

Micropower Voltage Regulator

Check for Samples: [SM72238](#)

FEATURES

- Renewable Energy Grade
- High-Accuracy Output Voltage
- Ensured 100mA Output Current
- Extremely Low Quiescent Current
- Low Dropout Voltage
- Extremely Tight Load and Line Regulation
- Very Low Temperature Coefficient
- Use as Regulator or Reference
- Needs Minimum Capacitance for Stability
- Current and Thermal Limiting
- Stable With Low-ESR Output Capacitors (10mΩ to 6Ω)

DESCRIPTION

The SM72238 is a micropower voltage regulator with very low quiescent current (75μA typ.) and very low dropout voltage (typ. 40mV at light loads and 380mV at 100mA). It is ideally suited for use in battery-powered systems. Furthermore, the quiescent current of the SM72238 increases only slightly in dropout, prolonging battery life.

The SM72238 is available in the surface-mount D-Pak package.

Careful design of the SM72238 has minimized all contributions to the error budget. This includes a tight initial tolerance (.5% typ.), extremely good load and line regulation (.05% typ.) and a very low output voltage temperature coefficient, making the part useful as a low-power voltage reference.

Block Diagram and Typical Applications

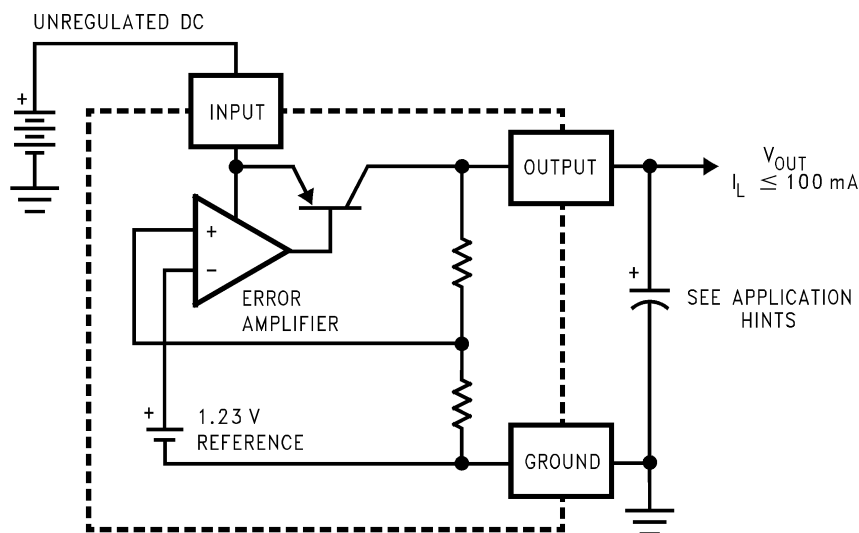


Figure 1. SM72238



Please be aware that an important notice concerning availability, standard warranty, and use in critical applications of Texas Instruments semiconductor products and disclaimers thereto appears at the end of this data sheet.

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Connection Diagrams

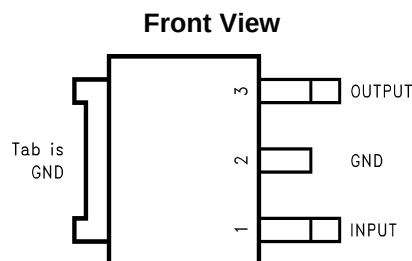


Figure 2. PFM Package
See Package Number NDP0003B



These devices have limited built-in ESD protection. The leads should be shorted together or the device placed in conductive foam during storage or handling to prevent electrostatic damage to the MOS gates.

Absolute Maximum Ratings⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Input Supply Voltage		-0.3 to +30V
Power Dissipation		Internally Limited
Junction Temperature (T _J)		+150°C
Ambient Storage Temperature		-65° to +150°C
Soldering Dwell Time, Temperature	Wave	4 seconds, 260°C
	Infrared	10 seconds, 240°C
	Vapor Phase	75 seconds, 219°C
ESD Rating	Human Body Model ⁽³⁾	2500V

- (1) Absolute Maximum Ratings are limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Ratings are conditions under which operation of the device is ensured. Operating Ratings do not imply ensured performance limits. For ensured performance limits and associated test conditions, see the Electrical Characteristics tables.
- (2) If Military/Aerospace specified devices are required, please contact the TI Sales Office/ Distributors for availability and specifications.
- (3) Human Body Model 1.5kΩ in series with 100pF.

Operating Ratings⁽¹⁾

Maximum Input Supply Voltage	30V
Junction Temperature Range, (T _J) ⁽²⁾	-40° to +125°C

- (1) Absolute Maximum Ratings are limits beyond which damage to the device may occur. Operating Ratings are conditions under which operation of the device is ensured. Operating Ratings do not imply ensured performance limits. For ensured performance limits and associated test conditions, see the Electrical Characteristics tables.
- (2) Junction-to-case thermal resistance for the PFM package is 5.4°C/W.

Electrical Characteristics⁽¹⁾

Parameter	Conditions ⁽¹⁾	Typ	Tested Limit ⁽²⁾	Design Limit ⁽³⁾	Units
3V Versions					
Output Voltage	T _J = 25°C	3.0	3.030		V max
			2.970		V min
	−25°C ≤ T _J ≤ 85°C	3.0		3.045	V max
				2.955	V min
	Full Operating Temperature Range	3.0		3.060	V max
			2.940	V min	
Output Voltage	100μA ≤ I _L ≤ 100mA, T _J ≤ T _{JMAX}	3.0		3.072	V max
				2.928	V min
3.3V Versions					
Output Voltage	T _J = 25°C	3.3	3.333		V max
			3.267		V min
	−25°C ≤ T _J ≤ 85°C	3.3		3.350	V max
				3.251	V min
	Full Operating Temperature Range	3.3		3.366	V max
			3.234	V min	
Output Voltage	100μA ≤ I _L ≤ 100mA T _J ≤ T _{JMAX}	3.3		3.379	V max
				3.221	V min
5.0V Versions					
Output Voltage	T _J = 25°C	5.0	5.05		V max
			4.95		V min
	−25°C ≤ T _J ≤ 85°C	5.0		5.075	V max
				4.925	V min
	Full Operating Temperature Range	5.0		5.1	V max
			4.9	V min	
Output Voltage	100μA ≤ I _L ≤ 100mA T _J ≤ T _{JMAX}	5.0		5.12	V max
				4.88	V min
All Voltage Options					
Output Voltage Temperature Coefficient	See ⁽⁴⁾	50		150	ppm/°C
Line Regulation ⁽⁵⁾	(V _{ONOM} + 1)V ≤ V _{in} ≤ 30V ⁽⁶⁾	0.04	0.2		% max
				0.4	% max
Load Regulation ⁽⁵⁾	100μA ≤ I _L ≤ 100mA	0.1	0.2		% max
				0.3	% max
Dropout Voltage ⁽⁷⁾	I _L = 100μA	50	80		mV max
				150	mV max
	I _L = 100mA	380	450		mV max
				600	mV max

