

Preparing Samples for Digital Gene Expression-Tag Profiling with *Nla*III

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Introduction

This protocol explains how to prepare libraries of mRNA for subsequent cDNA tag sequencing on the Illumina Cluster Station and Genome Analyzer. You will isolate mRNA and create 21 bp tags with adapter sequences ligated onto the ends of the cDNA fragment to generate the following template format:

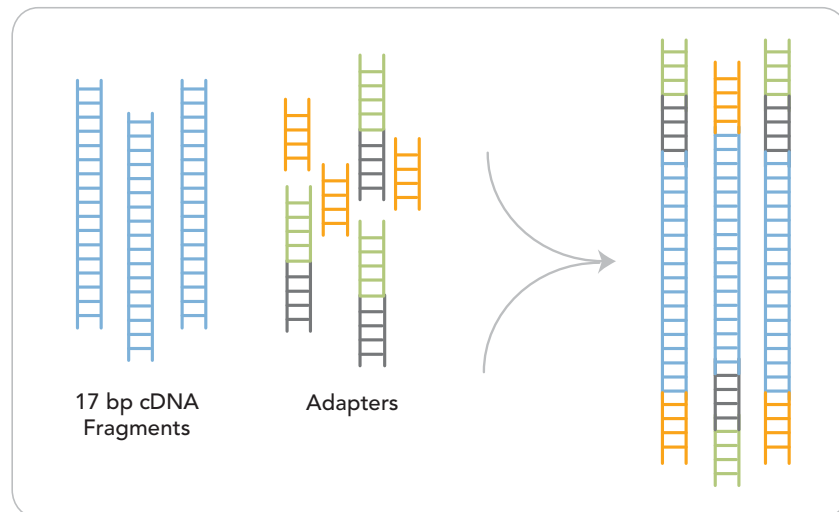


Figure 1 Constructing Templates

Adapter 1 introduces a correctly positioned *MmeI* restriction site and sequencing primer binding site, shown in gray. The Adapter 2 sequence corresponds to the surface-bound amplification primer on the flow cells used on the Cluster Station.

The method described in this protocol generates a unique 17 bp for each transcript, anchored with the restriction enzyme *NlaIII*. The 17 bp sequencing data combined with the known *NlaIII* restriction site data generates the unique 21 bp tag used for annotation. The sample prep protocol has been optimized for sequencing on the Illumina Genome Analyzer. The quantitative expression level of the unique transcripts is demonstrated by the number of times the sequence is detected.

An outline of the sample prep protocol is shown in Figure 2. You will need a minimum of three days to complete this protocol. The starting material for this protocol is 1–2 µg of total RNA. Use the method of your choice to isolate total RNA prior to using this kit. Please confirm the quality of your RNA as described on page 8. This is critical to sample preparation.

