

A rapid, sensitive, scalable method for Precision Run-On sequencing (qPRO-seq)

Julius Judd¹, Luke A. Wojenski², Lauren M. Wainman², Nathaniel D. Tippens³, Edward J. Rice⁴, Alexis Dziubek⁵, Geno J. Villafano⁶, Erin M. Wissink³, Philip Versluis³, Lina Bagepalli³, Sagar R. Shah³, Dig B. Mahat³, Jacob M. Tome³, Charles G. Danko⁷, John T. Lis³, Leighton J. Core⁸

¹Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14835, USA; Authors Contributed Equally,

²Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Institute of Systems Genomics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA; Authors Contributed Equally,

³Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14835, USA,

⁴Baker Institute for Animal Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA,

⁵Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Institute of Systems Genomics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA; Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14835, USA,

⁶Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Institute of Systems Genomics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA,

⁷Baker Institute for Animal Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA; Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA,

⁸Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14835, USA; Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Institute of Systems Genomics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA

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Julius Judd

MATERIALS

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
ThermoPol Reaction Buffer Pack - 6.0 ml	B9004S	New England Biolabs
T4 RNA Ligase 1 (ssRNA Ligase) - 5,000 units	M0204L	New England Biolabs
RNA 5' Pyrophosphohydrolase (RppH) - 200 units	M0356S	New England Biolabs
Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase - 100 units	M0491S	New England Biolabs
SYBR Gold Nucleic Acid Gel Stain	S-11494	
Agencourt AMPure XP	A63880	Beckman Coulter
Magnesium Chloride	AC223210010	Fisher Scientific
TRIzol Reagent	15596026	Thermo Fisher Scientific
EGTA		Sigma Aldrich
Suprase-In RNase Inhibitor	AM2694	ThermoFisher
sarkosyl	L5777	Sigma Aldrich
Sucrose	S7903	Sigma Aldrich
Diethyl pyrocarbonate	D5758	Sigma Aldrich
Chloroform	319988	Sigma
Sodium hydroxide	S8045	Sigma – Aldrich
Potassium Chloride	P9541	Sigma Aldrich

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NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
Glycerol	17904	Thermo Fisher Scientific
Dynabeads MyOne Streptavidin C1	65001	Invitrogen - Thermo Fisher
Dithiothreitol (DTT)	707265ML	Thermo Fisher Scientific
Tris Base	BP152	Fisher Scientific
T4 Polynucleotide Kinase	M0201S	New England Biolabs
Triton X-100	BP151-100	Fisher Scientific
Tween-20	P9416	Sigma Aldrich
Sodium chloride	S3014	Sigma Aldrich
Ethanol	100983	Merck Millipore
TRIzol [®] ; LS Reagent	10296028	Thermo Fisher
EDTA	17892	Thermo Fisher
ATP	18330019	Thermo Fisher
GTP	18332015	Thermo Fisher
Pierce Protease Inhibitor Tablets	A32963	Thermo Fisher
GlycoBlue [®] ; Coprecipitant (15 mg/mL)	AM9515	Thermo Fisher
DEPC-Treated Water	AM9920	Thermo Fisher
Maxima H Minus Reverse Transcriptase (200 U/μL)	EP0753	Thermo Fisher
IGEPAL [®] CA-630	I8896	Sigma Aldrich
SsoAdvanced Universal SYBR [®] Green Supermix	172-5270	BioRad Sciences
Trypan Blue	T8154	Sigma Aldrich
Biotin-11-CTP	NEL542001EA	Perkin Elmer
Biotin-11-UTP	NEL543001EA	Perkin Elmer
Biotin-11-GTP	NEL545001EA	Perkin Elmer
Biotin-11-ATP	NEL544001EA	Perkin Elmer
Total RNA Purification Kit	37500	Norgen Biotek Corp.
dNTP mix 12.5 mM each	03622614001	Roche
Micro Bio-Spin RNase free P-30 Gel Columns	7326250	BioRad Sciences

NAME	CATALOG #	VENDOR
Costar Spin-X 0.22 um Centrifuge Tube Filters	1860	Corning
REV3 Adapter /5Phos/rUrNrNrNrNNGATCGTGGACTGTAGAACTCTGAAC/3InvdT/ RNase-free HPLC		IDT
REV5 adapter /5InvddT/CCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCANrNrNrNrNrC RNase-free HPLC		IDT
Primer RP1 AATGATACGGCGACCCGAGATCTACACGTTTACAGTTCTACAGTCCGA PAGE- purified		IDT
Primer RPI-1 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCGTGATGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-2 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATAGATCGGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-3 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGCCTAAGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-4 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTGGTCAGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-5 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCACTGTGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-6 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATATTGGCGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-7 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGATCTGGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-8 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTCAAGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-9 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATCTGATCGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-10 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATAAGCTAGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-11 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATGTAGCCGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT
Primer RPI-12 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGATTACAAGGTGACTGGAGTTCCTTGGCACCCGAGAATTCCA PAGE-purified		IDT

Cell Permeabilization

1h 30m

- 1 Prepare permeabilization buffer, wash buffer, and freeze buffer and place **On ice**.



CAUTION: DEPC is toxic and harmful!



CRITICAL: Care should be taken to avoid nuclease contamination. Change gloves routinely and prepare/use nuclease-free reagents.



CRITICAL: ALL steps should be carried out on ice or in a cold room



All salt solutions should be prepared in ddH₂O. Then add 0.1% (v/v) DEPC, stir overnight, and autoclave. Tris buffers instead need to be carefully prepared with DEPC-treated ddH₂O.



All other solutions (detergents, DTT, sucrose, EDTA/EGTA, and Tris buffers) should be prepared in DEPC ddH₂O in RNase free containers and filter sterilized. Glassware can be made RNase by filling with water, adding 0.1% (v/v) DEPC, incubating with agitation overnight, and autoclaving. Alternatively, glassware can be baked at 300 °C for 4 hours.



The permeabilization buffer, cell wash buffer, freeze buffer, and bead washing/binding buffers can be made and filter-sterilized in advance without the DTT, SUPERase-In™ RNase Inhibitor, and Pierce™ protease inhibitor tablets. DTT, SUPERase-In™ RNase Inhibitor, and protease inhibitor tablets can be added when buffers are needed. Store buffers at 4°C. Use DEPC treated glassware or RNase free plasticware.

1.1 Permeabilization Buffer:

[M] **10 Milimolar (mM)** Tris-Cl, pH 8.0

[M] **10 Milimolar (mM)** KCl

[M] **250 Milimolar (mM)** Sucrose

[M] **5 Milimolar (mM)** MgCl₂

[M] **1 Milimolar (mM)** EGTA

[M] **0.1 % (v/v)** Igepal

[M] **0.5 Milimolar (mM)** DTT

[M] **0.05 % (v/v)** Tween-20

[M] **10 % (v/v)** Glycerol

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

Add 1 Pierce protease inhibitor tablet and  **10 µl** SUPERase-In RNase inhibitor per  **50 ml**.

