



### Moisture Induced Stress Tester



# **OPERATING MANUAL**

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© 2023 InstroTek, Inc. MiST 2<sup>TM</sup> Operation Manual Version 17 Software Version 3.23 and later

# Important

### PRECAUTIONS WHEN USING THE MIST 2

- There is a water immersion heater inside the MiST 2 Sample Chamber to maintain temperature during test. THE SAMPLE TANK AND LID MAY BE VERY HOT DURING PRE-CONDITIONING AND AFTER TEST IS COMPLETED.
- 2. Do <u>NOT</u> start a test without water in the Sample Tank. The bladder could burst due to over-inflation.
- 3. Contents in Sample Test chamber are under pressure. The Auto Drain feature will keep the system closed until the end of the test. The drain valve needs to remain open with a 5gallon bucket placed beneath it to catch the test water at the end of the test. Failure to keep the drain valve open may have a negative impact on the test samples because the MiST 2 cannot drain the water at the end of the test.
- 4. When machine is not in use, drain all water to extend life of bladder.
- Voltage of 120V is present inside the MiST 2 cabinet. DO NOT PROBE INTO THE MAIN CABINET WITH CONDUCTIVE MATERIALS, TOOLS, OR HANDS. IF THE COVER MUST BE REMOVED, CONTACT INSTROTEK <u>FIRST</u>.
- Machine contains compressed air system. Use appropriate PPE, handle with care, and follow safety guidelines when working with compressed air.

 Do not attempt to repair this unit with unit plugged into AC power. Maintenance on this unit must be done by trained technicians.

Call InstroTek if you have any questions.



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### 1. Introduction

The MiST 2 is designed as an accelerated conditioning device to determine the resistance of the asphalt mixture to adhesion and cohesion problems generally known as stripping.

The mechanisms involved in stripping and moisture damage of mixtures include displacement, detachment, asphalt spontaneous emulsification, pore pressure, osmosis, and microbial activity. Mechanical scouring, occurring as a result of increased pore pressures brought on by traffic loading, is also a major contributor to stripping. Displacement, as a mechanism of stripping, is defined as water penetrating the aggregate surface through a break in the asphalt film. Detachment is the peeling off of asphalt film without a break in the asphalt surface. Spontaneous emulsification occurs when water and asphalt combine to form an inverted emulsion. Water trapped within the air voids of asphalt concrete can cause high pore pressure when the asphalt is exposed to traffic loading. The consequence of these mechanisms is adhesion and cohesive failure within the asphalt mixture.

Pore pressure introduced by vehicle tires on wet asphalt pavements has been identified as one of the main causes of moisture damage on roadways. To effectively determine moisture susceptibility during design and quality control it is necessary to simulate the damage caused by travelling vehicles on pavements. This involves extended exposure of asphalt mixtures to water to determine chemical effects (adhesion failure) and creation of pore pressure to induce mechanical effects (cohesion failure).

The MiST 2 is a dynamic instrument which produces stresses and pore pressure in an asphalt sample at elevated temperatures to accelerate the mechanisms, adhesion and cohesion.

The conditioning operates at higher than normal temperatures and creates pore pressure within a compacted asphalt mixture to accelerate the effects that a mixture would experience from traffic at normal temperatures and conditions. The elements that are necessary for stripping to occur are high air void content, presence of water, high stress, and high temperature. The MiST 2 is capable of producing three of those factors: water, stress, and high temperature. The presence of air voids is, of course, a property of the mix.

The MiST 2 provides the capability to automatically determine adhesion and cohesion failure potential of an asphalt mixture. The order of the test (an adhesion phase followed by a cycle phase) simulates the order that events occur in the field (i.e., pavement is naturally saturated over time, and then passing vehicle tires cause pumping and pore pressure). When samples are placed inside the MiST 2, the temperature is ramped up to 60C. The samples are allowed to remain at this temperature for 20 hours for chemical or adhesion effects to become apparent. After the initial 20 hours, the MiST 2 automatically starts 3500 pressure cycles at 40 psi, pumping and creating pore pressure in the samples. This action simulates the pore pressure experienced on a wet pavement by a passing vehicle tire and subjects the mix to potential cohesive failure that can occur on the pavement.

