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Understanding Embedded - FPGAs (Field Programmable Gate Array)

Embedded - FPGAs, or Field Programmable Gate Arrays, are advanced integrated circuits that offer unparalleled flexibility and performance for digital systems. Unlike traditional fixed-function logic devices, FPGAs can be programmed and reprogrammed to execute a wide array of logical operations, enabling customized functionality tailored to specific applications. This reprogrammability allows developers to iterate designs quickly and implement complex functions without the need for custom hardware.

Applications of Embedded - FPGAs

The versatility of Embedded - FPGAs makes them indispensable in numerous fields. In telecommunications,

Details

Product Status	Obsolete
Number of LABs/CLBs	768
Number of Logic Elements/Cells	-
Total RAM Bits	-
Number of I/O	69
Number of Gates	12000
Voltage - Supply	3V ~ 3.6V, 4.75V ~ 5.25V
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Operating Temperature	0°C ~ 70°C (TA)
Package / Case	84-LCC (J-Lead)
Supplier Device Package	84-PLCC (29.31x29.31)
Purchase URL	https://www.e-xfl.com/product-detail/microsemi/a54sx08-2plg84

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SX Family FPGAs

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Routing Resources

Clusters and SuperClusters can be connected through the use of two innovative local routing resources called *FastConnect* and *DirectConnect*, which enable extremely fast and predictable interconnection of modules within clusters and SuperClusters (Figure 1-5 and Figure 1-6). This routing architecture also dramatically reduces the number of antifuses required to complete a circuit, ensuring the highest possible performance.

