

Protocol	#4.1
Title	BOMB clean-up and size exclusion using silica beads
Keywords	Silica beads, nucleic acid clean-up, size exclusion
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Citation	Oberacker et al. (2019), Bio-On-Magnetic-Beads (BOMB): Open platform for high-throughput
	nucleic acid manipulation. PLOS Biology,17(1), https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000107
Online	https://bomb.bio/protocols/
Revision	V1.1 (14 th January 2019)

Summary

This clean-up and size exclusion protocol is designed to purify DNA from enzymatic reactions. The procedure utilises the effects of chaotropic salts on the binding affinity of the negatively charged DNA backbone [1] to silicacoated magnetic beads (BOMB protocol #2.1), allowing the size specific clean-up of the desired molecules, depending of the amount of added binding buffer (Fig 1A). Furthermore, we were able to optimise the clean-up and buffer conditions to a degree where we were able to recover up to 95% of the purified DNA (Fig 1B).

Chemicals

Name	Provider	PN	MW [g/mol]	Si	afety codes
2,2-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-2,2',2"- nitrilotriethanol / Bis-Tris (C ₈ H ₁₉ NO ₅)	Sigma- Aldrich	B9754- 100G	209.24	n.a.	n.a.
Ethanol (C₂H₀O, 99.9%)	Honeywell / Riedel-de Haën	34963	46.07	de la constantia de la	H: 225-319 P: 210-280- 305+351+338- 308+313
Guanidinium chloride / Gu-HCl (CH₅N₃ · HCl)	Roth Chemicals	0037.1	95.53	() Warning	H: 302+332-315- 319 P: 261-280- 301+312-330- 304+340+312- 305+351+338- 337+313
Hydrochlorid acid fuming (HCl _(aq) , 37%)	Roth Chemicals	4625.2	36.46	Danger	H: 290-314-335 P: 280- 303+361+353- 304+340- 305+351+338-310
Phenolsulfonephthalein / Phenol Red (C19H13NaO5S)	Honeywell / Riedel-de Haën	10418120	376.35	(i) Warning	H: 315-319-335 P: 302+352-362- 305+351+338-280
Tris(hydroxymethyl)- aminomethane / Tris (C ₄ H ₁₁ NO ₃)	Roth Chemicals	AE15.3	121.14	() Warning	H: 315-319-335 P: 280-302+352- 305+351+338-312

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Please consult appropriate MSDS information before working with these chemicals! Use lab coat, gloves and eye protection at all times! The chemicals are available from other providers as well. No preference is given to the indicated vendors.

Buffers and solutions

Binding buffer (100 μ l per 50 μ l sample) – can be stored at RT for at least 12 months, prepare fresh if colour changes

Reagent	Concentrations	For 50 ml
Gu-HCl	3 M	14.33 g
Bis-Tris	10 mM	104.6 mg
Ethanol	90%	~45 ml
Phenol Red (optional)	40 µM	50 μl of 40 mM stock in

Dissolve the Gu-HCl and Bis-Tris by adding Ethanol (99.9%) to a final volume of 45 ml and add an additional 4 ml ddH₂O. Dissolve by shaking, vortexing and incubation at e.g. 65 °C for a few minutes. Adjust pH with HCl until the solution turns yellow (pH < 6.5) and adjust the volume with water to 50 ml.

80% ethanol (200 µl per sample, 20 ml per 96) - can be stored at RT for at least 12 months if closed properly

Elution buffer (40 μ l per sample, 4 ml per 96) – can be stored at RT for at least 12 months

5 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5

Consumables and equipment

Plate centrifuge with swing-out rotor (e.g. Eppendorf Centrifuge 5804R)

Microtiter plate orbital shaker (e.g. IKA MS 3 basic)

Magnetic stand for 96-well plate (e.g. BOMB microplate magnetic rack)

Multichannel pipettes

30 – 300 µl (e.g. Eppendorf, Eppendorf Research® plus, 8-channel – PN: 3125000052)

50 – 1200 μl (e.g. VWR, Multi-channel pipette, 8-channel – PN: 613-5422)

