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Overview

This Operating Manual covers information on safety and cautions. Please read the relevant information carefully and observe all the **Warnings** and **Notes** strictly.

Warning

To avoid electric shock or personal injury, read the "Safety Information" and "Rules for Safe Operation" carefully before using the Meter.

Digital Multimeter Model GDM-394/396

(hereafter referred to as "the Meter") has autorange and manual range options with maximum reading 3999. The enclosure structure design adopted advanced "co-injection" technique in order to provide sufficient insulation.

In addition to the conventional measuring functions, there is a RS232C standard serial port equipped with **Model GDM-396** for easy connection with computer to realize macro recording and monitoring and capture of transient dynamic data, displaying change of waveform during the measurement, providing data and evidence to engineering technicians for scientific research. This is also a highly applied digital multimeter of good performance with full overload protection and backlight function. **Model GDM-396** also has true rms reading for AC voltage and AC current measurements.

Except where noted, the descriptions and instructions in this Operating Manual apply to all **Model GDM-394/396**. Unless otherwise identified, all figures show the **Model GDM-394**.

Unpacking Inspection

Open the package case and take out the Meter. Check the following items carefully to see any missing or damaged part:

Item	Description	Qty
1	Operating Manual	1 piece
2	Test Lead	1 pair
3	Test Clip	1 pair
4	Model GDM-396 :Point Contact Temperature Probe	1 piece
5	9V Battery (NEDA1604, 6F22 or 006P) (installed)	1 piece
6	Model GDM-396:RS232C Interface Cable	1 piece
7	Model GDM-396:CD-ROM (Installation Guide & Computer Interface Software)	1 piece

In the event you find any missing or damage, please contact your dealer immediately.

Safety Information

This Meter complies with the standards IEC61010: in pollution degree 2, overvoltage category (CAT. III 1000V, CAT. IV 600V;)and double insulation.

CAT. III: Distribution level, fixed installation, with smaller transient overvoltages than CAT. IV

CAT IV: Primary supply level, overhead lines, cable systems etc.

Use the Meter only as specified in this operating manual, otherwise the protection provided by the Meter may be impaired.

In this manual, a **Warning** identifies conditions and actions that pose hazards to the user, or may damage the Meter or the equipment under test.

A **Note** identifies the information that user should pay attention on.

International electrical symbols used on the Meter and in this Operating Manual are explained on page 6.

Rules For Safe Operation

Warning

To avoid possible electric shock or personal injury, and to avoid possible damage to the Meter or to the equipment under test, adhere to the following rules:

- Before using the Meter inspect the case. Do not use the Meter if it is damaged or the case (or part of the case) is removed. Look for cracks or missing plastic. Pay attention to the insulation around the connectors.
- Inspect the test leads for damaged insulation or exposed metal. Check the test leads for continuity. Replace damaged test leads with identical model number or electrical specifications before using the Meter.
- Do not apply more than the rated voltage, as marked on the Meter, between the terminals or between any terminal and grounding.
- The rotary switch should be placed in the right position and no any changeover of range shall be made during measurement is conducted to prevent damage of the Meter.
- When the Meter working at an effective voltage over 60V in DC or 30V rms in AC, special care should be taken for there is danger of electric shock.
- Use the proper terminals, function, and range for your measurements.
- Do not use or store the Meter in an environment of high temperature, humidity, explosive, inflammable and strong magnetic field. The performance of the Meter may deteriorate after dampened.
- When using the test leads, keep your fingers behind the finger guards.
- Disconnect circuit power and discharge all high-voltage capacitors before testing resistance, continuity, diodes, current, or capacitance.
- Before measuring current, check the Meter's fuses and turn off power to the circuit before connecting the Meter to the circuit.
- Replace the battery as soon as the battery indicator " " appears. With a low battery, the Meter might produce false readings that can lead to electric shock and personal injury.
- Remove test lead, temperature probe, RS232C interface

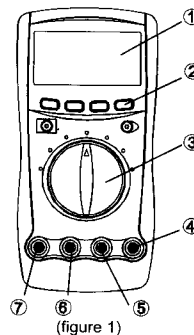
cable and test clip from the Meter and turn the Meter power off before opening the Meter case.

- When servicing the Meter, use only the same model number or identical electrical specifications replacement parts.
- The internal circuit of the Meter shall not be altered at will to avoid damage of the Meter and any accident.
- Soft cloth and mild detergent should be used to clean the surface of the Meter when servicing. No abrasive and solvent should be used to prevent the surface of the Meter from corrosion, damage and accident.
- The Meter is suitable for indoor use.
- Under the environment with high (+/-4kV) electrostatic discharge, the Meter may not be operated as normal condition. The user may require resetting the Meter.
- Please take out the battery when it is not being used for a prolonged period to avoid damages to the Meter.
- Please constantly check the battery as it may leak when it has been using for some time, replace the battery as soon as leaking appears. A leaking battery will damage the Meter.

