BL168 Series
White High Intensity Back-Lit Backlights
Product Datasheet

ADVANCED ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

Ultra-High Power LEDs
Equipped with leading industrial grade LEDs capable of ultra-high output strobe and continuous operation

Uniformity Balancing
Designed with optional uniformity balancing every six inches, useful for linear backlight applications longer than 24" in length

Scalable Extrusion-Based Housing
Built with extrusion-based aluminum construction allowing for linear, one-dimensional scalability, while maintaining structural rigidity and durability

M6 Mounting Channels
Engineered with two M6 mounting channels on each side, allowing for highly adjustable positioning

Passive Thermal Design
Features a passively cooled finned heatsink design for optimal thermal dissipation without the need for active cooling fans

BL168 Series Description

The BL168 Series delivers a high-intensity, single-color white linear backlight solution for demanding machine vision applications. Ideal for applications where consistent, high-powered white illumination is crucial, the BL168 excels in high-speed web material imaging with line scan cameras and serves as a powerful general-purpose bar light when highly diffuse front illumination is required.

Unlike the BL138 Series, which offers multiple wavelengths, the BL168 only offers white light output. The BL168 Series can operate in both exceptionally bright strobe and continuous modes, depending on the control configuration. For applications exceeding 24 inches, optional uniformity balancing every six inches ensures consistent exposure across the entire active area.

High Intensity

Scalable Design

Uniformity Control

Passively Cooled

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

ADVANCED
ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

General Information

General Specifications

Category	Specification			Detail	
Optical	Available Wavelengths			White	
	Available Lensing			No Lenses	
	Available Light Conditioning			None	
Electrical	Power Consumption Info			See Power Requirements on Page 10	
	Cable Info			80" -0/+6" Long (2 m -0/+150 mm), 105 °C Rated, Foil Shield w/ Drain	
Mechanical	Sizing Info	Standard	Length	3.26"(82.8mm) to 96.26"(2445.0mm)	See Page 9 For More Details
			Width	1.98"(50.2mm)	
			Height	3.57"(90.7mm)	
	Weight Info (Standard)			~ 1.40 lbs (~635 g) per 6" Unit Length	
	Mounting Info			M6 Mounting Nut Channel	
	Material Info			Anodized Aluminum Housing, Acrylic Window, Nylon Strain Relief, PVC Cable Jacket, Steel Black Oxide and Zinc Plated Steel Fasteners	
Thermal	Operating Case Temperatures			25 °C to 60 °C	
	Operating Ambient Temperatures			0 °C to 35 °C	
Certification	Compliance			CE, RoHS, IEC 62471	
	IP Rating			Not Rated	
	Lumen Maintenance - White Only			L70 (50,000 Hours)	

BL168 Series
Product Datasheet

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

ADVANCED
ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

General Information - Continued

Part Number Key

Model	Emitting Length (in)	-	Peak Wavelength	Connector/Control
BL168	XX	-	XXX	XXX
BL168	06" increments from 06" to 96"		WHI (white)	C1[1]
				IC
				24
more information on page	8		4	9

Example Part Numbers:
BL16806-WHIC1
BL16824-WHIIC

[1] C1 connector not available over 12" in emitting length

In Stock

Unavailable

Lead Times

Build-to-Order custom products ship within one to three weeks.

Configurator
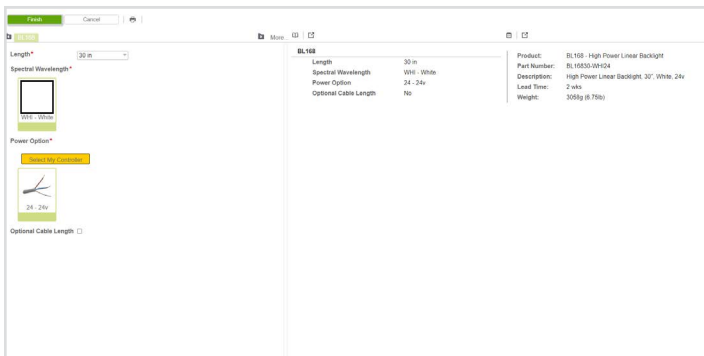
Need a build-to-order custom lighting solution in 2 weeks or less? Advanced Illumination's online configurator helps you tailor our BL168 White High Intensity Linear Backlight Series to your specific needs. For a guided configuration, visit our online configurator.
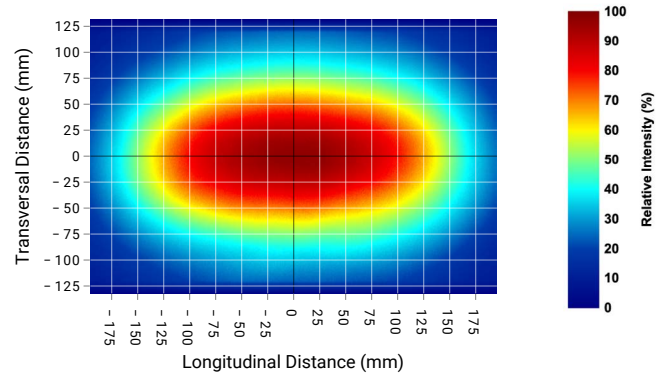
Optical Information

