

GENERAL PROCESS AND OPERATION SPECIFICATION

Lesker PVD 75 E-beam Evaporator

I. SCOPE

- a. The purpose of this document is to describe requirements and basic operating instructions for the Lesker PVD 75, E-beam tool. This tool is intended for thin film deposition by e-beam evaporation. Use of this tool is limited to only thin films and substrates that are approved.

II. SAFETY

- a. Be sure that you are trained and signed off to use this equipment.
- b. Be sure to keep all doors and protective shields in place before operating this equipment.
- c. Use care when operating around high voltage or high current.
- d. After power has been disconnected, wait for at least 3 minutes before starting work on the power supply to allow the capacitors to discharge themselves. Also use the grounding rod to discharge the capacitors and high voltage feed thru before coming in contact with them. Touch the grounding rod to contacts around the e-gun before performing any work to change crucibles or clean the e-gun surfaces.



Fig. 1. Use of grounding rod on e-gun electrodes.

- e. High pressure gas cylinders for this tool are stored in ventilated gas cabinets located in the 7H1 service corridor. Be sure to ask a staff member for assistance to change out any gases.
 - f. If you are unsure about any procedure or indication while operating this equipment be sure to contact a staff member or trainer for assistance.
- III. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS, MATERIALS AND REQUIREMENTS
- a. For more information about the detailed operation of this tool refer to the Lesker factory manual – “PVD 75 Thin Film Deposition System Operation Manual.” File name: PVD 75 Manual.pdf.
 - b. Hand held ebeam controller Aktuell-online.docx. Detailed instructions for operation of the e-beam control unit located inside the right side door. Available to trainers and superusers of the system.
 - c. Available to trainers and superusers: PED10-201 Set Up Instructions-Ferrotec E-Beam Pro Controller.docs and PED10-203 Centering the XY Sweep on a Ferrotec E-Beam Gun.docs. For manual set-up of the hand-held E-Gun controller.
 - d. Appendix A: Editing of Recipes in KLJ software.
 - e. Appendix B: Matrix of e-gun recipes, gun positions, and materials.
 - f. Appendix C: Logbook Information for the PVD 75 E-beam tool.
 - g. Appendix D: Screen Shots of Running a Recipe
 - h. For detailed information in the operation of the Inficon thickness monitor see factory manual. File name: Inficon Film Thickness Monitor_074_156L Front Load Single Dual Sensors OM.pdf.
 - i. For a table of Z-Ratio and density for various materials refer to the file “Z Ratio and Density Table.”
 - j. For a general reference of vapor pressures for a variety of e-beam source materials see the RCA reference: vaporpressure4 Ebeam materials RCA.pdf.
 - k. This tool is intended to be used with a restricted selection of substrate and evaporation materials.
 - l. Approved evaporation materials. Materials provided by AggieFab as part of normal lab fees are: Al, Cr, Cu, Ti, Ni. For a complete list of other approved materials refer to Appendix B in this document.
 - m. Approved substrate materials: Glass, Si, PVDF (with no substrate heating)
 - n. Other substrate and evaporation materials must be pre-approved by the Materials Review Board before running in this tool.

IV. OPERATION

NORMAL OPERATIONS FOR REGULAR AGGIEFAB USERS:

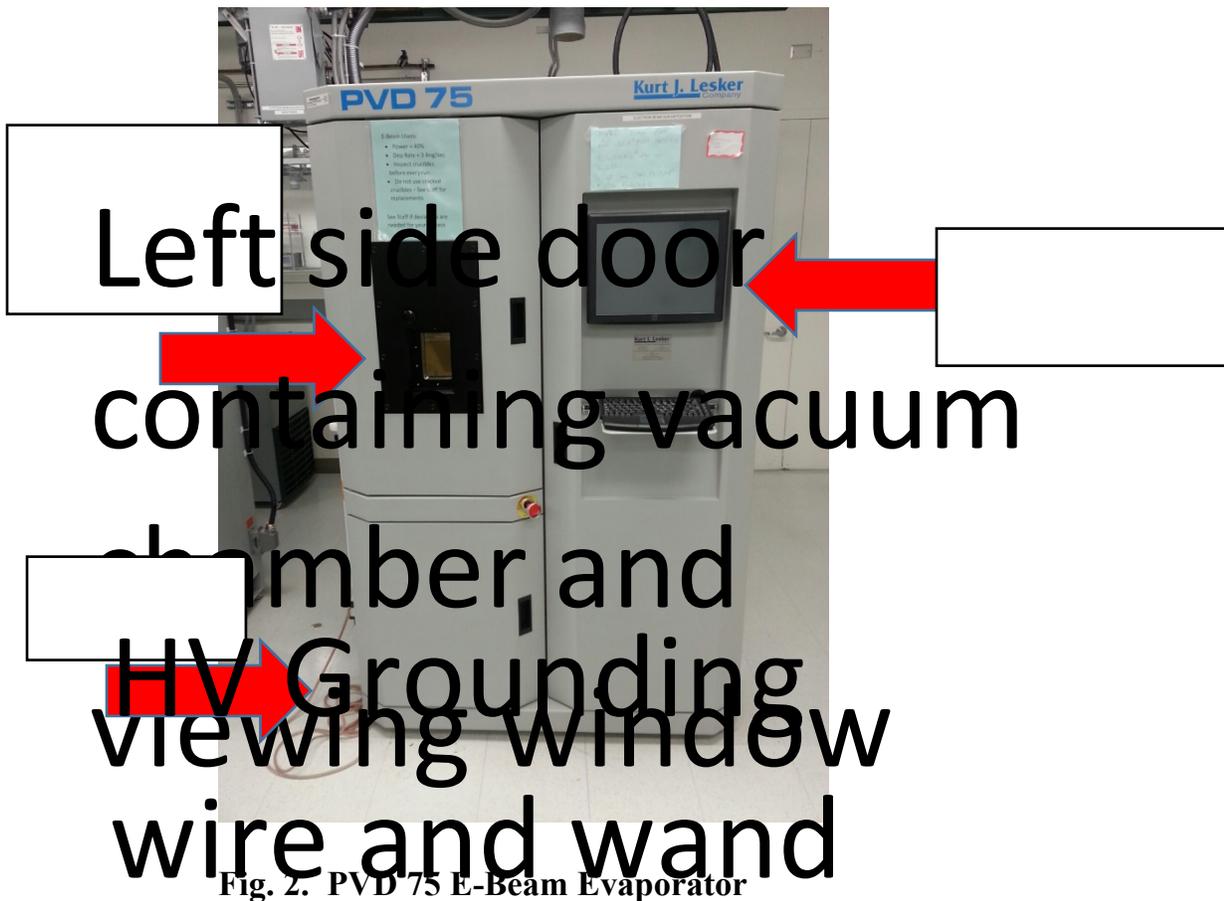


Fig. 2. PVD 75 E-Beam Evaporator

- 1) Logbook Entries: Enter the time, date and name
 - a. Before run is complete, be sure enter all recipe and process information as shown in the logbook page
 - b. See Appendix C for a template of the logbook information.
 - c. During the run, fill out all the information pertaining to the run parameters.
- 2) Open the vacuum chamber to prepare the tool for loading of your sample. Run “Start PC Vent” on the main Vacuum screen, or select it from the options provided on the “Run Recipe” soft button. Both of these soft buttons are visible on the right side of the main vacuum screen. See Fig. 2.

