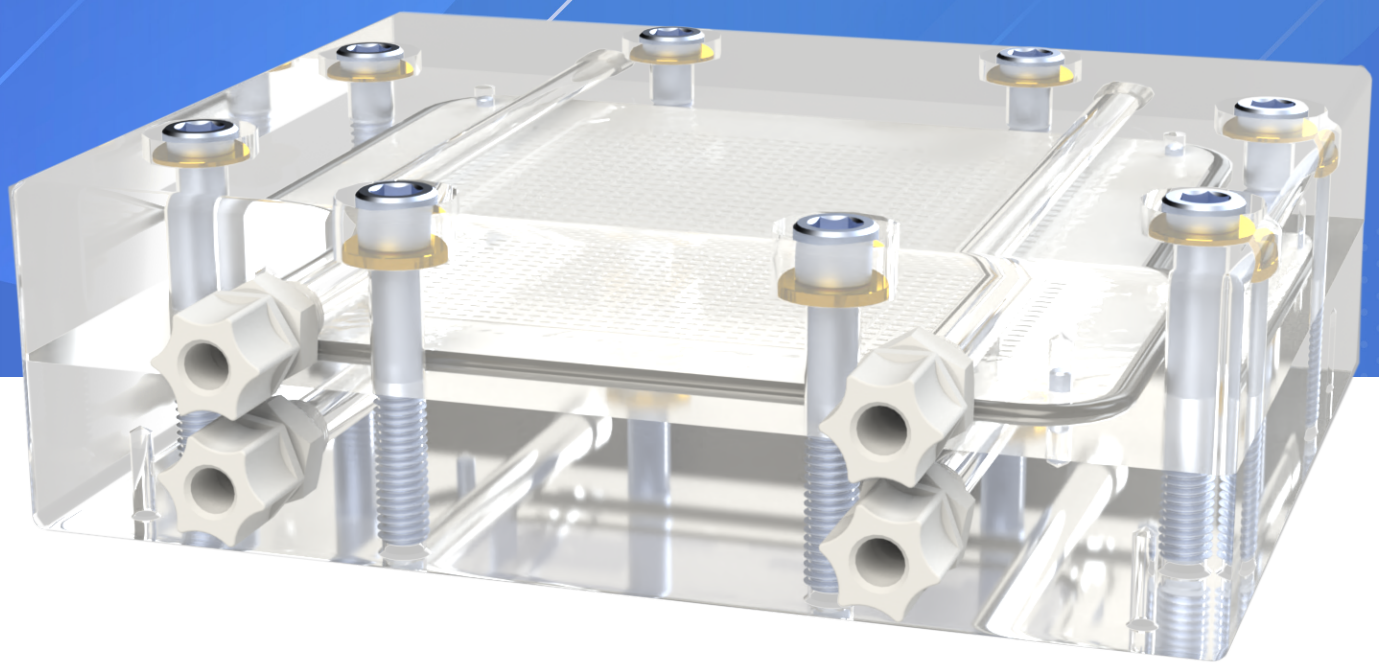
STERLITECH

Corporation

# DCMD Sepa Cell

## Assembly & Operation Manual




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# Introduction

The Direct Contact Membrane Distillation (DCMD) Sepa Cell is a laboratory-scale filtration unit that is designed to evaluate the performance of flat sheet membranes in membrane distillation applications. It simulates the flow dynamics of larger, commercially available membrane systems. By using a combination of Stainless Steel (SS) shims, feed spacers, and membranes, users can vary the operating conditions and fluid dynamics over broad ranges.

**Table 1 outlines the operational parameters and technical specifications of the DCMD Sepa Cell.**

**Table 1: DCMD Sepa Cell Features and Technical Specifications**

| PARAMETER | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| **Membrane Operation** | Forward Osmosis / Membrane Distillation |
| **Cell Material** | Acrylic |
| **Membrane Active Area** | 140 cm² (22 in²) |
| **Maximum Pressure** | 15.2 bar (220 PSI) |
| **Maximum Temperature*** | 88 °C (190 °F) |
| **Recommended Feed Rate** | 0.5-6 LPM (0.13-1.6 GPM) |
| **Channel Dimensions** | |
| Channel Depth | 1.9 mm (0.075 inches) |
| Channel Width | 95.3 mm (3.75 inches) |
| **Fittings** | |
| Feed Inlet/Outlet Size (Tube OD) | 3/8” Compression |
| Draw Inlet/Outlet Size (Tube OD) | 3/8” Compression |
| **Securing Method** | High Pressure Screws |

