

**WATER TRIPLE POINT  
MAINTENANCE BATH  
MODEL ITL M 18233**  
User Maintenance Manual/Handbook



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The company is always willing to give technical advice and assistance where appropriate. Equally, because of the programme of continual development and improvement we reserve the right to amend or alter characteristics and design without prior notice. This publication is for information only.

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## EMC INFORMATION

This product meets the requirements of the European Directive on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) 89/336/EEC as amended by EC Directive 92/31/EEC and the European Low Voltage Directive 73/25/EEC, amended by 93/68/EEC. To ensure emission compliance please ensure that any serial communications connecting leads are fully screened.

The product meets the susceptibility requirements of EN 50082-I, criterion B.

Symbol Identification	Publication	Description
	ISO3864	Caution (refer to handbook)
	IEC 417	Caution, Hot Surface

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

This equipment must be correctly earthed.

This equipment is a Class I Appliance. A protective earth is used to ensure the conductive parts can not become live in the event of a failure of the insulation.

The protective conductor of the flexible mains cable which is coloured green/yellow **MUST** be connected to a suitable earth.

The blue conductor should be connected to Neutral and the Brown conductor to Live (Line).

Warning: Internal mains voltage hazard. Do not remove the panels.

There are no user serviceable parts inside. Contact your nearest Isotech agent for repair.

Voltage transients on the supply must not exceed 2.5kV.

Conductive pollution e.g. Carbon dust, must be excluded from the apparatus. EN61010 pollution degrees 2

### ENVIRONMENTAL RATINGS:

Operating Temperature      5-50°C

Relative Humidity              5-95%, non condensing

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Read this entire handbook before use.
2. Wear appropriate protective clothing.
3. Operators of this equipment should be adequately trained in the handling of hot and cold items and liquids.
4. Do not use the apparatus for jobs other than those for which it was designed, i.e. the calibration of thermometers.
5. Do not handle the apparatus when it is hot (or cold), unless wearing the appropriate protective clothing and having the necessary training.
6. Do not drill, modify or otherwise change the shape of the apparatus.
7. Do not dismantle the apparatus.
8. Do not use the apparatus outside its recommended temperature range.
9. If cased, do not return the apparatus to its carrying case until the unit has cooled.
10. There are no user serviceable parts inside. Contact your nearest Isotech agent for repair.
11. Ensure materials, especially flammable materials are kept away from hot parts of the apparatus, to prevent fire risk.
12. Ensure adequate ventilation when using oils at high temperatures.

## GUARANTEE

This instrument has been manufactured to exacting standards and is guaranteed for twelve months against electrical break-down or mechanical failure caused through defective material or workmanship, provided the failure is not the result of misuse. In the event of failure covered by this guarantee, the instrument must be returned, carriage paid, to the supplier for examination and will be replaced or repaired at our option.

FRAGILE CERAMIC AND/OR GLASS PARTS ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS GUARANTEE

INTERFERENCE WITH OR FAILURE TO PROPERLY MAINTAIN THIS INSTRUMENT MAY INVALIDATE THIS GUARANTEE

## RECOMMENDATION

The life of your **ISOTECH** Instrument will be prolonged if regular maintenance and cleaning to remove general dust and debris is carried out.



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 **CAUTIONARY NOTE**

ISOTECH PRODUCTS ARE INTENDED FOR USE BY TECHNICALLY TRAINED AND COMPETENT PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH GOOD MEASUREMENT PRACTICES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT PERSONNEL USING THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE COMPETENT WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF APPARATUS WHICH MAY BE POWERED OR UNDER EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE, AND ARE ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE HAZARDS WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH, AND THE PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN WITH, SUCH EQUIPMENT.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Water Triple Point Bath is designed to provide an environment in which up to four Water Triple Point Cells can be maintained for use as primary standards of temperature. The life of the ice mantle in a triple point cell is dependent upon the initial geometry of the mantle, the use of the cell and the temperature of its environment. The bath has sufficient stability to maintain a mantle for six weeks or more, provided that the cell is not thermally overloaded.

The bath contains about 34 litres of water which is agitated with air supplied by a pump located on the controller chassis. The temperature of the water is maintained at 0.010°C by four thermoelectric cooling modules. The current through the cooling modules is controlled by a proportional controller which uses a precision, high stability, thermistor probe to sense bath temperature.

The cooling system has sufficient cooling capacity to bring the bath to operating temperature from 25°C in about two days. The limited cooling capacity provides some protection for the cells in case of control failure, since the water in the bath would freeze only very slowly. Additional protection is provided by a fault detection system which is triggered if either of the cooling surfaces drops below a preset limit or by the formation of ice on the cooling surfaces of the bath. Triggering of either fault detector will, after a built-in delay, activate the fault alarm and remove power from the coolers until the system is reset by turning the power switch off and back on.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Size: 910mm high, 635mm wide, 710mm deep  
Weight: Approximately 66kg dry

#### Acceptable Ambient Conditions:

Operating: Temperature 15°C to 26°C; relative humidity 10% to 80%  
Storage: Temperature -30°C to 55°C; relative humidity less than 85%

#### Power Requirements:

115/230v AC, 50/60 Hz, 150 VA max

Bath Fluid: De-ionised water, approximately 34 litres (7½ gal)  
Bath Temperature: 0.010°C nominal (adjustable  
-0.5°C to +0.5°C, approximately)  
±2mK/month

# OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

## INSTALLATION

### LOCATION

The typical industrial standards laboratory provides an environment suitable for the bath, which is designed to operate at an ambient temperature between 15 and 26°C, in air that is relatively free of particulate material (particularly soluble salts) and soluble or corrosive gases such as ammonia or sulphur dioxide. The clearance necessary for cooling air to circulate through the back of the cabinet is provided by the extended frame around the air filter. This frame may be placed directly against a wall as long as the lower opening is not obstructed. The cabinet is equipped with castors so that it may be moved easily; however, care must be taken to avoid splashing water out of the bath. Power requirements need no special consideration; maximum power consumption is 150VA, and interruptions of a few minutes will not affect the condition of the cells because of the large thermal inertia of the bath.