Intensity Distribution

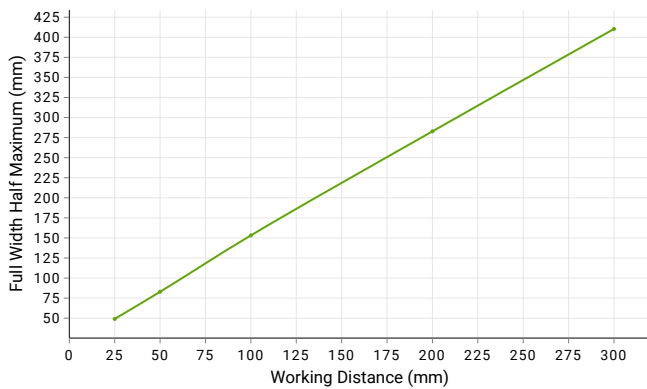**Back Illumination**
(imaging into emitting window)
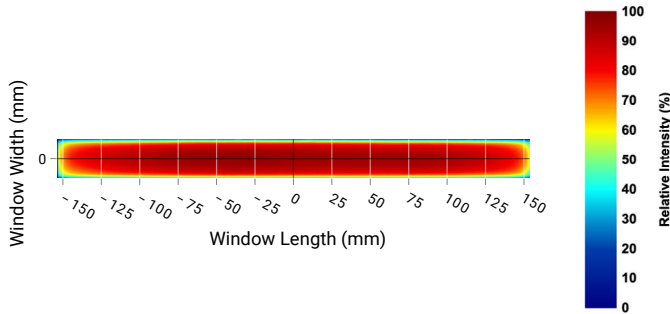
Front Illumination
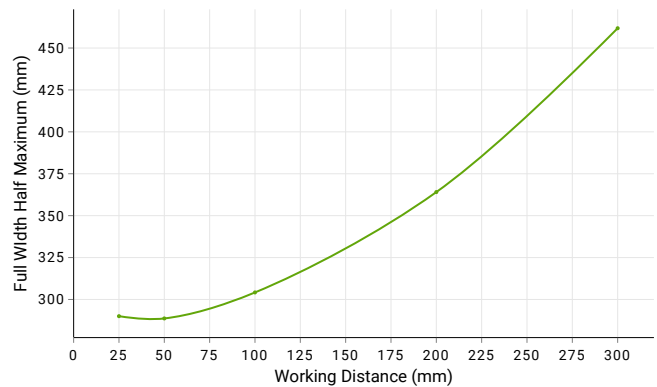(imaging emission at 100 mm working distance)

Both intensity distribution images shown above have been taken using a 12-inch white BL168 unit.

FWHM vs Working Distance
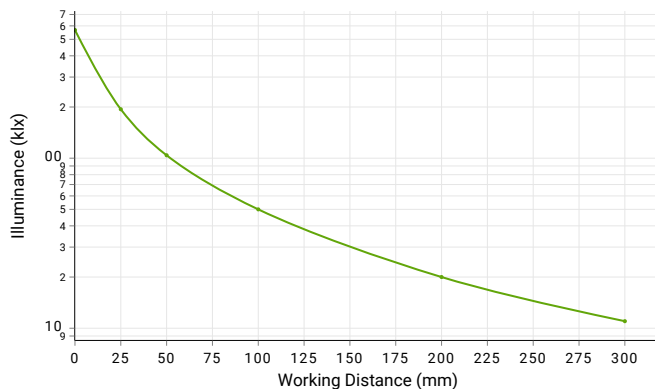
Transversal FWHM vs Working Distance

Longtitudinal FWHM vs Working Distance

Both Full Width Half Maximum (FWHM) vs Working Distance plots shown above have been measured using a 12-inch white BL168 unit.

Intensity vs Working Distance

**Illuminance vs Working Distance**

Linear Backlights, while typically oriented behind the object of interest, can also be used for highly diffuse front illumination at short to medium working distances. The chart to the left shows the BL168's intensity as it's distance from the inspection surface changes.

