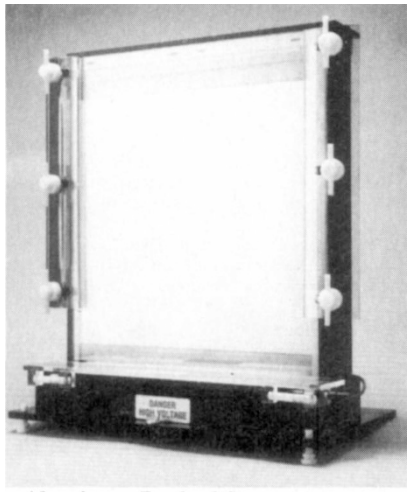
SEQUENCERS AND SEQUENCING REAGENTS



Aluminum Backed Sequencer.

From Owl Scientific Plastics (Cambridge, MA) comes an aluminum backed sequencer. An anodized aluminum plate evenly distributes heat to produce flat banding patterns. The upper buffer chamber empties into a separate drain tray at the back of the apparatus. A built-in leveling system allows fine adjustments on the benchtop. Each system includes a set of glass plates, one sharktooth comb, one spacer set, and power cords. Two power supplies designed for sequencing are also available.

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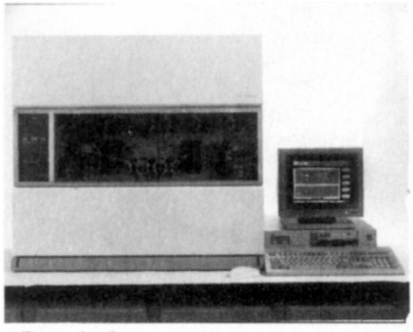

Protein Sequencer.

Millipore (Milford, MA) presents a micro protein sequencing system, the first capable of sequencing both covalently attached and adsorbed samples in the liquid phase. A positive-displacement reagent delivery system, and reduced system volume, mean reduced reagent consumption. A microbore PTH-amino acid analysis system provides high sensitivity and sub-picomole sequence analysis in both the adsorptive and covalent modes. The flexible system allows the adaptation of new chemistries as they come available.

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AMV Reverse Transcriptase.

United States Biochemical (Cleveland, OH) introduces reverse transcriptase from avian myeloblastosis virus, a DNA polymerase that catalyzes the polymerization of nucleotides using template DNA, RNA, or RNA:DNA hybrids. It consists of two polypeptides, one of which contains the 5' to 3' polymerase activity and the other an RNase H activity. Reverse transcriptase has been widely used for first- and second-strand synthesis of complementary DNA from mRNA for cloning. Such synthesis requires a primer, commonly oligo (dT) bound to the 3'-poly(A) region of the mRNA. Under proper conditions, high yields of full-length cDNA can be obtained using AMV reverse transcriptase.

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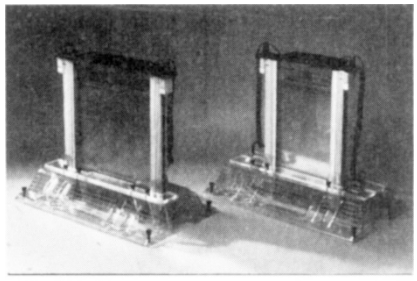

Poker Face.

Hoefer Scientific (San Francisco, CA) introduces an easy-to-assemble, *no smile* nucleic acid sequencer that guarantees easy-to-read sequencing gels. The gels result from an electrically isolated aluminum plate in contact with the gel sandwich, allowing even heat distribution over the entire surface of the gel.

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Little Foot.

From Porton Instruments (Tarzana, CA) comes a protein sequencer known for its small footprint. The sequencer saves 3 feet of bench space, and has a modular design that assures easy upgrades. Novel DIPEA chemistry reduces background noise, and patented sample support technology lowers running costs. A trade-in program is currently in effect for users of other sequencers who wish to upgrade.

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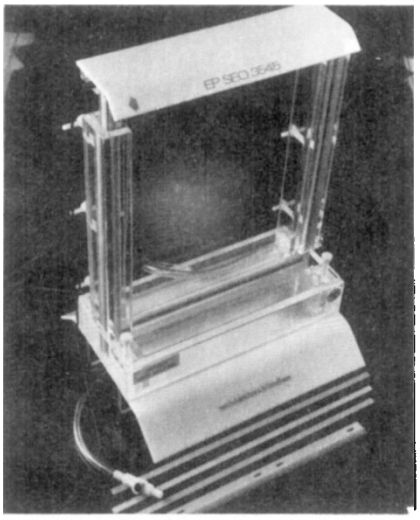

DNA Sequencing Gel Systems.

Schleicher & Schuell (Keene, NH) introduces two new DNA gel sizes. The systems are easy to use: there is no aligning necessary, or clamping, or sealing with grease; removable glass plates allow gel casting either outside the unit or in the unit; the wedge-shaped cover encloses the lower buffer chamber, and the wedge acts as a clamp to distribute pressure evenly across the gel plates; the removable upper chamber extends down the gel to provide even heat distribution across the entire gel, and the upper buffer chamber uses a hinged lid design that allows the unit to run only when the lid is closed.

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Gels.

J.T. Baker (Phillipsburg, NJ) introduces electrophoresis gels for DNA sequencing. The gels, made of chemically modified acrylamide with a novel cross-linker, exhibit greater resolving power and mechanical strength than conventional acrylamide gels. They provide up to 30% more sequencing information compared with equal percentage acrylamide-bis gels. Short sequences may be run in half the normal time. The gels also reduce the loss of DNA sequencing information due to tearing and stretching.

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