3.3.1.5.6 13-355nm and 1.06-3000µm - Pyroelectric Array Camera

Pyrocam™ IIIHR & Pyrocam IV Series

Features

- Spectral ranges available from 13 to 355nm and 1.06 to >3000µm
- Image CO_2 lasers, telecom NIR lasers, THz sources and other infrared sources out to Far IR
- Solid state array camera with 1000:1 linear dynamic range for accurate profiling
- Integrated chopper for CW beams and thermal imaging
- Interchangeable windows available for a variety of applications
- Includes BeamGage® Laser Beam Analysis Software for quantitative analysis and image display

Pyrocam IIIHR

Pyrocam IV

Spiricon has been the world leader in the manufacture of pyroelectric solid-state detector arrays and cameras. For over 25 years the Pyrocam has been the overwhelming camera of choice for Laser Beam Diagnostics of IR and UV lasers and high temperature thermal imaging. Precision, stability, reliability, and versatility have become its proud heritage.

The Pyrocam IIIHR offers a 1/2X1/2 inch detector array with easy Windows® camera setup and quantitative image display through the BeamGage software, 16 bit digitizer, versatile Gigabit Ethernet PC interface, and an integral chopper for CW beams and thermal imaging.

The Pyrocam IV offers a 1X1 inch detector array with easy Windows® camera setup and quantitative image display through the BeamGage software, 16 bit digitizer, high-speed Gigabit Ethernet PC interface, and an integral chopper for CW beams and thermal imaging.

See Your Beam As Never Before

Both Pyrocam cameras create clear and illuminating images of your laser beam profile. Displayed in 2D or 3D views, you can immediately recognize beam characteristics that affect laser performance and operation. This instantly alerts you to detrimental laser variations. Instantaneous feedback enables timely correction and real-time tuning of laser parameters. For example, when an industrial shop foreman saw the CO_2 laser beam profile in Figure 1 he knew immediately why that laser was not processing materials the same as the other shop lasers, that had similar profiles shown in Figure 2.

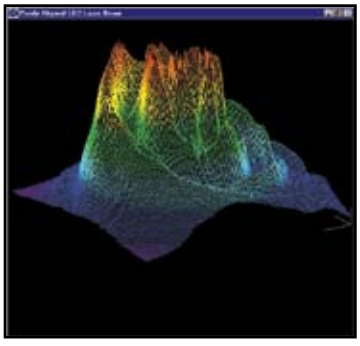


Fig. 1. Industrial CO_2 laser performing inconsistent processing.

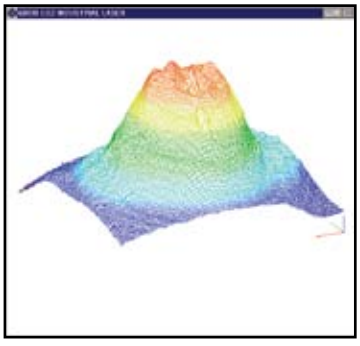


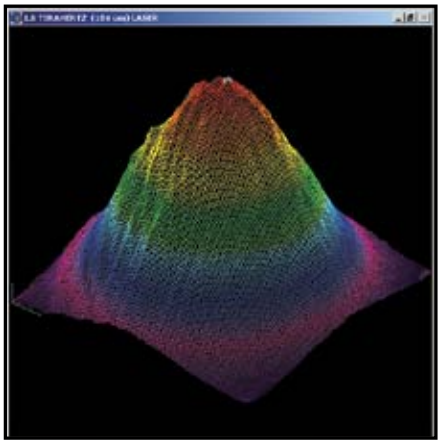
Fig. 2. Beam profile of industrial CO_2 laser making consistently good product.

Pulsed and CW Lasers

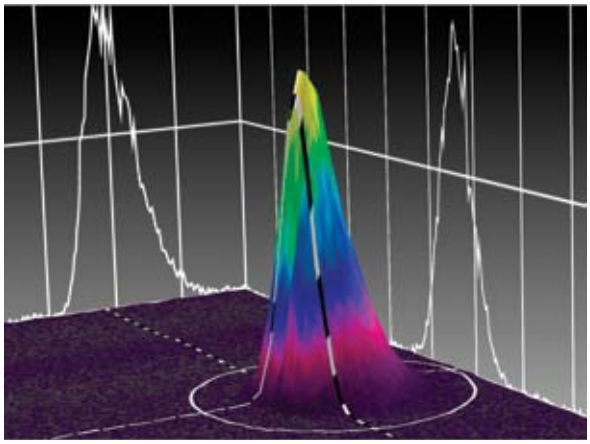
The Pyrocams measure the beam profile of both pulsed and CW lasers. Since the pyroelectric crystal is an integrating sensor, pulses from femtosecond to 12.8ms can be measured. The pyroelectric crystal only measures changes in intensity, and so is relatively immune to ambient temperature changes. Because CW laser beams must be chopped to create a changing signal, the Pyrocam contains an integral chopper.

