

ARCHIVE 2009

PCBs – MORE THAN JUST BOARDS

Tuning a PCB/Contactor System to Your Device
Ryan Satrom—Everett Charles Technologies

**A Novel Redesign of BI System Interconnects Results in Major BIB
Cost Reduction for Day-to-Day Operations**
Bob Jemison—RJI Technical Sales

Advances in Plating Technology, Reliable High Aspect Ratio Holes
Thomas N. Bresnan—R&D Circuits

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TUNING A PCB/CONTACTOR SYSTEM TO YOUR DEVICE

Ryan Satrom
Everett Charles Technologies



2009 BITS Workshop
March 8 - 11, 2009



Introduction

- Tuning involves modifying components, including the contactor, on PCB to optimize performance
- For many RF devices, the signal path requires tuning, and the contactor is a critical part of this path
- The inclusion of a contactor in an interface presents additional challenges to tuning

Agenda

This presentation will:

- Describe the importance of tuning
- Provide an introduction to tuning concepts
- Present a tuning example
- Show the effect of contactor on tuning
- Provide two solutions for tuning the signal path, including the contactor
- Propose future direction

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Importance of Tuning

- Tuning components on your PCB will affect the performance of your device
- Adding a contactor will degrade key parameters, such as gain and power, up to ~10dB
- Proper tuning allows test of device, not interface
- Outcome: with accurate tuning, test results will reflect actual device performance

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Importance of Tuning

Poor tuning causes a series of problems:

- Complete test failure - decrease in performance will cause test to fail
- Moderate to significant drop in yield - typical performance much closer to failure limits, causing yield to drop
- Lower bottom line – invalid failures cost money, profits decrease

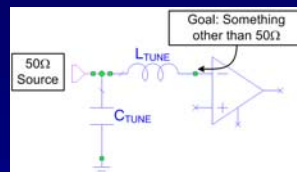
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Tuning

- Definition: optimization of the components in a system for maximum performance of an amplifier for a specific device frequency
- Involves modifying the components (L, C, PCB traces, contactor)
- Goal: Transform the impedance at the specific device frequency for optimal performance
 - Tuning is for narrow-band performance
 - Broad-band performance is unimportant



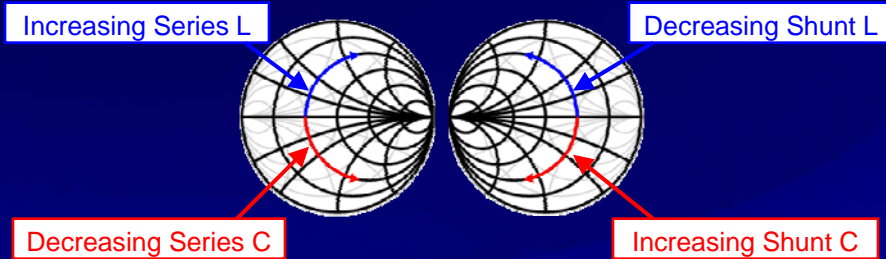
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Smith Chart

- A graphical representation of impedance (Z) and admittance (Y, the inverse of impedance)
- Modifying component values changes the impedance and its corresponding location on the Smith Chart
- The ideal electrical performance an impedance represented by a point on the Smith Chart:



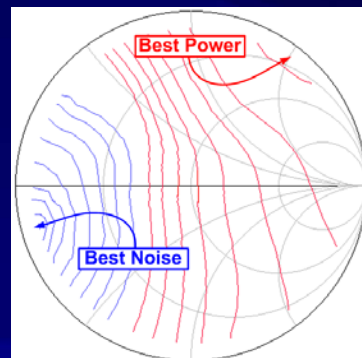
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Determining a Good Match

- Optimum device performance is often determined by taking load-pull measurements*
 - Load-pull measurements provide a compromise between two or more device parameters
 - Optimum impedance is chosen as a trade-off between specified parameters which are critical for given amplifier
 - Gain, Noise Figure, Power, and Efficiency are the most common measured parameters



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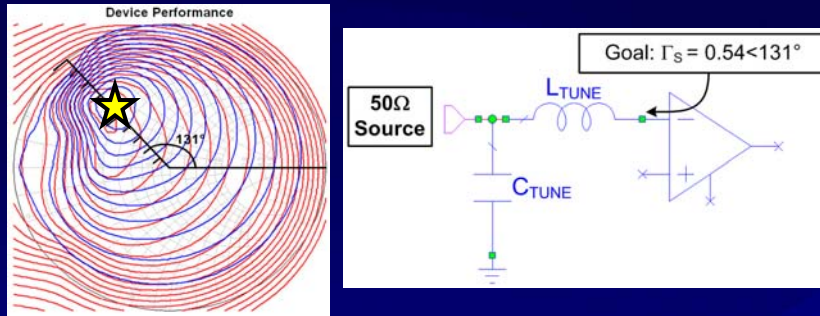
*Other methods can be used but that discussion is beyond the scope of this presentation

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8

Tuning Example – No Contactor

- Device: Amplifier @ 2.4GHz
- Optimum source reflection : $\Gamma_S = 0.54 < 131^\circ$



- Red Contours: Power - Max Power = 20dB
- Blue Contours: Efficiency (PAE) - Max Efficiency

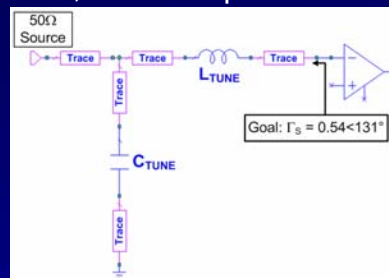
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Tuning Example – No Contactor

- Goal: Convert 50Ω ($\Gamma=1$) into Γ_S optimum performance
- Method: Use LC network below
 - PCB traces also included in path
 - Contactor will be added later
- Modify two variables to match impedance
 - Series Inductor, Shunt Capacitor



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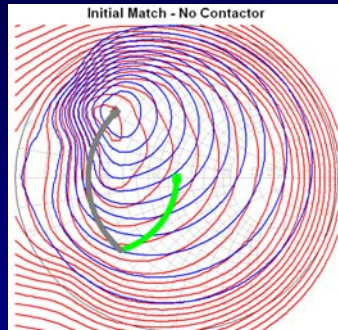
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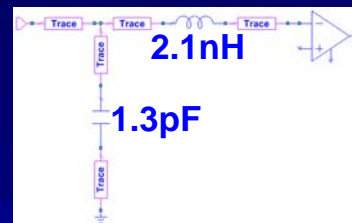
Tuning Example – No Contactor

Tuning Match

- 1st Step : Start at center (50Ω)
- 2nd Step : 1.3pF Capacitor with adjacent trace
- 3rd Step : 2.1nH Inductor with adjacent trace



Results
Power = 19.0dB



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Adding a Contactor

- Contactors
 - Will always affect match and needs to be considered
 - May require component value and placement modifications
- Two main parameters that affect match
 - Electrical length of probe
 - Loop inductance (strongly influenced by signal / ground proximity)



