



INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

USER MANUAL

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UM960L

GPS/BDS/GLONASS/Galileo/QZSS

All-constellation Multi-frequency

High Precision Positioning Module

Revision History

Version	Revision History	Date
R1.0	First release	Aug. 2022
R1.1	Update Pin14 description Update section 2.3 Dimensions Add section 3.1 Recommended Minimal Design Optimize section 3.2 Antenna Feed Design Optimize section 3.3 Power-on and Power-off Add section 3.5 Recommended PCB Package Design Update the working current	Mar. 2023
R1.2	Update section 3.3 Power-on and Power-off Updated 3.5 Recommended Footprint on the PCB Updated the stencil thickness suggestion in 4 Production Requirements	Mar. 2025

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Foreword

This document describes the information of the hardware, package, specification and the use of Unicore UM960L modules.

Target Readers

This document applies to technicians who possess the expertise on GNSS receivers.

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1 Introduction

UM960L is a new generation of GNSS high precision positioning module from Unicore. It supports all constellations and multiple frequencies, and can simultaneously track GPS L1/L2/L5 + BDS B1I/B2I/B3I/B1C/B2a + GLONASS G1/G2+Galileo E1/E5a/E5b + QZSS L1/L2/L5. The module is mainly used in geological hazard monitoring, deformation monitoring, and high precision GIS.

UM960L is based on NebulasIV™, a GNSS SoC which integrates RF-baseband and high precision algorithms. Besides, the SoC integrates a dual-core CPU, a high speed floating point processor and a co-processor with 22 nm low power design, and it supports 1408 super channels. All these above enable stronger signal processing.

UM960L features a compact size of 16.0 mm × 12.2 mm. It adopts SMT pads, supports standard pick-and-place, and supports fully automated integration of reflow soldering.

Furthermore, UM960L supports interfaces such as UART, I²C*, which meets the customers' needs in different applications.



Figure 1-1 UM960L Module

* Reserved interface, not supported currently.

1.1 Key Features

- High precision, compact size and low power consumption
- Based on the new generation GNSS SoC -NebulasIV™, with RF-baseband and high precision algorithms integrated
- 16.0 mm × 12.2 mm × 2.4 mm, surface-mount device
- Supports GPS L1/L2/L5 + BDS B1I/B2I/B3I/B1C/B2a + GLONASS G1/G2 + Galileo E1/E5b/E5a + QZSS L1/L2/L5
- Independent tracking of different frequencies, and 60 dB narrowband anti-jamming

1.2 Key Specifications

Table 1-1 Technical Specifications

Basic Information				
Channels	1408 channels, based on NebulasIV™			
Constellations	GPS/BDS/GLONASS/Galileo/QZSS			
Frequency	GPS: L1C/A, L2P(W), L2C, L5 BDS: B1I, B2I, B3I, B1C, B2a GLONASS: G1, G2 Galileo: E1, E5b, E5a QZSS: L1, L2, L5			
Power				
Voltage	+3.0 V to +3.6 V DC			
Power Consumption	410 mW (Typical)			
Performance				
Positioning Accuracy	Single Point Positioning (RMS)		Horizontal: 1.5 m	
			Vertical: 2.5 m	
	DGPS (RMS)		Horizontal: 0.4 m	
			Vertical: 0.8 m	
Observation Accuracy (RMS)	BDS	GPS	GLONASS	Galileo
B1I/ L1C/A /G1/E1 Pseudorange	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm
B1I/ L1C/A /G1/E1 Carrier Phase	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm
B2I/L2P/G2/E5b Pseudorange	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm	10 cm
B2I/L2P/G2/E5b Carrier Phase	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm	1 mm
Time Pulse Accuracy (RMS)	20 ns			
Velocity Accuracy (RMS)	0.03 m/s			
Time to First Fix (TTFF)	Cold Start < 30 s			

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Initialization Time	< 5 s (Typical)
Initialization Reliability	> 99.9%
Data Update Rate	5 Hz Positioning
Differential Data	RTCM 3.0, 3.2, 3.3
Data Format	NMEA-0183; Unicore
Physical Specifications	
Package	24 pin LGA
Dimensions	16.0 mm × 12.2 mm × 2.4 mm
Environmental Specifications	
Operating Temperature	-40 °C to +85 °C
Storage Temperature	-55 °C to +95 °C
Humidity	95% No condensation
Vibration	GJB150.16A-2009; MIL-STD-810F
Shock	GJB150.18A-2009; MIL-STD-810F
Functional Ports	
UART x 3	
I ² C* x 1	

* Reserved interface, not supported currently.

