

JEDEC STANDARD

Wire Bond Pull Test Methods

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JEDEC SOLID STATE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION



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WIRE BOND PULL TEST METHODS

(From JEDEC Board Ballot JCB-22-47, formulated under the cognizance of the JC-14.1 Committee on Silicon Devices Reliability Qualification and Monitoring.)

1 Scope

This test method provides a means for determining the strength and failure mode of a wire bonded to, and the corresponding interconnects on, a die or package bonding surface and may be performed on pre-encapsulation or post-encapsulation devices. This test method may be performed on gold alloy, copper alloy, and silver alloy thermosonic (ball and stitch) bonds made of wire ranging in diameter from 15 μm to 76 μm (0.6 mils to 3.0 mils); and on gold alloy, copper alloy, and aluminum alloy ultrasonic (wedge) bonds made of wire ranging in diameter from 18 μm to 600 μm (0.7 mils to 24.0 mils).

This wire bond pull test method is destructive. It is appropriate for use in process development, process control, and/or quality assurance.

This test method allows for two distinct methods of pulling wires:

- 1) One method incorporates the use of a hook that is placed under the wire and is then pulled.
- 2) One method requires that after the wire be cut, a clamp is placed on the wire connected to the bond to be tested, and this clamp is used to pull the wire.

This test method defines three pull tests. The Wire Pull Test (WPT) is appropriate for all bonded wires. The Bond Pull Test (BPT) and Stitch Pull Test (SPT) are appropriate for thermosonically bonded wires.

This test method can also be used on the following four applications of thermosonic and ultrasonic bonds, though each requires special considerations when performing the test method:

- a) Pulling aluminum wires and aluminum ribbons (see 3.5.1) that are bonded with multiple ultrasonic bonds. See 5.3.1.1.1 for special considerations. Multiloop wires and ribbons are used in some high-power device packages.
- b) Pulling wires of reverse bonds which are also known as “stitch on ball”. These types of bonds can include gold stitch on gold ball, copper stitch on copper ball, and copper stitch on gold ball. See Clause A.1 in Annex A for additional information.
- c) Pulling a thermosonically bonded wire that has a security bond (see 3.9) or security loop (see 3.9.1) placed on top of the stitch bond (see 3.1.2) in order to provide additional strength. See Clause A.2 for additional information.
- d) Pulling thermosonic wire bonds on stacked dice when wires and/or bonds are not accessible to allow for proper pull testing. See 5.3.1.1.3 for special considerations.

2 Normative References

JESD47, *Stress-Test-Driven Qualification of Integrated Circuits*

Also see Annex H (informative) References.

3 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

bond, wire: The adhesion or welding of a wire (typically gold, aluminum, copper, or silver) to a bonding surface using a thermosonic or ultrasonic wire bonding process.

ball bond: The first bond during the thermosonic (ball) bonding process, in which the end of a small diameter wire (typically gold, copper, or silver) is bonded to a die bonding surface (typically an aluminum alloy die pad metallization).

NOTE The ball bond includes the enlarged spherical or nail-head portion of the wire that is provided by the electronic flame-off), the underlying bonding pad, and the metallurgical weld interface between the ball bond and the bonding pad.

stitch bond: The second bond during the thermosonic (ball) bonding process, in which the wire is typically bonded to the package bonding surface (e.g., leadframe, substrate, post, etc.).

NOTE 1 A stitch bond may also be referred to as a crescent bond.

NOTE 2 For some unique constructions (e.g., reverse bond), the second bond may be formed on top of a bump. See also “reverse bond” and “bump”).

wedge bond: The attachment of a wire (typically aluminum, copper, or gold) or an aluminum ribbon to a die bonding surface (typically aluminum pad metallization) or the package bonding surface (usually a plated leadframe post or finger) using an ultrasonic bonding process.

bonding surface: Surface to which the wire is bonded, which may be any one of the following: 1) the die pad metallization or die surface metallization (e.g., MOSFET), 2) the package surface metallization (e.g., leadframe, substrate, post), 3) a bump (see also “reverse bond” and “bump”), or 4) a bonded stitch on die pad/flag or package surface metallization (see also “security bond” and “security loop”).

bonding process, thermosonic: A bonding process in which two members are joined through the combined application of heat, pressure, and an ultrasonic oscillatory lateral motion.

bonding process, ultrasonic: A bonding process in which two members are joined through the combined application of pressure and an ultrasonic oscillatory lateral motion.

bonding wire: A wire that is bonded to a chip bonding surface in order to electrically connect the chip to any other point within the device package.

