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A close-up, slightly blurred image of a microchip stencil, showing a grid of small rectangular openings and a central rectangular area with a different pattern of openings.

**Improved Printing Results with  
PatchWork<sup>®</sup> Stencils (Step Stencils) and  
NanoWork Stencils (Nanocoated Stencils)**

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Design rules

# LaserJob GmbH

**Established: 1 April 1992**

**By: Georg Kleemann and  
Robert Englmaier**



**Production area :2100m<sup>2</sup>**

**Number of employees: 30**

**Lasersystems: 6+2**

## Our Quality:

- LaserJob own developed Laser Cutting Systems with innovative Fiberlasertechnology
- Stencil with highest and most reproducible precision
  - cutting only when the foil is fixed in a frame or in a tensioning system
    - no distortion of the layout
    - high precision of the layout in the stencil +/- 0,1mm
  - Outstanding paste release
- Production of stencils in airconditioned Rooms 22° C +/- 0,5° C
- Inhouse lasersystem maintenance
- cold rolled high precision foils thickness tolerance +/-3µm
- No electropolishing for burr removal (no pads size enlargement)
  - only brushing of stencil
    - Reduction of foils size max: 1-2 µm
    - Pads size is not effected

A close-up, angled view of a metal stencil used in surface mount technology. The stencil features a complex pattern of rectangular and circular apertures, designed for precise solder deposition. The background is a light gray, and the stencil itself is a darker, metallic color.

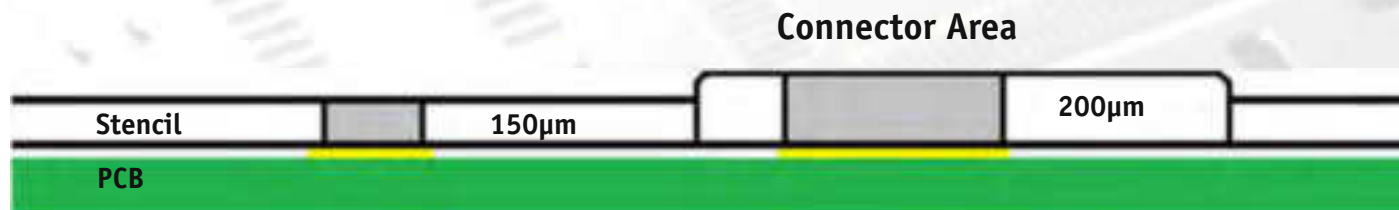
## PatchWork® Stencils (Step Stencils)

## Why PatchWork<sup>®</sup>

### Step-Up Stencil

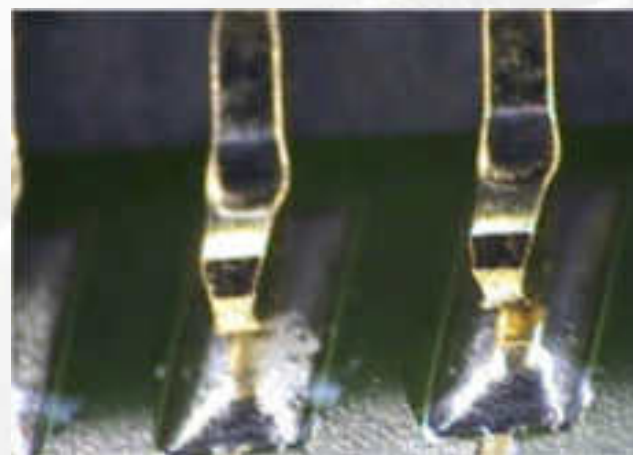
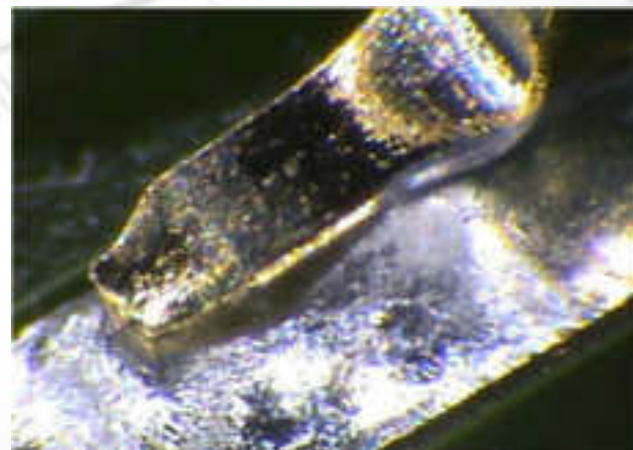
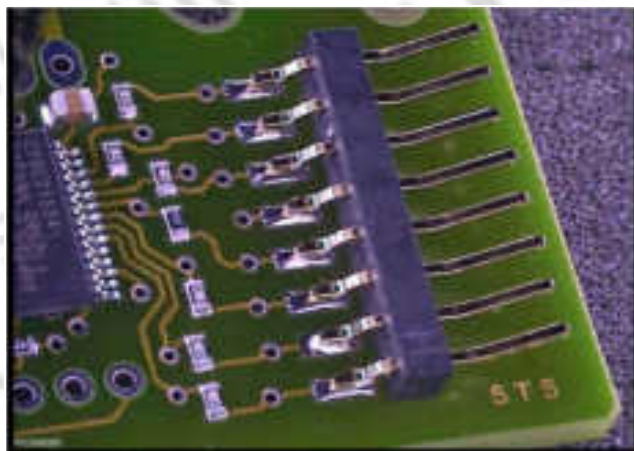
Application: (IPC 7525A)

- This type of stencil is useful when it is desirable to print thicker solder paste in a small portion of the stencil.
- e.g.: a Connector where it is necessary to get 0,2mm paste height because of bad pin coplanarity, but 0,15mm height on all other surface-mount component pads.





**Connector with insufficient solderpaste depot because of bad coplanarity of pins**



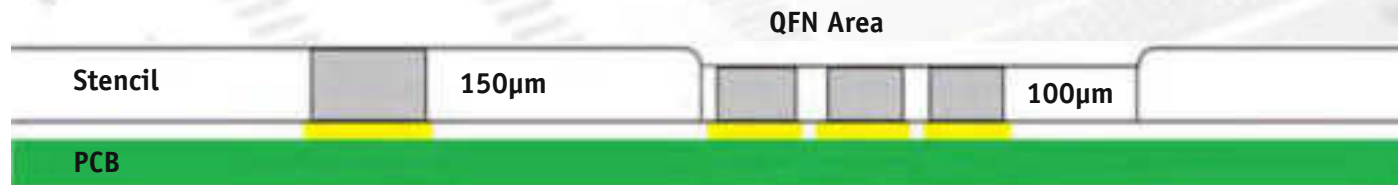


# Why PatchWork<sup>®</sup>

## Step-Down Stencil

Application: (IPC 7525A)

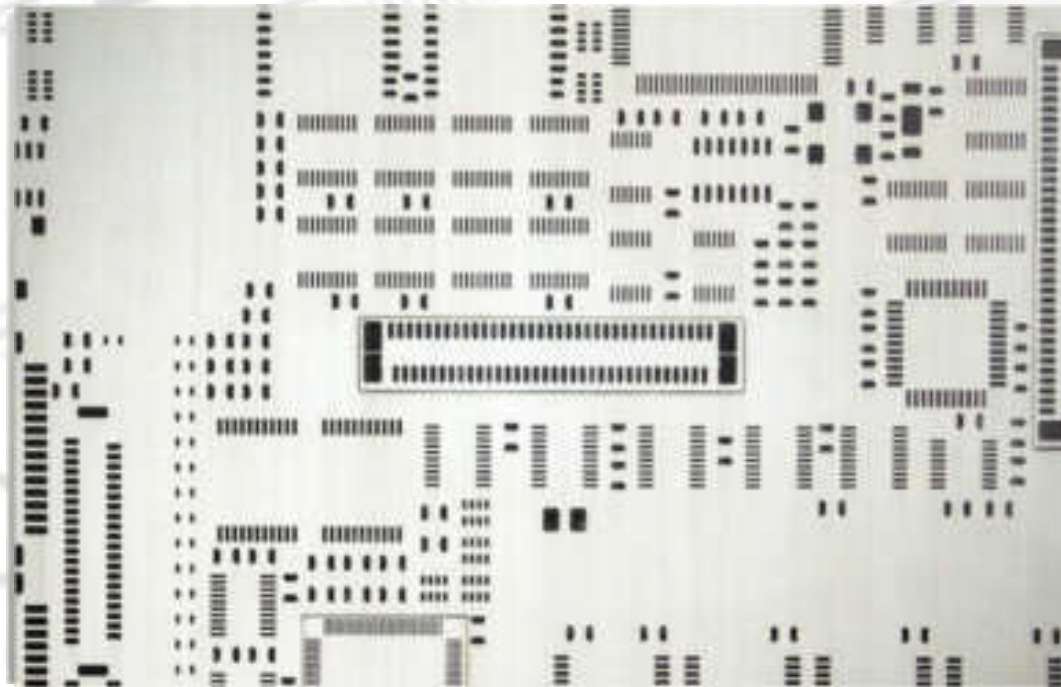
- This type of stencil is useful when it is desirable to print fine-pitch devices using a thinner stencil foil but print other devices using thicker stencil foils.
- e.g.: fine pitch QFN  $\leq 0,5\text{mm}$  (20mil) pitch that requires a stencil thickness of  $0,1\text{mm}$  to achieve an area ration  $>0,66$ . At the same time there are devices on the same board that need a thickness of  $0,150\text{mm}$ .



## PatchWork<sup>®</sup> - Technology

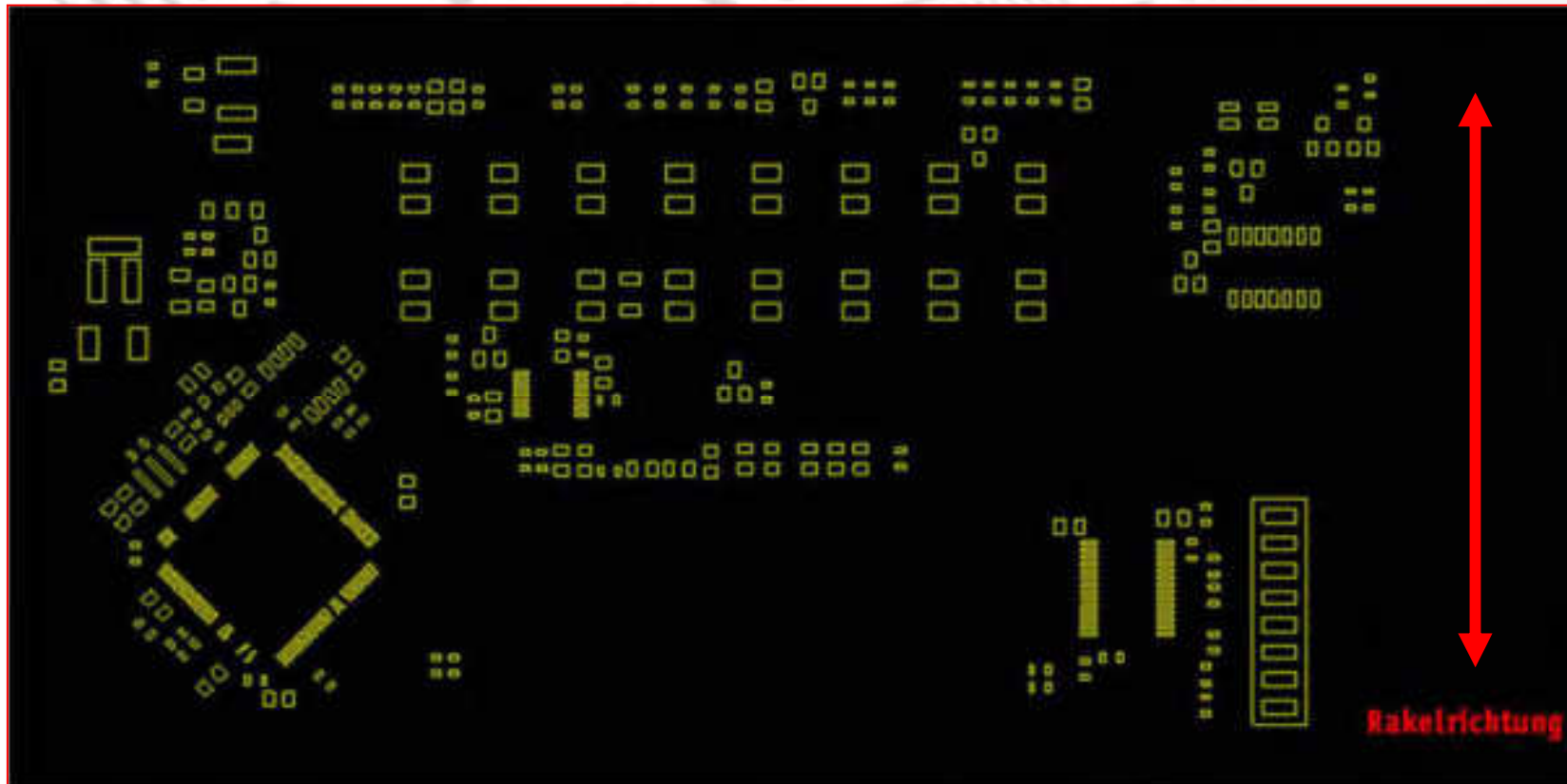
### Production Steps

Accurate fitting and close spacing of patch



## Example from Practice

Layout:



## Example from Practice

### **Problem:**

Touchfoil-Connector on EPZ730 EGB.

Connector Materials: NiAu, solderable to IPC/ Jeduc J-STD-020C, RoHS conform.

### **Stencil:**

Standard Foil Thickness 150  $\mu\text{m}$  with 210 $\mu\text{m}$  PatchWork<sup>®</sup>- Foil Thickness

No Reduction at Aperture of Touchfoil Connector

### **Solder Paste Typ:**

Class 3.

**Amount of PCB:** 700 pc

### **Problem:**

Connector was difficult to solder , because of to big tolerances of the Pick & Place Cap

