Series 18 *Streamlined. Compact and tactile.* 

https://eao.com/18





# 18 Information about the Series

## Key advantages

- Excellent tactile feedback when switching
- Gold-plated silver contacts available for low voltages and currents
- Bright, homogenous illumination
- Compact construction
- Can be mounted on PCBs
- Raised 8mm or flush 16mm mounting

## Typical application areas

- Audio / video
- Measurement technology
- Medical engineering

#### **Functions**

- Pushbutton
- Illuminated pushbutton
- Indicator

#### Design

- Flush
- Raised

## IP front protection

IP40

### Raitings

42 VAC (100 mA)

## Mounting cut-outs

- Ø 8 mm
- Ø 16 mm
- Square

## Terminal

- Soldering terminal
- PCB (with PCB plug-in base)

#### Lens Material

Plastic

### Markings

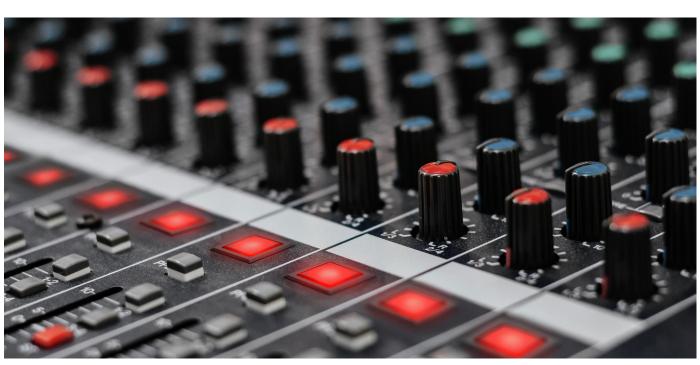
- Engraving
- Laser marking

### Approvals

No approbations

#### Conformities

- CE
- UKCA
- 2011/65/EU (RoHS)



# Index 18

Flush design	
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# Pushbutton square, IP40

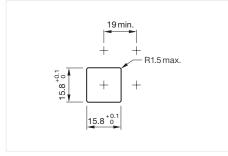


Product can differ from the current configuration.

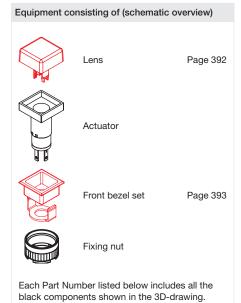
4 max. 30.5

Dimensions [mm]

# General information • +/- terminals are not connected



Mounting cut-outs [mm]



To obtain a complete unit, please select the red

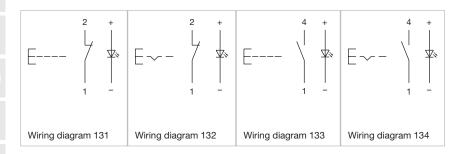
components from the pages shown.

## Actuator, Front dimension 19 mm x 19 mm

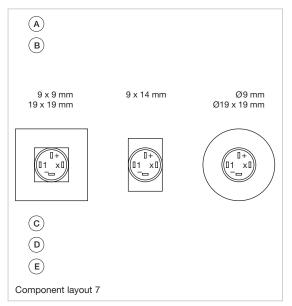
Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-187.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-188.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-287.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-288.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



# **Component layouts**



A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.
D = 2 = Normally open
E = 4 = Normally close

# Pushbutton round, IP40



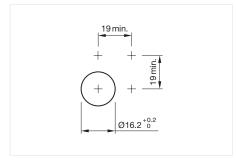
Product can differ from the current configuration.

4 max.

Dimensions [mm]

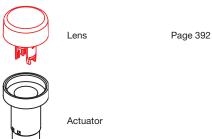
#### General information

• +/- terminals are not connected



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Equipment consisting of (schematic overview)





Front bezel set Page 393



Fixing nut

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

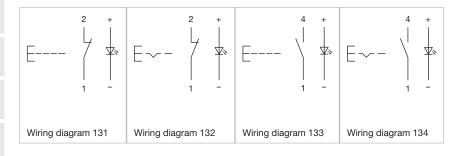


## Actuator, Front dimension Ø 19 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-167.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-168.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-267.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-268.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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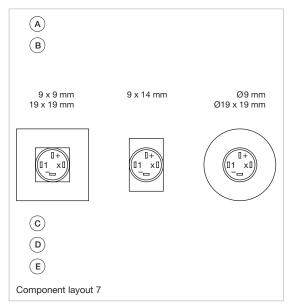
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# **Component layouts**

