Mounting LITTLE FOOT® SOT-23 Power MOSFETs

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Surface-mounted LITTLE FOOT power MOSFETs use integrated circuit and small-signal packages which have been been modified to provide the heat transfer capabilities required by power devices. Leadframe materials and design, molding compounds, and die attach materials have been changed, while the footprint of the packages remains the same.

See Application Note 826, *Recommended Minimum Pad Patterns With Outline Drawing Access for Vishay Siliconix MOSFETs*, (http://www.vishay.com/doc?72286), for the basis of the pad design for a LITTLE FOOT SOT-23 power MOSFET footprint . In converting this footprint to the pad set for a power device, designers must make two connections: an electrical connection and a thermal connection, to draw heat away from the package.

The electrical connections for the SOT-23 are very simple. Pin 1 is the gate, pin 2 is the source, and pin 3 is the drain. As in the other LITTLE FOOT packages, the drain pin serves the additional function of providing the thermal connection from the package to the PC board. The total cross section of a copper trace connected to the drain may be adequate to carry the current required for the application, but it may be inadequate thermally. Also, heat spreads in a circular fashion from the heat source. In this case the drain pin is the heat source when looking at heat spread on the PC board.

Figure 1 shows the footprint with copper spreading for the SOT-23 package. This pattern shows the starting point for utilizing the board area available for the heat spreading copper. To create this pattern, a plane of copper overlies the drain pin and provides planar copper to draw heat from the drain lead and start the process of spreading the heat so it can be dissipated into the ambient air. This pattern uses all the available area underneath the body for this purpose.

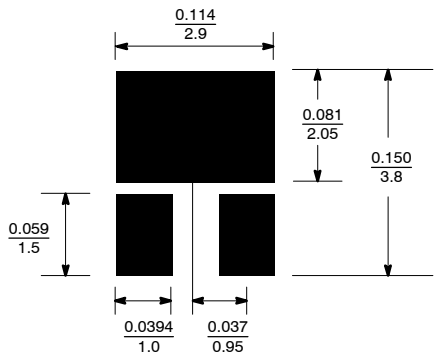
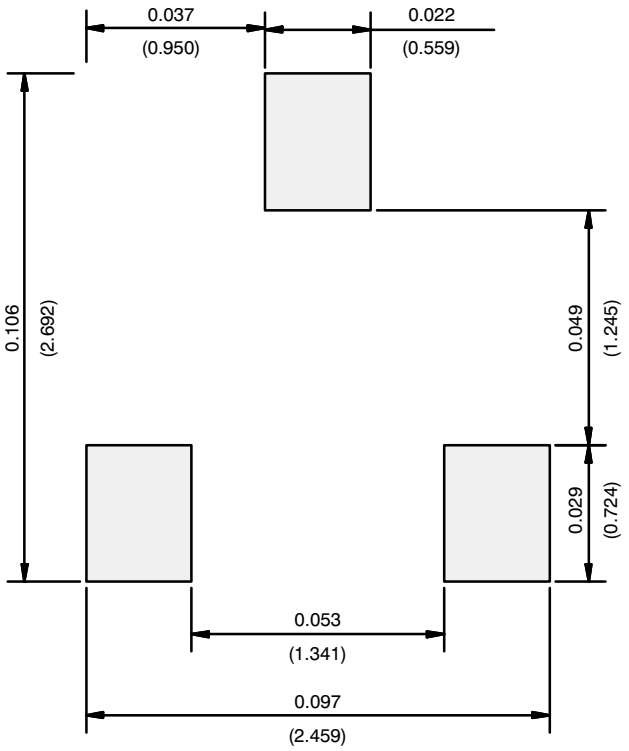


FIGURE 1. Footprint With Copper Spreading

Since surface-mounted packages are small, and reflow soldering is the most common way in which these are affixed to the PC board, “thermal” connections from the planar copper to the pads have not been used. Even if additional planar copper area is used, there should be no problems in the soldering process. The actual solder connections are defined by the solder mask openings. By combining the basic footprint with the copper plane on the drain pins, the solder mask generation occurs automatically.

A final item to keep in mind is the width of the power traces. The absolute minimum power trace width must be determined by the amount of current it has to carry. For thermal reasons, this minimum width should be at least 0.020 inches. The use of wide traces connected to the drain plane provides a low-impedance path for heat to move away from the device.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM PADS FOR SOT-23



Recommended Minimum Pads
Dimensions in Inches/(mm)

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