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Technical bulletin

ThermoFlex Wide II—Beta vs EP

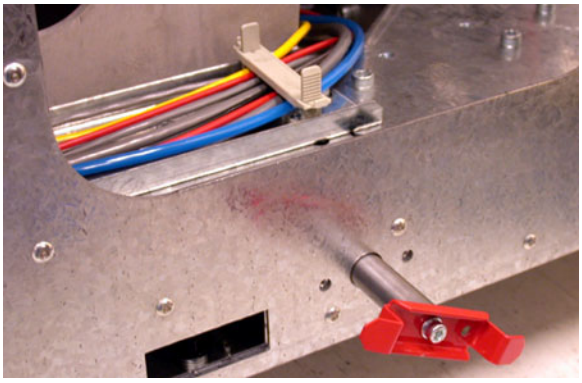
Differences between beta and early production devices

Chassis—engine brackets

Beta machines are fitted with two anti-rotation features for shipping:

- A yellow bracket at the center of rear chassis beam.
- Aluminum block assemblies with jacking bolts (B3's home side block was damaged during shipping and removed for repair. This should be reinstalled during the April 2004 upgrade trip)

EP machines are equipped with side pins for shipping.



Drum hoist

- All beta machines were fitted with a drum hoist.
- EP machines can be fitted with drum hoist in the field.
- The belly pan (252-00505A) does not have an access hole under the motor shaft.
- If the motor fails with the drum in the lower position, the belt has to be pulled by hand to raise the drum and provide access to the hoist motor.
- Beta machine hoists support the drum on cradles with rollers enabling rotation of the drum while on the hoist. EP hoists support the drum on urethane pads that do not allow drum rotation.

Front panel unlock button

- On B1, B2, B3, B4, and B6, the position of the upper front panel unlock button it is situated on a vertical surface.
- On B5 and all EP devices, the button is situated on the horizontal laser shield panel.

Front Panel Latch mechanism

- B1, B2, and B3 have the small diameter American cylinder latch actuator.
- B4 and onwards have the rectangular SMC air cyclinder.
- B1, B5, EP1, and onward have two-position solenoid control valves and wiring. B2, B3, B4, and B6 will be upgraded during a future field sweep.

Cooling system

Beta machines were originally fitted with an internal heat exchanger system (fan box & pump). Later, the head cooling was redirected to an external Polyscience chiller. On beta devices, power to the Polyscience chiller is from an external AC source.

- B2—the internal heat exchanger remains intact but is disconnected.
- B3—the fan box, pump and motor were removed.
- B4, B5, and B6—the heat exchanger sheet metal is present, but the components were not installed.
- EP machines—the fan box has been removed. The brackets for the air regulator and manifold have been redesigned. External Neslab M33 chillers are connected at bulkhead fittings and the AC power comes from the ThermoFlex device at the same bulkhead as the hose fittings.



Main manifold assembly

- Beta devices were shipped with 10-position manifolds for sheet only mode.
- B3 was upgraded with the newer 14-position manifold assembly during the sleeve upgrade.
- Other beta devices undergoing sleeve upgrades will require a new manifold assembly and related wiring upgrade.

Chassis pivot assembly

EP devices are fitted with two additional jack-screws to prevent slippage of the pivot assembly during shipping.

Chassis front gusset change

The chassis front gusset was installed in all beta devices, but removed in all EP devices.

Chassis front feet

- On beta devices, the front feet cannot be removed. They are screwed all the way up after the machine installation.
- On EP devices, the chassis front lifting feet are removable. The mechanism is similar to how the casters are removed.

Lifting beam

- On beta devices, the lifting beam must be removed prior to operating the drum hoist.
- EP devices are fitted with a permanent red lifting beam. If a device is upgraded for sleeves, the beam must be removed to enable hoist operation.

Panel changes

The ventilation holes (intended for the internal heat exchanger) on the right rear and fan box panels have been removed on EP devices.

Tape dispenser blade guard

- Beta devices are fitted with thin gauge stainless steel blade guards.
- EP devices are fitted with thicker gauge aluminum blade guards.

Tape dispenser pulley

- Two rubber bumpers were added to the longitudinal tape dispenser pulley in EP.
- The bumpers wedge the pulley inside the user interface housing.
- The bumpers may be missing from early EP devices.
- Upgrade parts were sent and fitted to all beta devices.

Table position detents

The original short detent block defining the table open position was replaced with a longer delrin block that defined both table open and closed positions. The change has been implemented on all beta devices.

Table height adjustment mechanism

- B1, B2, B3, B4, and B6 have a track roller mechanism that allows table height adjustment only by use of shims between the cam follower mounts and the table support panel.
- B5, EP1, and onwards have adjustment features on the cam followers allowing table height adjustment by means of an eccentric nut.

Table bearing block contact surfaces

- On beta and early EP devices, the contact surfaces between the table guide rod bearing blocks and the support panels are painted.
- On later EP devices, the contact area is bare steel to decrease the chance of table movement.

Camlock Guard

- Sheet only beta devices have a machined guard ring covering the spindle camlocks. The guard ring is attached to the face of the headstock casting.
- EP devices have sheet metal guard strips attached directly to the spindle.

Drum vacuum coupling

- Beta devices have a rotary joint vacuum coupling at the drum tailstock.
- EP devices do not have a driven connection at the vacuum joint—vacuum leakage is allowed. This change was made to address specific vacuum pump stability issues seen during beta. An upgrade path to the newer style clearance coupling will be rolled out to all beta devices in the future.

Flextube

- Beta device flextubes consist of three pieces: a clamp at the carriage interface, a clamp at the ballscrew nut interface, and the flexible tube.
- EP devices have integrated the flexible tube with the carriage interface clamp into a single piece. The clamp at the ballscrew nut remains unchanged.

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