

CLARIOstar® *Plus*

Flexible high-performance microplate reader for all assay needs




BMG LABTECH
The Microplate Reader Company

www.bmglabtech.com



Your benefits at a glance:

- Combines best-in-class sensitivity with flexibility
- No gain or focus adjustment required
- Dedicated detectors for fluorescence and luminescence
- Luminescence and AlphaScreen® cross-talk reduction
- Best sensitivity in fluorescence polarization
- Simultaneous inject & read for fast kinetics
- Atmospheric control with gas ramping function
- Made-in-Germany dependability

Monochromator. Perfected.

The CLARIOstar® *Plus* is a high-performance microplate reader that fits the current and future needs of your laboratory, whether in academia, a core facility, biotech or pharma.

This multi-mode reader combines the flexibility of monochromators with best-in-class sensitivity and includes features like the **Enhanced Dynamic Range (EDR)** technology that will help simplify your workflow in the lab. The instrument is upgradable and can be equipped with all the leading non-isotopic detection technologies:

- UV/vis absorbance
- Fluorescence intensity, including FRET
- Luminescence (flash and glow), including BRET
- Fluorescence polarization/anisotropy
- Time-resolved fluorescence, including TR-FRET
- AlphaScreen® / AlphaLISA® / AlphaPlex™

Equipped with our patented LVF Monochromators™, it combines at no compromise the sensitivity of filters with wavelength flexibility and scanning capability. The following detection technologies guarantee the best performance in any assay:

- **Dual LVF Monochromator system** for the best flexibility and sensitivity in fluorescence intensity (incl. FRET), and flash/glow luminescence (incl. BRET)
- **Filters** for the greatest sensitivity in all fluorescence and luminescence-based detection modes
- **Spectrometer** for the fastest absorbance spectra.

Sensitivity and flexibility

Our monochromators are based on Linear Variable Filters (LVF), special filters that vary spectral properties over their length, transmitting or blocking specific wavelengths at different positions. LVFs eliminate the need for concave gratings employed in conventional monochromators to separate and mechanically select coloured light. An LVF Monochromator consists of two aligned LVF slides that separate light into distinct wavelengths and bandwidths. The CLARIOstar *Plus* is equipped with two LVF Monochromators, one for excitation and one for emission. LVF Monochromators ensure filter-like performance combined with wavelength flexibility, so why use filters if you can get comparable sensitivity and additional flexibility from a monochromator?

Benefits of LVF Monochromators include:

- **Filter-like performance:** Linear Variable Filters have light transmitting properties comparable to optical filters. They provide LVF Monochromators with a higher sensitivity over conventional grating-based systems.
- **Linear Variable Dichroic Mirror:** this unique feature is automatically tuned to provide the best characteristics to efficiently separate the excitation from the emission light, significantly reducing background noise.
- **Less noise:** the innovative LVF Monochromator design avoids stray light as it occurs with conventional monochromators, decreasing background noise and increasing performance.
- **Adjustable bandwidths from 8 to 100 nm** ensure better performance. Larger bandwidths yield more light for excitation and emission, increasing sensitivity.
- **Combine filters and monochromators** in one measurement, exciting with a filter and scanning the emission spectrum, or vice versa.

Simplify your assay setup

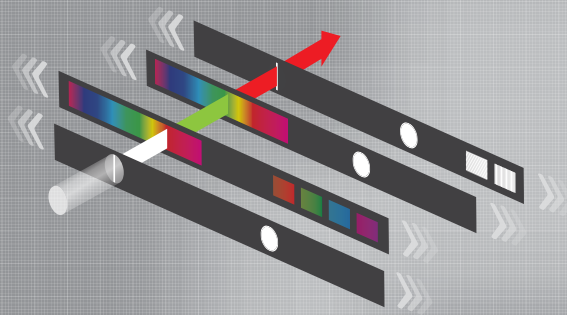
Thanks to the Enhanced Dynamic Range (EDR) technology and rapid, full-plate auto-focus, every plate is automatically read with settings that provide the best sensitivity and signal-to-blank ratios – no manual intervention required.

