

APPLICATION NOTE

Optimum Heat Dissipation for
Alvium CSI-2, USB, and G1 CamerasV2.1.0
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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.

Corresponding families are Alvium 1500 C, 1800 C, 1800 U, and Alvium G1.

**Heat dissipation for Alvium G5 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 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 was measured with an Alvium USB closed housing camera. Alvium CSI-2 and Alvium G1 cameras were tested the same way. Tests were performed in a climate chamber with no air flow. The cameras were heated up to the maximum housing temperature stated in the model specifications of the corresponding Alvium 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).

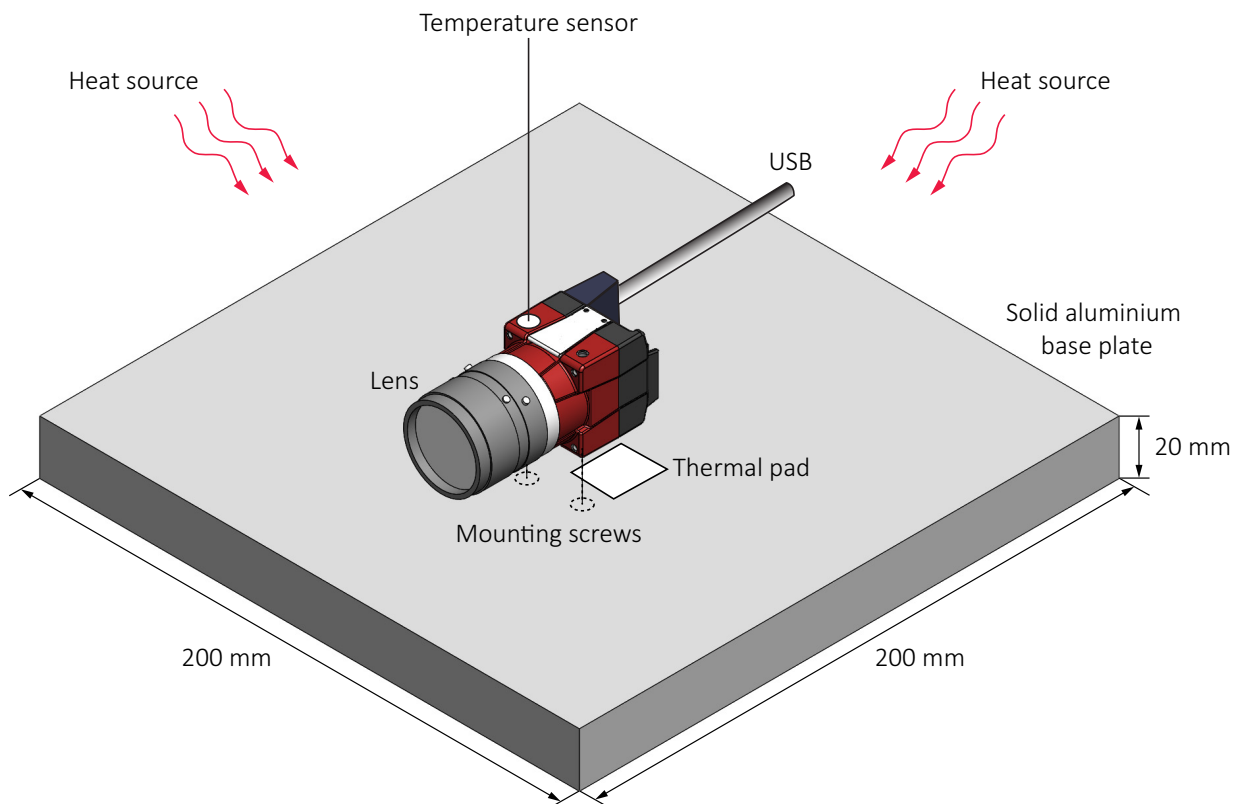


Figure 1: Testing temperature for closed housing Alvium cameras (schematic, non-isometric view)

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
- Design open housing cameras into a heat dissipative housing with a high thermal conductivity. For closed housing cameras, encompassing heat dissipative housings can extend the supported temperature range.
- Keep the operating temperature in the specified range to enable best image quality and to enable a long camera life.

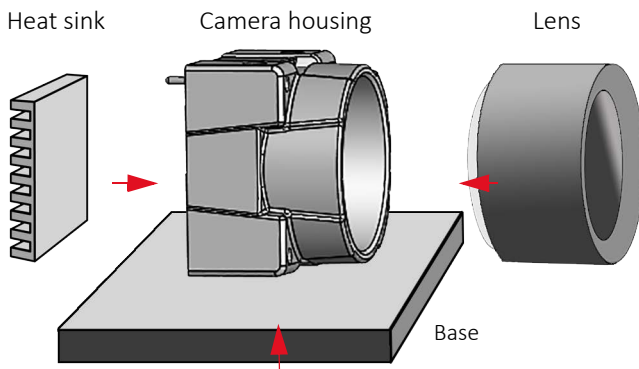


Figure 2: Camera setup for proper heat dissipation

Requirements for heat sinks and mounting bases

Ensure that heat sinks mounted to cooling areas 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

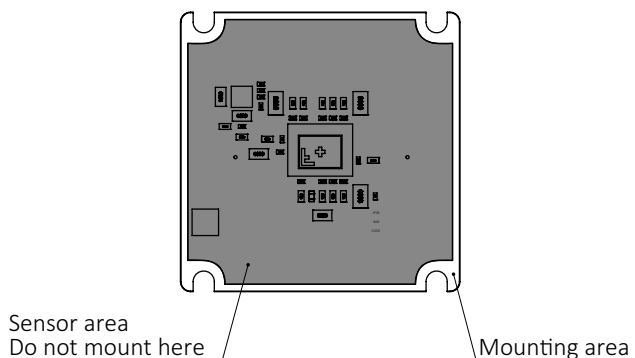


Figure 3: Mounting area for Alvium bare board cameras

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

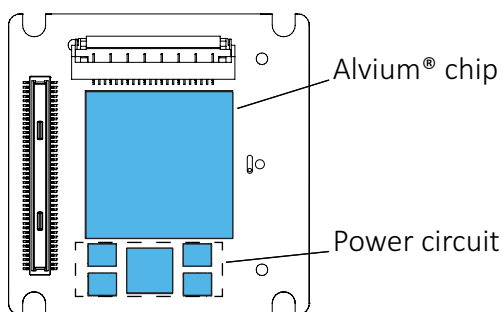


Figure 4: Cooling areas for Alvium cameras

Contact us

Website, email

General

www.alliedvision.com/en/contact

info@alliedvision.com

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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

Asia-Pacific**China**

Allied Vision Technologies

(Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

2-2109 Hongwell Int. Plaza

1602# ZhongShanXi Road

Shanghai 200235, China

T// +86 21 64861133

Singapore

Allied Vision Technologies Asia Pte. Ltd

82 Playfair Rd, #07-01 D'Lithium

Singapore 368001

T// +65 6634 9027

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

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