

Instruction Manual for the

Power Probe III

The Ultimate in Circuit Testing



POWER PROBE®

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the NEW Power Probe III (PP3). The PP3 is our most revolutionary circuit tester to date. The PP3 literally speeds you through the diagnosing of 12 to 24 volt automotive electrical systems. After connecting the PP3's clips to the vehicle's battery, the automotive technician can determine at a glance, the voltage level and the polarity of a circuit without running for a voltmeter or reconnecting hook-up clips from one battery pole to the other. The power switch allows the automotive technician to conduct a positive or negative battery current to the tip for activating and testing the function of electrical components without wasting time with jumper leads. And yes, the PP3 is short circuit protected. It tests for bad ground contacts instantly without performing voltage drop tests. It allows you to follow and locate short circuits without wasting precious fuses. The Power Probe can also test for continuity with the assistance of its auxiliary ground lead. With a flip of the power switch, you will know at a glance that your PP3 is functioning without running to the battery as you would otherwise have to do with simple test lights. The PP3's 20ft (extendable) cable allows you to test along the entire length of the vehicle without constantly searching for ground hook-ups. An absolute must for every automotive technician looking for a fast and accurate solution to electrical systems diagnostics.

Before using the Power Probe III please read the instruction booklet carefully.

Warning! When the PP3 switch is depressed battery current/voltage is conducted directly to the tip which may cause sparks when contacting ground or certain circuits. Therefore the Power Probe should NOT be used around flammables such as gasoline or its vapors. The spark of an energized Power Probe could ignite these vapors. Use the same caution as you would when using an arc welder.

The Power Probe III is NOT to be used with 110/220-volt HOME electrical, it is only for use with 12-24-volt systems.

Table of Contents

Hook-up and quick self-test	4
Turning the Audio Tone On & Off	4
Circuit Breaker	5
Voltage & Polarity testing	5
Continuity testing	6
Activating components out of vehicle's electrical system	7
Testing trailer lights and connections	8
Activating electrical components in the Vehicle	9
Activating electrical components with Ground	10
Checking for bad ground contacts	11
Following & Locating Short Circuits	11
Red/Green Indicator & Audio Tone	11
Modes 1, 2, 3	12
Modes 4, 5, Chart	13
Specifications	14
Accessories	15
Other great Products	16/17
Power Probe warranty	Back Cover

IMPORTANT TIP: When powering-up components, you can increase the life of your Power Probe switch if you first press the switch, then contact the tip to the component. The arcing will take place at the tip instead of the contacts of the switch.

HOOK-UP

Unroll the Power Probe cable. Connect the **RED** battery hook-up clip to the **POSITIVE** terminal of the vehicle's battery. Connect the **BLACK** battery hook-up clip to the **NEGATIVE** terminal of the vehicle's battery. When the PP3 is first connected to a battery (power source), it will sound a quick high and then low beep and go into "Power Probe Mode (PPM) (See Mode #1 on page 12) and the 2 bright white LEDs (dual head lights) will be on to illuminate the test area of the probe tip.

QUICK SELF-TEST (PPM)

While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, press the power switch forward to activate the tip with a positive (+) voltage. The positive sign (+) LED should light red and the LCD display will read the battery (supply) voltage. If the tone feature is turned on, a high pitched tone will sound. Press the power switch rearward to activate the tip with a negative (-) voltage. The negative sign (-) LED should light green and the LCD display will read "0.0" (ground). If the tone feature is turned on, a low pitched tone will sound. The Power Probe is now ready to use. If the indicator did not light, depress the reset button of the circuit breaker on the right side of the housing and try the self test again.

TURNING THE AUDIO TONE ON/OFF (PPM)

While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, just do a quick press of the mode button to toggle the tone on or off. While quickly pressing (a quick press and release) the mode button, if a short high beep is heard, this means the audio tone is turned on. If a short low beep is heard, the audio tone is turned off.



CIRCUIT BREAKER



In Power Probe Mode (Mode #1) with a the circuit breaker tripped, the LCD will display the symbol “C B”. (see page 13-14 for detail) All other functions of the PP3 are still active. This means that you can still probe a circuit and observe the voltage reading. When the circuit breaker is tripped, the PP3 will NOT be able to conduct battery current to the tip even when the power switch is pressed. Intentionally tripping the breaker and using the PP3 to probe can be considered an added precaution against accidental pressing of the power switch.