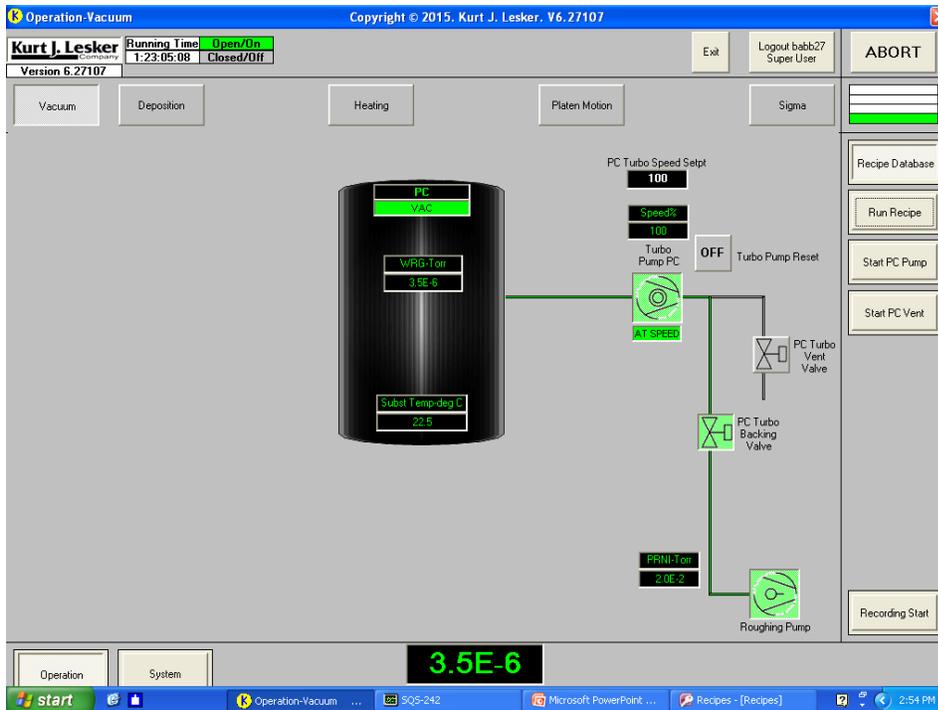


Fig. 3. Main Vacuum screen for the PVD 75 E-Beam tool. Other soft buttons are available across the top to view and set up Deposition, Heating (substrate), Platen Motion, and Sigma software control. Note that this tool does not have a separate vacuum line and valve to allow roughing of the chamber. It is necessary to shut down the turbo pump prior to venting and perform rough pumping from atmosphere through the turbo pump, prior to starting the turbo pump.

- 3) The High Voltage (HV) for the e-beam should be off while venting.
- 4) Be sure to wear a face mask and clean nitrile gloves before working inside the vacuum chamber. This protects surfaces inside the vacuum chamber from human contamination; primarily sodium from finger oils, moisture from breathing, and particles from facial hair and skin.
- 5) When the chamber reaches atmospheric pressure open the chamber, but **DO NOT TOUCH** anything inside until precautions have been taken regarding the high voltage that is used to power the e-beam. See steps 6 and 7 below!
- 6) From the PC control screen open the shutters to access the crucibles in the e-gun (bottom of chamber) and the substrate/sample holder (top of the chamber).
 - a. Run recipe LOAD/UNLOAD. This recipe automatically opens the e-beam and substrate shutters. Also, the substrate holder will rotate to the home position to enable removal from the rotation rod.
- 7) **USE THE GROUND ROD** to ensure that no unsafe charge is present around the e-gun. See also Fig. 1 in SAFETY section, c and d. Hold the ground rod with one hand from the end of the dielectric rod to ensure adequate space from conducting surfaces.
- 8) Determine the proper pocket position and e-gun profile for the desired material. Note that most metals have a specific pocket and e-gun profile that ensures the best evaporation performance. See Appendix B for a complete list of these parameters.

- 9) Inspection of e-gun pockets and preparation of crucibles – change or loading.
 - a. Open the right-hand door that contains the PC keyboard and display monitor.
 - b. Locate the remote e-gun controls inside the door.
 - c. Figure 4 shows the remote e-gun control in the automatic mode used for normal operations.
 - d. To change or inspect crucibles the e-gun control must be moved to manual operation. The crucible indexer will not work when the chamber is open while it is in the default manual mode. Press MENU/QUIT.
 - e. Use the left joy stick to select “Set Pocket”. See also Figure 5a. Use right joy stick to move up or down to the desired pocket/material choice. When the desired pocket/material is highlighted press and hold the right joy stick to the right until the “SEARCH” indicator goes away and the desired pocket name is displayed. This can also be done by observing the motion of the e-gun pockets. The joy stick can be released when the gun pockets stop moving. Fig 5a and 5b shows some of the parameters that can be selected.
 - f. **Inspection and cleaning of crucible and gun pocket. Very important! Damaged crucibles can allow the electron beam to penetrate to the copper e-gun pocket. This can destroy the gun and risk a water leak that can ruin the entire vacuum system!**
 - i. Be sure that you have clean nitrile gloves and a face mask before working inside the vacuum chamber and handling any components.
 - ii. Carefully remove the crucible from the gun pocket. Avoid touching any e-gun surfaces while loading the new crucible
 - iii. Tweezers or Kapton tape may be used to lift the crucible out.
 - iv. Inspect the crucible for any signs of cracks or holes on both the top side and the back side. DO NOT use a crucible if there is any sign of damage.
 - v. Inspect the copper e-gun pocket for any trace of source material, or oxidation. The crucible needs to be in good contact with the entire pocket and free of oxidation in order to properly conduct away heat.
 1. Prior to every run: Use swabs with IPA or methanol to clean light oxidation. Continue process until only a slight amount of dark discoloration is seen on the swab. The white abrasive pads may also be used to remove more difficult residue from the e-gun pocket.
 2. If it is not possible to properly clean up the pocket, CONTACT A STAFF MEMBER for help.
 - vi. Fill new crucibles, or add to existing melts from approved source material containers.
 1. If starting a fresh crucible, fill the source pellets to the top to allow for settling during the melt process.
 2. If using an existing melt/crucible be sure that the crucible is at least 50% full. Additional source pellets should be added if needed.
 3. Do not overfill the crucible, and be sure that pellets do not impede free rotation of the pockets under the top of the e-gun.
 - vii. When all crucibles have been loaded, rotate the e-gun pockets back to the original crucible using manual mode and then change to auto mode. Now the crucible indexer will automatically adjust the position. See Fig. 5a.

- viii. Change any labels in the e-gun software to properly identify the materials in each pocket/crucible.



Fig. 4. Hand held E-beam controller is located behind the right side door.



Fig. 5a. Crucible pocket selection for hand held e-gun controller.

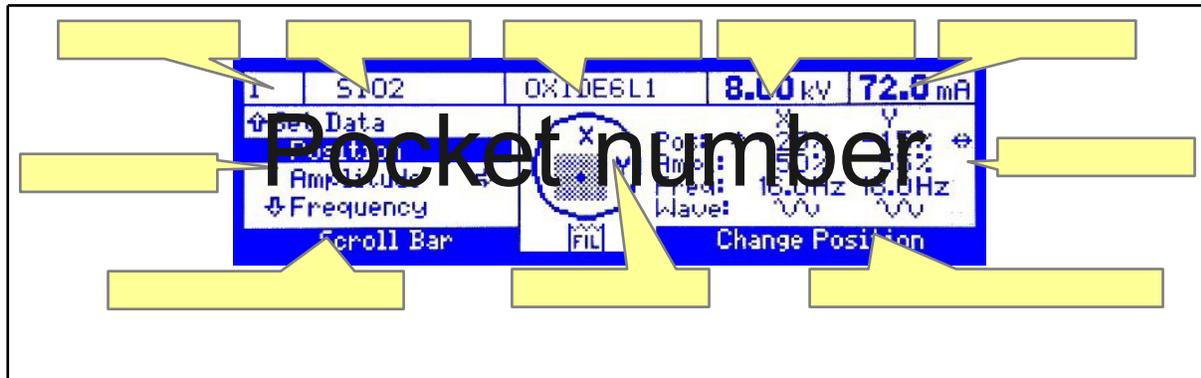


Fig. 5b. Menu selections for hand held e-gun controller.

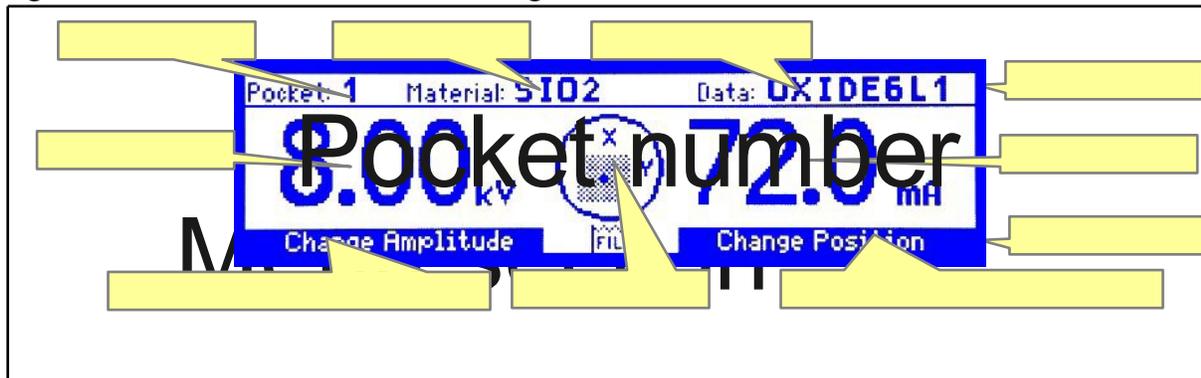


Fig. 5c. Additional parameters on the hand held e-gun controller.