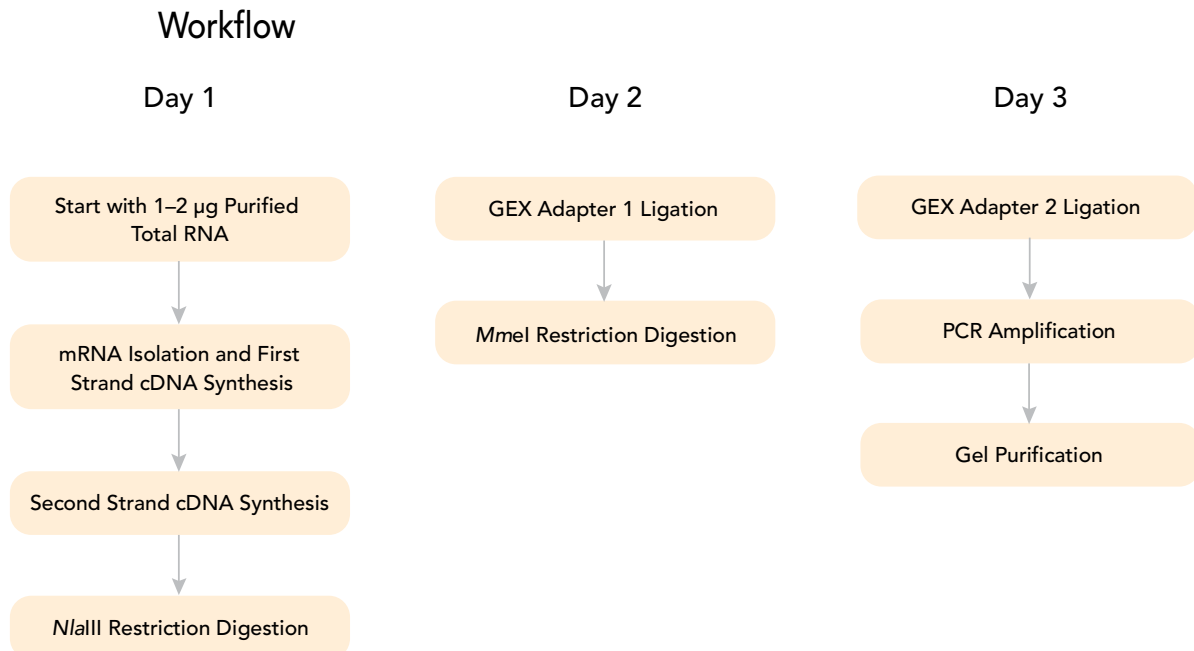


Figure 2 Sample Preparation Workflow

Kit Contents and Equipment Checklist

Check to ensure that you have all of the reagents and equipment identified in this section before proceeding to sample preparation.

Gene Expression Sample Prep Kit, Box 1

Store at -20°C

This box is shipped at -80°C. As soon as you receive it, store the following components at -20°C.

llumina Part #	Description
1000560	RNase Out
1000562	GEX 2nd Strand Buffer
1000564	10 mM dNTP Mix
1000570	GEX Cleaning Solution Additive
1000571	10X Gel Elution Buffer
1000572	GEX 32 mM S-adenosylmethionine
1000576	RNase H
1000577	DNA Polymerase I
1000580	T4 DNA Ligase
1000581	5X T4 DNA Ligase Buffer
1000582	<i>MmeI</i>
1000583	10X Restriction Buffer
1000584	Phusion* Polymerase (Finnzymes Oy)
1000585	5X Phusion* HF Buffer (Finnzymes Oy)
1000586	CIAP
1000590	GEX Adapter 2
1000591	Primer GX1
1000592	Primer GX2
1001338	Resuspension Buffer
1001390	100X BSA
1001392	GEX <i>N/A</i> Adapter 1
1001662	25 bp Ladder

ILLUMINA PART #	DESCRIPTION
1001663	25 mM dNTP Mix
1001664	Glycogen
1001666	5X First Strand Buffer
1003029	6X DNA Loading Dye

**Gene Expression
Sample Prep Kit,
Box 2**

Store at 4°C

Box 2 is shipped at room temperature. As soon as you receive it, place the following components in a 4°C refrigerator.

ILLUMINA PART #	DESCRIPTION
1000467	Ultra Pure Water
1001670	GEX Sera-mag Magnetic Oligo(dT) Beads
1001671	GEX Binding Buffer
1001672	GEX Washing Buffer

**Gene Expression
Sample Prep Kit,
Box 2**

Store at Room Temperature

Box 2 is shipped at room temperature. Store the following components at room temperature.

ILLUMINA PART #	DESCRIPTION
1001667	GEX Buffer C
1001668	GEX Cleaning Solution
1001669	GEX Buffer D
1001673	Spin-X Cellulose Acetate Filter

**Gene Expression
Sample Prep Kit,
Bag 1**

Store at -80°C

N/A is shipped at -80°C. As soon as you receive it, store the *N/A* at -80°C.

ILLUMINA PART #	DESCRIPTION
1001389	<i>N/A</i>

**NOTE**

Briefly centrifuge all tubes before use, as the contents may have settled on the sides.