International Electrical Symbols

	AC (Alternating Current)		Deficiency of Built-In Battery
	DC (Direct Current)		Continuity Test
	AC or DC		Diode
	Grounding		Capacitance Test
	Double Insulated		Fuse
	Warning. Refer to the Operating Manual		Conforms to Standards of European Union

The Meter Structure(see figure 1)



- ① LCD Display
- ② Functional Buttons
- ③ Rotary Switch
- ④ **HzVΩ** Input Terminal:
Input for voltage, frequency/duty cycle, resistance, diode, continuity and capacitance measurements.
- ⑤ **COM** Input Terminal:
Return terminal for all measurements.
- ⑥ **Model GDM-394 : μA mA** Input Terminal:
Input for 0.1 μA to 400.0mA current measurements.
Model GDM-396 : μA mA°C Input Terminal:
Input for 0.1 μA to 400.0mA current measurements and temperature testing.
- ⑦ **10A** Input Terminal:
Input for 0.01A to 10.00A current measurements.

Rotary Switch

Below table indicated for information about the rotary switch positions.

Rotary Switch Position	Function
V $\approx$	DC voltage measurement range from 400.0mV to 1000V or AC voltage measurement range from 4.000V to 750.0V.
$\leftrightarrow \Omega \#$	$\rightarrow \Omega$ Continuity test.
	$\rightarrow \#$ Diode test.
	Ω Resistance measurement range from 400.0 Ω to 40.00M Ω .
	$\#$ Capacitance test range from 40.00nF to 100.0 μ F.
$^{\circ}$ C	Model GDM-396 : Temperature in celsius from -40° C ~ 1000° C.
Hz	Frequency measurement range from 10.00Hz to 10.00MHz.
μ A $\approx$	AC or DC current measurement range from 400.0 μ A to 4000 μ A.
mA $\approx$	AC or DC current measurement range from 40.00mA to 400.0mA.
A $\approx$	AC or DC current measurement range from 4.000A to 10.00A.

Functional Buttons (1)

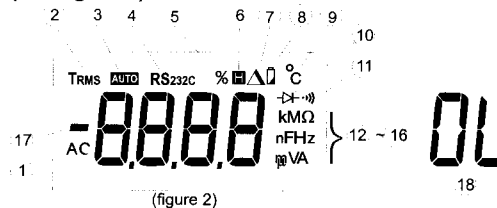
Below table indicated for information about the functional button operations.

Button	Measuring Function	Operation Performed
POWER	Any rotary switch position	Turn the power on and off.
 (BLUE)	V $\approx$	Switches between AC and DC voltage; the Meter beeps. DC is default.
	$\rightarrow \Omega$	Model GDM-394: Switches between continuity and diode and resistance measurements; the Meter beeps. Resistance is default.
	$\rightarrow \#$	Model GDM-396: Switches between continuity and diode and resistance and capacitance measurements; the Meter beeps. Resistance is default.
	μ A $\approx$	Switches between AC and DC current range from 400.0 μ A to 4000 μ A; the Meter beeps. DC is default.
	mA $\approx$	Switches between AC and DC current range from 40.00mA to 400.0mA; the Meter beeps. DC is default.
	A $\approx$	Switches between AC and DC current range from 4.000A to 10.00A; the Meter beeps. DC is default. Disable Sleep Mode feature.

Functional Buttons (2)

RANGE	Any rotary switch position except Hz and Δ	- Press RANGE to enter the manual ranging mode; the Meter beeps. - Manually selecting a range causes the Meter to exit the Hold and REL modes. - Press RANGE to step through the ranges available for the selected function; the Meter beeps. - Press and hold RANGE for 2 seconds to return to autoranging; the Meter beeps.
Hz %	Hz	- Press to start the frequency counter; the Meter beeps. - Press again to enter duty cycle mode; the Meter beeps. - Press again to return to the frequency counter mode; the Meter beeps.
	V $\approx$, μ A $\approx$, mA $\approx$ or A $\approx$	- Press to start the frequency counter; the Meter beeps. - Press again to enter duty cycle mode; the Meter beeps. - Press again to return to the previous measurement mode; the Meter beeps.
REL Δ	Any rotary switch position except Hz	Press REL Δ to enter and exit the REL mode in any measuring mode except in frequency/duty cycle; the Meter beeps.
HOLD $\square$	Any rotary switch position	Press HOLD $\square$ to enter and exit the Hold mode in any mode, the Meter beeps.

Display Symbols (1) (see figure 2)



Number	Symbol	Meaning
①	AC	Indicator for AC voltage or current. Model GDM-394: The displayed value is the mean value. Model GDM-396: The displayed value is the true rms value.
②	TRMS	The GDM-396: Indicator for true rms value.
③	AUTO	The Meter is in the auto range mode in which the Meter automatically selects the range with the best resolution.
④	RS232C	Data output. It is always on the LCD, but data output is only in progress when the Meter is connected to the computer via the included RS232C Interface Cable.
⑤	%	Percent: Used for duty cycle measurements.
⑥	H	Data hold is active.
⑦	Δ	The REL is on to display the present value minus the stored value.
⑧	Battery symbol	The battery is low. Warning To avoid false readings, which could lead to possible electric shock or personal injury, replace the battery as soon as the battery indicator appears.
⑨	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	Centigrade. The unit of temperature.
⑩	Diode symbol	Test of diode
⑪	Continuity symbol	The continuity buzzer is on.

