

(0.2" Circle)

Active Area: 0.2" [5.0] diameter

Nominal Thickness: 0.012" [0.30 mm]

Material Build:

Semiconductive layer

0.004" [0.10] PES

Spacer adhesive

0.002" [0.05] Acrylic

Conductive layer

0.004" [0.10] PES

Rear adhesive

0.002" [0.05] Acrylic

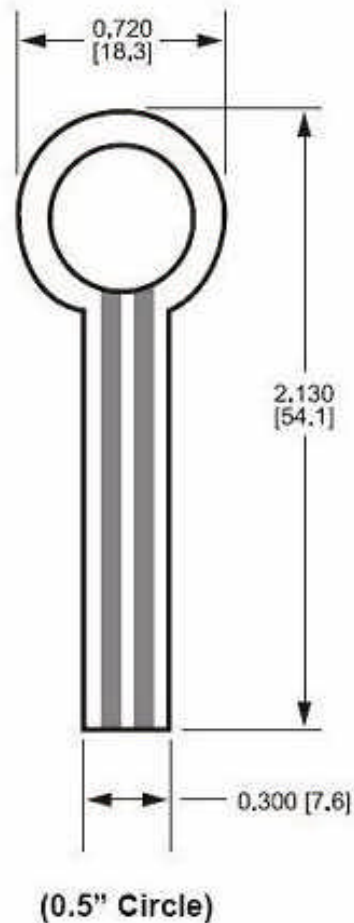
Connector options

- No connector
- Solder Tabs (not shown)
- AMP Female connector

Dimensions in brackets: millimeters

Dimensional Tolerance: $\pm 0.015"$ [0.4]

Thickness Tolerance: $\pm 10\%$



Active Area: 0.5" [12.7] diameter

Nominal thickness: 0.018" [0.46 mm]

Material Build:

Semiconductive Layer

0.005" [0.13] Ultem

Spacer Adhesive

0.006" [0.15] Acrylic

Conductive Layer

0.005" [0.13] Ultem

Rear Adhesive

0.002" [0.05] Acrylic

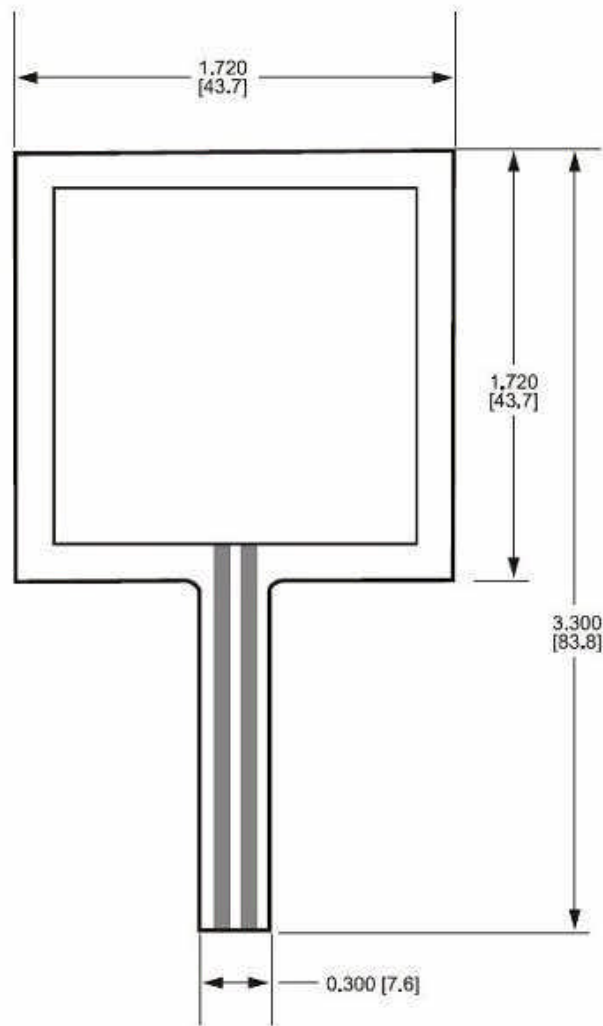
Connector

- a. No connector
- b. Solder Tabs (not shown)
- c. AMP Female connector

Dimensions in brackets: millimeters

Dimensional Tolerance: $\pm 0.015"$ [0.4]

Thickness Tolerance: $\pm 10\%$



(1.5" Square)

Active Area: 1.5" [38.1] x 1.5" [38.1]

Nominal thickness: 0.018" [0.46 mm]

Material Build:

Semiconductive Layer

0.005" [0.13] Ultem

Spacer Adhesive

0.006" [0.15] Acrylic

Conductive Layer

0.005" [0.13] Ultem

Rear Adhesive

0.002" [0.05] Acrylic

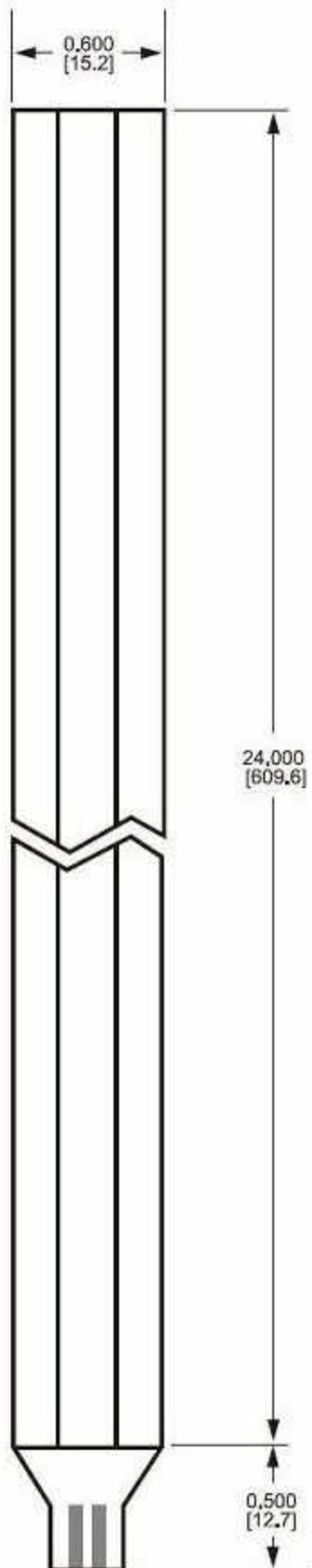
Connectors

- No connector
- Solder Tabs (not shown)
- AMP Female connector

Dimensions in brackets: millimeters

Dimensional Tolerance: ± 0.015 " [0.4]

Thickness Tolerance: $\pm 10\%$



Active Area: 24" [609.6] x 0.25" [6.3]

Nominal thickness: 0.135" [0.34 mm]

Material Build:

Semiconductive Layer

0.004" [0.10] PES

Spacer Adhesive

0.0035" [0.089] Acrylic

Conductive Layer

0.004" [0.10] PES

Rear Adhesive

0.002" [0.05] Acrylic

Connectors

- a. No connector
- b. Solder Tabs (not shown)
- c. AMP Female connector

Dimensions in brackets: millimeters

Dimensional Tolerance: $\pm 0.015"$ [0.4]

Thickness Tolerance: $\pm 10\%$

(24" Trimmable Strip)

Force Sensing Resistors

An Overview of the Technology

Force Sensing Resistors (FSR) are a polymer thick film (PTF) device which exhibits a decrease in resistance with an increase in the force applied to the active surface. Its force sensitivity is optimized for use in human touch control of electronic devices. FSRs are not a load cell or strain gauge, though they have similar properties. FSRs are not suitable for precision measurements.

Force vs. Resistance

The force vs. resistance characteristic shown in Figure 2 provides an overview of FSR typical response behavior. For interpretational convenience, the force vs. resistance data is plotted on a log/log format. These data are representative of our typical devices, with this particular force-resistance characteristic being the response of evaluation part # 402 (0.5" [12.7 mm] diameter circular active area). A stainless steel actuator with a 0.4" [10.0 mm] diameter hemispherical tip of 60 durometer polyurethane rubber was used to actuate the FSR device. In general, FSR response approximately follows an inverse power-law characteristic (roughly $1/R$).