All reagents are supplied in excess to guarantee you have the quantity necessary to perform eight digital gene expression-tag profiling sample preparations. It is normal to have leftover reagents following the preparation of eight samples.

Equipment Checklist

Check to ensure that you have all of the necessary user-supplied equipment before proceeding to sample preparation.

- ▶ Eppendorf thermomixers (part # 022670107 / 022670522)
 - 16°C Eppendorf thermomixer
 - 20°C Eppendorf thermomixer
 - 37°C Eppendorf thermomixer
 - 42°C Eppendorf thermomixer
 - 70°C Eppendorf thermomixer
- ▶ Benchtop microcentrifuge
- ▶ Clean scalpels
- ▶ Dark Reader transilluminator (Clare Chemical Research, part # D195M)
- ▶ Dynal MPC-S magnet (Invitrogen, part # 120-20D)
- ▶ Electrophoresis power supply
- ▶ Room temperature tube rotator
- ▶ Savant Speed Vac
- ▶ Thermal cycler
- ▶ Vortexer
- ▶ XCell Sure Lock Mini-Cell electrophoresis unit (Invitrogen, part # EI0001)
- ▶ 21-gauge needles

Isolate mRNA and Synthesize First Strand cDNA

This protocol isolates mRNA from total RNA by binding the mRNA to a magnetic oligo(dT) bead. Using the mRNA attached to the bead as a template, oligo(dT) bound cDNA is synthesized to form a bead-bound mRNA/cDNA hybrid.

The starting material, total RNA, can be isolated by a number of techniques. Illumina recommends that you check total RNA integrity following isolation using an Agilent Technologies 2100 Bioanalyzer. Alternatively, a 1% agarose gel can be run and the integrity of RNA judged upon staining with ethidium bromide. High quality RNA will show a 28S rRNA band at 4.5 kb that should be twice the intensity of the 18S rRNA band at 1.9 kb. Both kb determinations are relative to a 1 kb ladder. The mRNA will appear as a smear from 0.5–12 kb.

Wear gloves and use sterile techniques when working with RNA. All plastic ware and reagents should be RNase-free.



NOTE

Use 1.5 ml sterile, RNase-free, siliconized microtubes for all steps through *MmeI* digestion to prevent the magnetic beads from sticking to the tubes.

Consumables

Illumina-Supplied

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ GEX Sera-Mag Magnetic oligo(dT) beads
- ▶ GEX binding buffer
- ▶ GEX washing buffer
- ▶ 5X first strand buffer
- ▶ 10 mM dNTP mix
- ▶ RNaseOUT

User-Supplied

- ▶ Ice
- ▶ SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase (part # 18064-014) with 100 mM DTT
- ▶ Purified total RNA (1–2 µg)

Procedure

Best Practice: Using the Magnetic Stand

Follow these guidelines throughout the sample preparation to prevent the beads from drying out.



NOTE

Do not allow the beads to dry during the entire process. During all wash steps, add buffers to the tube containing the beads while the tube is on the magnetic stand.

1. Place the tube containing the beads on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes.
2. Add the buffer to the tube while the tube is on the magnetic stand.



CAUTION

Do not disturb the beads.

3. Cap the tube, remove it from the magnetic stand, and resuspend the beads. You can resuspend the beads by flicking the tube with your finger or use a vortexer set at 5–6.
4. Centrifuge briefly to collect any beads that may remain in the tube cap.
5. Repeat steps 1 through 4 as required.

Prepare the Bead Washing Buffers

- ▶ Dilute the 5X first strand buffer to 1X.

Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.

- Ultra pure water (320 μ l)
- 5X first strand buffer (80 μ l)

The total volume should be 400 μ l.

Prepare the Total RNA

1. Dilute 1–2 μ g of total RNA with ultra pure water to 50 μ l in a sterile RNase-free 200 μ l microtube.
2. Heat the 50 μ l of total RNA at 65°C in a thermal cycler for 5 minutes to disrupt any secondary structure.
3. Immediately place on ice.

