

Vinyl Anaerobic Chamber Operation Manual

Coy Laboratory Products, Inc. 14500 Coy Drive Grass Lake, Michigan 49240

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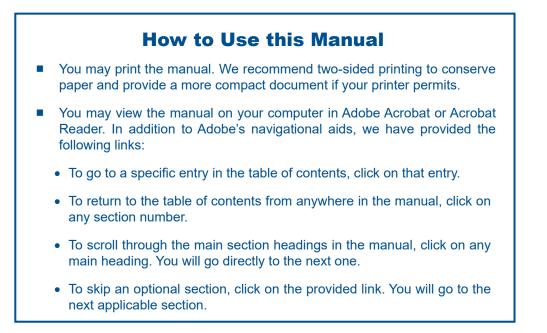
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Document History

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1200001	Vinyl Anaerobic Chamber Operation Manual 090113	Vinyl Anaerobic Chambers 2006 to 2019	Sept. 1, 2013
1200001	Vinyl Anaerobic Chamber Operation Manual 09??20	Vinyl Anaerobic Chambers 2020 to present	Aug ?, 2020



Safety, Warranty, and Support Information

WARNING!

DO NOT USE PURE HYDROGEN IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING YOUR CHAMBER EN-VIRONMENT. USE ONLY PRE-MIXED GASES. THE USE OF PURE HYDROGEN OR PRE-MIXED GASES WITH A HYDROGEN CONTENT GREATER THAN 5 % MAY CREATE AN EXPLOSIVE MIX-TURE IN YOUR CHAMBER.

LATEX WARNING!

LATEX GLOVES WITH POWDER MAY BE INSTALLED ON THIS EQUIPMENT. SOME PEOPLE MAY BE ALLERGIC TO LATEX AND/OR THE POWDER. COY LABORATORY PRODUCTS CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR THE CONTENT OF GLOVES BOUGHT FROM OTHER VENDORS.

WARRANTY

The electronic components in this chamber are warranted against defects in material and workmanship during the first 12 months after original date of shipment. Vacuum pumps that have been damaged due to rusting or moisture will not be covered under this warranty.

The vinyl bag portion of the anaerobic chamber is warranted against defects in material and workmanship for a period of 1 year after original date of shipment.

The factory will, at its option, either repair or replace defective materials within the above periods at no charge for parts and labor.

All returns or exchanges must first be authorized by Coy Laboratory Products, Inc.

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THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COY LABORATORY PRODUCTS, INC., IS LIMITED TO THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THIS PRODUCT. COY LABORATORY PRODUCTS, INC., WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES.

THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER DAMAGE IN SHIPMENT OR DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF IMPROPER USE OR MAINTENANCE OF THE PRODUCT.

THIS WARRANTY DOES NOT COVER DAMAGES CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE LINE TRANSIENTS ON THE AC SUPPLY LINE.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To obtain technical support, contact Coy Laboratory Products by either phone or e-mail:

Phone: (734) 475-2200 E-mail: techservice@coylab.com



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Introduction to the Vinyl Anaerobic Chamber

The Coy vinyl anaerobic chamber is constructed of flexible PVC vinyl. The seams are sealed together using a radio frequency welding technique. The bottom of the chamber is attached to a ¾-inch particle board base, which is padded with foam and covered with vinyl. The chamber is supported by a tubular aluminum frame, which is also attached to the particle board base.

The chamber is a totally sealed unit, except for two entry ports: the equipment entry port and the airlock:

- The equipment entry port is used for installing large equipment during setup. It is sealed with a large plastic disk, which is held in place with vinyl tape, prior to purging oxygen from the chamber and establishing the anaerobic environment.
- The airlock is used on a regular basis by lab personnel to pass items between the chamber and the outside environment without disrupting the chamber's an-aerobic environment.

Lab personnel access the chamber to perform their operations through glove ports, which have permanently attached sleeves equipped with quick change cuffs. The quick change cuff (QCC) system permits gloves to be changed quickly with minimal disruption of the chamber atmosphere. Latex or neoprene gloves are mounted on a special adapter ring that fits the cuff snugly and are held in place with an O-ring, ensuring an airtight seal. Switching gloves is merely a matter of sliding the installed glove off the cuff and replacing it with another.

1.1 Chamber Models

The standard chamber comes in three sizes:

Type A:



Chamber Size	Base Size	Glove ports	
32 in \times 59 in (81.3 cm \times 149.9 cm)	36 in \times 77 in (91.4 cm \times 195.6 cm)	2	



Type B:



Chamber Size	Base Size	Glove Ports	
32 in × 78 in (81.3 cm × 198.1 cm)	36 in \times 95 in (91.4 cm \times 195.6 cm)	4	

Type C:



Chamber Size	Base Size	Glove Ports	
32 in × 42 in (81.3 cm × 196.7 cm)	36 in \times 60 in (91.4 cm \times 152.4 cm)	2	

Custom configurations are also available. The information and instructions in this manual apply to custom configurations as well as the standard types.

The chamber and the frame supports are attached to the chamber base at the factory. The aluminum frame is shipped dismantled and must be assembled during setup. A large plastic disk is provided to seal the equipment entry port after the components have been installed.



1.2 Standard Components

The standard chamber package includes the following components:

Component	Туре А	Type B	Type C
Airlock	1	1	1
Vacuum Pump	1	1	1
Gas Pressure Regulator (Background Gas) ¹	1	1	1
Gas Pressure Regulator (Gas Mix) ¹	1	1	1
Catalyst Fan Boxes	2	2	1
Catalyst Stak-Paks	4	4	2
Power Strip	1	1	1
Feed-Thru Adapters with Rubber Stoppers	3	3	3
Gloves (installed on quick change cuffs)	1 pair	2 pair	1 pair
Extra Gloves and Accessories (QCC system) ²	2 sets	4 sets	2 sets
Plug and O-ring Install Tool (QCC system)	1 set	1 set	1 set
Work Mats	1	2	1
Chamber Setup and Care Kit	1	1	1

¹Gas regulators are not included with many non-US orders, in which case they may either be supplied by local dealers or left to the customer to provide.

²Set includes 2 O-rings and 1 adapter ring for each glove

1.2.1 The airlock

The airlock is used for the transfer of items from the lab environment to the anaerobic chamber and vice versa. It has two doors. The inner door seals the airlock from the chamber, and the outer door seals the airlock from the external environment.

Your chamber has an automatic airlock:



Automatic airlocks are operated through a controller that can be programmed to automatically perform the vacuum and purge procedures used during day-to-day operations before transferring materials into or out of the chamber. The airlock can also be operated manually through the controller. Manual switches are provided to operate the airlock in case of controller failure.



1.2.2 The vacuum pump

The vacuum pump is used to remove existing gases from the chamber or the airlock during vacuum and purge operations:



A flexible hose that is permanently installed in the back of the airlock connects to a connector on the vacuum pump. The vacuum pump is electrically connected to the automatic airlock and is operated through the airlock controller in both automatic and manual modes.

1.2.3 The gas pressure regulators

Two gas pressure regulators are provided to control the pressure of the gases flowing into the airlock—one for the background gas (usually nitrogen) and one for the hydrogen gas mix:

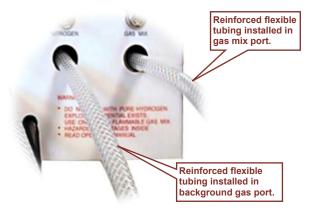


Background Gas Pressure Regulator

Gas Mix Pressure Regulator

The two regulators are fundamentally identical, except for the fittings that connect to the supply tank valve.

The pressure regulators connect directly to the tank valve of the supply tank. The regulators are connected to the airlock with a 12 ft (3.6 m) length of reinforced flexible tubing, which was preinstalled in the airlock:





Note: Some non-US/Canadian installations are not supplied with the pressure regulators described above.



1.2.4 Catalyst fan boxes

Catalyst fan boxes circulate the chamber's atmosphere through palladium catalyst, which, in the presence of hydrogen, removes oxygen. They also provide a homogeneous mix of gases in the chamber.

Catalyst boxes may be either heated or unheated:





Unheated Catalyst Box

1.2.4-A The heated catalyst fan box

The standard heated catalyst fan box can maintain the chamber's temperature from ambient to about 40 °C. A high-range version can maintain temperatures to 50 °C. The desired temperature is set through a controller, which automatically turns the heat on and off as needed to maintain the temperature. The fan operates continuously to circulate the chamber's atmosphere, regardless of whether the heat is on or off.

1.2.4-B The unheated catalyst fan box

The unheated catalyst fan box is used for chambers that do not need temperature control or that have a separate incubator inside the chamber. When the unheated catalyst fan box is plugged in, the fan turns on immediately and runs continuously to circulate the chamber's atmosphere.

1.2.5 Catalyst Stak-Paks

A Stak-Pak is a wire mesh container that is designed to be placed at the front of the catalyst fan box:



The catalyst Stak-Pak contains alumina pellets coated with a thin layer of palladium chloride. The palladium chloride causes hydrogen and oxygen molecules to form water molecules, which remove the oxygen from the chamber. The water is absorbed by the alumina.



1.2.6 Feed-thru adapters

Feed-thru adapters provide airtight entry points for outside connections (e.g., power cords, tubing, and computer cables), that need to be passed through the wall of the sealed chamber:



Standard Type A and B chambers have two feed-thru adapters that are specifically designed for power strips and two multipurpose adapters for general use as needed. One power-strip adapter and one multipurpose adapter are located by the equipment entry port. The other set is behind the airlock. Type C chambers have one power strip adapter (located by the equipment entry port) and two general-use adapters (one on each side of the chamber).

If you have purchased the anaerobic gas infuser option (see section 2.6 on page14), the general purpose adapter behind the airlock will be used for the line connections from the gas infuser to the chamber. Otherwise, it is a spare and can be used as you see fit.

Note: Your chamber may have additional feed-thru adapters installed if they were requested when the chamber was purchased. They cannot be added aftermarket to existing chambers.

1.2.7 Power strip

Power to the chamber components is supplied through 6-receptacle power strips:



Two power strips are included with Type A and B chambers. One is provided for type C chambers.



Note: The above photo shows a U.S. power strip. Power strips for other countries may look different.

1.2.8 Gloves

One pair of gloves is installed prior to shipping for each set of glove ports:



Unless otherwise requested when the order was made, latex gloves will be installed. If your company requested it, neoprene gloves may be installed instead.

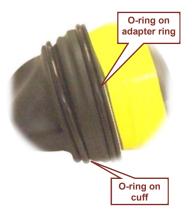


The gloves will be a size Large unless a different size was requested when the order was placed.



Caution: If you are latex sensitive, do not put your hands in the gloves until you have verified that they are neoprene and not latex. If they are latex, you will not be able to complete setup unless you replace the gloves with neoprene gloves or take adequate precautions to protect yourself from contact with the latex.

Quick change cuffs are installed in all glove ports. The cuffs remain permanently attached to the port sleeve. The gloves are attached to an adapter ring with an O-ring and held in place on the cuff with another O-ring:



The glove is attached to the adapter ring outside of the chamber. Then it is inserted into the chamber through the airlock, the glove port with the damaged glove is plugged, and the damaged glove is removed from the cuff and replaced with the new one with minimal disruption of the chamber atmosphere. Additional details and instructions are given in section 6.9 of Chapter 6.



Note: The quick change cuffs also enable persons in chambers with multiple users to easily change glove sizes or even have their own pair of gloves. Additional gloves, adapter rings, and O-rings can be purchased from Coy.

1.2.9 Chamber setup and care kt

The chamber setup and care kit contains items that are needed for the setup and maintenance of your chamber. It contains the following:





1 roll of 3M[™] yellow vinyl tape 2 A

2 Allen wrenches: $\frac{5}{32}$ in and $\frac{1}{2}$ in

The yellow vinyl tape is used for sealing the equipment entry port and securing the stopper containing the lines from the gas infuser. The allen wrenches are used for assembling and disassembling the chamber frame.



Note: 3*M* yellow vinyl tape is the only tape Coy has found that leaves no sticky residue and is airtight.

1.3 How the Chamber Works

The chamber is completely sealed from the laboratory environment. The only entrance to the chamber is through the airlock. The chamber's anaerobic environ-



ment is a hydrogen gas mix, which is continuously circulated through the chamber by the catalyst fan boxes. As long as sufficient hydrogen is present, any oxygen that is drawn into the catalyst fan boxes is removed when it comes into contact with the palladium catalyst.

1.3.1 The anaerobic environment

Two gases are used to create the anaerobic environment—a background gas (aka purge gas) and a hydrogen gas mix. The gases are customer-provided. Coy does not supply the gases.

To establish the initial anaerobic environment, the oxygen-rich air is removed and the chamber is filled with background gas. After the oxygen is purged from the chamber, the chamber is filled with the hydrogen gas mix. This process is repeated

The above process is repeated until the amount of hydrogen, which must be present for ongoing oxygen removal, is sufficient. Any remaining oxygen is removed when the chamber atmosphere is circulated through the catalyst fan boxes and passes through the palladium catalyst. Periodically, the chamber hydrogen content must be refreshed to ensure that there is enough hydrogen for oxygen removal.

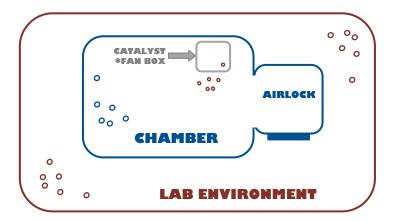
1.3.2 The gases

Any inert gas can be used as a background gas. The most commonly used background gas is nitrogen, which is both safe and inexpensive. The gas mix should be no more than 5 % hydrogen, with the balance being any inert gas. It is OK to use standard or inexpensive mixes of hydrogen and inert gas. You do not need to purchase specialty gases, as they are expensive. Check with your gas supplier regarding quality options.

5% hydrogen is non-flammable but still provides enough hydrogen for oxygen removal. Mixes with lower levels are acceptable but the chamber's hydrogen content may need to be refreshed more frequently. Flammable gas mixes should not be used.

