**Procedure for Identification of Recycled Plastics:**

## ***Collect a background spectrum (only if you are the first group of the day)***

1. Remove any sample from the sample compartment or accessory.
2. Using the mouse, click on **Collect, Background**.
3. Enter a spectrum title. Suggested title: initials bg date
4. Choose **OK**. A gauge shows the progress of collection.

***Collect a sample spectrum***

1. Place sample of Plastic on sample compartment.
   1. If using a swap-top accessory, turn and pull the silver release knob at the back of the swap-top (on the right side of the accessory).
   2. Once the release mechanism is disengaged, tilt the pressure device out of the way. Tilt it back until the silver release knob clicks into the back position
   3. Place sample on the base of the accessory so that it lies on the small hole in the base.
   4. While holding the pressure device, pull the silver knob out and move it to the upright position so the tip is now over the sample.
   5. Turn the top knob clockwise until it clicks. The instrument automatically determines the appropriate pressure necessary to run the sample.
2. Press **Collect, Sample**
3. Enter a spectrum title. Suggested title: Plastic type, initials, date
4. Before it is displayed, the sample spectrum is automatically ratioed against the current background. In other words, the background is subtracted from the sample.
5. Print your spectra by selecting the **File** button, choose **Print**, choose **Landscape**, and then hit **OK**.

Note: The subtraction command is only used to subtract one sample from another. Unlike other infrared specs, the background scan is automatically ‘ratioed’ or ‘ or ‘subracted’ from the sample scan.