

# GAS DISCHARGE TUBES (GDTs)

Littelfuse's GDTs (Gas Discharge Tubes) are placed in front of, and in parallel with, sensitive telecom equipment such as power lines, communication lines, signal lines and data transmission lines to help protect them from damage caused by transient surge voltages that may result from lightning strikes and equipment switching operations. These devices do not influence the signal in normal operation. However, in the event of an overvoltage surge, such as a lightning strike, the GDT switches to a low impedance state and diverts the energy away from the sensitive equipment.

Our GDTs offer a high level of surge protection, a broad voltage range, low capacitance, and many form factors including new surface mount devices, which makes them suitable for applications such as Main Distribution Frame (MDF) modules, high data-rate telecom applications (e.g. ADSL, VDSL), and surge protection on power lines. Their low capacitance also results in less signal distortion. When used in a coordinated circuit protection solution with PolySwitch devices, they can help equipment manufacturers meet stringent safety regulatory standards.



## BENEFITS

- Helps provide overvoltage fault protection against damage caused by high energy surges
- Suitable for use in sensitive equipment due to impulse sparkover response
- Suitable for high-frequency applications
- Highly reliable performance
- New surface-mount devices for automated manufacturing

## FEATURES

- RoHS compliant
- Halogen free (refers to: Br $\geq$ 900ppm, Cl $\geq$ 900ppm, Br+Cl $\geq$ 1500ppm)
- Wide range of voltages (75V-4000V)
- Wide range of form factors (3mm, 5mm, 6mm, 7mm, 8mm diameter devices)
- Low capacitance and insertion loss
- Crowbar device with low arc voltage
- High accuracy spark-over voltages for high precision designs

## APPLICATIONS

- Telecommunications
  - MDF modules, xDSL equipment, RF systems, antenna, base stations
- Industrial and Consumer Electronics
  - Power supplies, surge protectors, alarm systems, irrigation systems
- Devices tested per ITU K.12 recommendations
- Various lead configurations and surface-mount options
- Optional fail-short mechanism
- Non radioactive materials
- Devices certified to UL497B and UL1449

# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G1-G2 – Typical Circuits for Gas Discharge Tubes



**Table G1 – Device Voltage Ratings, Surge Rating, Capacitance, Insulation Resistance and Agency Approval for Two-Electrode Gas Discharge Tubes**

Part Number	DC Sparkover Voltage	Impulse Sparkover Voltage	Impulse Discharge Current		Impulse Withstanding Voltage	Capacitance	Insulation Resistance	UL Rating
	@ 100V/s ± 20% Tolerance	@ 1kV/μs	8x20μs 10 Hits (5 Hits Each Polarity)	8x20μs 300 Hits (150 Hits Each Polarity)	10/700μs 10 Hits (5 Times Each Polarity)	@ 1MHz	@ 100V <sub>DC</sub> <sup>†</sup>	UL497B #E179610
GTCS23-XXXM-R01-2	75*	600	1kA	100A	4kV	<0.5pF	1,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	90	600						
	140	600						
	150	600						
GTCC23-XXXM-R01-2	200	700	1kA	100A	6kV <sup>†</sup>	<0.5pF	1,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	230	700						
	300	900						
	350	1000						
	400	1000						

