

## User Guide | CG000805 | Rev A

# Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression

#### For use with:

Visium HD 3' Reagents - Kit A Small, PN-1000854 Visium HD 3' Reagents - Kit B Small, PN-1000855 Visium Slide Cassettes S3 6.5 mm, 2 pk, PN-1000847 Visium HD Slide, 6.5 mm, 2 rxns, PN-1000670 Visium CytAssist Reagent Accessory Kit, PN-1000499 Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid Kit, 6.5 mm, PN-1000886 Take 1 minute to evaluate this protocol. Scan this code or click here.



## Notices

#### **Document Number**

CG000805 | Rev A

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# **Document Revision Summary**

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#### Title

Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression User Guide

#### **Revision**

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#### Description of Changes Initial Release

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#### **Reagent Kits**

Reagent Kits	Part Number	Components	Component Part Number	Quantity
Visium HD 3', 6.5 mm, 4 rxns*	1000857	Visium HD Slide, 6.5 mm, 2 rxns	1000670	2
		Visium HD 3' Reagents Kit A, Small	1000854	1
	Visium HD 3' Reagents Kit B, Small	1000855	1	
		Visium Slide Cassettes S3, 6.5 mm, 2 pk	1000847	1

\*Also available as a 16 rxn kit.

#### Visium HD Slide, 6.5 mm, 2 rxns PN-1000670

Visium HD Slide, 6.5mm 2 rxns PN-1000670 (store at -80°C)		
	#	PN
Visium HD Slide, 6.5 mm	1	2000970
		10x

#### Visium Slide Cassettes S3\*, 6.5 mm, 2 pk PN-1000847

Visium Slide Cassettes S3, 6.5 mm 2 pk PN-1000847 (store at ambient temperature)		
	#	PN
Visium 2-port, 6.5 mm, Top, 2 pk	1	2001252 or 3002329
Visium Cassette Bottom, 2 pk	1	2001344 or 3002328
Visium Slide Seals, 12 pack	1	2000283
		10x

\*The Visium HD 3' Workflow is run with Visium Cassettes S3. These are referred to as Visium Cassettes in this document. Consult the Visium Cassette S3 Quick Reference Card (CG000730) for assembly and disassembly information. Visium Cassettes appearance may vary, but all Visium Cassettes have the same functionality and performance.

#### Visium HD 3' Reagents - Kit A Small PN-1000854



#### Visium HD 3' Reagents - Kit B Small PN-1000855

Visium HD 3' Reagents - Kit B Small PN-1000855 (store at -20°C)				
		#	PN	
	RT Reagent	1	2000086	
	RT Enzyme G	1	2001438	
	Template Switch Oligo B	1	2001027	
	Second Strand Enzyme	1	2000183	
	Second Strand Reagent	1	2000219	
	Second Strand Primer	1	2000217	
	cDNA Primers	1	2000089	
0	Amp Mix	1	2000103	
	Fragmentation Enzyme	1	2000104	
	Fragmentation Buffer	1	2000091	
	DNA Ligase	1	220131	
	Ligation Mix	1	2001109	
			10×	

## Dual Index Kit TT Set A, 96 rxns PN-1000215

Dual Index Kit TT Set A 96 rxns PN-1000215 (store at -20°C)		
	#	PN
Dual Index Plate TT Set A	1	3000431

## **10x Genomics Accessories**

#### Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid Kit, 6.5 mm PN-1000886

Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid, 6.5 mm PN-1000886 (store at ambient temperature)		
	#	PN
Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid, 6.5 mm	1	3002814
		10X

#### Visium CytAssist Reagent Accessory Kit PN-1000499

Visium CytAssist Reagent Accessory Kit PN-1000499 (store at ambient temperature)		
	#	PN
10x Magnetic Separator	1	2001212
Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter	2	3000823
		10x

#### **Third-Party Items**

Successful execution of the Visium HD 3' workflow requires third-party reagents, kits, and equipment in addition to those provided by 10x Genomics. All third-party reagents and consumables should be obtained prior to starting this workflow.

Consult the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) for a list of the following third-party items:

- Additional reagents, kits, and equipment
- Tested pipette tips
- Tested thermal cyclers
- Tested blank slides



10x Genomics has tested all items listed in the Protocol Planner. Unless otherwise noted, 10x Genomics recommends using these items to ensure optimal assay performance. Substituting materials may adversely affect assay performance.

## **Workflow Overview**

1	Sample Preparation Before starting this User Guide, consult these documents to prepare samples.	Visium HD 3' Gene Expression Protocol Planner Information on third-party items. Planner CG000803	Visium HD Spatial Applications Imaging Guidelines Optimize imaging settings. Technical Note CG000688
		Visium HD 3' FF Tissue Preparation Handbook Prepare fresh frozen tissue blocks, section tissue onto slides, stain, and image. Demonstrated Protocol CG000804	
	-	Visium Cassette S3 Quick Reference Card Practice cassette assembly and disassembly. Quick Reference Card CG000730	Visium CytAssist Accessory Kit Quick Reference Card Determine slide allowable areas. Quick Reference Card CG000548
2	Library Construction	Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression User Guide Construct Visium HD 3' Libraries. User Guide CG000805	

