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prime-seq V.2

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Cost-efficient library generation by early barcoding has been central in propelling single-cell RNA sequencing. Here, we optimize and validate prime-seq, an early barcoding bulk RNA-seq method. We show that it performs equivalently to TruSeq, a standard bulk RNA-seq method, but is fourfold more cost-efficient due to almost 50-fold cheaper library costs. We also validate a direct RNA isolation step, show that intronic reads are derived from RNA, and compare cost-efficiencies of available protocols. We conclude that prime-seq is currently one of the best options to set up an early barcoding bulk RNA-seq protocol from which many labs would profit.

DOI

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https://genomebiology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13059-022-02660-8

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Janjic, A., Wange, L.E., Bagnoli, J.W. et al. Prime-seq, efficient and powerful bulk RNA sequencing. Genome Biol 23, 88 (2022). https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-022-02660-8

 $\hbox{-}\ \mbox{-}\ \mbox{Updated volumes for double size selection - Changes in language to make sections clearer - \mbox{-}\ \mbox{Updated publication link}}$

bulk RNA sequencing, RNA-seq, transcriptomics, SCRB-seq

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- All reagents and plastic-ware can be found in the 'Materials' section.
- Use only RNase free supplies and clean all surfaces and tools with RNase Away prior to working
- Make sure all steps involving cell lysate and RNA before reverse transcription are carried out swiftly and on ice.
- All primer sequences are listed below:

Α	В	С	D	E	F
Oligo	Vendor	Purification	Working Conc.	Sequence	Notes
Barcoded	Sigma	Cartridge	10 μΜ	ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT[12 bp	
Oligo-dT (E3V7NEXT)				BC]NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNVTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT	
Template Switching Oligo (TSO) (E5V7NEXT)	Sigma	RNase-Free HPLC	100 μΜ	Biotin-ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCrGrGrG	
Preamp Primer (SINGV6)	Sigma	Standard Desalting	10 μΜ	Biotin-ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGC	
3' enrichment primer (P5NEXTPT5)	Sigma	Standard Desalting	5 μΜ	AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT	
i7 Index Primer (Nextera)	IDT	Trugrade	5 μΜ	CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT[i7]GTCTCGTGGGCTCGG	
i5 Index Primer (TruSeq)	IDT	Trugrade	5μΜ	AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACAC[i5]ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT	
prime-seq Adapter AntiSense	IDT	Standard Desalting	1.5 μΜ	/5Phos/CTGTCTCTTATACACATCT	Duplexed DNA
prime-seq Adapter Sense	IDT	Standard Desalting	1.5 μΜ	GTCTCGTGGGCTCGGAGATGTGTATAAGAGACAGT	Duplexed DNA

Specific barcoded oligodT (E3V7NEXT) sequences:

(i) E3V7_Set1.txt (i) E3V7_Set2.txt

MATERIALS

⊠ DNase I Reaction Buffer - 6.0 ml **New England**

Biolabs Catalog #B0303S

⊠ DNase I (RNase-free) - 1,000 units New England

Biolabs Catalog #M0303S

Boxynucleotide Solution Mix - 40 umol of each **New England** New England

Biolabs Catalog #N0447L

🛭 Exonuclease I (E.coli) - 3,000 units New England

Biolabs Catalog #M0293S

⊠ Quant-it[™] PicoGreen® dsDNA Assay Kit **Life**

Technologies Catalog #P7589

Aldrich Catalog #M3148

System Promega Catalog #E3310



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    ⊠ Proteinase K solution, 20 mg ml −

1 Ambion Catalog #AM2546
Aldrich Catalog #S5150-1L
Technologies Catalog #5067-4626
⊠ Buffer RLT
Plus Qiagen Catalog #1053393
Maxima H Minus Reverse Transcriptase (200 U/uL) Thermo Fisher
Scientific Catalog #EP0752
⊠ NEBNext Ultra II FS DNA Library Prep with Sample Purification Beads - 24 rxns New England
Biolabs Catalog #E6177S
⊠EDTA Sigma
Aldrich Catalog #E7889