Prepare the Magnetic Oligo(dT) Beads

1. While the RNA is denaturing, thoroughly resuspend the supplied oligo(dT) beads and transfer 50 μ l to a 1.5 ml RNase-free, siliconized microtube.
2. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
3. Wash the beads by resuspending them in 100 μ l of GEX binding buffer.
4. Place the tube back on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
5. Wash with another 100 μ l of GEX binding buffer.
6. Place the tube back on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
7. Resuspend the beads in 50 μ l of GEX binding buffer.

Isolate the mRNA

1. Add 50 μ l of diluted total RNA to the tube containing oligo(dT) beads in 50 μ l of GEX binding buffer.
2. Using the room temperature tube rotator, rotate the tube at room temperature for 5 minutes.
3. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
4. Wash beads by resuspending them in 200 μ l of GEX washing buffer.
5. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 with another 200 μ l of GEX washing buffer.
7. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
8. Wash the beads by resuspending them in 100 μ l of freshly prepared 1X first strand buffer.
9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 three additional times for a total of four washes in 100 μ l of 1X first strand buffer.
10. Upon completion of the four washes you should have a tube of beads resuspended in 1X first strand buffer.

Synthesize the First Strand cDNA

1. Premix the following reagents in the order listed in a separate tube. Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra reagent mix if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - Ultra pure water (29.5 μ l)
 - 5X first strand buffer (10 μ l)
 - 100 mM DTT(5 μ l)
 - 10 mM dNTP mix (2.5 μ l)
 - RNaseOUT (1 μ l)The total volume should be 48 μ l.
2. Place the tube of beads resuspended in 1X first strand buffer on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
3. Resuspend the beads in 48 μ l of the first strand cDNA synthesis premix outlined in step 1. Mix well.
4. Heat the bead/premix tube at 42°C in a thermal cycler for 2 minutes.
5. Add 2 μ l of SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase.
6. Incubate at 42°C in a thermomixer that is constantly mixing at 1400 rpm for 1 hour.
7. Transfer the tube to a 70°C thermomixer that is programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and then standing for 2 minutes, for a total of 15 minutes. Place the tube on ice.

Synthesize the Second Strand cDNA

This protocol removes the strand of mRNA and synthesizes a replacement strand generating double-stranded cDNA bound to the oligo(dT) bead.

Consumables

Illumina-Supplied

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ GEX second strand buffer
- ▶ 10 mM dNTP mix
- ▶ RNase H
- ▶ DNA Polymerase I
- ▶ GEX buffer C
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution additive
- ▶ GEX buffer D
- ▶ 10X restriction buffer

User-Supplied

- ▶ mRNA/cDNA hybrid (50 μ l)
- ▶ Ice

Procedure

Prepare the Bead Washing Reagents

- ▶ Dilute the 10X restriction buffer to 1X.
Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - Ultra pure water (180 μ l)
 - 10X restriction buffer (20 μ l)
 The total volume should be 200 μ l.

Prepare Fresh Working Cleaning Solution

- ▶ Add GEX cleaning solution additive to the GEX cleaning solution to create fresh working cleaning solution.
Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - GEX cleaning solution (98.6 μ l)
 - GEX cleaning solution additive (1.4 μ l)
 The total volume should be 100 μ l.

Synthesize the Second Strand

1. Add 31 μ l of ultra pure water to the 50 μ l of mRNA/cDNA hybrid mix on ice.
2. Add the following reagents:
 - GEX second strand buffer (10 μ l)

- 10 mM dNTP mix (3 μ l)
3. Mix well and incubate on ice for 5 minutes.
 4. Add the following reagents:
 - DNA Polymerase I (5 μ l)
 - RNase H (1 μ l)
 5. Mix well and incubate at 16°C in a thermomixer, programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and stand for 2 minutes, for a total of 2.5 hours.
 6. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
 7. Wash the beads by resuspending them in 750 μ l of GEX buffer C.
 8. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
 9. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of fresh working cleaning solution.
 10. Incubate at 37°C in a thermomixer, programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and stand for two minutes, for a total of 15 minutes.
 11. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
 12. Resuspend the beads in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
 13. Repeat steps 11 and 12 three additional times for a total of four washes in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
 14. Upon completion of the four washes you should be left with a tube of beads resuspended in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
 15. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
 16. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X restriction buffer.
 17. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
 18. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X restriction buffer.
 19. Transfer the bead and 1X restriction buffer solution to a sterile, RNase-free, siliconized 1.5 ml microtube.

