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DODGE & COX  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 17, 2004

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

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
(AMENDMENT NO. 5)\*  
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Thermo Electron Corporation

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

883556102

-----  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2003

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(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

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

- 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.883556102

13G

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1	NAME OF REPORTING PERSON S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  Dodge & Cox	94-1441976
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2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\* (a)   
(b)

N/A

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

California - U.S.A.

	5	SOLE VOTING POWER	
NUMBER OF SHARES		17,971,534	
	6	SHARED VOTING POWER	
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON		222,400	
	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	
		19,300,584	
	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	
		0	

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

19,300,584

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*

N/A

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

11.9%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IA

Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:  
Thermo Electron Corporation

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
81 Wyman Street, PO 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

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- 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)  Investment Advisor registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940
- Item 4 Ownership:
- (a) Amount Beneficially Owned:  
19,300,584
- (b) Percent of Class:  
11.9%
- PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
- (i) sole power to vote or direct the vote: 17,971,534
- (ii) shared power to vote or direct the vote: 222,400
- (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:  
19,300,584
- (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0
- Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:  
Not applicable.
- 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.
- Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
Not applicable.
- Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of a Group:  
Not applicable.
- Item 10 Certification:  
By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge

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and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

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: February 17, 2004

DODGE & COX

By: /S/ THOMAS M. MISTELE

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Name: Thomas M. Mistele  
Title: Vice President

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