    ⊠ Ethanol absolute Carl

Roth Catalog #9065.4

    ⊠ Igepal Sigma

Aldrich Catalog #18896
XKAPA HiFi 2x RM Kapa
Biosystems Catalog #KR0370

    ⊠ Poly(ethylene glycol) Sigma

Aldrich Catalog #89510

    ⊠ UltraPure DNase/RNase Free Distilled Water Contributed by

users Catalog #10977-049
Aldrich Catalog #T2694
users Catalog #391-1275

    ⊠ Filter tips 96 low retention 10 uL Contributed by

users Catalog #771265
⊠ PCR Seals Thermo
Scientific Catalog #AB0558
X twin.tec 96-well DNA LoBind
Plates Eppendorf Catalog #0030129504
Sera-Mag Speed Beads Ge
Healthcare Catalog #65152105050250
Sodium Azide Sigma
Aldrich Catalog #S2002-100G
Please follow all Manufacturer safety warnings and recommendations.
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	Wipe bench surfaces with RNAse Away and keep working environment clean.	
Prepar	ation 12m	
1	Clean all surfaces and pipettes with RNase Away	5n
2	Thaw frozen buffers and primers on ice	10n
3	Prepare 80% EtOH (approximately 45 mL for 96 samples)	2n
4	When running the protocol for the first time prepare Cleanup Beads (see end of the protocol)!	45n
l vsate	vs Extracted RNA	
5	\triangle	
	prime-seq can be used on lysate or extracted RNA. It is essential, however, that the samples either have the sinput or that they are normalized after the RNA is extracted, otherwise sequencing depth per sample will be impacted. Based on your starting material, please follow one of the following cases: Step 5 includes a Step case. Lysate (similar input), Direct Lysis Lysate (variable input)	:ame

First Time Setup

Extracted RNA

step case

Lysate (similar input), Direct Lysis

Follow this case if you are testing samples that have **similar input** (i.e. the expected RNA amount is the same between samples). The steps here will guide you in digesting residual proteins in your samples, extracting the RNA, digesting DNA, preparing RNA-seq libraries, and finally sequencing.

Example: investigating the genotype effect on transcription in 5,000 neurons

6 When running the direct lysis protocol for the first time, prepare Bead Binding Buffer (see end of the protocol)!

Sample Collection

7 Prepare Lysis Buffer according to the number of samples.

Reagent	Well	Plate	
RLT Plus Buffer	99 µL	10.89 mL	
β-mercaptoethanol	1 μL	110 µL	
Total	100 µL	11 mL	

Add $\blacksquare 100~\mu L$ of Lysis Buffer to each well of a semi-skirted 96-well PCR plate

1m



Add cells or tissue to wells

Cells

Minimum: 100 cells, Optimum: 10,000 cells

Make sure that the same number of cells are used for each sample. Large differences between cells will impact distribution of sequencing reads and can potentially affect normalization.

Tissue

If samples are difficult to lyse they should be homogenized using a tissue homogenizer.

Tissue should be a relatively small and not exceed more than 1000 ng of RNA. Tissue samples should be normalized by weight and be the same type of tissue.

Large differences between tissue samples will impact distribution of sequencing reads and can potentially affect normalization.

If you are unsure if the samples will contain the same amount of RNA, it is best to switch to the "Lysate (variable)" case in Step 13.

10 Transfer **350 μL** of **lysate** to a new plate, return one plate immediately to -80 C freezer to save as a backup

Conversely, one can prepare two plates during sorting with 50 μL of lysis buffer.