Consult the 10x Genomics support website for additional documents

## **Protocol Steps & Timing**

Steps	Timing	Stop & Store			
Step 1: Visium HD Slide & CytAssist Preparation (page 45)					
1.1 Visium HD Slide Wash (page 47)	60 min				
Step 2: Coverslip Removal & Destaining (page 52)					
2.1 Coverslip Removal (page 55)	10 min				
2.2 Destaining (page 56)	30 min				
Step 3: CytAssist-Enabled Poly(A) RNA Capture, Reverse Transcription, & Denaturation (page 58)					
3.1 CytAssist-Enabled Poly(A) RNA Capture (page 60)	50 min				
3.2 Reverse Transcription (page 69)	100 min				
3.3 Denaturation (page 70)	10 min				
Step 4: Second Strand Synthesis & Elution (page 71)					
4.1 Second Strand Synthesis (page 73)	55 min	stop 4°C ≤24 h			
4.2 Second Strand Elution (page 74)	10 min				
Step 5: cDNA Amplification and SPRIselect (page 75)					
5.1 cDNA Amplification (page 77)	20 min	stop 4°C ≤24 h			
5.2 cDNA Amplification Cleanup - SPRIselect (page 78)	20 min	stop 4°C ≤72 h or -20°C ≤4 weeks			
5.3 cDNA QC & Quantification (page 79)	30-60 min				
Step 6: Visium HD 3' Library Construction (page 82)					
6.1 Fragmentation, End Repair & A-tailing (page 85)	40 min				
6.2 Post Fragmentation End Repair & A-tailing Double Sided Size Selection – SPRIselect (page 86)	25 min				
6.3 Adaptor Ligation (page 87)	20 min				
6.4 Post-Ligation Cleanup – SPRIselect (page 88)	20 min				
6.5 Sample Index PCR (page 89)	30 min	stop 4°C ≤72 h			
6.6 Post Sample Index PCR Double Sided Size Selection – SPRIselect (page 90)	25 min	4°C ≤72 h or -20°C long term			
6.7 Post-Library Construction QC (page 91)	50 min				

#### **Stepwise Objectives**

The Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression assay is designed to analyze poly(A) RNA in tissue sections derived from fresh frozen (FF) tissue samples. Before the assay, FF tissue sections are processed as described in the Visium HD 3' Fresh Frozen Tissue Preparation Handbook (CG000804). See Workflow Overview on page 12 for documentation references.

Tissue slides and a Visium HD Slide are loaded into the Visium CytAssist instrument, where they are brought into proximity with one another. Tissue on the tissue slide is permeabilized, allowing for the release of poly(A) RNA and subsequent capture by the spatially-barcoded oligonucleotides present on the Visium HD Slide surface. The Visium HD Slide is removed from the Visium CytAssist for downstream library preparation. Gene expression libraries are generated from each tissue section and sequenced. Spatial Barcodes are used to associate the reads back to the tissue section images for spatial mapping of gene expression.

#### **Visium HD Slides**

The Visium HD Slide, 6.5 mm has 2 Capture Areas. Each Capture Area is 6.5 x 6.5 mm and is surrounded by a fiducial frame that is used for image alignment. The fiducial frame + Capture Area is 8 x 8 mm. The Capture Area is a continuous lawn of oligos comprised of 2  $\mu$ m barcoded squares. Each barcoded square has oligos with an Illumina TruSeq partial read 1 sequencing primer, unique molecular identifier (UMI), Spatial Barcode, and 30 nt poly(dT) sequence (captures poly(A) RNA).

Each Capture Area is surrounded by a spacer. This spacer creates a reaction chamber that facilitates proper reagent addition.

The active surface of the slide has an etched label that includes the serial number. The label should be legible. If the label appears reversed, the active surface is facing down. The slide should be loaded onto the instrument with the active surface facing up.



## **Step 1: Visium HD Slide & CytAssist Preparation**

Visium HD Slides are thawed, washed, and equilibrated prior to placement on the Visium CytAssist instrument. The Visium CytAssist instrument is powered on and prepared for the experimental run.



## Step 2: Coverslip Removal & Destaining

Coverslips are removed from H&E-stained tissue slides by immersing the slides in water. After coverslip removal, tissue slides go through a destaining step.

## Step 3: CytAssist-Enabled poly(A) RNA Capture, Reverse Transcription, & Denaturation

Tissue slides are loaded onto the Visium CytAssist instrument, where fixed and stained tissues are permeabilized to allow for the release of poly(A) RNA. Oligos on the surface of the Visium HD Slide capture poly(A) RNA released from the overlying cells. RT Master Mix containing reverse transcription reagents is added to the Visium HD Slide. Incubation with the reagents produces spatially barcoded, full-length cDNA from poly(A) RNA on the slide.



#### **Step 4: Second Strand Synthesis & Elution**

Second Strand Mix is added to the Visium HD Slide to initiate second strand synthesis. This is followed by elution and transfer of the cDNA from each Capture Area to a corresponding tube for amplification and library construction.



#### **Step 5: cDNA Amplification and SPRIselect**

To generate ample material for library construction, barcoded cDNA products are amplified. This amplification is followed by SPRIselect cleanup.



### **Step 6: Visium HD 3' Library Construction**

Enzymatic fragmentation and size selection are used to optimize the cDNA amplicon size. TruSeq Read 2 (read 2 primer sequence) is added during Adaptor Ligation. P5 and P7, as well as i7 and i5 sample indexes, are added during Sample Index PCR. The final libraries contain the P5 and P7 primers used in Illumina sequencing.