- 9) Loading wafers or samples
 - a. Remove substrate holder from vacuum chamber by carefully lifting the round substrate holder up until it is clear of the alignment pins on the rotation rod. Then pull it straight out until it is clear of the shutters and the rotation rod.
 - b. Set/ fix your wafers onto substrate holder with the screw-down clips or Kapton tape.
 - c. Load substrate holder and samples into vacuum chamber.
 - d. Close or complete the LOAD/UNLOAD recipe. Shutters will return to normal position.

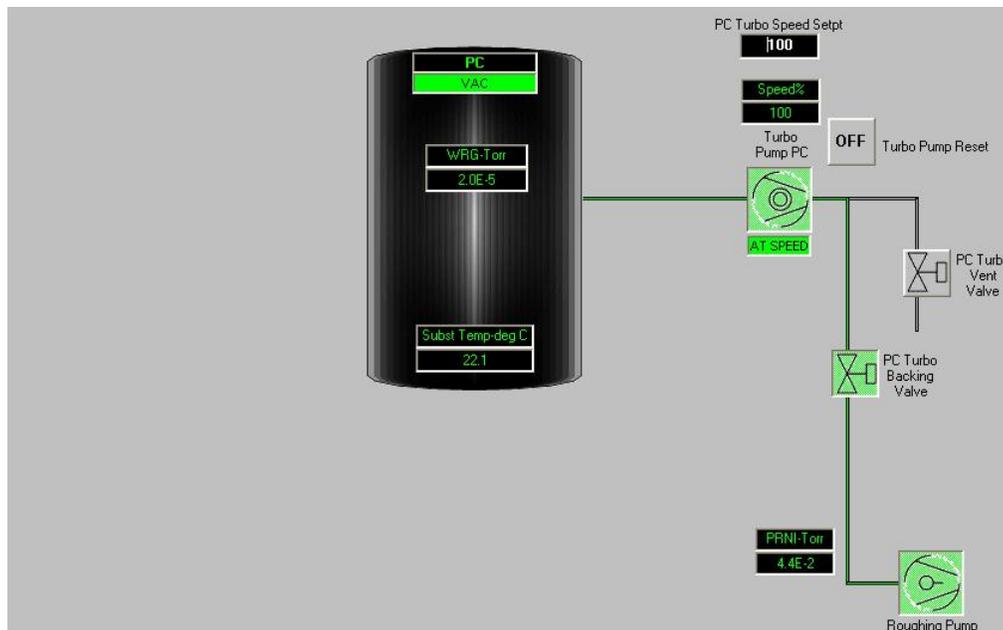
- 10) Check the film thickness sensor 1 (View – Sensor Settings): If life is less than 40% then change the crystal.
- 11) Close the chamber
- 12) Begin evacuation of the process chamber by selecting “Start PC Pump” on the main vacuum menu screen.
 - a. Roughing pump will automatically start the evacuation process.
 - b. The turbo pump, turbo backing valve will automatically sequence correctly as the pressure comes down.
 - c. Process recipes can begin once pressure reaches 5×10^{-6} Torr
- 13) Selecting and Running a Recipe.
 - a. Running recipes on the PVD 75 E-beam tool requires 2 levels of control software. The Sigma (SQS-242) E-gun software runs inside the basic KJL recipe software. The “K Operation” or basic KJL software is used to select the desired recipe and initiate the run. The Sigma software controls all the parameters associated with the e-gun operation.
 - b. Open the Sigma, or SQS-242 software.
 - c. Follow the steps in Appendix D for details regarding the set-up and editing of recipes. Includes checking:
 - i. Select “Edit” → See “Process Edit” See the Pop-up Menu
 1. From the drop down window select the desired metal process
 2. Edit or modify the following:
 - a. Set point for deposition rate (A/sec). Set initial rate for ≤ 1 A/sec to avoid spattering. Can adjust higher after beam is running, if desired.
 - b. Set “Final Thick” (kA) of the desired film
 3. Select “Deposit” tab to view or change shutter delay settings
 4. Select “Condition” tab to view or modify Pre and Post Ramping conditions. See also Appendix B for suggested parameter settings.
 - a. Set Pre Condition Ramp 1 & 2 Power, Ramp 1 & 2 time, Soak 1 & 2 time.
 - b. Aging of the “melt” in the crucible. Appendix B has a suggested range of parameters for materials where the crucible melt tends to “age”. Use the lower power settings for newer melts.
 - c. Set or check the post condition parameters.
 5. Go to “Source/Sensor” tab to note Sensor Tooling in the logbook
 - a. Tfilm = Tmonitor X Tool Factor
 - b. Make sure this is correct for the material you are using
 6. Click “Yes” on the “Change Process” pop up menu to change or save the new metal deposition process
- 14) From the main KJL screen, set substrate Temp. See Figure 3. Comply with substrate heat restrictions for certain materials such as PVDF. See Section III for approved substrate materials.
- 15) After setting all the changes (edit process) close the SQP software
- 16) Make Log Book entries: Identify Material, Pocket Position, Gun Profile, and other information as requested on the form. See also Appendix C.

- 17) Run Recipe
- 18) After recipe is complete, select "Start PC Vent". Recipe will allow turbo pump to spin down to 50% gradually. The venting operation will take about 30 minutes, which also allows the egun to cool to room temperature.
- 19) Select the "LOAD/UNLOAD" recipe to open the shutters and move the substrate holder to the home position.
- 20) Remove sample and return substrate holder into the chamber.
- 21) Crucible may be removed if desired.
- 22) Complete the "LOAD/UNLOAD" recipe which closes the shutters to normal position.
- 23) Post processing:
 - a. Rough down chamber - Select "Roughing". Pump chamber with roughing pump only, and not the turbo pump.
 - b. Leave system under rough down pressure for the next user.

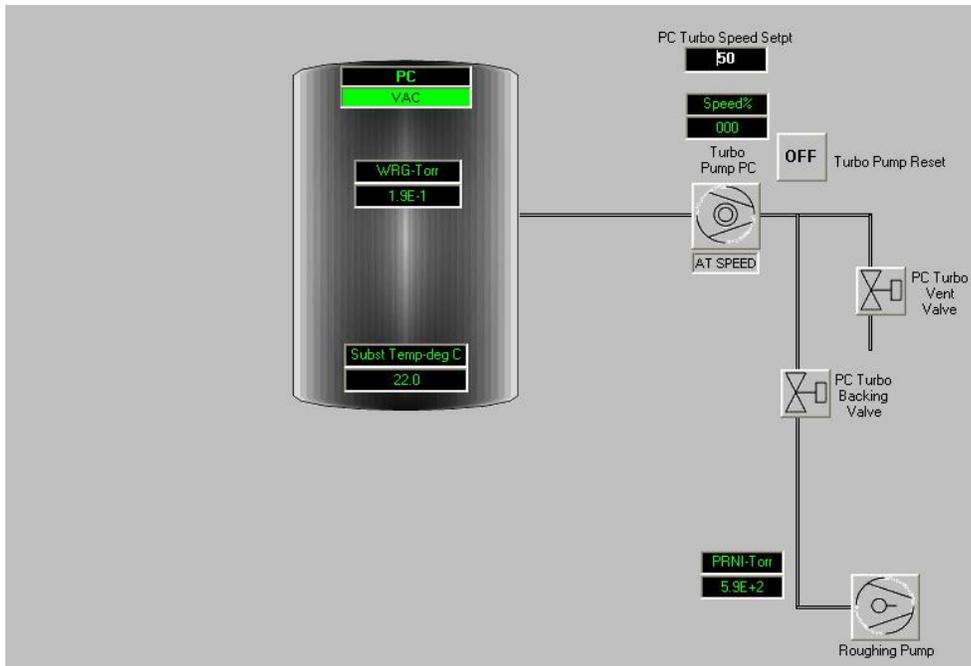
Normal OPERATION Screen Shots:

VACUUM SCREEN – See following three screen shots for actual run conditions for Pumping, Pumps Off, and Venting.

