

DESCRIPTION

INFRARED SENSOR PACKAGE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention is directed to an infrared sensor package, and more particularly to an infrared sensor package of a self-contained type incorporating a pyroelectric element as well as an IC chip which processes a signal output from the element for providing a determined sensor output.

BACKGROUND ART

U.S. Patent No. 6, 121,614 discloses an infrared sensor of the above self-contained type having a dielectric support on which the pyroelectric element as well as the IC chips are mounted. The support is held within a space between a base and a cover. The base has I/O pins that are connected to the IC chip and projects for connection with an external circuit. In order to electrically connect the IC chip to the pyroelectric element, external electric parts, and the I/O pins, the support of generally cuboid configuration is formed with a complex conductor pattern extending across two or more outer surfaces of the support. However, the conductor pattern can be only realized through several processes with the use of specific facilities, which makes it difficult to make the sensor at a low cost.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In view of the above problem the present invention has been achieved to provide an improved infrared sensor package which is capable of being manufactured at a reduced cost, yet retaining compactness. The infrared

sensor package of the present invention includes a dielectric support which is molded from a plastic material to have a sensor mount for securing a pyroelectric element as well as an IC mount for securing an IC chip that processes a signal from the pyroelectric element. The support is held on a base which is formed with a plurality of I/O pins extending through the base for electrical connection of the IC chip with an external circuit. A cover is secured to the base to give a space therebetween for accommodating the support. The support is formed with sensor conductors for electrical interconnection between the pyroelectric element and the IC chip and also with I/O conductors for electrical interconnection between the IC chip and the I/O pins. The important feature of the present invention resides in that the sensor conductors and the I/O conductors are molded into and integrally with the dielectric support. Thus, the sensor conductors as well as the I/O conductors can be realized by a rather simple manufacturing process to thereby reduce a cost of manufacturing the infrared sensor, while assuring the electrical connections on the side of the support between the IC chip and the pyroelectric element and between the IC chip and the I/O pins.

In a preferred embodiment, the support is shaped into a generally cuboid having an upper face, a front face and a lower face. The upper face is formed with the sensor mount, while the front face is formed with the IC mount. Each of the sensor conductors has portions exposed on the upper and front faces of the support respectively for connection with the pyroelectric element secured to the sensor mount as well as for connection with the IC chip secured to the IC mount. Each I/O conductor has portions exposed on the front and lower faces of the support respectively for connection with the IC chip and with the I/O pin on the

lower face of the support. With this arrangement, the sensor package can be made compact, while simplifying the patterns of the individual conductors.

Preferably, a metal-shield is molded into the support in a portion adjacent to the IC mount and connected to a stabilized electric potential in the circuit of the IC chip for shielding the IC chip at the stabilized electric potential, thereby electromagnetically protecting the circuit of the IC chip to minimize parasitic capacitance between the input and output of the IC chip for enhanced reliability of the sensor output. In this connection, the metal-shield may be shaped to have a vertical segment embedded in the support behind the IC mount and a horizontal segment bent from the upper end of the vertical segment for shielding the IC chip from the pyroelectric element. This is advantageous for effectively shielding the IC chip also from the pyroelectric element, yet with the use of the metal shield embedded in the support.

The metal-shield may be shaped to have a major portion embedded behind the IC mount in the front face and a terminal leg extending from the major portion to the front face of the support for connection with a constant potential portion of the circuit of the IC chip.

Further, the metal-shield is preferred to have an integral extension which extends behind the sensor mount for shielding the pyroelectric element as well.

In the preferred embodiment, one of the sensor conductors, which is responsible for connection with a signal output of the pyroelectric sensor, is located adjacent to the upper face and is spaced diagonally with respect to the front face from one of the I/O conductors which is connected to an output of the IC chip. This is advantageous for reducing a possible capacitive coupling between the signal input and the output of the IC chip for reliable infrared

detection.

