Diagnostic Tip of the Month

From top to bottom figures 1 - 3. Preparing Parafilm for cutting (Photo Gary Moorman, The Pennsylvania State University)

Diagnostic Tip of the Month: A Simple Solution for an Irritating Lab Task

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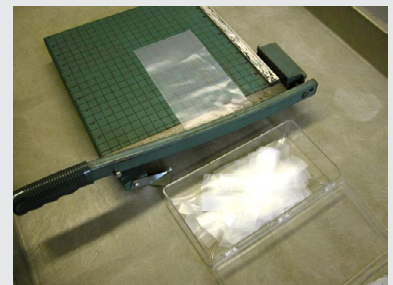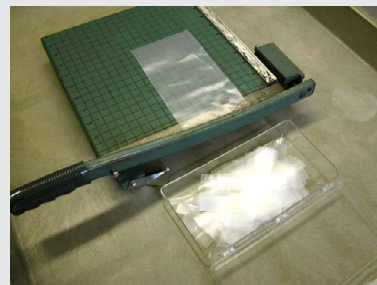Do the minor tasks of life get you down? Well, suck it up and get tough! Wars, poverty, injustice and corruption are running amok in the world. However, there are some minor irritations that can be solved…like cutting those hundreds of Parafilm strips you use for sealing Petri plates against creepy crawlies.

Pull a long sheet of Parafilm off the roll (figure 1 and 2). Remove the paper backing (figure 3). Lay the sheet on a paper cutter and start slicing away one strip after another just as fast as your little fingers can move (figure 4). BUT keep those fingers away from the blade. Bloody Parafilm will not stick to a Petri plate. Store the strips in a plastic box or a plastic bag (figure 5).

Now….back to stopping wars, promoting justice and eliminating corruption…

Education and Training

Thrips Identification Workshop to Be Held at UC Davis

Michael P. Parrella and Cheryle O'Donnell, UC Davis Entomology Department have teamed with Gerald Moritz, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle Germany, on a USDA/CREES plant Biosecurity grant to develop a US Thysanoptera key for the identification of thrips most likely to be introduced into the US. In accordance with this grant the team will conduct training workshops to train diagnosticians on identifying thrips using Lucid keys and molecular methods. The first workshop of this grant is a collaboration with support from the Western Plant Diagnostic Network (WPDN) on the **UC Davis Campus, Oct. 15-17, 2007**.

For more information about this training opportunity please visit on the web: UC Davis Thysanoptera Workshop.

From left to right figures 4 and 5. Cutting Parafilm with paper cutter. (Photo Gary Moorman, The Pennsylvania State University)