

Ligation Protocol for NEB PCR Cloning Kit (E1202)

New England Biolabs

Abstract

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Guidelines

	LIGATION REACTION	POSITIVE CONTROL
Linearized pMiniT Vector (25 ng/μl)	1 μl (25 ng)	1 μl (25 ng)
Insert*	1–4 μl*	–
Amplicon Cloning Control (1 kb) (15 ng/μl)	–	2 μl (30 ng)
H ₂ O	to 5 μl	2 μl
Cloning Master Mix (2X)	5 μl	5 μl
Total Volume	10 μl	10 μl

*For purified PCR amplicon products, the amount of insert to be added can be calculated by relative length or molar calculations. Formulas below use the recommended values of 25 ng of linearized vector (2525 bp) per reaction and an insert-to-vector ratio of 3:1.

a. Relative length calculations:

ng insert to be added = (3)(25 ng vector) (bp of insert/2525 bp of vector)

b. Molar calculations:

- Convert the 25 ng vector present in the ligation reaction to pmoles:

$$(25 \text{ ng vector})(1000)/(650 \text{ daltons per base pair})(\text{number of base pairs in vector or } 2525) = (25)(1000)/(650)(2525) = 25000/1641250 = 0.015 \text{ pmoles vector}$$
- Calculate a 3-fold molar amount of insert to add to each ligation:

$$(3)(0.015 \text{ pmoles vector}) = 0.045 \text{ pmoles insert}$$
- Convert the pmoles insert amount to ng insert to be added:

$$\text{ng insert to be added} = (0.045 \text{ pmoles insert})(\text{base pairs in insert})(650 \text{ daltons per base pair})/1000$$

As examples, these calculations will yield insert levels of 15 ng (500 bp insert), 30 ng (1 kb insert) or 60 ng (2 kb insert).

For unpurified PCR amplicons from reactions yielding a specific product, use 1 μl or less of the reaction as insert. Do not use larger amounts, as carryover material from the PCR reactions can inhibit ligation or transformation. To estimate the concentration of PCR product for the above calculations, compare the reaction yield to known amounts of DNA fragments in a marker lane, such as our Quick-Load® Purple 2-Log DNA Ladder ([NEB #N0550S](#)).

Before start

For purified PCR amplicon products, the amount of insert to be added can be calculated by relative length or molar calculations. See the Guidelines for the formulas.

Materials

 NEB PCR Cloning Kit - 20 rxns [E1202S](#) by [New England Biolabs](#)

Protocol

Step 1.

Mix the first 3 components of the reaction.

[PROTOCOL](#)

[. E1202 Ligation Mixture](#)

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Step 1.1.

Linearized pMiniT Vector (25 ng/μl), **1 μl**

[AMOUNT](#)

1 μl Additional info:

Step 1.2.

Insert, **1-4 μl**

Step 1.3.

H₂O to **5 μl**

Step 2.

Add Cloning Master Mix (2X), **5 μl**, to a total of 10 μl per ligation reaction.

[AMOUNT](#)

5 μl Additional info:

Step 3.

Incubate at room temperature (25°C) for 5-15 minutes.

[NOTES](#)

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While 5 minutes is sufficient, 15 minutes will increase transformation levels for amplicons with single base overhangs

Step 4.

Incubate on ice for 2 minutes.

[DURATION](#)

00:02:00

Step 5.

Transform immediately into NEB 10-beta Competent E. coli or store at -20°C.