



## NOVA

FASTCAM series by Photron

Nova S12 / S9 / S6

**1-Megapixel CMOS Image Sensor:**

1024 x 1024 pixels at 12,800fps (Model S12)

1024 x 1024 pixels at 9,000fps (Model S9)

1024 x 1024 pixels at 6,400fps (Model S6)

**Maximum Frame Rate:**

1,000,000fps (Nova S12 type 1000K)

900,000fps (Nova S9 type 900K)

800,000fps (Nova S6 type 800K)

**Class Leading Light Sensitivity:**

ISO 12232 Ssat Standard

ISO 40,000 monochrome

ISO 16,000 color

**Global Electronic Shutter:**

1ms to less than 500ns independent of frame rate (sub-microsecond shutter available subject to export control)

**Dynamic Range (ADC):**

12-bit monochrome

36-bit color

**Compact and Lightweight:**

120mm (H) x 120mm (W) x 230mm (D)

4.72" (H) x 4.72" (W) x 9.05" (D)

Weight: 3.2kg ( 7.05 lbs.)

**Internal Recording Memory:**

8GB, 16GB, 32GB, 64GB

**Optional FASTDrive Removable High Capacity Data Storage:**

1TB High-speed Solid State Drive

**Fast Gigabit Ethernet Interface:**

Provides camera control and high-speed image download to standard notebook/PC

**Flexible Frame Synchronization:**

Frame rate may be synchronized to unstable external frequencies

## Compact and versatile high performance camera system

The FASTCAM NOVA brings together unique CMOS image sensor technologies and extensive high-speed digital imaging expertise to provide a camera with the flexibility to be used in a wide variety of applications. Available in three different models, the NOVA offers 12-bit image recording rates up to 12,800 frames per second (fps) at megapixel image resolution, and shutter speeds to less than 500ns. Recording rates to 1,000,000fps are available at reduced image resolutions. All of this available from a camera that is rugged, compact, lightweight and provides the best light sensitivity in its class.

Standard features of the NOVA include an internal mechanical shutter to allow remote system calibration, a high-performance Gigabit Ethernet interface for camera control and high-speed image download, memory segmentation that allows recording into one memory partition while downloading from another, and compatibility with a number of industry standard lens formats to allow the use of Nikon G-Type, C-mount and Canon EF lenses.

The NOVA also features a "sealed body" design that prevents dust and corrosive particles from contaminating sensitive electronics. An optional FASTDrive SSD can be used for the download of images at up to 1GB per second.

Intuitive and feature rich Photron FASTCAM Viewer (PFV) software is included with each NOVA camera. Also included is a Photron Device Control SDK that allows integration of the camera with user-specific software, and libraries for controlling the camera within a MATLAB® or LabView environment.



### Light Sensitivity:

Expressions of light sensitivity in high-speed cameras can be confusing as a variety of differing measurement techniques are used. Photron publishes light sensitivity figures for its products using the ISO 12232 Ssat Standard.

FASTCAM NOVA	ISO 12232 Ssat
Monochrome models	ISO 40,000
Color models	ISO 16,000

ISO 12232 Ssat values published by Photron for both monochrome and color cameras are measured excluding infrared sensitivity as defined by the ISO standard measurement procedure ISO 14524.

Monochrome sensors used in the FASTCAM NOVA are supplied without an IR absorbing filter, extending the camera spectral response beyond 900nm. When the sensitivity of the FASTCAM NOVA is measured to tungsten light including near IR response an equivalent value of ISO 100,000 is obtained.

