



PLANETARY BALL MILL

PM 300

The Planetary Ball Mill PM 300 is a powerful and ergonomic benchtop model with two grinding stations for grinding jar volumes up to 500 ml. This setup allows for processing up to 2 x 220 ml sample material per batch. Thanks to the high maximum speed of 800 rpm, extremely high centrifugal forces result in very high pulverization energy and consequently in short processing times.

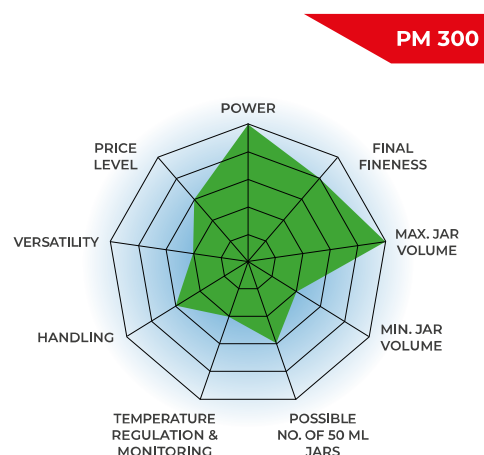
The PM 300 is ideally suited for virtually all industries where the quality control process places the highest demands on purity, speed, fineness and reproducibility. Thanks to its enormous energy input of up to 64.4 times the acceleration of gravity, this mill is the perfect choice for tasks in research like mechanochemistry (co-crystal screening, mechanosynthesis, mechanical alloying and mechano-catalysis), or for ultrafine colloidal grinding on a nanometer scale.



[Click to view video](#)

THE POWERFUL, ERGONOMIC PLANETARY BALL MILL

- | Max. speed 800 rpm, large sun wheel
- | Up to 10 mm feed size and 0.1 µm final fineness
- | 2 grinding stations for jars of min. 12 ml and max. 500 ml, jars of 12 – 80 ml can be stacked (two jars each)
- | GrindControl to measure temperature and pressure inside the jar.
- | Aeration lids to control the atmosphere inside the jar
- | Bench top model, touch screen, storable SOPs and cycle programs, 5 different jar materials for dry and wet grinding



FAST & POWERFUL

- | Loss-free size reduction down to the submicron range
- | Wet grinding yields particle sizes in the nanometer range (<100 nm)
- | Variable speed from 50 to 800 rpm, speed ratio 1:-2
- | Milling with up to 64.4 x acceleration of gravity
- | Batch-wise processing with max. 2 x 220 ml sample
- | Possibility to stack jars enables simultaneous processing of 4 samples



SAFE AND EASY HANDLING

- | Easy and safe clamping of the grinding jars thanks to lockable sun wheel
- | The Safety Slider prevents starting the machine without securely clamped jars
- | Perfect stability on the lab bench thanks to FFCS -technology
- | Comfortable parameter setting via Touch display
- | Automatic grinding chamber ventilation with directed air stream for perfect jar cooling
- | Programmable starting time
- | Both grinding jars are freely accessible
- | Ergonomic clamping unit with smooth surfaces



SETTINGS & OPTIONS

- | Dry and wet milling possible
- | Suitable for long-term trials, 99 h max.
- | Programmable breaks e.g. for cooling
- | Automatic calculation of the total process time
- | Direction reversal helps to minimize caking effects
- | Smart service interval notification based on usage



REPRODUCIBILITY

- | Reproducible results due to speed control
- | Indication of load-defined speed, independent of set speed
- | 12 SOPs and 4 cycle programs can be stored
- | Power failure backup ensures storage of remaining processing time



THE BEST ALTERNATIVE TO A RETSCH PLANETARY BALL MILL? A RETSCH MIXER MILL.



Benefit from particularly ergonomic handling while achieving the same finenesses down to the nanometer range.

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SAFETY FIRST: AUTOMATED NOTIFICATION OF CLAMPING FORCE

Operation of the RETSCH planetary ball mills is particularly safe. They feature a robust Safety Slider which ensures that the mill can only be started after the grinding jar has been securely fixed with a clamping device. The self-acting lock ensures that the jar is seated correctly and securely. This proven solid mechanical system is less failure-prone than electronic solutions - the user has full access to the sample at any time. When the electronic system fails, it is not possible to unlock the jars, for example. A unique safety feature of the PM 300 is an acoustic signal and notification in the display when the clamping unit has been fixed with the required force of 25 Nm. RETSCH offers a convenient clamping aid to facilitate the process. This is particularly helpful when the machine is operated in the upper speed range between 600 and 800 rpm.