#### Sequencing

A Visium HD 3' library comprises standard Illumina paired-end constructs, which begin and end with P5 and P7 adaptors. The 43 bp UMI and Spatial Barcode are encoded in TruSeq Read 1 and the cDNA insert is encoded in TruSeq Read 2. i7 and i5 sample index sequences are also incorporated as the index read. TruSeq Read 1 and TruSeq Read 2 are standard Illumina sequencing primer sites used in paired-end sequencing.

#### Visium HD 3' Library





# **Tips & Best Practices**

#### lcons





execution



Troubleshooting section includes additional guidance

#### **General Reagent Handling**

- Fully thaw and thoroughly mix reagents before use.
- When pipette mixing, unless otherwise specified, set pipette to 75% of total volume. Pipette until reagents are well combined unless a specific number of mixes is specified.

#### Visium HD Slide Storage

- Keep Visium HD Slide at -80°C until ready to use.
- Do not open the mylar bag containing the Visium HD slides until slides are ready to be used.

#### **Pipette Calibration**

- Follow manufacturer's calibration and maintenance schedules.
- Pipette accuracy is particularly important when using SPRIselect reagents.

#### **Visium HD Slide Handling**

- Wipe Visium HD Slide Mailer with a lint-free laboratory wipe to ease in handling.
- Prior to beginning an instrument run, Visium HD Slides are thawed, washed, equilibrated, and dried. Using an external light source (like a flashlight) can help confirm that the Visium HD Slide is fully dried.
- Occasionally, small chips can arise on the edge of the Visium HD Slide. These are mainly cosmetic in nature and do not typically impact assay performance.



Sharp edges on the slide's corners may cause injury or damage if mishandled. Handle with care. Wear proper PPE when handling and avoid



#### contact with the chipped corner to prevent cuts or scratches.

- Visium HD Slide preparation steps should be done gently to avoid damaging the slide.
- Visium HD Slides should only be washed if proceeding with a CytAssist instrument run.
- Always wear gloves when handling slides.
- Ensure that the active surface of a slide faces up and is never touched. The active surface is defined by a readable label. The image of the chipped Visium HD slide demonstrates the active surface facing up.
- Minimize exposure of the slides to sources of particles and fibers.
- When pipetting reagent onto a slide, avoid generating bubbles.
- If debris appears on the Visium HD Slide after performing slide washes, slide may be re-immersed in 0.1X SSC in the slide mailer to remove debris before proceeding. If performing an additional wash, ensure the slide is dried as described in the protocol.
- If necessary, unwashed, room temperature Visium HD Slides may be returned to -80°C. Protect from light. Do not exceed 3 h at room temperature. Do not exceed three freeze/thaw cycles.
- Do not allow the Visium HD Slide to dry, except where indicated in the protocol steps.
- If using a barcode scanner to read the serial number, ensure that the label is not wet.
- When disassembling the Visium HD Slide from the Visium Cassette, ensure that the cassette gaskets do not touch any surfaces to avoid debris accumulation.

#### **Tissue Slide Handling**

- To ensure compatibility with the Visium CytAssist, tissue sections must be placed in specific areas on a blank slide. Tested slides, as well as appropriate tissue placement areas, are listed in the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803).
- Always wear gloves when handling slides.

### **RNase-free Environment**

- An RNase-free working environment is critical for optimal assay performance.
- An RNase decontamination solution should be used to clean workspaces and equipment.
- Clean workspaces and equipment every workday during the protocol.
- Use new plastic equipment (e.g. centrifuge tubes) and clean glassware as described in the protocol.

#### **Reagent Addition & Removal from Wells**

#### **Reagent Addition**

• Assemble slide into the cassette flat on a clean work surface. See Cassette Assembly Quick Reference Card (CG000730).



- Dispense and remove reagents along the side of the wells without touching the slide surface, tissue sections (when applicable), and without introducing bubbles.
- DO NOT forcefully insert pipette tip into well corners to avoid damaging the Visium HD Slide.



• Always cover the Capture Area or tissue completely when adding reagents to the well. A gentle tap may help spread the reagent more evenly.



#### **Reagent Removal from Wells**

- Slightly tilt the cassette while removing the reagent. DO NOT completely tilt the cassette at a 90 degree angle to avoid liquid from entering other grooves within the gasket. See image below for proper technique.
- Place the pipette tip on the bottom edge of the wells.
- Remove reagents along the side of the wells without touching the tissue sections (when applicable) and without introducing bubbles.
- Remove all liquid from the wells in each step. To ensure complete removal, check the bottom of the well by tilting the cassette slightly. A meniscus at the bottom of the well will indicate the presence of liquid in the well. Repeat removal steps until no reagent remains.



## Visium Slide Seal Application & Removal

#### **Application**

- Place the cassette flat on a clean work surface. Ensure surface of cassette is dry.
- Remove the back of the adhesive Visium Slide Seal.
- Align the Visium Slide Seal with the surface of the cassette and apply while firmly holding the cassette with one hand.
- Press on the Visium Slide Seal to ensure uniform adhesion.

#### Removal

- Place the cassette flat on a clean work surface.
- Grasp a Visium Slide Seal corner. Carefully pull on the Visium Slide Seal up and across the cassette while firmly holding the cassette. Ensure that no liquid splashes out of the wells.



## Slide Incubation Guidance

#### **Incubation at a Specified Temperature**

- Position a Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on a thermal cycler that is set at the incubation temperature.
- Ensure that the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter is in contact with the thermal cycler block surface uniformly. Pre-equilibrate adapters at the HOLD temperature described in the protocol steps for at least five minutes.
- Open and close the thermal cycler lid gently. If the lid is adjustable, tighten lid only as much as necessary. Avoid overtightening.