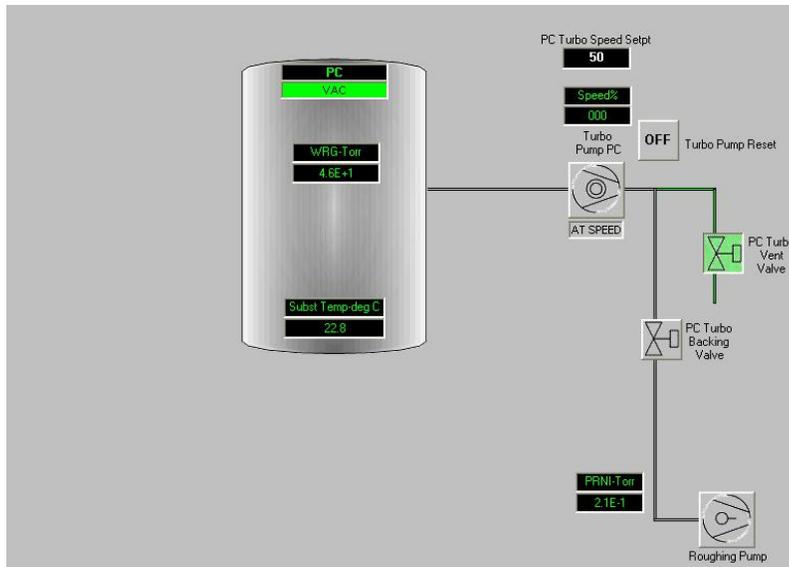
E-Beam systems are hard-wire interlocked to the VAC switch. When the system is roughed below ATM, the VAC (Vacuum Switch) turns **green** and indicates PC is under vacuum. The KJLC software interlock for minimum operation pressure is 5×10^{-4} Torr; although the recommended optimum pressure is 4×10^{-5} Torr or better.



Pumping ^



Pumps Off



Venting

Fig. 6 a-c. Vacuum screen shots.

DEPOSITION SCREEN

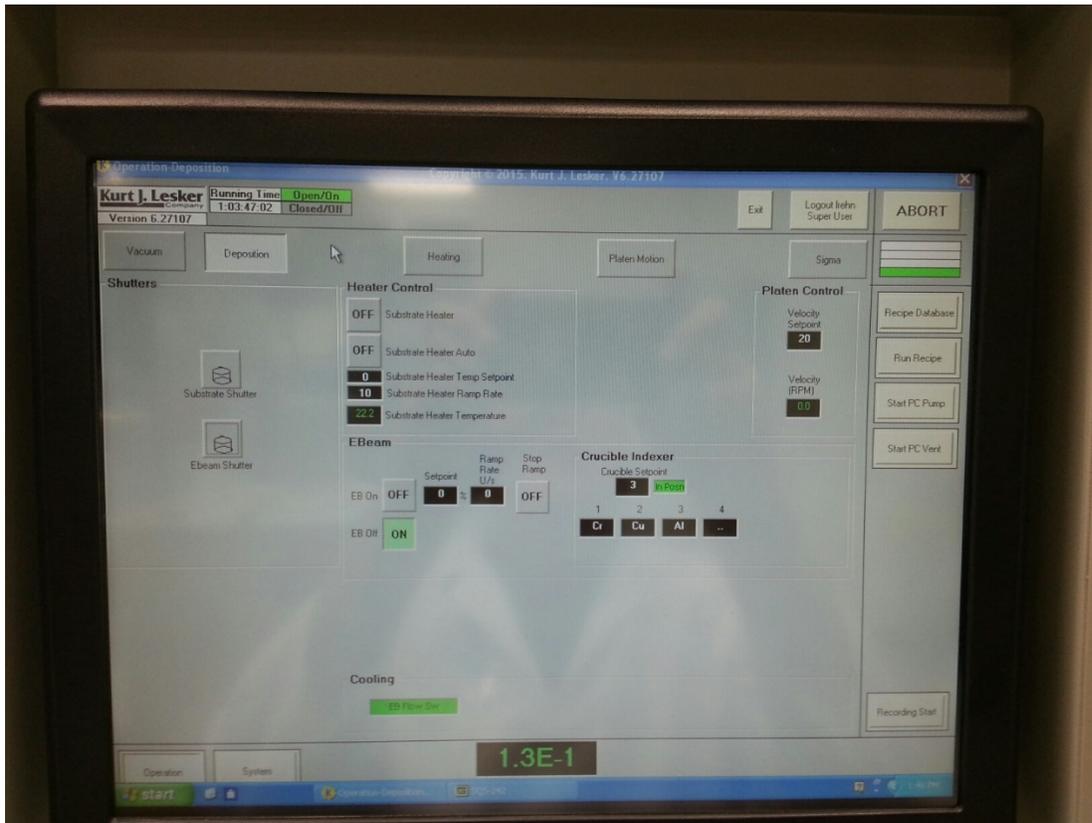


Fig. 7. Deposition Screen shots.

- V. SIGNATURES AND REVISION HISTORY
 - a. Author of this document: Larry Rehn
 - b. Author Title or Role: Technical Manager
 - c. Date:
 - d. Revision: Original Issue

Approvals:

Technical Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revision History:

Revision	Author	Date
Original Issue	L. Rehn	
Rev A		9/11/2015
Rev B		
Rev C		

Appendix A – Editing of Recipes in KLJ Software:

Editing Recipes

Note: You can only edit recipes if you are the owner or if the owner has opened access to you for editing. The owner of a file cannot be changed and only the owner or a system administrator can delete the file.

Seq	Typ	Equipment	EquipmentItem	EquipmentItemOperation	Equipment/Test Value
1	Recipe		Set Abort Recipe	Abort Process	
2	Recipe		Run Recipe	Prepare to Deposit	
3	Recipe		Run Recipe	Substrate rotation 20rpm	
4	Recipe		Run Recipe	Gas 20mT Argon MFC1 turn on	
5	Recipe		Run Recipe	Sputter Src3 Ignition 200W 3mTorr	
6	Shutter	Source Shutter 3		Turn_On/Open/Opening	
7	Shutter	Substrate Shutter		Turn_On/Open/Opening	
8	Recipe	Dwell		N Seconds (n or HH:MM:SS)	3600
9	Shutter	Substrate Shutter		Turn_Off/Closed/Closing	
10	Recipe		Run Recipe	Sputter Src3 Extinguish	
11	Recipe		Run Recipe	Substrate rotation stop	
0					

#1:

Show Main/(Show All): Toggles the yellow recipe list between showing only Main Recipes or both Main and Sub Recipes. (The button displays the opposite of what is being used. For example, when the button reads “Show Main”, the recipe list will be showing all.)

Sub Recipe Check Box: Defines Recipe as a Sub Recipe; Default as Main Recipe

Delete: Remove Recipe file

Export All Recipes to XL: Used only by system administrators

Update VB: Save all recipes that have been edited

Reorder Items: Move lines of the recipe

Copy Recipe: Create new recipe file with all of the same specifications currently selected. You will become the “Owner” of the new file.

#2:

Include in VB List Check Box: (Default checked.) If checked, and if the recipe is a main recipe, it will be made visible in the yellow recipe list when Show Main is selected. If not checked, it will only show when Show All is selected.

Operator /Process Eng Can Use Check Boxes: (Default unchecked.) These boxes specify what groups are given access to editing the recipe file. If unchecked, only the owner and system administrators can edit it.

#3:

If the “Equipment/Item” column reads “Run Recipe”, then the next column will specify what Sub Recipe is being called. Sub Recipes contain most editable parameters of a process. By clicking on the Sub Recipe name, a drop down box will appear that will allow you to select which specific Sub Recipe to run. Other “Equipment/Item” commands specify an action to be taken within the Main Recipe.

Editing Sub Recipes

Sub Recipes are where most parameters are defined.