### START UP

1. Visually inspect the system to ensure that it has not been damaged in transit.
2. Connect the mains cable to a suitable supply socket outlet and turn the power switch on. The fault alarm light should light steadily for several seconds, then fade off, and the cooler voltage meter should indicate about 20V.

#### **NOTE - All controls are factory-set for proper operation.**

3. Fill the tank to the top of the cell holder tubes with clean, de-ionised water. (If cool-down time is to be minimised, 10kg (22lbs) of clean, mineral-free ice cubes may be put into the tank before filling it with water).
4. Monitor the water temperature. Without ice, the temperature should drop about 0.6°C per hour (from 20°C). Ice, if used, should be removed when the bath temperature is between 3 and 4°C. This is to ensure that no ice is present to seed ice formation on the cooling surfaces when the bath reaches operating temperature.
5. When the cooler voltage drops below its "full voltage" level of about 20V, the bath is ready for use.

## OPERATION

Six openings are provided in the lid of the bath. The two small openings permit access to the thermometer pre-chill tubes and the four large openings permit access to the cells. The large openings should be kept closed with the split-plugs provided (these have thermometer channels so that closure may be maintained during use). The bath does not have sufficient cooling capacity to operate with the top open to ambient air, and must be covered with at least one layer of plastic film if it must be operated with the lid open.

The water level in the bath should just cover the top of the main body of the cells. Whenever the number of cells kept in the bath is changed, the water level should be adjusted to compensate. The water level and air filter should be checked weekly and maintained correctly. See Maintenance.

During normal operation, the "cooler voltage" meter provides a general indication of system function. The normal range is 10 to 17V, with higher voltage required at higher ambient temperature and humidity. Any change in cooler voltage which does not correspond to ambient conditions indicates a potential malfunction. See Maintenance.

Some micro-organisms are capable of growing in water near 0°C. Cloudy water and/or slimy surfaces in the bath may indicate such growth. See Maintenance.

**Due to the long cool down time we recommend that the bath is left running continuously; this maximises the life of the bath.**

Internal trips and temperature alarms protect the system and running costs are very low. We know of one bath that has been run constantly for over 10 years without problems, maintenance being restricted simply to that described in this manual. We do not recommend powering the bath up then down for short periods of operation.

## CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

At the upper right of the cabinet front is a control panel containing the power switch, "ON" and "FAULT" indicator lights, and a meter which indicates "COOLER VOLTAGE". Near the bottom of the cabinet front is the temperature controller front panel containing adjusting potentiometer dials for the controller set point and the two fault detector trigger points, indicator lights for "ON", for "FAULT" and for both fault detector circuits, and an audible alarm device.

The power switch on the control panel serves the normal function of a system power switch and also serves as a system reset following a fault condition. Resetting the system is accomplished by turning the power off for several seconds, then turning it back on. The "ON" indicator light indicates only that power is applied to the controller circuit, not that it is functioning. The "FAULT" indicator light indicates a fault condition only when it is flashing; it will light steadily for a few seconds after power is turned on while the system performs its automatic power-up reset.

The fault detector circuits trigger only on an under-temperature condition, since that is the only condition which is potentially destructive to the cells kept in the bath. About 20 minutes after either fault detector is triggered, power to the coolers will be cut off until the system is reset.

The controller "SET POINT" adjustment has a span of 1 degree Celsius (1 Kelvin) for dial readings of 000 to 999. Thus the nominal dial setting for 0°C would be 500; however, only the relative calibration of 1mK per dial digit can be considered relevant, since a significant portion of the span is used by component tolerances. Both fault detector "TRIGGER POINT" adjustments are calibrated in the same way as the controller set point. Each trigger point adjustment has an associated indicator light which lights as soon as that circuit detects an under-temperature condition. The output of each fault detector has a delay of about 20 minutes, so that the system fault alarm and cooler shutdown are not triggered by transient conditions. The power "ON" and fault alarm lights are duplicates of those on the control panel. The audible alarm device is activated whenever the system fault alarm is triggered; it emits a 2kHz beep for about 0.15 second each second.

## MAINTENANCE

### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Any change in cooler voltage which does not correspond to ambient conditions indicates a potential malfunction. An increase in cooler voltage could be caused by a dirty air filter or other obstruction to air flow, or by excessive air leakage around the lid gaskets, or by reduced flow of stirring air. A decrease in voltage could indicate low water level or a controller malfunction. The maximum voltage available to the coolers is approximately 20V. Any of several conditions may cause the controller to apply full power to the coolers.

Full power is required for about 48 hours to cool the bath from ambient to operating temperature. The controller will normally apply full power for several minutes if water is added to the bath, or if any warm object is placed into the bath. Ice formation on the cooling surfaces will cause the controller to apply full power as the water releases its heat of fusion, eventually resulting in an under-temperature fault as the thermal resistance of the ice layer increases. Failure of the cooling fans or total obstruction of the cooling air will result in a full power condition, which would eventually open one or both of the thermal fuses on the cooling module heat sinks as the bath temperature increases towards ambient.

**NOTE:** The cooler voltage meter will indicate the residual thermoelectric potential of the cooling modules, (about 2V with the bath 20°C below ambient) even with power disconnected. The meter will read true zero only with the 12-contact "Cinch" connectors on the rear panel of the controller disconnected.

Check the water level and the air filter weekly. Replace the air filter with a standard 8" x 16" fibreglass "furnace" filter if its clean area is less than 70% of original.

Cloudy water and/or slimy surfaces may indicate growth of micro-organisms. The bath may be disinfected by adding about 0.5 litre of household bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite), and leaving it in the bath for a few hours, then changing the water in the bath. Since the bleach is corrosive, all metal surfaces, including the lining of the access holes, should be rinsed with de-ionised water after disinfecting.

### CALIBRATION

Calibration of cells is not required since the water triple point temperature is a constant of nature. However, proper adjustment of the bath will optimise the life of the ice mantles in the cells. (See Appendix B for a procedure to verify the integrity of the cell).

## ADJUSTMENT

Adjust the bath temperature to 0.010°C using the following procedure. This procedure requires an operating water triple point cell and a thermometer with a resolution and short-term stability of 0.002K (2mK) or better.