Disclaimer: The measurements provided above are for approximations only and may vary depending on the method of measurement and the specific configuration being measured.

Optical Information - Continued

White Spectral Profile
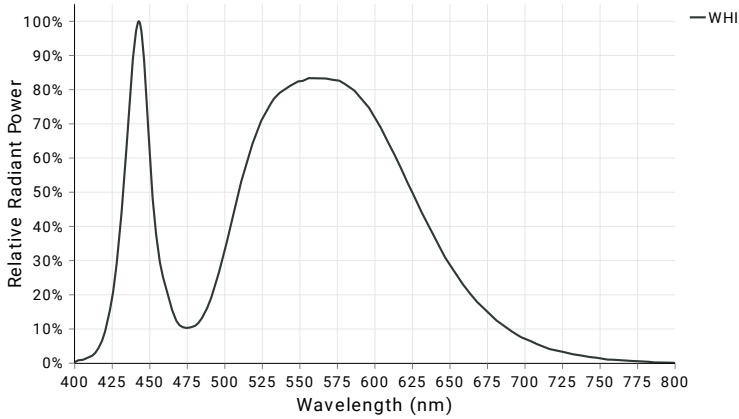
White LED illumination is the most commonly used machine vision lighting configuration. It is often the default choice when specific features of interest do not require color-based highlighting. However, white LEDs can vary in color temperature between different lighting families, which can impact machine vision systems, specifically when matching white light sources.

The BL168 Series white LEDs have a relatively neutral color correlated temperature (CCT) of **5500k.**

For a more detailed look at the white spectral data, download the csv file of the raw spectral values and refer to our Product Spectra Distribution Charts PDF.

Photobiological Risk Factors

Group	Description	Affected Wavelengths
Exempt	No Photobiological Hazard	N/A
Group 1	No Photobiological hazard under normal behavioral limitations	N/A
Group 2	Does not pose a hazard due to aversion response to bright light or thermal discomfort	White

Advanced Illumination's ligthing products have been tested and classified to IEC standards by accredited testing services. For more information on our of photobiological risk factors, please view the following PDF: https://www.advancedillumination.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/IEC-040119.pdf

Cleaning Guidelines

To clean our light's optics, it is best to only clean when necessary. Dusting is always the first step in cleaning your optics. Wiping a dusty optic is like cleaning it with sandpaper. So always dust with a canned air duster or compressed and filtered air before wiping any optic. If the dusted optic has no visible stains after you dust it, then remember: "If it's not dirty, don't clean it." Avoid wiping optics when possible.

If dusting did not clean the lens or the lens has stains, use only de-ionized water and mild dish soap with a low lint cloth designed for optics to avoid damage to the optic by any harsh chemicals.

Polarizers, beam splitters and collimated films should never be wiped with any type of cloth or solvent, only use the air dusting method to clean these types of optics.

The aluminum housing can be wiped down when dusting is not a sufficient means to thoroughly clean.

Disclaimer: The measurements provided above are for approximations only and may vary depending on the method of measurement and the specific configuration being measured.

Backlight Comparison Matrix

Not finding the optical specifications you are looking for with the BL168 Series? Refer to the backlight comparison matrix below to compare and contrast Advanced Illumination's comprehensive product offering:

| Attributes	Planar Backlights				Linear Backlights / High Diffusion Bar Lights				
	BL2	BX/CX	BT	BL245	BL313	BL138	BL168	BL128	BL193
Emitting Window Surface Intensity	86 klx	35 klx (200 mm x 200 mm unit)	48 klx (100 mm x 100 mm unit)	86 klx	231 klx	542 klx	567 klx	51 klx	12 klx
	249 W/m²	105 W/m² (200 mm x 200 mm unit)	137 W/m² (100 mm x 100 mm unit)	249 W/m²	735 W/m²	1,642 W/m²	1,760 W/m²	173 W/m²	41 W/m²
Emitting Window Surface Edge Effect	0.681 in (17.3 mm)	0 in (0mm)	0 in (0mm)	0.724in (18.4mm)	0.987in (25.1mm)	0.343in (8.7mm)	0.429in (10.9mm)	0.634in (16.1mm)	1.524in (38.7mm)
100 mm Working Distance Intensity	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22 klx	48 klx	50 klx	9 klx	1 klx
					74 W/m²	153 W/m²	164 W/m²	32 W/m²	4 W/m²
100 mm Working Distance FWHM					Longitudinal: ~12 in (~300 mm) Transversal: ~6 in (~150 mm)				
Minimum Bezel Thickness	0.465 in (11.8 mm)	1.265 in (32.1 mm)	0.380 in (9.65 mm)	0.215 in (5.46 mm)	0.125 in (3.18 mm)	0.050 in (1.27 mm)	0.050 in (1.27 mm)	0.00 in (0.00 mm)	0.065 in (1.65 mm)
Maximum Light Thickness	0.940 in (23.9 mm)	0.75 in (19.0 mm)	0.420 in (10.7 mm)	0.950 in (24.1 mm)	0.850 in (21.6 mm)	3.570 in (90.7 mm)	3.570 in (90.7 mm)	0.480 in (12.2 mm)	1.180 in (30.0 mm)
Largest Possible Emitting Window Length	46 in (1168 mm)	24 in (610 mm)	8 in (204 mm)	12 in (305 mm)	20 in (508 mm)	96 in (2438 mm)	96 in (2438 mm)	14 in (356 mm)	80 in (2032 mm)
Sizes Available	736	576	3	144	10	17	17	14	80
Visible Wavelengths Available	4	4	4	4	6	4	1	4	4
IR Wavelengths Available	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1
RGB Available	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Collimation Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Polarization Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
IP Rating	IP50	IP50	IP50	IP69K Certified	IP50	IP50	IP50	IP50	IP50
Price	$$$	$$	$$$	$$$$	$$	$$$	$$$	$$$	$

