



User's Manual

Model 412 Electromagnetic Field Meter



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INTRODUCTION

The Model 412 Electromagnetic Field Meter is a battery-powered, hand-held, instrument that measures magnetic fields around power lines, appliances, computers, and other electrical equipment. The easy to read display automatically switches to the measurement range offering the best resolution. The Model 412 has features not offered on other, similar detectors. This includes the ability to differentiate between high and low frequency components of a magnetic field. In the WIDE setting, the Model 412 covers many times the frequency bandwidth of other low cost AC magnetic field meters on the market. Another feature not usually offered is Max Hold, which allows retention of the highest reading long enough to take measurements that are outside the line-of-sight.

Features

- Hand-held, compact, and light weight
- Autoranging (199.9 and 1999 mG)
- 0.1 mG Resolution
- Wide frequency response
- Max Hold retains highest reading
- Low Battery indicator
- One year warranty

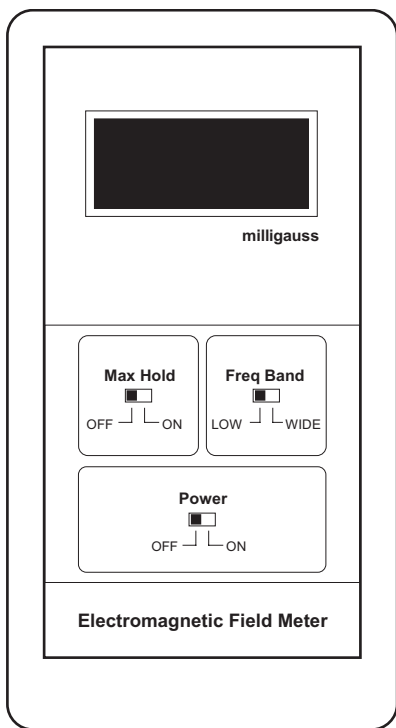


Figure 1. Model 412 Front Panel

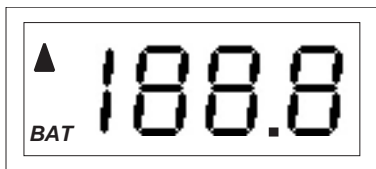
FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

Power. Controls power to the unit. Turn switch On (up) to power the unit. Turn switch Off (down) to turn power off.

Freq Band. There are two available frequency bands: LOW and WIDE (see Figure 2). The WIDE band displays the total of all fields in the range of 15 hertz to 300 kilohertz. Use the WIDE frequency band for most measurements, particularly to correctly indicate TV and computer monitor horizontal deflection fields. Fields above 1000 hertz greatly attenuate on the LOW band. Use the LOW band around AC line and line powered appliances and as a means of differentiating between high and low frequency components of the total field.

Max Hold. When the Max Hold switch is ON, the ▲ symbol appears in the display. The highest reading displays for several seconds, but slowly begins to decay after removing the sensor from the magnetic field. However, the decay is slow enough to obtain a usable reading.

DISPLAY



milligauss

▲ This symbol indicates Max Hold is ON.

BAT. The BAT symbol displays when the 9 volt battery needs replacement.

milligauss. The numeric display is in milligauss (mG). A milligauss (mG) is 1/1000th of a gauss (G). The unit measures in two ranges: 0 to 199.9 mG, or 0 to 1999 mG. The decimal point automatically moves to the best field range.

NORMAL OPERATION

WARNING: Never extend hands or instrument into live high voltage circuits.

1. Turn instrument ON.
2. Set Max Hold to OFF.
3. Set Freq Band to WIDE.
4. Place instrument in magnetic field, then hold the instrument still.
5. Take a reading.

MAX HOLD OPERATION

Use Max Hold to take readings in hard to see areas.

1. Turn instrument ON.
2. Allow display to settle near zero.
3. Set Max Hold ON.
4. Select the desired Freq Band.
5. Slowly place the instrument in the field to be measured.
6. Hold the instrument in the field for a few seconds to allow the display to settle.
7. Slowly bring the instrument back and view the reading.
8. To reset the instrument and take another reading, simply turn MAX HOLD OFF, let the display settle, then turn MAX HOLD ON and follow the same procedure.

NOTE: It is not recommended to use Max Hold at field levels below 50 milligauss. Motion in the earth's field can give erroneous readings. Also, a possible error of about 4 milligauss can occur at switch-on of the Max Hold feature.