3 Terms and Definitions (cont'd)

ribbon (wire): A flat wire (non-round).

NOTE Throughout this test method the term “wire” covers both wire and ribbon (wire).

aluminum wire: A aluminum alloy wire in which the aluminum content is typically 98% or greater.

copper wire: A copper alloy wire in which the copper content is typically 99%, but also includes copper wire with a very thin coating of palladium or gold and palladium.

gold wire: A gold alloy wire in which the gold content is typically 99% or greater.

silver wire: A silver alloy wire in which the silver content is typically greater than 85% for integrated circuits (ICs) and greater than 75% for light emitting diodes (LEDs).

midspan: A location on the bonded wire that is approximately one half of the horizontal distance between the two bonds. (See Figure 1)

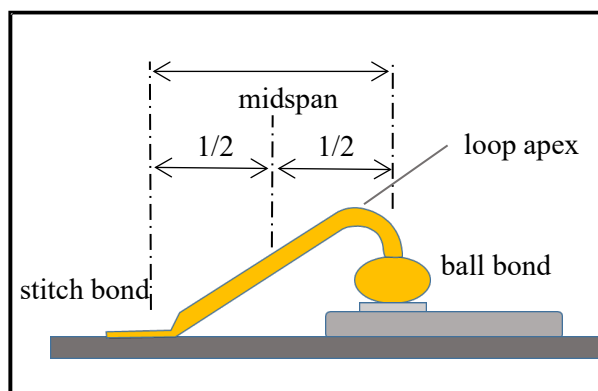


Figure 1 – Definition of Midspan

outlier product: Product that meets manufacturer specifications and user requirements but exhibits anomalous characteristics with respect to a normal population (an example of which is depicted by the histogram in Figure 2) and may be subject to a higher-than-normal level of failures in the user's application.

NOTE 1 For purposes of this document, all Wire Bond Pull Tests have only a minimum pull value requirement and no upper limit, thus the upper specification limit (USL) is not applicable.

NOTE 2 See also JESD50, “Special Requirements for Maverick Product Elimination and Outlier Management”.

3 Terms and Definitions (cont'd)

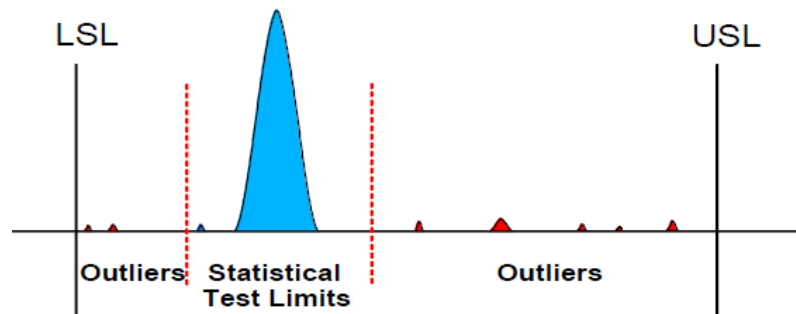


Figure 2 – Depiction of Eight Outliers, Seven of Which are Outlier Products

reverse bond: A thermosonic bond for which the ball is placed on the package bonding surface and the stitch is placed on a bump on the die. This is also known as “stitch on ball”.

bump: A thermosonic ball bond from which the wire has been removed. It can be used as the underlying ball bond for reverse bonds on which the stitch (2nd bond) for the reverse bond is placed, or the ball bond placed on a stitch bond to form a security bond.

security bond: The placing of a bump (see also “bump”) on top of a stitch bond to improve the mechanical strength of a stitch bond to withstand the shearing stress between the encapsulation material and the bonding surface.

