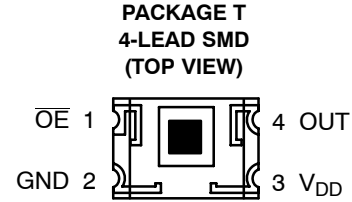


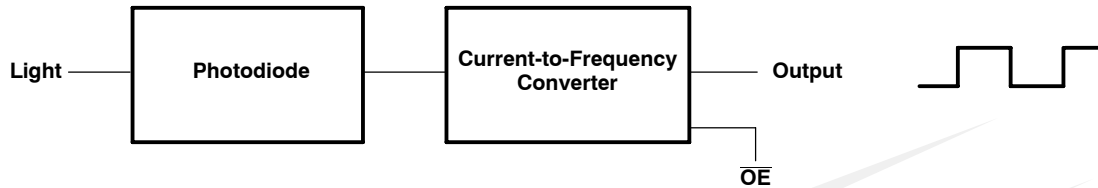
- High-Resolution Conversion of Light Intensity to Frequency With No External Components
- High Irradiance Responsivity . . . 1.2 kHz/( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ) at  $\lambda_p = 640 \text{ nm}$
- Low Dark Frequency . . .  $< 2 \text{ Hz}$  at  $50^\circ \text{ C}$
- Single-Supply Operation . . . 2.7 V to 5.5 V
- Stable 200 ppm/ $^\circ\text{C}$  Temperature Coefficient
- Communicates Directly with a Microcontroller
- RoHS Compliant



## Description

The TSL237T light-to-frequency converter combines a silicon photodiode and a current-to-frequency converter on a single monolithic CMOS integrated circuit. Output is a square wave (50% duty cycle) with frequency directly proportional to light intensity (irradiance) on the photodiode. The digital output allows direct interface to a microcontroller or other logic circuitry. Output enable ( $\overline{\text{OE}}$ ) places the output in a high-impedance state for multiple-unit sharing of a microcontroller input line. The device has been temperature compensated for the ultraviolet-to-visible light range of 320 nm to 700 nm and responds over the light range of 320 nm to 1050 nm. The TSL237T is characterized for operation over the temperature range of  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  to  $85^\circ\text{C}$  and is supplied in a compact 4-lead surface-mount package.

## Functional Block Diagram



## Available Options

DEVICE	$T_A$	PACKAGE – LEADS	PACKAGE DESIGNATOR	ORDERING NUMBER
TSL237T	$-40^\circ\text{C}$ to $85^\circ$	4-lead Low Profile Surface Mount	T	TSL237T

## Terminal Functions

TERMINAL NAME	T PKG NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
GND	2		Power supply ground (substrate). All voltages are referenced to GND.
$\overline{\text{OE}}$	1	I	Enable for $f_O$ (active low).
OUT	4	O	Output frequency.
$V_{DD}$	3		Supply voltage.

# TSL237T

## HIGH-SENSITIVITY

### LIGHT-TO-FREQUENCY CONVERTER

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#### Absolute Maximum Ratings over operating free-air temperature range (unless otherwise noted)<sup>†</sup>

Supply voltage, $V_{DD}$ (see Note 1)	6 V
Input voltage range, $\overline{OE}$ input, $V_I$	–0.3 V to $V_{DD} + 0.3$ V
Operating free-air temperature range, $T_A$ (see Note 2)	–40°C to 85°C
Storage temperature range, $T_{stg}$ (see Note 2)	–40°C to 85°C
Solder conditions in accordance with JEDEC J–STD–020A, maximum temperature	260°C

<sup>†</sup> Stresses beyond those listed under “absolute maximum ratings” may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated under “recommended operating conditions” is not implied. Exposure to absolute-maximum-rated conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

NOTES: 1. All voltage values are with respect to GND.

2. Long-term storage or operation above 70°C could cause package yellowing that will lower the sensitivity to wavelengths < 500nm.

