Not recommended for new designs.
Please use MCRF355 or MCRF450.

MCRF250

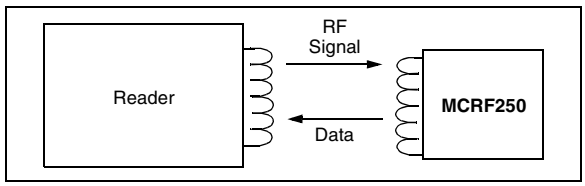
125 kHz microID® Passive RFID Device with Anti-Collision

Features

- Factory programming and memory serialization (SQTP^{SM})
- Anti-collision feature to read multiple tags in the same RF field.
- One-time contactless programmable (developer kit only)
- Read-only data transmission after programming
- 96 or 128 bits of One-Time Programmable (OTP) user memory (also supports 48- and 64-bit protocols)
- Typical operation frequency: 100 kHz — 400 kHz
- Ultra low-power operation (5 µA @ V_{CC} = 2V)
- Modulation options:
  - ASK, FSK, PSK
- Data encoding options:
  - NRZ Direct, Differential Biphase, Manchester Biphase
- Die, wafer, or SOIC package options
- Factory programming options

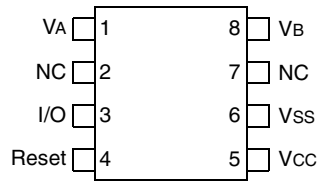
Applications

- Access control and time attendance
- Security systems
- Animal tagging
- Product identification
- Industrial tagging
- Inventory control
- Multiple item tagging



Package Type

PDIP/SOIC



Note: Pins 3, 4, 5 and 6 are for device test purposes only. Pins 1 and 8 are for antenna connection.

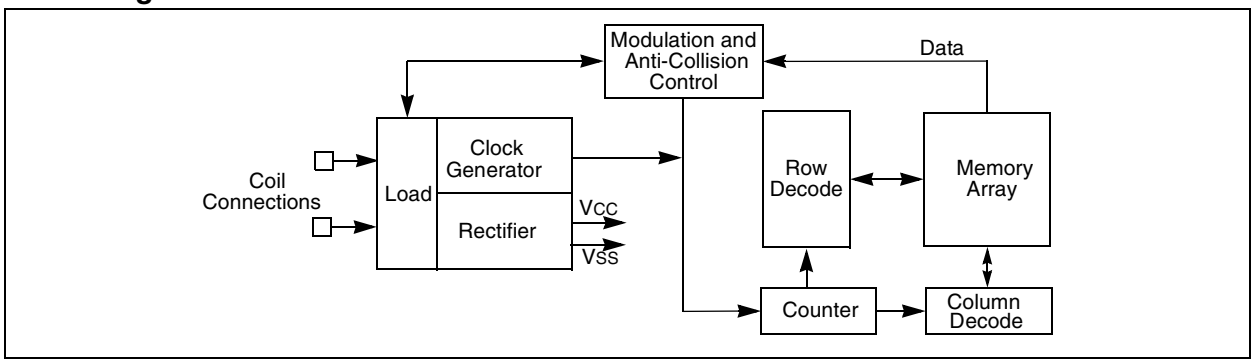
Description

The MCRF250 is equipped with an anti-collision feature that allows multiple tags in the same field to be read simultaneously. This revolutionary feature eliminates the issue of data corruption due to simultaneous transmissions from multiple tags.

The MCRF250 is a passive Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) device for low-frequency applications (100 kHz — 400 kHz). The device is powered by rectifying an incoming RF signal from a reader interrogator. The device requires an external LC resonant circuit to receive the incoming energizing signal and to send data. The device develops a sufficient DC voltage for operation when it's external coil voltage reaches approximately 10 V_{PP}.

This device has a total of 128 bits of user programmable memory and an additional 12 bits in its configuration register. In production volume, the MCRF250 is programmed at the factory (Microchip SQTP - see Technical Bulletin TB023).The device is a One-Time Programmable (OTP) integrated circuit and operates as a read-only device after programming.

Block Diagram



The configuration register includes options for communication protocol (ASK, FSK, PSK), data encoding method, data rate and data length.These options are specified by the customer and are factory programmed during production.

The device has a modulation transistor between the two antenna connections (V_A and V_B). The modulation transistor damps or undamps the coil voltage when it sends data. The variation of coil voltage controlled by the modulation transistor results in a perturbation of voltage in reader antenna coil. By monitoring the changes in reader coil voltage, the data transmitted from the device can be reconstructed.

The device is available in die, wafer, PDIP or SOIC packages. Factory programming and memory serialization (SQTP^{SM}) are also available upon request for large orders of 500,000 units or more. See TB023 for more information on contact programming support.

1.0 ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Absolute Maximum Ratings(†)

Storage temperature ..... - 65°C to +150°C

Ambient temperature with power applied..... -40°C to +125°C

Maximum current into coil pads ..... 50 mA

† **NOTICE**: Stresses above those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. This is a stress rating only and functional operation of the device at those or any other conditions above those indicated in the operation listings of this specification is not implied. Exposure to maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

TABLE 1-1: AC AND DC CHARACTERISTICS

All parameters apply across the specified operating ranges unless otherwise noted.	Industrial (I): T_A = -40°C to +85°C					
Parameter	**Sym**	**Min**	**Typ**	**Max**	**Units**	**Conditions**
Clock frequency	F_{CLK}	100	—	400	kHz	
Contactless programming time	T_{WC}	—	2	—	sec	For all 128-bit array
Data retention		200	—	—	Years	at 25°C
Coil current (Dynamic)	I_{CD}	—	50		µA	
Operating current	I_{DD}	—	5		µA	V_{CC} = 2V
Turn-on-voltage (Dynamic) for modulation	V_AV_B V_{CC}	10 2	— —	— —	V_{PP} V_{DC}	
Input Capacitance	C_{IN}	—	2	—	pF	Between V_A and V_B

2.0 FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

The device contains three major building blocks. They are RF front-end, configuration and control logic, and memory sections. The block diagram is shown on page 1.

2.1 RF Front-End

The RF front-end of the device includes circuits for rectification of the carrier, V_{DD} (operating voltage), and high-voltage clamping to prevent excessive voltage from being applied to the device. This section also generates a system clock from the incoming carrier signal and modulates the carrier signal to transmit data to the reader.

