

ALPS Develops SDKU Series Rotary-Encoder with Power Supply Switch for White Goods

Power Supply and Mode Selection Switch Function Realized in a Single Package

Duesseldorf, Germany, February 07, 2006 – With the development of the SDKU Series ALPS ELECTRIC EUROPA GmbH offers new rotary pulse encoders with built-in power switch. These devices are extremely well-suited for applications in the area of washing machines, dryers and other household appliances. The new SDKU Series combines on/off switch and mode selection function in a single package with dimensions of only 30.2mm x 32.1mm x 29.6mm (W x D x H),

Among today's essential household consumer electronic products, methods of mode selection and power supply function tend to vary internationally. Take, for example, the washing machine: in Japan, selecting load size settings and turning the machine on and off is most commonly done through pushing a series of buttons located on the surface of the washer's panel. In Europe, however, rather than using buttons, the use of a single dial, to not only turn the appliance's power and on and off, but also to select washing modes according to the clothing fabric type (such as cotton, synthetic, or wool), water temperature and other various mode settings is increasing. In the past, this type of function required installation of dial function parts along with wiring leads to the power switch and the set mode options.

Recognizing these market needs, ALPS has accomplished the development of a single package that realizes two types of functioning in a rotary-type power switch with signal circuitry.

The SDKU Series was developed based on ALPS many years of accumulated insert molding technology and realizes encoder

ALPS Electric Europa GmbH
Hansaallee 203
40549 Düsseldorf
Tel. +49-(0) 211-59 77-0
Fax +49-(0) 211-59 77-146
www.alps.de

function for mode selection, as well as power switch function. Furthermore, based on ALPS' proprietary engineering technologies, the implementation of a detent structure with a heavy rotation torque ensures an easy handling for the user. In addition, the implementation of a sliding contact-point structure realizes an excellent durability against environmental conditions and continuous use.

Features

Development of a rotary-type power switch with signal circuit that combines power switch and encoder function

1. Reliable electronic functioning through the realization of a single package with double function operability
2. Implementation of a detent structure with a heavy rotation torque ensures an easy handling for the user
3. Excellent durability against environmental conditions and continuous use realised by a sliding contact-point structure

Principal Applications

Main power and mode selection switch for washing machines and dryers

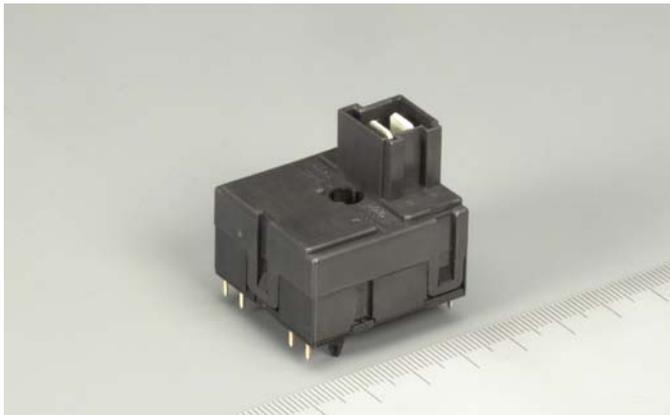
Specifications

Product name	SDKU Series
Dimensions (W x D x H)	30.2mm x 32.1mm x 29.6mm
Rating	16(6)A 250V AC
Contact resistance	100mΩ max.
Insulation resistance	500MΩ min. 500V DC
Voltage resistance	2,000V AC for 1 min.
Lifespan	10,000 cycles

In Hall 11.2, at Booth F20/G21, ALPS will be presenting the new SDKU Series at the Domotechnica trade show in Cologne, Germany, (February 13th through 16th) for the first time

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ALPS Electric Co., Ltd.

Since its establishment in 1948 ALPS has grown as a comprehensive manufacturer of electronic components. At present ALPS is creating innovative high-value-added products in its main business segments – Components, Magnetic Devices, Communications, Peripheral Products, and Automotive Electronics – which are contributing to the advance of a digital society. ALPS is a global company that carries out its operations with 23 production bases in 8 countries as well as 61 sales bases in 14 countries. Consolidated net sales in the year ended March 31, 2004 amounted to YEN 643 billion.

ALPS ELECTRIC EUROPA GmbH, a subsidiary of ALPS Electric Co., Ltd., was established in 1979. Since 1989, the European Head Office has been located in Düsseldorf, where a team of specialists works in Sales, Marketing, and Product Engineering. The activities of our branch offices in Munich, Paris and Milton Keynes, our sales office in Milan and our European distribution work are co-ordinated from Düsseldorf. ALPS Nordic AB, a 100 percent subsidiary of ALPS ELECTRIC EUROPA GmbH, is based in Sweden and services the Scandinavian market.

Contact:

ALPS ELECTRIC EUROPA GmbH
Ulrich Kuhs / Sandra Koßmann
Phone.: +49-211-59 77-170 / -171
Fax: +49-211-59 77-146
Email: presse@alps.de
Internet : www.alps-europe.com

PR Agency:

MEXPERTS AG
Kurt Loeffler / Peter Gramenz
Phone.: +49-89-897361-0
Fax: +49-89-87 29 43
Email: kurt.loeffler@mexperts.de
Internet: www.mexperts.de
Press Portal: www.presseagentur.com

ALPS Electric Europa GmbH
Hansaallee 203
40549 Düsseldorf
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Fax +49-(0) 211-59 77-146
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