

How to change a sample with the MICAS furnace:

1. Prepare the system for a sample change.
 - a. Disable alarm by selecting "Alarm Disabled" from the dropdown menu in the Furnace Control box on the dashboard (Figure 1).
 - b. Set temperature setpoint to 0°C.
 - c. Turn off power to the heating elements by pressing the E-stop on the furnace controller (Figure 2).
 - d. Once the furnace is below 300°C, press the power button on the turbo pump controller to start it spinning down (Figure 2).
 - e. Close the secondary shutter according to the Shutter Operation QSG and enter the pit.
 - f. Close vacuum valve V-1 (Fig. 3), to isolate the turbo pump from the roughing pump.

Never open the vent and vacuum valves at the same time.
 - g. After the turbo pump has started spinning down, slowly open valve V-2 (vent) to bleed in a little nitrogen, then immediately close V-2 again.
 - h. You may alternate between opening V-1 (vacuum) to remove the warm gas and V-2 (gas) to refill with cool gas in order to speed cooling.
2. Remove the previous sample.

Furnace temperature must be 100°C or lower before removing sample stick.

 - a. Once the furnace temperature is below 100°C, fully open V-2 (vent) to start venting the furnace to atmospheric pressure. Avoid over-pressurizing the furnace.
 - b. Remove the clamps holding the sample stick in place.
 - c. Carefully disconnect both thermocouple leads on the sample stick.
 - d. Leaving V-2 (vent) open, carefully remove the stick and hang from the stick holder in the sample pit.
 - e. Place the blank over the sample stick port and close V-2 (vent).
 - f. Scan the sample with RadEye G radiation monitor. If the monitor alarms, call the RCT (865-274-8658).

Caution: Sample may be hot. Thermal gloves should be worn if needed.
 - g. Unscrew sample from stick, as in Figure 4, and put it with its ITEMS barcode tag in the irradiated samples bin on the wood table inside the Radiological Materials Area.
3. Load new sample.
 - a. Screw new sample onto stick.
 - b. Check that the sample height is correct, as measured from the bottom of the flange. The height to the beam position should be 37.25 inches (94.6 cm) with the rotator installed.
 - c. Open V-2 (vent) and remove blank from sample stick port.
 - d. Carefully place stick into furnace, ensuring that the O-ring is in place and aligning the marks.
 - e. Replace sample stick clamps and close V-2 (vent).
 - f. Open V-1 (vacuum).
 - g. Reconnect both thermocouple leads, being careful to match the orientation marks.
 - h. Once the pressure, as seen on the furnace controller (Figure 1), is below 1 mbar, press the power button on the turbo pump controller to start spinning it up.
 - i. Open the secondary shutter according to the Shutter Operation QSG.
4. Prepare the system for heating.
 - a. Once the pressure is below approximately 5e-4 mbar, the furnace is ready to heat.
 - b. After verifying that the setpoint is 0°C, release the E-stop by twisting it clockwise.
 - c. Re-enable alarm by selecting "Alarm Enabled" from the dropdown in the Furnace Control box on the dashboard (Fig 1).

