

User Manual

1000 A AC True RMS Clamp Meter with IR Thermometer

MODEL EX820A

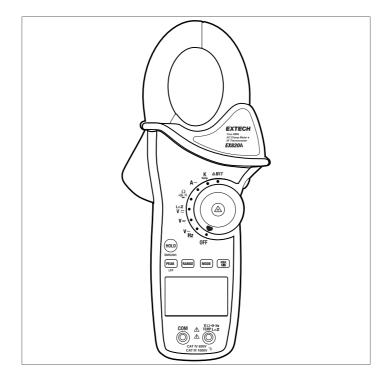


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1 Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the Extech EX820A CAT IV True RMS Clamp Meter. This meter measures AC Current, AC/DC Voltage, Resistance/ Continuity, Capacitance, Diode, Frequency, and Temperature (Type K and non-contact IR).

The double molded case is designed for heavy duty use. This meter is shipped fully tested and calibrated and, with proper use, will provide years of reliable service.

2.1 Safety Notes

- Do not exceed the maximum input range for any function (see table in Section 2.3).
- Do not apply voltage to the meter when the resistance, capacitance, or diode functions are selected.
- Set the function switch OFF when the meter is not in use.

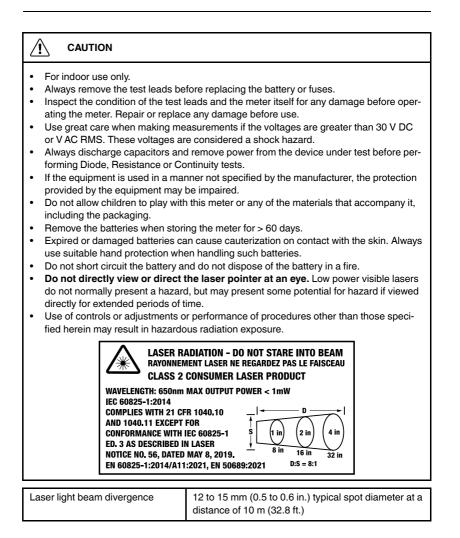
2.2 International Safety Symbols

	This symbol, adjacent to another symbol or terminal, indicates that the user must refer to the manual for further information.
Â	This symbol, adjacent to a terminal, indicates that, under normal use, hazardous voltages may be present
	Double insulation.
WARNING	Warnings indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.
CAUTION	Cautions indicate a potentially hazardous situation, which if not avoided, may result in damage to the product.

WARNING

<u>/</u>

- Improper use of this meter can cause damage, shock, injury or death. Read and understand this user manual before operating the meter.
- Set the function switch to the appropriate position before measuring.
- When measuring voltage do not switch to the current or resistance modes.
- Do not measure current on a circuit whose voltage exceeds 600 V.
- When changing ranges, always disconnect the test leads from the circuit under test.
- 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'.
- Do not place or use the device in strong direct sunlight for extended periods.



2.3 Maximum Input Ranges

Function	Maximum Input	
AC Current	1000 A AC	
AC/DC Voltage	1000 V AC/DC	
AC/DC Voltage (LoZ)	600 V AC/DC	
Resistance, Capacitance, Frequency, Diode	250 V AC/DC	
Type K Temperature	60 V DC, 24 V AC	

2.4 FCC Compliance

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- 1. Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- 2. Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- 3. Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- 4. Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

WARNING

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Product Description

3.1 Meter Front

- 1. Current clamp jaws
- 2. Clamp opening trigger
- 3. Backlight button
- 4. Function switch
- 5. Laser pointer button
- 6. Control buttons (Section 3.1)
- 7. Backlit LCD (Section 3.4)
- 8. Negative test lead probe jack
- 9. Positive test lead probe jack

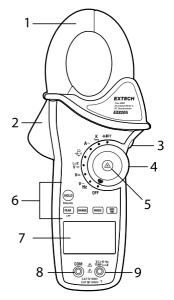


Figure 3.1 Meter Front.

