

GC Notes
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To keep our GCs working as long as possible, we need everybody's understanding and cooperation. Please make a note of a few important tips regarding routine use of these instruments.

1. A log book was started to keep track of all problems before they get a chance to become major nuisances. The book is located on the shelf right above the GCs. Please remember to sign in and out.
2. The igniter on the older GC works properly. Instead of messing with matches, you should just push the button.
3. Please pay attention to directions listed on the stickers.
4. The correct injection procedure is as follows:
 - a. pull about 1 microliter of air into the syringe,
 - b. dip the tip of the needle in the solution and lift the plunger by about 0.6-0.8 of a microliter,
 - c. remove the needle from the solution and lift the plunger by an additional microliter. At this point, you should be able to see a droplet of the solution within the syringe bore surrounded by 2 air bubbles. It's OK, if the droplet is broken in a few parts by small bubbles as long as its total volume is 0.4-0.8 microliters.
 - d. firmly holding the syringe by the middle of the needle and the middle of the body pierce the septum.
 - e. immediately let go of the needle and push the syringe down gently but quickly until it touches the retainer nut.
 - f. inject the contents with one smooth stroke.
 - g. let go of the syringe for 10 seconds.
 - h. withdraw the syringe.
5. Injecting anything with visible chunks, droplets of water or contaminated with mineral acids will not only give you fairly useless analytical data, but may also degrade the stationary phase quickly. A new column would cost \$340 and quite some time to install.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Dmitry.