

ViaSampling System



Automated PCB coupon preparation system, for 100 µm microvias

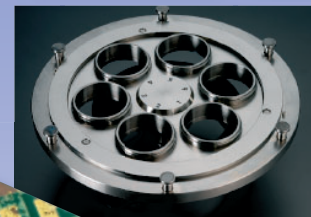
Modular, upgradeable system



ViaSampler



ViaKit – sample preparation toolbox



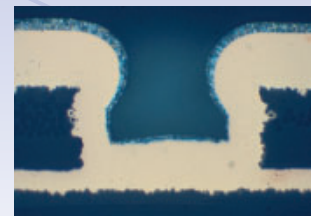
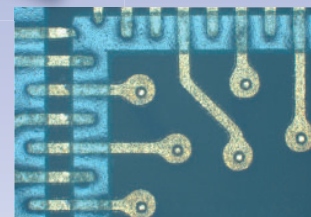
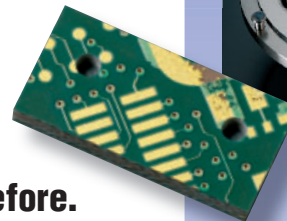
Struers ViaSampling System takes board quality inspection to another level. Extract coupons from anywhere on production panels, more precisely and faster than ever before.

- Custom designed for the PCB Industry
- Representative samples from most board types, rigid and flex
- No blocking of production routers, no lost samples
- Guaranteed, repeatable results
- High-precision preparation of microvias down to 100 µm
- System precision better than $\pm 20 \mu\text{m}$

ViaSampler: Fully automatic, low-impact coupon extraction from anywhere on the board

ViaKit: High-precision preparation of up to 36 coupons at a time

ViaFix: Fast curing, 2-component acrylic resin for vias and microvias



According to leading industry standards, the quality of a PCB plated through-hole has to be inspected metallographically. For this purpose a test coupon is produced and prepared so the exact centre of the plated through-holes can be inspected in a microscope.

With the advent of HDI technology and microvias, board inspection has become a complex task. The coupon preparation process consists of a long series of steps, each adding to the challenge of maintaining system precision. Struers ViaSampling System takes up the challenge and will not only increase precision, but also your productivity.

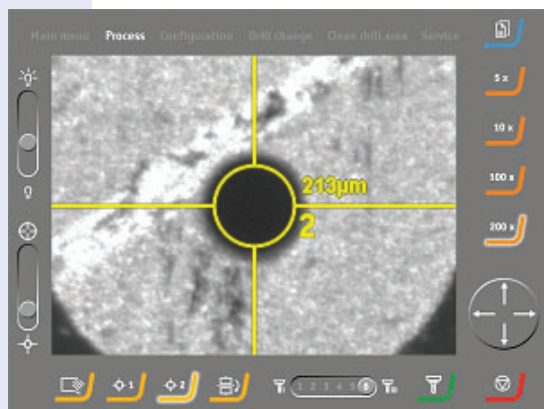
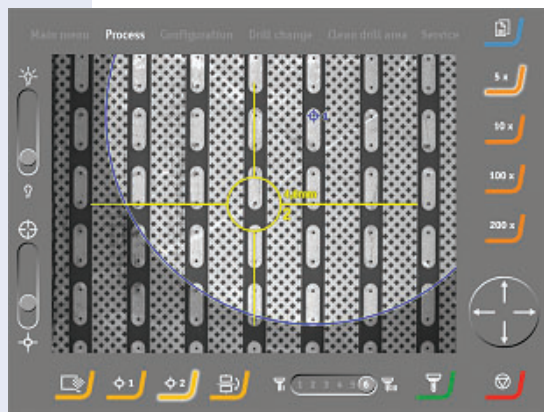
ViaSampler - automated coupon extraction

ViaSampler is a dedicated coupon extraction station with a precision router-cutter (milling tool) for drilling two positioning holes and extracting 10 x 20 mm test coupons. Routing and drilling is carried out automatically in one operation, so no tool change is necessary. With its advanced vision system, ViaSampler allows quick and accurate pin-pointing of test coupons. The large routing table allows you to extract coupons from the entire board, providing you with increased flexibility – and more representative coupons.

