

# USB Type-C<sup>®</sup> Connectors

Essential Knowledge Guide #1



How to specify an appropriately featured and priced USB Type-C<sup>®</sup> connector for your application





## Over 30 years of innovation in connectivity

As a member of the Aloco Group, GCT is an established manufacturer of world class connector and cable assembly solutions.

Companies the world over trust our extensive range of solutions to enable connectivity within their designs. Our drive for product innovation has helped our customers stay at the forefront of their industries.

[www.gct.co](http://www.gct.co)

# Universal Serial Bus

**Designed as a universal connection for computer peripherals back in the 1990s, the Universal Serial Bus (USB) promised a user friendly, hot pluggable, self-configuring standard to replace a growing list of proprietary solutions.**

In the intervening years, however, there have been more than a dozen different plug configurations - to accommodate varying power and data requirements - so it could be argued that the 'universal' element of the name hasn't exactly held true.

The good news is that the latest version has been designed to satisfy the vast majority of user needs in a single, plug/socket configuration – the USB Type-C.

Not only is it faster and more powerful, it is also fully reversible so it can't be plugged in the wrong way, like previous versions. Without doubt this makes it much more user-friendly and better for users but, in its fully-featured 24 pin versions, it can be over engineered for many applications.



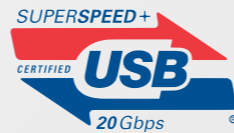
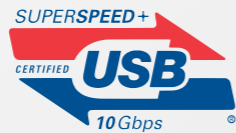
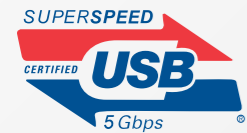
**The aim of this guide** is to help provide the essential knowledge that can help you select a USB Type-C that is best suited to your application in terms functionality and, just as importantly, price point.

# USB Type-C® Evolution

**First proposed in 2013, USB Type-C® was developed to be compact, reversible and deliver significant increases in data speed and power delivery.**

The original specification delivered speeds of 5Gbps with the Gen2 rated at 10Gbps. The latest version for fully specified USB Type-C at 10Mbps is USB3.2

Gen2 delivering performance that allows download of a 4K movie in around 16 seconds compared to over 5 minutes via USB2.0.



## USB3.2 Gen 1

Power (max.)	100W
Current (max.)	5A
Voltage (max.)	20V
Data speed (max.)	<b>5Gbps</b>

## USB3.2 Gen 2

Power (max.)	100W
Current (max.)	5A
Voltage (max.)	20V
Data speed (max.)	<b>10Gbps</b>

## USB3.2 Gen 2x2

Power (max.)	100W
Current (max.)	5A
Voltage (max.)	20V
Data speed (max.)	<b>20Gbps</b>

## USB4

Power (max.)	240W
Current (max.)	5A
Voltage (max.)	48V
Data speed (max.)	<b>20Gbps</b>

## USB4

Power (max.)	240W
Current (max.)	5A
Voltage (max.)	48V
Data speed (max.)	<b>40Gbps</b>

2013

2017

2019

### Do you need all that speed and all that power?

If you do, then USB Type-C® in 24-pin format is ideal for you, and GCT has many options for you to choose from. If you don't, then there are further options you should consider.

GCT has developed two ranges of connectors with reduced functionality for applications that require USB2.0

specification (16 pin) or I/O charging only (6 pin) while still offering the benefits of the USB Type-C® format.

These ranges have been developed specifically to reduce the unit price for customers who want the features of USB Type-C® but don't need - and don't want to pay for - all the features.

