MALWARE TECHNICAL REPORT

A MALware Technical Report
The Media Archaeology Lab
University of Colorado at Boulder
1320 Grandview Avenue
Boulder, CO 80302
mediaarchaeologylab.com

Scientology E-Meter Documentation

John Bump

MEDIA ARCHAEOLOGY LAB

Notes on use of the Mark V

The charging cable that came with the Mark Super VII Quantum works fine with the Mark V.

You can charge in any of the three dial operating modes: set, transit, and test. You can use it while it's plugged in.

Probably don't leave it plugged in all the time. Plug it in before use. The batteries were originally rated for about 20 hours of operation.

If you turn the dial to test, the needle should swing to the right, hit the stop, and stay there. If it doesn't stay there, it's time to charge the batteries.

The official instructions are that whenever the meter is being moved, the knob should be in the transit setting. The official reason for this is that it's a very high precision, low-inertia meter (it is) and so moving it around can damage it (probably not.) And besides, putting it in transit doesn't hold the needle or damp it. So you can do that if you're feeling official.

For use

Attach the cans using the phono-to-two-jacks cable. For solo usage, stick the largest cans together end to end using the blue 3d printed stub, and you can then hold them in one hand.

Ideally (from my experiments) you put the cans on a cloth tabletop or something else non-conductive, and put your hands over the cans, like partly wrapped around, but try to keep your hands relaxed. You could also put your hands on the table palms up and put the cans in them and hold them. But whatever you do, you need to do it so that you minimize your unconscious tendency to grip tightly when you're thinking about things, because that'll produce a huge response on the needle, and that's not the response the meter is intended to measure.

The official Hubbardian instructions as follows:

- The sensitivity knob controls the meter's sensitivity to resistance. (Technically, it sets the gain on the amplifier circuit that drives the needle.) It ranges from 1 to 16 (or 32 in later models); a normal value is around 4. When turned fully counter-clockwise, it shuts the meter off.

- The sensitivity booster knob gives coarse-grain control of the meter's sensitivity. It has three settings: 16, 32, and 64.
- The set/transit/test switch is normally left in the ``set'' position. It is switched to ``test'' to check the battery; a full-scale needle deflection to the right indicates that the battery has sufficient charge. The switch should be moved to the ``transit'' position when shipping the meter for repairs, or any time the meter is not in use. This protects the needle movement.
- The trim knob allows the operator to adjust the needle position without moving the Tone Arm. It is used to calibrate the meter by setting the Tone Arm to 2.0 and adjusting the trim until the needle is at the set-point on the dial.
- The tone arm counter is an mechanical accumulator that may be attached at the bottom of the tone arm knob to tally downward (counter-clockwise) motion of the Tone Arm. This supposed to indicate the total ``charge'' released during an auditing session.

So, in theory, the operator turns the switch to set, sets the tone arm (top left) to either 2 or 3 (more on this later), then turns the sensitivity knob up until the meter comes off the peg and is somewhere in the meter's indication range, and then turns the trim knob until it's centered on the scale. It's entirely possible there won't

be enough trim to do this, in which case try the next sensitivity setting. This may also involve messing with the sensitivity booster knob, but the idea there is generally that you get it mid-range, then increase the sensitivity booster knob afterwards to get maximum deflection from the needle.

In practice, having tried this, you turn the sensitivity knob from off to 1, turn the tone arm almost all the way up, to like 6, and the needle will come off the scale, and then you probably turn the sensitivity adjustment down towards 32 from 128, and use trim to get the needle mid-range. Moisturizer will lower your skin resistance and get the tone arm setting down closer to the 2-3 that it's supposed to be.

And then you ask embarrassing questions!

More seriously, the way you're supposed to do this if you're operating a lie detector is to ask a series of questions to get the person used to questions and the setup and keep adjusting the gain and sensitivity to keep the needle generally centered, and once the system is stable, then you start asking questions you care about.

For Scientology, these questions were usually about past emotional trauma and things that made people feel uncomfortable. In use, these questions should make the meter needle rise, and each time it rises, the auditor, the person running the test, increments the mechanical counter on the tone arm as they use the tone arm to recenter the needle. When the counter gets to some magic number the person has completed the test, and is a little bit closer to becoming the scientology equivalent of enlightened.

This is complicated because there are multiple ways to adjust or trim the meter. On the Tone Arm, which is the most direct and coarsest way to match the meter resistance to your body resistance, there are six settings. You'll notice that setting 2 is marked F and setting 3 is marked M. This is because in official Scientology literature, Females have a resistance of 5000 ohms, and Males have a resistance of 12,500 ohms. This, by the way, is not true. Women and men have about the same resistance, and it's closer to 1 million ohms. But that's not what Scientology says. So in theory you set it to 2/F for a woman and 3/M for a man to start, and then you do all the rest of the trimming with the sensitivity knobs.