# Microwave Single Layer Ceramic Capacitors

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**Microwave SLCs**
**Single Layer Ceramic Capacitors (SLC’s)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

AVX offers a complete line of Single Layer Ceramic (SLC) Capacitors with dielectric constants ranging from 14 (NP0) to greater than 30,000 (X7R). Product offerings include standard SLC’s (with & without borders) in all dielectric families. SLC’s with double-sided borders are now available in most dielectrics as indicated in Table I. Also available are Dual-Caps & Multi-Cap Arrays as well as specialized assemblies for DC Blocking thru 40 GHz.

Our Maxi & Maxi+ grain boundary barrier layer (GBBL) Single Layer Ceramics provide a combination of high capacitance, voltage rating and small footprints unmatched in the industry and are ideally suited for broadband bypass applications. Additionally, our “Z” dielectric (also a GBBL material system) offers a cost effective alternative to Z5U & Y5V dielectrics with a much improved temperature coefficient over an expanded operating temperature range of –55°C to +125°C.

Standard terminations are Ti/W-Au and Ti/W-Ni-Au. All terminations are sputtered providing excellent surfaces for wire bonding and exceptional adhesion characteristics. Wire bond tests are performed on every material lot. Bond strength must meet a minimum of 6 and 20 grams for 1 and 2 mil Au wire respectively (as compared to MIL-STD-883 limits of 3 and 8 grams) before being released to production (40 bonds with each wire size, zero failures permitted). All parts are capable of meeting or exceeding the environmental & mechanical specifications in Table II.

In addition to an extensive offering of standard catalog devices, custom designs (and prototypes) are available upon request. Delivery of samples seldom exceeds two weeks once design parameters have been established.

**HOW TO ORDER**

(see individual sheets for more detail)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GH</th>
<th>02</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>102</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>6N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type/Style</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Voltage Rating</td>
<td>Dielectric Code</td>
<td>Capacitance Value</td>
<td>Capacitance Tolerance</td>
<td>Termination Code</td>
<td>Packaging Code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RoHS COMPLIANT
# GENERAL INFORMATION

## TABLE I - Dielectric Codes, Types & Product Styles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dielectric Type &amp; Code</th>
<th>Dielectric Constant (typ)</th>
<th>Temperature Coefficient</th>
<th>Temperature Range</th>
<th>Min Q at 1MHz</th>
<th>Max.DF (%)*</th>
<th>IR (Min) 25°C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPO</td>
<td>A 14</td>
<td>0±30 ppm/°C</td>
<td>-55°C to +125°C</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>10⁵ Meg Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A 31</td>
<td>0±30 ppm/°C</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A 60</td>
<td>0±30 ppm/°C</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp Comp</td>
<td>4 200</td>
<td>±7.5% (non-linear)</td>
<td>-55°C to +125°C</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>10³ Meg Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 420</td>
<td>-2000±500 ppm/°C</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y 650</td>
<td>-4700±1500 ppm/°C</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X7R</td>
<td>C 1,100</td>
<td>±15%</td>
<td>-55°C to +125°C</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10⁴ Meg Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C 2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C 4,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X7S</td>
<td>Z 2,500</td>
<td>±22%</td>
<td>-55°C to +125°C</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10⁴ Meg Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z 5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z 9,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z 14,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z 18,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X7R</td>
<td>8 (Maxi)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>±15%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>10⁴ Meg Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X7R 9 (Maxi+)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X7R 0 (Ultra Maxi)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Capacitance & DF are measured at 1MHz for values ≤100pF and 1KHz for capacitance values >100pF

## TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIL Reference</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Method or Paragraph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-883</td>
<td>Bond Strength</td>
<td>2011.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-883</td>
<td>Shear Strength</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-PRF-49464</td>
<td>Thermal Shock</td>
<td>4.8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-PRF-49464</td>
<td>Voltage Conditioning</td>
<td>4.8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-PRF-49464</td>
<td>Temperature Coefficient</td>
<td>4.8.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-202</td>
<td>Low Voltage Humidity</td>
<td>103 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-202</td>
<td>Life Test</td>
<td>108</td>
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**Notes:**
- GH: L, W, T
- GB: L, W, T
**Microwave SLCs**
**GH/GB Series – SLC's With & Without Borders**
**Maxi & Maxi+ X7R Dielectrics**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Maxi and Maxi+ are both AVX proprietary intergranular barrier layer dielectric formulations. Both use SrTiO3 as their major constituent and have dielectric constants exceeding 20,000 and 30,000 respectively. Grain boundary barrier layer (GBBL) capacitors have been well discussed in various literature sources and, while simple in principle, their resulting electrical properties are dependent on a complex combination of materials and process technology.

AVX's Maxi & Maxi+ dielectrics have the distinctive properties that are ideal for extremely broadband by-pass capacitors. This built-in feature gives these products a unique dispersive effect that is illustrated in the accompanying curves. AVX's ability to control the prerequisite relationships between materials and process has resulted in dielectrics that make these Single Layer Ceramics especially well suited for applications requiring high frequency performance well into the millimeter band.

These GBBL dielectrics are also available in low loss versions that are comparable to conventional barium titanate based dielectrics. Performance is likewise similar in that these materials exhibit a very pronounced dip at their resonant frequency. These designs are excellent choices for applications requiring the combined attributes of very small size and precise cut-off frequencies. Additional information on these high Q products may be obtained by contacting the factory or your local AVX representative.

All Maxi & Maxi+ dielectrics exhibit X7R temperature performance of ±15% from −55°C to +125°C. Electrical characteristics, as outlined in MIL-C-49464, will meet those specified for Class II dielectrics, rather than the less stringent Class IV, which typically describes GBBL dielectrics.

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**Sample kits are available**

**Maxi KIT Catalog # KITSLCK20KSAMPL includes 10 each:**
GH0158101MA6N, GH0258221MA6N, GH0258471MA6N, GH0358102MA6N, GH0458182MA6N

**Maxi+ KIT Catalog # KITSLCK30KSAMPL includes 10 each:**
GH0159331MA6N, GH0259751MA6N, GH0359152MA6N, GH0459302MA6N, GH0559602MA6N
**GH SERIES: MAXI SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>4700</td>
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</table>

**GH SERIES: MAXI+ SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>3300</td>
<td>6800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GB SERIES: MAXI SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITH BORDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2200</td>
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</table>

**GB SERIES: MAXI+ SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITH BORDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>2700</td>
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</table>
Microwave SLCs
GH/GB Series – SLC’s With & Without Borders
Maxi & Maxi+ X7R Dielectrics

**PERFORMANCE CURVES**
**S21 FORWARD TRANSMISSION**

Capacitance = 220 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz  
Size: L = .017”  W = .017”  T = .007”

Capacitance = 470 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz  
Size: L = .024”  W = .024”  T = .007”

Capacitance = 1000 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz  
Size: L = .035”  W = .035”  T = .007”

![Graph showing performance curves with markers and dB levels at various frequencies.]

Marker 1  
-12.6 dB @ 51 MHz

Marker 2  
-17.6 dB @ 2.06 GHz

Marker 3  
-22.0 dB @ 12.86 GHz

Marker 4  
-21.6 dB @ 25.08 GHz

![Graph showing performance curves with markers and dB levels at various frequencies.]

