



AN-10 CONNECTORS AND SOCKETS FOR THE TO-3 PACKAGE

Soldering directly to the pins of the TO-3 laser package is inconvenient and somewhat permanent. In most cases, a connector mating with the pins would be preferred.

Individual sockets to mate with the package pins:

Connector sockets for the laser pins must be compatible with the large (1mm/0.040") round pins of the package. High-quality gold-plated contacts are strongly recommended to ensure stable, long-term, low-resistance connections. It is essential that there be a solid, stable connection between the laser diode and the current driver to prevent damage to the laser.

Suitable single-pin sockets are manufactured by Mill-Max (www.mill-max.com), part numbers 801-43-050-10-004000 (or 801-93-050-10-004000). These connector sockets are rated for 8 amps and feature gold-plated multi-finger contacts designed for 1mm round pins.

8-pin TO-3 socket:

An 8-pin TO-3 socket, part number 0804MC, manufactured by Texas Instruments, can mate with the LDX TO-3 package. They are available from a number of electronic distributors, for example, Digi-Key, part number 296-32607-ND.