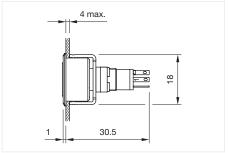


A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.
D = 2 = Normally open
E = 4 = Normally close

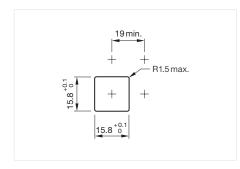
# Illuminated pushbutton square, IP40



Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Lens Page 392 Actuator Front bezel set Page 393

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

Fixing nut

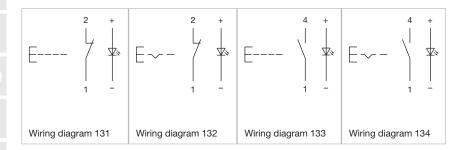
To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

## Actuator, Front dimension 19 mm x 19 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-187.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-188.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-287.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-288.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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## Component layouts



9 x 9 mm 19 x 19 mm 9 x 14 mm

Ø9 mm Ø19 x 19 mm







(c)

(D) (E)

Component layout 7

A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.

D = 2 = Normally open

E = 4 = Normally close



# Tactile, compact and bright.

EAO Series 18.

Especially well-suited as controls and indicators - thanks to the tactile feedback and the outstanding illumination.

- Excellent tactile feedback
- Outstanding illumination
- · Long service life
- Gold-plated nickel contacts
- Flush and raised variants
- · Compact design

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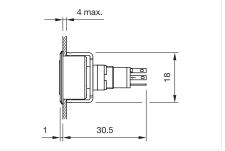
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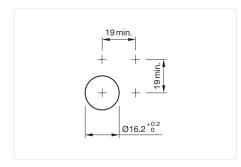
# Illuminated pushbutton round, IP40



Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Lens Page 392 Actuator Front bezel set Page 393

Fixing nut

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

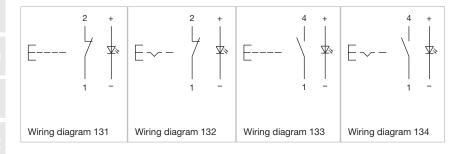


## Actuator, Front dimension Ø 19 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-167.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-168.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-267.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-268.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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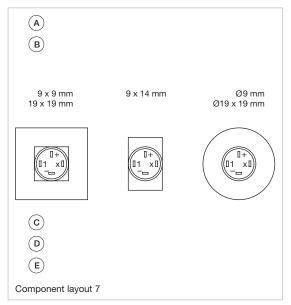
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# **Component layouts**

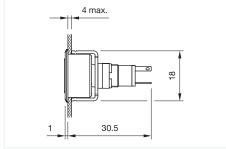


A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.
D = 2 = Normally open
E = 4 = Normally close

# Indicator square, IP40



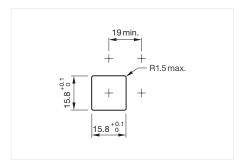
Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]

# General information

- Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED
- The customer has to decide what series resistor shall be used to the LED



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Lens Actuator Front bezel set Page 393 Fixing nut

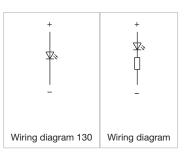
Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

## Actuator, Front dimension 19 mm x 19 mm

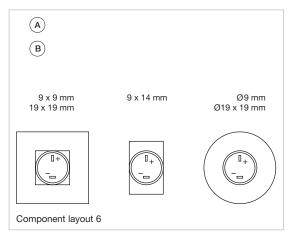
Operating voltage	Illumination colour	Lens colour	Lens shape	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Customer specific	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-080.0052L	130	6
	White	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-080.0054L	130	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-080.0055L	130	6
12 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-081.0052L	440	6
24 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-082.0052L	440	6
	Yellow	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-082.0054L	440	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-082.0055L	440	6

## Wiring diagrams



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# **Component layouts**



A = Terminals (rear side) B = Indicator

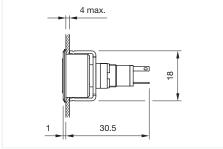
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## Indicator, IP40