Measuring Terahertz Beam Profiles

Spiricon's Pyrocam pyroelectric cameras are an excellent tool for measuring THz lasers and sources. The coating of the crystal absorbs all wavelengths including 1µm to over 3000µm (0.1THz to 300THz). For THz sources the sensitivity of the Pyrocam is relatively low, at about 1.5mW/cm^2 at full output. With a S/N of 1000, beams of 30mW/cm^2 are easily visible.
In addition, with Spiricon's patented Ultracal baseline setting, multiple frames can be summed to "pull" a signal out of the noise. Summing 256 frames enables viewing of beams as low as 0.5-1.0mW/cm^2.



Pyrocam III imaging THz laser beam at 0.2THz (1.55mm) 3mW input power; 19 frames summed



Pyrocam IV imaging THZ laser beam 0.5 THz (5mm) 5mW input power; single frame

Broad Wavelength Response

The Pyrocam detector array has a very broadband coating which enables operation at essentially all IR and UV laser wavelengths. The curve ends at 100nm in the UV, but X-ray operation has been observed. Likewise the curve ends at 100µm in the far IR, but the camera has been used at >3000µm.

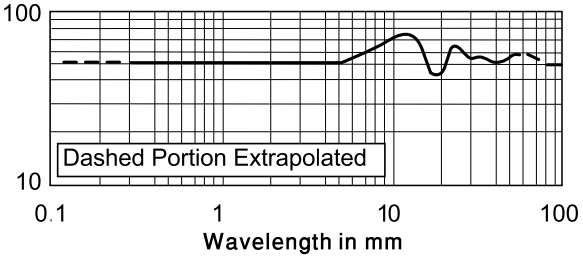
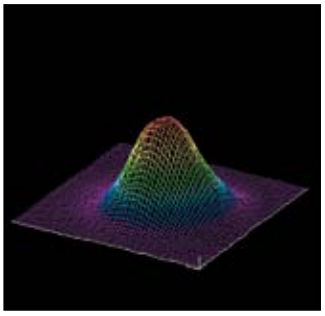
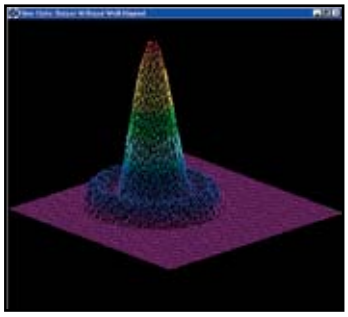


Fig. 6. Spectral response of Pyrocam™ III detector array without window.

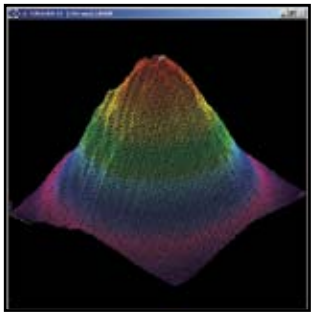
Thus you can use the Pyrocam in the near IR for Nd:YAG lasers at 1.06µm, and for infrared fiber optics at 1.3µm and 1.55µm. Use the Pyrocam for HF/DF lasers near 4µm and for Optical Parametric Oscillators from 1 µm to 10µm. It measures Free Electron Lasers between 193µm and 3000µm.



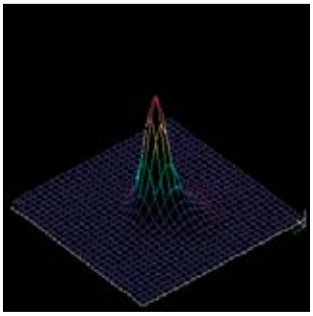
Er:YAG laser at 2.9µm.



Output of infrared fiber optic.



THz laser beam at 1.6THz (184µm).

