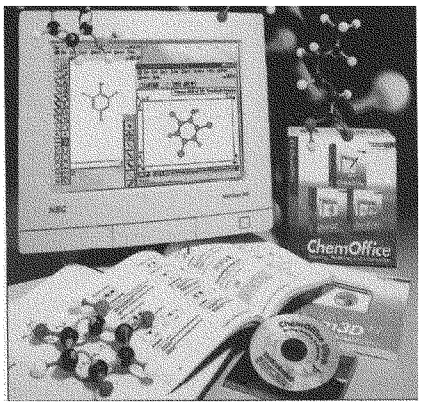
Product News

Software for chemists



Adept Scientific have released **ChemOffice 4.0** and **ChemDraw 4.0** from CambridgeSoft Corporation. ChemDraw is the industry standard for chemical structure drawing, while the ChemOffice suite features applications for structure drawing, molecular modelling and chemical information management. Both packages are available for Windows and Macintosh. The new Ultra versions of ChemOffice 4.0 and ChemDraw 4.0 include additional added-value programs to enhance productivity in the chemistry laboratory. The new ChemDraw 4.0 shows advances in database query capability, chemical intelligence and publishing flexibility. ChemDraw can be used to communicate structures and mechanisms in print or on the web, faster than before. Important information such as molecular weight, empirical formulae and elemental composition can easily be calculated.

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Automated Analysis of Biomolecules

PerSeptive Biosystems, Inc. has introduced the first robotic interface device designed specifically to prepare biological samples for analysis by mass spectrometry. **The SymBiot™ Sample Workstation** fully automates and accelerates the current, manual sample treatment steps involved with time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometry. This new platform is of potential use to scientists involved with protein and peptide analysis, with DNA sequence and variation analysis, or with combinatorial chemistry for drug discovery. SymBiot creates an interface between two distinct entities: a sample containing complex biological substances, and a mass spectrometer that measures the mass to charge ratio of ions. Through this linkage, information about the sequence, variation or identity of substances contained in a sample can be derived automatically at a rate exceeding 1000 per day.

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Data analysis software

SPSS Inc. has just released the new version 4.0 of **SigmaPlot for Windows**, the data analysis and presentation software. The software is used by scientists and engineers to analyze raw data, visualize results and create graphs. One new feature is the regression wizard for easy curve fitting and graphing which provides a graphically illustrated equation, determines the initial parameters automatically and creates result graphs from them. SigmaPlot 4.0 also now includes time-series graphs, ternary plots, bubble plots and transparent 3D meshes. In addition, the user can select default graph settings to create the precise graphs they want, by determining font type, symbol type and colour, background colour etc. SigmaPlot users can export their graphs as EPS, TIFF, WMF and JPEG file formats. A SigmaPlot notebook allows users to document protocols, comment on data analysis techniques and formulate conclusions.

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Chemical libraries

Oxford Asymmetry, through its division Oxford Diversity, is launching a range of diverse, well-characterized, single compound lead generation libraries called **Prospector™**. These libraries are designed primarily for use in the identification of new lead structures. Examples include aryl ether, α-amino acid and β-amino acid libraries; future libraries include the following chemical classes: tertiary amides, lysines, pyrrolidines, biaryls, benzoxazepinones and prostaglandins. The Prospector™ libraries are based on both commercially available and novel building blocks. They provide substantial structural diversity, while ensuring that the library compounds are 'drug-like' in their characteristics.

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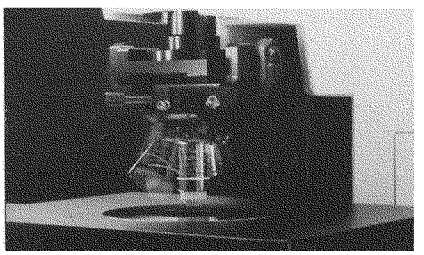
Swing-out nosepiece



The new **BX50WI** microscope has been designed by **Olympus** to incorporate a nosepiece with dual swing in/out action. This allows users to change magnification without altering the micro-manipulator settings. Changing between low set-up magnification and high observation magnification is achieved by swinging the objective carrier in a longitudinal direction. Since there is no rotation of the nosepiece, objectives can be changed without adjustment of the manipulators, electrodes and head stages. The low position of the stage ensures that a Z-stroke of 25mm is available for exchanging samples, Petri dishes and electrodes.

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