

## Solder requirements

### Application of solder paste

Before the components are assembled, solder paste must be applied to all the solder pads (for connecting surface-mount components) and the plated through contacts (pcb holes for "Pin in Hole Intrusive Reflow" insertion). Usually a screen printing process is used for this purpose. A squeegee moves across the pcb, which is masked with screens and presses the solder paste into all unmasked areas. To ensure that the plated through holes are completely filled, significantly more solder paste must be applied than traditional solder pads on the pcb surface. The required quantity can be set exactly via several parameters.

As an alternative to screen printing, the solder paste can be applied by means of a dispenser. A high-precision robot moves the dispenser to all required positions on the pcb. The dispensing method is particularly suitable for small pcb's or applications which demand high precision and flexibility in dispensing volumes.

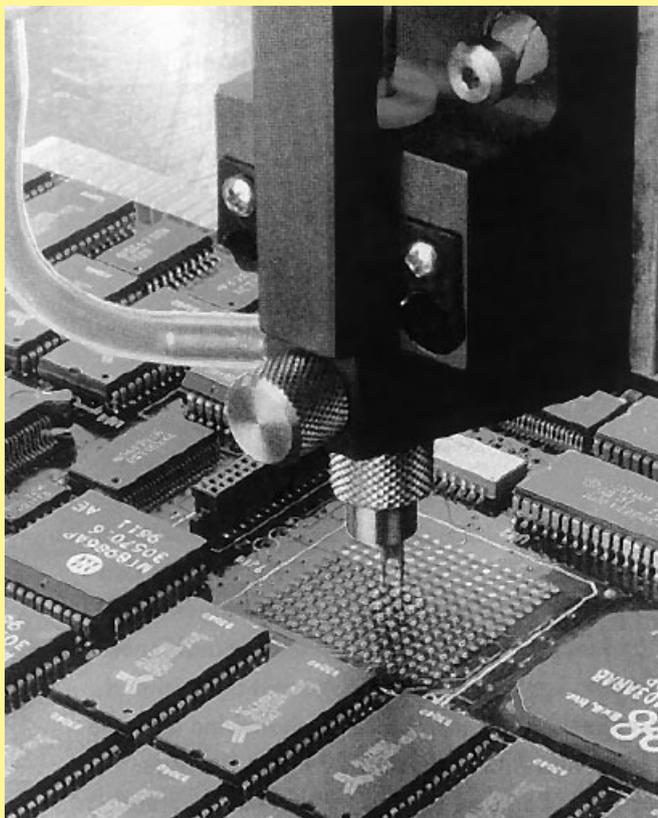


Fig. 3: Dispenser in operation

## Requirements for the solder connection

There are numerous scientific studies dealing with calculation of the required quantity of solder paste. These studies use various parameters, e.g. the shrinking factor of the paste during soldering or the thickness of the screens used for masking the pcb. Since such calculation methods are complicated to apply, the following rule of thumb has proved valuable in practice:

$$V_{\text{Paste}} = 2(V_H - V_P)$$

in which:

$V_{\text{Paste}}$  = Required volume of solder paste

$V_H$  = Volume of the plated through hole

$V_P$  = Volume of the connector termination in the hole

Comment: the multiplier "2" compensates for solder paste shrinkage during soldering. For this purpose, it was assumed that 50 % of the paste consists of the actual solder, the other 50 % being soldering aids.

At the beginning of a new production batch, the process parameters, such as quantity of solder paste and soldering temperature, can be set by interpreting simple cross-sections of the soldered connection. A reliable measure for achieving optimum parameters is the quantity of solder required to fill the hole. In soldered connections of high quality, the holes are filled to between 75 % and 100 %.

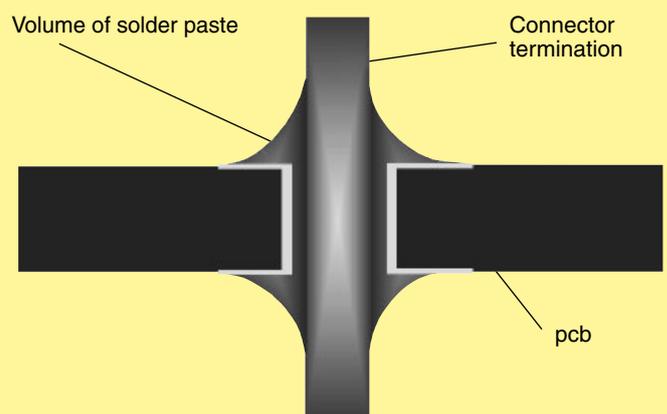


Fig. 4: Plated through hole with connector termination