FilmRemover

Instructions

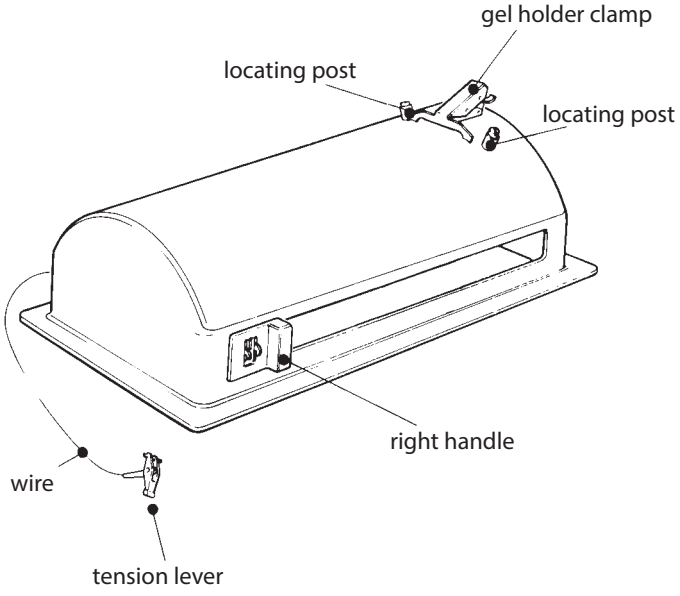
In preparation for electrophoretic blotting, the support film must be removed from all supported polyacrylamide and agarose gels. Using the FilmRemover, the removal of the film is achieved quickly and cleanly.

The FilmRemover separates gels of up to 200 mm × 245 mm in size from the support film. Small gels, such as PhastGel, and larger support gels which have been cut to a smaller size can be separated with the same ease. Gels from 0.1 mm to 5.0 mm in thickness can be removed from the support film.

Physical Description

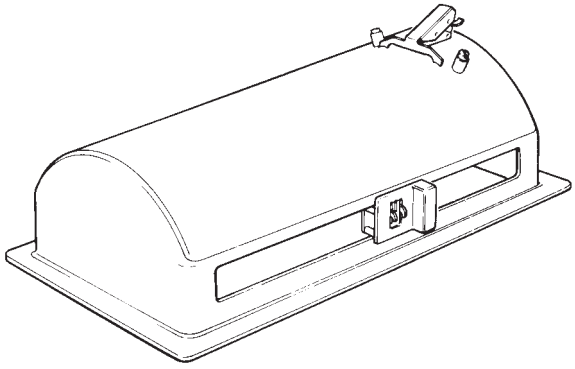
The FilmRemover is moulded in white high density polystyrene. A spring-loaded stainless steel gel holder is fitted to one end to clamp the gel in position. Two plastic locating post are attached to the curved surface of the instrument to ensure easy alignment of the gel.

Three stainless steel wires are supplied, each complete with a tension lever attached to one end. The metal loop at the other end is attached to the left handle. After positioning the gel, the wire is tightened by attaching the tension lever to the right handle. By pulling the right and left handles together along the slot, the wire is drawn under the gel to separate the gel from the film.



Assembly

Step	Action
1	Unpack FilmRemover and place it on a flat surface with the spring-loaded gel holder clamp away from the operator.



2	Attach the metal loop at the end of the wire to the left handle as follows:

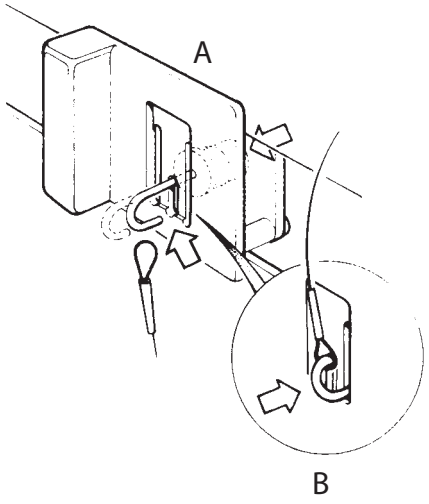
- Press the spring-loaded red button behind the left handle to expose the hook. Feed the metal loop on the end of the wire onto the hook.
- Release the pressure on the red button to lock the wire to the handle.

Note:
Ensure that the metal loop is securely attached to the upper part of the hook as illustrated.

Do not tension the wire across the instrument at this stage.

FilmRemover is now ready for routine operation.

