

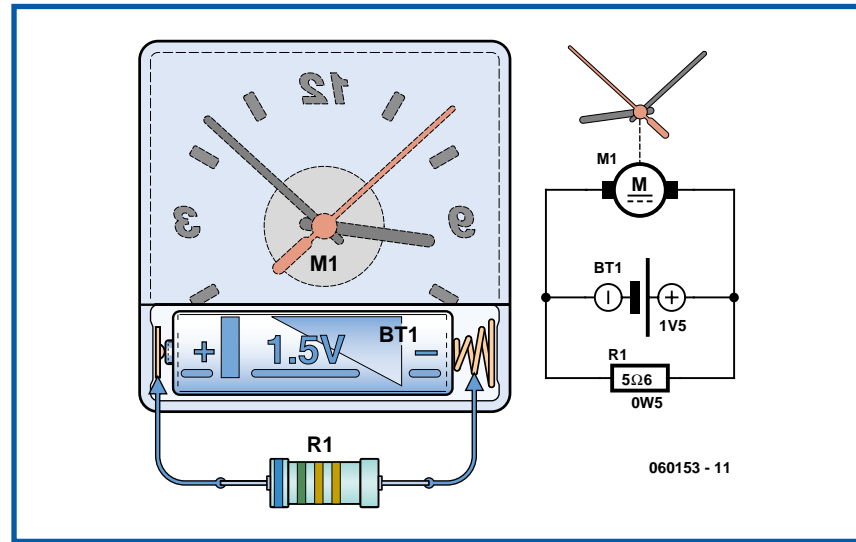
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Hyper-Simple Battery Capacity Tester

J. Van der Sterre

The circuit described here is eminently suitable to indicate the capacity of a battery. We use a cheap electric clock for this. By connecting a resistor across the battery terminals, the battery is discharged somewhat faster than with the clock alone. If we pick a resistor with a value of 5.6Ω , the discharge current amounts to $1.2 \text{ V} / 5.6 \Omega = 214 \text{ mA}$. If we multiply this with the number of hours that the clock ran after the battery was connected up then we know (approximately) the capacity of the battery.

When discharging a NiCd battery we need to make sure we remove the battery the moment the clock stops running. NiCd batteries do not tolerate too deep a discharge very well. We therefore rec-



ommend keeping an eye on the voltage in one way or another, for example by

connecting a multimeter in parallel with the resistor.

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