Multimeter symbols & jacks

Common digital multimeter functions. Reference-only functions are marked; the fictional TS-DMM models isolated DC circuits.

Marking	Function / meaning	Important distinction
V DC	DC voltage	Volts or mV; relative polarity.
V~	AC voltage	AC voltage; reference only.
Ω	Resistance	Ω / kΩ / MΩ; de-energized only.
)))	Continuity (sound waves)	Virtual beep below 40 Ω; real thresholds vary.
>|	Diode test	Forward voltage; reference only.
mA DC	DC milliamps	Series current; virtual dedicated gap only.
A DC	DC amps	Series current; virtual dedicated gap only.
A~	AC current	AC current; reference only.
F / capacitor	Capacitance	Stored charge / capacitance; reference only.
Hz / %	Frequency / duty cycle	Frequency / duty cycle; reference only.
COM	Common terminal	Black reference lead; not necessarily earth.
VΩ	Voltage and resistance input	Virtual red input for voltage, Ω, continuity.
mA	Low-current input	Virtual 400 mA limit; never voltage input.
10A	Higher-current input	Virtual 10 A limit; never voltage input.
OL	Over-range / open indication	Over-range or open path; not zero.
AUTO / HOLD	Display and range	Auto range / frozen reading; check units.

DC symbol and example jack layouts



Solid line + dashed line = DC

Example three-jack



Fictional four-jack



Real testing: inspect the instrument and leads, verify the function and jacks, use appropriate ratings, and follow the manufacturer and workplace procedures. Never use resistance or continuity on an energized circuit.