# pin<sub>power only</sub>

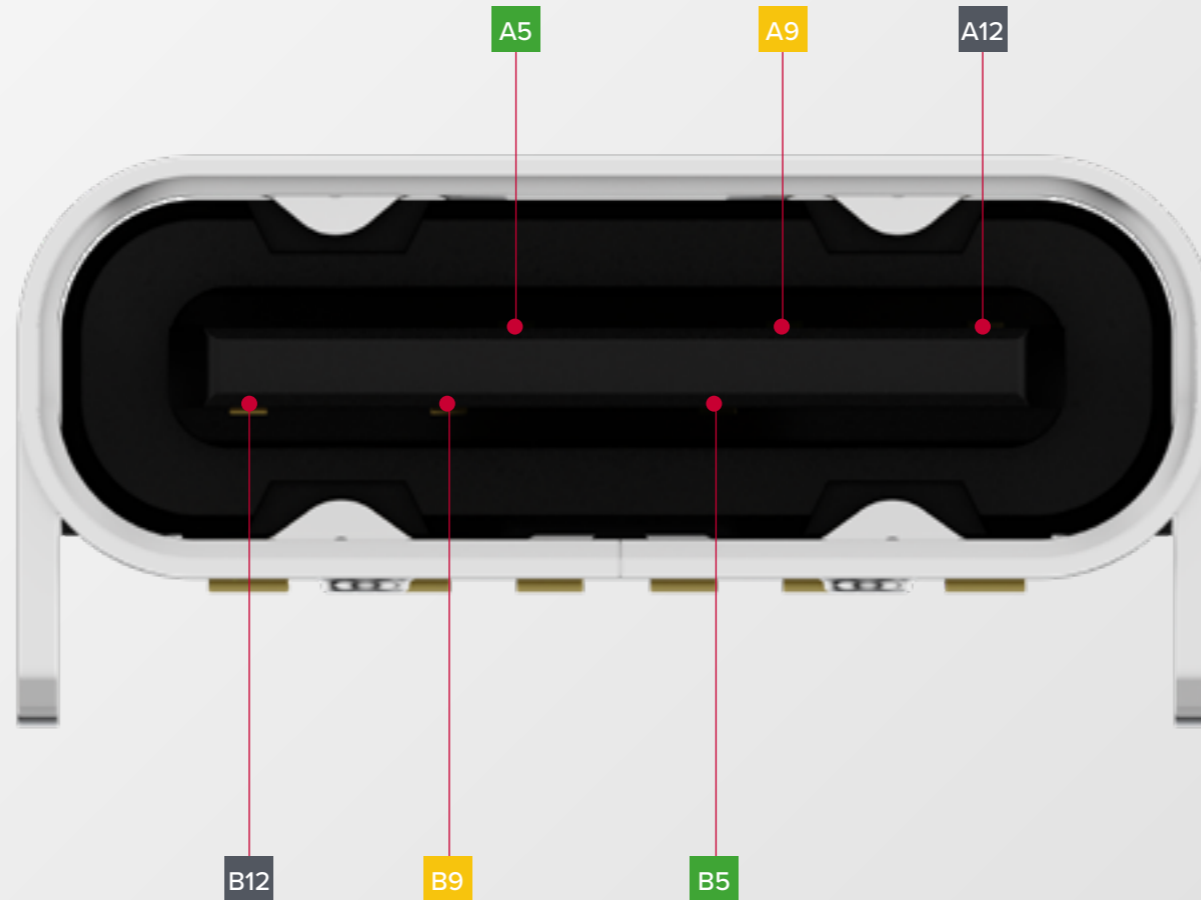
**Series developed for applications requiring charging only. The lowest cost USB Type-C format connector.** Ideal replacement for applications currently using micro-USB or DC sockets.



Rated at up to 60W (3A @ 20V max)

# 6pin

Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
A5	CC1	Second
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
A9	VBUS	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
A12	GND	First
<b>SHELL</b>	<b>GROUND</b>	



Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
B12	GND	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
B9	VBUS	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
B5	CC2	Second
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
<b>SHELL</b>	<b>GROUND</b>	