- (1) Unless otherwise specified all limits ensured for $V_{\text{IN}} = (V_{\text{ONOM}} + 1)\text{V}$, $I_L = 100\mu\text{A}$ and $C_L = 1\mu\text{F}$. Limits appearing in **boldface** type apply over the entire junction temperature range for operation. Limits appearing in normal type apply for $T_A = T_J = 25^\circ\text{C}$.
- (2) Ensured and 100% production tested.
- (3) Ensured but not 100% production tested. These limits are not used to calculate outgoing AQL levels.
- (4) Output or reference voltage temperature coefficient is defined as the worst case voltage change divided by the total temperature range.
- (5) Regulation is measured at constant junction temperature, using pulse testing with a low duty cycle. Changes in output voltage due to heating effects are covered under the specification for thermal regulation.
- (6) For $I_L = 100\mu\text{A}$ and $T_J = 125^\circ\text{C}$, line regulation is ensured by design to 0.2%. See Typical Performance Characteristics for line regulation versus temperature and load current.
- (7) Dropout Voltage is defined as the input to output differential at which the output voltage drops 100 mV below its nominal value measured at 1V differential. At very low values of programmed output voltage, the minimum input supply voltage of 2V (2.3V over temperature) must be taken into account.

Electrical Characteristics⁽¹⁾ (continued)

Parameter	Conditions ⁽¹⁾	Typ	Tested Limit ⁽²⁾	Design Limit ⁽³⁾	Units
Ground Current	$I_L = 100\mu\text{A}$	75	120		$\mu\text{A max}$
				140	$\mu\text{A max}$
	$I_L = 100\text{mA}$	8	12		mA max
				14	mA max
Dropout Ground Current	$V_{in} = (V_{ONOM} - 0.5)\text{V}$, $I_L = 100\mu\text{A}$	110	170		$\mu\text{A max}$
				200	$\mu\text{A max}$
Current Limit	$V_{out} = 0$	160	200		mA max
				220	mA max
Thermal Regulation	See ⁽⁸⁾	0.05	0.2		$\%/W$ max
Output Noise, 10 Hz to 100 kHz	$C_L = 1\mu\text{F}$ (5V Only)	430			$\mu\text{V rms}$
	$C_L = 200\mu\text{F}$	160			$\mu\text{V rms}$
	$C_L = 3.3\mu\text{F}$ (Bypass = $0.01\mu\text{F}$)	100			$\mu\text{V rms}$

(8) Thermal regulation is defined as the change in output voltage at a time T after a change in power dissipation is applied, excluding load or line regulation effects. Specifications are for a 50mA load pulse at $V_{IN} = 30\text{V}$ (1.25W pulse) for T = 10ms.

Typical Performance Characteristics

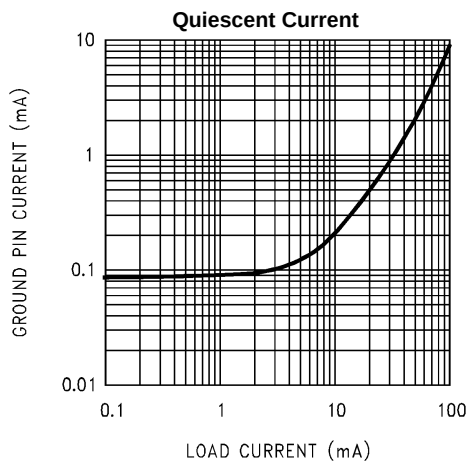


Figure 3.

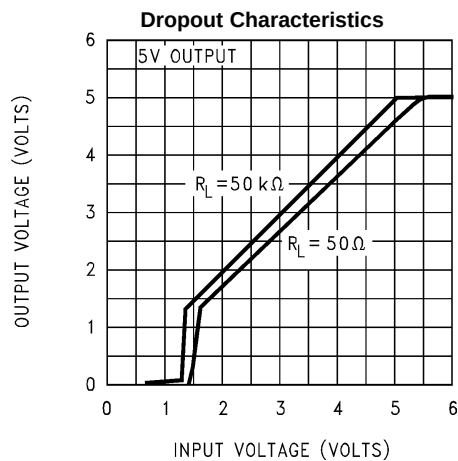


Figure 4.

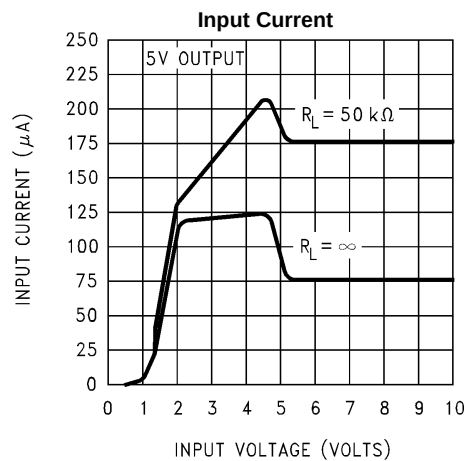


Figure 5.

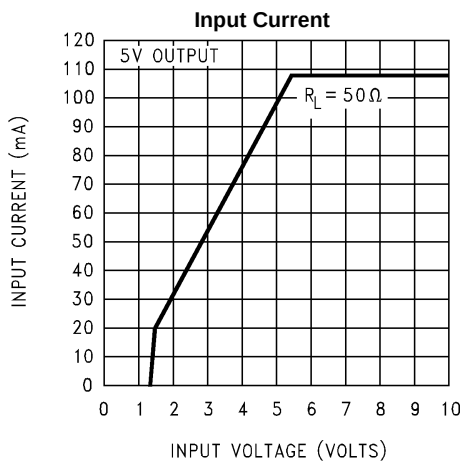


Figure 6.

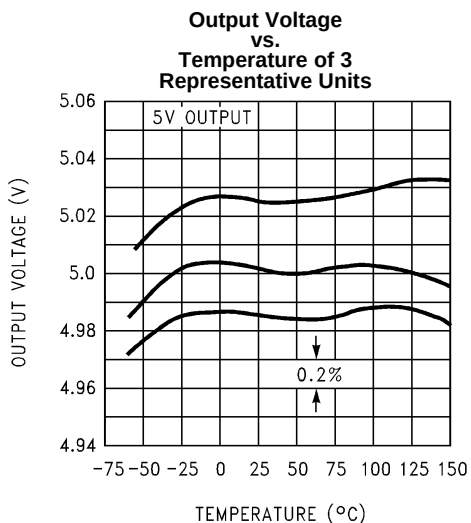


Figure 7.

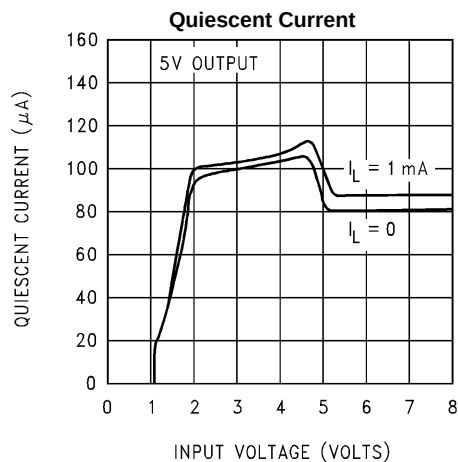


Figure 8.

