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The Gemini Planet Imager: Coronagraph Design & Testbed

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The apodized pupil Lyot coronagraph (APLC) for the Gemini Planet Imager instrument is being developed at AMNH. The APLC is a classical Lyot coronagraph with an input pupil apodization. The coronagraph is optimized for the J, H and K bands to achieve a contrast

of 10⁻⁷ at 0.2 arcsec in the absence of aberrations. We present the current design and material properties of the coronagraph, discuss manufacturing options that we selected for the apodizer and focal plane masks, and present some preliminary results.

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