1.3 Block Diagram

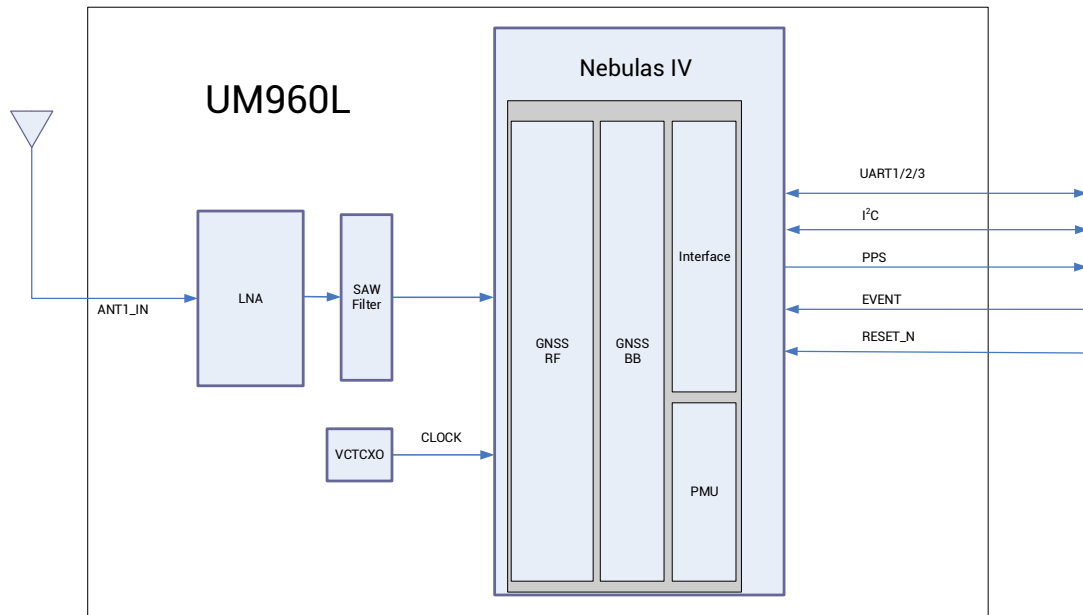


Figure 1-2 UM960L Block Diagram

● RF Part

The receiver gets filtered and enhanced GNSS signal from the antenna via a coaxial cable. The RF part converts the RF input signals into the IF signals, and converts IF analog signals into digital signals required for NebulasIV™ chip.

● NebulasIV™ SoC

NebulasIV™ is Unicore's new generation high precision GNSS SoC with 22 nm low power design, supporting all constellations, multiple frequencies and 1408 super channels. It integrates a dual-core CPU, a high speed floating point processor and a co-processor, which can fulfill the high precision baseband processing and positioning independently.

● External Interfaces

The external interfaces of UM960L include UART, I²C*, PPS, EVENT, RESET_N, etc.

* Reserved interface, not supported currently.

