



## POLARIZATION EXTINCTION RATIO METER

### Features:

- Measures up to 40dB extinction ratios (over specific wavelength ranges)
- Built in RS232 Communications Interface
- Wide wavelength range: 400 to 1000 nm for visible range; 850 to 1650 nm for IR
- 0.01dB resolution in ER and 0.3° resolution in angle
- Accuracy in ER is 1dB, in angle is 0.5°
- Measures up to 2 Watts CW input power
- Rugged and compact design
- Logging mode for continuous measurement
- Interchangeable connector adaptors
- CE Compliant
- LOW COST!

### Applications:

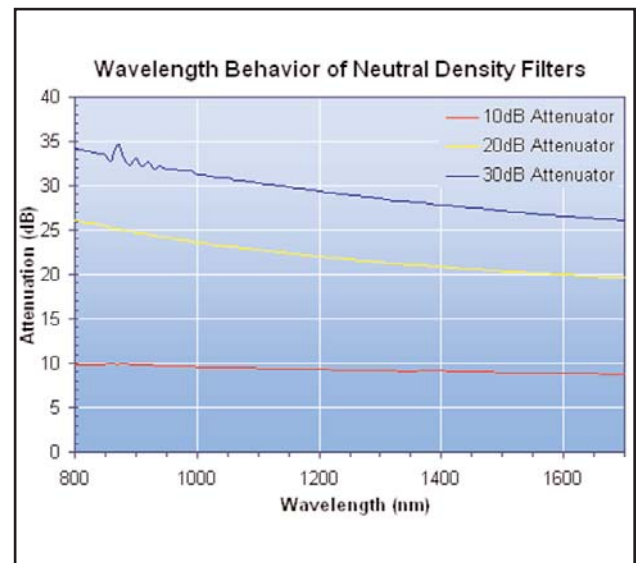
- Fiber optic component manufacturing
- Automated alignment
- Quality control and measurement
- Product development
- Component or system troubleshooting

### Product Description:

OZ Optics' Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter allows one to quickly measure the output extinction ratio of light from a fiber. A rotating polarizer measures the extinction ratio and the orientation of the transmission axis with respect to the key on the connector. As an option, neutral density filters can be added to the Extinction Ratio Meter, to extend the maximum power range. These filters can be easily inserted and removed, without disturbing your setup. These filters allow power levels up to 2 Watts to be measured.

The meter operates in several modes. In real time mode, the meter gives the extinction ratio and alignment. In logging mode, the meter gives the worst case extinction ratio over a given time span. This mode is ideal for QA measurements.

In addition the meter can provide a relative power readout, proportional to the input power in dB. This readout is updated at up to 650 times per second. The computer interface allows the unit to be used with computer control units, for alignment purposes. The combination of polarization and relative power functions allows the unit to be used for complete auto-alignment of polarization maintaining components.



