

It has come to our attention that damaged or worn 16-bit PC Card or CardBus configuration headers can destroy the 15-pin I/O connector on the PCCTest 450/460. The configuration headers can become damaged after many insertion removal cycles or when improperly inserted or removed. Once a damaged header is inserted into the 15-pin I/O header, the bad pin(s) can destroy the connector on the PCCTest 450/460 unit. The user of the PCCTest 450/460 is urged to inspect their configuration headers for damage at a regular interval.

Identification of damaged headers can be made on a microscope or handheld magnifier. Figure 1 illustrates the pins of a good header. Note that the tips of all pins are completely under the top of the pin channels.

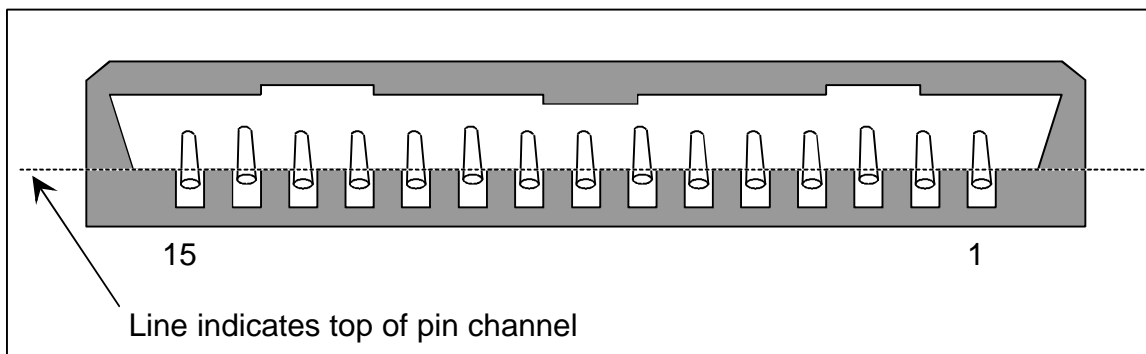


Figure 1 - Good Configuration Header

Figure 2 illustrates a bad header where all of the connector pins are bad. Note that all the pins tips are over the top edge of the pin channels.

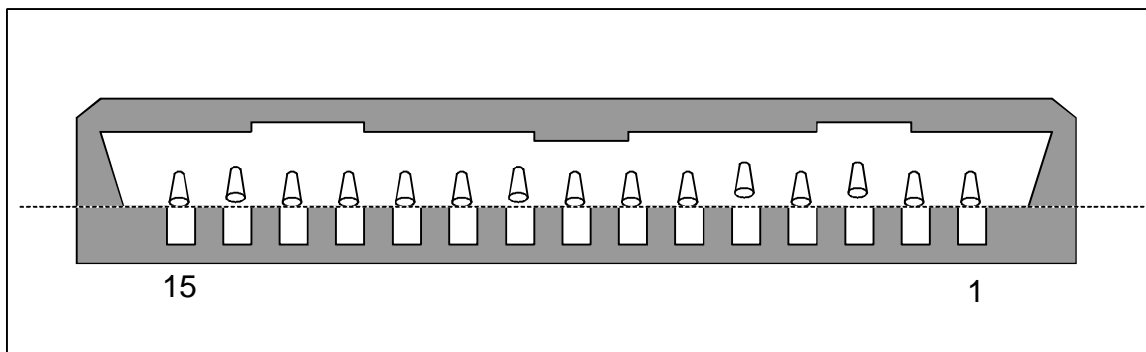


Figure 2 - Bad Configuration Header (all pins)

Figure 3 illustrates a typical bad connector. In this drawing, pins 1, 3 and 9 are bad. When these bad pins mate with the connector on the PCCtest 450/460, they can slip under the mating pin and damage it. The only way to fix a damaged mating connector is to have the factory replace it.

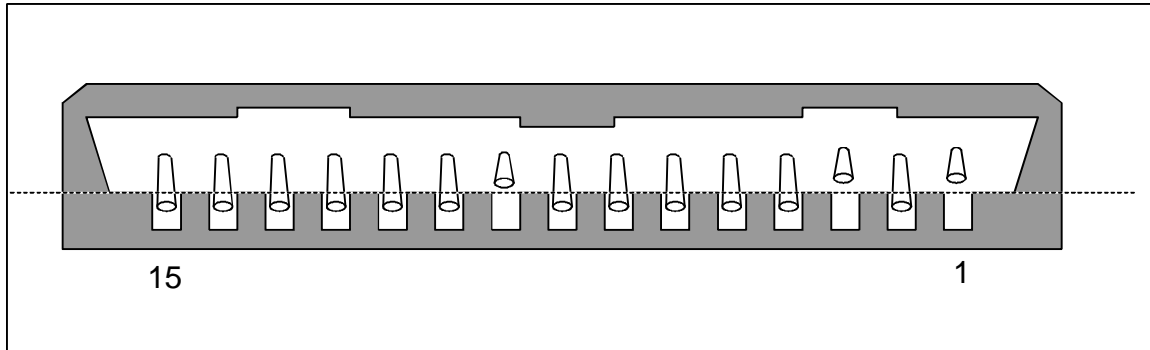


Figure 3 - Bad Configuration Header (pins 1, 3 and 9)

When used as a manufacturing tester, the PCCtest's header can see several hundred insertion removal cycles a day. Proper inspection and maintenance can prolong the life of the connector. Please use the following guidelines to prolong the use of the connector:

1. Insert and remove the configuration header slowly and carefully. Do not twist or bend the header when inserting or removal.
2. Do not use spray lubricants on any of the PCCtest's connectors. Spray lubricants can cause damage to the internal circuitry.
3. If you must use a lubricant on the connector, use a small hobby paint brush to apply a light coating of contact lubricant. Insure that the lubricant does not enter the PCCtest unit.
4. Use an aerosol duster to remove debris from the PCCtest's connector. Do not use a high-pressure compressor.

Sycard Technology can provide replacement 16-bit PC Card or CardBus headers at a nominal charge. If you are unsure about a condition of header, you may send it in to Sycard Technology for a free evaluation.

In order to reduce damage to the 15-pin I/O connector, Sycard has created the PCCtest 457, a switchable configuration header. This header provides a slide switch to change between 16-bit and CardBus modes. The switchable configuration header can be ordered as the PCCtest 457.