#### Incubation at Room Temperature

• Place the slide/cassette on a flat, clean, nonabsorbent work surface.

#### **Cassette Incubation**

#### **Incubation using a Thermal Cycler:**

- Position a Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on a thermal cycler that is set at the incubation temperature. Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter must come to temperature before cassette placement.
- Ensure that the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter is in contact with the thermal cycler surface uniformly. Consult the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) for information on thermal cycler compatibility.
- Ensure that the cassette sits flush with the raised portion of the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter.
- Allow Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter to cool before removing from thermal cycler.



## Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid

• The Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid (6.5 mm, PN-1000886; available for purchase separately) is an optional accessory used to draw annotations onto the back of the tissue slide to assist with alignment onto the Visium CytAssist instrument.



- Use aid after coverslip mounting & imaging and before coverslip removal.
- Ensure back of tissue slide is dry.
- Clean aid with 70% isopropanol or 70% ethanol before use.
- Marks drawn on the back of the slide using the aid will not affect downstream CytAssist imaging.
- Prior to using the aid, remove excess mounting medium by gently touching the slide to a lint-free laboratory wipe.
- Do not move coverslip while using the aid.
- Allow ink to dry for ~5 min.
- Once marks are drawn, avoid wiping the back of the slide vigorously to prevent mark removal. Instead, tap the back of the slide onto a lint-free laboratory wipe to remove excess moisture.



#### **10x Magnetic Separator**

• Images below are illustrative - actual appearance of magnetic separator may vary. Guidance applies to all 10x Magnetic Separators.



• Offers two positions of the magnets (high and low) relative to a tube, depending on its orientation.

• Flip the magnetic separator over to switch between high (magnet•**High**) or low (magnet•**Low**) positions.



• If using MicroAmp 8-Tube Strips, use the high position (magnet•**High**) only throughout the protocol.

### **Magnetic Bead Cleanup Steps**

- During magnetic bead-based cleanup steps that specify waiting "until the solution clears", visually confirm clearing of solution before proceeding to the next step. See panel below for an example. If solution is not clear, leave on magnet until separation is complete.
- The time needed for the solution to clear may vary based on specific step, reagents, volume of reagents, etc.
- Images below are illustrative actual appearance of magnetic separator may vary. Guidance applies to all 10x Magnetic Separators.



## **SPRIselect Cleanup & Size Selection**

- After aspirating the desired volume of SPRIselect reagent, examine the pipette tips before dispensing to ensure the correct volume is transferred.
- Pipette mix thoroughly as insufficient mixing of sample and SPRIselect reagent will lead to inconsistent results.
- Use fresh preparations of 80% Ethanol.

## Sample Indices (i5/i7) in Sample Index PCR

- Choose the appropriate sample index sets to ensure that no sample indices overlap in a multiplexed sequencing run.
- Each well in the Dual Index Plate contains a unique i7 and a unique i5 oligonucleotide.
- Record the index plate well location for each sample.



# Visium CytAssist

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### **Instrument Orientation**



Firmware version 2.0.0 or higher is required in the Visium CytAssist used for this protocol.







#### **Instrument Loading Guidelines**

- Ensure tissue section placement is compatible with Visium CytAssist by using the Visium CytAssist Accessory Kit Quick Reference Card (CG000548). A list of tested slide types can be found in the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803).
- Consult the Visium CytAssist Training Kit UG (CG000549) for information on practicing tissue slide loading.
- Each tissue slide may be used for one Capture Area on a Visium HD Slide.

#### Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid

• The Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid is an optional accessory used to draw annotations onto the back of the tissue slide to assist with alignment onto the Visium CytAssist instrument. See Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid on page 29 for instructions.

#### **Determine Slide Placement**

**a.** On the diagram below, align tissue to the center of the alignment guides for 6.5 mm (rectangles) or 11 mm (lines) Capture Areas on either the left or right side of the stage. Align the center of the tissue region of interest to the center of the Capture Area, instead of aligning the edge of the region to the edge of the Capture Area. If the Alignment Aid was used, use the annotations to assist with aligning. See Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid on page 29 for instructions.

If printing the image, select "actual size" or "100%" to print to scale. The blue Capture Area should measure 11 mm and the green capture area should measure 6.5 mm.


**b.** If necessary, rotate the slide 180° as shown. Place off-center tissues closer to the center line (shown as a blue line in the image below). Slides should not overlap the center line.



#### **Fine Adjustments**

The **outside** of the alignment guides, shown in red, mark the inner boundaries of the fiducial frame on a Capture Area. They mark a distance **approximately** 6 mm (6.5 mm slides) or 10.5 mm (11 mm slides) wide on each side and surround the target region ensured to align within the fiducial frame. Though the Visium CytAssist instrument displays guides for 11 mm Capture Areas, the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Assay is only compatible with 6.5 mm Capture Areas.

When placing a tissue slide on the Tissue Slide Stage, center the tissue or area of interest within the area inside the outer edges of the alignment guides (area in green in the images below).

Alignment guide dimensions and locations are designed with a high tolerance to minimize data loss. Tissue within the alignment guides is ensured to overlap with the Capture Area during a successful run. Tissue outside of these guides may be captured (area in yellow in the images below), but it is not ensured. 10x Genomics recommends placing high-priority tissue areas within the alignment guides.





The image below demonstrates how movement of the Tissue Slides affects where target molecules will end up on the Visium HD Slide.



