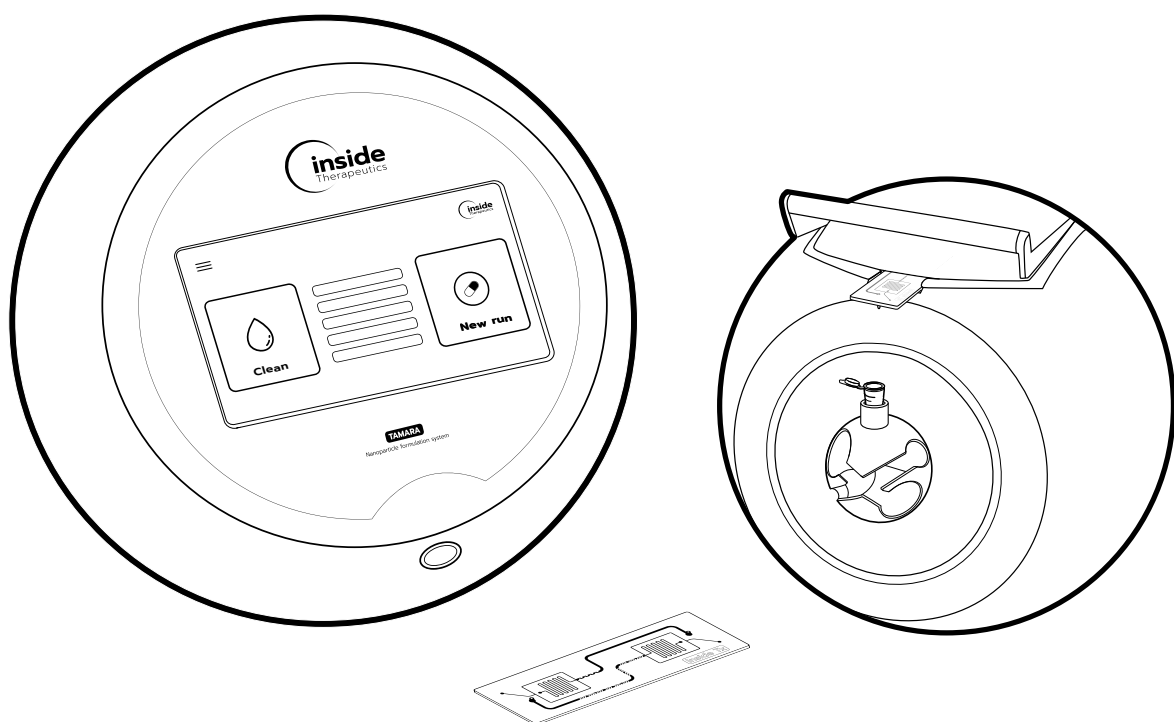




# TAMARA

Plug and Play

## Nanoparticle Formulation System



# User Manual

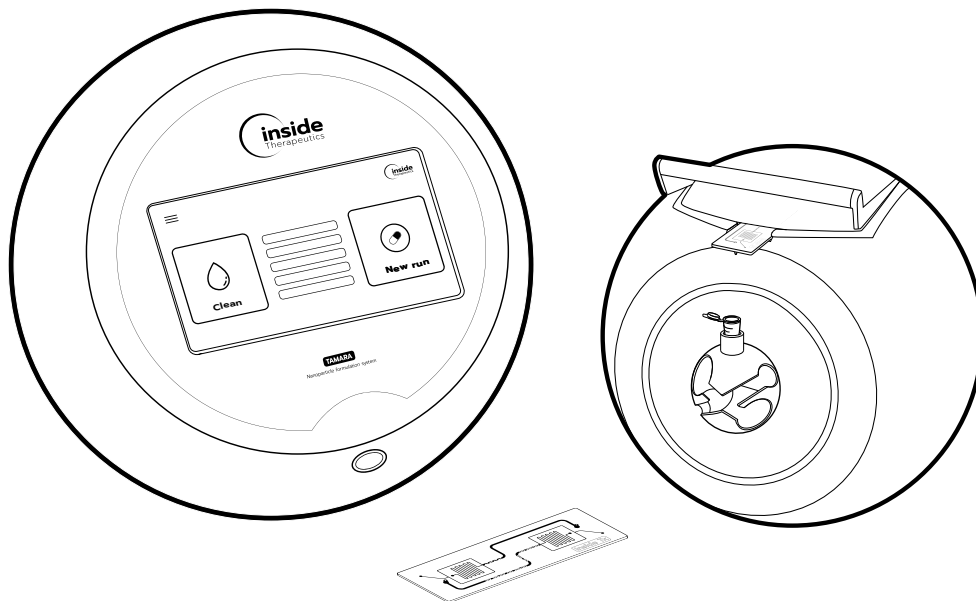
System overview and step by step installation guide



# TAMARA

Plug and Play

Nanoparticle Formulation System





**CAUTION statement;** separate collection of electric and electronic waste at the end of life, as required by European legislation (according EU Directive 2012/19/EU)



TAMARA instrument is **CE-approved & FCC-approved**



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# I. User Manual introduction

This manual covers the operation and maintenance of the TAMARA nanoparticle formulation system.

The aim of this manual is to:

- Introduce the system and explain in simple terms how it works.
- Explain how the instrument should be used to synthesize nanoparticles (NP)
- Identify the user maintenance procedures.

The TAMARA system is manufactured by **Inside Therapeutics, SAS**, located at Cité Numérique, Batiment B5, 2 rue Marc Sangnier 33130 Bègles, France.

## How to use this manual



It is mandatory to read the Health and Safety information in the Appendix before operating the instruments.

Please read and understand this manual and its safety information fully before you start using TAMARA. A quick start guide is provided in the chapter **V. First Run**.

## More information

Should you have any questions related to the use of the equipment, or any issues related to it, please check our website or reach out to the Inside Therapeutics support team at:

[support@insidetx.com](mailto:support@insidetx.com)

Please provide the product serial number.

[support@insidetx.com](mailto:support@insidetx.com)

[insidetx.com](https://insidetx.com)

## Graphical symbols used in the user manual

### TIPS



Read the user documentation in full to avoid common mistakes and learn the fundamental principles involved in your experiments. Use our tips to optimize your system and performance.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS



Disregarding the information provided could increase the risk of damaging the equipment and compromise user safety in addition to affecting your overall experience of the system.

### DISCLAIMER



Failure to comply with any of these elements will result in the warranty being voided.

## II. TAMARA introduction

### What is TAMARA?

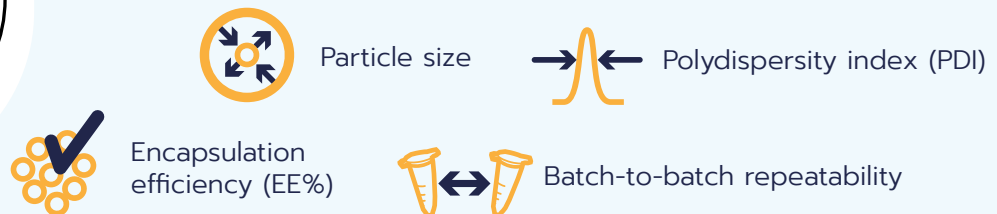
TAMARA modules



The **TAMARA Nanoparticle Formulation System** is a user friendly, microfluidic-based platform tailored to researchers seeking ease of use and precision in nanoparticle synthesis.

Ideal for both newcomers to the nanoparticle field, beginners in microfluidics as well as seasoned experts aiming to streamline their processes, this system offers a seamless journey in crafting lipid nanoparticles (LNPs), liposomes and other various polymeric and lipidic nanoparticles.

By leveraging **the most advanced microfluidics technology**, TAMARA provides optimal control over key nanoparticle characteristics including:



This fine-tuned control translates to optimal in-vivo and in-vitro results, elevating the efficacy of your research endeavors.

Although this user manual mainly focuses on LNP due to their pivotal role in RNA delivery for vaccines and gene therapies, the TAMARA platform has also been tested on **liposomes**, **LNPs**, **PLGA nanoparticles**, and **SLNs**, making it a versatile solution for any lipid-based and polymeric nanoparticle synthesis.

### Why are nanoparticles characteristics control so important?

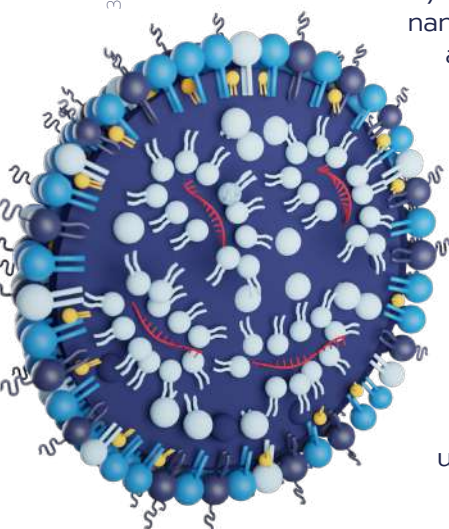
The main role of a nanoparticle is to act as a delivery system for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API such as cancer drugs, mRNA, siRNA...) within cells. In this context, the physicochemical characteristics of a nanoparticle (size, PDI and EE%) are critical as they determine the particle payload, influence nanoparticle interaction with cells and biological tissues, their toxicity and pharmacokinetics.

Even a small difference in these parameters can lead to very different results in terms of drug delivery efficiency, and ultimately transfection efficiency.

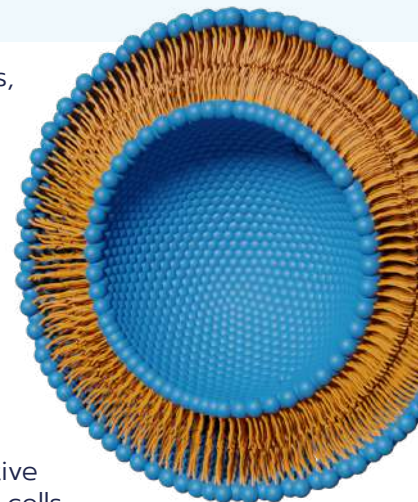
### Importance of particle size

**Size is a critical quality attribute of a nanoparticle** affecting stability, encapsulation efficiency, biodistribution and cellular uptake amongst others. Indeed, the endocytosis process of the nanoparticle into the cell, will greatly vary depending on its size. Optimal nanoparticle size will thus vary depending on the payload, the target cell and the model used (in vitro, mice, primate...). As a rule of the thumb typical LNP size are

3D represented LNP



3D represented liposome



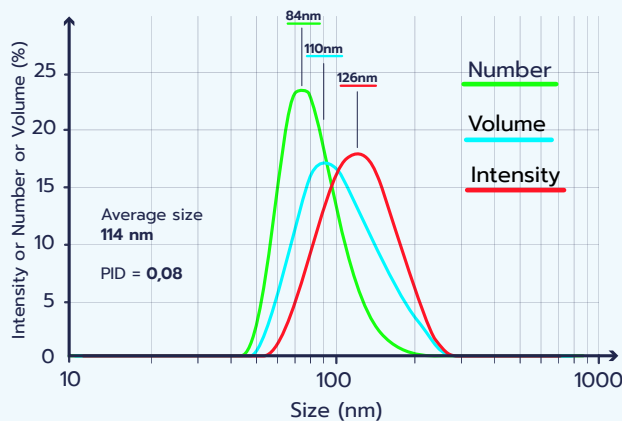


in the order of 60 to 120 nm, as too large nanoparticles (> 200 nm) lead to liver clearance and kidney filtration, while too small nanoparticle can be toxic. TAMARA offers a unique way to **finely control nanoparticle size**, thus allowing for the optimization of your intracellular drug release.

When it comes to characterization, nanoparticle size has 2 possible definitions: hydrodynamic diameter (generally measure via DLS) or core diameter (generally measured via Cryo-TEM). Learn more in our review on the importance of nanoparticle size:

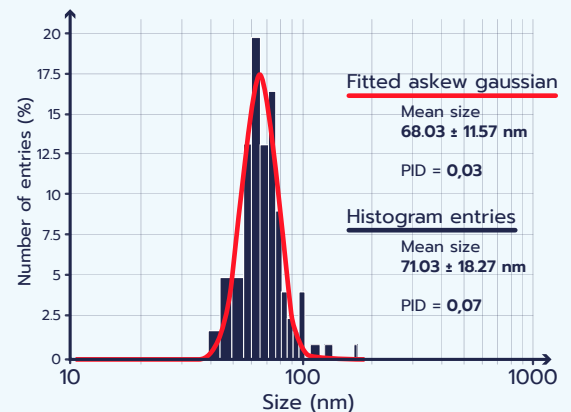
<https://insidetx.com/review/exploring-lnp-size-and-its-significance-in-drug-delivery/>

### DLS analysis method



Herringbone, FFR 3:1, TFR 4mL/min

### Cryo-TEM analysis method



## Influence of Polydispersity Index (PDI)

The PDI is used to describe **the degree of non uniformity of the nanoparticle population**. PDI is critical in the context of drug delivery as it affects both delivery efficiency and toxicity.

PDI is defined as:

$$\left( \frac{\text{Standard deviation}}{\text{mean}} \right)^2$$

Hence the closer to 0 the PDI is, the more monodisperse the population is. While industry good practice suggests that **the PDI value should remain below 0.3** for lipid-based nanoparticle drug products, the smaller the better.

Using the most advanced microfluidics technology, the TAMARA platform allows for the best possible PDI within one formulation (generally around 0.1 for RNA-LNP)

## Encapsulation efficiency (EE%)

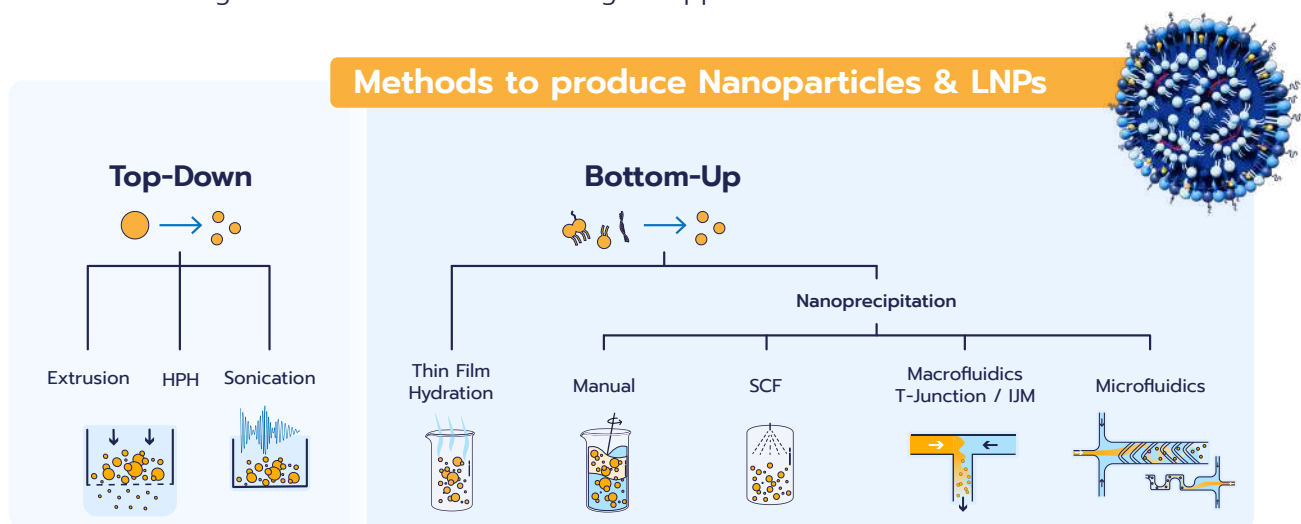
The encapsulation efficiency refers to the nanoparticle's ability to efficiently encapsulate the drug of interest. It is defined as the trapped drug over the total amount in the formulation.

Microfluidics methods used in the TAMARA platform provide the highest level of efficiency, reaching up to 98% of RNA into LNP.

## How does lipid-based and polymeric nanoparticle synthesis work?

Historically, the formulation of nanoparticles was carried out **using standard bulk processes** (precipitation, emulsion, solvent evaporation and sonication).

However, these techniques suffer from broad size distribution and poor batch-to-batch reproducibility, proving very limiting for biological application. High energy methods were then introduced, such as high pressure homogenization. They involve high energy to mix reagents and break down nanoparticles into smaller pieces. While more robust, this method shows the same limitations as regular batch methods for biological applications.



	Top-Down	Bottom-Up				
	High energy methods Extrusion / HPH / Sonication	Thin Film Hydration	Manual Batch / Pipetting	SCF Supercritical Fluids	Macrofluidics T-junction / IJM	Microfluidics Herringbone / Baffle
Size control & repeatability	Good	Low	Low	Good	Average	Excellent
Homogeneity	Average (multi steps)	Average	Low to Average	Low	Average to Good	Great (PDI <0.2)
Encapsulation efficiency	Average	Good	Average	Good	Good	Excellent (>95%)
Processing time	Variable	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Very fast
Achievable volume range	mL / L	mL	µL / mL	mL	mL / L	µL / mL
Commercially available	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Main characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Easily scalable</li> <li>✗ No low volumes</li> <li>✗ Payload alteration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Widely available</li> <li>✗ Poor NP control</li> <li>✗ No large scale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Simple &amp; affordable</li> <li>✗ Low EE%</li> <li>✗ Low NP control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ High temperature and pressure</li> <li>✗ Not commercially available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Large scale</li> <li>✗ No low volume</li> <li>✗ Payload alteration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Best NP control</li> <li>✓ Low volume</li> <li>✗ Learning curve</li> </ul>

To overcome this, **continuous process in macrofluidics** have been introduced. Involving the rapid mixing of 2 liquids (a solvent containing the lipids/polymers and an antisolvent, usually water). They trigger the nanoparticle synthesis by nanoprecipitation.

Although much more efficient, these methods were limited when working at small scale, and showed poor repeatability due to the turbulent aspect of mixing. For this reason, **microfluidics emerged as the preferred solution to improve final particle characteristics**. Thanks to its ability to handle small volumes and reproduce mixing conditions, microfluidics offer many advantages for the synthesis of high quality nanoparticles.

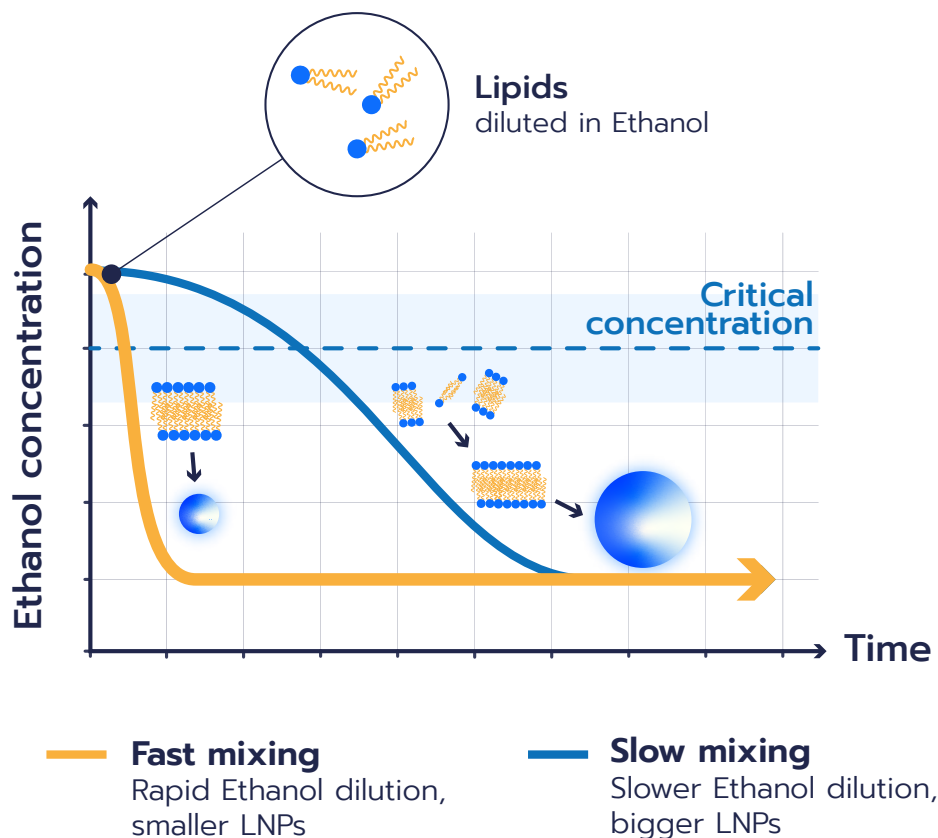
## What is nanoparticle synthesis with microfluidics?

The most common nanoparticle formulation method relies on the fast mixing of **two miscible phases** (lipids/polymers in an organic solvent and aqueous buffer), leading to a drop in solubility of the lipids/polymers, which start to agglomerate to form nanoparticles. This method is commonly referred to as nanoprecipitation/self-assembly process.

As one can observe, the mixing speed has a major influence on the synthesized nanoparticle size. **The faster the mixing, the smaller the nanoparticle is.** Also, the more efficient and homogeneous the mixing is, the better the control over the size and distribution.

Therefore, ensuring a uniform and constant mixing time throughout the process is crucial to optimize your final nanoparticle size control and homogeneity. More information can be found in our organic nanoparticle formation review.

In this context, microfluidics is the ideal solution thanks to its unique ability to maintain the fluid flow in laminar conditions, thus permitting **excellent reproducibility** of the mixing condition for optimal control of the final nanoparticle physicochemical parameters.