COMMON OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS

What does Freq Band mean?

There are two available frequency bands: LOW and WIDE (see Figure 2). The WIDE band displays the total of all fields in the range of 15 hertz to 300 kilohertz. Use the WIDE frequency band for most measurements and to correctly indicate TV and computer monitor horizontal deflection fields. Fields above 1000 hertz greatly attenuate on the LOW band. Use the LOW band to differentiate between the high and low frequency components of the total field.

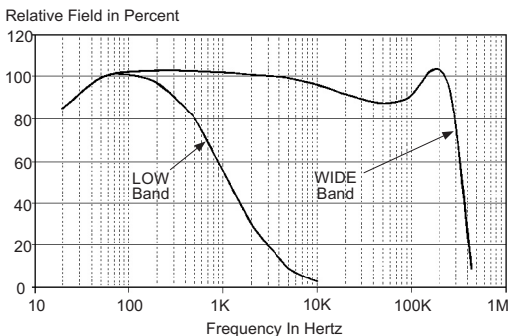


Figure 2. Frequency Response Chart

What is Max Hold?

Use Max Hold to obtain readings from places you cannot easily see the display such as behind a computer monitor or TV. Reset Max Hold by turning OFF then back ON.

Why does the reading change in Max Hold?

The Max Hold is based on an analog circuit. Once charged and removed from the field, the circuit immediately begins to discharge at a very slow rate, about one digit per second: slow enough to obtain useful readings.

What is Autoranging?

Autoranging means the display automatically places the decimal point of the reading in the correct position. There are two ranges: 199.9 mG and 1999 mG. The automatic change between ranges occurs at about 160 mG.

Where are the sensing coils?

The sensing coil is located in the stepped area on the bottom of the Model 412. When looking at the top of the unit, the coil is underneath the display. The coil is wound over a 1-inch diameter plastic bobbin and anchored to the bottom of the enclosure in the stepped area. This type of coil works best for large, low gradient magnetic fields.

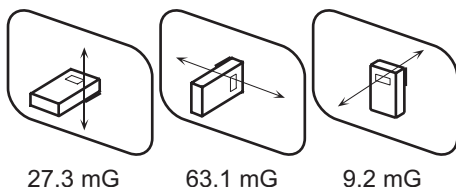
Does movement affect the reading?

Yes. The Model 412 must be stationary to take a reading. Moving the Model 412 couples the 500 mG field of the Earth into the coils and gives erroneous readings.

Does orientation affect the reading?

Yes. When investigating unknown magnetic fields, check all three spatial axes to arrive at the maximum field. As shown below, placing the Model 412 in front of a TV screen (with the Freq Band switch in WIDE position) gives a different reading in each of the three axes.

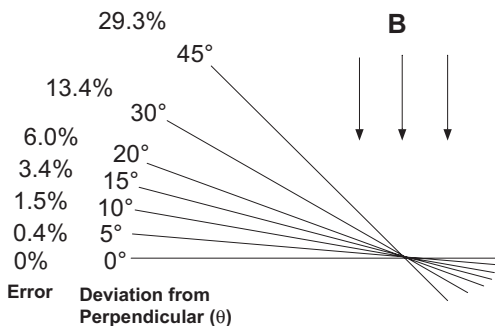
Effect of Orientation on Reading of a TV Screen



The reason for the different readings is the orientation of the measurement coil in the stepped area of the Model 412. The coil responds most strongly to a magnetic field running perpendicular through the coil (see the arrows in the above illustration.) Turning the Model 412 to each of the three axes orients the coil for taking measurements in each plane.

Does angle affect the reading?

Yes. Readings depend on the angle of the coil in relation to the magnetic field. Maximum output occurs when the flux vector is perpendicular to the plane of the coil. The greater the deviation from right angles in either of the three axes, the larger the error of the reading. For example, a 5° variance on any one axis causes a 0.4% error, a 10° misalignment induces a 1.5% error, etc. See the illustration below.



Effect of angular variations on percentage of reading error where $\% \text{ Error} = (1 - \cos \theta) 100$

How do you test spaces & locations?

To measure the magnetic field at any point of interest, rotate the Model 412 *slowly* to all orientations until a maximum reading is obtained.

MAGNETIC TERMINOLOGY QUESTIONS

What is an Electromagnetic Field?

