



Guidelines for Using The Lynx® ST Connector

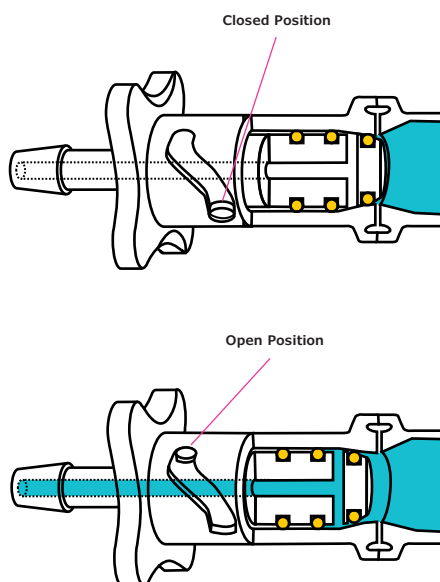
How to connect, steam and operate the Lynx® ST connector

The Lynx® ST (Steam-To) connector is designed to provide sterile transfer of fluids from process piping or product tanks by connecting pre-assembled, sterilized filters, tubing, sample bags and other flexible container systems to permanent sterile processing systems. The Lynx® ST connector is shipped non-sterile or gamma sterilized, in the closed position. It may also be provided as part of a ready-to-use, sterile disposable fluid path. The Lynx® ST connector's novel sealing design allows the connector to be opened and closed while maintaining a sterile fluid transfer. This technical brief provides guidelines for the use of the Lynx® ST connector, including connection, steaming, and operation.

Disposable, reliable and easy-to-use, the Lynx® ST connector enables integration of disposable fluid path assemblies into stainless steel process equipment.

Prior to Use

The Lynx® ST connector is shipped in the closed position and should remain in the closed position until connection and steaming have occurred. Check the product label and device orientation to confirm that the connector is in the closed position prior to connection to the process pipe or tank. If the connector is in the open position, sterility has been breached and the Lynx® ST connector, as well as the disposable product assembled to the Lynx® ST connector, should not be used. Do not open the connector prior to steaming to the flange side of the connector, as this may cause a non-sterile condition.



Connecting the Lynx® ST Connector

The Lynx® ST family of connectors is available with the following connection options:

Inlet	Outlet	Part Number
¾ in. TC Flange	¼ in. Hose Barb	STC11FHA01
1½ in. TC Flange	½ in. Hose Barb	STC21THN01
1½ in. TC Flange	1 in. Hose Barb	STC31THN01
1½ in. TC Flange	1½ in. TC Flange	STC4ITTN01

Following standard procedures for making Tri-Clover connections, connect the “steam to” TC flange of the Lynx® connector to the empty process pipe or tank using a sanitary gasket and clamp. For the ¾ inch TC flange, use silicone gasket XX42 T19 01 and clamp P83063. For the 1½ inch TC flange, utilize silicone gasket YY 2004 055 and clamp P83063. The Lynx® ST connector is manufactured using a high temperature resistant PEI (polyetherimide) that can withstand the high amounts of torque applied with the sanitary clamp. A two- or three-piece sanitary clamp, stainless steel or non-metal (nylon), can be used without any distortion of the Lynx® ST flange. It is important that the hose barb end of the Lynx® ST connector does not support any significant weight, such as a large sampling container.

Steaming to the Lynx® ST Connector

Caution: Always apply steam to the Lynx® ST connector in the CLOSED position. Never steam through the device.

Good steaming practices should be followed when using the Lynx® ST connector. Eliminate dead legs to avoid cold spots and ensure dynamic steam flow. It is also important to provide drainage for condensate. Steam sterilization as low as 121°C for 30 minutes ensures a sterile Lynx® ST connector interface between the plastic disposable fluid path and the stainless steel supply system or tank. Standard validation protocols should be used when validating the steam temperature profile using thermocouples. Please refer to Merck Corporation’s Technical Brief TB011EN00 for more information on the Principles of Steam-In-Place.

Operating the Lynx® ST Connector

To transfer fluid after the supply system has been charged with sterile liquid, grip the outlet end firmly and turn the connector slowly until the knob in the cam slot moves to the open position. The connector’s product label illustrates the direction to turn the connector.

When the connector is opened, you may hear or feel a slight snap, which is normal because the connector is designed to have a slight interference between the connector body and stem. This snap helps prevent the unintentional opening of the connector.

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