

Velocity I | VPrep® Liquid Handling Platform: 96 Channel 200 µL Accuracy and Precision

Introduction

Automated liquid handling devices are used in many processes performed in laboratories today. Liquid handling automation increases sample processing and throughput⁽¹⁾ and improves accuracy (desired dispensed volume is equal to the actual dispensed volume) and precision (a narrow distribution of dispensed volume) when compared to a person operating a handheld liquid pipettor. Automated liquid handling devices can also significantly reduce the occurrence of errors in a process⁽²⁾. To further the effort to automate routine laboratory processes, Velocity I |® has developed the VPrep liquid handling platform.

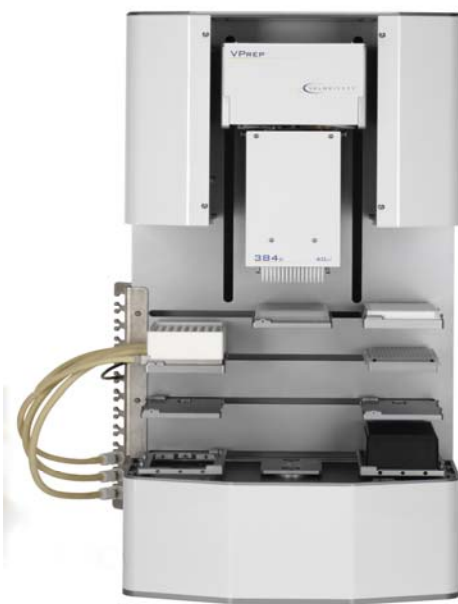
VPrep Features

The VPrep has eight deck positions which accommodate any 96-, 384-, or 1536-well SBS standard microplates. Deck positions can be configured with weigh pad shelves to maintain liquid levels in a reservoir, while additional positions are available for wash stations, microplates and tip boxes.

The VPrep can be used with 8-, 16-, 96-, or 384-channel fixed tip or disposable tip heads. Heads can be interchanged in a matter of seconds. The VPrep compactness makes it an ideal component of a robotic laboratory automation system, yet also capable of standalone usage. Its speed makes it an ideal candidate for plate replication or plate reformatting uses.

Accuracy and Precision Testing

This technical note describes a method to measure the accuracy and precision of the VPrep in conjunction with a 96 Channel LT Disposable



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Tip Head at the lower end of the practical volume range (1-5 µL). Performance at volumes >5 µL meets or exceeds the 5 µL performance. Measurements are determined by dispensing a tartrazine/DMSO solution into dry microplates, filling the plates with water, and measuring tartrazine absorbance. The product's performance meets or exceeds CVs of 5% and accuracy of ±5% of the desired volume across the practical volume range.

Summary

VPrep, 96LT head, 200 µL tips

- 1.0 µL: 3.0% CV
±4.8% accuracy
- 2.0 µL: 1.7% CV
±2.2% accuracy
- 5.0 µL: 1.2% CV
±0.5% accuracy
- >5 µL: equal or better than 5 µL CV and accuracy

Materials

- Velocity I | VPrep with a 96 Channel LT Disposable Tip Head
- Velocity I | 96LT 200 µL tips (product no. 06880.002)
- Velocity I | 96-well manual fill reservoir (product no. 08105.001)
- 96-well polystyrene, flat bottom plates (Greiner 655101)
- Tartrazine solution, 0.25% (w/v) dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide [DMSO]
- UV/Vis Spectrophotometer with a 405 nm filter (Thermo® Multiskan Ascent®)

Method

60 mL of tartrazine solution is poured into a 96-well manual fill reservoir. The reservoir is placed on shelf 3 of the VPrep. A 200 μ L tip box is placed on shelf 8. A 96-well polystyrene plate is placed on shelf 1. VWorks3 liquid classes for 1, 2 and 5 μ L dispenses are utilized. A VWorks3 protocol is created and run in the following manner:

