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C-FREE™ Pluto MT Workstation
User Manual

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Adherence to all instructions in this User Manual is crucial. Using the instrument in ways not specified by the manufacturer in this manual may damage the protection provided by the system. Non-compliance may lead to the invalidation of your service contract.

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Table of Contents

Customer Service and Technical Support 5
Chapter 1. General Information 6
1.1 Introduction to the Pluto MT Workstation 6
Distinctive Features of the Pluto MT Workstation 6
1.2 General Information 6
1.3 Technical Specifications 8
1.4 Chemical Compatibility 12
1.5 Safety 13
User Attention Notifications 13
Instrument Safety Labels 15
Important Safety Instructions 16
Safety Precautions 17
General Precautions 17
1.6 Prior to System Operation 17
1.7 CE Mark 18
1.8 Instrument Storage and Shipping 19
Chapter 2. Functional Description 20
2.1 Main Components 20
2.2 Integrated modules 24
Pipette modules 24
Gripper Module 25
On-deck Heater/Cooler 26
On-deck Heater/Cooler Adapters and Carriers 27
Tilter Accessory 27
HEPA Module 28
Chapter 3. Installation 29
3.1 Product Label 29
3.2 Instrument and accessories check 29
Packing list 29
3.3 Getting Started 30
3.4 Placing the Instrument 30
Space Requirement 30
Working Environment 31
3.5 Installation 31
3.6 Software Update 31
Chapter 4. Operation 32
4.1 Preparation for Operation 32
Power On the Instrument 32
Module Function Check and Verification 32
4.2 GUI Introduction 33
Manual Settings 33
Worktable Viewer 33
Run Protocol Step by Step 33
Settings 35
21 CFR Part 11 35
Position Calibration 35

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About....36
Log Out....36
4.3 Operation....36
User Login....36
Instrument Initialization....38
Prepare the deck....38
Run the Protocol....41
Visual Alert....43
Chapter 5. Maintenance and Troubleshooting....46
5.1 Device Maintenance....46
Clean After Experiment Run....46
HEPA Maintenance....47
Other Conditions....47
5.2 Troubleshooting....48
An Error Occurs During Initialization....48
The Equipment Does Not Power On....48
Unusual Noise Occurs During Tip Loading....48
Liquid Leaks After the Aspiration Operation....48
Labware Is Not Secured Properly....48
An Error Occurs In HEATER/COOLER....48
An Error Occurs During Protocol Operation....48
Appendix A. Acknowledgment of Decontamination....49
Acknowledgment of Decontamination Form....49
Appendix B. Purchase Information and Feedback....50
Purchase Information and Feedback Form....50
Appendix C. Pluto MT Packing List....51
Revision History....57

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Customer Service and Technical Support

If you have any questions or feedback about the workflow wizard, please contact your sales representative or reach out to us using one of the methods below.

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Chapter 1. General Information

1.1 Introduction to the Pluto MT Workstation

Welcome to C-FREE™ Pluto MT Workstation (Pluto workstation, or Pluto MT workstation), a state-of-the-art automated liquid handling platform designed to revolutionize sample preparation in flow cytometry and cell analysis workflows. Developed with a focus on enhancing laboratory efficiency and biosafety, the Pluto MT workstation significantly reduces hands-on time and inter-operator variability. This introduction will guide you through the system's capabilities, design, and how it can streamline your laboratory processes, ensuring high-quality results with less manual intervention.

Distinctive Features of the Pluto MT Workstation

The Pluto MT Workstation is distinguished by several key features that set it apart in the field of automated sample preparation:

C-FREE™ Wash Technology: Integrating the latest advancements in cell washing, the Pluto MT Workstation employs C-FREE™ Wash technology, which provides gentler handling of cells compared to traditional methods. This technology ensures higher stain indexes for cleaner resolution of cell populations, crucial for precise analytical outcomes.

Compact Footprint: Designed to be accommodated in almost any lab environment, the Pluto MT Workstation boasts a compact footprint. This design consideration allows for optimal use of laboratory space without sacrificing functionality.

Standard 96-Well Plate Format: The system utilizes a standard-format 96-well plate, facilitating integration into existing workflows with minimal adaptation required. This feature ensures compatibility and ease of use, particularly for labs already using this format.

End-to-End Automation: From liquid handling to cell washing, the Pluto MT Workstation provides complete automation of the sample preparation process. This end-to-end automation minimizes the potential for human error and increases throughput, making it ideal for high-demand environments.

Enhanced Reporting and Audit Trail: Tailored to meet the needs of both clinical and research markets, the Pluto MT Workstation features advanced reporting capabilities and a robust audit trail. These features ensure compliance with regulatory standards and provide comprehensive documentation for review and analysis.

The Pluto MT Workstation is your partner in delivering efficient, reliable, and reproducible results, making it an indispensable tool for modern laboratories focused on cell analysis.

1.2 General Information

This user manual provides technical guidance, installation instructions, operational procedures, and troubleshooting information for operators of the C-FREE™ Pluto MT Workstation. It covers the following areas:

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- Setup and operation
- Operating principles and functional modes
- Safety features and operational precautions
- Troubleshooting and maintenance procedures

Acronym	Full Name	Description
AIW	Assay Input Worksheet	Worksheet that allows users to adapt their protocol
HEATER/COOLER	On-deck HEATER/COOLER	Device that heats or cools the antibodies and samples to a desired incubation temperature
DWP	96-well Deep Well Plate	Curiox-validated plate, holding up to 1.8 mL per well
FAS	Field Application Scientist	A user's local Curiox representative
MPT	96-well Microtiter Plate	Curiox-validated plate, holding up to 250 µL per well
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure	Documents released by Curiox that describe the procedure for specific assays
WW	Workflow Wizard	Software application that converts the AIW into a script for Pluto workstations

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1.3 Technical Specifications

Description	Specification	
Physical (Common items)		
Dimensions (D x W x H)	740 mm x 790 mm x 895 mm; 29.1 in. x 31.1 in. x 35.2 in.	
Weight	140 kg / 309 lbs.	
Electrical		
Power Requirements	100-240VAC, 50/60Hz, 10A	
Fuse	250VAC, 10A (AC250V, T10AL, 5x20mm)	
Environmental		
Place of use	Indoor use	
Operating Temperature Range	19°C - 25 °C	
Operating Humidity	20% ~ 80%, without condensation	
Altitude	2000 m below	
Transportation and storage conditions	Temperature: -20°C - 50 °C Humidity: 20% ~ 80% without condensation	
Mains supply voltage fluctuations	(100-240) VAC ± 10%	
Device Type	Fixed benchtop device	
Pollution Degree	Degree 2	
Operation		
Plate Type	Curiox 300 µL 96 well U-bottom plate Curiox 2.2 mL 96 well U-bottom deep well plate Curiox Liquid reservoir	
Deck Capacity	15 SBS plate position	
24-Channel Pipette (9 mm fixed-pitch)		
Pipetting Principle	Air displacement	
Range of Pipetting	1~1000 µL	
Liquid Level Detection	Pressure sensing	
Pipetting Accuracy	5 µL	≤8%
	50 µL	≤2.5%
	250 µL	≤1.4%
	500 µL	≤1.5%
	1,000 µL	≤1%

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Positional Accuracy	±0.1 mm X, Y, Z axes	
Single-Channel Pipette		
Pipetting Principle	Air displacement	
Range of Pipetting	1~1,000 µL	
Liquid Level Detection	Pressure sensing	
Pipetting Accuracy	5 µL	≤8%
	50 µL	≤2.5%
	250 µL	≤1.4%
	500 µL	≤1.5%
	1,000 µL	≤1%
Positional Accuracy	±0.1 mm X, Y, Z axes	
Gripper		
Force Control	1~16N	
Maximum Travel Length	92 mm	
Minimum Travel Length	74 mm	
Z-axis Travel Distance	150 mm	
Maximum Loaded Weight	≤1,000 g ≤ 2.2 lbs.	
On-Deck HEATER/COOLER		
Dimension (W × D × H)	140 mm × 98 mm × 81 mm; 5.5 in. x 3.85 in. x 3.19 in.	
Shell Material	HIPS	
Input Voltage	24V DC	
Wattage	120W	
Temperature Control Range	0°C ~120°C	
Heating Rate	4°C →21°C, 20K/min. / 21°C →95°C 8K/min.	

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Cooling Rate	95°C →21°C , 11K/min. / 21°C →4°C 6K/min.
Temperature Accuracy	±0.2℃
Temperature Uniformity	≤±1°C @4°C, ≤±0.5°C @15°C &40°C, ≤±2°C @90°C
Communication Interface	RS422, RS485
Tilter	
Dimension (W×D×H)	140 mm × 98 mm × 70 mm; 5.5 in. x 3.85 in. x 2.76 in.
Weight	1.3 kg / 2.86 lbs.
Input Voltage	24VDC
Wattage	60W
Angle Control Range	0~60 degrees
Load mass	Less than 350 grams
Communication Interface	CAN
User Interface	
Display	12-inch touchscreen
Input control	Touchscreen interface
External Interface (Administrator-only port)	
RJ45 port	Used for communication with third-party device
USB port	Top: DC 5V, USB flash disk port, used for file transfer Bottom: OTG port, only used for internal debug
Labware	
Pipette tips	50 μL non-filter, non-sterilized 50 μL non-filter, sterilized 250 μL non-filter, non-sterilized 250 μL non-filter, sterilized 1000 μL non-filter, sterilized

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	1000 µL non-filter, non-sterilized
Plates	96 well, U-bottom, standard microplate, SBS format
	96 well, U-bottom, deep well, SBS format
	Buffer Reservoir, 70ml, 4-slot,
Tubes	5mL round bottom polystyrene tube
	3mL blood collection tube
	Tube rack

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1.4 Chemical Compatibility

The components of the Pluto MT Workstation that come into possible contact with fluids and reagents are made from materials chosen for their resistance to common chemicals. However, certain disinfectants should not be used for decontamination. The table below details the material composition of these components and identifies compatible reagents. Note that some reagents are incompatible with these materials and their prolonged contact should be avoided to prevent corrosion and damage.

Table: Chemical compatibility between the component materials and accessories in the Pluto system, including common reagents and disinfectants. (Adapted from: CP LabSafety www.calpaclab.com, US Plastic www.usplastic.com/catalog/files/charts/Tygon%20CC.pdf accessed Jan 2023.)

Component	Material	Approved Chemicals	Incompatible Chemicals
Deck Plate / Liquid suction tube / Waste liquid tank conduit /Tip Waste Chute	Stainless Steel (304)	Ethanol, Benzene, Chloroform, Acetaldehyde, Propylene Glycol, Isopropanol, Formaldehyde, Phenol, Grease, Potassium Permanganate, Hydrogen Peroxide	Hypochlorite bleach, sulfuric acid
Waste liquid tank	Polyethylene (PE)	PBS, DPBS, Water (DI/distilled), Cell culture media (DMEM, RPMI), Saline, Tris buffer, HEPES buffer, EDTA solution, Ethanol (≤70%), Isopropanol (≤70%), Methanol (≤50%), Formaldehyde (≤10%), Hydrogen Peroxide (≤30%), Sodium Azide solution, BSA solution, FBS, Glycerol, DMSO (≤10%)	Chloroform, Toluene, Xylene, Acetone (concentrated), Concentrated H_2SO_4, Concentrated HNO_3, Acetonitrile (concentrated), High-concentration DMSO (>50%), Phenol-Chloroform mixture
Sealing ring / Drive Pipe Waste Tube	Silicon	Ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, detergents, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, formaldehyde, formamide, sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid (<3M), ozone	Chloroform
On-deck Heater/Cooler housing	HIPS	Ethanol, Dilute acids (e.g., acetic acid), Dilute alkalis (e.g., sodium hydroxide solution), Some detergents	Strong acids (e.g., sulfuric acid), strong alkalis (e.g., concentrated sodium hydroxide), organic solvents

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			(e.g., toluene, xylene), acetone
Liquid suction tube connector	PEEK	Ethanol, Isopropanol, Acetone, Benzene, Acetic acid, Hydrogen peroxide	Concentrated sulfuric acid, concentrated nitric acid, Halogenated solvents (e.g., chloroform, methylene chloride)
Tip Waste Box / Waste liquid storage box	ABS	Ethanol, Dilute acids (e.g., acetic acid), Dilute alkalis (e.g., sodium hydroxide solution), Some detergents	Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, Methylene chloride, Strong acids (e.g., sulfuric acid), Strong alkalis (e.g., concentrated sodium hydroxide)
Pipette tip ejector	PC+ABS	Ethanol, Isopropanol, Dilute acids, Dilute alkalis, Some detergents	Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, Chlorinated solvents, Strong acids, Strong alkalis
Carriers	6061-T6 Aluminum / Anodizing	Ethanol, Benzene, Propylene Glycol, Isopropanol, Formaldehyde, Ozone, Grease, Phenol, Hydrogen Peroxide	Hypochlorite bleach, soap solutions, sulfuric acid, potassium permanganate, phosphoric acid
Sample Pipe support	PMMA(Acrylic)	Ethanol, Isopropanol, Dilute acids, Dilute alkalis	Acetone, Benzene, Toluene, Chloroform, Methylene chloride

1.5 Safety

User Attention Notifications

This manual uses several user attention phrases, each designed to draw a specific level of attention:

NOTE	Provides useful information.