Display Symbols (1) (see figure 2)

12-16	Ω , k Ω , M Ω	Ω : Ohm. The unit of resistance. k Ω : kilohm. 1×10^3 or 1000 ohms. M Ω : Megaohm. 1×10^6 or 1,000,000 ohms
	F, μ F, nF	F: Farad. The unit of capacitance. μ F: Microfarad. 1×10^{-6} or 0.000001 farads. nF: Nanofarad. 1×10^{-9} or 0.000000001 farads.
	Hz, kHz, MHz	Hz: Hertz. The unit of frequency in cycles/second. kHz: Kilohertz. 1×10^3 or 1,000 hertz. MHz: Megahertz. 1×10^6 or 1,000,000 hertz.
	V, mV	V: Volts. The unit of voltage. mV: Millivolt. 1×10^{-3} or 0.001 volts.
	A, mA, μ A	A: Amperes (amps). The unit of current. mA: Milliamp. 1×10^{-3} or 0.001 amperes. μ A: Microamp. 1×10^{-6} or 0.000001 amperes.
17	—	Indicates negative reading.
18	OL	The input value is too large for the selected range.

Measurement Ranges (1)

A measurement range determines the highest value the Meter can measure. Most Meter functions have more than one range. See "Accuracy Specifications."

A. Selecting a Measurement Range

Being in the right measurement range is important:

- If the range is too low for the input, the Meter displays **OL** to indicate an overload.
- If the range is too high, the Meter will not display the most accurate measurement.

B. Manual Ranging and Autoranging

The Meter has both manual range and autorange options:

Measurement Ranges (2)

- In the autorange mode, the Meter selects the best range for input signals.
This allows you to switch test points without having to reset the range.
- In the manual range mode, you may select the range.
This allows you to override autorange and lock the Meter in a specific range.

The Meter defaults to the autorange mode in measurement functions that have more than one range. When the Meter is in the autorange mode, **AUTO** is displayed.

To enter and exit the manual range mode:

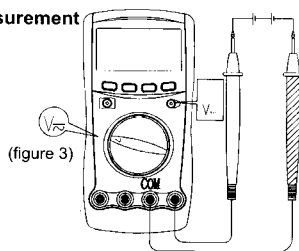
1. Press **RANGE**
The Meter enters the manual range mode and **AUTO** turns off. Each presses of **RANGE** increments the range. When the highest range is reached, The Meter wraps to the lowest range.
2. To exit the manual range mode, press and hold **RANGE** for two seconds.
The Meter returns to the autorange mode and **AUTO** is displayed.

Note

- If you manually change the measurement range after entering the REL or Hold recording modes, the Meter exits these modes.
- Under frequency/duty cycle and capacitance measurement, only autorange mode is available.

Measurement Operation (1)

A. DC Voltage Measurement (see figure 3)



⚠ Warning

To avoid harms to you or damages to the Meter from electric shock, please do not attempt to measure voltages higher than 1000VDC / 750VAC rms although readings may be obtained.

The DC Voltage ranges are: 400.0mV, 4.000V, 40.00V, 400.0V and 1000V. To measure DC voltage, connect the Meter as follows:

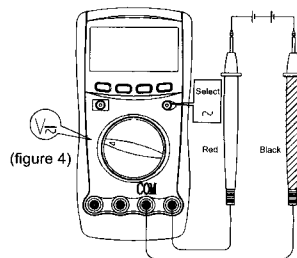
1. Insert the red test lead into the **H_zV Ω** terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
2. Set the rotary switch to **V $\overline{\sim}$** ; DC measurement is default or press **BLUE** button to select DC measurement mode.
3. Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

Note

- In each range, the Meter has an input impedance of 10M Ω . This loading effect can cause measurement errors in high impedance circuits. If the circuit impedance is less than or equal to 10k Ω , the error is negligible (0.1% or less).
- When DC voltage measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

Measurement Operation (2)

B. AC Voltage Measurement (see figure 4)



⚠ Warning

To avoid harms to you or damages to the Meter from electric shock, please do not attempt to measure voltages higher than 1000VDC / 750VAC rms although readings may be obtained.

