

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Twelve-Month Period Ended December 31, 1996

Commission File No. 0-20165

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan if different from that of the issuer named below:

STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust

B. Name of issuer of securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

STERIS Corporation
5960 Heisley Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Annual Report
STERIS CORPORATION 401(K) PLAN
AND TRUST

December 31, 1996 and 1995

Plan Sponsor
STERIS CORPORATION
5960 Heisley Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Plan Administrator
STERIS CORPORATION
5960 Heisley Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust

Audited Financial Statements

December 31, 1996 and 1995

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Report of Independent Auditors

Board of Directors
STERIS Corporation
Mentor, Ohio

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust (the "Plan") as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 1996. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 1996, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedules of assets held for investment purposes as of December 31, 1996 and reportable transactions for the year then ended, are presented for purposes of complying with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and are not a required part of the financial statements. The fund information in the statements of net assets available for benefits at December 31, 1996 and 1995 and changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 1996 is presented for purposes of additional analysis rather than to present the changes in net assets available for benefits of each fund. The supplemental schedules and fund information have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Ernst & Young LLP

Cleveland, Ohio
July 9, 1997

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information

December 31, 1996

	Victory Stock Index Fund	Victory Balanced Fund	Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	EB Magic Fund	STERIS Stock Fund
ASSETS					
Investments:					
STERIS Corporation common shares					\$ 6,141,069
Mutual funds	\$ 22,004,849	\$ 9,008,960	\$ 457,373		
Common/collective trusts				\$ 6,642,459	
Participant loans receivable					
Other investments	9,934	20,903	348	381	59,311
Total investments	22,014,783	9,029,863	457,721	6,642,840	6,200,380
Employee contributions receivable	110	25		98,163	360
Employer contribution receivable	200,569	91,264	19,500	133,066	72,695
Total assets	22,215,462	9,121,152	477,221	6,874,069	6,273,435
LIABILITIES					
Accrued purchase of investments			122	381	
Accrued expenses	17,716	19,321	549	2,173	3,401
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 22,197,746	\$ 9,101,831	\$ 476,550	\$ 6,871,515	\$ 6,270,034

	Participant Loans	Total
ASSETS		
Investments:		
STERIS Corporation common shares		\$ 6,141,069
Mutual funds		31,471,182
Common/collective trusts		6,642,459
Participant loans receivable	\$ 1,713,003	1,713,003
Other investments		90,877
Total investments	1,713,003	46,058,590
Employee contributions receivable		98,658
Employer contribution receivable		517,094
Total assets	1,713,003	46,674,342
LIABILITIES		
Accrued purchase of investments		503
Accrued expenses		43,160
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 1,713,003	\$ 46,630,679

See notes to financial statements.

STERIS Corporation

401(k) Plan and Trust

Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information

December 31, 1995

	Victory Stock Index Fund	Victory Balanced Fund	Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	EB Magic Fund	STERIS Stock Fund
ASSETS					
Investments:					
STERIS Corporation common shares					\$ 1,404,971
Mutual funds	\$ 659,380	\$ 396,433	\$ 209,510		
Common/collective trusts				\$ 110,460	
Participant loans receivable					
Other investments	228	266	104		22,550
Total investments	659,608	396,699	209,614	110,460	1,427,521
Contributions receivable	5,879	3,544	3,464	1,403	20,121
Total assets	665,487	400,243	213,078	111,863	1,447,642
LIABILITIES					
Accrued purchase of investments	4,743	1,901	1,930	823	8,178
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 660,744	\$ 398,342	\$ 211,148	\$ 111,040	\$ 1,439,464

	Participant Loans	Total
ASSETS		
Investments:		
STERIS Corporation common shares		\$ 1,404,971
Mutual funds		1,265,323
Common/collective trusts		110,460
Participant loans receivable	\$ 38,733	38,733
Other investments		23,148
Total investments	38,733	2,842,635
Contributions receivable		34,411
Total assets	38,733	2,877,046
LIABILITIES		
Accrued purchase of investments	589	18,164
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 38,144	\$ 2,858,882

See notes to financial statements.