11 Add 11 μL Proteinase K (20 mg/mL) and 11 μL EDTA (25 mM) to each well

12 Incubate for © 00:15:00 at & 50 °C and then heat inactivate the Proteinase K for © 00:10:00 at & 75 °C 25m

13 Mix each bulk sample (50 μL per well) with **100 μL** of **Cleanup Beads (22% PEG)**

14 Incubate for © 00:05:00 at & 20 °C (Room Temp)

30m

While binding, prepare **DNase I Mix** (Step 28)

20m



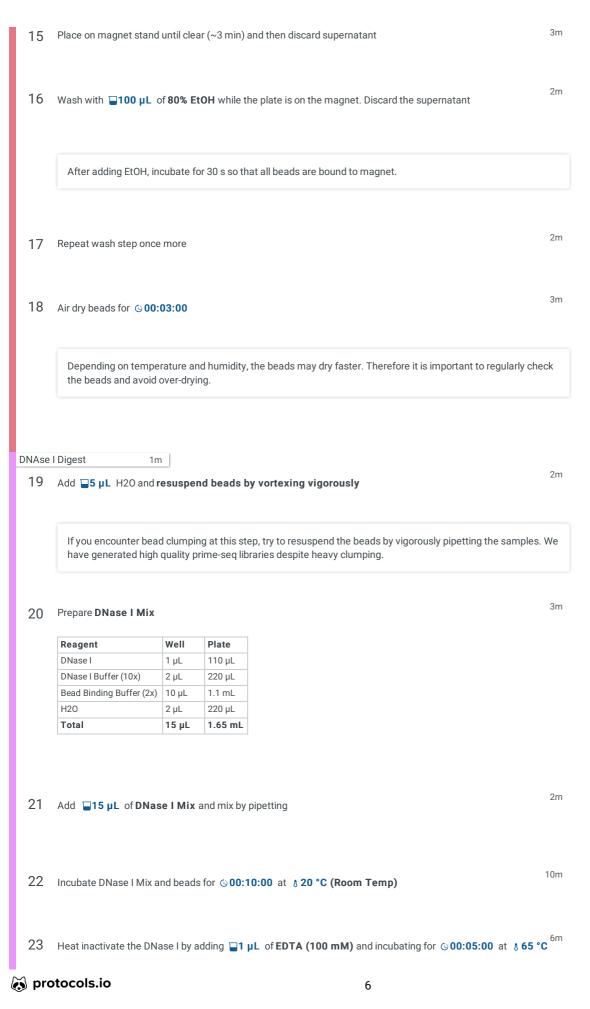
Bead Clean Up

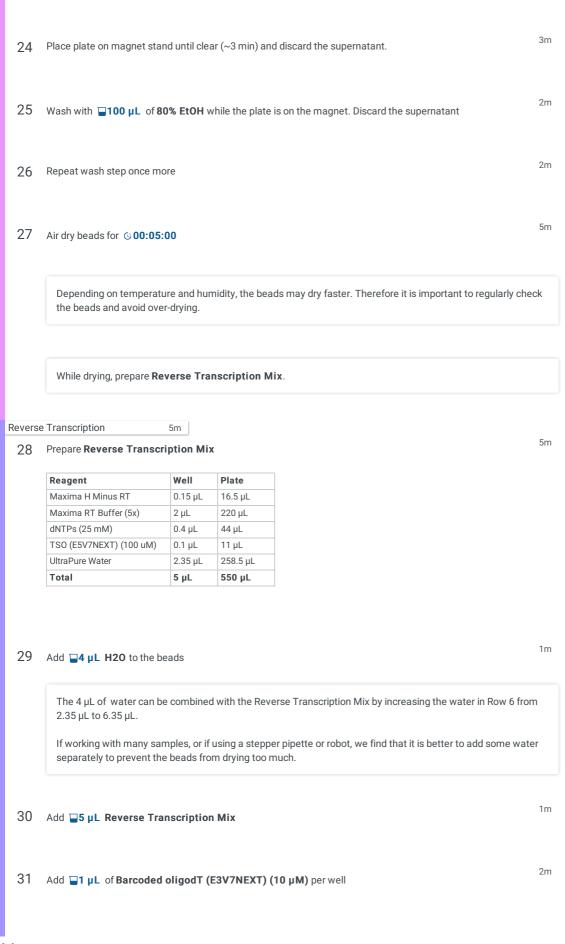