Typical Performance Characteristics (continued)

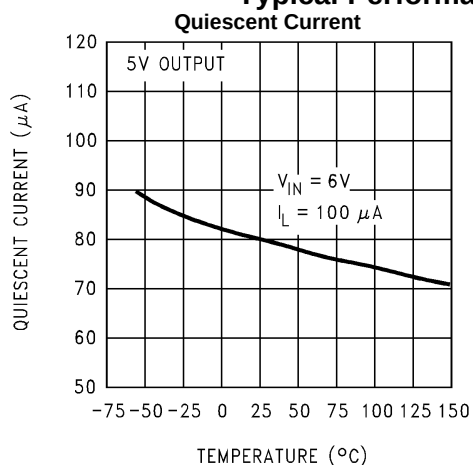


Figure 9.

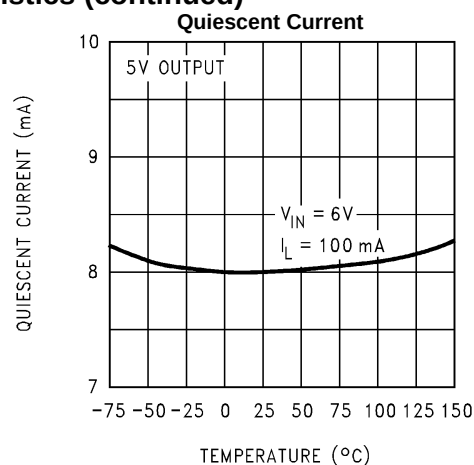


Figure 10.

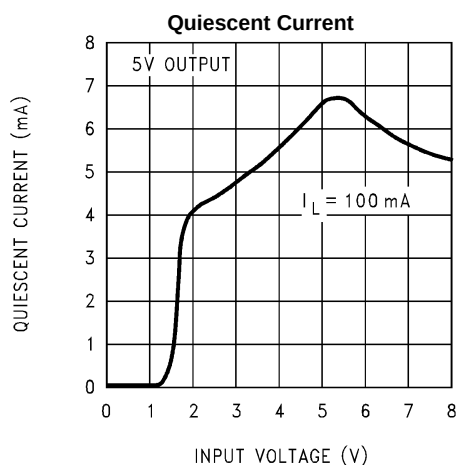


Figure 11.

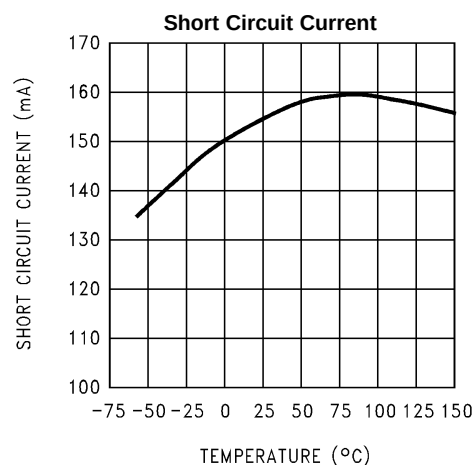


Figure 12.

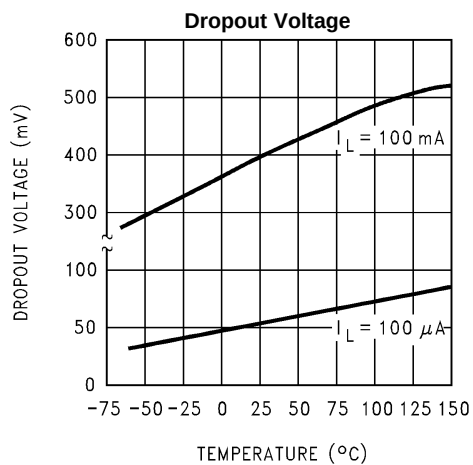


Figure 13.

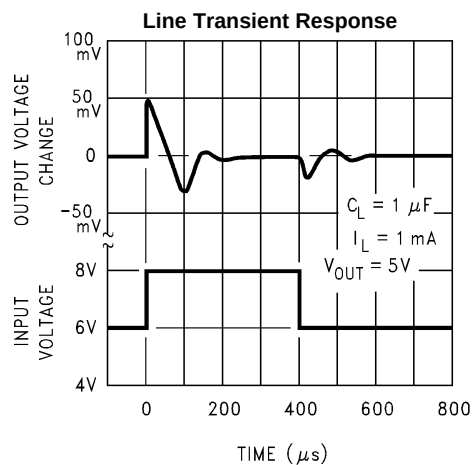


Figure 14.

Typical Performance Characteristics (continued)

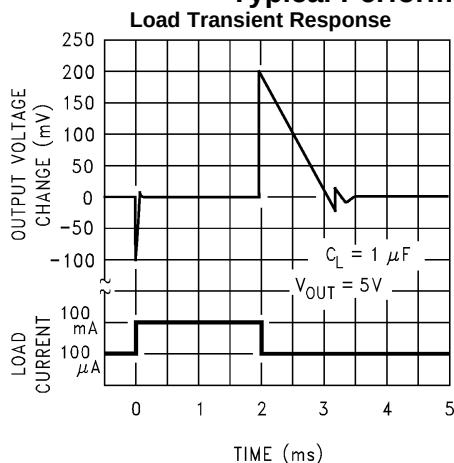


Figure 15.

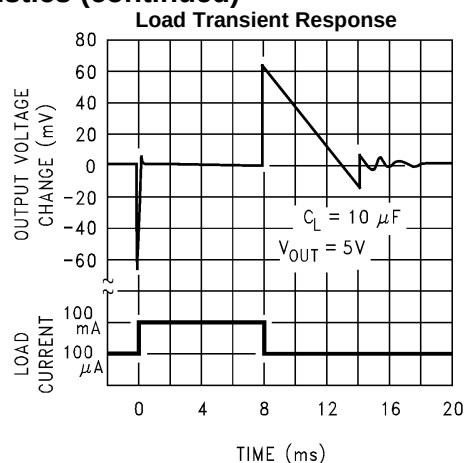


Figure 16.

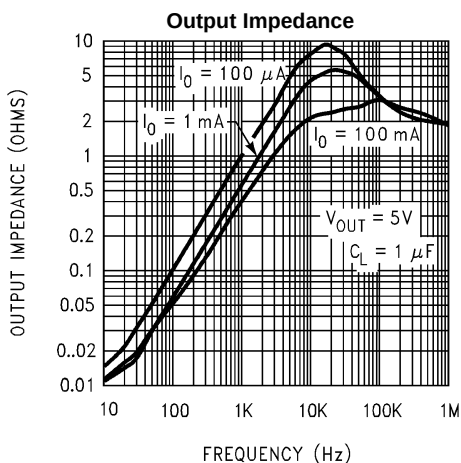


Figure 17.

