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**Human/Insect Lens Adds Depth to Wide-Angle Views**

A new lens that combines the focusing ability of the human eye with an insect's wide-angle view could help make a confocal microscope with no moving parts, or improve surgical imaging.

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**Holograms Enabled by \$10 Optical Chip**

An optical chip built by an MIT graduate student at a cost of \$10 could be a "game changer" for holography, enhancing the resolution of conventional 2-D displays and enabling color holographic videos suitable for 3-D television.

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**A faster, more accurate way of characterizing cube beamsplitters using the Agilent Cary 7000 Universal Measurement Spectrophotometer (UMS)**

Cube beamsplitters (CBS) are critical optical components that have a wide variety of uses in consumer products, high-tech micro positioning equipment, and fiber optic based telecommunication systems. This application note describes in situ, automated and unattended, transmission, reflection and absorbance measurements of CBS using an Agilent Cary 7000 Universal Measurement Spectrophotometer (UMS). Spectral information obtained is shown to provide useful insight for optical engineers at the design phase, and provide QA/QC departments better control metrics during final testing; all obtained at highly productive rates amenable to routine volume analysis demands.

[Read Application Note >>](#)

**Wafer-Scale Micro-Optics Fulfill Promise**

Early inventions in the field of planar diffractive and refractive micro-optics date back more than a century. In 1891, Gabriel Lippmann invented "interference color photography," later called Lippmann holograms. This invention was made without lasers and long before Dennis Gabor invented holography in 1948. Lippmann also invented "integral photography," an autostereoscopic method to display 3-D images for observation with the naked eye.

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**Nanostructured Holograms Control Light's Intensity, Phase, Polarization**

By combining cutting-edge nanotechnology with holograms, applied physicists at Harvard demonstrated a novel way for changing the intensity, phase and polarization of light rays.

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**'Plasmofluidic' Lens is Tunable, Reconfigurable**

Laser-induced bubbles on a metal film are the first demonstration of a plasmonic lens in a microfluidic environment, report engineers at Pennsylvania State University. The unique integration of plasmonics and microfluidics could help in developing multifunctional plasmonic elements, highly sensitive biomedical detection systems, and on-chip, all-optical information processing.

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