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## **MODEL HISAT-25**



### **HI-TEST SURGE ARRESTER/BREAKOVER TESTER**

### **DETAILED OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

**PRIOR TO USE**

**READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

Welcome to the HD Electric Company family of electrical products.

Hi-Test Detection Instruments is now a part of the HD Electric Company group of Electrical Test and Measurement equipment.

HD Electric Company, located in Waukegan, Illinois, USA is a manufacturer and provider of a wide range of electrical equipment. We have been in business for over 63 years by providing proven products and reliable service. Our product offerings include Electrical Test & Measurement, Control Instrumentation & System Measurement, Lighting Products and Specialty Products. If you are already an HD Electric Company customer, we thank you for your valued business. If you are a new customer, we appreciate your business and look forward to meeting all of your needs.

At HD Electric Company, it is our goal to provide tools and equipment needed to perform the job in the safest and most efficient way possible. It is our intention to provide continuing service and support needed for all your Hi-Test equipment. Feel free to contact us regarding any aspect of the application or operation of this test equipment. We can be reached at:

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At HD Electric Company, we understand the special training and requirements for work on electrical power distribution systems. Please take a few moments to read this manual in its entirety before using the new equipment. Pay special attention to the warnings and cautions both in this manual and on the equipment itself.

**NOTICE** - This product is designed for use by professionals trained in its use and application in and around high voltage electrical equipment. If you are not trained in the work methods required for safe operation, do not proceed until you obtain training.

**CAUTION** - This product was tested before leaving the factory but it must be tested prior to and after each use for proper working operation. Be aware that dirt, moisture, mechanical fatigue and other factors reduce the dielectric strength of this product. If any defect of condition is noted, do not use this product. Remove from service and arrange for repair.

**WARNINGS** - Rigorous hot stick work precautions and OSHA and company work practices must be followed. Always wear approved cover-up and safety equipment. Read and understand instructions prior to use. Misuse or abuse of this product can lead to severe injury or death.

Unit Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manufacture Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **HI-TEST SURGE ARRESTER/BREAKOVER TESTER**

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

- 1) **DO NOT** use this tester on any part connected to an energized circuit. **FLASH OVER WILL OCCUR.**
- 2) **DO NOT** attempt to use the tester while it is connected to the battery recharging cable. This can result in destruction of the transformer on the recharging power cable.
- 3) **DO NOT** touch the bare end of the high voltage test lead when the tester is on or for fifteen seconds after it shuts off. The short circuit current of the tester is a maximum of 250 microamps.
- 4) **DO NOT** touch or otherwise contact any part being tested. If the part being tested has capacitance, it can store current well in excess of the maximum current output of the tester. Such parts should be shorted after testing to ensure that any current so stored is dissipated safely.
- 5) **DO NOT** bring the high voltage probe close to the front panel of the tester when it is ON (no closer than three inches /seven centimeters).
- 6) **DO NOT** attach metallic decals of any kind to the tester. They can cause erroneous readings on the display due to their charged field, and the charged decals may present a source of static shocks.
- 7) **STATIC SHOCK:** The tester generates static electricity when it is on, particularly at high voltage outputs. Failure to use the Static Ground Strap provided, will result in static shocks to the operator. Either ground the tester directly to earth or to the operator, whichever is more convenient in the circumstances. If good grounding cannot be accomplished, light work gloves should be worn when using the tester to minimize the irritation associated with the static discharge.
- 8) **RE-ENERGIZING TESTED SURGE ARRESTERS:** Some energizing procedures and circumstances can cause good arresters to fail at initial energization.  
**ALL COMPANY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST CONTINUE TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN ENERGIZING ARRESTERS - EVEN THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN TESTED GOOD.**

## GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### **A) CHARGING THE BATTERY:**

- 1) Fasten the wall rack to a wall near a 110/120 VAC outlet which has a non-interrupted power supply. Damage will result to the charger if it is subjected to power surges from an outlet which is being turned off and on at a main switch.
- 2) Remove test leads from the tester prior to recharging.
- 3) Remove the red plastic cap from the receptacle marked BAT. RECHARGE.
- 4) Plug the recharging cord into the wall outlet and the other end into the receptacle on the rear of the tester. ON light will glow red.
- 5) Place the tester in its wall rack - recharge time from fully discharged to fully charged is 12 hours. The recharge circuit will automatically shut off when the battery is fully charged.

