

GE Healthcare

illustra
Hot Start Master Mix

100 reaction pack

Product booklet

Code 25-1500-01



Page finder

1. Legal	3
2. Handling	5
2.1. Safety warnings and precautions	5
2.2. Storage	5
2.3. Expiry	5
3. Components	6
3.1. Kit contents	6
3.2. Other materials required	6
4. Description	7
5. Protocol	8
5.1. Performing PCR with Hot Start Master Mix	8
5.2. Thermal cycling	9
6. General considerations	10
6.1. Avoiding nucleic acid contamination	10
6.2. Primers and templates	10
6.3. Primer annealing temperatures	11
6.4. Magnesium chloride concentration	11
7. Appendix	12
7.1. Troubleshooting guide	12
8. Related products	15
9. References	22

1. Legal

The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is covered by patents owned by Roche Molecular Systems and F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd. A license to use the PCR process for certain research and development activities accompanies the purchase of certain reagents from licensed suppliers such as GE Healthcare Limited and Affiliates when used in conjunction with an authorized thermal cycler. *Taq* DNA polymerase is sold under a licensing arrangement with Roche Molecular Systems, F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd and the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. Purchase of this product is accompanied by a limited license to use it in the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) process for research in conjunction with a thermal cycler whose use in the automated performance of the PCR process is covered by the up-front license fee, either by payment to Perkin-Elmer or as purchased, i.e. an authorized thermal cycler.

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2. Handling

2.1. Safety warnings and precautions

Warning: For research use only.

Not recommended or intended for diagnosis of disease in humans or animals. Do not use internally or externally in humans or animals.

All chemicals should be considered as potentially hazardous. We therefore recommend that this product is handled only by those persons who have been trained in laboratory techniques and that it is used in accordance with the principles of good laboratory practice. Wear suitable protective clothing such as laboratory overalls, safety glasses and gloves. Care should be taken to avoid contact with skin or eyes. In the case of contact with skin or eyes wash immediately with water. See material safety data sheet(s) and/or safety statement(s) for specific advice.

2.2. Storage

Store at -20°C.

2.3. Expiry

For expiry date please refer to outer packaging label.

3. Components

3.1. Kit contents

Hot Start Master Mix Formulation (2x):

Tris-HCl

KCl

MgCl₂

dNTPs (dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP)

Taq DNA Polymerase

Hot Start Activator protein

Stabilizers

Additional MgCl₂ may be added for optimizing PCR conditions.

Hot Start Master Mix (2x) combines Taq DNA Polymerase with a recombinant Hot Start Activator protein in a unique buffer formulation. Magnesium and nucleotide concentrations are at 3 mM and 0.4 mM each, respectively.

3.2. Other materials required

3.2.1. Reagents

Water—Use only deionized or distilled water that is sterile and free of contaminating nucleic acid.

DNA template

Primers (template specific)—Guidelines for primer design and use are described on page 10.

Mineral oil—if required for the thermal cycler being used.

3.2.2. Equipment

Supplies for liquid handling—Gloves, vials, and sterile pipette tips; pipettor and microcentrifuge. Perform all reactions using sterile plastic tubes suitable for thermal cycling.

Thermal cycler—For cycling according to the specified conditions.
Ice bucket.

4. Description

The polymerase chain reaction (PCR), is a method for the *in vitro* amplification of a specific sequence of DNA. A typical PCR includes template DNA containing the target to be amplified, two primers that are complementary to the target DNA sequence, nucleotides, and a thermostable DNA polymerase. The reaction mixture is repeatedly cycled through alternating periods of thermal denaturation, annealing and extension, resulting in the exponential amplification of the target DNA sequence (1, 2, 3).

Hot Start PCR was developed as a method to eliminate nonspecific amplification and minimize primer-dimer formation during PCR. Both of these conditions can generate spurious products, background smears and generally reduce the overall efficiency and yield of PCR. Other hot start methods rely on maintaining the polymerase in an inactive state using monoclonal antibodies directed against the polymerase or by chemical modification of the enzyme itself (4, 5). Hot Start Master Mix utilizes a novel approach whereby primers are sequestered away from the polymerase using Hot Start Activator protein thus making them unavailable for nonspecific priming during reaction setup. The buffer is formulated to contain $MgCl_2$ but can be easily supplemented with additional $MgCl_2$ to meet specific needs.

