

Extended application of solar glass





Overview

ABSTRACT: The structuring of glass surfaces offers a wide area of application for photovoltaics: Increasing the energy yield and decreasing glare are achievable and become important factors for applications to building surfaces like roofs facing north, façades or walls along streets (e.g., noise-barrier). Can glass be used as a mirror for concentrated solar power?

We then turn to glass and coated glass applications for thin-film photovoltaics, specifically transparent conductive coatings and the advantages of highly resistive transparent layers. Finally, we discuss the use of coated glasses as mirrors for concentrated solar power applications.

How does glass improve photon absorption & conversion?

Advances in glass compositions, including rare-earth doping and low-melting-point oxides, further optimize photon absorption and conversion processes. In addition, luminescent solar concentrators, down-shifting, downconversion, and upconversion mechanisms tailor the solar spectrum for improved compatibility with silicon-based solar cells.

Can glass be used as a technology platform for solar energy?

The history of glass and coatings on glass as a technology platform for solar energy is captured in the timeline shown in Fig. 48.4. It begins with development of the float process for the high-volume manufacturing of low-cost, high-quality glass that became ubiquitous in the commercial and residential architecture of the 1960s.

Can glass improve solar energy transmission?

We begin with a discussion of glass requirements, specifically composition, that enable increased solar energy transmission, which is critical for solar applications. Next we discuss anti-reflective surface treatments of glass for further enhancement of solar energy transmission, primarily for crystalline silicon photovoltaics.



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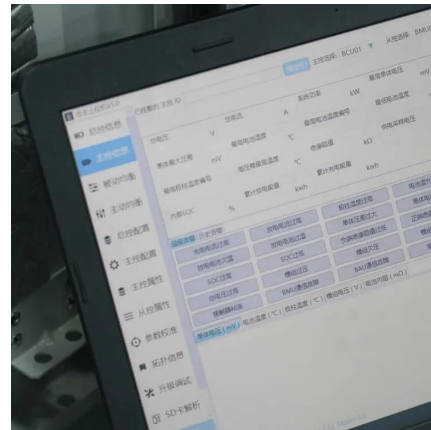


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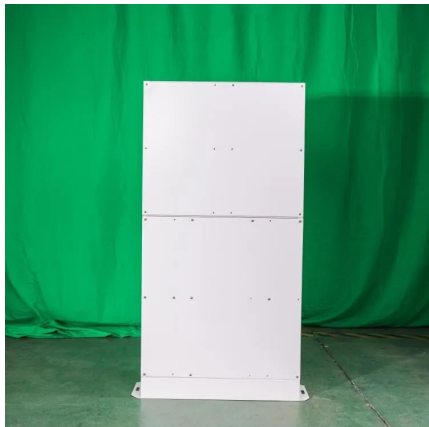
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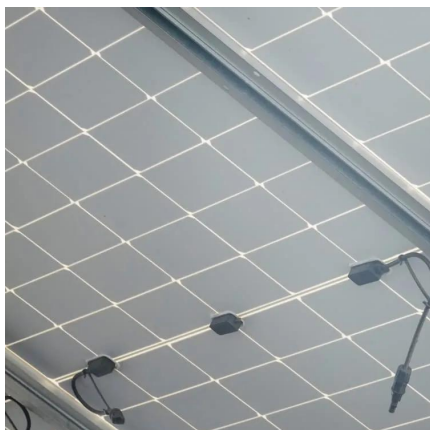
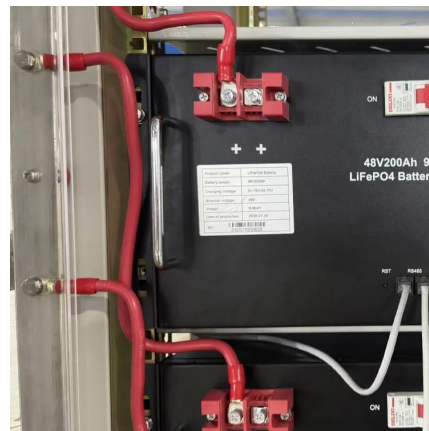


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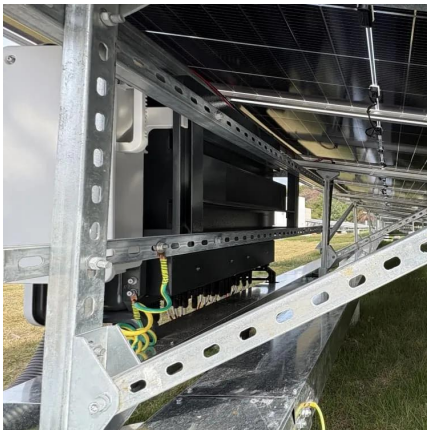
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