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WET AND NANO-SCALE GRINDING WITH THE PM 300

Wet grinding is used to obtain particle sizes below 5 μm , as small particles tend to get charged on their surfaces and agglomerate, which makes further grinding in dry mode difficult. By adding a liquid or dispersant the particles can be kept separated.

To produce very fine particles of 100 nm or less (nano-scale grinding) by wet grinding, friction rather than impact is required. This is achieved by using a large number of small grinding balls which have a large surface and many friction points. The ideal filling level of the jar should consist of 60 % small grinding balls.

For more details on jar filling, wet grinding and sample recovery watch the video.

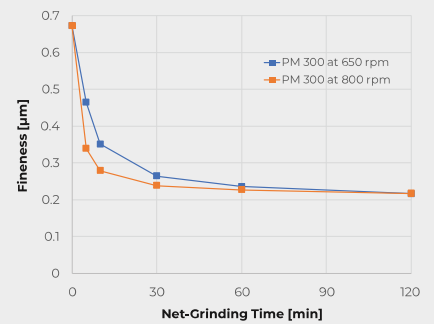


[Click to view video](#)

The video shows wet grinding in the Planetary Ball Mill PM 100.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE IN 125 ML JAR

The graphic shows the result of pulverizing titanium dioxide (TiO₂) at 650 rpm and 800 rpm in the PM 300 and the net processing time. With the higher energy input at 800 rpm, the particle size decreases faster. However, the increased warming effects at 800 rpm should also be considered, as they might make longer breaks necessary.



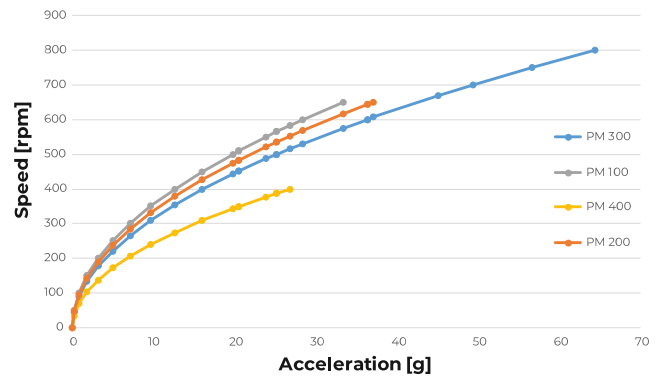
Net processing time of titanium dioxide with 0.1 mm grinding balls in sodium phosphate solution

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APPLICATIONS IN MECHANOCHEMISTRY

RETSCH Planetary Ball Mills are perfectly suited for processes like mechanical alloying or mechanosynthesis. For most reactions, the 1:-2 speed ratio of jar to sun wheel of the models PM 100 and PM 200 is fully adequate, as the ball charge produces enough impact energy. However, greater energy is required for some reactions. Here the PM 400 MA can be used with the increased speed ratio of 1:-2.5 or 1:-3.0.

The PM 300 works with a speed ratio of 1:-2, but in contrast to other models, it reaches up to 64.4 x acceleration of gravity thanks to the maximum speed of 800 rpm and the large sun wheel. Together with the option to use four small, stackable grinding jars sized 12 to 80 ml for small scale operations, or two jars sized up to 500 ml for upscaling purposes, this planetary ball mill is highly suitable for research applications in mechanochemistry.



Achievable acceleration in different planetary ball mills dependent on speed setting

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EASYFIT GRINDING JARS FOR EXCELLENT RESULTS

The performance and the result of sample preparation are also determined by the choice of the grinding jar and its ball charge. The EasyFit range of jars has been specially designed for extreme working conditions such as long-term trials, even at maximum speed of 800 rpm, wet grinding, high mechanical loads and maximum speeds as well as for mechanical alloying. This line of jars is suitable for all RETSCH planetary ball mills.

The new EasyFit grinding jar series features a structure on the bottom of the 50-500 ml jars called Advanced Anti-Twist (AAT). This ensures that the jars are tightly fixed without the risk of twisting, even at high speed, and that wear and tear is drastically reduced. Secure clamping of the jars is made much easier: to find the correct clamping position, a maximum twist of 60° is required.

