

dbOptic Ver 3.6 Release Notes 25-July-2021

1. Installing Evaluation Version. The Evaluation Version of dbOptic is installed automatically by opening the installation setup file, dbOpt36-secure.exe. The free file download is available from the websites <https://www.opticaldesignsoftware.net> and <https://www.skyscientific.com/dboptic-optical-design-software>.

Depending upon your version of Windows® and your installed security software, you may receive a warning screen message claiming that the file you are about download (or install) is "unsafe." Your ISP, Windows® or your installed cyber security software may suggest that a file is unsafe simply because it is not a "frequently" downloaded file.

If a "Windows Protected Your PC" message is displayed, click on the "More Info" link to proceed with the installation. Understand that Sky Scientific has offered dbOptic as an internet download for more than twenty years and has never experienced nor have we received customer reports of a corrupted or hacked download file.

The default install location is the usual "Program Files" or "Program Files x(86)" directory. Important application database files will be installed at location C:\\$ProgramData\dbOptic.

2. Full-Feature Licensed Version of dbOptic. Your installed Evaluation Version of dbOptic is converted into the full-feature licensed version after entering the correct License Activation Key. The Activation Key may be ordered from the dbOptic program startup screen, taking you to the web location <https://www.skyscientific.com/dboptic-optical-design-software> to place your order.

You must install the evaluation version before you can order the Activation code. When ordering you will need to provide the Installation ID shown on the dbOptic startup

screen so that the correct Activation Key may be sent to you.

Do the following after you receive your License Activation Key:

(a) If the evaluation period has not yet expired, you may enter the Activation Key by selecting 'About dbOptic' from the dbOptic 'Help' Menu.

(b) If the evaluation period has expired, you will be prompted to enter the Activation Key upon attempting to restart the dbOptic program.

3. Differences Between Evaluation Version and Full-Featured License Version:

(a) Evaluation Version database is limited to 50 optical designs. If this number is exceeded, one or more designs must be deleted to restore complete program operation.

(b) Glass Catalog records in the Evaluation version may not be edited. You are unable to add media records or edit index data in the Glass Catalog.

(c) Linking to an alternate Lens & Glass Data file is disabled in the Evaluation Version.

(d) Evaluation Version is time-limited. Program will cease operation after the evaluation period has lapsed.

4. Starting dbOptic. The installation adds "dbOptic" to the list of Start Menu programs. Select dbOptic from the list to start the program or use the desktop shortcut that may be added during installation.

5. Upgrading or Reinstalling dbOptic:

(a) VERY IMPORTANT ! If you wish to preserve any of your current dbOptic designs BEFORE reinstalling or upgrading you should use the File > Export Menu Command to export them one-by-one to an external .LGF file. After the

reinstall or upgrade is complete, you will be able to import the designs from the external file back into your new dbOptic database using the File > Import Menu Command.

(b) You may request a free .LGF file for the above purpose by making an email request to sales@skyscientific.com. The file named "My Lens Data.LGF" containing only a single design will be sent to you by return email.

(c) Licensed version users may instead copy their dbOptic_data.LGF file containing the existing designs to a different location (or simply rename it). You may later link to this as an alternate file using the File > Link menu command. The default location for your dbOptic_data.LGF file is the folder C:\\$ProgramData\dbOptic. The link command File > Link is available only to licensed users.

(d) After taking any needed steps as described above in the event you wish to preserve your existing designs, it is recommended that you uninstall dbOptic before upgrading or reinstalling.

6. Uninstalling dbOptic. dbOptic may be removed from your computer by selecting "Add or Remove Programs" from the Windows Control Panel (Programs > "Uninstall a Program" in Windows 10). Some files may need to be removed manually.

7. Version 3 File Extensions

.SKY - Sky Scientific application database and license files.

.LGF - dbOptic Lens & Glass data files. Each of these files contain both lens and glass data and may be linked to the application using the File > Link menu command.

.LXF - dbOptic export and import lens data files, used for sharing designs. Similar to .lgf files, but contain

no glass data.

