REDCUBE Terminals for high current applications
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Characteristics & Product overview
RED CUBE Terminals are the most reliable high-power contacts on PCB level. The current rating of RED CUBE PRESS-FIT is impressive. With the same ampacity, the components have the lowest heat development compared to other parts that supply power for PCBs.

Pressing the pins into the PCB, a high friction between pin and plated through-hole generates a homogenous cold-welding between the pin and the copper plated via in the PCB. This results in a gastight, strong mechanical connection with contact resistance less than 200 µOhm. No other technology transmits currents up to 500 A with such low self-heating.

The via for a press-fit system is essentially made in the same way as the holes for accepting components for THT soldering. Thus there are no changes required in the manufacture of printed circuit boards.

With regard to long-term reliability, RED CUBE PRESS-FIT is an improvement since it has the lowest FIT value (Failure in Time) of the overall system. It is up to 30 times better than the FIT value of an SMT solder joint. A single solid press pin has a typical extraction force of 100 N for 1.6 mm PCB. So a small component with 8 pins could withstand a weight load of an average person without extraction out of the PCB. Therefore RED CUBE PRESS-FIT Terminals are perfect to provide not only electrical but also mechanical connection solutions for electrical components.

If after press-fit process a solid press pin in a 2.4 mm thick printed circuit board fits on each corner with more than 3° against the sleeve, the press connection zone has a lower electrical resistance than the brass pin itself and thus does not pose an electrical or thermal bottleneck. The connection surface angle is normally much greater, which provides a generous safety buffer for the electrical connection.
Press-Fit Technology

Advantages of REDCUBE PRESS-FIT

- Very high ampacity
- Ideally suited for continuous and peak currents
- Extremely high environmental stability
- Suitable for rough environmental conditions
- Low-resistance connection (<200 µOhm)
- No cold solder joints
- Double sided mounting
- Space saving design

Press-fit technology provides a number of advantages in comparison to solder technology. Very thick circuit boards with high copper plating can be processed easily. Furthermore, two-sided mounting of circuit boards is possible without any problems which usually enable a very compact design of modules. As a result, current paths in particular are shortened which is thermally very beneficial for the processing of high currents.

There is reliable contact between pin and copper layer over the complete case length of a press-fit zone. It is not guaranteed for soldering that the solder rises the complete length of the via whereby many higher transition resistances are produced. Therefore, long-term reliability and mechanical stability are also not as high as with REDCUBE PRESS-FIT.

The processing of REDCUBE PRESS-FIT Terminals integrates seamlessly in the production process of the systems and is thus very cost-effective. In contrast to soldering the circuit board are not loaded thermally while press-fit process.
Technical Information

Materials and tolerances

**REDCUBE PRESS-FIT** from Würth Elektronik are manufactured from the material CuZn39Pb3 and are therefore RoHS-compliant according to the RoHS stipulation concerning copper alloys.

The circuit board thickness should ideally be between 1.6 and 3.2 mm. Tested surfaces are chemical tin, HAL and ENIG. The immersion tin coating process is recommended. Using this process usually guarantees that the tin is evenly distributed in the case whereby the tolerances can be complied with more easily and thus chip formation can be prevented. Due to the uneven distribution of the tin in the case for the HAL process, we recommend the immersion tin process for circuit board thickness of 2.4 mm and greater. ENIG can be used but not recommended for Press-Fit technology.

Unless otherwise noted in the corresponding drawing, Würth Elektronik REDCUBE PRESS-FIT have quadratically designed press-fit pins. The through-hole plating in the PCB must therefore have the following characteristics:

![Specification for chemical surfaces](image1)

![Specification for Hot-Air-Levelling](image2)

Current load

With REDCUBE PRESS-FIT Terminals from Würth Elektronik, currents of more than 500 A can be carried on the circuit board. The current-carrying capacity of REDCUBE PRESS-FIT must always be considered in the context of the complete system. Many factors such as conductor path thickness, conductor path width, cable cross section, ambient temperature and heat distribution should be taken into account for the selection of the individual REDCUBE PRESS-FIT.

In comparison with a solder connection \((R = 300 \text{ to } 400 \ \mu\text{Ohm})\), the press-fit zone itself with 100 to 200 \(\mu\text{Ohm}\) has extremely low resistance so that the limiting factor can usually be found in the layout of the connected conductor paths or the connection of external feed lines to a press-fitted component.

The challenge in designing high current applications lies in the optimal interaction of all components of the system!
Applications

REDCUBE PRESS-FIT have a very wide range of possible applications: They are used very frequently in the connection of wiring with cable lugs on circuit boards.