3.2 Meter Back

- 1. Laser pointer lens
- 2. IR temperature lens
- 3. Battery and fuse compartment
- 4. Compartment screw

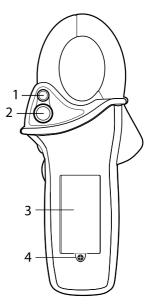


Figure 3.2 Meter Back.

3.3 Button Descriptions

	With the function switch set to the IRT position, press and hold to scan surfaces with the laser pointer, and measure IR temperature. Release the button to switch off.
÷	LCD backlight button (located on the right side of meter). Press to switch the backlight on or off. The backlight switches off automatically after 3 minutes.
HOLD	Data Hold button. Short press to freeze/unfreeze the display reading. Inrush current button: Long press to enable the inrush current circuit when measuring AC current.
PEAK LPF	Peak Mode: Short press to show/hide the measured current's signal peak. Low Pass Filter (LPF): Long press to engage or remove the low pass filter, for AC voltage measurements.
RANGE	Short press this button to switch to the manual range, and then to step through the available ranges. Long press to return to the Auto range mode.
MODE	Short press to select an alternate mode for the function in use. For example, use MODE to select AC or DC when measuring voltage.
	Maximum and Minimum Readings: Short press to toggle the MAX and MIN measurements. Long press again to exit the mode.

3.4 Display Icon Descriptions

HOLD	Data Hold	Α	Amperes (Current)
Ú	Auto Power OFF (APO)	F	Farads (Capacitance)
AUTO	Automatic Range	Hz	Hertz (Frequency)
	Peak Max and Peak Min	LoZ	Low impedance voltage measurements
DC	Direct Current	°C / °F	Temperature units
AC	Alternating Current	n, m, μ, M, k	Unit of measure prefixes
МАХ	Maximum reading	•)))	Continuity test
MIN	Minimum reading	*	Diode test
₽ ₽	Low battery	\mathbf{k}	Laser pointer
mV / V	Millivolts and Volts	LPF	Low pass filter
Ω	Ohms (Resistance)	INRUSH	Inrush Current mode

4 Meter Power

The meter is powered by one (1) 9 V battery. The battery compartment is located on the back of the meter.

The APO feature switches the meter OFF after approximately 30 minutes of inactivity.

When the battery power is critically low, the battery icon 🖨 appears. Replace the battery when this icon appears. See the Maintenance section for battery replacement instructions.

4.1 Automatic Power Off (APO)

To conserve battery life, the meter automatically switches off after approximately 15 minutes. To turn the meter on again, turn the function switch to the OFF position and then to the desired function position.

To disable the APO, follow the steps below.

- 1. From the **OFF** position, hold the **MODE** button and rotate the function switch to a measurement function.
- 2. The meter will beep four times, release the **MODE** button.
- 3. APO is now disabled (APO icon switches off).
- When the function switch is turned to the OFF position, APO is again enabled (default).

NOTE

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Read and understand all Warning and Caution statements in this user manual prior to use. Set the function switch to the OFF position when the meter is not in use.

5.1 Automatic and Manual Range

In the voltage, resistance, capacitance, and frequency modes, the meter automatically selects the optimum range. To use manual range mode, follow the steps below.

- 1. Press the RANGE button. The AUTO display icon will switch off.
- 2. Now use the **RANGE** button to step through the available ranges.
- 3. To return to the automatic mode, long press the **RANGE** key for 2 seconds. The **AUTO** icon will reappear.

5.2 LCD Backlight

The LCD is equipped with backlighting for easier viewing, especially in dimly lit areas. Short press the backlight button (right side of meter) to switch the backlight on or off. The backlight automatically switches off after 3 minutes.

5.3 Maximum and Minimum Readings

- 1. Press the **MAX/MIN** button. The **MAX** display icon will appear, and the meter will display the highest reading. The display will only update when a higher reading is measured.
- Press the MAX/MIN button again. The MIN display icon will appear, and the meter will display the lowest reading. The display will only update when a lower reading is measured.
- 3. To exit the mode, long press the MAX/MIN button for 2 seconds.

5.4 Data Hold

To freeze the displayed reading, press the **HOLD** button, the **HOLD** icon will appear. Press the **HOLD** button to return to normal operation.

