HAMAMATSU

PHOTON IS OUR BUSINESS

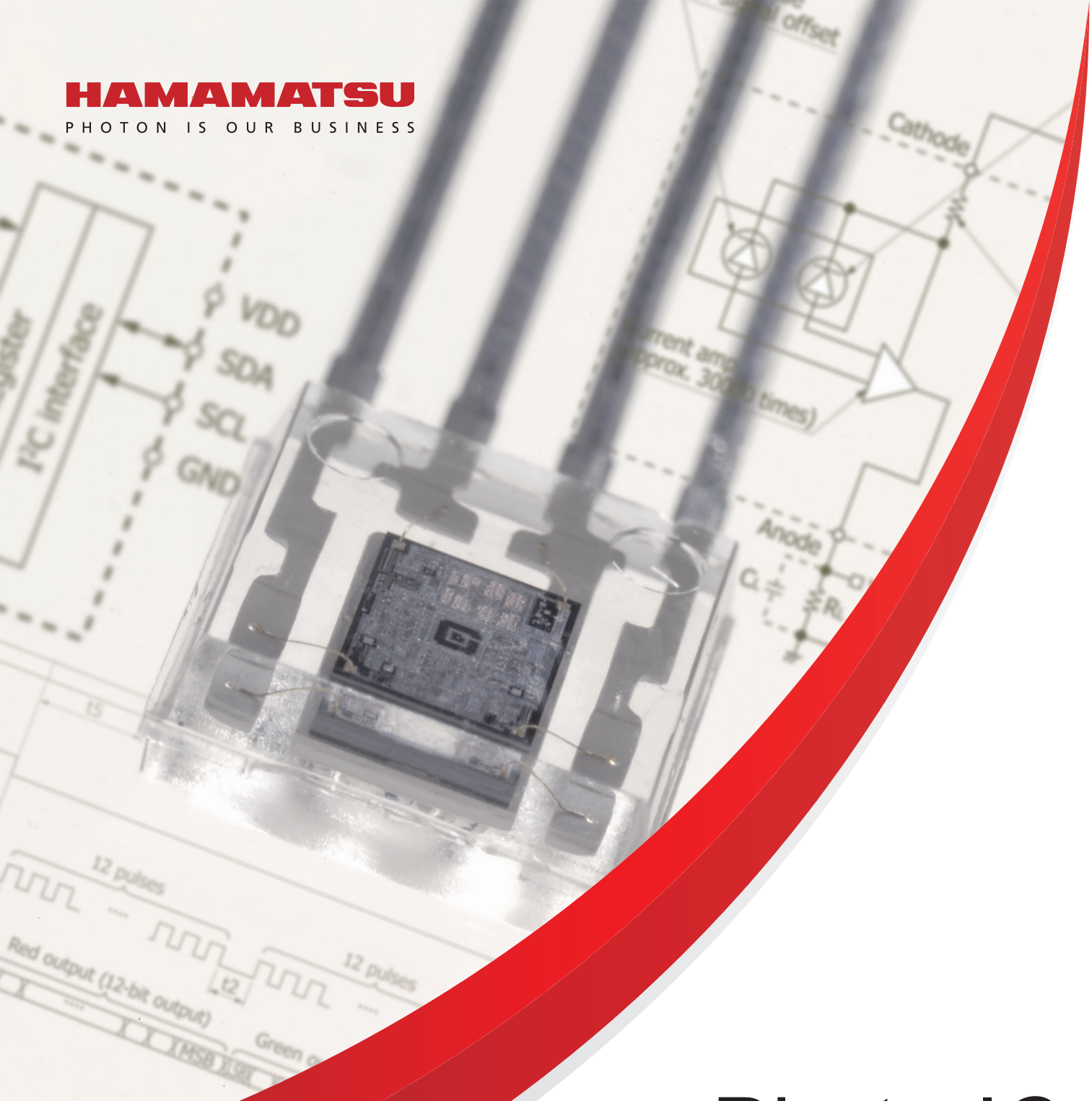


Photo IC

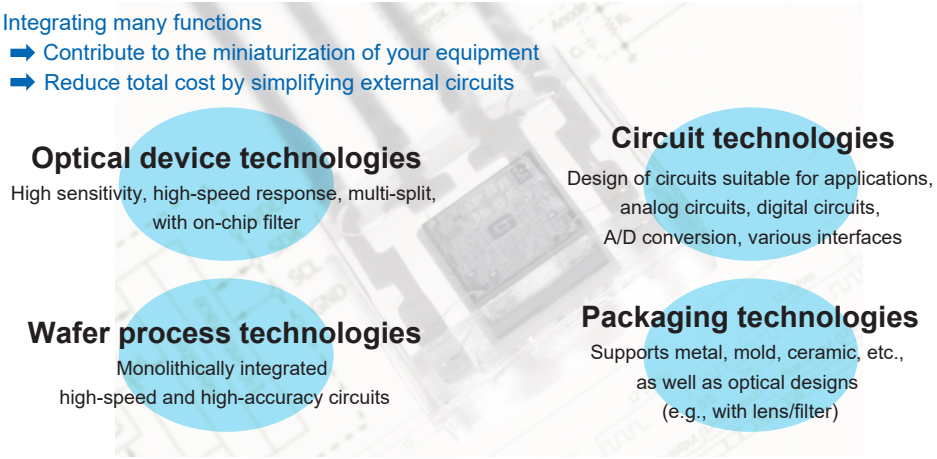
CONTENTS

Jun. 2025

What is a photo IC?