1. Adjust the stirring air flow control on the rear panel of the controller for the lowest flow rate that will reliably maintain flow through all of the holes in both stirring tubes.
2. Calibrate the thermometer at 0.010°C in the triple point cell.
3. Place the thermometer in the bath adjacent to one of the cell holders, or in one of the pre-chill tubes.
4. Allow the thermometer to stabilise for about ½-hour, and determine the temperature difference between the bath temperature and the water triple point (0.01°C).
5. Observe and record the setting of the "controller set-point".
6. Adjust the "controller set-point" dial to eliminate the difference. (For example, if the bath temperature is 3mK below the triple point, and the dial setting is 524.4, set the dial to 527.4. Note that each dial digit represents 1mK and each digit is divided into 5 linear increments).
7. Allow the bath to stabilise (as indicated by the cooler voltage) and repeat steps 4 to 6 if necessary to make the bath temperature equal to the triple point within the readability of the thermometer or 1mK. (Note that the bath has a thermal time constant of about 20 minutes due to its large mass and limited cooling capacity).
8. Observe and record the settings of both fault detectors "trigger point" dials.
9. Unlock one trigger point dial and increase its setting until the indicator light lights.

**NOTE:** Do not keep the light on for more than a few minutes at a time. (The system fault alarm circuit has a delay of approximately 20 minutes and a reset time of less than 10 seconds).

Observe and record the dial setting for the off-to-on transition of the light.

10. Set the dial 100mK below the transition setting. (The trigger point dials are calibrated for 1mK per least significant digit, the same as the controller set point).
11. Repeat steps 8 and 9 for the other trigger point dial, and record the new settings of all three dials for future reference.

12. Test the fault alarm and shutdown logic by setting one trigger point dial a few mK above its transition setting. Within 30 minutes the system "FAULT" indicator should begin flashing and the alarm signal should begin beeping. The cooler voltage should drop to approximately 2 volts as soon as the system fault alarm is triggered. (Under these conditions, the "COOLER VOLTAGE" meter is reading the residual thermo-electric voltage generated by the coolers). Reset the trigger point dial to the setting recorded in step 10, and lock it.
13. Reset the system by turning the power switch off for a few seconds and then turning it back on. The "FAULT" light should light steadily for a few seconds then fade off each time the system is reset.
14. Repeat steps 11 to 13 with the other trigger point dial.
15. Adjust the meter mechanical zero by disconnecting the large, 12-contact "Cinch" connector from the rear of the controller, then adjusting the mechanical zero on the meter bezel.
16. Reconnect the "Cinch" connector and reset the system.

## **THEORY OF OPERATION**

### **REFRIGERATION**

Refrigeration is provided by four thermoelectric modules. These modules are sandwich structures of ceramic, copper and semiconductor material. They use the Peltier effect of the semiconductor material (bismuth telluride) to produce a current-dependent heat pumping action. Each thermoelectric module is mounted between a heat sink and an aluminium block. Two of these assemblies are mounted to an aluminium plate attached to the lower part of each side of the stainless steel tank. The cooled area of each side is about 230 by 280mm (9" x 11"). The tank is embedded in moulded foam insulation which has been formed to provide air channels over the heat sinks and across the bottom to the fans located near the centre of the horizontal panel that supports the tank assembly. The cooler circuit has two thermal fuses in series with the four modules to protect the system in case of fan failure. These fuses are mounted on one heat sink on each side of the tank assembly. Current through the thermo-electric modules is regulated by the controller circuitry.

Three precision thermistor probes monitor the temperature of the tank and the water. Two of these probes are inserted into wells from the rear of the tank assembly. (They are accessible through the air filter opening and monitor the tank wall temperature at the tops of the cooling plates). These probes are connected to the fault detector circuits. The other probe is the main control probe and is mounted to the top panel of the tank assembly such that it extends down into the water in the bath.

### **CONTROLLER**

#### **POWER SUPPLY**

The power transformer has dual primaries to permit operation with either 115V or 230V supplies. These windings are connected either in series or in parallel, by jumpers on the barrier strip located at the right rear of the controller chassis. When the primary windings are in series, they serve as an auto-transformer to supply 115V to the air pump and the cooling fan. The power switch is located on the control panel at the upper right of the cabinet front; therefore, the control panel connector, J5 (the 12 contact "Cinch" connector), must be connected for the controller to operate.

The +27V supply provides power to the thermoelectric cooling modules and the audible alarm, the +5V regulated supply provides logic power, and the analogue circuits operate from the -6V and +24V regulated supplies. Note that the main control circuit has separate -6V and +24V regulators to provide additional decoupling from the other circuits, and to improve controller reliability.

## MAIN CONTROL CIRCUIT

The main control circuit (schematic diagram, reference number 450-20-01) is a precision DC linear proportional controller. The controller input is basically a wheatstone bridge circuit consisting of R101 thru R106 and the main control probe. The control probe has a nominal resistance of 10k ohms at 25°C and 29.49k ohms at 0°C. Bridge current of 36 microamps is provided through R108, producing a bridge voltage of approximately 0.95V at normal operating conditions. The voltage at TP3 (the input of the first amplifier, U101) is nominally 0.52V with a change of -23 millivolts/kelvin [mV/K]. Negative feedback around U101 is provided through R107 and C101, giving a DC gain of the approximately 100 and a low-pass cut off frequency of about 3Hz. The output of U101 (TP4) is nominally 0V at null with a change of -2.3V/K. The output amplifier (U102) has no resistive feedback, and thus has a DC gain of the order of 10,000. However, negative feedback is provided through C103 so that the AC gain is limited to about 250. Another way of looking at the output amplifier is to consider it a proportional-plus-integral controller with a proportional band equivalent to about 35mK and a reset time of about 20 minutes. C103 is a special low-leakage tantalum capacitor. Note that D101, R111 and R112 assure that the bias on C103 is always the correct polarity. The output of U102, through R113, drives Q101, a Darlington power transistor connected as an emitter-follower to control voltage to the thermoelectric coolers from the 27V supply.

The tank assembly has four thermoelectric coolers and two thermal fuses (72°C) all in series. The DC resistance of this circuit is about 8 ohms at room temperature. Note that the resistance would be difficult to measure when the bath is cold due to a thermoelectric voltage of as much as 2V being generated by the coolers.

