

Features and Benefits

- Overclocked to 17 MHz readout**
Industry fastest frame rates; 56 fps full frame.
- EX2 Technology**
Extended QE response
- TE cooling to -100°C**
Critical for elimination of dark current detection limit
- Fringe Suppression**
Reduced etaloning in NIR
- OptAcquire**
Optimize the highly flexible iXon for different application requirements at the click of a button
- Count Convert**
Quantitatively capture and view data in electrons or incident photons. Real-time or post-processing
- Cropped Sensor Mode**
Specialised acquisition mode for continuous imaging with fastest possible temporal resolution. 595 fps with 128 x 128 ROI.
- RealGain™**
Absolute EMCCD gain selectable directly from a linear and quantitative scale
- EMCAL™**
Patented user-initiated self-recalibration of EM Gain
- Direct Data Access**
Camera Link output port to facilitate direct access to data for 'on the fly' processing.
- Spurious Noise Filters**
Intelligent algorithms to filter clock induced charge events from the background. Real time or post-processing
- iCam**
The market-leading exposure time fast-switching software
- UltraVac™ *1**
Critical for sustained vacuum integrity and to maintain unequalled cooling and QE performance, year after year
- Selectable amplifier outputs – EMCCD and conventional**
'2 in 1' flexibility. EMCCD for ultra-sensitivity at speed, conventional CCD for longer acquisitions
- Superior Baseline Clamp and EM stability**
Quantitative accuracy of dynamic measurements
- USB 2.0**
Universal plug and play capability
- Built-in C-mount compatible shutter**
Easy means to record reference dark images



The market leading back-illuminated EMCCD, now over 60% faster.

The new iXon Ultra platform takes the popular back-illuminated 512 x 512 frame transfer sensor and overclocks readout to 17 MHz, pushing speed performance to an outstanding 56 fps (full frame), whilst maintaining single photon sensitivity and quantitative stability throughout. New EX2 technology offers extended Quantum Efficiency performance.

The iXon Ultra maintains all the advanced performance attributes that have defined the industry-leading iXon range, such as deep vacuum cooling to -100°C, extremely low spurious noise, and Andor's patented EM gain recalibration technology (EMCAL™). Count Convert functionality allows real time data acquisition in units of electrons or incident photons and OptAcquire facilitates one-click optimization of this versatile camera to a variety of application conditions.

Additional new features of the iXon Ultra include plug and play USB connectivity, a lower noise conventional CCD mode and an additional Camera Link output, offering the unique ability to directly access data for 'on the fly' processing, ideally suited to data intensive applications such as adaptive optics or super-resolution microscopy.

Specifications Summary

Active pixels	512 x 512
Pixel size (W x H)	16 x 16 µm
Active area pixel well depth	160,000 e ⁻
Gain register pixel well depth	800,000 e ⁻
Maximum readout rate	17 MHz
Frame rate	56 - 11,074 fps
Read noise	< 1 e ⁻ with EM gain
Maximum cooling	-100°C

System Specifications ^{*2}

Model number	897
Sensor QE options	EX2: Back illuminated, dual AR coated BV: Back illuminated, standard AR coated UVB: Back illuminated, standard AR with additional lumogen coating
Fringe Suppression	Available on EX2 and BV sensor options
Active pixels	512 x 512
Pixel size	16 x 16 μm
Image area	8.2 x 8.2 mm with 100% fill factor
Minimum temperature air cooled	-85°C
Coolant recirculator	-95°C
Coolant chiller, coolant @ 10°C, 0.75 l/min	-100°C
Thermostatic Precision	$\pm 0.01^\circ\text{C}$
Digitization	16 bit @ all readout speeds
Triggering	Internal, External, External Start, External Exposure, Software Trigger
System window type	Single window - AR coated or uncoated available
Blemish specification	Grade 1 sensor (CCD97), as defined by the sensor manufacturer e2V For further details see www.e2v.com
PC Interface	USB 2.0
Lens Mount	C-mount
Direct Data Access	Camera Link 3-tap output