NOTE Security bonds are commonly used in surface mount LED (light emitting diode) packages which use non-filled encapsulants for the lens material that have higher coefficients of thermal expansion than silica filled encapsulants, and thus exert higher shear stresses on the stitch bond.

security loop: A security bond from which the wire has not been removed and the wire for the security loop is attached to the same bonding surface as a stitch bond.

wire bond pull, destructive: A process in which an instrument pulls on a thermosonic or ultrasonic bonded wire until failure.

wire bond pull, non-destructive: A process in which an instrument pulls on a thermosonic or ultrasonic bonded wire with a specified load that is below the minimum destructive pull value, such that no permanent damage or degradation is expected to be imparted on the wire.

wire bond pull force (destructive): The force required to cause any of the following to occur: the bonded wire to break; one of the bonds to separate from a bonding surface; or one of the bonding surfaces to separate from the die, leadframe, or substrate.

4 Apparatus and Material

The apparatus and materials required for wire bond pull testing shall be as follows:

4.1 Inspection Equipment

An optical microscope system or scanning electron microscope with a minimum of 70X magnification is required to support the optical assessment of the resulting failure mode, such as whether the wire break was ductile or brittle or if the bond lifted from pad or leadframe/substrate with or without residues on pad or leadframe/substrate). However, a higher magnification may be necessary for verifying Failure Codes 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (see 5.5 for a detailed discussion of Failure Codes).

4.2 Workholder

The fixture used to hold the device, known as the “workholder” shall prevent any movement of the device during wire bond pull testing and shall allow positioning the hook for optimum force application to the wire.

4.3 Wire Bond Pull Equipment

The apparatus shall consist of suitable equipment for applying a pulling force to the bonding wire as required per this test method until failure occurs within the wire, wire bond, or wire bonding surface. The equipment shall be capable of applying force at a constant rate. The equipment shall indicate the applied force in SI and/or English units and be calibrated over the full range of the expected values for the specific wire being pulled with an accuracy of ± 5 percent of the intended breaking load or ± 2.9 mN (± 0.3 gf), whichever is the greater tolerance. The required range of force values will vary by wire material and wire cross-section.

The pull tester manufacturer’s recommended pulling tool travel speed for the wire material being tested should be used. To verify that the pull speed for a test was in an acceptable range, the output of the loadcell shall be reviewed to ensure that the strain rate was consistent throughout the test.

4.4 Pulling Hook

The pulling hook should be made of a strong, rigid material that will not deform during pull testing. The diameter of the wire used to make the hook utilized to apply force to the interconnect wire shall be large enough and its final shape shall be such to ensure that the force applied by the hook distributes the pull force through the wire to the bonds and does not cut through the wire. Table 1 provides the minimum diameter for the pulling hook to ensure the above requirement.

Table 1 – Guidance for the Minimum Diameter of the Pulling Hook

Wire diameter	Hook diameter
≤ 50 microns (2 mils)	Minimum of 2.0x wire diameter
> 50 microns (2 mils) to ≤ 125 microns (5 mils)	Minimum of 1.5x wire diameter
> 125 microns (5 mils)	Minimum of 1.0x wire diameter

For ribbon wire, use the equivalent round wire diameter which gives the same cross-sectional area as the ribbon wire being tested. The flat portion of the hook (horizontal) should be $> 1.25x$ the equivalent diameter of the ribbon wire being tested.

4.4 Pulling Hook (cont'd)

The hook shall be smooth (no sharp edges) and free of defects and contamination which could compromise the test results or damage the wire being pulled.

4.5 Bond Pull Clamp

For the clamp pull tests, the clamp used shall be able to apply enough force to the wire being pulled to hold it firmly such that it will not slip during the test. The clamp shall be large enough to firmly hold the diameter of the wire or width and thickness of the ribbon to be pulled such that it does not move when being pulled. The external shape and dimensions of the clamp shall be optimized to allow for it to clamp onto the wire to be pulled, but also minimize the chance of it touching and possibly damaging other wires on the device that are intended to be pull tested.

5 Procedure

5.1 Calibration

Before performing the wire bond pull test, it must be determined that the equipment has been calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and is presently in calibration. Recalibration is required if the equipment is moved to another location.

5.2 Visual Examination of Bonds to be Tested after Decapsulation

In addition to being a manufacturing process monitor, this test method can also be used to assess bonds of encapsulated devices after soldering operations or after reliability stress testing. To do this, the encapsulation material needs to be removed in a manner that does not significantly degrade the wire, the bond, the bonding interface, or the bonding surface. Bond pull force values are often lower for bonds that have been decapsulated, and therefore cannot be compared to values for similar, unencapsulated bonds. If the decapsulation process is well controlled and repeatable, which is the case for gold wire, then this test method can be used for lot-to-lot comparison; however, it may be hard to consistently control the decapsulation process for copper and silver wires to ensure the accuracy of the results. For copper (Cu) and silver (Ag) wires, the effectiveness of etch has been seen to vary due to the encapsulation material and the level of reliability stress testing performed on the samples. See Annex B for additional information regarding the decapsulation process of devices with Cu and Ag wire bonds.