EDR significantly simplifies measurement setup and provides an easier solution for assay development. It grants a dynamic range spanning over 8 concentration decades in a single measurement, ensuring reliable detection of samples at a large range of signal intensities with no manual intervention. In enzymatic or cell-based kinetics with signal intensities increasing over time, EDR avoids detector saturation. In addition, data acquired at different times are comparable as count scales are uniform from day to day and plate to plate.

Focussing excitation light directly onto the sample significantly improves sensitivity and dynamic range. The incorporated auto-focus, rapidly adjusts the focus height for the whole plate, giving excellent sensitivity for both top and bottom reading in all plate formats up to 1536 wells. EDR and auto-focus can be applied in top or bottom fluorescence intensity and luminescence detection, both with filters and LVF Monochromators.

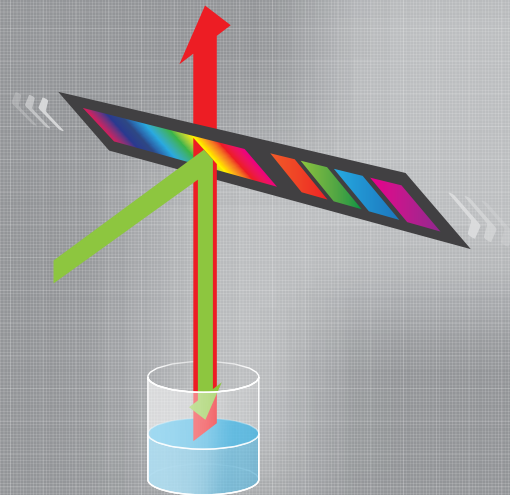
With EDR and auto-focus new users will be able to easily get started, while experienced users will get better data, more quickly.

LVF Monochromator principle

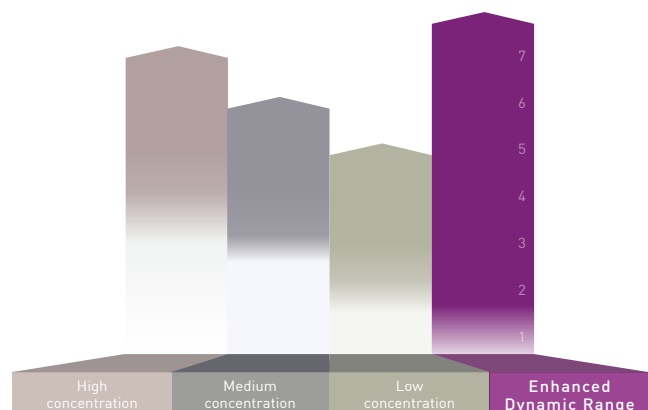


LVF Monochromator schematic: by sliding against each other the LVF slides separate light into distinct wavelengths and bandwidths.

