Lab Centrifuge


THIS EQUIPMENT IS SUITABLE FOR USE IN CLASS I, DIVISION 2, GROUP D OR NON-HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS ONLY
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1 Read this first

This manual is intended for qualified electronic technicians.

Knowledge of electronic and sound industry practices is necessary to use this manual. **Warning! Service to any Benchmark Centrifuge while under warranty without factory authorization will void any and all warranties.** This manual is not a substitution for sound industry practices. Any component damaged during service by any technician other than factory is the responsibility of the customer for repair or replacement. This manual is designed only to assist the technician in troubleshooting the Benchmark Centrifuge and should be used only as a guide. 

⚠️ Danger ⚠️

**Risk of electrical shock!** When the front panel is open, there is exposure to full voltage when the power is off at the breaker box even when the power is not turned on at the centrifuge!

**Warning!** The motor controller board has a floating ground plane. Any short circuit from the board or wiring coming from the board to ground will short out the board. Be very careful when making adjustments when the board is energized or this could result in a very expensive replacement of the board and other components.

If the centrifuge does not work and you are not sure of the cause:

1. Check to be sure power is on.
2. Make sure lid is completely closed.
3. If using timer, make sure there is time remaining. (reset timer to previous setting or set the time by following the procedure in “TIMED OPERATIONS”.
4. If the timer is not being used, turn the “MOTOR RUN TIMER” to “OFF” position.
5. Check fuses. ⚠️ Danger ⚠️ **Risk of electrical shock!** Remove power to the centrifuge by turning circuit breakers off before opening the front panel.
Fuses

There are 5 fuses located behind the front panel of your centrifuge. These are used for over current protection due to voltage spikes or accident. If replacement becomes necessary, disconnect power to the centrifuge. Remove the 8 screws on the upper front panel. Panel swings down. Replace fuses with 250V “SLO-BLOW” or “FAST ACTING” ceramic type that is CSA or UL certified as indicated at right:

FUSE HOLDER

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<th>Fuse Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>SLO-BLOW</td>
<td>20A</td>
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</table>

Troubleshooting

If the previous action does not remedy the problem, continue with the following procedures. If the problem you have is not listed below call (713) 926-2623 for assistance.

Motor will not run

⚠️ Danger ⚠️ Risk of electrical shock! There are many conditions that can cause the motor not to run. Some of these conditions are very simple while others are more complex. We will start with the simple solutions.

Proximity Switch

Most of the problems we have encountered thus far has been with the proximity switch in the lid. This switch senses the lid being closed and closes a circuit allowing the motor controller to feed power to the motor.

The switch can be temporarily closed by placing a magnet in front of it with the top door open. See drawings on the following pages for location. If the motor works with the temporary magnet in place, an alignment of the proximity switch will be neces-
When aligning, be sure the lid closes far enough so that the safety lock can engage when the motor starts to run.

The magnetic fields change slightly when the steel top is replaced. Be sure to check the alignment again when the top is in place. Further adjustment may be necessary.

The proximity switch itself could be faulty or have a bad connection. Follow the wires to the connection points behind the control panel and run a jumper between them to act as a temporary closed switch. If the motor works after this jumper is in place, the proximity switch may have to be replaced or wiring fixed.

**Motor Controller**

When the motor controller is working properly and powered up, you will find a green power and a red fault led lit up on the daughter board. When the motor is running the red fault light will turn off. If the green power light does not come on when power is properly supplied to the board, it is likely the rectifier on the board has been blown and the board will have to be repaired or replaced. Generally, when this occurs, the fuse that protects the board will blow when powering up the centrifuge.

If you are getting a green and red light, you can easily check to see if other circuitry is the problem by bypassing all of the controls to the motor controller board. Set the speed control pot to approx. 500 rpm’s. Run a jumper (counting from right to left) from pin 1 (black wire) to pin 3 (gray wire). The motor should start spinning. If the motor does not work, check the 12VDC relays and power supply to the left of the motor controller board. Make sure they are working properly and all wiring is in place.

If you are getting a green and red light and the motor wants to stall or does not come up the speed properly or the fault light does not go off when the motor is running, check all 3 of the 20 amp slow blow fuses.

When replacement of the motor controller becomes necessary, you will need to set the trim pots on the board. Warning! Be very careful not to short any terminals on the board.

**With power off**

1. Set TQ pot:
   - Turn all the way clockwise

2. Set Regulation pot:
   - Turn all the way clockwise

3. Set Accel. pot:
   - Turn all the way counterclockwise.
4. **Set Decel. pot:** Turn all the way counterclockwise.
5. **Set Min. Spd. pot:** Turn all the way counterclockwise.
6. **Set Max. Spd. pot:** Turn all the way counterclockwise.
   - Turn Speed Control Knob to 1850 rpm’s. Power on motor. Turn max. spd. pot clockwise until the motor reaches max. 1850 rpm’s.
7. **Reset TQ pot:** Turn all the way counterclockwise.
   - Turn Speed Control Knob to 1850 rpm’s. Power on motor. Turn max. spd. pot clockwise until the motor reaches max. 1850 rpm’s.

## Tachometer

With the centrifuge turned off, there should be a “0” showing in the LCD window. If this is not the case, replace batteries and follow the procedure for programming the tachometer.

If the tachometer is giving false readings on rpm’s, follow the procedures for reprogramming.

