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Oct 11, 2021

# Automated Chloroform-Methanol Protein Extraction on the Biomek-FX Liquid Handler System V.1



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[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bpfqmjmw](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bpfqmjmw)

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This protocol details steps to extract protein from Gram-negative bacterial or fungal cells (that have been pretreated with zymolyase) in quantitative proteomic workflows by using a Biomek FX liquid handler system. It is a semi-automated protocol that includes several 'pause' steps for centrifugation steps that are conducted manually "off-deck".

This protocol works best as part of an automated proteomic sample preparation workflow with:

[Automated Protein Quantitation with the Biomek-FX liquid handler system](#)

and

[Automated Protein Normalization and Tryptic Digestion on a Biomek-NX Liquid Handler System](#)

DOI

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Yan Chen, Tad Ogorzalek, Nurgul Kaplan Lease, Jennifer Gin, Christopher J Petzold 2021. Automated Chloroform-Methanol Protein Extraction on the Biomek-FX Liquid Handler System. **protocols.io**  
<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bpfqmjmw>



U.S. Dept. of Energy  
Grant ID: DE-AC02-05CH11231



## Modular automated bottom-up proteomic sample preparation for high-throughput applications

Cell lysis, Automation, Proteomics, Biomek, Sample preparation, Bacteria

\_\_\_\_\_ protocol ,

Nov 05, 2020

Oct 11, 2021

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In steps of

[Semi-automated Quantitative Proteomic Sample Preparation Workflow on Biomek Liquid Handler Systems](#)

Part of collection

[Modular automated bottom-up proteomic sample preparation for high-throughput applications](#)

- A Beckman-Coulter Biomek FX liquid handler system is used for this protocol. Alternative liquid handlers can be used with appropriate method development.

- Because different deck orientations and system components are possible, you will need to modify the method file (attached in the 'Before start' section) for your specific Biomek liquid handler system.

96-well deep well plate Sigma Aldrich, Catalog #CLS3961-100EA  
Hard-Shell 96-Well PCR Plates low profile thin wall skirted white/clear BIO-RAD Catalog #HSP9601  
200 uL pipet tips Molecular Bioproducts BioRobotix, Catalog #919-262  
96 Deep Well Reagent Reservoir VWR, Catalog #101100-962  
Methanol LC-MS grade B&J Brand VWR Scientific Catalog #BJLC230-2.5  
Chloroform for HPLC Sigma – Aldrich Catalog #34854  
Water LC-MS grade B&J Brand VWR Scientific Catalog #BJLC365-2.5  
Ammonium Bicarbonate LC-MS grade VWR Scientific Catalog #BJ40867-50G

Wear proper PPE (gloves, safety goggles, and lab coat), and prepare solvents in a chemical fume hood.

Store organic solvents in a flammable storage cabinet when not in use.

Discard used solvents and buffers in appropriate waste containers.

For this protocol you will need:

- a Beckman-Coulter Biomek FX liquid handler system with a 96-pod head
- Upload the attached method file and modify it to fit your deck and system configuration

 **Modular Protein Extraction method.bmf**

- an Eppendorf 5810R centrifuge with S-4-104 rotor or similar centrifuge

## Deck Setup

10m

- 1 Open Biomek Software that controls Biomek-FX liquid handler system. Under "File" drop down click "Open" to select the automation method "Modular Protein Extraction method"

Because different deck orientations and system components are possible, you will need to modify the method file (attached in the 'Before start' section) for your specific Biomek liquid handler system.

- 2 Click on "Instrument Setup" under the "Setup" group node to get visual instruction of how to set up the deck.

