

6/26/2025

MacDermid Alpha North America
Production Issue Update – Kester Extruded Bar Solder

MacDermid Alpha produces our Alpha and Kester branded bar solder materials in our production location in Altoona, PA. At this facility, we produce both Cast Bar Solder and Extruded Bar Solder.

The solder alloy specifications for our bar solder are the exact same between cast and extruded bar. Once the solder is melted, as it is used in your production, the material is exactly the same. The difference between Cast Bar vs Extruded bar is in the dimensions and shape of the solder bars as supplied.

Recently we have had a major failure on our Extruded Bar Solder Press, which is where we make most of our Kester Bar solder. Despite attempts to repair this quickly, we are unable to get the press back up and running. We are moving forward to resolution via replacement parts, but at this time the exact timing to be up and running is not yet known, our best estimate at this time is several months. We will have a more accurate estimate shortly

The good news here is we can still supply you with your exact same Kester Solder Alloy that will meet your alloy specifications but with some differences in the dimensions and shape of the solder bars.

Included with this same email, you should receive a copy of our reference bulletin that provides additional details on the differences in shape.

- See file – “Kester Extruded Bar vs Cast Bar Solid Solder EN July 22 – 5”

Also, your distributor can share with you the dimensional details for your current Kester extruded bar solder and the Kester Cast Bar Solder replacement item.

For the time being, for any new orders that you need, we will have to fill them with the replacement cast bar item. This should actually be a very seamless change for our customers, and also there will be a cost savings as cast bar cost less for us to manufacture.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this issue may cause and appreciate your support to assist with this change. As soon as we have our manufacturing back for the extruded bar, you will receive a notification from your distributor. At that time, you may want to continue with the Cast bar due to the price savings.

Sincerely,

Kurt Graulich
Senior Director of Sales - Americas
Semiconductor & Assembly Solutions
Kurt.Graulich@MacDermidAlpha.com

