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LTC100-A - November 13, 2017

Item # LTC100-A was discontinued on November 13, 2017. For informational purp[oses, this is a copy of the](https://www.thorlabs.com/newgrouppage9.cfm?objectgroup_id=2437) website content at that time and is valid only for the stated product.

COMPLETE LASER DIODE OPERATION STARTER SET

- **Bundles LD Controller, TEC Controller, LD Mount, Collimation Optic, and Accessories ►**
- ► Ideal for Stable and Safe Operation of Standard Laser Diodes

[Hide Overview](javascript:;)

OVERVIEW

Included Items:

- Benchtop LD Current Controller ±500 mA HV: [LDC205C](https://www.thorlabs.com/NewGroupPage9.cfm?ObjectGroup_ID=10)
- Benchtop Temperature Controller, ±2 A / 12 W: [TED200C](https://www.thorlabs.com/NewGroupPage9.cfm?ObjectGroup_ID=307)
- TEC LD Mount: [TCLDM9](https://www.thorlabs.com/NewGroupPage9.cfm?ObjectGroup_ID=308)
- All Connection Cables
- Spanner Wrench for M9 x 0.5 Housing: SPW301
- Spanner Wrench for SM1 Adapters: SPW909
- TR Series Post: TR3
- Post Holder for TR Series Post: PH3
- Mounting Base: BA2
- Optic Adapter: S1TM09
- Locking Nut: SM1NT
- Grounding Wrist Strap: WS02
- AR-Coated Collimation Optic
	- For 350 700 nm: C230TMD-A
	- For 600 1050 nm: C230TMD-B
	- For 1050 1700 nm: C230TMD-C

The LTC100 Series is a complete laser diode and temperature controller set including mount, optic and accessories. It combines the benchtop LD Current Controller [LDC205C](https://www.thorlabs.com/NewGroupPage9.cfm?ObjectGroup_ID=10) and the benchtop Temperature Controller [TED200C](https://www.thorlabs.com/NewGroupPage9.cfm?ObjectGroup_ID=307) and other required items for a stable and safe operation of standard laser diodes.

The kit is offered in three versions depending of the anti-reflection coating of the collimation optic: LTC100-A for 350 - 700 nm, LTC100-B for 600 - 1050 nm, and LTC100-C for 1050 - 1700 nm. For detailed information about the components, please see the links to the product pages of the components list above. Each unit ships with two cables, one for the temperature controller (CAB420-15) and one for the laser diode controller (CAB400). Although all necessary cables are packaged with the purchase of the controllers and starter sets presented above, replacements can be purchased separately. A mounting flange for use with DPSS laser diodes is also available separately below (item # TCLDM9DJ).

The TED200C and LDC205C operate with a line voltage of 100, 115, or 230 VAC. These sets are shipped with imperial mounting posts and holders. The mounting base is compatible with both imperial and metric systems. If you prefer metric posts and holders please contact our [Tech Support Team.](mailto:techsupport@thorlabs.com)

[Hide Controller Specs](javascript:;)

CONTROLLER SPECS

Femperature Control data for thermistors are given in Ω since the controlled parameter is the resistance, not the temperature

- Due to the nonlinear conversion from Ω to °C the stability in °C depends on the operating conditions and the characteristics of the thermistor. E.g. for a typical thermistor at a set point of 10kΩ (25°C), a 0.5Ω stability translates into about 1mK temperature stability. At a set point of 5kΩ (38°C), the stability is about 2mK.

All technical data valid at 23 ± 5 °C and 45 ± 15 % rel. humidity

[Hide Diode Mount Specs](javascript:;)

[Hide Front & Back Panel](javascript:;)

FRONT & BACK PANEL

LDC Front Panel

LDC Back Panel

TED200C Front Panel

Limit Setting **Knob**

TED200C Back Panel

[Hide Pin Diagrams](javascript:;)

PIN DIAGRAMS

TED200C - Benchtop Temperature Controller

Temperature Sensor and Controller

Laser Diode Connector

9

6 Female 9 Pin Connector

Analog Temperature Control Input Analog Temperature Control Output BNC Female

LDC205C - Benchtop LD Current Controller

TCLDM9 Laser Diode Mount

LD Driver: D-Type Female

*AG stands for Anode Ground

**CG stands for Cathode Ground

TEC Controller: D-Type Male

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Optional Remote Interlock

2.5 mm Female Mono Phono Jack

RF Laser Modulation Input*

*RF input for modulation with an external source up to 500 MHz. This is a 50 Ω input that is AC-couples directly to the laser through a Bias-Tee network.

