

595 North Harrison Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823-0048 USA
Telephone 800-247-6628 • 814-359-3441
Fax 800-447-3044 • 814-359-3044
email: supelco@sial.com
sigma-aldrich.com/supelco

# **Bulletin 933**

# Capillary GC Column Choices for Residual Solvent Analyses Using Direct Injection or Solid Phase Microextraction\* (SPME)

There is a variety of solvents used in pharmaceutical processing. In the process of preparing a pharmaceutical product, you can potentially retain residual organic solvents in the final preparation. In the interest of safety for the patient, the trend has been to use less toxic solvents during the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations. In this bulletin, we discuss the choices of capillary GC columns most suitable for residual solvent analyses. We present the results of using the traditional direct injection technique, as well as, the fast, solvent free, and economical technique of SPME.

In the United States, the regulations require that you examine most pharmaceuticals to confirm the absence or very limited presence of many solvents. Current guidelines published by the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) describes a list of specific solvents, along with daily exposure limits. (1) The guidelines classify these solvents based on their toxicity:

- Class I: Solvents to be avoided
- Class II: Solvents to be limited
- Class III: Solvents with low toxic potential
- Solvents for which no adequate toxicological data is available

The compound lists for Classes I, II, and III contain 61 different solvents. No single column is capable of separating them all. For this reason, both of the analytical methods outlined by the United States and European Pharmacopoeia (USP and EP) describe the use of several capillary columns of different chemistries (2,3). We compared three columns that are equivalent to those described in both the EP and USP methods for the analysis of 60 of the 61 solvents (those detectable by GC/FID). Table 1 outlines the descriptions of these columns.

We analyzed the solvents by direct injection as three separate mixtures, divided by their individual classes (I, II or III). We prepared these standards specifically for this application. They are available through our Custom Chemical Standards Program.



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We can tailor these standards in combinations and concentrations to meet your specific needs. The run conditions were the same for all three columns. As expected, the elution order of the solvents varied for each column. The different elution orders are due to differences in chemical and physical properties of the solvents (boiling points, polarizability, dipole moments, number of hydrogen donor and hydrogen acceptor sites) and the strengths of the stationary phase-analyte interactions as described in Tables 2 and 3. The type and strength of these interactions determines the amount of time you will retain the analyte on the column.

Table 1. USP and EP Column Designations and Supelco Equivalents

| Method                              | Column Designation                | Supelco Equivalent                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| USP <467>, Method I                 | G27                               | Equity-5, cat. # 28279-U and precolumn, cat. # 25339 |
| USP <467>, Methods IV&V             | G43                               | OVI-G43, cat. # 25396 and precolumn cat. # 25339     |
| USP <467>, Method VI                | Various                           | Includes SUPELCOWAX 10, cat.# 25301-U                |
| EP Method 2.4.24 - Primary column   | 6% polycyanopropyl phenylsiloxane | OVI-G43, cat. # 25396                                |
| EP Method 2.4.24 – Secondary column | Macrogol 20000                    | SUPELCOWAX 10, cat.# 25301-U                         |

**Table 2. Stationary Phase–Analyte Interactions** 

| Interaction Type      | Effect on Selectivity                                   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dispersive            | elution by boiling point                                |
| π-π                   | elution by number of $\pi$ -bonds                       |
| Dipole-induced dipole | elution by polarizability elution by dipole moment      |
| Dipole-dipole         | elution by dipole moment                                |
| Hydrogen bonding      | elution by number of H-bond donor and/or acceptor sites |

**Table 3. Stationary Phase–Residual Solvent** Interactions

| Column        | Type of Interaction                                   |
|---------------|---|
| Equity-5      | dispersive<br>dipole-induced dipole                   |
| OVI-G43       | $\pi$ – $\pi$ dispersive dipole-induced dipole dipole |
| SUPELCOWAX 10 | $\pi$ – $\pi$ dispersive H-bonding dipole-dipole      |

We show chromatograms of each class of solvents on the three columns (Figures A through C) and information on the identity, retention time, and concentration of each peak (Tables 4 through 6). The advantage of having multiple columns available, of different selectivity, becomes evident when examining the information in these tables. A coelution on the primary analytical column will often be resolved on a secondary or confirmation column. For example, ethyl ether and ethanol, which coeluted on the OVI-G43, were resolved on both the Equity-5 and SUPELCOWAX 10. Under the run conditions used, a dual column analysis on the Equity-5 and SUPELCOWAX 10 will resolve all 60 solvents. Pairs not resolved on the OVI-G43 will be resolved on either the SUPELCOWAX 10 or the Equity-5. Since the run conditions were kept the same for all three columns, this makes it possible to do a single analysis of a solvent mixture by running two columns at the same time in a single GC oven. We suggest having all three columns available in your laboratory. The most suitable primary column for a particular analysis can be selected by studying Tables 4 through 6 and Figures A through C. Likewise, a second column can be chosen that will provide valuable confirmation information. This will guarantee success in being able to analyze any combination of solvents from the ICH list.