Further, the I/O conductor may include a vertical segment embedded within the support and a horizontal segment extending from the lower end of the vertical segment outwardly of the support for immediate connection with the I/O pin

It is also preferred that the support is molded over a first metal-shield and a second metal-shield which are spaced from each other adjacent to the IC mount for shielding the IC chip. The first metal-shield is electrically connected to a ground line of the IC chip, while the second metal-shield is electrically connected to a portion of the IC chip having an electrical potential higher than the ground line. With the inclusion of the second metal-shield, it is readily possible to reduce a leakage current from the sensor output of the pyroelectric element, thereby improving reliability of the infrared sensor.

The sensor conductors may be respectively formed with pads that project on the support for electrical connection with electrodes of the pyroelectric element by means of electrically conductive adhesives.

The support is formed with a concavity for receiving therein an external electric component to be connected to the circuit of the IC chip. A pair of component terminals is molded into the support with portions thereof exposed to a bottom of the concavity for contact with the external electric component and for electrical interconnection of the component to the IC chip. Thus, the necessary electronic component external to the IC chip can be successfully incorporated into the support together with the IC chip, making the whole assembly compact. In this connection, the component terminals have their respective portions exposed to a bottom of the concavity receiving the IC chip for electrical interconnection of the external electric component to the IC chip.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the support is configured as a generally flat plate having a top face and a bottom face which are formed respectively with the sensor mount and the IC mount. In this case, each sensor conductor has portions exposed on the top and bottom faces of the support for interconnection between the pyroelectric element and the IC chip, while each I/O conductor has portions exposed on the bottom face of the support for interconnection between the IC chip and the I/O pins. Thus, the pyroelectric element, the IC chip and the I/O pins can be successfully supported on the flat support and electrically connected to each other with the use of the conductors embedded in the support.

In this case, the sensor conductor and the I/O conductors can be shaped into flat plates embedded in the support between the sensor mount and the IC mount. With the use of the flat-shaped sensor conductors and the I/O conductors, it is possible to make the electrical interconnection without relying upon extra bending works on the embedded conductors, therefore reducing the manufacturing cost.

Further, the sensor mount and the IC mount may be recesses respectively formed in the top and bottom faces for accommodating therein the pyroelectric element and the IC chip.

Each of the I/O pins may be formed integrally with each associated one of the I/O conductors. That is, the I/O conductor molded in the support may be provided integrally with the I/O pin for reducing a number of components.

The sensor conductors have pads exposed to the sensor mount for supporting the pyroelectric element in the form of a plate. That is, the pyroelectric element may bridge across the pads to be electrically connected as

well as mechanically supported thereto. This bridge support ensures sufficient thermal isolation of the pyroelectric element from the support or the IC chip for reliable sensing performance. Preferably, the sensor mount is in the form of a concavity formed in the support to expose the pads on the bottom of the concavity.

When the IC mount is in the form of a recess, the recess is shaped to have a bottom and a mouth which is greater than the bottom. This is advantageous for facilitating to make wire bonding between the IC chip and the sensor conductors and/or the I/O terminals, i.e., accommodating the entry of a capillary head used in the wire bonding.

Further, the support may be formed with holes for receiving therein the respective I/O pins. Each I/O conductor has a portion exposed in each hole for electrical interconnection with the I/O pin inserted into the hole.

These and still other objects and advantageous features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments when taken in conjunction with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of an infrared sensor package in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 2 and 3 are perspective views of a major portion of the sensor package respectively viewed from different directions;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view illustrating an internal structure of the package;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of metal conductors embedded in a plastic support of the package;

FIG. 6 is a front view of the support;

FIG. 7 is a cross-section taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a cross-section taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 6;

FIGS. 9A and 9B are respectively top and bottom views of a pyroelectric element utilized in the package;

FIG. 10 is a circuit diagram of the sensor package;

FIGS. 11A to 11F are perspective views illustrating a process of fabricating the sensor package;

FIGS. 12A to 12D are perspective views illustrating a process of fabricating the sensor package;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a modification of the above sensor package;

FIGS. 14 and 15 are exploded perspective views of an infrared sensor package in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 16 and 17 are perspective views illustrating a plastic support of the sensor package respectively viewed from different directions;

FIGS. 18A to 18E are perspective views illustrating a process of fabricating the sensor package;

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of a modification of the above embodiment; and

FIGS. 20 and 21 are perspective views illustrating the support respectively as viewed from different directions.

MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is shown an infrared sensor package in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The infrared sensor package is provided, for example, to detect human presence in the room

or area in order to give a warning or control an associated lighting device or the like. The package is basically composed of a base **10** carrying a dielectric support **20**, I/O terminal pins **11** to **13**, and a cover **100** fitted over the support **20** on the base **10**. The dielectric support **20** retains a pyroelectric element **30**, an IC chip **40** forming a signal processing circuit, and an electronic component **50** to be connected to the circuit of the IC chip **40**. The pyroelectric element **30** generates a signal output upon receiving infrared radiation through a transparent window **101** in the top of the cover **100**. As shown in FIG. 10, the signal processing circuit realizes a current-voltage converter **41** for converting the signal output in the form of a current into a voltage, an amplifier **42** for amplifying the voltage, a digital filter **43** for filtering off noises not originating from other than the human, and an output section **44** including a window-comparator that compares the filtered voltage with thresholds for detection of the human presence, and outputs a determined sensor output indicative of the human presence through an output terminal **45**. In addition, the circuit includes a power supply **46** which is energized by an external source voltage $\langle VDD \rangle$ to supply an operating voltage $\langle VR \rangle$ to the pyroelectric element **30** as well as other voltages to various portions of the circuit, and also includes a clock generator **47** that gives a clock signal to the digital filter **43**. The external electronic component **50** is a capacitor of relatively large capacitance which is not included in the IC chip **40** and is connected to the circuit thereof.

As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the support **20** is molded from a dielectric plastic material into a generally flat cuboid having a narrow top face and a large front face. The top face is formed with a sensor mount **21** for securing the pyroelectric element **30**, while the front face is formed with an IC mount **25** for

securing the IC chip **40**. The plastic support **20** is made from a liquid crystal polymer, and is molded over metal parts to be integral therewith. That is, the metal parts are embedded partly in the support **20** at the molding thereof. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, the metal parts include a pair of sensor conductors **61** and **62** for electrically interconnecting the pyroelectric element **30** with the IC chip **40**, three I/O conductors **71** to **73** for electrically interconnecting the IC chip **40** respectively with the I/O pins **11** to **13**, a pair of component terminals **81** and **82** for electrical interconnection of the external component **50** with the IC chip **40**, and shield plates **90** and **95**. The shield plate **90** is separated from the other metal parts, and includes a vertical segment **91**, a horizontal segment extending from the top of the vertical segment, and a terminal lead **93** extending horizontally from one side of the vertical segment. The vertical segment **91** is embedded in the support **20** at a location behind the upper portion of the IC chip **40** for electromagnetically shielding thereof, while the horizontal segment **92** is embedded in the support at a location below the pyroelectric element **30** for shielding or electromagnetically isolating the IC chip **40** from the pyroelectric element **30**. The shield plate **95**, on the other hand, is formed as an integral or continuous member with the I/O conductors **72** as well as the component terminal **82**, and includes a vertical segment **96** located behind the lower end of the IC chip **40**, a horizontal segment **97** projecting from the lower end of the vertical segment **96** for shielding the lower end of the IC chip **40**, and a side extension **98** for shielding the side of the IC chip **40**. As best shown in FIG. 6, the vertical segment **96** has its major portion exposed on the front face of the support **20** and is connected to a ground of the IC chip **40**. In this connection, the I/O conductor **72** integral with the shield plate **95** is exposed on the bottom of

the support for direct contact with a ground conductor **14** at the upper end of the base **10** and is electrically connected therethrough to the I/O pin **12**.

