

PCR plate heat sealer with programmable temperature and dwell



User Manual



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xxpress® xxplates, and xxsealer are the brand names for BJS Biotechnologies own range of PCR thermal cycler products and accessories. For further details please visit our web site.

www.xxpressPCR.com

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1 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

ANSI BJS Bio	American National Standards Institute BJS Biotechnologies Limited, UK Company Number 02959160
Deepwell Plate	Plate with an SBS footprint featuring 48, 96 or 384 wells with a larger volume than microplates
DWP	Deepwell plate
EMC	Electro-Magnetic Compatibility
Microtitre Plate	Plate with an SBS footprint featuring 24, 48, 96 or 384 wells
МТР	Microtitre plate
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SBS	Society for Bio molecular Screening
Semi-skirted PCR Plate	PCR plate with an outer surrounding half edge
Skirted PCR Plate	PCR plate with an outer surrounding edge
Un-skirted PCR Plate	PCR plate without an outer surrounding edge
Well	A single sample cavity in a Microtitre plate, PCR plate or Deepwell plate
xxplate	BJS Bio PCR test plate for the xxpress real- time thermal cycler. Available in 24, 54, and 96 well formats.

2 Symbols Used in this Instruction Manual

The following advisory symbols are used in this manual.

	Table 1: Advisory Symbol Meanings
	Indicates a Risk of Electric Shock which could, if not avoided, result in serve injury or death.
	Indicates a Burn Hazard which could, if not avoided, result in serve injury or death.
DANGER	Indicates a Risk of Explosion which could, if not avoided, result in serve injury or death.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which could, if not avoided, result in serve injury or death; or severely damage the unit.
	Indicates a hazardous situation which could, if not avoided, result in minor or moderate injury; or degrade or impair the functionality of the unit.
CAUTION	Indicates a Risk of Crush hazard due to moving parts which could, if not avoided, result in minor or moderate injury.
0	Advisory note or other useful information.
<i>⇒</i> NN	Refer to "Section NN" for more details.

3 Unit Description

The **xxsealer** provides a safe and controlled method for sealing plastic sample plates to protect the samples from evaporation and contamination during the heating and cooling of a PCR process. The sealer is adjustable for both the sealing time and temperature, and gives a visual countdown display during the sealing process for consistent results.

The unit has the following external features:

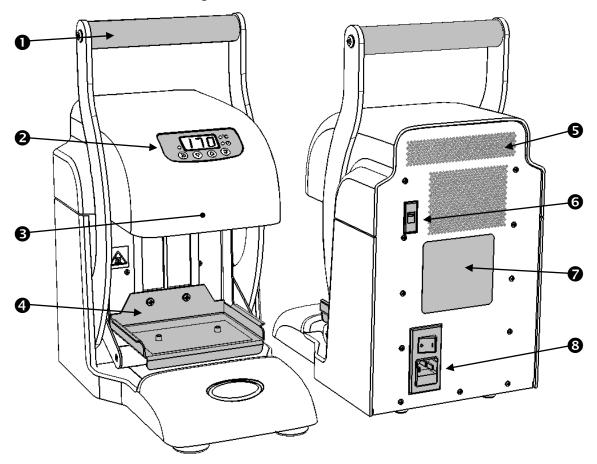


	Table 2: Unit Features	
0	Seal Activation Handle	<i>⇔</i> 7.2
0	User Interface Display and Control Buttons	⇔ 7.1
B	Heater Plate (Internal)	<i>⇔</i> 7.1
4	Adaptor Block Carrier	⇔ Table 3
6	Rear Ventilation Holes	⇒ 5
6	Mains Voltage Selector	<i>⇒</i> 5
0	Product Information Label	<i>⇒</i> 4
8	Power Inlet, On/Off Switch and Fuse Holder	<i>⇒</i> 5

The **xxsealer** unit is designed to be used with a range of sample plates and consumables – some of which are listed below:

Table 3: Plate and A	daptor Block Types
Adaptor Block Type	Suitable Plate Types
	BJS xxplate (Suitable for 24, 54, and 96 well xxplates)
	96 Well Microtiter Plate 384 Well Microtiter Plate PCR 96 Well Skirted Plate
	PCR 96 Well Semi-skirted Plate PCR 96 Well Un-skirted Plate
	Deepwell Plates
Plate Material Types	Polypropylene, Polyethylene or Polystyrene

Other specialist adaptor plates may be available at request. Please contact your distributor for details.