The AC voltage ranges are: 4.000V, 40.00V, 400.0V and 750.0V. To measure AC Voltage, connect the Meter as follows:

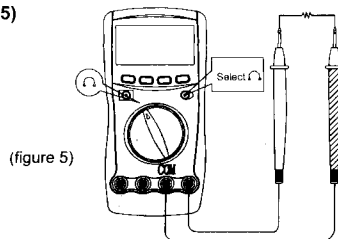
1. Insert the red test lead into the **H_zV Ω** terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
2. Set the rotary switch to **V $\overline{\sim}$** and press **BLUE** button to select **AC** measurement.
3. Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

Note

- In each range, the Meter has an input impedance of 10M Ω . This loading effect can cause measurement errors in high impedance circuits. If the circuit impedance is less than or equal to 10k Ω , the error is negligible (0.1% or less).
- When AC voltage measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.
- True root mean square value stability period (**Model GDM396**): When the reading obtained is less than 100 digits, the true root mean square value converter needs a longer time to stabilize. When there is no input voltage, the maximum reading displayed is 10 digits.

Measurement Operation (3)

C. Measuring Resistance (see figure 5)



(figure 5)

⚠ Warning

To avoid damages to the Meter or to the devices under test, disconnect circuit power and discharge all the high-voltage capacitors before measuring resistance.

The resistance ranges are: 400.0Ω, 4.000kΩ, 40.00kΩ, 400.0kΩ, 4.000MΩ and 40.00MΩ. To measure resistance, connect the Meter as follows:

1. Insert the red test lead into the **HzVΩ** terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
2. **Model GDM-396:**
Set the rotary switch to **Ω**; resistance measurement (Ω) is default or press **BLUE** button to select Ω measurement mode.
Model GDM-394:
Set the rotary switch to **Ω**; resistance measurement (Ω) is default or press **BLUE** button to select Ω measurement mode.
3. Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

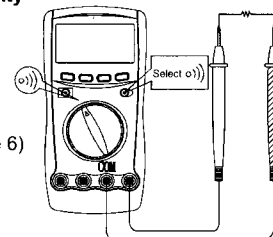
Note

- The test leads can add 0.1Ω to 0.2 Ω of error to resistance measurement. To obtain precision readings in low-resistance measurement, that is the range of 400.0 Ω, short-circuit the input terminals beforehand, using the relative measurement function button **REL** to automatically subtract the value measured when the testing leads are short-circuited from the reading.

Measurement Operation (4)

- If Ω reading with shorted test leads is not $\leq 0.5\Omega$, check for loose test leads, incorrect function selection, or enabled Data Hold function.
- For high-resistance measurement ($>1M\Omega$), it is normal to take several seconds to obtain a stable reading.
- The LCD displays **OL** indicating open-circuit for the tested resistor or the resistor value is higher than the maximum range of the Meter.
- When resistance measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

D. Testing for Continuity (see figure 6)



(figure 6)

⚠ Warning

To avoid damages to the Meter or to the devices under test, disconnect circuit power and discharge all the high-voltage capacitors before testing for continuity.

To test for continuity, connect the Meter as below:

1. Insert the red test lead into the **HzVΩ** terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
2. **Model GDM-396:** Set the rotary switch to **Ω** and press **BLUE** button to select **diode** measurement mode.
Model GDM-394: Set the rotary switch to **Ω** and press **BLUE** button to select **diode** measurement mode.
3. The buzzer sounds if the resistance of a circuit under test is less than around 70 Ω

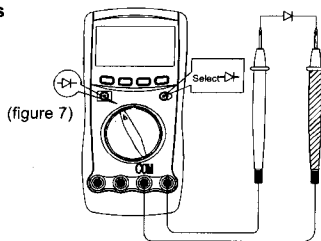
Note

- The LCD displays **OL** indicating the circuit being tested is open.

Measurement Operation (5)

- When continuity testing has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

E. Testing Diodes (see figure 7)



⚠ Warning

To avoid possible damage to the Meter and to the device under test, disconnect circuit power and discharge all high-voltage capacitors before testing diodes.

Use the diode test to check diodes, transistors, and other semiconductor devices. The diode test sends a current through the semiconductor junction, and then measures the voltage drop across the junction. A good silicon junction drops between 0.5V and 0.8V.

To test a diode out of a circuit, connect the Meter as follows:

- Insert the red test lead into the HzVΩ terminal and the black test lead into the COM terminal.
- Model GDM-396:** Set the rotary switch to $\Omega \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ and press **BLUE** button to select $\rightarrow$ measurement mode.
Model GDM-394: Set the rotary switch to $\Omega \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ and press **BLUE** button to select $\rightarrow$ measurement mode.
- For forward voltage drop readings on any semiconductor component, place the red test lead on the component's anode and place the black test lead on the component's cathode. The measured value shows on the display.

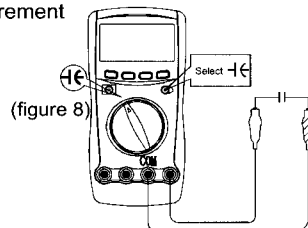
Note

- In a circuit, a good diode should still produce a forward

Measurement Operation (6)

- voltage drop reading of 0.5V to 0.8V; however, the reverse voltage drop reading can vary depending on the resistance of other pathways between the probe tips.
- Connect the test leads to the proper terminals as said above to avoid error display. The LCD will display ΩL indicating diode being tested is open or polarity is reversed. The unit of diode is Volt (V), displaying the forward voltage drop readings.
- When diode testing has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

F. Capacitance Measurement (see figure 8)



⚠ Warning

To avoid damage to the Meter or to the equipment under test, disconnect circuit power and discharge all high-voltage capacitors before measuring capacitance. Use the DC Voltage function to confirm that the capacitor is discharged.

