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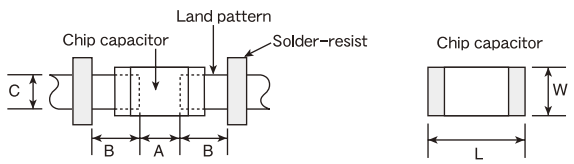
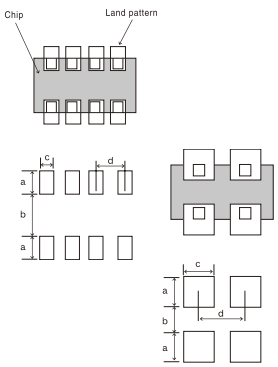
Precautions on the use of Multilayer Ceramic Capacitors

Stages	Precautions	Technical considerations
1.Circuit Design	Verification of operating environment, electrical rating and performance 1. A malfunction in medical equipment, spacecraft, nuclear reactors, etc. may cause serious harm to human life or have severe social ramifications. As such, any capacitors to be used in such equipment may require higher safety and/or reliability considerations and should be clearly differentiated from components used in general purpose applications. Operating Voltage (Verification of Rated voltage) 1. The operating voltage for capacitors must always be lower than their rated values. If an AC voltage is loaded on a DC voltage, the sum of the two peak voltages should be lower than the rated value of the capacitor chosen. For a circuit where both an AC and a pulse voltage may be present, the sum of their peak voltages should also be lower than the capacitor's rated voltage. 2. Even if the applied voltage is lower than the rated value, the reliability of capacitors might be reduced if either a high frequency AC voltage or a pulse voltage having rapid rise time is present in the circuit.	
2.PCB Design	Pattern configurations (Design of Land-patterns) 1. When capacitors are mounted on a PCB, the amount of solder used (size of fillet) can directly affect capacitor performance. Therefore, the following items must be carefully considered in the design of solder land patterns: (1) The amount of solder applied can affect the ability of chips to withstand mechanical stresses which may lead to breaking or cracking. Therefore, when designing land-patterns it is necessary to consider the appropriate size and configuration of the solder pads which in turn determines the amount of solder necessary to form the fillets. (2) When more than one part is jointly soldered onto the same land or pad, the pad must be designed so that each component's soldering point is separated by solder-resist.	1.The following diagrams and tables show some examples of recommended patterns to prevent excessive solder amourts. (larger fillets which extend above the component end terminations) Examples of improper pattern designs are also shown. (1) Recommended land dimensions for a typical chip capacitor land patterns for PCBs  Recommended land dimensions for wave-soldering (unit: mm) <table><tr><td colspan="2">Type</td><td>107</td><td>212</td><td>316</td><td>325</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Size</td><td>L</td><td>1.6</td><td>2.0</td><td>3.2</td><td>3.2</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>0.8</td><td>1.25</td><td>1.6</td><td>2.5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">A</td><td>0.8~1.0</td><td>1.0~1.4</td><td>1.8~2.5</td><td>1.8~2.5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">B</td><td>0.5~0.8</td><td>0.8~1.5</td><td>0.8~1.7</td><td>0.8~1.7</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">C</td><td>0.6~0.8</td><td>0.9~1.2</td><td>1.2~1.6</td><td>1.8~2.5</td></tr></table> Recommended land dimensions for reflow-soldering (unit: mm) <table><tr><td colspan="2">Type</td><td>042</td><td>063</td><td>105</td><td>107</td><td>212</td><td>316</td><td>325</td><td>432</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Size</td><td>L</td><td>0.4</td><td>0.6</td><td>1.0</td><td>1.6</td><td>2.0</td><td>3.2</td><td>3.2</td><td>4.5</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>0.2</td><td>0.3</td><td>0.5</td><td>0.8</td><td>1.25</td><td>1.6</td><td>2.5</td><td>3.2</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">A</td><td>0.15~0.25</td><td>0.20~0.30</td><td>0.45~0.55</td><td>0.8~1.0</td><td>0.8~1.2</td><td>1.8~2.5</td><td>1.8~2.5</td><td>2.5~3.5</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">B</td><td>0.10~0.20</td><td>0.20~0.30</td><td>0.40~0.50</td><td>0.6~0.8</td><td>0.8~1.2</td><td>1.0~1.5</td><td>1.0~1.5</td><td>1.5~1.8</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">C</td><td>0.15~0.30</td><td>0.25~0.40</td><td>0.45~0.55</td><td>0.6~0.8</td><td>0.9~1.6</td><td>1.2~2.0</td><td>1.8~3.2</td><td>2.3~3.5</td></tr></table> Excess solder can affect the ability of chips to withstand mechanical stresses. Therefore, please take proper precautions when designing land-patterns. <table><tr><td colspan="2">Type</td><td>212 (4 circuits)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Size</td><td>L</td><td>2.0</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1.25</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">a</td><td>0.5~0.6</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">b</td><td>0.5~0.6</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">c</td><td>0.2~0.3</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">d</td><td>0.5</td></tr></table>  <table><tr><td colspan="2">Type</td><td>212 (2 circuits)</td><td>110 (2 circuits)</td><td>096 (2 circuits)</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Size</td><td>L</td><td>2.0</td><td>1.37</td><td>0.9</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td>1.25</td><td>1.0</td><td>0.6</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">a</td><td>0.5~0.6</td><td>0.35~0.45</td><td>0.25~0.35</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">b</td><td>0.5~0.6</td><td>0.55~0.65</td><td>0.15~0.25</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">c</td><td>0.5~0.6</td><td>0.3~0.4</td><td>0.15~0.25</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">d</td><td>1.0</td><td>0.64</td><td>0.45</td></tr></table>

