

Quick Guide to the Plate Reader:

- Open up SoftMax Pro – a window will open up with a basic endpoint protocol set up. You can use this template or choose another protocol template (under *Protocols*), or choose *File – New* to completely write your own protocol from top to bottom.
- Either way a window will open up with various icons and areas.
- Click the *Plate* section to make it active and click the *Settings* button.
- At the top of the dialogue box that opens up you will see 4 Read types. If you chose a protocol template, the proper read type should already be highlighted, but if you want a different one, just click it.
 - Click on any bold headings down the left side to set read modes, wavelengths, etc.
 - Click *OK* when done.
- Click on *Template* in the *Plate* section – this dialogue box allows you to tell the computer what is in each of your 96 wells by selecting each set of wells and defining them as standards, unknowns, or controls, or something new. You can name each set or choose to use the default names that come up. For a series of dilutions whether for an unknown or a standard, select all of the wells involved and click *Series* where you can set the # of replicates, layout, and dilution factors and identify the known concentrations in a set of standards. Click *Assign* after each identification is complete.
 - any mistakes made can easily be reassigned or select the wells and hit the *Clear* button to start over
 - You can print the template when you are done to take back to your lab to set up your plate or to keep in your notebook.
 - Click *OK* when done. For a quick look at concentrations, etc set in your plate, you can hold *Ctrl/Shift* either in template mode or in the active *Plate* section and abbreviated IDs will show in the wells including concentrations in series.
- Click the *Reduction* button to set any reduction formula you want to use in your data analysis and whether you want a plate blank used. Click *OK* when done.
- The *Display* button lets you set display setting but this can be changed after the read as well.
- Now you can save your protocol if you are going to be using this setup again.
 - Choose *File/Save As*
 - Name it and Select *Pro Protocols Files* for *Type*
- Now, next time you can just open this up and make little adjustments and you're ready to rock.

Below is a web address to a list of application notes in the form of pdfs. There are many notes specific to spectramax plate readers and particular applications that you may find helpful under "Microplate Analysis".

<http://www.moleculardevices.com/Support/Resource-Library/Application-Notes.html>