NOTE: When not in use, the tester should be stored in charge mode to keep the battery fully charged. This will ensure consistency in test readings and will not affect the battery or its ability to deep discharge (the battery is **not** a NICAD type battery).

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THE TESTER WHEN IT IS BEING RECHARGED.**

### **B) OPERATION OF THE TESTER:**

- 1) Remove the tester from its wall rack and disconnect the battery recharging cable.
- 2) Plug the Static Ground Strap into the receptacle marked STATIC GROUND and ground the tester either directly to earth or to yourself. Failure to ground the tester will result in the operator receiving static shocks from the Voltage Control knob on the front of the tester.
- 3) Plug the High Voltage Test Lead (the red test lead with the red handle) into its receptacle.
- 4) Plug the Ground Test Lead into its receptacle.
- 5) Make sure the voltage adjust control is turned fully counter-clockwise.
- 6) Turn the tester on by pressing the ON button. The green light beside the ON button will light to signify operation. The tester will run for approximately 30 seconds and automatically shut off. If you wish to extend the on time, every time you press the ON button it resets the 30 second ON duty cycle.
- 7) Turn the Voltage Adj. control clockwise to increase the voltage output of the tester.

NOTE: a) The High Voltage Test Lead has a rounded metal end on the probe to minimize corona discharge. Modifications of this probe end will result in corona discharge which will reduce the test voltage available from the tester and can also produce erroneous current readings.

b) The Ground Test Lead is a shielded cable and should not be replaced or modified as this will affect the accuracy of readings displayed on the tester meters.

c) The clip on the underside of the tester can be used as a belt hook to allow the tester to be carried in a "hands free" way for use in the warehouse, stores yard, or field trouble shooting situations.

### **C) INTERNAL FUSE:**

- 1) The tester is internally fused and the fuse is changed as follows:
  - a) Ensure the Voltage Adj. knob is set to MIN. (fully counterclockwise). Remove the test leads from the tester and turn the tester over;
  - b) Remove the 4 screws from the bottom panel and remove the battery cover door;

## GENERAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

### **C) INTERNAL FUSE (cont'd):**

- c) There are 2 fuses located in the battery compartment. The fuse closest to the belt clip is the power fuse, and the second fuse is a spare. You do not need to remove the battery to change the fuse;
- d) Replace the fuse with a 1 amp., 250 volt, AGC type quick blow fuse. Push the ON button and check that the ON light is glowing green. If the tester still does not work and the fuse is checked to be okay, return it to the factory for repair.
- e) Once the fuse is replaced and the tester works, replace the battery cover door and secure it in place with the 4 screws. Do not over-tighten the screws as they are small and capable of stripping the threads in the tester body;
- f) Turn the tester right side up and re-attach the tester leads. Push the ON button and resume testing as normal.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR TESTING MOV SURGE ARRESTERS**  
**(OVERHEAD AND MOLDED UNDERGROUND TYPES)**

These arresters can be tested for partial internal shorts and open failures using the procedure set out below.

**IF YOU ARE TROUBLE SHOOTING IN THE FIELD**, follow all company procedures and safety precautions and **DISCONNECT THE ARRESTER FROM THE CIRCUIT** before using the tester.

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Turn the voltage output of the tester to MAX. and push the ON button.
- 4) Place the tester leads in contact with the end studs of the arrester.
- 5) The voltage display of the tester will immediately display the actual breakover voltage of the arrester - provided the arrester is rated at 22 kVAC or less.