1.2 Cell Wash buffer:

[M] **10 Milimolar (mM)** Tris-Cl, pH 8.0

[M] **10 Milimolar (mM)** KCl

[M] **250 Milimolar (mM)** sucrose

[M] **5 Milimolar (mM)** MgCl₂

[M] **1 Milimolar (mM)** EGTA

[M]0.5 Milimolar (mM) DTT

[M]10 % (v/v) Glycerol

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

Add 1 Pierce protease Inhibitor tablet and 10 µl SUPERase-In RNase inhibitor per 50 ml .

1.3 Freeze buffer:

[M]50 Milimolar (mM) Tris-Cl, pH 8.0

[M]40 % (v/v) glycerol

[M]5 Milimolar (mM) MgCl₂

[M]1.1 Milimolar (mM) EDTA

[M]0.5 Milimolar (mM) DTT

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

Add 10 µl SUPERase-In RNase inhibitor per 50 ml .

2 Proceed using one of the following options:



2.1 Option 2.1.: Adherent cells (volumes are for 10 cm plates):

2.1.1. Wash cells with 10 ml ice cold PBS.

2.1.2. Repeat the PBS wash step for a total of two washes.

2.1.3. Add 5 ml ice cold permeabilization buffer, scrape cells, and transfer to a conical tube.

2.1.4. Rinse plate with 5 ml permeabilization buffer and pool cells in conical tube (V_f = 10 ml).



2.2 Option 2.2: Suspension cells:

2.2.1. Transfer cells into conical tubes and spin down at 700–1000 x g for 00:04:00 at 4 °C .

2.2.2. Wash with 10 ml ice cold PBS.

2.2.3. Repeat the PBS wash for a total of two washes.

2.2.4. Resuspend in 10 ml cold permeabilization buffer.




Use a centrifuge with a swinging bucket rotor for all centrifuge steps during cell permeabilization. Using a fixed angle rotor will shear cells, releasing a smear of white chromatin.



Centrifuge speed is cell size dependent. We typically centrifuge HeLa at 800 x g and Drosophila at 1,000 x g.



When resuspending cells during permeabilization after centrifugation steps, first gently resuspend the cell pellet with 1 mL solution with a wide-bore P1000 tip. Then add the remaining volume (usually 9 mL) and mix by gentle inversion.

3 Incubate on ice for  **00:05:00** .

4 Check for permeabilization with Trypan blue. Greater than 98% permeabilization is ideal.



If your cell type is not permeabilized under these conditions, add Triton X-100 to **[M]0.1 % (v/v)** – **[M]0.2 % (v/v)** .

5 Spin down at 700–1000 x g for  **00:04:00** at  **4 °C** .



Centrifuge speed is cell size dependent. We typically centrifuge HeLa at 800 x g and Drosophila at 1,000 x g.

6 Wash with 10 mL ice cold cell wash buffer.



When resuspending cells during permeabilization after centrifugation steps, first gently resuspend the cell pellet with 1 mL solution with a wide-bore P1000 tip. Then add the remaining volume (usually 9 mL) and mix by gentle inversion.

7 Repeat the cell wash buffer wash for a total of two washes.

8 Decant wash buffer, and then carefully pipette off remaining buffer and discard without disturbing the cell pellet.

9 Using wide-bore tips, resuspend in  **250 µl** cold freeze buffer and transfer to a 1.5 mL tube.

10 Rinse the conical tube with an additional  **250 µl** freeze buffer and pool ($V_f =$  **500 µl**).

11 Count cells and add permeabilized spike-in cells if desired.



When processing multiple samples, if counting will cause the cells to sit on ice for greater than 10 min, reserve 10 µL for counting, aliquot cells in 100 µL aliquots, and snap freeze. Count the cells and then adjust

the concentration with freeze buffer after thawing and prior to the run-on.



In order to robustly normalize between conditions where a dramatic change in global transcription levels are expected, we add a fixed number of cells of a different species to a fixed number of experimental cells at the permeabilization step. Reads can be mapped to a combined genome, and the number of spike-in mapped reads can then be used as a scaling factor. These cells should be permeabilized prior to the experiment, aliquoted, and added to 1-2% by cell number after permeabilization and counting, either just prior to freezing or just prior to the run-on reaction. We frequently use *Drosophila* S2 cells to normalize human cell experiments and vice versa.

12 Spin down at 1000 x g for 00:05:00 at 4 °C .



Microfuge tubes can be spun in a fixed angle rotor, but we continue to use a swinging bucket rotor so that cells collect at bottom of tube (this tends to decrease cell loss).

13 Resuspend the desired number of cells for each run-on reaction in 52 µl freeze buffer.



We have had success performing this protocol with as few as 50k primary human cells. In general, we find that the quality of libraries will increase until $\sim 1 \times 10^6$ cells per run-on but using more cells than this offers little benefit. This will also depend on how transcriptionally active a given cell type is and genome size.

14 Continue to the run-on or snap freeze 52 µl aliquots in LN₂ and store at -80 °C .



Permeabilized cells are stable indefinitely at -80°C (Chu et al., 2018).

Preparation for the Run-On 30m

15 Pre-chill a microcentrifuge to 4 °C .

16 Set a heat block with water in the wells to 37 °C and another to 65 °C and allow temperature to equilibrate.



A thermomixer set to 37 °C can also be used for incubating the run-on reactions.

17 Prepare bead preparation buffer, high salt wash buffer, low salt wash buffer, and binding buffer, and store On ice



The permeabilization buffer, cell wash buffer, freeze buffer, and bead washing/binding buffers can be made and filter-sterilized in advance without the DTT, SUPERase-In™ RNase Inhibitor, and Pierce™ protease inhibitor tablets. DTT, SUPERase-In™ RNase Inhibitor, and protease inhibitor tablets can be added when buffers are needed. Store buffers at 4°C. Use DEPC treated glassware or RNase free plasticware.

17.1 Bead Preparation Buffer:

[M]0.1 Molarity (M) NaOH

[M]50 Milimolar (mM) NaCl

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

17.2 Bead Binding Buffer:

[M]10 Milimolar (mM) Tris-HCl, pH 7.4

[M]300 Milimolar (mM) NaCl

[M]0.1 % (v/v) Triton X-100

[M]1 Milimolar (mM) EDTA

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

Add  2 μ l SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor per  10 ml .

17.3 High Salt Wash buffer:

[M]50 Milimolar (mM) Tris-HCl, pH 7.4

[M]2 Molarity (M) NaCl

[M]0.5 % (v/v) Triton X-100

[M]1 Milimolar (mM) EDTA

in DEPC-treat H₂O.

Add  2 μ l SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor per  10 ml .

17.4 Low Salt Wash Buffer:

[M]5 Milimolar (mM) Tris-HCl, pH 7.4

[M]0.1 % (v/v) Triton X-100

[M]1 Milimolar (mM) EDTA

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

Add  2 μ l SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor per  10 ml .

