

APPLICATION NOTE

Optimum Heat Dissipation for Alvium CSI-2, USB, and G1 Cameras

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Scope

Cameras heat up during operation, which reduces image quality and increases power consumption. Excessive heat can even damage cameras. Heat dissipation reduces the camera temperature during operation. This document provides information for heat dissipation with Alvium housed cameras.

This document applies to Alvium cameras with all digital interfaces, except for Alvium G5 and Alvium G5X.



Heat dissipation for Alvium G5 and Alvium G5X cameras

For a corresponding application note and for compatible heat sink kits, see www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation/alvium-gige-documentation.



Bare board cameras

For bare board cameras, please contact technical support at www.alliedvision.com/en/about-us/contact-us/technical-support-repair/-rma.

Alvium operating temperature specifications

Specifications stated in the corresponding Alvium user guides reflect the results from [Temperature tests](#).

If the mainboard temperature exceeds the specified maximum value for more than 2 seconds, the camera is powered off automatically. You can use this value (output by `DeviceTemperature`) to control cooling by software, for example, to control a fan.



Alvium camera documentation

For detailed information on Alvium cameras, see your camera's user guide at www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation.



Evaluation heat sink for Alvium G1 cameras

For a compatible heat sink kit, see www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation/alvium-gige-documentation.

Temperature tests

Figure 1 shows how temperature is measured with an Alvim USB closed housing camera. Alvim CSI-2 and Alvim G1 cameras are tested the same way. Tests are performed in a climate chamber with no air flow. The cameras are heated up to the maximum housing temperature stated in the model specifications of the corresponding Alvim user guides.

The camera housing temperature is measured:

- At the hottest spot of the housing
- At the mainboard, using `DeviceTemperature` (Vimba Access) or using `Device Temperature` (Direct Register Access).

