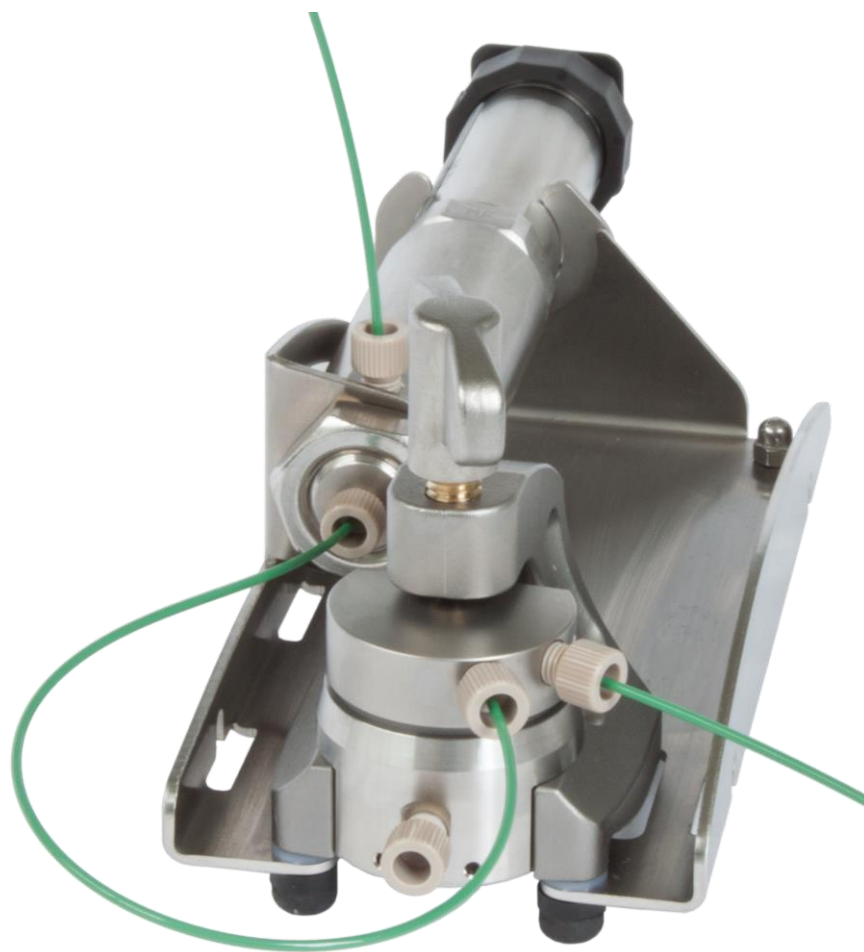


# Electrochemical Test Cell ECC-Press-Air (-DL)



## User Manual

Release: 1.4

2015-02-11

PCB: ECC-PRESS-DL 1.2

The information in this manual has been carefully checked and believed to be accurate; however, no responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies.

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## **EL-CELL GmbH**

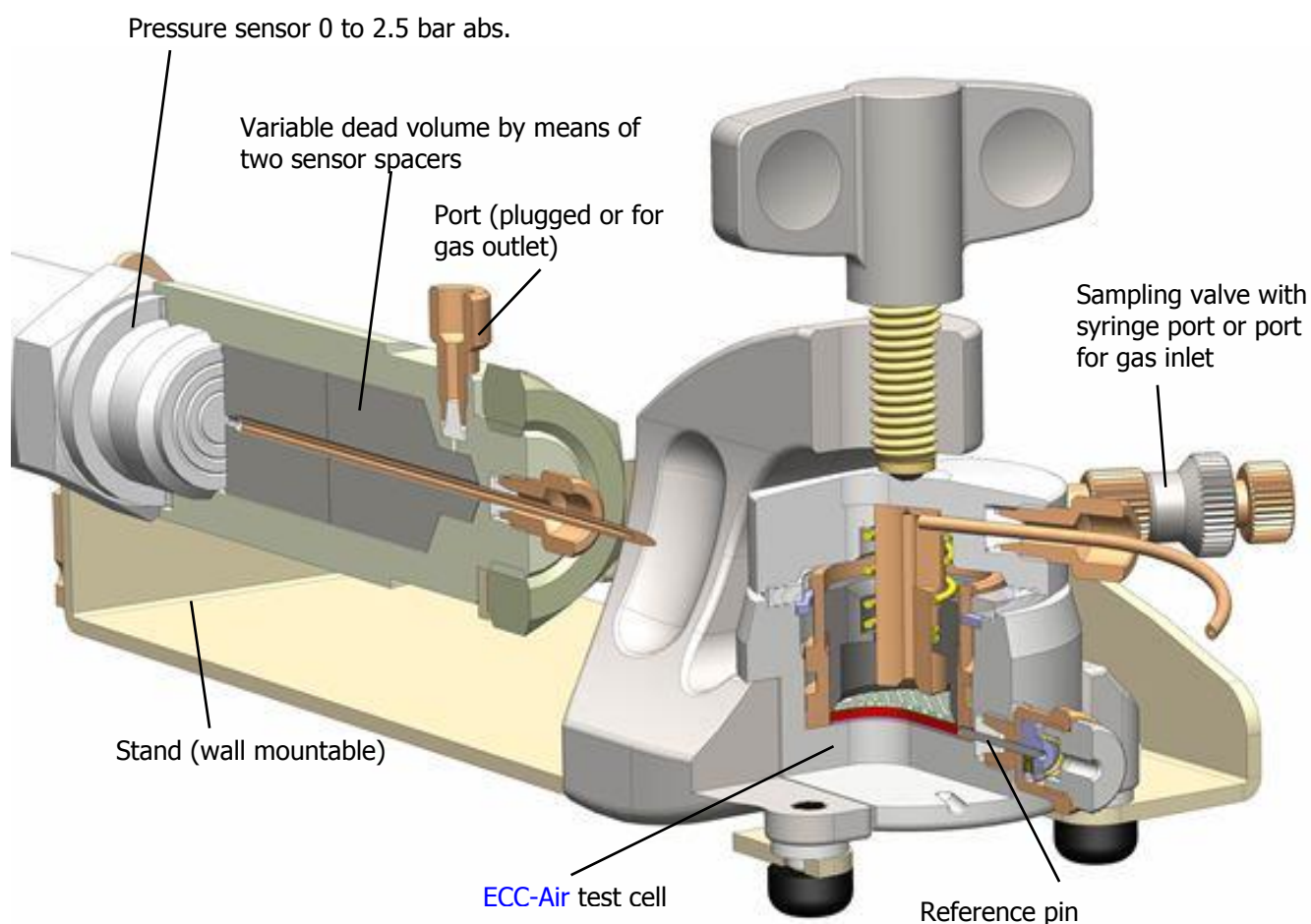
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# 1 Product Description

The ECC-Press-Air test cell is dedicated to the characterization of gas diffusion electrodes in aprotic electrolytes, in particular for lithium-air batteries. The attached pressure sensor serves to monitor the inside pressure in either a flow-through or in a dead-end pressurized set-up. The ECC-Press-Air combines all the features of the [ECC-Press](#) and the [ECC-Air](#) test cells.

The provided low-dead-volume sampling port/valve serves to draw gas samples from the cell's headspace. The cell hardware is based on the ECC-Std and ECC-Ref test cells and can be used with or without a reference electrode.

The ECC-Press-Air comes with a controller box for easy interfacing with an external potentiostat. The box provides analog outputs for both pressure and temperature. As an option, all relevant signals of the experiment – cell pressure, temperature, cell potentials and current – may be recorded with an integrated USB data logger (DL option).



