

Connectors & Accessories

CoreHC[™] Ganged Interconnect System



WHEN SIGNAL INTEGRITY & DENSITY MATTER

Our CoreHC[™] 2.5 mm pitch direct-attach cable assembly is a multichannel, test-point system targeted for high-density boards where space is limited. It offers reduced trace lengths and higher signal integrity compared to boards using traditional SMA and precision RF-type connectors. On average, there is 4x higher available bandwidth for signals in the same real estate as SMA connectors.

Our unique compression force design results in easy and rapid connectivity of high-frequency signals on the board. The 2.5 mm solution is designed for demanding bandwidths up to 65 GHz. Standard products are available in single and dual row 2-, 4-, 6-, 8-, 10-, and 16-channel configurations. Since there are configurations using single or multiple channels, board size can be optimized accordingly.

Vertical Mount

The vertical mount attachment solution eliminates the board-side connector or interposer by offering a direct connection of signals between the traces and pads on the PCB footprint and the compression pins on the cable assembly.

Edge Mount

A board-side interposer is required for an edge-mount-type solution. Optimized footprints and layouts are available upon request.

Right Angle

With a maximum connector height of only 9.08 mm, the right-angle CoreHC cable assemblies are very useful to transmit and receive high-frequency signals up to 65 GHz to and from low-profile-height printed circuit boards to analyzers and other sub-systems. Similar to edge-mount and vertical-mount configurations, the right-angle CoreHC solution is offered with 3.5 mm, 2.92 mm, 2.40 mm, or 1.85 mm precision RF connectors on the cable side, depending on the required frequency of operation. The right-angle CoreHC solution is available in 2-, 4-, 6-, and 8-channel configurations.

FEATURES	BENEFITS		
DC to 65 GHz frequency range	Supports a variety of current and emerging applications, reducing overall cost		
Board footprint compatibility	Can be used with Coplanar Wave Guide (CPW) and strip line PCB traces		
Multiple board-to-board solutions	• 8 mm to 20 mm stack-up height in 2 mm increments to meet certain height restrictions		
One-piece interface for vertical-mount type	Saves time and reduces costs because no soldering to the board is required; only PEM nuts are used for installation and removal		
Single piece right-angle configuration	 Suitable for low-profile height ~9 mm PCBs Suitable to probe signals close to DUT and away from PCB Edges 		
Zero force to disengage	Eliminates damage to PCB solder joints and footprints		
10,000 mate/demate cycles	High signal integrity in a long-life package provides high performance and lower cost of ownership		
Smaller overall footprint size	• 2.5 mm pitch to access signals in dense environments and save PCB space		
2 picosecond phase matching	High signal integrity		
2.92 mm and 1.85 mm cable-side connectors	Supports frequencies up to 65 GHz		
0.047" and 0.079" coax cables are available	• High-performance, microwave-grade, flexible coaxial cables offer high density, high frequency, and low losses		
Cable length options	Standard lengths offered in cm increments (custom lengths available upon request)		
Edge launch/mount option	Design flexibility for complex board layouts		
Multiple channels	Standard products available in single and dual row, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 channels (custom configurations upon request)		
Multiple signal probing	Probing is possible on single-ended or differential signals		
Flexible cables	Offers high electrical and mechanical stability		
Tilt protection	Shape of housings ensures high mechanical stability		
Keying	Eliminates mismating		
No custom tooling required	Interconnect mounts on board with standard tools		
Solder-free installation	Interposer-less design, no solder on PCB required		
Field-replaceable	Can be moved, reconfigured, and replaced in the field with standard tools		

SPECIFICATIONS & PERFORMANCE

Parameter	Specification			
Frequency Range	DC to 65 GHz			
Impedance	$50 \ \Omega \pm 2.5 \ \Omega$			
VSWR	Frequency Range	VSWR	Return Loss	
	DC–20 GHz	1.2:1	\geq 26 dB at DC to 65 GHz	
	20 GHz–30 GHz	1.25:1	\geq 17 dB at 26.5 GHz to 50 GHz	
	30 GHz–65 GHz	1.40:1	\geq 14 dB from 50 GHz to 65 GHz	
Insertion Loss	047 type cable: -2.2 dB (max) at 20 GHz		079 type cable: -0.7 dB (max) at 20 GHz	
Working Voltage	335 VRMS max @ sea level			
DWV (Dielectric Withstand Voltage)	500 VRMS (min)			
Insulation Resistance	5000 MΩ (min)			
RF High Potential	100 VRMS @ 5 MHz			
Force to Engage	60 g (typical per channel)			
Force to Disengage	0 (max per channel)			
Insertion Life	10,000 mating/demating cycles			
Phase Matching	2 picoseconds			
Pitch	2.5 mm			
Form Factor	Compression mounts directly to board			
Interface (Cable End to Equipment)	Female or male 1.85 mm, 2.4 mm, 2.92 mm & 3.5 mm			
Temperature Range	-65 °C to 125 °C			
Environmental	Meets MIL-STD-202 for corrosion, vibration moisture resistance, thermal, and mechanical shock			

Insertion Loss of 0.079" Single-Ended Coax



*Data shown is measured for 28 cm length cable assembly — Cable assembly losses only

Cable assembly and PCB trace loss

The measured differential insertion loss for a CoreHC cable assembly is shown below. Note the smoothing of the insertion loss curve in the graph with no spikes.

Differential Insertion Loss (SDD21)



Differential insertion loss of CoreHC interconnect using .079" coax cable

TYPICAL APPLICATION: SMALL FOOTPRINT & DENSE CONFIGURATION

Footprint Examples for Vertical & Edge Launch Assemblies



Single-Channel CoreHC-Based Secure Interconnect Solution



SPECIFICATIONS & PERFORMANCE

Minimizing crosstalk in high-density and extremely small board designs is important. With low crosstalk at high frequencies, excellent signal integrity can be assured with maximum layout flexibility and the routing of traces on the board. Figures 1 and 2 compare the crosstalk performance seen for both strip line and CPW boards across the frequency range of DC to 70 GHz for reference:



Fig. 1: Comparing near-end crosstalk for CoreHC interconnect in strip line and CPW designs



Fig. 2: Comparing far-end crosstalk for CoreHC interconnect in strip line and CPW designs



When it comes to return loss, it can be seen from Figure 3 that fewer reflections from the load and source side are seen travelling on the differential channel. In the case of single-ended PCB traces, there are more reflections, resulting in higher insertion loss.



GANGED RF HIGH-DENSITY INTERCONNECTS

Figure 4 shows different configurations, outlines and dimensions of standard CoreHC interconnect solutions



VERTICAL MOUNT





Fig. 4: Configurations and outlines of CoreHC interconnect

MOUNTING COREHC INTERCONNECT ASSEMBLY

PEM nuts need to be installed on the back of the PCB to mount the CoreHC interconnect cable assembly firmly in place. We offer six types of PEM nuts in both unplated/machined and plated finishes for different board thickness profiles as follows:



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