Bonds must also be examined to ensure that enough encapsulation material has been removed to allow for suitable placement of the pull hook.

5.2.1 Bond Pad Examination and Acceptability Criteria for Both Aluminum and Copper Bond Pad Metallization

If performing wire bond pull testing on a device which has been opened using wet chemical and/or dry etch techniques, the bond pads shall be examined to initially ensure that there is no absence of metallization on the bonding surface area due to chemical etching, and then ensure that wire bonds are attached to the bonding surface. Bonds on aluminum or copper bond pads with significant chemical attack or absence of metallization shall not be used for wire bond pull testing.

5.2.1 Bond Pad Examination and Acceptability Criteria (cont'd)

It is possible that wire bonds on bonding surfaces without degradation from chemical attack may not be attached to the bonding surface due to other causes (e.g., package stress), however, in these cases wire bonds are considered valid and shall be included in the pull data as a zero (0) pull force value.

5.2.2 Examination and Acceptability Criteria for Cu and Ag Wire and Connections (All Bonds)

When performing wire bond pull testing on a device with copper or silver wires, the connection of the bond and wire shall be examined after decapsulation, both before or after the pull test to ensure that there is no significant loss of metal or other damage due to decapsulation process that might affect the results of the pull test. The pull result can be excluded for a copper bond or a copper wire with significant chemical attack or other damage due to the decapsulation process. Annex B provides additional information to assess what level of damage is acceptable.

5.3 Performing the Wire Bond Pull Test

Multiple wire bond pull tests are described in this document:

- wire pull (hook used to pull wire so that both bonds are stressed),
- ball pull (hook or clamp used to stress mainly the ball bond),
- stitch pull (hook or clamp used to stress mainly the stitch bond), and
- pull of wedge bonds (clamp or hook used to stress either one or both bonds).

Each of the pull tests and their variations are described below.

NOTE Not all bond pull tests give repeatable and/or reproducible results, as results may be affected by the geometry of the device and the device decapsulation results (if decapsulation is required). The determination of which wires and bonds are to be pulled within a device and by which pull test is determined by the qualification document that references this test method and should ensure that the pulling of all types of bonds is adequately addressed.

5.3.1 Hook Pull Method

The wire bond pull equipment shall pass all self-diagnostic tests before beginning the test. The wire bond pull equipment and test area shall be free of excessive vibration or movement. Examine the pull hook to ensure that the correct hook is used and to verify it is in good condition and is not bent or damaged (nicks, sharp edges, etc.). Check the pull hook to verify it is in the up position.

Adjust the workholder to match the device being tested. Position the device so that the bond to be pulled is located below the pull hook. Lower the pull hook or raise the device depending upon the wire bond pull equipment being used, so the hook is below the wire to be pulled but will not contact the surface of the die or package substrate/leadframe (Figure 3). If there is not enough space under the wire for the hook, a clamp may be used to perform the wire pull test. See 5.3.2 for details.

5.3.1 Hook Pull Method (cont'd)

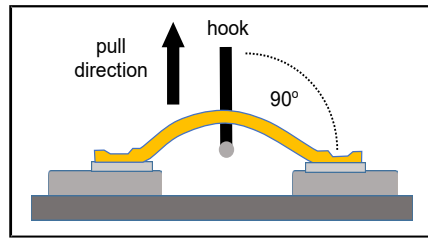


Figure 3 – Place Hook Under Wire

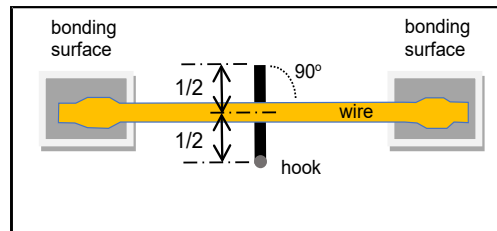


Figure 4 – Orientation of Hook with Respect to the Wire (Viewed from Above)

Position the hook with respect to the bonded wire to be tested so that it is perpendicular to the length of the wire when observed from above (see Figure 4), or if constrained by space, as close to perpendicular as possible. Position the pull hook under the wire so the wire is approximately in the middle of the hook; not too close to the end of the hook so that the wire might slip off, or too close to the inside of the hook such that the upper part of the hook does not allow for free movement of the wire. The hook should not contact the wire prior to the start of the test. Once in place, the hook shall be pulled upward, perpendicular to the bonding surface whenever possible.

