

How to make a KBr disk:

Thoroughly grind about 10 - 20 mg sample with approximately 100 mg dry spectro-grade potassium bromide. Place one end piece in barrel of the pellet press and deposit uniformly about 30 mg of the sample-potassium bromide mixture on the inner surface. Insert the second shaft and gently rotate to spread the sample evenly. Place the whole assembly in the hydraulic press and gradually exert pressure (without your feet leaving the ground!) for about two minutes and then remove. The pellet will be somewhat translucent when properly formed.

Place the barrel containing the pellet in the sample beam of the spectrometer. Record the spectrum. Label all the significant bands and add any appropriate notation (*e.g.* name, date, product, medium etc).

Clean the barrel by knocking out the pellet, and wiping thoroughly with a dry test-tube brush. Do not use water to wash this out!