Apacer

RoHS Compliant

PCI Express Flash Drive

PT120-M280 Product Specifications

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Specifications Overview:

- **PCIe Interface**
  - Compliant with NVMe 1.2
  - Compatible with PCIe Gen3 x2 interface
- **Capacity**
  - Single side: 128, 256 GB
  - Double side: 512 GB
- **Performance***
  - Interface burst read/write: 2 GB/sec
  - Sequential read: up to 940 MB/sec
  - Sequential write: up to 835 MB/sec
  - Seq. read QD32: Up to 1,605 MB/sec
  - Seq. write QD32: Up to 1,035 MB/sec
  - Random read (4K): up to 201,000 IOPS
  - Random write (4K): up to 191,000 IOPS
- **Flash Management**
  - Low-Density Parity-Check (LDPC) Code
  - Global Wear Leveling
  - Flash bad-block management
  - Flash Translation Layer: Page Mapping
  - S.M.A.R.T.
  - Power Failure Management
  - TRIM
  - Hyper Cache Technology
- **Security (optional)**
  - Trusted Computing Group (TCG) Opal 2.0
- **Reliability**
  - Thermal Sensor
  - Thermal Management Technique
  - End-to-End Data Protection
- **Temperature Range**
  - Operating: 0°C to 70°C
  - Storage: -40°C to 100°C
- **Supply Voltage**
  - 3.3 V ± 5%
- **Power Consumption***
  - Active mode: 995 mA
  - Idle mode: 150 mA
- **NAND Flash Type:** BiCS3
- **Connector Type**
  - 75-pin M.2 module pinout
- **Power Management**
  - Supports APST
  - Supports ASPM L1.2
- **Form Factor**
  - M.2 2280-S3-B-M: 128, 256 GB
  - M.2 2280-D5-B-M: 512 GB
  - Dimensions:
    Single side: 80.00 x 22.00 x 2.38, unit: mm
    Double side: 80.00 x 22.00 x 3.88, unit: mm
  - Net Weight: 6.66 g
- **RoHS Compliant**

*Varies from capacities. The values for performances and power consumptions presented are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or platform settings.

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1. General Descriptions

Apacer PT120-M280 (M.2 2280) is the next generation modularized Solid State Drive (SSD) with the shape of all new M.2 form factor, aimed to be the more suitable for mobile and compact computers with standard width at only 22.00 mm. PT120-M280 appears in M.2 2280 mechanical dimensions and is believed to be the leading add-in storage solution for future host computing systems.

The M.2 SSD is designed with SATA-based connector pinouts, providing full compliance with the latest PCIe Gen3 x2 interface specifications. Aside from PCIe compliance, PT120-M280 delivers exceptional performance and power efficiency. On the other hand, the extreme thin and light form factor makes PT120-M280 the ideal choice for mobile computing systems, which appears to be the trend in near future.

Regarding reliability, PT120-M280 is built with a powerful PCIe controller that supports on-the-module ECC as well as efficient wear leveling scheme. In terms of power efficiency, PT120-M280 is compliant with PCIe Gen3 x2 interface standard so that it can operate on power management modes, which greatly save on power consumption.

