Coax Probe Installation

Smiths Coaxial Probes are used widely in testing environments. Coaxial probes do not follow the typical probe and receptacle methods used with standard Board Test Probes.

Smiths offers single ended and double-ended probes, wired probes without termination, probes with SMA and SMB connectors attached. Some come with mounting flanges, some are straight without flanges.

Installation of coaxial probes can be addressed several ways:

Mechanical Install: Use the flange to fixture the probe between two plates. The top and bottom plated should be drilled to clear the smaller diameters and use the flange to secure the probe. Plates can also be counter-bored to allow the flange to seat in one of the plates. Note that this method may be impractical/impossible with pre-attached connectors that are larger than the coaxial probe. This is the best method where service-removable probes is desired.

Press Fit: Using the flange or other outer diameters, coaxial probes can be press fit into test fixtures. In this case, consider good control over drilled-hole diameter tolerances and specific press tooling. Note that collapsing any diameter of the probe could impede the spring from actuating. Smiths does not have press fit diameters to offer and leaves that to the discretion of the customer.

Solder: If installing to a plated or similar surface, soldering can be a good install method particularly if to a PCB where the fixture/PCB eliminates a need for wiring. Suggest using low temp solder minimize the heat on the probe since excessive heat to the spring can cause it to anneal and prematurely fail.

Epoxy: By drilling the mounting holes to clearance for epoxy application, this can be a simple method of installation. This method makes servicing the probes more difficult, but is the quickest to implement.

Contact us thru www.smithsinterconnect.com for questions and help.

All of our catalogued Board Test Products are available at:
www.mouser.com
www.alliedelc.com

Regards,

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