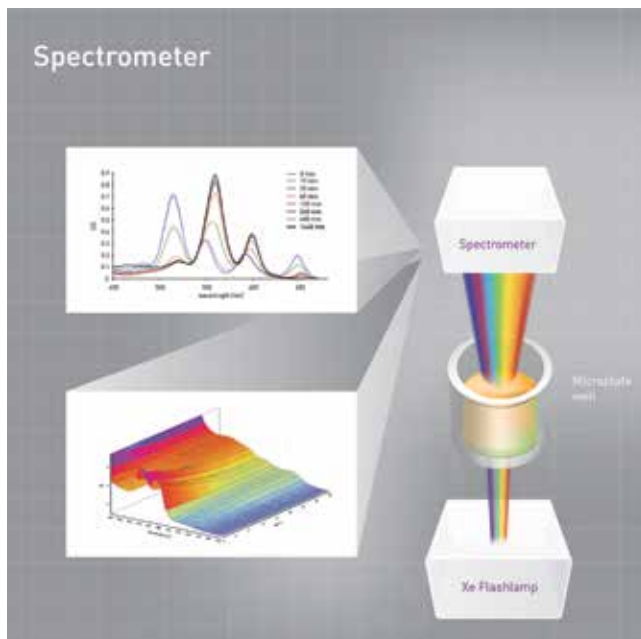
Lineal Variable Dichroic Mirror



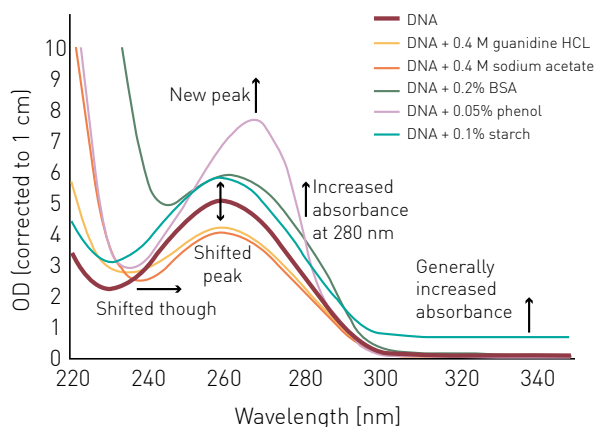
The adjustable Lineal Variable Dichroic Mirror positioned between excitation and emission monochromators blocks or transmits different wavelengths.



Enhanced Dynamic Range enables detection of signal intensities spanning over 8 concentration decades (orders of magnitude).

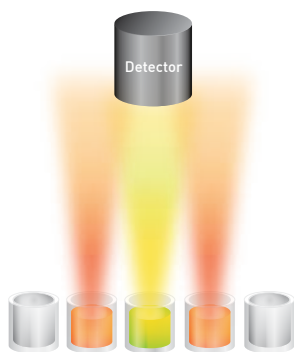


The UV/vis spectrometer captures absorbance spectra from 220 - 1000 nm in less than 1 second/well, significantly faster than any monochromator.

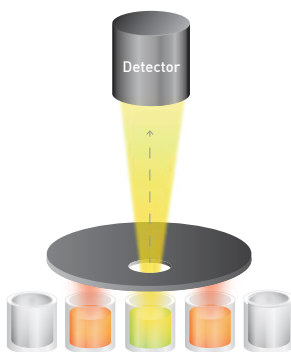


Full-spectrum detection improves many absorbance assays: influence of different contaminants on DNA quantification at 260 nm.

Without aperture



With aperture



The cross-talk reduction package reduces unspecific light signals that are cause of higher background noise and variability.

Flexibility in detection

The reader comes equipped with a standard low-noise PMT detector for fluorescence and luminescence modes. Users who need the very best performance in far-red fluorescent detection can benefit from a red-sensitive PMT. The use of a dedicated detector for luminescence and AlphaScreen provides the option to measure with the most sensitive PMT for your detection mode without compromise

Ultra-fast UV/vis absorbance spectra

Why would you measure only a single wavelength if you could acquire a full spectrum in the same time? Full-spectrum detection improves many absorbance assays as it can highlight shifting peaks or the presence of contaminants. Our spectrometer can capture a full 220 to 1000 nm absorbance spectrum at 1 to 10 nm selectable resolutions in less than 1 second per well.

Alternatively, up to 8 discrete wavelengths can be acquired instantaneously and simultaneously. For DNA quantitation, for example, 260-, 280- and 340-nm measurements are all captured with a single flash.

Dynamic luminescence detection

Flash, glow, Dual Luciferase® Reporter and BRET are some of the most commonly measured luminescence assays. On the CLARIOstar^{Plus}, both LVF Monochromators and filters can be used for luminescence detection. LVF Monochromators can acquire spectral scans of luminophores, and with adjustable bandwidths up to 100 nm, are sensitive enough to read dual colour luminescence including BRET, without the need of filters.

Cross-talk reduction

AlphaScreen/AlphaLISA and glow luminescence assays in 384 and 1536-well plates in particular are often negatively affected by stray light and cross-talk. Unwanted light may diffuse from adjacent wells to the detector, as well as through the plastic walls of the wells. If cross-talk is not reduced, low-signal wells might see more counts from nearby bright wells than from their actual signal. BMG LABTECH's cross-talk reduction package automatically applies an aperture to physically reduce non-specific signal diffusing from nearby wells, and mathematically corrects for light transmitted through the walls of a well.

Advanced detection modes

For fluorescence polarization, time-resolved fluorescence (TRF and TR-FRET), and AlphaScreen®/AlphaLISA®/AlphaPlex™ assays, the reader uses dedicated components that guarantee exceptional performance without compromise.

