Heaters and Controls for Laboratory and Scientific Analytical Equipment

Chromalox
PRECISION HEAT AND CONTROL

LABORATORY & SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT
The very nature of laboratory and analytical equipment demands accuracy and reliability. So when your application requires heaters and controls, choosing the right source for those components is all about finding products that are marked by precision and dependability, built by a manufacturer with the know-how and product selection to meet the demands of your application. That source is Chromalox.

Experience
Chromalox has specialized in providing precision heat and controls for technically demanding applications for nearly 100 years, beginning with the introduction of the world’s first metal-sheathed heating element. Our many years of accumulated experience and know-how, in addition to your Chromalox representative’s extensive experience in helping to solve ordinary and unusual heating requirements, make an unsurpassed combination for working out your specific heating problems.

Selection
We offer many thousands of sizes, types, and ratings of dependable electric heating elements, temperature sensors, and controls perfectly suited for the exacting standards required by laboratory and analytical equipment manufacturers. Our broad range of heaters, sensors, and controls offers you a wide choice from which to select the best heating equipment for your application. And most can be modified to meet specific application requirements.

Service
Our field sales representatives are strategically located to give you prompt, on-the-spot, personal service. Our heating specialists are available and ready to help you integrate our products into your application with the engineering capabilities to design and supply products for the most difficult or unusual applications imaginable. Multiple manufacturing facilities help to ensure that you get what you need when you need it.

Reliability
Reliability is the hallmark of Chromalox heaters and controls. Computer-aided engineering and manufacturing ensure the most optimum design parameters and the most efficient manufacturing processes are utilized. Detailed evaluations of incoming materials, continuous work-in-process inspections, and final inspection procedures that thoroughly test every item produced help to ensure delivery of trouble-free products.

Our quest for reliability is never-ending. We continually search for and analyze new materials and manufacturing methods to further increase quality and efficiency. On-going product-life testing provides performance evaluations leading to design improvements where necessary. Chromalox heaters and controls meet a variety of third-party approvals, recognition, and certifications, including UL, CSA, CE, and ASME.
Enhanced Operating Performance
Chromalox thermal solutions employ standard or custom controllers along with the right heater and sensor to assure process accuracy and repeatability for optimum performance with autoclaves, water baths, test chambers, shakers, ovens, and chromatograph analyzers.

Exacting Manufacturing Capabilities
Laboratory analytical equipment typically has stringent technical requirements for electric heating elements and sensors, ranging from precise dimensional and resistance tolerances to low current leakage and high insulation resistance readings. Chromalox understands these industry requirements, employing specific design criteria and manufacturing procedures to ensure that we meet your product specification. Our world-class manufacturing facilities utilize state-of-the-art production equipment and procedures to achieve outstanding product quality and value. All of our products follow rigorous in-process inspections and 100% final inspection, in accordance with the quality assurance parameters dictated by the end-use application needs.

Custom OEM Designs for Applications
Chromalox can design heating solutions for any unique requirement you might face. Our engineers will custom-design the right product to meet your application needs. If an element, sensor, control, or packaged system that we carry in stock doesn’t exactly fit your needs, we’ll custom-build it—either by expertly adapting an existing product or by designing and manufacturing a completely new one. We are responsive partners, eager to help you produce prototypes for new products and systems. With our experienced design engineers and extensive manufacturing capabilities, we’ll work with you to develop innovative designs in the shortest possible turnaround times.

Precision Temperature and Power Control
Chromalox custom and standard controllers, temperature sensors, power controllers, SCRs, and proprietary software precisely sequence heaters, properly balance electrical loads, control soft starts, and correct power factors.

Broadest Third-Party Approval
With manufacturing locations in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, Chromalox has earned approvals and certifications including, but not limited to, CE, NEC, UL, VDE, cUL, FM, CSA, MSHA, BASEEFA, Cenelec, ASME, PED, ATEX, GOST, and ISO 9001:2008.
PRECISE HEAT AND CONTROL FOR ACCURACY AND REPEATABILITY

For testing protocol to provide reliable results, the equipment used must achieve and maintain accuracy and repeatability. A heater and its control are but one aspect of any laboratory or analytical device that can introduce variability in a testing or analysis protocol.

