

A simple arrangement for more economical scanning of 20×20 cm chromatoplates on the Vitatron densitometer

The Vitatron automatic densitometer (UFD 500 of Vitatron Scientific Instruments, Dieren, The Netherlands) is a very suitable apparatus for the scanning of all paper chromatograms and small chromatoplates. However, the transporter is relatively narrow (about 8 cm). Working with the 20×20 cm chromatoplates we could use only the middle part of the plates for scanning because when more than half of the plate protruded outside the transporter, it had a tendency to tip over. On both sides a region of about 6 cm wide of the chromatoplate remained unexplored. This is uneconomical from several points of view.

A simple arrangement made by hand from a piece of stainless steel wire and a round thin India-rubber with central hole (e.g. van Dyke No. 6580, produced by E. Faber, Germany) enabled us to scan the whole surface of the plate.

The wire, 3 mm in diameter and about 60 cm long, was bent into two angles (about 50° each) connected one to another by a 3 cm long horizontal piece of the steel wire. This 3 cm piece serves as an axis for the cylindrical metal hole in the centre of the India-rubber. Thus, the rubber can rotate easily (see Fig. 1).

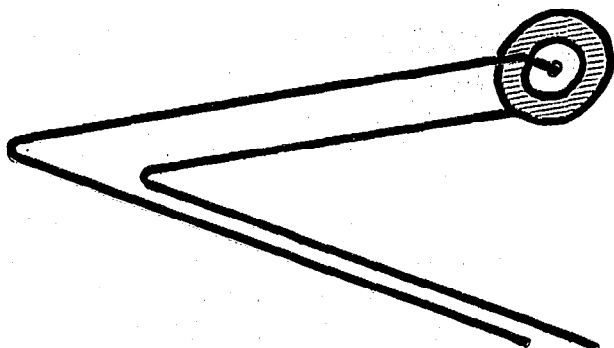


Fig. 1. Side-supporter for the Vitatron densitometer made from steel wire and a round India-rubber.

This simple construction is placed parallel to the transporter so that the India-rubber rolls under and supports the protruding part of the chromatoplate. The height of the flexible supporter should be adjusted in such a way that the plate when situated on the transporter of the densitometer has a good contact with all the rubber belts of the conveyer. In this case the plate cannot tip over, and it is transported quite steadily. One half of the chromatoplate can be scanned from the start to the front and the other half in the opposite direction.

Clinic II., Lillhagen Hospital, Lillhagen (Sweden)*

JIRÍ TICHÝ**

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* Head: S. J. DENCKER M.D., Assoc. Prof.

** Present address: Neurological Clinic, Prague 2, Kateřinská 30, Czechoslovakia.