

Edvo-Kit #

130

Edvo-Kit #130

DNA Fingerprinting by PCR Amplification

Experiment Objective:

The objective of this experiment is to develop a basic understanding of DNA Fingerprinting. Students will analyze PCR reactions obtained from different suspects and compare them to a crime scene sample.

See page 3 for storage instructions.

Version 130.210628

EDVOTEK®

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Experiment Components

READY-TO-LOAD™ SAMPLES FOR ELECTROPHORESIS

Components (in QuickStrip™ format)

Store QuickStrip™ samples in the refrigerator upon receipt.

A	DNA Standard Marker	☐
B	Crime scene PCR reaction	☐
C	Suspect 1 PCR reaction	☐
D	Suspect 2 PCR reaction	☐
E	Suspect 3 PCR reaction	☐

Check (✓)

Experiment #130 is designed for 8 groups.

Store QuickStrip™ samples in the refrigerator immediately upon receipt. All other components can be stored at room temperature.

REAGENTS & SUPPLIES

Store the following at room temperature.

•	UltraSpec-Agarose™	☐
•	Electrophoresis Buffer (50x)	☐
•	Practice Gel Loading Solution	☐
•	FlashBlue™ DNA Stain	☐

Requirements

- Horizontal gel electrophoresis apparatus
- D.C. power supply
- Automatic micropipettes with tips
- Balance
- Microwave, hot plate or burner
- Pipet pump
- 250 mL flasks or beakers
- Hot gloves
- Safety goggles and disposable laboratory gloves
- Small plastic trays or large weigh boats (for gel destaining)
- DNA visualization system (white light)
- Distilled or deionized water

All experiment components are intended for educational research only. They are not to be used for diagnostic or drug purposes, nor administered to or consumed by humans or animals.

Background Information

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is present in every living cell. It is the genetic material that acts as the blueprint for protein synthesis by cells. In mammals, a large fraction of the total DNA does not code for proteins. Polymorphic DNA refers to chromosomal regions that vary among individuals. By examining several of these regions within genomic DNA, one can determine a "DNA Fingerprint" for an individual. DNA polymorphisms are now widely used for determining paternity/maternity, kinship, identification of human remains, and to determine the genetic basis of various inherited diseases. The most widely used and far-reaching application has been to the field of criminal forensics. DNA from crime victims and offenders can now be definitively matched, affecting outcomes of criminal and civil trials.

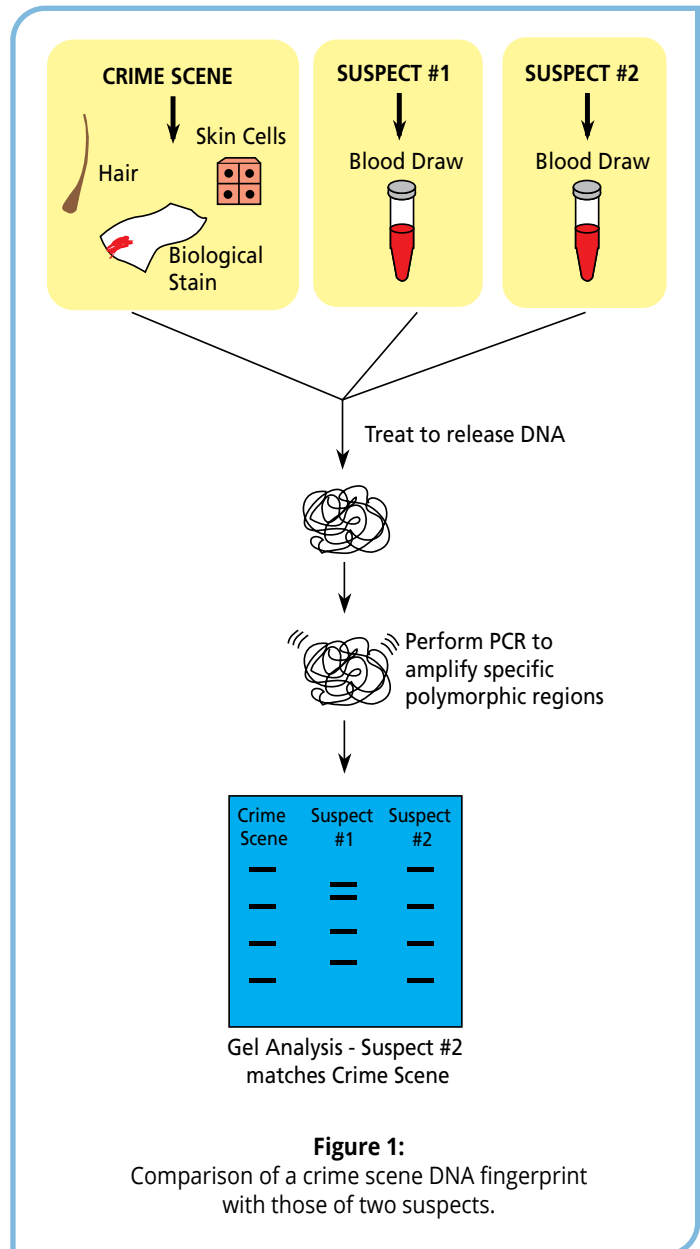
DNA fingerprinting was first used as a forensic tool in the United Kingdom in 1984, following the pioneering work of Dr. Alex Jeffreys. Analysis by Jeffreys led to the apprehension of a murderer in the first DNA fingerprinting case in September 1987. The first U.S. conviction occurred on November 6, 1987 in Orlando, FL. Since then, DNA analysis has been used in thousands of convictions. Additionally, over 70 convicted prison inmates have been exonerated from their crimes, including eight death row inmates.

In 1990, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) established the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a system that allows comparison of crime scene DNA to DNA profiles of convicted offenders. CODIS has now been used to solve dozens of cases where authorities had no suspect for the crime under investigation.

The first step in forensic DNA fingerprinting is the collection of blood or other tissue samples from the crime scene or victim (Figure 1). A blood sample, often present as a stain, is treated with a reagent mixture that contains detergent to rupture the cell membrane and obtain DNA for further analysis. When this technology was in its early stages, a method, called restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis, was used.

RFLP involves digesting the DNA with restriction enzymes, separation on an agarose gel, transferring the DNA to a membrane, and hybridizing the DNA on the membrane with probes to detect polymorphic regions. This procedure, known as a Southern Blot, requires relatively large amounts of DNA and takes several weeks to complete.

More recently, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has been used in forensics to analyze DNA (See Figure 2 on page 5). This technique requires about 500-fold less DNA than RFLP analysis and is less time-consuming. PCR