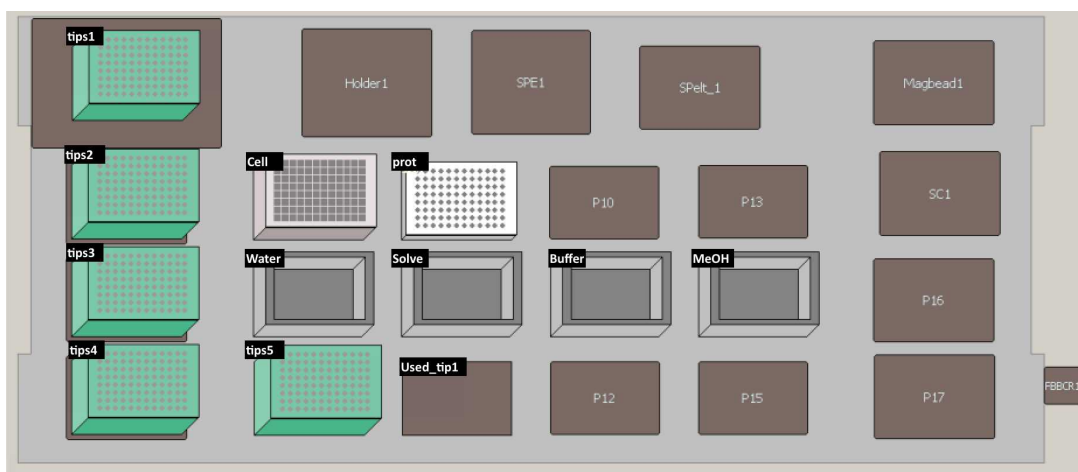
- 3 Set up the deck (refer to the deck setup picture below):

10m

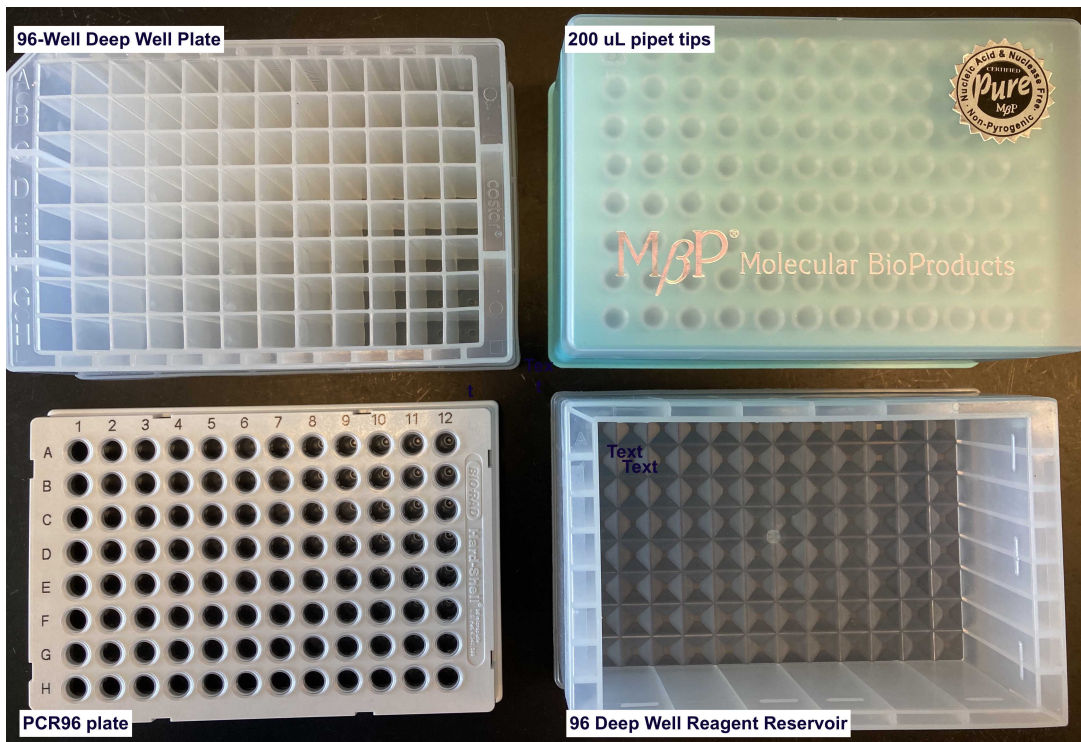
A	B	C
Deck Label	Labware	Reagent
<b>cells</b>	96-Well Deep Well Plate (Sigma Aldrich, Cat.#CLS3961-100EA)	4 OD units of cells
<b>prot</b>	PCR96 plate (BIO-RAD, Cat.#HSP9601)	
<b>tips1-5</b>	200 uL pipet tips (Molecular Bioproducts BioRobotix, Cat.#919-262 )	
<b>water</b>	96 Deep Well Reagent Reservoir (VWR, Cat.#101100-962)	LC-MS grade Water (VWR Scientific, Cat.#BJLC365-2.5)
<b>solvent</b>	96 Deep Well Reagent Reservoir (VWR, Cat.#101100-962)	4:1 Methanol:Chloroform LC-MS grade Methanol (VWR Scientific, Cat.#BJLC230-2.5), Chloroform (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat.#34854)
<b>buffer</b>	96 Deep Well Reagent Reservoir (VWR, Cat.#101100-962)	100 milimolar (mM) Ammonium Bicarbonate in 20% Methanol
<b>MeOH</b>	96 Deep Well Reagent Reservoir (VWR, Cat.#101100-962)	LC-MS grade Methanol (VWR Scientific, Cat.#BJLC230-2.5)