To ensure consistent comparisons, all data presented above is based on 12-inch white LED models unless explicitly stated otherwise. This corresponds to 12 inches by 12 inches (300 mm x 300 mm) in length as well as width for planar backlights and 12 inches in length for linear backlights. Additionally, all measurements provided above are derived from "standard" configurations, excluding sealed models if available as optional.

If you are still not finding the optical specifications needed for your application, inquire about our semi-custom and full-custom capabilities.

Disclaimer: The measurements provided above are for approximations only and may vary depending on the method of measurement and the specific configuration being measured.

Backlight Comparison Matrix - Definitions

For definitions on the terminology used on the previous page, please refer to the table below:

Definitions	
Emitting Window Surface Edge Effect	**FWHM (Full Width Half Maximum)**
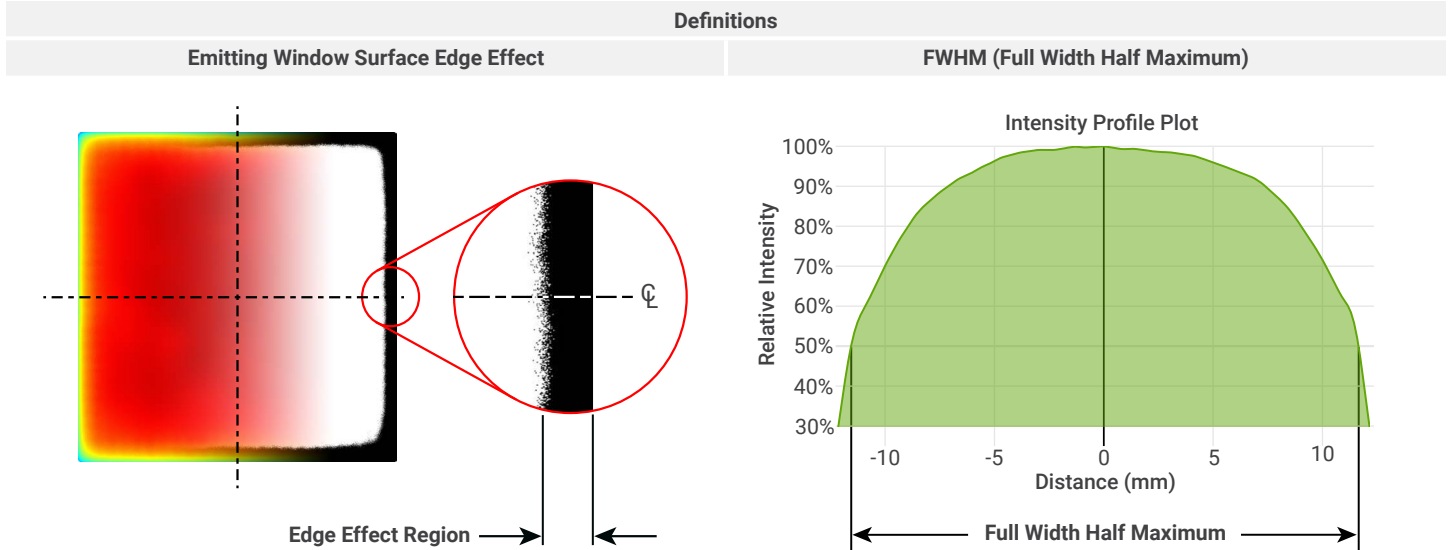
Edge Effect refers to the decrease in light intensity along the outer perimeter of a backlight's emitting surface. It's characterized by the region where the intensity falls below 80% of the peak value. For linear backlights, edge effect is measured along the length of the light. We recommend users avoid this region when sizing a backlight for their application.

