CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a reagent cartridge comprising a well;

a reagent disposed within the well; and

a floating lid disposed in the well on a top surface of the reagent, the floating lid covering a majority of the top surface of the reagent.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a top surface of the floating lid is convex.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the floating lid comprises a first plurality of protrusions located at positions around a circumference of the floating lid and extending from a bottom surface of the floating lid.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the floating lid comprises a second plurality of protrusions located at positions around the circumference of the floating lid and extending from a top surface of the floating lid.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first plurality of protrusions are axially aligned with the second plurality of protrusions.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the floating lid comprises at least one aperture formed through the floating lid and configured to receive at least one of a sipper, a wash tube, and/or an additional reagent container.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reagent cartridge comprises a plurality of side walls and an end wall that form the well, the apparatus comprising:

a post having an outer shape, the post configured to be positioned with the well generally parallel to the side walls;

wherein the floating lid includes a guide aperture having a shape generally the same as the outer shape of the post; and

the floating lid is disposed in the well with the post extending through the guide aperture.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, comprising a support positioned at an end of the post, the support having at least two legs extending towards and to respective side walls.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the post and the support form an integral, one-piece unit.

10. A reagent cartridge, comprising:

a main body comprising an end wall and a plurality of side walls extending from the end wall, the end wall and the plurality of side walls forming a plurality of wells;

an opening extending through the end wall and into one well of the plurality of wells;

a floating lid disposed in the one well of the plurality of wells; and

a cover positioned on the main body and covering at least a portion of the plurality of wells.

11. The reagent cartridge of claim 10, comprising a reagent disposed within the one well of the plurality of wells, wherein the floating lid is disposed on a top surface of the reagent and covers a majority of the top surface of the reagent.

12. The reagent cartridge of claim 10, wherein a top surface of the floating lid is convex.

13. The reagent cartridge of claim 10, wherein the floating lid comprises a first plurality of protrusions located at positions around a circumference of the floating lid and extending from a bottom surface of the floating lid.

14. The reagent cartridge of claim 13, wherein the floating lid comprises a second plurality of protrusions located at positions around the circumference of the floating lid and extending from a top surface of the floating lid.

15. The reagent cartridge of claim 14, wherein the first plurality of protrusions are axially aligned with the second plurality of protrusions.

16. The reagent cartridge of claim 10, comprising:

a post having an outer shape, the post configured to be positioned with the one well of the plurality of wells generally parallel to the side walls;

wherein the floating lid includes a guide aperture having a shape generally the same as the outer shape of the post; and

the floating lid is disposed in the well with the post extending through the guide aperture.

17. The reagent cartridge of claim 16, comprising a support positioned at an end of the post, the support having at least two legs extending towards and to respective side walls.

18. The reagent cartridge of claim 17, wherein the post and the support form an integral, one-piece unit.

19. An apparatus, comprising:

a body, comprising;

a plurality of side walls and a bottom surface that form a reagent reservoir, wherein the bottom surface comprises a port; and

a lid movably disposed in the reagent reservoir and comprising protrusions that extend toward the bottom surface,

wherein the protrusions are to engage the bottom surface to deter the lid from inhibiting fluid flow through the port.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising reagent disposed in the reagent reservoir.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reagent comprises liquid reagent.

22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reagent reservoir has an opening, further comprising a liquid impermeable barrier covering the opening of the reagent reservoir.