AN1004

Mounting and Handling of Semiconductor Devices

Introduction

Proper mounting and handling of semiconductor devices, particularly those used in power applications, is an important, yet sometimes overlooked, consideration in the assembly of electronic systems. Power devices need adequate heat dissipation to increase operating life and reliability and allow the device to operate within manufacturers' specifications. Also, in order to avoid damage to the semiconductor chip or internal assembly, the devices should not be abused during assembly. Very often, device failures can be attributed directly to a heat sinking or assembly damage problem.

The information in this application note guides the semiconductor user in the proper use of Littelfuse devices, particularly the popular and versatile TO-220 and TO-218 epoxy packages.

Contact the Littelfuse Applications Engineering Group for further details or suggestions on use of Littelfuse devices.

Lead Forming — Typical Configurations

A variety of mounting configurations are possible with Littelfuse power semiconductor TO-92, DO-15, and TO- 220 packages, depending upon such factors as power requirements, heat sinking, available space, and cost considerations. Figure AN1004.1 shows typical examples and basic design rules.

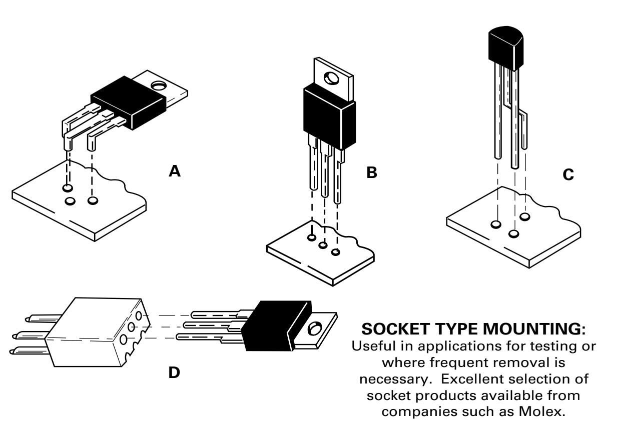

Figure AN1004.1 Component Mounting

These are suitable only for vibration-free environments and low-power, free-air applications. For best results, the device should be in a vertical position for maximum heat dissipation from convection currents.

Standard Lead Forms

Littelfuse encourages users to allow factory production of all lead and tab form options. Littelfuse has the automated machinery and expertise to produce pre-formed parts at minimum risk to the device and with greater convenience for the consumer. See the "Lead Form Dimensions" section of this catalog for a complete list of readily available lead form options. Contact Littelfuse for information regarding custom lead form designs.

Lead Bending Method

Leads may be bent easily and to any desired angle, provided that the bend is made at a minimum 0.063" (0.1" for TO-218 package) away from the package body with a minimum radius of 0.032" (0.040" for TO-218 package) or 1.5 times lead thickness rule. DO-15 device leads may be bent with a minimum radius of 0.050", and DO-35 device leads may be bent with a minimum radius of 0.028". Leads should be held firmly between the package body and the bend so that strain on the leads is not transmitted to the package body, as shown in Figure AN1004.2. Also, leads should be held firmly when trimming length.

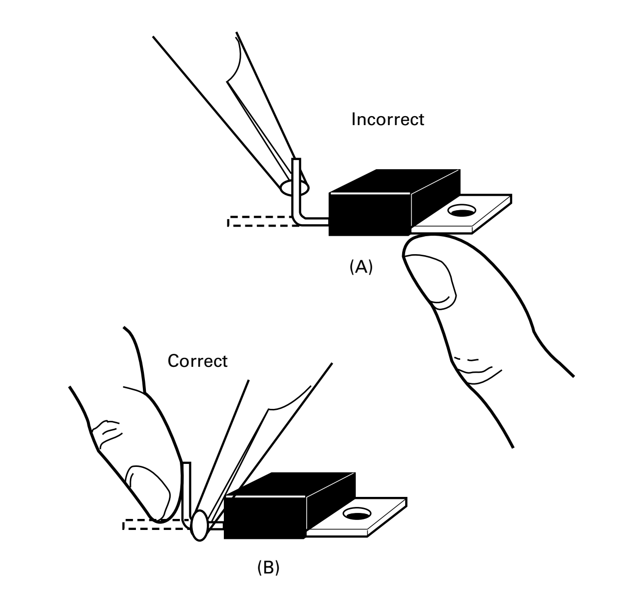

Figure AN1004.2 Lead Bending Method

When bending leads in the plane of the leads (spreading), bend only the narrow part. Sharp angle bends should be done only once as repetitive bending will fatigue and break the leads.