Restriction Digest with *NlaIII*

This protocol cleaves the double stranded cDNA at every *NlaIII* site. All fragments other than the 3' fragment attached to the oligo(dT) bead are washed away.

Consumables **Illumina-Supplied**

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ 10X restriction buffer
- ▶ 100X BSA
- ▶ *NlaIII*
- ▶ GEX buffer C
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution additive
- ▶ GEX buffer D

User-Supplied

- ▶ Bead-attached cDNA resuspended in 100 μ l of 1X restriction buffer

Procedure **Prepare the *NlaIII* Digestion Pre-Mix**

- ▶ Premix the reagents in the following order in a separate tube. Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra reagent if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - Ultra pure water (88 μ l)
 - 10X restriction buffer (10 μ l)
 - 100X BSA (1 μ l)
 The total volume should be 99 μ l.

Prepare Fresh Working Cleaning Solution

- ▶ Add GEX cleaning solution additive to the GEX cleaning solution to create fresh working cleaning solution. Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - GEX cleaning solution (98.6 μ l)
 - GEX cleaning solution additive (1.4 μ l)
 The total volume should be 100 μ l.

Set Up the *NlaIII* Digestion Mix

1. Place the tube of cDNA-attached beads resuspended in 1X restriction buffer on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
2. Resuspend the beads in 99 μ l of the *NlaIII* digestion pre-mix.
3. Add 1 μ l of *NlaIII* enzyme.



Always store *NlaIII* at -80°C . *NlaIII* is extremely sensitive to high temperatures. The first time you remove the *NlaIII* from the -80°C environment, use what you need at that time immediately and aliquot any remaining enzyme as necessary for future use. Avoid freeze-thaw cycles whenever possible.

4. Incubate at 37°C in a thermomixer, programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and stand for 2 minutes, for a total of 1 hour.
5. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
6. Wash the beads by resuspending them in 750 μl of GEX buffer C.
7. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
8. Resuspend the beads in 100 μl of fresh working cleaning solution.
9. Incubate at 37°C in a thermomixer, programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and stand for 2 minutes, for a total of 15 minutes.
10. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
11. Resuspend the beads in 750 μl of GEX buffer D.
12. Repeat steps 10 and 11 three additional times for a total of four washes in 750 μl of GEX buffer D.
13. Upon completion of the four washes you should be left with a tube of beads resuspended in 750 μl of GEX buffer D.
14. Store the resuspended beads overnight at 4°C .

Ligate GEX *Nla*III Adapter 1

This protocol ligates a defined gene expression adapter (GEX *Nla*III Adapter 1) at the site of *Nla*III cleavage. In addition, GEX *Nla*III Adapter 1 contains the sequence for the restriction enzyme *Mme*I, which is necessary for future steps in sample preparation.

Consumables

Illumina-Supplied

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ GEX *Nla*III Adapter 1
- ▶ 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer
- ▶ T4 DNA ligase
- ▶ GEX buffer C
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution
- ▶ GEX cleaning solution additive
- ▶ GEX buffer D
- ▶ 10X restriction buffer

User-Supplied

- ▶ Bead-attached cDNA resuspended in 100 μ l of GEX buffer D

Procedure

Prepare the Bead Washing Reagents

1. Dilute the 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer to 1X.

Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.

- Ultra pure water (160 μ l)
- 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer (40 μ l)

The total volume should be 200 μ l.

2. Dilute the 10X restriction buffer to 1X.

Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.

- Ultra pure water (180 μ l)
- 10X restriction buffer (20 μ l)

The total volume should be 200 μ l.

