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NEWS

THE PYRAMIDS OF ZEISS

Carl Zeiss of Oberkochen, West Germany, has launched a new range of microscopes for scientific and industrial use. The five basic models are the Axioplan A and D, the Axiophot A and D and the Axiotron.

The Axioplan A and D can be used for observation in reflected and transmitted light and can be extended for incident-light fluorescence microscopy.

The Axiophot A and D models are photomicroscopes having two 35 mm cameras. A large format sheet-film camera for metallographic standard magnifications, a TV or a cine camera can be mounted on the instrument for simultaneous documentation. The photographic system is micro-processor controlled.

The Axiotron model has a wide working area and a large specimen stage, which make it very useful for wafer inspection in the semiconductor industry. Thermal influences are excluded by a cold light source with a fibre optic light guide. Other features include a motorised nosepiece, a lever to change between bright and dark fields and a large shield, which prevents dirt from falling into the working area. This microscope is also available as a wafer inspection station with automatic wafer loading and autofocus systems.

The performance of a microscope depends primarily on its optics. Zeiss has computed and designed a new infinity colour-corrected optics system. One main advantage of this 'infinity-corrected' system is that it is possible to include any number of opto-analytical accessories between the objective and the tube lens without the need for additional lenses. Also, about 56 per cent more information can be derived from the exceptionally wide field of view than from a normal field. The image seen through the eyepieces has no colour fringes and is visible to its very edges, even for spectacle wearers.

The microscopes have pyramid-shaped, modular design stands. All the components for microscopy and photography are integrated in the stand and are thus protected from external influences, damage and dust. The design ensures high mechanical and thermal stability. (*Chemistry in Britain*, Vol. 22, No. 4, April 1986, p. 299; The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN-01 4378656) (VEB Carl Zeiss JENA, Foreign Trade Division, DDR-6900 Jena, Carl Zeiss Str. 1).