2 Hardware

2.1 Pin Definition

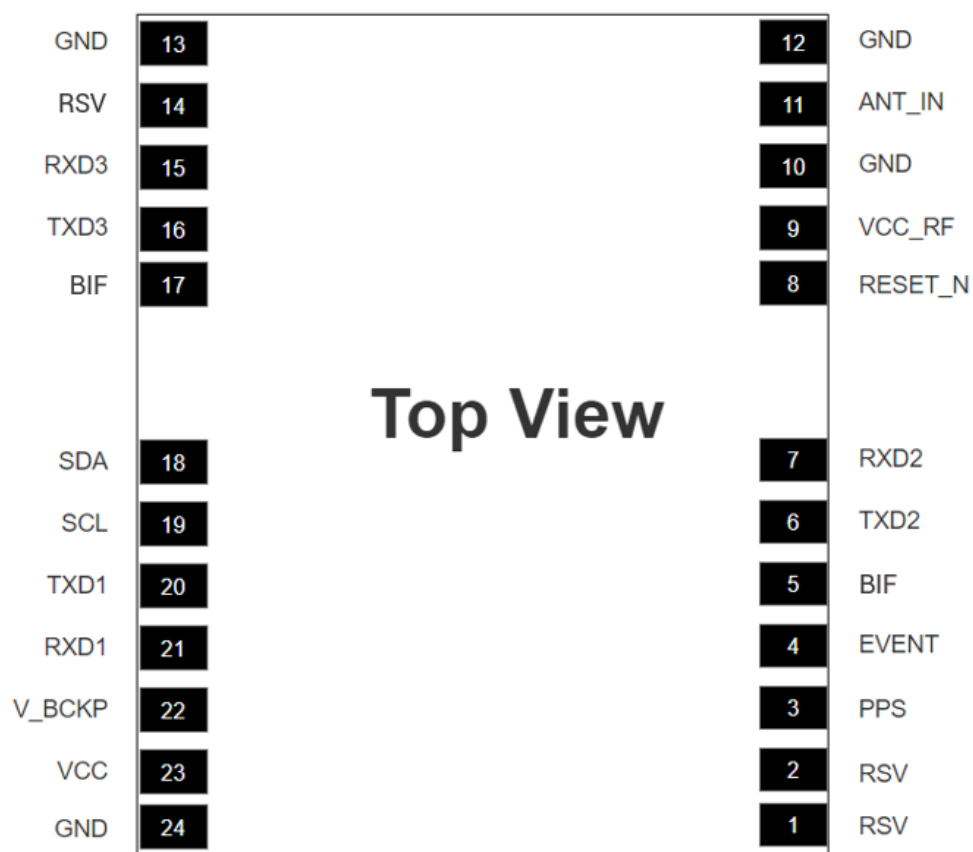


Figure 2-1 UM960L Pin Definition

Table 2-1 Pin Definition

No.	Pin	I/O	Description
1	RSV	—	Reserved, must be floating; cannot connect ground or power supply or peripheral I/O
2	RSV	—	Reserved, must be floating; cannot connect ground or power supply or peripheral I/O
3	PPS	O	Pulse per second, with adjustable pulse width and polarity
4	EVENT	I	Event Mark, with adjustable frequency and polarity

No.	Pin	I/O	Description
5	BIF	—	Built-in function; recommended to add a through-hole testing point and a 10 kΩ pull-up resistor; cannot connect ground or power supply or peripheral I/O, but can be floating.
6	TXD2	O	UART2 output
7	RXD2	I	UART2 input
8	RESET_N	I	System reset; active Low. The active time should be no less than 5 ms.
9	VCC_RF ¹	O	External LNA power supply
10	GND	—	Ground
11	ANT_IN	I	GNSS antenna signal input
12	GND	—	Ground
13	GND	—	Ground
14	RSV	—	Reserved; cannot connect ground or power supply or an output interface
15	RXD3	I	UART3 input
16	TXD3	O	UART3 output
17	BIF	—	Built-in function; recommended to add a through-hole testing point and a 10 kΩ pull-up resistor; cannot connect ground or power supply or peripheral I/O, but can be floating.
18	SDA	I/O	I ² C data
19	SCL	I/O	I ² C clock
20	TXD1	O	UART1 output
21	RXD1	I	UART1 input

¹ Not recommended to take VCC_RF as ANT_BIAS to feed the antenna. See section 3.2 for more details.