[Hide PID Tutorial](javascript:;)

PID TUTORIAL

PID Basics

The PID circuit is often utilized as a control loop feedback controller and is very commonly used for many forms of servo circuits. The letters making up the acronym PID correspond to Proportional (P), Integral (I), and Derivative (D), which represents the three control settings of a PID circuit. The purpose of any servo circuit is to hold the system at a predetermined value (set point) for long periods of time. The PID circuit actively controls the system so as to hold it at the set point by generating an error signal that is essentially the difference between the set point and the current value. The three controls relate to the timedependent error signal; at its simplest, this can be thought of as follows: Proportional is dependent upon the present error, Integral is dependent upon the accumulation of past error, and Derivative is the prediction of future error. The results of each of the controls are then fed into a weighted sum, which then adjusts the output of the circuit, u(t). This output is fed into a control device, its value is fed back into the circuit, and the process is allowed to actively stabilize the circuit's output to reach and hold at the set point value. The block diagram below illustrates very simply the action of a PID circuit. One or more of the controls can be utilized in any servo circuit depending on system demand and requirement (i.e., P, I, PI, PD, or PID).

Through proper setting of the controls in a PID circuit, relatively quick response with minimal overshoot (passing the set point value) and ringing (oscillation about the set point value) can be achieved. Let's take as an example a temperature servo, such as that for temperature stabilization of a laser diode. The PID circuit will ultimately servo the current to a Thermo Electric Cooler (TEC) (often times through control of the gate voltage on an FET). Under this example, the current is referred to as the Manipulated Variable (MV). A thermistor is used to monitor the temperature of the laser diode, and the voltage over the thermistor is used as the Process Variable (PV). The Set Point (SP) voltage is set to correspond to the desired temperature. The error signal, e(t), is then just the difference between the SP and PV. A PID controller will generate the error signal and then change the MV to reach the desired result. If, for instance, e(t) states that the laser diode is too hot, the circuit will allow more current to flow through the TEC (proportional control). Since proportional control is proportional to e(t), it may not cool the laser diode quickly enough. In that event, the circuit will further increase the amount of current through the TEC (integral control) by looking at the previous errors and adjusting the output in order to reach the desired value. As the SP is reached [e(t) approaches zero], the circuit will decrease the current through the TEC in anticipation of reaching the SP (derivative control).

Please note that a PID circuit will not guarantee optimal control. Improper setting of the PID controls can cause the circuit to oscillate significantly and lead to instability in control. It is up to the user to properly adjust the PID gains to ensure proper performance.

PID Theory

The output of the PID control circuit, u(t), is given as

$$
u(t) = MV(t) = K_p e(t) + K_i \int_0^t e(\tau) d\tau + K_d \frac{d}{dt} e(t)
$$

 K_p = Proportional Gain K_i = Integral Gain

where

 K_d = Derivative Gain

 $e(t) = SP - PV(t)$

From here we can define the control units through their mathematical definition and discuss each in a little more detail. Proportional control is proportional to the error signal; as such, it is a direct response to the error signal generated by the circuit:

$P = K_p e(t)$

Larger proportional gain results is larger changes in response to the error, and thus affects the speed at which the controller can respond to changes in the system. While a high proportional gain can cause a circuit to respond swiftly, too high a value can cause oscillations about the SP value. Too low a value and the circuit cannot efficiently respond to changes in the system.

Integral control goes a step further than proportional gain, as it is proportional to not just the magnitude of the error signal but also the duration of the error.

