

RoHS Compliant

PCI Express Flash Drive

Industrial PT180-M280 BiCS5 Product Specifications



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Version 1.3



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Specifications Overview:

- **PCIe Interface**
 - Compliant with PCI Express 4.0
 - Compliant with NVMe 1.4
 - Compatible with PCIe Gen4 x4 interface
- **Capacity**
 - 256, 512 GB
 - 1, 2, 4 TB
- **Performance¹**
 - Interface burst read/write: 8 GB/sec
 - Sequential read: up to 5,055 MB/sec
 - Sequential write: up to 3,915 MB/sec
 - Random read (4K): up to 714,000 IOPS
 - Random write (4K): up to 929,000 IOPS
- **Flash Management**
 - Low-Density Parity-Check (LDPC) Code
 - Global Wear Leveling
 - Flash bad-block management
 - Flash Translation Layer: Page Mapping
 - Power Failure Management
 - S.M.A.R.T.
 - TRIM
 - Hyper Cache Technology
 - SMART Read Refresh™
 - NVMe Secure Erase
- **NAND Flash Type: 3D TLC (BiCS5)**
- **MTBF: >2,000,000 hours**
- **Endurance (in drive writes per day: DWPD)**
 - 256 GB: 0.66 DWPD
 - 512 GB: 0.74 DWPD
 - 1 TB: 0.92 DWPD
 - 2 TB: 1.15 DWPD
 - 4 TB: 1.33 DWPD
- **Temperature Range**
 - Operating (Tc): 0°C to 70°C
 - Storage (Ta): -55°C to 100°C
- **Supply Voltage**
 - 3.3V ± 5%
- **Power Consumption¹**
 - Active mode (Max.): 1,500 mA
 - Idle mode: 470 mA
- **Power Management**
 - Supports APST
 - Supports ASPM L1.2
- **Connector Type**
 - 75-pin M.2 module pinout
- **NVMe Features²**
 - Supports HMB (Host Memory Buffer)
- **Reliability**
 - Thermal Throttling
 - End-to-End Data Protection
 - Sidefill
 - Heat Spreader
- **Physical Characteristics**
 - Form factor: Single-sided M.2 2280-M
 - Dimensions: 22.00 x 80.00 x 2.43_(max.), unit: mm
 - Net weight: 8.3g ± 5%
- **RoHS Compliant**

Notes:

1. Varies from capacities. The values for performances and power consumptions presented are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or platform settings. The term idle refers to the standby state of the device.
2. Windows 10 (version 1703) onwards supports the HMB (Host Memory Buffer) function.

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1. General Description

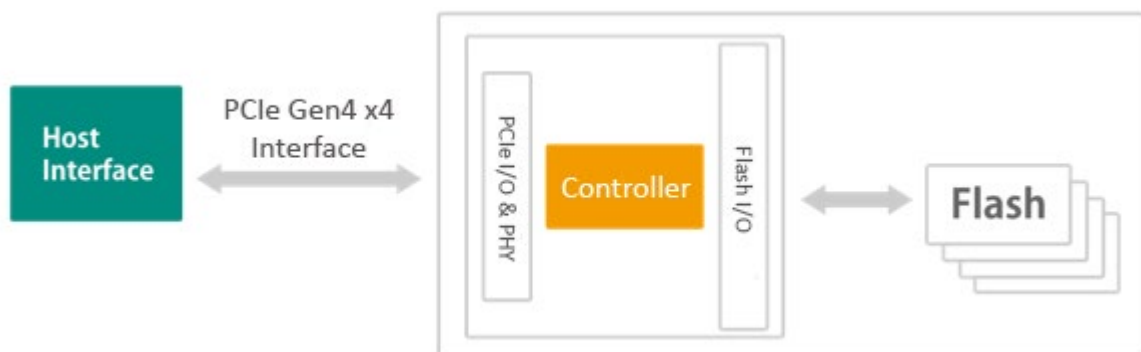
Apacer PT180-M280 is the fastest SSD designed with M.2 2280 mechanical dimensions, providing full compliance with the PCIe Gen4 x4 interface and NVMe 1.4 specifications. This allows it to operate in power management modes and significantly reduce power consumption. Built with a powerful PCIe controller that supports on-the-module ECC as well as an efficient wear leveling scheme, PT180-M280 delivers outstanding performance in data transfer. With its compact and high-speed storage, PT180-M280 is the ideal choice for larger, faster hosts deployed in a wide range of applications that demand exceptional performance.