The mounting of a copper rail for increasing the current-carrying capacity is also possible by using REDCUBE PRESS-FIT. In doing so, the copper rail can be installed in two different ways: on the one hand, it can be press-fitted under the circuit board and on the other hand, it can be screwed onto the REDCUBE PRESS-FIT. For the press-fit process, the maximum overall thickness of the circuit board with the copper rail must not exceed 3.2 mm.

REDCUBE PRESS-FIT is an ideal possibility for mounting laminated fuses.

Furthermore REDCUBE PRESS-FIT are ideally suited for fulfilling purely mechanical functions such as connections of circuit board and case or connecting two circuit boards with each other.

The two-part REDCUBE PRESS-FIT Board-to-Board connection realizes a very high mechanical stability with current carrying capacity up to 320 A.
Processing

REDCUBE PRESS-FIT

- The press-fit via should be spaced at least 3 mm away from the other components or the edge of the PCB.
- For Press-Fit process a manual lever press or a pneumatic press is needed. The dimension of press should be calculated according to max. press-fit forces. (“Empirical Press-Fit forces” on page 9)
- Monitoring of press-fit forces during press-fit process is suggested to ensure the quality of connection.
- The press-fit zone must be supported during the whole press-fit process. Without support, deflection of the circuit board can occur during pressing in. It must particularly be ensured for pneumatic presses that the stroke cycle is not performed unevenly but evenly.
- The stroke cycle should be performed at right angles to the circuit board. After the press-fitting, the pins should slightly protrude from the circuit board. The components should not be pressed against the board. So a separation of approx. 0.1 mm between the circuit board and pin socket is recommended.
- For two-part REDCUBE PRESS-FIT, the base element must always be pressed to the circuit board first.

Cautions for solderability

- Our REDCUBE PRESS-FIT are designed for press fit. Alternative processing methods, such as soldering, are not recommended.
- Due to the high heat absorption, press fitting of the REDCUBE PRESS-FIT should be performed last and after all soldering processes are finished.
- It is also not recommended to re-solder REDCUBE PRESS-FIT after the press-fit process. Re-soldering can result in partial destruction of the cold weld and delamination in the circuit board whereby mechanical stability of the press-fit zone can be permanently lost.
- For solderable high-current solutions we recommend our REDCUBE THR & REDCUBE SMD Terminals.
Permitted Torques

**RED CUBE** PRESS-FIT provide wide area connection and carrying of high currents in circuit boards. To prevent mechanical destruction of the **RED CUBE** PRESS-FIT the maximum permissible torques must be complied with! Due to the material, these differ significantly from standard fastening materials (steel) used.

**Mechanical characteristics (guide values):**

- Material: CuZn39Pb3
- Shear strength: 350 N/mm²
- Tensile strength: 480 N/mm²
- Yield strength: 340 N/mm²
- Elongation: 20%
- E-modulus: 96 kN/mm²
- Torsional modulus: 32 kN/mm² (shear modulus)

**Table for RED CUBE PRESS-FIT / Shank / Full Plain Pin-Plate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thread dimension (metric)</th>
<th>M3</th>
<th>M4</th>
<th>M5</th>
<th>M6</th>
<th>M8</th>
<th>M10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. tightening torque [Nm] *</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking torque [Nm] **</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking torque pins [Nm] ***</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on DIN EN 20898 T7 Part 25 (tightening torques); values for brass material (MS 63)

** Determined values (torques). For these mechanical loads, destruction of the threaded shank occurs. The components must never be loaded up to these values.

*** Determined values (torques). For these mechanical loads, destruction of the press-fit pins occurs (approx. 1 Nm/pin). The components must never be loaded with these values.

The maximum permissible torque changes greatly with the material composition (alloy parts). Safety margins must also be taken into account for practical use.

For this reason, **RED CUBE** PRESS-FIT are only permitted to be loaded with the tightening torque values for brass material - (according to row 2 / table)!
Characteristics

**REDCUBE PRESS-FIT**

- Material: Brass
- Surface: Tin plated
- Holding forces according to IEC 352-5
- Press-in force*: min. 40 N per pin
- Extraction force: min. 30 N per pin
- PCB thickness: 1.6 - 3.2 mm
- Force-fitting speed: 100 - 250 mm/min

**Empirical Press-Fit forces:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCB Thickness in mm</th>
<th>chemical Tin</th>
<th>ENIG</th>
<th>HAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ø1.425 mm</td>
<td>Ø1.475 mm</td>
<td>Ø1.525 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>120-220</td>
<td>80-160</td>
<td>40-130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>170-330</td>
<td>110-240</td>
<td>60-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>220-460</td>
<td>140-340</td>
<td>80-280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Empirical Press-Fit forces in "N/per pin" for the massive pin

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**Derating Measurement for REDCUBE PRESS-FIT**

![Derating Measurement](image)

*tested with 4-layers 105µm Cu PCB
Product Preview

The quick and easy pluggable solution REDCUBE PLUG offers all Press-Fit advantages; it is a multiple times pluggable solution for high-current applications up to 120 A.

