PowerPac™ Basic
Power Supply

Instruction Manual

Catalog Number
164-5050
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Safety

Caution/Warning

PowerPac power supplies use high output voltages that are electrically isolated from earth ground to minimize the risk of electrical shock to the user. The following guidelines should be observed and followed when using a PowerPac power supply.

PowerPac power supplies have passed test for operation at temperatures between 0º and 40º C, with relative humidity between 0 and 95% non-condensing. Operating the power supply outside these conditions is not recommended by Bio-Rad and will void the warranty.

1. To ensure adequate cooling of the power supply, be sure that there is at least 6 cm clearance around the power supply. Do not block the fan vents at the rear of the unit.

2. Always connect the power supply to a 3-prong, grounded AC outlet, using the 3-prong AC power cord provided with the power supply.

3. Bio-Rad electrophoresis cells have molded two-prong plugs that are inserted into the power supply's high voltage output jacks. These plugs have been EN 61010* certified for safety compliance for use with PowerPac power supplies. Use of other plugs or banana jacks is done at the user's own risk and is not recommended by Bio-Rad. When inserting and removing the molded two-prong plug, always grasp the plug by the molded support at the rear of the plug. Do not grasp the individual prong ends.

4. Do not operate the power supply in extreme humidity (>95%) or where condensation can short the internal electrical circuits of the power supply.

5. When taking the power supply into a cold room, the unit can be operated immediately. However, when removing the power supply from the cold room, let the unit equilibrate to room temperature for a minimum of 2 hours before using it.

6. Never connect a high voltage output lead to earth ground. This defeats the floating electrical isolation of the power supply and exposes the user to potentially lethal high voltages.

Important

This instrument is intended for laboratory use only.

This product conforms to the class A standards for Electromagnetic Emissions, intended for laboratory equipment applications. It is possible that emissions from this product may interfere with some sensitive appliances when placed nearby or on the same circuit as those appliances. The user should be aware of this potential and take appropriate measures to avoid interference.

Bio-Rad's PowerPac power supplies are designed and certified to meet EN 61010* safety standards. Certified products are safe to use when operated in accordance with the instruction manual. This safety certification does not extend to electrophoresis cells or accessories that are not EN 61010 certified, even when connected to this power supply.

This instrument should not be modified or altered in any way. Alteration of this instrument will void the manufacturer's warranty, void the EN 61010 certification, and create a potential safety hazard for the user.

Bio-Rad is not responsible for any injury or damage caused by the use of this instrument for purposes other than those for which it is intended, or by modifications of the instrument not performed by Bio-Rad or an authorized agent.

*EN 61010 is an internationally accepted electrical safety standard for laboratory instruments.
Section 1
Introduction

1.1 Overview

The PowerPac Basic provides constant voltage or constant current to instruments used in electrophoresis. The power supply operates at the values specified for the constant parameter. However, to prevent damage to the electrophoresis cell, the PowerPac Basic provides automatic crossover to constant current or constant voltage, depending on which set value is first reached. When the set limit of the non-constant parameter is reached, and the power capability of the unit is not exceeded, the power supply will switch, making the non-constant parameter the new constant parameter.

Output specifications:

Voltage: Adjustable from 10 to 300 Volts, in 1 volt increments.
Current: Adjustable from 4 to 400 milliamperes (mA) in 1 mA increments.
Power: 75 watts (maximum).
Four output jacks: Up to four identical electrophoresis cells can be connected in parallel to the power supply.
The PowerPac Basic has the following features:

- Programmable constant voltage or constant current with automatic crossover
- Timer control from 0 to 999 minutes
- 3-digit LED display
- Pause mode for editing running parameters
- Automatic detection of no load conditions and rapid changes in resistance
- Power Failure Detection in timed modes allowing completion of run
- Stackable case with adjustable viewing angle via flip down legs (see Figure 3)

![Image of PowerPac Basic](image)

**Fig. 3. Front View with Legs in Lowered Position.**

### 1.2 Unpacking

When you receive the power supply, carefully inspect the container for any damage which may have occurred in shipping. Severe damage to the container may indicate damage to the power supply itself. If you suspect damage to the unit, immediately file a claim with the carrier in accordance with their instructions before contacting Bio-Rad Laboratories.

