

Abbreviations/Symbols

The following pages, although not comprehensive, provide descriptions for the most commonly used abbreviations/symbols within this publication.

Should you have any comments or additions please contact us. Feedback will be appreciated.

Term	Description	Symbol
acceleration	Unit of acceleration is meter per second squared.	m/s ²
alternating current	A flow of electricity which reaches a maximum in one direction, decreases to zero, then reverses itself and reaches maximum in the opposite direction. This cycle is repeated continuously. The number of such cycles per second is the frequency. The average value of the voltage during any cycle is zero.	ac
ampere	SI base unit of electrical current or rate of flow of electrons. One volt across one ohm of resistance causes a current of 1 ampere.	A
capacitor	An electronic component that stores electric charge and energy.	C
centi	10 ⁻² , metric prefix for one hundredth, or 0.01, of the unit with which it is used.	c
cu. cm/s	Cubic centimeter per second.	cm ³ /s
cu. ft/hr	Cubic foot per hour.	ft ³ /hr
direct current	An essentially constant value of current that flows in only one direction.	dc
decibel	A standard unit of measure for transmission gain or loss. It expresses the ratio of power input to power output. Logarithmic measure most commonly used for measuring sound.	dB
degree	The standard unit of angle measure.	°
degree Celcius	Metric unit of temperature, formerly called "centigrade". 100 equal divisions between the freezing point and boiling point of water, at sea level.	°C
degree Fahrenheit	A traditional unit of temperature primarily used in the United States. At normal sea level atmospheric pressure, pure water freezes at 32°F and boils at +212°F.	°F
dia	Diameter – distance across the circle, through it's center	∅
dyne	The standard centimeter-gram-second unit of force, equal to the force that produces an acceleration of one centimeter per second per second on a mass of one gram.	dyn
farad	SI unit of electrical capacitance.	F
grav	Gravity – The international unit for the acceleration of a falling body in the earth's gravitational field, inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the body to the center of the earth. 1 g = 32.17 feet per second per second. Connectors are frequently tested by subjecting them to very short duration shocks which are several times the force of gravity (g force) while simultaneously confirming electrical continuity.	g
giga	10 ⁹ , metric prefix for one thousand million (one billion — American meaning) times the unit with which it is used.	G
gigahertz	Unit of alternating current (AC) or electro-magnetic (EM) wave frequency equal to one thousand million hertz (1,000,000,000 Hz).	GHz
hertz	SI unit of frequency.	Hz
high frequency	Frequencies from 3 MHz to 30 MHz.	HF
high voltage	High enough voltage to damage a system, cause sparks.	HV
kilogram	SI unit of mass.	kg



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Dimensions are shown in inch (mm)
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lambda	Greek letter used to designate wavelength measured in meters.	λ
mega	10^6 , metric prefix for one million times the unit with which it is used.	M
megabits per second	Millions of bits per second.	Mbps
megahertz	A common unit of frequency equal to one million per second.	MHz
megohm	A megohm is equal to one million (10^6) ohms. The spelling megaohm is also used.	M Ω
micro	10^{-6} , metric prefix for one millionth of the unit with which it is used.	μ
milli	10^{-3} , metric prefix for one thousandth (.001) of the unit with which it is used.	m
milliamp	Milliampere. One one-thousandth (.001) of an ampere.	mA
millimeter	Metric unit of linear measure. 1 millimeter = .03937 inches.	mm
millimeters squared	A standard for wire diameters used in Europe instead of AWG. As numbers get larger, wire diameters increase in size. The relationship between mm ² and AWG is reverse logarithmic. 1 mm ² = 1973 circular mils. A conversion graph is needed to make accurate comparisons between AWG and mm ² .	mm ²
milliohm	One one-thousandth (.001) of an ohm.	m Ω
millisecond	One thousandth (.001) of a second.	ms
millivolt	One thousandth (.001) of a volt.	mV
nano	10^{-9} , metric prefix for one thousandth millionth (one billionth) of the unit with which it is used.	n
Newton	SI unit of force.	N
Newton-meter	SI unit of torque. 1 Nm = .7376 Foot Pounds.	Nm or N•m
ohm	SI unit of electric resistance. One ohm is the value of resistance through which a potential difference of one volt will maintain a current of one ampere.	Ω
pascal	SI unit of pressure or stress.	Pa
pi	The ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.	π
pico	10^{-12} , metric prefix for one millionth millionth (one trillionth) of the unit with which it is used.	p
pound	An English unit of weight. There are 16 ounces or 453.592 grams in a pound.	lb or lbs
PSI	Pounds per square inch.	psi
PSIG	Pounds per square inch gauge.	psig
RPM	Revolutions per minute.	r/min
RPS	Revolutions per second.	r/s
root-mean-squared	The square root, of the average of the squares, of the values of a periodic quantity (like alternating current), taken through one complete period. It is the effective quantity of a periodic quantity.	rms
second	SI base unit of time, 1/60 part of a minute of time.	s
volt	SI unit of electric potential. The force required to produce a current of 1 ampere through a resistance of one ohm.	V



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