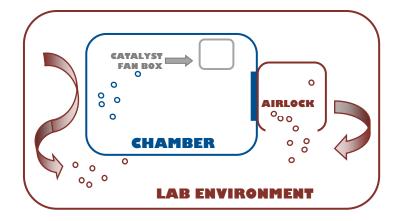
1.3.3 Daily operation

Although the anaerobic chamber is technically airtight, small amounts of oxygen may still enter the chamber through the airlock or by diffusion, primarily through the gloves. It is removed by the palladium catalyst when the chamber atmosphere (hydrogen gas mix) is circulated through the catalyst fan boxes. The outer airlock door is kept closed to seal the chamber from the external environment:

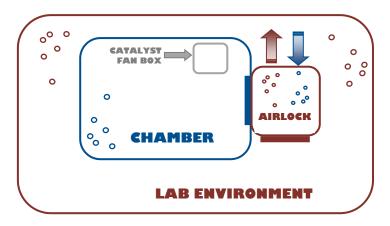




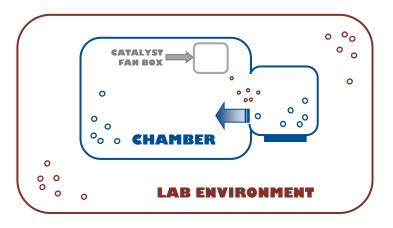
To maintain anaerobic conditions during daily operations, all lab materials and equipment that enter the chamber must enter through the airlock. The inner door of the airlock is closed to seal the chamber prior to opening the outer door. When the airlock's outer door is opened, air containing oxygen enters the airlock from the xternal environment:



After the material to be entered into the chamber is placed in the airlock, the airlock's outer door is shut. The airlock is vacuumed and backfilled with background gas to remove the oxygen. Then it is vacuumed again and filled with the hydrogen gas mix:



The inner door is opened so the material can be retrieved and taken into the chamber. The hydrogen gas mix from the airlock mixes with the hydrogen gas mix from the chamber, replenishing the hydrogen supply. Any remaining oxygen entering from the airlock is removed by the catalyst:





Items to be removed from the chamber also pass through the airlock. If the airlock is anaerobic, the items are simply placed in the airlock and the inner door is closed to seal the chamber. Then the outer door can be open to remove the items. If the airlock is aerobic, anaerobic conditions must be restored before the transfer can take place.



Optional Components 2

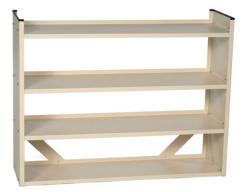
A number of optional components are available for vinyl anaerobic chambers. Your lab may have purchased one or more of them. In this chapter, we give you an overview of each of them. The anaerobic monitor, shelving, and incubator are the most commonly purchased optional components.

Note: Each component comes with a manual, which contains instructions for setup and operation and additional technical information if applicable. Although information directly related to chamber operation may be provided in this manual, it does not take the place of the component manual.

2.1 Interior Shelves

(()

Most installations include a shelving unit. The 4-shelf units that can be used in vinyl anaerobic chambers are 10.5 in (26.7 cm) deep and are available in 36 in (91.4 cm) and 28 in (71.1 cm) widths:





36 in (91.4 cm)

28 in (71.1 cm)

A 16 in (40.6 cm) 3-shelf unit is also available:



16 in (40.6 cm)



2.2 Model 1*2 Anaerobic Monitor (CAM-12)

The Model 12 Coy anaerobic monitor (CAM-12) is designed to monitor the oxy-gen/hydrogen content inside an anaerobic chamber:



This device takes the guesswork out of maintaining an anaerobic environment with sufficient hydrogen. It has two separate alarms, one for oxygen and one for hydrogen. The oxygen alarm can be adjusted to the level you want to consider high. Both an upper and a lower limit (between 1 % and 4 %) can be set for the hydrogen alarm.

2.3 Model 2000 Incubator

The Model 2000 incubator is designed specifically for use in small spaces, so it is ideally suited to the chamber:



Because it has sliding doors, no space needs to be allowed for door opening. The standard unit has a temperature range of up to 40 °C. The high-range unit has a temperature range of up to 65 °C.

2.4 Desiccant Stak-Paks

Desiccant Stak-Paks are used to control moisture in the chamber:







They are attached to the catalyst Stak-Paks and the combined unit is placed at the front of the catalyst box:

The desiccant Stak-Pak that is available through Coy contains alumina pellets. Empty Stak-Paks that can be filled with your own choice of desiccant are also available.

2.5 Incandescent Flaming Device

The incandescent flaming device makes it easy to flame a bacteria loop or the edge of a culture tube:



It is operated with a foot switch that is installed outside of the chamber. The footswitch cable is routed into the chamber through a feed-thru adapter. The stopper for the feed-through adapter is installed on the foot-switch cord.



2.6 Anaerobic Gas Infuser

The anaerobic gas infuser automatically ensures proper hydrogen levels in your anaerobic chamber and maximizes anaerobic gas mix efficiency:



The gas infuser is designed to work with the Coy anaerobic monitor (CAM-12). It continually receives hydrogen readings from the anaerobic monitor. When the hydrogen level falls below optimal level (2.5 %), a valve is automatically opened and the hydrogen gas mix flows slowly into the chamber. When optimal hydrogen level is reached, the valve is closed.

If optimal level is not reached within a predetermined time frame, an alarm will sound and the gas flow will stop. Automatic operation will resume when you clear the error.

2.7 Recirculating Atmosphere Filter

The atmosphere filter removes contamination from the chamber atmosphere:



The internal atmosphere is drawn out of the chamber by the vacuum pump on the unit, circulated through the filter, and returned to the chamber. It can remove contaminant particles 0.3 μ m or larger. It cycles from 8.5 cm³/h to 17.0 cm³/h (30 f³/h to 60 f³/h) and can be run periodically on an as-needed basis.

2.8 Gas Leak Detector

The gas leak detector is used for detecting leaks in the anaerobic chamber:





It senses hydrocarbons (hydrogen gas mix) and will detect leaks as small as a pin hole. Because it detects hydrogen, it can also be used to detect leaks in the gas mix tubing and fittings. If you did not purchase this option, it is highly recommended that you do so, unless you already have a similar device.

2.9 Large-Capacity Dehumidifier

The large-capacity dehumidifier controls the moisture levels inside the Coy vinyl anaerobic chamber automatically without the use of desiccant:



It is a much better solution to serious moisture problems than using desiccant Stak-Paks.

When it is installed, it attaches to the frame side support by the equipment entry port. \ast

2.10 Hydrogen Sulfide Removal Column

Some types of chamber activities may generate hydrogen sulfide (H_2S). Hydrogen sulfide is especially detrimental to the oxygen and hydrogen sensors in the anaerobic monitor and gas infuser and to printed circuit boards. It also attacks certain metals and can damage catalyst.

To remove H_2S from your chamber, Coy has developed the hydrogen sulfide removal column (HSRC):





The HSRC is an effective, efficient method of controlling H_2S . It has been specifically engineered to provide maintenance-free, high capacity removal of H_2S and is far superior to the ad hoc chemical methods (e.g., activated charcoal, silver sulfate) used in many laboratory setting:

The 28 in tall unit can be placed vertically on the floor of the chamber (as shown above) or horizontally in a special cradle on a 28 in or 36 in shelf:



Once installed, the HSRC provides maintenance-free, high-capacity removal of H_2S by continuously recirculating the chamber's atmosphere through the column. No maintenance is required except for changing the removal media every several months.

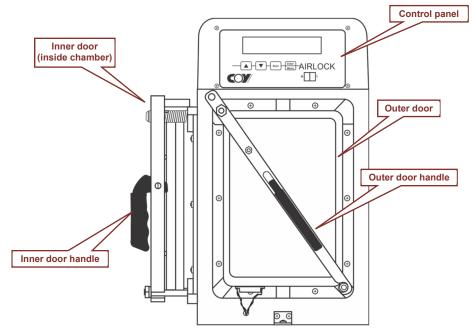




The automatic airlock is attached to the vinyl chamber and to the chamber base:



It has two entry points. The inner door, which is inside the chamber, seals the airlock from the chamber and the outer door seals the airlock from the external environment:



One of these doors must be closed at all times to maintain the chamber's anaerobic environment. Whenever you open the outer door to transfer material, the inner door must be shut before the outer door can be opened. After the outer door has been opened, the airlock must be cycled to anaerobic conditions before the inner door can be opened again. A control panel above the outer door is used to manually control the airlock and to program the airlock for automatic operation.



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3.1 The Airlock Doors

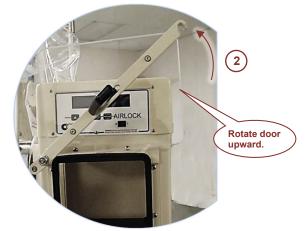
The airlock doors have a spring-loaded corner pivot, which allows the doors to swing up and out of the way. In standard chambers and most custom chambers the outer door pivots up and to the right and the inner door pivots up and toward the back of the chamber.

Note: Some chambers may have the airlock on the opposite side. In that case, the outer door will open to the left. The inner door always opens toward the back of the chamber.

- To open the door
 - 1. Pull the handle out to unlock the door:

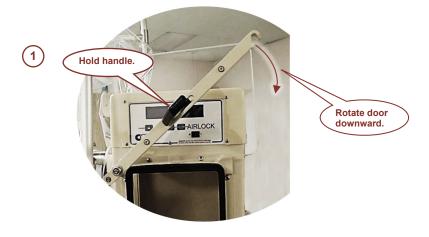


2. Rotate the door upward:

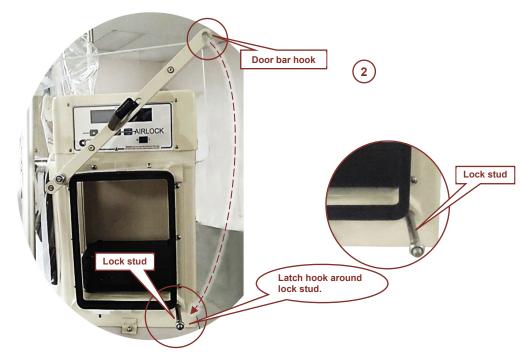


To close the door

1. Holding the handle, rotate the door downward:

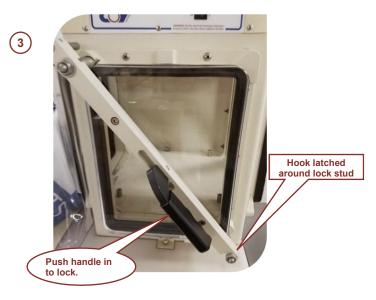






2. Latch the door bar hook around the lock stud (the pin at the bottom of the door opening):

3. Push the handle in to lock it in place:



3.2 Airlock Control

The airlock controller controls the operation of the gases and the vacuum pump. The controller can be operated in either automatic mode or manual mode. The vacuum pump and the gas lines are connected to the airlock through the back panel. The airlock power cord plugs into a standard wall outlet.



3.2.1 The control panel

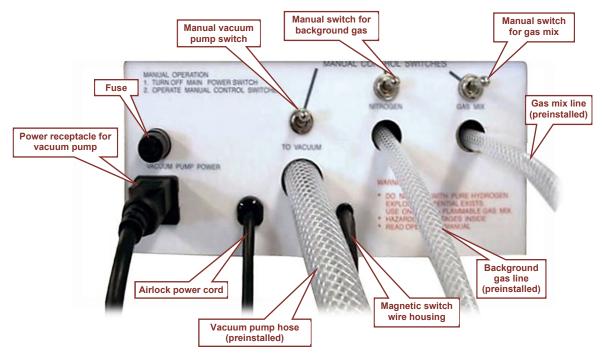
The control panel at the top of the airlock in the front is used to control the airlock directly when operating manually:



The control panel also allows you to set up and run stored routines to reestablish anaerobic conditions in your airlock when you transfer materials in and out of the chamber. Controller operation is discussed in Chapter 4.

3.2.2 The airlock connections

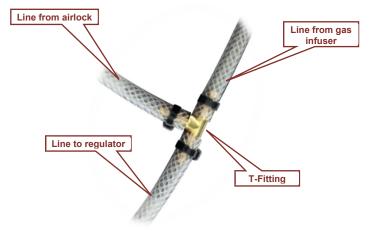
The back panel of the airlock contains the connections to the vacuum pump and gas lines. It also contains the electrical connections and manual switches to operate the gas lines and vacuum pump in case of controller failure:



If you have an anaerobic gas infuser, gas mix must also flow into the gas infuser for release into the chamber whenever the infuser detects low hydrogen levels. To enable both lines to use the same gas mix supply, a T fitting is preinstalled between the gas mix line from the gas infuser and the line to the regulator:







The gas mix line from the airlock is connected to the T-fitting and both the airlock and the gas infuser receive gas through the same regulator:

3.3 The Vacuum Pump Connections

The vacuum pump is connected to the airlock through the back panel and is operated from the airlock:



The vacuum pump power cable is plugged into the receptacle marked **VACUUM PUMP POWER** on the back of the airlock. The vacuum pump hose from the airlock is connected to a hose connector on the pump.

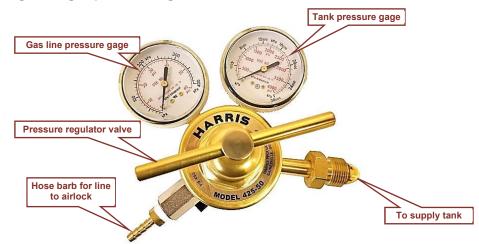
3.4 Gas Line Connections

The gas supply tanks are connected to the airlock through gas pressure regulators, which control the flow of gas from the tank to the airlock.

3.4.1 The regulators

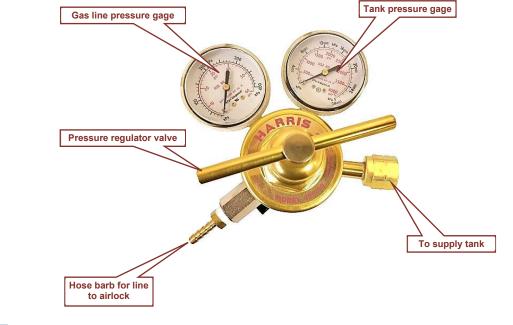
There is one gas pressure regulator for the background (nitrogen) gas tank and one for the gas mix tank. They are identical except for the fittings that connect to the supply tank.





Background gas pressure regulator:

Gas mix pressure regulator:





Note: Your gas regulators may look different if they were not Coy-supplied, but they should have the same parts and fittings.

The regulators are connected to the airlock with a length of reinforced flexible tubing, which is preinstalled in the airlock at the factory. The initial length of the line when shipped is 12 ft (3.6 m). They can be cut to a shorter length if desired, so your lines may be shorter.