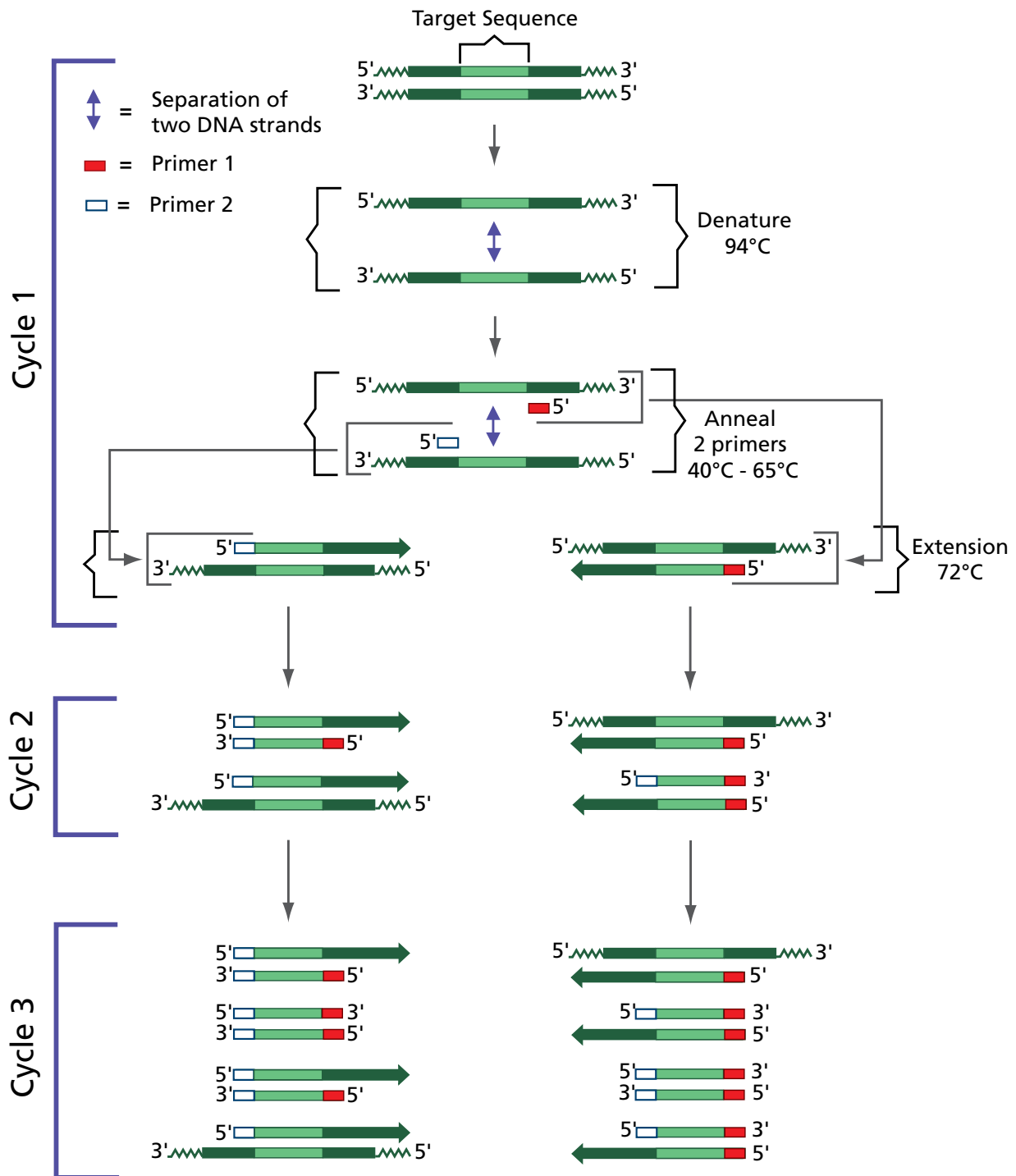
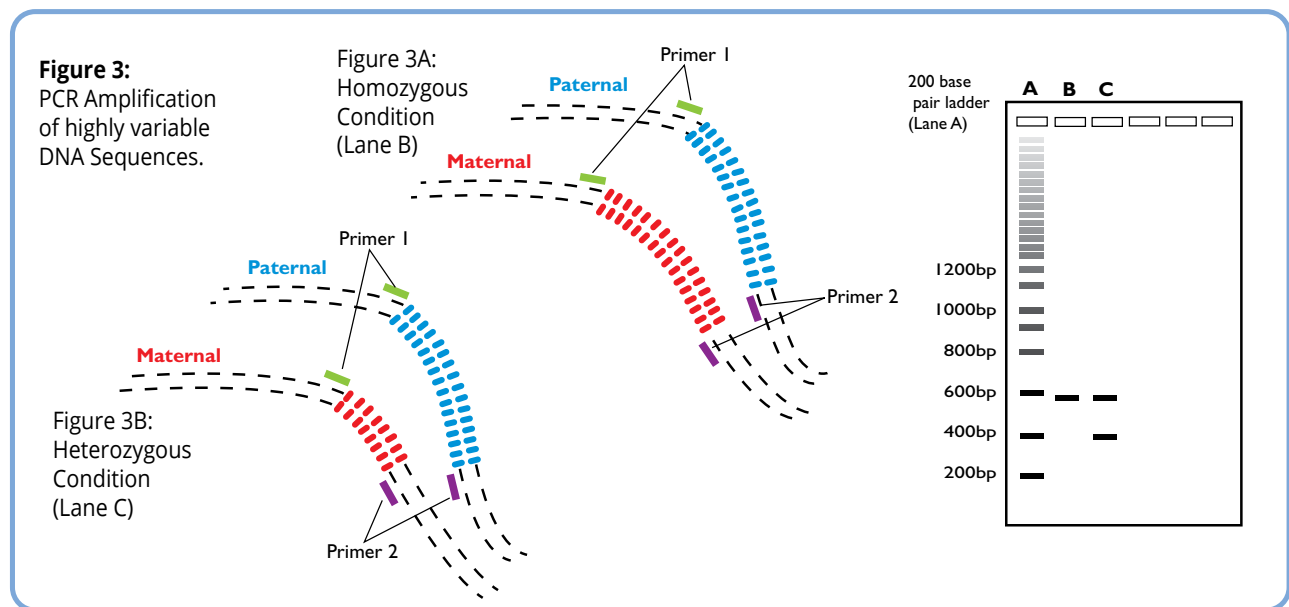


Figure 2:
DNA Amplification by the Polymerase
Chain Reaction

amplification (Figure 2, page 5) uses an enzyme known as *Taq* DNA polymerase. This enzyme was originally purified from a bacterium that inhabits hot springs and is stable at very high (near boiling) temperatures. Also included in the PCR reaction mixture are two synthetic oligonucleotides known as “primers” and the extracted DNA. The region in DNA to be amplified is known as the “target”.

In the first step of the PCR reaction, the template complementary DNA strands are separated (denatured) from each other at 94° C while the *Taq* DNA polymerase remains stable. In the second step, known as annealing, the sample is cooled to an intermediate temperature, usually 40° - 65° C, to allow hybridization of the two primers, one to each of the two strands of the template DNA. In the third step, known as extension, the temperature is raised to 72° C and the *Taq* polymerase adds nucleotides to the primers to complete the synthesis of the new complementary strands. These three steps - denaturation, annealing, and extension - constitute one PCR “cycle”. This process is typically repeated for 20-40 cycles, amplifying the target sequence in DNA exponentially (Figure 2, page 5). PCR is performed in a thermal cycler, an instrument that is programmed to rapidly heat, cool and maintain samples at designated temperatures for varying amounts of time.

In forensics, PCR is used to amplify and examine highly variable (polymorphic) DNA regions (Figure 3). These are regions that vary in length from individual to individual and fall into two categories: 1) variable number of tandem repeats (VNTR) and 2) STR (short tandem repeats). A VNTR is a region that varies amongst individuals and is typically composed of 15 to 70 base pair sequences, repeated 5 to 100 times. An STR is similar to a VNTR except that the repeated unit is only 2 to 4 nucleotides in length. By examining several different VNTRs or STRs from the same individual, investigators obtain a unique DNA profile for that individual that is unlike that of any other person (except for identical twins).



Experiment Overview

EXPERIMENT OBJECTIVE

The objective of this experiment is to develop a basic understanding of DNA Fingerprinting. Students will analyze PCR reactions obtained from different suspects and compare them to a crime scene sample.