Outside nanoprecipitation, nanoparticles can also be formulated using this system through other methods such as nanoemulsion.

## Microfluidic mixing

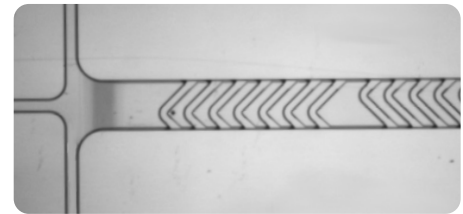
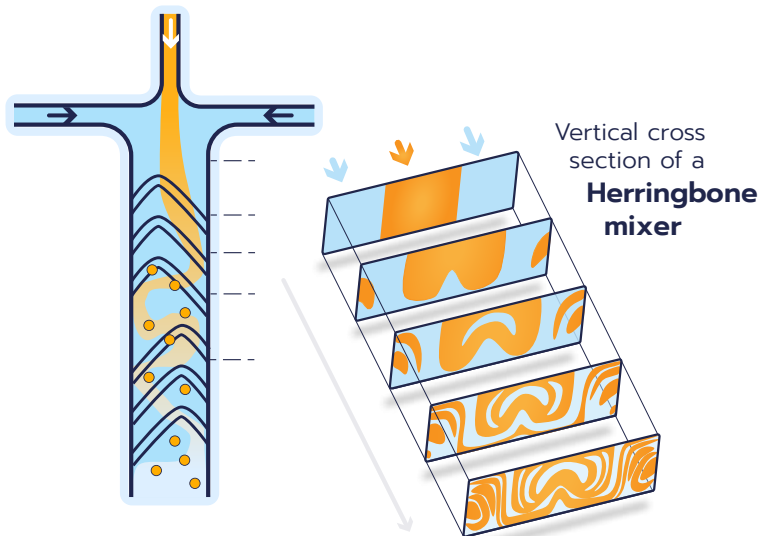
Multiple strategies can be used to mix fluids in microfluidics such as T-junction, baffle, recombination, and flow focusing (2D or 3D)... More information can be found on our website.

In the TAMARA platform, the provided chip has 2 designs: a **herringbone mixer** and a **baffle mixer**. By simply rotating the chip, one can easily interchange the mixers.

## Herringbone mixer

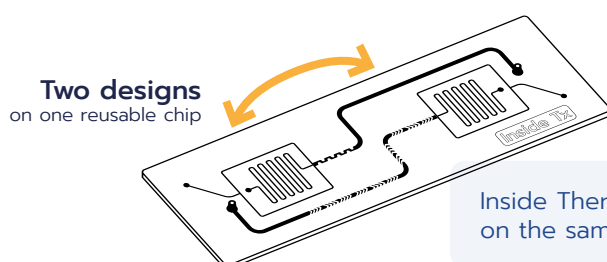
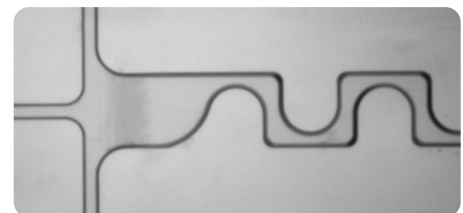
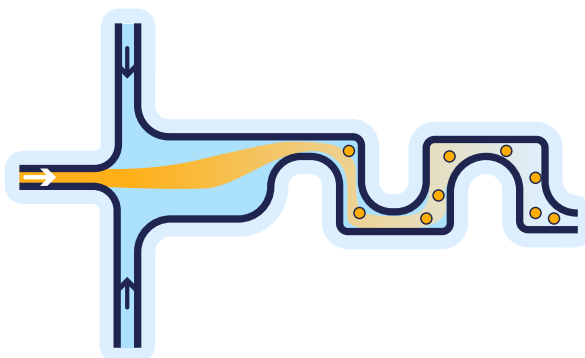
The staggered herringbone has been chosen as this mixing method based on chaotic - though repeatable - flows offers the **best flexibility** in terms of mixing time control (thus range of achievable nanoparticle size), while providing excellent repeatability through the process (thus nanoparticle uniformity) together with a **very large accessible flow rate range** (easy work with small and large volumes).

The mixing principle of a herringbone mixer relies on the creation of **micro-vortices** in a ridged microchannel, where the 2 streams of reagents are injected. Those micro-vortices induce a “folding” of the 2 liquid phases on themselves, greatly increasing the exchange surface between the 2 phases.



## Baffle mixer

The baffle mixer is offered as an alternative solution to the herringbone mixer as it permits a faster mixing using **Dean vortices** to achieve smaller nanoparticles at higher total flow rate than the herringbone mixing.



Inside Therapeutics stack the herringbone and the baffle mixer on the same reusable chip.



## What are the most important synthesis parameters influencing the characteristics of your nanoparticles?

In addition to the composition of the organic solution (type, molecular weight, molar ratios, and concentration), and the composition of the aqueous solution (pH, salt content, presence of surfactants), the **physicochemical parameters** of your nanoparticles are also dependent on the synthesis conditions (characteristics of the chips, flow rate conditions...). Bear in mind that for the specific case of RNA-LNP, the **RNA length** also can have influence on the final nanoparticle characteristics.

We will now give an overview of the most important formulation parameters and how they generally influence nanoparticle size (bear in mind that in some specific cases, these behaviors can be different).

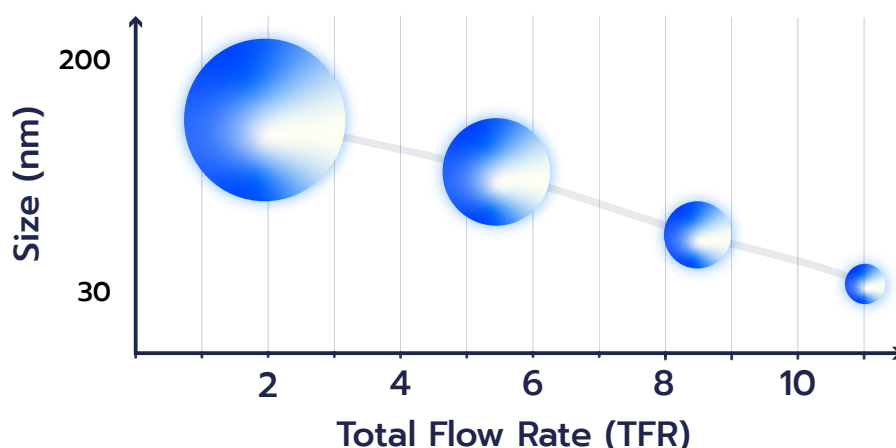
### Flow Rate Ratio (FRR)

The Flow Rate Ratio (FRR) is an important parameter to play with when generating nanoparticles using a microfluidic mixer as it impacts both size and encapsulation efficiency.

FRR is defined as **the ratio between the flow rate of the aqueous phase and the flow rate of the organic phase**. For example, an FRR of 10:1 corresponds to the flow rate of the aqueous buffer being 10 times higher than the flow rate of the organic solution. FRR impacts size at a low flow rate - especially before dialysis - while it has a lower to no impact at high flow rates. In addition to this, FRR has a major impact on encapsulation efficiency - EE% in a herringbone mixer (see characterization results).

### Total Flow Rate (TFR)

The Total Flow Rate (TFR) is the parameter that impacts the final NP size most with a herringbone mixer. It is defined as **the sum of the flow rates of the aqueous phase and the organic phase**. For example, if you set the flow rate of the lipids to 100  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$  and use an FRR of 5:1, the TFR in your system will be 600  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$ . This parameter significantly impacts the nanoparticles produced with the herringbone mixer as the liquids are mixed by chaotic mixing. This means that increasing the TFR will decrease the mixing time, thus decreasing the size of NPs.



### Lipid/Polymer Formulation and Concentration

The Lipid/Polymer Formulation and Concentration in the organic phase are crucial factors determining the final size of the NPs. In general, **a higher lipid concentration leads to smaller NPs**, especially when working at high aqueous: organic FRR. The lipid formulation used as an example throughout this user manual is composed of 4 different lipids that are similar to those used in vaccine and drug delivery development (also known as LNP). This user guide provides the exact recipe to replicate this formulation and the range of sizes we obtained.

## A few other parameters are summarized in the following table:

<b>pH</b>	The influence of this factor will depend on the type of molecules used in your formulation (neutral, cationic, ionizable...)
<b>Temperature</b>	Higher temperature during mixing generally leads to smaller NPs
<b>Buffer composition</b>	Certain buffers can cause your NPs to agglomerate (e.g. PBS will increase aggregation of cationic NPs)
<b>Geometry of the microchannel</b>	A faster mixing after the contact point of the two streams leads to smaller NPs

## TAMARA specifications

<b>Inlet volumes</b>	Depends on reservoir size		
<b>Achievable volumes</b> (accuracy & repeatability)	<b>0.2 to 30 mL</b> Accuracy and repeatability ensured on 0.5 to 5 mL range with the first chip run		
<b>TFR</b> (Total Flow Rate)	<b>0.8 to 15 mL/min</b> Depends on input parameters (Pressure, volume...) to ensure best accuracy and repeatability		
<b>FRR</b> (Flow Rate Ratio Solvent/water)	<b>1:1 to 1:10</b>		
<b>Liquid compatibility</b>	Any aqueous solution & solvent compatible with the wetted materials (Topas/COC and PEEK). See appendix for more.		
<b>Optimal initial lipid concentration</b>	<b>1 to 10 mg/mL</b> Can accomodate initial lipid concentration up to 100 mg/mL		
<b>Inlet gaz Pressure</b>	<b>8 to 10 bar</b> (120 to 150 psi) Lower pressure inlet can be accomodated but would decrease maximum accessible Total Flow Rate and cleaning capabilities. Only use dry and non corrosive nor explosive gas.		
<b>Operating Temperature</b>	<b>+ 10°C to + 40°C</b>		
<b>Humidity range</b>	<b>0 to 80%</b> relative humidity		
<b>Dimensions</b> (Heigh x Width x Depth)	Synthesis module: <b>23x26x23 cm</b> Controller: <b>31x34x36 cm</b>		
<b>Weight</b>	Synthesis module: <b>3.650 Kg</b> Controller: <b>5.050 Kg</b>		
<b>Power supply</b>	<b>110–220 V</b> <b>45W</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>47-63Hz</b>
<b>Neutral system</b>	<b>TT</b>	<b>Level of pollution</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Device class</b>	<b>IP20</b>	<b>Overvoltage category</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Device protection</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Special atmosphere</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Installation altitude</b>	<b>0 - 2,000 m above zero level</b>		

## Product compliance & patents

TAMARA is a laboratory instrument compliant with 2014/30/UE EMC and 2014/35/UE Low voltage directives. The instrument has been tested and validated through qualification tests.

TAMARA platform incorporates technology covered by patents application N°FR20240112 and N°FR2401187.

TAMARA's design is protected by Design and Model application N°015024429-001 and WIPO141958.



**CAUTION statement;** separate collection of electric and electronic waste at the end of life, as required by European legislation (according to EU Directive 2012/19/EU)



TAMARA instrument is **CE-approved**



TAMARA Instrument is **FCC-approved**

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

(FCC Part 15.21)

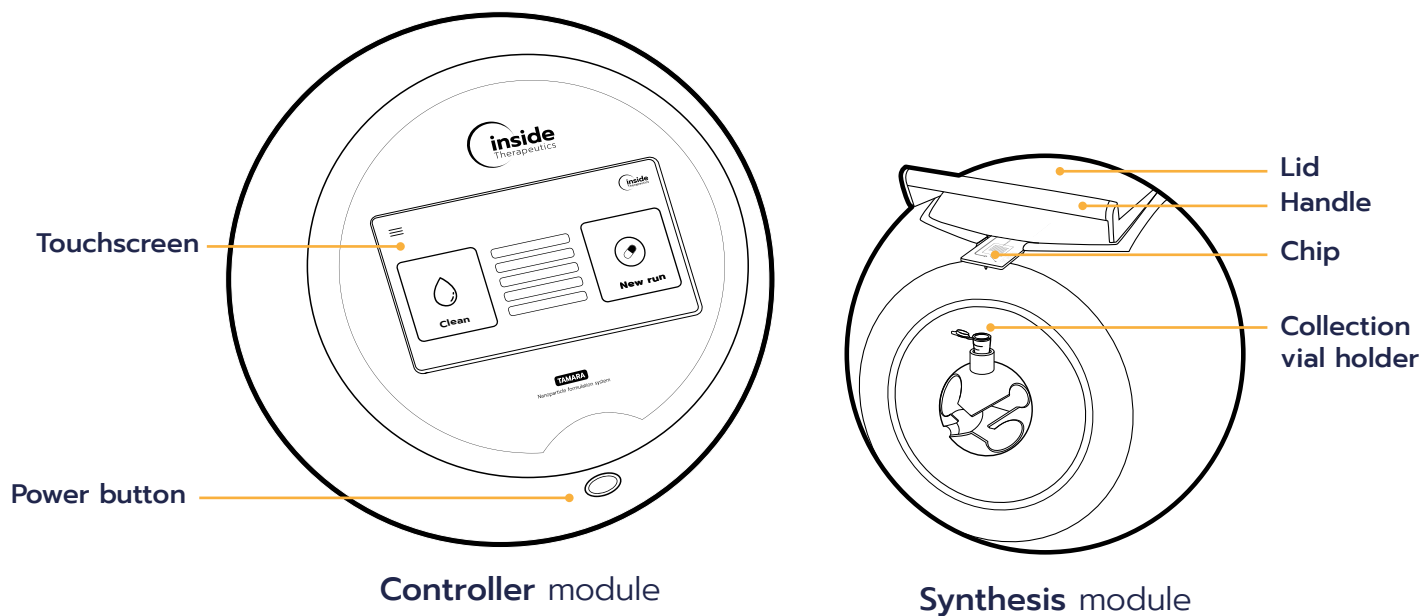
This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

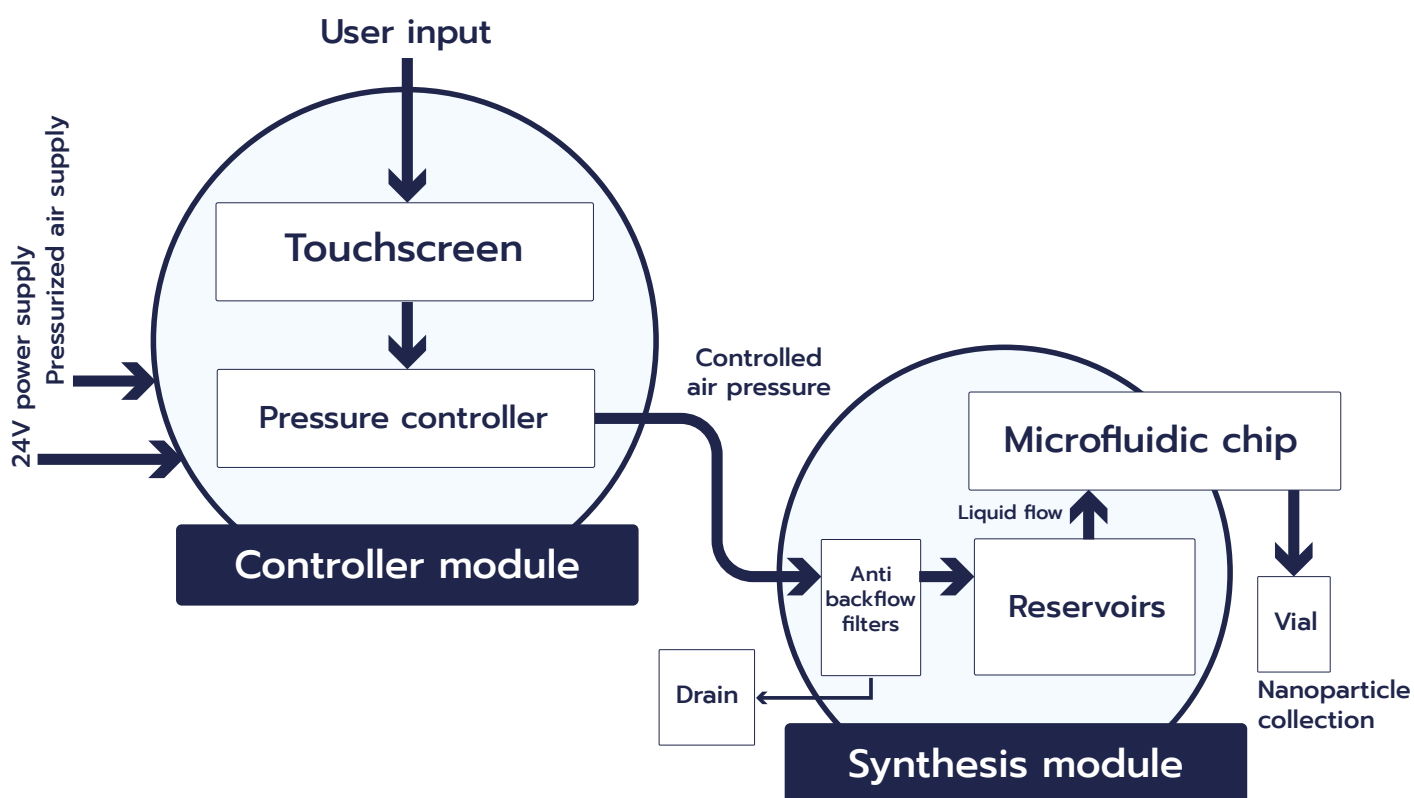


## III. System overview

### Introduction

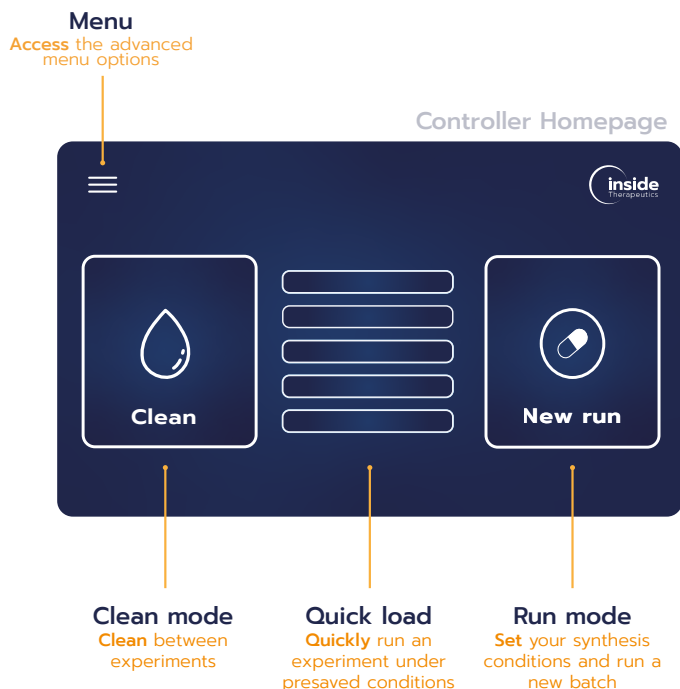
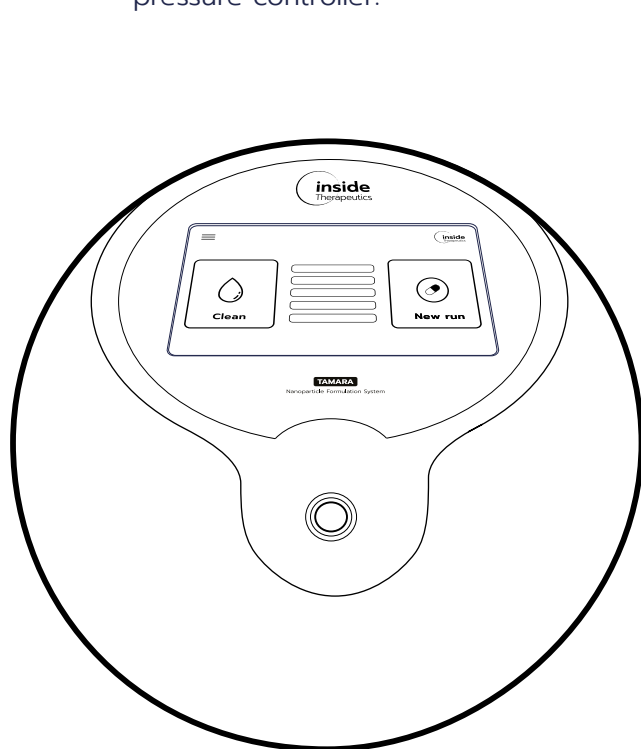


### Functional specifications

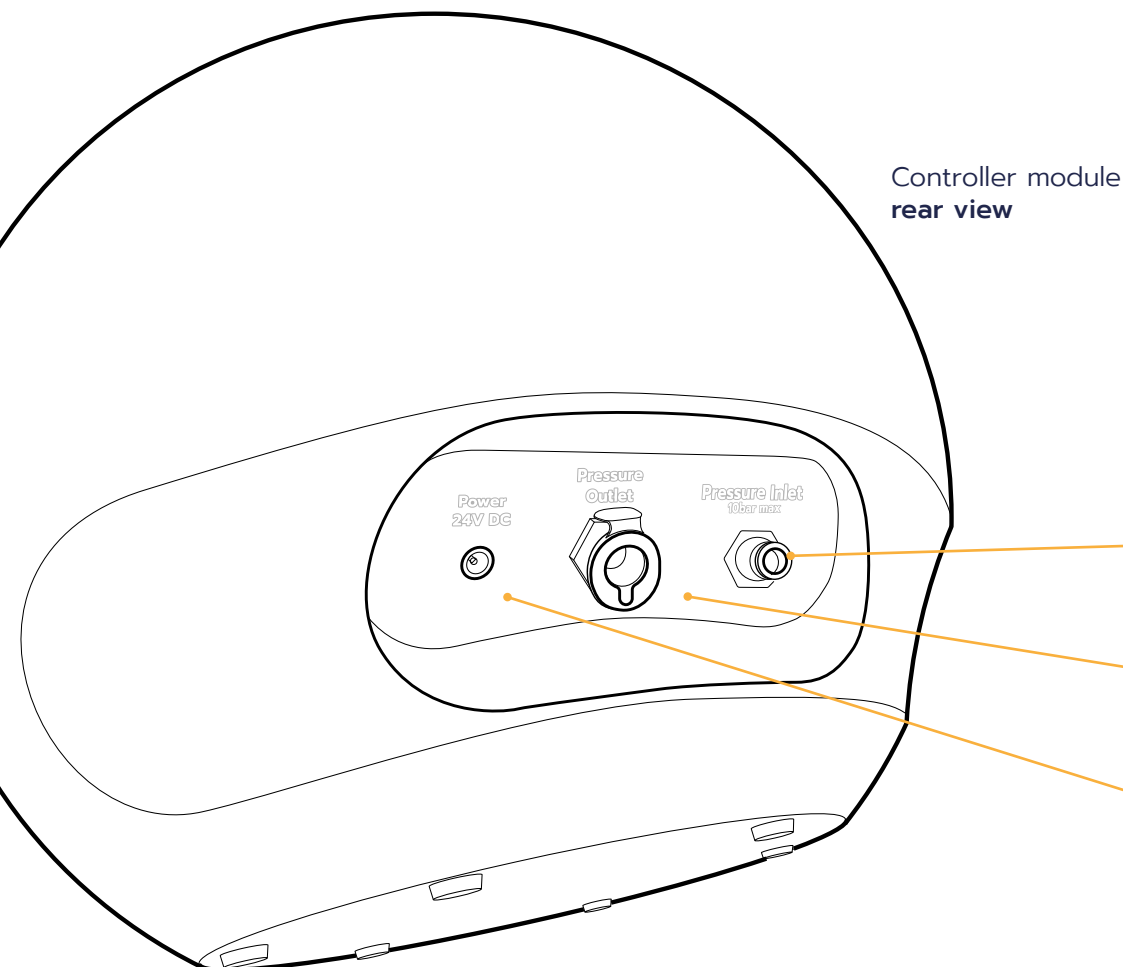


## Controller module

The controller is the **core control element of the system**. It has been designed for easy operation, with an intuitive user interface, and high control accuracy, with its embedded pressure controller.