### 2. Unpacking the MiST 2

When the MiST 2 arrives, it will be crated in a wooden boxed pallet. Disassemble crate and remove the MiST 2 unit and accessories. Care must be exercised when lifting and placement, as the MiST 2 weighs approximately 163 lbs. Place MiST 2 unit on a flat bench surface close to a 120V/230V outlet.

### 3. MiST 2 Components

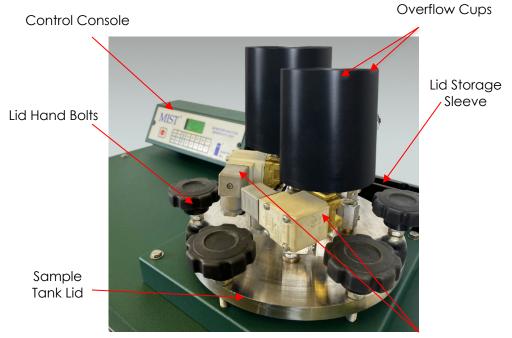


Fig 1. MiST 2 Top View

Automatic Fill/Release Valves



Fig 2. MiST 2 Bottom Plate Retaining Nuts





Fig 3. MiST 2 Front Panel

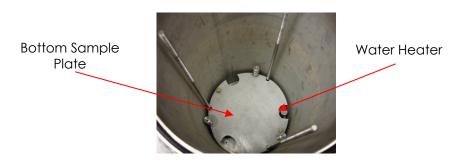


Fig 4. Bottom Plate inside Sample Tank

The MiST 2 is comprised of three major assemblies: (1) sample containment assembly, (2) pneumatic linkage assembly, and (3) electronic/electrical assembly. The sample containment assembly consists of the sample tank, three retaining plates, six 101mm spacers, nine 70mm spacers, and the lid. Figure 1 shows the lid of the sample tank, the fill valves, and the Control Console. Figure 4 shows the inside of the tank along with the restrained bottom plate that supports the sample. The pneumatic linkage assembly consists of a compressor coupled to a mechanical regulator, digital regulator, bladder in the bottom of the sample tank, airline connecting the pneumatic components to the bladder, stored air pressure gauge, compressor drain valve, and safety pressure relief valve. Pressure is transferred to the sample in the tank by controlling pressurized air into the bladder. The electronic/electrical assembly consists of the control electronics, the on/off switch, the compressor relay, and the associated control wiring.



### 4. Test Setup

- a. Remove from Shipping Container: (Refer to Unpacking the MiST 2: Chapter 2) Position the MiST 2 close to a 120 or 230V outlet. Check the serial plate for the correct voltage. Plug the MiST 2 into a dedicated wall outlet. Do not plug other machines or systems into the same circuit as the MiST 2.
- **b.** Accessories: Unpack extra bladders, manual, and USB flash drive, spacers, and sample plate. Store bladders in a cool dry place for future replacement.
- c. Turn on the MiST 2: Plug unit into a wall outlet and turn the on/off switch to the ON position.

#### d. MiST 2 Preparation:

- Turn the unit on and Press START. The current conditioning settings will be displayed on the LCD. Default settings programmed into the MiST 2 are 20 hours of adhesion time at 60°C (140°F) followed by 3500 Cycles at 60°C (140°F) and 40 PSI. Dwell Time will be disabled. If conditioning settings need to be changed, press MENU and refer to Chapter 5 for menu functions.
- 2. Remove the six hand bolts and place the lid in the storage sleeve. Be careful not to drop the lid. Instrumentation on the lid may be damaged if proper care is not taken.
- 3. If there is any water in the tank from a previous conditioning test, drain the tank completely into a bucket by opening the drain valve.
  - a) Open the manual valve on the right side of the machine when facing the control box.
  - b) Open the automatic valve using Option 1 in the Menu.
- 4. Close the manual drain valve.
- 5. If the sample plates are in the sample tank, remove them and place them in lid storage sleeve along with the lid.
- 6. MiST 2 is now ready to condition samples. Continue to Chapter 6 for the Sample Testing Procedure.

### 5. Menu Functions

Pressing the **MENU** Button will bring up the Menu Screen with the following options. Select and configure desired settings by using the number and arrow keys on the Control Panel.

Note: Once changed, settings are saved for future tests.