**Failure Rate at the connector with Standard Stencil: 35-40%**

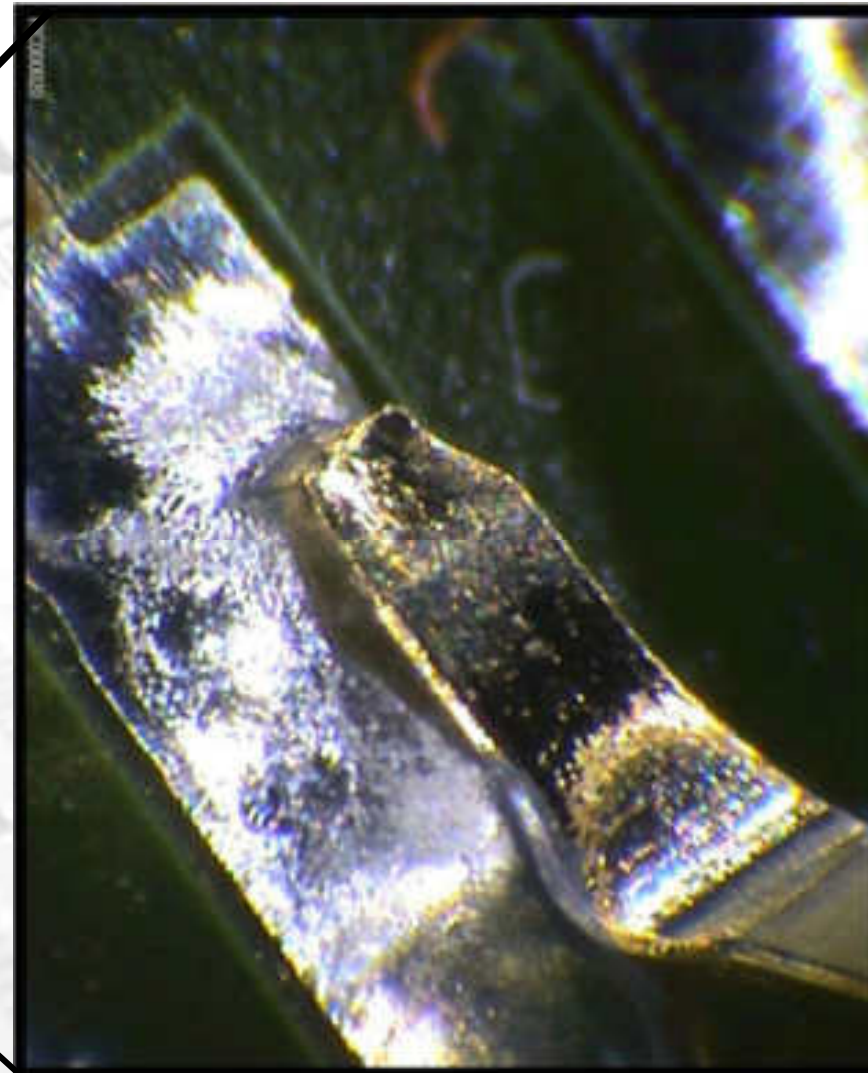
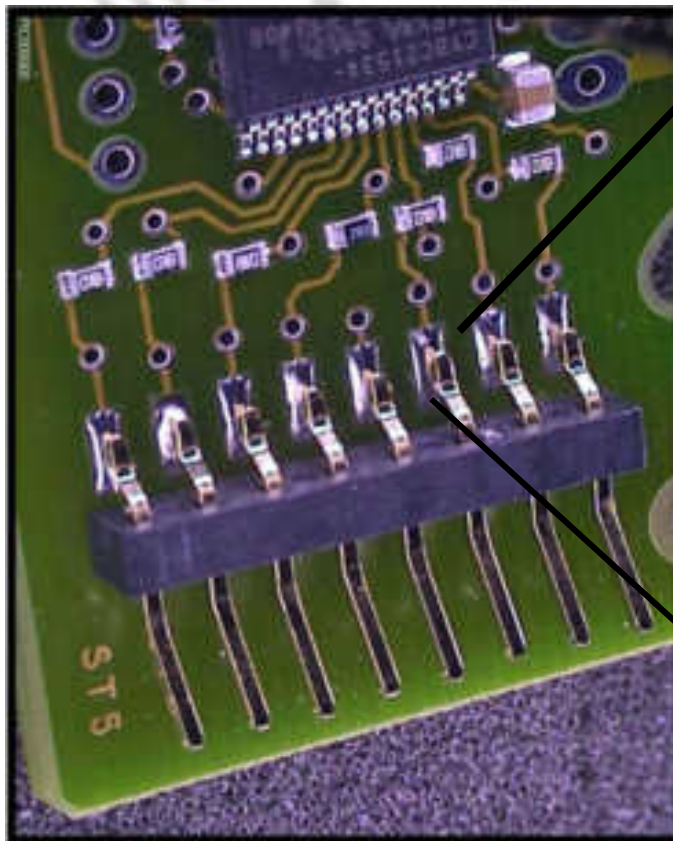
**With PatchWork<sup>®</sup>Stencil the failure rate is less then 1 %.**



## Example from Practice:

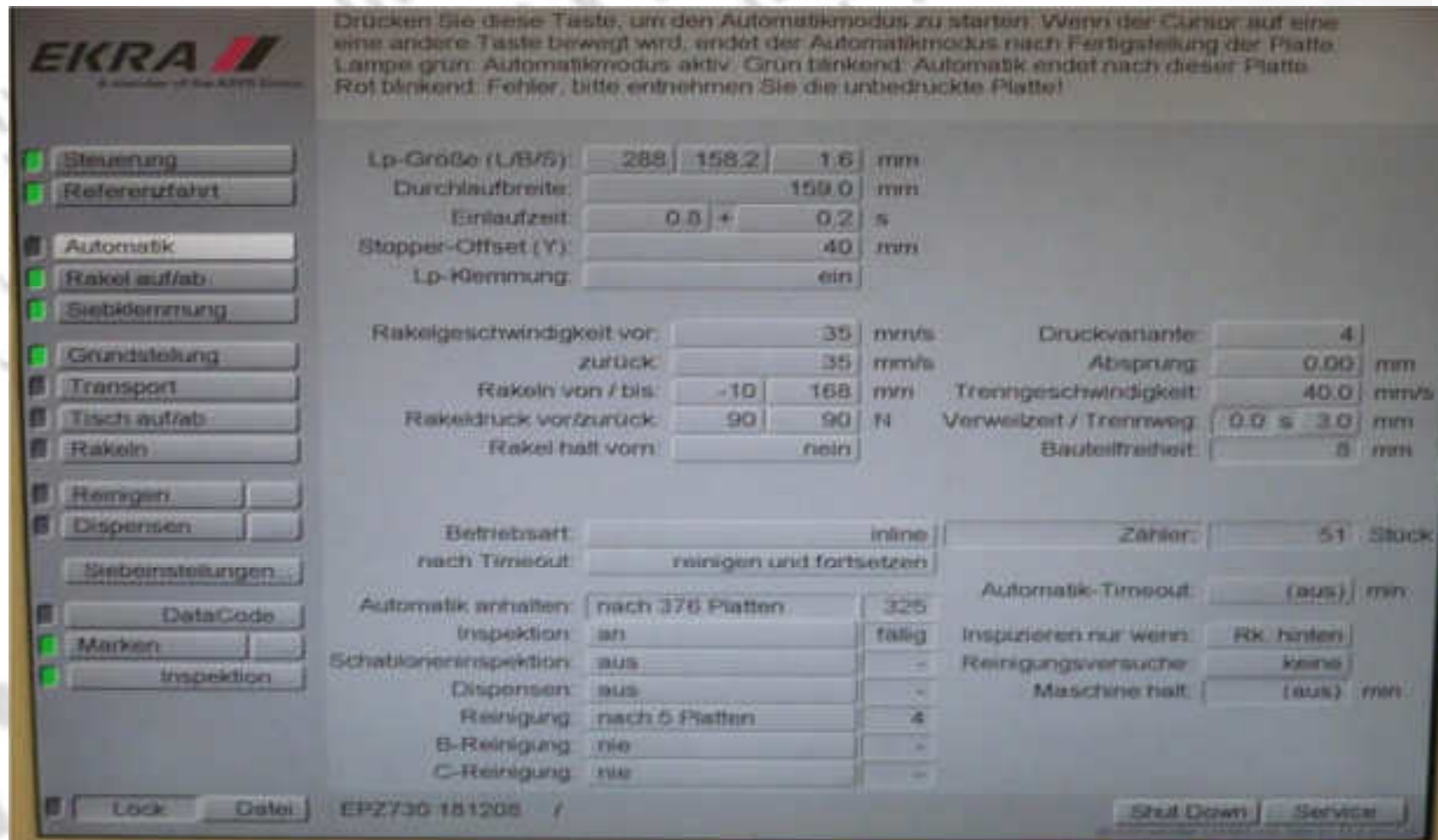
### Failure:

insufficient welded Connector Pins



# Example from Practice

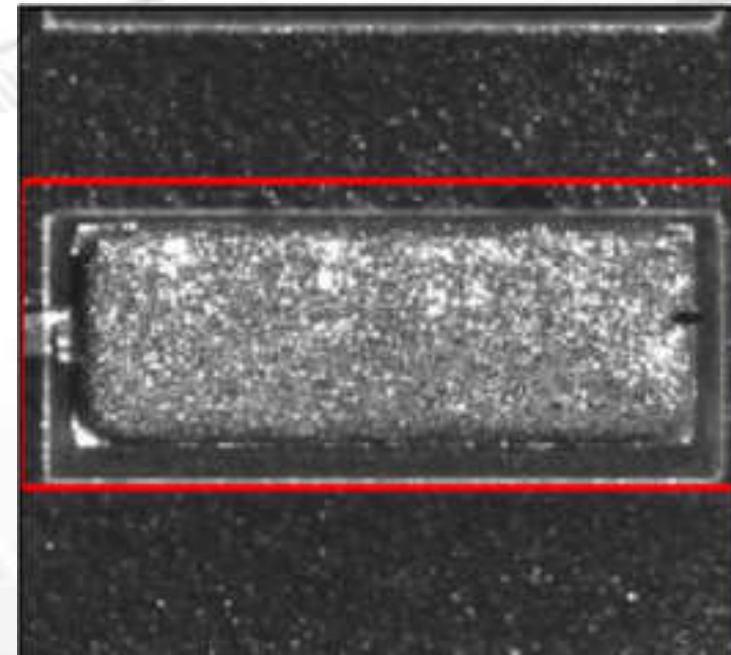
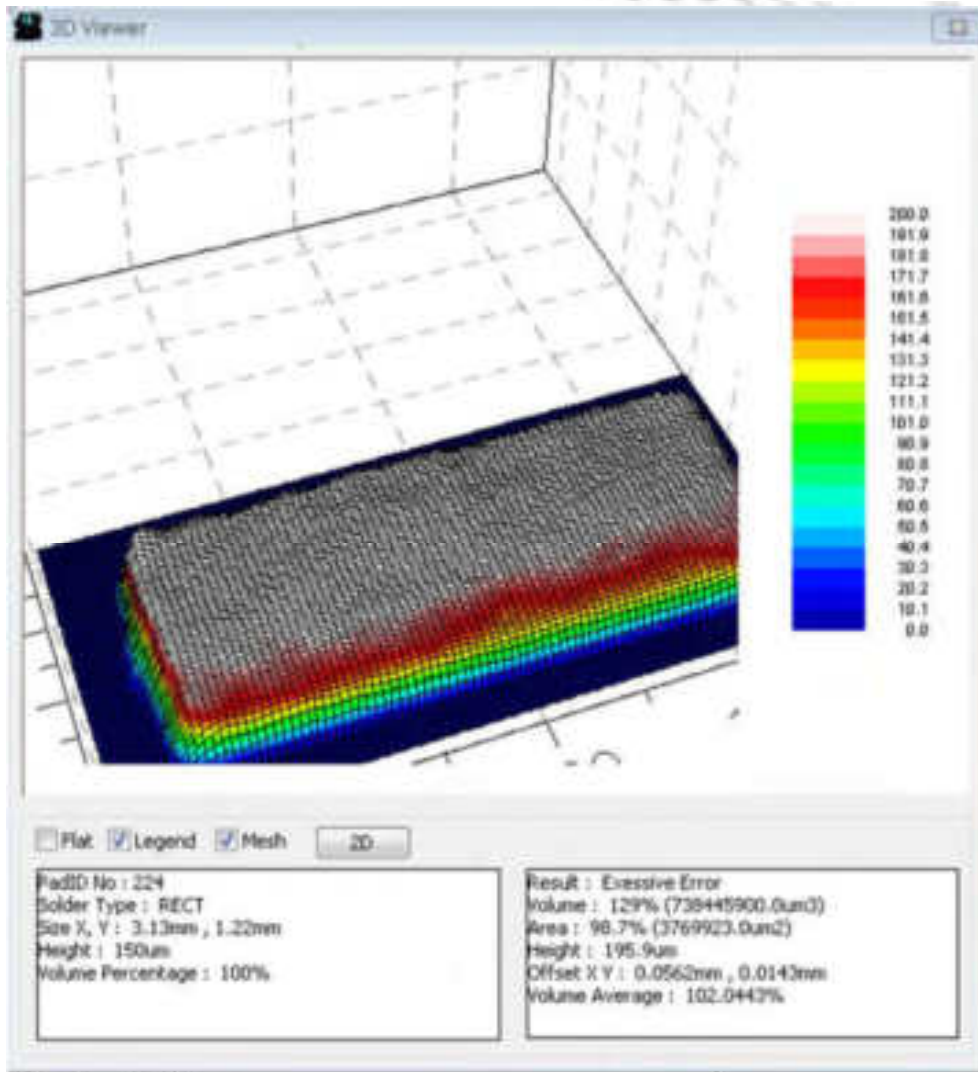
## Printer settings:





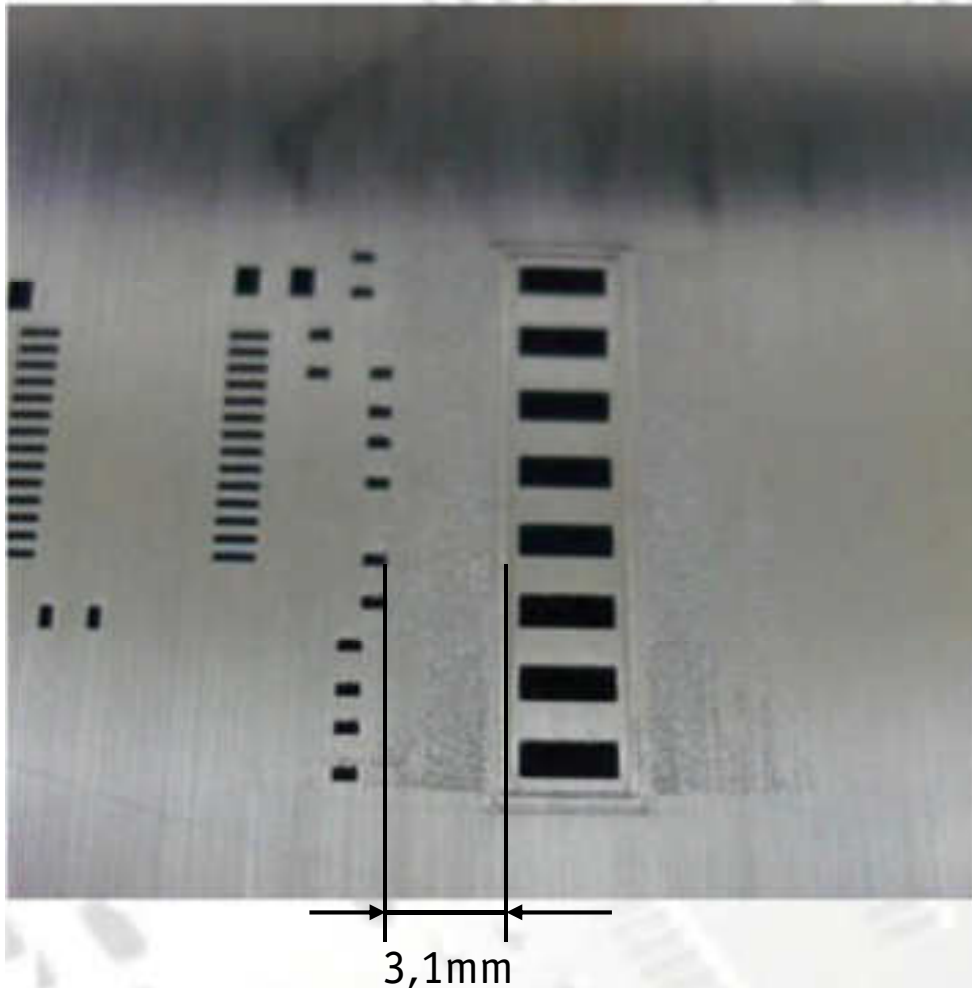
# Example from Practice

Solderdepot Hight at PatchWork® Area: 195,9µm



## Example from Practice

Abziehverhalten auf der Schablone:



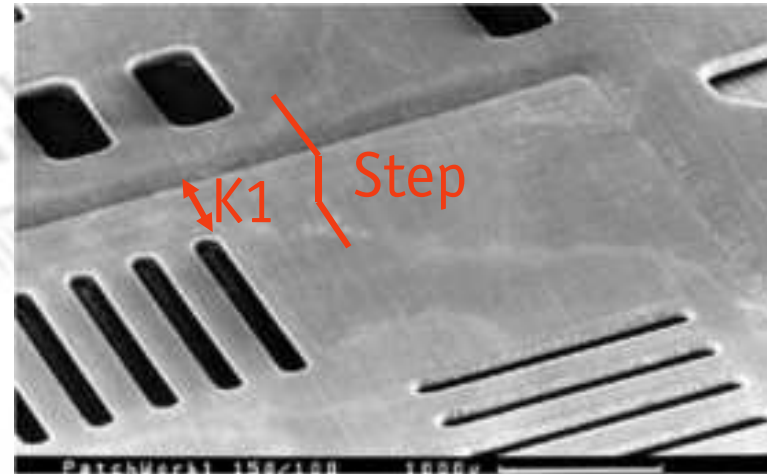
Distance from Patchedge to  
Aperture at thinner Foil: 3,1mm