## FAULT DETECTOR CIRCUITS

The fault detector circuits are two identical under-temperature sensor circuits that provide an immediate indication of an under-temperature condition, then trip the system alarm and shut down the coolers after a delay of about 20 minutes. One of these circuits is described below. The input is a wheatstone bridge consisting of a probe and R201 through R205. This circuit is the same as the main controller circuit, except that no negative feedback is provided. Amplifier U201 operates as an open-loop voltage comparator; its output goes positive as the probe temperature goes below the limit set by front panel control R205. A positive output from U201 through R207 and D201 turns on Q201 to light fault detector indicator D203. This also applies a positive voltage of about 1.2V to the delay circuit R208 and C202. As C202 charges, the voltage at the gate of Q202 rises from -5V towards 0V, which, after about 20 minutes, turns Q202 on, thus tripping the system alarm logic and cutting power to the coolers. The gate of Q202 is protected from turn-off transients by R210. Note that D202 quickly discharges C202 if the output of U201 goes negative, thus erasing the effect of transient fault conditions. The fault detector probes are located at the upper edge of the cooling plates on the sides of the bath; thus a brief under-temperature indication may occur during transient load recovery, particularly when ambient temperature is high.

## SYSTEM ALARM LOGIC

The alarm logic section controls cooler shut-down and audible and visual alarm signals. The alarm logic is reset by the power-on reset signal from Q401.

The gate of Q401 is held negative by C401 for several seconds after power-on to allow time for the operator to verify operation of the fault alarm lights, D404 and D405. The reset signal from Q401 is inverted by U402-B to reset the R/S flip-flop consisting of U401-A and B. U402-A and E are the buffer and driver for Darlington power transistor Q402, which cuts power to the coolers if the system alarm is tripped. Timer U403 is set up for an output of 1 pulse/second at 15% duty. This is used through gates U401-C and D to drive the audible alarm at 15% duty, and the fault alarm lights at 85% duty. Zener diode D403 protects the audible alarm from over-voltage since the 27V supply is relatively unloaded whenever the alarm is sounding.

## REPAIR PROCEDURES

Troubleshooting and repair procedures are generally straightforward for an experienced technician. Isotech personnel are available to answer any question that might arise. The following information might, however, prove useful.

## CONTROLLER REMOVAL

The control assembly houses the system power supply, the controller and fault detector circuits and the stirring air pump. Remove the controller from the cabinet as follows:

1. Make sure power is disconnected.
2. Make sure the three probe cables at the right-hand end of the controller rear panel are labelled to match the panel labels.
3. Disconnect the two fan power plugs, two "Cinch" connectors, air hose and three probe connectors from the rear panel of the controller.
4. Remove the four screws holding the control front panel to the cabinet.
5. From the rear of the cabinet, lift the rear of the controller slightly upwards and replace the controller forwards until the front panel projects from the cabinet opening.
6. Remove the controller from the front of the cabinet.

## AIR PUMP REPLACEMENT

1. Make sure that power is disconnected and remove the controller from the cabinet as described above.
2. Remove four nuts holding the pump plate shock mount brackets to the chassis studs.
3. Replace the defective pump.
4. Remount the pump assembly, and re-install the controller in the cabinet.
5. Test pump operation, and adjust the flow control (R5) for the lowest air flow rate that reliably maintains air flow through all of the holes in both stirring tubes.

## CONTROLLER TROUBLE SHOOTING

The controller may be operated outside the cabinet for troubleshooting purposes as follows:

### **CAUTION**

**LINE VOLTAGE APPEARS AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE RIGHT REAR QUADRANT OF THE CONTROLLER. MAKE SURE THE CLEAR PLASTIC INSULATOR IS IN PLACE WHENEVER POWER IS CONNECTED.**

1. Remove the controller from the cabinet as described above.
2. Remove the access panel (two screws) directly above the lower opening of the cabinet back.
3. Place the controller on a low table directly behind the cabinet and re-connect the cables and air-hose.  
**NOTE: Make sure that the fans are running whenever the cooling modules (4 contact "Cinch" connectors) are operating.**
4. The system should now be operational. Refer to the schematic and component location diagrams for troubleshooting information.

## LINE VOLTAGE CONVERSION

1. Make sure that power is disconnected, and remove the controller from the cabinet as described above.
2. Remove the clear plastic insulator at the right rear of the controller.
3. To convert from 115V to 230V, remove the two jumpers between terminals 1 and 2, and between terminals 4 and 5 from the terminal strip, and install one jumper from terminal 2 to 4. Replace the 1½ A fuse with a 750mA fuse, and change the labelling.  

To convert from 230V to 115V, remove the jumper between terminals 2 to 4 from the terminal strip, and install two jumpers one between terminals 1 and 2, and the other between terminals 4 and 5. Replace the 750mA amp fuse with a 1½ A fuse, change the labelling, and change the mains cable and/or plug as required.
4. Replace the clear plastic insulator.

## TANK ASSEMBLY REMOVAL

The only individually replaceable parts on the tank assembly are the sensors and the thermal fuses that protect the cooling modules in cases of fan failure. The tank assembly may be removed as follows:

1. Make sure that the power supply is disconnected.
2. Remove the lid, (**CAUTION: SPRING LOADED HINGES**). With the lid in the closed position, remove the three screws holding the lower section of each hinge to the cabinet.
3. Remove the water from the tank. (A small submersible pump is convenient)
4. Remove the four screws holding the control panel to the upper right-hand corner of the cabinet front. Pull the panel forward and let it hang outside the cabinet by its cable. This will prevent the possibility of impact when the tank is removed.
5. Remove the access panel (held by two screws) directly above the lower opening at the rear of the cabinet.
6. Disconnect the 3 pin neutrik connector, air hose and three probe cables from the rear panel of the controller and assure that they are not tangled or snagged.
7. Remove first the cushioning strips and then 16 brass wood-screws holding the top panel of the tank assembly to the cabinet.
8. Secure the cabinet so that it can not move, and push the tank assembly to one side until the opposite edge of the top panel can be grasped. Lift the tank assembly vertically upwards by the side edges of the top panel.

