

Tech Time with Brock and Doc: The K-II Meter

One of the more popular pieces of equipment used by paranormal investigators and researchers alike is the EMF (Electromagnetic Field) Meter. It is a common belief by many in the field that spirits are composed of energy and can manifest and manipulate electromagnetic fields. These meters are commonly used to get base readings of natural / manmade sources of EMF present in a location prior to an investigation. Once the investigation has begun, an EMF meter is used to search for and identify fields that may potentially not be produced by the environment but something else, perhaps a spirit.

The K-II Meter (K2) manufactured by K-II Enterprises is one such meter that came into the view of the paranormal field back in 2007. It became a sensation overnight that every team had to get one after it was seen used on an episode of *Syfy's Ghosthunters*.

The original version of the K2 has a temporary push on button. In order to use it, you would need to push and hold the button in. This typically would give false readings as even a slight movement of your thumb while holding the button would turn it off and back on, lighting all the lights up for just a second. Quickly, people figured out that you could use a small coin to hold the button down to keep the meter on continuously. Even using a coin, after many uses the slightest vibration caused the K2 to reset and blink all its lights giving you a false reading. Later on to solve this problem, a version was made with an on/off toggle switch and quickly followed by a version with a push on/push off button. The meter itself has 1 light to indicate it is turned on and then 4 lights colored green, yellow, orange and red from left to right to indicate field strength. The more lights that are turned on the stronger or more intense the EM field that is present.

We must first stress that the K2 was never built or designed with the intended use of paranormal investigations. It was designed to be a low-cost and easy to use meter to identify fields caused by bad wiring, electronics and other sources found commonly in a house.

The K2 meter is pretty broad banded and detects sources of EMF covering frequencies 50 -20,000 Hz. Also, due to its very simple design and poor shielding it is easily set off by cell phones, portable handheld radios, and electronics. Now realistically you shouldn't have your cell phone turned on during an investigation, but the K2 will be set off by data communication between your cell phone and the cell tower whether you are on a call, or not. Remember smart phones today, have background apps and tend to be communicating with the internet all the time. In the case of the portable handheld radios, like GMRS and FRS radios, we found that just having it on whether it's transmitting or not, the radio's local oscillator would generate enough of a field to set off the K2. And for my last trick I'll just push the push-to-talk button on my radio, causing it to transmit and magically the spirit just answered yes, and we are able to determine that it was a boy who was 10 years old when he died.

Now, how strong a field is it really? Another problem we have with the meter is it is a relative

meter. Meaning the lights light up to show a more intense field with the expectation that each light indicates a specific range of EMF in milliGauss. After comparing this meter to a more professional EMF meter that are calibrated, we found the accuracy of these meters to be unpredictable. Is it going to detect if a field is present? Yes it will. Will it give you a decent representation of the strength of that field? No it will not.

Wait! Before you go chuck your K2 in the trash can. There are a few things you can do to continue to use it on investigations and have it provide some value. When taking base readings of EMF before an investigation, use your K2 to quickly locate fields coming from lights, switches, kitchen appliances, electrical wiring and boxes, and various electronics. Then follow up with a meter that can provide you with an actual measurement of the field strength in milliGauss. During the investigation, ensure that all cell phones and radios are turned off. Even a Digital Voice Recorder can set the K2 off, so be sure to keep it at least a few feet away from the meter. Make sure you set the meter down on a flat surface and do not move around the room when asking questions while using your meter.

In conclusion, we believe the K-II meter's flaws and poor design do not meet the demanding requirements of a serious paranormal investigator and would instead recommend the investment of a Tri-field Meter (Approx. \$115). If cost is a factor then you can acquire a standard EMF Digital Meter with an LCD display like the EMF-822A (Approx. \$65).

About the Authors

Brock Burroughs and Dave Erickson are both paranormal investigator/researchers as well as they host the internet radio show, Tech Time with Brock and Doc, that airs every Sunday at 10PM Eastern / 7PM Pacific on ParaMania Radio (<http://paramaniaradio.com/>). Tech Time with Brock and Doc is a show all about the Technology used in the Paranormal, interviewing paranormal teams and exploring their use of technology, inventors of new technology and exploring new potential technology that you may want to start using on your next investigation!

Both Brock and Dave (Doc) work in the Information Technology field and have a passion for all things electronic.

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