

Fluke 1623 and 1625 GEO Earth Ground Testers

Technical Data

The new Fluke 1623 and 1625 GEO Earth Ground Testers offer an innovative solution, called Stakeless testing, to make your earth ground loop resistance testing quicker and easier. No need for a separate earth ground clamp.

- 3- and 4-pole Fall of Potential, earth resistance loop testing
- 4-pole Soil Resistivity testing
- Selective earth ground rod testing using 1 clamp
- Stakeless earth ground rod testing using 2 clamps
- IP56 rated for outdoor use
- Rugged carrying case

In addition, the Fluke 1625 offers these advanced features:

- Automatic Frequency Control (AFC) - identifies existing interference and chooses a measurement frequency to minimize its effect, providing more accurate earth ground value
- R* measurement - calculates earth ground impedance at 55 Hz to more accurately reflect the earth ground resistance that a fault-to-earth ground would see
- Adjustable limits - for quicker testing



Stakeless testing

The Fluke 1623 and 1625 earth ground testers are able to measure earth ground loop resistances using only clamps. With this test method, two clamps are placed around the earth ground rod and each are connected to the tester. No earth ground stakes are used at all. A known, fixed voltage is induced by one clamp and the current is measured using the second clamp. Then the tester automatically determines the resistance of the earth ground rod.

This test method only works if a bonded earth ground system exists for

the building or structure under test, but most are. If there is only one path to ground, like at many residential applications, the Stakeless method will not provide an acceptable value and the Fall of Potential test method must be used.

With Stakeless testing, the earth ground rod does not need to be disconnected—leaving the bonded earth ground system intact during test. Gone are the days of spending time placing and connecting stakes for each earth ground rod on your system—a major time saver. You can also perform earth ground tests in places you've not considered before: inside buildings, power pylons, or anywhere you don't have access to soil.

The most complete testers

The Fluke 1623 and 1625 are distinctive earth ground testers that can perform all four types of earth ground measurement:

- 3- and 4-Pole Fall of Potential (using stakes)
- 4-Pole Soil Resistivity testing (using stakes)
- Selective testing (using 1 clamp and stakes)
- Stakeless testing (using 2 clamps only)

The testers are also easy to use. For each test, the testers inform you which stakes or clamps need to be connected and the large rotary switch can be used even with a gloved hand.

The complete model kit comes with the 1623 or 1625 tester, test leads, 4 earth ground stakes, 3 cable reels with wire, 2 clamps, batteries, and manual—all inside a rugged Fluke carrying case.

1623 Specifications

General

Display:1999 digit LCD	Display with special symbols, digit height 25 mm, fluorescent backlight
User interface	Instant measurement through TURN and START one button concept. The only operating elements are rotary switch and START button
Robust and waterproof	Instrument is designed for tough environmental conditions (rubber protective cover, IP56)

Temperature ranges

Working temperature	-10 °C to 50 °C (14 °F to 122 °F)
Operating temperature	0 °C to 35 °C (32 °F to 95 °F)
Storage temperature	-20 °C to 60 °C (-4 °F to 140 °F)
Reference temperature	23 °C to ± 2 °C (73 °F to ± 4 °F)

The chart of four temperature ranges for the instrument exist to satisfy European Standards requirements; the instrument can be used over the full working temperature range by using the temperature coefficient to calculate accuracy at the ambient temperature of use.

Temperature coefficient	± 0.1 % of reading/K
Intrinsic error	Refers to the reference temperature range and is guaranteed for 1 year
Operating error	Refers to the operating temperature range and is guaranteed for 1 year
Climatic class	C1 (IEC 654-1), -5 °C to +45 °C (23° to +115° F), 5 % to 95 % RH
Protective type	IP56 for case, IP40 for battery door according to EN60529
Safety	Protection by double and/or reinforced insulation. max. 50 V to earth
EMC (Emission Immunity)	IEC 61326-1:1997 Class A
Quality system	Developed, designed and manufactured according to DIN ISO 9001
External voltage	V ext, max = 24 V (dc, ac < 400 Hz), measurement inhibited for higher values
V ext rejection	> 120 dB (16⅓, 50, 60, 400 Hz)
Measuring time	Typical 6 sec.
Max. overload	250 V rms (pertains to misuse)
Auxiliary power	6 x 1.5 V mignon cells alkali-manganese (type AA LR6)
Battery life span	Typical > 3,000 measurements
Dimensions (WxHxD)	250 mm x 133 mm x 187 mm (9.75 in x 5.25 in x 7.35 in)
Weight	1.1 kg (2.43 lb) including batteries

