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Compression structures for IC packages

Abstract

Structures, methods, and apparatus for protecting interconnections between components and boards in an electronic device from damage resulting from a physical shock. This damage can occur due to differential tensile forces being applied between the component and the board during a drop or other shock event. An example can reduce or prevent damage by providing differential compression forces between the component and board that can cancel differential tensile forces between the component and board during the shock event. Another example can reduce or prevent damage by reducing differential tensile forces between a component and board. Another example can secure a component to the board to directly reduce the differential force in order to prevent damage.

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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND

(1) The number of types of electronic devices that are commercially available has increased tremendously the past few years and the rate of introduction of new devices shows no signs of abating. Devices, such as portable computing devices, tablet, laptop, netbook, desktop, and all-in-one computers, smart phones, wearable computing devices, storage devices, portable media players, navigation systems, monitors, power adapters, and others, have become ubiquitous.

(2) The functionality of these devices has likewise greatly increased. This in turn has led to increased complexity inside of these electronic devices. This increase in complexity has been implemented using larger components, such as system-on-a-chip (SOC), system-in-package (SIP), and other types of components. These already large components have become relatively larger over time as well.

(3) These large components can be connected to each other through traces on printed circuit boards, flexible circuit boards, or other appropriate substrates, which can be collectively referred to as boards. The components can be connected to a board by soldering, for example using through-hole, surface-mount, or solder-ball contacts, during the manufacturing and assembly of the electronic device.

(4) These electronic devices can experience physical shocks. For example, an electronic device can

be dropped, the electronic device can be moved such that it strikes a surface, or an object can be dropped on the electronic device. These and other events can damage the solder connections between components and boards. These damaged solder connections can reduce the functionality of the electronic device or even render the electronic device inoperable.

(5) Thus, what is needed are structures, methods, and apparatus for protecting interconnections between components and boards in an electronic device from damage resulting from a physical shock. To conserve resources, it can be desirable that these structures, methods, and apparatus can be readily manufactured.

SUMMARY

(6) Accordingly, embodiments of the present invention can provide structures, methods, and apparatus for protecting interconnections between components and boards in an electronic device from damage resulting from a physical shock. These structures, methods, and apparatus can also be readily manufactured. Damage from a physical shock can occur due to a differential force being applied to a component relative to a board, to the component relative to another component, to the board relative to another board, or between one or more of these and other structures.

(7) Embodiments of the present invention can prevent this damage in at least three ways. First, embodiments of the present invention can reduce or prevent damage by dissipating or cancelling damaging differential tensile forces on interconnect caused by a shock event. That is, energy from a shock event can be dampened, absorbed, or dissipated. For example, an illustrative embodiment of the present invention can provide one or more compressible supports that can provide mechanical support for a board and a component relative to a housing portion of an electronic device. The compressible support can be pre-biased or pre-compressed to provide a differential compression force between the component and the board. The differential compression force can cancel or reduce a differential tensile force caused by a shock event that can otherwise damage interconnections, such as solder-ball or other contacts on the component. In this way, energy from a shock event can be dissipated or absorbed by the compressible supports to prevent damage to interconnections and other structures. These compressible supports can be positioned between either or both the board or the component and a housing portion.

(8) Second, embodiments of the present invention can reduce or prevent damage by reducing differential tensile forces between a component and board on which the component is mounted. That is, resulting differential tensile forces from a shock event can be dampened, absorbed, or dissipated. An illustrative embodiment of the present invention can provide compressible supports between the component and board. For example, compressible supports can be positioned between a load-bearing structure fixed to the board and the component. The compressible support can be pre-biased or pre-compressed to provide a differential compression force between a component and the board. The differential compression force can cancel or reduce a differential tensile force during a shock event that can otherwise damage interconnections, such as solder-ball contacts or other contacts on the component. In this way, energy from a shock event can be dissipated or absorbed by the compressible supports to prevent damage to interconnections and other structures.

(9) Third, embodiments of the present invention can secure a component to the board to reduce differential forces in order to prevent damage. These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide a securing structure to secure or fix a component to a board such that both experience the same physical shock, thereby reducing resulting differential forces.

(10) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide an electronic device having a component mounted to a board. The component can be physically coupled or otherwise connected to a housing portion of the electronic device through a compressible support. The compressible support can provide mechanical support and can cancel or reduce damaging forces caused by a physical shock experienced by the electronic device.

(11) The component can be physically coupled or otherwise connected to a housing portion of the electronic device through a compressible support in various ways. For example, the component can

be mounted on a first side of the board, and one or more compressible supports can be positioned between the component and a first housing portion. The compressible supports can be positioned between a second side of the board and a second housing portion, where the second side is opposite the first side. The compressible supports can be between the component and the first housing portion and between the second side of the board and the second housing portion. The first housing portion and the second housing portion can be part of the same housing portion or parts of different housing portions.

(12) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide an electronic device having a component mounted to a board. The component can be physically coupled or otherwise connected back to the board through a compressible support. The compressible support can reduce a differential force between the component and the board. The compressible support can be positioned between the component and a loading structure attached to the board.

(13) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide an electronic device having a component mounted to a board. The component can be fixed or secured to the board through a securing structure. The securing structure can reduce a differential force between the component and the board.

(14) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide additional structures to securely fix a component to a board. For example, adhesives, such as epoxy, can be used to fix an edge or connector of a component to a board. These adhesives can form what can be referred to as an edge bond. These edge bonds can be used in conjunction with one or more of the various structures, methods, and apparatus shown here or otherwise provided by embodiments of the present invention.

(15) In these examples, the compressible supports can be pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise able to compress or change shape under force. The compressible supports can be formed of foam, such as open-cell foam, semi-open-cell foam, semi-closed-cell foam, closed-cell foam, or other types of foam. The compressible supports can be formed of polyurethane, silicone, rubber, polycarbonate, or other polymer or elastomer. The compressible supports can be pre-compressed to improve shock absorption. The compressible supports can be formed of a compressed foam or elastomer. The compressible supports can be formed of conductive foam for electrical shielding. One or more surfaces of the compressible supports can be attached to components, boards, housing portions, and other structures using adhesives, solder, fasteners, or other material. A compressible support can be formed using a spring or other compressible structure, where the spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. A compressible support can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper. The compressible supports can be formed using a combination of one or more of these components. The compressible supports can be formed using one or more of these and one or more other pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise compressible structures. The compressible supports can extend from a board or a component to a housing portion. A compressible support can be in series with another structure such as a pillar, where the pillar and the compressible support extend from a board or a component to a housing portion.