Advanced Performance Specifications ^{*2}

Dark current and background events ^{*3,4}		
Dark current ($e^-/\text{pixel}/\text{sec}$) @ -85°C		0.001
Spurious background (events/pix) @ 1000x gain / -85°C		0.005
Active area pixel well depth		160,000 e^-
Gain register pixel well depth ^{*5}		800,000 e^-
Pixel readout rates	Electron Multiplying Amplifier Conventional Amplifier	17, 10, 5, 1 MHz 3, 1 & 0.08 MHz
Read noise (e^-) ^{*6}	Typical	With Electron Multiplication
17 MHz through EMCCD amplifier	98	< 1
10 MHz through EMCCD amplifier	66	< 1
5 MHz through EMCCD amplifier	36	< 1
1 MHz through EMCCD amplifier	15	< 1
1 MHz through conventional amplifier	6	-
80 kHz through conventional amplifier	3	-
Linear absolute Electron Multiplier gain	1 - 1000 times via RealGain™ (calibration stable at all cooling temperatures)	
Linearity ^{*7}	Better than 99%	
Vertical clock speed	0.3 to 3.3 μs (variable)	
Timestamp accuracy	10 ns	

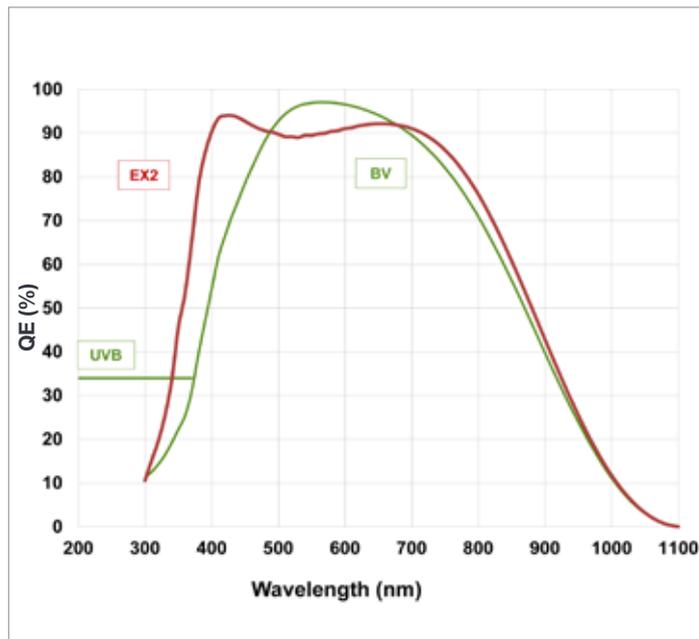
Frame Rates (Standard Mode) ^{*8}

Binning	Array size						
	512 x 512	256 x 256	128 x 128	64 x 64	512 x 100	512 x 32	512 x 1
1 x 1	56	110	212	397	277	704	2857
2 x 2	109	210	394	699	503	1136	-
4 x 4	206	385	680	1099	840	1613	-

