>	CE, ETL

**Copyright © 2010 Extech Instruments Corporation (a FLIR company)**  
All rights reserved including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.