LABORATORY SAFETY

1. Gloves and goggles should be worn routinely as good laboratory practice.
2. Exercise extreme caution when working with equipment that is used in conjunction with the heating and/or melting of reagents.
3. DO NOT MOUTH PIPET REAGENTS - USE PIPET PUMPS.
4. Exercise caution when using any electrical equipment in the laboratory.
5. Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling reagents or biological materials in the laboratory.



LABORATORY NOTEBOOKS

Scientists document everything that happens during an experiment, including experimental conditions, thoughts and observations while conducting the experiment, and, of course, any data collected. Today, you'll be documenting your experiment in a laboratory notebook or on a separate worksheet.

Before starting the Experiment:

- Carefully read the introduction and the protocol. Use this information to form a hypothesis for this experiment.
- Predict the results of your experiment.

During the Experiment:

- Record your observations.

After the Experiment:

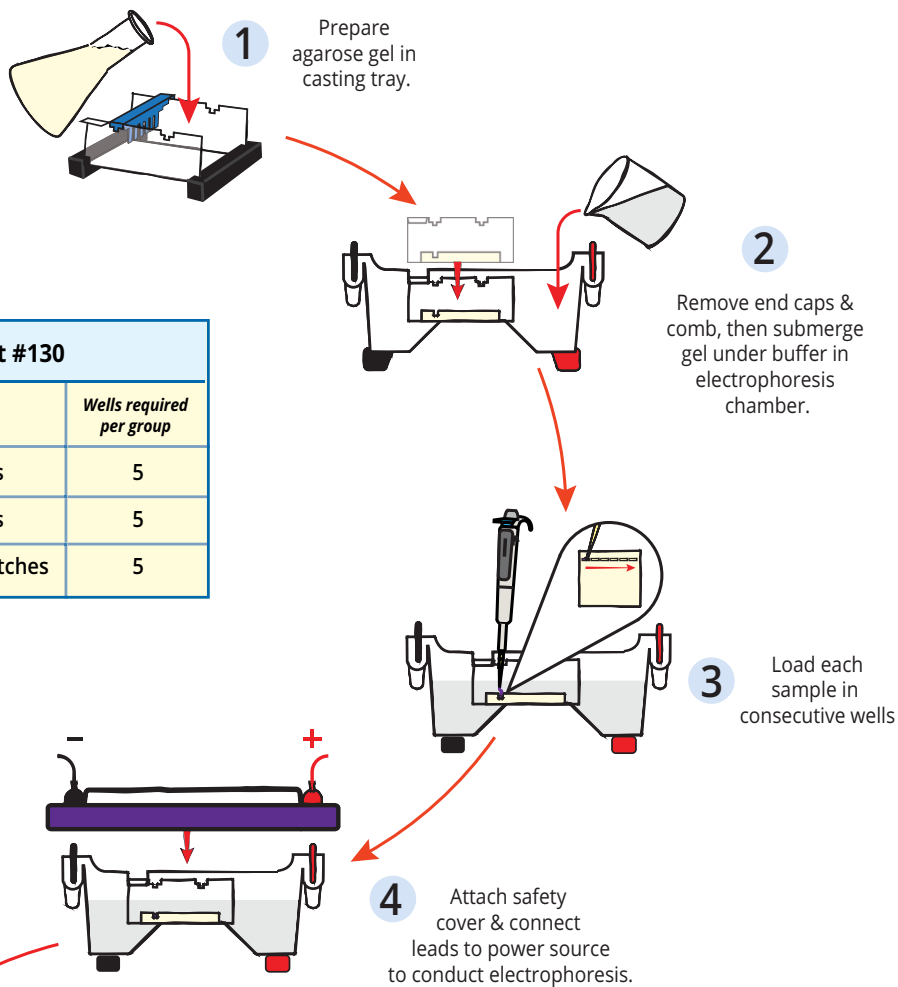
- Interpret the results – does your data support or contradict your hypothesis?
- If you repeated this experiment, what would you change? Revise your hypothesis to reflect this change.

Experiment Overview

MODULE I: Agarose Gel Electrophoresis

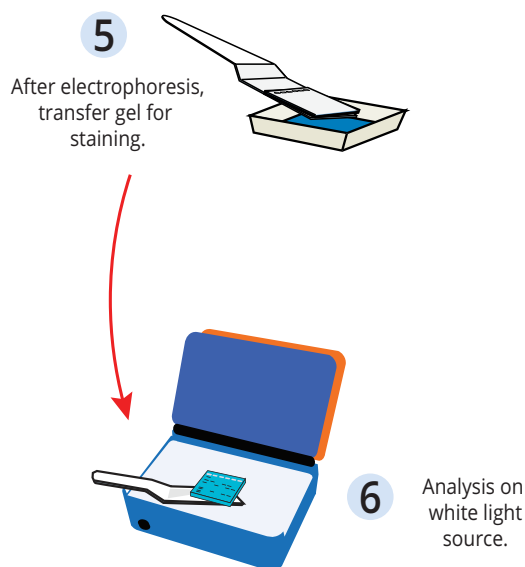
Time required: See Table C

Quick Reference for EDVO-Kit #130			
Size of gel casting tray	Groups per gel	Placement of comb	Wells required per group
7 x 7 cm	1 group	1st set of notches	5
10 x 7 cm	1 group	1st set of notches	5
14 x 7 cm	2 groups	1st and 3rd sets of notches	5

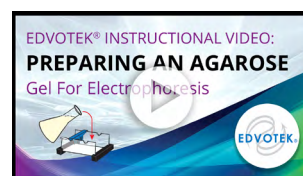
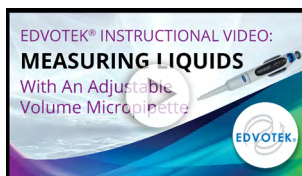


MODULE II: Staining Agarose Gels Using FlashBlue™

Time required: 30 min.