- 1. **Auto Drain Setting:** This allows the user to manually open and close the Auto Drain on the MiST 2. The manual Drain Valve should always be in the open position during a conditioning test with a 5-gallon bucket placed beneath it to catch the test water after the test. The Auto Drain will close when the test starts and when the machine is turned off.
- Pressure Setting: Set pressure set point. Default = 40 psi (max = 75 psi). This is the maximum pressure that the unit will try to achieve. However, the apparent pressure will depend on the mixture type and void structure of the sample. Depending on the Mix type (open graded mixtures), achieving higher pressures than 40 psi may not be possible and may result in puncture of the bladder.
- 3. Temperature/Time Set Point: Set the temperature and time for conducting the conditioning test. The temperature range is from 25°C to 68°C (77°F to 155°F). Default setting is 60°C for PG grades higher than PG58. For PG58 asphalt binder use 50°C. The menu cycles through the set points in the order they occur in the conditioning test.
  - a) Adhesion Time: The length of time before the cycle phase on the specimens begins, when samples sit in water heated to the adhesion temperature. If time is 0 hours, the adhesion option is disabled. Default is 20.0 hours. The maximum time is 168 hours.

NOTE: Press **DOWN** key to enter a decimal point for time.

- b) Adhesion Temperature: The temperature during the adhesion time. If adhesion time is disabled (0 hrs), this screen will not appear. Default is 60°C.
- c) **Cycle Temperature:** The temperature during the cycle phase. Default is 60°C.

- d) **Dwell Time:** The length of time *after* the completion of the cycle phase that the specimens sit in water heated to the dwell temperature. If time is 0 hours, the adhesion option is disabled. Default is 0 hours (disabled).
- e) **Dwell Temperature:** The temperature during the dwell time. If dwell time is disabled (0 hrs), this screen will not appear. Default is 60°C. NOTE: The MiST 2 only has the ability to heat water. If the water in the sample chamber is above the dwell temperature, the dwell temperature may not be achieved during the test. Therefore, any temperature below the cycle temperature may not be achievable during the dwell time.
- 4. Test Cycles: Set the number of pressure cycles to be completed during the test. Number of cycles ranges from 1 to 50,000. Default is 3,500 cycles.
- 5. Set Date/Time: Enter the date and time for reports and for use with Automatic Start Time option. Set date and time in 12-hour format using the number pad to enter the current time. When prompted choose option '1' for AM or '2' for PM. Enter date in MM/DD/20XX format using the number pad and press YES to save.
- 6. **Data Storage:** Enable or disable data storage. If data storage is enabled, insert a USB memory device into the USB port. The MiST 2 will create a new file for each test and log test data into the file. Periodically, transfer files from the USB memory device to long-term storage to avoid loss of data.
- 7. Reset Cycles: The bladder should be replaced after 70,000 cycles. This number is based on factory testing over a range of temperatures; the actual number of cycles the bladder will endure varies depending on the temperature used during testing and the type of mix being tested. The unit prompts the user at power up with the number of cycles remaining before the replacement of the bladder is required. Once the bladder is replaced, please select option 8 in the menu and reset the cycle reminder.
- 8. **Diagnostics (password 6478):** Password protected feature allows user to calibrate and view temperature and pressure



measurement sensors and system parameters on the MiST 2. Contact InstroTek for detailed calibration procedures if required.

### 6. Sample Testing

- a. Determine pre-test Bulk Specific Gravity:
- 1. Use AASHTO T166, ASTM D2726 or ASTM D6752 to determine the bulk specific gravity of the sample,  $BSG_0$ .
- b. If testing only two samples, for example 150 mm diameter by
  95 mm thick samples, place the samples in the MiST 2
  following steps b1 and b2:
- 1. Ensure the bottom sample plate is secured with the retaining nuts. Place one set of 101mm spacers over the threaded posts and the first sample on the bottom plate.
- 2. Place a sample plate on top of the spacers. Place the second sample on the sample plate. Secure the top sample plate with the remaining set of 101mm spacers and retaining nuts.
- c. If testing more than two samples, for example field cores or 100 mm diameter by 64 mm thick samples, place the samples in the MiST 2 following steps c1 thru c3:
- 1. Ensure the bottom sample plate is secured with the retaining nuts. Place the first set of 70mm spacers over the threaded posts and the first sample on the bottom plate.
- 2. Place the first sample plate on top of the first set of spacers. Add another set of spacers onto the threaded post. Place the second sample on the sample plate.





 Place the second sample plate on top of the second set of spacers. Place the third sample on the sample plate. Secure the top sample plate with the remaining set of spacers and retaining nuts.



