

TITLE

Energy Absorbing Carrier Tape

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Carrier tape (12) is disclosed which absorbs kinetic energy and protects the leads (34) of electronic circuit components (32) from bending or being otherwise damaged in an industry drop test. The components (32) are supported in pockets (22) by platforms (40) which are free of ridges extending above the bottoms of the components (32). The free ends of the leads (34) simultaneously engage ramp portions (42) of the pocket side walls (24) which are inclined upwardly and outwardly from the pocket bottoms (26) to center the components (32) in the pockets (22). The pocket bottoms (26) are annular shaped and of a size to sandwich the components (32) against the platforms (40) when the carrier tape (12) is in a stacked arrangement such as by being wound on a reel (58). Abutments (38) having semicircular cross sections are integrally formed on the side walls (24) for engaging the free ends of the leads (34) of the microchip (32) to prevent their engagement with the side walls (24). A greater number of abutments (38) at lesser spacings are provided than the leads (34) of the microchip (32). The shape of the abutments (38) also optically disperses major portions of the reflection of the leads (34). False indications of lead problems during non-contacting, electro-optical visual inspection of the microchip (32) within the pocket (22) are thereby eliminated.

(Figure 1)

