

Introduction to Electronic Components

Introduction to Electronic Components
(A concise reference guide for beginners)

1. What Is an Electronic Component?

Definition	Key Idea
A basic building block used to create electronic circuits.	Each component has a specific electrical behavior (e.g., resistance, capacitance, amplification).
Passive vs. Active	Passive components cannot introduce gain or power; active components can control current flow and provide amplification.

2. Classification of Components

Category	Typical Examples	Function
Passive	Resistors, Capacitors, Inductors, Transformers, Diodes (some consider them semi-passive)	Store or dissipate energy; shape voltage/current waveforms.
Active	Transistors (BJT, MOSFET), Integrated Circuits (ICs), Thyristors, Operational Amplifiers	Control/ amplify signals; require an external power source.
Electromechanical	Relays, Switches, Potentiometers, Sensors, Motors	Convert electrical energy to mechanical motion (or vice-versa).
Semiconductor Devices	Diodes, LEDs, Zener diodes, SCRs, Triacs	Exploit semiconductor junction properties for rectification, regulation, switching.
Display & Indicator	LEDs, LCDs, Seven-segment displays, OLED panels	Visual representation of circuit states or data.

3. Passive Components

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3.1 Resistors

- **Purpose:** Limit current, set bias points, create voltage dividers.
- **Key Parameters:**
 - **Resistance (R)** – measured in ohms (Ω).
 - **Power rating** – typically $\frac{1}{4}$ W, $\frac{1}{2}$ W, 1W, etc.
 - **Tolerance** – % deviation from nominal value (e.g., $\pm 1\%$).
 - **Temperature coefficient (TC)** – change in resistance per $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (ppm/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- **Common Types:** Carbon film, metal film, wire-wound, surface-mount (SMD) chip resistors.

3.2 Capacitors

- **Purpose:** Store electric charge, filter noise, couple/decouple signals, create timing elements.
- **Key Parameters:**
 - **Capacitance (C)** – farads (F), usually μF , nF, pF.
 - **Voltage rating** – maximum working voltage.
 - **Dielectric type:** Ceramic, electrolytic (polar), tantalum, film, mica.
 - **Tolerance & ESR (Equivalent Series Resistance).**
- **Special Forms:** Variable (trimmer) capacitors, supercapacitors.

3.3 Inductors

- **Purpose:** Store magnetic energy, filter high-frequency noise, create resonant circuits.
- **Key Parameters:**
 - **Inductance (L)** – henries (H), typically μH or mH.
 - **Current rating** – saturation current.
 - **DC resistance (DCR).**
- **Types:** Air-core, iron-core, ferrite-core, toroidal, SMD coils.

3.4 Transformers & Couplers

- **Purpose:** Transfer energy between circuits, provide isolation, step voltage up/down.
 - **Key Specs:** Turns ratio, power rating, frequency range, isolation voltage.
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4. Active Components

4.1 Diodes

- **Function:** Allow current flow in one direction (forward) and block it in the reverse direction.
- **Variants:**
 - **Standard