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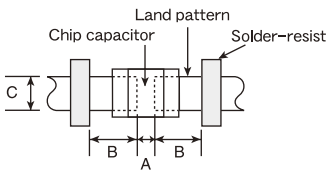
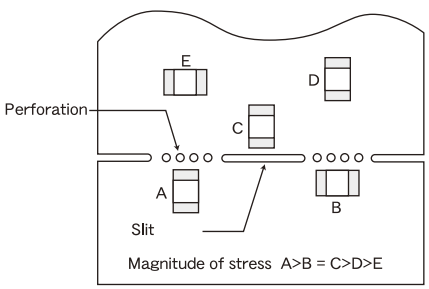
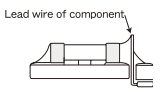
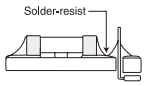
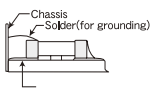
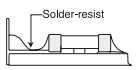
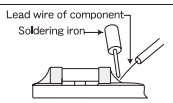
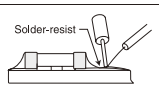
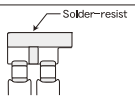
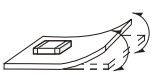
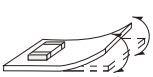
Stages	Precautions	Technical considerations
2.PCB Design	Pattern configurations (Capacitor layout on panelized [breakaway] PC boards) 1. After capacitors have been mounted on the boards, chips can be subjected to mechanical stresses in subsequent manufacturing processes (PCB cutting, board inspection, mounting of additional parts, assembly into the chassis, wave soldering the reflow soldered boards etc.) For this reason, planning pattern configurations and the position of SMD capacitors should be carefully performed to minimize stress.	LWDC Recommended land dimensions for reflow-soldering  (2) Examples of good and bad solder application 1-1. The following are examples of good and bad capacitor layout; SMD capacitors should be located to minimize any possible mechanical stresses from board warp or deflection. 1-2. To layout the capacitors for the breakaway PC board, it should be noted that the amount of mechanical stresses given will vary depending on capacitor layout. The example below shows recommendations for better design.  1-3. When breaking PC boards along their perforations, 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, any ideal SMD capacitor layout must also consider the PCB splitting procedure.

Type		105	107	212
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

(unit: mm)

Items	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		

	Not recommended	Recommended
Deflection of the board		

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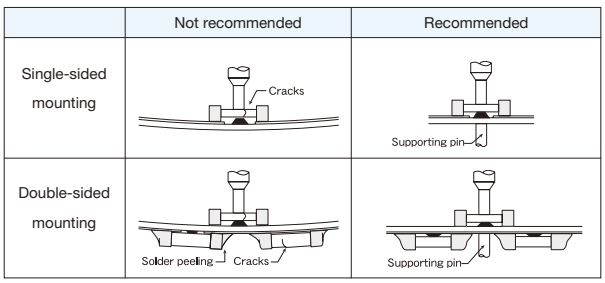
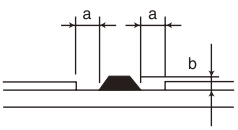
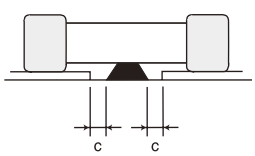
<table>
<tr><th>Stages</th><th>Precautions</th><th>Technical considerations</th></tr>
<tr><td>3.Considerations for automatic placement</td><td>Adjustment of mounting machine
1. Excessive impact load should not be imposed on the capacitors when mounting onto the PC boards.
2. The maintenance and inspection of the mounters should be conducted periodically.</td><td>1. If the lower limit of the pick-up nozzle is low, too much force may be imposed on the capacitors, causing damage. To avoid this, the following points should be considered before lowering the pick-up nozzle:
(1) The lower limit of the pick-up nozzle should be adjusted to the surface level of the PC board after correcting for deflection of the board.
(2) The pick-up pressure should be adjusted between 1 and 3 N static loads.
(3) To reduce the amount of deflection of the board caused by impact of the pick-up nozzle, supporting pins or back-up pins should be used under the PC board. The following diagrams show some typical examples of good pick-up nozzle placement:
 

