

UNICORN® OS version 1.10

Information letter

Important advice on installation

The following actions must be taken when installing an instrument or changing Strategy:

1. Calibrate the P-50 pump
2. Calibrate the pressure of pump P-6000

Important advice on operation

UNICORN OS V1.10

Running a method

Loading and Support Weight must be entered in the Variables. Other parameters can be the same as default. Check that the correct column volume is given.

When using the FIXFLOT or ADJFLOT templates for flow-through coupling, only DNA couplings are programmed for flow-through. RNA or 2'OMe are programmed for recycling.

System "HOLD" in method

The Strategy instructions VOL_Amid, VOL_Cap, VOL_Thio and VOL_Oxid set the system on HOLD when turning valves and calculating and activating flow rates. If you press PAUSE followed by CONTINUE or just press CONTINUE during system HOLD, the flow of reagent will be interrupted and the wrong amount will be added to the column.

Action: Do not press CONTINUE or PAUSE or give any manual commands during a System hold.

Method Editor

Note that a Cross-reference list is saved with a specific sequence so that all saved sequences have their own unique Cross-reference list. If an open sequence is deleted and replaced with a new one, this new sequence will "inherit" the Cross-reference list. Refer to the User Manual for more information.

Untitled window

On some Compaq computers, OS/2 will not start up properly. An Untitled window appears and the computer locks.

Action: Install the latest available display driver for your computer, e.g. "Compaq/CL5434 Display Driver Support for OS/2 2.1X and 3.0" version 1.23 or "Compaq/QVision 1024/1280 Display Driver Support for OS/2 2.1X and 3.0" version 2.30.

Importing edited Evaluation procedures

If you try to replace an existing Evaluation procedure in a method with another that has the same name but in which the Report layout has been edited, the Evaluation procedure is not always replaced correctly.

Action: Remove the Evaluation procedure from the list in Run setup. Then save the method. Finally, import the edited Evaluation procedure and save the method again.

Peak Integration

When the peak area values that are calculated during manual (not on-line) Peak Integration are important, perform the integration by using Time base to get the best precision.

Preview in File: Report

When **Preview** has been selected in **File: Report** and you click outside the Preview window, the window becomes hidden (but still open) behind the UNICORN OS desktop. This can cause the computer to lock up at later stages.

Action: Do not click outside the Preview window when open.

Shutdown

If UNICORN OS is minimized and you select Shutdown in OS/2, a message asking to Quit UNICORN OS appears. When you then enter UNICORN OS, some windows are already closed down and it might be impossible to open the Main menu module to quit UNICORN OS.

Action: Never select Shutdown in OS/2 when UNICORN OS is running.

Too many Watch instructions

If a **Watch** instruction calls a block named e.g. "Peak", which contains a new **Watch** instruction that also calls the block "Peak", the message "Too many Watches" appears in the text instruction window and a very large number of blocks will be shown.

Action: You can still save and run the method.

DEFAULT report format

If a DEFAULT report format has been defined and File: Report is selected, the chromatogram layout settings will be the same as on the screen and not as specified in the DEFAULT report format.

Action: If you want to use the DEFAULT report format chromatogram layout, you have to manually select the DEFAULT format from the list of available formats.

Opening or printing results

To open or print a large result file can take several minutes, depending on the computer.

Action: Wait at least 10 minutes before rebooting the computer if you suspect a program crash.

Method and Run

To open or download a method to the instrument can take several minutes, depending on the computer. Action: Wait at least 10 minutes before rebooting the computer if you suspect a program crash.

Lost text on print-outs

All text (tick marks, peak labels, etc.) may be missing on your landscape format chromatogram print-outs.

Action: If your printer supports Postscript, try and change the printer driver to a Postscript driver.

Template + Long runs

A combination of very large template methods (with up to 250 blocks) and a long sequence (>30 bases) may mean that Printout, Preview, Start of Run and View of log book can take more than 5 minutes.

OligoPilot II

Communication

If the communication between the computer and certain valves is not established, the SystemControl RunData will display the valve position as 0.

Action: Reboot both ControlBox and Computer.

If communication is broken during a run, the valve position is not updated and will display the last valve position. You will not be able to see the communication problem in the LogBook. This problem has occurred only a few times. The new version has been improved to prevent it. However, if the problem still occurs, follow the actions described below.

Action: Reboot both ControlBox and Computer and re-run the synthesis.

Screen and Power-saver functions in computers and OS/2 should be turned off to not interfere with the UNICORN OS software.

Action: Disable screensaver and Autodim in OS/2 and disable Powersave in BIOS or Computer manufacturer software.

Calibration

Calibrate the P-50 pump every 2 weeks or before very important runs. Usually, the calibration value is very stable.

Power failure

If the whole system or just the computer has a power failure, the run will stop. Data will be saved up to that point, depending on how AutoSave has been set.

Action: To avoid power failure, connect a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) to both system and computer.

Computer requirements

Computer:	Pentium/75 MHz minimum, with at least 1 free full-length ISA expansion slot. (For the maximum configuration of four systems connected, a Pentium/133 MHz or higher processor is required with four full-length ISA expansion slots. About 16 Mb additional RAM memory for each extra system is also required to run the systems smoothly. However, Amersham Biosciences does not recommend more than one instrument per computer. The computer holds the method and if it crashes, all runs connected to the system will stop).
RAM memory:	32 Mb RAM (minimum 24 Mb)
Hard disk:	1 Gb (minimum 240 Mb)
Graphics:	800x600 pixels with minimum 256 colors
Operating system:	OS/2 Warp version 3
Printer:	Any printer supported by OS/2 (HP DeskJet 660C, 690C or 870Cxi and HP LaserJet 5MP or 6MP recommended)
For network installations of UNICORN OS:	
Network:	Novell NetWare version 4.02 or later
Connections:	Etherlink III network card with 3C5x9.SYS driver (version dated March 10, 1995, or later)



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