Table 4: Recommended Film and Foil Types		
Films	Clear Polyester/Polypropylene Laminate Clear Polymer	
Foils	Thin Clear Polymer Foil Polypropylene Laminate Foil Laminate Foil	

Note:

The only film approved for use with **xxplates** is the BJS Bio's **xxplate** sealing film. Part number HS-3001-01-1.



4 Technical Specification

Model Type

Model Name Model No

Physical Unit Properties

Dimensions (W x D x H) Weight (without adaptor)

Mains Supply

Power Cord Rating Inlet Module Type Supply Voltage Selections

Supply Frequency Range Power Consumption Fuse Ratings and Sizes

Operating Environment

Temperature Range Relative Humidity Range Maximum Operating Altitude

Storage and Transportation

Temperature Range Relative Humidity Range

Sealing Parameters

Temperature Range Timer Range Audible Alert

xxsealer

VTS-953-A

220 mm x 325 mm x 425 mm 7.2 kg

IEC C13, 3-Core, 5A min IEC C14, DPST, Single Fuse 115 110 to 120 VAC ±10% 230 220 to 230 VAC ±10% 50 to 60 Hz ±5% 350 W max 115 T3.15AH 250V 20x5mm 230 T1.6AH 250V 20x5mm

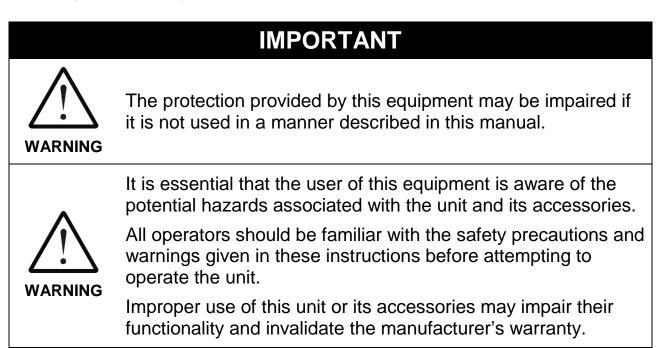
+18 to +30 °C 20% to 80% non-condensing 2200 m above sea-level

-10 to +50 °C 20% to 95% non-condensing

125 to 200 °C in 1 °C steps1.0 to 9.0 seconds in 0.5 second stepsOn or Off

5 Safety Precautions and Limitations of Use

It is essential that all users of this equipment have fully read and understood the following safety precautions and limitations of use before installing or operating the **xxsealer** unit.



Unit Handling Precautions



Care should be taken not to drop the unit or subject it to rough physical handling, both during normal use and during transportation and storage.



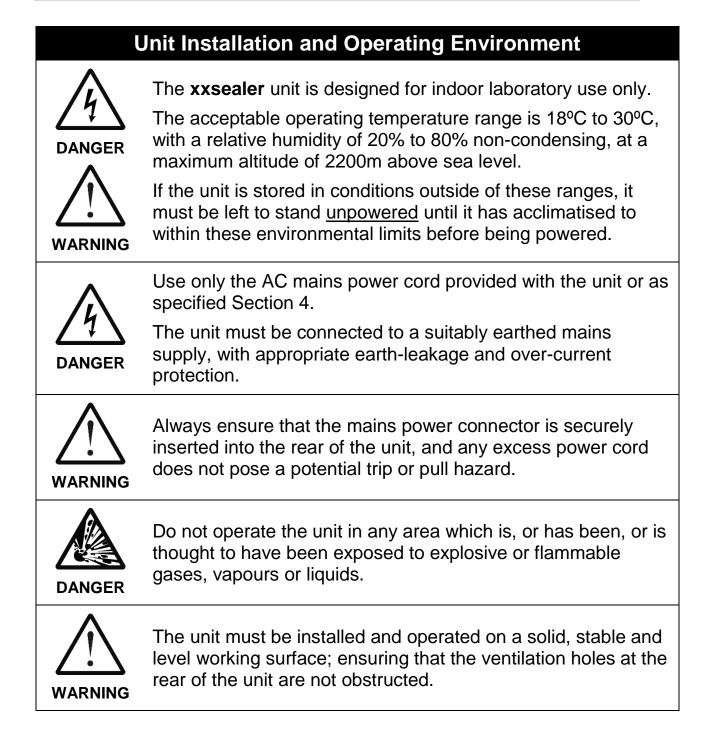
The unit should be held by the handle when being lifted or moved. Do not lift the unit by any other part of the casework.

