



## Connector and Contact Glossary of Useful Terms

**Barrel** - (Conductor Barrel) - The section of the terminal, splice or contact that accommodates the stripped conductor.

**BIN (Basic Identification Number)** - color bands on the crimp barrel of a contact to identify contact part number. Each BIN code corresponds to only one slash sheet, thus identifying the complete M39029/XX- part number.

**Closed entry** - A contact or contact cavity design in the insert or body of the connector which limits the size or position of the mating contact or printed circuit board to a predetermined dimension.

**Coaxial contact** - A contact having two conducting surfaces, a center contact and a coaxially placed sleeve

**Contact** - The conductive element in a connector that makes actual contact, for the purpose of transferring electrical energy.

**Contact area** - The area in contact between two conductors, two contacts, or a conductor and a contact permitting the flow of electricity.

**Contact arrangement** - The number, spacing and arrangement of contacts in a connector.

**Contact resistance** - Electrical resistance of a pair of engaged contacts. Resistance may be measured in ohms or millivolt drop at a specified current over the engaged contacts.

**Contact retainer** - A device either on the contact or in the insert to retain the contact in an insert or body.

**Contact retention** - The axial load in either direction which a contact can withstand without being dislodged from its normal position within an insert or body.

**Contact size** - An assigned number denoting the size of the contact engaging end.

**Contact shoulder** - The flanged portion of a contact which limits its travel into the insert.

**Crimp** - The physical compression (deformation) of a contact barrel around a conductor in order to make an electrical connection.

**Crimp contact** - A contact, pin or socket, whose back portion (wire barrel) is a hollow cylinder into which a stripped wire (conductor) is inserted. The sidewalls of the wire barrel are then mechanically compressed (uniformly deformed) using a crimping tool to captivate the conductor.

**Crimping dies** - Portion of the crimping tool that shapes the crimp.

**Crimping tool** - Mechanism used for crimping.

**Depth of Crimp** - The distance the indenter penetrates into the barrel.

**Die Closure** - The gap between indenter dies at full handle closure. Usually defined by Go/No-Go dimensions.

**Indenter** - That part of a crimping die, usually the moving part, which indents or compresses the contact barrel.

**Inspection hole** - A hole placed at the bottom end of a contact wire barrel to permit visual inspection to see that the conductor has been inserted to the proper depth in the barrel prior to crimping.

**Installing tool** - A device used to install contacts into a connector. A device used to install taper pins into taper pin receptacles.

**Locator** - Device for positioning terminals, splices, or contacts into crimping dies, positioner, or turret heads.

**Milivolt drop test** - A test designed to determine the voltage loss due to resistance of a crimped joint.

**Pin contact** - A contact having an engagement end that enters the socket contact.

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**Plating** - The overlaying of a thin coating of metal on metallic components to improve conductivity, provide for easy soldering or prevent rusting or corrosion.

**Positioner** - A device when attached to a crimping tool locates the contact in the correct position.

**Power contact** - Type of contact used in multi-contact connectors to support the flow of rated current.

**Pull-out force** - Force necessary to separate a conductor from a contact or terminal, or a contact from a connector, by exerting a tensile pull.

**Radio frequency contact (RF contact)** - An impedance matched shielded contact.

**Range, wire** - The sizes of conductors accommodated by a particular barrel. Also the diameters of wires accommodated by a sealing grommet.

**Removal tool** - A device used to remove a contact from a connector. A device used to remove a taper pin from a taper pin receptacle.

**Sealing plug** - A plug which is inserted to fill an unoccupied contact aperture in a connector insert. Its function is to seal all unoccupied apertures in the insert, especially in environmental connectors.

**Shielded contact** - A contact which carries alternating current and is shielded from unwanted signals (RFI and EMI).

**Socket contact** - A contact having an engagement end that will accept entry of a pin contact.

**Solderless connection** - The joining of two metals by pressure means without the use of solder, braze, or any method requiring heat.

**Strip** - To remove insulation from a conductor. (See details elsewhere in technical section of this cat.)

**Thermocouple contact** - Contact of special material used in connectors employed in thermocouple applications. Material often used are iron, constantan, copper, chromel, alumel and others.

**Turret Head** - A device that contains more than one locator which can be indexed by rotating a circular barrel, and when attached to a crimping tool, positions the contact.