FWHM (Full Width Half Maximum) is a measure of the width of a light source's intensity distribution. Specifically, it defines the distance between the points on the intensity profile where the light intensity drops to 50% of its peak value. This FWHM distance is often used to determine the usable FOV (Field of View) when aiming a light at a surface for inspection.

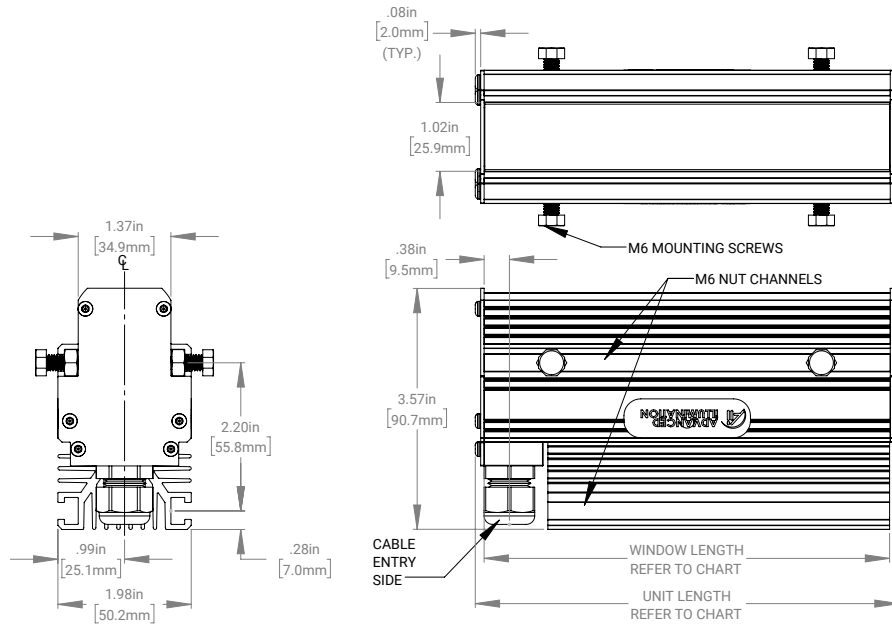| **Bezel Thickness**	**Light Thickness**
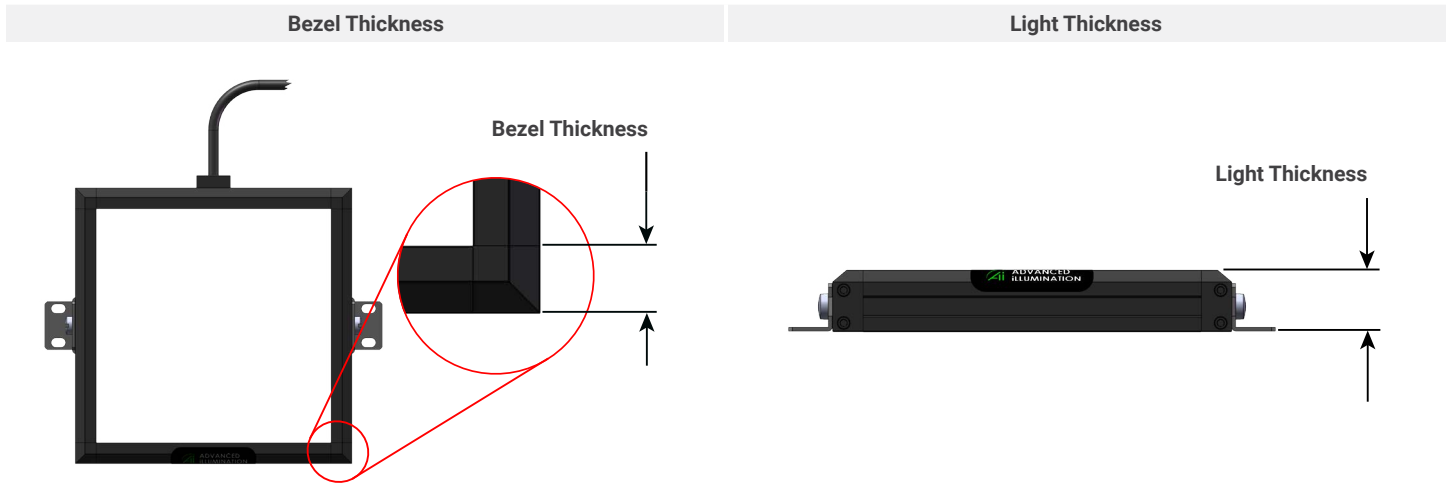
Bezel Thickness refers to the width of the non-illuminated border or frame surrounding the light-emitting surface of a machine vision backlight. Bezel thickness is an important consideration when integrating a backlight into a tight space, as it directly affects how close you can place the light-emitting surface to an object on its side.

