

# COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

Here is a listing of the main abbreviations and acronyms you'll tend to find in modern electronics.

**AC** alternating current  
**ADC** analog-to-digital converter  
**AF** audio frequency  
**AFC** automatic frequency control  
**AFSK** audio frequency-shift keying  
**AGC** automatic gain control  
**AM** amplitude modulation  
**ASCII** American Standard Code for Information Interchange  
**ASIC** application-specific integrated circuit  
**BIOS** basic input-output subsystem (software/firmware)  
**CAD** computer-aided design or drafting  
**CAE** computer-aided engineering  
**CAM** computer-aided manufacture  
**CCD** charge-coupled device  
**CD** compact disc  
**CIM** computer-integrated manufacturing  
**CMOS** complementary metal-oxide semiconductor  
**CPU** central processor unit  
**DAC** digital-to-analog converter  
**DC** direct current  
**DFM** digital frequency meter  
**DIL** dual in-line (packaging format)  
**DIN** Deutscher Industrie Norm (standards body)  
**DIP** dual in-line package  
**DMM** digital multimeter  
**DOS** disk operating system  
**DRAM** dynamic RAM  
**ECL** emitter-coupled logic  
**EEPROM** electrically erasable PROM  
**EFT** electronic funds transfer  
**ENG** electronic news gathering  
**EPROM** erasable PROM  
**FET** field-effect transistor

**FFT** fast Fourier transform  
**FM** frequency modulation  
**FO** fibre optics  
**FSD** full-scale deflection  
**FSK** frequency-shift keying  
**GaAs** gallium arsenide  
**GPIB** general-purpose interface bus (IEEE-488)  
**IC** integrated circuit  
**IEEE** Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (US standards body)  
**IR** infrared  
**ISO** international standards organisation  
**LAN** local-area network  
**LCC** leadless chip carrier (device package)  
**LCD** liquid-crystal display  
**LED** light-emitting diode  
**LSB** least significant digit  
**LSI** large-scale integration or integrated  
**MOS** metal-oxide semiconductor  
**MOSFET** MOS field-effect transistor  
**MSB** most significant digit  
**MUX** multiplexer  
**Ni-Cad** nickel-cadmium (secondary cell)  
**NMOS** N-type substrate MOS  
**NPN** P-type base form of bipolar transistor  
**NTSC** US TV standard (National Television Standards Committee)  
**OEM** original equipment manufacturer  
**OSI** open systems interconnect (data comms model)  
**PAL** phase-alternating line (Aust/UK/ German TV stand.)  
**PC** personal computer  
**PCB** printed circuit board

**PGA** pin-grid array (device package)  
**PLCC** plastic leadless chip carrier  
**PLL** phase-locked loop  
**PMOS** P-type substrate MOS device  
**PLA** programmable logic array  
**PLD** programmable logic device (generic term)  
**PROM** programmable read-only memory  
**RAM** random-access (read/write) memory  
**RF** radio frequency  
**RMS** root mean square  
**ROM** read-only memory  
**RS-232C** asynchronous serial interface standard  
**SECAM** French colour TV standard (field sequential)  
**SCSI** small computer systems interface  
**SIL** single in-line  
**SIP** single in-line package  
**SMD** surface-mounted device  
**SMT** surface-mount technology  
**SOT** small outline transistor  
**SRAM** static RAM device  
**UART** universal asynchronous receiver-transmitter  
**USART** universal synchronous/asynchronous receiver-transmitter  
**UV** ultraviolet  
**VLSI** very large-scale integration

## SI standard multipliers and contractions:

T = terra (trillion, or million million)  
 G = giga (thousand million)  
 M = mega (million)  
 k = kilo (metric thousand or 1000)  
 m = milli (thousandth)  
 u = micro (millionth)  
 n = nano (thousand-millionth)  
 p = pico (billionth)  
 f = femto (thousand-billionth)

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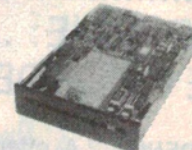
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