

XRD Training Notebook

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Materials Science and Engineering
University of California, Riverside

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Before you begin...

- Complete the required safety training modules on UC Learning
 - Laboratory Safety Orientation (Fundamentals) 2013
 - Hazardous Waste Management
 - X-Ray Safety
 - Compressed Gas Safety
- Submit a copy of your Training Transcript to Lab Manager
- Review the MSE XRD Policies and Regulations
- Fill out the XRD FAU Authorization Form with PI signature
- Receive a user name and temporary password for Faces scheduling
- Arrange a time for XRD training with Lab Manager
- Schedule a 2 hour block on Faces for your training
- Receive a Data Collector password

XRD Operation

- I. Initiate Software
- II. Sample Preparation
- III. Membrane Holders
- IV. Irregular Holders
- V. Round Holders
- VI. Sample Loading
- VII. XRD Cabinet
- VIII. X-Ray Settings
- IX. New Measurement Program
- X. Editing Measurement Program
- XI. Start Measurement
- XII. Data Viewing and Exporting
- XIII. Data Analysis
- XIV. Sample Unloading
- XV. Cleanup
- XVI. Troubleshoot

I. Initiate Software – 1/1

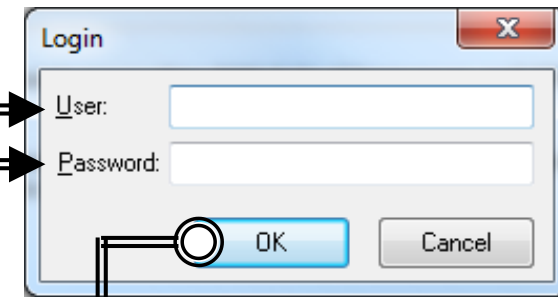
1. Record your time-in on the sign-in sheet



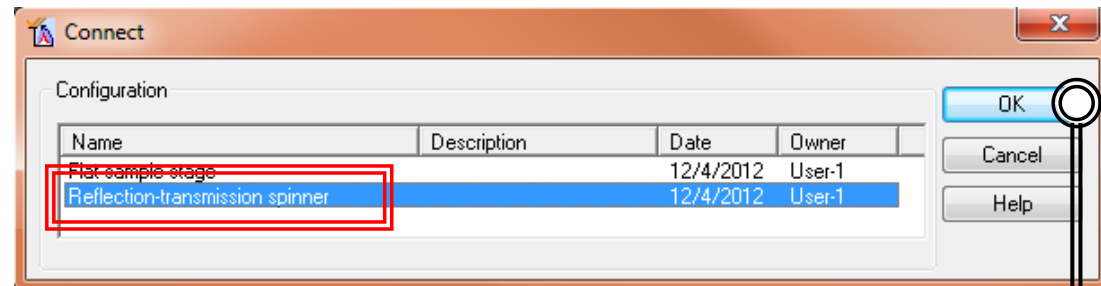
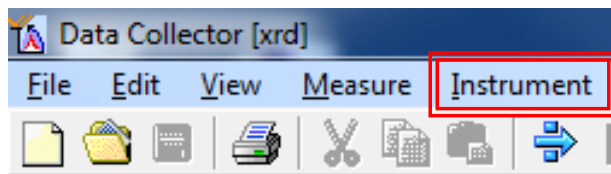
2. Double left-click on the *Data Collector icon*



3. Enter User Login = *<Faces Username>* and Data Collector Password = *<Given by Lab Manager>* and click on **OK**

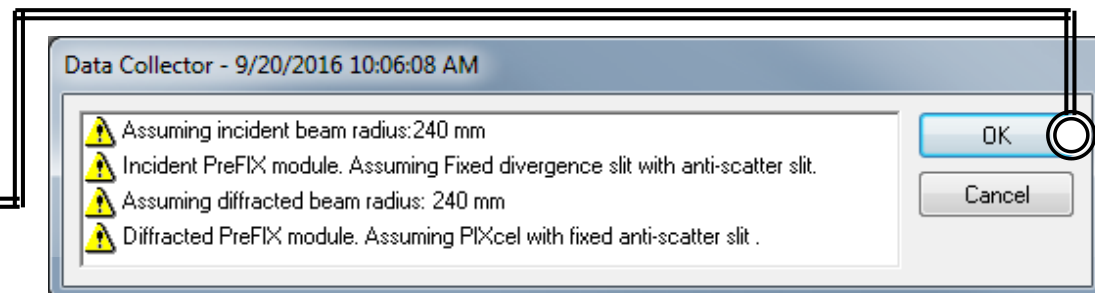


4. Select *Instrument* → *Connect*



5. Select *Reflection-Transmission Spinner* and click **OK**

6. A dialogue box will appear, just click **OK**



II. Sample Preparation – 1/2

1. The sample holder and preparation will vary depending on your sample
2. Three types of sample holders are available for use are located in the storage container

3. **CLEAN UP AFTER EACH USE AND WIPE DOWN!**



Membrane A



Membrane B



Membrane C



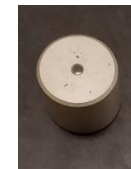
Irregular



Miscellaneous Tools

Tweezers
Scissors

Press



Round A



Round B



Round C



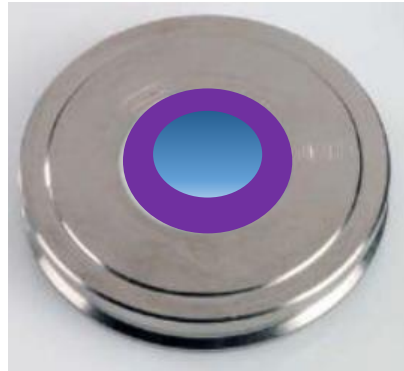
II. Sample Preparation – 2/2

4. It is important to always have the top of your sample at the **SAME** height as the top of your sample holder (**no exception!**)
5. If your sample is not at the same height as your sample holder, the peaks obtained will be incorrectly shifted away from correct positions!

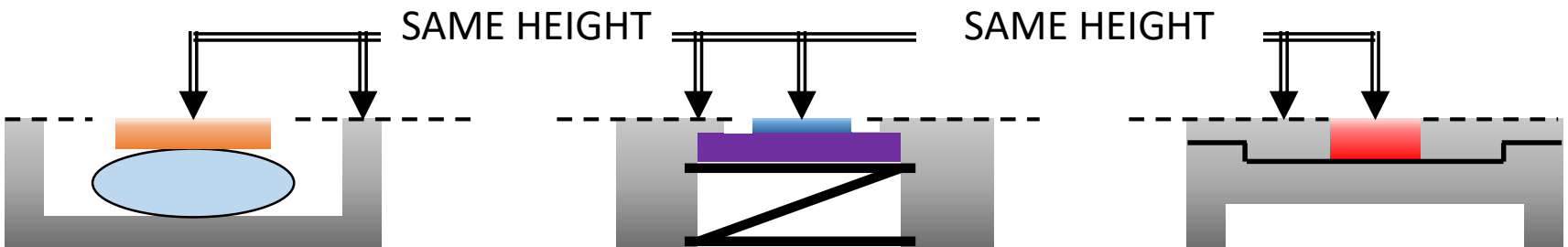
Irregular



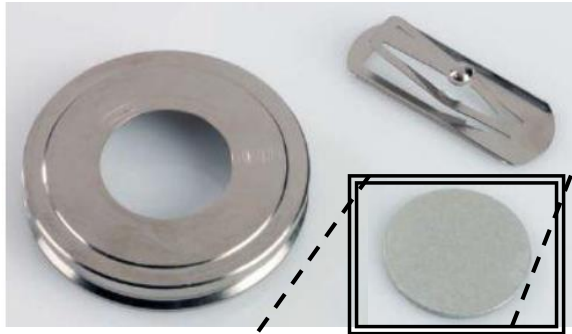
Membrane



Round



III. Membrane Holders – 1/1



1. This holder is designed for mounting:
 - dust filters
 - sample mounting plates
 - metal plates
 - pressed pellets
 - silicon substrates
2. Requires a support plate (Diameter = 32 mm)
 - Aluminum support provided (will have background Al peaks)
 - Recommend Si Zero Background Plate
 - These need to be provided by users

MTI Corp: [Zero Diffraction Plate 32 mm Dia. x 2.0 mm t, Si Crystal for XRD sample \(\\$150\)](#)

MTI Corp: [Zero Diffraction Plate with Cavity for XRD sample: 32 Dia x 2.0 t mm with Cavity 10 ID x 0.2 mm, Si Crystal \(\\$199\)](#)

Warning: X-ray beam shall be 5 mm dia or less (current installed beam mask is 10 mm) and hit in the center of sample when you use cavity zero diffraction plate! Otherwise the edge may result in a peak. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!



IV. Irregular Holders – 1/1



1. This holder can be used to analyze solid samples with:

- Maximum diameter = 45 mm
- Maximum thickness = 6.5 mm

2. The sample can be mounted with clay available from Storehouse:

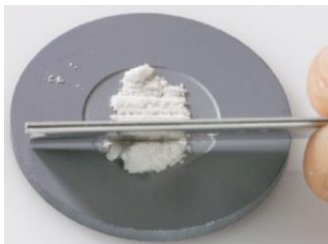
- Storehouse Description: [SARGENT ART 22-4096 1LB MODELING CLAY, WHITE \(Stock #: 48702-108\)](#)



3. Recommend using a glass slide or Si zero background plate as support for your sample on top of clay



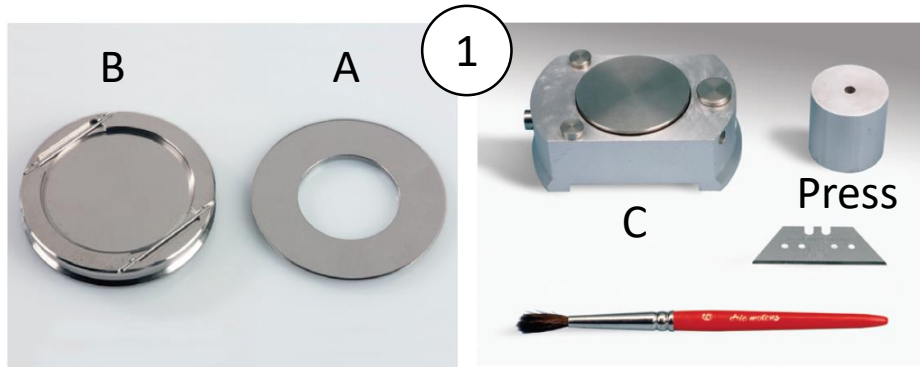
MTI Corp: [Zero Diffraction Plate 32 mm Dia. x 2.0 mm t, Si Crystal for XRD sample \(\\$150\)](#)



MTI Corp: [Zero Diffraction Plate with Cavity for XRD sample: 32 Dia x 2.0 t mm with Cavity 10 ID x 0.2 mm, Si Crystal \(\\$199\)](#)

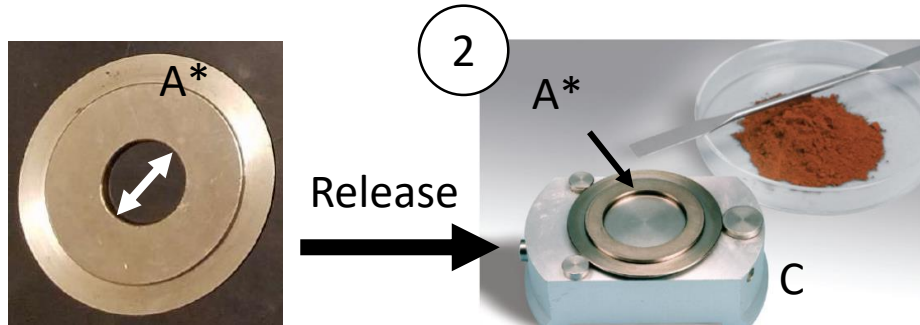
Warning: X-ray beam shall be 5 mm dia or less (current installed beam mask is 10 mm) and hit in the center of sample when you use cavity zero diffraction plate! Otherwise the edge may result in a peak. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

V. Round Holders – 1/2



1. Assemble the items for powder samples (user provides razor and brush)

REMEMBER TO CLEAN ALL SURFACES FIRST BEFORE USING!