5.5 AC Current Clamp Measurements

WARNING

Disconnect the test leads before making clamp measurements.

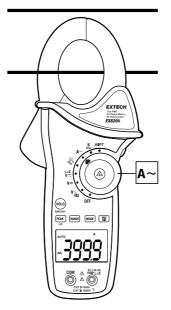


Figure 5.1 AC current clamp measurements. Clamp only one conductor, as shown.

- 1. Rotate the function switch to the A position.
- Press the trigger to open jaw. Fully enclose only **one** conductor as shown in Figure 5.1.
- 3. Read the current value on the display.

5.5.1 Polarity Considerations

When measuring from front to back on the EX820A, a minus (-) sign will precede the displayed reading. When measuring from back to front, a positive (+) sign will precede the displayed reading.

5.5.2 Peak Max and Peak Min

When measuring AC current, press the **PEAK** button to activate the peak capture circuit. The display icon **PMAX** will appear and the display will show the

measured signal's positive peak. Press the **PEAK** button again to step to the **DMIN** mode, the display will now show the negative peak. Press the **PEAK** button again to exit this mode.

5.5.3 Inrush AC Current Measurements

When measuring AC current you can capture inrush current.

- 1. Long press the **INRUSH** button for 2 seconds to activate the inrush current feature. **INRUSH** will appear on the display.
- 2. Switch on the circuit under test and view the inrush current reading on the display.
- 3. To exit the inrush mode, long press the **INRUSH** button for 2 seconds.

5.6 AC/DC Voltage and LoZ Measurements



Do not measure voltage if a motor on the circuit is being switched on or off. Large voltage surges may occur that can damage the meter.

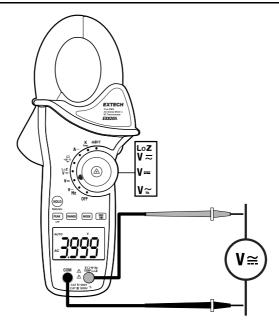


Figure 5.2 AC/DC Voltage measurement test setup.

- 1. Rotate the function switch to one of the **V** positions. The three selections are explained below.
 - LoZ AC/DC Voltage: Engage the low impedance circuit (for eliminating ghost voltages).
 - DC Voltage DC
 - AC Voltage and Frequency
- In the LoZ mode, short Press the MODE button to select AC or DC Voltage. In the Voltage AC mode, long press MODE to view/hide the frequency of the AC signal.

- 3. Insert the black test lead plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead 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 value in the display.

5.6.1 Peak Max and Peak Min

When measuring voltage, press the **PEAK** button to activate the peak capture circuit. The display icon **DMAX** will appear and the display will show the measured signal's positive peak. Press the **PEAK** button again to step to the **DMN** mode, the display will now show the negative peak. Press the **PEAK** button again to exit this mode.

5.6.2 Low Pass Filter Function

When measuring AC voltage you can introduce a low pass filter into the measurement circuit. This allows you to safely measure voltage on variable frequency drives (VFD), and other such devices. Follow the steps above to set up a test, and continue with the steps below.

- 1. When measuring AC voltage, long press the LPF button for 2 seconds to activate the low pass filter. LPF will appear on the display.
- 2. The low pass filter is now active, read the voltage on the display.
- 3. Long press the LPF button for 2 seconds to exit.

5.7 Resistance Measurements



Remove power from the device under test before making resistance measurements.

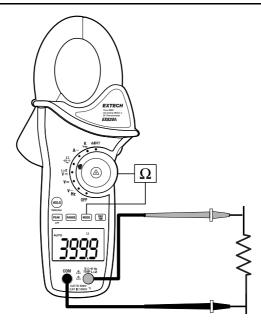


Figure 5.3 Resistance measurement test setup.

- 1. Set the function switch to the Ω position.
- 2. If the resistance mode is not selected, use the MODE button to select it.
- 3. Insert the black test lead plug into the negative **COM** jack. Insert the red test lead plug into the positive Ω jack.
- 4. Touch the black test probe tip to one side of the device. Touch the red test probe tip to the other side of the device.
- 5. Read the resistance value in the display.

