

Plasmid minipreps for sequencing

Adapted from *FLC Protocols Plasmid minipreps 02/09/2004*

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Reagents

Below are reagents you will need to prepare before starting the protocol and how to prepare them.

Solution I

Solution II

Solution III

10 M LiCl

10 mM Tris HCL

You should also have on hand

- 100% ethanol.
- 70% ethanol.
- Lots of clean (autoclaved) 2 ml tubes.
- 3-5 hours of time to complete the protocol.

Protocol

1. Begin with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 ml of overnight bacterial culture (if ampicillin is used as the selective medium use 100 μ /ml). If volume of culture is greater than 2 ml proceed to step 2, otherwise skip to step 4.
2. Transfer culture to a 12 ml tube. Spin down bacteria at 4200 rpm at 23 °C for 10 minutes using the large bench-top centrifuge and the swing bucket rotor ¹.
3. Transfer culture to a 2ml centrifuge tube and spin down bacteria at 6,000 rpm at 23 °C for 6 minutes.
4. Add 200 μ l **solution I** ². Re-suspend pellets by vortexing vigorously. If using > 2 ml of culture (see step 2) transfer re-suspended bacteria to a 2 ml tube. Incubate samples at room temperature for 10 minutes. While you are waiting cool down the 2 ml bench-top centrifuge to 4 °C.
5. Add 400 μ l of **solution II**. Mix the samples by gently inverting 6 times. **Do not vortex**. Place the tubes on ice for exactly 5 minutes.
6. Add 300 μ l of cold **solution III**. Incubate samples on ice for 5 minutes.
7. Centrifuge for 5 minutes at max speed (15,000 rpm) at 4 °C.
8. Transfer the supernatant to a clean 2 ml tube. Add 1 volume (900 μ l) of isopropanol. Mix the samples by inverting several times.
9. Centrifuge samples for 15 minutes at max speed at 4 °C.
10. Discard supernatant by decanting or with vacuum trap. Wash pellet with 500 μ l of 70% ethanol. ³
11. Add 200 μ l **10mM Tris HCL RnaseA** solution to each sample. Incubate samples at 37 °C for 10 minutes.
12. Add 200 μ l of **10M LiCl**. Mix solutions by inverting 6 times.
13. Incubate samples for \geq 20 minutes at -20 °C.
14. Centrifuge samples at max speed for 10 minutes at 4 °C. Transfer the **supernatant** to a clean 2 ml tube.

¹Plastic 12 ml tubes will shatter if spun at too high a speed with too great a volume. If you have doubts about your tubes or have not used them in the centrifuge before test them by spinning a few with 11 μ l H₂O at 4200 rpm.

²I highly recommend using the serial pippetter for adding all solutions at this point. It will save you hours over traditional pipetting. If you do not know what this is or where to find it ask someone.

³Generally I decant the isopropanol by placing samples in the front row of a tube rack, facing them so the front of the tube faces away from the rows of the rack and using this configuration to decant all the samples in the rack at once. It helps to find a tube rack that is older and slightly deformed as these will hold onto your tubes better.

15. Add 2.2 volumes of ice cold 100% ethanol. Mix samples by inverting several times.
16. Centrifuge samples at max speed for 10 minutes at 4 °C. Remove supernatant with a vacuum trap. ⁴
17. Wash the pellet up to two times with 500 μ l of 70% ethanol ⁵. Remove ethanol using a vacuum trap. Washing can sometimes dislodge the pellet and it can be helpful to spin samples at max speed for 2 minutes prior to removing the wash to secure the pellet.
18. Dry the pellet for 10-15 minutes and dissolve in 40 μ l 10mM Tris HCL pH 7.5.
19. Check sample concentration using the nanodrop. If concentration is too high dilute sample in 40 μ l steps of 10mM Tris HCL pH 7.5 until you reach a reasonable concentration (200-400 ng/ μ l).
20. Run between 200 and 600 ng per lane of each sample on an agarose gel and image.

⁴Remember to use a pipette tip over the end of the vacuum tube.

⁵The 2/9/04 protocol recommends washing twice. I haven't noticed a difference between single and double wash samples but if you are being extra careful it doesn't hurt to wash twice.