**Note:** *Maximum Pressure and Temperature ratings are dependent on a variety of factors. Listed values are guidelines based upon material properties and cannot be guaranteed in every application.*

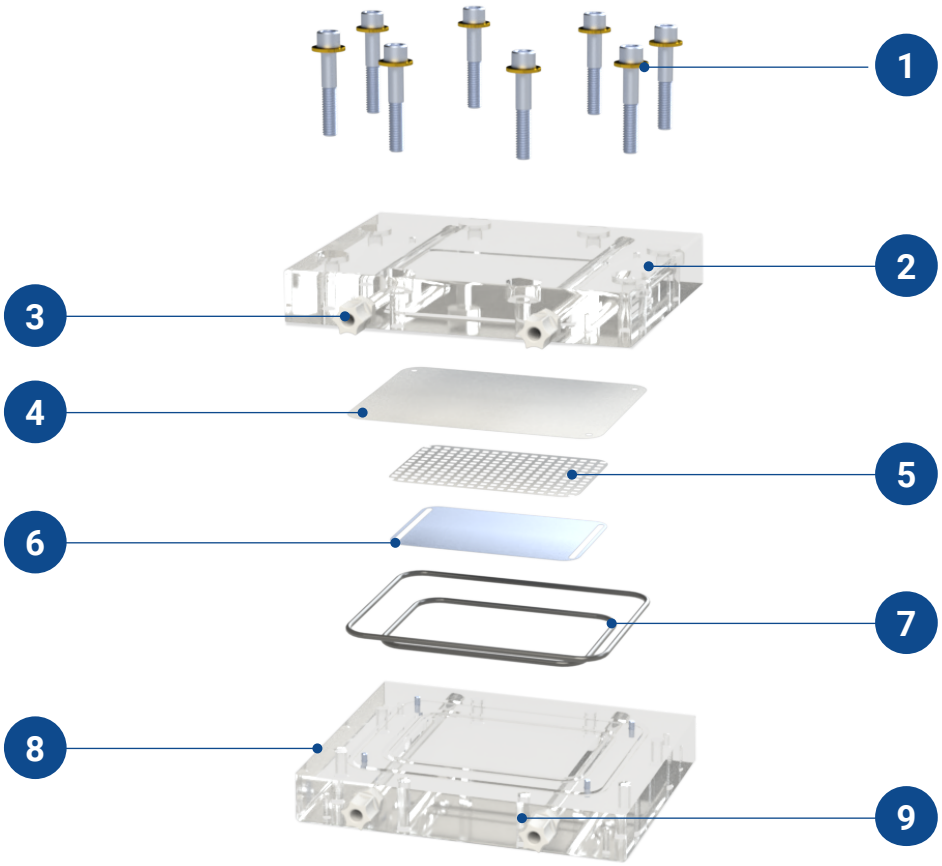


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## DCMD Sepa Cell Components

**Figure 1** illustrates a typical assembly of the DCMD Sepa Cell. The cell is also packaged with a membrane cutting template.

**Figure 1:** DCMD Sepa Cell Body Assembly




| NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | MATERIAL | WETTED? |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Screw & Washer Set | Stainless Steel / Brass | No |
| 2 | Cell Top | Acrylic | Yes |
| 3 | Inlet/Outlet Fittings (Draw) | Polypropylene | Yes |
| 4 | Membrane | Various | Yes |
| 5 | Feed Spacer** | Polypropylene* | Yes |
| 6 | Shim** | 316 Stainless Steel | Yes |
| 7 | O-Rings | Viton* | Yes |
| 8 | Cell Bottom | Acrylic | Yes |
| 9 | Inlet/Outlet Fittings (Feed) | Polypropylene | Yes |

** Standard, Other Materials Available* *** Not Included, Available for purchase*


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# DCMD Sepa Cell Assembly

## To assemble the DCMD Sepa Cell (Video)

1. Wet the O-rings with a small amount of water or the fluid to be processed and install them into the grooves on the cell bottom. (Video)

   **Caution:** *Make sure that the O-rings lie flat in the grooves of the cell bottom. Leaking may occur if the O-rings do not lie flat in the grooves. The O-rings will be cut or crushed when the system is operating if the O-rings are not installed correctly.*

2. Optional: Install shim(s) into your cell channel followed by the selected spacer. Spacers should be selected first, based on the desired thickness; shims should then be selected to fill the remaining channel depth. The overall channel depth is 0.075”.