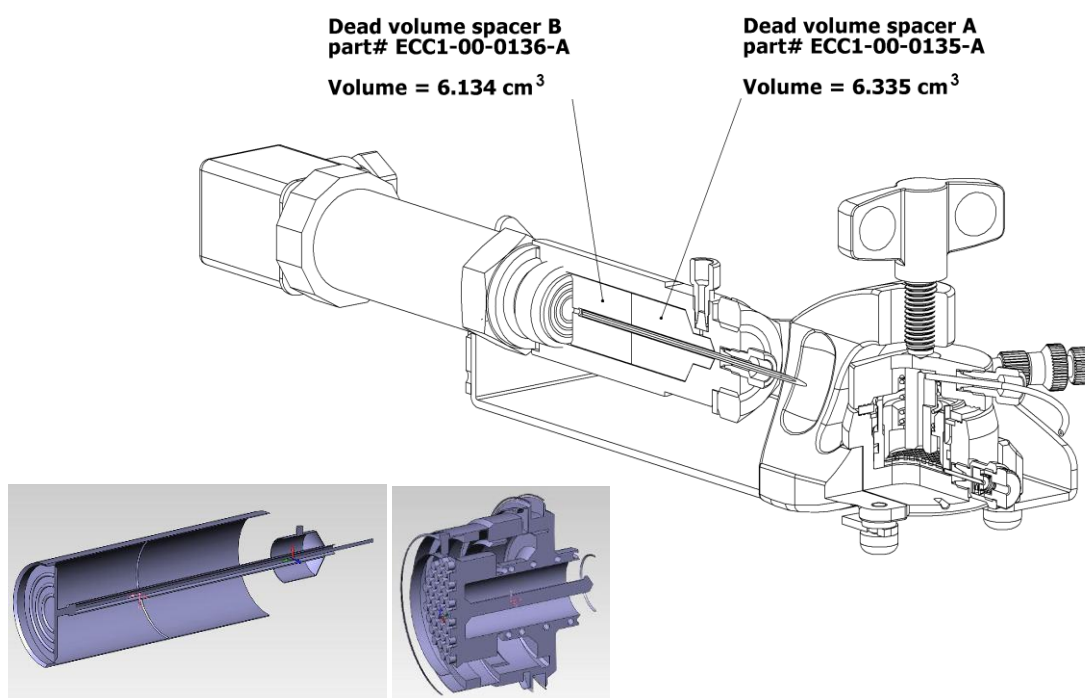
## 2 Features and Specification

- ECC-Press-Air test cell dedicated to the characterization of gas-diffusion electrodes in aprotic media
- Upper electrode is contacted by, and breathes through a perforated current collector
- Gas inlet and outlet for supply of pressurized gases to the gas diffusion electrode
- A siphon directs the incoming gas to the backside of the gas diffusion electrode
- Sampling valve with septum port for drawing gas samples by means of a syringe
- Attached pressure sensor for monitoring of inside gas pressure. Default pressure range of 0 to 2.5 bar (absolute).
- Conditioning electronics with analog outputs for pressure and temperature for seamless integration with external instrumentation
- Total dead volume variable between 4.448 cm<sup>3</sup> (both sensor spacers in place) and 16.917 cm<sup>3</sup> (without spacer)

	Dead volume in cm <sup>3</sup>
1. Both spacers installed*	4.448
2. Only ECC1-00-0136-A (sensor spacer B) installed**	10.582
3. Only ECC1-00-0135-A (sensor spacer A) installed**	10.783
4. No spacer installed**	16.917

\* delivery condition

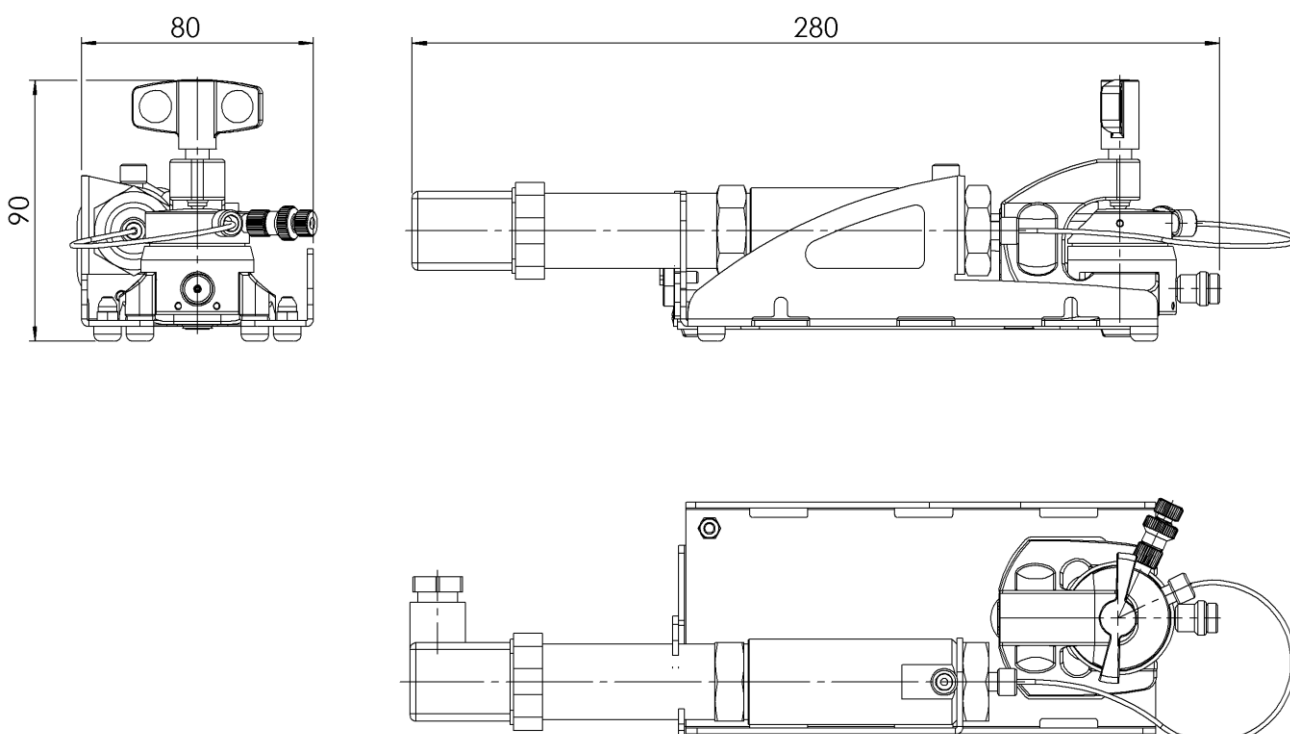
\*\*Requires de-mounting of the sensor and must be done at factory.