2.1.1 RECTIFIER – AC CLAMP

The rectifier circuit rectifies RF voltage on the external LC antenna circuit. Any excessive voltage on the tuned circuit is clamped by the internal circuitry to a safe level to prevent damage to the IC.

2.1.2 POWER-ON RESET

This circuit generates a Power-on Reset when the tag first enters the reader field. The Reset releases when sufficient power has developed on the V_{DD} regulator to allow correct operation.

2.1.3 CLOCK GENERATOR

This circuit generates a clock based on the carrier frequency from the reader. This clock is used to derive all timing in the device, including the baud rate and modulation rate.

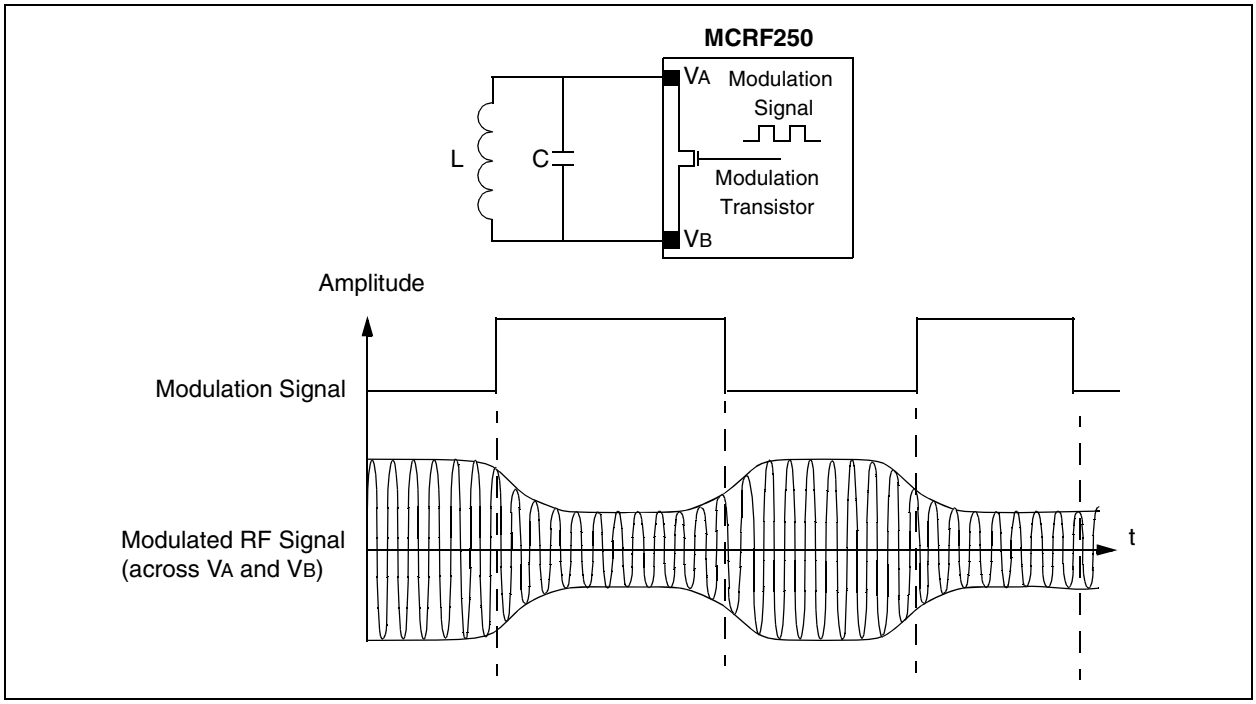
2.1.4 IRQ DETECTOR

This circuitry detects an interrupt in the continuous electromagnetic field of the interrogator. An IRQ (interrupt request) is defined as the absence of the electromagnetic field for a specific number of clock cycles. Detection of an IRQ will trigger the device to enter the Anti-Collision mode. This mode is discussed in detail in **Section 5.0 "Anti-Collision"**.

2.1.5 MODULATION CIRCUIT

The device sends the encoded data to the reader by AM-modulating the coil voltage across the tuned LC circuit. A modulation transistor is placed between the two antenna coil pads (V_A and V_B). The transistor turns on and off based on the modulation signal. As a result, the amplitude of the antenna coil voltage varies with the modulation signal. See Figure 2-1 for details.

FIGURE 2-1: MODULATION SIGNAL AND MODULATED SIGNAL



2.2 Configuration Register and Control Logic

The configuration register determines the operational parameters of the device. The configuration register can not be programmed contactlessly; it is programmed during wafer probe at the Microchip factory. CB11 is always a one; CB12 is set when successful contact or contactless programming of the data array has been completed. Once CB12 is set, device programming and erasing is disabled. Table 2-1 contains a description of the bit functions of the control register.

2.2.1 BAUD RATE TIMING OPTION

The chip will access data at a baud rate determined by bits CB2, CB3, and CB4 of the configuration register. For example, MOD32 (CB2 = 0, CB3 = 1, CB4 = 1) has 32 RF cycles per bit. This gives the data rate of 4 kHz for the RF carrier frequency of 128 kHz.

The default timing is MOD 128 (F_{CLK}/128), and this mode is used for contact and contactless programming. Once the array is successfully programmed, the lock bit CB12 is set. When the lock bit is set, programming and erasing the device becomes permanently disabled. The configuration register has no effect on device timing until the EEPROM data array is programmed (CB12 = 1).

2.2.2 DATA ENCODING OPTION

This logic acts upon the serial data being read from the EEPROM. The logic encodes the data according to the configuration bits CB6 and CB7. CB6 and CB7 determine the data encoding method. The available choices are:

- Non-return to zero-level (NRZ_L)
- Biphase_S (Differential)
- Biphase_L (Manchester)
- Inverted Manchester

2.2.3 MODULATION OPTION

CB8 and CB9 determine the modulation protocol of the encoded data. The available choices are:

- ASK
- FSK
- PSK_1
- PSK_2

When ASK (direct) option is chosen, the encoded data is fed into the modulation transistor without change.

When FSK option is chosen, the encoded data is represented by:

a) Sets of 10 RF carrier cycles (first 5 cycles → higher amplitude, the last 5 cycles → lower amplitude) for logic “high” level.

b) Sets of 8 RF carrier cycles (first 4 cycles → higher amplitude, the last 4 cycles → lower amplitude) for logic “low” level.

For example, the FSK signal for MOD40 is represented:

a) 4 sets of 10 RF carrier cycles for data ‘1’.

b) 5 sets of 8 RF carrier cycles for data ‘0’.

