

Fabricoater 100



Industrial Quality Electrostatic Flock Spray System

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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Glossary

Adhesive	A substance, such as paste or liquid, that causes two surfaces to stick together. Adhesives are made of gelatine or other substances, such as epoxy, resin, or polyethylene.
Arcing	Arcing is the flow of electricity through the air from one conductor to another. Arcing can produce visible flashes and flames along with a crackling sound.
Charge	(to supply with) a quantity of electric charge or electrical energy
Conductivity	Ability to conduct / transport electricity.
Control Connection	Point on the Main Process Unit, at which the Flock Applicator / Footswitch is connected to the Main Process Unit.
Decay Probe	A device that expedites the gradual decrease of electric energy stored in an object.
Dissipate	To become dispersed or dispelled
Earth Lead	Lead that connects electrically to the ground.
Earth Stud	Metal knob to which the Earth Lead is connected on the Main Process Unit
Earthing / Grounding	Connecting electrically to the ground.
Electric Shock	Trauma caused by the passage of electric current through the body; can involve burns and abnormal heart rhythm and unconsciousness.
Electrode	A solid electric conductor through which an electric current enters or leaves a substance / object.
Electrostatic	(Relating/pertaining to) Static Electricity
Electrostatic Charging Plate	Metal disc used to electro-statically charge flock fibres.
Flock	Finely cut fibres of nylon, viscose, cotton, etc., most commonly used for producing a velvet-like pattern/coating on wallpaper or cloth or for coating metal.
Flock Applicator	Hand-held implement used to direct the flow of flock.
Flock Hopper	Container in which the flock is stored prior to being electro-statically charged and expelled from the Flock Applicator.
Flock (Applicator) Mesh	Mesh is material like a net made from wire, thread, or plastic. It is used here to sieve the flock, allowing for a more even and steady flow of flock from the Flock Applicator and discouraging blockages.
Flocked Finish	The end result of the flocking process. The final flocked coating.
Flocking Earth Lead	Lead that electrically connects the item being flocked to the ground.
Gland Nut	The name given to a particular type of nut. A nut is a type of hardware fastener with a threaded hole.
HT Cable	High Tension or High Voltage Cable.
Humidity	The amount of water vapour contained in a given volume of air.
Main Generator / Process Unit	The main body of the flocking machine, housing all the major processes and controls.
Mains (Power) Lead	Lead that connects the Main Process Unit to a mains power source.
Mesh (Applicator Mesh)	The netting/grill part of the Flock Applicator that sieves the electro-statically charged flock fibres as they leave the Flock Hopper. Meshes are available in coarse or fine.
Non-Blown	A system that does not use a jet of air to propel the flock.
Retaining Nut	Nut used to secure the Earth Lead in place on 60/100 Main Generator Unit
Static	High Voltage Static Electricity
Substrate	Material upon which the adhesive is applied for flocking into.
Fabriccoat 60/100	The name given to the DCA Portable Flock Spraying Equipment whose operation is described in this manual

Fabriccoat 60/100 System Components

Make sure you have received the following items in the package. If any of these items are missing or damaged, please contact Campbell Coutts Ltd.

Electrostatic 60/100 /S Generator



HT Cable (Polythene outer – Red Inner)



Flock Applicator with fine and coarse mesh



Foot control switch



Earth cable and clip



Mains Power Lead



Fabricoat Series 60/100

Portable Flock Spraying Equipment



Industrial Quality Electrostatic Flock Spray System

The 60/100 industrial flocking system has an infinitely variable output with a meter showing the charging voltage. The system is suitable for flocking large and small areas and will cope with a wide variety of flock lengths. A variety of hopper sizes are available to suit differing applications. The generator is powerful enough to drive tray systems, small flocking booths or small conveyor systems.

- Light hand held applicator for flexibility of application.
- Fully adjustable output voltage to 60kV enables process optimisation to suit various flock lengths and materials.
- Charging voltage meter shows current charge setting.
- Maximum supply current 100 μ A.
- Capable of connection to tray or booth for bulk operation.
- A variety of applicator pots and meshes are available.

In normal operation, the series 60/100/S portable generator would be used in conjunction with a standard flock hand applicator and foot control switch. However, in certain applications, the 60/100/S generator may be used on semi or fully automatic production lines. In automatic mode the footswitch is replaced by a 'shorting' or trigger' plug which is inserted into the 'relative' front panel socket. The generator will now function continuously until the 'shorting / trigger' plug is removed (or until the mains power supply is switched off).

IMPORTANT

ALWAYS use the footswitch control when using the Standard hand Flock Applicator.

NEVER 'Power' the applicator utilising the 'Shorting / Trigger' plug.

Fabriccoat Series 60/100**Health & Safety Instructions**

IMPORTANT READ AND UNDERSTAND THESE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THE FABRICOAT 400



THIS EQUIPMENT MUST NOT BE OPERATED BY ANY PERSON WITH A HEART CONDITION OR IS FITTED WITH A 'PACEMAKER' DEVICE.



REMEMBER – Electricity and water do not mix!!
Keep the Equipment clear of all known liquid sources.



IMPROPER USE CAN CAUSE ELECTRIC SHOCK

RESPIRATORY & EYE PROTECTION must be worn while applying or handling loose flock. Disposable respirators should be CE marked and should also be marked with disposable respirators standard EN 149: 2001. The masks should provide protection to at least FFP2 level.