Visualised dead volume (both spacers installed = delivery condition = 3.024 cm<sup>3</sup>)

- Optional integrated USB data logger for recording of cell pressure, temperature, cell potentials and current (DL option)
  - Operation in either flow-through or dead-end pressurized set-up
  - Fully equipped for operation with and without reference electrode
  - Reliable ultra-low leakage sealing with PE seal
  - High precision 18 mm diameter sandwich geometry with <math><0.1\text{ mm}</math> electrode concentricity
  - Operating temperature range   - Easy and reliable electrolyte filling upon assembly
  - Fast assembly and dismantling, and easy cleaning of cell components
  - Electrodes are easily accessible for post-mortem analysis
  - Reusable cell components except for PE seals
  - Small and defined electrolyte volume down to   - Adjustable, reproducible and homogeneous mechanical pressure on electrodes
  - Materials in media contact are stainless steel 1.4404 and PEEK (other materials on request)
  - Modular cell construction with many interchangeable components
  - Size (including stand):   - Weight: 900 g
  - Dedicated tools available to ease cell assembly and operation
- <http://el-cell.com/products/accessories-tools>

## Dimensions (Cell)



## Electrical Specifications (Controller)

- Input: 24V (0.6A) supplied by PSA15R-240P mains adapter
- Analog output voltages: 0 to 10V (1 kOhm / 100 nF) for pressure and temperature
- Resolution of pressure analog output: <0.05% of measurement range
- Error of pressure analog output: <0.5% of measurement range (comprising non-linearity including hysteresis and non-reproducibility)
- Resolution of temperature analog output: <0.01°C
- Error of temperature output: < 1°C
- Optional USB data logger powered by host PC with galvanic isolation
- Operating temperature range (controller): 0 to 40°C

## 3 Safety Precautions

Use proper safety precautions when using hazardous electrode materials and electrolytes. Wear protective glasses and gloves to protect you against electrolyte that may accidentally spill out during filling and disassembly. Upon cell disassembly, dispose all materials properly. Metallic lithium and some insertion compounds may decompose heavily in contact with water and other solvents, and can cause fire.

## 4 Unpacking

Check the contents of the packages against the list given below to verify that you have received all of the components. Contact the factory if anything is missing or damaged. **NOTE:** Damaged shipments must remain with the original packaging for freight company inspection.

### List of Components

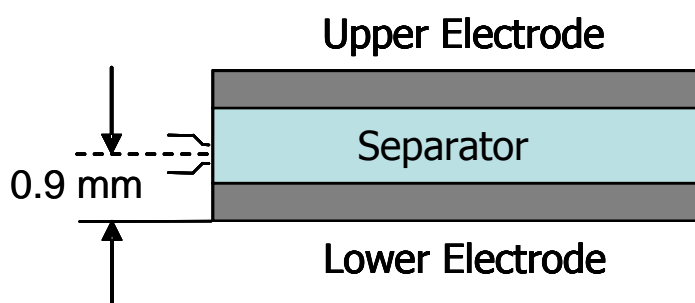
1. ECC-Press-Air test cell with pressure sensor, assembled for use in a 2-electrode dead-end pressurized set-up
2. Gas sample port with septum and valve
3. Reference electrode pin, REF sleeve and locking pin for 3-electrode operation
4. PE seals (10 pieces)
5. Septum (10 pieces)
6. One-way syringe and needle
7. Glass fiber separators 18 mm x 1.55 mm (10 pieces)
8. Sleeve removal tool
9. 24 V power supply with country specific adapters
10. Controller box with analog outputs for pressure and temperature, 4 mm banana sockets for connection to an external potentiostat, and integrated USB data logger (DL option)
11. CD with manual and data logger software (DL option)
12. USB cable (DL option)
13. Cell cable for connection between test cell and controller box

# 5 Cell Assembly

The test cell can either be operated in 2-electrode or 3-electrode (reference) configuration. In the following, the cell assembly is described for operation with a lithium metal reference electrode.

Generally, all assembly steps are to be carried out in inert glove box atmosphere, and all components used are to be dried upfront in a vacuum oven at 80°C for at least 12 hours. The pressure sensor together with the transfer line may remain permanently attached to the stand.

In order to operate the test cell with a reference, the small feed-through hole of the REF sleeve is to be loaded with the reference material, usually metallic lithium. The vertical position of the reference is determined by the thickness of the components. Make sure that the electrodes and separator used have the appropriate thickness to avoid a short circuit between the reference and anyone of the two other electrodes. The smaller (inside) diameter of the reference bore is 0.3 mm.

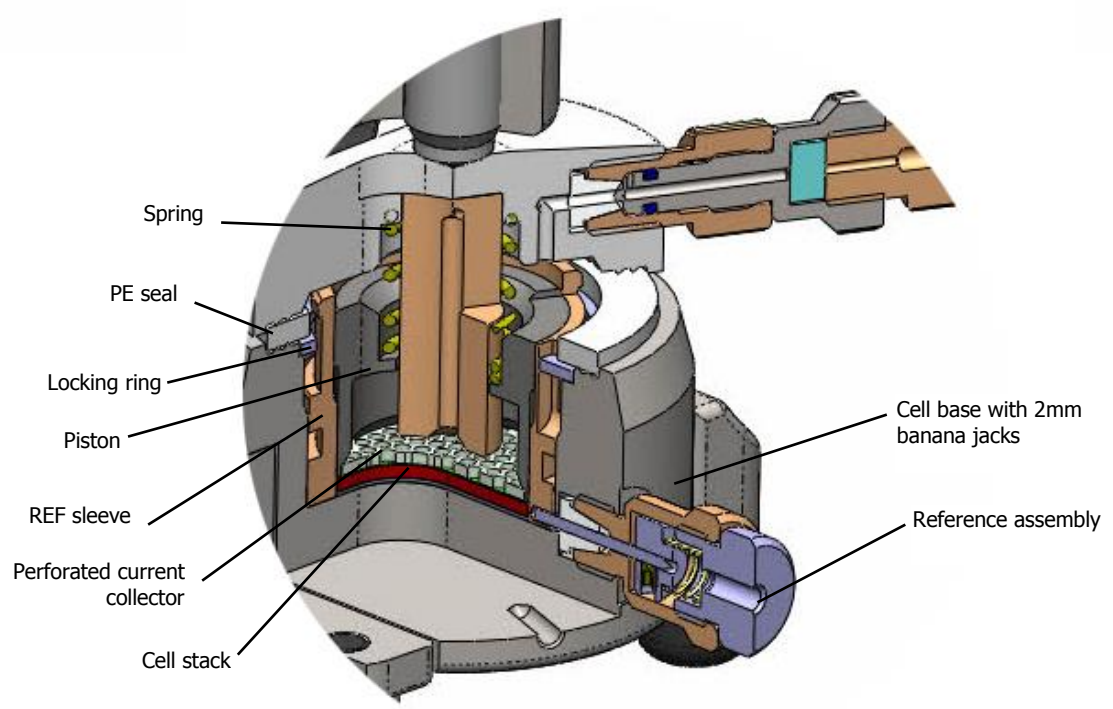
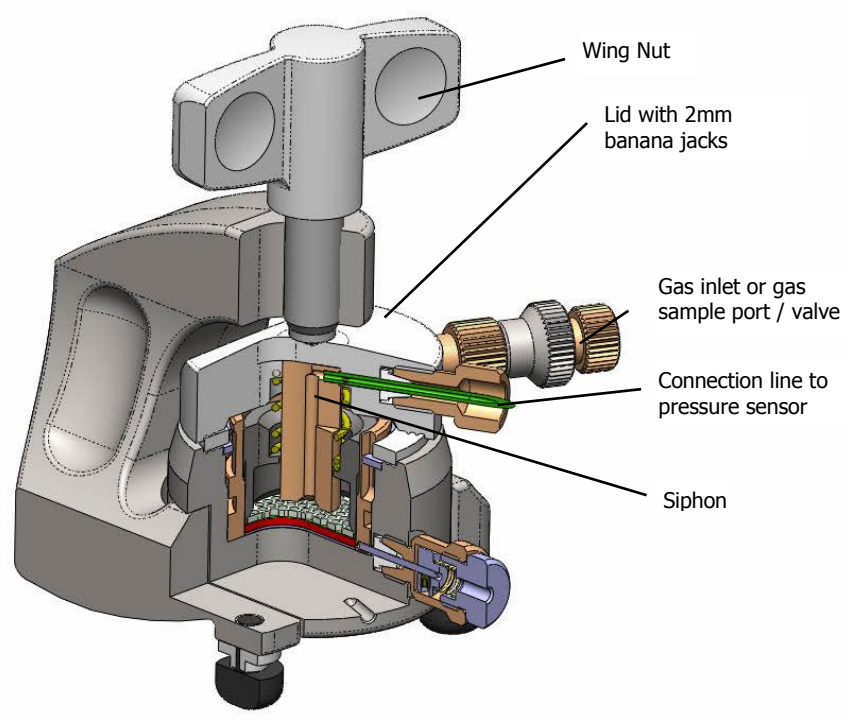