Table 4. Retention Times and Elution Order of Class I Residual Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43 Columns

| Peak # | Identification        | Concentration (μg/mL) | Retention Time<br>Equity-5 | Retention Time<br>SUPELCOWAX 10 | Retention Time<br>OVI-G43 |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1      | 1,1-Dichloroethylene  | 4000                  | 7.35                       | 2.97                            | 7.21                      |
| 2      | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane | 5000                  | 18.11                      | 5.54                            | 17.35                     |
| 3      | 1,2-Dichloroethane    | 2500                  | 18.29                      | 17.55                           | 19.22                     |
| 4      | Carbon tetrachloride  | 2000                  | 19.50                      | 5.54                            | 18.12                     |
| 5      | Benzene               | 1000                  | 19.50                      | 7.78                            | 19.06                     |

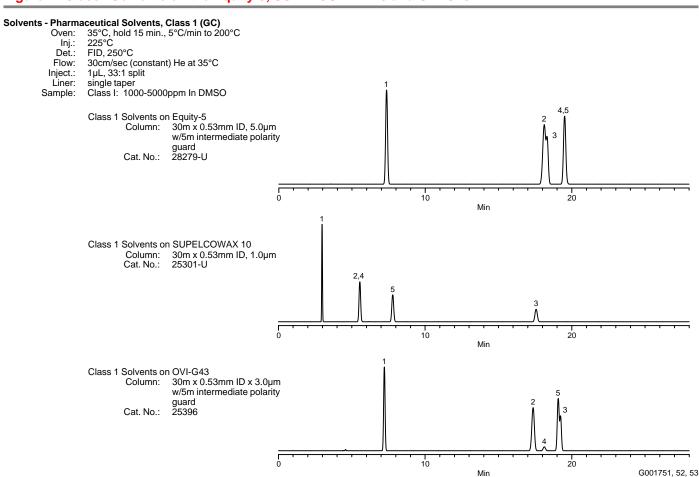
Table 5. Retention Times and Elution Order of Class II Residual Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43 Columns

| Peak #        | Identification              | Concentration (µg/mL) | Retention Time<br>Equity-5 | Retention Time<br>SUPELCOWAX 10 | Retention Time<br>OVI-G43 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1             | Methanol                    | 1000                  | 3.54                       | 6.04                            | 4.56                      |
| 2             | Acetonitrile                | 1000                  | 5.91                       | 11.80                           | 8.30                      |
| 3             | Methylene chloride          | 1000                  | 8.06                       | 7.60                            | 8.84                      |
| 4             | Nitromethane                | 250                   | 9.94                       | 22.91                           | NI                        |
| 5             | Hexane                      | 1000                  | 12.98                      | 2.24                            | 11.08                     |
| 6             | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene    | 1000                  | 14.00                      | 10.97                           | 14.74                     |
| 7             | Chloroform                  | 300                   | 15.16                      | 13.28                           | 16.67                     |
| 8             | 2-Methoxyethanol            | 250                   | 16.54                      | 23.59                           | 19.38                     |
| 9             | 1,2-Dimethoxyethane         | 500                   | 18.79                      | 7.06                            | 19.38                     |
| 10            | Cyclohexane                 | 1000                  | 19.56                      | 2.87                            | 17.54                     |
| 11            | Ethylene glycol             | 1000                  | 20.62                      | 36.92                           | 29.44                     |
| 12            | Formamide                   | 1000                  | 20.62                      | 40.49                           | 29.90                     |
| 13            | Trichloroethylene           | 400                   | 22.27                      | 10.97                           | 21.73                     |
| 14            | 1,4-Dioxane                 | 1000                  | 22.69                      | 16.31                           | 23.13                     |
| 15            | 2-Ethoxyethanol             | 800                   | 22.89                      | 25.37                           | 24.47                     |
| 16            | Methylcyclohexane           | 1000                  | 23.92                      | 3.30                            | 22.34                     |
| 17            | Pyridine                    | 1000                  | 24.91                      | 23.59                           | 25.80                     |
| 18            | Toluene                     | 1000                  | 26.44                      | 14.28                           | 26.12                     |
| 19            | Dimethylformamide           | 1000                  | 26.75                      | 28.99                           | 29.73                     |
| 20            | Methyl butyl ketone         | 250                   | 27.33                      | 18.01                           | 28.32                     |
| 21            | Chlorobenzene               | 1000                  | 30.48                      | 25.15                           | 30.35                     |
| 22            | Dimethylacetamide           | 1000                  | 31.01                      | 31.24                           | 33.76*                    |
| 23            | m-Xylene                    | 333                   | 31.41                      | 21.75                           | 31.08                     |
| 24            | p-Xylene                    | 333                   | 31.41                      | 21.41                           | 31.08                     |
| 25            | o-Xylene                    | 333                   | 32.46                      | 23.83                           | 32.21                     |
| 26            | n-Methylpyrrolidone         | 5000                  | 37.73                      | 38.07                           | 39.93                     |
| 27            | Tetralin                    | 500                   | 42.33                      | 34.70                           | 41.98                     |
| 28            | Sulfolane                   | 800                   | 43.34                      | 49.53                           | 46.53                     |
| NI: not integ | grated, *coelutes w/solvent |                       |                            |                                 |                           |

Table 6. Retention Times and Elution Order of Class III Residual Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43 Columns.

