

INSTRUCTIONS

LIQUID CULTURE KIT

ON ARRIVAL:

Unpack your liquid culture expander jar and check for any damage or leaks. If you find the jar has been compromised in transit, reach out to customer service for a replacement.

NOTE: It is best practice to wait a minimum of one week after arrival before injecting your Liquid Culture Kit to ensure it wasn't compromised in transit. If the liquid appears cloudy, it is compromised and should be replaced.

STORAGE:

Liquid culture expander is best used within one month of receipt. Store your jar in a dry place at approximately 50-70°F until use. Once fully colonized, the culture jar can be stored in refrigeration for up to four months!



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A. INOCULATION WITH SPORES OR LIQUID CULTURE

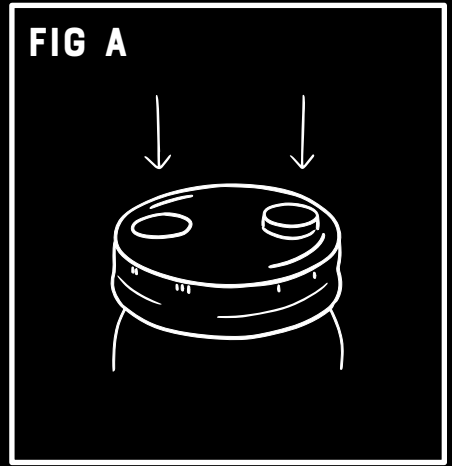
1. For best results, work in a still air box such as the NocBox or in front of a flow hood. If you do not have access to either, any well-cleaned space can be used, but contamination is more likely.

- Choose a location with little air movement, shut windows and doors, turn off any heating or cooling units, and choose a work surface you can sanitize with isopropyl alcohol.

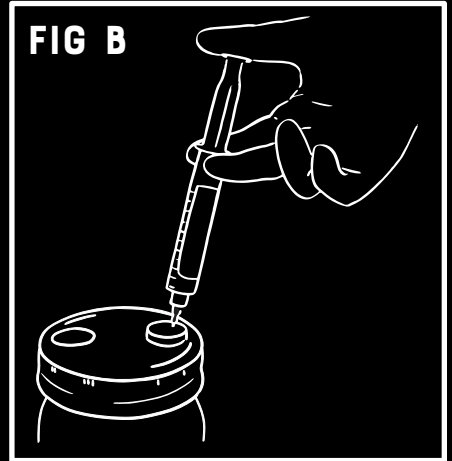
- Begin by sanitizing your work surface with 70% isopropyl alcohol. Let sit on surfaces until dry or for several seconds before wiping dry with a clean paper towel.

- Put on gloves and clean with isopropyl.

2. Wipe the filter patch and injection port with an alcohol pad. **FIG A**



3. If the liquid culture or spore syringe doesn't look uniform, you may shake it for a few seconds to disperse the mycelium or spores. Inject 2-5 CCs of a spore syringe or liquid culture into the jar. **FIG B NOTE:** Needles come sterile in their packaging, but subsequent use of a culture or spore syringe will require re-sterilization of the needle. Sterilize the needle with alcohol or flame sterilize with an alcohol burner or lighter. If using a flame to sterilize, the tip of the needle should be heated until it glows red and then allowed to cool before injection. **WARNING:** Do not use an open flame inside a still-air box.



4. Agitate the jar by shaking it for 20-30 seconds. This will help to disperse the spores or culture throughout the media.

FIG C



B. INCUBATION & AGITATION

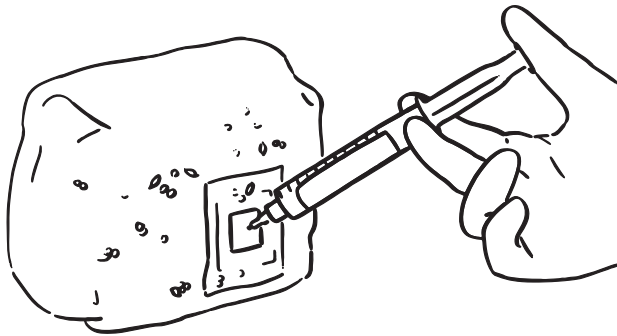
1. Prepare a dark, warm area for incubation. Colonization will occur most reliably in temperatures between 77 and 82 °F. If jars cannot be kept within incubation temperatures, any temperature above 60°F will work; colonization may just be slower. A small space heater can be used to heat a small room if necessary. There are other ways to warm your jar while it colonizes, such as the ‘tub-in-tub incubator’ method. There are many good resources online for how to use this method. We don’t recommend the use of heating mats, as the jar will not be evenly heated.
2. Three days after you have injected your spores or liquid culture, agitate again.
3. After about a week, you will begin to see clouds of white mycelium forming in your jar. Once these appear, agitate the mycelium daily throughout the colonization period to prevent it from growing in a large mass and keep it uniformly distributed in your liquid. This will promote the use of all the nutrients by the growing mycelium and make it easier to draw your liquid culture into a syringe.
4. You can allow your jar to colonize for approximately two weeks beyond the first signs of mycelial growth before you move it into refrigeration for storage and use. If your jar is stored at cooler temperatures and therefore colonizing slower, you may allow it to colonize beyond the estimated two weeks. **NOTE:** Pink oyster and almond agaricus should not be refrigerated.

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C. USING YOUR LIQUID CULTURE

1. We recommend inoculating one injection port bag or jar to start. If the liquid culture is compromised, this will reveal any issues and prevent you from wasting more substrate.
2. Allow your liquid culture to come to room temperature before use.
3. Agitate the jar before you draw up the liquid culture.
4. Refer to the instructions for your substrate to determine the correct amount of CCs to use as well as the next steps after inoculation.
5. Insert your syringe into the self-healing injection port. Tip the jar towards the syringe, but do not let the liquid touch the filter patch. If the syringe gets clogged or you draw air into your syringe when you are withdrawing the liquid, keep the syringe in the injection port, push the liquid back into the jar, and withdraw the correct amount.
6. After use, return your jar to refrigeration and use it within four months.



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