#### d. Fill Sample Tank with Water and Secure Sample Lid:

- 1. Fill sample tank with clean water. Note: You may use hot tap water to shorten the water heating stage of the test.
- 2. Replace sample tank lid and secure with six hand bolts.
- 3. Pour water into one of the overflow cups. Wait for water to flow up into the other cup to purge air from the test sample tank. Then, fill both cups until they are both 2/3 full of water.

#### e. Self-Test and Pre-Conditioning:

- 1. Verify that the desired settings are selected by referring to the menu items. If desired settings are not saved, change to desired settings as described in Chapter 5 and continue to step 2.
- 2. From the system ready screen press **START**. Current settings will be displayed. If the settings are correct, press **START**. The MiST 2 will run a self-test to check the Pressure Sensor and will display the pressure that can be achieved for the sample during the test. NOTE: If there are any problems during the self-test ensure the lid hand bolts are tight and the tank is full of water; then, restart test. If problems continue, refer to the full Troubleshooting section or contact InstroTek.
- 3. The MiST 2 will then enter the heating stage and the pump will turn on and begin building pressure. During this stage, the water in the tank will be heated until its temperature reaches within 10°C of the set point. At this point the MiST 2 will, if enabled, enter the adhesion phase. During the adhesion

phase, the MiST 2 will regulate the temperature at the adhesion temperature for the duration of the adhesion time.





CAUTION: DURING PRE-CONDITIONING, HEATER IS TURNED ON AND SAMPLE TANK AND LID MAY BE VERY HOT. CAUTION: DURING PRE-CONDITIONING, SINCE WATER IS HEATED, SOME MAY ESCAPE THROUGH FILL/RELEASE VALVE AND MAY BE VERY HOT.

f. Test Operation: The conditioning phase will begin by purging air within the sample for 20 cycles before moving onto the main conditioning cycles. During the conditioning test, the display will indicate the phase of the test, the temperature, time or cycles and maximum pressure obtained during each cycle.

# CAUTION: <u>DO NOT</u> OPEN THE LID DURING TESTING. TANK IS UNDER PRESSURE.

g. Test Completion: Have ready: (1) a bucket with enough room temperature water to fill the sample tank and cool the samples and (2) an empty 5-gallon bucket, which is large enough to hold the amount of water currently in the sample tank.

IMPORTANT: Never stack the samples on top of each other. The weight of the top samples can deform the samples on the bottom, especially when the samples are warm.

1. Once the conditioning test has finished, the Auto Drain feature will slowly open the drain valve in the MiST 2 which will allow the test water to drain into the bucket placed beneath the manual drain valve. **CAUTION: Take extreme care as the water draining from the tank is hot and can cause injury.** 

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- Wait for the entirety of the tank water to drain before continuing through the 'Test Complete' prompt, this will toggle the compressor to release all its stored air. CAUTION: Take caution at end of test, compressed air is released at the end of the test and can blow small objects and debris in the drain area. Safety USE SAFETY GLASSES when monitoring test completion.
- Once all the water has drained from the fill cups on top of the lid, remove the six hand bolts securing the sample tank lid and carefully place lid in the storage sleeve. CAUTION: Sample tank lid is hot. Use temperature resistant gloves to remove the lid.
- 3. With sample still in the tank, close the manual drain valve and then pour room temperature water into the tank. Allow the sample to sit in room temperature water for at least 2 minutes. This will give the samples enough time to cool down and ensures sample integrity during removal. Drain the water out of sample tank.
- Use both hands to lift the samples from the tank. CAUTION: Please use care when handling the sample as it will be hot. Use temperature resistant gloves to remove the sample from the tank.
- 5. Condition the samples in 25°C +/ 1.5°C (77°F +/- 3°F) temperature water for a minimum of 2 hours.
- 6. Measure and record the post-test bulk specific gravity,  $BSG_f$ , of the sample by AASHTO T166, ASTM D2726 or ASTM D6752. You may use the original dry mass of the sample used to calculate  $BSG_0$ .

7. The sample is now ready for tensile strength or other desired mechanical tests. The pre and post bulk specific gravity results can be used as an additional parameter to judge the sensitivity of mixture to moisture damage. For a particular mix, a large difference (~1.5%) between the pre and post bulk specific gravity may indicate a weak mixture.