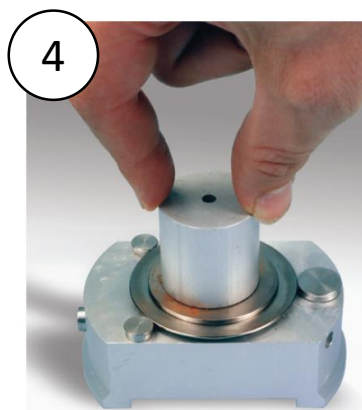


2. Invert A to get A*. Place on top of C and push the release to have it sit into place.

Diameter = 16 mm

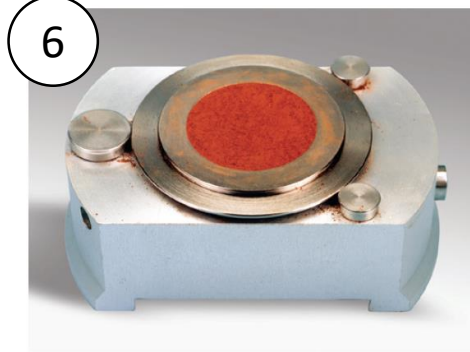


3. Spread the powder into the cavity using a spatula but do not pack or compress.



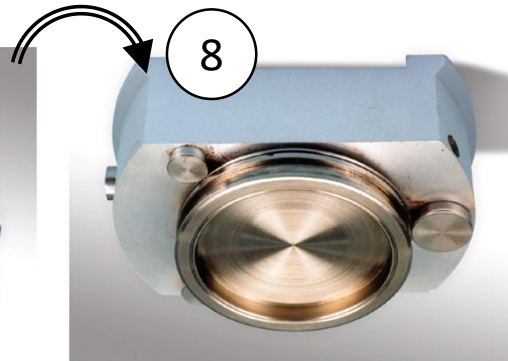
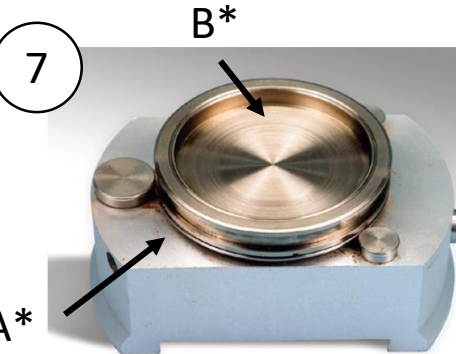
4. Press powder with Aluminum press

V. Round Holders – 2/2



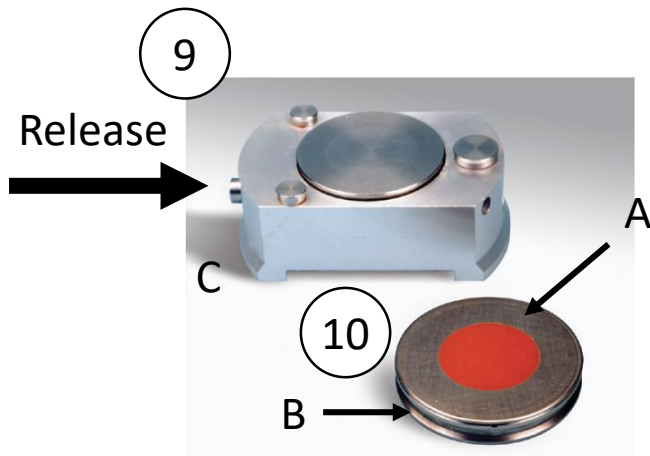
5. Remove excess powder with a straight edge or side of microscope slide

DO NOT SCRATCH TOP SURFACE!



6. Clean mating surfaces with small brush or provided kim wipe
7. Invert B to get B* and snap on top of A*

8. Flip entire assembly



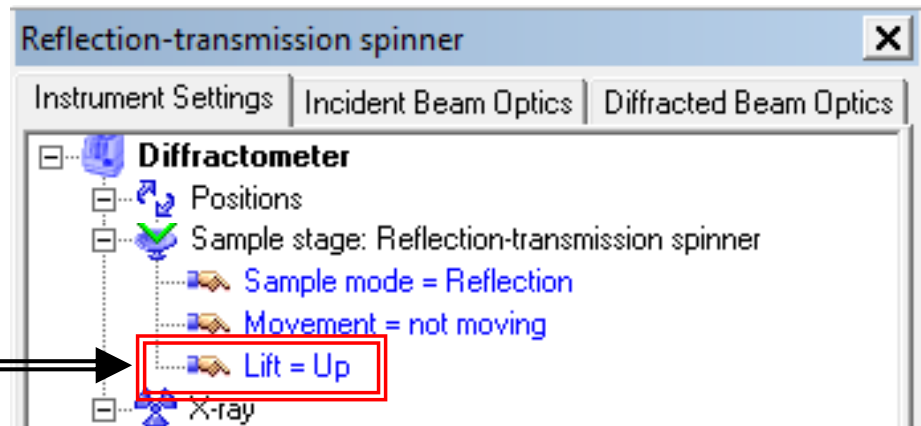
9. Push the release to remove the sample holder (A + B) from C

10. The surface of your sample should be smooth via back-filling approach

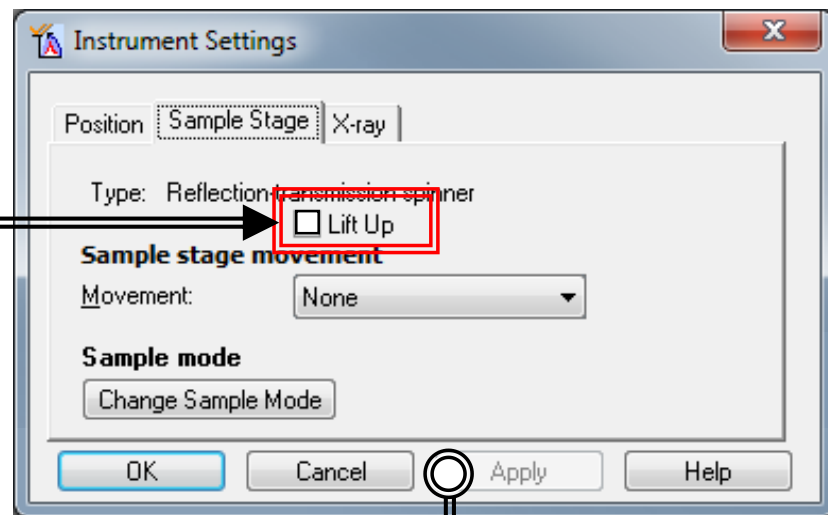
10. The surface of your sample should be smooth via back-filling approach

VI. Sample Loading – 1/4

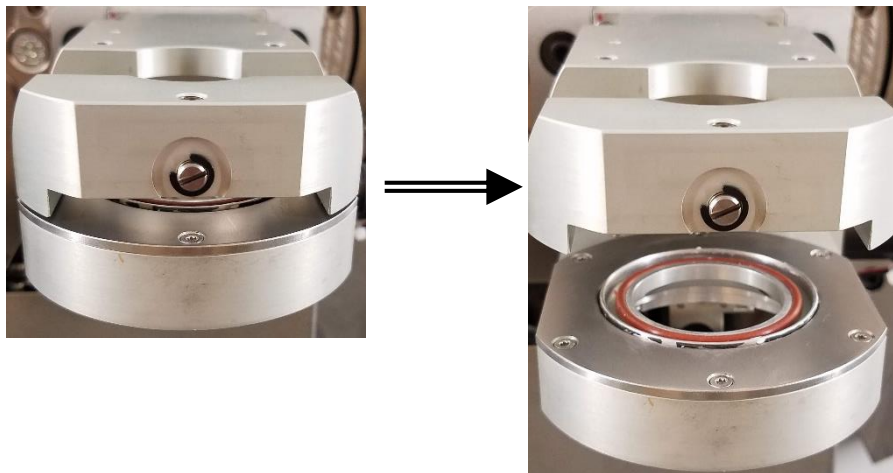
1. Double-click on “*Lift = Up*”



2. **Uncheck** the “*Lift Up*” option and click **Apply**

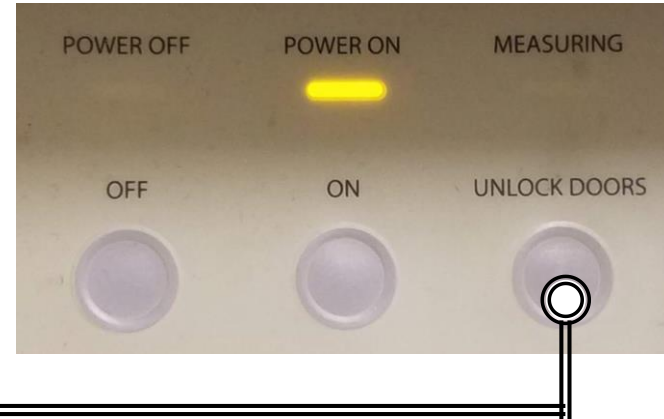


3. The stage will now drop down



VI. Sample Loading – 2/4

4. Press “**UNLOCK DOORS**” on cabinet



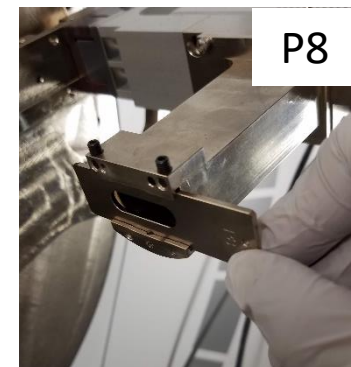
5. Open doors by pulling on the handles at the ends for better leverage



6. Inspect and check if desired slits are installed

• **Standard Slits** are default:

- Inc Div $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$
- Inc Ant 1°
- Dif Ant **P8**