#### **Tissue Slide Loading**

**a.** Press down fully on the wide end of each clip to lift and rotate the narrow end to its outermost position.

Cradle the instrument lid for increased stability and fully press down on the clips with the thumb. See image below for extent of clip rotation.



**b.** Lay the tissue slide flat on the stage surface and against the center line. If necessary, rotate the slide 180° to better place off-center tissues closer to the center line. Slides should not cross/overlap the center line.

DO NOT touch the tissue section.

- **c.** Use one hand to hold slide in place with two fingers, one on either side of the tissue. Use the other to both cradle the instrument lid and fully press down on the first clip. Rotate the clip over the slide.
- **d.** While clip is hovering over the slide, make fine adjustments to align the tissue or area of interest to the center of the alignment guides. Gently release when adjustments are complete. If annotations were drawn onto the back of the tissue slide using the Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid, these annotations should be lined up with the relevant alignment guides on the Tissue Slide Stage. See instructions at the beginning of this section for more information.



DO NOT adjust slide while tissue clip is touching the slide, which may result in slide damage. DO NOT touch the tissue section.



DO NOT place clips on the edge of the slide, which may result in slide damage.

Reference images below for steps b-d.



**e.** Continue to hold the slide in place while pressing down fully on the wide end of the second clip. Rotate the second clip onto the slide and gently release.

Use both clips whenever possible. The second clip may be omitted if the tissue slide is beyond its reach.

**f.** If only one tissue on one slide will be analyzed, use a blank slide for the second position on the Tissue Slide Stage. If using only one tissue slide, the unused Capture Area on the Visium HD Slide cannot be used in another instrument run.



#### **Visium HD Slide Loading**

Before loading, record the slide serial number and note which tissue is placed in which Capture Area. Note which Capture Area will be placed on which side of the Visium Slide Stage (Left = D1, Right = A1).

- **a.** Open the Visium Slide Lock by using one finger to pivot.
- **b.** Line up the slide with the label face up and oriented to the right.
- **c.** Fit the slide within the raised grooves on the left, top, and bottom.



**d.** Hold slide in place with one hand while slowly closing the Visium Slide Lock. Lock will partially obscure the slide label when correctly secured. Close lock gently to avoid slide damage. In the images below, the slide (red outline) does not line up with the stage (blue outline).





# Sample Preparation & Staining Guidelines

#### **Sample Preparation**

Proper tissue handling and preparation techniques preserve the morphological quality of the tissue sections and the integrity of RNA transcripts. Maintaining high-quality RNA is critical to assay performance.



Before performing the protocol steps in this User Guide, ensure that all samples have followed the appropriate documentation as described in the Workflow Overview on page 12. Listed below are key considerations described in the tissue preparation documentation.

Key Consi	iderations for FF Samples
Freezing a	and Embedding
	Perform either separate or simultaneous tissue freezing & embedding.
	Store frozen samples in a sealed container at -80°C for long-term storage.
Slide Han	dling
	Equilibrate slides to cryostat temperature before cryosectioning.
Cryosecti	oning
	Practice sectioning and section placement with a nonexperimental block before placing sections on slides.
	Equilibrate OCT tissue block to the cryostat chamber temperature for 30 min.
	Section the tissue block and place sections on compatible blank slides.
	Assess RNA quality of the tissue block.
	Optional - assess tissue morphology via H&E staining.
Tissue Sli	de Processing
	After preparing tissue slides, follow the remaining steps in the Visium HD 3' FF Tissue Preparation Handbook (CG000804). The handbook contains information on tissue slide staining and imaging.
Tissue Sli	de Handling
	Keep slides cold and transport slides on dry ice.
	Store tissue slides in a slide mailer at -80°C for up to four weeks.



# Step 1:

### Visium HD Slide & CytAssist Preparation

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#### **1.0 Get Started**



The Visium CytAssist instrument requires firmware version 2.0.0 or higher for this protocol.



Clean workspaces, equipment, and gloves with an RNase decontamination solution before beginning the assay.

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
	Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient
	20X SSC	-	-	Ambient
	Visium Cassette	Component: 2001252 or 3002329/2001344 or 3002328 Kit: 1000847	See Cassette Assembly Quick Reference Card (CG000730)	Ambient
Equilibrate t	o Room Temepra	ture		
	Pre- equilibration Buffer	Tube: 2001399 Kit: 1000854	Thaw at room temperature, vortex, centrifuge briefly.	-20°C

#### **1.1 Visium HD Slide Wash**

a. Remove Visium HD Slide mailer from -80°C. Remove slide mailer from mylar bag. DO NOT uncap slide mailer. Keep slide mailer upright and thaw at room temperature for 30 min - 3 h. Prepare one Visium HD Slide at a time. For information on processing more than two Visium HD Slides, see Appendix on page 114.

DO NOT touch Visium HD Slide spacer during slide washes.

**b.** Prepare 0.1X SSC Buffer according to the table below in two 50-ml centrifuge tubes for a total of 86.2 ml of 0.1X SSC. Vortex. Maintain at room temperature. 0.1X SSC prepared at this step is sufficient for remaining steps in the protocol.

0.1X SSC Buffer	Stock	Final	1 Visium HD Slide + 15% (ml)*
Nuclease-free Water	-	-	42.9
SSC	20X	0.1X	0.2
Total	-		43.1

\*Volumes are in ml instead of  $\mu l$ 

**c.** Prepare Pre-equilibration Mix according to the table below. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly. Maintain at room temperature.

