



Next-Generation Optics for the Display and Lighting Industries







Outline

- Introduction to Luminit
- Light Shaping Diffusers
- Light Shaping Micro Optics
- Transparent Holographic Components
- 🜣 Conclusions





Luminit's Background

Spun out of Physical Optics Corp in 2006, Luminit is a global provider of innovative light management solutions for the lighting, display, automotive, aerospace, biomedical, and machine vision industries.

- Privately held, profitable business
- >\$100M in cumulative revenue
- ~100 employees, US manufacturing
- Diversity in both customers and markets
- Differentiated high performance product
- Holography is our core technology





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The Need for Diffuse Light



 $\stackrel{\scriptstyle \leftarrow}{\rightarrow}$ The need for diffuse lighting has always existed 🔆 LED point sources made it a more valuable point of differentiation.





The Need for Diffuse Light – in Displays

- The need for diffuse displays has always existed.
- LCD backlights made it a necessary and separate component.



PLASMA DISPLAY





Light Shaping Diffusers (LSDs[®]) Enhance and Improve Light Sources





















LSD Diffuses Light in a Single Pass



Mimic Diffuser Function with Surface Relief

Light is refracted by lenslets ☆All light goes 'forward' ☆Transmission >>90%



No loss from scattering sites
 No wavelength dependence
 Gaussian output profiles





LSD Is Manufactured by Four Methodologies



All Manufacturing Methods Start with Seamless Holographic Mastering



What Is Holographic Mastering?

High Volume replication requires creation of an original 'master' pattern on a hard surface.

Luminit creates these masters at very large area with very low cost using our patented Holographic Recording:

- Interference of multiple optical wavefronts creates pseudorandom intensity profile
- Intensity profile is mapped into surface relief
- Spot size can be <1mm or >>1cm
- Can use conventional optics to 'stretch' pattern
 - Symmetrical or asymmetrical
 - \Leftrightarrow Fine grain or coarse grain
- \Leftrightarrow Directly written onto large area, and even curved, surfaces





LSD Outperforms All Other Diffuser Technologies

Attribute	Bulk Diffuser	Mechanically Roughened	Light Shaping Diffuser®
Circular Small Angle			
Circular Large Angle			
Elliptical Diffuser			
Transmission			
High Temperature			
Hiding Power			
Price			



Lighting Case Study

Challenge

A school district converted to LED lighting in all classrooms; however, students were being blinded by the glare on their tablets and glossy text book pages.

Solution

Medium spread LSD that widened the beam and significantly reduced the glare.





Display Case Study

Challenge

Newton Rings or "wetting" effect on LCD displays caused by a micron-sized gap between two glossy surfaces (plastic film and the glass).





Solution

A double-sided thin film LSD. One had a large beam angle to homogenize the LED array. The other side had a small beam angle to prevent optical wetting to other materials in the optical stack.



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Light Shaping Is More than Just Gaussian Profiles



New applications require modified intensity profiles: Flat-top Diffusers
Random Dots
Grid Arrays
Focusing Power
Logo Projection

How can we extend our capabilities to serve broader markets and leverage our core competencies? **Design surfaces in x, y, z**

Light Shaping Microoptics (LSM)







LSM Solution – Direct Laser Writing

Identical materials, processing, equipment to LSD except for the laser writing step.

Rastering x, y position (20nm step size) while varying laser dosage to achieve z height.

Slower than holographic mastering, still orders of magnitude faster than other methods.



Greyscale Laser Writing

Photoresist Master

Hard Master



Diffractive Optical Elements (DOEs)



Branding, Structured Lighting, Flat-top diffusers



Refractive Optics

Structures such as: Multi-lens ArraysFresnel LensesPrismatics

Serving applications such as: Flat-top diffusers
Holographic displays
LED Collimators
VCSEL Collimators
LIDAR





LSM Outperforms All Other Mastering Technologies

Attribute	E-Beam	Diamond Turning	LSM
Feature Size			
Throughput			
Area			
Write Speed			
Works with Roll-to-Roll			
Works w/ Sheet to Sheet			
Price			



LSM Case Study

Challenge

A holographic display company wants to move from glass optics in demos to cost-effective volume production.