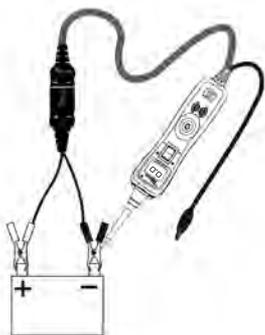
VOLTAGE & POLARITY TESTING (PPM)

While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, contact the probe tip to a **POSITIVE** circuit. The red positive sign “+” LED will light and the voltmeter displays the voltage with a resolution of 1/10th of a volt (0.1v).

If the audio feature is turned on, a high pitched tone will sound. (See **RED/GREEN POLARITY INDICATOR & AUDIO TONE** on page 11)

While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, contact the probe tip to a **NEGATIVE** circuit. The green negative sign “-” LED will light and the voltmeter displays the voltage. If the audio feature is turned on, a low pitched tone will sound.

Contacting the Power Probe tip to an OPEN circuit will be indicated by neither of the LED indicators lighting.



While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode. Contact the probe tip to a **NEGATIVE** circuit. The green negative sign “-” LED will light. If the audio feature is turned on, a low pitched tone will sound.

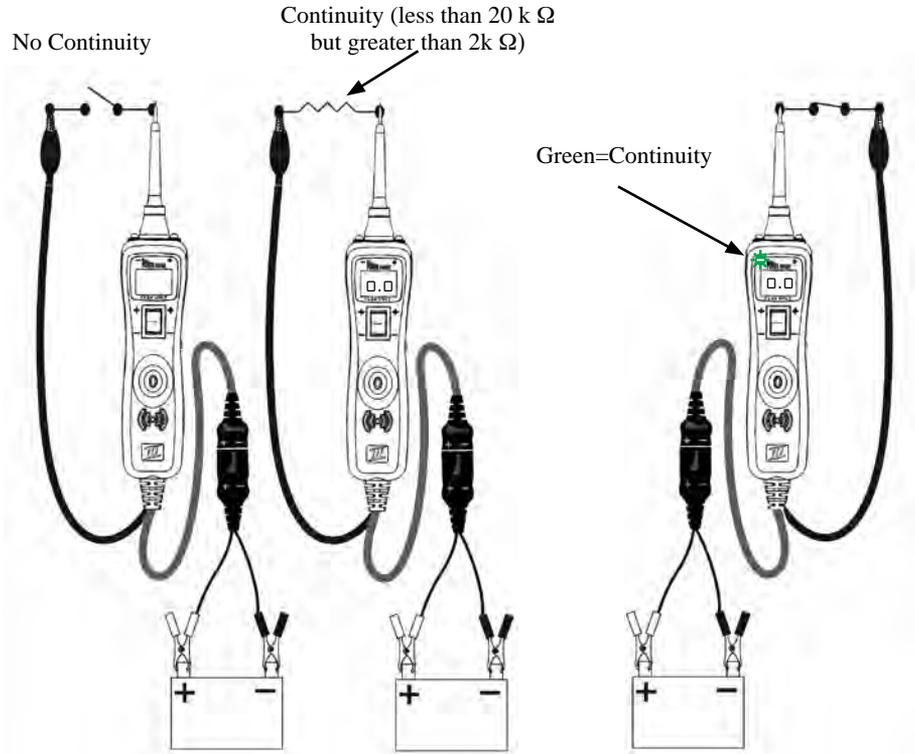


While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, contact the probe tip to a **POSITIVE** circuit. The red positive sign “+” LED will light and the voltage reading of the circuit will be indicated on the LCD display. If the audio feature is turned on, a high pitched tone will sound.

CONTINUITY TESTING (PPM)

While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode, and by using the Power Probe tip in connection with chassis ground or the auxiliary ground lead, continuity can be tested on wires and components attached or disconnected from the vehicle's electrical system.

The PP3 indicates continuity using 2 resistance levels. When the Power Probe tip has a resistance to ground less than 20K Ohms but greater than 2K Ohms the LCD will indicate "0.0" volts but no Green "-" LED. But when the resistance to ground less than 2K Ohms the LCD will indicate "0.0" volts and also the Green "-" LED. The higher resistance continuity function is useful for checking Spark Plug Wires, (disconnected from ignition) Solenoids and magnetic pickup coils, and the lower resistance continuity for testing relay coils and wiring. However the best way to prove continuity of connections to either Ground or Battery is to power up the connection using the Power Switch. If the Circuit Breaker trips you know that you have a good solid low resistance connection.