**INTERPRETATION:**

- A) If the voltage displayed is at or higher than the rated breakover voltage of the arrester, then the arrester is functioning correctly with regard to its breakover voltage.
- B) If the voltage displayed is significantly below the rated breakover voltage of the arrester, then the arrester is shorted and should be discarded.
- C) If no breakover voltage can be achieved under test, then the arrester has failed open and should be discarded - provided the rated breakover voltage of the arrester is below 22 kVAC.

Arresters which fall into Category A above should then be subjected to the following test:

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided.
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Place the tester leads in contact with the end studs of the arrester.
- 4) Turn the voltage output of the tester to MIN. and push the ON button.
- 5) Gradually increase the voltage imposed on the arrester by turning the Voltage Adj. knob clockwise while watching the current meter on the tester.
- 6) When the first LED display on the current meter comes on, stop increasing the voltage across the arrester and read the voltage displayed on the tester voltmeter.

**INTERPRETATION:**

- A) If the voltage displayed is at or above the MCOV of the arrester, then the arrester is functioning correctly with regard to leakage current at MCOV.
- B) If the current leakage is significantly higher than 10 microamps at MCOV, then the arrester should be discarded. (NOTE: There will be variation in the performance of arresters from different manufacturers in this test - even with new arresters. Test several of each manufacturer's arresters which you trust to observe this difference).
- C) Arresters which fall in Category B above will typically be in full condition slightly below their duty cycle rating.

**NOTE:** **ARRESTERS RATED ABOVE 22 kVAC** cannot be tested to their breakover voltages if they are good, using the HiSat-25 Surge Arrester Tester. However, they can be tested for partial shorts as these will be indicated by an arrester breaking over at any voltage below its rated breakover.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TESTING SILICON CARBIDE SURGE ARRESTERS

NOTE: This type of arrester generally cannot be tested to rated breakover voltage using the HiSat-25 Surge Arrester Tester due to their gapped construction and the limited current available from the tester. **However, they can be tested for internal shorts.** Research on failed silicon carbide arresters collected in the field indicates that non-visible internal shorts are the most common form of failure in these arresters. The mechanism for such failure is moisture invasion past the rubber end seals under the metal caps of the arrester.

IF YOU ARE TROUBLE SHOOTING IN THE FIELD, follow all company procedures and safety precautions and **DISCONNECT THE ARRESTER FROM THE CIRCUIT** before using the tester.

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Place the tester leads in contact with the end studs of the arrester, ensuring that the High Voltage lead contacts the high voltage stud of the arrester and the Ground lead contacts the ground stud of the arrester.
- 4) Turn the voltage output of the tester to MIN. and push the ON button.
- 5) Gradually increase the voltage across the arrester to MAX. while watching the current meter on the tester. Note any current leakage which occurs and the voltage at which it occurs.
- 6) Repeat Steps 3 through 5 with three or four additional arresters as the first one (same manufacturer and same rated capacity). This is necessary to determine the “performance profile” of this particular arrester under test with the HiSat-25 Surge Arrester Tester.

NOTE: Differences in the performance of silicon carbide arresters when being tested are a function of differences in the gap structure among these arresters.

### **INTERPRETATION:**

- A) Once the typical “performance profile” has been established for the arrester under test, discard any arrester whose performance falls beneath the profile. Arresters which leak current and breakover at voltages lower than the others in the set are partially shorted.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TESTING INSULATORS