Turning back to FIGS. 2 and 3, the sensor mount **21** is defined by a pair of shoulders at opposite ends of a cavity formed in the upper face of the support **20**. It is the shoulders across which the pyroelectric element **30** bridges (FIG. 1) to be secured to the upper face of the support **20**. The pyroelectric element **30** is composed of a dielectric substrate **31** formed on opposite surfaces respectively with light receiving electrodes **32** and **33**. The electrodes **32** and **33** are arranged on the upper surface of the substrate in a pattern (FIG. 9A) and on the lower surface of the substrate in a pattern (FIG. 9B) such that four pairs of electrodes **32** and **33** of opposite polarities are given with the substrate interposed between the electrodes of each pair. The substrate **30** is formed on its opposed ends with terminals **34** and **35** which are connected respectively by means of an electrically conductive adhesive to pads or the portions of the sensor conductors **61** and **62** projecting on the upper face of the support **20**.

The IC mount **25** is in the form of a rectangular recess in the bottom of a window **26** in the front face of support **20** for receiving therein the IC chip **40**, as indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 1 and 7. The IC chip **40** is secured by an adhesive to the bottom of the recess **25** and is electrically connected by the wire bonding technique to the portions of the conductors embedded in the support. As best shown in FIGS. 4 and 6, exposed on the bottom of the window **26** around the recess **25** are portions of the sensor conductors **61** and **62**, the component terminals **81** and **82**, the vertical segment **96**, the terminal lead **93**, and the I/O conductors **71** and **73**. It is these portions that are wire-bonded to corresponding terminal leads on the periphery of the IC chip **40**. In this

connection, wall surrounding the window **26** are inclined to give an opening or mouth which is wider than the bottom, as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, thereby facilitating the wire-bonding operations, i.e., easily accommodating a capillary head utilized for the wire-bonding.

The sensor conductor **61** is connected to receive a signal output from the pyroelectric element **30** and is wire-bonded to a signal input <SIN> of the circuit of the IC chip **40**, while the circuit gives the sensor output through the output terminal **45** to the I/O conductor **71**. As shown in the figures, the signal input, i.e., the connection to the sensor conductor **61** is spaced diagonally, with respect to the front face of the support **20**, from the sensor output, i.e., the connection to the I/O conductor **71**. This spatial arrangement enhances the electrical isolation between the signal output of the pyroelectric element **30** and the sensor output of the IC chip **40** in cooperation with a unique electro-magnetic shielding scheme using two shield plates **90** and **95** of different potentials. That is, the shield plate **95** adjacent to the sensor output to the I/O conductor **71** is connected to a circuit ground of the circuit of the IC chip **40**, while the shield plate **90** adjacent to the sensor conductor **61** providing the sensor output is connected at the terminal lead **93** to a portion of the IC chip **40** having a constant potential <VR2> or <VR> raised from the ground, as shown in FIG. 10. The constant potential or stabilized voltage is given as a reference voltage with which the output <SIN> of the pyroelectric element **30** is compared to determine the human presence. Because of that the shield plates **91** and **92** are held at the reference voltage higher than the ground, it is made to minimize a possible current leak from the output of the pyroelectric element to the IC chip, thus assuring reliable detection.

The support **20** is also formed in the front face adjacent to the window **26**

with a concavity **24** into which the external component **50** is inserted and is electrically connected by means of the electrically conductive adhesive to the portions of the component terminals **81** and **82** exposed on the bottom of the concavity **24**. The I/O conductors **71** and **73** have the respective lower ends bent to give feet which are exposed on the lower end of the support for connection with the I/O pins **11** and **13** on the upper face of the base **10**, as shown in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 11A to 11F and FIGS. 12A to 12D illustrate steps of fabricating the infrared sensor package. Firstly, the conductors or metal parts are formed in a single metal sheet **8** by being stamped out therefrom (FIG. 11A). Then, the support **20** is molded over the portions of the metal parts and the IC chip **40** is mounted to the support **20** (FIG. 11B), after which the window is filled with an encapsulating composition **2** to seal the IC chip therein (FIG. 11C). Subsequently, the external electronic component **50** is fitted into the concavity **24** (FIG. 11D), and the support **20** is removed from a frame of the metal sheet (FIG. 11E), after which the feet of the I/O conductors **71** and **73** are bent (FIG. 11F). Then, the support **20** is assembled on the base **10** with the I/O conductors **71** to **73** connected to the I/O pins **11** and **13** and the ground conductor **14** of the base (FIGS. 12A and 12B). Finally, the pyroelectric element **30** is secured to the sensor mount **21** on top of the support **20** (FIG. 12C), and the cover **100** is placed over the support and sealed to the base **10** (FIGS. 12D).