Utilizing 3D NAND technology to achieve higher capacities of up to 4TB and offering superior power efficiency compared to 2D NAND, PT180-M280 incorporates an LDPC (Low Density Parity Check) ECC engine to extend endurance and improve data reliability. Additionally, it is equipped with thermal throttling, which dynamically adjusts frequency scaling to maintain data reliability and ensure sustained performance even during overheating conditions. To ensure uninterrupted operation in environments with high vibration and extreme conditions, PT180-M280 integrates Sidefill technology, enhancing product reliability and resistance to thermal and mechanical shocks. Moreover, a graphene heat spreader is included to efficiently dissipate heat and maintain optimal SSD functioning. For highly-intensive applications, End-to-End Data Protection safeguards data integrity at multiple points in the data transfer process, facilitating dependable data delivery.

In terms of flash management, PT180-M280 adopts the latest page mapping file translation layer and comes with various implementations including flash block management, power failure management, TRIM, Hyper Cache technology, SMART Read Refresh, and NVMe secure erase, and power saving modes.

With exceptional performance, trustable reliability and enhanced data protection, PT180-M280 is definitely the ideal storage or cache solution for a variety of applications ranging from industrial, imaging, computing to enterprise markets.

2. Functional Block



Note: The actual number of NAND flash used on Apacer PT180-M280 varies from capacities. The illustration is for reference only.

Figure 2-1 Functional Block Diagram

3. Pin Assignments

This connector does not support hot plug capability. There are a total of 75 pins. 12 pin locations are used for mechanical key locations; this allows such a module to plug into Key M connectors.



Figure 3-1 Pin Connectors

Table 3-1 Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Type	Description
1	GND	Ground
2	3.3 V	3.3V source
3	GND	Ground
4	3.3 V	3.3V source
5	PETn3	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
6	PWRDIS (I)(0/1.8/3.3V)	No connect
7	PETp3	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
8	PLN# (I)(0/1.8/3.3V)	No connect
9	GND	Ground
10	LED1#	Open drain, active low signal. These signals are used to allow the add-in card to provide status indicators via LED devices that will be provided by the system.
11	PERn3	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
12	3.3 V	3.3V source
13	PERp3	PCIe RX Differential signals defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
14	3.3 V	3.3V source
15	GND	Ground
16	3.3 V	3.3V source
17	PETn2	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
18	3.3 V	3.3V source
19	PETp2	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec

Table 3-1 Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Type	Description
20	NC	No connect
21	GND	Ground
22	VIO 1.8 V	1.8V source
23	PERn2	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
24	NC	No connect
25	PERp2	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
26	NC	No connect
27	GND	Ground
28	NC	No connect
29	PETn1	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
30	PLA_S3# (O)(0/1.8/3.3V)	No connect
31	PETp1	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
32	GND	Ground
33	GND	Ground
34	USB_D+	No connect
35	PERn1	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
36	USB_D-	No connect
37	PERp1	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
38	GND	Ground
39	GND	Ground
40	SMB_CLK (I/O)(0/1.8V)	No connect
41	PETn0	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
42	SMB_DATA (I/O)(0/1.8V)	No connect
43	PETp0	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
44	ALERT# (O)(0/1.8V)	No connect
45	GND	Ground
46	NC	No connect
47	PERn0	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
48	NC	No connect
49	PERp0	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
50	PERST# (I)(0/1.8V/3.3V)	PE-Reset is a functional reset to the card as specification. defined by the PCIe Mini CEM
51	GND	Ground
52	CLKREQ# (I/O)(0/1.8V/3.3V)	Clock Request is a reference clock request signal as defined by the PCIe Mini CEM specification; Also used by L1 PM Substates.
53	REFCLKn	PCIe Reference Clock signals (100 MHz) spec. defined by the PCI Express M.2
54	PEWAKE# (I/O)(0/1.8V/3.3V)	No connect
55	REFCLKp	PCIe Reference Clock signals (100 MHz) spec. defined by the PCI Express M.2
56	Reserved for MFG_DATA	Reserved for Apacer use only ¹
57	GND	Ground
58	Reserved for MFG_CLOCK	Reserved for Apacer use only ¹

