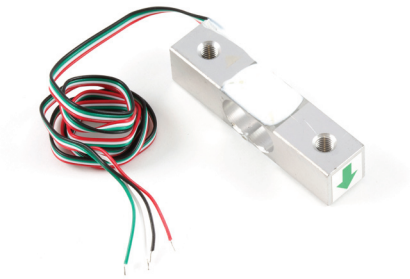
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Datasheet

3134 - Micro Load Cell (0-20kg) - CZL635



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What do you have to know?

A load cell is a force sensing module - a carefully designed metal structure, with small elements called strain gauges mounted in precise locations on the structure. Load cells are designed to measure a specific force, and ignore other forces being applied. The electrical signal output by the load cell is very small and requires specialized amplification. Fortunately, **the 1046 PhidgetBridge will perform all the amplification and measurement of the electrical output.**

Load cells are designed to measure force in one direction. They will often measure force in other directions, but the sensor sensitivity will be different, since parts of the load cell operating under compression are now in tension, and vice versa.

How does it work - For curious people

Strain-gauge load cells convert the load acting on them into electrical signals. The measuring is done with very small resistor patterns called strain gauges - effectively small, flexible circuit boards. The gauges are bonded onto a beam or structural member that deforms when weight is applied, in turn deforming the strain-gauge. As the strain gauge is deformed, it's electrical resistance changes in proportion to the load.

The changes to the circuit caused by force is much smaller than the changes caused by variation in temperature. Higher quality load cells cancel out the effects of temperature using two techniques. By matching the expansion rate of the strain gauge to the expansion rate of the metal it's mounted on, undue strain on the gauges can be avoided as the load cell warms up and cools down. The most important method of temperature compensation involves using multiple strain gauges, which all respond to the change in temperature with the same change in resistance. Some load cell designs use gauges which are never subjected to any force, but only serve to counterbalance the temperature effects on the gauges that measuring force. Most designs use 4 strain gauges, some in compression, some under tension, which maximizes the sensitivity of the load cell, and automatically cancels the effect of temperature.

Installation

This Single Point Load Cell is used in small jewelry scales and kitchen scales. It's mounted by bolting down the end of the load cell where the wires are attached, and applying force on the other end **in the direction of the arrow.** Where the force is applied is not critical, as this load cell measures a shearing effect on the beam, not the bending of the beam. If you mount a small platform on the load cell, as would be done in a small scale, this load cell provides accurate readings regardless of the position of the load on the platform.



Calibration

A simple formula is usually used to convert the measured mv/V output from the load cell to the measured force:

*Measured Force = A * Measured mV/V + B* (offset)

It's important to decide what unit your measured force is - grams, kilograms, pounds, etc.

This load cell has a rated output of 1.0±0.15mv/v which corresponds to the sensor's capacity of 20kg.

To find A we use

*Capacity = A * Rated Output*

A = Capacity / Rated Output

A = 20 / 1.0

A = 20

Since the Offset is quite variable between individual load cells, it's necessary to calculate the offset for each sensor. Measure the output of the load cell with no force on it and note the mv/V output measured by the PhidgetBridge.

Offset = 0 - 20 * Measured Output

Product Specifications

Mechanical	
Housing Material	Aluminum Alloy
Load Cell Type	Strain Gauge
Capacity	20kg
Dimensions	55.25x12.7x12.7mm
Mounting Holes	M5 (Screw Size)
Cable Length	550mm
Cable Size	30 AWG (0.2mm)
Cable - no. of leads	4
Electrical	
Precision	0.05%
Rated Output	1.0±0.15 mv/V
Non-Linearity	0.05% FS
Hysteresis	0.05% FS
Non-Repeatability	0.05% FS
Creep (per 30 minutes)	0.1% FS
Temperature Effect on Zero (per 10°C)	0.05% FS
Temperature Effect on Span (per 10°C)	0.05% FS
Zero Balance	±1.5% FS
Input Impedance	1130±10 Ohm
Output Impedance	1000±10 Ohm
Insulation Resistance (Under 50VDC)	≥5000 MOhm
Excitation Voltage	5 VDC
Compensated Temperature Range	-10 to ~+40°C
Operating Temperature Range	-20 to ~+55°C
Safe Overload	120% Capacity
Ultimate Overload	150% Capacity

Glossary

Capacity
The maximum load the load cell is designed to measure within its specifications.