96-well PCR plate (e.g. Sarstedt - PN: 72.1979.102)

Reservoirs (e.g. Roth, Rotilabo[®]-liquid reservoirs – PN: E830.2)

Seals (e.g. Bio-Rad, Microseal[®] 'B' Adhesive Seals – PN: MSB1001)





BOMB Clean-up and size exclusion using silica-coated magnetic beads

Step	Clean-up	Time	\checkmark
1	Combine your DNA sample with 5 μ l stock solution of silica-coated magnetic beads (BOMB protocol #2.1) and 2 volumes of binding buffer (for size exclusion see Modification 1) in a 96-well PCR plate and mix until you receive a homogenous suspension	5 min	
2	Seal and shake at RT at 1300 rpm for 5 min	5 min	
3 <u>^</u>	Settle the magnetic beads on a magnetic stand and discard the supernatant Ensure that the beads are completely settled	5 min	
4	Remove the plate from the magnetic stand and add 100 μl 80% ethanol and mix well (by pipetting, or seal, vortex and spin down)	5 min	
5	Settle the magnetic beads on a magnetic stand and discard the supernatant	5 min	
6	Repeat steps 4-5 once for a total of 2 washes	10 min	
7	Remove the supernatant completely and incubate at RT (or higher) for approximately 5-10 min to dry the beads	5 min	
\triangle	Make sure to remove all remaining ethanol		
8	Add 15-20 μ l of elution buffer or ddH ₂ O to elute the DNA from the beads, mix well for 5 min (shake at 1300 rpm) and spin down briefly	5 min	
9	Settle the magnetic beads on a magnetic stand and transfer the supernatant to a collection plate/tube	10 min	
End	Measure concentration	~1 h (45 min har	nds-on)
Ħ	Store @ -20 °C or 4 °C		

Modifications

1. Size exclusion

To achieve accurate size exclusion lower binding buffer to sample ratios need to be used. Therefore, benchmark every batch of silica-coated magnetic beads and binding buffer using the ratios as recommended in Fig 1A of the exemplary results section of this protocol (p. 4).

2. Microcentrifuge tubes

The protocol above was designed for a 96-well microplate format. It is also possible to use 1.5 ml microcentrifuge reaction tubes. This allows an easier and faster handling for smaller sample numbers (up to 24). For the washing step, up to 500 µl 80% ethanol can be used. The clean-up of up to 24 samples using microcentrifuge tubes takes about 30 min total.





Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Low DNA recovery	 DNA/beads-ratio: use the volume ratios outlined in the exemplary results section of this protocol Buffer composition: use freshly prepared ethanol solution, as ethanol evaporates over time. Too low ethanol concentration might cause the DNA to detach from the beads during washing Buffer volume: During elution the beads need to be covered completely with liquid, make sure to use enough water or elution buffer
	 Incubation: elute the DNA from the beads for a longer time (~5 min) Remaining ethanol: please ensure that no ethanol is present in the sample before elution
Bad DNA quality (260/280 < 1.6)	• Carried-over magnetic beads : Increase time of magnetic pelleting and pipette carefully to avoid aspirating beads. Re-pellet the beads and move the eluate to a new container

Exemplary results



Figure 1: Clean-up and size exclusion of DNA. (A) Size exclusion of GeneRuler DNA Ladder mix (Thermo) using silica-coated magnetic beads (see protocol above). Different volumes of binding buffer (BB) compared to sample volume were used to achieve size exclusion; as a comparison 2 volumes of commercial BB were used. (B) Total recovery of ~6 µg plasmid DNA (pUC19, input) using either a commercial kit utilising silica-packed columns (kit) or the #4.1 clean-up protocol with silica-coated beads (BOMB). For binding either commercial binding buffer (cBB) or the binding buffer (BB) described in the BOMB protocol above was used. Error bars show standard deviation, n=3.

References

1. Vogelstein B, Gillespie D. Preparative and analytical purification of DNA from agarose. Proc Natl Acad Sci. 1979;76: 615–619. doi:10.1073/pnas.76.2.615