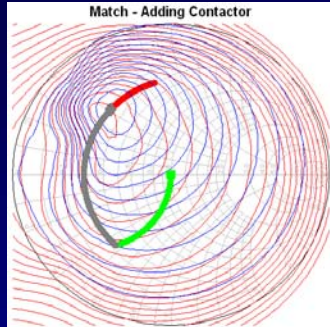
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Results – Adding a Contactor

- BTM050 added to signal path
 - Pin Length = 2.49mm
 - Loop Inductance = 0.87nH



- 1.3pF Capacitor
- 2.1nH Inductor
- BTM050 Contactor

	Power
No Contactor	19.0dB
BTM050	16.1dB

Components will be added or adjusted to improve performance

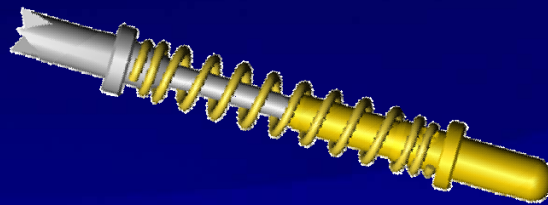
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Results – Adding a Contactor

- Drop in power often does not correlate to contactor bandwidth specification
 - Power (no contactor) – power (w/ BTM050) = 19dB-16.1dB
 - Specified BTM050 contactor loss @ 2.4 GHz = 0.2dB
 - Change in power = 2.9dB – *Adjustments are needed!*
- Due to presence of non-linear circuitry (amplifier)



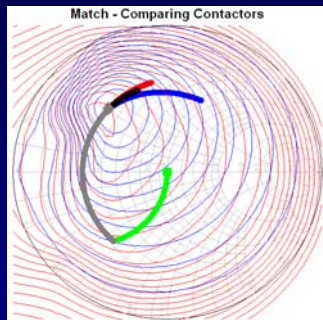
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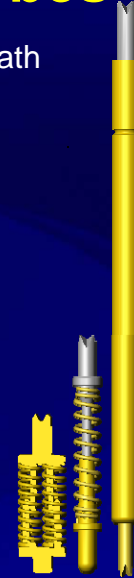
Results – Comparing Probes

- Three different technologies added to signal path
 - GEM040 (Length = 1.54mm; L = 0.55nH)
 - BTM050 (Length = 2.49mm; L = 0.87nH)
 - CSP050 (Length = 6.45mm; L = 1.79nH)



- 1.3pF Capacitor
- 2.1nH Inductor
- GEM040 Contactor
- BTM050 Contactor
- CSP050 Contactor

	Power
No Contactor	19.0dB
GEM040	17.0dB
BTM050	16.1dB
CSP050	14.5dB



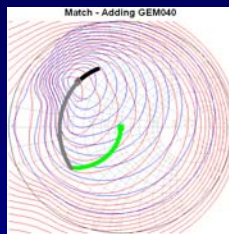
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Using a High-Performance Probe

- Minimizes undesired movement on Smith Chart
- Increases likelihood of achieving good match
- GEM040 probe
 - Minimal length (1.54mm)
 - Minimal loop inductance
 - 0.45nH (0.4mm), 0.55nH (0.5mm)
 - Good mechanical integrity



	Power
No Contactor	19.0dB
GEM040	17.0dB



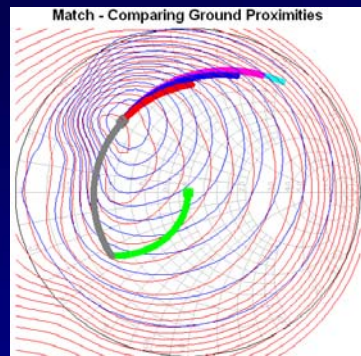
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Results – Comparing Ground Proximity

- Increased distance to ground = increased path length = increased inductance
- Plot compares four different distances
 - 0.5mm, 1mm, 1.5mm, 2mm



	Config	Proximity	Power
No Contactor	--	--	19.0dB
BTM050	GS	0.5mm	14.5dB
BTM050	GS	1mm	11.0dB
BTM050	GS	1.5mm	8.2dB
BTM050	GS	2mm	6.7dB

Up to **12dB** loss in power!

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Solutions for Optimized Design

Two solutions for implementing good design:

- 1) Trial & Error
 - Benefits – Can occur after design/fab phase
 - Challenges – Optimal solution may not be achieved
- 2) Simulation
 - Benefits – Can produce most accurate results
 - Challenges – Requires PCB, contactor, and device expertise/models; must occur during design phase

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Solution #1 – Trial & Error

- Change L and C until acceptable results achieved
- Performance can be achieved but is least desirable option
 - Trial & Error allows for minor design changes, but is too late to make component placement changes
 - Non-ideal engineering practice – difficult to improve designs without understanding why changes are being made



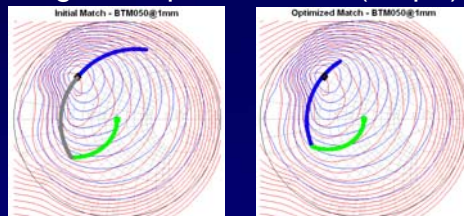
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Solution #2 - Simulation

- Use simulation to offset contactor parasitics
- Example #1 – No PCB Re-design
- BTM050@1mm (G-S Configuration)
 - Remove inductor (replace with 0Ω resistor)
 - No change in capacitor value (1.3pF)



	Power
Initial Layout	11.0dB
After Component Change	16.9dB

5.9dB change!

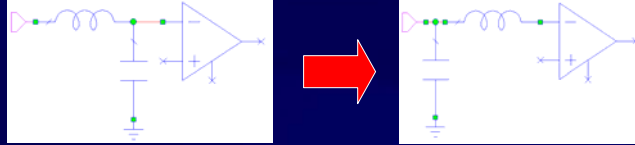
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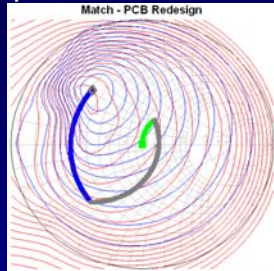
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Solution #2 - Simulation

- Example #2 – Change PCB Component Placement



- Inductor changed to 1.5nH
- Capacitor value changed to 1.5pF



	Power
Initial Layout	11.0dB
PCB Redesign	19.0dB

8dB change!