Refer to Figure 2-2 for the FSK signal with MOD40 option.

The PSK_1 represents change in the phase of the modulation signal at the change of the encoded data. For example, the phase changes when the encoded data is changed from ‘1’ to ‘0’, or from ‘0’ to ‘1’.

The PSK_2 represents change in the phase at the change on ‘1’. For example, the phase changes when the encoded data is changed from ‘0’ to ‘1’, or from ‘1’ to ‘1’.

FIGURE 2-2: ENCODED DATA AND FSK OUTPUT SIGNAL FOR MOD40 OPTION

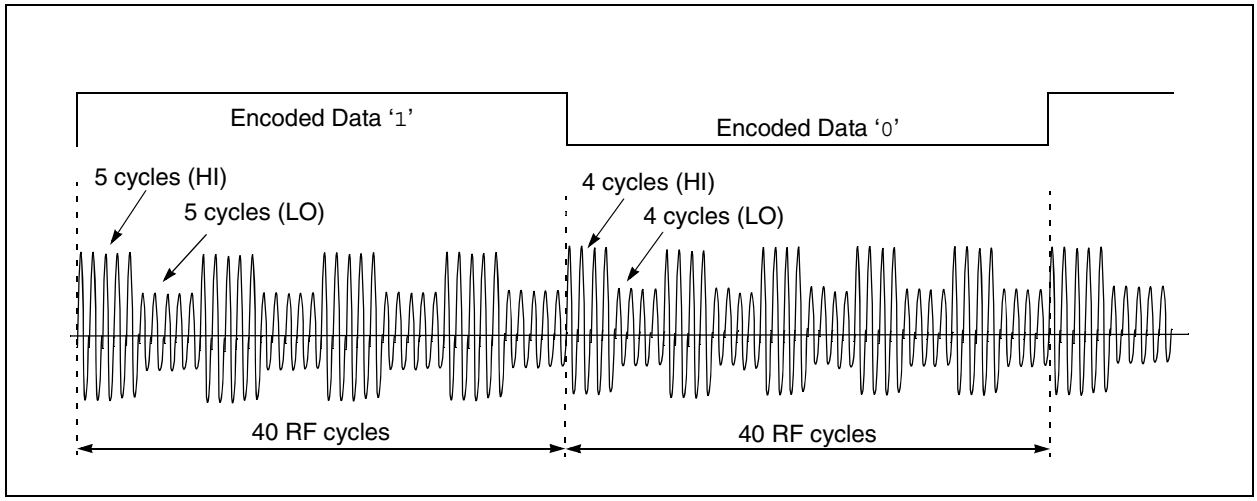
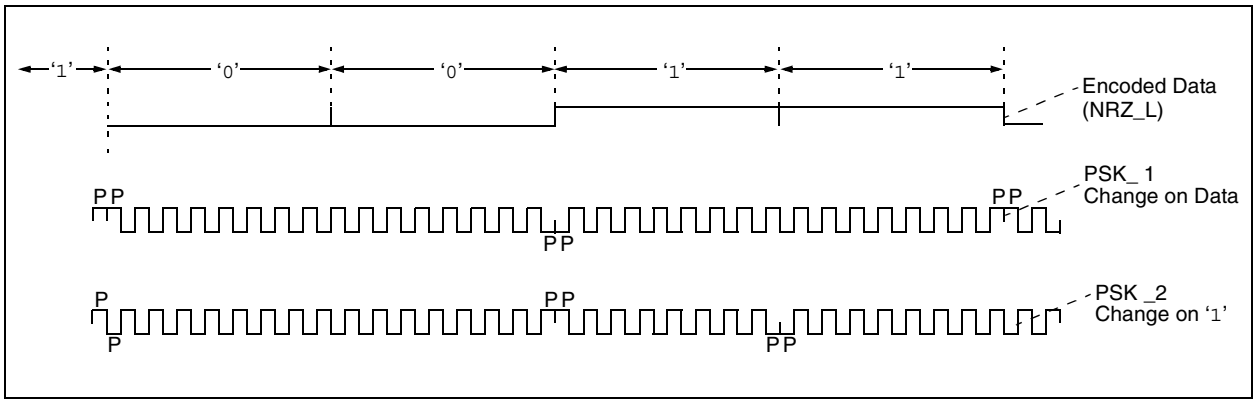


FIGURE 2-3: PSK DATA MODULATION



2.2.4 MEMORY ARRAY LOCK BIT (CB12)

The CB12 must be '0' for contactless programming (Blank). The bit (CB12) is automatically set to '1' itself as soon as the device is programmed contactlessly.

2.3 Memory Section

The device has 128 bits of One-Time Programmable (OTP) memory. The user can choose 96 or 128 bits by selecting the CB1 bit in the configuration register. See Table 2-1 for more details.

2.3.1 COLUMN AND ROW DECODER LOGIC AND BIT COUNTER

The column and row decoders address the EEPROM array at the clock rate and generate a serial data stream for modulation. This data stream can be up to 128 bits in length. The size of the data stream is user programmable with CB1 and can be set to 96 or 128 bits. Data lengths of 48 and 64 bits are available by programming the data twice in the array, end-to-end.

The column and row decoders route the proper voltage to the array for programming and reading. In the programming modes, each individual bit is addressed serially from bit 1 to bit 128.

2.4 Examples of Configuration Settings

EXAMPLE 2-1: "48D" CONFIGURATION

The "48D" (hex) configuration is interpreted as follows:

CB12 CB1

"48D" → 0100-1000-1101

Referring to Table 2-1, the "48D" configuration represents:

Blank (not programmed) Device
Anti-Collision
Modulation = PSK_1
PSK rate = rf/2
Data encoding = NRZ_L (direct)
Baud rate = rf/32 = MOD32
Memory size: 128 bits

EXAMPLE 2-2: "40A" CONFIGURATION

The "40A" (hex) configuration is interpreted as follows:

CB12 CB1

"40A" → 0100-0000-1010

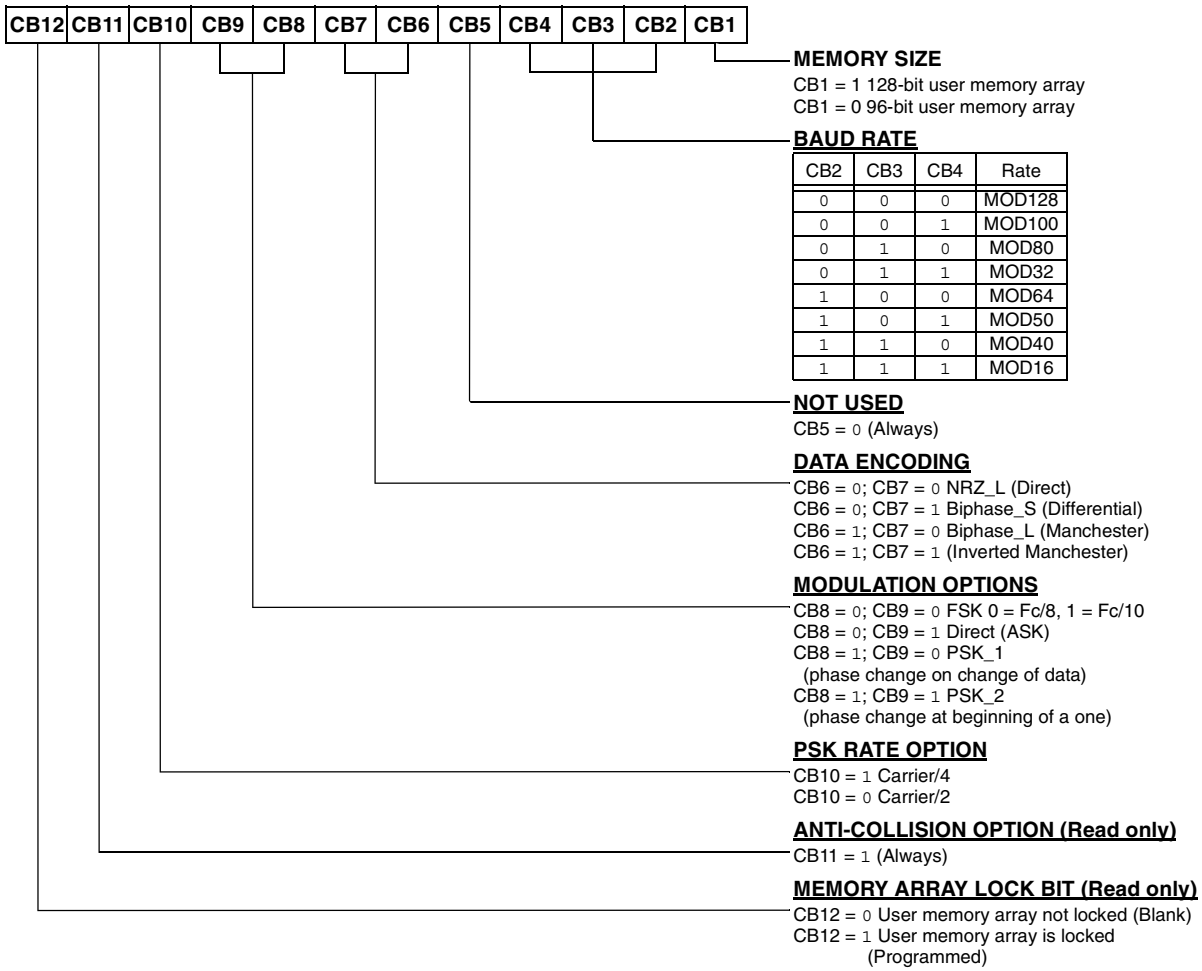
The MSB corresponds to CB12 and the LSB corresponds to CB1 of the configuration register. Therefore, we have:

CB12=0	CB11=1	CB10=0	CB9=0
CB8=0	CB7=0	CB6=0	CB5=0
CB4=1	CB3=0	CB2=1	CB1=0

Referring to Table 2-1, the "40A" configuration represents:

Not programmed device (blank), anticollision, FSK protocol, NRZ_L (direct) encoding, MOD50 (baud rate = rf/50), 96 bits..

TABLE 2-1: CONFIGURATION REGISTER



3.0 MODES OF OPERATION

The device has two basic modes of operation: Native Mode and Read Mode.

3.1 Native Mode

Every unprogrammed blank device (CB12 = 0) operates in Native mode, regardless of configuration register settings:

Baud rate = FCLK/128, FSK, NRZ_L (direct)

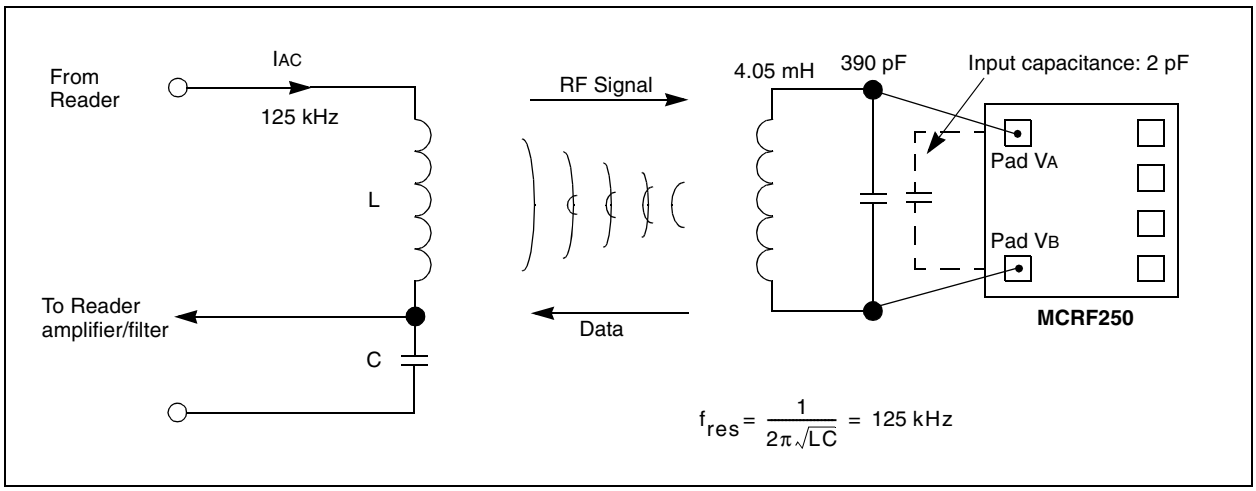
Once the user memory is programmed, the lock bit is set (CB12 = 1), which causes the MCRF250 to switch from Native mode to Communication mode defined by the configuration register.

Refer to Figure 4-1 for contactless programming sequence. Also see the *microID® 125 kHz RFID System Design Guide* (DS51115) for more information.

