

Claims

1. A device for handling samples that are located in sample wells of a sample vessel and contain magnetically responsive particles, the device comprising a sample handling area where the samples can be processed, and a plurality of probes that are insertable into the sample wells for removing magnetically responsive particles from the sample wells or for inserting magnetically responsive particles into the sample wells, wherein the device comprises a display which is located underneath the sample handling area.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is configured to show on the display information instructing a user of the device.
3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the device is configured to indicate on the display when a sample vessel can be loaded into the device.
4. A device according to any of claims 1–3, wherein the device is configured to indicate on the display when a sample vessel can be removed from the device.
5. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device is configured to indicate on the display that the sample vessel is/is not correct for a selected sample handling process.
6. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device is configured to instruct on the display how to load a sample vessel into the device.
7. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device is configured to identify on the display a sample vessel or sample wells requiring a specific action from a user of the device.
8. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the device comprises a barcode or a QR-code reader or an RFID tag reader for reading information from a code or tag located in a sample vessel, and the device is configured to show on the display information based on the read code or tag.
9. A device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sample handling area comprises at least two predetermined sample handling locations, and the display is located underneath one of the predetermined sample handling locations.

10. A device according to claim 9, wherein the device comprises a rotatable platform for moving a sample vessel between the sample handling locations.

11. A device according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the display is located underneath a sample handling location which is configured to allow loading of a sample vessel into the device and/or removing a sample vessel from the device.

12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the display is configured to be visible to a user of the device while the sample vessel is being loaded into the device and/or removed from the device.

13. A method of operating a device according to any of the preceding claims, the method comprising the steps of

- indicating on the display that the device is ready for a user action or for a selection or input by a user,
- waiting for the user action, selection or input,
- determining whether the correct action has been accomplished or asking for confirmation of the selection or input, and
- in case of a correct action or confirmed selection or input, proceeding to a following step of operation.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein a wrong action or a cancelled selection or input is indicated on the display.