



# Guide for Molded Tantalum Capacitors

## INTRODUCTION

Tantalum electrolytic capacitors are the preferred choice in applications where volumetric efficiency, stable electrical parameters, high reliability, and long service life are primary considerations. The stability and resistance to elevated temperatures of the tantalum / tantalum oxide / manganese dioxide system make solid tantalum capacitors an appropriate choice for today's surface mount assembly technology.

Vishay Sprague has been a pioneer and leader in this field, producing a large variety of tantalum capacitor types for consumer, industrial, automotive, military, and aerospace electronic applications.

Tantalum is not found in its pure state. Rather, it is commonly found in a number of oxide minerals, often in combination with Columbium ore. This combination is known as "tantalite" when its contents are more than one-half tantalum. Important sources of tantalite include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, and several African countries. Synthetic tantalite concentrates produced from tin slags in Thailand, Malaysia, and Brazil are also a significant raw material for tantalum production.

Electronic applications, and particularly capacitors, consume the largest share of world tantalum production. Other important applications for tantalum include cutting tools (tantalum carbide), high temperature super alloys, chemical processing equipment, medical implants, and military ordnance.

Vishay Sprague is a major user of tantalum materials in the form of powder and wire for capacitor elements and rod and sheet for high temperature vacuum processing.

## THE BASICS OF TANTALUM CAPACITORS

Most metals form crystalline oxides which are non-protecting, such as rust on iron or black oxide on copper. A few metals form dense, stable, tightly adhering, electrically insulating oxides. These are the so-called "valve"metals and include titanium, zirconium, niobium, tantalum, hafnium, and aluminum. Only a few of these permit the accurate control of oxide thickness by electrochemical means. Of these, the most valuable for the electronics industry are aluminum and tantalum.

Capacitors are basic to all kinds of electrical equipment, from radios and television sets to missile controls and automobile ignitions. Their function is to store an electrical charge for later use.

Capacitors consist of two conducting surfaces, usually metal plates, whose function is to conduct electricity. They are separated by an insulating material or dielectric. The dielectric used in all tantalum electrolytic capacitors is tantalum pentoxide.

Tantalum pentoxide compound possesses high-dielectric strength and a high-dielectric constant. As capacitors are being manufactured, a film of tantalum pentoxide is applied to their electrodes by means of an electrolytic process. The film is applied in various thicknesses and at various voltages and although transparent to begin with, it takes on different colors as light refracts through it. This coloring occurs on the tantalum electrodes of all types of tantalum capacitors.

Rating for rating, tantalum capacitors tend to have as much as three times better capacitance / volume efficiency than aluminum electrolytic capacitors. An approximation of the capacitance / volume efficiency of other types of capacitors may be inferred from the following table, which shows the dielectric constant ranges of the various materials used in each type. Note that tantalum pentoxide has a dielectric constant of 26, some three times greater than that of aluminum oxide. This, in addition to the fact that extremely thin films can be deposited during the electrolytic process mentioned earlier, makes the tantalum capacitor extremely efficient with respect to the number of microfarads available per unit volume. The capacitance of any capacitor is determined by the surface area of the two conducting plates, the distance between the plates, and the dielectric constant of the insulating material between the plates.

### COMPARISON OF CAPACITOR DIELECTRIC CONSTANTS

DIELECTRIC	$\epsilon$ DIELECTRIC CONSTANT
Air or vacuum	1.0
Paper	2.0 to 6.0
Plastic	2.1 to 6.0
Mineral oil	2.2 to 2.3
Silicone oil	2.7 to 2.8
Quartz	3.8 to 4.4
Glass	4.8 to 8.0
Porcelain	5.1 to 5.9
Mica	5.4 to 8.7
Aluminum oxide	8.4
<b>Tantalum pentoxide</b>	<b>26</b>
Ceramic	12 to 400K

In the tantalum electrolytic capacitor, the distance between the plates is very small since it is only the thickness of the tantalum pentoxide film. As the dielectric constant of the tantalum pentoxide is high, the capacitance of a tantalum capacitor is high if the area of the plates is large:

$$C = \frac{\epsilon A}{t}$$

where

C = capacitance

$\epsilon$  = dielectric constant

A = surface area of the dielectric

t = thickness of the dielectric

Tantalum capacitors contain either liquid or solid electrolytes. In solid electrolyte capacitors, a dry material (manganese dioxide) forms the cathode plate. A tantalum lead is embedded in or welded to the pellet, which is in turn connected to a termination or lead wire. The drawings show the construction details of the surface mount types of tantalum capacitors shown in this catalog.