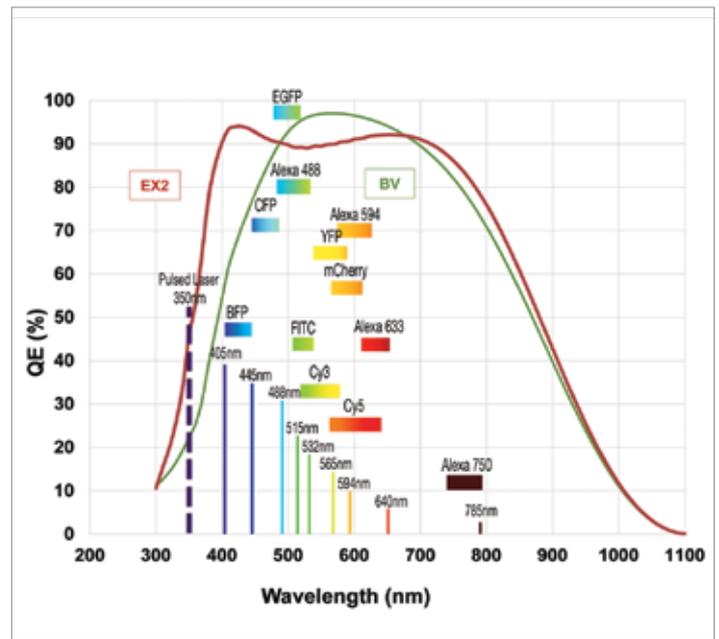
Frame Rates (Cropped Sensor Mode) ^{*8}

Binning	Array size						
	256 x 256	128 x 128	64 x 64	32 x 32	512 x 100	512 x 32	512 x 1
1 x 1	111	595	1433	3532	296	857	11074
2 x 2	215	1085	2433	5325	570	1589	-
4 x 4	402	1802	3577	6579	1050	2682	-

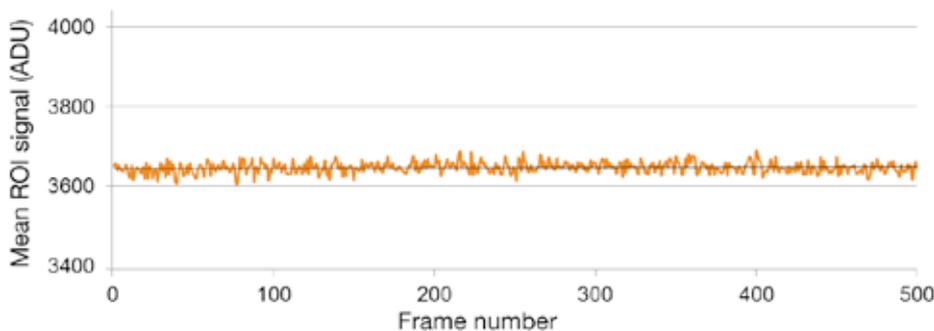
Quantum Efficiency Curves ^{*9}



QE v Fluorophores Curve



Stability Plot



EM Gain stability in the iXon Ultra 897 @ 55 fps.
500 frame kinetic series; frame transfer (overlapped)
acquisition; 17.8 ms exposure time; x300 EM gain.

Creating The Optimum Product for You

How to customize the iXon Ultra 897:

Step 1.

The iXon Ultra 897 comes with 5 options for sensor types. Please select the sensor which best suits your needs.

Step 2.

Please indicate alternative window option if required.

Step 3.

Please indicate which software you require.

Step 4.

For compatibility, please indicate which accessories are required.

DU-897U-CS0-**EXF**
example shown

Step 1.

Choose sensor finish option

#BV: Back-illuminated, standard AR coated
BVF: Back-illuminated, standard AR coated with fringe suppression
UVB: Back Illuminated, standard AR with additional lumogen coating

#EX: Back-illuminated, EX2 dual AR coated
EXF: Back-illuminated, EX2 dual AR coated with fringe suppression

Step 2.

(Optional)

The iXon Ultra 897 with #BV and BVF sensors are supplied with an AR coated Quartz window as standard, optimized for the 400 to 900 nm. The #EX, EXF and UVB sensors are supplied with an uncoated Quartz window.

The following **alternative** AR coated window choices are available and must be ordered at time of build (if selected):

WIN-35MM-400/900-W Quartz window, AR coated for 400-900 nm. 99% transmission at 600 nm
WIN-35MM-250/450-W Quartz window, AR coated for 250-450 nm. 97% transmission at 260 nm
WIN-35MM-600/1100-W Quartz window, AR coated for 600-1100 nm. 98% transmission at 1000 nm

Step 3.

The iXon Ultra requires at least one of the following software options:

Solis Imaging A 32-bit application compatible with 32 and 64-bit Windows (XP, Vista and 7) offering rich functionality for data acquisition and processing. AndorBasic provides macro language control of data acquisition, processing, display and export.

Andor SDK A software development kit that allows you to control the Andor range of cameras from your own application. Available as 32 and 64-bit libraries for Windows (XP, Vista and 7), compatible with C/C++, C#, Delphi, VB6, VB.NET, LabVIEW and Matlab. Linux SDK compatible with C/C++.

Andor iQ A comprehensive multi-dimensional imaging software package. Offers tight synchronization of EMCCD with a comprehensive range of microscopy hardware, along with comprehensive rendering and analysis functionality. Modular architecture for best price/performance package on the market.

