

CONTAINER FOR ELECTRIC DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND RELATED ART STATEMENT

The present invention relates to a container for
5 receiving therein an electric device having at least two
leads, particularly useable as a thermoplastic resin tape-
shaped carrier container having recesses for containing
respectively electric devices such as integrated circuit
chips.

10 In the prior art, a recess of a container for
containing an electric device has a pair of projections
projecting from a bottom of the recess to restrain a
movement of the electric device in the recess.

15 OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a
container for receiving therein an electric device, by which
container the electric device is stably and correctly held
on the container.

20 According to the present invention, there is provided a
container for receiving therein an electric device including
a body in which an electric element is contained, and at
least two leads projecting from the body and connected
electrically to the electric element, comprising,

25 a recess for receiving therein the electric device,
including a top opening area for insertion of the electric
device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and
a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the
electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a
30 second direction directed from the top opening area toward
the bottom area wherein the projections of the pair have
respective support surfaces facing to each other in the
first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces
of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second
35 direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces
simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the
electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein

- 2 -

the container further comprises another pair of projections for restraining the movement of the electric device in a third direction perpendicular to the second direction and different from the first direction, wherein
5 the projections of the another pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the third direction so that the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair each of which faces to the electric device in the third
10 direction and wherein the support surfaces of the another pair are formed in such a manner that a clearance is formed between the electric device and at least one of the support surfaces of the another pair in the third direction when the movement of the electric device in the third direction is
15 limited between the support surfaces of the another pair.

In relation to the clearance, it is advantageous for preventing an excessive stress or strain of the electric device, that the support surfaces of the another pair are formed in such a manner that a clearance is formed between
20 the electric device and at least one of the support surfaces of the another pair in the third direction when the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair. A distance between the support surfaces of the another pair in
25 the third direction may decrease gradually in the second direction.

Since the distance between the support surfaces of the pair facing to each other in the first direction decreases gradually in the second direction or the support surfaces of
30 the pair facing to each other in the first direction are tapered in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device, that is, one of the support surfaces contacts the electric device while or simultaneously with that another
35 one of the support surfaces contacts the electric device, to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction, the electric device is stably and correctly held and positioned between the

tapered support surfaces of the pair without requiring an accurate dimensional control of a shape of the recess. As a matter of course, an upper distance between the support surfaces of the pair is larger than
5 a width of portions of the electric device to be contacted respectively with the support surfaces, and a lower distance between the support surfaces of the pair is smaller than the width of the portions of the electric device to be contacted respectively with the
10 support surfaces.

If the support surfaces of the pair are formed in such a manner that each of the support surfaces of the pair simultaneously contact the body of the electric device, and the support surfaces of the
15 pair are prevented from contacting the leads, an excessive stress or strain of the leads is prevented while the electric device is stably and correctly held between the support surfaces of the pair. It is preferable for preventing the excessive stress or
20 strain of the leads that the projections of the pair are formed in such a manner that the projections of the pair are prevented from contacting the leads when the electric device is prevented by the support surfaces of the pair from moving in the first direction.

25 It is preferable that the container further comprises another pair of projections for restraining the movement of the electric device in a third direction perpendicular to the second direction and

different from the first direction, and the projections of the another pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the third direction so that the movement of the electric device in the third directions is limited
5 between the support surfaces of the another pair each of which faces to the electric device in the third direction.

It is preferable for preventing the excessive stress or strain of the leads that the support surfaces of the another pair are formed in such a manner that the support surfaces
10 of the another pair are prevented from contacting the leads when one of the support surfaces of the another pair is allowed to contact the body of the electric device so that the movement of the electric device is limited in the third direction, and/or that the projections of the another pair
15 are formed in such a manner that the projections of the another pair are prevented from contacting the leads when the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair.

In another aspect, there is provided a container for
20 receiving therein an electric device including a body in which an electric element is contained, and at least two leads projecting from the body and connected electrically to the electric element, comprising,

a recess for receiving therein the electric device,
25 including a top opening area for insertion of the electric device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and

a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a second direction directed from the top opening area toward
30 the bottom area, wherein the projections of the pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces

- 5 -

simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein the projections of the pair have respective reverse surfaces being opposite to each other in the first direction and extending in the second direction as reverse surfaces relative to the support surfaces of the pair, and the projections of the pair are formed in such a manner that at least one of the reverse surfaces is prevented from contacting the leads when the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction.

In another aspect, there is provided a container for receiving therein an electric device including a body in which an electric element is contained, and at least two leads projecting from the body and connected electrically to the electric element, comprising,

a recess for receiving therein the electric device, including a top opening area for insertion of the electric device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a second direction directed from the top opening area toward the bottom area, wherein the projections of the pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein an angle between the second direction and one of the support surfaces decreases in a fourth direction from the bottom area toward the top opening area.