Photo ICs are optical devices that combine an opto-semiconductor and a signal processing circuit into one package. Hamamatsu combines optical device technology, circuit technology, wafer process technology, and packaging technology to develop and manufacture photo ICs suitable for a variety of applications.

We have established a consistent production system from circuit / packege design to wafer process, assembly and inspection, and we also conduct various analysis and evaluations including reliability. We also offer photo ICs with custom specifications to suit your requests.



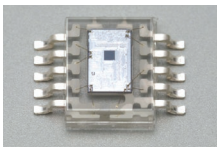
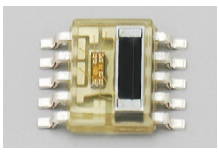
• Features

Photo ICs offer the following features compared to circuits configured with discrete parts:

- Compact and lightweight
- Resistant to electromagnetic induction noise
- High reliability
- Excellent mass productivity
- High cost performance

• Classification of Photo ICs

There are two types of photo ICs, monolithic and hybrid.

Type	Features	
Monolithic type photo IC	Forming the photosensor and signal processing circuit on the same chip 	• Compact size • Resistant to noise and not affected by unnecessary parasitic parameters due to the short wiring that connects a photosensor and a signal processing circuit ➡ Stable operation
Hybrid type photo IC	Connecting the photosensor and signal processing circuit in one package 	• Photosensor's shape and characteristics can be easily changed (high degree of design freedom is possible) • Combination with a light emitter (LED, etc.) available

• Applications

Hamamatsu photo ICs are used in a variety of applications, including ambient light (illuminance and color) detection, plastic optical fiber communications, optical switches, encoders, etc. We can also provide photo ICs that meet FA and automotive standards.

■ Human body sensing
・Light modulation photo IC

■ Detection of ambient light
・Photo IC diodes (illuminance)
・Color sensors (color)

■ Detection of printer printing start timing
・Photo IC for laser beam synchronous detection

Consumers

In-vehicle

Industry

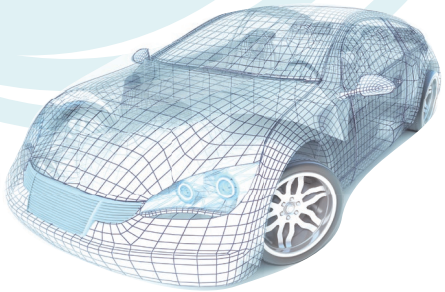
■ In-vehicle network (MOST)
・Photo IC for optical link

■ Auto light
・Photo IC diodes

■ Anti-glare mirror
・Light-to-frequency converter photo IC

■ LiDAR
・Photosensors with front-end IC

■ Human machine interface
・Photo IC for encoder
・Schmitt trigger circuit photo IC



■ Industrial networks
・Photo IC for optical link

■ Object detection, safety light curtain
・Photo IC for optical switch
・Light modulation photo IC
・Schmitt trigger circuit photo IC

■ Distance measurement
・Photosensors with front-end IC

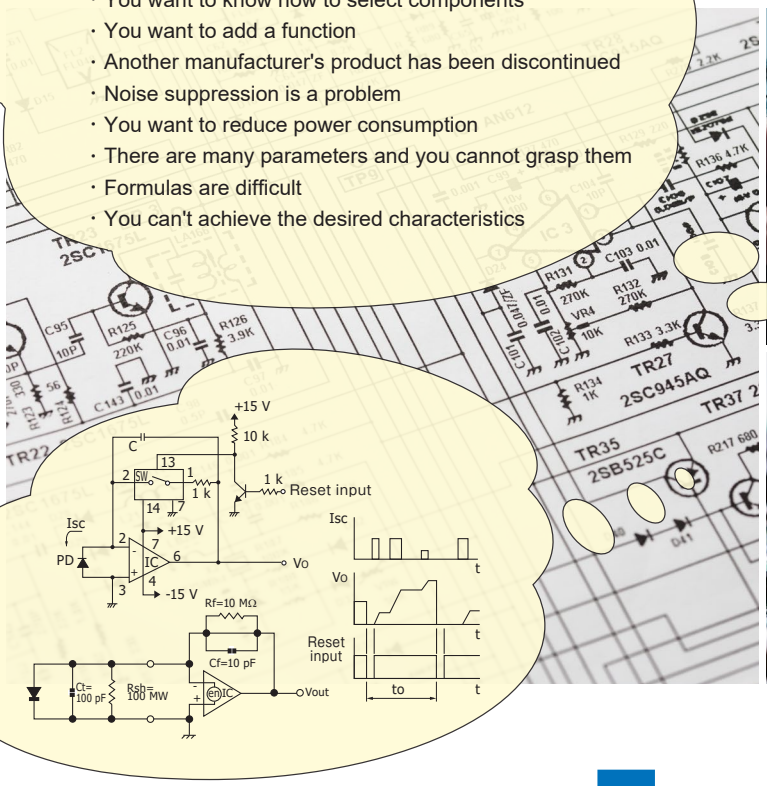
■ Position/rotation detection
・Photo IC for encoder

