

## Product Features

### Mainframe

16 independent channels,  
with 32 isolated outputs

"Smart" modules for flexibility and speed

### Laser Current Sources

High compliance voltage

Direct modulation up to 1.2 MHz

Four-wire measurement of laser diode  
forward voltage

Advanced laser protection features  
including adjustable voltage limit

### TEC Controllers

TEC voltage measurement

Resistive heater control adapters  
available

The LDC-3916 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller packs 16 channels of laser diode current source and temperature control into a space-saving 3U-high instrument. An on-board processor powers each module, simplifying future module additions and accelerating performance. A variety of "smart" modules are available. These include controller modules with up to 1.5 A of laser current source, with 9 W of TEC control; dual laser current source modules with two isolated currents of up to 1 A; a dual 9 W TEC module; a 3 A laser current module; and a 3 A 24 W TEC module. Additional modules are currently in development.

An independent, isolated power supply powers each module, delivering unparalleled stability. This design brings even greater levels of laser diode protection through our adjustable compliance voltage feature. Communications and instrument operations are controlled by a separate mainframe processor, paired with a powerful GPIB chipset that is fully tested to ensure IEEE 488.2 compliance.

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller



## 16 Channels of Laser Diode Control

 **ILX Lightwave**  
Photonic Test & Measurement Instrumentation

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Front Panel Interface Provides Simple Operation

The front-panel interface features a bright vacuum fluorescent display, making the information readable from almost any angle. You can easily monitor the operations of up to four channels at a time. Simple and intuitive menus, supported by screen-specific soft-keys, allow you to quickly configure and operate each channel. Menu depths have been intentionally limited to keep the front-panel operation concise, while more sophisticated operations are reserved for the GPIB interface. Setpoints and other values can be entered through your choice of numeric keypad entry, up-down arrow keys, or a rotary adjustment knob.

### Powerful GPIB Interface Offers Robust, Automated Control

A powerful processor platform drives the LDC-3916 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller. When coupled with the latest GPIB technology from National Instruments' HS488 TNT chipset, you get all the processing capability needed for mission-critical production testing. With micro-processors on each module, the mainframe engine manages 16 independent control channels quickly and reliably. Free LabVIEW® instrument drivers are available upon request, or by downloading them at [www.ilxlightwave.com](http://www.ilxlightwave.com).

### High Performance Modules Support Future System Expansion

Designed to provide the cleanest, safest power available for laser diode control, each module's control functions are handled locally and communicated quickly to the host processor. On-board intelligence simplifies future addition of modules since all operational and calibration data is stored in the module. Simply

plug in your new module and power up the system. Your mainframe never needs to leave the rack. This simplicity, coupled with low-noise, high-stability outputs and state-of-the-art laser diode protection, equals ultimate performance.

### State-of-the-Art Current Source Design Brings New Levels of Performance

This new current source topology uses an innovative, proprietary control loop and incorporates the latest techniques for signal filtering and circuit board shielding. These advancements provide unbeatable stability and unparalleled noise performance, ideal for the most demanding production test applications. This design also incorporates adjustable compliance voltage and faster shutoff, helping prevent dangerous "reconnect" transients that can occur from intermittent connections between the controller and your laser diode. This new level of protection adds to our proven list of protection features: independent current limits, output shorting circuits and a slow-start turn-on feature.

### New Capabilities from the Flexible Current Source You Trust

Operational modes including constant current, constant current high-bandwidth, or constant optical power are selectable from the front panel, or via the GPIB interface. Measurement of your laser diode's forward voltage is possible with 4-wire accuracy, which can be helpful in production environments where longer cable runs are common. A single, rear-panel modulation port can individually enable direct modulation of each channel's laser current. This new current source design supports modulation bandwidths of up to 1.2 MHz (small signal), achieving the highest direct modulation



# LDC 3916

16-Channel  
Laser Diode  
Controller

## High channel-density laser diode control for production test.

levels available today. Modules also include reverse photodiode bias capabilities, especially important for telecom wavelength devices.

### High-Stability TEC Control Keeps Your Device Temperature in Check

Equipped with a smart integrator control loop and an expanded gain setting range, the temperature control circuits optimize settling times. These modules also provide voltage measurement of your TEC, and allow internal selection of thermistor current ranges via front-panel or via GPIB. Achieve unparalleled temperature stabilities with ultra-stable design topology and low-noise bipolar output stages.

