

Requirements for SMC connectors

SMC (Surface Mount Compatible) connectors have to withstand temperatures of up to 240 °C in the reflow oven for 10 to 15 seconds. Therefore, the moulding must be made from a dimensionally stable plastic which expands at the same rate as the pcb material when subjected to heat.

The length of the connector contacts should be such that they protrude by no more than 1.5 millimetres after insertion to the pcb. Each contact collects solder on its tip as it penetrates the solder paste in the hole. So if the contact was too long, this solder would no longer be able to reflow back into the plated through hole by capillary action during the soldering process, therefore the quality of the soldered connection would suffer as a result.

Connector design must permit both automatic assembly with pick-and-place machines and manual positioning for test and pre-production batches. It is also important for the packaging of the connectors to be suitable for automated assembly. Experience shows that deep-drawn film and reel packaging fed into the pick-and-place machines with the aid of a conveyor system is particularly suitable.

HARTING SMC technology

HARTING offers its customers a complete system concept for integrating SMC technology into existing production lines. We manufacture a wide range of SMC connectors (3 and 5 row) in compliance with IEC 60603-2, D-Sub connectors in compliance with IEC 60807 and connectors from the har-mik® series with contact spacing of 1.27 millimetres. In addition, HARTING supports the market with packaging and processing concepts, which have been developed in collaboration with renowned manufacturers of SMC soldering and assembly plants.

Advantages of the “Pin in Hole Intrusive Reflow” process:

- Partial dip soldering or press fitting is no longer required
- Complete compatibility with Surface Mount Technology
- Complete integration into the automated assembly process
- Reduced floor space in the production plant
- As a rule, no additional investment costs



Fig. 5: HARTING connector mounted in a tape ready for placement using an odd form assembly station.