

**IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB - July 16, 2021**

Item # IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB was discontinued on July 16, 2021. For informational purposes, this is a copy of the website content at that time and is valid only for the stated product.

**ND:YAG FREE-SPACE ISOLATORS (1020 - 1100 NM)**

- ▶ Center Wavelength of 1064 nm
- ▶ Isolation up to 55 dB
- ▶ Power Densities up to 20 kW/cm<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Custom Isolators Available Upon Request



**IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB**  
Polarization-Independent Isolator



**IO-5-1064-HP**



In Saddle  
**IO-3D-1064-VLP**



Removed from Saddle



**IO-2.5-1064-VLP**

[Hide Overview](#)

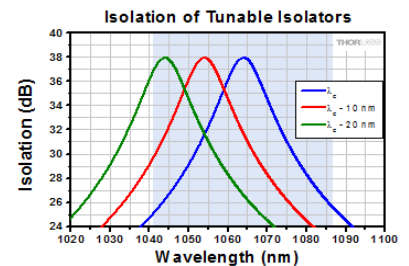
**OVERVIEW**

**Features**

- Minimize Feedback into Optical Systems
- Free-Space Input and Output Ports
- Fixed or Tunable Wavelength Ranges
- Isolation at Center Wavelength from 25 to 55 dB
- Max Beam Diameter from Ø1.6 mm to Ø9 mm
- Max CW Power from 200 mW to 200 W
- Polarization-Independent Option Available

**Custom Isolators**

- Customizable Wavelength, Aperture, Max Power, Housing, Polarizers, and Operating Temperature
- Pricing Similar to Stock Units
- Wide Range of OEM Capabilities
- Please Contact Tech Support or See Our Custom Isolators Page



Our Adjustable Narrowband Isolators can be tuned to maximize the peak isolation for any wavelength within a narrow spectral range (shaded in this graph). See the *Wavelength Tuning* tab for more details. This plot shows data for the IO-3-1064-HP. Graphs showing the isolation and transmission for each isolator tuned to the center wavelength are provided on the *Graphs* tab.

Thorlabs is pleased to stock a variety of free-space optical isolators designed for use with Nd:YAG lasers (i.e., output at the fundamental wavelength of 1064 nm). Optical isolators, also known as Faraday isolators, are magneto-optic devices that preferentially transmit light along a single direction, shielding upstream optics from back reflections. Back reflections can create a number of instabilities in light sources, including intensity noise, frequency shifts, mode hopping, and loss of mode lock. In addition, intense back-reflected light can permanently damage optics. Please see the *Isolator Tutorial* tab for an explanation of the operating principles of a Faraday isolator.



Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge  
Isolator in Custom Package for  
FiberBench Systems

IO-3-1064-HP Isolator Shown  
in Included SM1RC Saddle and  
Mounted to an Optical Table  
Using a BA1 Base and SD1  
1/4"-20 to 8-32 Counterbore  
Adapter

For applications at Nd:YAG wavelengths, we offer four types of isolators. The first type, Fixed Narrowband Isolators, contains fixed, factory-aligned optics, for which peak isolation and peak transmission occurs at a pre-defined center wavelength. Any deviation from this wavelength will cause a dip in isolation and transmission. The second type, Adjustable Narrowband Isolators, offers the user the ability to adjust the alignment of the input and output polarizers, allowing tuning of the center wavelength within a 45 nm range. The third type, Tandem Narrowband Isolators, consists of two Faraday rotators in series, boosting the isolation to at least 55 dB at the expense of lower transmission. The fourth type, Polarization-Independent Isolators, achieves the same performance characteristics regardless of the input polarization, greatly simplifying alignment. Please see the *Isolator Types* tab for additional design details and representative graphs of the wavelength-dependent isolation.

Selection Guide for Isolators (Click Here for Our Full Selection)
<b>Wavelength Range</b>
365 - 385 nm (UV)
390 - 700 nm (Visible)
690 - 1080 nm (NIR)
1064 nm (Nd:YAG)
1110 - 2100 nm (IR)
2.20 - 4.55 $\mu\text{m}$ (MIR)
Broadband
<b>Fiber Isolators</b>
<b>Custom Isolators</b>

The housing of each isolator shown here, except for the IO-D-1064-VLP, is marked with an arrow that indicates the direction of forward propagation. The input and output apertures of the IO-D-1064-VLP are indicated by the black and gold coloring of the cylinder, respectively. All isolators shown here (including the IO-D-1064-VLP) have engravings that indicate the alignment of the input and output polarizers.

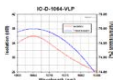
Thorlabs also manufactures free-space and fiber-optic isolators for wavelengths from the UV to the infrared (see the Selection Guide table to the left). As indicated in the tables below and pictured to the right, many of our stock isolators can also be provided in a mount designed for our FiberBench systems. If Thorlabs does not stock an isolator suited for your application, please refer to the *Custom Isolators* tab for information on our build-to-order options, or contact Tech Support. Thorlabs' in-house manufacturing service has over 25 years of experience and can deliver a free-space isolator tuned to your center wavelength from 244 nm to 4.55  $\mu\text{m}$ .

[Hide Graphs](#)

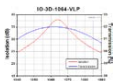
## GRAPHS

Blue shaded regions on a graph represent the center wavelength tuning range of the isolator (see the *Wavelength Tuning* tab for more information). With these isolators, the isolation and transmission curves will shift as the center wavelength shifts. If the graph is not blue shaded, then the isolator is non-tunable. Please note that these curves were made from theoretical data and that isolation and transmission will vary from unit to unit.