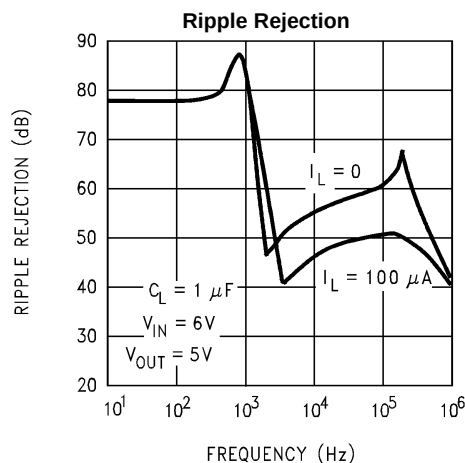


Figure 18.

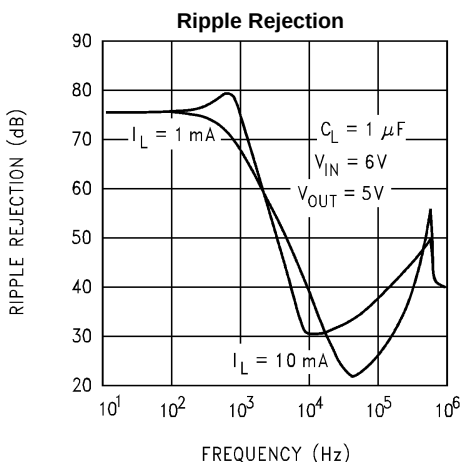


Figure 19.

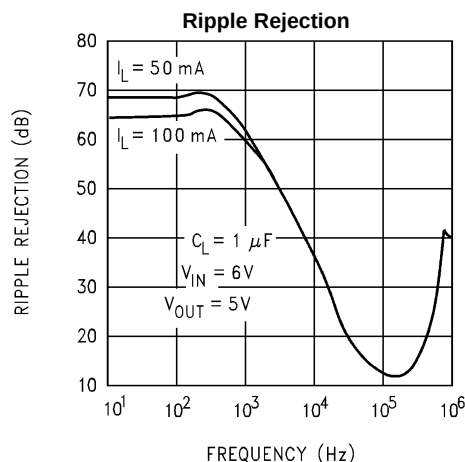


Figure 20.

Typical Performance Characteristics (continued)

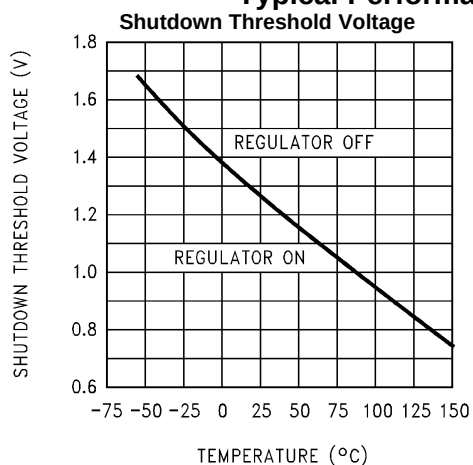


Figure 21.

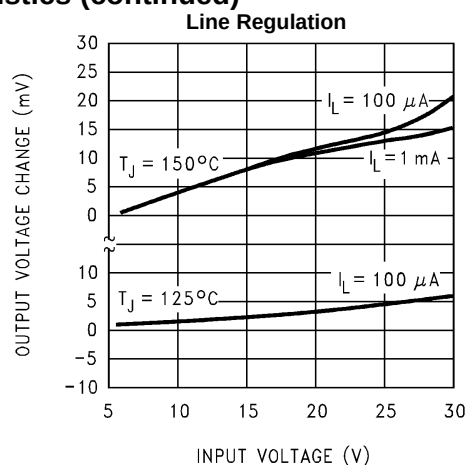


Figure 22.

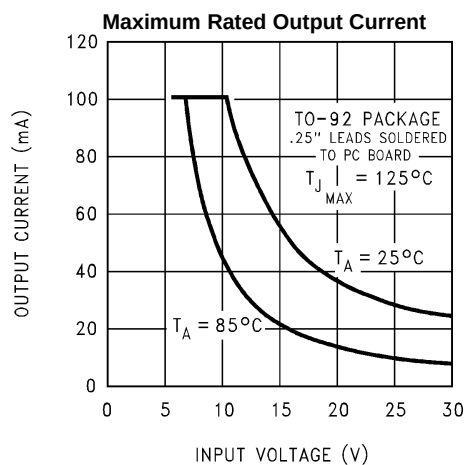


Figure 23.

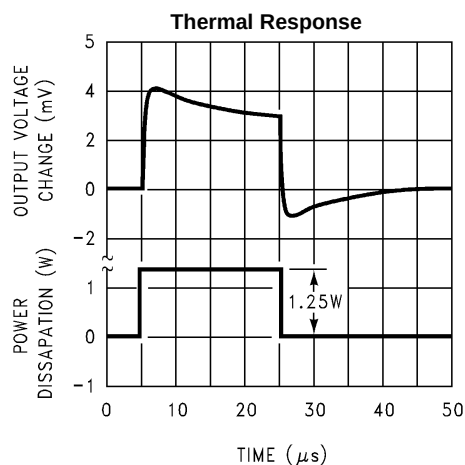


Figure 24.

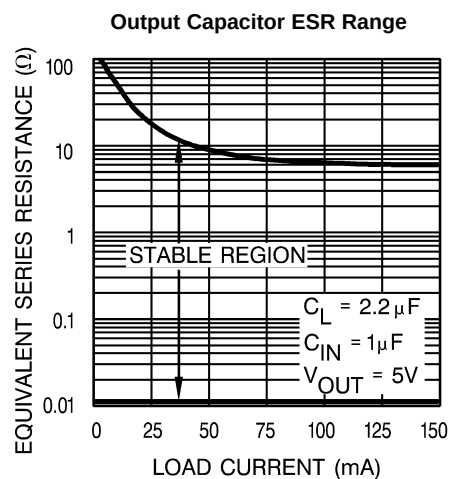


Figure 25.

APPLICATION HINTS

EXTERNAL CAPACITORS

A 1.0 μ F (or greater) capacitor is required between the output and ground for stability. Without this capacitor the part will oscillate. Most types of tantalum or aluminum electrolytics work fine here; even film types work but are not recommended for reasons of cost. Many aluminum electrolytics have electrolytes that freeze at about -30°C , so solid tantalums are recommended for operation below -25°C . The important parameters of the capacitor are an ESR of about 5 Ω or less and a resonant frequency above 500kHz. The value of this capacitor may be increased without limit.

Ceramic capacitors whose value is greater than 1000pF should not be connected directly from the SM72238 output to ground. Ceramic capacitors typically have ESR values in the range of 5 to 10m Ω , a value below the lower limit for stable operation (see [Figure 25](#)).

The reason for the lower ESR limit is that the loop compensation of the part relies on the ESR of the output capacitor to provide the zero that gives added phase lead. The ESR of ceramic capacitors is so low that this phase lead does not occur, significantly reducing phase margin. A ceramic output capacitor can be used if a series resistance is added (recommended value of resistance about 0.1 Ω to 2 Ω).

At lower values of output current, less output capacitance is required for stability. The capacitor can be reduced to 0.33 μ F for currents below 10mA or 0.1 μ F for currents below 1mA.