5. Protocol

5.1. Performing PCR with Hot Start Master Mix

This standard protocol applies to a single reaction where only template, primers, and water need to be added to the master mix. For multiple reactions, scale up the volume of reaction components proportionally.

1. Thaw reagents at room temperature. Mix thoroughly and then place on ice.
2. Assemble reactions on ice or at room temperature, whichever is more convenient.
3. The following table shows recommended component volumes:

Components	Volume for a 50 μl reaction	Final Concentration
Hot Start PCR Master Mix (2x)	25 μ l	1 x
Forward Primer	x μ l	0.1-0.5 μ M
Reverse Primer	y μ l	0.1-0.5 μ M
Template DNA*	z μ l	as needed
Water	up to 50 μ l	NA

*Start with 50 pg for a simple template such as plasmid DNA, or 50 ng for a complex template such as genomic DNA. Avoid template amounts > 1 μ g

4. Mix reactions by pipetting or gentle vortexing then spin down briefly in a microcentrifuge.
5. Optional—Overlay reactions with one-half volume PCR-grade mineral oil if you are not using a heated lid on a thermal cycler.
6. The reactions are now ready for thermal cycling.

5.2. Thermal cycling

The optimal cycling profile for a given PCR system and thermal cycler will vary and must be determined empirically. Cycle number can range from 20–45 depending on the desired product yield. Thermal cycling results and product yield can vary with cycle conditions and the thermal cycler used. Read the instructions provided with your thermal cycler and optimize the reaction conditions accordingly.

Below is a general thermal cycling protocol:

Cycle Step	Temperature	Time
Initial denaturation	94–95°C	2 min
Denature	94–95°C	30 s
Anneal	55°C	30 s
Extend	68–72°C	30–60 s
Repeat previous three cycles as necessary, generally 20–45 times		
Final Extend	68–72°C	5 min
Final Soak	4–10°C	as necessary

6. General considerations

6.1. Avoiding nucleic acid contamination

Adherence to some simple precautions will prevent nucleic acid contamination of reactions. Use sterile pipette tips with filters for dispensing, use autoclaved molecular biology grade water (or better) for reaction set up. In addition, work in a laminar air flow hood or PCR bubble that has been illuminated with UV light. It is important to analyze or pipette PCR products in an area separate from where the reaction will be set up.

To minimize environmental contamination, routinely treat all work surfaces with a 10% (v/v) bleach solution. Ideally, allow the bleach to contact the surface for at least 10 minutes prior to wiping away with sterile water.

6.2. Primers and templates

In general, PCR primers should be 15–30 bp in length with a GC content of ~ 50%. Complementarity between primer pairs and within each primer should be avoided. There are a number of excellent Web sites for designing primers—some of our favorites are: www.oligo.net and <http://frodo.wi.mit.edu>

Template DNA purified by a variety of methods may be suitable substrates for PCR, but high quality DNA produces the most reproducible results. A typical PCR reaction contains < 1 µg of template DNA and primers at a concentration of 0.2–1.0 µM. The optimal quantity of template and primers must be determined empirically for each new combination of template and primer. The reaction conditions described in this protocol are general recommendations only.

6.3. Primer annealing temperatures

The annealing temperatures of the chosen primers often vary from their estimated melting temperatures (T_m). Although amplification is more specific at higher annealing temperatures, there might be some loss of longer target sequences during amplification and an overall reduction in yield. On occasion, it is necessary to re-optimize annealing temperatures to achieve maximum performance. We recommend altering the temperature in increments of 2–5°C, starting at 10°C below the original annealing temperature.

6.4. Magnesium chloride concentration

In the final reaction volume of 50 μ l, the $MgCl_2$ concentration is 1.5 mM. If higher concentrations of Mg^{2+} are desired, the following table can be used to determine the volume of sterile 10 mM $MgCl_2$ solution that should be added to increase the Mg^{2+} concentration of the reaction. If $MgCl_2$ is added to the reaction, decrease the amount of water added to the reaction mixture to maintain a final reaction volume of 50 μ l.