Stepdifference: 60 $\mu$ m

## IPC 7525 stencil guidelines: Design for step stencils

**K1 is the distance from the step edge to the nearest aperture in the step-down area.**

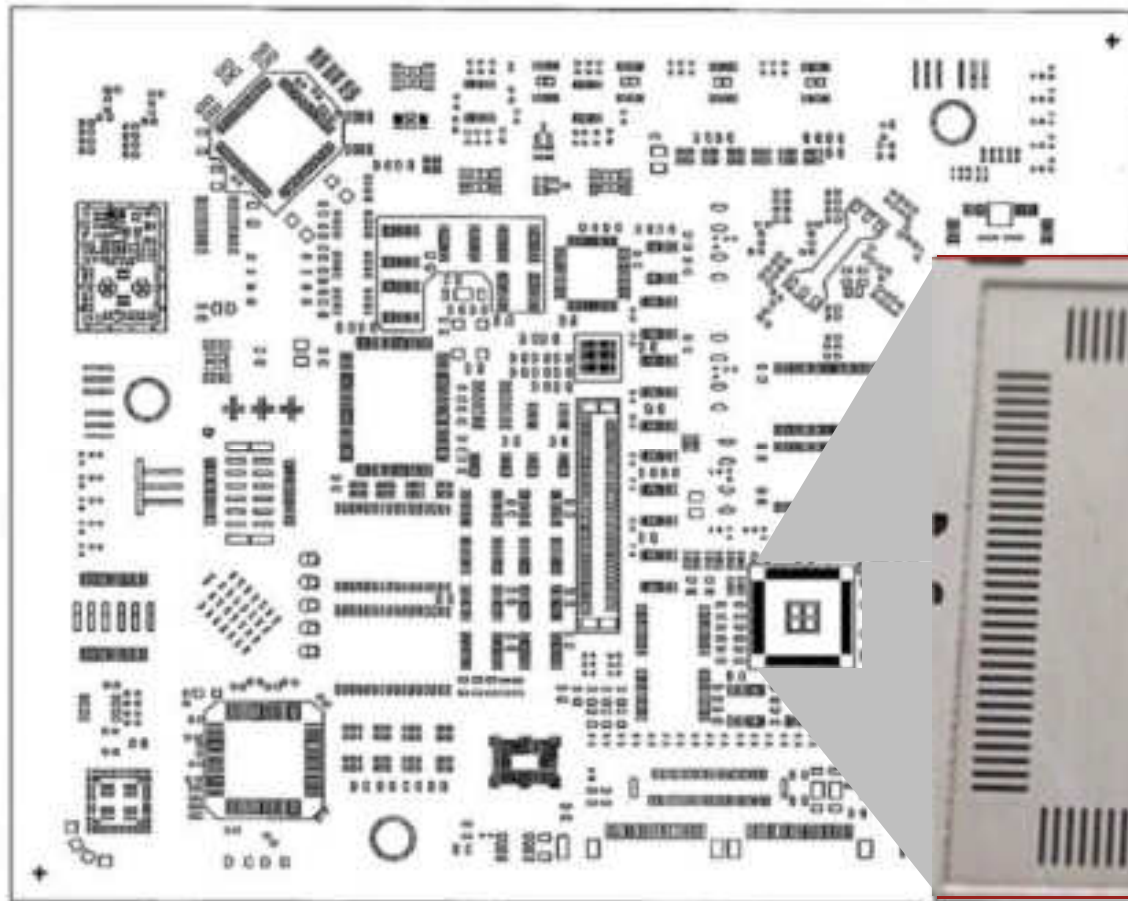
**As a general design guide K1 should be 0,9mm [35,4mil] for every 0,025mm[0,98mil] of step- down thickness.**



Step in mm	K1 is distance form the step edge to the nearest aperture in step -down area
0,010 [0,397mil]	0,36mm [14,1mil]
0,020 [0,787mil]	0,72mm [28,3mil]
0,025 [0,984mil]	0,90mm [35,4mil]
0,030 [1,181mil]	1,08mm [42,5mil]
0,050 [1,969mil]	1,80mm [70,9mil]
0,080 [3,14 mil]	2,88mm [113,4mil]
0,100 [3,937mil]	3,60mm [141,7mil]

## Special Solutions:

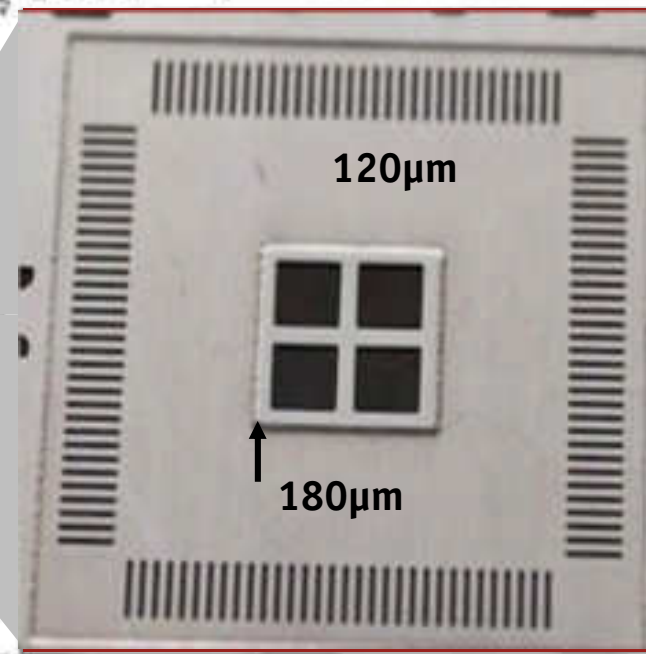
### Patch in Patch – Step in Step



Pitch =  $400\mu\text{m}$

Aperture Width:  $200\mu\text{m}$

Distance:  $700\mu\text{m}$



$120\mu\text{m}$

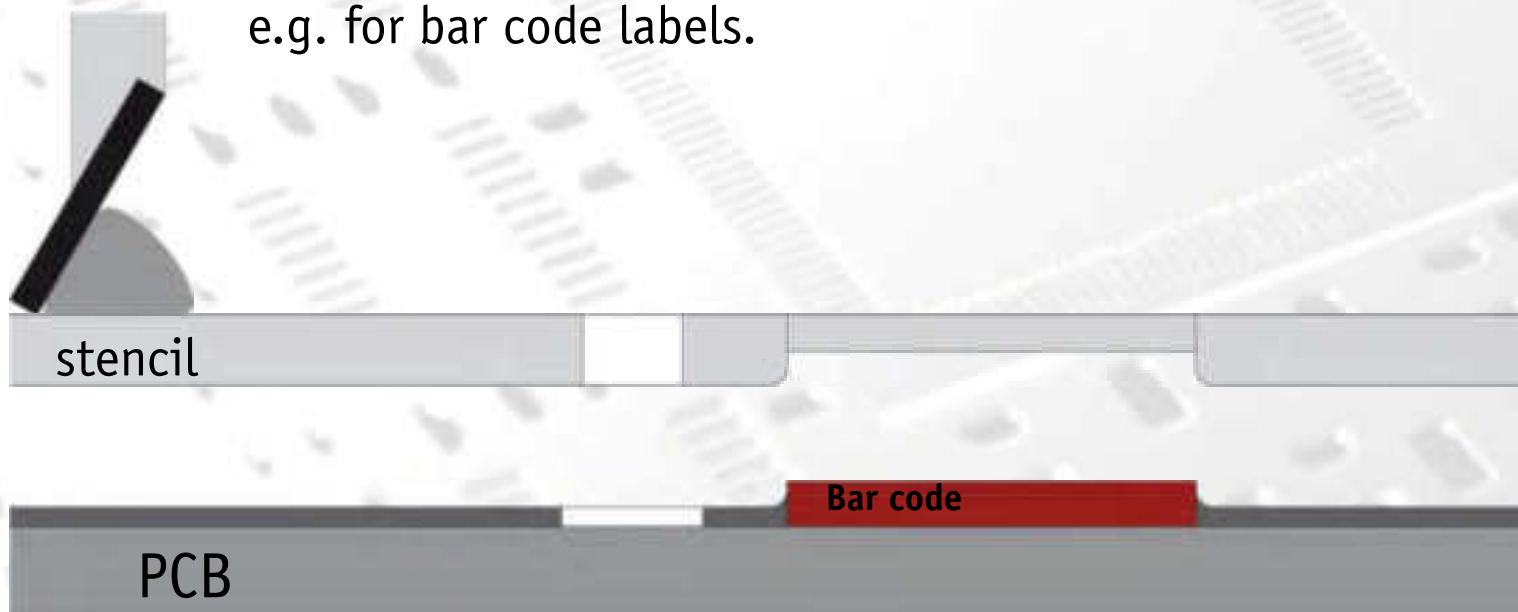
$180\mu\text{m}$

## Special Solutions:

### Step-down stencil on PCB side

Application:

- This type of stencil is used to hide thick labels on the printed circuit board, by welding a thin foil in the stainless steel sheet, e.g. for bar code labels.





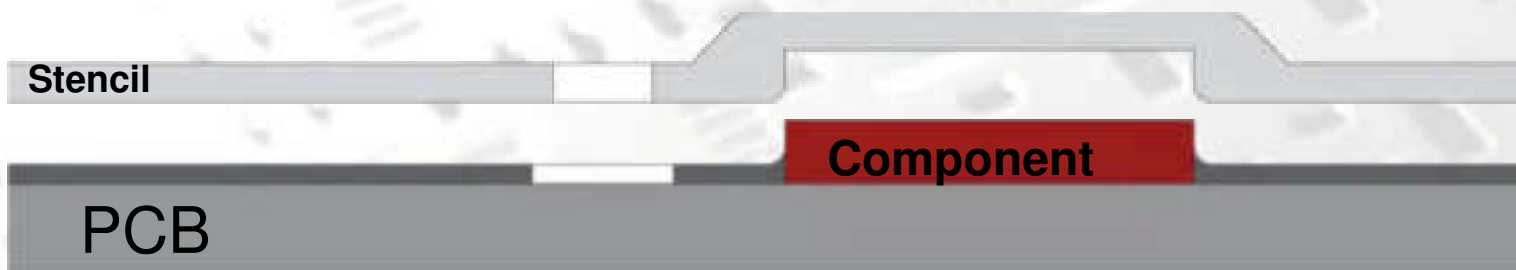
## Example from Practice

### Step-up on squeegee side :



Application:

- This type of stencil is used to hide components on the printed circuit board, by welding a thicker foil with bevel in the stainless steel sheet



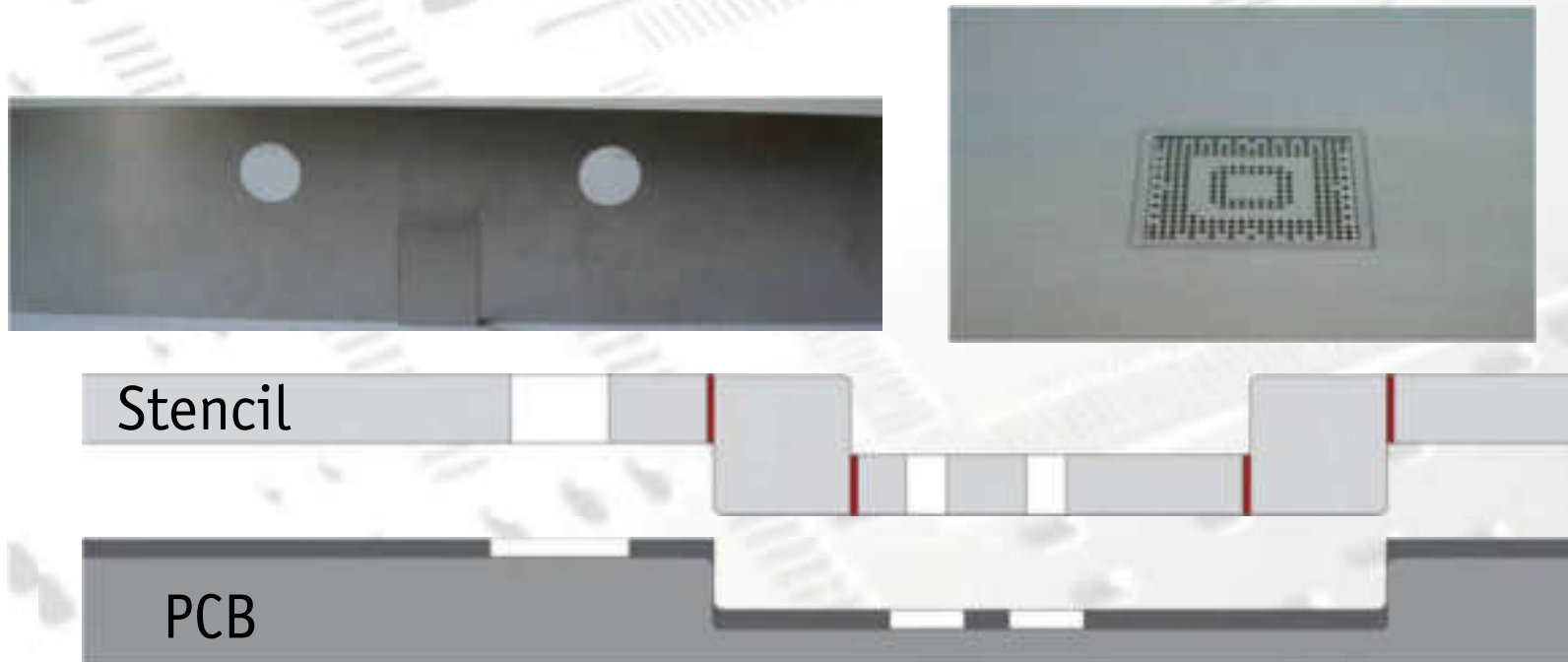


## Special Solutions:

### 3D-PatchWork<sup>®</sup> Stepstencil

Application:

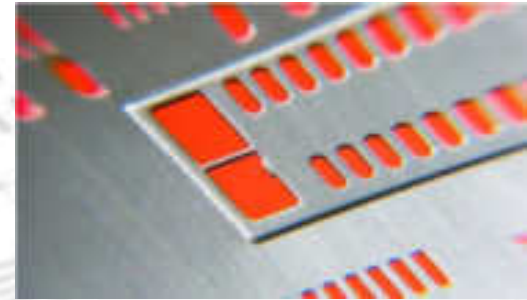
- This type of stencil is used to print in deeper layers of the printed circuit board, by welding a foil in the stainless steel stencil



## PatchWork<sup>®</sup> step-up/step-down

### Benefits of LaserJob step stencils:

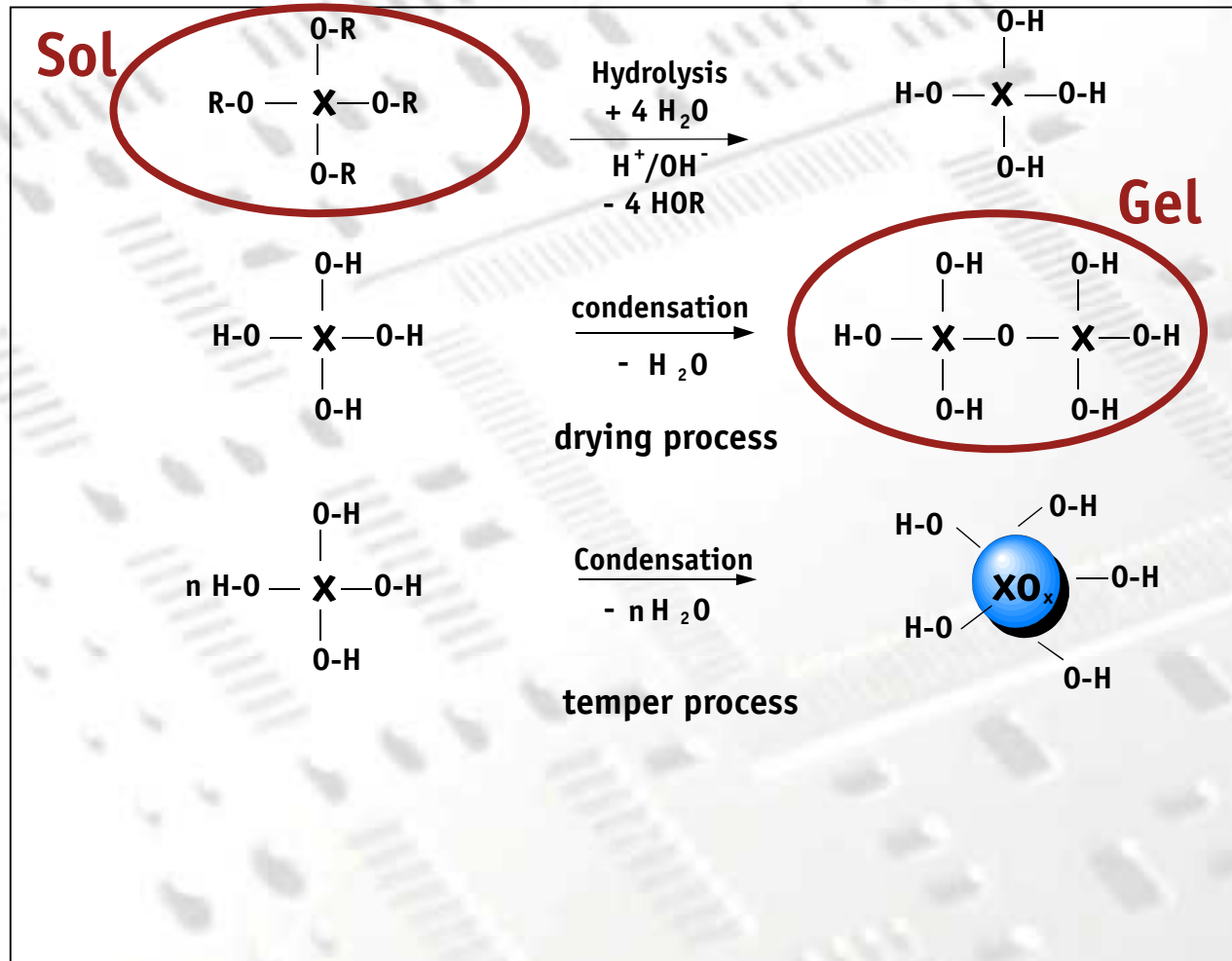
- Adapted paste volume in one print process
- 10µm- steps possible up to 300µm
- Afterwards integration of patches in standard SMD stencils and PatchWork<sup>®</sup> stencils
- Available with NanoWork<sup>®</sup> coating
- Exact patch thickness due to special pretreatment
- The same high precision for the patch like the rest of foil
- Rounded patch edges due to laserwelding process
- Step-up and step-down stencil is available on stencil- and PCB side
- Short delivery time (6 hours service)