5.8 Continuity Test



Remove power from the device under test before making continuity measurements.

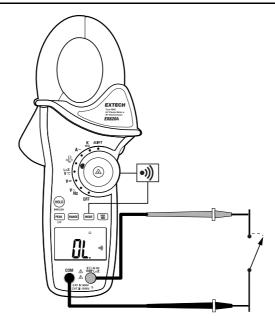


Figure 5.4 Continuity test setup. In the figure, the circuit is open, so the display shows OL. If the switch is closed, the circuit would be shorted and the meter's audible beeper would sound.

- 1. Set the function switch to the •) position.
- 2. Press the MODE button to select the continuity mode.
- 3. Touch the test probe tips across the circuit or component under test.
- 4. View the resistance measurement on the display.
- 5. If the resistance is $< 50 \Omega$, a steady tone will sound. **OL** will display if the circuit is open or the measurement is out of range.

5.9 Diode Test



Remove power from the device under test before making diode measurements.

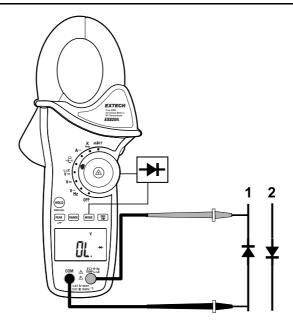


Figure 5.5 Diode test setup. Take a measurement in both positions (1 and 2) as shown in the figure. Follow the instruction in this section to interpret the test results.

- 1. Set the function switch to the → position.
- 2. Press the **MODE** button to select the diode test mode.
- 3. Touch the test probe tips across the diode or semiconductor junction under test. Note the meter reading.
- 4. Reverse polarity by reversing the red and black lead tips. Note this reading.

5. The diode or junction can be evaluated as follows.

If one reading is 0.400 V to 0.900 V, and the other reading is $\ensuremath{\text{OL}}$, then the diode is good.

If both readings are **OL** the device is bad (open).

If both readings are very low or zero, the device is bad (shorted).

5.10 Capacitance Measurements



To avoid electric shock, discharge the capacitor before measuring.

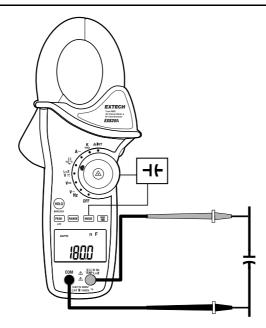


Figure 5.6 Capacitance test setup.

- 1. Rotate the function switch to the capacitance position H-.
- 2. Use the **MODE** button to select the capacitance function.
- 3. Insert the black test lead plug into the negative COM jack.
- 4. Insert the red test lead plug into the positive jack.
- 5. Touch the black test probe tip to one side of the device. Touch the red test probe tip to the other side of the device.
- 6. Read the capacitance value in the display.

CAUTION

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For large capacitors, allow sufficient time for readings to stabilize.

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5.11 Type K Thermocouple Temperature Measurements

The supplied thermocouple is rated for 250° C (482° F) maximum. If a higher temperature range is needed, acquire a suitably rated thermocouple. If a higher temperature is measured with the supplied probe, damage to the thermocouple and meter is possible.

For an open input, the meter will display dashes (- - -). For temperature over-range, the meter will display **OL**.

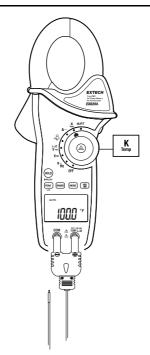


Figure 5.7 Thermocouple temperature test setup.

- 1. Rotate the function switch to the **K TEMP** position.
- 2. Press the MODE button to select °F or °C.
- 3. Insert the temperature probe into the test lead jacks.
- 4. Touch the temperature probe tip to the surface under test.
- 5. Read the temperature measurement on the display.

5.12 Non-Contact IR Temperature Measurements

Do not directly view or point the laser 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.

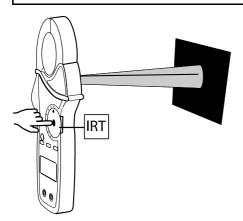


Figure 5.8 IR Temperature measurements. Press the IRT button to activate the thermometer and laser pointer. Release the button to switch off.