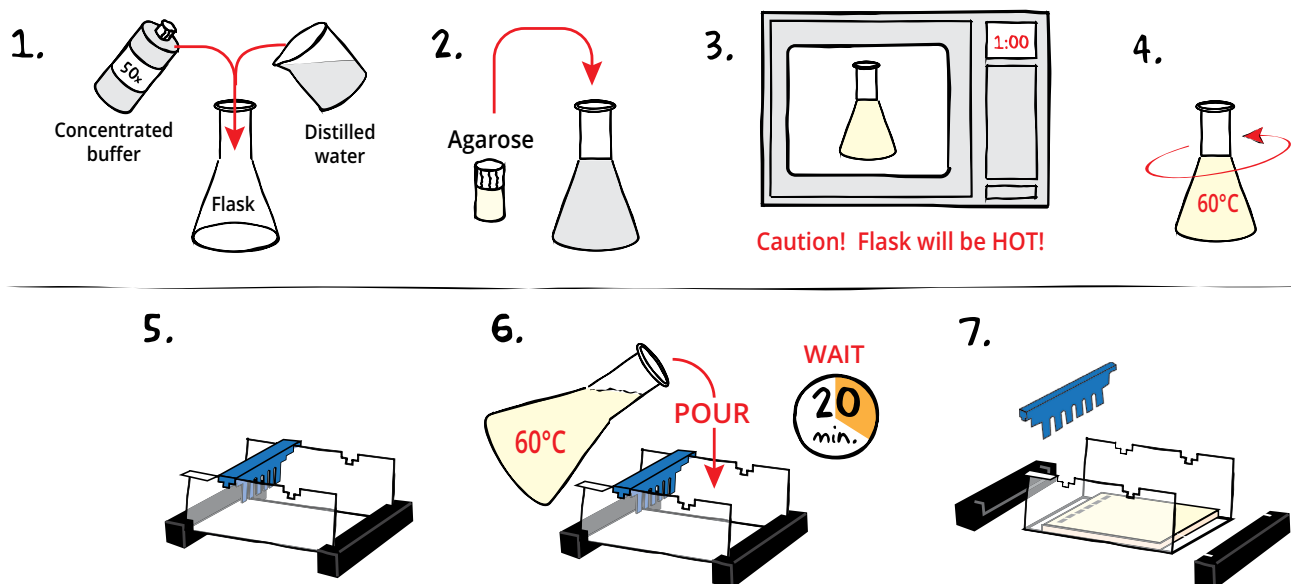


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www.youtube.com/edvotekinc

Module I: Agarose Gel Electrophoresis



CASTING THE AGAROSE GEL

- DILUTE** concentrated 50X Electrophoresis buffer with distilled water (refer to Table A for correct volumes depending on the size of your gel casting tray).
- MIX** agarose powder with buffer solution in a 250 mL flask (refer to Table A).
- DISSOLVE** agarose powder by boiling the solution. **MICROWAVE** the solution on high for 1 minute. Carefully **REMOVE** the flask from the microwave and **MIX** by swirling the flask. Continue to **HEAT** the solution in 15-second bursts until the agarose is completely dissolved (the solution should be clear like water).
- COOL** agarose to 60 °C with careful swirling to promote even dissipation of heat.
- While agarose is cooling, **SEAL** the ends of the gel-casting tray with the rubber end caps. **PLACE** the well template (comb) in the appropriate notch.
- POUR** the cooled agarose solution into the prepared gel-casting tray. The gel should thoroughly solidify within 20 minutes. The gel will stiffen and become less transparent as it solidifies.
- REMOVE** end caps and comb. Take particular care when removing the comb to prevent damage to the wells.



Wear gloves
and safety goggles

REMINDER:

This experiment
requires 0.8%
agarose gels cast
with 6 wells.

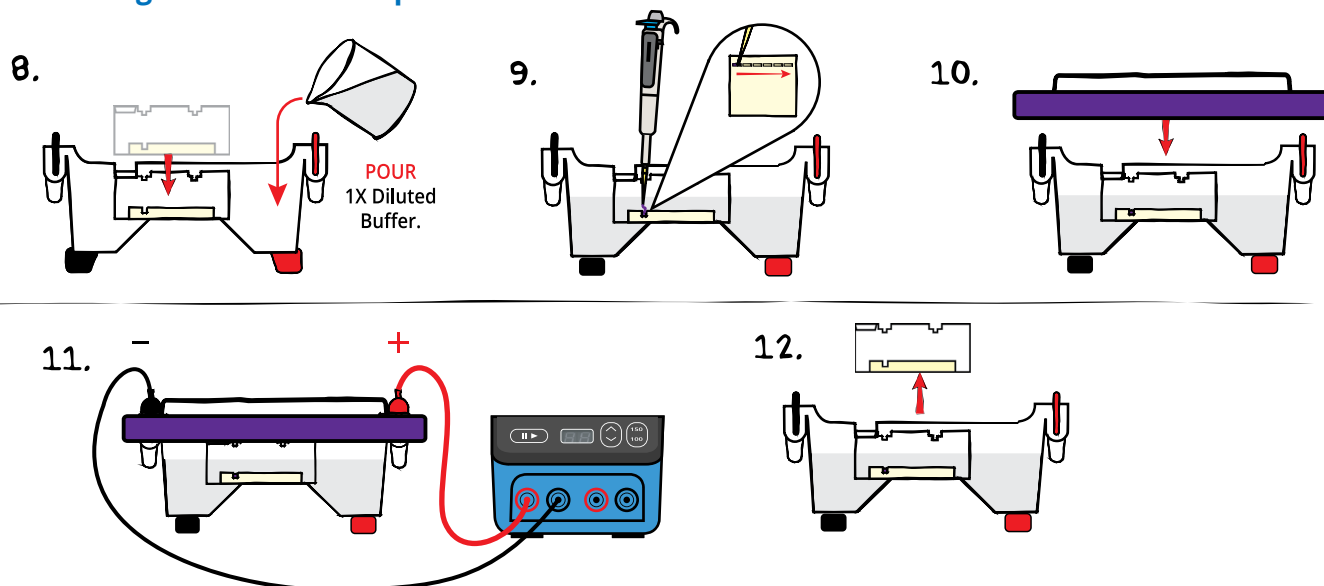
Table
A

Individual 0.8% UltraSpec-Agarose™ Gels

Size of Gel Casting tray	Concentrated Buffer (50x)	+ Distilled Water	+ Amt of Agarose	= TOTAL Volume
7 x 7 cm	0.6 mL	29.4 mL	0.24 g	30 mL
10 x 7 cm*	0.9 mL	44.1 mL	0.36 g	45 mL
14 x 7 cm	1.2 mL	58.8 mL	0.48 g	60 mL

*Recommended gel volume for the EDGE™ Integrated Electrophoresis System. (Cat. #500).

Module I: Agarose Gel Electrophoresis



RUNNING THE GEL

8. **PLACE** the gel (still on the tray*) into the electrophoresis chamber. **COVER** the gel with 1X Electrophoresis Buffer (See Table B for recommended volumes). The gel should be completely submerged.
9. **PUNCTURE** the foil overlay of the QuickStrip™ with a pipet tip. **LOAD** the entire sample (35 µL) into the well in the order indicated by Table 1, at right.
10. **PLACE** safety cover on the unit. **CHECK** that the gel is properly oriented. Remember, the DNA samples will migrate toward the positive (red) electrode.
11. **CONNECT** leads to the power source and **PERFORM** electrophoresis (See Table C for time and voltage guidelines). Allow the tracking dye to migrate at least 3 cm from the wells.
12. After electrophoresis is complete, **REMOVE** the gel and casting tray from the electrophoresis chamber.

REMINDER:
Before loading the samples, make sure the gel is properly oriented in the apparatus chamber.

TABLE 1: GEL LOADING

Lane	Tube	Sample
1	Tube A	DNA Standard Marker
2	Tube B	Crime scene PCR reaction
3	Tube C	Suspect 1 PCR reaction
4	Tube D	Suspect 2 PCR reaction
5	Tube E	Suspect 3 PCR reaction

Table B

1x Electrophoresis Buffer (Chamber Buffer)

EDVOTEK Model #	Total Volume Required	50x Conc. Buffer	Dilution + Distilled Water
EDGE™	150 mL	3 mL	147 mL
M12	400 mL	8 mL	392 mL
M36	1000 mL	20 mL	980 mL

