

Precautions and Guidelines for Using Conductive Polymer Hybrid Capacitors and Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitors

1. Guidelines for Circuit Design (General / Application guidelines for using electrolytic capacitors)

Selecting of a right capacitor is a key to a good circuit design.

(1) Polarity

Most of the aluminum electrolytic capacitors are polarized. Therefore, they must be installed with the correct polarity. Usage in the reverse polarity results into a short-circuit condition that may damage or even explode the capacitor. In addition, it may influence circuit functionality. A bi-polar electrolytic capacitor should be installed when polarity across a capacitor is unstable / reversible. It should be, however, noted that usage of both polar and bi-polar capacitors are limited to DC applications. They must NOT be used for AC application.

(2) Operating Voltage

Applied DC voltage must not exceed rated voltage of the capacitor. Applying higher voltage than its rated voltage across a capacitor terminals cause overheating due to higher leakage currents and capacitor dielectric/insulation deterioration that will ultimately affect a capacitor's performance. The device, however, is capable of working under short-time transient voltages such as DC transients and peak AC ripples. Reverse voltages higher than 1 Volt within a specified temperature limit or AC voltages are not permissible. Overall, using capacitors at recommended operating voltages can prolong its lifespan. Note that the result of DC voltage overlapped with peak ripple voltage should not exceed rated voltage.

(3) Ripple Current

One of the key functions of any capacitor is removal of the ripple current i.e. the RMS value of AC flowing through a capacitor. But, a ripple current higher than rated ripple current will drop resultant capacitance, cause undue internal heating and thus reduces life span of the capacitor. In extreme cases, internal high temperature will cause the pressure relief vent to operate while destroying the device. Overall, it is important to note that an electrolytic capacitor must be used within a permissible range of ripple current. Indicators like temperature coefficient of allowable ripple current are generally used to determine life expectancy of the capacitor, but to avoid related complex calculations and for the sake of simplicity, we haven't provided temperature coefficient in the catalogue. But it offers key indicators like maximum operating temperature for calculation of life expectancy at a given temperature.

(4) Operating Temperature

Capacitors should be used within a permissible range of operating temperatures. Using capacitor at a higher temperature than maximum rated temperature will considerably shorten its life. In the worst-case scenario, high temperature can cause pressure relief vent to operate and the device will get destroyed. Using capacitors at an ambient room temperature assure their longer life.

(5) Leakage Current

Leakage current flows through a capacitor when DC voltage is applied across it. Leakage current varies with changes in ambient temperature and applied DC voltage level and its time of application. Overvoltage situation, presence of moisture, and thermal stresses, especially occurring during the soldering process can enhance leakage current. Initial leakage current is usually higher and does not decrease until voltage is applied for a certain period of time. It is recommended to keep initial leakage current within specified levels.

(6) Charge and Discharge

Regular electrolytic capacitors are not suitable for rapid charging/discharging circuits. Such usage may either cause reduction in overall capacitance or damage due to overheating. Lelon provides special assistance for selecting appropriate capacitors for rapid charging/discharging circuits.

(7) Surge Voltage

The Surge voltage rating is referred as the maximum DC overvoltage that may be applied to an electrolytic capacitor for a short time interval of 30 seconds at infrequent time intervals not exceeding 5.5minutes with a limiting resistance of 1kΩ. Unless otherwise described on the catalogue or product specifications, please do not apply a voltage exceeding the capacitor's voltage rating. The rated surge voltages corresponding to rated voltages of electrolytic capacitors are presented as follows:

Rated Voltage(V)	4	6.3	10	16	25	35	50
Surge Voltage(V)	4.6	7.3	11.5	18.4	28.8	40.3	57.5

Rated Voltage(V)	63	80	100	160	180	200	250
Surge Voltage(V)	72.5	92	115	184	207	230	288

Rated Voltage(V)	315	350	400	420	450	500	525
Surge Voltage(V)	347	385	440	462	495	550	578

(8) Condition of Use

The capacitors shall NOT be exposed to:

- Fluids including water, saltwater spray, oil, fumes, highly humid or condensed climates, etc.
- Ambient conditions containing hazardous gases/fumes like hydrogen sulfide, sulfurous acid, nitrous acid, chlorine or bromine gas, ammonia, etc.
- Exposed to ozone, ultraviolet rays and radiation.
- Severe vibrations or physical shocks that exceeds the specifications mentioned in this catalogue.