After unpacking the PowerPac Basic, remove the plastic film from the translucent green top case. The plastic film may leave a residue. If so, clean with a soft, damp cloth.

Contents include:

- PowerPac Basic power supply
- Power cord
- Instruction manual
- Warranty card
- Declaration of conformity

If any part is missing or damaged, contact Bio-Rad Laboratories immediately.
### Section 2
### Control Features

![Fig. 3. Front Panel.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![](constant_key.png) | **Constant Parameter Key:**  
  - Selects either constant voltage or current.  
  - The LED indicates the selected parameter. During a run, maximum power is indicated when both LED’s are lit. |
| ![](display_mode_key.png) | **Display Mode Key:**  
  - Selects the parameter to be displayed (volts, milliamperes or minutes). The LED displays the value of the indicated parameter. |
| ![](scroll_keys.png) | **Scroll Keys:**  
  - Changes the value of the selected parameter. If the Scroll Key is pressed constantly for more than 5 units in either direction, +/-, the values will increase/decrease in increments of 10 to reach the desired value faster. |
| ![](run_pause_key.png) | **Run & Pause Key:**  
  - Starts and pauses a run. Pausing allows editing of the constant parameter and the parameter values.  
  - Corresponding LED indicates the status of the power supply. |
| ![](stop_key.png) | **Stop key:**  
  - Stops run. Constant parameter and limit parameter values are preserved. Timer is reset to zero. |
## Section 3
### Setup and Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEP</th>
<th>PROCEDURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Turn power on.</td>
<td>Press the power switch located on the right side of the unit to the on position. The default setting is constant V, and the LED display shows zero value. To display firmware version number, hold down constant parameter key while turning the power switch to the on position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Connect the electrophoresis cell(s) to the power supply.</td>
<td>The power leads are color coordinated to the output terminals in red and black. △ indicates high voltages. <strong>Note:</strong> Power leads must be inserted perpendicular to the curve of the case.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Select the constant parameter</td>
<td>Press the Constant key to select the constant parameter, either voltage or current. The LED on the parameter key corresponding to the selected constant parameter will light up. The display shows the zero value for the constant parameter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Enter a value for the constant parameter using the scroll key.</td>
<td>Use the scroll key to enter the desired value. Voltage: 10–300V adjustable in 1V increments. Current: 4–400 mA adjustable in 1 mA increments. <strong>Note:</strong> If the scroll key is pressed constantly for more than 5 units in either direction, +/−, the values will increase/decrease in increments of 10 to reach the desired value faster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Enter value for limit parameter.</td>
<td>Use the parameter key to select the limit parameter. The maximum default value, 300V or 400mA, is displayed. Select a suitable limit value to avoid excessive power conditions for the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEP</td>
<td>PROCEDURE</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6.   | Programming a timed run | Use the parameter key to select time. The display will show a zero value. Use the scroll key to enter the desired time up to 999 minutes. If no time is entered the run will continue until the run is terminated by pressing the stop key. When 999 minutes is reached, the clock resets to zero and the run continues. **Note:**  