Third party software compatibility

Drivers are available so that the iXon range can be operated through a large variety of third party imaging packages. See Andor web site for detail: andor.com/software

Step 4.

The following accessories are available:

OPTOMASK Optomask microscopy accessory, used to mask unwanted sensor area during Cropped Sensor mode acquisition.

XW-RECR Re-circulator for enhanced cooling performance

ACC-XW-CHIL-160 Oasis 160 Ultra compact chiller unit

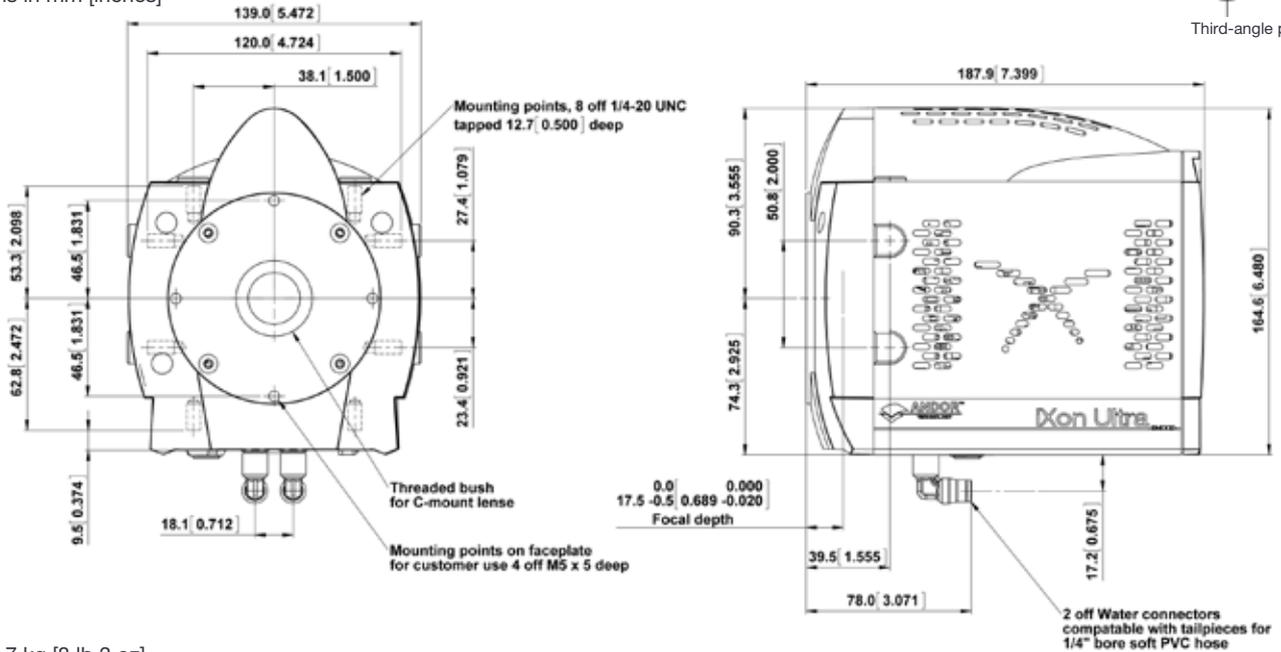
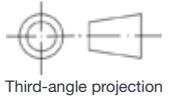
OA-CNAF C-mount to Nikon F-mount adapter

OA-COFM C-mount to Olympus adapter

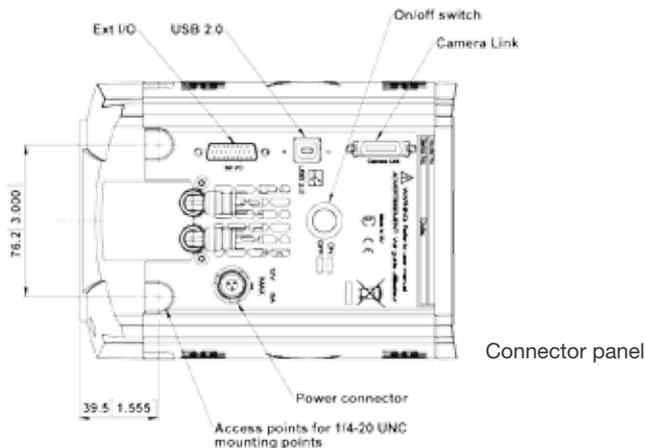
OA-CTOT C-mount to T-mount adapter

Product Drawings

Dimensions in mm [inches]



