

WHAT ARE CAPACITORS?

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On behalf of The World Association of Technology Teachers

W.A.T.T.



World Association of Technology Teachers

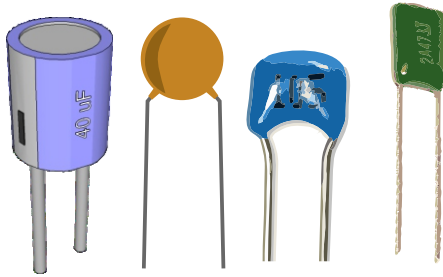
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INTRODUCTION - CAPACITORS

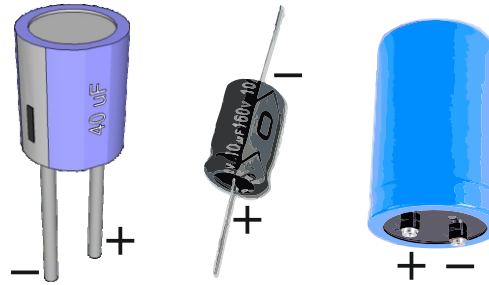


Capacitors are components that are used to store an electrical charge. They are often used in timer circuits. A capacitor may be used with a resistor to produce a timer. Timers are found in a large range of electronic devices

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Sometimes capacitors are used to smooth the current in a circuit, as they can prevent false triggering of other components such as relays.

ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS

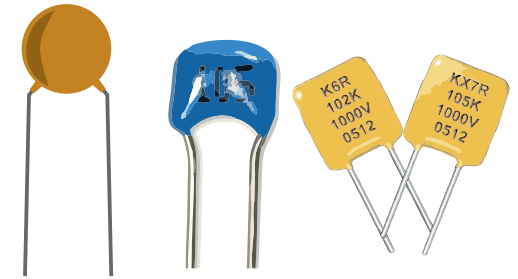


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Electrolytic capacitors are 'polarised', which means they have a positive and negative lead and must be positioned in a circuit the right way round (the positive lead must go to the positive side of the circuit).

They have a much higher capacitance than non-electrolytic capacitors.

CERAMIC CAPACITORS



Non-electrolytic capacitors usually have a low capacitance compared to electrolytic capacitors.

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They are not polarised (do not have a positive and negative lead) and can be placed anyway round in a circuit.

They are normally used to smooth the current (flow of electricity) in a circuit, so that the circuit works without faults occurring.

1. In general, why are capacitors often found in circuits.? *3 marks*

2. How do electrolytic and ceramic capacitors differ ? *4 marks*
