



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.

