

Universal Thermal Cracker for Surface Science

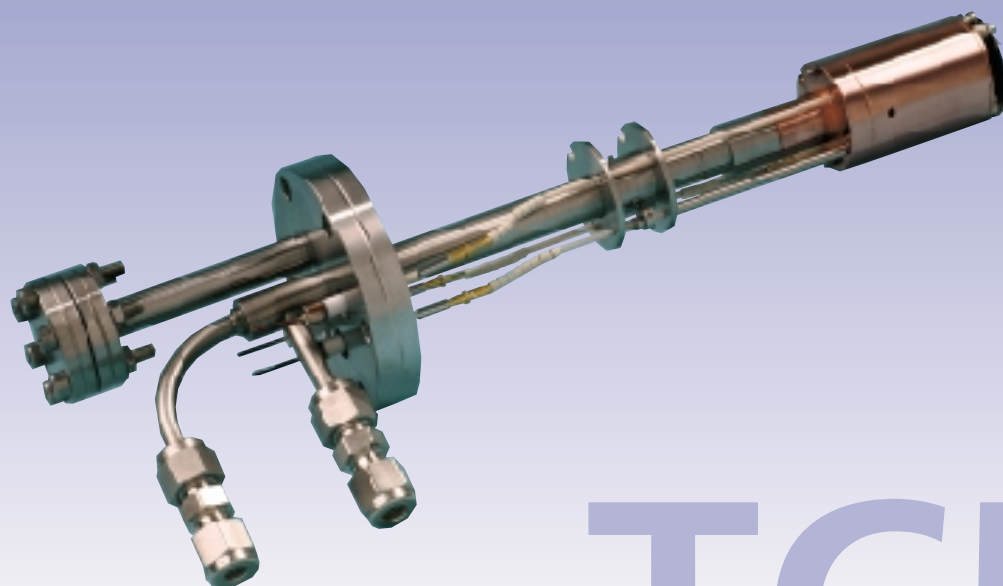
H₂, O₂, hydrides, halogens, HCs, NH₃

The TC50

Currently available thermal crackers employ a very hot (~2500°C) tungsten filament at high power (~400W), thus imposing an undesirable heat load on UHV systems. Also, this type of cracker is not very gas-efficient and is of limited application (principally for H₂) since tungsten is severely attacked by some gases, such as oxygen. The Oxford Applied Research Universal Thermal Cracker, model TC50, exploits its established reactive gas-resistant e-beam heating technology. It incorporates a fine-bore inert cracker *tube* connected directly to the gas-inlet line, thus confining and minimising gas load, whilst providing a large surface area and long path length for high efficiency cracking at very low flow rates.

The catalytic nature of the cracker tube substantially lowers the otherwise-high temperature and power necessary to achieve substantial (>70%) dissociation, respectively to <1000°C at 60W. Also, in contrast to tungsten filament crackers, it can be used to dissociate O₂, Cl₂ and other reactive gases and thus constitutes a truly universal thermal cracker.† Direct water-cooling of the cracker body minimises outgassing of the instrument which is also fitted with a back-up (oxygen-resistant) spare filament for prolonged operations.

† A singular exception is N₂ – its bond energy is too high.



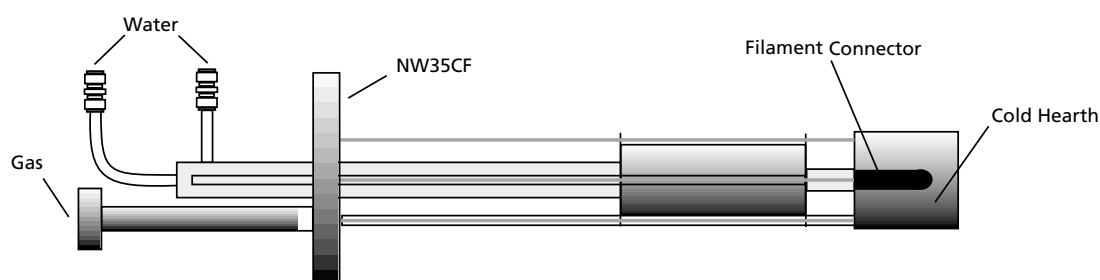
TC50

Applications

- 'Soft' substrate cleaning
- Oxides, Nitrides, Oxynitrides
- Surfactants
- Zero-damage hydrogen cleaning
- Etching with H, Cl, Br

Features

- High dissociation efficiency
- Ultra-clean operation
- Very low power (<60W)
- Dual/Back-up filament
- Low Maintenance



TC50 Thermal Cracker (schematic and not to scale)

Specification – model TC50[†]

Mounting	NW35CF
In-vacuum diameter	34mm
In-vacuum length	200mm (standard)
Cracker temp.	≤1000°C
Max. Power	60W
Services	Water (0.5litres/min. <20°C)
Power supply	Single phase 110/220V AC
Gas flow rate	<0.5sccm
Filaments	Two ThO ₂ -coated (one spare)

[†] A Technical Note on the TC50 and its applications is available on request.

Options

- Remote computer-operated gas doser valve with RS232 interface
- Shutter – manual or remote



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