R_A 3-pole ground resistance measurement (IEC 1557-5)

Switch position	Resolution	Measuring range	Intrinsic error	Operating error
R_A 3-pole	0.001 Ω to 10 Ω	0.001 Ω to 19.99 k Ω	\pm (2 % rdg + 3 d)	\pm (5 % rdg + 3 d)

For 2-pole measurements connect terminals H and S with the supplied connector cable.

Measuring principle: Current and voltage measurement

Measuring voltage	$V_m = 48$ V ac
Short-circuit current	> 50 mA
Measure frequency	128 Hz (125 Hz on request)
Probe resistance (R_S)	Max 100 k Ω
Auxiliary earth electrode resistance (R_H)	Max. 100 k Ω
Additional error from R_H and R_S	$R_H[\text{k}\Omega] \cdot R_S[\text{k}\Omega] / R_A[\Omega] \cdot 0.2$ %
Monitoring of R_S and R_H with error indicator	
Automatic range selection	
Measurement is not performed if the current through the current clamp is too low	

R_A 4-pole ground resistance measurement (IEC 1557-5)

Switch position	Resolution	Measuring range	Intrinsic error	Operating error
R_A 4-pole	0.001 Ω to 10 Ω	0.001 Ω to 19.99 k Ω	\pm (2 % rdg + 3 d)	\pm (5 % rdg + 3 d)

Measuring principle: Current/voltage measurement

Measuring voltage	$V_m = 48$ V ac
Short-circuit current	> 50 mA
Measuring frequency	128 Hz (125 Hz on request)
Probe resistance ($R_S + R_{ES}$)	Max. 100 k Ω
Auxiliary earth electrode resistance (R_H)	Max. 100 k Ω
Additional error from R_H and R_S	$R_H[\text{k}\Omega] \cdot R_S[\text{k}\Omega] / R_A[\Omega] \cdot 0.2$ %
Monitoring of R_S and R_H with error indicator	
Automatic range selection	

R_A 3-pole selective ground resistance measurement with current clamp ($R_A \gg C$)

Switch position	Resolution	Measuring range	Intrinsic error	Operating error
R_A 3-pole $\gg C$	0.001 Ω to 10 Ω	0.001 Ω to 19.99 k Ω	\pm (7 % rdg + 3 d)	\pm (10 % rdg + 5 d)

Measuring principle: Current/voltage measurement (with external current clamp)

Measuring voltage	$V_m = 48$ V ac
Short-circuit current	> 50 mA
Measuring frequency	128 Hz (125 Hz on request)
Probe resistance (R_S)	Max. 100 k Ω
Auxiliary earth electrode resistance (R_H)	Max. 100 k Ω
Monitoring of R_S and R_H with error indicator	
Automatic range selection	
Measurement is not performed if the current through the current clamp is too low	

R_A 4-pole selective ground resistance measurement with current clamp ($R_A \gg C$)

Switch position	Resolution	Measuring range	Intrinsic error	Operating error
R_A 4-pole $\gg C$	0.001 Ω to 10 Ω	0.001 Ω to 19.99 k Ω	\pm (7 % rdg + 3 d)	\pm (10 % rdg + 5 d)

Measuring principle: Current/voltage measurement (with external current clamp)

Measuring voltage	$V_m = 48$ V ac
Short-circuit current	> 50 mA
Measuring frequency	128 Hz (125 Hz on request)
Probe resistance (R_S)	Max. 100 k Ω
Auxiliary earth electrode resistance (R_H)	Max. 100 k Ω
Monitoring of R_S and R_H with error indicator	
Automatic range selection	
Measurement is not performed if the current through the current clamp is too low	

Stakeless ground loop measurement ($\infty \approx$)