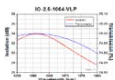
The IO-3-1064-VHP, IO-5-1064-VHP, and IO-10-1064-VHP are Fixed Narrowband Isolators for use at 1064 nm. For operation centered at 1053 nm, please contact us prior to ordering.



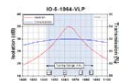
Click to Enlarge



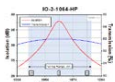
Click to Enlarge



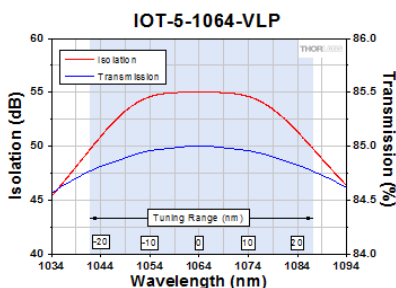
Click to Enlarge



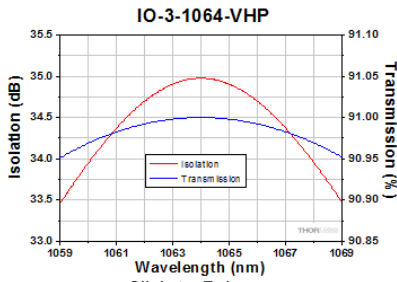
Click to Enlarge



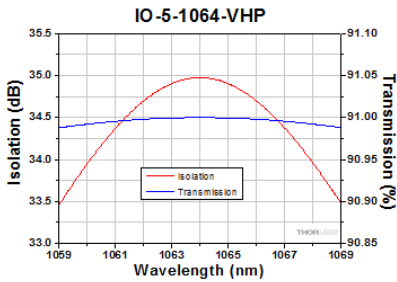
Click to Enlarge



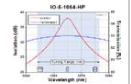
Click to Enlarge



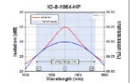
Click to Enlarge



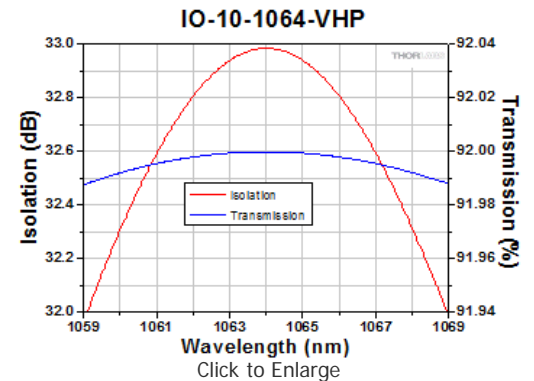
Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge



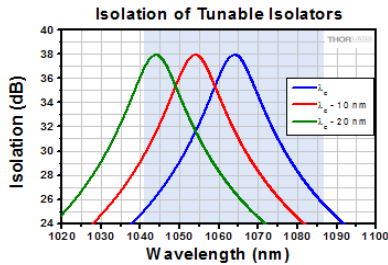
Click to Enlarge

[Hide Wavelength Tuning](#)

## WAVELENGTH TUNING

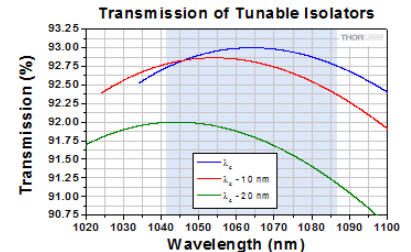
### Tuning an Adjustable Narrowband Isolator

- Optimize Our Isolators to Provide the Same Peak Isolation Anywhere Within Their Tuning Range
- Simple Tuning Procedure, Illustrated Below, Consists Primarily of Rotating the Output Polarizer
- Slight Transmission Losses Occur Due to Polarizer Rotation



Click to Enlarge

Our Adjustable Narrowband Isolators can be tuned to maximize the peak isolation for any wavelength within a narrow spectral range (shaded in this graph). This plot shows isolation data for the IO-3-1064-HP. Graphs showing the isolation when each isolator is tuned to the center wavelength are provided on the *Graphs* tab.



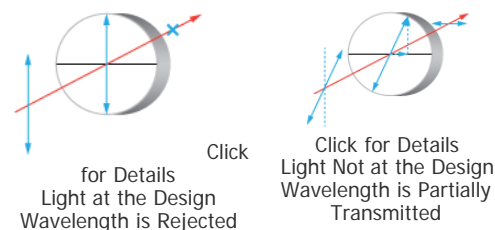
Click to Enlarge

When the isolator is tuned away from its design wavelength, the maximum transmission falls because the output polarizer's transmission axis is not parallel to the polarization direction of the output light. This plot shows transmission data for the IO-3-1064-HP. Graphs showing the transmission when each isolator is tuned to the center wavelength are provided on the *Graphs* tab.

### Operating Principles of Optical Isolators

Thorlabs' Adjustable Narrowband Isolators are designed to provide the same peak isolation anywhere within a 45 nm tuning range. They contain a Faraday rotator that has been factory tuned to rotate light

of the design wavelength by 45°. Light propagating through the isolator in the backward direction is polarized at 45° by the output polarizer and is rotated by 45° by the Faraday rotator, giving a net polarization of 90° relative to the transmission axis of the input polarizer. Therefore, an isolator rejects backward propagating light. See the *Isolator Tutorial* tab for a schematic of the beam path.



The magnitude of the rotation caused by the Faraday rotator is wavelength dependent. This means that light with a different wavelength than the design wavelength will not be rotated at exactly 45°. For example, if 1064 nm light is rotated by 45° (that is, 1064 nm is the design wavelength), then 1054 nm light is rotated by 46.3°. If 1054 nm light is sent backward through an isolator designed for 1064 nm without any tweaking, it will have a net polarization of 45° + 46.3° = 91.3° relative to the axis of the input polarizer. The polarization component of the light parallel to the input polarizer's axis will be transmitted, and the isolation will therefore be significantly reduced.

