

# SmartNotes

# QA

## **What is an inexpensive way to maximize capacity in an orbital shaker when minimal bench space is available?**

In a busy laboratory, orbital shakers often run day and night, and many labs have to schedule time and space on the shaker to maximize efficiency when balancing competing projects. Buying an additional shaker may not be an option due to limited funding and bench space. Some groups may be forced to position a benchtop shaker on the floor, dramatically increasing the risk of contaminated cultures or samples. Placing a benchtop shaker on the floor can also raise safety and ergonomic issues.

## **To maximize capacity, look for an orbital shaker that offers a dual tier platform.**

This will double your capacity for mixing and culturing applications while saving precious bench space at a fraction of the cost of a second shaker.

A dual tier platform is easy to install or remove and eliminates the frustration of having to wait for your shared laboratory shaker to become available, helping save precious lab funds and bench space as well as your time. Put your mixing or culturing vessels on the shaker with your co-workers' materials and get on with your next task. The dual tier will help maximize flexibility in your lab for the shaker, the projects and the personnel. To add convenience, available packages include a universal clamp kit.



Look for an orbital shaker that offers a dual tier platform

# How can I use a dual platform?

A dual tier platform is ideal for applications in molecular biology, biochemistry, and chemistry where an open air shaker is used for longer mixing or washing applications which compete for space on a common orbital shaker. It's also ideal for culturing yeast or insect cells at room temperature. For incubated or refrigerated culturing of algae, bacteria or fungi, or even some marine or mammalian cells, our Thermo Scientific™ MaxQ™ 6000 shaker will give extended flexibility with the dual tier platform in a small footprint.

The dual tier platforms are easy to install or remove with only a flathead screwdriver required. Brackets and four screws are included. When using a dual tier platform, we recommend to shake no faster than 200 RPM (revolutions per minute).

Table 1 lists different dual tier platforms and shaker models. Dual tiers are available in 11 x 13 inches (28 x 33 cm) or 18 x 18 inches (45.7 cm<sup>2</sup>) for the Thermo Scientific™ MaxQ™ 2000, 2506 and 2508 open air shakers (see Figure 1A), or 30 x 18 inches (76.2 x 45.7 cm) for the Thermo Scientific™ MaxQ™ 3000 open air shakers (see Figure 1B). For our popular incubated/refrigerated MaxQ 6000 stackable shakers, a dual tier 18 x 18 inches (45.7 cm<sup>2</sup>) platform is available (see Figure 1C).

**Table 1:**  
Thermo Scientific orbital shaker models and dual tier platform size options.

Model	Dual Platform Size
MaxQ 2000, MaxQ 2506, MaxQ 2508 Shakers	11 x 13 inches (28 x 33 cm) 18 x 18 inches (45.7 x 45.7 cm)
MaxQ 3000 Shaker	30 x 18 inches (76.2 x 45.7 cm)
MaxQ 6000 Shaker	18 x 18 inches (45.7 x 45.7 cm)

These models all offer space saving dual tier platforms.



Figure 1A **MaxQ 2000**



Figure 1B **MaxQ 3000**



Figure 1C **MaxQ 6000**

**Summary:** A dual tier platform for an orbital shaker is a unique way to save space, money and time in busy research laboratories.

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