



ARCHIVE 2008

2008

"Kelvin Contacting" Jim Brandes Everett Charles Technologies

"Use Simulation to Obtain S Parameters and Network Parameters for Sockets and PCB/Connectors" Sultan Faiz, Mike Fedde

Ironwood Electronics

"New Solution for Chipscale RF Lead Free ATE Test" Sergio Diaz Ardent Concepts, Inc.

"1mm Length Spring Probe: Practical? A Study of Spring Pin Dimension Limit" Jiachun (Frank) Zhou, Praveen Matlapudi, Mark Murdza Antares Advanced Test Technologies

> "Challenges of Surface Mounted Test Sockets" Dr. Shih-Wei Hsiao, Andrew Gattuso

Foxconn

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The papers in this publication comprise the proceedings of the 2008 BiTS Workshop. They reflect the authors' opinions and are reproduced as presented , without change. Their inclusion in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the BiTS Workshop, the sponsors, BiTS Workshop LLC, or the authors.

There is NO copyright protection claimed by this publication or the authors. However, each presentation is the work of the authors and their respective companies: as such, it is strongly suggested that any use reflect proper acknowledgement to the appropriate source. Any questions regarding the use of any materials presented should be directed to the author/s or their companies.

All photographs in this archive are copyrighted by BiTS Workshop LLC. The BiTS logo and 'Burn-in & Test Socket Workshop' are trademarks of BiTS Workshop LLC.











Success: Gemini Kelvin [™]			
	Customers Report	Improved Test Yields	
	Issues Related to Contact Resistance and Eliminated		
	All Customers are Repeat Customers		
SS	Over 75 Designs and Over 300 Contactors Shipped in First Year of Production		
	Customers Reporting 250 k to 700 k Probe Life in High-Volume Production		
	Key Specific Probe Pitch Kelvin Tip Spacing Board-Side Tip Spacing Loop Inductance Bandwidth Contact Resistance Current Capacity	cations: 0.4 mm and up (inline) 0.65 and up (array) 0.15mm minimum 0.45 mm 1.05 nH (single probe) 0.65 nH (dual probe) -1dB @ 14 GHz (single) -1dB @ 8 GHz (dual) <150 mΩ (new probe) 1.6 A Continuous (20° C rise) 6 A maximum @ 1% duty cycle	
3/2008	Kelvin Contacting	3	



















Customer Challenge - Provide a cost effective alternative to existing offset contactor solutions with comparable Insertion Loss and Isolation performance.





3/2008



2











Resulting Calculations

Pitch, working stroke and spring force are major factors considered in pin design based on their roles in applications. Fig. 4~ 6 shows the impact on pin dimensions.



Fig. 4 Effect of pitch on pin length

Pin length is mainly effected by pitch, particularly those < 0.5mm pitch. The pin length will be > 6mm. (Fig. 4)

> Reducing pin stroke can significantly reduce overall length. Spring length, which is a function of pin stroke, plays a large roll in the resulting pin length.

Impact of pin force on pin length is limited when compared to pitch and stroke. The spring dimensions are determined by barrel diameter or by pitch. Pin force affects the resulting contact resistance. Higher pin force is preferred in pin design, to reduce contact resistance.





> Other variables that effect overall pin length are pin tip length (I_1) and plunger bearing surface length (I_2).

Fig. 8 shows function of the pin tip on pin length. However, in a crown configuration reducing the tip length results in a increase in the inclusive angle of the crown. As the crown angle increases, the crown becomes shallow and and become susceptible to debris accumulation and resulting poor performance over increased cycles. 0.45mm should be crown length limit.







Plunger bearing surface length affects the stability of electrical contact of plunger and barrel, but also can be a factor to spring length. Additionally, this feature is critical to target accuracy, as a larger bearing surface results in a concentric alignment between the plunger and barrel, as shown Fig. 9.

> The spring is the heart of the spring probe, as its most effect on the pin's overall performance. As a function of all of the mating variables spring durability is the resultant that must be optimized. Designed not correctly, the spring can experience early failures due to high stress levels. To maximize durability, the spring must be maintained at the longest possible length by reducing the resultant stress to minimize fatigue and fracture.

Well known from material fatigue theory, long spring life design requires minimized permissible limiting stress that can be determined by multiplying the spring material tensile strength by the factor of spring stress limit – the smaller the resulting factor, the less permissible limiting stress applied. Fig. 10 indicates increased spring length as function of reduced factor of spring stress limit to improve spring cycle life.



Pin Dimensional Limit Example

> Taking the variables into account an example spring probe is calculated and the resulting pin length is shown in Fig. 11. and Fig. 12.

To predict pin dimensional limit, the analysis uses music wire tensile strength as permissible limiting stress in spring. Obviously, higher tensile strength material than music wire can make pin shorter.

The calculations show the spring pin length limit of ~1.6mm at pitch of >0.6mm. The length increases significantly as pitch <0.5mm or increasing working stroke. Larger spring force leads to longer pin, which becomes more at pitch<0.5mm.</p>



Summary:

> A multitude of variables contribute the overall dynamics and resulting performance of a spring probe.

> By leveraging knowledge of spring probes, a methodology for spring probe development was created and incorporated into a program. This program is used to as reference to assist in estimating basic spring pin dimensions. The technical parameters for pin application and structural features are included in this program.

> Two primary characteristics that effect overall performance of spring probes are overall length and spring force. Force effect the resulting contact resistance due to the integrity of interconnect at the DUT terminal, and spring length plays to the resulting durability.

> Maintaining the basic function of a spring probe with music wire, taking the spring permissible limit stress into account for the spring configuration, the spring pin length limit is ~ 1.6mm with pitch >0.6mm. The limits on pin length are significantly constrained as pitch falls < 0.5mm where smaller diameters dictate the need for a longer spring with enough working stroke, in order to maximize durability.



1mm Length Spring Pin: Practical?

Poster #4

3