FIG. 13 illustrates a modification of the above embodiment in which the sensor mount **21** is defined by a pair of stepped shoulders which are recessed from the top face of the support by a depth corresponding to the thickness of the pyroelectric element for stably receiving the ends of the pyroelectric element in

the stepped shoulders of the sensor mount **21**.

Now referring to FIGS. 14 and 15, there is shown an infrared sensor package in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention which is basically similar to the previous embodiment but is different therefrom specifically in that the support **20A** lies flat on the base **10A** to realize a low-profile structure. Like parts are designated by like reference numerals with a suffix letter of "A", and no duplicate explanation deemed is made herein.

The support **20A** is molded over metal parts stamped out from a single metal sheet, and is formed in its upper large surface with a sensor mount **21A** in the form of a recess and also with a concavity **24A** for the external electronic component **50**, and in the lower surface with an IC mount **25A**, as shown in FIG. 16 and 17. The sensor mount **21A** is defined by a pair of stepped shoulders which are formed on opposite ends of a depression **22** and are recessed from the upper face of the support **20A**. That is, the sensor mount **21A** is in the form of a concavity with the depression **22** in its bottom. Sensor conductors **61A** and **62A** are embedded flat in the support and have the respective portions exposed on the shoulders of the sensor mount **21A** to define pads respectively for immediate connection with the terminals of the pyroelectric element **30** held on the shoulders. The IC mount **25A** is defined by a recess within a window **26A** formed in the lower surface of the support **20A**, as shown in FIG. 17. The recess **25A** is formed on its width ends respectively with ribs **27** between which the IC chip **40** is fitted. Formed on the bottom of the window **26A** at portions outwardly of the ribs **27** are sections **28** where the portions of the sensor conductors **61A** and **62A** are exposed for connection with the corresponding terminals of the IC chip **40** by the wire bonding.

The support **20A** include I/O conductors **71A**, **72A**, and **73A** as well as component terminals **81A** and **82A** all of which are basically flat plates partly embedded within the support at the molding thereof. These members have their portions exposed on the bottom of the window **26A** around the recess **25A** for connection with the associated terminals of the IC chip **40** by the wire bonding. For this purpose, the window **26A** is also formed on the longitudinal ends of the bottom with sections **29** in which portions of the I/O conductors **71A**, **72A** and **73A** are exposed. The component terminals **81A** and **82A** are also made flat and have its respective portions exposed on the bottom of the concavity **24A** for connection with the component **50** by the conductive adhesive. As shown in FIG. 17, the interior wall of the windows adjacent to the sections **28** and **29** are inclined to give an opening or mouth which is wider than the bottom for facilitating the wire-bonding operations.

As indicated by dotted lines in FIGS. 16 and 17, the component terminal **82A** is integral with the I/O conductor **72A** in the like manner as in the previous embodiment. Although not illustrated in the figures, a metal shield or shields for the IC chip and/or the pyroelectric element may be embedded in the support in the like manner as in the previous embodiment. Each of the I/O conductors **71A** to **73A** has a ring which is exposed in the wall of each one of the holes **121** to **123** for electrical contact with each associated one of the I/O pins extending through the holes.