Seq	Typ	Equipment	EquipmentItem	EquipmentItemOperation	Equipment/Test Value
1	Recipe		Set Abort Recipe	Abort Process	
2	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Output Setpoint	Set Value = n.nn	0
3	Source		Source SW3	Turn_On/Open/Opening	
4	Power Supply		Power Supply 1	Turn_On/Open/Opening	
5	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Output Setpoint	Set Value = n.nn	50
6	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Fwd Power	Check Value > n.nn	20
7	Recipe		Dwell	2 Seconds	
8	Shutter		Source Shutter 3	Turn_On/Open/Opening	
9	Recipe		Dwell	2 Seconds	
10	Shutter		Source Shutter 3	Turn_Off/Closed/Closing	
11	Power Supply		Power Supply1 DC Bias	Check Value > n.nn	3
12	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Ramp Rate	Set Value = n.nn	2
13	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Output Setpoint	Set Value = n.nn	100
14	Power Supply		Power Supply1 Fwd Power	Check Value > n.nn	95
15	Gauge		Capman Pressure SP	Set Value = n.nn	3
16	Gauge		Capman Pressure	Check Pressure <= n.nn	3.2
17	Power Supply		Power Supply1 DC Bias	Check Value > n.nn	1
0					

Equipment/Test Value: This is where the parameters of a Sub Recipe within a process are defined and edited. The same owner permissions are required as in a Main Recipe for editing.

If there are a set value and a check value for the same parameter, make sure to change both values together to keep the logic true. For example, if the power is set to 200 W and the check is set to greater than 190 W originally, and you want to drop to only 100 W set point, make sure that the check point is reduced similarly to greater than 95 or something close.

Appendix B – Matrix of E-gun Recipes, Gun Position, and Materials:

Material	Provided by AggieFab – Y/N	Approved for use	Gun Pocket Position	Gun Profile	Precondition	
					Ramp1	Ramp2
Al (existing crucible/melt)	Y	Y	3	ALP310KV	10-15% ¹	15-20% ¹
Al (new crucible)	Y	Y	3	ALP310KV	5% ²	10% ²
Cr	Y	Y	1	P1 M10KV		
Cu	Y	Y	4	P4 M10KV		
Ti	Y	Y	2	META10KV		
Ni	Y	Y	1	P1 M10KV		
Alumel	N	Y	1	P1 M10KV		
Gold	N	Y	4	P4 M10KV		
Chromel	N	Y	1	P1 M10KV		
Tantalum	N	Y	4	P4 M10KV		
Molybdenum	N	Y				
Tungsten	N	Y	2	META10KV		
Platinum	N	Y	3	META10KV		
Silver, Ag	N	Y	3	META10KV		
Silicon, Si	N	Y	3	META10KV		
Iron, Fe	N	Y	1	P1 M10KV		
TaN	N	Y	4	P4 M10KV		

Note 1: “Aging” of the aluminum melt requires that the Ramp 1 and Ramp 2 precondition power be set to higher power as the crucible/melt has been used multiple times. This tracks the deposition power which also will tend to increase from around 20% to 40% +. Use the lower range of ramp up power when the crucible/melt has only been run 1-2 times. Consult the logbook to note the deposition power used on prior runs for aluminum to ensure that the Ramp 1 and Ramp 2 precondition power is set below expected deposition power.

Note 2: When using a new crucible and fresh aluminum pellets the Precondition Ramp 1 and Ramp 2 power must be reduced to allow proper melting of the pellets. The metal will first melt into a ball, and then begin to spread out inside the crucible. Until the metal spreads into the crucible, there is not sufficient heat transfer to allow higher power levels of operation. Note that normal precondition ramp power settings may be used if additional pellets have been loaded into an existing crucible/melt.

Appendix C – Logbook Information

Date: _____
 Name: _____

	TIME	AM/PM
Log In:		
Log Out:		

Lesker PVD 75 - Evaporator

① M: _____ GP: _____ ② M: _____ GP: _____

SUBSTRATE MATERIAL	SUBSTRATE ROTATION (rpm)	SUBSTRATE HEATING (°C)

③ Material: _____ Gun Profile: _____ ④ Material: _____ Gun Profile: _____

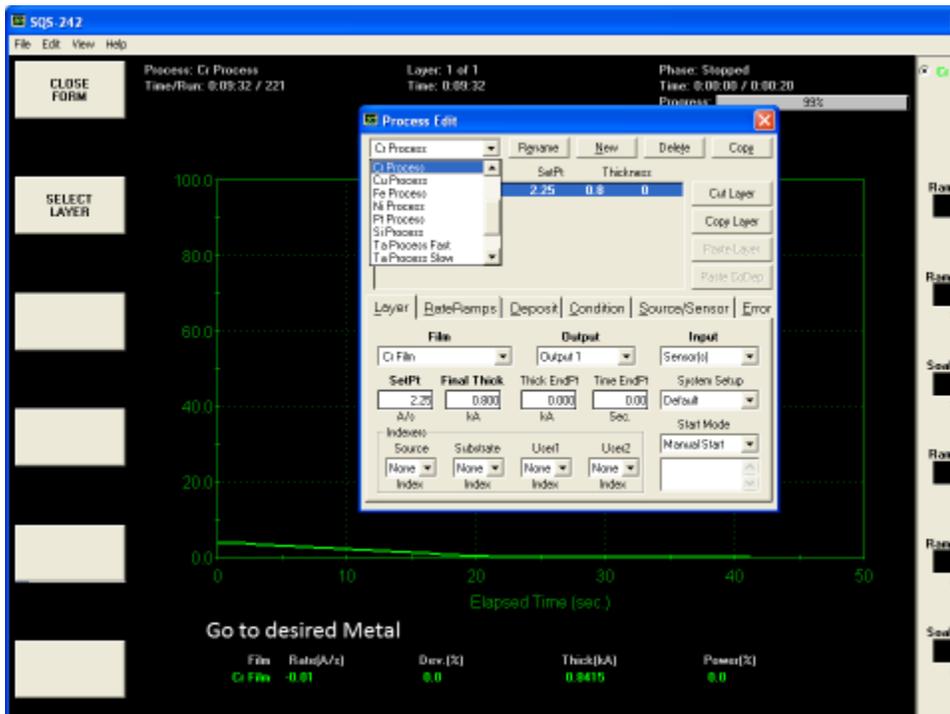
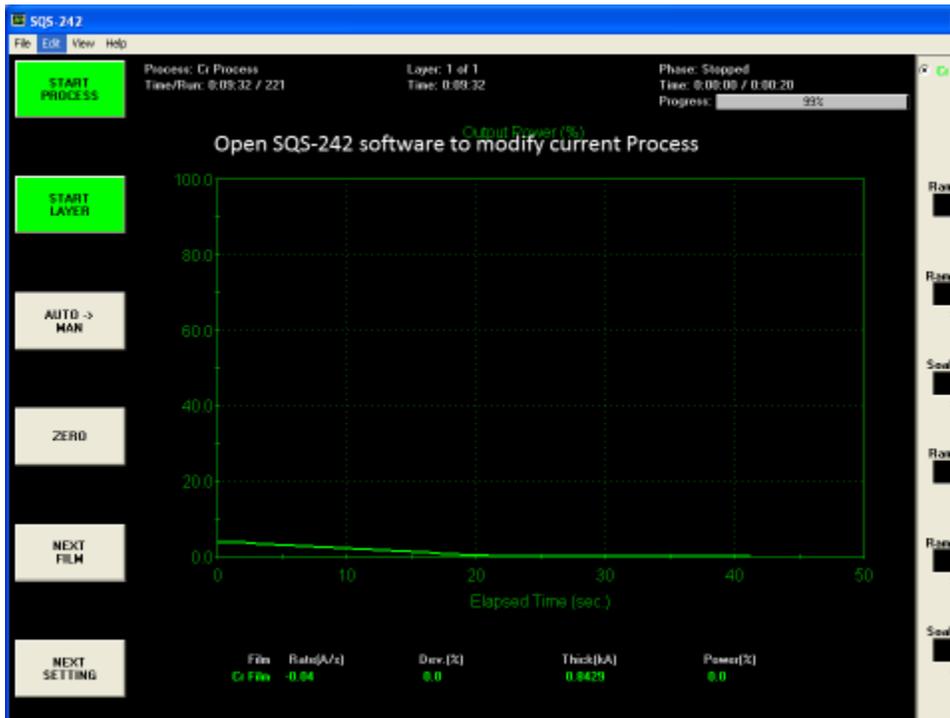
BASE PRESSURE (Torr)	PROCESS PRESSURE (Torr)

RECIPE NAME	MATERIAL	SIGMA PROCESS	SIGMA FILM	TOOLING	TARGET DEP RATE (A/s)	TARGET THICKNESS (A)	MELT POWER (%)	DEP POWER (%)