2. As the alignment pin wears out, adjustment of the nozzle height can cause chipping or cracking of the capacitors because of mechanical impact on the capacitors. To avoid this, the monitoring of the width between the alignment pin in the stopped position, and maintenance, inspection and replacement of the pin should be conducted periodically.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Selection of Adhesives
1. Mounting capacitors with adhesives in preliminary assembly, before the soldering stage, may lead to degraded capacitor characteristics unless the following factors are appropriately checked; the size of land patterns, type of adhesive, amount applied, hardening temperature and hardening period. Therefore, it is imperative to consult the manufacturer of the adhesives on proper usage and amounts of adhesive to use.</td><td>1. Some adhesives may cause reduced insulation resistance. The difference between the shrinkage percentage of the adhesive and that of 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 component placement, so the following precautions should be noted in the application of adhesives.

(1) Required adhesive characteristics
a. The adhesive should be strong enough to hold parts on the board during the mounting & solder process.
b. The adhesive should have sufficient strength at high temperatures.
c. The adhesive should have good coating and thickness consistency.
d. The adhesive should be used during its prescribed shelf life.
e. The adhesive should harden rapidly
f. The adhesive must not be contaminated.
g. The adhesive should have excellent insulation characteristics.
h. The adhesive should not be toxic and have no emission of toxic gasses.

(2) The recommended amount of adhesives is as follows;
<table><tr><th>Figure</th><th>212/316 case sizes as examples</th></tr><tr><td>a</td><td>0.3mm min</td></tr><tr><td>b</td><td>100 ～120 μm</td></tr><tr><td>c</td><td>Adhesives should not contact the pad</td></tr></table>
Amount of adhesive
 

After capacitors are bonded
 
</td></tr>
</table>

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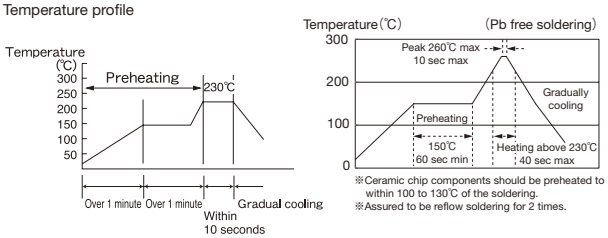
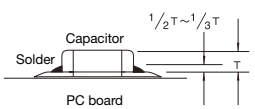
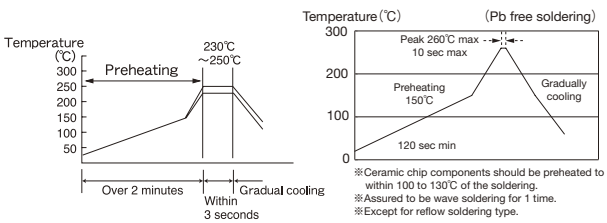
Stages	Precautions	Technical considerations
4. Soldering	Selection of Flux 1. Since flux may have a significant effect on the performance of capacitors, it is necessary to verify the following conditions prior to use; (1) Flux used should be with less than or equal to 0.1 wt% (equivelent to chroline) of halogenated content. Flux having a strong acidity content should not be applied. (2) When soldering capacitors on the board, the amount of flux applied should be controlled at the optimum level. (3) When using water-soluble flux, special care should be taken to properly clean the boards.	1-1. When too much halogenated substance (Chlorine, etc.) content is used to activate the flux, or highly acidic flux is used, an excessive amount of residue after soldering may lead to corrosion of the terminal electrodes or degradation of insulation resistance on the surface of the capacitors. 1-2. Flux is used to increase solderability in flow soldering, but if too much is applied, a large amount of flux gas may be emitted and may detrimentally affect solderability. To minimize the amount of flux applied, it is recommended to use a flux-bubbling system. 1-3. Since the residue of water-soluble flux is easily dissolved by water content in the air, the residue on the surface of capacitors in high humidity conditions may cause a degradation of insulation resistance and therefore affect the reliability of the components. The cleaning methods and the capability of the machines used should also be considered carefully when selecting water-soluble flux.
	Soldering Temperature, time, amount of solder, etc. are specified in accordance with the following recommended conditions.	1-1. Preheating when soldering Heating: Ceramic chip components should be preheated to within 100 to 130℃ of the soldering. Cooling: The temperature difference between the components and cleaning process should not be greater than 100℃. Ceramic chip capacitors are susceptible to thermal shock when exposed to rapid or concentrated heating or rapid cooling. Therefore, the soldering process must be conducted with great care so as to prevent malfunction of the components due to excessive thermal shock.
	Sn-Zn solder paste can affect MLCC reliability performance. Please contact us prior to usage.	Recommended conditions for soldering [Reflow soldering] Temperature profile  Caution 1. The ideal condition is to have solder mass (fillet) controlled to 1/2 to 1/3 of the thickness of the capacitor, as shown below:  2. Because excessive dwell times can detrimentally affect solderability, soldering duration should be kept as close to recommended times as possible. [Wave soldering] Temperature profile  Caution 1. Make sure the capacitors are preheated sufficiently. 2. The temperature difference between the capacitor and melted solder should not be greater than 100 to 130℃ 3. Cooling after soldering should be as gradual as possible. 4. Wave soldering must not be applied to the capacitors designated as for reflow soldering only.