Switch position	Resolution	Measuring range	Intrinsic error	Operating error
R_A 4-pole $\infty \approx$	0.001 Ω to 0.1 Ω	0.001 Ω to 199.9 Ω	\pm (7 % rdg + 3 d)	\pm (10 % rdg + 5 d)

Measuring principle: Stakeless measurement of resistance in closed loops using two current transformers

Measuring voltage	$V_m = 48$ V ac (primary)
Measuring frequency	128 Hz (125 Hz on request)
Noise current (I_{EXT})	Max. $I_{EXT} = 10$ A (ac) ($R_A < 20$ Ω) Max. $I_{EXT} = 2$ A (ac) ($R_A > 20$ Ω)

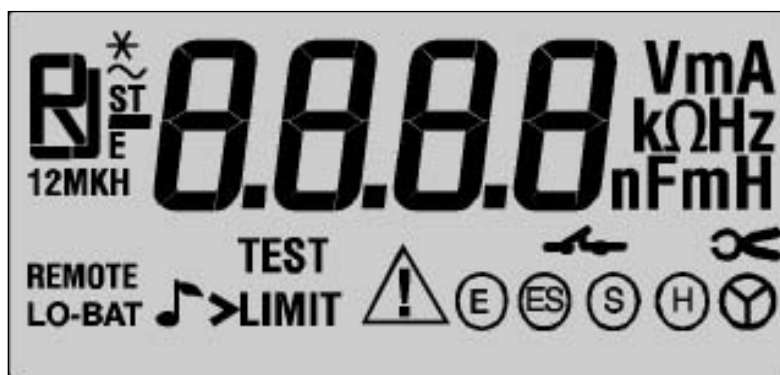
Automatic range selection

The information regarding stakeless ground loop measurements is only valid when used in conjunction with the recommended current clamps at the minimum distance specified.

1625 Specifications

General

Description	Microprocessor controlled, fully automated earth measuring instrument with additional functions
Measuring function	Interference voltage and frequency, earthing resistance 3- and 4-pole with/without clip-on current transformer, resistance 2-pole with ac, 2- and 4-pole with dc
Display	4 digit (2999 Digit) - 7 segment liquid crystal display, digit size 18 mm (0.71 in) with supplementary signs and active illumination
Operation	Central rotary switch and function keys



Temperature ranges

Working temperature range	-10 °C to 50 °C (14° F to 122° F)
Operating temperature range	0 °C to 35 °C (32° F to 95° F)
Nominal temperature range	18 °C to 28 °C (64° F to 82° F)
Storage temperature range	-30 °C to 60 °C (-22° F to 140° F)

Note: The chart of four temperature ranges for the instrument exist to satisfy European Standards requirements; the instrument can be used over the full Working temperature range by using the temperature coefficient to calculate accuracy at the ambient temperature of use.

Temperature coefficient	± 0.1 % of range/Kelvin
Operating errors	Refer to operating temperature range and $R_H < 20 R_E$, $R_S < 100 R_E$

The maximum percentage operating error within the measurement range does not exceed ± 30 % with the measured value as fiducial value, as determined in accordance with Table 1 in the 1625 Users Manual.

The operating error applies under the rated operating conditions given in IEC1557-1 and the following:

- injection of series interference voltages with system frequencies of 400 Hz, 60 Hz, 50 Hz, $16^{2/3}$ Hz or with dc voltage respectively across the terminals E (ES) and S. The rms value of the series interference voltage shall be 3 V;
- resistance of the auxiliary earth electrode and of the probes: 0 to $100 \times R_A$, but $\leq 50 \text{ k}\Omega$;
- system voltages between 85 % and 110 % of the nominal voltage and between 99 % and 101 % of the nominal system frequency for measuring equipment with a mains supply and/or measuring equipment deriving its output voltage directly from the distribution system.

