# Advances in Shielding Materials

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## Laird Technologies History



## **Global Facilities**





### **Polycarbonate Plastic Honeycomb:**

- Round Straws Glued Together
- Standard Cells Sizes 0.125" (3.2mm) and 0.250" (6.4mm)
- Standard Panel Thickness 0.25" (6.4mm) and 0.50" (12.7mm)
  - Other Panel Thickness Are Available
    Upon Request



#### **Metallization:**

- Base Layer 30µin Electroless Cu Conductivity
- Top Layer 10µin Electroless Ni Corrosion Protection
- Available Flame Protection
  - > V0 Coating
  - > Intumescent Coating



#### **Polycarbonate Plastic Honeycomb:**







#### **Edge Construction:**



#### **Conductive Foam**



#### **Metallization:**



MaxAir w/V0 Coating

MaxAir w/Intumescent Coating



### MaxAir - Product Performance Airflow – Pressure Drop Same As Equivalent Al Honeycomb





#### MaxAir - Product Performance Airflow – Usable Cooling Area Greater Than Equivalent Framed Al Vent Panel





### **MaxAir - Product Performance**

#### Shielding – Same As Equivalent Al Honeycomb



Frequency (MHz)





#### Some waveguides below cut-off



### **MaxAir - Installation**



#### **Horizontal Installation**



### **MaxAir - Installation**



Cover plate with EMI gaskets grounds front of honeycomb to the enclosure.



Soft, conductive foam perimeter gasket grounds the honeycomb directly to the enclosure.

# Horizontal Installation



### **MaxAir - Installation**





blocks even high frequency EMI while allowing unimpeded airflow

#### **Vertical Installation**



### Sculpted Foam The foam is "sculpted" into the profile shape.



Only the foam core has changed. No plastic stiffener base is required for application or for the manufacturing process



### What is the plastic stiffener base? The plastic stiffener base acts as a manufacturing aid in the Continuous Urethane Extrusion (CUE) process.





### Visual Differences The SF core is a tan/yellow color while the CUE foam is a charcoal color.





The Plastic Stiffener Base Is Not Required In Sculpted Foam

- The new manufacturing process allows the flexibility to use or not use the plastic stiffener base during production.
- The new foam core also allows the gaskets to be applied without the plastic stiffener base.



## Gaskets Without A Plastic Stiffener Base May Be Preferred

- The plastic stiffener base is a rigid body, which will not compress; a 100% foam gasket allows the gasket to be "softer", requiring less force to deflect.
- Gives improved performance with at a reduction in cost.



## **Better Application Performance**

- Superior compression set values; in many cases the Sculpted Foam Product is 50% better.
- Improved compression force; when the gasket is compressed greater than the recommended 50%, compression force is reduced by ~half.



### **Compression Set**

Modified ASTM 3574 Compression Set Test LT 4697-AB-H1K C-Fold vs. Competitive Equivalent





# **Conductive Foam**

Polyester Mesh Bonded to Top and Bottom Surfaces of Urethane Foam.

Silver/Copper/Nickel Metallization.

Metallized Foam Laminated to Full Width Release Liner with Random Coat Adhesive.



### **Conductive Foam Structure**



#### 100% of Substrate is Metallized





### **Conductive Foam Structure**



Standard Plated Polyester Mesh

Reticulated Urethane Foam (60ppi) Allows For Uniform Plating Throughout Product While Providing A More Direct Conductive Path And Strong Compression Set Resistance







#### Conductive Foam - 0.06" H x 0.5" W - Compressed to 40% 140.0 130.0 120.0 Shielding Effectiveness (dB) 110.0 100.0 90.0 80.0 70.0 60.0 50.0 40.0 -0.01 1.00 0.10 10.00 100.00 1000.00 .03 Frequency (MHz) - Conductive Foam

**Transfer Impedance Test Per SAE ARP 1705** 



### **Conductive Foam**



#### I/O Examples of Conductive Foam UL 94 HB Rated



### Form-In-Place Elastomer Gaskets



- Applied to diecast metal or metalized plastic parts.
- Can be applied to non-planar surfaces.
- Can be applied with standard application machinery



### Form-In-Place







## **Laird Technologies** Form in Place Gasket Technology

### A robotically controlled dispensed gasket that provides;

- Conductive shielding gaskets on enclosures, covers and components
- Accurately, Repeatedly and Dependably.
- Low cost shielding solution
- Prototypes and Production