- Ground
- Configuration channels
- Bus Power

Reversible and fully compatible with all USB Type-C cable assemblies

# pin

power and data

**Series developed for applications requiring USB2.0 specification.**

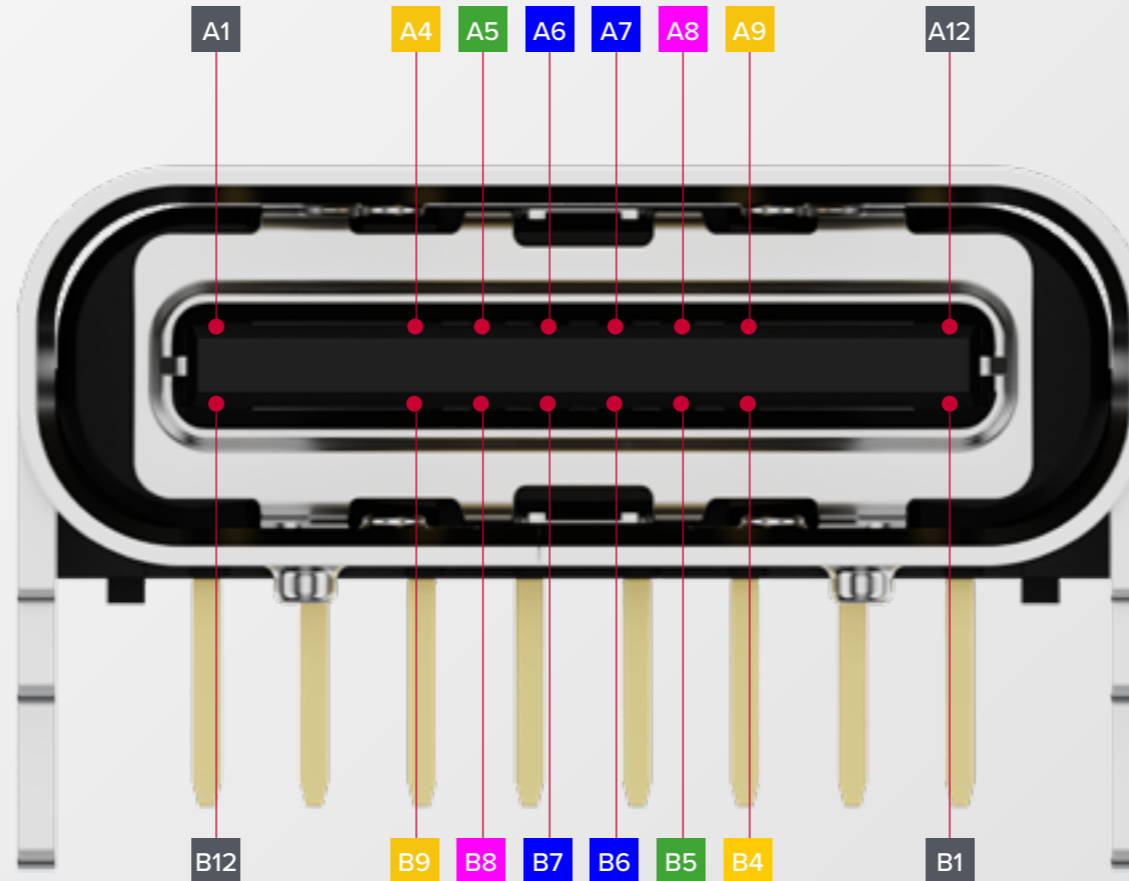
**Value engineered against 24 pin.** Ideal replacement for applications currently using micro-USB connectors.



Rated at up to 100W (5A @ 20V max)

# 16pin

Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
A1	GND	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
A4	VBUS	First
A5	CC1	Second
A6	Dp1	Second
A7	Dn1	Second
A8	SBU1	Second
A9	VBUS	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
A12	GND	First
<b>SHELL GROUND</b>		



Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
B12	GND	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
B9	VBUS	First
B8	SBU2	Second
B7	Dn2	Second
B6	Dp2	Second
B5	CC2	Second
B4	VBUS	First
-	-	-
-	-	-
B1	GND	First
<b>SHELL GROUND</b>		

- Ground
- Configuration channels
- Sideband Use
- USB 2.0 differential pairs
- Bus Power