REDCUBE PLUG consists of a REDCUBE PRESS-FIT high-current contact, surrounded by a glass fiber-reinforced plastic housing. Pushing on the top of the housing allows mating the corresponding cable connector. After actuating the spring returns to its initial position and locks the cable connector automatically into the housing.

REDCUBE Direct PLUG Terminal
• Insulator Material: PBT
• Contact Material: Copper alloy
• Contact Plating: Tin

Cable Connector for REDCUBE PLUG
• Material: Copper alloy
• Surface: Tin-plated
• Cross-sections: 4 – 16 mm²

Applications
• High current and reversible Wire-to-Board connections
• Battery charger
• Multiple times pluggable solutions
• Tool-free assembly
• Mounting areas with difficult access

Processing
The press-fit process of REDCUBE PLUG is similar to REDCUBE Press-Fit. Therefore, no additional tools are necessary. A general hexagonal crimper is used to install the contact on to the wire. This simple lug like crimp set the bond in place. The cable connector for the REDCUBE PLUG is available in four different cross sections. A special posttreatment technology and a specific plating of the cable connector guarantee optimal crimping results.

➢ All articles listed may be found online at http://www.we-online.de/redcube.
Product Preview

Derating REDCUBE PLUG

![Derating REDCUBE PLUG Graph](image)
Reliability Test

The reliability of REDCUBE PRESS-FIT Terminals is often proved in different qualification programs, tests and in field.

Press-fit requirements according to:

- IEC60352-5 Solderless connections - Part 5: Press-in connections - General requirements, test methods and practical guidance

Environmental tests according to:

- IEC 60068-2-14: Environmental testing - Part 2-14: Tests - Test N: Change of temperature,
  - Thermal Shock, -55°C/+150°C, 1000h
  - Moisture Resistance, 65±2 °C, 95%RH, 500h

Mechanical tests according to:

- IEC 60068-2-6 Environmental testing - Part 2-6: Tests - Test Fc: Vibration (sinusoidal)
  - Vibration, 15g’s for 20 minutes, 10 Hz to 1500 Hz, 12 cycles per axis

Electrical tests according to:

- IEC 60512-2-1 Connectors for electronic equipment - Tests and measurements - Part 2-1: Electrical continuity and contact resistance tests; Test 2a: Contact resistance; Millivolt level method
- IEC 60512-2-5 Connectors for electronic equipment - Tests and measurements - Part 5-2: Current-carrying capacity tests; Test 5b: Current-temperature derating

- REDCUBE PRESS-FIT show extremely high environmental stability
- Requirements of the relevant standards are greatly exceeded
## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REDCUBE TERMINALS</th>
<th>THREAD SIZE / DIAMETER</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>CONNECTION TO REDCUBE</th>
<th>PACKAGING</th>
<th>CURRENT UP TO (<em>°C</em>)</th>
<th>OPERATING TEMPERATURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M2.5 – M10</td>
<td>Internal Thread</td>
<td>Screwable Connection</td>
<td>Bulk</td>
<td>500A</td>
<td>-55°C to +150°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 – M10</td>
<td>External Thread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3 – M10</td>
<td>Φ3.2 – Φ6.2</td>
<td>Right Angled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 – M10</td>
<td>Φ6.2 – Φ10.5</td>
<td>Two Part</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cable Cross Section: 4mm² – 16mm²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REDCUBE PLUG</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pluggable Connection</td>
<td>Bulk</td>
<td>120A</td>
<td>-45°C to +125°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 – M5</td>
<td>Internal Thread</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3 – M4</td>
<td>External Thread</td>
<td>Screwable Connection</td>
<td>Bulk, Tape &amp; Peel</td>
<td>70A</td>
<td>-55°C to +150°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 – M3</td>
<td>Φ3.3</td>
<td>Right Angled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REDCUBE SMD</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3 – M5</td>
<td>Internal Thread</td>
<td>Screwable Connection</td>
<td>Bulk, Tape &amp; Peel</td>
<td>55A</td>
<td>-55°C to +150°C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M3 – M5</td>
<td>External Thread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Operating current is defined by the PCB, cross section of the cable and cable lug. Suggested cable cross section according to VDE 0100.
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