Wayne,
I have not gotten the IR receiver (4838) yet, but looking at your build, it appears that an approx. 1/2" hole is sufficient. I will size it when the order arrives, but I am wondering about mounting options for that. Spec sheet assumes circuit board mounting, but I may glue it to the front panel and extend leads. Another option would be to mount it on a perfboard and line the face up with the hole in the panel. So I guess the question is, do you think it will have decent angle of acceptance butted up behind a 3/16" panel with a round hole?