2. Functional Block

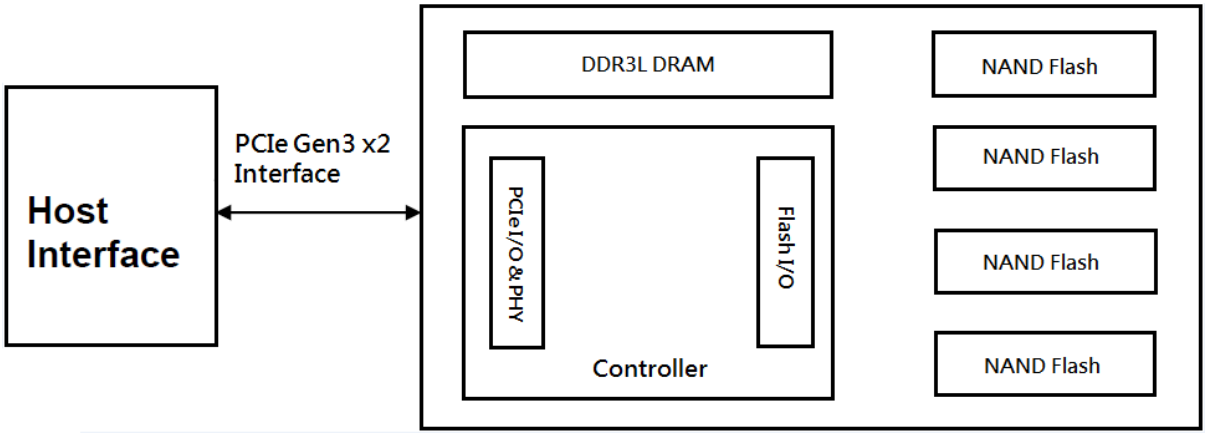


Figure 2-1 Functional Block Diagram

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 both Key B and Key M connectors.

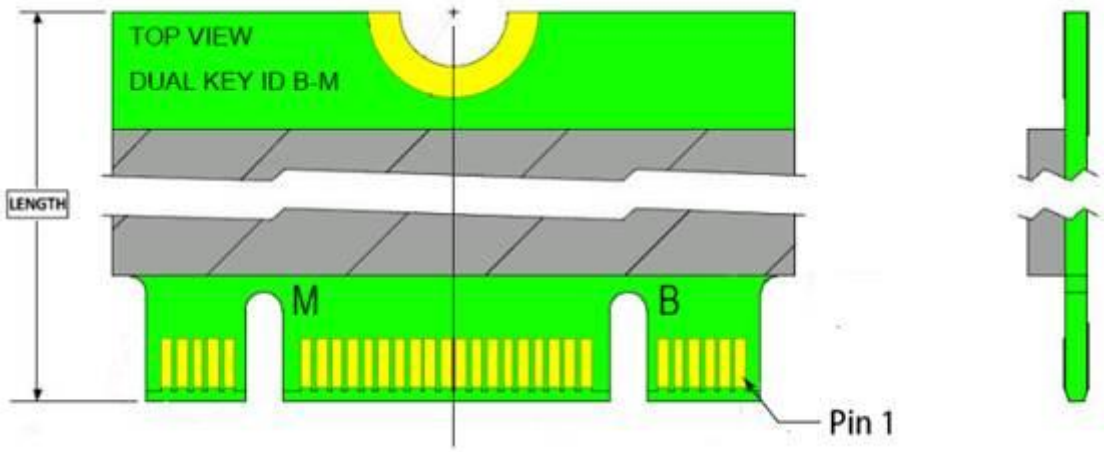


Table 3-1 Pin Assignments

Pin	Type	Description
1	GND	CONFIG_3 = GND
2	3.3V	3.3V source
3	GND	Ground
4	3.3V	3.3V source
5	N/C	No connect
6	N/C	No connect
7	N/C	No connect
8	N/C	No connect
9	N/C	No connect
10	DAS/DSS	Device Activity Signal/Disable Staggered Spin-up
11	N/C	No connect
12	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
13	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
14	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
15	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
16	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
17	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
18	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
19	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch B
20	N/C	No connect
21	GND	CONFIG_0=GND
22	N/C	No connect
23	N/C	No connect
24	N/C	No connect
25	N/C	No connect
26	N/C	No connect
27	GND	Ground
28	N/C	No connect
29	PETn1	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
30	N/C	No connect
31	PETp1	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec

Table 3-1 Pin Assignments

Pin	Type	Description
32	N/C	No connect
33	GND	Ground
34	N/C	No connect
35	PERn1	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
36	N/C	No connect
37	PERp1	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
38	N/C	No connect
39	GND	Ground
40	SMB_CLK (I/O)(0/1.8V)	SMBus Clock; Open Drain with pull-up on platform
41	PETn0	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
42	SMB_DATA (I/O)(0/1.8V)	SMBus Data; Open Drain with pull-up on platform.
43	PETp0	PCIe TX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
44	ALERT#(O) (0/1.8V)	Alert notification to master; Open Drain with pull-up on platform; Active low.
45	GND	Ground
46	N/C	No connect
47	PERn0	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
48	N/C	No connect
49	PERp0	PCIe RX Differential signal defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec
50	PERST#(I)(0/3.3V)	PE-Reset is a functional reset to the card as defined by the PCIe Mini CEM specification.
51	GND	Ground
52	CLKREQ#(I/O)(0/3.3V)	Clock Request is a reference clock request signal as defined by the PCIe Mini CEM specification; Also used by L1 PM Sub-states.
53	REFCLKn	PCIe Reference Clock signals (100 MHz) defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec.
54	PEWAKE#(I/O)(0/3.3V)	PCIe PME Wake. Open Drain with pull up on platform; Active Low.
55	REFCLKp	PCIe Reference Clock signals (100 MHz) defined by the PCI Express M.2 spec.
56	Reserved for MFG DATA	Manufacturing Data line. Used for SSD manufacturing only. Not used in normal operation. Pins should be left N/C in platform Socket.
57	GND	Ground
58	Reserved for MFG CLOCK	Manufacturing Clock line. Used for SSD manufacturing only. Not used in normal operation. Pins should be left N/C in platform Socket.
59	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
60	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
61	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
62	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
63	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
64	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
65	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
66	(removed for key)	Mechanical notch M
67	NC	No connect (used for other purposes)
68	SUSCLK(32KHz) (I)(0/3.3V)	32.768 kHz clock supply input that is provided by the platform chipset to reduce power and cost for the module.
69	NC	CONFIG_1 = No connect
70	3.3V	Supply pin, 3.3V
71	GND	Ground
72	3.3V	Supply pin, 3.3V
73	GND	Ground
74	3.3V	Supply pin, 3.3V
75	CONFIG_2	Ground

4. Product Specifications

4.1 Capacity

Capacity specifications of PT120-M280 are available as shown in Table 4-1. It lists the specific capacity and the default numbers of heads, sectors and cylinders for each product line.

Table 4-1 Capacity Specifications

Capacity	Total bytes*	Cylinders	Heads	Sectors	Max LBA
128 GB	128,035,676,160	16,383	16	63	250,069,680
256 GB	256,060,514,304	16,383	16	63	500,118,192
512 GB	512,110,190,592	16,383	16	63	1,000,215,216

*Display of total bytes varies from file systems, which means not all of the bytes can be used for storage.
**Notes: 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 PT120-M280 is listed below in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2 Performance Specifications

Performance \ Capacity	128 GB	256 GB	512 GB
Sequential Read* (MB/s)	835	940	875
Sequential Write* (MB/s)	460	780	835
Seq. Read QD32* (MB/s)	1,510	1,570	1,605
Seq. Write QD32* (MB/s)	460	900	1,035
Random Read IOPS (4K)**	92,000	155,000	201,000
Random Write IOPS (4K)**	113,000	175,000	191,000

Note:
Results may differ from various flash configurations or host system setting.
*Sequential performance is based on CrystalDiskMark 5.2.1 with file size 1,000MB.
**Random performance measured using IOMeter with Queue Depth 32.

4.3 Environmental Specifications

Environmental specifications of PT120-M280 are shown in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3 Environmental Specifications

Item	Specifications
Operating temp.	0°C to 70°C
Non-operating temp.	-40°C to 100°C
Operating vibration	7.69 GRMS, 20~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
Non-operating vibration	4.02 GRMS, 15~2000 Hz/random (compliant with MIL-STD-810G)
Operating shock	50(G), 11(ms), half-sine wave
Non-operating shock	1,500(G), 0.5(ms), half-sine wave

Note: Shock and Vibration specifications are subject to change without notice.

4.4 Certification and Compliance

PT120-M280 complies with the following standards:

- FCC
- CE
- RoHS
- MIL-STD-810

5. Flash Management

5.1 Error Correction/Detection

PT120-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

Bad blocks are blocks that include one or more invalid bits, and their reliability is not guaranteed. Blocks that are identified and marked as bad by the manufacturer are referred to as “Initial Bad Blocks”. Bad blocks that are developed during the lifespan of the flash are named “Later Bad Blocks”. Apacer implements an efficient bad block management algorithm to detect the factory-produced bad blocks and manages any bad blocks that appear with use. This practice further prevents data being stored into bad blocks and improves the data reliability.

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 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.

5.5 Power Failure Management

Power Failure Management plays a crucial role when experiencing unstable power supply. Power disruption may occur when users are storing data into the SSD. In this urgent situation, the controller would run multiple flush cycles to store the metadata for later block rebuilding. This urgent operation requires about several milliseconds to get it done. At the next power up, the firmware will perform a status tracking to retrieve the mapping table and resume previously programmed NAND blocks to check if there is any incompleteness of transmission.