3.4.2 The ball valve

All Coy-supplied regulators are supplied with a ball valve. The ball valve is used to turn the gas on and off at the regulator so you do not have to turn the gas off at the tank when you want to stop the flow to the airlock. It also allows you to change the gas pressure before releasing it into the gas line.



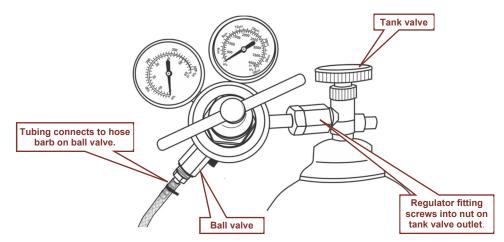


The ball valve is located on the back side of the regulator:

The gas line from the airlock attaches to the hose barb on the ball valve.

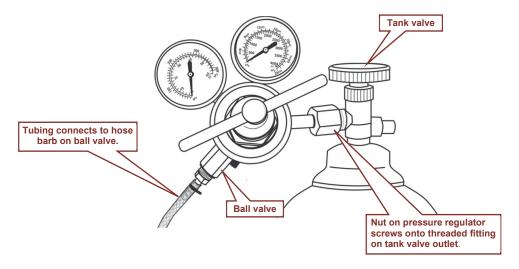
3.4.3 The background gas line

The pressure regulator attaches directly to the tank valve outlet. The fitting on the pressure regulator screws into the nut on the tank valve:



3.4.4 The gas mix line

The pressure regulator attaches directly to the tank valve outlet. The nut on the pressure regulator screws onto the fitting on the tank valve:





3.5 Controlling the Gas Supply

To supply the gas to the airlock, the gas must be turned on at the tank, and the ball valve on the pressure regulator must be open. You do not need to turn the gas on and off on a daily basis. However, you may have to do so occasionally for maintenance purposes (diagnosing leaks, changing supply tanks, etc.).

3.5.1 Gas quality

Coy anaerobic chambers can operate on low-quality gases, as the airlock and catalyst will remove any trace amounts of oxygen that enter the chamber with the gases. Calibrated and/or certified mixes dramatically increase cost and are often used to guarantee oxygen-free gas, but even low-grade gases contain very little oxygen and operate quite well with the chambers. Because the lower quality-control standards increase the possibility of supplier error, there is some risk of getting an oxygen-contaminated tank, although it happens very rarely. If you have a Coy anaerobic monitor or other digital monitor, you can see these contaminations the first time you operate the airlock with a contaminated tank.



Note: Paper or liquid indicators that change color in the presences of oxygen do not trigger at low enough levels to be an effective detector of contaminated tanks.

3.5.2 Gas pressure

We recommend 20 psi (138 kPa) of pressure for normal operating conditions, although in certain situations you may need to increase it. At higher pressure settings, the rapid influx of air into the airlock can knock over glassware, which, if it contains liquid and breaks, can cause major problems with the vacuum pump. Higher settings may also cause excess gas to flow past the door seals. Lower settings may be too slow for airlock operation, resulting in a "timeout" error.

3.5.3 Turning the gas on and off

Gas line pressure is controlled by the regulator. Gas flow to the airlock is turned on and off with the ball valve lever:



• When the lever is perpendicular to the ball valve, the ball valve is closed:





• When the lever is parallel to the ball valve, the ball valve is open:



The pressure of the gas flowing into the tank is regulated by the pressure regulator valve:





Note: If you do not have Coy-supplied regulators, your regulators will most likely not have a ball value. If they do not, gas flow to the airlock may only be controlled through the pressure regulator value.

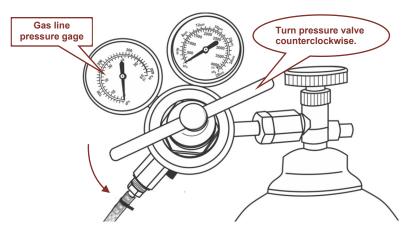
Note: The instructions below show the background gas regulator. However, they apply to both regulators.

To turn on the gas

1. Close the ball valve by turning the lever so that it is perpendicular to the ball valve:

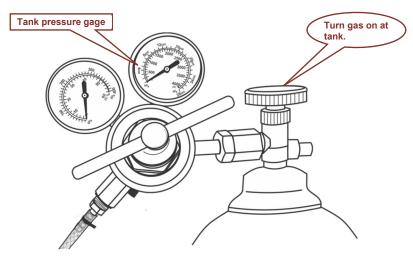


2. Turn the pressure regulator valve counterclockwise until it stops. The gas line pressure gage should read 0:





3. Turn the gas on at the tank. The tank pressure gage will display the current pressure for the tank:

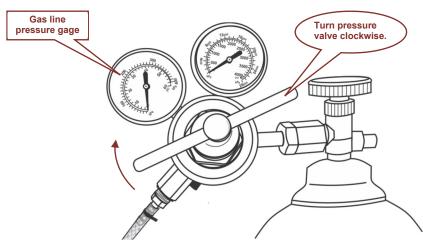


The pressure reading shows how much gas is left in the tank.

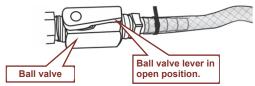


Note: If your lab has an internal gas source, follow your lab's guidelines for turning on the gas supply and determining the appropriate pressure reading.

4. Set the gas line pressure by turning the pressure regulator valve clockwise until the gas line pressure gage displays 20 psi (138 kPa):



5. Open the ball valve by turning the ball valve lever so that it is parallel to the ball valve:



• To change the gas line pressure

- 1. To increase gas line pressure, turn the pressure regulator valve clockwise until the gas line pressure gage displays the desired pressure.
- 2. To decrease gas line pressure, turn the valve counterclockwise until the gas line pressure gage displays the desired pressure.

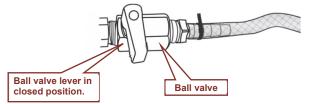


Note: Gas must be flowing into the regulator for the pressure to change. You cannot set the gas pressure when the gas is turned off.

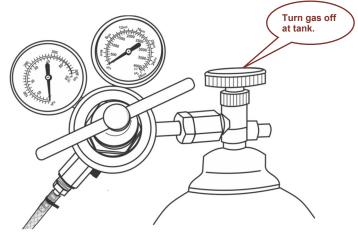
Important: Do not let the gas line pressure exceed 60 psi (414 kPa). All standard Coy-supplied regulators have a gas line pressure limit of 60 psi. However, regulators from other sources may have higher limits.

To turn off the gas

1. Close the ball valve by turning the ball valve lever perpendicular to the valve:



2. Turn the gas off at the supply tank:



3.6 Changing Gas Supply Tanks

When a supply tank is empty, you will need to replace it with a full one. You may also wish to replace a nearly empty tank in situations where the lower pressure is interfering with airlock purge operations (more about that in Chapter 4) or because of problems with the tank itself.

An empty tank will have a pressure reading of 0. However, a tank that is turned off will also read 0. Unless you are changing the tank for reasons other than its being empty, you should make sure it is empty before proceeding. If you cannot turn the tank valve counterclockwise, the gas has been turned off. Turn the gas on and check the pressure reading to make sure that no significant amount of gas remains in the tank.

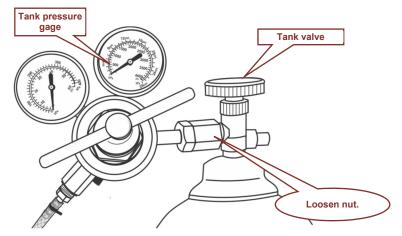


Important: When you remove the pressure regulator from the supply tank, be sure to place it on a surface that will support it. If the regulators remain connected to the airlock during a tank change and are not fully supported, the line connections may be compromised or the line itself may be damaged.

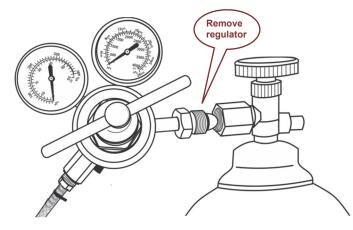


To change background gas supply tanks

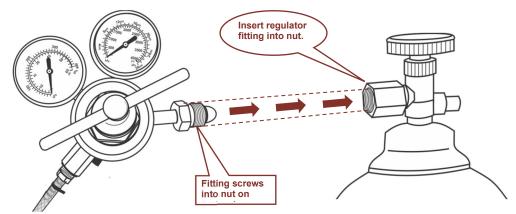
- 1. If there is any gas in the tank (pressure is greater than 0 on the tank pressure gage), turn off the tank valve.
- 2. Close the gas line ball valve on the gas pressure regulator.
- 3. Use a crescent wrench to loosen the nut on the tank:



4. Remove the regulator from the tank:



- 5. Prepare the new tank for use according to the supplier's instructions.
- 6. Insert the fitting on the pressure regulator into the nut on the tank and fingertighten the nut:



Then use a crescent wrench to tighten it further. Make sure it is as tight as possible.



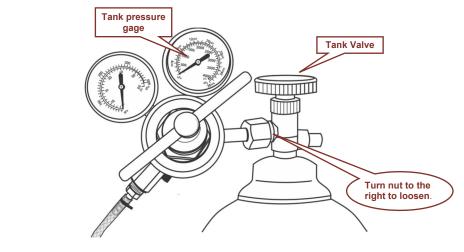
- 7. Turn the gas on at the tank. The tank pressure gage should show a full tank.
- 8. Set the gas line pressure by turning the pressure regulator valve (see section 3.5). It should be set to 20 psi (138 kPa) unless your lab has determined that another setting is more effective.

Reminder: Do not allow the gas line pressure to exceed 60 psi (414 kPa).

- 9. Open the gas line ball valve on the pressure regulator.
- 10. Check the fitting at the tank connection for leaks (see section 3.7).

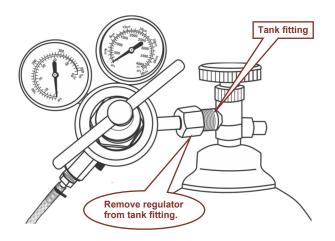
To change gas mix supply tanks

- 1. If there is any gas in the tank (pressure is greater than 0), turn off the tank valve.
- 2. Close the gas line ball valve on the gas pressure regulator.
- 3. Using a crescent wrench, loosen the nut on the pressure regulator by turning it to the right:



Note: This fitting is threaded opposite of standard.

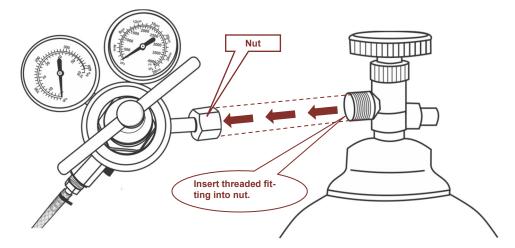
4. Remove the pressure regulator from the tank fitting:



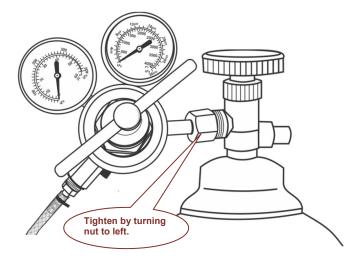
5. Prepare the new tank for use according to the supplier's instructions.



6. Insert the threaded fitting on the tank into the nut on the pressure regulator:



7. Finger-tighten the nut by turning it to the left:



Then use a crescent wrench to tighten it further. Make sure it is as tight as possible.

- 8. Turn the gas on at the tank. The tank pressure gage should show a full tank.
- 9. Set the gas line pressure by turning the pressure regulator valve on the pressure regulator (see section 3.5). It should be set to 20 psi (138 kPa) unless your lab has determined that another setting is more effective.

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Reminder: Do not allow the gas line pressure to exceed 60 psi (414 kPa).

- 10. Open the gas line ball valve on the pressure regulator.
- 11. Check the fitting at the tank connection for leaks (see section 3.7).

3.7 Diagnosing Gas Line Leaks

As part of your regular maintenance outlined in Chapter 6, you will need to periodically check the gas lines for leaks. You should also check for leaks if you notice an unexplained drop in pressure and whenever you install a new tank.



To check for leaks

- 1. Close the tank valve of the line you are testing so that no more gas will be fed into the line and watch the gas line pressure gage:
 - If the pressure does not drop within 10 minutes, there are no leaks.
 - If the pressure drops, there is a leak in the line.
- 2. Close the ball valve to isolate the regulator from the tubing:
 - If the pressure drops further, the regulator is leaking and needs to be replaced.
 - If the pressure does not drop further, the tubing is leaking and may need to be replaced. Contact Coy for instructions.



Note: If you have a gas infuser and the problem is in the gas mix line, you will need to figure out which segment is leaking. Check all three segments at the T-fitting as well as the one at the regulator. If you have a gas leak detector, you can use it to check for leaks in the gas mix line. If you do not, make a soap-and-water solution and brush it on the connections. If it bubbles, that connection is leaking.



Note: If your regulators do not have ball values, you cannot isolate the regulator as described in step 2 above. Instead, make a soap-and-water solution and brush it on the connection at the regulator. If it bubbles, there is a leak in the line.



Operating the Automatic Airlock Controller

The airlock controller is accessed through the controller front panel. All airlock operations, whether automatic or manual, are performed through the front panel. You can set up your own profiles for automatic operation and change configuration settings to suit your needs:



The controller front panel has a display area where messages and instructions are displayed and four function keys.

4.1 Controller Basics

The purpose of the airlock is to act as a buffer between the aerobic laboratory environment and the aerobic chamber environment. Whenever you transfer material to or from the chamber, the airlock must be brought to anaerobic conditions before the inner door of the chamber can be opened. The procedure for doing this is called a cycle.

A default factory cycle consists of two background gas cycles and one gas mix cycle:

- Vacuum the airlock and fill it with background gas.
- Vacuum the airlock and fill it with background gas a second time.
- Vacuum the airlock and fill it with gas mix.

These cycles can be performed either automatically or manually through the airlock controller. For automatic operation, profiles must be set up that specify how long each step of the cycle lasts and how many times each cycle is performed. Initially, all profiles perform the default factory cycle. You may need to make changes to the default profile settings for the airlock to function with your environment and your equipment. You can have up to nine different profile definitions, so you can create additional profiles to handle specific conditions or situations.



Warning: When transferring media in open containers, the containers should be covered, and extra care should be taken to avoid spills and broken glassware. The vacuum pump will draw the spilled moisture from the airlock during the vacuum process, and excessive amounts can cause permanent failure of the vacuum pump.