18 For each run-on reaction, wash 10 μ l Dynabeads™ MyOne™ Streptavidin C1 Beads once in 1 ml bead preparation buffer using a magnet stand. Beads can be washed in bulk.



CRITICAL: Be sure to properly resuspend beads prior to aliquoting them.



C1 Streptavidin beads are preferred compared to M280 beads because they have higher binding capacity and use a negatively charged matrix. This significantly reduces carryover of non-biotinylated RNAs including adapter dimers.

Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.

- 19 Wash beads twice with **1 ml** binding buffer.



Always quickly spin samples down using a microfuge to remove liquid from tube caps between washes.

- 20 Resuspend the beads in **25 µl** binding buffer per sample. Place beads **On ice** or at **4 °C** until needed.

Run-On Reaction

30m

- 21 Prepare 2XROMM equilibrate at **37 °C** (**30 °C** for Drosophila).



When preparing the 2XROMM, first add all components other than Sarkosyl and mix by vortexing on high for >10 sec. Collect the solution with a quick spin, add Sarkosyl, and mix thoroughly by pipetting carefully to avoid bubbles. If you leave the 2XROMM on ice, a precipitate can form. Before use, check if this has occurred. The precipitate can be re-dissolved by heating at 37 °C for ~5 min and pipette mixing.

21.1 2X Run-On Master Mix (2XROMM):

10 Milimolar (mM) Tris-Cl, pH 8.0

5 Milimolar (mM) MgCl₂

1 Milimolar (mM) DTT

300 Milimolar (mM) KCl

40 Micromolar (µM) Biotin-11-CTP

40 Micromolar (µM) Biotin-11-UTP

40 Micromolar (µM) Biotin-11-ATP

40 Micromolar (µM) Biotin-11-GTP

1 Mass Percent Sarkosyl

in DEPC-treated ddH₂O

Add **1 µl** SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor per reaction.



The run-on reaction uses 4 biotin-NTPs. However, ATP and GTP can be substituted at equal concentration for Biotin-11-ATP and Biotin-11-GTP to reduce cost. Biotin-11-ATP and biotin-11-GTP are 10X as expensive as biotin-11-CTP and biotin-11-UTP. With two biotin-NTPs blocking elongation, each polymerase can be expected to extend ~5 nt or less which we find gives sufficient resolution for the vast majority of applications. For low cell number experiments, increase the concentration of the biotin-NTPs to 500 μ M. Biotin-NTP incorporation efficiency is ~60% with the concentration in the 2XROMM as written, which is sufficient for experiments using 10^6 cells or greater, but increasing the concentration improves incorporation to ~77%.

22 Using a wide bore tip, add 50 μ l of permeabilized cells to new 1.5 mL tube.

23 Pipette 50 μ l of preheated 2XROMM into each reaction tube (already containing permeabilized cells). *Gently and thoroughly pipette the mixture 15 times.*



It is extremely important to thoroughly mix the reaction so that nucleotides diffuse into highly viscous chromatin!

24 Incubate in a heat block or thermomixer at 37 $^{\circ}$ C (30 $^{\circ}$ C for Drosophila) at 750 RPM for 00:05:00 . Have RL buffer from Norgen kit or TRIzol LS ready for use.

25 Proceed to step 26.1 or 26.2 depending on choice of RNA extraction method immediately after the 00:05:00 reaction is complete (take the sample off the heat block and immediately add buffer RL or TRIzol LS).



Stagger both addition of the 2XROMM and addition of TRIzol or buffer RL by 30 seconds or 1 minute, to ensure each sample is incubated exactly 5 min.

Total RNA extraction and Base Hydrolysis

1h 30m

26 Proceed from Step 25 to one of the following options:



TRIzol LS or the Norgen Total RNA Purification Kit can be used to extract total RNA from the run-on reaction. Both options produce identical results. The Norgen kit is faster and less technically challenging to use, but more expensive. If TRIzol LS is used, Micro Bio-Spin™ RNase free P-30 Gel Columns are also needed to remove unincorporated biotin-NTPs as the biotin concentration will otherwise overwhelm the binding capacity of the streptavidin beads.



Option 26.1: NORGEN RNA Extraction:



26.1

1. Add **350 µl** RL buffer and vortex.
2. Add **240 µl** **100 % (v/v)** ethanol and vortex.
3. Apply solution to Norgen RNA extraction column.
4. Spin at 3,500 x g for **00:01:00** at **25 °C**.
5. Add **400 µl** wash solution A (ensure ethanol has been added).
6. Spin at 14,000 x g for **00:01:00** at **25 °C**.
7. Discard flow through.
8. Repeat wash (steps 6 & 7) for a total of two washes.
9. Spin at 14,000 x g for **00:02:00** to dry column.
10. Add **50 µl** DEPC-treated ddH₂O and vortex.
11. Elute by spinning at 200 x g for **00:02:00** at **25 °C** and then at 14,000 x g for **00:01:00** at **25 °C**.
12. Elute again with **50 µl** DEPC-treated ddH₂O and pool eluates ($V_f = 100 \mu\text{l}$).
13. Denature at **65 °C** for **00:00:30** and then snap cool on ice.
14. Add **25 µl** ice cold **1 Molarity (M)** NaOH and incubate **00:10:00** on ice.
15. Add **125 µl** cold **1 Molarity (M)** Tris-Cl pH 6.8, mix by pipetting.
16. Add **5 µl** **5 Molarity (M)** NaCl and **1 µl** GlycoBlue and mix.
17. Add **625 µl** **100 % (v/v)** Ethanol and vortex.



If the protocol needs to be performed over two days, the ethanol precipitation in step 26.1.17 is the safest overnight stopping point. Store samples at -80 °C.

18. Centrifuge the samples at >20,000 x g for **00:20:00** at **4 °C**.



A blue pellet should be visible at the bottom of tube. The pellet can be difficult to see but should be visible. It may appear spread out. If a pellet is not visible, vortex well and repeat spin.

19. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.



When removing the supernatant before the 70% ethanol wash be careful not to disturb the pellet. Approximately 30–50 µL of ethanol can be left in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet prior to adding the 70% ethanol wash. This procedure can also be used after the 70% ethanol wash (step 25.1.22), but then remove the final 30-50 µL using a P200 tip after a quick spin in a microfuge.

20. Add **750 µl** **70 % (v/v)** ethanol.
21. Mix by gentle inversion and spin down briefly.
22. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.
23. Air dry the RNA pellet.



Air dry the RNA pellet by leaving tubes open in fume hood to prevent contamination. This will take ~3-10 min depending on how much ethanol is left in the tube. Do not to let the RNA

pellet dry completely as this will greatly decrease its solubility.

24. Resuspend in **6 µl** DEPC-treated ddH₂O.



26.2 **Option 26.2: Trizol LS RNA Extraction:**



1. Add **250 µl** Trizol LS with a wide bore P1000 tip and carefully pipette >10X until all white globs of nucleoproteins are homogenized.
2. Pipette mix again with a standard bore P1000 tip. Samples should be completely homogenous.
3. Vortex vigorously for at least **00:00:15**.
4. Incubate samples on ice until all run-on reactions are complete.
5. Add **65 µl** chloroform.