## Assembly Steps:

- i) Make sure that the siphon is properly attached to the cell lid. For this purpose, plug the siphon into the cell lid with the siphon side bore pointing to the gas outlet port in the lid. Then attach the tube (transfer line) to the gas outlet port so that the tube end fits into the side bore and thus holds the siphon in place.
- ii) Pick up a small piece of lithium by a metal wire, and press the lithium into the feed-through hole of the REF sleeve until the lithium just arrives at the inner face of the sleeve. Note that significant force has to be applied to achieve that. A special REF loading tool is available for this purpose (not included).
- iii) Close the side opening of the cell base with the provided plug. This plug is later on replaced by the reference pin.
- iv) Assemble the two-part WE piston with the perforated current collector pointing upwards
- v) Insert the WE piston into the sleeve with the perforated current collector pointing upwards.
- vi) Put the 18 mm diameter gas diffusion electrode onto the piston inside the sleeve.



- vii) Put the glass fibre separator into the sleeve and dispense a defined amount of electrolyte onto it. The optimum amount of electrolyte depends on the electrodes and separator used, and has to be carefully determined in pre-tests.  $0.5 \text{ cm}^3$  are a reasonable amount for 1.5 mm thick glass fiber separator.
- viii) Put the lithium CE disc (18 mm diameter, approx. 0.2 mm thick) on top of the cell stack.
- ix) Push the cell base over the assembly, hold the components tightly together, and turn the assembly back into the upright position.
- x) Release the pressure applied on the cell stack, mount the locking ring to align the side opening of the cell base with the feed-through hole of the REF sleeve, and replace the plug in the cell base by the spring-loaded REF pin.
- xi) Insert the PE seal and the spring.
- xii) Attach the cell lid with the siphon and tube already attached
- xiii) Push the cell into the bracket, and tighten the wing nut.



# 6 Operation Modes / Gas Supply

Thanks to its modular design, the ECC-Press-Air may be operated in different modes. Two basic set-ups are described below.

## A. Flow-through set-up

This is the most typical configuration for the characterization of Li-air batteries. In the simplest set-up of this kind, the cell inlet is connected to the gas (oxygen) supply via a mass flow controller, and the pressure build-up inside the cell is controlled by means of a metering valve (or narrow capillary) at the gas outlet located at the sensor adapter. For gas analysis, the gas outlet may be connected to the "continuous" gas flow inlet of a mass spectrometer. A small dead volume and plug flow conditions are mandatory for a good time-resolution of the gas analysis. This is achieved by having all spacers installed inside the test cell and in the sensor adapter. Even better time resolution is possible with the [ECC-DEMS](#) test cell.

## B. Dead-end pressurized set-up

In this configuration, the gas outlet at the sensor adapter is plugged, and the test cell is pressurized at the beginning of the experiment through the attached sample valve/ port. After equilibration of the closed cell at constant temperature (the time constant mainly determined by the slow dissolution of gases in the electrolyte), the cell is charged/ discharged and the resulting pressure change is recorded. For a given amount of gas, the magnitude of pressure change is the larger, the smaller the dead volume. The gas composition may be analysed by drawing gas samples via the attached sample valve/ port. However, for gas analysis, the dead volume spacer in the sensor adapter must be in place in order to avoid concentration gradients.

# 7 Electrical Connection

For best results, place the ECC-Press-Air inside a temperature controlled chamber, at a constant temperature between -20 to +70°C. The chamber needs to have a feed-through for cable connection to the controller box outside the chamber.

Inside the chamber, attach the square sensor plug to the pressure sensor, and connect the 2 mm banana plugs of the cell cable to the cell (red and green to the lid, blue and yellow to the base, black to the reference).

Outside the chamber, connect your potentiostat to the 4 mm banana sockets on the front panel of the controller box. The rightmost column in the table below refers to the terminology used for the lead connections of Biologic potentiostats (MPG-2, SP, VSP and VMP series). <http://www.bio-logic.info/electrochemistry-ec-lab/instruments/>

Controller Box	Potentiostat	Biologic Potentiostat VSP, VMP3 etc.
I1	WE Current	WE
V1	WE Sense	Ref1
REF	Reference	Ref2
V2	CE Sense	Ref3
I2	CE	CE
GND	GND	GND

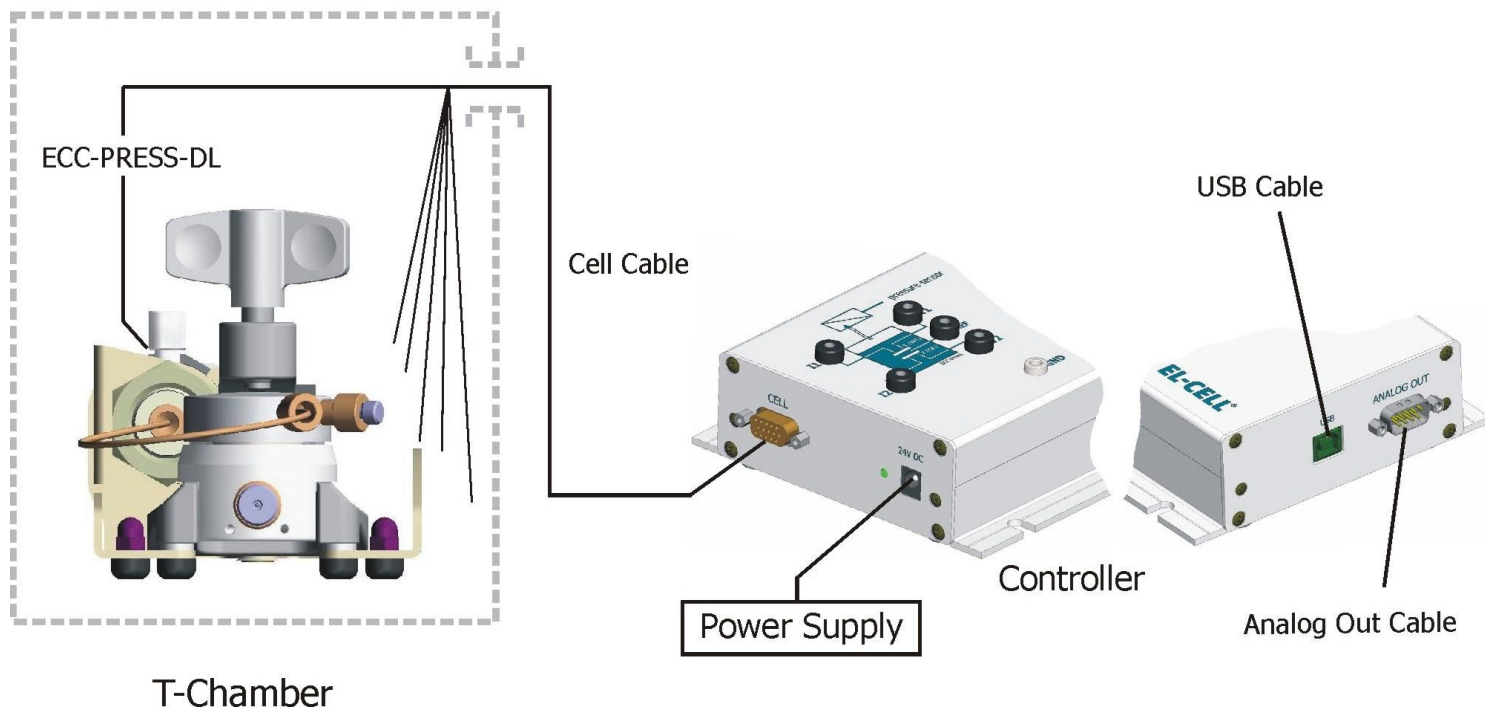
Both the pressure and the temperature signals are available at the Analog Out connector of the controller box. These signals can either be routed to the analog inputs of the controlling potentiostat (if available), or to some other recording device.