No.	Pin	I/O	Description
22	V_BCKP ²	I	When the main power supply VCC is cut off, V_BCKP supplies power to RTC and relevant register. Level requirement: 2.0 V ~ 3.6 V, and the working current is less than 60 μ A at 25 °C. If you do not use the hot start function, connect V_BCKP to VCC. Do NOT connect it to ground or leave it floating.
23	VCC	I	Supply voltage
24	GND	—	Ground

2.2 Electrical Specifications

2.2.1 Absolute Maximum Ratings

Table 2-2 Absolute Maximum Ratings

Parameter	Symbol	Min.	Max.	Unit
Power Supply (VCC)	VCC	-0.3	3.6	V
Voltage Input	V _{in}	-0.3	3.6	V
GNSS Antenna Signal Input	ANT_IN	-0.3	6	V
RF Input Power of Antenna	ANT_IN input power		+10	dBm
External LNA Power Supply	VCC_RF	-0.3	3.6	V
VCC_RF Output Current	ICC_RF		100	mA
Storage Temperature	T _{stg}	-55	95	°C

² Not supported currently

2.2.2 Operating Conditions

Table 2-3 Operational Conditions

Parameter	Symbol	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Unit	Condition
Power Supply (VCC)	VCC	3.0	3.3	3.6	V	
Maximum Ripple Voltage	V _{ripple}	0		50	mV	
Working Current ³	I _{opr}		124	218	mA	VCC = 3.3 V
VCC_RF Output Voltage	VCC_RF		VCC-0.1		V	
VCC_RF Output Current	ICC_RF			50	mA	
Operating Temperature	T _{opr}	-40		85	°C	
Power Consumption	P		410		mW	

2.2.3 IO Threshold

Table 2-4 IO Threshold

Parameter	Symbol	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Unit	Condition
Low Level Input Voltage	V _{in_low}	0		VCC × 0.2	V	
High Level Input Voltage	V _{in_high}	VCC × 0.7		VCC + 0.2	V	
Low Level Output Voltage	V _{out_low}	0		0.45	V	I _{out} = 4 mA
High Level Output Voltage	V _{out_high}	VCC - 0.45		VCC	V	I _{out} = 4 mA

2.2.4 Antenna Feature

Table 2-5 Antenna Feature

Parameter	Symbol	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Unit	Condition
Optimum Input Gain	G _{ant}	18	30	36	dB	

³ Since the product has capacitors inside, inrush current occurs during power-on. You should evaluate in the actual environment in order to check the effect of the supply voltage drop caused by inrush current in the system.

2.3 Dimensions

Table 2-6 Dimensions

Symbol	Min. (mm)	Typ. (mm)	Max. (mm)
A	15.80	16.00	16.50
B	12.00	12.20	12.70
C	2.20	2.40	2.60
D	0.90	1.00	1.10
E	0.20	0.30	0.40
F	1.40	1.50	1.60
G	1.00	1.10	1.20
H	0.70	0.80	0.90
J	3.20	3.30	3.40
N	2.90	3.00	3.10
P	1.30	1.40	1.50
R	0.99	1.00	1.10
X	0.72	0.82	0.92
ϕ	0.99	1.00	1.10