### Flexible Control Over a Wide Range of Applications

By combining true modularity with high channel density, the LDC-3916 easily grows with your applications. When coupled with our 16-channel mounting tray, this controller also serves as a cost effective DWDM optical source set. Simply mount your choice of WDM DFB laser diodes in the mounting tray, connect to the

controller, and you'll have full control over 16 WDM signal sources. If your specified test wavelengths change, simply drop in new DFB laser diodes. For even higher channel counts, add another controller and mounting tray to your rack. If your device drive specifications change, look to ILX Lightwave for new modules that can be easily added to your system in the future.

### Protect Your Investment with the Leader in Laser Diode Protection

The LDC-3916 16-Channel Controller provides all of ILX Lightwave's proven laser protection features like independent current limits, slow-start turn-on circuits, and isolated power supplies.\* The adjustable compliance voltage capability brings even greater levels of protection to your devices. Designed for time-critical production test needs, the LDC-3916 will satisfy your test requirements with fast, reliable and secure laser diode control.

\* Semiconductor lasers are sensitive devices. Always take appropriate antistatic precautions and use extreme care when handling laser diodes. For more information, request ILX Application Note #3, "Protecting Your Laser Diode."

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Specifications<sup>1</sup>

## Fine Temperature Resolution Controller Module

### CURRENT SOURCE<sup>1</sup> 3916371 500 mA/9W

#### LASER CURRENT OUTPUT

Output Current Range:	0–500 mA
Setpoint Resolution:	10 $\mu$ A
Setpoint Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.1% of FS
Compliance Voltage:	>6 V (adjustable voltage limit)
Temperature Coefficient:	<50 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>2</sup>	<20 ppm
Long-Term Stability (24 hr.): <sup>3</sup>	<50 ppm
Noise and Ripple <sup>4</sup>	
High bandwidth:	<10 $\mu$ A rms
Low bandwidth:	<5 $\mu$ A rms
Transients	
Operational: <sup>5</sup>	<3 mA
1kV EFT:	<4 mA
Surge: <sup>6</sup>	<8 mA

#### LASER DRIVE LIMIT SETTINGS

Current Limit Range:	0–500 mA
Current Limit Resolution:	0.2 mA
Current Limit Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.7 mA
Voltage Limit Range:	0–7.5 V
Voltage Limit Resolution:	0.1 V

#### PHOTODIODE FEEDBACK

Type:	Differential 10 $\Omega$ Input. Selectable Zero Bias or 5 V Reverse Bias
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Output Stability: <sup>7</sup>	0.01%
Setpoint Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.1% of FS

#### EXTERNAL ANALOG MODULATION

Input: <sup>8</sup>	0–10 V, 50 $\Omega$
Transfer Function:	50 mA/V
High Bandwidth Mode	
Small Signal Bandwidth: <sup>9</sup>	DC to 1.2 MHz
Large Signal Bandwidth: <sup>10</sup>	DC to 1.0 MHz
Low Bandwidth Mode	DC to 30 kHz

#### LASER CURRENT MEASUREMENT (DISPLAY)

Output Current Range:	0–500.00 mA
Output Current Resolution:	0.01 mA
Output Current Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm$ 0.05% of FS
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current Resolution:	0.1 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current Accuracy:	$\pm$ 2 $\mu$ A (@25 $^{\circ}$ C)
Photodiode Responsivity Range: <sup>11</sup>	0.00–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW
Photodiode Responsivity Resolution:	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW
Optical Power Range:	0.00–5000.0 mW
Optical Power Resolution:	100 $\mu$ W
Forward Voltage Range:	0.00–7.5 V
Forward Voltage Resolution:	10 mV
Forward Voltage Accuracy: <sup>12</sup>	$\pm$ 7 mV

### TEMPERATURE CONTROL<sup>1</sup> 3916371 500 mA/9W

#### TEMPERATURE CONTROL OUTPUT

Temperature Control Range: <sup>2</sup>	-5 $^{\circ}$ C to 50 $^{\circ}$ C
Thermistor Setpoint	
Resolution:	0.01 $^{\circ}$ C
Accuracy: <sup>3</sup>	$\pm$ 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>4</sup>	$\pm$ 0.007 $^{\circ}$ C
Long-Term Stability (24 hrs.): <sup>5</sup>	$\pm$ 0.01 $^{\circ}$ C
Output Type:	Bipolar current source
Compliance Voltage:	>7 V DC
Maximum Output Current:	1.5 A
Maximum Output Power:	9 W
Current Noise and Ripple: <sup>6</sup>	<1 mA rms
Current Limit Range:	0–1.5 A
Current Limit Set Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.05 A
Control Algorithm:	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI, Gain adjustable from 1–127

#### TEMPERATURE SENSOR

Types:	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)
Thermistor Sensing Current:	100 $\mu$ A
Usable Thermistor Range:	5100–13,000 $\Omega$ , typical
User Calibration:	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants

#### TEC MEASUREMENT (DISPLAY)

Temperature	
Range: <sup>7</sup>	-99.9 $^{\circ}$ C to 199.9 $^{\circ}$ C
Accuracy: <sup>3</sup>	$\pm$ 0.5 $^{\circ}$ C
Thermistor Resistance	
Range:	5100–13,000 $\Omega$
Accuracy:	$\pm$ 5 $\Omega$
TEC Current	
Range:	-1.50 to 1.50 A
Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.04 A
Voltage	
Range:	-9.999 to 9.999 V
Resolution:	100 mV (1 mV in GPIB)
Accuracy: <sup>8</sup>	$\pm$ 70 mV ( $\pm$ 20 mV in GPIB)

#### NOTES

The 3916371 Laser Current Source specifications are the same as the 3916372 Controller Module specifications.

Current Source Notes and Temperature Control Notes are on the following pages.

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Controller Modules (Laser and TE Control)

CURRENT SOURCE <sup>1</sup>	3916372 500 mA/9 W	3916374 1 A/9 W	3916376 1.5 A/9W
<b>LASER CURRENT OUTPUT</b>			
Output Current Range:	0–500 mA	0–1000 mA	0–1500 mA
Setpoint Resolution:	10 $\mu$ A	20 $\mu$ A	40 $\mu$ A
Setpoint Accuracy:	$\pm 0.1\%$ of of FS	$\pm 0.1\%$ of of FS	$\pm 0.1\%$ of of FS
Compliance Voltage:	6 V (adjustable voltage limit)	6 V (adjustable voltage limit)	4.75 V (adjustable voltage limit)
Temperature Coefficient:	$\leq 50$ ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C	$\leq 50$ ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C	$\leq 50$ ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>2</sup>	$\leq 20$ ppm	$\leq 20$ ppm	$\leq 20$ ppm
Long-Term Stability (24 hr.): <sup>3</sup>	$\leq 50$ ppm	$\leq 50$ ppm	$\leq 50$ ppm
Noise and Ripple <sup>4</sup>			
High Bandwidth:	<10 $\mu$ A rms	<10 $\mu$ A rms	<12 $\mu$ A rms
Low Bandwidth:	<5 $\mu$ A rms	<5 $\mu$ A rms	<8 $\mu$ A rms
Transients			
Operational: <sup>5</sup>	<3 mA	<3 mA	<3 mA
1kV EFT	<4 mA	<5 mA	<5 mA
Surge: <sup>6</sup>	<8 mA	<10 mA	<10 mA
<b>LASER DRIVE LIMIT SETTINGS</b>			
Current Limit Range:	0–500 mA	0–1000 mA	0–1500 mA
Current Limit Resolution:	0.2 mA	0.4 mA	0.6 mA
Current Limit Accuracy:	$\pm 0.7$ mA	$\pm 1.4$ mA	$\pm 4.5$ mA
Voltage Limit Range:	0–7.5 V	0–7.5 V	0–7.5 V
Voltage Limit Resolution:	0.1 V	0.1 V	0.1 V
Voltage Limit Accuracy:	$\pm 0.2$ V	$\pm 0.2$ V	$\pm 0.2$ V
<b>PHOTODIODE FEEDBACK</b>			
Type:	Differential 10 $\Omega$ Input, Selectable Zero Bias or 5 V Reverse Bias on all modules		
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Output Stability: <sup>7</sup>	$\pm 0.01\%$	$\pm 0.01\%$	$\pm 0.01\%$
Setpoint Accuracy:	$\pm 0.1\%$ of FS	$\pm 0.1\%$ of FS	$\pm 0.1\%$ of FS
<b>EXTERNAL ANALOG MODULATION</b>			
Input: <sup>8</sup>	0–10 V, 50 $\Omega$	0–10 V, 50 $\Omega$	0–7.5 V, 50 $\Omega$
Transfer Function:	50 mA/V	100 mA/V	200 mA/V
High Bandwidth Mode			
Small Signal Bandwidth: <sup>9</sup>	DC to 1.2 MHz	DC to 1.0 MHz	DC to 0.9 MHz
Large Signal Bandwidth: <sup>10</sup>	DC to 1.0 MHz	DC to 1.0 MHz	DC to 0.9 MHz
Low Bandwidth Mode:	DC to 30 kHz	DC to 30 kHz	DC to 30 kHz
<b>LASER CURRENT MEASUREMENT (DISPLAY)</b>			
Output Current Range:	0–500.00 mA	0–1000.0 mA	0–1500.0 mA
Output Current Resolution:	0.01 mA	0.01 mA	0.03 mA
Output Current Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm 0.05\%$ of FS	$\pm 0.05\%$ of FS	$\pm 0.07\%$ of FS
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current Resolution:	0.1 $\mu$ A	0.1 $\mu$ A	0.1 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm 2$ $\mu$ A	$\pm 2$ $\mu$ A	$\pm 2$ $\mu$ A
Photodiode Responsivity Range: <sup>11</sup>	0.0–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW	0.0–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW	0.0–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW
Responsivity Resolution:	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW
Optical Power Range:	0.0–5000.00 mW	0.0–5000.00 mW	0.0–5000.00 mW
Optical Power Resolution:	100 $\mu$ W	100 $\mu$ W	100 $\mu$ W
Forward Voltage Range:	0.00–7.5 V	0.00–7.5 V	0.00–5 V
Forward Voltage Resolution:	10 mV (1 mV through GPIB)	10 mV (1 mV through GPIB)	10 mV (1 mV through GPIB)
Forward Voltage Accuracy: <sup>12</sup>	$\pm 7$ mV ( $\pm 2$ mV through GPIB)	$\pm 7$ mV ( $\pm 2$ mV through GPIB)	$\pm 7$ mV ( $\pm 2$ mV through GPIB)

