

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOLDER REFLOW MOUNTING "TACmicrochip" TANTALUM CAPACITOR

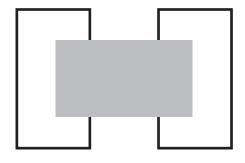
SOLDER REFLOW MOUNTING "TACmicrochip" TANTALUM CAPACITOR

Solder reflow mounting of the small 0603 "TACmicrochip" requires a rethink from the established mounting of the 0603 ceramic chip or molded TAJ R type tantalum capacitors.

The new design of the 0603 chip tantalum capacitor has only end faces metallized to accept the solder connection, unlike the ceramic which has end faces and edges metallized. The change to only end face metallization means that the mounting pad footprint design has to be changed to allow for no edge soldering.

Footprint pad design has two major differences:

PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD PAD AREA COMPARISON FOR 0603 CAPACITOR STANDARD CERAMIC PAD DESIGN



TOTAL PAD AREA 3.36mm Sq

NEW TANTALUM DESIGN



TOTAL PAD AREA 2.18mm Sq

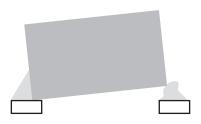
- 1. The width of the pad can be the same as the capacitor as there is no requirement of edge solder fillets. The pad design will therefore require less PCB board area thus increasing package density on the PCB.
- 2. Distance between pads under the capacitor has to be increased (when compared with the ceramic) in order to reduce the mass of solder under the end of the capacitor. Reducing this mass will stop the capacitor floating away from the PCB on a ball of solder, inhibiting soldering to the end face termination.

SOLDER PAD DESIGN

CORRECT PAD DESIGN



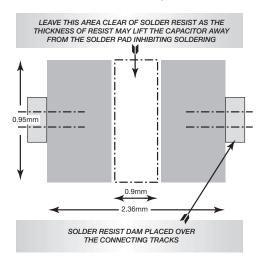
INCORRECT PAD DESIGN



EXCESS PAD EXTENDING UNDER THE CAPACITOR WILL RESULT IN CAPACITOR LIFTING AWAY FROM SUBSTRATE

It also has a beneficial effect on minimizing the electrical leakage current path under the capacitor by increasing the path length between the pads. This will become more important as the capacitors become smaller.

The suggested pad design for the 0603 TACmicrochip:

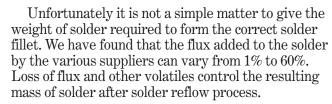


The small pad area required for this size of capacitor makes solder mass added to the pad critical. To obtain the correct solder fillet, it is important to restrict solder flowing into or out of the pad area by the use of solder resist dams, which will block the movement of solder to and from the connecting solder tracks.

In order to obtain the correct solder fillet on the end connections, the mass of solder added to the pad is important.



VERY SMALL FILLET WILL GIVE A POOR SOLDER YIELD



In AVX tests Solder Plus ESP 62 RA-A has been found satisfactory for the 0603 capacitor (0.015 grams ± 0.005 grams was found to give results).



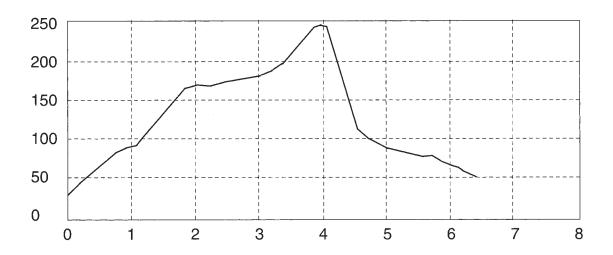
CORRECT SOLDER FILLET



LARGE SOLDER FILLET CAN CAUSE TOMBSTONING

The solder heating profile used peaked at $235 \infty C$, details of the profile is given below.

SOLDER REFLOW TEMPERATURE CYCLE



USA

AVX Myrtle Beach, SC Corporate Offices

Tel: 843-448-9411 FAX: 843-626-5292

AVX Northwest, WA

Tel: 360-699-8746 FAX: 360-699-8751

AVX North Central, IN

Tel: 317-848-7153 FAX: 317-844-9314

AVX Mid/Pacific, MN

Tel: 952-974-9155 FAX: 952-974-9179

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AVX Southeast, NC

Tel: 919-878-6223 FAX: 919-878-6462

AVX Canada

Tel: 905-564-8959 FAX: 905-564-9728

EUROPE

AVX Limited, England European Headquarters

Tel: ++44 (0) 1252 770000 FAX: ++44 (0) 1252 770001

AVX S.A., France

Tel: ++33 (1) 69.18.46.00 FAX: ++33 (1) 69.28.73.87

AVX GmbH, Germany - AVX

Tel: ++49 (0) 8131 9004-0 FAX: ++49 (0) 8131 9004-44

AVX GmbH, Germany - Elco

Tel: ++49 (0) 2741 2990 FAX: ++49 (0) 2741 299133

AVX srl, Italy

Tel: ++390 (0)2 614571 FAX: ++390 (0)2 614 2576

AVX Czech Republic, s.r.o.

Tel: ++420 (0)467 558340 FAX: ++420 (0)467 558345

ASIA-PACIFIC

AVX/Kyocera, Singapore Asia-Pacific Headquarters

Tel: (65) 258-2833 FAX: (65) 350-4880

AVX/Kyocera, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2-363-3303 FAX: (852) 2-765-8185

AVX/Kyocera, Korea

Tel: (82) 2-785-6504 FAX: (82) 2-784-5411

AVX/Kyocera, Taiwan

Tel: (886) 2-2696-4636 FAX: (886) 2-2696-4237

AVX/Kyocera, China

Tel: (86) 21-6249-0314-16 FAX: (86) 21-6249-0313

AVX/Kyocera, Malaysia

Tel: (60) 4-228-1190 FAX: (60) 4-228-1196

Elco, Japan

Tel: 045-943-2906/7 FAX: 045-943-2910

Kyocera, Japan - AVX

Tel: (81) 75-604-3426 FAX: (81) 75-604-3425

Kyocera, Japan - KDP

Tel: (81) 75-604-3424 FAX: (81) 75-604-3425

Contact:



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