

The processing guidelines contained in this document were developed through in-house testing and field experience. However, they *should be considered to be starting points that will require further adjustment*. Read the following review of processes for applicability to your particular Printed Wiring Board (PWB) fabrication environment. Remember that the suggestions contained herein can not account for all possible board designs or processing environments. Additional adjustments by the fabricator will be necessary. Isola can and will assist with this process, but the fabricator, not Isola, is ultimately responsible for their process and the end results. **Fabricators should verify that PWBs made using these suggestions meet all applicable quality and performance requirements.**

Part 1: Handling and Use

IS680AG is a fully cured material system, ready for immediate use in fabrication. No special handling is required. IS680AG is compatible with all normal PCB etchant systems, as well as photoresist materials.

Part 2: Drill

General

To assure effective removal of the resin debris during drilling, undercut drill geometries and high helix tools are suggested. On high layer count technologies and thicker overall board thicknesses, peck drilling parameters may be necessary. Suggested parameters are outlined below for typical multilayer designs.

Cutting Speed and Chipload

Relative to standard FR-4 parameters, use lower chiploads and cutting speeds to drill IS680AG printed circuit boards. The parameters in **Table 1** provide a *moderate initial starting point for typical board designs*. Thick boards with heavy copper or special cladding such as invar will require more conservative drill parameters. Boards with numerous 2 oz. copper innerlayers or boards with coarse glass weave may require more conservative parameters.

Stack Height and Hit Count

Stack heights and hit counts will vary according to construction and overall thickness of the boards being drilled. For thicker boards, above 2.5 mm (100 mils) overall, with high layer counts, drill one high.

Maximum hit count for drill diameters below 0.020" is 1,000, while drills at or above 0.020" diameter can be permitted up to 1,500 hits. These general guidelines are strongly influenced by board thickness, geometry, stack height, etc.

Aluminum entry and lubricated backing help create good quality hole walls but are not essential in all applications. It is suggested that the fabricator's supplier of entry and backup be consulted.

Table 1: Suggested Drilling Parameters For Initial IS680AG Setup

Drill Size		Spindle Speed	Surface Speed Per Minute		Infeed		Chipload		Retract	
mm	Inch	RPM	SMPM	SFPM	Meter min.	Inch min.	mm rev.	Mil rev.	Meter min.	Inch min.
0.25	0.0098	100,000	79	258	1.02	40	0.010	0.40	15	600
0.30	0.0118	105,000	99	325	2.16	85	0.021	0.81	20	800
0.35	0.0138	95,000	104	343	3.05	120	0.032	1.26	20	800
0.40	0.0157	95,000	119	392	3.81	150	0.040	1.58	25	1000
0.50	0.0197	76,000	119	392	4.83	190	0.064	2.50	25	1000
0.63	0.0248	62,000	123	403	4.45	175	0.072	2.82	25	1000
0.80	0.0315	49,000	123	404	3.73	147	0.076	3.00	25	1000
0.90	0.0354	44,000	124	408	3.35	132	0.076	3.00	25	1000
1.00	0.0394	39,000	123	402	2.97	117	0.076	3.00	25	1000
1.27	0.0500	31,000	124	406	2.36	93	0.076	3.00	25	1000
1.50	0.0591	26,000	123	402	1.98	78	0.076	3.00	25	1000
2.00	0.0787	22,000	138	454	1.68	66	0.076	3.00	25	1000

Part 3: Hole Wall Preparation

Chemical Desmear

Trials show that IS680AG is more chemically resistant than typical FR-4 resin systems.

Cyclic amine (NMP) based conditioners have demonstrated more consistent success than have glycol ether based conditioners. Consult the chemical supplier when setting parameters for IS680AG.

Part 4: Packaging and Storage

IS680AG finished boards have low moisture sensitivity and good shelf life. However, Isola recommends using best practices in storage and packaging, as noted below, to reduce risk during lead-free assembly.

IS680AG boards should be dry prior to packaging to ensure the most robust lead-free performance. For some complex, high reliability designs, baking prior to solder mask application can be implemented to ensure maximum floor life in assembly processing. Printed boards made for high temperature assembly from IS680AG, which require a long shelf life, the best protection is provided using a Moisture Barrier Bag (MBB) with a Humidity Indicator Card (HIC) and adequate drying desiccant inside the MBB to prevent moisture absorption during shipment and long-term storage.

Upon opening the MBB, the boards should be processed within 168 hours when maximum shop floor conditions are at < 30°C (85°F)/60% RH. MBB bags that are opened for inspection should be resealed immediately to protect the boards from moisture uptake.

Part 5: Health and Safety

Always handle laminate with care. Laminate edges are typically sharp and can cause cuts and scratches if not handled properly. Handling and machining of prepreg and laminate can create dust (see IS680AG Material Safety Data Sheet).

Appropriate ventilation is necessary in machining/punching areas. The use of protective masks is suggested to avoid inhaling dust. Gloves, aprons and/or safety glasses are suggested if individuals have frequent or prolonged skin or eye contact with dust.

Isola Group does not use polybromidebiphenyls or polybromide-biphenyloxides as flame retardants in any product. Material Safety Data Sheets are available upon request.

Part 6: Ordering Information

Contact your local sales representative or visit: www.isola-group.com for further information.

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