

Probe Polish™ on a Prober Abrasion Plate

Probe Polish™ is designed to remove embedded and bonded debris from probe tips and collect any loose debris that was generated during probing. The abrasive material in the polymer will remove the accumulation of embedded or bonded debris but is not so aggressive that it will alter the probe material or probe contact area.

GENERAL

Frequent use of the **Probe Polish™** will reduce the number of touchdowns required to remove the embedded or bonded debris. **International Test Solutions** recommends to start with 100 microns over travel or penetration into the polymer. For aluminum pads begin by cleaning every 250 touchdowns. The cleaning frequency will be dictated by the amount of debris accumulation. Some customers clean, as often as every 50 touchdowns while others are able to clean every 4,000 touchdowns. The number of touchdowns per cleaning cycle is generally 10 touchdowns while indexing to a new location between each cleaning insertion. Probe card cleaning frequency and number of cleaning insertions varies according to the specific testing environment.

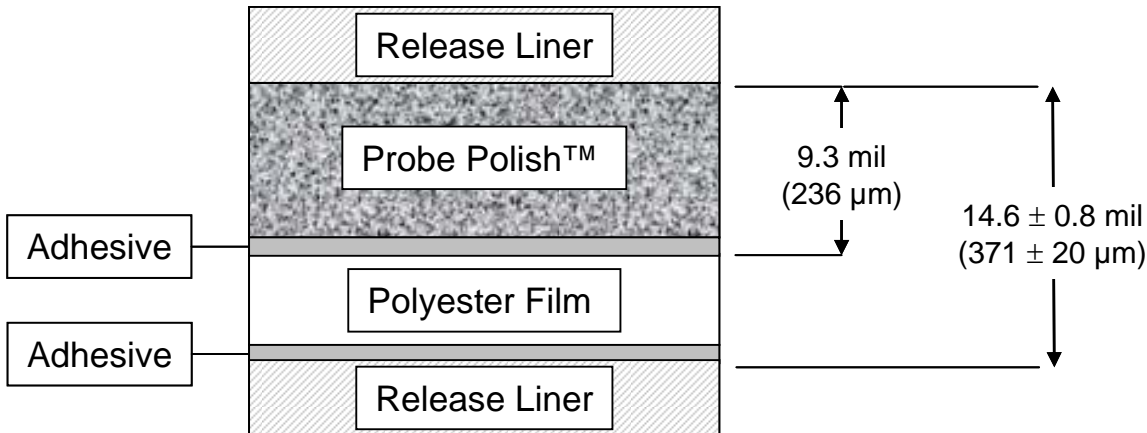
The cleaning motion with **Probe Polish™** is only in the Z direction. No lateral forces are applied to the probes. The forces exerted on the probe when cleaning with **Probe Polish™** are less than the forces as during normal testing operations.

The **Probe Polish™** polymer layer also collects and traps the debris generated during cleaning. Reuse of the cleaning pad will cause the trapped debris to be pushed deeper into the polymer. This allows reuse of the same location several times. Visually check the pad from time to time to ensure that it does not become overloaded with debris, which might cause probe damage or alignment change. To achieve maximum cleaning efficiency offset each touchdown location approximately 2 times the probe diameter in the X and Y directions, giving consideration to the probe array size and orientation.

CROSS SECTION

Probe Polish™

Nominal Stack Height = 14.6 ± 0.8 mil (371 ± 20 µm)



Probe Polish™ is a registered trademark of International Test Solutions.

RECOMMENDED SETUP

1. Install the **Probe Polish™** on the abrasion plate.
 - a. Remove back protective cover to expose adhesive.
 - b. Place the **Probe Polish™** on abrasion plate starting at one edge and press it into place to exclude all air pockets that may get trapped between the two surfaces. Ensure the top surface is flat and smooth.
 - c. Use a piece of transparent tape to touch the edge of the protective cover. Peel the front protective cover from the sample. Take care not to lift the **Probe Polish™** material from the contact surface of the abrasion plate.

**USE EXTRA CARE NOT TO TOUCH THE WORKING SURFACE
WITH THE SCOTCH TAPE AS IT MAY REMOVE THE PROBE
POLISH™ FROM THE POLYESTER SUBSTRATE.**
 - d. Store the protective cover for later installation on the sample, if required.
2. Calibrate the prober cleaning unit height and modify the cleaning utility program to overdrive into the abrasive polymer 100 µm (~4 mil).
 - a. Set the surface height of the polymer as the “new cleaning height” for the abrasion plate (polymer is non-conductive). The calibration procedure is defined for each prober equipment manufacturer. Please reference the proper calibration procedure to set the new height of the abrasion plate or cleaning unit “with the polymer added”. This procedure may be referenced in “maintenance” documents for your specific system and may require additional tooling such as a micrometer to complete the procedure. Failure to perform this calibration procedure will result in excessive overdrive into the polymer causing damage to the cleaning material or possible damage to the probes. Do not proceed beyond this point without first performing the cleaning unit calibration.
 - b. Set the overdrive equal to 100 µm (~4 mils), depending on probe style.
3. The cleaning recipe must move over the entire surface area, ensuring that the probe array remains within the **Probe Polish™** surface area.
 - a. **International Test Solutions** recommends starting with 10 cleaning touchdowns at a new location for each cleaning. Probe card cleaning frequency and number of cleaning insertions varies according to the specific testing environment. Offset the touchdown point by 2X the probe diameter in the “+Y” direction and 2X the probe diameter in the “+X” direction each touchdown. For example, 25 µm (1 mil) probe diameter is offset 50 µm (2 mil) in the “X” direction and 50 (2 mil) µm in the “Y” direction.
 - b. By continuing the offset each time the prober cleans the probe card, a pattern can be developed to fully utilize the entire cleaning surface.
 - c. The cleaning pattern may be repeated several times over the area that has been previously used. The polymer material does not breakdown easily if it is reused in a given area but consideration needs to be given to the amount and type of debris deposited on the abrasive polymer.

Contact **International Test Solutions** at 775-284-9220, or via email at techsupport@inttest.net, to discuss your specific probe card cleaning application and requirements.

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