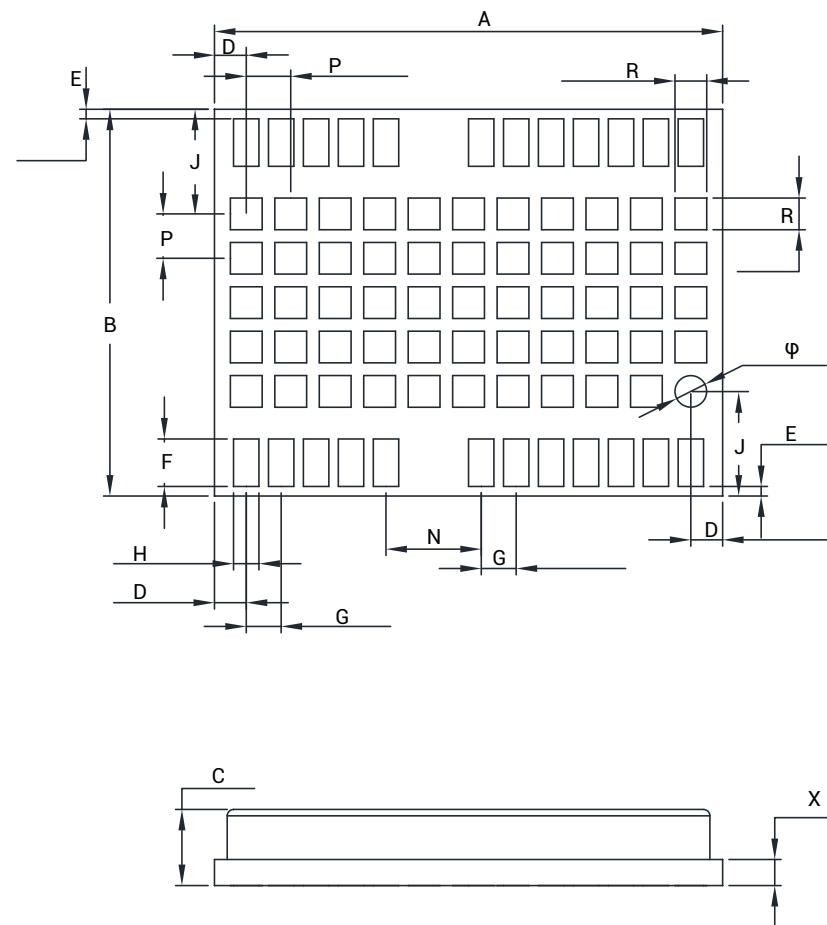


Figure 2-2 UM960L Mechanical Dimensions

3 Hardware Design

3.1 Recommended Minimal Design

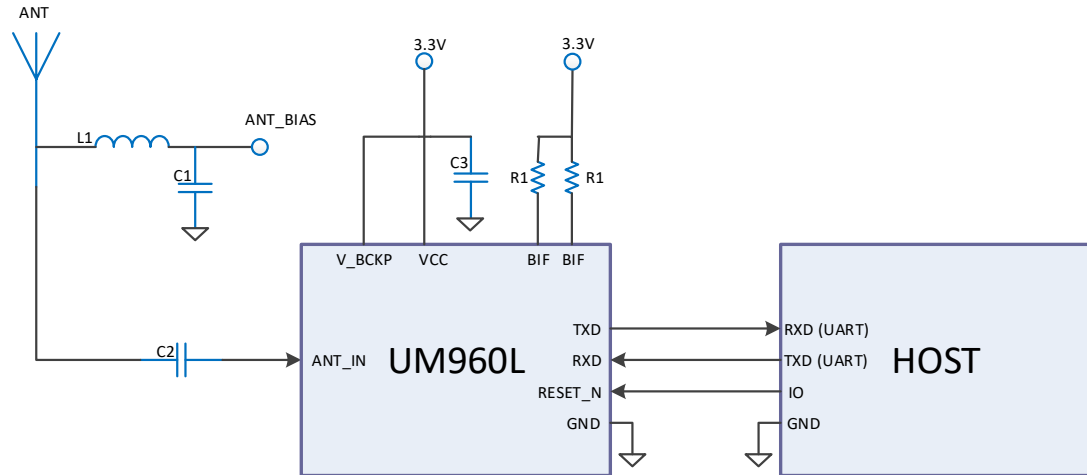


Figure 3-1 UM960L Minimal Design

Remarks:

- L1: 68 nH RF inductor in 0603 package is recommended
- C1: 100 nF + 100 pF capacitors connected in parallel is recommended
- C2: 100 pF capacitor is recommended
- C3: $n \times 10 \mu\text{F} + 1 \times 100 \text{ nF}$ capacitors connected in parallel is recommended, and the total capacitance should be no less than $30 \mu\text{F}$
- R1: 10 k Ω resistor is recommended

3.2 Antenna Feed Design

UM960L just supports feeding the antenna from the outside of the module rather than the inside. It is recommended to use devices with high power and that can withstand high voltage. Gas discharge tube, varistor, TVS tube and other high-power protective devices may also be used in the power supply circuit to further protect the module from lightning strike and surge.

⚠ If the antenna feed supply ANT_BIAS and the module's main supply VCC use the same power rail, the ESD, surge and overvoltage from the antenna will have an effect on VCC, which may cause damage to the module. Therefore, it is recommended to design an independent power rail for the ANT_BIAS to reduce the possibility of module damage.