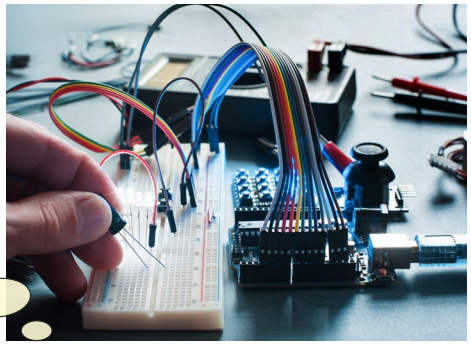
Custom products available

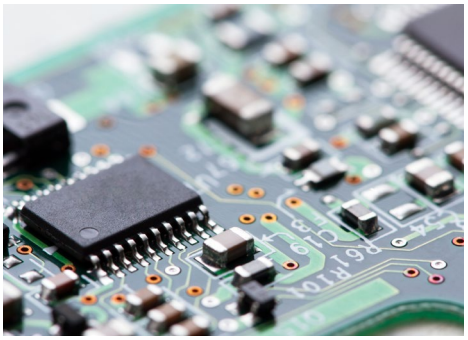
Hamamatsu accepts custom orders for photo ICs that makes use of our extensive experience and knowlegde of opto-semiconductors. In addition to adding functions, increasing reliability, and reducing costs, we can also offer alternatives to discontinued products from other manufacturers.

Do you have any concerns or requests such as those below?

- You don't know how to use opto-semiconductors
- You don't know what type of detection circuit is optimal
- Your circuit is not stable
- You want to reduce mounting space
- You want to reduce the number of components
- Your circuit oscillates
- You want to know how to select components
- You want to add a function
- Another manufacturer's product has been discontinued
- Noise suppression is a problem
- You want to reduce power consumption
- There are many parameters and you cannot grasp them
- Formulas are difficult
- You can't achieve the desired characteristics



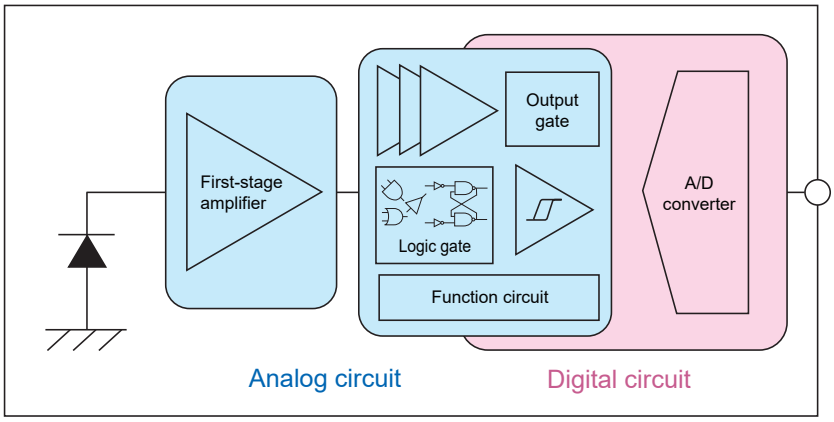




We offer photo ICs with custom specifications to suit your requests

• Circuit technologies

With a wealth of knowledge about photosensors, Hamamatsu can design circuits to meet your requirements. In addition to the first-stage amplifier suitable for the photosensors, we support analog circuits and digital circuits.



■ First-stage amplifier

• Current amplifier • Voltage amplifier • Current-to-voltage amplifier • Current-to-frequency converter	• Transimpedance amplifier • Charge amplifier • Chopper amplifier • Instrumentation amplifier, etc.	• Wide band • High sensitivity • Background light removal • Gain adjustment • Low offset • Low voltage, etc.

