

DESCRIPTION

SOLID ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE CAPACITOR

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to solid electrolytic capacitors used for electric circuitry in electric or electronic equipment and manufacturing methods thereof.

BACKGROUND ART

FIG. 6 shows a structure of a conventional solid electrolytic capacitor. Now a manufacturing method of the solid electrolytic capacitor is described. Dielectric layer 13 is formed on porous valve metal 12 provided on a surface of valve metal foil 11. A conductive polymer layer is applied on dielectric layer 13 to form solid electrolyte layer 14, on which collector layer is formed consisting of carbon layer 15 and silver paste layer 16. The capacitor is then resin packaged to form outer package 17. External terminal 18 electrically connected to valve metal foil 11 is provided at the first end of outer package 17 and external terminal 19 electrically connected to collector layer is provided at the second end of outer package 17.

In such solid electrolytic capacitor, undesired solid electrolyte erroneously applied on protruding portion 11A of valve metal foil 11 during formation of solid electrolyte layer 14 causes electrical short-circuit or increases leakage current in capacitor. Insulating resinous protective layer 20 is generally provided on protruding portion 11A to prevent such a trouble.

Typically, coated and cured insulating resin such as epoxy resin or

silicone resin, or stucked insulating tape made of polyimide resin used as a base material serves as insulating protective layer 20. However, undesired solid electrolyte is usually formed also on the insulating resin or the insulating tape. This undesired solid electrolyte must be cleared by laser processing, but the processing may cause increase in leakage current. In addition, coated insulating resin permeates porous valve metal 12 partially, which may damage capacitor characteristics due to, for example, uncontrollability of capacitance. And the coating method lacks in workability and mass productivity.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The invention disclosed provides a solid electrolytic capacitor showing excellent electrical characteristics due to an insulating protective layer. The insulating protective layer composed of silicone rubber that cures by moisture or heat energy is provided such that the layer wraps around protruding portion of valve metal foil.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a solid electrolytic capacitor comprising:

- (a) a capacitor element comprising:
 - (a1) a valve metal foil having a protruding portion on its first end;
 - (a2) a porous valve metal body provided on at least one surface of said valve metal foil;
 - (a3) an insulating protective layer composed of silicone rubber, that cures by at least one of moisture and heat, applied such that to cover said protruding portion of said valve metal foil;
 - (a4) a dielectric layer provided on at least a surface of said porous valve metal body;
 - (a5) a solid electrolyte layer provided on a surface of said dielectric layer;
 - and
 - (a6) a collector layer provided on said solid electrolyte layer; and
- (b) external terminal electrically connected to one of said protruding portion of said valve metal foil and said collector layer.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a

manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming porous valve metal body on at least one surface of valve metal foil having protruding portion in the first end such that said protruding portion is left unformed by the porous valve metal body;
- (b) forming insulating protective layer with silicone rubber that cures by at least one of moisture and heating by coating such that the silicone rubber covers said protruding portion of said valve metal foil;
- (c) forming dielectric layer at least on surface of said porous valve metal body; and
- (d) forming collector layer on surface of said solid electrolyte layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view showing a solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 1 of the present invention.

FIGs. 2A to 2F illustrate schematic views showing manufacturing processes of the solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 1 of the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a cross-sectional view showing a solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 2 of the present invention.

FIGs. 4A to 4F illustrate schematic views showing manufacturing processes of the solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 2 of the present invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view showing a solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 4 of the present invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates a cross-sectional view showing a conventional solid electrolytic capacitor.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The exemplary embodiments of this invention are described with reference to the drawings. The similar elements consisting the same configuration have the same reference marks and the detailed description is omitted.

(EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT 1)

The configuration of solid electrolytic capacitor according to exemplary embodiment 1 of this invention is described with reference to FIG. 1.