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits, with Fund Information

For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Victory Stock Index Fund	Victory Balanced Fund	Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	EB Magic Fund	STERIS Stock Fund
ADDITIONS					
Employee contributions	\$ 1,344,363	\$ 653,552	\$ 151,544	\$ 895,667	\$ 721,135
Investment income	293,398	175,699	17,231	192,479	2,666
Transfer from Amsco 401(k)	19,633,449	7,742,202		5,570,641	2,939,240
Employer contribution receivable	200,569	91,264	19,500	133,066	72,695
Total additions	21,471,779	8,662,717	188,275	6,791,853	3,735,736
DEDUCTIONS					
Distributions to participants	1,666,003	779,887	27,791	377,484	222,246
Expenses	17,716	19,321	549	2,173	3,401
Total deductions	1,683,719	799,208	28,340	379,657	225,647
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	2,036,978	631,677	(7,419)	27,243	1,643,851
Net investment transfers	(288,036)	208,303	112,886	321,036	(323,370)
Net additions	21,537,002	8,703,489	265,402	6,760,475	4,830,570
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	660,744	398,342	211,148	111,040	1,439,464
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 22,197,746	\$ 9,101,831	\$ 476,550	\$ 6,871,515	\$ 6,270,034

	Participant Loans	Total
ADDITIONS		
Employee contributions		\$ 3,766,261
Investment income	\$ 70,256	751,729
Transfer from Amsco 401(k)	1,688,481	37,574,013
Employer contribution receivable		517,094
Total additions	1,758,737	42,609,097
DEDUCTIONS		
Distributions to participants	53,059	3,126,470
Expenses		43,160
Total deductions	53,059	3,169,630
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments		4,332,330
Net investment transfers	(30,819)	
Net additions	1,674,859	43,771,797
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	38,144	2,858,882
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 1,713,003	\$46,630,679

See notes to financial statements.

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 1996 and 1995

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following brief description of the STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust (the "Plan") is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for complete information regarding the Plan's definitions, benefits, eligibility, and other matters.

GENERAL

The Plan, which became effective April 1, 1992, is a contributory plan available to all employees of STERIS Corporation (the "Company" or "STERIS") who have completed three months of service and have attained the age of 18 (21 prior to June 30, 1996). Employee participation in the Plan is voluntary and enrollment in the Plan is permitted on the first day of each January, April, July, and October (an "Entry Date"). The Plan is subject to certain provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and the Internal Revenue Code.

On May 1, 1996, STERIS and Amsco International, Inc. (Amsco) shareholders approved the Restated Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of December 16, 1995 and restated as of March 28, 1996, pursuant to which a newly-formed, wholly-owned subsidiary of STERIS was merged with and into Amsco, with Amsco becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of STERIS, via the issuance of 0.46 STERIS Common Share for each outstanding share of Amsco Common Stock.

Effective as of June 30, 1996, the Plan was amended and the Amsco 401(k) Tax Deferred Savings Plan (the "Amsco Plan") was merged into the Plan. Also on June 30, 1996, the equity of all participants and beneficiaries in the Amsco Plan as of the date of the merger was transferred to the Plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS

A participant is permitted to contribute not less than 1 percent and not more than 10 percent of his/her compensation received during a calendar year. All contributions made by a participant must be "before-tax" deferred compensation contributions.

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements--Continued

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN--CONTINUED

Effective as of October 1, 1996, the Company may make matching discretionary contributions to a participant's account. The level of matching contributions is determined quarterly by the Company. Employer contributions are allocated to each participant's account in accordance with the investment election choices made by the participant. For the quarter ended December 31, 1996, the Company made a 50% matching contribution in cash on employee contributions on the first 6% of eligible participant compensation.

Participants are fully vested in Company matching contributions at such time as the contribution is made.

PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS

Each participant may direct their contributions to be invested in 5 percent increments in any combination of the following investment options:

EB Magic Fund, Victory Stock Index Fund, Victory Balanced Fund, Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund, STERIS Corporation common stock.