Reversible and fully compatible with all USB Type-C cable assemblies



# pin

power and data+

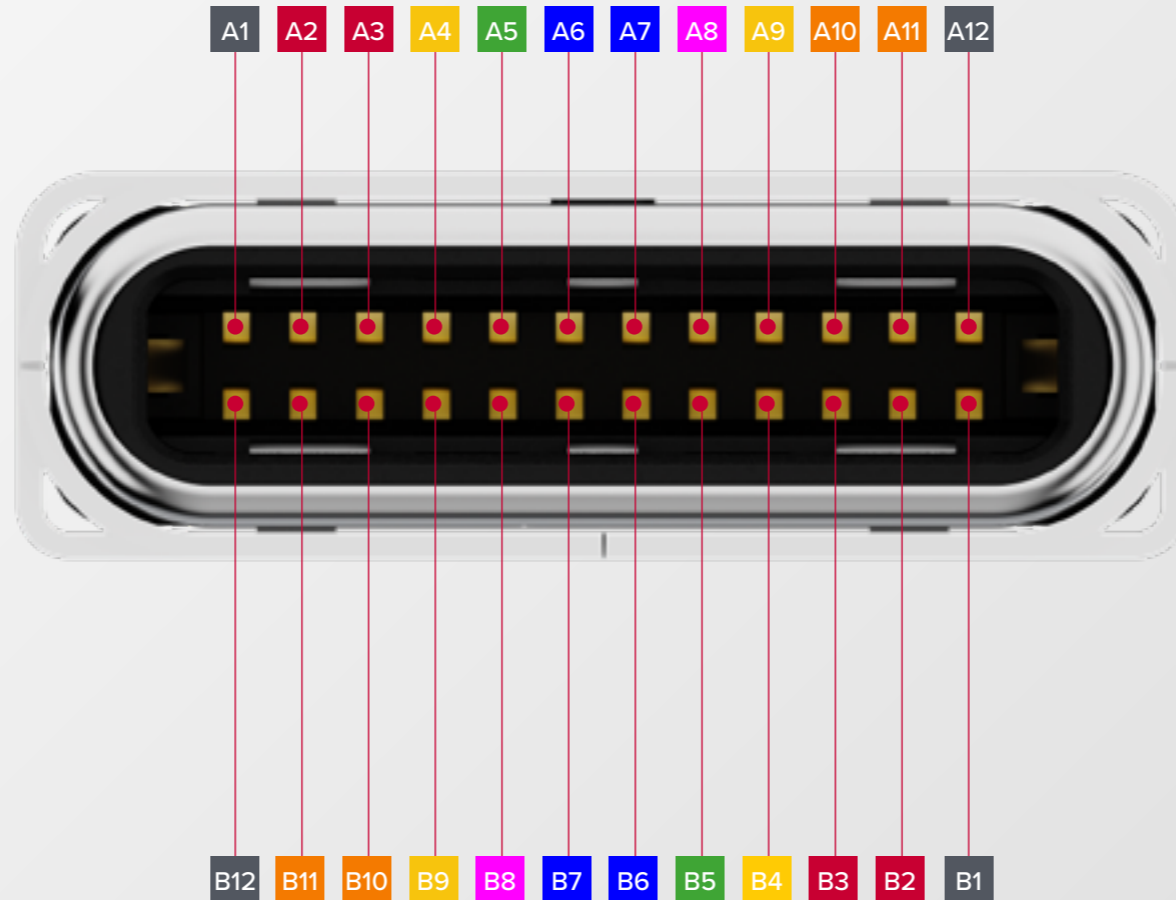
**Series developed for applications requiring USB3.2 Gen2.**  
Ideal connector for applications requiring very high data and power rates.



Rated at up to 100W (5A @ 20V max)

# 24pin

Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
A1	GND	First
A2	TXp1	Second
A3	TXn1	Second
A4	VBUS	First
A5	CC1	Second
A6	Dp1	Second
A7	Dn1	Second
A8	SBU1	Second
A9	VBUS	First
A10	RXn2	Second
A11	RXp2	Second
A12	GND	First
<b>SHELL</b>	<b>GROUND</b>	



Pin	Signal	Mating Sequence
B12	GND	First
B11	RXp1	Second
B10	RXn1	Second
B9	VBUS	First
B8	SBU2	Second
B7	Dn2	Second
B6	Dp2	Second
B5	CC2	Second
B4	VBUS	First
B3	TXn2	Second
B2	TXp2	Second
B1	GND	First
<b>SHELL</b>	<b>GROUND</b>	

- Ground
- High speed data path 1
- Configuration channels
- Sideband Use
- USB 2.0 differential pairs
- Bus Power
- High speed data path 2

Reversible and fully compatible with all USB Type-C cable assemblies

# Orientation, gender and PCB position

## PCB Mount Position



### Mid mount

This is where the connector sits in a cut out in the PCB. The advantage of this mounting style is a reduced profile.



