# Recommended pick and place tools of LEDs

**Application Note** 

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# **Recommended pick and place tools of LEDs**

**Application Note No. AN037** 



Valid for: all SMT LEDs

# Abstract

SMT devices are developed for assembly by automatic placement machines. To achieve a damage-free processing of LEDs, appropriate and individual pick and place tools (the nozzles) must be used.

The following pages provide information about important parameters that should be considered for LED assembly. Furthermore a recommended nozzle design for each SMT LED in the portfolio is given.

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# 1 Automated LED placement

Most LEDs from ams-OSRAM are delivered on tape and reel. Figure 1 shows the principle structure of LEDs in tape on reel with cover tape.

Figure 1: LEDs on tape and reel



Automated placement systems usually offer the best placement accuracy for LEDs. In this process, a placement head picks up the LEDs from the feeder and places them on the PCB. To avoid damage to the LED, the placement process must be strictly controlled by using an appropriate pick and place tool and to ensure that the process parameters conform with the

package characteristics. An initial production run is recommended to ensure that all settings are correct. There are some key factors which define a good assembly process. The three most important parameters are the settings for component feeding (Feeding), the system parameters (setting) and the nozzle used (Figure 2). The correct individual coordination of these interacting factors is the prerequisite for a good placement process.

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Figure 2: Important interacting parameters



## 1.1 System parameter settings

Defined and proper process parameters can reduce this risk of damage to the LED. The default settings of the machine may be a good starting point.

One of the first parameter that should be defined is the pickup position. Therefore the data concerning the component and pocket dimensions should be taken into account. These can be found in the corresponding data sheet for the component. Figure 3 shows an example of a data sheet entry. After the initial setting it is recommended to check the final settings again before each production.



#### Figure 3: Data sheet entry for component and pocket dimensions

#### 1.1.1 Vision System

A high component placement accuracy can be achieved with component placement machines that use vision systems. This enables exact placement of the LEDs at their beforehand programmed positions. Reference points, so-called fiducials, which are located on the PCB, are used for orientation. These are recognized by the vision system camera before starting the assembly process. Furthermore, most vision systems have special contrast illumination and algorithms in order to recognize the contours and component-specific markers more easily for further improving the assembly precision. The vision system uses the "look-up" method, which means that the component is viewed from the bottom side. For this, the component is first picked up from the tape and then the bottom side of the component is checked with a camera. With the help of an image processing system (into which the LED-specific data have been programmed) the footprint and the polarity are detected. This can significantly improve the quality of the assembly.

For a good placement result, especially with more complex footprints, it is recommended to use a pick-and-place machine with integrated vision system. Figure 4 shows an example of how to teach-in the footprint to the ASM Assembly Systems GmbH & Co. KG Vision System. For recognition purposes, it is recommended to teach in the pads of the component backside and not the outline of the part.



#### Figure 4: Teaching the ASM Assembly Systems GmbH & Co. KG Vision System

For example: These two leads are used by the camera image

#### **Z-height**

Regarding the pickup of the components from the carrier tape, the Z-height (see Figure 5) also influences the process. This allows two different ways of picking up the components with the nozzle:

- With contact
- Contact-less (harvesting method)

In order to reduce the mechanical stress on the component to a minimum and to avoid possible damage to the LED, it is important to place the nozzle correctly when picking up the component from the tape. Particularly with lightweight components, it should be noted that the vacuum of the nozzles can lift the component before the nozzle has reached it final position. To avoid errors, it is essential to check the component-specific z-height.

Figure 5: Nozzle pick-up with z-height definition



#### **Placement force**

The placement force applied to the top of the package should be kept to minimum. For example, it can be tested with the standard default setting (2.0 N in most cases) at the beginning and should be then further reduced, if possible.

### **1.2** Tape feeder

Automatic placement machines are usually equipped with specific feeder units (pneumatic or electric) which transport the tape. Electric feeders have the advantage that they generate less vibration during the placement process and are therefore preferably recommended for the pick and placement of LEDs. Figure 6 shows an electric feeder.

Figure 6: Electric feederl



In some cases, the indexing process, the process when the tape in the feeder is moved to the next pick-up position, can cause problems. It may happen that some LEDs in the pocket get misaligned, tilted or twisted. It is also possible for the LEDs to "jump" out of the tape pocket, resulting in pick-up errors, wrong placement position and damage of the LED package or bond wire. To avoid this the nozzle pick-up position should be directly after the cover tape peel off position. It is recommended that tape pockets are not be left open or uncovered before pick-up.