Care should be taken when lifting the unit due to its weight.

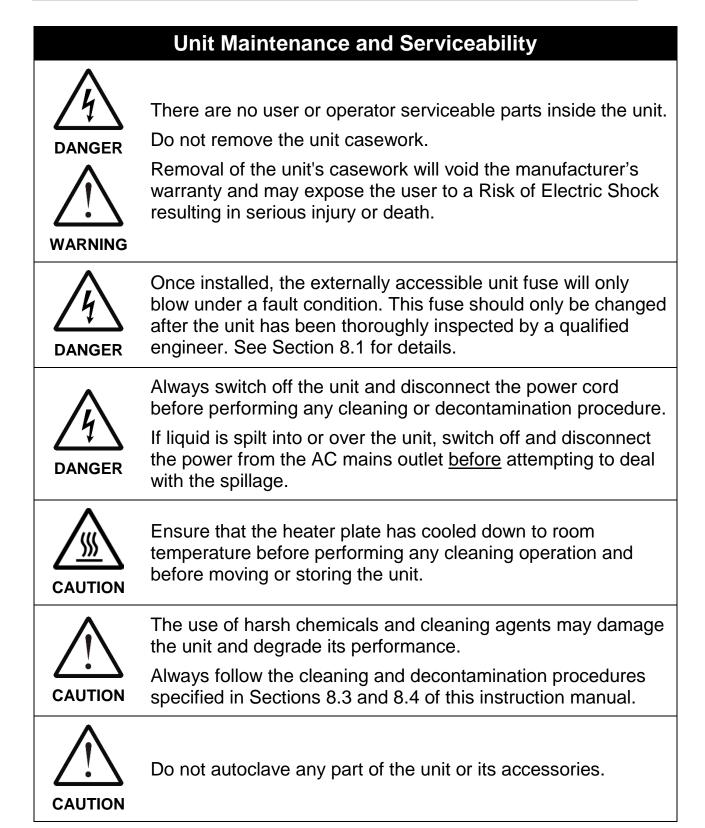


Care should be taken not to knock the LED display.

Do not use excessive force when pressing the control buttons or operating the seal activation handle.



	General Operating Precautions
DANGER	Ensure that the power is switched off at both the AC mains supply outlet and at the back of the unit before inserting or removing the mains power cord.
	The heater plate can reach temperatures of 200°C and will remain hot for a considerable time after being turned off. Extreme care must be taken not to touch the heater plate as it will cause a serve burn injury.
DANGER	The unit is intended for use with plates containing biological samples only. Never use the unit to seal any explosive, volatile or highly reactive substances or chemicals.
CAUTION	There is a possible finger crush hazard due to the moving parts of the handle and plate carrier. Care should be taken when operating the handle.



6 Unit Installation

Before installing the **xxsealer** unit, please check that the delivery is complete and that the unit and any accessory parts are intact and free from any signs of transportation damage. Also ensure that all external and internal packaging has been removed from the unit before installation.



Please retain all packaging for future transportation and storage of the unit and its accessories.

The **xxsealer** unit should be installed in a location which meets the following requirements:

- Safe and suitable operating environment (see Section 5)
- Solid, stable, level working surface
- At least 10cm clearance around the unit to adjacent objects and walls
- Earthed AC mains power connection (see Section 4)



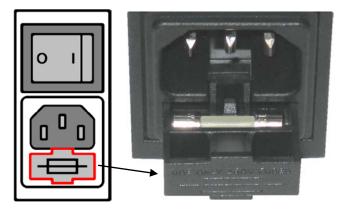
Please also observe and abide by the **Unit Installation and Operating Environment** safety precautions and preconditions listed in Section 5.

