

OPTICAL THIN FILMS

USER HANDBOOK

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Contents

PREFACE	xi
1 INTRODUCTION TO OPTICAL THIN FILMS	1
1.1. Interference of Light	2
1.1.1. Coherent Addition of Amplitudes	10
1.1.2. Layer Thickness Specifications	11
1.1.3. Nomenclature	12
1.1.4. Index of Refraction and Dispersion	13
1.1.5. Absorbing and Nonabsorbing Filters	13
1.2. Spectral Ranges and Materials Section	15
1.3. Angle of Incidence Effects	16
1.3.1. Snell's Law	16
1.3.2. Optical Invariant	17
1.3.3. Critical Angle	17
1.3.4. Polarization	18
1.3.5. Brewster's Angle	20
1.3.6. Effective Indices	20

1.3.7.	Birefringence and Differential Phase Shift Coatings	21
1.3.8.	Steep Surfaces	23
2	DEPOSITION TECHNOLOGY	24
2.1.	Coating Processes	24
2.1.1.	Vacuum Evaporation	24
2.1.2.	Sputtering	26
2.1.3.	Flash Evaporation	30
2.1.4.	Nonvacuum Processes	30
2.1.4.1.	Organometallic Solutions	30
2.1.4.2.	Electroless and Electroplating Solutions	31
2.1.5.	Process Conditions	31
2.1.6.	Coating Time	32
2.2.	Coating Parameters	33
2.2.1.	Source Characteristics	33
2.2.1.1.	Compositional Variations	33
2.2.1.2.	Stoichiometry	33
2.2.1.3.	Coating Distribution	34
2.2.2.	Deposition Environment	34
2.2.3.	Nucleation and Growth	35
2.2.4.	Rate and Thickness Monitoring	35
2.2.4.1.	Crystal Oscillator	35
2.2.4.2.	Optical Techniques	36
2.2.4.3.	Atomic Emission Techniques	38
2.2.5.	Sticking Coefficient	38
2.3.	Coating Equipment	39
2.3.1.	Size of Coating Chamber	39
2.3.2.	Chamber Geometry and Process Considerations	40
2.3.2.1.	Surface to Volume Ratio	40
2.3.2.2.	Thickness Uniformity and Coating Efficiency	41
2.3.3.	Substrate Rotation for Coating Uniformity	43
2.3.4.	Jigging and Substrate Support	43
2.3.5.	Temperature Related Substrate Degradation	44
2.4.	Stress Effects	45
2.5.	Substrate Cleaning	48
2.5.1.	Contacting Cleaning	49
2.5.2.	Ultrasonic Cleaning	50
2.5.3.	High Pressure Sprays	50

2.5.4.	Drying	50
2.5.5.	In Situ Processes	52
3	PERFORMANCE OF OPTICAL FILTERS	53
3.1.	Reflectance, Transmittance, and Absorption	53
3.2.	Absorption and Scattering	54
3.3.	Blocking Ranges	56
3.4.	Filters in Series: Incoherent Addition of Intensities	60
3.5.	Standing Wave Electric Fields	63
3.6.	Performance Shifts with Angle of Incidence	68
3.7.	Other Parameters that Affect Performance	71
3.7.1.	Water and Humidity	71
3.7.2.	Temperature	73
3.7.3.	Corrosion	75
3.8.	Wavefront Distortions	75
4	DESIGN TYPES	78
4.1.	Antireflection Coatings	78
4.1.1.	Single-Layer Designs	82
4.1.2.	Narrow-Band AR Designs	83
4.1.3.	Wide-Band AR Coatings	85
4.1.4.	Superwide Infrared AR Coatings	86
4.2.	High Reflection Designs	86
4.2.1.	Metallic Reflectors	86
4.2.2.	All Dielectric Designs	91
4.2.2.1.	Nonsymmetric Stacks	91
4.2.2.2.	Symmetric Designs	95
4.2.3.	Enhanced Metallic Reflectors	96
4.3.	Edge Filters	99
4.4.	Bandpass Filters	103
4.4.1.	Two Edge Filters in Series	103
4.4.2.	Fabry–Perot Filter	104
4.4.2.1.	Fabry-Perot Filter	105
4.4.2.2.	Solid Fabry-Perot Filters	107
4.4.3.	Narrow-Band Dielectric Filters	108
4.4.4.	Circular and Linear Variable Filters	110
4.4.5.	Reflex or Phase Conjugate Filter	112