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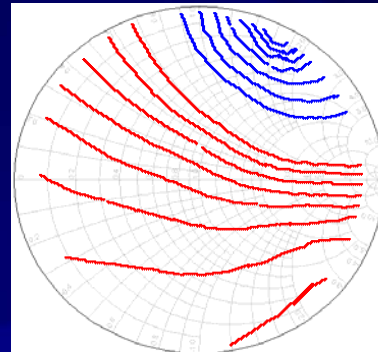
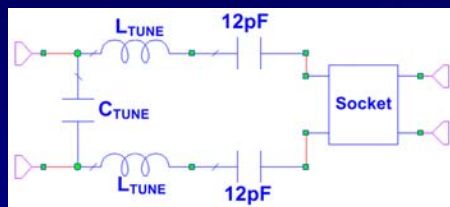
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Integrating Simulation and Measurement

Project Description

- Existing contactor solution was replaced with GEM040
- Components must be modified to account for new contactor
- Replacing longer probe with short probe still requires tuning
- Goal: modify PCB components to match or exceed performance of existing, functioning solution



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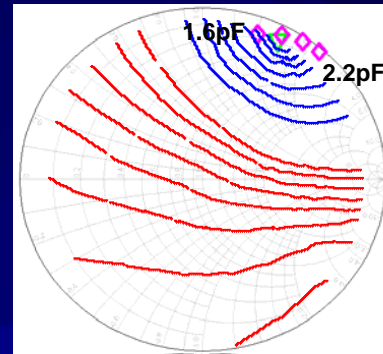
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Integrating Simulation and Measurement

- Existing Solution: $L_{TUNE} = 3.0nH$; $C_{TUNE} = 1.2pF$
- GEM040 Solution:
 - Leave L_{TUNE} unchanged (3.0nH)
 - Sweep C_{TUNE} from 1.6pF to 2.2pF

Measurement Results

Socket Type	L_{SERIES}	C_{SHUNT}	GAIN	NF
Existing Solution	3.0nH	1.2pF	35.42 dB	3.20 dB
GEM040	3.0nH	1.6pF	33.37 dB	3.52 dB
GEM040	3.0nH	1.8pF	35.00 dB	3.51 dB
GEM040	3.0nH	2pF	32.12 dB	3.71 dB
GEM040	3.0nH	2.2pF	29.96 dB	3.43 dB



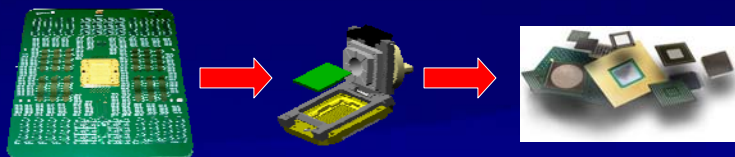
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Vision for the Future

- Contactor/PCB Vendors
 - Provide expertise on contactor and PCB performance (and modeling)
- Device Manufacturers
 - Provide device characteristics, including device models and/or load-pull measurements
- Work together to simulate and design future PCBs and tuning networks
- Improve performance and yield for future products



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Summary

- The contactor presents challenges to tuning a test interface
 - Adds inductance and electrical length
 - Changes the impedance the source sees
- It is important to minimize the effect of the contactor
 - Trial & Error – can work, but usually not the most accurate
 - Simulation
 - Provides the opportunity to offset the contactor prior to design
 - More difficult but can be most accurate

A Novel Redesign of BI System Interconnects Results in Major BIB Cost Reduction for Day-to-Day Operations

Bob Jemison
RJI Technical Sales



2009 BITS Workshop
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The Challenge

The #1 question asked today is

“What can you do to lower my day-to-day burn-in board costs?”



The Challenge

Where can you cut costs?

- Buy cheaper sockets?
- Less expensive materials?
- Board fabrication?
- Electrical components?
- Board interconnect?



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Here's the real question

“How can I reduce the cost of manufacturing burn-in boards in order to lower my day-to-day operating costs?”



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Burn-in Board Challenge

Burn-in platforms vary greatly

Different platforms = different BIB profiles

Note: This paper applies to those BIB applications where customers have larger board outlines, higher I/O requirements and increasing power needs

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Burn-in Board Interconnects

Typical BIB interconnects



These boards represent typical applications

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Burn-in Board Realities

- A wide variety of BI systems are in use today
- Interconnects are old and out of date
- Interconnect methods have not changed in decades
- Interconnect methods have not kept up with demands of new applications

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Burn-in Board Realities

- Most interconnects rely on:
 - Card edge connectors/fingers
 - High density connectors
 - Custom interface connectors
- That result in:
 - Outdated methodology
 - Fragile components
 - Excessive costs

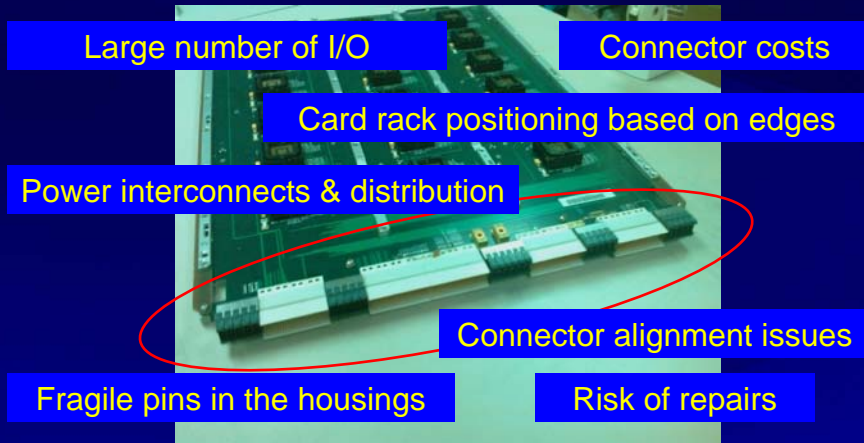
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BIB Interconnect Issues

Let's review one example



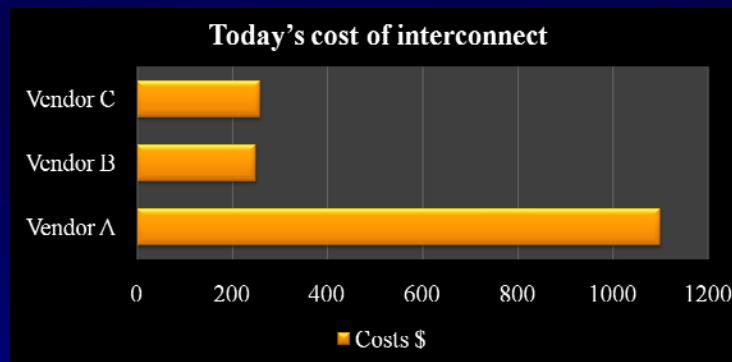
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Interconnect Costs

Typical interconnect costs for 3 profiles



Cost per BIB for interconnect portion only

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An innovative solution is ...