# NanoWork Stencil (nanocoated Stencil)

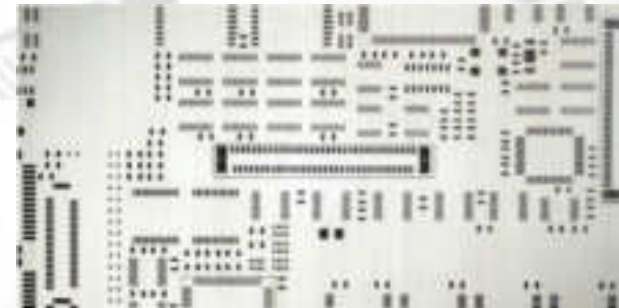


# NanoWork<sup>®</sup> chemical structure



## Pre-treatment of stencil foil

After lasercutting process:



1. Alcoholic degreasing process
2. brushing process with water on squeegee and printed circuit board side
3. Cleaning step with demineralized water

# Coating process

Pretreatment

Chemical treatment  
of  
stencil foil

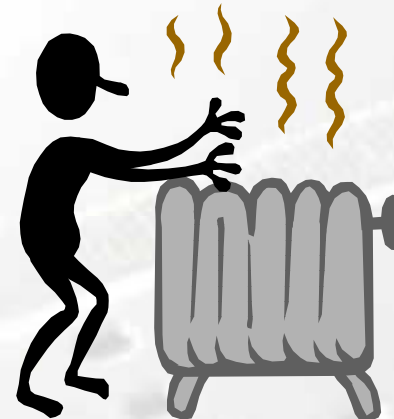
Coating process



Drying process



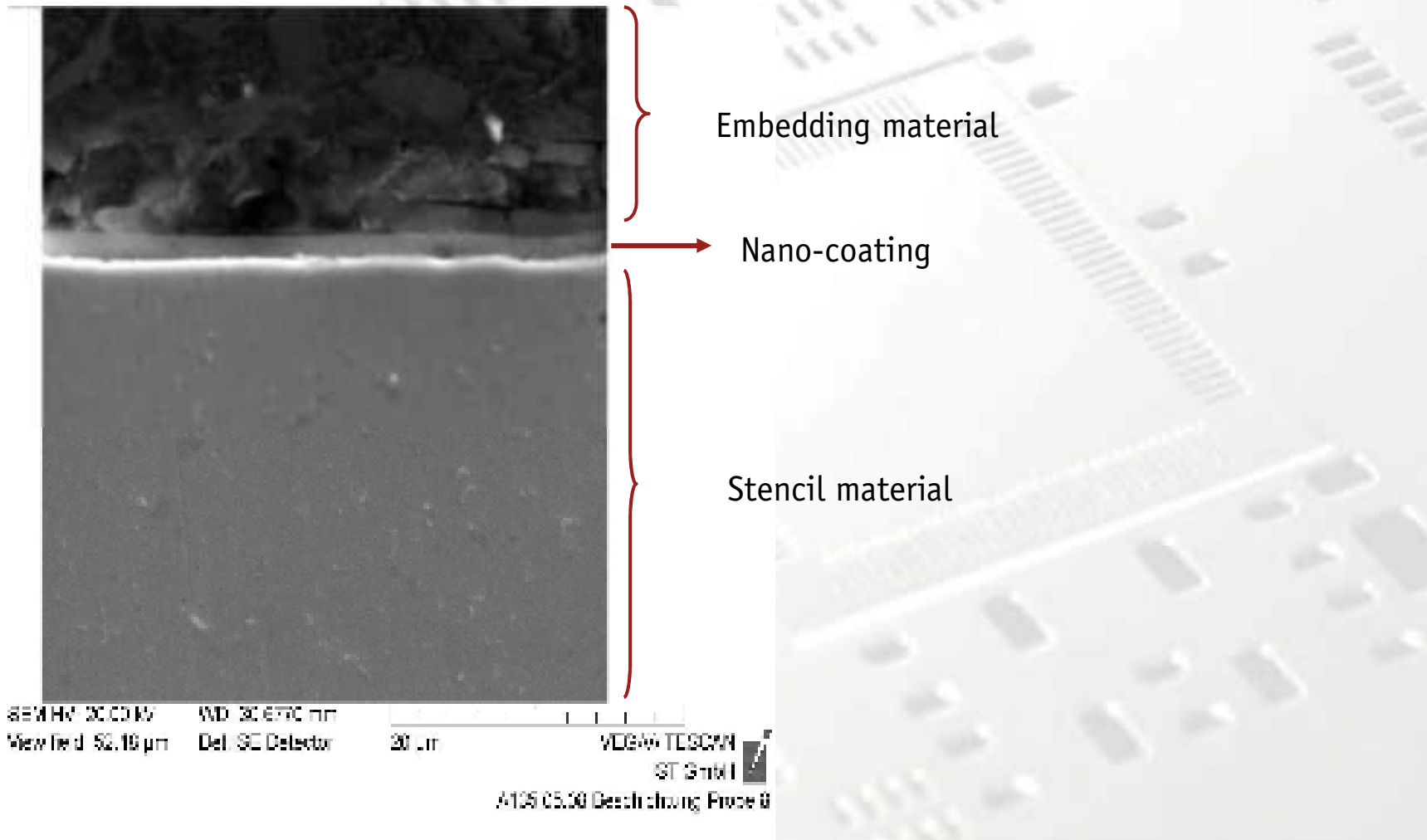
Quality control



Temper process

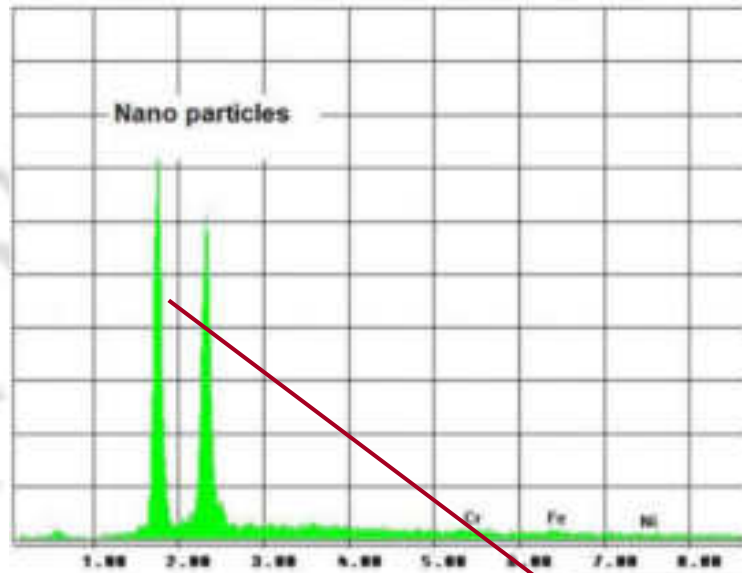


## Quality control: cross-section of nanocoated stencil

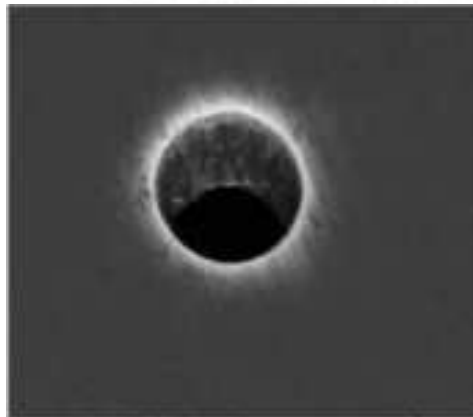
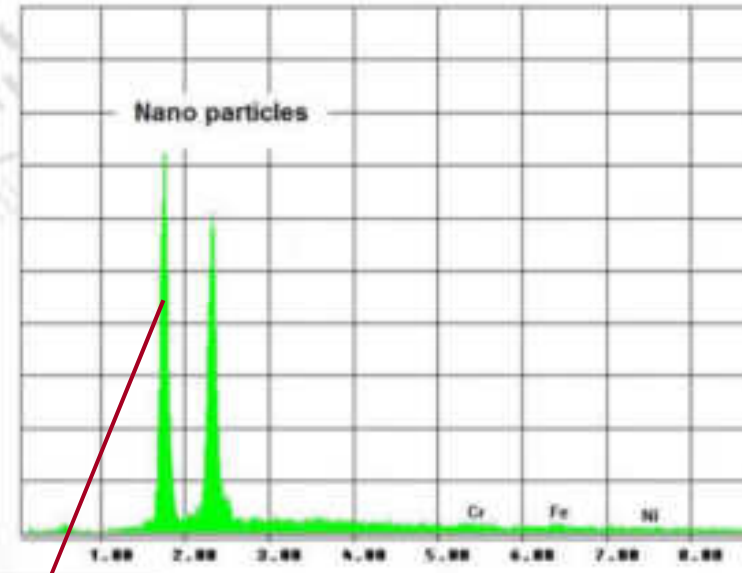


# EDX –of nanocoating

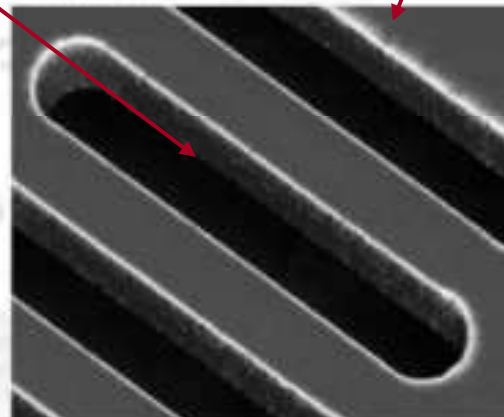
QFP aperture from bottom side



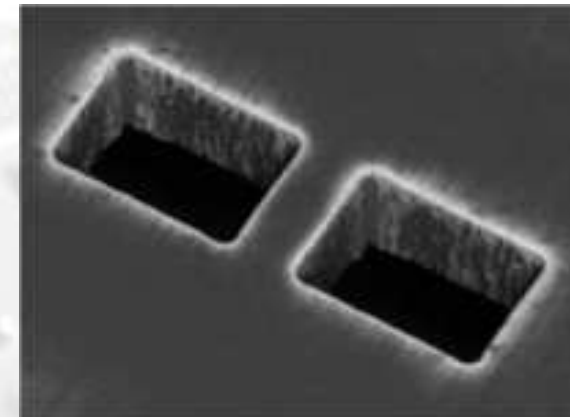
QFP aperture from top side



SEM HV: 12.00 kV WD: 28.400 mm  
View field: 500.00 µm Det: BSE-TOPO Detector 200 µm  
VEEGA TESCAN  
SPT GmbH  
AMSP/CE, S-DIGES

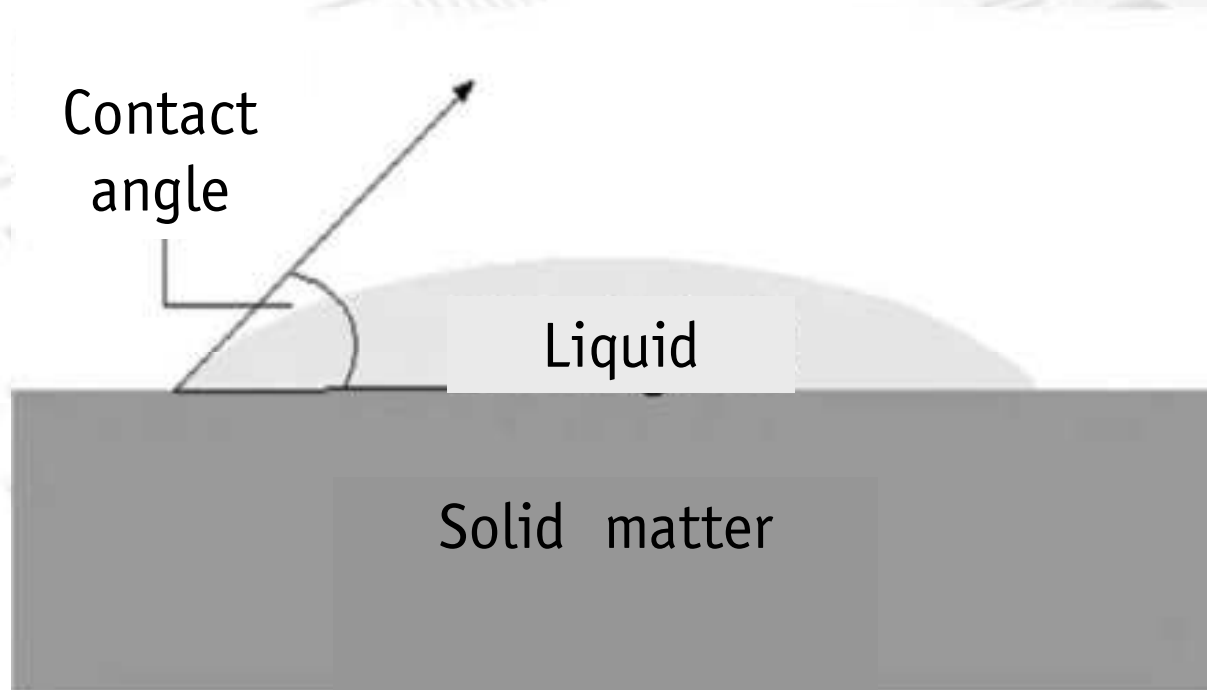


SEM HV: 12.00 kV WD: 30.800 mm  
View field: 500.00 µm Det: BSE-TOPO Detector 200 µm  
VEEGA TESCAN  
SPT GmbH  
AMSP/CE, S-DIGES

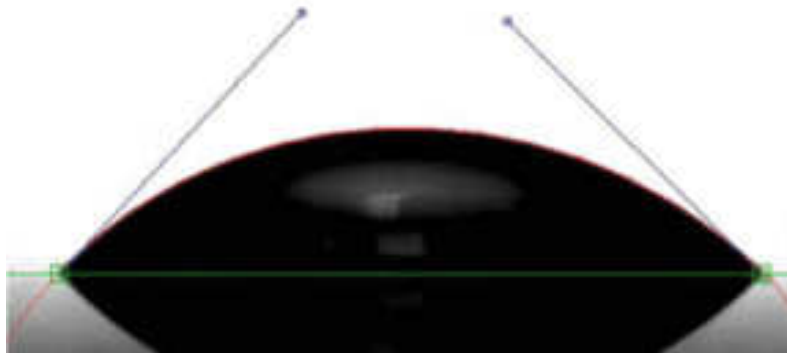


SEM HV: 12.00 kV WD: 28.700 mm  
View field: 500.00 µm Det: BSE-TOPO Detector 200 µm  
VEEGA TESCAN  
SPT GmbH  
AMSP/CE, S-DIGES

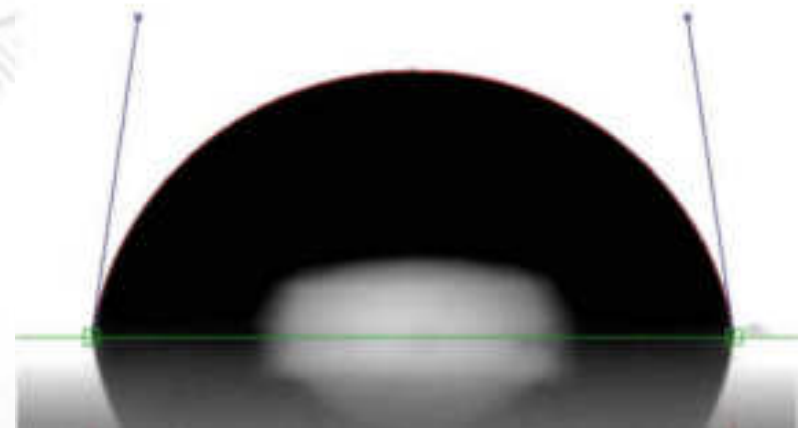
## Quality control of NanoWork coating



## Quality control of NanoWork coating



Low contact angle



High contact angle

## Measurement: MobileDrop



## Compatibility of cleaners with NanoWork®

In general all water based neutral cleaners and all solvent based cleaners are compatible, all water based alkaline cleaners are not compatible with NanoWork®-coated stencils.