CAUTION: AFTER TEST IS COMPLETED, SAMPLE TANK, LID, AND TEST SAMPLE MAY BE VERY HOT. USE CAUTION WHEN REMOVING OR HANDLING SAMPLE TANK AND LID.



CAUTION: AFTER TEST IS COMPLETED, COMPRESSED AIR IS RELEASED FROM DRAIN VALVE. KEEP DRAIN AREA CLEAN OF LOOSE DEBRIS AND OBJECTS

### 7. InstroTek MiST 2 Mixture Acceptance Criteria

If two or more of the conditions below are met, the mixture is considered good; otherwise, the mixture is considered moisture sensitive.

 Percent density change, or swell, is 1.5% or less. This is the change in density from before MiST 2 conditioning to after conditioning. Density of samples should be measured at 25°C +/ 1.5°C (77°F +/- 3°F).

% Density Change =  $(BSG_0 - BSG_f) / BSG_0 \times 100$ 

- 2. If TSR on MiST 2 conditioned samples is 80% or higher. After you obtain the post-conditioning MiST 2 density, determine the tensile strength of the MiST 2 conditioned sample. This value is a ratio of average wet to dry tensile strengths with a minimum of 3 samples for each condition.
- 3. If visual inspection of the MiST 2 displays minor stripping. After conducting tensile tests, do a visual inspection of the mix and note minor, moderate, or severe stripping of aggregates.

Also consider calculating the saturation of the samples with the MiST 2 device, as additional information. Mixes with a high percent saturation can also be problematic mixes, especially in regard to mixture permeability.

Calculate Percent Saturation:

%Saturation = 
$$\left(\frac{SSD-W}{V*\left(\frac{VTM}{100}\right)}\right) \times 100$$
  
Where:  
SSD = SSD after MIST 2  
W = Dry Weight  
V = Sample Volume before  
MIST 2  
VTM = Voids in the Total Mix

Please note all the data needed to calculate %Saturation will be obtained during determination of bulk specific gravities.

### 8. Maintenance

Bladder Replacement: Replace the bladder every 70,000 cycles or 20 tests, with 3500 cycles per test. Remove lid hand bolts and place tank lid in the storage sleeve. Remove the sample plate (bottom plate). Locate the bladder at the bottom of the sample tank. Remove the bladder from the tank by opening the plastic hose clamp and pulling the bladder off the barbed hose fitting. The bladder may tear during removal. Inspect the new bladder for tears, holes, and other irregularities. Cut the bladder hose such that it has a 1/2" (12.5 mm) stub. Next, install the new bladder by fitting the bladder's hose onto the barbed hose fitting. Use a small amount of a soap and water solution to slide the bladder onto the barbed hose fitting. Ensure the bladder covers the whole length of the barb. Tighten the plastic hose clamp around the bladder hose to secure it in place. Reinstall the sample plate (bottom plate). Reset the cycle count (option 8 in Menu). At this point, the MiST 2 should be ready for normal operation.

Important: If you are changing the bladder because of bladder failure (rupture), please make sure you purge the chamber by selecting "Purge Water" option from the Menu. This function should be performed by technicians familiar with the MiST 2. The pass code to access this option is 7726. Purge water option ensures all water is removed from the air lines before replacing the bladder with a new one. Please perform the "Purge Water" option from the Menu immediately after you detect "Bladder Failure". Follow the above instructions to replace the failed bladder with a new bladder. After the MiST 2 detects a bladder failure, you may have to power down the unit, and hold the 9 key on the display while powering the unit on.

### 9. Trouble Shooting

MiST 2 does not turn on –

- Make sure unit is plugged into a power source and AC Power Cable is firmly connected to the MiST 2
- Test outlet by plugging another device into the same outlet such as a lamp or fan.

Unit stops operation after a few cycles –

- Make sure that the tank is completely filled with water. Water should be poured into the side overflow cup until water can be seen beginning to fill in the center cup.
- Check bladder.
- Check possible solutions to error codes in Error Message section.

MiST 2 cannot maintain pressure –

- Make sure the tank lid is sealed and the O-ring is in place. Verify no water leaks.
- Replace the bladder.
- Check that the Fill/Release valves do not leak. If during testing, water is forced up into the overflow cups, the valve may need to be replaced.
- Check for air leaks in the air lines and compressor with soapy water from a spray bottle (Contact InstroTek before performing this step).