... to eliminate of all interconnect hardware from the burn-in board

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An Innovative Solution

We must address the following issues:

- Reduce the cost of the interconnect
- Introduce a more robust interconnect
- Eliminate alignment issues
- Allow for high density of contacts
- Plan for high power requirements

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An Innovative Solution

Let's break it down into 4 steps

- 1) Provide a suitable contact to use for the interconnect
- 2) Provide a suitable interconnect housing to hold the contacts
- 3) Provide a method for implementation
- 4) Provide a cost comparison

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An Innovative Solution

Step 1 – Select a suitable contact

- Contact that is suitable for burn-in applications
- Place a large number of contacts in a small space
- Must be a robust contact
- Ability to repair/replacement

Solution: Plastronics H-pin®



H-Pin is a registered trademark of Plastronics

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An Innovative Solution

Step 1 – Selection criteria

- Working travel: 0.80 mm
- Contact force: 30 gr
- Current carrying: 4 amp
- Mechanical life: 50000 cycles



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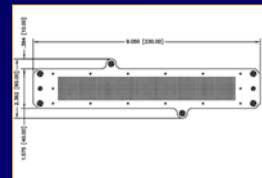
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An Innovative Solution

Step 2 - Determine a suitable housing

- Method to contain the contacts selected
- need to package a high pin count in a limited space
- Works in burn-in environment
- Ability to repair
- Be a one-time cost to burn-in

Solution: Interconnect pin block



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An Innovative Solution

Step 2 – Pin block for the interconnect



Approximately 2000 pins in 11 sq inches

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An Innovative Solution

Step 3 – The implementation

- Board to board interconnect
- One time implementation in the burn-in system
- Designed to work in this burn-in environment
- Suitable for new systems or in-house applications

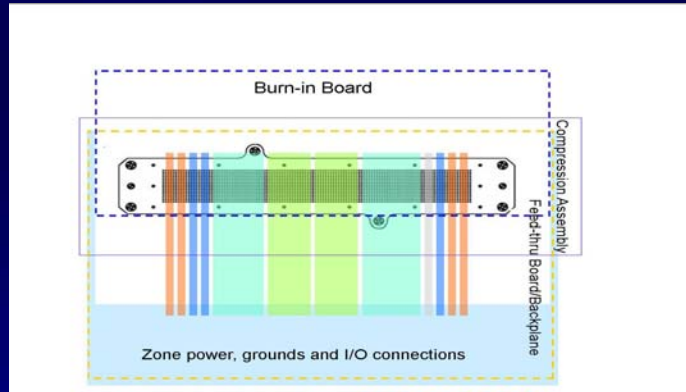
Choice: A board to board interconnect suitable for a rack based burn-in environment

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An Innovative Solution
Step 3 – The implementation



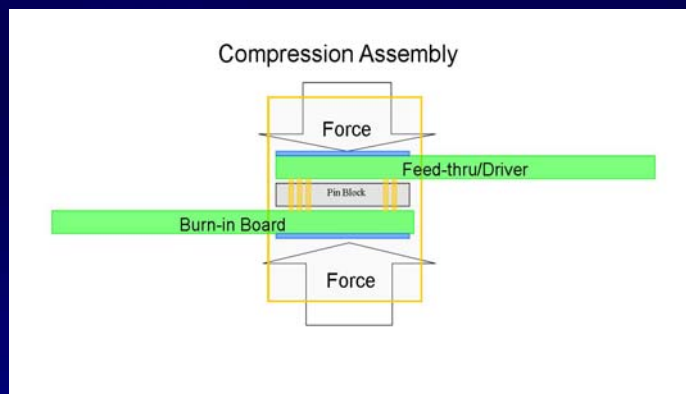
Typical power and I/O distribution

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An Innovative Solution
Step 3 – The implementation



View showing the stack up of all major components

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An Innovative Solution

Burn-in board requires the following:

All I/O connections are reduced to pad locations to match the pin block

No connectors are required on the burn-in board

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An Innovative Solution

The burn-in system requires the pin block

- Pin block stays with the system
- One time investment in the burn-in system
- Day-to-day BIB costs are reduced

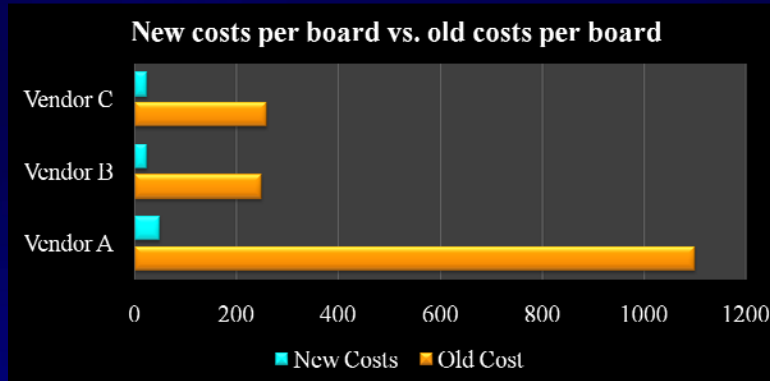
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Interconnect Solution Costs

Step 4: Interconnect costs



Cost per BIB for interconnect portion only

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Annual Cost Savings

BIB Profile	Old \$ Per Board	New \$ Per Board	Boards per Project	Savings Per Project	Annual Savings
A	1100	50	10	10500	630000
B	250	25	10	2250	135000
C	260	25	10	2350	141000

1) Annual cost savings is based on 60 projects of 10 boards each



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Applications

Methods can be applied

Most BI system interconnects are outdated

New methods can be adapted to both new and old burn-in systems

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Conclusion

- New methods are available for use
- Users must invest in new methods
- One-time system improvements acceptable
- Major cost savings are possible



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26

Thank you

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R&D Circuits



2009 BiTS Workshop
March 8 - 11, 2009



Outline

- The Semiconductor Test Industry
- The Attributes
- The Processes
- The Verification Method
- The Results
- The Summary and Recommendations

Semiconductor Test

- Fine Pitch Devices / Package Test
 - 0.5mm BGA
 - 0.4mm BGA
 - 0.3mm BGA
- Elevated Temperature Testing
 - 4 to 8 hours

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Semiconductor Test

- Temperature cycling for characterization
 - -40°C to +125°C
- Package Verification

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The ATE Industry

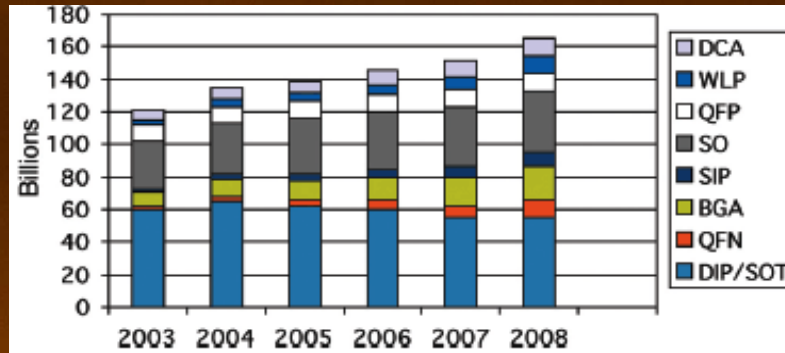


Table 1. Worldwide Semiconductor Package Volume

iNEMI Roadmap

The ATE Industry

- Packaged Device Testing
- 1.0mm – early 1990's
- 0.8mm – 0.65mm – late 1990's
- 0.5mm – 2000's
- 0.4mm – 2007
- 0.3mm – 2009
- 0.2mm – 2011

Int'l Tech Roadmap
for Semiconductors

High Aspect Ratio's

- Unique Board Geometries
 - Over-sized, not your usual 18 x 24 panel
 - Thick
 - 3.2mm minimum to > 6.4mm

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High Aspect Ratio's

- Unique Board Geometries
 - Small holes
 - Mechanically drilled
 - 150 micron and less (100 micron currently)
 - High Aspect Ratio
 - 31:1 to > 45:1

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Why These are Unique

- Attributes
- One of a Kind
- Thermal Extremes
- Continuous Use Environment

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The Requirements

- The Tolerance Budget – 0.5mm
 - 0.5mm [0.0197] pitch
 - 150 micron [0.006] drill diameter (31:1)
 - 350 micron [0.0137] hole wall to hole wall
 - 100 micron [0.004] line width
 - 250 micron [0.0098] remaining / 2 =
 - 125 micron [0.00485] hole to circuit!