(16) The compressible supports can absorb, dampen, and dissipate energy from a shock event, such as a drop. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, the compressible supports can be formed of a low-density foam having a high strain-rate sensitivity. The compressible supports can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force pushing the substrate towards the board. While the presence of a differential compression force is unlikely to damage solder-ball contacts under normal conditions, a differential compression force could damage or distort a housing portion or other portion of an electronic device. Using a foam or other material having a high strain-rate sensitivity can allow the compressible supports to provide a low differential compression force under normal or static conditions and a higher differential

compression force under a shock event. The lower differential compression force under normal conditions can prevent damage or distortion to the housing portion. The higher differential compression force during a shock event can cancel a higher differential tensile force, which can help to protect the electronic device.

(17) An edge bond can help to fix edges of the substrate in place relative to the board. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on the board is translated to the substrate, and a force acting on the substrate is translated to the board since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports along with the edge bond can reduce a differential tensile force between the board and the substrate, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts and other structures of the electronic device.

(18) The compressible supports can have various cross-sections. That is, the compressible supports can have various footprints where contact with a component, board, or housing portion is made. For example, the compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an “L” shaped footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports can be included. For example, a single compressible support can encircle a chip of a component. The single compressible support can have a rectangular, circular, or other shaped footprint, with an opening for the chip.

(19) In these examples, securing structures can be spring fingers or other structures, where the spring fingers can attach to a board and include a bend that enables the spring finger to apply a force on the component in the direction of the board. One, two, three, four, or more than four spring fingers can be used to secure a component to a board. For example, spring fingers can be positioned at each corner of a component. The spring fingers can include joining portions that can join two or more spring fingers into a single securing structure. The spring fingers can be formed of a nonconductive material. The spring fingers can be formed of a conductive material. The spring fingers can also serve to help dissipate heat.

(20) In these examples, the electronic device can be a portable computing device, tablet, laptop, netbook, desktop, all-in-one computer, smart phone, wearable computing device, storage device, portable media player, navigation system, monitor, power adapter, remote, or other electronic device. The component can be a system-on-a-chip, a system-in-package, or other type of module or component. The board can support a number of components. The board can be a printed circuit board, a flexible circuit board, or other appropriate substrate. The board can be implemented using a number of traces printed on a structure of the electronic device, such as a portion of an enclosure. The housing portions can be an enclosure or portion of an enclosure, an internal support for the enclosure or other portion of the electronic device, a housing supporting the enclosure, a housing for a module, such as a thermal module, in the electronic device, or other enclosure or housing portion. The housing portion can be a lid or other structure covering the component. Where the housing portion is a lid that can be opened or is removable, compressible supports might be fixed to only one of a substrate and housing portion, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. The adhesive can be epoxy, a heat-activated film, pressure sensitive adhesive, or other type of adhesive.

(21) In various embodiments of the present invention, the housings, housing portions, enclosures, loading structures, pillars, spring fingers, compressible supports, and other nonconductive and conductive portions can be formed using insert, injection, overmolding, or other molding, 3-D printing, machining, or other manufacturing process. They can be formed of silicon or silicone, rubber, hard rubber, plastic, nylon, glass-filled nylon, liquid-crystal polymers, or other nonconductive material or combination of materials. The printed circuit board or other appropriate substrates used can be formed of FR-4, BT or other material. Printed circuit boards can be replaced by other substrates, such as flexible circuit boards, in many embodiments of the present invention, while flexible circuit boards can be replaced by printed circuit boards in these and other

embodiments of the present invention.

(22) Various embodiments of the present invention can incorporate one or more of these and the other features described herein. A better understanding of the nature and advantages of the present invention can be gained by reference to the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings. Items referred to by the same reference number in different figures can refer to the same or similar items.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 illustrates an electronic system that can be improved by the incorporation of embodiments of the present invention;
- (2) FIG. 2 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that can be improved by the incorporation of embodiments of the present invention;
- (3) FIGS. 3-11 illustrate portions of electronic devices that include compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to embodiments of the present invention;
- (4) FIGS. 12-14 illustrate portions of electronic devices that include compressible supports between a component and a board according to embodiments of the present invention;
- (5) FIGS. 15-17C illustrate portions of electronic devices that include securing structures between a component and a board according to embodiments of the present invention; and
- (6) FIGS. 18A and 18B illustrate footprints for compressible supports according to embodiments of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

- (7) FIG. 1 illustrates an electronic system that can be improved by the incorporation of embodiments of the present invention. This figure, as with the other included figures, is shown for illustrative purposes and does not limit either the possible embodiments of the present invention or the claims.
- (8) Electronic device **100** is shown in this example as a portable computing device having a base **110** supporting a keyboard **112** and track pad **114**, as well as a lid **120** having a screen **122**. Hinge **130** can connect the lid **120** to the base **110**. Electronic device **100** can be another type of electronic device in these and other embodiments of the present invention, such as a portable computing device, tablet, laptop, netbook, desktop, all-in-one computer, smart phone, wearable computing device, storage device, portable media player, navigation system, monitor, power adapter, remote, or other electronic device.
- (9) Electronic device **100** can include one or more boards, such as printed circuit board **220** (shown in FIG. 2), flexible circuit boards, or other appropriate substrates. These boards can support one or more components **240** (shown in FIG. 2) that can be attached to board **220**. The components **240** can be attached to board **220** using through-hole contacts, surface-mount contacts, solder-ball contacts **232** (shown in FIG. 2), or other types of contacts. These solder-ball contacts **232** can form electrical connects between board **220** and component **240**.
- (10) On occasion, electronic device **100** can be dropped, electronic device **100** can be moved such that it strikes a surface, something can be dropped on electronic device **100**, or electronic device **100** can experience a physical shock in some other way. These shock events can damage electronic device **100**. For example, one or more of the through-hole contacts, surface-mount contacts, solder-ball contacts (**232**), or other types of contacts used to connect component **240** to board **220** can be cracked or damage. More specifically, the presence of a differential force between component **240** and board **220** can cause partial or complete disconnects of one or more electrical connections between component **240** and board **220**.
- (11) Accordingly, these and other embodiments of the present invention can provide structures,

methods, and apparatus that can prevent or limit damaging differential forces between component **240** and board **220** when electronic device **100** experiences a physical shock.