The pressure is linearly related to the pressure sensor voltage according to

$$P(\text{abs}) = 0.25 \text{ bar/V} * \text{Voltage}$$

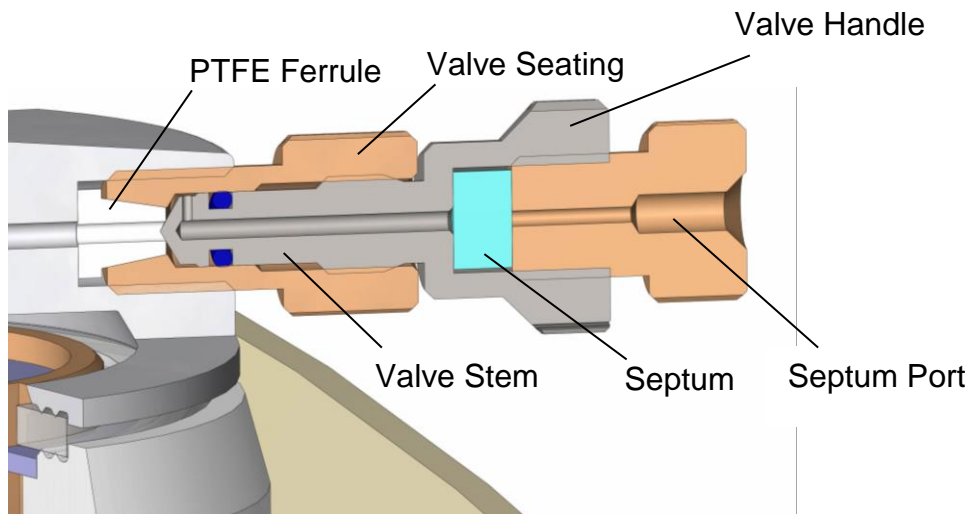
Likewise, the temperature is related to the temperature sensor voltage according to

$$T = 40 \text{ }^\circ\text{C/V} * \text{Voltage}$$



## 8 Sample Valve with Septum Port

The gas sample valve serves to draw gas samples from the head space of the ECC-Press-Air test cell. In the closed state, the valve spindle is seated on the PTFE ferrule and is thus preventing any bleeding from inside the cell through the septum. In order to draw a gas sample, i) pierce the septum with the sample syringe, ii) open the valve by turning the valve handle counter-clockwise by 90 degrees, iii) charge the syringe, iv) close the valve by turning the valve handle clockwise till finger tight, and remove the syringe.



## 9 Software Installation (DL option)

The ECC-Press-Air-DL features an integrated USB data logger for recording cell pressure, temperature, cell potentials and current. The software installation on a Windows® PC is described below.

- a. You must be logged into an account with Administrator privileges.
- b. Save your work and close down all active programs.
- c. On the installation CD, run X:\Driver\Driver\_CDM20814\_Setup (where X refers to the CD drive). This will install the FTDI driver required to establish the USB connection with the data logger.
- d. On the installation CD, run X:\setup. This will install the data logger software. Follow any instructions that may appear on your screen.
- e. Once installation is finished plug in the provided USB cable into both the host PC and the ECC-PRESS-AIR controller box.
- f. Launch the data logger software if not already done.
- g. After a few seconds, the data logger software should report a valid connection and you are ready to start the measurement.

The calibration data and settings of the EC-LINK software are stored in the file settings.txt in the installation directory on the local hard drive and on the installation CD. If the default settings have been changed for any reason, the original settings can be restored by copying settings.txt from the CD into the installation directory of the EC-LINK software.

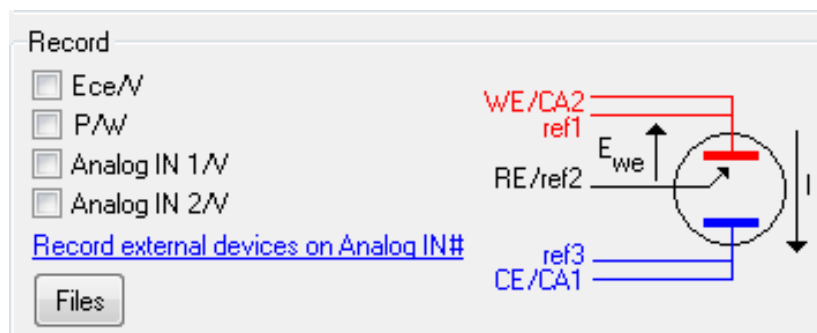
Additional information on the EC-LINK software can be found in the [EC-LINK Quick Start Guide](#).

## 10 Recording the Pressure Signal with an External Potentiostat

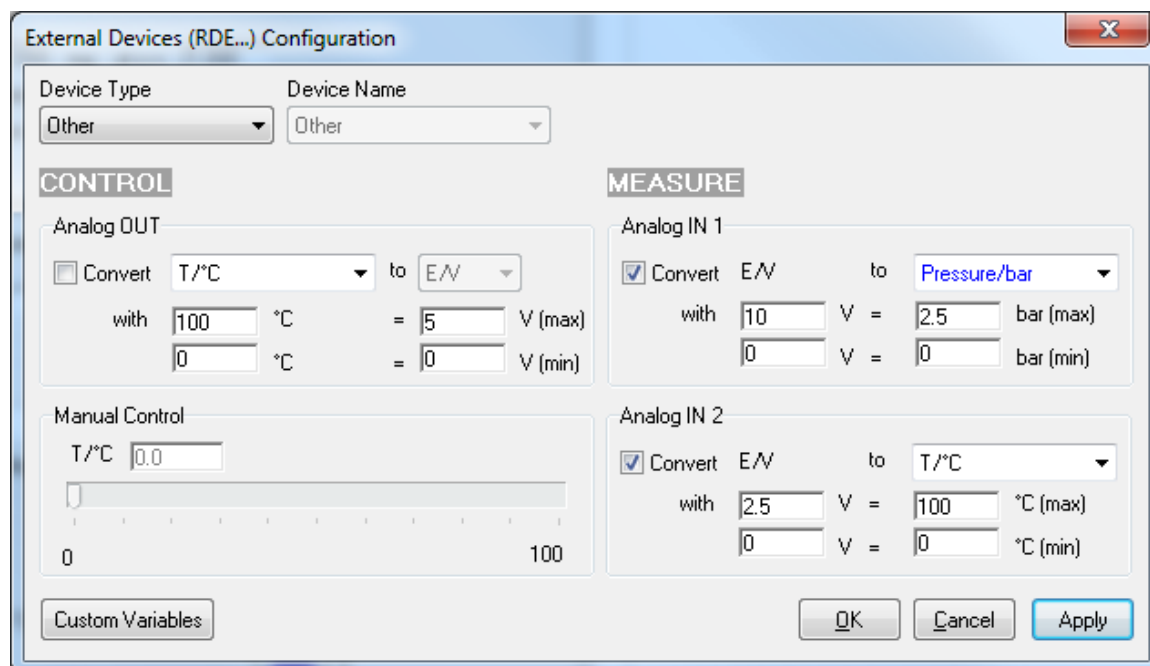
Many of today's battery testers and potentiostats provide additional analog inputs that may be used to record sensor signal along with cell current and potential.