Step	Action

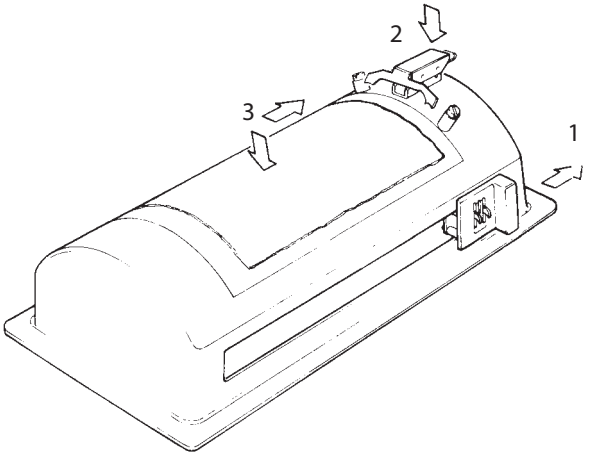


Operation

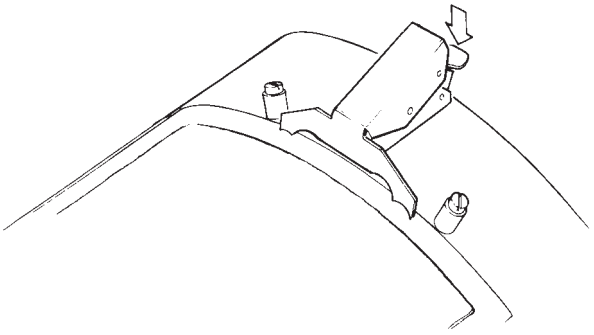
Gloves should always be worn when handling gels, filter papers and immobilised membranes.

The FilmRemover should be assembled with the wire attached to the left handle. The tension lever should not be attached to the right handle at this stage.

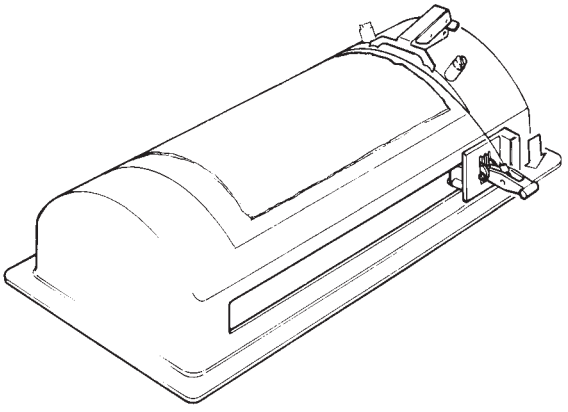
Step	Action
1	Push the handle assembly away from the operator towards the locating posts.
2	Ensure that the gel holder clamp is raised, ready to lock the gel into position.
3	Place the gel onto the curved surface of FilmRemover so that one edge is in contact with the two locating posts. Align PhastGels and other small gels with one of the locating posts.



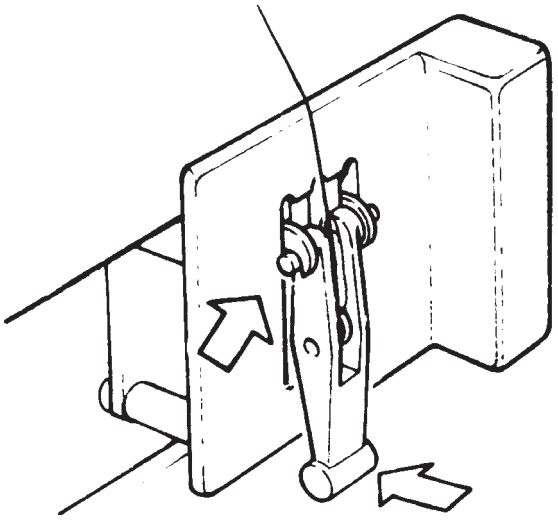
Step	Action
4	Press down the gel holder clamp lever to lower the teeth of the gel holder onto the end of the gel support film.



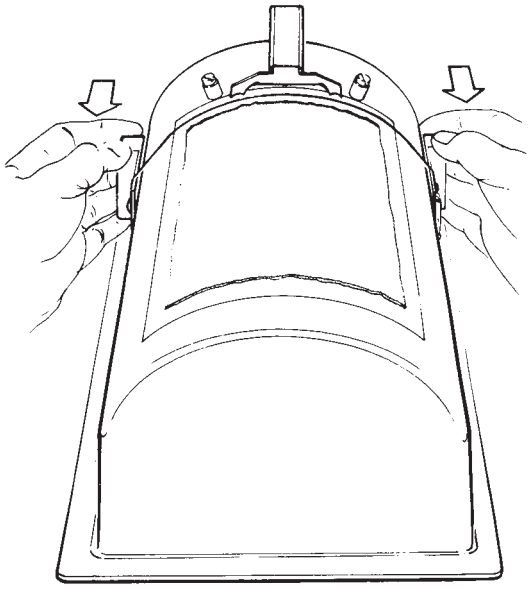
Step	Action
5	Pass the tension and wire over to the right handle so that the wire is now stretched over the gel-free part of the support film.