Since the net polarization needs to be 90° to obtain high isolation, the output polarizer is rotated to compensate for the extra rotation being caused by the Faraday isolator. In our example, the new polarizer angle is 90° - 46.3° = 43.7°. This adjustment increases the isolation back to the same value as at the design wavelength.

### Consequences of Wavelength Tuning Procedure

As a direct consequence of rotating the output polarizer, the maximum transmission in the forward direction decreases. 1054 nm light propagating in the forward direction is polarized at 0° by the input polarizer and rotated by 46.3° by the Faraday rotator, but the output polarizer is now at 43.7°. The amount of the transmission decrease can be quantified using Malus' Law:

$$I = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$$

Malus' Law

Here,  $\theta$  is the angle between the polarization direction of the light after the Faraday rotator and the transmission axis of the polarizer,  $I_0$  is the incident intensity, and  $I$  is the transmitted intensity. For small deviations from the center wavelength, the decrease in transmission is very slight, but for larger deviations, the decrease becomes noticeable. In our example (a 10 nm difference between the design wavelength and the usage wavelength),  $\theta = 46.3^\circ - 43.7^\circ = 2.6^\circ$ , so  $I = 0.998 I_0$ . This case is shown in the graphs above.

In applications, the decrease in transmission caused by the tuning procedure is usually less important than the significantly enhanced isolation gained by tuning. For example, if the 1064 nm isolator shown in the graphs above were used at 1044 nm without tuning, the transmission would be 92.2% (instead of 92.0%), but the isolation would be only 26 dB (instead of 42 dB). This case is also shown in the graphs above.

Thorlabs' isolator housings make it easy to rotate the output polarizer without disturbing the rest of the isolator. Our custom isolator manufacturing service (see the *Custom Isolators* tab) can also provide an isolator specifically designed for a particular center wavelength, which can eliminate or strongly mitigate the transmission losses that occur at the edges of the tuning range. These custom isolators are provided at the same cost as their equivalent stock counterparts. For more information, please contact Technical Support.

## Illustrated Tuning Procedure

To optimize the isolation curve for a specific wavelength within the tuning range, the alignment of the output polarizer may be tweaked following the simple procedure outlined below. Only a minor adjustment is necessary to cover a range of several nanometers. The procedure differs slightly for different isolator packages, but the principle remains the same across our entire isolator family, and complete model-specific tuning instructions ship with each isolator.



Click to Enlarge

### Step 1:

Orient the isolator in the backward direction with respect to the beam (i.e., with the arrow pointing antiparallel to the beam propagation direction). A power meter with high sensitivity at low power levels should be placed after the isolator.

Use the included 5/64" hex key to loosen the isolator from its saddle.

### Step 2:

Grip the isolator by the sides and gently bring it out of its saddle. It is only necessary to bring it out far enough to expose the 8-32 setscrew at the top, as shown in the photo to the left.



Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge



Click to Enlarge

### Step 3:

Use the included 5/64" hex key to tighten the isolator back into its saddle with the 8-32 setscrew exposed.

The isolator is mechanically stable in this position as long as the isolator has not been brought forward too much. (The amount shown in the image to the left is safe by several millimeters.) It should therefore not be necessary to reinsert the isolator at the end of the tuning procedure.

### Step 4:

Loosen the exposed 8-32 setscrew using the included 5/64" hex key. At this point, the output polarizer will be free to rotate.

### Step 5:

Rotate the output polarizer to minimize the power on the power meter. As explained above, the necessary adjustment should be only a few degrees, depending upon the desired center wavelength. Tighten the 8-32 setscrew once optimization is achieved.

As long as the isolator was not brought forward too much at the end of Step 2, the isolator will be mechanically stable in this position. Attempting to reinsert the isolator at this point may cause misalignment.

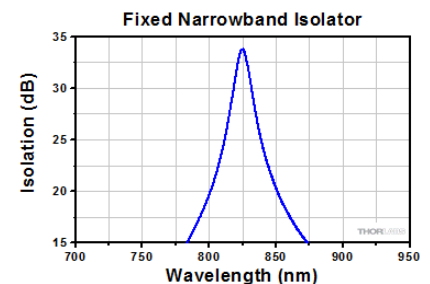
[Hide Isolator Types](#)

## ISOLATOR TYPES

### Fixed Narrowband Isolator

The isolator is set for 45° of rotation at the design wavelength. The polarizers are non-adjustable and are set to provide maximum isolation at the design wavelength. As the wavelength changes the isolation will drop; the graph shows a representative profile.

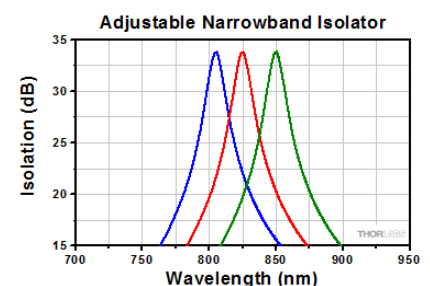
- Fixed Rotator Element, Fixed Polarizers
- Polarization Dependent
- Smallest and Least Expensive Isolator Type
- No Tuning



### Adjustable Narrowband Isolator

The isolator is set for 45° of rotation at the design wavelength. If the usage wavelength changes, the Faraday rotation will change, thereby decreasing the isolation. To regain maximum isolation, the output polarizer can be rotated to "re-center" the isolation curve. This rotation causes transmission losses in the forward direction that increase as the difference between the usage wavelength and the design wavelength grows.

