

Mask Writer FAQ (Latest Revision 10/10/06 by Ivan Alvarado)

Please also read Mask Submission Appendix.

1. Do I have to read the Mask Submission Appendix before submitting a mask?

YES! Please, by all means, read the appendix. If we detect that the mask had a mistake that could have been prevented by reading the Appendix, we will charge you for the mask anyway. If something in the Appendix is not clear, please let us know and we will be happy to clarify it.

2. What kind of masks do you have available?

We currently have Chrome Soda/Lime Masks and the available sizes are 4inch, 5inch, and 6inch (maximum 6 inch). We DO NOT supply Iron Oxide masks and there is currently no plan to have that kind of masks available in the near future. If you need Iron Oxide, please contact other mask shops.

3. What is the turn around time?

This strongly depends on the queue for masks and the number of masks requested. For the past one year, we have had an average turnaround time of about 1.5 days per mask after the file is accepted. Also, the mask writer is put offline a few days every three months for a routine laser power readjustment and calibration. Check with the staff in regards to the status of the mask queue and the status of the machine.

For masks that are to be shipped by either FedEx or UPS, add at least one more day. The extra time depends on the shipping carrier.

4. What file formats are acceptable?

Either CIF or GDSII are preferred. DXF is also acceptable, but please verify the pattern with the staff before submitting it as we have found incompatibility problems. See the Mask Submission Appendix for common issues with the mask files.

5. What is the cost of a mask?

This depends on the mask's write time. To estimate the cost, determine the maximum extents of your pattern first and use the table below to estimate the cost:

Maximum Extent of Pattern	Cost for 10mm write head (2micron resolution)
<30mm	\$100
50 mm	\$120
100 mm	\$225

Notice that this is just an estimation of the cost based on the write time of the 10mm write head (2 micron minimum Critical Dimension), which is the most used write head. The other write heads will require a longer write time and, thus, the cost will increase.

6. What is the resolution of the writer and the tolerances?

The 10mm write head can define features down to 2 microns with about 0.2 micron tolerance. Please check your own tolerances before submitting a job.