(9) Circuit Design Consideration

- Please ensure whether application, operating and mounting conditions satisfy the conditions specified in the catalog before installation of a capacitor. Please consult Lelon, if any of the conditions are beyond the conditions specified in the catalog.
- Heat-generating components or heat sinks should not be placed closer to Aluminum electrolytic capacitors on the PCB to avoid their premature failure. A cooling system is recommended to improve their reliable working.
- Electrical characteristics and performance of aluminum electrolytic capacitors are affected by variation of applied voltage, ripple current, ripple frequency and operating temperature. Therefore, these parameters shall not exceed specified values in the catalog.
- Aluminum capacitors may be connected in the parallel fashion for increasing total capacitance and/or for achieving higher ripple current capability. But, such design may cause unequal current flow through each of the capacitors due to differences in their impedances.
- When two or more capacitors are connected in series, voltage across each capacitor may differ and fall below the applied voltage. A resistor should be placed across each capacitor so as to match applied voltage with voltage across a capacitor.
- Please consult Lelon while selecting a capacitor for high-frequency switching circuit or a circuit that undergoes rapid charging/ discharging
- Standard outer sleeve of the capacitor is not a perfect electrical insulator therefore is unsuitable for the applications that requires perfect electrical insulation. Please consult Lelon, if your application requires perfect electrical insulation.
- Tilting or twisting capacitor body is not recommended once it is soldered to the PCB.

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2. Caution for Assembling Capacitors

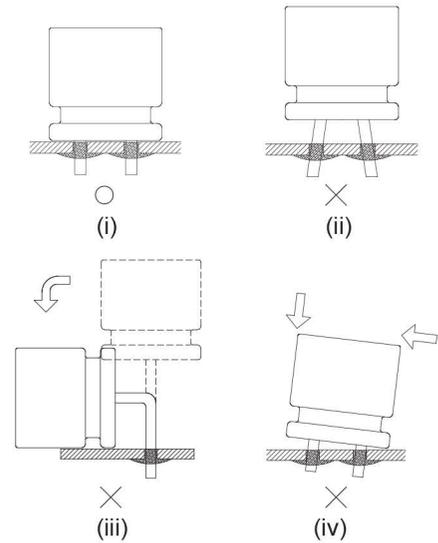
(1) Mounting

- Aluminum electrolytic capacitors are not recommended to re-use in other circuits once they are mounted and powered in a circuit.
- Aluminum electrolytic capacitors may hold static charge between its anode and cathode, which is recommended to be discharged through a 1kΩ resistor before re-use.
- A long storage of capacitors may result into its insulation deterioration. This can lead to a high leakage current when voltage is applied that may damage the capacitor. Capacitors following a long storage period must undergo voltage treatment/re-forming. Capacitors are charged by applying rated DC voltage through a resistor of 1kΩ in series at least for an hour. It is recommended to increase applied voltage gradually using a voltage regulator unit once capacitors are assembled on the board. The charging should be followed by discharging through a 1KΩ resistor.
- Please check capacitor rated voltage before mounting.
- Please check capacitor polarity before mounting.
- Please don't drop capacitor on the floor / hard object.
- Please don't deform the capacitor during installation.
- Please confirm whether the lead spacing of the capacitors match with its pad spacing / footprint on PCB prior to installation.
- Please avoid excessive mechanical shocks to capacitor during the auto-insertion process, inspection or centering operations.
- Please don't place any wiring or circuit over the capacitor's pressure relief vent. The pressure relief vent may fail to open if adequate clearance space is not provided. Following table shows minimum clearance space required for different case diameters.

Case Diameter	φ 6.3 ~ φ 16	φ 18 ~ φ 35	φ 40 or above
Clearance (min)	2 mm	3 mm	5 mm