- Fixed Rotator Element, Adjustable Polarizers
- Polarization Dependent

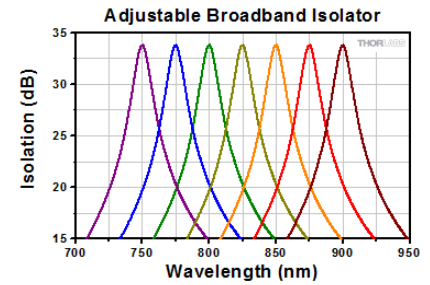


- General-Purpose Isolator

## Adjustable Broadband Isolator

The isolator is set for 45° of rotation at the design wavelength. There is a tuning ring on the isolator that adjusts the amount of Faraday rotator material that is inserted into the internal magnet. As your usage wavelength changes, the Faraday rotation will change, thereby decreasing the isolation. To regain maximum isolation, the tuning ring is adjusted to produce the 45° of rotation necessary for maximum isolation.

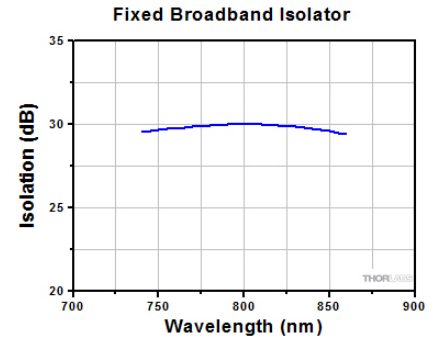
- Adjustable Rotator Element, Fixed Polarizers
- Polarization Dependent
- Simple Tuning Procedure
- Broader Tuning Range than Adjustable Narrowband Isolators



## Fixed Broadband Isolator

A 45° Faraday rotator is coupled with a 45° crystal quartz rotator to produce a combined 90° rotation on the output. The wavelength dependences of the two rotator materials work together to produce a flat-top isolation profile. The isolator does not require any tuning or adjustment for operation within the designated design bandwidth.

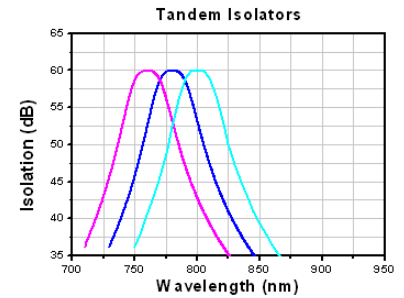
- Fixed Rotator Element, Fixed Polarizers
- Polarization Dependent
- Largest Isolation Bandwidth
- No Tuning Required



## Tandem Isolators

Tandem isolators consist of two Faraday rotators in series, which share one central polarizer. Since the two rotators cancel each other, the net rotation at the output is 0°. Our tandem designs yield narrowband isolators that may be fixed or adjustable.

- Up to 60 dB Isolation
- Polarization Dependent
- Highest Isolation
- Fixed or Adjustable



[Hide Polarizer Comparison](#)








## POLARIZER COMPARISON

### Polarizer Types, Sizes, and Power Limits

Thorlabs designs and manufactures several types of polarizers that are used across our family of optical isolators. Their design characteristics are detailed below. The part number of given isolator has an identifier for the type of polarizer that isolator contains. For more details on how the part number describes each isolator, see the given isolator's manual.

Polarizer Comparison			
Type	Schematic (Click to Enlarge)	Maximum Power Density	Description
Very Low Power (C)		10 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW, Blocking) 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW, Transmission)	Our Very Low Power Absorptive Film Polarizers are compact options for isolating free-space beams. For light polarized perpendicular to the polarizer's transmission axis, the max power density is 10 W/cm <sup>2</sup> , while for light polarized parallel to the polarizer's transmission axis, the max power density is 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> .
Very Low Power (VLP)		25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW, Blocking) 100 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW, Transmission)	These polarizers are also for use with very low power sources but are made with a different material than the type C polarizers listed above. This gives these polarizers a higher maximum power density. For light polarized perpendicular to the polarizer's transmission axis, the max power density is 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> , while for light polarized parallel



			to the polarizer's transmission axis, the max power density is 100 W/cm .
Wire Grid (W)		25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW)	Wire Grid Polarizers are used in our mid-IR isolators. They consist of a linearly spaced wire grid pattern that is deposited onto an AR-coated silicon substrate.
Polarizing Beamsplitter (PBS)		13 - 50 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW)	Polarizing Beamsplitter Cubes are commonly used in low-power applications and feature an escape window useful for monitoring or injection locking.
α-BBO Glan-Laser (GLB)		100 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW)	Thorlabs' α-BBO Glan-Laser polarizers are all based on high-grade, birefringent, α-BBO crystals with a wavelength range of 210 - 450 nm. Due to the birefringent structure of α-BBO, a phase delay is created between two orthogonally polarized waves traveling in the crystal. These are similar to the High Power (HP) polarizers, but have a different escape angle.
Low Power (LP)		250 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW) 25 MW/cm <sup>2</sup> (Pulsed)	Our Low Power Polarizers are Glan-type, crystal polarizers, providing high transmission and power densities at the expense of a larger package than Very Low Power (VLP) and Polarizing Beamsplitter (PBS) polarizers.
Medium Power (MP)		100 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW) 50 MW/cm <sup>2</sup> (Pulsed)	Medium Power Polarizers are Glan-type, crystal polarizers, capable of handling higher powers. The rejected beam is internally scattered, which reduces the maximum power density, but also eliminates a stray beam from the setup.
High Power (HP)		500 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW) 150 MW/cm <sup>2</sup> (Pulsed)	High Power Polarizers are Glan-type, crystal polarizers, similar in size and transmission to Medium Power (MP) polarizers, but capable of handling higher powers. They feature an escape window suited for injection locking.
Yttrium Orthovanadate (YV)		25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW)	YV polarizers are similar to the Medium Power (MP) Glan-type crystal polarizers; however, by using yttrium orthovanadate (YVO <sub>4</sub> ) rather than calcite, YV polarizers can accommodate wavelengths in the 2.0 - 3.4 μm range. The rejected beam is internally scattered, which reduces the maximum power density, but also eliminates a stray beam from the setup.
Very High Power (VHP)		20 kW/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW) 2 GW/cm <sup>2</sup> (Pulsed)	Our Very High Power Polarizers are based on Brewster windows and feature the highest power handling possible. These polarizers have larger packages than HP-based designs, but are also more economical. All VHP-based designs also feature escape windows.

