

Ligation

Ligate the purified insert and vector together.

5.1 Place 50 ng of digested vector, 5 μ L of ligation buffer, and 1 μ L of T4 ligase into a 500- μ L microfuge tube. The amount of insert to add is calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{ng of insert} = (2)(\text{bp of insert})(50\text{ng linearized plasmid}) / (\text{size of plasmid in bp}).$$

Add water to increase the final volume to 10 μ L.

5.2 Prepare both a positive ligation mixture that contains the digested vector and insert as well as a negative ligation mixture that contains only the digested vector. Add more water to the negative ligation mixture to prepare equal volumes.

5.3 Leave the ligation mixture at room temperature for 5 min, and then use it directly for transformation of E. coli competent cells, or store it by freezing until transformation.