Electronics

Indentifying Capacitor Polarity

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**Big capacitors ($\gtrsim 1\mu F$) are usually electrolytic.**
Small electrolytic capacitor
Big electrolytic capacitor
Big electrolytic capacitor (top view)
Big electrolytic capacitor label
Non-polarized capacitor
Polarized capacitor connected the right way
Polarized capacitor connected the wrong way
Don’t do this!!!
## Capacitor Labeling

There are a few different ways to identify the polarity of a capacitor. Some non-polarized capacitors are identified as either BP (bipolar) or NP (non-polar).
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On a big capacitor, the label can go next to the pin.
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Here’s a capacitor.
Here’s a capacitor. It is *bipolar*, meaning it’s not polarized.
Here’s a capacitor.
Here’s a capacitor. On this one, the *negative* pin is identified.
This capacitor is *axial*.
This capacitor is *axial*. It has the negative pin identified.