Limits of error	Refer to nominal temperature range
Climate class	C1 (IEC 654-1), -5 °C to 45 °C, 5 % to 95 % RH
Type of protection	IP56 for case, IP40 for battery door according to EN60529
Max voltage	Δ socket \rightarrow socket $\text{E} \text{S} \text{S} \text{H}$
	$U_{\text{rms}} = 0 \text{ V}$
	Sockets " $\text{E} \text{S} \text{S} \text{H}$ " to each other in any combination, max. $U_{\text{rms}} = 250 \text{ V}$ (pertains to misuse)
EMC (Emission Immunity)	IEC 61326-1:1997 Class A
Quality standard	Developed, designed and manufactured to comply with DIN ISO 9001
External field influence	Complies with DIN 43780 (8/76)
Auxiliary power	6 x 1.5 V alkali-manganese-batteries (IEC LR6 or type AA)
Battery life span	With IEC LR6/type AA: typ. 3,000 measurements ($R_E + R_H \leq 1 \text{ k}\Omega$)
	With IEC LR6/type AA : typ. 6,000 measurements ($R_E + R_H > 10 \text{ k}\Omega$)
Dimensions (WxHxD)	250 mm x 133 mm x 187 mm (9.75 in x 5.25 in x 7.35 in)
Weight	$\leq 1.1 \text{ kg}$ (2.43 lb) without accessories
	$\leq 5.5 \text{ kg}$ (12.13 lb) incl. accessories and batteries in carrying case
Case material	NORYL, shock -and scratch proof thermoplast

Measurement of interference voltage dc + ac (U_{ST})

Measuring Limits of error: method	Fullwave rectification			
Measuring Range	Display Range	Resolution	Frequency Range	Limits of Error
1 V to 50 V	0.0 V to 50 V	0.1 V	dc/ac 45 Hz to 400 Hz sine	$\pm (5 \% \text{ of rdg} + 5 \text{ digit})$
Measuring sequence	approx. 4 measurements/s			
Internal resistance	approx. 1.5 M Ω			
Max. overload	$U_{\text{rms}} = 250 \text{ V}$			

Measurement of interference frequency (F)

Measuring method	Measurement of oscillation period of the interference voltage			
Measuring Range	Display Range	Resolution	Range	Limits of Error
6.0 Hz to 400 Hz	16.0 Hz to 299.9 Hz to 999 Hz	0.1 Hz to 1 Hz	1 V to 50 V	$\pm (1 \% \text{ of rdg} + 2 \text{ digit})$

Earthing resistance (R_E)

Measuring method	Current and voltage measurement with probe as IEC61557-5
Open circuit voltage	20/48 V, ac
Short circuit current	250 mA ac
Measuring frequency	94, 105, 111, 128 Hz selected manually or automatic. (AFC) 55 Hz in function R*
Noise rejection	120 dB (16 ^{2/3} , 50, 60, 400 Hz)
Max. overload	$U_{\text{rms}} = 250 \text{ V}$

Electrical measurement specifications

Intrinsic error or influence quantity	Reference conditions or specified operating range	Designation code	Requirements or test in accordance with the relevant parts of IEC 1557	Type of test
Intrinsic error	Reference conditions	A	Part 5, 6.1	R
Position	Reference position $\pm 90^\circ$	E1	Part 1, 4.2	R
Supply voltage	At the limits stated by the manufacturer	E2	Part 1, 4.2, 4.3	R
Temperature	0 °C and 35 °C	E3	Part 1, 4.2	T
Series interference voltage	See 4.2 and 4.3	E4	Part 5, 4.2, 4.3	T
Resistance of the probes and auxiliary earth electrodes	0 to 100 x R _A but ≤ 50 k Ω	E5	Part 5, 4.3	T
System frequency	99 % to 101 % of the nominal frequency	E7	Part 5, 4.3	T
System voltage	85 % to 110 % of the nominal voltage	E8	Part 5, 4.3	T
Operating error	$B = \pm(A + 1,15 \sqrt{E_1^2 E_2^2 E_3^2 E_4^2 E_5^2 E_6^2 E_7^2 E_8^2})$		Part 5, 4.3	R
A = intrinsic error En = variations R = routine test T = type test		$B[\%] = \pm \frac{B}{\text{fiducial value}} \times 100 \%$		

Measuring Range	Display Range	Resolution	Intrinsic Error	Max. Operating Error
0.020 Ω to 300 k Ω	0.001 Ω to 2.999 Ω	0.001 Ω	$\pm (2 \% \text{ of rdg} + 2 \text{ digit})$	$\pm (5 \% \text{ of rdg} + 5 \text{ digit})$
	3.00 Ω to 29.99 Ω	0.01 Ω		
	30.0 Ω to 299.9 Ω	0.1 Ω		
	0.300 k Ω to 2.999 k Ω	1 Ω		
	3.00 k Ω to 29.99 k Ω	10 Ω		
	30.0 k Ω to 299.9 k Ω	100 Ω		