4.1.1 Starting the controller

For normal operation, you will not need to turn the controller on and off on a regular basis. However, you may have occasion to do so for maintenance purposes or to reset the controller after an error.

To turn the controller on and off

To turn the controller on, set the power switch to I:



To turn the controller off, set the power switch to \mathbf{O} .

When you turn the controller on, you will see the following display, which contains your airlock revision number, for a few seconds:



Then you will see one of the following messages:

• If the airlock is anaerobic:



• If the airlock is aerobic and the outer door is closed:

Ready	P1
0.0 inH9 *	Aerobic

• If the outer door is open:





Note: If the outer door is open, you will not be able to operate the controller.



4.1.2 Accessing the menu

By default, the controller is always in automatic mode. To access other functions, you will need to access the menu.

Option	Function	Кеу
Profile menu	Allows you to set up airlock cycle profiles.	
Configuration menu	Allows you to configure airlock settings.	
Manual mode	Allows you to operate in manual mode.	Start
Exit	Exits the main menu.	Enter Menu

The controller's main menu has four options:

Within each of these options, the function keys will have different functions assigned.

To access the menu

1. Press the **Enter** key. You will see the main menu display:



2. Press the key for the option you want and follow the instructions in sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4.



Note: There is no time limit for choosing a menu or for entering values or performing menu functions. The controller will maintain the menu display until you are finished.



Important: Values are not stored in the controller's memory until you press to exit from the main menu.

4.2 Changing Configuration Settings

Setting	Description	Default
Display in mbars	Determines whether the vacuum readings are displayed in inHg or mbar.	No
Pressure limit	Sets the gas pressure limit.	20*
Factory setting	Returns values to the factory setting.	Yes
Sensor zero Cal	Calibrates the sensors (initializes to 0).	Yes

The configuration settings you may set are shown below:

*This value is set during factory testing and may be different for your airlock.

The default values are those that were set at the factory prior to shipment. For high altitude operation, you may need to change the pressure limit setting prior to using the airlock for the first time.



4.2.1 Using the configuration menu

The setting options are displayed in the above order after you select the menu.

To enter configuration settings

- 1. Press the V key from the main menu to select the configuration menu.
- 2. The menu items will be displayed one by one. Instructions for changing their settings are given in sections 4.2.2–4.2.5.
- 3. When you are finished with one item, the next one will be displayed.
- 4. To skip a menu item completely, simply press Enter unless otherwise directed in the instructions.

4.2.2 Setting the vacuum reading display

When you press **v** to enter the configuration menu, the following message will appear:



You may display the vacuum readings in either mbar (millibars) or inHg (inches of mercury). The default setting is inHg.

To select the vacuum reading display

- 1. Select the display you want:
 - To display the vacuum reading in mbar, press the **A** key.
 - To display the vacuum reading in inHg, press
- 2. After you make your selection, the next menu item will be displayed.

Note: You must press either or <u>Enter</u>. If you don't want to change the setting, simply press the key for the current setting.

4.2.3 Setting the gas pressure limit

After you have responded to the previous item, the following message will appear in the display area:



The gas pressure limit sets the amount of gas pressure allowed to enter the airlock after the vacuum reading reaches 0 inHg (0 mbar). The current value will appear in the display area. The default setting is nominally 20, but, since the actual value is determined by factory testing, your default value may be different. There is no reason to change this value unless:

• Your airlock doors will not open. This indicates that excessive vacuum is still present and the gas pressure must be increased.



• Gas is escaping from one or both of the airlock doors. This indicates that the gas pressure is too high and needs to be decreased.

The setting for this limit can be anywhere from 1 to 40. Adding 1 to the current value increases the pressure by about 0.0043 psi (0.03 kPa). Decreasing the value by 1 will decrease the pressure setting by that amount. A value of 40 sets the pressure to 0.172 psi (1.19 kPa).

To set the gas pressure limit

1. The current limit will be displayed below the message:

- To increase the displayed value, press the **button**.
- To decrease the value, press the 🔽 button.

Each time you press the key, the value will increase or decrease by **1**.

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Note: The value will not change until you release the key. You cannot hold the key down for a continuous increment or decrement.

2. When you are finished, press <u>Here</u> to go to the next menu item.

To test your new setting

Select and run a profile (see section 4.4.1) to see if the new values work with your airlock:

- If you are unable to open your airlock doors after a cycle, you will need to increase this value to relieve the excess vacuum.
- If excess gas escapes from one or both airlock doors, you may need to decrease the value. However, if one of the doors will not open as a result of the decreased value, the higher value is probably correct. The door that is allowing the excess gas to escape (presumably the one that opens) may need tightening.

Check the airlock seal for leaks and adjust the door if necessary (see section 6.7 in Chapter 6 for instructions). If this does not solve the problem, contact your service or maintenance personnel or call Coy technical support.



Note: You will need to complete the configuration menu sequence before you can test your setting.

4.2.4 Restoring the factory settings

After you finish with the gas pressure limit, you will see the following prompt:



This option allows you to return to factory settings in one operation if your changes do not work out instead of changing them back individually.



The following values are set at the factory for each of the nine profiles:

Item	Default
Number of gas mix cycles	1
Number of purge gas cycles	2
Vacuum time out	45 s
Purge gas time out (both purge gas and gas mix)	45 s
Vacuum limit	20 inHg

The following values are set at the factory for the configuration settings:

Item	Default
Display in mbars	No
Pressure Limit	20*
Factory Setting	Yes
Sensor Zero Cal	Yes

* This number may vary, based on factory testing.

You can restore the configuration factory settings and the factory settings for profile 9. The other profiles will remain unchanged.

To restore the factory settings

1. To restore the factory settings, press **v**. The following message will be displayed:



Then you will go on to the next menu item.

2. To leave the settings unchanged, press the Key to go on to the next menu item.

4.2.5 Setting the sensor zero calibration

After you leave the factory settings menu, the following message will be displayed:



The pressure sensors are initially calibrated to 0 at the factory, zero being the point at which there is no gas or vacuum pressure in the airlock. You may wish to recalibrate in your own environment if your pressure readings do not appear to be accurate.

• To set the sensor zero calibration

- 1. Do one of the following:
 - Press <u>Henu</u> to exit the configuration menu without recalibrating the sensors.
 - To recalibrate the sensors, continue with step 2.



2. Press the \checkmark key. The controller will display the instruction:



This message will remain until the outer door is opened.

3. Close the inner door and open the outer door. After the outer door is opened, calibration will start. While it is calibrating, you will see a numeric display on the top line:



4. After the calibration is calculated, you will see the following message:



Then you will automatically exit the configuration menu.

Warning: The sensor cannot tell whether the inner door of the airlock is closed. Make sure that it is latched and locked before you open the outer door or you will lose your anaerobic environment.

4.3 Setting Up Profiles

The profile menu allows you to create to nine airlock cycle profiles that you can run automatically. There are five values for a given profile:

Value	Description	Default
Number of gas mix cycles	The number of times you want to vacuum and fill the airlock with gas mix.	1
Number of purge gas cycles	The number of times you want to vacuum and fill the airlock with background gas.	2
Vacuum time out	The number of seconds before the vacuum pump will time out if it doesn't finish the vacuum process.	45 s
Purge gas time out	The number of seconds before the purge gas or gas mix will time out if it doesn't finish filling the airlock.	45 s
Vacuum limit	The pressure to which the airlock is to be vacuumed.	20 inHg (677 mbar)

Initially all nine profiles are set to the default values. To create your own, you simply select a profile and change the values.

4.3.1 Using the profile menu

To use the profile menu, you must first select the profile you want to edit. The menu items will be displayed in the above order after you select the profile.



To select a profile

1. Press Enter to enter the main menu. Then press **v** to select the profile menu. The following message will appear:



- 2. The number of the last profile edited or executed will be displayed on the second line:
 - To select a higher number, press the <u>key</u>. Each time you press <u>key</u>, the value will increment by **1**.
 - To select a lower number, press the V key. Each time you press V the value will decrement by **1**.
- 3. When you have selected the profile you want to edit, press the <u>Henu</u> key and the first profile item will appear.

To enter profile settings

- 1. The menu items will be displayed one by one. Follow the instructions in sections 4.3.2 through 4.3.5 for the displayed item.
- 2. When you are finished with one item, the next one will be displayed.
- 3. To skip a menu item completely, simply press Henry unless otherwise directed in the instructions.

4.3.2 Entering the number of gas mix cycles

After you have selected the profile you want to edit, the following message will appear:



The current value will be displayed in the message.

A gas mix cycle consists of vacuuming the airlock to remove the background gas and filling it with the gas mix. You may perform up to 9 cycles. The default setting is **1**.

You may also specify $\mathbf{0}$ cycles if you do not want to perform any gas mix cycles. If you enter $\mathbf{0}$, the program will skip over the gas mix portion of the program when the profile is run.



Note: For a profile to be valid, you must have at least one gas mix cycle or one purge cycle.

To enter the number of gas mix cycles

- 1. The current setting for the number of gas mix cycles will be displayed. If you want to change the current setting, select a value between **0** and **9**:
 - To select a higher number, press the <u>key</u>. Each time you press <u>key</u>. Each time you press <u>key</u>.



- To select a lower number, press the value will decrement by **1**.
- 2. When you have entered the number of cycles you want, press the Key to go to the next menu item.

4.3.3 Entering the vacuum time out

After you have entered the number of purge gas cycles, the following message will appear:



The vacuum time out is the number of seconds allowed for the vacuum process to reach the vacuum limit. When the profile is run, an alarm will sound if your vacuum limit isn't reached within that number of seconds. The default setting is 45 seconds and is a "safe" setting for most installations.

If the vacuum pump times out consistently during automatic operation, the cause may be one of the following: (1) leaks in the airlock, (2) a faulty vacuum pump, (3) a changed vacuum level (see note below), (4) decreased pressure due to high altitude operation. For reasons 3 and 4, this setting will need to be increased.



Note: If you increase the vacuum level limit above the 20 inHg default, you may need to increase this setting. If your lab operates at a high altitude, you may also need to increase this setting.

To enter the vacuum time out

- 1. The current setting for the vacuum time out will be displayed. You may change this value to any value between 45 and 120 in five-second increments:
 - To select a higher value, press the 🔼 key. Each time you press 🔼 the value will increment by **5**.
 - To select a lower value, press the V key. Each time you press V the value will decrement by **5**.
- 2. When you have entered the number of seconds you want, press the Key to go to the next item in the menu.

4.3.4 Entering the purge time out

After you have entered the vacuum time out, the following message will appear:



The purge time out is the number of seconds allowed for the airlock to reach 0 inHg (0 mbar) when being filled with gas (either background gas or gas mix). When the profile is run, an alarm will sound if the airlock does not reach 0 inHg (0 mbar) within that number of seconds. The default setting is 45 seconds.

This setting is primarily used to alert users to low gas tanks, as the decreased pressure of a low tank will cause the gas to fill the airlock more slowly. If the pressure is too low, the purge will time out. If this error occurs frequently but gas tank levels appear to be adequate and the line pressure is set to the setting deter-



mined by your lab, check the affected line for leaks (Chapter 0, section 3.7). If there are no leaks, try increasing the gas line pressure but do not go much above 20 psi (see section 3.5.2 of Chapter 0 for our recommendation). If an increase in pressure is not advisable, increase the purge time-out setting.

Important: The purge time-out setting affects both the gas mix line and the background gas line.

• To enter the purge time out

- 1. The current setting for the purge time out will be displayed in the message. You may change this value to any value between 45 s and 120 s in five-second increments:
 - To select a higher value, press the 🔼 key. Each time you press 🔼 the value will increment by **5**.
 - To select a lower value, press the V key. each time you press V, the value will decrement by **5**.
- 2. When you have entered the number of seconds you want, press the Key to go to the next item in the menu.

4.3.5 Entering the number of purge gas cycles

After you have entered the number of gas mix cycles, the following message will appear:



The current setting will be displayed in the message.

The purpose of the purge gas cycle is to remove the oxygen from the airlock. It consists of vacuuming the airlock to remove the current atmosphere and filling it with background gas (usually nitrogen). You may perform up to 9 cycles. The default setting is **2**.

You may also specify $\mathbf{0}$ cycles if you do not want to perform any purge gas cycles. If you enter $\mathbf{0}$, the program will skip over the purge gas portion of the program when the profile is run.



Note: For a profile to be valid, you must have at least one gas mix cycle or one purge gas cycle.

To enter the number of purge gas cycles

- The current setting for the number of purge gas cycles will be displayed in the message. If you want to change the current setting, select a value between 0 and 9:
 - To select a higher number, press the **A** key. Each time you press **A**, the value will increment by **1**.
 - To select a lower number, press the 🔽 key. Each time you press 🔽 the value will decrement by **1**.
- 2. When you have entered the number of cycles you want, press the Key to go to the next menu item.



Note: If you enter **0** cycles for both the gas mix and the purge cycle, the controller will display the following error message and sound an alarm:



After a couple of seconds, the controller will take you to the beginning of the profile menu.

4.3.6 Setting the vacuum limit

After you have entered purge time out, the following message will appear:



The vacuum limit sets the level you want to maintain for your chamber. The current setting will appear in the bottom line of the message. Depending on what is currently selected for your airlock, it will either be displayed in inHg (inches of mercury) or mbar (millibars).

You can set the limit anywhere between 5 inHg (169 mbar) and 29.9 inHg (1012 mbar). The default value is 20 inHg (677 mbar). The value that you set will depend on your vacuum pump's capabilities. The pump supplied by Coy is capable of approximately 24 inHg (813 mbar).



Note: When the Coy-supplied pump nears its upper limit (22 inHg to 24 inHg), it takes much longer to reach the vacuum limit than with lower vacuum levels. You may have to adjust the vacuum time out if a higher setting is desired.

To set the vacuum limit

- 1. The current vacuum limit will be displayed in the message. You may change this value to any value between 5 inHg (169 mbar) and 29.9 inHg (1012 mbar) in 0.1 increments:
 - To select a higher value, press the **A** key. Each time you press **A** the value will increment by **0.1**.
 - To select a lower value, press the **V** key. Each time you press **V** the value will decrement by **0.1**.
- 2. When you have entered the limit value you want, press the <u>Herricenter</u> key to exit the profile menu.