| Peak # | Identification       | Concentration (µg/mL) | Retention Time<br>Equity-5 | Retention Time<br>SUPELCOWAX 10 | Retention Time<br>OVI-G43 |  |
|--------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1      | Ethanol              | 3000                  | 4.90                       | 7.56                            | 6.29                      |  |
| 2      | Acetone              | 3000                  | 6.04                       | 4.06                            | 6.58                      |  |
| 3      | 2-Propanol           | 3000                  | 6.23                       | 7.26                            | 7.92                      |  |
| 4      | Pentane              | 3000                  | 6.23                       | 2.06                            | 5.99                      |  |
| 5      | Ethyl ether          | 3000                  | 6.64                       | 2.32                            | 6.29                      |  |
| 6      | Ethyl formate        | 3000                  | 7.16                       | 7.06                            | 7.39                      |  |
| 7      | Methyl acetate       | 3000                  | 7.78                       | 4.31                            | 8.54                      |  |
| 8      | 1-Propanol           | 3000                  | 9.50                       | 14.76                           | 12.60                     |  |
| 9      | Methyl-t-butyl ether | 3000                  | 10.33                      | 2.65                            | 9.92                      |  |
| 10     | Acetic acid          | 3000                  | NI                         | 33.02                           | 21.53                     |  |
| 11     | 2-Butanone           | 3000                  | 12.57                      | 6.14                            | 15.01                     |  |
| 12     | sec-Butanol          | 3000                  | 13.07                      | 13.45                           | 16.47                     |  |
| 13     | Ethyl acetate        | 3000                  | 14.68                      | 5.78                            | 15.58                     |  |
| 14     | Tetrahydrofuran      | 3000                  | 16.21                      | 4.93                            | 16.35                     |  |
| 15     | iso-Butanol          | 3000                  | 16.21                      | 19.23                           | 19.39                     |  |
| 16     | n-Butanol            | 3000                  | 19.48                      | 22.19                           | 22.02                     |  |
| 17     | Isopropyl acetate    | 3000                  | 19.48                      | 19.48 6.14                      |                           |  |
| 18     | Heptane              | 3000                  | 22.20                      | 2.65                            | 20.47                     |  |
| 19     | Propyl acetate       | 3000                  | 23.11                      | 9.71                            | 23.52                     |  |
| 20     | Isoamyl alcohol      | 3000                  | 24.33                      | 24.91                           | 26.16                     |  |
| 21     | 4-Methyl-2-pentanone | 3000                  | 24.68                      | 11.62                           | 25.72                     |  |
| 22     | n-Amyl alcohol       | 3000                  | 26.13                      | 26.49                           | 27.73                     |  |
| 23     | Isobutyl acetate     | 3000                  | 26.54                      | 12.34                           | 26.84                     |  |
| 24     | Butyl acetate        | 3000                  | 28.51                      | 17.72                           | 28.79                     |  |
| 25     | Dimethyl sulfoxide   | 3000                  | 29.18                      | 35.51                           | 33.02                     |  |
| 26     | Anisole              | 3000                  | 33.30                      | 29.65                           | 33.54                     |  |
| 27     | Cumene               | 3000                  | 33.68                      | 23.38                           | 33.29                     |  |

Figure A. Class I Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43



### Figure B. Class II Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43

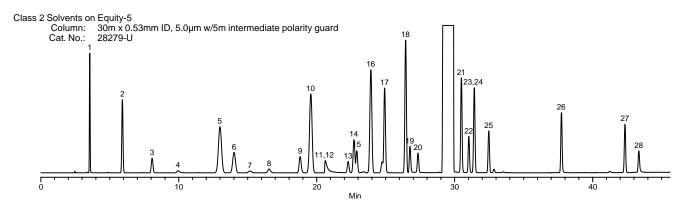
# Solvents - Pharmaceutical Solvents, Class 2 (GC) Oven: 35°C, hold 15 min, 5°C/min to 200°C Inj.: 225°C

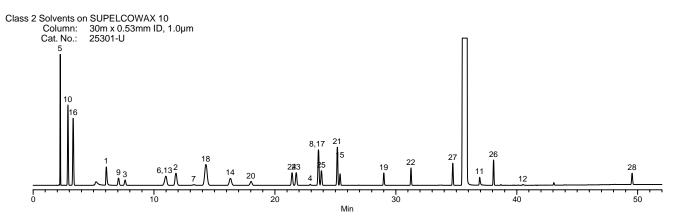
lnj.: Det.: Flow:

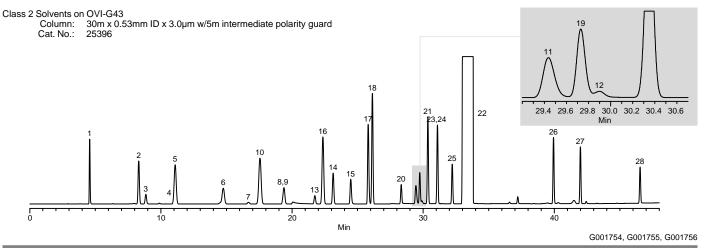
FID, 250°C 30cm/sec (constant) He at 35°C

Inject.: 1µL, 33:1 split Liner: single taper

Class II and n-methylpyrrolidone, 250-1000ppm in DMSO Sample:







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## Figure C. Class III Solvents on the Equity-5, SUPELCOWAX 10 and OVI-G43

Solvents - Pharmaceutical Solvents, Class 3 (GC)

