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How to test a Triac using a multimeter

TOOLS NEEDED

- Digital multimeter

PROCEDURE

- STEP 1** Turn off power.
- STEP 2** Remove all wires connected to Triac terminals.
- STEP 3** Set the Multimeter to the Ohms scale and select a high resistance or approximately 200K ohms.
- STEP 4** Connect the one lead of the Multimeter to the MT1 terminal of the Triac and the other lead to MT2.
- STEP 5** The Multimeter should read a high resistance (open circuit) or OL. If it reads a low resistance or short, the Triac is bad. If it reads a high resistance or OL go to the next step.
- STEP 6** Set the Multimeter to a low resistance setting approximately 200 ohms or “Diode test”.
- STEP 7** Connect the positive lead of the Multimeter to the Gate of the Triac and negative lead to MT1 and check the resistance on the meter. With the positive lead still on the Gate, move the negative lead to MT2 and check the resistance on the meter. One measurement should read Open or OL the other should read low resistance or approximately 60 ohms.
- STEP 8** If either of these readings are not correct, the Triac is bad.

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF A TRIAC

Note: The Gate or “G” of the Triac has a smaller spade terminal. MT1 and MT2 (main terminal 1 & 2) are the larger terminals