\* DCSO 60-105

<sup>†</sup> Devices <=150V measured @ 50V<sub>DC</sub>

<sup>‡</sup> Effective output impedance: 40ohms

Part Number	DC Sparkover Voltage	Impulse Sparkover Voltage		DC Holdover Voltage	On-State Voltage	Impulse Discharge Current	Impulse Life	AC Discharge Current (1s duration; 10 hits)	Capacitance	Insulation Resistance	UL Rating
	@ 100V/s ± 20% Tolerance	@ 100V/μs	@ 1kV/μs	Per ITU K.12	Nominal (@1A) (V)	8x20μs 10 Hits	10x1000μs 300 Hits	@ 50 Hz	@ 1MHz	@ 100V <sub>DC</sub>	UL497B #E179610
GTCX25-XXXM-R02	75	450	550	<52	20	2.5kA	100A	2.5Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	90	450	550	<52	20						
GTCX26-XXXM-R05	140	500	600	<80	20	5kA	100A	5Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	200	600	700	<135	20						
	230	600	700	<135	20						
GTCX28-XXXM-R05	250	600	700	<135	20	5kA	100A	5Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	260	700	800	<135	20						
	300	800	900	<150	20						
GTCX28-XXXM-R10	350	900	1000	<150	20	10kA	100A	10Arms	<1pF <sup>††</sup>	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	400	900	1000	<150	20						
	420	900	1000	<150	20						
	470	1050	1150	<150	20						
	500	1100	1200	<150	20						
GTCX28-XXXM-R20**	550	1300	1400	<150	20	20kA	100A	20Arms	<1.5pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	600	1300	1400	<150	20						

\*\* GTCX28-XXXM-R20 parts only up to 350V

<sup>††</sup> <1.2pF for 75V and 90V devices.

## Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

**Table G2 – Device Voltage Ratings, Surge Rating, Capacitance, Insulation Resistance and Agency Approval for Two Electrode High-Voltage Gas Discharge Tubes**

Part Number	DC Sparkover Voltage	Impulse Sparkover Voltage	Impulse Life	AC Discharge Current, 50Hz		Impulse Discharge Current 8/20µs		Capacitance @ 1MHz	UL Rating
	@ 100V/s ± 20% Tolerance	@ 100V/µs		Multiple Hits (1s Duration: 10 Hits)	Single Hit, 9 Cycles	10 Hits (5 Hits Each Polarity)	1 Hit		
GTCA28-801M-R05	800	1400	300 times	5A	N/A	5kA	N/A	<1pF	UL1449 #E332226 ✓
GTCA28-102M-R03	1000	1700	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-122M-R03	1200	1900	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-152L-R03	1500 (± 15%)	2200	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-212M-R03	2100	2700	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-242M-R03	2400	3300	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-252M-R03	2500	3500	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-272L-R03	2700 (± 15%)*	3700	300Times <sup>†</sup>	N/A	N/A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-302M-R03	3000	4000	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-312L-R03	3100 (± 15%)*	3700 <sup>†</sup>	300Times <sup>†</sup>	N/A	N/A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-362M-R03	3600	4600	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓
GTCA28-402M-R03	4000	5000	N/A	1A	5A	3kA	10kA	<1pF	✓

**Table G3 – Device Voltage Ratings, Surge Rating, Capacitance, Insulation Resistance and Agency Approval for Three-Electrode Gas Discharge Tubes**