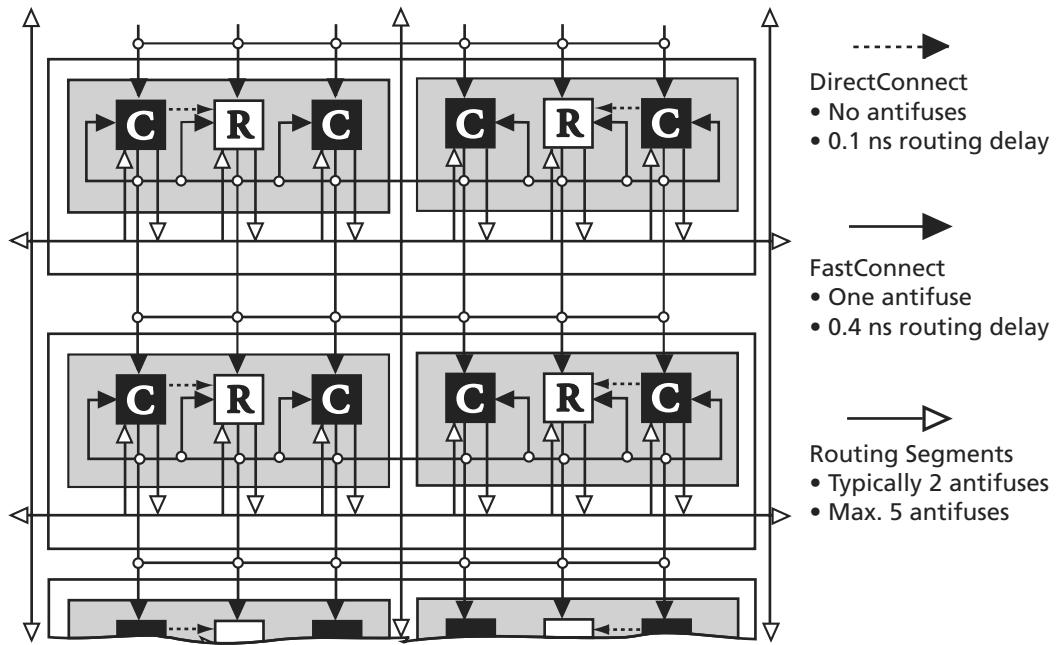


Figure 1-5 • DirectConnect and FastConnect for Type 1 SuperClusters

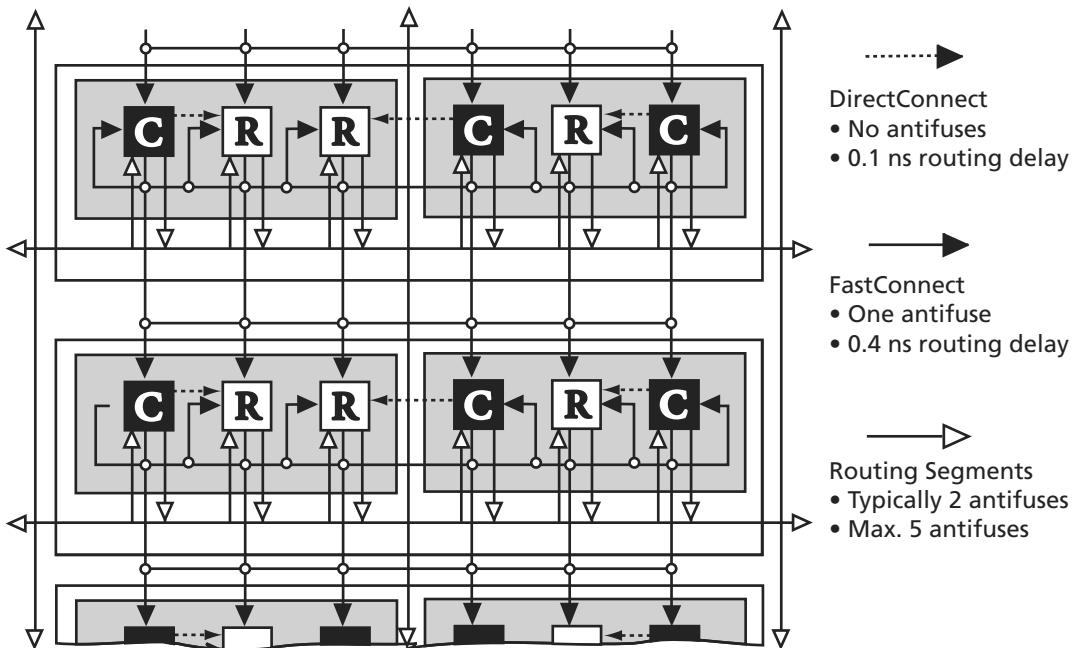


Figure 1-6 • DirectConnect and FastConnect for Type 2 SuperClusters

Boundary Scan Testing (BST)

All SX devices are IEEE 1149.1 compliant. SX devices offer superior diagnostic and testing capabilities by providing Boundary Scan Testing (BST) and probing capabilities. These functions are controlled through the special test pins in conjunction with the program fuse. The functionality of each pin is described in Table 1-2. In the dedicated test mode, TCK, TDI, and TDO are dedicated pins and cannot be used as regular I/Os. In flexible mode, TMS should be set HIGH through a pull-up resistor of 10 kΩ. TMS can be pulled LOW to initiate the test sequence.

The program fuse determines whether the device is in dedicated or flexible mode. The default (fuse not blown) is flexible mode.

Table 1-2 • Boundary Scan Pin Functionality

Program Fuse Blown (Dedicated Test Mode)	Program Fuse Not Blown (Flexible Mode)
TCK, TDI, TDO are dedicated BST pins.	TCK, TDI, TDO are flexible and may be used as I/Os.
No need for pull-up resistor for TMS	Use a pull-up resistor of 10 kΩ on TMS.

Dedicated Test Mode

In Dedicated mode, all JTAG pins are reserved for BST; designers cannot use them as regular I/Os. An internal pull-up resistor is automatically enabled on both TMS and TDI pins, and the TMS pin will function as defined in the IEEE 1149.1 (JTAG) specification.

To select Dedicated mode, users need to reserve the JTAG pins in Actel's Designer software by checking the "Reserve JTAG" box in "Device Selection Wizard" (Figure 1-7). JTAG pins comply with LVTTL/TTL I/O specification regardless of whether they are used as a user I/O or a JTAG I/O. Refer to the Table 1-5 on page 1-8 for detailed specifications.

Figure 1-7 • Device Selection Wizard

Development Tool Support

The SX family of FPGAs is fully supported by both the Actel Libero® Integrated Design Environment (IDE) and Designer FPGA Development software. Actel Libero IDE is a design management environment, seamlessly integrating design tools while guiding the user through the design flow, managing all design and log files, and passing necessary design data among tools. Libero IDE allows users to integrate both schematic and HDL synthesis into a single flow and verify the entire design in a single environment. Libero IDE includes Synplify® for Actel from Synplicity®, ViewDraw® for Actel from Mentor Graphics®, ModelSim® HDL Simulator from Mentor Graphics, WaveFormer Lite™ from SynaptiCAD™, and Designer software from Actel. Refer to the Libero IDE flow diagram (located on the Actel website) for more information.