3.2 Read Mode

After the device is programmed (CB12 = 1), the device is operated in the Read-only mode. The device transmits its data according to the protocol in the configuration register.

FIGURE 3-1: TYPICAL APPLICATION CIRCUIT



4.0 CONTACTLESS PROGRAMMING

The contactless programming of the device is possible for a blank device (CB12 = 0) only, and is recommended for only low-volume, manual operation during development. In volume production, the MCRF250 is normally used as a factory programmed device only. The contactless programming timing sequence consists of:

a) RF Power-up signal
b) Short gap (absence of RF field)
c) Verify signal (continuous RF signal)
d) Programming signal
e) Device response with programmed data

The blank device (CB12 = 0) understands the RF power-up followed by a gap as a blank checking command, and outputs 128 bits of FSK data with all '1's after the short gap. To see this blank data (verify), the reader/programmer must provide a continuous RF signal for 128 bit-time. (The blank (unprogrammed) device has all 'F's in its memory array. Therefore, the blank data should be all '1's in FSK format). Since the blank device operates at Default mode (MOD128), there are 128 RF cycles for each bit. Therefore, the time requirement to complete this verify is 128 bits x 128 RF cycles/bit x 8 use/cycles = 131.1 msec for 125 kHz signal.

As soon as the device completes the verify, it enters the Programming mode. The reader/programmer must provide RF programming data right after the verify. In this Programming mode, each bit lasts for 128 RF cycles. Refer to Figure 4-1 for the contactless programming sequence.

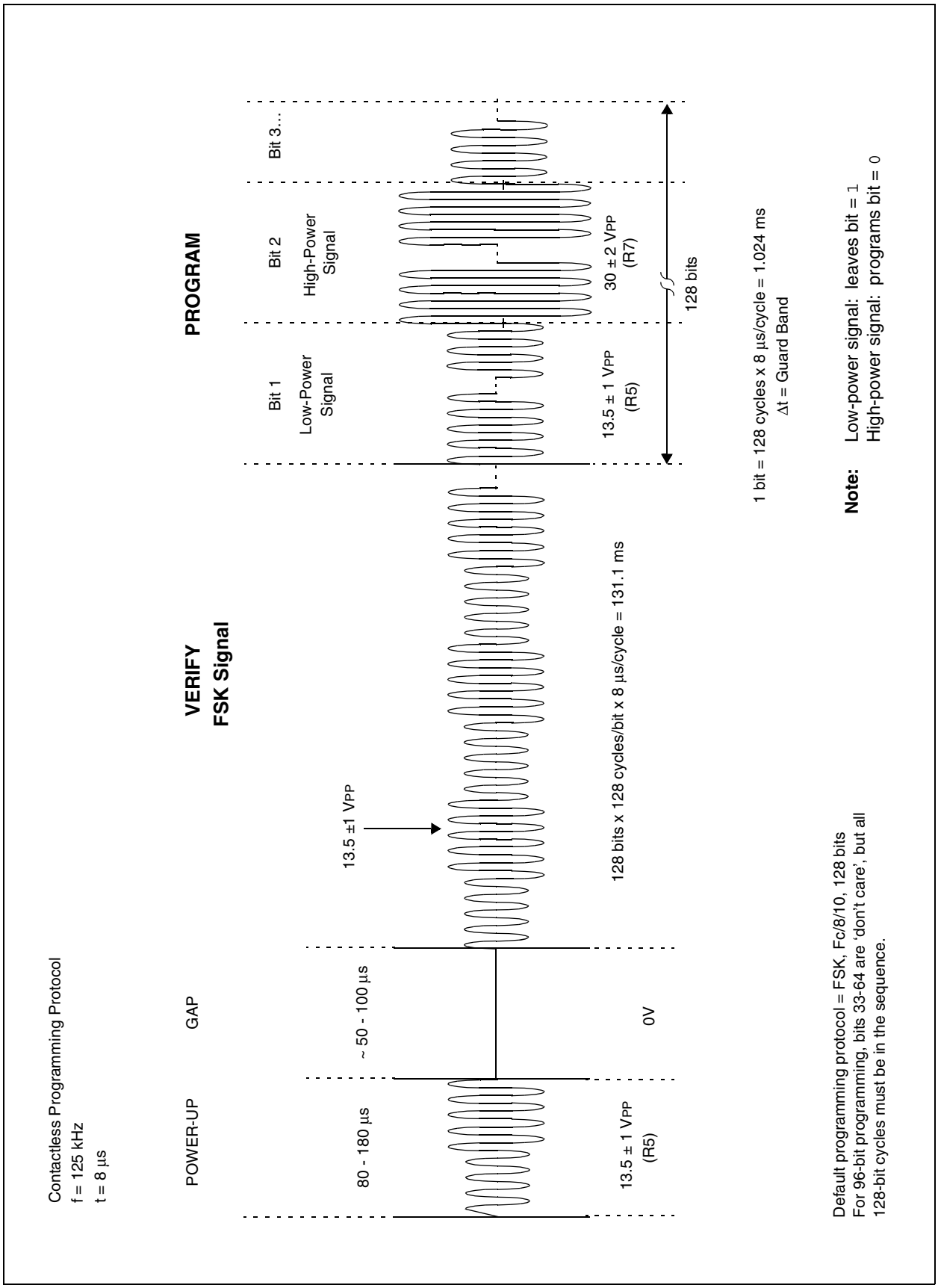
Customer must provide the following specific voltage for the programming:

1. Power-up and verify signal = 13.5 V_{PP} ±1 V_{PP}
2. Programming voltage:
   - To program bit to '1': 13.5 V_{PP} ±1 V_{PP}
   - To program bit to '0': 30 V_{PP} ±2 V_{PP}

After the programming cycle, the device outputs programmed data (response). The reader/programmer can send the programming data repeatedly after the device response until the programming is successfully completed. The device locks the CB12 as soon as the Programming mode (out of field) is exited and becomes a read-only device.

Once the device is programmed (CB12 = 1), the device outputs its data according to the configuration register.

FIGURE 4-1: CONTACTLESS PROGRAMMING SEQUENCE



5.0 ANTI-COLLISION

The anti-collision feature is enabled after the array lock bit (CB12) is set. This feature relies on internal random number oscillator/counter and special gap pulses (= turn off RF field) provided by a reader. Figure 5-1 shows the anti-collision flowchart.