  - In a timed run the displayed time is the remaining time. Pressing the pause key will keep the remaining time. Pressing the stop key will reset the time to zero.  
  - In an untimed run the displayed time is the elapsed time. Pressing the pause key will retain the elapsed time. |
| 7.   | Optional: available only when a timed run is programmed. Power Failure detection. | Activating the Power failure detection mode is possible for timed runs only.  
  - Make sure the parameter key is in time mode (time LED is lit)  
  - Enter the desired time if not previously entered  
  - Hold down the stop key for ~2 seconds until the display shows Pfd. This indicates the Power Failure Detection is activated. **Note:** After completion or termination of a run, the Power Failure Detect mode is automatically de-activated. See Section 4.2, Troubleshooting, for details on Power Failure Detect error messages. **Caution:** Always use the stop key to terminate a run in progress. Use of the power switch to terminate a run in progress is treated as a power failure and the appropriate error code is displayed when the unit is turned back on. |
| 8.   | Optional De-activation of change in resistance feature. | Certain applications exhibit fluctuations in resistance that can trigger the change in resistance error codes. If this is the case, the change in resistance feature can be de-activated to allow un-interrupted completion of a run.  
  - Make sure the parameter key is in current mode (current LED is lit)  
  - Hold down the stop key for ~2 seconds until the display shows dE9 **Note:** After completion or termination of a run the Change in Resistance Detection is automatically activated. **Caution:** De-activating this safety feature increases the chance of electrical hazard. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEP</th>
<th>PROCEDURE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Start the run</td>
<td>Press the run/pause key to start the run. The run LED is lit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10.  | Viewing and editing options during a run. | • Viewing: Press the parameter key to view the corresponding value on the display  
• Editing: Edit the constant parameter value and the time value for timed runs  
**Note:** Editing the limit value is possible in the pause mode. To change from an un-timed to a timed run, stop the run and re-program. |
| 11.  | Pause mode | Press run/pause key during a run to enter the pause mode.  
When the pause LED is lit it is possible to:  
• Safely make adjustments to the instrument connected to the power supply  
• Edit the values for all parameters  
• Change the constant parameter  
**Note:** To change from an un-timed to a timed run, stop the run and re-program. |
| 12.  | End of run. | When a run is completed, i.e., a timed run has ended or an untimed run is stopped, the constant parameter value and limit parameter value are preserved. The timer is reset to zero. Neither the run nor the pause LED is lit, indicating that no power is supplied to the output jacks. |
| 13.  | Terminating a timed run in progress | Press the stop key to terminate a timed run. The constant parameter value and limit parameter value are preserved. The timer is reset to zero. Neither the run nor the pause LED is lit indicating that no power is supplied to the output jacks. |
| 14.  | Powering down | Press the stop key before turning the power switch to the off position. If this is not done, a power failure will be detected causing an automatic restart if the Power Failure Detection is enabled. |
Section 4
Maintenance and Troubleshooting