- **NEVER** use as a 'STUN GUN' or 'IMMOBILISER'
- **NEVER** look into the applicator when the unit is switched on.
- **NEVER** touch the electrostatic charging plate in the flock applicator when the unit is switched on. The charging plate will hold a charge for up to one minute after the system has been switched off.
- **NEVER** use near paints, adhesives or powders which are flammable. If in doubt please consult the relative manufacturers' data sheet.
- **Ensure** that the HT cable is kept clean to ensure no leakage of static charge.
- The mains supply to the Generator must be earthed/grounded. If using an 'Extension' mains cable, it is imperative that it has an earth/ground conductor.



IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN EARTH STRAP IS WORN.
This will assist in the dissipation of static charges from the operator, limiting the chance of shock from charge build up.

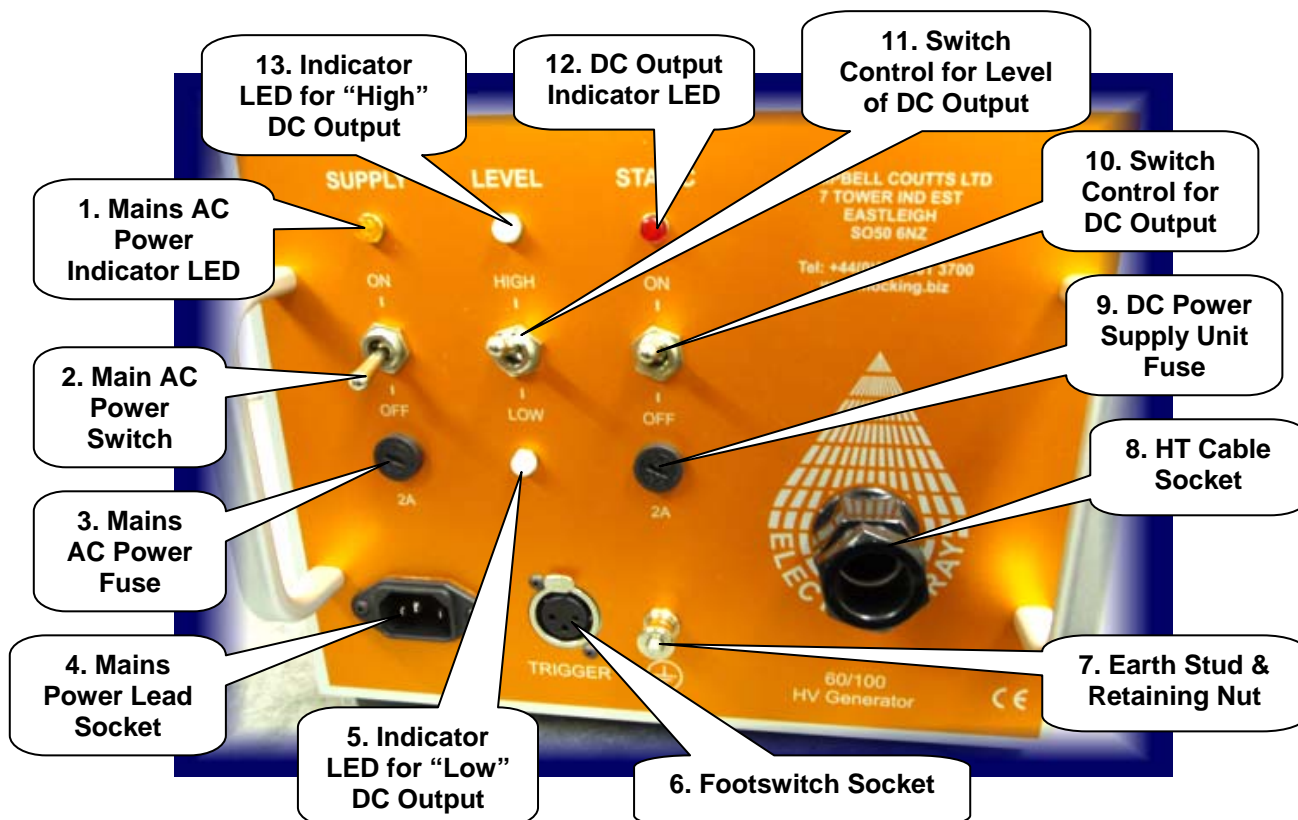
- **ALWAYS** wear eye & respiratory protection when operating the Fabriccoat 400
- **NEVER** drop the applicator as damage may occur which could compromise its safe operation!
- **NEVER** allow the Flock Applicator to Discharge / Arc to Earth / Ground. Serious damage to the high voltage generator may result. If necessary, use the optional Decay Probe. (See points 13, 14, and 15).



DO NOT dispose of this equipment with normal waste.

Under the WEEE directive (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive 2002/96/EC), electrical equipment should be returned to the manufacturer for possible recycling. For recycling or disposal of the equipment, please return the equipment to Campbell Coutts Ltd.

