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## Strain Gage Selection


### Strain-Sensing Alloys


The principal component which determines the operating characteristics of a strain gage is the strain-sensitive alloy used in the foil grid. However, the alloy is not in every case an independently selectable parameter. This is because each Micro-Measurements strain gage series (identified by the first two, or three, letters in the [alphanumeric gage designation](#) ) is designed as a complete system. That system is comprised of a particular foil and backing combination, and usually incorporates additional gage construction features (such as encapsulation, integral leadwires, or solder dots) specific to the series in question.

Micro-Measurements supplies a variety of strain gage alloys as follows (with their respective letter designations):

**A-Alloy**  Constantan, a nickel-copper alloy, in [self-temperature-compensated form](#) .

**P- Alloy**  Annealed constantan.

**D-Alloy**  Isoelastic nickel-chromium alloy.

**K-Alloy**  Nickel-chromium alloy, a modified Karma in [self-temperature-compensated form](#) .