## Ordering Information For Standard Parts:

Bar Code	Part Number	Description
<b>Meters</b>		
11998	ER-100-1290/1650-ER=40	Fiber Optic Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm. ER = 40dB. Receptacle is not included.
11997	ER-100-IR	Fiber Optic Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm. ER = 30dB for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1290 nm and ER=35dB for wavelengths longer than 1290 nm. Receptacle is not included.
12866	ER-100-VIS	Fiber Optic Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter for wavelengths from 400 nm to 1000 nm; ER > 30dB over the wavelength range. Receptacle is not included.
<b>Receptacles</b>		
13440	ER-23-1290/1650-ER=40	Super and Ultra FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio
13441	ER-23A-1290/1650-ER=40	Angled FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio
8705	ER-23-IR	Super and Ultra FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 30 dB extinction ratio
7525	ER-23A-IR	Angled FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 30 dB extinction ratio
7528	ER-2SC-IR	SC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 30 dB extinction ratio
8874	ER-2LC-IR	LC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 30 dB extinction ratio
7526	ER-28-IR	ST removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 30 dB extinction ratio
19254	ER-23-400/700	Super and Ultra FC removable receptacle for ER Meter optimized for wavelengths from 400 nm to 700 nm
27611	ER-23A-400/700	Angled FC removable receptacle for ER Meter optimized for wavelengths from 400 nm to 700 nm
13165	ER-23-600/1000	Super and Ultra FC/PC removable receptacle for ER meter optimized for 600-1000 nm
14320	ER-23A-600/1000	FC/APC removable receptacle for ER meter optimized for 600-1000 nm
<b>Attenuators</b>		
10626	ER-ND-10-450/1700	10 dB attenuator for ER Meter for wavelengths from 450 nm to 1700 nm
8704	ER-ND-20-IR	20 dB attenuator for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm
9471	ER-ND-35-1250/1650	35 dB attenuator for ER Meter for wavelengths from 1250 nm to 1650 nm
<b>Sources</b>		
11378	PFOSS-02-3-1550-1-ER=40	1550 nm, 1 mW Polarized Fiber Optic Source with a Super/Ultra FC/PC receptacle and rotatable polarizer achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio (Refer to Data Sheet titled <i>Polarized Fiber Optic Source</i> for further information.)
13507	PFOSS-02-3-1310-1-ER=40	1310 nm, 1 mW Polarized Fiber Optic Source with a Super/Ultra FC/PC receptacle and rotatable polarizer achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio
13509	PFOSS-02-3A-1310-1-ER=40	1310 nm, 1 mW Polarized Fiber Optic Source with angled FC/PC receptacle and rotatable polarizer achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio
13508	PFOSS-02-3A-1550-1-ER=40	1550 nm, 1 mW Polarized Fiber Optic Source with angled FC/PC receptacle and rotatable polarizer achieving up to 40 dB extinction ratio
<b>Reference Patchcords</b>		
13390	PMJ-3U3U-1550-8/125-1-1-1-ER=30-G	Master patchcord, Ultra FC/PC to Ultra FC/PC, 8/125 um PM 1550 nm fiber, 0.9 mm OD jacketed, 1 meter long with connectors aligned and locked to the slow axis. ER=30dB minimum
13386	PMJ-3A3A-1550-8/125-1-1-1-ER=30-G	Master patchcord, angled FC/PC to angled FC/PC, 8/125 um PM 1550 nm fiber, 0.9 mm OD jacketed, 1 meter long with connectors aligned and locked to the slow axis ER=30dB minimum
<b>Accessories</b>		
4572	GPIB-RS232	RS232 to GPIB Converter
4571	GPIB-CABLE-2	2 meter long GPIB cable
13397	CASE-03	Ruggedized, waterproof carrying case
2737	POWER CORD - EUROPE	European power cord
2736	POWER CORD - UK	UK power cord

## Standard Product Specifications1:

Part Number	ER-100-IR	ER-100-1290/1650-ER=40	ER-100-VIS
Bar Code Number	11997	11998	12866
Wavelength Range	850 nm to 1650 nm	1290 nm to 1650 nm	400 nm to 700 nm 600 nm to 1000 nm <sup>2</sup>
Extinction Ratio Range	30dB for 850 nm to 1290 nm 35dB for 1290 nm to 1650 nm	40dB for 1290 nm to 1650 nm	30dB
Dynamic Range	47dB		40dB
Extinction Ratio Accuracy	±1dB		
Extinction Ratio Resolution	0.01dB		
Angular Accuracy <sup>3</sup>	± 0.5 degrees		
Angular Resolution	0.3 degrees		
Update Rate (Extinction Ratio)	2.7 Hz		
Update Rate (Relative Power)	650 Hz		
Input Optical Power <sup>4</sup>	50 µW to 1.0 mW		
Communication Interface	RS232		
Input Supply Voltage <sup>5</sup>	Universal 50/60 Hz 110/220V AC/DC adapter		
Dimensions (with protective boot)	65 x 90 x 184 mm (2.5 x 3.5 x 7.25 inches)		
Weight (with protective boot)	0.48 kg (1.06 lb)		
Operating Temperature	-10° to 50°C (14 to 122°F)		
Storage Temperature	-30° to +60°C (-22 to 140°F)		
Storage Humidity	<90% RH non condensing		
Regulatory Compliance	Complies with EMC (EN61326:1997 & A1:1998) and Safety Requirements (EN61010-1:1993, A2:1995)		

<sup>1</sup> Tested at 23°C ± 2°C with a 1550 nm linearly polarized source plus a master 1550 nm polarization maintaining patchcord, after a 30 minute warm-up period.

<sup>2</sup> Depending on whether a receptacle for 400 to 700 nm or for 600 to 1000 nm wavelengths is selected.

<sup>3</sup> For FC style connectors with high tolerance keyway.

<sup>4</sup> Without attenuator. Higher powers can be measured with an attenuator. When ordering an attenuator with >20dB attenuation, the wavelength should be specified. Note: Exposing the detector to power higher than +17dBm (50 mW) without attenuator for a short period of time (3 minutes) can damage the detector.