The Control Panel



1. **Mains AC Power Indicator LED** – The Mains Power Indicator LED will light up when there is mains power being supplied to the 60/100 Unit. If the Mains Power Switch is set to “On” and the light is not on, the fuse should be checked, in case it has blown.
2. **Mains Power Switch** – There are 2 positions the Mains Power Switch can be set to, either “Off” or “On”. The Mains Power Indicator LED will light up when there is mains power being supplied to the 60/100 Unit. If the Mains Power Switch is set to “On” and the light is not on, the fuse should be checked, in case it has blown.
3. **Mains AC Power Fuse** – This is the Mains AC Power Fuse.
4. **Mains Power Lead Socket** – The point at which the Mains Power Lead is connected to the 60/100 Main Generator Unit.
5. **Indicator LED for “Low” DC Output** – The LED will light up when “Low” DC Output has been selected.
6. **Footswitch Socket** – The point at which the Footswitch is joined to the 60/100 Main Generator Unit.
7. **Earth Stud & Retaining Nut** – The Earth Lead is connected to the 60/100 here, and retained using the Knurled Nut.
8. **HT Cable Socket** – The point at which the HT Cable is inserted into the 60/100 Main Generator Unit. The HT Cable is secured in place by the gland nut attached to the socket.
9. **DC Power Supply Unit Fuse** – This is the DC Power Supply Unit Fuse.
10. **Switch Control for DC Output** – This is used to turn the DC Output on and off.

11. **Switch Control for Level of DC Output** – This is used to set the desired level of DC Output. There are 2 possible settings, high and low.
12. **DC Output Indicator LED** – The Power Output Indicator LED will light up when the flock fibres are being electro-statically charged. This should occur when the Footswitch (or with some optional Flock Applicators the Trigger Switch) is depressed.
13. **Indicator LED for “High” DC Output** – The LED will light up when “High” DC Output has been selected.

How to set the Power Output



The DC Output controls the electro-static charge that is applied to the flock fibres. The higher the DC Output, the more the flock fibres become electro-statically charged, which in turn increases the flow rate and the “pull” exerted by the substrate. The DC Output can be set to either “High” or “Low” by flicking the DC Output Switch to the relevant position. When the Footswitch (or with some optional Flock Applicators, the Trigger Switch) is depressed the corresponding DC LED should light up.

If the surface to be flocked is flat, then the DC Output can be as high as the operator desires, unless they are using the Flock Applicator in close proximity to the object being flocked, in which case the risk of arcing may become too high (see below). Generally speaking the lower the DC Output the longer it will take to achieve the desired density to the flocking, due to the reduction in the flow rate of the flock. It is advised that the DC Output is set low (e.g. 25kV) to begin with and then adjusted to the higher level if required.

IMPORTANT

The higher the DC Output, the higher the chance of arcing becomes. The risk of arcing also increases as the distance between the Flock Applicator and the object being flocked decreases. Arcing may seriously damage the 60/100 and should always be avoided.

If using the optional 35mm Flock Applicator DO NOT set the DC Output to “High”, as the arcing may cause harm to the operator.

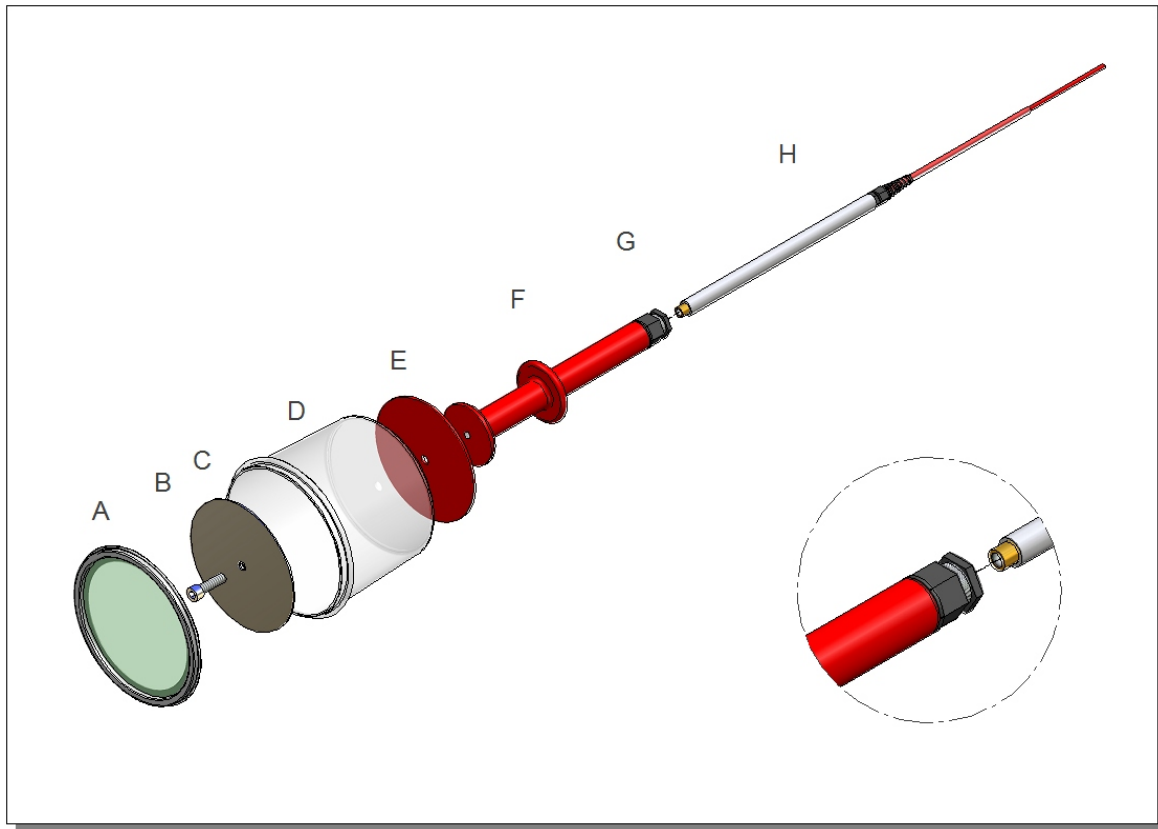
When flocking an internal area, the DC Output should be set to "Low", otherwise the attractive charge of the flock fibres will be too great to enable them to reach the full depth of the internal area.

