

Re: Hand reworking SMT mictors?

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- *From:* nico@xxxxxxxxxxx (Nico Coesel)
 - *Date:* Wed, 11 Oct 2006 16:07:47 GMT
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a7yvm109gf5d1@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Hi,

This might be a bit out of place in a design group, so apologies in advance. This just seems the best place to ask a practical question.

I'd like to replace Samtec QTE connectors manually on a populated board.

<http://www.samtec.com/ftppub/cpdf/QTE-XXX-XX-X-D-XXX-MKT.pdf>

The specifics are not important. The general problem is that there is a long ground pin under the part which needs a solid connection. None of the rework places want to touch this because I'd need at least a custom stencil for this. The ground lead must be soldered properly.

I tried approaching solid solder deposit people but they won't touch a populated board. I tried the polyimide microstencil folks but the thickness of the stencil means the connector won't seat properly. I tried convincing the rework people to pop the ground lead out a bit with a small screwdriver and solder the pin by hand then mash the connector housing back together later. But "pop" and "mash" are not accepted terms in this industry, it seems.

I will write-off the boards if I can't replace the connectors but maybe someone out here has a great idea??

Heat the board gently with a paint stripper (aka heat gun) to remove the connector, clean the pads using desoldering braid. Apply some solder to the centre pad (not too much) and some solder flux and re-heat the board using the paint stripper. Just be carefull not to over heat (burn) the board. After this, the pins of the connector can be soldered. I've used this procedure before on devices which hidden pads.

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Reply to nico@nctdevpuntil (punt=.)

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