

Guide to microplate readers

A one-stop solution for your microplate detection needs

Choose the microplate reader that best suits your research needs

Thermo Scientific™ microplate readers provide flexibility, performance, and ease of use for a variety of microplate assays. Whether you need to measure fluorescence, absorbance, luminescence, or time-resolved fluorescence (TRF), or you use PerkinElmer™ AlphaScreen™ assays, we can offer a microplate reader solution to help meet the requirements of your specific workflow. With a portfolio of dedicated modular and upgradable multimode readers, we also offer solutions that can fit your current budget and help meet the future needs of your laboratory.

Thermo Scientific plate readers have a number of features to help you save time and maximize productivity, including:

- Autocalibration
- Easy export in Microsoft[™] Excel[™] format
- · Automation readiness with robot compatibility
- No limit to the number of computers on which intuitive Thermo Scientific™ Skanlt™ Software can be installed
- Ready-to-use protocols available in our extensive online protocol library

For more information, go to thermofisher.com/platereaders

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	Multiskan FC	Multiskan SkyHigh	Varioskan LUX	
Consideration	photometer	spectrophotometer	scanning multimode reader	
Applications	Absorbance		Absorbance, fluorescence Optional: TRF, luminescence, AlphaScreen assay readout	
	340–850 nm	200–1,000 nm	Absorbance: 200-1000 nm Fluorescence excitation: 200-1000 nm**	
Wavelength range			Fluorescence emission: 270–840 nm Luminescence: 360–670 nm (spectral scanning 270–840 nm) TRF excitation: fixed to 334 nm (spectral scanning 200–840 nm) TRF emission: 400–670 nm (spectral scanning 270–840 nm) AlphaScreen assay excitation: fixed to 680 nm	
			AlphaScreen assay emission: 400–660 nm	
Movelenath	Filters	Monochromator	Monochromator for UV/Vis absorbance and fluorescence intensity	
Wavelength selection			Filters for luminescence (when necessary), TRF, AlphaScreen assays	
	96 wells (384 wells optional)	μDrop and μDrop Duo Plates, 6- to 48-well plates,* 96- and 384-well plates	6-1,536 wells (fluorometry, TRF, luminometry, AlphaScreen assays)	
Plate format			μDrop and μDrop Duo Plates, 6-384 wells (absorbance)	
Incubation	Optional	Yes	Yes	
Shaking	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Reagent dispensers	No	No	Optional (up to two)	
Top/bottom	NA	NA	Top (standard)	
reading	INA	IVA	Bottom (optional)†	
Cuvettes	No	Optional	With µDrop plate	
Gas control module	No	No	Optional	
		Manufacture Manufa		

^{*} Maximum plate height with lid is 19.5 mm.

^{**} Emission wavelength must be greater than excitation wavelength.

[†] Instruments with bottom reading capabilities feature multilocation reads per well.

A range of microplate readers to enable maximum flexibility and performance

To measure absorbance

Thermo Scientific™ Multiskan™ FC Microplate Photometer

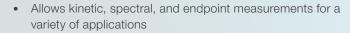
A robust and reliable filter-based instrument that can be used for a wide variety of research and routine applications. It can be used as a stand-alone instrument or under PC control with intuitive Skanlt Software.

- Use for a wide variety of applications, including ELISAs, endotoxin assays, cytotoxicity assays, and growth curves
- Shake and incubate at up to 50°C for temperature-sensitive assays
- Proven performance and reliable day-to-day results through optical design and self-diagnostics

thermofisher.com/multiskanfc

Thermo Scientific™ Multiskan™ SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer

The Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate
Spectrophotometer is easy to use for any
photometric or turbidimetric research
application, particularly nucleic acid and protein analysis. It
offers an optional, easy-to-use graphic touchscreen and multiple
connectivity options (USB, computer, or cloud). Key highlights:



- Separate optimized measurement modes for absorbance and turbidimetric measurements
- Fast reading speed that is essential for kinetic applications
- Available in three different configurations: 1) touchscreen,
 2) cuvette and touchscreen, and 3) operated only with Skanlt Software (PC)
- Reads Thermo Scientific[™] µDrop[™] and µDrop[™] Duo plates for microvolume analysis of DNA, RNA, and protein
- Models with touchscreens have an easy-to-use interface for stand-alone use and include ready-made protocols for UV-based nucleic acid and protein quantification as well as colorimetric protein quantification
- Fast operation: full spectrum (200–1,000 nm) of a sample well is obtained in less than 10 seconds, and a full 96-well microplate is read in 6 seconds
- Access to the Thermo Fisher™ Connect Platform or Microsoft™ OneDrive™ cloud-based tools allows you to securely store, access, share, and manage data remotely (touchscreen models)

thermofisher.com/multiskanskyhigh

For multimode readouts

Thermo Scientific™ Varioskan™ LUX Multimode Microplate Reader

Designed to suit a wide variety of needs, the Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader has a flexible range of measurement modes.



The instrument simplifies measurement setup with automatic dynamic range selection, and its smart safety controls help you avoid experimental errors. The Varioskan LUX multimode reader raises the bar for reliability and ease, and features:

- Five detection modes: absorbance, fluorescence, luminescence, TRF, and AlphaScreen modules
- Five measurement modes: endpoint, kinetic, spectral, multipoint, and kinetic-spectral
- Spectral scanning with 1 nm increments for assay scanning
- Simultaneous dispensing and measurement of fast reactions right from the start
- Integrated gas module for control of CO₂ and O₂
- Wavelength selection with:
 - Monochromators in absorbance and fluorescence intensity
 - Filters in AlphaScreen assays and TRF
 - Luminescence without wavelength selection or optionally with filters

thermofisher.com/varioskanlux

Software for readout

Skanlt Software

The intuitive interface of the updated Skanlt Software can guide you through the measurement process to help you get the results you need. With Skanlt Software, you have full control over the instrument settings for all of your Thermo Scientific microplate readers.

Skanlt Software is available in two editions. The Research Edition is for scientists working in life science research, and the Drug Discovery Edition has features to help you comply with FDA 21 CFR Part 11 requirements.

Skanlt Software makes microplate reading easy

Skanlt Software provides excellent usability and flexibility, even for the most challenging microplate assays. This software offers visual workflow setup and effortless data reduction and export. Here are some of Skanlt Software's key features:

- Capable of endpoint, kinetic, spectral scanning, and bottom reading with a multipoint option, as well as kinetic-spectral measurements
- An extensive cloud-based library of ready-made protocols is available
- The intuitive user interface simplifies measurement setup
- The Invitrogen™ Fluorescence SpectraViewer tool enables easy assay setup

- The virtual pipette tool makes it easy to define sample-to-plate layout
- Produces user-customizable graphs
- Built-in calculations for fast, accurate data analysis, including:
 - Parallel line analysis
 - Enzyme kinetics (K_m and V_{max})
 - Z-factor
 - Linear and logistic curve fitting with extrapolation
- Single-click data export to Excel program
- Manually or automatically export data in .xlsx, .pdf, .xml, and .txt file formats
- Robotic automation interface is available for high-throughput needs
- Open license software allows unlimited installation on multiple computers
- No annual fee is required to use the software

thermofisher.com/skanit

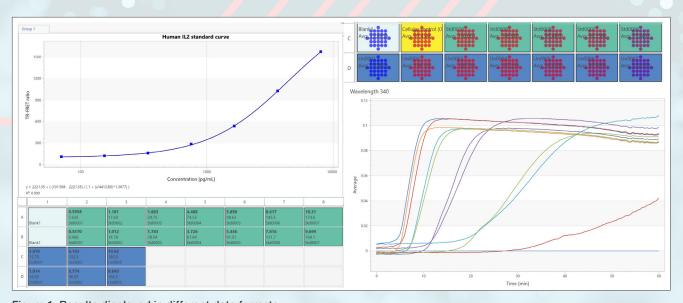


Figure 1. Results displayed in different data formats.