When pipetting chloroform, always pipette twice because the first draw always leaks.

6. Vortex the samples at max speed for **00:00:15**, then incubate on ice for **00:03:00**.
7. Centrifuge the samples at >20,000 x g for **00:08:00** at **4 °C**.
8. Transfer the ~ **200 µl** aqueous phase into a new tube.



When transferring the aqueous phase of Trizol extractions to a new tube, tilt the tube to a 45° angle and carefully remove only the clear liquid. Avoid contamination by the pink organic phase or white interphase.

9. Add **1 µl** of GlycoBlue and mix.
10. Add 2.5X volumes (~ **500 µl**) **100 % (v/v)** ethanol and vortex.
11. Centrifuge at > 20,000 x g for **00:20:00** at **4 °C**.




A blue pellet should be visible at the bottom of tube. The pellet can be difficult to see but should be visible. It may appear spread out. If a pellet is not visible, vortex well and repeat spin.

12. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.




When removing the supernatant before the 70% ethanol wash be careful not to disturb the pellet. Approximately 30–50 µL of ethanol can be left in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet prior to adding the 70% ethanol wash. This procedure can also be used after the 70% ethanol wash (step 26.2.15), but then remove the final 30-50 µL using a P200 tip after a quick spin in a microfuge.


13. Add **750 µl** **70 % (v/v)** ethanol.
14. Mix by gentle inversion and quickly spin down.
15. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.
16. Air-dry the RNA pellet.

 Air dry the RNA pellet by leaving tubes open in fume hood to prevent contamination. This will take ~3-10 min depending on how much ethanol is left in the tube. Do not to let the RNA pellet dry completely as this will greatly decrease its solubility.


17. Resuspend in **30 µl** DEPC-treated ddH₂O.
18. Briefly denature at **65 °C** for **00:00:30** and then snap cool **On ice**.
19. Add **7.5 µl** ice cold **1 Molarity (M)** NaOH and incubate **On ice** for **00:10:00**.
20. Add **37.5 µl** **1 Molarity (M)** Tris-Cl **pH 6.8**, mix by pipetting.
21. Pass through a calibrated Bio-Rad RNase free P-30 column (follow manufacturer's instructions).
22. Bring volume to **200 µl** with DEPC-treated ddH₂O (add ~ **125 µl**).
23. Add **1 µl** Glycoblu and **8 µl** **5 Molarity (M)** NaCl and vortex.
24. Add **500 µl** **100 % (v/v)** ethanol and vortex.

 If the protocol needs to be performed over two days, the ethanol precipitation in 26.2.24 is the safest overnight stopping point. Store samples at -80 °C.


25. Centrifuge at >20,000 x g for **00:20:00** at **4 °C**.

 A blue pellet should be visible at the bottom of tube. The pellet can be difficult to see but should be visible. It may appear spread out. If a pellet is not visible, vortex well and repeat spin.

26. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.

 When removing the supernatant before the 70% ethanol wash be careful not to disturb the pellet. Approximately 30–50 µL of ethanol can be left in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet prior to adding the 70% ethanol wash. This procedure can also be used after the 70% ethanol wash (step 26.2.29), but then remove the final 30-50 µL using a P200 tip after a quick spin in a microfuge.

27. Add **750 µl** **70 % (v/v)** ethanol.
28. Mix by gentle inversion and quickly spin down.
29. Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.
30. Air dry the RNA pellet.

 Air dry the RNA pellet by leaving tubes open in fume hood to prevent contamination. This will take ~3-10 min depending on how much ethanol is left in the tube. Do not to let the RNA pellet dry completely as this will greatly decrease its solubility.

31. Resuspend in **6 µl** DEPC-treated ddH₂O.

27 Continue here from step 26.1.24 or 26.2.31:

28 Add  1 μL [M] 10 Micromolar (μM) VRA3 ($V_f =$  7 μL).



The concentration of RNA adapters in the ligation steps (1 μL 10 μM) is optimal for approximately 10^6 mammalian cells. For lower cell numbers, the adapter concentration must be diluted to limit dimer formation. We dilute linearly with cell concentration relative to this established concentration, i.e. 1 μL 5 μM for 5×10^5 cells, 1 μL 2.5 μM for 2.5×10^5 cells, etc.

29 Denature at  65 °C for  00:00:30 and snap cool  On ice .

30 Prepare ligation mix in the following order:



Reagent	Volume
10X T4 RNA Ligase Buffer	2 μL
ATP (10 mM)	2 μL
SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor	1 μL
50% PEG8000	6 μL
T4 RNA Ligase 1 (ssRNA ligase)	2 μL








Pipette slowly because 50% PEG8000 is very viscous. Heating 50% PEG8000 makes it easier to pipette. Pipette the ligation mix until it is homogenous before use.



When preparing enzymatic reaction mixtures that contain SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor, a fixed volume (1 μL) SUPERase-In can be added to the entire master mix regardless of number of reactions to decrease cost. Bring the remainder of the master mix up to the required volume with DEPC-treated ddH₂O. Murine RNase inhibitor can also be substituted to limit costs for all steps after the run-on. SUPERase-In is recommended prior to the run-on as it inhibits T1 RNase.

31 Add  13 μL and mix by pipetting 10–15X ($V_f =$  20 μL).

32 Incubate at  25 °C for  01:00:00 .

- 33 Add  55 μl binding buffer to each sample ($V_f = \text{img alt="pipette tip icon" data-bbox="433 101 453 114"/> 75 μl).$
- 34 Add  25 μl pre-washed beads to each sample ($V_f = \text{img alt="pipette tip icon" data-bbox="461 164 481 177"/> 100 μl).$
- 35 Incubate for  00:20:00 at  25 °C with end to end rotation.
- 36 Wash once with  500 μl High Salt Wash buffer with tube swap.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



For each washing step gently invert tubes 10–15X, quickly spin down with a picofuge, open caps, and then place on the magnet stand. Wait 1-2 minutes and pipette the supernatant off without disturbing the beads. If there are bubbles in the tube carefully pipette them off first and then remove supernatant. Beware that bubbles may dislodge beads from the side of the tube. After removing the bulk of the liquid, collect remaining liquid with a quick spin in a picofuge, place the tube back on the magnet stand, and carefully remove remaining liquid by pipetting.



Transferring beads to a new tube after the binding incubation—during the high salt wash step—helps limit adapter dimer formation. After resuspending the beads in High Salt buffer, quickly spin down with a picofuge, resuspend beads by gently pipetting, and carefully transfer to a new tube. Pipette slowly to avoid bead loss! Place this new tube on the magnet stand and proceed with the washing protocol.

- 37 Wash once with  500 μl Low Salt Wash buffer.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



For each washing step gently invert tubes 10–15X, quickly spin down with a picofuge, open caps, and then place on the magnet stand. Wait 1-2 minutes and pipette the supernatant off without disturbing the beads. If

there are bubbles in the tube carefully pipette them off first and then remove supernatant. Beware that bubbles may dislodge beads from the side of the tube. After removing the bulk of the liquid, collect remaining liquid with a quick spin in a microfuge, place the tube back on the magnet stand, and carefully remove remaining liquid by pipetting.