Furnace Control and Status

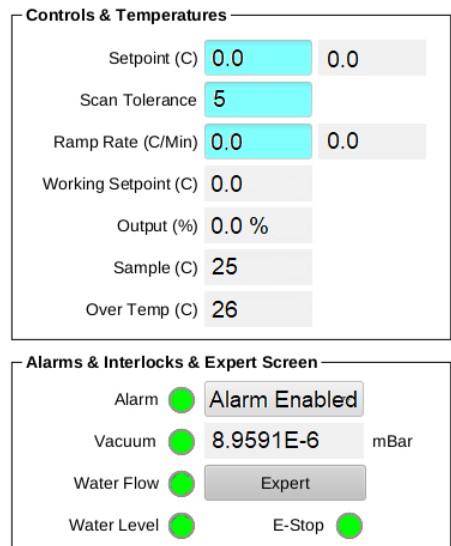


Figure 1. Micas controls on dashboard

MICAS Furnace Sample Change

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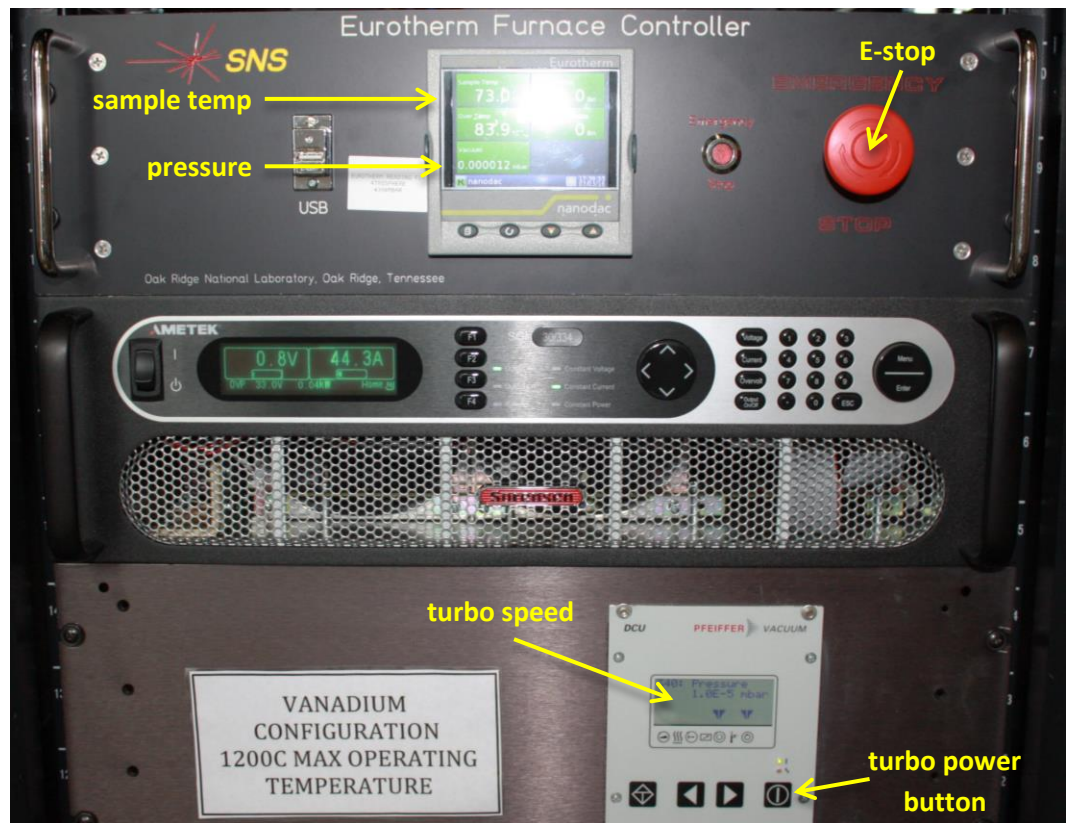


Figure 2. MICAS furnace controller.

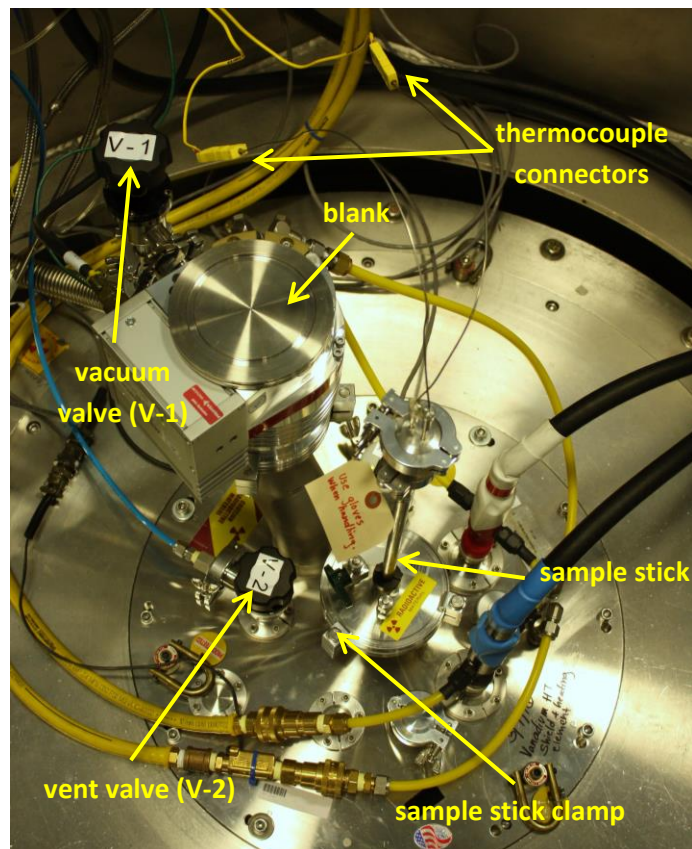


Figure 3. MICAS furnace.



Figure 4. Sample can on stick.