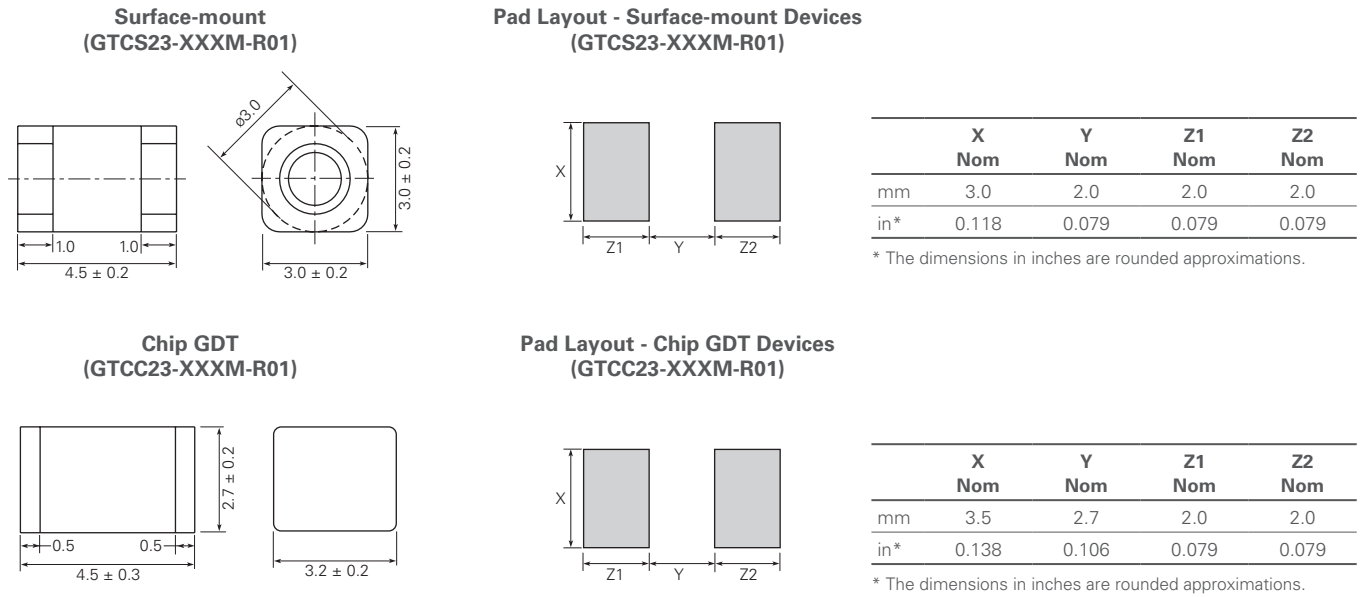
Part Number	DC Sparkover Voltage (A-E) (B-E)	Impulse Sparkover Voltage (A-E) (B-E)		DC Holdover Voltage	On-State Voltage	Impulse Discharge Current (A+B-E)	Impulse Life (A+B-E)	AC Discharge Current (1s duration; 10 hits) (A+B-E)	Capacitance	Insulation Resistance	UL Rating
	@ 100V/s ± 20% Tolerance	@ 100V/µs	@ 1kV/µs	Per ITU K.12	Nominal (@1A) (V)	8x20µs 10 Hits	10x1000µs 300 Hits	@ 50 Hz	@ 1MHz	@ 100V <sub>DC</sub> *	UL497B #E179610
GTCX35-XXXM-R05	75	450	550	<52	20	5kA	100A	5Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	90	450	550	<52	20						
GTCX36-XXXM-R05	140	500	600	<80	20	5kA	200A	5Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	150	500	600	<80	20						
GTCX36-XXXM-R10	200	600	700	<135	20	10kA	200A	10Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	230	600	700	<135	20						
	250	600	700	<135	20						
GTCX37-XXXM-R10	260	700	800	<135	20	10kA	200A	10Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	300	800	900	<150	20						
	350	900	1000	<150	20						
	400	900	1000	<150	20						
GTCX38-XXXM-R10	420	900	1000	<150	20	10kA	200A	10Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	470	1050	1150	<150	20						
	500	1100	1200	<150	20						
GTCX38-XXXM-R10	550	1300	1400	<150	20	10kA	200A	10Arms	<1pF	10,000 (MΩ)	All Devices
	600	1300	1400	<150	20						

\* Insulation resistance measured at 50V for devices less than 150V.  
Insulation resistance measured at 250V for devices more than 500V.