Do not allow streptavidin beads to dry completely, as this can lead to clumping and make full resuspension impossible. When processing multiple samples, remove liquid from the previous wash or enzymatic step from the first sample and immediately resuspend those beads in the next solution, then repeat this process for additional samples.

On-Bead 5' Hydroxyl Repair

45m

38 Resuspend beads in 19 µl PNK mix ($V_f =$ 20 µl :

Reagent	Volume
DEPC-treated ddH ₂ O	13 µL
10X PNK buffer	2 µL
10 mM ATP	2 µL
T4 Polynucleotide Kinase	1 µL
SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor	1 µL



On-bead reaction volumes assume that 1 µL of liquid remains on the beads.



When preparing enzymatic reaction mixtures that contain SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor, a fixed volume (1 µL) SUPERase-In can be added to the entire master mix regardless of number of reactions to decrease cost. Bring the remainder of the master mix up to the required volume with DEPC-treated ddH₂O. Murine RNase inhibitor can also be substituted to limit costs for all steps after the run-on. SUPERase-In is recommended prior to the run-on as it inhibits T1 RNase.

39 Incubate at 37 °C for 00:30:00 .



Mix on-bead reactions by gently flicking the tubes every 10 minutes.

On-Bead 5' Decapping

1h 15m

40 Place the tubes on a magnet stand and remove supernatant.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white

background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



Always quickly spin samples down using a microfuge to remove liquid from tube caps.



Do not allow streptavidin beads to dry completely, as this can lead to clumping and make full resuspension impossible. When processing multiple samples, remove liquid from the previous wash or enzymatic step from the first sample and immediately resuspend those beads in the next solution, then repeat this process for additional samples.

41 Resuspend the beads in 19 µL RppH mix ($V_f = 20 \mu\text{L}$):

Reagent	Volume
DEPC-treated ddH ₂ O	15 µL
10X ThermoPol Buffer	2 µL
RppH	1 µL
SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor	1 µL



On-bead reaction volumes assume that 1 µL of liquid remains on the beads.



We have also successfully used Cap-Clip™ Acid Pyrophosphatase (CELLTREAT) instead of RppH. Cap-Clip has lower buffer pH which may alleviate base hydrolysis of RNA that could occur in the pH 8.0 ThermoPol buffer. However, this is not a major concern except for in the most sensitive of applications.



When preparing enzymatic reaction mixtures that contain SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor, a fixed volume (1 µL) SUPERase-In can be added to the entire master mix regardless of number of reactions to decrease cost. Bring the remainder of the master mix up to the required volume with DEPC H₂O. Murine RNase inhibitor can also be substituted to limit costs for all steps after the run-on. SUPERase-In is recommended prior to the run-on as it inhibits T1 RNase.

42 Incubate at 37 °C for 01:00:00 .



Mix on-bead reactions by gently flicking the tubes every 10 minutes.

43 Place the tubes on a magnet stand and remove supernatant.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



Always quickly spin samples down using a microfuge to remove liquid from tube caps.



Do not allow streptavidin beads to dry completely, as this can lead to clumping and make full resuspension impossible. When processing multiple samples, remove liquid from the previous wash or enzymatic step from the first sample and immediately resuspend those beads in the next solution, then repeat this process for additional samples.

44

Resuspend the beads in **7 µl** adapter mix ($V_f =$ **8 µl**):

Reagent	Volume
DEPC-treated ddH ₂ O	6 µL
REV5 (10 µM)	1 µl



The concentration of RNA adapters in the ligation steps (1 µL 10 µM) is optimal for approximately 10^6 mammalian cells. For lower cell numbers, the adapter concentration must be diluted to limit dimer formation. We dilute linearly with cell concentration relative to this established concentration, i.e. 1 µL 5 µM for 5×10^5 cells, 1 µL 2.5 µM for 2.5×10^5 cells, etc.

45 Denature at **65 °C** for **00:00:30**, then snap cool **On ice**.

46 Prepare ligation mix in the following order:

Reagent	Volume
10X T4 RNA ligase buffer	2 µL
ATP (10 mM)	2 µL
SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor	1 µL
50% PEG8000	6 µL
T4 RNA Ligase 1 (ssRNA ligase)	1 µL





Pipette slowly because 50% PEG8000 is very viscous. Heating 50% PEG8000 makes it easier to pipette. Pipette the ligation mix until it is homogenous before use.



Pipette slowly because 50% PEG8000 is very viscous. Heating 50% PEG8000 makes it easier to pipette. Pipette the ligation mix until it is homogenous before use.



On-bead reaction volumes assume that 1 μ L of liquid remains on the beads.

47 Add  12 μ L to each tube ($V_f =$  20 μ L).

48 Incubate at  25 $^{\circ}$ C for  01:00:00 .



Mix on-bead reactions by gently flicking the tubes every 10 minutes.

TRIzol Elution of RNA

1h

49 Wash once with  500 μ L High Salt Wash buffer with tube swap.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



For each washing step gently invert tubes 10–15X, quickly spin down with a microfuge, open caps, and then place on the magnet stand. Wait 1–2 minutes and pipette the supernatant off without disturbing the beads. If there are bubbles in the tube carefully pipette them off first and then remove supernatant. Beware that bubbles may dislodge beads from the side of the tube. After removing the bulk of the liquid, collect remaining liquid with a quick spin in a microfuge, place the tube back on the magnet stand, and carefully remove remaining liquid by pipetting.



Transferring beads to a new tube after the binding incubation—during the high salt wash step—helps limit adapter dimer formation. After resuspending the beads in High Salt buffer, quickly spin down with a microfuge, resuspend beads by gently pipetting, and carefully transfer to a new tube. Pipette slowly to avoid bead loss! Place this new tube on the magnet stand and proceed with the washing protocol.

50 Wash once with  **500 µl** Low Salt Wash buffer.



Be careful not to disturb beads when removing buffers from tubes. Open tube caps prior to placing them on the magnet stand, as opening on the magnet stand can disturb the liquid. Check pipette tip against a white background before discarding liquid to ensure beads are not present.



For each washing step gently invert tubes 10–15X, quickly spin down with a microfuge, open caps, and then place on the magnet stand. Wait 1-2 minutes and pipette the supernatant off without disturbing the beads. If there are bubbles in the tube carefully pipette them off first and then remove supernatant. Beware that bubbles may dislodge beads from the side of the tube. After removing the bulk of the liquid, collect remaining liquid with a quick spin in a microfuge, place the tube back on the magnet stand, and carefully remove remaining liquid by pipetting.



Do not allow streptavidin beads to dry completely, as this can lead to clumping and make full resuspension impossible. When processing multiple samples, remove liquid from the previous wash or enzymatic step from the first sample and immediately resuspend those beads in the next solution, then repeat this process for additional samples.

