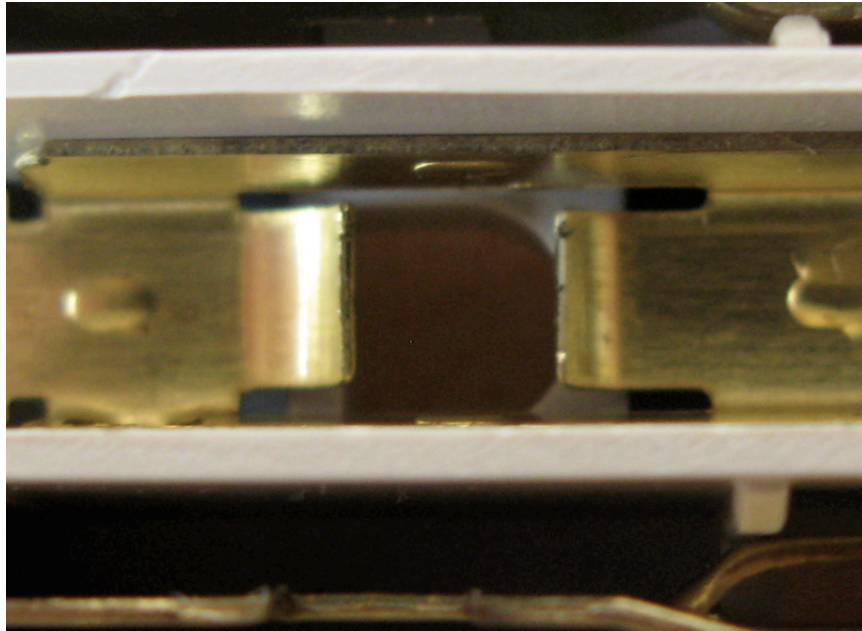


Power Strip Grounding Problems in the Introductory Labs
9/29/10

Some problems in Capacitors lab, the Electric Fields lab, and the Electrostatics lab, have been traced to intermittent ground connections due to faulty power strips.

Unused power strip, back cover unscrewed. Below is a close-up view, from behind, of one of the receptacles for the ground pin of a three prong, 10A 120 V plug. The brass tabs to the left and right of the receptacle are hard wired to ground.



Used power strip. Here is an equivalent view of a power strip that's been in use for five years. Things are plugged into it, and removed, every lab. The brass tabs are now tangent to the receptacle opening, and a ground connection is no longer assured.