See **Going Further - Embedded software** for complete software structure



**Pressure inlet**  
From a pressure supply or a compressor (10 bar max)

**Pressure outlet**  
Directed to the Synthesis module

**Power 24V DC**

## Synthesis module

The Synthesis module contains all the **fluidics elements** of the system: the microfluidic chip and the reservoir. It has been designed to be easily opened for a quick refill, while keeping it tightly closed during runs and cleans.

For proper operation, the Synthesis module should be connected to the Controller module using the provided pneumatic cable. The holder for vial should be plugged in front, with a collection vial in place.

**During operation, the lid should always be kept close.**

### Lid

Always keep the lid closed during operation. Only open when loading liquids or changing chip

### Reservoir

It contains the 2 liquids tanks as well as the optimized fluidic path to connect to the chip.

### Solvent tank

For proper operation, only use it with solvent

### Aqueous tank

For proper operation, only use it with aqueous liquids

### Gasket

To ensure tight sealing between the chip and the reservoir

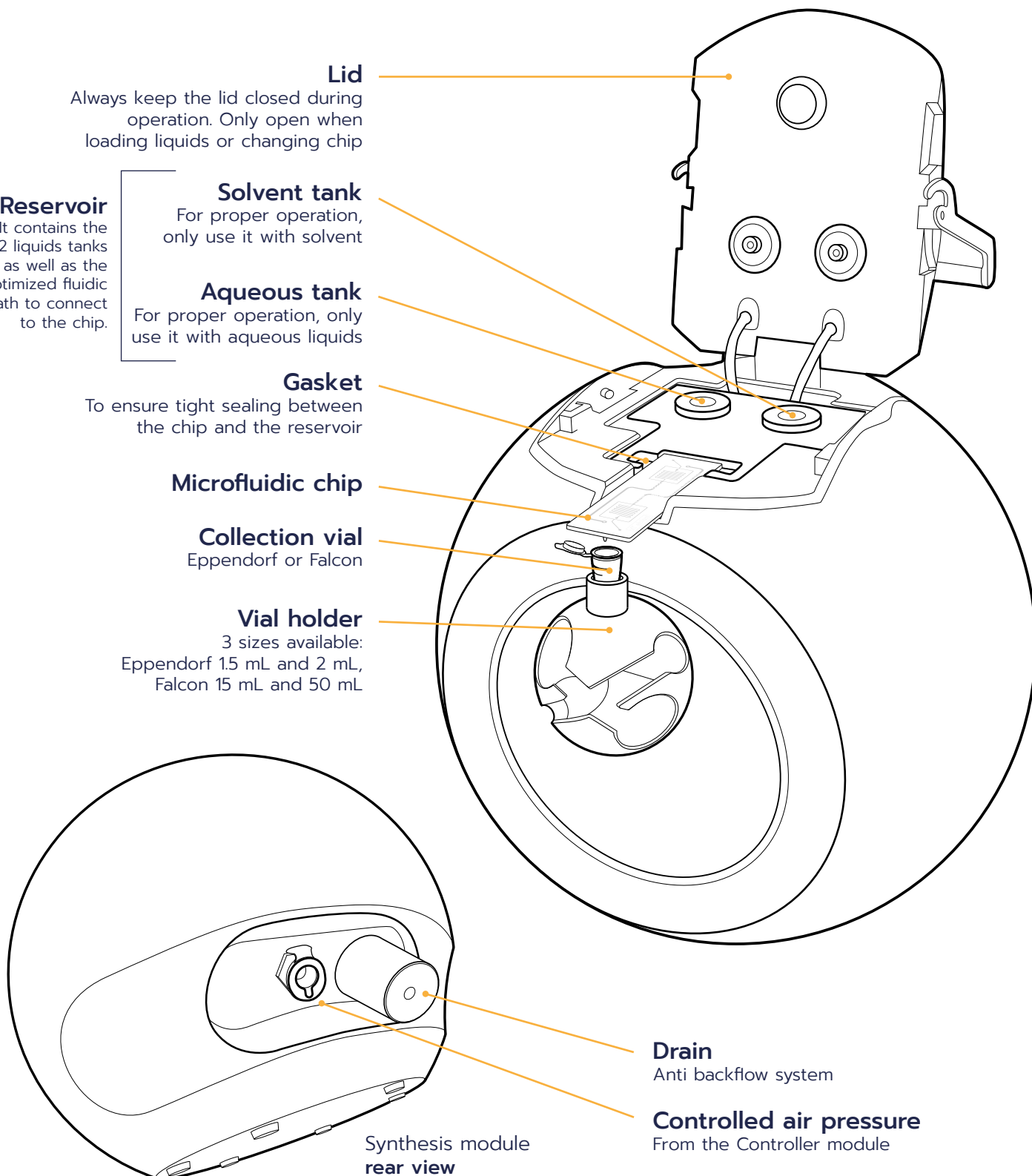
### Microfluidic chip

### Collection vial

Eppendorf or Falcon

### Vial holder

3 sizes available:  
Eppendorf 1.5 mL and 2 mL,  
Falcon 15 mL and 50 mL



### Drain

Anti backflow system

### Controlled air pressure

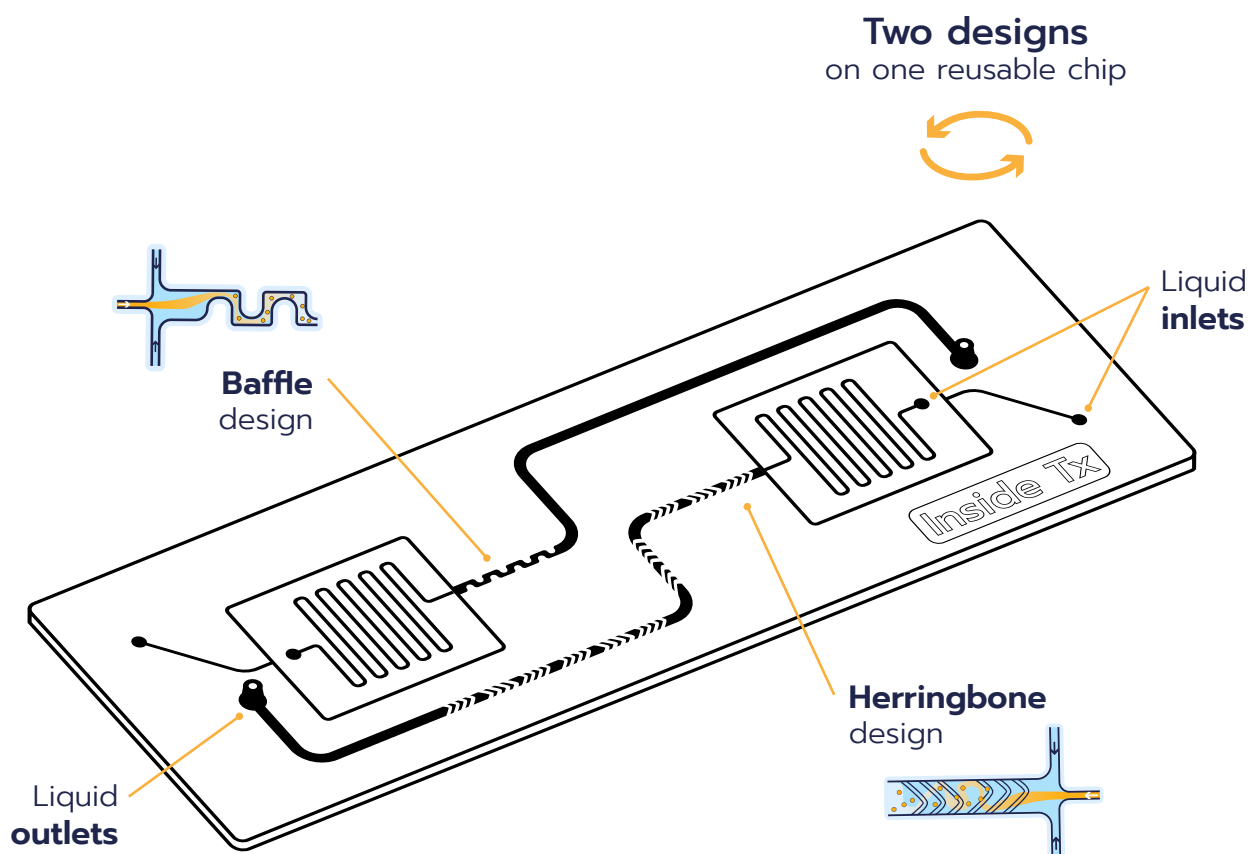
From the Controller module

Synthesis module  
rear view

## Microfluidic chip

The microfluidic chip contains the fluidic mixing module for the synthesis of the LNP. 2 designs are available head to toes on each chip: **baffle mixer and herringbone mixer**. The chip is made of COC (topas) and is compatible with most polar organic solvents. For more, please chemical compatibility table in the Appendix.

For proper operation, the chip should be put at the appropriate location in the Synthesis module, with the provided gasket. Only use the chips and gaskets provided by Inside Therapeutics with the system.



Always start a new run with a dry chip. If you decide to reuse your chips, use the purge function to ensure it.

While the chips can be cleaned and reused multiple times, please note that Inside Therapeutics only commits on the successful outcome of the first run.

## Reservoir

The reservoir contains the **2 liquids tanks** (for the aqueous phase and lipid phase) as well as the optimized fluidic path to connect to the chip. The reservoir is made of PEEK for optimal chemical compatibility.

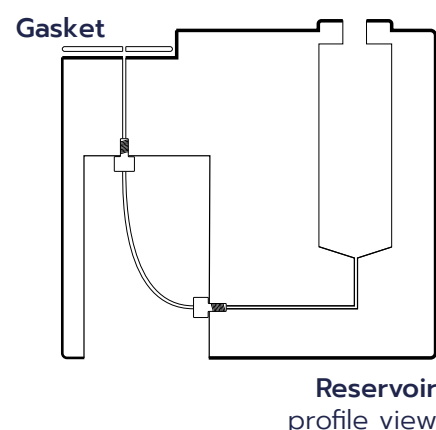
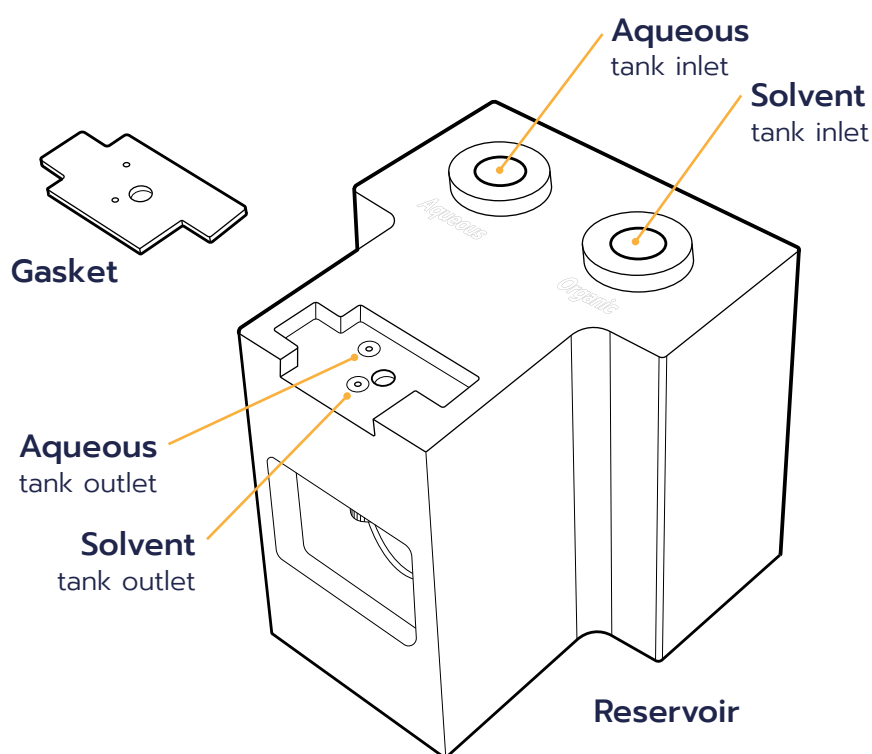
For proper operation, the reservoir should be put at the appropriate location in the Synthesis module, with the provided gasket. Do not use other reservoirs and gaskets than the ones provided by Inside Therapeutics with the system.

Two reservoirs are available:

**Reservoir S with two tanks 1.6 mL or Reservoir M with two tanks 23 mL**

Reservoir	S	L
Inlet tank	1.6 mL x2	23 mL x2
Advised Total Working Volume	0.2 mL to 3 mL*	1 mL to 30 mL*

\* Can vary depending on formulation parameters (Concentrations, lipid type...)



Do not exceed the maximum volume indicated when filling the reservoir with liquid. Always maintain a minimum distance of 1 cm between the liquid surface and the top of the reservoir.



## List of parts

Name	Details
<b>1x Controller</b>	Core element of the system, it allows the user to control the nanoparticle synthesis conditions. Includes touch screen and pressure control system.
<b>1x Synthesis Module</b>	Contains all the fluidic parts of the system (reservoir, chip) while ensuring right pressure conditions.
<b>1x Liquid Reservoir</b>	Made of PEEK (Reservoir L or Reservoir S)
<b>1x Air twin tubes</b>	Ensures the proper connexion between the Controller and Synthesis module.
<b>1x Pressure plug</b>	Plug for the air twin tube for the pressure test. To be used at the back of the Controller module for pressure tests.
<b>20x Chips</b>	Microfluidic chip made of COC, specially designed for the synthesis of nanoparticles. Integrates 2 different designs : herringbone mixer and baffle mixer. TAMARA platform should only be used with the chips provided by Inside Therapeutics.
<b>1x Magnetized holder</b>	Magnetized holder for multiple tubes: 1.5, 2, 15 and 50 mL
<b>5x Gaskets</b>	Silicon gasket designed to ensure leak-free conditions between the chips and the reservoir.
<b>1x Input pressure tube</b>	6 mm OD tubing for connexion of the Controller module to the pressure supply
<b>1x 24V DC Power supply</b>	110/220V AC to 24DC power converter.
<b>1x Pressure supply adapter kit</b>	Set of elements to connect the 6 mm OD tubing to most pressure sources
<b>1x Air filter</b>	Air Filter to ensure the air coming to the Controller module is dust free
<b>1x O-ring kit</b>	Spare set of O-rings

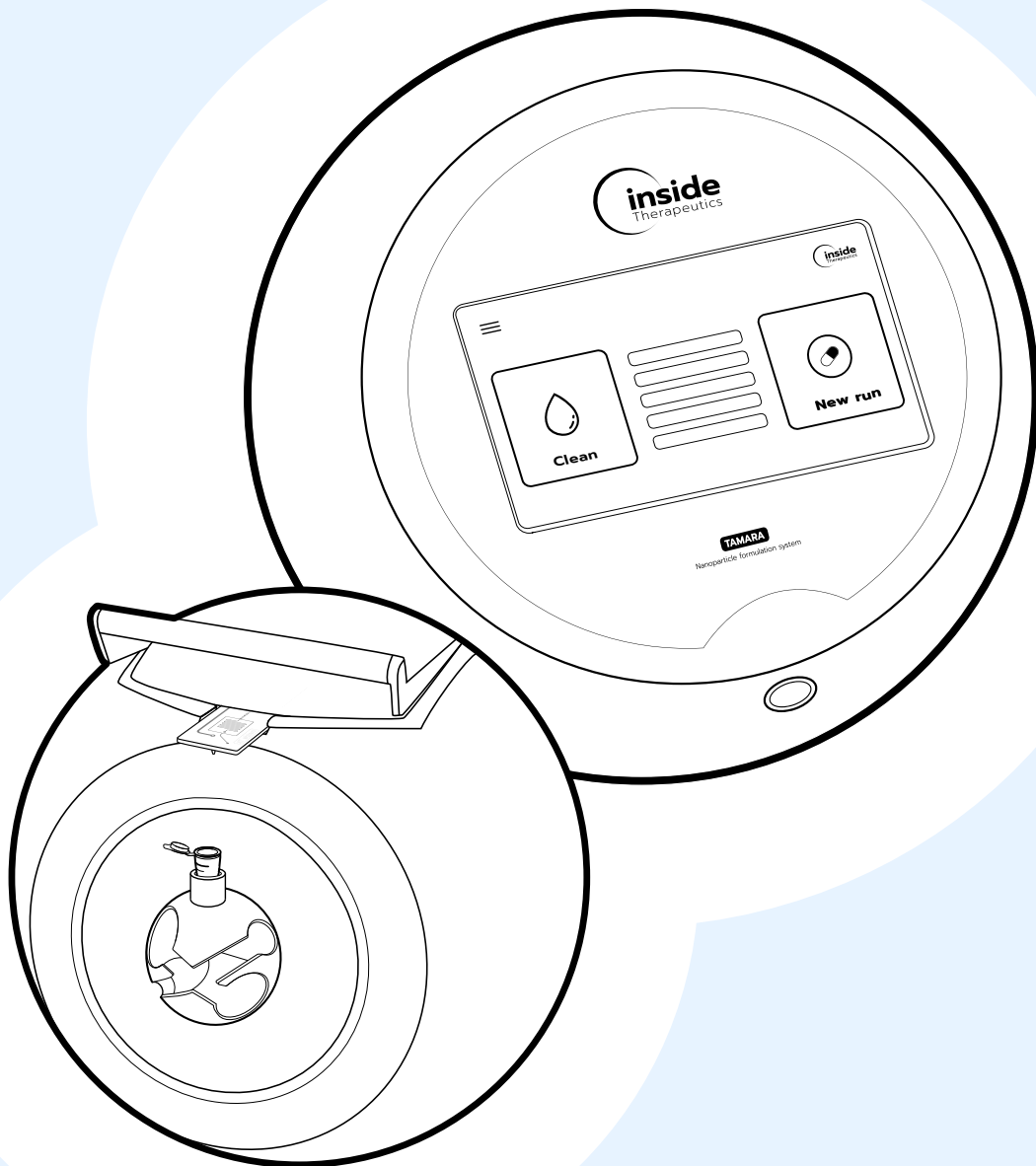
In case of defective or missing items: Please report to Inside Therapeutics within one month of your order receipt at [support@insidetx.com](mailto:support@insidetx.com)



# TAMARA

## installation

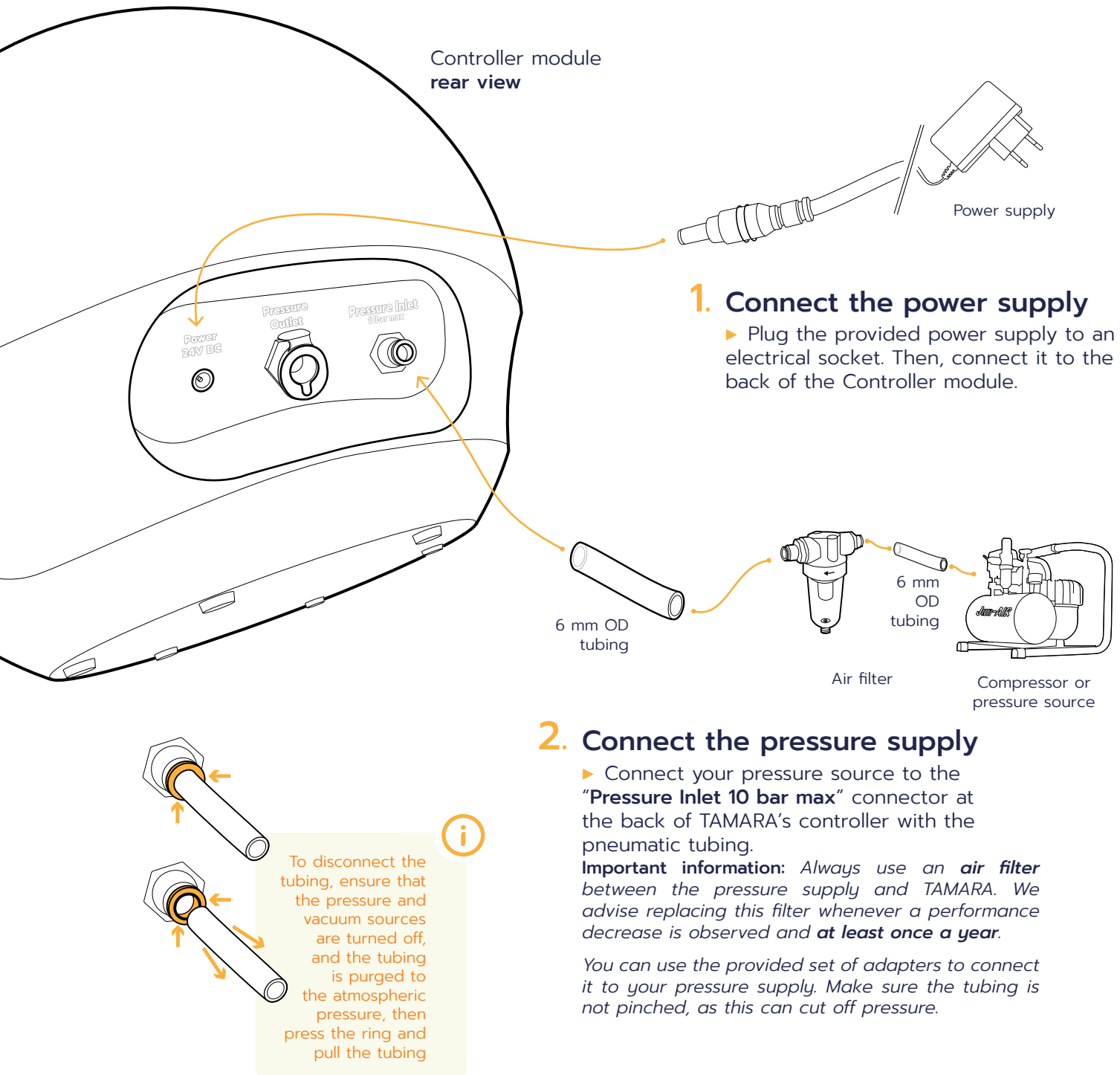
Step by step



## IV. First installation

Follow the 7 steps to properly **connect your modules** and run a Pressure test.

