

## CARE AND USE OF AUTOCLAVEABLE DROP DISPENSERS

1. Place stir elements (bars, dowels, or discs) in a small beaker and cover with aluminum foil. Sterilize stir elements by autoclaving or heating in a hot air oven at 150°C for 1 hour.
2. Sterilize the Drop Dispenser by autoclaving or heating in a hot air oven at 150°C for 1 hour.
3. Carefully pour about 5 times the needed number of stir elements into the loading bay. Slide the scrapping bar to the left. Swirl the dispenser (like you are panning for gold) until all the depressions are filled.
4. Tip and swirl the excess stir elements so they accumulate on the right side of the dispenser. Slide the scraping bar to the right to sweep excess stir elements into the loading bay.
5. Ensure that there is only 1 Stir Element per hole.
6. Place the Dispenser on a sterile microplate and dispense the stir elements by pushing on the top plenum to align the plenum holes with the holes in the Dispenser platform. Repeat this process 3 times and visually verify that each stir elements have fallen through the holes.
7. Magnetize the stir elements in the microplate by placing it on the Magnetic Tumble Stirrer<sup>®</sup>. Adjust the speed potentiometer to obtain the desired speed. **Do not use the speed controller to stop the stirrer; use the on/off switch.**
8. To recover stir elements from microplates, simply place a microplate lid on the magnetic block, pass the magnet block slowly over the top of the microplate to pull the stir elements out of the wells. Position the magnetic block over a beaker and remove the microplate lid from the magnetic block so the stir elements fall into the beaker.
9. Cover the beaker with aluminum foil and demagnetize the stir elements by passing them over the VP 781 Demagnetizer or another commercial demagnetizer.
10. Clean the stir elements using detergents and rinsing steps appropriate to your application. Sterilize and dry stir elements by autoclaving or baking in a hot air oven.