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10

The Requirements

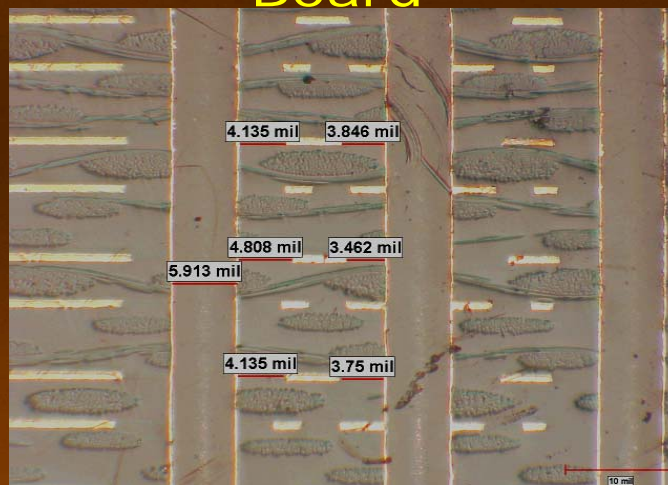
- The Tolerance Budget – 0.4mm
 - 0.4mm [0.0157] pitch
 - 100 micron [0.004] drill diameter (47:1)
 - 300 micron [0.0117] hole wall to hole wall
 - 75 micron [0.003] line width
 - 220 micron [0.0087] remaining / 2 =
 - 110 micron [0.00435] hole to circuit!

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11

Registration on a 0.5mm Board



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12

Plating Techniques

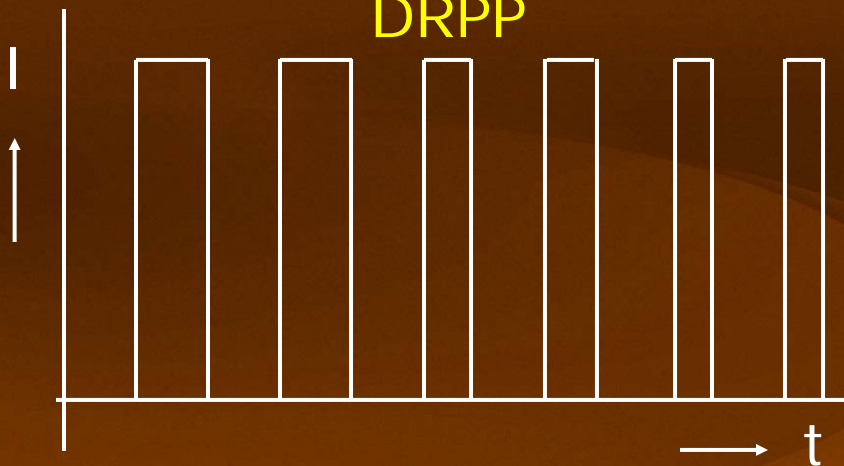
- High Aspect Ratio
- Cleaning (debris)
- Desmear / Hole Wall Prep
- Deposition
- Develop Resist
- Pattern Plate
- Nickel / Gold!

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13

DRPP

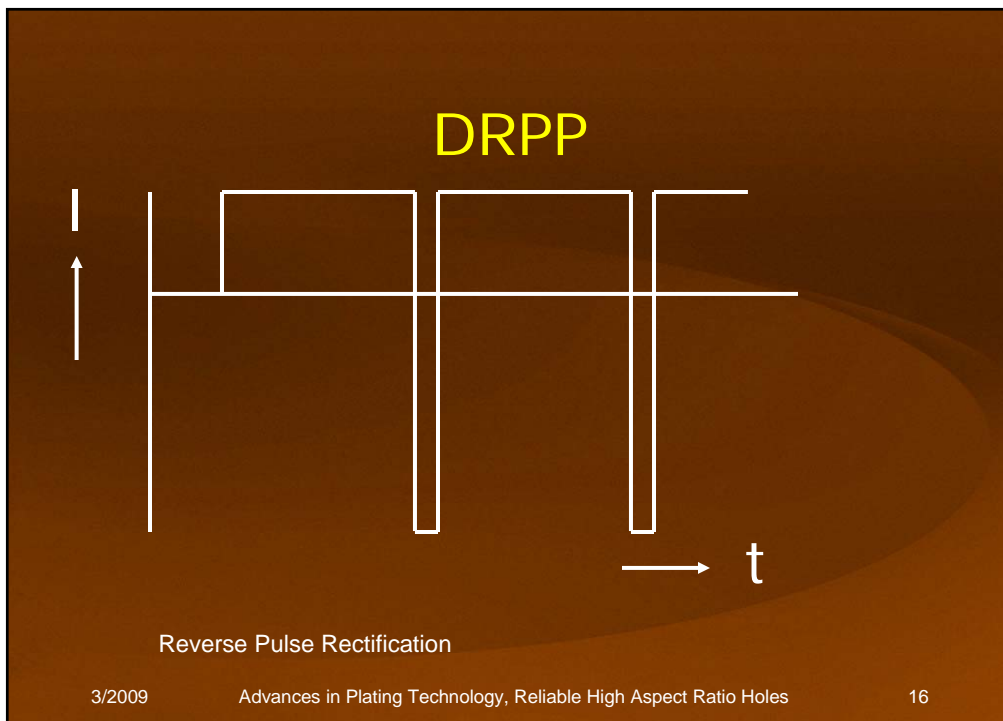
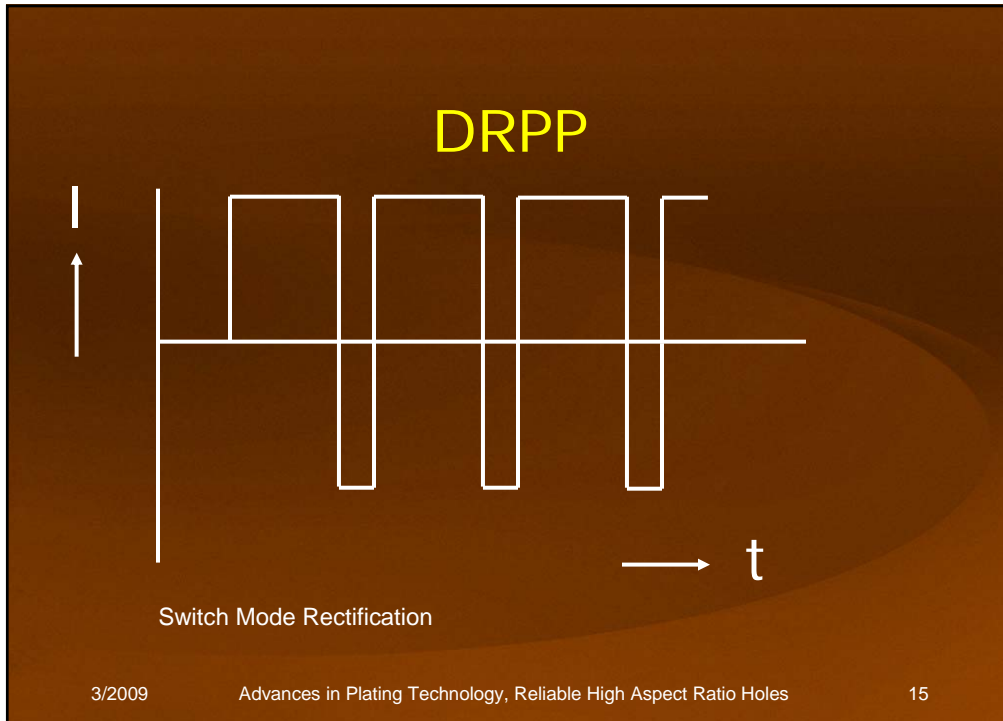


