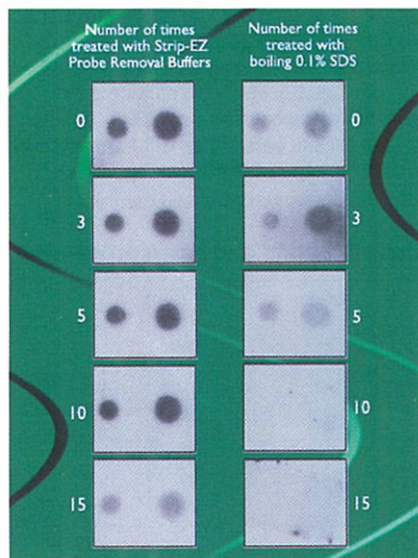


Product News

Removable RNA probes extend the life of blots



Ambion's newly released **Strip-EZ™** RNA probe kits incorporate new technology (patent pending) that allows the synthesis of an RNA probe

that is stable under hybridisation conditions and washes, but can be cleaved using a reagent present in the probe-degradation buffer supplied with the kit. This allows the probe to be easily removed from a blot using a simple 10 minute protocol. Degradation is specific to the Strip-EZ RNA probe because cleavage occurs only at a modified nucleotide that is incorporated during synthesis. Removal of the probes extends the useful life of the blots and the sample RNA, allowing up to ten stripping and rehybridisation cycles for a single blot. The Strip-EZ RNA probe synthesis kit provides all the reagents necessary to produce and remove modified RNA probes for use in northern, Southern and related nucleic-acid blot applications.

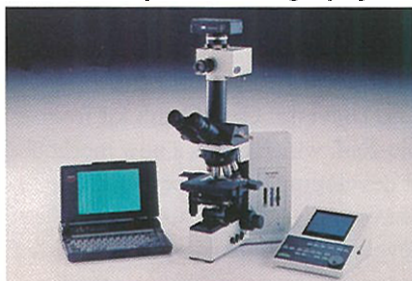
Circle number 1 on reader response card.

Custom-made oligonucleotides

Oswel offers standard and modified oligonucleotides, ranging in size from PCR primers to several hundred bases. These modified oligonucleotides include RNA and 2'-O-methyl RNA, and DNA incorporating inosine, deoxyuridine, nitropryrrole, 5-methylcytosine, iodo-, bromo- and propyne -cytidine and -uridine, or abasic sites. Labelled oligonucleotides incorporating FAM, HEX, TET, TAMRA, ROX, cy3, cy5, BODIPY*, Texas red* and Dansyl* visualisable residues (*under licence from Molecular Probes Inc.) are also available, as are oligonucleotides with spacers between reporter groups to increase the efficiency of non-radioactive detection. Free technical support is offered, and custom oligos can be made on request. Oswel also now offers (under licence from PerSeptive Biosystems Ltd) peptide nucleic-acid analogues, in either unmodified form or with biotin or fluorescent labels.

Circle number 2 on reader response card.

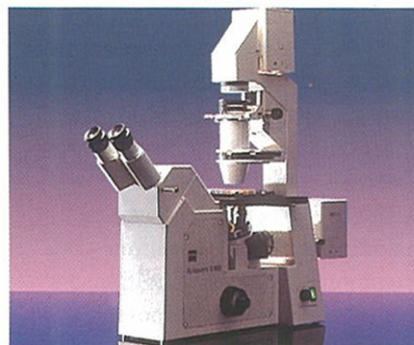
Automatic photomicrography



The **PM20** and **PM30** photomicrography systems from **Olympus** simplify the complex problems associated with taking high-quality photomicrographs. Automatic exposure controls facilitate photomicrography of even the most difficult specimens, with a choice of modes to suit high contrast and localised specimens. A range of adaptors allows you to fit the PM20 and PM30 to virtually any existing Olympus microscope system, and you can also connect the PM30 to a PC for remote shutter release and control of all photographic settings, or to a printer for hard copies.

Circle number 3 on reader response card.

New microscope



The new **Axiovert S100** from **Carl Zeiss** incorporates features previously found in the higher specification Axiovert 135 and 135M stands, and is available in three stand options for bright-field, bright-field and DIC, and bright-field and DIC with base TV port (Keller hole). The S100 replaces the Axiovert 100 and includes a four-place integrated turret with Bertrand lens within the microscope body. The turret can carry accessories for additional magnification, ideal for maximising information from image to film in photomicrography, or to detector, in video-imaging techniques. Compatibility with all accessories for the existing Axiovert 100 series gives the Axiovert S100 a comprehensive range of components.

Circle number 4 on reader response card.

