

A technique for the removal of the active silica gel layer from Eastman Chromagram sheet and its subsequent replication

The material now known as Eastman Chromagram* sheet was first described by LESTIENNE *et al.*¹ at the Thin-Layer Chromatography Conference held in Brussels, Belgium, in September 1964. It consists of a 100 μ thick, polyvinyl alcohol-bound layer of silica gel on 200 μ polyethylene terephthalate.

There are times when it would be advantageous to be able to remove the chromatogram developed on the silica gel from its relatively thick (0.008 in.) plastic support. For example, many chromatograms are retained as elements of permanent test records and, as such, are included in data books of various kinds. Anything that can be done to reduce the thickness of the chromatograms obviously decreases the ultimate bulkiness of the book in which they are stored.

We have found that by firmly pressing No. 810 Magic Mending Tape** over the chromatogram and subsequently removing it, the silica gel layer can be transferred almost intact from the supporting plastic to the adhesive layer of the tape. Since the thickness of the 3M tape is of the order of 0.0027 in., the thickness of the chromatogram has been reduced by over 0.005 in.

Further, another strip of tape can be pressed over the now-transferred silica gel and the two strips of tape subsequently separated, splitting the chromatogram, and producing a mirror image of the original. This process can be repeated several times to produce multiple, though obviously less distinct, copies. We have, using this technique, produced up to sixteen replicas of a single ink chromatogram. Using this approach it is possible with one separation to provide samples for inclusion in several notebooks, etc. or for inter-laboratory exchange.

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I. A. LESTIENNE, E. P. PRZYBYLOWICZ, W. J. STAUDENMAYER, E. S. PERRY, A. D. BAITSHOLTS AND T. N. TISCHER, Precoated Sheets for Thin-Layer Chromatography, *Thin-Layer Chromatography Conference, Brussels, September, 1964; J Chromatog.*, 20 (1965) 506.

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* Product of Distillation Products Industries, Division of Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N.Y. 14603.

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