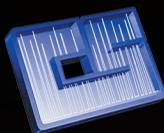




**Next Generation  
HPLC Post-Column  
Derivatization Instruments**  
Onyx PCX / Vector PCX / Columns & Applications



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# Introducing the Onyx PCX

The newest post-column instrument from Pickering Laboratories, part of our integrated family of instruments, chemistry and support.

# Over 35 Years of Post-Column Innovation

## Meet the Onyx PCX

It's the next generation of HPLC post-column derivatization instruments resulting from Pickering Laboratories' 35+ years of experience in post-column instrument manufacturing. Previously, the Pinnacle PCX set the benchmark for innovative design as the top-of-the-line PCX model. Now, it is surpassed by the Onyx PCX as the best post-column instrument available on the market.

Pickering Laboratories still offers the only instrumentation optimized for the analysis of Amino Acids, Carbamates, Glyphosate, Mycotoxins, Antibiotics and many other applications. Each component is specifically designed to enhance sensitivity and selectivity. Only Pickering Laboratories offers complete application support, including chemicals, columns, methods and post-column systems. Because each part of the method is designed to work together, Pickering Laboratories can offer the extraordinary promise that the analysis is guaranteed to work for the intended application. The Onyx PCX reflects the ease of use, reliability and ruggedness customers have come to expect from Pickering Laboratories.

## Onyx PCX Design Results In Optimized Analysis

### Accuracy, Durability, Speed and Convenience

- Instrument layout is focused on ease of use, quick monitoring and rapid service.
- The electronic syringe pump provides true pulse-free flow for superior sensitivity and consistency. The pump cylinder and head are made from a single piece of inert ceramic for durability and non-reactivity.
- Electronic valves eliminate troublesome check valves and allow automated pump flushing.
- Quick-change reactor cartridges make application switching easy and replacements fast and inexpensive.
- The column oven utilizes circulating air for consistency of heating and quick cooling within 1 °C of setpoint.
- Inert flow paths extend system life and reduce maintenance.
- The Onyx PCX control software allows for precise control of the reagent delivery and conservation.
- Pre-programmed testing and maintenance procedures take the guesswork out of instrument care.
- Column oven temperature gradient programming improves separation and run times. Only Pickering Laboratories builds post-column systems with this feature.
- Works with any HPLC instrument, from any manufacturer.

# It Has What It Takes

## Features and Benefits

- All Onyx PCX components specifically designed for post-column derivatization
- Programmable temperature gradient column oven for faster Amino Acids Analysis run times
- Column oven is oriented for easy column switching and features improved tubing guards
- Electronic pulse-free syringe pump provides greater sensitivity
- Automatic piston washes and programmable system flush
- Full-size removable reagent tray provides convenience and meets secondary containment requirements
- Electronic valves have no expensive check valves to service and replace
- Quick change reactor cartridges enable fast application switching and easy cartridge replacement
- Inert flow path protects from metal contamination and extends system life while reducing maintenance
- Color LCD display provides for continuous system monitoring and critical message alerts
- All fluidics located on front panel for instant access and easy leak checks, drip tray included
- Improved pump access for expedient maintenance
- Integrated gas manifold allows for easy set-up and facilitates reagent preparation and preservation
- Onyx PCX control software runs from Windows PC for easy operation and reagent conservation between runs
- Software stores methods and sequences, allowing for flexible application setup and switching
- Seamless application migration from Pinnacle PCX to Onyx PCX, including method transfers
- Log files collect continuous data, from system status to error messages
- Pickering Support Team available for rapid log file interpretation and troubleshooting assistance
- Serviceability simplified with removable instrument side panels and isolated electronics
- Field calibration now available by trained Pickering Laboratories service engineers to support recertification

## Programmable Temperature Gradient: Amino Acids Analysis

The Onyx PCX provides an unique opportunity to combine the eluant gradient capabilities of modern HPLC instruments with programmable column temperature gradients. As might be expected, this capability helps reduce Amino Acids Analysis run times.

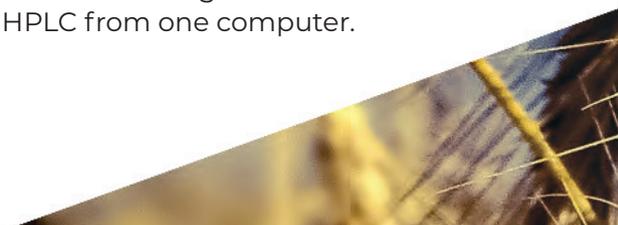
Even more significant is the ability to resolve coelutions. Consider such metabolic markers as Allosioleucine (MSUD) and Argininosuccinic acid (ASA); under standard isothermal conditions these amino acids coelute with Cystathionine and Isoleucine respectively, but both are resolved using a targeted temperature gradient program.