Applications

Cell viability and cell proliferation

Cell viability can be detected through various cellular features, such as membrane integrity, enzyme activity, or metabolic activity. Viability assays are used to evaluate the response to internal or external stimuli, such as the cytotoxic effects from drug screenings.

Microplate assays provide information on entire cell populations rather than tracking the behavior of individual cells. We offer assays for whole cells and assays performed on disrupted cells or cell lysates.

The analysis of cell proliferation is crucial for cell growth and differentiation studies, as well as cancer research, and is often used to evaluate both compound toxicity and inhibition of tumor cell growth during drug development. Proliferation measurements in microplate assays are typically based on average DNA content or cellular metabolism, or quantification of DNA synthesis.

Microplate assays for cell viability

Microplate assays for cell proliferation

Nucleic acid quantification

Accurate and precise nucleic acid quantification is critical for cellular and molecular biology labs that work with precious, rare, or difficult-to-process samples. This step helps to ensure the success of many downstream experiments including PCR, next-generation sequencing, transfection, reverse transcription, northern blot analysis, and cDNA library preparation.

Invitrogen™ Quant-iT™ assay kits utilize fluorophores that fluoresce upon binding to DNA or RNA; the fluorescence intensity of the resulting complex is proportional to the amount of the target molecule in the sample.

thermofisher.com/quantit

thermofisher.com/naq

Protein quantitation

Quantitating protein samples is an important step before gel electrophoresis or western blot analysis, and for measuring bound versus free protein levels in protein binding assays. The choice of assay format is often based on other components in the sample mixture. Thermo Scientific™ Pierce™ protein quantitation assays provide exceptional accuracy, compatibility, and broad applicability that enable most laboratory protein samples to be quantitated with ease.

thermofisher.com/proteinassays

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) are an important tool for the quantitative analysis of specific proteins from a wide variety of samples. We offer more than 2,000 highly referenced ELISAs to detect cytokines, phosphoproteins, oncogenes, and a wide variety of biomarkers. Most assays are available in a variety of formats including precoated, bulk, and matched pairs to help maximize your time and budget.

thermofisher.com/elisa

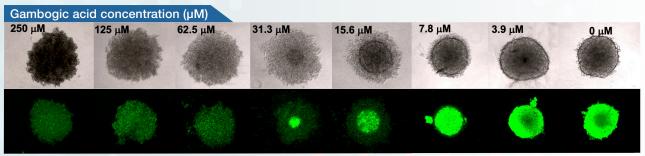
Endotoxin quantitation

Endotoxins are frequent contaminants of protein solutions derived from bioproduction and are toxic to cells grown in tissue culture. Since endotoxins are pyrogenic (fever-inducing) in mammals, it is extremely important to identify, monitor, and eliminate their presence in biological samples.

thermofisher.com/endotoxin

Pairing the Varioskan LUX instrument with Thermo Scientific™ assay kits and reagents allows researchers to elucidate intricate biological questions, and minimal effort is needed to optimize instrument settings and assay conditions. The Varioskan LUX instrument has excellent capabilities for interrogating cell viability and other cellular functions in 2D as well as 3D models.

Cell viability readouts can be obtained from complex 3D cell structures using the Varioskan LUX multimode reader. For example, exposure of A549 lung 3D spheroids to gambogic acid results in concentration- and time-dependent cytotoxicity that can easily be quantified on the instrument using the Invitrogen™ CyQUANT™ Direct Cell Proliferation Assay. This assay enables effective quantitation with a microplate reader and simultaneous imaging of cell death on an imaging platform like the Invitrogen™ EVOS™ M7000 Imaging System or the Thermo Scientific™ CellInsight™ CX7 High-Content Analysis (HCA) Platform.