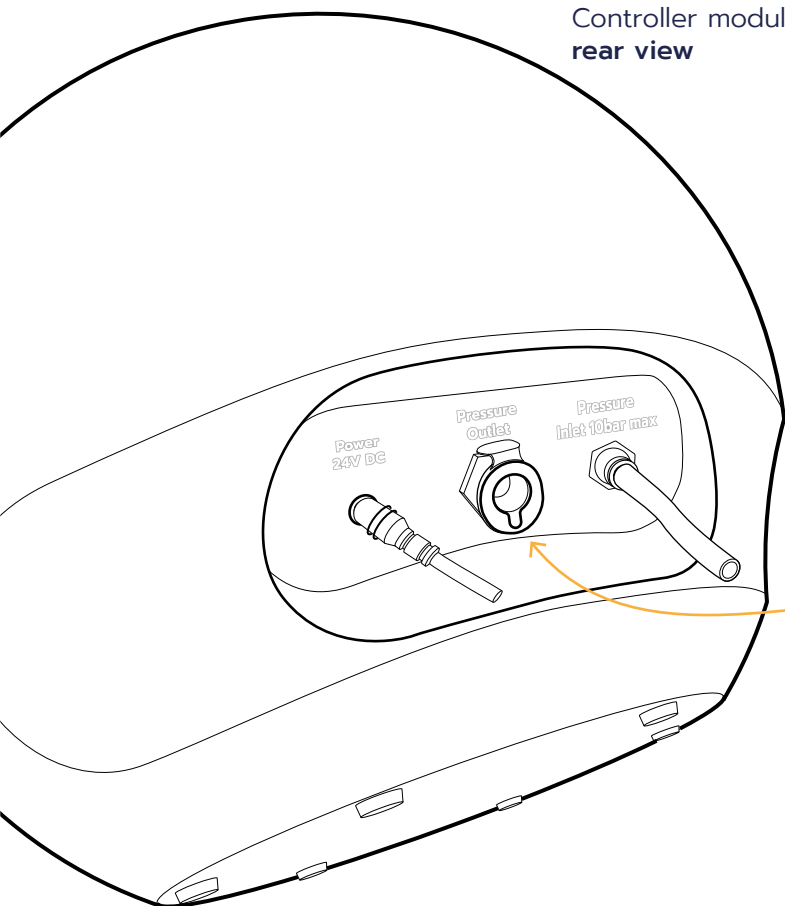
Always carry out a Pressure test with the Pressure Outlet cap **if you change your pressure supply**.



If you use a compressor, please refer to Appendix C for its proper installation.

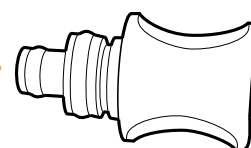


Controller module  
rear view



### 3. Plug the Pressure Outlet cap

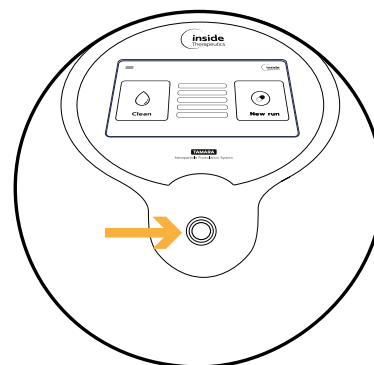
- ▶ The Controller module needs to run a pressure test to define the maximum pressure the source can deliver.
- ▶ Connect the Pressure Outlet cap to the “**Pressure Outlet**” plug at the back of the Controller module.



Pressure Outlet cap  
(without tubing)

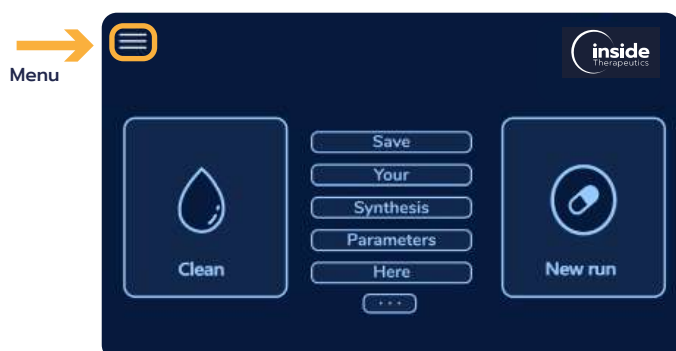
### 4. Turn on TAMARA

- ▶ Press on the round button at the center of the Controller. It will turn blue when on and the screen should display InsideTx’ logo and slogan, followed by the home page.

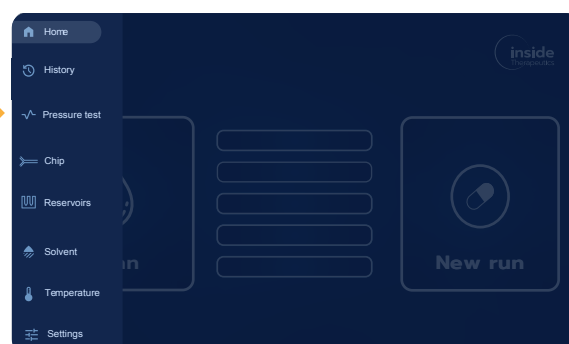


### 5. Run a Pressure test

- ▶ On the home page, tap on the **Menu icon** (top left corner).
- ▶ Go to the **Pressure test** tab
- ▶ Run a Pressure test

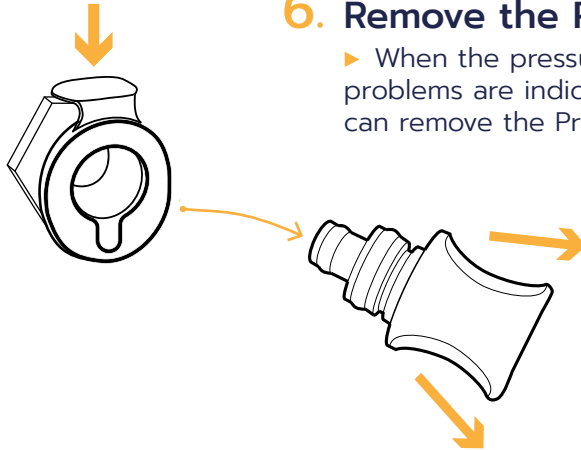


Pressure  
test



## 6. Remove the Pressure Outlet cap

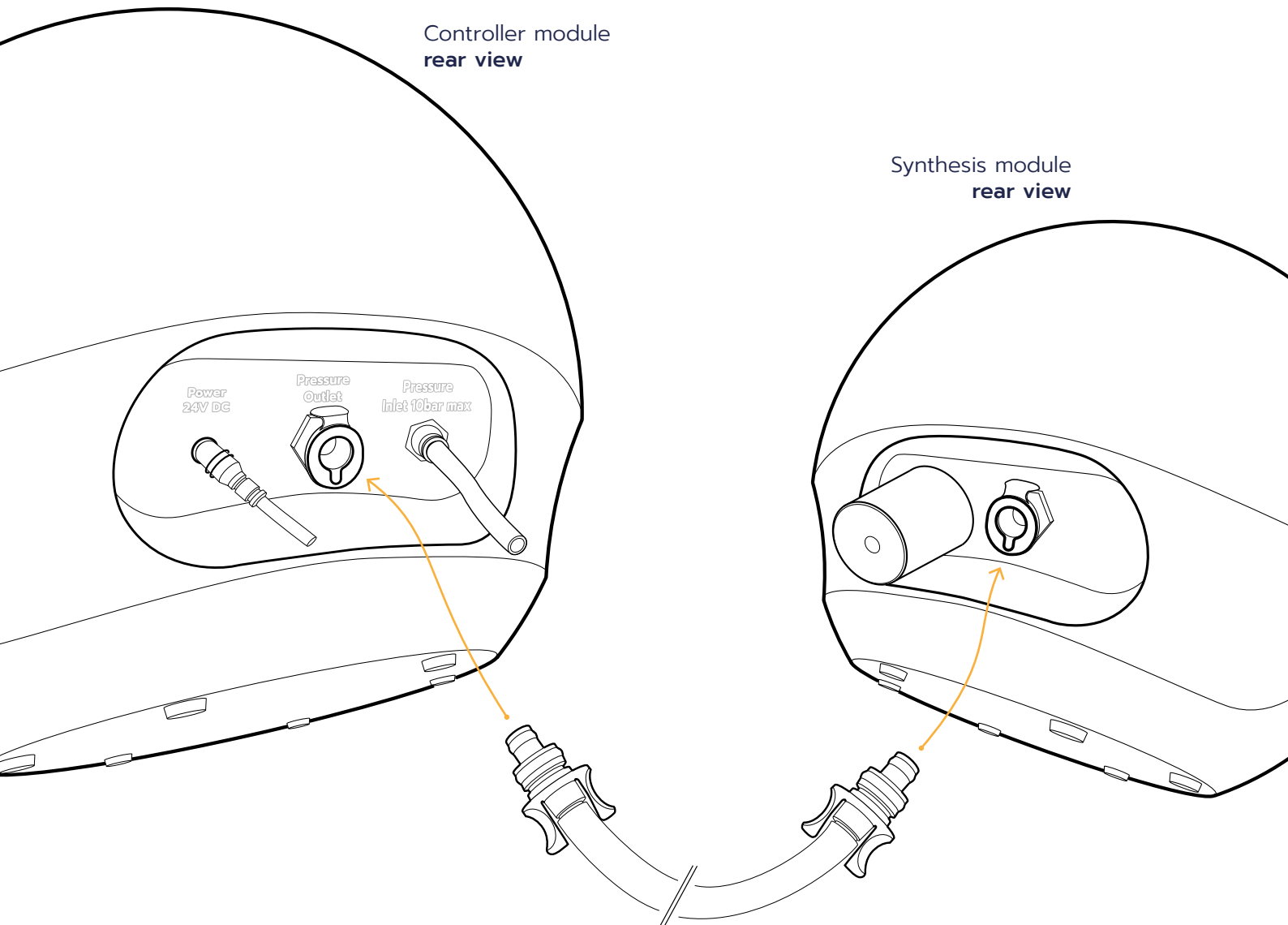
- ▶ When the pressure test is finished and no problems are indicated on the screen, you can remove the Pressure Outlet cap.



Do not pull too strongly on the tube. It should come out smoothly when pressing on the connector.

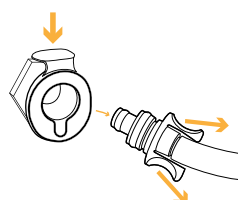
Controller module  
rear view

Synthesis module  
rear view



## 7. Connect the Controller to the Synthesis module

- ▶ Connect the Controller to the Synthesis module with the white pneumatic tube



When looking to disconnect the pneumatic tube, press the small metallic element on the side of the connector while gently pulling it.

## V. First run

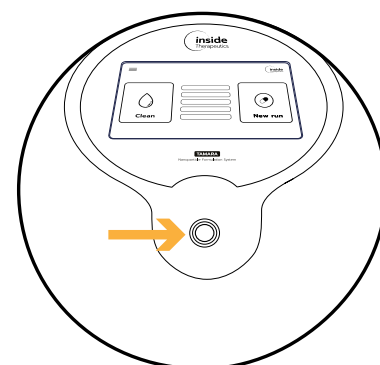
### Before getting started

- ➔ Ensure that both the **power**, **pressure supply** and the **white pneumatic tube** linking the Controller and Synthesis modules are correctly connected.
- ➔ Have a look at the TAMARA introductory video to get a better understanding of the system behaviour: <https://youtu.be/zFz1SF9we7k>
- ➔ Make sure that the system is **empty of any liquids**. Use the purge in the **Cleaning** function to ensure it.
- ➔ Always follow the instruction in the right order (especially 7 and 8) to ensure optimal system's outcome.

### Standard procedure: New run

#### 1. Turn on TAMARA

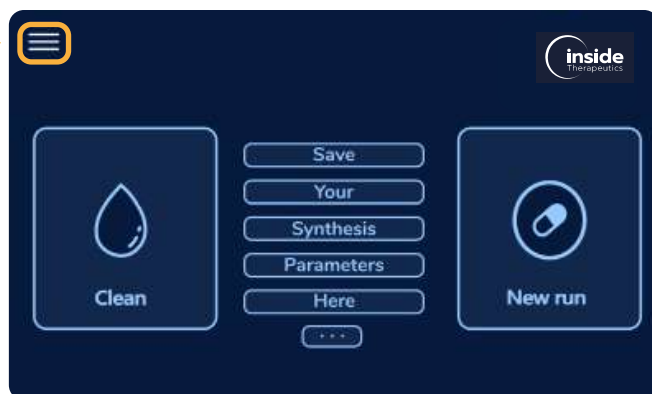
- ▶ Press on the round button at the center of the Controller. It will turn blue when on and the screen should display InsideTx' logo and slogan, followed by the home page.



#### 2. Check system settings

- ▶ On the home page, tap on the **menu icon** (top left corner).

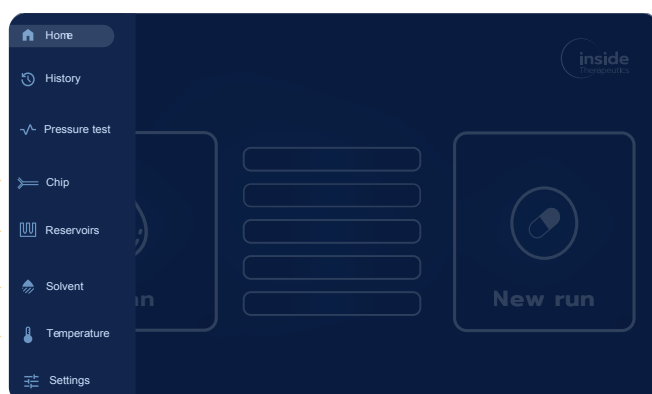
Menu



Before using the system, please ensure that all values—including **room temperature**, **solvent type**, **reservoir size**, **chip design**—are properly set.

- ▶ Go to the **Chips page** to pick the design you will use
- ▶ Go to the **Reservoirs page** and ensure that the right reservoir is selected
- ▶ Then go to the **Solvent page** to select your solvent
- ▶ Finally, go to the **Temperature page** to input the room temperature
- ▶ Run a **Pressure test** if you use the pressure supply for the first time with TAMARA

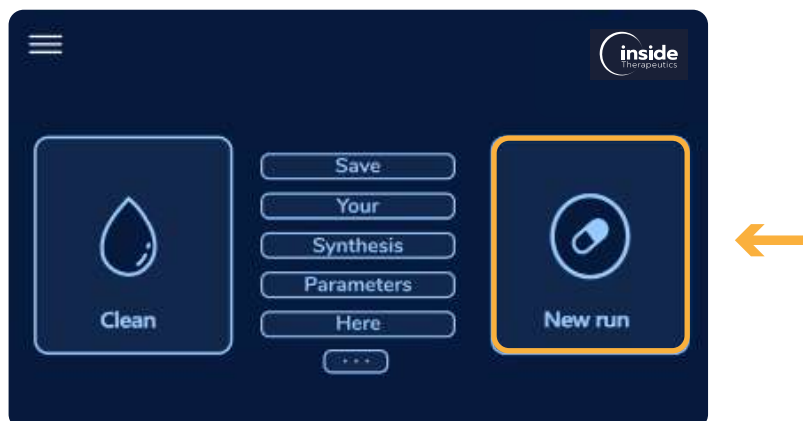
Chips  
Reservoirs  
Solvent  
Temperature



Always carry out a pressure test on the first installation or **if you change your pressure supply**. You can access the pressure test function through the main menu.

### 3. Launch a run

- ▶ On the home screen of the Controller module, tap "New run"



### 4. Define your synthesis conditions

- ▶ **TFR:** Type in your Total Flow Rate (TFR)
- ▶ **FRR:** Set the Flow rate Ratio (FRR)
- ▶ **Total volume:** Define your total final volume
- ▶ To go to the next step, press on **Load**



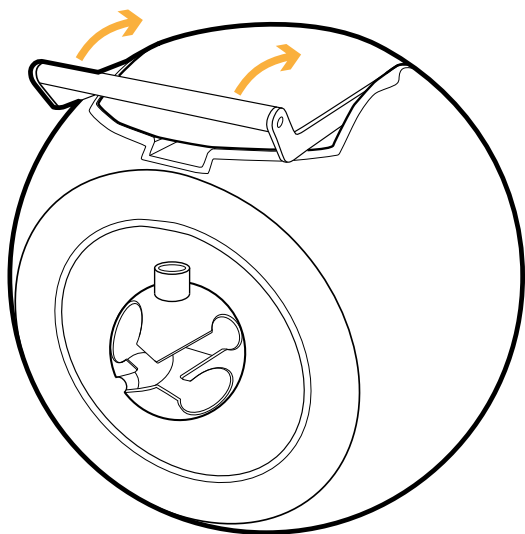
1. Check your system settings at the top right corner. They can be modified in the menu.
2. Your synthesis condition can be saved using the save button.
3. Part of the screen would turn purple should the synthesis conditions not be coherent.



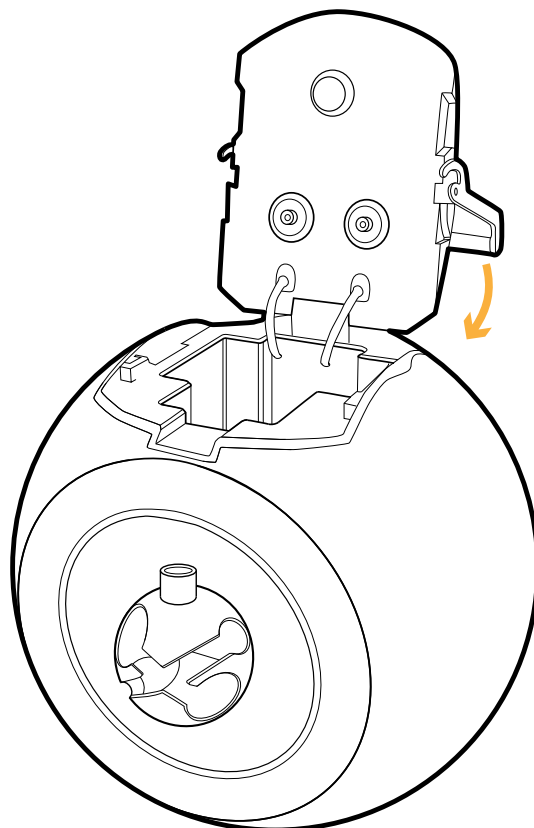
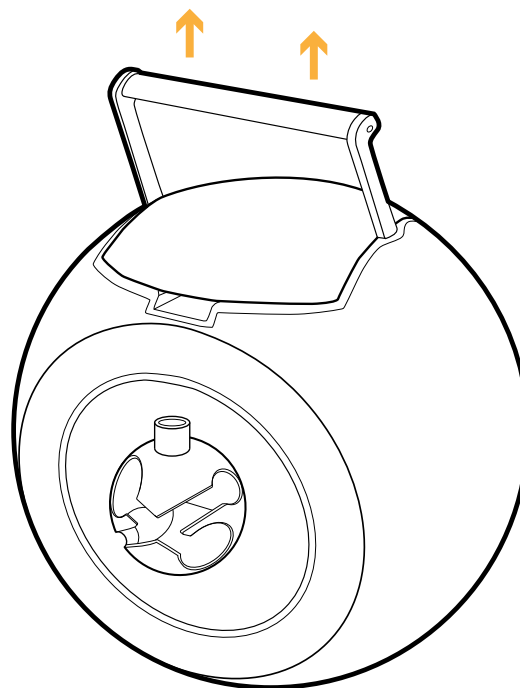
## 5. Open the Synthesis module

► As indicated on the load screen, open the Synthesis module by rotating and pulling up the lever **with 2 hands**.