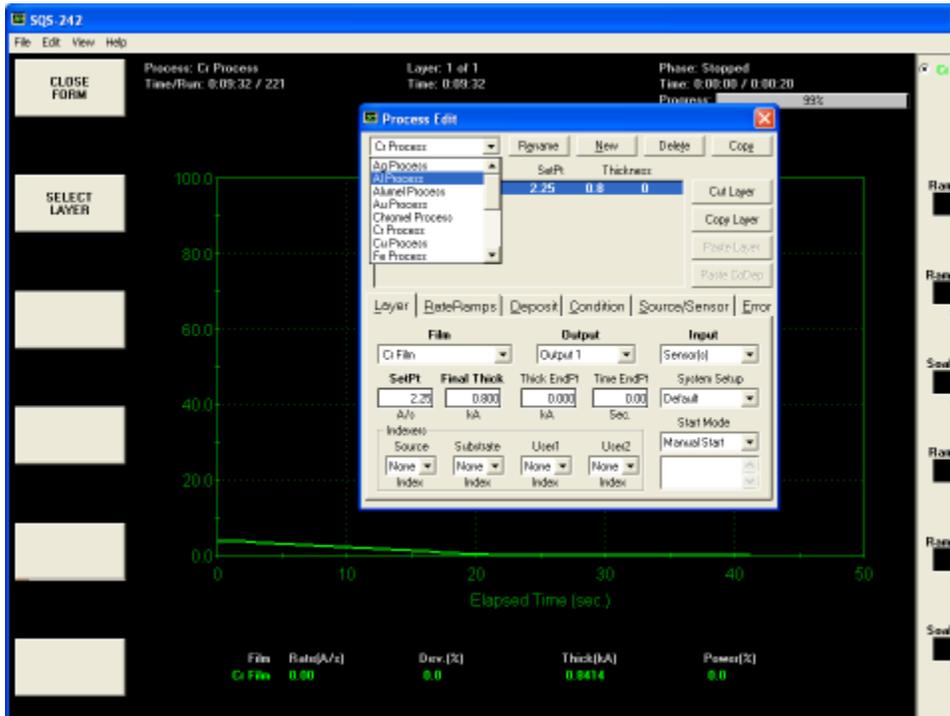
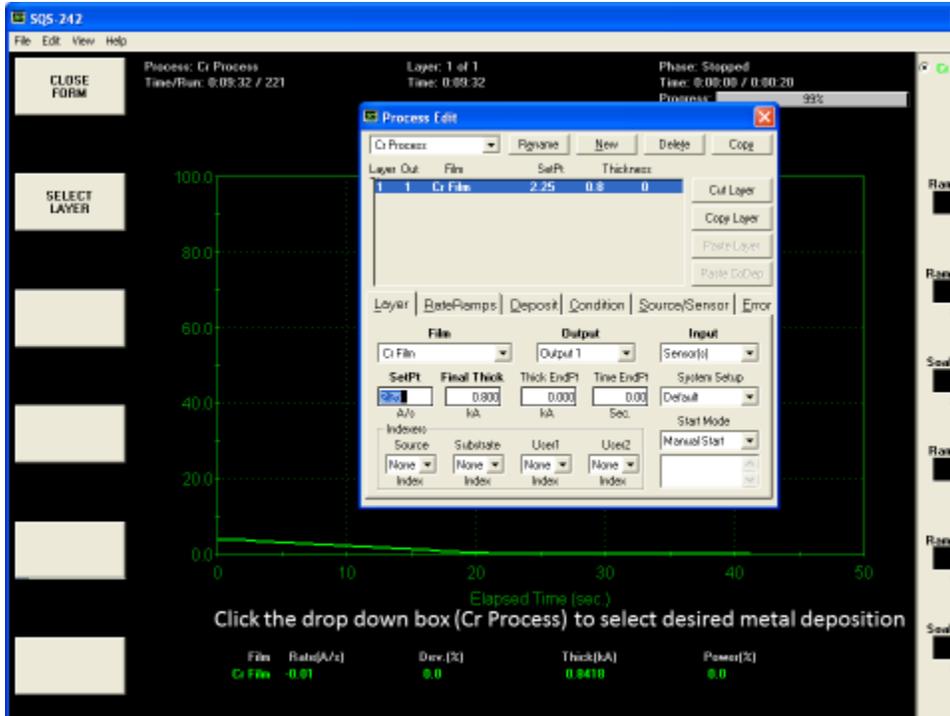
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Comments:

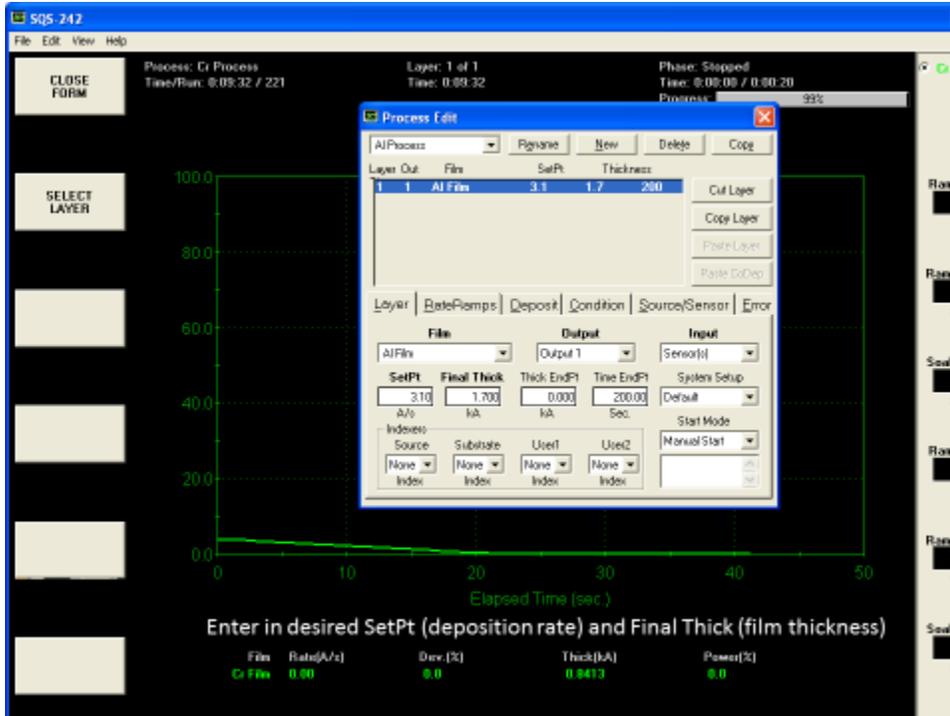
Appendix D – Screen Shots of Running a Recipe



Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap



Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap



Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap

Process: Cr Process
Time/Run: 0:09:32 / 221

Layer: 1 of 1
Time: 0:09:32

Phase: Stopped
Time: 0:09:09 / 0:00:20

Process: 99%

Process Edit

ALProcess | Rename | New | Delete | Copy

Layer	Out	File	SetPt	Thickness	
1	1	Al Film	2	5	200

Cut Layer
Copy Layer
Paste Layer
Paste CoDep

Layer | RateRamps | Deposit | Condition | Source/Sensor | Error

Loop

P Term: 0
I Term: 0.2
D Term: 0.10

Shutter Delay

Enabled

Accuracy: 30.0 %

Wait: 600.00 Sec. Hold: 20.00 Sec.

Rate Sampling

Continuous

Accuracy Based: 5.00 %

Time Based: Sample 10.00 Sec. Hold 10.00 Sec.

Go to Deposit tab to view/change Shutter Delay settings

File Rate(A/s) Dev.(%) Thick(Å) Power(%)
Cr Film 0.00 0.0 0.9481 0.0

Process: Cr Process
Time/Run: 0:09:32 / 221

Layer: 1 of 1
Time: 0:09:32

Phase: Stopped
Time: 0:09:09 / 0:00:20

Process: 99%

Process Edit

ALProcess | Rename | New | Delete | Copy

Layer	Out	File	SetPt	Thickness	
1	1	Al Film	2	5	200

Cut Layer
Copy Layer
Paste Layer
Paste CoDep

Layer | RateRamps | Deposit | Condition | Source/Sensor | Error

Pre Condition

Ramp1 Pwr: 10.00 % Ramp2 Pwr: 20.00 %

Ramp1 Time: 45.00 Sec. Ramp2 Time: 60.00 Sec.