Marker 1  
-17.4 dB @ 51 MHz

Marker 2  
-22.4 dB @ 2.06 GHz

Marker 3  
-27.9 dB @ 8.98 GHz

Marker 4  
-21.4 dB @ 25.07 GHz

![Graph showing performance curves with markers and dB levels at various frequencies.]

Marker 1  
-24.8 dB @ 51 MHz

Marker 2  
-30.5 dB @ 1.71 GHz

Marker 3  
-33.1 dB @ 3.25 GHz

Marker 4  
-19.1 dB @ 18.25 GHz
Capacitance = 220 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz
Size: L = .017”  W = .017”  T = .007”

Capacitance = 470 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz
Size: L = .024”  W = .024”  T = .007”

Capacitance = 1000 pF  Q = 50 @ 1 MHz
Size: L = .035”  W = .035”  T = .007”
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This grain boundary barrier layer (GBBL) system was developed as a replacement for conventional Z5U/Y5V dielectrics. With X7S temperature characteristics, the Z Series offers not only a significant improvement over the TCC of these two dielectrics, but does so over a much wider operating range of -55°C to +125°C. Voltage ratings of 50 and 100VDC are available.

The Z Series is offered in a range of five dielectric constants (2,500, 5,000, 9,000, 14,000 and 18,000) and products are available with & without borders.

**CAPACITANCE CHANGE WITH TEMPERATURE**

![Capacitance Change Graph](image)

**SAMPLE KITS**

Sample kits are available

Z Dielectric KIT Catalog # KITSLCZDIESAMPLEL includes 10 each:
GH015Z101MA6N, GH025Z221MA6N,
GH035Z471MA6N, GH045Z102MA6N

Samples of individual P/N’s are also available

**DIMENSIONS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GH/GB01</th>
<th>GH/GB02</th>
<th>GH/GB03</th>
<th>GH/GB04</th>
<th>GH/GB05</th>
<th>GH/GB06</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(L) Length</td>
<td>(.015±.005)</td>
<td>(.025±.005)</td>
<td>(.035±.005)</td>
<td>(.050±.010)</td>
<td>(.070±.010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(.381±.127)</td>
<td>(.635±.127)</td>
<td>(.889±.127)</td>
<td>(1.27±.254)</td>
<td>(1.78±.254)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T) Thickness</td>
<td>.007+.002, -.001 (.178+.051, -.025)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Border</td>
<td>.002±.001 (.051±.025)</td>
<td></td>
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**Z DIELECTRIC GH WITHOUT BORDERS**

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<tr>
<th>Cap (pF)</th>
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<th>Cap (pF)</th>
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<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
<td>Max</td>
<td>Min</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>4700</td>
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**Z DIELECTRIC GB WITH BORDERS**

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<td>20</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>140</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>4500</td>
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</table>

**HOW TO ORDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GH</th>
<th>02</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Z</th>
<th>102</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>6N</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GH = w/o borders</td>
<td>GH = w/ borders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>082719</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 = 50V</td>
<td>1 = 100V</td>
<td>Z = X7S (k = 2.5K-18K)</td>
<td>Code in pF</td>
<td>K = ±10%</td>
<td>M = ±20%</td>
<td>N = Ti/W-Ni-Au</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20 &amp; 25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: GH/GB01 & 02 above replace GH/GB10, 15, 20 & 25 and are slightly different dimensionally. Contact factory for details.

GH/GB03, 04, 05 & 06 replace GH/GB35, 50, 70 & 90 respectively and are dimensionally identical.
GENERAL INFORMATION

In addition to the standard SLC products shown below, AVX is now able to offer bordered versions in these same dielectric families as detailed on the opposing page utilizing micron resolution photolithography and etching processes.

With borders precisely defined, these parts will be beneficial in those applications that require enhanced visual definition during placement and wire bonding. Additionally, bordered devices have proven effective in reducing susceptibility to conductive epoxy electrode bridging.

Custom designs to meet stringent circuit trace width matching requirements are available upon request.

GH SERIES: SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITHOUT BORDERS NP0, TEMPERATURE COMPENSATING & X7R DIELECTRICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Code/Size</th>
<th>GH16</th>
<th>GH18</th>
<th>GH26</th>
<th>GH35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length &amp; Width</td>
<td>.015±.003 (.381±.076)</td>
<td>.018±.003 (.457±.076)</td>
<td>.025±.005 (.635±.127)</td>
<td>.035±.005 (.889±.127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness Min/Max</td>
<td>.0045/.012 (.114/.035)</td>
<td>.0045/.012 (.114/.035)</td>
<td>.0045/.012 (.114/.035)</td>
<td>.0045/.012 (.114/.035)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dielectric</th>
<th>k</th>
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<th>GH18</th>
<th>GH26</th>
<th>GH35</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>13.0</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>4200</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>110.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DIMENSIONS: inches (millimeters)

Note: Tol* - Letter indicates tightest available.

Microwave SLCs

GH/GB Series – SLC's With & Without Borders
NP0, Temp Compensating & X7R Dielectrics

DIMENSIONS: inches (millimeters)

Note: Tol* - Letter indicates tightest available.
## Microwave SLCs
### GH/GB Series – SLC’s With & Without Borders
NP0, Temperature Compensating & X7R Dielectrics

### GB SERIES: SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS WITH BORDERS
NP0, TEMPERATURE COMPENSATING & X7R DIELECTRICS

**Case Code/Size** | GB15 | GB20 | GB25 | GB30
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**Length & Width** | .015±.002 (.381±.051) | .020±.002 (.508±.051) | .025±.002 (.635±.051) | .030±.002 (.762±.051)
**Thickness Min/Max** | .0045/.012 (.114/.035) | .002+.002,-.001 (.051+.051,-.025)

**Dilectric** | **k** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
A | 14 | 0.06 | 0.1 | A | 0.1 | 0.2 | A | 0.2 | 0.3 | A | 0.3 | 0.4 | A
A | 31 | 0.1 | 0.2 | A | 0.3 | 0.4 | B | 0.4 | 0.7 | B | 0.6 | 1 | B
A | 60 | 0.3 | 0.4 | B | 0.5 | 0.8 | C | 0.8 | 1.3 | C | 1.2 | 2 | C
4 | 200 | 0.9 | 1.3 | D | 1.5 | 2.7 | D | 2.7 | 4.7 | M | 3.9 | 6.8 | K
7 | 420 | 1.5 | 2.4 | D | 2.7 | 4.7 | M | 4.7 | 8.2 | M | 6.8 | 12 | K
Y | 650 | 2.7 | 4.7 | M | 4.7 | 9.1 | M | 8.2 | 15 | M | 12 | 22 | K
C | 1100 | 4.7 | 7.5 | M | 8.2 | 15 | M | 15 | 24 | M | 22 | 36 | K
C | 2000 | 9.1 | 13 | M | 16 | 27 | M | 27 | 47 | M | 39 | 68 | K
C | 4200 | 20 | 33 | M | 36 | 62 | M | 56 | 100 | M | 91 | 150 | K

**Case Code/Size** | GB35 | GB40 | GB50
--- | --- | --- | ---
**Length & Width** | .035±.002 (.899±.051) | .040±.002 (1.016±.051) | .050±.002 (1.270±.051)
**Thickness Min/Max** | .0045/.012 (.114/.035) | .002+.002,-.001 (.051+.051,-.025)

