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chip package The housing, usually made of ceramic or plastic, surrounding a chip. The leads or metallic surfaces of the chip package are used for connection via plugging-in or soldering. Chip packages are usually mounted onto printed-circuit boards. Also called **chip container**, **IC package**, or **package (3)**.

chip resistor A resistor constructed in chip form. These are very small, and are used, for instance, in high-precision circuits.

chip-scale package A chip package which is no more than a given proportion, such as 20%, larger than the chip itself. Its abbreviation is **CSP**.

chip set Same as **chipset**.

chip speed Same as **CPU speed**.

chip tester An instrument which serves to evaluate the function of chips. Such an instrument, for instance, may be operated automatically for inspection during manufacturing, or manually, for research and development purposes. Also called **IC tester**.

chip testing Tests carried out on chip, such as those performed utilizing a **chip tester**.

chipset Two or more chips that are designed to function as a unit. A chipset usually fits on one chip which performs functions equivalent to what would have previously required multiple chips. A chipset, for example, may allow certain peripherals to intercommunicate independently of the CPU, thus making better use of time and resources. Also spelled **chip set**.

chiral Describing a molecule which is not identical to its mirror image. Such molecules are optically active.

chirality Pertaining to molecules which are **chiral**.

chirp Rapid fluctuations in the frequency of an electromagnetic wave, especially when the source is operated in a pulsing manner. Also called **chirping**.

chirp modulation A form of modulation utilizing **chirp**.

chirp radar A form of radar which utilizes **chirp modulation**.

Chirped Pulse Amplification A technique in which very short laser pulses are amplified to very high power levels. For example, a pulse in the femtosecond range may be amplified to energies in the terawatt range. Its abbreviation is **CPA**.

Chirped Pulse Amplification Laser A laser utilizing a **Chirped Pulse Amplification** technique. Its abbreviation is **CPA laser**.

chirping Same as **chirp**.

Chladni figures Figures formed when a material such as sand is placed on a conducting plate which is secured, then made to vibrate. The plate can be made of glass or metal, and the formed patterns indicate the nature of the vibrations. For instance, the sand collects most at the nodes, which are the points on the plate where the vibrations are at a minimum.

Chladni plates Plates used to form **Chladni figures**.

chloride ion A chlorine atom with an extra electron, which gives it a negative charge. Its chemical formula is **Cl⁻**.

chlorinated Combined with, or treated by chlorine or a chlorine-containing compound. For instance, chlorinated biphenyls.

chlorinated biphenyls A highly toxic group of organic compounds which are stable and heat-resistant. Once widely used in capacitors, transformers, and batteries. Also called **chlorobiphenyls**, **PCBs**, or **polychlorinated biphenyls**.

chlorine A chemical element whose atomic number is 17. It is a dense and highly toxic greenish-yellow gas with a suffocating odor. It is an extremely powerful oxidizer, and is one of the most reactive elements. It has over 15 known isotopes, of which 2 are stable. Because of its activity, it does

not occur uncombined in nature, although it is present in countless compounds. It has numerous applications, including its use in the preparation of chlorinated compounds used in electronics, such as carbon tetrachloride. It is a halogen, and its chemical symbol is **Cl**.

chlorobiphenyls Same as **chlorinated biphenyls**.

choke **1.** An inductor used in a circuit to present a relatively high impedance to frequencies beyond a given value. It impedes the flow of AC, while allowing DC to pass freely. Also called **choke coil**, **choking coil**, or **impedance coil**. **2.** To restrict the passing of a current or frequency using a **choke (1)**. **3.** A discontinuity, such as a groove, in the surface of a waveguide, which restricts or blocks certain frequencies.

choke coil Same as **choke (1)**.

choke-coupled modulation Same as **constant-current modulation**.

choke coupling The coupling of two waveguide sections so as to not allow them to touch each other, yet permit energy to pass freely.

choke filter Same as **choke-input filter**.

choke flange A waveguide flange whose surface is cut in a manner that it may serve as part of a choke joint.

choke-input filter A power-supply filter in which a choke is connected to the output of the rectifier. That is, the input component of the filter is a choke. Such filters offer improved line regulation compared to capacitor-input filters. Also called **choke filter**.

choke joint A joint which connects two waveguide sections without metallic contact between their inner walls, yet permits energy to pass freely.

choking coil Same as **choke (1)**.

chopper **1.** A device which periodically interrupts a direct current, light beam, or other signal. This may be done, for instance, to modulate, or to facilitate the amplification of an associated quantity. **2.** A device which periodically interrupts DC in order to produce AC.

chopper amplifier An amplifier that first chops its DC input to produce AC, amplifies the signal, and then restores the DC signal. Also called **converter amplifier**.

chopper-stabilized amplifier A DC amplifier that incorporates a chopper for stabilization of its DC input.

chopper transistor A transistor which periodically interrupts its input signal. For instance, that producing AC by interrupting its DC input.

chopping **1.** The action and effect of a **chopper**. **2.** The removal of the upper and/or lower extremes of a wave.

chopping frequency The rate at which a **chopper** interrupts a signal. Also called **chopping rate**.

chopping rate Same as **chopping frequency**.

chording keyboard A small keyboard which allows for multiple keys to be pressed simultaneously, with different combinations entering any of various letters, symbols, or short-cuts. Such a keyboard may consist of just a few keys, such as seven or twelve, and when used proficiently can allow a single hand to type nearly as quickly as two.

chroma **1.** The attribute of color which combines hue and saturation. **2.** In the Munsell system, the attribute of color that corresponds most closely to saturation. The more saturated, or vivid, a color, the higher the chroma. **3.** Same as **color saturation**.

chroma control Same as **color-saturation control**.

chroma oscillator Same as **color oscillator**.

chromatic **1.** Pertaining to color, or color phenomena. **2.** Pertaining to **chroma**.

chromatic aberration **1.** In a CRT, such as that in a TV, a defect in which the focal spot is enlarged and blurred. It