Table 3-1 Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Type	Description
59	Module Key	Module Key
60	Module Key	Module Key
61	Module Key	Module Key
62	Module Key	Module Key
63	Module Key	Module Key
64	Module Key	Module Key
65	Module Key	Module Key
66	Module Key	Module Key
67	NC	No connect
68	SUSCLK (I)(0/1.8V/3.3V)	No connect
69	PEDET	No connect
70	3.3 V	3.3V source
71	GND	Ground
72	3.3 V	3.3V source
73	VIO_CFG (O)	Ground
74	3.3 V	3.3V source
75	GND	Ground

Note:

1. Reserved by Apacer, please do not connect to a host.

4. Product Specifications

4.1 Capacity

Capacity specifications of PT180-M280 are available as shown in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Capacity Specifications

Capacity	Total bytes	Total LBA
256 GB	240,057,409,536	468,862,128
512 GB	480,103,981,056	937,703,088
1 TB	960,197,124,096	1,875,385,008
2 TB	1,920,383,410,176	3,750,748,848
4 TB	3,840,755,982,336	7,501,476,528

Notes:

- Display of total bytes varies from operating systems.
- 1 GB = 1,000,000,000 bytes; 1 sector = 512 bytes.
- LBA count addressed in the table above indicates total user storage capacity and will remain the same throughout the lifespan of the device. However, the total usable capacity of the SSD is most likely to be less than the total physical capacity because a small portion of the capacity is reserved for device maintenance usages.

4.2 Performance

Performance of PT180-M280 is listed below in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2 Performance Specifications

Capacity \ Performance	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB	2 TB	4 TB
Sequential Read (MB/s)	3,910	5,055	5,035	3,815	3,985
Sequential Write (MB/s)	1,815	3,520	3,915	3,070	3,530
4K Random Read (IOPS)	236,000	474,000	714,000	686,000	538,000
4K Random Write (IOPS)	442,000	837,000	929,000	758,000	858,000

Notes:

- Results may differ from various flash configurations or host system setting.
- Sequential read/write is based on CrystalDiskMark 8.0.4 with file size 1,000MB.
- Random read/write is measured using IOMeter with Queue Depth 128.

4.3 Environmental Specifications

Environmental specifications of PT180-M280 are shown in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 Environmental Specifications

Parameter	Type	Specifications
Temperature	Operating (Tc)	0°C to 70°C
	Non-operating (Ta)	-55°C to 100°C
Vibration	Operating	7.69 GRMS, 20~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
	Non-operating	4.02 GRMS, 15~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
Shock	Operating	Acceleration, 50(G)/11(ms)/half sine (compliant with MIL-STD-202G)
	Non-operating	Acceleration, 1500(G)/0.5(ms)/half sine (compliant with MIL-STD-883K)

Notes:

- This Environmental Specification table indicates the conditions for testing the device. Real world usages may affect the results.
- Tc: case temperature; Ta: ambient temperature. The operating temperature is determined by the case temperature. Adequate airflow is advisable as it enables the device to maintain optimal temperatures, especially in environments with heavy workloads.

4.4 Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF)

Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) is predicted based on reliability data for the individual components in PT180-M280. The prediction result for PT180-M280 is more than 2,000,000 hours.

Note: The MTBF is predicated and calculated based on “Telcordia Technologies Special Report, SR-332, Issue 3” method.

4.5 Certification and Compliance

PT180-M280 complies with the following standards:

- CE
- UKCA
- FCC
- RoHS
- MIL-STD-810G

4.6 Endurance

The endurance of a storage device is predicted by Drive Writes Per Day based on several factors related to usage, such as the amount of data written into the drive, block management conditions, and daily workload for the drive. Thus, key factors, such as Write Amplifications and the number of P/E cycles, can influence the lifespan of the drive.

Table 4-4 Endurance Specifications

Capacity	Drive Writes Per Day
256 GB	0.66
512 GB	0.74
1 TB	0.92
2 TB	1.15
4 TB	1.33

Notes:

- This estimation complies with JEDEC random client workload.
- Flash vendor guaranteed 3D NAND TLC P/E cycle: 3K
- WAF may vary from capacity, flash configurations and writing behavior on each platform.
- 1 Terabyte = 1,024GB
- DWPD (Drive Writes Per Day) is calculated based on the number of times that user overwrites the entire capacity of an SSD per day of its lifetime during the warranty period. (3D NAND TLC warranty: 3 years)

5. Flash Management

5.1 Error Correction/Detection

PT180-M280 implements a hardware ECC scheme, based on the Low Density Parity Check (LDPC). LDPC is a class of linear block error correcting code which has apparent coding gain over BCH code because LDPC code includes both hard decoding and soft decoding algorithms. With the error rate decreasing, LDPC can extend SSD endurance and increase data reliability while reading raw data inside a flash chip.