Cryocrystallography add-ons

Oxford Cryosystems, makers of the **Cryostream Cooler** for X-ray crystallography, have teamed up with Dr Elspeth Garman and colleagues at the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Oxford University, to launch a range of goniometer head add-ons designed for use in macromolecular crystallography. The add-ons include: 105°, 150° and 195° extended detachable arcs and cryo tongs for frozen sample manipulation and storage; high-quality nickel top hats and stainless steel mounting pins for sample mounting and handling; and a nozzle-alignment tool for the exact centring of samples in the nitrogen cold stream.

Circle number 5 on reader response card.

Chemically inert glassware

Bibby Sterilin's new cell biology catalogue features a new range of glassware made from Pyrex® chemically inert borosilicate glass. The specially selected range includes reusable media bottles and roller bottles, as well as disposable glass culture tubes and pipettes. The new glassware complements the catalogue's other leading names including Iwaki tissue culture plasticware, Millipore filtration products and Sterilin disposable plastics.

Circle number 6 on reader response card.

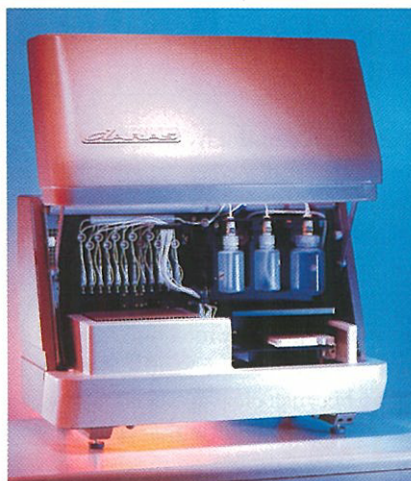
Temperature reproducibility



A new microprocessor-controlled autoblot mini-hybridisation oven from **Flowgen** ensures total temperature reproducibility and uniformity with no overshoot or hotspots regardless of how many times the door is opened. It is suitable for northern, Southern, dot and slot colony and western blots. The rapid heating and cooling features are important, as many hybridisation protocols require temperature alterations during washing and probing. The variable speed rotary action ensures an even distribution of all solutions. The oven is compact, light, and also available in 110 V.

Circle number 7 on reader response card.

Automated DNA/RNA analysis



Tepnel Life Sciences have launched **DARAS**, an automated DNA and RNA analysis system. DARAS can detect PCR products without resorting to labour-intensive gels. It simplifies detection of PCR products as every step is fully automated, from loading the columns with PCR products to final analysis of the results, thus allowing a greater throughput in the laboratory. The system is also highly sensitive and user-friendly.

Circle number 8 on reader response card.

New gene probe method

The **Universal GeneComb** kit from **Bio-Rad**, which offers a new method of developing PCR-based DNA assays or diagnostic tests, halves development time compared with conventional gel and blot methods, but with no loss of sensitivity. The kit gives a positive result within a total assay time of 30 minutes and detects levels of post-amplified DNA down to 10 ng. Single-base mismatches between the probe and the sample are easily detected owing to extremely faithful hybridisation. Each kit is sufficient for 32 single assays, with four GeneComb cards and two microplates each containing two sets of four-strip wells. All chromogenic substrates, colour-development reagents, running solutions and control oligonucleotides are included with the kit.

Circle number 9 on reader response card.

In Brief

Precast gels

CastAway™ precast gels from **Stratagene** are convenient, pre-poured gels. They are ideal for DNA sequencing, silver staining, differential display, DNA fingerprinting, primer extensions, RNase protection assays and microsatellite DNA analysis. The gel formulations include 6% and 12% polyacrylamide gels, 6% nondenaturing gels, 4.5% polyacrylamide gels with or without preformed wells, and 5.5% Long Ranger™ gels.

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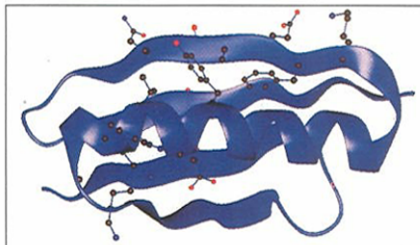
Centrifugation and batch processing



Beckman Instruments Inc. has a new integrated system for large-scale batch processing. It combines Beckman's new **Avanti® J-20** series high-performance centrifuges with the new **J-Lite® JLA-8.1000** rotor to process 6 litres of cell cultures in less than 10 minutes. The new system has removable cannisters and is ideal for processing large volumes of cells, subcellular organelles and proteins.

Circle number 11 on reader response card.

New recombinant protein



Actigen's recombinant protein L turns immunoglobulin purification into a simple, straightforward procedure. The unique binding properties of protein L are at the heart of this improvement. Protein L binds with high affinity to the variable portions of the κ light chains of Igs. This type of binding does not interfere with the antigen-binding site. In addition, protein L can be used to purify a wider range of Ig classes and subclasses than other commercially available Ig-binding proteins. Protein L was originally purified from the cell wall of the anaerobic bacterium *Peptostreptococcus magnus*. Actigen has multiplied the benefits of protein L by producing a genetically engineered fragment that includes four Ig-binding units from the native protein.

Circle number 12 on reader response card.