Heat Sinking

Use of the largest, most efficient heat sink as is practical and cost effective extends device life and increases reliability. In the illustration shown in Figure AN1004.3, each device is electrically isolated.

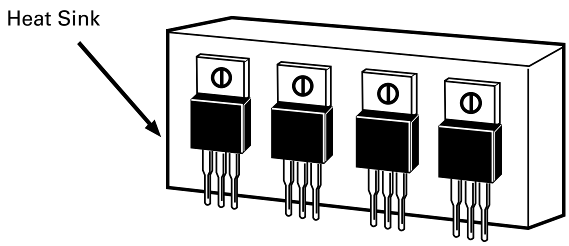

Figure AN1004.3 Several Isolated TO-220 Devices Mounted to a Common Heat Sink

Many power device failures are a direct result of improper heat dissipation. Heat sinks with a mating area smaller than the metal tab of the device are unacceptable. Heat sinking material should be at least 0.062" thick to be effective and efficient.

Note that in all applications the maximum case temperature (T_C) rating of the device must not be exceeded. Refer to the individual device data sheet rating curves (T_C versus I_T) as well as the individual device outline drawings for correct T_C measurement point.

Figure AN1004.4 through Figure AN1004.6 show additional examples of acceptable heat sinks.

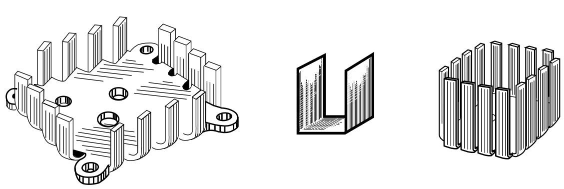

Figure AN1004.4 Examples of PC Board Mounts

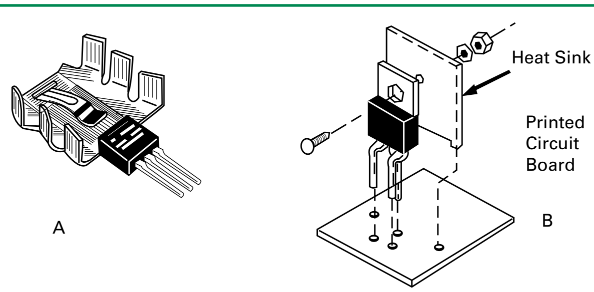

Figure AN1004.5 Vertical Mount Heat Sink

Several types of vertical mount heat sinks are available. Keep heat sink vertical for maximum convection.

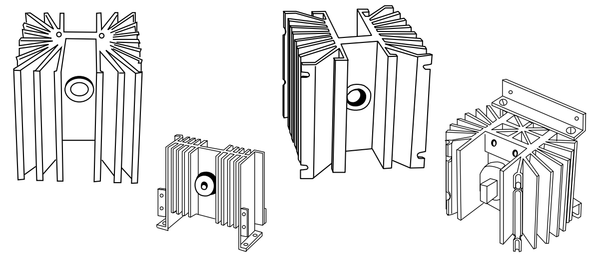

Figure AN1004.6 Examples of Extruded Aluminum

When coupled with fans, extruded aluminum mounts have the highest efficiency.

Heat Sinking Notes

Care should be taken not to mount heat sinks near other heat-producing elements such as power resistors, because black anodized heat sinks may absorb more heat than they dissipate.

Some heat sinks can hold several power devices. Make sure that if they are in electrical contact to the heat sink, the devices do not short-circuit the desired functions. Isolate the devices electrically or move to another location. Recall that the mounting tab of Littelfuse isolated TO-220 devices is electrically isolated so that several devices may be mounted on the same heat sink without extra insulating components. If using an external insulator such as mica, with a thickness of 0.004", an additional thermal resistance of 0.8° C/W for TO-220 or 0.5° C/W for TO-218 devices is added to the $R_{\theta JC}$ device rating.

Allow for adequate ventilation. If possible, route heat sinks to outside of assembly for maximum airflow.

Mounting Surface Selection

Proper mounting surface selection is essential to efficient transfer of heat from the semiconductor device to the heat sink and from the heat sink to the ambient. The most popular heat sinks are flat aluminum plates or finned extruded aluminum heat sinks.