Materials for Deck setup

Note: 1 OD unit = 1 ml of cell culture at OD600 measurement of 1.0



Deck Set up

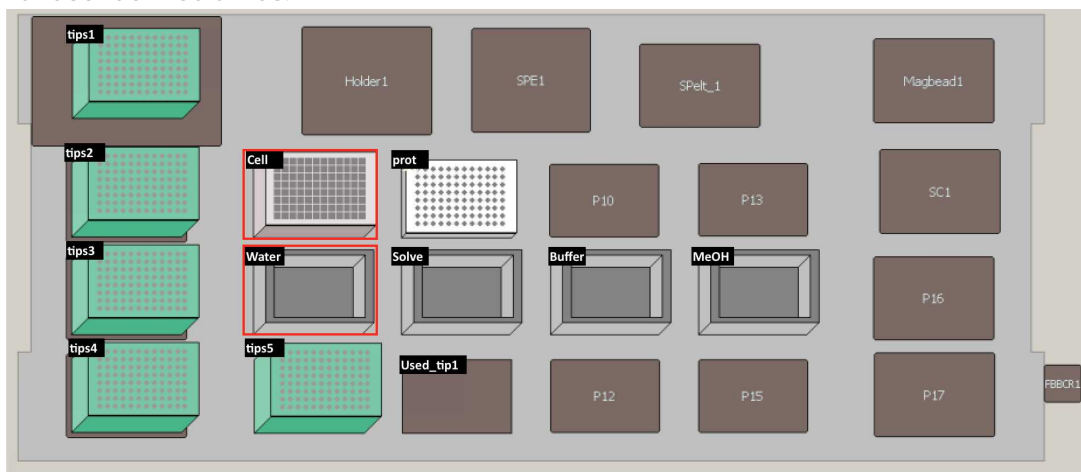


Labware for Deck setup

- 4 Click the "Run" button (green arrow) to start.

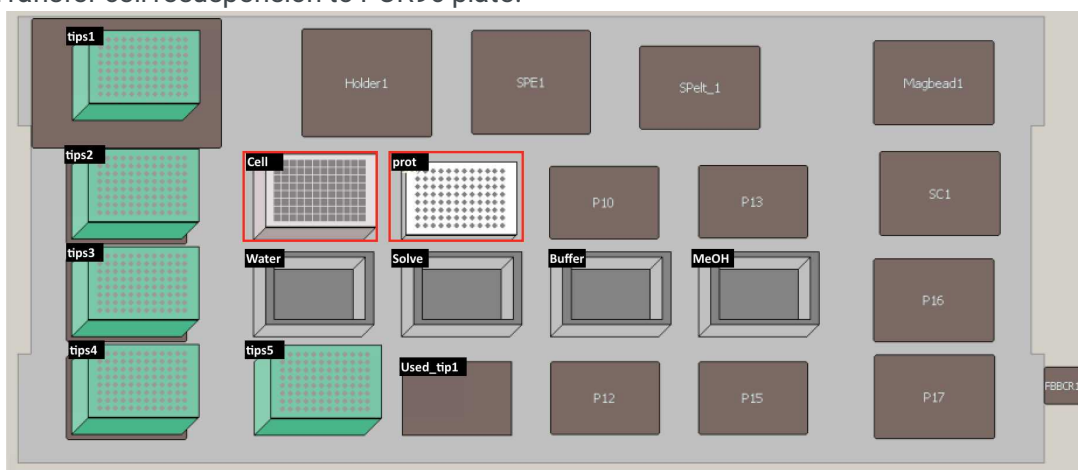
Protein Extraction 30m

- 5 Transfer 87.5  $\mu$ l water from water reservoir to cell plate. Mix and resuspend cell pellet on deck with user defined times.