■ Circuit example

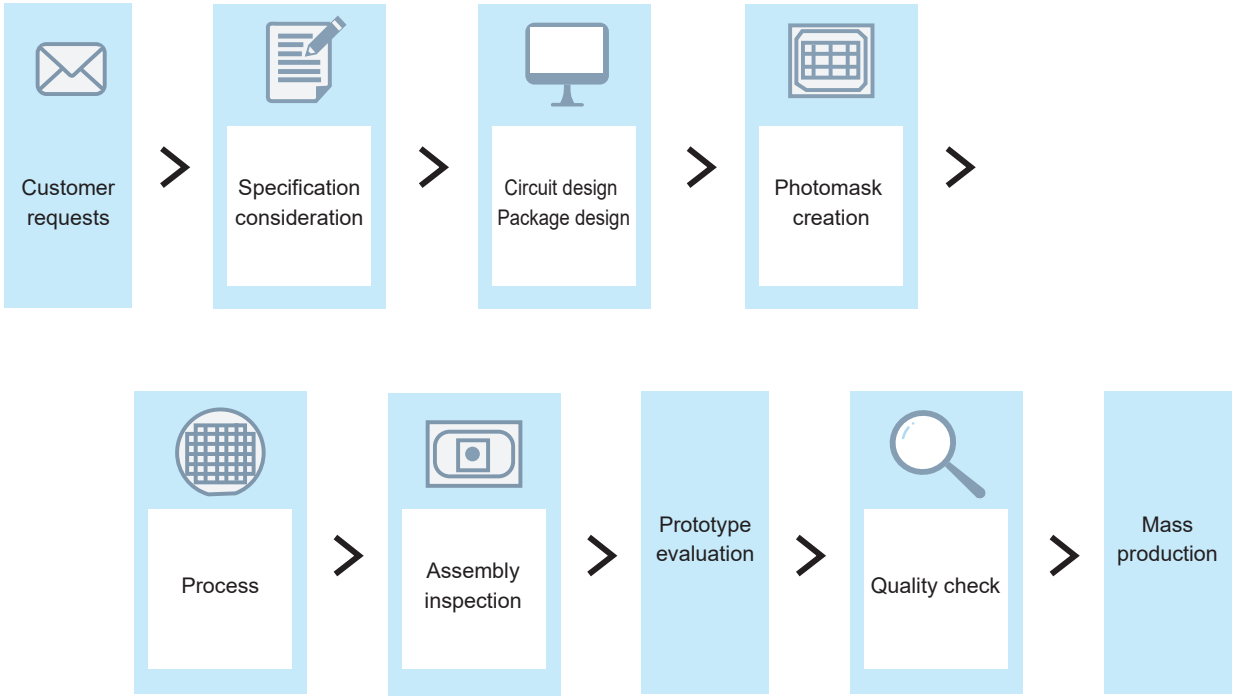
Comparator	• Wide band • With hysteresis
Filter	• Active filter • Low-pass filter • High-pass filter
Detection circuit	• Edge detection circuit • Sample hold circuit • Peak detection circuit • Bottom detection circuit
Voltage amplifier	• Buffer amplifier • Linear amplifier • Limiting amplifier
Other circuits	• Temperature detection circuit • Light level monitor circuit • LED driver circuit
Power supply system	• Reference voltage source • Current source • Regulator
Output method	• Open drain • Open collector

Input/output interface	• TTL • CMOS • LVDS • PECL • CML
Signal processing	• Various logic gates • Counter • Timer circuit • Oscillator • Timing generator • A/D converter
Serial communication interface	• I^2C • SPI

◇ Laser trimming process can correct for characteristic variations

• Procedural flow from custom order to delivery

Hamamatsu has established a comprehensive production system ranging from photo IC design to wafer process, assembly, inspection, and mass production at our ISO9000 and ISO14000 compliant domestic factories. We also offer strong support for various analyses and evaluation systems such as reliability testing.



Main Factory
(Si process, MEMS process, module manufacturing)

Mitsue Factory
(Assembly)

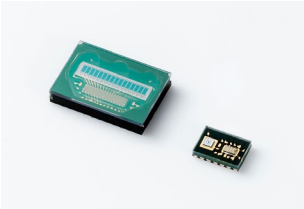
Shingai Factory
(Assembly)

Miyakoda Factory
(Compound process, semiconductor laser manufacturing)

Photo IC product examples

Ideal for detecting pulse signals

Photosensors with front-end IC



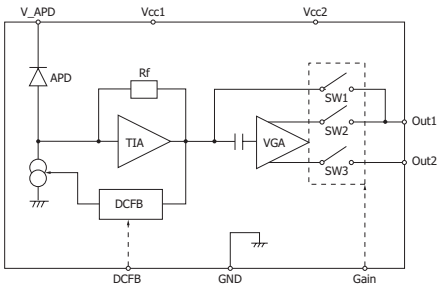
These are photo ICs in which an APD and transimpedance amplifiers (TIAs) are integrated. They achieve high sensitivity, low noise, and high-speed response, making them suitable for distance measurement. They consist of our APD and our unique circuit, and adopt a design that is not easily affected by the usage environment such as background light. They are hybrid type photo ICs and can be used for custom products with built-in APD and APD array with different photosensitive area sizes.