It is important the check that the Mains Voltage Selector switch on the rear of the unit has been set to the correct position for the desired operating voltage, and the correct value of fuse has been fitted (see Table 5).

Table 5: Mains Voltage Selection		
Operating Voltage	110 to 120 VAC	220 to 230 VAC
Voltage Selection	115	230
See Section 3 for switch location () on unit rear panel.		230
Fuse Rating	3.15AH	1.6AH



Ensure that the correct fuse type has been fitted in the mains inlet fuse holder for the desired voltage selector switch value. See Table 5 for details.



- 1. Remove the AC plug from the power inlet module
- 2. Use a small flat bladed screwdriver to carefully pull out the fuse holder
- 3. Fit the correct fuse in the far position only
- 4. Push the holder back into the inlet mode

Install and test the **xxsealer** unit using the following procedure:

- 1) Place the unit on the suitably selected working surface (as specified above), ensuring that the ventilation holes on the rear of the unit are not obstructed.
- 2) Connect the unit to the AC mains power outlet using the mains power cord supplied or as specified in Section 4.
- Switch the mains power on at supply outlet first, and then switch the unit on using the power switch located at the rear of the unit.
- 4) Check that the unit is stable and safe by performing a trial sealing operation, as described in Section 7.2.



If the unit has been stored in a cool environment, it must be left to stand <u>unplugged</u> until it has acclimatised to the new room temperature before being powered.

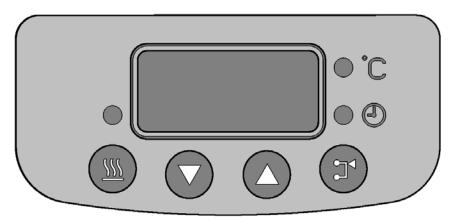
7 Unit Operation



Please ensure that you have read and fully understood all of the **Safety Precautions and Limitations of Use** listed in Section 5 before attempting to operate the **xxsealer** unit.

7.1 User Display and Controls

The unit's user interface consists of a large 3-digit LED display, four control buttons and three status indicator LEDs.



The LED display shows the current temperature or sealing time set-point (depending on the mode). The button and LED functions are listed in Table 6.

Table 6: User Buttons and Status LEDs			
	Heater Status LED HEATER On/Off Button		Off – Heater Turned Off
			Flashing – Warming Up
		\bigcirc	On – Unit Ready For Use
	DOWN Button		
	UP Button		
T	MODE Select Button		
0°C	Temperature Mode LED		
	Timer Mode LED		

7.2 Operating the Controls of the xxsealer

When the unit is switched on, it recalls the last sealing operation settings and the displays the sealing temperature or time (depending on the display mode), and automatically restores the heater on/off state.

Pressing the **MODE** button toggles the LED display between the plate heater **Temperature** set-point in degrees centigrade and the seal **Timer** setting in seconds.

The sealing temperature is set by pressing the **MODE** button to illuminate the **Temperature** LED (O) then using the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons to set the temperature in the range 125 to 200 °C in 1°C steps.

Likewise, the sealing time is set by pressing the **MODE** button to illuminate the **Timer** LED (\bigcirc \bigcirc) then using the **UP** and **DOWN** buttons to set the time in the range 1 to 9 seconds in 0.5 second steps.

Pressing the **HEATER** button toggles the plate heater between on and off. When the **Heater** LED is flashing, the heater is on and the plate is warming up, which will normally take about 10 minutes.

Once the **Heater** is on the LED display shows the current temperature or sealing time set-point (depending on the mode).

When the heater plate is up to temperature (within 2°C of the set-point) the **Heater** LED will remain constantly on, and the **xxsealer** is ready to begin sealing.

The operator may set a precise temperature and seal time for the sealing operation. Sealing is initiated by pulling the handle down, which raises the sample plate into contact with the heater plate. The unit detects when the sample plate is correctly positioned and starts a countdown timer. When the display reads zero, the operator moves the handle back to its upmost position, which moves the sample plate away from the heater plate. The sample plate is then manually removed for storage or further processing.

