

# **High Efficiency Transformation Protocol (C2987H)**

# **New England Biolabs**

# **Abstract**

This is the correct protocol if you are using the C2987H cells. If you are using the C2987I cells, please refer to this protocol.

Citation: New England Biolabs High Efficiency Transformation Protocol (C2987H). protocols.io

dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.chgt3v

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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**

ContaminantRemoval MethodDetergentsEthanol 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

## **Materials**

NEB 5-alpha Competent E.coli (High Efficiency) - 20x0.05 ml C2987H by New England Biolabs

## **Protocol**

## Step 1.

Thaw a tube of NEB 5-alpha Competent E. coli cells on ice for 10 minutes.



NEB 5-alpha Competent E.coli (High Efficiency) - 20x0.05 ml C2987H by New England Biolabs

© DURATION

00:10:00

## NOTES

# **New England Biolabs** 17 Sep 2014

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.

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

#### Sten 3.

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

## Step 4.

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

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00:30:00

# NOTES

## New England Biolabs 02 Oct 2014

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 5.

<sup>\*</sup> Ideally, DNA for transformation should be purified and resuspended in water or TE. However, up to 10 µl 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.

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

**O DURATION** 

00:00:30

#### NOTES

# New England Biolabs 02 Oct 2014

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 6.

Place on ice for 5 minutes. Do not mix.

© DURATION

00:05:00

# Step 7.

Pipette 950 µl of room temperature SOC into the mixture.

**AMOUNT** 

950 µl Additional info:



SOC Outgrowth Medium - 100 ml B9020S by New England Biolabs

# Step 8.

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

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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 9.

Warm selection plates to 37°C.

# NOTES

## New England Biolabs 02 Oct 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 10.

Mix the cells thoroughly by flicking the tube and inverting.



SOC Outgrowth Medium - 100 ml <u>B9020S</u> by <u>New England Biolabs</u>

# **Step 11.**

Perform several 10-fold serial dilutions in SOC.

# **Step 12.**

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

# **Step 13.**

# Incubate overnight at 37°C

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