

POWER METERS

Power Meter

Model HP 438A



- Ideal for ATE applications
- Dual power sensors
- Innovative ratio & difference measurements



HP 438A

DESIGNED FOR
MATE
SYSTEMS



The HP 438A Power Meter is a dual channel power meter designed specifically for ATE systems. The compact front panel is designed to save space in rack mounted systems, while the dual channel design allows simple measurements of the ratio and difference of power levels from two separate sensors. Compatible with the HP 8480 series of thermocouple and diode sensors, the power and frequency range of the meter extends from -70 dBm to 44 dBm and from 100 kHz to 50 GHz.

Important measurement contributions are a programmable digital filter for optimizing resolution and measurement speed, independent offset (in dB) values for each channel, 0.001 dB resolution available, and a power difference mode for displaying absorbed power in transmission lines. Up to 19 different operating states of the meter can be stored into non-volatile memory for later recall.

The programmable digital averaging filter gives the user control over the inherent tradeoff between speed and accuracy. The AUTO filter mode is usually adequate for fully settled readings with 0.01 dB resolution. Less digital averaging leads to faster but noisier readings, if speed is the critical issue.

The Hewlett-Packard Interface Bus (HP-IB) capability is standard on the HP 438A with programming codes printed on the front panel for easy reference. For U.S. Air Force MATE (Modular Automatic Test Equipment) system applications, Option 700 provides the HP 438A with the internal capability to be controlled by the MATE language CIL (Control Interface Intermediate Language). All measurement modes are programmable including zeroing, calibration, and Cal Factor. Complete interrupt capability with flexible SRQ operation optimizes the efficiency of program execution in automatic systems.

HP 438A Specifications

Frequency range: 100 kHz to 50 GHz (depending on power sensor used).

Power range: -70 dBm to +44 dBm (100 pW to 25 W), sensor dependent. Uses HP 8480 series power sensors; see sensor specs for details.

Operating temperature range: 0 -55°C.

Instrumentation Accuracy

Single channel, linear mode: ±0.5%.

Log mode: ±0.02 dB.

Dual channel, linear mode: ±1%.

Log mode: ±0.04 dB.

Zeroing: automatic, ±0.5% full scale on most sensitive range.

Power Reference

Power output: 1.00 mW. Factory set to ±0.7%, traceable to the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.

Accuracy: ±1.2% worst case (±0.9% rss) for 1 year.

Connector: front panel type N female (also on rear panel, Opt 002).

Meter Adjustments

Cal factor: values from 1% to 150% in 0.1% steps can be entered to account for sensor frequency response. Sensor calibration: automatic self calibration to 1.00 mW.

General

Display: four digit display (five digits in high resolution mode) with 20% over-range capability on all ranges. Annunciators to indicate measurement mode, Cal Factor, offset value, fixed or automatic range and filter values, and error conditions.

Recorder output: linearly proportional to power in watts. One volt corresponds to full scale; 1kΩ output impedance, BNC rear panel female connector.

Line voltage: 100, 120, 220 or 240 Vac +5% -10%. 100 and 120 volts, 48 to 66 Hz and 300 to 440 Hz. 220 and 240 volts, 48 to 66 Hz only.

Power requirements: 65 VA, 35 watts, maximum.

Weight: net, 5.9 kg (13 lb). Shipping, 9.1 kg (20 lb).

Dimensions: 89 mmH x 213 mmW x 418 mmD (3.5 x 8.4 x 16.8 in).

HP-IB interface codes: SH1, AH1, T5, TE0, L4, LE0, SR1, RL1, PP1, DC1, DT1, C0.

Accessories

Furnished: HP 11730A, 2 each, 1.5 metre (5 ft) power sensor cables. Power cable, 1 each, 2.4 metres (7.5 ft). Mains plug matches destination requirements.

Available: To select non-standard lengths for power sensor cables, select option 004 (delete sensor cables) and order as required from HP 11730A-F, power sensor cables. Lengths are available from 1.5 metres (5 ft) to 61 metres (200 ft).

HP 11730A-F Power Sensor Cables

The HP 11730 series power sensor cables are for use with the HP 435B, 436A, and 438A power meters and the HP 8480 series thermocouple and diode power sensors. These cables are designed to reduce RFI effects on low power readings with an improved shielding design in the cable itself. Cables may be ordered individually or in pairs in any combination desired for single and dual channel measurements.

The HP 11730A cable is the standard cable for the HP 435B, 436A, and 438A (2 cables shipped) meters. To order a non-standard cable, select Option 004 for the meter in question, and order the desired cable from below.

Ordering Information

	Price
HP 438A Dual Channel Power Meter	\$4900
Option 002: Rear panel sensor connectors (in parallel with front panel) and additional reference oscillator with rear panel output.	+\$325
Option 700: Internal MATE programming	+1000
Option 004: Delete power sensor cables	-\$146
Option 910: Additional manual	\$25
HP 11730A 1.5 metre (5 ft) sensor cable	\$75 ☎
HP 11730B 3.0 metre (10 ft) sensor cable	\$85 ☎
HP 11730C 6.1 metre (20 ft) sensor cable	\$105 ☎
HP 11730D 15.2 metre (50 ft) sensor cable	\$165 ☎
HP 11730E 30.5 metre (100 ft) sensor cable	\$215 ☎
HP 11730F 61.0 metre (200 ft) sensor cable	\$355 ☎
☎ Fast-ship product—see page 766.	