The geometry of the EasyFit jars in the 50 ml and 250 ml sizes has been enlarged in diameter and reduced in height compared to the previous "comfort" models. This offers two advantages: better grinding results and interchangeable lids, as there are only three diameter dimensions for the entire grinding jar range.

Diameter categories

- | Diameter 1: 12 ml and 25 ml grinding jars
- | Diameter 2: 50 ml, 80 ml and 125 ml grinding jars
- | Diameter 3: 250 ml and 500 ml grinding jars

- | Available jar sizes: 12 ml / 25 ml / 50 ml / 80 ml / 125 ml / 250 ml / 500 ml
- | Innovative Advanced Anti-Twist (AAT) function ensures secure fit of grinding jars
- | High flexibility thanks to suitability of three lid sizes for all seven jar sizes
- | Pressure-tight and dust-proof O-ring sealing prevents material spillage
- | Jars and balls available in 5 materials: hardened stainless steel, tungsten carbide, agate, sintered aluminium oxide, zirconium oxide
- | Stainless steel protective jacket for agate, sintered aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide and tungsten carbide grinding jars
- | A groove between jar body and lid allows for easy opening of the lid, e. g. with the help of a spatula, if there are underpressure effects inside the jar



ADAPTER FOR SPECIAL APPLICATIONS

With a special adapter, co-crystal screening can be carried out in a planetary ball mill, using disposable vials such as 1.5 ml GC glass vials. The adapter features 24 positions arranged in an outer ring with 16 positions and an inner ring with 8 positions. The outer ring accepts up to 16 vials, allowing for screening up to 64 samples simultaneously when using the Planetary Ball Mill PM 400. The 8 positions of the inner ring are suitable to perform trials with different energy input, e.g. for mechanosynthesis research.



JARS & LIDS FOR SPECIAL APPLICATIONS

- | For colloidal or wet grinding, the use of a grinding jar with a special closure device is recommended
- | The special closure device is designed for ergonomic handling
- | Aeration lids are designed for working under inert atmosphere, for example if oxygen can influence the grinding process or the mechanosynthesis. The lids allow the introduction of gases like argon or nitrogen into the grinding jar.
- | Optional pressure and temperature measuring system PM GrindControl

Both the aeration lid and GrindControl can now be equipped with inlays of different materials. Thus, the lid can be used for, e. g. a steel and a zirconium oxide jar by simply exchanging the inlay.



GrindControl



Aeration lid

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RECOMMENDED JAR FILLINGS

To produce optimum grinding results, the jar size should be adapted to the sample amount to be processed. The grinding balls are ideally sized 3 times bigger than the largest sample piece. Following this rule of thumb, the number of grinding balls for each ball size and jar volume is indicated in the table below. To pulverize, for

example, 200 ml of a sample consisting of 7 mm particles, a 500 ml jar and grinding balls sized at least 20 mm or larger are recommended. According to the table, 25 grinding balls are required.

Grinding jar nominal volume	Sample amount	Max. feed size	Recommended ball charge (pieces)					
			Ø 5 mm	Ø 7 mm	Ø 10 mm	Ø 15 mm	Ø 20 mm	Ø 30 mm
12 ml	up to ≤5 ml	<1 mm	50	15	5	-	-	-
25 ml	up to ≤10 ml	<1 mm	95 – 100	25 – 30	10	-	-	-
50 ml	5 – 20 ml	<3 mm	200	50 – 70	20	7	3 – 4	-
80 ml	10 – 35 ml	<4 mm	250 – 330	70 – 120	30 – 40	12	5	-
125 ml	15 – 50 ml	<4 mm	500	110 – 180	50 – 60	18	7	-
250 ml	25 – 120 ml	<6 mm	1100 – 1200	220 – 350	100 – 120	35 – 45	15	5
500 ml	75 – 220 ml	<10 mm	2000	440 – 700	200 – 230	70	25	8

If a pulverization process in a planetary ball mill is successful depends on the machine settings but also on the filling level of the grinding jar. The usable volume of the jars depends on the type of sample material. The number of grinding balls given in the table reflect the minimum amount per jar. A better result is obtained with a larger number of suitable balls, if indicated. In exceptional cases, the number of balls can be reduced by not more than 15%; however, that will result in increased wear of the grinding tools.