**Dilectric** | **k** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol** | **Cap (pF) Min/Max Tol**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
A | 14 | 0.4 | 0.6 | A | 0.5 | 0.9 | B | 0.8 | 1.3 | B
A | 31 | 0.8 | 1.5 | C | 1.1 | 2 | C | 1.8 | 3 | C
A | 60 | 1.6 | 3 | C | 2.2 | 3.9 | C | 3.6 | 6.2 | D
4 | 200 | 5.1 | 9.1 | K | 6.8 | 13 | K | 11 | 20 | K
7 | 420 | 9.1 | 16 | K | 12 | 22 | K | 20 | 36 | K
Y | 650 | 18 | 30 | K | 22 | 39 | K | 36 | 62 | K
C | 1100 | 30 | 51 | K | 39 | 68 | K | 62 | 110 | K
C | 2000 | 51 | 91 | K | 68 | 120 | K | 110 | 200 | K
C | 4200 | 120 | 200 | K | 160 | 270 | K | 270 | 430 | K

Note: Tol* - Letter indicates tightest available

### HOW TO ORDER

**Type Code**
GH = w/o borders
GB = w/ borders

**Working Voltage Code**
5 = 50WVDC
1 = 100WVDC

**Dielectric Code**
A = NP0*
4 = TC
7 = TC
Y = TC
C = X7R

**Capacitance Value**
EIA Cap Code in pF
First two digits = significant figures
Third digit = number of zeros or after “R”

**Capacitance Tolerance**
A = ±0.05pF
B = ±0.1pF
C = ±0.25pF
D = ±0.5pF
G = ±2%
J = ±5%
K = ±10%
M = ±20%

**Termination Code**
N = Ti/W-Ni-Au (100μ-in min)
over
Ni (1500Å nom)
over
Ti/W (500Å nom)

**Packaging Code**
6N = Antistatic Waffle Pack

**RoHS Compliant**
NOTE: A Dielectric is not RoHS Compliant
GENERAL INFORMATION

AVX Multi-Cap Arrays can be manufactured with 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 capacitors on one single layer ceramic substrate. These arrays are available in our X7S (Z), Maxi and Maxi+ family of GBBL dielectrics and offer a broad range of capacitance values as detailed in the accompanying tables.

These arrays have advantages over single components in the form of smaller overall size, reduced handling and lower average unit costs. They are, therefore, a good choice for broad-band bypass applications where circuit board layouts can utilize these configurations.

The designs, shown along with the range of maximum capacitance values, represent typical parts. Since most applications require specific form factors, custom designs on all multi-cap arrays are available to meet individual customer requirements and are offered with quick turn around. No charge samples are generally shipped within two weeks of the design sign-off.

Both standard and custom designs are available with borders for those applications where conductive epoxy run up exposes the parts to the possibility of shorting. Maximum capacitance per pad for bordered devices will be necessarily somewhat lower than shown on the adjacent page.

2 and 3 cap arrays can be designed with different capacitance values per pad in circuit designs where identical values pad-to-pad are, for one reason or another, not altogether suitable.

Additionally, the dual-caps are available to match micro strip widths as dictated by circuit considerations. When mounted with the individual pads down, the need for wire bonding is eliminated. The maximum capacitance values indicated on the typical designs shown represent capacitance per pad. Mounted with both pads down puts two capacitors in series. The effective series capacitance ($C_{eff}$), can be determined by $1/C_{eff} = 1/C1 + 1/C2$.

Contact the factory or your local AVX representative.
# GHB SERIES: DUAL CAP SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GHB2</th>
<th>GHBY</th>
<th>GHB3</th>
<th>GHB4</th>
<th>GHB5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(L) Length</td>
<td>.050±.010</td>
<td>(.127±.254)</td>
<td>.080±.010</td>
<td>(2.03±.254)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(W) Width</td>
<td>.020+.000,-.003</td>
<td>(.508+.000,-.076)</td>
<td>.025+.000,-.003</td>
<td>(.635+.000,-.076)</td>
<td>.030+.000,-.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T) Thickness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Gap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maxi</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxi+</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>730</td>
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# GH-SERIES: MULTI-CAP ARRAY SINGLE LAYER CAPACITORS

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<th>GH*Y</th>
<th>GH*3</th>
<th>GH*6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length - Code (C) - 3 Caps</td>
<td>.065±.010</td>
<td>(1.65±.254)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Length - Code (D) - 4 Caps</td>
<td>.090±.010</td>
<td>(2.29±.254)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length - Code (E) - 5 Caps</td>
<td>.115±.010</td>
<td>(2.92±.254)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length - Code (F) - 6 Caps</td>
<td>.140±.010</td>
<td>(3.56±.254)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(W) Width</td>
<td>.020±.005</td>
<td>(.508±.127)</td>
<td>.025±.005</td>
<td>(.635±.127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(T) Thickness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pad Size (nominal)</td>
<td>.020x.015</td>
<td>(.508x.381)</td>
<td>.025x.015</td>
<td>(.635x.381)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(G) Gap (All Arrays)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
<th>Cap/Pad (pF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxi</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxi+</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## HOW TO ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GH</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type Code</td>
<td>Array Code</td>
<td>Size Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 = .200&quot; W</td>
<td>Y = .255&quot; W</td>
<td>3 = .300&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 = .400&quot; W</td>
<td>5 = .500&quot; W</td>
<td>S = Special</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>102</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working Voltage Code</td>
<td>Dielectric Code</td>
<td>Cap Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Code in pF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 = 50VDC</td>
<td>Z = X7S</td>
<td>EIA Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 = Maxi</td>
<td>9 = Maxi+</td>
<td>Code</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>6N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cap Tolerance</td>
<td>Termination Code</td>
<td>Packaging Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P = +100%</td>
<td>A = Au</td>
<td>6N = Antistatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z = +80%-20%</td>
<td>(100 μ-in min)</td>
<td>Waffle Pack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual-Caps</td>
<td>Ti/W (1000 Å nom)</td>
<td>also available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M = ±20% available</td>
<td>N = Ti/W-Ni-Au</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 082719 |
Microwave SLCs
ULTRA MAXI Series

The Ultra Maxi Series is the latest addition to the AVX family of proprietary high k, intergranular barrier layer dielectric systems. This series is similar to our Maxi & Maxi+ product offerings, but with the notable difference that the dielectric constant has been increased to 60,000 - double the previous high for our industry leading GBBL formulations.

These new Single Layer Ceramic Capacitors, with X7R TCC and rated at 25VDC (-55°C thru +125°C), set a new standard for circuit miniturization. On average, the required board mounting area will be reduced by approximately two-thirds when compared to an equivalent capacitance value for our Maxi+ series. The Ultra Maxi series offers an ideal solution for broadband bypass applications where high performance and the smallest footprint are the primary considerations.

The Ultra Maxi Series is RoHS compliant - as are all AVX SLC products. Terminations (Au over Ti/W) provide an excellent wire bonding surface and are compatible with conductive epoxy and Au/Sn eutectic solder attach.

