ZIF CONTACTS
SELECTION AND DESIGN OF THE INTERFACE AT RIGID.FLEX
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WURTH ELEKTRONIK MORE THAN YOU EXPECT
AGENDA

ZIF contacts - selection and design of the interface at RIGID.flex

1. ZIF-interface
   ▪ Applications and advantages

2. ZIF-connector types
   ▪ Types

3. ZIF-contacts
   ▪ Similarities
   ▪ Laser cutting
   ▪ Differences
   ▪ stackups
   ▪ surfaces

4. ZIF-interface
   ▪ Application conditions
   ▪ Tips und tricks
   ▪ summary
ZIF-INTERFACE

Applications and advantages

- Detachable and cost-effective connection solution
- Modular system structure
- Low construction heights
- Connection via ribbon cable (FFC)
- Customized Flex / Rigid-Flex Printed Circuit Board (FPC)

ZIF INTERFACE =

ZIF-connector + FPC ZIF-contact
**ZIF-CONNECTOR TYPES**

**Examples**

**ZIF-types**
- BACKLOCK
- FRONTLOCK
- FLIPLOCK
- NON-ZIF (LIF)
- ...

**Options**
- number of contacts
- pitch of the contacts
- Surface
- Case height
- "HIGH SPEED"
- Locking
- Contacting above and/or below
- Area of application
- 1/2 – row contacts
- Standing / Lying
- ...

**Examples**

- source: WE
- source: Hirose
- source: JST
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Similarities

- Small contour tolerances
- Small tolerances contacts to the contour
- Small radii at the interlocks

Consequences for production

- Tolerances and radii not possible via milling process
- Contour processing generally by laser cutting
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Laser cutting

Lasercutting of the ZIF-contact and flex area
- Registration of the laser via the conductive pattern
- Connection via laser micro bridges in the delivery panels
- "simpler" depaneling
- Delivery panel more stable (FR4 remains unglued under the flexarea)
- Optimized delivery panel design with smaller distances
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Differences

Thickness tolerance
- Standard tolerance +/- 0.05mm
- Advanced requirements +/- 0.03mm
- Smaller tolerances for PCB production not possible
  - FFC tolerance 0.29-0.34mm not produceable

Consequences for production
- Standard: FR4 stiffener via depthmilling (+/- 0.05mm tolerance)
- Advanced: Polyimid stiffener (+/- 0.03mm tolerance)
### Stackups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard: FR4 - Stiffener</th>
<th>Advanced: Polyimide - Stiffener</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Recommended standard</td>
<td>▪ More effort + higher costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Via automated depth milling process</td>
<td>▪ Polyimide stiffeners must be inserted manually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Thickness tolerance +/- 0.05mm</td>
<td>▪ Thickness tolerance +/- 0.03mm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Stackups

1F-xRi stack

2F-xRi stack

xRi-2F-xRi stack

FR4 Stiffener

Polyimid Stiffener

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material description</th>
<th>ZIF Area</th>
<th>Flex area</th>
<th>Rigid area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FR4 Stiffener</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyimid Stiffener</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Cheaper alternative stackup

**xRi-2F-xRi stack**
- Switch via vias to the outer layer
- Rigid part infront of the ZIF-contact

**2F-xRi stack**
- Production “simpler” compared to an xRi-2F-xRi stack
- Layerchange in the flexarea possible
- Contacting to the reference layer is possible via microvias
### ZIF CONTACTS

**Surfaces**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immersion Ni/Au</th>
<th>Galv. Gold / Hardgold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Au thickness 0,05µm – 0,10µm</td>
<td>- Au thickness 1µm – 3µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Recommended standard surface</td>
<td>- Gold connections necessary to panel border</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The front side must be milled because lasercutting is not possible (danger of copper burrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- More effort + higher costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ZIF-INTERFACE

Application conditions

- Cheap, but not reliable connection
- No dynamic forces may act on the interface
  - No dynamic bending stress
  - No high vibration load
- The gold layer can be rubbed off through the spring contacts (mostly with NON-ZIF; LIF)
  - contacts at the transition from the ZIF housing can break
- Other plug connections are recommended for a reliable connection under vibration, dynamic bending, ...
ZIF INTERFACE

Tips und Tricks

Better Handling
- “Ears” at the stiffener area

2-row Version
- Pitch 0,30mm
- Min. isolation distances >100µm (possibly the layout can be modified)

Polyimid-Stiffener
- ZIF contacts in a row for easier handling
- Stiffener is inserted by a stripe (no single part)
ZIF interfaces are not suitable for all application conditions.

Laser cutting enables small contour tolerances and an optimized delivery panel design.

The selection of a suitable ZIF connector and the PCB stackup saves effort and costs.

We can support you with the correct selection of connectors, the circuit board structure and the design of the delivery panel.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

ZIF contacts
selection and design of the interface at RIGID.flex