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# DiscMaster 5 Dispenser

**REF MDD65**

**A robust and reliable antimicrobial susceptibility cartridge disc dispenser**

**Distributeur de disques antibiotiques robuste et fiable**

**Ein robuster Antibiotikablättchen-Dispenser für die mikrobielle Resistenztestung**

**Un robusto ed affidabile dispensatore di dischi, in cartucce,  
per il test di sensibilità antimicrobica**

**Um dispensador de discos em cartucho para antibiograma, robusto e fiável**

**Un cartucho dispensador de discos para susceptibilidad antimicrobiana robusto  
y fiable.**

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## Introduction

The DiscMaster is a reliable and robust hand operated device for placing antimicrobial susceptibility discs onto the surface of an agar plate. Precision engineered to incorporate all the advantages offered by disc diffusion methodology, the DiscMaster is designed for use with **MASTDISCS®** Antimicrobial Susceptibility Test Cartridges.

The DiscMaster has been developed with the needs of the end user in mind, incorporating a 'cartridge empty lock-off' system and a semi transparent height adjustable base ring, which is marked with a height scale to ensure positive placement of discs onto the agar surface. Housed in an ergonomically designed canister with desiccant, the dispenser is supplied with wipe-clean labels for the side and top of the storage canister and the dispenser.

## Operating Instructions

### 1. Calculating base ring height setting

Please note that the numerical scale on the base ring approximates to the height in mm that the base-plate of the dispenser will be above a bench surface. In order to adjust the dispenser to the correct height for dispensing, measure the overall height of agar including the base of the dish in mm and adjust the base ring to this setting.

### 2. Adjusting dispenser height

To adjust the height of the dispenser the base ring is rotated. As this action is carried out an audible 'click' will be heard every 20th of a turn. This is perfectly normal and results from a built in lock which ensures that the selected height setting remains unchanged during normal use. Should the ring be inadvertently turned too far and it separates from the base of the dispenser, gently insert the two locating lugs into the opposing grooves and twist gently into place. N.B. no force is required for this operation.

### 3. Inserting cartridges

Hold the first **MASTDISCS®** cartridge to be loaded at the label end and line up the lug with the slot in the tube holder of the dispenser. Firmly but gently press the cartridge down until an audible 'click' is heard. This ensures that the cartridge is locked into position. Repeat with the remaining **MASTDISCS®** cartridges.

### 4. Dispensing discs

Place the dispenser over the Petri dish. Confirm placement is correct and then fully depress the handle of the dispenser in a smooth, continuous, downward movement and release. Do not exert undue pressure on the handle.

**N.B. Under no circumstances should a locked dispenser be exposed to excessive force as this will damage the mechanism.**

If the dispenser fails to operate for any reason please consult the troubleshooting guide overleaf.

## After Use

Check the dispenser for foreign material and if required clean and decontaminate as described below. Return the dispenser to its storage container and store as directed below.

## Cleaning

Before cleaning ensure all cartridges are removed from the dispenser.

For cleaning of minor material contamination (e.g. agar, dirt or dust) the use of 70% isopropanol solution using a cotton swab, or commercially available 70% IPA wipes, is recommended. Then allow to air dry.

For more stubborn dirt, use a diluted (1%) sodium hypochlorite solution or a diluted (2%) non-toxic quaternary ammonium salt disinfectant. Ensure that these solutions are removed with water after cleaning and finish off with 70% IPA as above. Allow to air dry.

The use of a swab may facilitate cleaning of disc ejector holes and general base of the dispenser.

**N.B** Never use phenolic compounds, strong hypochlorite or strong detergent solutions which may cause damage to the surface of the unit. Use of acetone may cause discoloration and damage the dispenser body.

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## Decontamination

In normal operation the dispenser should not become contaminated. However, if this does occur proceed as follows:

1. Remove all cartridges then remove the blue base ring which should be decontaminated separately.
2. Decontaminate by immersing the dispenser to a depth of about 5 mm in a diluted (2%) non-toxic quaternary ammonium salt disinfectant, until the inner body of the dispenser just touches the disinfectant solution. Leave for 15 minutes.
3. Rinse first with distilled water and then with 70% IPA.
4. Leave, placed at an angle, to air dry at room temperature.

**N.B. Should the dispenser have to be returned, a decontamination certificate must be included. Decontamination forms are available from MAST® Group Customer Services Team or from the MAST® website ([www.mastgrp.com](http://www.mastgrp.com))**

## Storage

The dispenser is presented in an airtight storage container which incorporates silica gel desiccant capsules. Always allow the dispenser and container to equilibrate to room temperature before opening. When not in use store the dispenser in its container at 2 to 8°C.

Ensure the desiccant remains yellow in colour at all times. If the desiccant appears green in colour, regenerate by drying > 24 hours at 60 to 65°C. If the desiccant fails to achieve the yellow colouration, discard and replace with fresh silica gel. For optimum performance, ensure the canister seal remains clean and unobstructed. Do not apply grease to the seal.

## Warning

If the dispenser jams, or fails to dispense, do not remove the screws at the base of the dispenser. Dismantling the dispenser will invalidate your warranty and may result in injury due to the sudden release of the compressed internal spring.

## Troubleshooting

See troubleshooting flowchart on the following page.

## Warranty

MAST Group Limited (MAST) extends a limited warranty on this product against defects in materials and workmanship. For further details, mainland UK customers should contact Mast Customer Services whilst non-mainland UK customers should contact their local distributor.

## Patent and Design Registration

Dispenser:

UK patent GB2411894.  
International patent is pending.

European Design Registration number 000689591-0001;  
International Design Registration application number 200730008776.9

Canister:

European Design Registration number 000689633-0001;  
International Design Registration application number 200730008777.3

## Troubleshooting Guide

