Multilayer NTC Thermistors
Series: ERTJ

Handling Precautions

⚠️ Safety Precautions
The NTC Thermistors for automotive devices (chip type), hereafter referred to as Thermistors, is designed for use in automotive devices. When subjected to severe electrical, environmental, and/or mechanical stress beyond the specifications, as noted in the Ratings and Specified Conditions section, the Thermistors’ performance may be degraded, or become failure mode, such as short circuit mode and open-circuit mode. If you use under the condition of short-circuit, heat generation of thermistors will occur by running large current due to application of voltage. There are possibilities of smoke emission, substrate burn-out, and, in the worst case, fire.
For products which require higher safety levels, please carefully consider how a single malfunction can affect your product. In order to ensure the safety in the case of a single malfunction, please design products with fail-safe, such as setting up protecting circuits, etc.
- For the following applications and conditions, please contact us for product of special specification not found in this document.
  - When your application may have difficulty complying with the safety or handling precautions specified below.
  - High-quality and high-reliability required devices that have possibility of causing hazardous conditions, such as death or injury (regardless of directly or indirectly), due to failure or malfunction of the product.
  ① Aircraft and Aerospace Equipment (artificial satellite, rocket, etc.)
  ② Submarine Equipment (submarine repeating equipment, etc.)
  ③ Transportion Equipment (airplanes, trains, ship, traffic signal controllers, etc.)
  ④ Power Generation Control Equipment (atomic power, hydroelectric power, thermal power plant control system, etc.)
  ⑤ Medical Equipment (life-support equipment, pacemakers, dialysis controllers, etc.)
  ⑥ Information Processing Equipment (large scale computer systems, etc.)
  ⑦ Electric Heating Appliances, Combustion devices (gas fan heaters, oil fan heaters, etc.)
  ⑧ Rotary Motion Equipment
  ⑨ Security Systems
  ⑩ And any similar types of equipment

Operating Conditions and Circuit Design

1. Circuit Design
1.1 Operating Temperature and Storage Temperature
When operating a components-mounted circuit, please be sure to observe the “Operating Temperature Range”, written in delivery specifications. Please remember not to use the product under the condition that exceeds the specified maximum temperature.
Storage temperature of PCB after mounting Thermistors, which is not operated, should be within the specified “Storage Temperature Range” in the delivery specifications.

1.2 Operating Power
The electricity applied to between terminals of Thermistors should be under the specified maximum power dissipation.
There are possibilities of breakage and burn-out due to excessive self-heating of Thermistors, if the power exceeds maximum power dissipation when operating.
Please consider installing protection circuit for your circuit to improve the safety, in case of abnormal voltage application and so on.
Thermistors’ performance of temperature detection would be deteriorated if self-heating occurs, even when you use it under the maximum power dissipation.
Please consider the maximum power dissipation and dissipation factor.

[Maximum power dissipation]
- The Maximum power that can be continuously applied under static air at a certain ambient temperature. The Maximum power dissipation under an ambient temperature of 25 °C or less is the same with the rated maximum power dissipation, and Maximum power dissipation beyond 25 °C depends on the Decreased power dissipation curve below.

[Decreased power dissipation curve]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ambient temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Decreased power dissipation (mW)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-25</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Disipation factor]
- The constant amount power required to raise the temperature of the Thermistor 1 °C through self heat generation under stable temperatures.
Dissipation factor (mW/°C) = Power consumption of Thermistor / Temperature rise of element
1.3 Environmental Restrictions
The Thermistors shall not be operated and/or stored under the following conditions.
(1) Environmental conditions
(a) Under direct exposure to water or salt water
(b) Under conditions where water can condense and/or dew can form
(c) Under conditions containing corrosive gases such as hydrogen sulfide, sulfurous acid, chlorine and ammonia
(2) Mechanical conditions
The place where vibration or impact that exceeds specified conditions written in delivery specification is loaded.