IMPORTANT:	Highlights information essential for proper operation of the instrument.

CAUTION!	Alerts users to potential hazards that could cause injury or damage to the instrument if ignored.

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WARNING!	Indicates a serious risk of physical injury if precautions are not followed.

Chemical Hazards

WARNING!	CHEMICAL HAZARD: Handle with care. Exposure to chemicals used in this process can cause serious injury or illness.

Understand Safety Data: Before storing, handling, or using chemicals, thoroughly read and understand the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) provided by the chemical manufacturer.

Minimize Exposure: Avoid direct contact and inhalation of chemicals. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, and protective clothing. Refer to the MSDS for more safety guidelines.

Seal Containers: Ensure all chemical containers remain tightly closed when not in use.

Monitor for Leaks: Regularly check for chemical leaks or spills and promptly follow the manufacturer's recommended cleanup procedures listed on the MSDS if an incident occurs.

Follow Legal Requirements: Adhere to all applicable local, state, provincial, or national regulations concerning the storage, handling, and disposal of chemicals.

Chemical Waste Hazards

Review Safety Data: Ensure you read and comprehend the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from the chemical manufacturers before storing, handling, or disposing of chemical waste.

Protective Measures: Minimize contact with chemical waste. Always wear suitable personal protective equipment, such as safety glasses, gloves, and protective clothing, when handling chemicals.

Cautious Handling: Exercise caution when emptying waste bottles.

Proper Disposal: Dispose of the contents of waste bottles following good laboratory practices and in compliance with local, state/provincial, or national environmental and health regulations.

Material Safety Data Sheets

Chemicals used with the Pluto MT Workstation may be hazardous. Warning labels are affixed to all chemical containers to identify potential risks.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) offer essential safety information for the storage, handling, transportation, and disposal of chemicals. It is advisable to periodically update your laboratory's MSDS records.

For Material Safety Data Sheets for Curiox reagents, please contact us at 650-226-8420 (US) or +65 6908 4201 (international). Alternatively, you can contact the chemical manufacturer directly or visit their website for more information.

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Instrument Safety Labels

A safety label with a safety alert symbol is affixed to the Pluto MT Workstation to warn users of potential safety hazards. This symbol is universally recognized and prompts users to exercise caution when operating the equipment.

Symbol	Description
	Warning. Risk of personal injury to the operator or a safety hazard to the instrument or surrounding area.
	Warning. Hot surface. Burn hazard.
	Warning. Pinch point hazard.
	Danger. Hazardous voltage. Risk of electrical shock.
	Biohazard. Biological risk present; use appropriate PPE and handle waste safely.

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Important Safety Instructions

Modification Warning

Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Radio Interference

This equipment has been designed and tested to CISPR 11 Class A. It may cause radio interference, in which case you may need to take measures to mitigate the interference. Do not use this device in proximity to sources of strong electromagnetic radiation (e.g., unshielded intentional RF sources), as these may interfere with proper operation.

Intended Use

Do not use this instrument for anything other than its designed purpose as an automated liquid handling system that facilitates antibody cocktailing, cell washing, and staining.

Power and Maintenance

Always disconnect the power to the instrument before cleaning or performing routine maintenance. Do not disassemble the unit.

Install Correct Labware on the Deck

Ensure On-deck Heater/Cooler(s) and tilter have been placed in their correct positions and orientation and are connected correctly according to the End User's deck layout/workflow requirement. Failure to do so may result in damage to the instrument. Use only Curiox-supplied modules and accessories.

Proper Use and Protection

If the equipment is used in a manner other than that specified by Curiox, the protection provided by the equipment may be impaired.

Operational Safety

Keep hands clear of the instrument platform as it moves in and out of the instrument. To avoid muscle strain or back injury, use lifting aids and proper lifting techniques when removing or replacing the instrument.

Chemical and Biohazard Safety



Equipment can be hazardous due to the use of chemical and biohazardous substances. This instrument can be used with potentially biohazardous materials. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, safety goggles, lab coat, etc.) for handling and disposing of biohazardous materials.

Instrument Door Operation

Avoid opening the door while the equipment is in operation. If the door is opened, the equipment will stop. Ensure the equipment has completely stopped before proceeding.

Disposal

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Follow End-User's institutional Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for decommissioning and disposal of laboratory instruments and accessories.

Follow End-User's institutional SOP(s) for safe disposal of used labware including pipette tips, plates, and tubes.

Safety Precautions

Always keep the area around the Power Supply dry to avoid any potential hazards. During operation, refrain from touching the instrument, except when interacting with the display panel. If an unexpected error occurs, reset the Pluto MT Workstation by switching the power off and then back on.

General Precautions

- Only use the specified 96-well standard or deep-well plates with the Pluto MT Workstation.
- Only use the power cord supplied with the unit for electrical supply.
- Avoid spilling liquids inside of the instrument.
- Conduct a cleaning cycle using the appropriate solution after each experiment.
- Retain the original packaging material for potential future shipping needs.
- Do not open or remove the instrument case or motor parts; this can void the warranty and calibration and may cause irreversible damage.
- For any service needs, contact your Field Support team via curiox.com/support.

1.6 Prior to System Operation

Ensure that all users of the Pluto MT Workstation have:

- Received training on general laboratory safety practices.
- Been instructed on specific safety protocols for operating this instrument.
- Been trained in handling biohazards if biohazardous materials are to be used with the system.
- Read and understood all relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

CAUTION! Avoid operating the Pluto MT Workstation in ways not specified by Curiox. Although the system is designed to protect users, this protection can be compromised if the instrument is used improperly.

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1.7 CE Mark

Based on the testing described below and information contained herein, this instrument bears the CE mark.

- Directive 2014/30/EU Electromagnetic Compatibility

This device has been type-tested by an independent, accredited testing laboratory and found to meet the requirements of EN 61326-1 for Emissions and Immunity.

Verification of compliance was conducted to the limits and methods of the following:

- EN 61326-1: 2021 Emissions
- Harmonics Current Emission (Class A)
- Voltage Fluctuation/ Flicker
- Conducted Emission (Group 1 Class A)
- Radiated Emission (Electric Field) (Group 1 Class A)
- EN 61326-1: 2013 Immunity
- Electrostatic Discharge Immunity
- RF Radiated Immunity
- Electrical Fast Transient/ Burst Immunity
- Voltage Surge Immunity
- Conducted Disturbance Immunity
- Voltage Dips & Interruptions Immunity

Directive 2014/35/EU Low-Voltage Device

> This device has been verified and found to meet the requirements of Directive 2014/35/EU “electrical electronic equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits”.

Directive 2015/836/EU Restriction on the Use of Hazardous Substances (ROHS 3)

> This device has been verified and found to meet the requirements of Directive 2015/836/EU “restriction on the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment”.

Directive 2012/19/EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

> Dispose of the device according to Directive 2012/19/EU, on “waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)” or local ordinances.

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1.8 Instrument Storage and Shipping

Before transportation, disinfect the equipment by wiping it with 70% isopropyl alcohol. For long-distance transportation, ensure that moving parts are secured and packed in shock-proof packaging. Retain the original packing material for future transportation needs.

For transportation and moving of equipment, please contact the Curiox technical support team. The instrument is quite heavy; it is recommended that at least four trained personnel carry it or use a forklift with a load capacity of at least 1000 kg.

The equipment must be transported in its packaged state, kept upright, and protected from tumbling and rain. Do not unpack the equipment without Curiox personnel present and handle it with care during transportation.

CAUTION! Do not touch moving parts while the device is energized or in operation.
Prevent serious personal injury: Do not put your hand into equipment gaps.
Do not move the device without the manufacturer's consent.

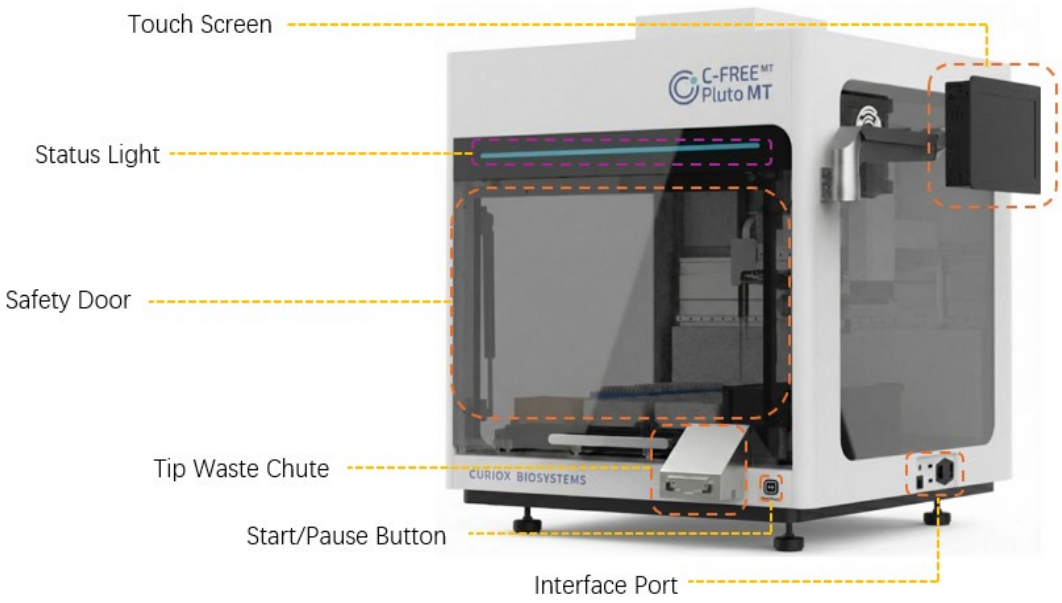
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Chapter 2. Functional Description

This chapter provides a detailed overview of the Pluto system components.

2.1 Main Components

The main components of the Pluto MT Workstation are shown below:



Safety Door

To ensure the safety of the operators, the Pluto MT Workstation can sense the status of the safety door. Once the door is opened during the run, the system will automatically pause until the door is closed again.

