

## About This Guide

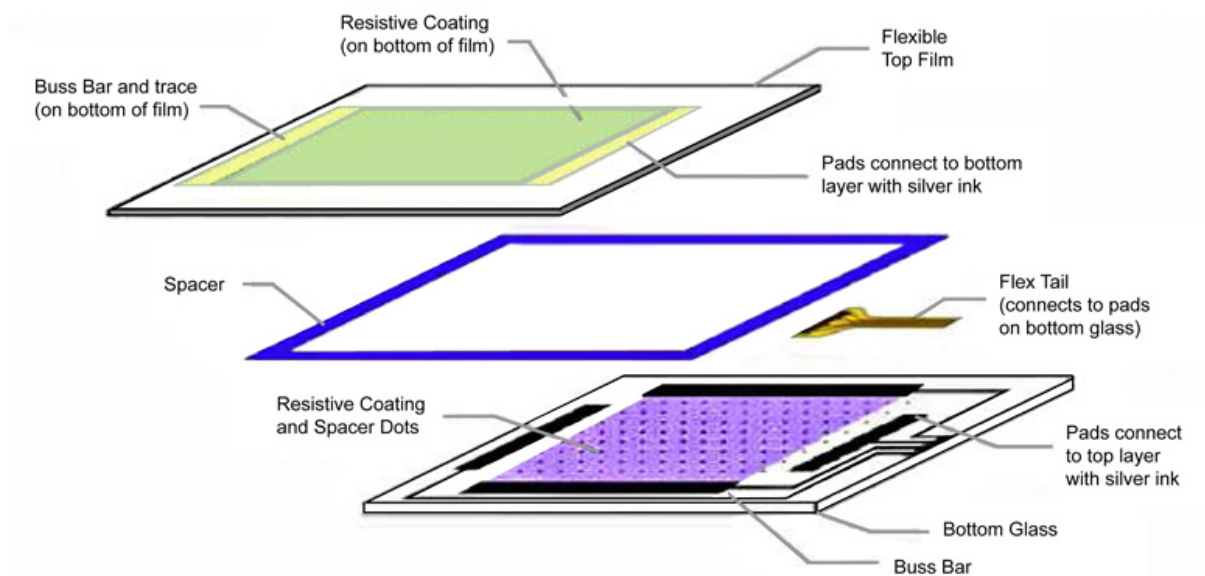
This document is intended to provide guidance and cautions related to integrating an analog resistive touchscreen into an enclosure. The topics and suggestions contained within this document are taken from years of experience working with touchscreens. Remember, each situation is different and you may need to adjust some of the following suggestions to best fit your particular application and environment. Definitions and examples are provided to help illustrate good design practices. This document does not cover all the possible methods of touchscreen integration, but the general practices apply. Clearances and tolerances are typical with all Newhaven Display touch panels; see individual spec sheets for variances.

## Typical Analog Touch Panel Construction

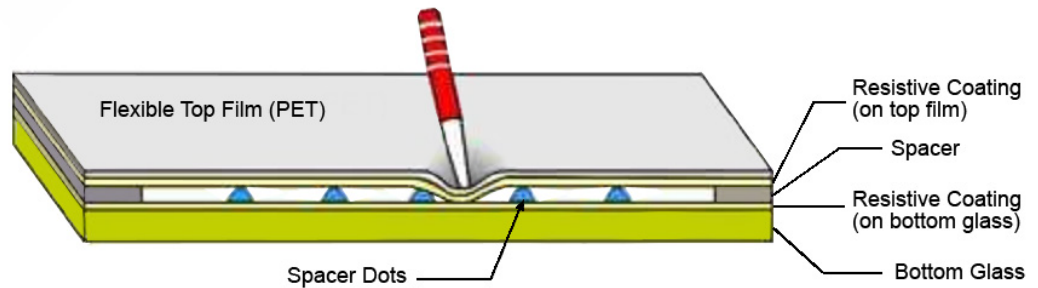
A resistive touch panel is constructed of 2 sheets of material separated slightly by a spacer. A common construction is a sheet of glass providing a stable bottom layer and a sheet of Polyethylene (PET) as a flexible top layer. The spacer may have openings to allow venting.

The two sheets are coated with a resistive substance, usually a metal compound called Indium Tin Oxide (ITO). The ITO is thinly and uniformly sputtered onto both the glass and the PET layer. Nearly invisible bumps called spacer dots are then added to the bottom layer, on top of the resistive ITO coating. The bumps keep the PET film from sagging, causing an accidental or false touch. The amount of pressure needed to cause a "touch event" is largely determined by the size and spacing of the spacer dots.

The Buss Bars and Traces, made of conductive silver ink, connect the ITO layer to the flex tail. The connection may be made with silver ink or a process similar to soldering called heat-seal. Silver ink is again used to connect the top traces to the bottom traces, as needed.