The ability to accomplish this derives from the multiple retention mechanisms of the gel-type resins employed in ion-exchange, enabling all the amino acids to appear in the same chromatogram. The exact position of each amino acid is influenced by an array of mechanisms including partitioning, adsorption, charge exclusion, etc. So even though two amino acids might coelute, their proximity is incidental. And since retention processes are affected differently by changes in pH, salt concentration and temperature, all these parameters have significant influence on selectivity.

## Onyx PCX Control Software

The Onyx PCX is controlled by PCX Control Software, compatible with Windows 7 or newer Windows operating systems. Using the same computer as the HPLC, the PCX Control Software interfaces easily with Agilent OpenLab or communicates with any other modern HPLC using a relay connection.

The computer physically connects to the Onyx PCX unit through a USB cable. After an easy installation and configuration, the software runs in a window or as an icon on the computer desktop. The main software display matches the instrument's digital LCD display, where all PCX functions of temperature, flow rate and system status are displayed in real time. This allows for monitoring and control of the PCX and HPLC from one computer.





Methods are managed within the PCX Control Software and can be created, edited and saved to create a library for all application parameters. A sequence table is used to schedule multiple runs of the same or different methods in a series. At the end of the sequence a full system flush can be programmed. System and pump performance can be evaluated in the maintenance menu, using a pump pressure test and system pressure test. An instrument log file continually records system status and error messages for later reference and can be sent to Pickering Labs Support for remote diagnostics.

### Electronic Syringe Pumps and Valves

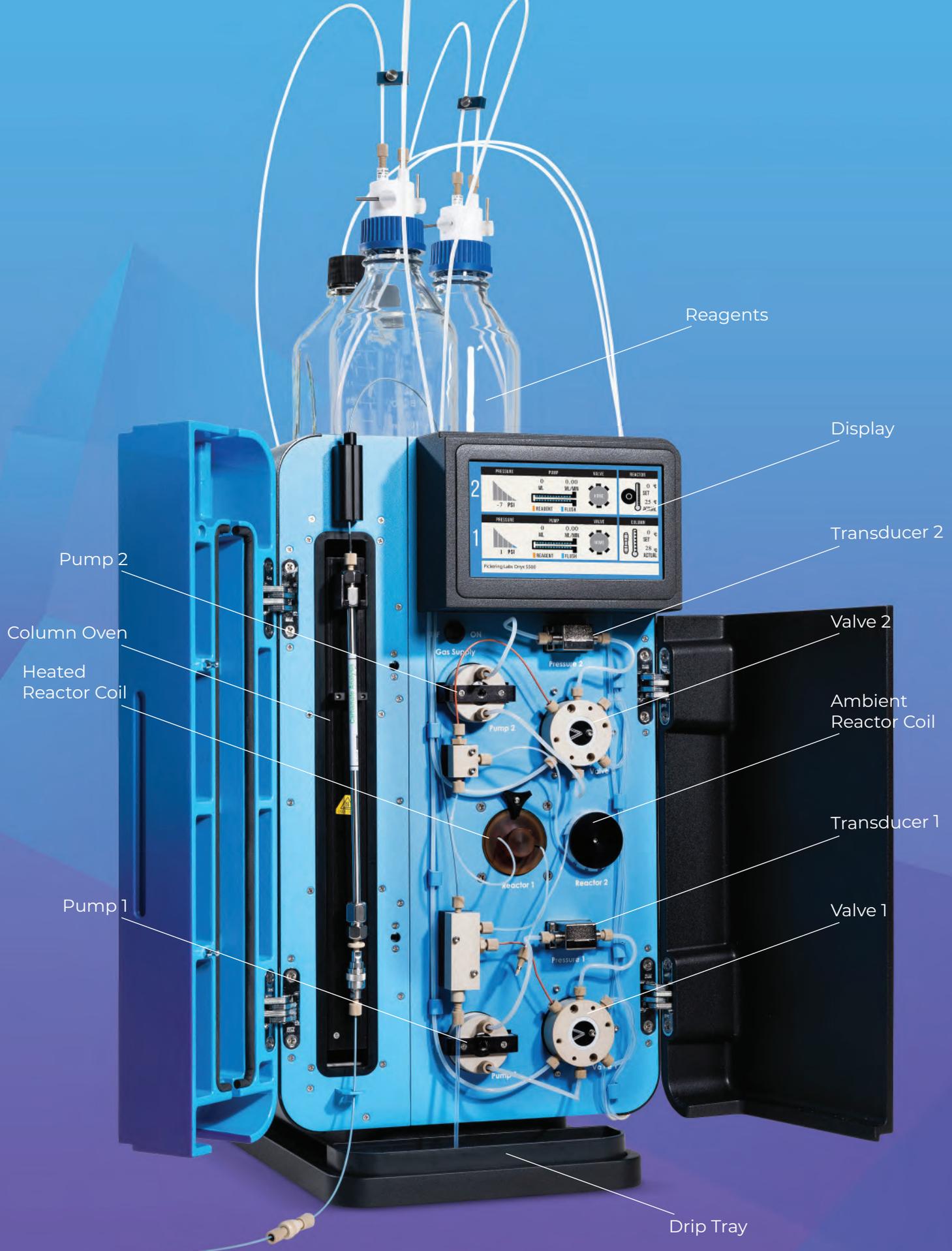
The syringe pump's cylinder and head are made from a single piece of 99.9% Alumina for ruggedness and non-reactivity. The piston surface is made from PEEK with an inert O-ring seal. The piston seal is protected by an automatic piston wash system that provides long seal life. The programmable flow rates range from 50  $\mu$ l to 1500  $\mu$ l/minute with a refill cycle of under 60 seconds. The electronic valve utilizes PEEK and PTFE with a port layout that eliminates cross contamination.

