

iCycler® Firmware Upgrade, version 4.006, released 06/07/2005

iCycler Thermal Cycler Firmware Upgrade Instructions

The iCycler is upgraded via a serial port connection to a PC computer, or via a serial port pass with the iQ™5 real-time PCR detection system USB connection. The computer serial port must support a 57,600 baud rate. The connection may be made with a standard 9-pin serial cable. The firmware upgrades may be ordered from Bio-Rad using catalog number 170-8737. A recent version of the iCycler firmware and a related utility are included on the iQ5 SW installation CD provided with the iQ5 system. To complete a firmware upgrade of older iCycler instruments, follow the instructions below to copy the iCycler upgrade files from the installation CD to the computer connected to the iQ5 system.

1. Connect the 9-pin serial cable from the serial port located at the rear of the iCycler instrument to the iQ5 optical module, ensuring that the iQ5 module is connected to a Pentium-class computer via a USB cable.
2. Close any other application that may have already established communication with the iCycler base unit (for example, IQ5.EXE or the iCycler report utility software).
3. Use the Windows Explorer to create a new folder on the C: drive. Name this new folder Firmware Upgrade.
4. Open the CD directory \base unit\firmware upgrade and copy the files UPGRADE.EXE and ICYCPROG.BIN to the Firmware Upgrade folder created in step 3.
5. From Windows Explorer, open the Firmware Upgrade folder now located on the C: drive and double click on the UPGRADE.EXE. The utility will open and establish communication with the iCycler through the serial port connection bridged by the iQ5 optical module.
6. Each new version of firmware is assigned a higher version number than the previous program. The UPGRADE.EXE utility will detect the version number of the installed firmware and display this information for comparison to the version ready for download. Download of a new firmware program will not proceed until the user enters "y" after reviewing the firmware version information.
7. The upgrade utility will display the following information:
Old program version: _____
New program version: _____
Proceed with download? y / n
8. If the new version is a higher number than the old version, enter "y" to proceed with the download.
9. Enter "n" if the new version is the same or a lower number than the old version. Entering "n" will exit and close the UPGRADE.EXE utility.
10. Once the download is complete, the UPGRADE.EXE utility will display a message confirming that the upgrade has been successfully completed. The UPGRADE.EXE utility will automatically shut down and restart the iCycler instrument in order to complete the installation of the new firmware.

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