

Water-logged ScopeMeter® takes a ride at Kawasaki

Technology
at Work

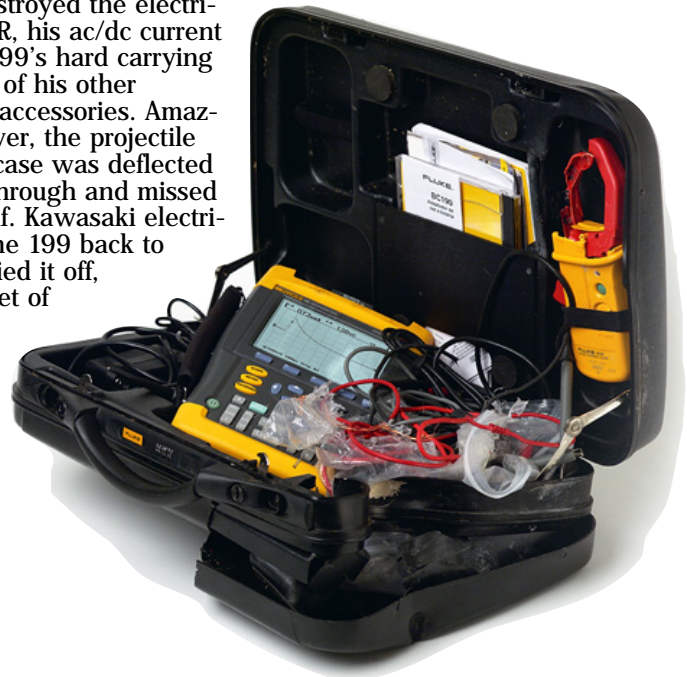
When an electrician at Kawasaki's manufacturing plant in Lincoln, Nebraska, borrowed his dad's ScopeMeter® 199 to use in a Fluke Corporation on-site training class, he had no idea what lay ahead for the innocent test tool. It turns out that the 199 and its carrying case were stolen from his locked car before he could get the meter back home.

"Apparently the bad guys threw the unit from their car when they were being chased by the police," says Fluke rep Rick McCoy, who conducted the training.

Alarmed police officers didn't know what was in the black case that had been tossed from the fleeing car. When the fire department x-rayed it, they determined the "black case" was full of wires and some type of electrical-looking equipment.

"The fire department decided to blow the case open with an explodable dart and doused the contents with water just to be on the safe side," McCoy said. "After they blew the case apart, they cut all the test leads just to be absolutely sure the scope wouldn't blow up."

By the time authorities were sure the water-logged ScopeMeter posed no danger, they had destroyed the electrician's 80T-IR, his ac/dc current clamp, the 199's hard carrying case and all of his other ScopeMeter accessories. Amazingly, however, the projectile fired at the case was deflected on its way through and missed the 199 itself. Kawasaki electricians took the 199 back to the shop, dried it off, attached a set of borrowed leads, and pressed the power button to find that it was fine to test another day.



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Fluke Corporation
PO Box 9090, Everett, WA USA 98206

Fluke Europe B.V.
PO Box 1186, 5602 BD
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

For more information call:
In the U.S.A. (800) 443-5853 or
Fax (425) 446-5116
In Europe/M-East/Africa (31 40) 2 675 200 or
Fax (31 40) 2 675 222
In Canada (800)-36-FLUKE or
Fax (905) 890-6866
From other countries +1 (425) 446-5500 or
Fax +1 (425) 446-5116
Web access: <http://www.fluke.com/>

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