VI. Sample Loading – 3/4

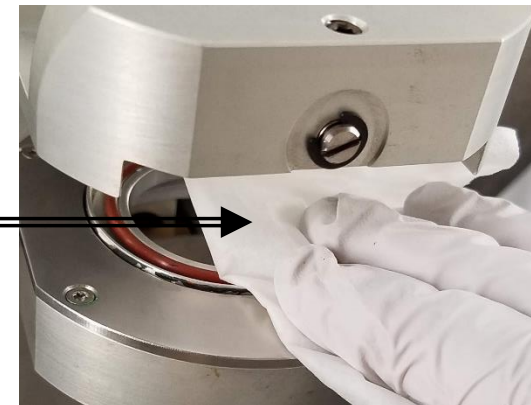
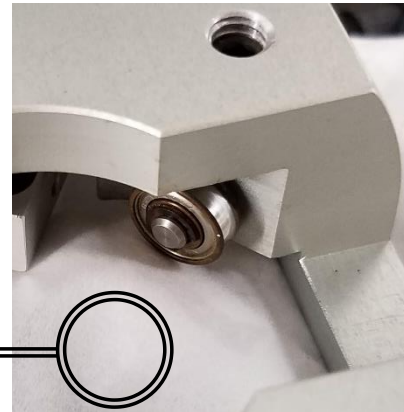
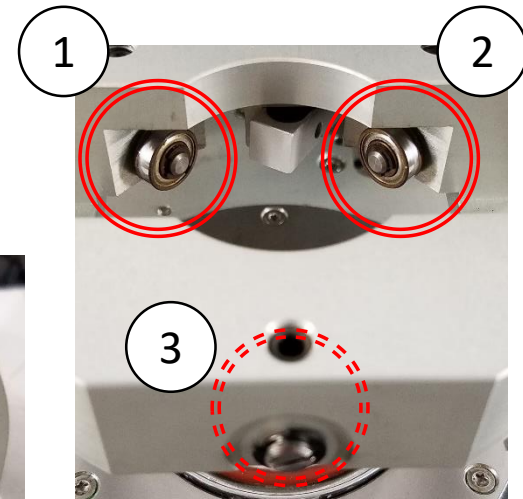
7. Inspect **Stage** for any residual sample left stuck on **3 Spinner Bearings** from previous user

8. Take **Kimwipe** with **IPA** and carefully wipe all **3 Spinner Bearings**

9. Use fresh area on **Kimwipe** to remove residual sample

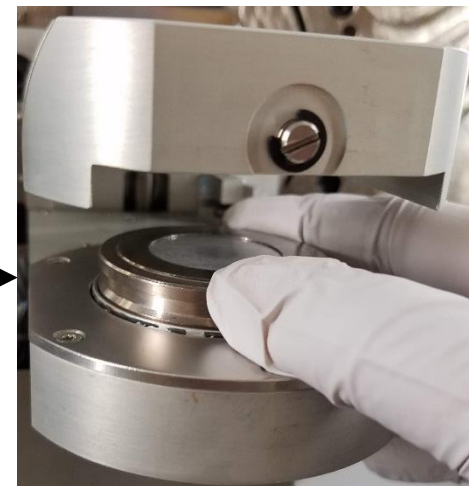
10. Fold, and use fresh area of **Kimwipe** to wipe down the base of the **Stage**

11. If necessary, use provided **Air Duster** to dry and remove any remaining dust on **Stage**



VI. Sample Loading – 4/4

12. Carefully insert **Sample Holder** into **Stage**

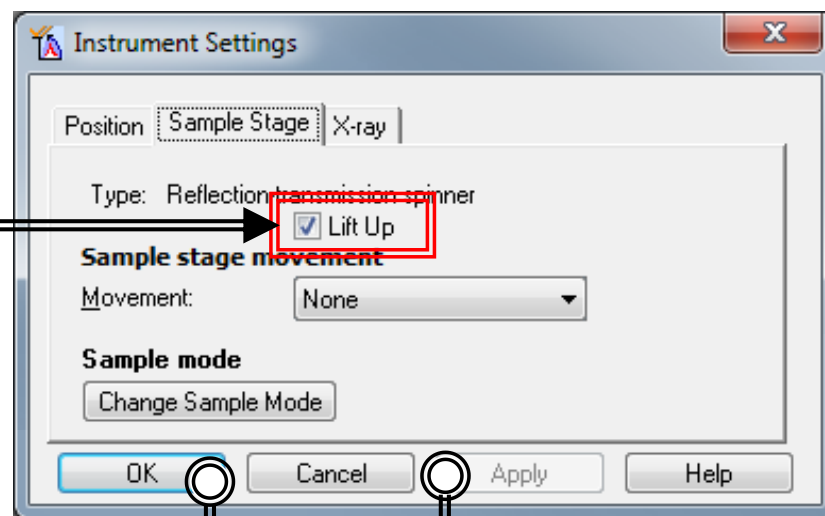


13. Confirm **Sample Holder** is properly seated into **Stage**

14. Close doors of cabinet



15. Check the “**Lift Up**” option and click **Apply**

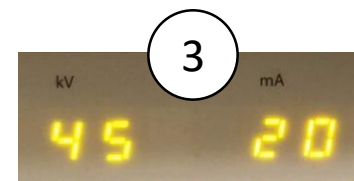
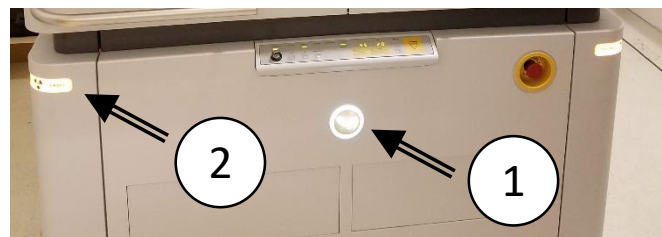


16. Click **OK**

VII. XRD Cabinet – 1/5

1. Always remember to check 3 indicators that XRD is **OK**

- **White Power Light** is **On**
- **X-Rays On Light** is **On**
- **X-Ray** settings are **45 kV** and **20 mA**



Note: If above 3 indicators are missing, contact Lab Manager

Safety Key:
ON Position



X-Rays On
Indicator

Power Off
Button

Power On
Button

Unlock Doors
Button

X-Rays Setting



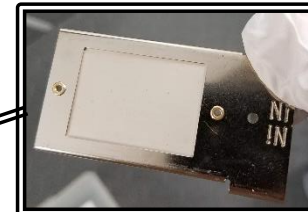
Lights On Button

VII. XRD Cabinet – 2/5

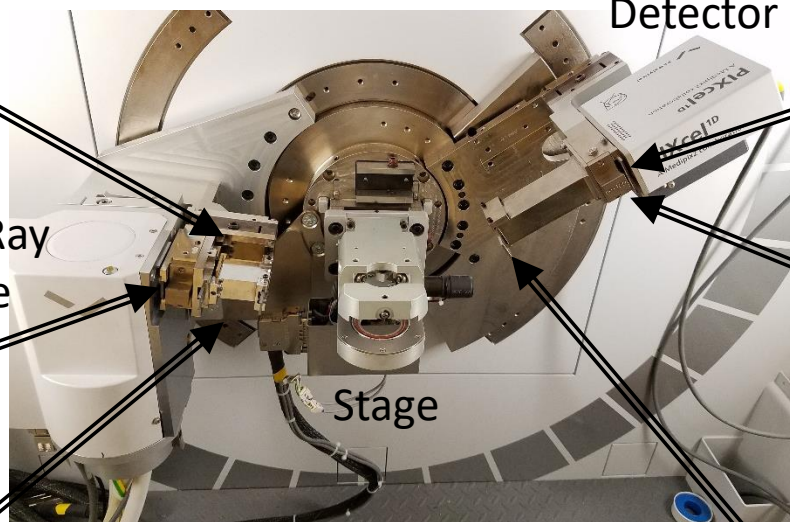
10 mm Beam Mask



Ni Beta Filter



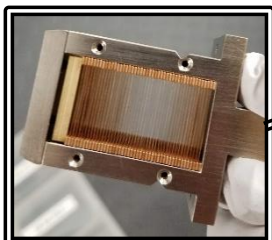
Detector



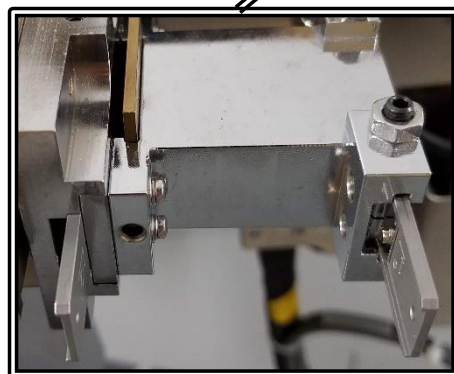
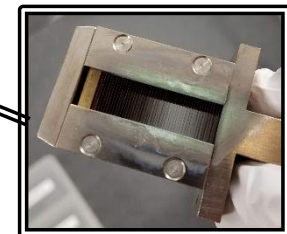
Cu X-Ray Tube

Stage

Soller Slit



Soller Slit

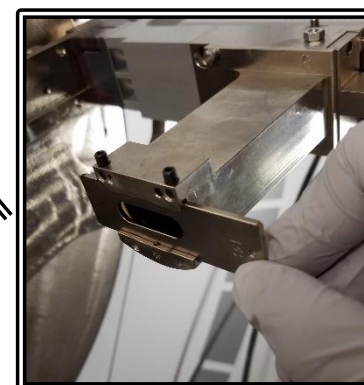


Incident Divergent Slit

Incident Anti-scatter Slit



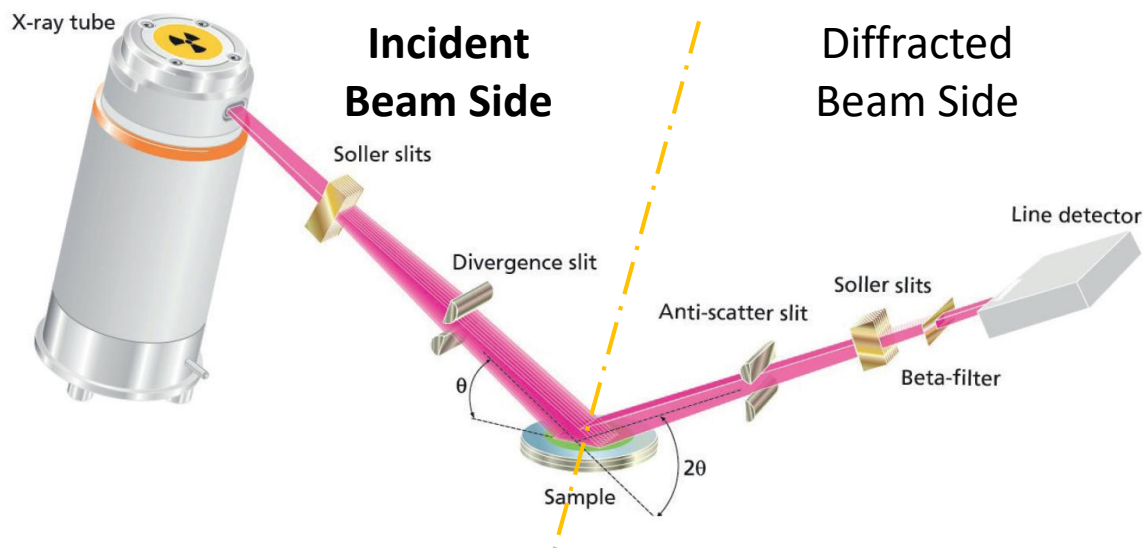
Slits Storage Box



Diffracted Anti-scatter Slit

VII. XRD Cabinet – 3/5

The following table describes the components for the **Incident Beam Side**

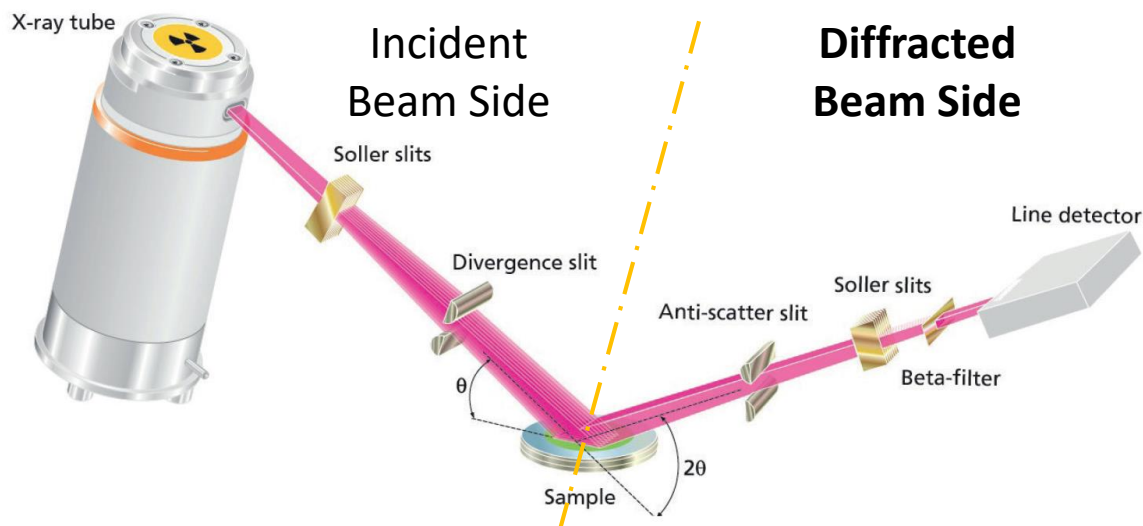


Incident Beam Side

| Component Name | Function or Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| Soller Slit | Prevents axial divergence and improves peak shape and symmetry |
| Divergence Slit | Controls the irradiated length of the X-Ray beam on the sample. Slit size depends on sample size and starting scan angle. |
| Incident Anti-scatter Slit | Reduces X-Ray beam scatter and reduces background. Typically double the selection of the divergent slit. |
| Beam Mask (not pictured) | Controls axial width of the X-Ray beam. Match to sample size. |