Pre-equilibration Mix	10x PN	1 Visium HD Slide + 10% (µl)
Nuclease-free Water	-	55
Pre-equilibration Buffer	2001399	55
Total	-	110

- d. Open slide mailer.
- e. Add 7 ml 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on one side of the slide.
- f. Add 7 ml 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on the other side of the slide, so that both sides of the slide are immersed in 0.1X SSC Buffer.



- g. Incubate at room temperature for 1 min. DO NOT close the mailer.
- **h.** Remove 0.1X SSC Buffer by securing slide in place with one finger and pouring SSC Buffer from mailer.



Three 0.1X SSC 5 min washes:

- i. 5 Min Wash 1:
  - Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on one side of the slide.
  - Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on the other side of the slide, so that both sides of the slide are immersed in 0.1X SSC Buffer.
  - Incubate at **room temperature** for **5 min**.
  - Remove 0.1X SSC Buffer by securing slide in place with one finger and pouring SSC Buffer from mailer.

#### j. 5 Min Wash 2:

- Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on one side of the slide.
- Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on the other side of the slide, so that both sides of the slide are immersed in 0.1X SSC Buffer.
- Incubate at room temperature for 5 min.
- Remove 0.1X SSC Buffer by securing slide in place with one finger and pouring SSC Buffer from mailer.

#### k. 5 Min Wash 3:

- Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on one side of the slide.
- Add **7 ml** 0.1X SSC Buffer slowly along the side of the mailer on the other side of the slide, so that both sides of the slide are immersed in 0.1X SSC Buffer.
- Incubate at room temperature for 5 min.
- Remove Visium HD Slide from mailer.

During the last wash, save SSC Buffer in the mailer in case Visium HD Slide needs additional immersion.

- **1.** Ensure back of Visium HD Slide (side without spacers) is dry. If necessary, remove excess moisture from the back of the slide with a lint-free laboratory wipe.
- **m.** Gently touch long edge of Visium HD Slide on a lint-free laboratory wipe 5x to remove excess SSC buffer. DO NOT flick slide.





- **n.** Ensure Visium HD Slide is free of particulate matter. If necessary, wash Visium HD Slide by immersing in slide mailer with 0.1X SSC buffer from the last 5 min 0.1X SSC wash.
- o. Record Visium HD Slide serial number.

p. Place Visium HD Slide in a new 6.5 mm Visium Cassette. See Visium Cassette S3 Quick Reference Card (CG000730) for assembly instructions.



#### q. Add 100 µl 0.1X SSC to each well in the cassette.



- **r.** Remove 0.1X SSC from each well in the cassette containing the Visium HD Slide.
- **s.** Repeat 0.1X SSC removal to ensure all 0.1X SSC is removed from the cassette.
- t. Add **50 μl** Pre-equilibration Mix to each well in the cassette.
  DO NOT exceed 60 min before proceeding with a CytAssist run.
- **u.** Apply a new Visium Slide Seal on the Visium Cassette.

**v.** Ensure that Visium CytAssist is powered on, clean, and ready for an experimental run. Visium CytAssist firmware version 2.0.0 or higher is required for this protocol.

The home screen is the most common state of the instrument. There are several key functions accessible directly from the home screen.



- w. Press blue New Run button on the touchscreen to initiate run.
- **x.** Enter the following assay configuration information:



• Visium Slide serial number. **Ensure serial number is accurate.** If serial number is entered in the wrong format, the check mark button to proceed will be grayed out.

A barcode scanner may be used to scan the Visium HD Slide for automatic serial number input. See Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) for compatible part numbers. The slide scanner may be used to scan the bottom of the cassette if the Visium HD Slide is already assembled into the cassette.

- Custom run name, temperature, and time (**37°C** for **30 min** is recommended for most applications)
- **y.** Enter the following sample information:
  - Sample names and the locations of each sample on the instrument (A1 for right side, D1 for left side)
- z. Proceed immediately to Step 2: Coverslip Removal & Destaining on page 52.



# Step 2:

## **Coverslip Removal & Destaining**

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2.2 Destaining	56

#### 2.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
	0.1 N HCI	-	If necessary, prepare 0.1 N HCl using nuclease-free water. Dispense 10 ml 0.1 N HCl into HCl mailer. Label slide mailer as HCl mailer. If using an alternate container, ensure volume will cover tissue. Volume is enough for two tissue slides.	Ambient
	1X PBS	-	If necessary, prepare 1X PBS fresh using nuclease-free water. Dispense 10 ml 1X PBS into PBS mailer. If using an alternate container, ensure volume will cover tissue. Volume is enough for two tissue slides.	
	Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient
	Low TE Buffer	-	-	Ambient
	1 L Beaker	-	Beaker will be cleaned per instructions within protocol.	Ambient
	RNase Decontamination Solution	-	-	Ambient
	70% Ethanol or 70% Isopropanol	-	-	Ambient
Equilibrate	to room temperature			
	Perm Buffer	Tube: 2001398 Kit: 1000854	Thaw, vortex, verify no precipitate, centrifuge briefly prior to use.	-20°C

Before starting Coverslip Removal, prepare the reagents below that are required for 3.1 CytAssist-Enabled Poly(A) RNA Capture on page 60.