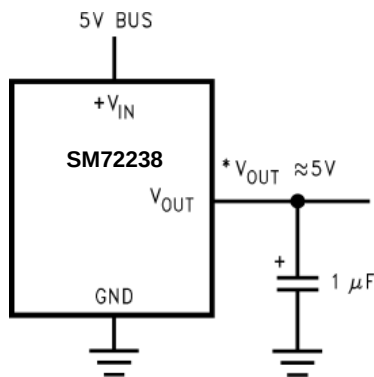
Unlike many other regulators, the SM72238 will remain stable and in regulation with no load in addition to the internal voltage divider. This is especially important in CMOS RAM keep-alive applications.

A 1 μ F tantalum, ceramic or aluminum electrolytic capacitor should be placed from the SM72238 input to ground if there is more than 10 inches of wire between the input and the AC filter capacitor or if a battery is used as the input.

REDUCING OUTPUT NOISE

In reference applications it may be advantageous to reduce the AC noise present at the output. One method is to reduce the regulator bandwidth by increasing the size of the output capacitor. This is the only way noise can be reduced but is relatively inefficient, as increasing the capacitor from 1 μ F to 220 μ F only decreases the noise from 430 μ V to 160 μ V rms for a 100kHz bandwidth at 5V output.

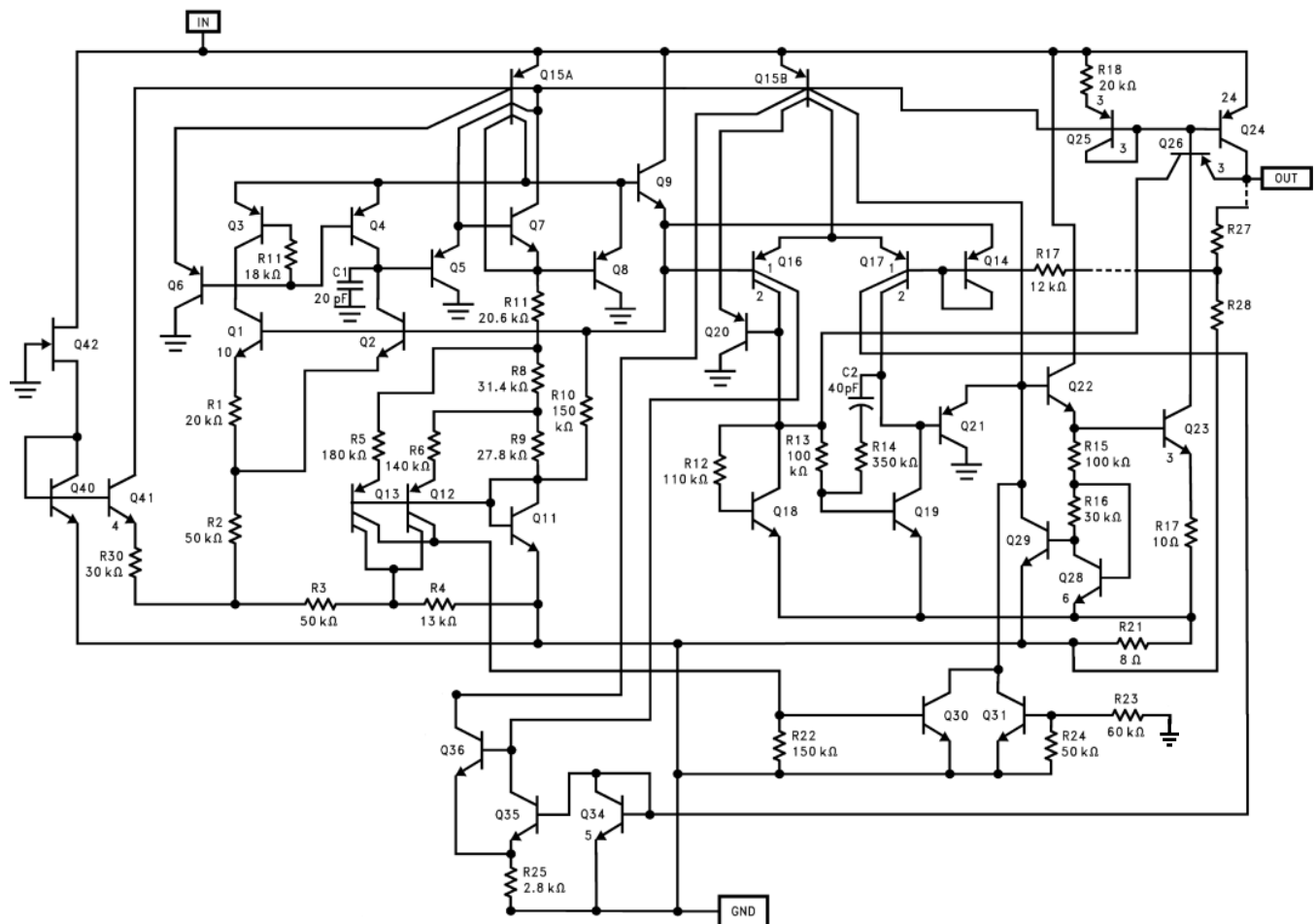
Typical Applications



*Minimum input-output voltage ranges from 40mV to 400mV, depending on load current. Current limit is typically 160mA.

Figure 26. 5 Volt Current Limiter

Schematic Diagram



REVISION HISTORY

Changes from Revision B (April 2013) to Revision C	Page
• Changed layout of National Data Sheet to TI format	10

PACKAGING INFORMATION

Orderable part number	Status (1)	Material type (2)	Package Pins	Package qty Carrier	RoHS (3)	Lead finish/ Ball material (4)	MSL rating/ Peak reflow (5)	Op temp (°C)	Part marking (6)
SM72238TD-3.3/NOPB	Active	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	75 TUBE	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238 -3.3
SM72238TD-3.3/NOPB.B	Active	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	75 TUBE	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238 -3.3
SM72238TD-5.0/NOPB	Active	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	75 TUBE	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238
SM72238TD-5.0/NOPB.B	Active	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	75 TUBE	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238
SM72238TDE-3.3/NOPB	NRND	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	250 SMALL T&R	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238 -3.3
SM72238TDE-5.0/NOPB	NRND	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	250 SMALL T&R	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238
SM72238TDX-3.3/NOPB	NRND	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	2500 LARGE T&R	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238 -3.3
SM72238TDX-5.0/NOPB	NRND	Production	TO-252 (NDP) 3	2500 LARGE T&R	Yes	SN	Level-2-260C-1 YEAR	-40 to 125	S72238

⁽¹⁾ **Status:** For more details on status, see our [product life cycle](#).

⁽²⁾ **Material type:** When designated, preproduction parts are prototypes/experimental devices, and are not yet approved or released for full production. Testing and final process, including without limitation quality assurance, reliability performance testing, and/or process qualification, may not yet be complete, and this item is subject to further changes or possible discontinuation. If available for ordering, purchases will be subject to an additional waiver at checkout, and are intended for early internal evaluation purposes only. These items are sold without warranties of any kind.

⁽³⁾ **RoHS values:** Yes, No, RoHS Exempt. See the [TI RoHS Statement](#) for additional information and value definition.

⁽⁴⁾ **Lead finish/Ball material:** Parts may have multiple material finish options. Finish options are separated by a vertical ruled line. Lead finish/Ball material values may wrap to two lines if the finish value exceeds the maximum column width.