### **IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION:**

- 1) The HiSat-25 Surge Arrester Tester cannot be used to test insulators installed on the system. Insulators must be tested prior to installation or removed from the system for testing.
- 2) The types of physical damage typically seen in visual examination of porcelain insulators (cracks, chips, broken skirts, flash burns) are poor predictors of the dielectric condition of these insulators. Such types of damage affect the flash over withstand capability of the insulator but do not usually affect its resistance value.  
The type of physical damage which does affect an insulator's resistance value is an **internal crack which is non-visible** or, at best, extremely difficult to see during a visual examination.
- 3) Insulators, by definition, should be nonconductive. If they are conductive, there are only two paths which the current can follow: a) across the surface of the insulator due to moisture on the surface (or because the surface has a conductive glaze, which is rare generally well known in the company); and b) through the body of the insulator due to an internal crack which provides a conductive path.
- 4) Given these two conductive paths, the surface of an insulator must be dry at the time it is tested. Otherwise, the surface conductivity of the insulator will interfere with your attempt to test the internal conductivity of the insulator. If there is any question of surface conductivity at the time of test, this can be measured following the procedure set out on the following page.
- 5) There are a wide variety of insulator shapes, sizes, and materials. They can all be tested using the HiSat-25 tester, however, the following points should be used as guidelines on where to focus your efforts:
  - a) **Glass Insulators** - are all pre-stressed when manufactured so that any failure of the glass results in the entire skirt being shed. In this way, they are self-identifying for failure of their resistance value and do not need to be tested for non-visible defects.
  - b) **Composite/Polymer/Non Ceramic Insulators** - failure of these type typically begins on the external surface and visible signs of potential trouble include extensive evidence of surface tracking and/or changes in the color/consistency of the skirt material. They can be tested using the procedure set out on the following page, however, the visible signs described above rarely coincide with dielectric failure.
  - c) **Porcelain Insulator** - virtually every shape and style is capable of sustaining non-visible failure. **They should all be routinely tested for such failures prior to being recycled.**

NOTE: Several types of porcelain insulators are assemblies of two or more pieces of porcelain bonded together with cement. Such insulators can be readily identified by turning the insulator upside down and looking for a cement bead between the skirts. If such a bead can be seen, each skirt must be tested separately. (See test procedure on the following page.)

- 6) There are two times when it is desirable to test insulators: a) immediately prior to their installation on the system, thereby ensuring they are good at that point; and b) recycled insulators which are being stored inside should be tested within a few hours of being brought inside (ie., after the external surfaces have dried but before the internal part of the insulator has had a chance to fully dry).

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TESTING INSULATORS CONT'D

### **PROCEDURES FOR TESTING INSULATORS:**

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Push the ON button and set the Voltage Adj. at 10 to 15 kVDC - anywhere in this range is adequate to detect non-visible defects in insulators.
- 4) Impose the voltage output of the tester across the insulator to be tested by placing one of the test leads on the metal cap and the other test lead on the metal pin of the insulator (unless it is a multi-piece insulator, in which case, see Step 7 below).

Watch the current leakage display on the tester. If no bars light up on the current display, then the insulator is good (ie., has infinite resistance value); if any bars light up, then the insulator is defective.

- 5) For those insulators which do not have a metal cap, ie., they are tie top insulators, use a piece of aluminum foil molded into the area in which the conductor rests and around the area where the tie wire is installed to serve the purpose of the metal cap.
- 6) For those insulators which do not have a metal base, ie., they are pin insulators, use a metal pin screwed into the insulator.
- 7) For multi-piece insulators, follow Steps 1 through 3 and then place one tester lead in contact with the metal cap on the top of the insulator and the other lead in contact with the cement bond on the underside of the top insulator skirt - this allows you to test the top skirt of the insulator. Then, move the lead from the metal cap on top of the insulator to the cement bond under the second skirt while keeping the other lead in contact with the cement bond it was originally placed on - this allows you to test the next skirt of the insulator. And so forth, for each skirt. The bottom skirt is tested from the cement bond immediately above it to the metal base plate or pin of the insulator.

### **PROCEDURES FOR TESTING SURFACE CONDUCTIVITY:**

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Push the ON button and set the Voltage Adj. at 10 - 15 kVDC.
- 4) Place both tester leads on the external surface of the insulator (whether porcelain, glass or non ceramic) three or four inches apart. Watch the current leakage display as you move the tester leads around on the surface of the insulator a little bit. If no bars light up in the current display, then the surface is not conductive and the insulator can be tested for non-visible defect. If any bars light up in the current display, then the surface is conductive and the insulator must be further dried prior to testing for non-visible defect.

## TESTING INSULATED TRANSFORMER TANK LIDS

Pinhole punctures of the insulating coating on transformer tank lids are not unusual. Such punctures can be quickly located with the HiSat-25 Surge Arrester Tester using the following procedure.