4.4 Running the Airlock in Automatic Mode

When the airlock is first turned on, the controller will display the revision number:



Then the controller will enter automatic mode:



• If the airlock is anaerobic, the following message will be displayed:



The last profile accessed will be displayed in the first line.

• If the airlock is aerobic and the outer door is closed, "aerobic" will be displayed in the message and "ready" will appear on the first line, indicating that the unit is ready to be cycled:



• If the outer door is open, "Open door" will be displayed on the first line instead:



The door must be closed before you can proceed.

When the airlock is in operation, the second line will display the current vacuum reading in inHg or mbar (depending on the configuration setting selected).



Note: The vacuum reading will not be displayed during timeout errors and when you are in the menus.

4.4.1 Running a profile

Running a profile to create an anaerobic environment in the airlock is automatic. All you need to do is make your selection and start the execution. No further input is needed unless errors occur.

To run a profile

- 1. Make sure the inner door of the airlock is latched and locked.
- 2. Close and lock the outer door. Aerobic will be displayed on the second line:



- 3. The last profile selected will be displayed on the first line. Use \land and \checkmark to select a different profile:
 - To select a higher number, press the **A** key. Each time you press **A** the value will increment by **1**.
 - To select a lower number, press the V key. Each time you press V the value will decrement by **1**.



4. When you have selected the profile you want, press **Start** and the profile will run. When it is finished, an alarm will sound. The display will read:



4.4.2 Handling errors

If an error occurs, the controller will stop and an alarm will sound. The error that occurred will be displayed in the display area. There are four possible errors. Follow the instructions in the table below for handling the error:

Message	Description	Action
Error 01	The profile you are running has 0 cycles for both the gas mix and the purge gas.	 Turn the power off and back on to clear the error. Edit the profile to correct the error (see section 4.3).
Timeout Error Vacuum	The airlock did not reach the vacuum limit set in the profile in the specified time (factory default is 45 seconds). Note: The action procedure you follow depends on the version number of your air- lock. You can determine the version of your airlock by turning the controller off and back on. The Rev # of your airlock will be displayed. High altitude operation: At high altitudes, the vacuum pump will take longer to reach the same levels than it would at sea level. You may have to increase the amount of time for the appropriate vacuum levels to be reached.	 Rev. 1.3 and below: Press and release Start to open the purge gas solenoid and bring the vacuum to 0 inHg (0 mbar). Turn the power off and back on. If the vacuum pump starts, check the following: Check to see if the doors are closed, latched, and locked. Check the vacuum limit in the profile (section 4.3.5). The pump may not be able to reach this limit. If neither of the above is the case and the problem continues, you may need to increase the timeout value. See section 4.3.3. Note: If the vacuum pump does not start, the pump fuse may have blown. Rev. 1.5 and above: Turn the power off and back on to clear the error. Manually purge the airlock to 0 inHg (0 mbar). See section 4.5. If the vacuum pump starts, check the following: Check to see if the doors are closed. Check to see if the doors are closed. Check to see if the doors are closed. Check to see if the doors are closed. Check to see if the doors are closed. Check the vacuum limit in the profile (section 4.3.5). The pump may not be able to reach this limit. If neither of the above is the case, run the profile again. If the problem continues, you may need to increase the timeout value. See section 4.3.3.



Message	Description	Action
Timeout Error Purge Gas	The airlock did not return to 0 inHg (0 mbar) in the specified time set in the profile.	 Turn the power off and back on to clear the error. Check the following for the background gas line and correct as needed: Make sure the tank valve is open and there is gas in the tank. Make sure the ball valve is open. Make sure the gas line pressure is not set below the setting determined by your lab, usually 20 psi (138 kPa). If there are no apparent line problems, check the line for leaks (section 3.7). If there are no leaks, try increasing the gas line pressure slightly. If none of the above solve the problem, you may need to increase the purge timeout limit (section 4.3.4).
Timeout Error Gas Mix	The airlock did not return to 0 inHg (0 mbar) in the specified time set in the profile.	 Turn the power off and back on to clear the error. Check following for the gas mix line and correct as needed: Make sure the tank valve is open and there is gas in the tank. Make sure the ball valve is open. Make sure the gas line pressure is not set below the setting determined by your lab, usually 20 psi (138 kPa). If there appear to be no line problems, check the line for leaks (section 3.7). If there are no leaks, try increasing the gas line pressure slightly. If none of the above solve the problem, you may need to increase the purge timeout limit (section 4.3.4).

*If the tank level is low, you may be able to avoid timeout errors by increasing the gas line pressure temporarily. Just don't set the pressure any higher than necessary and don't forget to reset it when you change tanks.

4.5 Operating the Airlock in Manual Mode

In manual mode, the keys on the controller are assigned special functions to operate the vacuum pump and the gas lines:





To operate the automatic airlock manually

- 1. Make sure the gas line ball valves for both gases are open (see section 3.5 of Chapter 0).
- 2. Press <u>Enter</u> to enter the main menu.
- 3. Press the **Start** key to enter manual mode. The manual mode key functions will be displayed in the display area:



Wait until the display is finished (about 6 seconds) before you proceed.

To operate the background gas

- 1. Press the \checkmark key and hold it down to start the gas flow.
- 2. Release the key to turn the gas flow off.

To operate the vacuum pump

- 1. Press the \land key and hold it down to run the vacuum pump.
- 2. Release the key to turn the pump off.

To operate the gas mix

- 1. Press the **Start** key and hold it down to start the gas flow.
- 2. Release the key to turn the gas flow off.

The manual mode function keys may be used to simulate an automatic airlock cycle. This may be necessary if a cycle times out and needs to be completed. Manual mode is also used when performing some maintenance functions, such as replenishing the hydrogen.

During manual operation, the display will show the vacuum pressure reading:



It increases while the airlock is vacuumed and decreases when it is filled with gas.



Note: The units will be displayed in inHg unless your airlock has been set to display in mbar. See section 4.2.2.

4.6

Operating with the Manual Control Switches

The airlock can also be operated from the manual control switches on the back of the airlock. These switches are intended for airlock operation if the controller fails and should not be used as a standard method of operation. They operate indepen-



dently of the controller and do not communicate with the controller. You have no display information (e.g., vacuum pressure readouts). The power switch on the controller must be turned off for the manual switches to operate.

Because there is no display information, you will need some method of determining the length of time to perform each phase of the airlock cycle. To be prepared for emergency operation, you should perform a cycle manually through the controller and time the following operations:

- Vacuum the airlock to 20 inHg (677 mbar).
- Fill the airlock with background gas. Note the background gas pressure during this operation.
- Fill the airlock with gas mix. Note the gas mix pressure during this operation.

Store the times and the gas pressure readings in a safe place, so you will have them available in case of controller failure.

Note: The gas pressure directly affects the time it takes to fill the airlock, as the gas flow is slower when pressure is lower.

To perform a cycle with the manual control switches

- 1. Turn off the power switch on the control panel.
- 2. Close the inner door of the airlock. Make sure it is latched and locked.
- 3. Make sure the outer door of the airlock is latched and locked. This door is not monitored when you are operating without the controller.
- 4. Set the gas line pressure on the gas pressure regulators to the pressure that was used when you timed the fill operations.
- 5. Hold the vacuum switch down to vacuum the airlock for the length of time you determined was necessary. Then release the switch.
- 6. Hold the nitrogen switch down to fill the airlock with background gas. Release the switch when the predetermined time has expired.
- 7. Vacuum the airlock for the predetermined length of time again.
- 8. Fill the airlock with background gas again. Release the switch when the predetermined time has expired.
- 9. Vacuum the airlock for the predetermined length of time once more.
- 10. Hold the gas mix switch down for the predetermined time to fill airlock with gas mix. Then release the switch. If your times were accurate, the airlock should now be anaerobic.

Note: Due to barometric pressure changes, the timed operation may be off slightly in which case you many need to purge for 1 or 2 seconds longer or shorter. Shorten the purge time if you hear gas escaping from the door. Lengthen the purge time if the door cannot be opened, which indicates that the gas has not fully filled the airlock and some vacuum pressure still exists.



Catalyst Fan Box Operation 5

Catalyst fan boxes circulate the chamber's atmosphere through palladium catalyst, which, in the presence of hydrogen, removes oxygen. This circulation also provides a homogeneous mix of gases in the chamber.

5.1 Catalyst Fan Box Features

Catalyst fan boxes may be either heated or unheated, depending on chamber requirements. Power for the units is supplied through the 6-receptacle power strip(s) supplied with all Coy anaerobic chambers.

5.1.1 Heated catalyst fan boxes

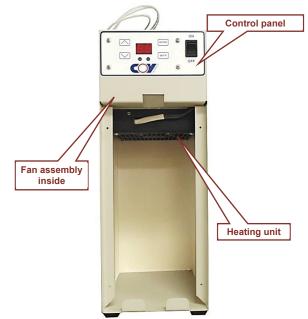
The heated catalyst fan box is used for chambers without incubators where it is important to control the chamber's temperature:



The standard heated catalyst box can maintain the chamber's temperature from ambient to about 40 °C. A high-range version can maintain temperatures to 50 °C.



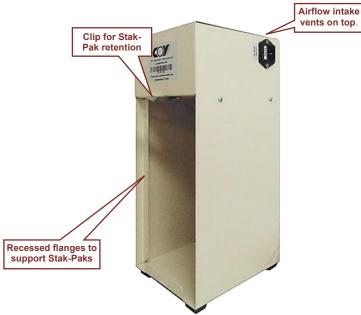
The temperature is set through the control panel on the front of the box. Heat is provided through a heating unit that is attached to the underside of the fan assembly:



The controller automatically turns the heater on and off as needed to maintain the desired temperature. The fan operates continuously to circulate the chamber's atmosphere while the power is on, regardless of whether or not the heater is operating.

5.1.2 Unheated catalyst fan boxes

The unheated catalyst fan box is used for chambers that do not need temperature control and chambers with a separate incubator. It does not have a controller or sensor, but the other parts of the fan box are the same:

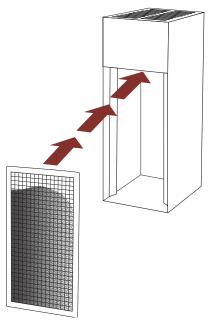


The unheated catalyst box is powered up whenever the chamber power strips are turned on. The fan is turned on immediately and runs continuously to circulate the chamber's atmosphere.

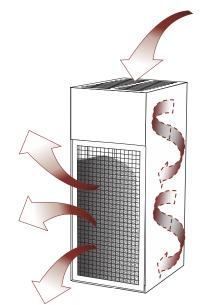


5.2 How the Fan Box Works

A Stak-Pak containing the palladium catalyst is placed against the flanges at the front of the catalyst fan box:



The fan draws the chamber atmosphere through the top of the fan box and blows it out through the front:



As it passes through the palladium catalyst, the hydrogen and oxygen molecules form water molecules, removing oxygen from the chamber. The water is absorbed by the alumina pellets.

The heated catalyst fan box has an **On/Off** switch, which must be turned on for the fan to operate. The unheated catalyst box does not have an **On/Off** switch and operates continuously when the chamber power strip is powered up.



5.3 Positioning Catalyst Fan Boxes in the Chamber

facing the center of the chamber:

Front opening toward center of chamber.

Ideally, for best performance, catalyst fan boxes should be positioned vertically

The following guidelines should be applied when determining the optimal location for a catalyst fan box. If you need to reposition a catalyst fan box for any reason, keep these guidelines in mind. If you were involved in setting up the chamber, you are probably already familiar with them:

- In chambers with two catalyst fan boxes, the fan boxes should be placed on opposite sides of the chamber for more efficient atmosphere circulation (see illustrations in the setup manual). This spacing is particularly important for heated catalyst fan boxes in order to optimally control the ambient temperature.
- In chambers with one catalyst fan box, the fan box should be placed near the airlock for more efficient removal of the oxygen that enters through the airlock. Oxygen levels are at their highest point after an airlock cycle.
- Catalyst fan boxes should never be positioned with either the intake vents or front opening resting against any of the chamber walls or under a shelf, as fan box efficiency decreases sharply.
- In Type C chambers, an incubator or a set of 36 in (91 cm) shelves will take up the entire rear of the chamber, leaving no room for the one catalyst fan box. In this case, the fan box may be placed horizontally on its side on top of the incubator or shelf unit:



The front opening should be facing forward and the air intake vents should not be blocked by any equipment.

Note: You may also use the above solution for any configuration with two catalyst fan boxes where there is no room to place both catalyst boxes on the chamber floor. In such cases, the fan box nearest to the airlock should be placed vertically on the floor. The one on the opposite side can be placed horizontally on whatever component is available (e.g., on the top of a shelving unit).



Note: Four rubber feet are attached to the bottom of the fan box when it is shipped from the factory. Four additional feet are provided with the initial shipment for horizontal positioning and may have previously been installed on the side opposite the power outlet. If you change the orientation of a catalyst box and no feet are attached to the side the box will be resting on, you will need to install them.

5.4 Catalyst Stak-Paks

The catalyst Stak-Pak contains alumina (aka aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3) pellets coated with a thin layer of palladium chloride:



The alumina absorbs the water molecules that are formed when hydrogen and oxygen meet in the presence of the palladium chloride catalyst. The water is removed when the Stak-Pak is rejuvenated (see section 5.4.3).

Coy provides two catalyst Stak-Paks for each catalyst fan box in your chamber. Only one catalyst Stak-Pak at a time is installed in a catalyst fan box. The other is a spare to be installed when the one in use needs rejuvenating.

5.4.1 Inserting the Stak-Paks into the catalyst fan box

Stak-Paks are easily inserted into the front of the fan box.

To insert a Stak-Pak into the fan box

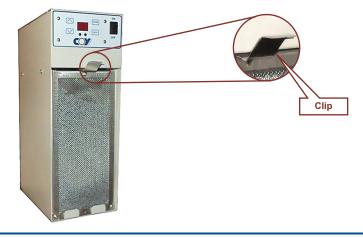
1. Place the bottom of the Stak-Pak behind the tabs at the bottom of the fan box:



The Stak-Pak screws will fit into the open spaces at the bottom of the box (see top right picture above).



2. Push the top back into the recessed area of the box until it is against the flanges and hooks under the clip:



\$7

Note: If you also use desiccant stack packs, refer to section 5.5 for more information.