- 1. Rotate the function switch to the IRT position.
- 2. Press and hold the laser button A and aim the laser pointer toward the surface to be measured.
- 3. Read the surface temperature measurement in the display.
- 4. Long press the **MODE** button to toggle °F and °C temperature units.
- 5. The area of the surface to be measured must be larger than the measurement spot size (to avoid measuring surrounding surfaces). The measurement spot size depends on the distance the meter is from the target. See the Distance to Spot ratio section, next, for more information.

5.12.1 Distance to Spot Ratio

The meter has an 8:1 distance to spot ratio. For example, at a distance of 8 cm from the spot, the spot size is 1 cm. The size of the measurement spot changes as the meter's distance from the spot changes, as shown in Figure 5.13, below.

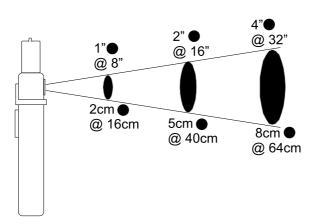


Figure 5.9 Distance to Spot Ratio 8:1.

5.12.2 IR Measurement Considerations

- If the surface of the object under test is covered with frost, oil, grime, etc., clean the area before taking measurements.
- If an object's surface is highly reflective, apply masking tape or flat black paint to the surface before measuring.
- Accurate measurements are difficult to make on transparent surfaces, such as glass.
- Steam, dust, smoke, etc. can obscure measurements.
- 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.

To avoid electrical shock, disconnect the meter from the circuit under test, remove the test leads from the input terminals, and turn the function switch to the OFF position, before opening the case. Do not operate the meter with an open case.

6.1 Cleaning and Storage

Periodically wipe the case with a damp cloth and mild detergent; do not use abrasives or solvents. If the meter is not to be used for 60 days or more, remove the battery and store it separately.

6.2 Battery Replacement

- 1. Remove the Phillips head screw that secures the rear battery door.
- 2. Replace the 9 V battery.
- 3. Secure the battery compartment before use.

6.2.1 Battery Safety

- Please dispose of batteries responsibly; observe local, state, and national regulations.
- Never dispose of batteries in a fire; batteries may explode or leak.

7 Specifications

-			
Display	6000 count (3-5/6 digits) backlit LCD		
Clamp jaw opening	43 mm (1.7 in.) approximately		
Over-range indication	OL display		
Battery power	One (1) 9 V battery (NEDA 1604)		
Low battery indication	Battery symbol 🗈 is displayed		
Auto Power Off (APO)	After approximately 15 minutes of inactivity		
Operating temperature	0 to 50°C (32 to 122°F)		
Operating humidity	Max 80% RH up to 31°C (87°F) decreasing linearly to 50% at 40°C (104°F)		
Storage temperature	-20 to 60°C (-4° to 140°F)		
Storage humidity	< 80% RH		
Operating altitude	2000 m (7000 ft.) maximum		
Dimensions	270 x 110 x 50 mm (10.6 x 4.3 x 2.0 in.)		
Weight	362 g (12.8 oz.)		
Safety	Meter: Over-voltage Category IV 600 V, Category III 1000 V, Pollution Degree 2 Test leads: Over-voltage Category IV 600 V, Category III 1000 V		
Agency approvals	ETL, CE, UKCA		

7.1 General Specifications

•	
Measurement rate	3 readings per second, nominal
Input impedance	10 M Ω (Voltage AC/DC); 2.5 to 3.5 k Ω in LoZ mode.
AC bandwidth	50 to 1000 Hz (AC voltage); 50/60 Hz (AC current)
AC response	True RMS (AC voltage and current)
Supplied Thermocouple	Type K; rated 250°C (482°F) maximum
Peak detector	> 1 ms