The mounting surface should be clean and free from burrs or scratches. It should be flat within 0.002 inch per inch, and a surface finish of 30 to 60 microinches is acceptable. Surfaces with a higher degree of polish do not produce better thermal conductivity.

Many aluminum heat sinks are black anodized to improve thermal emissivity and prevent corrosion. Anodizing results in high electrical but negligible thermal insulation. This is an excellent choice for isolated TO-220 devices. For applications of non-isolated TO-220 devices where electrical connection to the common anode tab is required, the anodization should be removed. Iridite or chromate acid dip finish offers low electrical and thermal resistance. Either TO-218, Fastpak or TO-220 devices may be mounted directly to this surface, regardless of application. Both finishes should be cleaned prior to use to remove manufacturing oils and films. Some of the more economical heat sinks are painted black. Due to the high thermal resistance of paint, the paint should be removed in the area where the semiconductor is attached.

Bare aluminum should be buffed with #000 steel wool and followed with an acetone or alcohol rinse. Immediately, thermal grease should be applied to the surface and the device mounted down to prevent dust or metal particles from lodging in the critical interface area.

For good thermal contact, the use of thermal grease is essential to fill the air pockets between the semiconductor and the mounting surface. This decreases the thermal resistance by 20%. For example, a typical TO-220 with $R_{\theta JC}$ of 1.2 °C/W may be lowered to 1 °C/W by using thermal grease.

Littelfuse recommends Dow-Corning 340 as a proven effective thermal grease. Fibrous applicators are not recommended as they may tend to leave lint or dust in the interface area. Ensure that the grease is spread adequately across the device mounting surface, and torque down the device to specification.

Contact Littelfuse Applications Engineering for assistance in choosing and using the proper heat sink for specific application.

Hardware And Methods

TO-220

The mounting hole for the Teccor TO-220 devices should not exceed 0.140" (6/32) clearance. (Figure AN1004.7) No insulating bushings are needed for the L Package (isolated) devices as the tab is electrically isolated from the semiconductor chip. 6/32 mounting hardware, especially round head or Fillister machine screws, is recommended and should be torqued to a value of 6 inch-lbs.

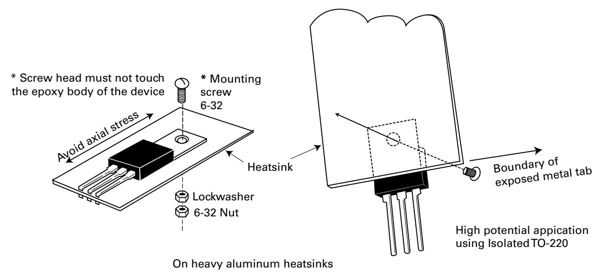

Figure AN1004.7 TO-220 Mounting

Punched holes are not acceptable due to cratering around the hole which can cause the device to be pulled into the crater by the fastener or can leave a significant portion of the device out of contact with the heat sink. The first effect may cause immediate damage to the package and early failure, while the second can create higher operating temperatures which will shorten operating life. Punched holes are quite acceptable in thin metal plates where fine-edge blanking or sheared-through holes are employed.

Drilled holes must have a properly prepared surface. Excessive chamfering is not acceptable as it may create a crater effect. Edges must be deburred to promote good contact and avoid puncturing isolation materials.

For high-voltage applications, it is recommended that only the metal portion of the TO-220 package (as viewed from the bottom of the package) be in contact with the heat sink. This will provide maximum oversurface distance and prevent a high voltage path over the plastic case to a grounded heat sink.

TO-218

The mounting hole for the TO-218 device should not exceed 0.164" (8/32) clearance. Isolated versions of TO-218 do not require any insulating material since mounting tab is electrically isolated from the semiconductor chip. Round lead or Fillister machine screws are recommended. Maximum torque to be applied to mounting tab should not exceed 8 inch-lbs.

The same precautions given for the TO-220 package concerning punched holes, drilled holes, and proper prepared heat sink mounting surface apply to the TO-218 package. Also for high-voltage applications, it is recommended that only the metal portion of the mounting surface of the TO-218 package be in contact with heat sink. This achieves maximum oversurface distance to prevent a high-voltage path over the device body to grounded heat sink.

General Mounting Notes

Care must be taken on TO-220 & TO-218 packages at all times to avoid strain to the mounting tab or leads. For easy insertion of the part onto the board or heat sink, avoid axial strain on the leads. Carefully measure holes for the mounting tab and the leads, and do any forming of the tab or leads before mounting. Refer to the "Lead Form Dimensions" section of this catalog before attempting lead form operations.