Table C

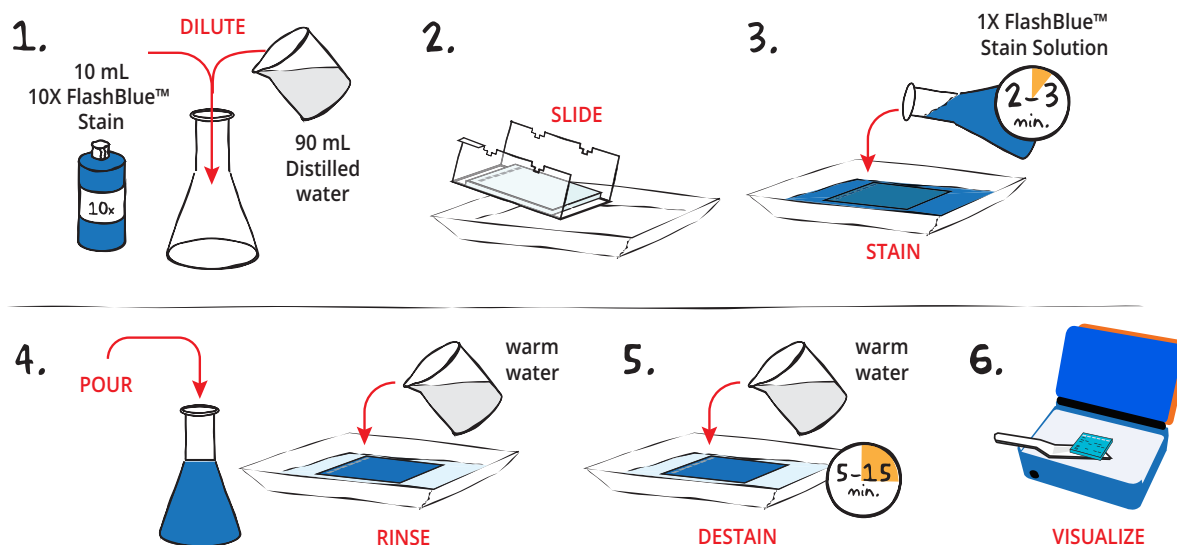
Time and Voltage Guidelines (0.8% Agarose Gel)

Electrophoresis Model		
	EDGE™	M12 & M36
Volts	Min/Max (minutes)	Min/Max (minutes)
150	10/20	20/35
125	N/A	30/45
100	15/25	40/60

PROCEED to Module II: Staining Agarose Gels Using FlashBlue™.

*Gels that have previously been removed from their trays should be "anchored" back to the tray with a few drops of molten agarose before placing into the electrophoresis chamber. This will prevent the gels from sliding around in the trays and the chambers.

Module II: Staining Agarose Gels Using FlashBlue™



1. **DILUTE** 10 mL of 10X concentrated FlashBlue™ with 90 mL of distilled water in a flask. **MIX** well.
2. **REMOVE** the agarose gel and casting tray from the electrophoresis chamber. **SLIDE** the gel off the casting tray into a small, clean gel-staining tray.
3. **COVER** the gel with the 1X FlashBlue™ stain solution. **STAIN** the gel for 2-3 minutes. For best results, use an orbital shaker to gently agitate the gel while staining. **STAINING THE GEL FOR LONGER THAN 3 MINUTES WILL REQUIRE EXTRA DESTAINING TIME.**
4. **POUR** the 1X FlashBlue™ back into the flask (the stain can be reused). **COVER** the gel with warm water (40-45 °C). Gently **RINSE** the gel for 20-30 seconds. **POUR** off the water.
5. **COVER** the gel with clean, warm water (40-45 °C). **DESTAIN** for 5-15 minutes with gentle shaking (longer periods will yield better results). DNA bands will start to appear after 5 minutes of destaining. Changing the water frequently will accelerate destaining.
6. Carefully **REMOVE** the gel from the destaining liquid. **VISUALIZE** results using a white light visualization system. DNA will appear as dark blue bands on a light blue background.



ALTERNATIVE FLASHBLUE™ STAINING PROTOCOL:

1. **DILUTE** 1 mL of 10X FlashBlue™ stain with 149 mL distilled water.
2. **COVER** the gel with diluted FlashBlue™ stain.
3. **SOAK** the gel in the staining liquid for at least three hours. For best results, stain gels overnight.
4. Carefully **REMOVE** the gel from the staining liquid. **VISUALIZE** results using a white light visualization system. DNA will appear as dark blue bands on a light blue background.

Module III: Data Analysis Using a Standard Curve

Agarose gel electrophoresis separates biomolecules into discrete bands, each comprising molecules of the same size. How can these results be used to determine the lengths of different fragments? Remember, as the length of a biomolecule increases, the distance to which the molecule can migrate decreases because large molecules cannot pass through the channels in the gel with ease. Therefore, the migration rate is inversely proportional to the length of the molecules—more specifically, to the $\log_{10}$ of molecule's length. To illustrate this, we ran a sample that contains bands of known lengths called a "standard". We will measure the distance that each of these bands traveled to create a graph, known as a "standard curve", which can then be used to extrapolate the size of unknown molecule(s).

1. Measure and Record Migration Distances

Measure the distance traveled by each Standard DNA Fragment from the lower edge of the sample well to the lower end of each band. Record the distance in centimeters (to the nearest millimeter) in your notebook. Repeat this for each DNA fragment in the standard.

Measure and record the migration distances of each of the fragments in the unknown samples in the same way you measured the standard bands.

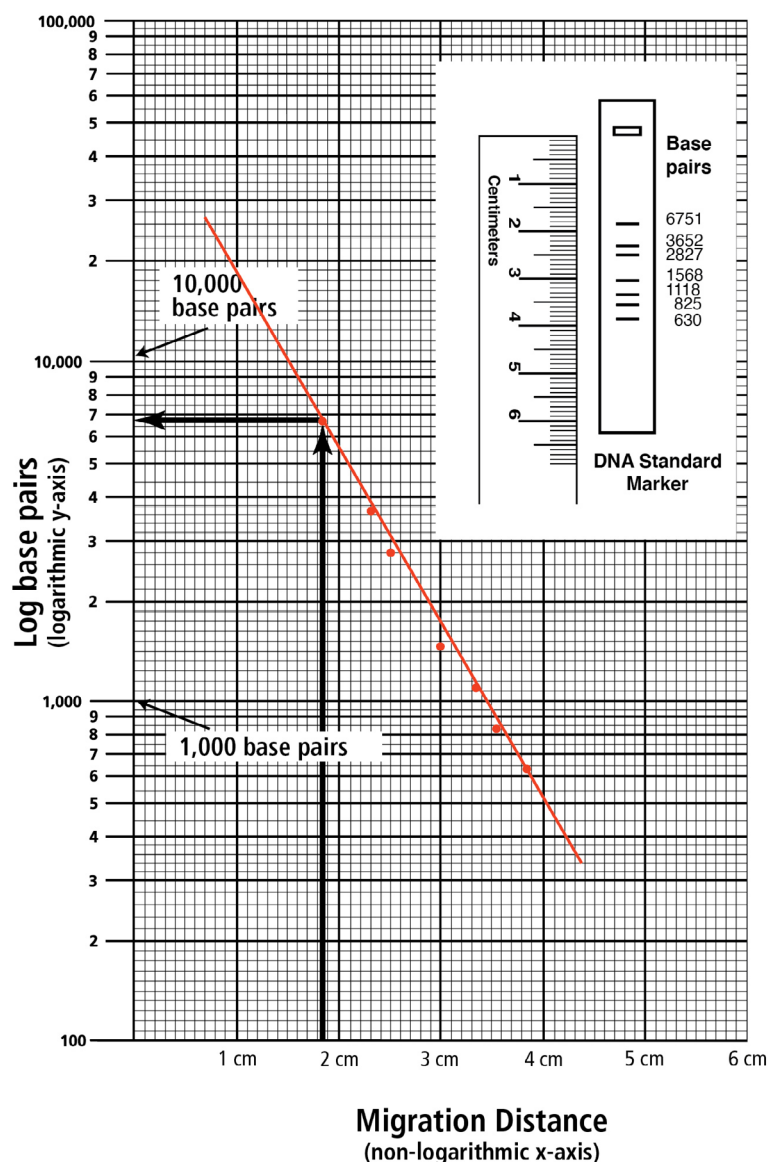
2. Generate a Standard Curve

Because migration rate is inversely proportional to the $\log_{10}$ of band length, plotting the data as a semi-log plot will produce a straight line and allow us to analyze an exponential range of fragment sizes. You will notice that the vertical axis of the semi-log plot appears atypical at first; the distance between numbers shrinks as the axis progresses from 1 to 9. This is because the axis represents a logarithmic scale. The first cycle on the y-axis corresponds to lengths from 100-1,000 base pairs, the second cycle measures 1,000-10,000 base pairs, and so on. To create a standard curve on the semi-log paper, plot the distance each Standard DNA fragment migrated on the x-axis (in mm) versus its size on the y-axis (in base pairs). Be sure to label the axes!