When using one of the smaller optional Flock Applicators (e.g. a 75, 100 or 125mm Flock Applicator) the DC Output should be set "Low".

Panel Fuses

Both the Mains AC Power Fuse and the DC Power Supply Unit Fuses are 2A 20mm (slow blow / anti surge type) and replacements can be supplied by DCA.

Flock Applicator Assembly



Instructions

1. Pass retaining screw 'B' in turn through holes in electrode plate 'C', insulated container 'D', red Perspex backing plate 'E' and screw onto handle tube 'F', ensuring that all items are correctly aligned before tightening.
2. Slacken off gland nut 'G', and insert high voltage cable 'H' until its threaded boss locates with the end of the retaining screw 'B', then tightens by the clockwise rotation of the applicator assembly as a whole. Ensure that a good Electrical / Mechanical connection / contact is made.
3. **If** for any reason a good Electrical / Mechanical connection / contact is not properly made. Electrostatic arcing may take place, which **WILL** cause damage to the equipment.
4. Finally, tighten gland retainer nut 'G' to secure handle assembly to grey cable end.

IMPORTANT: When in use, ensure that the applicator is only held by the handle portion between 'G' and 'F'.

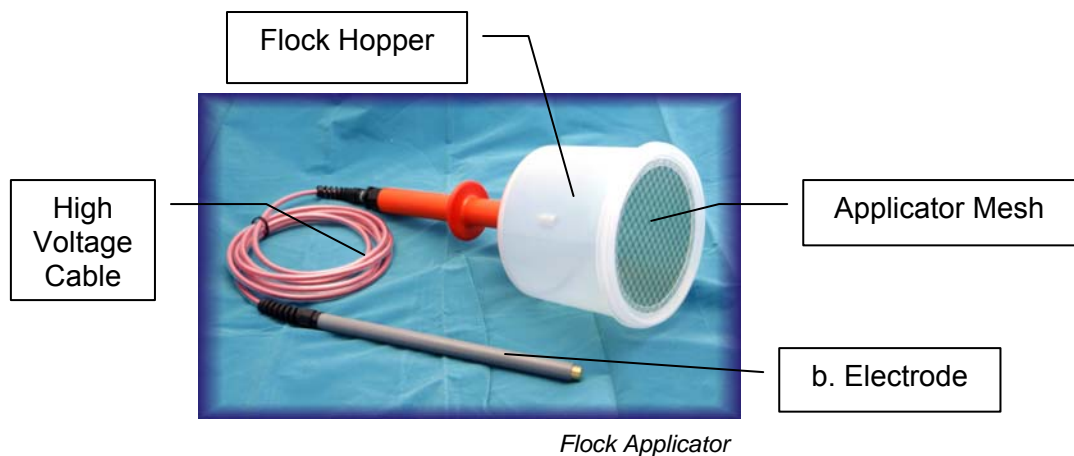
IMPORTANT: Ensure that any residual static has drained away **BEFORE** replenishing with flock.

Filling, Changing & Emptying the Fabriccoat 60/100 Flock Applicator

IMPORTANT

It is advisable that a face mask be worn when handling and / or using flock fibres.

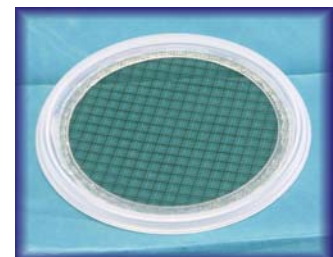
1. **BEFORE** re-filling the Flock Hopper / Applicator Head, **ENSURE** the power is switched **OFF**.
2. Attach Decay Probe Lead (an optional, but recommended extra), to the Generator Earth / Ground Terminal.
3. Remove applicator mesh.
4. Carefully, hold the Decay Probe to the metal charging plate for about 5 seconds to dissipate any static residue. If not using a Decay Probe it is essential that you allow any residual charge within the Flock Applicator to dissipate completely before attempting to fill, refill or empty the Flock Applicator of flock
5. The Flock Hopper / Applicator Head can now be emptied / filled / changed safely.



Flock Applicator Meshes

Flock Applicator Meshes are available in 2 sizes, Coarse and Fine.