(12) FIG. **2** illustrates a portion of an electronic device that can be improved by the incorporation of embodiments of the present invention. Electronic device portion **200** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and integrated circuit or chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be secured in place in electronic device **100** (shown in FIG. **1**) through rigid supports **260**, which can connect to housing portion **210**. Housing portion **210** can be an enclosure or portion of an enclosure, an internal support for the enclosure or other portion of electronic device **100**, a housing supporting the enclosure, a housing for a module, such as a thermal module, in electronic device **100**, or other enclosure. Housing portion **210** can be a lid or other structure covering chip **250**.

(13) Electronic device **100**, including electronic device portion **200** or the other electronic device portions shown in these examples, can be dropped, can strike a surface, can have an item dropped on it, or can encounter a physical shock in some other way. In this example, this shock can translate into a differential tensile force **290** acting in a downward direction as drawn, though shocks can generate forces in other directions. Differential tensile force **290** can cause a bowing in board **220**, where a region **222** of board **220** is pushed lower (as drawn) than the supported region **224** of board **220**. This can generate a differential tensile force **290** between substrate **230** and board **220**, for example between edge **233** of substrate **230** and region **223** of board **220**. The differential tensile force **290** can be an expansion force that can pull substrate **230** away from board **220**, which can damage solder-ball contacts **232** that are positioned near edges **233** of substrate **230**. It should be noted that the differential forces acting between components such as substrate **230** and board **220** typically cause damage, while forces that are common to components such as board **220** and substrate **230**, that is, common-mode forces, are not typically damaging outside of extreme conditions.

(14) More specifically, physical shocks due to a drop can generate a differential expansion or differential tensile force **290** that can act to separate substrate **230** from board **220**, a differential compression force **291** that can act to push substrate **230** towards board **220**, and a differential shear force **292** that can act to move substrate **230** laterally relative to board **220**. The differential tensile force **290** can be particularly damaging as this force acts to pull substrate **230** away from board **220**, an action that can crack or damage solder-ball contacts **232**. In particular, solder-ball contacts **232** that are positioned near edges **233** of substrate **230** can be vulnerable since there are fewer surrounding solder-ball contacts **232** among which the shock can be distributed. The differential compression force **291** can be less damaging since this force acts to push substrate **230** towards board **220**. While this force can cause damage, it can typically take a much higher differential compression force **291** to cause the same damage as differential tensile force **290**. The differential shear force **292** can be more damaging than differential compression force **291** since it acts to shear substrate **230** along board **220**. While differential shear force **292** is shown in acting in a particular direction, differential shear force **292** can act in any lateral direction.

(15) During a physical shock event, such as a drop, compression forces can cancel tensile forces, and any net tensile or compression force that is not cancelled can be differential tensile force **290** or differential compression force **291**. Since a net differential compression force **291** is less likely to cause damage, embodiments of the present invention can pre-apply an amount of differential compression force **291** between components such as substrate **230** and board **220**. In the event of shock event, tensile forces have to overcome this pre-applied differential compression force **291** to cause damage. That is, a differential tensile force **290** that can occur during a drop can be reduced by the amount of pre-applied differential compression force **291**. Accordingly, embodiments of the

present invention can provide compressible supports that are pre-compressed to provide a differential compression force **291** that can reduce a differential tensile force **290** that can result from a physical shock. Examples are shown in the following figures.

(16) FIG. 3 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Electronic device portion **300** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** (shown in FIG. 1) through rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can be placed at a distance away from compressible supports **350**. Compressible supports **350** can be placed between substrate **230** of component **240** and housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **350** can be fixed to either or both substrate **230** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique.

(17) Compressible supports **350** can be pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise able to compress or change shape under force. Compressible supports **350** can be formed of foam, such as open-cell foam, semi-open-cell foam, semi-closed-cell foam, closed-cell foam, or other types of foam. Compressible supports **350** can be formed of polyurethane, silicone, rubber, polycarbonate, or other polymer or elastomer. Compressible supports **350** can be pre-compressed to improve their ability to cancel damaging tensile forces. For example, compressible supports **350** can be formed of a compressed foam or elastomer. Compressible supports **350** can be formed of conductive foam for electrical shielding.

(18) Compressible supports **350** can absorb, dampen, and dissipate energy from a shock event, such as a drop. Compressible supports **350** can flex, compress, and expand to allow movement of regions of board **220** to reduce the stress on solder-ball contacts **232**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, compressible supports **350** can be formed of a low-density foam having a high strain-rate sensitivity. Compressible supports **350** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing substrate **230** towards board **220**. While the presence of a differential compression force **291** is unlikely to damage solder-ball contacts **232** under normal conditions, a differential compression force **291** could damage or distort housing portion **210** or other portion of electronic device **100**. Using a foam or other material having a high strain-rate sensitivity can allow compressible supports **950** to provide a low differential compression force **291** under normal or static conditions and a higher differential compression force **291** under a shock event. The lower differential compression force under normal conditions can prevent damage or distortion to housing portion **210**. The higher differential compression force **291** during a shock event can cancel a higher differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2), which can help to protect electronic device **100**.

(19) Additionally, compressible supports **350** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **300** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **300**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(20) When compressible supports **350** are formed of foam or similar material, they can have various profiles when seen from a top view as drawn. That is, compressible supports **350**, compressible supports **560**, compressible supports **950**, compressible supports **1250**, compressible

supports **1810** and **1820**, and the other compressible supports shown here and otherwise provided by embodiments of the present invention, can have various footprints where contact with substrate **230** or housing portion **210** (or another housing portion) is made. For example, compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an “L” shaped footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports **350** can be included. For example, a single compressible support **350** can encircle chip **250**. The single compressible support can have a rectangular, circular, or other shaped footprint, with an opening for chip **250**.

(21) In this and the following examples, one or more compressible supports **350** can be formed using a spring or other compressible structure, where the spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. Compressible support **350** can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper. Compressible supports **350** can be formed using a combination of one or more of these components. Compressible supports **350** can be formed using one or more of these and one or more other pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise compressible structures.