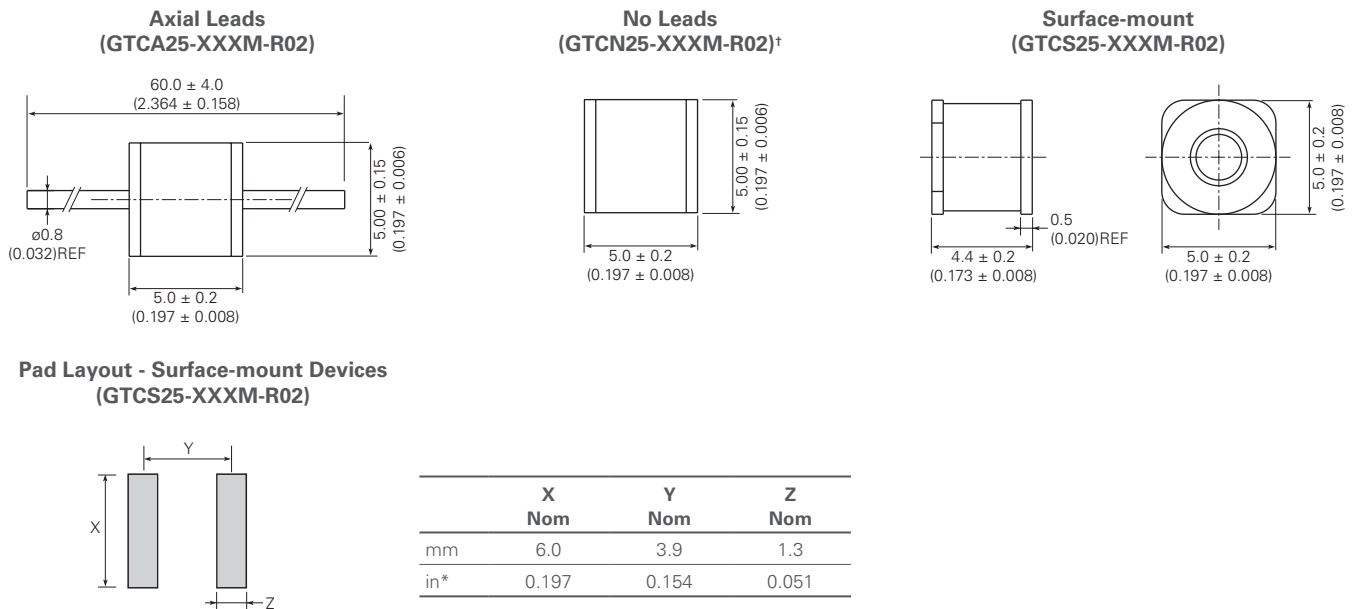
# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G3-G11 – Dimensions for Gas Discharge Tubes

### Figure G3 – Two Electrode 3mm Product Dimensions



### Figure G4 – Two Electrode 5mm Product Dimensions



\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.  
 † Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G3-G11 — Dimensions for Gas Discharge Tubes

(Cont'd)

### Figure G5 — Two Electrode 6mm Product Dimensions



#### Pad Layout - Surface-mount Devices (GTCS26-XXXM-R05)



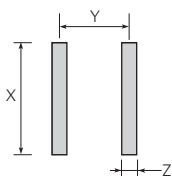
	X Nom	Y Nom	Z Nom
mm	7.0	3.7	1.3
in*	0.276	0.146	0.051

\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.  
 † Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

### Figure G6 — Two Electrode 8mm Product Dimensions



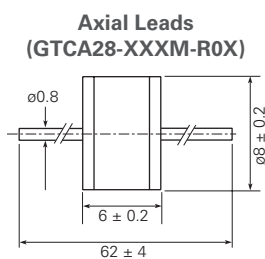
#### Pad Layout - Surface-mount Devices (GTCS28-XXXM-R05, R10 & R20)



	X Nom	Y Nom	Z Nom
mm	9.0	5.6	1.2
in*	0.354	0.22	0.047

\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.  
 † Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