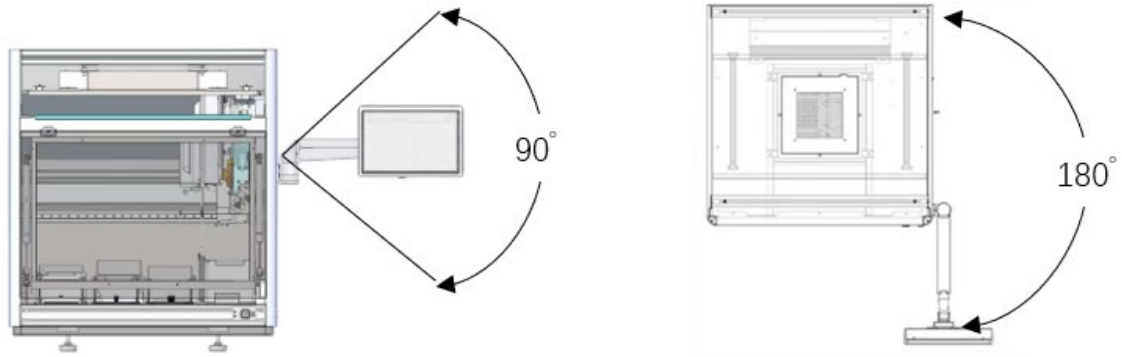
Status Light

The status light will be turned on and stay blue when powered on.

Touch Screen

The Pluto MT Workstation is equipped with a 12-inch LED touchscreen and adjustable arm support. The arm can rotate 180 degrees forward and backward, and 90 degrees up and down, as shown below.

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Tip Waste Bin and Liquid Waste Chute

The waste chute is used to collect solid waste generated during the experimental run.



Start/Pause Button

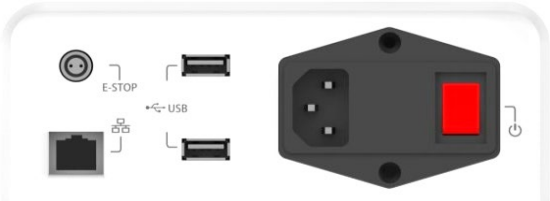
Automatic Switching

- Switches on when you start the runner application.
- Switches off when you close the application.

Status Indication

- Stays green when the application is in operation.
- Flashes when the application is on standby.

Hardware Interface



- E-STOP: E-Stop button connector [an administrator-only port]
- RJ45: used for communication with third-party device
- USB port (top): DC 5V, USB flash disk port, used for file transfer

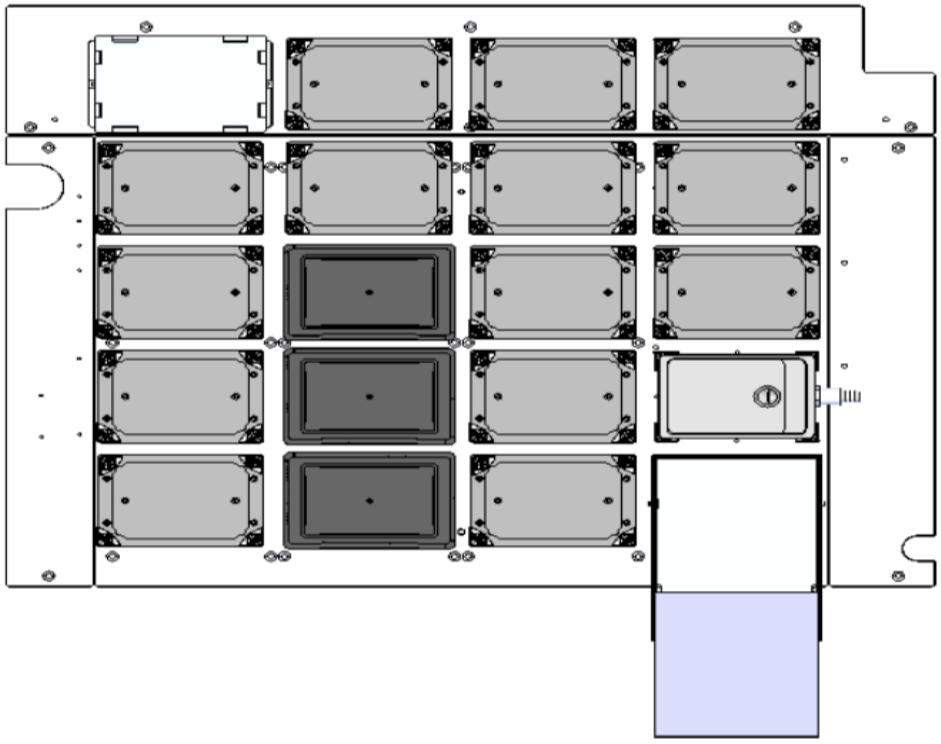
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- USB (bottom): OTG port, only used for internal debug
- Power connector: Connect to power cable, AC100-250V 10A
- Fuse connector: F10AL250V (Notice: if the fuses are damaged, only replace with ones specified by Curiox)
- Power Switch: turns power on or off.

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Worktable/Deck

The Pluto MT Workstation supports up to 15 SBS plate positions on the deck as shown below.



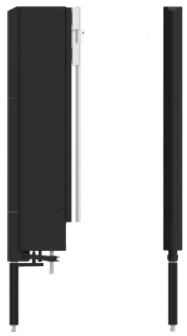
NOTE	The A4, B4 and C4 positions are only reachable by the Gripper accessory.

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2.2 Integrated modules

Module	Parts name	Type
Pipette Module	24-Channel	F8M
	Single-Channel	SPM
Gripper Module	Left/Right	RGM
MSCH Module	On-deck Heater/Cooler	MT-120
Other	HEPA Filter	Positive pressure
		Negative pressure

Pipette modules

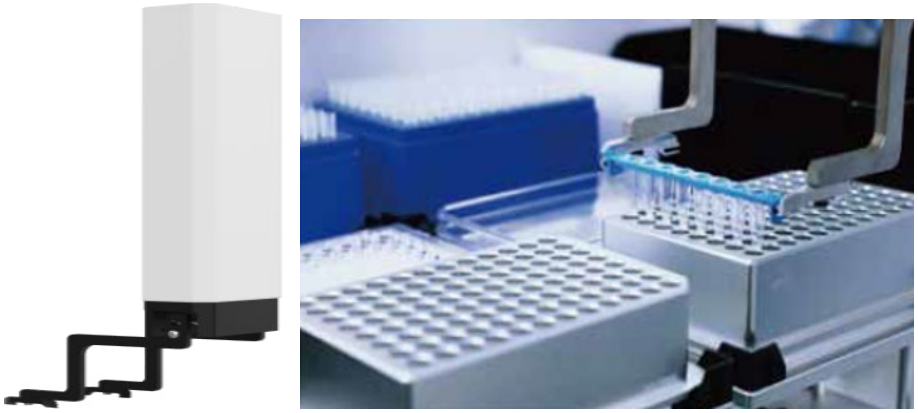
Specification	24-Channel Pipette	Single-Channel Pipette
		
Size/Dimension	9 mm fixed pitch	Individual Z-axis 18 mm distance flexible channel pipette module
Partial Loading Support	Yes	No
Rapid Replacement Support	Yes	
Consumables and Adapters	Compatible with all kinds of SBS/SLAS standard-pitch consumables, module adapters	
Pipetting Principle	Air displacement	
Range of Pipetting	1–1,000 µL	
Liquid Level Detection	Pressure sensing (pLLD)	
Pipetting Accuracy	≤8% @ 5 µL ≤2.5% @ 50 µL	

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	≤1.4% @ 250 µL ≤1.5% @ 500 µL ≤1% @ 1,000 µL
Positional Accuracy	± 0.1 mm X, Y, Z axes

Gripper Module

- Accurate force-controlled gripper: Gripper force ranging from 1 to 16N supports the transfer of various consumables.
- Configurable finger directions: Capable of accessing peripheral devices to enable a huge array of process automation possibilities.



Specification	Parameters
Force control	1-16 N
Maximum travel length Lmax	92 mm
Minimum travel length Lmin	74 mm
Z-axis travel distance	150 mm
Maximum loaded weight	≤1,000 g

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On-deck Heater/Cooler



The On-deck Heater/Cooler is capable of heating, cooling liquids in a plate, and providing different temperature conditions during experimental tests for reagents on deck. Different consumables can be matched by adapters.

Model	MT-120
Dimension (D × W × H)	98 mm x 140 mm x 81 mm 3.9 in. x 5.5 in. x 3.2 in.
Shell Material	HIPS
Input Voltage	24V DC
Wattage	120W
Temperature Control Range	0℃- 120℃
Heating Rate	$t_{4\rightarrow 21℃}$, 20K/min. $t_{21\rightarrow 95℃}$, 8K/min.
Cooling Rate	$t_{95\rightarrow 21℃}$, 11K/min. $t_{21\rightarrow 4℃}$, 6K/min.
Temperature Accuracy	±0.2℃
Temperature Uniformity	≤±1℃@4℃ ≤±0.5℃@15℃&40℃ ≤±2℃@90℃
Communication Interface	RS422/485
Adapter	For consumable fixing, see adapter list

CAUTION! Hot Surface. Avoid contacting the HEATER/COOLER after use to prevent burns.

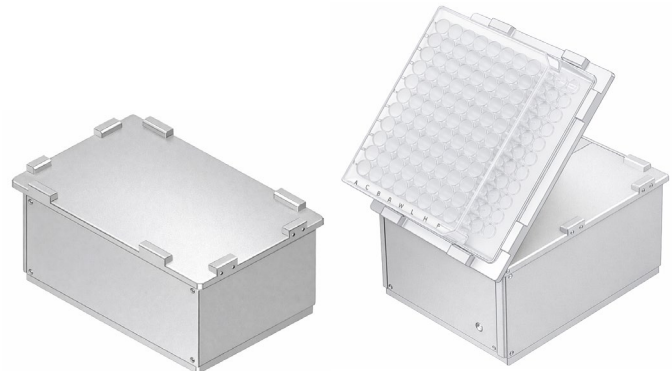
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On-deck Heater/Cooler Adapters and Carriers

Model	Image	Description
Deep Well Plate Adapter		96-well deep well U-bottom plate 2.0 mL Deep Well Plate
Micro Plate Adapter		96-well microplate with round and U-bottom
Carrier (57 mm /62 mm)		SBS/SLAS standard pitch consumables

Tilter Accessory

The tilter used with the Pluto MT Workstation is an optional component designed for accelerated sample settling.



Parameter	Specification
Dimension (W×D×H)	140 mm × 98 mm × 70 mm; 5.5 in. x 3.85 in. x 2.76 in.
Weight	1.3 kg / 2.86 lbs.
Input Voltage	24VDC
Wattage	60W

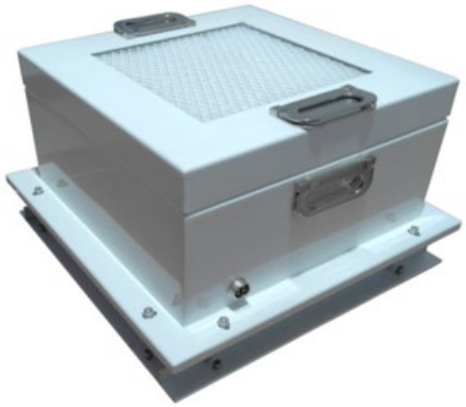
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Angle Control Range	0~60 degrees
Load mass	Less than 350 grams
Communication Interface	CAN

HEPA Module

Perform air filtration to ensure air cleanliness during operation.

Positive Pressure Model: MAC-150E / P+



Negative Pressure Model: MAC-150E / P-



Model	MAC-150E; P+ (Positive Pressure) / P- (Negative Pressure)
Dimensions	300 × 300 × 200 mm
HEPA Filter	H13, 99.95% efficiency / Filter size: 292 × 292 × 50 mm
Maximum Airflow	360 ±10% m³/h / DC fan
Air Velocity	0.4 m/s ±20%
Fan Voltage	DC 24V
Fan Speed Control	0–10 VDC input
Noise Level	≤ 65 dB(A)
Fan Lifetime	25,000 hours at 40°C, 15–65% RH condition
HEPA Lifetime (Recommended)	8–10 months (ordinary environment) / 12 months (clean environment)

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Chapter 3. Installation

3.1 Product Label

The product labels can be found on the exterior or interior of the product and provide basic information about the product.