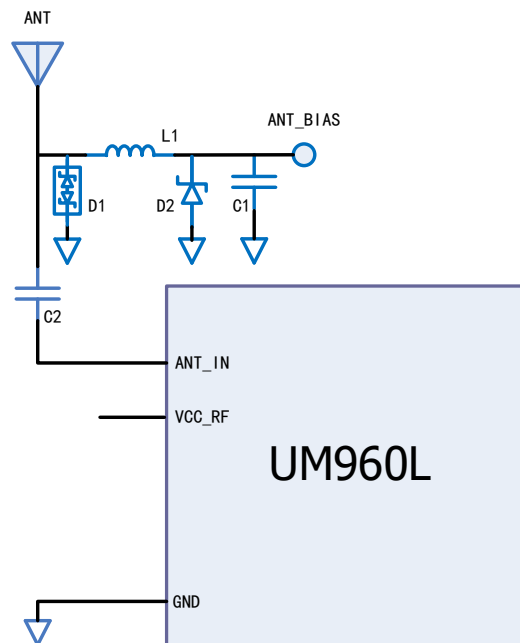


Figure 3-2 UM960L External Antenna Feed Reference Circuit

Remarks:

- L1: feed inductor, 68nH RF inductor in 0603 package is recommended.
- C1: decoupling capacitor, it is recommended to connect two capacitors of 100nF/100pF in parallel.
- C2: DC blocking capacitor, recommended 100pF capacitor.
- Not recommended to take VCC_RF as ANT_BIAS to feed the antenna (VCC_RF is not optimized for the anti-lightning strike and anti-surge due to the compact size of the module).
- D1: ESD diode, choose the ESD protection device that supports high frequency signals (above 2000 MHz).

- D2: TVS diode, choose the TVS diode with appropriate clamping specification according to the requirement of feed voltage and antenna voltage.

3.3 Power-on and Power-off

VCC

- The VCC initial level when power-on should be less than 0.4 V.
- The VCC ramp when power-on should be monotonic, without plateaus.
- The voltages of undershoot and ringing should be within 5% VCC.
- Power-on time interval: The time interval between the power-off ($V_{CC} < 0.4 \text{ V}$) to the next power-on must be larger than 500 ms.

V_BCKP

- The V_BCKP initial level when power-on should be less than 0.4 V.
- The V_BCKP ramp when power-on should be monotonic, without plateaus.
- The voltages of undershoot and ringing should be within 5% V_BCKP.
- Power-on time interval: The time interval between the power-off ($V_{BCKP} < 0.4 \text{ V}$) to the next power-on must be larger than 500 ms.

3.4 Grounding and Heat Dissipation

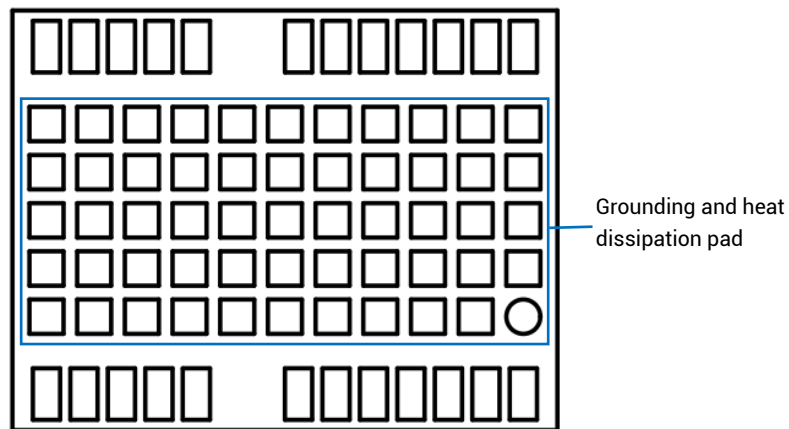


Figure 3-3 Grounding and Heat Dissipation Pad

The 55 pads in the rectangle in Figure 3-3 are for grounding and heat dissipation.

In the PCB design, they must be connected to a large sized ground to strengthen the heat dissipation.