FIGS. 18A to 18E illustrate steps of fabricating the sensor package. A single metal sheet **8A** or tape is formed with the metal parts for plural sets the packages (FIG. 18A). After the support **20A** is molded over the metal parts of each set (FIG. 18B), the IC chip **40** is mounted on the support **20A** followed by

being connected to the embedded I/O conductors (FIG. 18C). Then, the IC chip is sealed by the encapsulating composition **2A** (FIG. 18D), after which the support **20A** is removed from the metal sheet (FIG. 18E). Finally, the pyroelectric element **30A** as well as the electric component **50A** are secured to the support **20A**, and the support **20A** is secured on the base **10A**, as shown in FIG. 15.

FIGS. 19 to 21 illustrate a modified sensor package which is identical to the above embodiment except that each of I/O pins **11B**, **12B**, and **13B** are formed as an integral part of each corresponding one of the I/O conductors **71B**, **72B**, and **73B**. Like parts are designated by like reference numerals with a suffix letter of "B", and no duplicate explanation is made here. The I/O pins are bent downward from the I/O conductors and extend through the holes in the base **10B**.

CLAIMS

1. An infrared sensor package comprising:

a dielectric support (20) molded from a plastic material, said support being formed with a sensor mount (21) for securing a pyroelectric element (30) thereon and with an IC mount (25) for securing an IC chip (40) that processes a signal from said pyroelectric element,

a base (10) carrying said dielectric support, said base having a plurality of I/O pins (11, 12, 13) extending therethrough for electrical connection of said IC chip with an external circuit,

a cover (100) secured to said base to provide a space therebetween for accommodating therein dielectric support (20),

sensor conductors (61, 62) formed on the side of said support for electrical interconnection between said pyroelectric element and said IC chip,

I/O conductors (71, 72, 73) formed on the side of the said support for electrical interconnection between said IC chip and said I/O pins,

wherein

said sensor conductors (61, 62) as well as said I/O conductors (71, 72, 73) are molded into and integrally with said dielectric support;

a metal-shield (90, 95) molded into said support in a portion adjacent to said IC mount and is connected to a stabilized electric potential portion of said IC chip for shielding said IC chip at said stabilized electric potential;

said metal-shield comprises a vertical segment (91) embedded in said support (20) behind said IC mount (25) and a horizontal segment (92) bent from the upper end of said vertical segment (91) for shielding said IC chip from said pyroelectric element (30).

2. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein

said support is a generally cuboid having an upper face, front face adjacent to the upper face, and a lower face,

said upper face being formed with said sensor mount (21),

said front face being formed with said IC mount (25),

each of said sensor conductor (61, 63) having portions exposed on the upper and front faces of said support respectively for connection with the pyroelectric element (30) secured to the sensor mount (21) as well as with the IC chip (40) secured to the IC mount (25),

each of said I/O conductors (71, 72, 73) having portions exposed on the front and lower faces of said support (20) respectively for connection with the IC chip and with said I/O pin on the lower face of the support.

3. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said horizontal segment (92) is connected to a reference voltage of the IC chip (40).
4. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 2, wherein said metal-shield (90) comprises a major portion (91) embedded behind said IC mount (25) in said front face, and a terminal leg (93) extending from said major portion to the front face of said support (20) for connection with a constant potential portion of the circuit of said IC chip (40).
5. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metal-shield (90) has an integral extension (92) which extends behind said sensor mount (25) for shielding said pyroelectric element (30) from said IC chip (40).
6. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said support (20) is a generally cuboid having an upper face formed with said sensor mount (21) and a front face adjacent to said upper face, said front face being formed with said IC mount (25),

said sensor conductor (61) for connection with a signal output of said pyroelectric sensor (30) being located adjacent to said upper face and being spaced diagonally with respect to said front face from the I/O conductor (71) connected to a sensor output (45) of said IC chip (40).

7. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said support is a generally cuboid having an upper face formed with said sensor mount (21) and a front face perpendicular to said upper face, said front face being formed with said IC mount (25), said I/O conductor (71, 72, 73) including a vertical segment embedded within said support (20) and a horizontal segment extending from the lower end of said vertical segment outwardly of said support for connection with said I/O pin (11, 12, 13).

8. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said metal shield includes a first metal-shield (95) and a second metal-shield (90) which are molded into said support in a spaced relation from each other adjacent to said IC mount (25) for shielding said IC chip (40),

said first metal-shield (95) being electrically connected to a ground line of said IC chip (40),

said second metal-shield (90) being electrically connected to a portion of said IC chip having an electrical potential higher than said ground line.

9. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said sensor conductors (61, 62) are formed at their respective upper ends with pads that project on said support for electrical connection with electrodes of said pyroelectric element (30) by means of electrically conductive adhesives.

10. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 1, wherein said support (20) is formed with a concavity (24) for receiving therein an external electric component (50) to be connected to a circuit of said IC chip (40);

a pair of component terminals (81, 82) being molded into said support (20) with portions thereof exposed to a bottom of said concavity (24) for contact with said external electric component (50) and for electrical interconnection of the external electric component to said IC chip.

11. An infrared sensor package comprising:

a dielectric support (20A; 20B) molded from a plastic material, said support being formed with a sensor mount (21A) for securing a pyroelectric element (30) thereon and with an IC mount (25A) for securing an IC chip (40) that processes a signal from said pyroelectric element,

a base (10A) carrying said dielectric support, said base having a plurality of I/O pins (11A, 12A, 13A; 11B, 12B, 13B) extending therethrough for electrical connection of said IC chip with an external circuit,

a cover (100A) secured to said base to provide a space therebetween for accommodating therein dielectric support,

sensor conductors (61A, 62A) formed on the side of said support for electrical interconnection between said pyroelectric element and said IC chip,

I/O conductors (71A, 72A, 73A) formed on the side of the said support for electrical interconnection between said IC chip and said I/O pins,

wherein

said sensor conductors (61A, 62A) as well as said I/O conductors (71A, 72A, 73A) are molded into and integrally with said dielectric support (20A; 20B);

said support is a generally flat plate having a top face and a bottom face,

said top face being formed with said sensor mount (21A),

said bottom face being formed with said IC mount (25A),

each of said sensor conductor having portions exposed on the top and bottom faces of said support respectively for connection with the pyroelectric element (30) secured to the sensor mount (21A) as well as with the IC chip (40) secured to the IC mount (25A),

each of said I/O conductors (71A, 72A, 73A) having portions exposed on the bottom face of said support for connection of the IC chip (40) to the I/O pin (11A, 12A, 13A; 11B, 12B, 13B).

12. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said support (20A) is formed with a concavity (24A) for receiving therein an external electric component (50) to be connected to a circuit of said IC chip (40);

a pair of component terminals (81A, 82A) being molded into said support (20A) with portions thereof exposed to a bottom of said concavity (24A) for contact with said external electric component (50) and for electrical interconnection of the external electric component to said IC chip.

13. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sensor mount (21A) is a recess in the top face of said support for accommodating therein said pyroelectric element (30), and

said IC mount (25A) is also a recess in the bottom face of said support for accommodating therein said IC chip (40).

14. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sensor conductors (61A, 62A) and said I/O conductors (71A, 72A) are respectively formed into flat plates that are embedded in said support between said sensor mount (21A) and said IC mount (25A).

15. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein each of said I/O pins (11B, 12B, 13B) is formed integrally with each associated one of said I/O conductors (71B, 72B, 73B) into a unitary structure.

16. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said sensor conductors (61A, 62A) have pads exposed to said sensor mount (21A),

said pyroelectric element (30) being in the form of a plate bridging across said pads to be electrically connected as well as mechanically supported thereto.

17. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 16, wherein said sensor mount (21A) is in the form of a concavity formed in said support (20A), said pads being exposed on a bottom of said concavity.

18. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said IC mount (25A) is in the form of a recess in said support (20A), said recess having a bottom and a mouth which is greater than the bottom.

19. The infrared sensor package as set forth in claim 11, wherein said support (20A) is formed with holes (121, 122, 123) for receiving therein said I/O pins (11A, 11B, 11C) respectively,

each of said I/O conductors (71A, 72A, 73A) having a portion exposed respectively in each of said holes for electrical connection with said I/O pin.