#### Recommended Operating Conditions

	MIN	NOM	MAX	UNIT
Supply voltage, $V_{DD}$	2.7	5	5.5	V
High-level input voltage, $V_{IH}$	$V_{DD} = 5$ V		4.5	$V_{DD}$
Low-level input voltage, $V_{IL}$	$V_{DD} = 5$ V		0	0.5
Operating free-air temperature range, $T_A$	–40		85	°C

#### Electrical Characteristics at $V_{DD} = 5$ V, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ (unless otherwise noted)

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
$V_{OH}$ High-level output voltage	$I_{OH} = -1$ mA	4	4.7		V
$V_{OL}$ Low-level output voltage	$I_{OL} = 1$ mA		0.1	0.4	V
$I_{DD}$ Supply current			1.6	3	mA
Full-scale frequency <sup>‡</sup>		500		1000	kHz
Temperature coefficient of responsivity	Wavelength < 600nm, $f_O = 50$ kHz		±200		ppm/°C
$k_{SVS}$ Supply-voltage sensitivity	$V_{DD} = 5$ V ±10%		±0.5		%/V

<sup>‡</sup> Full-scale frequency is the maximum operating frequency of the device without saturation.

#### Operating Characteristics at $V_{DD} = 5$ V, $T_A = 25^\circ\text{C}$ , $\lambda_p = 640$ nm (unless otherwise noted)

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
$f_O$ Output frequency	$E_e = 40.4$ $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$	40	50	60	kHz
$f_D$ Dark frequency	$E_e = 0$ $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$	0	0.1		Hz
	$E_e = 0$ $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ , $T_A = 50^\circ\text{C}$	0		2	Hz
$R_e$ Irradiance responsivity			1.2		kHz/( $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ )
Nonlinearity <sup>§</sup>	$f_O = 0$ kHz to 10 kHz		±1%		% F.S.
Step response to full-scale step input		1 pulse of new frequency plus 1 $\mu\text{s}$			
Time from $\overline{OE}$ low to output enabled		1 period of output frequency			

<sup>§</sup> Nonlinearity is defined as the deviation of  $f_O$  from a straight line between zero and full scale, expressed as a percent of full scale.

