

Multilayer Ceramic Capacitors

PRECAUTIONS

1. Circuit Design

- Precautions**
- ◆ Verification of operating environment, electrical rating and performance
 1. A malfunction of equipment in fields such as medical, aerospace, nuclear control, etc. may cause serious harm to human life or have severe social ramifications. Therefore, any capacitors to be used in such equipment may require higher safety and reliability, and shall be clearly differentiated from them used in general purpose applications.
 - ◆ Operating Voltage (Verification of Rated voltage)
 1. The operating voltage for capacitors must always be their rated voltage or less. If an AC voltage is loaded on a DC voltage, the sum of the two peak voltages shall be the rated voltage or less. For a circuit where an AC or a pulse voltage may be used, the sum of their peak voltages shall also be the rated voltage or less.
 2. Even if an applied voltage is the rated voltage or less reliability of capacitors may be deteriorated in case that either a high frequency AC voltage or a pulse voltage having rapid rise time is used in a circuit.

2. PCB Design

- Precautions**
- ◆ Pattern configurations (Design of Land-patterns)
 1. When capacitors are mounted on PCBs, the amount of solder used (size of fillet) can directly affect the capacitor performance. Therefore, the following items must be carefully considered in the design of land patterns:
 - (1) Excessive solder applied can cause mechanical stresses which lead to chip breaking or cracking. Therefore, please consider appropriate land-patterns for proper amount of solder.
 - (2) When more than one component are jointly soldered onto the same land, each component's soldering point shall be separated by solder-resist.
 - ◆ Pattern configurations (Capacitor layout on PCBs)
 After capacitors are mounted on boards, they can be subjected to mechanical stresses in subsequent manufacturing processes (PCB cutting, board inspection, mounting of additional parts, assembly into the chassis, wave soldering of the boards, etc.). For this reason, land pattern configurations and positions of capacitors shall be carefully considered to minimize stresses.

Technical considerations

- ◆ Pattern configurations (Design of Land-patterns)
 The following diagrams and tables show some examples of recommended land patterns to prevent excessive solder amounts.
 - (1) Recommended land dimensions for typical chip capacitors
 - Multilayer Ceramic Capacitors : Recommended land dimensions (unit: mm)

Wave-soldering

Type	1608	2012	3216	
Size	L	1.6	2.0	3.2
	W	0.8	1.25	1.6
A	0.8 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.4	1.8 to 2.5	
B	0.5 to 0.8	0.8 to 1.5	0.8 to 1.7	
C	0.6 to 0.8	0.9 to 1.2	1.2 to 1.6	

Reflow-soldering

Type	0201	0402	0603	1005	1608	2012	3216	3225	4532
Size	L	0.25	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.6	2.0	3.2	4.5
	W	0.125	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.25	1.6	3.2
A	0.095~0.135	0.15~0.25	0.2~0.5	0.45~0.7	0.6~0.95	0.8~1.4	1.8~2.65	1.8~2.7	2.5~3.5
B	0.085~0.125	0.1~0.2	0.2~0.3	0.4~0.5	0.6~0.8	0.8~1.2	1.0~1.5	1.0~1.5	1.5~1.8
C	0.11~0.15	0.15~0.3	0.25~0.55	0.45~0.7	0.6~1.05	0.9~1.8	1.2~2.1	1.8~3.3	2.3~3.5

Land patterns for PCBs

The diagram illustrates a chip capacitor mounted on a PCB. The land pattern is shown with dimensions A (width of the capacitor), B (width of the solder pads), and C (height of the solder pads). Solder-resist is applied to the PCB surface around the capacitor.

The diagram shows a top view of a chip capacitor with length L and width W.

Note: Recommended land size might be different according to the allowance of the size of the product.

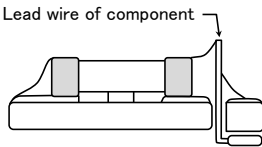
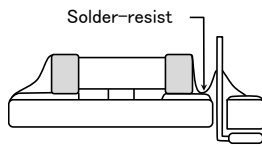
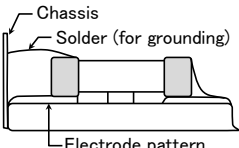
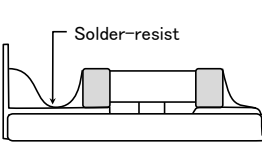
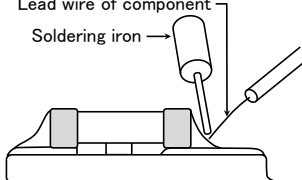
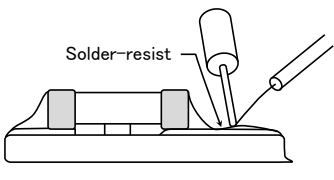
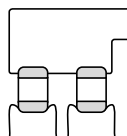
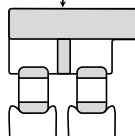
- LWDC: Recommended land dimensions for reflow-soldering (unit: mm)

Type	0510	0816	1220	
Size	L	0.52	0.8	1.25
	W	1.0	1.6	2.0
A	0.18~0.22	0.25~0.3	0.5~0.7	
B	0.2~0.25	0.3~0.4	0.4~0.5	
C	0.9~1.1	1.5~1.7	1.9~2.1	

The diagram shows a top view of a capacitor with LWDC dimensions L and W.