Manufacturers


Production date


Validity period



Serial number


Check the instructions


General warning signs


Electronic device disposal

3.2 Instrument and accessories check

Packing list

After unboxing, please check all the instruments and accessories in the list below. To prevent damage, some of the parts may be packaged individually inside of the crate. Please ensure that all the materials are matched to the packing list. If any items are damaged or missing, please contact the manufacturer or dealer, and be sure to retain the original packaging materials.

Please refer to Appendix C. Pluto MT Packing List for more details.

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3.3 Getting Started

For a step-by-step guide to setting up the product, refer to the Quick Start Guide document.

3.4 Placing the Instrument

The instrument is a fixed benchtop system. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated, and does not contain corrosive or flammable gases, or strong magnetic interference.

NOTE

Do not install the instrument on a combustible surface.

Do not place the device in a position where it is difficult to turn off.

Do not place the instrument in a wet or dusty location.

Do not place the instrument on a cushioned or unstable surface.

Do not place the instrument against a wall or stack other objects around/against it.

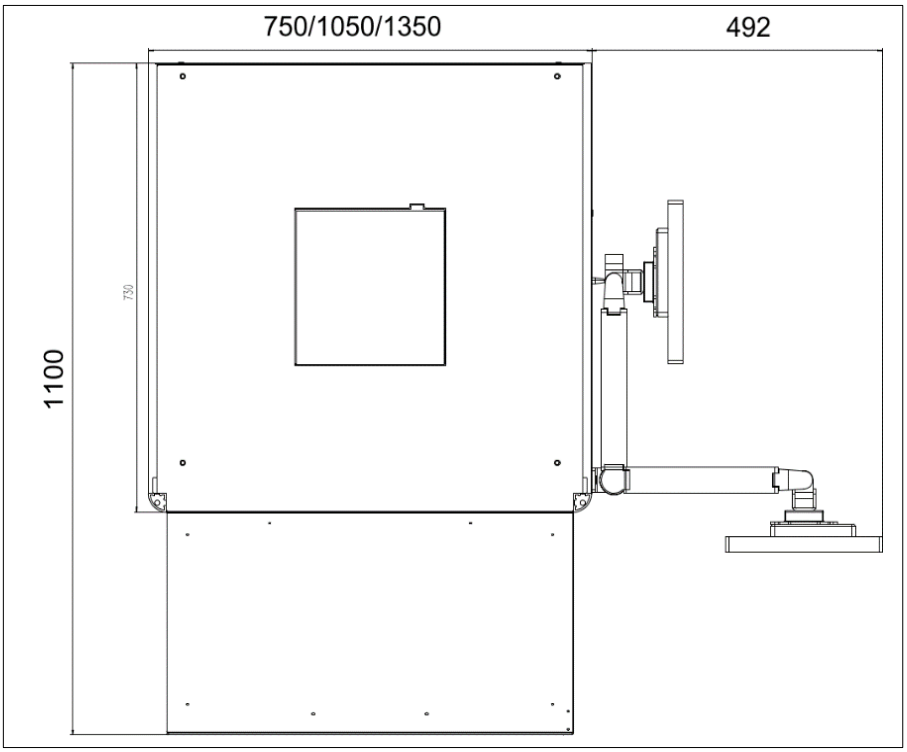
Please use a forklift truck with load bearing of 300 kg or more when moving (Contact Curiox personnel before moving instrument).

Ensure that the bench surface is level and that it can support weights up to 500 kg.

WARNING! There are moving parts inside the container. Ensure safe operating practices.

Space Requirement

Pluto MT Workstation space requirement is as depicted.



Working Environment

Working temperature	19°C-25°C
Relative Humidity	20%-80%, no condensation
Altitude	2000 m below
Barometric Pressure	80kPa-106kPa
Place of Use	Indoor use
Device Type	Fixed benchtop device

3.5 Installation

Installation of this instrument is performed by a Curiox Field Service Engineer (FSE) who visits the customer site; end users should not attempt installation on their own.

3.6 Software Update

Please contact technical support for software updates.

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Chapter 4. Operation

4.1 Preparation for Operation

Power On the Instrument

Connect the power cable and turn on the instrument.



NOTE	Only the power cord specified by Curiox (250V10A) can be used to connect the power supply. Make sure the power switch is in the off position before connecting the power supply.

WARNING!	Be sure that the ground wire in the power outlet is working correctly.

WARNING!	Do not pull the power cord when pulling out. Do not touch the metal part of the plug.

Module Function Check and Verification

Position Calibration

Instruments are finely calibrated for position accuracy before shipping. Recalibration may be necessary during installation due to shipping and transportation movement. **If a position-related problem occurs during operation, please contact the Curiox Service Team for assistance.**

Run Volume Verification Protocol

Please contact Curiox personnel for assistance.

Run Gripper Verification Protocol

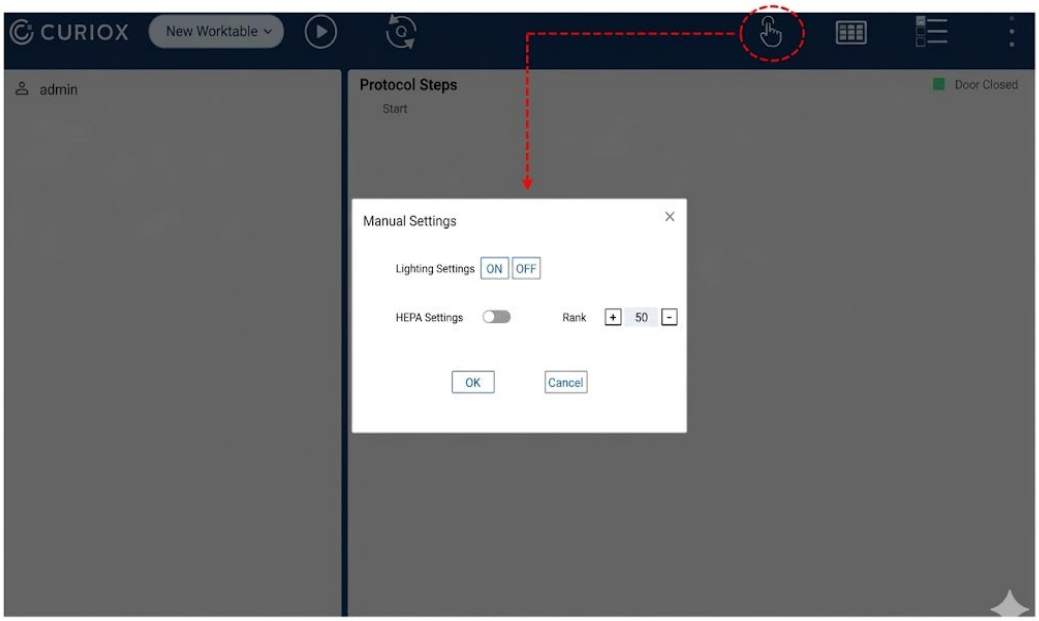
Please contact Curiox personnel for assistance.

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4.2 GUI Introduction

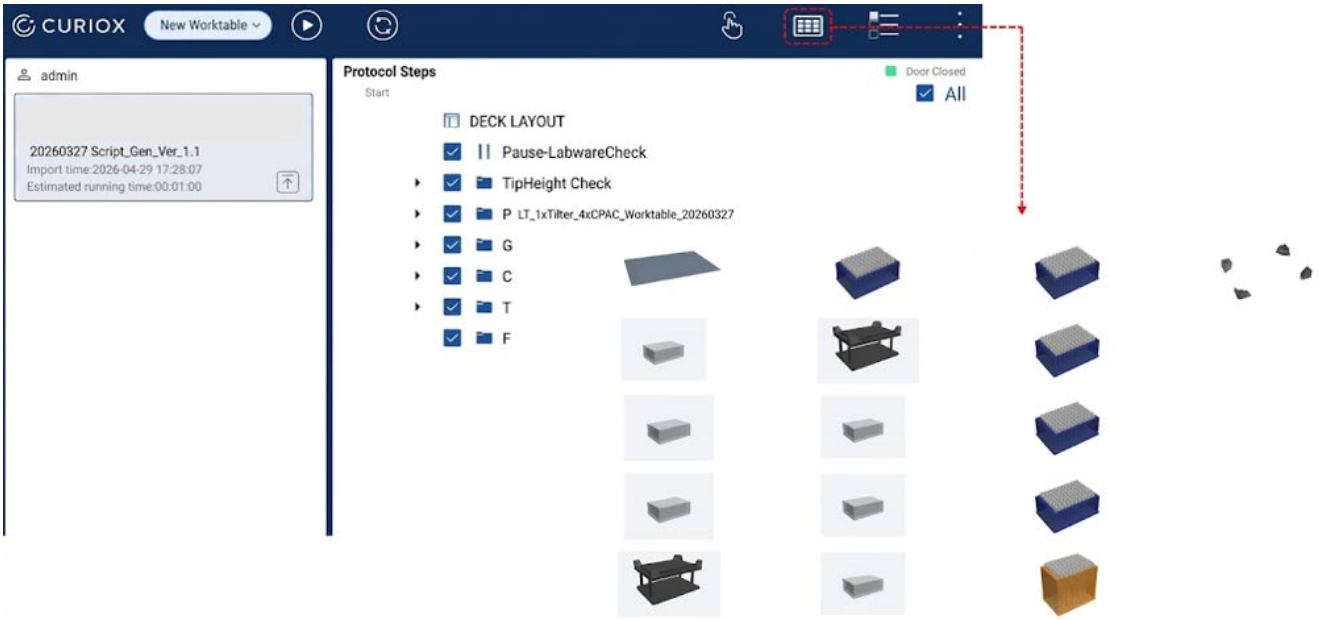
Manual Settings

Click the button  on the main window to access the manual settings screen (Settings for lighting, HEPA, and rank).



Worktable Viewer

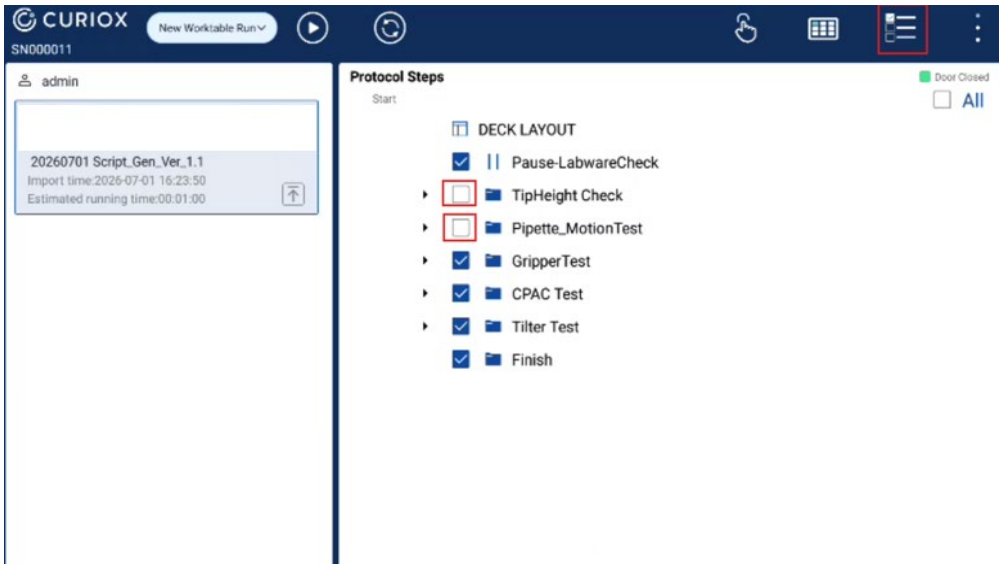
Click  to access the worktable viewer button, which allows you to get detailed information on the consumables on the instrument deck.