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

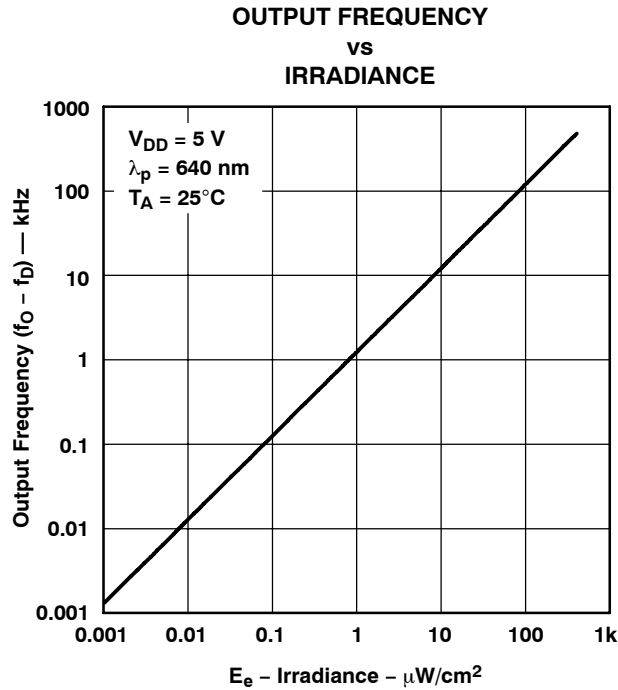


Figure 1

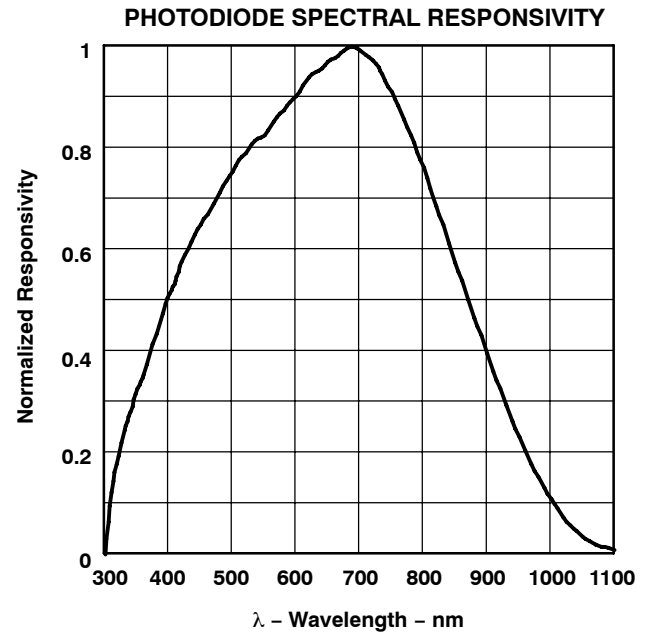


Figure 2

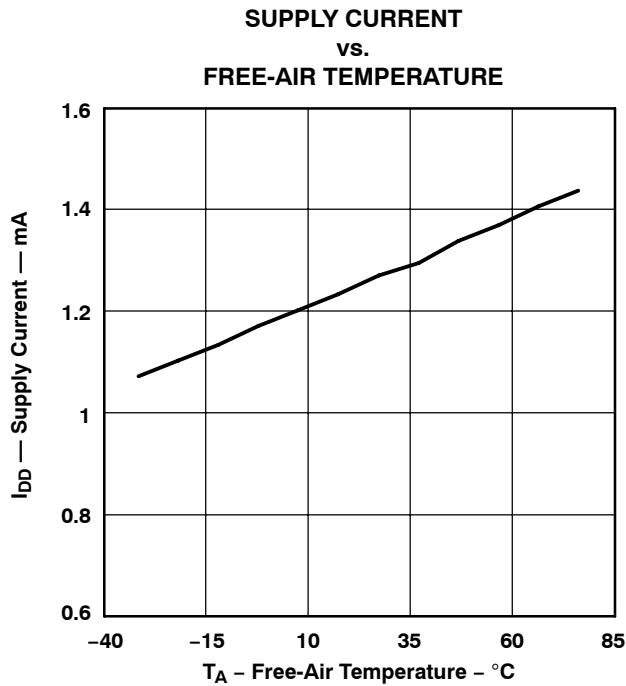


Figure 3

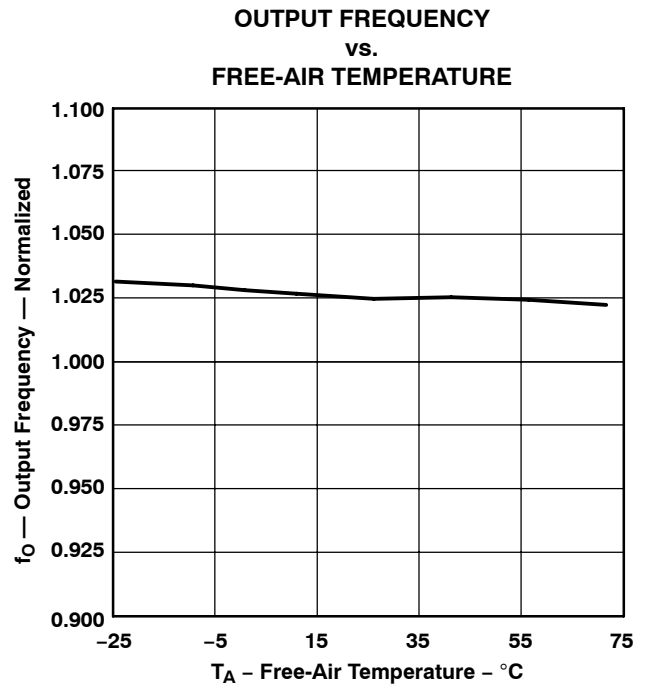


Figure 4

# TSL237T HIGH-SENSITIVITY LIGHT-TO-FREQUENCY CONVERTER

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## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS

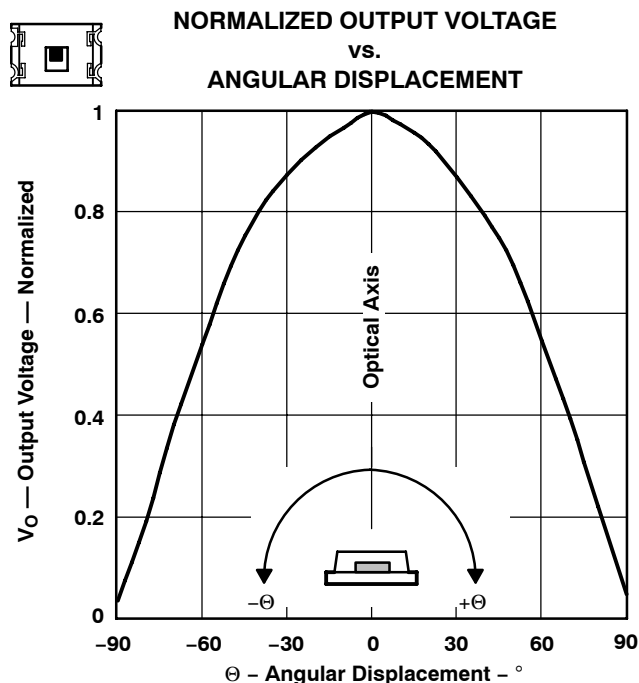


Figure 5

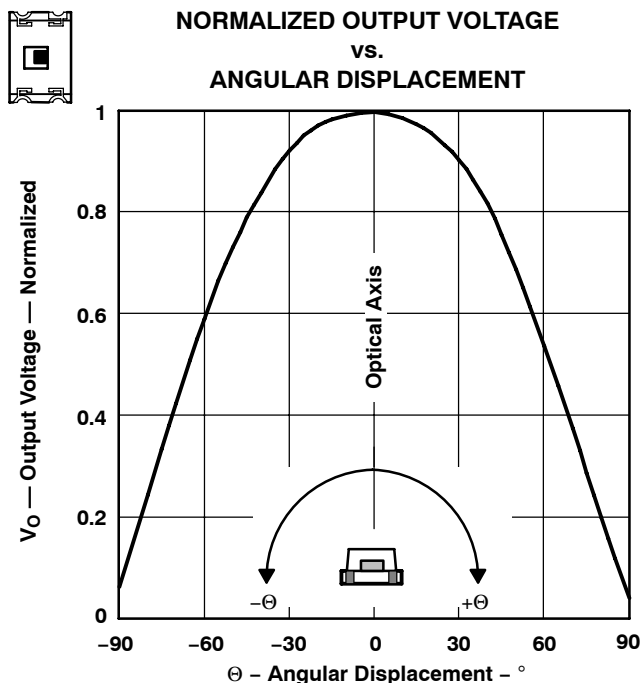


Figure 6

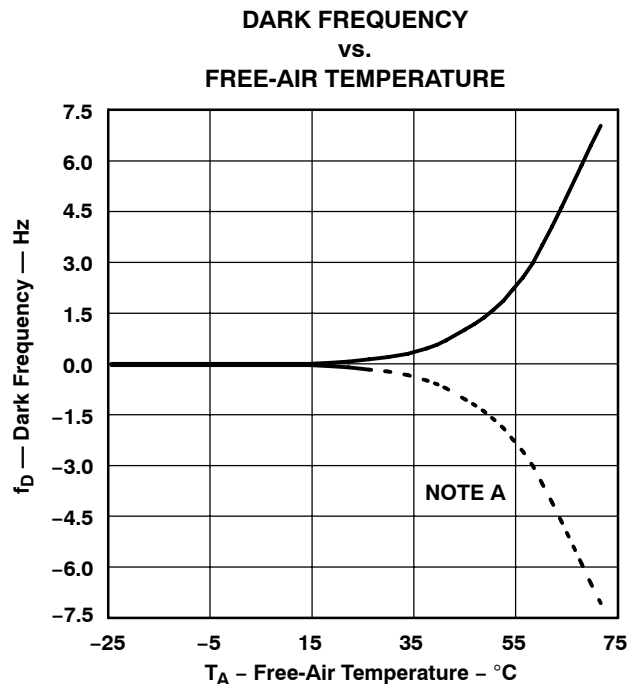


Figure 7

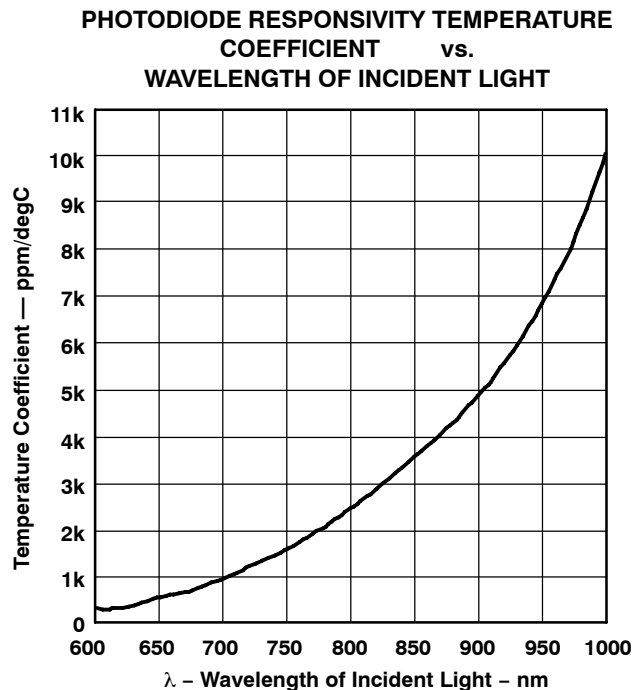


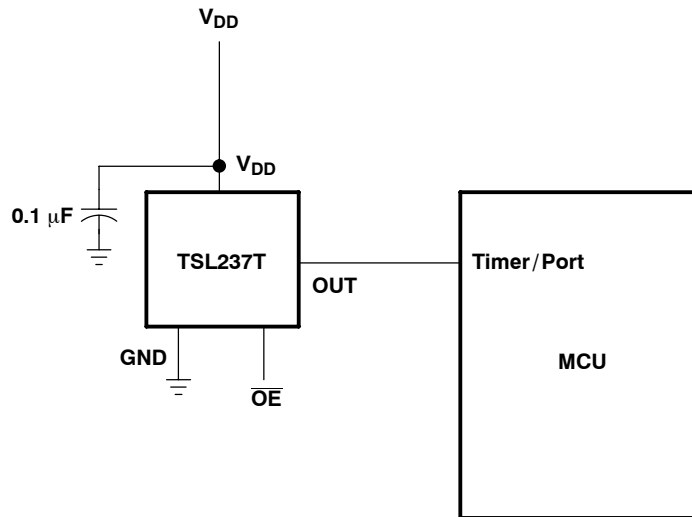
Figure 8

NOTE A: Internal offsets that result in dark frequency can be both positive and negative. The dashed line represents the case of negative offset in which an equivalent amount of light signal is required to obtain a non-zero output frequency.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

### Power-Supply Considerations

Power-supply lines must be decoupled by a 0.01- $\mu\text{F}$  to 0.1- $\mu\text{F}$  capacitor with short leads placed close to the TSL237T (Figure 9). A low-noise power supply is required to minimize jitter on output pulse.



**Figure 9. Typical TSL237T Interface to a Microcontroller**

### Device Operational Details

The frequency at the output pin (OUT) is given by:

$$f_O = f_D + (R_e)(E_e)$$

where:

- $f_O$  is the output frequency
- $f_D$  is the output frequency for dark condition ( $E_e = 0$ )
- $R_e$  is the device responsivity for a given wavelength of light given in  $\text{kHz}/(\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2)$
- $E_e$  is the incident irradiance in  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$

$f_D$  is a constant error term in the output frequency calculation resulting from leakage currents, and is independent of light intensity. The TSL237T die is trimmed to minimize the magnitude of this dark frequency component so that it can be neglected in the transfer function calculation. In many applications, measurement of the actual dark frequency may be impractical due to measurement times ranging from several seconds to several minutes, and the fact that some devices may never transition (zero dark frequency).