Actel Designer software is a place-and-route tool and provides a comprehensive suite of backend support tools for FPGA development. The Designer software includes timing-driven place-and-route, and a world-class integrated static timing analyzer and constraints editor. With the Designer software, a user can select and lock package pins while only minimally impacting the results of place-and-route. Additionally, the back-annotation flow is compatible with all the major simulators, and the simulation results can be cross-probed with Silicon Explorer II, Actel integrated verification and logic analysis tool. Another tool included in the Designer software is the SmartGen core generator, which easily creates popular and commonly used logic functions for implementation into your schematic or HDL design. Actel Designer software is compatible with the most popular FPGA design entry and verification tools from companies such as Mentor Graphics, Synplicity, Synopsys®, and Cadence® Design Systems. The Designer software is available for both the Windows® and UNIX® operating systems.

Probe Circuit Control Pins

The Silicon Explorer II tool uses the boundary scan ports (TDI, TCK, TMS, and TDO) to select the desired nets for verification. The selected internal nets are assigned to the PRA/PRB pins for observation. Figure 1-8 on page 1-7 illustrates the interconnection between Silicon Explorer II and the FPGA to perform in-circuit verification.

Design Considerations

The TDI, TCK, TDO, PRA, and PRB pins should not be used as input or bidirectional ports. Because these pins are active during probing, critical signals input through these pins are not available while probing. In addition, the Security Fuse should not be programmed because doing so disables the Probe Circuitry.

Table 1-4 • Recommended Operating Conditions

Parameter	Commercial	Industrial	Military	Units
Temperature Range*	0 to + 70	-40 to + 85	-55 to +125	°C
3.3 V Power Supply Tolerance	±10	±10	±10	%V _{CC}
5.0 V Power Supply Tolerance	±5	±10	±10	%V _{CC}

Note: *Ambient temperature (T_A) is used for commercial and industrial; case temperature (T_C) is used for military.

Table 1-5 • Electrical Specifications

Symbol	Parameter	Commercial		Industrial		Units
		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	
V _{OH}	(I _{OH} = -20 µA) (CMOS) (I _{OH} = -8 mA) (TTL) (I _{OH} = -6 mA) (TTL)	(V _{CCI} - 0.1) 2.4	V _{CCI} V _{CCI}	(V _{CCI} - 0.1) 2.4	V _{CCI} V _{CCI}	V
V _{OL}	(I _{OL} = 20 µA) (CMOS) (I _{OL} = 12 mA) (TTL) (I _{OL} = 8 mA) (TTL)		0.10 0.50		0.50	V
V _{IL}			0.8		0.8	V
V _{IH}		2.0		2.0		V
t _R , t _F	Input Transition Time t _R , t _F		50		50	ns
C _{IO}	C _{IO} I/O Capacitance		10		10	pF
I _{CC}	Standby Current, I _{CC}		4.0		4.0	mA
I _{CC(D)}	I _{CC(D)} I _{Dynamic} V _{CC} Supply Current	See "Evaluating Power in SX Devices" on page 1-16.				

Figure 1-10 shows the 3.3 V PCI V/I curve and the minimum and maximum PCI drive characteristics of the A54SX16P device.