Run Protocol Step by Step

Click  to access a protocol's step menu.

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WARNING!

The PLUTO WORKSTATION contains functionality that allows Curiox personnel to deactivate individual steps within a method script. This functionality is intended solely for limited, controlled use by authorized Curiox representatives. Due to the complex and interdependent nature of the underlying scripting logic, deactivation of one or more method steps may cause the instrument to perform movements, tip-handling actions, or liquid-handling operations outside the intended sequence. Such actions may result in instrument collision, improper tip engagement or ejection, liquid-handling errors, invalid run results, system malfunction, and damage to critical hardware components, including, without limitation, the pipetting head, gantry system, and related assemblies.

Clients are strictly prohibited from deactivating any method step unless Curiox has provided prior written authorization expressly identifying the applicable method, the specific step or steps authorized for deactivation, and the conditions under which such deactivation may occur. Verbal instructions, informal communications, prior practice, or general troubleshooting discussions shall not constitute authorization. Clients are responsible for ensuring that all personnel who operate, supervise, or otherwise interact with the PLUTO WORKSTATION are informed of and comply with this requirement.

Any hardware damage, instrument malfunction, invalid or compromised run results, downtime, data loss, workflow interruption, or other related losses arising from or relating to the unauthorized deactivation of method steps may be excluded from coverage under the applicable Curiox warranty, service agreement, service contract, or other standard support obligations. If a client believes that deactivation of a method step is required for any workflow, troubleshooting activity, or operational purpose, the client must contact Curiox in advance for review and, where appropriate, written authorization before taking any such action.

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Settings

Import

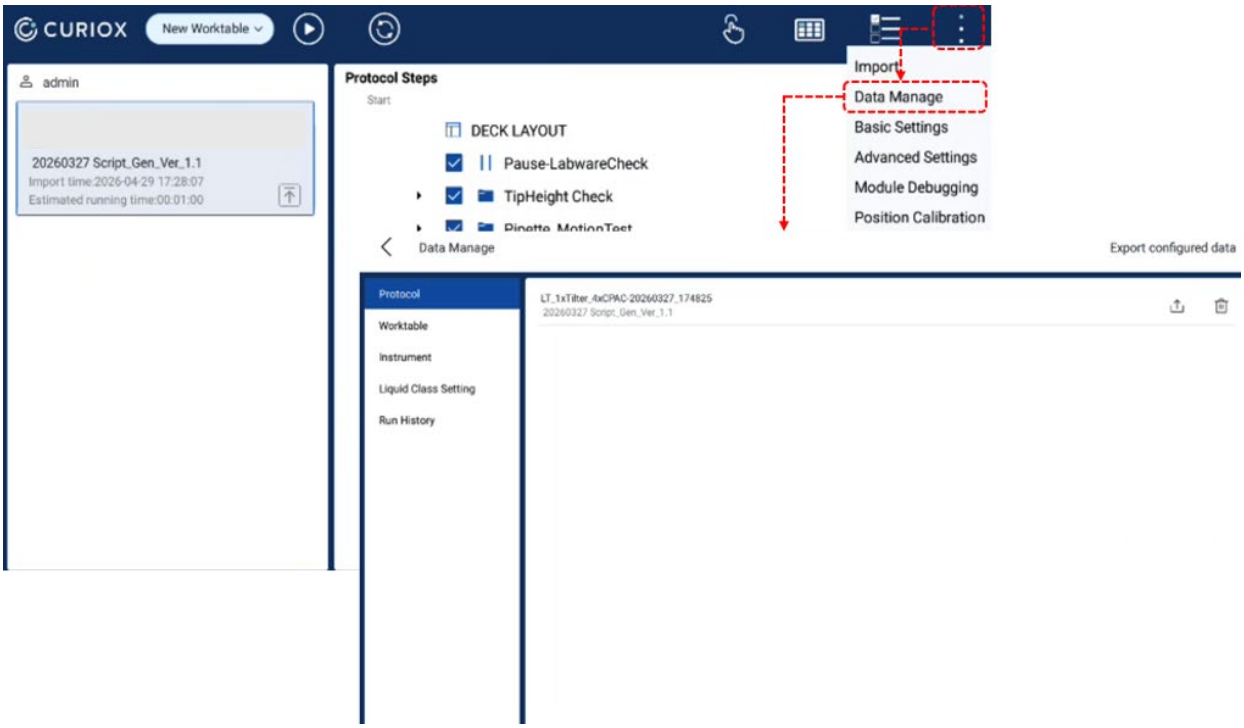
Automatic import of experimental data (protocol, instrument parameters, worktable, modules, adapters, consumables, etc.).

Export

The device execution log is stored in the database. You can export this database to a USB flash drive for analysis and backup.

Data Manage

Used to export or delete protocols, worktables, instrument parameters, and to edit liquid class information.



21 CFR Part 11

Please refer to the 21 CFR Part 11 User Guide for information on user management and the audit trail.

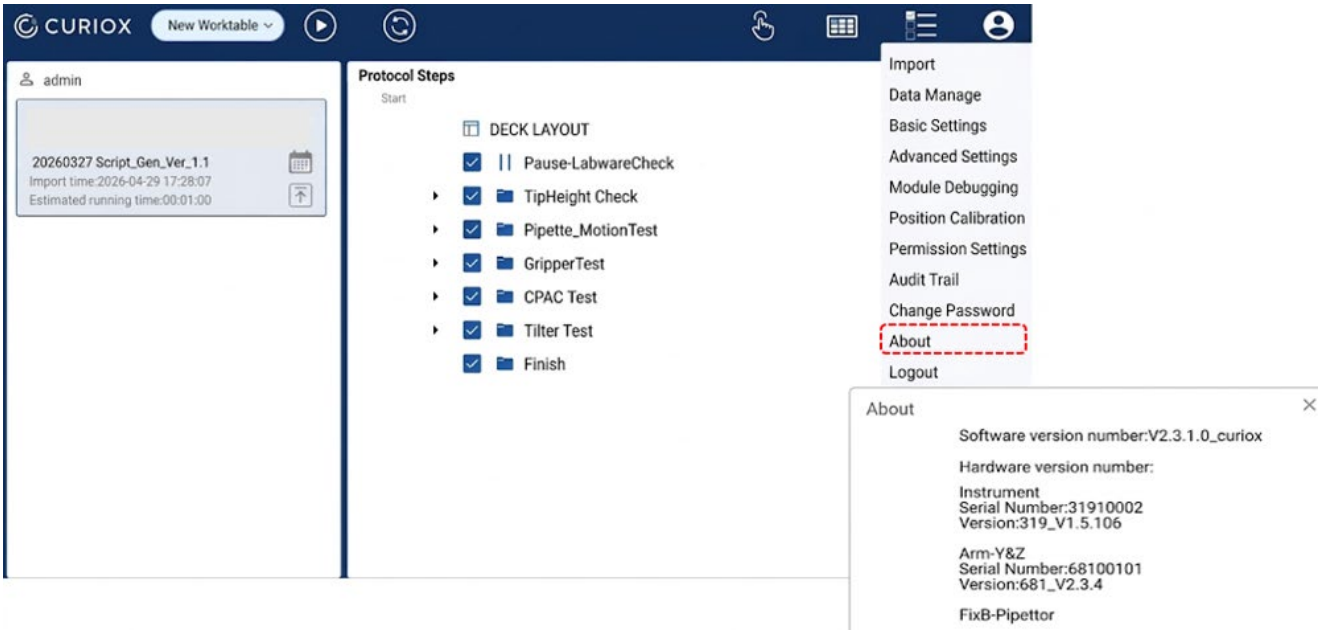
Position Calibration

Usually position calibration has been done at the factory and the user does not need to calibrate on site. If the user wants to calibrate the device, please contact the engineer to help.

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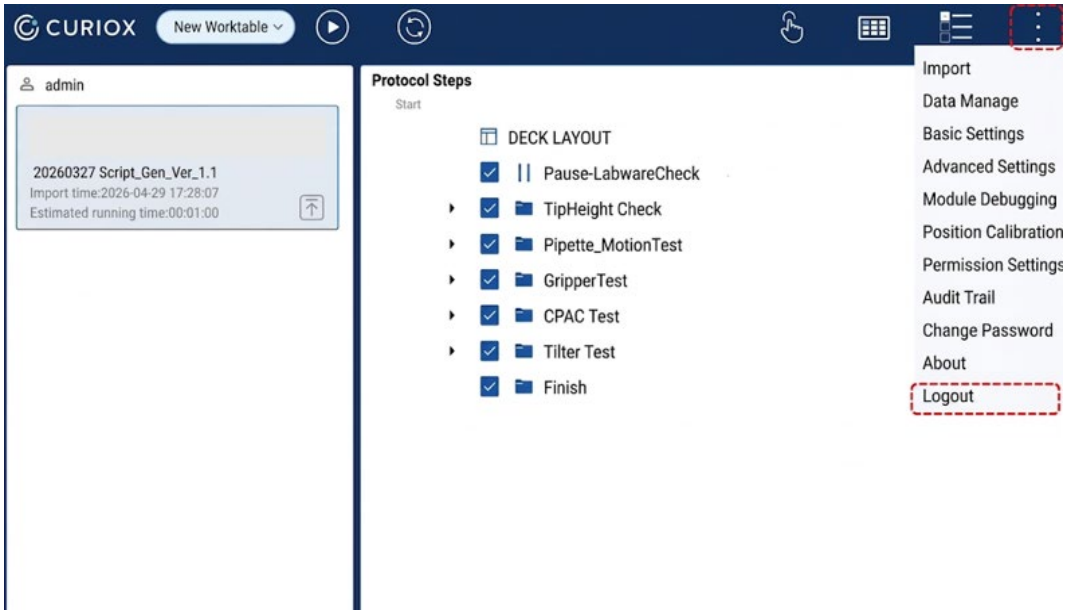
About

Displays software information.



Log Out

Allows users to log out of the current account.



4.3 Operation

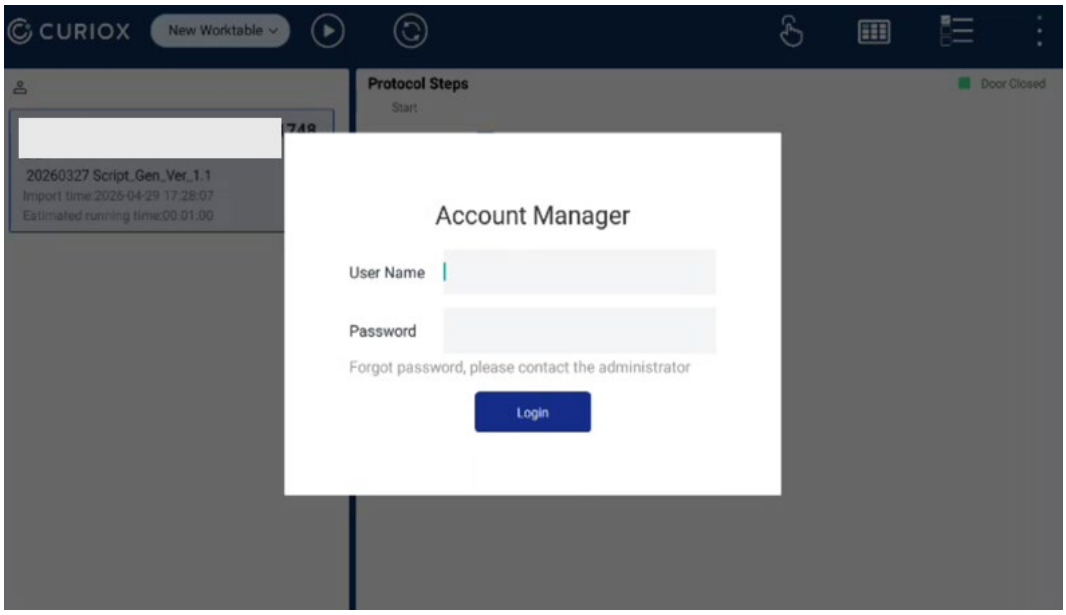
Please follow the instructions below to run your protocols.