### Input Interface

A low-impedance electrical connection between the device  $\overline{\text{OE}}$  terminal and the device GND terminal is required for improved noise immunity.

### Output Interface

The output of the device is designed to drive a CMOS logic input over short distances. If lines greater than 12 inches in length are used on the output, a buffer or line driver is recommended.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

### Measuring the Frequency

The choice of interface and measurement technique depends on the desired resolution and data-acquisition rate. For maximum data-acquisition rate, period-measurement techniques are used.

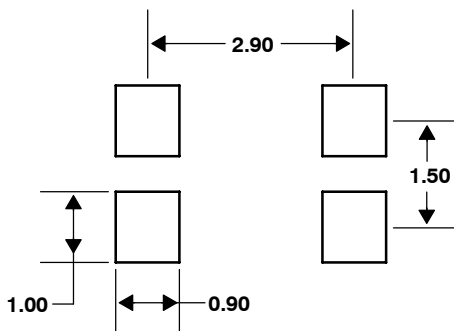
Period measurement requires the use of a fast reference clock with available resolution directly related to the reference-clock rate. The technique is employed to measure rapidly varying light levels or to make a fast measurement of a constant light source.

Maximum resolution and accuracy may be obtained using frequency-measurement, pulse-accumulation, or integration techniques. Frequency measurements provide the added benefit of averaging out random- or high-frequency variations (jitter) resulting from noise in the light signal. Resolution is limited mainly by available counter registers and allowable measurement time. Frequency measurement is well suited for slowly varying or constant light levels and for reading average light levels over short periods of time. Integration, the accumulation of pulses over a very long period of time, can be used to measure exposure — the amount of light present in an area over a given time period.