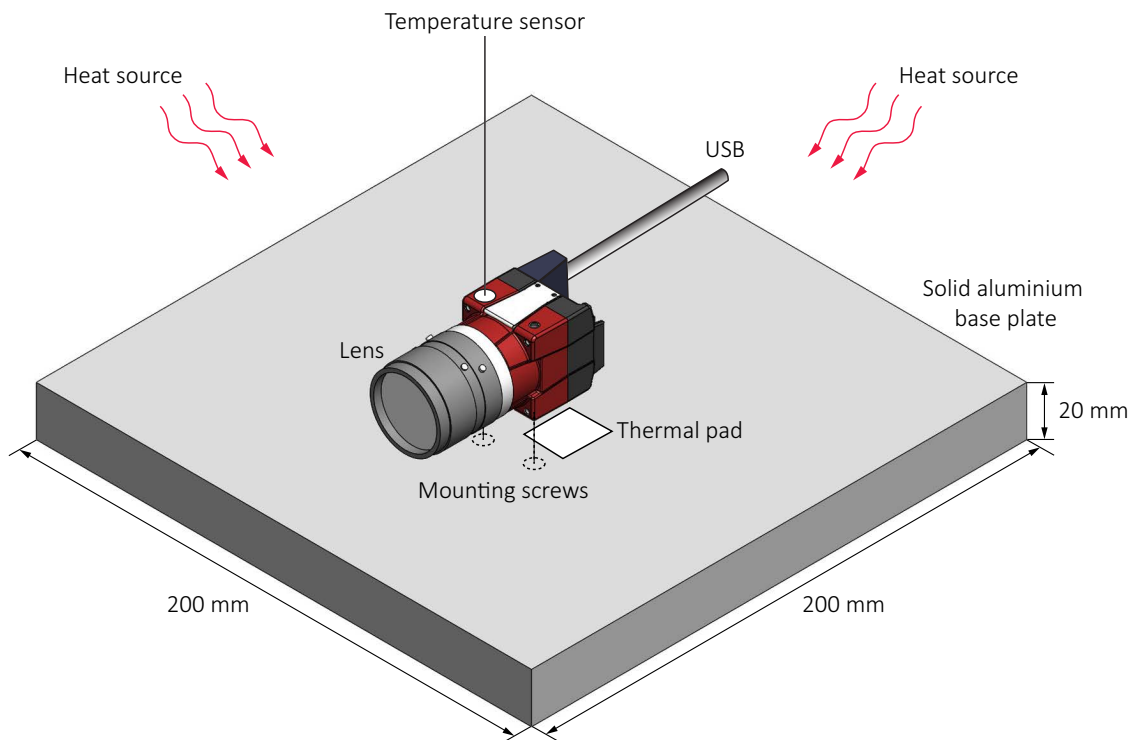


Figure 1: Testing temperature for closed housing Alvim cameras (schematic, non-isometric view)

Individual applications

Heat dissipative design is complex. Many factors have an impact that can often not be specified. In this case, calculations provide a rough estimation.

Best practice rules for heat dissipation

For your safety and to improve camera performance, operate the camera:

- Mounted to a base with a high thermal conductivity
- With a lens or other optical components mounted
- With a heat sink mounted that has large surface areas, see [Mounting heat sinks for open housing and bare board cameras](#) on page 4
- Using conductive media for camera and heat sink mounting

- With active cooling of camera, mounting base, and heat sink, such as by ventilation
- Open housing cameras: Designed into a heat dissipative housing with a high thermal conductivity.
 Closed housing cameras: Using encompassing heat dissipative housings can extend the supported temperature range.
- GigE cameras: Using external power by the I/O connector.
 PoE power has a higher power consumption, including more heat.
- Keeping the operating temperature in the specified range for best image quality and a long camera life.

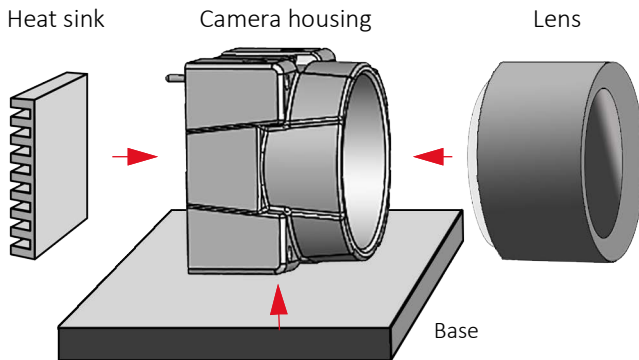


Figure 2: Camera setup for proper heat dissipation

Requirements for heat sinks and mounting bases

Ensure heat sinks mounted to the cooling area dissipate heat in proportion to total power consumption:

- 75% for open housing cameras
- 100% for bare board cameras.

For cameras with >3.5 W power consumption, mount the camera to a base with a high thermal conductivity, using the

- Mounting surfaces of housed cameras
- Mounting area of bare board cameras (see [Figure 3](#)).

The required efforts depend on the mounting scenario and the ambient temperature. See [Best practice rules for heat dissipation](#) on page 2.

Mounting area of bare board cameras

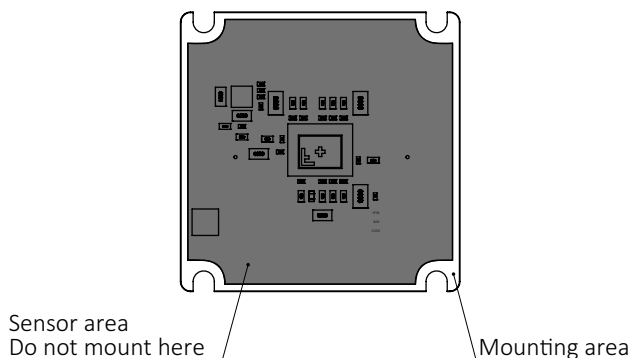


Figure 3: Mounting area for Alvium bare board cameras

Mounting heat sinks for open housing and bare board cameras



NOTICE

Damage to the camera by heat sinks mounted improperly

- Allow mechanical contact only at the cooling area.
- Avoid any mechanical stress to the sensor and electronics area.
- Avoid short circuits of the electronics components.