ACTIVATING COMPONENTS OUTSIDE OF THE VEHICLE (PPM)

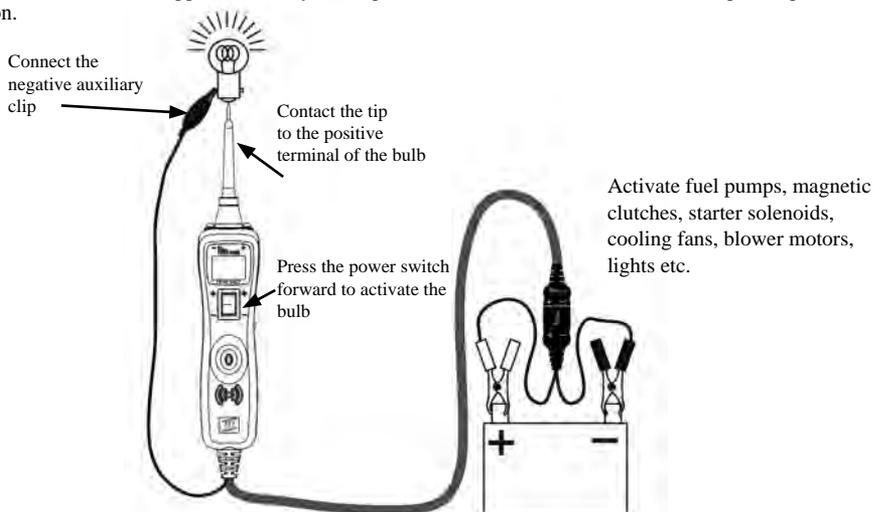
While the PP3 is in Power Probe Mode and by using the Power Probe tip in connection with the auxiliary ground lead, components can be activated right in your hand, thereby testing their function.

Connect the negative auxiliary clip to the negative terminal or ground side of the component being tested. Contact the probe to the positive terminal of the component, the green negative sign “-“ LED indicator should light GREEN indicating continuity through the component.

While keeping an eye on the green LED negative sign, quickly depress and release the power switch forward (+). If the green negative sign “-“ LED went out and the red positive sign “+” came on, you may proceed with further activation. If the green negative sign “-“ LED went off at that instant or if the circuit breaker tripped, the Power Probe has been overloaded. This could happen for the following reasons:

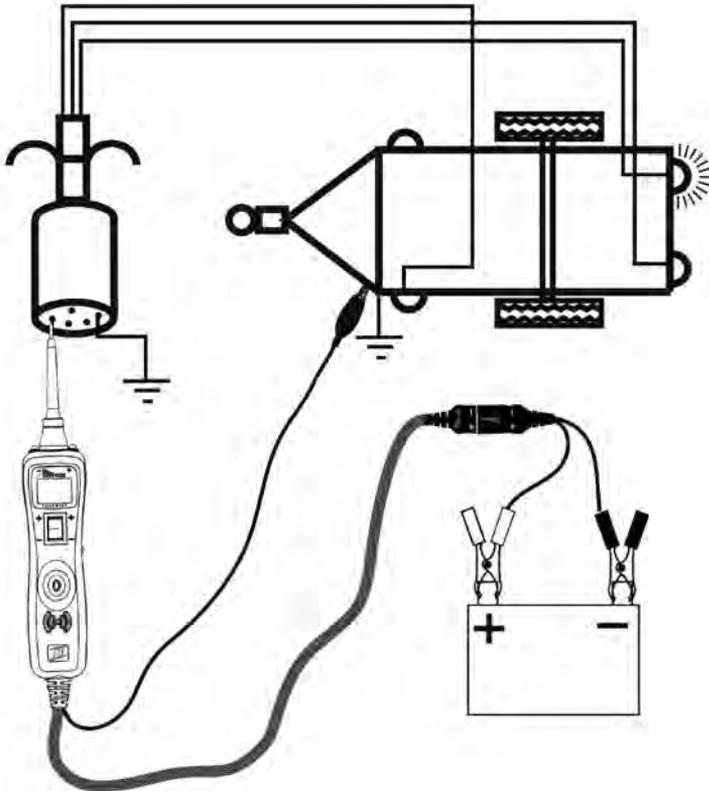
- The contact you are probing is a direct ground or negative voltage.
- The component you are testing is short-circuited.
- The component is a very high current component (i.e., starter motor).