Prepare Fresh Working Cleaning Solution

- ▶ Add GEX cleaning solution additive to the GEX cleaning solution to create fresh working cleaning solution.

Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra buffer if you are preparing multiple samples.

- GEX cleaning solution (98.6 μ l)
- GEX cleaning solution additive (1.4 μ l)

The total volume should be 100 μ l.

Ligate GEX *N*/aIII Adapter 1



This protocol involves the use of both the 1X T4 DNA ligase buffer and 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer. Follow the instructions carefully to ensure you use the correct solution in each step.

1. Place the tube containing the bead-attached cDNA resuspended in GEX buffer D on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
2. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X T4 DNA ligase buffer.
3. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
4. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X T4 DNA ligase buffer.
5. Transfer the resuspended beads to a fresh microtube.
6. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
7. Add the following in the indicated order to each tube of beads.
 - Ultra pure water (36 μ l)
 - GEX *N*/aIII Adapter 1 (3 μ l)
 - 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer (10 μ l)
 - T4 DNA ligase (1 μ l)The total volume should be 50 μ l.
8. Incubate at 20°C in a thermomixer that is constantly mixing at 1400 rpm for 2 hours.
9. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
10. Wash the beads by resuspending them in 750 μ l of GEX buffer C.
11. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
12. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of fresh working cleaning solution.
13. Incubate at 37°C in a thermomixer, programmed to mix at 1400 rpm for 15 seconds and stand for 2 minutes, for a total of 15 minutes.
14. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
15. Resuspend the beads in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
16. Repeat steps 13 and 14 three additional times for a total of four washes in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
17. Upon completion of the four washes you should have a tube of beads resuspended in 750 μ l of GEX buffer D.
18. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.

19. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X restriction buffer.
20. Place the tube on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
21. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of 1X restriction buffer.
22. Transfer the bead and 1X restriction buffer solution to a fresh, sterile, RNase-free, siliconized 1.5 ml tube.

Restriction Digest with *MmeI*

This protocol applies the restriction enzyme *MmeI* to create the 17 bp tag. The binding site for the enzyme is at the GEX *NlaIII* Adapter I cDNA junction. The enzyme cuts downstream from the binding site. The resulting construct is no longer attached to the oligo(dT) bead and is free in solution.

Consumables

Illumina-Supplied

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ 10X restriction buffer
- ▶ GEX 32 mM S-adenosylmethionine
- ▶ *MmeI*
- ▶ CIAP
- ▶ Glycogen

User-Supplied

- ▶ Bead-attached cDNA resuspended in 1X restriction buffer
- ▶ Phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1)
- ▶ Chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1)
- ▶ 3M NaOAc, pH 5.2
- ▶ -20°C 100% ethanol
- ▶ Room temperature 70% ethanol

Procedure

Prepare the 10X S-adenosylmethionine

1. Dilute the GEX 32 mM S-adenosylmethionine to working 10X concentration.
 - Ultra pure water (320 μ l)
 - GEX 32 mM S-adenosylmethionine (5 μ l)
 The total volume should be 325 μ l.

Prepare the Restriction Digest Reagents

1. Premix the reagent in the following order in a separate tube. Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra reagent if you are preparing multiple samples.

- Ultra pure water (76 μ l)
- 10X restriction buffer (10 μ l)
- 10X S-adenosylmethionine (10 μ l)
- *MmeI* (4 μ l)

The total volume should be 100 μ l.

Restriction Digestion with *MmeI*

1. Place the tube of bead-attached cDNA resuspended in the 1X restriction buffer on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and discard it.
2. Resuspend the beads in 100 μ l of the *MmeI* restriction digest pre-mix.
3. Incubate at 37°C in a thermomixer that is constantly mixing at 1400 rpm for 1.5 hours.
4. Place the tube of *MmeI*-digested cDNA and beads on the magnetic stand for 1–2 minutes. Carefully pipette off the supernatant and transfer it to a sterile, RNase-free, siliconized 1.5 ml microtube.