1.4 Measurement of Resistance
The resistance of the Thermistors varies depending on ambient temperatures and self-heating. To measure the resistance value when examining circuit configuration and conducting receiving inspection and so on, the following points should be taken into consideration:
① Measurement temp : 25±0.1 °C
Measurement in liquid (silicon oil, etc.) is recommended for a stable measurement temperature.
② Power : 0.10 mW max.
4 terminal measurement with a constant-current power supply is recommended.

2. Design of Printed Circuit Board
2.1 Selection of Printed Circuit Boards
There is a possibility of performance deterioration by heat shock (temperature cycles), which causes cracks, from alumina substrate.
Please confirm that the substrate you use does not deteriorate the Thermistors’ quality.

2.2 Design of Land Pattern
(1) Recommended land dimensions are shown below. Use the proper amount of solder in order to prevent cracking. Using too much solder places excessive stress on the Thermistors.

Recommended Land Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size Code (EIA)</th>
<th>Component dimensions</th>
<th>a</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0(0402)</td>
<td>1.0 0.5 0.5</td>
<td>0.4 to 0.5</td>
<td>0.4 to 0.5</td>
<td>0.4 to 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(0603)</td>
<td>1.6 0.8 0.8</td>
<td>0.8 to 1.0</td>
<td>0.6 to 0.8</td>
<td>0.6 to 0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3 Utilization of Solder Resist
(1) Solder resist shall be utilized to equalize the amounts of solder on both sides.
(2) Solder resist shall be used to divide the pattern for the following cases:
· Components are arranged closely.
· The Thermistor is mounted near a component with lead wires.
· The Thermistor is placed near a chassis.
Refer to the table below.

Prohibited Applications and Recommended Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Prohibited applications</th>
<th>Improved applications by pattern division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mixed mounting with a component with lead wires</td>
<td>The lead wire of a component with lead wires</td>
<td>Solder resist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangement near chassis</td>
<td>Chassis Solder(Ground solder)</td>
<td>Solder resist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retro-fitting of component with lead wires</td>
<td>Soldering iron A lead wire of retro-fitted component</td>
<td>Solder resist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lateral arrangement</td>
<td>Portion to be excessively soldered Land</td>
<td>Solder resist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Component Layout
To prevent the crack of Thermistors, try to place it on the position that could not easily be affected by the bending stress of substrate while mounting procedures or procedures afterwards.
Placement of the Thermistors near heating elements also requires the great care to be taken in order to avoid stresses from rapid heating and cooling.
(1) To minimize mechanical stress caused by the warp or bending of a PC board, please follow the recommended Thermists’ layout below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prohibited layout</th>
<th>Recommended layout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Layout the Thermists sideways against the stressing direction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The following layout is for your reference since mechanical stress near the dividing/breaking position of a PC board varies depending on the mounting position of the Thermists.

Magnitude of stress A>B=C>D>E

(3) The magnitude of mechanical stress applied to the Thermists when dividing the circuit board in descending order is as follows:
- push back < slit < V-groove < perforation.
Also take into account the layout of the Thermists and the dividing/breaking method.

(4) When the Thermists are placed near heating elements such as heater, etc., cracks from thermal stresses may occur under following situation:
- Soldering the Thermists directly to heating elements.
- Sharing the land with heating elements.

If planning to conduct above-mentioned mounting and/or placement, please contact us in advance.

2. Chip Mounting Consideration

(1) When mounting the Thermists/components on a PC board, the Thermistor bodies shall be free from excessive impact loads such as mechanical impact or stress due to the positioning, pushing force and displacement of vacuum nozzles during mounting.

(2) Maintenance and inspection of the Chip Mounter must be performed regularly.

(3) If the bottom dead center of the vacuum nozzle is too low, the Thermistor will crack from excessive force during mounting.

The following precautions and recommendations are for your reference in use.
(a) Set and adjust the bottom dead center of the vacuum nozzles to the upper surface of the PC board after correcting the warp of the PC board.
(b) Set the pushing force of the vacuum nozzle during mounting to 1 to 3 N in static load.
(c) For double surface mounting, apply a supporting pin on the rear surface of the PC board to suppress the bending of the PC board in order to minimize the impact of the vacuum nozzles. Typical examples are shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Prohibited mounting</th>
<th>Recommended mounting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single surface mounting</td>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>The supporting pin does not necessarily have to be positioned beneath the Thermistor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double surface mounting</td>
<td>Separation of Solder</td>
<td>Supporting pin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) Adjust the vacuum nozzles so that their bottom dead center during mounting is not too low.