Items	5		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Equil	ibrate to	room temper	ature		
	0	Reducing Agent B	Tube: 2000087 Kit: 1000854	Thaw, vortex, verify no precipitate, centrifuge briefly prior to use.	-20°C
Place	e on ice				
	•	Perm Enzyme B	Tube: 3000553 Kit: 1000854	Pipette mix, centrifuge briefly prior to use. Perm Enzyme B is added to the Permeabilization Mix immediately before running the CytAssist instrument.	-20°C
		RT Reagent	Tube: 2000086 Kit: 1000855	Thaw at room temperature, vortex, verify no precipitate, After RT Reagent is thawed, move to ice. Centrifuge briefly prior to use.	-20°C

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
	RT Enzyme G	Tube: 2001438 Kit: 1000855	Pipette mix, centrifuge briefly prior to use.	-20°C
	Template Switch Oligo B	Tube: 2001027 Kit: 1000855	Centrifuge briefly, resuspend in 65 µl <b>Low TE</b> Buffer. Vortex 15 sec at maximum speed, centrifuge briefly prior to use. Resuspended solution can be used immediately. After resuspension, store at -80°C. Thaw on ice for ≥30 minutes in subsequent uses.	-20°C

#### 2.1 Coverslip Removal

If the Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid has not been used, use the Aid to draw alignment marks on the tissue slide prior to coverslip removal (if desired). See Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid on page 29 for more information.

- a. Clean a 1 L beaker.
  - Spray with RNase decontamination solution; leave for 10 sec to 1 min.
  - Spray with 70% isopropanol or 70% ethanol.
  - Rinse with Milli-Q water.
- **b.** Dispense **800 ml** Milli-Q water in a beaker. Up to 10 slides may be processed using this beaker.
- **c.** Immerse slides **sideways** in the beaker containing **800 ml** water with coverslipped surface fully sideways to prevent coverslip from dragging across tissue.
- **d.** Hold slides in water until the coverslip slowly separates away from the slide.

To avoid tissue section damage or detachment, DO NOT move slide up and down, shake forcibly, or manually move coverslip.



- **e.** Gently immerse slides 30x in water to ensure all Mounting Medium is removed.
- f. Proceed immediately to Destaining.

DO NOT allow slides to dry.

#### **2.2 Destaining**

**a.** Immerse slides 10x in 0.1 N HCl mailer.

TIPS

When immersing slides in solutions, ensure that tissue sections are completely submerged. If needed, use forceps to hold the slides.



- **b.** Immerse slides in 0.1 N HCl mailer and incubate for **15 min** at **room temperature**.
- **c.** Prepare Permeabilization Mix during 0.1 N HCl incubation. Pipette mix thoroughly until solution is homogenous. Avoid generating bubbles. Maintain at room temperature.



*Permeabilization Mix will also require Perm Enzyme B and Reducing Agent B, which will be added at step 3.1k.* 

Permeabilization Mix	10x PN	2 Tissue Slides (µl) (includes overage)
Nuclease-free Water	-	10.4
Perm Buffer	2001398	20.0
Total	-	30.4

- d. Immerse slides 10x in 1X PBS mailer.
- e. Immerse slides in 1X PBS mailer and incubate for **5 min** at **room temperature**.
- **f.** Remove slides from 1X PBS mailer and immediately flick to remove excess PBS. Continue to flick until no large droplets remain on the tissue sections.



- **g.** Place slides on a lint-free laboratory wipe with tissue sections facing up on a flat, clean work surface.
- h. Proceed immediately to 3.0 Get Started on page 59



# Step 3:

## CytAssist-Enabled Poly(A) RNA Capture, Reverse Transcription, & Denaturation

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3.2 Reverse Transcription	69
3.3 Denaturation	70

#### 3.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Obtain				
	Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient
	8М КОН	-	-	Ambient
	20X SSC	-	-	Ambient
	Qiagen Buffer EB	-	Manufacturer's Recommendation	Ambient
	Visium Slide Seals	Component 2000283 Kit: 1000847	See Tips & Best Practices.	Ambient



#### 3.1 CytAssist-Enabled Poly(A) RNA Capture

#### **Visium HD Slide Steps**

- **a.** Retrieve Visium Cassette with Visium HD Slide.
- **b.** Remove Visium Slide Seal and perform the following:
  - Using a P200 pipette set at 200 µl, remove Pre-equilibration Mix from the right corner of **one** well in the cassette without scratching the fiducial frame or hydrogel.
  - Replace P200 tip with a new P200 tip.
  - With the pipette still set at 200 µl, remove Pre-equilibration Mix from the right corner of the **same** well in the cassette.
  - Repeat process for remaining well.
  - See image below for proper liquid removal technique.



Failure to remove Pre-equilibration Mix completely may delay Visium HD Slide drying and result in reduced assay performance.



**c.** Remove top half of Visium Cassette, leaving Visium HD Slide resting in bottom half of Visium Cassette. Rest top half of Visium Cassette such that the gaskets face up, as shown in the image below. See Visium Cassette S3 Quick Reference Card (CG000730) for more information on cassette disassembly.



**d.** Remove Visium HD Slide from Visium Cassette. Avoid touching active surface. If necessary, remove excess moisture from the back of the slide with a lint-free laboratory wipe.



Save Visium Cassette for use after the instrument run, keeping all parts free from debris. Ensure back of Visium HD Slide is dry.

**e.** Load Visium HD Slide against the grooves of Visium Slide Stage, using one hand to load the slide and the other to close the Visium Slide Lock.





**f.** Allow Visium HD Slide to dry on the Visium Slide Stage for **10 min.** Inspect entire spacer chamber. If liquid remains on the slide or anywhere in the spacer chamber, continue drying and proceed immediately when no liquid remains within the spacer chamber. Ensure area around the Visium CytAssist instrument is free from debris.