■ Block diagram

S15658-01CT

S13645-01CR

S14137-01CR



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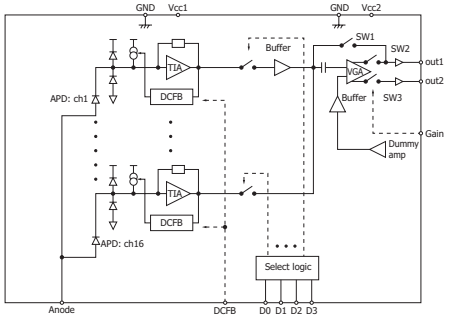

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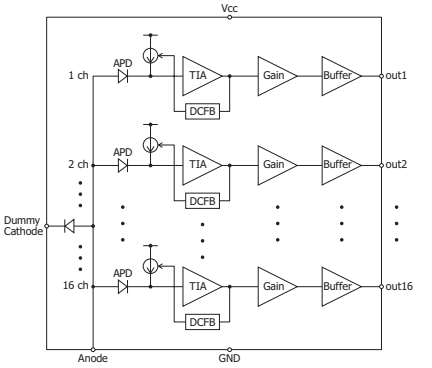

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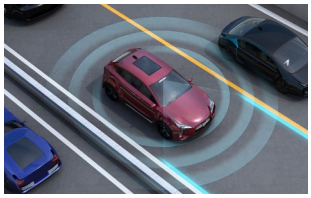
▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Transimpedance amplifier to bring out the characteristics of APDs ➡ Optimizes gain and bandwidth
- DC feedback circuit which automatically removes DC offset components generated by TIA ➡ Less susceptible to background light
- Logic circuit for gain switching function
- Circuit technology that achieves a stable output even when excessive light enters the photo IC
- Circuit design to reduce ringing of output waveforms that cause malfunctions when detecting pulse signals
- APD array can be built-in
- Serial output type that outputs from any pixel specified in the selection logic and parallel output type that can measure all pixels simultaneously
- Circuit design with consideration for resistance to high voltages unique to APDs and for effects of element heating on APD characteristics

■ Application examples

AGV
(automated guided vehicle)



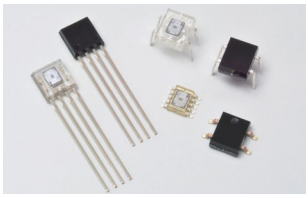
Autonomous driving,
LiDAR

Robot cleaner

Laser rangefinder

Enables object detection
with few malfunctions even under background light

Light modulation photo IC・Photo IC for optical switch



These are photo ICs that can detect objects with high sensitivity and few malfunctions even under background light. By connecting LED, they can be used as a transmissive type (photointerruptor) or reflective type (photoreflector) optical switches that combine a photosensor and a light emitter.

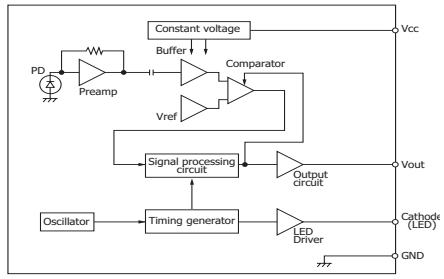
In addition to background light countermeasures, light modulation photo ICs・Photo IC for optical switch employ a synchronous detection method that pulse-modulates the signal light and detects the signal in synchronization with that timing. This reduces the effect of noise from light entering asynchronously.

They are monolithic type photo ICs, and a photodiode and an amplifier are connected within the chip, minimizing the effects of parasitic parameters and noise on amplifier performance. Photo ICs for optical switches are avilable in digital and analog ouput types.

■ Block diagram

Light modulation photo IC	Photo IC for optical switch

Digital output type



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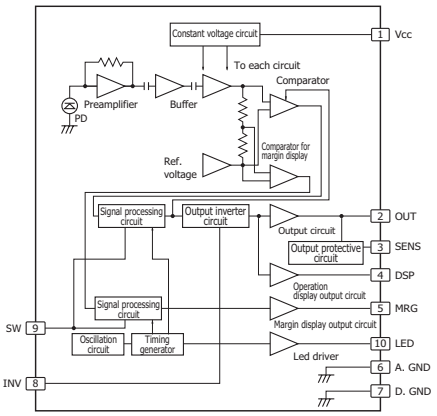

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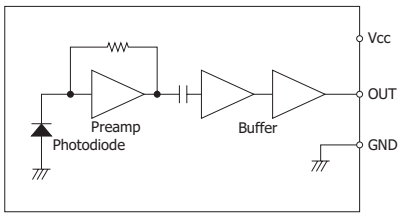
Analog output type



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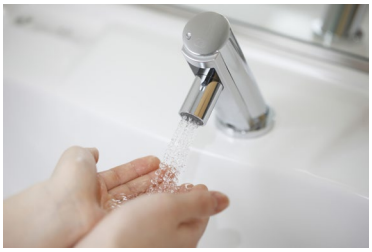
▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Preamplifier (AC amplifier circuit) with expanded dynamic range for DC and low frequency background light without impairing signal detection sensitivity
- Capacitance coupling to remove the effects of low-frequency background light and the DC offset of the preamplifier
- Comparator with hysteresis to prevent chattering (malfunction) caused by minute fluctuations in incident light
- Oscillator and timing generator that synchronize the timing of LED drive and digital signal processing
- Dedicated logic circuit (signal processing circuit) for synchronous detection
- LED drive circuit (open collector drive) that drives external LED by LED driving pulses generated in timing generators

