Agar Dip Paddles, comparisons with the BART testers

Dip paddles are constructed using a relatively thin agar film over a plastic paddle that is immersed in the water sample to inoculate the agar surface with microorganisms from the sample. Challenges for this technique are that the microorganisms have to become attached to the agar surface and then subsequently grow to form visible colonies when the dip paddle is incubated. Problems with this technique are that the agar forms a fairly thin film over the plastic and can begin to dry out quickly thus increasing rising the concentration of the chemicals in the agar and reducing the range of microorganisms that would effectively form colonies. BART testers, in using 15mL of sample, have a greater potential to cultivate such bacteria efficiently and therefore produce more precise data without having to be concerned about the agar drying out and giving inaccurate results.