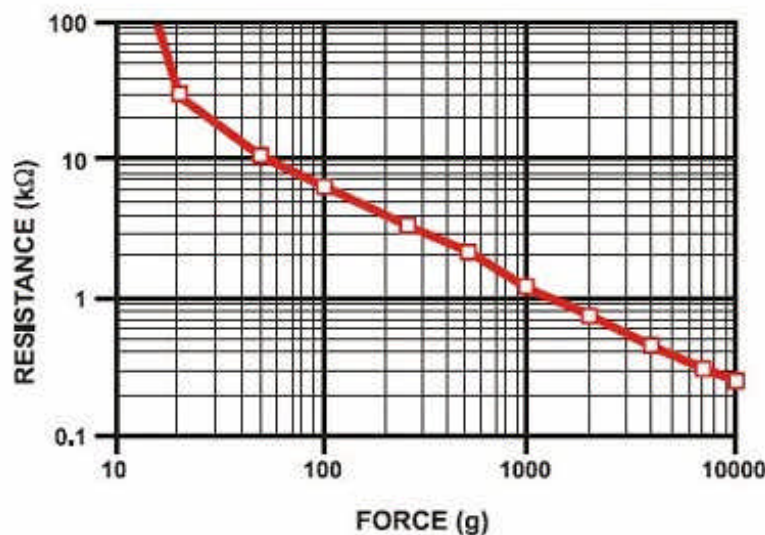


Figure 2: Resistance vs. Force

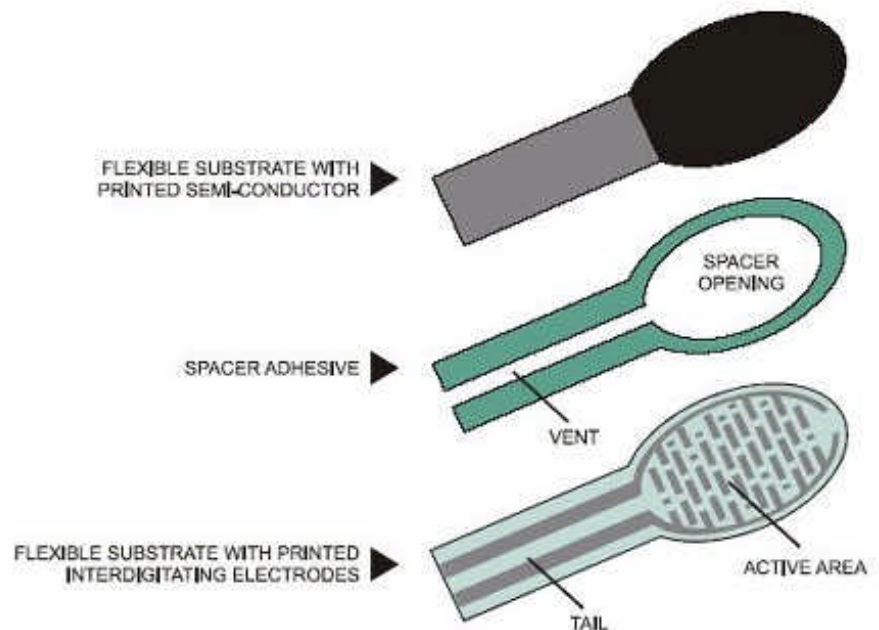


Figure 1: FSR Construction

Referring to Figure 2, at the low force end of the force-resistance characteristic, a switch-like response is evident. This turn-on threshold, or 'break force', that swings the resistance from greater than 100 kΩ to about 10 kΩ (the beginning of the dynamic range that follows a power-law) is determined by the substrate and overlay thickness and flexibility, size and shape of the actuator, and spacer-adhesive thickness (the gap between the facing conductive elements). Break force increases with increasing substrate and overlay rigidity, actuator size, and spacer-adhesive thickness. Eliminating the adhesive, or keeping it well away from the area where the force is being applied, such as the center of a large FSR device, will give it a lower rest resistance (e.g. stand-off resistance).

At the high force end of the dynamic range, the response deviates from the power-law behavior, and eventually saturates to a point where increases in force yield little or no decrease in resistance. Under these conditions of Figure 2, this saturation force is beyond 10 kg. The saturation point is more a function of pressure than force. The saturation pressure of a typical FSR is on the order of 100 to 200 psi. For the data shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4, the actual measured pressure range is 0 to 175 psi (0 to 22 lbs applied over 0.125 in²). Forces higher than the saturation force can be measured by spreading the force over a greater area; the overall pressure is then kept below the saturation point, and dynamic response is maintained. However, the converse of this effect is also true, smaller actuators will saturate FSRs earlier in the dynamic range, since the saturation point is reached at a lower force.

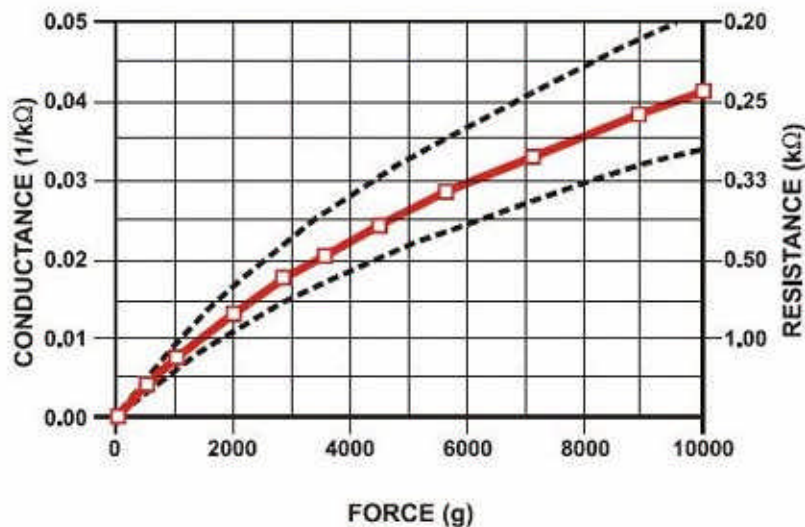


Figure 3:
Conductance vs. Force (0-10Kg)