[Hide Isolator Tutorial](#)

## ISOLATOR TUTORIAL

### Optical Isolator Tutorial

#### Function

An optical isolator is a passive magneto-optic device that only allows light to travel in one direction. Isolators are used to protect a source from back reflections or signals that may occur after the isolator. Back reflections can damage a laser source or cause it to mode hop, amplitude modulate, or frequency shift. In high-power applications, back reflections can cause instabilities and power spikes.

An isolator's function is based on the Faraday Effect. In 1842, Michael Faraday discovered that the plane of polarized light rotates while transmitting through glass (or other materials) that is exposed to a magnetic field. The direction of rotation is dependent on the direction of the magnetic field and not on the direction of light propagation; thus, the rotation is non-reciprocal. The amount of rotation  $\beta$  equals  $V \times B \times d$ , where  $V$ ,  $B$ , and  $d$  are as defined below.

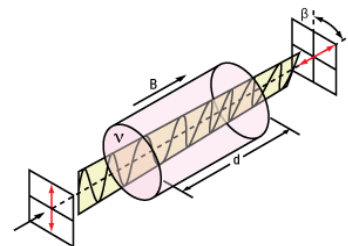
#### Faraday Rotation

$$\beta = V \times B \times d$$

**V:** the Verdet Constant, a property of the optical material, in radians/T • m.

**B:** the magnetic flux density in teslas.

**d:** the path length through the optical material in meters.



**Figure 1.** Faraday Rotator's Effect on Linearly Polarized Light

An optical isolator consists of an input polarizer, a Faraday rotator with magnet, and an output polarizer. The input polarizer works as a filter to allow only

linearly polarized light into the Faraday rotator. The Faraday element rotates the input light's polarization by  $45^\circ$ , after which it exits through another linear polarizer. The output light is now rotated by  $45^\circ$  with respect to the input signal. In the reverse direction, the Faraday rotator continues to rotate the light's polarization in the same direction that it did in the forward direction so that the polarization of the light is now rotated  $90^\circ$  with respect to the input signal. This light's polarization is now perpendicular to the transmission axis of the input polarizer, and as a result, the energy is either reflected or absorbed depending on the type of polarizer.

## Polarization-Dependent Isolators

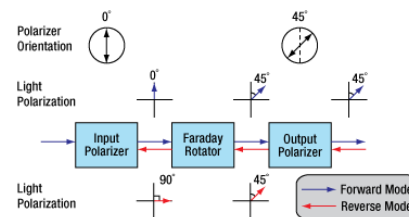
### The Forward Mode

In this example, we will assume that the input polarizer's axis is vertical ( $0^\circ$  in Figure 2). Laser light, either polarized or unpolarized, enters the input polarizer and becomes vertically polarized. The Faraday rotator will rotate the plane of polarization (POP) by  $45^\circ$  in the positive direction. Finally, the light exits through the output polarizer which has its axis at  $45^\circ$ . Therefore, the light leaves the isolator with a POP of  $45^\circ$ .

In a dual-stage isolator, the light exiting the output polarizer is sent through a second Faraday rotator followed by an additional polarizer in order to achieve greater isolation than a single-stage isolator.

### The Reverse Mode

Light traveling backwards through the isolator will first enter the output polarizer, which polarizes the light at  $45^\circ$  with respect to the input polarizer. It then passes through the Faraday rotator rod, and the POP is rotated another  $45^\circ$  in the positive direction. This results in a net rotation of  $90^\circ$  with respect to the input polarizer, and thus, the POP is now perpendicular to the transmission axis of the input polarizer. Hence, the light will either be reflected or absorbed.



**Figure 2.** A single-stage, polarization-dependent isolator. Light propagating in the reverse direction is rejected by the input polarizer.

## Polarization-Independent Fiber Isolators

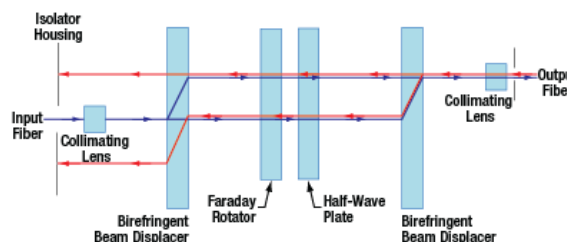
### The Forward Mode

In a polarization independent fiber isolator, the incoming light is split into two branches by a birefringent crystal (see Figure 3). A Faraday rotator and a half-wave plate rotate the polarization of each branch before they encounter a second birefringent crystal aligned to recombine the two beams.

In a dual-stage isolator, the light then travels through an additional Faraday rotator, half-wave plate, and birefringent beam displacer before reaching the output collimating lens. This achieves greater isolation than the single-stage design.

### The Reverse Mode

Back-reflected light will encounter the second birefringent crystal and be split into two beams with their polarizations aligned with the forward mode light. The Faraday rotator is a non-reciprocal rotator, so it will cancel out the rotation introduced by the half wave plate for the reverse mode light. When the light encounters the input birefringent beam displacer, it will be deflected away from the collimating lens and into the walls of the isolator housing, preventing the reverse mode from entering the input fiber.