51 Resuspend beads in  **300 µl** TRIzol.


52 Vortex at max speed for >  **00:00:20** , then incubate  **On ice** for  **00:03:00** .


53 Add  **60 µl** chloroform.



When pipetting chloroform, always pipette twice because the first draw always leaks.

54 Vortex at max speed for  **00:00:15** , then incubate  **On ice** for  **00:03:00** .

55 Centrifuge at > 20,000 x g for  **00:08:00** at  **4 °C** .

56 Transfer the aqueous phase (~  180 µl) to a new tube.



When transferring the aqueous phase of TRIzol extractions to a new tube, tilt the tube to a 45° angle and carefully remove only the clear liquid. Avoid contamination by the pink organic phase or white interphase.

57 Add  1 µl GlycoBlue and mix.

58 Add 2.5X volumes (~  450 µl)  100 % (v/v) ethanol and vortex.

59 Centrifuge the samples at > 20,000 x g for  00:20:00 at  4 °C .



A blue pellet should be visible at the bottom of tube. The pellet can be difficult to see but should be visible. It may appear spread out. If a pellet is not visible, vortex well and repeat spin.

60 Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.



When removing the supernatant before the 70% ethanol wash be careful not to disturb the pellet. Approximately 30–50µL of ethanol can be left in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet prior to adding the 70% ethanol wash. This procedure can also be used after the 70% ethanol wash (step 63), but then remove the final 30-50 µL using a P200 tip after a quick spin in a microfuge.

61 Add  750 µl  70 % (v/v) ethanol.

62 Mix by gentle inversion and quickly spin down.

63 Carefully pipette supernatant off and discard.

64 Air dry the RNA pellet.



Air dry the RNA pellet by leaving tubes open in fume hood to prevent contamination. This will take ~3-10 min depending on how much ethanol is left in the tube. Do not to let the RNA pellet dry completely as this will greatly decrease its solubility.

65 Resuspend RNA pellet in  **13.5 µl** RT resuspension mix:

Reagent	Volume
DEPC-treated ddH ₂ O	8.7 µL
Primer RP1 (10 µM)	4 µL
dNTP mix (12.5 mM each)	0.8 µL



Reverse transcription can also be performed on-bead, but we find that this significantly reduces library yield while increasing adapter dimer. For this reason, it is not recommended except in cases where material is abundant (10^7 cells) and speed is paramount. To do this, follow steps 49 and 50, then skip to step 65, but resuspend the beads instead of the RNA pellet in RT resuspension mix. After RT, elute cDNA by heating the bead mixture to 95°C, quickly place tubes on a magnet stand, and remove and save supernatant. Resuspend beads in 20 µL ddH₂O and repeat the process for a final volume of 40 µL. Proceed with PreCR but use 20 µL less ddH₂O (13.5 µL) in the PreCR mix and use the entire 40 µL eluate instead of the 20 µL RT mix.




66 1. Denature at  **65 °C** for  **00:05:00** and snap cool  **On ice**.


67 1. Prepare RT master mix:

Reagent	Volume
5X RT Buffer	4 µL
100 mM DTT	1 µL
SUPERase-In RNase Inhibitor	0.5 µL
Maxima H Minus RT enzyme	1 µL

68 Add  **6.5 µl** to each sample ($V_f =$  **20 µl**).

69 Cycle as follows:

-  **50 °C** for  **00:30:00**
-  **65 °C** for  **00:15:00**
-  **85 °C** for  **00:05:00**
- hold at  **4 °C**.

70 Immediately proceed to PreCR, test amplification, or full-scale amplification. Samples can be stored overnight at  **-20 °C** (see Notes 38–39).



PreCR is optional if full scale amplification will be performed within 2 days. Longer storage of single-stranded cDNA libraries can lead to loss of library material. If you are skipping PreCR, simply store the 20 µL RT

reaction at -20°C overnight and perform test amplification the next day.



Because this protocol uses molecular barcodes (UMIs) which facilitate robust computational PCR deduplication, it is less important to precisely determine the optimal cycle number. We recommend performing test amplification the first time you perform this protocol with a given amount of material from a given cell line to determine the optimal cycle number. For future experiments where the material and cell number are constant, test amplification can be skipped. Adjust the volume of the full-scale PCR to 100 µL total volume (accounting for the fact that the written protocol assumes loss due to test amplification). Test amplification can be performed either by PCR of a dilution curve and PAGE analysis or qPCR.

PreCR

1h 30m

) 71



Because this protocol uses molecular barcodes (UMIs) which facilitate robust computational PCR deduplication, it is less important to precisely determine the optimal cycle number. We recommend performing test amplification the first time you perform this protocol with a given amount of material from a given cell line to determine the optimal cycle number. For future experiments where the material and cell number are constant, test amplification can be skipped. Adjust the volume of the full-scale PCR to 100 µL total volume (accounting for the fact that the written protocol assumes loss due to test amplification). Test amplification can be performed either by PCR of a dilution curve and PAGE analysis or qPCR.

72 Add **2.5 µl** RPI-n indexed primer (**10 Micromolar (µM)**) to each sample. Use different barcodes for samples that will be pooled and sequenced together.

73 Prepare the PreCR master mix:

Reagent	Volume
ddH ₂ O	33.5 µL
5X Q5 Buffer	20 µL
5X Q5 Enhancer	20 µL
Primer RP1 (10 µM)	1 µL
dNTP mix (12.5 mM each)	2 µL
Q5 Polymerase	1 µL

74 Add **77.5 µl** of the PreCR mix to each sample for final volume **100 µl** .



Do not attempt to scale down the PreCR or full-scale amplification steps to save PCR reagents. If RT reaction mixture exceeds 20% of the PCR reaction volume, significant inhibition of PCR will occur and lead to dramatically lower final library yield.

75 Amplify libraries for 5 cycles on thermal cycler using the following settings:

- a. \uparrow 95 °C for 00:02:00
- b. \uparrow 95 °C for 00:00:30
- c. \uparrow 56 °C for 00:00:30
- d. \uparrow 72 °C for 00:00:30
- e. Go to b. 4 more times
- f. \uparrow 72 °C for 00:05:00
- g. Hold at \uparrow 4 °C

) 76 Store samples at \uparrow -20 °C or proceed to test amplification.

Test Amplification (Gel) 4h

) 77



Because this protocol uses molecular barcodes (UMIs) which facilitate robust computational PCR deduplication, it is less important to precisely determine the optimal cycle number. We recommend performing test amplification the first time you perform this protocol with a given amount of material from a given cell line to determine the optimal cycle number. For future experiments where the material and cell number are constant, test amplification can be skipped. Adjust the volume of the full-scale PCR to 100 μ L total volume (accounting for the fact that the written protocol assumes loss due to test amplification). Test amplification can be performed either by PCR of a dilution curve and PAGE analysis or qPCR



Taking 7.7 μ L of the 100 μ L PreCR reaction leaves 92.3 μ L for full-scale amplification. 25% of material in the first dilution is lost to make the next serial 4-fold dilution (2 of 8 μ L). Because $(7.7 * 0.75) / 92.3 \approx 1/16$, this first dilution is equivalent to the number of test amplification cycles less 4. If starting from the RT reaction, the volume has been adjusted for 5-fold lower starting volume.