NOTE

The construct is now in the supernatant. Retain the supernatant.

5. Discard the tube containing the beads.
6. Add 2 μ l of CIAP to the retained supernatant.
7. Dephosphorylate for 1 hour at 37°C.
8. Extract once with 100 μ l phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1).
9. Extract once with 100 μ l chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1).
10. Add 1 μ l of glycogen, 10 μ l 3M NaOAc, and 325 μ l of -20°C 100% ethanol.
11. Immediately centrifuge to 14K for 20 minutes.
12. Remove the supernatant and discard it.
13. Wash the pellet with 500 μ l of room temperature 70% ethanol.
14. Remove the supernatant and discard it.
15. Dry the pellet using the speed vac.
16. Resuspend the pellet in 6 μ l of ultra pure water.
17. Store overnight at -20°C.

Ligate GEX Adapter 2

This protocol ligates a defined gene expression adapter (GEX Adapter 2) at the site of *MmeI* cleavage. The GEX Adapter 2 contains sequences complementary to the oligos attached to the flow cell surface.

Consumables **Illumina-Supplied**

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ GEX Adapter 2
- ▶ 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer
- ▶ T4 DNA ligase

User-Supplied

- ▶ cDNA construct resuspended in ultra pure water (6 μ l)

Procedure **Ligate GEX Adapter 2**

1. To each tube of 6 μ l of *MmeI*-digested and resuspended cDNA, add the following in the order listed:
 - GEX Adapter 2 (1 μ l)
 - 5X T4 DNA ligase buffer (2 μ l)
 - T4 DNA ligase (1 μ l)The total volume should be 10 μ l.
2. Incubate at 20°C for 2 hours in the thermomixer.

Enrich the Adapter-Ligated cDNA Construct Using PCR

This protocol uses PCR to selectively enrich the DNA library with cDNA fragments that have adapter molecules on both ends. The PCR is performed with two primers that anneal to the ends of the adapters.

Consumables **Illumina-Supplied**

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ 5X Phusion* HF buffer (Finnzymes Oy)
- ▶ Phusion* DNA polymerase (Finnzymes Oy)
- ▶ Primer GX1
- ▶ Primer GX2
- ▶ 25 mM dNTP mix

User-Supplied

- ▶ GEX Adapter 2 ligated cDNA (10 µl)

Procedure **Prepare the PCR Master Mix**

- ▶ Premix the reagents in the following order in a separate tube:
Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra reagent if you are preparing multiple samples.
 - Ultra pure water (35.5 µl)
 - 5X Phusion* HF buffer (10 µl)
 - Primer GX1 (0.5 µl)
 - Primer GX2 (0.5 µl)
 - 25 mM dNTP mix (0.5 µl)
 - Phusion* DNA polymerase (0.5 µl)The total volume should be 47.5 µl.

PCR Amplification

1. Aliquot 47.5 µl of PCR master mix into a sterile, nuclease-free, 200 µl PCR tube.
2. Add 2.5 µl of GEX Adapter 2 ligated cDNA.
3. Amplify the PCR in the thermal cycler using the following protocol:
 - a. 30 seconds at 98°C
 - b. 15 cycles of:
 - 10 seconds at 98°C
 - 30 seconds at 60°C
 - 15 seconds at 72°C
 - c. 10 minutes at 72°C
 - d. Hold at 4°C

Purify the Amplified cDNA Construct

This protocol gel purifies the amplified cDNA construct in preparation for loading on the Illumina Cluster Station.

Consumables **Illumina-Supplied**

- ▶ Ultra pure water
- ▶ 25 bp ladder
- ▶ 10X gel elution buffer
- ▶ Spin-X cellulose acetate filter
- ▶ Glycogen
- ▶ Resuspension buffer
- ▶ 6X DNA loading dye

User-Supplied

- ▶ Amplified cDNA construct (50 μ l)
- ▶ 6% Novex TBE PAGE gel, 1.0 mm, 10 well
- ▶ 5X Novex TBE buffer
- ▶ Ultra pure ethidium bromide
- ▶ 3 M NaOAc, pH 5.2
- ▶ -20°C 100% ethanol
- ▶ 70% ethanol (room temperature)

Procedure



NOTE

It is important to follow this procedure exactly to ensure reproducibility. Illumina does not recommend purifying multiple samples on a single gel due to the risk of cross-contamination between libraries.

