

Re: OptisWorks

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- *From:* Art Woodbury <no_spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 19 Oct 2005 20:07:21 -0400
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In article <[dj6dmq\\$2hnp\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dj6dmq$2hnp$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, alexspamander@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx says...

> Hello all,

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> Can someone here share his experiences or opinions about the OptisWorks

> program? http://www.optis-world.com/G_O.asp?soft_id=3

> It is an extension to Solidworks and advertised to be a full featured optics

> design program. Its advantage is the full integration of optical elements in

> the mechanical design.

> Is it possible that this program, rather unknown in the community of optics

> designers can replace a special-purpose program like Zemax and the like?

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> Thanks, Alexander

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I don't have an opinion about OptisWorks, but (speaking as an optomechanical designer with 30+ years experience)

I don't see the integration of optical design software with mechanical design software as a big advantage. The design sequence always seems to be the same: it is mostly a one-way process.

Optical systems are driven mainly by optical and space considerations. Once the optical designer has a collection of optical elements floating in space, it's the job of the mechanical guy to hold everything together, maintain positional tolerances, athermalize, provide adjustments, etc.

I've used I-DEAS since 1994 and SolidWorks since 1999 for optomechanical design. Typically, I receive an IGES, STEP or Parasolid file of the optical elements constrained in space, and then fit mechanical parts to them. Rarely, I need to request minor changes to the optics, such as flats or bevels to accept spacers, but never a change to the optical prescription.

I'd look at optical design software on its own merits:

capability, cost, quality of current support and probability of future support.

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- **Follow-Ups:**
 - ◆ **Re: OptisWorks**
 - ◇ *From:* Alexander Dräbenstedt

 - **References:**
 - ◆ **OptisWorks**
 - ◇ *From:* Alexander Dräbenstedt

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