

Using the BioTek Microplate Washer

Some basic information:

- There are different types of peri-pumps that vary based on the increments they can aliquot (e.g. - 10 μ l or 1 μ l)
- There are two pump positions: pri (primary) and sec (secondary).
- You can autoclave the tubing, tubing head and cassette by removing the entire thing, wrapping it in foil and autoclaving for 15 min on dry cycle.

Cleaning:

1. For the pump in the sec position, press down on the silver plate to put the tubing into position. Flip the rounded cover over the tubes.
2. Spray the tubing and tubing head with 70% EtOH.
3. Place tubing head in a bottle of 70% EtOH.
4. Press Main Menu.
5. Press "Quick" - this will allow you to do a quick cleaning before starting your protocol. Under this menu, "Pump" changes the pump you are operating with (pri or sec), "Prime" starts running the pump, "Purge" runs the pump backward if you want to save the reagent in the tubing.
6. Use "Prime" to run 70% EtOH through.
7. Remove tubing head and press "Prime" again to remove 70% EtOH from the tubing.
8. Place tubing head in dH₂O and wash as you did with 70% EtOH ("Prime" with tubing head in dH₂O and then "Prime" with tubing head out of the the dH₂O).
9. When you are done with a protocol, wash the tubing by repeating steps 5-8 with the following modification:
 - after priming some 70% EtOH into the tubing, allow the 70% EtOH to incubate for a couple of minutes.
 - prime with 70% EtOH a second time
 - After washing with dH₂O and priming out remaining dH₂O , place empty tubing head in a clean 50 ml conical.

Making a Program:

1. Press "Main Menu".
2. Press "Define".
3. Press "Create".
4. Name your program (press "Options" to go forwards through the alphabet or shift+"Options" to go backwards through the alphabet).
5. Choose plate type (e.g. - normal 96 well, 96-well deep, 96-well half, etc).
6. Add a step.
7. Choose dispenser type (peri-pump, syringe or shake).
8. Choose dispense type (dispense, prime or purge).
9. Continue based on type of dispenser and type of dispense.