3. Place a piece of pre-cut membrane onto the cell bottom using the four alignment pins to hold the membrane in position. The membrane should be installed with the shiny side (active side) down, toward the cavity in the cell bottom.

   **Note:** *If you are cutting your own membranes, the membrane’s outer edge should fit between the inner and outer O-rings in the cell body to prevent leakage.*

4. Optional: Place a spacer on top of the membrane followed by the appropriate shim(s). Align in the middle of the membrane, verifying the orientation for proper flow.

5. Place the cell top onto the cell bottom. The alignment holes in the top should fit over the alignment pins in the cell bottom.

6. Insert one of the brass washers into each of the eight holes on the cell top.

7. Secure the assembly by threading each of the provided screws from the top into the cell bottom. Tighten the screws in an alternating pattern to ensure even pressure on the O-rings.

   **Caution:** *Take care to not over-tighten the screws as this may cause the cell body to crack. The maximum screw torque setting is 45 in-lbs.*

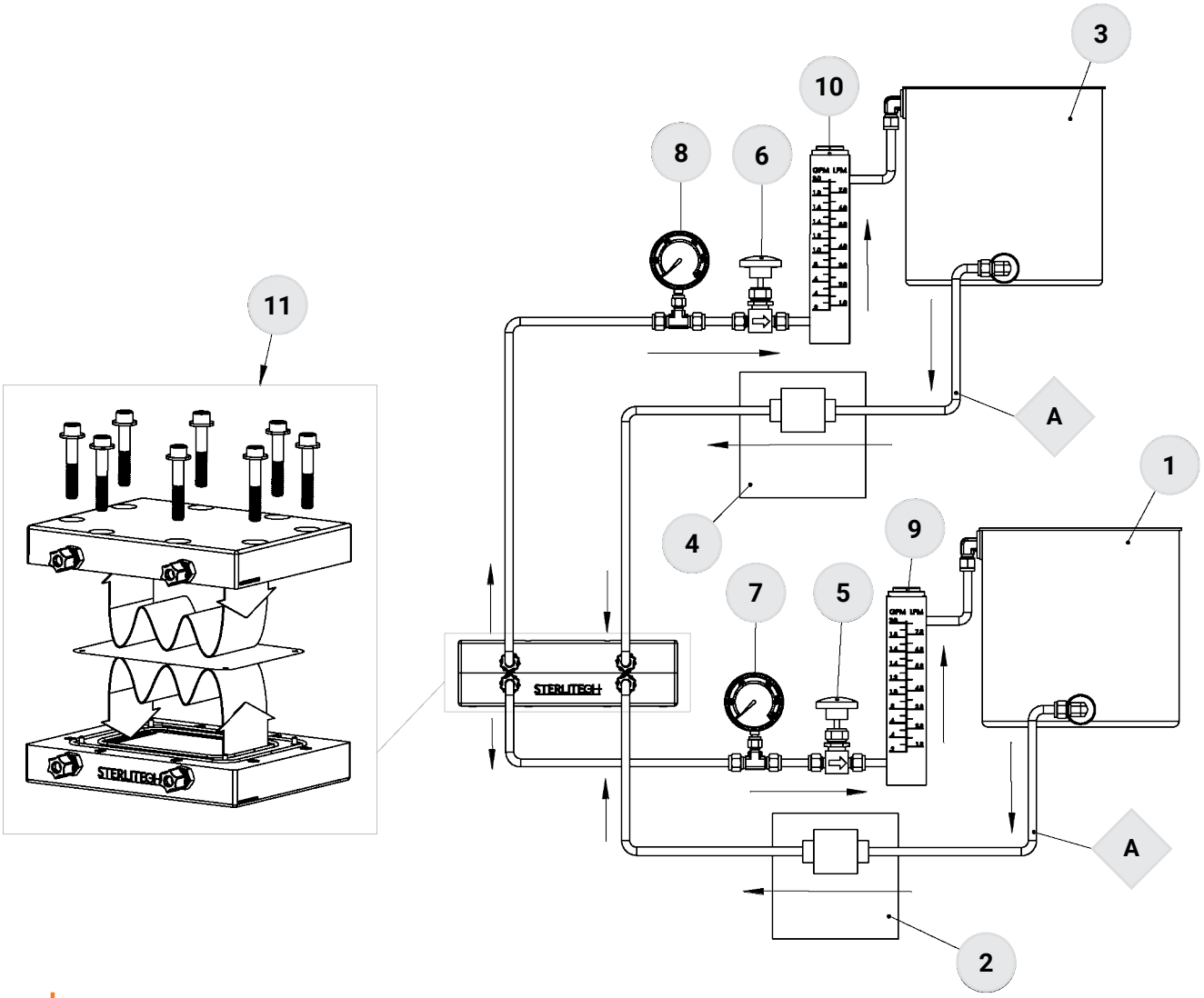


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## DCMD Sepa Cell Connections and Parts

