

Pipettes



We have this kind, and I prefer them as I personally find them far easier to use. The cleaning is easy enough to do when required. I wouldn't say they break easily however eventually they lose their seal and will no longer "hold" the liquid. We have a larger number of the red ones which are mainly used for titrations (20 and 25mL pipettes) plus a smaller number of the green and blue ones for use with the smaller pipettes 10mL and 2mL max.

We have tried those a long time ago, in 2013. I can't remember a reason, somehow the teachers didn't like them. Since then we have been using rubber ones.

We use the Thumbwheel type pipettes and they are great to use – so easy to fill and control. The students do need to be shown how to use them, so that they don't over fill the pipettes into the filler body – this happens when a pipette smaller in volume is used. They are however fairly robust and easy to rinse and clean. Some of ours are really old and then parts have broken, but not unexpected for their age.

Yes, we have sets of the red ones (the model in the photo and also an older version). Interestingly, when it comes to their usefulness it's a personal preference thing. Some teachers prefer them over the bulb fillers, while others dislike them. As well as the bulb & thumbwheel style, we also have a hybrid type pipette filler – The Levo pipette controller.



Code: 663-392

Peck EA

The Levo Pipette Controller is ideal for precise filling and delivery of liquid.

With a small and sensitive lever, the unit can be used with volumetric or serological pipettes between 0.1ml and 100ml.

A replaceable 3.0µm hydrophobic filter prevents liquids from contaminating the inside of the Levo Pipette Filler. From one squeeze of the bulb, 50ml of fluid can be pipetted.

- Sensitive Lever for Precise Pipetting Control
- PVDF Material for Chemical Resistance
- Replaceable 3.0µm Hydrophobic Filter
- Autoclavable Silicone Pipette Holder
- Easily Maintained & Cleaned
- Single Handed Operation

I always put out a mix of pipette fillers to choose from for each class doing their titrations. The thumbwheel style fillers are fairly robust if used correctly....but boys seem to be able to break anything and everything! The main thing that tends to go wrong is that students shove the pipettes in too far and dislodge the internal rubber seal. The white bit screws off so it is possible to pull the filler apart for cleaning and repair...but when students snap off the release lever or the thumbwheel, I'm afraid it's a bin job!

Pipettes

I have an assortment of both, but I still personally like to use the bulb type filler but they deteriorate. When I worked at Murdoch Uni we only used the ones that you illustrated in the photo. Students got used to using these fairly quickly.

We provide our undergraduate students with both types, roller filler and bulb filler. Personally I prefer the bulbs but some people tell me they prefer the rollers, it seems to be a personal choice. Rollers may be more ergonomic and simpler to understand.

One thing to consider: the biggest ones I've seen (coloured red as per your picture below) can only suck up 25 mL. If you use bigger pipettes than that, you can't simply refill the roller with air partway through like a bulb filler. I've seen people take the rollers off the pipettes and put their fingers over the end of the pipette while they reset the roller to continue filling, which seems like poor technique to me (just my opinion, I don't teach techniques 😊)

The rollers are easy to take apart to clean, but when you put them back together you need to check the silicone ribs/rings don't come loose or get caught up inside. Some models have slip-on rings (which can easily come loose) while other have fixed ribbed piston heads, and there is no way of knowing which at time of purchase, they all look the same from the outside. They contain a small amount of a very thick grease, probably silicone grease, which I have never needed to replenish. They don't tend to break as such, but newer ones seem more likely to come apart (e.g. the thumb wheel halves can separate and detach if not secured properly). You need to look out for the little pin that holds the thumb wheel halves together – it's small and easily lost!

I have smaller upper school classes. I usually put both the bulb and thumb pipette fillers on the trolley but the students still choose the bulb ones.

We have both the red and the green ones.

We use these (thumb fillers). They are much more user friendly.