Hersteller producer	Handelsname Reiniger Tradename cleaner	Verträglichkeit Compatibility
Zestron	Vigon SC 200	X
	Vigon SC 202	--
	Vigon SC 210	X
	Vigon SC 400	X
	Vigon UC 140(water based, neutral cleaner)	X
	Zestron SW	X
Kolb	MultiEx-N7	X
	MultiEx-N8	X
	WipeEx SA 120	X
	MultiEx B11	--





# Compatibility of cleaners with NanoWork®

In general all water based neutral cleaners and all solvent based cleaners are compatible, all water based alkaline cleaners are not compatible with NanoWork®-coated stencils.

Henkel	Lixton 2603-8	X
	Lixton TS 260	X
	Lixton 2601 (solvent based)	x
Kissel + Wolf GmbH	KiwoClean EL 8400	X
	KiwoClean EL 8200	X
	KiwoClean EL 7300	X
Dow	Dowanol PX 165	X
Kester	5252	X
SMT Detergent Corp.	Smart Sonic's 440-R SMT Detergent	--
EMS GmbH	Puran SC	X
Petroferm	Axarel 2200 (solvent based)	x



X = verträglich / compatible

-- = nicht verträglich / not compatible

# SMT-printing stencils technologies and properties

## Stencil material

- Stainless steel
- Nickel
- Polymer

## Production technology

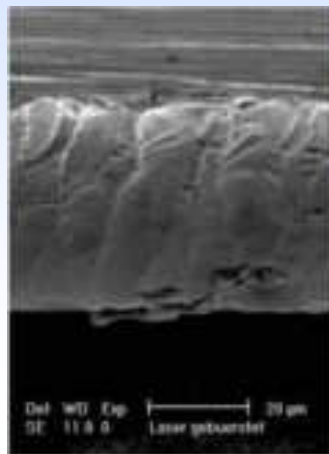
- Etching technology
- Lasercut technology
- Galvanotechnology

## Finishing process

- Brushing
- Electropolishing
- NanoWork® coating

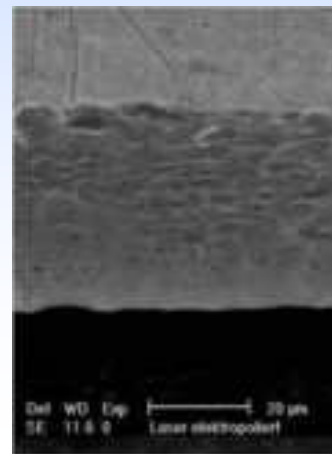
### Stenciltype A

- Stainless steel
- Lasercut technology
- Brushing



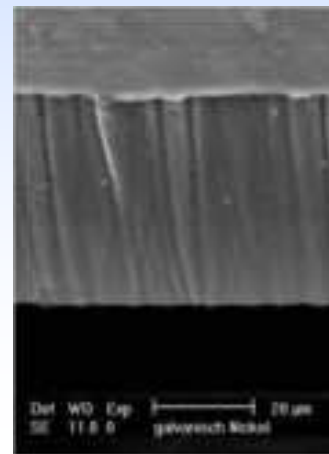
### Stenciltype B

- Stainless steel
- Lasercut technology
- Electropolishing



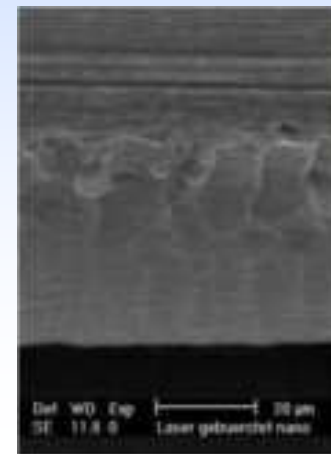
### Stenciltype C

- Nickel
- Galvanotechnology



### Stenciltype D

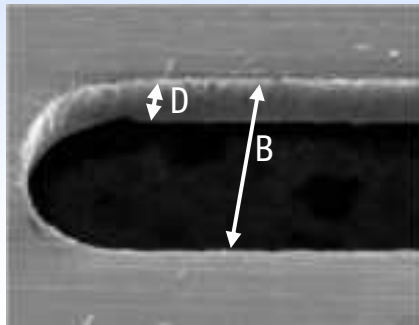
- Stainless steel
- Lasercut technology
- coating



# Design rules for SMT-printing stencils

## Aspect ratio

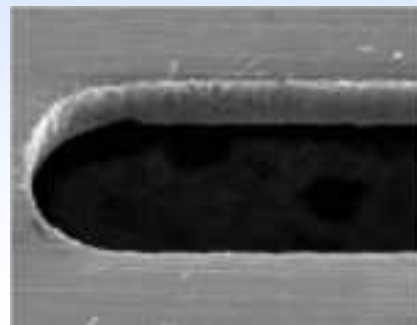
$$\frac{\text{Aperture width } B}{\text{Stencil thickness } D} \geq 1,5$$



IPC-7525A

## Area ratio

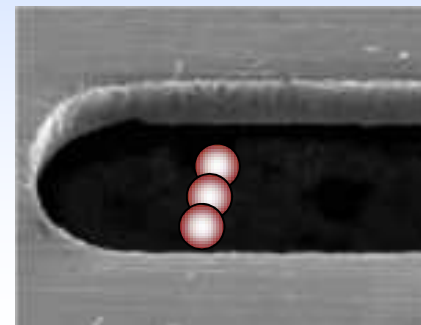
$$\frac{\text{Area opening}}{\text{Wall area}} \geq 0,66$$



IPC-7525A

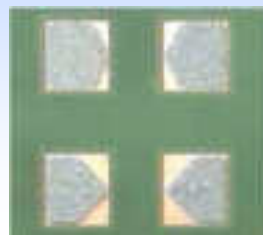
## 5-ball-rule

$$\frac{\text{Aperture width}}{\text{Ø Paste powder}} \geq 5$$



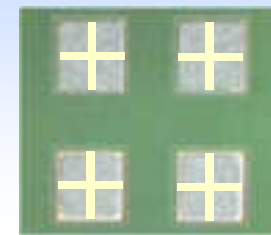
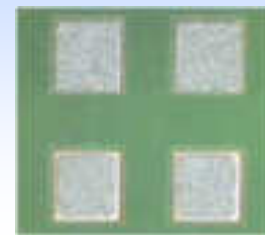
FED

## Aperture specific layout optimization



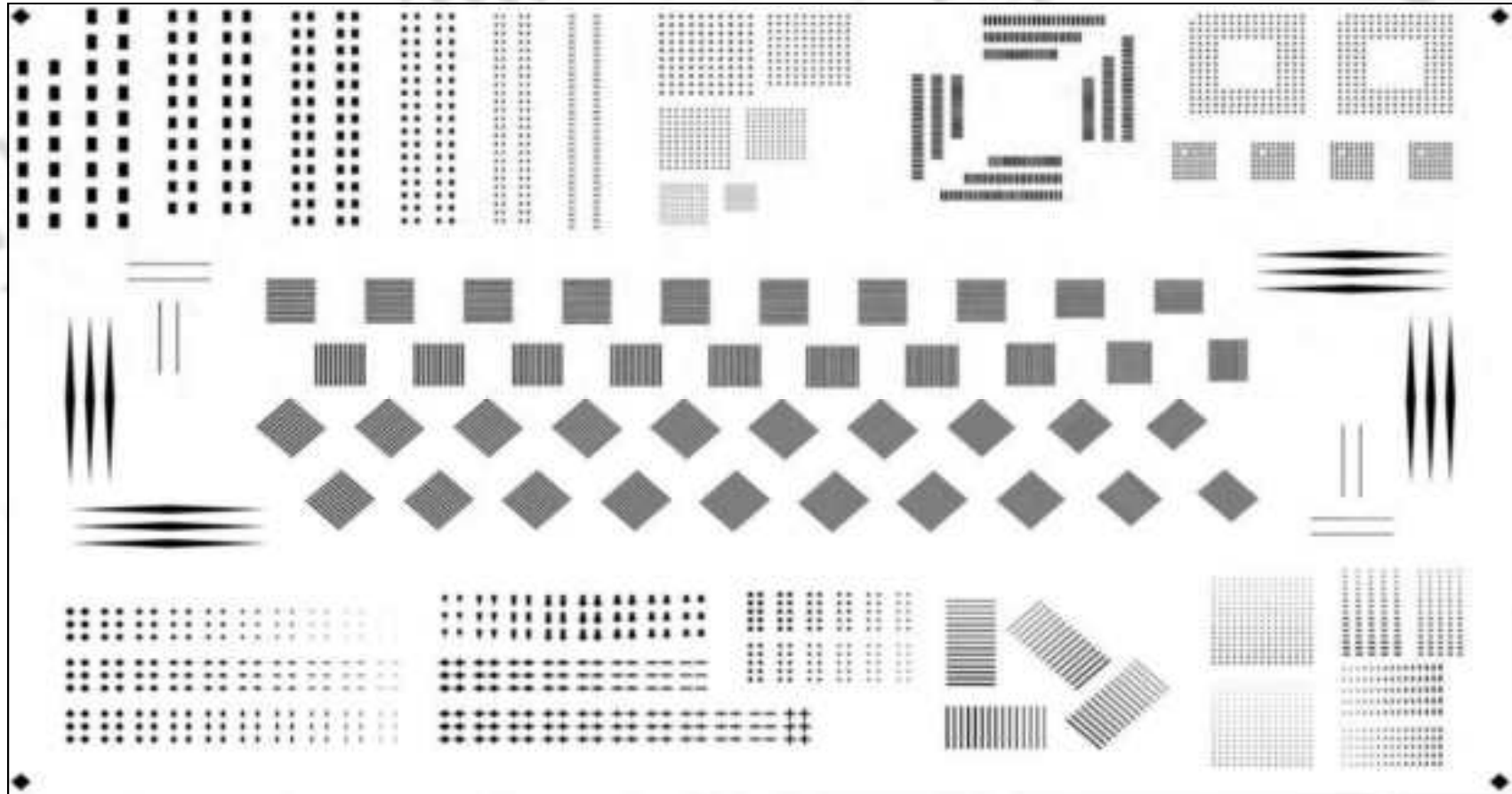
FED

## Divide big apertures



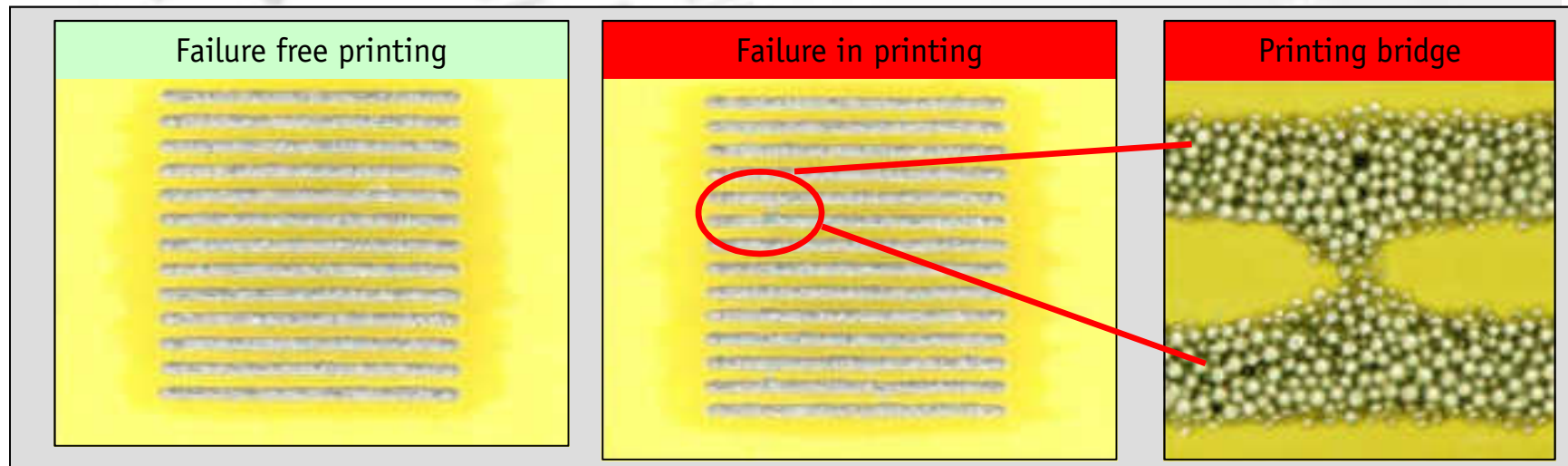
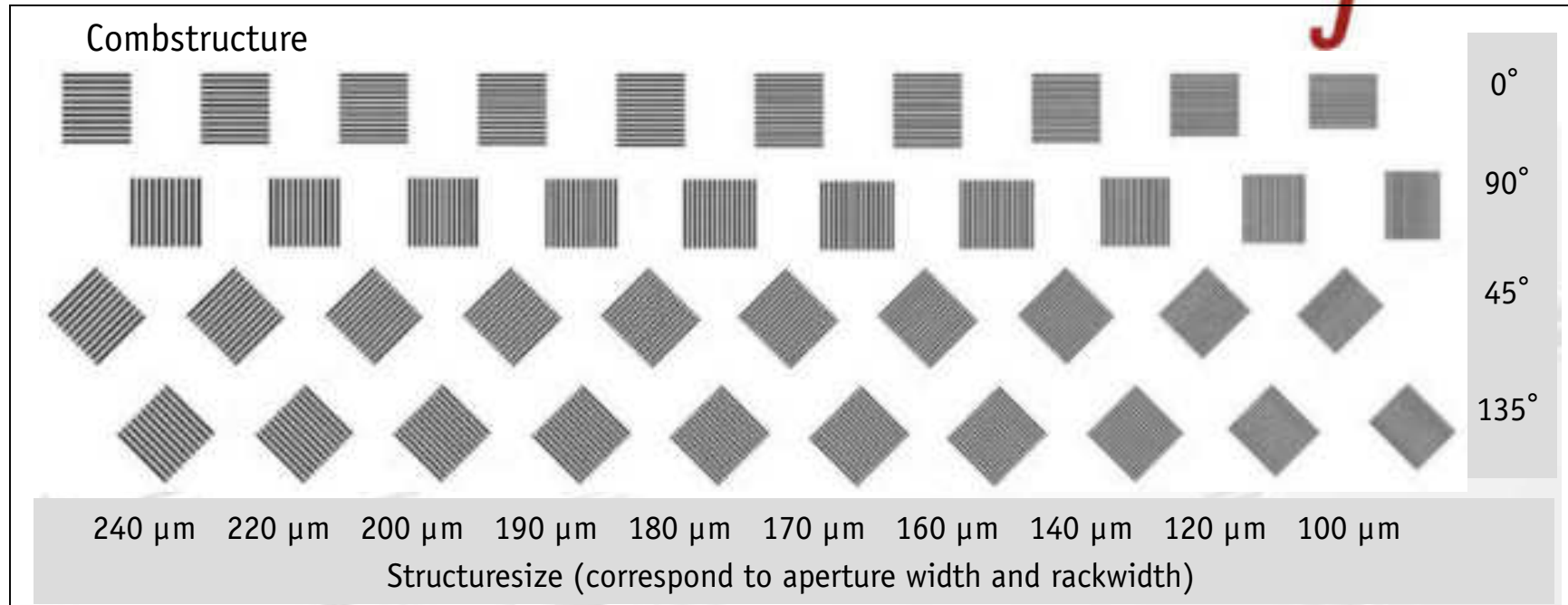
FED

