

# newly on the market

**Laser microprobe.** Zeiss-Jena. The Laser Microprobe from Zeiss-Jena can carry out qualitative micro tests on almost any electrically nonconductive and conductive specimen, and requires only a very short time for sample preparation. Microanalysis can immediately follow the usual microscopic examination of the sample under the laser microscope. Semiquantitative microanalysis is also possible. The use of TV type spectrochemical detectors enables the immediate teledisplay of the spectrochemical composition of the sample spot vapourised by the laser microscope.

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**Laboratory power supply.** Buchler. A laboratory power supply featuring an L.E.D. digital display, has been introduced by Buchler Instruments. The display shows watts, milliamperes or volts, and can be easily read. Maximum outputs are 1,000 V, 200 mA and 200 W. The unit can operate in either a constant-voltage, constant-current, or constant-power mode, instantly selected by pushbutton. Overvoltage and over-current protection are built in. The unit is particularly designed for the needs of workers in research and clinical electrophoresis. Voltage and current regulation are 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively.

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**Solid state digital store.** Wayne Kerr. Wayne Kerr have introduced the ADS1 solid-state digital store to complement their RA200 AF response analyser. The RA200/ADS1 provides a continuous response curve, continuously updated with no chance of missing a sharp spike at some point, and no internal filters or integrators to distort the response pattern. Whether the signal source is the built-in sweep oscillator, or a gliding-tone test tape or disk, the dBs can be read from the vertical scale and frequency from the logarithmic horizontal scale. The solid-state digital store will record up to four complete curves and retain the information (with the RA200 switched off) for 2 weeks.

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These notes are based on information provided by the manufacturers. For further details circle the appropriate numbers on the Reader Enquiry Form.

**Refractometer.** Reichert-Jung. The Reichert-Jung Abbe Brix refractometer produces consistently accurate results even when used by an unskilled operator. All readings are presented on a L.E.D. digital readout, eliminating scale interpretation errors and enabling group observation. Three modes of measurement are provided by a mode selector switch. Temperature measurement is performed at the prism/sample interface and displayed digitally to 0.1 °C.

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The Reichert-Jung Abbe Refractometer

**Spectrophotometer.** Erba. The new Carlo Erba UV-vis spectrophotometer, the Spectracomp 601, allows all information to be keyed in through a simple keyboard. The spectrophotometer incorporates a programmable computer, offers custom-made programs of analysis, and gives a clear print-out of all instruments' parameters. It allows statistical analysis of spectral data, incorporates a real time clock and a print-out of time, date and temperature, and graphically displays values of absorbance and transmittance versus wavelength on an incremental plotter.

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**Two-stage microchannel-plate multiplier.** Philips. By incorporating two different microchannel plates in series in one electron multiplier construction, L.E.P. in cooperation with Philips have achieved high gain combined with low gain fluctuation ( $\Delta G/G \approx 20\%$ ). Moreover, the gain can be varied between a value of  $10^5$  and  $5 \times 10^7$  while the high resolution is maintained. The two-stage construction can be used as an open amplifier for spectrometry (X rays, UV, charged particles) or incorporated in a photomultiplier tube.

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**Atomic absorption spectrophotometer.** Perkin-Elmer. Perkin-Elmer announces the Model 560, double-beam atomic absorption spectrophotometer. The Model 560's microprocessor includes a new computing ability that makes it possible to do complex calculations and implement sophisticated logic programmes quickly and accurately. Averaging, standard deviation, coefficient of variation and reslope are built-in. A dual-blazed grating permits optimum photometric response throughout the wavelength range with a single grating. The Model 560 features automatic calibration with up to three standards and provides integrated readings in absorbance, concentration or emission intensity, either updated continuously or held on the instrument display. Integration times are 0.2-60 s.

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**Interferometer.** Edinburgh Instruments. The model 200 confocal scanning Fabry-Perot interferometer has a standard free spectral range of  $0.025 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and an experimentally obtainable finess of better than 20. The resolution of the instrument is of the order of  $0.001 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (30 MHz). Other free spectral ranges are available and an integral (pyroelectric) detector permits a chart record of the spectrum to be obtained.

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**Low temperature cooler.** Oxford Instruments. The K-Tip is designed for areas where there is a requirement to cool a sample or detector down to a temperature of 70 K, without the inconvenience of employing liquid gases. Some of the application areas envisaged include: — remote or hazardous areas where liquid gas supplies are either not available or undesirable; in process control where detectors are required over conveyors or other inaccessible locations; in airborne or mobile systems where low weight, low power consumption and small size are an important consideration; and the sampling of atmospheric pollutants by cryopumping and subsequent GC analysis. The instrument comprises a single stage light-weight cooling head, coupled to a compact compressor package by flexible gas lines.

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