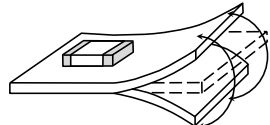
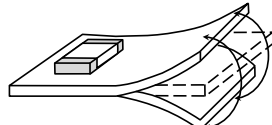
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(2) Examples of good and bad solder application

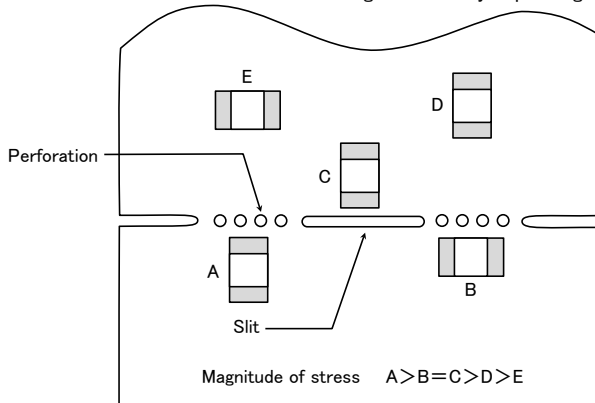
Item	Not recommended	Recommended
Mixed mounting of SMD and leaded components		
Component placement close to the chassis		
Hand-soldering of leaded components near mounted components		
Horizontal component placement		

◆ Pattern configurations (Capacitor layout on PCBs)

1-1. The following is examples of good and bad capacitor layouts ; capacitors shall be located to minimize any possible mechanical stresses from board warp or deflection.

Items	Not recommended	Recommended
Deflection of board		 Place the product at a right angle to the direction of the anticipated mechanical stress.

1-2. The amount of mechanical stresses given will vary depending on capacitor layout. Please refer to diagram below.



1-3. When PCB is split, the amount of mechanical stress on the capacitors can vary according to the method used. The following methods are listed in order from least stressful to most stressful: push-back, slit, V-grooving, and perforation. Thus, please consider the PCB, split methods as well as chip location.

3. Mounting

Precautions

◆ Adjustment of mounting machine

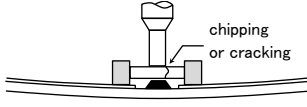
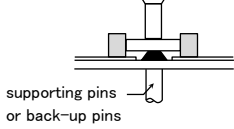
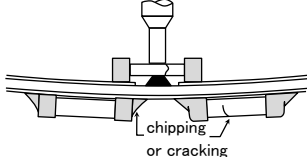
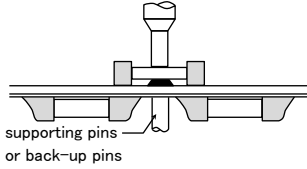
- When capacitors are mounted on PCB, excessive impact load shall not be imposed on them.
- Maintenance and inspection of mounting machines shall be conducted periodically.

◆ Selection of Adhesives

- When chips are attached on PCBs with adhesives prior to soldering, it may cause capacitor characteristics degradation unless the following factors are appropriately checked : size of land patterns, type of adhesive, amount applied, hardening temperature and hardening period. Therefore, please contact us for further information.

◆ Adjustment of mounting machine

- When the bottom dead center of a pick-up nozzle is too low, excessive force is imposed on capacitors and causes damages. To avoid this, the following points shall be considerable.
 - The bottom dead center of the pick-up nozzle shall be adjusted to the surface level of PCB without the board deflection.
 - The pressure of nozzle shall be adjusted between 1 and 3 N static loads.
 - To reduce the amount of deflection of the board caused by impact of the pick-up nozzle, supporting pins or back-up pins shall be used on the other side of the PCB. The following diagrams show some typical examples of good and bad pick-up nozzle placement:

Item	Improper method	Proper method
Single-sided mounting		
Double-sided mounting		

Technical considerations

- As the alignment pin is worn out, adjustment of the nozzle height can cause chipping or cracking of capacitors because of mechanical impact on the capacitors.
To avoid this, the monitoring of the width between the alignment pins in the stopped position, maintenance, check and replacement of the pin shall be conducted periodically.