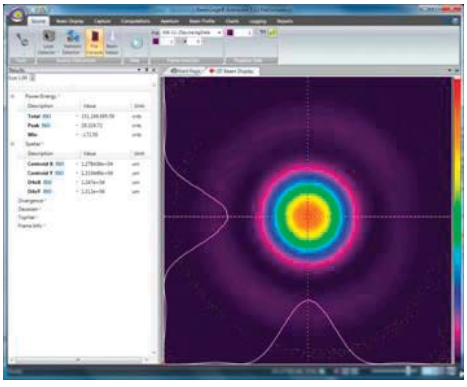


Free Electron laser at 100µm.

The Pyrocam is extremely useful in the UV from 13nm to 355nm for Excimer lasers and for tripled or quadrupled Nd:YAG lasers. The detector is stable under UV illumination, without the deterioration experienced by CCD cameras. (The pyroelectric detector operates in the visible spectrum, and can see the alignment HeNe used with CO_2 lasers. However, spurious response from the underlying silicon multiplexer creates undesirable performance, and the camera is not recommended for quantitative visible measurements).

BeamGage Image Analysis Software

Both Pyrocams come bundled with BeamGage, the state-of-the-art beam profiling system that performs rigorous data acquisition and analysis of laser beam parameters, such as beam size, shape, uniformity, divergence, mode content, and expected power distribution. Once the Pyrocam is connected to the PC and BeamGage is running, the software automatically detects the camera presence and is immediately ready to start taking images and displaying them on the monitor.



BeamGage recognizes the Pyrocam IIIHR & IV and allows you to quickly start analyzing your laser beam

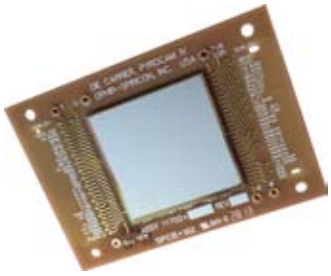
BeamGage is the industry's first beam profiling software to be newly designed, from scratch, using the most advanced tools and technologies. BeamGage is based on UltraCal™, Spiricon's patented baseline correction algorithm that helped establish the ISO 11146-3 standard for beam measurement accuracy. BeamGage provides high accuracy results, guaranteeing the data baseline (zero-point reference) is accurate to 1/8th of a digital count on a pixel-by-pixel basis.

BeamGage permits the user to employ custom calculations for best fit to an individual application. These user-defined computations are treated like the standard calculations. They can be displayed on the monitor, logged with results, and included in hard-copy reports. The system also allows the user to configure the displayed calculations, set-up the screen layout, and password-protect the configuration. This permits secure product testing, ensures security in production environments where plant floor personnel interface with the system, and assures the validity of the data for Statistical Process Control (SPC).

Hybrid Integrated Circuit Sensor

The Pyrocam consists of a $LiTa0_3$ pyroelectric crystal mounted with indium bumps to a solid-state readout multiplexer. This sensor, developed as the Company's core technology for the Pyrocam I, has proven to be the most rugged, stable, and precise IR detector array available. Light impinging on the pyroelectric crystal is absorbed and converted to heat, which creates charge on the surface. The multiplexer then reads out this charge. For use with short laser pulses, the firmware in the camera creates a very short electronic shutter to accurately capture the thermally generated signal.

Pyrocam™ IIIHR 12.8X12.8mm array



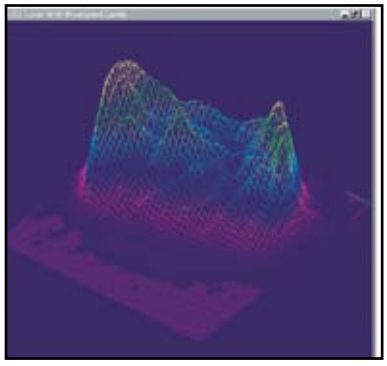
Pyrocam IV 25mm X 25mm array

State-Of-The-Art Electronics

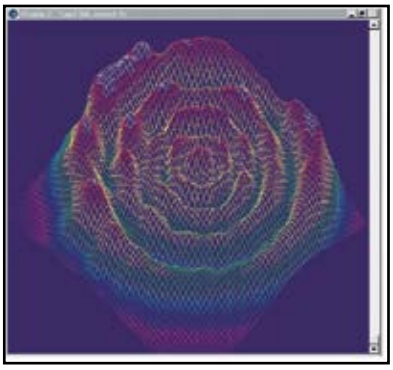
The camera features a high resolution A/D converter which digitizes deep into the camera noise. This enables reliable measurement and analysis of both large signals and low level signals in the wings of the laser beam. High resolution digitizing also enables accurate signal summing and averaging to pull weak signals out of noise. This is especially useful with fiber optics at 1.3µm and 1.55µm, and in thermal imaging.