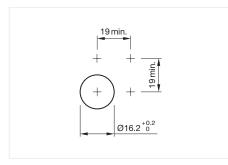
Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]

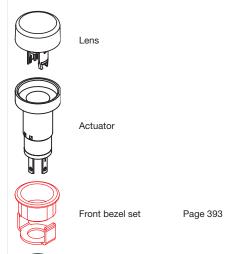
#### General information

- Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED
- The customer has to decide what series resistor shall be used to the LED



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

### Equipment consisting of (schematic overview)





Fixing nut

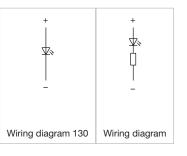
Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

## Actuator, Front dimension Ø 19 mm

Operating voltage	Illumination colour	Lens colour	Lens shape	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Customer specific	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-060.0052L	130	6
	White	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-060.0054L	130	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-060.0055L	130	6
12 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-061.0052L	440	6
	Yellow	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-061.0054L	440	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-061.0055L	440	6
24 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-062.0052L	440	6
	Yellow	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-062.0054L	440	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-062.0055L	440	6

# Wiring diagrams



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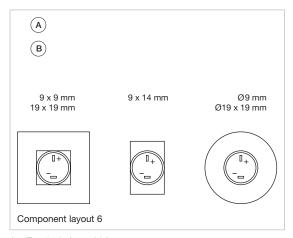
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## Component layouts



A = Terminals (rear side)

B = Indicator



# Taktil, kompakt und lichtstark.

EAO Baureihe 18.

Prädestiniert für Steuerungen und Statusanzeigen – dank des taktilen Schaltgefühls und einer lichtstarken Ausleuchtung.

- Hervorragendes, taktiles Schaltgefühl
- Ausgezeichnete Ausleuchtung
- · Lange Lebensdauer
- Goldplattierte Nickelkontakte
- Flache und erhabene Versionen
- Kompaktes Design

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# Pushbutton rectangular, IP40



Product can differ from the current configuration.

4 max. 23

Dimensions [mm]



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Equipment consisting of (schematic overview) Lens Page 392 Actuator Fixing nut

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

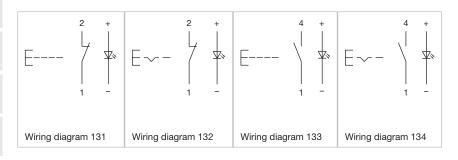
To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

# Actuator, Front dimension 14 mm x 9 mm

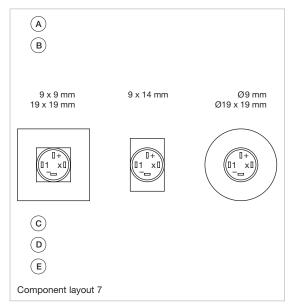
Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-147.035	133	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-247.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-248.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



# **Component layouts**



A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.
D = 2 = Normally open
E = 4 = Normally close

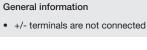
# Pushbutton round, IP40

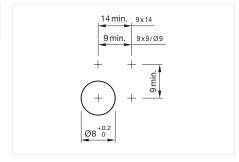


Product can differ from the current configuration.

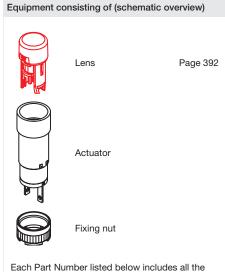
4 max.

Dimensions [mm]





Mounting cut-outs [mm]