(22) Component **240** can be a system-on-a-chip, a system-in-package, or other type of module or component. Board **220** can support a number of components **240**. Board **220** can be a printed circuit board, a flexible circuit board, or other appropriate substrate. Board **220** can be implemented using a number of traces printed on a structure of the electronic device, such as a portion of an enclosure. Housing portion **210** can be an enclosure or portion of an enclosure, an internal support for the enclosure or other portion of electronic device **100**, a housing supporting the enclosure, a housing for a module, such as a thermal module, in electronic device **100**, or other enclosure. Housing portion **210** can be a lid or other structure covering component **240**. Where housing portion **210** is a lid that can be opened or is removable, compressible supports **350** might be fixed to only one of substrate **230** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. The adhesive can be epoxy, a heat-activated film, pressure sensitive adhesive, or other type of adhesive.

(23) Compressible supports **350**, and the other compressible supports shown herein, such as compressible supports **560** (shown in FIG. 5), compressible supports **950** (shown in FIG. 9), compressible supports **1250** (shown in FIG. 12), and compressible supports **1810** and **1820** (shown in FIG. 18) (all referred to here as compressible supports **350** for simplicity) can be positioned between various structures other than housing portion **210** and component **240** in these and other embodiments of the present invention. For example, compressible supports **350** can be positioned between two or more of housing portion **210**, component **240**, a second board (not shown), a surface of a device or structure, such as a battery (not shown), keyboard **112**, track pad **114** (both shown in FIG. 1), drive (not shown), ventilation path (not shown), heatsink (not shown), or other device or structure. Also, while compressible supports **350** can be between housing portion **210** and component **240**, one or more other devices or structures can be between housing portion **210** and component **240** such that one or more compressible supports **350** extend from the one or more other devices or structures to either the housing portion **210** or component **240**. In one example, a lid, heatsink, or other device or structure (not shown) can be attached to chip **250** using adhesives (not shown.) In this example, compressible supports **350** can be positioned between the lid, heatsink, or other device or structure and housing portion **210**. In this scenario, the lid, heatsink, or other device or structure can be considered to be part of component **240**.

(24) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide additional structures to securely fix a component to a board. For example, adhesives, such as epoxy, can be used to fix an edge of a component to a board. These adhesives can form what can be referred to as an edge bond. These edge bonds can be used in conjunction with one or more of the various structures, methods, and apparatus shown here or otherwise provided by embodiments of the present invention. An example is shown in the following figure.

(25) FIG. 4 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **400** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** through rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can connect to housing portion **210** at a distance away from compressible supports **350**. Compressible supports **350** can extend from substrate **230** to housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **350** can be fixed to either or both substrate **230** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Edge bonds **440** formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(26) Edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on board **220** is translated to substrate **230**, and a force acting on substrate **230** is translated to board **220** since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports **350** along with edge bond **440** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) at edges **233** of substrate **230**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **400**.

(27) FIG. 5 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **500** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** (shown in FIG. 1) through rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can connect to either or both housing portion **210** and housing portion **570** at a distance away from compressible supports **350** and compressible supports **560**. Compressible supports **350** can be placed between substrate **230** and housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **560** can be between board **220** and housing portion **570**. Compressible supports **350** can be fixed to either or both substrate **230** and housing portion **210** and compressible supports **560** can be fixed to either or both board **220** and housing portion **570**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique.

(28) Housing portion **570** can be the same as or similar to housing portion **210**. Housing portion **570** can be part of the same housing portion as housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **560** can be the same as or similar to compressible supports **350** above. Compressible supports **560** can be pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise able to compress or change shape under force. Compressible supports **560** can be formed of foam, such as open-cell foam, semi-open-cell foam, semi-closed-cell foam, closed-cell foam, or other types of foam. Compressible supports **560** can be formed of polyurethane, silicone, rubber, polycarbonate, or other polymer or elastomer.

Compressible supports **560** can be pre-compressed to improve their ability to cancel damaging tensile forces. For example, compressible supports **560** can be formed of a compressed foam or elastomer. Compressible supports **560** can be formed of conductive foam for electrical shielding.

(29) Compressible supports **350** and **560** can absorb, dampen, and dissipate energy from a shock event, such as a drop. Compressible supports **350** and **560** can flex, compress, and expand to allow movement of regions of board **220** to reduce the stress on solder-ball contacts **232**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, compressible supports **350** and **560** can be formed of a low-density foam having a high strain-rate sensitivity. Compressible supports **350** and **560** can be

pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing substrate **230** towards board **220**. While the presence of a differential compression force **291** is unlikely to damage solder-ball contacts **232** under normal conditions, a differential compression force **291** could damage or distort housing portion **210** or other portion of electronic device **100**. Using a foam or other material having a high strain-rate sensitivity can allow compressible supports **350** and **560** to provide a low differential compression force **291** under normal or static conditions and a higher differential compression force **291** under a shock event. The lower differential compression force under normal conditions can prevent damage or distortion to housing portion **210**. The higher differential compression force **291** during a shock event can cancel a higher differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2), which can help to protect electronic device **100**. Also, either or both surfaces of housing portion **210** and housing portion **570** can be a surface that a user can interact with, such as keyboard **112**, track pad **114** (both shown in FIG. 1), or other interactive surface. The use of a material that provides a high differential compression force **291** under normal circumstances could provide a stiffness to areas of housing portion **210** or housing portion **570** that could affect the user interaction in an undesirable manner. Accordingly, the use a high strain-rate sensitivity foam can help to provide a more desirable surface for interaction.

(30) Additionally, compressible supports **350** and compressible supports **560** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **500** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **500**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(31) When compressible supports **560** are formed of foam or similar material, they can have various profiles when seen from a top view as drawn. That is, compressible supports **350**, and the other compressible supports shown here, can have various footprints where contact with board **220** or housing portion **570** (or another housing portion) is made. For example, compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an “L” shaped footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports **560** can be included.

(32) In this and the other examples, one or more compressible supports **560** can be formed using a spring or other compressible structure, where the spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. Compressible support **560** can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper. Compressible supports **350** can be formed using a combination of one or more of these components. Compressible supports **350** can be formed using one or more of these and one or more other pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise compressible structures.

(33) FIG. 6 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a first housing portion and a board and a second housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **600** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** through rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can connect to housing portion **210**, housing portion **570**, or both, at a distance away from compressible supports **350** and compressible supports **560**.