Chromalox heaters and controls are engineered and manufactured to provide precise heat and control to help ensure the accuracy and repeatability that is expected of your equipment.

**Cartridge Heaters**
Sterilizers, ultrasonic cleaners, and hand and glove dryers are among the applications in laboratories where these long-life, high-efficiency performance heaters can be found. Their patented construction results in maximum heat transfer at reduced power consumption for economical performance. See product details on page 6.

**Kapton® Polyimide Heaters**
Kapton heaters are ideal for use in areas that require a thin, lightweight, flexible heater. Performance capabilities are similar to our silicone laminate heaters but there is no out-gassing with the use of Kapton heaters. These are etched foil elements and can be made in many different sizes and shapes to fit our customers’ needs. Because of their thickness they have much faster heat transfer than a typical flexible heater. See product details on page 6.

**Silicone Laminate/Flexible Heating Elements**
Versatile Chromalox silicone laminate/flexible heating elements find use in applications requiring low to medium temperatures, such as ultrasonic cleaners and heating mantels and tapes. Rugged construction of lightweight material provides chemical and moisture resistance. Wire elements are durable and wound precisely within the structure for optimal performance. A variety of electrical, shape, and contour fittings meets a broad range of specifications. See product details on page 6.

**Defrost Heaters**
Chromalox manufactures both tubular elements and a unique polymer-sheathed, self-regulating, cut-to-length cable. These heaters are ideal for refrigerator and freezer door gaskets, and defrost applications.

*Kapton is the registered trademark of E.I. DuPont De Nemours and Company.
These elements are versatile and transfer heat exceptionally well by convection (for air showers, autoclaves, sterilizers, muffle furnaces, tube furnaces), by radiant heating (for autoclaves, incubators), and by conduction (for hot plates, block heaters, ultrasonic heaters, heated stirrers). Round, triangular, flat press, and formed bends are made to customer requirements. Many sheath materials are available as well as more than 20 terminations and many stocked accessories. See product details on page 7.

Strip, Ring, and Disc Heating Elements
These easy-to-install heating elements heat surfaces by conduction or convection. Many sheath materials, termination styles, operating temperatures, sizes, voltages, wattage ratings, and mountings are available. These are often used for incubators, tube furnaces, air showers, water baths, and hot plates. See product details on page 7.

Custom and Standard Controls
From basic, low-cost temperature and process controllers, to monitors and overtemperature controls, to more sophisticated control systems, Chromalox has the controls you need for use in a variety of laboratory and scientific analytical equipment. Choose from our line of standard components, or let Chromalox custom-design the right control solution for your application’s needs. We are the only heating element supplier offering a complete line of controls, control panels, and accessories. See product details on pages 8 and 9.

RELIABILITY. THE HALLMARK OF CHROMALOX HEATERS AND HEATER CONTROLS
Computer-aided engineering and manufacturing guarantees utilizing the optimum design parameters and the most efficient manufacturing process. Detailed evaluations of incoming materials, continuous work-in-process inspections, and final inspection procedures that thoroughly test every item produced help ensure delivery of trouble-free products. We continually search for and analyze new materials and manufacturing methods to further increase quality and efficiency, while on-going product-life testing provides performance evaluations leading to design improvements where necessary.
Silicone Laminate/Flexible Heaters
Chromalox silicone laminate/flexible heaters are thin and extremely pliable, making them the perfect heating solution for virtually any geometry or complex shape. They feature low mass and minimal thickness to deliver extremely responsive heat-up and cool-down for low to medium-temperature applications. They are ruggedly constructed by laminating wire or etched-foil heating circuits between plies of silicone rubber insulating material for flexibility and strength. Terminal connections are made internally at any point on the surface of the heater or projected from any edge with internal or mounted strain reliefs used to help ensure durability. A wide range of mounted or free-standing thermostats, thermocouples, RTDs, thermal fuses, and thermistors is available for control. These heaters can be mounted by using adhesives, vulcanized bonding, eyelets, mounting bars, hooks, springs or spring clasps, and pre-formed clasps.