7.3 Performing an xxplate Sealing Operation

A typical operating sequence to seal an **xxplate** is:

- Switch the unit on and set the sealing time to 1.5 seconds and the heater plate set-point temperature to 170°C (using the method described above). These are the recommended setting for the xxplate film.
- 2) If necessary, press the **HEATER** button to turn the heater on.
- 3) Allow sufficient time for the unit to reach temperature (the **Heater** LED will stop flashing and remain constantly on).
- 4) Fit the BJS xxplate Adapter Block into the PCR 96 Well Skirted Plate Adapter Block (both provided with the xxsealer) and locate in the Adapter Block Carrier



 Load the xxplate onto the xxplate Adapter Block locating it onto the sprung pins. It should sit flat on the adapter block. And add the sealing film on top, the <u>correct way up</u>.



Care should be taken not to touch the surface of the heater plate whilst loading the sample plate.

- 6) Grasp the handle with one or two hands, as appropriate, and pull the handle forward and down to raise the plate carrier until the sample plate contacts the heater plate.
- 7) When correct sealing pressure is achieved, an audible alert will sound (if enabled – see Section 7.4) and the timer will start counting down from the set value. When zero seconds is reach, the display will flash and the audible alert sound.



Do not to apply more force to the handle than is necessary to operate the start switch.

 Immediately return the handle to its upmost position to retract the sealed sample plate from the heater plate.

> Failure to release the handle when sealing is complete could degrade the sample plate and seal quality.

9) Remove the sealed plate from the unit and review the seal integrity.



CAUTION

The sample plate and film/foil may remain hot for several seconds after being removed from the unit.







For optimum performance, the sealing temperature and/or time may need to be adjusted to best suit the sample plate and film/foil types being sealed. Various types of plastic sample plate may be loaded onto a plate carrier and thermal sealed using a suitable foil or clear film. See Section 3 for details.

7.4 Switching Off the Audible Alert

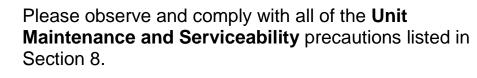
The unit is fitted with an audible alert which sounds at the beginning and end of each sealing operation.

If desired, this alert can be turned off (or back on again) using the following procedure:

- 1) If necessary, press the **MODE** button to select the **Temperature** LED setting mode.
- 2) Next, <u>simultaneously</u> press both the **HEATER** and **MODE** buttons together.
- 3) The display should show "01" or "00". If it does not, repeat this procedure from step 1 above.
- 4) Now press the **DOWN** button to turn the alert off (display shows "00") or the **UP** button to turn the alert back on (display shows "01").
- 5) Finally, press the **MODE** button to store the new setting.

8 Maintenance and Servicing

Although the **xxsealer** unit does not require any scheduled maintenance or servicing, the operator should regularly clean and inspect the unit for any detects, as described in Section 8.3 below.



Never removed the unit casework. There are no user or operator serviceable parts inside the unit.

Always switch off and unplug the unit before performing any cleaning or disinfecting tasks.

For technical and service related enquiries, please contact your distributor or BJS Bio at the address given on Page 2 of this manual.

8.1 Replacing the Unit Fuse

The unit fuse should only be replaced by a suitably qualified technician.



DANGER

WARNING

The unit fuse will only blow as a result of an internal unit fault or if the voltage selector switch has been incorrectly set (see Section 5). This fuse should only be changed after the unit has been thoroughly inspected, and must be replaced with the exact type specified in Section 4.

Thoroughly inspect the unit for any signs of damage, loose components or liquid spillage or ingress. If in doubt, please contact BJS Bio on the number given on Page 2 of this manual.



The fuse holder is removed by disconnecting the mains cord and then using a small flat bladed screwdriver to carefully pull open the fuse holder (see Section 5) and remove the old fuse.

DANGER

After replacing the fuse with the corrected rated one for the operating voltage being used (see Table 5), push the fuse holder firmly back into the inlet module.

The unit must be electrically safety tested for excess leakage current before being repowered from the mains supply.

8.2 Over Temperature Safety Cut-out

The unit is fitted with a non-resettable thermal fuse which blows if the heater plate temperature exceeds 235 °C.

In the unlikely event of a fault condition, this fuse will permanently disable the heater to protect the user and unit from injury and damage. If this occurs, the heater plate will remain cold and the **xxsealer** will need to be returned for repair.