User Login

If **START UP** is enabled in the Basic Settings during installation, the system will automatically proceed to the Login screen without requiring the application to be launched manually. Log in by entering your username and password. The default account is **Admin**, with a default password of **123456**.

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ID: admin Password: 123456



Once logged in, the main window will display the protocol list of the current user on the left side. On the right side, detailed information of each protocol is shown.

IMPORTANT: For security purposes, it is strongly recommended to change the default Admin password upon first login, particularly if the instrument will be connected to a network.

Only Admin accounts can add new accounts with different roles. This can be done by going to Permission Settings, then User Config.



For non-admin accounts, please contact your admin for the password to your account.

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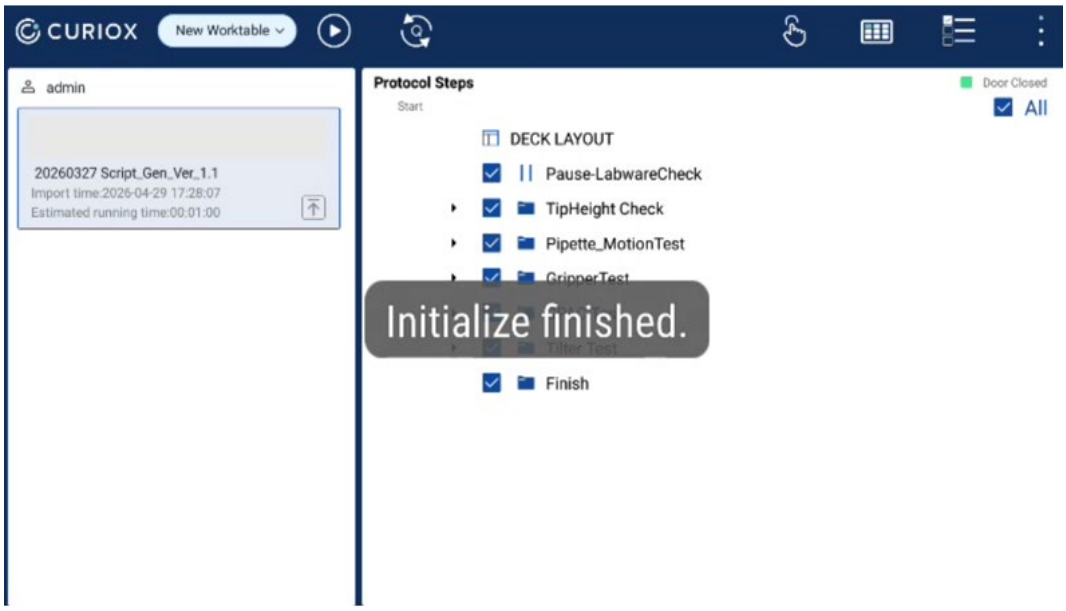
Instrument Initialization

The device needs to be initialized every time the power is turned on, the control software is restarted, or a fault is resolved.

Please follow the guide, click to initialize the device.

After the device has been initialized, Initialize finished. the 'initialize finished' message will show in the center of the screen; the user can then move to the next operation. The icon of the initialize button will be changed to which can be used to initialize the device quickly.

When there is movement occurring in the device, do not touch any internal parts!



The pipettor modules will return to their home position (as shown below) when the initialization is finished.

Prepare the deck

Plates and Tips

The Pluto MT Workstation uses three types of microplates to maximize performance during experiment runs.



The Pluto MT Workstation uses 6 types of pipette tips: 50 µL, 250 µL, and 1,000 µL tips (Sterile / non-sterile). Please fully load the tip box before placing it onto the deck. This will prevent running issues.

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P/N: 303F0005
Part name : Unfiltered, Non-Dnase/Rnase free, Non-Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 50uL (96 tips)

P/N : 303F0006
Part name : Filtered, Dnase/Rnase free, Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 50uL (96 tips)

P/N: 303F0001
Part name : Unfiltered, Non-Dnase/Rnase free, Non-Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 250uL (96 tips)

P/N: 303F0002
Part name : Filtered, Dnase/Rnase free, Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 250uL (96 tips)

P/N: 303F0003
Part name : Unfiltered, Non-Dnase/Rnase free, Non-Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 1000uL (96 tips)

P/N : 303F0004
Part name : Filtered, Dnase/Rnase free, Sterile Tips, 1 Racks, 1000uL (96 tips)

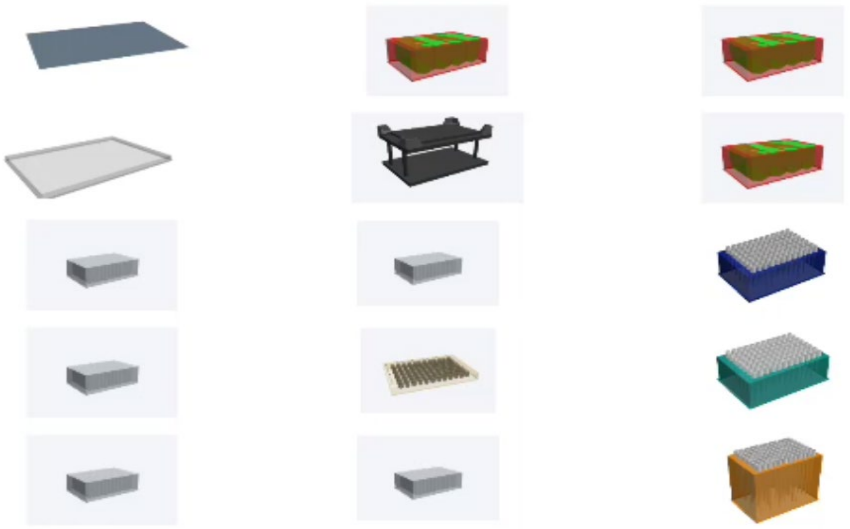
WARNING! The 50 µL Tip is available in two colors: blue and teal. As it may be confused with the 250 µL Tip, please ensure they are used correctly by distinguishing between them.

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Deck Layout

Each of the protocols listed in the Runner software is designed based on the system's specific deck layout. Check the deck layout and prepare the deck before each run.

Deck Layout in System



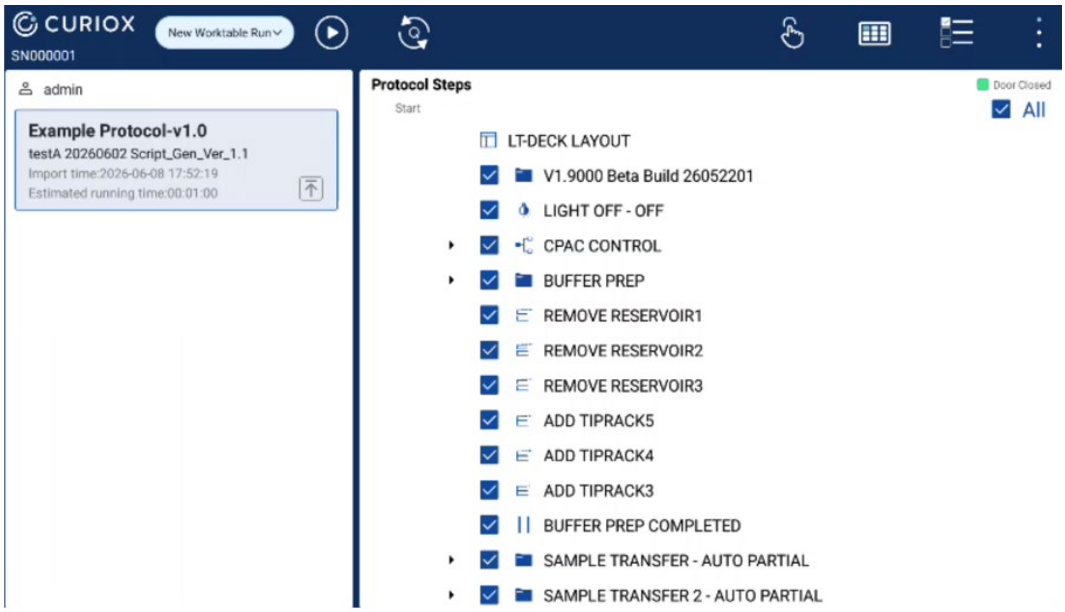
Labware Setting



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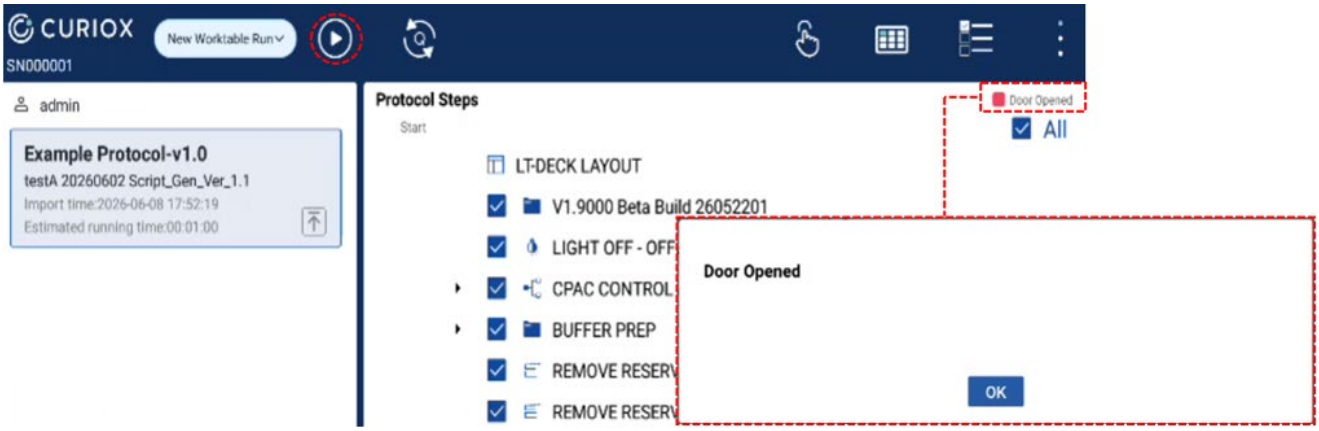
Run the Protocol

Select the desired protocol. The main steps of this protocol will be shown on the right side of the display, allowing you to review the protocol and make changes as needed.

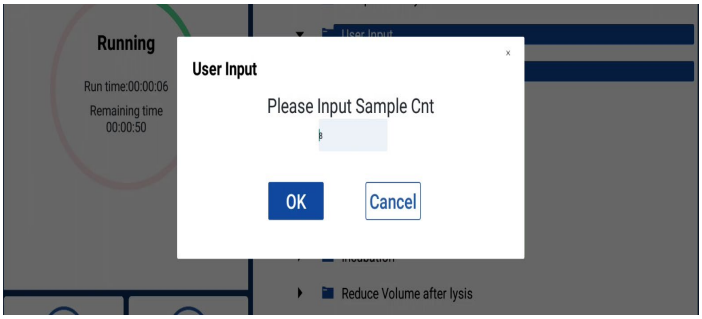


Close the safety door. Then click the start button to begin the experiment.

NOTE	Please avoid slamming the safety door. If the safety door remains open, users cannot start the run. A warning message will appear.