7.2 Electrical Specifications

Function	Range	Resolution	Accuracy (% of reading	
			+ digits)	
AC Current	600.0 A	0.1 A	±(2.5% + 8 digits)	
50/60 Hz	1000 A	1.0 A	±(2.8% + 5 digits)	
True RMS				
AC Voltage	600.0 mV	0.1 mV	±(1.0% + 10 digits)	
50/60 Hz	6.000 V	0.001 V	±(1.5% + 5 digits)	
True RMS	60.00 V	0.01 V		
	600.0 V	0.1 V		
	1000 V	1.0 V	±(2.0% + 5 digits)	
DC Voltage	600.0 mV	0.1 mV	±(0.8% + 2 digits)	
	6.0000 V	0.0001 V	±(1.5% + 2 digits)	
	60.000 V	0.001 V		
	600.0 V	0.1 V		
	1000 V	1.0 V	±(2.0% + 2 digits)	
LoZ AC/DC	6.000 V	0.001 V	±(3.0% + 30 digits)	
Voltage	60.00 V	0.01 V		
	600.0 V	0.1 V		
	Input impedance varies	Input impedance varies from 2.5 to 3.5 $k\Omega$ in LoZ mode.		
Resistance	600.0 Ω	0.1 Ω	±(1.0% + 4 digits)	
	6.000 kΩ	0.001 kΩ	±(1.5% + 2 digits)	
	60.00kΩ	0.01 kΩ		
	600.0 kΩ	0.1 kΩ		
	6.000 MΩ	0.001 MΩ	±(2.5% + 3 digits)	
	60.00 MΩ	0.01MΩ	±(3.5% + 5 digits)	
Continuity	Threshold 50 Ω (test cu	Threshold 50 Ω (test current: < 0.9 mA		
Diode	Test current: 1.5 mA, typical; Open circuit voltage: 3.2 V DC, typical			

7.3 Measurement Specifications

Capacitance	6.000 nF	0.001 nF	±(5.0% + 30 digits)	
	60.00 nF	0.001 nF	±(5.0% + 20 digits)	
	600.0 nF	0.1 nF	±(3.0% + 5 digits)	
	6.000 μF	0.001 μF		
	60.00 μF	0.01 μF		
	600.0 μF	0.1 μF	±(4.0% + 10 digits)	
	6.000 mF	0.001 mF	±(10.0% + 10 digits)	
	40.00 mF	0.01 mF		
Frequency	9.999 Hz	0.001 Hz	±(1.5% + 2 digits)	
(VAC)	99.99 Hz	0.01 Hz		
	999.9 Hz	0.1 Hz		
	9.999 kHz	0.001 kHz		
	99.99 kHz	0.01 kHz		
	Sensitivity: 100 V (< 50 Hz); 50 V (50 to 400 Hz); 5 V (401 Hz to 4 kHz)			
Temperature	-20 to 760°C (-4 to	0.1° < 1000°	± (3.0 % + 5°C [9°F])	
(Туре К)	1400°F)	1° > 1000°		
	The supplied thermocoup higher temperature range mocouple. If a higher tem probe, damage to the the	is needed, acqui perature is meas	ire a suitably rated ther- ured with the supplied	
Specification does not include probe accuracy		асу		
Temperature (IR)	-50 to -20°C (-58 to -4°F)	0.1°	± 5°C (9°F)	
	-20 to 270°C (-4 to 518°F)		±2% of reading or ±2°C (3°F) whichever is greater	

7.4 IR Thermometer Specifications

IR Spectral Response	6 to 16 μm
IR Emissivity	0.95 (fixed)
IR Distance to Spot ratio	8:1
Laser pointer	Class 2 laser < 1 mW power; Wavelength: 630 to 670 nm

8 Customer Support

Customer Support Local Telephone List: https://support.flir.com/contact Returns (RMA): https://customer.flir.com/Home

9 Warranty

Teledyne FLIR warrants this Extech brand instrument to be free of defects in parts and workmanship for two years from date of shipment. To view the full warranty text, please visit the support site, link below.

https://www.flir.com/support-center/warranty/

Manufacturer Address:

Teledyne FLIR Commercial Systems, Inc.

10F, No. 57, Zhouzi Street, NeiHu District

Taipei City, 114676, Taiwan



Website

http://www.flir.com

Customer support http://support.flir.com

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