Make the first dilution using one of the following options:

77.1 If PreCR was performed, add 7.7 μ L of the 100 μ L PreCR reaction to 0.3 μ L ddH₂O for a final volume of 8 μ L .

77.2 If PreCR was skipped, add 1.54 μ L of the 20 μ L RT reaction to 6.46 μ L ddH₂O for a final volume of 8 μ L .

78 Make 4-fold serial dilutions by adding 2 μ L of each dilution to 6 μ L ddH₂O for the next dilution.

79 Remove and discard **2 µl** from the final dilution (all dilutions should now be **6 µl**).

80 Choose a target number of total cycles for test amplification using the table below (see Note 42). The first dilution simulates full-scale amplification at the total number of cycles (PreCR cycles + Test Amp cycles) minus 4. Subtract 2 cycles sequentially for the following dilutions.

Dilution	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19 Total Cycles	15	13	11	9	7	5	3	1
21 Total Cycles	17	15	13	11	9	7	5	3
23 Total Cycles	19	17	15	13	11	9	7	5



Additional cycles can vary by cell type. For HeLa, we typically perform 14 additional cycles (19 total cycles), which simulates 15 full-scale amplification cycles. For low input libraries (50k-250k mammalian cells), we typically perform 20 additional cycles (23 cycles total), which simulates 21 full-scale amplification cycles.

81 Make test PCR mix:

Reagent	Volume
ddH ₂ O	4.4 µL
5X Q5 Buffer	4 µL
5X Q5 Enhancer	4 µL
Primer RP1 (10 µM)	0.5 µL
Primer RPI-n (10 µM)	0.5 µL
dNTP mix (12.5 mM each)	0.4 µL
Q5 Polymerase	0.2 µL

82 Add **14 µl** PCR mix to the **6 µl** diluted test samples ($V_f = 20 \mu\text{l}$).

83 Amplify reactions for the desired amount of cycles using following settings:



CRITICAL Remember to account for PreCR. Subtract 5 cycles from your total target test amplification cycles.

- 95 °C** for **00:02:00**
- 95 °C** for **00:00:30**
- 65 °C** for **00:00:30**
- 72 °C** for **00:00:30**
- Go to step 2 for the desired number of cycles
- 72 °C** for **00:05:00**

g. Hold at 4°C



If PreCR was skipped, use an annealing temperature of 56°C for the first 5 cycles of test amplification and the full-scale amplification.

84 Mix with gel loading dye to 1X and run $10\ \mu\text{L}$ on a **2.2 Mass Percent** Agarose gel or run $2\ \mu\text{L}$ on a native **8 % (v/v)** polyacrylamide gel and stain with SYBR Gold.

85 Use the test amplification gel to determine the appropriate number of cycles for full-scale amplification.



Desired amplification characteristics include a sufficient amount of product (smear starting $\sim 150\ \text{bp}$), no evidence of overamplification, and $\sim 50\%$ primer exhaustion. The adaptor dimer product is $132\ \text{bp}$, and the smear will start $15\text{--}20\ \text{bp}$ above this band. RNA degradation will lead to shorter library products. See:



Mahat DB, Kwak H, Booth GT, Jonkers IH, Danko CG, Patel RK, Waters CT, Munson K, Core LJ, Lis JT (2016). Base-pair-resolution genome-wide mapping of active RNA polymerases using precision nuclear run-on (PRO-seq). Nature protocols. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nprot.2016.086>

3.14 Test Amplification (qPCR)

4h

86



Because this protocol uses molecular barcodes (UMIs) which facilitate robust computational PCR deduplication, it is less important to precisely determine the optimal cycle number. We recommend performing test amplification the first time you perform this protocol with a given amount of material from a given cell line to determine the optimal cycle number. For future experiments where the material and cell number are constant, test amplification can be skipped. Adjust the volume of the full-scale PCR to $100\ \mu\text{L}$ total volume (accounting for the fact that the written protocol assumes loss due to test amplification). Test amplification can be performed either by PCR of a dilution curve and PAGE analysis or qPCR

Add $1.54\ \mu\text{L}$ of the $20\ \mu\text{L}$ RT reaction to $0.46\ \mu\text{L}$ ddH₂O ($V_f = 2\ \mu\text{L}$).

87 Make the qPCR master mix:

Reagent	Volume
Primer RP1 ($10\ \mu\text{M}$)	$0.25\ \mu\text{L}$
Primer RPI-n ($10\ \mu\text{M}$)	$0.25\ \mu\text{L}$
2X SsoAdvanced Universal SYBR Green Supermix	$5\ \mu\text{L}$

88 Add **8 µl** of the qPCR master mix to **2 µl** diluted RT reaction ($V_f = 10 \mu\text{l}$).

89 Quickly spin plate to collect liquid.

90 Amplify in a real-time PCR system using the following conditions:

90.1 Amplification

- 98 °C** for **00:02:00**
- 98 °C** for **00:00:15**
- 60 °C** for **00:01:00**
- Go to step 2 for 39 additional cycles

90.2 Melt Curve

- 95 °C** for **00:00:15**
- 60 °C** for **00:01:00**
- 96 °C** for **00:00:15**
- 60 °C** for **00:00:16**

91 Calculate the number of full-scale amplification cycles as the cycle number where R_n reaches $0.25 \times R_{n_{\max}}$.

Full-Scale Amplification

1h 30m

92 If PreCR and Test Amplification were skipped:

92.1 Add **2.5 µl** of an RPI-n indexed primer (**10 Micromolar (µM)**) to each **20 µl** RT reaction.
Use different barcodes for samples that will be pooled and sequenced on a single lane.

92.2 Prepare the PCR master mix:

Reagent	Volume
ddH2O	33.5 µL
5X Q5 Buffer	20 µL
5X Q5 Enhancer	20 µL

Primer RP1 (10 μ M)	1 μ L
dNTP mix (12.5 mM each)	2 μ L
Q5 Polymerase	1 μ L



Do not attempt to scale down the PreCR or full-scale amplification steps to save PCR reagents. If RT reaction mixture exceeds 20% of the PCR reaction volume, significant inhibition of PCR will occur and lead to dramatically lower final library yield.

92.3 Add **77.5 μ l** PCR master mix to each sample for final volume **100 μ l**.

92.4 Run the desired number of cycles:

- 95 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:02:00**
- 95 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- 56 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- 72 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- Go to step (b) for 4 more cycles.
- 95 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- 65 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- 72 $^{\circ}$ C** for **00:00:30**
- Go to step (f) for the desired number of cycles
- Hold at **4 $^{\circ}$ C**

93 If PreCR was skipped but Test Amplification was performed:

93.1 Add **2.5 μ l** of an RPI-n indexed primer (**10 Micromolar (μ M)**) to the remaining **18.5 μ l** RT reaction. Use different barcodes for samples that will be pooled and sequenced on a single lane.

