

High Efficiency Transformation Protocol using NEB 10-beta Competent E. coli (C3019I) Version 3

New England Biolabs

Abstract

This is the correct protocol if you are using the C3019I cells. If you are using the C3019H cells, please refer to this protocol.

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protocols.io

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Guidelines

Transformation Protocol Variables

Thawing: Cells are best thawed on ice and DNA added as soon as the last bit of ice in the tube disappears. Cells can also be thawed by hand, but warming above 0°C will decrease the transformation efficiency.

Incubation of DNA with Cells on Ice: For maximum transformation efficiency, cells and DNA should be incubated together on ice for 30 minutes. Expect a 2-fold loss in transformation efficiency for every 10 minutes this step is shortened.

Heat Shock: Both the temperature and the timing of the heat shock step are important and specific to the transformation volume and vessel. Using the transformation tube provided, 30 seconds at 42°C is optimal.

Outgrowth: Outgrowth at 37°C for 1 hour is best for cell recovery and for expression of antibiotic resistance. Expect a 2-fold loss in transformation efficiency for every 15 minutes this step is shortened. SOC gives 2-fold higher transformation efficiency than LB medium; and incubation with shaking or rotating the tube gives 2-fold higher transformation efficiency than incubation without shaking.

Plating: Selection plates can be used warm or cold, wet or dry without significantly affecting the transformation efficiency. However, warm, dry plates are easier to spread and allow for the most rapid colony formation.

DNA Contaminants to Avoid

ContaminantPetergents
Removal Method
Ethanol precipitate

Phenol Extract with chloroform and ethanol

precipitate

Ethanol or Isopropanol Dry pellet before resuspending

PEG* Column purify or phenol/chloroform extract

and ethanol precipitate

DNA binding proteins Column purify or phenol/chloroform extract

(e.g. Ligase) and ethanol precipitate

* Ideally, DNA for transformation should be purified and resuspended in water or TE. However, up to $10~\mu l$ of DNA directly from a ligation mix can be used with only a two-fold loss of transformation efficiency. Where it is necessary to maximize the number of transformants (e.g. a library), a purification step, either a spin column or phenol/chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation should be added.

Materials

NEB 10-beta Competent E.coli (High Efficiency) - 6x0.2 ml C30191 by New England Biolabs

Protocol

Step 1.

C3019I: Thaw a tube of NEB 10-beta Competent E. coli cells on ice until the last ice crystals disappear.



NEB 10-beta Competent E.coli (High Efficiency) - 6x0.2 ml C30191 by New England Biolabs

NOTES

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Cells are best thawed on ice and DNA added as soon as the last bit of ice in the tube disappears. Cells can also be thawed by hand, but warming above 0°C will decrease the transformation efficiency.

Step 2.

Mix gently and carefully pipette 50 µl of cells into a transformation tube on ice.

■ AMOUNT

50 µl Additional info:

REAGENTS

NEB 10-beta Competent E.coli (High Efficiency) - 6x0.2 ml C30191 by New England Biolabs

Step 3.

Add 1-5 µl containing 1 pg-100 ng of plasmid DNA to the cell mixture.

Step 4.

Carefully flick the tube 4-5 times to mix cells and DNA. **Do not vortex**.

Step 5.

Place the mixture on ice for 30 minutes. Do not mix.

O DURATION

00:30:00

NOTES

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For maximum transformation efficiency, cells and DNA should be incubated together on ice for 30 minutes. Expect a 2-fold loss in transformation efficiency for every 10 minutes this step is shortened.

Step 6.

Heat shock at exactly 42°C for exactly 30 seconds. Do not mix.

O DURATION

00:00:30

NOTES

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Both the temperature and the timing of the heat shock step are important and specific to the transformation volume and vessel. Using the transformation tube provided, 30 seconds at 42°C is optimal.

Step 7.

Place on ice for 5 minutes. Do not mix.

O DURATION

00:05:00

Step 8.

Pipette 950 µl of room temperature NED 10-beta/Stable Outgrowth Medium into the mixture.

■ AMOUNT

950 µl Additional info:

Step 9.

Place at 37°C for 60 minutes., shaking vigorously (250 rpm) or rotating.

O DURATION

01:00:00

NOTES

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Outgrowth at 37°C for 1 hour is best for cell recovery and for expression of antibiotic resistance. Expect a 2-fold loss in transformation efficiency for every 15 minutes this step is shortened. SOC gives 2-fold higher transformation efficiency than LB medium; and incubation with shaking or rotating the tube gives 2-fold higher transformation efficiency than incubation without shaking.

Step 10.

Warm selection plates to 37°C.

NOTES

New England Biolabs 17 Sep 2014

Selection plates can be used warm or cold, wet or dry without significantly affecting the

transformation efficiency. However, warm, dry plates are easier to spread and allow for the most rapid colony formation.

Step 11.

Mix the cells thoroughly by flicking the tube and inverting.

Step 12.

Perform several 10-fold serial dilutions in NED 10-beta/Stable Outgrowth Medium.

P NOTES

New England Biolabs 22 Jun 2017

Please note that NEB no longer recommends SOC for use in this protocol. NEB 10-beta/Stable Outgrowth Medium is now provided with NEB 10-beta Competent E.coli and will be available also as a stand-alone product in the fall of 2017.

Step 13.

Spread 50-100 µl of each dilution onto a selection plate

Step 14.

Incubate overnight at 37°C

O DURATION

15:00:00

NOTES

New England Biolabs 02 Oct 2014

Alternatively, incubate at 30°C for 24-36 hours or 25°C for 48 hours.