- Maximum temperature: 392°F (200°C)
- Voltage: Up to 600

Kapton® Polymide Heater
The performance capabilities of Kapton heaters are similar to those of our silicone laminate heater product line. The advantages of polyimide (Kapton) over silicone are that they are much thinner (approximately 0.007 in./0.18 mm thick). This allows for much faster heat transfer, which can allow increased watt density, and they exhibit virtually no out-gassing when energized. The heaters are designed for lower temperature applications (<392°F/200°C). These units are constructed of an etched foil circuit sandwiched between two layers of 0.002 in. (0.051 mm) polyimide substrate. The layers are bonded with either acrylic or FEP adhesive. The heaters can be supplied with pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) for bonding. Many types of compatible temperature controls are available, including integrated thermistors, thermocouples, RTDs, and thermostats.

- Maximum temperature: 392°F (200°C)
- Watt density: Up to 50 W/in.² (7.75 W/cm²)
- Sizes: Up to 12 X 18 in. (305 x 457 mm)

High-Density Cartridge Heaters
The patented construction of Chromalox high-density cartridge heaters results in unmatched, high-efficiency performance characteristics and a superior life rating. No other swaged cartridge heater is compacted to the extent of Chromalox high-density cartridge heaters. The tightly compacted refractory insulation provides excellent heat transfer to the heavy-wall INCOLOY® sheath. This means that the resistance wire runs at a lower temperature than competitive units with loose-fill insulation. Uniform winding of the wire and close and even spacing between the wire and the inside of the sheath produces even temperature throughout the heater’s length. Tight spacing between turns permits the use of largest-gauge resistance wire. Because the construction allows maximum heat transfer and high temperatures, fewer heaters at higher watt densities are needed, reducing space requirements.

- Lengths: Up to 48 in. (1.2 m)
- Diameters: ¼, ⅛, ⅛, ⅜, ⅜, and ¾ in. (6.5, 8, 10, 12.5, 16, and 20 mm)
- Wattage: 50 to 5,000
- Voltage: Up to 480
- Watt densities: From 25 to 200 W/in.² (3.9 to 31 W/cm²)

*Kapton is the registered trademark of E.I. DuPont De Nemours and Company. MONEL and INCOLOY are the registered trademarks of Huntington Alloys Corporation.


**TUBULAR AND STRIP HEATERS**

**Tubular Heating Elements**

These perform exceptional heat transfer by conduction, convection, or radiation, applying the exact amount of heat required to liquids, air, and surfaces. Element design configurations vary—round, triangular, flat press, and formed bends. Bends are made to customer requirements. A multitude of sheath materials is available as are more than 20 optional terminations and many stocked accessories.

- Chromalox V Seal, V Seal Plus, A Seal, and RX Seal are available as lower-cost alternatives to a hermetic seal to help prevent moisture ingress and meet UL 197 standards
- Highly adaptable heating elements; extremely versatile heat source
- Carefully selected and computer-verified resistance wire size ensures the longest possible service life
- Resistance wire welded to the terminal pin ensures a positive connection
- High-quality magnesium oxide compacted around resistance wire readily conducts heat to the sheath, putting heat where it's required and contributes to maximum heater life
- Lengths: Up to 172 in. (4.4 mm)
- Wattage: 75 to 10,000
- Voltage: 120, 240, 280
- Watt density: 3 to 53 W/in.² (0.5 to 8.2 W/cm²)
- Maximum sheath temperature: Up to 1,600°F (871°C)

