Relative field strength meter for a DMM

Many passive field strength meters have appeared in the past, typically using a 50μA analog meter movement if reasonable sensitivity was to be obtained. This circuit is similar but has the advantage that it works with the high-impedance load of a digital multimeter, typically switched to the 200mV range.

The sensitivity is adequate for low power equipment like CB radios, cordless phones and model R/C sets (cars, model airplanes, etc).

For best results, use OA81 or similar germanium diodes. Modern Schott-

ky signal diodes could also be used but the results are not as good.

The circuit can be wired directly into a small plastic box with protruding banana posts to match the terminals on your DMM. A banana jack can also be used for the antenna which could be just a 500mm length of wire as a starting point.

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