Oven: 35°C, hold 15 min, 5°C/min to 200°C

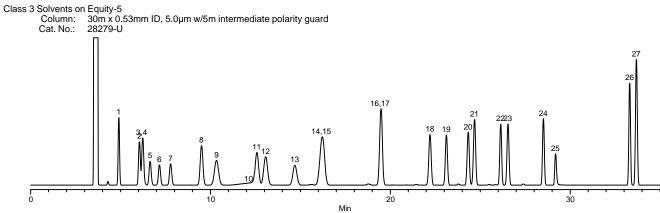
Inj.: 225°C

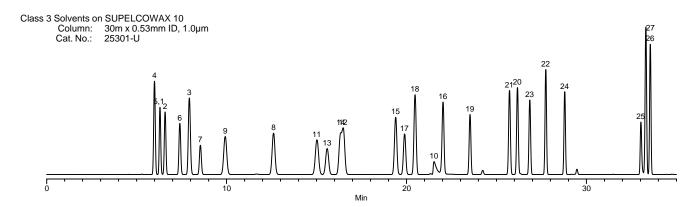
Det.: FID, 250°C

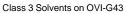
Flow: 30cm/sec (constant) He at 35°C

Inject.: 1µL, 33:1 split Liner: single taper

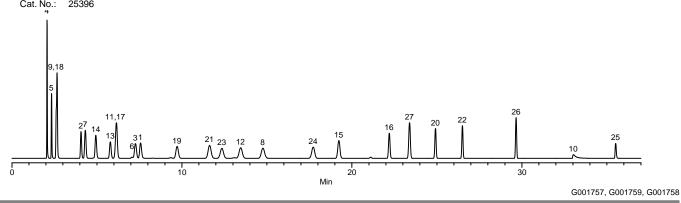
Sample: Class III: approx. 3000ppm in MeOH







Column: 30m x 0.53mm ID x 3.0µm w/5m intermediate polarity guard Cat. No.: 25396



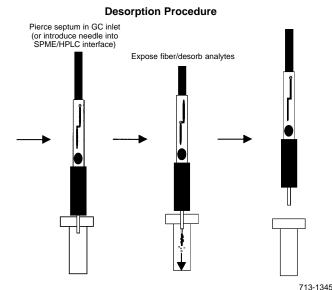
# Fast GC Analysis of Residual Solvents using SPME with Dual Capillary GC Columns

The analysis of residual solvents can be time consuming and not always effective. As shown in the previous section of this bulletin, cycle time for the GC analysis of residual solvents is about 45 minutes. This analysis time is long if multiple samples need to be evaluated daily. Typically, analysts use either a static headspace method or direct injection of the sample for quantifying residual solvents. Both of these methods require long, high capacity columns. When such columns are used, analysis times can range from 30 to 60 minutes depending on the analytes you monitor. The method described below uses short narrow bore columns coupled with SPME. This technique provides the resolution you need with analysis times of less than 10 minutes.

SPME is an excellent alternative to headspace analyzers and direct injections. With SPME, you insert a coated fiber into the headspace of the vial and the analytes are concentrated onto the

Figure D. Solid Phase Microextraction

# Pierce septum on sample container. Expose SPME fiber/extract analytes.



fiber. After a given amount of time (usually 5 min) the fiber is retracted into a needle, removed from the vial and inserted into the GC injection port where the fiber is desorbed (See Figure D). The fiber immediately releases the analytes into the injection port and onto the analytical column.

A low volume liner increases linear velocity and delivers the analytes onto the column with little or no band broadening. Therefore, you can use narrow bore columns. Since narrow bore columns provide more plates per meter than larger bore columns, you can use shorter length columns. This greatly reduces the analysis time while providing resolution similar to longer columns.

As previously mentioned in this bulletin, no single column is capable of separating a complex mixture of analytes classified as residual solvents; therefore, a second column is required. In this procedure, we installed a nonpolar Equity-1 column and an intermediate polarity VOCOL column in one injection port. These columns provide distinct differences in polarity while having compatible temperature ranges. We matched the column flows by shortening the column with the longer methane retention time. When the methane retention times between the two columns were within 10% of each other, the columns were ready for separating analytes.

For the evaluation of SPME and dual column separations, we prepared the solvents by class and extracted them from water using SPME. We determined that water was the best solvent choice for extraction of the solvents. However, if the drug or finished product is not water-soluble, you can dissolve it in a solvent such as DMSO and spike it into a water sample containing 25% sodium chloride. When extracting polar solvents, it is best to add salt to the sample. You can add the salt after you dissolve the sample and you can adjust the pH to enhance extraction efficiency.

Table 7 shows the best conditions for extracting the analytes in each class. We were able to extract most analytes at concentrations of 5ppm or less using these conditions.

# Table 7. Residual Solvent Extraction and Analysis Conditions

# Extraction Conditions for Class 1

Fiber: 100µm PDMS

Sample: 1ppm each analyte in 2mL water with 25% NaCl Extraction: heated headspace, 50°C for 5 min in 4mL vial Desorption: 3 min at 250°C

**Extraction Conditions for Class II** 

Fiber: 85µm Polyacrylate

Sample: 5ppm each analyte in 2mL water & 25% NaCl, pH 11 Extraction: heated headspace, 60°C for 5 min in 4mL vial

Desorption: 3 min at 250°C

### **Extraction Conditions for Class III**

Fiber: 100µm PDMS

Sample: 5ppm each analyte in 2mL water & 25% NaCl, pH 2 Extraction: heated headspace, 60°C for 5 min in 4mL vial

Desorption: 3 min at 250°C

### **GC Conditions**

Columns: Equity-1 and VOCOL both 10m x 0.20mm ID x 1.2µm

Oven: 40°C (hold 0.75 min) to 200°C at 20°C/min

(hold 10 min)

Carrier Gas: helium, 35cm/sec @40°C (9psi constant pressure) Injection Port: Split 5:1@40°C, 0.75mm liner, 2 columns in 1 port

using 0.8mm graphite ferrule

Detector: FID

We extracted the analytes using heated headspace from an aqueous matrix containing 25% salt. We recommend two types of fiber coatings. The 100 $\mu$ m PDMS fiber is suitable for Class I and Class III solvents. Many analytes in the Class II list are polar,

which requires a more polar fiber for extraction, therefore, we selected the  $85\mu m$  polyacrylate fiber. Figures E through J show the chromatograms of the analytes extracted by SPME.

