

# PCB

A **printed circuit board**, or **PCB**, is used to mechanically support and electrically connect electronic components using conductive pathways, or traces, etched from copper sheets laminated onto a non-conductive substrate. It is also referred to as **printed wiring board (PWB)** or **etched wiring board**. A PCB populated with electronic components is a **printed circuit assembly (PCA)**, also known as a **printed circuit board assembly (PCBA)**. PCBs are rugged, inexpensive, and can be highly reliable. They require much more layout effort and higher initial cost than either wire-wrapped or point-to-point constructed circuits, but are much cheaper and faster for high-volume production. Much of the electronics industry's PCB design, assembly, and quality control needs are set by standards that are published by the IPC organization.

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Last update: **2020/11/29 14:09**