Datum steps, pockets and cavities

Micron Precision. Controlled Transitions. Fast Delivery

Datum supplies customised micro-profiled sheet and foil ready to be laser cut to stencils.

Offering significantly improved levels of positional accuracy, surface finish and transition control to open new opportunities for SMT multilevel stencils (steps), 3D Epoxy stencils, reservoir stencils and 2 print stencils.



A Fast Changing Market

The demand for smaller and smaller electro- mechanical components and Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) is increasing.

At the same time there is a requirement for a larger number of different sized components on a circuit board requiring new technology to maintain manufacturing efficiency.

Industry analysts expect the requirement for step stencils to double in the next 3-5 years.

Datum's capability to produce precision steps, pockets and cavities on a wide range of thin sheets and foils gives you the ability to ride this trend and deliver on a fast changing market requirement.

Datum micro-profiling produces steps on the foil with the following benefits critical to the SMT process.

- Z- Axis dimensional accuracy within 5μm
- Complete edge control ensures a consistent angle and radius allowing apertures to be designed closer to steps and pockets.
- A more gradual transition in stepped areas can extend the life of the squeegee and stop paste build up within the transition.
- Using fiducials and camera guided positioning we can provide the same level of accuracy to features on both sides of a stencil.
- Burr free and surface finish approaching or the same as virgin cold roll PHD or Tension stencil materials. Guaranteed < 0.50 μ m but typically< 0.30 μ m.



Step production: Datum vs etching

Method of production	Etching	Welding	Datum
Accuracy	+/-10% (variable)	Material Dependent	+/-5µm (consistent)
Roughness	Ra >0.50 μm	Material Dependent	Ra <0.50 μm
Transition	Uncontrolled	90° steps. Limited height	Controlled & burr free
Process	Hazardous	Clean	Clean
Delivery	24-48 hours	24-48 hours	24-48 hours



Datum Micro-profile Capability

Dimensional Capability	mm	Inch
Maximum material gauge	0.50mm	0.020"
Minimum floor thickness*	0.05mm	0.002"
Maximum sheet dimensions	700 x 1,000mm	27" x 39"
Maximum machined area dimensions**	600 x 900mm	23.6" x 35.4"



Dimension Tolerance and surface finish		
Thickness of the milled area	+/- 5μm	+/- 0.0002"
Surface finish (Ra)	< 0.50μm	

Other	
Can be machined pre-mounted?	Yes
Steps/cavities on both sides of the stencil?	Yes
Preferred file format ***	DXF



- * Smaller available but not guaranteed
- ** Depends on gauge
- *** Potential processing fee for other formats or where excessive CAD work is required



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