Although you cannot see it, there is an electric field around everything with an applied voltage, and a magnetic field around everything that conducts current. The combined effect is called the electromagnetic field. This includes power lines, electric cords, electric appliances, TVs, vacuum cleaners, etc. Remember the iron filings on paper with a magnet underneath experiment? The filings would line up corresponding to the magnetic field shape.

What type of field does the 412 measure?

The Model 412 measures only the magnetic portion of an AC field. It does not measure electric fields or DC magnetic fields.

What is the difference between DC and AC?

DC stands for Direct Current. DC fields are unchanging, such as those produced by a permanent magnet or by DC currents. For example, the Earth generates a DC field which is typically 500 mG. AC stands for Alternating Current. AC fields are always changing, such as those generated by AC currents. The Model 412 is calibrated only for continuous sine wave fields. The electricity running to our homes is AC. Inside a home or office, the normal ambient background that you will see is around 0.4 milligauss.

What is a gauss?

The gauss (G) is a unit of magnetic flux density (often referred to as the B field).

The dictionary defines a gauss as 10^{-4} teslas, or one maxwell per square centimeter. It was named for Karl Fredrich Gauss (1777-1855) a German mathematician, astronomer, and physicist.

What is a milligauss?

The milligauss (mG) is one-thousandth of a gauss. It would take 1000 milligauss to make one gauss. Also, 1 mG equals 0.1 microtesla. This is a better scale for measuring the low level AC magnetic fields common to our ambient surroundings.

What are some typical readings?

Appliance	At 4 in.	At 12 in.	At 36 in.
Can Opener	1300 to 4000 mG	30 to 300 mG	0.5 to 7 mG
Computer Monitor	50 to 600 mG	3 to 3 to	<1 to 2 mG
Microwave Oven	600 mG	90 mG	5 mG
Television	5 to 100 mG	0.4 to 20 mG	<0.1 to 1.5 mG
Toaster	10 to 60 mG	0.6 to 7.0 mG	<0.1 mG
Vacuum Cleaner	230 to 1300 mG	20 to 200 mG	1 to 20 mG

SPECIFICATIONS

Ranges: 199.9 mG, 1999 mG (Autoranging)

Resolution: 0.1 mG on 199.9 mG Range;
1 mG on 1999 mG Range

Accuracy: at 50/60 Hz – 1% \pm 1 digit typical,
 \pm 2 digits (<10 mG). See Figure 2 for
accuracy at frequencies other than 60 Hz.

Frequency Bands:

Low Band: 15 Hz to 1000 Hz

Wide Band: 15 Hz to 300,000 Hz

Frequency Response (nominal):

+5% band center; -25% band edges

Max Hold Decay: <0.1% of range per second.

Display: 3½-digit Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)

Battery Type: 9-volt Alkaline Battery

Battery Life: 100 hours

Operating Temperature Range:

0 to +50 °C (32 to 122 °F)

Dimensions: 15.2 × 8.3 × 3.6 cm

(6 × 3.25 × 1.4 inches)

Weight: 240 grams (0.52 lb.) with battery

The unit is *not* waterproof.

CERTIFICATION

Lake Shore certifies that this product has been inspected and tested in accordance with its published specifications and that this product met its published specifications at the time of shipment. The accuracy and calibration of this product at the time of shipment are traceable to the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); formerly known as the National Bureau of Standards (NBS).

BATTERY REPLACEMENT

When the battery level falls below 5.5 volts, **BAT** appears in the display, indicating a low battery. About an hour measurement time remains before accuracy degrades. Replace the battery as soon as possible.

To remove the battery, turn the Power switch OFF, turn the unit over, and use a small screwdriver to remove the bottom door in the enclosure. Carefully disconnect the old battery, connect a new battery, then replace the back cover.

IN CASE OF TROUBLE

If the instrument fails to turn on or behaves unpredictably, replace the battery. This usually solves most problems.

There are no locally serviceable parts in the Model 412. If you are experiencing problems, contact the factory at the phone numbers or e-mail addresses on the back of this manual.

To return a unit, obtain a Return Goods Authorization (RGA) number from a factory representative. Lake Shore requires the following information before attempting any repair:

1. Instrument model and serial number.
2. User name, company, address, and phone number.
3. Malfunction symptoms.
4. RGA number.

Units ship to Lake Shore at Customer expense. Lake Shore pays shipping to return units under warranty. If possible, use original packing material for reshipment. If not available, consult Lake Shore for shipping and packing instructions.

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