5.6 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.

5.7 Hyper Cache Technology

Apacer proprietary Hyper Cache technology, a non-volatile SLC write cache, provides excellent performance to handle various scenarios in industrial use. Using this method, a portion of the available capacity is being treated as SLC (1bit-per-cell) NAND flash memory in the TLC models, two bits per cell technology, consists of a number of low and high pages. Apacer Hyper Cache Technology collects low pages for extraordinary performance, called Hyper Cache mode. And, the rest of high pages are combined together and performs normal TLC performance, called TLC mode. When data is written to SSD, the firmware will direct the data to Hyper Cache mode, thus improving the write speeds drastically.

6. Security & Reliability Features

6.1 TCG Opal (optional)

Developed by the Trusted Computing Group (TCG), an organization whose members work together to formulate industry standards, Opal is a set of security specifications used for applying hardware-based encryption to storage devices.

Hardware encryption has many advantages. First of all, it transfers the computational load of the encryption process to dedicated processors, reducing the stress on the host system's CPU. In addition, storage devices complying with Opal specifications are self-encryption devices. Opal specifications also feature boot authentication. When the drive is being accessed, the shadow MBR will request the drive password at boot. The drive will only unlock and decrypt if the correct password is supplied. The other feature is LBA-specific permissions. Users are assigned different permissions for LBA ranges created by the device administrator. Each LBA range is password-protected and can only be accessed by users with the correct key to perform permitted actions (read/write/erase).

6.2 Thermal Sensor

Apacer Thermal Sensor is a digital temperature sensor with serial interface. By using designated pins for transmission, storage device owners are able to read temperature data.

6.3 Thermal Management Technique

Thermal management technique 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.

6.4 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. Software Interface

7.1 Command Set

Table 7-1 summarizes the commands supported by PT120-M280.

Table 7-1 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

Table 7-2 Admin Commands – NVM Command Set Specific

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

Table 7-3 NVM Commands

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

7.2 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 7-4 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
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
202-203	2	Temperature Sensor 2
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
216-511	296	Reserved

Table 7-5 SMART (C0h)

Byte	Length	Description
2-3	2	SMART Version (0x3033)
4-7	4	P/E Cycle
8-9	2	Flash Type**
10-255	246	Reserved
256-257	2	SSD Protect Mode***
258-261	4	ECC Fail Count
262-265	4	PHY Error Count
266-269	4	CRC Error Count
274-277	4	Total Later Bad Block Count
278-281	4	Max Erase Count
282-285	4	Average Erase Count
286-289	4	Program Fail Count
290-293	4	Erase Fail Count
294-301	8	FlashWriteSector
302-511	210	Reserved

8. Electrical Specifications

8.1 Operating Voltage

Table 8-1 lists the supply voltage for PT120-M280.

Table 8-1 Operating Range

Item	Range
Supply Voltage	3.3V ± 5%

8.2 Power Consumption

Table 8-2 lists the power consumption for PT120-M280.