(2) Soldering

- Please confirm that soldering conditions, especially temperature and contact time are within our specifications. Dip or flow soldering temperature should be limited at 260 ± 5°C for 10 ± 1 sec while manual soldering using soldering iron should be limited at 350 ± 5°C for 3 +1/-0 seconds. Please do not dip capacitor body into molten solder. A capacitor's life will be negatively affected if these conditions are violated.
- Storage of capacitors in *high humidity* conditions is likely to affect the *solder-ability of lead wires and terminals*.
- Reflow soldering should NOLY be used for SMD type capacitors.** The temperature and duration shall not exceed the specified temperature and duration in the specification. If the temperature or duration is higher than the value specified, please consult Lelon before usage.
- Standard aluminum electrolytic capacitors are not designed to withstand multiple reflow processes. Please consult Lelon if repeated reflowing is unavoidable.
- Incorrect mounting on PCB with improper external strength applied on its lead wires or capacitor body after soldering may damage a capacitor's internal structure, cause short circuit, or lead to high leakage current issues. Do not bend or twist the capacitor body after soldering. Referring to the drawings below only case (i) is recommended.
 - Correct soldering
 - Hole-to-hole spacing on PCB differs from the lead space of lead wires.
 - Lead wires are bent after soldering.
 - Capacitor body doesn't stand vertical on PCB after soldering.



(3) Cleaning Circuit Boards after Soldering

- Following chemicals are not recommended for cleaning: Solvent containing halogen ions, Alkaline solvent, Xylene, Acetone, Terpene, petro-based solvent.
- Recommended cleaning conditions: Fatty-alcohol - Pine Alpha ST-100S, Clean Through-750H and IPA (isopropyl alcohol) are examples of the most acceptable cleaning agents. Temperature of the cleaning agent must not exceed 60°C. Flux content in the cleaning agents should be limited to 2 Wt. %. Overall length of cleaning process (e.g., immersion, ultrasonic or other) shall be within 5 minutes (5 ~ 7mm height within 3 minutes). CFC substitute cleaning agents such as AK225AES can also be used for cleaning. In this case, its temperature shall not exceed 40 C and cleaning process (e.g., immersion, ultrasonic or other) shall be completed within 2 ~ 3 minutes. After cleaning capacitors should be dried with hot air for at least 10 minutes along with the PCB. Temperature of hot air shall not exceed maximum category temperature of the capacitor. Insufficient drying may cause appearance defects, sleeve shrinkage, and bottom-plate bulging. However, usage of this CFC substitute must completely regulated for protection of environment.

3. Maintenance Inspection

Periodical inspection of aluminum capacitors is absolutely necessary, especially when they are used with industrial equipment. The following items should be checked:

- Appearance: Bloated, vent operated, leaked, etc.
- Electrical characteristic: Capacitance, Tanδ, leakage current, and other specified items listed in specification.

Lelon recommend replacing the capacitors if any of the abovementioned items fail to meet specifications.

4. Storage

- The most suitable conditions for aluminum capacitor storage are 5°C ~ 35°C and indoor relative humidity less than 75%. High temperature and/or humidity storage is detrimental to the capacitors.
- Capacitors shall not be stored in wet or damp atmospheres containing water, brine, fumes or oil.
- Capacitors storage area shall neither be exposed to hazardous gases such as hydrogen sulfide, sulfurous acid, nitrous acid, chlorine, ammonium, etc. nor to acidic or alkaline solutions.
- Capacitors shall not be exposed to ozone, ultraviolet rays or radiation.

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5. Disposal

Please consult with a local industrial waste disposal specialist when disposing of aluminum electrolytic capacitors

6. Environmental Consideration

Lelon already have received IECQ QC 080000 certificate. Cadmium (Cd), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg), Hexavalent Chromium (Cr⁺⁶), PBB, PBDE, DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP have never been using in capacitor. If you need “Halogen-free” products, please consult with us.

7. AEC-Q200 Compliance

Automotive Electronics Counsel (AEC) has established various electronic component qualification/reliability standards in order to serve automotive electronics industry. AEC-Q200 standard is dedicated for passive components like capacitors, inductors, etc. and is widely adopted domestically as well as internationally. Lelon offers compliant product designs and support services to satisfy customers' product requirements, including the AEC-Q200 required criteria of the reliability tests. Lelon's capacitors are professionally designed to outperform all requirements of AEC-Q200.

For further details, please refer to the following industrial standards:

**IEC 60384-4 - Fixed capacitors for use in electronic equipment –
Part 4: Sectional specification – Fixed aluminum electrolytic capacitors with solid (MnO₂) and non-solid electrolyte (Edition 5.0 2016-08)**

JEITA RCR-2367D – Safety application guide for fixed aluminum electrolytic capacitors for use in electronic equipment (Established in March 1995, Revised in October 2017)