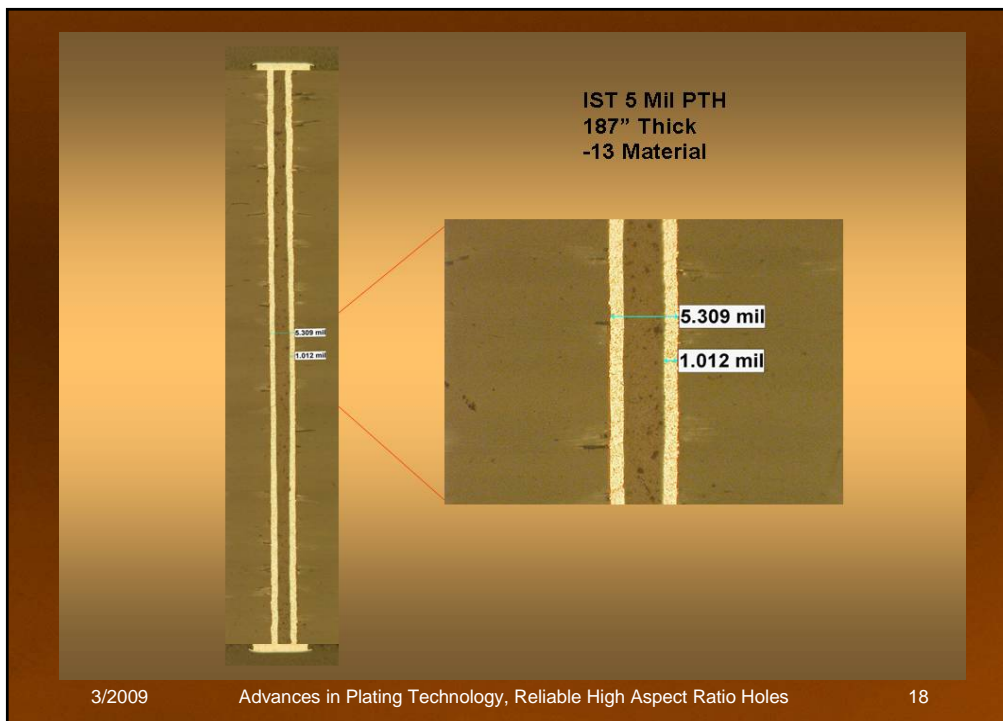
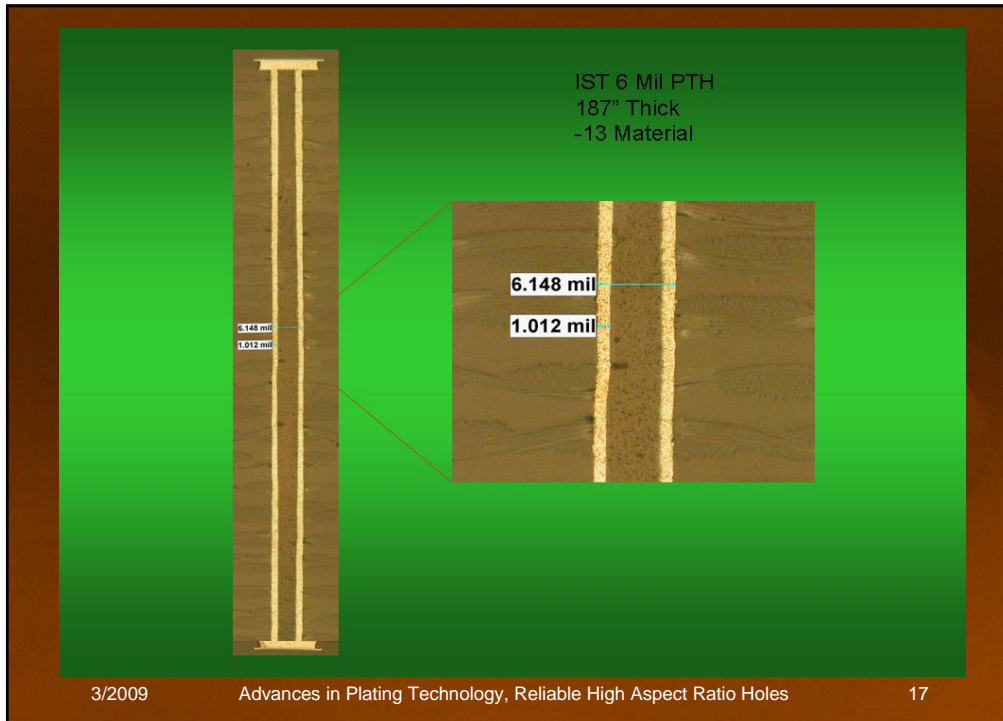
Pulse Rectification