Output enable ( $\overline{OE}$ ) places the output in a high-impedance state for multiple-unit sharing of a microcontroller input line. When the  $\overline{OE}$  line goes low, the device resynchronizes the output to an integration cycle. The rising edge of the output signal (OUT) will occur exactly one period of the output frequency after  $\overline{OE}$  goes low.

### PCB Pad Layout

Suggested PCB pad layout guidelines for the T package are shown in Figure 10.



- NOTES: A. All linear dimensions are in millimeters.  
B. This drawing is subject to change without notice.

**Figure 10. Suggested T Package PCB Layout**

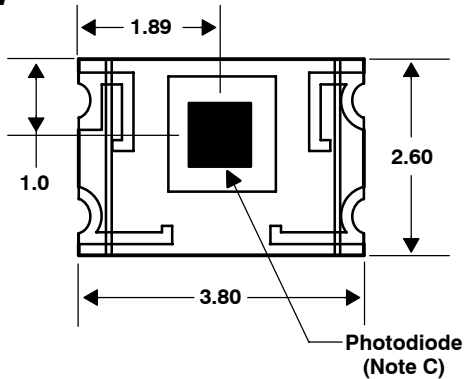
## MECHANICAL DATA

The TSL237T is supplied in a low-profile surface-mount package. This package contains no lead (Pb).

