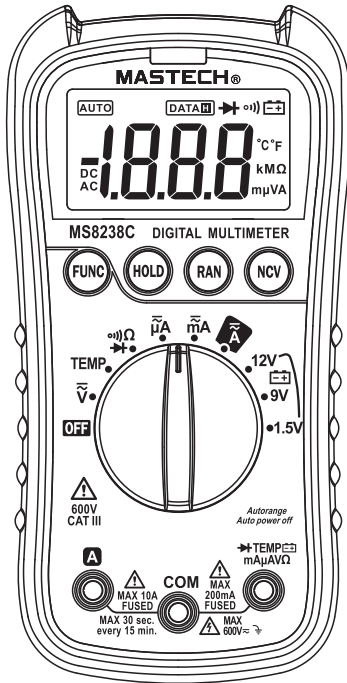


# MASTECH® MS8238C

## Digital Multimeter User's Manual



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## 1. Overview

### Warning

**To avoid electrical shock or personal injury, please read all safety information, warnings and precautions before using the meter.**

The MS8238C is a small, safe and reliable 3 ½ digit handheld auto ranging multimeter. This meter can measure AC/DC voltage, AC/DC current, resistance, capacitance, diode, continuity, battery test, temperature and non-contact voltage tests. This tool is ideal for professionals and hobbyists alike.

## 2. Safety Information


### 2.1 Safety Standards

The MS8238C meets standards for CAT.III 600V installations and a pollution degree of 2.










- The protection provided by the meter can only be ensured if all safety procedures are strictly followed.
- The safety symbols on the meter are to advise of potential dangerous situations. Caution is required when measuring close to the meter's safety limits.
- Never exceed the protection limit values indicated in the specifications for each range of measurement.

### 2.2 Precautions

- To avoid electrical shock or personal injury, observe and follow all safety precautions
- Check the meter for damage before use. Do not use if any damage is observed.
- Check the test leads for cracks or exposed wires before using the meter. Replace if necessary.

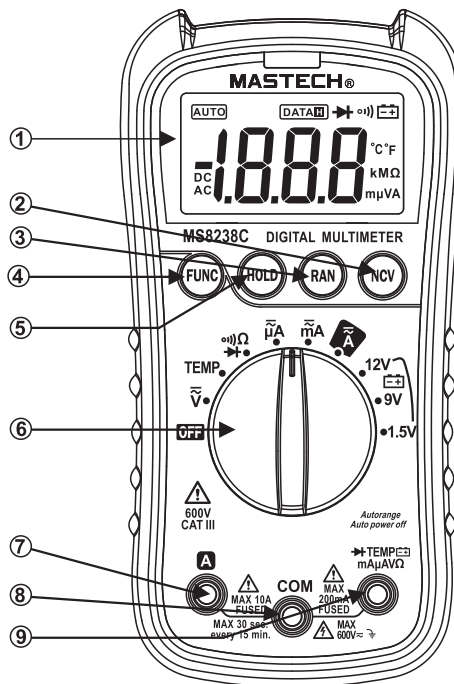
- Ensure the meter works properly by testing a known voltage source first. If not working properly, the protective equipment may be damaged; have the meter serviced before using.
- Never measure voltages that may exceed the protection limit indicated on the meter.
- Always be careful when working with voltages above 60V dc or 30V ac rms. Keep fingers behind the probe barriers when making voltage measurements.
- Make sure the test leads are in the correct input jacks before measurement.
- Do not expose the meter to explosive gas, dust or vapor.
- When connecting the test leads to a measurement circuit, connect the common lead first, then the live lead. Reverse when disconnecting.
- Turn off power to circuit and discharge all capacitors before making resistance, continuity or diode measurements.
- In order to avoid incorrect DC voltage readings, check the circuit for AC voltage first, then put the meter in the appropriate DC voltage range.
- Turn off circuit power and check fuses before connect the leads when measuring current. Turn circuit power on after making connection.
- Never use the meter unless the back cover is in place and fastened securely.
- When the low battery indicator " is displayed, replace the battery. The accuracy of the meter cannot be guaranteed while the low battery indicator is on.
- Before opening the case, always disconnect test leads from all energized circuits.
- For continued protection against fire, replace fuse only with the specified voltage and current ratings listed in the manual.

