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## SDS-PAGE

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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl85o7dl2w/v1](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.5jyl85o7dl2w/v1)[Reclone.org \(The Reagent Collaboration Network\)](#)[Open Bioeconomy Lab](#)Anna Bird  
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SDS-PAGE gels are used to visualize proteins. This protocol describes how to prepare all the buffers required for casting and running SDS-PAGE gels, as well as how to prepare whole cell samples.

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Buffers





10m

- 1 4X Resolving Buffer (1.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.8)
  - Add 90.75 g [Tris P212121](#) to [400 mL](#) DI water
  - Titrate the solution with ~18% HCl to pH 8.8
  - Add water to a final volume of [500 mL](#)
  - Store at 4°C


10m

- 2 4X Stacking Buffer (0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 6.8) 10m
- Add 30.25 g [Tris P212121](#) to [400 mL](#) DI water
  - Titrate the solution with ~18% HCl to pH 6.8
  - Add water to a final volume of [500 mL](#) DI water
  - Store at 4°C
- 3 10X Running Buffer 15m
- Weigh 30 g Tris [Tris P212121](#) .
  - Weigh 144 g [Glycine Contributed by users](#) .
  - Weigh 10 g [Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate P212121](#) SDS.
  - Dissolve in [1000 mL](#) water.
  - pH should read 8.3. No pH adjustments are needed.
  - Dilute to 1X before use.
  - Store at room temperature.
- 4 10% Ammonium Persulfate (w/v) 5m
- [Ammonium persulfate Contributed by](#)
- Add 1g of [users Catalog #A3678](#) to [10 mL](#) of DI water
  - Store at 4°C
- 5 10% SDS (w/v) 5m
- Add 10g of [Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate P212121](#) to [100 mL](#) DI water
  - Store at room temperature
- 6 3X Laemmli Buffer 10m
- 2.4 mL 1 M Tris pH 6.8
  - 3 mL 20% SDS
  - 3 mL glycerol
  - 1.6 mL beta mercaptoethanol
  - a drop of bromophenol blue

## 7 In an Eppendorf tube combine

-  **0.5 mL** 30% Acrylamide: Bisacrylamide (29:1)
-  **0.5 mL** DI water
-  **10 µL** APS
-  **1 µL** TEMED

Pipette  **200 µL** down the right side, and  **200 µL** down the left side







Allow to solidify for  **00:05:00**

## 8 Resolving Layer

*This following recipe makes a 12% SDS-PAGE. For optimal resolution of large proteins (25-200 kDa), you should use smaller concentration of acrylamide (8%), and for resolution of small proteins (4-70 kDa), you should use higher percentage of acrylamide (12-15%). You can calculate a recipe for a different gel percentage using*


<https://www.cytographica.com/lab/acryl2.html>

### 8.1 Combine

-  **1.645 mL** DI water
-  **1.645 mL** 30% Acrylamide: Bisacrylamide (29:1)
-  **1.25 mL** 4X Resolving Buffer (1.5 M Tris, pH 8.8)
-  **50 µL** 10% SDS
-  **50 µL** 10% APS
-  **5 µL** 4X Resol Buffer (1.5 M Tris, pH 8.8)

TEMED must be used in a fume hood

Add APS just before casting as the gel begins to polymerize immediately after addition of APS.

- ### 8.2
- Pour into the mold, leaving ~2 cm below where the bottom of the comb <sup>20m</sup> will be
  - Cover with a layer of isopropyl alcohol (IPA)
  - Wait  **00:20:00** for gel to solidify







## 9 Stacking Layer

*The stacking layer helps all the proteins get lined up so all proteins enter the resolving layer at the same time*

### 9.1 Dump out any excess IPA


10m

Combine

-  **2.6 mL** DI water
-  **1 mL** 30% Acrylamide: Bisacrylamide (29:1)
-  **1.25 mL** Stacking Buffer (0.5 M Tris, pH 6.8)
-  **50 µL** 10% SDS
-  **50 µL** 10% APS
-  **5 µL** TEMED

TEMED must be used in the fume hood

Add APS just before casting as the gel begins to polymerize immediately after addition of APS.

- ### 9.2
- Pour into the mold
  - Place the comb
  - Wait  **00:15:00** for gel to solidify
  - Move to water storage

15m

## Sample Preparation

### 10 Preparation of Whole Cell Samples for SDS-PAGE analysis

*Collect whole cell samples before and after induction, and normalize to the cell mass. This allows you to compare the protein expression before and after inducing cells.*

- ### 10.1
- Heat the waterbath or heatblock to  **95 °C**
  - Read the optical density at 600 nm (OD600) of the cell culture using a photometer.

5m

*Note: the OD600 reading should be within the linear range of the photometer. If the reading appear to be lower than 0.1 or higher than 0.9 concentrate or*

*dilute the cell sample accordingly in order to ensure the OD reading to fall within the 0.1- 0.9 range. If you dilute or concentrate the sample remember to calculate back the initial concentration (e.g. if you diluted 5 times the initial concentration is  $y \times 5$ , where  $y$  is the reading you have obtained from the diluted concentration)*

- 10.2 ■ Calculate the amount of culture to harvest to have a cell pellet equivalent to 10mL of OD600 =1.

*Calculate the amount of biomass using the formula*

$$C_i * V_i = C_f * V_f$$

*where C stands for "concentration", V stands for "volume", i stands for "initial" and f stands for "final". Therefore:*

$$y \text{ OD600} * x \text{ mL} = 1 \text{ OD600} * 1 \text{ mL}$$

*where y is the OD600 reading and x is the volume to be calculated.*

*Therefore*

$$x \text{ mL} = (1 * 1) / y$$

- Transfer the amount of culture as calculated into an appropriate tube and centrifuge it at 7,000 rpm for 00:10:00 in tabletop centrifuge
- Discard the supernatant

- 10.3 11m

- Transfer 150 µL of 1X Laemmli Sample Buffer in the tube and resuspend the pellet by pipetting.
- Transfer the tube to the water bath/heatblock, inserting it into the floaters and incubate the tube at 95 °C for 00:05:00
- Transfer the tube on ice for 00:01:00
- Transfer the tube in a bench-top centrifuge and centrifuge at room temperature at max speed (e.g. 13,000 xg) for 00:05:00
- Transfer the supernatant to a final 1.5 microcentrifuge tube. *Note: the pellet won't be visible. Remove the supernatant without touching the bottom of the tube with the pipette tips to avoid carry-over of membranes. This step is necessary to remove membranes and debris that will affect a good quality run of the samples on the SDS-PAGE gel.*
- Load 10 µL of the supernatant on the SDS-PAGE gel.
- Store the remaining sample at -20 °C .

- 11 Purified Protein 5m

- Add 2.5 µL of 3X Laemmli Buffer to 7.5 µL of sample

- Incubate 🕒 **00:05:00** at 🌡 **95 °C** .
- Load the sample onto the SDS-PAGE gel.

## Running the Gel

1h 30m

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- Place in gel running box and cover with running buffer
- If running only one gel, make sure the other side has a dummy gel cassette inserted.
- Fill the space between the two gels with 1X running buffer.
- Add 🧴 **7.5 µL** ladder with dye to a well. Add 7.5 - 10 uL samples to wells.
- Run at 80V until the loading dye reaches the resolving/stacking layer interface.
- Run at 180V until the loading dye reaches the end of the gel.
- Remove gel from casing. Place in petri dish and cover with Coomassie blue dye. Allow to stain overnight.

1h 30m