Compressible supports **350** can be between substrate **230** and housing portion **210** and compressible supports **560** can be between board **220** and housing portion **570**. Compressible supports **350** can be fixed to either or both substrate **230** and housing portion **210** and compressible supports **560** can be fixed to either or both board **220** and housing portion **570**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Edge bonds **440** formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(34) Edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on board **220** is translated to substrate **230**, and a force acting on substrate **230** is translated to board **220** since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports **350** along with edge bond **440** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) at edges **233** of substrate **230**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **600**.

(35) FIG. 7 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a board and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **700** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** using rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can connect to either or both housing portion **210** and housing portion **570** at a distance away from compressible supports **560**. Compressible supports **560** can be between board **220** and housing portion **570**. Compressible supports **560** can be fixed to either or both board **220** and housing portion **570**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique.

(36) Edge bond **440** (shown in FIG. 4) can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on board **220** is translated to substrate **230**, and a force acting on substrate **230** is translated to board **220** since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports **350** along with edge bond **440** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) at edges **233** of substrate **230**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **700**.

(37) FIG. 8 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a board and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **800** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** using rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) that can connect to either or both housing portion **210** and housing portion **570** at a distance away from compressible supports **560**. Compressible supports **560** can be between board **220** and housing portion **570**. Compressible supports **560** can be fixed to either or both board **220** and housing portion **570**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Edge bonds **440** formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(38) Edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on board **220** is translated to substrate **230**, and a force acting on substrate

230 is translated to board **220** since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports **560** along with edge bond **440** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) at edges **233** of substrate **230**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **800**.

(39) In these and other embodiments of the present invention, a compressible support can be in series with another structure such as a pillar, where the pillar and the compressible support extend from a board or a component to a housing portion. An example is shown in the following figure.

(40) FIG. 9 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a board and a housing portion according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **900** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be secured in place in electronic device **100** (shown in FIG. 1) using rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2), which can connect to housing portion **210** at a distance away from compressible supports **950**.

(41) Compressible supports **950** can be between pillars **910** and substrate **230**. Pillars **910** can be formed as part of housing portion **210**, or pillars **910** can be separate from housing portion **210**. Pillars **910** can be attached to substrate **230** and compressible supports **950** can be between pillars **910** and housing portion **210**. Pillars **910** can have a cross-section or footprint that matches, mates with, or otherwise complements compressible supports **950**. For example, pillars **910** and compressible supports **950** can encircle component **240**. Pillars **910** can have a cross-section or footprint that differs from that of compressible supports **950**. Compressible supports **350** and pillars **910** (when separate from housing portion **210**) can be fixed to either or both board **220** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique.

(42) Compressible supports **950** can be the same as or similar to compressible supports **350** above. Compressible supports **950** can be pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise able to compress or change shape under force. Compressible supports **950** can be formed of foam, such as open-cell foam, semi-open-cell foam, semi-closed-cell foam, closed-cell foam, or other types of foam. Compressible supports **950** can be formed of polyurethane, silicone, rubber, polycarbonate, or other polymer or elastomer. Compressible supports **950** can be pre-compressed to improve their ability to cancel damaging tensile forces. For example, compressible supports **950** can be formed of a compressed foam or elastomer. Compressible supports **950** can be formed of conductive foam for electrical shielding.

(43) Compressible supports **950** can absorb, dampen, and dissipate energy from a shock event, such as a drop. Compressible supports **950** can flex, compress, and expand to allow movement of regions of board **220** to reduce the stress on solder-ball contacts **232**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, compressible supports **950** can be formed of a low-density foam having a high strain-rate sensitivity. Compressible supports **950** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing substrate **230** towards board **220**. While the presence of a differential compression force **291** is unlikely to damage solder-ball contacts **232** under normal conditions, a differential compression force **291** could damage or distort housing portion **210** or other portion of electronic device **100**. Using a foam or other material having a high strain-rate sensitivity can allow compressible supports **950** to provide a low differential compression force **291** under normal or static conditions and a higher differential compression force **291** under a shock event. The lower differential compression force under normal conditions can prevent damage or distortion to housing portion **210**. The higher differential compression force **291** during a shock event can cancel a higher differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2), which can help to protect electronic device **100**.

(44) Additionally, compressible supports **950** can compress and expand when electronic device

portion **900** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **900**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(45) When compressible supports **950** are formed of foam or similar material, they can have various profiles when seen from a top view as drawn. That is, compressible supports **950**, and the other compressible supports shown here, can have various footprints where contact with substrate **230** or pillar **910** is made. For example, compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an “L” shaped footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports **950** can be included. For example, a single compressible support **950** can encircle chip **250**. The single compressible support can have a rectangular, circular, or other shaped footprint, with an opening for chip **250**.

(46) In this and the other examples, one or more compressible supports **950** can be formed using a spring or other compressible structure, where the spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. Compressible support **950** can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper. Compressible supports **950** can be formed using a combination of one or more of these components. Compressible supports **950** can be formed using one or more of these and one or more other pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise compressible structures.

(47) Housing portion **210** can be an enclosure or portion of an enclosure, an internal support for the enclosure or other portion of electronic device **100**, a housing supporting the enclosure, a housing for a module, such as a thermal module, in electronic device **100**, or other enclosure. Housing portion **210** can be a lid or other structure covering chip **250**. Where housing portion **210** is a lid that can be opened or is removable, compressible supports **350** might be fixed to only one of substrate **230** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. The adhesive can be epoxy, a heat-activated film, pressure sensitive adhesive, or other type of adhesive.

(48) In this example, a series of a pillar **910** and a compressible support **950** can be between substrate **230** and housing portion **210**. This series of a pillar **910** and a compressible support **950** can be implemented in the examples shown above. Specifically, a series of a pillar **910** and a compressible support **950** can be used to implement compressible supports **950** or **560** in the examples shown in FIGS. 3-8.

(49) Edge bond **440** (shown in FIG. 4) can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This can help to convert differential forces into common-mode forces that are typically not damaging. That is, a force acting on board **220** is translated to substrate **230**, and a force acting on substrate **230** is translated to board **220** since they are fixed together. The combination of compressible supports **350** along with edge bond **440** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) at edges **233** of substrate **230**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **900**.