3.5 Recommended Footprint on the PCB

The dimensions of UM960L's footprint on the PCB is recommended to be the same as that of the module's pads, as shown in **Figure 3-4 Recommended Footprint**. For more information about the module's dimensions, see **2.3 Dimensions**.

- ☞ For the convenience of hardware testing and debugging, proper test points can be added for the functional pins of the module.
- ☞ The dimensions of PCB pads can be optimized according to the specific production process to ensure manufacturability and reliability.

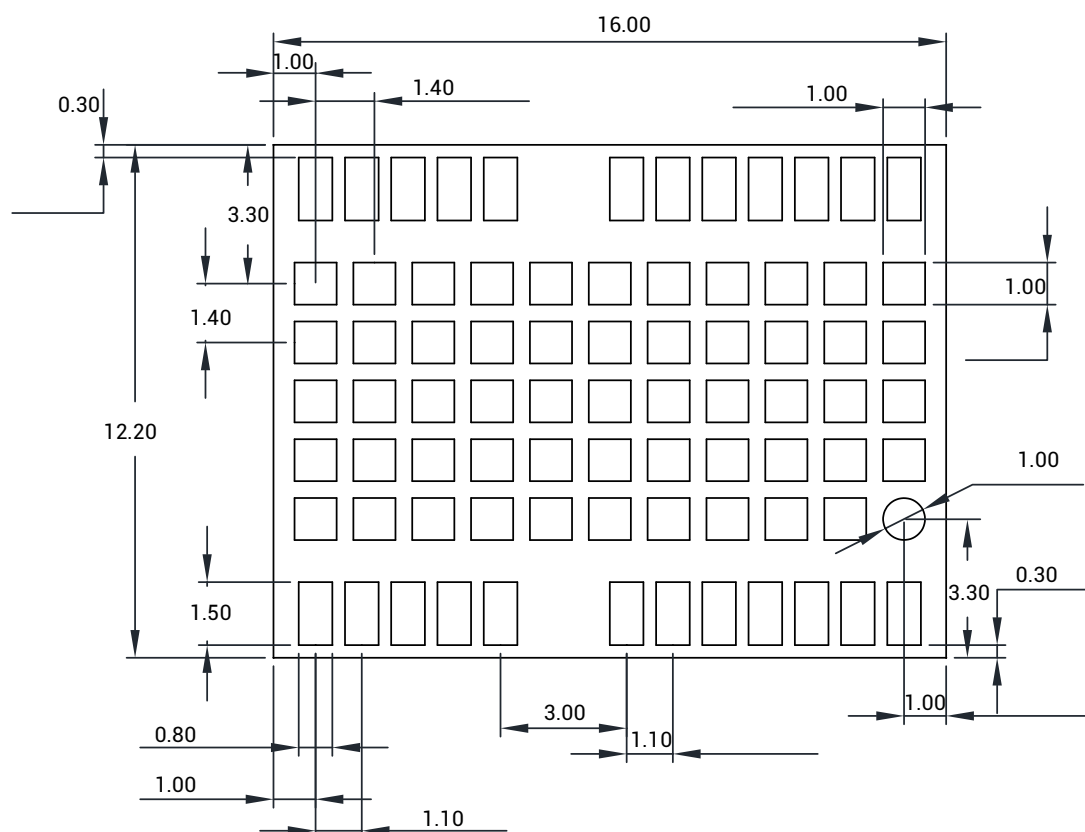


Figure 3-4 Recommended Footprint (Unit: mm)

4 Production Requirements

Recommended soldering temperature curve is as follows:

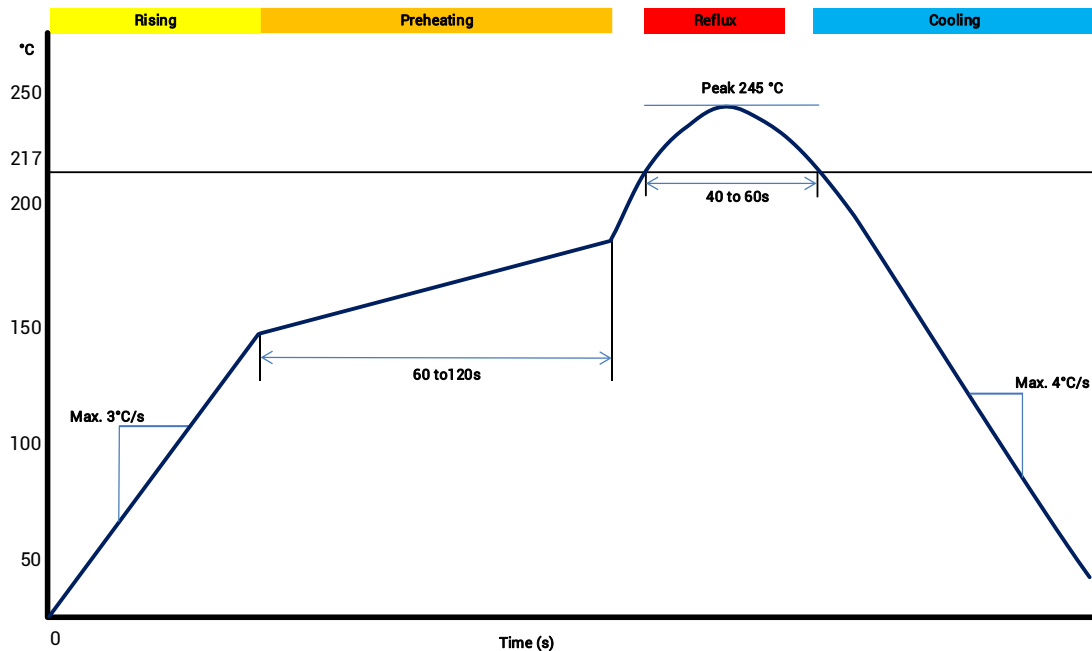


Figure 4-1 Soldering Temperature (Lead-free)

Temperature Rising Stage

- Rising slope: Max. 3 °C/s
- Rising temperature range: 50 °C to 150 °C

Preheating Stage

- Preheating time: 60 s to 120 s
- Preheating temperature range: 150 °C to 180 °C

Reflux Stage

- Over melting temperature (217 °C) time: 40 s to 60 s
- Peak temperature for soldering: no higher than 245 °C

Cooling Stage

- Cooling slope: Max. 4 °C/s

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- In order to prevent falling off during soldering of the module, do not solder it on the back of the board during design, that is, better not go through soldering cycle twice.
- The setting of soldering temperature depends on many factors of the factory, such as board type, solder paste type, solder paste thickness, etc. Please also refer to the relevant IPC standards and indicators of solder paste.
- Since the lead soldering temperature is relatively low, if using this method, please give priority to other components on the board.
- The apertures in the stencil need to meet the customer's own design requirements and inspection specifications. The thickness of the stencil is recommended to be 0.15 mm (not less than 0.12 mm).

 The design of the stencil can be optimized according to the specific production process to ensure manufacturability and reliability.

5 Packaging

5.1 Label Description



Figure 5-1 Label Description

5.2 Product Packaging

The UM960L module uses carrier tape and reel (suitable for mainstream surface mount devices), packaged in vacuum-sealed aluminum foil antistatic bags, with a desiccant inside to prevent moisture. When using reflow soldering process to solder modules, please strictly comply with IPC standard to conduct temperature and humidity control. As packaging materials such as the carrier tape can only withstand the temperature of 55 °C, modules shall be removed from the package during baking.



Figure 5-2 UM960L Package

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Table 5-1 Package Description

Item	Description
Module Number	500 pieces/reel
Reel Size	Tray: 13" External diameter: 330 mm Internal diameter: 100 mm Width: 24 mm Thickness: 2.0 mm
Carrier Tape	Space between (center-to-center distance): 20 mm

The UM960L is rated at MSL level 3. Refer to the relevant IPC/JEDEC J-STD-033 standards for the package and operation requirements. You may access to the website www.jedec.org to get more information.

The shelf life of the UM960L module packaged in vacuum-sealed aluminum foil antistatic bags is one year.

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