### Top mount

This is where the component sits on the surface of the PCB.



### Edge mount

This is where the connector is fitted to the edge of the PCB. Edge mount connectors are often also mid mount.

## Orientation



### Vertical

Part is placed on the PCB at a 90° angle.



### Horizontal

Part is placed in the same plane as the PCB.

## Gender



### Plug/Male

Usually part of a cable assembly, however plugs can also be PCB mounted in applications such as docking stations.



### Socket/Receptacle/Female

Generally placed within equipment.



# Mid-mount offset

The offset is the measurement from the underside of the mid-mount connector shell to the top side of the PCB. This allows the connector to be positioned in a suitable alignment for the application.

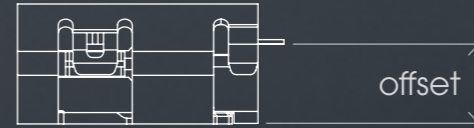


Illustration shows the offset based on the USB4520

USB4500

USB4505

USB4515

USB4510

USB4520



0.80mm  
OFFSET

1.00mm  
OFFSET

1.60mm  
OFFSET

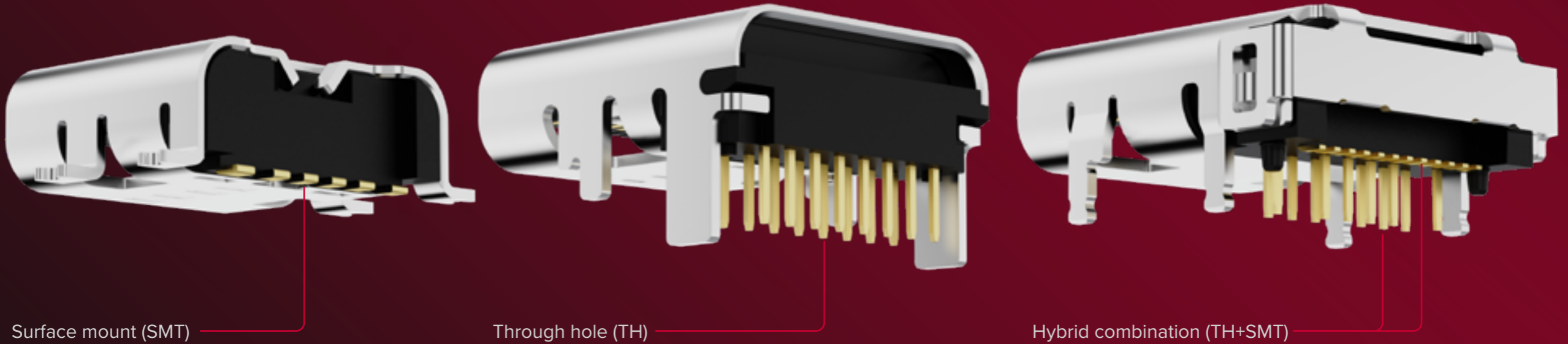
1.60mm  
OFFSET

2.10mm  
OFFSET



# Contact pin type

Parts are available with either through hole (TH), surface mount (SMT) or hybrid combination (TH+SMT).

