Quick-Load® *Taq* 2X Master Mix

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M0271S 026131114111

M0271S

100 reactions (50 µl vol) **Lot: 0261311**

RECOMBINANT Store at –20°C Exp: 11/14

Description: *Taq* DNA Polymerase is a thermostable DNA polymerase that possesses a 5´→ 3´ polymerase activity (1,2,3) and a 5´ flap endonuclease activity (4,5).

Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix is an optimized ready-to-use solution containing *Taq* DNA Polymerase, dNTPs, $MgCl_2$, KCl, tracking dyes and stabilizers. The presence of two commonly used tracking dyes for DNA gels, Orange G and Xylene Cyanol FF, gives the master mix a green color, allowing direct loading of the PCR reaction product onto agarose gels. On a 1% agarose gel in 1X TBE, Xylene Cyanol FF migrates at approximately 4 kb and Orange G migrates at approximately 50 bp. The amount of tracking dyes included does not mask co-migrating DNA bands. Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix is ideally suited to routine PCR applications from templates including pure DNA solutions, bacterial colonies, and cDNA products. It can amplify up to 4 kb from complex genomic DNA or up to 5 kb from lambda DNA.

Source: An *E. coli* strain that carries the *Taq* DNA Polymerase gene from *Thermus aquaticus* YT-1

Application:
- PCR
- Primer Extension
- High-Throughput PCR
- Colony PCR

Reagents Supplied with Enzyme:
25 mM $MgCl_2$

Reaction Conditions: 1X Quick-Load *Taq* Master Mix, DNA template and primers in a total reaction volume of 25 or 50 µl.

1X Quick-Load *Taq* Master Mix:
10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.6, @ 25°C)
50 mM KCl
1.5 mM $MgCl_2$
50 units/ml *Taq* DNA Polymerase
0.2 mM each dNTP
5% glycerol
0.08% IGEPAL® CA-630
0.05% Tween® 20
0.024% Orange G
0.0025% Xylene Cyanol FF

Unit Definition: One unit is defined as the amount of enzyme that will incorporate 10 nmol of dNTP into acid insoluble material in 30 minutes at 75°C.

Unit Assay Conditions: 1X ThermoPol® Reaction Buffer, 200 µM dNTPs including [^{3}H]-dTTP and 200 µg/ml activated Calf Thymus DNA.

Heat Inactivation: No

Quality Control Assays

5 kb Lambda PCR: 25 cycles of PCR amplification of 5 ng Lambda DNA, 0.2 µM primers and 1X Quick-Load *Taq* Master Mix results in the expected 5 kb product.

3´→ 5´ Exonuclease Activity: Incubation of a 20 µl reaction in ThermoPol Reaction Buffer containing a minimum of 20 units of *Taq* DNA Polymerase with 10 nM fluorescent internally labeled oligonucleotide for 30 minutes at either 37°C or 75°C yields no detectable 3´→ 5´ degradation as determined by capillary electrophoresis.

Endonuclease Activity: Incubation of a 50 µl reaction in ThermoPol Reaction Buffer containing a minimum of 20 units of *Taq* DNA Polymerase with 1 µg of supercoiled ϕX174 DNA for 4 hours at 75°C results in < 10% conversion to the nicked form as determined by agarose gel electrophoresis.

PCR

The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is a powerful and sensitive technique for DNA amplification (6). *Taq* DNA Polymerase is an enzyme widely used in PCR (7). The following guidelines are provided to ensure successful PCR using New England Biolabs' Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix. These guidelines cover routine PCR reactions. Amplification of templates with high GC content, high secondary structure, low template concentrations, or amplicons greater than 5 kb may require further optimization.

Reaction setup:

We recommend assembling all reaction components on ice and quickly transferring the reactions to a thermocycler preheated to the denaturation temperature (95°C).

COMPONENT	25 µl REACTION	50 µl REACTION	FINAL CONCENTRATION
10 µM Forward Primer	0.5 µl	1 µl	0.2 µM (0.05–1 µM)
10 µM Reverse Primer	0.5 µl	1 µl	0.2 µM (0.05–1 µM)
Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix	12.5 µl	25 µl	1X
Template DNA	variable	variable	<1,000 ng
Nuclease-Free Water	to 25 µl	to 50 µl	

Notes: Gently mix the reaction. Collect all liquid to the bottom of the tube by a quick spin if necessary. Overlay the sample with mineral oil if using a PCR machine without a heated lid.