- **Fluorescence polarization:** the CLARIOstar^{Plus} is the best fluorescence polarization plate reader on the market. Its unique optical design and instant polarizer switching provide the smallest mP standard deviation in any assay.
- **High-end TR-FRET performance:** certified to measure HTRF® assays in both black or white plates, the reader guarantees no compromises in any TR-FRET assay. The ability to measure HTRF in black plates is only prerogative of the most sensitive readers.
- **AlphaScreen®/AlphaLISA®/AlphaPlex™:** a dedicated excitation laser and specific detection optics ensure the best assay window, speed, and sensitivity.

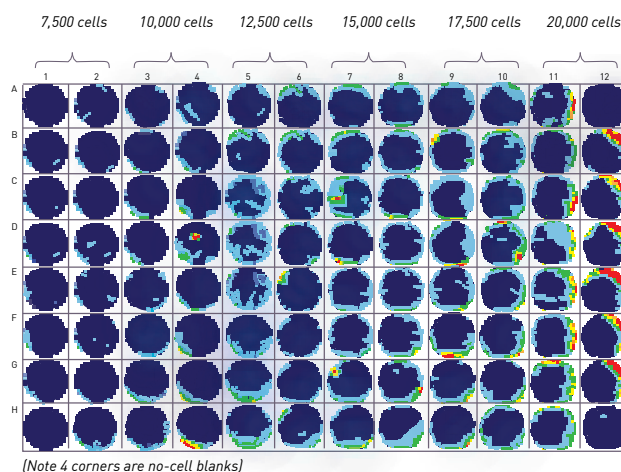
Cell-based assays

Cell-based assays are increasing in popularity because they better reflect the complexity of biological systems. When running either end-point or real-time kinetic assays with living cells, several factors can beneficially affect the quality of your results:

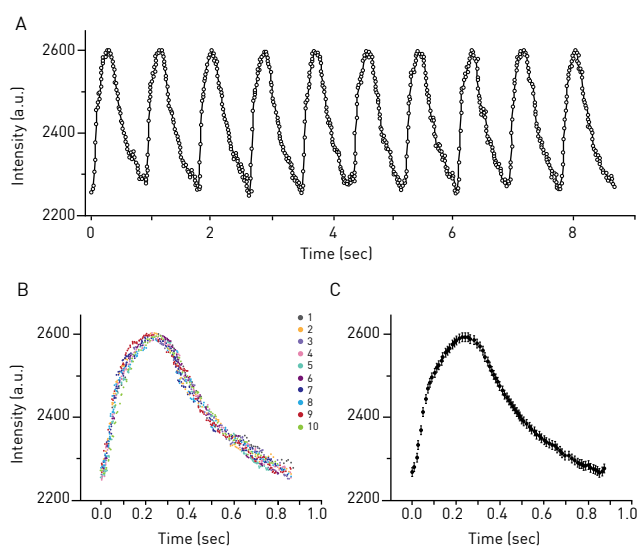
- **Gas regulation and incubation** are required when running live cell-based experiments and kinetics. The Atmospheric Control Unit (ACU) independently regulates the O₂ and CO₂ concentration in the reader, while the incubators provide the ideal temperature.
- **Gas ramps** are used in hypoxic and ischemia/reperfusion assays, as well as for metabolic and redox experiments. This unique feature of the CLARIOstar^{Plus} allows O₂ to be rapidly reduced from ambient to hypoxic and return to ambient whilst maintaining a constant CO₂ concentration.
- High-performance **bottom reading** significantly improves data quality of adherent cell samples. On this plate reader you can easily switch from top to bottom detection with a simple mouse click and no hardware displacements.
- **Well surface scan** is the perfect tool to get robust data from non-homogeneously distributed adherent cell samples. Matrix scan takes up to 900 data points/well and creates a map for each sample. Alternatively, orbital or spiral averaging calculate an average of multiple data points measured on a specific orbit.



The Atmospheric Control Unit (ACU) perfectly regulates both O₂ and CO₂ for all cell-based assays.



Matrix scanning (15x15) and heat map of a titration of Hoechst-stained HeLa cells across a 96-well plate. Corners contain no cells.