Figure 2: Measure distance migrated from the lower edge of the well to the lower edge of each band.

Figure 3: Semilog graph example



Module III: Data Analysis Using a Standard Curve

After all the points have been plotted, use a ruler or a straight edge to draw the best straight line possible through the points. The line should have approximately equal numbers of points scattered on each side of the line. It is okay if the line runs through some points (see Figure 3 for an example).

Quick Reference:

DNA Standard fragment sizes - length is expressed in base pairs.

6751, 3652, 2827, 1568,
1118, 825, 630

3. Determine the length of each unknown fragment.

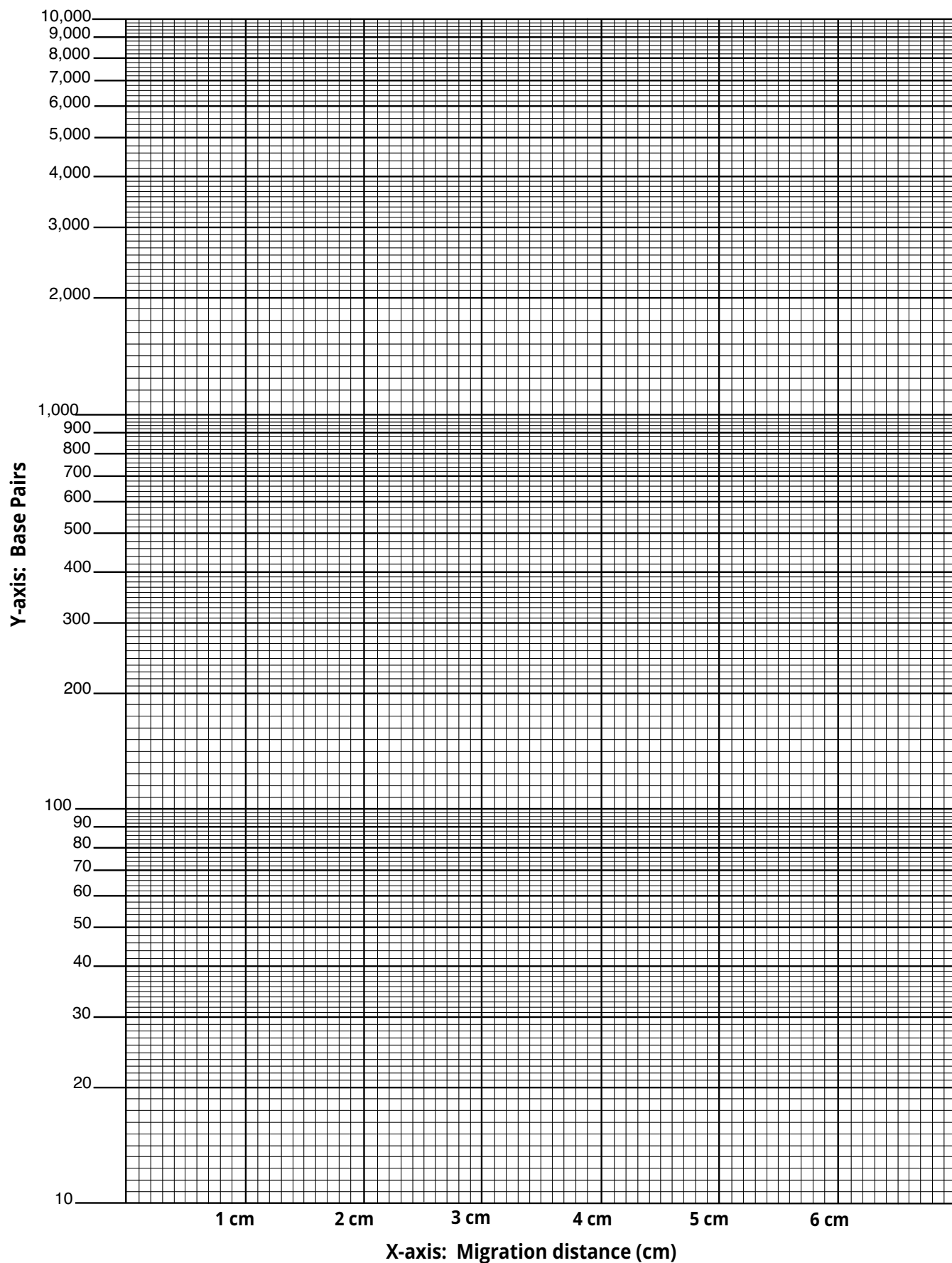
- Locate the migration distance of the unknown fragment on the x-axis of your semi-log graph. Draw a vertical line extending from that point until it intersects the line of your standard curve.
- From the point of intersection, draw a second line, this time horizontally, toward the y-axis. The value at which this line intersects the y-axis represents the approximate size of the fragment in base pairs (refer to Figure 3 for an example). Make note of this in your lab notebook.
- Repeat for each fragment in your unknown sample.

Includes EDVOTEK's All-NEW DNA Standard Marker

- Better separation
- Easier band measurements
- No unused bands

NEW DNA Standard ladder sizes:
6751, 3652, 2827, 1568, 1118, 825, 630





Study Questions

1. What is polymorphic DNA? How is it used for identification purposes?
2. What is CODIS? How is it used to solve crimes?
3. What is an STR? A VNTR? Which (STR or VNTR) is predominantly now used in law enforcement? Why?

Instructor's Guide

ADVANCE PREPARATION:

PREPARATION FOR:	WHAT TO DO:	WHEN?	TIME REQUIRED:
Module I: Agarose Gel Electrophoresis	Prepare QuickStrips™.	Up to one day before performing the experiment.	45 min.
	Prepare diluted electrophoresis buffer.		
	Prepare molten agarose and pour gels.		
Module II: Staining Agarose Gels Using FlashBlue™	Prepare staining components.	The class period or overnight after the class period.	10 min.

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Pre-Lab Preparations: Module I

AGAROSE GEL ELECTROPHORESIS

This experiment requires 0.8% agarose gels. Enough reagents are provided to cast either eight 7 x 7 cm gels, eight 10 x 7 cm gels, or four 14 x 7 cm gels. You can choose whether to prepare the gels in advance or have students prepare their own. Allow approximately 30 minutes for this procedure.

Quick Reference for EDVO-Kit #130			
Size of gel casting tray	Groups per gel	Placement of comb	Wells required per group
7 x 7 cm	1 group	1st set of notches	5
10 x 7 cm	1 group	1st set of notches	5
14 x 7 cm	2 groups	1st and 3rd sets of notches	5

Individual Gel Preparation:

Each student group can be responsible for casting their own individual gel prior to conducting the experiment. See Module I in the Student's Experimental Procedure. Students will need 50x concentrated buffer, distilled water and agarose powder.

Batch Gel Preparation:

To save time, a larger quantity of agarose solution can be prepared for sharing by the class. Electrophoresis buffer can also be prepared in bulk. See Appendix B.

Preparing Gels in Advance:

Gels may be prepared ahead and stored for later use. Solidified gels can be stored under buffer in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

Do not freeze gels at -20 °C as freezing will destroy the gels.