48-hour gambogic acid treatment

Figure 2. Measurement of A549 lung spheroid viability using the Varioskan LUX instrument (top) and visualization of viable cells using the CellInsight CX7 HCA Platform (bottom). Spheroids were grown for 19 hours in Thermo Scientific™ Nunclon™ Sphera™ 96-well plates, then stained with the CyQUANT Direct Cell Proliferation Assay. Green fluorescence, in this assay associated with living cells with high DNA content, was measured using bottom optics in the Varioskan LUX instrument (12 nm excitation bandwidth) with excitation and emission at 508 nm and 527 nm, respectively.

Microplates

Thermo Scientific™ Nunc™ cell culture plates

Choose from a wide selection of surface modifications and formats for a variety of 2D and 3D cell-based assays.

Thermo Scientific[™] Nunc[™] black and white polystyrene plates

Get optimal performance with minimal background and crosstalk between wells for maximum signal detection.

Thermo Scientific™ Nunc™ Edge™ plates

Minimize evaporation concerns for live cell assays with long incubations.

To find the Nunc plate that best suits your needs, go to thermofisher.com/cellcultureplates

Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer

The Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer builds on over 40 years of experience within the Multiskan product brand, and contains evolved features for enhanced usability. The Multiskan FC device has a 340–850 nm wavelength range, enabling a wide variety of applications from enzyme kinetic studies to Lowry assays. The instrument provides fast and accurate measurements that make possible a complete reading of a 96-well plate in less than 7 seconds.

The optical design of the Multiskan FC photometer, in combination with the auto-calibration procedure that is performed during each measurement, helps ensure stable day-to-day and year-to-year performance and reliability.

The Multiskan FC device is equipped with an eight-position filter wheel with three standard filters (405, 450, and 620 nm). Additional filters are available upon request. Additional features include:

- Proven performance and reliable day-to-day results through optical design and self-diagnostics
- Multiple language options to ensure excellent usability
- Robot-friendly plate carrier for both 96- and 384-well plates

thermofisher.com/multiskanfc



Wellwash and Wellwash Versa microplate washers

Reliable and easy-to-use Thermo Scientific™ Wellwash™ microplate strip washers provide secure washing performance for routine and research ELISA applications.

The Thermo Scientific™ Wellwash™ Microplate Washer is the basic model for washing 96-well plates. It is intended for use when only a few similar assays are run routinely. The Thermo Scientific™ Wellwash™ Versa Microplate Washer is the advanced model for 96-well plates that can also wash cells and 384-well plates, offering the enhanced flexibility needed for research use.

Unpressurized bottles are safe and secure to use. The automatic rinse and prime features prevent clogging of the liquid transfer system. The liquid level sensors in both the wash and the waste bottle help ensure safe performance. The low residual volumes of Wellwash washers provide optimal washing performance and reliable assay results. Additional attributes of the system include:

- Fast and simple instrument setup and use with color-coded tube fittings and liquid-level sensor cables
- Easy setup of wash protocols through color screening and the visual user interface
- Internal software available in several languages
- USB port for transferring protocols between several washer units
- Sweep mode for extremely low residual volume needs



Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer

The Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer is easy to use for any photometric or turbidimetric research application, particularly nucleic acid and protein analyses. The versatile Skanlt Software and user interface, optimized for touchscreen use, offers refined photometry in life science research and brings versatility to academic, biotech, and pharmaceutical laboratories. The system also offers multiple connectivity options (USB, computer, or cloud).

The Multiskan SkyHigh device is available in three different configurations: 1) touchscreen, 2) cuvette and touchscreen, and 3) operated only with Skanlt Software (PC). Models with touchscreens have an easy-to-use interface for standalone use and include ready-made protocols for UV-based nucleic acid and protein quantification as well as colorimetric protein quantification.

