



Notable AO Contributions

- Ophthalmic Optics
- Safety Eyewear
- Fiber Optics
- Todd – AO movie projection / sound
- Military Contributions
- Instruments
- Medical Devices

AO & Ophthalmic Optics





AO Ophthalmic Lens "Firsts"

- Tillyer Corrected Curve Series
- First US Progressive lens patent – Dr. Estelle Glancy in 1924
- First Minus Toric Series
- Implementation of Franklin Style Executive Bifocal
- First *plastic* Photochromic Lens
- Permalite – Industry first Abrasion Resistant coating
- AO Compact – first PAL designed for Small Frames



AO Safety Products Firsts

- First Safety Goggle
- First Heat Tempered Glass Lens (added impact resistance lens strength)
- Invented Calobar and Cruxite
- Fulvue Frame (first with temples attached at the top)
- Executive Safety lens



AO Instrument Firsts Include:

- The LENSOMETER
- Additive Phoroptor
- Additive Trial Sets
- Non Contact Tonometer (1972)
- Cardiac difibrillator
- Demand pacemaker
- Solid State Laser



Fiber Optics

- Early 1953 Dr. Brian O'Brien joins AO (Todd-AO his top priority)
- Sept 1954- AO Hires Will Hicks / CIA
- Mid -1957 Image Scrambler Project ends after Hicks tells CIA code easy to break
- 1958 – Hicks leaves AO and Forms Mosaic Fabrications in Sturbridge
- 1960 – Hicks / Eli Snitzer (AO): single mode wavelength patent



“Recent” AO History (Ownership)

- 1949 Wells family sells interests in AO
- 1967 Warner Lambert Buys AO
- 1982 M& R Purchase AO from WL, divests Soft Contact Lens (1984), Safety (1990), AO Lens (1996)
- 1996 SOLA buys AO Lens
- 2005 AO/SOLA/Zeiss lens merge to become Carl Zeiss Vision