**NOTE:** Do not lift by the corners of the panel, as the bond between the panel and the insulation might be damaged.

## THERMAL FUSE REPLACEMENT

Thermal fuses are attached to the top of one heat sink on each side of the tank assembly.

1. Remove the tank assembly from the cabinet as described above.
2. Test each thermal fuse with an ohmmeter. The normal resistance is only a few milliohms.
3. Unsolder the connections at each end of the defective thermal fuse.
4. Carefully cut the silicone rubber that holds the thermal fuse to the heat sink. Be careful to avoid damage to the insulation behind the thermal fuse.
5. Ensure that the replacement 60 C thermal fuse is wrapped with a layer of thin Kapton or Mylar tape to insulate it electrically from the heat sink.
6. Place two solid copper alligator clips on each lead of the thermal fuse, one adjacent to the body, and the other about 6mm ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) away (these serve as heat sinks during soldering).
7. Quickly solder the connections to the new fuse.

**NOTE:** Slow soldering, or the absence of heat-sinks, can cause the fuse to melt.

8. Bend the leads of the fuse so that it is positioned against the top edge of the heat sink, and cement it in place with non-corrosive, single part, silicone rubber (Dow Corning RTV 3145 or equivalent).
9. Check the cooler circuit with an ohmmeter (resistance should be about 8 ohms) before re-assembling the bath.

## FAN REPLACEMENT

To replace either of the two fans:

1. Remove the controller from the cabinet as described above.
2. Remove four thumb-screws holding the fan support to the top of the controller compartment and remove the support with fan attached.
3. Detach the fan from the support (4 screws).
4. Mount the new fan to the support and re-attach the assembly to the top panel of the controller compartment.

## SCHEMATIC NOTES

1. Fuse. F1 is a slow blow type (Buss MDL or equivalent). It is 1½ A for 115 volts, or 750mA for 230 volts.
2. Resistances are in ohms. K = 10<sup>3</sup>, M = 10<sup>6</sup>.
3. Capacitors C103, 202 and 302 are special low-leakage tantalum (Sprague Type 109 D). The effect of leakage of C103 is about 0.16 kelvin/microamp.
4. Capacitances are in microfarads, except "p" indicates picofarads.
5. Numbered circles (Drawing No. 450-20-01) indicate the boundaries of the pc board.
6. Numbers in square brackets (Drawing No. 450-2-01) indicate wire colours.
7. U401 is a 4011 CMOS quad NAND gate, U402 is a 75492 hex open collector inverter/buffer, and U403 is the CMOS version of a 555 timer. (A standard 555 could be substituted for U403 if necessary).
8. Connect 3 pin neutrik plug on the back of the controller chassis. The three probe connectors (J1-J3) are identical. Make sure that the probe cables are properly tagged before disconnecting them. (The probes are, in fact, interchangeable except for calibration).

9. Test points are designated component leads; see the component layout for physical locations.

TP1 is the system reset line and is low during normal operation. It is high for several seconds after power-up.

TP2 is the alarm trip and is normally high. It will go low after about 20 minutes of continuous fault indication by either of the fault detector circuits.

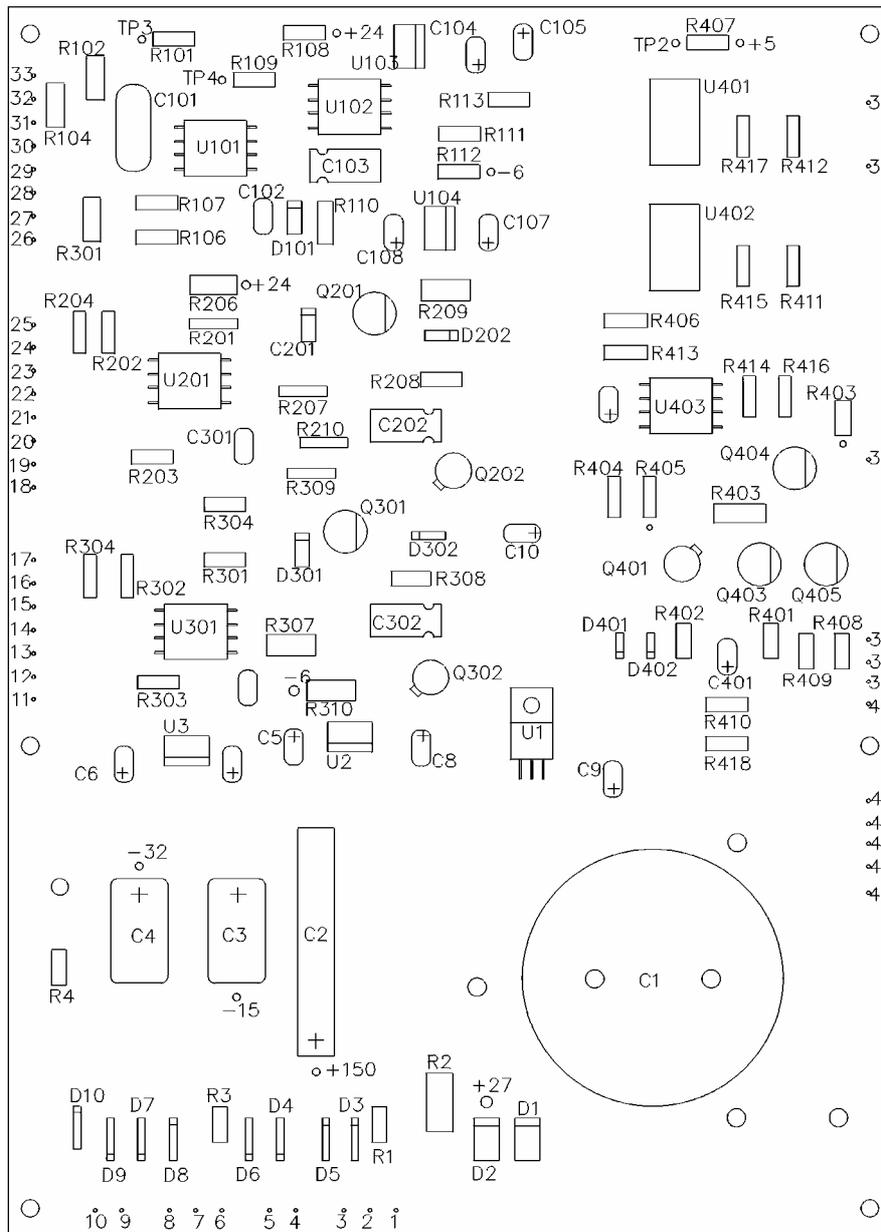
**NOTE:** Connecting a meter to this test point will probably trip the alarm. This can be avoided by using a 100K ohm resistor between the meter probe and the test point, then calculating the voltage from the meter reading and its input resistance.

