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Self Regulating Heating Pad For Experimental Animals

Instruction Manual

Version 2.1

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the FST Self Regulating Heating Pad (FST 21061-00, 21061-10, or 21061-90). Enclosed you will find the following items:

- One Heating Pad
- One Regulator Box
- One DC Wall Adapter

Assembly Instructions

Plug the 4-pin connector of the Heating Pad into the 4-pin connector of the Regulator Box. Insert the female connector of the Wall Adapter into the other end of the Regulator Box. Plug the DC Wall Adapter into any convenient power outlet.

Directions

Plug in the Heating Pad for a few minutes before you are ready to use it, as it takes approximately five minutes for the interface temperature to reach the calibrated temperature. **(*)** The red surface should be facing the animal and the blue side is the insulated side and faces the bench top. The pads are covered with a tough, laminated material that provides a durable, yet flexible surface that can be shaped to fit, for instance, to a stereotaxic unit.

The Heating Pads are heat, acid and UV resistant and have been sealed to retard moisture that may cause damage. Additionally the internal connectors are sealed to improve corrosion resistance. The pad is easily cleaned with a damp, soapy cloth or sponge and then quickly dried with a towel. DO NOT IMMERSE IN WATER!

The Heating Pad has been calibrated to give an interface temperature (i.e. the temperature at the surface of the animal) of ~36ºC, **when the animal is on the heating pad**. The interface temperature will fluctuate approximately 0.5ºC in this mode. This temperature should keep the small, unshaven, anesthetized animal at the core temperature of ~37ºC, when the ambient room temperature is around 21ºC. The 36ºC interface temperature will provide a warm and safe heating source for the animal and no overheating will occur.

Calibration

If you wish to reset the calibration for the interface temperature to meet your specific needs, follow the steps below using a fine flathead screwdriver.

1. Turn the calibration knob, marked as such on the regulator box, 1/4 turn **counter-clockwise** for a 1ºC **increase** in interface temperature,

2. Turn the calibration knob 1/4 turn **clockwise** for a 1ºC **decrease** in the interface temperature.

Caution: Avoid repetitive calibration of the unit, or turning the calibration excessively (more than 1-2 complete turns in any direction).

(*) Note: To bring heating pad up to operating temperature, or for calibration, you must use an animal on the pad. If not available, fiber insulation (i.e. Thinsulate) or insulative material, such as a folded towel and weigh it down lightly. Place thermometer at the center between the pad and the insulation. The thermometer should read between 36 and 38°C when set temperature is reached. The regulator box will get warm as the set point temperature is being reached, then it will cool and stabilize as the pad temperature fluctuates about the set point temperature. If no animal or insulative material is being used, the regulator box will over heat trying to reach the operating temperature. Disconnect from wall outlet at this point.

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