- a. First, rotate the lever**  
One hand on the lever,  
the second on the side  
of the module



- b. Second, pull up the lever**  
The lid will open easily

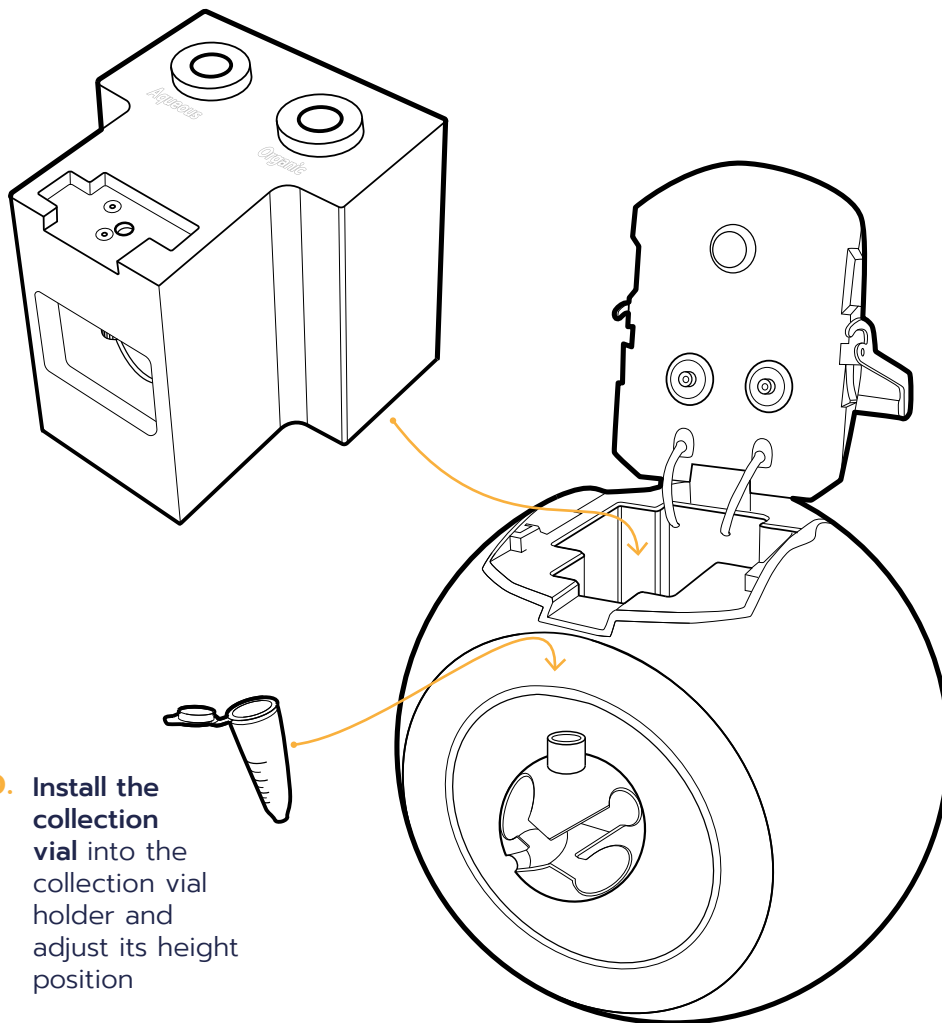


- c. Third, rotate the lid**  
The final position allows  
full access to the reservoir  
enclosure.

## 6. Install the reservoir and the collection vial

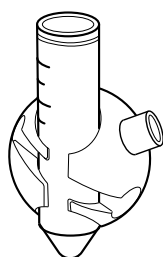
- ▶ **Insert** the reservoir into the Synthesis module. Make sure it is correctly positioned at the bottom of the module.
- ▶ **Install** a standard reservoir (Eppendorf, Falcon 15 or 50 mL), into the collection vial holder.

**a. Install the reservoir into the Synthesis module**

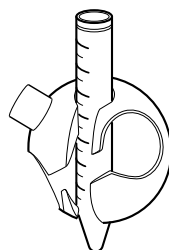


**b. Install the collection vial into the collection vial holder and adjust its height position**

Select the most suitable holder considering your reservoir size and the total volume you want to achieve:



50 mL Falcon holder



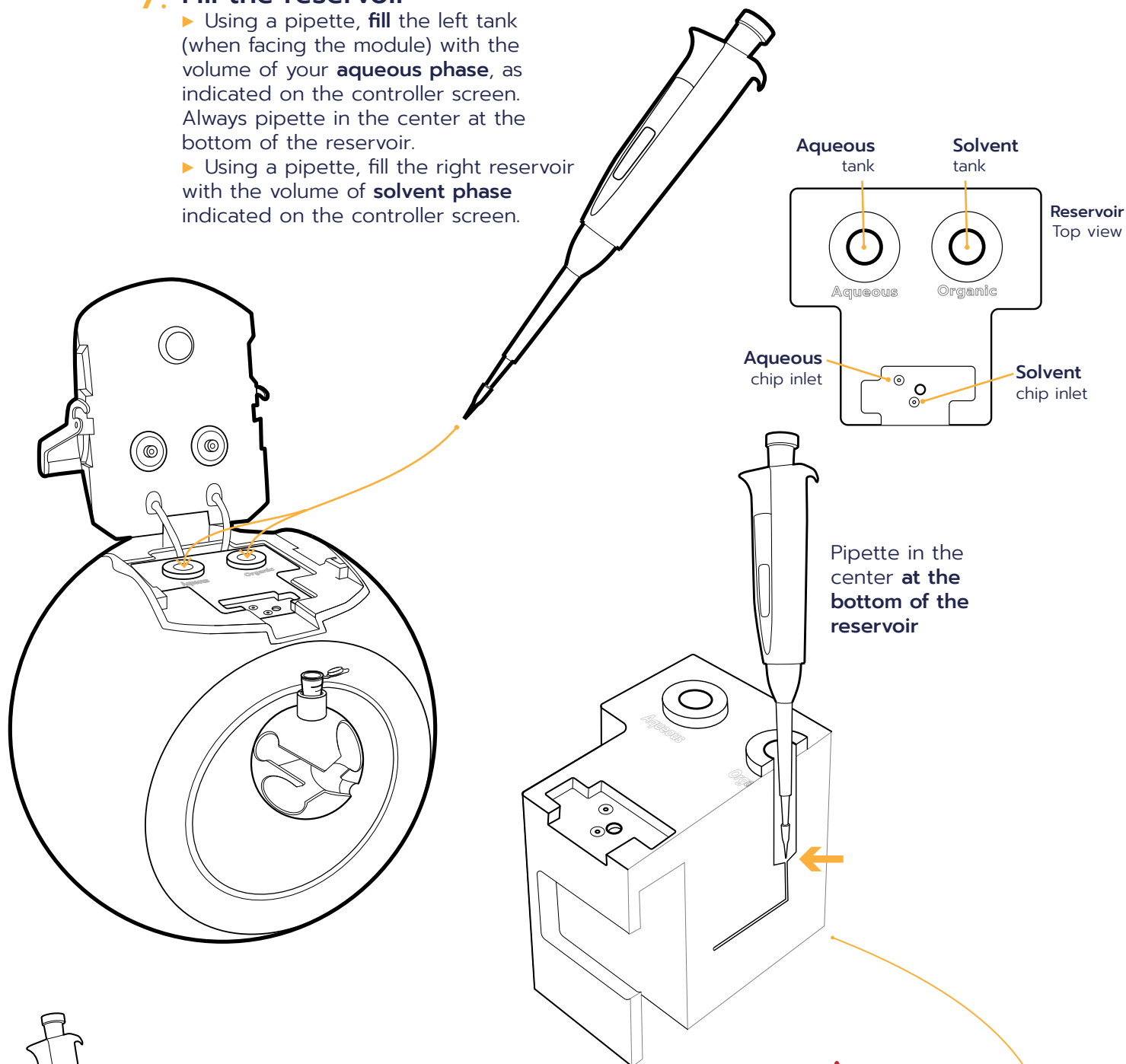
15 mL Falcon holder



Eppendorf holder

## 7. Fill the reservoir

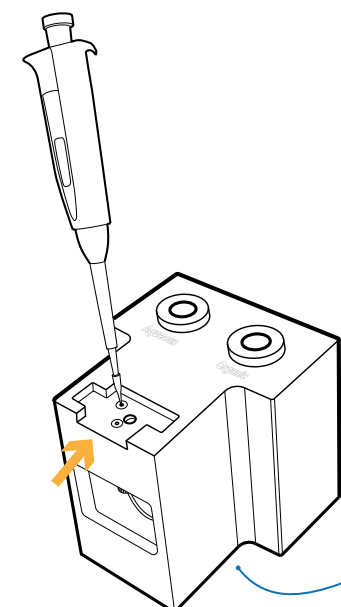
- ▶ Using a pipette, **fill** the left tank (when facing the module) with the volume of your **aqueous phase**, as indicated on the controller screen. Always pipette in the center at the bottom of the reservoir.
- ▶ Using a pipette, fill the right reservoir with the volume of **solvent phase** indicated on the controller screen.



Never fill the reservoir with more liquid than the indicated maximum volume. Always maintain a minimum distance of 1 cm between the liquid surface and the height of the reservoir.

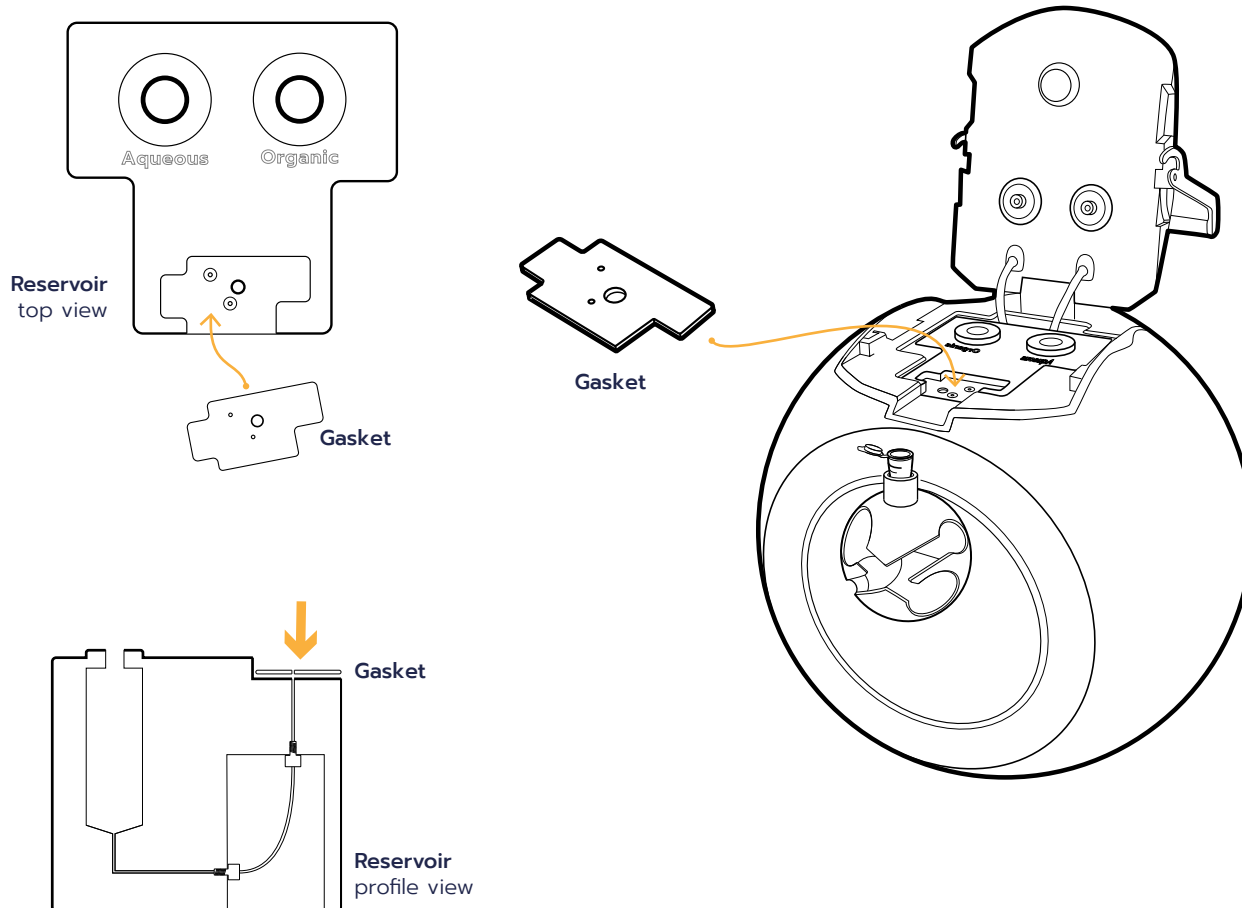
Always ensure that no bubble are stuck in the tanks, especially with very low volumes. To prevent it, carefully pipette at the bottom of the reservoir and gently tap it to remove any potentially stuck air.

When working with very small volumes (**less than 0.5 mL**), you can pipette directly in the outlet to minimize bubbles. Pipette the entire volume in a single action, avoiding multiple steps.



## 8. Install the gasket

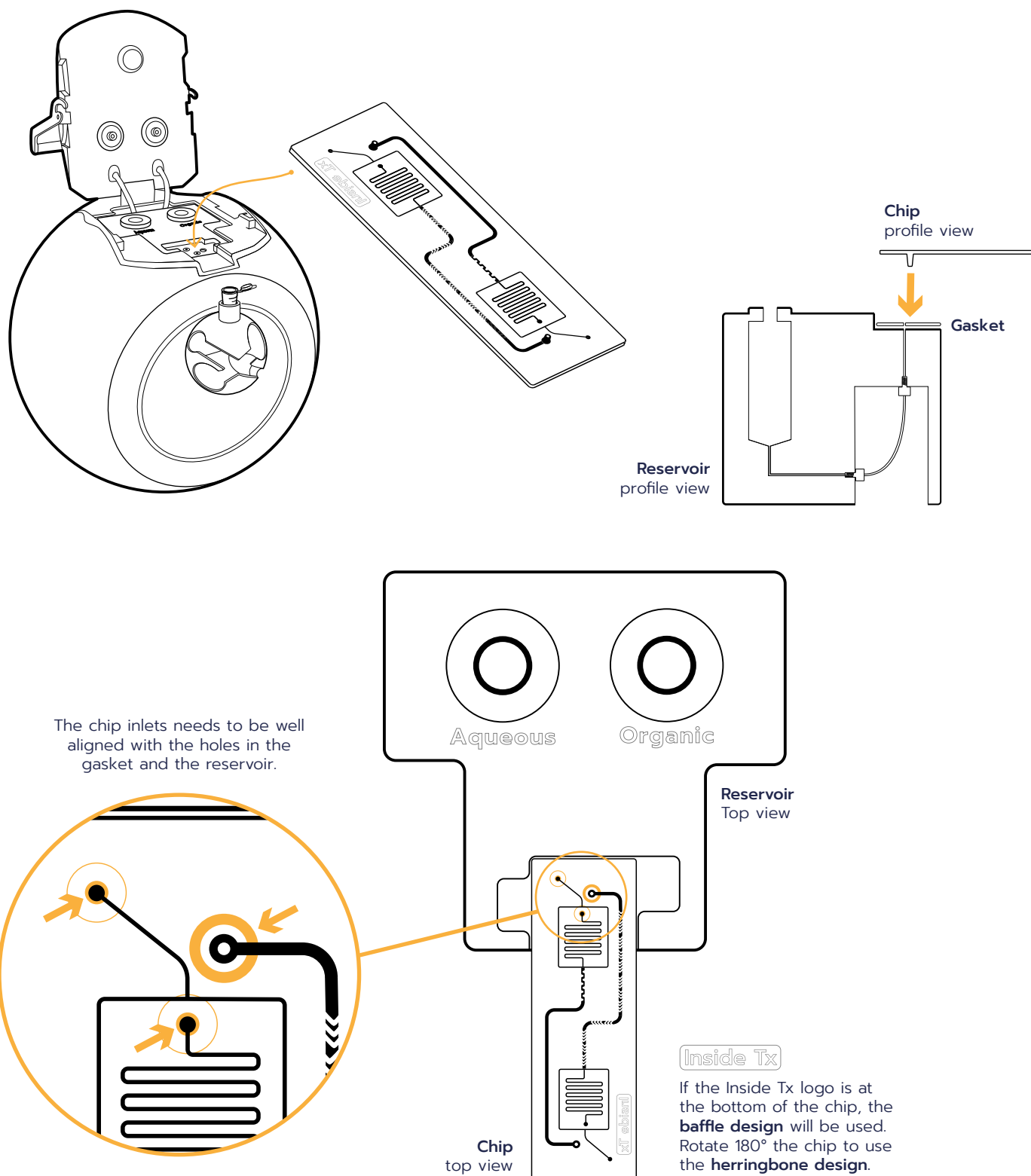
- ▶ Take one gasket out of its package and insert it on the reservoir.
- ▶ Before placing the chip, make sure that **the gasket is properly placed**.





## 9. Position the chip

- ▶ Before placing the chip, make sure that **the gasket is properly placed**.
- ▶ Position the chip, while ensuring that **the inlets are well aligned with the holes in the gasket and the reservoir**.



Beware that the chips has 2 designs, make sure that you are using the one you selected in the software menu by checking the mixer design visually.

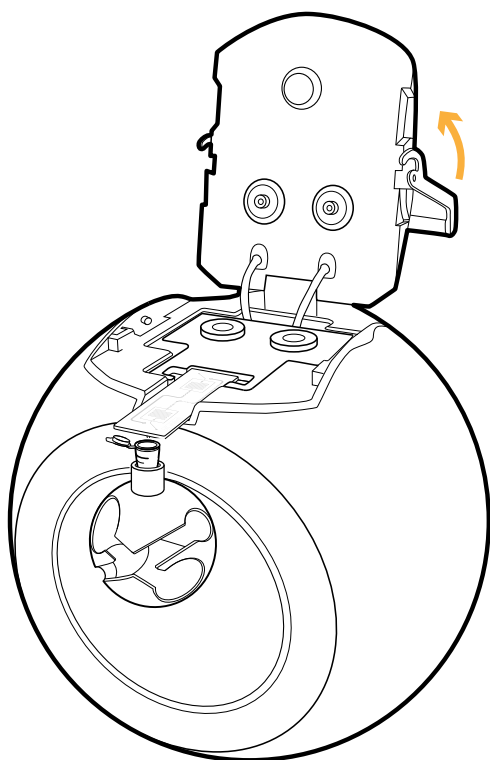


## 10. Close the Synthesis module

- ▶ As indicated on the load screen, **close** the Synthesis module by rotating and pulling down the lever, ideally with 2 hands.

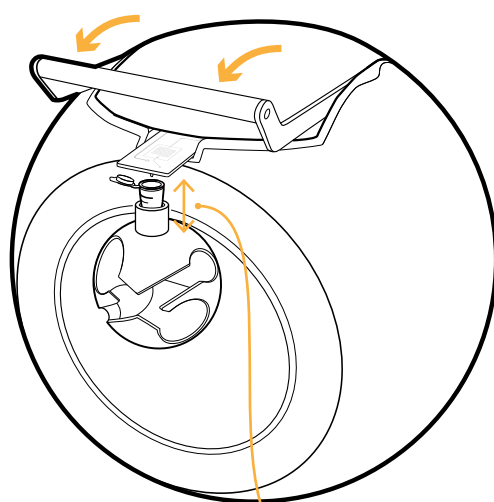
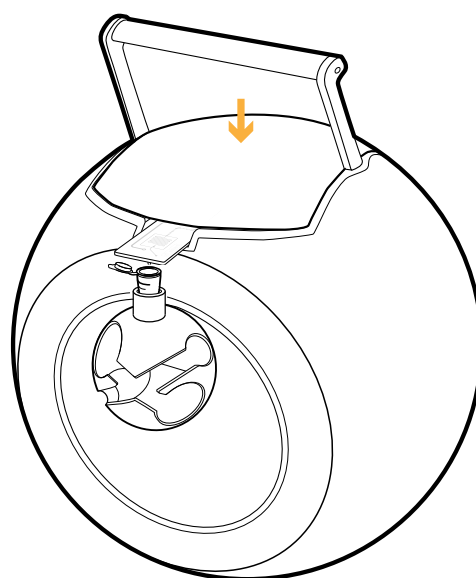
### a. First, rotate the lid

The lever needs to be vertical



### b. Second, push on the lid

The lid will close easily



### c. Third, rotate the lever while maintaining the push on the lid

The final position allows full closure to the Synthesis module.

