# XYZ-Axis Electrically Conductive Tape

9712

**Technical Data** **August, 2001**

## Product Description

3M™ XYZ-Axis Electrically Conductive Tape 9712 is an isotropically conductive pressure sensitive tape. 3M tape 9712 conducts electricity through the thickness (Z-axis) and in the plane of the adhesive (X, Y planes) and is ideal for EMI/RFI shield and EMI/RFI gasket attachment to metal surfaces. The tape consists of a 3M adhesive loaded with conductive fibers. The result is a double-sided tape providing both good adhesion and good electrical performance. The conductive fibers in 3M tape 9712 also provide improved handling characteristics.

3M tape 9712 is ideal for attaching EMI shields to electronic and electrical devices. 3M tape 9712 may be used with many types of foil laminate shields, such as aluminum/PVC or copper/PVC laminates, to provide a customized shielding solution. This tape may also be used to attach conductive fabric/foam core EMI gaskets to electronic cabinetry. 3M tape 9712 may be applied in strips or die cut to specific shapes and sizes. Compared to screws or other mechanical connectors, 3M tape 9712 provides reduced assembly time and a solid bond line with no gaps which might result in EMI emission.

## Construction

| Product | Tape 9712 |
|---|---|
| Adhesive Type: | Filled Acrylic |
| Filler Type: | Conductive Fibers |
| Release Liner: | Silicone-Treated Polycoated Kraft Paper |
| Approximate Thickness: | |
| Tape Only: | .005 in. (0.127 mm) |
| Release Liner: | .004 in. (0.10 mm) |

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## Typical Physical Properties and Performance Characteristics

**Note: The following technical information and data is based upon limited 3M testing conditions and should not be used for specification purposes.**

### Electrical Properties

| Contact Resistance: | Substrate Tested (Foil/Rigid Plate) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Aluminum/ Aluminum | Aluminum/ Stainless Steel | Copper/ Aluminum | Copper/ Copper |
| | < 24 Ω | < 21.5 Ω | < 16 Ω | < .66 Ω |

Based upon four wire (Kelvin probe) resistance measurements made with crossed pieces of Foil/9712/Rigid plate construction using a 1.0 in x 1.0 in square piece of 3M tape 9712. The rigid metal surface was prepared with a Scotch-Brite™ pad to roughen the surface and cleaned with isopropyl alcohol.

| | |
|---|---|
| Minimum Overlap Length: | 1/4 in. (6 mm) |
| Minimum Overlap Width: | 1/8 inch (3 mm) |

### Adhesion Properties

| | Adhesion in oz/in (g/cm) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Substrate | 20 min. at 72°F (22°C) | 24 hours at 72°F (22°C) | 20 min. at 158°F (70°C) | 24 hours at 158°F (70°C) |
| Stainless Steel | > 41 (457) | > 42 (468) | > 43 (479) | > 53 (590) |
| Aluminum | > 35 (390) | > 33 (367) | > 36 (401) | > 43 (479) |
| Copper | > 37 (412) | > 39 (434) | > 43 (479) | > 55 (613) |

Based upon a 90 degree peel sample, following ASTM D3330 test method. Aluminum foil (2 mil thick) was used as the flexible backing to the tape 9712. The substrates listed are all rigid metal plates. The 158°F (70°C) aged peel samples are indicative of the typical long term adhesion build expected at room temperature.

### Operative Temperature Range and Shelf Life

| Short Term Exposure (minutes, hours) | Long Term (days, weeks) |
|---|---|
| 250°F (121°C) | 158°F (70°C) |

Shelf Life of Tape in Roll Form: 24 months from date of manufacture when stored in original cartons at 70°F (21°C) and 50% relative humidity.

## Available Sizes

| Available Widths: | Standard Length | Maximum Length* |
|---|---|---|
| 1/4 inch - 14 inch (5 mm - 356 mm) | 36 yd (32.9 m) | 108 yd (98.8 m) |

Nominal Slitting Tolerance: 1/32 in (0.8 mm)

*Special requirements for long lengths should be discussed with 3M Customer Service personnel.

