

## L520P120 - March 29, 2017

Item # L520P120 was discontinued on March 29, 2017. For informational purposes, this is a copy of the website content at that time and is valid only for the stated product.

### LASER DIODES: Ø3.8 MM, Ø5.6 MM, Ø9 MM, AND Ø9.5 MM TO CANS

- ▶ Ø3.8 mm, Ø5.6 mm, Ø9 mm, and Ø9.5 mm Laser Diodes
- ▶ Center Wavelengths Ranging from 375 to 1650 nm
- ▶ Output Powers from 5 mW to 2 W

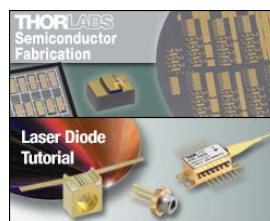


[Hide Overview](#)

## OVERVIEW

### Features

- Fabry-Perot (FP), Distributed Feedback (DFB), Volume Holographic Grating (VHG), and Diode-Pumped Solid-State (DPSS) Laser Diodes
- Output Powers from 5 mW to 2 W
- Center Wavelengths Available from 375 nm to 1650 nm
- Easily Choose a Compatible Mount Using Our LD Pin Codes
- Compatible with Thorlabs' Laser Diode and TEC Controllers



TO-packaged laser diodes are available in standard Ø3.8 mm, Ø5.6 mm, or Ø9 mm TO cans, as well as Ø9.5 mm cans. We have categorized the pin configurations into standard A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H pin codes (see the diagram below). This pin code allows the user to easily determine compatible mounts.

Some of our diodes that are offered in header packages can be converted to a sealed TO can package by request, as indicated in the tables below. Please contact Tech Support for details.

#### Notes on Center Wavelength

While the center wavelength is listed for each diode, this is only a typical number. The center wavelength of a particular diode varies from production run to production run. Thus, the diode you receive may not operate at the typical center wavelength. Diodes can be temperature tuned, which

#### Laser Diode Selection Guide<sup>a</sup>

##### Shop by Package / Type

TO Can (Ø3.8, Ø5.6, Ø9, and Ø9.5 mm)  
 TO Can Pigtail (SM)  
 TO Can Pigtail (PM)  
 TO Can Pigtail (MM)  
 FP Butterfly Package  
 FBG-Stabilized Butterfly Package  
 Chip on Submount  
 MIR Fabry-Perot Two-Tab C-Mount  
 One-Tab C-Mount

##### Single Frequency Lasers

DFB TO Can Pigtail (SM)  
 VHG-Stabilized TO Can or Pigtail (SM)  
 ECL Butterfly Package  
 DBR Butterfly Package  
 MIR DFB Two-Tab C-Mount  
 MIR DFB D-Mount  
 MIR DFB High Heat Load

##### Shop By Wavelength

will alter the lasing wavelength. A number of items below are listed as Wavelength Tested, which means that the dominant wavelength of each unit has been measured and recorded. For many of these items, after clicking "Choose Item" below, a list will appear that contains the dominant wavelength, output power, and operating current of each in-stock unit. Clicking on the red Docs Icon



Click to Enlarge  
Ø9 mm TO-Can Laser Diode Secured in Post-Mounted LM9F Holder

next to the serial number provides access to a PDF with serial-number-specific L-I-V and spectral characteristics. Customers may also contact Tech Support to select one of these diodes based on the tested wavelength if serial-number-specific information is not available below.



#### Spatial Mode and Linewidth

We offer laser diodes with different output characteristics (power, wavelength, beam size, shape, etc.). Most lasers offered here are single spatial mode (single mode, or SM) and a few are designed for higher-power, multi-spatial-mode (multimode, or MM)

operation. Some single mode laser diodes can be operated with limited single-longitudinal-mode characteristics. For better side mode suppression ratio (SMSR) performance, other devices such as DFB lasers, DBR lasers, or external cavity lasers should be considered. Please see our Laser Diode Tutorial for more information on these topics and laser diodes in general.