The allocation of a participant's contributions to these investment funds is selected by the participant and may be changed on each entry date. A participant may elect to have a portion or all of the balance of his prior contributions (in increments of 5 percent) transferred from any fund in which it is invested to any other fund.

Separate accounts are maintained for each participant showing each type of contribution and the interest of each participant in the various funds. The Plan provides participants the opportunity to apply for a loan up to 50% of that participant's balance, not to exceed \$50,000.

At December 31, 1996, \$29,442 had been allocated to participants who have withdrawn from the Plan.

VESTING AND PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Participant contributions, with all earnings and appreciation thereon, are fully vested at all times. A participant whose employment terminates due to death or retirement (including retirement on account of total and permanent disability) or for reasons other than death or retirement will be eligible for a distribution equal to the full amount of the separate accounts attributable to their participant contributions.

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements--Continued

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN--CONTINUED

The Company, by action of its Board of Directors and without approval of its shareholders, has the right to amend, suspend, or terminate the Plan in its entirety. If the Plan is terminated, all amounts credited to a participant's account will be paid to such participant as directed by the Company.

PLAN EXPENSES

Costs incident to the purchase and sale of securities, such as brokerage commissions and stock transfer taxes, are paid by the respective funds. As of July 1, 1996, all other general and administrative expenses incurred in the administration of the Plan, which were previously paid by the Company, are charged against the respective funds.

B. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Investments in the EB Magic Fund are stated at fair value as determined by the trustee based on the underlying investments held in the fund. Also, included in the EB Magic Fund at December 31, 1996 are three fully benefit responsive guaranteed investment contracts. These contracts are carried at contract value which approximates fair value. The average yield and crediting interest rate for the year ending December 31, 1996 was 7.62%. Interest rates are fixed. All contracts mature in 1999. All other investments are stated at fair value as measured by quoted prices in active markets.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with current year reporting.

C. TRANSACTIONS WITH PARTIES-IN-INTEREST

Party-in-interest transactions include the investment in the special funds of the trustee and the payment of administrative expenses. Additionally, all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the Plan for the first half of 1996 were paid for by the Company. Such transactions are exempt from being prohibited transactions.

The Plan purchased shares of common stock of the Company for \$544,613 and sold shares of common stock of the Company for \$327,449 for the year ended December 31, 1996.

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Notes to Financial Statements--Continued

D. INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is in operational compliance with Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(a) and is, therefore, not subject to tax under IRC Section 501(a). The Plan Administrator has indicated that the Plan has been modeled after a prototype plan that has been accepted by the Internal Revenue Service. However, due to recent Plan amendments, the Plan Administrator intends to request in a timely manner a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service. The tax exempt status of the Plan does not affect the taxability of distributions to participants.

E. INVESTMENTS

The Plan's investments are as follows:

	DECEMBER 31, 1996	
	COST	FAIR VALUE
Collective Investment Trusts of KeyBank National Association:		
*Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	\$ 90,877	\$ 90,877
*EB Magic Fund	**6,621,735	6,642,459
Mutual Funds:		
Victory Stock Index Fund	**20,429,677	22,004,849
Victory Balanced Fund	**8,629,253	9,008,960
Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	457,606	457,373
*STERIS Corporation common stock	**3,692,619	6,141,069
Participant loans	1,713,003	1,713,003

	DECEMBER 31, 1995	
	COST	FAIR VALUE
Collective Investment Trusts of KeyBank National Association:		
*Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	\$ 23,148	\$ 23,148
*EB Magic Fund	108,037	110,460
Mutual Funds:		
Victory Stock Index Fund	**543,398	**659,380
Victory Balanced Fund	**348,456	396,433
Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	**201,812	**209,510
*STERIS Corporation common stock	**694,972	**1,404,971
Participant loans	38,733	38,733

*Party-in-interest

**Investment representing five percent or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Form 5500, Item 27(a)--Schedule of Assets Held for Investment Purposes