If the circuit breaker is tripped, reset it by waiting for it to cool down (15 sec.) and then depressing the reset button.



TESTING TRAILER LIGHTS AND CONNECTIONS (PPM)

1. Connect the PP3 to a good battery.
2. Clip the auxiliary ground clip to the trailer ground.
3. Probe the contacts at the jack and then apply voltage to them. This lets you check the function and orientation of the connector and trailer lights. If the circuit breaker tripped, that contact is likely a ground. Reset the circuit breaker by letting it cool down (15 sec.) and depressing the reset button until it clicks into place.



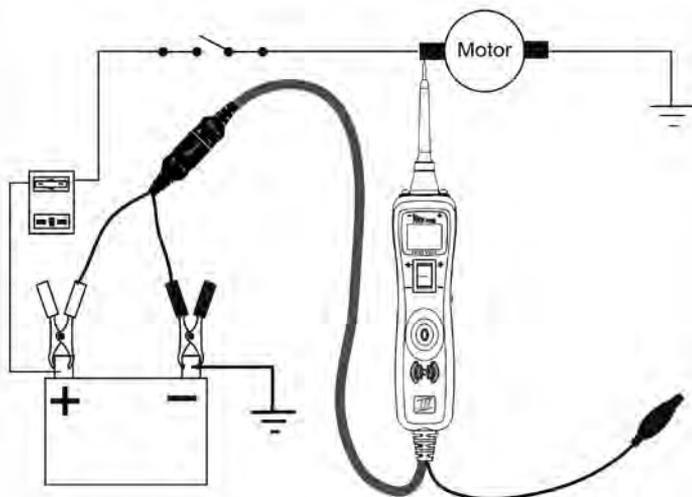
ACTIVATING COMPONENTS IN THE VEHICLE (PPM)

To activate components with **positive (+)** voltage: Contact the probe tip to the positive terminal of the component, the **green negative** sign “-” LED should light. Indicating continuity to ground. While observing the **green indicator**, quickly depress and release the power switch forward (+). If the **green indicator** went out and the **red positive** sign (+) LED came on, you may proceed with further activation. If the **green indicator** went off at that instant or if the circuit breaker tripped, the Power Probe has been overloaded. This could happen for the following reasons:

- The contact is a direct ground.
- The component is short-circuited.
- The component is a high current component (i.e., starter motor).

If the circuit breaker tripped, reset it by allowing it to cool down (15 sec.) and then depress the reset button.

Warning: *Haphazardly applying voltage to certain circuits can cause damage to a vehicle's electronic components. Therefore, it is strongly advised to use the vehicle manufacturer's schematic and diagnosing procedure while testing.*



TRICK: When powering-up components, you can increase the life of your Power Probe switch if you first press the switch, then contact the tip to the component. The arcing will take place at the tip instead of the contacts of the switch.

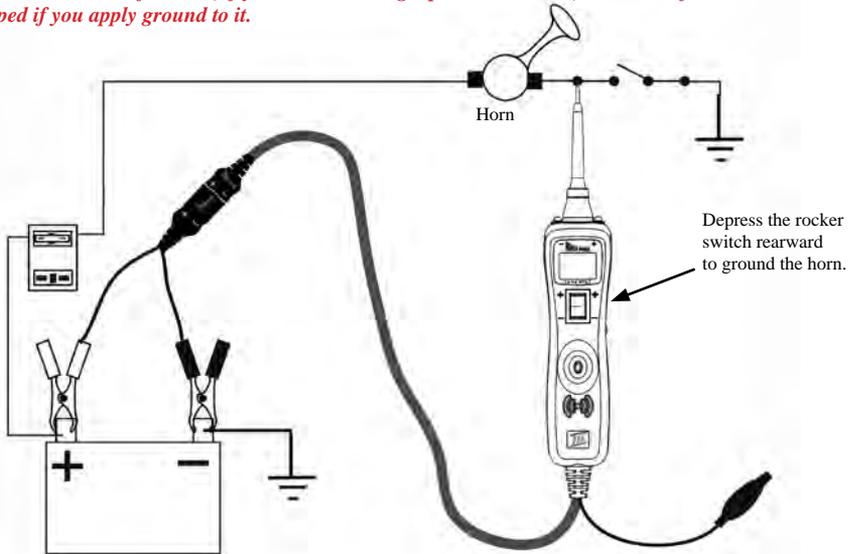
ACTIVATING ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS W/GROUND (PPM)