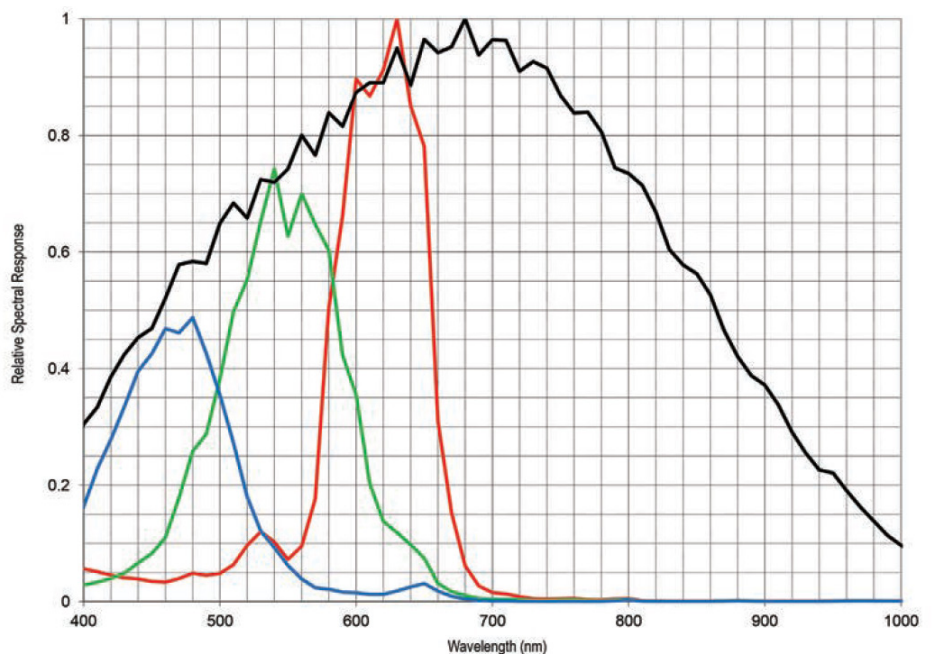
### Image Sensor:

The FASTCAM NOVA uses an advanced CMOS image sensor optimized for light sensitivity and high image quality that is unique to Photron.

A 20-micron pixel pitch gives a sensor size at full image resolution of 20.48 x 20.48mm (diagonal 28.96mm).

Lenses designed for both FX (35mm full frame) and also DX (APS-C digital SLR) formats are fully compatible with the FASTCAM NOVA at full image resolution.

Sensor Type	Proprietary Design Advanced CMOS
Maximum Resolution (pixels)	1024 x 1024 pixels
Sensor Size / Diagonal	20.48 x 20.48mm / 28.96mm
Pixel Size (microns)	20µm x 20µm
Quantum Efficiency	46% at 630nm
Fill Factor	58%
Color Matrix	Bayer CFA (single sensor)
ISO 12232 Ssat sensitivity	ISO 40,000 monochrome ISO 16,000 color (monochrome sensor equivalent ISO 100,000 including near IR response)
Shutter	Global Electronic Shutter 1ms to less than 500ns independent of frame rate (159ns shutter available subject to export control)



Specifications subject to change.

## Camera Performance Specifications

Model	Nova S12	Nova S9	Nova S6
Full Frame Performance	12,800fps 1024 x 1024 pixels	9,000fps 1024 x 1024 pixels	6,400fps 1024 x 1024 pixels
Maximum Frame Rate	1,000,000fps (128 x 16 pixels)*	900,000fps (128 x 16 pixels) *	800,000fps (128 x 16 pixels) *
Minimum Exposure Time	Global electronic shutter to less than 500ns selectable independent of frame rate (subject to export control)		
Ruggedized Mechanical Calibration Shutter	Standard feature		
Dynamic Range (ADC)	12-bit monochrome 36-bit color		
Memory Capacity Options	8GB, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB		
Memory Partitions	Up to 128 memory segments		
Region of Interest	Selectable in steps of 128 pixels (horizontal) x 16 pixels (vertical)		
Trigger Inputs	Selectable +/- TTL 5V and switch closure		
Trigger Delay	Programmable on selected input / output triggers: 100ns resolution		
Input / Output	Input: Trigger (TTL/Switch), sync, ready, event, IRIG Output: trigger, sync, ready, rec, exposure		
Trigger Modes	Start, end, center, manual, random, random reset		
Time Code Input	IRIG-B		
External Sync	+/- TTL 5Vp-p Variable frequency sync		
Camera Control Interface	High-speed Gigabit Ethernet		
Image Data Display	Frame rate, shutter speed, trigger mode, date/time, status, real time / IRIG time, frame count, resolution		
Saved Image Formats	BMP, TIFF, JPEG, PNG, RAWW, MRAW, AVI, MOV - Images can be saved with or without image data and in bit or 36-bit depth of sensor where supported		
Supported OS	Microsoft Windows operating system including: 8.1, 10 (32/64-bit)		

\* Frame rates above 225,000fps and exposure times below 1µs may be subject to export control regulations in some areas

## Mechanical and Environmental Specifications

### Optional Removable Data Storage:

The FASTCAM NOVA can be supplied with the Photron FASTDrive high capacity removable SSD. The ultra-high data rate FASTDrive allows a 64GB camera recording to be transferred to a removable SSD drive in approximately 1 minute. Recorded data can then be directly accessed while coupled to the camera or the drive may be removed and inserted into the portable FASTDock station connected to any Windows PC.