.MDB - Obsolete export/import file. dbOptic Version 3 is able to import from earlier version dbOptic.mdb export files.

8. Software Issues. Some users who have experienced run-time errors after installation on Windows® 7, 8 or 10 systems have reported that choosing the compatibility option to "Run This Program as an Administrator" has corrected the problem in some instances. If indicated, make this selection by right-clicking on the dbOptic shortcut in the list of Start Menu programs or desktop shortcut, select "Properties" and check the appropriate box on the "Compatibility" tab.

9. Download Security. Windows 10 users may manage their Windows Defender download security settings as follows:

(a) Type "smartscreen" into Windows Search at the lower left of your Desktop.

(b) Click on "App & Browser Control System Settings."

(c) In the section entitled "Check Apps and Files," choose among one of the three possible settings, BLOCK, WARN or OFF. Windows 10 systems are typically shipped with the setting at "WARN" which will result in the "WINDOWS PROTECTED YOUR PC" message when you run the downloaded installation file.

10. dbOptic Version History

Software Upgrade (Ver 2.0) - Feb 2003

The version 2.0 upgrade adds features including polychromatic spot diagrams and imaging of extended objects.

Version 2.1 Software Upgrade - Dec 2003

The version 2.1 upgrade improves program operation during nested sorting and filtering and expands the Glass Catalog to include 31 additional glass types from

Pilkington plc.

Version 2.2 Software Upgrade - Aug 2004

The version 2.2 upgrade improves RxDetail Grid operation when entering or editing surface data for new prescriptions.

Version 2.3 Software Upgrade - Dec 2004

Version 2.3 corrects various miscellaneous program anomalies present in earlier versions. The evaluation version has also been upgraded.

Version 2.4 Software Upgrade - Oct 2005

Free version 2.4 upgrade available to individuals and companies that have purchased earlier versions of dbOptic. Version 2.4 corrects problem experienced by some Win XP users of program shutting down without warning when entering surface codes (e.g. "S", "F", etc) in Rx Detail Grid. Jet 4.0 Access tables have been upgraded to MS Access 2003 structure.

Alternate Version 2.4a - Apr 2006

Corrects reported installation problems associated with the Windows® File Protection System.

Version 2.5 - May 2007

Corrects several problems that often prevented successful program installation or operation with Windows Vista® operating system.

Version 2.6 - May 2009

Install package updated to include current MS dynamic-link libraries. Adjusted size of primary form to eliminate cutoff at 720 pixel screen height. Added direct link to Activation Key order page in evaluation version. Updated program documentation. Verified compatibility with Windows 7® pre-release version. Added warnings to preclude inadvertent entry of surface radius of curvature for Flat and Iris surface types.

Version 3.0 - May 2011

New features added including (1) importing ZEMAX® Lens

files (2) tilted surfaces (3) improved network operation with multiple workstations (4) linking to alternate back-end databases.

Version 3.1 - Mar 2017

Addresses operational issues identified while running dbOptic under Windows 8.0, 8.1 and Windows 10.

Version 3.2 - Apr 2018

Addresses new operational issues present for some users after running Windows 10 updates.

Version 3.3 - Oct 2018

Corrects minor program bugs and adds security feature that initially locks designs in linked "library" databases. These fixes and others that improve program operation suggested by Mr. Chris Lord, FRAS.

Version 3.4 - Mar 2019

Adds a feature to display ray bundles.

Version 3.5 - Mar 2019

Adds additional features:

Display traces with multiple object angles, optional white background color for traces, display spot diagrams with linear or angular scaling, allows for the export of individual designs to text files.

Version 3.6 - May 2021

Corrects some feature description inconsistencies among the dbOptic software application, documentation file, and the Sky Scientific website at <https://www.skyscientific.com>.

11. Reporting Program Installation and Operation Issues.

Please report program issues that you are experiencing via email to sales@skyscientific.com. Identify your pc operating system. If problems can be repeated, please provide the sequence of steps that can reproduce the problem.