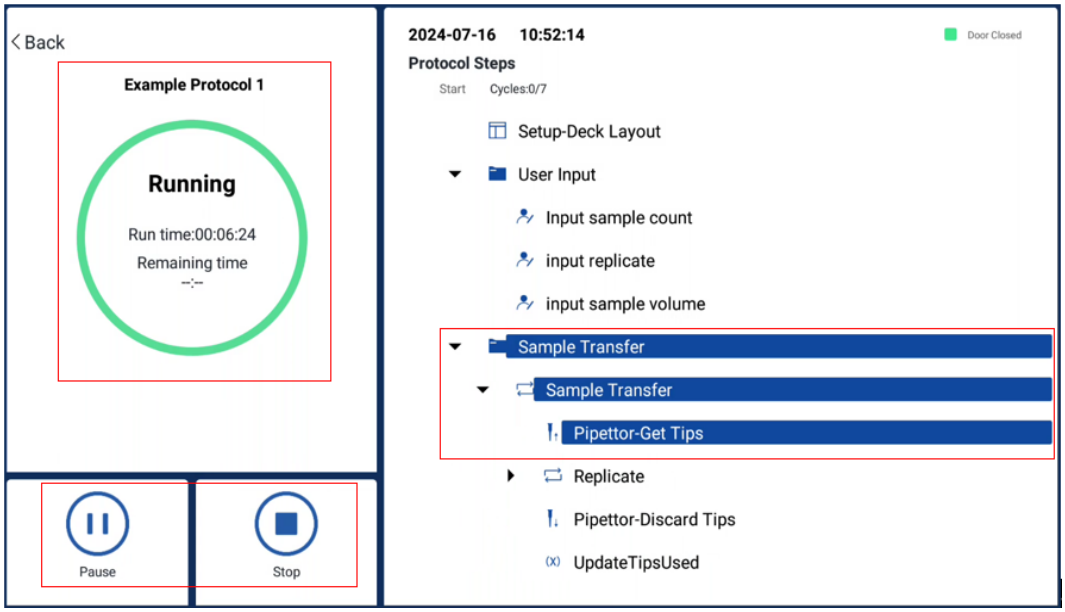


Some of the protocols may require key parameters of the experiment to be added (i.e., Sample Number, Replicate Number, Sample Volume, etc.).



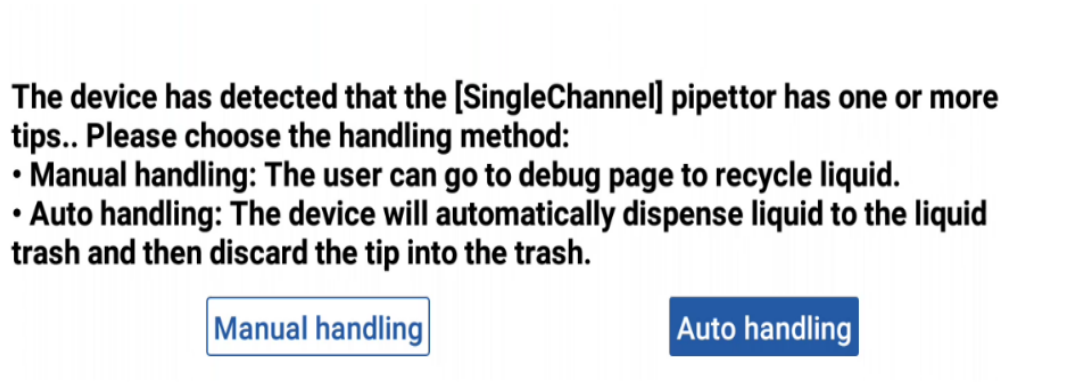
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During the run, the current steps (on right) and the status info (on left) will be shown. Users can press the Pause or Stop buttons (on the bottom left corner of the screen) if they need to pause or abort the run.



NOTE	Although it is possible to pause and continue the run by directly opening/closing the safety door, Curiox does not recommend this action. Doing this may affect the experiment results.

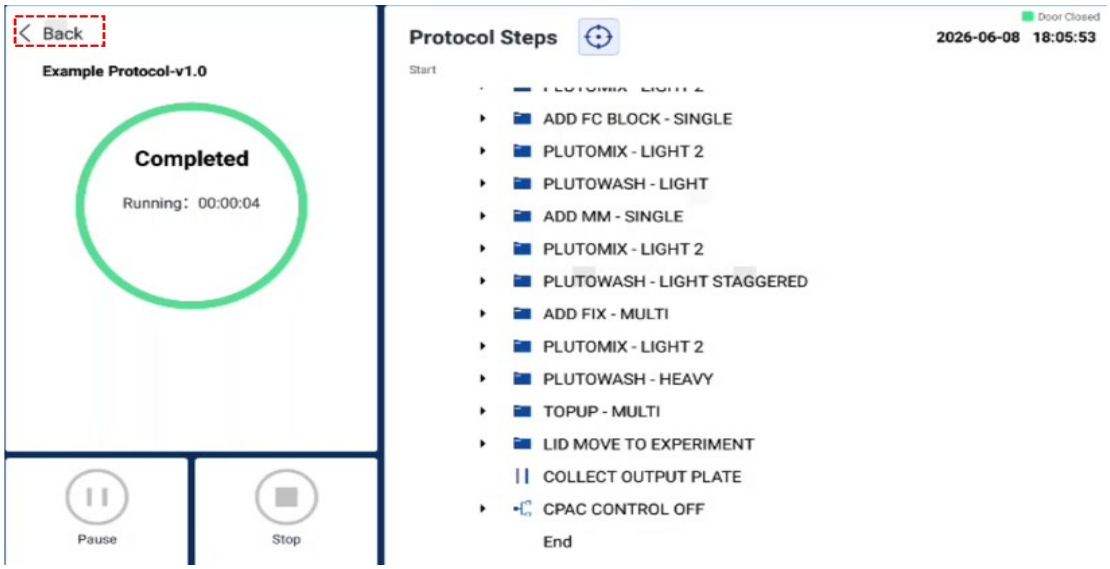
If the run is aborted by hitting the Stop button when a tip is on the pipettor, a message will show on the screen. You can choose to eject the tip via the manual handling or the auto handling method.



WARNING!	Pausing when the pipettor is dispensing/aspirating liquid will severely affect the ACCURACY of your experiment and DATA QUALITY. Use this button with caution.

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When the run is completed, you can hit the back button on the top left corner of the screen and go back to the main window of the Runner app.

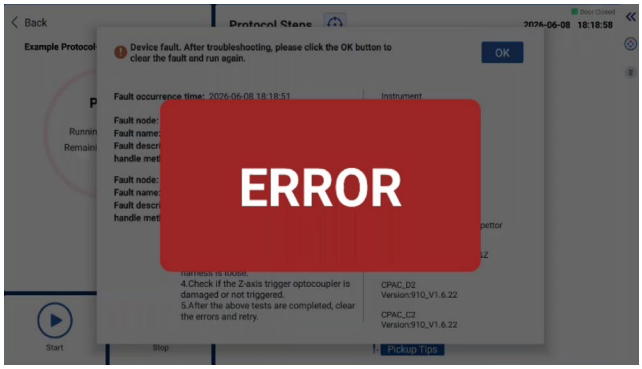


Visual Alert

Error Visual Alert

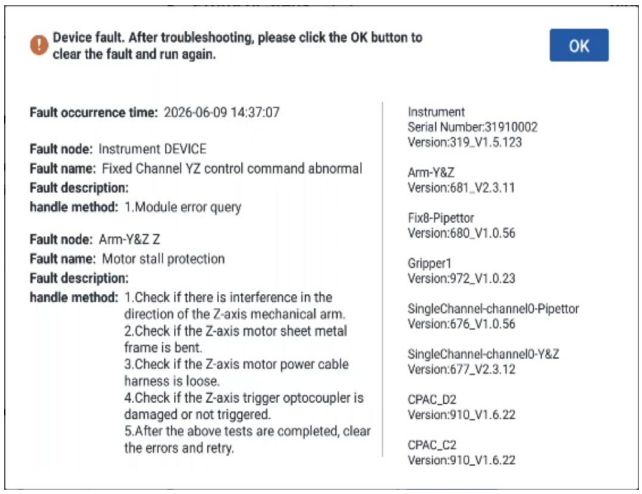
When an error occurs during protocol operation, an error message will flash on the tablet screen, displaying a visual alert. The user can dismiss the error alert by touching the screen.

1. If an error occurs during protocol operation, an Error Alert will be triggered as shown below. The alert window will repeat at regular intervals and will continue until the screen is touched.

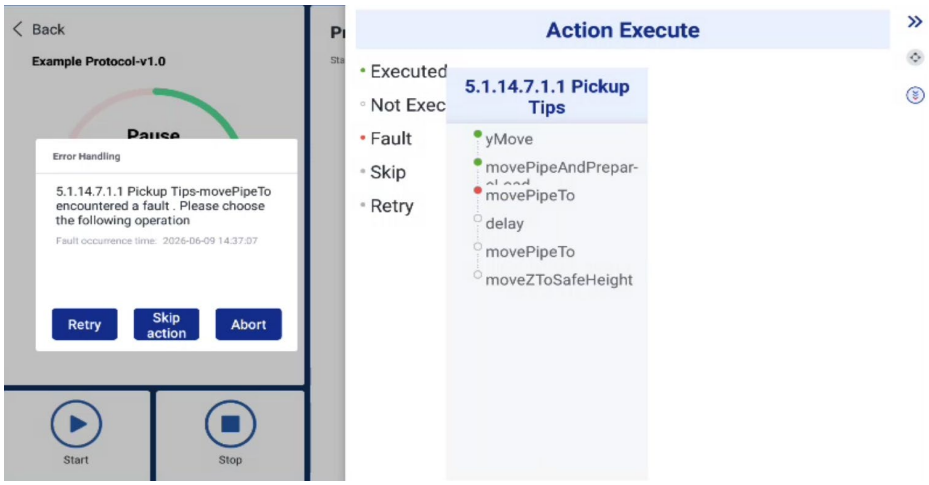


2. Once the Visual Alert is dismissed by touching the screen, a window will appear describing the nature of the error that has occurred. Pressing the OK button in the window will proceed to the next state.

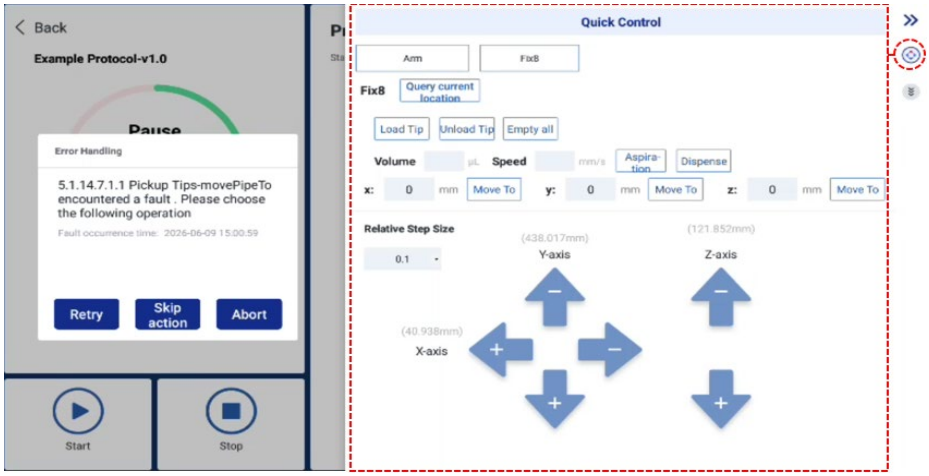
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3. The next state window provides three options for Error Handling.
    a. Retry: Retries the step in which the error occurred.
    b. Skip action: Skips the current step and proceeds to the next step.
    c. Abort: Terminates the protocol.



4. If recovery from the error is required, click the icon located at the far-right panel to open the Quick Control window. Use the functions available in this window to recover from the error state, then manually adjust as needed and execute Retry.



