

Centrifuge Operation Protocol

1. Ensure that that centrifuge is on a firm, non-resonant surface
2. Open the centrifuge and ensure that an appropriate rotor is installed (as per centrifuge manual) – to install a rotor, set all controls to their OFF position then remove the knurled nut from the top of the motor shaft by turning counter-clockwise. Align the keyway in the rotor with the key on the shaft and place the empty rotor on the shaft. Replace the nut and tighten finger-tight.
3. Ensure that the rotor is balanced with the correct combination of accessories
 - **It is essential that matched sets of multi-carriers and tubes are placed symmetrically on the rotor. This can be determined by checking that the numbers on the carriers (catalog number found on top and weight in grams on underside) and tubes (catalog number and weight in grams printed on side) and ensuring that they are identical and within 0.5 grams of each other.
4. Place your samples into the tubes, again ensuring that they are balanced both in weight and their position in the centrifuge (weight A directly opposite weight A, weight B directly opposite weight B, etc.) Additionally, opposite samples should be loaded according to their centre of gravity. Centrifuge tubes should be selected which are alike in shape, thickness and distribution of glass or plastic. If samples are not in matched pairs, create appropriate balance tubes filled with water.
5. Close the lid completely and ensure that it is latched/locked and that the vent hole is unobstructed – DO NOT attempt to open the lid while the centrifuge is in operation!
6. Set the speed and the timer on the centrifuge and then turn it on.
7. **IF THE CENTRIFUGE VIBRATES CONSTANTLY DURING OPERATION, TURN IT OFF AND CHECK YOUR BALANCING.**
8. Once the spin has completed, the BRAKE switch can be held down to slow the centrifuge – Listen for a slowing effect and note the reduction in speed as shown on the tachometer. Hold the switch down until the tachometer reads 0 RPM and then release the switch. Further breaking can damage the motor.
9. If a spill occurs, clean the centrifuge IMMEDIATELY with mild soap and water – DO NOT use solvents.

