



PROCEDURE FOR CLEANING OPTICS

Good cleaning habits contribute to a longer and more productive life for your optical components. This optics cleaning procedure will help to minimize scratches and provide an effective means for removal of dust and dirt films, which may have contaminated an optical component:

- A. Before dismounting the optic to be cleaned, set aside a clean work area and put on optics handling gloves.
- B. Dismount the optic. Holding it by its edges, inspect the surface to be cleaned by illuminating it with a high intensity light. The bright light will highlight dust particles and films to a greater degree than average room light.
- C. Clean the surface with an air duster to dislodge loose particles.
- D. Place the optic on a piece of clean lens tissue.
- E. Take another lens tissue, and holding it by the edges, fold lengthwise in half, continuing to fold in half until it is one inch wide. Next, fold widthwise in half. Dispense three to four drops of methanol on folded end. Place the wet portion of the lens tissue on the optic. Using gentle pressure with your index finger, wipe the surface with the tissue. Discard lens tissue after single use.
- F. Inspect the cleaned surface under a high intensity light.
- G. Repeat steps E and F until surface is clean, or it is determined the optic is damaged.

Some good practice tips:

- Reagent grade methanol is a high-purity chemical. The dispensing container should be rinsed out with methanol before filling. Never insert lens tissue, cotton swabs, fingers, etc., into the methanol. Always drip the methanol onto the material. This eliminates contamination of the methanol or its container.
- Lens tissue, when dry, is very abrasive to optical surfaces and will scratch them.
- Optics handling gloves are a very effective way to keep skin oils from contaminating surfaces. As materials are handled, they will become contaminated. Be aware of this and wash or change gloves as needed.
- Always hold optics by their edges.
- Once an optic is cleaned, install it or keep it covered. This will ensure that airborne particles will not have a chance to settle.
- Store your cleaning materials in a clean, covered area.

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