### High-Speed Gigabit Ethernet Interface:

The FASTCAM NOVA camera system is equipped with a high-speed Gigabit Ethernet Interface to provide reliable camera control and fast download of image data.

### Dedicated I/O:

A dedicated BNC connection for a contact closure hardware trigger input is provided. In addition, two programmable inputs and two programmable output channels provide direct connection for common tasks such as synchronization of multiple cameras and operation in conjunction with Data Acquisition (DAQ) hardware.

### High-G Mechanical Calibration Shutter:

The ruggedized mechanical shutter fitted as standard to the FASTCAM NOVA camera allows sensor black balance calibration to be carried out remotely from the system control software.

### Nikon G-Type Compatible Lens Mount:

The FASTCAM NOVA camera is equipped with an objective lens mount compatible with readily available Nikon G-type lenses. Controls provided within the lens mount allow the control of lens aperture on lenses without external iris control.

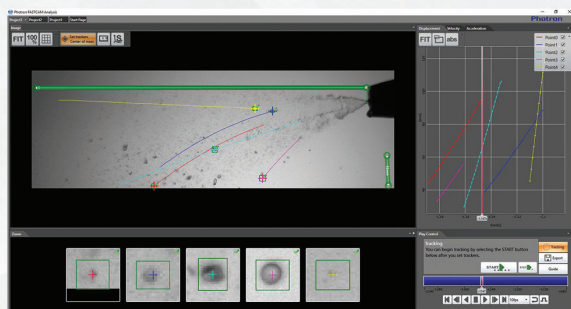
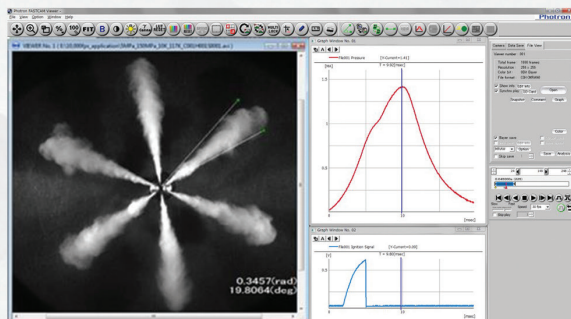


## Camera Operation Features

Frame Synchronization	Accurate frame synchronization with other cameras and with external and unstable frequencies.
Dual Slope Shutter (Extended Dynamic Range)	Selectable in 20 steps (0 to 95% in 5% increments) to prevent pixel overexposure without post processing.
Memory Partitions	Up to 128 memory segments allow multiple events to be stored in camera memory before downloading, with automatic progression to the next available partition.
Low Light Mode	Operation at minimum frame rate with separately adjustable shutter time to allow easy camera set-up and focus in ambient lighting.
IRIG Phase Lock	Enables multiple cameras to be synchronized together with other instrumentation equipment or to a master external time source.
Internal Time Delay Generator	Allows programmable delays to be set on input and output triggers; 100ns resolution.
Event Markers	Up to ten user-entered event markers to define specific events within the recorded image sequence.
Download While Recording	FASTCAM NOVA supports Partition Recording Mode, allowing image data captured in one memory partition to be downloaded while at the same time recording into another partition.
Automatic Download	The system can be set to automatically download image data to the control PC and, when download is complete to re-arm in readiness for the next trigger with automatically incremented file names.
Software Binning	Virtual pixel binning (2x2, 4x4 etc.) allows increased light sensitivity with reduced image resolution without changing camera field of view.
FASTDrive	Operational 1TB solid state drive (SSD) memory pack provides ultra high data rate transfer to removable media.