### Reactor

The reactor is designed for quick heating and easy switching between applications. The heating and control electronics are in the base unit of the reactor while the coil volumes are inserted with a 'quick-change' cartridge on the front fluidics panel. The temperature range holds within 1  $^{\circ}$ C resolution from 5  $^{\circ}$ C above ambient room temperature to 130  $^{\circ}$ C maximum setpoint.

### Column Heater

The column heater utilizes recirculating airflow technology to provide quick and uniform column heating. Fast column cooling is assisted by the introduction of a fresh air flow into the chamber. The temperature range holds within 1  $^{\circ}$ C resolution from 5  $^{\circ}$ C above ambient room temperature to 75  $^{\circ}$ C maximum setpoint. The temperatures can be programmed for a gradient with as many steps as required for fine-tuning an analysis.



Reagents

Display

Transducer 2

Valve 2

Ambient Reactor Coil

Transducer 1

Valve 1

Drip Tray

Pump 2

Column Oven

Heated Reactor Coil

Pump 1

# Specifications

## Dimensions

- 22.4 H x 12.0 W x 19.15 D inches (56.9 x 30.5 x 48.6 cm), instrument with doors closed

## Weight

- 60 lbs or 27 kg for dual-pump systems
- 50 lbs or 23 kg for single-pump systems

## Electrical

- Factory configured as either 100-120 VAC, 50/60 Hz, 1.7 A, 200 W or 200-240 VAC, 50/60 Hz, 0.8 A, 200 W
- Mains voltage  $\pm 10\%$  of nominal
- Current 5 A maximum
- Installation (over voltage) category II, pollution degree 2
- Fuses, 2 ea., 5 mm x 20 mm, 6.3 A, 250 VAC, time lag

## Environmental

- Indoor use only
- Altitude up to 6500 ft (1981 m)
- Ambient temperature 15 - 29 °C
- Relative humidity up to 80 % at 31 °C

## Reagent Pumps

- True pulse-free syringe pump with single piece ceramic barrels
- Maximum operating pressure 35 bar (500 psi)
- Programmable flow rates of 50  $\mu$ L to 1500  $\mu$ L/minute
- Refill cycle of 60 seconds or less
- Automatic piston wash
- Automatic reagent flush cycle
- No instrument check valves

## Reactor

- Heated reactor temperature from 5 °C above ambient to 130 °C maximum setpoint
- Stability  $\pm 0.5$  °C
- Accuracy  $\pm 1$  °C
- Thermal safety switch limits temperature to prevent damage
- Easy replacement coil cartridges
- Range of reactor dwell volumes available, from 0.1 mL to 3 mL
- Reaction coil withstands up to 42 bar (600 psi) inlet pressure at 130 °C