(50) FIG. 10 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to embodiments of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1000** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and

interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** using rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) that can connect to housing portion **210** at a distance away from compressible supports **1010**. One or more compressible supports **1010** can be between component **240** and housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **1010** can be fixed to either or both component **240** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. In these and the other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(51) Compressible supports **1010** are shown as springs in this example. This spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. The springs used for compressible supports **1010** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing component **240** towards board **220**. This differential compression force **291** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) that can result during a drop event, thereby protecting electronic device **100**.

(52) Additionally, compressible supports **1010** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **1000** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This, along with edge bond **440** (shown in FIG. 4), when present, can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1000**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(53) FIG. 11 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes compressible supports between a component and a housing portion according to embodiments of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1100** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**. Board **220** can be supported in electronic device **100** using rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) that can connect to housing portion **210** at a distance away from compressible supports **1010** and **1110**. Compressible supports **1010** and **1110** can be between component **240** and housing portion **210**. Compressible supports **1010** and **1110** can be fixed to either or both component **240** and housing portion **210**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(54) Compressible supports **1010** are shown as springs in this example. This spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other compressible structure. The springs used for compressible supports **1010** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing component **240** towards board **220**. This differential compression force **291** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) that can result during a drop event, thereby protecting electronic device **100**. Compressible supports **1110** are shown as dashpots in this example. Compressible supports **1110** can be a damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper, or other compressible structure. In this example, both a spring and a dashpot are shown, though in

these and other embodiments of the present invention, either or both of these can be omitted, or one or more other compressible structures can be included.

(55) Additionally, compressible supports **1010** and compressible supports **1110** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **1100** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This, along with edge bond **440**, when present (shown in FIG. 4), can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1100**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(56) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide an electronic device having a component mounted to a board. The component can be physically coupled or otherwise connected back to the board through a compressible support. The compressible support can reduce a differential force between the component and the board. The compressible support can be positioned between the component and a loading structure attached to the board. Examples are shown in the following figures.

(57) FIG. 12 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes one or more compressible supports between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1200** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**.

(58) One or more loading structures **1210** can be attached to a surface of board **220** for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Loading structures **1210** can include pier **1212** extending vertically from board **220** and beam **1214** that can extend laterally over a portion of component **240**. Compressible supports **1250** can be between component **240** and beam **1214** of loading structure **1210**. Compressible supports **1250** can be fixed to either or both component **240** and beam **1214**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(59) Compressible supports **1250** can be the same as or similar to compressible supports **350** above. Compressible supports **1250** can be pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise able to compress or change shape under force. Compressible supports **1250** can be formed of foam, such as open-cell foam, semi-open-cell foam, semi-closed-cell foam, closed-cell foam, or other types of foam. Compressible supports **1250** can be formed of polyurethane, silicone, rubber, polycarbonate, or other polymer or elastomer. Compressible supports **1250** can be pre-compressed to improve their ability to cancel damaging tensile forces. For example, compressible supports **1250** can be formed of a compressed foam or elastomer. Compressible supports **1250** can be formed of conductive foam for electrical shielding.

(60) Compressible supports **1250** can absorb, dampen, and dissipate energy from a shock event, such as a drop. Compressible supports **1250** can flex, compress, and expand to allow movement of regions of board **220** to reduce the stress on solder-ball contacts **232**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, compressible supports **1250** can be formed of a low-density foam having a high strain-rate sensitivity. Compressible supports **1250** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing substrate **230** towards board **220**. While the presence of a differential compression force **291** is

unlikely to damage solder-ball contacts **232** under normal conditions, a differential compression force **291** could damage or distort housing portion **210** or other portion of electronic device **100** (shown in FIG. 1.) Using a foam or other material having a high strain-rate sensitivity can allow compressible supports **950** to provide a low differential compression force **291** under normal or static conditions and a higher differential compression force **291** under a shock event. The lower differential compression force under normal conditions can prevent damage or distortion to housing portion **210**. The higher differential compression force **291** during a shock event can cancel a higher differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2), which can help to protect electronic device **100**.

(61) When compressible supports **1250** are formed of foam or similar material, they can have various profiles when seen from a top view as drawn. That is, compressible supports **1250**, and the other compressible supports shown here, can have various footprints where contact with substrate **230** or beam **1214** is made. For example, compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an “L” shaped footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports **1250** can be included. For example, a single compressible support **1250** can encircle chip **250**. The single compressible support can have a rectangular, circular, or other shaped footprint, with an opening for chip **250**.

(62) In this and the other examples, one or more compressible supports **1250** can be formed using a spring or other compressible structure, where the spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. Compressible support **1250** can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper. Compressible supports **1250** can be formed using a combination of one or more of these components. Compressible supports **1250** can be formed using one or more of these and one or more other pliant, compliant, pliable, flexible, or otherwise compressible structures.

(63) Compressible supports **1250** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **1200** experiences a physical shock. This can help to reduce any vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** during a shock event. Also, the optional addition of edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This combination of compressibility of compressible supports **1250**, along with edge bond **440** (when present), can reduce a differential force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1200**.

(64) FIG. 13 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes one or more compressible supports between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1300** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**.

(65) One or more loading structures **1210** can be attached to a surface of board **220**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Loading structures **1210** can include pier **1212** extending vertically from board **220** and beam **1214** that can extend laterally over a portion of component **240**. Compressible supports **1310** can be between component **240** and beam **1214** of loading structure **1210**. Compressible supports **1310** can be fixed to either or both component **240** and beam **1214**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(66) Compressible supports **1310** are shown as springs in this example. This spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring,

cupped spring washer, or other such apparatus. The springs used for compressible supports **1310** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing component **240** towards board **220**. This differential compression force **291** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) that can result during a drop event, thereby protecting electronic device **100**.

(67) Additionally, compressible supports **1310** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **1300** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This, along with edge bond **440**, when present (shown in FIG. 4), can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1300**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and can be relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(68) FIG. 14 illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes one or more compressible supports between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1400** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**.