## Operation Software Features

Image Calibration	2D image calibration allows the measurement of distance and angle from the image. A calibration grid overlay can be superimposed on the image.
Image Overlay	A stored reference image may be overlaid on the live image to allow accurate camera positioning to achieve the same view as a previous test.
Import of Multiple Image Sequences	Multiple image sequences can be loaded and simultaneously replayed. Timing of image sequences can be adjusted to create a common time reference. Time based synchronization allows images captured at different frame rates to be synchronized.
High Dynamic Range Mode	Making use of the full sensor dynamic range, HDR mode allows enhanced detail in both light and dark areas of an image to be displayed simultaneously.
Background Subtraction	In order to highlight subtle changes in an image, Background Subtraction allows a reference image to be subtracted from a recorded sequence. Details including propagation of shock waves and surface changes during impact can be visualized using the feature.
Line Profile	A line profile representing grey levels along a line drawn across any region of the image is displayed. In live mode the Line Profile can be used to ensure optimum image focus is achieved.
Histogram	A histogram displaying grey levels within a user-defined image area is displayed. In live mode the Histogram can be used to ensure that optimum exposure levels are set for the scene being recorded.



### Photron FASTCAM Viewer:

Photron FASTCAM Viewer software (PFV) has been designed to provide an intuitive and feature rich user interface for the control of Photron high-speed cameras, data saving, image replay and simple motion analysis. Advanced operation menus provide access to features for advanced camera operation and image enhancement. Tools are provided to allow image calibration and easy measurement of angles and distances from image data. Also included are a C++ SDK and wrappers for LabView and MATLAB ®.

An optional software plug-in module provides synchronization between Photron high-speed cameras and data acquired through National Instruments data acquisition systems. Synchronized data captured by the DAQ system provides waveform information which can be viewed alongside high-speed camera images.

### Photron FASTCAM Analysis:

PFV software allows image sequences to be exported directly to optional Photron FASTCAM Analysis (PFA) Motion Analysis software. This entry level Motion Analysis software with an on screen 'step by step guide' function provides automated tracking of up to 5 points using feature or correlation tracking algorithms for the automated analysis of motion within an image sequence.

## Variable Region of Interest:

Region of Interest (ROI) or sub-windowing allows a user-specified portion of the sensor to be defined to capture images. By using a reduced portion of the image area, the frame rate at which images are recorded can be increased. FASTCAM NOVA allows the ROI to be set in increments of 128 pixels horizontal and 16 pixels vertical.

## Square Image Sensor Format:

Unlike broadcast and media applications where image formats such as 16:9 have now become standard, in scientific and industrial imaging applications an image sensor with a 1:1 image format is generally accepted to be advantageous. To capture the maximum useful image data in applications including microscopy, detonics, combustion imaging and many others, a 1:1 sensor format provides greater flexibility than 'letterbox' image formats. The FASTCAM NOVA image sensor allows the user to choose either square or rectangular image formats in order to obtain the maximum subject information.

## External Frame Synchronization:

The FASTCAM NOVA can be fully synchronized with an external event to allow the timing of when each individual image is captured to be precisely referenced. The camera can be accurately synchronized to unstable frequencies allowing complex events such as combustion in rapidly accelerating or decelerating engines to be recorded and studied.

## Record During Download Operation:

FASTCAM NOVA recording memory can be divided into multiple active sections. The user can record an on-going event in one memory partition while at the same time downloading a previously recorded image sequence in order to improve workflow and optimize camera operation.

NOVA S12									
Resolution	Frame Rate	8GB		16GB		32GB		64GB	
(h x v pixels)	Max fps	Frames	Time (sec)**	Frames	Time (sec)**	Frames	Time (sec)**	Frames	Time (sec)**
1024 x 1024	12,800	5,461	0.43	10,922	0.85	21,844	1.71	43,688	3.41
1024 x 768	18,000	7,278	0.40	14,556	0.81	29,112	1.62	58,224	3.23
1024 x 576	24,000	9,704	0.40	19,408	0.81	38,817	1.62	77,633	3.23
768 x 512	32,000	14,556	0.45	29,112	0.91	58,225	1.82	116,449	3.64
640 x 480	40,000	18,632	0.47	37,264	0.93	74,528	1.86	149,055	3.73
640 x 256	64,000	34,935	0.55	69,870	1.09	139,740	2.18	279,479	4.36
512 x 512	40,000	21,834	0.55	43,669	1.09	87,337	2.18	174,674	4.36
512 x 384	50,000	29,112	0.58	58,225	1.16	116,450	2.33	232,899	4.66
384 x 384	64,000	38,817	0.61	77,633	1.21	155,266	2.43	310,532	4.85
384 x 256	90,000	58,225	0.65	116,450	1.29	232,900	2.59	465,799	5.18
256 x 256	115,200	87,337	0.76	174,675	1.52	349,349	3.03	698,698	6.07
256 x 128	225,000	174,675	0.78	349,349	1.55	698,699	3.11	1,397,397	6.21
128 x 96	320,000	465,799	1.46	931,598	2.91	1,863,196	5.82	3,726,392	11.64
128 x 64	500,000	698,699	1.40	1,397,397	2.79	2,794,795	5.59	5,589,589	11.17
128 x 32	750,000	1,397,397	1.86	2,794,795	3.73	5,589,589	7.45	11,179,178	14.90
128 x 16	1,000,000	2,794,795	2.79	5,589,589	5.59	11,179,179	11.18	22,358,357	22.35

