Blinky Hawk

Open-lead detector — quick start & important information

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1 FIT IT TO YOUR METER

- Plug Blinky Hawk's banana plugs into your meter's **V** and **COM** jacks.
- Plug your own probes into the **backs** of Blinky Hawk's plugs — they stack through.
- Set your meter to **voltage** and leave it there — AC or DC, either works. Blinky Hawk runs alongside a normal voltage measurement; you never change modes to use it.

2 THE THREE-POSITION TOGGLE

Toward meter	**ON.** Powered and detecting. This is also the only position that charges.
Center	**OFF.** Battery disconnected and the detector is galvanically removed — your meter behaves exactly as it would bare. Use this for resistance, continuity, diode, and current modes.
Away from meter	**100 kΩ test load** across your probes; the detector stays off.

What the 100 kΩ position is for. It identifies **high-source-impedance voltages** — readings that are real but cannot supply any current. Read the same point with the switch centered, then in the 100 kΩ position: a supply rail barely moves, a high-source-resistance voltage sags significantly, and a phantom voltage collapses quickly toward zero.

3 WHAT IT TELLS YOU

🔵 Blue	Leads are **open** — not touching a circuit.
🟢 Green + beep	Leads are **closed** — a connected path.
🔴 Red + double beep	**Voltage present.** Open/closed checking pauses. Red then blue is DC with the probes reversed; red, blue, then green with three beeps is AC.
🟢 1–4 blinks	At power-on: battery level in quarters.
🟤 Slow red	Charging. Turns green when the battery is full.

Flashes are brief and rate-limited to save battery — a dark LED between flashes is normal.

4 ADJUSTING IT

Every behavior — sensitivity, beep pattern and pitch, LED brightness, sleep timing — is stored in the unit and changeable over USB-C with plain text commands, no reprogramming. Four calibrated sensitivity settings are built in; the factory choice suits everyday use and most people should leave it alone.

The full configuration reference, including every command and a set of worked recipes, is in the firmware manual on the site below.

READ THIS BEFORE YOU USE IT

- **It is an indicator, not a lockout.** Always verify de-energization by your normal safe work practice before touching a circuit.
- **Your meter's CAT rating still governs.** Blinky Hawk adds no rating of its own and carries no independent safety certification. Observe the limits of the meter and leads you are using.
- **The 100 kΩ position is for low voltage only.** It draws current from the circuit. Pre-production units use a 1/8 W resistor, which reaches its limit near 110 V — keep this position away from mains and above.
- **Capacitors and transformer windings can read "closed"** without a galvanic path. That is the measurement working as designed, not a fault.

5 CHARGING

- Charge over **USB-C**, with the toggle **toward the meter** — the other positions disconnect the battery from the charger too.
- **Don't use it while charging.** Alerts are disabled on USB power on purpose: supply noise causes false alerts, and the cable can tie your meter to earth ground. Charge it idle, unplug, then work.
- A charge lasts roughly **60 hours** of ordinary use. Switched off, it holds its charge indefinitely.

6 TWO NORMAL BEHAVIORS

- **A few millivolts on open leads is expected.** Blinky Hawk sits across your meter's inputs, so it shows a small offset when nothing is connected. It is cosmetic — probing any real circuit pins the reading to the true value, and centering the toggle removes it entirely.
- **A flat battery announces itself as false alerts.** If it starts calling voltage when you merely wiggle the leads on a dead circuit, charge it. The battery gauge is deliberately calibrated to read empty while there is still charge left, so "empty" means "stop trusting it", not "about to switch off".

7 CONFIRM IT IS WORKING

Worth doing when you first fit it, and any time you want reassurance:

- Touch the two probe tips together — you should get a 🟢 **green flash and a beep**.
- Separate them — back to the 🔵 dim blue open-lead flash.

No beeps at all? If the probes were touching each other when you switched the unit on, audio stays muted until the next power cycle — that is deliberate, for quiet workspaces. Switch it off and on again with the probes apart.

BlinkyHawk.com
Full user guide, firmware manual, and configuration reference.

Questions or problems?
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