

Please note that protocols with Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase may differ from protocols with other polymerases. Conditions recommended below should be used for optimal performance.

Thermocycling Conditions for a Routine PCR:

50494

GUIDELINES

Initial Denaturation	98°C	30 seconds
25-35 Cycles	98°C	5-10 seconds
*50-72°C	10-30 seconds	
72°C	20-30 seconds/kb	
Final Extension	72°C	2 minutes
Hold	4-10°C	

^{*}Use of the NEB Tm Calculator is highly recommended.

General Guidelines:

1. Template:

Use of high quality, purified DNA templates greatly enhances the success of PCR. Recommended amounts of DNA template for a $50 \, \mu l$ reaction are as follows:

DNA Genomic	1 ng−1 µg
Plasmid or Viral	1 pg-1 ng

2. Primers:

Oligonucleotide primers are generally 20-40 nucleotides in length and ideally have a GC content of 40-60%. Computer programs such as <u>Primer3</u> can be used to design or analyze primers. The best results are typically seen when using each primer at a final concentration of $0.5 \,\mu\text{M}$ in the reaction.

3. Ma++ and additives:

The Q5 High-Fidelity Master Mix contains 2.0 mM Mg++ when used at a 1X concentration. This is optimal for most PCR products generated with this master mix.

4. Deoxynucleotides:

The final concentration of dNTPs is 200 μ M of each deoxynucleotide in the 1X Q5 High-Fidelity Master Mix. Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase cannot incorporate dUTP and is not recommended for use with uracil-containing primers or templates.

5. Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase concentration:

The concentration of Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase in the Q5 High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix has been optimized for best results under a wide range of conditions.

6. Denaturation:

An initial denaturation of 30 seconds at 98°C is sufficient for most amplicons from pure DNA templates. Longer denaturation times can be used (up to 3 minutes) for templates that require it.

During thermocycling, the denaturation step should be kept to a minimum. Typically, a 5–10 second denaturation at 98°C is recommended for most templates.

7. Annealing:

Optimal annealing temperatures for Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase tend to be higher than for other PCR polymerases. The <u>NEB Tm Calculator</u> should be used to determine the annealing temperature when using this enzyme. Typically use a 10-30 second annealing step at 3°C above the Tm of the lower Tm primer. A temperature gradient can also be used to optimize the annealing temperature for each primer pair.

For high Tm primer pairs, two-step cycling without a separate annealing step can be used (see note 10).

8. Extension:

The recommended extension temperature is 72°C. Extension times are generally 20–30 seconds per kb for complex, genomic samples, but can be reduced to 10 seconds per kb for simple templates (plasmid, E. coli, etc.) or complex templates < 1 kb. Extension time can be increased to 40 seconds per kb for cDNA or long, complex templates, if necessary.

A final extension of 2 minutes at 72°C is recommended.

9. Cycle number:

Generally, 25-35 cycles yield sufficient product. For genomic amplicons, 30-35 cycles are recommended.

10. 2-step PCR

When primers with annealing temperatures \geq 72°C are used, a 2-step thermocycling protocol (combining annealing and extension into one step) is possible.

Amplification of long products:

When amplifying products > 6 kb, it is often helpful to increase the extension time to 40-50 seconds/kb.

11. PCR product:

The PCR products generated using Q5 High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix have blunt ends. If cloning is the next step, then blunt-end cloning is recommended. If T/A-cloning is preferred, the DNA should be purified prior to A-addition, as Q5 High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase will degrade any overhangs generated.

Addition of an untemplated -dA can be done with Taq DNA Polymerase ($\underline{\text{NEB \#M0267}}$) or Klenow exo- ($\underline{\text{NEB \#M0212}}$).

MATERIALS TEXT

MATERIALS

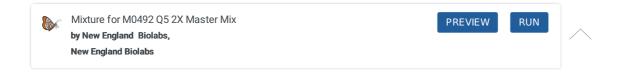
Biolabs Catalog #M0492S

SAFETY WARNINGS

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1 Set up the following reaction on ice:

Α	В	С	D
Q5 High-Fidelity	5 μΙ	10 μΙ	1X
2X Master Mix			
10 µM Forward	0.5 μΙ	1 μΙ	0.5 μΜ
Primer			
10 μM Reverse	0.5 μΙ	1 μΙ	0.5 μΜ
Primer			
Template DNA	variable	variable	< 1 ng
Nuclease-Free	to 10 µl	to 20 µl	
Water			



1 1 Q5 High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix

1.2 10 µM Forward Primer

1.3	10 μM Reverse Primer
1.4	Template DNA
1.5	Nuclease-Free Water
2	Gently mix the reaction.
3	Collect all liquid to the bottom of the tube by a quick spin if necessary and overlay the sample with mineral oil if using a PCR machine without a heated lid.
4	Quickly transfer PCR tubes to a thermocycler preheated to the denaturation temperature (98°C).