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# Voltage Probe

(Order Code VP-BTA)



This Voltage Probe can be used with the Vernier LabQuest<sup>®</sup> 2, the original LabQuest<sup>®</sup>, LabPro<sup>®</sup>, LabQuest<sup>®</sup> Mini, Go!<sup>®</sup> Link, Easylink<sup>®</sup>, SensorDAQ<sup>®</sup>, CBL 2<sup>™</sup>, and TI-Nspire<sup>™</sup> Lab Cradle to measure potentials in the +/- 10 V range. Zero the Voltage Probe before a measurement by connecting the two leads together, and zeroing the reading in software. To measure a potential difference between two points in a circuit, connect the red and black clips to the two points. A positive reading means the red clip is at a higher potential than the black clip.

Note that this probe is a direct connection to the inputs of the particular interface. As a result, it is not a true differential voltage sensor, and should not be expected to behave like a traditional voltmeter. In particular, note that

- The black lead is directly connected to the common ground point of the interface. In some circumstances, this means the black lead is grounded. Because of this connection to the common ground point of the interface, it is easy to unintentionally ground part of your circuit without realizing it. Connect the black lead only to a point in your circuit that can safely be grounded.
- Because of the common black connection, when two or more voltage probes are used, the black leads *must* be connected to a common point in the circuit, or unexpected short circuits will be introduced.
- The voltage probe may give unexpected, non-zero readings when disconnected or open-circuited. This is normal, and is due to the technical details of the particular interface used.

The Voltage Probe is a low-cost solution for voltage measurement. If you desire a voltage sensor that behaves more like a traditional voltmeter, we suggest the Vernier Differential Voltage Probe, DVP-BTA. The Differential Voltage Probe provides a differential measurement, without respect to grounding. As such the three points above do not apply to the Differential Voltage Probe.

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