Contact the probe tip to the negative terminal of the component, the LED indicator should light **RED**. While observing **red positive** sign “+” LED, quickly depress and release the power switch rearward (-). If the red indicator went out and the **green negative** sign (-) came on you may proceed with further activation. If the **green indicator** went off at that instant or if the circuit breaker tripped, the Power Probe has been overloaded. This could have happened for the following reasons:

- The contact is a direct positive voltage.
- The component is short-circuited.
- The component is a very high current component (i.e., starter motor).

If the circuit breaker tripped, reset it by allowing it to cool down (15 sec.) and then depress the reset button.

WARNING: *With this function, if you are contacting a protected circuit, a vehicle's fuse can be blown or tripped if you apply ground to it.*



CHECKING FOR BAD GROUND CONTACTS (PPM)

Probe the suspected ground wire or contact with the probe tip.

Observe the **green negative** sign “-” LED. Depress the power switch forward then release.

If the **green negative** sign “-” LED went out and the **red positive** sign “+” came on, this is not a true ground.

If the circuit breaker tripped, this circuit is more than likely a good ground. Keep in mind that high current components such as starter motors will also trip the circuit breaker.

FOLLOWING & LOCATING SHORT CIRCUITS (PPM)

In most cases a short circuit will appear by a fuse or a fusible link blowing or an electrical protection device tripping (i.e., a circuit breaker). This is the best place to begin the search.

Remove the blown fuse from the fuse box. Use the Power Probe tip to activate and energize each of the fuse contacts. The contact which trips the PP3 circuit breaker is the shorted circuit. Take note of this wire's identification code or color. Follow the wire as far as you can along the wiring harness, for instance if you are following a short in the brake light circuit you may know that the wire must pass through the wiring harness at the door sill. Locate the color-coded wire in the harness and expose it. Probe through the insulation with the Power Probe tip and depress the power switch forward to activate and energize the wire. If the Power Probe circuit breaker tripped you have verified the shorted wire. Cut the wire and energize each end with the Power Probe tip. The wire end which trips the Power Probe circuit breaker again is the shorted circuit and will lead you to the shorted area. Follow the wire in the shorted direction and repeat this process until the short is located. ECT200 uses a wireless non-contact technique that guides you to the short/open location.

For more information on short circuit tracing using the ECT 2000 Short and Open Circuit Tester please visit our website: www.powerprobe.com

RED/GREEN POLARITY INDICATOR & AUDIO TONE

The “**RED/GREEN** Polarity Indicator” lights-up when the probe tip voltage matches the battery voltage within ± 0.5 volts. This means that if you contact a circuit that is not a good ground or a good hot, you will see this instantly by the “**RED/GREEN** Polarity Indicator” NOT lighting. The Audio Tone runs parallel to the “**RED/GREEN** Polarity Indicator” and will also NOT react when contacting a circuit that does not match the battery voltage within ± 0.5 volts.

MODES

The Power Probe III has been designed to work the same as the previous Power Probe circuit testers. Using the advanced features and modes is optional. However, understanding them will expand your diagnosing capabilities. The LCD display indicates voltage levels of the circuit along with an identifying symbol showing you what mode it is in. The additional features contain 5 new modes which give you specific information about how the circuit is reacting.

The 5 Modes can be accessed by depressing the Mode button and cycling through each one.

Mode #1 Power Probe Mode: While the PP3 is in "Power Probe Mode" and the probe tip is floating (not contacting a circuit), the LCD backlight is on but the display is blank. If the audio tone is turned on you will see a speaker symbol in the lower right corner of the display. Once you contact the probe tip to a circuit the LCD display will indicate the average voltage level of the circuit. The red/green polarity indicator (See section Red/Green Polarity Indicator and Audio Tone) will respond also, showing whether the circuit is positive or negative.