Final [$MgCl_2$]	Volume of 10 mM $MgCl_2$ to add
2.0 mM	2.5 μ l
2.5 mM	5 μ l
3.0 mM	7.5 μ l
3.5 mM	10 μ l
4.0 mM	12.5 μ l
4.5 mM	15 μ l
5.0 mM	17.5 μ l

7. Appendix

7.1. Troubleshooting guide

Problem: No amplification

Possible cause	Suggestions
<i>The thermal cycler did not function properly</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improper cycling conditions can result in poor amplification. Consider testing a prevalidated PCR reaction as a control to produce a specific, known product.
<i>Primer was omitted from the reaction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot Start Master Mix does not contain primers; you must add your own primers to the reaction mixture.
<i>The reaction volume was incorrect</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total volume of each reaction should be twice the amount of Hot Start Master Mix added.
<i>Insufficient DNA was used in the PCR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The amount of DNA required to generate product can vary between different PCR systems. Titer the amount of template in the reaction, starting with 50 pg for a simple template such as plasmid DNA, or 50 ng for a complex template such as genomic DNA.
<i>The quality of the DNA template was poor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impure DNA might fail to amplify. To inactivate contaminating enzyme activities, heat the template DNA to 95°C for 5 min before use in PCR. Alternatively, isolate template DNA by another method.

Problem: Excessive back ground amplification

Possible cause	Suggestions
<i>Too much template DNA was added to the reaction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the amount of template DNA in the reaction until the smearing is eliminated.
<i>Too many cycles</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although the yield of PCR product can be increased by increasing the number of cycles to 45, this can produce spurious bands and increased background. Reduce the number of cycles until the smearing is eliminated.
<i>Kit storage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If stored improperly the Hot Start Activator protein may be rendered inactive leading to decrease in hot start capability and increased background amplification. Always ensure proper storage of Hot Start Master Mix (2x).
<i>Cycling conditions vary depending on the thermal cycler used</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimize cycling conditions based on the manufacturer's recommendations.
<i>The annealing temperature was too low</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The optimal annealing temperature depends on the sequence of the primers and their homology to the template DNA. Re-optimization of annealing temperature might be required. Increase the annealing temperature by 2–5°C increments.

Problem: Excessive back ground amplification cont.

Possible cause	Suggestions
<i>The quality of the DNA template was poor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impure DNA can fail to amplify properly. Use freshly prepared DNA or isolate the template by another method.

Problem: Nonspecific amplification

Possible cause	Suggestions
<i>Contamination in primers, template or buffers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare fresh materials.

8. Related products

dNTPs for PCR and Long PCR, Premixed

- Premixed dNTPs available in four concentrations specially formulated for PCR and long PCR.
- dNTPs functionally tested in PCR and in long PCR (14.4 kb) to be PCR-qualified.
- Packaged at the indicated concentration as the nucleoside triphosphate sodium salt.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
DNA Polymerization mix (20 mM each dATP,dCTP,dGTP,dTTP)	10 μ mol	27-2094-01
DNA Polymerization mix (20 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP)	40 μ mol (4 x 0.5 ml)	27-2094-02
PCR nucleotide mix (25 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP)	500 μ l	US77119-500UL
PCR nucleotide mix (2 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP)	1 ml	US77170
PCR nucleotide mix (10 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP)	500 μ l	US77212-500UL
dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dUTP Mix (2 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, 4 mM dUTP)	250 μ l	US77175-250UL

PuReTaq Ready-To-Go™ PCR Beads

- Newly designed, premixed, predispensed reactions for PCR featuring high-performance PuReTaq DNA polymerase.
- Preformulated, predispensed, single-dose, ambient-temperature-stable beads ensure greater reproducibility between reactions, minimize pipetting steps and reduce the potential for pipetting errors and contamination.
- Use of PuReTaq DNA polymerase and other high-purity reagents ensures that each bead is free of contaminating DNA.
- Optimized for standard PCR, each bead yields a reaction containing ~ 2.5 units of PuReTaq DNA polymerase, 10 mM Tris-HCl, (pH 9.0 at room temperature), 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 200 μM of each dNTP, stabilizers, and BSA.
- Validated for real-time PCR with MGB Eclipse™ Probe Systems.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
PuReTaq Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (0.2 ml tubes/plate)	96 reactions	27-9557-01
PuReTaq Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (0.2 ml tubes/plate)	5x96 reactions	27-9557-02
PuReTaq Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (0.5 ml tubes)	100 reactions	27-9558-01
PuReTaq Ready-To-Go PCR Beads (0.2 ml hinged tube with cap)	96 reactions	27-9559-01