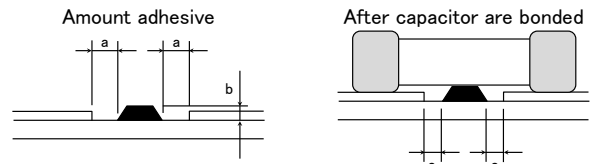
◆ Selection of Adhesives

Some adhesives may cause IR deterioration. The different shrinkage percentage of between the adhesive and the capacitors may result in stresses on the capacitors and lead to cracking. Moreover, too little or too much adhesive applied to the board may adversely affect components. Therefore, the following precautions shall be noted in the application of adhesives.

- Required adhesive characteristics
 - The adhesive shall be strong enough to hold parts on the board during the mounting & solder process.
 - The adhesive shall have sufficient strength at high temperatures.
 - The adhesive shall have good coating and thickness consistency.
 - The adhesive shall be used during its prescribed shelf life.
 - The adhesive shall harden rapidly.
 - The adhesive shall have corrosion resistance.
 - The adhesive shall have excellent insulation characteristics.
 - The adhesive shall have no emission of toxic gasses and no effect on the human body.
- The recommended amount of adhesives is as follows;

[Recommended condition]

Figure	2012/3216 case sizes as examples
a	0.3mm min
b	100 to 120 μm
c	Adhesives shall not contact land



4. Soldering

Precautions

◆ Selection of Flux

- Since flux may have a significant effect on the performance of capacitors, it is necessary to verify the following conditions prior to use;
- Flux used shall be less than or equal to 0.1 wt% (in Cl equivalent) of halogenated content. Flux having a strong acidity content shall not be applied.
 - When shall capacitors are soldered on boards, the amount of flux applied shall be controlled at the optimum level.
 - When water-soluble flux is used, special care shall be taken to properly clean the boards.

◆ Soldering

Temperature, time, amount of solder, etc. shall be set in accordance with their recommended conditions.
Sn-Zn solder paste can adversely affect MLCC reliability.
Please contact us prior to usage of Sn-Zn solder.

Technical considerations

◆ Selection of Flux

- When too much halogenated substance (Chlorine, etc.) content is used to activate flux, or highly acidic flux is used, it may lead to corrosion of terminal electrodes or degradation of insulation resistance on the surfaces of the capacitors.
- Flux is used to increase solderability in wave soldering. However if too much flux is applied, a large amount of flux gas may be emitted and may adversely affect the solderability. To minimize the amount of flux applied, it is recommended to use a flux-bubbling system.
- Since the residue of water-soluble flux is easily dissolved in moisture in the air, the residues on the surfaces of capacitors in high humidity conditions may cause a degradation of insulation resistance and reliability of the capacitors. Therefore, the cleaning methods and the capability of the machines used shall also be considered carefully when water-soluble flux is used.

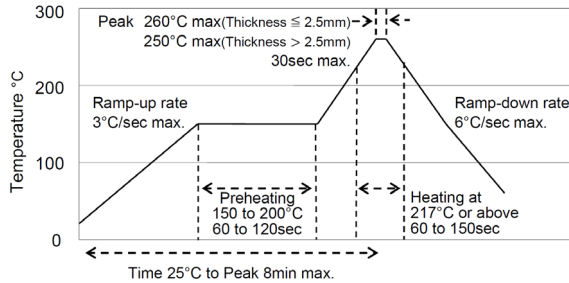
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◆Soldering

- Ceramic chip capacitors are susceptible to thermal shock when exposed to rapid or concentrated heating or rapid cooling.
- Therefore, the soldering must be conducted with great care so as to prevent malfunction of the components due to excessive thermal shock.
- Preheating : Capacitors shall be preheated sufficiently, and the temperature difference between the capacitors and solder shall be within 130°C.
- Cooling : The temperature difference between the capacitors and cleaning process shall not be greater than 100°C.

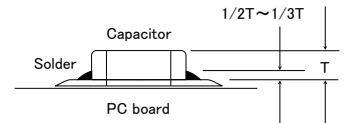
[Reflow soldering]

【Recommended condition for Pb-free soldering】



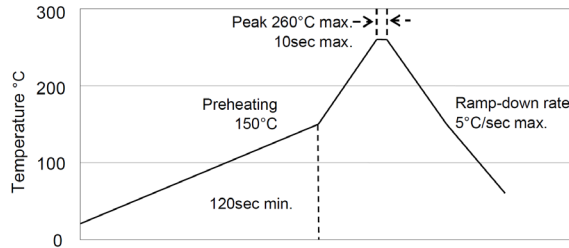
Caution

- ①The ideal condition is to have solder mass (fillet) controlled to 1/2 to 1/3 of the thickness of a capacitor.
- ②Because excessive dwell times can adversely affect solderability, soldering duration shall be kept as close to recommended times as possible. soldering for 2 times.