A secondary feature in this mode is the peak to peak threshold detection and signal monitoring. When contacting a signal generating circuit such as a speaker wire with audio signals on it, the PP3 detects the peak to peak signals and displays the peak to peak voltage on the display, the sound of the signals will be monitored and heard through the PP3 speaker. The peak to peak threshold levels are pre-selected by the operator in "Mode 5". See Mode #5 for more information on setting threshold levels. Placing the PP3 probe tip next to a sparkplug wire (NOT probing it directly), allows you to monitor the sound of the ignition pulses at the same time display a peak to peak reading. The PP3 senses the pulses in ignition wires through capacitive coupling (**DO NOT CONTACT PROBE TIP DIRECTLY TO THE SECONDARY IGNITION CIRCUIT**). By monitoring each plug wire in this way you can locate missing cylinders.

Mode #2 Negative Peak Mode: The Negative Peak Mode monitors a positive circuit and captures the lowest voltage that it has dropped to. To do this: Place the PP3 in "Negative Peak Mode" by pressing and holding the mode button for 1 second until you hear a low pitched beep and the LCD display indicates a negative (minus) sign in the lower left corner. The display should also indicate a reading of "0.0" with the probe floating. (This is because no voltage is present). Probe the positive circuit you want to test and tap the mode button once. The LCD display will show the lowest detected voltage of the circuit. If the circuit drops in voltage at anytime, a new lowest reading will be captured and displayed. You can then do a quick tap of the mode button once again to reset the LCD display and indicate the new voltage level on the circuit. Reset the LCD display by doing a quick tap of the mode button as often as necessary.

An APPLICATION for the use of the "Negative Peak Mode": Lets say you have a circuit that is suspect of loosing a connection and the voltage drops, causing something to turn off or malfunction. Probing the circuit and monitoring it in "Negative Peak Mode" will instantly indicate as the circuit drops in voltage. You can monitor the circuit while wiggling wires and pulling on connectors to see if the voltage drops. Since the minimum voltage reading is captured and held on the display, you can inspect it at a later time. You could also perform a battery crank test.

Mode #3 Positive Peak Mode: The "Positive Peak Mode", monitors the probed circuit and captures the highest detected voltage. Place the PP3 into "Positive Peak Mode" by pressing and holding the mode button for 1 second until you hear a beep. Repeat this until you hear a quick high pitched beep and the LCD display indicates a positive (plus) sign in the lower left corner. The display should also indicate a reading of "0.0" with the probe tip floating. Probe the circuit and the PP3 instantly displays and holds the highest voltage reading. This means you can remove the probe away from the circuit and the voltage reading remains displayed for your reference. Reset the LCD display by doing a quick tap of the mode button.

An APPLICATION for the use of the "Positive Peak Mode": Let's say you have a circuit that is supposed to be off and is suspected of turning on inappropriately or getting a signal for some reason. Probing the circuit and monitoring it in the "positive peak mode" will instantly indicate as the circuit increases in voltage. You can monitor the circuit while wiggling wires and pulling on connectors to see if the voltage increases. Since the maximum voltage reading is captured and held on the display, you can inspect the reading at a later time.

Maybe you have to probe a circuit deep under a dash and the display is obstructed from view. In "Positive Peak Mode" just probe the wire then remove the probe and look at your voltage reading. Connect to starter terminal to capture maximum voltage to the starter while cranking. Quickly finds voltage drops in the wiring & start connection (Solenoid).

Mode #4 Peak to Peak Mode: The Peak to Peak Mode measures the difference between the positive and negative peak voltage levels over a 1 second period. With this feature you can measure and monitor for example, the diode rectifier in a charging system while the engine is running. The peak to peak readings will give the technician the data necessary to determine if a diode rectifier is defective or not. A normal peak to peak reading while testing a charging circuit is usually under a volt. If a defective rectifier is present the peak to peak reading will be over 1 volt and possibly over 3 volts. When probing in "Peak to Peak Mode" the display shows activity of circuits such as fuel injectors, distributor pick-ups, cam and crank sensors, oxygen sensors, wheel speed sensors, hall effect sensors. Measures fly back voltage of injectors to quickly find a problem.