Porous valve metal body 2 (hereafter referred to as porous body) is formed on valve metal foil 1 (hereafter referred to as metal foil). Insulating protective layer 10 composed of silicone rubber which cures by moisture or heat energy is provided on protruding portion 1A of metal foil 1 and on end surface of porous body 2 at protruding portion 1A. Dielectric layer 3 is applied on a surface of porous body 2, solid electrolyte layer 4 is applied on a surface of dielectric layer 3, moreover carbon layer 5 and silver paste layer 6 are provided on solid electrolyte layer 4 to serve as a collector layer. The above is a configuration of a capacitor element. The capacitor element is then resin-packaged to form outer package 7, which has external terminal 8 electrically connected to protruding portion 1A of metal foil 1 and external terminal 9 electrically connected to silver paste layer 6.

Next, a manufacturing method of the solid electrolytic capacitor is described specifically with reference to FIGs. 2A to 2F.

Sheet-shaped sintered porous body 2 ($3.4 \times 5.3 \times 0.2$ mm) of tantalum powder is formed on surface of metal foil 1 made of tantalum or the like. Silicone rubber of viscosity of 33 Pa·s, that cures by moisture is coated 1 mm thick using a dispenser then allowed to stand for one hour for drying to form insulating protective layer 10 on protruding portion 1A of metal foil 1 and on end surface of porous body 2 at protruding portion 1A. Next, anodization (12 V) of tantalum in phosphoric acid solution forms dielectric layer 3, a tantalum oxide coating, on surface of porous body 2. Then, the capacitor element is immersed in a pyrrole solution whose weight ratio of pyrrole to water and ethylene glycol is 1 : 15 : 1. Additionally, the capacitor element is immersed in an oxidizing solution whose weight ratio of ferric sulfate to water and ethylene glycol is 1 : 1.5 : 1.8 to form a polypyrrole coating by chemical reaction of oxidative polymerization. Additionally, the capacitor

element is immersed in an thiophene solution whose weight ratio of thiophene to Iron(III) p-toluenesulfonate and butanol is 1 : 0.1 : 0.2 to form solid electrolyte layer 4. Surface of insulating protective layer 10 is free from solid electrolyte formation because insulating protective layer 10 composed of silicone rubber is water repellent. Carbon layer 5 and silver paste layer 6 are formed on solid electrolyte layer 4 in succession to perform as a collector layer jointly. After pulling out a contact from the collector layer, the capacitor is packaged into resin mold, composed of epoxy resin or the like, to form outer package 7. External terminal 8 electrically connected to protruding portion 1A is formed at the first end of outer package 7 and another external terminal 9 electrically connected to silver paste layer 6 is formed at the second end of outer package 7 to complete a solid electrolytic capacitor.

As mentioned above, this manufacturing method provides a simplified process suitable for mass production system, as insulating protective layer 10 is formed before anodization, and restoration treatment before polymerization is not needed. In addition, laser processing is not needed to clear undesired solid electrolyte erroneously formed on insulating protective layer 10. The capacitor has lesser leakage current, as the element is free from stresses caused by removing treatment. Additionally, the manufacturing method has a high workability and productivity as silicone rubber is coated by a dispenser. And the method needs no additional process for curing as silicone rubber cures by itself by moisture.

Flexible rubber material forming insulating protective layer 10 fits a rough surface, which has a high adhesiveness and contributes to provide a strong withstand voltage.

(EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT 2)

Now, a configuration of the solid electrolytic capacitor used in exemplary embodiment 2 is described with reference to FIG. 3

Porous valve metal body 2 is provided on valve metal foil 1, and dielectric layer 3 is formed on surface of porous body 2. Insulating protective layer 10 composed of silicone rubber that cures by moisture or heat energy is provided on surface of dielectric layer 3 covering protruding portion 1A. Solid electrolyte layer 4 is provided on dielectric layer 3, and carbon layer 5 and silver paste layer 6 are provided on solid electrolyte layer 4 to serve as a collector layer. The above is a configuration of the capacitor element. The capacitor element is then resin-packaged to form outer package 7 that has external terminal 8 electrically connected to protruding portion 1A of metal foil 1 and external terminal 9 electrically connected to silver paste layer 6.

Next, a manufacturing method of the solid electrolytic capacitor is described specifically with reference to FIGs. 4A to 4F.