Detection of Ca²⁺ transient measurements using heart tissue and Fluo-4 (A).
Overlap (B) and average profile (C) of Ca²⁺ transients of each cardiac twitch.



Easy integration into all leading robotic platforms.



Voyager is an intuitive "drag & drop" based interface that simplifies the set-up of measurement protocols.

- **Reagent injection** can be used to add a stimulus or inhibitor, and to initiate kinetic and enzymatic reactions while detecting in real time the sample's reaction. On our built-in injectors, delivery volumes are adjustable for each well, allowing users to automatically produce dilution schemes and gradients across the microplate. An extremely low dead volume and back flush capability ensure precious reagents are used sparingly and can be recovered.
- **High frequency sampling** acquires with ease extremely fast changing signals and kinetics like calcium flux or fast biological reactions. Thanks to a sampling rate of 100 measurements/second or 1 data point every 0.01 second, no data point will be lost.

Automation friendly

The CLARIOstar^{Plus} offers excellent robotic integration capabilities, multi-user control, digital signature and FDA 21 CFR part 11 compliance*. Its robotic software interface makes it easy to integrate into all leading robotic platforms. The instrument comes with two integrated microplate barcode readers and can be equipped with a Stacker*.

Data analysis made easy

The software package includes reader control and data analysis interfaces. This multi-user software can be installed on as many computers as you require, without the need to purchase additional licenses.

The Voyager** interface is a "drag & drop" system that simplifies data acquisition. It includes pre-defined protocols for quick and easy measurements, and has the versatility to cover complex multitask detection workflows.

MARS is designed to make data analysis simple and effective, and offers multiple data reduction possibilities such as:

- Standard Curve Wizard for a step-by-step standard curve calculation
- Automatic DNA/RNA concentration determination
- Data display as bar charts, box plots, violin plots etc.
- UV/vis spectral view and analysis
- Background and baseline correction
- Signal interpolation: linear or cubic spline
- Various curve fit models including linear, 4- / 5-parameter, polynomial and user-defined fit models
- Enzyme kinetic analysis using various models
- EC₅₀ calculation with confidence intervals
- Binding rates and constants determination

- ANOVA, Student's t-test or multiple comparisons
- Performance evaluation: signal-to-blank, signal-to-noise, %CV, Z-prime, etc.
- Automatic data processing using predefined templates

The software package comes with flexible data export (Excel, ASCII*) and integration capabilities, and is compliant with FDA regulation 21 CFR Part 11*.

Applications hub

A perfectly engineered instrument is only part of the solution, it needs to effectively perform all of the leading applications. We continuously work with all major reagent companies to develop protocols and improve instrument settings for their existing assays and their newest kits. The CLARIOstar^{Plus} is a user-friendly and flexible instrument that supports all your existing and future applications, including:

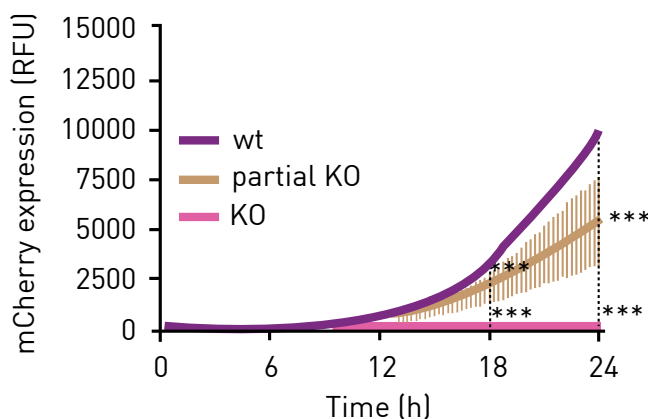
- DNA, RNA, and protein quantification
- Fluorescent and luminescent assay development
- Cell-based and real-time cell-based assays
- Protein - protein interactions
- Molecular binding assays
- Enzymatic activity
- Reporter gene assays

Our comprehensive online application database reflects more than 30 years of expertise and innovations. Over 12,000 published entries of peer-reviewed articles and application notes demonstrate the flexibility and versatility of our readers, and their use in chemical and biological sciences.