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TYPICAL SAMPLE MATERIALS

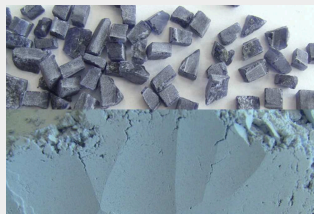
RETSCH planetary ball mills are perfectly suitable for size reduction of, for example, alloys, bentonite, bones, carbon fibres, catalysts, cellulose, cement clinker, ceramics, charcoal, chemical products, clay minerals, coal, coke, compost, concrete, electronic scrap, fibres, glass, gypsum, hair, hydroxyapatite, iron ore, kaolin, limestone, metal oxides, minerals, ores, paints and lacquers, paper, pigments, plant materials, polymers, quartz, seeds, semi-precious stones, sewage sludge, slag, soils, tissue, tobacco, waste samples, wood, etc.

**Very hard, abrasive:
Industrial diamonds**



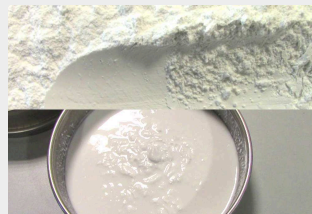
11 g sample
50 ml tungsten carbide grinding jars
4 x 20 mm tungsten carbide grinding balls
4 min at 400 rpm

**Hard-brittle:
Sodalite mineral**



85 g sample
125 ml zirconium oxide grinding jars
7 x 20 mm zirconium oxide grinding balls
12 min at 500 rpm

**Nano grinding:
Aluminum oxide**



100 g sample + 190 ml sodium-phosphate solution
500 ml zirconium oxide grinding jars
1 kg 2 mm zirconium oxide grinding balls
3:30 min net-grinding at 650 rpm

Grinding breaks help to keep temperature lower

**Medium-hard, tough:
Polyester terephthalate resin**



125 g sample
500 ml zirconium oxide grinding jars
8 x 30 mm zirconium oxide grinding balls
3 min at 350 rpm

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TECHNICAL DATA

Applications	pulverizing, mixing, homogenizing, colloidal milling, mechanical alloying, mechanochemistry, co-crystal screening
Field of application	agriculture, biology, chemistry, construction materials, engineering / electronics, environment / recycling, geology / metallurgy, glass / ceramics, medicine / pharmaceuticals
Feed material	soft, hard, brittle, fibrous - dry or wet
Size reduction principle	impact, friction
Material feed size*	< 10 mm
Final fineness*	< 1 µm, for colloidal grinding < 0.1 µm
Batch size / feed quantity*	max. 2 x 220 ml
No. of grinding stations	2
Speed ratio	1 : -2
Sun wheel speed	50 - 800 min ⁻¹
Effective sun wheel diameter	180 mm
G-force	64 g
Type of grinding jars	optional aeration covers, safety closure devices
Material of grinding tools	hardened stainless steel, tungsten carbide, agate, sintered aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide
Grinding jar sizes	12 ml / 25 ml / 50 ml / 80 ml / 125 ml / 250 ml / 500 ml
Stackable grinding jars	12 ml / 25 ml / 50 ml / 80 ml
Adapter for single-use glass vials	24 x 1.5 ml / 7 x 20 ml
Setting of grinding time	digital, 00:00:01 to 99:59:59
Interval operation	yes, with direction reversal
Interval time	00:00:01 to 99:59:59
Pause time	00:00:01 to 99:59:59
Storable SOPs	12
Storable cycle programs	4
Measurement of input energy possible	yes
Interface	USB, RASPI
Drive	3-phase asynchronous motor with frequency converter
Drive power	2,5 kW
Electrical supply data	200-240 V, 50/60 Hz

Power connection	1-phase
Protection code	IP 20
Power consumption	~ 3335 VA
W x H x D closed	745 x 525 x 580 mm
Net weight	~ 118 kg
Standards	CE
Patent / Utility patent	yes

*depending on feed material and instrument configuration/settings

PLANETARY BALL MILL PM 300 FUNCTIONAL PRINCIPLE

The grinding jars are arranged eccentrically on the sun wheel of the planetary ball mill. The direction of movement of the sun wheel is opposite to that of the grinding jars in the ratio 1:-2. The grinding balls in the grinding jars are subjected to superimposed rotational movements, the so-called Coriolis forces.

The difference in speeds between the balls and grinding jars produces an interaction between frictional and impact forces, which releases high dynamic energies. The interplay between these forces produces the high and very effective degree of size reduction of the planetary ball mill.



[Click to view video](#)

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