

Tech Tip: Contact Installation and Partially Loaded iSeries Modules

Each iSeries interface features an engaging mechanism and alignment pins to ensure proper contact alignment and even engagement of the contacts (Figure 1). The design of these connector interfaces allow the contacts to consistently mate regardless of the module pin-out or partial loading of VPC modules for 10,000 cycles. However, best practices indicate equal loading (i.e., distribution) of contacts in a module (Figure 2).

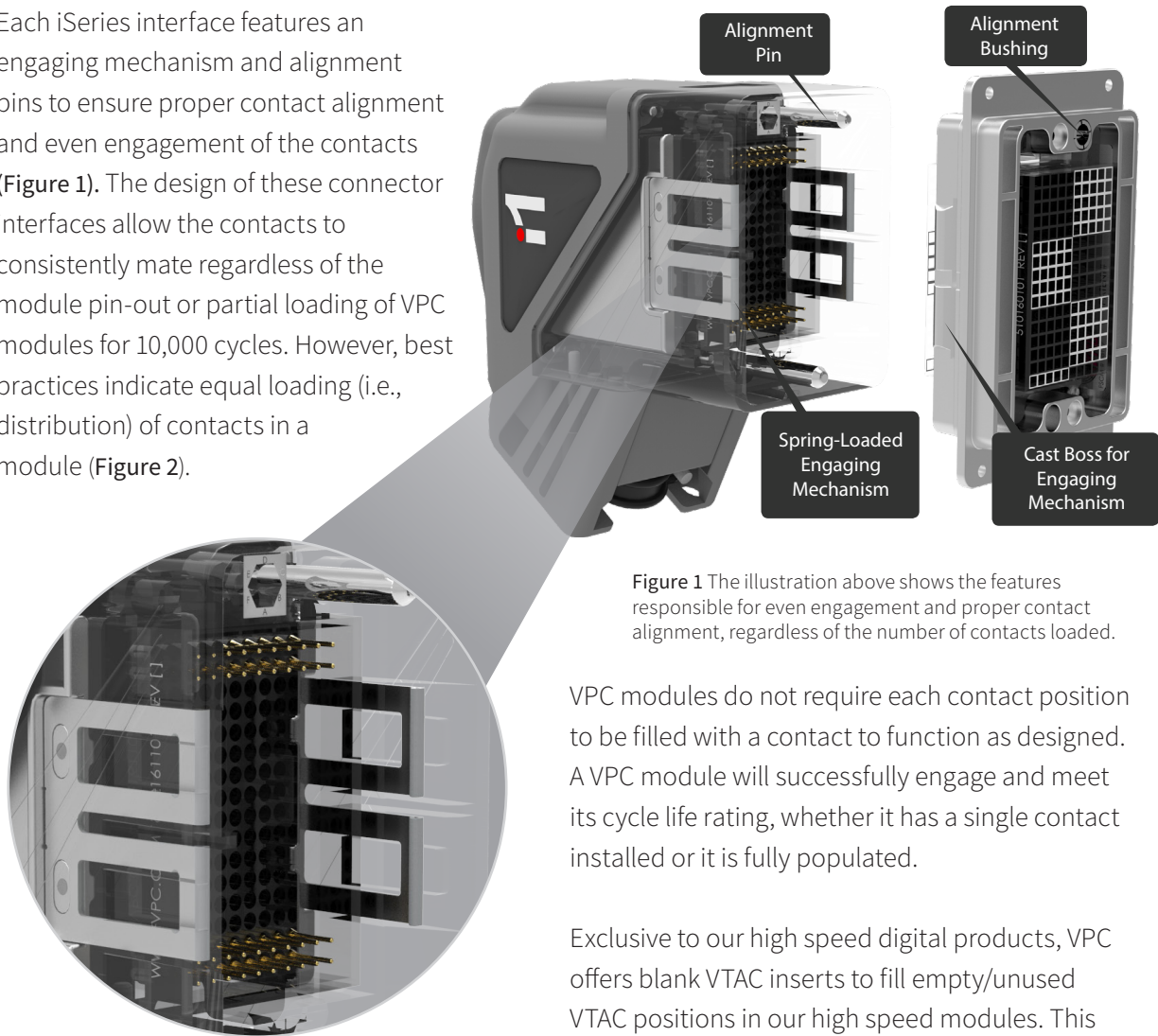


Figure 1 The illustration above shows the features responsible for even engagement and proper contact alignment, regardless of the number of contacts loaded.

VPC modules do not require each contact position to be filled with a contact to function as designed. A VPC module will successfully engage and meet its cycle life rating, whether it has a single contact installed or it is fully populated.

Exclusive to our high speed digital products, VPC offers blank VTAC inserts to fill empty/unused VTAC positions in our high speed modules. This solution is considered optional and is not required for the module or contacts to operate as designed. Blank inserts are not currently offered to fill other I/O types; however, some customers elect to have unterminated contacts inserted in modules to control airflow, dust, and ingress.

Figure 2 VPC engineers recommend the even distribution of contacts in modules.

Note: The design of the engaging mechanism and the quantity of alignment pins will vary based on the design of the iSeries interface selected.