## 6 Transfer cell resuspension to PCR96 plate.

1m



## 7 The PAUSE step prompts you to centrifuge your plate.

## 8 Centrifuge 2000 x g, 25°C, 00:02:00 .

2m

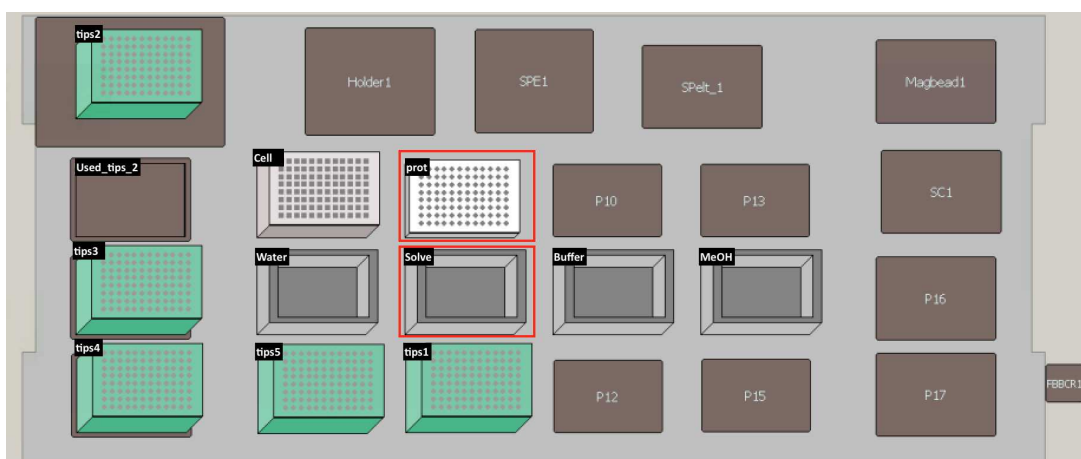
## 9 Put plate back on deck space (refer to deck setup picture above) -- PCR96 plate "prot." Swirl and pour solvent (4:1, Methanol:Chloroform) into reservoir.

Note: It is important to swirl the Methanol:Chloroform mixture at this step to ensure it is well mixed.

## 10 Remove supernatant by transferring 87 µl from PCR96 plate back to cell plate.

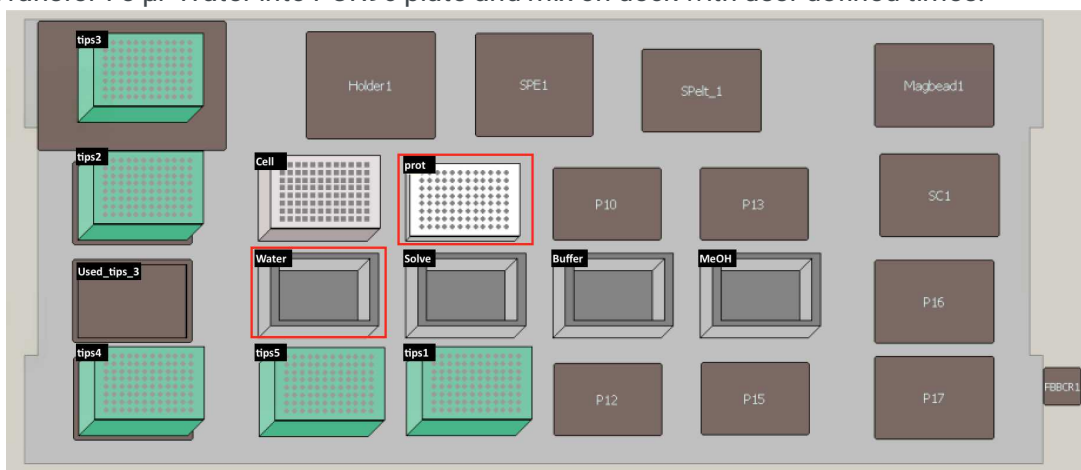
2m

## 11 Transfer 125 µl solvent (4:1, Methanol:Chloroform) to PCR96 plate. Mix and promote cell lysate<sup>2m</sup> on deck.