Applications Of The Pyrocam™ IIIHR

The Pyrocam is an ideal camera for use in scientific laboratory investigation of laser beams. This includes physics, chemistry, and electronic system designs. As an example, the photos below show a research CO_2 laser and a research Nd:YAG laser, both with cavity misalignment.
The camera is also useful in product engineering of CO_2 and other infrared lasers. The Pyrocam is an integral part of the assembly lines of many CO_2 laser manufacturers. Integrators of systems are using the Pyrocam sensor to make sure that optical .systems are aligned and operating properly



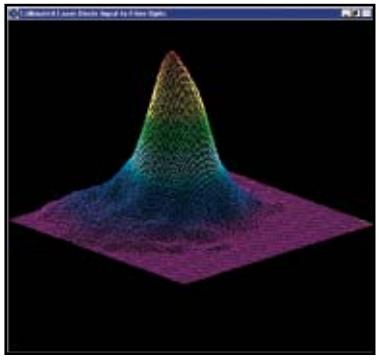
CO_2 laser with cavity misalignment.



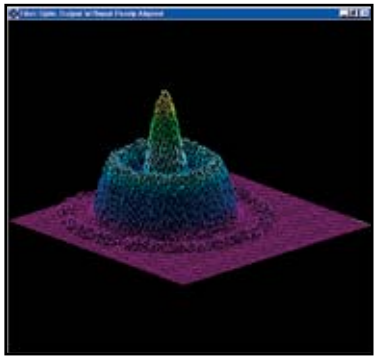
Nd:YAG laser with cavity misalignment.

There are many medical applications of the Pyrocam, such as the analysis of excimer lasers used for eye surgery. In many cases these lasers need alignment to ensure that the eye surgery is performed as expected. Other medical IR lasers perform dermatology, for which the uniformity of the beam profile must be assured.

Fiber optic communications, at 1.3µm and 1.55µm make significant use of the Pyrocam for analyzing the beams being emitted, as well as analyzing properties of the beams before launching them into fibers. The greater stability of the Pyrocam make it a good choice over other cameras operating at telecommunication wavelengths.



CO_2 laser with cavity misalignment.

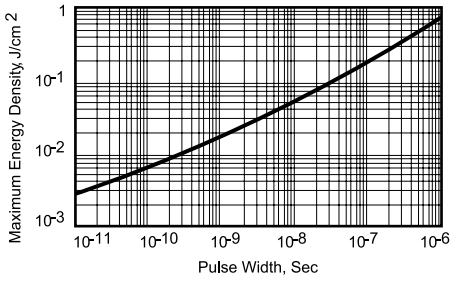


Nd:YAG laser with cavity misalignment.

The Pyrocam is becoming an essential tool in the maintenance of industrial infrared lasers, especially CO_2. The Pyrocam replaces non-electronic mode burns and acrylic blocks by providing higher definition electronic recording of data, and analysis of short term fluctuations. The Pyrocam is superior to other electronic methods of measuring CO_2 lasers because the entire beam can be measured in a single pulse, and additional measurements made in real-time. This ensures that the beam did not change during the measurement.

Detector Damage Threshold

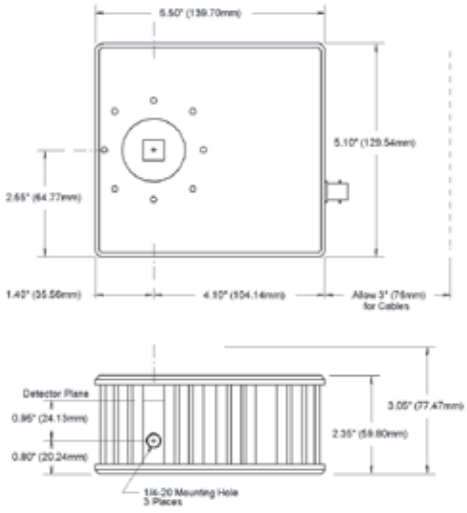
The Pyrocam sensor is capable of operation with intensities about 100 times greater than CCD cameras. This makes the camera ideal for use with high power lasers, as less attenuation is required. Nevertheless, pulsed lasers with fluence too high can evaporate the absorbing front electrode.