#### CURRENT SOURCE NOTES

- All values relate to a one-hour warm-up period.
- Over any one-hour period, half-scale output.
- Over any 24-hour period, half-scale output.
- Measured optically, evaluating noise intensity of a laser diode into a photodiode detector with 150 kHz bandwidth.
- Maximum output current transient resulting from normal operational situations (e.g., power on-off, current on-off), as well as accidental situations (e.g., power line plug removal).
- Maximum output current transient resulting from a 1000 V power-line transient spike. Tested to ILX Lightwave Technical Standard #LDC-00196. Request ILX Application Note #3.
- Maximum monitor photodiode current drift over any 30-minute period. Assumes zero drift in responsivity of photodiode.
- Modulation input is 50  $\Omega$  terminated inside the mainframe.
- 250 mA setpoint, 50 mA modulation current, 1  $\Omega$  load.
- 50% modulation at mid-scale output, 1  $\Omega$  load.
- Responsivity value is user-defined and is used to calculate the optical power.
- Four-wire voltage measurement while driving calibration load. Specification valid for values above 10 mV.

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Controller Modules (Laser and TE Control) continued

TEMPERATURE CONTROL <sup>1</sup>	3916372 500 mA/9 W	3916374 1 A/9 W	3916376 1.5 A/9 W
<b>OUTPUT</b>			
Temperature Control Range: <sup>2</sup>	-99°C to 150°C	-99°C to 150°C	-99°C to 150°C
Thermistor Setpoint			
Resolution and Accuracy:	<b>Resolution</b> <b>Accuracy<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Resolution</b> <b>Accuracy<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Resolution</b> <b>Accuracy<sup>3</sup></b>
-20°C to 20°C	0.1°C    ±0.2°C	0.1°C    ±0.2°C	0.1°C    ±0.2°C
20°C-50°C	0.2°C    ±0.2°C	0.2°C    ±0.2°C	0.2°C    ±0.2°C
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>4</sup>	<±0.007°C	<±0.007°C	<±0.007°C
Long-Term Stability (24 hrs.): <sup>5</sup>	<±0.01°C	<±0.01°C	<±0.01°C
Output Type:	Bipolar current source	Bipolar current source	Bipolar current source
Compliance Voltage:	>7 V DC	>7 V DC	>7 V DC
Short Circuit Output Current:	1.5 A	1.5 A	1.5 A
Maximum Output Power:	9 W	9 W	9 W
Current Noise and Ripple: <sup>6</sup>	<1 mA rms	<1 mA rms	<1 mA rms
Current Limit Range:	0-1.5 A	0-1.5 A	0-1.5 A
Current Limit Set Accuracy:	±0.05 A	±0.05 A	±0.05 A
Control Algorithm:	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI Gain adjustable from 1-127	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI Gain adjustable from 1-127	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI Gain adjustable from 1-127
<b>TEMPERATURE SENSOR</b>			
Types:	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)
Thermistor Sensing Current: <sup>7</sup>	10/100 µA	10/100 µA	10/100 µA
Usable Thermistor Range:	25-450,000 Ω, typical	25-450,000 Ω, typical	25-450,000 Ω, typical
User Calibration:	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants
<b>TEC MEASUREMENT (DISPLAY)</b>			
Temperature:			
Range: <sup>8</sup>	-99.9°C to 199.9°C	-99.9°C to 199.9°C	-99.9°C to 199.9°C
Accuracy:	±0.5°C	±0.5°C	±0.5°C
Thermistor Resistance			
10 µA Setting			
Range:	0.01-450.00 kΩ	0.01-450.00 kΩ	0.01-450.00 kΩ
Accuracy: <sup>9</sup>	±0.05 kΩ	±0.05 kΩ	±0.05 kΩ
100 µA Setting			
Range:	0.001-45.000 kΩ	0.001-45.000 kΩ	0.001-45.000 kΩ
Accuracy: <sup>10</sup>	±0.005 kΩ	±0.005 kΩ	±0.005 kΩ
TEC Current			
Range:	-1.50 to 1.50 A	-1.50 to 1.50 A	-1.50 to 1.50 A
Accuracy:	±0.04 A	±0.04 A	±0.04 A
Current Resolution:	±0.01 A	±0.01 A	±0.01 A
Voltage			
Range:	-9.999 to 9.999 V	-9.999 to 9.999 V	-9.999 to 9.999 V
Resolution:	100 mV (1 mV in GPIB)	100 mV (1 mV in GPIB)	100 mV (1 mV in GPIB)
Accuracy: <sup>11</sup>	±70 mV (±20 mV in GPIB)	±70 mV (±20 mV in GPIB)	±70 mV (±20 mV in GPIB)



