

Identifying Capacitor Polarity

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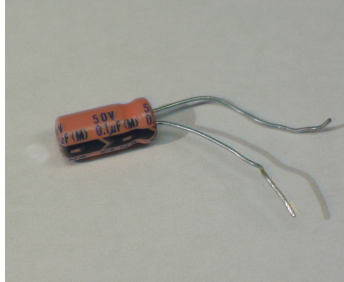
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- **Big capacitors ($\gtrsim 1\mu F$) are usually electrolytic.**



Small electrolytic capacitor



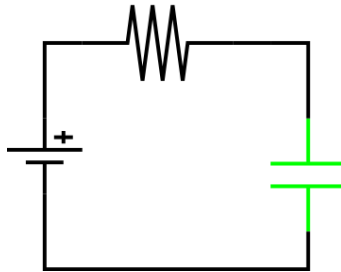
Big electrolytic capacitor



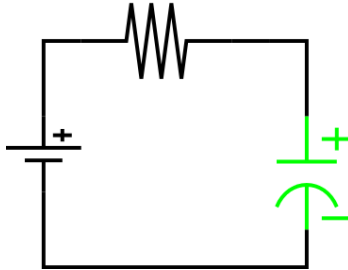
Big electrolytic capacitor (top view)



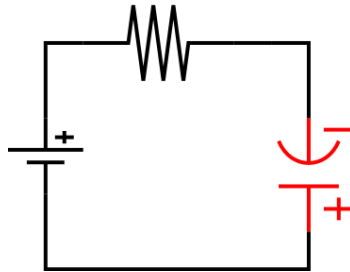
Big electrolytic capacitor label



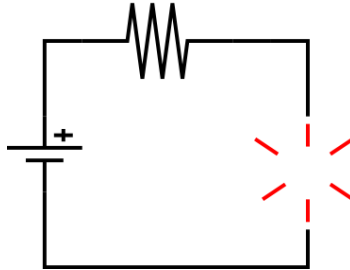
Non-polarized capacitor



Polarized capacitor connected the right way



Polarized capacitor connected the **wrong way**



Don't do this!!!

Capacitor Labeling

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There are a few different ways to identify the polarity of a capacitor.



On a big capacitor, the label can go next to the pin.



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(Note the “+” sign.)



Here's a capacitor.



Here's a capacitor. The *positive* pin is identified.



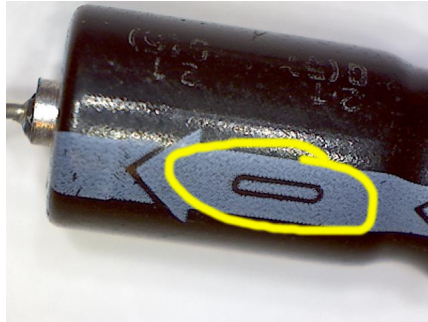
Here's a capacitor.



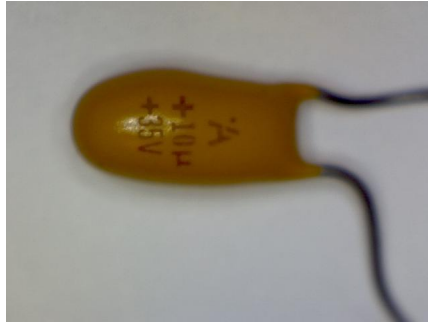
Here's a capacitor. On this one, the *negative* pin is identified



This capacitor is *axial*.



This capacitor is *axial*. It has the negative pin identified.



Another capacitor



Another capacitor with the positive pin identified