Mode #5 Threshold Level Setting for the Peak to Peak Detection in Power Probe Mode" (Mode #1) This mode is only used to adjust the threshold voltage in "Power Probe Mode" for Peak to Peak Detection and Signal Monitoring. To set the threshold level for the peak to peak detection in "Power Probe Mode", press and hold the mode button for one second until you hear a beep. Repeat this a second, third and fourth time and/or until an alternating positive (+) and negative (-) sign is present in the bottom left corner of the LCD display. You can now toggle the threshold level by a quick tap of the mode button and observing the voltage level settings. The peak to peak threshold voltage settings loop incrementally from 0.2, to 0.5, to 1.0, to 2.0, to 5.0, to 10.0, to 50.0 and return back to 0.2 again. AN audio installer would find the 0.2v setting convenient. Once you select the desired threshold voltage, press and hold the mode button again until it beeps. This returns you to the "Power Probe Mode" (Mode #1). You will know that you are in the "Power Probe Mode" when the LCD display is blank and/or with the "Speaker Symbol" shown in the bottom right corner.

Navigation	Mode#	Display	Mode/Function	Output
<p>When the Power Probe III is initially connected to the vehicles battery or a 12-24 volt power supply, it enters Mode #1 automatically.</p> <p>To enter into Mode #2 press & hold Mode button until you hear a low pitched beep.</p>	#1	   	<p>Power probe Mode: with Audio Tone On</p> <p>Power probe Mode: with Audio Tone Off</p> <p>Power probe Mode: with the Circuit Breaker tripped with Audio Tone Off</p> <p>Power probe Mode: with the Circuit Breaker tripped with Audio Tone On</p>	<p>Displays the average D.C. voltage.</p> <p>Displays the Peak to Peak A.C. voltage when the voltage is greater than <i>Mode 5 Threshold</i> setting.</p> <p>Limited to 65v</p>
<p>To enter into Mode #3 press & hold Mode button until you hear a high pitched beep.</p>	#2		Negative Peak to Peak Mode	Captures the most <i>Negative</i> voltage transition.
<p>To enter into Mode #4 press & hold Mode button until you hear a low to high pitched beep.</p>	#3		Positive Peak to Peak Mode	Captures the most <i>Positive</i> voltage transition.
<p>To enter into Mode #5 press & hold Mode button until you hear a mid pitched beep.</p>	#4		Peak to Peak Mode	Displays the difference between <i>Peak to Peak</i> voltage.
<p>To return to Mode #1 press & hold Mode button, until you hear the high & low beep.</p>	#5	 <p>↑ Actively alternating + to - to +, etc.</p>	Peak to Peak Threshold Setting Mode: Detects Peak to Peak in Power Probe Mode.	Sets the <i>Peak to Peak Threshold Level</i> for the Mode #1 display to transition from D.C. to A.C.

Power Probe 3 Specifications

DC 0 – 70V + 1 digit

P-P 0 – 70V

Frequency response of tone pass through
10Hz to greater than 10 KHz

PP display

15Hz Square Wave

35Hz Sine Wave

Power Probe Mode – Continuity to ground

First level – display is enabled less than 20K

Second level – green LED is enabled less than 2K

– & + Peak Detector Response

Single event capture less than 200ms pulse width

Repetitive events less than 1ms pulse width

Peak to Peak Mode

0 – 70V + 1 digit

4Hz to over 500KHz Square Wave input

4Hz to over 250KHz Sine Wave input

Threshold for PPAC/Audible passthrough

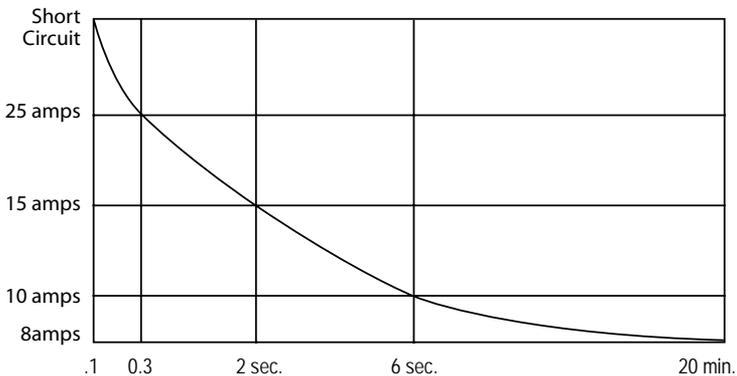
Circuit Breaker

8 amp thermal response – Manual reset

Typical Response

8 amp 10 amps 15 amps 25 amps Short Circuit

No trip 20 min. 6 sec. 2 sec. 0.3 sec.



POWER PROBE III ACCESSORIES / REPLACEMENT PARTS

Please visit: www.powerprobe.com for more parts & accessories



Extention Cable
PN3049



Cigarette
Lighter Adapter
PN3048



Clip Set
PN3046



Case
PN021

POWER PROBE LEAD SETS

A Great Addition...
to your Power Probe!