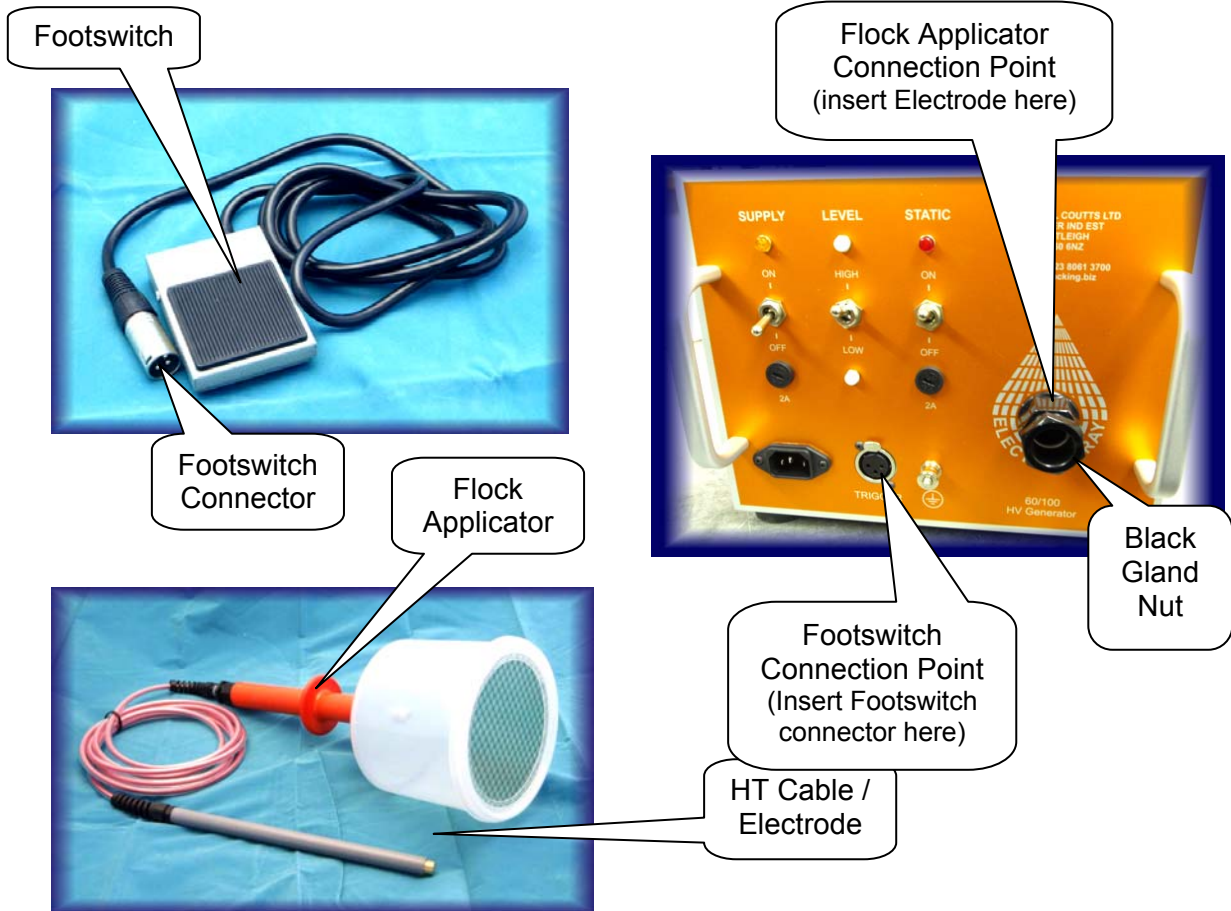
Generally speaking the fine mesh should be used for flock up to and including 1mm long and for flock longer than 1mm the coarse mesh should be used. It may be necessary to experiment with the mesh size to get the best flow of flock.



Flock Applicator Mesh

NB When using two or more flocks of different lengths, always apply the longest flock first and end with the shortest flock.

Connecting the Flock Applicator & Footswitch to the Fabriccoat 60/100



1. Ensure that the Fabriccoat 60/100 Generator Unit is switched off. Do NOT attempt to connect the Flock Applicator to the Unit whilst it is switched on.
2. Insert the non-threaded cable end of the HT Cable / Electrode into the black gland on the generator front panel. Ensure it is pushed fully home. Tighten gland nut. It should be completely pushed against the spring and the black gland nut tightened to hold it securely in place.
3. Attach hand applicator by holding the threaded HT cable end and screwing the applicator onto it via the bolt in the base of the applicator. (See hand applicator assembly instructions on page 9). DO NOT TWIST THE CABLE.
4. Take the Footswitch Connector and making sure that it is aligned correctly push it into the Footswitch Connection Point; ensure a firm connection has been made.



When the Fabriccoat 60/100 is switched on, ensure that the Flock Applicator is held in the correct place to avoid static electric shocks.