### SOLID ELECTROLYTE TANTALUM CAPACITORS

Solid electrolyte capacitors contain manganese dioxide, which is formed on the tantalum pentoxide dielectric layer by impregnating the pellet with a solution of manganous nitrate. The pellet is then heated in an oven, and the manganous nitrate is converted to manganese dioxide.

The pellet is next coated with graphite, followed by a layer of metallic silver, which provides a conductive surface between the pellet and the leadframe.

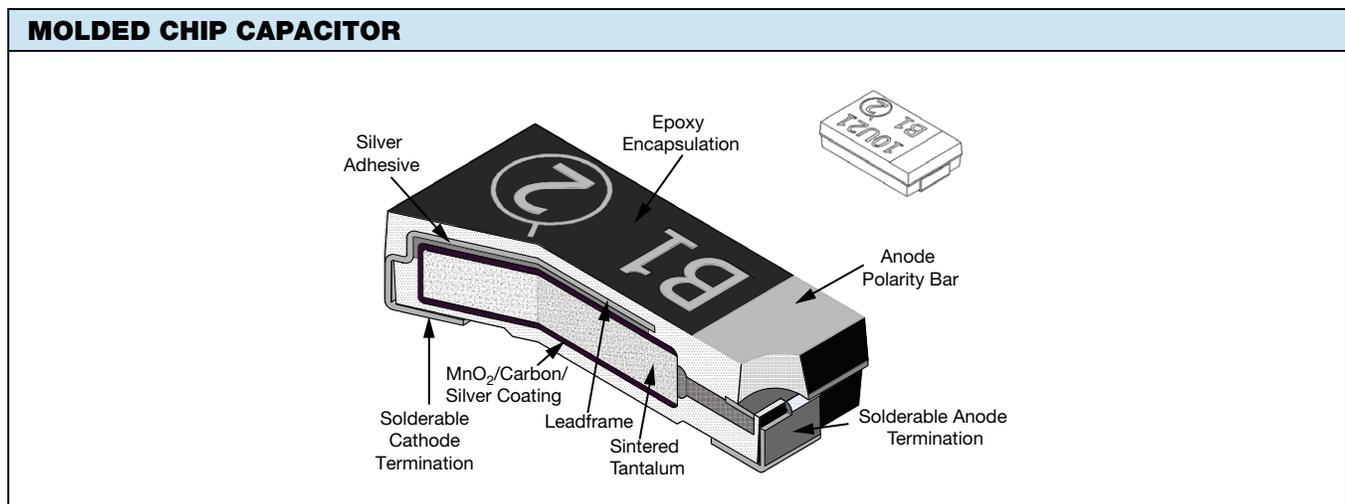
Molded Chip tantalum capacitor encases the element in plastic resins, such as epoxy materials. After assembly, the capacitors are tested and inspected to assure long life and reliability. It offers excellent reliability and high stability for consumer and commercial electronics with the added feature of low cost

Surface mount designs of "Solid Tantalum" capacitors use lead frames or lead frameless designs as shown in the accompanying drawings.

### TANTALUM CAPACITORS FOR ALL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Solid electrolyte designs are the least expensive for a given rating and are used in many applications where their very small size for a given unit of capacitance is of importance. They will typically withstand up to about 10 % of the rated DC working voltage in a reverse direction. Also important are their good low temperature performance characteristics and freedom from corrosive electrolytes.

Vishay Sprague patented the original solid electrolyte capacitors and was the first to market them in 1956. Vishay Sprague has the broadest line of tantalum capacitors and has continued its position of leadership in this field. Data sheets covering the various types and styles of Vishay Sprague capacitors for consumer and entertainment electronics, industry, and military applications are available where detailed performance characteristics must be specified.





COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

SOLID TANTALUM CAPACITORS - MOLDED CASE						
SERIES	293D	793DX-CTC3-CTC4	593D	TR3	TP3	TL3
PRODUCT IMAGE						
TYPE	Surface mount TANTAMOUNT™, molded case					
FEATURES	Standard industrial grade	CECC approved	Low ESR	Low ESR	High performance, automotive grade	Very low DCL
TEMPERATURE RANGE	-55 °C to +125 °C					
CAPACITANCE RANGE	0.1 µF to 1000 µF	0.1 µF to 100 µF	1 µF to 470 µF	0.47 µF to 1000 µF	0.1 µF to 470 µF	0.1 µF to 470 µF
VOLTAGE RANGE	4 V to 75 V	4 V to 50 V	4 V to 50 V	4 V to 75 V	4 V to 50 V	4 V to 50 V
CAPACITANCE TOLERANCE	± 10 %, ± 20 %					
LEAKAGE CURRENT	0.01 CV or 0.5 µA, whichever is greater					0.005 CV or 0.25 µA, whichever is greater
DISSIPATION FACTOR	4 % to 30 %	4 % to 6 %	4 % to 15 %	4 % to 30 %	4 % to 15 %	4 % to 15 %
CASE CODES	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C, D	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C, D, E, W	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C, D, E
TERMINATION	100 % matte tin standard, tin / lead available					

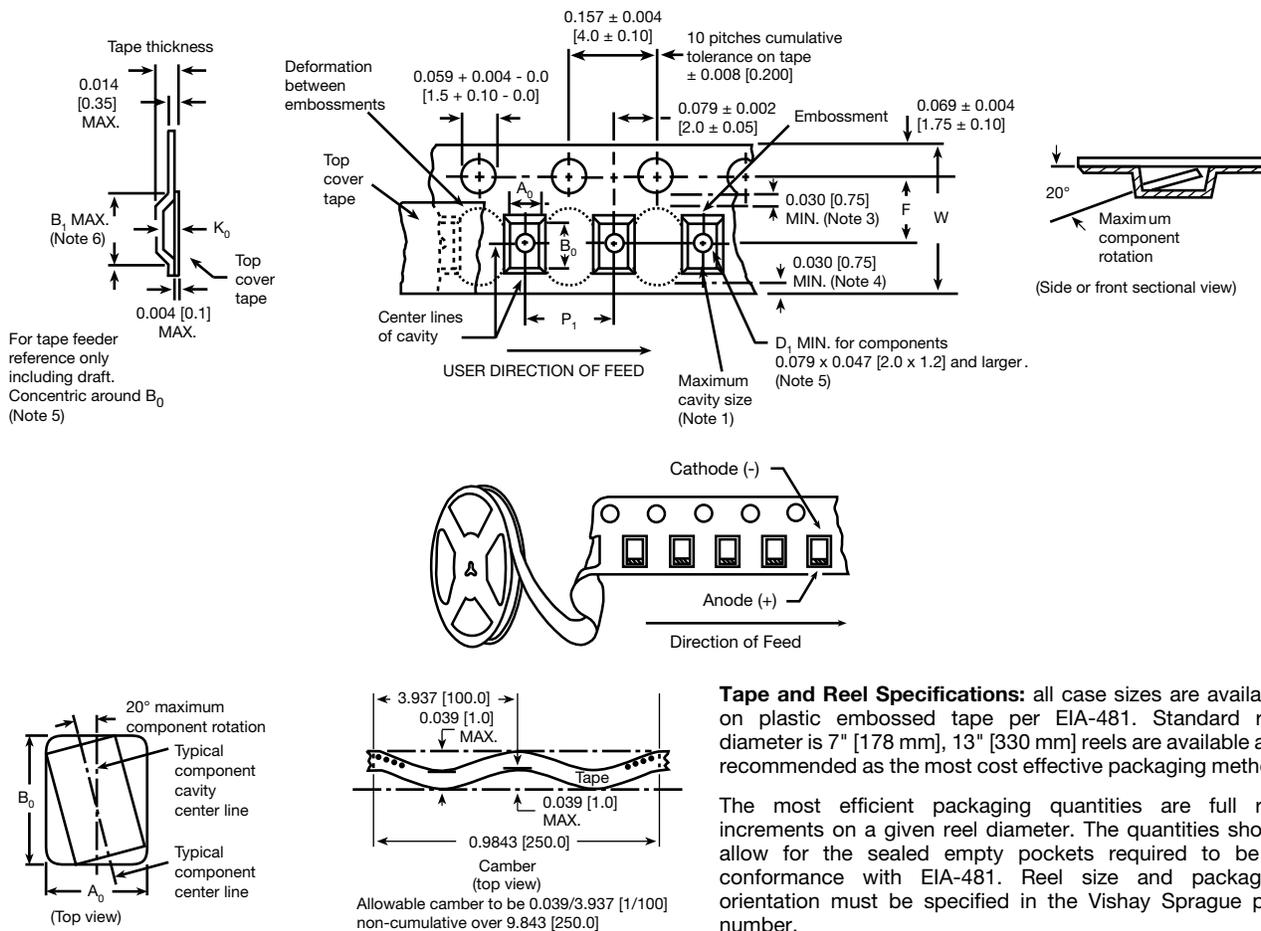
SOLID TANTALUM CAPACITORS - MOLDED CASE			
SERIES	TH3	TH4	TH5
PRODUCT IMAGE			
TYPE	Surface mount TANTAMOUNT™, molded case		
FEATURES	High temperature +150 °C, automotive grade	High temperature +175 °C, automotive grade	Very high temperature +200 °C
TEMPERATURE RANGE	-55 °C to +150 °C	-55 °C to +175 °C	-55 °C to +200 °C
CAPACITANCE RANGE	0.33 µF to 220 µF	10 µF to 100 µF	4.7 µF to 100 µF
VOLTAGE RANGE	6.3 V to 50 V	6.3 V to 35 V	5 V to 24 V
CAPACITANCE TOLERANCE	± 10 %, ± 20 %		
LEAKAGE CURRENT	0.01 CV or 0.5 µA, whichever is greater		
DISSIPATION FACTOR	4 % to 8 %	4.5 % to 8 %	6 % to 10 %
CASE CODES	A, B, C, D, E	B, C, D, E	D, E
TERMINATION	100 % matte tin standard, tin / lead and gold plated available	100 % matte tin	Gold plated



