

How Old is *YOUR* Capillary Column ?

Most chromatographers are happy to get one or two years of useful life out of their capillary column. Peter Daphnis, of H2M Labs in Melville, New York, has been using the same Rtx@-502.2 column for more than seven years! Figures 1a & 1b show recent chromatograms from this seven year old column. The resolution, peak shape, and bleed are still excellent, even though Pete can only guess how many samples it has analyzed.



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Is Pete just lucky, or does he have some secrets for long column lifetime? Luck may have helped Pete, but his care of the column and the types of samples he has analyzed

have really contributed to its extended lifetime. Proper care and maintenance of a capillary column, combined with high quality manufactur-

ing processes, can result in much greater column lifetimes. Although we can't guarantee that every Restek

capillary column will last seven years, we know that proper care will make your column last longer.

FIGURE 1A: ELCD analysis of EPA Method 502.2 Volatile Organic Pollutants on a 7 year old Rtx@-502.2 capillary column.

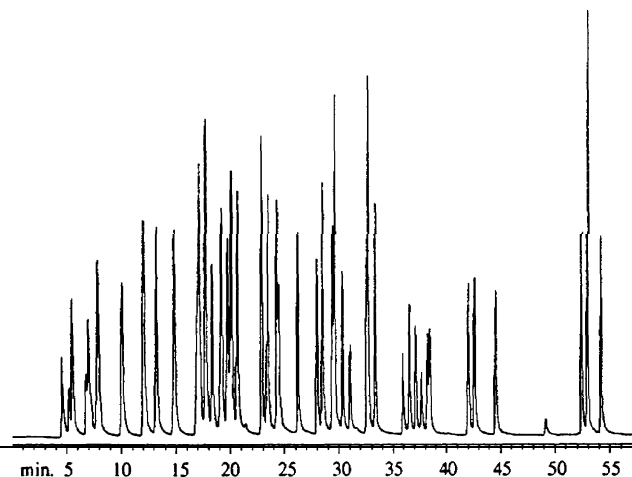
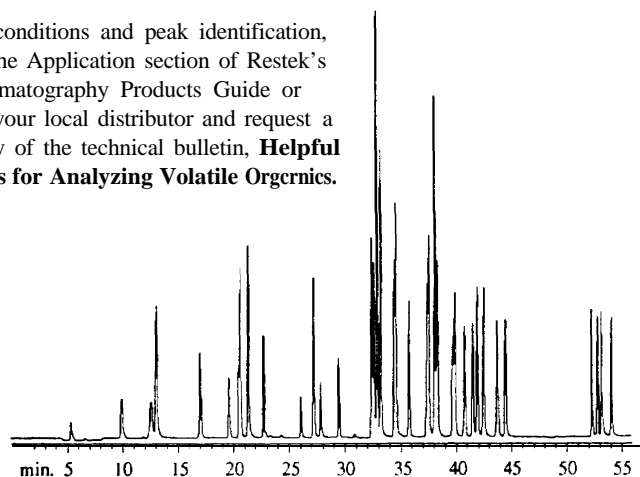


FIGURE 1B: PID analysis of EPA Method 502.2 Volatile Organic Pollutants on a 7 year old Rtx@-502.2 capillary column.



For conditions and peak identification, see the Application section of Restek's Chromatography Products Guide or call your local distributor and request a copy of the technical bulletin, **Helpful Hints for Analyzing Volatile Organics**.