In the following, the combination of the ECC-Press-Air with a Biologic potentiostat (MPG-2, SP, VSP and VMP series) is described as an example. The Biologic potentiostats feature two analog inputs that are used here to record both pressure and temperature.

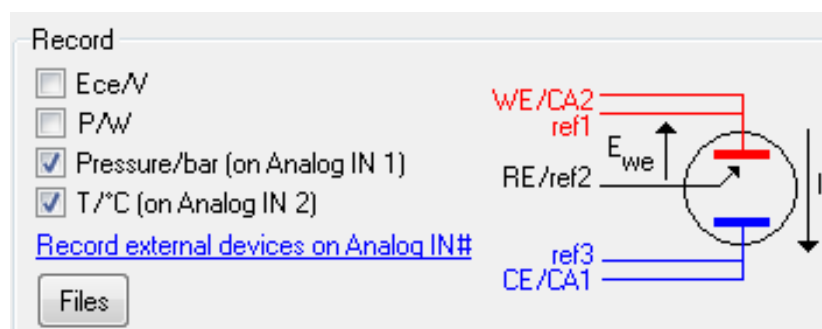
1. Connect the 9-pin Sub-D connector of the optional analog output cable to the analog input of the respective Biologic VMP3 channel.
2. In the Biologic EC-Lab software, in the *Cell Characteristics* dialog, click on *Record external devices...*



3. In the *External Devices Configuration* dialog chose *Device Type* “Other” and define a *Custom Variable* “Pressure/bar”. Then fill in the conversion parameters in the *MEASURE* fields as shown below.



4. Click OK to close the *External Devices Configuration*.



For convenience, the ECC-Press-Air documentation CD contains the above settings in the EC-Lab setting file ECC-PRESS.mps.

# 11 Disassembly and Cleaning

Right after use, disassemble the cell in the reverse order of assembly. Note that the reference pin **MUST** be detached before the REF sleeve can be removed.

All chemicals used have to be disposed properly. All wetted parts are to be cleaned with water and/or other appropriate solvents. Ultrasonic cleaning is recommended. Persistent dirt on the cell base and plunger may be removed by treatment with aqueous nitric acid (20%, 2 hours at room temperature). All parts are to be dried immediately after cleaning at 80°C.

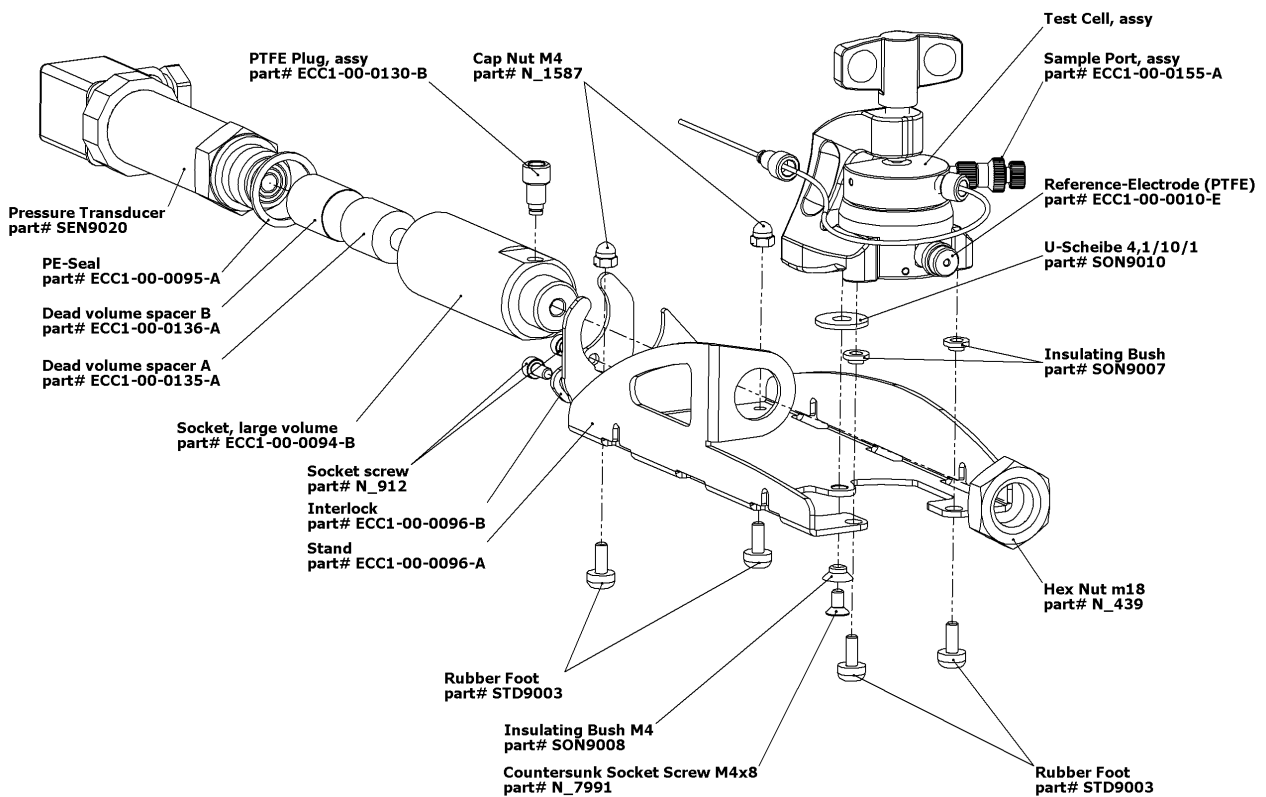
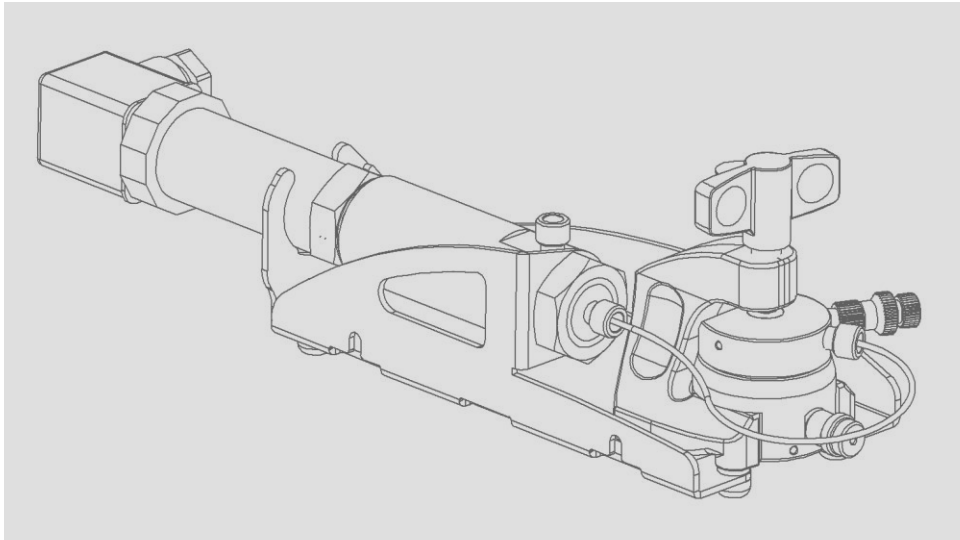
It is recommended to leave the pressure sensor together with the transfer line attached to the stand. Typically, these parts need not be disassembled or cleaned.