Laser diodes are sensitive to electrostatic shock. Please take the proper precautions when handling the device (see our electrostatic shock accessories). These lasers are also sensitive to optical feedback, which can cause significant fluctuations in the output power of the laser diode depending on the application. See our optical isolators for potential solutions to this problem. Members of our Tech Support staff are available to help you select a laser diode and to discuss possible operation issues.

- Our complete selection of laser diodes is available on the *LD Selection Guide* tab above.

Webpage Features	
	Clicking this icon opens a window that contains specifications and mechanical drawings.
	Clicking this icon allows you to download our standard support documentation.
<a href="#">Choose Item</a>	Clicking the words "Choose Item" opens a drop-down list containing all of the in-stock lasers around the desired center wavelength. The red icon next to the serial number then allows you to download L-I-V and spectral measurements for that serial-numbered device.

### Pin Codes



Laser Diode pin codes indicate which mounts and diodes are compatible. The drawings do not represent exact wiring diagrams.

For warranty information and the Thorlabs Life Support and Military Use Policy for laser diodes, please refer to the *LD Operation* tab.

[Hide Collimation Tutorial](#)

## COLLIMATION TUTORIAL

### Choosing a Collimation Lens for Your Laser Diode

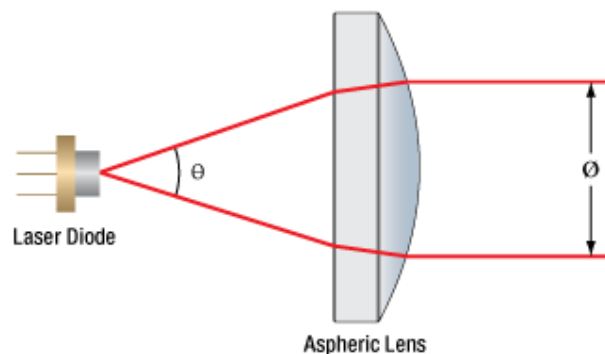
Since the output of a laser diode is highly divergent, collimating optics are necessary. Since aspheric lenses do not introduce spherical aberration, they are commonly chosen when the collimated laser beam is to be between one and five millimeters. A simple example will illustrate the key specifications to consider when choosing the correct lens for a given application.

Example:

Laser Diode to be Used: L780P010

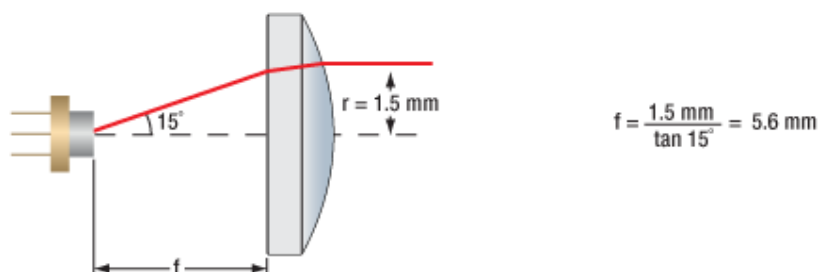
Desired Collimated Beam Diameter: Ø3 mm (Major Axis)

The specifications for the L780P010 laser diode indicate that the typical parallel and perpendicular FWHM beam divergences are 10° and 30°, respectively. Therefore, as the light diverges, an elliptical beam will result. To collect as much light as possible during the collimation process, consider the larger of these two divergence angles in any calculations (i.e., in this case use 30°). If you wish to convert your elliptical beam in to a round one, we suggest using an Anamorphic Prism Pair, which magnifies one axis of your beam.



$\varnothing$  = Beam Diameter     $\Theta$  = Divergence Angle

From the information above, the focal length of the lens can be determined, using the thin lens approximation:



With this information known, it is now time to choose the appropriate collimating lens. Thorlabs offers a large selection of aspheric lenses to choose from. For this application the ideal lens is a -B AR-coated molded glass aspheric lens with focal length near 5.6 mm. The C171TMD-B (mounted) or 354171-B (unmounted) aspheric lenses have a focal length of 6.20 mm, which will result in a collimated beam diameter (major axis) of 3.3 mm. Next, check to see if the numerical aperture (NA) of the diode is smaller than the NA of the lens:

$$0.30 = \text{NA}_{\text{Lens}} > \text{NA}_{\text{Diode}} \approx \sin(15^\circ) = 0.26$$

Up to this point, we have been using the FWHM beam diameter to characterize the beam. However, a better practice is to use the  $1/e^2$  beam diameter. For a Gaussian beam profile, the  $1/e^2$  diameter is almost equal to 1.7X the FWHM diameter. The  $1/e^2$  beam diameter therefore captures more of the laser diode's output light (for greater power delivery) and minimizes far-field diffraction (by clipping less of the incident light).