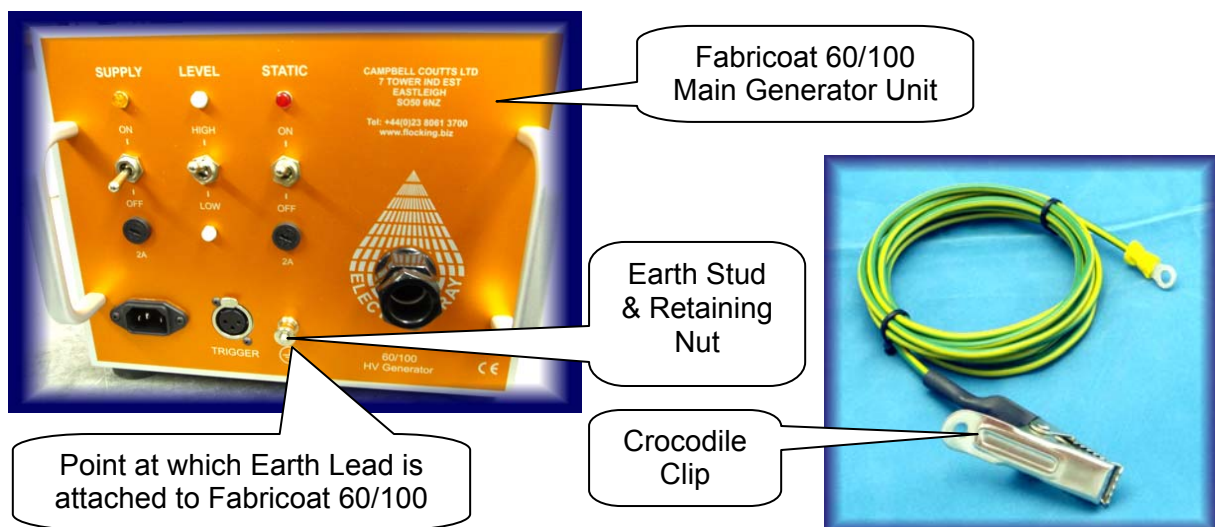
Operating the Fabriccoat 60/100

NB As part of correct production management procedures all operators must be drilled in the safe operation of this equipment.

Connecting the Equipment

1. Ensure mains switch is set to the 'off' position (until otherwise instructed).
2. Plug in Mains Power Lead to the Main Generator Unit (and to nearest mains supply). Check correct supply voltage - refer to specification sheet.
3. Plug in Footswitch into Footswitch socket on the Main Generator Unit.
4. Insert the non-threaded cable end of the HT Cable / Electrode into the black gland / Flock Applicator Socket on the Main Generator Unit front panel. Ensure it is pushed fully home. Tighten gland nut.
5. Attach Flock Applicator Handle by holding the threaded HT cable end and screwing the applicator onto it via the bolt in the base of the applicator. (See Flock Applicator Assembly Instructions on page 9). **DO NOT TWIST THE CABLE.**
6. Fill the applicator with flock and fit the appropriate mesh.
7. Cover the object to be flocked with a suitable adhesive.
8. Connect the earth/ground lead to the Earth Stud on the Main Generator Unit and attach the crocodile clip to the adhesive coated object (ensure the clip makes actual contact with the adhesive). If the article being sprayed is non-conductive, insert a metal plate below the object and connect crocodile/alligator clip to it (this will aid flock attraction).
9. Switch on mains and the amber light will illuminate.

Connecting the Flocking Earth Lead



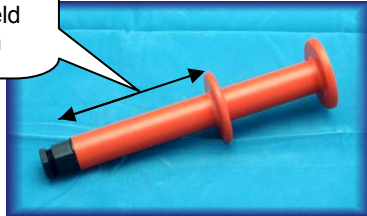
1. Attach the crocodile clip to the item to be flocked.
2. Remove the Retaining Nut from the Earth Stud and attach the metal loop, of the Earth Lead, over the Earth Stud.
3. Secure in position using the Retaining Nut, ensuring a good connection has been made.

Fabriccoat 60/100 Flocking Instructions

Preparation of flocking area

Ensure that work area is clean and clear of any and all flammable substances. Also that provision has been made to contain any excess flock. Ensure that the surface to be flocked is clean (to enable a good contact for the adhesive).

Flock Applicator must only be held by this portion



IMPORTANT

When the Fabriccoat 60/100 is in use, ensure that the Flock Applicator is held in the correct place (as shown in the picture to the left). This is to ensure the operator is properly earthed / grounded and to avoid risk of electrostatic shock to the operator.

1. Cover the area to be flocked with a suitable / recommended adhesive. The adhesive must remain wet during the flocking process, so only coat an area that can be flocked before the adhesive starts to dry.

Guidelines for Adhesive Application

For the flock fibres to adhere adequately to the substrate it is necessary for at least 10% of the overall flock length to be embedded in adhesive. For this to occur, three things are essential, firstly, that enough adhesive is applied to the substrate. Secondly, that the substrate does not absorb the adhesive. Thirdly, that the adhesive is wet when it is flocked into.

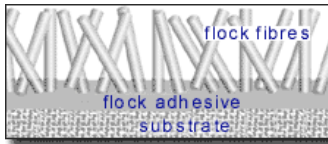
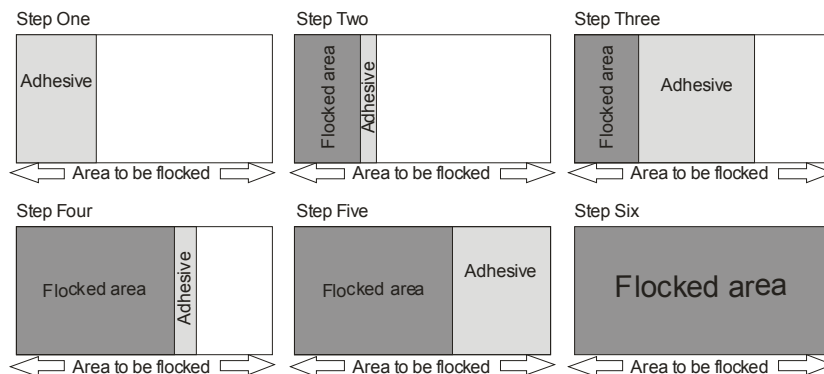


Diagram showing at least 10% of the flock fibres imbedded in adhesive.