If the spacing between wires is less than the length of the hook, such that the hook cannot be inserted next to the wire to be pulled without contacting a wire, then use one of the following approaches to insert the hook may be used:

- 1) The recommended approach is to use a pull tester that has the capability to rotate the hook assembly. This capability rotates the hook to be parallel to the wires, lowers the hook below the wire loop, and then rotates it back such that the hook is orthogonal to the wire. Care must be taken to not contact the wire when it is rotated to the orthogonal position.
- 2) If the pull tester does not have the capability to rotate the hook assembly, the device itself may be rotated until the hook is parallel to the wires, the hook is then lowered below the wires, and then finally the device is rotated back so that the hook is orthogonal to the wire to be pulled without disturbing either adjacent wire.

The correct location for placing the hook along the length of the wire as prescribed by the type of pull test to be performed. Below are the three pull tests defined in this test method and their respective hook locations:

- 1) Wire Pull Test (WPT), see 5.3.1.1 - Hook pull near the mid-span of the wire
- 2) Ball Pull Test (BPT), see 5.3.1.2 - Hook pull near the neck of the thermosonic ball bond
- 3) Stitch Pull Test (SPT), see 5.3.1.3 - Hook pull near the thermosonic stitch bond

5.3.1 Hook Pull Method (cont'd)

Final hook placement shall be accomplished under observation at 15x minimum magnification. A microscope with a zoom capability may be used for indexing the hook.

If the hook contacts an adjacent wire during set-up or during the pulling operation, that adjacent wire shall not be used for pull testing. If the touched wire was required to have been pulled, then a Failure Code of 0 (See 5.5) should be applied to that wire and another wire be chosen for pull testing.

5.3.1.1 Wire Pull Test (WPT) – Hook Pull Near the Midspan of the Wire

This test may be used on thermosonic bonded gold, copper, and silver wire; on ultrasonic bonded gold, copper, silver, and aluminum wire; and aluminum ultrasonic ribbon. This method is similar to Mil Std 883, Method 2011, Condition D.

For this test the hook shall be placed approximately at the midspan of the length of the wire that is not deformed by the formation of the bonds. See Figures 5a through 5f for variations in hook placement for different types of wire bonds. Each of the diagrams in Figure 5 shows a space between two lines for the approximate placement of the hook. This test method cannot provide an exact location for the placement of the hook due to differences in wire length and shape for each bonded wire. Whenever possible, it is recommended that each wire to be pulled be reviewed and a specific location be identified to minimize variability in the results if multiple samples of the same device are to be pull tested.

5.3.1.1 Wire Pull Test (WPT) (cont'd)

The hook shall be in a fixed position that restricts motion along a straight line between each bond, so that it will not rise to the highest point which could result in a test for only one bond (e.g., as for a ball bond).

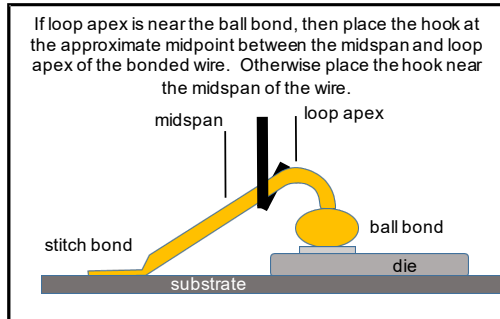


Figure 5a – Thermosonic (die to substrate)

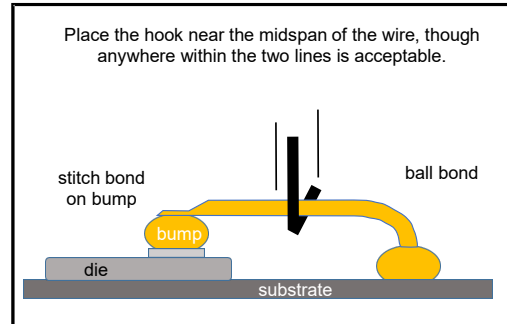


Figure 5b – Thermosonic (reverse)