**Strip Heaters**

Chromalox offers a variety of strip heaters and accessories for convection-type air heating and clamp-on installations. They are ruggedly constructed for efficient heat transfer and long, dependable service. High-quality, coiled, alloy resistor wire embedded in specially formulated, high-grade refractory material is uniformly spaced over the width and length of the heater for even heat distribution. The rock-hard, high-density refractory material both insulates the resistor and maximizes and transfers heat rapidly from the coil to the sheath. A variety of sheath materials is available, including rust-resisting iron, MONEL®, chrome steel, and INCOLOY®—all with a high-emissivity black oxide finish for maximum heat transfer. Chromalox clamping devices and mounting tabs speed installation. Many choices of terminal locations simplify layout between elements and power lines. Hundreds of models are in stock and available for immediate shipment. Special ratings and sizes can be readily manufactured.

- Length: Up to 72 in. (1.8 m)
- Wattage: Up to 3,000
- Maximum temperature: Up to 1,500°F (816°C)
- Voltage: 120 to 400
- Watt density: Up to 38 W/in.² (6 W/cm²)
- Maximum temperature: Up to 1,500°F (816°C)
CUSTOM CONTROLS

Custom Controller/Timer
The Chromalox custom controller/timer provides reliable, accurate temperature control in a unit that fits inside compact equipment. It uses a “SMART” auto-tuning PID algorithm for accurate control that automatically calculates the PID parameters suited for a specific process. Its integral timer function provides timed control of a heating cycle. The custom controller/timer is designed for simple software and hardware modification to enable different button or timing functions. It comes without an overlay, so that one may be customized, whether it is provided by the customer or by Chromalox. It can cover just the custom controller/timer or the customer’s entire control display and include the customer’s branding. The dual PCB board assembly can be mounted in spaces as shallow as 2 inches (51 millimeters)—even 1 inch (25 millimeters) if the assembly’s two boards are mounted side by side.

- Process timing from 1 to 999 minutes
- Alarm with relay or built-in buzzer option
- Configuration port for saving and downloading set-up parameters
- Independent over-temperature option provides an inexpensive independent circuit and eliminates the need for additional space and/or mounting of a separate component

OEM Custom Control Platform
Developing a custom temperature controller for your OEM application quickly and easily can result in reduced costs and faster response-to-market. This is the idea behind the Chromalox OEM custom control platform.

Here’s how it works:

1. Prototyping is accomplished with a system board that accepts plug-in input and output cards of standard types that can be mixed and matched for each application.
2. When the design is finalized for production, the modules are quickly repackaged into a single-board solution.

Basic operational capabilities include support for a variety of temperature sensor types, temperature control for up to four channels, hi/low temperature alarms, basic timer functions, and one- or two-number hour/minute displays. The Chromalox OEM custom control panel platform can be panel-mounted with either an overlay or membrane switch. Use a Chromalox control overlay or use your own to make the control unique to your product.

Additional features:
- Quick and simple setup and programming using direct manual input to configure setpoint and timer functions
- Additional parameter adjustments may be included for field use or factory configured to your requirements
- Control modes include on/off with a dead band, PI, and PID
- Alarm types include process, high or low
- Advanced custom operator interface is available for remote-control parameter viewing and configuring, and for downloading programs or uploading information for advanced diagnostics by PDA or PC, wirelessly or via Ethernet
STANDARD CONTROLS AND SENSORS

Standard Controls
Temperature Controls
From basic electromechanical thermostats to single- and multi-loop, microprocessor-based temperature controllers, Chromalox temperature controllers provide precise, economical process control. Advanced models feature PID operating modes for heating and/or cooling; fuzzy logic control; dual output/dual alarm protection; NEMA 4X front panels; ramp/soak programming; and digital communications and software. Available panel cutouts (DIN) range from 1/32 to 1/4. Front panels can be customized to include your brand.

Monitors and Overtemperature Controllers
Our monitors and overtemperature controllers are designed to protect expensive process equipment with models offering alarm relay outputs; DIN rail mounting; digital LED displays; thermocouple and RTD inputs; NEMA 4X front panels; and digital communications. UL-, cUL-, and FM-approved models are available.