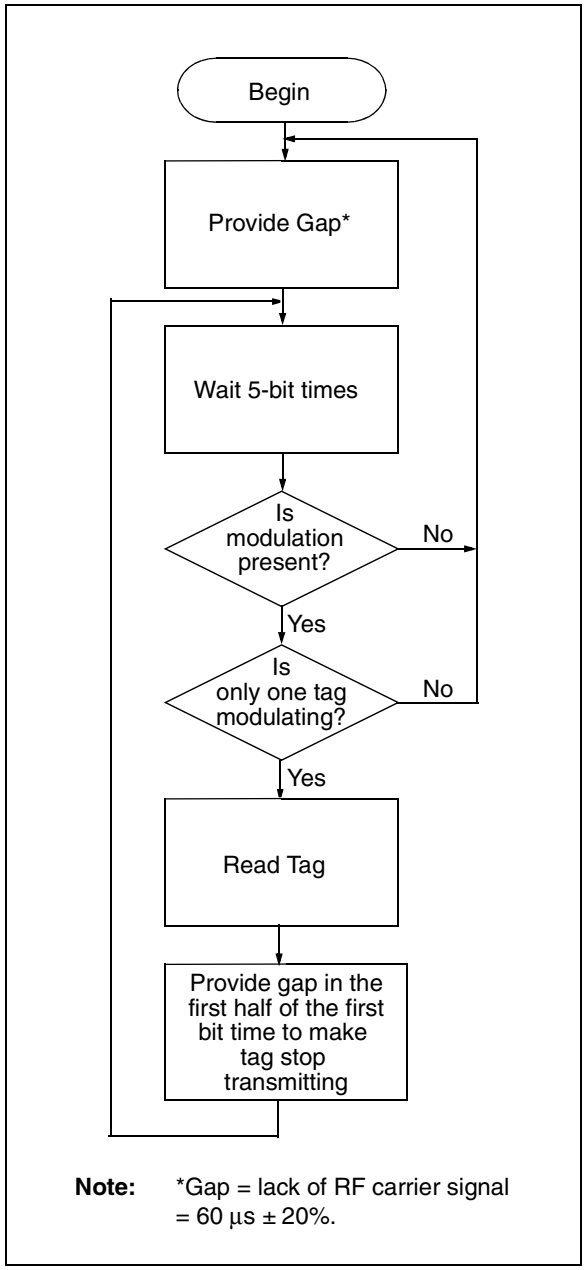
The MCRF250 works with the following anti-collision features:

1. The device does not output data until it sees the first gap. (no RF field for about 60 μsec.)
2. When the device sees the first gap, the internal random number oscillator starts clocking immediately after the gap.
3. At the same time, the internal random number counter starts counting the random number clocks.
4. The device waits for 5 bit times (about 5 msec. for MOD128 configuration).

   Example: 1 bit time=RF/128=1 msec for 128 kHz for MOD128
5. After the 5 bit times, the device sends data.
6. At this time, the random number counter is still running. If multiple tags in the field send data at the same time, the reader will see a data collision.
7. When the reader sees the data collision, it sends the second gap pulse. (no RF field for about 60 μsec.)
8. After the second gap pulse, there is a chance that the random number counter of each tag may have a different value due to a random variation in the oscillator's starting time, etc.
9. After the second gap, the random number oscillator stops and the random number counter will decrement at each subsequent gap.
10. The device will transmit data when its random number counter reaches '0'.
11. The device repeats this sequence (as shown in the flowchart in Figure 5-1) according to the proper gap pulses provided by the reader.

Note:	Each device will output data in different time frames since each random number counter will arrive at '0' at different times. As a result, the reader can receive clean data from a different tag in each time frame.

FIGURE 5-1: ANTI-COLLISION FLOWCHART



Note: *Gap = lack of RF carrier signal = 60 μs ± 20%.

6.0 MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR DIE AND WAFER

FIGURE 6-1: DIE PLOT

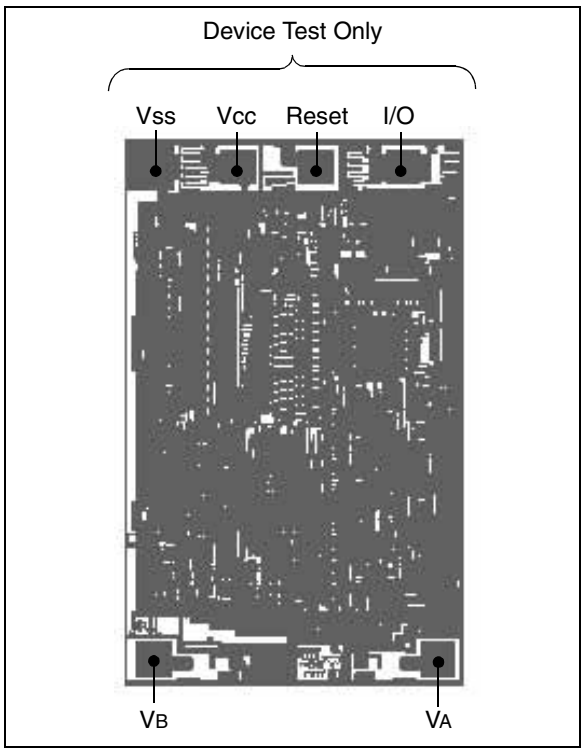


TABLE 6-1: PAD COORDINATES (μm)

Pad Name	Passivation Openings		Pad Center X	Pad Center Y
	Pad Width	Pad Height		
VA	90.0	90.0	427.50	-734.17
VB	90.0	90.0	-408.60	-734.17

Note 1: All coordinates are referenced from the center of the die.

2: Die size: 1.1215 mm x 1.7384 mm. 44.15 mils x 68.44 mils

TABLE 6-2: PAD FUNCTION TABLE

Name	Function
VA	Antenna Coil connections
VB	
VSS	For device test only Do Not Connect to Antenna
VCC	
Reset	
I/O	

TABLE 6-3: DIE MECHANICAL DIMENSIONS

Specifications	Min	Typ	Max	Unit	Comments
Bond pad opening	— —	3.5 x 3.5 89 x 89	— —	mil µm	**Note 1, Note 2**
Die backgrind thickness	— —	7 177.8	— —	mil µm	Sawed 6” wafer-on-frame (option = WF) **Note 3**
	— —	11 279.4	— —	mil µm	Unsawed wafer (option = W) **Note 3**
Die backgrind thickness tolerance	— —	— —	±1 ±25.4	mil µm	
Die passivation thickness (multilayer)	—	0.9050	—	µm	**Note 4**
Die Size: Die size X*Y before saw (step size) Die size X*Y after saw	 — —	 44.15 x 68.44 42.58 x 66.87	 — —	 mil mil	 — —

Note 1: The bond pad size is that of the passivation opening. The metal overlaps the bond pad passivation by at least 0.1 mil.

