

Clamp Meters

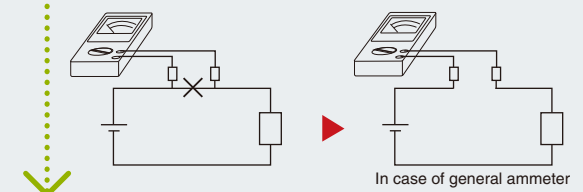
What is Clamp Meter?

Clamp meters are convenient measuring instruments that allow the measurement of current simply by clamping a wire while being energized without cutting a circuit. In cases of measurement by a multimeter and digital multimeter, the circuit must be cut to measure current. In contrast, with a clamp meter, current can be measured simply by clamping a live wire over its sheath. In addition to its simple operation, it allows safe measurement of a higher current (Use a type for higher current measurement such as DCM2000AD) since it is not directly connected to the circuit.

Like a multimeter and insulation resistance tester, there are analog and digital types of clamp meters. The measuring range is typically about 20A to 200A or 400A both for DC and AC. As a special type, there are products allowing for the measurement of a higher current of 2,000A. Some types are also available to allow measurements of fine current of few milliamps for the purpose of detecting leakage current. Others allow the measurement by true RMS values for measurement of current of distorted AC waveforms other than of sine waves, for inverter power supply and switching power supply.

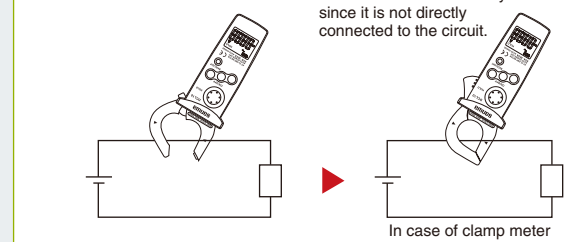
Measurement by multimeter

Cut the wiring on the circuit and connect a multimeter in series with the circuit.



Measurement by clamp meter

Simply clamp the wiring, and current can be measured in safety since it is not directly connected to the circuit.



Four key points in choosing a suitable model

1. What are objects to be measured?

Models to be chosen differ depending on what you intend to measure, AC current, DC current or leakage current.

2. Measurable conductor sizes

A wide range of sizes are available from 21mm to 53mm in diameter according to measurable conductor sizes and measuring places.

3. Is true RMS measurement required?

A clamp meter of the mean-value type cannot provide accurate results in the measurement of an inverter circuit and a motor circuit having many distortions. To make measurements for such circuits, a clamp meter of the true RMS type is required.

4. Other functions

Other types are available featuring a tester function and recorder output function in addition to current measurement.

True RMS measurement

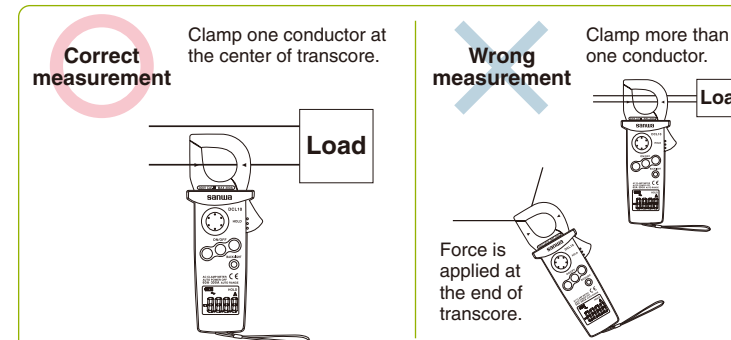
A clamp meter of the mean value type detects the mean value of sine waves in AC measurement, multiplies the value 1.11 times (sine wave AC) and indicates it as the effective value. It even indicates the waveform of a distorted wave and the non-sine wave with different form factors in values multiplied 1.11 times, so indication errors occur as a result. For these measurements, use a clamp meter of the true RMS type that detects and indicates the true RMS value itself. DCL20R (digital)

Measurement of leakage current

Unlike ordinary current measurement, it is required to clamp all two wires (two-wire single-phase) or three wires (three-wire single-phase or three-wire three-phase) for measuring leakage current. The earthing wire also can be measured.

Measuring method by clamp meter

For measuring current using a clamp meter, clamp one conductor (wire) to be measured. If two wires (parallel lines) are clamped, current measurement cannot be made. Take a measurement at the center of the core of the clamped portion to minimize measuring errors. A line separator is conveniently used in measuring the consumption current of home electric appliances. There are line separators that can amplify measured current 10 times to allow measurement by amplifying current lower than 1A. When DC current (DCA) is measured using a clamp meter for DC current, the current is indicated in a negative value (-) when the direction of the current is reversed. By using this function, you can know whether your car battery is at the state of charge or discharge.



Measurement by clamp meter