TP3 is the main control probe. The voltage at this point will be about 540mV during normal operation, or about 400mV with the probe at room temperature. The voltage change is about  $-24\text{mV}/^\circ\text{C}$  at the normal operating point.

**NOTE:** Connecting a meter to this test point will probably disturb the operation of the controller.

TP4 is the output of the main controller first amplifier, and is nominally 0V with a change of about  $2.5\text{V}/^\circ\text{C}$  at the operating point.

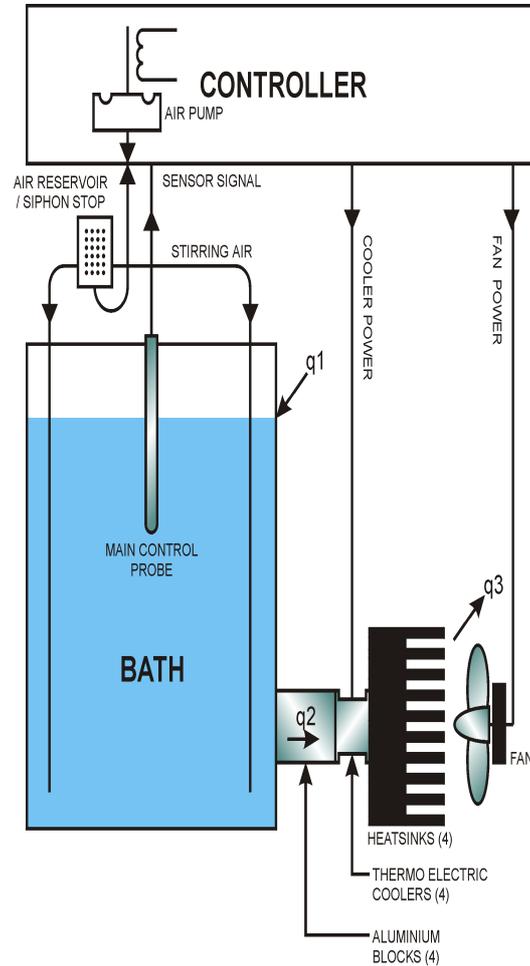
- 10) The air-flow controller (R5) is located on the rear panel of the controller chassis, adjacent to the air hose connection.



- 1 RED
- 2 RED
- 3 YELLOW
- 4 ORANGE
- 5 ORANGE
- 6 GREEN
- 7 GREEN
- 8 YELLOW
- 9 BROWN
- 10 BROWN
- 11 BLUE
- 12 RED
- 13 SHIELD
- 14 SHIELD
- 15 BLUE
- 16 YELLOW
- 17 RED
- 18 WHT/ORG
- 19 BLUE
- 20 RED
- 21 SHIELD
- 22 SHIELD
- 23 BLUE
- 24 YELLOW
- 25 RED
- 26 WHT/RED
- 27 SHIELD
- 28 BLUE
- 29 RED
- 30 SHIELD
- 31 BLUE
- 32 YELLOW
- 33 RED
- 34 BROWN
- 35 BLUE
- 36 WHT/YEL
- 37 WHT/BLUE
- 38 BLUE/WHT
- 39 WHT/GRN
- 40 GRN/WHT
- 41 RED
- 42 RED
- 43 BLACK
- 44 YELLOW
- 45 YELLOW

NOTE: TEST POINTS ARE DESIGNATED COMPONENT LEADS AS INDICATED. VOLTAGES ARE REFERRED TO CHASSIS COMMON. SEE 'SCHEMATIC NOTES' FOR DESCRIPTION OF TEST POINT SIGNALS.

**Refrigeration Diagram:**



$q_1$  = Rate of heat flow from ambient to the bath.

$q_2$  = Heat flow from the bath to the four thermo electric coolers.

(This is the same rate of heat flow as  $q_1$ , but at about  $0^\circ\text{C}$ ).

$q_3$  = Heat flow from the heat sinks to ambient. (This is equal to  $q_2 + P$ , where  $P$  is the electrical power used to drive the thermo electric heat pumps).

## APPENDIX A: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WATER TRIPLE POINT

The International Temperature Scale of 1990 (ITS 90), the scale most used in science and industry, is defined by a series of fixed points. Defining fixed points are two-phase or three-phase equilibria of ideally pure materials to which temperature values are assigned. These values are derived from fundamental methods of thermometry and are considered to be exact by definition. Two-phase equilibria may be solid-liquid, liquid-vapour, or solid-vapour. All are pressure-dependent, at least to some extent, with those involving the vapour phase having much larger pressure coefficients than solid-liquid equilibria. Equilibria in which all three phases are present (triple points) define fixed temperatures, the pressure is, in each case, uniquely defined by the simultaneous existence of all three phases of one material in the absence of other influences (the vapour pressure of the material in the containing vessel will be negligible as will be its dissolution in the thermometric material).

Of all defining fixed points, the triple point of water (the equilibrium point of liquid and solid water under its vapour pressure) is the most important for both theoretical and practical reasons.