The Meter's capacitance ranges are: 40.00nF, 400.0nF, 4.000μF, 40.00μF, and 100.0μF. To measure capacitance, connect the Meter as follows:

- Insert the red test lead into the HzVΩ terminal and the black test lead into the COM terminal.
- Model GDM-396:** Set the rotary switch to $\Omega \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ and press **BLUE** button to select nF measurement mode.
Model GDM-394: Set the rotary switch to $\rightarrow$.
- Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

Note

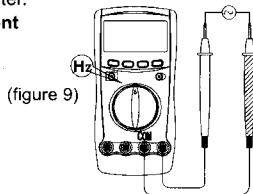
- For testing the capacitor with polarity, connect the red clip to

Measurement Operation (7)

anode & black clip to cathode instead of using test leads as mentioned above.

- To minimize the effect of capacitance stored in the test leads, the test lead should be as short as possible. To measure a small value of capacitance, use REL mode to remove the leads capacitance. Remaining voltage, insulated impedance, & dielectric absorption from the capacitor may cause the measurement error.
- It takes a longer time when testing a high capacitor value, the testing time is around 15 seconds in 100 μ F range.
- The LCD displays **OL** indicating the tested capacitor is shorted or it exceeds the maximum range.
- When capacitance measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

G. Frequency Measurement (see figure 9)



(figure 9)

The measurement range is from 10Hz to 10MHz. To measure frequency, connect the Meter as follows:

1. Insert the red test lead into the **HzV Ω** terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
2. Set the rotary switch to **Hz**; frequency measurement (Hz) is default or press **Hz %** to select Hz measurement mode.
3. Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

Note

- When frequency measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

Measurement Operation (8)

- To obtain a stable reading when measuring input scope > 30V rms frequency signal:

Set the rotary switch to **V $\approx$** .

Then press **Hz%** to select Hz measurement mode to obtain frequency value.

When input scope $\leq$ 30V rms, please follow the above step 2. carrying out the measurement.

- When making frequency measurement at voltage or current range, please mind the following signal requirement table:

Range	Signal Requirement	Frequency Range
$\approx$ 4V	$\geq 1.0V$	5Hz~10kHz
$\approx$ 40V	≥ 5.0	5Hz~20kHz
$\approx$ 400V	$\geq 45V$	45Hz~4kHz
$\approx$ 1000V/-750V	≥ 420	45Hz~1.6kHz
$\approx$ mA	$\geq 45mA$	5Hz~5kHz
$\approx$ A	$\geq 4A$	45Hz~1kHz

H. Measuring Duty Cycle (See figure 9)

The duty cycle measurement range is: 0.1%~99.9%. To measure duty cycle, do the following:

1. Set up the Meter to measure frequency.
2. To select duty cycle, press **Hz %** until the % symbol is shown on the display.
3. Connect the test leads across with the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

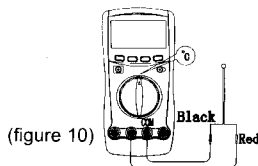
Note

- The LCD displays 000.0% indicating the input signal is high or low level.
- When duty cycle measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.
- To obtain a stable reading when measuring input scope > 30V rms frequency signal:
Set the rotary switch to **V $\approx$** .
Then press **Hz%** to select % measurement mode to obtain duty cycle value.

When input scope $\leq$ 30V rms, please follow the above step 2. carrying out the measurement.

Measurement Operation (9)

I. Model GDM-396: Temperature Measurement (see figure 10)

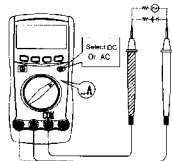


The temperature measurement range is -40°C ~ 1000°C . To measure temperature, connect the Meter as follows:

1. Insert the red temperature probe into the μA mA°C terminal and the black temperature probe into the **COM** terminal.
2. Set the rotary switch to $^{\circ}\text{C}$.
3. Place the temperature probe to the object being measured. The measured value shows on the display.

Note

- The Meter automatically displays the temperature value inside the Meter when there is no temperature probe connection.
- The included point contact temperature probe can only be used up to 250°C . For any measurement higher than that, the rod type temperature probe must be used instead.
- When temperature measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.



(figure 11)

J. DC or AC Current Measurement (see figure 11)

⚠ Warning

Never attempt an in-circuit current measurement where the open-circuit voltage between the circuit and ground is greater than 250V.

If the fuse burns out during measurement, the Meter may be damaged or the operator himself may be hurt. Use proper terminals, function, and range for the measurement. When the testing leads are connected to the current terminals, do not parallel them across any circuit.

