

PL200 Slide Loader

High Throughput Automatic Robotic Slide Loaders

The PL200 slide loader is ideal for automated microscope systems; quickly loading and removing slides from most modern upright microscopes. Such an automated system offers rapid and efficient walk-away handling of digital imaging - ideal for high throughput of a large number of slides.



PL 100 & PL 200 Slide Loader

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Large and Secure Slide Storage

Your slides can be valuable, and each one may represent considerable expense in time and resources. At the same time, your application may require hundreds if not thousands of slides to be loaded.

Therefore, storing transporting and loading your slides safely yet effectively is important.

The PL200 has four slide-holding units, capable of accommodating fifty slides each. A handle and a slide retaining design ensures that these slides can be easily and safely transported.

The slide gripper itself has sensors to detect the presence or absence of a slide, and safely grips and releases slides, meaning slides are transferred gently, quickly and precisely without damage.

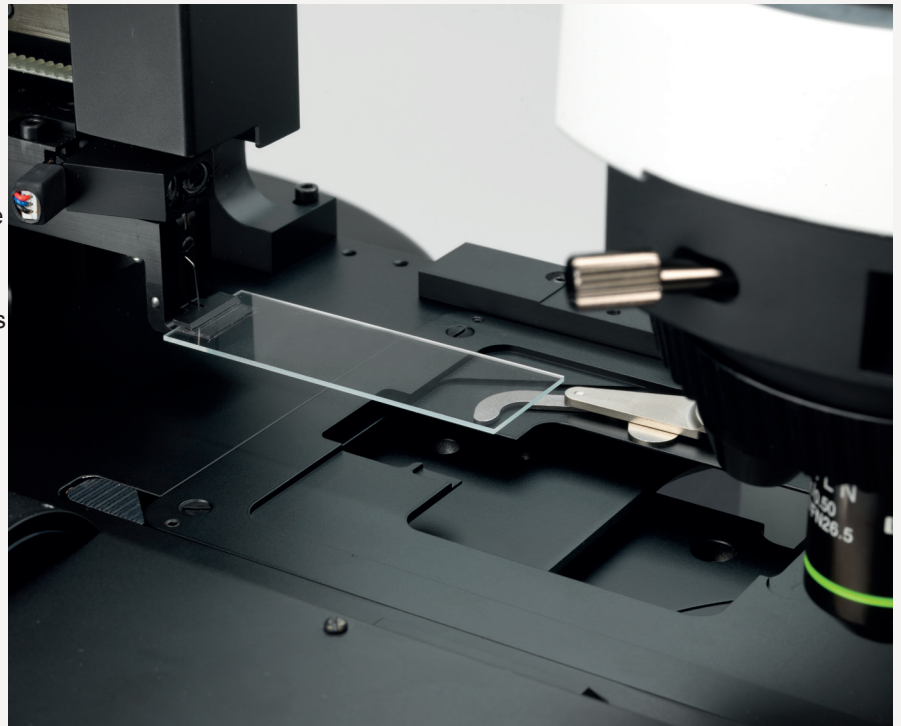


Safeguarding Data Integrity

With hundreds of slides to be imaged, data integrity must be safeguarded; otherwise the data obtained will be all but useless. Depending on your exact needs, 1D or 2D barcode readers can be fitted; and scanning can take place both before and during the load cycle. Thus, the data generated from each slide is associated with the correct slide, as mandated by Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) guidelines. If random access scanning is required, the system can scan slides prior to loading.

A problem with automatic systems is that they may not respond effectively to changed circumstances. The PL200 is designed to respond effectively to slides or racks which are missing or not loaded correctly. The load cycle can continue even if a rack is removed or replaced.

Finally, a height sensor monitors changes in the focus height. If this is changed - either intentionally or unintentionally - the system responds by adjusting the height of the slide loading position accordingly. The presence of this height sensor also allows the system to work seamlessly with advanced auto-focus routines to maintain proper focus throughout the imaging cycle.



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Practical and Convenient

In a laboratory, space is at a premium. The PL200 is designed to be as compact as possible; meaning that valuable laboratory space can be freed up for other uses. With a footprint of just 0.16 m² the PL200 takes up relatively little space for such a powerful system.

Vibration and noise can be not only distracting but potentially disruptive, especially to sensitive work. The PL200, thanks partially to its compact nature produces little vibration and noise even when moving. When not moving the loader is practically vibration free so that imaging can proceed without disruption. A metal plate on which both the slide loader and microscope rest means that the system is especially stable and robust.

The load cycle is fast - 20 to 25 seconds is typical, but it can be reduced to as low as 15 seconds when rapid imaging is required. Thus, experiments requiring the fast imaging of hundreds or even thousands of slides can now be done far more quickly and accurately than was possible previously.



Compatible and Versatile

The combination of the PL200 automatic slide loader and Prior's precision scanning stages provide a powerful and precise way to truly automate digital imaging. As the PL200 is fully compatible with the ProScan™ III system, it is possible to use Prior's range of stages, focussing devices, and illumination devices to create a system that is tailored to your specific needs. In addition, the PL200 slide loader is provided with a free Software Development Kit to allow straightforward integration with third party software. Prior also offers a software simulation tool to write the PL200 into a software package and test its performance before the hardware is actually delivered.

Compatible* with most Nikon, Olympus, Zeiss and Leica upright microscopes, the PL 200 is a truly automated, precise and versatile system providing complete, walk away convenience.

*Contact Prior for information regarding inverted microscopes and OEM applications.

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Features:

Rack sensor	Racks can be swapped whilst unit is running.
Slide detection	Racks are scanned for slides present. Slides can be barcode read prior to loading for random access scanning, and can be scanned during the load cycle to ensure GLP compliance.
Slide safety	Slide detectors are built into both the gripper arm and stage insert to ensure slides are handled correctly.
Vibration	Loader is stationary between operations, eliminating vibration

Specifications

Slide capacity	PL200 = 200 75mm x 50 mm slides
Loading Speed	20-25 secs (typical)
Barcode reader	Optional 2D reader available
Communications	USB
Footprint	0.16m ²
Scanning stage compatibility	ProScan H101A stage
Footprint	Compact unit - 0.16 m ²
Dimensions	350 (W) x (500 (D) x 680 (H) mm
Input voltage	100-240 vAC
Regulatory compliance	Fully CE compliant

Prior Scientific manufactures a wide range of products designed for a huge range of microscopy applications; from automated systems to illuminators, sample holders, filter wheels and robotic slide loaders.

Why not contact Prior Scientific today to discuss your requirements?

Worldwide distribution

Prior Scientific Ltd
Cambridge, UK
T. +44 (0) 1223 881 711
E. uksales@prior.com

Prior Scientific Inc
Rockland, MA USA
T. +1 781-878-8442
E. info@prior.com

Prior Scientific GmbH
Jena, Germany
T. +49 (0) 3641 675 650
E. jena@prior.com

Prior Scientific KK
Tokyo, Japan
T. +81-3-5652-8831
E. info-japan@prior.com