Transfer PCR tubes from ice to a PCR machine with the block preheated to 95°C and begin thermocycling:

Thermocycling Conditions for a Routine PCR:

STEP	TEMP	TIME
Initial Denaturation	95°C	30 seconds
30 Cycles	95°C 45–68°C 68°C	15–30 seconds 15–60 seconds 1 minute/kb
Final Extension	68°C	5 minutes
Hold	4–10°C	

General Guidelines:

1. Template:
   Use of high quality, purified DNA templates greatly enhances the success of PCR reactions. Recommended amounts of DNA template for a 50 µl reaction are as follows:

DNA	AMOUNT
Genomic	1 ng–1 µg
Plasmid or Viral	1 pg–1 ng

2. Primers:
   Oligonucleotide primers are generally 20–40 nucleotides in length and ideally have a GC content of 40–60%. Computer programs such as Primer3 (http://frodo.wi.mit.edu/primer3) can be used to design or analyze primers. The final concentration of each primer in a PCR reaction may be 0.05–1 µM, typically 0.1–0.5 µM.

3. Mg^{++} and additives:
   Mg^{++} concentration of 1.5–2.0 mM is optimal for most PCR products generated with *Taq* DNA Polymerase. The final Mg^{++} concentration in 1X Quick-Load *Taq* Master Mix is 1.5 mM. This supports satisfactory amplification of most amplicons. However, Mg^{++} can be further optimized in 0.5 or 1.0 mM increments using $MgCl_2$.

   Amplification of some difficult targets, like GC-rich sequences, may be improved with additives, such as DMSO (8) or formamide (9).

4. Denaturation:
   An initial denaturation of 30 seconds at 95°C is sufficient for most amplicons from pure DNA templates. For difficult templates such as GC-rich sequences, a longer denaturation of 2–4 minutes at 95°C is recommended prior to PCR cycling to fully denature the template. With colony PCR, an initial 5 minute denaturation at 95°C is recommended.

   During thermocycling a 15–30 second denaturation at 95°C is recommended.

5. Annealing:
   The annealing step is typically 15–60 seconds. Annealing temperature is based on the T_m of the primer pair and is typically 45–68°C. Annealing temperatures can be optimized by doing a temperature gradient PCR starting 5°C below the calculated T_m. We recommend using NEB's T_m Calculator, available at www.neb.com/TmCalculator to determine appropriate annealing temperatures for PCR.

   When primers with annealing temperatures above 60°C are used, a 2-step PCR protocol is possible (see #8).

6. Extension:
   The recommended extension temperature is 68°C. Extension times are generally 1 minute per kb. A final extension of 5 minutes at 68°C is recommended.

7. Cycle number:
   Generally, 25–35 cycles yields sufficient product. Up to 45 cycles may be required to detect low-copy-number targets.

(see other side)

8. 2-step PCR:
When primers with annealing temperatures above 60°C are used, a 2-step thermocycling protocol is possible.

Thermocycling Conditions for a Routine 2-Step PCR:

STEP	TEMP	TIME
Initial Denaturation	95°C	30 seconds
30 Cycles	95°C 60–68°C	15–30 seconds 1 minute/kb
Final Extension	60–68°C	5 minutes
Hold	4–10°C	

11. PCR product:
The PCR products generated using *Taq* DNA Polymerase contain dA overhangs at the 3´–end; therefore the PCR products can be ligated to dT/dU-overhang vectors.

Notes: Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix is stable for fifteen freeze-thaw cycles when stored at –20°C

Quick-Load *Taq* 2X Master Mix is also stable for one week at 4°C, so for daily use, an aliquot may be kept at 4°C.

References:

1. Chien, A., Edgar, D.B. and Trela, J.M. (1976) *J. Bact.,* 127, 1550–1557.
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4. Longley, M.J., Bennett, S.E. and Mosbaugh D.W. (1990) *Nucleic Acids Res.,* 18, 7317–7322.
5. Lyamichev, V., Brow, M.A. and Dahlberg, J.E. (1993) *Science,* 260, 778–783.
6. Saiki R.K. et al. (1985) *Science,* 230, 1350–1354.
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8. Sun, Y., Hegamyer, G. and Colburn, N. (1993) *Biotechniques,* 15, 372–374.
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Companion Products Sold Separately:

Magnesium Chloride ($MgCl_2$) Solution
#B9021S 6.0 ml

Tm-5 Annealing temperature

ISO 9001 Registered Quality Management
ISO 14001 Registered Environmental Management
ISO 13485 Registered Medical Devices

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