

Beckman BioMek (NSC 338)

BioMek Plate Reader

Every time you use the plate reader, you MUST sign the logbook. Note that there is a logbook for using the plate reader only and another one for using the BioMek. Be sure to use the right one. Turn off the plate reader when you are done so the lamp doesn't burn out.

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Most people read the plate and then copy the data into Excel. The SoftMax program is pretty dense, but if you want to use it, the manual is available.

1. Power on plate reader. Switch is in the back, on the right.
2. Go to Biomek computer and open SoftMax (icon on desktop).
3. Setup/Instrument
4. Window opens with several choices
 - a. Endpoint L1 (single wavelength) or L1-2 (dual wavelength); on machine 11 or 11-2. Reading taken at the end of the reaction – selected for Bradford assay
 - b. Select Wavelength from drop down menu – choices are 405, 510, 490, 650, 540, 415, (450 - this filter is in the drawer and to be used would require changing the wheel – give Debby a call). Filter wheel – just choose the wavelength that is the closest to what your assay calls for. When you select L2 – a second drop down menu is enabled for the second wavelength.
 - c. Kinetic 1 or 1-2 (dual wavelength) – reaction ongoing and readings taken over time of rxn.
 - d. Automix on – this shakes the plate before the reading. A good thing to do for a Bradford assay
 - e. AutoCal – on
5. OK
6. Control/Read Plate; noise you hear is OK – auto mix. Error message comes up saying it couldn't save the file. Select OK and isn't something to worry about.
7. Values come up quickly
8. You should do several readings with a blank plate to make sure the background is stable. If it isn't, wiggle the wires that lead to the lamp (back of the plate reader on the left).
9. For Bradford assay, only need to read plate once.
10. Start (at top next to File)/Programs/Excel. Minimize Excel (goes to side panel)
11. Go back to plate values
12. Edit/Copy window/open excel from side panel/paste
13. Save directly to disk.
14. Close all windows.
15. Turn off plate reader.