1. The triple point of water is the single defining point of the Kelvin Thermodynamic Temperature Scale (KTTS) on which ITS-90 is based and is the accepted reference temperature for SPRT characteristics.
2. The triple point of water is, at present, the most accurately realisable of the defining fixed points. Properly used, it is not difficult to realise the temperature of the triple point, 0.01°C, with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.0001^\circ\text{C}$ . (To put this in context, it is difficult to prepare and use an ice bath with accuracy of better than 0.002°C).
3. Computer-interpolated calibration printouts which accompany an SPRT provide tables of temperature versus the ratio of resistance of the thermometer at that temperature to its resistance at the triple point of water:

$$W(t^\circ\text{C}) = R(t^\circ\text{C})/R(0.01^\circ\text{C})$$

For measurements of the highest precision, proper technique for use of an SPRT is as follows:-

- a) Measure the thermometer resistance at temperature required.
  - b) Measure the thermometer resistance at the water triple point.
  - c) Calculate the ratio by dividing (a) by (b).
  - d) Find the temperature in the table corresponding to this ratio.
4. The water triple point is relatively inexpensive to acquire, and the equilibrium can be maintained for long periods with a minimum of effort.

5. The water triple point is an excellent check and quality assurance control on SPRT's and other thermometers. If a thermometer resistance remains constant at the water triple point, it is probably in calibration at all temperatures within its range.

We at Isothermal Technology Limited, Southport, manufacture a range of Water Triple Point Cells which are designated as A11 (11mm bore) with McCleod gauge and B12 (with 12mm bore).

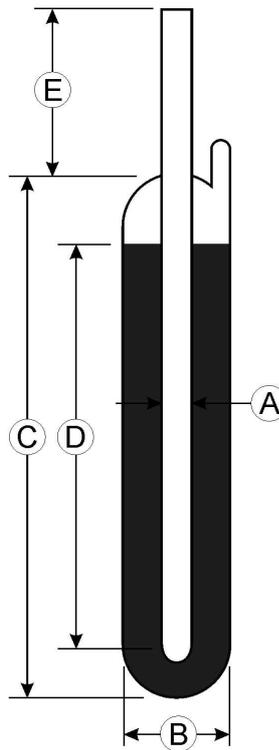
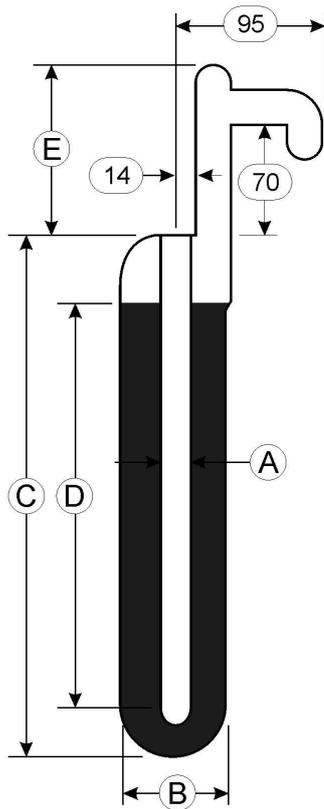
The illustration overleaf shows the configuration and dimensions of cells available from Jarrett-Isotech.

The Isotech Water Triple Point Bath, as furnished, will accommodate A-11 (11mm bore) and A-13 (13mm bore) cells; the cell holding tubes will accommodate B11/65; B13/65 and B16/65 cells with modification of the top bushing and bottom plug. Please call Isotech for information on special cell holders.

## PHYSICAL FEATURES

**Type A cells** were designed by Dr. H. F. Stimson at NBS. A tubular glass extension at the top of the cell serves as a convenient handle for lifting and carrying the cell, as a hook for supporting it in an ice bath, and as an indicator of partial pressure of air in the cell.

**Type B cells** were designed at NRC of Canada. The thermometer well extends 100mm above the top of the cell. Heat transfer to the ice mantle may be essentially eliminated by keeping these cells packed in ice to the top of the well extension, or by immersing them sufficiently in a Water Triple Point Maintenance Bath.



Model	Nominal Dimensions in mm					Comments
	A	B	C	D	E	
A11-50-270	11	50	350	270	100	Highly recommended (1) (2)
A13-50-270	13	50	350	270	100	Large re-entrant tube
B8-30-130	8	30	160	130	0	Was D8, Ideal for Isocal-6, NPL type 16
B12-40-210	12	40	290	210	75	Replacement NPL type 32
B12-46-210	12	46	290	210	75	Fits Oceanus, Hydra, was C12
B11-50-270	11	50	350	270	100	Highly recommended (1) (2)
B11-65-270	11	65	350	270	100	NRCC's favourite Cell (2)
B13-65-270	13	65	350	270	100	Large re-entrant tube
B16-65-270	16	65	350	270	100	Larger re-entrant tube

## PERFORMANCE

### Accuracy

The equilibrium of the Jarrett Triple Point of Water Cell is guaranteed to be within  $+0.000,00$  and  $-0.000,04^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the triple-point of pure water which has a natural isotopic composition.

### Reproducibility

The equilibrium temperature of a cell will repeat to within  $\pm 0.000,02^{\circ}\text{C}$  of the mean equilibrium temperature.

### Stability

After equilibrium is reached, the temperature of the inner melt of an ice mantle will remain constant to within  $\pm 0.000,01^{\circ}\text{C}$  for as long as the mantle can be preserved (up to 90 days in some instances).

### Life

Soluble impurities in glass slowly diffuse to the surface, are dissolved in the water of a Triple Point of Water Cell and eventually cause a lowering of equilibrium temperature. The glass used in Jarrett cells is subjected to an accelerated ageing process before filling, which increases the effective life of the cell. No detectable change in equilibrium temperature should be expected for the first 8 to 10 years of life. The equilibrium temperature of cells over 12 years old, may lower by  $0.0001^{\circ}\text{C}$  or more.

(1) Isotopic Analysis is available.

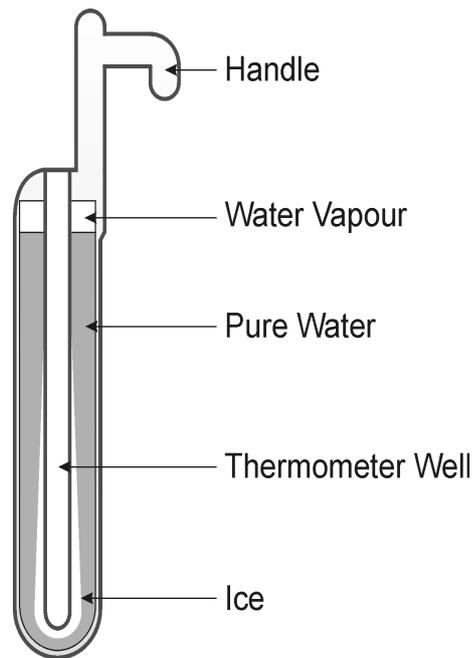
(2) Available in Quartz Glass.