⁽⁵⁾ **MSL rating/Peak reflow:** The moisture sensitivity level ratings and peak solder (reflow) temperatures. In the event that a part has multiple moisture sensitivity ratings, only the lowest level per JEDEC standards is shown. Refer to the shipping label for the actual reflow temperature that will be used to mount the part to the printed circuit board.

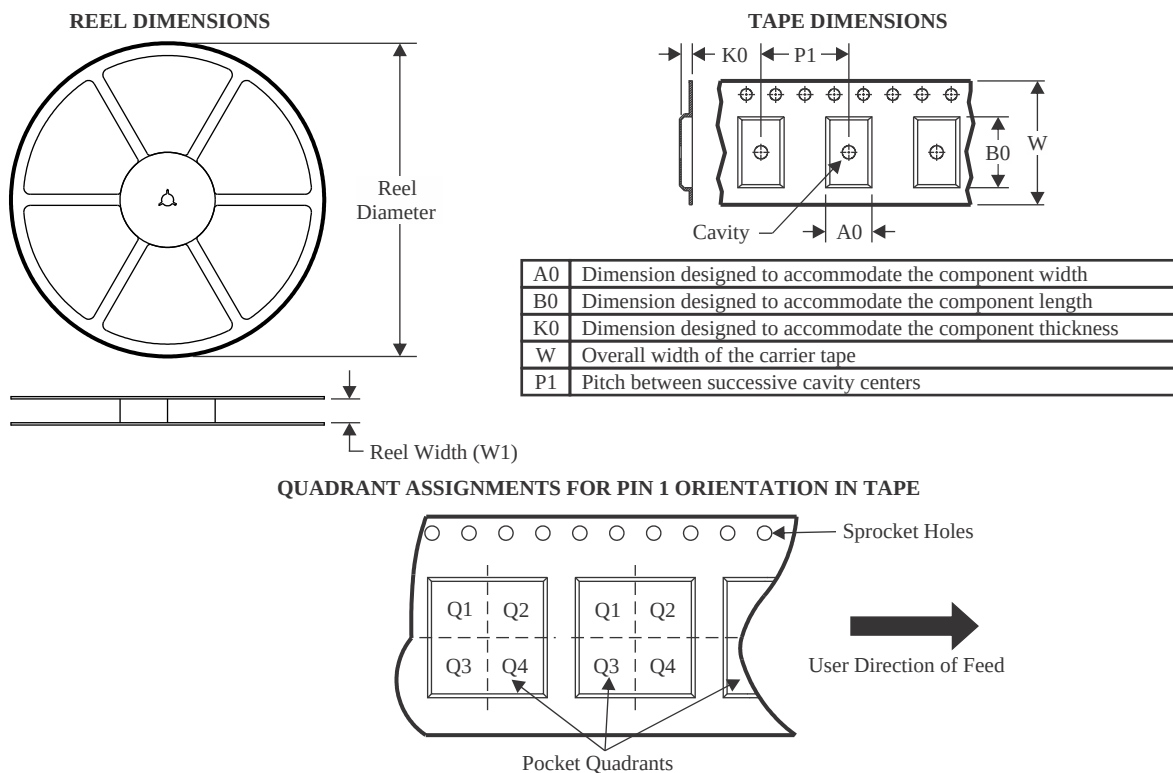
⁽⁶⁾ **Part marking:** There may be an additional marking, which relates to the logo, the lot trace code information, or the environmental category of the part.

Multiple part markings will be inside parentheses. Only one part marking contained in parentheses and separated by a "~" will appear on a part. If a line is indented then it is a continuation of the previous line and the two combined represent the entire part marking for that device.

Important Information and Disclaimer: The information provided on this page represents TI's knowledge and belief as of the date that it is provided. TI bases its knowledge and belief on information provided by third parties, and makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of such information. Efforts are underway to better integrate information from third parties. TI has taken and continues to take reasonable steps to provide representative and accurate information but may not have conducted destructive testing or chemical analysis on incoming materials and chemicals. TI and TI suppliers consider certain information to be proprietary, and thus CAS numbers and other limited information may not be available for release.

In no event shall TI's liability arising out of such information exceed the total purchase price of the TI part(s) at issue in this document sold by TI to Customer on an annual basis.

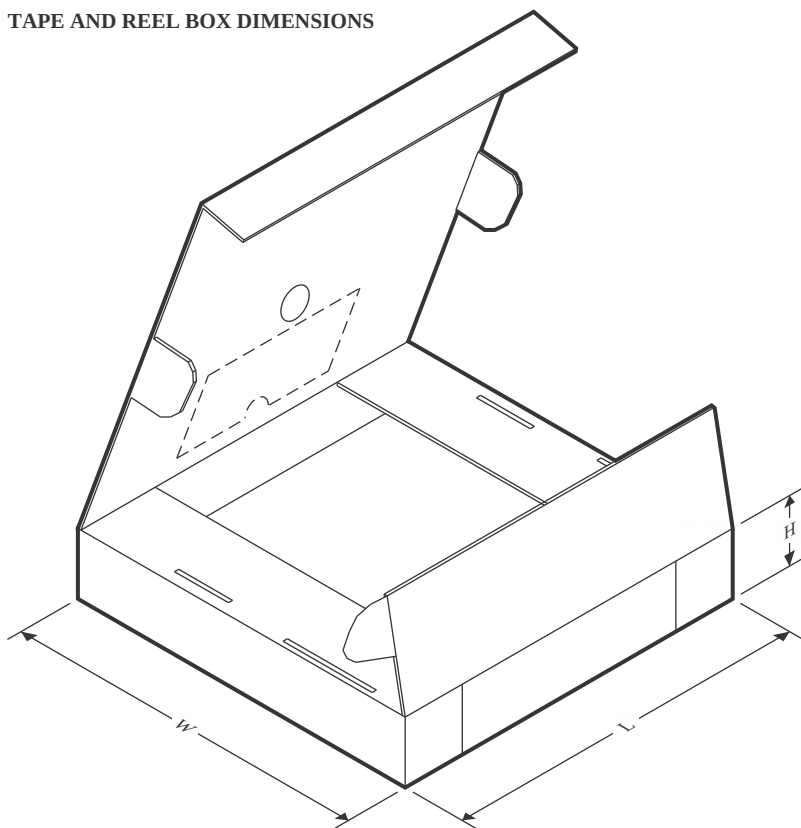
TAPE AND REEL INFORMATION



*All dimensions are nominal

Device	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	SPQ	Reel Diameter (mm)	Reel Width W1 (mm)	A0 (mm)	B0 (mm)	K0 (mm)	P1 (mm)	W (mm)	Pin1 Quadrant
SM72238TDE-3.3/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	250	178.0	16.4	6.9	10.5	2.7	8.0	16.0	Q2
SM72238TDE-5.0/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	250	178.0	16.4	6.9	10.5	2.7	8.0	16.0	Q2
SM72238TDX-3.3/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	2500	330.0	16.4	6.9	10.5	2.7	8.0	16.0	Q2
SM72238TDX-5.0/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	2500	330.0	16.4	6.9	10.5	2.7	8.0	16.0	Q2