■ Application examples

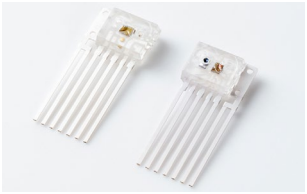
Safety light curtain



Auto faucet

Achieves low-cost optical link systems

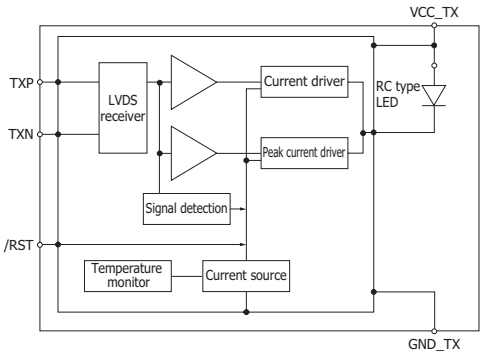
Photo IC for optical link



These are transmitter/receiver photo ICs for plastic optical fiber communications. The transmitter photo ICs are equipped with an LED with a wavelength of 650 nm and a drive IC with a temperature compensation function. They support a wide operating temperature range and provide stable light output. The receiver photo ICs consist of a Si PIN photodiode and a signal processing circuit. The adoption of a fully differential structure using a dummy photodiode reduces the effects of external noise, achieving high sensitivity. It has a sleep function that reduces power consumption during a waiting time, and switches to standby mode when there is no input.
To customize these photo ICs, select an LED and a Si photodiode to match the fiber you are using. Customization is possible for both hybrid types and monolithic types. In addition, optical transceiver types are available.

■ Block diagram

Transmitter photo IC



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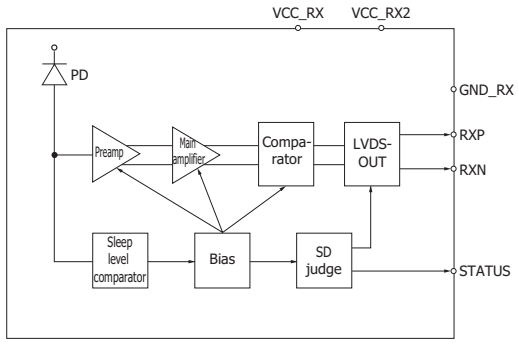
Receiver photo IC



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▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Peaking circuit to correct the light output waveform response
- Temperature sensing circuit and LED driver circuit to correct LED temperature fluctuations
- Low distortion circuit with stable output for temperature/supply voltage fluctuations
- Fully differential circuit (dummy photodiode is used to eliminate external noise and power supply noise)

- Transimpedance amplifiers with optimized gain and band
- Signal detection circuit for sleep function
- Power supply isolation to avoid “swinging back” on the power line that causes jitter
- Supports output interfaces such as LVDS, PECL, and CML

■ Application examples

In-vehicle network

Communication between devices

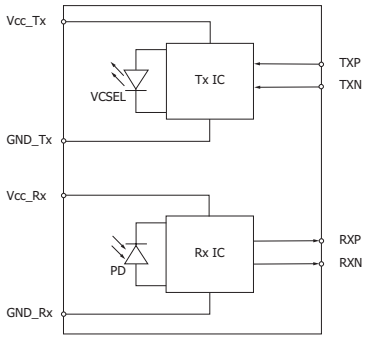
Enabling free-space optical data communication

Optical transceiver P16548-01AT

This optical transceiver is capable of free-space optical data communication. By placing two of this product facing each other on the optical axis, full-duplex two-way communication with a transmission distance of up to 100 mm is realized. Maximum data rate is 1.25 Gbps, and this characteristic is maintained even when communicating between a 360° roating object and stationary object. This product also has a built-in transmitter and receiver. For the transmitter we use a 850 nm VCSEL, and by combining it with a driver IC that can compensate for temperature, it is possible to do stable communication over a wide operating temperature range. The receiver consists of a PIN photodiode and a signal processing IC, and is capable of high-speed operation.