NOTICE

Damage to the sensor, filter, and lens by corrosive substances

Some conductive media for heat sinks contain corrosive substances that can damage optical surfaces of the sensor, filter, and lens.

- Cover the optical path of the camera when you apply heat sink compound or adhesive to prevent substances and fumes from damaging optical surfaces.
- Adhere to the instructions and safety notes provided by the manufacturer of the conductive media.



NOTICE

Damage to camera electronics

Heat sinks can cause short circuits if they are not electrically isolated.

Avoid electrical contact between electronic components by unsuitable heat sinks and thermal conductive media.

Connect components in the **cooling area** (blue area in [Figure 4](#)) to a heat sink, following the instructions of the manufacturer of the heat sink and the thermal conductive media.

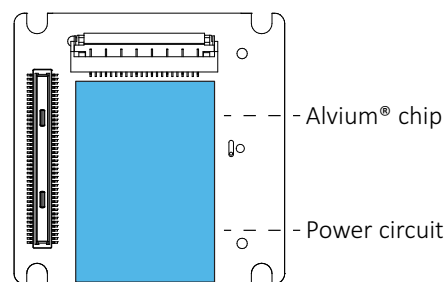


Figure 4: Cooling area for Alvium cameras



Heat sink compound

Because electronic parts vary in height, we have updated our recommendation:

- Use flexible heat sink compound to compensate for potential gaps between the electronic parts to be cooled and heat sinks.
- Consider 1 mm to cover for worst case scenarios.
- For details, see the Alvium STEP files ([Table 1](#) on page 5).

What else do you need?

This is a selection of helpful downloads:

Download or information	Link
Operating Alvium cameras	
Alvium CSI-2 Cameras User Guide Alvium FP3/GM2 User Guide	www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation/alvium-csi-2-documentation
Alvium G1 User Guide	www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation/alvium-gige-documentation
Alvium USB Cameras User Guide	www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation/alvium-usb-documentation
Hardware design in	
Alvium STEP files	www.alliedvision.com/en/support/alvium-step-file-downloads
Various	
Technical documentation and downloads overview	www.alliedvision.com/en/support/technical-documentation
Accessories	www.alliedvision.com/en/products/accessories

Table 1: Downloads for Alvium cameras

Contact us

Website, email

General

www.alliedvision.com/en/contact
info@alliedvision.com

Distribution partners

www.alliedvision.com/en/avt-locations/avt-distributors

Support

www.alliedvision.com/en/support
www.alliedvision.com/en/about-us/contact-us/technical-support-repair-/rma

Offices

Europe, Middle East, and Africa (Headquarters)

Allied Vision Technologies GmbH
Taschenweg 2a
07646 Stadtroda, Germany
T// +49 36428 677-0 (Reception)
T// +49 36428 677-230 (Sales)
F// +49 36428 677-28

North, Central, and South America, Canada

Allied Vision Technologies Canada Inc.
300 – 4621 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 4X8, Canada
T// +1 604 875 8855

USA

Allied Vision Technologies, Inc.
102 Pickering Way- Suite 502
Exton, PA 19341, USA
Toll-free// +1-877-USA-1394
T// +1 978 225 2030

Asia-Pacific

China

Allied Vision Technologies Shanghai Co Ltd.
B-510, Venture International Business Park
2679 Hechuan Road
Minhang District, Shanghai 201103
People's Republic of China
T// +86 21 64861133

Japan

Allied Vision Technologies
Yokohama Portside Bldg. 10F
8-1 Sakae-cho, Kanagawa-ku
Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, 221-0052
T// +81 (0) 45 577 9527

Singapore

Allied Vision Technologies Asia Pte. Ltd
82 Playfair Rd, #07-01 D'Lithium
Singapore 368001
T// +65 6634 9027

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