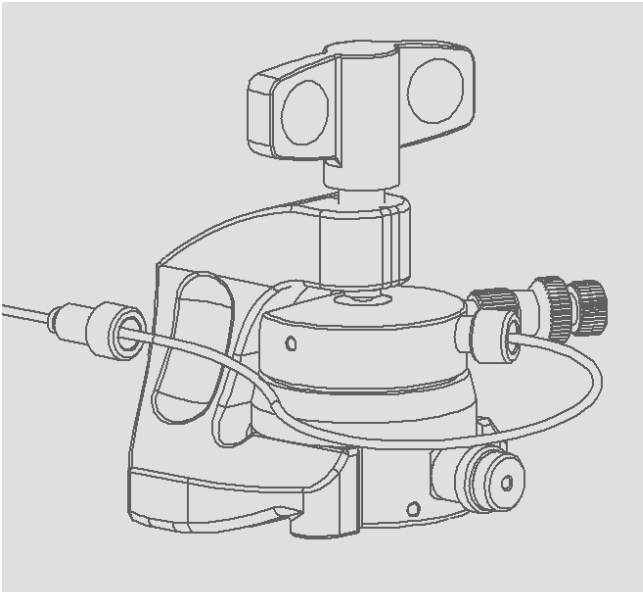
**NOTE:** Leaving cell parts in contact with ambient atmosphere while still being wetted with electrolyte may result in severe corrosion.