black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

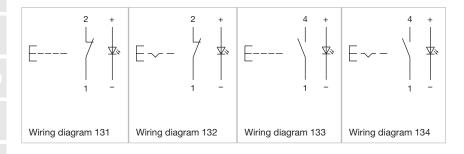


# Actuator, Front dimension Ø 9 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-137.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-138.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-237.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-238.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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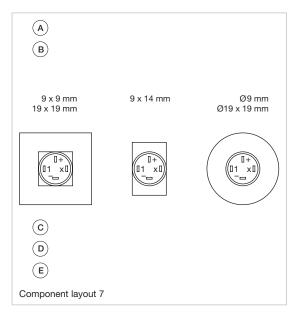
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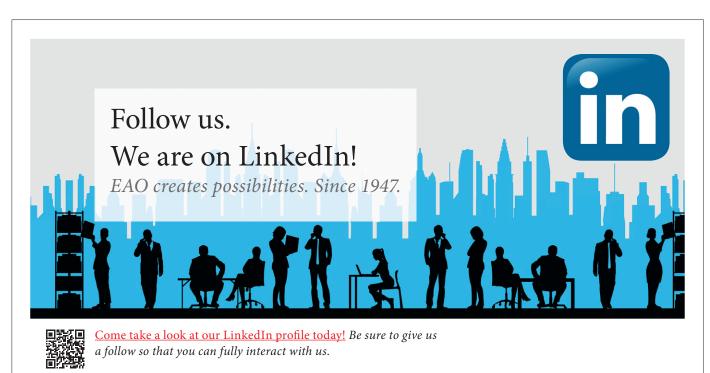
## Component layouts



A = Terminals (rear side) B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.

D = 2 = Normally open

E = 4 = Normally close



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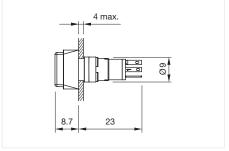
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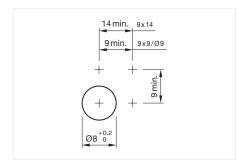
# Illuminated pushbutton rectangular, IP40



Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Equipment consisting of (schematic overview)



Page 392



Actuator



Fixing nut

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

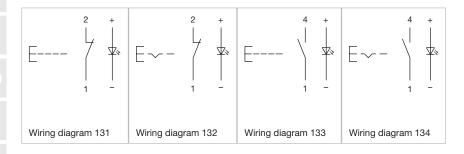


## Actuator, Front dimension 14 mm x 9 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-147.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-148.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-247.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-248.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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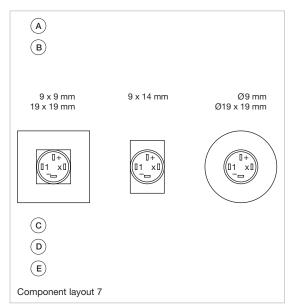
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# **Component layouts**

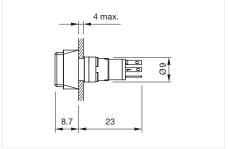


A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.
D = 2 = Normally open
E = 4 = Normally close

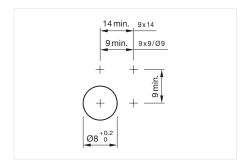
# Illuminated pushbutton round, IP40



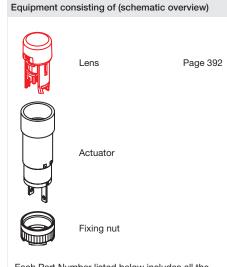
Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]



Mounting cut-outs [mm]



Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

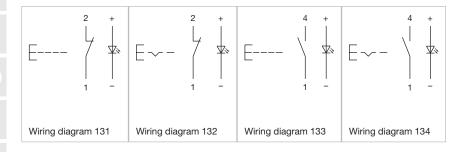
To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.

## Actuator, Front dimension Ø 9 mm

Switching action	Contacts	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Momentary	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-137.035	133	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-138.035	131	7
Maintained	1 NO	Soldering terminal	18-237.035	134	7
	1 NC	Soldering terminal	18-238.035	132	7

Contacts: NC = Normally closed, NO = Normally open

# Wiring diagrams



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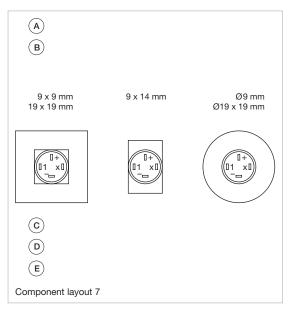
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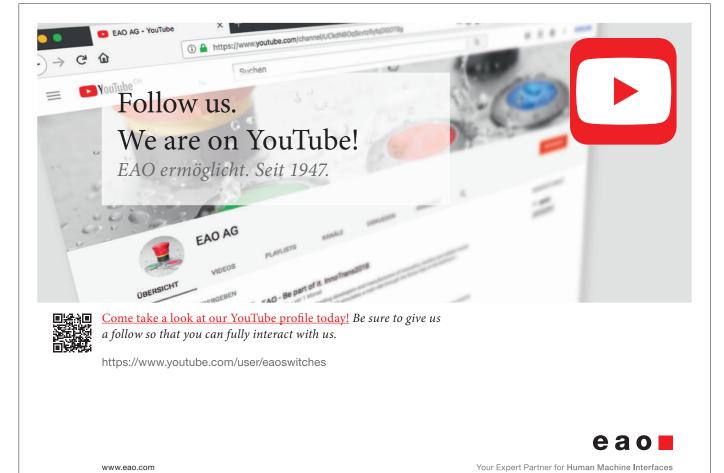
## Component layouts