Measuring time	typ. 8 sec. with a fixed frequency 30 sec. max. with AFC and complete cycle of all measuring frequencies
Additional error because of probe- and auxiliary earth electrode resistance	$\frac{R_H (R_S + 2000 \Omega)}{R_E} \times 1.25 \times 10^{-6} \% + 5 \text{ digits}$
Measuring error of RH and RS	typ. 10 % of $R_E + R_S + R_H$
Max. probe resistance	$\leq 1 \text{ M}\Omega$
Max. auxiliary earth electrode resistance	$\leq 1 \text{ M}\Omega$

Automatic check if error is kept within the limits required by IEC61557-5.

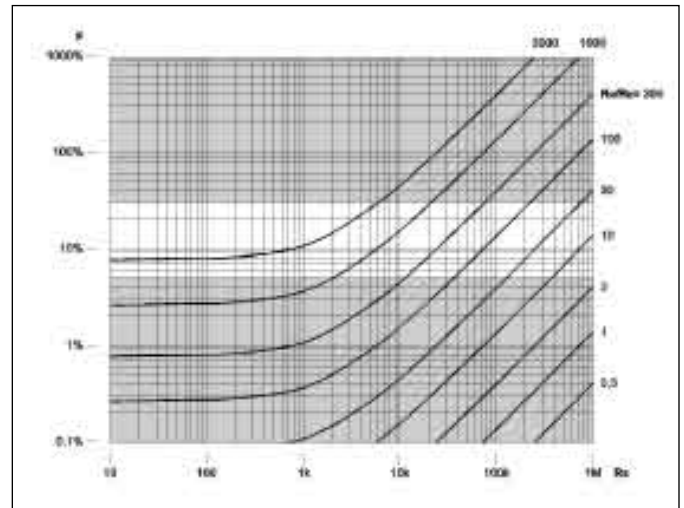
If after a measurement of probe-, auxiliary earth electrode- and earthing resistance, a measurement error of higher than 30 % is assumed because of the influencing conditions (see diagram), the display shows a warning symbol Δ and a notice that R_S or R_H are too high.

Automatic switchover of measuring resolution in dependence to auxiliary earth electrode resistance R_H

RH with $U_{meas} = 48\text{ V}$	RH with $U_{meas} = 20\text{ V}$	Resolution
< 300 Ω	< 250 Ω	1 m Ω
< 6 k Ω	< 2.5 k Ω	10 m Ω
< 60 k Ω	< 25 k Ω	100 m Ω
< 600 k Ω	< 250 k Ω	1 Ω

Selective measurement of the earthing resistance ($R_e \gg C$)

Measuring method	Current and voltage measurement with probe as per EN61557-5 and current measurement in the individual branch with additional current transformer (patent applied for).
Open circuit voltage	20/48 V ac
Short circuit current	250 mA ac
Measuring frequency	94, 105, 111, 128 Hz selected manually or automatically (AFC), 55 Hz (R*)
Noise rejection	120 dB ($16^{2/3}$, 50, 60, 400 Hz)
Max. overload	Max. $U_{rms} = 250\text{ V}$ (measurement will not be started)



Measuring Range	Display range	Resolution	Intrinsic error*	Operating error*
0.020 Ω to 30 k Ω	0.001 to 2.999 Ω	0.001 Ω	$\pm (7\% \text{ of rdg} + 2 \text{ digit})$	$\pm (10\% \text{ of rdg} + 5 \text{ digit})$
	3.00 to 29.99 Ω	0.01 Ω		
	30.0 to 299.9 Ω	0.1 Ω		
	0.300 to 2.999 k Ω	1 Ω		
	3.00 to 29.99 k Ω	10 Ω		

* With recommended current clamps/transformers.