(3) Any Cell described can be supplied with a UKAS Certificate.

(4) A range of apparatus is available to create and maintain the cells.

## APPENDIX B: TRIPLE POINT CELL OPERATION

The illustration below shows a water triple point cell (Jarrett Type A).



The ice mantle may be frozen in one of several ways. The procedure for the most common of these ways is as follows:

1. Pre-chill the cell in a bath of ice and water or in the Isotech Triple Point Bath.

**NOTE:** The large thermal mass of a cell, coupled with the limited cooling capacity of the bath, will produce a significant disturbance in bath temperature when a cell is cooled from ambient temperature in the bath. Therefore, if the bath contains an operating cell, the cell to be frozen should be cooled to about 4°C in an ordinary refrigerator before putting it into the bath. If a room-temperature cell is put directly into the bath, the thickness of the mantle at the bottom of an operating cell may be reduced by about 1mm.

2. Carefully invert the cell to drain the thermometer well.

**CAUTION - Tilt the cell very carefully through the horizontal; the flowing of water from one end of the cell to the other will cause vapour bubbles to collapse and reform. The collapse of vapour bubbles produces a sharp clicking sound, and the glass can be broken if the water is moving rapidly.**

3. Fill the thermometer well with alcohol and drain it again to remove the remaining water.

4. Put several drops of alcohol into the well (so that it contains about 1ml). (The alcohol serves as a heat transfer fluid during the freezing of the mantle).
5. There are various techniques for coating the ice mantle in the cell; Isotech recommends the use of the heatpipe apparatus model 452 which uses either solid carbon dioxide or liquid nitrogen. Ask for details.
6. Whichever method you decide to use, continue to form the ice mantle until sufficiently thick, usually 4 to 10mm. The ice mantle may be made as thick as desired, with the caution that, because of the circular cross-section of the cell and the refractive index of water, the mantle appears larger than its actual size, and incremental growth of a thick mantle is difficult to observe. If the mantle grows so that it impacts the inside diameter of the outer tube, the glass may be broken. The actual size of the mantle may be observed by gently inverting the cell.
7. During the process of freezing the mantle, care should be taken to see that an ice bridge does not form between the thermometer well and the outer tube at the top of the water column. Such a bridge can break the glass. If a bridge begins to form, warm the water locally by holding it with the hand to melt the ice bridge.

***Isotech assumes no responsibility for the breakage of cells due to excess ice.***

8. When the well is free of dry ice, remove as much of the alcohol as possible, and place the cell in the Isotech Triple Point Bath. At this time, an inner melt may be formed as described below; however, the temperature of the cell may be as much as 0.0005 Kelvin below 0.01°C, due to stress in the newly formed ice mantle. A rest in the bath of 24 hours will relieve this stress and realise the correct temperature.

During use, whilst the frozen cell is maintained in the bath, it is prudent practice to examine the cell at intervals of several days to assure that (1) no ice bridge is formed and (2) the mantle is not even growing close to the inside of the outer wall of the cell.

The water triple point equilibrium can be maintained in the Isotech bath for long periods of time, depending upon the frequency of use and the heat added to the cell by inserted thermometers.

The ice mantle may be conveniently viewed by holding the cell at an angle in the open central portion of the bath so that the water in the bath compensates for refraction at the cell's cylindrical surface.

To measure a thermometer at the water triple point, the following is recommended:

1. Remove a cell from the bath.
2. Initially free the ice mantle by inserting a room temperature glass, quartz or aluminium rod, or a thermometer, for a few seconds. The purpose is to melt a film of water, the "inner melt", between the outside of the thermometer well and the ice mantle. When an axial twist of the cell causes the mantle to spin freely, the cell is ready for use.

**CAUTION - On no account attempt to axially twist the cell unless the mantle is first freed or this can rupture the reentrant tube of the cell.**

Return the cell to the bath.

3. To prolong the equilibrium as long as possible, it is suggested that any thermometer be pre-chilled before being inserted into the cell. Pre-chill tubes are provided in the Isotech bath for this purpose.
4. During all measurements, and during the entire time the cell is maintained in the bath, the water level should be such that the thermometer well is full of bath water (Type A cell).
5. For those thermometers whose stems can act as pipes for radiant energy, particularly SPRT's with quartz tubes, there is some evidence that minor errors in temperature can be caused by the conductance of radiant energy into the cell. A source of such energy can be laboratory ceiling lights. It is good practice to cover the head of the thermometer and the cover of the bath with an opaque black cloth during measurements.
6. The temperature  $0.01^{\circ}\text{C}$  is defined at the liquid-vapour interface. This is not the location of the thermometer sensing element. Whilst the cell temperature is independent of ambient pressure, it requires correction for the hydrostatic head of the internal water. This correction is  $-0.73 \times 10^{-6}\text{C}$  for every mm of water column height.

Since the temperature of the cell is defined by its equilibrium, it is not subject to calibration, NBS traceability, or such considerations. The integrity of the cell may be established absolutely as follows. (Note that these instructions refer to a chilled cell whether or not an ice mantle is frozen in it. The phenomena will be less noticeable in a room-temperature cell).

1. Gently invert the cell. As the water column strikes the opposite end, un-cushioned by air, a distinct clicking noise will be heard. This ensures that the cell is free of air. The pressure of water vapour at the water triple point is about 4.6mm Hg.
2. Gently invert the cell so as to capture the bubble of water vapour in the handle. Continue to invert. The bubble will be compressed by the water and will shrink to the size of a small pea or less.

If these tests can be met, the cell is qualified. If not, there is probably a minute crack in the glass which has admitted air.

Transportation of water triple point cells is a matter for extreme care. It is preferable to hand carry them in the upright position. The impact of rapid motion of the water column along the cylindrical axis has been known to break cells. In any transportation, it is obvious that the cell must be protected from freezing.