La Jolla, California. After years of research, Stratagene has just released the most advanced DNA sequencing system available. The system’s prepoured, polyacrylamide gels eliminate the need to manually pour sequencing gels.

Until now there was no alternative to pouring your own sequencing gels. It took up to 2 hours of preparation to clean the plates, mix the solutions, de-gas the acrylamide, pour the gels and wait for polymerization. Stratagene’s scientists have changed all that with the new CastAway sequencing system.

Stratagene’s new sequencing system cuts both electrophoresis and gel drying times in half, so researchers using the system have found they have more time available to meet their research goals. The system components have been designed to be used together. The system includes a novel vertical sequencing device and high-speed gel dryer designed to produce superior results when used with the quality-tested precast gels.

Precast Sequencing Gels Are Here
Superior Results in Less Time

CastAway precast gels are ready to load in less than 5 minutes with no mess. While conventional procedures can take up to 6.5 hours to sequence a gel, the CastAway system takes as little as 2 hours. The procedure is simple: open the bag, place the gel in the sequencing device, run the gel and dry.

The precast sequencing gels are thinner than standard gels, so they can be run at higher temperatures. This not only shortens run times, but also reduces the possibility of band compressions. Since the CastAway gels are bound permanently to one of the glass plates, there’s no need for filter paper and less risk of gel tearing. And two prepoured gels fit perfectly into a standard x-ray cassette.

Vacuum Pumps Have Become Obsolete
New High-Speed Gel Dryer Takes Over

Not only do the precast gels save run time, but the CastAway gel dryer works twice as fast as any commercially available gel dryer. The gel dryer is easy to load; the precast gels slide right in.

Researchers who currently use vacuum pumps to dry their gels will immediately notice the quiet operation of the gel dryer. Not only are vacuum pumps loud and distracting, but they are expensive to purchase and maintain. In contrast, the CastAway gel dryer is quiet, cost-effective and requires no maintenance. The new gel dryer works with the CastAway system to bring the future of sequencing into your lab.

Easy Loading Sequencing Device
Simple and Safe

Stratagene engineers have developed a vertical sequencing device that is simple and safe to operate. The new CastAway vertical sequencing device is exclusively for use with CastAway precast gels and is optimized to provide high quality results. The CastAway sequencing device features a new easy-to-use gasket; the CastAway precast gels snap in and are ready to run. An advanced thermoplate evenly diffuses the heat during electrophoresis, ensuring less artifacts and crisper bands. The CastAway sequencing device works twice as fast as conventional vertical sequencing devices to save even more valuable research time.

The CastAway system also includes convenient, stackable fixing trays for soaking gels after removal from the sequencing device, and a radiation storage container to store radioactive gels until safe for disposal.

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The Eighth Day of Creation

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By Horace Freeland Judson

Unavailable in the U.S. for many years, Horace Judson’s remarkable lay history of molecular biology is now published in a new, expanded edition. The author has added new material on some of the principal figures involved, particularly Rosalind Franklin and Erwin Chargaff. Also included are a Preface by Sir John Maddox, a new Foreword, and an Epilogue which sketches the further development of molecular biology into the era of recombinant DNA. No one active in current molecular genetics can fail to be informed and entertained by this extraordinary account of how it all began. Also highly recommended for students and interested lay people.

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