## Column Heater

- Heater accepts 6 or 8 mm OD (0.25 or 0.31 inch) x 50-250 mm in length Column and guard
- Temperature holds within  $\pm 1$  °C resolution from 5 °C above ambient to 75 °C maximum setpoint
- Programmable temperature gradient
- Thermal safety switch limits temperature to prevent damage
- Easy access to column compartment and improved tubing guards

## Instrument Package and Flow Path

- Advanced fluidics valve management system
- Completely inert flow path
- Easy access to internal components
- Standard fittings
- Side panels remove easily for service
- Integrated reagent reservoir tray compliant with secondary containment requirements

## Display

- LCD display, color 800 x 480 pixels, 153 x 85 mm viewing area
- Real time temperature, pressure and critical system alerts shown
- Intuitive system status icons

## Gas Pressure Manifold and Regulator

- Panel-mounted gas manifold
- Regulator maintains 0.3 bar (3-5 psi) on reagent reservoirs with 3-5 bar (45-75 psi) source pressure
- Safety pressure-relief valve opens at 6 bar (8 psi)
- Manifold with anti-siphon valves and two 1/4-28 fittings

## Safeguards

- In-line check valve prevents reagent back flow into the column when HPLC pressure drops
- Replaceable reagent filters to prevent reactor fouling
- Post-column system over-pressure protection from pre-calibrated relief valve opens at 35 bar (500 psi) to prevent rupture of the post-column reactor tubing in the event of down-stream blockage
- Back-pressure regulator applies 7 bar (100 psi) to the detector flow cell outlet (waste line) to prevent detector noise and precipitation due to out-gassing or boiling

## EMC Compliance

- Onyx PCX complies with EN 61326-1



# Vector PCX

## Optimum Support For Application-Specific Methods

### Vector PCX

The rugged Vector PCX instrument serves as another post-column choice, ideal for application-specific methods.

Vector PCX provides the selectivity and sensitivity required for most standard post-column applications while being reliable and easy to use. Since Vector PCX does not have a column oven, it is important to use the HPLC column oven to ensure stable column temperature and prevent retention time drifts and separation problems.

## Works with any HPLC. Rugged and Dependable Automatic Piston-Wash, Low-pulsation flow.

### Applications

- Amino Acids
- Carbamate Pesticides
- Glyphosate Herbicide
- Aflatoxins
- Aminoglycoside Antibiotics
- Biogenic Amines
- Polyether Antibiotics
- Bromate
- Formaldehyde
- Guanidinos
- Hexosamines
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxins
- PKU / MSUD
- Polyphosphates / Phosphonates
- Sulfa Drugs
- Transition/Rare Earth Metals
- Vitamins B1, B6
- Custom Applications

# Specifications

## Dimensions

- (H x W x D): 17 x 8.75 x 16 inches (43 x 21.6 x 41.2 cm)

## Weight

- 25.3 lb (11.5 kg)

## Electrical

- 100 - 120 V, 50/60 Hz 1.7 A, 200 W or 200-240 V, 50/60 Hz, 0.8 A, 200 W  
Mains voltage  $\pm 10\%$  of nominal  
Installation (over-voltage)  
category II, pollution degree 2

## Reagent Pumps

- Independently adjustable, low-pulsation
- Adjustable from 0.05 mL to 2.00 mL/minute against back-pressures of up to 2000 psi
- Flow accuracy 3 % for flowrates of 0.33 ml/min and above, 0.01 ml/min for flowrates below 0.33 ml/min
- Flow precision 0.5 % RSD
- Sapphire pistons
- PEEK liquid ends, including check valve housing
- PEEK bypass/purge valves for each pump located on front of instrument panel
- Automatic piston wash

## Flow Path

- Independent pressure transducer for each pump, 210 bar (0-3000 psi)
- Diamond-packed restrictors, matched to flow rate and viscosity of reagents
- PEEK bypass/purge valves
- Replaceable reagent filter
- PEEK mixing manifold

## Reactor

- Heater reactor controls at  $\pm 0.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for temperatures from  $10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  above ambient to  $130\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Range of reactor dwell volumes, depending upon application
- Reaction coil withstands up to 42 bar (600 psi) inlet pressure at  $130\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
- LCD display of actual temperature or setpoint
- Thermal safety switch limits temperature to  $150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

## Safeguards

- Post-column Reagent Backflow  
A pressure switch installed between LC (eluant) pump and sample injector turns off power to reagent pumps and reactor when the eluant pump pressure drops to 30 bar (425 psi), ensuring that reagent will not flow upstream and damage the analytical column. Low eluant pressure can result from power failure, eluant pump malfunction, automatic or intentional shutdown, or an empty reservoir. The Vector PCX will not restart automatically.
- Post-column System Over-pressure  
A relief valve pre-calibrated to open at 35 bar (500 psi) prevents rupture of the post-column reactor tubing in the event of downstream blockage, and reduces the possibility that all or part of the reagent flow will be diverted to the column.
- Detector Noise and Precipitation  
Back-pressure regulator applies 7 bar (100 psi) to the detector flow cell outlet (waste line) to prevent detector noise and precipitation due to out-gassing or boiling.