Solution

LSM large-area mastering, combined with Luminit's high volume sheet-to-sheet and roll-to-roll production, allow conversion to plastic optics that meet cost targets, while maintaining or improving on specification and performance.



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Light Shaping Can't Always Tolerate Haze – See-Through Optics

Augmented Reality, Smart Glasses, and Head-Up Displays require truly transparent optics:

- Need unobstructed view of reality
- ☆ Conventional optics too bulky
- Surface relief micro-optics too hazy
- ☆ Nano-optics too costly to manufacture at consumer volumes or prices

Requires a diffractive optic with lower index contrast and higher thickness

Solution

Transparent Holographic Components (THC)







Photo courtesy of REYDER



THCs Are Volumetric, Index Modulated, Polymer Films

Periodic index modulation(s) creates distributed Bragg gratings.



One example of a waveguide design using THC.

3 No surface relief

- Highly efficient Holographic Optical Elements direct light beams without the need for conventional optics
- Recorded on thin (10-30 micron) holographic photopolymer film
- The holograms have thick Bragg properties that are wavelength and angle selective
- Very low scattering, low haze
- ☆ Transparency above 90%
- Diffraction efficiency above 90% at peak
- Can form linear gratings
- Can form 'lenses' with optical power



THC Has the Best Trade-offs



Transparent Holographic Components (THCs) from **Luminit** address these problems

- Requires expensive tools/lasers
- Requires extensive customization

- No manufacturing capacity in the world









How To: Master with Two Beams → Replicate with One



Figure 9. Mastering (top) and replication (bottom) shown for transmission (left) and reflection (right) hologram manufacturing. The interference pattern is provided by the overlap of two wavefronts in both cases.

Active material 'learns' the function you write into it.



- Replication is compatible with roll-to-roll manufacturing techniques.
- Only Luminit has installed and operating capacity of roll-to-roll holographic replication machines.



THC Mass Production

- Worldwide capability to mass produce volume HOEs was negligible until today
- Luminit is currently manufacturing THCs to meet AR industry's needs:
 - ☆ Current capacity 50,000 AR units/mo.
- Mfg. Plan to support >5M units/year
 R2R thermal and optical post-processing
 R2R in-line barcoding and inspection

Combined expertise in roll-to-roll manufacturing and holography are required.





THC Outperforms All Other Combiner Technologies

Attribute	SRG (WG)	H-PDLC (WG)	THC (Reflective)
Eyebox			
Efficiency			
RGB (1-layer)			
Thinness			
Roll-to-Roll Mfg			
Curvable			
Color Shift			
Price Potential			

But we could also compare FoV, large-area compatible, stray light reflections, etc.



Case-study – Miko-san

Challenge

A man wants to marry a virtual human. OR Need a transparent, efficient diffusor screen to form real images on, for the personal digital assistant market.

Solution

Match.com

OR

We record an image of LSD into THC. This renders a diffuser effect for on-wavelength, on-angle light, while being largely transparent for all other photons.









Case-study – Auto-HUD Volume Reduction

Challenge

Current Auto-HUD is low efficiency, low FoV, and high-volume – need a highly transparent, highly efficient combiner that can be large-area.

Solution

We are exploring design options with various Tier 1 automotive partners to put THC 1) in the windshield, 2) as a separate combiner, or 3) as an under-dash component, with different tradeoffs in volume vs efficiency, eyebox, and supply-chain complexity. In the case of #1, volume is reduced to <1.5 liters.







Conclusions

- Light Shaping Diffuser is an industry standard wherever Gaussian light distribution is required
- Where more detailed control over light shaping is required, Light Shaping Micro-optics are now available
- Transparent Holographic Components are appearing on the market now in Augmented Reality applications and wherever high transparency is a requirement
- Come talk to us about your unique thin-optic challenges!











Any Questions?



Thank you for your time!

www.luminitco.com www.luminitholography.com