Samples and custom configurations are available on request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Length x Width</th>
<th>Capacitance (pF)</th>
<th>Thickness: .0065±.001 (.165±.025)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GD10</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>200 - 300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD15</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>300 - 600</td>
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<td>GD20</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>550 - 1000</td>
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<td>GD25</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>900 - 1500</td>
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</tr>
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<td>GD30</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>1400 - 2000</td>
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<td>GD35</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>1900 - 2700</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GD40</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>2600 - 3500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD45</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>3300 - 4400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD50</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>4200 - 5400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GD55</td>
<td>±.003&quot; (0.076)</td>
<td>5100 - 6500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capacitance Change with Temperature

HOW TO ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type Code</th>
<th>L&amp;W (mils)</th>
<th>Rated Voltage</th>
<th>Dielectric</th>
<th>Capacitance</th>
<th>Capacitance Tolerance</th>
<th>Termination</th>
<th>Packaging</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3 x 25 VDC</td>
<td>0 = Ultra Maxi (k = 60,000)</td>
<td>EIA Cap Code in pF</td>
<td>M = ±20% Z = ±80 -20%</td>
<td>Au (100 μ-in) over Ti/W (1000Å)</td>
<td>Antistatic Waffle Pack (400 per)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample kits are available
ULTRA MAXI KIT Catalog # KITSLCK60KSAMPL includes 10 each:
GD1030301ZAW, GD1530601ZAW, GD2030102ZAW, GD3030202ZAW
Microwave SLCs
MS Series MOS Capacitors

For applications in RF, microwave, and GHz ranges, AVX now offers MOS Capacitors. MOS Capacitors are Single Layer Capacitors (SLCs) that use silicon dioxide to produce small, high Q, temperature stable, high breakdown voltage, low leakage capacitors. To ease assembly, AVX offers a wide range of termination styles for epoxy or solder die attach and subsequent Gold or Aluminum wire thermosonic and ultrasonic bonding. Custom applications and designs are welcome. Please contact your local representative.

FEATURES
- Small Size: .010 to .070 inches square
- Capacitance Range: 1.0 to 1000pF
- High Q
- DC to 20GHz operation

APPLICATIONS
- Hybrid circuits
- Bias Networks
- Test and Measurement Equipment
- Aerospace
- TOSA and ROSA applications

HOW TO ORDER

MS 20 3 S 100 M 3893 W

Series Code
Metal on Silicon
Case Size
Square Size in mils
10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70
OS = Special Order
Please supply design
Working Voltage
2 = 200 WVDC
1 = 100 WVDC
5 = 50 WVDC
3 = 25 WVDC
Dielectric Code
S = SiO2
Capacitance
EIA Cap Code in pF
First two digits = significant figures or “R” for decimal place.
Third digit = number of zeros or after “R” significant figures.
Capacitance Tolerance
B = ± 0.1 pF
C = ± 0.25 pF
F = ± 1%
G = ± 2%
J = ± 5%
Termination Code
1st position top layer
3rd position bottom bonding layer
4th position bottom layer
Top layers:
37 = AuTaN, 38 = AuTiW, 18 = AITW,
Bottom layers:
23 = CrAu, 93 = TiWNi Au, 53 = CrNiAu,
OSOS – Special Request
please supply design or contact factory
Packaging Code
W = waffle pack
T = Tested whole wafer
D = Tested wafer diced on film frame

SIZE, CAPACITANCE RANGE, WVDC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacitance (pF)</th>
<th>Case Size* (mils/ mm)</th>
<th>Rating (V)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>10/0.25</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>10/0.25</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>10/0.25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>20/0.51</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-40</td>
<td>20/0.51</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-80</td>
<td>20/0.51</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>30/0.70</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-80</td>
<td>30/0.70</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-160</td>
<td>30/0.70</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>100-125</td>
<td>40/1.02</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>125-250</td>
<td>40/1.02</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>250-400</td>
<td>40/1.02</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-150</td>
<td>50/1.27</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
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<td>150-300</td>
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<td>300-600</td>
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<td>200-350</td>
<td>60/1.52</td>
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<td>350-650</td>
<td>60/1.52</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>650-900</td>
<td>60/1.52</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-500</td>
<td>70/1.78</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>500-800</td>
<td>70/1.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>800-1000</td>
<td>70/1.78</td>
<td>25</td>
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</table>

*Size tolerance ± 1 mil (0.025 mm)
Thickness range 5 to 10 mils (0.127 to 0.250 mm)
TEST METHODS AVAILABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIL Reference</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Method or Paragraph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-883</td>
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<td>2011.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-883</td>
<td>Shear Strength</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-202</td>
<td>Thermal Shock</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-202</td>
<td>Life</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIL-STD-202</td>
<td>Load Humidity (THB)</td>
<td>103 @ rated VDC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S21 AND Q VERSUS FREQUENCY

Typical MOS Caps: 50MHz-25GHz
Au/TaN bond pad, Cr/Au back side

22pF Q vs. Frequency
Typical Microwave Circuit Applications

Microwave MLC, SLC, or Thin-Film capacitor applications in MIC circuits can be grouped into the following categories:

- **DC Block** (in series with an MIC transmission line)
- **RF Bypass** (in shunt with transmission lines)
- **Source Bypass** (in shunt with active device)
- **Impedance Matching**

This chapter discusses these applications and the performance parameters of microwave capacitors affecting these applications.

**DC Block**

In the DC block application, the chip capacitor is placed in series with the transmission line to prevent the DC voltage from one circuit from affecting another circuit.

The capacitance is chosen so that the reactance is only a fraction of an ohm at the lowest microwave frequency of interest.

The largest value capacitor is used as long as the self-resonant frequency is still much higher than the highest frequency of interest.

**RF Bypass**

The RF bypass application is used to effectively short out the RF to ground. The capacitor value is also picked to be as large as possible without approaching the self-resonance of the capacitor.

**Source Bypass**

The source bypass application is the same as the RF bypass except the capacitor is used in conjunction with an active device.

In this application the chip capacitor is butted up to the source of the microwave FET device mounted on the MIC circuit. This is done to minimize the length of the wire bond from the source of the FET to the capacitor. The shorter the wire bond, the lower the corresponding inductance.

The top side of the capacitor should be completely metallized so that the bond wire from the FET to the edge of the capacitor is minimized.

The height of the capacitor must be less than or equal to the height of the FET, usually about 0.005 inches. If the capacitor is higher than the FET, the capacitor will interfere with the bonding tool when wire bonding to the FET.

**Impedance Matching**

The impedance matching application is to use the chip capacitor to provide the required reactance at a specific point in the circuit.

This is usually the most critical application in terms of the capacitor maintaining a tight tolerance over temperature and from unit-to-unit. The other applications only require that the capacitance for the DC block and RF bypass maintains a low reactance and the tolerance can be as much as ±50%. Whereas the impedance matching function often requires ±1% tolerance.

In general, microwave capacitors should have the following properties:

- Low-loss
- Operate very much below the self-resonant frequency
- The power handling capability should be commensurate with the expected power performance of the circuit
- Capable of wire bonding and gap welding
- Low variation of capacitance over temperature
- Low unit-to-unit variations in capacitance
- Low dimensional variations from unit-to-unit

Typical SLC applications in MIC circuits are shown in:

![Simplified RF Spectrum](image)

**Figure 2. Typical MIC Microwave Attenuator Hybrid with SLC's. “C” indicates SLC locations.**
Scattering Parameters

Generally, transmission and reflections coefficient measurements completely characterize any black box or network. Transmission and reflections parameters — attenuation (gain), phase shift, and complex impedance — can be described in terms of a set of linear parameters called “scattering” or “s” parameters. Knowing these characteristic parameters, one can predict the response of cascaded or parallel networks accurately. Unlike y or h parameters which require short circuit and open circuit terminations, “s” parameters are determined with the input and output ports terminated in the characteristic impedance of the transmission line which is a much more practical condition to obtain at RF and microwave frequencies.