Application range

ViaSampler has a wide application range and can be used for both HDI and standard boards (unmounted), rigid and flex (adapter provided) type.

Vias to be inspected are first pointed out at low magnification (5 or 10 x). Here shown in 5 x mag.



.. and – if necessary – at very high magnification (100 or 200 x). Here shown in 200 x mag.

ViaSampler handles boards with a thickness up to 6 mm and dimensions up to 635 mm x 635 mm (25" x 25").

Flexible positioning

With the large routing table, you are no longer limited to inspecting coupons from the edge of the board, since ViaSampler allows coupon extraction from anywhere on the board. After visual positioning of the coupon, you can flip it or slide it sideways to optimize the location. This extraordinary feature minimizes the number of damaged customer panels.

Pin-pointing to perfection

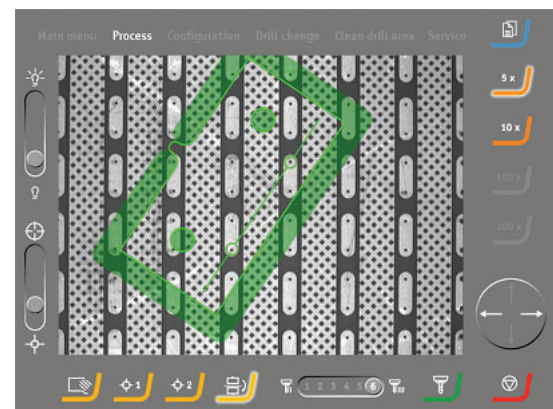
Using the intuitive touch-screen interface, even microvias are precisely pin-pointed at an on-screen magnification of up to 200 times.

The **AutoTrack** feature allows the routing table to follow your on-screen movements and automatically track the new position. This makes it much easier and faster to pin-point accurately.

Use the adjustable cross-hairs to determine the actual diameter of the via to be inspected.

Dust removal

During the process some milling dust is produced. ViaSampler is prepared for easy connection to an external exhaust system. Dust is efficiently removed during coupon extraction and improves the working environment.



After pin-pointing the two inspection vias, an outline of the finished coupon is displayed on screen. Prior to extraction, optimize coupon location by flipping it or sliding it sideways.

ViaKit - Coupon preparation toolkit

Struers has developed a toolkit, ViaKit, which makes your coupon preparation process much easier. ViaKit is designed to be used with the ViaSampler and includes all you need for pinning, mounting and preparing coupons:

Vialserter – combined pin inserter and mount extractor

The precise positioning of the pins is essential for a good preparation result. Vialserter provides accurate positioning of up to 6 coupons on one set of pins allowing high precision preparation of up to 36 coupons at a time.

The Vialserter can also be used as a mount extractor – a dual-function that makes it easy to unmount the samples and avoid damages to the mounting ring.

ViaMount – precision mould with tear-off end cap

The stainless steel moulds, ViaMount, keep the sample 100% dimensionally stable during preparation. ViaMount has a special lining, for easy unmounting of the mounts. ViaMount has a tear-off end cap that is removed after curing.

The lower part of the mould stays on the sample after curing and locks the sample onto the sample holder. This ensures precision and increases the general ease-of-use.

ViaHolder – with calibration-free diamond stops

A special specimen holder, ViaHolder, has been designed for the grinding/polishing stage. ViaHolder can hold up to 6 samples, enabling preparation of up to 36 coupons at a time.

The factory-calibrated diamond stops ensure full control of material removal and do not wear, not even on grinding discs with diamonds, providing calibration-free preparation. The simple, pre-defined preparation process ensures well-defined removal through an easy 3-step method, to which additional steps may be added at will.