Rivets may be used for less demanding and more economical applications. 1/8" all-aluminum pop rivets can be used on both TO-220 and TO-218 packages. Use a 0.129"-0.133" (#30) drill for the hole and insert the rivet from the top side, as shown in Figure AN1004.9. An insertion tool, similar to a "USM" PRG 430 hand riveter, is recommended. A wide selection of grip ranges is available, depending upon the thickness of the heat sink material. Use an appropriate grip range to securely anchor the device, yet not deform the mounting tab. The recommended rivet tool has a protruding nipple that will allow easy insertion of the rivet and keep the tool clear of the plastic case of the device.

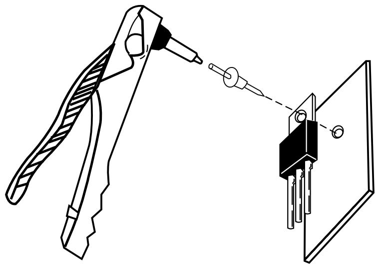

Figure AN1004.9 Pop Riveting Technique

A Milford #511 (Milford Group, Milford, CT) semi-tubular steel rivet set into a 0.129" receiving hole with a riveting machine similar to a Milford S256 is also acceptable. Contact the rivet machine manufacturer for exact details on application and set-up for optimum results.

Pneumatic or other impact riveting devices are not recommended due to the shock they may apply to the device.

Under no circumstance should any tool or hardware come into contact with the case. The case should not be used as a brace for any rotation or shearing force during mounting or in use. Non-standard size screws, nuts, and rivets are easily obtainable to avoid clearance problems.

Always use an accurate torque wrench to mount devices. No gain is achieved by overtorquing devices. In fact, overtorquing may cause the tab and case to deform or rupture, seriously damaging the device. The curve shown in Figure AN1004.10 illustrates the effect of proper torque.

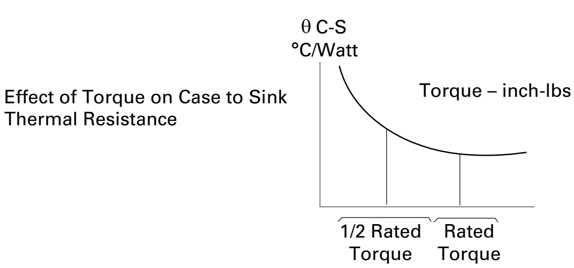

Figure AN1004.10 Effect of Torque to Sink Thermal Resistance

With proper care, the mounting tab of a device can be soldered to a surface. However, the heat required to accomplish this operation can damage or destroy the semiconductor chip or internal assembly. See "Surface Mount Soldering Recommendations" (AN1005) in this catalog.

Spring-steel clips can be used to replace torqued hardware in assembling Thyristors to heat sinks. Clips snap into heat sink slots to hold the device in place for PC board insertion. Clips are available in several sizes for various heat sink thicknesses and Thyristor case styles from *Aavid Thermalloy* in Concord, New Hampshire. A typical heatsink is shown in Figure AN1004.11

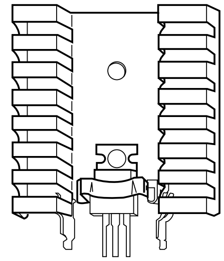

Figure AN1004.11 Typical Heat Sink Using Clips

Soldering Of Leads

A prime consideration in soldering leads is the soldering of device leads into PC boards, heat sinks, and so on. Significant damage can be done to the device through improper soldering. In any soldering process, do not exceed the data sheet lead solder temperature of +280 °C for 10 seconds, maximum, ≥1/16" from the case.

This application note presents details about the following three types of soldering:

- Hand soldering
- Wave soldering
- Dip soldering

Hand Soldering

This method is mostly used in prototype breadboarding applications and production of small modules. It has the greatest potential for misuse. The following recommendations apply to Littelfuse TO-92, TO-220, and TO-218 packages.

Select a small- to medium-duty electric soldering iron of 25 W to 45 W designed for electrical assembly application. Tip temperature should be rated from 600 °F to 800 °F (300 °C to 425 °C). The iron should have sufficient heat capacity to heat the joint quickly and efficiently in order to minimize contact time to the part. Pencil tip probes work very well. Neither heavy-duty electrical irons of greater than 45 W nor flame-heated irons and large heavy tips are recommended, as the tip temperatures are far too high and uncontrollable and can easily exceed the time-temperature limit of the part.