To summarize, “s” parameters are more useful at microwave frequencies because:

1. Equipment to measure total voltage and total currents at the ports of the networks is not readily available.
2. Short and open circuits are difficult to achieve over a broad band of frequencies because of lead inductance and capacitance. Furthermore, these measurements typically require tuning stubs separately adjusted at each frequency to reflect short and open circuits to the device terminals, and this makes the process inconvenient and tedious.
3. Active devices such as transistors and negative resistance diodes are very often not short- or open-circuit stable.

There are four scattering parameters for a two-port network: S11, S12, S21, and S22.

S11 is the reflection coefficient at the input port with the output port terminated in a 50 ohm load.

S12 is the reverse transmission coefficient in a 50 ohm system.

S21 is the forward transmission coefficient in a 50 ohm system.

S22 is the reflection coefficient at the output port with the input port terminated into a 50 ohm load.

The reflection coefficients can be directly related to the impedance of the device by the equation:

\[
\text{Eq. 1. } \frac{Z_{IN}}{Z_0} = \frac{1 + S_{11}}{1 - S_{11}}
\]

where \( Z_{IN} \) = input impedance

\( Z_0 = \) characteristic impedance of the transmission line

This equation also defines the Smith Chart.

Return Loss

Return loss is the ratio of the incident power to the reflected power at a point on the transmission line and is expressed in decibels. The reflected power from a discontinuity is expressed as a certain number of decibels below the incident power upon the discontinuity. It can be shown that return loss can be related to the reflection coefficient and VSWR:

\[
\text{Eq. 2. } RL (\text{dB}) = 10 \times \log\left(\frac{\text{Pinc}}{\text{Pref}}\right)
\]

\[
= 20 \times \log\left(\frac{\text{Einc}}{\text{Eref}}\right) = 20 \times \log\left(\frac{1}{\text{Rho}}\right)
\]

\[
\text{Eq. 3. } \text{Rho} = \frac{(\text{VSWR} - 1)}{(\text{VSWR} + 1)}
\]

\[
\text{Eq. 4. } \text{VSWR} = \frac{(1 + \text{Rho})}{(1 - \text{Rho})}
\]

where \( \text{Rho} = \) reflection coefficient

\( \text{RL} = \) return loss

\( \text{Pinc} = \) power incident

\( \text{Pref} = \) power reflected

\( \text{Einc} = \) voltage incident

\( \text{Eref} = \) voltage reflected

\( \text{VSWR} = \) voltage standing wave ratio

By the above equation, when the reflection coefficient is 1, the return loss is zero. In this case, no signal is lost and all the signal incident upon the discontinuity was returned to the source. As the reflection coefficient approaches zero, the return loss approaches infinity. That is, the more perfect the load, the less the reflection from that load.

The return loss can be improved by an attenuator.

Assume that we connect a perfectly matched 3 dB attenuator into a short circuit as shown in Figure 3.

The indicated 100 mw is decreased to 50 mw at the output of the 3 dB attenuator. This 50 mw is reflected from the short circuit back through the attenuator in the reverse direction and one-half of this reflected power is lost in the 3 dB attenuator. The reflected power at the input is 25 mw. Notice the return loss is equal to twice the attenuation because it is the “round trip” loss. This example shows that VSWR is decreased when attenuation exists on a transmission line and also that a high VSWR can be decreased by placing an attenuator in the line.

Mismatch Loss

Mismatch loss is a measure of power loss caused by reflection. It is the ratio of incident power to the difference between incident and reflected power and is expressed in dBs as follows:

\[
\text{Eq. 5. } \text{Mismatch loss (dB)} = 10 \times \log\left[\frac{\text{Pinc}}{(\text{Pinc} - \text{Pref})}\right]
\]

\[
= 10 \times \log\left[\frac{1}{(1 - \text{Rho} = 2)}\right]
\]
The mismatch loss for various values of VSWR is tabulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VSWR</th>
<th>Mismatch Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.00 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>0.04 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.12 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.18 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>0.30 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.51 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>0.88 dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.25 dB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insertion Loss Measurement

Insertion loss is measured by the substitution method. The insertion loss of the measurement system is used as a reference. Then the DUT (Device Under Test) is inserted into the setup and the new insertion loss is measured. The difference between the two losses is the insertion loss of the DUT.

The insertion loss is measured using the test setup as shown in Figure 5.

In order to accurately measure the insertion loss, source VSWR and load VSWR must be extremely low. It is assumed during calibration (loss of the measurement system with the DUT removed from the test setup) that the VSWR of the generator and the load does not contribute any mismatch losses. As discussed in the section on mismatch loss, any VSWR above 1.2:1 may cause a minimum error of 0.04 dB. In addition, the two VSWRs may be additive or subtractive depending on the phasing of the reflections. For example, source and load VSWRs of 1.2:1 can add to create an error of 0.08 dB. The mismatches usually exhibit themselves as amplitude ripple as a function of frequency. It is important when measuring low insertion losses that precautions are taken to ensure low source and load VSWRs and to keep the mismatch losses due to the two VSWRs to a small fraction of the expected insertion loss of the DUT.

In using the scalar network analyzer it is a temptation to normalize the amplitude response regardless what the actual response is during calibration. It is advisable to eliminate the amplitude ripple first before normalizing the scalar analyzer. One way is to make use of the fact that VSWRs can be improved by the use of matched attenuators. Often, 10 dB attenuators are placed before and after the DUT to provide a minimum of 20 dB return loss which corresponds to source and load VSWRs of less than 1.20:1. This will reduce the uncertainties due to mismatch losses to less than 0.02 dB.

Return Loss Measurement

The return loss is measured by the following method: The test port is terminated by a short circuit so that all the incident power is reflected. A detector on the bridge measures this power and this power is used as the reference for the incident power. The test port is then terminated by the DUT and the reflected power now measured. The difference between the power levels is the return loss.
Note that the insertion loss and return loss can be measured simultaneously by using the dual trace feature of the Wiltron Scalar Analyzer. Furthermore, the two measurements can be done by using a controller such as the HP85 computer for semi-automatic testing.

The calibration for 0 dB return loss can be improved by averaging the short circuit and open circuit reflected powers. Since the phase difference is 180 degrees, the average closely approximates the actual full reflection.

### Decibels

The decibel, abbreviated “dB,” is one-tenth of the international transmission unit known as the “bel.” The origin of the bel is the logarithm to the base 10 of the power ratio. It is the power to which the number 10 must be raised in order to equal the given number. The number 10 is raised to the second power, or squared, in order to get 100. Therefore, the log of 100 is 2.