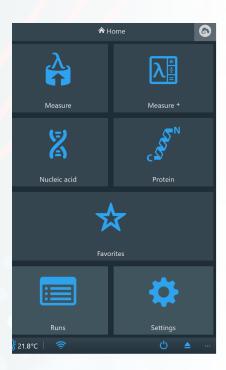
Access to the Connect Platform or OneDrive cloud-based tools allows you to securely store, access, share, and manage data remotely (touchscreen models). Additionally, the intuitive Skanlt PC Software is powerful enough to address even the most challenging applications. Multiple languages are available whether the instrument is operated via the touchscreen or Skanlt Software.

With the Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer, you can switch between assays, measuring photometric signals from 200 to 1,000 nm. Instead of filters, this instrument uses a monochromator system with a proven optical design that helps ensure excellent sensitivity and unparalleled results. A full spectral scan can be run in just 10 seconds at 1 nm increments. The narrow measurement bandwidth helps ensure excellent spectral resolution.



Additional features include:

- Kinetic, spectral, and endpoint measurements for a variety of applications
- Separate optimized measurement modes for absorbance and turbidimetric measurements
- Reads μDrop and μDrop Duo plates for microvolume analysis of DNA, RNA, and protein
- Fast operation: full spectrum (200–1,000 nm) of a sample well is obtained in less than 10 seconds, and a full 96-well microplate is read in 6 seconds
- Compatible with 96- and 384-well microplates with and without lids or cuvettes, and plates with 6–48 wells without lids
- Performs onboard shaking and incubation for temperature-critical or cell-based assays
- Automation compatibility for integration with Skanlt Software automation interface
- Models with a touchscreen have ready-to-use built-in protocols for nucleic acid and protein quantification



Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader

Designed specifically for bioscience researchers with a wide variety of needs and assay requirements, the Varioskan LUX microplate reader comes equipped with a range of measurement technologies, including absorbance and fluorescence intensity with optional and upgradable modules for luminescence, TRF, and AlphaScreen assays.

The Varioskan LUX instrument supports the following measurement technologies:

- Absorbance (UV-Vis, including pathlength correction)
- Fluorescence intensity (including FRET)
- Luminescence (direct and filtered, including BRET)
- AlphaScreen and PerkinElmer™ AlphaLISA™ assays
- TRF (including TR-FRET, hTRF)

The instrument selects the measurement wavelength using filters or monochromators, depending on the technology.

- Monochromators in absorbance and fluorescence intensity
- Filters in AlphaScreen assays and TRF
- Luminescence without wavelength selection or optionally with filters

The instrument also allows spectral scanning for ultimate flexibility for identifying the optimal measurement wavelength for any assay.

Reagent dispensers

Varioskan LUX microplate readers can be equipped with up to two onboard dispensers, allowing for easy and accurate reagent addition. It supports simultaneous dispensing and measurement, enabling follow-up of kinetic reactions directly from the reaction onset, which is essential for flash-type luminescence reactions and Ca²⁺ studies.

The ability to add reagents in any order or in any phase of the kinetic assay allows execution of sequential multistep assays such as ATP and reporter gene assays.

Accurate temperatures with CO₂ and O₂ control

With a built-in incubator for temperature control up to 45° C, the Varioskan LUX device is well suited for temperature-critical applications, including certain enzyme assays and cell-based applications. The optional integrated gas module is designed to control CO₂ and O₂ concentrations precisely and simultaneously to help reduce time and labor for cell-based assays.

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Automatic dynamic range selection

The Varioskan LUX microplate reader's automatic gain adjustment feature selects the ideal reading range for your instrument based on signal intensity in the well, eliminating the need to manually adjust measurement parameters.

The result is a consistent, reliable assay with optimal measurement settings no matter what signals are measured.

Instrument self-diagnostics, autocalibration, and built-in smart safety controls

At every start-up, a self-diagnostics system performs a complete set of initialization tests and adjustments to help ensure the instrument is ready for operation. The instrument also calibrates itself automatically at the beginning and during each run to help provide consistent results from assay to assay.

