

## Laboratory Notes

*J. Appl. Cryst.* (1975), **8**, 696

### Two simple devices for sealing wet single crystals in capillary tubes

This short note illustrates two simple devices useful for sealing capillary tubes containing a single crystal together with its mother liquor. It is well known that single crystals should be attached at the top of a glass fibre in order for X-ray diffraction effects to be observed. This setting is relatively easy, but it is not applicable for mounting wet crystals in equilibrium with their mother liquor. Generally in these cases the crystals are sealed in capillary tubes with a small portion of the mother liquor. The sealing of capillary tubes has to be performed with some care to prevent alteration of the crystals or evaporation of the liquid with formation of drops of condensate.

Two simple devices facilitate this operation. They consist of (1) a small electric heater made with some coils of resistive wire ( $4\ \Omega$ ) which becomes incandescent when properly supplied (in this case a 24 V AC, 2A power supply was used) and (2) a refrigerating microcell in plexiglas of dimensions  $1.5 \times 1.5 \times 7.5$  cm (Figs. 1 and 2) which contains a copper tube 0.3 cm in diameter.

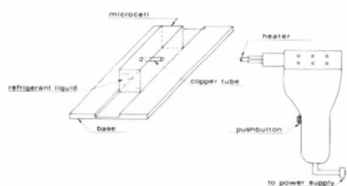


Fig. 1. Schematic drawing of the set-up.

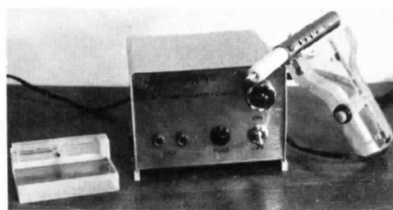


Fig. 2. Illustration of the devices.

The capillary tube is introduced into the copper tube which will exchange the heat with the refrigerating fluid of the microcell during the sealing with the small heater. The small dimensions of the devices permit easy operation at the microscope.

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(Received 12 May 1975;  
accepted 15 May 1975)

## Crystallographers

*This section is intended to be a series of short paragraphs dealing with the activities of crystallographers, such as their changes of position, promotions, assumption of significant new duties, honours, etc. Items for inclusion, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board, should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the International Union of Crystallography (J.N. King, International Union of Crystallography 13 White Friars, Chester CH1 1NZ, England).*

Mr S. A. Bryant retires on 31 December 1975 from the position of Technical Editor which he has held for thirteen years. Mr Bryant graduated at Oxford in 1930 with first class honours in chemistry and crystallography, having studied the latter under T. V. Barker. After also obtaining the degree of B. Sc. by research he spent two years at Armstrong College (now part of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) as a lecturer in organic chemistry, followed by a further period of research at the University of Bristol. In 1934 he moved to the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, and from there ten years later to Shell, in which he was successively research chemist, technical information officer in the London office, and senior technical editor at the Thornton Research Centre near Chester.

In 1962 the then Technical Editor of *Acta Crystallographica*, Professor R. W. Asmussen, signified his desire to resign as at the end of that year, but it proved impossible to find a successor who could continue the work on the previous part-time basis. The Executive Committee of the IUCr therefore decided to appoint a full-time Technical Editor for Union publications, and Mr Bryant started work in this capacity on 15 November 1962. For some time he worked alone, but because of the continued expansion of *Acta Crystallographica* it soon became necessary to engage first a secretary and then an Editorial Assistant. After the division of the journal into two sections at the beginning of 1968, and the launching of the *Journal of Applied Crystallography* in the same year, an even more rapid increase ensued in the number of journal

pages published annually, and the technical editing staff needed to be further enlarged. The normal complement in addition to the Technical Editor is now an Assistant Technical Editor, two Editorial Assistants, and a secretary.

Dr D. W. Penfold, at present Assistant Technical Editor, succeeds Mr Bryant as Technical Editor from 1 January 1976. Dr Penfold studied at Imperial College, London, where he obtained an honours degree in physics, becoming an Associate of the Royal College of Science. Subsequently he carried out research on the relation of superconductivity to structure in  $\beta$ -W type compounds, for which he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. He spent a short period as a research assistant at University College London before joining the full-time editorial staff of the Union on 12 July 1971.

Dr J. E. Derry, who has been a member of the Technical Editor's staff since January 1972, becomes Assistant Technical Editor in succession to Dr Penfold. Dr Derry is an honours chemistry graduate of the University of Birmingham, where he also obtained a Ph.D. in X-ray crystallography for his research on the structures of diquat and related compounds. He is a co-author of a number of recent papers in *Acta Crystallographica*.

Mr R. S. Daykin resigned as Editorial Assistant earlier this year and two new Editorial Assistants have been appointed. Mrs S. Wallis, an honours graduate in physical sciences of the University of Surrey, joined the Chester office on 1 September 1975, having previously worked for a year in Karlsruhe with the European Institute for Transuranic Elements. Mr M. H. Dacombe, a first-class honours graduate of the University of Leeds, where he studied chemistry and earth sciences, commenced work in Chester on 1 October 1975. Mr Dacombe was previously on the staff of the BNF Metals Technology Centre, and was editor of the monthly bulletin *BNF Abstracts*.

## International Union of Crystallography

*Acta Crystallographica*  
*Journal of*  
*Applied Crystallography*

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Crystallography has found it necessary to increase the yearly