(69) One or more loading structures **1210** can be attached to a surface of board **220**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Loading structures **1210** can include pier **1212** extending vertically from board **220** and beam **1214** that can extend laterally over a portion of component **240**. Compressible supports **1310** and **1410** can be between component **240** and beam **1214** of loading structure **1210**. Compressible supports **1310** and **1410** can be fixed to either or both component **240** and beam **1214**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(70) Compressible supports **1310** are shown as springs in this example. This spring can be implemented using a Belleville washer, coned-disc spring, conical spring washer, disc spring, cupped spring washer, or other compressible structure. The springs used for compressible supports **1310** can be pre-compressed during assembly to provide a differential compression force **291** (shown in FIG. 2) pushing component **240** towards board **220**. This differential compression force **291** can reduce a differential tensile force **290** (shown in FIG. 2) that can result during a drop event, thereby protecting electronic device **100**. Compressible supports **1410** are shown as dashpots in this example. Compressible supports **1410** can be a dashpot or other damper, such as a linear damper or rotary damper, or other compressible structure. In this example, both a spring and a dashpot are shown, though in these and other embodiments of the present invention, either or both of these can be omitted, or one or more other compressible structures can be included.

(71) Additionally, compressible supports **1310** and **1410** can compress and expand when electronic device portion **1400** experiences a physical shock. Specifically, since region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock, the vertical displacement between region **222** and region **224** of board **220** can be reduced as compared to when fixed or rigid supports **260** (shown in FIG. 2) are used near region **224**. This, along with edge bond **440**, when present (shown in FIG. 4), can reduce a differential tensile force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1400**. In these examples, it should be noted that rigid supports **260** can be included and are

relatively remote from component **240** such that region **224** of board **220** can move relative to housing portion **210** during a shock.

(72) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide an electronic device having a component mounted to a board. The component can be fixed or secured to the board through a securing structure. The securing structure can reduce a differential force between the component and the board. That is, a force received by the component is translated to the board, and forces received by the board are translated to the component. In this way, forces received by the board or component appear as common-mode forces, which are typically not damaging. Examples are shown in the following figures.

(73) FIG. **15** illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes one or more securing structures between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1500** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**.

(74) One or more securing structures **1501** can be attached to a surface of board **220**, for example using an adhesive, solder, fasteners, or other material or technique. Securing structures **1501** can be attached to board **220** by fastener **1510**. Fastener **1510** can include head **1512** and body **1515**, which can be threaded into a nut (not shown.) Body **1515** can instead be inserted into opening **1503** in end **1504** of securing structure **1501** and press-fit into opening **228** in board **220**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. **4**) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(75) Securing structures **1501** can hold component **240** in place against board **220** when electronic device portion **1500** experiences a physical shock. This can help to reduce any differential tensile force between component **240** and board **220** during a shock event. That is, a force received by component **240** is translated to board **220**, and forces received by board **220** are translated to component **240**. In this way, forces received by board **220** or component **240** appear as common-mode forces, which are typically not damaging. Also, the optional addition of edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This combination of securing structures **1501**, along with edge bond **440** (when present), can reduce a differential force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1500**.

(76) Securing structures **1501** are shown here as spring fingers that can attach to board **220** and include bend **1506** that enables securing structure **1501** to apply a force at contact portion **1502** to component **240** in the direction of board **220**. One or more securing structures **1501** can be used to secure component **240** to board **220**. For example, securing structures **1501** can be positioned at each corner of component **240**. Securing structures **1501** can include joining portions, such as joining portion **1732** (shown in FIG. **17B**) or joining portion **1752** (shown in FIG. **17C**) that can join two or more spring fingers or securing structures **1501** into a single securing structure. The securing structures **1501** can be formed of a nonconductive material. The securing structures **1501** can be formed of a conductive material. The securing structures **1501** can also serve to help dissipate heat.

(77) FIG. **16** illustrates a portion of an electronic device that includes one or more securing structures between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. Electronic device portion **1600** can include board **220** supporting component **240**. Component **240** can include substrate **230** and chip **250**. Substrate **230** can include traces and interconnect (not shown) that form electrical pathways for chip **250**. Traces and interconnect on substrate **230** can terminate in solder-ball contacts **232**, which can form electrical pathways between traces and

interconnect (not shown) on board **220** and traces and interconnect on substrate **230**.

(78) One or more securing structures **1501** can be attached to a surface of board **220**, for example using adhesives, fasteners, solder, or other material or technique. In this example, securing structures **1501** can be attached to location **225** on board **220** using solder **1610**. That is, end **1504** of securing structure **1501** can be attached to board **220** using solder **1610**. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, edge bonds **440** (shown in FIG. 4) formed of epoxy or other material can be placed at one or more edges **233** of substrate **230** to join substrate **230** to board **220**.

(79) Securing structures **1501** can hold component **240** in place against board **220** when electronic device portion **1600** experiences a physical shock. This can help to reduce any differential force between component **240** and board **220** during a shock event. Also, the optional addition of edge bond **440** can help to fix edges **233** of substrate **230** in place relative to board **220**. This combination of securing structures **1501**, along with edge bond **440** (when present), can reduce a differential force at edges **233** of substrate **230** relative to board **220**, thereby protecting solder-ball contacts **232** and other structures of electronic device portion **1600**.

(80) Securing structures **1501** are shown here as spring fingers that can attach to board **220** and include bend **1506** that enables securing structure **1501** to apply a force at contact portion **1502** to component **240** in the direction of board **220**. One or more securing structures **1501** can be used to secure component **240** to board **220**. For example, securing structures **1501** can be positioned at each corner of component **240**. Securing structures **1501** can include joining portions, such as joining portion **1732** (shown in FIG. 17B) or joining portion **1752** (shown in FIG. 17C) that can join two or more spring fingers or securing structures **1501** into a single securing structure. The securing structures **1501** can be formed of a nonconductive material. The securing structures **1501** can be formed of a conductive material. The securing structures **1501** can also serve to help dissipate heat.

(81) FIGS. 17A through 17C illustrate portions of electronic devices that include one or more securing structures between a component and a board according to an embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 17A, component **240** can be held in place relative to board **220** using securing structures **1710**. Securing structures **1710** can be attached to board **220** using fasteners **1720**. Securing structures **1710** can be spring fingers and can be the same or similar to securing structures **1501** (shown in FIG. 15.) Fasteners **1720** can be the same or similar to fasteners **1510** (shown in FIG. 15.) Securing structures **1710** can be located at each corner of component **240**.

