

Tissue-Tek[®] TEC[™] 6

Cryo and Embedding Module

Quick Reference Guide

Version : 2019-1

The Tissue-Tek[®] TEC[™] 6 is an instrument that is designed for the purpose of manually embedding human and animal tissue specimens in paraffin. The system consists of two modules: the cryo and embedding module. The instrument, as part of the histopathology process, is intended to facilitate the in vitro examination of human and animal tissue for morphology changes by a pathologist.

This Quick Reference Guide contains information about day-to-day use, maintenance and cleaning. For more detailed information we refer to the most recent Operating Manual of this instrument.

All users should be trained for the use of the Sakura instruments. The Sakura User Training is a training to ensure that new and existing users of a Sakura instrument have the knowledge and skills to operate and maintain the instrument in a proper way.

Daily operations

As every pathology laboratory has their own embedding protocols, this document will only focus on the steps taken to enable the instrument to suit those various needs without explaining how to embed tissue samples.

Note: Ensure that the paraffin within the paraffin chamber is melted before use.

The instrument has two different modes: Manual and Automatic. The current setting is indicated by a blue (manual) or green (automatic) bar in the top of the display screen.

Manual mode:

To activate the system, simply press the “**Cryo**” and “**Heat**” button. Keep in mind that there will be a 4 hour preparation phase and that during this time the system will not be operational.



Automatic mode:

The instrument will activate automatically and start with the preparation phase four hours before the set start time to ensure paraffin melts sufficiently.

If the **Auto Cryo box** is checked, the Cryo module will also activate when the Embedding module starts.

In both modes the status of the instrument is indicated by different colours and shown in the screen display.

Grey: The system is inactive.

Blue (cold) and **Yellow** (warm): The system is active.

Red: An error occurred and needs attention.

When an error occurs, a notification is displayed on screen along with a buzzer sound. In some cases intervention from an engineer is required.

Each individual temperature on the system can be adjusted by selecting the number on the display screen, change the value, confirm and wait for the system to adjust.

If required, the system has a quick heat option that raises the instrument by 5°C. When pressed again this mode is cancelled.

Note: When the instrument is adjusting to the new temperature, indicated by the blinking number on the screen, the system is not operational.

Manual mode:

When everything is embedded, simply press the “**Cryo**” and “**Heat**” button in the main display screen to switch the instrument to standby.

Automatic mode:

This mode will automatically put the instrument in standby at programmed times. This can be overruled by using the “**Hibernate**” or “**Extend**” button.

Hibernate will put the instrument in standby earlier than what was set.

Extend will keep the instrument active even when the programmed end time is reached.



Maintenance

- After use:

Module surfaces

Switch off the power of both modules and wait till the cryo module reaches room temperature. Remove attached paraffin with the plastic scraper and lint-free paper. Water droplets can also be removed with lint-free paper. In addition cotton swabs can be used to clean the grooves in the hot plate. Do not use organic solvents as these may deteriorate parts of the instrument.

Warming chambers

The paraffin within the tray gradually becomes dirty over time while holding cassettes and should be refreshed after use. Remove the lid from the chamber and take out the **hot** tray. Discard the paraffin and wash the tray with warm water (70°C). Wipe with a lint-free paper.

Waste tray

Access paraffin is collected in the waste tray over time and should be discarded frequently. Take out both waste trays from the embedding module and use the scraper to remove the paraffin. Replace the trays to their original positions.

- On condition:

Forceps holders

Foreign matters that end up in the forceps wells may attach to the forceps and find their way into a paraffin block. To clean the holders, place a forceps within the well and start to solidify the paraffin. To cool the paraffin, go to the main menu and select the option "**Cleaning Mode**". The heaters of the wells will stop and the temperature will be shown on screen. When 40°C is reached the system will give the user a notification. By pressing "**Heat**" the paraffin inside the well will slowly start to warm up enabling the user to take out the forceps with the hardened paraffin plug in which all the debris is caught.

- On condition:

Cold spot

Remove paraffin using the scraper and lint-free paper.

Finger plate

Remove paraffin at or around the finger plate using the scraper or cotton swabs.

Paraffin chamber

Over time, foreign matters may enter and built up in the paraffin chamber. Cleaning this chamber is recommended when the paraffin level is low. Place a container under the dispenser and press the finger plate to drain all paraffin from the chamber. Be aware the dispensing stops after one minute, push the plate again to continue when required. Clean the **hot** interior with the scraper wrapped in lint-free paper to get rid of the foreign matter. Remove the strainer and wash it in warm water (70°C).

Ensure the strainer is completely dry when placing it back in the paraffin chamber.

Wrist rest cushions

Remove paraffin attached to the cushions and rinse with warm water at 70°C or below.

Display screen

Before cleaning the display, prevent function buttons being pressed by locking the display. Gently remove paraffin attached to the screen surface using the scraper wrapped in lint free paper. Unlock the display again by pressing the "**Lock Display**" button.

- Yearly:

Preventative maintenance

Preventative maintenance is performed by a Sakura representative or a qualified service engineer.

Maintenance task	Frequency
Module surfaces	After use
Warming chambers	After use
Waste tray	After use
Forceps holders	On condition
Cold spot	On condition
Finger plate	On condition
Paraffin chamber	On condition
Wrist rest cushions	On condition
Display screen	On condition
Preventative maintenance	Yearly

- Do not use Xylene (substitutes) for cleaning the modules.

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