

Replacing Pins on the 99BP Probe

PerfectTest type 99BP probes (backplane probes) are equipped with pins that can be replaced by the user. The newly designed pin head assembly uses the same type of design as the standard 99A probe, which allows the user to simply pull out the damaged pin and insert the new replacement pin.

When replacing pins in the 99BP probe, please note the following:

- The replacement “data” pins and the “read” pins are both the same length. The 2 “read” pins, located in opposite corners of the pin group appear to be approximately .020” shorter than the data pins. That is because the pin sockets are intentionally recessed .020” to assure that all of the “data” pins are in contact with the coupon before the “read” pins make contact, which then signals the software to collect the data from the PerfectTest coupon on the panel.
- The end of the pin with the small hole faces *out* from the plastic assembly. This end of the pin is hollow, and *must be handled carefully*. To remove or insert data pins, use a tweezers to grasp the pin to avoid excessive force, which may cause dents or creases in the pin.
- Insert the replacement pin and press it all the way in, until it is flush with the plastic. Then use a wooden toothpick, provided in the replacement pin kit, to gently push the pins about 1/16” below the surface of the plastic. You will feel a slight click as the pin is seated in the socket. Never use excessive force when working with your probe.
- Probe cables should be replaced frequently, at least every 3 months if used regularly. Even though the *system test* may indicate that the cable is OK, broken conductors in the cable, caused by repetitive flexing during use can lead to intermittent failures, and result in corrupted data. Always destroy the old cable to prevent its future use.
- The much larger guide pins can also be replaced by simply pulling out the old pin and inserting a new replacement pin. These guide pins are used only to help align the probe to the coupon more easily, and do not have any direct function with the actual collection of data.

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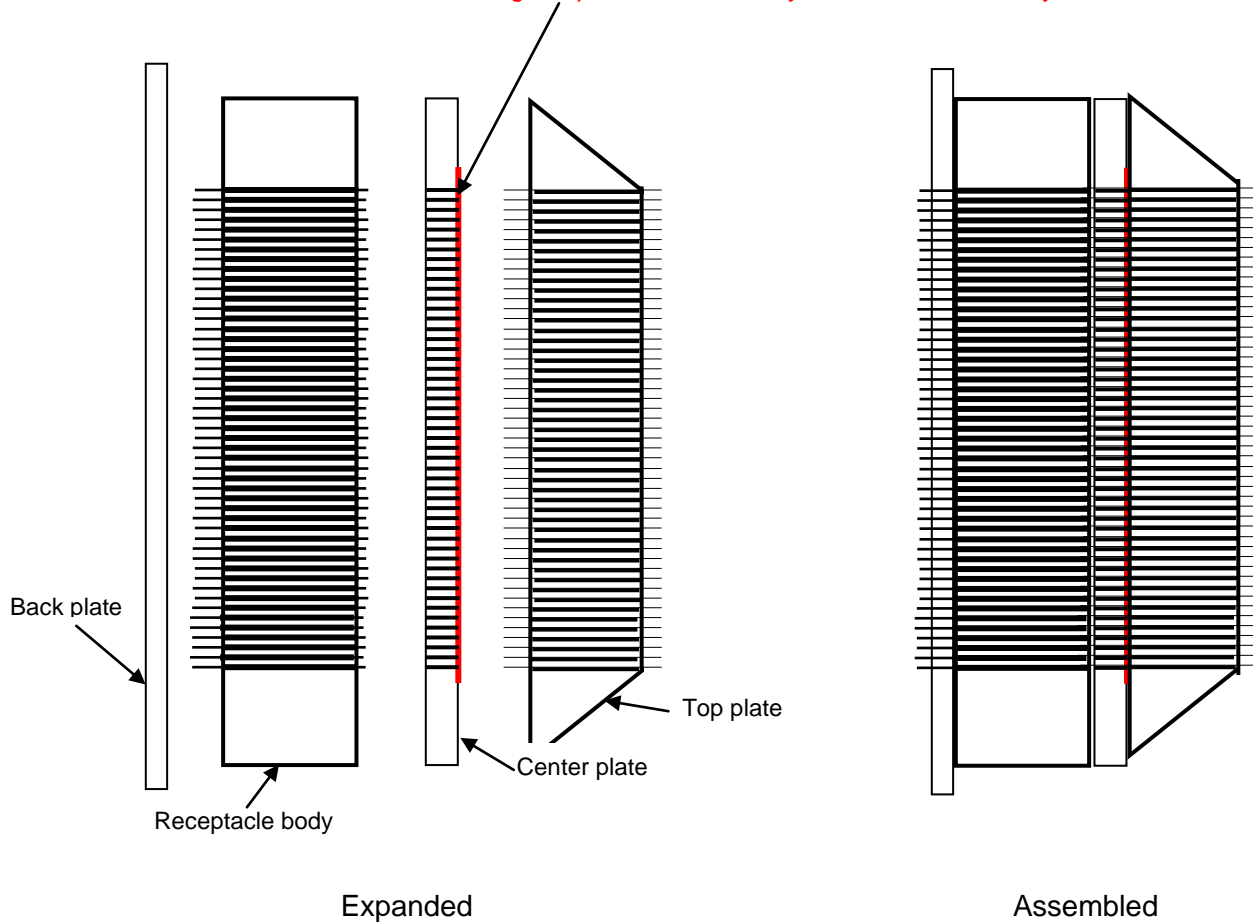
When replacing pins on the 99BP probe, it is very important to follow the instructions below to avoid inaccurate data.

Insert the replacement pin into the plastic pin-head assembly, and press it all the way in, until it is flush with the plastic. Then use a small wooden toothpick, to gently push the pins about 1/16" below the surface of the plastic. You will feel a slight click as the pin is seated in the socket. This will assure that the data pin has been properly seated past the retaining membrane, which shown as red in the above illustration. *Never use excessive force when working with your probe.*

Red in the drawing below represents a thin Spandex membrane, used to hold the pins in place. The tension on this membrane is carefully calibrated to provide the correct retentive strength, required to hold the test pins in place, and must only be serviced by the PerfectTest factory.

Spandex membrane, used to hold the pins in place. The tension on this membrane is calibrated to provide the correct retentive strength, required to hold the test pins in place, and should only be serviced by the PerfectTest factory.

Disassembling the pin-head assembly will void the warranty.



Side view of PerfectTest pin-head assembly.
Drawing is not to scale.