**HIGH RELIABILITY PRODUCTS**

<b>SOLID TANTALUM CAPACITORS - MOLDED CASE</b>				
SERIES	TM3	T83	CWR11	95158
PRODUCT IMAGE				
TYPE	TANTAMOUNT™, molded case, hi-rel.	TANTAMOUNT™, molded case, hi-rel. COTS	TANTAMOUNT™, molded case, DLA approved	
FEATURES	High reliability, for medical Instruments	High reliability, standard and low ESR	MIL-PRF-55365/8 qualified	Low ESR
TEMPERATURE RANGE	-55 °C to +125 °C			
CAPACITANCE RANGE	1 µF to 220 µF	0.1 µF to 470 µF	0.1 µF to 100 µF	4.7 µF to 220 µF
VOLTAGE RANGE	4 V to 20 V	4 V to 63 V	4 V to 50 V	
CAPACITANCE TOLERANCE	± 10 %, ± 20 %		± 5 %, ± 10 %, ± 20 %	± 10 %, ± 20 %
LEAKAGE CURRENT	0.005 CV or 0.25 µA, whichever is greater	0.01 CV or 0.5 µA, whichever is greater		
DISSIPATION FACTOR	4 % to 8 %	4 % to 15 %	4 % to 6 %	4 % to 12 %
CASE CODES	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C, D, E	A, B, C, D	C, D, E
TERMINATION	100 % matte tin; tin / lead	100 % matte tin; tin / lead; tin / lead solder fused	Tin / lead; tin / lead solder fused	Tin / lead solder plated; gold plated