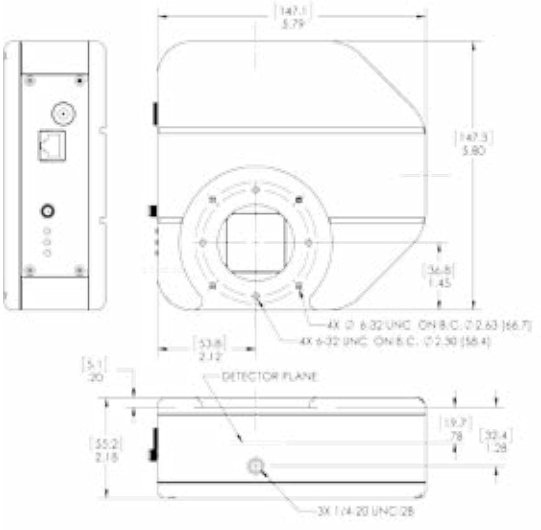
Pulsed damage threshold of pyroelectric detector coating.

As shown the damage threshold increases with pulse width. With nanosecond and longer pulses, detector saturation occurs before damage. With shorter pulses it helps to increase the camera amplifier gain so that electronic saturation occurs before damage.

The sensor can be damaged by excessive CW power, which causes crystal cracking. Very few Pyrocam detectors have been damaged by CW power, but some have been ablated by high peak pulse energy.



Pyrocam IIIHR Dimensions



Pyrocam IV and IVs Dimensions

Specifications

	Pyrocam IIIHR	Pyrocam IV
Application	UV and IR	UV and IR
Spectral response	13 - 355nm	13 - 355nm
	1.06 - 3000µm	1.06 - 3000µm
Interchangeable windows	See selection in Ordering section	See selection in Ordering section
Detector array details		
Active area	12.8mm x 12.8mm	25.6mm x 25.6mm
Element spacing	80µm x 80µm	80µm x 80µm
Number of elements	160 x 160	320 x 320
Pixel size	75µm x 75µm	75µm x 75µm
CHOPPED CW OPERATION		
Chopping frequencies	25Hz, 50Hz	25Hz, 50Hz
Sensitivity (RMS noise limit)	64nW/pixel (25Hz)	64nW/pixel (25Hz)
	96nW/pixel (50Hz)	96nW/pixel (50Hz)
	1.0mW/cm^2 (25Hz)	1.0mW/cm^2 (25Hz)
	1.5mW/cm^2 (50Hz)	1.5mW/cm^2 (50Hz)
Noise equivalent power (NEP)	13nW/Hz$^{1/2}$/pixel (1Hz)	13nW/Hz$^{1/2}$/pixel (1Hz)
Saturation power	3.0W/cm^2(25Hz)	3.0W/cm^2(25Hz)
	4.5W/cm^2 (50Hz)	4.5W/cm^2 (50Hz)
Damage threshold power		
Over entire array	2W	2W
Peak Power Density	8W/CM^2 (Chopped mode) 4W/CM^2 (CW in pulsed mode)	8W/CM^2 (Chopped mode) 4W/CM^2 (CW in pulsed mode)
PULSED OPERATION		
Laser pulse rate	Single-shot to 1000Hz	Single-shot to 1000Hz
Pulse width	1fs - 12.8ms	1fs - 12.8ms
Sensitivity (peak noise limit)	0.5nJ/pixel	0.5nJ/pixel
	8µJ/cm^2	8µJ/cm^2
Saturation energy	15mJ/cm^2	15mJ/cm^2
Damage threshold	20mJ/cm^2 (1ns pulse) 600mJ/cm^2 (1 ms pulse)	20mJ/cm^2 (1ns pulse) 600mJ/cm^2 (1 ms pulse)
Trigger input		
High logic level	3.5 - 6.0V DC	3.5 - 6.0V DC
Low logic level	0 - 0.8V DC	0 - 0.8V DC
Pulse width	4µs min	4µs min
OPERATING CONNECTIONS AND CONDITIONS		
Power	12VDC	12VDC
Line frequency	60/50Hz External Supply	60/50Hz External Supply
Power consumption	12W	12W
Operating temperature	5°C to 50°C	5°C to 50°C
PHYSICAL		
Case Dimensions	140mm H X 130mm W X 60mm D	147.3mm H X 147.1mm WX 55.2mm D
Detector Position	Centered in width 35.6mm from bottom 15.2mm behind front cover (without included C-mount attached)	53.8mm from bottom left 36.8mm from bottom 19.7mm behind front cover
Weight	0.85Kg (1.83lbs); not including power supply	1.2kg (2.65lbs); not including power supply
PC interface	Gigabit Ethernet (IEEE 802.3ab), GigE Vision compliant	Gigabit Ethernet (IEEE 802.3ab), GigE Vision compliant
MEASUREMENTS PERFORMED		
Comes with BeamGage PRO	Extensive set of quantitative and image display capabilities. See BeamGage data sheet.	Extensive set of quantitative and image display capabilities. See BeamGage data sheet.
Array Quality		
	Grade A <50 bad pixels, all correctable No uncorrectable clusters	Grade A <300 bad pixels, all correctable No uncorrectable clusters