Littelfuse Fastpak devices require a different soldering technique. Circuit connection can be done by either quick-connect terminals or solder.

Since most quick-connect 0.250" female terminals have a maximum rating of 30 A, connection to terminals should be made by soldering wires instead of quick-connects.

Recommended wire is 10 AWG stranded wire for use with MT1 and MT2 for load currents above 30 A. Soldering should be performed with a 100-watt soldering iron. The iron should not remain in contact with the wire and terminal longer than 40 seconds so the Fastpak Triac is not damaged.

For the Littelfuse TO-218X package, the basic rules for hand soldering apply; however, a larger iron may be required to apply sufficient heat to the larger leads to efficiently solder the joint.

Remember not to exceed the lead solder temperatures of +280 °C for 10 seconds, maximum, ≥1/16” (1.59mm) from the case.

A 60/40 or 63/37 Sn/Pb solder is acceptable. This low melting-point solder, used in conjunction with a mildly activated rosin flux, is recommended.

Insert the device into the PC board and, if required, attach the device to the heat sink before soldering. Each lead should be individually heat sinked as it is soldered. Commercially available heat sink clips are excellent for this use. Hemostats may also be used if available. Needle-nose pliers are a good heat sink choice; however, they are not as handy as stand-alone type clips.

In any case, the lead should be clipped or grasped between the solder joint and the case, as near to the joint as possible. Avoid straining or twisting the lead in any way.

Use a clean pre-tinned iron, and solder the joint as quickly as possible. Avoid overheating the joint or bringing the iron or solder into contact with other leads that are not heat sinked.

Wave Solder

Wave soldering is one of the most efficient methods of soldering large numbers of PC boards quickly and effectively. Guidelines for soldering by this method are supplied by equipment manufacturers. The boards should be pre-heated to avoid thermal shock to semiconductor components, and the time-temperature cycle in the solder wave should be regulated to avoid heating the device beyond the recommended temperature rating. A mildly activated resin flux is recommended. Figures AN1004.12 and .13 show typical heat and time conditions.

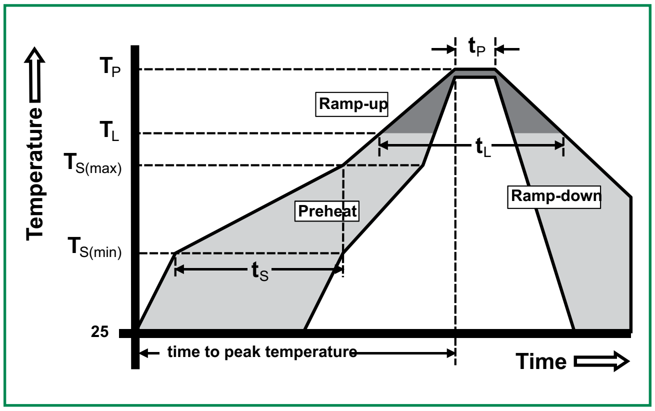

Figure AN1004.12 Reflow Soldering with Pre-heating

Reflow Condition		Pb – Free assembly
Pre Heat	- Temperature Min ($T_{s(min)}$)	150°C
	- Temperature Max ($T_{s(max)}$)	200°C
	- Time (min to max) (t_s)	60 – 190 secs
Average ramp up rate (Liquidus Temp (T_L) to peak		5°C/second max
$T_{S(max)}$ to T_L - Ramp-up Rate		5°C/second max
Reflow	- Temperature (T_L) (Liquidus)	217°C
	- Time (min to max) (t_s)	60 – 150 seconds
Peak Temperature (T_P)		260 °C
Time within 5°C of actual peak Temperature (t_p)		20 – 40 seconds
Ramp-down Rate		5°C/second max
Time 25°C to peak Temperature (T_P)		8 minutes Max.
Do not exceed		280°C

Figure AN1004.13 Heat and Time Table

Dip Soldering

Dip soldering is very similar to wave soldering, but it is a hand operation. Follow the same considerations as for wave soldering, particularly the time-temperature cycle which may become operator dependent because of the wide process variations that may occur. This method is not recommended.

Board or device clean-up is left to the discretion of the customer. Littelfuse devices are tolerant of a wide variety of solvents, and they conform to MIL-STD 202E method 215 “Resistance to Solvents.”