93.2 Prepare the PCR master mix:

Reagent	Volume
ddH2O	35 μ L
5X Q5 Buffer	20 μ L
5X Q5 Enhancer	20 μ L
Primer RP1 (10 μ M)	1 μ L
dNTP mix (12.5 mM each)	2 μ L
Q5 Polymerase	1 μ L



Do not attempt to scale down the PreCR or full-scale amplification steps to save PCR reagents. If RT reaction mixture exceeds 20% of the PCR reaction volume, significant inhibition of PCR will occur and lead to dramatically lower final library yield.

93.3 Add 79 μ l PCR master mix to each sample for final volume 100 μ l .

93.4 Run the desired number of cycles:

- 95 °C for 00:02:00
- 95 °C for 00:00:30
- 56 °C for 00:00:30
- 72 °C for 00:00:30
- Go to step (b) for 4 more cycles.
- 95 °C for 00:00:30
- 65 °C for 00:00:30
- 72 °C for 00:00:30
- Go to step (f) for the desired number of cycles
- Hold at 4 °C

94 If PreCR and Test Amplification were performed:

94.1 Prepare the following spike-in PCR mix:

Reagent	Volume
ddH ₂ O	3.7 μ L
5X Q5 Buffer	1.5 μ L
5X Q5 Enhancer	1.5 μ L
dNTP mix (12.5 mM)	0.5 μ L
Q5 Polymerase	0.5 μ L





94.2 Add 7.7 μ l PCR spike-in mix to each sample for final volume 100 μ l .

94.3 Run the desired number of cycles.

- 95 °C for 00:02:00
- 95 °C for 00:00:30
- 65 °C for 00:00:30
- 72 °C for 00:00:30
- Go to step (b) for the desired number of cycles
- Hold at 4 °C









Remember to account for PreCR. Subtract 5 cycles from your total target full-scale amplification cycles.

- 95 Allow PCR reactions to reach room temperature.
- 96 Add  **180 µl** SPRI beads (see Note 45) at room temperature and immediately mix by pipetting > 15X.
- 97 Incubate at  **Room temperature** for  **00:05:00**.
- 98 Place on a magnet stand and remove the supernatant.
- 99 Wash the beads twice with  **70 % (v/v)** ethanol without resuspending.



Do not disturb the beads or library recovery will be greatly reduced.

- 100 Airdry the beads for  **00:05:00**. Do not over dry the beads.
- 101 Resuspend beads in  **22 µl**  **10 Millimolar (mM)** Tris-Cl,  **8.0** (no EDTA).
- 102 Incubate at room temperature for  **00:05:00**.
- 103 Place the beads on a magnet stand and transfer  **20 µl** to a new tube.
- 104 Quantify the library using the Qubit dsDNA-HS assay and run on a Bioanalyzer.

PAGE purification

1d

)105



Due to advances in streptavidin bead technology and titration of adapters presented in this protocol, PAGE purification is rarely necessary. We prefer to sequence libraries that are 0%–25% adapter dimer rather than risk size bias associated with gel purification. Only perform PAGE purification if absolutely necessary. If needed, multiple libraries can be pooled by molarity as determined by bioanalyzer and extracted from the same gel lane to minimize size bias.

- 106 Add Orange G loading dye to 1X to the entire library volume.
- 107 Run the samples on a native 18 % (v/v) polyacrylamide gel.
- 108 Stain with SYBR Gold.
- 109 Cut a gel slice from immediately above the adapter dimer to ~650 bp.



Desired amplification characteristics include a sufficient amount of product (smear starting ~150 bp), no evidence of overamplification, and ~50% primer exhaustion. The adaptor dimer product is 132 bp, and the smear will start 15–20 bp above this band. RNA degradation will lead to shorter library products. See:



Mahat DB, Kwak H, Booth GT, Jonkers IH, Danko CG, Patel RK, Waters CT, Munson K, Core LJ, Lis JT (2016). Base-pair-resolution genome-wide mapping of active RNA polymerases using precision nuclear run-on (PRO-seq). Nature protocols. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nprot.2016.086>

- 110 Place the gel slice in a 0.5 mL microfuge tube.
- 111 Make a hole in the bottom of the tube with an 18G needle.
- 112 Nest the 0.5 mL tube in a 1.5 mL tube and spin at 5000 x g for 00:01:00 .

- 113 If gel remains in the 0.5 mL tube, repeat step 7 and pool shredded gel fractions by suspending each in **250 µl** soaking buffer using a wide-bore P1000 tip.
- 114 Soak the gel pieces in **0.5 ml** soaking buffer (TE + **150 Milimolar (mM)** NaCl + **0.1 % (v/v)** Tween-20) overnight with agitation at **37 °C**.
- 115 Spin the tube at 5000 x g for 1 min.
- 116 Pipette as much of the soaking buffer as possible without transferring gel pieces into a new tube.
- 117 Add an additional **0.5 ml** soaking buffer and incubate **04:00:00** at **37 °C** with agitation.
- 118 Spin the tube at 5000 x g for **00:01:00**.
- 119 Pipette as much of the soaking buffer as possible without transferring gel pieces into the tube with the previous eluate.
- 120 Pass the remaining gel solution through a Costar Spin-X column using a cut P1000 tip and pool with the previous eluate ($V_f = \mathbf{1\ ml}$).
- 121 Reduce the volume by half ($V_f = \mathbf{0.5\ ml}$) using vacuum dryer at **37 °C**.
- 122 Add **1 µl** GlycoBlue.
- 123 Add 2.5X volume (**1.25 ml**) **100 % (v/v)** ethanol and vortex.
- 124 Centrifuge at >20,000 x g for **00:20:00** at **4 °C**.



A blue pellet should be visible at the bottom of tube. The pellet can be difficult to see but should be visible. It may appear spread out. If a pellet is not visible, vortex well and repeat spin.

125 Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard.



When removing the supernatant before the 70% ethanol wash be careful not to disturb the pellet. Approximately 30–50µL of ethanol can be left in the tube to avoid disturbing the pellet prior to adding the 70% ethanol wash. This procedure can also be used after the 70% ethanol wash, but then remove the final 30-50 µL using a P200 tip after a quick spin in a picofuge.

126 Add 750 µl of 75 % (v/v) ethanol.

127 Mix by gentle inversion and quickly spin down.

128 Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard.

129 Air-dry the RNA pellet.



Air dry the RNA pellet by leaving tubes open in fume hood to prevent contamination. This will take ~3-10 min depending on how much ethanol is left in the tube. Do not to let the RNA pellet dry completely as this will greatly decrease its solubility.

130 Resuspend the pellet in the desired volume of 10 Millimolar (mM) Tris-Cl, pH 8.0 , no EDTA

Computational Analysis

131 A pipeline for alignment of PRO-seq data can be found here: https://github.com/JAJ256/PROseq_alignment.sh