

The absorber or receiver (flat plate or parabolic) must have high absorptance in the wavelength range below 2 micron, as the main solar spectrum is in this range.

Collector Power Output: We combine the following terms and substitute, $Q_{\text{conv}} + Q_{\text{rad}} = Q_{\text{RC}}$ $Q_{\text{ref}} = \tau \rho E A_c$ $[Q_{\text{out}} = \tau E A_c \left(1 - \rho \right) - Q_{\text{RC}}]$ For absorber, $\alpha = 1 - \rho$ So, $Q_{\text{out}} = \tau \alpha E A_c - Q_{\text{RC}} = \eta_o E A_c - Q_{\text{RC}}$ where the product of transmittance and absorptance is replaced as the Optical Efficiency of the absorber or collector.

Power output $\{Q_{\text{out}}\} = \tau E A_c - Q_{\text{ref}} - Q_{\text{conv}} - Q_{\text{rad}}$ is reduced by losses due to reflection, convection and radiation. $\{m\}' = \eta_o E - a_1(T_c - T_a) - a_2(T_c - T_a)^2 / C_p(T_{\text{out}} - T_{\text{in}})$ This is the mass flow rate rewritten as a area flux, measured in $\text{kg/m}^2 \text{ hr}$.

Collector Performance: The collector converts solar irradiance, E , to absorber surface (A_c) heat.