### PLASTIC TAPE AND REEL PACKAGING in inches [millimeters]



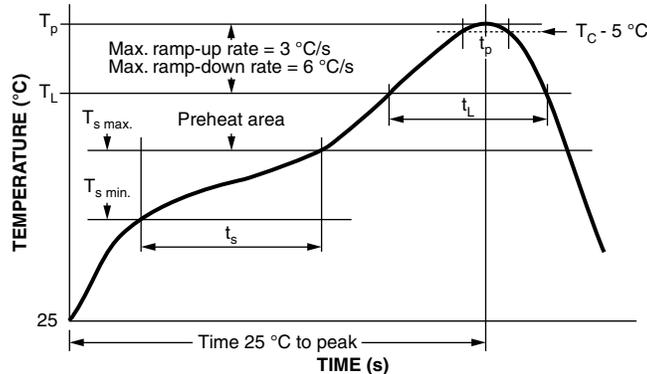
#### Notes

- Metric dimensions will govern. Dimensions in inches are rounded and for reference only.
- (1) A<sub>0</sub>, B<sub>0</sub>, K<sub>0</sub>, are determined by the maximum dimensions to the ends of the terminals extending from the component body and / or the body dimensions of the component. The clearance between the ends of the terminals or body of the component to the sides and depth of the cavity (A<sub>0</sub>, B<sub>0</sub>, K<sub>0</sub>) must be within 0.002" (0.05 mm) minimum and 0.020" (0.50 mm) maximum. The clearance allowed must also prevent rotation of the component within the cavity of not more than 20°.
- (2) Tape with components shall pass around radius "R" without damage. The minimum trailer length may require additional length to provide "R" minimum for 12 mm embossed tape for reels with hub diameters approaching N minimum.
- (3) This dimension is the flat area from the edge of the sprocket hole to either outward deformation of the carrier tape between the embossed cavities or to the edge of the cavity whichever is less.
- (4) This dimension is the flat area from the edge of the carrier tape opposite the sprocket holes to either the outward deformation of the carrier tape between the embossed cavity or to the edge of the cavity whichever is less.
- (5) The embossed hole location shall be measured from the sprocket hole controlling the location of the embossement. Dimensions of embossement location shall be applied independent of each other.
- (6) B<sub>1</sub> dimension is a reference dimension tape feeder clearance only.

CASE CODE	TAPE SIZE	B <sub>1</sub> (MAX.)	D <sub>1</sub> (MIN.)	F	K <sub>0</sub> (MAX.)	P <sub>1</sub>	W
<b>MOLDED CHIP CAPACITORS; ALL TYPES</b>							
A	8 mm	0.165 [4.2]	0.039 [1.0]	0.138 ± 0.002 [3.5 ± 0.05]	0.094 [2.4]	0.157 ± 0.004 [4.0 ± 1.0]	0.315 ± 0.012 [8.0 ± 0.30]
B							
C	12 mm	0.32 [8.2]	0.059 [1.5]	0.217 ± 0.00 [5.5 ± 0.05]	0.177 [4.5]	0.315 ± 0.004 [8.0 ± 1.0]	0.472 ± 0.012 [12.0 ± 0.30]
D							
E							
W							

**RECOMMENDED REFLOW PROFILES**

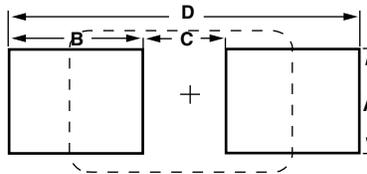
Capacitors should withstand reflow profile as per J-STD-020 standard, three cycles.



PROFILE FEATURE	SnPb EUTECTIC ASSEMBLY	LEAD (Pb)-FREE ASSEMBLY
<b>Preheat / soak</b>		
Temperature min. ( $T_{s \text{ min.}}$ )	100 °C	150 °C
Temperature max. ( $T_{s \text{ max.}}$ )	150 °C	200 °C
Time ( $t_s$ ) from ( $T_{s \text{ min.}}$ to $T_{s \text{ max.}}$ )	60 s to 120 s	60 s to 120 s
<b>Ramp-up</b>		
Ramp-up rate ( $T_L$ to $T_p$ )	3 °C/s max.	3 °C/s max.
Liquidus temperature ( $T_L$ )	183 °C	217 °C
Time ( $t_L$ ) maintained above $T_L$	60 s to 150 s	60 s to 150 s
Peak package body temperature ( $T_p$ )	Depends on case size - see table below	
Time ( $t_p$ ) within 5 °C of the specified classification temperature ( $T_c$ )	20 s	30 s
Time 25 °C to peak temperature	6 min max.	8 min max.
<b>Ramp-down</b>		
Ramp-down rate ( $T_p$ to $T_L$ )	6 °C/s max.	6 °C/s max.

**PEAK PACKAGE BODY TEMPERATURE ( $T_p$ )**

CASE CODE	PEAK PACKAGE BODY TEMPERATURE ( $T_p$ )	
	SnPb EUTECTIC PROCESS	LEAD (Pb)-FREE PROCESS
A, B, C	235 °C	260 °C
D, E, W	220 °C	250 °C

**PAD DIMENSIONS** in inches [millimeters]


CASE CODE	A (MIN.)	B (NOM.)	C (NOM.)	D (NOM.)
<b>MOLDED CHIP CAPACITORS, ALL TYPES</b>				
A	0.071 [1.80]	0.067 [1.70]	0.053 [1.35]	0.187 [4.75]
B	0.118 [3.00]	0.071 [1.80]	0.065 [1.65]	0.207 [5.25]
C	0.118 [3.00]	0.094 [2.40]	0.118 [3.00]	0.307 [7.80]
D	0.157 [4.00]	0.098 [2.50]	0.150 [3.80]	0.346 [8.80]
E	0.157 [4.00]	0.098 [2.50]	0.150 [3.80]	0.346 [8.80]
W	0.185 [4.70]	0.098 [2.50]	0.150 [3.80]	0.346 [8.80]



### GUIDE TO APPLICATION

- AC Ripple Current:** the maximum allowable ripple current shall be determined from the formula:

$$I_{RMS} = \sqrt{\frac{P}{R_{ESR}}}$$

where,

P = power dissipation in W at +25 °C as given in the tables in the product datasheets (Power Dissipation).

R<sub>ESR</sub> = the capacitor equivalent series resistance at the specified frequency

- AC Ripple Voltage:** the maximum allowable ripple voltage shall be determined from the formula:

$$V_{RMS} = I_{RMS} \times Z$$

or, from the formula:

$$V_{RMS} = Z \sqrt{\frac{P}{R_{ESR}}}$$

where,

P = power dissipation in W at +25 °C as given in the tables in the product datasheets (Power Dissipation).

R<sub>ESR</sub> = the capacitor equivalent series resistance at the specified frequency

Z = the capacitor impedance at the specified frequency

- The sum of the peak AC voltage plus the applied DC voltage shall not exceed the DC voltage rating of the capacitor.
- The sum of the negative peak AC voltage plus the applied DC voltage shall not allow a voltage reversal exceeding 10 % of the DC working voltage at +25 °C.
- Reverse Voltage:** solid tantalum capacitors are not intended for use with reverse voltage applied. However, they have been shown to be capable of withstanding momentary reverse voltage peaks of up to 10 % of the DC rating at 25 °C and 5 % of the DC rating at +85 °C.
- Temperature Derating:** if these capacitors are to be operated at temperatures above +25 °C, the permissible RMS ripple current shall be calculated using the derating factors as shown:

TEMPERATURE (°C)	DERATING FACTOR
+25	1.0
+85	0.9
+125	0.4
+150 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.3
+175 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.2
+200 <sup>(1)</sup>	0.1

**Note**

<sup>(1)</sup>Applicable for dedicated high temperature product series

- Power Dissipation:** power dissipation will be affected by the heat sinking capability of the mounting surface. Non-sinusoidal ripple current may produce heating effects which differ from those shown. It is important that the equivalent I<sub>RMS</sub> value

be established when calculating permissible operating levels. (Power dissipation calculated using +25 °C temperature rise).

- Printed Circuit Board Materials:** molded capacitors are compatible with commonly used printed circuit board materials (alumina substrates, FR4, FR5, G10, PTFE-fluorocarbon and porcelainized steel).
- Attachment:**
  - Solder Paste:** the recommended thickness of the solder paste after application is 0.007" ± 0.001" [0.178 mm ± 0.025 mm]. Care should be exercised in selecting the solder paste. The metal purity should be as high as practical. The flux (in the paste) must be active enough to remove the oxides formed on the metallization prior to the exposure to soldering heat. In practice this can be aided by extending the solder preheat time at temperatures below the liquidous state of the solder.
  - Soldering:** capacitors can be attached by conventional soldering techniques; vapor phase, convection reflow, infrared reflow, wave soldering, and hot plate methods. The soldering profile charts show recommended time / temperature conditions for soldering. Preheating is recommended. The recommended maximum ramp rate is 2 °C per s. Attachment with a soldering iron is not recommended due to the difficulty of controlling temperature and time at temperature. The soldering iron must never come in contact with the capacitor.
    - Backward and Forward Compatibility:** capacitors with SnPb or 100 % tin termination finishes can be soldered using SnPb or lead (Pb)-free soldering processes.
- Cleaning (Flux Removal) After Soldering:** molded capacitors are compatible with all commonly used solvents such as TES, TMS, Prelete, Chloroethane, Terpene and aqueous cleaning media. However, CFC / ODS products are not used in the production of these devices and are not recommended. Solvents containing methylene chloride or other epoxy solvents should be avoided since these will attack the epoxy encapsulation material.
  - When using ultrasonic cleaning, the board may resonate if the output power is too high. This vibration can cause cracking or a decrease in the adherence of the termination. DO NOT EXCEED 9W/l at 40 kHz for 2 min.
- Recommended Mounting Pad Geometries:** proper mounting pad geometries are essential for successful solder connections. These dimensions are highly process sensitive and should be designed to minimize component rework due to unacceptable solder joints. The dimensional configurations shown are the recommended pad geometries for both wave and reflow soldering techniques. These dimensions are intended to be a starting point for circuit board designers and may be fine tuned if necessary based upon the peculiarities of the soldering process and / or circuit board design.