4.5.	Beam Splitters	115
4.5.1.	Wide-Band or Neutral Density Beam Splitters	115
4.5.1.1.	Slab Beam Splitter	116
4.5.1.2.	Cube Beam Splitters	121
4.5.2.	Dichroic and Trichroic Filters	121
4.5.3.	Filters for Use in Harmonic Generation Experiments	123
4.6.	Other Filters	126
4.6.1.	Dark Mirrors, Selective Absorbers, and Induced Absorbers	126
4.6.2.	Solar Absorbers	129
4.6.3.	Notch Filters	130
4.6.4.	Transparent Conductive Coatings	130
4.6.5.	Patterned Dielectric Coatings	132
4.6.6.	Coatings for High-Power Laser Beam Reflectors	133
4.6.7.	Color Correction Coatings	134
4.6.8.	Switching Filters	134
4.6.9.	Emissivity Control	135
4.6.9.1.	Emissivity Reducing Coating	135
4.6.9.2.	Emissivity Enhancing Coatings	135
5	FILTER PERFORMANCE AND MEASUREMENTS	139
5.1.	Spectrophotometers and Spectrophotometry	139
5.1.1.	Reflectance Measurements	141
5.1.1.1.	Single-Beam Spectrophotometers	141
5.1.1.2.	Double-Beam Spectrophotometers	141
5.1.2.	Beam Offset	145
5.1.3.	Extra Surface Effects	145
5.1.4.	Effect of the Refractive Index of the Incident Medium	147
5.1.5.	Polarization	148
5.1.6.	Measurement Cone	149
5.1.7.	Nonspecular Samples	151
5.1.8.	Nonplanar Surfaces	152
5.1.9.	Sample Heating	153
5.1.10.	Measuring Absorption by Calorimetry	153
5.1.11.	Colorimetry	155
5.2.	Environmental Performance and Measurements	158
5.2.1.	Use of Witnesses in Environmental Testing	159
5.2.2.	Adhesion Testing with Self-Adhesive Tape	160

5.2.3.	Abrasion Testing	160
5.2.3.1.	Cheesecloth Test	161
5.2.3.2.	Eraser Test	161
5.2.4.	Humidity Exposure	161
5.2.4.1.	Humidity Testing	162
5.2.4.2.	Solubility Testing	162
5.2.5.	Salt Fog Exposure	162
5.2.6.	Other Tests	162
5.2.6.1.	Visual Inspections	163
5.2.6.2.	Falling Sand Test	163
5.2.6.3.	Other Adhesive Tests	163
5.2.6.4.	Combined Adhesion and Abrasion	164
5.2.6.5.	Combined Temperature, Humidity, and UV Light	164
5.2.7.	Cycled Temperature Testing	165
5.2.8.	Combined (Sequential) Testing	165
5.2.9.	When to Test	165
5.2.10.	Formal Specifications	166
5.3	Aging	167
5.3.1.	Shelf Life	167
5.3.2.	Material Interactions and Interdiffusion	168
5.3.2.1.	Oxidation and Reduction	168
5.3.2.2.	Agglomeration	169
5.3.2.3.	Interdiffusion	169
5.3.3.	Biological Effects	170
5.4.	Cosmetic and Other Visual Deficiencies	170
5.4.1.	Sleeks, Digs, and Scratches	170
5.4.2.	Blotches and Stains	171
5.4.3.	Replication of Substrate Defects	171
5.4.3.1.	High Reflectors with Opaque Metal Layer	171
5.4.3.2.	Low Reflectance Surfaces	171
5.4.4.	Coating Voids and Other Defects	172
5.4.5.	Cleaning Coated Parts	173
5.4.5.1.	Hard Substrates—Hard Coatings	174
5.4.5.2.	Hard Coatings on Soft Substrates, and Soft Coatings	175
5.4.6.	Coating Thickness Uniformity	176
5.4.7.	Microscopic Examination	178
5.5.	Inspection Lot Size	181

6	SUBSTRATES AND MATERIALS	182
6.1.	Substrates in General	182
6.2.	Substrate Types	185
6.2.1.	Glasses	185
6.2.2.	Plastics and Organic Substrates	188
6.2.3.	Metals	189
6.3.	Safety Glass	190
6.3.1.	Lamination	190
6.3.2.	Tempering	190
6.4.	Substrate Specifications	191
6.5.	Blocking Properties	192
6.6.	Reststrahl Bands	193
6.7.	Island Formation in Thin Films	194
6.8.	Thermal Runaway in Semiconductors	195
6.9.	Number of Materials in Multilayer Coatings	195
6.10.	Toxicity	196
7	FUTURE PROSPECTS	197
7.1.	Ion Beams	197
7.2.	Nonvacuum Processes	199
7.3.	Inhomogeneous Films	200
7.4.	Codeposition	200
7.5.	X-Ray Coatings	201
7.6.	Equipment Advances—Automatic Coating Machines	202
7.7.	Materials Research	203
A	HOW TO SPECIFY OPTICAL FILTERS	207
B	SELECTED UNITED STATES MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS THAT RELATE TO THIN FILM OPTICAL FILTERS	210
C	BASIC PROGRAM TO CALCULATE THIN FILM FILTER PERFORMANCE	271
	REFERENCES	281
	INDEX	287

Preface

This book is intended for the user of optical thin film products. Its primary aim is in the area of commercially available products: their preparation techniques and their characteristics. It is hoped that this will help users to specify filters, and to be aware of the limitations they might encounter in using them.

The reader interested in a design textbook is directed to a companion volume in this series written by Alfred Thelen entitled *Design of Optical Interference Coatings*.

The vast majority of the discussions in this text are independent of the method of deposition used—evaporation, sputtering, ion plating, epitaxial growth, or other scheme of depositing optical films. The emphasis is on pragmatic information that one needs when using, specifying, or designing into an optical system an optical interference filter.

A NOTE ON THE STYLE USED

In writing this book, the ubiquity of the computer—handheld, desktop, and main-frame—models, has led to the decision to minimize the number of tables of com-

puted values in favor of curves and formulas. The curves hopefully give the reader a feeling of the phenomenon described by an equation. If precise values are required, they can be easily obtained from the equations.

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Any errors, faults, or omissions in this book are not the fault of any of those mentioned above; they are solely those of the author.

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