Figure E. Class I Solvents on Equity-1 Column Using SPME (1ppm each in water)

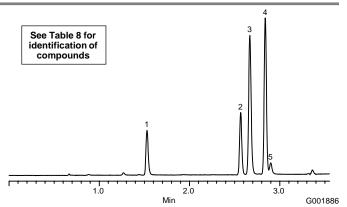


Figure F. Class I Solvents on VOCOL Column Using SPME (1ppm each in water)

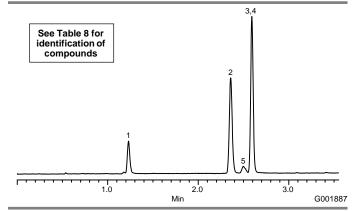


Figure G. Class II Solvents on Equity-1 Column Using SPME (5ppm each in water)

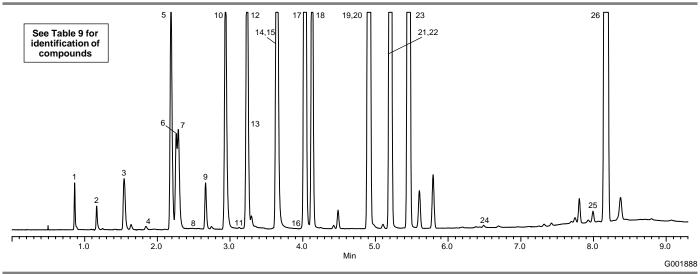


Figure H. Class II Solvents on VOCOL Column Using SPME (5ppm each in water)

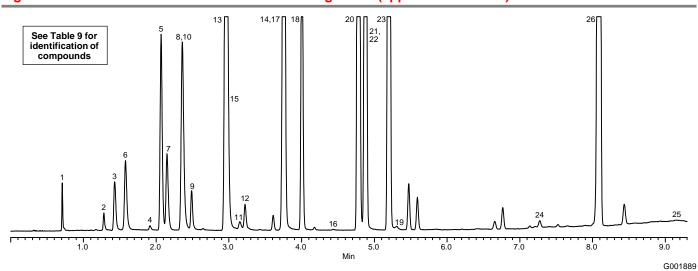


Figure I. Class III Solvents on Equity-1 Column using SPME (5ppm each in water)

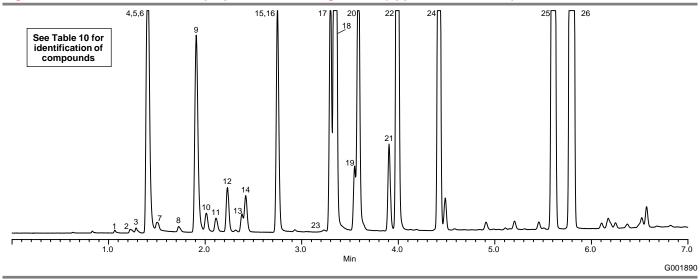
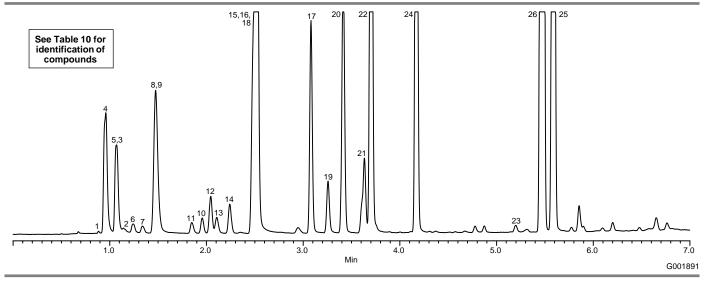


Figure J. Class III Solvents on VOCOL Column using SPME (5ppm each in water)



SPME is excellent for extracting nonpolar and moderately polar analytes. Only polar analytes with low vapor pressures are difficult to extract. Some of the peaks look very small, but that is in comparison to some nonpolar analytes that you can easily extract. By reducing the intensity scale, one can see that the peaks are sufficiently large and symmetrical for proper quantification.

Some of the residual solvents such as ethylene glycol and formamide have very low vapor pressures and you cannot analyze these by headspace. Therefore, we have not shown these in the chromatograms. Other aprotic and polar solvents such as dimethylacetamide, DMSO, sulfolane, n,n-dimethylformamide and glycol ethers are difficult to analyze by headspace. You can use SPME to extract these analytes, but the minimum quantitation limits will be higher than for less polar analytes. You usually

analyze these analytes by direct injection due to their low vapor pressures. By immersing the SPME fiber directly into the aqueous matrix, you can achieve slightly lower detection limits relative to headspace SPME.