Additionally, the angle at which the cover tape is peeled back should be as small as possible to reduce the pulling force of the LED during indexing. Depending on the feeder design and construction there is an optional peel back slot / position with reduced risk of misaligned LEDs, see Figure 7.

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# 1.3 Nozzle set-up

Nozzles are individually manufactured for the various placement machines and are usually only developed for a specific component shape or component geometry. The right nozzle selection, combined with a proper set-up, helps to pick the components from the tape for a proper placement without risk of pre-damage or tilting. Therefore, ams-OSRAM AG provides an overview of most products in the portfolio with corresponding nozzle recommendation in chapter "2 Overview of recommended nozzle designs". Since most of the in-house tests are performed with a system from ASM Assembly Systems GmbH & Co. KG, mainly nozzles from this company are recommended. If nozzles of other manufacturers are used, it is always important that the geometry is according to the recommended nozzle. If you have any questions, please contact ams-OSRAM AG.

#### Non touch area

For some products non touch areas are defined and they vary depending on the design of the LED. Non touch area describes the area, in which the nozzle is not allowed touch the LED. It is important that this non-touch area is taken into account if a nozzle other than the recommended one is used.

# 2 Overview of recommended nozzle designs

For the processing of LEDs it must be ensured that the process parameters are conform to the package characteristics during assembly. If nozzles or nozzle designs other than the recommendations are used, it must be strictly observed that especially the critical and optical relevant area (area over die/s and wire bond/s) is not loaded.

If further information or support regarding the processing of LEDs is needed please contact ams-OSRAM AG.

A catalog with a linkage of the tools to the associated LED product family is listed in Table 1. This table shows the LED product families and the recommended nozzle design with the nozzle number and a dimension drawing of the nozzle. Alternative nozzles are indicated for some products. Since most products were tested with SIPLACE pick and place machines, SIPLACE nozzles are often recommended. If other types of pick and place machines are used in the field, please use modified tools according to the given dimensions and body structure for the mounting.



































## **Product family Recommended nozzle design** SIPLACE 2038 Power SIDELED $^{\mathbb{R}}$ Lx B6SP $\oplus$ Δ SIPLACE 2004 SIDELED® Lx A67x 1.2 SFH 4256 SFH 325 SFH 4244 Ľ SFH 4255 SIPLACE 2004 SMARTLED<sup>®</sup> 0603 Lx L2xx 1.2 SFH 4050 / SFH 3010 L SIPLACE 2033 SYNIOS<sup>®</sup> P2720 Kx DMLx31 SFH 4770S / SFH 4775S SFH 4776 1.1 1.6 SIPLACE 2033 SYNIOS<sup>®</sup> E2314 KW DNLS31.RA 1.1 1.6 SIPLACE 03085846-02 SYNIOS<sup>®</sup> E4014 KW DPLS3x ŝ 4 S ഹ Ø 1 1.7









# 3 General recommendation

Before the assembly process, the nozzle tip should be checked to ensure that it is clean and free of dust. Residues could interact with the LED surface during pickup and placement. The equipment used should be well maintained to avoid faults.

# 4 Solution proposals for potential issues

# 4.1 Components tilting due to vibration

As already mentioned, electric feeders are preferred because they reduce the move out of components in tape pocket due to their lower vibration. A further reduction in vibration can be achieved by installing a special spacer adapter in the feeder unit to adjust for the dedicated tape pocket height.

## 4.2 Feeder with metal shutter

It is possible to use feeders with a metal shutter. This metal shutter releases the LED-pocket or closes it mechanically by moving back and forward. One setting option is to specify how many LEDs are released (Figure 8). However, it must be ensured that this metal shutter does not touch the components, as otherwise mechanical damages may occur.



Figure 8: Feeder with metal shutter

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## 4.3 Stick on tape

As the potting material for LEDs often silicones are used, which might be "sticky" depending on the ambient temperature and humidity. They can be lifted during covertape removal (Figure 9).

This can lead to the following problems:

- The LED touches the nozzle while it is lifted from the tape
- The LED falls back "tilted" into the tape and cannot be picked up accurately by the nozzle



Figure 9: Lifted LED during cover tape removal

In these cases it is recommended to use the alternative pull back position of the cover tape as shown in Figure 10. Furthermore, we recommend controlling the humidity and providing an antistatic environment, e.g. with an ionizer. It is recommended to use electrical feed to control feeding speed and reduce any vibration of the carrier tape.

Figure 10: Feeder peel back position



Standard peel back position Cover tape peel back slot for sticky components

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