■ Block diagram

Overall block diagram	Transmitter	Receiver



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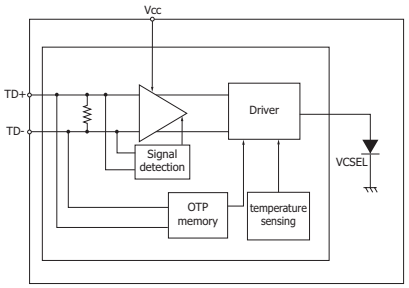

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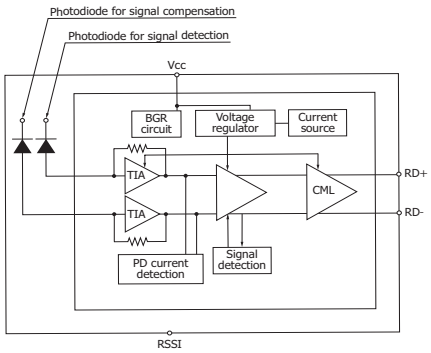


KPICC0413EA

▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- The driver IC with bult-in OTP memory sets the drive current corresponding to the element variation and temperature charcteristics of the VCSEL
- Fully differential circut (dummy photodiode is used to eliminate external noise and power supply noise)
- Signal detection circit fot testing signal presence/absence
- RSSI function that can monitor the amount of light received into the photodiode
- The receiver consists of a PIN photodiode and a signal processing IC, enabling signal transmission up to 1.25 Gbps
- CML interface capable of high-speed communication

■ Application examples

Communication between devices

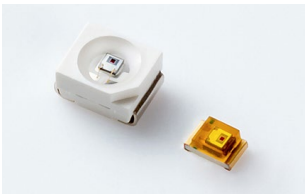
Communication between robot control

Communication between AMR and AGV

Communication between cameras

Two-terminal sensors as easy to use as photodiodes, capable of high-current output

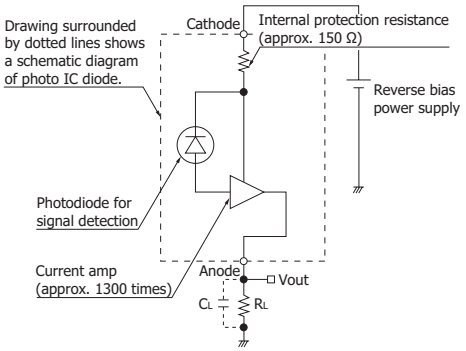
Photo IC diodes



These photo ICs amplify and output the photocurrent generated by a photodiode. Highly sensitive and stable operation is possible, and they can be used in the same way as reverse-biased photodiodes.
Two types are available, infrared type and visual-sensitive compensation type. The visual-sensitive compensation type consists of two photodiodes with different on-chip filters and a current amplifier (subtracted amplifier circuit). They achieve spectral response close to human eye sensitivity and can be used as illuminance sensors.

■ Block diagram

Infrared type



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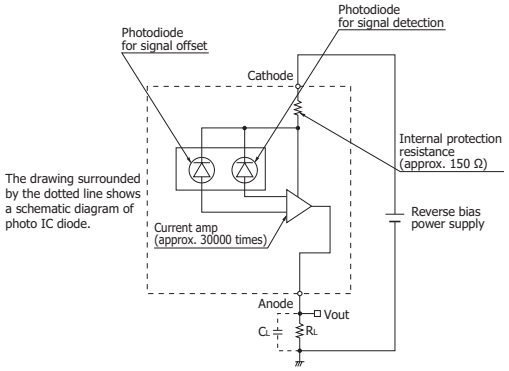
Visual-sensitive compensation type



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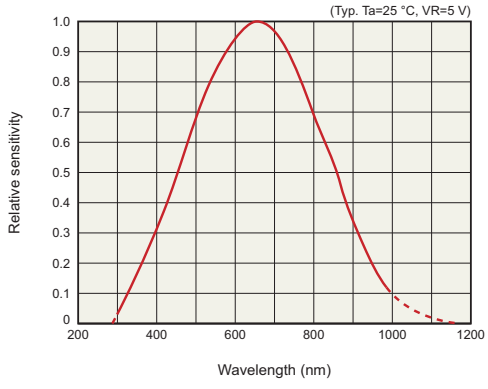
Spectral response example



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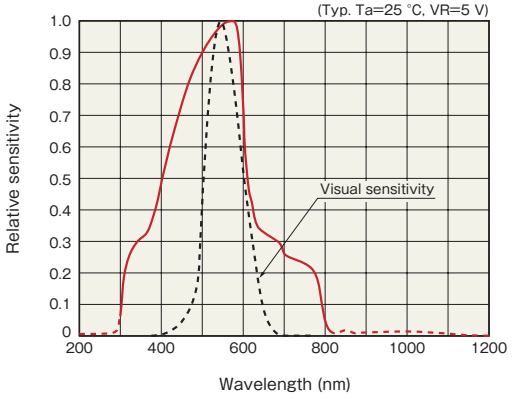
Spectral response example



KPICB0239EA

▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Current amplifier realizing a wide operating temperature range and highly sensitive, stable operation
- Subtraction amplifier circuit for spectral response close to human eye sensitivity in combination with on-chip filters

