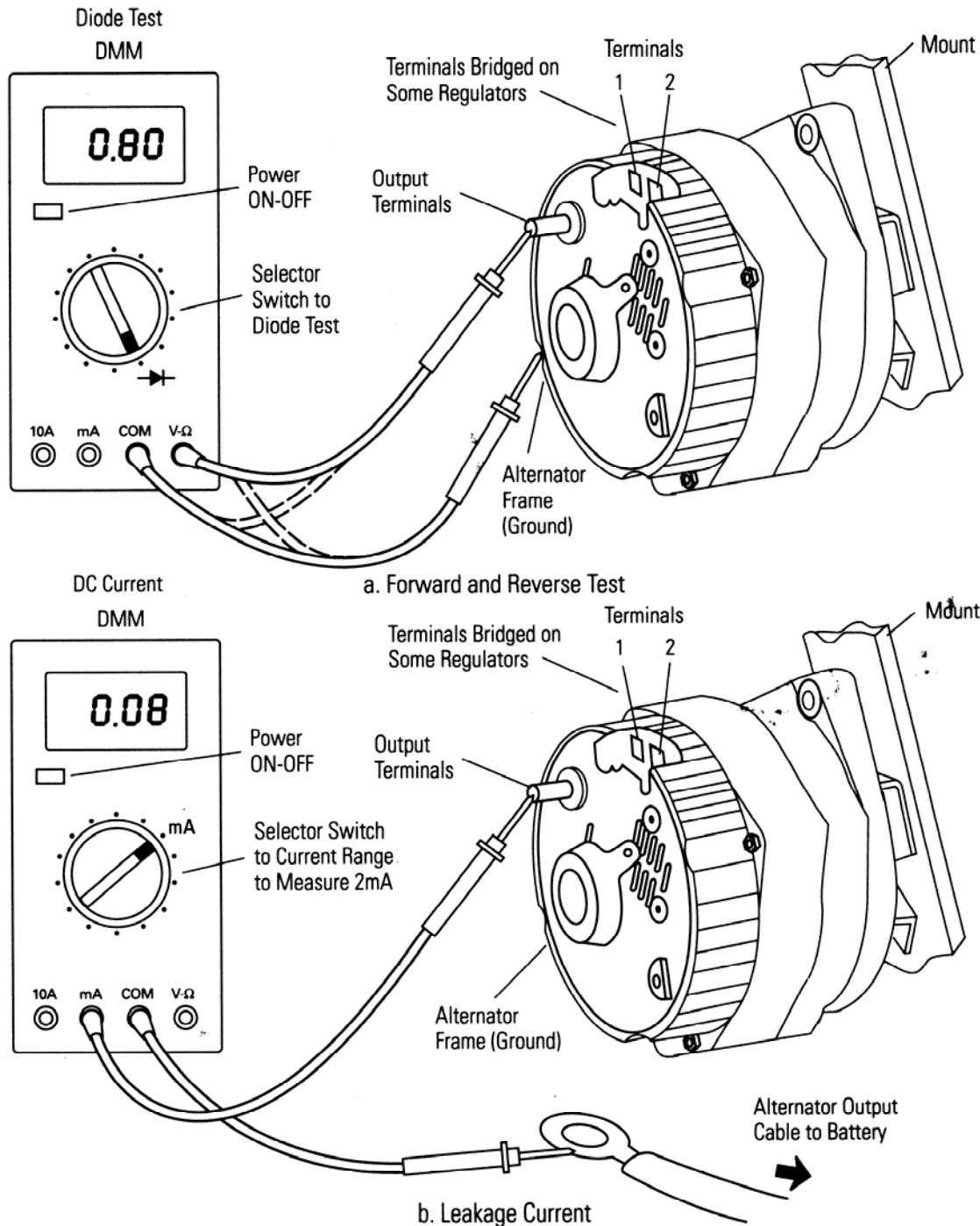


Measurements on Diodes with Alternator Still Mounted in Vehicle



Adrian Brook says "it was suggested that it might be the alternator diodes so I checked these using a multimeter and they were fine. If the diodes are defective and shorted by excessive voltage they can be tested without the engine running by setting the meter to diode function and removing the connecting wires from the alternator. Put one probe to the casing and one to the main output terminal. Note the reading, then reverse the probes note the reading again. One way it should read 0.80V and the other should over range OL or read 1. The built in rectifier is tested by turning the meter to milliammeter connected the probes in series between the output terminal and the alternator output cable. The leakage current should be less than 1mA - if it's higher it is probably faulty."

What multimeter do you need? Adrian feels any multimeter will do these tests and www.cpc.co.uk have some digital ones with a diode tester for around £4.50.