Multi-Place Cold Finger Model .62 for research on paraffin precipitation and inhibitors

The principle of the Cold Finger instrument is an inverted pipeline. The cooled metal finger simulates the pipeline’s inner wall. The heated and stirred oil flows around it. When the finger’s temperature falls below the WAT, wax starts to deposit on its outside.

The wax deposition process depends on the oil and finger temperature, the finger-surface-to-oil-volume ratio, the temperature gradients and the stirrer speed.

Combining multiple cold finger units in one heating bath gives the ability to perform surveys on wax inhibitors, e.g. testing different chemicals on one oil or one chemical with different concentrations.

The Cold Finger apparatuses by F5 Technologie combine accuracy, ergonomics and flexibility to a maximum benefit to researchers and producers in the field of paraffin deposition inhibition. So, the experimental approach to research in paraffin deposition effects becomes reliable and reproducible.

The new user interface with a big color touch screen and a front side USB port for data storage provides all functionality without the requirement to connect a PC. Of course, connecting a PC keeps being possible.

Temperature control accuracy and stability has been improved to an even higher level than before.

Applications:

- Wax inhibitor development
- Relative effectiveness determination
- Paraffin content determination
- Retrieving the paraffin from the sample

*NEW:* Big touch screen user interface and front side USB for data storage

Photo shows 6-place HT version. Cooler not depicted.
The instrument is scalable by means of the heating and cooling thermostat's power, but also by the number of cold finger units. As a new feature we offer 2 alternative sample temp control systems:

- **thermostat baths**
  - active cooling option
  - direct contact of thermal fluid to the sample jars
- **dry-block thermostats**
  - avoids hot thermal fluid
  - no cooling option
  - 100 ml sample jars only

The 12- or 18-place version of the instrument combines 2 or 3 independent groups of 6 cold fingers each. Each group has its own heating thermostat and circulation cooler, so each group may have different sample temperatures. Although all cold finger units of one group are cooled by an individual circulating cooler, each cold finger has its own temperature sensor and control. So, an equal temperature for all fingers can be provided, but also different set temperatures.

The temperature sensor measures the cold finger's wall temperature. A special setup keeps this assembly as small as possible. It is installed in a screw cap which fits on a standard GL45 sample jar. The jars are hooked in a holder which is immersed into the heating bath. Magnetic stirrers keep the sample homogeneous. The stirrer speed can be set arbitrarily and is a measure for the sample's shear rate to the cold finger surface.

100 ml and 250 ml standard flasks with GL45 thread are used as sample jars. The cold finger inserts can be disassembled easily. Cold finger insert types of different length and diameter are available.

The 6 cold fingers of one group are hooked onto a holder and can be taken out of the bath/thermostat individually or simultaneously. A practical stand is used to support the holder while the sample jars are removed to retrieve the deposit. The deposited wax is wiped off with a cloth and weighed or the complete cold finger sleeve with the deposit is removed and is weighed. A balance with a resolution of **0.001 g (1 µg)** is recommended. The deposit is not lost and can be kept for further analysis.

During a test, the sample in each cold finger unit can be retrieved or replaced. Also, a treating chemical can be injected at any time.
The Cold Finger instrument by F5 Technologie can be used stand-alone with full functionality. The included WinCF software for a Windows PC offers a bigger user interface than the built-in touch screen. The PC just requires a free USB port to connect to the cold finger apparatus.

Test settings can be stored and retrieved again. Each cold finger can be switched on/off individually and has its own timer for independent test times.

**Technical Data:**

- **Number of cold fingers:** 6 (12- and 18-place version available)
- **Cold fingers:**
  - Material: Stainless steel
  - Standard: straight, diameter 12 mm, length 72 mm
  - also available with **removable sleeves**
  - Big size: straight, max diameter 24 mm, max length 102 mm
  - Small size: straight, diameter 10 mm, max length 102 mm
  - U-Tube shaped cold fingers and other alternatives available.
- **Sample volume:** 50 to 250 ml: 100 or 250 ml standard flasks with GL45 thread
- **Temperature range:** of sample: ambient to +60 °C, accuracy ±0.2 °C
  - optional: ambient to +90 or +120 °C
  - of cold finger fluid: -22°C to +90 °C, accuracy ±0.2 °C
  - (alternatives available, e.g. more cooling power)
- **Pressure range:** ambient or 100 bar with optional **HP cold finger unit**
  - (more than one HP unit possible per instrument)
- **Cooling power:** 450 W @ 20°C  
  - (scalable with additional/bigger coolers)
- **Stirrer speed:** 0/100 to 2000 rpm
- **Data display/storage/evaluation:** On the instrument’s color touch display and by our WinCF software
- **Power supply:** 240 VAC / 50Hz, 120 VAC / 60Hz, alternatives available
- **Power consumption:** 3200 W max
Scope of Delivery:

Main unit: With color touch screen, standalone operation possible
Valve banks: Valve bank for automated cooling fluid distribution
Cold finger units: 6 units, complete with 100 ml GL45 sample jars (borosilicate glass), high-power stirrer bars, temperature sensors
Optional: Kit for sample retrieval and chemical injection
Sample temperature control: We have 2 alternative options available:
a) Stainless steel bath with heating thermostats. Active cooling available optionally (also later).
b) Dry-block heating thermostat. No thermal fluid but also no cooling option.
The thermostats are controlled by the main unit. Magnetic stirrers homogenise the samples.
Circulation coolers: The cooler is controlled by the main unit. Cooling power: 450 W @ 20°C, scalable (also later) with bigger or additional coolers.
Balance (optional): Digital precision balance, resolution 0.001 mg (1 µg). Automated measurement data transfer.
Computer (optional): Standard Windows PC with screen, keyboard and mouse. The PC is connected to the main unit by a standard USB interface (no special PC hardware required).
Software: WinCF software pre-installed and on CD with extended features, data visualization, data storage, data export.
Manual: Hardware and software manual in printed form (English) and on CD.
Accessories: Tool set, cooling fluid hoses, thermal insulation, stirrer bar retriever, set of spare parts.