

About the Cover:

Scientist Andrey Okishev is shown examining the new diode-pumped master oscillator for the OMEGA laser system. The master oscillator, including the pump-laser diode, the conditioning optics, the Nd:YLF laser, the amplitude feedback pickoff, and the thermal stabilization systems, is housed in the large white thermally insulated box seen closed near the left side of the picture and open in the lower left inset. The holes in the optical table form a one-inch grid, which serves as a scale. The main components of the diode-pumped laser are shown magnified in the lower right inset. One can see the cavity mirrors, the thermally stabilized active element, the acousto-optic modulator, and a prism mounted on the piezoelectric translator. These key elements are recognizable in the corresponding block diagram in the lead article of this volume, where the oscillator is described in detail.

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