2: Metal pad composition is 98.5% aluminum with 1% Si and 0.5% Cu.

3: As the die thickness decreases, susceptibility to cracking increases. It is recommended that the die be as thick as the application will allow..

4: The die passivation thickness can vary by device depending on the mask set used:

-Layer 1: Oxide (undopped oxide, 0.135 µm)

-Layer 2: PSG (dopped oxide, 0.43 µm)

-Layer 3: Oxynitride (top layer, 0.34 µm)

Notice: Extreme care is urged in the handling and assembly of die products since they are susceptible to mechanical and electrostatic damage.

TABLE 6-4: WAFER MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications	Min	Typ	Max	Unit	Comments
Wafer Diameter	—	8	—	inch	150 mm
Die separation line width	—	80	—	µm	
Dice per wafer	—	14,000	—	die	
Batch size	—	24	—	wafer	

7.0 FAILED DIE IDENTIFICATION

Every die on the wafer is electrically tested according to the data sheet specifications and visually inspected to detect any mechanical damage such as mechanical cracks and scratches.

Any failed die in the test or visual inspection is identified by black colored inking. Therefore, any die covered with black ink should not be used.

The ink dot specification:

- Ink dot size: minimum 20 μm x 20 μm
- Position: central third of die
- Color: black

8.0 WAFER DELIVERY DOCUMENTATION

Each wafer container is marked with the following information:

- Microchip Technology Inc. MP Code
- Lot number
- Total number of wafer in the container
- Total number of good dice in the container
- Average die per wafer (DPW)
- Scribe number of wafer with number of good dice.

9.0 NOTICE ON DIE AND WAFER HANDLING

The device is very susceptible to Electrostatic Discharge (ESD). ESD can cause critical damage to the device. Special attention is needed during the handling process.

Any ultraviolet (UV) light can erase the memory cell contents of an unpackaged device. Fluorescent lights and sun light can also erase the memory cell although it takes more time than UV lamps. Therefore, keep any unpackaged devices out of UV light and also avoid direct exposure from strong fluorescent lights and sun light.

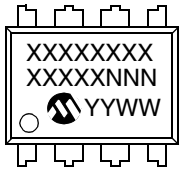
Certain Integrated Circuit (IC) manufacturing, Chip-On-Board (COB) and tag assembly operations may use UV light. Operations such as backgrind, de-tape, certain cleaning operations, epoxy or glue cure should be done without exposing the die surface to UV light.

Using x-ray for die inspection will not harm the die, nor erase memory cell contents.

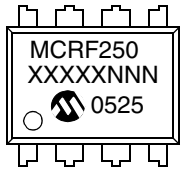
10.0 PACKAGING INFORMATION

10.1 Package Marking Information

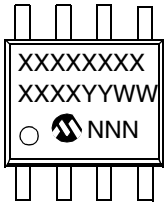
8-Lead PDIP (300 mil)



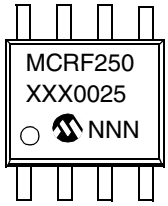
Example:



8-Lead SOIC (150 mil)



Example:

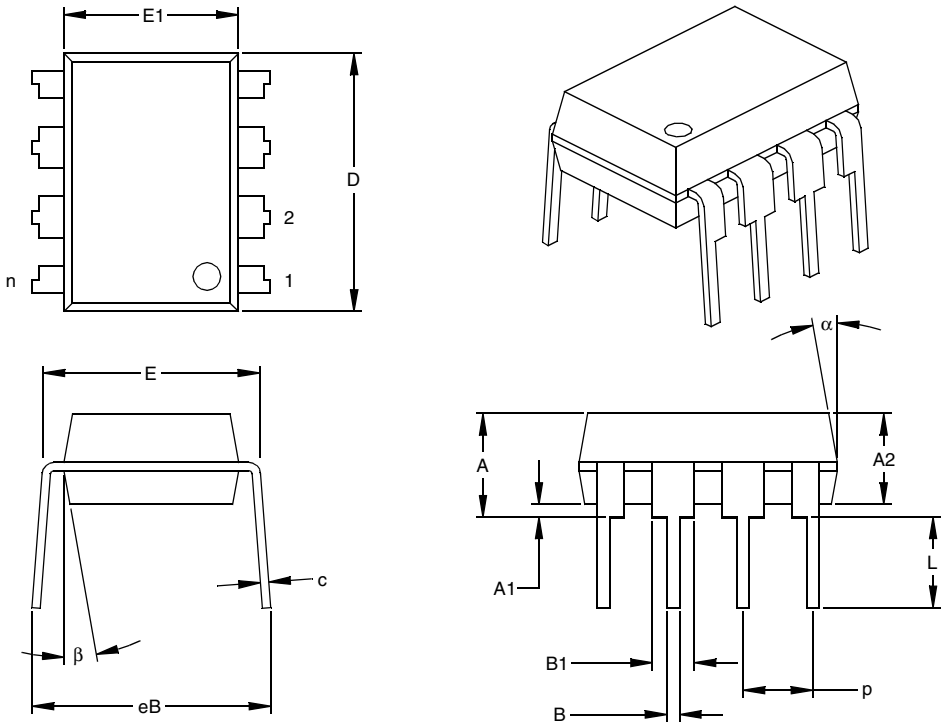


Legend:	XX...X	Customer specific information*
	Y	Year code (last digit of calendar year)
	YY	Year code (last 2 digits of calendar year)
	WW	Week code (week of January 1 is week ‘01’)
	NNN	Alphanumeric traceability code

Note: In the event the full Microchip part number cannot be marked on one line, it will be carried over to the next line thus limiting the number of available characters for customer specific information.

* Standard device marking consists of Microchip part number, year code, week code, and traceability code.

