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WORKS FOR ME

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Colorimetric LAMP/RT-LAMP Protocol

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ABSTRACT

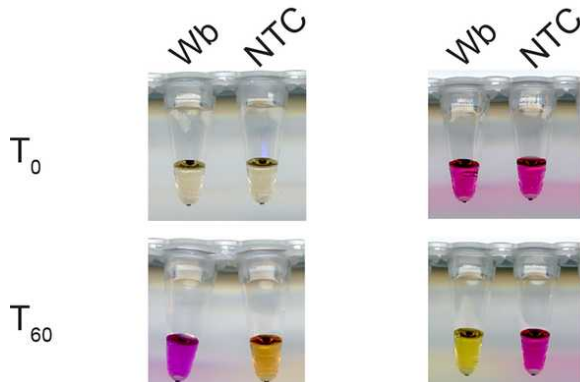
This protocol describes how to perform **colorimetric LAMP / RT-LAMP reactions** with homemade buffers, together with home-brewed BstLF and MMLV enzymes.

It is based on previous protocols of our lab (see [LAMP/RT-LAMP Reaction protocol](#)), but since two of the most common indicators used in colorimetric LAMP (**phenol red and neutral red**) **require weakly buffered reactions**, the buffer composition needed to be changed. This was done according to indications by [Poole et al \(2017\)](#).

The colorimetric methods rely on the inherent proton production by DNA polymerases during the amplification process, which leads to a drop in the reaction pH that can be followed using these pH indicators. The results can be seen directly with the "naked eye", without the need for equipment or hands-on processing ([Tanner et al., 2015](#)).

Neutral Red

Phenol Red



Color change of neutral red and phenol red indicator dyes in LAMP reactions.

Before amplification (T_0), reactions containing neutral red are colorless. Samples turn pink if positive or a brownish yellow if negative as shown after a sixty-minute (T_{60}) amplification. Reactions containing phenol red are pink at T_0 and remain pink if negative but turn yellow if positive as shown here after a sixty-minute (T_{60}) amplification. [Figure from [Poole et al \(2017\)](#)].

PROTOCOL CITATION

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<https://protocols.io/view/colorimetric-lamp-rt-lamp-protocol-ci5kug4w>



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2X Buffer Preparation

- 1 Prepare  1000 μL of 2X Colorimetric Buffer Mix according to the following table:

Reagent	Stock Concentration	2x (Buffer concentration)	1x	Volume for 1 mL
dNTPs	10 mM	2,8 mM	1,4 mM	280 μL
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	1M	20 mM	10 mM	20 μL
MgSO ₄	1M	16 mM	8 mM	16 μL
KCl	1M	100 mM	50 mM	100 μL
Tween 20	100%	0,2%	0,1%	2 μL
				418 μL

- Two main differences compared to non-colorimetric LAMP reaction are the **addition of dNTPs** in the buffer, as they influence the reaction pH, and the **removal of Tris-HCl** as this component is vital to maintain the pH of the buffer at a stable point, which is not desirable for pH-dependent detection
- The optimal concentration of KCl for home-brewed BstLF is 50 mM (see [LAMP/RT-LAMP Buffer protocol](#))

- 2 Measure the reaction pH with strips and adjust pH using NaOH 250 mM to a final value of **pH 8-9**.

Note

The pH of the original solution should be around 5-6 before adjusting.

- 3 Add nuclease-free water to a final volume of  1000 μL . Make aliquots and store them at  4 °C until use.

LAMP / RT-LAMP

35m

- 4 Prepare the LAMP or RT-LAMP reaction mix  On ice according to the following tables:
Step 4 includes a Step case.

LAMP

RT-LAMP

step case

LAMP

Component	1X	Final Reaction Concentration
2X Buffer Mix	5 uL	1,4 mM dNTPs 10 mM (NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄ 8 mM Mg SO ₄ 50 mM KCl 0,1% v/v Tween 20
Neutral Red 1,25 mM	1.2 uL	0,15 mM
10X Primer Mix	1 uL	0,2 uM F3/B3 1,6 uM FIP/BIP 0,4 - 0,8 uM LF/LB
BstLF (0,2 mg/mL)	0.8 uL	
H ₂ O	1 uL	
DNA	1 uL	
	10 uL	

- Neutral red can be replaced with another pH indicator like phenol red
- To adjust the concentration of BstLF enzyme use its **1x Storage Buffer**
- 2 uL of DNA could also be added to avoid the use (and possible contamination due to reopening) of nuclease-free water
- Reactions can also be scaled up to higher volumes, especially if you are working with a higher sample volume

- 5 Incubate the reactions at 65°C for 35 minutes and observe results with the naked eye.

Expected result

These are expected results with the use of **neutral red** as a colorimetric indicator, with negative reactions (NTC) staying yellow and positive reactions (in this case, six5) turning pink:

