

Technical Bulletin

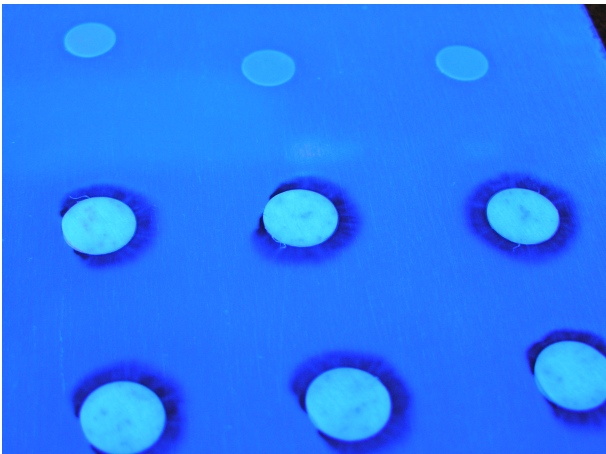
Conformal Coating Masking Methods

When masking for conformal coating there are several options to consider including conformal coating masking tapes, dots, liquid latex and reusable boots. In this first of two bulletins conformal coating masking dots and tapes are discussed.

Conformal Coating Masking tapes and dots

Tapes and dots come in various forms and can be made of many materials. However, in conformal coating there are several considerations when selecting the right type:

1. Silicone free tapes and dots – Conformal coating and silicone are a very bad combination. Generally, the silicone causes problems such as de-wetting that in turn leads to poor finish and rework.

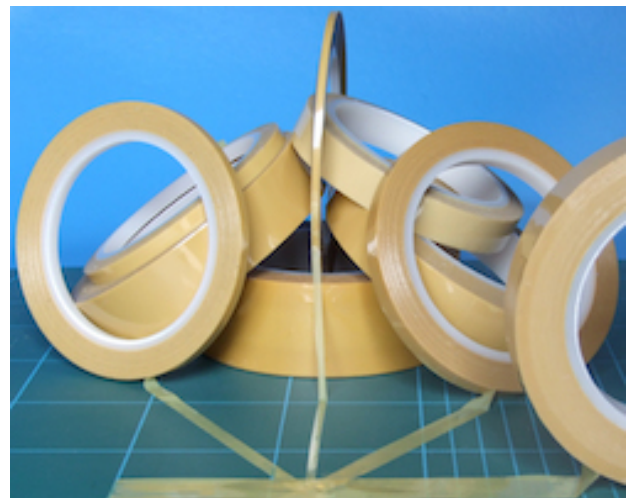


Conformal coating masking dots – silicone is present in the bottom two rows only.

2. Adhesion time – most tapes and dots have a time limit on how long they stay stuck as the glue dries. If the dot peels off and the PCB is conformal coated then a repair will be required to remove the conformal coating from problem areas.

3. Residue from the masking tape – many tapes and dots leave residues on the PCB after removal that can be cosmetically unattractive and potentially harmful for long-term reliability.

4. "Solvent proof" – many tapes and dots can allow transmission of conformal coating through the material, can react with the solvent and the glue can delaminate or can just melt!



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 - Conformal coating application equipment
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 - Training, consultation & troubleshooting
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