Light Thickness refers to the overall depth of a machine vision backlight, measured from the back of the unit to the front of the light-emitting surface. A thinner light thickness is critical in applications with limited space constraints, allowing flexible integration into tight machine vision setups.

Disclaimer: The measurements provided above are for approximations only and may vary depending on the method of measurement and the specific configuration being measured.

BL168 Series
Product Datasheet

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

ADVANCED
ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

Mechanical Information

Installation Drawings

.08in
[2.0mm]
(TYP.)

1.02in
[25.9mm]

1.37in
[34.9mm]

2.20in
[55.8mm]

.38in
[9.5mm]

3.57in
[90.7mm]

M6 MOUNTING SCREWS

M6 NUT CHANNELS

.99in
[25.1mm]

.28in
[7.0mm]

1.98in
[50.2mm]

CABLE
ENTRY
SIDE

WINDOW LENGTH
REFER TO CHART

UNIT LENGTH
REFER TO CHART

For full installation drawings and complete CAD models of this non-sealed configuration, please visit the downloads section of the product webpage.

Sizing Chart

Part Number	Length (Inches)		Length (Millimeters)	
	Unit	Window	Unit	Window
BL16803	3.26	3.04	82.80	77.22
BL16806	6.26	6.00	159.00	152.40
BL16812	12.26	12.00	311.40	304.80
BL16818	18.26	18.00	463.80	457.20
BL16824	24.26	24.00	616.20	609.60
BL16830	30.26	30.00	768.60	762.00
BL16836	36.26	35.95	921.00	913.13
BL16842	42.26	41.95	1073.40	1065.53
BL16848	48.26	47.94	1225.80	1217.68
BL16854	54.26	53.93	1378.20	1369.82
BL16860	60.26	59.92	1530.60	1521.97
BL16866	66.26	65.91	1683.00	1674.11
BL16872	72.26	71.91	1835.40	1826.51
BL16878	78.26	77.90	1987.80	1978.66
BL16884	84.26	83.89	2140.20	2130.81
BL16890	90.26	89.88	2292.60	2282.95
BL16896	96.26	95.87	2445.00	2435.10

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

Electrical Information

Power Requirements

Current Required for Power Supply Sizing

Wavelengths	Configured w/ Voltage Drive (24)	Configured w/ Other Control Options (IC, C1, C5)
WHI	0.750 A per 6 inches	1.000 A per 6 inches

Note: All Advanced Illumination lights and controllers are nominally powered by 24V DC unless otherwise noted. Strobe overdriving with controller based models may require more current and voltage overhead. The values above do not include background current draw from the controller (~100 mA total).
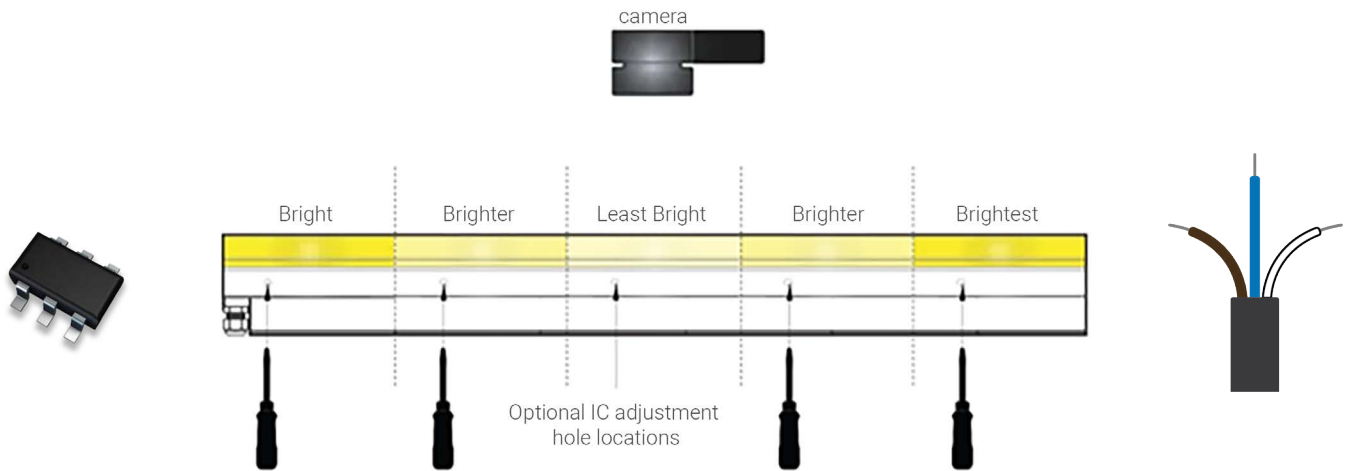
Control Options