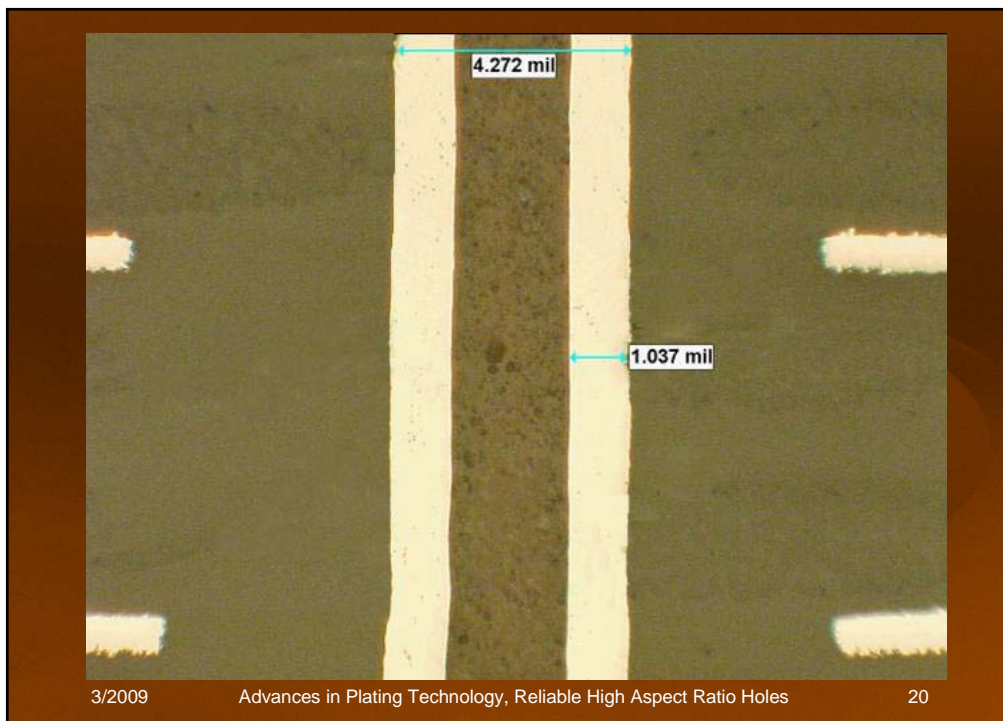
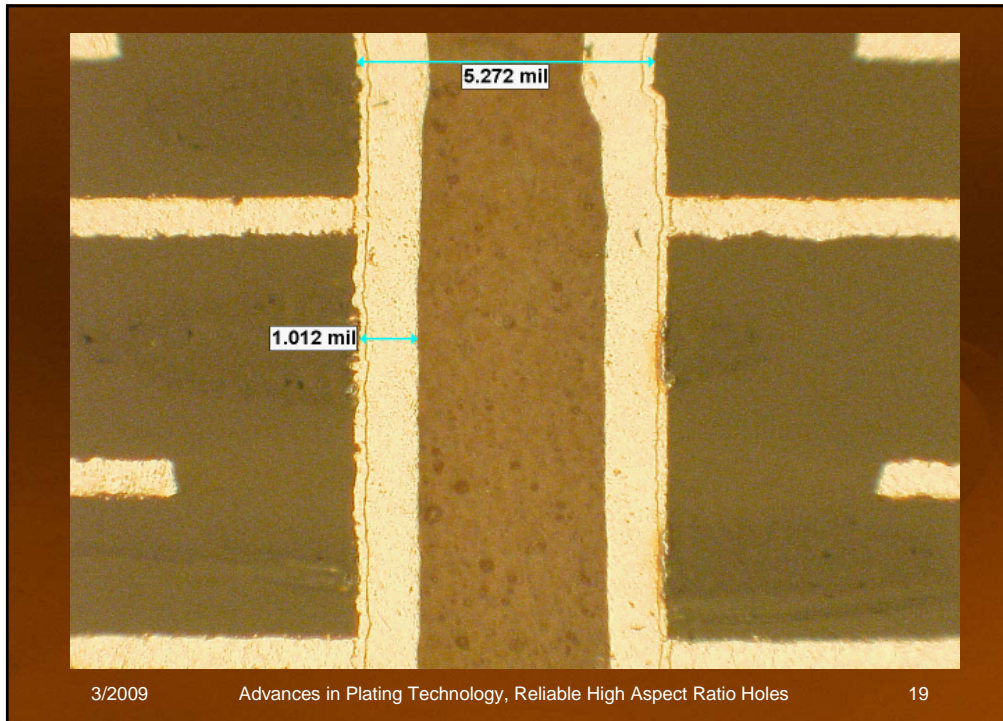
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14







IST PWB Reliability Testing

- I.S.T. = Interconnect Stress Test
- Determines overall reliability of PWB
- Tests Copper Interconnection AND Material
- IPC Approved Test Method
- Industry Wide (Customer) Acceptance

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21

I.S.T. Defined

- Interconnect Stress Test
 - Thermal Cycles by Electrically Heating an IST Test Coupon
 - Continuously measures resistance of the circuits during cycle
 - 10% Increase in Resistance is Failure – Test Stops in Seconds

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22

I.S.T.

- Primary Objectives
 - Reduce Time to Results
 - Reduce Cost
 - Repeatability and Reliability
 - Automation of Testing and F/A

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23

IST

- Micro-sectioning vs. I.S.T.
 - Low # of holes / high number of holes
 - 1 degree vs. 360 degree
 - Circumference of all connections
 - Go / NoGo vs. quantifying severity
 - Poor vs. Excellent Repeatability
 - Not operator dependent
 - Visual criteria vs. Electrical criteria

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24

IST Coupon - TV24019

The image shows a rectangular PCB coupon with a central grid of holes. Four callout boxes point to specific features: 'Interconnect Integrity' points to the top edge pads, 'Material Integrity' points to the central grid, 'Registration' points to the bottom edge pads, and 'PTH Barrel Integrity Cu' points to the side edge pads. The coupon is labeled 'PWB INC TV24019 L1' on the right side.

24 Layer
.005" PTH
.020" Grid

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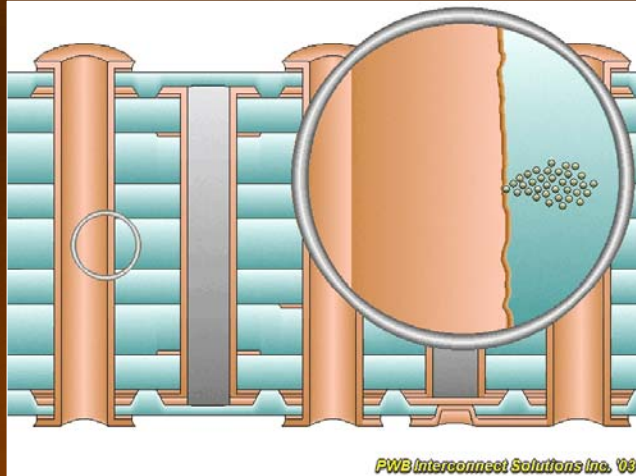
Thermal Cycling – Cross Section Animation

The diagram shows a cross-section of a PCB with a through-hole barrel. The barrel is shown in a state of thermal cycling, with the top and bottom layers of the barrel appearing to expand and contract, illustrating the mechanical stress and potential failure modes. The barrel is surrounded by a copper plating layer.