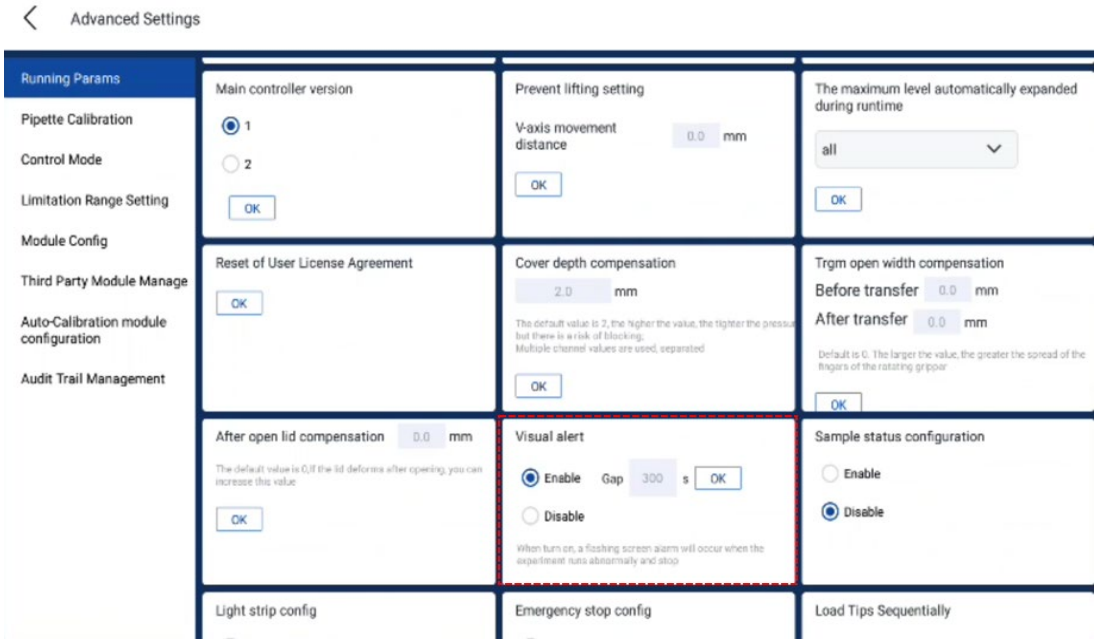
Complete Visual Alert

When the protocol is completed, a Complete Visual Alert will be triggered. The alert will be dismissed once the user touches the screen.



Disable Visual Alert

Visual Alert can be disabled from the Running Params menu under Advanced Settings. Advanced Settings is accessible only with an admin account. It is recommended not to modify any options other than the aforementioned option, as the remaining options are related to the operation of the equipment.



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Chapter 5. Maintenance and Troubleshooting

5.1 Device Maintenance

Clean After Experiment Run

After each run, following these steps will ensure that the instrument is properly maintained and ready for the next run.

Power Off and Access

Turn off the power switch and open the front door.

Remove Labware

Remove all labware after the run. Leaving labware with any chemical reagents may result in damage to the system.

Empty the Waste Bin

Empty the waste bin(s) after each run and wash with DI water and 70% isopropyl alcohol.

Ethanol Disinfection

If necessary, use 75% ethanol to wipe the surface of the instrument and function modules 2-3 times. For laboratories operating under elevated biosafety levels, supplementary decontamination measures such as NaOCl should be applied in accordance with the institution's biosafety guidelines.

Nucleic Acid Removal

If needed, use a nucleic acid scavenger to moisten a clean paper towel and wipe the surface of the instrument and function modules 2-3 times.

Water Cleaning

If necessary, use DI water to moisten a dust-free paper towel and wipe the surface of the instrument and function modules 2-3 times.

Drying

1. After wiping, allow the instrument to air-dry naturally.
2. Once the instrument is dry, close the front door.

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HEPA Maintenance

The HEPA system is equipped with two filters: a Primary filter and a HEPA filter. Each filter has a different replacement interval. The Primary filter has a maximum service life of 720 hours. Therefore, the replacement cycle can vary depending on the daily equipment operating hours.

Refer to the equipment operating hours table below to determine the appropriate replacement interval.

Daily Operating Hours	Required Operating Days (720h ÷ daily hours)	Equivalent Weeks (based on 5 days/week)	Approximate Calendar -Based Replacement Cycle
5 hours/day	144 days	28.8 weeks	6.6 months
6 hours/day	120 days	24 weeks	5.5 months
8 hours/day	90 days	18 weeks	4.5 months

The HEPA filter has a validity period of 12 months, with a recommended replacement interval of 12 months. The filters should only be replaced by Curiox-authorized technical support personnel.

Other Conditions

Prior to disposal, use 70% isopropyl alcohol to clean and disinfect the equipment.

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5.2 Troubleshooting

Common faults and possible solutions are listed in this section. If you encounter any issues not mentioned in this manual, please contact Curiox technical support.

An Error Occurs During Initialization

- Turn the power off and on again and then reinitialize.
- If an error related to HEATER/COOLER or Tilter occurs, contact the Curiox service team for assistance.
- Manually turn the screw on the ejector up and then try initializing again.

The Equipment Does Not Power On

- Confirm that the power cord is properly connected.
- Check the fuse condition as unstable AC power may cause the fuse to blow, preventing the equipment from powering on.

Unusual Noise Occurs During Tip Loading

- Recalibrate the position of the tip(s).
- Check if the O-ring is worn out.

Liquid Leaks After the Aspiration Operation

- Check if the O-ring is worn out.
- Try replacing the tip(s) and attempt again.

Labware Is Not Secured Properly

- Check if the plate holding bracket is damaged. If it is damaged, replacement is necessary.

An Error Occurs In HEATER/COOLER

- If condensation has caused water to accumulate on the HEATER/COOLER surface, remove the water and dry thoroughly before running it again.

An Error Occurs During Protocol Operation

- Take a photo of the error code and send it to the Curiox service team. We will provide feedback as soon as possible.

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Appendix A. Acknowledgment of Decontamination

Acknowledgment of Decontamination Form

Decontamination is required prior to the Pluto MT Workstation being returned to Curiox Biosystems (i.e., for servicing, maintenance, etc.). You are required to fill out this form to acknowledge that decontamination has been conducted on the instrument. Failure to do so may result in the return of the instrument to your address for decontamination.

PRODUCT SERIAL NO.

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. (Please circle accordingly)	JOB TITLE
NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
COMPANY	PHONE NUMBER
DECONTAMINATION INFORMATION	
DECONTAMINATION METHOD	
DECONTAMINATION DATE	
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	

I hereby acknowledge that this piece of equipment has been decontaminated and sealed in accordance with the procedure recommended in this manual prior to shipment to Curiox Biosystems. To the best of my knowledge, the equipment is safe to handle by the receiving personnel.

Name

Signature and Date

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Appendix B. Purchase Information and Feedback

Purchase Information and Feedback Form

PURCHASE INFORMATION

PRODUCT SERIAL NO.	
PURCHASED BY	PURCHASED FROM
COMPANY	DISTRIBUTOR
ADDRESS	DATE OF PURCHASE
PHONE	DATE OF DELIVERY
FAX	
CONTACT INFORMATION	
Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.	JOB TITLE
NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS

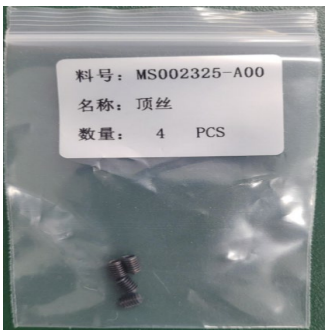
FEEDBACK (PLEASE CHECK/COMMENT ACCORDINGLY)

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Comments
User Guide					
Ease of Use					
Reliability					
Operating Costs					
Overall Experience					

If you have any other comments/suggestions about the Pluto MT Workstation, please let us know below.

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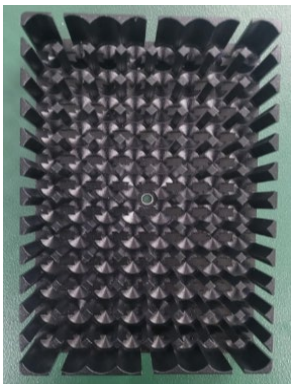
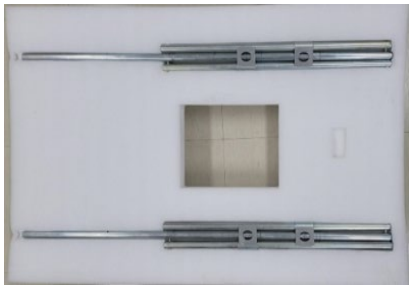
Appendix C. Pluto MT Packing List

No	Part/Specification	Q'ty	Image	Check
1	Snap-fit (=Corner Bracket)	30 EA		☐
2	Snap-fit Screw	10 PCS		☐
3	Thumb screw (Set Screw for Head Installation)	4 EA		☐
4	Plastic Cover	4 EA		☐

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5	Torx wrench / torx 10 (3.0mm)	1 EA		☐
6	Hex key	1 SET		☐
7	Expansion Quick Release	8 EA		☐
8	Power cord (Please check if it is the correct power cord for the nation)	1 EA		☐
9	Fuse	2 EA		☐

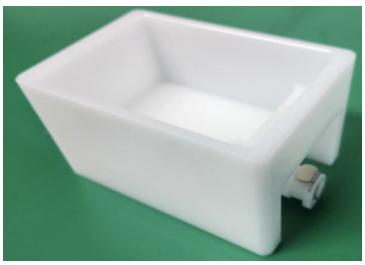
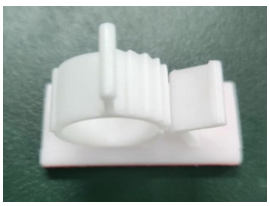
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10	USB A-A Cable	1 EA		☐
11	HEATER/COOLER adapter for DWP	Depends on the number of HEATER/COOLER installed machine		☐
12	Thumb Screw for Carrier	2 EA		☐
13	Open-end Spanner	1 EA		☐
14	Handling Gear	1 SET		☐

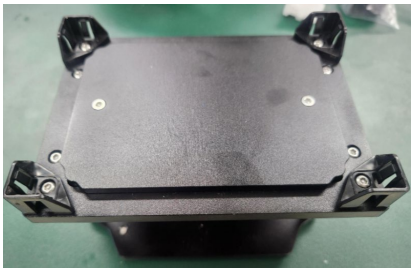
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15	HEATER/COOLER adapter Screw - Revvity Part Name: 2.5x4 Screw	10 EA		☐
16	HEATER/COOLER adapter for Pluto MTP	2 EA		☐
17	Thumb Drive (USB Memory Stick)	1 EA		☐
18	Sample Pipe support HT000223-A00 (32 holes)	1 EA		☐
19	Sample Pipe support HT000224-A00 (32 holes)	1 EA		☐

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20	Sealing ring / 2.5x1.0mm	20 EA		☐
21	Tip Waste Chute	1 EA		☐
22	Screw for Waste chute	2 EA		☐
23	Liquid Waste Tank	1 EA		☐
24	Tube Clip	1 EA		☐
25	Single-Channel Pipette Head	1 EA		☐

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26	Fitting-Male	1 EA		☐
27	Tube	1.5 m		☐
28	Bottle Cap	1 EA		☐
29	Liquid Waste Bottle	1 EA		☐
30	24-Channel Head	1 EA		☐
31	Single-Channel Pipette Head	1 EA		☐
32	Carrier with Thumbscrew – Label: E13	1 EA		☐

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Revision History

Version	Update Description	Author	Comment
1.0	Initial Release	Koh Jing Xuan	14/Nov/2025
2.0	Image update	Sunguk Jang	6/Feb/2026
3.0	Added a warning message indicating that issues may occur when using Step Selection.	Kei Aloha Sample	26/Jun/2026
4.0	Corrected incorrect content in Chemical Compatibility. Add Visual Alert feature GUI image update HEPA Filter replacement interval update Remove Unboxing, Head installation step and Module debugging section. Updated terminology by changing “ON-DECK HEATER/COOLER” to “Heater/Cooler” throughout the document	Sunguk Jang	13/Jun/2026

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