Tables 8 through 10 show a listing of all of the analytes in the various classes along with the concentration that we used during the SPME evaluation. In the tables, we make a recommendation to the applicability of SPME for detection and quantification of the analytes. R is for recommended by SPME, D is for difficult by SPME, and N is for not recommended by SPME. We base these recommendations on a minimum quantitation limit of 5ppm or less. In cases where D is listed, it would be difficult to quantify the analyte at the concentration listed, but at higher concentration levels, these compounds should be quantifiable using SPME.

Table 8. Class I Solvents Using SPME

| Peak # | Identification<br>Class I | Concentration<br>(µg/mL) | SPME Use | Retention Time<br>Equity-1 | Retention Time<br>VOCOL |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1      | 1,1-Dichloroethene        | 1                        | R        | 1.54                       | 1.32                    |
| 2      | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane     | 1                        | R        | 2.58                       | 2.36                    |
| 3      | 1,2-Dichloroethane        | 1                        | R        | 2.66                       | 2.63                    |
| 4      | Benzene                   | 1                        | R        | 2.82                       | 2.63                    |
| 5      | Carbon tetrachloride      | 1                        | R        | 2.89                       | 2.51                    |

**Table 9. Class II Solvents Using SPME** 

| Peak #       | Identification<br>Class II        | Concentration (µg/mL) | SPME Use | Retention Time<br>Equity-1 | Retention Time VOCOL |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1            | Methanol                          | 5                     | R        | 0.87                       | 0.69                 |
| 2            | Acetonitrile                      | 5                     | R        | 1.17                       | 1.26                 |
| 3            | Methylene chloride                | 5                     | R        | 1.52                       | 1.56                 |
| 4            | Nitromethane                      | 5                     | R        | 1.64                       | 1.89                 |
| 5            | Hexane                            | 5                     | R        | 2.26                       | 2.04                 |
| 6            | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene          | 5                     | R        | 2.18                       | 2.12                 |
| 7            | Chloroform                        | 5                     | R        | 2.34                       | 2.35                 |
| 8            | 2-Methoxyethanol                  | 5                     | D        | 2.43                       | 2.30                 |
| 9            | 1,2-Dimethoxyethane               | 5                     | R        | 2.66                       | 2.54                 |
| 10           | Cyclohexane                       | 5                     | R        | 2.94                       | 2.36                 |
| 11           | 2-Ethoxyethanol                   | 5                     | D        | 3.30                       | 3.12                 |
| 12           | 1,4-Dioxane                       | 5                     | R        | 2.97                       | 3.21                 |
| 13           | Trichloroethene                   | 5                     | R        | 3.23                       | 2.85                 |
| 14           | Pyridine                          | 5                     | R        | 3.62                       | 3.77                 |
| 15           | Methylcyclohexane                 | 5                     | R        | 3.66                       | 2.98                 |
| 16           | Dimethylformamide                 | 5                     | D        | 3.87                       | 4.39                 |
| 17           | Toluene                           | 5                     | R        | 4.03                       | 3.77                 |
| 18           | Methyl butyl ketone               | 5                     | R        | 4.14                       | 4.02                 |
| 19           | Dimethylacetamide                 | 5                     | D        | 4.88                       | 5.60                 |
| 20           | Chlorobenzene                     | 5                     | R        | 4.92                       | 4.81                 |
| 21           | p-Xylene                          | 5                     | R        | 5.21                       | 4.20                 |
| 22           | m-Xylene                          | 5                     | R        | 5.21                       | 4.20                 |
| 23           | o-Xylene                          | 5                     | R        | 5.46                       | 5.24                 |
| 24           | n-Methylpyrrolidone               | 5                     | D        | 6.66                       | 7.25                 |
| 25           | Sulfolane                         | 5                     | D        | 8.14                       | 9.12                 |
| 26           | Tetralin                          | 5                     | R        | 8.18                       | 8.14                 |
|              | Ethylene glycol                   | 1000                  | N        |                            |                      |
|              | Formamide                         | 1000                  | N        |                            |                      |
| R=recommende | ed; D=difficult; N=not recommende | d                     |          |                            |                      |

Table 10. Class III Solvents using SPME

| Identification Peak # Class III |                      | Concentration<br>(µg/mL) | SPME Use | Retention Time<br>Equity-1 | Retention Time VOCOL |  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1                               | Ethanol              | 5                        | R        | 1.10                       | 0.92                 |  |
| 2                               | Acetone              | 5                        | R        | 1.25                       | 1.15                 |  |
| 3                               | 2-Propanol           | 5                        | R        | 1.32                       | 1.07                 |  |
| 4                               | Pentane              | 5                        | R        | 1.39                       | 0.96                 |  |
| 5                               | Ethyl ether          | 5                        | R        | 1.41                       | 1.07                 |  |
| 6                               | Methyl acetate       | 5                        | R        | 1.52                       | 1.34                 |  |
| 7                               | Ethyl formate        | 5                        | R        | 1.43                       | 1.24                 |  |
| 8                               | 1-Propanol           | 5                        | R        | 1.75                       | 1.52                 |  |
| 9                               | Methyl-t-butyl ether | 5                        | R        | 1.92                       | 1.47                 |  |
| 10                              | 2-Butanone           | 5                        | R        | 2.03                       | 1.96                 |  |
| 11                              | sec-Butanol          | 5                        | R        | 2.13                       | 1.84                 |  |
|                                 | Acetic acid          | 5                        | D        | 2.18                       | 1.73                 |  |
| 12                              | Ethyl acetate        | 5                        | R        | 2.25                       | 2.04                 |  |
| 13                              | Tetrahydrofuran      | 5                        | R        | 2.39                       | 2.24                 |  |
| 14                              | iso-Butanol          | 5                        | R        | 2.43                       | 2.11                 |  |
| 15                              | n-Butanol            | 5                        | R        | 2.75                       | 2.49                 |  |
| 16                              | Isopropyl acetate    | 5                        | R        | 2.76                       | 2.50                 |  |
| 17                              | Propyl acetate       | 5                        | R        | 3.31                       | 3.09                 |  |
| 18                              | Heptane              | 5                        | R        | 3.35                       | 2.52                 |  |
| 19                              | Isoamyl alcohol      | 5                        | R        | 3.56                       | 3.28                 |  |
| 20                              | 4-Methyl-2-pentanone | 5                        | R        | 3.60                       | 3.43                 |  |
| 21                              | n-Amyl alcohol       | 5                        | R        | 3.91                       | 3.64                 |  |
| 22                              | Isobutyl acetate     | 5                        | R        | 3.99                       | 3.69                 |  |
| 23                              | Butyl acetate        | 5                        | R        | 4.43                       | 4.19                 |  |
| 24                              | Dimethyl sulfoxide   | 5                        | D        | 4.31                       | 5.10                 |  |
| 25                              | Anisole              | 5                        | R        | 5.61                       | 5.63                 |  |
| 26                              | Cumene               | 5                        | R        | 5.80                       | 5.51                 |  |

