Li-ion battery sample preparation



### Model 1061 and Model 1062 argon ion mills

#### Versatile broad ion beam mills for SEM applications

- Produces ideal results for both planar and cross-section samples
- Wide-ranging ion energies allow either rapid milling or gentle polishing on a broad variety of sample materials
- Artifact-free samples are readily produced
- Easy-to-use interface
- Fully automated, including precise sample height detection, for high-throughput applications







Model 1061 SEM Mill



Model 1062 TrionMill



### Features

- Produces ideal results for both planar and cross-section samples
- Wide-ranging ion energies from 0.1 to 10 keV
- Adjustable beam size from 300 µm to 5 mm
- Milling angles from 0 to 10°
- Liquid nitrogen stage cooling (optional)



Model 1061 SEM Mill



Model 1062 TrionMill



- In situ sample viewing and capture (optional)
- Vacuum or inert gas sample transfer (optional); cryogenic sample transfer (optional, Model 1062 only)
- Fully automated, including precise sample height detection, for highthroughput applications
- None, continuous, or rocking stage motion



### **Features**

- Two ion sources
- Sample size up to 32 mm diameter





Model 1062 TrionMill

- Three ion sources
- Sample size up to 50 mm diameter
- Flexibility in beam position



50 mm









### Importance of sample preparation

Ion milling at 6 kV without stage cooling



Thermal damage is observed

Ion milling at 6 kV with stage cooling



Oxide and hydrocarbon formation on the sample surface

In both cases, no Li microstructure was revealed.



### Model 1061 controlled environment workflow



Glove box with Ar positive pressure



**Fischione Instruments** Vacuum/Inert Gas Transfer Capsule



Fischione Instruments Model 1061 SEM Mill



SEM / FIB with **Quorum** PP3004 Airlock



Glove box with **Quorum** transfer chamber



**Fischione Instruments** Vacuum/Inert Gas Transfer Capsule



### Model 1062 controlled environment workflow



Glove box with Ar positive pressure



**Fischione Instruments** Model 1062 TrionMill Vacuum/Inert Gas/Cryogenic Transfer



Fischione Instruments Model 1062 TrionMill



SEM / FIB with **Quorum** PP3004 Airlock



**Fischione Instruments** Model 1062 TrionMill Vacuum/Inert Gas/Cryogenic Transfer



### Vacuum/inert gas/cryogenic transfer system



Allows direct transfer of a sample at vacuum, in inert gas, or in a cryogenic environment to the SEM or FIB.

Transfer system design in collaboration with Quorum.





# Applications

### Li metal characterization

#### **Sample transfer validation**



High-quality EBSP confirms no oxidation nor contamination of sample after transfer.



101 III Grain Boundaries

100.0%

- > 5°



#### EDS at 3 kV

EDS study shows the chemical composition of different elements of a Li ion battery cell



#### **NCM cathode particles after 500 cycles**



Cracks at the grain boundaries (red arrow) are due to cycled charge and discharge during battery lifetime.

The core voids (gold arrow) come from NCM powder synthesis.



#### **Ceramic-coated separator**



Perfectly preserved porous structure of polymer separator can be observed after ion milling with cryogenic conditions.



#### **Graphite-silicone anode**



Graphite silicon anode 9:1 ratio



## Li ion battery polymer separator

**Cross-section sample; 6 keV beam energy and cryogenic milling conditions** 



The pore structure is completely preserved, which allows accurate porosity measurement.



### Solid state Li ion battery

#### **Large cross-section sample**





## Solid state Li ion battery

### **Large cross-section sample**







High quality EBSP confirms no oxidation nor contamination of sample after transfer

> FISCHI NE INSTRUMENTS

### Solid state Li ion battery

### **Large cross-section sample**

	Cu current collector: 25 µm	
	Li metal anode: 230 µm	
	SEI: 30 μm	
	SSE: 600 μm	LPS SSE
Cu Ni, Co, O, Mn S, P	NCM cathode: 80 µm	
100µm		

EDS at 6 kV



#### Distribution in the UK & Ireland



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