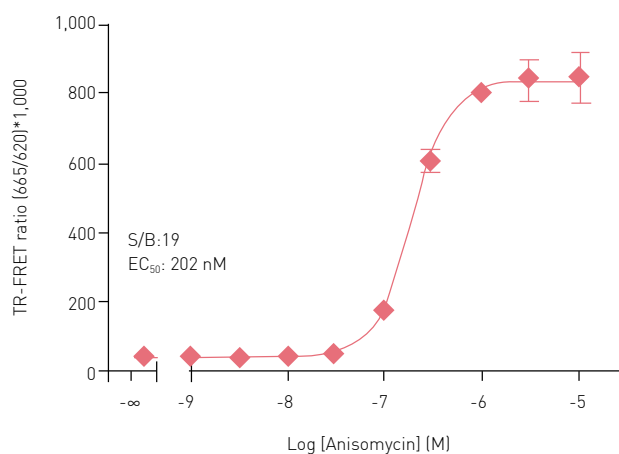
Support and training

BMG LABTECH operates globally through an extensive network of subsidiaries and trained distributors. Customers can rely on qualified support and assistance with regard to software, assay development, or general enquiries related to the CLARIOstar^{Plus} and all our other microplate readers.

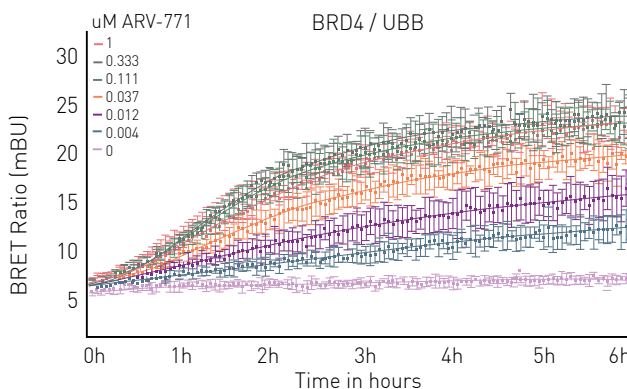
HTRF is a registered trademark of Cisbio Bioassays.
 LanthaScreen is a registered trademark of Thermo Fisher Scientific.
 Transcreeper is a registered trademark of Bellbrook Labs.
 Dual Luciferase Reporter and NanoBRET are trademarks of Promega Corp.
 Mycoalert is a trademark of Lonza.
 THUNDER is a trademark of Bioassilium.



Wild type (wt) and XRN1 partial/complete knockout cells infected with SINV-mCherry. Red fluorescence was monitored as a proxy for viral infection.



Phosphorylation of p38αβγ T180/Y182 in HeLa cells stimulated with Anisomycin assessed by TR-FRET.



Real-time assessment of targeted protein degradation by PROTACs with a NanoBRET™ BRD4 ubiquitination assay.