Weight: 3.7 kg [8 lb 3 oz]



Connecting to the iXon Ultra

Camera Control

Connector type: USB 2.0

TTL / Logic

Connector type: 26 way D Type with 8 programmable digital inputs or outputs for control and sensing of up to 8 external device

Camera Link Out

Base 3-tap output (MDR 26 connector). Used as a parallel output for embedded applications.

Minimum cable clearance required

90 mm

Typical Applications

Single molecule detection	Cell Motility
Super resolution (PALM, STORM)	Whole genome sequencing
TIRF microscopy	FRET / FRAP
Spinning disk confocal microscopy	Fluorescence Correlation Microscopy (multi-beam)
Vesicle trafficking	Microspectroscopy / Hyperspectral imaging
Selective/single plane illumination microscopy (SPIM)	Lucky astronomy
Ion signalling (Calcium flux)	Adaptive Optics
Voltage sensitive dyes	Single Photon Counting



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Items shipped with your camera:

- 1x Andor ACZ-03452: 2m Multi I/O timing cable, offering Fire, External Trigger, Shutter and Arm
- 1x 3m USB 2.0 cable Type A → Type B
- 1x Power supply with mains cable
- 1x Quick launch guide
- 1x CD containing Andor user manuals
- 1x Individual system performance booklet

Footnotes:

Specifications are subject to change without notice

1. Assembled in a state-of-the-art cleanroom facility, Andor's UltraVac™ vacuum process combines a permanent hermetic vacuum seal (no o-rings), with a stringent protocol to minimize outgassing, including use of proprietary materials.
2. Figures are typical unless otherwise stated.
3. The dark current measurement is averaged over the sensor area excluding any regions of blemishes.
4. Using Electron Multiplication the iXon is capable of detecting single photons, therefore the true camera detection limit is set by the number of 'dark' background events. These events consist of both residual thermally generated electrons and Clock Induced Charge (CIC) electrons (also referred to as Spurious Noise), each appearing as random single spikes above the read noise floor.
A thresholding scheme is employed to count these single electron events and is quoted as a probability of an event per pixel. Acquisition conditions are full resolution and max frame rate (17 MHz readout; frame-transfer mode; 0.5 μs vertical clock speed; x 1000 EM gain; 10 ms exposure; -85°C).
5. The EM register on CCD97 sensors has a linear response up to ~400,000 electrons max. and a full well depth of ~800,000 electrons max.
6. Readout noise is for the entire system. It is a combination of sensor readout noise and A/D noise. Measurement is for Single Pixel readout with the sensor at a temperature of -75°C and minimum exposure time under dark conditions. Under Electron Multiplying conditions, the effective system readout noise is reduced to sub 1 e⁻ levels.
7. Linearity is measured from a plot of counts vs. exposure time under constant photon flux up to the saturation point of the system.
8. All measurements are made at 17 MHz pixel readout speed with 0.3 μs vertical clock speed. It also assumes internal trigger mode of operation.
9. Quantum efficiency of the sensor at 20°C, as measured by the sensor Manufacturer.

Recommended Computer Requirements:

- 3.0 GHz single core or 2.6 GHz multi core processor
- 2 GB RAM
- 100 MB free hard disc to install software (at least 1 GB recommended for data spooling)
- USB 2.0 High Speed Host Controller capable of sustained rate of 40MB/s
- 10,000 rpm SATA hard drive preferred for extended kinetic series
- Windows (XP, Vista and 7) or Linux

Operating & Storage Conditions

Operating Temperature 0°C to 30°C ambient
Relative Humidity < 70% (non-condensing)
Storage Temperature -25°C to 50°C

Power Requirements

110 - 240 VAC, 50/60 Hz



LIXonU897SS 0612 R1