*When coupled with the LDM-4616 Modular Laser Diode Mount, the LDC-3916 Multi-channel controllers provide a configurable, cost-effective solution for multi-channel, DWDM signal sources. The mount can also support many popular 980 nm and 1480 nm pump laser diodes for EDFA test applications.*

### TEMPERATURE CONTROL NOTES

- All values relate to a one-hour warm-up period.
- Software limits of range. Actual range possible depends on the physical load, thermistor type, and TEC module used.
- Accuracy figures are quoted for a typical 10 kΩ thermistor and 100 µA current setting for -5°C to 50°C, and typical 10 kΩ thermistor and 10 µA current setting for -20°C to -5°C. Accuracy figures are relative to the calibration standard. Both resolution and accuracy are dependent upon the user-defined configuration of the instrument.
- Over any one-hour period, half-scale output, controlling an LDM-4412 mount @ 25°C, with 10 kΩ thermistor, on 100 µA setting.
- Over any 24-hour period, half-scale output, controlling an LDM-4412 Mount @ 25°C, with 10 kΩ thermistor, on 100 µA setting.
- Measured at 1 A output over a bandwidth of 10 Hz to 10 MHz.
- Thermistor current range software selectable by front panel or GPIB.
- Software limits of display range.
- Using a 10 kΩ thermistor, controlling an LDM-4412 mount over -30°C to 65°C (-200-2 kΩ) or a 100kΩ thermistor controlling an LDM-4412 mount over 10°C-85°C (-200-10 kΩ).
- Using a 10 kΩ thermistor, controlling an LDM-4412 mount over -5°C to 90°C (-45-1 kΩ).
- Voltage measurement accuracy while driving calibration load. Accuracy is dependent upon load used.
- Measured at 2 A output over a bandwidth of DC to 25 MHz.

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Dual Current Source Modules\*