If the substrate is porous (e.g. wood) or absorbs some of the adhesive that has been applied, then it will be necessary to prime the area to be flocked prior to the application of adhesive. To prime the area, it is usually sufficient to apply a thinned down layer of the adhesive and allow it to cure/set. Once that has been done, you can apply a heavier deposit of the adhesive (in a non-thinned down state) to flock into.

If you intend to flock a large area, it is unlikely that the adhesive will remain wet for long enough for the area to be flocked all at once. Therefore, in order to flock a large area, it has to be done in stages employing the "wet edge" technique.

Diagram describing the "wet edge" technique



The edge of "unflocked" adhesive is painted over with fresh adhesive once the flocking of that section has been completed. In this way, it is possible to seamlessly cover a large area with flock.

Flocking Instructions

(Continued)

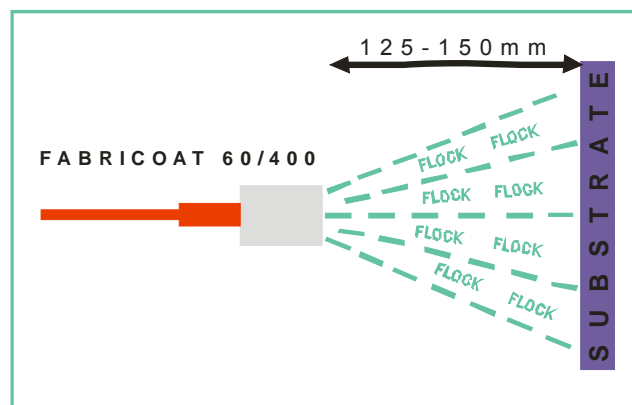
9. Connect the crocodile clip on the earth lead, to the adhesive coated object. The clip should make contact with the adhesive or, if the item to be flocked is non-conductive, flat and thin (e.g. t-shirt, wallpaper, greetings card, etc) a metal plate can be placed below / behind the object and the crocodile clip connected to that instead.
10. Point the Flock Applicator head at the object to be flocked. The Flock Applicator head can be pointed in any direction (up, down, left, etc) whilst flocking, but if a lot of flocking is to be carried out with the applicator head downwards, it is recommended that an optional "fingered" charging plate should be fitted, as the flock may lose contact with the charging plate, resulting in the flock not being charged properly (which would lead to substandard flocking).

WARNING

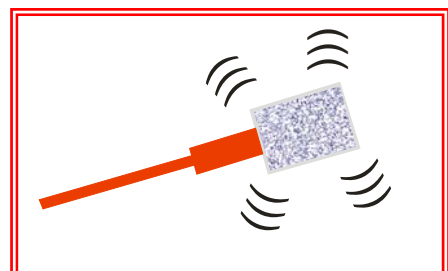
After the next function, the Flock Applicator will be electro-statically charged.

11. Depress the pedal of the Footswitch in order to commence flocking. This will allow the flock to be charged. It may be necessary to agitate the flock by gently shaking the hand Flock Applicator. Flock fibres should now come from the Flock Applicator head and cover the object.
12. Do **NOT** put hand close to applicator pot while in use.

The distance between the applicator mesh and the object to be flocked should be approximately 125mm / 150mm (5-6 inches) maximum.



13. Move the applicator across the area to be flocked, ensuring that sufficient flock is flowing. If "balling" occurs or flock is being "stubborn" to flow through the mesh, agitate (gently shake) the applicator as you flock.



Agitating the Flock Applicator Head while flocking encourages "stubborn" flock to flow through the mesh.

14. Once flock has been applied to desired level, release the footswitch pedal and put the hand applicator down.

IMPORTANT

The Flock Applicator will retain an electro-static charge for several seconds after the Footswitch has been released. Do not attempt to touch or get close to the Applicator Head until the charge has dissipated

15. Gently shake the excess flock from the flocked area, but do NOT touch the "flocked" area.
16. Follow instructions given by your adhesive manufacturer as to how to set/cure the adhesive.
17. Once the adhesive has set, excess flock may be removed more vigorously and the "flocked" area may be touched.




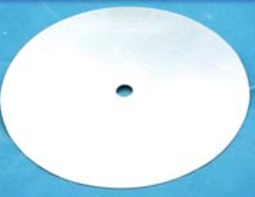

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



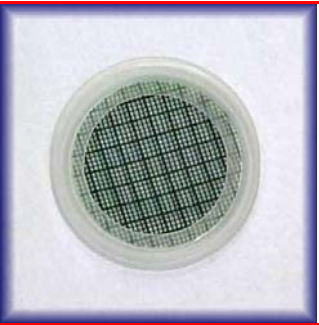




The conductivity of flock is, largely, dependent on its humidity. Ensure the Flock Fibres are stored in line with the manufacturer's requirement. (Refer to their Data Sheet).

Where there are deep recesses that need to be flock coated, it may be beneficial to vary the DC Power Output to a lower position.