## 2.3 Electrical Symbols

	Important safety information
	AC (Alternating Current)
	DC (Direct Current)
	AC or DC
	Complies with European Union(EU)regulations
	High risk
	Ground
	Double Insulation
	Fuse

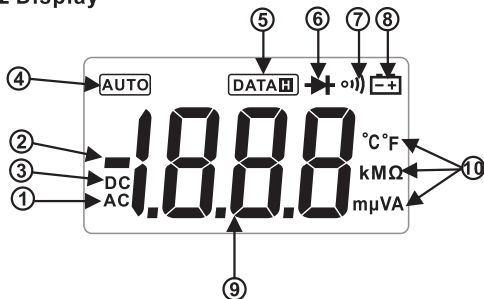
## 3 Description and Usage

### 3.1 Front Panel



- 1.LCD display
- 2.Non-contact voltage (NCV) button
- 3.Range button
- 4.Function button
- 5.Data hold button
- 6.Rotary switch
- 7.10A input jack
- 8.Common jack
- 9.Input jack (all functions except current greater than 200mA)

## 3.2 Display



- 1.AC (alternating current)
- 2.Polarity indicator
- 3.DC (direct current)
- 4.Auto range
- 5.Data hold
- 6.Diode measurement
- 7.Continuity measurement
- 8.Low battery indicator
- 9.Reading display
- 10.Measurement units

## 3.3 Button Functions

### FUNC button:

- Press “FUNC” to switch between AC/DC or between functions.

### HOLD button:

- Press “HOLD” to keep the current reading on screen. “DATA H” symbol will appear on the display.
- Press “HOLD” again to release the hold.

### RAN button:

- Press “RAN” to switch to manual range. Each press of the button will switch to the next highest range, until reaching the highest range where it will switch to the lowest range.
- Hold “RAN” to return to auto range.

### NCV button:

- Hold the “NCV” button down in any mode and the meter will activate the non-contact voltage detection.
- Hold the meter up to a voltage source and the buzzer will sound and the NCV indicator will light up if voltage is detected.
- Release the “NCV” button to stop NCV detection.

## 3.4 Auto Power Off Function

- After 15 minutes of non-use the meter will automatically turn itself off.
- To turn the meter back on, press any button or turn the rotary switch to any position.
- To deactivate the auto power off function, hold down “HOLD” when turning on the meter.

## 4. Operating Instructions

### 4.1 AC/DC voltage measurement

- Set the rotary switch to the AC/DC voltage position.
- Press “**FUNC**” to switch between AC and DC voltage.
- Connect the red test lead to the input jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Connect the leads to the circuit under test and read the measurement on the display. Observe polarity for DC measurements. If “OL” is display, it means the measurement has exceeded the current range. Move the rotary switch to a higher range.

#### Warning

**Do not measure voltages higher than 600V DC or ACrms to prevent damage to the meter or personal injury**

### 4.2 AC/DC current measurement from a resistors

- AC/DC current measurement
- Turn off power to the circuit. Allow all capacitors to discharge.
- Set the rotary switch to the appropriate AC/DC current range.
- Press “**FUNC**” to switch between AC and DC current.
- Depending on the current to be measured, connect the red test lead to either the input or 10A jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Break the circuit and connect the leads in series with the circuit (black lead on the lower voltage side).
- Turn circuit power on and read the measurement on the display. If “OL” is display, it means the measurement has exceeded the current range. Move the rotary switch to a higher range.

#### Warning

**Never measure open-circuit voltages exceeding 600V between the input terminals and ground to prevent injury or damage to the meter**

#### Warning

**Check fuses before making current measurements. Make sure to use correct input jacks to prevent damage to the meter.**

### 4.3 Resistance measurement

- Turn off power to the circuit. Allow all capacitors to discharge.
- Set the rotary switch to the multi-function position. The default function is resistance.
- Connect the red test lead to the input jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Connect the leads to the circuit under test and read the measurement on the display.