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**Application Techniques**

- To obtain maximum adhesion, the bonding surfaces must be clean and dry. Isopropyl alcohol is recommended as a cleaning solvent.*
- Bond strength is dependent upon the amount of adhesive-to-surface contact developed. This wetted area can be increased by applying 3M™ XYZ-Axis Electrically Conductive Tape 9712 firmly with a roller or finger pressure to exclude air entrapment. Adhesion is optimized when the substrates are flat or conformable substrates. Adhesion increases after application, up to 24 hours later, due to increased wetting by the tape.
- Electrical performance is dependent upon the nature of the metal and its surface. Most metal surfaces give enhanced electrical performance with 3M tape 9712 when the surface has been lightly abraded. Scotch-Brite™ pads are recommended for preparing the metal surface.
- 3M tape 9712 should be applied between 60°F - 100°F (15°C - 38°C). Tape application below 50°F (10°C) is not recommended because the adhesive will be too firm to wet the substrates, resulting in low adhesion. Warming the substrates to 100°F (38°C) facilitates adhesion. Once properly applied, low temperature holding power is generally satisfactory.
- 3M tape 9712 can be removed by separating the parts using torque for rigid parts or peel for flexible ones. Remove the adhesive by pulling off as much as possible by hand. Residual adhesive may be removed by rubbing with your finger or by application of 3M™ Packaging Tape over the residual adhesive followed by removal of the packaging tape. The surfaces should be cleaned again before applying a new piece of 3M tape 9712. The force required to separate the parts and/or remove the adhesive can be reduced by softening the adhesive by heating to 158°F -212°F (70°C - 100°C) or using solvents such as acetone.*

  ***Note:** Carefully read and follow the manufacturer's precautions and directions for use when handling cleaning solvents.

**General Information**

3M tape 9712 provides good adhesion to metal surfaces and provides low electrical resistance that is stable over time. The pressure sensitive nature and fiber reinforcement of 3M tape 9712 makes this product convenient to use and 3M tape 9712 also has very good handling properties. 3M tape 9712 also has good liner release.

**Application Ideas**

- Attaching Foil Laminate EMI Shields
  3M tape 9712 is ideal for attaching foil laminate EMI shields to electronic and electrical devices. These shields typically consist of either copper or aluminum foils laminated to PVC. 3M tape 9712 provides good adhesion (initial and ultimate) as well as low electrical resistance. 3M tape 9712 may be applied in strips or die cut to specific shapes and sizes. Compared to screws or other mechanical connector, 3M tape 9712 provides reduced assembly time and a solid bond line with no gaps for EMI emission.

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**Application Ideas** ***(continued)***

- Attaching EMI Gaskets
  3M™ XYZ-Axis Electrically Conductive Tape 9712 may also be used for attaching EMI gaskets to electronic cabinets, such as server cabinets or disk drive array cabinets. These gaskets typically consist of conductive fabric over a foam core, and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. 3M tape 9712 may be cut into strips as narrow as 1/8 inch to provide adhesion for even the narrowest of gaskets. 3M tape 9712 may also be pre-applied to the gasket for reduced final cabinet assembly time.
- Grounding Computer Antistatic and Glare Reduction Screens
  Computer antistatic and glare reduction screens need to be electrically attached to the grounding mechanism. 3M tape 9712 penetrates through anti-smudge coatings over the conductive layer to make an electrical connection. Placing 3M tape 9712 along the edges of such a screen provides many connection points to the antistatic coating resulting in good electrical performance.

**Recognition/ Certification**

**MSDS:** 3M has not prepared a MSDS for this product which is not subject to the MSDS requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard, 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200(b)(6)(v). When used under reasonable conditions or in accordance with the 3M directions for use, the product should not present a health and safety hazard. However, use or processing of the product in a manner not in accordance with the directions for use may affect its performance and present potential health and safety hazards.

**TSCA:** This product is defined as an article under the Toxic Substances Control Act and therefore, it is exempt from inventory listing requirements.

**For Additional Information**

To request additional product information or to arrange for sales assistance, call toll free 1-800-362-3550 or visit www.3M.com/adhesives. Address correspondence to: 3M Engineered Adhesives Division, 3M Center, Building 220-7E-01, St. Paul, MN 55144-1000. Our fax number is 651-733-9175. In Canada, phone: 1-800-364-3577. In Puerto Rico, phone: 1-787-750-3000. In Mexico, phone: 52-70-04-00.

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ISO 9002

This Engineered Adhesives Division product was manufactured under a 3M quality system registered to ISO 9002 standards.

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