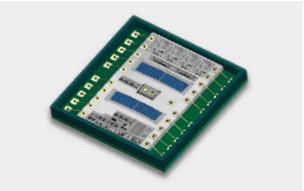
■ Application examples

Automatic lighting

Auto lights in automobiles

For optical encoders

Photo IC for encoder



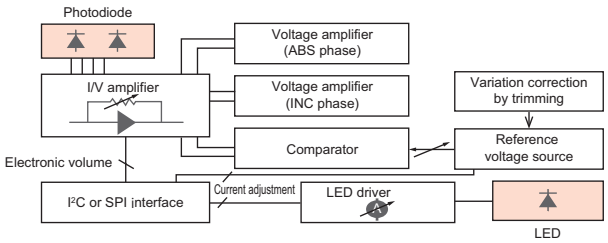
These are photo ICs for configuring optical encoders. The following customization is available to meet your encoder specifications:

- Special photodiode pattern
- Emitter/receiver integrated type combining a photodiode and an LED
- Reduced mounting space realized by miniaturization (monolithic type)
- I²C interface

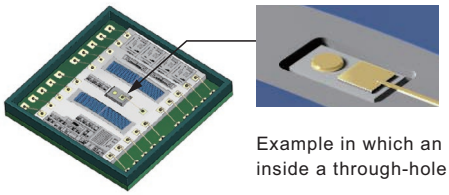
■ Custom example

LED integrated photo IC (monolithic type)

Block diagram

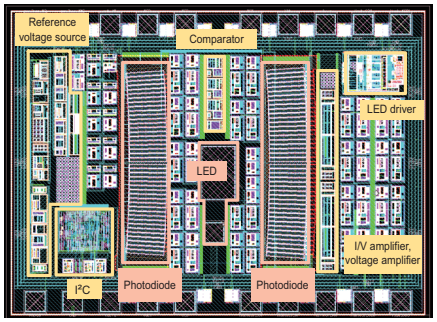


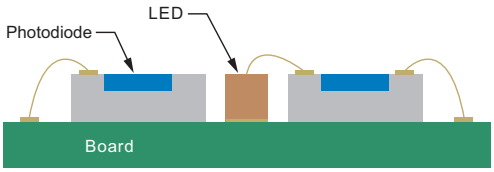
Product image



Example in which an LED is mounted inside a through-hole of a Si photodiode

Chip



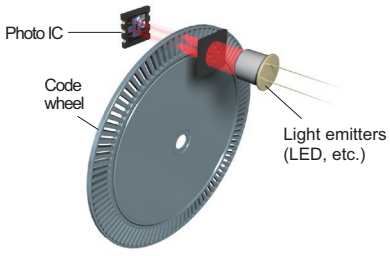


Cross section

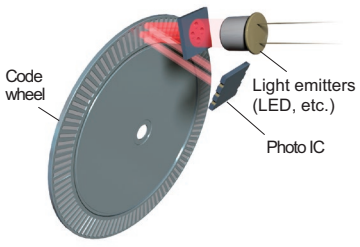
▶ Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Detection circuit (preamplifier) to detect rotation/position/speed
- Analog output (amplifier output) or digital output (comparator output)
- I²C interface or SPI for multifunction capability

■ Application examples



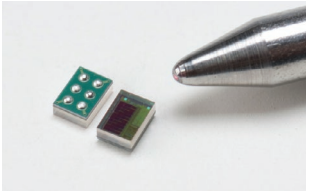
Transmissive encoder



Reflective encoder

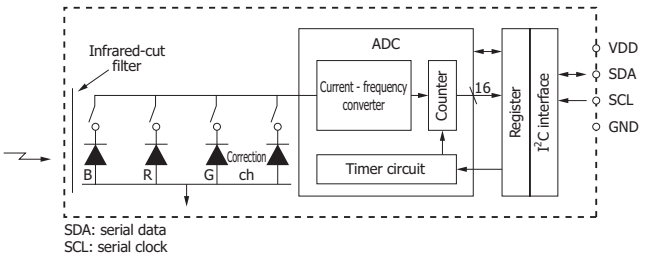
Information transfer between ICs via two signal lines

I²C-compatible color sensors



These are color sensors compatible with I²C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) interface. They have a built-in photodiode with an on-chip filter that is sensitive to Red (λp=615 nm), Green (λp=530 nm), and Blue (λp=460 nm) lights. The I²C interface can be connected to a microcontroller. The detection results are output with a 16-bit digital value for each color. The sensitivity and integration time are adjustable so that photometry can be performed under a variety of conditions.

Block diagram



KPICC0152EB

Hamamatsu photo IC technologies

- Photometry over a wide dynamic range
- Square wave output with oscillation frequency proportional to incident light level (duty ratio: 50%), current-to-frequency conversion circuit that can be directly connected to the logic circuit input
- Timer circuit with built-in oscillator outputting internal clock and integration time
- Counter circuit that counts the output frequency within the integration time
- A/D converter that converts detection results to 16-bit digital values
- Register circuit to store counter data and I²C interface data
- I²C interface for transmitting and receiving data to and from the outside

Application examples

Backlight monitor (backlight dimming)

Printer printing monitor

HAMAMATSU

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