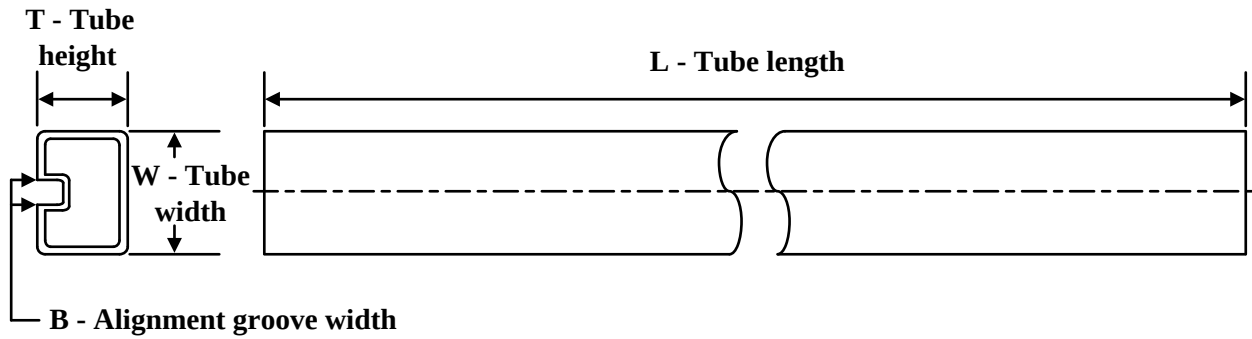
TAPE AND REEL BOX DIMENSIONS



*All dimensions are nominal

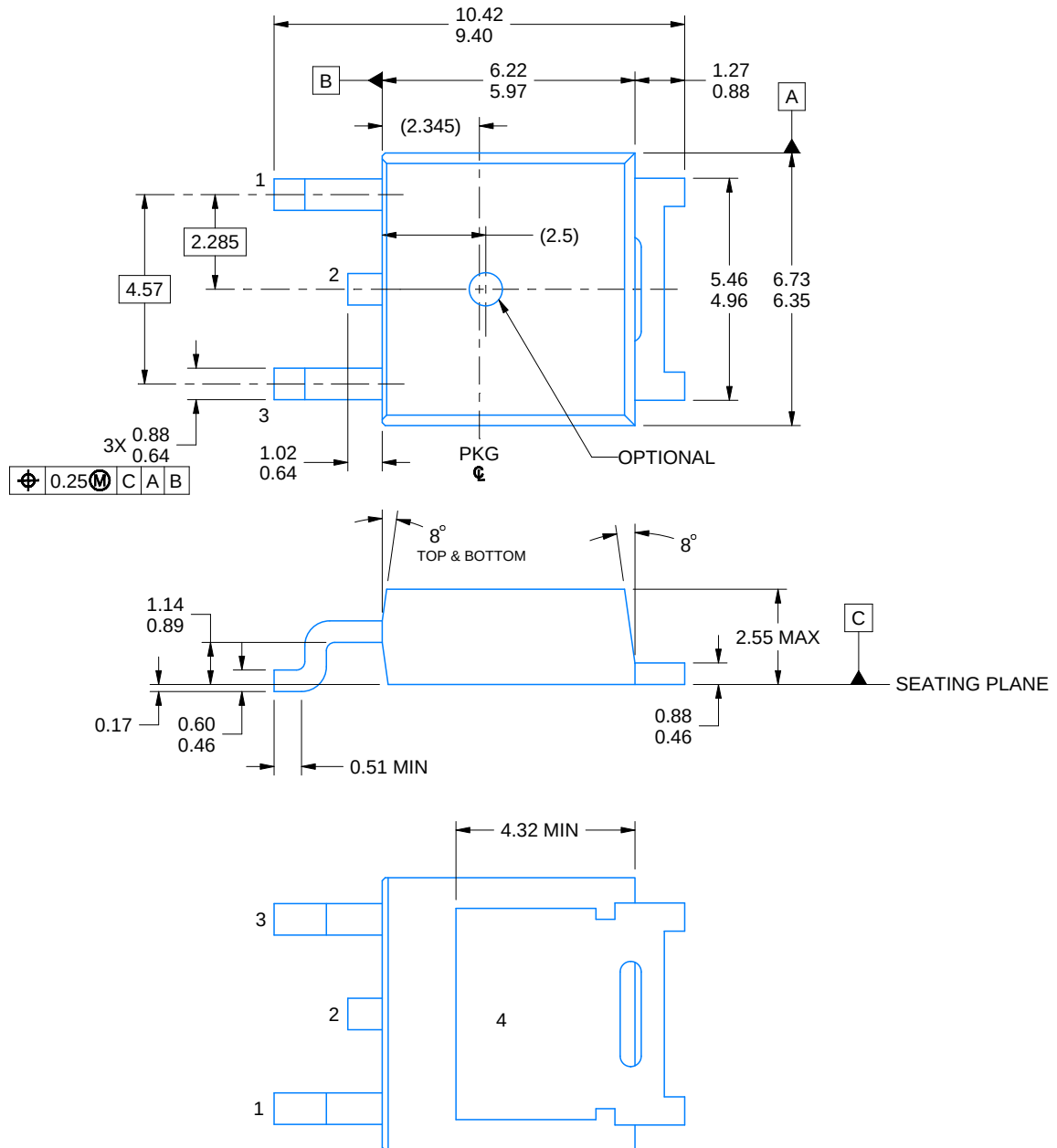
Device	Package Type	Package Drawing	Pins	SPQ	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
SM72238TDE-3.3/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	250	208.0	191.0	35.0
SM72238TDE-5.0/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	250	208.0	191.0	35.0
SM72238TDX-3.3/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	2500	356.0	356.0	36.0
SM72238TDX-5.0/NOPB	TO-252	NDP	3	2500	356.0	356.0	36.0

TUBE



*All dimensions are nominal

Device	Package Name	Package Type	Pins	SPQ	L (mm)	W (mm)	T (μm)	B (mm)
SM72238TD-3.3/NOPB	NDP	TO-252	3	75	508	20	4165.6	3.1
SM72238TD-3.3/NOPB.B	NDP	TO-252	3	75	508	20	4165.6	3.1
SM72238TD-5.0/NOPB	NDP	TO-252	3	75	508	20	4165.6	3.1
SM72238TD-5.0/NOPB.B	NDP	TO-252	3	75	508	20	4165.6	3.1