(4) The closing dimensions of the positioning chucks shall be controlled. Maintenance and replacement of positioning chucks shall be performed regularly to prevent chipping or cracking of the Thermists caused by mechanical impact during positioning due to worn positioning chucks.

(5) Maximum stroke of the nozzle shall be adjusted so that the maximum bending of PC board does not exceed 0.5 mm at 90 mm span. The PC board shall be supported by an adequate number of supporting pins.

3. Selection of Soldering Flux

Soldering flux may seriously affect the performance of the Thermists. The following shall be confirmed before use.

(1) The soldering flux should have a halogen based content of 0.1 wt% (converted to chlorine) or below. Do not use soldering flux with strong acid.

(2) When applying water-soluble soldering flux, wash the Thermists sufficiently because the soldering flux residue on the surface of PC boards may deteriorate the insulation resistance on the Thermists’ surface.
4. Soldering

4.1 Reflow Soldering

The reflow soldering temperature conditions are composed of temperature curves of Preheating, Temp. rise, Heating, Peak and Gradual cooling. Large temperature difference inside the Thermistors caused by rapid heat application to the Thermistors may lead to excessive thermal stresses, contributing to the thermal cracks. The Preheating temperature requires controlling with great care so that tombstone phenomenon may be prevented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Period or Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>① Preheating</td>
<td>140 to 180 °C</td>
<td>60 to 120 sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>② Temp. rise</td>
<td>Preheating temp</td>
<td>2 to 5 °C /sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to Peak temp.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>③ Heating</td>
<td>220 °C min.</td>
<td>60 sec max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>④ Peak</td>
<td>260 °C max.</td>
<td>10 sec max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⑤ Gradual cooling</td>
<td>Peak temp. to 140 °C</td>
<td>1 to 4 °C /sec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended profile of Reflow soldering (EX)

\[ \Delta T : \text{Allowable temperature difference} \quad \Delta T \leq 150 \degree \text{C} \]

The rapid cooling (forced cooling) during Gradual cooling part should be avoided, because this may cause defects such as the thermal cracks, etc. When the Thermistors are immersed into a cleaning solvent, make sure that the surface temperatures of the devices do not exceed 100 °C.

Performing reflow soldering twice under the conditions shown in the figure above [Recommended profile of Reflow soldering (EX)] will not cause any problems. However, pay attention to the possible warp and bending of the PC board.

4.2 Hand Soldering

Hand soldering typically causes significant temperature change, which may induce excessive thermal stresses inside the Thermistors, resulting in the thermal cracks, etc. In order to prevent any defects, the following should be observed.

- The temperature of the soldering tips should be controlled with special care.
- The direct contact of soldering tips with the Thermistors and/or terminal electrodes should be avoided.
- Dismounted Thermistors shall not be reused.

(1) Condition 1 (with preheating)

(a) Soldering:

Use thread solder (φ1 mm or below) which contains flux with low chlorine, developed for precision electronic equipment.

(b) Preheating:

Conduct sufficient pre-heating, and make sure that the temperature difference between solder and Thermistors’ surface is 150 °C or less.

(c) Temperature of Iron tip: 300 °C max.

(The required amount of solder shall be melted in advance on the soldering tip.)

(d) Gradual cooling:

After soldering, the Thermistors shall be cooled gradually at room temperature.

\[ \Delta T : \text{Allowable temperature difference} \quad \Delta T \leq 150 \degree \text{C} \]

(2) Condition 2 (without preheating)

Hand soldering can be performed without preheating, by following the conditions below:

(a) Soldering iron tip shall never directly touch the ceramic and terminal electrodes of the Thermistors.

(b) The lands are sufficiently preheated with a soldering iron tip before sliding the soldering iron tip to the terminal electrodes of the Thermistors for soldering.

