

Use of Lexan Petri-type long dishes instead of growth tubes for "clock" mutants

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Abstract

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Lexan (General Electric Co.) plastic sheets which are transparent and repeatedly autoclavable can be inexpensively vacuum formed (vs. expensive injection molds of standard disposable labware)

into any configuration of growth chamber, dish or tube. We use 12" x 1" I. D. Petri-type dishes consisting of a top and a bottom. This size allows three or more weeks' growth of these mutants. The formed Lexan is rigid, sufficiently transparent and flat for good photography, and does not distort during autoclaving or when filled with hot agar. Further advantages over growth tubes is that they can be stacked and can be inoculated or "fished" at any point on the agar surface. Solid Lexan blocks can be machined and drilled for special configurations. The Lexan sheets can be purchased from any plastic supply house which distributes General Electric Co. plastics. The dishes were custom-made for us by Mercury Plastics of Chicopee Falls, Mass. --- Medical Science Department, AVCO Corp., Wilmington, Massachusetts.