
Gel-Clear™ Destain Solution

Protocol

The following protocol is for 1 or 2 mini-gels.

Staining

1. After running, transfer the gels to a 1.4 quart microwave-safe, round, plastic container.
2. Add 75 ml (or enough to submerge gels) of fresh staining solution (0.1% Coomassie Blue R250 in 40% ethanol, 10% acetic acid—ethanol is preferred to methanol because it is less toxic).

Warning: *Do not heat the staining solution near any apparatus which is not well ventilated, or which can generate sparks. Alcohol fumes are flammable.*

3. Cover the container loosely and heat in a microwave oven at full power for 1 to 1.5 minutes (Do not allow the solution to boil. Avoid generating excessive alcohol fumes).
4. Shake on a rotary shaker for 15 minutes. Gels higher than 14% acrylamide may require 30 minutes of shaking to become saturated with stain.

Destaining

1. Pour the stain off the gels and rinse once with tap water.
2. Dilute the 10X Gel-Clear™ Destain Solution to a 1X working solution (1 part concentrate with 9 parts water). This solution is stable indefinitely.

Warning: *Gel-Clear™ Destain Solution contains acetic acid. Do not inhale vapor. Store separately from nitric acid or other oxidizing agents. Keep away from open flames. Dilute under fume hood. Use protective equipment.*

Destaining, continued

3. Add 75 ml (or enough to submerge gels) of 1X Gel-Clear™ Destain Solution to the gels and heat in a microwave at full power for 1 to 1.5 minutes. Shake for 15 minutes on a rotary shaker, reheat, and shake an additional 15 minutes.

Most bands will be visible after the first 15 minutes in destain and the gel will have a medium blue background. All bands will be visible after the second 15 minutes and the gel will have a light blue background. Allow the gel to continue shaking overnight to obtain a water-clear background. The destain solution will turn blue but does not need to be changed to obtain a clear background. Gel can be subsequently silver-stained.

Note: *The Gel-Clear Destaining Solution will become a cloudy medium blue. This differs from other destaining solutions which turn a color similar to Coomassie Blue.*

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