Measurement Operation (10)

The current measurement has 3 measurement positions on the rotary switch: μA , mA, and A.

The μA has a $400.0\mu\text{A}$ and $4000\mu\text{A}$ range, with auto ranging; the mA has a 40.00mA and 400.0mA range, with auto ranging; A position has a 4.000A and 10.00A range, with auto ranging.

To measure current, do the following:

1. Turn off power to the circuit. Discharge all high-voltage capacitors.
2. **Model GDM-396:** Insert the red test lead into the μA mA°C or 10A terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal.
Model GDM-394: Insert the red test lead into the μA mA or 10A terminal and the black test lead into the **COM** terminal. Use the 10A terminal and A range if the current value to be tested is an unknown.
3. Set the rotary switch to μA , mA, or A.
4. The Meter defaults to DC current measurement mode. To toggle between DC and AC current measurement function, press **BLUE** button.
Model GDM-394: AC current is displayed as effective value of sine wave (mean value response).
Model GDM-396: AC current is displayed as true rms value.
5. Break the current path to be tested. Connect the red test lead to the more positive side of the break and the black test lead to the more negative side of the break.
6. Turn on power to the circuit.
The measured value shows on the display.

Note

- True root mean square value stability period: (**Model GDM-396**)

When the reading obtained is less than 100 digits, the true root mean square value converter needs a longer time to stabilize. When there is no input voltage, the maximum reading displayed is 10 digits.

- For safety sake, each measurement time for high current should be less than 10 seconds and the interval time between 2 measurements should be greater than 15 minutes.
- When current measurement has been completed, disconnect the connection between the testing leads and the circuit under test, and remove the testing leads away from the input terminals of the Meter.

Operation of Hold Mode

Warning

To avoid possibility of electric shock, do not use Hold mode to determine if circuits are without power. The Hold mode will not capture unstable or noisy readings.

The Hold mode is applicable to all measurement functions.

- Press **HOLD**  to enter Hold mode; the Meter beeps.
- Press **HOLD**  again or **RANGE** or **Hz %** or turn the rotary switch to exit Hold mode; the Meter beeps.
- In Hold mode  is displayed.

The Use of Relative Value Mode

The REL mode applies to all measurement functions except frequency/duty cycle measurement. It subtracts a stored value from the present measurement value and displays the result.

For instance, if the stored value is 20.0V and the present measurement value is 22.0V, the reading would be 2.0V. If a new measurement value is equal to the stored value then display 0.0V.

To enter or exit REL mode:

- Use rotary switch to select the measurement function before selecting **REL** . If measurement function changes manually after **REL**  is selected, the Meter exits the REL mode.
- Press **REL**  to enter REL mode, auto ranging turns off except under capacitance testing mode, and the present measurement range is locked and display "0" as the stored value.
- Press **REL**  again or turn the rotary switch to reset the stored value and exit REL mode.

Pressing **HOLD**  in REL mode makes the Meter stop updating. Pressing **HOLD**  again to resume updating.

The POWER button

This is a self-lock switch use to turn on or off the power of the Meter.

The BLUE button

It uses for selecting the required measurement function when there is more than one function at one position of the rotary switch.

Turning on the Display Backlight

Warning

In order to avoid the hazard arising from mistaken readings in insufficient light or poor vision, please use Display Backlight function.

- Press and hold **HOLD**  for over 2 seconds to turn the Display Backlight on.
- Press and hold **HOLD**  again for over 2 seconds to turn the Display Backlight off, otherwise it will stay on continuously.

Sleep Mode (Model GDM-394)

To preserve battery life, the Meter automatically turns off if you do not turn the rotary switch or press any button for around 30 minutes.

To disable the Sleep Mode function, press **BLUE** button while turning on the Meter.

General Specifications

- Maximum Voltage between any Terminals and Grounding: 1000V.
-  Fused Protection for μA mA Input Terminal: **Model GDM-394**: Glass fuse, 0.5A, 250V, fast type, $\phi 5 \times 20$ mm.
-  Fused Protection for μA mA $^{\circ}C$ Input Terminal: **Model GDM-396**: Glass fuse, 0.5A, 250V, fast type, $\phi 5 \times 20$ mm.
-  Fused Protection for 10A Input Terminal: **GDM-394/-396**: Glass fuse, 10A, 250V, fast type, $\phi 5 \times 20$ mm.
- Maximum Display: Digital: 3999
- Measurement Speed: Updates 3 times/second.
- Temperature: Operating : $0^{\circ}C \sim 40^{\circ}C$ ($32^{\circ}F \sim 104^{\circ}F$).
Storage : $-10^{\circ}C \sim 50^{\circ}C$ ($14^{\circ}F \sim 122^{\circ}F$).
- Relative Humidity: $\leq 75\%$ @ $0^{\circ}C \sim 30^{\circ}C$; $\leq 50\%$ @ $31^{\circ}C \sim 40^{\circ}C$;
- Altitude: Operating: 2000 m.
Storage : 10000 m.
- Battery Type: One piece of 9V (NEDA1604 or 6F22 or 006P).
- Battery Deficiency: Display 
- Dimensions (HxWxL): 177 x 85 x 40 mm.
- Weight: Approximate 300g (battery included).
- Safety/Compliance: IEC61010 CAT.III 1000V, CAT.IV 600V overvoltage and double insulation standard.
- Certifications: CE, UL & CUL