When the PET film is pressed down, the two resistive surfaces meet. The position of this meeting (a touch) can be read by a touchscreen controller circuit.



## Attaching The Touchscreen To The LCD

### Gaskets

To help prevent dust and moisture, we recommend using a gasket between the touchscreen and the display. A gasket will also help cushion the touchscreen/display assembly from shock and vibration.

Our Newhaven Display gasket uses a strong-bonding adhesive on the touch screen side and a low-bonding adhesive on the display side. We can ship the touch screen with the gasket pre-installed. The low-bonding adhesive on the display side allows for easier assembly and easier disassembly for rework or repair. Our Newhaven Display gasket provides the optimum spacing between the touchscreen and the display.

If you should choose to use your own gasket, keep the following in mind.

- Only use a high-bond adhesive on one side, if any. Strongly bonding both sides will make assembly and repair much more difficult.
- For optimum viewing and to avoid "Newton Rings", spacing between the touchscreen and the display glass should be 0.2-0.5mm. Remember to take into account the thickness of the display's metal housing, if applicable.

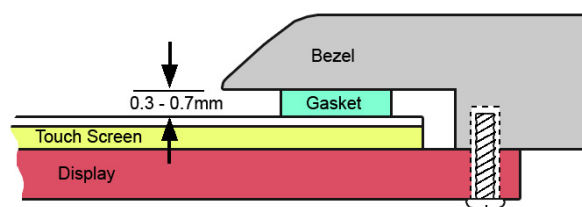
### Mounting The Touchscreen To The Display

Attaching the touchscreen to the display must be done in a dust-free environment (class 1000 clean-room) to prevent visible particles from becoming trapped between the touchscreen and the display. The light from the display can make dust particles glow brightly.

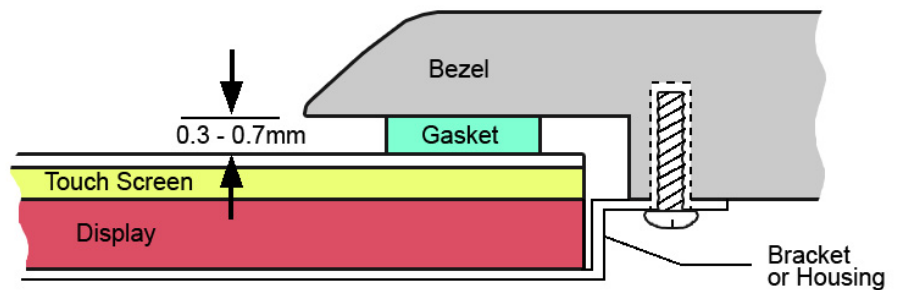


### Mounting Touchscreens To The Housing Bezel

If the LCD has mounting holes and the touch screen does not block these holes, the simplest method is to mount the LCD directly to the front bezel.

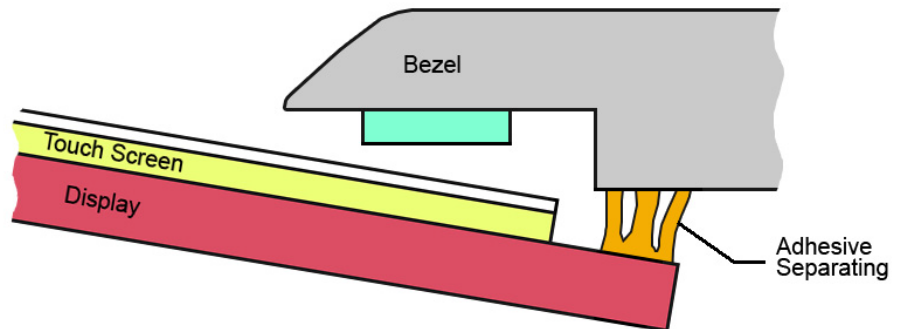


If the LCD has no mounting holes or if the holes are blocked by the touchscreen, it's recommended that a bracket be added to the LCD for mounting.



Screws, a clam shell capture arrangement, or other positive locking methods are recommended to insure the touch panel stays in place after repeated use. Mounting by adhesive alone is NOT recommended.

Note in the 2 mounting examples, the distance between the touchscreen and bezel is determined by a "hard top" between the LCD panel (or bracket) and the bezel.