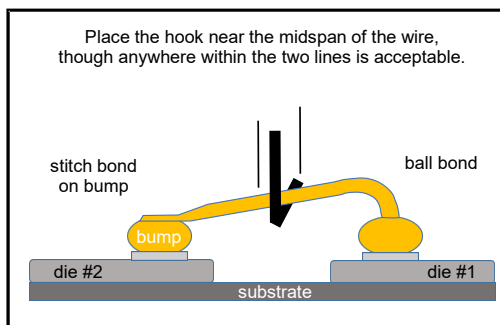


Figure 5c – Thermosonic (Die to Die)

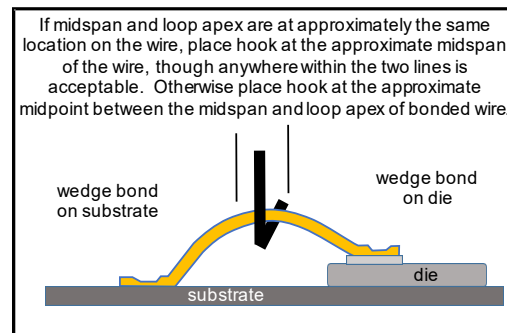


Figure 5d – Ultrasonic (die to substrate)

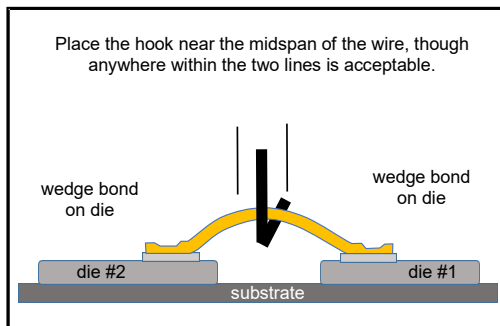


Figure 5e – Ultrasonic (die to die)

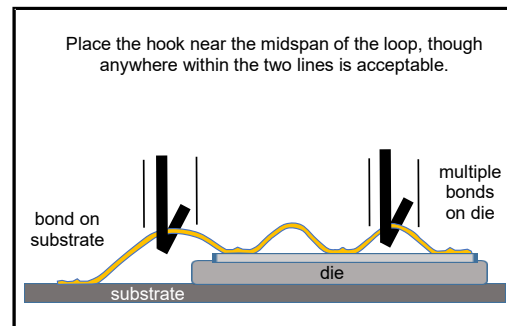


Figure 5f – Ultrasonic multi-loop wire/ribbon

NOTE If this method is to be used on wires post encapsulation, the full length of the wire must be free of material. The decision to ensure that all encapsulation material is removed from the bonds will depend on whether there is a concern for failure at either of the bonds.

Figure 5 – Hook Placement for Wire Pull Test (WPT) for Different Types of Wire Bonds

5.3.1.1.1 Special Considerations for Pulling a Bonded Ribbon or Wire with Multiple Loops

When performing (mid-span) wire pull testing on a bonded ribbon or wire with multiple loops see the requirements below for the number of loops to be pulled. If the bonded ribbon or wire has:

- 2 loops – Pull only one of the loops (as the middle bond will be weakened by the initial pull which could artificially lower the pull force for the 2nd loop).
- 3 or 4 loops – Pull the outer two loops.
- 5 or more loops – Pull the outer two loops. Optionally, additional loops may be pulled as long as neither bond for the loop has been previously subjected to pull testing (i.e., neither loop on each side of the loop to be pulled has been pull tested).

5.3.1.1.2 Special Considerations for Pulling Wires and Ribbons with Low Loop Height

Wires with low loop height may prevent access of the hook for wire pull testing. Figure 6 shows a module with multiple die and the ultrasonic bonds shown have low bond angles and thus an overall low loop height.