5.2 Bad Block Management

Current production technology is unable to guarantee total reliability of NAND flash memory array. When a flash memory device leaves factory, it comes with a minimal number of initial bad blocks during production or out-of-factory as there is no currently known technology that produce flash chips free of bad blocks. In addition, bad blocks may develop during program/erase cycles. Since bad blocks are inevitable, the solution is to keep them in control. Apacer flash devices are programmed with ECC, page mapping technique and S.M.A.R.T to reduce invalidity or error. Once bad blocks are detected, data in those blocks will be transferred to free blocks and error will be corrected by designated algorithms.

5.3 Global Wear Leveling

Flash memory devices differ from Hard Disk Drives (HDDs) in terms of how blocks are utilized. For HDDs, when a change is made to stored data, like erase or update, the controller mechanism on HDDs will perform overwrites on blocks. Unlike HDDs, flash blocks cannot be overwritten and each P/E cycle wears down the lifespan of blocks gradually. Repeatedly program/erase cycles performed on the same memory cells will eventually cause some blocks to age faster than others. This would bring flash storages to their end of service term sooner. Global wear leveling is an important mechanism that levels out the wearing of all blocks so that the wearing-down of all blocks can be almost evenly distributed. This will increase the lifespan of SSDs.

5.4 Power Failure Management

Power Failure Management plays a crucial role when power supply becomes unstable. Power disruption may occur when users are storing data into the SSD, leading to instability in the drive. However, with Power Failure Management, a firmware protection mechanism will be activated to scan pages and blocks once power is resumed. Valid data will be transferred to new blocks for merging and the mapping table will be rebuilt. Therefore, data reliability can be reinforced, preventing damage to data stored in the NAND Flash.

5.5 TRIM

TRIM is a feature which helps improve the read/write performance and speed of solid-state drives (SSD). Unlike hard disk drives (HDD), SSDs are not able to overwrite existing data, so the available space gradually becomes smaller with each use. With the TRIM command, the operating system can inform the SSD which blocks of data are no longer in use and can be removed permanently. Thus, the SSD will perform the erase action, which prevents unused data from occupying blocks all the time.

5.6 Flash Translation Layer – Page Mapping

Page mapping is an advanced flash management technology whose essence lies in the ability to gather data, distribute the data into flash pages automatically, and then schedule the data to be evenly written. Page-level mapping uses one page as the unit of mapping. The most important characteristic is that each logical page can be mapped to any physical page on the flash memory device. This mapping algorithm allows different sizes of data to be written to a block as if the data is written to a data pool and it does not need to take extra operations to process a write command. Thus, page mapping is adopted to increase random access speed and improve SSD lifespan, reduce block erase frequency, and achieve optimized performance and lifespan.

5.7 Hyper Cache Technology

Apacer proprietary Hyper Cache technology uses a portion of the available capacity as SLC (1bit-per-cell) NAND flash memory, called Hyper cache mode. When data is written to SSD, the firmware will direct the data to Hyper Cache mode, providing excellent performance to handle various scenarios in industrial use.

5.8 SMART Read Refresh™

Apacer's SMART Read Refresh plays a proactive role in avoiding read disturb errors from occurring to ensure health status of all blocks of NAND flash. Developed for read-intensive applications in particular, SMART Read Refresh is employed to make sure that during read operations, when the read operation threshold is reached, the data is refreshed by re-writing it to a different block for subsequent use.

5.9 NVMe Secure Erase

NVMe Secure Erase is an NVMe drive sanitize command currently embedded in most of the storage drives. Defined in NVMe specifications, NVMe Secure Erase is part of Format NVM command that allows storage drives to erase all user data areas. The erase process usually runs on the firmware level as most of the NVMe-based storage media currently in the market are built-in with this command. NVMe Secure Erase can securely wipe out the user data in the drive and protects it from malicious attack.