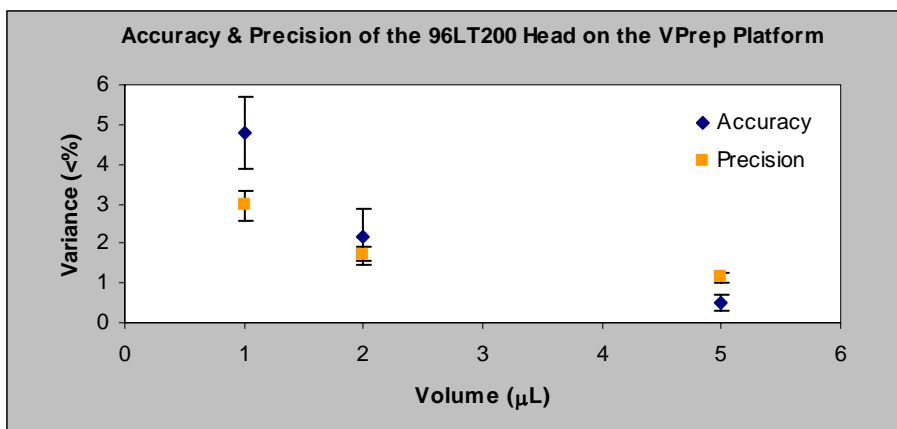
1. Tips are pressed onto the head.
2. 1.0, 2.0 or 5.0 μ L tartrazine solution is aspirated from the 96-well manual fill reservoir. Aspirate parameters are 6 mm from the bottom of the plate, and preceded by a 1 μ L pre-aspirate volume.
3. 1.0, 2.0 or 5.0 μ L tartrazine solution is dispensed into the 96-well plate. Dispense parameters are 0.2 mm from the bottom of the plate, and followed by dispensing a 1 μ L blowout volume.

Dispensed volumes are diluted to 200 μ L by the addition of water (in this case, with clean tips and a separate VWorks3 protocol). Plates are centrifuged at 1800 rpm for 60 seconds to ensure full mixing and consistent well menisci. Absorbance is read at 405 nm.

Accuracy is calculated based on an equation derived from a tartrazine/DMSO calibration curve consisting of data points at 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2, 5, and 10 μ L, compared to the actual absorbance value in each well. Absorbance values in each well is used to determine the precision of the dispense. Coefficient of Variance (CV) calculations were made by dividing the standard deviation by the mean. The accuracy and precision results are typical, based on averages of three successive plate dispenses and readings. Accuracy outliers are an average per plate. Results may vary, depending on individual experimental methods and liquid class optimization.

Results

Volume	1 μ L	2 μ L	5 μ L
Precision (% CV)	3.0	1.7	1.2
% Accuracy (\pm)	4.8	2.2	0.5
Outliers (\pm 5%)	10	1	0
Outliers (\pm 10%)	2	0	0
Transfer time (seconds/ plate)	40	40	30



Conclusion

In summary, the liquid handling capabilities of the VPrep liquid handling platform in conjunction with a 96 Channel LT Disposable Tip Head provides precise, accurate and consistent liquid transfers. The 96 channel head can pipette across a wide volume range (1-200 μ L), allowing the automation of different processes using one head type. The compact footprint, speed, precision, and accuracy of the VPrep make it ideal for many applications in the laboratory including compound sample transfers, genomic applications, microplate stamping and replication applications.

References:

1. Sofia MJ. Leveraging Compound Management Capabilities in Support of Drug Discovery: From Sample Archive to Sample Distribution — Driving Efficiency and Improving Productivity. Laboratory Robotics Interest Group Meeting Oral Presentation, Jan. 2005.
2. Holman JW, Mifflin TE, Felder RA, Demers LM. Evaluation of an automated preanalytical robotic workstation at two academic health centers. Clin Chem. 2002 Mar; 48(3):540-8.

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