DODGE & COX Form SC 13G/A September 09, 2002

> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

> > SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO. __3_)*

Thermo Electron Corporation

(Name of Issuer)

Common

(Title of Class of Securities)

883556102

(CUSIP Number)

August 31, 2002

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

[x] Rule 13d-1(b)
[] Rule 13d-1(c)
[] Rule 13d-1(d)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP	NO.883	556102			1	3G		PAGE	2	OF	4	PAGES
1 1	NAME OF	REPORT	ING PERSON									
0	S.S. OR	I.R.S.	IDENTIFICATION	NO.	OF	ABOVE	PERSON					

Dodge	& Cox	94-1441976			
2 CHECK THE APPROPRIAT		TE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP*	(a) [_] (b) [_]		
N/A					
3 SEC USE	 ONLY				
4 CITIZENS	HIP OR PLAC	E OF ORGANIZATION			
Califo	rnia – U.S.	Α.			
	5	SOLE VOTING POWER			
NUMBER OF		16,313,624			
SHARES BENEFICIALLY		SHARED VOTING POWER			
OWNED BY		317,800			
EACH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER			
REPORTING		17,537,324			
PERSON WITH	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER			
9 AGGREGAT	E AMOUNT BE	NEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING	PERSON		
17,537,3	24				
10 CHECK BO	X IF THE AG	GREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES	CERTAIN SHARES*		
N/A					
11 PERCENT	OF CLASS RE	PRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9			
10.2%					
12 TYPE OF	REPORTING P	ERSON*			
IA					

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Item 1(a)	Name of Issuer:						
	Thermo Electron Corporation						
Item 1(b)	Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:						
	81 Wyman Street, P.O. Box 9046 Waltham, MA 02454-9046						
Item 2(a)	Name of Person Filing:						
	Dodge & Cox						
Item 2(b)	Address of the Principal Office or, if none, Residence:						
	One Sansome St., 35th Floor San Francisco, CA 94104						
Item 2(c)	Citizenship:						
	California - U.S.A.						
Item 2(d)	Title of Class of Securities:						
	Common						
Item 2(e)	CUSIP Number:						
	883556102						
Item 3	If the Statement is being filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b),						
	or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:						
	(e) [X] An investment advisor in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)						
Item 4	Ownership:						
	(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:						
	17,537,324						
	(b) Percent of Class:						
	10.2%						
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(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

- (i) sole power to vote or direct the vote: 16,313,624
- (ii) shared power to vote or direct the vote: 317,800
- (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 17,537,324
 - (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0
- Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

Securities reported on this Schedule 13G are beneficially owned by clients of Dodge & Cox, which clients may include investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act and/or employee benefit plans, pension funds, endowment funds or other institutional clients.

- Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company: Not applicable.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: September 9, 2002

DODGE & COX

By: /S/ Thomas M. Mistele

Name: Thomas M. Mistele Title: Vice President

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