FideliTaq™ PCR Master Mix

- For PCR requiring high-fidelity DNA polymerase activity.
- Convenient, ready-to-use mix reduces experimental variability.
- Optimized for long PCR products.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
FideliTaq PCR Master Mix (2x)	100 reactions (125 units)	E71182
FideliTaq PCR Master Mix Plus	100 reactions (125 units)	E71183

ExoSAP-IT™

- For rapid and efficient purification of PCR products.
- Features two hydrolytic enzymes, Exonuclease I and Shrimp Alkaline Phosphatase, for the removal of unwanted deoxynucleotides and primers with no interference in downstream applications.
- One-tube, one-step method with no sample loss.
- Purified DNA is ready for immediate use in manual and automated sequencing.
- Eliminates spin columns to decrease time and expense to purify PCR product.
- Simple processing makes ExoSAP-IT ideal in robotics, replacing beads, filtrations, and plates.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
ExoSAP-IT	100 reactions	US78200
ExoSAP-IT	500 reactions	US78201
ExoSAP-IT	2000 reactions	US78202

MicroSpin™ G-25 Columns

- For rapid buffer exchange/desalting of PCR products and other DNAs in a volume of 10–100 µl using spin-column chromatography.
- Excellent for rapid purification of newly synthesized oligonucleotides > 10-mers in 100–150 µl of deprotection solution using spin-column chromatography.
- Convenient, prepacked with Sephadex™ G-25 DNA Grade and pre-equilibrated in distilled water containing 0.05% Kathon™ CG/ICP Biocide.
- Ready to use, requires less than 4 min from sample application to the collection of purified product.
- Tested in nickase, single and double-stranded exonuclease and RNase assays.
- Can also be used for desalting/buffer exchange of DNA and removal of unincorporated radionucleotides from end-labeled oligonucleotides (at least 10 bases in length) in a volume of 10–100 µl.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
MicroSpin G-25 Columns	50	27-5325-01

MicroSpin™ S-300 HR Columns

- MicroSpin S-300 HR Columns: For rapid purification of PCR products (> 100 bp) from unincorporated primers (< 20-mers) and nucleotides using spin-column chromatography.
- Accommodates 25-50 µl for post-PCR clean-up prior to sequencing.
- Useful for purification of alkaline-denatured plasmid DNA prior to sequencing.
- Convenient: Prepacked with Sephacryl™ S-300 HR pre-equilibrated in TE buffer.
- Ready to use: Requires less than 4 min from sample application to collection of purified product.
- Tested in nickase, single- and double-stranded exonuclease and RNase assays.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
MicroSpin S-300 HR Columns	50	27-5325-01

MicroSpin S-400 HR Columns

- MicroSpin S-400 HR Columns: For rapid purification of PCR products (> 200 bp) from unincorporated primers (< 32-mers) and nucleotides using spin-column chromatography.
- Accommodates 25-50 μ l for post-PCR clean-up prior to cloning or a second amplification reaction or 51-100 μ l for all other applications.
- Convenient: Prepacked with Sephacryl S-400 HR pre-equilibrated in TE buffer.
- Ready to use: Requires less than 4 min from sample application to collection of purified product.
- Tested in nickase, single- and double-stranded exonuclease and RNase assays.

Product	Pack size	Product Code
MicroSpin S-400 HR Columns	50	27-5140-01

9. References

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4. Kellogg, D.E. *et al.* TaqStart Antibody: "hot start" PCR facilitated by a neutralizing monoclonal antibody directed against Taq DNA polymerase. *BioTechniques*, **16**, 1134-1137 (1994).
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