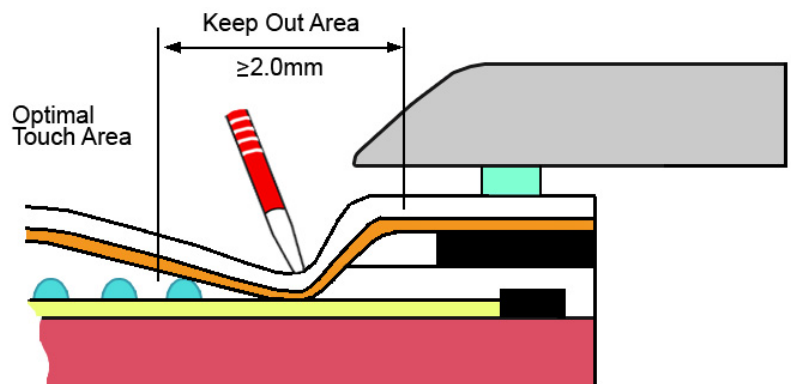


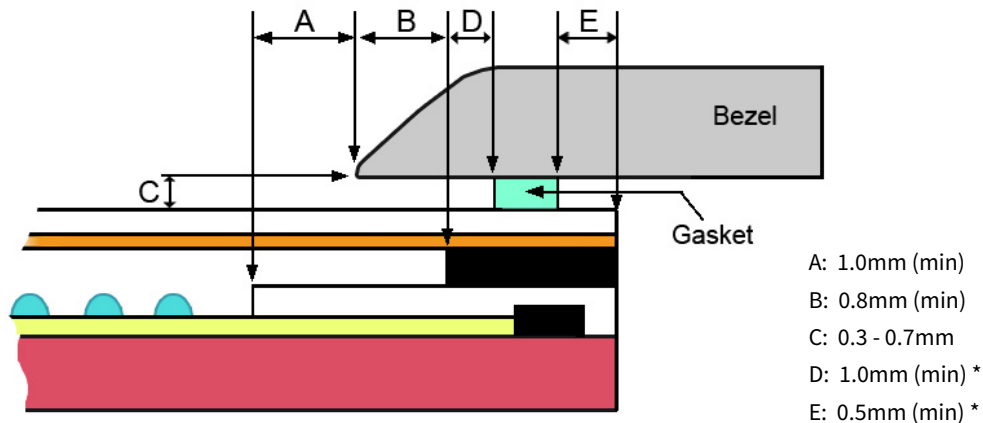
DO NOT use gaskets or spacers on the front of the touch panel to regulate this gap. The gasket is there ONLY for appearance and to keep out dust and liquids. A large amount of pressure on the touch screen face may result in touch screen failure or inaccurate touches.

We highly recommend using a foam gasket to prevent dirt or water from entering the enclosure. Even if you chose not to use a gasket, you must maintain the 0.3-0.7mm spacing between the face of the touch screen and the inner face of the bezel. Failure to keep this clearance may result in damage to the touch screen.

## Cautions and Tolerances

The figure to the right illustrates how touches close to the internal spacer can cause the top layer to flex at a sharp angle, cracking the top layer's resistive coating. This cracking may result in reduced touch sensitivity or changes in linearity. Avoid putting buttons or other touch features within 2mm of the internal spacer. Preferably, design your system in such a way that a touch right next to the bezel is 2mm or more from the internal spacer.





- A.** Bezel Edge to Active Area (Prevents false touches due to bezel flexing, dirt accumulation...etc)
- B.** Bezel Edge to Viewable Area (Provides a cosmetically pleasing bezel design)
- C.** Bezel Inner Face to Touchscreen Top Layer (Prevents touchscreen from flexing or twisting due to imperfections in bezel inner face)
- D.** Inner Gasket Edge to Viewable Area (Prevents false touches due to gasket pressing on flexible area of touchscreen)
- E.** Outer Gasket Edge to Edge of Touchscreen Top Layer (Prevents electrical shorting due to gasket rolling over outer edge of touchscreen)

\* May need to increase to take into account gasket thickness, compression ratio and tolerance due to assembly limitations.

## Tail Considerations and Cautions

### Tail Handling Precautions

The tail, while not fragile, can be damaged by improper usage and handling.

#### 1. Never Pick Up the Touch Screen by its Tail

*This includes when removing the touchscreen from its packaging. Holding by the tail can cause a lot of pressure on the junction of the tail and the touch screen and cause the touchscreen to fail.*

#### 2. Avoid Twisting the Tail

*Twisting the tail can place considerable stress where the tail meets the touchscreen.*

#### 3. Avoid Touching the Tail Conductors

*Touching the tail conductors may contaminate them. This could result in reduced sensitivity or even corrosion.*

### Tail Design Considerations

#### 1. Tail Bend and Twist

*Tail bend radius is 3mm minimum. Design the system to avoid creasing the tail. Avoid twisting the tail. While the tails are very durable, bends and twists can put considerable pressure on the tail and the tail-touchscreen junction.*

#### 2. Strain Relief

*No strain relief is required as long as the bend radius at the touch screen is 3mm. The tail should not place any tension on the top film layer.*

#### 3. Noise

*Try to avoid routing the tail near any electrically noisy areas such as backlights, high energy coils..etc. The tail could act as an antenna and the noise may reduce sensitivity or give inaccurate touch results.*