



QA Technology Company, Inc.

# A p p l i c a t i o n s N o t e

## Alternate Probe and Socket Removal Techniques

Document# D10060

Rev A

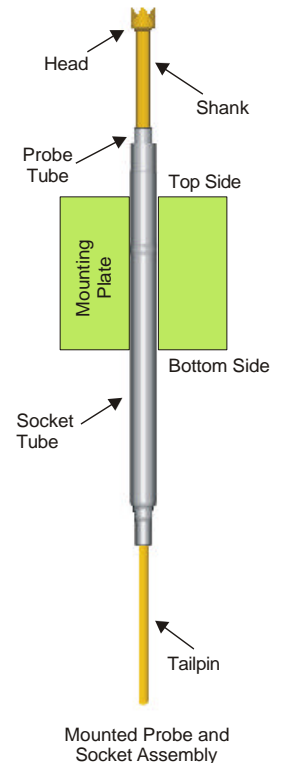
ECN# 1945

Page 1 of 1

### Probe Removal:

Use one of the following methods:

1. All types of probes can be removed with fingers, tweezers or small pliers by grasping the head or shank and pulling the probe straight out of the socket. Be careful not to damage the shank or the tips if the probe is to be reused.
2. Probes that are not headless are easiest to remove with a Probe Extraction Tool. Hook the tool under the head and pull *straight up*.
3. If a plunger comes out or is broken off and leaves the probe tube and spring behind in a socket, it can be removed without damaging the socket by one of these two methods:
  - a. Put a close fitting gage pin inside the probe tube. Close a pin vise (available from industrial tool suppliers) around the short section of the probe tube that protrudes from the socket. The gage pin will prevent the tube from crushing and allow it to be pulled out.
  - b. Drop several pieces of solder into the probe tube. Obtain the largest diameter piece of pre-tinned bus wire that will fit inside the tube. Hold the wire with locking pliers, heat the end to red hot with a torch and quickly plunge it into the tube. It will melt the solder and bond the wire to the inside of the probe tube. Pull on the wire to remove the tube.



### Socket Removal:

1. Sockets are best removed from the top with the Extraction Tool Kit appropriate for the probe series. Extraction Tool Kits include complete instructions.
2. Sockets may also be removed from the top using the bus wire and torch technique described above. If the socket is not set flush, the gage pin and vise technique can be used.
3. Remove sockets from the bottom by pulling carefully with thin-nose pliers. The socket tube will be crushed, but will retain enough strength to allow it to be pulled out. Headless probes need not be removed first—they will make the job easier (since the spring inside reduces crushing of the socket tube) and will come through with the socket. Probes with heads must first be removed from the top. QA sockets with tailpins may be pulled out by the tailpin since the joint between the socket tube and the tailpin is stronger than the tube itself.
4. Sockets may also be removed from the bottom by soldering a piece of bus wire along the outside of the socket, then pulling on the wire to remove the socket. This method cannot be used for stainless steel sockets.
5. Sockets may also be pushed out from the bottom by snipping off the tailpin and driving the socket out with a hammer and small metal pin. A small countersink on the end of the pin makes it easier to keep it aligned.