Controller Image	Controller Details	Connector Image
	DCS Single Output Controller - Compatible with C1 Configurations *PN: DCS-100E* The DCS-100E is a compact, din-rail mounted general-purpose external controller with one C1 output connector, wired with three channels. Capable of providing single channel control or multi-channel control for RGB compatible lights. **Output Power:** 90 W Max Continuous, 540 W Max Pulsed (Overdrive Strobe) **Output Current:** 4.5 A Max Continuous, 15 A Max Pulsed **I/Os:** 3 External Trigger Inputs **Interface:** 10/100 Ethernet with Software and browser-based GUIs. SDKs are also available. For more information about our DCS-100E, please visit the controller product page.	
	DCS Triple Output Controller - Compatible with C1 Configurations *PN: DCS-103E* The DCS-103E is a din-rail mounted general-purpose multi-light controller with three C1 output connectors. Capable of driving three lights in sync or asynchronously. **Output Power:** 30 W Max Continuous / Output, 180 W Max Pulsed / Output **Output Current:** 1.5 A Max Continuous / Output, 5 A Max Pulsed / Output **I/Os:** 3 External Trigger Inputs **Interface:** 10/100 Ethernet with Software and browser-based GUIs. SDKs are also available. For more information about our DCS-103E, please visit the controller product page.	

BL168 Series
Product Datasheet

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

ADVANCED
ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

Electrical Information - Continued

Controller Image	Controller Details	Connector Image

BL168 Embedded Controller - Continuous Only - IC Configurations
PN: N/A

The IC on the BL168 and BL138 are embedded controllers which allow for control of light intensity per 6" (152 mm) segment of each backlight. Each segment is adjusted using a radial potentiometer located on each 6" segment. See the figure below for illustration:

camera

| Bright | Brighter | Least Bright | Brighter | Brightest |

Optional IC adjustment hole locations

Controlling each 6" (152mm) section independently and making the center of the line less bright and the outside of the immediate camera viewing radius brighter ultimately results in better imaging.

Better imaging occurs because the camera can see very well in its area of focus, but outside that area the camera doesn't focus as well without brighter illumination.

We recommend using this control option for BL138 and BL168 lights over 24" (610mm) in length.

24V Driver - Continuous Only - 24 Configurations
PN: N/A

24V option allows lights to operate continuous output with 24V connection and no additional controllers.

Modes: Continuous, can be wired to some 3rd party controllers or external relays for gated operation
Interface: Direct cable (flying leads or connector options)

Electrical Information - Continued

Inline Control Option Wiring Information

Flying Lead Functions

Wire Color	24V Functions
BROWN	24V DC
WHITE	0 - 10V Analog Control
BLUE	DC GND
BLACK	N/A
GRAY	N/A

The functions above are only applicable when ordering a 24V power configuration.

Accessories

Advanced Illumination offers a variety of accessories designed to pair with our lighting and control products. Below you will find a table of accessories which are compatible with many configurations of the BL138 series.

Category	Accessory Image	Accessory Detail
Power Supply		**24 Volt DC Power Supply** *PN: PS24-TL* This convenient power source is a universal AC input switching power supply with a regulated output DC current. The power supply comes with an LED Power Indicator, tinned leads marked Positive (+) and Negative (-) and 2 WAGO connectors for simplified assembly. For more information about our 24 Volt DC Power Supply, please visit this webpage.
Dimmer		**Manual Dimming Accessory for the IC, I3, I3s and I4** *PN: DCS-MP* The DCS-MP is a 30-position potentiometer, detented for precision level control and provides repeatable dimming with cable inline controllers. Features include DIN-rail mountable, a flip up cover to prevent accidental adjustments, spring clamp wiring terminal for flying leads or an M12 connector for use with the IC, I3/I3S or I4 Inline Controllers. For more information about our Manual Dimming Accessory please visit this webpage.
Dimmer		**Manual Dimming Accessory for the IC** *PN: MP-ICS* The MP-ICS is a dimmer which is designed for use on lights with the IC Inline Controller. This unit provides for 0 − 100% intensity control. It is NOT COMPATIBLE with LLI37, BLI38, LLI67, and BLI68 "IC" Lights or lights built with the "24v controller" option. For more information about our Manual Dimming Accessory, please visit this webpage.
Extension Cable		**DCS-100E/103E Extension Cable, Single Light Power Cable - C1 Configuration** *PN: LC-XX-S* This extension cable was designed for applications requiring power cables longer than the standard 2 meters provided with Ai lights. This single light cable features a single male and single female 7 pin locking connector (C1) and can be purchased in 3 - 15-meter lengths. For more information about our DCS-100E/103E Extension Cable, Single Output, please visit this webpage.