VII. XRD Cabinet – 4/5

The following table describes the components for the **Diffracted Beam Side**



Diffracted Beam Side

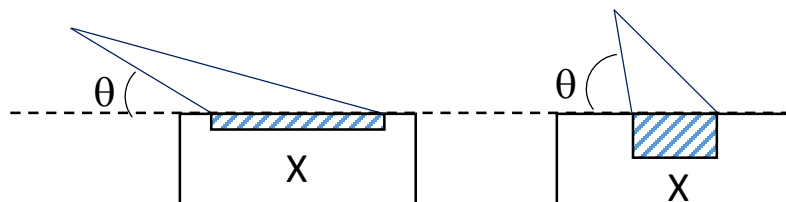
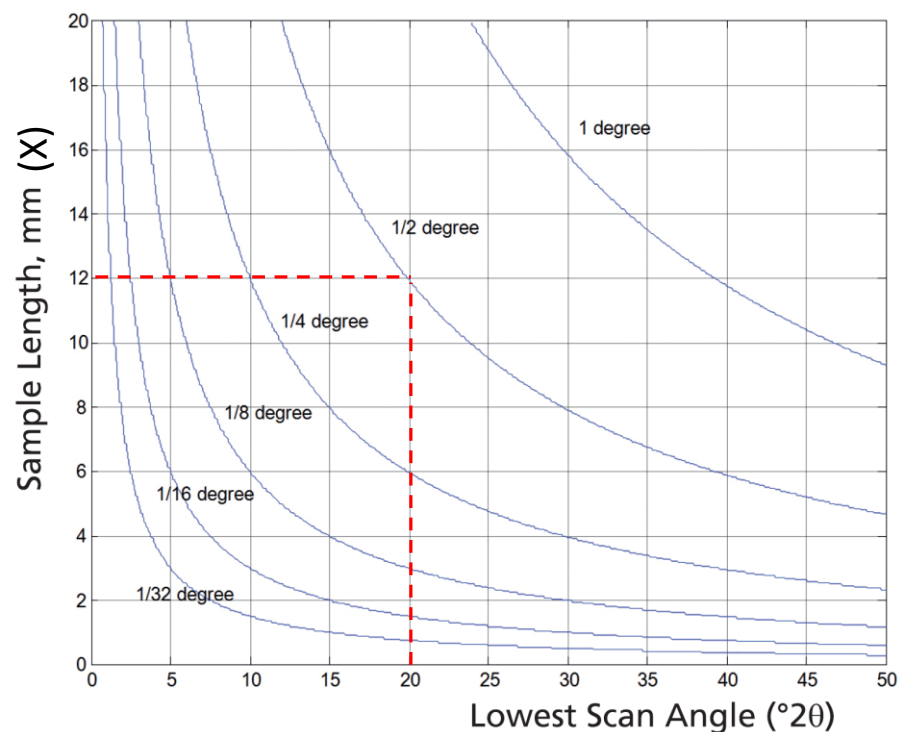
| Component Name | Function or Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| Receiving Slit | Controls the resolution of the instrument, common setting is 0.1 mm. |
| Soller Slit | Match with incident selection, typically 0.04 radians. |
| Diffracted Anti-scatter Slit | Match to the selection of the Divergent Slit. |
| Beta-filter | Used to remove beta radiation. |
| Detector | PIXcel 1D |

VII. XRD Cabinet – 5/5

Standard Slit Configuration = $1/2^\circ$, 1° , 8 mm

Effects of Low Scan Angles:
Irradiated Sample Length X vs. $^\circ 2\theta$

(Ex: $^\circ 2\theta = 20^\circ$ with ID $1/2^\circ \Rightarrow X = 12$ mm)



| Slit Configurations | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Incident Beam Side | | Diffracted Beam Side |
| Incident Divergence | Incident Anti-scatter | Diffracted Anti-scatter |
| ID 4° | IA 8° | P15.4 |
| ID 2° | IA 4° | P11.2 |
| ID 1° | IA 2° | P9.1 |
| ID $1/2^\circ$ | IA 1° | P8.0 |
| ID $1/4^\circ$ | IA $1/2^\circ$ | P7.5 |
| ID $1/8^\circ$ | IA $1/4^\circ$ | P7.5 |

Decreasing Slit Size

Choose smaller slit sizes for removing background intensity at low angles

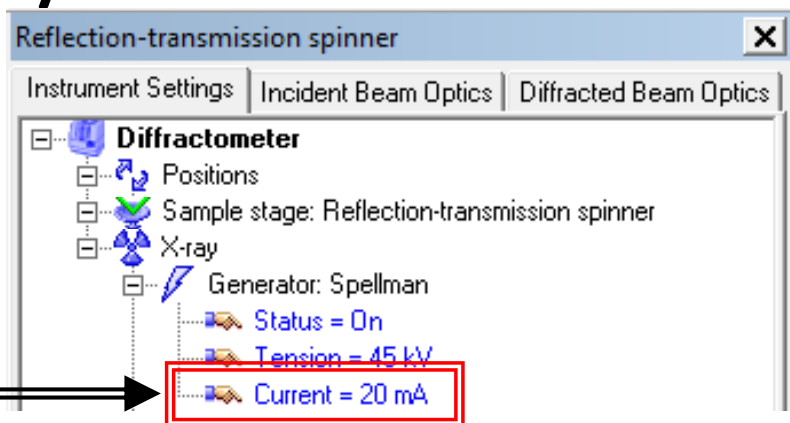
VIII. X-Ray Settings – 1/1

1. Double-click on the “**Current = 20 mA**”

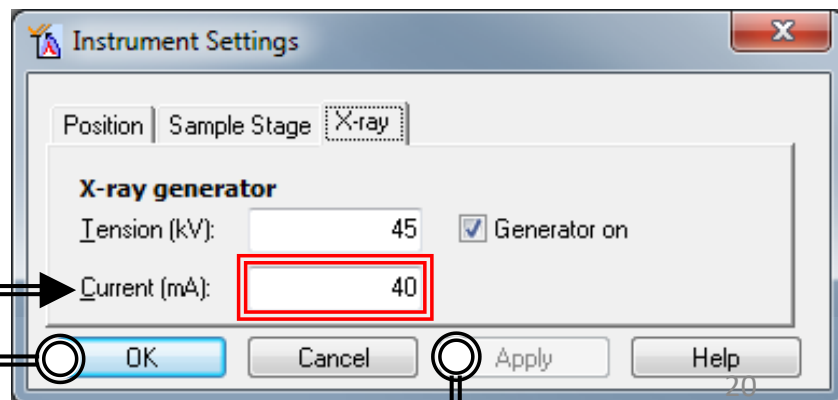
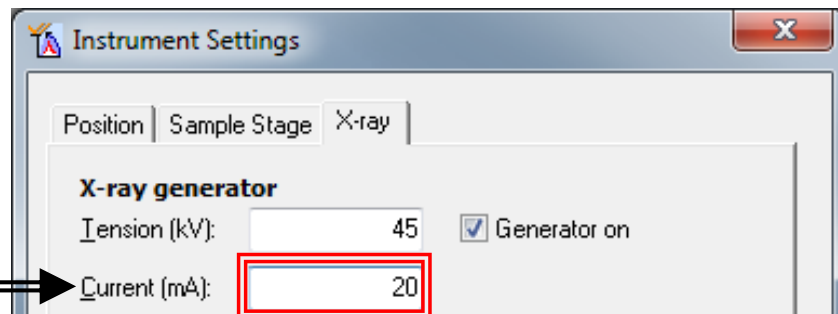
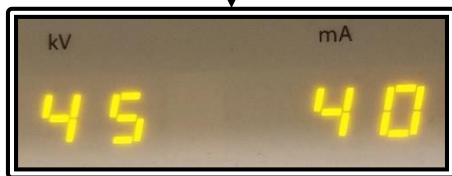
2. Tension should be kept at **45 kV**

Current = 20 mA when not in use

Current = 40 mA for experiments



3. Change current to **40 mA** for actual experiments

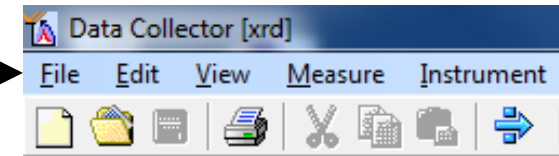


4. Click **Apply**, then **OK**

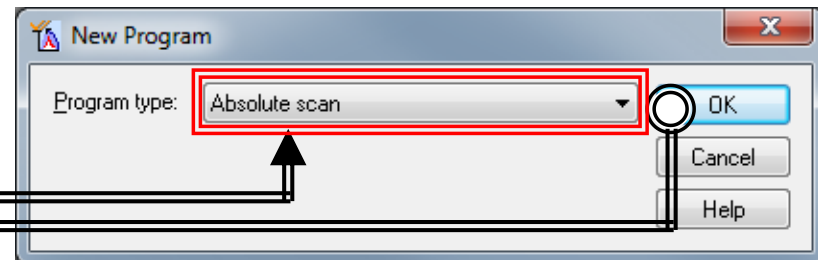
IX. New Measurement Program – 1/7

Note: **SKIP** to **X. Editing Measurement Program** if you already have a program

