Optical Requirements on External Window

Most applications will require an outer cover window, for design cosmetics and protection against dust and humidity.

The optical properties on cover windows placed in front of the Touch Sensor Module are essential in order to maintain a high touch performance. If light is lost, scattered or diverted it will lead to shorter detection range and lower touch accuracy.

Optical Requirements

Window material must be optically clear, without absorption and have optical quality surfaces.

- Transmission: > 88 % at 945nm
- Haze: < 3%
- Surface finish: SP1-A2 (max Ra 0.05µm).

Proven plastic materials include optical grade acrylic (PMMA) and polycarbonate. For glass windows, transmission at 945 nm must be verified. Many borosilicate glasses (such as Borofloat) work well, but some common window glasses show substantial absorption due to high iron content.

Geometrical Constraints

The Touch Sensor Module is an optical system that both emits and receives IR-light at different incident angles. When the light hits a transparent material, most of the light is transmitted through the material and exit on the other side. But in reality the amount of light being transmitted is angle dependent, why some shape constraints exist on windows placed in front of the sensor module:

- Window surfaces must be parallel.
  A wedge, or lens shaped window will shift light beams out of the active area.
- It is a good practice to install the window at a slight angle (~2°) to reduce reflected stray light. See the image below. The angle can be up to approximately 30° without affecting performance.

- A slight curvature on the window can be allowed.
• In x-direction, a maximum angle of 15° between window normal and sensor module's optical axis is recommended, for all parts of the window within the sensor module’s TAA.

• In z-direction, the angle should be maximum 5°.

, which corresponds to a minimum radius of 12 mm for the surface closest to the sensor module.

• Keep window thickness as small as mechanically feasible, to reduce absorption losses.

More Specifications

• Specifications Summary
• Touch Performance
• Power Consumption
• Environmental Requirements
• Electrical Requirements
• Optical Requirements on External Window
• Mechanical Data
• Test Specifications and Definitions

Read More

• Introduction
• Getting started with Touch Sensor Module Evaluation
- Getting Started with Software Integration
- Mechanical Integration
- Electrical Integration
- Software Integration
- Implementation Examples
- Specifications
- Legal Notice