The DCMD Sepa Cell requires a cross flow system to operate, such as a Benchtop System or Skid System. Alternatively, **Figure 2** lists the key components required to operate a DCMD Sepa Cell. These components are sold separately and can be found here.

**Figure 2:** Cross Flow System Diagram for DCMD Sepa Cell




### Legend

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Feed Tank | 7 | Concentrate Pressure Gauge |
| 2 | Feed Pump | 8 | Draw Solution Pressure Gauge |
| 3 | Draw Solution Tank | 9 | Concentrate Flow Meter |
| 4 | Draw Solution Pump | 10 | Draw Solution Flow Meter |
| 5 | Concentrate Control Valve | 11 | Sepa Cell Assembly |
| 6 | Draw Solution Pressure Control Valve | A | Low Pressure Tubing |



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# Operation of the DCMD Sepa Cell

After completing the DCMD Sepa cell assembly, the cell can now be operated with the system.

## To operate the DCMD Sepa Cell Assembly:

1. Open all the valves in the system to relieve any pressure build-up before turning on the feed pump.
2. Turn the system ON and set the feed pump to desired flow rate.

   **Note:** *If a bypass line is present, slowly close the bypass control valve; this valve is required only at low pressures and flows. Leaving the bypass line slightly open can also help to stabilize the system.*
3. Set the feed pressure by gradually closing the concentrate control valve assembly. Do not exceed the maximum pressure rating of the cell, membrane or system.

   **Note:** *A good starting point may be to set the system at 1.7 bar (25 PSI) pressure for ultrafiltration.*
4. Verify the feed pressure reading on the concentrate pressure gauge.
5. Adjust the concentrate flow control valve to obtain the desired pressure and flow.

   **Note:** *Experimentation is required to determine the optimum settings of pressure, flow rate, and shim/spacer combination to use on the chosen membrane and the fluid being processed.*
6. Once the experiment is complete, shut down the system by turning the feed pump OFF and opening all the valves to relieve any pressure build up.

## To replace a membrane filter:

1. Turn the feed flow pump OFF.
2. Open all the valves in the system to relieve any pressure build up.
3. Unscrew all the screws from the cell top.
4. Lift off the cell top from the cell bottom
5. Remove the membrane.
6. Install the new membrane.
7. Place the cell top back onto the cell bottom.
8. In an alternating pattern, secure the cell top to the cell bottom using all eight screws.

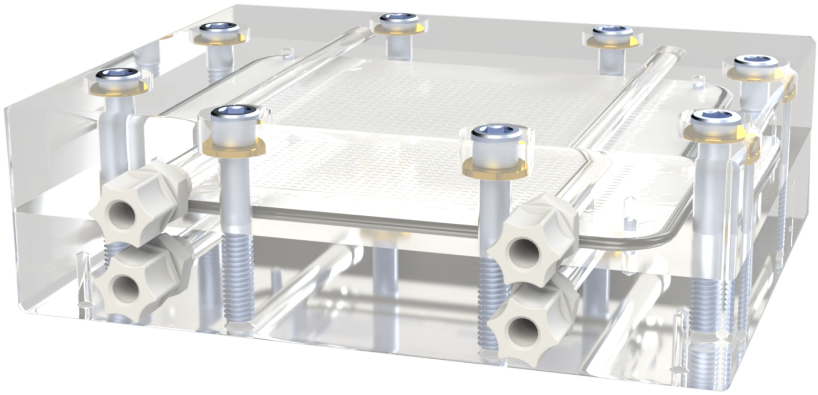


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# Supplementary Operating Information

## Additional Resources

- MPD Cell Quick Reference Guide
- MPD Video Channel
  - Cell Assembly
  - Shim and Spacer Installation
  - System Operation
- CF Filtration Handbook
  - Basics of Cross Flow Filtration
  - FAQs
  - Example Studies
  - Preconditioning Membranes
  - Temperature Effect on Membranes
- How to Swage a Compression Fitting
- How to Cut Custom Membrane Filters