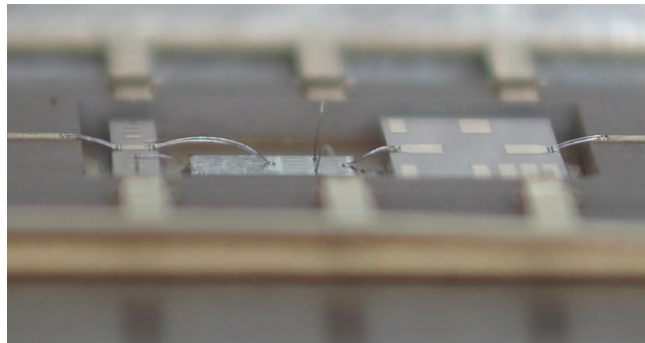


Figure 6 – Wires with Low Bond Angles

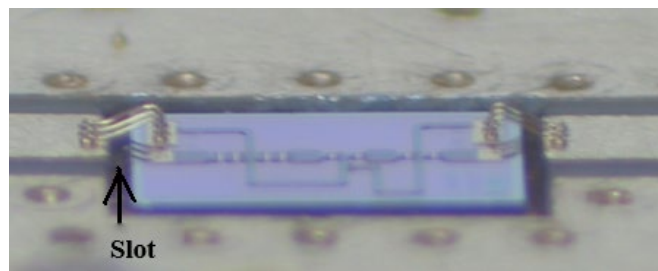


Figure 7 – Device with Slots to Allow for Hook Placement

A test coupon with either slots (Figure 7) or attached metallized ceramic chips may be used to replicate the wire loop profile and permit access of the hook to the wire to be tested. These wires are to be bonded at the same time the production devices are bonded using the same setup, operator, and schedule. The test coupon wires are to be pull tested in lieu of the inaccessible wires on the production device. Failures on the test coupon shall be considered as failures to production device and appropriate action is to be taken in accordance with the applicable specification.

5.3.1.1.3 Special Considerations for Pulling Wires on Stacked Die

Stacking configurations for packages with multiple dice can pose challenges in wire pull testing as not all wires or bonds will be exposed to allow for proper pull testing. For some die stacks, not all wires will be accessible by a hook or clamp once fully assembled. For other die stacks, some of the bonds may not be able to freely move during the pull test (e.g., are encapsulated by die adhesive material).

To enable wire pull testing for process monitoring, special test vehicles of partially assembled product should be used to allow for the pulling of wires and bonds that are not accessible once all dice are bonded. The test vehicle shall be bonded at the same time the production devices are bonded using the same processes, procedures, and controls.

When developing the test vehicle build plan, ensure that the wires chosen for pull testing cover the extremes found within the package. For example, pulling wires with the lowest and highest loop profile or pulling the top and bottom wires in a stack to sample the extremes for bonding preheat.

Figure 8 shows a stack of 8 dice, with four dice stacked like shingles going to the right, and then four dice stacked going to the left. The wires shown for the lower four dice cannot be pulled by a hook as the upper four dice create interference with the pull test. The bond on the fourth die in the stack has the additional issue that it is within the die attach film and thus would not be free to move during wire pulling test. Therefore, it is recommended that to assess the integrity of the wire bonds on the four lower dice, a test vehicle with just the bottom four dice be used for wire pull testing and actual product be used for pull testing of the wire bonds on the top four dice.

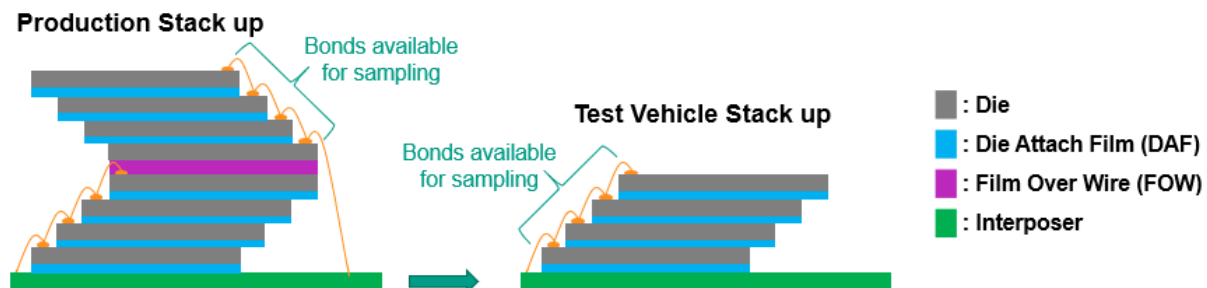


Figure 8 – Reverse "Shingle" Stack