IF YOU ARE TROUBLE SHOOTING IN THE FIELD, follow all company procedures and safety precautions and **DISCONNECT THE TRANSFORMER FROM THE CIRCUIT** before using the tester.

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground leads to the tester.
- 3) Connect the Ground test lead of the tester to the ground contact on the side of the transformer tank.
- 4) Push the ON button and set the Voltage Adj. at 10 - 15 kVDC.
- 5) Move the High Voltage test lead of the tester across the surface of the insulated transformer tank lid.
- 6) Listen for the “snap” of current arcing through a pinhole puncture and watch the current leakage display on the tester for any current leakage.

### **INTERPRETATION:**

- A) If no current leakage occurs, then there are no pinhole punctures.
- B) If current leakage occurs, the High Voltage test lead can be used to locate the precise location of the pinhole puncture.

## TESTING FUSES FOR CONTINUITY

Separation of a fuse causes service problems. Using the following procedures, the continuity of a fuse can be quickly checked.

IF YOU ARE TROUBLE SHOOTING IN THE FIELD, follow all company procedures and safety precautions and **DISCONNECT THE FUSE FROM THE CIRCUIT** before using the tester.

- 1) Ground the tester using the Static Ground Strap provided. (See Safety Precaution #7.)
- 2) Connect the High Voltage and Ground test leads to the tester.
- 3) Push the ON button and set the Voltage Adj. at 10 - 15 kVDC.
- 4) Place the High Voltage and Ground test leads in contact with the opposite ends of the fuse and watch the current leakage display on the tester.

### **INTERPRETATION:**

- A) If current leakage occurs when the test leads are placed in contact with the fuse, then the fuse has continuity.
- B) If no current leakage occurs when the test leads are placed in contact with the fuse, then the fuse has separated.

## TROUBLE SHOOTING COMMON PROBLEMS

- 1) Tester does not turn on when the ON button is pushed.
  - Check the fuse inside the tester.
- 2) Tester stays on past 30 seconds after the ON button is pushed.
  - Check to see if the ON button is sticking.
- 3) Tester won't produce 30 kVDC output.
  - Recharge the battery. If, after recharging the battery for 12 hours the tester still will not produce a 30 kVDC output, replace the battery. The battery is a 12 Volt, 1.2 Ah sealed lead acid (gel cell type) battery.
- 4) Everything tested has current leakage.
  - Check for surface conductivity.
  - Check for conductivity of the surface the parts are laying on when they are being tested (eg. are they laying on a metal table top or on a damp cardboard or wood surface).
- 5) Operator is receiving static shock from the tester.
  - Check to ensure that the Static Ground Strap is connected to the tester and that it is well connected to ground.
  - When testing any part which has capacitance, check that the test leads are connected so that the High Voltage lead is connected to the high voltage side of the part being tested and the Ground lead is connected to the ground side of the part being tested.

## WARRANTY

The Hi-Test Surge Arrester/Breakover Tester (Model No. HiSat-25) is warranted against defects in manufacture for a period of one year from the date of purchase. The only exclusions to this warranty are:

- 1) the rechargeable gel cell battery;
- 2) evidence that the returned tester has been subjected to unusual physical damage (including cracks, breaks, or dents in the plastic case and/or components) consistent with the tester having been dropped, crushed, or otherwise mishandled; and
- 3) if the tester is returned in a condition that indicates it has been modified or tampered with.

This product is built to the highest quality standards. An extensive program of laboratory development and field testing preceded its commercial introduction to ensure that it would withstand the rigors of field use. However, it is an electronic instrument and is subject to breakage if it is handled in an excessively rough manner.

If the tester requires repair, it must be returned to HD Electric Company, or their agents; freight prepaid and properly packaged to protect it against damage in shipping. HD Electric Company and its agents will assume no liability for damaged instruments not properly packaged.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS, OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE TESTER,  
PHONE HD ELECTRIC COMPANY IN WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS, USA AT 847-473-4980 OR  
FAX US AT 847-473-4981.**