Proteinase K Digest

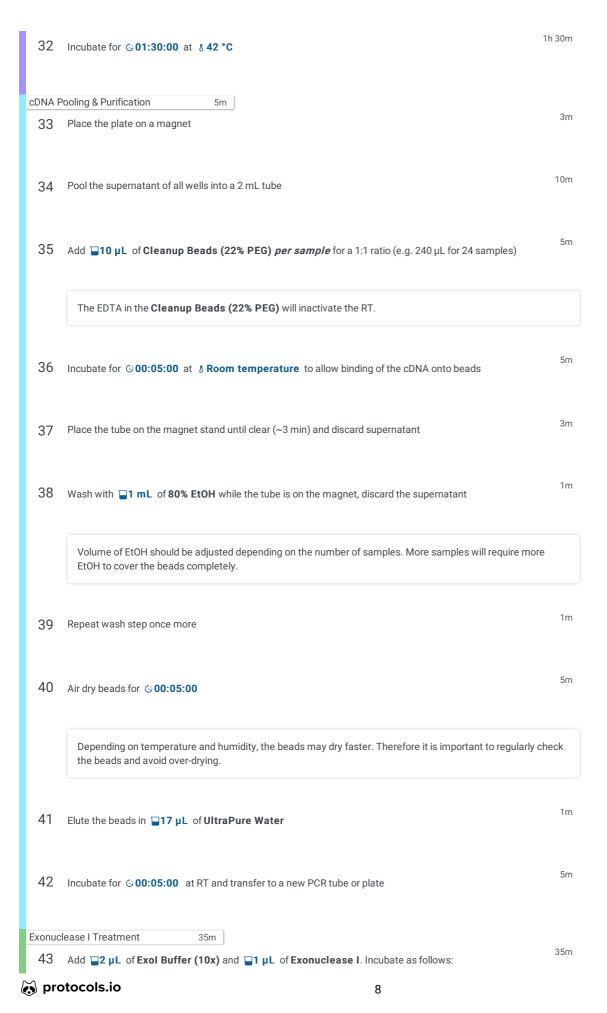
1m

1m

5m







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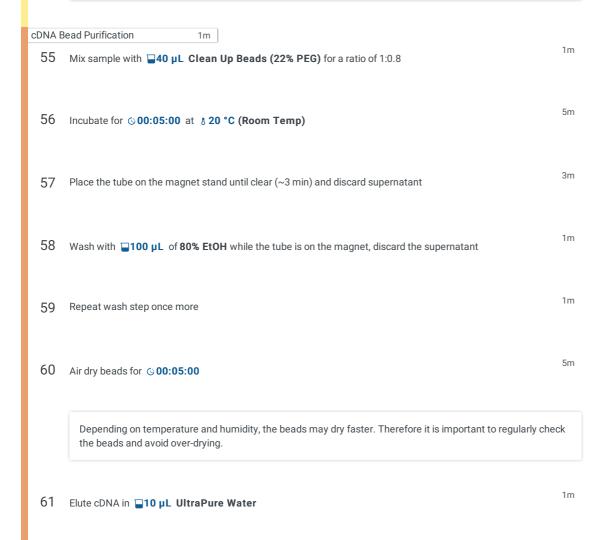
Step	Temperature	Time	Cycles
Initial Denaturation	98 C	3 min	1 cycle
Denaturation	98 C	15 sec	10 cycles*
Annealing	65 C	30 sec	
Elongation	72 C	4 min	
Final Elongation	72 C	10 min	1 cycle
Storage	4 C	∞	

Adjust the number of cycles based on input (sample number, cell number, or concentration).