- d. When using the Eppendorf holder, position the collection vial close to the chip outlet. This will help prevent any potential spray at the end of the run.

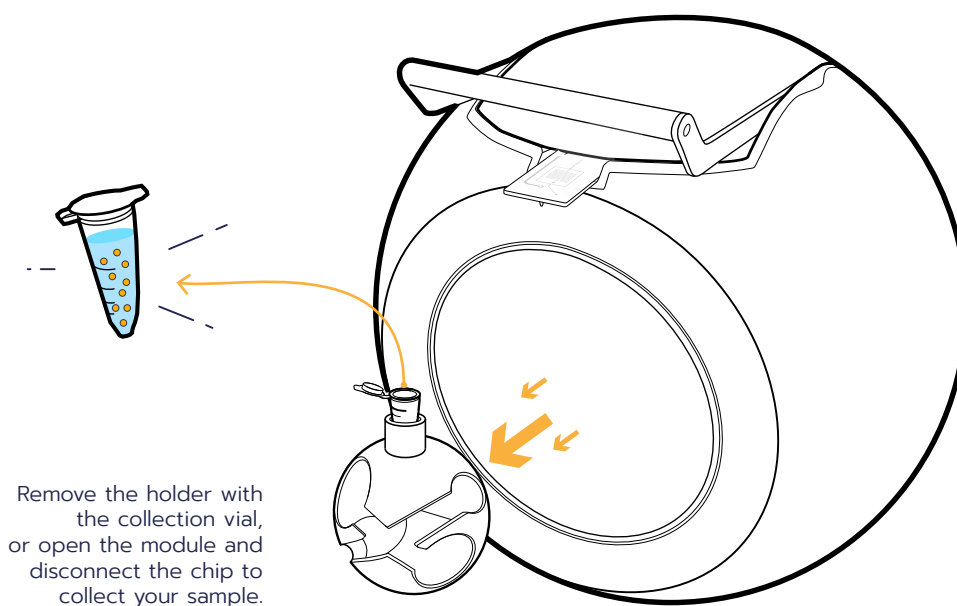
## 11. Launch your run

- Go back to the Controller module, and press on **Run** and wait for your run to complete.



## 12. Collect your sample

- **Congratulations**, you have completed your first nanoparticle synthesis!
- Before running your next batch, carry out a cleaning of your system, and that you properly flush the system.



## VI. Cleaning protocol

### Before getting started

- Ensure that both the **power** and **pressure supply** are correctly connected
- Make sure that the Controller module is connected to the Synthesis module
- Turn the Controller module **on**
- Note that this protocol is for a standard cleaning. Advanced cleaning can also be carried out by autoclaving the reservoir.

**REMINDER:** Please note that while we allow chip cleaning, cleaning the chip for reuse may not be possible with every sample, as chip reusability can vary significantly depending on factors such as composition, concentration and volume. To maximize chip reusability, follow each step of the process carefully. **Always remember to finish your procedure with a purge** to ensure the chip is dry for your next run.

While the chips can be cleaned and potentially reused multiple times, please note that Inside Therapeutics only commits on the successful outcome of the first run.



Our suggested cleaning procedure involves a **cleansing of the reservoir** using the solvent used for the formulation in the Solvent reservoir and a water solution in the aqueous reservoir.

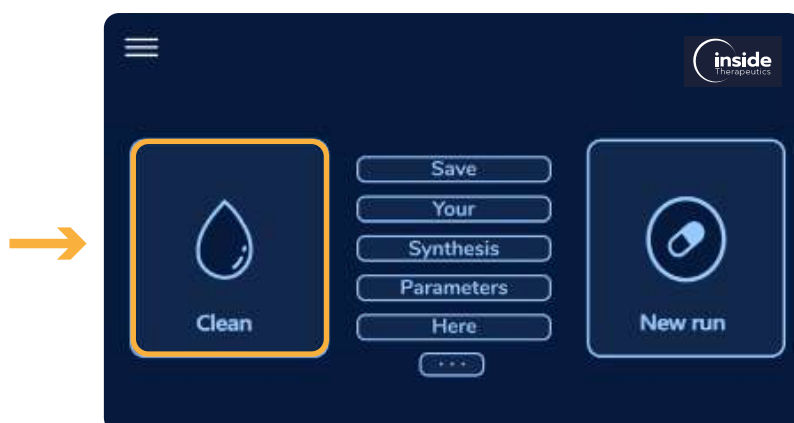
This protocol should be customized by the user depending on its cleanliness requirements. If needed, additional cleaning steps can be incorporated such as cleaning with harsher solvent (always ensure the solvent compatibility by using polar solvent), multiple cleaning cycles...

**For RNA removal**, commercially available solutions like RNase AWAY or RNaseZap can be used. Ensure thorough cleaning of the machine following their use to remove any residue.

### Standard Cleaning protocol

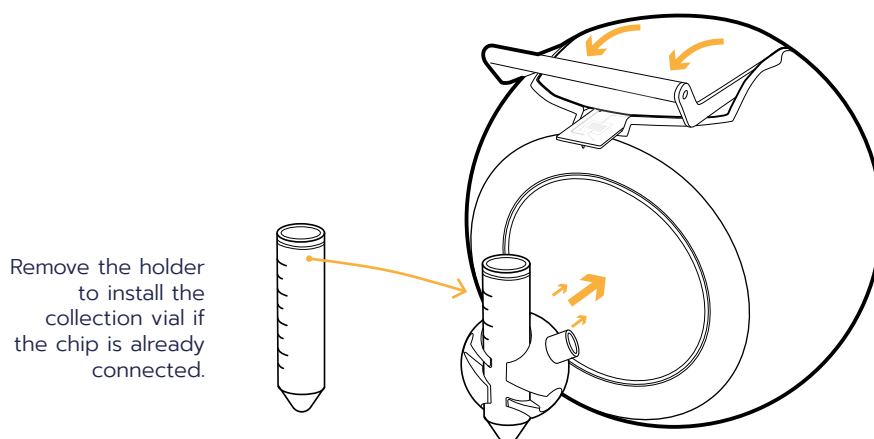
#### 1. Launch a clean

- ▶ On the settings, make sure **the right reservoir (S or L) size is selected**.
- ▶ On the home screen of the Controller module, press **"Clean"**



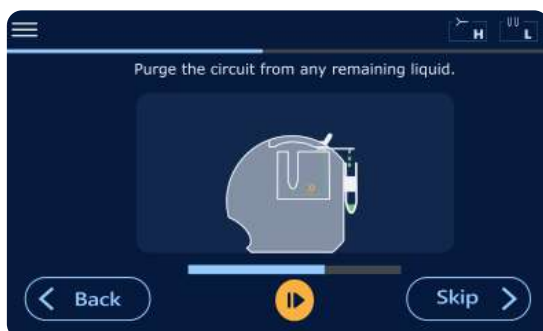
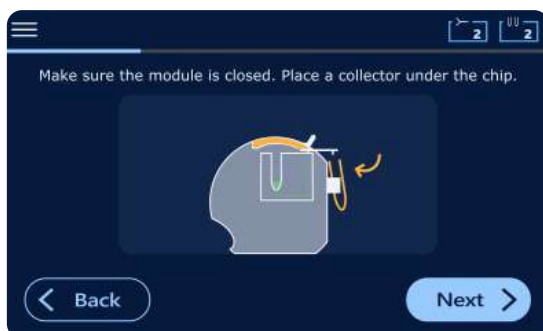
## 2. Get started

- ▶ Close the lid with **the chip in place**
- ▶ Install a new **collection vial** to the outlet



## 3. Purge

- ▶ Purge the reservoir from any remaining liquids in the system by applying pressure to it. Launch it by pressing on **the play button**.
- ▶ Once the purge is completed, go to the next step by clicking on **next**.



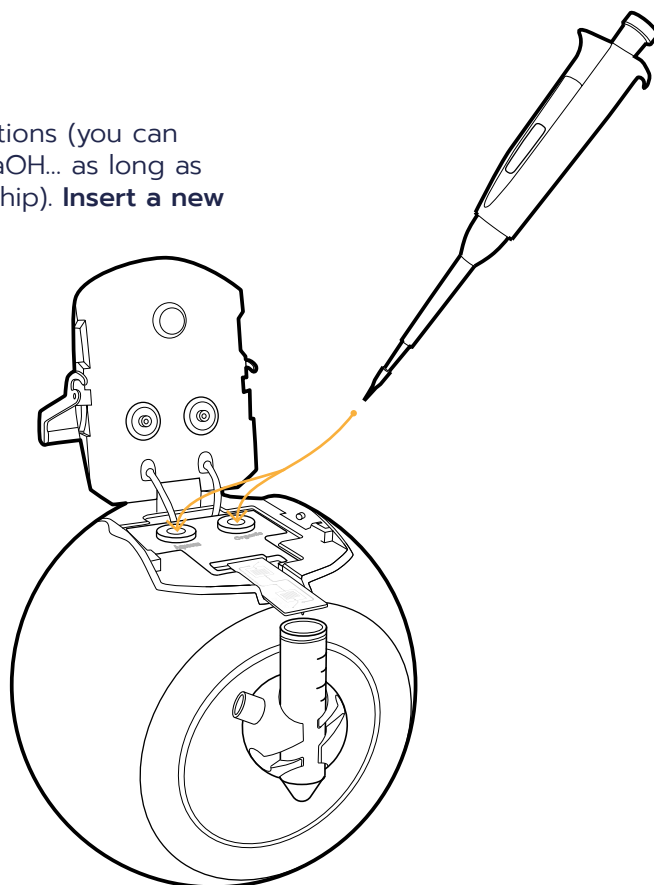
You can pause the purge at any time by pressing the yellow play button

## 4. Load cleaning solution

- ▶ **Open** your Synthesis module
- ▶ **Remove** the old gasket
- ▶ **Fill your reservoir** with your cleaning solutions (you can use your solvent, a water-based solution, NaOH... as long as it is compatible with the reservoir and the chip). **Insert a new gasket and the chip**
- ▶ **Close** your Synthesis module
- ▶ Press **Next** on the Controller module

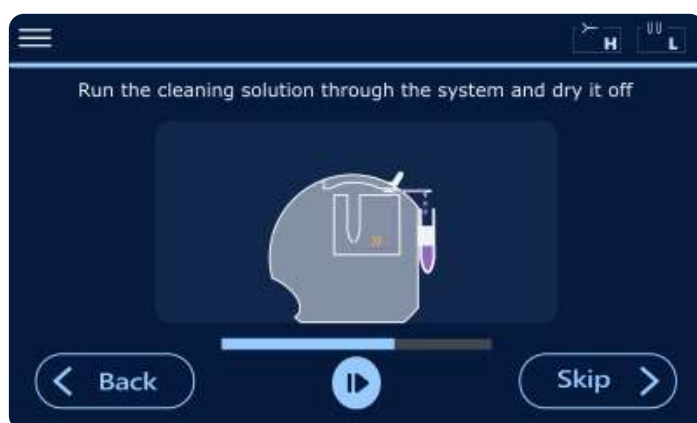


Never fill the reservoir with more liquid than the indicated maximum volume. Always maintain a minimum distance of 1cm between the liquid surface and the top of the reservoir.



## 5. Clean

- ▶ Press on the **play button** to launch your clean
- ▶ Wait until all the cleaning solution has been injected
- ▶ Once done, press on **next** to go back to the home page



After cleaning your system, always ensure it is perfectly dry before launching a new run. You can run an extra purge to ensure it.

## 6. Carry out a blank run, check volumes and purge

- ▶ To confirm **the chip is cleaned**: carry out a blank run with your solvent and water under your specified condition
- ▶ **Confirm** that the run has been successful by comparing the expected volume vs the collected one (error up to 10% is acceptable). **If higher, use a new chip. If not, dry your chip and go for a new run**

## VII. Going further

### Outlet reservoir holder installation

Reservoir holder sizes: 1.5 mL or 2 mL / 15 mL / 50 mL

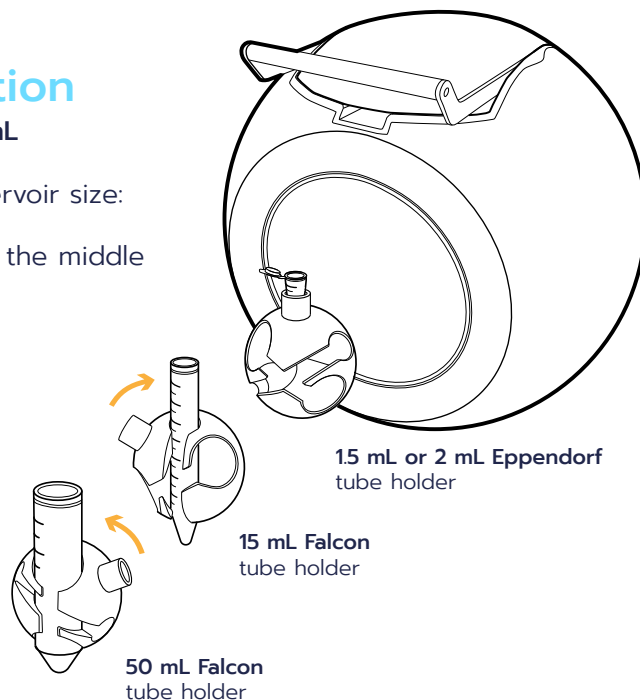
Select the most suitable holder considering your reservoir size:

- ➔ For **1.5 mL or 2 mL Eppendorf** reservoir, use the middle holder
- ➔ For **15 mL Falcon**, use the right most holder
- ➔ For **50 mL Falcon**, use the left most holder

#### Holder installation

Looking at the front of the Synthesis module, plug in the selected reservoir holder.

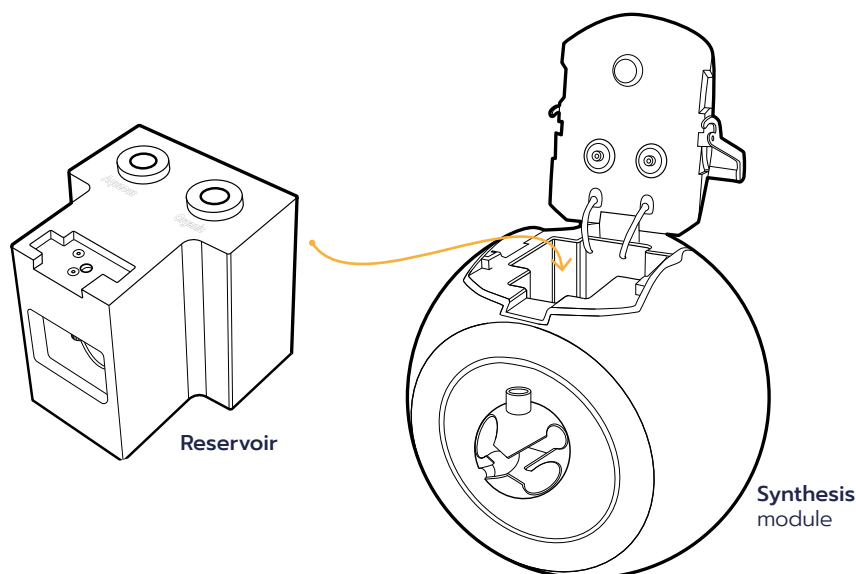
Make sure that the holder is pointing upwards. In any events, the holder and Synthesis module contain magnets to ensure that the reservoir is in the correct position.



### Reservoir installation

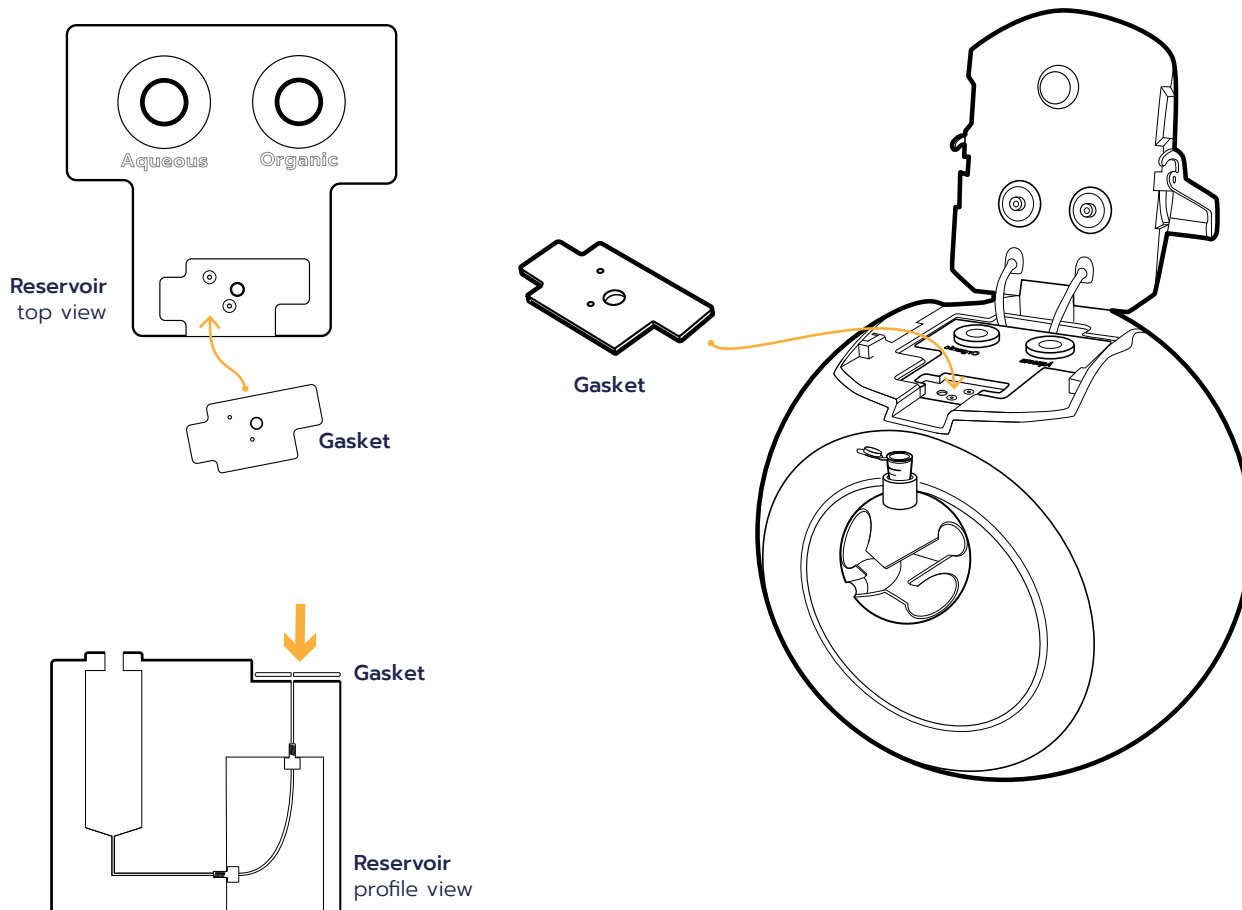
Insert the reservoir into the Synthesis module

- ▶ Insert the reservoir into the Synthesis module
- ▶ Make sure that the reservoir is at the same level as the Synthesis module and the chip.



## Gasket installation

- ▶ Take one gasket out of its package and insert it on the reservoir.



Make sure the outlets of the reservoir are well aligned with the gasket holes.

It is advised to either carefully clean or change the gaskets after each run. If you hear some hissing noise during a clean or a run, please make sure no leakage has occurred. If so, clean and dry both surfaces.

