



Overview

This guide explains how to prepare up to 384 dual-indexed Nextera XT DNA Library Prep workflow.

The Nextera XT workflow:

- Uses tagmentation, an enzymatic reaction, to fragment sequences in only 15 minutes.
- Reduces reagent containers, pipetting, and hands-on reagents.
- Requires only 1 ng input DNA.
- Supports genomes that are less than 5 Mb.

Table 1: Example Applications

Nextera XT (FC-131-1024, FC-131-1096)	Illumina DNA
Small genomes, amplicons, plasmids	Human germline genomes
PCR amplicons (> 300 bp)*	Small genomes, plasmids, PCR amplicons
Plasmids	Nonhuman genomes (mouse, rat, etc.)
Microbial genomes (eg, Prokaryotes, Archaea)	Plant genomes (rice)
Concatenated amplicons	Invertebrate genomes
Double-stranded cDNA	
Single-cell RNA-Seq	

* Using > 300 bp amplicon size ensures even coverage across the genome. For more information, refer to [PCR Amplicons](#).

How the Nextera XT Assay Works

DNA Input Recommendations

The Nextera XT protocol is optimized for 1 ng of input DNA for preparing libraries.

Assess DNA purity to make sure that the initial DNA sample is free of organic contaminants, such as phenol and ethanol. Nextera XT tagmentation reaction and result in assay failure.

Input DNA Quantification

The enzymatic DNA fragmentation used for this protocol is not mechanical fragmentation. Success depends on accurate quantification.

Use a fluorometric-based method to quantify input DNA. For the Assay system, use 2 µl of each DNA sample with 198 µl of reagent that measure total nucleic acid, such as NanoDrop or other.

Assess DNA Purity

UV absorbance is a common method used for assessing DNA purity. The ratio of absorbance at 260 nm to absorbance at 280 nm provides an indication of purity. The protocol is optimized for DNA with 260/280 absorbance ratio of 1.8–2.0 for a pure DNA sample.

For a secondary indication of sample purity, use the ratio of absorbance at 260 nm to absorbance at 230 nm. Target a 260/230 ratio of 2.0–2.2. Values outside this range indicate the presence of contaminants. For a complete list of contaminants, including those that can interfere with library preparation, refer to *Nextera XT Library Prep: Tips and Tricks* (015).

Dilute the starting material in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5–8.5. High concentrations of contaminants can cause library preparation failure, poor cluster density, or no clusters.

PCR Amplicons

When starting with PCR amplicons, the PCR amplicon must be longer than 50 bp. The protocol depletes libraries < 500 bp. Therefore, Illumina recommends that libraries undergo a 1.8 x Illumina Purification Beads volume normal for PCR amplicons ([Libraries](#)). Shorter amplicons can otherwise be lost during size selection.

Tagmentation cannot add an adapter directly to the distal end of the DNA. A coverage of ~50 bp from each distal end is expected. To ensure full coverage of the target region, design primers to extend beyond the target region.

Consumables & Equipment

The protocol described in this guide assumes that you have confirmed protocol contents, and obtained all required components.

Illumina-Supplied Consumabl

Completing the Nextera XT protocol requires library prep i

Component	Kit Options
Library prep reagents	Nextera XT DNA Library Preparati (24 Samples)
	Nextera XT DNA Library Preparati (96 Samples)
Index adapters	IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Inde A, Tagmentation (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Inde B, Tagmentation (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Inde C, Tagmentation (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Inde D, Tagmentation (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	IDT for Illumina Nextera DNA Uniq Indexes Set C (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	IDT for Illumina Nextera DNA Uniq Indexes Set D (96 Indexes, 96 Samples)
	Nextera XT Index Kit v2 Set A (96 Indexes, 384 Samples)
	Nextera XT Index Kit v2 Set B (96 Indexes, 384 Samples)
	Nextera XT Index Kit v2 Set C (96 Indexes, 384 Samples)
	Nextera XT Index Kit v2 Set D (96 Indexes, 384 Samples)
	Nextera XT Index Kit (24 Indexes, 96 Samples)
Accessory Products for Nextera XT	Illumina Purification Bead, 100 ml
	Illumina Purification Bead, 400 ml

Nextera XT Library Prep Kit Contents

Index Kit Contents

User-Supplied Consumables

Make sure that you have the required consumables and equipment.

The protocol has been optimized and validated using the indicated consumables and equipment. Results are not guaranteed when using alternate consumables and equipment.

Consumables

Equipment

Thermal Cyclers

Signatures

Protocol

This section describes the Nextera XT DNA protocol.