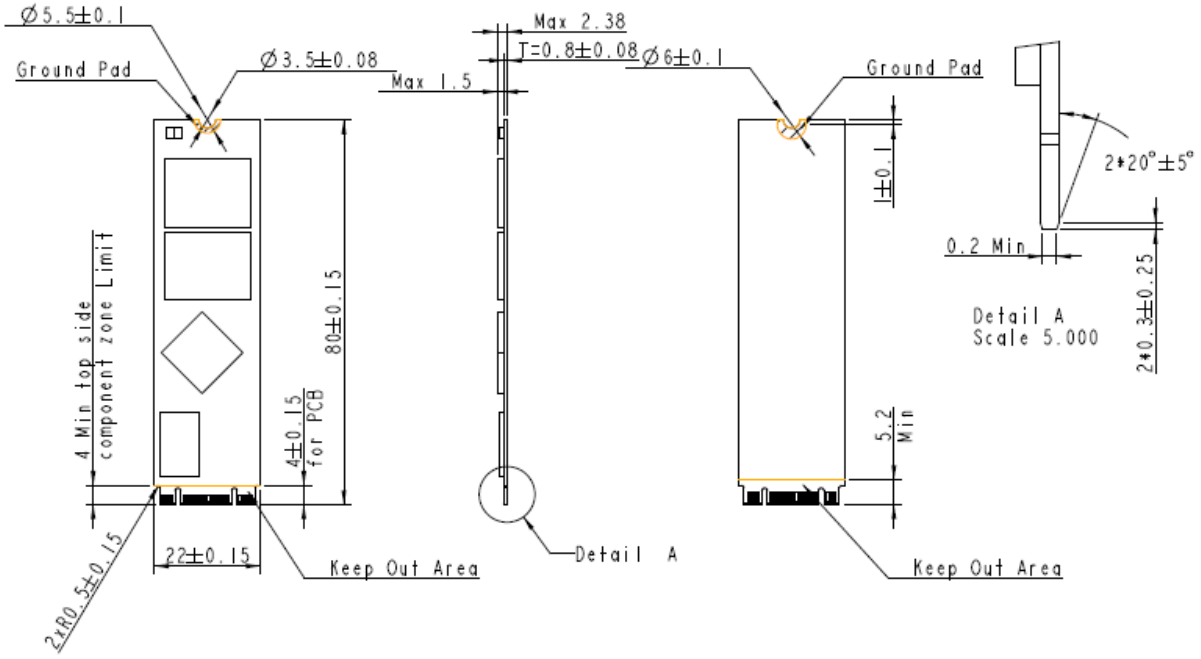
Table 8-2 Power Consumption

Mode \ Capacity	128 GB	256 GB	512 GB
Active (mA)	850	950	995
Idle (mA)	145	150	150

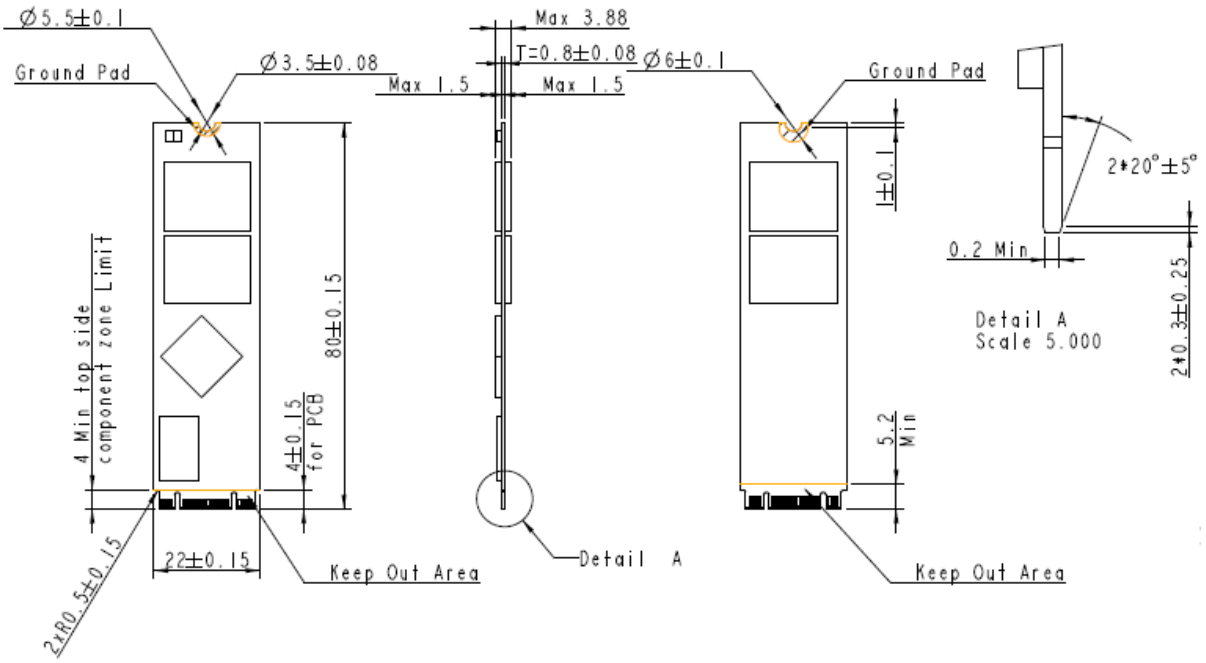
Note:
*All values are typical and may vary depending on flash configurations or host system settings.
**Active power is an average power measurement performed using CrystalDiskMark with 128KB sequential read/write transfers.