6. NVMe Support Features

6.1 Host Memory Buffer

Host Memory Buffer (HMB) allows HOST to allocate system memory for SSD's exclusive use in order to provide better performance and endurance, especially for DRAMless solutions.

7. Reliability Features

7.1 Thermal Throttling

Thermal throttling can monitor the temperature of the SSD equipped with a built-in thermal sensor via S.M.A.R.T. commands. This method can ensure the temperature of the device stays within temperature limits by drive throttling, i.e. reducing the speed of the drive when the device temperature reaches the threshold level, so as to prevent overheating, guarantee data reliability, and prolong product lifespan. When the temperature exceeds the maximum threshold level, thermal throttling will be triggered to reduce performance step by step to prevent hardware components from being damaged. Performance is only permitted to drop to the extent necessary for recovering a stable temperature to cool down the device's temperature. Once the temperature decreases to the minimum threshold value, transfer speeds will rise back to its optimum performance level.

7.2 End-to-End Data Protection

End-to-End Data Protection is a feature implemented in Apacer SSD products that extends error control to cover the entire path from the host computer to the drive and back, and ensure data integrity at multiple points in the path to enable reliable delivery of data transfers. Unlike ECC which does not exhibit the ability to determine the occurrence of errors throughout the process of data transmission, End-to-End Data Protection allows SSD controller to identify an error created anywhere in the path and report the error to the host computer before it is written to the drive. This error-checking and error-reporting mechanism therefore guarantees the trustworthiness and reliability of the SSD.

7.3 Sidefill

Apacer's sidefill technology strengthens the connections between solder joints and their board, making them more robust and vibration-resistant. It also allows for heat dissipation to offset thermal damage.

7.4 Heat Spreader

In many applications, SSDs are subject to challenging conditions. If the working environment is already hot, and the SSD's operation causes it to increase in temperature as well, the result could be damage to the hardware or corrupted data. For this reason, Apacer's graphene heat spreader is developed for heat dissipation to cool both the NAND Flash and the Controller IC, while still allowing an SSD to deliver high-speed performance, as well as prevent heat-related damage from occurring.

8. Software Interface

8.1 Command Set

Table 8-1 summarizes the commands supported by PT180-M280.

Table 8-1 Admin Commands

Opcode	Command Description
00h	Delete I/O Submission Queue
01h	Create I/O Submission Queue
02h	Get Log Page
04h	Delete I/O Completion Queue
05h	Create I/O Completion Queue
06h	Identify
08h	Abort
09h	Set Features
0Ah	Get Features
0Ch	Asynchronous Event Request
10h	Firmware Activate
11h	Firmware Image Download
14h	Device Self-test

Table 8-2 Admin Commands – NVM Command Set Specific

Opcode	Command Description
80h	Format NVM
81h	Security Send
82h	Security Receive
84h	Sanitize

Table 8-3 NVM Commands

Opcode	Command Description
00h	Flush
01h	Write
02h	Read
04h	Write Uncorrectable
05h	Compare
08h	Write Zeroes
09h	Dataset Management

8.2 S.M.A.R.T.

SMART, an acronym for Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology, is an open standard that allows a hard disk drive to automatically detect its health and report potential failures. When a failure is recorded by SMART, users can choose to replace the drive to prevent unexpected outage or data loss. Moreover, SMART can inform users of impending failures while there is still time to perform proactive actions, such as copy data to another device.

Table 8-4 SMART (02h)

Byte	Length	Description
0	1	Critical Warning
1-2	2	Composite Temperature
3	1	Available Spare
4	1	Available Spare Threshold
5	1	Percentage Used (Average Erase Count / P/E Cycle Count)
6-31	26	Reserved
32-47	16	Data Units Read
48-63	16	Data Units Written
64-79	16	Host Read Commands
80-95	16	Host Write Commands
96-111	16	Controller Busy Time
112-127	16	Power Cycles
128-143	16	Power On Hours
144-159	16	Unsafe Shutdowns
160-175	16	Media and Data Integrity Errors
176-191	16	Number of Error Information Log Entries
192-195	4	Warning Composite Temperature Time
196-199	4	Critical Composite Temperature Time
200-201	2	Temperature Sensor 1: Composite NAND Flash Temperature
202-203	2	Temperature Sensor 2: Controller Temperature
204-205	2	Temperature Sensor 3
206-207	2	Temperature Sensor 4
208-209	2	Temperature Sensor 5
210-211	2	Temperature Sensor 6
212-213	2	Temperature Sensor 7
214-215	2	Temperature Sensor 8: Flash Temperature
216-511	296	Reserved

Note: Temperature display of the Temperature Sensor from 1 to 8 (corresponding bytes from 200 to 215) is not supported if the return value is 0h.