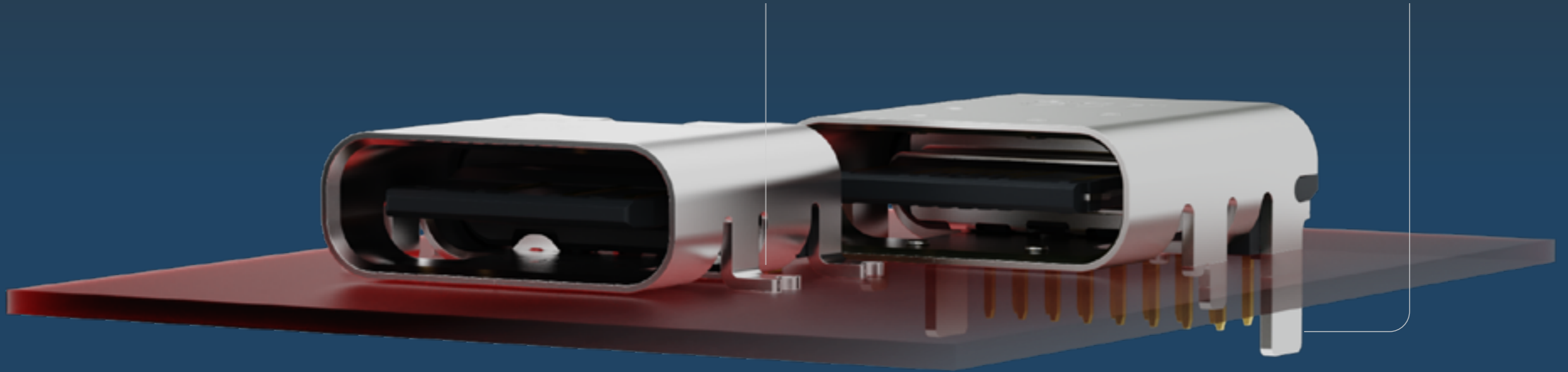


# Shell stake types

A shell stake is a part of the metal shell that is used to make a **robust fixing to the PCB**. The contact pins are relatively small, so shell stakes add additional strength and stability after soldering. Shell stakes can be either through hole (TH) or surface mount (SMT).

Surface mount (SMT)

Through hole (TH)



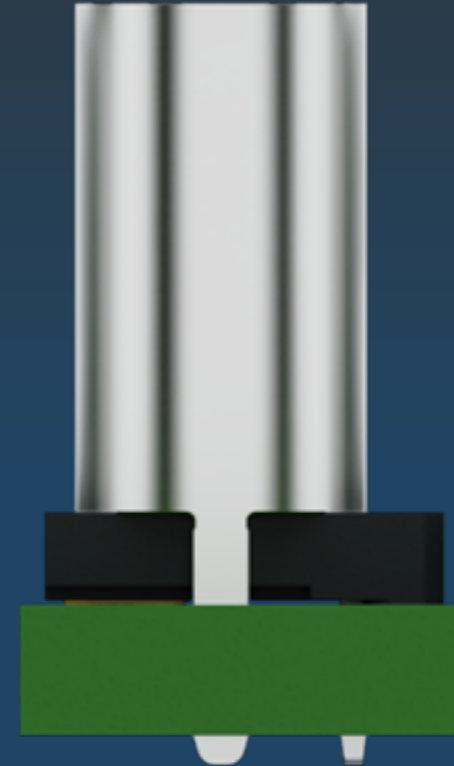
*Note - Parts with TH solder stakes can be soldered using IR reflow process if Pin in Paste technology is used (see solder process)*

# Shell stake lengths

**Shell stakes are designed to add strength to the PCB fixing.** As PCB thickness is not universal, through hole (TH) shell stakes come in a variety of lengths. Through hole shell stakes are suitable for reflow solder processes, so pin in paste technology can be used if needed.



0.60mm PCB with a  
0.70mm shell stake length



1.60mm PCB with a  
1.70mm shell stake length



2.00mm PCB with a  
2.30mm shell stake length

*In this example we have the  
USB4140 at different shell stakes,  
0.70mm, 1.70mm and 2.30mm*

# Solder Process

All PCB level electronic components need to be soldered to a PCB.

There are 3 methods of doing this:

**Hand soldering** – Using a good old fashioned soldering iron and solder.

**Wave soldering** – The circuit board is passed over a pan of molten solder in which a pump produces an upwelling of solder that looks like a standing wave. As the circuit board makes contact with this wave, the components become soldered to the board.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wave\\_soldering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wave_soldering)

**IR reflow soldering** – This is a process in which a solder paste (a sticky mixture of powdered solder and flux) is used to temporarily attach electrical components to their contact pads after which the entire assembly is subjected to controlled heat. The solder paste reflows in a molten state, creating permanent solder joints. Heating may be accomplished by passing the assembly through a reflow oven or under an infrared lamp.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflow\\_soldering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflow_soldering)