One of the support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction may extend substantially parallel to the depth direction while another one of the support surfaces

- 6 -

extend obliquely to the depth direction to form the tapered support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1a is an oblique projection view showing a container (element carrier tape) of the invention.

Fig. 1b is a side view showing the container.

Fig. 1c is a cross sectional view showing the
10 container.

Fig. 2a is a front view showing a recess of the container receiving therein an electric device.

Fig. 2b is a partially cross sectional view showing the electric device positioned in a first direction in the
15 container.

Fig. 2c is a partially cross sectional view showing the electric device positioned in another direction perpendicular to the first direction in the container.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As shown in Fig. 1, a container 1 used as a carrier tape for an electric device 10 such as SOP (small outline package), SSOP (shrink small outline package), TSOP (thin small outline package), TSSOP
10 (thin shrink small outline package), PLCC (plastic leaded chip carrier), QFP (quad flat package), BGA (ball grid array) or the like and made of a flexible resin has recesses (embossed areas) 2, and a flange 3. The electric device 10 includes a body 10a in which an
15 electric circuit or element (not shown) is contained and which is made of a synthetic resin, a ceramic, a metallic material or the like, and at least two metallic leads 10b projecting from the body and connected electrically to the electric circuit. The
20 recesses 2 are aligned along a longitudinal direction of the carrier tape with a constant interval and can receive therein respective electric devices. A tape-shaped cover (not shown) is adhered to the flange 3 to cover the recesses so that the electric elements are
25 prevented from being removed from the recesses, and tape feeding holes 4 are arranged along the longitudinal direction at at least one of sides of the

flanges. The recesses 2 are formed by urging pneumatically (with pressure difference by vacuuming or pressurizing air) parts of a thermoplastic resin sheet into respective cavities of a mold.

5 Each of the recesses 2 has two pair of projections 5. Inclined or tapered support surfaces 5a of the corresponding projections 5 of one of the two pairs face to each other in the longitudinal direction of the carrier tape, and the inclined or tapered
10 support surfaces 5a of the corresponding projections 5 of another one of the two pairs face to each other in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the carrier tape.

 In each of the recesses 2, the inclined or
15 tapered shape of the support surfaces 5a of each of the pairs is formed in such a manner that a distance between the support surfaces 5a of the each of the pair decreases gradually in a depth direction directed toward a bottom area of the recess 2 from a top opening
20 area for insertion of the electric device 10 into the recess 2 in such a manner that each of the support surfaces 5a of one of the pairs or each of the pairs simultaneously contacts the electric device 10 to prevent the electric device 10 from moving in the
25 longitudinal direction and/or the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

 The support surfaces 5a of the pair are formed in such a manner that each of the support

surfaces 5a of the pair simultaneously contact the body 10a of the electric device 10, and the support surfaces 5a of the pair are prevented from contacting the leads 10b. The projections 5 of the pair or of the pairs are
5 formed in such a manner that the projections 5 of the pair or of the pairs are prevented from contacting the leads 10b when the electric device 10 is prevented by the support surfaces 5a of the pair or of the pairs from moving in the longitudinal direction and/or the
10 direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

The movement of the electric device 10 in one of the longitudinal direction and the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction may be limited between the support surfaces 5a of one of the pairs
15 with a clearance between the electric device 10 and at least one of the support surfaces 5a of the one of the pairs when the movement of the electric device 10 in another one of the longitudinal direction and the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction
20 is prevented between the support surfaces 5a of the another one of the pairs.

The support surfaces 5a of one of the pairs may be formed in such a manner that the support surfaces 5a of the one of the pairs are prevented from
25 contacting the leads 10b while one of the support surfaces 5a of the one of the pairs is allowed to contact the body 10a of the electric device 10 so that the movement of the electric device 10 is limited in

one of the longitudinal direction and the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

The support surfaces 5a of at least one of the pairs are tapered in the depth direction so that
5 each of the support surfaces of the at least one of pairs simultaneously contacts an outer peripheral corner of the body 10a to bear a weight of the electric device 10 and to prevent the electric device 10 from moving in the longitudinal direction and/or the
10 direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

Rigidities of the support surfaces 5a of the pairs are decreased by a shell structure of the projections 5 and/or a low rigidity of a plastic material forming the projections to be sufficient small
15 for allowing each of the support surfaces 5a of the pairs to simultaneously contact the electric device 10 so that the electric device 10 is restrained from moving in the longitudinal direction and the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