We determined that 57 of 60 analytes can be analyzed by SPME, with eight of these being somewhat difficult to extract at 5ppm. SPME is a good alternative to conventional headspace analysis because of the short analysis time and good recovery for the majority of the residual solvent analytes.

# Using SPME for Quantitative Analysis of Residual Solvents

Many pharmaceutical companies use SPME on a routine basis for residual solvent analyses. They have demonstrated reproducible and quantitative results using SPME. The work of Scypinski and Smith at Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. (Nutley, New Jersey, USA) demonstrated the use of SPME for quantitative analysis of residual solvents. Their work compared headspace SPME and immersion SPME for determining residual solvents in several water-soluble drug substances (4).

Immersion and headspace SPME were essentially equal with respect to precision, sensitivity, and accuracy (Table 11). The Hoffmann-La Roche chemists preferred the headspace method because it prolonged the lifetime of the SPME fiber. A 100µm polydimethylsiloxane-coated fiber provided higher sensitivity toward the nonpolar analytes (i.e., the residual solvents). A polyacrylate-coated fiber offered higher sensitivity toward the polar analytes (alcohols). Using the polydimethylsiloxane-coated fiber, detection limits ranged from 0.06µg/mL and 0.3µg/mL for 1,4-dioxane (by headspace and immersion, respectively) to 0.002µg/mL for benzene (both techniques). For their analysis, they added methanol at 1.0% v/v in the water diluent to obtain reproducible residual solvent results. Based on these results, the chemists concluded that the SPME sample introduction technique is useful for screening residual solvents in pharmaceutical drug substances.

Because liquid and headspace sampling methods differ in kinetics, you should consider the two approaches complementary. For a given sampling time, other analysts have found immersion SPME is more sensitive than headspace SPME for analytes predominantly present in the liquid (5). The reverse was true for analytes that reside primarily in the headspace. These generalizations can be used to your advantage to selectively adsorb more volatile or less volatile compounds, as a situation warrants. For higher sensitivity from headspace SPME, the sample headspace should be as small as is practical. Zhang and Pawliszyn present a detailed theoretical discussion of headspace SPME in reference 6.

SPME is fast, easy, economical, and eliminates the costs and hazards associated with using organic solvents. Under consistent sampling conditions, you can extract analytes with good precision over wide ranges of concentrations. Good precision also makes the technique effective in quantitative analyses. If you are interested in reducing the time and expense of sample concentration in your analyses, SPME is the ideal answer to your needs.

Table 11. Precision and Detection Limits of SPME/Capillary GC for Organic Volatile Impurities and Final Recrystallization Solvent

|                      | Precision | ı (% RSD) | Detection L | Detection Limit (µg/mL) |  |  |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|--|--|
|                      | Headspace | Immersion | Headspace   | Immersion               |  |  |
| Acetone              | 1.1       | 0.5       | 0.2         | 0.4                     |  |  |
| Ethanol              | 7.0       | 5.8       | 5.0         | 2.0                     |  |  |
| Isopropanol          | 1.4       | 1.9       | 0.6         | 1.6                     |  |  |
| Benzene              | 2.7       | 2.8       | 0.002       | 0.002                   |  |  |
| Chloroform           | 3.2       | 2.2       | 0.03        | 0.04                    |  |  |
| ,4-Dioxane           | 1.9       | 2.2       | 0.06        | 0.3                     |  |  |
| lethylene chloride   | 2.6       | 2.2       | 0.06        | 0.08                    |  |  |
| richloroethene       | 3.4       | 3.2       | 0.02        | 0.01                    |  |  |
| ta from reference 4. |           |           |             |                         |  |  |

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### Patents

\*Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME) Technology licensed exclusively to Supelco. US patent #5,691,206; European patent #523092.

