Light barrier

Instruction sheet



1. Safety instructions

- When using the equipment in conjunction with a laser source, strictly observe the stipulated safety regulations.
- Never look directly into the laser beam.

2. Scope of delivery

1 Light barrier

1 Stand rod, length: 120 mm

18-pin mini DIN connection cable, length: 1 m

1 Knurled screw M6x1

3. Description

The light barrier can be used in two operating modes.

 Internal light barrier mode: light barrier with an infrared light source and an infra-red detector with a very short signal delay for measuring time intervals with moving bodies, e.g. during free fall, in air track experiments and for pendulum oscillations, as well as for counting pulses.

Laser light barrier mode: laser diode detector built in at the side for setting up a wide-range barrier along with a laser pointer, e.g. during sporting events.

The light barrier is equipped with a built-in LED function display: beam broken = 1 (TTL high). When disabled or when the beam is interrupted, the LED function display comes on.

The narrow barrier arm in front of the infra-red source includes a sliding mechanical shutter that is used for disabling internal light-barrier mode and activating laser light-barrier mode.

4. Technical data

Separation of prongs: 82 mm
Rise time: 60 ns
Spatial resolution: < 1 mm
Time resolution: 10 µs

5. Operation

- Screw onto the stand rod using the arm attached to the thinner of the two prongs of the barrier and the M6 nut provided for this purpose.
- Insert the mini DIN cable into the mini DIN connector on the broader prong of the barrier and connect it to the NETlog[™] interface or to digital counter
- Activate internal light barrier mode by opening the mechanical shutter. Subsequently, mount and focus the device for the intended application.
- Activate laser light barrier mode by closing the mechanical shutter and (roughly) focus the laser light source onto the opening at the side of the light barrier. To achieve this, mirrors may be used to deflect the laser beam. Make fine adjustments to the light barrier.

6. Applications

Determining the position, velocity and acceleration of moving bodies

Determining the acceleration due to gravity g in free fall experiments

Measuring periods of oscillating bodies

7. Sample experiment

Determining acceleration due to gravity g using picket fence U11366

Required apparatus:

- 1 NET log™
- 1 Light barrier
- 1 Picket fence
- 1 Stand base
- 1 Steel rod, length: 750 mm
- 1 Universal clamp

(1 Foam rubber sheet, approx. 20 x 20 cm)

- Use the stand apparatus to fix the light barrier at a suitable height above ground level or at the edge of a table. If necessary, place a cushioning surface (e.g. foam rubber sheet) along the point of impact.
- Select the digital input of the NETlog™ interface and load the free-fall experiment (template) from the NETlab™ software. All the necessary settings required for evaluation are provided by this software.
- Conduct the experiment and analyse your results.



Fig. 1: Measuring free fall

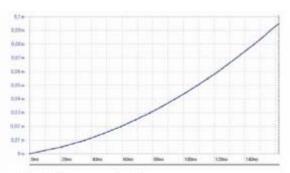


Fig. 2: Distance against time

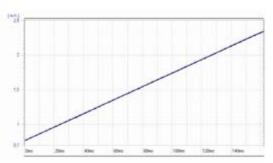


Fig. 3: Acceleration due to gravity against time