The decibel is expressed mathematically by the equation:

\[ \text{dB} = 10 \times \log \left( \frac{P_2}{P_1} \right) \]

- \(P_2\) = larger power
- \(P_1\) = lower power

The use of log tables can be avoided in practical applications where exact values of the power are not required. One only needs to know that a factor of 2 is equal to 3 dB and a factor of 10 is equal to 10 dB and the rest of the conversions are derived from these two relationships. The use of dBs reduces multiplication into an addition. For example:

1. \(17\text{dB} = 20\text{dB} - 3\text{dB}\)
   - \(20\text{dB}\) is \(10\text{dB} + 10\text{dB}\) or is equal to 100.
   - \(3\text{dB}\) is equal to 2

   Therefore, \(20\text{ dB} - 3\text{dB} = 100/2 = 50\)

2. \(36\text{dB} = 30\text{dB} + 6\text{dB}\)
   - \(1000 \times 4 = 4000\)

Decibel:

The decibel is not a unit of power but merely is a logarithmic expression of a ratio of two numbers. The unit of power may be expressed in terms of dBm, where “m” is the unit, meaning above or below one milliwatt. Since one mw is neither above nor below 1 mw, 1 mw = 0 dBm.

Nepers:

An alternate unit called the neper is defined in terms of the logarithm to the base “e.” e = 2.718.

\[1 \text{neper} = 8.686\text{dB}\]
\[1\text{dB} = 0.1151 \text{neper}\]
Capacitance

Microwave chip capacitors, although closely approximating an ideal capacitor, nonetheless also contain parasitic elements that are important at microwave frequencies. The equivalent circuit is shown below:

\[
\begin{align*}
C & \quad R_s \\
L_s & \quad C_p
\end{align*}
\]

Figure 8. Equivalent Circuit of a Microwave Capacitor

where,  
\( C = \) desired capacitance  
\( L_s = \) parasitic series inductance  
\( R_s = \) series resistance  
\( C_p = \) parasitic parallel capacitance,

\( R_p \), the parallel resistance is not shown as it is of concern only at dc and low frequencies.

The primary capacitance, \( C \), is typically determined by measurement at 1 MHz where the effects of \( R_s \), \( L_s \), and \( C_p \) become negligible compared to the reactance of \( C \). The value of \( C \) determined at this low frequency is also valid at microwave frequencies when the dielectric constant has a very low variation versus frequency, as is typical in the modern dielectrics employed in microwave capacitors.

The equivalent impedance of the capacitor at any frequency is:

\[
Z_s = \frac{1}{sC_p + \frac{1}{Rs + sLs + \frac{1}{Cs}}}
\]

where \( s = j2\pi f \), \( f = \) frequency

Figures 9 and 10 also show the point of series resonance (\( L_s \) in series with \( C \)), and parallel resonance (\( L_s \) in parallel with \( C_p \)).

Series and Parallel Resonance

Ideally, the impedance magnitude of a series mounted capacitor will vary monotonically from infinite at dc to zero at infinite frequency. However, the parasitics associated with any capacitor result in a nonideal response.

Figure 9 shows the magnitude, \( Z(F) \), as a function of frequency. Figure 10 shows \( Z(f) \) on the Smith Chart, which includes magnitude and phase.

Eq. 8. In general, an impedance is represented by \( Z=R+jX \).

The Smith Chart maps the entire impedance half plane for \( R > 0 \) into the interior of a unit circle. The Smith Chart is a mapping of the reflection coefficient, \( S11 \), of an impedance. \( S11 = (Z-Z0)/(Z+Z0) \). \( Z0 \) is a reference impedance, typically 50 ohms, and is in the center of the chart. The central horizontal axis is for \( X = 0 \), with \( R < 50 \) to the left of center, and \( R > 50 \) to the right of center.
At this parallel resonant frequency, the capacitor will appear as a large resistor whose value is RPRF defined as:

\[ Eq. 9. \quad R_{PRF} = R_s \times Q_P \times Q_P; \text{where,} \quad Q_p = \frac{1}{\sqrt{R_s \times C_r}} \quad \text{and} \quad W_b = 2\pi f_{SRF} \]

The parasitic parallel capacitance is usually very small which results in a parallel resonant frequency that is much higher than the series resonance.

For capacitor usage in RF impedance matching and tuning applications, the maximum practical frequency for use is up to 0.5 times the SRF.

For DC filtering and RF shorting applications, best performance is obtained near the SRF.

At frequencies above the SRF, but below the PRF, the SLC can be used as a low loss inductor with a built-in DC block for bypassing and decoupling.

The series resonant frequency (SRF) of an SLC can be measured by mounting the capacitor in series on a 50 ohm transmission line as shown in Figure 11.

**Figure 11**

At its series resonant frequency (SRF), the SLC will appear as a small resistance. This measurement can be performed with a vector network analyzer such as the Hewlett Packard 8510. The SRF is at the frequency for which the phase of the input reflection coefficient, S11, is crossing the real axis on the Smith Chart at 180 degrees.

The resonant frequency will be lowered by the inductance associated with the bonding attachment to the capacitor (i.e., bonding wires, ribbons, leads, etc.). The actual resonant frequency of the capacitor by itself can be determined by taking out the effects of the bonding attachment inductance. Using the low frequency measurements of the primary capacitance alone, the inductance of the capacitor can be derived from the resonant frequency. With AVX SLC’s, the inductance is low enough so that the practical operating frequencies achieved can be beyond 20 GHz.

### Equivalent Series Resistance

The equivalent series resistance is the RS in the electrical model. At the SRF, the ESR can be readily determined on the Smith Chart display of the capacitor’s impedance. However, the ESR is not necessarily constant with frequency and its value is typically determined by an insertion loss measurement of the capacitor at the desired frequency.

The insertion loss is a combination of reflective and absorptive components. The absorptive component is the part associated with the value of the ESR (i.e., the loss in RS). Because of the low values of ESR in microwave capacitors (on the order of 0.01 ohm), the insertion loss measurement is very difficult to make, but can be made with a test fixture similar to that shown in Figure 11, but with the input and output 50 ohm impedances transformed down to some more convenient impedance level, Rref, to obtain a more accurate measurement.

When used as a DC block in the transmission line test fixture, the forward transmission coefficient, S21, and the input reflection coefficient, S11, can be measured to determine:

**Eq. 10.** Dissipative Loss.

\[ DL = \frac{(1-S11^2)}{(S21^2)} \]

**Eq. 11.** Reflection Loss.

\[ RL = \frac{(1-S11^2)}{S21^2} \text{ where } S11 \text{ and } S21 \text{ are expressed as complex phasors.} \]

From the dissipative loss, DL, the ESR can be determined as:

**Eq. 12.** ESR = \[ R_{ref} \times \frac{1 - \sqrt{DL}}{1 + \sqrt{DL}} \]

The ESR typically increases with operating temperature and self-heating under high power. This increase can be seen directly in the lab by measuring the insertion loss of the capacitor as a function of temperature.

A low ESR is especially necessary in SLC’s when used in series with transistors in low noise amplifiers, high gain amplifiers, or high power amplifiers. For example, an ESR of 1 ohm in series with a base input impedance of 1 ohm would result in a serious compromise in amplifier gain and noise figure by up to 3 dB.

### Power Rating

The RF power rating of chip capacitors is dependent on:

- Thermal Breakdown
- Voltage Breakdown

**Thermal Breakdown**

Thermal breakdown is self-heating caused by RF power dissipated in the capacitor.

