FilterMax F3 and F5 Multi-Mode Microplate Readers
Unpacking and Setup Guide

Before unpacking and setting up the FilterMax™ F3 or FilterMax™ F5 Microplate Reader, prepare a dry, flat work area that has sufficient space for the instrument, host computer, and required cables.

Unpacking the Instrument

The packaging is specifically designed to protect the instrument during transportation.

A transport lock is placed on microplate drawer to protect the instrument from damage during shipping. The transport lock must be removed before powering on the instrument.

Note: The shipping box and all packaging materials, including the transport lock, should be retained in case of future transport needs. Do not use tools that can damage the packaging or the instrument.

CAUTION! Do not touch or loosen screws or parts other than those specifically designated in the instructions. Doing so could cause misalignment and possibly void the warranty.

To unpack the instrument:

1. Inspect the box for visible damage that occurred during transportation. In case of damage, inform the supplier immediately and keep the damaged packaging.
2. Open the box lid and remove the accessories box.
3. Carefully lift the instrument out of the box by the molded foam packaging encasing it.
4. Gently place the instrument on a dry, flat area.
5. Remove the molded foam packaging from the instrument and place the foam back in the shipping box.
6. Remove the plastic surrounding the instrument and discard the plastic.

CAUTION! The instrument can be damaged if the transport locks are not removed before the instrument is powered on.

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7. Gently pull the plastic tab protruding from the microplate chamber door. The door opens, revealing the transport lock that fastens the microplate drawer to the internal frame of the instrument.
   The microplate drawer door must be held open manually while removing the transport lock.

   Note: Be careful not to tear the plastic tab. It must remain attached to the transport lock to make it easier to open the microplate chamber door.

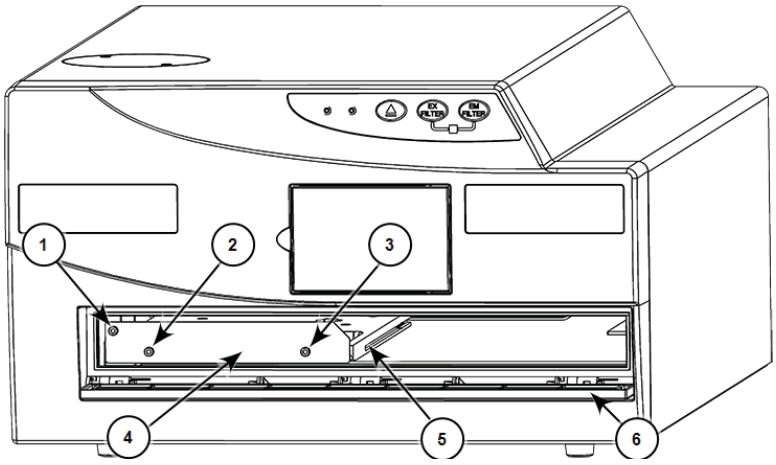

Figure 1-1: The Instrument with the Transport Lock Installed

Item	Description
1	Screw #1 fastens the lock to the internal frame of the instrument
2	Screw #2: Fastens the lock to the microplate drawer
3	Screw #3: Fastens the lock to the microplate drawer
4	Transport lock
5	Microplate drawer
6	Microplate chamber door opened

8. Use the provided 2.0 mm hex key to loosen screw #1 in the upper-left corner of the transport lock until the lock disconnects from the instrument frame.
   The screw is equipped with a retaining washer that prevents it from being removed from the lock.
9. Use the provided 2.0 mm hex key to loosen screw #2 and screw #3 until the lock disconnects from the microplate drawer.
   The screws are equipped with retaining washers that prevent them from being removed from the lock.
10. Gently close the microplate chamber door.
11. Save the original carton, foam inserts, accessories box, and transport lock in case the instrument must be shipped in the future.

Setting Up the Instrument

Setting up the instrument includes selecting a suitable work area, installing excitation and emission filter slides, connecting the host computer, and installing the software that controls all actions performed by the instrument.

To set up the instrument:

1. Place the instrument and host computer on a dry, flat work area with sufficient space for both devices and the required cables.
   To ensure sufficient ventilation and provide access for disconnecting power from the instrument, maintain a 20 cm to 30 cm (7.9 in. to 11.8 in.) gap between the rear of the instrument and the wall.
2. Connect one end of the RS-232 9-pin serial cable to the RS-232 serial port on the computer.
   If the computer does not have an RS-232 serial port, then connect the supplied USB to RS-232 adapter cable to a USB port on the computer.