A good rule of thumb is to pick a lens with an NA twice of the NA of the laser diode. For example, either the A390-B or the A390TM-B could be used as these lenses each have an NA of 0.53, which is more than twice the approximate NA of our laser diode (0.26). Note that these lenses each have a focal length of 4.6 mm, resulting in an approximate major beam diameter of 2.5 mm.

[Hide LD Operation](#)

## LD OPERATION

### Laser Diode and Laser Diode Pigtail Warranty

When operated within their specifications, laser diodes have extremely long lifetimes. Most failures occur from mishandling or operating the lasers beyond their maximum ratings. Laser Diodes are among the most static-sensitive devices currently made. Proper ESD Protection should be worn whenever handling a laser diode. Due to their extreme electrostatic sensitivity, laser diodes cannot be returned after their sealed package has been open. Laser diodes in their original sealed package can be returned for a full refund or credit.

### Handling and Storage Precautions

Due to their extreme susceptibility to damage from electrostatic discharge (ESD), care should be taken whenever handling and operating laser diodes:

- Wrist Straps: Use grounded anti-static wrist straps whenever handling diodes.
- Anti-Static Mats: Always work on grounded anti-static mats.

- Laser Diode Storage: When not in use, short the leads of the laser together to protect against ESD damage.

## Operating and Safety Precautions

### Use an Appropriate Driver:

Laser diodes require precise control of operating current and voltage to avoid overdriving the laser diode. In addition, the laser driver should provide protection against power supply transients. Select a laser driver appropriate for your application. Do not use a voltage supply with a current limiting resistor since it does not provide sufficient regulation to protect the laser.

### Power Meters:

When setting up and calibrating a laser diode with its driver, use a NIST-traceable power meter to precisely measure the laser output. It is usually safest to measure the laser output directly before placing the laser in an optical system. If this is not possible, be sure to take all optical losses (transmissive, aperture stopping, etc.) into consideration when determining the total output of the laser.

### Reflections:

Flat surfaces in the optical system in front of a laser diode can cause some of the laser energy to reflect back onto the laser's monitor photodiode giving an erroneously high photodiode current. If optical components are moved within the system and energy is no longer reflected onto the monitor photodiode, a constant power feedback loop will sense the drop in photodiode current and try to compensate by increasing the laser drive current and possibly overdriving the laser. Back reflections can also cause other malfunctions or damage to laser diodes. To avoid this, be sure that all surfaces are angled 5-10°, and when necessary, use optical isolators to attenuate direct feedback into the laser.

### Heat Sinks:

Laser diode lifetime is inversely proportional to operating temperature. Always mount the laser in a suitable heat sink to remove excess heat from the laser package.

### Voltage and Current Overdrive:

Be careful not to exceed the maximum voltage and drive current listed on the specification sheet with each laser diode, even momentarily. Also, reverse voltages as little as 3 V can damage a laser diode.

### ESD Sensitive Device:

Currently operating lasers are susceptible to ESD damage. This is particularly aggravated by using long interface cables between the laser diode and its driver due to the inductance that the cable presents. Avoid exposing the laser or its mounting apparatus to ESDs at all times.

### ON/OFF and Power Supply Coupled Transients:

Due to their fast response times, laser diodes can be easily damaged by transients less than 1  $\mu$ s. High current devices such as soldering irons, vacuum pumps, and fluorescent lamps can cause large momentary transients. Thus, always use surge-protected outlets.

If you have any questions regarding laser diodes, please call your local Thorlabs Technical Support office for assistance.