Also, ensure that any residual static has drained away BEFORE replenishing with flock. An optional Decay Probe is available to speed up this process.

Fabriccoat 60/100 Suggested Spares and Optional Extras

Picture	Part No.	Description
	FF 400/1	2A 20mm (slow blow / anti surge type)
	SFAH1	60/100 - Standard applicator handle
	SFAP1	60/100 – 175mm applicator pot
	SFCP1	60/100 – 175mm charging plate
	SFID1	60/100 – 175mm insulating disc
	SFAB1	60/100 – Stainless steel applicator bolt
	SFAPRA	Right angle applicator head complete with adaptor disk, charging plate and course mesh
	SF/1	Small round 0.25 litre pot complete with connector, charging plate and fine mesh front

	<p>SF/2</p>	<p>Medium square(0.8 ltr/4" sq.) pot complete with connector, charging plate and coarse mesh front</p>
	<p>SF/3</p>	<p>Large square (1.8 ltr/5"sq.) pot complete with connector, charging plate and coarse mesh front</p>
	<p>FA/M1F FA/M1C</p>	<p>Fine mesh for medium 3" round pot Coarse mesh for medium 3" round pot</p>
	<p>FA/M2F FA/M2C</p>	<p>Fine mesh for medium 4" sq. pot Coarse mesh for medium 4" sq. pot</p>
	<p>FA/M3F FA/M3C</p>	<p>Fine mesh for large 5" sq. pot Coarse mesh for large 5" sq. pot</p>
	<p>FF 400/2</p>	<p>EHT Cable – Type 820B</p>
	<p>FF 400/3</p>	<p>2 metre mains input cable (UK) (Other terminations available)</p>

	<p>FF 400/4</p>	<p>Foot control switch</p>
	<p>FF 400/5</p>	<p>Flock applicator with fine & coarse meshes</p>
	<p>FF 400/5/F FF 400/5/C</p>	<p>Fine Mesh Coarse Mesh</p>
	<p>FF 400/6</p>	<p>Earth (ground) lead, 2 metres with crocodile clip</p>
	<p>FF 400/Man</p>	<p>Operating Instructions / Manual</p>

TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE – ELECTRICAL

(Flock Equipment Types 100 and 400)

PROBLEM	CAUSES	SOLUTION
Unit fails to operate (No 'Mains On' indicator)	Fuse blown	Fit new fuse to front panel Series 400 = 2A slow blow / anti surge Series 100 = 3A slow blow / anti surge
(No 'Static On' Indicator) Series 100 only	Fuse blown	Series 100 – 1A slow blow / anti surge
	Bad connection in mains supply cable or plug	Check connection(s)
	Blown circuit breaker OR fuse in mains supply to generator	Reset circuit breaker or replace mains supply fuse
Mains indicator 'ON' but no electrostatic operation (view also panel meter)	Incorrect footswitch operation	Is footswitch connected properly
	Footswitch not depressed	Depress footswitch
	Voltage control set to minimum (anti-clockwise)	Set voltage control to minimum (adjust to Max clockwise)
	HT cable not inserted / connected properly	Refer to instructions
	Faulty cable	Refer to DCA Service Department
Electric shocks	Static build-up in operators body then a 'Discharge' to earth / ground	Wear leather soled shoes (not PVC or rubber) Wear earthed / grounded wrist / shoe straps Refer to DCA Service Department if necessary
	Mains supply not earthed or grounded	Check supply. Has 'extension' lead an earth / ground conductor Check footswitch earth / ground conductor Refer DCA Service Department if necessary
Electric shocks / excessive arcing or sparking	HT Cable not inserted / connected properly	Refer to instructions
	Faulty cable	Refer to DCA Service Department
WARNING Excessive arcing or sparking will damage the equipment	Flock applicator held incorrectly	Hold behind Red Safety Disc on assembly 'G' REFER TO APPLICATOR ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE FOR FLOCK SPRAYING

PROBLEM	CAUSES	SOLUTION
Flock not adhering to Adhesive	<p>Too thin a layer of Adhesive</p> <p>Adhesive has been allowed to skin</p> <p>Rapid absorption of adhesive into porous substrates i.e. wood, paper etc</p> <p>Poor Earthing / Grounding</p>	<p>Increase adhesive application</p> <p>Consult adhesive manufacturer * in order to increase 'open' time of adhesive</p> <p>Flock more rapidly after applying adhesive</p> <p>Prime surface</p> <p>Improve earthing / grounding. If necessary using an earth pin into adhesive</p>
Flock not forming pile effect	<p>Poor electrostatic charging as a result of poor condition of flock</p> <p>Poor Earthing / Grounding</p> <p>Low power batteries in Fabricoater Unit</p>	<p>Change flock (also refer to Manufacturers Data Sheet)</p> <p>Improve Earthing / Grounding</p> <p>Replace batteries</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Battery operated unit only</p>
Problem applying correct amount of adhesive	<p>Viscosity of adhesive low</p> <p>Surface preparation of the article required</p> <p>Incorrect adhesive for the substrate</p> <p>Contamination of the surface i.e. silicone release agents on plastics</p>	<p>Reduce addition of water or consult adhesive manufacturer</p> <p>Prepare surface so that it accepts adhesive</p> <p>Consult adhesive manufacturer *</p> <p>Clean articles to be flocked with correct cleaning solution</p>