Accuracy Specifications (1)

Accuracy: $\pm$ (a% reading + b digits), guarantee for 1 year.
Operating temperature: $23^{\circ}C \pm 5^{\circ}C$.
Relative humidity: $< 75\%$.
Temperature coefficient: $0.1 \times$ (specified accuracy)/ $1^{\circ}C$

A. DC Voltage

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
400mV	0.1mV	$\pm (0.8\%+3)$	1000V DC 750V AC rms continuous.
4V	1mV		
40V	10mV		
400V	100mV		
1000V	1V	$\pm (1\%+3)$	

Remarks: Input impedance $\geq 10M\Omega$.

B. AC Voltage

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
4V	1mV	$\pm (1\%+5)$	1000V DC 750V AC rms continuous.
40V	10mV		
400V	100mV		
750V	1V	$\pm (1.2\%+5)$	

Remarks:

- Input impedance $\geq 10M\Omega$.
- **Model GDM-394**: displays effective value of sine wave (mean value response).
- **Model GDM-396**: displays true rms value.
- Frequency response 40Hz~400Hz.

C. Resistance

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
400Ω	0.1Ω	Measure at REL mode ± (1.2%+2)	1000Vp
4kΩ	1Ω	± (1%+2)	
40kΩ	10Ω		
400kΩ	100Ω		
4MΩ	1kΩ	± (1.2%+2)	
40MΩ	10kΩ	± (1.5%+2)	

Remarks Open circuit voltage approximate 0.45V.

Accuracy Specifications (2)

D. Continuity Test

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
400.0Ω	0.1Ω	Approximate $\leq 100\Omega$	1000Vp

Remarks:

- Buzzer beeps continuously.
- Open circuit voltage approximate 0.45V.

E. Diode Test

Range	Resolution	Overload Protection
Diode	1mV	1000Vp

Remarks:

- Open circuit voltage approximate 1.48V.
- Displays approximate forward voltage drop reading 0.5V~0.8V.

F. Capacitance

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
40nF	10pF	Measure at REL mode ±(3%+10)	1000Vp
400nF	100pF	±(3%+5)	
4μF	1nF		
40μF	10nF		
100μF	100nF	±(4%+5)	

G. Frequency & Duty Cycle

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
10Hz~10MHz		$\pm(0.1\%+3)$	1000Vp
0.1%~99.9%	0.01%		

Remarks:

● 10Hz~10MHz Range:

- $\leq 1\text{MHz}$: 300mV rms $\leq$ input sensitivity $\leq 30\text{V rms}$;
- $> 1\text{MHz}$: 600mV rms $\leq$ input sensitivity $\leq 30\text{V rms}$.

● 0.1%~99.9%:

Reading is only for reference purpose.

Accuracy Specifications (3)

H. Temperature (Model GDM396)

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	
-40°C~ 1000°C	1°C	-40°C ~ 0°C	$\pm(3\%+9)$
		0°C ~ 400°C	$\pm(1\%+7)$
		400°C ~ 1000°C	$\pm(2\%+10)$

Overload Protection:

Glass fuse 0.5A, 250V, fast type, ϕ 5x20mm.

I. DC Current

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protection
400μA	0.1 μA	±(1%+2)	0.5A, 250V, fast type Glass fuse, φ5x20 mm.
4000μA	1 μA		
40mA	0.01mA	±(1.2%+3)	
400mA	0.1mA		
4A	0.001A	±(1.5%+5)	10A, 250V, fast type Glass fuse, φ5x20 mm.
10A	0.01A		

Remarks:

● 4A & 10A Range:

For continuous measurement ≤ 10 seconds and interval not less than 15 minutes.

Accuracy Specifications (4)

J. AC Current

Range	Resolution	Accuracy	Overload Protectoin
400μA	0.1 μA	±(1.5%+5)	0.5A, 250V, fast type Glass fuse, φ5x20 mm.
4000μA	1μA		
40mA	0.01mA	±(2%+5)	10A, 250V, fast type Glass fuse, φ5x20 mm.
400mA	0.1mA		
4A	0.001A	±(2.5%+5)	
10A	0.01A		

Remarks:

Frequency response 40Hz ~ 400Hz.

Model GDM-394: displays effective value of sine wave (mean value response).

Model GDM-396: displays true rms value.

● **4A & 10A Range:**

For continuous measurement ≤ 10 seconds and interval not less than 15 minutes.

MAINTENANCE

This section provides basic maintenance information including battery and fuse replacement instruction.