9. Electrical Specifications

9.1 Operating Voltage

Table 9-1 lists the supply voltage for PT180-M280.

Table 9-1 Operating Range

Item	Range
Supply Voltage	3.3V ± 5%

9.2 Power Consumption

Table 9-2 lists the power consumption for PT180-M280.

Table 9-2 Power Consumption

Mode \ Capacity	Unit	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB	2 TB	4 TB
Active (Max.)	mA	1,150	1,360	1,440	1,465	1,500
Idle		445	445	445	450	470

Notes:

- All values are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or host system settings.
- Power consumption is measured using CrystalDiskMark 8.0.4 with file size 1,000MB.

10. Mechanical Specifications

Table 10-1 Physical Information

Parameter	Unit	256 GB	512 GB	1 TB	2 TB	4 TB
Length	mm	80.00 ± 0.15				
Width		22.00 ± 0.15				
Height (Max.)		2.43				
Weight	g ± 5%	7.1	7.1	8	8	8.3

Top view

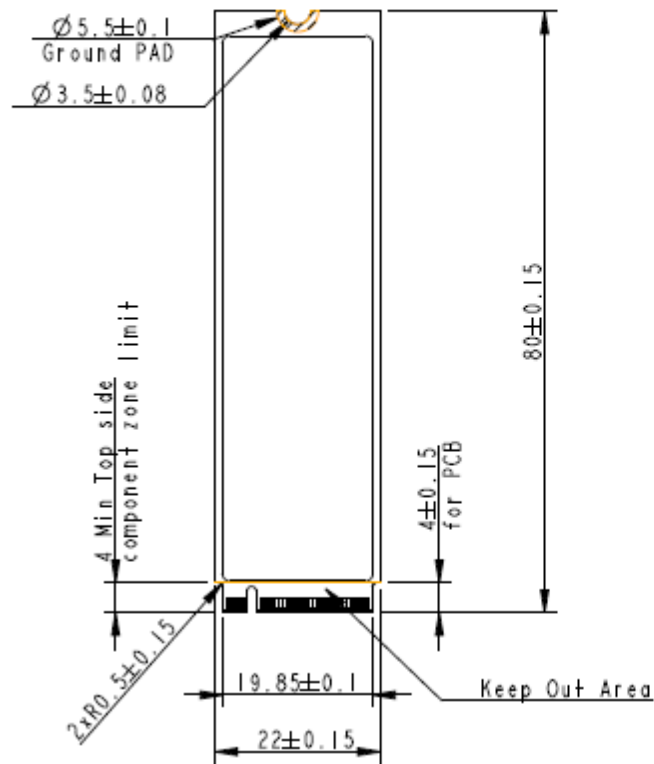


Figure 10-1 Dimensions – Top View

Side view

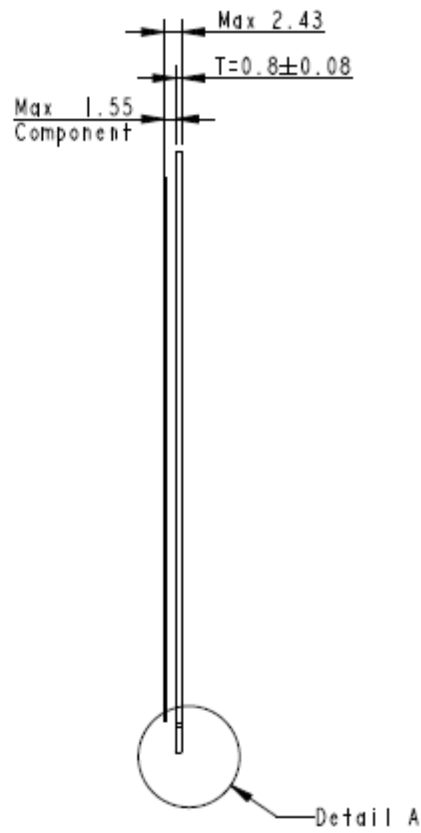


Figure 10-2 Dimensions – Side View

Bottom view

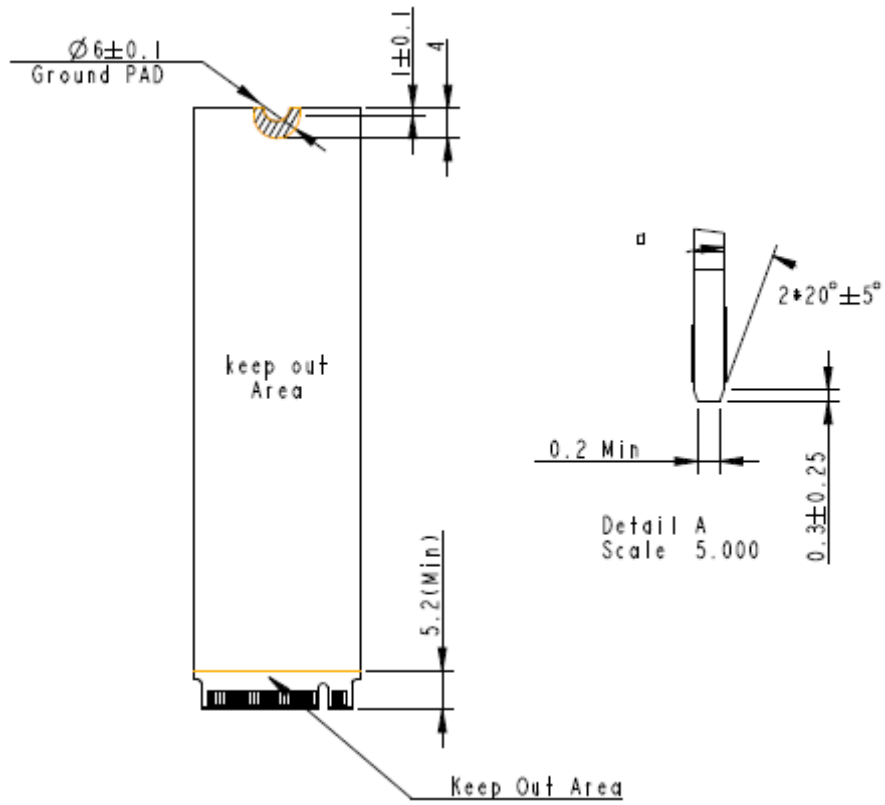


Figure 10-3 Dimensions – Bottom View

11. Product Ordering Information

11.1 Product Code Designations

Apacer's PT180-M280 SSD is available in different configurations and densities. See the chart below for a comprehensive list of options for the PT180-M280 series devices.

Code	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	B	9	6	.	1	8	C	X	G	V	.	0	0	1	X	X

Code 1-3 (Product Line & Form Factor)	PCIe M.2 2280
Code 5-6 (Model/Solution)	PT180-M280