\* Specifications subject to change without notice.

\*\* Recording time is an estimate and may be different depending on recording conditions and settings.

This space was intentionally left blank.  
Frame rates for the S9 and S6 cameras will be placed here soon.



# Mechanical and Environmental Specifications

Lens Mount	F-mount (G-type lens compatible) and C-mount provided - Optional lens mounts available include Canon EF remote control mount
Camera Mountings	4 x 1/4 - 20 UNC (base and top), 4 x M5 (base)
<b>External Dimensions</b>	
Camera Body (excluding protrusions)	120mm (H) x 120mm (W) x 230mm (D) 4.72" (H) x 4.72" (W) x 9.05" (D)
<b>Weight</b>	
Camera Body	3.2kg (7.05lbs)
<b>Environmental</b>	
Operating Temperature	0 to 50C, 14° to 122°F
Storage Temperature	-20 to 60C, -4° to 140°F
Humidity	85% or less (non-condensing)
Cooling	Internal fan cooling (fan-off mode supported)
Operational Shock	25G, 11ms, 6-axes 10 times/axis
<b>Power</b>	
AC Power (with supplied adapter)	100 to 240V, 50 to 60Hz
DC Power	22 to 32V, 55VA

## Nikon G-Type Compatible Lens Mount:

The FASTCAM NOVA camera is equipped with an objective lens mount compatible with readily available Nikon G-type lenses. Controls provided within the lens mount allow the control of lens aperture on lenses without external iris control.

## Canon EF Lens Mount Option:

An optional lens mount supporting Canon EF lenses is available for the FASTCAM NOVA providing remote control of lens aperture and iris through Photron PFV software.

## Operation Environments:

The 'sealed body' design of the FASTCAM NOVA ensures optimum air flow and prevents dust and corrosive particles from being ingested within the internal camera body where they can damage sensitive electronics. The fans may be disabled during recording for any vibration sensitive measurements.

The FASTCAM NOVA camera has been extensively tested to ensure operation for extended periods in ambient temperatures up to 50 degrees C.

## Fan Stop Function:

Remotely switch off cooling fans to eliminate vibration when recording at high magnifications



Specifications subject to change without notice.

PHOTRON USA, INC.  
9520 Padgett Street, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92126  
USA

Tel: 858.684.3555 or 800.585.2129  
Fax: 858.684.3558  
Email: [image@photron.com](mailto:image@photron.com)  
[www.photron.com](http://www.photron.com)

PHOTRON EUROPE LIMITED  
The Barn, Bottom Road  
West Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4BS  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1494 481011  
Fax: +44 (0) 1494 487011  
Email: [image@photron.com](mailto:image@photron.com)  
[www.photron.com](http://www.photron.com)

PHOTRON (Shanghai)  
Room 20C, Zhao-Feng  
World Trade Building  
No. 369, JiangSu Road  
ChangNing District  
Shanghai, 200050 China  
Tel: +86 (0) 21-5268-3700  
Email: [info@photron.cn.com](mailto:info@photron.cn.com)  
[www.photron.cn.com](http://www.photron.cn.com)

PHOTRON LIMITED  
Kanda Jinbo-cho 1-105  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051  
Japan

Tel: +81 (0) 3 3518-6271  
Fax: +81 (0) 3 3518-6279  
Email: [image@photron.co.jp](mailto:image@photron.co.jp)  
[www.photron.co.jp](http://www.photron.co.jp)