The Power Probe Lead Set features 10-gauge super flexible multi stranded wires with high current 30-amp rated, shrouded jacks & plugs, that raises the bar for Lead Sets. The 1', 3', and 6' cables, all with gold plated electrical contacts, are stackable and will extend your reach! Also included are male to female and female to male conversion adapters for added versatility. The two piercing probes will not only save finger tips, but also, make wire piercing a snap!

If you are looking to improve your testing capabilities or just want the best lead set money can buy, the Power Probe Gold Series Lead Set is the answer.



Lead Set
PPLS01

**Self - Centering
Piercing Probes
28-8 AWG**

**10 Gauge Super
Flexible Multi
Strand Wires**

**Standard 4mm
Plugs & Jacks**

More Great Products

#PPMT

Power Probe Micro Torch

The Power Probe Micro Torch is small in size, big on features and easy to use.

- Soldering
- Light Brazing
- Stubborn Fasteners
- Plastic Forming
- Cutting tool
- Jewelry Repair
- Arts and Crafts
- Plastic Forming
- Cutting tool



#PPMTKIT01

Power Probe Micro Torch Kit

Kit includes:

- Micro Torch & Base
- 1 injection tip
- 1 hot knife
- 1 heat shield
- 1 Soldering tip
- 1 tube of rosin core solder

Features an electronic ignition and flame adjustment from 1/2" to 2 1/2". Easily refillable with butane and will last up to 2 hours between refills.



#PPSK

Power Probe Solder Kit

Kit includes:

- Soldering Tool
- 3 soldering tips
- 1 injection tip
- 1 hot knife
- 1 heat shield
- 1 tube of rosin core solder

The Power Probe Soldering Kit is portable and easy to use.



#PPLS03

Deluxe Lead Set

Kit includes:

- 3 ft leads (2x)
- Large Piercing Probe
- Small Piercing Probe
- Probe Tip (2x)
- Male/Male Adapter
- Female/Female Adapter

Auto Centering Piercing Probes 28-34AWG

10 Gauge Super Flexible Multi Strand Wires

Standard 4mm Plugs & Jacks



Vehicle Specific Adapter Kits

Finally, . . . a Brake Bleeder Adapter Designed to Work!



Master Kit - #BAKIT01

Our custom fit vehicle specific master cylinder adapter kits give you the tools you need. Each kit is designed to match a specific manufacturer for easy installation and a leak-proof seal every time.



Domestic - #BAKIT02



Toyota - #BAKIT04

FEATURES



Color Coded Anodized Aluminum caps for easy recognition



360 degree Swivel fittings eliminates clearance issues



Expandable O-Rings guarantees a leak-proof seal everytime

Visit our webpage for



Asian - #BAKIT07



Ford - #BAKIT03



Nissan - #BAKIT06



Honda - #BAKIT05

Power Probe Warranty

Power Probe products undergo a strict quality control inspection for workmanship, function, and safety before leaving the factory. From the date of purchase, we will warranty/repair Power Probe products for one (1) year against defects in parts and workmanship. All repairs due to misuse will be charged a fee not to exceed the cost of the tool. All warranty units must be accompanied by a copy of the original sale receipt. In the event of a malfunction or defective unit, please call or write your Power Probe dealer.

The logo for Power Probe, featuring the words "POWER PROBE" in a bold, stylized font. The letters are yellow with a red outline and are set against a black background. The text is slanted upwards from left to right.

www.powerprobe.com

890 Mariner Street • Brea, California 92821

800-655-3585 • local: 714-990-9443 • fax: 714-990-9478

This manual has been provided courtesy of
My RV Works, Inc.

www.myrvworks.com



You can find more RV service manuals here:

www.myrvworks.com/manuals

Over the years of running a mobile RV repair service, having a dedicated place to access service manuals for all the different appliances and components found on RVs was something that I always had a desire to create.

I hope this resource makes your RV repairs easier, as it has mine, but please be careful and follow proper safety practices when attempting to repair your own RV.

If in doubt, please consult with a professional RV technician!



DARREN KOEPP - OWNER, MY RV WORKS, INC.

All service manuals provided on www.myrvworks.com are believed to be released for distribution and/or in the public domain.