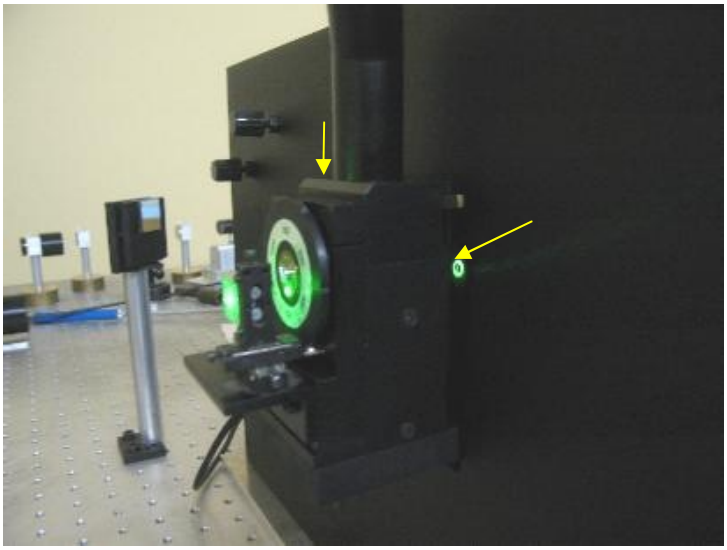
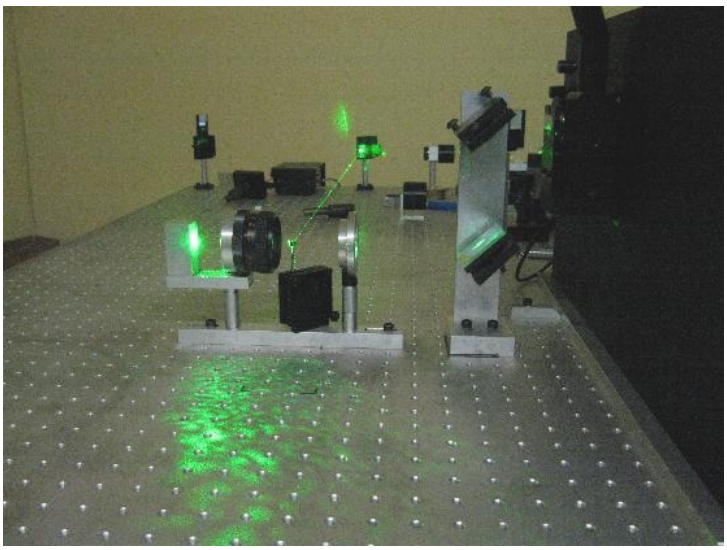
A light source for alignment and calibration



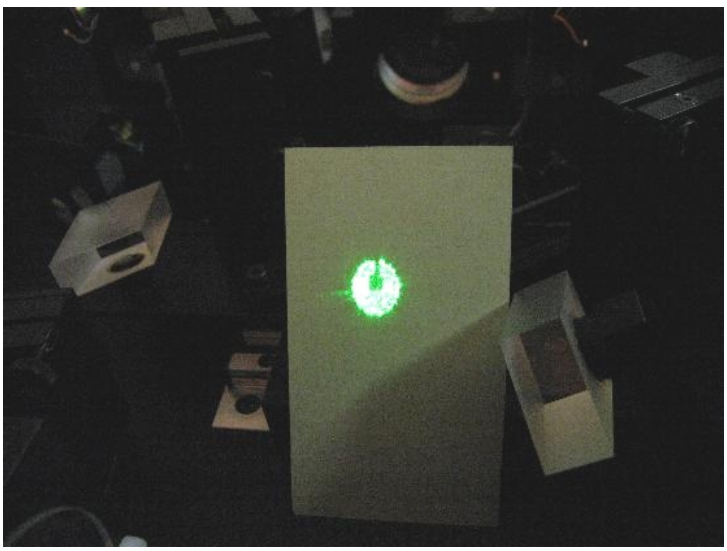
The most convenient light source for aligning the system is an expanded laser beam. The uniform wavefront makes the observation of interference fringes easier. Mount a short focal length lens in front of the smallest pinhole – shown here is a 10mm lens on an XYZ stage, allowing easy alignment. Check the beam where it passes through the aperture A1. Adjust the lens and laser beam alignment until the aperture A1 is symmetrically illuminated.



An alternative light source would be the scattered light from your experiment, using a metal block as scattering source instead of a sample.

Shown here is a typical back scattering arrangement as described in section 3.5 of the manual.

Again check that the aperture A1 is uniformly illuminated. Ideally the scattered light should exactly fill the aperture.



If the scattering optics are correctly set up, the image of the scattered light on a piece of card placed in front of FP1 should clearly show the shadow of the small prism used in the back scattering arrangement.