*Note - Parts with SMT contacts pins and TH solder stakes can be soldered using IR reflow process if Pin in Paste technology is used.*

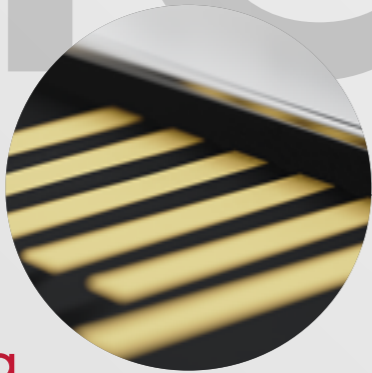
*In the Pin-in-Paste (PIP) process, the solder paste is screen printed into the through holes. After solder application, the component is placed in the holes. The board then undergoes reflow soldering in order to form the solder joint.*



# Plating

## Shell Plating

This refers to the coating of metal that is applied to the connector metal shell. This is usually nickel with 30 - 50 $\mu$ " thickness.



## Contact plating

This refers to the coating of metal that is applied to the internal contact pins. This is always gold and can range between gold flash (GF) and 30 $\mu$ " thickness. GF is usually between 1 and 3 $\mu$ " thick.

## Solder tail plating

This refers to the coating of metal that is applied to the PCB solder pins. This is typically tin or gold and can range between gold flash (GF) up to 30 $\mu$ " thickness. GF is usually between 1 and 3 $\mu$ " thick.





The diagram illustrates two views of a connector. The top view is a side cross-section showing the internal components, including a mating face on the left, a central body with three contact points, and a rear plate on the right. A dimension line with arrows at both ends spans the length of the main body, from the mating face to the rear plate. The bottom view is a top-down perspective of the connector, showing its rounded rectangular shape and the internal contact arrangement. A dimension line with arrows at both ends indicates the height of the connector above the PCB, from the top of the body to the bottom of the PCB.

## Body length

Body length refers to the total length from the mating face to the rear plate. It does not include the length of the PCB contacts

## Profile

Profile refers to the height of the connector above the PCB. Horizontal connectors have a lower profile than vertical types

## Shell springs

Unlike earlier USB versions, USB Type-C usually does not have shell springs on either the plug or receptacle.

## Retention Latches

For USB Type-C the mating and unmating strength is controlled via side latches in the plug connector (the one that is most commonly on a cable).

## Mating cycles

**Mating cycles refers to the number of times a connector can be used while still meeting the minimum force specified.** All USB Type-C connectors meet 10,000 cycle and some GCT 6 pin parts are rated at 20,000 cycles.



Retention

# 6pin



**USB4125**



**USB4130**



**USB4135**



**USB4140**



**USB4515**

USB Version	Power Only	Power Only	Power Only	Power Only	Power Only
Gender	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle
Number of contacts	6	6	6	6	6
PCB Orientation	Horizontal	Vertical	Horizontal	Vertical	Horizontal
PCB Mount Position	Top	Top	Top	Top	Mid
Shell Stake Type	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	SMT	Thru-hole	Thru-hole
Profile Height	3.16mm	6.50mm	3.16mm	6.50mm	3.16mm
Body Length	6.80mm	6.50mm	6.90mm	6.50mm	6.80mm
PCB Pin Type	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT
Mid Mount offset	-	-	-	-	1.60mm
Shell Stake Length 1	1.00mm	1.20mm	-	0.70mm	0.75mm
Shell Stake Length 2	1.90mm	-	-	1.70mm	-
Shell Stake Length 3	-	-	-	2.30mm	-
Contact Plating	Gold Flash	Gold Flash	Gold Flash	Gold Flash	Gold Flash
Current Rating	3A	3A	3A	3A	3A
Mating Cycles	20000	10000	20000	10000	10000