⚠ Warning

Do not attempt to repair or service your Meter unless you are qualified to do so and have the relevant calibration, performance test, and service information.

To avoid electrical shock or damage to the Meter, do not get water inside the case.

A. General Service

- Periodically wipe the case with a damp cloth and mild detergent. Do not use abrasives or solvents.
- To clean the terminals with cotton bar with detergent, as dirt or moisture in the terminals can affect readings.
- Turn off the power of the Meter when it is not in use and take out the battery when not using for a long time.
- Take out the battery when it is using for a long time.
- Do not use or store the Meter in a place of humidity, high temperature, explosive, inflammable and strong magnetic field.

B. Testing the Fuses

⚠ Warning

To avoid electrical shock or personal injury, remove the test leads and any input signals before replacing the battery or fuse.

To prevent damage or injury, install ONLY replacement fuses with identical amperage, voltage, and speed ratings.

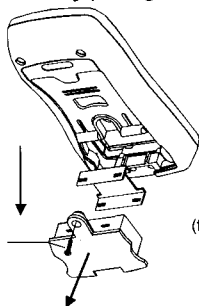
To test the fuse:

1. **Model GDM-396:** Set the rotary switch to **Ω** and press **BLUE** button to select **Ω**.
Model GDM-394: Set the rotary switch to **Ω** and press **BLUE** button to select **Ω**.
2. Plug a test lead into the terminal **H_zV Ω** and touch the probe to the **10A** terminal.

- If the Meter beeps, the fuse is good.
- If the display shows **OL**, replace the fuse and test again.
- If the display shows any other value, have the Meter serviced and contact your dealer immediately.

If the Meter does not work while the fuse is all right, send it to your dealer for repair.

C. Replacing the Battery (see figure 12)



(figure 12)

⚠ Warning

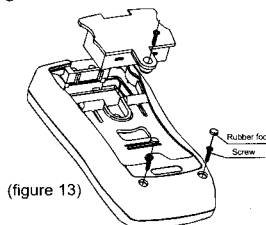
To avoid false readings, which could lead to possible electric shock or personal injury, replace the battery as soon as the battery indicator “” appears.

Make sure the test leads are disconnected from the circuit being tested before opening the case bottom.

To replace the battery:

1. Press the **POWER** to turn the Meter off and remove all connections from the terminals.
2. Remove the screw from the battery compartment, and separate the battery compartment from the case bottom.
3. Remove the battery from the battery compartment.
4. Replace the battery with a new 9V battery (NEDA1604, 6F22 or 006P)
5. Rejoin the case bottom and battery compartment, and reinstall the screw.

D. Replacing the Fuses (see figure 13)



(figure 13)

⚠ Warning

To avoid electrical shock or arc blast, or personal injury or damage to the Meter, use specified fuses **ONLY** in accordance with the following procedure.

To replace the Meter's fuse:

1. Press the **POWER** to turn the Meter off and remove all connections from the terminals.
2. Remove the screw from the battery compartment, and separate the battery compartment from the case bottom.
3. Remove the 2 rubber feet and 2 screws from the case bottom, and separate the case top from the case bottom.
4. Remove the fuse by gently prying one end loose, then take out the fuse from its bracket.
5. Install **ONLY** replacement fuses with the identical type and specification as follows and make sure the fuse is fixed firmly in the bracket.

Fuse 1: Glass fuse 0.5A, 250V, fast type, ϕ 5x20mm.

Fuse 2: Glass fuse 10A, 250V, fast type, ϕ 5x20mm.

6. Rejoin the battery compartment and the case top, and reinstall the screw.
7. Rejoin the case bottom and case top, and reinstall the 2 screws and 2 rubber feet.

Replacement of the fuses is seldom required. Burning of a fuse always results from improper operation.

RS232C Serial Port(Model GDM-396)

A.RS232C Port Cable

The Meter	Computer		
	D-sub 9 Pin Female	D-sub 25 Pin Female	Pin Name
2	2	3	RX
3	3	2	TX
4	4	20	DTR
5	5	7	GND
6	6	6	DSR
7	7	4	RTS
8	8	5	CTS

B.Setting of RS232C Serial Ports

Default of RS232C serial port for communication is set as:

Baud Rate 2400

Start bit 1 (always 0)

Stop bit 1 (always 1)

Data bits 7

Parity Odd

C.System Requirements for Installing the GDM-396 Interface Program

To use **GDM-396 Interface Program**, you need the following hardware and software:

- An IBM PC or equivalent computer with 80486 or higher processor and 640 x 480 pixel or better monitor.
- Microsoft Windows 95 or above.
- At least 8MB of RAM.
- At least 8MB free space in hard drive.
- Can access to a local or a network CD-ROM.
- A free serial port.
- A mouse or other pointing device supported by Windows.

Please refer to the included CD-ROM "**Installation Guide & Computer Interface Software**" for installing and operating instructions of the **GDM-396 Interface Program**.

~ END ~

This operating manual is subject to change without notice.