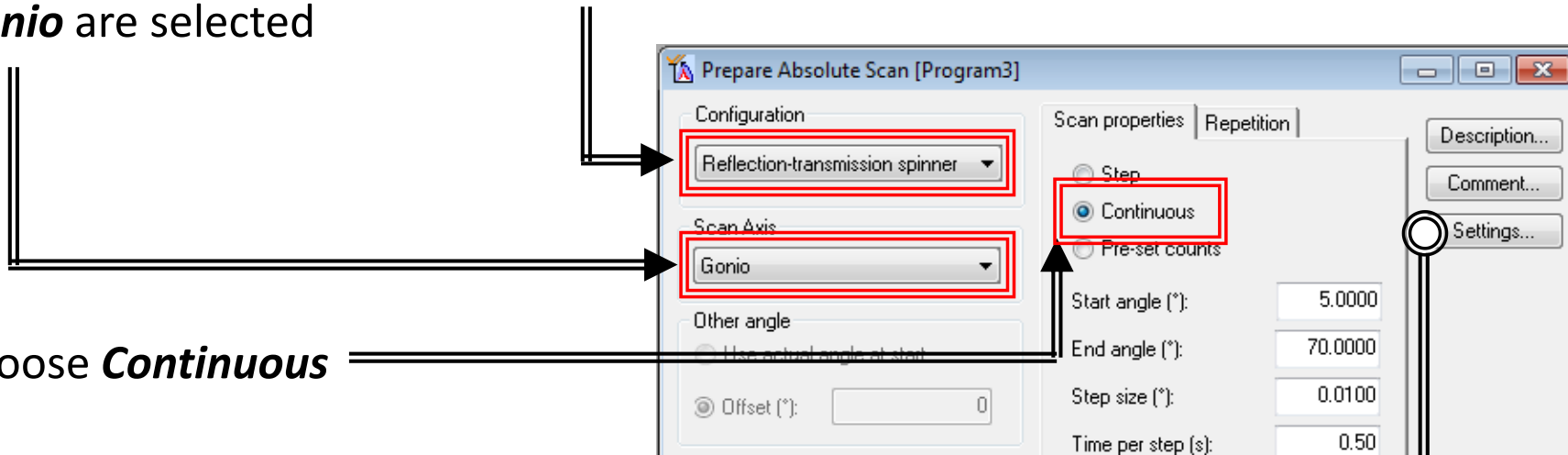
1. Click **File** and choose **New Program** to create a new program (required for training)



2. Choose **Absolute Scan**, click **OK**



3. Confirm **Reflection-transmission spinner** and **Gonio** are selected



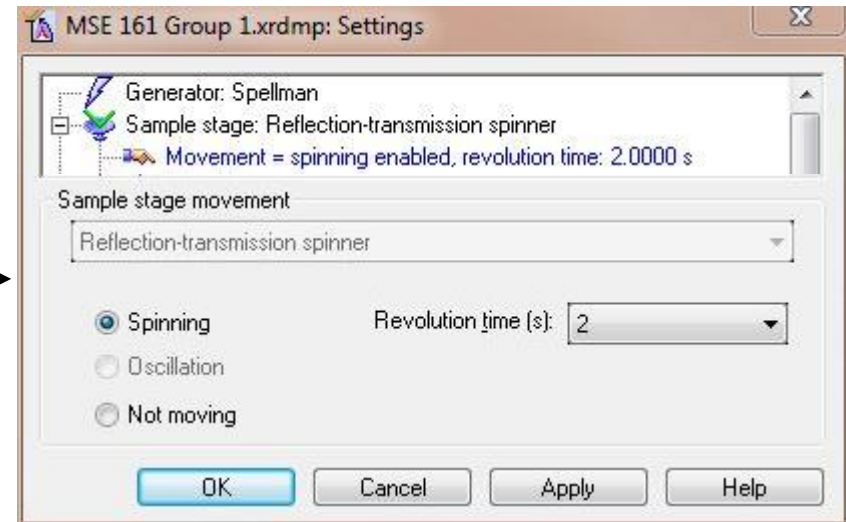
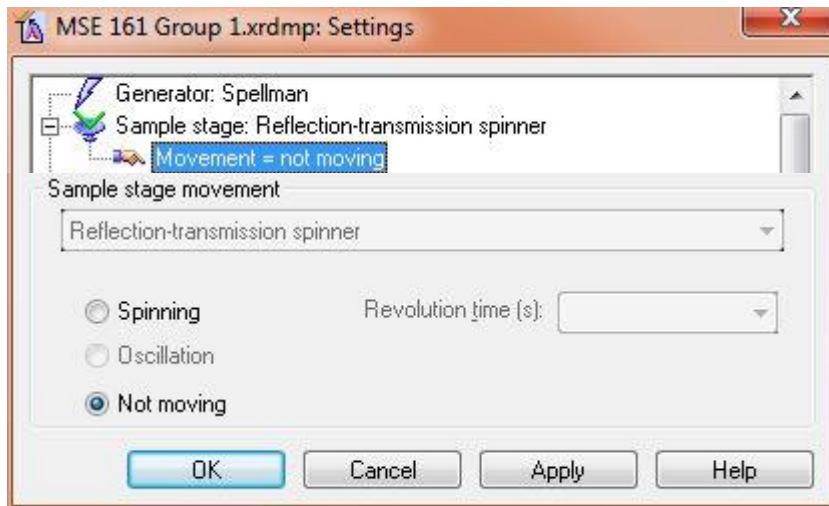
4. Choose **Continuous**

5. Click **Settings**

IX. New Measurement Program – 2/7

6. Click *Movement*

- Set to *Spinning Enabled* (recommended)
 - Set *Revolution Time = 2 seconds*
- Set to *Not moving* if homogeneity is not an issue but sample ejection is



7. The default settings show “*Actual*” (meaningless) for all entries

IX. New Measurement Program – 3/7

8. Set the following *Incident beam path* entries as follows:

PreFIX module: *Fixed divergence slit with anti-scatter slit*

Soller slit: *Soller slits 0.04 rad*

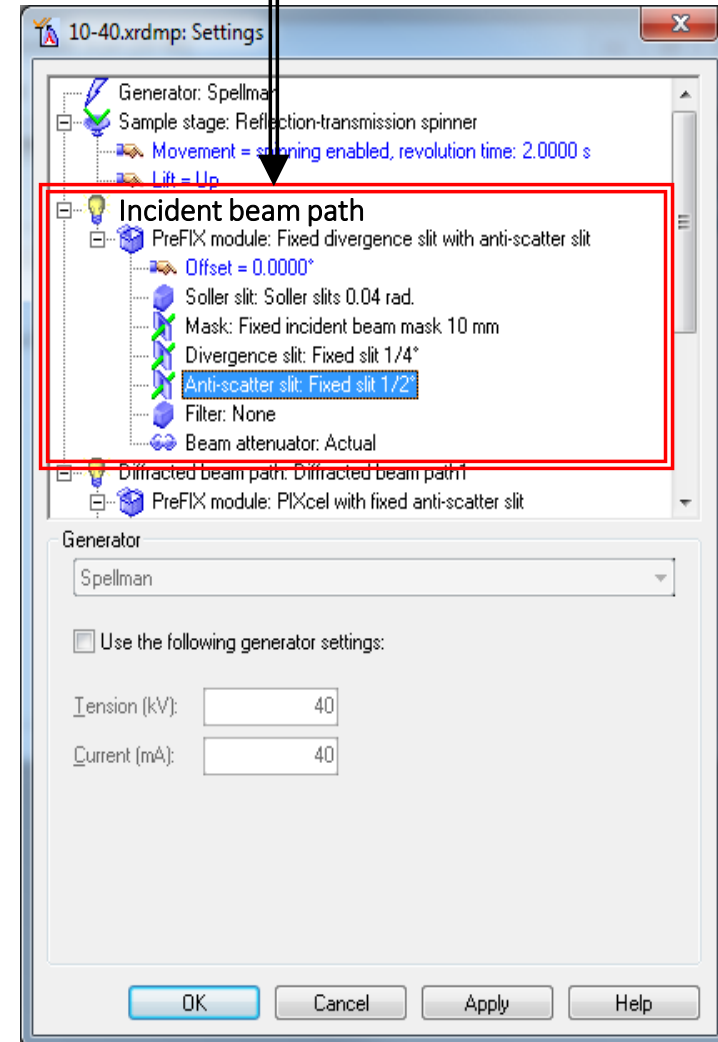
Mask: *Fixed incident beam mask 10 mm*

Filter: *None*

Beam attenuator: *None*

Divergence slit: *<Enter what you're using>*;
if *Standard Slits* then *Fixed slit 1/2°*

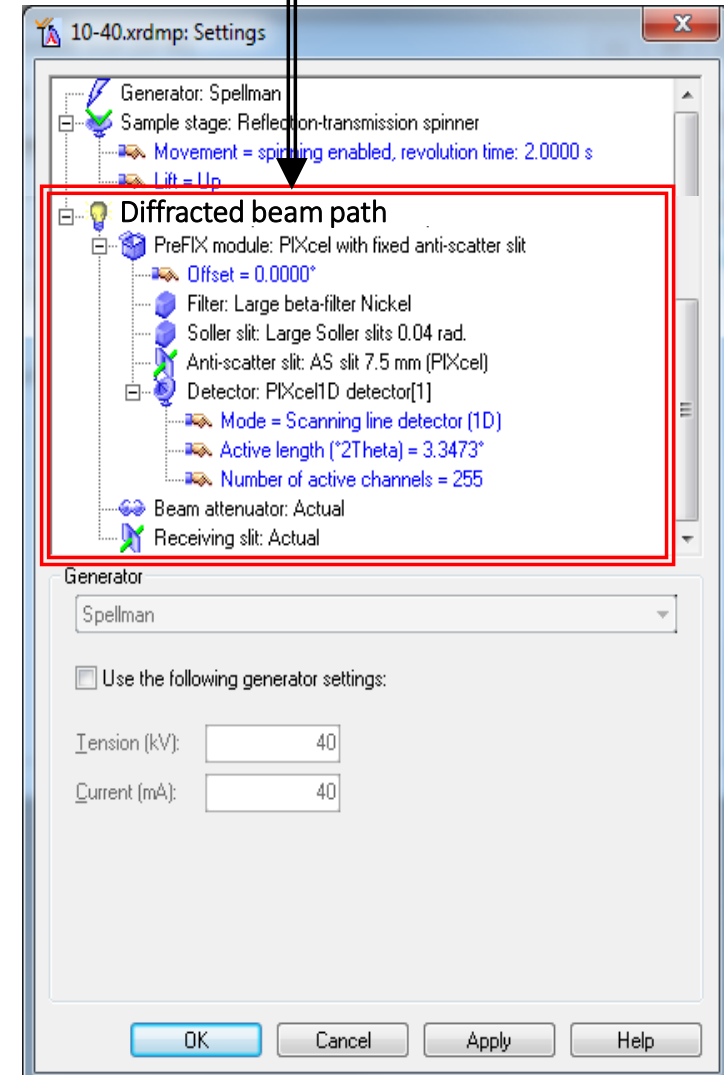
Anti-scatter slit: *<Enter what you're using>*;
if *Standard Slits* then *Fixed slit 1°*



IX. New Measurement Program – 4/7

9. Repeat for the ***Diffracted beam path*** entries as follows:

- PreFIX module: ***PIXcel with fixed anti-scatter slit***
- Filter: ***Large beta-filter Nickel***
- Soller slit: ***Large soller slits 0.04 rad***
- Detector: ***PIXcel1D detector[1]***
- Beam attenuator: ***None***
- Receiving slit: ***None***
- Anti-scatter slit: ***<Enter what you're using>***;
if ***Standard Slits*** then ***AS slit 8.0mm (PIXcel)***