## Life Support and Military Use Application Policy

Thorlabs' products are not authorized for use as critical components in life support devices or systems or in any military applications without the express written approval of the president of Thorlabs:

1. Life support devices or systems are devices or systems intended for either surgical implantation into the body or to sustain life and whose failure to perform, when properly used in accordance with instructions for use provided in the labeling, can be reasonably expected to result in a significant injury to the user.
2. A critical component is any component in a life support device or system whose failure to perform can be reasonably expected to cause the failure of the life support device or system or to affect its safety or effectiveness.
3. Thorlabs' laser diodes are not intended nor warranted for usage in Military Applications.

[Hide Laser Safety](#)

## L A S E R   S A F E T Y

### Laser Safety and Classification

Safe practices and proper usage of safety equipment should be taken into consideration when operating lasers. The eye is susceptible to injury, even from very low levels of laser light. Thorlabs offers a range of laser safety accessories that can be used to reduce the risk of accidents or injuries. Laser emission in the visible and near infrared spectral ranges has the greatest potential for retinal injury, as the cornea and lens are transparent to those wavelengths, and the lens can focus the laser energy onto the retina.

## Safe Practices and Light Safety Accessories




- Thorlabs recommends the use of safety eyewear whenever working with laser beams with non-negligible powers (i.e., > Class 1) since metallic tools such as screwdrivers can accidentally redirect a beam.
- Laser goggles designed for specific wavelengths should be clearly available near laser setups to protect the wearer from unintentional laser reflections.
- Goggles are marked with the wavelength range over which protection is afforded and the minimum optical density within that range.
- Laser Safety Curtains, Laser Barriers and Blackout Materials can prevent direct or reflected light from leaving the experimental setup area.
- Thorlabs' Enclosure Systems can be used to contain optical setups to isolate or minimize laser hazards.
- A fiber-pigtailed laser should always be turned off before connecting it to or disconnecting it from another fiber, especially when the laser is at power levels above 10 mW.
- All beams should be terminated at the edge of the table, and laboratory doors should be closed whenever a laser is in use.
- Do not place laser beams at eye level.
- Carry out experiments on an optical table such that all laser beams travel horizontally.
- Remove unnecessary reflective items such as reflective jewelry (e.g., rings, watches, etc.) while working near the beam path.
- Be aware that lenses and other optical devices may reflect a portion of the incident beam from the front or rear surface.
- Operate a laser at the minimum power necessary for any operation.
- If possible, reduce the output power of a laser during alignment procedures.
- Use beam shutters and filters to reduce the beam power.
- Post appropriate warning signs or labels near laser setups or rooms.
- Use laser sign lightboxes if operating Class 3R or 4 lasers (i.e., lasers requiring the use of a safety interlock).
- Do not use Laser Viewing Cards in place of a proper Laser Barrier or Beam Trap.



## Laser Classification

Lasers are categorized into different classes according to their ability to cause eye and other damage. The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is a global organization that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic, and related technologies. The IEC document 60825-1 outlines the safety of laser products. A description of each class of laser is given below:

Class	Description	Warning Label
1	This class of laser is safe under all conditions of normal use, including use with optical instruments for intrabeam viewing. Lasers in this class do not emit radiation at levels that may cause injury during normal operation, and therefore the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) cannot be exceeded. Class 1 lasers can also include enclosed, high-power lasers where exposure to the radiation is not possible without opening or shutting down the laser.	
1M	Class 1M lasers are safe except when used in conjunction with optical components such as telescopes and microscopes. Lasers belonging to this class emit large-diameter or divergent beams, and the MPE cannot normally be exceeded unless focusing or imaging optics are used to narrow the beam. However, if the beam is refocused, the hazard may be increased and the class may be changed accordingly.	
2	Class 2 lasers, which are limited to 1 mW of visible continuous-wave radiation, are safe because the blink reflex will limit the exposure in the eye to 0.25 seconds. This category only applies to visible radiation (400 - 700 nm).	
2M	Because of the blink reflex, this class of laser is classified as safe as long as the beam is not viewed through optical instruments. This laser class also applies to larger-diameter or diverging laser beams.	
3R	Lasers in this class are considered safe as long as they are handled with restricted beam viewing. The MPE can be exceeded with this class of laser, however, this presents a low risk level to injury. Visible, continuous-wave lasers are limited to 5 mW of output power in this class.	