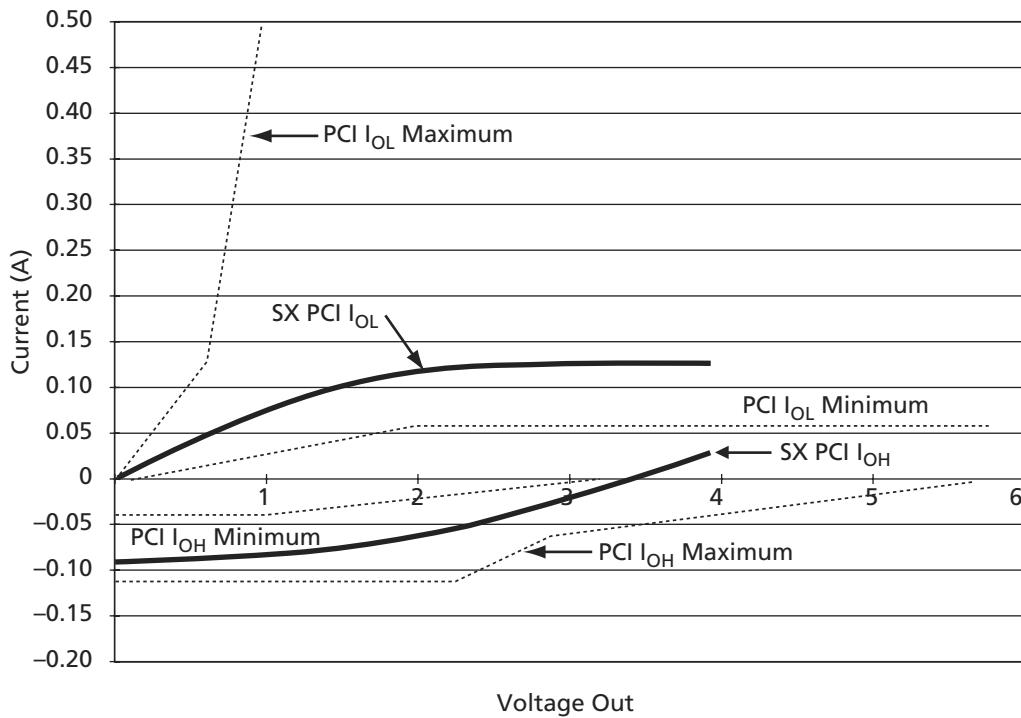


Figure 1-10 • 3.3 V PCI Curve for A54SX16P Device

$$I_{OH} = (98.0V_{CC}) \times (V_{OUT} - V_{CC}) \times (V_{OUT} + 0.4V_{CC})$$

for $V_{CC} > V_{OUT} > 0.7 V_{CC}$

EQ 1-3

$$I_{OL} = (256V_{CC}) \times V_{OUT} \times (V_{CC} - V_{OUT})$$

for $0 V < V_{OUT} < 0.18 V_{CC}$

EQ 1-4

Register Cell Timing Characteristics

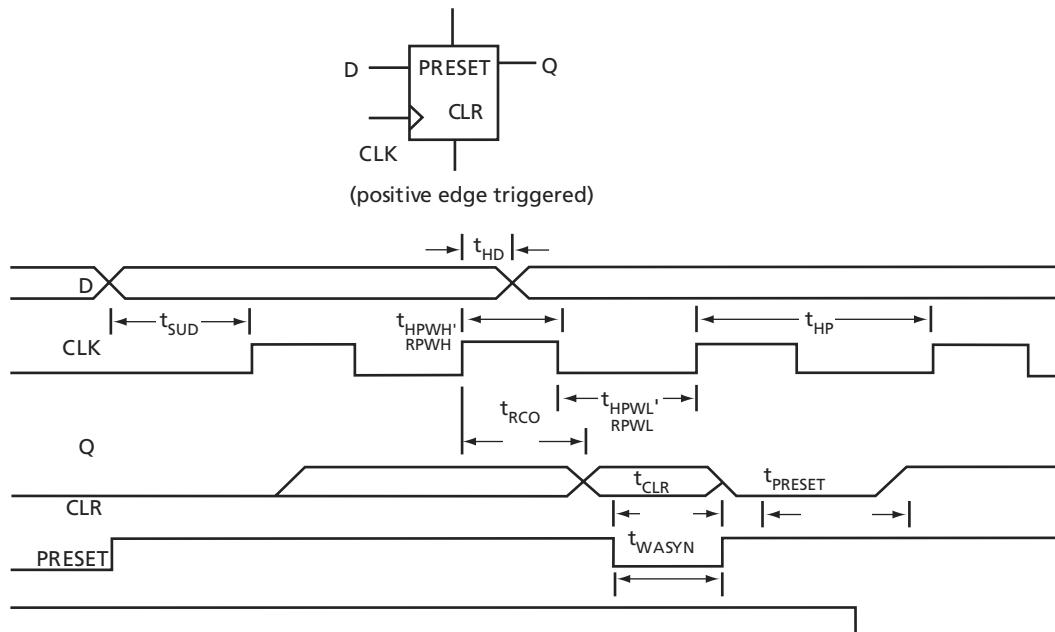


Figure 1-17 • Flip-Flops

Timing Characteristics

Timing characteristics for SX devices fall into three categories: family-dependent, device-dependent, and design-dependent. The input and output buffer characteristics are common to all SX family members. Internal routing delays are device-dependent. Design dependency means actual delays are not determined until after placement and routing of the user's design is complete. Delay values may then be determined by using the DirectTime Analyzer utility or performing simulation with post-layout delays.

Critical Nets and Typical Nets

Propagation delays are expressed only for typical nets, which are used for initial design performance evaluation. Critical net delays can then be applied to the most time-critical paths. Critical nets are determined by net property assignment prior to placement and routing. Up to 6% of the nets in a design may be designated as critical, while 90% of the nets in a design are typical.

Long Tracks

Some nets in the design use long tracks. Long tracks are special routing resources that span multiple rows, columns, or modules. Long tracks employ three and sometimes five antifuse connections. This increases capacitance and resistance, resulting in longer net delays for macros connected to long tracks. Typically up to 6 percent of nets in a fully utilized device require long tracks. Long tracks contribute approximately 4 ns to 8.4 ns delay. This additional delay is represented statistically in higher fanout ($FO = 24$) routing delays in the datasheet specifications section.