<sup>5</sup> North American power cord provided as standard equipment. Power cords for Europe and the United Kingdom can be ordered separately.

## Ordering Examples For Standard Parts:

A customer in Europe needs an Extinction Ratio Meter to measure the polarization properties of pigtailed laser diodes, to confirm that the polarization extinction ratio exceeds 30 dB. The lasers are 1550 nm lasers, with output power between 5 and 10 mW. The fibers are terminated with either Super FC/PC, or with FC/APC connectors. The customer also wants a source and reference patchcord for comparison. The following equipment will be needed:

Bar Code	Part Number	Description
11998	ER-100-1290/1650-ER=40	Fiber Optic Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm. ER = 40dB, without receptacle
13440	ER-23-1290/1650-ER=40	Super and Ultra FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 40 dB Extinction Ratio
13441	ER-23A-1290/1650-ER=40	Angled FC removable receptacle for ER Meter for wavelengths from 1290 nm to 1650 nm achieving up to 40 dB Extinction Ratio
10626	ER-ND-10-450/1700	10 dB attenuator for ER Meter for wavelengths from 450 nm to 1700 nm
11378	PFOSS-02-3-1550-1-ER=40	1550 nm, 1 mW Polarized Fiber Optic Source with a Super/Ultra FC/PC receptacle and Rotatable polarizer achieving up to 40 dB Extinction Ratio (Refer to data sheet titled <i>Polarized Fiber Optic Source</i> for further information.)
13390	PMJ-3U3U-1550-8/125-1-1-1-ER=30-G	Master patchcord, Ultra FC/PC to Ultra FC/PC, 8/125 um PM 1550 nm fiber, 0.9 mm OD jacketed, 1 meter long with connectors aligned and locked to the slow axis. ER=30dB minimum
13386	PMJ-3A3A-1550-8/125-1-1-1-ER=30-G	Master patchcord, angled FC/PC to angled FC/PC, 8/125 um PM 1550 nm fiber, 0.9 mm OD jacketed, 1 meter long with connectors aligned and locked to the slow axis. ER=30dB minimum
2737	POWER CORD - EUROPE	European power cord (order one for the meter, one for the source)

## Ordering Information For Custom Parts:

OZ Optics welcomes the opportunity to provide custom designed products to meet your application needs. As with most manufacturers, customized products do take additional effort so please expect some differences in the pricing compared to our standard parts list. In particular, we will need additional time to prepare a comprehensive quotation, and lead times will be longer than normal. In most cases non-recurring engineering (NRE) charges, lot charges, and a 1 piece minimum order will be necessary. These points will be carefully explained in your quotation, so your decision will be as well-informed as possible. We strongly recommend buying our standard products. <sup>3</sup>

## Questionnaire For Custom Parts:

- 1) What is your application?
- 2) Will you be using the device at a specific wavelength?
- 3) What is the maximum extinction ratio that you will need to measure?
- 4) Do you require external control from a computer?
- 5) What type of computer interface do you require?
- 6) What is the maximum power level that you will be using?
- 7) What type of connector will you be using?

**P** = Attenuation Level: 10dB, 20dB, 30dB or 35dB

Note: For attenuations over 20dB, specify the wavelength in nm

**W** = Wavelength Range (in nm) **IR** for 850-1650 nm

**VIS** for 400-1000 nm

Note: If an ER of 40dB is required then specify either 980/1060 or 1290/1650 for the wavelength, and add "-ER=40" to the part number. ER>40 dB is only achieved on IR models over 980 to 1060 nm, and 1290 to 1650 nm wavelength ranges.

**X** = Connector Code: 3 = Standard Flat, Super or Ultra NTT-FC/PC receptacle

3A = Angled NTT-FC/PC

8 = AT&T-ST

SC = SC

SCA = Angled SC

LC = LC

MU = MU

2.5U = Universal adaptor for 2.5 mm diameter ferrules

1.25U = Universal adaptor for 1.25 mm diameter ferrules

Consult factory for special connector and ferrule adaptors.

### Description

### Part Number

Extinction Ratio Meter:

ER-100-**W**

Attenuators:

ER-ND-**P-W**

Connector Adaptors:

ER-2**X-W**

**W** = Wavelength Range in nm:

IR for 850-1650 nm

600/1000 for 600-1000 nm

400/700 for 400-700 nm

## Reference Patchcords:

**X,Y** = Connector Code: 3A = Angled NTT-FC/PC

3S = Super NTT-FC/PC connector

3U = Ultra NTT-FC/PC connector

8 = AT&T-ST

SC = SC

SCA = Angled SC

LC = LC

MU = MU

Consult factory for special connector and ferrule adaptors.