## Gas Pressure Manifold and Regulator

- Regulator maintains 0.3 bar (3-5 psi) on reagent reservoirs with 3-5 bar (45-75 psi) source pressure
- Pressure-relief valve opens at 0.7 bar (10 psi)
- Manifold has two 1/4-28 tubing connections

## Pressurized Reagent Reservoir

- One liter capacity (2 L and 5 L reservoirs available)
- Maintained under inert gas pressure to inhibit oxidation of OPA or other oxygen-sensitive reagents
- Reservoir cap with built in valve permits sparging during reagent preparation
- Reagent reservoirs fitted with 3.1 mm OD oxygen-impermeable tubing for oxygen-sensitive reagents and/or with 3.1 mm OD FEP tubing
- Check-valves on the gas lines prevents back-flow of the reagent into the manifold in case of pressure drop





# Onyx PCX Vs. Vector PCX

The Onyx PCX and Vector PCX are post-column derivatization instruments designed with features and capabilities that satisfy diverse laboratory requirements.

This reference chart compares the specific features and applications for the Onyx PCX and Vector PCX.

Features Comparison of Onyx PCX and Vector PCX		
Features	Onyx PCX	Vector PCX
Works with All HPLC Systems	Yes	Yes
All Components Specifically Designed for Post-Column Derivatization	<b>Yes</b>	No
Pump Technology	Syringe	Reciprocating
Piston Wash	Automatic	Automatic
Programmable System Flush	<b>Yes</b>	No
Column Oven	<b>Yes</b>	No
Temperature Gradient Column Oven	<b>Yes</b>	No
Automatic Column Oven Cool Down (10 min)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Electronic Valves	<b>Yes</b>	No
Check Valves	No	<b>Yes</b>
Flow Restrictors	No	<b>Yes</b>
Quick Change Reactor Cartridges	<b>Yes</b>	No
All Fluidics on Front Panel	<b>Yes</b>	No
Inert Flow Path	Standard	Custom
LCD Display	Graphical	Text
PC Control Windows Software	Included	No
Program Storage	Unlimited	No
Network Enabled	<b>Yes</b>	No
Remote Diagnostics	Yes	No
Reduced Bench Space	<b>Yes</b>	No
Integrated Reagent Tray	<b>Yes</b>	No
Integrated Spill Tray	<b>Yes</b>	No
Integrated Lab Gas Manifold	Yes	Yes
Reduce Maintenance Costs	<b>Yes</b>	No
Reduce Reagent Usage/Costs	<b>Yes</b>	No

## Applications and Consumables

The post-column derivatization technique allows for enhanced detection of a variety of compounds, including amino acids, pesticides, toxins and vitamins. The detection is guaranteed not only by a superior post-column derivatization instrument but also by a line of Pickering columns, eluants and reagents specifically designed for each post-column application. Each Pickering column is manufactured and tested to separate the target compounds according to Pickering quality control standards and published analytical methods. All eluants and reagents are tested to ensure the highest purity, sensitivity and lot-to-lot reproducibility.

- Amino Acids Analysis
  - Pharmacopeia methods
  - Food analysis
  - Oxidized and non-oxidized feeds
  - Blood and urine analysis
  - Protein analysis
  - Cell culture media
  - Pharmaceuticals
- Glyphosate Herbicides
  - Water analysis according to EPA Method 547
  - Food Analysis
  - Botanicals
- Carbamates Pesticides
  - Water analysis according to EPA methods 531.1 and 531.2
  - Food Analysis
- Mycotoxins in feeds, foods, beverages, botanicals and spices
  - Aflatoxins
  - Fumonisin
  - Ochratoxin A
  - Multi-residue methods
- Aminoglycoside Antibiotics
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxins
- Biogenic Amines
- Bromate
- Formaldehyde
- Chromium VI
- Sulfa Drugs
- Transition/Rare Earth Metals
- Vitamins B1, B3, B6
- Custom Applications



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