<b>3B</b>	Class 3B lasers are hazardous to the eye if exposed directly. However, diffuse reflections are not harmful. Safe handling of devices in this class includes wearing protective eyewear where direct viewing of the laser beam may occur. In addition, laser safety signs lightboxes should be used with lasers that require a safety interlock so that the laser cannot be used without the safety light turning on. Class-3B lasers must be equipped with a key switch and a safety interlock.	
<b>4</b>	This class of laser may cause damage to the skin, and also to the eye, even from the viewing of diffuse reflections. These hazards may also apply to indirect or non-specular reflections of the beam, even from apparently matte surfaces. Great care must be taken when handling these lasers. They also represent a fire risk, because they may ignite combustible material. Class 4 lasers must be equipped with a key switch and a safety interlock.	
All class 2 lasers (and higher) must display, in addition to the corresponding sign above, this triangular warning sign		

[Hide 450 - 520 nm TO Can Laser Diodes](#)

### 450 - 520 nm TO Can Laser Diodes

Item #	Info	Wavelength (nm)	Power (mW) <sup>a</sup>	Typical/Max Drive Current <sup>a</sup>	Package	Pin Code	Monitor Photodiode <sup>b</sup>	Compatible Socket	Wavelength Tested	Spatial Mode
PL450B		450	80	100 mA / 145 mA	Ø3.8 mm	G	No	S038S	No	Single Mode
L450P1600MM		450	1600	1200 mA / 1500 mA	Ø5.6 mm	G	No	S7060R	No	Multimode
L462P1400MM		462	1400	1350 mA / 1550 mA	Ø9 mm	G	No	S8060	No	Multimode
L488P60		488	60	75 mA / 110 mA	Ø5.6 mm	B	Yes	S7060R	No	Single Mode
PL520		520	50	150 mA / 160 mA	Ø3.8 mm	G	No	S038S	No	Single Mode
L520P50		520	50	150 mA / 160 mA	Ø5.6 mm	A	Yes	S7060R	No	Single Mode
L520P120		520	120	340 mA / 390 mA	Ø5.6 mm	G	No	S7060R	No	Single Mode

- <sup>a</sup> Do not exceed the maximum optical power or maximum drive current, whichever occurs first.
- <sup>b</sup> Laser diodes with a built-in monitor photodiode can operate at constant power.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
PL450B	450 nm, 80 mW, Ø3.8 mm, G Pin Code Laser Diode	\$69.50 Volume Pricing Available	Today
L450P1600MM	450 nm, 1600 mW, Ø5.6 mm, G Pin Code, MM, Laser Diode	\$79.75	Today
L462P1400MM	462 nm, 1400 mW, Ø9.0 mm, G Pin Code, MM, Laser Diode	\$176.00	Today
L488P60	488 nm, 60 mW, Ø5.6 mm, B Pin Code, Laser Diode	\$2,352.00	Today
PL520	520 nm, 50 mW, Ø3.8 mm, G Pin Code Laser Diode	\$75.50 Volume Pricing Available	Today
L520P50	520 nm, 50 mW, Ø5.6 mm, A Pin Code, Laser Diode	\$64.50 Volume Pricing Available	3-5 Days
L520P120	520 nm, 120 mW, Ø5.6 mm, G Pin Code, Laser Diode	\$235.00 Volume Pricing Available	Today



Specs

Spectrum

L-I-V Curve

Drawing

**Optical Electrical Characteristics ( $T_{CASE} = 25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $P = 120\text{ mW}$ )**

Characteristic	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
Peak Wavelength	515	520	530	nm
Optical Output Power (CW)	-	120	-	mW
Operating Voltage	-	6.0	7.0	V
Beam Divergence (FWHM) - Parallel	4	7	11	deg.
Beam Divergence (FWHM) - Perpendicular	18	23	26	deg.
Operating Current	-	340	390	mA
Threshold Current	-	140	200	mA
Slope Efficiency	-	0.5	-	W/A
Polarization Extinction Ratio (TE/TM)	-	20	-	dB
Thermal Resistance (Junction to Case)	-	20	-	K/W