### Figure G7 — Two Electrode 8mm High Voltage Product Dimensions

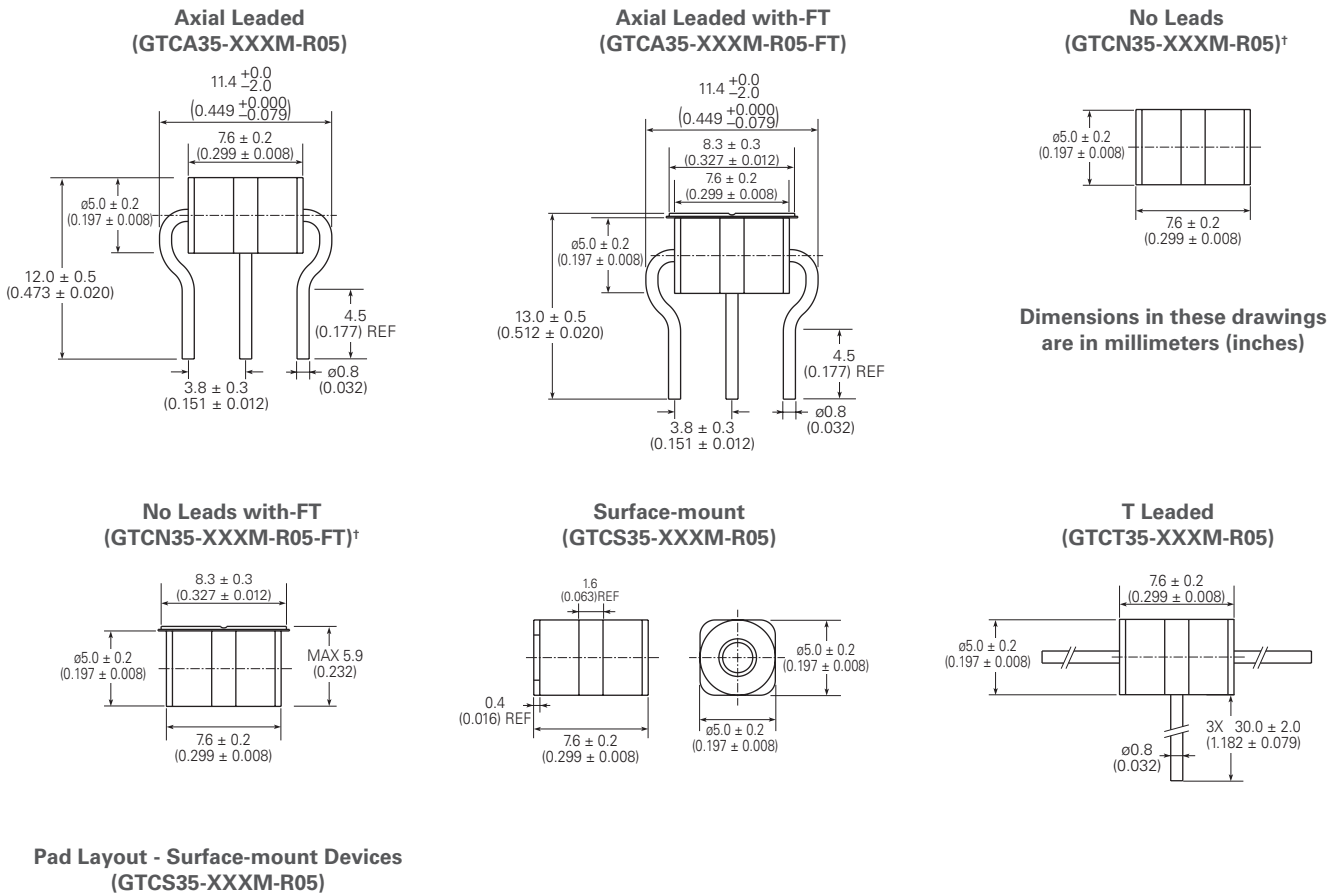


# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G3-G11 — Dimensions for Gas Discharge Tubes

(Cont'd)

### Figure G8 — Three Electrode 5mm Product Dimensions



	<b>X Nom</b>	<b>Y1 Nom</b>	<b>Y2 Nom</b>	<b>Z1 Nom</b>	<b>Z2 Nom</b>
mm	6.0	3.6	3.6	2.5	1.3
in*	0.236	0.142	0.142	0.098	0.051

\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.

† Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G3-G11 — Dimensions for Gas Discharge Tubes

(Cont'd)

### Figure G9 — Three Electrode 6mm Product Dimensions



\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.

† Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

### Figure G10 — Three Electrode 7mm Product Dimensions



† Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.

# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Figures G3-G11 — Dimensions for Gas Discharge Tubes

(Cont'd)

### Figure G11 — Three Electrode 8mm Product Dimensions



#### Pad Layout - Surface-mount Devices (GTCR38-XXXM-R10)



	X Nom	Y1 Nom	Y2 Nom	Z1 Nom	Z2 Nom
mm	9.0	4.65	4.65	2.5	1.5
in*	0.354	0.183	0.183	0.098	0.059

\* The dimensions in inches are rounded approximations.

† Parts with no leads are not solderable and are meant for insertion into magazine clips.



# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Fail-Short Mechanism for Gas Discharge Tubes

### Fail-Short Mechanism – FS

The FS fail-short mechanism is a short circuit spring mounted onto a solder pellet located at the center electrode of the gas tube. Under normal operating conditions, the pellet is positioned to make the spring float above the outer electrodes, as shown in Figure G11 on the previous page.

When a prolonged discharge event causes the gas tube temperature to reach the melting point of the solder, the pellet softens allowing the short circuit spring to contact with both outer electrodes (Figure G12). This process results in a permanent short circuit between all three electrodes creating a low resistance path that conducts the fault current to ground without generating a significant amount of heat.



### Fail-Short Mechanism – FT

The FT fail-short mechanism is a short circuit spring with a piece of plastic foil spot welded onto the center electrode. Under normal operating conditions, the plastic foil makes the spring insulated from the two outer electrodes.

When a prolonged discharge event causes the gas tube temperature to reach the melting point of the plastic foil, the plastic foil melts allowing the short circuit spring to contact both outer electrodes (Figure G13). This process results in a permanent short circuit between all three electrodes creating a low resistance path that conducts the fault current to ground without generating a significant amount of heat.



## Operation and Storage Temperatures for Gas Discharge Tubes

### Operation Temperature Range

Models without Fail-Short Mechanism : -40°C/+90°C  
 Models with Fail-Short Mechanism : -20°C/+65°C

### Storage Temperature Range

Models without Fail-Short Mechanism : -40°C/+90°C  
 Models with Fail-Short Mechanism : -20°C/+65°C

## Packaging Information for Gas Discharge Tubes

Part Description	Parts in Bulk		Parts in Tape and Reel	
	Min Order Quantity	Box Quantity	Tape and Reel Min Order Quantity	Box Quantity
3mm 2Pole Surface-mount	—	—	2000	16000
5mm 2Pole No leads	5000	20000	—	—
5mm 2Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
5mm 2Pole Surface-mount	—	—	1500	12000
6mm 2Pole No leads	2000	10000	—	—
6mm 2Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
6mm 2Pole Surface-mount	—	—	750	6000
8mm 2pole No leads	2000	10000	—	—
8mm 2Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
8mm 2Pole Surface-mount	—	—	500	4000
5mm 3Pole No leads	2500	10000	—	—
5mm 3Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
5mm 3Pole Surface-mount	—	—	1000	8000
6mm 3Pole No leads	2500	10000	—	—
6mm 3Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
6mm 3Pole Surface-mount	—	—	750	4500
7mm 3Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
8mm 3Pole No leads	1000	5000	—	—
8mm 3Pole Leads	1000	5000	—	—
8mm 3Pole Surface-mount	—	—	500	2500

## Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

### Installation for Gas Discharge Tubes

Care should be taken when installing GDTs equipped with fail-short mechanisms into arrester magazines, printed circuit boards, etc. Too much downward pressure may force the short circuit spring through the thin insulation tube creating a shorted condition.

### Solder Reflow Recommendations for Surface-mount GDT Devices

Surface-mount GDTs can be soldered using standard Pb-free reflow profiles.