### **Form In-Place Capabilities**

Shielding Effectiveness: 80-100dB to 18GHz

Soft /Low durometer compounds

One component RTV:

- Elastic: remains pliable/does not age harden
- Superb adhesion: plated plastic, aluminum, zinc, or cast metals
- RTV=Room Temperature Vulcanization





### **Dispensing Robot** Performance parameters

- Head travel speed: 0 to 160mm (6")/sec.
- Average dispensing speed: 15-25 mm/s cell phone
- Capacity: 1 to 8 dispensing heads for prototypes or high volume production.
- Cell phone production: 4000+ per shift with 8 heads.
- Average gasket material cost per cell phone: \$0.07



### Form-In-Place

•Automatically dispensed bead widths .075" to .014" & .065" to .014" high.

•High bead adhesion strength assures positive electrical and mechanical bond of dispensed compound onto surface to be shielded.

- Excellent EMI shielding providing > 90 dB at 100 MHz.
- Provides dust and moisture seal.
- Highly compressible compound provides low closure force necessary when used with thin wall miniature housings.
- Dispensable on any clean surface.



## Rotating dispensed gasket



Could replace MIP applications in some cases.(no need of tooling + short delivery for prototypes).

Technical limits: h/w <2

• Radius > 1 mm.



## FIP Examples









## Mold-In-Place PCB Shield



-Metal component can be custom designed in various shapes, mounting tabs, and heights

- Elastomer mold-in-place ribs can be provided with a tapered design to lower compression force

Laird TECHNOLOGIES

-Replaces multiple soldered printed circuit board shield cans with a single piece approach

-Ideal for hand held devices where space is at a premium -The metal substrate acts as a shielded enclosure allowing the use of a non-conductive housing



## Mold In Place





Various profiles to minimize forces, fit mating areas, etc.



## Mold In-Place

- Used to create high aspect ratio gasket solutions:
  - Height > Width
- Rapid Cycle times
- Automated process
- Fully Cured during cycle
- Efficient material use
- On a substrate it is a...
  - Defined profile or shape
  - Conductive or
  - Non-Conductive
- Substrates:
  - Metal or Plastics





## Mold In Place





## Molded EcE







EcE-Electrically Conductive Elastomer



## Injection Molding





## Drawn BLS with MIP Gasket



BLS – Board Level Shiel MIP – Mold In Place





#### ETHYLENE PROPYLENE DIENE MONOMER(EPDM)

|                | FILLER |       |       |       |      |      |    |   |       |
|----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|----|---|-------|
| POLYMER        | Ag     | Ag/Cu | Ag/Al | Ag/Ni | Ag/G | Ni/C | IA | С | TOTAL |
| SILICONE       | 3      | 3     | 2     | 1     | 2    | 3    | 1  | 1 | 16    |
| FLUOROSILICONE | 1      | 1     | 2     | 1     | 1    | 1    | 1  |   | 8     |
| FLUOROCARBON   |        |       |       | 1     |      |      |    |   | 1     |
| EPDM           |        |       | 1     | 1     |      | 1    |    | 1 | 4     |
| TOTAL          | 4      | 4     | 5     | 4     | 3    | 5    | 2  | 2 | 29    |

## Material Choices

## **Conductive Fillers**

- CARBON(C)
- > INERT ALUMINUM (IA)
- > NICKEL COATED GRAPHITE(Ni/C)
- > SILVER COATED GLASS(Ag/G)
- > SILVER COATED NICKEL(Ag/Ni)
- > SILVER COATED ALUMINUM(Ag/AI)
- > SILVER COATED COPPER(Ag/Cu)
- > SILVER(Ag)







## Conclusion

- New technology in RF vent panels allows for:
  - Lower cost
  - Greater airflow
- Sculpted Foam RF Gaskets
  - Lower Durometers (force)
  - Lower cost



## Conclusion

- Conductive Foam technology allows for:
  - More direct conductive path
  - Lower compression force
  - Lower cost
- Integrated Technology
  - Metal/Elastomer combinations
  - Plastic/Elastomer combination
  - Others



## Conclusion

- Today, conductive elastomer technology allows for many new:
  - Compounds
  - Shapes
  - Manufacturing methods
  - Durometers (force)
  - Smaller sizes
  - Higher attenuation at higher frequencies



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