8.3 Routine Cleaning and Inspection

The unit casework should be cleaned and inspected at regulator internals, and whenever contamination or spillage occurs, as follows:

- 1. Switch off the unit and disconnect the power before performing any inspection checks or cleaning.
- 2. Before cleaning, always inspect the unit casework, heater plate and moving parts for any signs of wear, damage, cracks or other defects.
- 3. Clean the casework using a damp cloth soaked with a disinfectant solution (such as Virkon), whilst wearing suitable PPE.
- 4. Carefully clean the heater plate surface to remove any debris or sealing material.
- 5. Remove any debris or fluff from around or between the moving parts of the handle mechanism and sliding plate carrier.
- 6. Clean the display and buttons, taking care to avoid over wetting.
- 7. Check that the ventilation holes on the rear of the unit are clear of dust and fluff build-up.
- 8. Check and clean the adaptor blocks.



After cleaning, ensure that the unit is thoroughly dry, especially around the mains power inlet, before reconnecting the power cord and switching the unit on.

8.4 Decontamination Procedure

The unit and accessories should be decontaminated using the following procedure before being stored or transported.

Decontamination Procedure

Thoroughly clean all outside surfaces of the product (including any accessories, power cords, manuals, packaging, etc) with a damp cloth soaked with suitable disinfectant solution (such as Virkon).

8.5 Transportation and Storage

The **xxsealer** unit and its accessories should be thoroughly decontaminated using the procedure detailed in Section 8.4 before being placed in its original packaging for transportation or storage.



Refer to Section 4 for the acceptable range of Storage and Transportation environmental conditions.

Always ensure that the unit and accessories are completely dry and free of any condensation before being packed.

Certificate of Decontamination

We respect the health and safety of our clients and employees, and request that any products or accessories being returned are decontaminated in accordance with the procedure below.

1. Decontamination Procedure

Thoroughly clean all outside surfaces of the product (including any accessories, power cords, manuals, packaging, etc) with a damp cloth soaked with suitable disinfectant solution (such as Virkon).

Allow to dry fully before packing.

2. Decontamination Declaration

Company Name:			
Address:			
Product Code:	xxsealer - 953-A VTS		
Serial Number	:		
Reason For Re	eturn:		
Where Product	t Used:		
 Please tick the appropriate option(s) below: I certify that I have decontaminated the product as per the above procedure. Decontaminant Used: 			
I certify that the product has <u>not</u> been exposed to any chemical or biological materials.			
Title:	Name:		
Signature:	Date:		
Telephone:	Email:		

9 Warranty and Returns

BJS Biotechnologies Ltd. warrants the **xxsealer** product, when purchased new and installed and operated in accordance with the instructions of this manual, to be free from defects in materials and workmanship, and will repair or replace, at their discretion, any unit or accessory which exhibits such defects.

In no event will BJS Biotechnologies be liable for any indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect or warranty claim.



Unspecified use or unauthorised modification of any part of the **xxsealer** unit or its accessories or the use or attachment of any adaptor or peripheral not supplied, specified or sanctioned by BJS Biotechnologies will invalidate this warranty.

This warranty is provided to the original purchaser of the product for one year from the date of purchase.

Under the terms of this warranty, the product must be returned in its original packaging, transportation prepaid by the sender, with a copy of the Proof of Purchase and a detailed description of the problem.



The product must be decontaminated using the procedure detailed in Section 8.4 and a Certificate of Decontamination supplied with any return. If the product is considered too hazardous to be shipped, please contact BJS Biotechnologies on the number given on Page 2 of this manual for further instructions.

Please contact your distributor (or BJS Biotechnologies on the number given on Page 2 of this manual) to assess the defect and arrange the return the product if necessary.

10 Product Disposal

At end-of-life, this product must be disposed of in accordance with your local authority regulations for the disposal of potentially hazardous waste and electronic equipment.

The unit and its accessories should be decontaminated using the procedure detailed in Section 8.4 before disposal or shipping.



Do not dispose of this product into unsorted municipal waste or public landfill.

Please contact your distributor (or BJS Biotechnologies at the address on Page 2 of this manual) for details of how to correctly dispose of this product.