Prepare the Gel Electrophoresis Reagents and Apparatus

1. Determine the volume of 1X TBE buffer needed.
2. Dilute the 5X TBE buffer to 1X with Milli-Q water for use in electrophoresis.
3. Assemble the gel electrophoresis apparatus per the manufacturer's instructions.

Run the Gel Electrophoresis

1. Mix 5 μ l of 25 bp ladder with 1 μ l of 6X DNA loading dye.
2. Mix 50 μ l of amplified cDNA construct with 10 μ l of 6X DNA loading dye.
3. Load 5 μ l of the 25 bp ladder and loading dye mix into one well of the 6% TBE PAGE gel.

4. Load 25 μ l each of the PCR amplified construct and loading dye mix into two wells of the 6% TBE PAGE gel.
5. Run the gel for 30–35 minutes at 200 V.
6. Remove the gel from the apparatus.

Dilute the 10X Gel Elution Buffer

- ▶ Multiply each volume by the number of samples being prepared. Prepare 10% extra reagent mix if you are preparing multiple samples.

- Ultra pure water (90 μ l)
- 10X gel elution buffer (10 μ l)

The total volume should be 100 μ l.

Recover the Purified Construct

1. Puncture the bottom of a sterile, nuclease-free, 0.5 ml microtube 4–5 times with a 21-gauge needle.
2. Place the 0.5 ml microtube into a sterile, round-bottom, nuclease-free, 2 ml microtube.
3. Pry apart the cassette and stain the gel with the ethidium bromide in a clean container for 2–3 minutes.
4. View the gel on a Dark Reader transilluminator to avoid being exposed to UV light. The 25 bp ladder is in 25 bp steps up to 300 bp.



Prolonged personnel exposure to UV light can damage your DNA.

5. Using a clean scalpel, cut out the 85 bp bands in the sample lanes.
6. Place the gel slice into the 0.5 ml microtube.
7. Centrifuge the stacked tubes at full speed for 2 minutes at room temperature to move the gel through the holes into the 2 ml tube.
8. Add 100 μ l of 1X gel elution buffer to the gel debris in the 2 ml tube.
9. Elute the DNA by rotating the tube gently at room temperature for 2 hours.
10. Transfer the eluate and the gel debris to the top of a Spin-X filter.
11. Centrifuge the filter for 2 minutes at full speed.
12. Add 1 μ l of glycogen, 10 μ l of 3M NaOAc, and 325 μ l of -20°C ethanol.
13. Immediately centrifuge to 14K for 20 minutes.
14. Remove and discard the supernatant, leaving the pellet intact.
15. Wash the pellet with 500 μ l of room temperature 70% ethanol.
16. Remove and discard the supernatant, leaving the pellet intact.

17. Dry the pellet using the speed vac.
18. Resuspend the pellet in 10 μ l resuspension buffer.

Validate the Library

Illumina recommends performing the following quality control analysis on your cDNA tag library.

Bioanalyzer Method

1. Load 1 μ l of the resuspended construct on an Agilent Technologies 2100 Bioanalyzer.
2. Check the size, purity, and concentration of the sample.

Manual Method

If a Bioanalyzer is not available, perform the following steps.

1. Determine the concentration of the library by measuring its absorbance at 260 nm. The yield from the protocol should be between 500 and 1000 ng of DNA.
2. Measure the 260/280 ratio. It should be approximately 1.8.
3. Load 10% of the volume of the library on a gel and check that the size range is as expected. It is similar in size to the size-range excised during the gel purification step (~85 bp).
4. Multiply this size by 650 (the molecular mass of a base pair) to get the molecular weight of the library. Use this number to calculate the molar concentration of the library.



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