Gels that have been removed from their trays for storage should be "anchored" back to the tray with a few drops of molten agarose before being placed into the tray. This will prevent the gels from sliding around in the trays and the chambers.

SAMPLES FORMAT: PREPARING THE QUICKSTRIPS™

QuickStrip™ tubes consist of a microtiter block covered with a protective foil overlay. Each well contains pre-aliquoted sample.

Using sharp scissors, carefully divide the block of tubes into individual strips by cutting between the rows (see diagram at right). Take care not to damage the foil overlay while separating the samples.

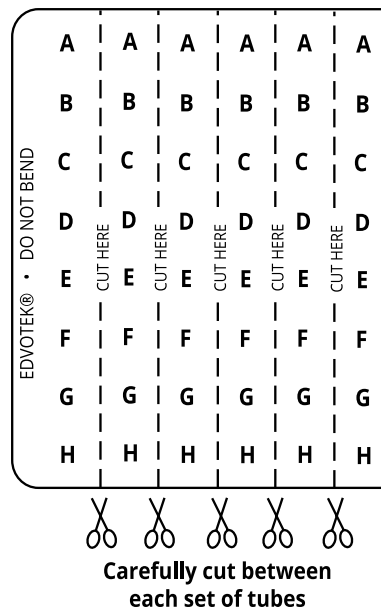
Each lab group will receive one set of tubes. Before loading the gel, remind students to tap the tubes to collect the sample at the bottom of the tube. Puncture the foil overlay of the QuickStrip™ with a pipet tip to aspirate the sample. **Do not remove the foil as samples can spill.**

FOR MODULE I Each group will need:

- 50x concentrated buffer
- Distilled Water
- UltraSpec-Agarose™
- QuickStrip™ Samples

NOTE:

This kit is compatible with **SYBR® Safe Stain** (Cat #608, not included). Instructions for preparing gels and visualizing results can be found in Appendix C.



Pre-Lab Preparations: Module II

STAINING AGAROSE GELS USING FLASHBLUE™

FlashBlue™ stain is optimized to shorten the time required for both staining and destaining steps. Agarose gels can be stained with diluted FlashBlue™ for 5 minutes and destained for only 20 minutes. For the best results, leave the gel in liquid overnight. This will allow the stained gel to “equilibrate” in the destaining solution, resulting in dark blue DNA bands contrasting against a uniformly light blue background. A white light box ([Cat. #552](#)) is recommended for visualizing gels stained with FlashBlue™.

- Stained gels may be stored in destaining liquid for several weeks with refrigeration, although the bands may fade with time. If this happens, re-stain the gel.
- Destained gels can be discarded in solid waste disposal. Destaining solutions can be disposed of down the drain.

FOR MODULE II

Each group will need:

- 10 mL 10X concentrated FlashBlue OR
100 mL 1x diluted FlashBlue
- Small plastic tray or weight boat
- Distilled or deionized water

PHOTODOCUMENTATION OF DNA (OPTIONAL)

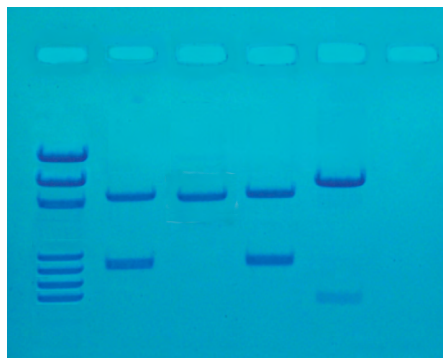
Once gels are stained, you may wish to photograph your results. There are many different photodocumentation systems available, including digital systems that are interfaced directly with computers. Specific instructions will vary depending upon the type of photodocumentation system you are using.

NOTE:

Accurate pipetting is critical for maximizing successful experiment results. EDVOTEK Series 100 experiments are designed for students who have had previous experience with micropipetting techniques and agarose gel electrophoresis.

If students are unfamiliar with using micropipettes, we recommended performing [Cat. #S-44, Micropipetting Basics](#) or [Cat. #S-43, DNA DuraGel™](#) prior to conducting this experiment.

Experiment Results and Analysis



Includes EDVOTEK's All-NEW DNA Standard Marker

- Better separation
- Easier band measurements
- No unused bands

NEW DNA Standard ladder sizes:
6751, 3652, 2827, 1568, 1118, 825, 630



In the idealized schematic, the relative positions of DNA fragments are shown but are not depicted to scale.

Lane	Tube	Sample	Molecular Weights (in bp)
1	A	DNA Standard Markers	6751, 3652, 2827, 1568, 1118, 825, 630
2	B	Crime scene PCR reaction	3000, 1282
3	C	Suspect #1 PCR reaction	3000
4	D	Suspect #2 PCR reaction	3000, 1282
5	E	Suspect #3 PCR reaction	3652, 630

The DNA standards in Lane 1 make it possible to measure the DNA bands obtained from the PCR reactions. The results of this analysis indicates an identical pattern in Lanes 2 and 4. This is strong evidence that the crime scene DNA and Suspect 2 match. In criminal investigations, several known variable regions in DNA are analyzed to match crime scene and suspect DNAs.

**Please refer to the kit
insert for the Answers to
Study Questions**

Appendices

- A EDVOTEK® Troubleshooting Guide
- B Bulk Preparation of Electrophoresis Buffer and Agarose Gels
- C Using SYBR® Safe Stain (OPTIONAL)

Safety Data Sheets can be found on our website: www.edvotek.com/safety-data-sheets

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Appendix A

EDVOTEK® Troubleshooting Guides

PROBLEM:	CAUSE:	ANSWER:
Bands are not visible on the gel.	The gel was not prepared properly.	Ensure that the electrophoresis buffer was correctly diluted.
	The gel was not stained properly.	Repeat staining protocol.
	Malfunctioning electrophoresis unit or power source.	Contact the manufacturer of the electrophoresis unit or power source.
After staining the gel, the DNA bands are faint.	The gel was not stained for a sufficient period of time.	Repeat staining protocol.
	The background of gel is too dark after staining with FlashBlue™.	Destain the gel for 5-10 minutes in distilled water.
DNA bands were not resolved.	Tracking dye should migrate at least 3 cm from the wells to ensure adequate separation.	Be sure to run the gel at least 3 cm before staining and visualizing the DNA (approximately 15-20 minutes at 150 V).
DNA bands fade when gels are kept at 4 °C.	DNA stained with FlashBlue™ may fade with time.	Re-stain the gel with FlashBlue™.
There is no separation between DNA bands, even though the tracking dye ran the appropriate distance.	The wrong percent gel was used for electrophoretic separation.	Be sure to prepare the correct percent agarose gel. For reference, the Ready-to-Load™ DNA samples should be analyzed using a 0.8% agarose gel.
There's not enough sample in my QuickStrip™.	The QuickStrip™ has dried out.	Add 40 µL water, gently pipet up and down to mix before loading.

Visit www.edvotek.com for additional troubleshooting suggestions.

Appendix B

Bulk Preparation of Electrophoresis Buffer and Agarose Gels

To save time, the electrophoresis buffer and agarose gel solution can be prepared in larger quantities for sharing by the class. Unused diluted buffer can be used at a later time and solidified agarose gel solution can be remelted.

Bulk Electrophoresis Buffer

Quantity (bulk) preparation for 3 liters of 1x electrophoresis buffer is outlined in Table D.