4.1 Maintenance

The PowerPac Basic requires little maintenance to assure reliable operation. To clean the case, first unplug the power supply. Use a damp cloth to wipe down the outer case.

4.2 Troubleshooting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No display/lights/fan</td>
<td>1. No AC power.</td>
<td>1. Check if PowerPac Basic is unplugged, or problem with AC power source, or power switch is in off position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Blown fuse.</td>
<td>2. Replace fuse. See section 4.3 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Power switch exercised rapidly to the on and off positions.</td>
<td>3. The unit needs to be reset. Turn power switch to the off position, wait 5–10 seconds, then turn power switch to the on position to resume normal operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeated blown fuses</td>
<td>Hardware failure</td>
<td>Contact Bio-Rad Technical Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leads from cell are not long enough to fit output jacks</td>
<td>Output terminals for the PowerPac Basic are recessed 16 mm to meet safety regulations. Some leads are not long enough to make electrical connection.</td>
<td>Use the PowerPac Adaptor, which accommodates most standard 4 mm banana plugs, to make a secure electrical connection. Note: Use of the PowerPac Adaptor voids EN61010 safety provisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1 error code displayed</td>
<td>No load detected</td>
<td>Verify all electrical connections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Instrument not connected to PS</td>
<td>Verify buffer levels where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2 error code displayed</td>
<td>Over current (load current greater than 400 mA)</td>
<td>Check for and correct any short circuit or excessive load problem. Excessive load due to high buffer concentration will require the buffer be remade. Then, Press key to resume the run or, To clear the error code, press any key (other then key).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3 error code displayed</td>
<td>Over voltage (load voltage over 300 V)</td>
<td>Turn power supply off, then on to reset. If problems persists, contact Bio-Rad Technical Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5 error code played</td>
<td>A power failure occurred during a timed run with Power Fail Detection (PFd) activated, and run is completed. Power Fail detection (PFd) is de-activated after completion or termination of each run.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6 error code displayed</td>
<td>A power failure occurred during a timed run without Power Fail Detection (PFd) activated, and run is not completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E7 error code displayed</td>
<td>Power Failure occurred during an untimed run or the power switch was turned off before pressing stop, and run is not completed. Power Fail detect (PFd) cannot be activated for untimed runs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
<td>Cause</td>
<td>Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E8 error code displayed</td>
<td>Regulation error</td>
<td>Turn power supply off, then on to reset. If problem persists, contact Bio-Rad Technical Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E9 error code displayed</td>
<td>Change in Load Resistance.</td>
<td>Check and correct any potential resistance problem then, • press run/pause key to resume run or, • press any key, other than the run/pause key, to clear the error code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The PowerPac Basic detects drastic changes in resistance which may indicate failure of the cell’s power leads or a loose output connection.</td>
<td>Note: Certain applications exhibit fluctuations in resistance that can trigger the change in resistance error code. If this is the case, the change in resistance feature can be deactivated to allow uninterrupted completion of a run. (see Section 3, Step 8) Caution: Deactivating this safety feature increases the possibility that a failure of the power leads or loose output connection will not be detected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E10 error code displayed</td>
<td>Unacceptable value(s) entered</td>
<td>Clear the code by pressing any key other than the run/pause key. Then, enter values within range of PowerPac Basic and press the run/pause key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E12 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal Over Current</td>
<td>Possible power supply malfunction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E13 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal Short Circuit</td>
<td>Check for and correct problems such as dirty contacts, frayed wires, excessive buffer concentration. Then press any key other than the run/pause key to clear the code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E14 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal Over Voltage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E15 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal Short Circuit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E16 error code displayed</td>
<td>Hardware failure</td>
<td>Contact Bio-Rad Technical Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E17 error code displayed</td>
<td>Hardware failure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E98 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal system error</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E99 error code displayed</td>
<td>Internal system error</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 Replacing a Fuse

If there is no display, lights, or fan, and the PowerPac Basic is plugged into a working AC power outlet with the power switch in the on position, the fuse may need to be replaced.

1. Disconnect the power cord from the electrical outlet.
2. Insert a flat blade screwdriver into the notches of the power entry module’s fuse holder to release it. See Figure 5.
3. Remove the fuse from the fuse holder. Replace with 2.5A, 250V, 5 X 20 mm fuses (Bio-Rad part number 900-7283).
4. Re-insert the fuse holder into its position. Press the fuse holder gently until it snaps into place.

The unit is now ready for use.

![Fuse Drawer with Notches](image)

**Fig. 5. Rear View Showing Fuse Drawer with Notches.**

**Note:** Repeated blowing of the fuse indicates a hardware failure and Bio-Rad should be contacted for repair.

4.4 Firmware Version Number

To display the PowerPac Basic’s firmware version number while the power supply is off, hold down the constant parameter key and concurrently turn the power switch to the on position. All of the LEDs and segments in the 3 digit LED display will light. Release the constant parameter key and the firmware version number will then appear for a few seconds. The power supply is now ready for operation.
Appendix A
Specifications and Ordering Information

Input Power
nominal 100–120/220–240 VAC, 50 or 60 Hz
actual 90–132 or 198–264 VAC, 50 or 60 Hz
Fuses 2.5 A, 250 VAC, 5mm x 20mm, Type T
Input Power Cord 3-wire; grounded

