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## Hale Manufacturing Test Block Maintenance

The frequency of test block maintenance depends on the testing environment and the number of tests being performed. To insure reliable test results, the following procedures should be performed frequently. Be sure to wear eye protection.

- Apply pressurized air to all surfaces of test block where the connector being tested contacts the test block. This procedure should remove any accumulated dust or debris. A small soft bristled brush may be used to aid in eliminating debris.
- Confirm adequate spring tension on connector retaining latch. The latch position should remain firmly in the “ready or up” position to accept connectors for testing. Rapidly depress or raise the latch with index finger or thumb. A distinct click should be heard. If there is not an audible click, the latch spring should be replaced. Remove debris in the spring retaining area. Latch springs are available from Hale Manufacturing, Inc.
- Check for wear on the latching mechanism
- Tighten all screws.
- Check all moving parts for wear or additional play.
- Check to be sure contact pins and switch probes retract when pushed in and return to original test position.

### CONTACT PIN & SWITCH PROBE CLEANING

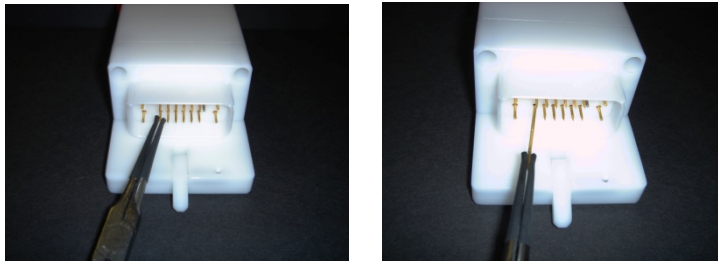
Generally, contact pin & switch probe cleaning is not recommended. If cleaning is needed, we recommend that you refer to the manufacturers’ recommendations found on their websites.

Everett Charles Technologies – [www.ectinfo.com](http://www.ectinfo.com)

Hale Manufacturing, Inc. will perform cleaning, maintenance and repairs to our testing fixtures. Nominal fees may apply. Feel free to call us for additional information regarding your specific situation.

## CONTACT PIN &amp; SWITCH PROBE PIN REMOVAL

Contact pins and switch probes are two-piece assemblies which allow the spring loaded pin to be removed from its receptacle. The receptacle remains in the test block during pin maintenance, cleaning or replacement, unless it has sustained damage. Receptacle replacement should be done by Hale Manufacturing, Inc.



If the pins are visible, gently grasp them with needle nose pliers and pull them from their receptacles. Please note that the tips of the pliers have been shrink wrapped. It is not recommended to use bare pliers as this could impact the plating. The pin should separate easily. The receptacle will remain in the test fixture. To replace the pin gently push it back into its receptacle with pliers. Do not force the pin. It should easily seat itself into its original position.

For testing fixture designs that have pins that pliers cannot access, you must remove the guard (rear section of testing fixture) which is held in place with hex screws. An open guard will have a wire tie that will need to be cut with wire cutters to allow guard removal. After labeling the terminated wires, carefully remove them from the contact pin or switch probe receptacles that require maintenance. Switch probes have a green or blue terminated wire attached to their tail. Gently remove it by hand or with a pair of needle nose pliers. Use a small diameter tool such as the end of a paperclip or small screwdriver to gently push the pin out to the front of the receptacle. You may need to gently grasp them from the front with needle nose pliers to completely remove. To replace, gently push them back into the receptacle from the front until they stop. Do not force the pin as this may reseal the receptacle. Reattach all terminated wires to their corresponding contact pin or switch probe receptacle. Replace the guard and guard screws.