Timing Derating

SX devices are manufactured in a CMOS process. Therefore, device performance varies according to temperature, voltage, and process variations. Minimum timing parameters reflect maximum operating voltage, minimum operating temperature, and best-case processing. Maximum timing parameters reflect minimum operating voltage, maximum operating temperature, and worst-case processing.

Package Pin Assignments

84-Pin PLCC

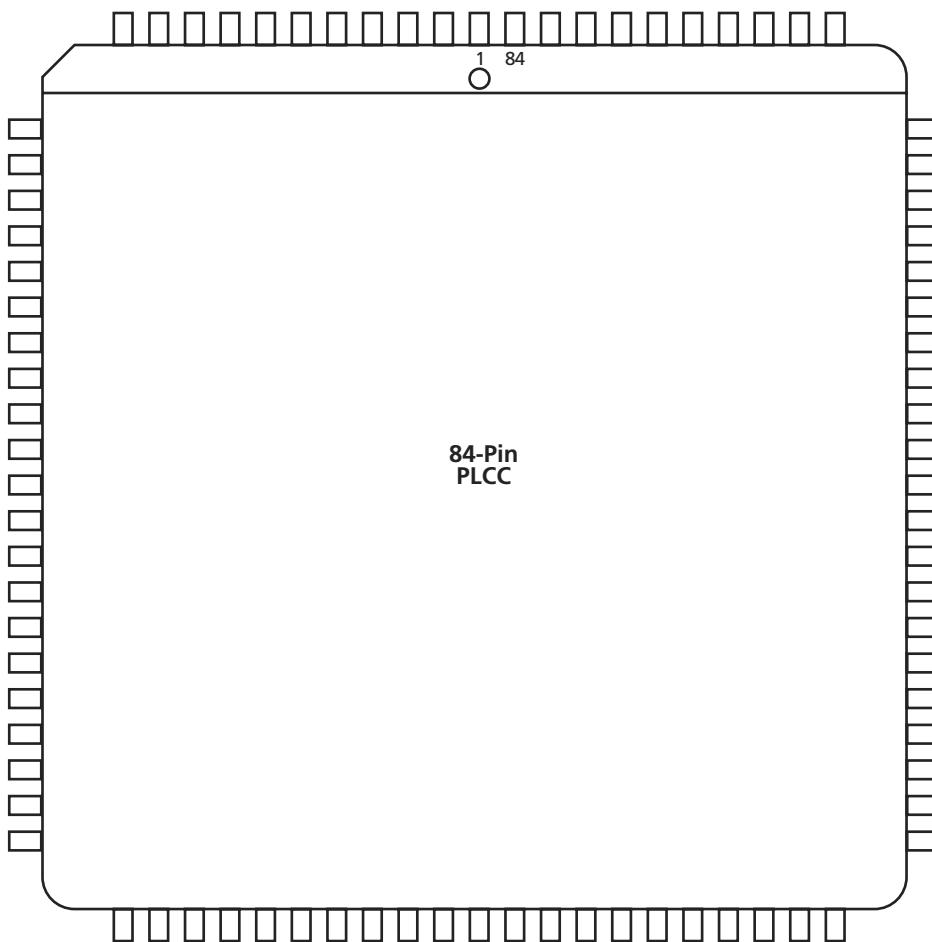


Figure 2-1 • 84-Pin PLCC (Top View)

Note

For Package Manufacturing and Environmental information, visit the Package Resource center at <http://www.actel.com/products/rescenter/package/index.html>.