Materials for metal foil 1 or porous body 2, and manufacturing process of forming porous body 2 on metal foil 1 are the same as described in exemplary embodiment 1. Next, dielectric layer 3, a tantalum oxide coating, is formed on surfaces of metal foil 1 and porous body 2 by the same way as described in exemplary embodiment 1. Silicone rubber that cures by moisture is coated on a portion of dielectric layer 3 covering protruding portion 1A, then insulating protective layer 10 is provided. Even if dielectric layer 3 does not cover whole surface of protruding portion 1A, silicone rubber should cover the whole surface of protruding portion 1A including the exposed area from dielectric layer 3. Silicone rubber of viscosity of 33 Pa·s is coated 1 mm thick using a dispenser then allowed to stand for one hour. The capacitor elements are then immersed in

phosphoric acid solution for restoration treatment on 12 V, the same voltage as anodization. Next, the capacitor elements are again immersed in an thiophene solution composed of thiophene, Iron(III) p-toluenesulfonate and butanol to form a pre-coat layer. Next, the capacitor elements are immersed in a solution composed of thiophene, alkyl-naphthalenesulfonic acid and isopropanol for electrolytic polymerization to form solid electrolyte layer 4. In this process, constant voltage of 3 V is supplied between pre-coat layer and stainless plate used as an counter electrode by making stainless wire, an acting electrode, in touch with pre-coat layer softly for 30 min for the electrolytic polymerization. Subsequently, the same method as described in exemplary embodiment 1 completes the solid electrolytic capacitor.

(EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT 3)

A silicone rubber of viscosity of 2.5 Pa·s is coated instead of silicone rubber of viscosity of 1 Pa·s used in exemplary embodiment 2, then allowed to stand for one hour for curing in 150 °C to form insulating protective layer 10 for a capacitor element. Next, solid electrolyte layer 4 is formed by the same way as described in exemplary embodiment 2 to complete a solid electrolytic capacitor. A silicone rubber employed in this exemplary embodiment 3 forms insulating protective layer 10 by heat curing. Though additional heating apparatus are needed, maintenance work of coating equipment such as for dispensers in this method is easier, because the silicone rubber does not cure during coating process which differs from silicone rubber described in exemplary embodiment 1 and 2 that cures by moisture. Some silicone rubber cure by UV radiation, but heating apparatus is much simpler and easier way than UV radiation equipment.

(EXAMPLE FOR COMPARISON)

In a configuration of a solid electrolytic capacitor used in exemplary

embodiment 2, silicone resin instead of silicone rubber is coated and cured for one hour under 150 °C to form insulating protective layer 20. Then, solid electrolyte layer 4 is formed by the same way as described in exemplary embodiment 2 to complete a solid electrolytic capacitor. FIG. 6 shows the basic configuration that is already described.

Table 1 shows the characteristics of solid electrolytic capacitors of afore-mentioned exemplary embodiments and conventional example for comparison.

Table 1

Exemplary embodiment	Capacitance (μF)	Leakage current (μA)	ESR ($\text{m}\Omega$)	Withstand voltage (V)
1	130	0.75	40	12
2	120	1.2	25	8
3	125	2	25	8
conventional	110	23.5	25	6

Comparison check for initial characteristics of solid electrolytic capacitors in Table 1 shows larger leakage current and lower withstand voltage of the conventional solid electrolytic capacitor, as solid electrolyte layer is formed on insulating protective layer 20. Moreover, the example solid electrolytic capacitor does not perform fully and has smaller capacitance, as coated silicone resin permeates dielectric layer 13 to choke pores of porous body. On the other hand, solid electrolytic capacitors disclosed in this invention show little decrease in capacitance. They show smaller deviation in capacitance in a production process, as coated silicone rubber does not permeate porous body 2. Moreover, they show lower leakage current and higher withstand voltage, as surface of insulating protective layer 10 is free from solid electrolyte formation. They have lower equivalent series resistance (ESR), as functional polymer composes solid electrolyte layer 4.

(EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT 4)

FIG. 5 shows a cross-sectional view of a product in which capacitor elements described in exemplary embodiment 1 of this invention are laminated and resin-packaged together to form outer package 7. Such a laminated structure of solid electrolytic capacitor shows low ESR as well as large capacitance.