Table G4 – Tape and Reel Specifications

Tape Dimension EIA Mark	3mm devices (2 pole) Dimension (mm)	5mm devices (2 pole) Dimension (mm)	6mm devices (2 pole) Dimension (mm)	8mm devices (2 pole) Dimension (mm)
A <sub>0</sub>	3.40±0.10	4.9±0.10	6.70±0.10	8.60±0.10
B <sub>0</sub>	5.00±0.10	5.5±0.10	4.60±0.10	6.40±0.10
D <sub>0</sub>	1.50+0.10/-0	1.50+0.10/-0	1.50+0.10/-0	1.50+0.10/-0
D <sub>1</sub>	—	1.5 MIN	—	—
E <sub>1</sub>	1.75±0.10	1.75±0.10	1.75±0.10	1.75±0.10
E <sub>2</sub>	14.25±0.30	14.25±0.30	14.25±0.30	14.25±0.30
F	7.50±0.10	7.50±0.10	7.50±0.10	7.50±0.10
P <sub>0</sub>	4.00±0.10	4.00±0.10	4.00±0.10	4.00±0.10
P <sub>1</sub>	8.00±0.10	8.00±0.10	12.00±0.10	12.00±0.10
P <sub>2</sub>	2.00±0.10	2.00±0.10	2.00±0.10	2.00±0.10
W	16.00±0.30	16.00±0.30	16.00±0.30	16.00±0.30
Tape Thickness EIA Mark	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)
B <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—	—
K <sub>0</sub>	3.30±0.10	5.30±0.10	6.50±0.10	8.50±0.10
T	0.35±0.05	0.40±0.05	0.35±0.05	0.50±0.05
T <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—	—
T <sub>2</sub>	—	—	—	—
Reel Dimension EIA Mark	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)
A	330	330	330	330
B	2.20±0.50	2.20±0.50	2.20±0.50	2.20±0.50
C	13.00±0.20	13.00±0.20	13.00±0.20	13.00±0.20
D	20.20±1.00	20.20±1.00	20.20±1.00	20.20±1.00
N	100.00±1.00	100.00±1.00	100.00±1.00	100.00±1.00
W <sub>1</sub>	16.50±0.10	16.50±0.10	16.50±0.10	16.50±0.10
W <sub>2</sub>	21.10±02.00	21.10±02.00	21.10±02.00	21.10±02.00

Figure G14 – EIA Referenced Taped Component Dimensions



# Gas Discharge Tubes (GDTs)

## Table G5 – Tape and Reel Specifications

Tape Dimension EIA Mark	5mm devices (3 pole) Dimension (mm)	6mm devices (3 pole) Dimension (mm)	8mm devices (3 pole) Dimension (mm)
A <sub>0</sub>	5.40±0.10	6.50±0.10	8.50±0.10
B <sub>0</sub>	8.00±0.10	8.60±0.10	10.60±0.10
D <sub>0</sub>	1.50+0.10/-0	1.50+0.10/-0	1.50+0.10/-0
D <sub>1</sub>	1.50(min)	1.50(min)	—
E <sub>1</sub>	1.75±0.10	1.75±0.10	1.75±0.10
E <sub>2</sub>	14.25±0.30	22.25±0.30	22.25±0.30
F	7.50±0.10	11.50±0.10	11.50±0.10
P <sub>0</sub>	4.00±0.10	4.00±0.10	4.00±0.10
P <sub>1</sub>	8.00±0.10	12.00±0.10	16.00±0.10
P <sub>2</sub>	2.00±0.10	2.00±0.10	2.00±0.10
W	16.00±0.30	24.00±0.30	24.00±0.30
Tape Thickness EIA Mark	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)
B <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—
K <sub>0</sub>	5.70±0.10	6.30±0.10	8.40±0.10
T	0.50±0.05	0.50±0.05	0.50±0.05
T <sub>1</sub>	—	—	—
T <sub>2</sub>	—	—	—
Reel Dimension EIA Mark	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Dimension (mm)
A	330	330	330
B	2.20±0.50	2.20±0.50	2.20±0.50
C	13.00±0.20	13.00±0.20	13.00±0.20
D	20.20±1.00	20.20±1.00	20.20±1.00
N	100.00±1.00	100.00±1.00	100.00±1.00
W <sub>1</sub>	16.50±0.10	24.50±0.10	24.50±0.10
W <sub>2</sub>	21.10±02.00	29.10±02.00	29.10±02.00
W <sub>3</sub>	—	—	—

## Figure G15 – EIA Referenced Reel Dimensions