ViaHolder is equipped with the same coupling as Struers' other sample holders, providing seamless integration with Struers' ø300 mm grinder/polishers.

ViaFix

Fully cured samples in less than 30 minutes

Struers has developed a 2-component, acrylic resin with short curing time, ViaFix, which is especially well-suited for vias and microvias. The resin produces sample mounts of high hardness and density and high-quality edge retention.

For optimum results, ViaFix is cured under pressure. It has a short curing time at room temperature and can be used for all types of fragile and porous specimens. Due to its low viscosity, it is ideal for filling microscopic holes, voids and cracks in e.g. printed circuit boards.



Vialserter – for pin insertion and mount extraction



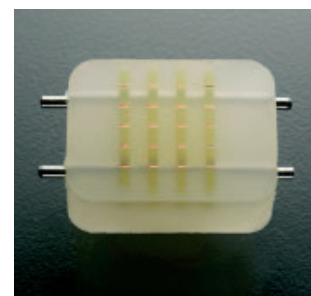
ViaMount – Precision mould with tear-off end cap



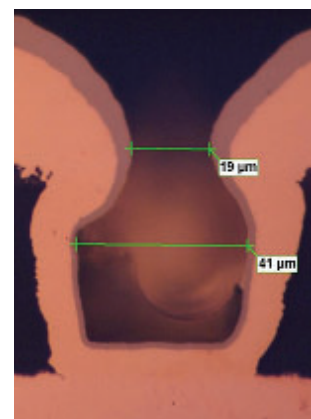
ViaHolder – Specimen holder with calibration-free diamond stops



TegraSystem – Table-top grinder/polisher suitable for use with ViaKit



PCB sample mounted with ViaFix

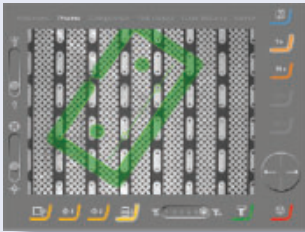


Detail of microvia

Using the ViaSampling System

Coupon extraction and preparation in a few, simple steps

1



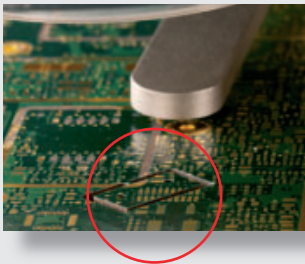
Point out
ViaSampler:
At high magnification
pinpoint the vias to
be inspected

6



Unmount
ViaKit:
Extract the mount from
the mould

2



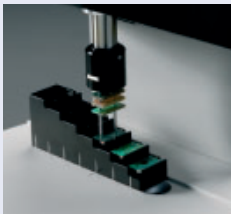
Extract
ViaSampler:
Drill holes for positioning
pins, and extract the
coupon

7



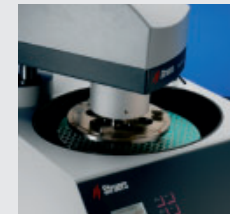
Attach
Click-on the mounts
to the base of the sample
holder

3



Pin
ViaKit:
Precisely pin up to 6 coupons
on two positioning pins

8



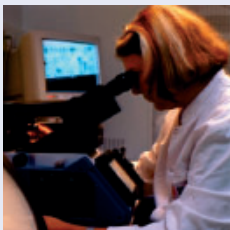
Grind/polish
Use automatic grinder/
polisher for sample
preparation

4



Mount
ViaKit + ViaFix:
Mount pinned coupons
in fast curing resin

9



Inspect
Inspect the coupon under
microscope

5

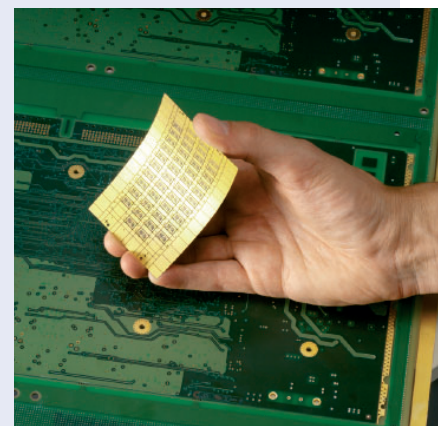


Uncover
Tear off the end cap

Automatic Struers grinder/polishers
recommended for use with the
ViaSampling System:
TegraSystem and AbraPol-10
Please refer to separate brochures
for details.