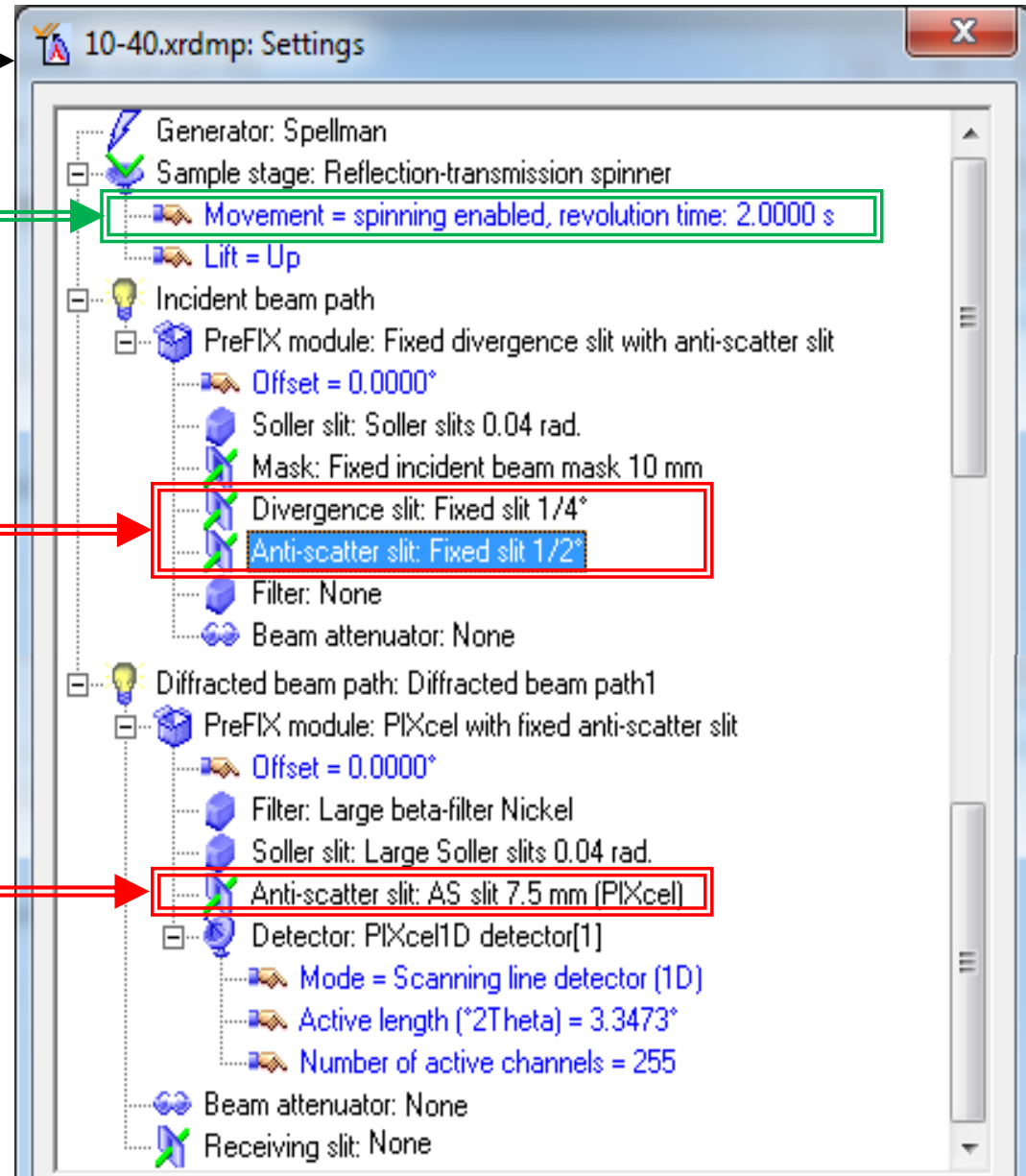
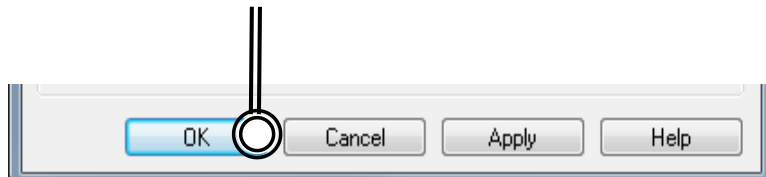
IX. New Measurement Program – 5/7

10. Confirm the settings

YOU CONTROL STAGE
MOVEMENT CHOICE

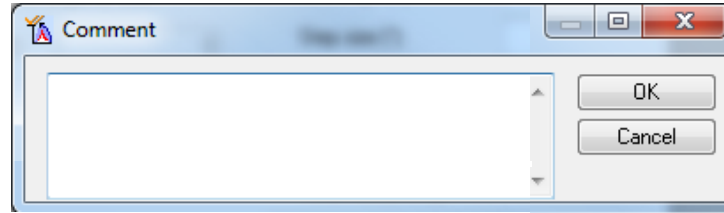
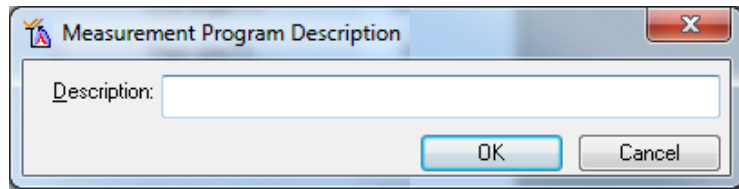
VALUES WILL CHANGE
DEPENDING ON ACTUAL
SLITS USED

11. Click **OK**



IX. New Measurement Program – 6/7

12. Click **Description** and **Comment** tabs to enter information if desired



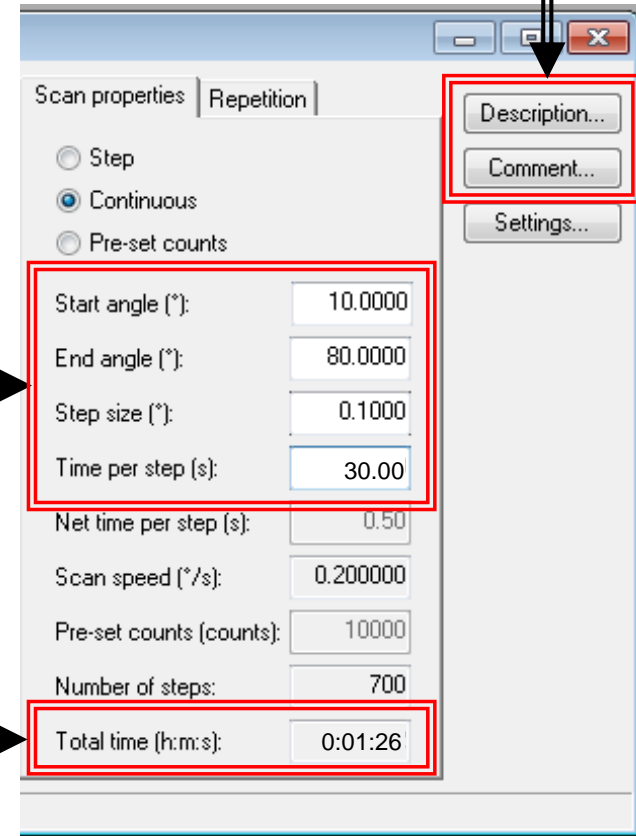
13. Set **Start Angle**, (eg. 10°)

14. Set **End Angle**, (eg. 80°)

15. Set **Step Size**, (eg. 0.1°)
- **decrease** to enhance **resolution**

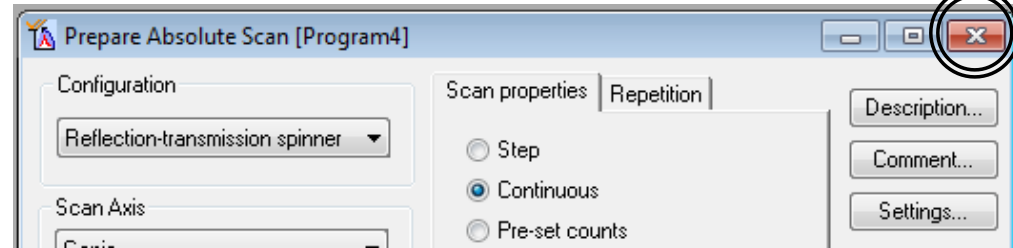
16. Set **Time Per Step**, (eg. 30 sec)
- **increase** to enhance **signal/noise**

17. The **Total Time (h:m:s)** for the scan will automatically update



IX. New Measurement Program – 7/7

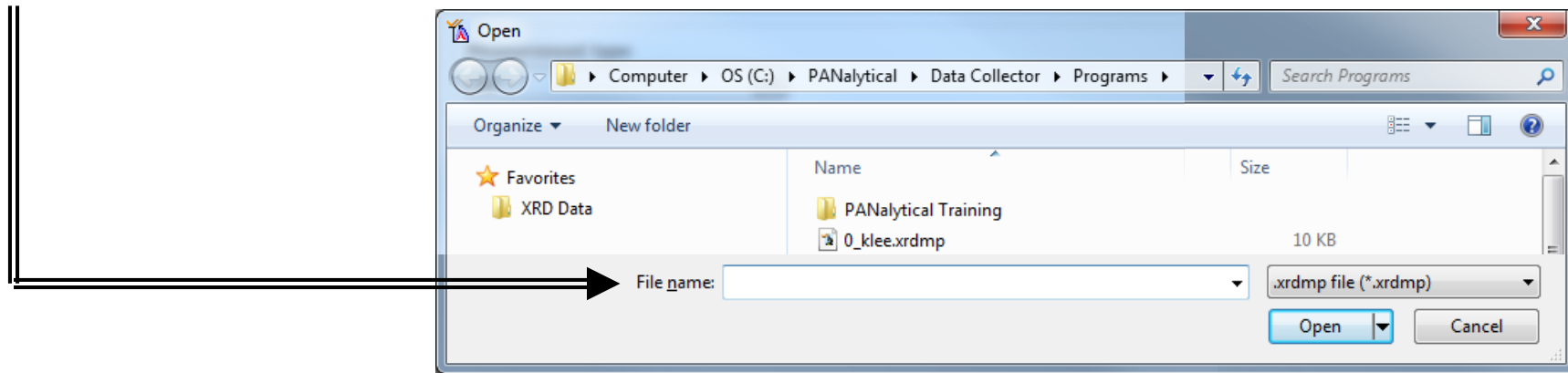
18. Click the **Close X** to close the window



19. Choose to **SAVE** your program

20. Select your **<PI'S NAME>** folder

21. Name your **Measurement Program** file



22. Default unsorted folder is “**C:\PANalytical\Data Collector\Programs**”

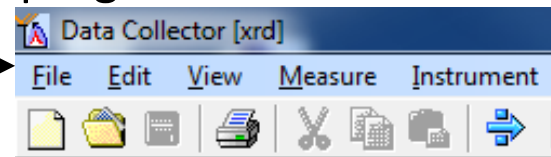
23. Continue to **XI. Start Measurement** and **SKIP X. Edit Measurement Program**

X. Editing Measurement Program – 1/1

The following steps are for **EDITING** existing program you already created only!