As a rule of thumb we assume big cells like embryonic stem cells to contain 10 pg of total RNA and small cells like T-cells $\sim 1-2$ pg

As a general guide we recommend:

Total RNA Input	Cycles
10 ng	16
50 ng	14
100 ng	12
500 ng	10
1000 ng	9







Incubate for © 00:05:00 at RT and transfer to a new PCR tube or plate

Stopping Point. Samples can be safely stored at & -20 °C and protocol can be continued at a later date.

cDNA Quantification and Quality Check

63

10m

5m

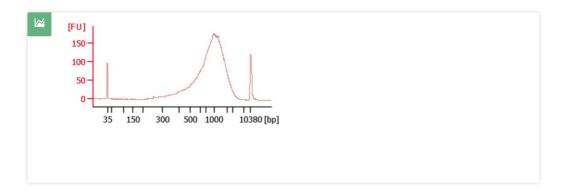
Quantify the cDNA using the **Quant-iT PicoGreen dsDNA assay kit** or equivalent Qubit following the manufacturer's protocol. Use 1 μ l of clean cDNA for quantification.

Quality check the cDNA using the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer with High Sensitivity DNA Analysis Kits.

45m

1m

Passing the cDNA quality check does not guarantee that the data will be of high quality, however, if the cDNA fails the quality check it will usually not yield good libraries and will therefore generate lower quality data.



Library Preparation

65 /

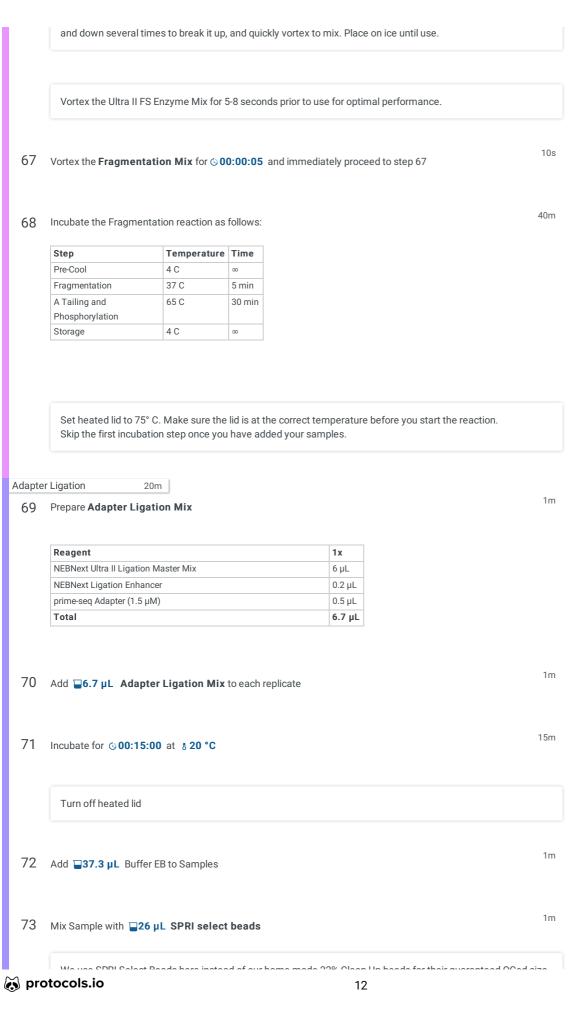
Before starting, read the library preparation section carefully as there are a few steps that are very time

66 Prepare Fragmentation Mix

Reagent	1x
Ultra II FS Reaction Buffer	1.4 µL
Ultra II FS Enzyme Mix	0.4 μL
cDNA (4-8 ng/μL)	2.5 µL
TE	1.7 µL
Total	6 µL

Ensure that the Ultra II FS Reaction Buffer is completely thawed. If a precipitate is seen in the buffer, pipette up