A = Terminals (rear side)
B = Illuminated pushbutton
C = x = Contact No.

D = 2 = Normally open

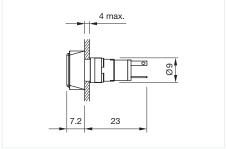
E = 4 = Normally close



# Indicator rectangular, IP40



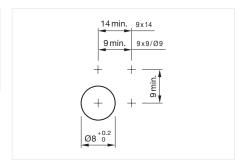
Product can differ from the current configuration.



Dimensions [mm]



Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED



Mounting cut-outs [mm]

# Equipment consisting of (schematic overview) Lens Actuator Fixing nut

Each Part Number listed below includes all the black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

To obtain a complete unit, please select the red components from the pages shown.



# Actuator, Front dimension 14 mm x 9 mm

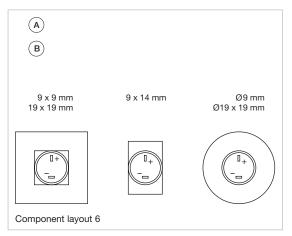
Operating voltage	Illumination colour	Lens colour	Lens shape	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Customer specific	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-040.0055L	130	6
24 V DC ±10 %		Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-042.0055L	130	6

# Wiring diagrams



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# **Component layouts**

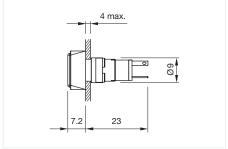


A = Terminals (rear side) B = Indicator

# Indicator round, IP40



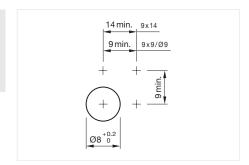
Product can differ from the current configuration.



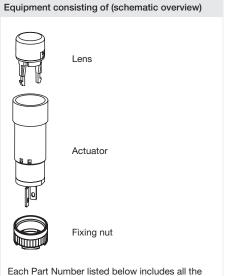
Dimensions [mm]



Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED



Mounting cut-outs [mm]



black components shown in the 3D-drawing.

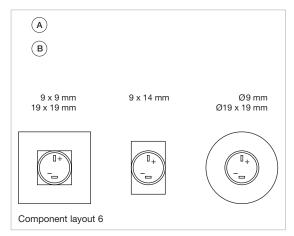
# Actuator, Front dimension Ø 9 mm

Operating voltage	Illumination colour	Lens colour	Lens shape	Terminal	Part No.	Wiring diagram	Com- ponent Layout
Customer specific	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-030.0052L	130	6
	White	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-030.0054L	130	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-030.0055L	130	6
12 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-031.0052L	130	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-031.0055L	130	6
24 V DC ±10 %	Red	Red	flush	Soldering terminal	18-032.0052L	130	6
	Yellow	Yellow	flush	Soldering terminal	18-032.0054L	130	6
	Green	Green	flush	Soldering terminal	18-032.0055L	130	6

# Wiring diagrams



## Component layouts



A = Terminals (rear side)

B = Indicator



On our website you can download technical data, assembly instructions, catalogs, brochures and much more.