December 31, 1996	Cost	Fair Value
	-----	-----
Collective Investment Trusts of Key Bank National Association:		
*Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	\$ 90,877	\$ 90,877
*EB Magic Fund	6,621,735	6,642,459
Mutual Funds:		
Victory Stock Index Fund	20,429,677	22,004,849
Victory Balanced Fund	8,629,253	9,008,960
Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	457,606	457,373
*STERIS Corporation common stock	3,692,619	6,141,069
Participant loans	1,713,003	1,713,003

* Party-in-interest

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Form 5500, Item 27(d)--Schedule of Reportable Transactions

For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

Description of Asset	Purchase Price	Selling Price	Cost of Asset	Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date	Net Gain or (Loss)
CATEGORY (i) SINGLE TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF 5% OF PLAN ASSETS					
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	\$ 19,610,464		\$19,610,464	\$ 19,610,464	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	7,739,120		7,739,120	7,739,120	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	206,400		206,400	206,400	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		\$ 19,570,021	19,570,021	19,570,021	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		7,720,207	7,720,207	7,720,207	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		209,762	209,762	209,762	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		175,219	175,219	175,219	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	379,943		379,9043	379,943	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	175,219		175,219	175,219	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		379,943	379,943	379,943	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	193,912		193,912	193,912	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		193,912	193,912	193,912	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	180,318		180,318	180,318	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		180,318	180,318	180,318	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund	515,067		515,067	515,067	
Employee Benefits Money Market Fund		515,067	515,067	515,067	
Victory Balanced Fund	265,178		265,178	265,178	
Victory Stock Index Fund	459,161		459,161	459,161	
EB Magic Fund		147,841	147,841	147,841	
Victory Balanced Fund	7,742,203		7,742,203	7,742,203	
Victory Balanced Fund		379,943	370,236	370,236	\$ 9,707
Victory Stock Index Fund	19,618,274		19,618,274	19,618,274	
Victory Stock Index Fund		175,219	169,883	169,883	5,336
Victory Stock Index Fund		193,911	184,641	184,641	9,270
Victory Stock Index Fund		174,227	167,056	167,056	7,171
Victory Stock Index Fund		514,563	455,025	455,025	59,538

STERIS Corporation
401(k) Plan and Trust

Form 5500, Item 27(d)--Schedule of Reportable Transactions--Continued

Number of Transactions	Description of Asset	Purchase Price	Selling Price	Cost of Asset	Current Value of Asset on Transaction Date	Net Gain or (Loss)

CATEGORY (iii) SERIES OF TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF 5% OF PLAN ASSETS						
257 248	Employee Benefit Money Market Fund	\$ 31,449,608		\$31,449,608	\$31,449,608	
			\$ 31,381,878	31,381,878	31,381,878	
86 45	EB Magic fund	1,539,592		1,539,592	1,539,592	
			545,739	536,796	545,739	\$ 8,943
50 11	STERIS Corporation Common Stock	544,613		544,613	544,613	
			327,449	225,279	327,449	102,170
109 38	Victory Balanced Fund	9,054,610		9,054,610	9,054,610	
			808,582	773,814	808,582	34,768
92 28	Victory Investment Quality Bond Fund	307,404		307,404	307,404	
			52,123	51,610	52,123	513
103 44	Victory Stock Index Quality Bond Fund	21,845,536		21,845,536	21,845,536	
			2,093,057	1,959,256	2,093,057	133,801

There were no category (ii) or (iv) reportable transactions during the year ended December 31, 1996.

Consent of Independent Auditors

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 33-55976) pertaining to the STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust of our report dated July 9, 1997, with respect to the financial statements and schedules of the STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust included in this Annual Report (Form 11-K) for the year ended December 31, 1996.

Ernst & Young LLP

Cleveland, Ohio
July 9, 1997

SIGNATURES

THE PLAN. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on their behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

STERIS Corporation 401(k) Plan and Trust

Dated: July 15, 1997

By: /s/ LAURA L. WEIEN

Laura L. Weien
Treasurer