(82) In FIG. 17B, component **240** can be held in place relative to board **220** using securing structures **1730**. Securing structures **1730** can be attached to board **220** using fasteners **1740**. Securing structures **1730** can be spring fingers and can be the same or similar to securing structures **1501** (shown in FIG. 15) and can further include joining portion **1732**. Fasteners **1740** can be the same or similar to fasteners **1510** (shown in FIG. 15.) Securing structures **1730** can be located at each corner of component **240** and joining portions **1732** can join two or more of the securing structures **1730** together.

(83) In FIG. 17C, component **240** can be held in place relative to board **220** using securing structures **1750**. Securing structures **1750** can be attached to board **220** using fasteners **1760**. Securing structures **1750** can be spring fingers and can be the same or similar to securing structures **1501** (shown in FIG. 15) and can further include joining portion **1752**. Fasteners **1760** can be the same or similar to fasteners **1510** (shown in FIG. 15.) Securing structures **1750** can be located at each corner of component **240** and joining portion **1752** can join the four securing structures **1730** together. Instead of fasteners **1760**, the examples of FIG. 17A, FIG. 17B, and FIG. 17C can use solder **1610** or other device or material.

(84) When made from foam or other material, the compressible supports in the above examples can have various cross-sections. That is, the compressible supports can have various footprints where contact with a component, board, or housing portion is made. For example, the compressible supports can have a square footprint, a rectangular footprint, a circular footprint, an "L" shaped

footprint, a “U” shaped footprint, or other footprint. In these and other embodiments of the present invention, one, two, three, four, or more than four compressible supports can be included. For example, a single compressible support can encircle a chip of a component. The single compressible support can have a rectangular, circular, or other shaped footprint, with an opening for the chip. Examples are shown in the following figures.

(85) FIGS. **18A** and **18B** illustrate footprints for compressible supports according to embodiments of the present invention. In FIG. **18A**, a compressible support **1810** can be placed in each corner of substrate **230**. Each of the four compressible supports can be spaced from chip **250** or can be laterally adjacent to chip **250**. Substrate **230** can be attached to board **220**. In FIG. **18B**, each of four compressible supports **1820** can be placed in a corner of substrate **230** and can partially encircle and overlap chip **250**. Substrate **230** can be attached to board **220**. Compressible supports **1810** and compressible supports **1820** can be the same or similar to, and can be used in assembly in a same or similar manner, as compressible supports **350** (shown in FIG. **3**), compressible supports **560** (shown in FIG. **5**), compressible supports **950** (shown in FIG. **9**), and compressible supports **1250** (shown in FIG. **12**.)

(86) In various embodiments of the present invention, the housings, housing portions, enclosures, loading structures, pillars, spring fingers, and other nonconductive portions can be formed using insert, injection, overmolding, or other molding, 3-D printing, machining, or other manufacturing process. They can be formed of silicon or silicone, rubber, hard rubber, plastic, nylon, glass-filled nylon, liquid-crystal polymers, or other nonconductive material or combination of materials. The printed circuit board or other appropriate substrates used can be formed of FR-4, BT or other material. Printed circuit boards can be replaced by other substrates, such as flexible circuit boards, in many embodiments of the present invention, while flexible circuit boards can be replaced by printed circuit boards in these and other embodiments of the present invention.

(87) These and other embodiments of the present invention can provide structures, methods, and apparatus that can be located in various types of devices, such as portable computing devices, tablet computers, desktop computers, laptops, all-in-one computers, wearable computing devices, smart phones, storage devices, portable media players, navigation systems, headphones, earbuds, speakers, or other audio components, monitors, power supplies, adapters, remote control devices, chargers, and other devices.

(88) It is well understood that the use of personally identifiable information should follow privacy policies and practices that are generally recognized as meeting or exceeding industry or governmental requirements for maintaining the privacy of users. In particular, personally identifiable information data should be managed and handled so as to minimize risks of unintentional or unauthorized access or use, and the nature of authorized use should be clearly indicated to users.

(89) The above description of embodiments of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form described, and many modifications and variations are possible in light of the teaching above. The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical applications to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated. Thus, it will be appreciated that the invention is intended to cover all modifications and equivalents within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. An electronic device comprising: a board; a component attached to a first side of the board; an edge bond between a corner of the component and the first side of the board; a first housing portion; and a first compressible support between the component and the first housing portion.

2. The electronic device of claim 1 wherein the board comprises a printed circuit board.
 3. The electronic device of claim 2 wherein the component is attached to the board by a plurality of solder-ball contacts.
 4. The electronic device of claim 3 wherein the first compressible support extends from the component to the first housing portion.
 5. The electronic device of claim 4 wherein the first compressible support comprises foam.
 6. The electronic device of claim 5 wherein the first compressible support is attached to the component using an adhesive.
 7. The electronic device of claim 3 wherein the first compressible support comprises a spring.
 8. The electronic device of claim 3 further comprising a second compressible support between a second side of the board and a second housing.
 9. The electronic device of claim 3 wherein the first housing portion comprises a portion of enclosure that at least partially houses the electronic device.
 10. The electronic device of claim 3 wherein the first compressible support extends from the component to a pillar formed as part of the first housing portion.
 11. The electronic device of claim 10 wherein the first compressible support comprises foam.
 12. The electronic device of claim 10 wherein the first compressible support comprises a spring.
 13. An electronic device comprising: a board; a component attached to a first side of the board, wherein the component comprises an integrated circuit and a substrate; a loading structure attached to the first side of the board and having a beam portion extending over an edge of the component; and a compressible support in contact with the substrate of the component and extending to the beam portion of the loading structure.
 14. The electronic device of claim 13 wherein the board comprises a printed circuit board and the component is attached to the board by a plurality of solder-ball contacts.
 15. The electronic device of claim 14 further comprising an edge bond between a corner of the component and the board.
 16. The electronic device of claim 15 wherein the compressible support comprises foam.
 17. The electronic device of claim 15 wherein the compressible support comprises a spring.
 18. The electronic device of claim 15 wherein the compressible support comprises a dashpot.
 19. An electronic device comprising: a board; a component attached to a first side of the board; an edge bond between a corner of the component and the first side of the board; and a securing structure to secure the component to the board, wherein the securing structure comprises a spring finger having a first end attached to the board and including a bend, such that a second end of the spring finger contacts the component and provides a force to the component in the direction of the board.
 20. The electronic device of claim 19 wherein the component comprises an integrated circuit and a substrate, and the second end of the spring finger contacts the substrate of the component.
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