   Note: Use only the original RS-232 9-pin serial cable or the USB to RS-232 adapter cable supplied with the instrument. Other serial cables with identical connectors might not establish communication between the instrument and computer.

   CAUTION! Turn off the main power to the instrument before connecting it to the host computer.
3. Connect the other end of the RS-232 9-pin serial cable to the RS-232 serial port on the back of the instrument.

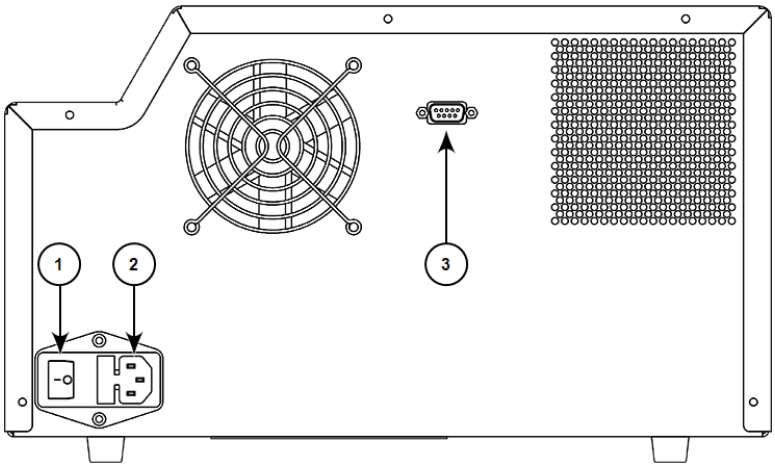

Figure 1-2: The Power Switch and Connection Ports

Item	Description
1	Power Switch
2	Power Port
3	RS-232 Serial Port

4. Connect the power cable to the power port on the back of the instrument and to the wall socket.

5. Turn on the power switch on the back of the instrument.
   The instrument performs an initialization procedure that moves the optics and the microplate drawer to home positions.
6. Remove the excitation filter slide from the toolbox supplied with the instrument.
   Excitation filter slides are identified by the EX or EXP printed on the slide tab.
7. Open the filter compartment door on the front of the instrument.

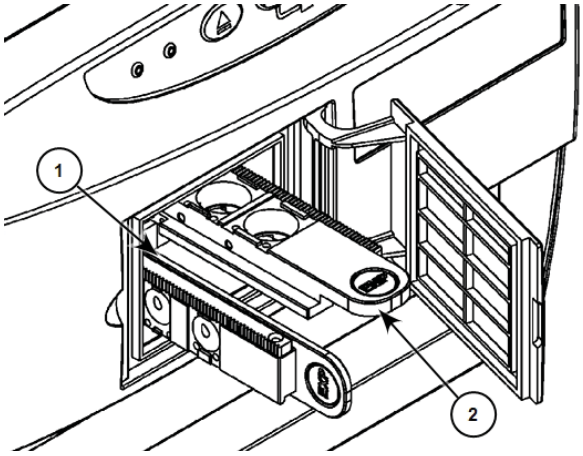

Figure 1-3: The Filter Compartment and Filter Slides

Item	Description
1	Excitation filter slide
2	Emission filter slide

8. Hold the excitation filter slide vertically by the tab with the gear teeth on top, facing to the left of the instrument.
9. Align the slide in the track, and gently push it into the filter compartment until the motor automatically retracts it into position.
10. Remove the emission filter slide from the toolbox supplied with the instrument.
    Emissions filter slides are identified by the EM or EMP printed on the slide tab.
11. Hold the emission filter slide horizontally by the tab with the gear teeth on the right, facing up.
12. Align the slide in the track, and gently push it into the filter compartment until the motor automatically retracts it into position.
13. Close the filter compartment door completely to ensure the accuracy of measurements.
14. Turn on the power to the host computer.
15. Install the SoftMax® Pro Microplate Data Acquisition and Analysis Software on the computer.
16. Start the SoftMax Pro Software. It might be necessary to install hardware drivers before starting the software.

For more information, see the SoftMax Pro Software application help or user guide and the *FilterMax F3 and F5 Multi-Mode Microplate Readers User Guide* installed with the software.