SCR Power Control Components
SCR power control components are easily integrated into electric resistance heating applications and deliver high-precision power modulation and smooth power output. Zero-crossover and phase-angle-fired configurations are available that drive single- and three-phase loads to 1,600 kW. Features include current limiting, over-current trip, LED status indicators, I2T fusing, and shorted SCR detection. Models are UL-, CUL-, CE-, and DEMKO-approved.

Sensors and Accessories
Sensors range from bare thermocouples and RTDs to the most sophisticated infrared non-contact sensors that directly, consistently, and accurately measure product temperature. Stock accessories include thermowells, wiring, indicating meters, timers, and recorders in addition to electro-mechanical contactors, thermostats, and thermostats.
Prompt Customer Service with Quick Parts Replacement
Chromalox maintains vast inventories of repair and replacement parts for immediate shipment and same-day or next-day delivery. Call our toll-free service line at 1-800-443-2640 and we’ll help you select the right component quickly and get your order on its way.

Technical Assistance 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week on the Internet at www.chromalox.com
This website offers product specs, design wizards, training manuals, and technical documentation day or night. You can find answers to questions about anything from electronic temperature controllers, heaters, and heating elements to material compatibility, corrosion, and wire sizing. And more...• Quickly check the availability of all stocked and assembly-stocked parts by part or model number• Search our ever-expanding resource of application solutions in the Chromalox Knowledge Base by typing in your application to see how we have solved the application in the past• Download our design guides, specification sheets, instruction manuals, catalog pages, and installation guides to quickly provide submittals and information to your customer base

Field Technical Service
In addition to information available in product literature and at our website, factory and local engineers can offer answers that return your equipment to service quickly. Factory-trained engineers or technicians will visit your site to evaluate your problem and define the best solution.
Call 1-800-443-2640 for the representative closest to you. Or visit chromalox.com.

Chromalox Products and People Cover the Globe
Our modern and efficient manufacturing and distribution facilities are strategically located to get products to you globally when you need them, wherever you are around the world. Our worldwide positioning includes engineering and sales support available in most countries on every continent. This makes Chromalox truly a global thermal solutions provider.
**Heater**
The device that applies heat to the process or product. For laboratory and analytical equipment these can be immersion heaters, component heaters, flexible and thick film heaters, or defrost heaters. The amount of heat is switched on and off by the power controller.

**Power Controller**
Controls the power output of the heater according to signals received from the temperature controller. The types of power controllers range from electromechanical relays/contactors and mercury displacement relays (MDRs) to solid-state relays (SSRs) and silicon-controlled rectifiers (SCRs).

**Sensor**
The device that measures the temperature of the heated medium and sends the temperature signal to the temperature controller. It is usually in direct contact with the heated medium and must be specified to handle the temperature and conditions of the application. Thermocouple sensors made of two dissimilar metal wires are the most widely used. The RTD (resistance temperature detector), whose resistance changes with changes in temperature, is more accurate and performs better at ambient temperatures than the thermocouple. IR (infrared) sensors are contact sensors that use infrared energy to measure temperature. IR sensors are excellent for applications where it is difficult to provide direct contact with the heated medium. Other sensors used in laboratory and analytical equipment include overtemperature sensors.

**Temperature Controller**
Takes the temperature from the sensor, compares it to a setpoint, and adjusts the output to the power controller to maintain the desired temperature. Temperature controls are the intelligent, decision-making element of the control loop, and decide how much heat is needed to maintain the correct temperature using on/off, proportional, or PID control methods.

**COMPLETE HEAT AND CONTROL SOLUTIONS**

**YOUR TURNKEY SOURCE**
You don’t have to go to one source for a heating element, another for a sensor, and another for a control. Chromalox has the broadest line in the industry—and the experience and expertise—to put it all together for your OEM equipment application. And if an element, sensor, or control that we carry doesn’t fit your needs, we’ll custom-build it in the shortest possible time.

Why would you go anywhere else?