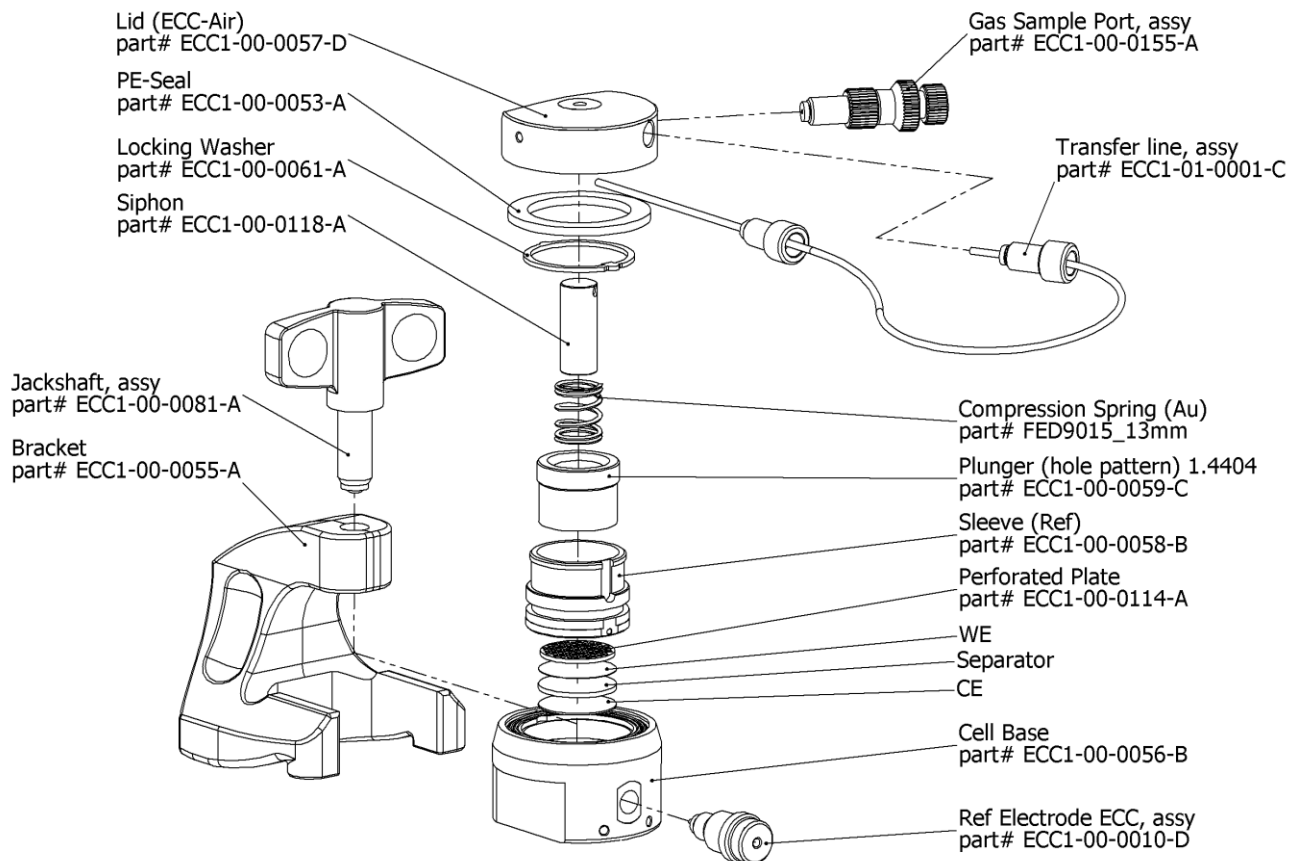
# 12 Accessories and Spare Parts

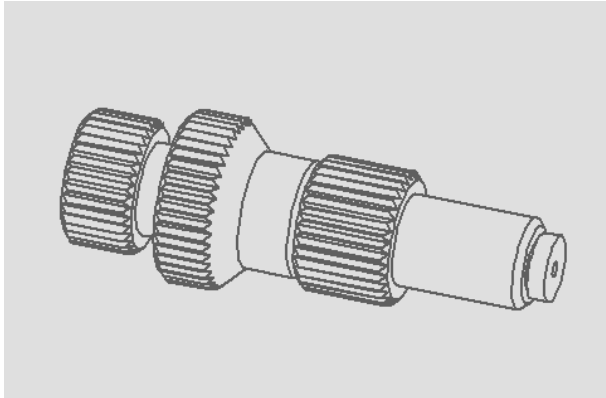
## ECC-Press-Air (-DL) complete



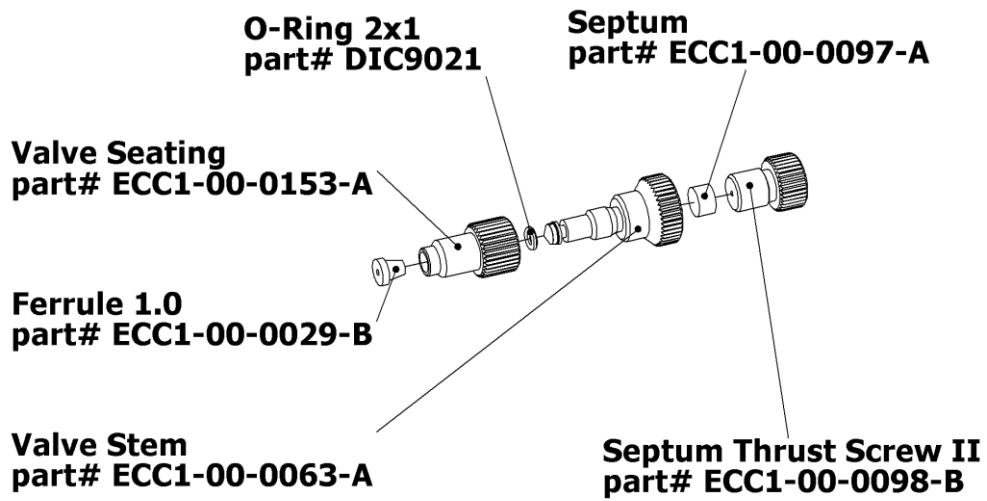


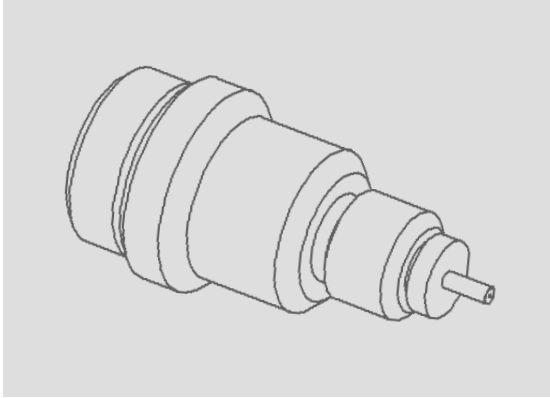
## Test Cell (assembled as 3-electrode cell)





Gas sample port, assy  
ECC1-00-0155-A





Reference pin, assy  
ECC1-00-0010-D

**Set Collar 1.2**  
part# ECC1-00-0038-B

**Set Srew M2x2**  
part# N\_916\_M2x2

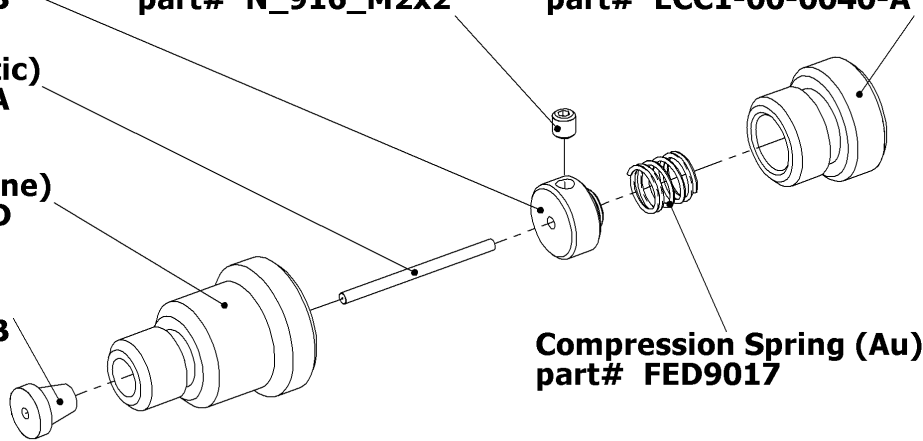
**Hollow Screw**  
part# ECC1-00-0040-A

**Ref Electrode Ni (aprotic)**  
part# ECC1-00-0062-A

**Fitting 1.1mm (with cone)**  
part# ECC1-00-0039-D

**Ferrule 1.0**  
part# ECC1-00-0029-B

**Compression Spring (Au)**  
part# FED9017



# 13 Cables and Connectors

Pin #	Signal	Cable Color	Comments
1	V1	Red	Red plug
2	V2	Blue	Blue plug
3			
4	REF	Grey	Grey plug
5	I2	Yellow	Yellow plug
6			
7			
8			
9			
10	I1	Green	Green plug
11	Pt100 (1)	Violet	Pt100 sensor inside sensor plug housing
12	Pt100 (2)	Black	
13	+24V	White (1)	Square sensor plug
14	Sensor-I	Brown (2)	
15			

## Cell Cable

6x2 twisted pairs; Sub-D M15 HD connector to box; 2 mm banana plugs and square sensor plug M16 to ECC-PRESS test cell; shield connected to Sub-D connector housing and to sensor housing; Pt100 sensor located inside sensor plug housing

Part No. ECE1-00-0032-B

Pin #	Signal	Plug Color	Comments
1			
2	T (VTEMP2)	Red	0..10V; 40°C/V
3			
4			
5	P (VP2)	Yellow	0..10V; 0.25 bar/V
6			
7			
8			
9	GND	Black	Common ground

## Analog Out Cable

Sub-D F9 connector to box; 2 mm banana plugs for connection to external devices

Part No. ECE1-00-0040-A

## Biologic VMP3 Auxiliary Cable (2 x 2 x 0.14 mm<sup>2</sup>, TP, shielded)

Sub-D F9 connector to box; Sub-D M9 connector to auxiliary input connector of the Biologic potentiostat. The cable shield is tied to both connector housings.

Part No. ECE1-00-0040-B

Sub-D HD F15 to box			Sub-D M9 to Biologic AUX Input		
Pin #	Signal	Cable Color	Pin #	Signal	Comments
1					
2	T (VTEMP2)	Red	6	Analog In 2	0..10V; 40°C/V
3					
4					
5	P (VP2)	White	1	Analog In 1	0..10V; 0.25 bar/V
6					
7					
8					
9	GND	Brown	7	GND	

# 14 Technical Support

Technical support for this product is exclusively handled by EL-CELL GmbH. The following procedure must be followed when the ECC test cell or any part of it is returned to EL-CELL GmbH for repair:

1. Send an e-mail to [info@el-cell.com](mailto:info@el-cell.com) to obtain a return authorization number and a decontamination report form.
2. Sign the decontamination report asserting that the instrument has been decontaminated and is safe for technicians to work on it.
3. Describe in detail what is wrong.
4. Include a contact name, address, telephone number, and email address.
5. Return the equipment to

EL-CELL GmbH  
Tempowerkring 8  
D-21079 Hamburg  
Germany  
Email [info@el-cell.com](mailto:info@el-cell.com)

# 15 Warranty

For a period of one year from the date of shipment, EL-CELL GmbH (hereinafter Seller) warrants the goods to be free from defect in material and workmanship to the original purchaser. During the warranty period, Seller agrees to repair or replace defective and/or nonconforming goods or parts without charge for material or labour, or, at the Seller's option, demand return of the goods and tender repayment of the price. Buyer's exclusive remedy is repair or replacement of defective and nonconforming goods, or, at Seller's option, the repayment of the price.

Seller excludes and disclaims any liability for lost profits, personal injury, interruption of service, or for consequential incidental or special damages arising out of, resulting from, or relating in any manner to these goods.

This Limited Warranty does not cover defects, damage, or nonconformity resulting from abuse, misuse, neglect, lack of reasonable care, modification, or the attachment of improper devices to the goods. This Limited Warranty does not cover expendable items. This warranty is void when repairs are performed by a non-authorized person or service centre. At Seller's option, repairs or replacements will be made on site or at the factory. If repairs or replacements are to be made at the factory, Buyer shall return the goods prepaid and bear all the risks of loss until delivered to the factory. If Seller returns the goods, they will be delivered prepaid and Seller will bear all risks of loss until delivery to Buyer. Buyer and Seller agree that this Limited Warranty shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Germany.

The warranties contained in this agreement are in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

This Limited Warranty supersedes all prior proposals or representations oral or written and constitutes the entire understanding regarding the warranties made by Seller to Buyer. This Limited Warranty may not be expanded or modified except in writing signed by the parties hereto.