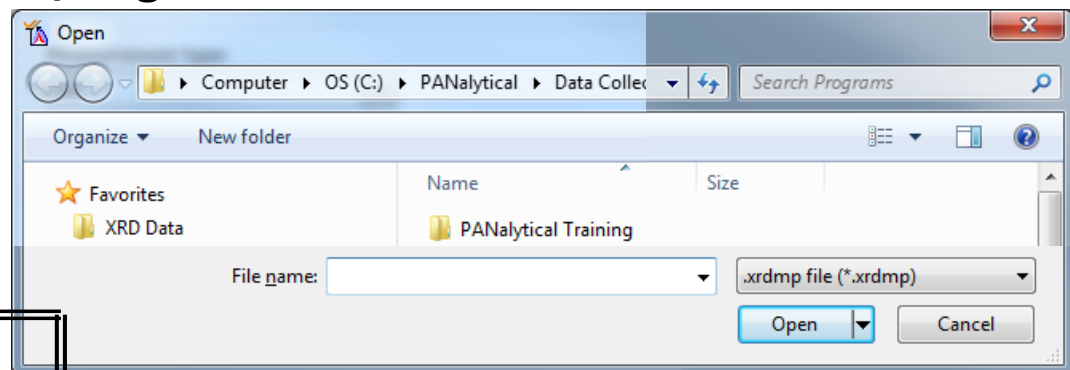
SKIP to *XI. Start Measurement* if you don't need to edit your program

1. Click **File** and choose **Open Program**



2. Click **Browse** and find program in <PI'S NAME> folder in "C:\PANalytical\Data Collector\Programs"

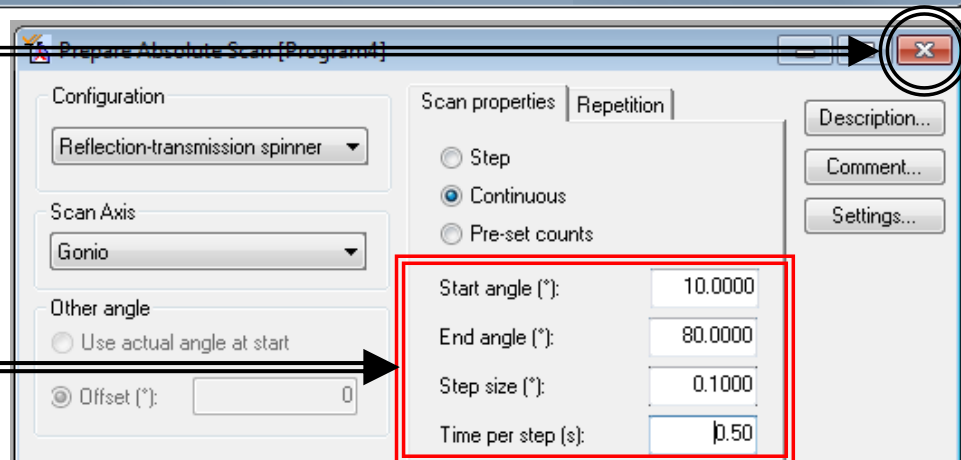
3. Click **Open**



4. Modify desired parameters

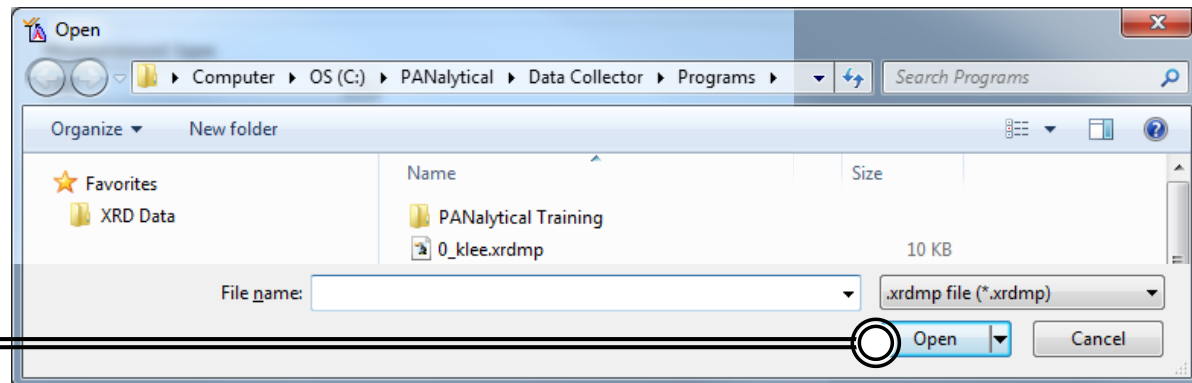
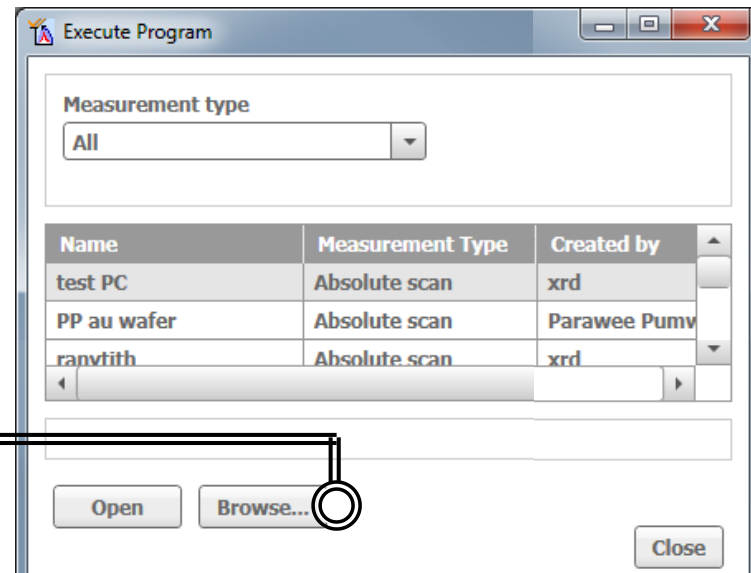
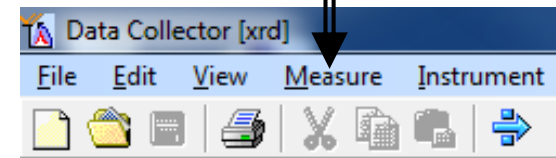
5. Click **Close X** when done

6. Choose to **SAVE** your program




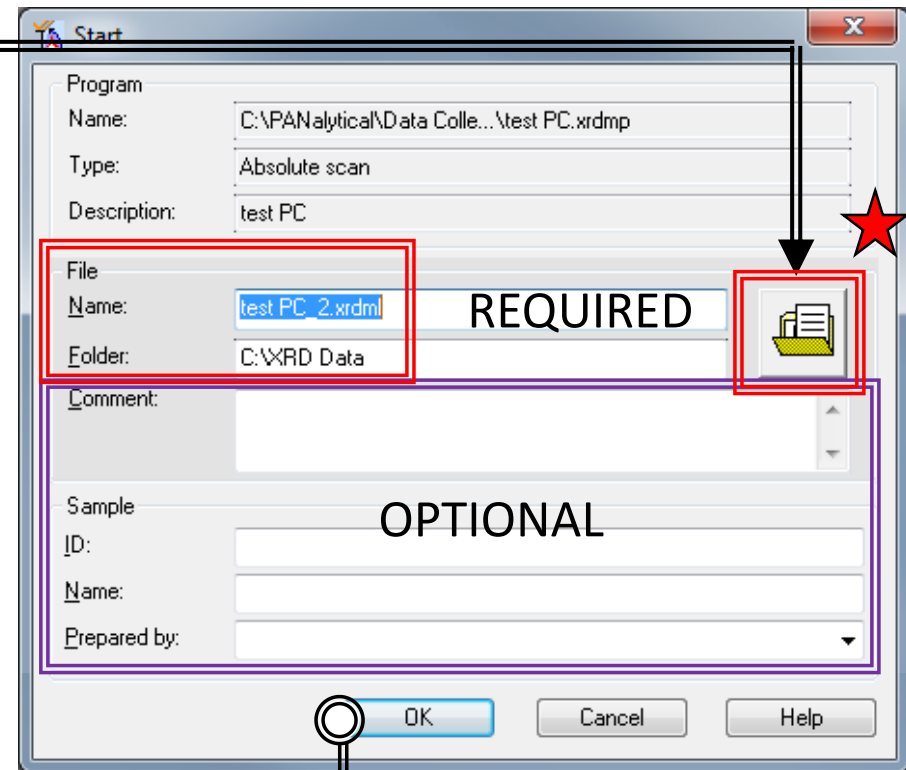
XI. Start Measurement – 1/3

1. Select **Measure** -> **Program**
2. Click **Browse**
3. Default location is “C:\PANalytical\Data Collector\Programs”
4. Find your program in <PI'S NAME> folder, and click **Open**



XI. Start Measurement – 2/3

5. ★ Click  icon to change file location
6. Default is unsorted in “**C:\XRD Data**”
7. Select your <PI'S NAME> folder
8. Select your Folder for this scan
9. Enter a Name for your scan
10. Confirm correct **File Folder** location
11. Enter a Comment, Sample ID, Sample name, or Username if desired
12. Clicking **OK** will start your scan!



13. If message appears, perform the actions and click on **OK**

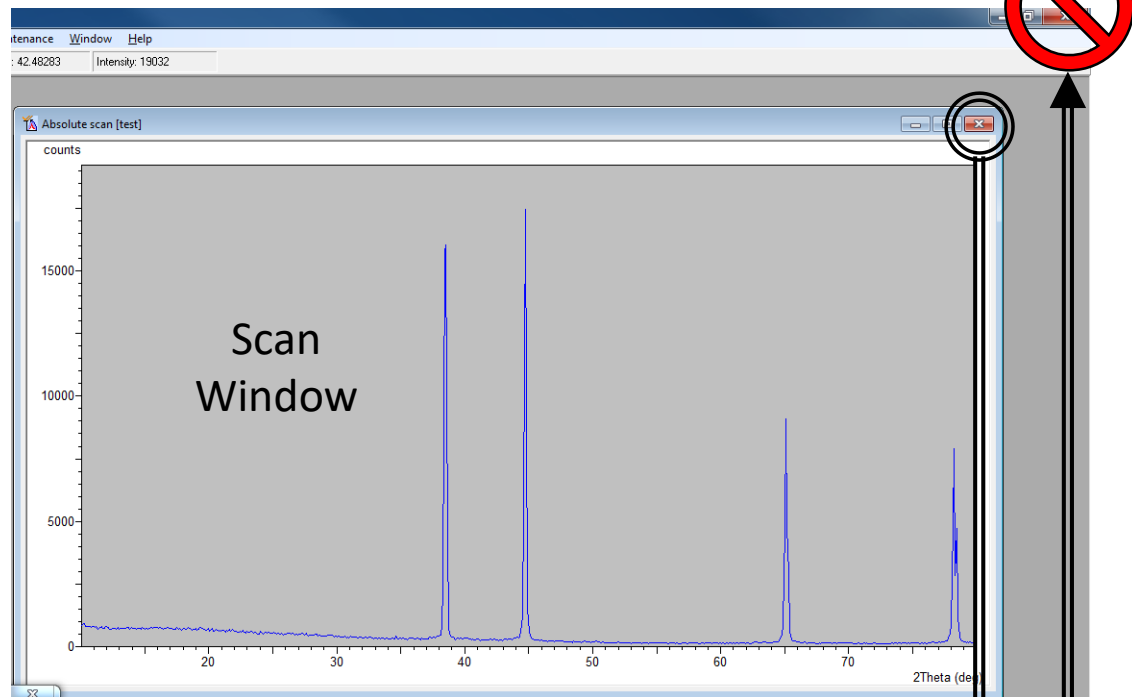
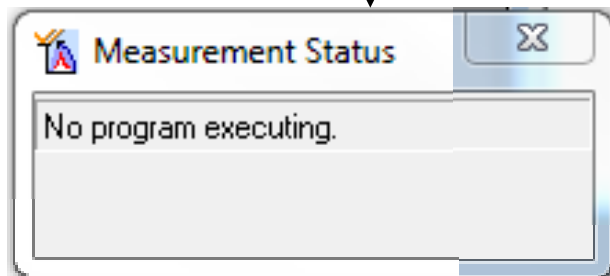
NOTE: THE MESSAGE SHOULD ONLY BE ABOUT CHECKING THAT THE COMBINATION OF SLITS YOU HAVE INDICATED IN YOUR PROGRAM ARE INSTALLED

