Automation information

Robotic systems and accessories for high-throughput applications.

Quick-Combi Sealer

HJ-Bioanalytik GmbH www.riplate.de

Well covered

This component of the Riplate microplate range can be used independently or as part of a robotic system to automatically seal all types of microtitre plates with aluminium foil or a 96-well lid in just 4 seconds. The unit is loaded with plate lids or a roll of aluminium foil. The plate then moves through the unit, the lid drops or the foil unwinds and cuts, and pressure is applied to produce the seal with no effect on the sample. The foil-cutting unit is available in manual and automatic versions. Both the foil and the adhesive are 100% DMSO resistance approved, and the foil is easily removed from the plate, leaving no trace. The Quick-Combi Sealer is suitable for use with Riplate deep-well plates, microtitre plates and 96 micro racks.

SM-IP21

Thermo Labsystems

www.thermolabsystems.com

That figures

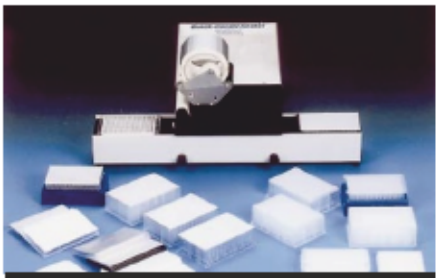
This enhanced version of the SM-IP21 sample management software program enables users to configure integration logic with fully reusable components, thereby reducing the time needed for system setup and configuration. The integration server handles all transaction requests, executes the integration rules and ensures successful transfer of data. Configuration is achieved through a dedicated graphical user interface that provides a centralized environment in which integration rules are built, maintained and managed. Product installation is eased through an install shield with consequent automation of procedures that were previously manual.

DH Sample Changer 748

Metrohm www.metrohm.co.uk

Win by a head

Featuring a titration head that can move in three directions, Metrohm's PC-controlled sample changer is well-suited to use in water treatment and environmental analysis laboratories, where conductivity and pH measurements, as well as titration, have to be carried out on a series of samples. Two sample racks, each holding 24 beakers, occupy an area of just 70 × 50 cm. The sample volume in the beakers can vary between 10 ml and 250 ml. The system is controlled with TiNet 2.3 software running under Windows, used together with the company's Titrino titrators and other peripheral devices such as printers and balances. The device is also suitable for quality control and process monitoring in the food, pharmaceutical, paper and petrochemical industries.



Foiled again: seal microplates with Quick-Combi.

Automation Planner

Zymark www.zymark.com

Zap your apps

The Zymark Automation Planner (ZAP) is an interactive software program that allows users to browse its selection of automation setup scenarios and assemble the configuration that best fits their applications, throughput, capacity and time constraints. The level of automation can range from a stand-alone workstation to a fully integrated system. ZAP configures more than 600 automation solutions for over 200 applications clustered within 30 groups. The program also generates a virtual automation environment that is directly linked to Zymark's CLARA system integration software, allowing users to model their methods. Once the configuration is assembled, the same software can execute the methods to provide a real-time running solution. Specific application areas include compound logistics, genomics, proteomics, screening, lead optimization and ADMET.

Genesis Freedom

Tecan www.tecan.com

Out on a limb

Tecan's robotic laboratory workstation is a modular, scalable, high-throughput system for research in genomics, proteomics and drug discovery. The compact unit can accept up to three robotic arms and takes a wide selection of robotic manipulators and accessories, which can be combined to create up to nine different arm configurations. The arms can reach areas beyond the desktop, including underneath the workstation itself. Genomics applications include nucleic acid extraction and sample preparation, PCR set-up, DNA normalization, genotyping, SNP scoring and automated *in situ* hybridization for high-throughput gene expression and functional studies. In proteomics research, the Genesis Freedom can be used to automate detection of unknown or low-abundant proteins, in-gel digestion, MALDI spotting and two-dimensional gel electrophoresis. It is also suitable for a wide spectrum of drug discovery applications, including early-stage compound synthesis, assay development, HTS and hit-picking, ADME and toxicology assays.

High throughput from Tecan.

2100 Bioanalyzer A.02.01

Agilent Technologies www.agilent.com

LabChip system upgrade

A new calibration feature is included in revision A.02.01 of the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer. This allows users of the Protein 200 LabChip kit to perform absolute protein quantification based on external standard calibration. After the analysis of user-defined protein standards at different concentrations, the program automatically generates a linear regression curve that is applied to determine the absolute concentration of samples within the same chip. This feature allows protein sizing and absolute quantification to be carried out within a single experiment. The software for RNA analyses has also been improved in the recent revision, with alignment functionality now included. A lower marker included in the RNA 6000 Nano LabChip kit or one of the ribosomal bands can be used for sample alignment, enabling researchers to distinguish different types of RNA based on electrophoretic traces.

These notes are compiled in the Nature *office from information provided by the manufacturers.*