The CLARIOstar Plus can include all or any combination of features/options/accessories listed below at purchase. Upgrading with additional features/options/accessories may be possible after purchase. Contact your local representative for more details or a quote.			
Detection modes	UV/vis absorbance Fluorescence intensity (incl. FRET) Luminescence (flash and glow) - incl. BRET Fluorescence polarization Time-resolved fluorescence TR-FRET AlphaScreen®/AlphaLISA®/AlphaPlex™		
Measurement modes	Top and bottom reading Endpoint and kinetic Sequential multi-excitation Sequential multi-emission Spectral scanning (fluorescence, luminescence, absorbance) Ratiometric measurements Well scanning		
Microplate formats	6- to 1536-well plates, user-definable LVis Plate with 16 low volume microspots (2 µL)		
Microplate carrier	Robot compatible		
Light sources	High energy xenon flash lamp Dedicated laser for AlphaScreen®/AlphaLISA®/AlphaPlex™		
Detectors	Low-noise photomultiplier tube Red-sensitive photomultiplier tube CCD spectrometer		
Wavelength selection	Dual Linear Variable Filter (LVF) Monochromators™ Linear Variable Dichroic Mirror: separates excitation and emission LVF Monochromators Optical filters: excitation and emission slides hold up to 4 filters each LVF Monochromators + optical filters: use one for excitation and the other for emission UV/vis absorbance spectrometer: full spectra or 8 discrete wavelengths in < 1 sec/well		
Optical filters	Excitation and emission slides for up to 4 filters each		
Optical path	Top and bottom: free-air optical light path guided by motor-driven mirrors and dichroics		
Z-adjustment	Automatic focal height adjustment (0.1 mm resolution)		
Spectral range	Filters	FI, FP, TRF: 240 - 740 nm or 240 - 900 nm (red-shifted PMT) LUM: 240 - 740 nm	
	LVF Monochromators™	FI: 320 - 740 nm or 320 - 840 nm (red-shifted PMT) LUM: 320 - 740 nm	
	Linear Variable Dichroic	340 - 740 nm or 340 - 760 nm (red-shifted PMT)	
	Spectrometer	ABS: 220 - 1000 nm; wavelength precision: ≤ 0.5 nm	
	FI filters (top)	< 0.15 pM (< 3 amol/well FITC, 384sv, 20 µL)	
Sensitivity	FI filters (bottom)	< 1.0 pM (< 50 amol/well FITC, 384g, 50 µL)	
	FI monochromator (top)	< 0.35 pM (< 7 amol/well FITC, 384sv, 20 µL)	
	FI monochromator (bottom)	< 3.0 pM (< 150 amol/well FITC, 384g, 50 µL)	
	FI dynamic range	8 decades in a single measurement	
	FP	< 0.5 mP SD at 1 nM FITC (384sv, 20 µL)	
	HTRF® (black and white microplates)	Reader Control Kit (Eu) after 18h (384sv, 20 µL) Delta F > 880 % (High Calibrator) Delta F > 30 % (Low Calibrator)	
	TRF	< 20 fM europium, 384, 80 µL	
	LUM	< 0.4 pM (< 8 amol/well ATP, 384sv, 20 µL)	
	LUM dynamic range	8 decades in a single measurement	
	AlphaScreen® with laser	< 5 pM (< 100 amol/well P-Tyr-100, 384sv, 20 µL)	
	ABS with spectrometer	Selectable spectral resolution: 1, 2, 5, and 10 nm OD range: 0 to 4 OD; photometric resolution: 0.001 OD Accuracy: < 1% at 2 OD Precision: < 0.5% at 1 OD and < 0.8% at 2 OD Linearity: < 0.8% at 2.0 OD	
	Read times	Flying mode (1 flash)	8 sec (96), 15 sec (384), 28 sec (1536)
		10 flashes	19 sec (96), 57 sec (384), 3 min 4 sec (1536)
Reagent injection	Up to 2 built-in reagent injectors Individual injection volumes for each well: 3 to 500 µL (optionally up to 2 mL) Variable injection speed up to 420 µL/sec Reagent back flushing		
Shaking	Linear, orbital, and double-orbital with user-definable time and speed		
Integrated barcode reader	Up to two integrated barcode readers		
Incubation	+3°C above ambient up to 45°C or 65°C The upper heating plate of the incubation chamber operates at 0.5°C more than the lower plate. This prevents condensation build-up on the lid or sealer. Humidity sensor.		
Software	Multi-user reader control (SMART Control and Voyager**) and data analysis software (MARS) Integrated fluorophore library - FDA 21 CFR Part 11 compliance*		
Dimensions	Width: 45 cm, depth: 51 cm, height: 40 cm; weight: 32 kg		
	Accessories		
Stacker*	Plate handler for up to 50 microplates - continuous loading feature		
THERMOstar	Microplate incubator and shaker		
Atmospheric Control Unit (ACU)	Actively regulates O ₂ and CO ₂ - 0.1-20% Gas ramping function		
LVis Plate	Microplate designed to measure 16 low volume (2 µL) samples and standard cuvettes. Incorporating NIST-traceable filters and holmium oxide standards for instrument performance test. Sensitivity: < 2 ng/µL dsDNA		
Filters	Optimised for dyes, fluorophores and specific assays Filters for all applications from UV to NIR Customised filters available upon request		
Upgrades	Upgrades to include options such as additional detection modes, reagent injectors, extended temperature control, etc. are available. Please contact your local representative for more information.		

* Only available with SMART Control and MARS.
** Compatible from serial number 430-4001.
US Patent Number 9,733,124.
Limit of detection (sensitivity) was calculated according to the IUPAC standard: 3x(SDblank) / slope
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