Conditions of Hand soldering without preheating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature of Iron tip</td>
<td>270 °C max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wattage</td>
<td>20 W max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape of Iron tip</td>
<td>φ3 mm max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldering time with a soldering iron</td>
<td>3 sec max.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Post Soldering Cleaning

5.1 Cleaning solvent

Soldering flux residue may remain on the PC board if cleaned with an inappropriate solvent. This may deteriorate the electrical characteristics and reliability of the Thermistors.

5.2 Cleaning conditions

Inappropriate cleaning conditions such as insufficient cleaning or excessive cleaning may impair the electrical characteristics and reliability of the Thermistors.

(1) Insufficient cleaning can lead to:

(a) The halogen substance found in the residue of the soldering flux may cause the metal of terminal electrodes to corrode.

(b) The halogen substance found in the residue of the soldering flux on the surface of the Thermistors may change resistance values.

(c) Water-soluble soldering flux may have more remarkable tendencies of (a) and (b) above compared to those of rosin soldering flux.
(2) Excessive cleaning can lead to:
(a) When using ultrasonic cleaner, make sure that the output is not too large, so that the substrate will not resonate. The resonance causes the cracks in Varistors and/or solders, and deteriorates the strength of the terminal electrodes. Please follow these conditions for Ultrasonic cleaning:
- Ultrasonic wave output : 20 W/L max.
- Ultrasonic wave frequency : 40 kHz max.
- Ultrasonic wave cleaning time : 5 min. max.

5.3 Contamination of Cleaning solvent
Cleaning with contaminated cleaning solvent may cause the same results as insufficient cleaning due to the high density of liberated halogen.

6. Inspection Process
The pressure from measuring terminal pins might bend the PCB when implementing circuit inspection after mounting Thermistors on PCB, and as a result, cracking may occur.
(1) Mounted PC boards shall be supported by an adequate number of supporting pins on the back with bend settings of 90 mm span 0.5 mm max.
(2) Confirm that the measuring pins have the right tip shape, are equal in height, have the right pressure, and are set in the correct positions. The following figures are for your reference to avoid bending the PC board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Prohibited setting</th>
<th>Recommended setting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bending of PC board</td>
<td>Check pin Separated, Crack</td>
<td>Check pin Supporting pin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Protective Coating
When the surface of a PC board on which the Thermistors have been mounted is coated with resin to protect against moisture and dust, it shall be confirmed that the protective coating does not affect the performance of Varistors.
(1) Choose the material that does not emit the decomposition and/or reaction gas. The Gas may affect the composing members of the Varistors.
(2) Shrinkage and expansion of resin coating when curing may apply stress to the Varistors and may lead to occurrence of cracks.

8. Dividing/Breaking of PC Boards
(1) Please be careful not to stress the substrate with bending/twisting when dividing, after mounting components including Varistors. Abnormal and excessive mechanical stress such as bending or torsion shown below can cause cracking in the Thermistors.

(2) Dividing/Breaking of the PC boards shall be done carefully at moderate speed by using a jig or apparatus to protect the Thermistors on the boards from mechanical damage.
(3) Examples of PCB dividing/breaking jigs:
The outline of PC board breaking jig is shown below. When PC boards are broken or divided, loading points should be close to the jig to minimize the extent of the bending.
Also, planes with no parts mounted on should be used as plane of loading, in order to prevent tensile stress induced by the bending, which may cause cracks of the Thermistors or other parts mounted on the PC boards.

Prohibited dividing
Recommended dividing

9. Mechanical Impact
(1) The Thermistors shall be free from any excessive mechanical impact.
The Thermistor body is made of ceramics and may be damaged or cracked if dropped.
Never use a Thermistor which has been dropped; their quality may be impaired and failure rate increased.
(2) When handling PC boards with Thermistors mounted on them, do not allow the Thermistors to collide with another PC board.
When mounted PC boards are handled or stored in a stacked state, the corner of a PC board might strike Thermistors, and the impact of the strike may cause damage or cracking and can deteriorate the withstand voltage and insulation resistance of the Thermistor.

The various precautions described above are typical. For special mounting conditions, please contact us.