BL168 Series
Product Datasheet

White High Intensity Linear Backlights

ADVANCED
ILLUMINATION
An Exaktera Company

Electrical Information - Continued

Category	Accessory Image	Accessory Detail
Extension Cable		**DCS-100E/103E Extension Cable, Dual Light Power Cable - C1 Configuration** *PN: LC-XX-Y* This extension cable was designed for applications requiring two identical lights to be powered through a single controller. These Y cables feature a single male and dual female 7 pin locking connectors (C1) and can be purchased in 3 - 15-meter lengths. See attached spec sheet for compatible light configuration. For more information about our DCS-100E/103E Extension Cable, Split Output, please visit this webpage.
Extension Cable		**Pulsar 320E Extension Cable - C5 Configuration** *PN: LC-XX-S-C5* This extension cable was designed for applications requiring power cables longer than the standard 2 meters provided with Ai lights. This single light cable features a single male and single female Pulsar 320 connector (C5) and can be purchased in 3 - 15 meter lengths. For more information about our Pulsar 320E Extension Cable, please visit this webpage.
Adaptor Cable		**Cognex Gen2 Inline Controller Adaptor Cable** *PN: AD-I3-CGX2* This cable adaptor is for connecting I3/I3S configured lights with Cognex Gen2 Cameras, and comes with a male to female M12 connectors. For more information about our Cognex Gen2 Inline Controller Adaptor Cable, please visit this webpage.
Filters		**Camera Lens Band Pass FIlters** *PN: BPXXX-YYY* Eliminating all but a narrow band of light (+/- 40nm) centered on the specified wavelength, band pass filters are used to enhance colors, or to stop unwanted ambient light from reaching the camera. Filtering can replace existing shrouds, simplifying the physical set up of an inspection site. Ai offers 635nm and 660nm band pass filters to fit several different lens sizes. For more information about our Camera Lens Band Pass FIlters, please visit this webpage.

Additional Information

Warranty

Every Advanced illumination, Inc. (Ai) product is thoroughly inspected and tested before leaving the factory. Products are warranted to be free of defects in workmanship and materials for a period of FIVE YEARS from the original date of purchase. Should a defect develop during this period, customers may return the complete product, freight prepaid, to one of Ai's distributors or to the Ai factory. All product warranty returns require a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number which is obtained from Customer Service. The RMA number must be clearly marked on the outside of the package. Ai will inspect the unit, and if a defect is found will, at our option, repair or replace the product without charge. Ai disclaims liability for any implied warranties, including implied warranties of "merchantability" and "fitness for a specific purpose." For products under warranty that have since been discontinued, Ai will make an effort to replace with equivalent parts; for circumstances that do not allow for equivalent replacement, Ai reserves the right to repair or replace these products with an updated version. Ai cannot be held responsible for the unauthorized or inappropriate use of its products. Any unauthorized repair or modifications will result in a voided warranty. No Liability for Consequential Damages: In no event shall Ai be liable for any consequential, special, incidental, or indirect damages of any kind arising from the sale or use of the products.

Compliancy

Our lighting products are designed and tested to meet CE, RoHS, and IEC standards. As a global ISO 9001 certified company, we understand the importance of compliance and perform accelerated testing on every product before shipment. For more information on our compliance standards, please see our compliancy documentation here: https://www.advancedillumination.com/services/compliance-statements/

Electromagnetic Compatibility

This product was tested and complies with the regulatory requirements and limits for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) as stated in the product specifications. These requirements and limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference only when the product is operated in its intended industrial electromagnetic environment. To minimize the potential for electromagnetic interference or unacceptable performance degradation, install and use this product in strict accordance with the instructions in the product documentation.

Customer Service

For information on existing orders, or to make an order adjustment, contact us Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm ET or send an email to orders@advancedillumination.com.

Company Information

Advanced Illumination
440 State Garage Road, Rochester, VT 05767
Phone: +1 (802) 767 3830
Fax: +1 (802) 767 2636
Email: info@advancedillumination.com
Web: advancedillumination.com
© 2023 Advanced illumination Inc. All rights reserved