# 16pin



**USB4085**

**USB4105**

**USB4110**

**USB4120**

**USB4145**

**USB4500**

**USB4505**

**USB4510**

**USB4520**

<b>USB Version</b>	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Gender</b>	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle
<b>Number of contacts</b>	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
<b>PCB Orientation</b>	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical	Vertical	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal
<b>PCB Mount Position</b>	Top	Top	Top	Top	Top	Mid	Mid	Mid	Mid
<b>Shell Stake Type</b>	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	SMT	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole
<b>Profile Height</b>	3.46mm	3.31mm	3.26mm	6.50mm	7.46mm	3.16mm	3.16mm	3.16mm	3.16mm
<b>Body Length</b>	9.17mm	7.53mm	7.35mm	6.50mm	5.90mm	6.50mm	6.50mm	6.50mm	6.50mm
<b>PCB Pin Type</b>	Thru-hole	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT
<b>Mid Mount offset</b>	-	-	-	-	-	0.80mm	1.00mm	1.60mm	2.10mm
<b>Shell Stake Length 1</b>	2.10mm	0.60mm	-	0.95mm	0.70mm	0.70mm	0.80mm	0.70mm	0.85mm
<b>Shell Stake Length 2</b>	-	0.95mm	-	-	1.70mm	-	-	-	-
<b>Shell Stake Length 3</b>	-	1.20mm	-	-	2.30mm	-	-	-	-
<b>Contact Plating</b>	Gold Flash	Gold Flash	Gold Flash	3μ" gold	3μ" gold	3μ" gold	3μ" gold	3μ" gold	3μ" gold
<b>Current Rating</b>	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A
<b>Mating Cycles</b>	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

# 24pin



	USB4050	USB4055	USB4056	USB4060	USB4065	USB4070	USB4080	USB4115	USB4151	USB4155	USB4160
<b>USB Version</b>	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2	3.2 GEN2
<b>Gender</b>	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Receptacle	Plug	Plug	Receptacle
<b>Number of contacts</b>	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
<b>PCB Orientation</b>	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Horizontal	Vertical	Horizontal	Vertical	Vertical	Horizontal	Vertical
<b>PCB Mount Position</b>	Mid	Top	Top	Mid	Top	Top	Top	Top	Top	Edge	Top
<b>Shell Stake Type</b>	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole	Thru-hole
<b>Profile Height</b>	3.42mm	3.46mm	3.31mm	3.42mm	3.46mm	10.50mm	3.16mm	9.25mm	11.10mm	2.90mm	7.46mm
<b>Body Length</b>	10.0mm	10.0mm	9.87mm	8.65mm	8.65mm	10.50mm	7.90mm	9.25mm	11.10mm	15.50mm	5.90
<b>PCB Pin Type</b>	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT	SMT
<b>Mid Mount offset</b>	1.37mm	-	-	1.37mm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Shell Stake Length 1</b>	0.60mm	1.20mm	1.15mm	0.60mm	1.20mm	1.30mm	0.50mm	1.15mm	1.25mm	0.90mm	0.70mm
<b>Shell Stake Length 2</b>	-	-	1.40mm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.70mm
<b>Shell Stake Length 3</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.30mm
<b>Contact Plating</b>	30μ" gold	30μ" gold	3μ" gold	30μ" gold	3μ" gold	30μ" gold	3μ" gold	3μ" gold	Gold Flash	3μ" gold	3μ" gold
<b>Current Rating</b>	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A	5A
<b>Mating Cycles</b>	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000



# Globally Connected

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London, UK (HQ)

[sales@gct-europe.com](mailto:sales@gct-europe.com)  
+44 (0)1707 321122

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Berlin, DE

[sales@gct-europe.com](mailto:sales@gct-europe.com)  
+49 162 301 4214

---

Boston, MA, USA

[sales@gct-americas.com](mailto:sales@gct-americas.com)  
+1 978 208 1618

---

San Jose, CA, USA

[sales@gct-americas.com](mailto:sales@gct-americas.com)  
+1 650 448 9660

---

Atlanta, GA, USA

[sales@gct-americas.com](mailto:sales@gct-americas.com)  
+1 678 524 5817

---

Hong Kong, HK

[sales@gct-apac.com](mailto:sales@gct-apac.com)  
+852 2578 9030

---

Singapore, SG

[sales@gct-apac.com](mailto:sales@gct-apac.com)  
+65 8332 2263

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New Delhi, IN

[sales@gct-apac.com](mailto:sales@gct-apac.com)  
+91 987 300 8975