#### **Tips for measuring resistance:**

- In-circuit resistance is usually different from a resistors rating due to the fact that the meter’s test current flows in parallel with the circuit.
- For increased accuracy when measuring low resistances, short the test leads, record the value displayed, then connect the leads to the circuit and subtract the shorted value from the circuit measurement.
- When the leads are disconnected from the circuit under test, “OL” will be displayed on the screen.

#### Warning

**To prevent injury or damage to the meter, turn off power to circuit and discharge all capacitors fully before making resistance measurements.**

## 4.4 Continuity measurement

- Turn off power to the circuit. Allow all capacitors to discharge.
- Set the rotary switch to the multi-function position. Press "**FUNC**" twice to enter continuity mode.
- Connect the red test lead to the input jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Connect the leads to the circuit under test. If the measured resistance is less than  $30\Omega$ , the buzzer will sound.

### Warning

**To prevent injury or damage to the meter, turn off power to circuit and discharge all capacitors fully before making continuity measurements.**

## 4.5 Diode test

- Turn off power to the circuit. Allow all capacitors to discharge.
- Set the rotary switch to the multi-function position. Press "**FUNC**" once to enter diode mode.
- Connect the red test lead to the input jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Connect the red test lead to the anode (+) and the black lead to the cathode (-) of the diode and read the measurement on the display. The meter will display "OL" if the connection is reversed.

### Warning

**To prevent injury or damage to the meter, turn off power to circuit and discharge all capacitors fully before making diode measurements.**

## 4.6 Battery test

- Set the rotary switch to the appropriate battery test range.
- Connect the red test lead to the input jack and the black lead to the COM jack.
- Connect the red test lead to the positive (+) end and the black lead to the negative (-) end of the battery and read the measurement on the display.

### Warning

**To prevent injury or damage to the meter, do not connect the meter to a battery with a voltage rating exceeding 60V AC or 30V DC**

## 4.7 Temperature measurement

- Set the rotary switch to the temperature position. Press "**FUNC**" to switch between Celsius and Fahrenheit.
- Connect the positive end of the K-type thermocouple to the input jack and the negative end to the COM jack.
- Place the tip of the thermocouple to the surface of the object to be tested and read the measurement on the display.

### Warning

**To avoid injury or damage to the meter, do not move the rotary switch to the temperature position while measuring voltages exceeding 30V**

## 5. Specifications

### 5.1 General Specifications

Function	Range
Safety Rating	CAT III,600V; pollution degree: II
Operating Altitude	<2000m
Operating Temperature/ Humidity	0~40°C, <80% RH
Storage Temperature/ Humidity	-10~60°C, <70% RH, remove battery
Temperature coefficient	0.1xaccuracy/°C (>18°C or <28°C)
Max. Input between terminals and earth ground	600V DC or AC rms
Fuse Protection	µA/mA ranges: F 250mA/600V 10A range: F 10A/600V
Sample Rate	Approx. 3 times/sec.
Display	3 ½ digit LCD display
Overload Indication	Display shows "OL"
Low Battery Indication	When battery voltage drops below normal operating voltage, "⊕" is shown on the display
Polarity Indication	Display automatically displays "-"
Power Source	1x 9V battery

### 5.2 Technical Specifications

Accuracy: ±(% of reading + digits) at 18°C~28°C with a relative humidity of <80%; guaranteed for a period of one year.

#### 5.2.1 DC Voltage

Measuring range	Resolution	Accuracy
200mV	0.1mV	±(0.5% of reading +3 digits)
2V	0.001V	
20V	0.01V	
200V	0.1V	
600V	1V	±(0.8% of reading +3 digits)

Input impedance: 10MΩ

Max. input voltage: 600V DC or AC rms.

#### 5.2.2 AC Voltage

Measuring range	Resolution	Accuracy
2V	0.001V	±(0.5% of reading +5 digits)
20V	0.01V	
200V	0.1V	
600V	1V	±(1.0% of reading +5 digits)

Input impedance: 10MΩ

Max. input voltage: 600V DC or AC rms.