The Varioskan LUX device also uses advanced technology to avoid costly mistakes that can harm the instrument or waste precious time and reagents. With smart safety features, you get clear and timely alerts, anticipating mistakes before they occur. The smart safety features include:

- A plate check to help ensure that measurement or dispensing is not accidentally started without a microplate
- Prime and volume checks to help ensure that the dispenser is primed and volumes are correctly set
- Position sensors to verify that the dispensing heads are correctly placed
- A shaker check that controls the shaking speed and force based on plate format to help prevent accidental spillage



Accessories

μDrop and μDrop Duo plates

 $\mu Drop$ plates provide a quick and easy measurement of microliter-scale nucleic acid and protein sample measurements down to volumes of 2 $\mu L.$ The fixed path length of the plate allows straightforward calculations of nucleic acid concentrations of the samples.

Ready-made sessions are available on the touchscreen user interface of the Multiskan SkyHigh device and in Skanlt Software. These characteristics make μ Drop plates an ideal tool for photometric DNA or RNA quantitation and purity analysis.

- Analyze up to 16 or 32 samples simultaneously (for μDrop or μDrop Duo plates, respectively)
- Quick and easy to wipe off samples in serial measurements
- Contains a dedicated holder for cuvette measurements

Verification plates

Thermo Scientific™ Multiskan™ Verification Plates and the Thermo Scientific™ Spectrophotometric Verification Plate allow you to verify parameters such as photometric accuracy, precision, and linearity, as well as wavelength accuracy and stray light radiation in a repeatable, robust, and easy format. The Multiskan Verification Plate is for use with filter-based instruments like the Multiskan FC photometer. The Spectrophotometric Verification Plate is for use with monochromator-based instruments like Multiskan SkyHigh and Varioskan LUX devices. Additional features include:

- National Physical Laboratory (NPL) traceable reference material
- Ready-made protocol and performance calculations







Microplate reader accessories

Ordering information

Description	Cat. No.
Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer	
Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer	51119000
Multiskan FC Microplate Photometer with incubator	51119100
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer	
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer	A51119500C
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer with touchscreen	A51119600C
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer with touchscreen and cuvette	A51119700C
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer with touchscreen and μDrop Plate	A51119600DPC
Multiskan SkyHigh Microplate Spectrophotometer with touchscreen, cuvette, and μDrop Plate	A51119700DPC
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader	
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top) and absorbance	VL0000D0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top), absorbance, and luminescence	VL0L00D0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top), absorbance, luminescence, and TRF	VL0L0TD0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom) and absorbance	VLB000D0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, and luminescence	VLBL00D0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and gas module	VLBL00GD0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and TRF	VLBL0TD0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, TRF, and gas module	VLBL0TGD0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, and TRF	VLBLATD0

Description	Cat. No.
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader, cont	inued
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, TRF, and gas module	VLBLATGD0
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, and luminescence; 1 dispenser	VLBL00D1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and gas module; 1 dispenser	VLBL00GD1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and TRF; 1 dispenser	VLBL0TD1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, TRF, and gas module; 1 dispenser	VLBL0TGD1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, and TRF; 1 dispenser	VLBLATD1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, TRF, and gas module; 1 dispenser	VLBLATGD1
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, and luminescence; 2 dispensers	VLBL00D2
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and gas module; 2 dispensers	VLBL00GD2
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, and TRF; 2 dispensers	VLBL0TD2
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, TRF, and gas module; 2 dispensers	VLBL0TGD2
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, and TRF; 2 dispensers	VLBLATD2
Varioskan LUX Multimode Microplate Reader with fluorescence (top and bottom), absorbance, luminescence, AlphaScreen assays, TRF, and gas module; 2 dispensers	VLBLATGD2



Find out more at thermofisher.com/skanit and thermofisher.com/platereaders