**W** = Wavelength (in nm):

Example: (1550 for 1550 nm, 1300 for 1300 nm, 980 for 980 nm)

**a/b** = Fiber core and cladding sizes, in microns:

(6/125 for 980 nm PM fiber, 7/125 for 1300 nm PM fiber, 8/125 for 1550 nm PM fiber)

PMJ-**XY-W-a/b**-1-1-1-ER=30-G

## Ordering Example for Custom Parts:

A Canadian manufacturer of high power WDM for EDFA applications wants to do incoming extinction ratio qualification, at 980 nm, of any purchased optical components prior to using them in his systems. They need to order these following parts:

Bar Code	Part Number	Description
n/a	HIPFOSS-02-3A-980-10-BL-ER=40	980 nm, 10 mW Highly Stable Polarized Fiber Optic Source with an angled FC receptacle, rotatable polarizer, achieving over 40dB extinction ratio. BL= blocking style attenuator
13485	ER-100-980/1060-ER=40	980 nm, Fiber Optic Polarization Extinction Ratio Meter. ER = 40dB. Receptacle is not included.
13488	ER-23A-980/1060-ER=40	980 nm, Angled FC Removable Receptacle for ER Meter. ER = 40dB
8704	ER-ND-20-IR	20 dB attenuator for ER Meter for wavelengths from 850 nm to 1650 nm
n/a	PMJ-3A3A-980-6/125-1-1-1-ER=30-G	Master patchcord, angled FC/PC to angled FC/PC, 6/125 um PM 980 nm fiber, 0.9 mm OD jacketed, 1 meter long with connectors aligned and locked to the slow axis, ER=30dB minimum



## Application Notes:

### Comparison of the OZ ER meter with results from a polarimeter

A common alternate technique used in polarization analysis is through the use of a polarimeter. These devices work by mathematically mapping the output polarization from a source onto what is known as a Poincaré sphere. By monitoring the variation of the polarization over time on this Poincaré sphere, one can calculate the variation in the polarization and presumably the degree of polarization itself.

There are two principle drawbacks with this technique. The first is that to map the polarization onto the Poincaré sphere, polarimeters subtract any randomly polarized light from the signal. Thus any calculation of the polarization extinction ratio using a polarimeter ignores this signal. This results in reported values that are more optimistic than that given by the OZ Extinction Ratio Meter. The Extinction Ratio Meter gives a more conservative and more reliable result.

The second drawback is that most fiber optic polarimeters utilize singlemode fiber to transmit light to its internal sensors. The singlemode fiber itself changes the polarization to an arbitrary polarization. Therefore fiber optic polarimeters are only suitable for measuring relative changes. This makes them unsuitable for alignment of polarization maintaining connectors.

### General Considerations

OZ Optics Polarization Extinction Ratio Meters, together with OZ Optics Highly Stable Polarized Sources, provide a quick, reliable, and effective means to align, characterize, and QA polarization maintaining components. To ensure that your measurements are as accurate as possible, the following precautions should be taken.

#### 1. Check your reference angle:

The OZ Optics Extinction Ratio Meter provides a reading of the polarization axis orientation compared to the keyway on the receptacle. However, if the receptacle is exchanged or replaced, the orientation might be changed by a few degrees.

To ensure that the angle reading is accurate, OZ Optics supplies master reference patchcords. These patchcords maintain polarization to better than 30dB, and are aligned to within  $\pm 1.5$  degrees of the connector keyway. A menu option allows one to adjust the angle reference to any desired value, allowing one to compensate for any offset. Note that a misalignment of  $\theta$  degrees between the source and the fiber will degrade the extinction ratio and the maximum ER that can be achieved will be given by:

$$ER \leq 10 \log (\tan^2 \theta)$$

#### 2. Stress the fiber:

When working with a highly coherent source, such as a DFB laser, it is possible to get readings that initially meet specifications, but degrade over time. This degradation of the extinction level can take several minutes to occur. This behavior occurs because part of the light within the fiber is traveling along the wrong axis. At the output end of the fiber the light traveling along the slow and fast axes combine to form a unique polarization state. If the two signals are in phase with one another, they will form linearly polarized light. However, as the fiber is stressed, the phase relation will change and so will the output polarization.