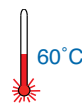
Table D Bulk Preparation of Electrophoresis Buffer			
50x Conc. Buffer	+	Distilled Water	Total Volume Required
60 mL		2,940 mL	3000 mL (3 L)

Batch Agarose Gels (0.8%)

For quantity (batch) preparation of 0.8% agarose gels, see Table E.

Table E Batch Prep of 0.8% UltraSpec-Agarose™					
Amt of Agarose	+	Concentrated Buffer (50X)	+	Distilled Water	Total Volume
3.0 g		7.5 mL		367.5 mL	375 mL

1. Use a 500 mL flask to prepare the diluted gel buffer.
2. Pour 3.0 grams of UltraSpec-Agarose™ into the prepared buffer. Swirl to disperse clumps.
3. With a marking pen, indicate the level of solution volume on the outside of the flask.
4. Heat the agarose solution as outlined previously for individual gel preparation. The heating time will require adjustment due to the larger total volume of gel buffer solution.
5. Cool the agarose solution to 60 °C with swirling to promote even dissipation of heat. If evaporation has occurred, add distilled water to bring the solution up to the original volume as marked on the flask in step 3.
6. Dispense the required volume of cooled agarose solution for casting each gel. Measure 30 mL for a 7 x 7 cm tray, 45 mL for a 10 x 7 cm tray, and 60 mL for a 14 x 7 cm tray. **For this experiment, 7 x 7 cm gels are recommended.**
7. Allow the gel to completely solidify. It will become firm and cool to the touch after approximately 20 minutes. Solidified gels can be stored under buffer in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Do not freeze gels.



NOTE:

The UltraSpec-Agarose™ kit component is usually labeled with the amount it contains. Please read the label carefully. If the amount of agarose is not specified or if the bottle's plastic seal has been broken, weigh the agarose to ensure you are using the correct amount.

PROCEED to Loading and Running the Gel (page 10).

Appendix C

Using SYBR® Safe DNA Stain (OPTIONAL)

If desired, the DNA samples in this experiment can be visualized using [SYBR® Safe DNA stain \(Cat #608\)](#). We recommend adding diluted SYBR® Safe stain to the liquid agarose gels while casting for easy, reproducible results. A blue light or UV transilluminator is needed for visualizing SYBR® gels. The TruBlu™ 2 ([Cat. #557](#)) is highly recommended.

PREPARING SYBR® SAFE STAIN

Instructors:

1. Prepare 1x Electrophoresis Buffer by combining 10 µL of 50X Concentrated Buffer with 490 µL of distilled water.
2. Add 20 µL of the SYBR® Safe to the tube of 1X buffer from Step 1 and mix by tapping the tube several times. The diluted SYBR® Safe Stain is now ready to be used during agarose gel preparation.

AGAROSE GEL PREPARATION

This experiment requires one 0.8% agarose gel for each student group. Instructors can choose whether to prepare the gels in advance (METHOD A) or have the students prepare their own (METHOD B). Allow approximately 30-40 minutes for this procedure.

Instructor Preparation (METHOD A):

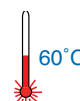
For quantity (batch) preparation of agarose gels, see Table E.

1. Use a 500 mL flask to prepare the diluted gel buffer.
2. Pour 3.0 grams of UltraSpec-Agarose™ into the prepared buffer. Swirl to disperse clumps.
3. With a marking pen, indicate the level of solution volume on the outside of the flask.
4. Heat the agarose solution as outlined previously for individual gel preparation. The heating time will require adjustment due to the larger total volume of gel buffer solution.
5. Cool the agarose solution to 60 °C with swirling to promote even dissipation of heat. If evaporation has occurred, add distilled water to bring the solution up to the original volume as marked on the flask in step 3.
6. Add the entire tube of **diluted SYBR® Safe** stain to the cooled agarose and mix well.
7. Dispense the required volume of cooled agarose solution for casting each gel. Measure 30 mL for a 7 x 7 cm tray, 45 mL for a 10 x 7 cm tray, and 60 mL for a 14 x 7 cm tray. **For this experiment, 7 x 7 cm gels are recommended.**
8. Allow the gel to completely solidify. It will become firm and cool to the touch after approximately 20 minutes. Solidified gels can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Place 1-2 mL of electrophoresis buffer in a sealable bag with the gels to prevent them from drying out. Excessive buffer will cause SYBR® Safe to diffuse out of the gels. Do not freeze gels.

PROCEED to Loading and Running the Gel (Steps 8-12 on page 10), followed by the VISUALIZATION procedures on page 26.

NO ADDITIONAL STAINING IS NECESSARY.

Table E Batch Prep of 0.8% UltraSpec-Agarose™					
Amt of Agarose	+	Concentrated Buffer (50X)	+	Distilled Water	Total Volume
3.0 g		7.5 mL		367.5 mL	375 mL



Appendix C

Using SYBR® Safe DNA Stain (OPTIONAL)

AGAROSE GEL PREPARATION, CONTINUED

Student Preparation (METHOD B):

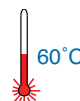
For student preparation of agarose gels, see Table A.2.

1. **DILUTE** concentrated (50X) buffer with distilled water to create 1X buffer (see Table A.2).
2. **MIX** agarose powder with 1X buffer in a 250 mL flask (see Table A).
3. **DISSOLVE** agarose powder by boiling the solution. **MICROWAVE** the solution on high for 1 minute. Carefully **REMOVE** the flask from the microwave and **MIX** by swirling the flask. Continue to **HEAT** the solution in 15-second bursts until the agarose is completely dissolved (the solution should be clear like water).

Table A.2 Individual 0.8% UltraSpec-Agarose™ with SYBR® Stain						
Size of Gel Casting tray	Concentrated Buffer (50x)	+ Distilled Water	+ Amt of Agarose	= TOTAL Volume	Diluted SYBR® (Step 6)	
7 x 7 cm	0.6 mL	29.4 mL	0.24 g	30 mL	30 µL	
10 x 7 cm*	0.9 mL	44.1 mL	0.36 g	45 mL	45 µL	
14 x 7 cm	1.2 mL	58.8 mL	0.48 g	60 mL	60 µL	

* Recommended gel volume for the EDGE™ Integrated Electrophoresis System.

4. **COOL** agarose to 60 °C with careful swirling to promote even dissipation of heat.
5. While agarose is cooling, **SEAL** the ends of the gel-casting tray with the rubber end caps. **PLACE** the well template (comb) in the appropriate notch.



6. Before casting the gel, **ADD diluted SYBR® Safe** to the cooled agarose and swirl to mix (see Table A.2).
7. **POUR** the cooled agarose solution into the prepared gel-casting tray. The gel should thoroughly solidify within 20 minutes. The gel will stiffen and become less transparent as it solidifies.
8. **REMOVE** end caps and comb. Take particular care when removing the comb to prevent damage to the wells.

PROCEED to Loading and Running the Gel (Steps 8-12 on page 10), followed by the VISUALIZATION procedures on page 26. **NO ADDITIONAL STAINING IS NECESSARY.**

Appendix C

Using SYBR® Safe DNA Stain (OPTIONAL)

VISUALIZING THE SYBR® GEL

A blue light or UV transilluminator is needed for visualizing SYBR® gels. The TruBlu™ 2 ([Cat. #557](#)) is highly recommended.

1.



2.



3.



1. **SLIDE** gel off the casting tray onto the viewing surface of the transilluminator.
2. Turn the unit **ON**. DNA should appear as bright green bands on a dark background. **PHOTOGRAPH** results.
3. Turn the unit **OFF**. **REMOVE** and **DISPOSE** of the gel. **CLEAN** the transilluminator surfaces with distilled water.



Be sure to wear UV goggles if using a UV transilluminator.