**Absolute Maximum Ratings<sup>a</sup>**

Characteristic		
Operating Current	450	mA
LD Reverse Voltage	2	V
Operation Case Temperature	0 to 60	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Storage Temperature	-40 to 85	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Junction Temperature	150	$^{\circ}\text{C}$
Soldering Temperature (<10 s)	260	$^{\circ}\text{C}$

a. Absolute Maximum Rating specifications should never be exceeded. Operating beyond these conditions can seriously damage the laser. For more information, please see the [Laser Diode Tutorial](#).

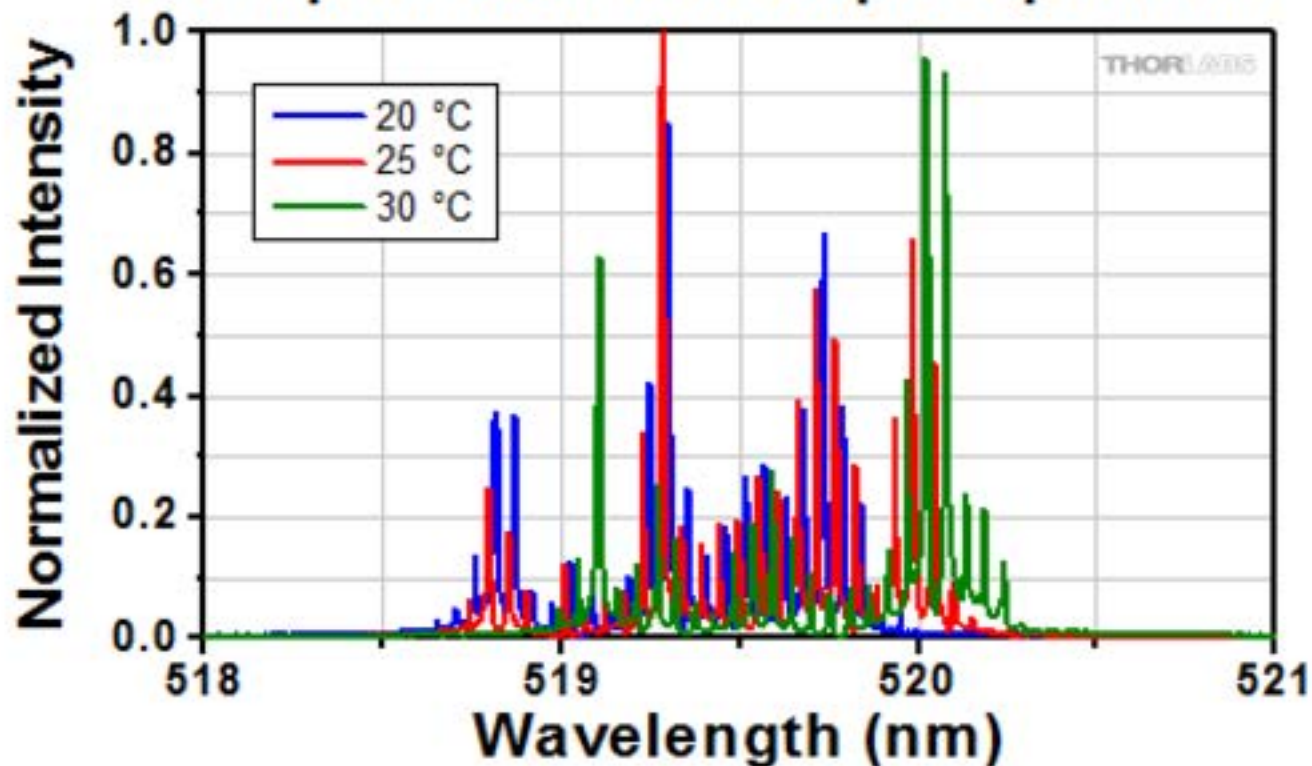
Specs

Spectrum

L-I-V Curve

Drawing

## Sample L520P120 Output Spectrum



This data was measured using Thorlabs' [OSA201 Spectrum Analyzer](#) with 7.5 GHz resolution. This data is for one particular laser diode. Slight variations will occur from device to device. To view an Excel file that lists all of the measured spectral and L-I-V characteristic values of the sample laser diode shown above, please click [here](#).