144-Pin TQFP

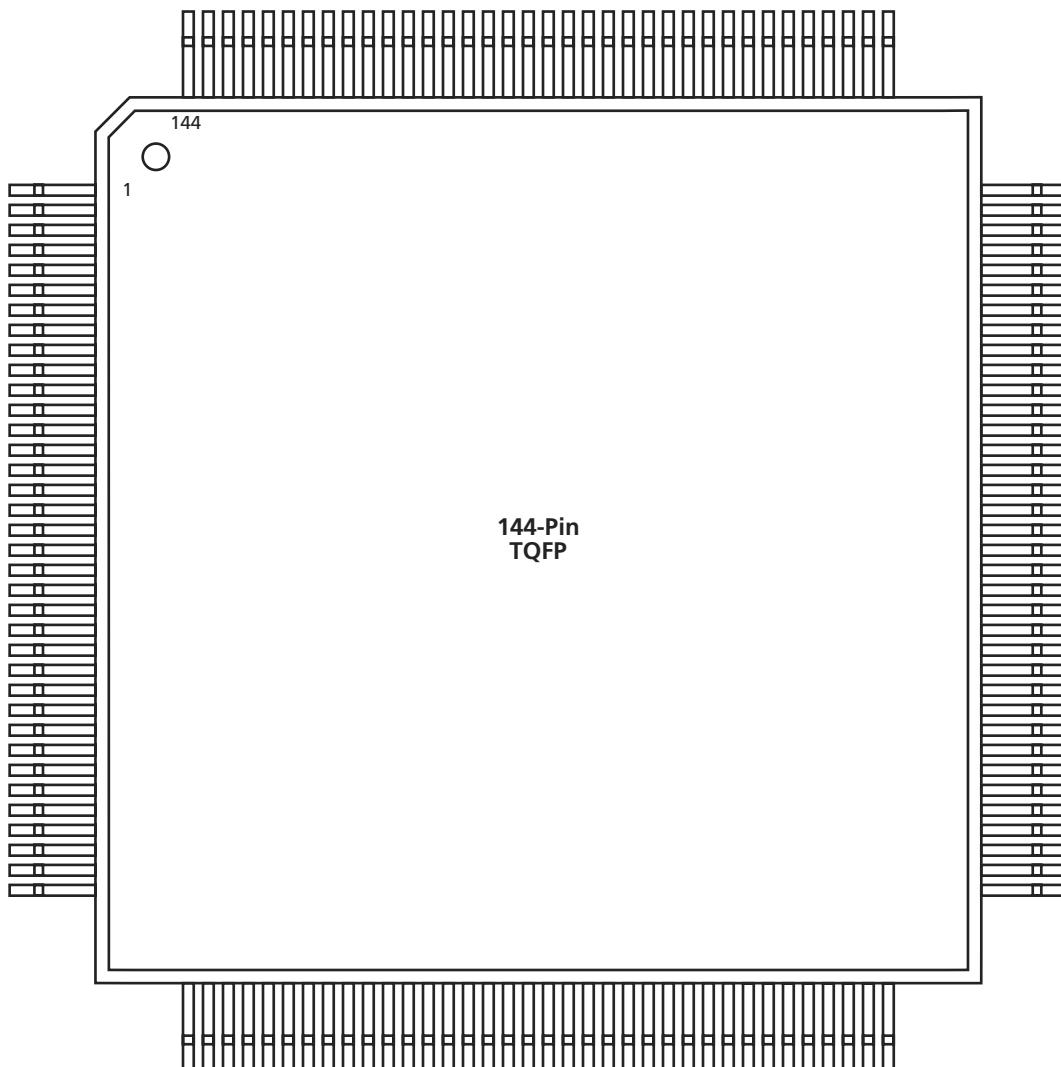


Figure 2-3 • 144-Pin TQFP (Top View)

Note

For Package Manufacturing and Environmental information, visit the Package Resource center at <http://www.actel.com/products/rescenter/package/index.html>.