Code 7-8 (Product Capacity)	CJ: 256GB CK: 512GB CL: 1TB CM: 2TB CN: 4TB
Code 9 (Flash Type & Product Temp)	3D TLC Standard Temperature
Code 10 (Product Spec)	Single-sided M key with heat spreader
Code 12-14 (Version Number)	Random numbers generated by system
Code 15-16 (Firmware Version)	01: 256GB-2TB 02: 4TB

11.2 Valid Combinations

The following table lists the available models of the PT180-M280 series which are in mass production or will be in mass production. Consult your Apacer sales representative to confirm availability of valid combinations and to determine availability of new combinations.

Capacity	Valid Combination
256GB	B96.18CJGV.00101
512GB	B96.18CKGV.00101
1TB	B96.18CLGV.00101
2TB	B96.18CMGV.00101
4TB	B96.18CNGV.00102

Revision History

Revision	Description	Date
0.1	Preliminary release	8/12/2022
1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Updated Performance, Endurance and Power Consumption on Specifications Overview page- Updated Table 4-2, 4-4 and 8-2- Added UKCA to 4.5 Certification and Compliance	2/2/2023
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Added 4TB support- Added a product's backside photo to the cover page	6/5/2023
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Added Sidefill support- Renamed heatsink to heat spreader	9/25/2023
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Added a note regarding temperature at Table 4-3- Removed "NAND Flash Temperature" from description of bytes 1-2	4/2/2024

Global Presence

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