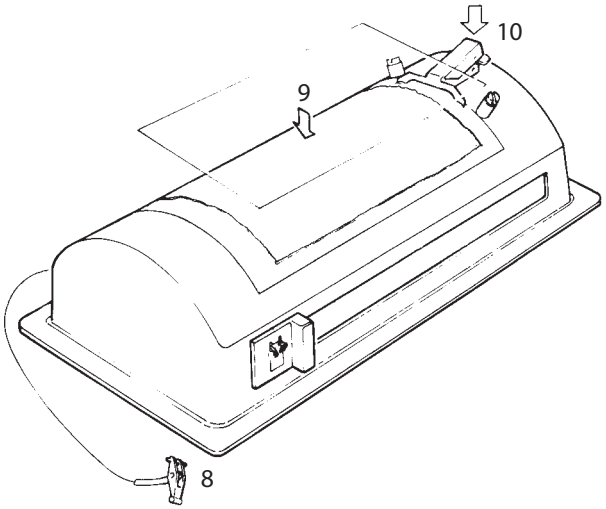
Step	Action
6	Fit the two pins of the tension lever under the two claws on the right handle and then press down the lever to lock and tension the wire.



Step	Action
7	To separate the gel from the film, pull the two handles slowly and evenly towards the operator.



8	Release the tension lever and, without touching the upper surface of the gel, move the tension lever and wire over to the left side. Immediately clean the wire with a dry tissue as any residual gel will solidify and damage the lower surface of the next gel being separated.
9	To use the separated gel in Multiphor II NovaBlot, soak an immobilising membrane in transfer buffer and carefully lower it onto the gel. Take care not to trap any airbubbles. ***Note:*** *To prevent smearing of the resulting blot, do not move the membrane after it has made contact with the gel.*
10	Press down the gel holder clamp to release the gel. Remove the gel and, with the support film upwards, lower it carefully onto the prepared papers in the NovaBlot unit. Gently peel away the support film and dispose of it safely. Continue with the preparation of the trans unit following the instructions supplied with Multiphor II NovaBlot.



Care and Maintenance

Immediatly after use, wipe the wire with a clean tissue. Any gel remaining on the wire will solidify and damage the lower surface of the next gel being separated.

After use, always disconnect the tension lever from the right handle. If left under tension, the wire will strech and will fail to give a good separation.

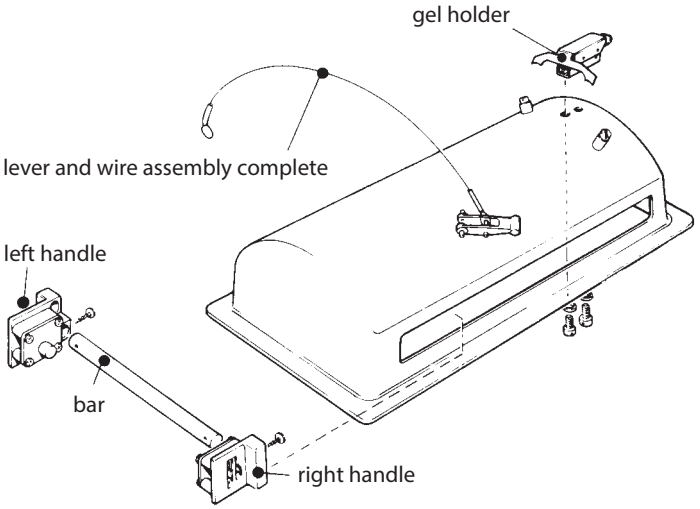
Replace the stainless steel wire at regular intervals following the directions in the assembly instructions.

To prevent permanent damage, do not twist or bend the wire.

Use a tissue soaked in a mild solution of domestic detergent to clean the surface of FilmRemover.

Spare Parts

Description	Code. No.
Lever and wire assembly complete, pkg/3	18101379
Gel holder	80110910
Right handle	18101988
Bar	80110914
Left handle	18101989



Paper

80-1106-19	Electrode Paper NovaBlot, 200×250 mm, pkg/500

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