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we use SPKI Select beads here instead of our nome made 22% Clean up beads for their guaranteed QCed size selection properties. The volume of SPRI select beads used during library size selection can be adjusted based on desired library size. Optimization for your samples may be required. 5m Incubate for © 00:05:00 at § 20 °C (Room Temp) 3m 75 Place the plate on the magnet stand until clear and transfer \$\subseteq 76 \mu L \supernatant to clean well. Be careful not to discard! This is your sample! 1m Mix supernatant with **□10 μL SPRI select beads** The volume of SPRI select beads used during library size selection can be adjusted based on desired library size. Optimization for your samples may be required. 5m Incubate for © 00:05:00 at § 20 °C (Room Temp) 3m Place the plate on the magnet stand until clear and discard supernatant 1m 1m 80 Repeat wash step once more 5m Air dry beads for **© 00:05:00** Depending on temperature and humidity, the beads may dry faster. Therefore it is important to regularly check the beads and avoid over-drying. 5m 82 Elute samples in $\blacksquare 11 \,\mu L$ 0.1X TE (dilute 1X TE Buffer 1:10 in water) for \bigcirc 00:05:00 Library PCR 45m Transfer ■10.5 µL of samples to clean wells

84 Add **11 μL** of **Index Primer (Nextera i7, 5 uM)** to each well

This is the unique index that will be used for demultiplexing libraries.

85 Add **1** μL of Index Primer (TruSeq i5, 5 uM) to each well

Alternatively the universal primer P5NEXTPT5 can be used in case the second index will not be sequenced.

86 Prepare Library PCR Mix by adding **□12.5** μL

Although scaled down, there will not be sufficient Q5 Master Mix (M0544L) in the kit. This item will have to be ordered separately.

87 Incubate the Library PCR reaction as follows:

Step	Temperature	Time	Cycles
Initial Denaturation	98 C	30 sec	1 cycle
Denaturation	98 C	10 sec	10 cycles*
Annealing/Elongation	65 C	1 min 15 sec	
Final Elongation	65 C	5 min	1 cycle
Storage	4 C	∞	

Adjust the number of cycles based on cDNA input.

As a general guide we recommend:

cDNA Input	Cycles
20 ng	10
10 ng	11
5 ng	12

Double Size Selection 25m

88 Add **□25** µL Buffer EB to Index PCR

89 Mix Index PCR with **26 μL SPRI select beads**

We use SPRI Select Beads here instead of our home made 22% Clean Up beads for their guaranteed QCed size

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selection properties.
            The volume of SPRI select beads used during library size selection can be adjusted based on desired library
           size. Optimization for your samples may be required.
   90
        Incubate for © 00:05:00 at § 20 °C (Room Temp)
         Place the plate on the magnet stand until clear and transfer To the supernatant to clean well.
           Be careful not to discard! This is your library.
         Mix supernatant with 

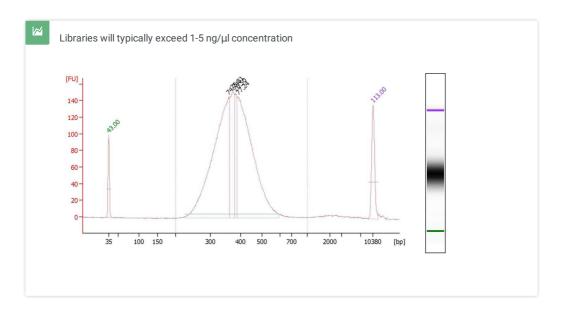
10 μL SPRI select beads
           The volume of SPRI select beads used during library size selection can be adjusted based on desired library
           size. Optimization for your samples may be required.
   93 Incubate for © 00:05:00 at § 20 °C (Room Temp)
         Place the plate on the magnet stand until clear and discard supernatant.
   95
        Wash with ■150 µL of 80% EtOH while the plate is on the magnet, discard the supernatant
         Repeat wash step once more
         Air dry beads for © 00:05:00
           Depending on temperature and humidity, the beads may dry faster. Therefore it is important to regularly check
           the beads and avoid over-drying.
   98
         Elute in 15 µL UltraPure Water.
   99
          Incubate for © 00:05:00 and then place on magnet until clear. Transfer eluted library to new well.
            Stonning noint. The libraries can be safely stored at 1 -20 °C, until they will be ∩Ced and sequenced
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QC and quantification