Output (Programmable)
Voltage 10 V to 300 V, fully adjustable in 1 V steps
Voltage Accuracy ± 2% of reading or 3 volts, whichever is more
Current 4 mA to 400 mA, fully adjustable in 1 mA steps
Current Accuracy ± 2% of reading or 3 mA, whichever is more
Power (maximum) 75 W
Terminals 4-pair recessed banana jacks, floating in parallel
Timer Control 001 to 999 minutes, fully adjustable
Ripple < 1% @ 300 V and 70 W
Line Regulation < 1% @ 300 V and 70 W, 90–132 or 198–264VAC
Load Regulation <1% @ 300 V for a 50% change in output load
Drift < 1% @ after 15 min warmup at 300 V and 70 W
Noise 55 dBA at 1 meter

Readout Stability
Volts ± 1 V
Current ± 1 mA

Safety Features
No load detection Indicated by error message on display
Sudden load change detection Indicated by error message on display
Overload/short circuit protection Automatic power limit
Input line protection Fuse on both hot and neutral
Auto power up after power failure User-selectable, setup values maintained
Safety Compliance EN-61010
EMI Conforms to CE standards for Emissions and Immunity class A, tested only at 230V. See Declaration of Conformity for details. TUV EMC certification

Display Functions 3-digit LED displays voltage, current, or time
Function Modes Constant voltage, constant current, timer, pause
User-selectable automatic power-up after power failure

Environmental
Operating Temperature 0–40°C
Humidity 0–95%, in the absence of condensation
Dimensions 25 cm (L) x 21 cm (W) x 8.5 cm (H)
Unit is stackable
Weight 1.1 kg
Appendix B
Warranty and Ordering Information

Warranty

The PowerPac Basic is warranted for 3 years against defects in materials and workmanship. If any defects should occur during this warranty period, Bio-Rad Laboratories will replace the defective parts without charge. However, the following defects are specifically excluded:

1. Defects caused by improper operation.
2. Repair or modification done by anyone other than Bio-Rad Laboratories or their authorized agent.
3. Use with cables or connectors not specified by Bio-Rad Laboratories for this power supply.
4. Deliberate or accidental misuse.
5. Damage caused by disaster.

For inquiry or request for repair service, contact your local Bio-Rad office.

Warranty Information

Model: _________________________________________________________________
Serial Number: ___________________________________________________________
Date of Delivery: _________________________________________________________
Warranty Period:__________________________________________________________

Ordering Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalog Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>164-5050</td>
<td>PowerPac Basic power supply, 100–120/220–240V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165-5061</td>
<td>PowerPac Adaptor, qty 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165-5066</td>
<td>PowerPac Adaptor, qty 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900-7283</td>
<td>Replacement Fuse, 2.5 A, 250 V, 5 x 20 mm, 1 ea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.

Life Science Group

Web site www.bio-rad.com USA (800) 4BIORAD Australia 02 9914 2800 Austria (01) 477 89 01 Belgium 09-385 55 11 Brazil 55 21 2527 3454 Canada (905) 712-2771 China (86 21) 6426 0808 Czech Republic +420 2 41 43 05 32 Denmark 44 52 10 00 Finland 09 804 22 00 France 01 47 95 69 65 Germany 089 318 777 4966 Greece 30 210 777 4966 Hong Kong (852) 2789 3300 Hungary 36 1 455 8800 India (01-128)-2398112/34, 5019111, 6450092/93 Israel 03 951 4127 Italy 39 02 216091 Japan 03-5811-6270 Korea 82-2-3473-4460 Latin America 305-894-5950 Mexico 55-52-00-05-20 The Netherlands 0318-540666 New Zealand 09 804 22 00 Norway 23 38 41 30 Poland +48 22 331 99 99 Portugal 351-21-472-7700 Russia 7 095 721 1404 Singapore 65-64153188 South Africa 00 27 11 4428508 Spain 34 91 590 52 00 Sweden 08 555 12700 Switzerland 061 717 95 55 Taiwan (886 2) 2578 7188/2578 7241 United Kingdom 020 8328 2000