Integral control is highly effective at increasing the response time of a circuit along with eliminating the steady-state error associated with purely proportional control. In essence integral control sums over the previous error, which was not corrected, and then multiplies that error by K_i to produce the integral

response. Thus, for even small sustained error, a large aggregated integral response can be realized. However, due to the fast response of integral control, high gain values can cause significant overshoot of the SP value and lead to oscillation and instability. Too low and the circuit will be significantly slower in responding to changes in the system.

Derivative control attempts to reduce the overshoot and ringing potential from proportional and integral control. It determines how quickly the circuit is changing over time (by looking at the derivative of the error signal) and multiplies it by K_d to produce the derivative response.

$$
D = K_d \frac{d}{dt} e(t)
$$

Unlike proportional and integral control, derivative control will slow the response of the circuit. In doing so, it is able to partially compensate for the overshoot as well as damp out any oscillations caused by integral and proportional control. High gain values cause the circuit to respond very slowly and can leave one susceptible to noise and high frequency oscillation (as the circuit becomes too slow to respond quickly). Too low and the circuit is prone to overshooting the SP value. However, in some cases overshooting the SP value by any significant amount must be avoided and thus a higher derivative gain (along with lower proportional gain) can be used. The chart below explains the effects of increasing the gain of any one of the parameters independently.

Tuning

In general the gains of P, I, and D will need to be adjusted by the user in order to best servo the system. While there is not a static set of rules for what the values should be for any specific system, following the general procedures should help in tuning a circuit to match one's system and environment. In general a PID circuit will typically overshoot the SP value slightly and then quickly damp out to reach the SP value.

Manual tuning of the gain settings is the simplest method for setting the PID controls. However, this procedure is done actively (the PID controller turned on and properly attached to the system) and requires some amount of experience to fully integrate. To tune your PID controller manually, first the integral and derivative gains are set to zero. Increase the proportional gain until you observe oscillation in the output. Your proportional gain should then be set to roughly half this value. After the proportional gain is set, increase the integral gain until any offset is corrected for on a time scale appropriate for your system. If you increase this gain too much, you will observe significant overshoot of the SP value and instability in the circuit. Once the integral gain is set, the derivative gain can then be increased. Derivative gain will reduce overshoot and damp the system quickly to the SP value. If you increase the derivative gain too much, you will see large overshoot (due to the circuit being too slow to respond). By playing with the gain settings, you can maximize the performance of your PID circuit, resulting in a circuit that quickly responds to changes in the system and effectively damps out oscillation about the SP value.

While manual tuning can be very effective at setting a PID circuit for your specific system, it does require some amount of experience and understanding of PID circuits and response. The Ziegler-Nichols method for PID tuning offers a bit more structured guide to setting PID values. Again, you'll want to set the integral and derivative gain to zero. Increase the proportional gain until the circuit starts to oscillate. We will call this gain level K_{11} . The oscillation will have a period of P_{11} . Gains are for various control circuits are then given below in the chart.

[Hide Complete Laser Diode Operation Starter Set](javascript:;)

Complete Laser Diode Operation Starter Set

[Hide Additional Connector Cables](javascript:;)

Additional Connector Cables

[Hide Mounting Flange for DPSS Laser Diode](javascript:;)

Mounting Flange for DPSS Laser Diode

The TCLDM9DJ mounting flange is used to secure a [DPSS Laser Diode](https://www.thorlabs.com/newgrouppage9.cfm?objectgroup_id=5597) to the TCLDM9 laser diode temperature controlled mount. To use, remove the face plate of the TCLDM9 by removing the four corner-located 2-56 screws using a 5/64" hex driver. Remove the flange, either the one that comes already installed in the mount or one that has been installed later, by removing the two 2-56 x 3/8" cap screws and firmly pulling the flange out. Mount either the DJ532-10 or the DJ532-40 laser diode. Using the two 2-56 x 3/8" cap head screws provided with the flange, or with the mount itself, attach the flange to the mount. Replace the face plate, and the mount is ready for use (see photo to the right).

Please Note: This flange does not come with the TCLDM9 Temperature Controlled Laser Diode Mount.

