



Automation, Flexibility and the 'Electronics Supercycle'

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Accurate Microsectioning for High-Volume Production

Published: 02 December 2020
 by Tim Weber

Processes and tools for accurate lab analysis and defect detection.

Electronic sample preparation is a complex process that goes beyond merely lopping a piece off a PCB for inspection. This process involves several, exacting preparation stages.

The process designs each step to specifically adapt to the inspected device's design, materials, and fabrication technology. Performing any of the preparation stages incorrectly can result in spurious features, artifacts and great potential for both Type I and Type II error.

The process starts with PCB manufacturers designing test coupon segments into each of their products. This function enables panel testing without wasting the actual production board. To confirm the lab has met product specifications, they separate the coupon from each panel.

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