	3916332 Dual 500 mA	3916334 Dual 1A	3916332 Dual 500 mA	3916334 Dual 1A
<b>CURRENT SOURCE</b>				
<b>LASER CURRENT OUTPUT</b>				
Output Current Range:	0–500 mA	0–1000 mA	0–500.0 mA	0–1000.0 mA
Setpoint Resolution:	10 $\mu$ A	20 $\mu$ A	0.01 mA	0.01 mA
Setpoint Accuracy:	0.1% of FS	0.1% of FS	$\pm$ 0.05% of FS	$\pm$ 0.05% of FS
Compliance Voltage:	6 V	6 V	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A
	(adjustable voltage limit)			
Temperature Coefficient:	$\leq$ 50 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C	$\leq$ 50 ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C	0.1 $\mu$ A	0.1 $\mu$ A
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>2</sup>	$\leq$ 20 ppm	$\leq$ 20 ppm	Photodiode Current Resolution:	0.1 $\mu$ A
Long-Term Stability (24 hr.): <sup>3</sup>	$\leq$ 50 ppm	$\leq$ 50 ppm	Photodiode Current Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm$ 2 $\mu$ A
Noise and Ripple <sup>4</sup>			Photodiode Responsivity Range: <sup>11</sup>	0.00–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW
High Bandwidth:	<10 $\mu$ A rms	<12 $\mu$ A rms	Photodiode Responsivity Resolution:	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW
Low Bandwidth:	<5 $\mu$ A rms	<8 $\mu$ A rms	Optical Power Range:	0.0–5000.00 mW
Transients			Optical Power Resolution:	100 $\mu$ W
Operational: <sup>5</sup>	<3 mA	<3 mA	Forward Voltage Range:	0.00–7.5 V
1kV EFT:	<4 mA	<5 mA	Forward Voltage Resolution:	10 mV
Surge: <sup>6</sup>	<8 mA	<10 mA	Forward Voltage Accuracy: <sup>12</sup>	$\pm$ 7 mV
<b>LASER DRIVE LIMIT SETTINGS</b>			<b>DUAL CURRENT SOURCE NOTES</b>	
Current Limit Range:	0–500 mA	0–1000 mA	*Two isolated laser sources in each module.	
Current Limit Resolution:	0.2 mA	0.4 mA	1 All values relate to a one-hour warm-up period.	
Current Limit Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.7 mA	$\pm$ 1.4 mA	2 Over any one-hour period, half-scale output.	
Voltage Limit Range:	0–7.5 V	0–7.5 V	3 Over any 24-hour period, half-scale output.	
Voltage Limit Resolution:	0.1 V	0.1 V	4 Measured optically, evaluating noise intensity of a laser diode into a photodetector with 150 kHz bandwidth.	
<b>PHOTODIODE FEEDBACK</b>			5 Maximum output current transient resulting from normal operational situations (e.g. power on-off, current on-off), as well as accidental situations (e.g. power line plug removal).	
Type:	Differential 10 $\Omega$ Input.	Differential 10 $\Omega$ Input.	6 Maximum output current transient resulting from a 1000 V power-line transient spike. Tested to ILX Lightwave Technical Standard #LDC-00196. Request LX Application Note #3.	
	Selectable Zero Bias or 5 V Reverse Bias	Selectable Zero Bias or 5 V Reverse Bias	7 Maximum monitor photodiode current drift over any 30-minute period. Assumes zero drift in responsivity of photodiode.	
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A	0–5000 $\mu$ A	8 Modulation input is 50 $\Omega$ terminated inside the mainframe.	
Output Stability: <sup>7</sup>	0.01%	0.01%	9 250 mA setpoint, 50 mA modulation current, 1 $\Omega$ load.	
Setpoint Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.1% of FS	$\pm$ 0.1% of FS	10 50% modulation at mid-scale output, 1 $\Omega$ load, High Bandwidth Mode.	
<b>EXTERNAL ANALOG MODULATION</b>				
Input: <sup>8</sup>	0–10 V, 50 $\Omega$	0–10 V, 50 $\Omega$		
Transfer Function:	50 mA/V	100 mA/V		
High Bandwidth Mode				
Small Signal Bandwidth: <sup>9</sup>	DC to 1.2 MHz	DC to 1.0 MHz		
Large Signal Bandwidth: <sup>10</sup>	DC to 1.0 MHz	DC to 1.0 MHz		
Low Bandwidth Mode:	DC to 30 kHz	DC to 30 kHz		

### TEC Modules

	3916550 Dual 9W	3916558 Single 24W (3 A)	3916550 Dual 9W	3916558 Single 24W (3 A)
<b>TEMPERATURE CONTROL</b>				
<b>TEMPERATURE CONTROL OUTPUT</b>				
Temperature Control Range: <sup>2</sup>	–99.9 $^{\circ}$ C to 150 $^{\circ}$ C	–99.9 $^{\circ}$ C to 150 $^{\circ}$ C	Temperature Range: <sup>8</sup>	–99.9 $^{\circ}$ C to 199.9 $^{\circ}$ C
Thermistor Setpoint Resolution and Accuracy	<b>Resolution Accuracy<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Resolution Accuracy<sup>3</sup></b>	Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.5 $^{\circ}$ C
–20 $^{\circ}$ C to 20 $^{\circ}$ C:	0.1 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C	0.1 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C	Thermistor Resistance	
20 $^{\circ}$ C–50 $^{\circ}$ C:	0.2 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C	0.2 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 0.2 $^{\circ}$ C	10 $\mu$ A Setting	
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>4</sup>	$\leq$ $\pm$ 0.007 $^{\circ}$ C	$\leq$ $\pm$ 0.007 $^{\circ}$ C	Range:	0.01–450.00 k $\Omega$
Long-Term Stability (24 hrs.): <sup>5</sup>	$\leq$ $\pm$ 0.01 $^{\circ}$ C	$\leq$ $\pm$ 0.01 $^{\circ}$ C	Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.05 k $\Omega$ <sup>9</sup>
Output Type:	Bipolar current source	Bipolar current source	100 $\mu$ A Setting	
Compliance Voltage:	>6 V DC	>8 V DC	Range:	0.001–45.000 k $\Omega$
Maximum Output Current:	1.5 A	3 A	Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.005 k $\Omega$ <sup>10</sup>
Maximum Output Power:	9 W	24 W	TEC Current	
Current Noise and Ripple:	<1 mA rms <sup>6</sup>	<2 mA rms <sup>12</sup>	Range:	–1.50 to 1.50 A
Current Limit Range:	0.1–1.6 A	0.1–3.10 A	Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.04 A
Current Limit Set Accuracy:	$\pm$ 0.05 A	$\pm$ 0.05 A	Voltage	
Control Algorithm:	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI Gain adjustable from 1–127	Smart Integrator, Hybrid PI Gain adjustable from 1–127	Range:	–9.999 to 9.999 V
			Resolution:	100 mV (1 mV in GPIB)
			Accuracy: <sup>11</sup>	$\pm$ 70 mV ( $\pm$ 20 mV in GPIB)
<b>TEMPERATURE SENSOR</b>			<b>NOTES</b>	
Types:	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)	Thermistor (2-wire NTC)	See Current Source Notes and Temperature Control Notes under Controller Modules Specifications.	
Thermistor Sensing Current: <sup>7</sup>	10 $\mu$ A/100 $\mu$ A	10 $\mu$ A/100 $\mu$ A		
Usable Thermistor Range:	25–450,000 $\Omega$ , typical	25–450,000 $\Omega$ , typical		
User Calibration:	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants	Steinhart-Hart, 3 constants		

# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

## Specifications<sup>1</sup>

### 3 Amp Current Source Module

CURRENT SOURCE      3916338  
Single 3A

#### LASER CURRENT OUTPUT

Output Current Range:	0–3000 mA
Setpoint Resolution:	80 $\mu$ A
Setpoint Accuracy: <sup>2</sup>	$\pm 0.1\%$ of FS
Compliance Voltage:	4.5 V (adjustable voltage limit)
Temperature Coefficient:	$\leq 100$ ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C
Short-Term Stability (1 hr.): <sup>3</sup>	$\leq 50$ ppm
Long-Term Stability (24 hr.): <sup>4</sup>	$\leq 75$ ppm
Noise and Ripple <sup>5</sup>	
High bandwidth:	$< 36$ $\mu$ A rms
Low bandwidth:	$< 24$ $\mu$ A rms
Transients	
Operational: <sup>6</sup>	$< 5$ mA
1kV EFT/Surge: <sup>7</sup>	$< 5$ mA/ $< 10$ mA

#### LASER DRIVE LIMIT SETTINGS

Current Limit Range:	0–3000 mA
Current Limit Resolution:	1.025 mA
Current Limit Accuracy:	$\pm 9$ mA
Voltage Limit Range:	0–7.5 V
Voltage Limit Resolution:	0.2 V

#### PHOTODIODE FEEDBACK

Type:	Differential 10 $\Omega$ Input. Selectable Zero Bias or 5 V Reverse Bias
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Output Stability: <sup>8</sup>	$\pm 0.01\%$
Accuracy, Setpoint:	$\pm 0.1\%$ of FS

#### EXTERNAL ANALOG MODULATION

Input: <sup>9</sup>	0–8.0 V, 50 $\Omega$
Transfer Function:	375 mA/V $\pm 10\%$
High Bandwidth Mode	
Small Signal Bandwidth: <sup>10</sup>	DC to 0.6 MHz
Large Signal Bandwidth: <sup>11</sup>	DC to 0.6 MHz
Low Bandwidth Mode:	DC to 30 kHz

#### LASER CURRENT MEASUREMENT (DISPLAY)

Output Current Range:	0–3000.0 mA
Output Current Resolution:	0.01 mA
Output Current	
Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm 0.07\%$ of FS
Photodiode Current Range:	0–5000 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current Resolution:	0.1 $\mu$ A
Photodiode Current	
Accuracy (@25 $^{\circ}$ C):	$\pm 2$ $\mu$ A
Photodiode Responsivity	
Range: <sup>12</sup>	0.00–1000.00 $\mu$ A/mW
Photodiode Responsivity	
Resolution:	0.01 $\mu$ A/mW
Optical Power Range:	0.0–5000.0 mW
Optical Power Resolution:	100 $\mu$ W
Forward Voltage Range:	0.00–7.5 V
Forward Voltage Resolution:	10 mV (1 mV GPIB)
Forward Voltage Accuracy: <sup>13</sup>	$\pm 7$ mV ( $\pm 2$ mV GPIB)