## Test planing for qualification of alternative SMT-Stencil technology



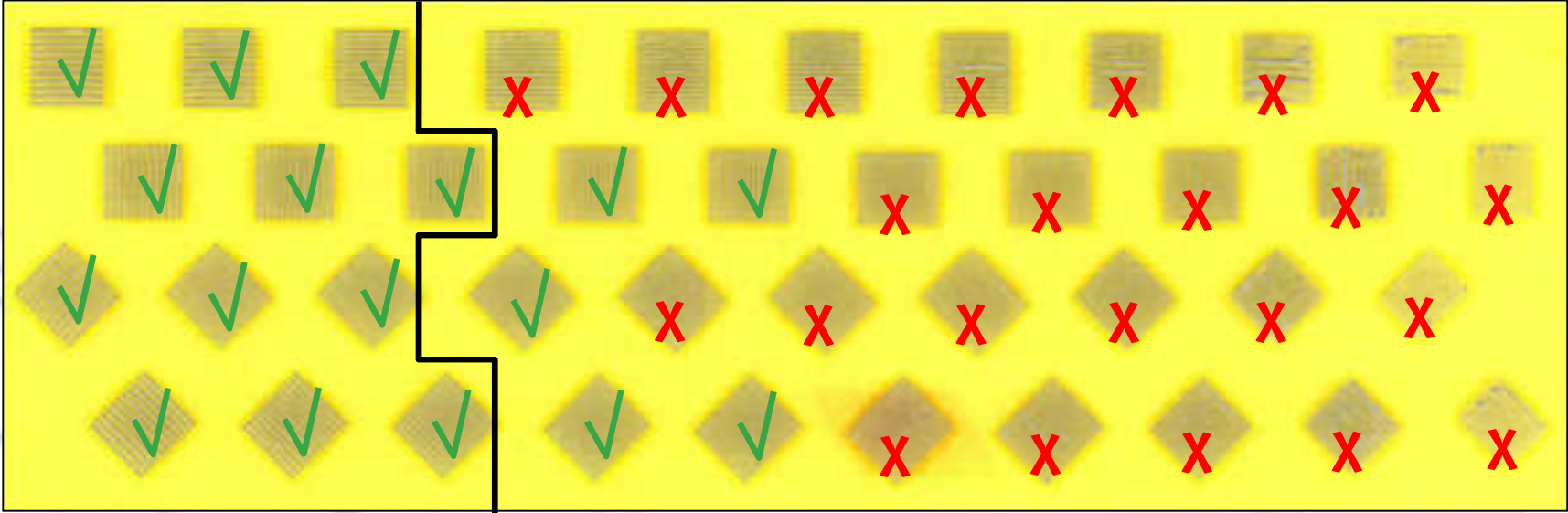
- ❑ Testlayout for stencil types A, B, C und D – Stencil thickness: 127 µm
- ❑ SAC-Solderpaste Type 3 (25 µm – 45 µm)
- ❑ Process parameter: 2,2 N/cm squeegee pressure, 50 mm/s squeegee speed, 10 mm/s separation speed

# Optical benchmark of printed combstructures





# Optical benchmark of printed combstructures

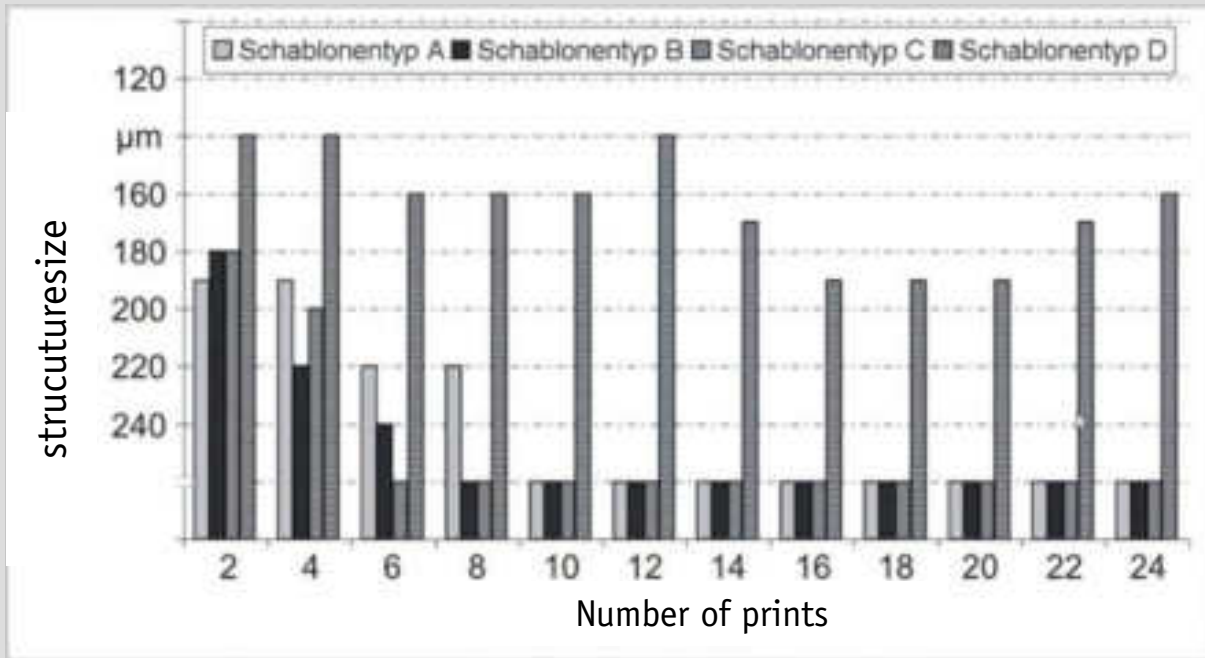
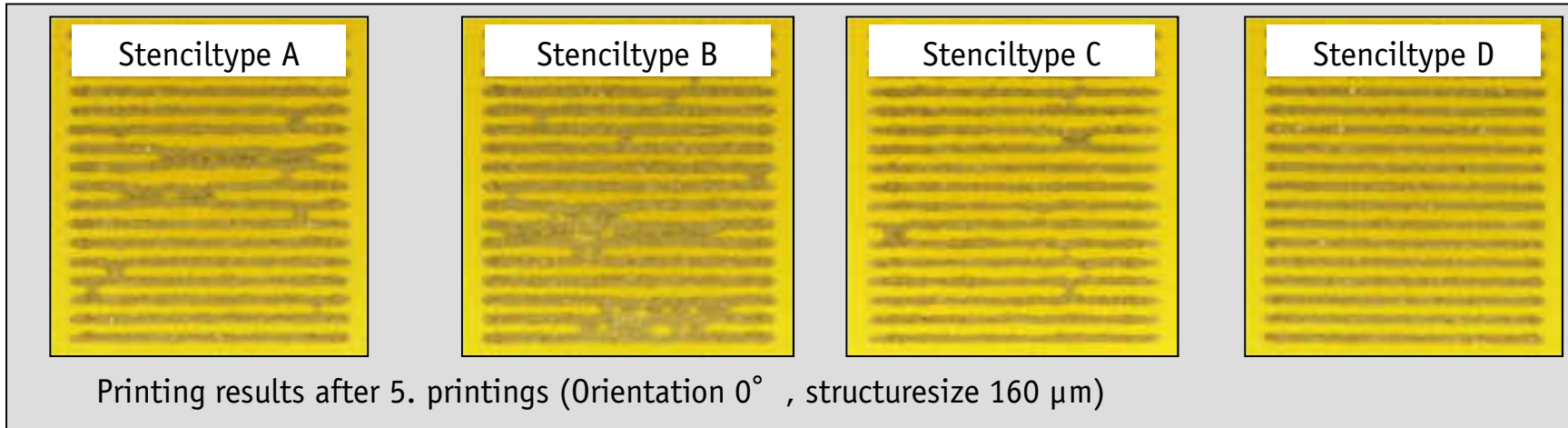


240 μm    220 μm    200 μm    190 μm    180 μm    170 μm    160 μm    140 μm    120 μm    100 μm

Stencilype	A	/	190	180	190	200	220	220	220	240	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	B	/	180	220	220	220	240	220	/	/	/	240	/	240	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	C	240	180	190	200	240	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
	D	180	140	140	140	140	160	160	160	160	160	140	140	170	170	170	190	170	190	170	190	160	170	160	160	160
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Number of prints																								

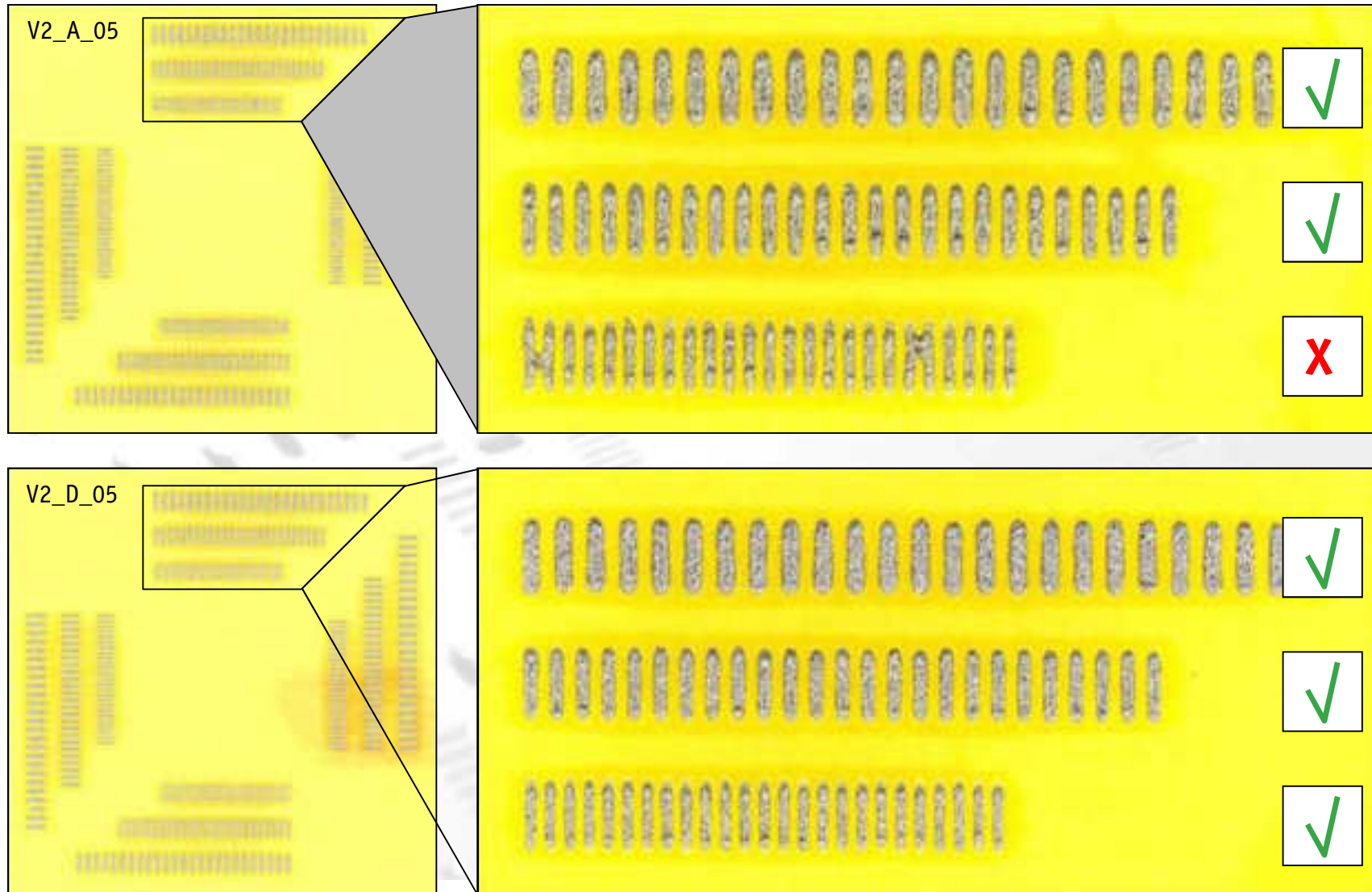


# Results of comb structure



- Aspectratio = 1,5 by 190 μm
- 5-ball-rules by 225 μm
- additional influence factor

# Classification of printed QFP-structures with optical inspection



# Comparison of feasibility of QFP-structures



pitch 500 $\mu\text{m}$																								
Stencil type	A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Number of paste prints					17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

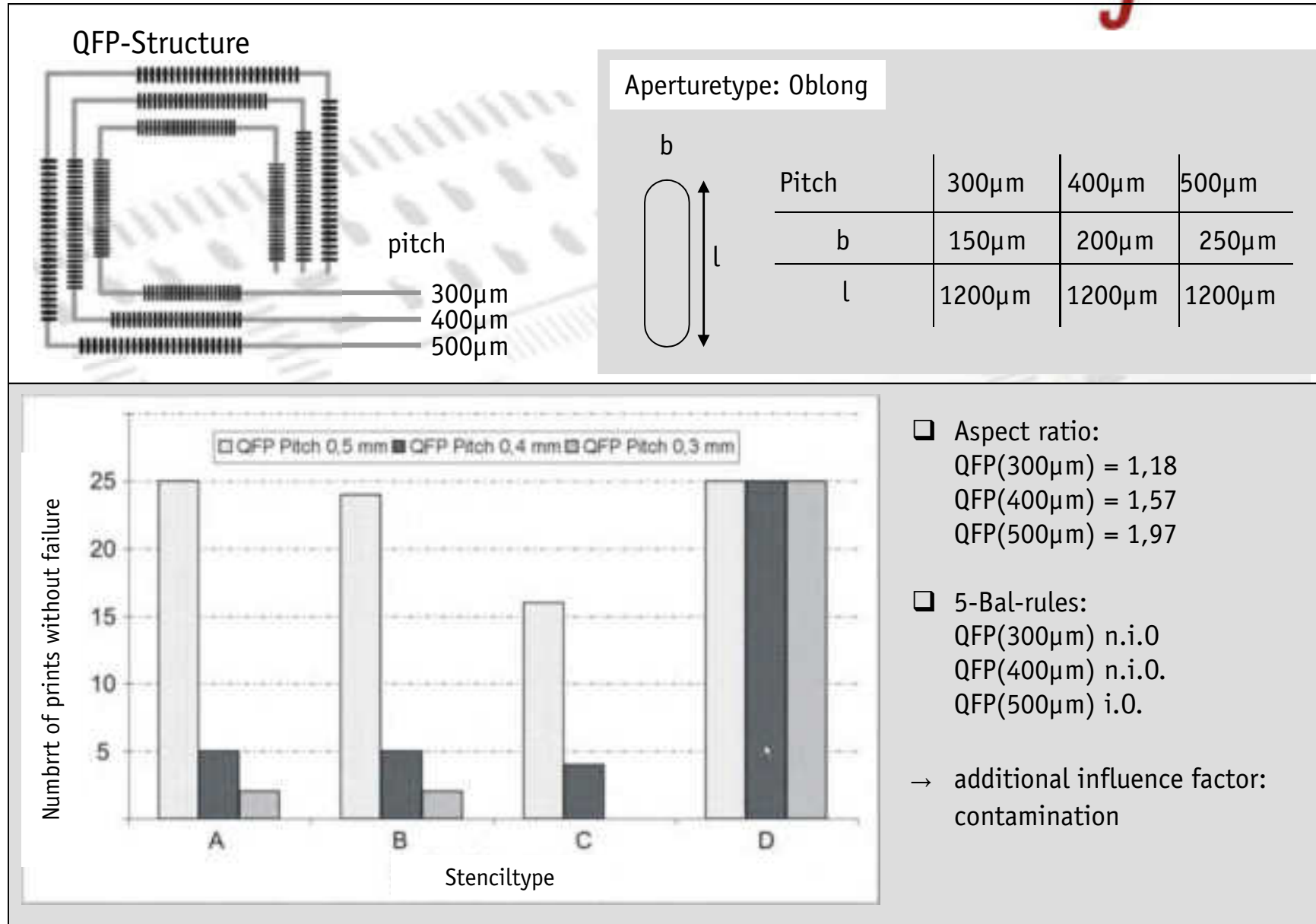
  

pitch 400 $\mu\text{m}$																										
Stencil type	A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	2	3	2	6	4	6	1	6	4	7	3	7	3	8	
	B	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	5	9	10	9	8	16	9	16	9	15	12	15	12	14	
	C	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	4	7	5	13	6	17	7	18	11	24	14	23	18	31	18	33
	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Number of paste prints					17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		

