What is capacitor used for

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They are employed in filtering, energy storage, coupling and decoupling, tuning and resonance, and signal processing. Each application may require specific types and characteristics of capacitors, depending on the...

They can be used as timing devices (because it takes a certain, predictable amount of time to charge them), as filters (circuits that allow only certain signals to flow), for smoothing the voltage in circuits, for...

They are used in power supply circuits to smooth out voltage fluctuations, in electronic filters to remove or separate AC and DC components of a signal, and in oscillator circuits to generate periodic signals.

In this article, we will discuss some of the capacitor"s most interesting uses. It can be used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to: Applications Energy storage Coupling capacitor Decoupling or...

Sample and hold circuits in medical devices. Power supply filtering on computer motherboards and cell phones due to their small size and long-term stability, most often in surface mount form. Military applications...

Once known as condensers, capacitors are one of the most common components used in circuitry. It’s easy to follow DIY guides that use components like this without knowing what they are for or how they work, but it doesn’t take much to learn.

So, what is a capacitor, and how do they work? Let’s find out.

Capacitors (originally called electrical condensers) are analog electrical components that can collect and store electrical energy. As a direct current flows into a capacitor, it charges with energy and releases an alternating current flow back into the circuit.

Most capacitors have a positive and negative terminal in the form of legs, pads, or plates. Current flows into one of these legs, through the capacitor's body, and out of the other leg.

These components give engineers the ability to control electrical energy within a circuit. Voltage spikes get ironed out, and energy can be stored for later use, all using clever chemistry inside the capacitor itself.

Capacitors are often compared to batteries, but they are quite different. Unlike batteries, you can discharge a capacitor almost instantly, and they aren't made for long-term energy storage.

Capacitance is the ability of a component to store electric charge and can be measured with units called Farads. A capacitor with high capacitance (say 1.0F) can store more energy than one with low capacitance

(say 1.0mF).

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