45m

100 Quantify and quality control the library using the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer with **High Sensitivity DNA Analysis**Kits

Bulk libraries often yield high concentrations, which should be diluted to get accurate molarity measurements on the Bioanalyzer. Ideally, do not load more than 2 ng onto the chip.



Sequencing 1m

101 Samples should be submitted according to your Sequencing Facility specifications. prime-seq is compatible with Illumina Sequencing.

At least 8 cycles are required for the Index Read (i7) and 28 cycles for the Read 1 (BC+UMI). Dual index sequencing can be done when using patterned flowcells. Read 2 (DNA) should be adjusted based on the quality of the genome being mapped to, but for human and mouse 50 cycles is sufficient.

Some potential sequencing options:

Α	В	С	D	Е	F
Sequencer	Read 1	Read 2	Index Read (i7)	Index Read (i5)	Kit
NovaSeq	28	94	8	8	NovaSeq SP v1.5 100 cycle
NextSeq 500/550	28	56	8	0	NextSeq 500/550 HiOut v3 75 cycle
NextSeq 1000/2000	28	94	8	8	NextSeq 1000/2000 P2 100 cycle
NextSeq 2000	28	52	8	0	NextSeq 2000 P3 50 cycles
HiSeq	28	114	8	0	HiSeq 3000/4000 150 cycles

Prepare Cleanup Beads (22% PEG) 10m

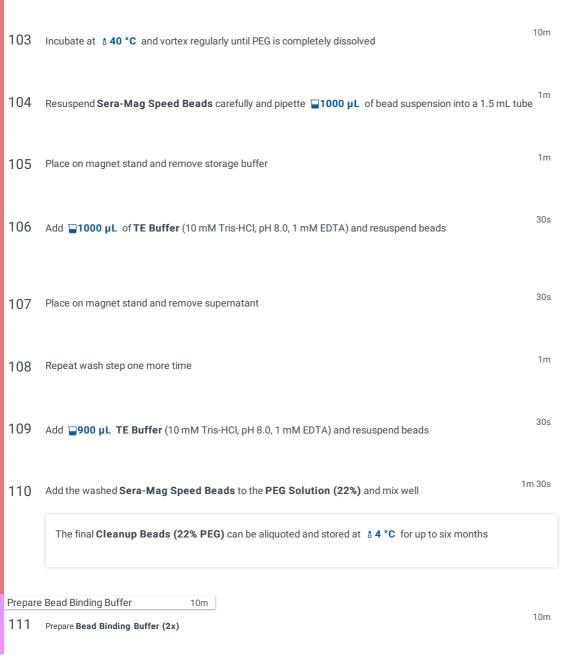
102 Prepare PEG Solution (22%) by adding all ingredients to a 50 mL falcon tube

10m



Reagent	Amount
PEG 8000	11 g
NaCl (5M)	10 mL
Tris-HCl (1M, pH 8.0)	500 μL
EDTA (0.5M)	100 μL
IGEPAL (10% solution)	50 μL
Sodium Azide (10% solution)	250 μL
UltraPure Water	up to 49 mL
Total	49 mL

Do not add the total amount of water until after PEG is completely solubilized



Reagent	
PEG 8000	1.1 g
NaCl (5 M)	1 mL
Tris-HCl (1 M, pH 8.0)	50 μL
Igepal (10% solution)	5 μL
Sodium Azide (10% solution)	25 µL
H20	to 5 mL
Total	5 ml

The Bead Binding Buffer (2x) can be stored at § Room temperature for up to six months.



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