### Trademarks

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| Equity-1    |            |                     |            |                    | SUPELCOWAX 10                                    |                     |             |                    |
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|             | Length (m) | d <sub>f</sub> (µm) | Beta       | Cat. No.           | Length (m)                                       | d <sub>ε</sub> (μm) | Beta        | Cat. No.           |
| 0.10mm ID   | 15         | 0.10                | 250        | 28039-U            | 0.10mm ID Fused Silica                           | 0.10                | 250         | 25025-U            |
| 0.20mm ID   | 12<br>25   | 0.33                | 152        | 28041-U            | 5<br>10  | 0.10                | 250<br>250  | 25025-U<br>25026-U |
|             | 25<br>10   | 0.33<br>1.2         | 152<br>42  | 28042-U<br>28043-U | 15   | 0.10                | 250         | 24343              |
| 0.25mm ID   | 30         | 0.10                | 625        | 28044-U            | 0.20mm ID Fused Silica<br>30                     | 0.20                | 250         | 24169              |
|             | 15<br>30   | 0.25                | 250        | 28045-U            | 60   | 0.20                | 250<br>250  | 24170              |
|             | 60         | 0.25<br>0.25        | 250<br>250 | 28046-U<br>28047-U | 0.25mm ID Fused Silica                           |                     |             |                    |
|             | 15         | 1.0                 | 63         | 28048-U            | 15   | 0.25                | 250         | 24077<br>24079     |
|             | 30<br>60   | 1.0<br>1.0          | 63<br>63   | 28049-U<br>28050-U | 30<br>60   | 0.25<br>0.25        | 250<br>250  | 24079              |
|             | 100        | 1.0                 | 63         | 28052-U            | 30   | 0.50                | 125         | 24284              |
| 0.32mm ID   | 30<br>15   | 0.10                | 800<br>320 | 28053-U<br>28054-U | 0.32mm ID Fused Silica<br>15                     | 0.25                | 320         | 24078              |
|             | 30         | 0.25<br>0.25        | 320<br>320 | 28055-U            | 30   | 0.25                | 320         | 24080-U            |
|             | 60         | 0.25                | 320        | 28056-U            | 60   | 0.25                | 320         | 24082              |
|             | 30<br>60   | 1.0<br>1.0          | 80<br>80   | 28057-U<br>28058-U | 15<br>30   | 0.50<br>0.50        | 160<br>160  | 24083<br>24084     |
|             | 100        | 1.0                 | 80         | 28060-U            | 60   | 0.50                | 160         | 24085-U            |
|             | 30<br>30   | 2.0<br>5.0          | 40<br>16   | 28061-U<br>28062-U | 30<br>60   | 1.0<br>1.0          | 80<br>80    | 24211<br>24212     |
|             | 60         | 5.0                 | 16         | 28063-U            | 0.53mm ID Fused Silica                           | 1.0                 | 00          | 2-72.12            |
| 0.53mm ID   | 15         | 0.10                | 1325       | 28064-U            | 15   | 0.50                | 265         | 25324              |
|             | 30         | 0.10                | 1325       | 28065-U            | 30<br>60   | 0.50<br>0.50        | 265<br>265  | 25325<br>25385     |
|             | 15<br>30   | 0.5<br>0.5          | 265<br>265 | 28067-U<br>28068-U | 15   | 1.0                 | 133         | 25300-U            |
|             | 15         | 1.0                 | 133        | 28069-U            | 30   | 1.0                 | 133         | 25301-U            |
|             | 30<br>15   | 1.0<br>1.5          | 133<br>88  | 28071-U<br>28072-U | 60<br>30   | 1.0<br>2.0          | 133<br>63   | 25391<br>25375-U   |
|             | 30         | 1.5                 | 88         | 28073-U            | 60   | 2.0                 | 63          | 25376              |
|             | 60<br>15   | 1.5<br>3.0          | 88<br>44   | 28074-U<br>28075-U | Solvents: OVI-G43                                |                     |             |                    |
|             | 30         | 3.0                 | 44         | 28076-U            | Length (m)                                       | d, (µm)             | Beta        | Cat. No.           |
|             | 60<br>15   | 3.0<br>5.0          | 44<br>27   | 28077-U            | 0.53mm ID Fused Silica                           | 7                   |             |                    |
|             | 30         | 5.0<br>5.0          | 27<br>27   | 28079-U<br>28081-U | 30   | 3.0                 | 44          | 25396              |
|             | 60         | 5.0                 | 27         | 28082-U            | Deactivated Guard Column for C<br>5m x 0.53mm ID | VI-G43              |             | 25339              |
| Equity-5    | Length (m) | d, (µm)             | Beta       | Cat. No.           |  |                     |             |                    |
| 0.10mm ID   | 15         | 0.10                | 250        | 28083-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
| 0.20mm ID   | 15         | 0.20                | 250        | 28084-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
| 0.201111112 | 30         | 0.20                | 250        | 28085-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 60<br>12   | 0.20                | 250        | 28086-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
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|             | 30         | 1.0                 | 80         | 28199-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 60         | 1.0                 | 80         | 28251-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
| 0.53mm ID   | 15<br>30   | 0.5<br>0.5          | 265<br>265 | 28252-U<br>28259-U |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 60         | 0.5                 | 265        | 28263-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 30<br>15   | 1.0                 | 133        | 28264-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 15<br>30   | 1.5<br>1.5          | 88<br>88   | 28265-U<br>28267-U |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 30         | 3.0                 | 44         | 28268-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 60<br>15   | 3.0<br>5.0          | 44<br>27   | 28269-U<br>28278-U |  |                     |             |                    |
|             | 30         | 5.0                 | 27<br>27   | 28279-U            |  |                     |             |                    |
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