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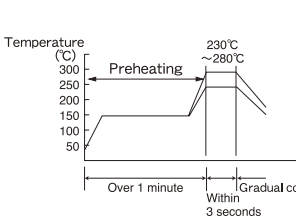
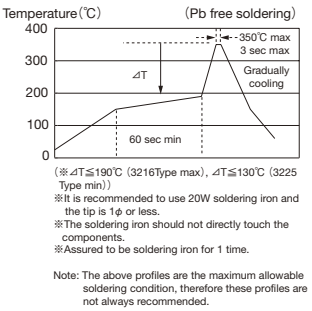
Stages	Precautions	Technical considerations
4. Soldering		[Hand soldering] Temperature profile   (※⊿T≦190℃ (3216Type max), ⊿T≦130℃ (3225 Type min)) ※It is recommended to use 20W soldering iron and the tip is 1φ or less. ※The soldering iron should not directly touch the components. ※Assured to be soldering iron for 1 time. Note: The above profiles are the maximum allowable soldering condition, therefore these profiles are not always recommended. Caution 1. Use a 20W soldering iron with a maximum tip diameter of 1.0 mm. 2. The soldering iron should not directly touch the capacitor.
5.Cleaning	Cleaning conditions 1. When cleaning the PC board after the capacitors are all mounted, select the appropriate cleaning solution according to the type of flux used and purpose of the cleaning (e.g. to remove soldering flux or other materials from the production process.) 2. Cleaning conditions should be determined after verifying, through a test run, that the cleaning process does not affect the capacitor's characteristics.	1. The use of inappropriate solutions can cause foreign substances such as flux residue to adhere to the capacitor or deteriorate the capacitor's outer coating, resulting in a degradation of the capacitor's electrical properties (especially insulation resistance). 2. Inappropriate cleaning conditions (insufficient or excessive cleaning) may detrimentally affect the performance of the capacitors. (1) Excessive cleaning In the case of ultrasonic cleaning, too much power output can cause excessive vibration of the PC board which may lead to the cracking of the capacitor or the soldered portion, or decrease the terminal electrodes' strength. Thus the following conditions should be carefully checked; Ultrasonic output Below 20 W/ ℓ Ultrasonic frequency Below 40 kHz Ultrasonic washing period 5 min. or less
6.Post cleaning processes	1. With some type of resins a 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. 2. When a resin's hardening temperature is higher than the capacitor's operating temperature, the stresses generated by the excess heat may lead to capacitor damage or destruction. The use of such resins, molding materials etc. is not recommended.	
7.Handling	Breakaway PC boards (splitting along perforations) 1. When splitting the PC board after mounting capacitors and other components, care is required so as not to give any stresses of deflection or twisting to the board. 2. Board separation should not be done manually, but by using the appropriate devices. Mechanical considerations 1. Be careful not to subject the capacitors to excessive mechanical shocks. (1) If ceramic capacitors are dropped onto the floor or a hard surface, they should not be used. (2) When handling the mounted boards, be careful that the mounted components do not come in contact with or bump against other boards or components.	

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Stages	Precautions	Technical considerations
8.Storage conditions	Storage 1. To maintain the solderability of terminal electrodes and to keep the packaging material 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. ・Recommended conditions Ambient temperature Below 30℃ Humidity Below 70% RH The ambient temperature must be kept below 40℃. Even under ideal storage conditions capacitor electrode solderability decreases as time passes, so should be used within 6 months from the time of delivery. ・Ceramic chip capacitors should be kept where no chlorine or sulfur exists in the air. 2. The capacitance value of high dielectric constant capacitors (type 2 &3) will gradually decrease with the passage of time, so this should be taken into consideration in the circuit design. If such a capacitance reduction occurs, a heat treatment of 150℃ for 1hour will return the capacitance to its initial level.	1. If the parts are stored in a high temperature and humidity environment, problems such as reduced solderability caused by oxidation of terminal electrodes and deterioration of taping/packaging materials may take place. For this reason, components should be used within 6 months from the time of delivery. If exceeding the above period, please check solderability before using the capacitors.