4219870/A 03/2018

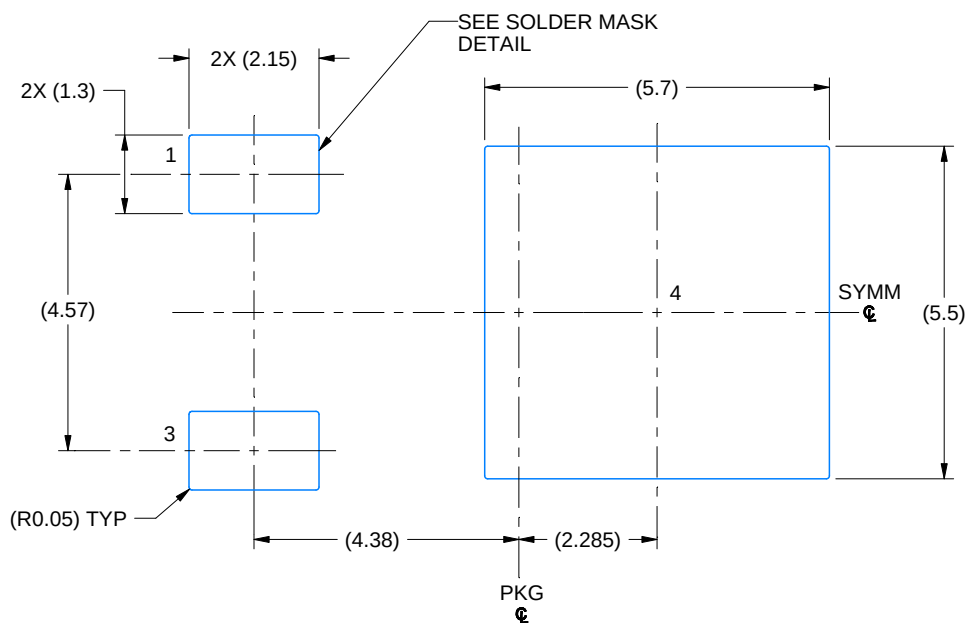
NOTES:

1. All linear dimensions are in millimeters. Any dimensions in parenthesis are for reference only. Dimensioning and tolerancing per ASME Y14.5M.
2. This drawing is subject to change without notice.
3. Reference JEDEC registration TO-252.

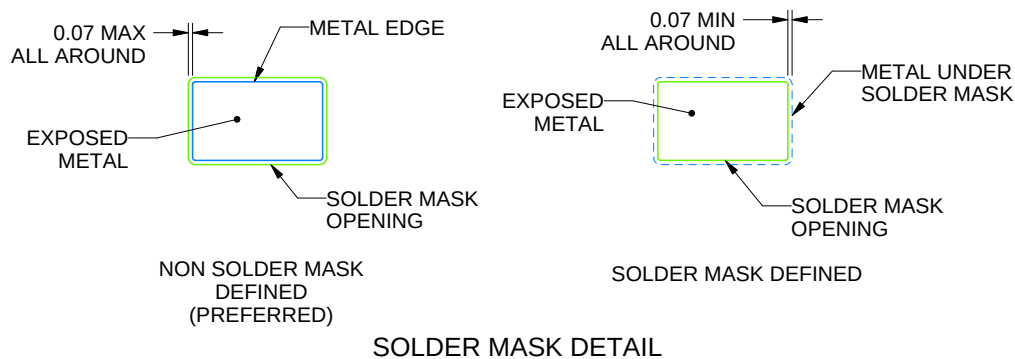
NDP0003B

TO-252 - 2.55 mm max height

TRANSISTOR OUTLINE



LAND PATTERN EXAMPLE
EXPOSED METAL SHOWN
SCALE: 8X



4219870/A 03/2018

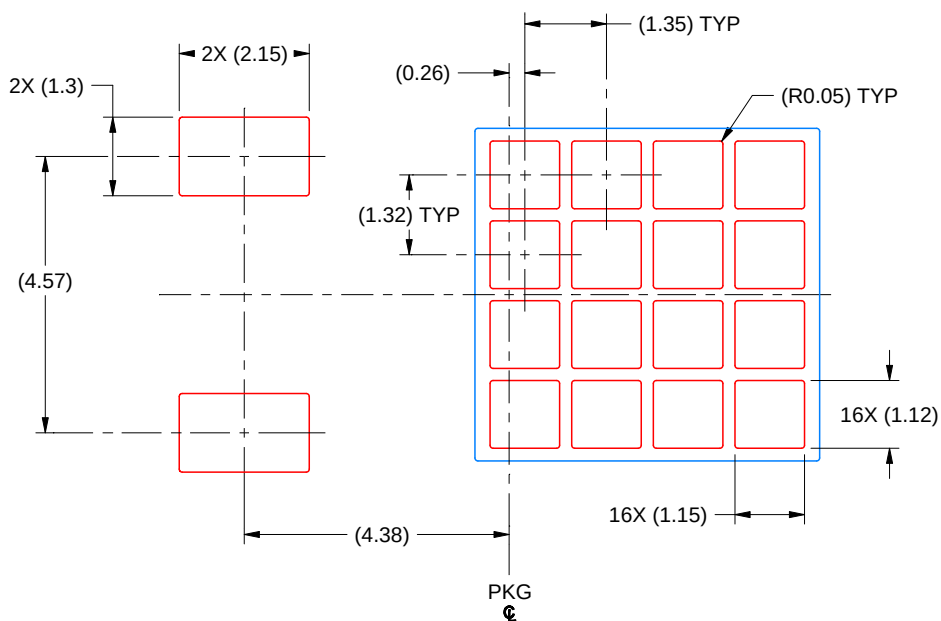
NOTES: (continued)

4. This package is designed to be soldered to a thermal pad on the board. For more information, see Texas Instruments literature numbers SLMA002(www.ti.com/lit/slm002) and SLMA004 (www.ti.com/lit/slma004).
5. Vias are optional depending on application, refer to device data sheet. It is recommended that vias under paste be filled, plugged or tented.

NDP0003B

TO-252 - 2.55 mm max height

TRANSISTOR OUTLINE



SOLDER PASTE EXAMPLE
BASED ON 0.125 MM THICK STENCIL
SCALE: 8X

4219870/A 03/2018

NOTES: (continued)

6. Laser cutting apertures with trapezoidal walls and rounded corners may offer better paste release. IPC-7525 may have alternate design recommendations.
7. Board assembly site may have different recommendations for stencil design.

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

TI PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND RELIABILITY DATA (INCLUDING DATASHEETS), DESIGN RESOURCES (INCLUDING REFERENCE DESIGNS), APPLICATION OR OTHER DESIGN ADVICE, WEB TOOLS, SAFETY INFORMATION, AND OTHER RESOURCES "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS, AND DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

These resources are intended for skilled developers designing with TI products. You are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate TI products for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and any other safety, security, regulatory or other requirements.

These resources are subject to change without notice. TI grants you permission to use these resources only for development of an application that uses the TI products described in the resource. Other reproduction and display of these resources is prohibited. No license is granted to any other TI intellectual property right or to any third party intellectual property right. TI disclaims responsibility for, and you fully indemnify TI and its representatives against any claims, damages, costs, losses, and liabilities arising out of your use of these resources.

TI's products are provided subject to [TI's Terms of Sale](#), [TI's General Quality Guidelines](#), or other applicable terms available either on [ti.com](#) or provided in conjunction with such TI products. TI's provision of these resources does not expand or otherwise alter TI's applicable warranties or warranty disclaimers for TI products. Unless TI explicitly designates a product as custom or customer-specified, TI products are standard, catalog, general purpose devices.

TI objects to and rejects any additional or different terms you may propose.

Copyright © 2025, Texas Instruments Incorporated

Last updated 10/2025