**Figure 3.** A single-stage, polarization-independent isolator. Light is deflected away from the input path and stopped by the housing. [Click for Details](#)

## General Information

### Damage Threshold

With 25 years of experience and 5 U.S. patents, our isolators typically have higher transmission and isolation than other isolators, and are smaller than other units of equivalent aperture. For visible to YAG laser Isolators, Thorlabs' Faraday Rotator crystal of choice is TGG (terbium-gallium-garnet), which is unsurpassed in terms of optical quality, Verdet constant, and resistance to high laser power. Thorlabs' TGG Isolator rods have been damage tested to  $22.5 \text{ J/cm}^2$  at 1064 nm in 15 ns pulses ( $1.5 \text{ GW/cm}^2$ ), and to  $20 \text{ kW/cm}^2$  CW. However, Thorlabs does not bear responsibility for laser power damage that is attributed to hot spots in the beam.

### Magnet

The magnet is a major factor in determining the size and performance of an isolator. The ultimate size of the magnet is not simply determined by magnetic field strength but is also



influenced by the mechanical design. Many Thorlabs magnets are not simple one piece magnets but are complex assemblies. Thorlabs' modeling systems allow optimization of the many parameters that affect size, optical path length, total rotation, and field uniformity. Thorlabs' US Patent 4,856,878 describes one such design that is used in several of the larger aperture isolators for YAG lasers. Thorlabs emphasizes that a powerful magnetic field exists around these Isolators, and thus, steel or magnetic objects should not be brought closer than 5 cm.

### Temperature

The magnets and the Faraday rotator materials both exhibit a temperature dependence. Both the magnetic field strength and the Verdet Constant decrease with increased temperature. For operation greater than  $\pm 10$  °C beyond room temperature, please contact Technical Support.

### Pulse Dispersion

Pulse broadening occurs anytime a pulse propagates through a material with an index of refraction greater than 1. This dispersion increases inversely with the pulse width and therefore can become significant in ultrafast lasers.

$\tau$ : Pulse Width Before Isolator

$\tau_{(z)}$ : Pulse Width After Isolator

Example:

$t = 197$  fs results in  $t_{(z)} = 306$  fs (pictured to the right)

$t = 120$  fs results in  $t_{(z)} = 186$  fs

Dispersion Measurement of Isolator IO-5-780-HP

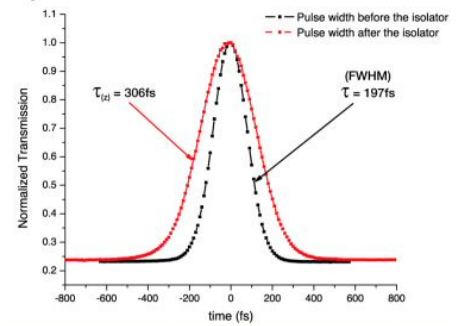
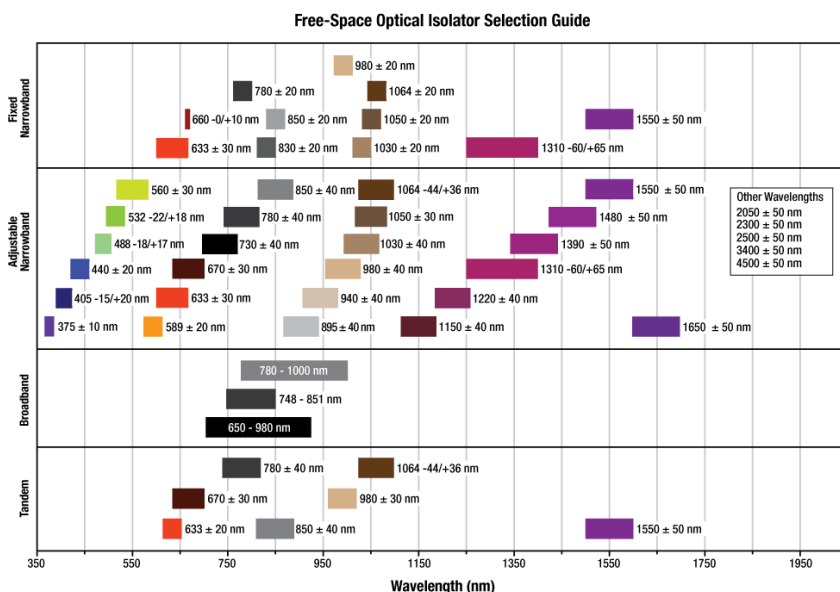


Figure 4. Pulse Dispersion Measurements Before and After an IO-5-780-HP Isolator

[Hide Isolator Guide](#)

## ISOLATOR GUIDE

The following selection guide contains all of Thorlabs' Free-Space Optical Isolators. Click the colored bars below to see specifications and options for each wavelength range and isolator type. Please note that Thorlabs also offers fiber optical isolators and custom optical isolators.