If the resultant heat generated is greater than what can be conducted away through the leads or other means of heat sinking, the capacitor temperature will rise.
As the capacitor temperature increases, the dissipation factor and ESR of the capacitor also increase which creates a thermal runaway situation.

The small signal insertion loss is used to determine the percentage of power which is dissipated in the capacitor.

For instance, if the insertion loss is:
- 0.01 dB then .2% of the incident power is lost as heat
- 0.10 dB then 2% of the incident power is lost as heat
- 1.00 dB then 20% of the incident power is lost as heat

The capacitor will heat up according to the amount of power dissipated in the capacitor and the heat sinking provided.

Even very low ESR, 0.01 ohm at 1 GHz, can be significant when passing power through a series mounted capacitor into a typically low impedance bipolar transistor base input with an input impedance of only 1 ohm. If 1% of 10 watts is dissipated in the capacitor, this 100 milliwatt of power causes a very large increase in the capacitor temperature dependent on its heat sinking in the MIC circuit.

**Voltage Breakdown**

The voltage breakdown also limits the maximum power handling capability of the capacitor.

The voltage breakdown properties of the capacitors is dependent on the following:
- dielectric material
- voids in the material
- form factor
- separation of the electrodes

Most microwave capacitors have a DC voltage rating of 50 VDC. This is much greater than typical DC voltages of 3 to 15 volts present on an MIC circuit.

**Dielectric Constant Measurement at Microwave Frequencies**

The measurement of dielectric constants at low frequencies is easily done by measuring the capacitance of a substrate of known dimensions and calculating the dielectric constant.

The resonance method is used in measuring dielectric constants at microwave frequencies of metallized ceramic substrates. This is based on the model of the high dielectric constant substrate as a parallel plate dielectrically loaded waveguide resonator. By observing the resonant frequencies and knowing the dimensions of the substrate, the dielectric constant is calculated by fitting the resonances into a table of expected fundamental and higher order modes. This method can be measured by connecting the corners of the substrates to the center conductors of either an APC-7 or Type N connector. The test setup is the same as for insertion loss measurements. This method as described in the literature for an alumina substrate with a dielectric constant of approximately 10 and a substrate height of 0.025 inches can be measured to an accuracy of 2%. The Napoli-Hughes Method uses an open circuit assumption for the unmetallized edges which can be radiative. This inaccuracy is reduced if thinner substrates or if higher dielectric constant substrates are used which will tend to reduce radiation. Higher accuracy can be achieved by metallizing all six sides of the substrate except for the corners where the RF is coupled to the substrate. This method as reported by Howell provided more consistent results.
Propagation Constant and Characteristic Impedance

The incident waves of voltage and current decrease in magnitude and vary in phase as one goes toward the receiving end of the transmission line which has losses. The propagation constant is a measure of the phase shift and attenuation along the line.

- attenuation per unit length of line is called the attenuation constant. (dB or nepers per unit length)
- phase constant, phase shift per unit length. (radians per unit length)
- angular frequency, 2 * pi * f

\( R+jwL \) - complex series impedance per unit length of line. \( G+jwC \) - complex shunt admittance per unit length of line.

Eq. 13. \( Z_0 \rightarrow \) for lossless case: \( Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{G}{C}} \)

Standing Waves

Standing waves on the lossless transmission line:

An incident wave will not be reflected if the transmission line is terminated in either matched load or if the transmission line is infinitely long. Otherwise, reflected waves will be present. In other words, any impedance will cause reflections.

Let us consider the case of a lossless transmission line terminated in a short line. In this case all of the incident wave will be reflected. See Figure 15.

The dotted sine wave to the right of the short circuit in the diagram indicates the position and distance the wave would have traveled in the absence of the short circuit. With the short circuit placed at \( X \), the wave travels the same distance back toward the generator. In order to satisfy the boundary conditions, the voltage at the short circuit must be zero at all times. This is accomplished by a reflected wave which is equal in magnitude and reversed in polarity (shown by the superimposed reflected wave and the resultant total voltage on the line). Note that the total voltage is twice the amplitude of the incident voltage at a quarter wavelength back toward the generator and the total voltage is zero at one-half wave-length from the short.

**DISTRIBUTED PARAMETER MODEL OF A SECTION OF TRANSMISSION LINES:**

\[
\begin{align*}
Dx & \quad rDx \\
\Delta x & \quad cDx \\
\Delta x & \quad gDx
\end{align*}
\]

where \( G = \) Conductance per unit length  
\( R = \) Resistance per unit length  
\( C = \) Capacitance per unit length  
\( L = \) Inductance per unit length  
\( \Delta x = \) Incremental length

**Figure 15**

**PURE TRAVELING WAVE**

**AMPLITUDE**

**DISTANCE ALONG LINE**

\( V = \) Instantaneous voltage  
\( I = \) Instantaneous current

Pure traveling waves: \( V \) & \( I \) in the lossless case are in phase. \( V \) & \( I \) also reverse polarity every half wavelength.
The total voltage pattern is called a standing wave. Standing waves exist as the result of two waves of the same frequency traveling in opposite directions on a transmission line.

The total voltage at any instant has a sine wave distribution along the line with zero voltage at the short and zero points at half wave intervals from the short circuit. The points of zero voltages are called voltage nodes and the points of maximum voltage halfway between these nodes are called antinodes.

Open Circuit:

At a distance of one-quarter wavelength from the short, the voltage is found to be twice the amplitude of the incident voltage, which is equivalent to an open circuit. Therefore, this same distribution would be obtained if an open circuit were placed a quarter wavelength from the short. In the case the first node is located a quarter wavelength from the open and the first antinode is right as the open. The node-to-node spacing remains half wavelength as is the antinode-to-antinode spacing.

Voltage Standing Wave Ratio:

The voltage standing wave ratio is defined as the ratio of the maximum voltage to the minimum voltage on a transmission line. This ratio is most frequently referred to as VSWR (Viswar).

\[
VSWR = \frac{E_{\text{max}}}{E_{\text{min}}} = \frac{E_i + E_r}{E_i - E_r} = \frac{1 + \rho}{1 - \rho}
\]

where \(\rho\) = reflective coefficient

If the transmission line is terminated in a short or open circuit, the reflected voltage, \(E_r\), is equal to the incident voltage, \(E_i\). From the above equation the reflection coefficient is 1.0, and the VSWR is infinite. If a matched termination is connected to the line, the reflected wave is zero, the reflection coefficient is zero, and the VSWR is zero.
Microwave Integrated Circuit Hybrids

A Microwave Integrated Circuit Hybrid (MIC) is a microwave circuit that uses integrated circuit production techniques involving such factors as thin or thick films, substrates, dielectrics, conductors, resistors, and microstrip lines, to build passive assemblies on a dielectric. Active elements such as microwave diodes and transistors are usually added after photo resist, masking, etching, and deposition processes have been completed. MICs usually are enclosed as shielded microstrip to prevent electromagnetic interference with other components or systems. This section will discuss some of the important characteristics of MICs, such as:

- MIC substrates
- MIC metallization
- MIC components

**MIC Substrates:**

Microstrip employs circuitry that is large compared to the wavelength of the frequency used with the circuit. For this reason, the etched metal patterns often are distributed circuits with transmission lines etched directly onto the MIC substrate. Figure 19 shows the pertinent dimensional parameters for a microstrip transmission line.