12 Transfer 75  $\mu$ l Water into PCR96 plate and mix on deck with user defined times.

1m



13 The PAUSE step prompts you to centrifuge your plate.

14 Centrifuge  **4000 rpm, 25°C, 00:02:00**

2m

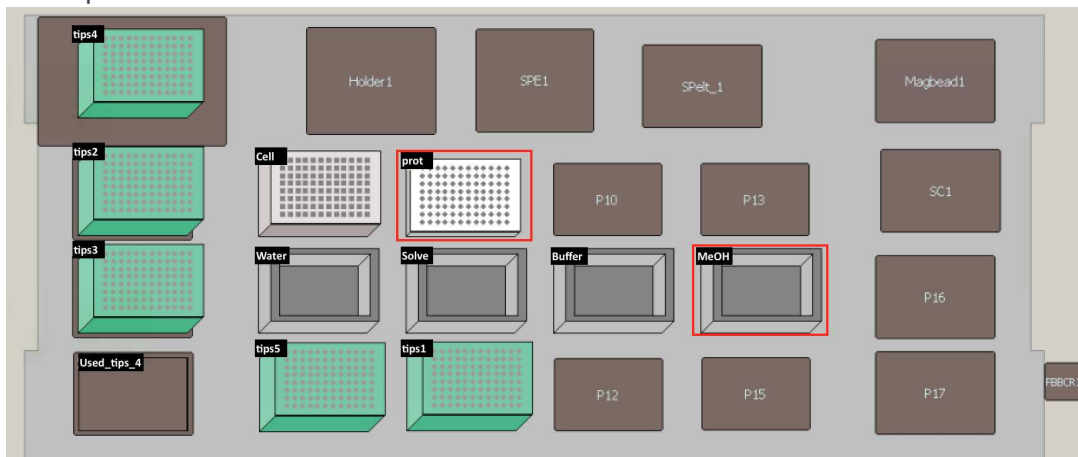
Visualize your plate after centrifugation to ensure that protein forms a nice pellet layer in the middle. Add centrifugation time as needed.

15 Put plate back on deck space (refer to deck setup picture above) -- PCR96 plate "prot."



16 Remove supernatant by transferring 170  $\mu$ l top layer from PCR96 plate to cell plate. 1m

17 Add 75  $\mu$ l Methanol and mix on deck with user defined times. 3m



18 The PAUSE step prompts you to centrifuge your plate.

Before you centrifuge, visualize your plate to make sure the chloroform layer has mixed well with added methanol.

19 Centrifuge  **4000 rpm, 25°C, 00:02:00** 2m

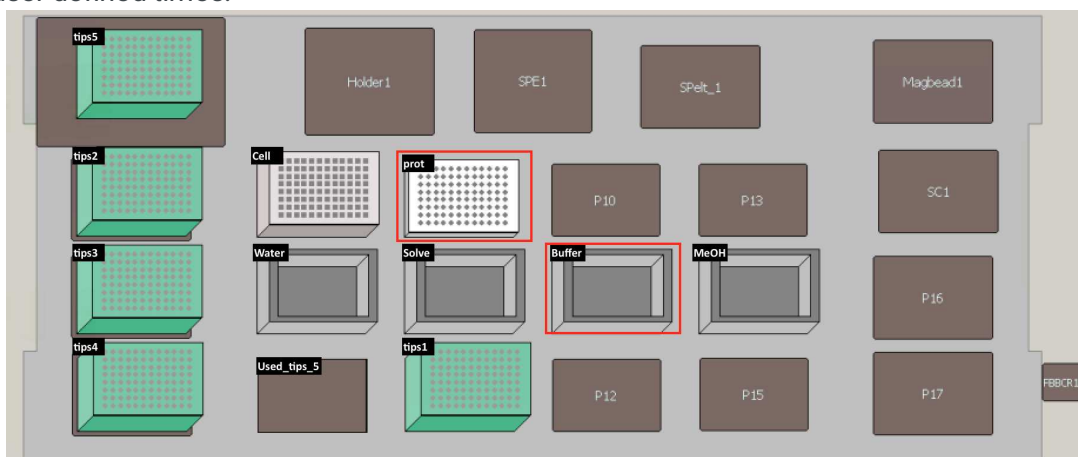
20 Put plate back on deck space (refer to deck setup picture above) -- PCR96 plate "prot."

21 Remove supernatant. 1m

22 Resuspend in  **100  $\mu$ L** ] 1m  
**[M]100 Milimolar (mM) Ammonium Bicarbonate in 20% Methanol** and mix on deck with



user defined times.



Note: 1. Samples are typically cloudy in this step. After trypsin digestion they will be nearly clear.

2. In case of large protein pellets, mixing with multichannel pipette may be necessary.

23 Store at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  until ready for [Automated Protein Quantitation with the Biomek-FX liquid handler system](#)