[Hide 1064 nm Polarization-Dependent Isolators, Low Power](#)

## 1064 nm Polarization-Dependent Isolators, Low Power

Click Image for Details					
Item #	IO-D-1064-VLP <sup>a,b</sup>	IO-2.5-1064-VLP <sup>b,c</sup>	IO-3D-1064-VLP <sup>b</sup>	IO-5-1064-VLP <sup>d</sup>	IOT-5-1064-VLP <sup>d</sup>
Type	Fixed Narrowband	Fixed Narrowband	Fixed Narrowband	Adjustable Narrowband	Tandem Adjustable Narrowband
Center Wavelength	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm
Tuning Range	N/A	N/A	N/A	1042 - 1087 nm	1042 - 1087 nm
Operating Range	1058 - 1084 nm	1058 - 1084 nm	1044 - 1084 nm	1020 - 1100 nm	1020 - 1100 nm
Transmission	75%	75%	92%	92%	85%
Isolation	36 dB (Min) 40 dB (Typ.)	34 dB (Min) 40 dB (Typ.)	38 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	35 dB (Min)	55 dB (Min)
Performance Graph (Click for Details)					
Max Beam Diameter <sup>e</sup>	1.6 mm	2.3 mm	2.7 mm	4.7 mm	4.7 mm
Max Power <sup>f</sup>	200 mW	300 mW	700 mW	1.7 W	1.7 W
Max Power Density	10 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	10 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	Blocking: <sup>g</sup> 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> Transmission: <sup>g</sup> 100 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	Blocking: <sup>g</sup> 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> Transmission: <sup>g</sup> 100 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	Blocking: <sup>g</sup> 25 W/cm <sup>2</sup> Transmission: <sup>g</sup> 100 W/cm <sup>2</sup>
Compatible Mounting Adapters <sup>h</sup>	N/A		CP36 SM1RC <sup>i</sup> (SM1RC/M) SM1TC SM2A21	SM3B2 C2RC (C2RC/M)	

- <sup>a</sup>The input aperture is in the black end of the cylinder, while the output aperture is in the gold end of the cylinder.
- <sup>b</sup>This isolator can be supplied in an optic mount with twin steel dowel pins for our FiberBench systems by contacting Tech Support prior to ordering.
- <sup>c</sup>The mounting saddle contains an 8-32 tap. For an M4-threaded saddle, please contact Tech Support prior to ordering.
- <sup>d</sup>The housing of this isolator cannot be freely rotated in its saddle. However, tapped holes in the housing allow the isolator to be mounted with the polarization axis either parallel or perpendicular to the base of the mount. If you require free rotation for your setup, consider using an SM3B2 or C2RC (C2RC/M) adapter (see below for details).
- <sup>e</sup>Defined as containing 100% of the beam energy.
- <sup>f</sup>The maximum power specification represents the maximum power for the combined forward and reverse directions. Therefore, the sum of the powers in the forward and reverse directions cannot exceed the maximum power specification.
- <sup>g</sup>The blocking power density corresponds to light polarized perpendicular to the transmission axis, while the transmission power density corresponds to light polarized parallel to the transmission axis.
- <sup>h</sup>Please see below for further details.
- <sup>i</sup>One SM1RC with an 8-32 tap is included with this isolator. For an SM1RC/M with an M4 tap, please contact Tech Support prior to ordering.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
IO-D-1064-VLP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø1.6 mm Max Beam, 200 mW Max	\$502.10	Today
IO-5-1064-VLP	Customer Inspired!&nbsp;Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø4.7 mm Max Beam, 1.7 W Max	\$2,157.75	Today
IOT-5-1064-VLP	Free-Space Tandem Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø4.7 mm Max Beam, 1.7 W Max	\$3,872.90	Today
IO-2.5-1064-VLP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø2.3 mm Max Beam, 300 mW Max	\$752.08	Today
IO-3D-1064-VLP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø2.7 mm Max Beam, 700 mW Max	\$1,809.30	Today

[Hide 1064 nm Polarization-Dependent Isolators, High Power](#)

## 1064 nm Polarization-Dependent Isolators, High Power

--	--	--	--	--	--

Click Image for Details						
<b>Item #</b>	IO-3-1064-HP <sup>a</sup>	IO-3-1064-VHP <sup>a</sup>	IO-5-1064-HP <sup>b</sup>	IO-5-1064-VHP <sup>b</sup>	IO-8-1064-HP <sup>b</sup>	IO-10-1064-VHP <sup>b</sup>
<b>Type</b>	Adjustable Narrowband	Fixed Narrowband	Adjustable Narrowband	Fixed Narrowband	Adjustable Narrowband	Fixed Narrowband
<b>Center Wavelength</b>	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm	1064 nm
<b>Tuning Range</b>	1042 - 1087 nm	N/A	1042 - 1087 nm	N/A	1042 - 1087 nm	N/A
<b>Operating Range</b>	1020 - 1100 nm	1059 - 1069 nm <sup>c</sup>	1020 - 1100 nm	1059 - 1069 nm <sup>c</sup>	1020 - 1100 nm	1059 - 1069 nm <sup>c</sup>
<b>Transmission</b>	93%	91%	93%	91%	90%	92%
<b>Isolation</b>	38 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	35 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	38 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	35 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	35 dB (Min) 44 dB (Typ.)	33 dB (Min) 40 dB (Typ.)
<b>Performance Graph</b> (Click for Details)						
<b>Max Beam Diameter<sup>d</sup></b>	2.7 mm	2.7 mm	4.7 mm	4.7 mm	7 mm	9 mm
<b>Max Power<sup>e</sup></b>	15 W	30 W	60 W	100 W	75 W	200 W
<b>Max Power Density</b>	500 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	20 kW/cm <sup>2</sup>	500 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	20 kW/cm <sup>2</sup>	500 W/cm <sup>2</sup>	20 kW/cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Compatible Mounting Adapters<sup>f</sup></b>	CP36 SM1RC <sup>g</sup> (SM1RC/M) SM1TC SM2A21		SM3B2 C2RC (C2RC/M)			