Creep
The change in sensor output occurring over 30 minutes, while under load at or near capacity and with all environmental conditions and other variables remaining constant.

FULL SCALE or FS
Used to qualify error - FULL SCALE is the change in output when the sensor is fully loaded. If a particular error (for example, Non-Linearity) is expressed as 0.1% F.S., and the output is 1.0mV/V, the maximum non-linearity that will be seen over the operating range of the sensor will be 0.001 mV/V. An important distinction is that this error doesn't have to only occur at the maximum load. If you are operating the sensor at a maximum of 10% of capacity, for this example, the non-linearity would still be 0.001mV/V, or 1% of the operating range that you are actually using.

Hysteresis
If a force equal to 50% of capacity is applied to a load cell which has been at no load, a given output will be measured. The same load cell is at full capacity, and some of the force is removed, resulting in the load cell operating at 50% capacity. The difference in output between the two test scenarios is called hysteresis.

Excitation Voltage
Specifies the voltage that can be applied to the power/ground terminals on the load cell. In practice, if you are using the load cell with the PhidgetBridge, you don't have to worry about this spec.

Input Impedance
Determines the power that will be consumed by the load cell. The lower this number is, the more current will be required, and the more heating will occur when the load cell is powered. In very noisy environments, a lower input impedance will reduce the effect of Electromagnetic interference on long wires between the load cell and PhidgetBridge.

Insulation Resistance
The electrical resistance measured between the metal structure of the load cell, and the wiring. The practical result of this is the metal structure of the load cells should not be energized with a voltage, particularly higher voltages, as it can arc into the PhidgetBridge. Commonly the load cell and the metal framework it is part of will be grounded to earth or to your system ground.

Maximum Overload
The maximum load which can be applied without producing a structural failure.

Non-Linearity
Ideally, the output of the sensor will be perfectly linear, and a simple 2-point calibration will exactly describe the behaviour of the sensor at other loads. In practice, the sensor is not perfect, and Non-linearity describes the maximum deviation from the linear curve. Theoretically, if a more complex calibration is used, some of the non-linearity can be calibrated out, but this will require a very high accuracy calibration with multiple points.

Non-Repeatability
The maximum difference the sensor will report when exactly the same weight is applied, at the same temperature, over multiple test runs.

Operating Temperature
The extremes of ambient temperature within which the load cell will operate without permanent adverse change to any of its performance characteristics.

Output Impedance
Roughly corresponds to the input impedance. If the Output Impedance is very high, measuring the bridge will distort the results. The PhidgetBridge carefully buffers the signals coming from the load cell, so in practice this is not a concern.

Rated Output
Is the difference in the output of the sensor between when it is fully loaded to its rated capacity, and when it's unloaded. Effectively, it's how sensitive the sensor is, and corresponds to the gain calculated when calibrating the sensor. More expensive sensors have an exact rated output based on an individual calibration done at the factory.

Safe Overload
The maximum axial load which can be applied without producing a permanent shift in performance characteristics beyond those specified.

Compensated Temperature
The range of temperature over which the load cell is compensated to maintain output and zero balance within specified limits.

Temperature Effect on Span
Span is also called rated output. This value is the change in output due to a change in ambient temperature. It is measured over 10 degree C temperature interval.

Temperature Effect on Zero
The change in zero balance due to a change in ambient temperature. This value is measured over 10 degree C temperature interval.

Zero Balance
Zero Balance defines the maximum difference between the +/- output wires when no load is applied. Realistically, each sensor will be individually calibrated, at least for the output when no load is applied. Zero Balance is more of a concern if the load cell is being interfaced to an amplification circuit - the PhidgetBridge can easily handle enormous differences between +/-. If the difference is very large, the PhidgetBridge will not be able to use the higher Gain settings.