[Wave soldering]

【Recommended condition for Pb-free soldering】

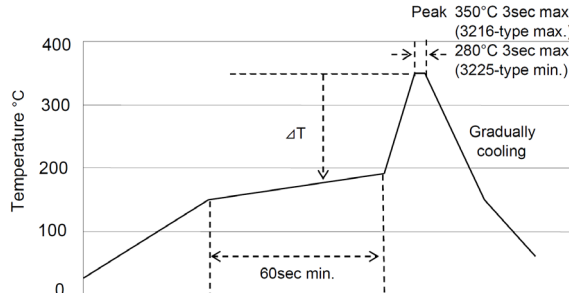


Caution

- ①Wave soldering must not be applied to capacitors designated as for reflow soldering only. soldering for 1 time.

[Hand soldering]

【Recommended condition for Pb-free soldering】



Caution

- ① $\Delta T \leq 150^\circ \text{C}$ (3216-type max.), $\Delta T \leq 130^\circ \text{C}$ (3225-type min.)
- ②The soldering iron shall not directly touch capacitors. soldering for 1 time.

5. Cleaning

Precautions	<p>◆Cleaning conditions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When PCBs are cleaned after capacitors mounting, please select the appropriate cleaning solution in accordance with the intended use of the cleaning. (e.g. to remove soldering flux or other materials from the production process.) Cleaning condition shall be determined after it is verified by using actual cleaning machine that the cleaning process does not affect capacitor's characteristics.
Technical considerations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The use of inappropriate cleaning solutions can cause foreign substances such as flux residue to adhere to capacitors or deteriorate their outer coating, resulting in a degradation of the capacitor's electrical properties (especially insulation resistance). Inappropriate cleaning conditions (insufficient or excessive cleaning) may adversely affect the performance of the capacitors. In the case of ultrasonic cleaning, too much power output can cause excessive vibration of PCBs which may lead to the cracking of capacitors or the soldered portion, or decrease the terminal electrodes' strength. Therefore, the following conditions shall be carefully checked: Ultrasonic output : 20 W/l or less Ultrasonic frequency : 40 kHz or less Ultrasonic washing period : 5 min. or less

6. Resin coating and mold

Precautions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> With some type of resins, decomposition gas or chemical reaction vapor may remain inside the resin during the hardening period or while left under normal storage conditions resulting in the deterioration of the capacitor's performance. When a resin's hardening temperature is higher than capacitor's operating temperature, the stresses generated by the excessive heat may lead to damage or destruction of capacitors. The use of such resins, molding materials etc. is not recommended.
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7. Handling

Precautions	<p>◆Splitting of PCB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> When PCBs are split after components mounting, care shall be taken so as not to give any stresses of deflection or twisting to the board. Board separation shall not be done manually, but by using the appropriate devices. <p>◆Mechanical considerations</p> <p>Be careful not to subject capacitors to excessive mechanical shocks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If ceramic capacitors are dropped onto a floor or a hard surface, they shall not be used. Please be careful that the mounted components do not come in contact with or bump against other boards or components.
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8. Storage conditions

Precautions	<p>◆Storage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the solderability of terminal electrodes and to keep packaging materials in good condition, care must be taken to control temperature and humidity in the storage area. Humidity should especially be kept as low as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended conditions Ambient temperature : Below 30°C Humidity : 20 to 70% RH The ambient temperature must be kept from 5 to 40°C. Even under ideal storage conditions, solderability of capacitor is deteriorated as time passes, so capacitors shall be used within 6 months from the time of delivery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceramic chip capacitors shall be kept where no chlorine or sulfur exists in the air. The capacitance values of high dielectric constant capacitors will gradually decrease with the passage of time, so care shall be taken to design circuits. Even if capacitance value decreases as time passes, it will get back to the initial value by a heat treatment at 150°C for 1hour.
Technical considerations	<p>If capacitors are stored in a high temperature and humidity environment, it might rapidly cause poor solderability due to terminal oxidation and quality loss of taping/packaging materials. For this reason, capacitors shall be used within 6 months from the time of delivery. If exceeding the above period, please check solderability before using the capacitors.</p>

※RCR-2335□ (Safety Application Guide for fixed ceramic capacitors for use in electronic equipment) is published by JEITA.

Please check the guide regarding precautions for deflection test, soldering by spot heat, and so on.