5.4.2 Changing Stak-Paks

The Stak-Paks enter the chamber through the airlock. When you pass the Stak-Paks through the airlock, you must be careful to maintain the chamber's anaerobic environment. The inner door must be closed before the fresh Stak-Pak(s) can be placed in the airlock. After you place the Stak-Pak(s) in the airlock, the airlock must be cycled to anaerobic conditions before the inner door can be opened to access the Stak-Pak(s). When you place the used Stak-Paks in the airlock, be sure to close and lock the inner door before you open the outer door to retrieve them.

5.4.3 Rejuvenating Stak-Paks

The water that is produced during the oxygen removal process is absorbed by the alumina pellets. As the absorbed moisture accumulates, it reduces catalyst efficiency. So, periodically, the catalyst must be rejuvenated to remove the moisture from the alumina pellets.

To rejuvenate the catalyst, place the Stak-Paks in an oven at 125 °C to 200 °C for two hours. The catalyst usually needs to be rejuvenated every 5 to 10 days. If you have a busy chamber, you may have to rejuvenate more frequently. Chapter 6 contains additional recommendations.

Two sets of catalyst Stak-Paks are included in your chamber package. That way you can have a rejuvenated extra set ready for use. When the Stak-Paks currently in use require rejuvenation, you can replace them with the freshly rejuvenated set.

Important: Stacking two or more catalyst Stak-Paks together will not create a stricter or more efficient chamber. In some instances, it can hamper normal chamber operation by blocking or reducing airflow, which can throw off temperature uniformity.

5.4.4 Testing catalyst effectiveness

Over time, the catalyst will lose its effectiveness. Coy recommends replacing the catalyst once a year as a general rule. However, in some environments, it may need changing more often. So we recommend occasional testing, especially if you have a busy chamber or if the oxygen level is consistently high, even after the hydrogen level has been refreshed.



To test the catalyst effectiveness

- 1. Place a metal pan containing catalyst inside the airlock.
- 2. Place a thermometer in direct contact with the catalyst.
- 3. Vacuum the airlock and back fill it with the gas mix.
- 4. If the catalyst is working correctly, the temperature will increase due to the reaction of catalyst, oxygen, and hydrogen—about 10 °C over 10 to 15 minutes.

5.5 Using Desiccant Stak-Paks

Depending on the external environment and/or internal chamber activities, ongoing moisture control may also be necessary. Moisture can enter the chamber in several ways:

- Gas supply tanks
- Ambient moisture in the airlock
- Stored media in the airlock
- Moisture producing material in the chamber
- Humidity caused by being located immediately below an air conditioning unit in a heated external environment
- Catalytic reaction during the oxygen removal process

Minor to moderate moisture issues may be controlled in the chamber with alumina desiccant Stak-Paks. The desiccant Stak-Paks are attached to the catalyst Stak-Paks (one per fan box) and placed in the fan box as a unit. The alumina desiccant absorbs moisture from the chamber atmosphere when it passes through the catalyst fan box.

As the alumina desiccant absorbs moisture, its pores become saturated with water vapor. Therefore, they need to be rejuvenated periodically for two hours at 125 °C to 200 °C, just as the catalyst Stak-Paks do. The two attached Stak-Paks can be rejuvenated together. You do not need to disassemble them. However, your rejuvenation schedule may need to be adjusted if the desiccant Stak-Paks need rejuvenation more frequently than the catalyst Stak-Paks.



Note: Placing desiccant in pans throughout the chamber is not recommended, as it takes up valuable space in the chamber and the desiccant is not an active part of the circulation system. Therefore, it is extremely inefficient compared to the desiccant Stak-Paks.



Important: Do not use more than one desiccant Stak-Pak per catalyst fan box. More than 2 Stak-Paks dramatically reduce airflow, which affects temperature control and oxygen removal. For serious moisture control problems, we recommend using a Coy large-capacity dehumidifier instead of trying to control moisture with multiple desiccant Stak-Paks. More information can be found on the Coy website.

5.5.1 Attaching the desiccant Stak-Paks

The two Stak-Paks are attached to each other with machine screws:

The screws are fastened with lock nuts. One side of the lock nut has teeth. The other is smooth:

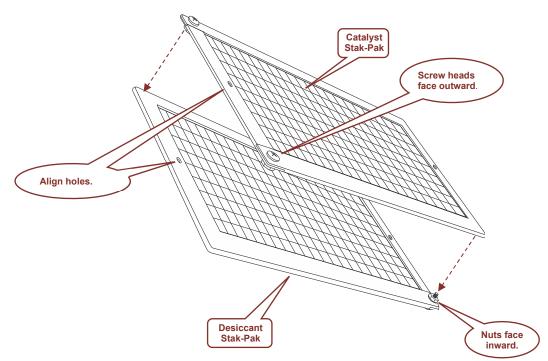


Coy pro*`vides the necessary hardware.

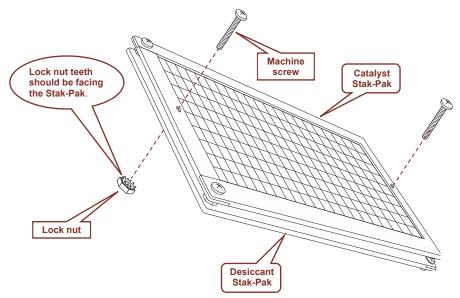


To attach a desiccant Stak-Pak to a catalyst Stak-Pak

1. Place the palladium catalyst Stak-Pak on top of the desiccant Stak-Pak as shown:



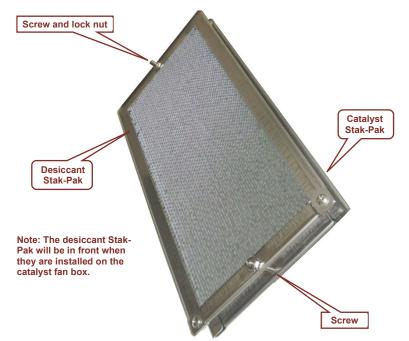
- One end of the Stak-Pak has screws. Orient the Stak-Paks so that the ends with the screws are opposite each other. Make sure the sides with the screw heads are facing outward on both Stak-Paks.
- Make sure the screw holes at the ends of the Stak-Paks are aligned.
- 2. Insert the provided screws through the screw holes and fasten them with the lock nuts:



- Be sure to insert the screws through the catalyst Stak-Pak first.
- Make sure that the teeth of the lock nuts are facing inward toward the desiccant Stak-Pak.



3. When you finish, the two Stak-Paks should look like this:

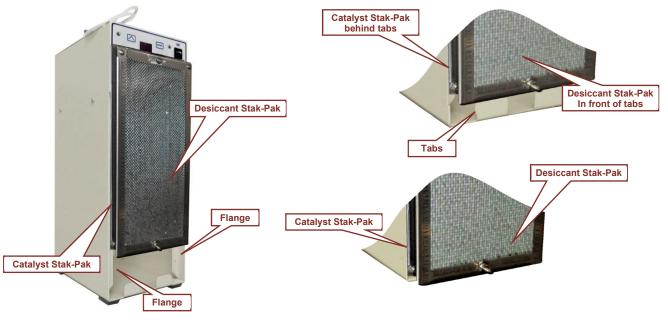


5.5.2 Placing the Stak-Paks in the fan box

The combined Stak-Paks are placed in the catalyst fan box as a unit. For optimal performance of both the catalyst and desiccant, the desiccant must be in front.

To place the paired Stak-Paks in the fan box

- 1. Make sure that the catalyst Stak-Pak is in back.
- 2. Insert the combined Stak-Paks into the opening of the fan box:



- The back of the catalyst Stak-Pak should be positioned against the flange directly in the front of the opening.
- When positioned correctly, the catalyst Stak-Pak should be behind the two tabs and the desiccant Stak-Pak in front.

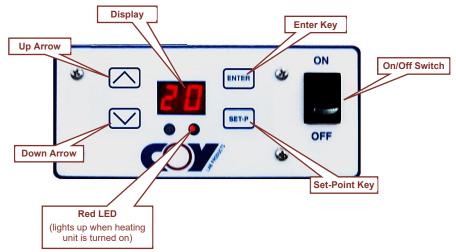


3. Push the Stak-Pak unit back against the flanges. The clip at the top of the opening will clip onto the catalyst Stak-Pak only and hold the two Stak-Paks in place:



5.6 The Heated Fan Box Controller

The heated catalyst fan box controller maintains the temperature you specify for your chamber. The control panel on the front of the fan box is used to set the temperature for the controller:



5.6.1 How the controller works

In addition to a fan, the heated catalyst fan box has a heating unit, a temperature sensor, and a variable thermostat. The current temperature is displayed on the control panel. The set point for the controller thermostat is set through the control panel. The set point is initially set during setup. You may change it if you determine it should be higher or lower.

When the chamber temperature at the location where the sensor has been placed drops below the set point temperature, the heating unit is turned on. Heat is blown into the chamber by the fan as it circulates the chamber atmosphere. When the set



point is reached, the controller turns the heating unit off. The red LED on the control panel will light up whenever the heating unit is operating.

If you need to "turn off the heat" for any reason, you simply change the set point to a temperature well below the ambient temperature. Since that temperature is never reached, the heating unit will not be turned on. The fan will continue to operate.

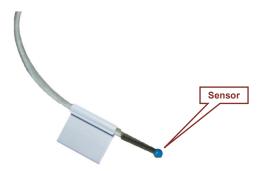
5.6.2 Sensor location

The sensor should be located in the area where the temperature is most critical. The location should provide good airflow around the sensor to ensure accurate sampling.

The sensor can be attached to any piece of equipment in the area with the adhesivebacked clip provided by Coy:



The clip may be placed anywhere on the sensor cable, but it should be no close to the sensor than shown in the picture below:



The sensor location is initially established during setup. If you need to reposition the sensor for any reason, peel the clip off the surface it is attached to and place it in its new location. If the clip will no longer adhere to the surface, either use a piece of double-sided tape to remount it or replace the clip.



Important: Make sure the blue tip of the sensor does not touch the component it is attached to or anything else in the surrounding area.

5.6.3 Setting the temperature set point

The temperature set point is set through the control panel on the front of the heated catalyst fan box.

To set the set point

- 1. Press **SETP**. The display will show the current set point.
- 2. Use the arrow keys to change the set point:
 - Press 🔼 to increase the value.
 - Press 💟 to decrease the value.



- 3. Hold the key down until the temperature you want to maintain is displayed. Then release the key.
- 4. Press **ENTER** to enter the value into the controller.

Note: You must hold the key down to change the value. Pressing and releasing the key will not change the value.

Important: The controller will not accept the new value unless you press

5.6.4 The hidden menu

The controller also has a hidden menu. The hidden menu is used to change internal values:

Value	Description
OF	 Offset. A value representing the difference between the actual chamber temperature and the temperature sensed by the sensor. Used in controller calibration. Important: Do not change this value unless you are calibrating the controller (see section 5.7).
HL	High limit. The highest set point that can be set for the fan box. By default, they are set to the highest temperature the fan box is capable of maintaining (43 °C for standard boxes and 50 °C for high range boxes). You cannot set it above this value. There is no need to change it unless you want to set a lower limit for some reason.
СО	Cooling. Enables or disables fan box cooling if the fan box has that option. Catalyst fan boxes do not have this feature so it is disabled. The values 0 (off) and 1 (on) are ignored.

When you are in the hidden menu, the \bigwedge and \bigvee keys are used to raise and/or lower the value in increments of 1, just as they are when setting the set point. If you do not wish to change the displayed value, simply press **EVTER** to go on to the next menu item.

To use the hidden menu

- 1. Press enter and hold it down.
- 2. When **OF** appears in the display, release the **ENTER** key.
- 3. Press again and the **OF** (offset) value will be displayed:
 - To change this value, use the 📉 and 💟 keys to raise or lower the value. Hold the key down until the value you want is displayed.
 - To leave the value as-is, go on to step 4.

Important: Do not change this value unless you are performing a calibration procedure, as specified in section 5.7!

- 4. Press and **HL** will appear in the display.
- 5. Press enter again and the **HL** (high limit) value will appear:
 - To change this value, use the 📉 and 💟 keys to raise or lower the value. Hold the key down until the value you want is displayed.
 - To leave the value as-is, go on to step 6.



- 6. Press and **CO** will appear in the display.
- 7. Press again and the **CO** (cooling) value will appear.
- 8. Since **CO** is disabled, press **ENTER** to exit the hidden menu.

Note: There is a 2-minute delay for each item in this menu. The delay will restart whenever the ENTER key is pressed. If you have not pressed ENTER in that time frame, the controller will exit from the hidden menu.

5.7 Calibrating the Controller

The heated fan box controller is calibrated to 37 °C at the factory, regardless of whether it is a standard or high-range unit. However, over time, the sensor may "drift" (i.e., it starts reporting the temperature either lower or higher than the chamber temperature) and controller heating accuracy may be compromised. Normally, the controller needs to be recalibrated about once a year. However, if you find that the temperature is no longer being maintained accurately, you may wish to recalibrate before the next scheduled recalibration. High altitudes and extreme external conditions may also affect the performance of the controller, in which case the controller may need calibration at setup time.

When you calibrate the sensor, you determine the difference between the chamber temperature and the temperature reported by the sensor. That difference determines the *offset* value, which is an arbitrary number. The controller uses this offset value to reconcile the reported temperature with the actual chamber temperature. Accuracy decreases slightly for temperatures that are further away from the calibration point, but the difference is generally minimal.

In general, both standard and high-range fan boxes should be calibrated to $37 \,^{\circ}$ C. However, when a high-range unit is calibrated to $37 \,^{\circ}$ C, the accuracy of the temperature at 50 $^{\circ}$ C is within 2 degrees. If your chamber activities require the temperature to be more accurate at 50 $^{\circ}$ C, you should calibrate the unit to 50 $^{\circ}$ C instead to allow more accuracy at higher temperatures.



Note: Because vinyl chambers are not insulated, the highest uniform temperature you can achieve is 50 °C. For higher temperature performance, you should consider the Coy model 2000 high range incubator.

The numbers in the **OF** display are arbitrary and do not represent the actual temperature setting. The value range is from 1 to 30. 15 is the midpoint. The offset value is calibrated to 0.5 increments. However, the controller only handles whole numbers, so each whole number represents 0.5 °C. The controller translates this value to an offset value and either adds to or subtracts from the sensor reading to determine the actual temperature.