9. Physical Characteristics

9.1 Single Side



9.2 Double Side



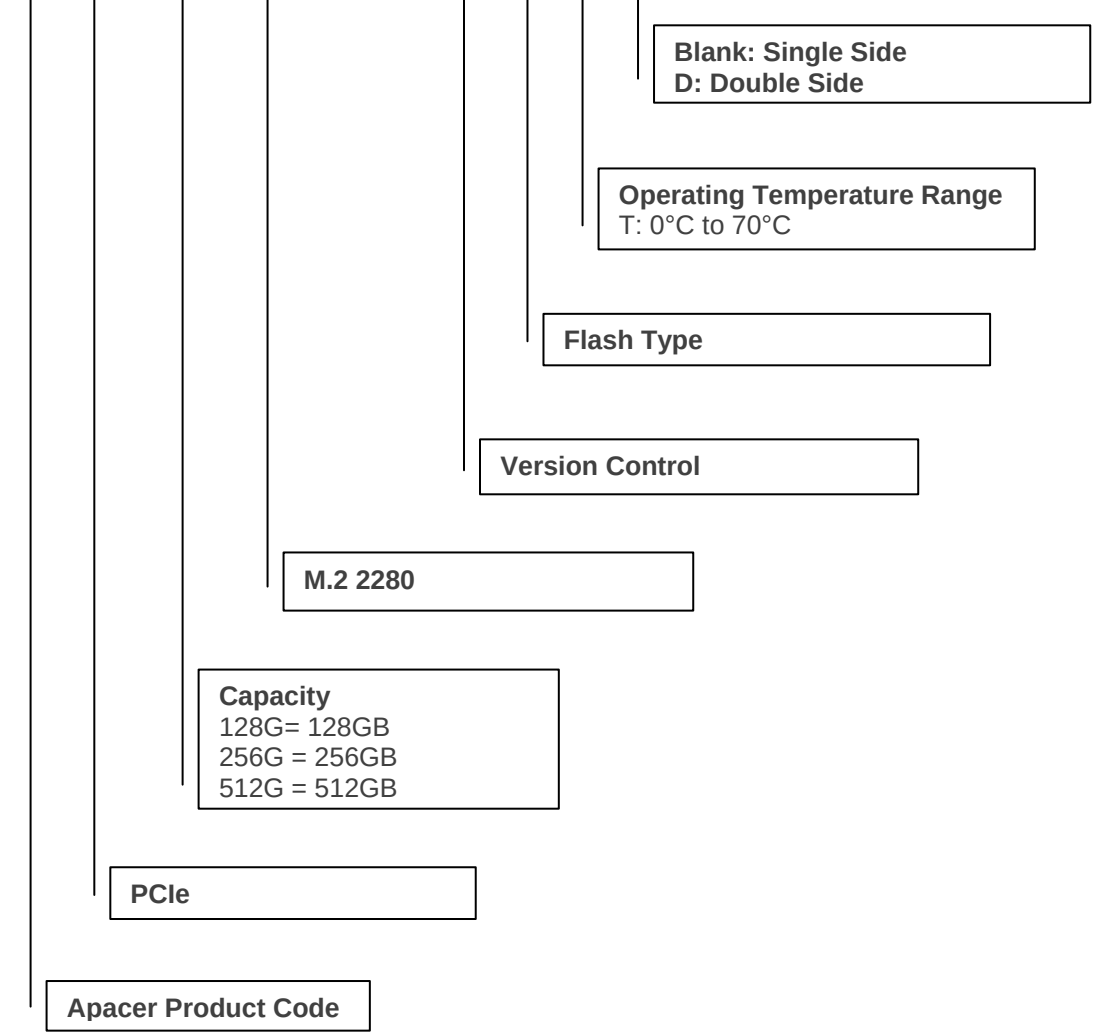
9.3 Net Weight

Capacity	Net Weight (g)
128GB	5.82
256GB	5.82
512GB	6.66

10. Product Ordering Information

10.1 Product Code Designations

AP P xxxG 1 BN – 01 P T X



10.2 Valid Combinations

Capacity	Part Number
128GB	APP128G1BN-01PT
256GB	APP256G1BN-01PT
512GB	APP512G1BN-01PTD

Note: Valid combinations are those products 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.

Revision History

Revision	Description	Date
0.1	Preliminary release	12/12/2017
1.0	Official release	4/20/2018

Global Presence

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