176-Pin TQFP

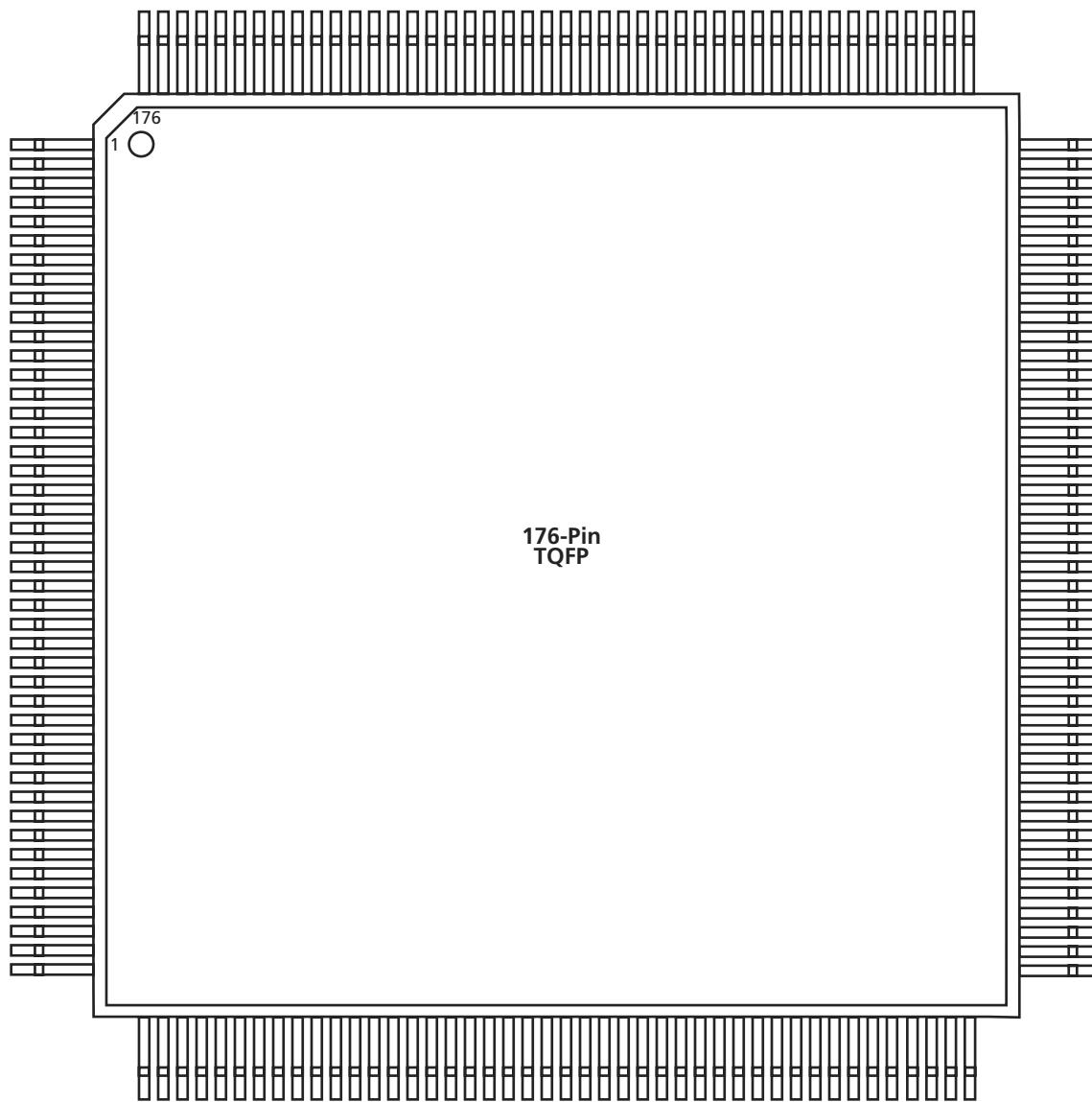


Figure 2-4 • 176-Pin TQFP (Top View)

Note

For Package Manufacturing and Environmental information, visit the Package Resource center at <http://www.actel.com/products/rescenter/package/index.html>.

100-Pin VQFP

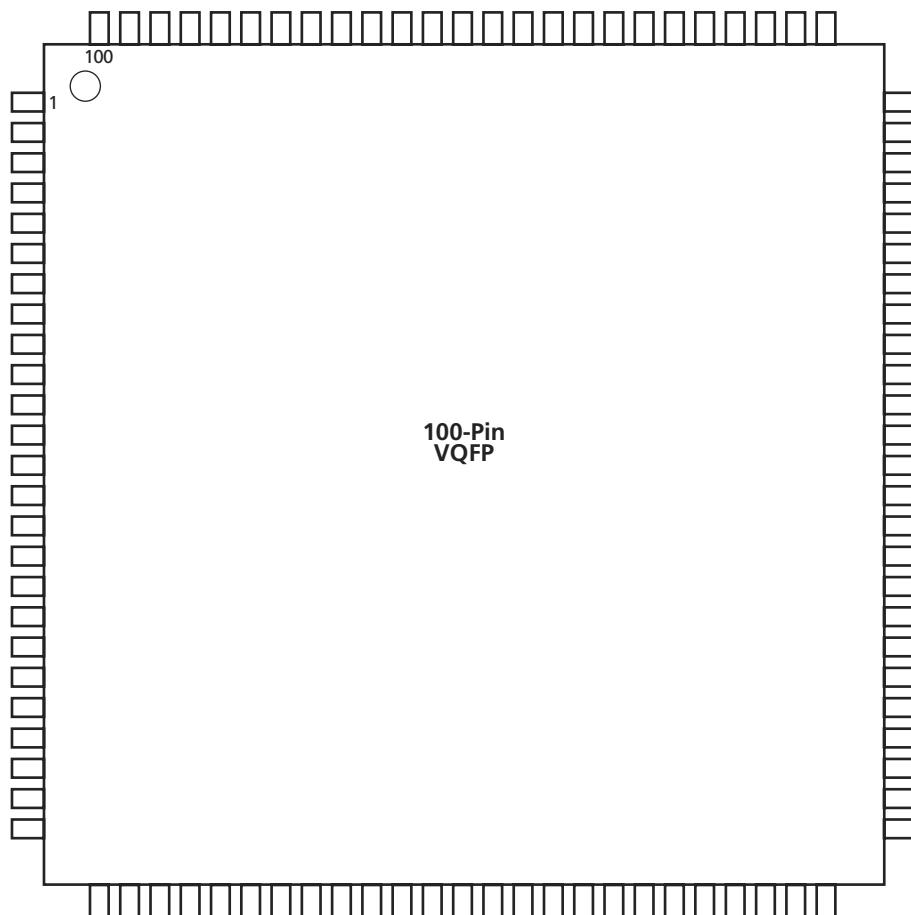


Figure 2-5 • 100-Pin VQFP (Top View)

