



Designation: F 1578 – 01

Standard Practice for Contact Closure Cycling of a Membrane Switch¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the setup, procedure, and apparatus required to depress and release a membrane switch to a predetermined number of cycles.

1.2 This practice also covers the optional use of specified voltage and current during the cycling of the membrane switch.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D 2240 Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness

F 1597 Test Method for Determining the Actuation Force and Contact Force of a Membrane Switch

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *actuation force*—the maximum force measured prior to or including the point at which contact closure is achieved on a membrane switch.

3.1.2 *contact closure*—the event at which a specified resistance is achieved.

3.1.3 *contact force*—the force at contact closure.

3.1.4 *duration*—the number of depressions and release cycles.

3.1.5 *duty cycle*—the ratio of switch closed time to total cycle time.

3.1.6 *specified resistance*—maximum allowable resistance as measured between two terminations whose internal switch contacts are held closed to complete a circuit.

3.1.7 *test rate*—the number of depressions and release cycles per second.

3.1.8 *membrane switch*—a momentary switching device in which at least one contact is on, or made of, a flexible substrate.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Contact closure cycling is useful to manufacturers and users for determining the effect of repeated closing of switch contacts or the effect of repeated flexure of other switch components.

4.2 The characteristic(s) are measured before cycling begins and then again after cycling ends.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Suitable Electronic Monitoring Device*, to detect and count contact closure at a specified test rate and duty cycle.

5.2 *Surface*, flat, smooth, unyielding, and larger than the switch.

5.3 *Test Probes*, built to either of the configurations shown in Fig. 1 or Fig. 2, are acceptable but must be made of an inert elastomeric material with a hardness number equivalent to A/45 \pm 5 as measured in accordance with Test Method D 2240. Test probes that do not meet this criteria must be specified and recorded fully.

5.4 *Device*, which will cycle the probe repeatedly into and away from the switch at a specified test rate and duty cycle, and which is capable of providing means for counting probe cycles. The motion of the probe should be perpendicular to the plane of the switch.

5.5 *Power Supply*, capable of supplying specified voltage or current, or both, if required.

6. Procedure

6.1 *Pretest Setup:*

6.1.1 Secure the switch on a test table.

6.1.2 Measure the desired characteristics of the switch so that comparable measurements can be made during or after the test.

6.1.2.1 Document the procedure and test equipment used to measure the characteristics.

6.1.3 Determine the actuation force (F_a). (See Test Method F 1597.)

6.1.4 Position the test probe over the desired area of the switch.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F01 on Electronics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F01.18 on Membrane Switches.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.