Ordering Information

Item	Description	P/N
13 - 355nm & 1.06 - 3000µm BeamGage **Professional** and one window is included		
PY-III-HR-C-A	Pyroelectric array detector, chopped, Grade A, one Gigabit Ethernet port, BeamGage Professional GigE to USB3 adaptor, hard shipping case, 3 meter GigE cable, and power supply w/locking connector included. To complete this order you must add an interchangeable window part number to accompany this system (see below)	SP90405
Windows for Pyrocam IIIHR		
PY-III-HR-W-BK7-1.064	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, BK7, A/R coated for 1.064µm	SP90365
PY-III-HR-W-SI-1.05-2.5	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, Si, A/R coated for 1.05 to 2.5µm	SP90366
PY-III-HR-W-SI-2.5-4	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, Si, A/R coated for 2.5 to 4µm	SP90367
PY-III-HR-W-GE-3-5.5	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 3 to 5.5µm	SP90368
PY-III-HR-W-GE-10.6	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 10.6µm	SP90369
PY-III-HR-W-GE-8-12	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 8 to 12µm	SP90370
PY-III-HR-W-ZNSE-10.6	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, ZnSe, A/R coated for 10.6µm	SP90371
PY-III-HR-W-ZNSE-2-5	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, ZnSe, A/R coated for 2 to 5µm	SP90372
PY-III-HR-W-BaF2-Uncoated	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly,BaF2 uncoated for 193 to 10µm	SP90373
PY-III-HR-W-POLY-THZ	Pyrocam III-HR window assembly, LDPE, uncoated for Terahertz wavelengths	SP90374
PY-IV-C-A	Pyroelectric array detector, chopped, Grade A, one Gigabit Ethernet port, BeamGage Professional GigE to USB3 adaptor, hard shipping case, 3 meter GigE cable, and power supply w/locking connector included. To complete this order you must add an interchangeable window part number to accompany this system (see below)	SP90404
Windows for Pyrocam IV		
PY-IV-W-BK7-1.064	Pyrocam IV window assembly, BK7, A/R coated for 1.064µm	SP90301
PY-IV-W-SI-1.05-2.5	Pyrocam IV window assembly, Si, A/R coated for 1.05 to 2.5µm	SP90302
PY-IV-W-SI-2.5-4	Pyrocam IV window assembly, Si, A/R coated for 2.5 to 4µm	SP90303
PY-IV-W-GE-3-5.5	Pyrocam IV window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 3 to 5.5µm	SP90304
PY-IV-W-GE-10.6	Pyrocam IV window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 10.6µm	SP90305
PY-IV-W-GE-8-12	Pyrocam IV window assembly, Ge, A/R coated for 8 to 12µm	SP90306
PY-IV-W-ZNSE-10.6	Pyrocam IV window assembly, ZnSe, A/R coated for 10.6µm	SP90307
PY-IV-W -ZNSE-2-5	Pyrocam IV window assembly, ZnSe, A/R coated for 2 to 5µm	SP90308
PY-IV-W-ZNSE-UNCOATED	Pyrocam IV window assembly, ZnSe, uncoated	SP90336
PY-IV-W-POLY-THZ	Pyrocam IV window assembly, LDPE, uncoated for Terahertz wavelengths	SP90309