Note

For Package Manufacturing and Environmental information, visit the Package Resource center at <http://www.actel.com/products/rescenter/package/index.html>.

313-Pin PBGA

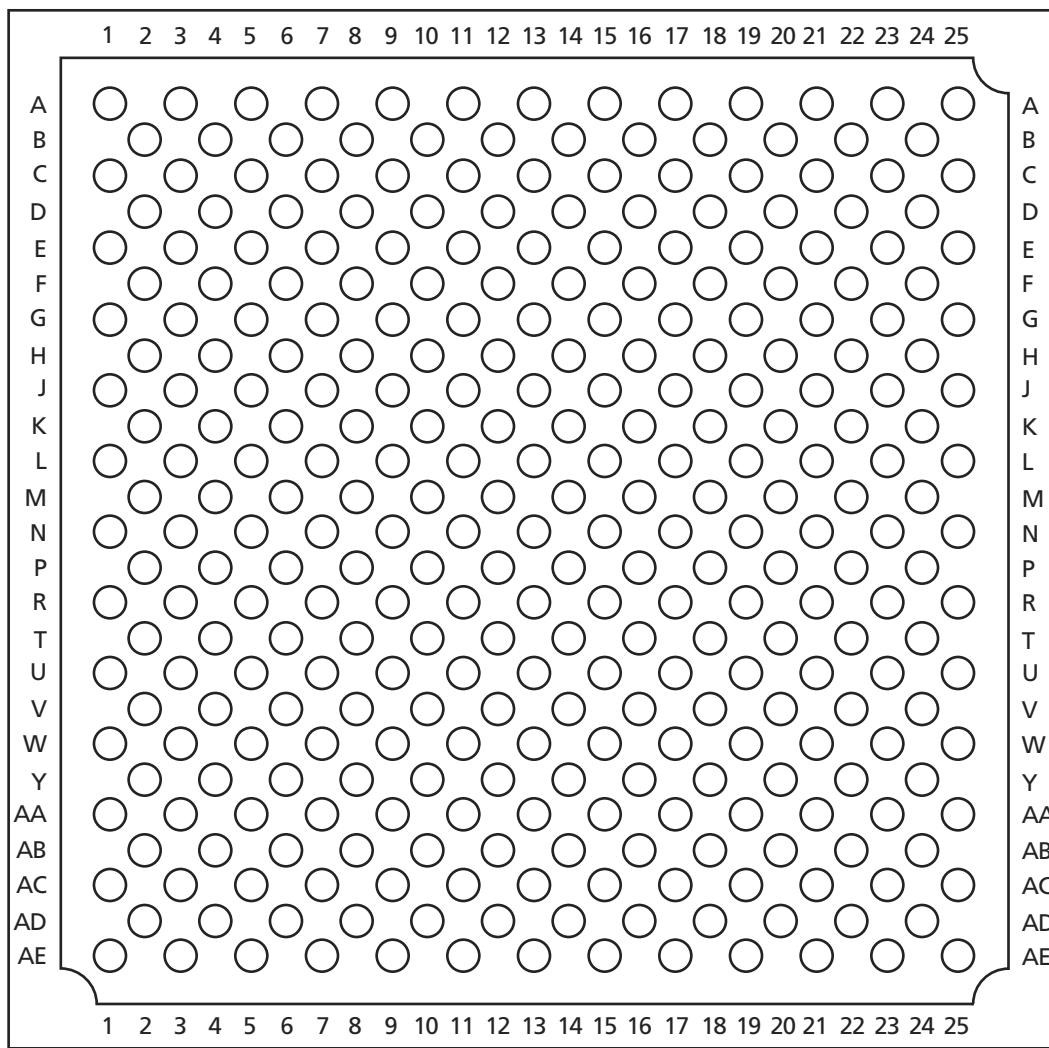


Figure 2-6 • 313-Pin PBGA (Top View)

Note

For Package Manufacturing and Environmental information, visit the Package Resource center at <http://www.actel.com/products/rescenter/package/index.html>.