- Review the planned complete sequencing workflow, from sample preparation to sequencing, to ensure compatibility of products and experiment parameters.
- Before proceeding, confirm kit contents and make sure you have all necessary components, equipment, and consumables. This protocol includes instructions for reagents and index adapters. Index adapters are sold separately. See [Supplied Consumables](#).
- Follow the protocols in the order shown, using the specified parameters.

Library Prep Workflow

Tips and Techniques

Safe Stopping Point

Avoiding Cross-Contamination

Sealing the Plate

IPB 100 ml Bottle Resuspension

Preparing IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA Unique

Tagment Genomic DNA

This step uses the Nextera XT transposome to tagment genomic DNA with adapter sequences.

Consumables

Preparation

Procedure

Amplify Libraries

This step amplifies the tagmented DNA using a limited-cycle PCR with Index 1 (i7) adapters, Index 2 (i5) adapters, and sequencing primers. To confirm indexes selected for low plexity pools, refer to the [Index Adapters Pooling Guide](#).

Index adapter tubes or plates are ordered separately from compatible index adapters for use with this protocol, refer to the [Index Adapters Pooling Guide](#).

Consumables

Preparation

Procedure

SAFE STOPPING POINT

If you are stopping, seal the plate, and store at 2°C to 8°C in a thermal cycler overnight.

Clean Up Libraries

This step uses single-sided bead purification to purify amplified libraries.

Consumables

Preparation

Procedure

SAFE STOPPING POINT

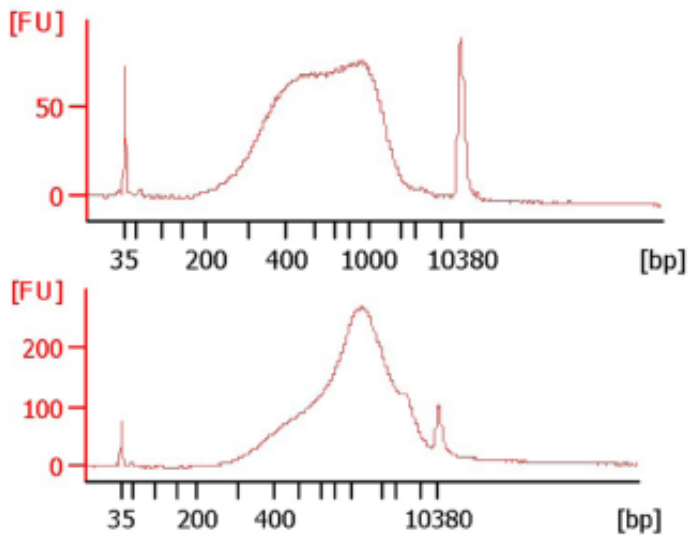
If you are stopping, seal the plate with Microseal 'B' adhesive and store at -25°C to -15°C for up to 7 days.

Check Library Quality

Run 1 µl undiluted library on an Agilent Technology 2100 B

Typical libraries show a broad size distribution of ~250–1000 bp. Libraries can be sequenced with average fragment sizes as small as 150 bp.

Figure 1: Example Bioanalyzer Trace



Quality Metrics

Two factors can cause cluster density fluctuations in library preparation:

- An average sample size that is too large or too small
- A final sample concentration that is too low due to a liquid-based normalization step.

To troubleshoot fluctuations in cluster density, consider the final sample concentration. For more information, refer to *Nextera XT Library Preparation* (Pub. No. 770-2015-015).

Check Library Size

Check Library Concentration

Normalize Libraries

This step normalizes the quantity of each library made with Nextera XT DNA Library Prep Kits to ensure more equal library representation in the pool.

Do not follow the normalization protocol and instead use [Library Concentration](#) for manual normalization:

- If you are using IDT for Illumina Nextera UD Indexes.
- If the final library yield is < 10 nM.
- If your sequencing system uses onboard denaturation.

Consumables

Preparation

Procedure

SAFE STOPPING POINT

If you are stopping, seal the plate with Microseal 'B' adhesive and store at -25°C to -15°C for up to 7 days.

Dilute Libraries to the Starting Concentration

This step dilutes libraries to the starting concentration for the next step in a serial dilution. After diluting to the starting concentration, the libraries are denatured and diluted to the final loading concentration.

Use this procedure when the [Normalize Libraries](#) protocol is followed.

For sequencing, Illumina recommends the read lengths and compatible products [support page](#). If you would like additional adjusted IPB recommendations for $\geq 2 \times 250$ cycles, you can contact your local Illumina representative. This step is not required.

IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes uses 10 base pair indexes and Nextera XT v2 indexes, which use eight base pair indexes. Index codes can require adjustments to your sequencing run settings.

Procedure

Resources & References

Additional Resources

The following resources provide instructions and guideline the Illumina [support page](#) for additional information.

- Compatible products and requirements for recording s libraries, and analyzing data.
- Questions and answers about using the kit.
- Training videos about the kit and courses for related p
- The latest versions of the kit documentation.

Table 2: Additional Recommended Resources

Resource	Description
Custom Protocol Selector	A tool for generating end-to-end library prep method, run para with options to refine the leve
Index Adapters Pooling Guide	Provides pooling guidelines a using the 10-base pair IDT for or 8-base pair Nextera XT an the Nextera XT DNA Library F
Illumina Adapter Sequences	Provides the nucleotide sequ oligonucleotides used in Illum
IDT for Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes support page	Provides information about ID Dual (UD) Indexes.

Revision History

Document	Date	Description of Char
Document # 15031942 v07	April 2023	Clarified Nextera XT overview. Corrected normalize name LNB1. Clarified instructions Clarified instructions Removed statement TruSeq v3 primers c System. Updated kit options Updated list of addi Removed references embedded (FFPE) a the workflow.

		Removed list of acrc Added HTML format
Document # 15031942 v06	August 2021	Add IPB bead resus techniques Replaced AMPure X Replaced Vortex ver Changed storage te Clean Up Libraries p IPB bead added to c sections
Document # 15031942 v05	May 2019	Added information c UD Indexes sets A, I contents, preparatic resources. Removed plate layo Removed the Pool L Check Library Qualit Libraries section. Revised Additional F clarity on the resour Revised language th consistency across preparation referenc Added protocol for c concentration. Removed obsolesce Indexes, 384 Sampl Contents.
Document # 15031942 v04	January 2019	Added information c workflows to ensure methods.
Document # 15031942 v03	February 2018	Updated the normal indicate that shaking elution is necessary resuspended. Reorganized kit con renaming some sect identify storage tem Corrected the diagn XT assay works to c has two of the same
Document # 15031942 v02	April 2017	Added the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported genom • The ratio of absor contaminants. • Recommendation:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMPure XP bead $\geq 2 \times 250$ cycles. • Reagent and libra PCR plate after th amplification step • Beckman Coulter for Agencourt AM • Illumina catalog # 121-1003 for the T Sequencing Prime <p>Added the following additional resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Best Practices for Normalization in N Preparation Kits</i> (• <i>Nextera XT Librar Troubleshooting</i> (<p>Consolidated steps Identified the NaOH biology grade. Specified the use of mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5 for DNA quality asse Specified proceedin tagmentation is corr occurs while the tra Specified a thaw tim (Nextera PCR Maste Updated the normal to various sample nu Updated TCY plate plate, skirted. Updated magnetic s Scientific. Corrected the catalc provided in the intro Corrected the illustr assay works.</p>
Document # 15031942 v01	January 2016	<p>Updated design of v Renamed and comb needed to improve c Simplified consumal beginning of each s Revised step-by-ste succinct. Removed reference Cards and added re Selector. Clarified AMPure XP nonamplicon applica</p>

		Added information a libraries. See Norma Corrected index ada diagram.
15031942 Rev. E	January 2015	Corrected kit conter Preparation Index Ki include index N715.
15031942 Rev. D	September 2014	Added info for new i preparation of up to libraries. Updated DNA Input starting material and incomplete tagment Added new Nextera information on how cluster density. Removed Dual Index Pooling Guidelines s be found in the Next Guidelines Tech Not Library Prep suppor References to read l updated for v3 chem Added instructions f fewer than 24 samp beads in Library Noi Added NaOH 1N pH Equipment list as a Removed Tween 20 Equipment list. Cons
15031942 Rev. C	October 2012	Modifications were : 2×300 runs on the M New section for clus HiScanSQ, and GAll HiSeq, HiScanSQ, ar The <i>Dual Indexing P</i> catalog numbers for correct catalog num Emphasized making Tagment Buffer) and Storage Buffer 1) rea before use in the pro Removed reference 0.1% Tween 20 from Consumables table library preparation.
15031942 Rev. B	July 2012	

		Emphasized making Tagment Buffer) and Storage Buffer 1) re: before use in the pro Removed reference 0.1% Tween 20 from Consumables table library preparation.
15031942 Rev. A	May 2012	Initial release.

Document # 15031942 v07