

CONTINUITY TESTER

I found the circuit in an electronics lab when I was at college. I built one and have found it immensely useful ever since.

It has far more uses than the usual testing of fuses &c and even gives a pretty good guide to the state of capacitors.

There's no need to get hung up on the speaker impedance as over the years I've used everything from 8Ω to piezo transducers.

Mine has got an 80Ω one along with a socket so I can use this a high(ish) impedance test speaker.

Basically the higher the tone it makes the lower the resistance it's testing. Very high resistances will produce a series of pips and it's surprising how it can be pipping every couple of seconds on things that other meters have read as infinity.

When testing capacitors for leakage a large one will initially emit a high note which gradually reduces in pitch and finally becomes a series of pips, or in an ideal world, it will shut up completely. Smaller ones may emit one pip and very small ones nothing at all. A constant low note or series of pips shows that it's leaking.