Frequency Response: 40~400Hz, sine wave rms  
(avg. response)



## 5.2.3 Resistance

Measuring range	Resolution	Accuracy
200Ω	0.1Ω	±(0.8% of reading +4 digits)
2kΩ	0.001kΩ	
20kΩ	0.01kΩ	
200kΩ	0.1kΩ	
2MΩ	0.001MΩ	±(1.0% of reading +4 digits)
20MΩ	0.01MΩ	

Overload protection: 600V DC or AC (RMS)

## 5.2.4 Diode Test

Function	Rang	Resolution	Description
Diode Test ▶	1.5V	1mV	Display shows forward voltage drop

Overload protection: 600V DC or AC rms

## 5.2.5 Continuity

Function	Description	Description
🔊)	If measured resistance is less than 30Ω, buzzer will sound	Open circuit voltage: ~0.5V

Overload protection: 600V DC or AC (RMS)

## 5.2.6 DC Current

Measuring range	Resolution	Accuracy
200μA	0.1μA	±(0.8% of reading +3 digits)
2000μA	1μA	
20mA	0.01mA	
200mA	0.1mA	
10A	10mA	±(1.0% of reading +10digits)

Overload protection: mA jack: F250mA/600V fuse

10A jack: F10A/600V fuse

Max input current: mA jack: 200mA DC or AC rms

10A jack: 10A DC or AC rms

When measuring current exceeding 2A, do not measure for longer than 2 minutes continuously. Wait 10 minutes to continue measurement.

## 5.2.7 AC Current

Measuring range	Resolution	Accuracy
200μA	0.1μA	±(1.0% of reading +3 digits)
2000μA	1μA	
20mA	0.01mA	
200mA	0.1mA	±(1.2% of reading +3digits)
10A	10mA	±(1.5% of reading +10digits)

Overload protection: mA jack: F250mA/600V fuse

10A jack: F10A/600V fuse

Frequency Response: 40~400Hz, sine wave rms (avg. response)

Max input current: mA jack: 200mA DC or AC rms

10A jack: 10A DC or AC rms

When measuring current exceeding 2A, do not measure for longer than 2 minutes continuously. Wait 10 minutes to continue measurement.

## 5.2.8 Battery Test

Position	Resolution	Accuracy
-20~750°C	1°C	±(1.0% of reading +2 digits)
-4~1382°F	1°F	

Overload protection: F250mA/600V fuse

## 6. Maintenance

### 6.1 General Maintenance

This section provides basic information on maintaining the meter, such as replacing fuses and the battery. Only experienced and authorized personnel should make repairs to the meter.


#### Warning

**To avoid injury or damage to the meter, do not allow moisture inside the case and remove test leads before opening battery cover**

- Use a damp cloth to regularly clean the outside of the meter. Do not use abrasives or chemical solvents. Dirty or damp input jack can adversely affect readings.
- To clean input jacks, follow the following steps:
  1. Turn off the instrument and remove the test leads.
  2. Clear any dirt or other particles on the input jacks.
  3. Use a cotton ball/swab with a lubricant (i.e. WD-40) to clean off the contacts of the input jacks.
  4. Use a separate cotton ball/swab for each jack to prevent cross-contamination.

## 6.2 Replacing the Battery

#### Warning

**To avoid false readings and potential dangerous situations, replace the battery immediately when the “” symbol appears.**

**Turn off the meter and disconnect the test leads before opening the battery cover to prevent electrical shock and personal injury.**

Use the following steps to replace the battery:

1. Turn off the meter.
2. Remove test leads.
3. Unscrew and remove battery cover from back of meter.
4. Replace used battery with a new 9V battery.
5. Replace battery cover and fasten securely.

## 6.3 Replacing the Fuse

#### Warning

**Turn off the meter and disconnect test leads before opening back cover to avoid electrical shock and personal injury.**

Use the following steps to replace the fuses:

1. Turn off the meter.
2. Remove test leads.
3. Remove outer holster.
4. Unscrew and remove back cover from the meter.
5. Replace blown fuse(s) with same amp/voltage ratings.
6. Replace back cover and fasten securely.
7. Replace outer holster.