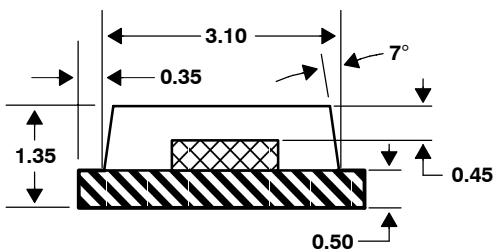
### PACKAGE T

### Four-Lead Surface Mount Device

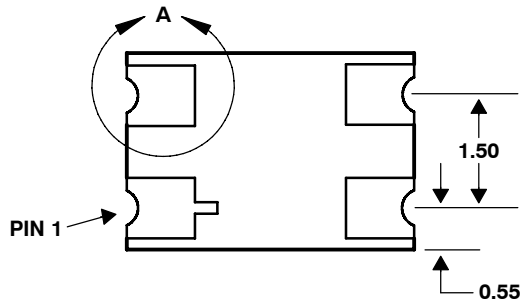
#### TOP VIEW



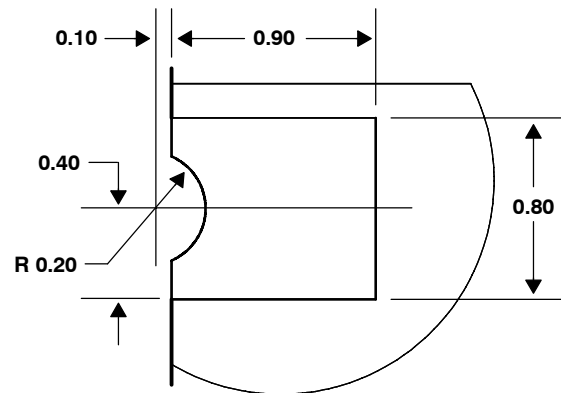
#### SIDE VIEW



#### BOTTOM VIEW



#### DETAIL A: TYPICAL PACKAGE TERMINAL



Lead Free

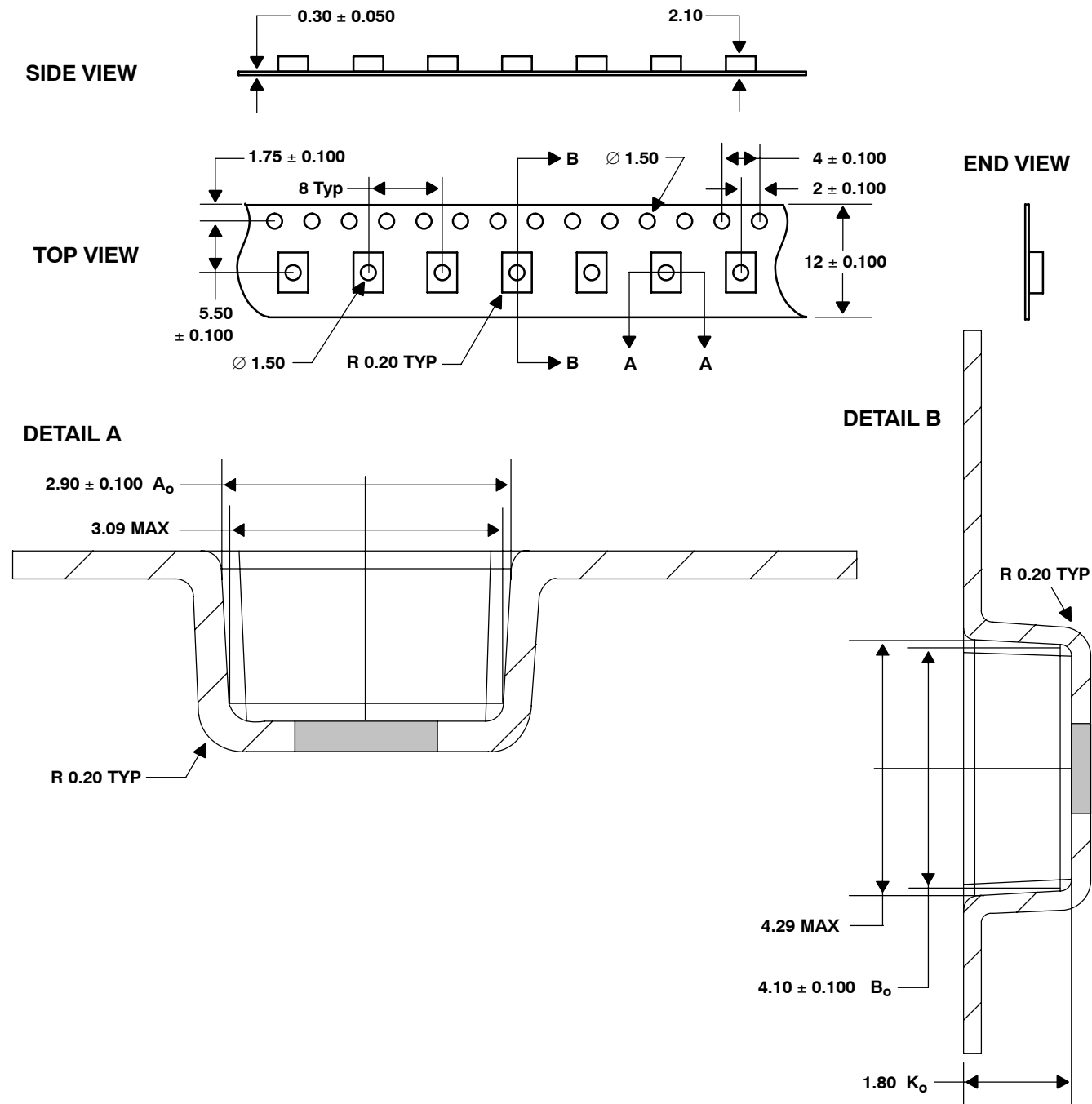
- NOTES: A. All linear dimensions are in millimeters.  
 B. Terminal finish is gold, 1.3  $\mu$ m minimum.  
 C. The center of the 0.84 mm  $\times$  0.84 mm integrated photodiode active area is referenced to the upper left corner of the package (near Pin 1).  
 D. Dimension tolerance is  $\pm$  0.15 mm.  
 E. This drawing is subject to change without notice.

**Figure 11. Package T — Four-Lead Surface Mount Device Packaging Configuration**

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**MECHANICAL DATA**



- NOTES: A. All linear dimensions are in millimeters.  
 B. The dimensions on this drawing are for illustrative purposes only. Dimensions of an actual carrier may vary slightly.  
 C. Symbols on drawing  $A_o$ ,  $B_o$ , and  $K_o$  are defined in ANSI EIA Standard 481-B 2001.  
 D. Each reel is 178 millimeters in diameter and contains 1000 parts.  
 E. TAOS packaging tape and reel conform to the requirements of EIA Standard 481-B.  
 F. In accordance with EIA standard, device pin 1 is located next to the sprocket holes in the tape.  
 G. This drawing is subject to change without notice.