Soak1 Time: 60.00 Sec. Soak2 Time: 180.00 Sec.

Post Condition

Feed Power: 0.00 % Idle Power: 0.00 %

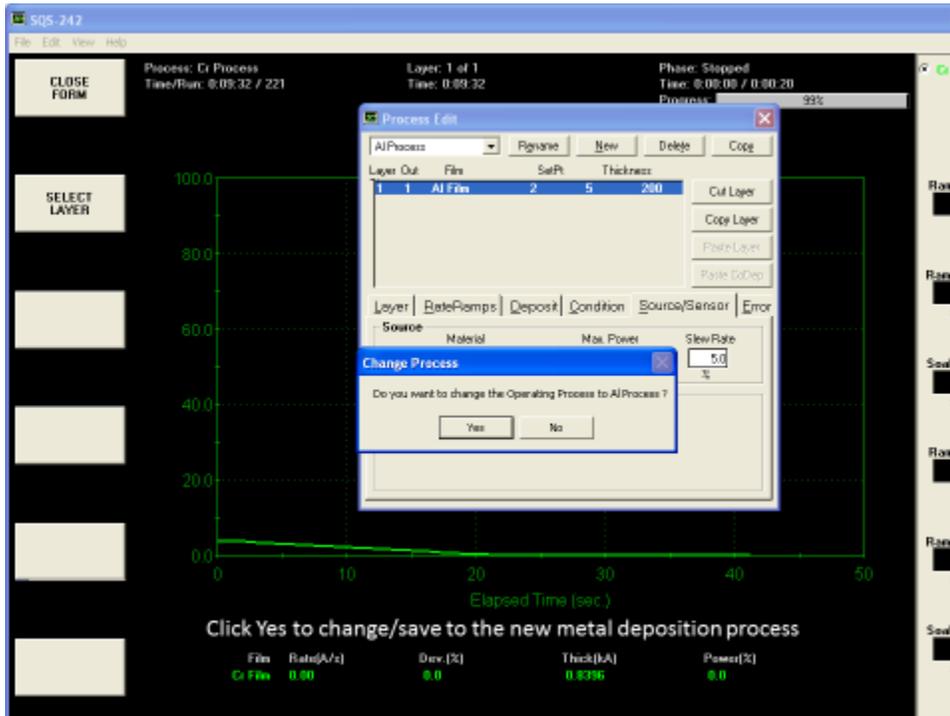
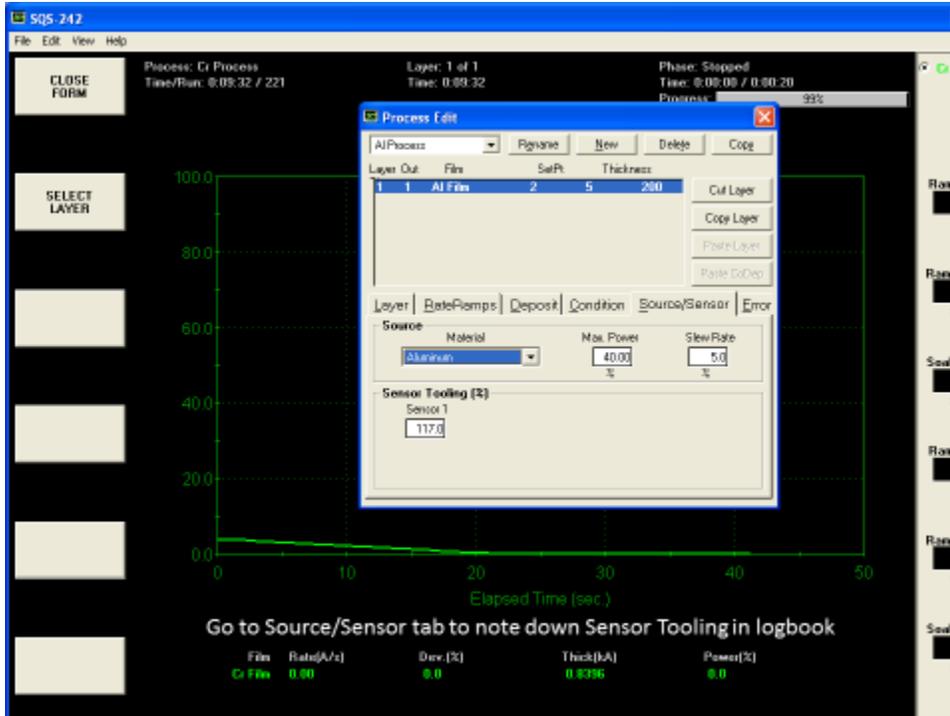
Ramp Time: 200.00 Sec. Ramp Time: 60.00 Sec.

Feed Time: 0.00 Sec.

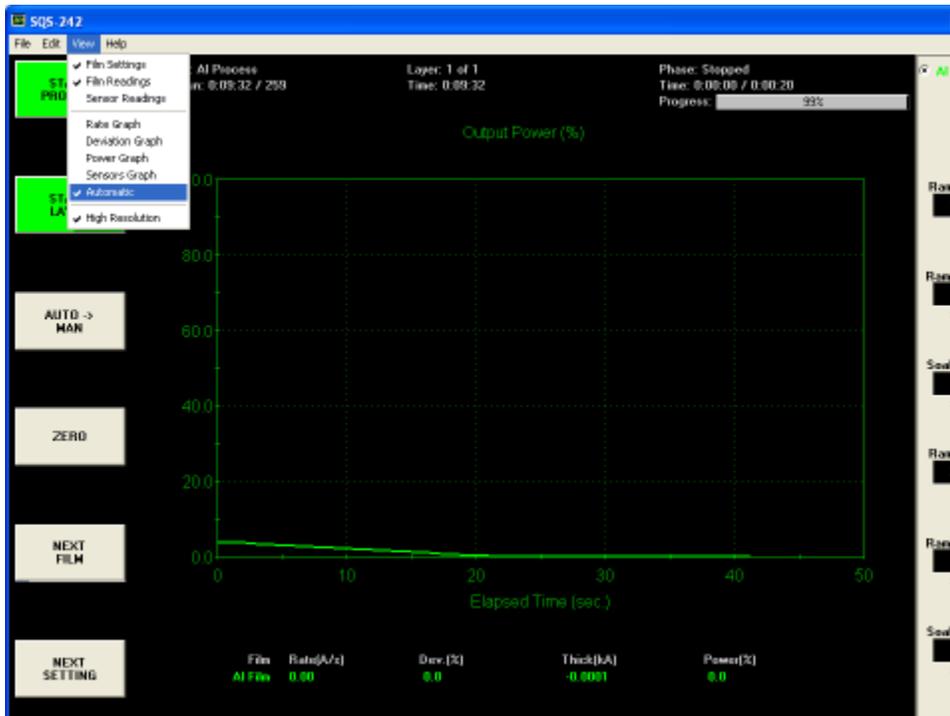
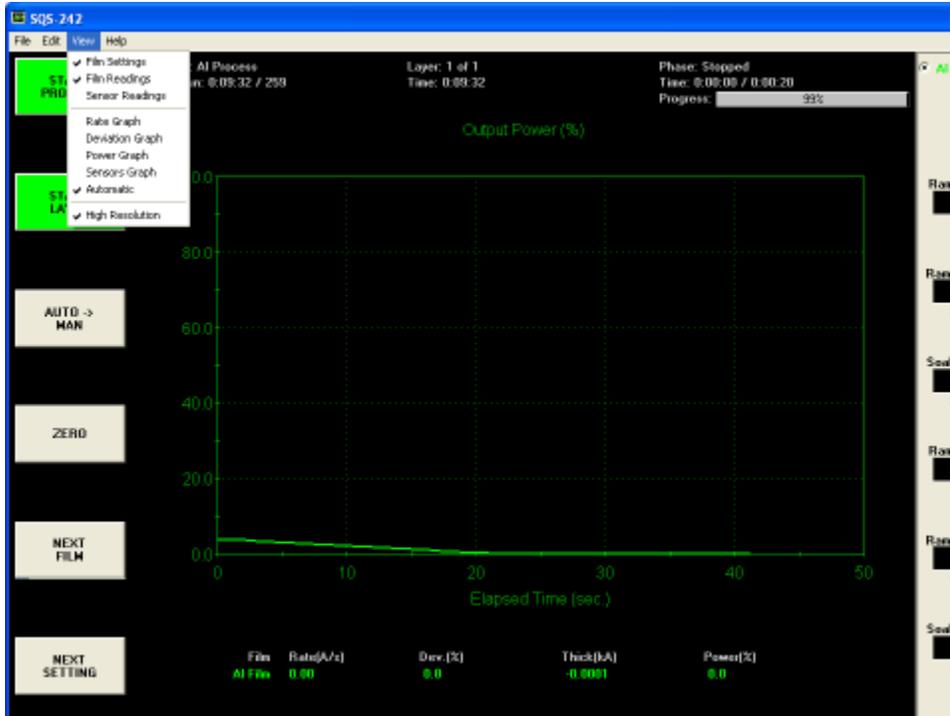
Go to Condition tab to view/modify Pre and Post Ramping Conditions