- ~~at~~This isolator has two exit ports for rejected beams. Adequate beam traps should be selected and positioned to ensure safety.
- ~~at~~The housing of this isolator cannot be freely rotated in its saddle. However, tapped holes in the housing allow the isolator to be mounted with the polarization axis either parallel or perpendicular to the base of the mount. If you require free rotation for your setup, consider using an SM3B2 or C2RC (C2RC/M) adapter (see below for details).
- ~~at~~The IO-3-1064-VHP, IO-5-1064-VHP, and IO-10-1064-VHP are Fixed Narrowband Isolators for use at 1064 nm. For operation centered at 1053 nm, please contact us prior to ordering.
- ~~at~~Defined as containing 100% of the beam energy.
- ~~at~~The maximum power specification represents the maximum power for the combined forward and reverse directions. Therefore, the sum of the powers in the forward and reverse directions cannot exceed the maximum power specification.
- ~~at~~Please see below for further details.
- \* ~~at~~One SM1RC with an 8-32 tap is included with each of these isolators. For an SM1RC/M with an M4 tap, please contact Tech Support prior to ordering.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
IO-5-1064-HP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø4.7 mm Max Beam, 60 W Max	\$2,694.47	Lead Time
IO-5-1064-VHP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø4.7 mm Max Beam, 100 W Max	\$2,722.61	Today
IO-8-1064-HP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø7 mm Max Beam, 75 W Max	\$3,995.18	Today
IO-10-1064-VHP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø9 mm Max Beam, 200 W Max	\$5,184.42	Today
IO-3-1064-HP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø2.7 mm Max Beam, 15 W Max	\$2,097.14	Today
IO-3-1064-VHP	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø2.7 mm Max Beam, 30 W Max	\$1,853.67	Today

[Hide 1064 nm Polarization-Independent Isolator](#)

## 1064 nm Polarization-Independent Isolator

Click Image to Enlarge	
Item #	IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB
Type	Fixed Narrowband
Center Wavelength	1064 nm
Tuning Range	N/A
Bandwidth (25 dB)	1054 - 1074 nm
Max Beam Diameter <sup>a</sup>	1.2 mm
Transmission	93%
Isolation	25 dB (Min) 33 dB (Typ.)
Max Power <sup>b</sup>	30 W (CW) 10 kW (Peak)
Max Power Density	1320 W/cm <sup>2</sup> (CW)

- ▶ Polarization Independent
- ▶ Compact Housing: 71.1 mm x 31.8 mm x 32.6 mm (L x W x H)
- ▶ Based on Fiber Isolator Design

The IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB is a polarization-independent isolator that is based on a fiber-coupled isolator design. Unlike the other free-space isolators on this page, its transmission and isolation do not depend on the input polarization. This makes the isolator ideal for applications where the polarization state is indeterminate or variable.

This isolator is excellent for system development projects where new fiber optic systems are being built and tested. The polarization-independent nature of the isolator allows users to experiment with different collimators and couplers as power levels increase in the fiber optic system.

Please see our Nd:YAG Fiber Optic Isolators web page for our fiber-to-free-space isolators.

- <sup>a</sup>Defined as containing 100% of the beam energy.
- <sup>b</sup>The maximum power specification represents the maximum power for the combined forward and reverse directions. Therefore, the sum of the powers in the forward and reverse directions cannot exceed the maximum power specification.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
IO-1.2PI-1064-PBB	Free-Space Isolator, 1064 nm, Ø1.2 mm Max Beam, 30 W Max	\$2,219.42	Lead Time

[Hide Isolator Mounting Adapters](#)

## Isolator Mounting Adapters

These adapters provide mechanical compatibility between our isolator bodies and SM1 (1.035"-40) lens tubes, SM2 (2.035"-40) lens tubes, SM3 (3.035"-40) lens tubes, 30 mm cage systems, Ø1/2" posts, Ø1" posts, and our FiberBench systems.

Click Image to Enlarge						
Item #	CP36	SM1RC(M)	SM1TC	SM2A21	SM3B2	C2RC(M)
Isolator Diameter	1.2"	1.2"	1.2"	1.2"	2.0"	2.0"
Mounting Options	30 mm Cage Systems	Ø1/2" Posts	Ø1/2" Posts	SM2 Lens Tubes or Mechanics with Ø2" Bore	SM3 Lens Tubes	Ø1/2" Posts or Ø1" Posts
Compatible Isolators	IO-3D-1064-VLP IO-3-1064-VLP IO-3-1064-VHP			IO-5-1064-VLP IO-5-1064-VLP IO-5-1064-HP IO-5-1064-VHP IO-8-1064-HP IO-10-1064-VHP		



Click for Details  
IO-5-532-HP Mounted  
in CP36 30 mm Cage  
Plate

The **Limited STOCK**  
SM3B2  
will be retired without replacement when stock is depleted. If you require this part for line production, please contact our OEM Team.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
SM1RC/M	Slip Ring for SM1 Lens Tubes and C-Mount Extension Tubes,M4 Tap	\$25.10	Today
C2RC/M	Slip Ring for Ø2" (Ø50.8 mm) Components, M4 Tap	\$40.86	Today
CP36	30 mm Cage Plate, Ø1.2" Double Bore for SM1 and C-Mount Lens Tubes	\$22.07	Today
SM1TC	Clamp for SM1 Lens Tubes and C-Mount Extension Tubes	\$45.72	Today
SM2A21	Externally SM2-Threaded Mounting Adapter with Ø1.20" (Ø30.5 mm) Bore and 2" Outer Diameter	\$48.97	Today
SM3B2	Ø2.0" Isolator to SM3 Adapter	\$38.95	Today
SM1RC	Slip Ring for SM1 Lens Tubes and C-Mount Extension Tubes,8-32 Tap	\$25.10	Today
C2RC	Slip Ring for Ø2" (Ø50.8 mm) Components, 8-32 Tap	\$40.86	Today



THORLABS

TP00643258

10-1.2PI-1064-PBB