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# 18 Components



## Lens with LED raised design

Lens material	Lens colour	Lens optics	Lens shape	Lens illumination	Dimensions	Part No.	Wiring diagram
Plastic	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	7,5 mm x 12.5 mm	18-941.5L	139
	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-931.2L	139
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-931.4L	139
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-931.5L	139

## Additional information

- Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED
- Red LED Vf = 2.0 V DC, yellow lens with white LED Vf = 3.2 V, green LED Vf = 3.2 V

## Wiring diagrams





## Lens with LED flush design

Lens material	Lens colour	Lens optics	Lens shape	Lens illumination	Dimensions	Part No.	Wiring diagram
Plastic	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-981.2L	139
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-981.4L	139
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-981.5L	139
	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-961.2L	139
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-961.4L	139
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-961.5L	139

## Additional information

- Luminosity and wave length variations caused by LED manufacturing processes may cause slight differences regarding the illumination. The customer has to decide what resistor shall be used to the LED
- $\bullet~$  Red LED Vf = 2.0 V DC, yellow lens with white LED Vf = 3.2 V, green LED Vf = 3.2 V

## Wiring diagrams



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# Components 18



# Lens without LED raised design

Lens material	Lens colour	Lens optics	Lens shape	Lens illumination	Dimensions	Part No.
Plastic	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	7.5 mm x 12.5 mm	18-942.5
	White	translucent	flush	illuminative	7.5 mm x 12.5 mm	18-942.9
	Black	opaque	flush	non illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-932.0
	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-932.2
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-932.4
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-932.5
	Grey	opaque	flush	non illuminative	Ø 7.5 mm	18-932.8



# Lens without LED flush design

Lens material	Lens colour	Lens optics	Lens shape	Lens illumination	Dimensions	Part No.
Plastic	Black	opaque	flush	non illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.0
	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.2
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.4
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.5
	Grey	opaque	flush	non illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.8
	White	translucent	flush	illuminative	13.8 mm x 13.8 mm	18-982.9
	Black	opaque	flush	non illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.0
	Red	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.2
	Yellow	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.4
	Green	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.5
	Grey	opaque	flush	non illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.8
	White	translucent	flush	illuminative	Ø 13.8 mm	18-962.9



# Front bezel set flush design

Product attributes	Front bezel material	Front bezel colour	Mounting cut-out	Dimensions	Part No.
For square lens	Plastic	Black	15.8 mm x 15.8 mm	19 mm x 19 mm	18-920.1
For round lens	Plastic	Black	15.8 mm x 15.8 mm	19 mm x 19 mm	18-920.2
	Plastic	Black	Ø 16 mm	Ø 19 mm	18-920.3

# 18 Accessories

# Front side



# Blind plug

Dimensions	Material	Colour	Mounting cut-out	Part No.
9 mm x 9 mm	plastic	Black	Ø 8 mm	19-948.0
Ø 9 mm	plastic	Black	Ø 8 mm	19-949.0

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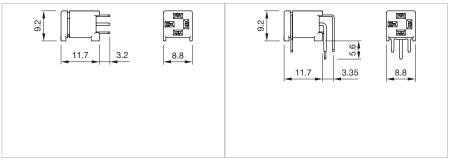
# Accessories 18

## Rear side



# PCB plug-in base

Terminal	Pins	Part No.	Com- ponent Layout
PCB terminal	Axial	18-945	14
	90° angled	18-946	15



Dimensions [mm] for Part No. 18-945

Dimensions [mm] for Part No. 18-946

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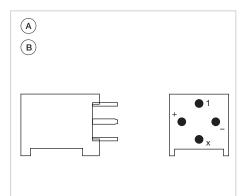
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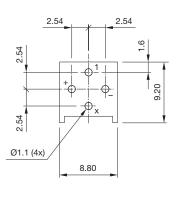
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# 18 Accessories

# Component layouts





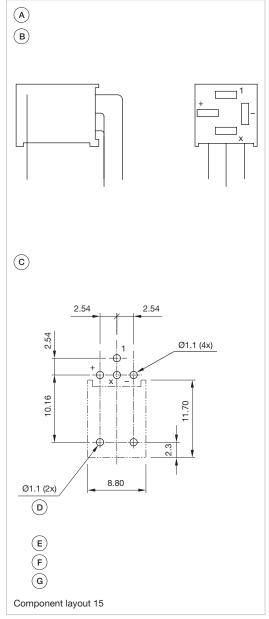


Component layout 14

Dimensions [mm]

B = Occupancy plan (component side)

C = Drilling plan (component side)



Dimensions [mm]
A = Socket 90° angled
B = Occupancy plan (component side)

C = Drilling plan (component side) D = non-metallic

E = x = Contact No. F = 2 = Normaly open G = 4 = Normaly close

# Mounting



# Fixing nut

Dimensions	Material	Thread	Part No.
Ø 9 mm	metal	M8 x 13 mm	19-991



## Lens remover

Material	Part No.
metal / plastic	18-910



# Mounting tool

Product attributes	Material	Part No.
For fixing nut long Part No. 19-991	metal	19-905

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# 18 Technical data

# Actuator with snap-action switching element

## Switching system

The snap-action switching system was designed for switching low powers in electronic circuits.