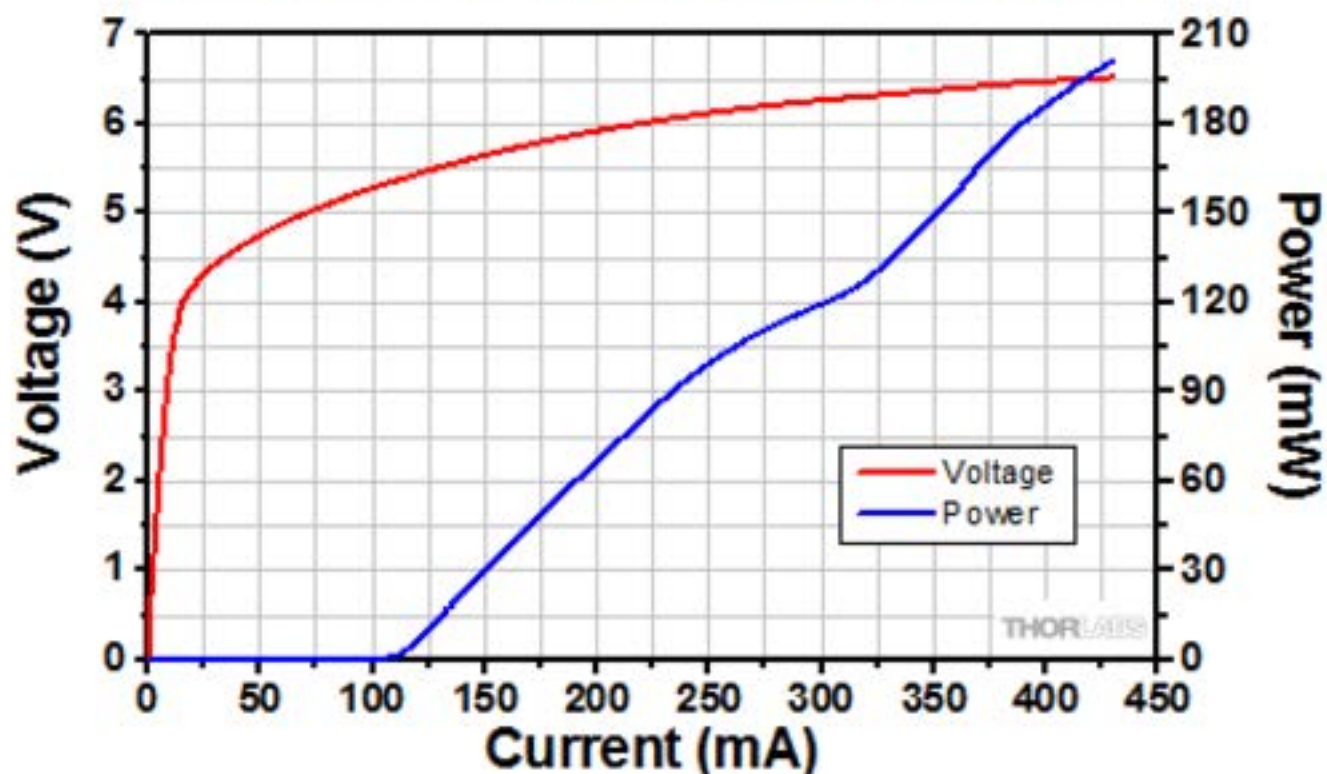
Specs

Spectrum

L-I-V Curve

Drawing

## Sample L520P120 L-I-V Characteristics



All values shown above were measured at 25 °C. This data is for one particular laser diode. Slight variations will occur from device to device. To view an Excel file that lists all of the measured spectral and L-I-V characteristic values of the sample laser diode shown above, including L-I-V curves at other temperatures, please click [here](#).