

## Handling of sticky mats



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Any Shake Flasks inside a shaker incubator must be securely fastened to get proper culturing results and prevent damage to the machine. Historically clamps have been used to fixate flasks, but for many lower speed applications the use of sticky mats has become the accessory of choice. This application note will focus on the most important aspects of using sticky mats.

A sticky mat is a thick inert polymer film with two-sided long lasting adhesive properties that can easily be attached to any Kuhner tray. The advantage of the sticky mats is that users can simply place most types of shake flasks on the tray and mix sizes or group experiments.

The sticky mats have a grooved and flat surface. If your experiments mostly have smaller shake flasks (up to 2L) we recommend having the flat side up. For experiments that mostly use 3L and bigger flasks the larger surface at the bottom of the flasks require the grooved surface to be on-top so it is still simple to remove the flask. For those applications where a broad variety of flasks is used or there are recurrent issues with the sticky mat adhering stronger to the shake flask then the tray it is recommended to use the PC-tray sticky mat option.

#### Do's for using sticky mats

- Keep sticky mats sticky by keeping them clean
- Protect them from dirt and dust
- Keep them sticky by keeping them dry
- Only use dry shake flasks
- Prevent condensation by not using cold medium
- It's easier to remove flasks by tilting them first

#### Don'ts

- Exceed the maximum speed limit for sticky mats (e.g. max. 200 rpm at 50mm orbital)
- Allow the sticky mats to get dusty or dirty
- Use a sticky mat that is damaged or lost it's stickiness
- Never clean with paper towels

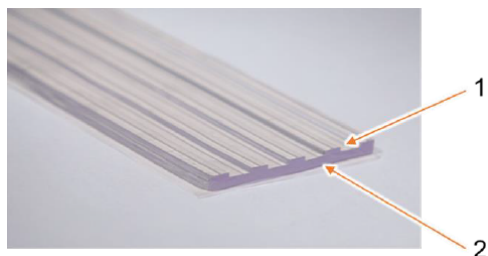
#### Cleaning

A sticky mat has an average lifetime of 2 years but they can last longer if you clean them sometimes:

1. Flush the sticky strips with decalcified water until all adherent contaminants are removed
2. Disinfect the sticky strips by spraying in with 70% ethanol.
3. Let the sticky strips / mats dry for 24 h

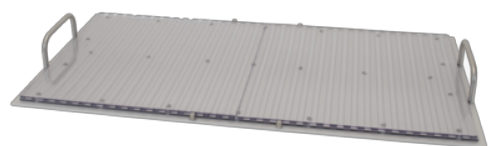


Tray with 8 sticky strips



Different sides of sticky strip surface

- 1) Grooved side of sticky strip
- 2) Flat side of sticky strip



PC-tray with two big sticky mats