File Rate(A/s) Dev.(%) Thick(Å) Power(%)
Cr Film 0.00 0.0 0.9480 0.0

Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap



Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap

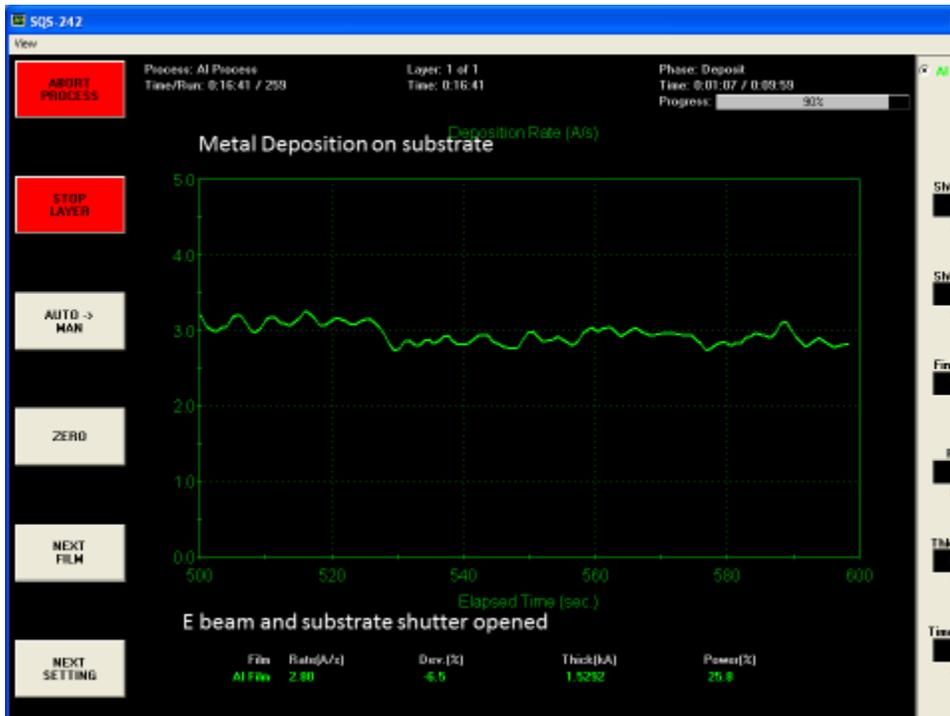
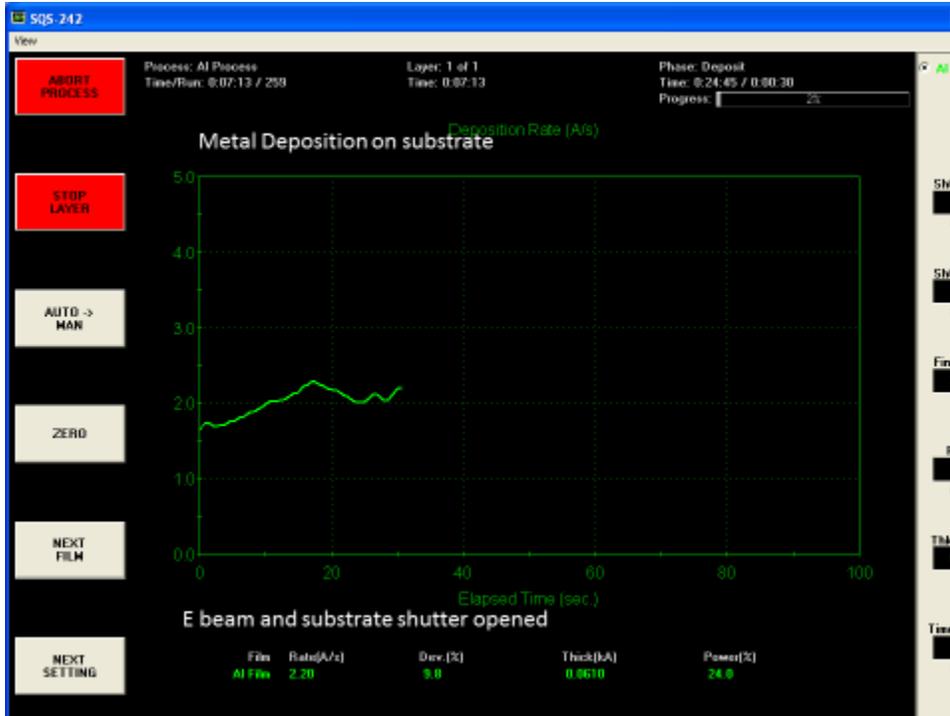


Lesker PVD 75 Ebeam Evap

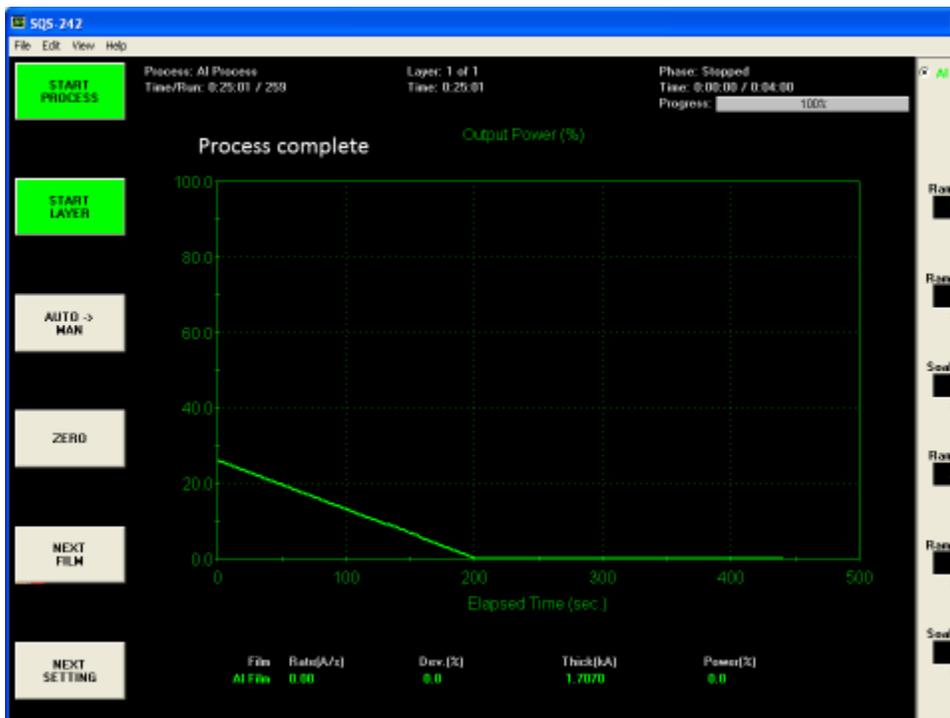
The screenshot shows the main control interface for the Kurt J. Lesker PVD 75. At the top, it displays 'Operation Vacuum' and 'Copyright © 2015, Kurt J. Lesker, V6.27107'. The user is logged in as 'Super User'. The interface includes several tabs: Vacuum, Deposition, Heating, Platen Motion, and Signs. A central display shows the chamber status: 'PC VAC', 'WPS-Ton 3.4E-6', and 'Substrate Temp 22.5'. To the right, there are controls for 'PC Turbo Speed Setpt' (100), 'Turbo Pump PC' (OFF), and 'PC Turbo Backing Valve'. A 'Run Recipe' dialog box is open, showing a list of recipes and highlighting 'P3 Al Rotation Standard'. A '3.4E-6' display is visible at the bottom center.



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