Note: The instructions below calibrate the sensor at 37 °C. To calibrate at 50 °C, set the set point to 50 °C and perform all calculations based on 50 °C instead of 37 °C.

To recalibrate the controller

- 1. Place a reliable thermometer as close to the sensor as possible.
- 2. Set the controller set point to 37 °C.



- 3. Allow the instrument to stabilize for 30 to 40 minutes. Then read the thermometer and determine the difference:
 - If the thermometer temperature is lower than 37 °C, subtract the temperature from 37:

Thermometer read:	35
Difference:	37 - 35 = 2

• If the thermometer temperature is higher than 37 °C, subtract 37 from the temperature:

Thermometer read:	38.5
Difference:	38.5 - 37 = 1.5

4. Multiply the difference value calculated in step 3 by 2 to determine the number of 0.5 °C units:

Thermometer read:	35
Difference:	37 - 35 = 2
0.5 °C units:	$2 \times 2 = 4$
Thermometer read:	38.5
Difference:	38.5 - 37 = 1.5

- 5. Access the hidden menu (see section 5.6.4) and display the OF value:
 - If the temperature displayed by your thermometer is less than 37 °C, subtract the value calculated in step 4 from the current **OF** value:

Thermometer read:	35
Difference (step 3):	37 - 35 = 2
0.5 °C units (step 4):	$2 \times 2 = 4$
Current OF value:	21
New OF value:	21 - 4 = 17

• If the thermometer temperature is greater than 37 °C, add the value calculated in step 4 to the current **OF** value:

Thermometer read:	38.5
Difference (step 3):	38.5 - 37 = 1.5
0.5 °C units (step 4):	$1.5 \times 2 = 3$
Current OF value:	21
New OF value:	21 + 3 = 24

- 6. Enter the new **OF** value into the controller:
 - Use 🔼 to increase the current value.
 - Use 💟 to decrease the current value.
- 7. Press ENTER to enter the value in the controller and display the next menu item. Continue pressing ENTER until you exit from the hidden menu.



Chamber Care and Maintenance

To prolong the life of your chamber, special attention must be given to its care and maintenance. Daily precautions must be taken to ensure that the vinyl is kept free from damage. Periodic maintenance ensures that the chamber components are functioning optimally and problems are caught before they become major.

6.1 **Precautions**

The following precautions should be observed when using the chamber:

- 1. Do not set equipment with sharp edges on the chamber floor. Only shelving units, incubators, and work mats supplied by Coy should be placed directly on the chamber floor. (Catalyst fan boxes have four rubber feet attached so the bottom of the unit does not rest directly on the floor.)
- 2. Always keep small instruments and sharp objects on the work mats. If you don't, they may get lost under the work mats and puncture the vinyl.
- 3. Keep equipment and shelving units within easy reach so you do not stretch the chamber sleeves.
- 4. Remove rings and other jewelry that could damage the vinyl or the gloves prior to using the chamber.

6.2 **Preventive Maintenance Schedule**

Periodic preventive maintenance is very important to ensure that the chamber is operating optimally. The following schedule details the maintenance procedures that must be done on a regular basis.

Every	$^{\prime}$ 5–10 days or as needed, based on chamber activity			
V	Rejuvenate the catalyst (see section 5.4.3 of Chapter 5).			
	Refresh hydrogen levels (see section 6.3.3).			
No	te: If you've purchased the Coy anaerobic gas infuser, you may skip this step.			
the	It: If you have the Coy anaerobic monitor, simply refresh the hydrogen level any time H_2 level reads lower than 1.5 %. A tank with a 4 % gas mix should be able to nieve a 2.5 % to 3.5 % mix in the chamber.			
V	Clean the airlock seals to remove dust, dirt, and grime (see section 6.6).			
V	Clean the chamber and disinfect if necessary (see section 6.4).			
Ø	Check moisture trap on the vacuum pump and drain any visible water collected there (see section 6.8).			
Every month				
V	Check the chamber for leaks (section 6.5).			
Ø	Check both gas lines for leaks (see section 3.7 of Chapter 0). If you have an anaero- bic gas infuser, be sure to check the 3 gas mix line segments that are connected to the T-fitting also.			
V	Check the airlock seals to make sure the lip of the seal collapses all around the door opening (see section 6.7).			



Every 6 months to 1 year, or as needed based on chamber activity ☑ Test the catalyst for effectiveness (see section 5.4.4 of Chapter 5). Replace the

catalyst if you're not getting adequate temperature change.
 ☑ Recalibrate the catalyst fan box (see Chapter 5, section 5.7).

Instructions for the procedures that are chamber specific or affect the chamber as a whole can be found in this chapter. Those that are component specific are located elsewhere in the manual. In either case, the appropriate section is referenced in the table. It is assumed that you are familiar with the general operation of the chamber and the airlock.

6.3 Maintaining the Anaerobic Environment

When your chamber was set up, the anaerobic environment was initially created. This environment must be maintained to an acceptable level for your chamber activities.

Although the airlock is cycled to anaerobic conditions before a transfer, it is still possible for small amounts of oxygen to be present and enter the airlock. Oxygen also enters the chamber by diffusion, primarily through the gloves. This amount differs, depending on the volumetric size of your chamber.

The palladium catalyst removes the oxygen when the chamber atmosphere is drawn into the catalyst fan boxes. However, because removal takes place only when hydrogen molecules combine with the oxygen molecules, the hydrogen level is also depleted. If you do not have enough hydrogen present in the chamber, oxygen removal will be compromised or will stop altogether.

6.3.1 The airlock's role

When the airlock is cycled before a transfer takes place, the last cycle backfills the airlock with the hydrogen gas mix (assuming default cycles are used). When the airlock's inner door is opened, the gases from the airlock flow out of the airlock and mix with gases in the chamber, bringing more hydrogen into the chamber. Although small amounts of oxygen can also enter the chamber, the amount of oxygen is insignificant compared to the overall hydrogen content and is soon removed by the catalyst.

If the airlock is used on a regular basis, hydrogen levels are replenished periodically and the catalyst fan boxes will be able to operate efficiently for a longer period of time than if the airlock is seldom used. When the airlock is used sporadically, the hydrogen level in the chamber deteriorates faster, because it is not being replenished.

6.3.2 The catalyst's role

With enough hydrogen present in the atmosphere, the palladium catalyst can do its work. However, as the moisture generated from the oxygen and hydrogen molecules is absorbed by the alumina pellets, the palladium catalyst eventually becomes less effective, which means that oxygen removal process slows down. To maintain the anaerobic environment, the catalyst Stak-Paks must be swapped periodically (usually about once a week) with rejuvenated ones and the used ones rejuvenated. More information on catalyst rejuvenation can be found in Chapter 5 and maintenance scheduling recommendations can be found in section 6.2 of this chapter.



6.3.3 Refreshing hydrogen levels

Even if you use your airlock regularly, the hydrogen levels will eventually deplete to a point where oxygen removal is compromised. So, periodically, you must introduce a new supply of hydrogen by adding gas mix. How often this needs to be done depends on how often the airlock is used and the size of the chamber. This procedure is done with the automatic airlock in manual mode.

Note: If you have an anaerobic gas infuser, you do not need to perform this procedure on a regular basis. You may need to use it when the hydrogen sensor in the anaerobic monitor is being recalibrated, as it will not be able to send H_2 readings to the gas infuser.

To refresh hydrogen levels

- 1. Make sure the outer door of the airlock is closed and locked.
- 2. Open the inner door of the airlock.
- 3. Press Enter to access the menu and Start to enter manual mode.
- 4. Hold the \land key down to manually vacuum the chamber.
- 5. When the top has collapsed to the level of the hanger poles, release \square



- 6. Press and hold the Start key to manually reinflate the chamber with gas mix.
- 7. When the chamber is fully inflated, release the **Start** key.
- 8. Repeat steps 4 through 7 as specified below:
 - If you have an anaerobic monitor, repeat the cycle until the hydrogen level is between 1.5 % and 4 %. With a 4 % hydrogen gas mix, you should be able to achieve a level between 2.5 % and 3.5 %.



Note: The Coy anaerobic monitor (CAM-12) may not work properly if the hydrogen level is less than 1.5 %.

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Note: The Coy anaerobic monitor will display an alarm light when the H_2 goes above 4 %. (It will also generate an audible alarm if you chose to enable it.) You can set the high alarm level to a value that is less than 4 % if you prefer.

• If you do not have an anaerobic monitor, repeat the cycle as specified for your chamber size in the following table:

Chamber Type	Volume	# of Gloves	# of Repetitions
Туре А	44 ft ³ (1238 L)	1 pair	3
Туре В	58 ft ³ (1636 L)	2 pair	4
Туре С	31 ft ³ (881 L)	1 pair	2



Note: If you have a custom chamber, select the type that is closest in size. If your chamber is significantly larger than the type B chamber, add an extra repetition.



6.4 Cleaning the Vinyl

Clean the chamber with a non-abrasive plastic cleaner and a *soft cotton cloth*. Do not use paper towels or laboratory wipes (e.g., Chem Wipes, Kimwipes), as they will scratch the vinyl.

Any commercially available cleaner recommended for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) will be sufficient for removing dust, dirt, and grease from the chamber and restoring its optical clarity. Coy Laboratory Products uses a plastic cleaner (part # 1600-480).

Important: Avoid cleaning the chamber with products containing ketones or other compounds that will damage PVC.

To disinfect the chamber, use isopropyl alcohol or a 1 % to 5 % chlorine bleach solution. Make sure all excess is wiped off *completely*. Alcohol or bleach that is allowed to sit on the vinyl material will weaken and **yellow** the vinyl over time.

6.5 Detecting Chamber Leaks

Leaks can occur anywhere in the chamber but most will be present around work areas. The gloves are the most vulnerable, as they are more likely to come into contact with tools or objects with sharp edges.



Important: Before you check for leaks, look at the top of your chamber. If your chamber has a leak, the top of the chamber will start collapsing. If the top of your chamber has not collapsed, the chamber has no leaks and you do not need to check for leaks any further.

Note: If you have a non-Coy gas leak detector, skip to section 6.5.2. If you do not have a gas leak detector, follow your lab's standard procedure for detecting leaks.

6.5.1 Using the Coy gas leak detector

The Coy GLD-100 gas leak detector is an advanced solid state instrument used to locate the source of gas leaks:



It senses hydrocarbons (which are present in the hydrogen gas mix) and will detect leaks as small as a pinhole in the anaerobic chamber. It is almost a must for leak detection.

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Important: The Model GLD-100 is only approved for hydrogen and alcohol fumes. It is not designed for use in oxygen-enriched atmospheres, where the oxygen content exceeds that of normal air.

Caution: Do not use the gas leak detector if the probe tip (wire mesh), is torn, punctured, or otherwise damaged. Refer to the Model GLD-100 instruction manual for further information.



To initialize the gas leak detector

Important: Perform this procedure in normal air conditions.

- 1. Turn the black knob clockwise until it stops to set the unit to the maximum setting. You will hear a high frequency beeping tone.
- 2. Wait 2 to 5 minutes. Then turn the knob counterclockwise to the point just before the unit shuts off (the minimum setting). The beep will start slowing down.
- 3. Wait until the beep settles down to about 1 beat per second (approximately 10 to 15 minutes).
- 4. Turn the knob clockwise until the beeping picks up slightly. The unit is now set for minimum sensitivity and is ready to detect leaks.

Note: If the unit does not slow down, the battery may need changing.

Note: If the gas leak detector has been sitting on the shelf for extended periods of time, this warm up time maybe longer.

6.5.2 Checking the chamber for leaks

Caution: Always approach a gas leak with the gas leak detector turned on and calibrated in uncontaminated (fresh) air. If the unit beeps rapidly upon entering and throughout an area, gas concentration may be dangerously high. Shut off the gas and ventilate the area before proceeding.

Before you check the chamber for leaks, make sure the chamber contains your normal amount of hydrogen. If the hydrogen content is low, refresh the hydrogen level (section 6.3.3) before continuing. If you do not have an anaerobic monitor, assume the hydrogen content is low unless you have recently refreshed the hydrogen.



Hint: The Coy gas leak detector also detects the hydrocarbons present in isopropyl alcohol fumes. An alcohol-soaked rag placed inside the chamber will enhance the hydrocarbon content and make it easier to find leaks, especially small ones. However, additional time may be required after the leak is repaired to air the chamber out to make sure the fumes from the alcohol are removed.

To detect leaks in the chamber

- 1. Soak a rag in isopropyl alcohol and place the rag inside the chamber (optional. See hint above.).
- 2. With the inside airlock door open, inflate the chamber with gas mix until the arms are extended outward. This stretches the vinyl and makes it easier to find small leaks.
- 3. Turn the gas leak detector on and allow it to warm up, following the instructions in section 6.5.1.
- 4. Move the gas leak detector slowly over the entire chamber exterior. Pay special attention to the following:
 - Gloves and cuffs
 - Along chamber sleeves
 - Around airlock seals
 - Corners of the chamber



- Around chamber seams
- Around any taped seals

Note: If you have a Coy gas leak detector, you will notice a slight increase in the beeping along the interior of the sleeves and gloves. The neoprene or latex rubber in the gloves is more porous than PVC and gas diffuses through it more quickly. A true leak in this area will generate a large increase in the beeping noise. Call your local Coy representative or the factory if you are unsure.



Note: For more accurate leak detection along the interior of the sleeves and around the gloves, lower the gas leak detector sensitivity. Leaks in the gloves themselves are best found by filling them with water as described below.

• To detect leaks in the gloves

- 1. Use the vacuum pump to deflate the chamber enough so the arms are in normal working position.
- 2. Pour water into the gloves.
- 3. If water drips into the interior of the chamber, the glove has a leak.

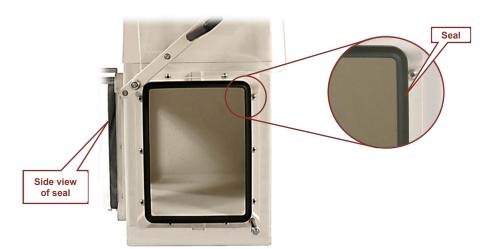
6.5.3 Repairing leaks

To repair small leaks in the vinyl, Coy recommends clear gorilla tape, which is commercially available at hardware stores, home improvement stores, or similar supply-type stores. We recommend that you purchase a roll to have available in case you need it. For major repairs, call Coy for advice.

Leaking gloves need to be replaced. Instructions for replacing them are given in section 6.9.