XI. Start Measurement – 3/3

14. The scan will initiate

15. Scale changes as the measurement proceeds

16. Scan is complete when
“No program executing”
is shown



17. Once scan is complete, click the ***Close X*** to close the scan window

18. **DO NOT CLOSE THE DATACOLLECTOR WINDOW**

XII. Data Viewing and Exporting – 1/1

1. Double-click **Data Viewer icon**



2. Click **File -> Open**

3. Find your file in “**C:\XRD Data*<PI'S NAME>***”

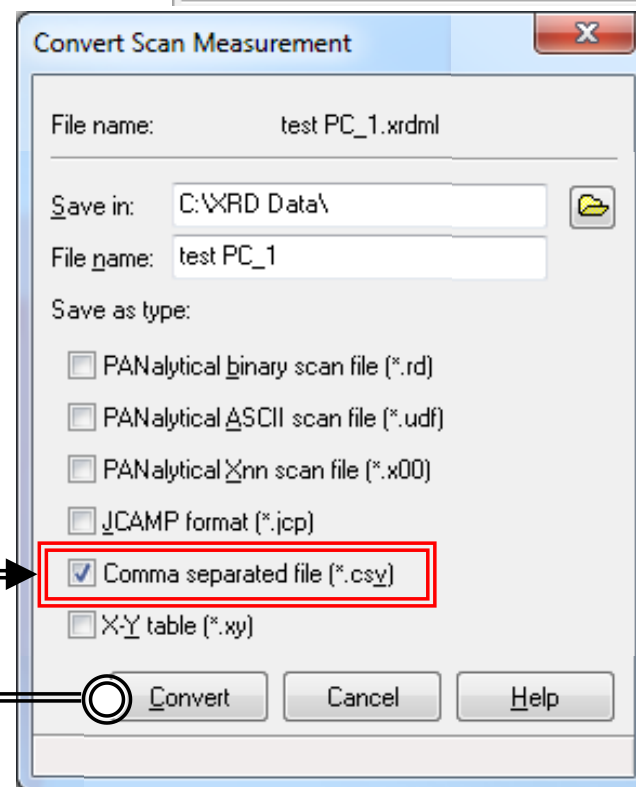
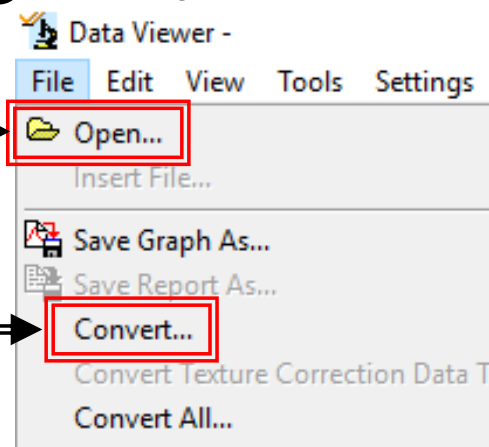
4. Click **OK** to view your scan

5. To export your data for plotting in Excel, click **File -> Convert**

6. Check “**Comma separated file (*.csv)**” and uncheck everything else

7. Click **Convert**

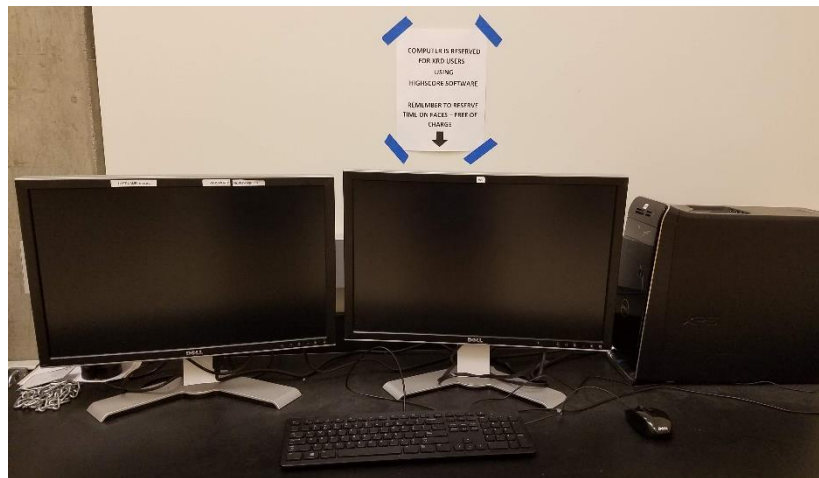
8. A **.CSV** file will now be present in the folder you specified



XIII. Data Analysis – 1/1

NOTE: High Score can only be used on “High Score” computer outside

1. If you plan on using **High Score**, transfer your files directly to computer outside by transferring them to the “Z” drive directory (computers are networked) or use a flash drive

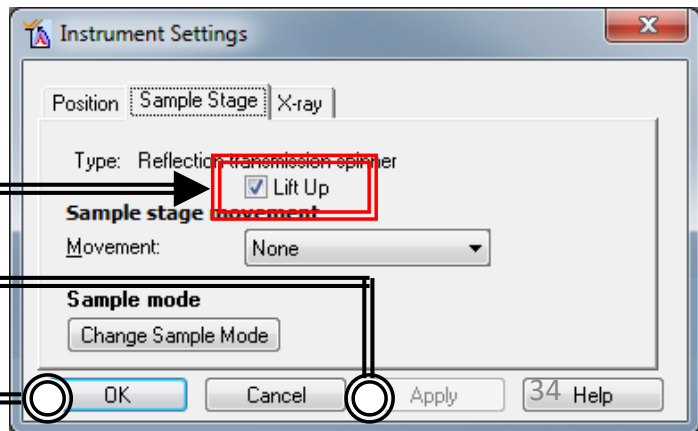
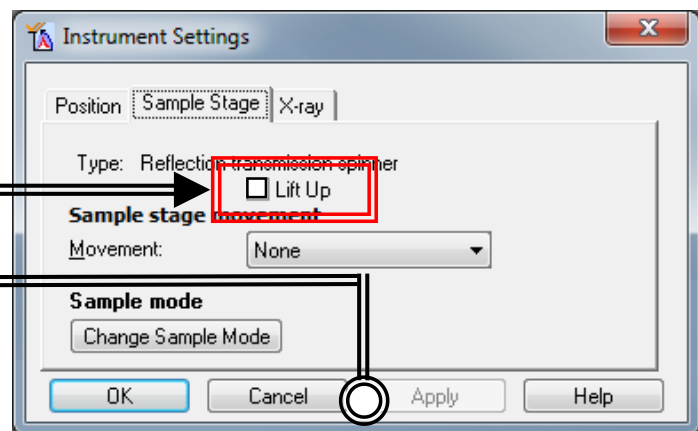
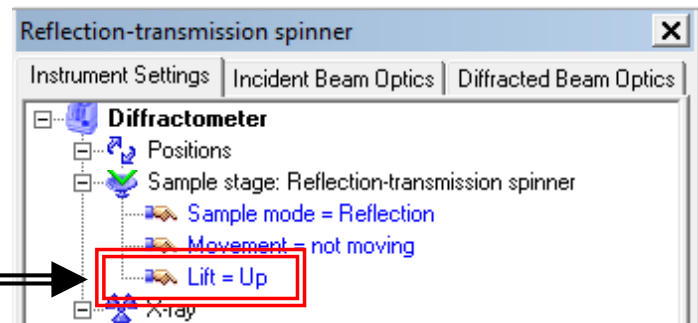


2. Refer to “**Introduction to PANalytical X’Pert HighScore Plus v3.0**” guide by Scott A. Speakman available on desktop of “High Score” computer
3. Guide is also available on MSE XRD website under Useful Documentation:

http://www.mse.ucr.edu/facilities_xrd.html

XIV. Sample Unloading – 1/1

1. Double-click on **“Lift = UP”**
2. Uncheck the **“Lift Up”** option and click **Apply**
3. Press **“Unlock Doors”** on cabinet
4. Open doors and remove sample holder from stage
5. Carefully wipe down all **3 Spinner Bearings**
6. Close doors
7. Check the **“Lift Up”** option and click **Apply**, then **OK**



XV. Cleanup – 1/1

1. Double-click on the “**Current = 40 mA**”

2. Change current back to **20 mA**, click **OK**

3. Select **Instrument** → **Disconnect**, click **OK**

4. Select **File** → **Exit** to log out

5. CLEAN THE SAMPLE HOLDER!

6. Return the sample holder pieces to its storage box

7. Replace slits with **Standard Slit Configuration (1/2°, 1°, 8 mm)** if different

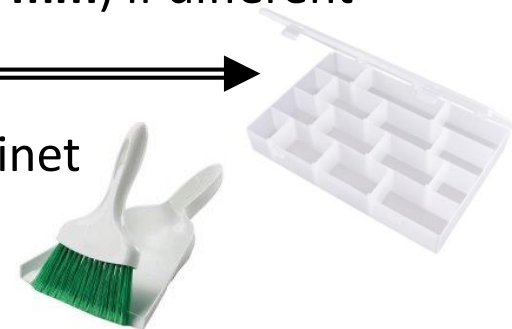
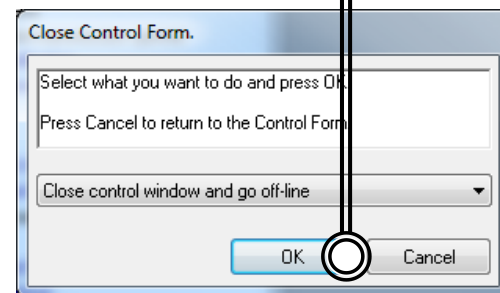
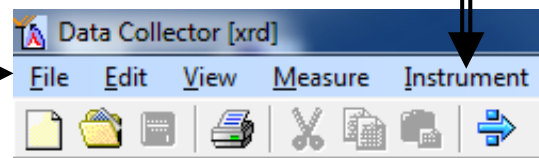
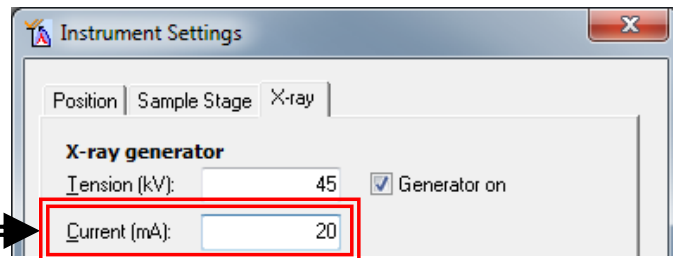
8. Return any other used slits back to its storage box

9. Brush up any sample that may have dropped into the cabinet

10. Turn **OFF** the lights to the cabinet (if ON)

11. Close doors (if open)

12. Record your **time-out** on the **sign-in sheet**, slits used, and any issues encountered like dirty sample holders or instrument errors



XVI. Troubleshoot – 1/1

1. If XRD is powered **ON** but with **Tension = 0 kV** and **Current = 0 mA ...**

2. You can turn on the X-Ray Generator by double-clicking on the **Status**

3. Proceed to **Check** the **Generator on** box

4. **WAIT** for the Generator to warm up and **Tension = 30 kV** and **Current = 10 mA**

5. Proceed to bring the Generator back to **Tension = 45 kV** and **Current = 20 mA**

6. For **ANY** other issue, please contact the lab manager ASAP

- Call the lab manager at (951) 827-3378
- E-mail the lab manager (Perry: pcheung@ucr.edu)
- Stop by the lab manager's office at MSE 311