**Figure 12. Four Lead Surface Mount Package Carrier Tape**



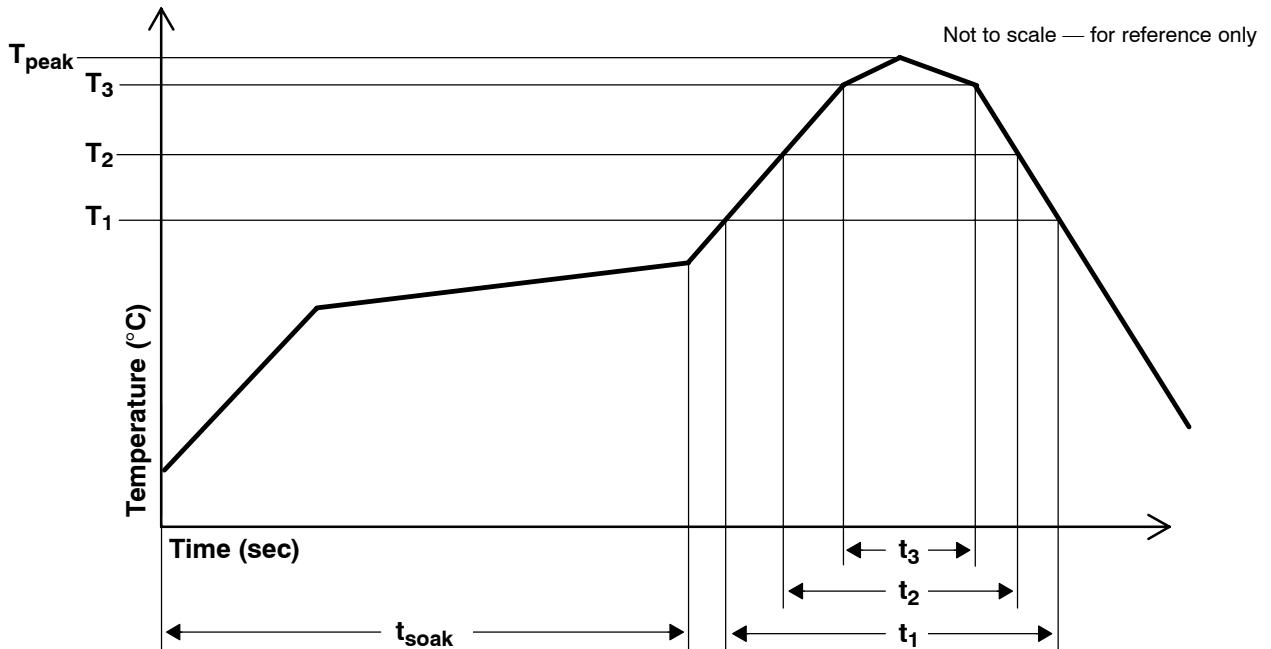


## MANUFACTURING INFORMATION

The reflow profile specified here describes expected maximum heat exposure of devices during the solder reflow process of the device on a PWB. Temperature is measured at the top of the device. Devices should be limited to one pass through the solder reflow profile.

**Table 1. TSL237T Solder Reflow Profile**

PARAMETER	REFERENCE	TSL237T
Average temperature gradient in preheating		2.5°C/sec
Soak time	$t_{\text{soak}}$	2 to 3 minutes
Time above $T_1$ , 217°C	$t_1$	Max 60 sec
Time above $T_2$ , 230°C	$t_2$	Max 50 sec
Time above $T_3$ , ( $T_{\text{peak}} - 10^\circ\text{C}$ )	$t_3$	Max 10 sec
Peak temperature in reflow	$T_{\text{peak}}$	260° C (–0°C/+5°C)
Temperature gradient in cooling		Max –5°C/sec



**Figure 13. TSL237T Solder Reflow Profile**

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## MANUFACTURING INFORMATION

### Moisture Sensitivity

Optical characteristics of the device can be adversely affected during the soldering process by the release and vaporization of moisture that has been previously absorbed into the package molding compound. To ensure the package molding compound contains the smallest amount of absorbed moisture possible, each device is dry-baked prior to being packed for shipping. Devices are packed in a sealed aluminized envelope with silica gel to protect them from ambient moisture during shipping, handling, and storage before use.

This package has been assigned a moisture sensitivity level of MSL 3 and the devices should be stored under the following conditions:

Temperature Range	5°C to 50°C
Relative Humidity	60% maximum
Total Time	6 months from the date code on the aluminized envelope — if unopened
Opened Time	168 hours or fewer

Rebaking will be required if the devices have been stored unopened for more than 6 months or if the aluminized envelope has been open for more than 168 hours. If rebaking is required, it should be done at 90°C for 4 hours.



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**LIGHT-TO-FREQUENCY CONVERTER**

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