6.6 Cleaning the Airlock Door Seal

The airlock doors have a black rubber seal around the door opening:



The seals must be cleaned periodically (whenever you clean your chamber) to remove dust and grime. Use water and a soft cloth to clean it. Do not use alcohol.

To clean the airlock door seals

- 1. Close the inner door. Make sure it is latched and locked.
- 2. Open the outer door and clean the seal.

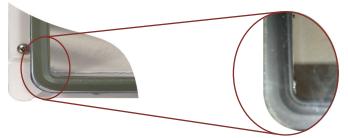


- 3. Place the cleaning materials in the airlock. Then close the outer door. Make sure it is latched and locked.
- 4. Cycle the airlock to anaerobic conditions.
- 5. Open the inner door, remove the cleaning materials, and clean the inner door seal.
- 6. Place the cleaning materials back in the airlock and close the inner door. Make sure it is latched and locked.
- 7. Remove the cleaning materials from the airlock through the outer door and close and lock the door.

6.7 Checking the Airlock Door Seal for Leaks

As part of your preventive maintenance, the black rubber door seals must be checked periodically (we recommend once a month) to ensure there is no leakage. You may also need to check them outside of the regular maintenance schedule if you suspect there is an airlock leak problem.

The seal has a lip around it. When the door is open, the lip looks raised, as shown below:



When the door is closed, the lip collapses, making an airtight seal.

To check the airlock door seals

- 1. Make sure the inner door is latched and locked. Then open the outer door.
- 2. Wipe the seal with a wet cloth. Then close and lock the door.
- 3. Look at the seal through the acrylic door panel:
 - If the lip is collapsed as shown below all the way around the door, no adjustment is needed:



• If the lip is not fully collapsed, the door will need to be adjusted. Using a crescent wrench, turn the lock nut on the lock stud (the pin at the bottom of the door opening) clockwise in very small increments until the lip collapses:





Important: ¹/₁₆ of a turn is usually all it takes to tighten the door and collapse the seal. Making larger adjustments should not be necessary. If it is, the seal may need to be replaced. Contact Coy for more information.

- 4. Place the crescent wrench in the airlock and close and lock the outer door. Do not open the inner door.
- 5. Cycle the airlock to anaerobic conditions. Then open the inner door and remove the crescent wrench.
- 6. Follow steps 2 and 3 above to check the inner door seal and adjust the door if necessary.
- 7. Place the crescent wrench back in the airlock and close and lock the inner door.
- 8. Remove the crescent wrench from the airlock through the outer door.

6.8 Draining the Vacuum Pump Moisture Trap

The moisture trap on the vacuum pump may need to be drained periodically to remove the collected moisture:



To drain the moisture trap

1. Unscrew the plug at the bottom of the moisture trap:



- 2. Remove the plug and allow the moisture to drain out. Catch the liquid in a cloth or a small container if necessary.
- 3. Screw the plug back in.

6.9 Replacing a Damaged Glove

The quick change cuffs that are installed in your glove port sleeves allow damaged gloves to be replaced without losing the anaerobic atmosphere. The quick change





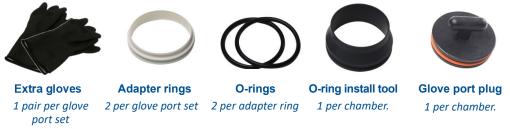
cuff (QCC) fits into the sleeve opening and is attached to the sleeve with yellow tape:

The cuff remains permanently attached to the glove port sleeve. The glove is attached to an adapter ring with two rubber O-rings:



When the glove is in place on the cuff, the adapter ring fits tightly on the QCC. One of the two O-rings on the adapter is transferred to the groove on the cuff, creating an airtight seal.

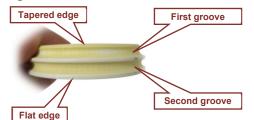
The following items for glove replacement are included with your chamber:



Replacement is a two-step procedure. The new glove is first installed on an adapter ring outside of the chamber. Then it is transferred to the chamber through the airlock and quickly installed on the QCC.

6.9.1 Attaching the glove to the adapter ring

To attach the new glove to the adapter ring, you will need two O-rings and the O-ring install tool in addition to the glove and adapter ring. The adapter ring has a flat edge and a tapered edge:



It also has 2 grooves for the O-rings, which hold the glove in place on the adapter.



When installed correctly, the tapered edge (which is also narrower) points toward the glove fingers.

- To insert the adapter ring into the glove
 - 1. Make sure you have the correct new glove (left or right, size). Then insert the adapter ring into the glove as shown below:



2. When the ring is fully inserted into the glove, fold the edge of the glove over the flat edge of the adapter ring:



3. While holding the folded edge of the glove securely over the flat edge of the ring, pull the glove downward over the ring until the ring is fully inserted into the top of the glove:



Make sure the flat edge is up!

4. Adjust the edge of the glove so that it does not overlap the flat edge of the adapter ring:



The entire flat edge should be visible. If any part of the glove overlaps the inside edge of the adapter ring, it will be difficult to slide it onto the QCC.



Note: The above procedure is not easy, as the glove fits tightly on the ring, and it may take a while for you get the hang of it. It also takes a little more than moderate hand strength to stretch the glove, especially size Medium. Actually, we don't care how you do it, as long as it looks like the illustration above and the flat side is up!

To install the O-rings

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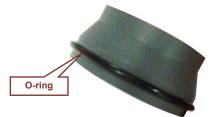
1. Place the O-ring installation tool on a sturdy table or other flat surface with the large side down and place one of the O-rings over it:



2. Slide the O-ring1 down into the groove at the bottom of the tool:



Your seated O-ring should look like this:



3. Slide the tool over the glove:





4. With the bottom of the adapter ring on the table, align the tool with the adapter ring and roll the O-ring into the first groove on the adapter ring:





Note: This procedure is a little tricky due to the tightness of the O-ring. It may take some practice to make it work.

5. Remove the tool from the glove. The O-ring should now be properly seated in the first groove of the adapter ring:



6. Place the bottom of the adapter ring on the table and roll the O-ring down into the second groove:



Your glove should now look like this:

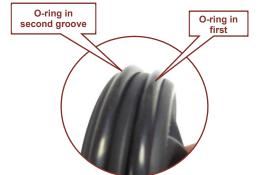




7. Make sure that no part of the glove overlaps the inside edge of the adapter ring:



Then repeat steps 1 through 4 to install the second O-ring in the first groove:



Your finished O-ring installation should look like this, with one O-ring in each groove:



6.9.2 Changing gloves

Changing gloves is done in the chamber and can be done very quickly. For this, you will need the port plug. The port plug prevents ambient air from leaking into the chamber while the glove is being changed.

The port plug handle tightens the plug after it is inserted into the glove port to ensure a maximum seal:



Turning the handle clockwise tightens the plug. Turning it counterclockwise loosens the plug so it can be removed.



• To remove the old glove

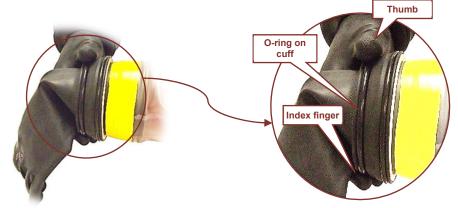
- 1. First you must insert the port plug:
 - Turn the port plug handle counterclockwise until it moves freely:



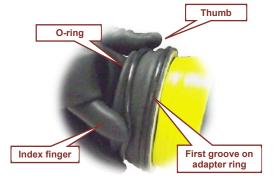
- Insert the plug into the sleeve from outside the chamber and push into the glove port until it stops in the QCC. Do NOT tighten the plug yet!
- With your other hand, compress the damaged glove as much as possible to reduce the amount of ambient air that enters the chamber:



- Tighten the plug by turning the handle clockwise until it no longer turns.
- 2. Next you must transfer the O-ring from the QCC to the adapter ring:
 - Place your hand under the glove and your thumb and index finger on the Oring that holds the glove to the cuff as shown below:



• With your thumb and index finger, start rolling the O-ring from the QCC to the first groove on the adapter ring:





- When part of the O-ring is in the adapter ring groove, start rolling the rest of the O-ring onto the adapter with your remaining fingers. DO NOT REMOVE YOUR THUMB OR INDEX FINGER FROM THE O-RING!
- Keeping firm pressure on the O-ring, slide your fingers and thumb around the ring as needed to work the rest of the O-ring into the adapter groove. Do not remove your hand from the O-ring until it is fully seated in the groove.
- 3. When the O-ring is fully seated on the adapter ring, rotate the adapter ring to release it from the cuff:



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Note: Do not pull on the adapter ring, as it may pinch the glove, making it difficult to remove.

To install the new glove

1. Place the adapter ring of the new glove over the cuff:



2. With your free hand over the glove, push the adapter ring onto the cuff until it stops:



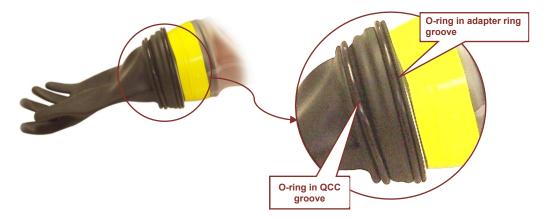
This should be near the yellow tape.



- 3. Make sure the glove is oriented correctly on the cuff (not backwards or upside down) and adjust accordingly if necessary.
- 4. Push the adapter ring toward the **yellow** tape with your thumb and middle finger and simultaneously roll the O-ring into the groove on the cuff with your index finger:



5. Make sure the O-ring is fully seated in the groove on the cuff:



The O-ring that you transferred to the QCC holds the glove to the cuff. The remaining O-ring on the adapter ring holds the glove to the adapter ring.



Replacement Vinyl Chambers

Part #	Part	Description	Chamber Type
7000040R	Anaerobic chamber, replacement	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the right	Туре А
7000040L	Anaerobic chamber, replacement	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the left	Туре А
7050010R	Anaerobic chamber, replacement	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the right	Туре В
7050010L	Anaerobic chamber, replacement	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the left	Туре В
7100010R	Anaerobic chamber, replacement (size 36 in)	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the right	Type C, prior to 2006
7100010L	Anaerobic chamber, replacement (size 36 in)	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the left	Type C, prior to 2006
7100020R	Anaerobic chamber, replacement (size 42 in)	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the right	Type C, 2006 or later
7100020L	Anaerobic chamber, replacement (size 42 in)	Vinyl, airlock mounted on the left	Type C, 2006 or later

Vinyl Anaerobic Chamber Replacement Parts

Part #	Part	Description
7001005	Base, Type A	Foot print dimensions: 77 in x 36 in (1956 mm x 914 mm)
7090005	Base, Type B	Foot print dimensions: 96 in x 36 in (2438 mm x 914 mm)
7101005	Base, Type C, prior to Jan 2006	Foot print dimensions: 54 in x 36 in (1371 mm x 914 mm)
7101006	Base, Type C, Jan 2006 and later	Foot print dimensions: 60 in x 36 in (1524 mm x 914 mm)
1601430	Cuff	For glove/sleeve assembly, plastic
7000010	Equipment entry port	For vinyl chambers
6520007v	Plug strip for vinyl chambers	110 V
6520006v	Plug strip for vinyl chambers	220 V
7001002	Support frame, Type A chamber	Aluminum
7090002	Support frame, Type B chamber	Aluminum
7101002	Support frame, Type C chamber	36 in aluminum. For units purchased prior to January 2006.
7101004	Support Frame, Type C Chamber	42 in aluminum. For units purchased January 2006 and later.
1600480	Vinyl cleaner	
7005020	Vinyl repair kit	
7000060	Work mat	Plastic



General Anaerobic Chamber Consumable Parts

Catalyst Fan Boxes

Part #	Part	Description
6501050	Catalyst refill	Palladium chloride-coated alumina pellets,180 g
6501030	Catalyst refill (1 lb)	Palladium chloride-coated alumina pellets, 453 g
6501000	Stak-Pak/w catalyst	Filled with palladium chloride-coated alumina pellets, 180 g
6502010	Desiccant refill	Alumina pellets, 180 g
6501040	Stak-Pak	Empty
6502000	Stak-Pak/w desiccant	Filled with alumina pellets, 180 g

Vinyl Chamber Gloves & Tape

Part #	Part	Description
1601426	Gloves, latex	Large cuff length, black
1601423	Gloves, latex	Medium cuff length, black
1601428	Gloves, latex	Extra large cuff length, black
1601905	Gloves, neoprene	Small
1601906	Gloves, neoprene	Medium
1601907	Gloves, neoprene	Large
1601908	Gloves, neoprene	X Large
1600321	Tape, double-sided (transfer)	For securing glove to plastic cuff during glove replacement
1600323	Tape, filament	
1600320	Tape, yellow vinyl	For taping glove/cuff assembly to chamber sleeve

General Anaerobic Chamber Replacement Parts

Part #	Part	Description
8535029	Catalyst box, heated	High range (to 50 °C), 110 V
8535030	Catalyst box, heated	High range (to 50 °C), 220 V
8535025	Catalyst box, heated	Low range (to 40 °C), 110 V
8535026	Catalyst box, heated	Low range (to 40 °C), 220 V
8535027	Catalyst box, unheated	110 V
8535028	Catalyst box, unheated	220 V
7002050	Moisture trap assembly	For vacuum pump

Vacuum Airlock and Gas Regulators

Part #	Part	Description
6300000	Vacuum airlock	Automatic, 110 V, with pump
6300220	Vacuum airlock	Automatic, 220 V, with pump



Part #	Part	Description
6300010	Vacuum airlock	Automatic, 110 V, without pump
6300230	Vacuum airlock	Automatic, 220 V, without pump
6301120	Airlock, electronic upgrade kit	110 V or 220 V
7003000	Gas regulator	Gas mix, with copper tubing
7004000	Gas regulator	Background gas (N ₂), with copper tubing
7002020	Tube, vacuum	5/8 in ID, for pump to airlock connection
7002000	Vacuum pump	110 V. For automatic airlock
7002220	Vacuum pump	220 V. For automatic airlock
1601230	Copper tubing	For gas regulators

Fan Box Replacement Parts

Part #	Part	Description
2600135	Fan	110 V
2600140	Fan	220 V
2600040	Heating cone	110 V
2600050	Heating cone	220 V
2200175	Sensor	Catalyst box temperature assembly
4300162	Fuse	GDC 4 A (5 mm x 20 mm)