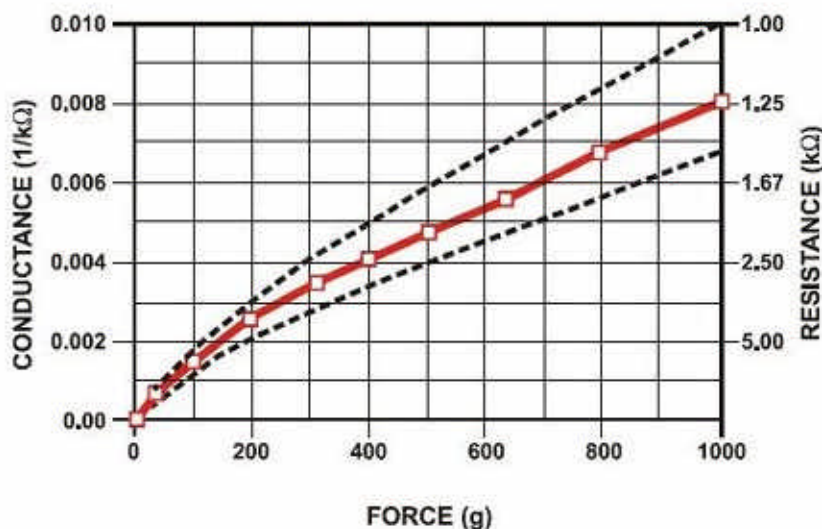


Figure 4:
Conductance vs. Force (0-1Kg) Low Force Range

Force vs. Conductance

In Figure 3, the conductance is plotted vs. force (the inverse of resistance: $1/r$). This format allows interpretation on a linear scale. For reference, the corresponding resistance values are also included on the right vertical axis. A simple circuit called a current-to-voltage converter (see page 21) gives a voltage output directly proportional to FSR conductance and can be useful where response linearity is desired. Figure 3 also includes a typical part-to-part repeatability envelope. This error band determines the maximum accuracy of any general force measurement. The spread or width of the band is

strongly dependent on the repeatability of any actuating and measuring system, as well as the repeatability tolerance held by Interlink Electronics during FSR production. Typically, the part-to-part repeatability tolerance held during manufacturing ranges from $\pm 15\%$ to $\pm 25\%$ of an established nominal resistance.

Figure 4 highlights the 0-1 kg (0-2.2 lbs) range of the conductance-force characteristic. As in Figure 3, the corresponding resistance values are included for reference. This range is common to human interface applications. Since the conductance response in this range is fairly linear, the force resolution will be uniform and data interpretation simplified. The typical part-to-part error band is also shown for this touch range. In most human touch control applications this error is insignificant, since human touch is fairly inaccurate. Human factors studies have shown that in this force range repeatability errors of less than $\pm 50\%$ are difficult to discern by touch alone.

Simple FSR Devices and Arrays

PARAMETER	VALUE	NOTES
Size Range	Max = 20" x 24" (51 x 61 cm) Min = 0.2" x 0.2" (0.5 x 0.5 cm)	Any shape
Device thickness	0.008" to 0.050" (0.20 to 1.25 mm)	Dependent on materials
Force Sensitivity Range	< 100 g to > 10 kg	Dependent on mechanics
Pressure Sensitivity Range	< 1.5 psi to > 150 psi (< 0.1 kg/cm ² to > 10 kg/cm ²)	Dependent on mechanics
Part-to-Part Force Repeatability	± 15% to ± 25% of established nominal resistance	With a repeatable actuation system
Single Part Force Repeatability	± 2% to ± 5% of established nominal resistance	With a repeatable actuation system
Force Resolution	Better than 0.5% full scale	
Break Force (Turn-on Force)	20 g to 100 g (0.7 oz to 3.5 oz)	Dependent on mechanics and FSR build
Stand-Off Resistance	> 1MΩ	Unloaded, unbent
Switch Characteristic	Essentially zero travel	
Device Rise Time	1-2 msec (mechanical)	
Lifetime	> 10 million actuations	
Temperature Range	-30°C to +70°C	Dependent on materials
Maximum Current	1 mA/cm ² of applied force	
Sensitivity to Noise/Vibration	Not significantly affected	
EMI / ESD	Passive device	
Lead Attachment	Standard flex circuit techniques	