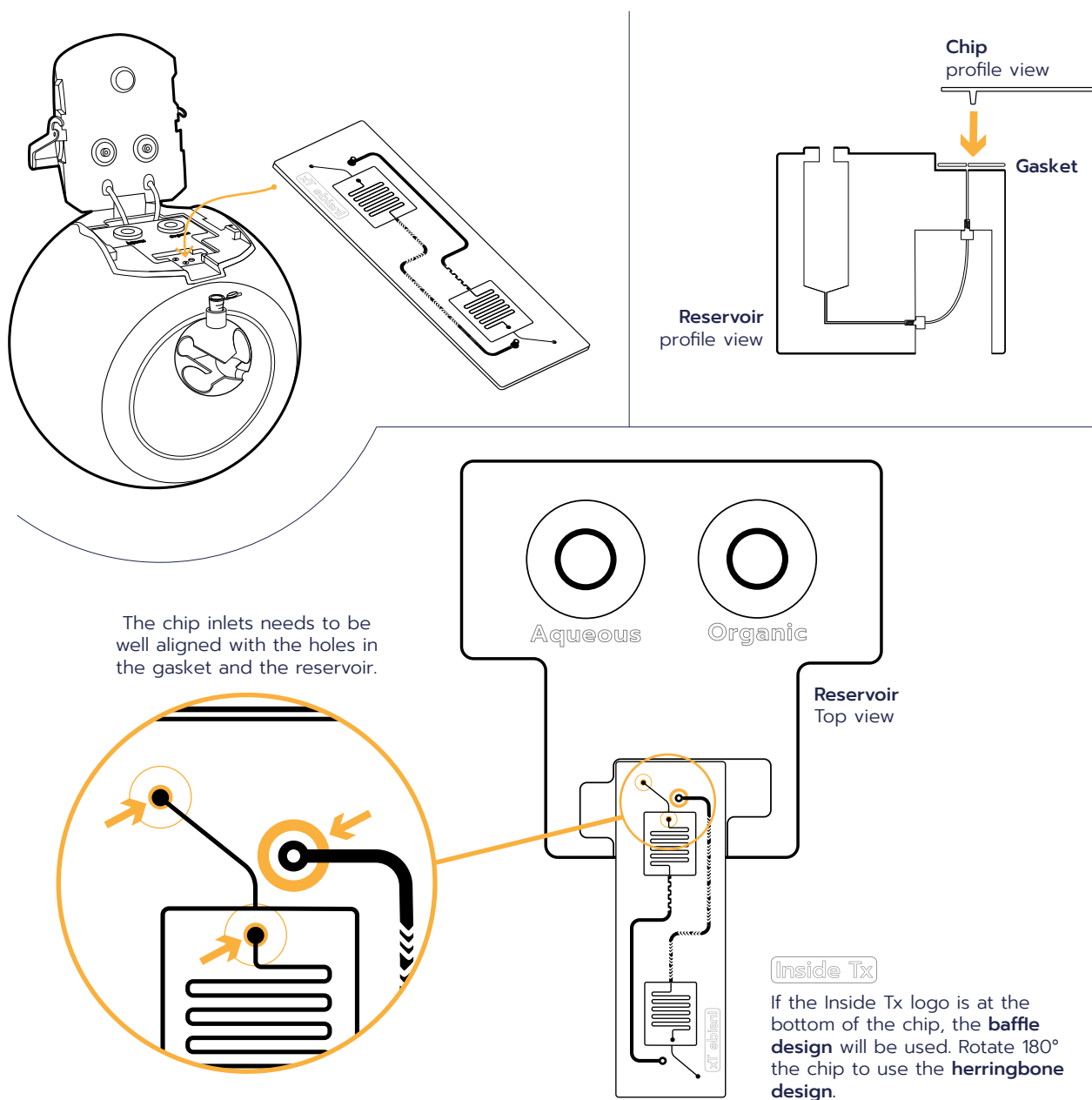




## Chip installation

### Chip set up

- ▶ Take out the chip from their package.
- ▶ Select the chip design type you want to use (baffle mixer or herringbone mixer).
- ▶ Plug the chip upside down to the reservoir module. Always make sure the inlet/outlets are pointing downwards.
- ▶ Make sure that the outlet of your chosen design is pointing towards the output reservoir.
- ▶ Ensure that the gasket holes and the chip inlets are properly aligned.



Beware that the chips has 2 designs, make sure that you are using the one you selected by checking the mixer design visually.



## Very small volumes

Procedure for Working with Very Small Volumes (less than 1 mL total)

When handling very small volumes, we highly suggest you pipetting directly into the outlet to minimize the risk of air bubbles. Follow these steps:

### Preparation

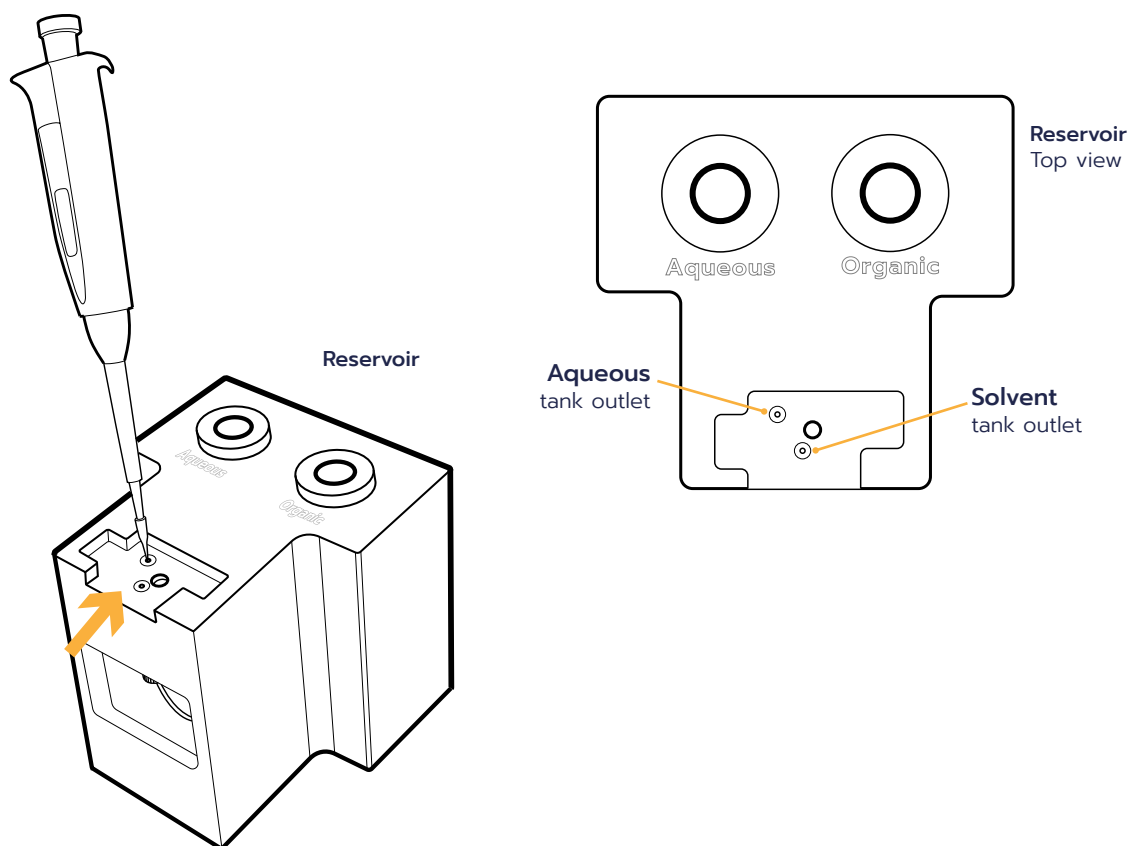
- ▶ Remove the chip and the gasket from the system.

### Pipetting

- ▶ Insert the pipette tip straight into the outlet, ensuring it touches the bottom of the hole.
- ▶ Lift it slightly
- ▶ Dispense the liquid very gently (not to create an overflow) until the first stop of the pipette. Avoid pressing beyond the first stop to prevent introducing air bubbles.
- ▶ Place the gasket, the chip and close the lid.

### Additional Tips

- ▶ Always pipette the aqueous phase first, followed by the solvent phase.
- ▶ Avoid introducing any air bubbles into the system at all times.
- ▶ This method ensures optimal performance and minimizes issues caused by bubbles in the system



## TAMARA embedded software

The TAMARA system is fully controlled through its embedded software accessible via the front panel touchscreen.

### Run mode

#### 1.1 Synthesis parameter tuning

Use this screen to set the nanoparticle synthesis conditions for your next run:

**Save:** Open a keyboard to quickly save your run parameters

**FRR:** Flow rate ratio, ratio of the aqueous flow rate over solvent flow rate.

**TFR:** Total flow rate in  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$ . Sum of the aqueous and solvent flow rate..

**Target Volume:** Total volume of nanoparticle that will be produced (in  $\mu\text{L}$ )

Note that parameters are interdependant (for instance minimum volume will depend on TFR).



##### Setting values

Boundary values are variable and will depend on the hardware parameters (i.e reservoir size, maximum pressure...). The right hand side of your screen will turn purple should any of your input values outside this range.

##### Quick save

You can quickly save your run condition by hitting the save button. Give it a name, and you will be able to access it from the home page or the saved run management menu (3.2)

Hit **Load** to go to the next step

#### 1.2 Reagents loading

Quick recap of the reagents loading steps:

1/ Open the Synthesis module

2/ Load your reagents: When facing the module, load the aqueous phase on the left (left most/blue value) and the organic phase on the right (right most/yellow value)

3/ Close the Synthesis module and press on run to launch a run



##### Quick overview of the run settings

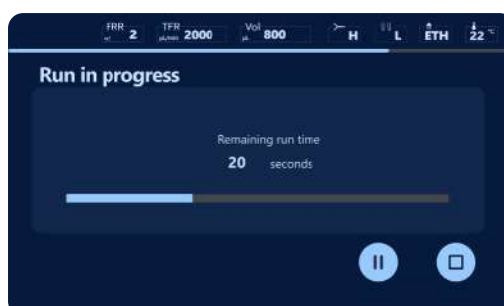
An overview of the hardware settings is provided to ensure you are in the right configuration. From Left to right:  
**Choice of mixing chip design:** H (herringbone) or B (baffle)  
**Reservoir size:** S (Small) or L (Large)  
**Solvent:** ETH (Ethanol), THF, OTHER (Customer solvent)  
**Temperature:** Set room temperature  
Those parameters can be modified in the menu.

#### 1.3 Run in progress

Wait until your run is completed

**Pause** (Left most button): Put your synthesis on hold/resume it.

**Stop** (Right most button): Finish your synthesis and go to the summary page.



An ongoing run can be paused & resumed at any time. Bear in mind that this can affect your nanoparticle sample quality.

#### 1.4 Run completed

Once your run is completed, you should access this page. If not, this means that your run has failed and you should follow the suggestions on the screen.

**Report:** Get access to an advanced report with more information on your run conditions

**Done:** Finish your run and go back to the home page



##### Run data explanation:

**Volume of Mix:** Total output volume produced

**Time left:** Remaining time at the end of a run. Should be 0 if the run has not been interrupted.

**Volume of liquid Left in Manifold:** Remaining volume of liquid in the reservoir

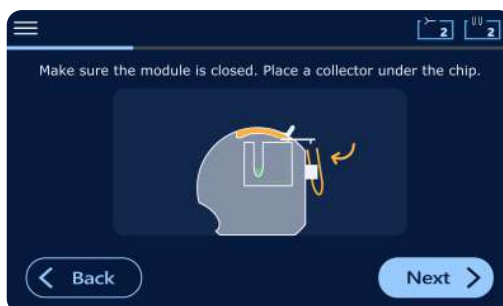
**Pressure precision on channel:** Provide info on whether the target pressure should be achieved. It should remain below 5%.

## Clean mode

### 2.1 Collector installation

Ensure that an empty reservoir is placed at the outlet of the system.

**Next:** Go to the next step



#### Quick overview of the setup settings

An overview of the hardware settings is provided to ensure you are in the right configuration. From Left to right:

**Choice of mixing chip design:** H (herringbone) or B (baffle)

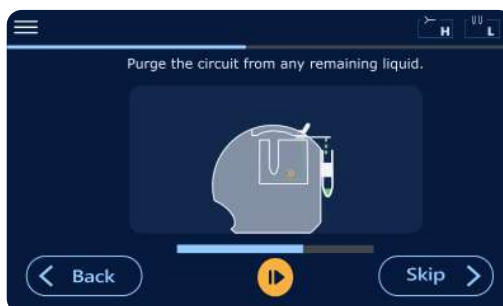
**Reservoir size:** S (Small) or L (Large)

### 2.2 Purge

Purge your system

Press/play: Launch/Resume the purge.

**Next:** Go to the next step



#### Reservoir cleaning

Bear in mind that you can also clean your reservoir using an autoclave

### 2.3 Cleaning solution loading

Quick recap of the cleaning solution loading steps:

1/ **Open** the Synthesis module

2/ **Load** your cleaning solution with the suggested volumes of cleaning solution.

3/ **Close** the Synthesis module and press on next.



#### Choice of cleaning solution

Your cleaning solution will depend on your lipids, polymer and API.

We suggest cleaning your reservoir and chip with the solvent used for your runs.

When using RNA, you can also use NaOH to remove any remaining RNA strand.

### 2.4 Cleaning

Clean your system by flushing cleaning solution through the system

Press/play: Launch/Resume the cleaning.

**Next:** Go to the next step



#### Volume of cleaning solution

The suggested volume of cleaning solution corresponds to the maximum amount of liquids the reservoir can hold. You can potentially use less to save solvent.

#### Successful clean

Always make sure that liquid is coming out through the chip outlet! If not, stop your run and change chip or check your pressure supply.



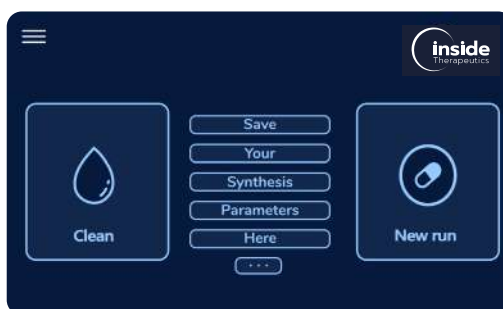
## Load / Save mode

### 3.1 Access saved runs

From the home page, you can either launch a quick run or access the save options.

**Quick Launch:** When clicking on the saved run name, you directly access the run load screen (1.2).

**Saved runs management:** Edit/reorder saved run settings list, or launch a past run.

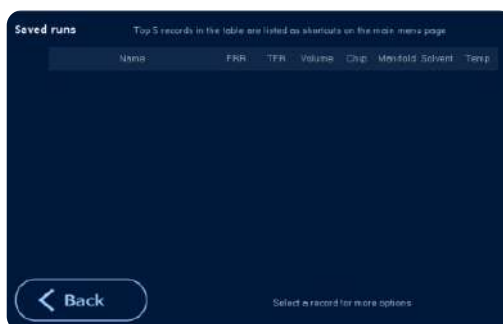


### 3.2 Save run management

Use this tool to manage and/or launch a saved run.

**Saves management:** Click on a saved run. Using the bottom icons: bring to top, bring up, bring down or delete it.

**Quick launch:** Click on a saved run, then click on the load button to directly go to the run load screen (1.2) and run your sample.



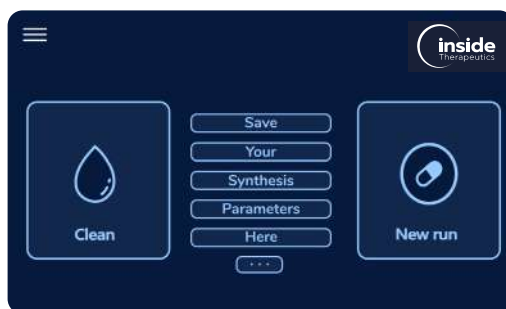
**How to make your saved run parameters appear on the home page?**

Bring your saved run parameters to the top 5 of the list to make them appear on the home page.

## Menu

### 4.1 Menu Home

By clicking on the items on the menu, you can access all the advanced options of the TAMARA Controller module.



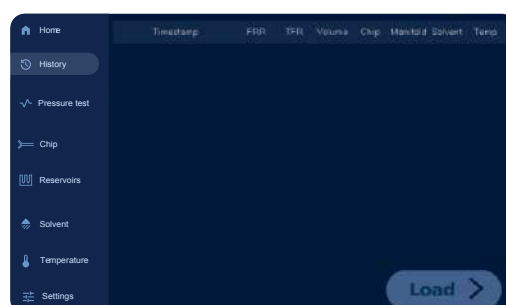
#### Back home

Click on the dark part of the screen to go back to the home page

### 4.2 Run history

The run history summarizes all your past runs so you can keep track of the runs conditions used during your past synthesis.

Quick launch: You can quickly launch a past run by selecting it and hitting the load button. This will bring you back to the run load page (1.2)



#### Run history reset

You can reset your run history when selecting settings/factory reset/delete run history.

### 4.3 Pressure test—instruction

A pressure test should be carried out after the system installation, or more generally every time the pressure supply is modified.

If already completed, the measured pressure should be different from 0.

Hit ready to carry out the test and follow the steps

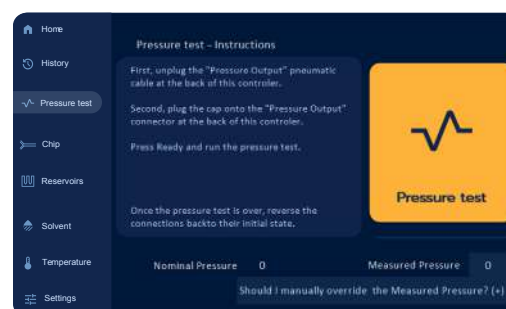


#### Pressure test

To carry out the pressure test properly, please plug the pressure plug at the back of the TAMARA Controller module.

### 4.3.2 Pressure test—instruction

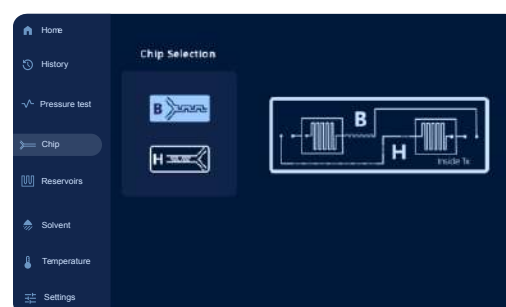
Follow the instruction and hit the pressure test button when ready to carry out the test



### 4.4 Chip selection

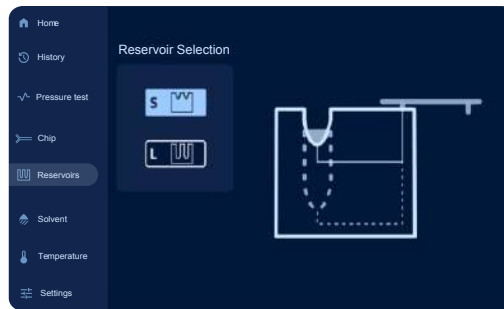
Use the chip menu to select which mixing design you are using: herringbone or baffle mixer are available.

B stands for baffle, H for herringbone.



## 4.5 Manifold reservoir selection

Use this screen to select which reservoir you are using: S for Small reservoir, L for Large reservoir



## 4.6 Solvent selection

Use this menu to select the solvent you are working with.



### OTHER Solvent

You can also specify the use of a custom solvent of your choice. To do so, hit the other solvent and specify its parameters (viscosity, viscosity to temperature and molar volume). Refer to the F.A.Q to learn more.

## 4.7 Temperature

Set your room temperature.

Bear in mind that this affects the viscosity of your fluids.



## 4.8 Settings

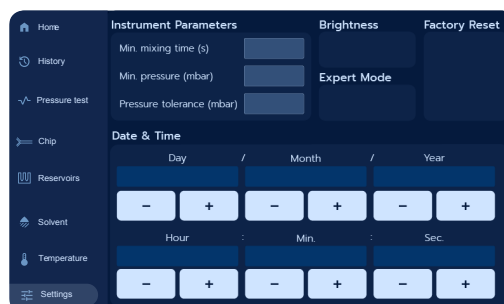
Use this menu to specify all the general settings of the TAMARA platform.

Instrument parameters: General run parameters.

Only modify it if instructed by an InsideTx employee.

Expert mode: Allows the access to advanced features such as chip parameters... Only enable it if instructed by an InsideTx employee.

Factory reset: Hit the factory reset button if you wish to reset your TAMARA instruments to factory settings.



## 4.9 System Information

In the homepage, click on the Inside Therapeutics logo at the top left corner to have access to TAMARA System Information:

- Circuit Board Serial Number
- Display Software Version
- Circuit Board Software Version
- Regulatory datas





## Important messages

In addition to the navigation screens, clear and effective important messages have been implemented. There are 3 types of messages available in TAMARA: Information message, Warning messages and Error messages. Messages can be skipped by tapping anywhere on the screen. Here is a short introduction to each of them:

### Information messages

These message are meant to provide complementary information on the use of the system.



### Warning messages

Warning messages are used to alert about something that might cause an issue in the future/provide you with important information.



### Error messages

Error messages indicate that a problem has occurred.. Read it carefully and feel free to reach out to [support@insidetx.com](mailto:support@insidetx.com) should there be any questions.



### Yellow button

Yellow buttons indicates that tapping them will trigger a physical event, such as pressurization



### Extra information

Some labels have a (+) indication.

Tapping them will open a pop-up with extra information.





## System maintenance

### Basic maintenance

The instrument has been designed so that maintenance is kept to a minimum.

To maintain the system in optimal working condition, please follow those guidelines:

When done with using the system always carry out a final cleaning of both your reservoir and chip, followed by a complete purge of the system with air.

Never leave any liquids in the system when not in use.

Always empty the drain at the back of the Synthesis module if you see any liquid in it.

O-rings are used to connect the pressure cable and the controller, the pressure cable and the Synthesis module as well as to ensure connexion between reservoir and Synthesis module. Make sure those remain clean while you are using your system.

Please reach out to [support@insidetx.com](mailto:support@insidetx.com) should you require a spare set of o-rings.

### Cleanning the system

#### Controller module

The controller touchscreen can periodically be cleaned using a wipe.

Do not use or spill liquid on the TAMARA Controller module



### Moving the system

If it is necessary to move the system, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Always disconnect the power supply and the cable connecting the controller and the Synthesis module before attempting to move the system.
- Always adopt proper lifting techniques to avoid back injury.
- Always lift the instrument by holding it under its base. Never lift a module by its handle.
- If the system is to be moved large distances then it is recommended that it is repacked in its original packaging



## VIII. Frequently asked questions

### Chips

#### Can I reuse the chips?

The chips provided with the TAMARA platform have been designed to be cleaned in order to be reused.

However, because the system works using direct pressure control (no flow control), the clogging of the system can lead to alteration in the flow rate condition, and thus nanoparticle synthesis conditions. For this reason, Inside Therapeutics only commits to the successful outcome of the first run with a chip, when surely no agglomeration is present.

#### How many times can I reuse a chip?

The number of times you can reuse your chip will depend on multiple parameters including formulation, concentration, volumes...