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IST Metal Fatigue – Metal Fatigue Animation



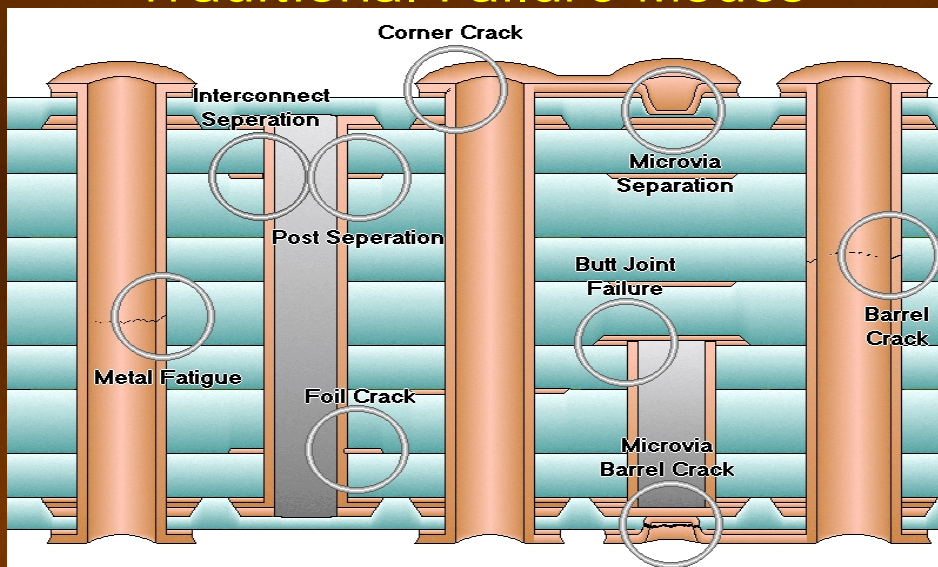
PWB Interconnect Solutions Inc. 08

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27

Traditional Failure Modes

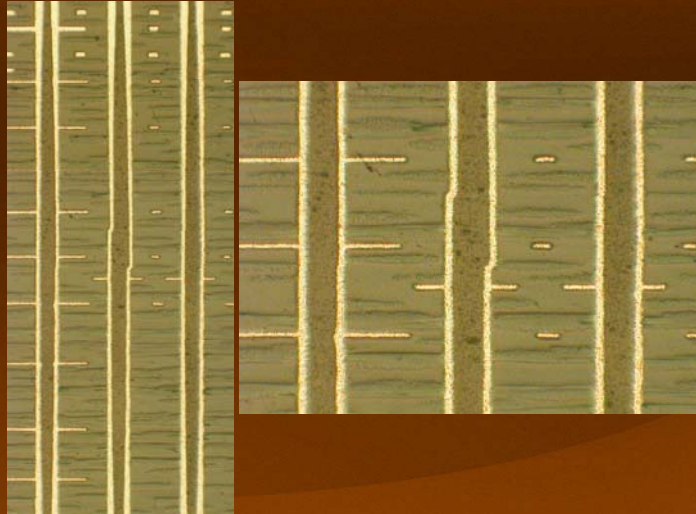


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28

Non-traditional Failure Modes?



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29

Some Data

IST Data – J07_1898
IST Cycles to Failure – S/N 9 – 2X230° C

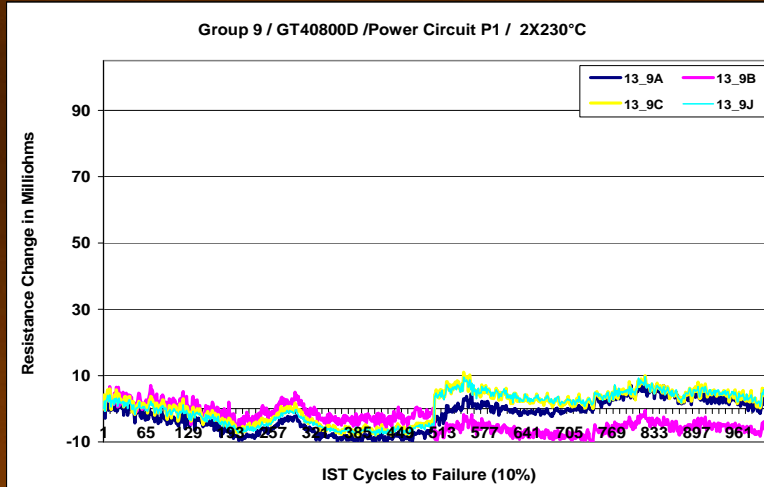
IST Cycles to Failure - S/N 9 - 2X230°C					
COUPON	P1	% P1	S1	% S1	Results
13_9A	1000	0.1	1000	0.2	Accept
13_9B	1000	-0.5	1000	-1	Accept
13_9C	1000	0.4	1000	-0.4	Accept
13_9J	1000	0.4	1000	0.1	Accept
Mean	1000.0	0.1	1000	-0.3	
StDev	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	
Min	1000.0	-0.5	1000	-1.0	
Max	1000.0	0.4	1000	0.2	
Range	0.0	0.9	0	1.2	
Coef Var	0%		0%		

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30

Graphing the Results



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31

Some more Data

IST Cycles to Failure – S/N 10 – 2X230° C

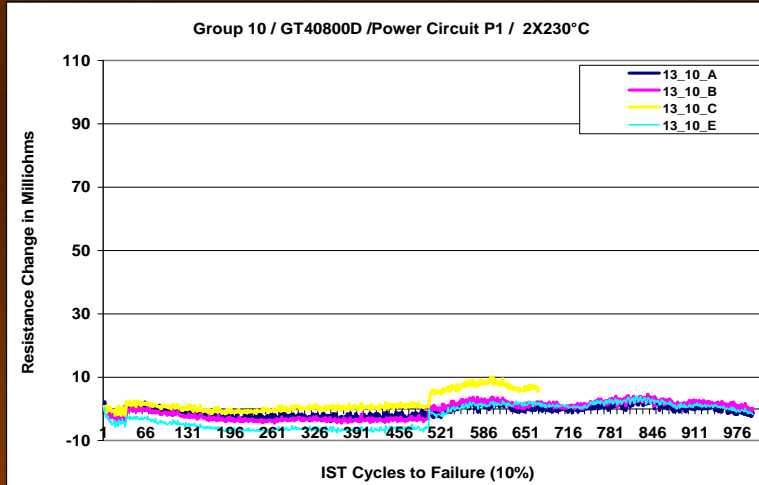
IST Cycles to Failure - S/N 10 - 2X230°C					
COUPON	P1	% P1	S1	% S1	Results
13_10_A	1000	-0.1	1000	1.8	Accept
13_10_B	1000	0	1000	3.1	Accept
13_10_C	N/A	0.6	669	10	S1
13_10_E	1000	-0.1	1000	2.1	Accept
Mean	1000.0	0.1	917	4.3	
StDev	0.0	0.3	165.5	3.9	
Min	1000.0	-0.1	669	1.8	
Max	1000.0	0.6	1000	10.0	
Range	0.0	0.7	331	8.2	
Coef Var	0%		18%		

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32

Graphing the Results

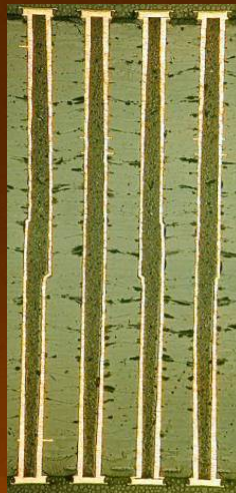


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33

The Cause?



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34

The Real Failure

XS# 3811, Coupon 13-10C - 2X230° C -
Failed S1, 699 Cycles

XS# 3811, Coupon 13-10C - 2X230° C -
Failed S1, 699 Cycles



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35

Summary

- The Semiconductor Test Industry
- The Attributes
- The Processes
- The Verification Method
- The Results
- The Recommendations

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36

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