MICROMATTER™

Diamond-like Carbon (DLC) Foils on Glass Substrates

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What size of foils should I order?
A: Always order the smallest size that fits your application. In most cases, MICROMATTER™ DLC-13 series (25mm x 65mm) films will be large enough. For example, many electrostatic accelerators require stripper foils smaller than 20mm x 25mm. So, a 25mm x 65mm slide will give you at least three foils. Large thin films are very difficult to handle and to mount.

Q: Can I cut thin DLC foils?
A: Yes. The foils can be cut to size before separating the film from the substrate. Use a straightedge and a razor type blade to cut the film on the glass, and then float the foil pieces as usual. Please see our Handling Instructions for DLC Foils on Glass.

Q: How do I separate the films from the substrate?
A: Our glass substrates are coated with a water-soluble parting agent. The foil can easily be released from the glass by holding it at an angle and slowly immersing it into a dish filled with water. For optimum results, use hot water as it dissolves the parting agent more quickly. *Beware of scalding!* Please see our Handling Instructions for DLC Foils on Glass. The foil will float on the water surface and can then be 'fished' out with the foil holder. This may take some practice.

Q: What is the shelf life of your DLC foils on substrates?
A: MICROMATTER™ DLC foils on substrates can be stored for several years if they are kept in a cool and dry place. They should never be exposed to solvent vapors or bright light. As the parting agent may slowly evaporate or change its composition depending on environmental conditions, the foils may become more difficult to float.

Q: Can thin DLC foils be glued onto holders?
A: Yes. However, most applications do not require glue because the film sticks naturally to the frame when it is removed from the water. If you must use glue, we recommend high-vacuum epoxy adhesive. Do not glue the whole length of the foil. Small spots usually suffice.