In the descriptions on all exemplary embodiments of this invention, solid electrolyte layer 4 is formed by chemical polymerization or by electrolytic polymerization using solid electrolyte layer, formed by chemical polymerization, as a pre-coat layer. Solid electrolyte formed by electrolytic polymerization is not yet specified, but taking into account of easiness of polymerization reaction, polypyrrole, polythiophene or polyaniline or functional polymers that have derivative of pyrrole, thiophene and aniline as a recurring unit are preferable. And, one of chemically oxidative polymerized polypyrrole, polyaniline and polythiophene by an oxidant, or one of derivative of the above materials are preferable. Moreover, any combination within polypyrrole, polyaniline and polythiophene are agreeable.

Silicone rubber can be prevented from permeating porous body 2 if the silicone rubber has a viscosity of at least 1 Pa·s, or more preferably at least 2.5 Pa·s. The silicone rubber has a viscosity of at most 33 Pa·s in terms of workability in coating process.

Additionally, an example is described in which porous body 2 is formed on surfaces of metal foil 1, but another configuration in which porous body 2 is formed on one surface of metal foil 1 only is also possible.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The invention disclosed can provide a solid electrolytic capacitor having excellent performance characteristics such as no capacitance loss, little leakage current and high withstand voltage due to an insulating protective layer. A silicone rubber that cures by moisture or heat energy is coated to form the insulating protective layer on protruding portion of valve metal foil and on end surface of porous valve metal body just at the protruding portion.

CLAIMS

1. A solid electrolytic capacitor comprising:
 - (a) a capacitor element comprising:
 - (a1) a valve metal foil having a protruding portion on its first end;
 - (a2) a porous valve metal body provided on at least one surface of said valve metal foil;
 - (a3) an insulating protective layer composed of silicone rubber, that cures by at least one of moisture and heat, applied such that to cover said protruding portion of said valve metal foil;
 - (a4) a dielectric layer provided on at least a surface of said porous valve metal body;
 - (a5) a solid electrolyte layer provided on a surface of said dielectric layerand
 - (a6) a collector layer provided on said solid electrolyte layer;
 - (b) external terminal electrically connected to one of said protruding portion of said valve metal foil and said collector layer.
2. The solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 1, wherein said insulating protective layer contacts directly with said protruding portion of said valve metal foil.
3. The solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 1, wherein said dielectric layer covers said protruding portion of said valve metal foil, and said

insulating protective layer further covers the area where said dielectric layer covers said protruding portion of valve metal foil.

4. The solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 1, wherein said solid electrolyte layer includes a functional polymer.

5. The solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 1, wherein having a plurality of capacitor elements, a plurality of valve metal foils included in said plurality of capacitor elements are electrically connected, and a plurality of collectors included in said plurality of capacitor elements are electrically connected.

6. A manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor comprising the steps of:

(a) forming porous valve metal body on at least one surface of valve metal foil having protruding portion in the first end such that said protruding portion is left unformed by the porous valve metal body;

(b) forming insulating protective layer with silicone rubber that cures by at least one of moisture and heating by coating such that the silicone rubber covers said protruding portion of said valve metal foil;

(c) forming dielectric layer at least on surface of said porous valve metal body;

and

(d) forming collector layer on surface of said solid electrolyte layer.

7. The manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 6 wherein said silicone rubber is applied on said protruding portion and on end

surface of said porous valve metal body at the protruding portion, in forming insulating protective layer,

8. The manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 6 wherein, in forming said dielectric layer, said dielectric layer is formed such that said dielectric layer covers said protruding portion of said valve metal foil, and

in forming insulating protective layer, said silicone rubber is coated such that said silicone rubber further covers an area where said dielectric layer covers said protruding portion.

9. The manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 6 wherein viscosity of said silicone rubber is at least 1 Pa·s, in forming said insulating protective layer.

10. The manufacturing method of solid electrolytic capacitor of claim 6 wherein said silicone rubber is coated by a dispenser, in forming said insulating protective layer.