For the current discussion we are most interested in the higher microwave frequencies. The MIC circuit design requires a uniform and predictable substrate characteristic. Several types of substrates in common usage are: alumina, sapphire, quartz, and beryllium oxide. Key requirements for a MIC substrate are that it have:

- Low dielectric loss
- Uniform dielectric constant
- Smooth finish
- Low expansion coefficient

**Table II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Alumina</th>
<th>Sapphire</th>
<th>Quartz</th>
<th>Beryllium Oxide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative Dielectric Constant, $E_r$</td>
<td>9.8*</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss Tangent at 10 GHz</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
<td>0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal Conductivity $K$, in W/CM/Deg. C</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alumina $E_r$ depends on vendor and purity.

The dependence of ZO to the above parameters is as shown:

**Eq. 15.**  \[ ZO(f) = \frac{377 \times H}{W \times \sqrt{E_r}} \]

where,  
- $H$ = height of the substrate  
- $W$ = width of the microstrip conductor  
- $E_r$ = dielectric constant of the substrate

A graph of ZO versus $W/H$ for several values of dielectric constants is shown below:

The most popular substrate material is alumina which has a dielectric constant of between 9.6 and 10.0 depending on the vendor and the purity. Other substrates are used where the specified unique properties of the material (beryllia for high power, ferrites for magnetic properties) are demanded by design.
MIC Metallization:
MIC metallization is a thin film of two or more layers of metals. A base metallization layer is deposited onto the substrate, another layer may be optionally deposited on top of this, and then a final gold layer is deposited onto the surface. The base metallization is chosen for its adhesion to the substrate and for compatibility with the next layer.

The base metallization is usually lossy at microwave frequencies. The losses due to this metallization can be kept to a minimum if its thickness does not exceed one “skin depth” of the metal.

Skin effect defines a phenomenon at microwave frequencies where the current travelling along a conductor does not penetrate the conductor but remains on the surface of the conductor. The “skin depth” indicates how far the microwave current will penetrate into the metal. The “skin depth” is smaller as the frequency increases.

By keeping the lossy metallization as thin as possible, more of the microwave current will propagate in the top metallization gold layer and loss is minimized.

Typical metallization schemes used in the industry are:
- Chromium-Gold: Cr-Au
- Nichrome-Gold: NiCr-Au
- Chromium-Copper-Gold: Cr-Cu-Au
- Titanium-Tungsten-Gold: TiW-Au
- Others

MIC Components:
Microstrip has advantages over other microwave circuit topologies in that active semiconductors and passive components can easily be incorporated to make active hybrid circuits. It is possible to mix high and low frequency circuitry to attain a “system-on-a substrate.”

Passive Components:
On MIC circuits, the passive components are either distributed or lumped elements. The distributed components are usually realized by etched patterns on the substrate metallization. The lumped components are capacitors, resistors, and inductors; and whenever possible components are derived by etching them directly on the MIC metallization thin film. Chip components are used when they offer advantages such as:
- Component values are beyond that realizable by thin film techniques on the MIC substrates,
- Smaller size is required,
- High power capability is required.
Capacitors, resistors, and inductors are discussed in the following:

Capacitors:
A lumped capacitor can be realized by the parallel gap capacitance of an area of metallization on the top of the substrate to the ground plane. Values of capacitance that can be obtained by this method are usually less than a few picofarads. At microwave frequencies if the capacitor size in any one dimension begins to approach a quarter-wavelength, a resonance will occur.

Large values of capacitance can be achieved with a dielectric constant between the capacitor plates while maintaining the small size required for MIC circuits.

Chip capacitors can be fabricated on substrate with a dielectric constant up to 5000. This higher dielectric constant allows a much smaller size capacitor for a given capacitance value which is a very desirable feature both from the real estate aspect and the self-resonance aspect.

Resistors:
MIC resistors are often realized by using a resistive base layer on the MIC substrate metallization, and by etching the proper pattern to expose the resistive layer in the MIC circuitry.

The exact value of the resistor is determined by:
- resistivity of the resistive base layer, and
- length and width of the resistor.

Thin film resistive base layers are usually the following:
- tantalum nitrite, or
- nickel-chrome (nichrome).

When chip resistors are used, they are mounted and connected in the same way as the chip capacitors.

Inductors:
Inductors are often realized by using narrow etched microstrip lines which provides inductance on the order of 1 to 5 nanohenrys.

Higher values up to 50 nanohenrys are obtained by etching a round or square spiral onto the MIC metallization.

Even higher values can be obtained by using wound wire inductors or chip inductors which are wire coils encased in a ceramic.

Both types of discrete inductors are attached to the circuit by the same means as the capacitors.
Active components:
The active devices in the MIC circuit can be made of entirely different materials than the substrates and are usually attached to the substrates by eutectic soldering or conductive epoxy.

Typical active devices on MIC circuits are the following:
- GaAs FETs
- Bipolar Transistors
- Schottky Barrier Diodes
- PIN Diodes
- Various other Semiconductors

The active devices can be either in:
- a plastic or ceramic package with metal leads, or
- chip form.

The packaged devices are commonly used at a lower frequency range than the chip devices since they exhibit more parasitic circuit elements that limit their performance at higher frequency.

The advantages of packaged devices are protection of the devices during transport and mounting, ease of characterization, and ease of mounting onto the MIC circuit.

Chip Component Attach:
The methods of attachment of the chip components to the substrate are usually by:
- eutectic solder die attach, and
- epoxy die attach.

1. Eutectic Die Attach
The eutectic die attach method can be used with several alloys. Eutectic defines the exact alloy combination at which the solidus to liquidus transition takes place at one particular temperature. Other combinations have transition states with wider temperature ranges.

For instance, the eutectic temperature for the following alloys are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alloy</th>
<th>Eutectic Composition</th>
<th>Eutectic Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold Germanium</td>
<td>88% Au 12% Ge</td>
<td>356°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Tin</td>
<td>80% Au 20% Sn</td>
<td>280°C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For best results, the eutectic attach is performed under an inert gas atmosphere, typically nitrogen, to reduce oxidation at high temperatures. The eutectic must be selected so that the die attach operations will not interfere with prior soldering operations and itself will not be disturbed by subsequent process steps. The metallization should be able to undergo 400°C without any blistering or other adhesion degradation.

2. Epoxy Die Attach
The epoxy die attach method uses silver or gold conductive particles in an epoxy. The epoxy for chip attach on MIC circuits is a one-part type which cures at temperatures of from 125°C to 200°C. The curing time is a function of temperature. A cure time of 30 minutes at 150°C is a good compromise for high reliability and a reasonable cure time.

Chip Components Interconnection:
The chip components are interconnected to the MIC circuit by means of:
- wire bonding, and
- miniature parallel gap welding.
The numbers speak for themselves

Only AVX’s single layer capacitors (SLCs) provide this level of high frequency performance with the industry's highest volumetric efficiency. Constructed with our exclusive Maxi® or Maxi-Plus material, these high frequency capacitors have the built-in characteristics of an extremely broadband by-pass capacitor with the capability to operate in the millimeter bands. Choose SLCs with or without borders in standard sizes ranging from 0.010 inch to 0.090 inch square. Also, AVX offers custom configurations to meet your specific mechanical and electrical applications.

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