An Alternate Degreasing Solvent

When preparing the surface of a test specimen for the installation of strain gages, the preferred general-purpose degreasing agent for most applications is CSM-2 Degreaser. Instructions for performing this important part of the gage installation process when using CSM-2 are given in Vishay Micro-Measurements Application Note B-129, Surface Preparation for Strain Gage Bonding.

In some cases, the specimen may be adversely affected by this powerful solvent. In others, company or governmental regulations may preclude its use. When faced with these restrictions, GC-6 Isopropyl Alcohol often may be utilized as a suitable alternate degreasing agent.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

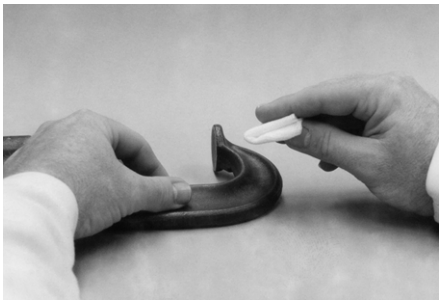
GC-6 is supplied in specially selected containers to avoid contamination of the isopropyl alcohol from the container itself. To use this solvent, pour it directly from the container into a clean gauze sponge (GSP-1) or apply with a compatible dispensing container, available from laboratory supply houses. Please note, however, that GC-6 has a relatively high flammability, and any dispenser used should not be of the type that atomizes or produces a mist or fine spray.

Any degreasing agent must be kept free of contaminants to work effectively. Avoid dipping the sponge into the liquid or holding the sponge against the mouth of the container.

The saturated sponge, folded in quarters, is used to vigorously scrub the gaging area.

As the sponge becomes soiled, refold it to expose a clean portion. When completely soiled, discard the sponge and continue with a fresh sponge moistened with GC-6.

When the surface is thoroughly degreased, no soil will be visible on the sponge after scrubbing. When this condition is achieved, allow the solvent to evaporate from the specimen surface for about 30 seconds. The drying time may be reduced by immediately blotting the degreased area with a clean, dry sponge to remove excess solvent.



Following completion of the degreasing step, continue with surface preparation procedures as outlined in Application Note B-129, Surface Preparation for Strain Gage Bonding.