#### When should I change my chip for a new one ?

When the chip is clogged. Here are several elements to identify whether your chip is clogged:

- Important difference between the target volume and the total volume produced with the system
- If you visually observe that the chip is dirty/clogged
- If one reservoir does not get fully empty during a cleaning or a blank run

#### What are the best practice to reuse the chips ?

Don't use too concentrated samples or too large volumes. Always dry the chip after use. When going for a new run:

- Clean the chip well following the provided instructions
- Carry out a blank run with solvent/water to confirm the chip is not clogged by checking the output volume correspondance
- Run a thorough purge to make sure the chip is perfectly dry
- Launch a new run

### Gasket

#### Can I reused the gasket ?

Yes, you can reuse it as long as the gasket integrity has not been compromised.

#### Can reusing the gasket lead to cross contamination?

As long as you properly clean it, the gasket can be used multiple times.

### Synthesis module

#### I observe liquid in the collector in the back drain., is this normal?

While this should not happen under standard run conditions, liquid will get into the back drain if backflow occurs during a run or a clean. This likely means that your chip is clogged and the only way out for the liquids is through the inlet.

### **The lid does not seem air tight or liquid tight what should I do?**

Make sure that the o-rings connection the reservoir and the lid are in good condition, and that nothing interferes with the closing of the lid. Reach out to support@insidetx.com should there be any questions.

### **When and how should I change the o-ring?**

If you observe any alteration of the o-rings, or leaks of air or liquids through them, please change them using the spare set provided with the system.

### **I struggle closing the handle, is it normal? what should I do?**

This can happen the air will apply about 20kg of upward force onto the lid. It needs to be tightly maintained closed. If it seems abnormally hard to close, check that the handle forks engage correctly on the rotation comes, that the chip is correctly positionned flat on the gasket. Check that the back of the lid is correctly depressed before rotating the handle.

## **Cleanning your system**

### **How can I clean the chip, gasket and reservoir?**

To clean the chip, gasket and reservoir, please follow the instruction of the clean section presented above. For the gasket, you can clean it with any silicone-compatible cleaning solution (NaOH, RNaseAway, Ethanol...)

### **How often should I clean the chip?**

Please clean the chip and the reservoir after each run to avoid cross contamination and agglomeration.

After every clean, please make sure the chip is perfectly dry before launching a new run.

### **Can I autoclave the chips?**

The thermoplastic material used in the chip would not withstand an autoclave process.

### **Can I autoclave the reservoir?**

The reservoir is made of PEEK so you can autoclave it to ensure its sterility.

### **Can I autoclave the entire module?**

The controller and the Synthesis module should never be autoclaved.

### **What cleaning solution can I use?**

You should use liquids compatible with the wetted material (PEEK, Silicone and COC).

For COC chemical compatibility, please refer to the table in appendix.

### **Which cleaning solutions do you recommend ?**

For the lipids: your solvent, for RNA: NaOH

You can also use RNaseAway to remove any RNase from the system.

### **I notice a drop on the chip at the end of my cleaning ?**

It can happen with some solvent due to their wettability. Dry and clean it during a wipe.

### Is the system RNase free ?

All our equipment is handled with the most care regarding RNase contamination, however it is not RNase-free certified.

For your reference, the reservoirs have been thoroughly cleaned with RNaseAway solution before packaging and shipping from our premises. The chips are manufactured without human intervention.

### I hear some hissing noise during my clean, where does that come from?

It is likely to come from leaks between the reservoir and the Synthesis module.

Please check both the gasket between the chip and reservoir, and the o-rings. Make sure both are cleaned and dry after each runs.

### There is spray coming from the chip during cleaning ? How can I avoid it?

This can happen as a spray can appear when too much air is present in the chip during cleaning.

You can clean the Synthesis module with a wipe if this happens. To minimize it, you can place a piece of soft tubing at the chip exit point or use a "high reservoir"

### No liquid is coming out during the cleaning, what's happening?

Stop the cleaning as soon as possible. There are 2 possible for it:

- The system is not fed with enough pressure, so please check your pressure input
- Your chip is clogged. If so, please change it. Please check your drain collector at the back of the Synthesis module and empty it if needed.

## Run

### I observe that my output volume is far from the target volume, is that normal ?

If you observe this, it is likely that your chip has gotten partially/fully clogged and it is time to change it. Note that small variation of output volume (+/- 5%) can be observed with no consequences on the performance of the system.

Note that when a clogging occurs in a chip, the contents of one reservoir may enter another, leading to contamination. In extreme situations, the fluids could even flow back towards the controller. To mitigate this, a set of internal safety filters is installed to stop any reverse flow from progressing further. This reversed flow is directed into a safety collector located at the module's back, which you should empty.

### I observe bubble at the start or at the end of my run, is that normal ?

While the system has been optimized to avoid bubble appearance, TAMARA remains a microfluidic-based system, and as with any other microfluidic setup bubble can occur. However, thanks to the excellent response time of the pressure controller, the small bubble you might see appearing at the start and end of your run should not affect your run outcome.

To minimize this, make sure that no bubble is present in your reservoir when launching a run. When working with small volumes, you can "tap" the reservoir remove bubbles stuck in the fluidic path.

### I observe cross contamination during my run. How did that happen ?

Cross contamination can occur if the cleaning process has not been properly carried out.

Should you want to make sure no cross contamination happens, use one chip per experiment and thoroughly autoclave your reservoirs.

### I have a limited accessible TFR or volume range in my system, how to improve it ?

It can happen as TFR and total volume are constrained by several elements including minimum run time (i.e high flow rate cannot achieve small volumes), input pressure supply (too low pressure supply means low accessible flow rate range), flow rate ratio...

## Miscellaneous

### When should I override my nominal pressure?

If your pressure supply is "weak" or has a low airflow, you can manually decrease it to avoid any issues during your run.



You can always reach out to **support@insidetx.com** should you have any further questions

### How can I use a custom solvent ?

Other than the presets, you can use a custom solvent. To do so, go on the "Solvent Selection" menu and hit the "other" solvent to use the solvent of your choice. You will need to enter three characteristics depending on the solvent used: the viscosity at 20°C ( $\mu\text{Pa.s}$ ), the viscosity sensitivity to temperature, and the molar volume ( $\text{L/mol}$ ).

# IX. Troubleshooting

## Controller module

Error	Cause	Solution
Something is wrong with the pressure	It is likely that there is an issue with your pressure supply, either it is too low, weak or off.	<p>Check that the pressure inlet is well connected at the back of the TAMARA.</p> <p>If so, if you use your own pressure supply, please check it and make sure it is powerful enough (8 bar, 10 L/min)</p> <p>If you use a jun-air compressor, please make sure that the compressore has been correctly setup (see appendix C).</p>
I hear noise/ weird sound in the controller and/or an air leak	It is likely that this comes from a too high pressure input ( > 10 bar) to the controller	<p>Reduce your input pressure, try again the system.</p> <p>Contact us if the error keeps on happening.</p>

## Synthesis module

Error	Cause	Solution
No liquid is coming out during a run	You pressure supply is not powerful enough or the chip is clogged	<p>Stop the run as soon as possible. There are 2 possible for it:</p> <p>The pressure is not fed with enough pressure, so please check your pressure input</p> <p>Your chip is clogged. If so, please change it. Please check your drain collector at the back of the Synthesis module and empty it if needed.</p>
My collected volume is lower than my target volume	Chip is partially/fully clogged. Note that error on the target volume can occur (+/-5%) without affecting the equipment's performances	<p>Carry out cleaning or change chip</p> <p>Work with lower concentration</p> <p>Work with filtered solution</p>
I hear some hissing noise in the Synthesis module	This means that there is some air leaks occurring.	<p>Check that the gasket has been correctly positionned</p> <p>Check the O-rings</p>

## X. Appendix

Please read these instructions carefully before starting to use TAMARA.

Information in this document is believed to be accurate and reliable. However, Inside Therapeutics does not give any representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of such information and shall have no liability for the consequences of use of such information. The manufacturer reserves the right to make changes to information published in this document, including without limitation specifications and product descriptions, at any time and without notice. This document supersedes and replaces all information supplied prior to the publication hereof. The manufacturer products are not designed, authorized or warranted to be suitable for use in applications where failure or malfunction can reasonably be expected to result in personal injury, death or severe property or environmental damage.

Use of the system in a manner not specified by Inside Therapeutics may impair the protection provided by the system.

### Appendix A: Health and safety instructions

#### General safety and environmental conditions



1. TAMARA system is intended for indoor use in a laboratory environment. It must be used on horizontal and vibration free surface in a clean and dry environment with up to 80% relative humidity and in a ventilated room.
2. The system is designed to be operated and stored in a +10°C to 40°C temperature range.
3. After use, always close the TAMARA Synthesis module's lid, and keep the air connexion tube connected to prevent any contaminants from entering the equipment.
4. Although the system is a safe for operation, we recommend using personal protective equipment when using it (mask, glasses, gloves, and lab coat).
5. Only Inside Therapeutics' trained personal is permitted to open the instrument
6. Do not smoke, nor eat or drink near the system, particularly when inflammable sample are at use.
7. Always close the TAMARA Synthesis module's lid when performing a run or a clean.

#### Fluidic safety



1. Only use the chips provided by Inside Therapeutics with the system
2. For the safety of the user and the instrument, do not use the instrument in connection with substances that may emit toxic or corrosive fumes, such as acids or alkalis.
3. No liquids should be in contact with the TAMARA controller. Avoid passing electrical cables through areas where the liquid can spill.
4. For best performance, allow TAMARA to warm up and stabilize for at least 15 minutes before starting any experiment.
5. Do not use TAMARA with explosive or corrosive gases or liquids, as this would put the user at risk and damage the instrument. Be careful to disconnect TAMARA quick-connect fittings correctly by pressing the outer ring while pulling out the element to disconnect (tubing or plug).
6. Always test a new sample or solvent for chemical compatibility before use. Only use solution compatible with the materials in contact with the liquids (COC and PEEK)..
7. After each formulation, scrupulously clean the system to remove any contaminants before making another formulation
8. Do not exceed the maximum volume indicated when filling the reservoir with liquid. Always maintain a minimum distance of 1cm between the liquid surface and the height of the reservoir.
9. Always handle substances in accordance with any local regulations concerning sample handling safety



## Electrical and pressure safety



1. Only use the provided 24V DC power supply. The power supply can be easily disconnected from the back of the device.
2. The ideal input pressure should be between 8 and 10 bar. Do not connect TAMARA to a pressure source greater than 10 bar.
3. TAMARA must be used exclusively with non-explosive, non corrosive neutral, dry, dust- and oil-free, and particle-filtered gases at a minimum particle size of 5µm this would put the user at risk and damage the instrument. . It cannot be used with pure oxygen or in any other fire-risk situation.
4. Use a particle/humidity filter between the pressure source and TAMARA. Please refer to ISO 8573-1, cl. 3 for detailed information.
5. For best performance, allow TAMARA to warm up and stabilize for at least 15 minutes before starting any experiment.
6. Be careful to disconnect TAMARA quick-connect fittings correctly by pressing the outer ring while pulling out the element to disconnect (tubing or plug).
7. Turn off or close your pressure source (gas cylinder) after each experiment because TAMARA remains in open state when turned off, leading to gas consumption.
8. Never open the Synthesis module's lid during operation (run or cleaning).

## Appendix B: COC/TOPAS chemical compatibility

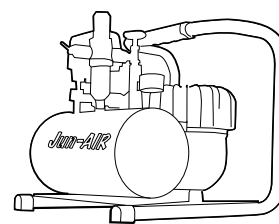
The chip provided with the system is made of COC/Topas. To ensure its chemical compatibility with the liquids used in the system, please use the following chart (for reference only):

pH < 7 (acidic/aqueous)	hydrochloric acid 36%	+
	sulfuric acid 40%	+
	nitric acid 65%	+
	acetic acid > 94%	+
pH = 7 (neutral/aqueous)	water	+
	aqueous solution of soap	+
	saline solution	+
pH > 7 (basic/aqueous)	sodium hydroxide 50%	+
	ammonia (aq. sol.) 35%	+
Polar organic solvents	ethanol, methanol, butanol, isopropanol (short chain alcohols)	+
	acetone, butanone (short chain ketones)	+
Aromatic solvents	benzaldehyde	○
	toluene	-
	benzene	-
	chlorinated solvents	-
Non-polar organic solvents	pentane, hexane, heptane etc. (alkanes)	-
	gasoline (petrol ether)	-
	norbornene	-
Other	oleic acid	-

More details on: <https://topas.com/tech-center/performance-data/chemical-resistance/>

## Appendix C: Jun-air compressor installation and maintenance

Refer to this section only if you have been provided with a Jun-Air compressor together with the system.



### Connecting the Jun-Air compressor to TAMARA

Replace the red cap (Fig 1.a) on the air intake tube with the intake filter in the plastic bag (Fig 1.b). **You need to push hard to put it in place.**



Fig 1 Jun-Air air intake filter installation

Add the module comprising a **particle/humidity filter with a pressure limiting knob** as depicted on Fig 2.a.

Add the **output pressure toggle switch** at the end of the particle/humidity filter (Fig 2.b).

You must use a wrench to tighten the filter and the toggle correctly.

Then connect a piece of **6 mm OD pneumatic tubing** from the **output pressure toggle switch** (Fig. 2.b) to your TAMARA device (Fig 2.c).



Fig 2a. Addition of the particle/humidity filter with the pressure limiting knob



Fig 2b. Addition of the toggle



Fig 2c. Regular compressor output mounting

**At this point, all pneumatic connections are in place.**

The following section will help you make sure that the compressed air delivered to TAMARA by the Jun-Air unit is at a constant and **adequate level of pressure**.

What' we're aiming for is a **constant pressure of no more than 10 bar** delivered constantly to the TAMARA, ideally at **1 bar above the operating pressure needed for the synthesis**.

## Setting up the Jun-Air unit to deliver adequate compressed air



Fig 3. Manometers and valves



Fig 4. Compressor's manometer indicating 10 bar

1. **Before setting up the Jun-Air unit, disconnect the output tubing from TAMARA.** We will need the compressed air output outlet to be able to vent in order to tune the pressure settings.
2. **Plug the Jun-Air unit into an electrical outlet, and switch it on by turning the output pressure toggle switch** on the pressure regulator cover (Fig 5.a).
3. The compressor will immediately start building pressure in the tank.
4. When the needle of the **air tank's manometer** (Fig 3.a) reaches **maximum cut-off pressure**, the compressor will shut off.
5. Now, gently **open the output toggle switch to vent** the air of the tank into the room.
6. Observe the needle on the air tank's manometer (Fig 3.a). When the tank's pressure drops below a certain level (**the minimum cut-in pressure**), the compressor will turn on and start building up pressure, up to the maximum cut-off pressure as before

**To ensure optimal TAMARA performance, the system should follow these conditions:**

- ▶ **The maximum cut-off pressure is at least 1.5 bar above the operating pressure** of your TAMARA (e.g. : if you need 8 bar for your synthesis, the maximum cut-off pressure should be at least 9.5 bar)
- ▶ **The minimum cut-in pressure is at least 1 bar above the operating pressure** of your TAMARA (e.g. : if you need 8 bar for your synthesis, the minimum cut-in pressure should be at least 9 bar)
- ▶ **The maximum cut-off pressure and minimum cut-in pressure can be as far apart as you like.** The **further apart**, the less often the compressor will be activated.

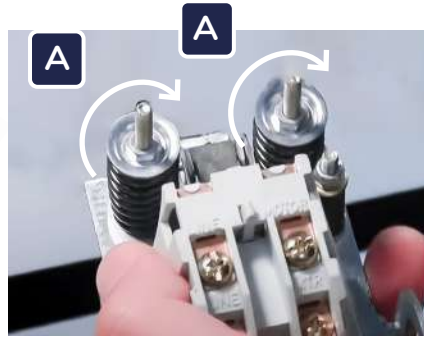
If you want to **tune** the **minimum cut-in pressure** or the **maximum cut-off pressure**, the following section will tell you how.

If the the minimum cut-in pressure and the maximum cut-off pressure are already correctly set up according to you, skip right to the next section ***Setting the pressure output limiter***

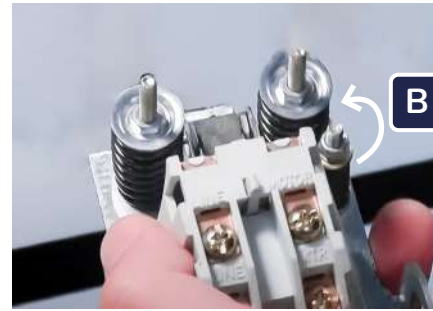
## Tuning the min and max pressure for the compressor.



**Fig 5.a.** Pressure regulator cover



**Fig 5.b.** Tightening these two nuts (A) will increase the minimum cut-in pressure



**Fig 5.c.** Tightening this nut (B) will increase the maximum cut-off pressure

The min and max pressures are set up by turning hexagonal nuts accessible by removing the pressure regulator cover (Fig. 5a). You will need a Phillips screwdriver to remove its screws.



**WARNING : This will expose the electrical leads powering the compressor.**

When manipulating the A and B nuts, always ensure that the electrical cable is unplugged, as touching the leads could electrocute you.

Before you plug the cable back in to test your setting, always put the cover (5.a) back on to avoid any accidental contact with the leads.

**The B nut** (Fig. 5c) sets the **maximum cut-off pressure**

- ▶ To increase it, screw the nut clockwise, loading the spring. You may set it as high as you want, but it's recommended to keep it under 10 bar for use with TAMARA.
- ▶ To decrease it, screw the nut anti-clockwise, de-loading the spring

**The A nuts** (Fig 5b) sets the **minimum cut-in pressure**

- ▶ To increase it, screw the nuts clockwise, loading the springs. Try to keep both nuts somewhat level, although it's not critical. The reason there are two of them is to allow for finer tuning.
- ▶ To decrease it, screw the nuts anti-clockwise, de-loading the springs

Once the minimum cut-in pressure and maximum cut-off pressure are set to satisfactory levels, screw the pressure regulator cover (5a) back.

The following section will explain how to perform the final setting, the output pressure limiter.

## Setting the output pressure limiter



**Fig 6.** Setting the Jun-Air compressor pressure pump **output value**.

1. Check that the toggle switch is closed (Fig 3.b)
2. Open the valve (Fig 6.a) Then pull the output pressure limiter knob upward (Fig 6.b) and turn it to adjust the output pressure displayed on the output manometer (Fig 6.c). **WARNING : Do not increase it beyond 10 bar for use with TAMARA, as it could overwhelm its built-in pressure limiter**
3. Then secure it again by pushing the knob back down
4. You may now open the output toggle switch (Fig 3.b) and connect it to TAMARA



## Jun-Air unit maintenance



**Before any of these maintenance operation, unplug the Jun-Air unit from its electrical outlet and empty the air tank.**

### Purge

A purge needs to be performed regularly. We advise you to do it once a week. When compressing air, humidity and oil can be trapped in the tank. The purge is necessary to remove it and clean the tank.

To purge the compressor, first close the toggle switch (Fig 3.b). Wait for the air compression to be completed and then turn off the air compressor.

Use a tank (it could be a bottle or a cup) and place it at the outlet of the purge valve (Fig 7.a). Open the valve and wait for all the air to come out. On its way out, it draws off water and oil, enabling the compressor to be cleaned.

This process should be repeated until no more liquid gets out.

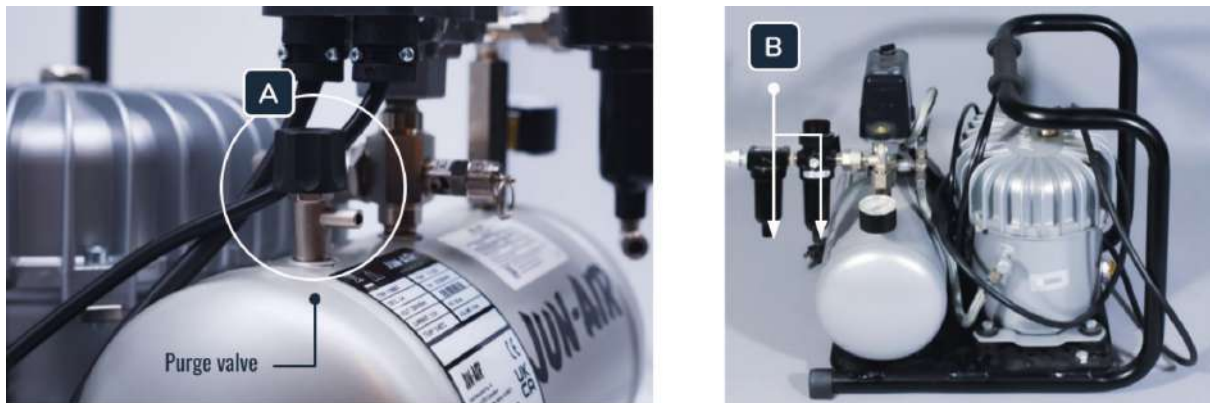


Fig 7. Compressor maintenance

### Air filters

The compressor filters (5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 0.01  $\mu\text{m}$ , Fig 7.b) should be checked regularly and replaced if needed.

### Oil level

The air compressor is shipped with the right oil level and with a spare oil bottle.

You should check the oil level regularly and add oil if necessary. The oil level should be between minimum and maximum values (Fig 8).



Fig 8. Oil level







Carrying **care** with **precision**

**Inside Therapeutics**

Cité Numérique, Batiment B5  
2 rue Marc Sangnier  
33130 Bègles, France

[insidetx.com](https://insidetx.com)

[contact@insidetx.com](mailto:contact@insidetx.com)

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