Single-break snap-action contact.

#### Material

## Lens

Plastic

#### Material of contact

Gold contact on nickel plating

#### Actuator housing

Plastic, colour black

#### Mechanical characteristics

#### Terminals

The terminals can be used as soldering terminals.

Max. wire diameter  $2 \times 0.5 \,\text{mm}^2$  Max. wire cross-section of stranded cable  $1 \times 0.75 \,\text{mm}^2$  Wire cross-section of terminal  $1.6 \times 0.4 \,\text{mm}^2$ 

## Tightening torque

For fixing nut max. 0.2 Nm

#### Actuating force

1.4 N

#### Actuating travel

Approx.  $2.2 \,\text{mm} \pm 0.2 \,\text{mm}$ 

#### Mechanical lifetime

Momentary action 2 million cycles of operation Maintained action 1 million cycles of operation

## Electrical characteristics

#### Illumination

Operating voltage LED:  $12 \text{ VDC} \pm 10 \%$ 

24 VDC ±10 % customer-specific \*)

\*) The series resistance for LEDs need to be determined and integrated by customers.

EAO reserves the right to alter specifications without further notice.

Operating data LED: red 2.0 VDC @ 20mA

yellow 2.1 VDC @ 20mA green 3.2 VDC @ 20mA white 3.2 VDC @ 20mA

### Electrical life

 $\geq$ 500 000 cycles of operation at 30 VDC, 100 mA, according to IEC 61058-1

#### Switching voltage and switching current

100 mA at 42 VAC/VDC

#### Electric strength

500 VAC, 50 Hz, 1 minute between all terminals and earth, as per IEC 60512-2-11

### **Ambient conditions**

#### Storage temperature

-40°C...+80°C

## Operating temperature

-25°C...+65°C

#### Protection degree

IP40 front side, as per IEC 60529

## Shock resistance

(Single impacts, semi-sinusodial) 50 g for 11 ms, as per DIN EN 60068-2-27

#### Vibration resistance

(sinusoidal)

10 g at 10-2000 Hz, amplitude 0.75 mm, as per IEC 60512-4-4

## **Approvals**

## Conformities

2014/35/EC (LVD) for version 230 VAC 2011/65/EC (RoHS)

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# Application guidelines 18

## Suppressor circuits

When switching inductive loads such as relays, DC motors, and DC solenoids, it is always important to absorb surges (e.g. with a diode) to protect the contacts. When these inductive loads are switched off, a counter emf can severely damage switch contacts and greatly shorten lifetime.

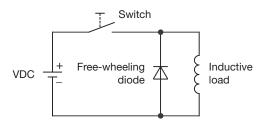
Fig. 1 shows an inductive load with a free-wheeling diode connected in parallel. This free-wheeling diode provides a path for the inductor current to flow when the current is interrupted by the switch. Without this free-wheeling diode, the voltage across the coil will be limited only by dielectric breakdown voltages of the circuit or parasitic elements of the coil. This voltage can be kilo-

volts in amplitude even when nominal circuit voltages are low (e.g. 12 VDC) see Fig. 2.

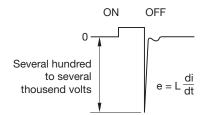
The free-wheeling diode should be chosen so that the reverse breakdown voltage is greater than the voltage driving the inductive load. The DC blocking voltage (VR) of the free-wheeling diode can be found in the datasheet of a diode. The forward current should be equal or greater than the maximum current flowing through the load.

To get an efficient protection, the free-wheeling diode must be connected as close as possible to the inductive load!

Switching with inductive load Fig. 1



Counter EMF over load without free-wheeling diode Fig. 2



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