To check for this behavior, one should stress the fiber while measuring the polarization. The meter has a data logging mode for this function. To use it, activate the logging mode through the menu, then apply stress to the device under test. One common method is to simply wrap the fiber several turns around a mandrel, 40 or 50 mm in diameter. Such a mandrel is available from OZ Optics. A second technique is to heat the fiber with a warming plate. After stressing the fiber, stop the logging mode. The meter will then display the worst case extinction ratio, and the variation in the polarization angle. Use these readings as the performance specification. Refer to the manual for further details.

#### 3. Look both ways:

If a device is being used to transmit light in either direction, then it should be inspected in both directions. The performance of a device will depend on the direction in which it is used. This is because stresses and microbends usually occur near the fiber ends. If the microbend is at the output end of the fiber, then the output polarization may be rotated, but otherwise remain static. However if the microbend is at the input end, then the polarization is perturbed before travelling through the fiber, so the polarization will vary.

#### 4. Autoalign components using the computer interface.

The meter can report both power and extinction ratios to a computer control system via an RS232 interface. This can be used to develop an auto-alignment system. The power level can be reported at over 650 samples per second, which is sufficient for rapid alignment. A complete set of application notes, one on polarization measurements (POLARIZATION MAINTAINING MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS), the other on how to use the meter for alignment applications (AUTOMATED POLARIZATION ALIGNMENT) are available from our website ([www.ozoptics.com](http://www.ozoptics.com)).

#### 5. Measurement limits

The detection circuitry for the ER meter has an overall dynamic range of about 60 dB. When the input signal has a power level within the range of 50  $\mu$ W to 1 mW (a 13 dB range), this leaves at least a 47 dB range for the ER measurement itself. Since the extinction ratio is based on the ratio of two values, a minimum and a maximum, the minimum value may approach the noise floor of the instrument if the extinction ratio is really good or the input power is close to 50  $\mu$ W or below. In such a case, the minimum value may default to the noise floor of the instrument. Under these conditions, the instrument may not be able to provide an accurate reading. However, it will be able to determine a worst case value, which will be indicated to the user as such. By using a higher-powered source, the instrument will be able to provide an improved reading. For example, with a low power signal, the ER meter may indicate that an extinction ratio is >27 dB. If the user needs to know whether the actual value is over 30 dB, then a more powerful source should be used. If the ER meter has an optional attenuator installed, the user could simply remove the attenuator.



**Extinction Ratio Meter  
With Polarized Source (PFOSS)**

**PM V-Groove Array ER Measurements**

OZ Optics ER Meter for PM V-Groove array's provides for fast and accurate extinction ratio measurements of V-Groove assemblies manufactured with PM fiber. The semi-automated system is computer controlled for hassle free control and measurements. The system consists of a polarized stable light source, 3 axis measurement micro-stage with one axis motorized, an extinction ratio display set and PC software to control the system. The stage and meter display are connected to a PC using RS-232 cables. The system is capable of measuring extinction ratios up to 40dB with an angle accuracy of 1.5°. The ordering information is as follows:

Bar Code	Part Number	Description
13620	PER-KIT-3VGA-1550-1-ER=40	Polarization Extinction Ratio Measurement System for testing V-Groove Arrays using 1550 nm polarization maintaining patchcords terminated with FC connectors with Super PC or Ultra PC Finishes. Kit Contains the following: Source: PFOSS-02-3-1550-1-ER=40 Meter: ER-11-1290/1650-ER=40 (Includes PC interface and software) Mount: ER-VGA-1290/1650-ER=40 (Includes positioning Stage) Patchcord: VGA-1-250-0-X-10.3-3.8-2.03-P-1550-8/125-3S-0.25-1-0-ER=30-G
4572	GPIB-RS232	RS232 to GPIB Converter (optional)
4571	GPIB-CABLE-2	2 meter long GPIB cable (optional)
2737	POWER CORD - EUROPE	Power Cord for European AC receptacles (optional)
2736	POWER CORD - UK	Power Cord for United Kingdom AC receptacles (optional)

**Operating the PM V-Groove Array ER Measurement system**

The system works by first setting the software configurations for the appropriate V-Groove size and spacing. The V-Groove chip is then attached to the mounting stage and the opposite end of the fiber is attached to the polarized source. After adjusting the stage to roughly align the fiber to the meter, the software is started to take the ER measurement and automatically move the array to the next fiber position. Manual recording of the measured ER and angle is required at this point, optional software is available to log the measurements for later use. At the software prompt, the user must change the fiber on the polarized stable source so the next measurement can be taken.



**PM V-Groove Array Extinction Ratio Measurement System**