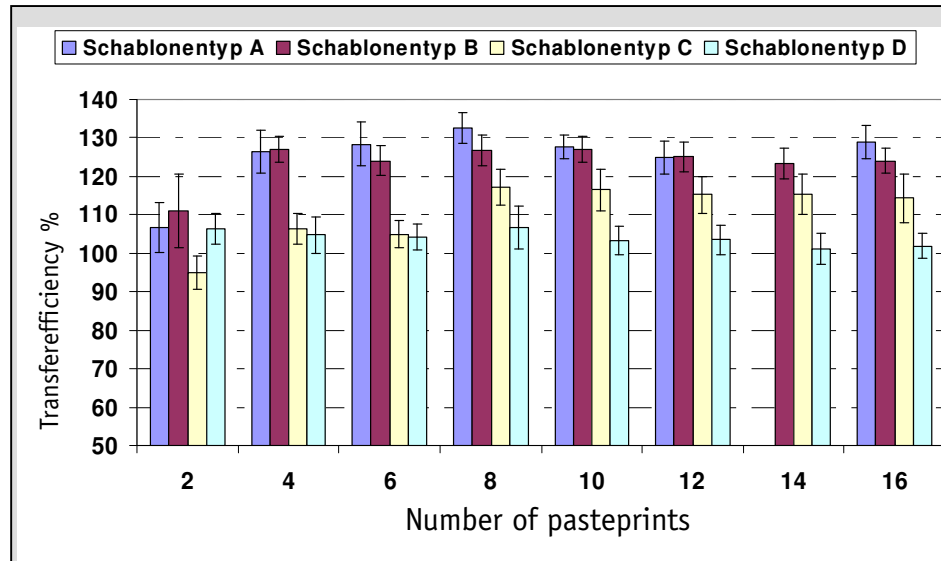
  

pitch 300 $\mu\text{m}$																										
stencil type	A	0	0	1	5	14	16	22	26	28	33	29	28	35	33	38	30	40	36	42	37	36	33	40	36	48
	B	0	0	4	13	22	28	32	36	37	41	48	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50
	C																									
	D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Number of paste prints					17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		

# Optical evaluation of printed QFP-structure

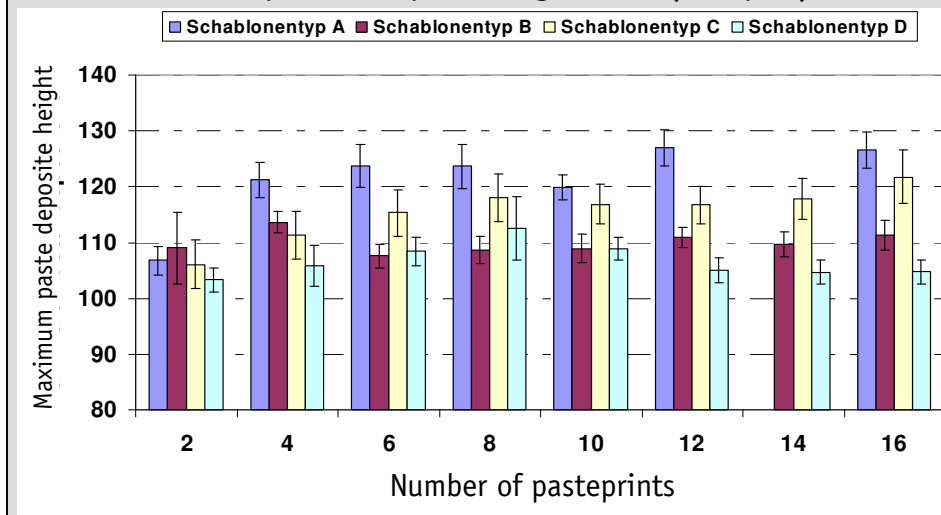


## Transfer efficiency QFP(400 $\mu$ m)



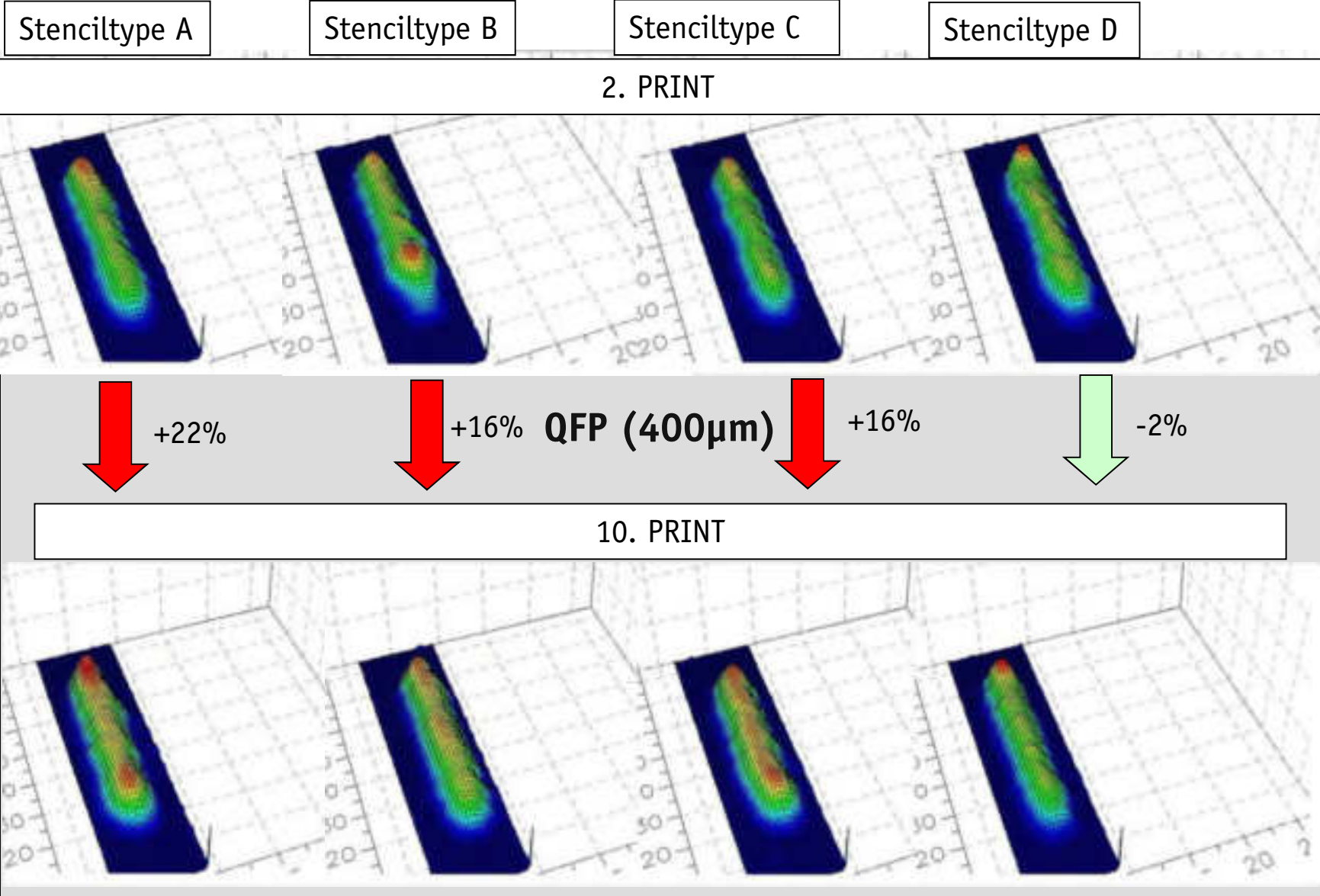
- Stenciltype A, B and C:  
increase of transfer efficiency with increased printing number
- Stenciltype D:  
Constant transfer efficiency with increased printing number
- Stenciltype D:  
Value of transfer efficiency ca. 100% very close to setpoint

## Maximum paste depot height QFP(400 $\mu$ m)



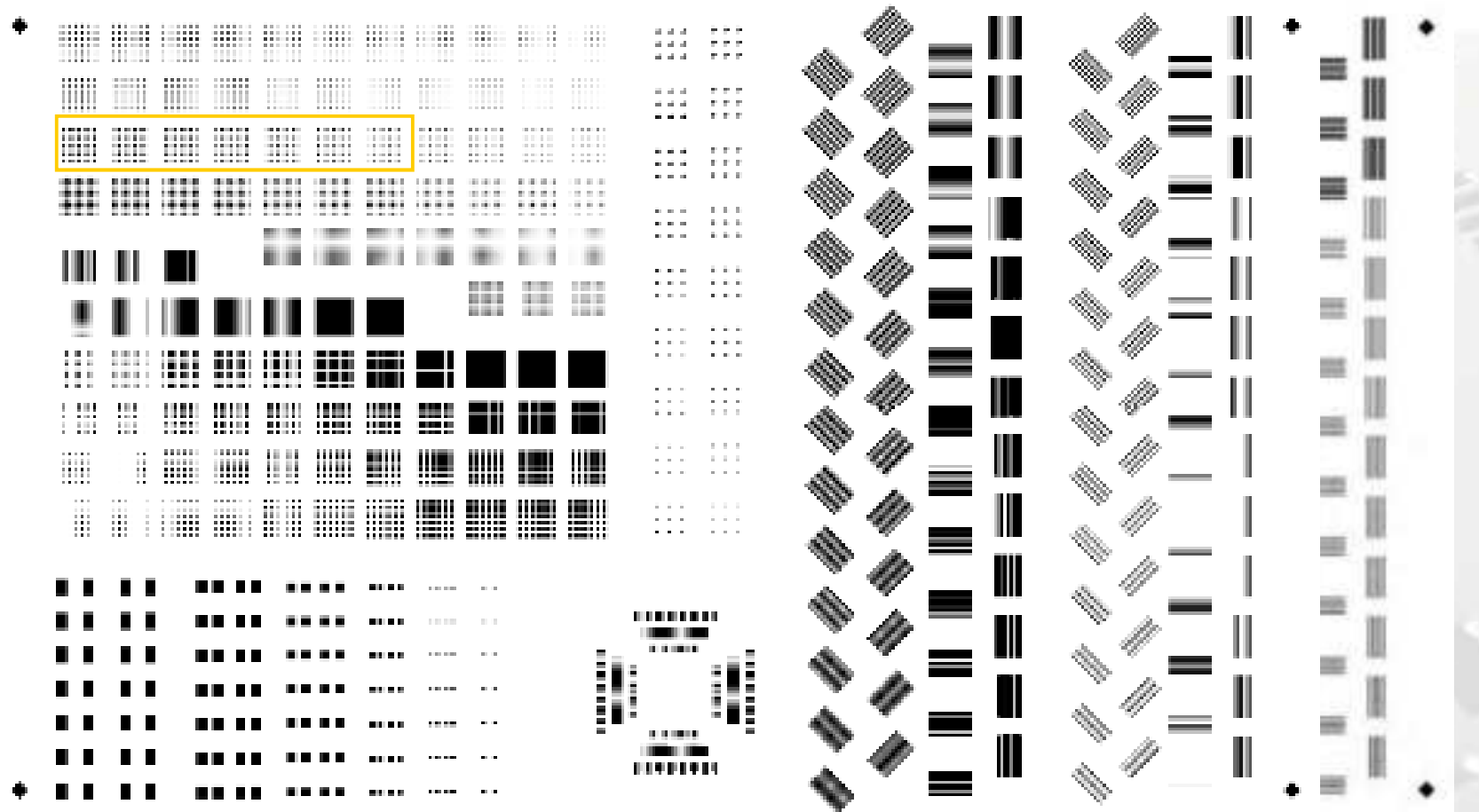
- Analysis of maximum paste depot height correspond with calculated transfer efficiency and confirm the thesis:
- Tendency of contamination of stencil type A, B and C causes bridging and is mirrored in higher transfer efficiency and paste depot heights.





