The Benefits of Using SME Technology with Reed Relays and Reed Sensors - By John Beigel, Standex-Meder Electronics

In modern printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing facilities surface mounting technology has become the dominant approach for component assemblies. Many of the new reed relays and reed sensors are being designed for surface mounting.

The most popular PCBs not long ago were using double sided one layer printed circuit boards, but are now only being used sparingly. In their place, are circuit boards that have up to 30 layers or more. Since these multilayer PCBs are very expensive, any loss of board space translates into more expense.

Automatic PCB assembly equipment is very expensive whether it is thru-hole or surface mounting. Having both types of equipment on hand, adds to the overall expense of manufacturing. For this reason, component technology is moving toward all surface mounting. Many designers have already made the complete conversion.

In the above areas of concern and direction, surface mounted reed relays and reed sensors have become the first choice for all new designs. Designers are expecting the reed relays/sensors to have surface mounting capabilities. The surface mounting choice for relay and sensor designs are simpler and generally have fewer internal components. They are generally smaller, allowing them to take up less board space while meeting the critical board space cost aspects.