Water coming out of overflow cups -

- If water is gradually overflowing from one or both overflow cups, this is a sign that the overflow valves may be damaged.
- If water is blasting from both overflow cups torrentially, this is a sign the black pressure-relief valve is not functioning correctly.

**Pressure Verification:** The Pressure Verification function allows the adjust the compressor output pressure and measure the pressure to diagnose issues.

Fill tank and install lid. Then, go to Diagnostics (Option 8 in Menu). Enter password (see cover sheet). Go to Pressure (Option 1). Enter verification function (Option 3). Press Start to begin the test and charge the compressor. Press the UP button to move the pressure set point up and then press the DOWN button to move the pressure set point down. The current pressure and voltage (0-255) of the pressure sensor will be displayed on the screen. Press STOP to exit test.

**Purge Water:** Password protected diagnostic feature runs an automatic procedure to evacuate water trapped in the air lines in the event of a bladder failure. **CAUTION:** This procedure should only be run in the event of a bladder failure and should be conducted by trained personnel ONLY.

### 10. Error Messages

If a problem occurs with the unit during operation, an error message is displayed on the LCD screen. Consult the following list for a detailed description of each message.

Message	Description
"Pressure Loss Was Detected. Test Stopped. Cycle #XX XX"	The unit was unable to obtain a pressure within 20 PSI of the set point for three consecutive cycles.
"Bladder Failure Was Detected. Test Stopped. Cycle #XXXX"	Conditions indicating a bladder failure were detected. See Maintenance section regarding bladder failure and replacement.
"Bladder Lifetime Exceeded! Call InstroTek"	The unit has logged 70,000 cycles without replacement of the bladder.
"Temperature Too High Turn OFF Power to System"	The tank water temperature is too high, indicating a problem with the heater control.

When an error occurs, an error code will be shown on the screen. Use the error codes below to determine the error.

NOTE: Errors are additive. Therefore, ERROR 300 means both Error 100 and 200 are present (100+200 = 300), ERROR 410 means Errors 10 and 400.

Error 100 – LOW PRESSURE LIMITS ERROR

Low pressure outside of limits (-1 to 2 psi).

1) Check if the bladder is broken. If it is broken, follow the instructions in the Maintenance section for bladder replacement.

2) Check if bladder is collapsing on the brass barb. If so, release the blue tube between the pressure chamber and the pressure relief valve. Blow air into the tube to inflate the bladder. If the bladder continues to collapse, change the bladder and ensure the bladder covers the *whole* length of the barbed fitting.

3) Check the pressure sensor output.

Fill the tank and install lid. Then, go to the pressure verification function (see Troubleshooting section). Press start and record pressure and voltage at low pressure. The voltage should be between 0.4 and 0.5 V.

1) Check if the bladder is broken. If it is broken, follow the instructions in the Maintenance section for bladder replacement.

2) Check if water (not air) is bubbling up in the overflow cups when starting a test. If so, replace lid valve.

3) Check the pressure sensor output.

Fill the tank and install lid. Then, go to the pressure verification function (see Troubleshooting section). Press UP. Record pressure and voltage at high pressure (~70 psi). The voltage should be between 2.5 and 4.0 V.

This error suggests either the bladder is collapsing (due to improper installation), or the pressure is not being properly released because of failure of the pressure release valve.

1) Change the bladder and ensure the bladder covers the whole length of the barb.

2) Locate pressure release valve, which is a black box inside frame that is plumbed to the digital regulator and connected to the tank with a thin blue tube. Place finger over valve while test runs to see if pressure is released from opening #3.

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### 12. Warranty

InstroTek extends a 1-year warranty on the MiST 2 to the original purchaser of this equipment. This warranty covers defects in material, workmanship, and operation under the conditions of normal use and proper maintenance. This warranty includes all components except for the normal wear components including the bladder and the lid O-ring gasket.

InstroTek will replace, free of charge, any part found to be defective within the warranty period.

This warranty is void if inspection shows evidence of abuse, misuse, or unauthorized repair.

This warranty covers replacement of defective materials and workmanship only. It does not cover shipping charges, duties or taxes in the transport to and from the factory or authorized service center.

InstroTek's liability is in all cases limited to the replacement price of its products. InstroTek shall not be liable for any other damages, whether consequential, indirect, or incidental arising from use of its product.

If return of the product is necessary, please include return shipping directions, contact name, phone & fax number and a description of the action needed.

Call InstroTek, Inc. for shipping details at (919) 875-8371.



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