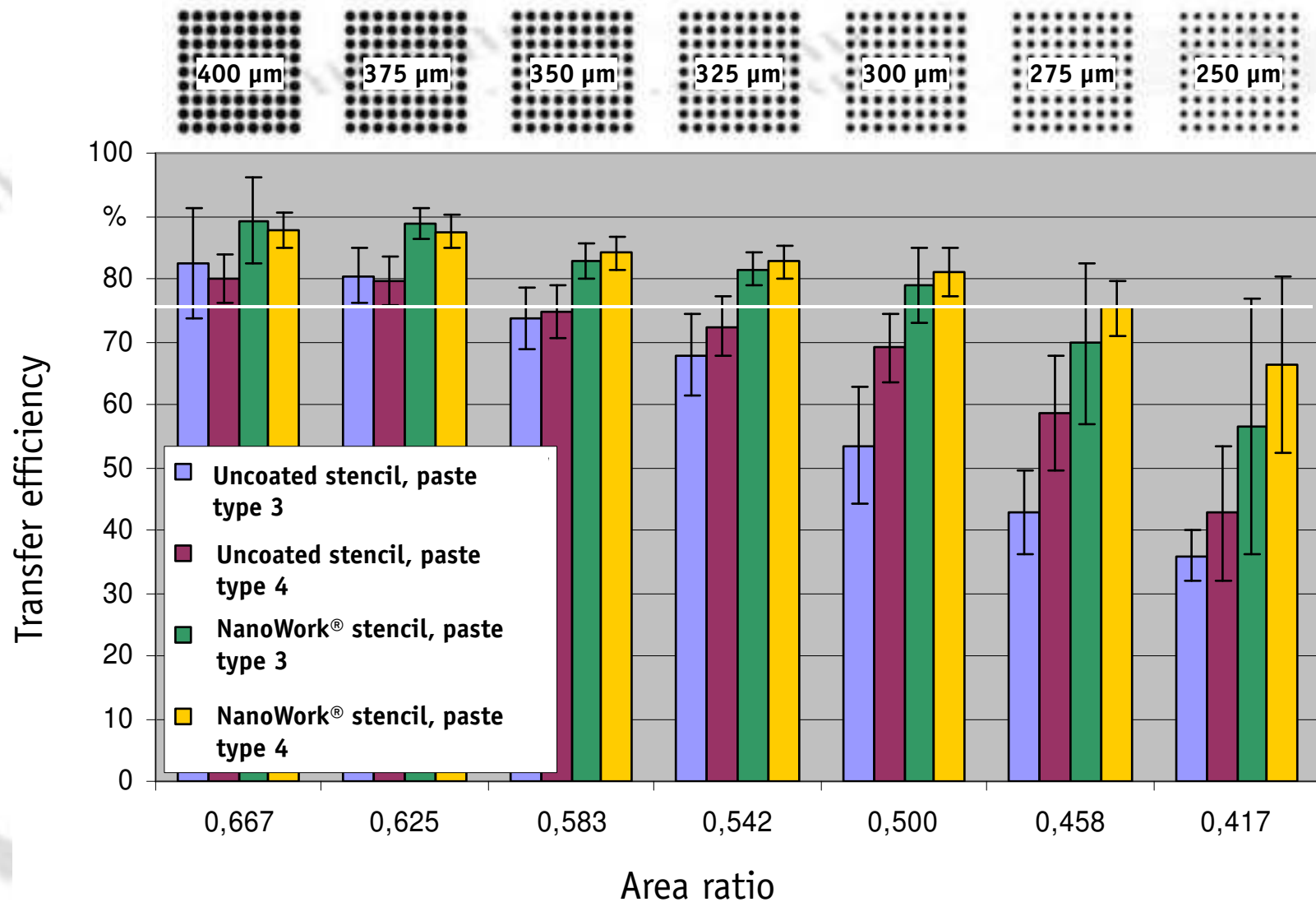


## Stencil layout to qualify transfer efficiency

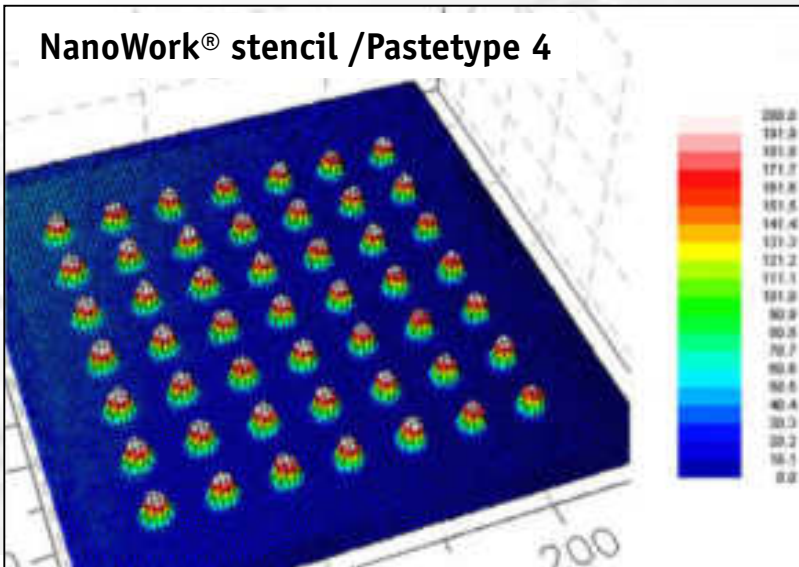
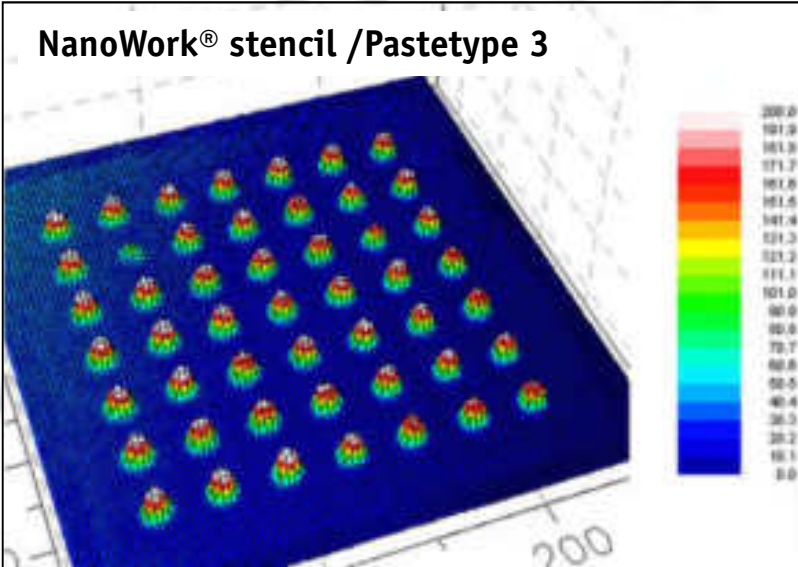
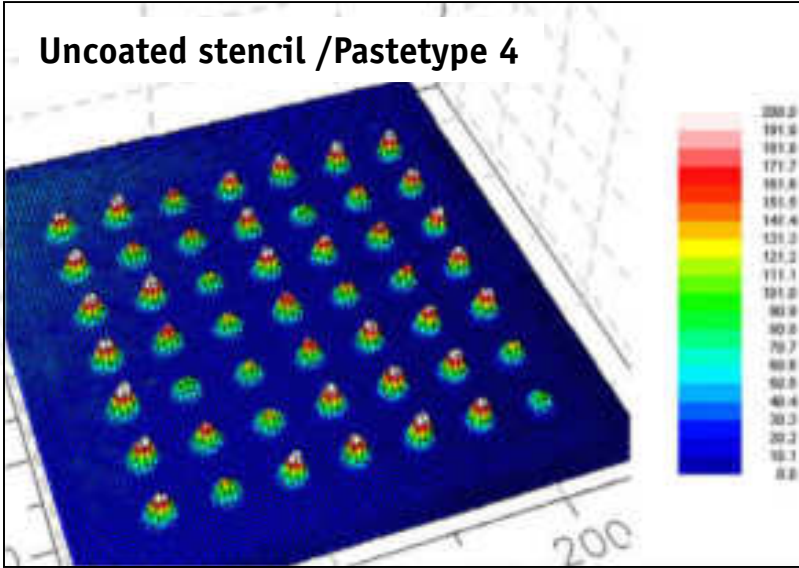
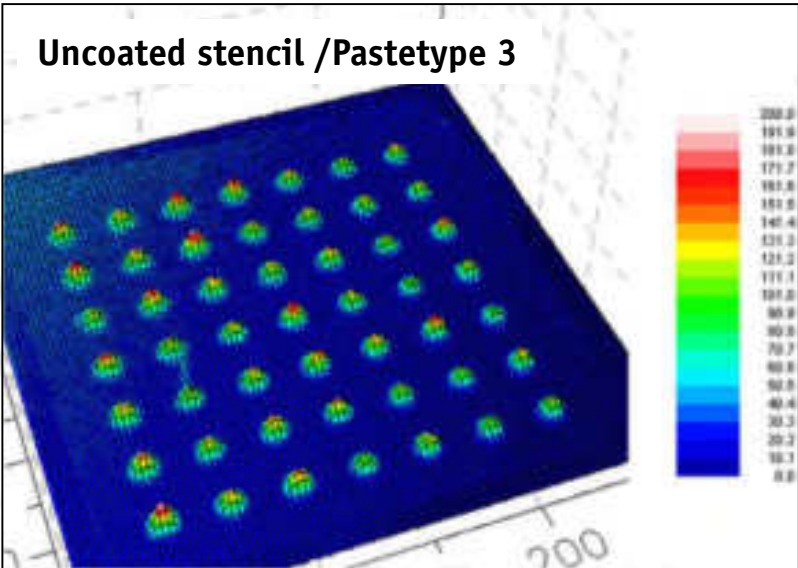


- Stencil:stainless steel, finishing process: brushing, uncoated and coated with NanoWork®, 150 µm thickness
- SAC-solder paste type 3 und type 4 (Heraeus: F640)
- Process parameter: 2,2 N/cm squeegee pressure, 50 mm/s squeegee speed, 10 mm/s, separation speed
- 5 prints without cleaning stencil bottom side (Initial print not considered)

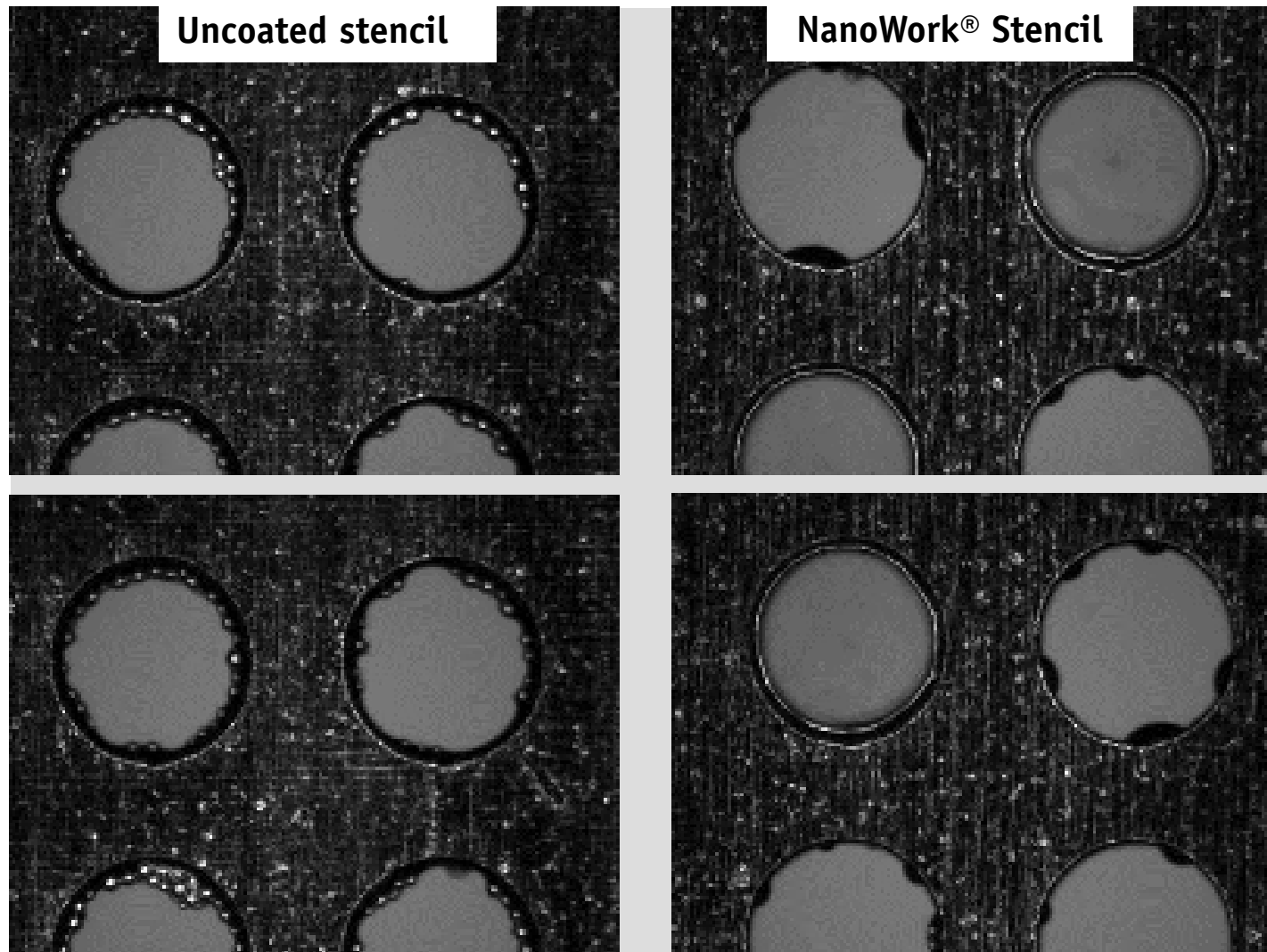
# Transfer efficiency in relation to area ratio for BGA's



Pastedepot topography after 5 th. print – Area ratio: 0,458

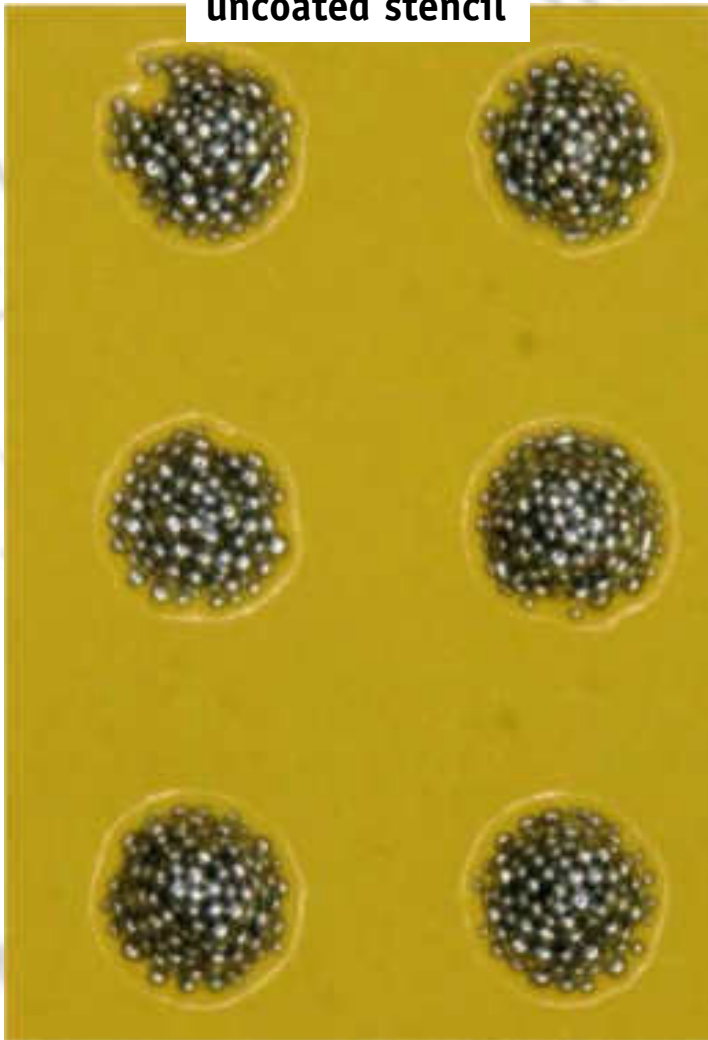


Visual inspection of stencil bottom side after 5th print.  
Pastetype 3 – Area ratio: 0,667 (reflected light)

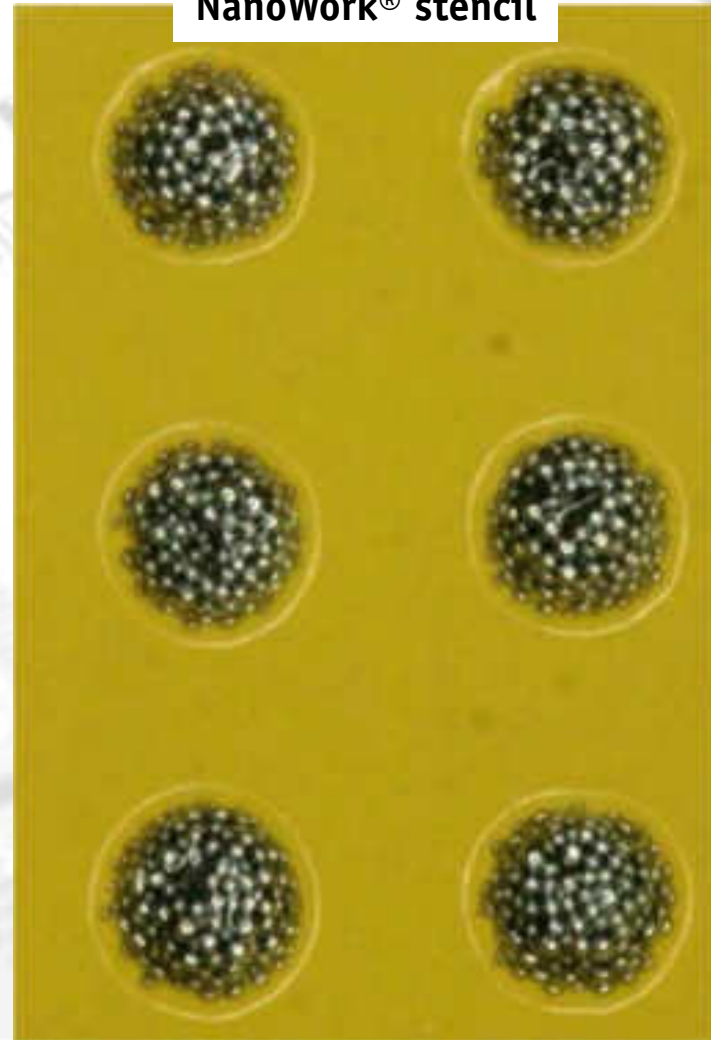


Visual inspection of paste deposits after 5th. print.  
Pastetype 3 – Area ratio 0,500

uncoated stencil



NanoWork® stencil





## Summary NanoWork<sup>®</sup> Stencil

- **optimized area ratio**
- **much better paste release**
- **better shape of the printed depot**
- **less cleaning cycles at the board side of stencil, thereby a higher printer capacity**
- **higher process stability at board assembly**
- **constant transferred paste volume over the complete printing process**
- **less bridging due to the reduced contamination of the stencil bottom side**
- **Also possible in combination with PatchWork<sup>®</sup> Technology**





**Thank you for your attention!**