## Timer

With the centrifuge turned off, there should be numbers showing in the LCD window. If this is not the case, replace batteries and follow the procedure for programming the timer.

If the timer is giving false readings or showing 8’s in the LCD window, follow the procedures for reprogramming.

### Checking Accuracy

**RPM’s**

In order to check the accuracy of the rate meter, the lid safety lock mechanism will have to be defeated. The only time this mechanism should ever be defeated is for the purposes of this procedure. Do Not leave the interlock mechanism in a defeated state during normal operations or any time this evaluation is not being conducted. Defeating this mechanism is fairly simple, however, caution...
Due to the relative nature of sensing heat, temperature accuracy can only be tested through process. The temperature sensor is always going to read higher than the sample due to the location of the sensor on the outside of the bowl and the pressure build up against the outside of the bowl. Set the temperature indicator to whatever it takes to maintain sample temperature. In most cases, set the heat 20 degrees higher than the desired sample temperature. Please note as a general rule the temperature controller, indicator or
sensor either works or it doesn’t. If the controller, indicator or sensor is not working properly, replacement will be necessary.

The following procedures are only necessary when original programming is lost, replacing batteries or replacing with a new unit.

**Battery Replacement**

Make sure power to your centrifuge is disconnected at the main breaker box. Open the front panel of the centrifuge by removing the 8 screws at the top. Swing the panel down to expose the back of the RPM indicator.

**Battery Installation**

Remove the battery cover by pushing inward and down. Remove old batteries. Install new batteries in both of the two slots. Once the batteries are in place, the unit will go into a self test mode, and all the segments on the LCD display will be illuminated. The self test mode is exited by depressing the Next key, which will then display the model number (4). Depress the Next key again to ready the unit for operation.

Each time the batteries are removed and then replaced, the...
RPM indicator will have to be reprogrammed. Run a jumper wire from terminal 5 to terminal 1 as shown below:

Programming parameters can now be accessed by pressing the Down key on the front of the RPM indicator. To edit a parameter, use the Down key scroll until the desired parameter appears on the screen. Pressing the Next key will cause the left most digit of that value to begin to flash.

**Rate Calibrator Dec. Pt.**
Sets the decimal position to be used with the Rate Input Calibrator in a range from X.XXX to XXXX. Disregard the value of the number and set the decimal position to XX.XX as shown below.

**Rate Display Decimal Point**
Sets the decimal position to be used for the rate display in a range from Off to 0.000. Set this parameter to off as shown below.

**Time Display**
Indicates amount of remaining time.

**Rate Input Calibrator**
Multiplies the input frequency by this value and displays the results as the rate value. In combination with the Rate Decimal Point parameter the calibrator value can be set in a range from 0.001 to 9999. Set this value to 15 as shown below.
Down Key
Toggles the unit between the time and preset displays when in Operation Mode. After a menu item has been chosen for editing, the down key is used to set the value for the currently selected (flashing) digit.

Next/Reset Key
When in Operation Mode, depressing the key will reset the time value to the operator preset value. When the preset input is active this key is used to select a menu item for editing (left most digit will begin to flash) and will move to the right each time the key is depressed.

Preset Value. Indicates replaced, the timer will have the reset value.

Battery Installation
Remove the battery cover by pushing inward and down. Remove old batteries. Install new batteries in both of the two slots. Once the batteries are in place, the unit will go into a self test mode, and all the segments on the LCD display will be illuminated. The self test mode is exited by depressing the Next key, which will then display the model number (8). Depress the Next key again to ready the unit for operation.

Each time the batteries are removed and then replaced, the timer will have to be reprogrammed. Run a jumper wire from terminal 5 to terminal 1 as shown below.

Battery Replacement
Make sure power to your centrifuge is disconnected at the main breaker box. Open the front panel of the centrifuge by removing the 8 screws at the top. Swing the panel down to expose the back of the timer. Set this parameter to interval (“int”) as shown below.
Programming parameters can now be accessed by pressing the Down key on the front of the RPM indicator. To edit a parameter, use the Down key to scroll until the parameter appears. Pressing the Next key will cause the left most digit of that value to begin to flash. Use the Next and Down keys in combination to choose individual digits and change their value.

**Timing Direction**

Determines if the time will count up or down. Set this parameter to “dn” as shown below:

![Schematic](image)

**Front Panel Reset Enable**

When active (ON) the time value, when being displayed, can be reset by pressing the Next/Reset key. If set to OFF, the time value can only be reset through the remote input. Set this parameter to “on” as shown below.

**Time Format**

Sets the units in which the elapsed time will be accumulated. Use the next key to scroll through the available choices: Seconds, Minutes ( _ _ _ _ _ . _ ) Hours ( _ _ _ _ _ . _ ) Hours: Minutes: Seconds. Set the parameter to Hours: Minutes: Seconds: as shown below.

**Preset Lock**

When enabled the preset value can not be changed through the front panel. Set this desired parameter to “off” as shown on the screen.

**Output Mode**

Determines whether the output will be an on-delay or interval timer. Set this parameter to interval (“int”) as shown below.

Note: On initial start-up, as well as after any programming changes, it will be necessary to reset the unit before beginning operation.
The following pages show wiring diagrams and breakdowns for repair and assembly, including component part numbers. When ordering replacement parts, please have the model and serial number of your machine available.