#### CURRENT SOURCE NOTES

- 1 All values relate to a one-hour warm-up period.
- 2 Accuracy is 0.15% above 2.5 A after 1-hour warm-up period.
- 3 Over any 1-hour period, half-scale output.
- 4 Over any 24-hour period, half-scale output.
- 5 Measured optically, evaluating noise intensity of a laser diode into a photodetector with 150 kHz bandwidth.
- 6 Maximum output current transient resulting from normal operational situations (e.g. power on-off, current on-off), as well as accidental situations (e.g. power line plug removal).
- 7 Maximum output current transient resulting from a 1000 V power-line transient spike. Tested to ILX Lightwave Technical Standard #LDC-00196. Request ILX Application Note #3, "Protecting Your Laser Diode".
- 8 Maximum monitor photodiode current drift over any 30-minute period. Assumes zero drift in responsivity of photodiode.
- 9 Modulation input is 50  $\Omega$  terminated inside the mainframe.
- 10 250 mA setpoint, 50 mA modulation current, 1  $\Omega$  load. High bandwidth mode.
- 11 50% modulation at mid-scale output, 1  $\Omega$  load. High bandwidth mode.
- 12 Responsivity value is user-defined and is used to calculate the optical power.
- 13 Four-wire voltage measurement while driving calibration load. Specification valid for values above 10 mV.

In keeping with our commitment to continuing improvement, ILX Lightwave reserves the right to change specifications without notice and without liability for such changes.

  
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**1-800-459-9459**

International Inquiries: 406-586-1244  
email: [sales@ilxlightwave.com](mailto:sales@ilxlightwave.com)



# LDC 3916

## 16-Channel Laser Diode Controller

### Specifications

#### GENERAL

	3908	3916
Chassis Ground:	4mm Banana Jack	4mm Banana Jack
GPIB Connector:	24-pin IEEE-488.1	24-pin IEEE-4888
RS-232 Connector:	9-pin D-sub	9-pin D-sub
Power Requirements:	50–60 Hz; selectable voltage 100 V, 120 V, 220 V, 240 V, (+6%, –10%)	50–60 Hz; selectable voltage 120 V, 220 V, 240 V, (+6%, –10%)
Size (HxWxD):	133 mm x 482 mm x 389 mm 5.25" x 18.98" x 15.3"	133 mm x 482 mm x 653 mm 5.25" x 18.98" x 25.7"
Weight (typical)		
Mainframe Only:	20 kg (44 lbs)	34.4 kg (76 lbs)
With Modules:	24 kg (52 lbs)	41 kg (91 lbs)
Operating Temperature:	0°C to 40°C	0°C to 40°C
Storage Temperature:	–40°C to 70°C	–40°C to 70°C
Humidity: <sup>1</sup>	20–85%, noncondensing	20–85%, noncondensing
Laser Safety Features:	Keypad, Interlock, Output Delay: (Mets CDRH US21, CFR 1040.10)	Keypad, Interlock, Output Delay: (Mets CDRH US21, CFR 1040.10)
Display:	Vacuum fluorescent, 64 x 128 pixels. 83 mm x 41 mm	Vacuum fluorescent, 64 x 128 pixels. 83 mm x 41 mm

#### NOTES

1 Based on the vacuum fluorescent display specification.

Instrument Driver for LabVIEW®  
LabVIEW® is a registered trademark of National Instruments.

This product has passed all CE requirements and bears the CE mark.

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#### ORDERING INFORMATION

LDC-3908	8-Channel Laser Diode Controller Mainframe	CC-305S	Current Source/Laser Diode Mount Interconnect Cable
LDC-3916	16-Channel Laser Diode Controller Mainframe	CC-306S	Current Source/Unterminated Interconnect Cable
LDC-3916371	High TEC Resolution 500 mA/9 W Controller Module	CC-316M	Laser Current Cables (bundle of 8)
LDC-3916372	500 mA/9 W Controller Module	CC-501S	TE Controller/Unterminated Interconnect Cable
LDC-3916374	1 A/9 W Controller Module	CC-505S	TE Controller/Laser Diode Mount Interconnect Cable
LDC-3916376	1.5 A/9 W Controller Module	CC-516M	TE Controller Cables (bundle of 8)
LDC-3916332	500 mA/ 500 mA Dual Current Source Module	LNF-320	Low Noise Filter
LDC-3916334	1 A /1 A Dual Current Source Module	LDM-4616	16-Channel Butterfly Mount
LDC-3916338	3 A Current Source Module	LDM-4604/xDIL	DIL Module for LDM-4616 Mount
LDC-3916550	9 W/9 W Dual Temperature (TEC) Controller Module	UCA-350	Unipolar Heater Control Adapter
LDC-3916558	3 A (24W) Temperature (TEC) Controller Module	LabVIEW® Instrument Driver	
RM-137	Rack Mount Kit, 20.5" hole spacing		
RM-138	Rack Mount Kit, 25" hole spacing		

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