20 Reverse surfaces 5b of the projections 5 opposite to each other in each of the longitudinal direction and the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction and extending in the depth direction are prevented from contacting the leads 10b
25 when the support surfaces 5a of at least one of the pairs simultaneously contacts the electric device 10 to prevent the electric device 10 from moving in the longitudinal direction and/or the direction

perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

An angle between each of the support surfaces 5a and the depth direction is preferably 45 degrees with an tolerance of ± 10 degrees. Each of the support 5 surfaces 5a may be bent to form a pair of an upper support surface area relatively near to the top opening area and a lower support surface relatively near to the bottom area. An angle (preferably 45 degrees with an tolerance of ± 10 degrees) between the lower support 10 surface area and the depth direction is larger than an angle (preferably 25 degrees with an tolerance of ± 10 degrees) between the upper support surface area and the depth direction. It is preferable that the outer peripheral corner of the body 10a contacts the lower 15 support surface area to position the electric device 10.

- 12 -

CLAIMS:

1. A container for receiving therein an electric device including a body in which an electric element is contained, and at least two leads projecting from the body and
5 connected electrically to the electric element, comprising,
a recess for receiving therein the electric device, including a top opening area for insertion of the electric device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and
a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the
10 electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a second direction directed from the top opening area toward the bottom area, wherein the projections of the pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces
15 of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein
the container further comprises another pair of
20 projections for restraining the movement of the electric device in a third direction perpendicular to the second direction and different from the first direction, wherein the projections of the another pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the third direction so that
25 the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair each of which faces to the electric device in the third direction and wherein the support surfaces of the another pair are formed in such a manner that a clearance is formed
30 between the electric device and at least one of the support surfaces of the another pair in the third direction when the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair.
2. A container according to claim 1, wherein the support
35 surfaces of the pair are formed in such a manner that each

- 13 -

of the support surfaces of the pair simultaneously contact the body of the electric device, and the support surfaces of the pair are prevented from contacting the leads.

3. A container according to claim 1, wherein the
5 projections of the pair are formed in such a manner that the projections of the pair are prevented from contacting the leads when the electric device is prevented by the support surfaces of the pair from moving in the first direction.

4. A container according to claim 1, wherein a distance
10 between the support surfaces of the another pair in the third direction decreases in the second direction.

5. A container according to claim 1, wherein the support surfaces of the another pair are formed in such a manner that the support surfaces of the another pair are prevented
15 from contacting the leads and one of the support surfaces of the another pair is allowed to contact the body of the electric device so that the movement of the electric device is limited in the third direction.

6. A container according to claim 1, wherein the
20 projections of the another pair are formed in such a manner that the projections of the another pair are prevented from contacting the leads when the movement of the electric device in the third direction is limited between the support surfaces of the another pair.

25 7. A container according to claim 1, wherein rigidities of the support surfaces of the pair and the support surfaces of the another pair are sufficient small for allowing each of the support surfaces of the pair and each of the support surfaces of the another pair to simultaneously contact the
30 electric device so that the electric device is prevented from moving in the first and third directions.

8. A container according to claim 1, wherein the support surfaces of the pair are tapered in the second direction so that each of the support surfaces of the pair simultaneously
35 contacts an outer peripheral corner of the body to bear a

- 14 -

weight of the electric device and to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction.

9. A container for receiving therein an electric device including a body in which an electric element is contained, and at least two leads projecting from the body and connected electrically to the electric element, comprising,
- 5 a recess for receiving therein the electric device, including a top opening area for insertion of the electric device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and
- 10 a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a second direction directed from the top opening area toward the bottom area, wherein the projections of the pair have respective support surfaces facing to each other in the
- 15 first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein
- 20 the projections of the pair have respective reverse surfaces being opposite to each other in the first direction and extending in the second direction as reverse surfaces relative to the support surfaces of the pair, and the projections of the pair are formed in such a manner that at
- 25 least one of the reverse surfaces is prevented from contacting the leads when the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the electric device from moving in the first direction.

10. A container for receiving therein an electric device including a body in which an electric element is contained, and at least two leads projecting from the body and connected electrically to the electric element, comprising,
- 30 a recess for receiving therein the electric device, including a top opening area for insertion of the electric device therethrough into the recess, and a bottom area, and
- 35

- 15 -

a pair of projections for restraining a movement of the electric device in a first direction perpendicular to a second direction directed from the top opening area toward the bottom area, wherein the projections of the pair have
5 respective support surfaces facing to each other in the first direction, and a distance between the support surfaces of the pair in the first direction decreases in the second direction in such a manner that each of the support surfaces simultaneously contacts the electric device to prevent the
10 electric device from moving in the first direction, wherein
an angle between the second direction and one of the support surfaces decreases in a fourth direction from the bottom area toward the top opening area.