

Haskins Laboratories  
305 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York 17, N.Y.

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Dear Josh:

The only heat-sterilizable plastic that has satisfactory resistance to autoclaving is polytetrafluoroethylene ("Teflon"). Tygon also withstands autoclaving but, I understand, is made up with a plasticiser, which would account for why it becomes brittle on repeated heating -- the plasticiser separates out. Polyethylene melts at 80°.

"Teflon" is made by DuPont. It's very hard to fabricate, but I understand that techniques are being elaborated to apply it by spraying, so that Teflon-coated metal- or glassware may eventually become available. I don't know which division of DuPont is concerned with the Development of Teflon technique; as a start you might write to

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc.  
Wilmington, Delaware

- as if you didn't know where the main office of du Pont was. Maybe your friends in the Chemistry Department can tell you.

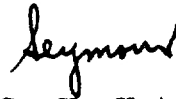
Sorvall stocks polyethylene centrifuge bottles which are ~~supply~~ standard polyethylene bottles that happen to fit his carriers.

You might be able to cold-sterilize polyethylene containers with a noninflammable mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and ethylene oxide. The bottled gas mixture is sold by the American Sterilizer Company, Erie, Pa.

My big worry now is to get one of my bugs to eat butter. Smearing it on bread just won't do.

Have a good vacation.

Yours,



S. H. Hutner

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Dept. of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
College of Agriculture  
Madison 6, Wisconsin