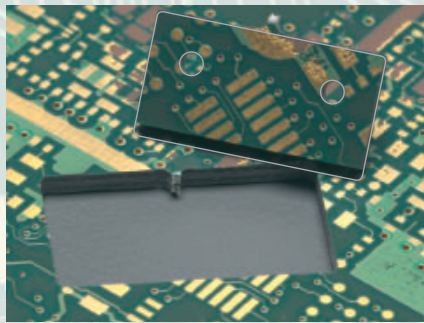
TECHNICAL DATA	
ViaSampling System	
System precision	Better than $\pm 20 \mu\text{m}$ at 20°C / 68°F $\pm 3^\circ\text{C} / 5.4^\circ\text{F}$
<i>Routing table</i>	
Width	600 mm / 23.6"
Depth	575 mm / 22.6"
<i>Board capacity</i>	
Max.	635 x 635 mm / 25 x 25"
Min. without clamping plate	170 x 70 mm / 6.7 x 2.7"
Min. with clamping plate*	80 x 80 mm / 3.1 x 3.1"
Thickness*	0.5-6 mm
*Smaller formats require support and/or lamination	
<i>Routing tool</i>	
Type	Up-cut chipbreaker with fishtail
Size	$\varnothing 1.97 \text{ mm} / 0.077" +5 \mu\text{m}/-0 \mu\text{m}$
Shaft diameter	$\varnothing 3.175 \text{ mm} / 0.125"$
Speed	16,000 rpm.
<i>PC requirements</i>	
Type	Intel® Pentium 3, 1.5 GHZ minimum
OS	Microsoft® Windows® 2000 or Windows XP
Graphics	XGA (analog, 15 pin D-sub connector) 4 MB (or more), 32-bit PCI graphics card with at least a 256-color palette for 1024x768 32-bit true colour RGB display. DDI-compatible PCI graphics card is recommended.
Ports	One free RS232C (COM1 to COM4 useable) One free USB 1.1
Additional slots	One free full height PCI slot on the motherboard (for video capture card, included with ViaSampler. Video card dimensions: 10.7 x 17.5 cm / 4.2" x 17.5").
<i>Software and controls</i>	
Software	PC/Microsoft® Windows® based (not included)
Controls	Touch screen and/or mouse
Display	15" LCD, 800 x 600 dots
<i>Supply</i>	
Voltage /frequency	200-240V / 50-60Hz
Power inlet	1-phase (N+L+PE) or 2-phase (L1+L2+PE) The electrical installation must comply with "Installation Category II"
Power, nominal load	180 W (excl. PC)
Power, idle	28 W (excl. PC)
Current, nominal	0.9 A (excl. PC)
Current, maximum	1.3 A (excl. PC)
Power outlet	Switched 200-240V / 50-60Hz (Same as input) Max. 4A
Air extraction	$\varnothing 32 \text{ mm} / 1\frac{1}{4}"$
Air extraction, min airflow	130 m ³ / 4591 ft ³ per hour
<i>Noise levels</i>	
Routing 1.6 mm / 0.06" PCB, at distance 1.0 m / 39.4" from machine with vacuum	81 dB (A)
<i>Working environment</i>	
Temperature	5-40° C / 41-104° F. Must be calibrated at a temperature close to daily use temperature. Max. difference $\pm 3^\circ\text{C} / 5.4^\circ\text{F}$
Humidity	0-95% RH
<i>Safety standards</i>	
EU-directives	98/37/EEC - Safety of Machinery 73/23/EEC - Low Voltage Directive 89/336/EEC, 92/31/EEC - EMC Directive
Standards	EN292-1:1991, EN292-2:1991/A1:1995, EN418:1992, EN1050:1996, EN954-1:1996, EN60204-1:1997, EN50081-1:1992, EN50082-1:1997, NFPA70:2002, FCC 47 CFR Part 15 Class A.
<i>Dimensions and weight</i>	
Width (\pm monitor)	600/880 mm / 23.6/34.6"
Depth	750 mm / 29.5"
Height	700 mm / 27.5"