## Recommended Blog Articles

- How to Calculate Cross Flow Velocity
- How to Select a Spacer
- How to Clean Membranes

## Analyzing Membrane Performance Results

Spiral wound membranes containing mesh spacers are usually operated with a fluid velocity across the membrane surface of 0.1–0.5 m/sec (0.3–1.6 ft/sec). Higher velocities in membranes may lead to excessive pressure differential across the membrane and possible damage. Hollow fiber membranes, tubular membranes, and membranes with tubular spacers may be operated at higher velocities, but this may not contribute to a more effective operation.

Other parameters such as viscosity, pressure, and suspended solids may also affect performance/operation. Experimentation with the DCMD Sepa Cell can help predict the best operating parameters.

## Cell and Membrane Cleaning

The DCMD Sepa Cell can be cleaned with or without the membrane installed. Leave the membrane installed to simulate the cleaning conditions of Clean-In-Place (CIP), a common practice in larger systems with spiral-wound or tubular membranes.

During CIP, cleaning solutions are re-circulated and, in some cases, allowed to sit for a period of time within the cell body. In some cases, the feed pump can be used to re-circulate the cleaning solutions.

Refer to the Membrane Cleaning Blog linked above for recommended cleaning instructions.



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# Accessory & Spare Part Ordering Information

| PRODUCT | LINK |
|---|---|
| System Components (Pump, Flow Meters, Pressure Gauges, etc.) | System Components |
| Sepa Shim Assortment Pack | 1231104 |
| Sepa Feed Spacer Assortment Pack | 1232558 |
| Sepa Permeate Carrier Pack | 1142817 |
| Sepa Steel Rule Die | Sepa Die |
| Spare Parts (Alternative O-Rings, Sintered Support Plate, Knobs) | Spare Parts |

# Product Support

## Return Material Authorization

If materials are to be returned to Sterlitech for repair, evaluation, or warranty consideration, a Return Material Authorization (RMA) number and form must be obtained from Sterlitech prior to the return. Contact Sterlitech's Customer Service Department for these forms.

Be sure to include a complete, detailed written reason for the return. Also, include serial numbers, installation and removal dates, and any other information that is available. The crossflow cells have a serial number imprinted on them.

Indicate the proposed disposition of the material, and reference the RMA number on all packages or cartons. All material must be shipped to Sterlitech with freight prepared by the customer.

## Warranty

The following is made in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied. Sterlitech Corporation guarantees equipment to be free from defects in material and workmanship when operated in accordance with written instructions for a period of one year from receipt. Parts not manufactured by Sterlitech are covered by their manufacturer's warranties, which are normally for one year.

Manufacturers and Seller's only obligation shall be to issue credit against the purchase or replacement of equipment proved to be defective in material or workmanship. Neither manufacturer nor seller shall be liable for any injury, loss or damage, direct or indirect, special or consequential, arising out of the use of, misuse, or the inability to use such product.

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## Technical Assistance

Please contact us if you have any questions or technical inquiries about our products by calling Sterlitech Corporation at **1-877-544-4420** or by visiting www.sterlitech.com.



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## Company Background

Founded in 2001 in Kent, WA, Sterlitech Corporation manufactures and markets filtration-focused laboratory products to a broad spectrum of scientific and industrial sectors. Its line of flat sheet membranes and tangential flow cells deliver industry-leading performance and reliable results. Configured for reverse osmosis, nanofiltration, ultrafiltration, and microfiltration applications, Sterlitech's benchtop cross flow membrane test system provides the versatility required to innovate.

Sterlitech's comprehensive line of products is supported by the expertise of its technical specialists who can assist with application-specific product selection, and provide customized solutions where necessary. Unique problem-solving approaches, flexibility, and consistent quality have made Sterlitech Corporation a renowned global provider of filtration products and equipment.

### Sales Inquiries
sales@sterlitech.com

### Accounts Payable
AP@sterlitech.com

### Accounts Receivable
AR@sterlitech.com

### Press Inquiries
PR@sterlitech.com




STERLITECH

4620 B Street NW, Suite 101
Auburn, WA 98001 USA
Tel: 877-544-4420 or 1-253-437-0844
Fax: 1-253-437-0845
Email: info@sterlitech.com

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