Additional error because of probe- and auxiliary earth typ. electrode resistance	$\frac{R_H (R_S + 2000\ \Omega)}{R_{ETOTAL}} \times 1.25 \times 10^{-6} \% + 5 \text{ digits}$	
Measuring error of R_H and R_S	Typ. of 10 % of $R_{ETOTAL} + R_S + R_H$	
Measuring time	Typ. 8 sec. with a fixed frequency 30 sec. max. with AFC and complete cycle of all measuring frequencies	
Minimal current in single branch to be measured	0.5 mA	With transformer (1000:1)
	0.1 mA	With transformer (200:1)
Max. interference current through transformer	3 A	With a transformer (1000:1)

Resistance measurement (R~)

Measuring method	Current and voltage measurement
Measuring voltage	20 V ac, square pulse
Short circuit current	> 250 mA ac
Measuring frequency	94, 105, 111, 128 Hz selected manually or automatically (AFC)

Measuring range	Display range	Resolution	Intrinsic error	Operating errors
0.020 Ω to 300 kΩ	0.001 Ω to 2.999 Ω	0.001 Ω	± (2 % of rdg + 2 digit)	± (5 % of rdg + 5 digit)
	3.0 Ω to 29.99 Ω	0.01 Ω		
	30 Ω to 299.9 Ω	0.1 Ω		
	300 Ω to 2999 Ω	1 Ω		
	3.0 kΩ to 29.99 kΩ	10 Ω		
	30.0 kΩ to 299.9 kΩ	100 Ω		

Measuring time	typ. 6 sec.
Max. interference voltage	24 V, with higher voltages measurement will not be started
Max overload	U_{rms} max. = 250 V

Resistance measurement (R=)

Measuring method	current- voltage measurement as per IEC61557-4 possible
Open circuit voltage	20 V dc
Short circuit current	200 mA dc
Formation of measured value	with 4-pole measurement wires on H, S, ES can be extended without additional error. Resistances > 1 Ω in wire E can cause additional error of 5m Ω/Ω.

Measuring range	Display range	Resolution	Intrinsic error	Operating error
0.020 Ω to 3 kΩ	0.001 Ω to 2.999 Ω	0.001 Ω	± (2 % of rdg + 2 digit)	± (5 % of rdg + 5 digit)
	3.0 Ω to 29.99 Ω	0.01 Ω		
	30.0 Ω to 299.9 Ω	0.1 Ω		
	300 Ω to 2999 Ω	1 Ω		

Measuring sequence	Approx. 2 measurements/s
Measuring time	Typ. 4 sec. incl. reversal of polarity (2-pole or 4-pole)
Max. interference voltage	≤ 3 V ac or dc, with higher voltages measurement will not be started
Max inductivity	2 Henry
Max. overload	U_{rms} = 250 V

Compensation of lead resistance (R_k)

Compensation of lead resistance (R _k) can be switched on in functions R _ε 3-pole, R _ε 4-pole >C , R~ , and R= 2-pole	
Formation of measured value	$R_{display} = R_{measured} - R_{compensated}^*$

* Value of setpoint entry R_k = 0.000 Ω, variable from 0.000 to 29.99 Ω by means of measuring adjustment.

Selection guide by user

	Field Service Technician	Industrial Maintenance Technician	Power Utilities and Telecom
Fluke 1623	•	•	
Fluke 1625		•	•

Standard earth ground test methods

	Fall of Potential		Selective	Stakeless
	3-pole	4-pole/soil	1 clamp	2 clamps
Fluke 1623	•	•	•	•
Fluke 1625	•	•	•	•



Ordering information

Fluke-1623 Kit Basic GEO Earth Ground Tester Kit
 Fluke-1623 Basic GEO Earth Ground Tester
 EI-1623 Selective/Stakeless Clamp Set for 1623
 Fluke-1625 Kit Advanced GEO Earth Ground Tester Kit
 Fluke-1625 Advanced GEO Earth Ground Tester
 EI-1625 Selective/Stakeless Clamp Set for 1625

Optional accessories

ES-162P3 Stake Set for 3-Pole Measurement
 ES-162P4 Stake Set for 4-Pole Measurement
 Earth Stake Ground/Earth Stake
 Cable-Reel 25 m Ground/Earth Cable Reel 25 m (81.25 ft)
 Cable-Reel 50 m Ground/Earth Cable Reel 50 m (162.5 ft)
 EI-162BN 320 mm (12.6 in) Split Core Transformer

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