SPECIFICATIONS	Cat. no.	Code
Weight	95 kg / 209 lbs.	
ViaSampler Routing station for extraction of PCB test coupons, incl. 2 router-cutters. PC necessary, but not included. Video capture card included.	05716127	VIASA
Router-Cutter Router-cutter tool for ViaSampler.	40300077	VIARO
ViaKit Toolkit for preparation of PCB coupons, complete with pin inserter (VIAIN), specimen holder (VIAHO), mounting rings (VIARI), end caps (VIACO), positioning pins (VIAPI), silicone oil (SILIC), and cleaning tool (VIATO)	05726101	VIAKI
ViaKit Basic Toolkit for preparation of PCB coupons, complete with AccuStop specimen holder (ASTIF), pin inserter (VIAIN), mounting cups with flange (MAXMI), positioning pins (VIAPI)	05726102	VIABA
ViaInserter For insertion of two positioning pins in up to 6 coupons	05726901	VIAIN
ViaHolder Adjustable precision specimen holder with diamond stops. For up to 6 x 6 PCB coupons.	05726903	VIAHO
ViaKit Mounting Rings Stainless steel precision mould with non-stick lining. For use with ViaKit End Caps (VIACO). 6 pcs.	40300055	VIARI
ViaKit End Cap End caps for use ViaKit Mounting Rings (VIARI). 250 pcs.	40300056	VIACO
ViaKit Positioning Pins Positioning pins, 1.98 mm dia., length 43 mm. 500 pcs.	40300057	VIAPI
ViaKit Cleaning Tool Cleaning tool for ViaKit Mounting Rings (VIARI)	40300075	VIATO
Silicone oil Silicone release agent	40300076	SILIC



ViaKit Basic

Entry-level coupon preparation toolkit



Struers also offers ViaKit Basic, which is designed for preparation of fewer coupons - and still provides all the advantages of ViaKit.

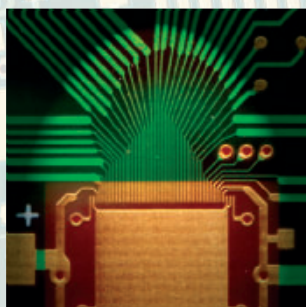
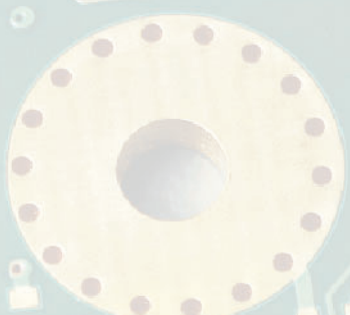
ViaKit Basic uses an Accustop specimen holder to ensure precisely controlled material removal. Around the outside of the holder there is an adjustment ring with a wear-resistant ceramic base. The holder can be relocated in relation to the adjusting ring so that grinding will stop at a preset depth in the specimen.



AccuStop

Using Vialserter, up to 6 coupons are pinned at a time, mounted in Struers' ø40 mm Flangeform, and inserted into the AccuStop.

The preparation process can be automated by using a specimen mover plate (PEDAF/PEDAC) and a specimen mover (TEF05), where up to three AccuStop 40 can be accommodated simultaneously.



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