8-Lead Plastic Dual In-line (P) – 300 mil (PDIP)

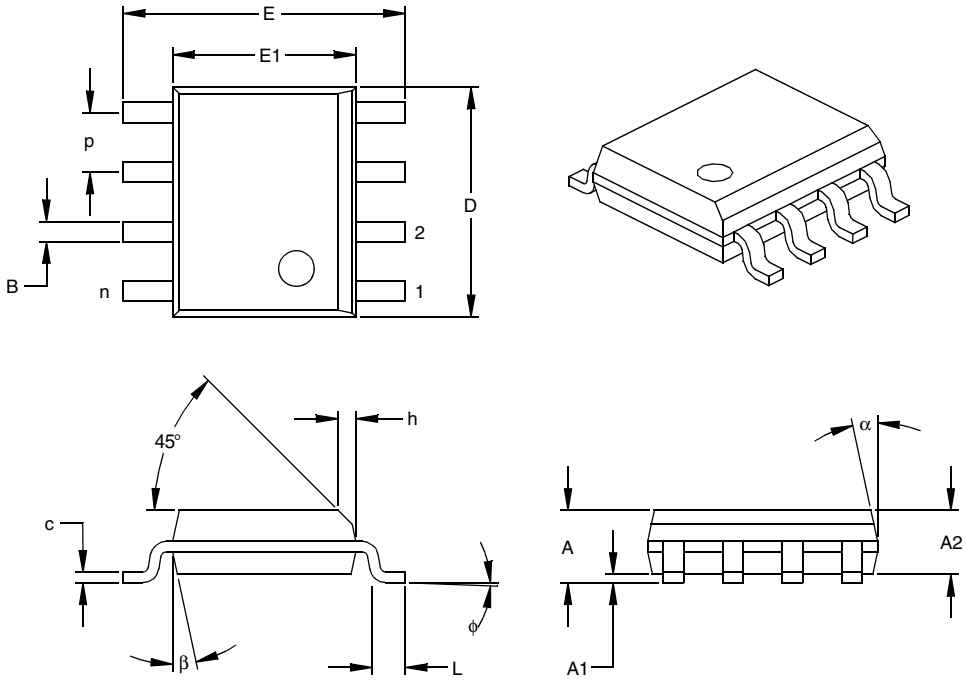


UNITS		INCHES*			MILLIMETERS		
DIMENSION LIMITS		MIN	NOM	MAX	MIN	NOM	MAX
Number of Pins	n		8			8	
Pitch	p		.100			2.54	
Top to Seating Plane	A	.140	.155	.170	3.56	3.94	4.32
Molded Package Thickness	A2	.115	.130	.145	2.92	3.30	3.68
Base to Seating Plane	A1	.015			0.38		
Shoulder to Shoulder Width	E	.300	.313	.325	7.62	7.94	8.26
Molded Package Width	E1	.240	.250	.260	6.10	6.35	6.60
Overall Length	D	.360	.373	.385	9.14	9.46	9.78
Tip to Seating Plane	L	.125	.130	.135	3.18	3.30	3.43
Lead Thickness	c	.008	.012	.015	0.20	0.29	0.38
Upper Lead Width	B1	.045	.058	.070	1.14	1.46	1.78
Lower Lead Width	B	.014	.018	.022	0.36	0.46	0.56
Overall Row Spacing §	eB	.310	.370	.430	7.87	9.40	10.92
Mold Draft Angle Top	α	5	10	15	5	10	15
Mold Draft Angle Bottom	β	5	10	15	5	10	15

* Controlling Parameter
§ Significant Characteristic

Notes:
Dimensions D and E1 do not include mold flash or protrusions. Mold flash or protrusions shall not exceed .010” (0.254mm) per side.
JEDEC Equivalent: MS-001
Drawing No. C04-018

8-Lead Plastic Small Outline (SN) – Narrow, 150 mil (SOIC)



UNITS		INCHES*			MILLIMETERS		
DIMENSION LIMITS		MIN	NOM	MAX	MIN	NOM	MAX
Number of Pins	n		8			8	
Pitch	p		.050			1.27	
Overall Height	A	.053	.061	.069	1.35	1.55	1.75
Molded Package Thickness	A2	.052	.056	.061	1.32	1.42	1.55
Standoff §	A1	.004	.007	.010	.10	.18	.25
Overall Width	E	.228	.237	.244	5.79	6.02	6.20
Molded Package Width	E1	.146	.154	.157	3.71	3.91	3.99
Overall Length	D	.189	.193	.197	4.80	4.90	5.00
Chamfer Distance	h	.010	.015	.020	.25	.38	.51
Foot Length	L	.019	.025	.030	.48	.62	.76
Foot Angle	φ	0	4	8	0	4	8
Lead Thickness	c	.008	.009	.010	.20	.23	.25
Lead Width	B	.013	.017	.020	.33	.42	.51
Mold Draft Angle Top	α	0	12	15	0	12	15
Mold Draft Angle Bottom	β	0	12	15	0	12	15

* Controlling Parameter
§ Significant Characteristic

Notes:
Dimensions D and E1 do not include mold flash or protrusions. Mold flash or protrusions shall not exceed .010” (0.254mm) per side.
JEDEC Equivalent: MS-012
Drawing No. C04-057

NOTES:

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Device: MCRF250 Literature Number: DS21267G

Questions:

1. What are the best features of this document?

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7. How would you improve this document?

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PART NO.	-X	/XXX	XXX
Device	Temperature Range	Package	Configuration/SQTP Code

Device:	MCRF250 = 125 kHz Anti-collision microID® tag, 96/128-bit
Temperature Range:	I = -40°C to +85°C
Package:	WF = Sawed wafer-on-frame (7 mil backgrind) W = Wafer (11 mil backgrind) S = Dice in waffle pack P = Plastic PDIP (300 mil Body) 8-lead SN = Plastic SOIC (150 mil Body) 8-lead
Configuration:	Three-digit hex value to be programmed into the configuration register. Three hex characters correspond to 12 binary bits. These bits are programmed into the configuration register MSB first (CB12, CB11...CB1). Refer to example.
SQTP Code:	An assigned, customer 3-digit code used for tracking and controlling production and customer data files for factory programming. In this case the configuration code is not shown in the part number, but is captured in the SQTP documention.

Examples:

a) MCRF250-I/W40A = 125 kHz, industrial temperature, wafer package, contactlessly programmable, 96 bit, FSK Fc/8 Fc/10, direct encoded, Fc/50 data return rate tag.

The configuration register is:

CB12	CB11	CB10	CB9	CB8	CB7	CB6	CB5	CB4	CB3	CB2	CB1
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

b) MCRF250-I/WFQ23 = 125 kHz, industrial temperature, wafer sawn and mounted on frame, factory programmed.

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