While the Visium HD Slide is drying, prepare and align tissue slides as described in the next section.

#### **Tissue Slide Steps**

- g. Retrieve tissue slides.
- **h.** Gently tap the back of tissue slides onto a lint-free laboratory wipe. If the Alignment Aid was used, avoid vigorously wiping the back of the slide to prevent removal of marks. Instead, tap the back of the slide onto a lint-free laboratory wipe to remove excess moisture. Ensure tissue section is completely dry prior to instrument run. See Instrument Loading Guidelines on page 35 for more information.
- i. Load tissue slides into the Visium CytAssist instrument.



**Before proceeding to next step**, ensure that Visium HD slide and tissue slides are completely dry.

#### **Reagent Addition & Instrument Run Initialization**

- **j.** Pipette mix Perm Enzyme B (PN-3000553) and vortex Reducing Agent B (PN-2000087). Centrifuge both briefly.
- k. Add 1.6 μl of Reducing Agent B and 8 μl of Perm Enzyme B to 30.4 μl of Permeabilization Mix to complete Permeabilization Mix. Pipette mix 15x with pipette set to 30 μl. Avoid generating bubbles. Centrifuge for 5 sec.



The time between adding Perm Enzyme B and Reducing Agent B to Permeabilization Mix and starting the Visium CytAssist instrument run should be less than **5 min**.

	Permeabilization Mix	10x PN	2 Tissue Slides (µl) (includes overage)
	Nuclease-free Water	-	Added during Destaining
	Perm Buffer	2001398	Added during Destaining
$\bigcirc$	Reducing Agent B	2000087	1.6
	Perm Enzyme B	3000553	8
	Total	•	40

- **1.** Slowly aspirate **17**  $\mu$ **l** of Permeabilization Mix and inspect the pipette tip. Ensure that no bubbles were drawn up into the pipette tip.
- m. Slowly dispense 17 μl of Permeabilization Mix into the center of each spacer well on the Visium HD Slide, using a fresh pipette tip for each dispense. Do not push plunger beyond first stop to avoid generating bubbles.



n. Close lid and press Next.

The home screen will now display a play symbol and run information along the bottom of the screen.

- **o.** Press play button to start the run. **37°C** for **30 min** is recommended for most applications.
  - Midrun progress bar will show the time remaining in the run.



- A yellow warning sign before a run begins indicates a user-recoverable error. If an error occurs, follow on-screen prompts.
- **p.** Place a Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter in the thermal cycler. Prepare a thermal cycler with the following incubation protocol and start the program.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
53°C	100 µl	48 min
Step	Temperature	Time
Pre-equilibrate	53°C	Hold
Reverse Transcription	53°C	00:45:00
Cool	4°C	00:03:00
Hold	4°C	Hold

**q.** Prepare RT Master Mix 1 on ice. Pipette mix 10x and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

	RT Master Mix 1 Add reagents in the order listed.	PN	1X (µl)	2X +10% (μl)
	Nuclease-free Water	-	41.7	91.7
	RT Reagent	2000086	17.5	38.5
$\bigcirc$	Reducing Agent B	2000087	1.4	3.1
	Template Switch Oligo B	2001027	4.9	10.8
	RT Enzyme G	2001438	4.5	9.9
	Total	-	70.0	154.0

r. At the end of a run, the button will display "Done" and a "Run Info" tab at the bottom of the screen. DO NOT allow sample to sit in the Visium CytAssist after run completion. Immediately move to next step.

- Green indicates a successfully completed run.
- Red indicates a failed run/error
- Yellow at the end of a run indicates an incomplete run.
- For more information on errors, consult the Visium CytAssist Instrument User Guide (CG000542).



**s.** Click "Done" button and open lid. DO NOT power off the instrument at this time, as it needs to process support data. It is normal for the Visium HD Slide to move after opening instrument.



**t. Immediately** remove Visium HD Slide. It is normal if tissue or stain remains on tissue slides after run completion.

#### Five 0.1X SSC Washes:

*Rinse slide near Visium CytAssist instrument to ensure prompt washing of the Capture Areas.* 

wash 1: While holding Visium HD Slide over liquid waste container, rinse each Capture Area with 1 ml 0.1X SSC. DO NOT pipette directly onto Capture Areas, which are surrounded by the fiducial frames.



- wash 2: While holding Visium HD Slide over liquid waste container, rinse each Capture Area with 1 ml 0.1X SSC. DO NOT pipette directly onto Capture Areas, which are surrounded by the fiducial frames.
- wash 3: While holding Visium HD Slide over liquid waste container, rinse each Capture Area with 1 ml 0.1X SSC. DO NOT pipette directly onto Capture Areas, which are surrounded by the fiducial frames.
- **x. Wash 4:** While holding Visium HD Slide over liquid waste container, rinse each Capture Area with 1 ml 0.1X SSC. DO NOT pipette directly onto Capture Areas, which are surrounded by the fiducial frames.
- y. Wash 5: While holding Visium HD Slide over liquid waste container, rinse each Capture Area with 1 ml 0.1X SSC. DO NOT pipette directly onto Capture Areas, which are surrounded by the fiducial frames.



If any tissue remains, repeat 0.1X SSC washes until pink stain is removed.

**z.** Gently touch long edge of Visium HD Slide on a lint-free laboratory wipe 3– 5x to remove excess SSC buffer.



**aa.** Place Visium HD Slide in the same Visium Cassette from earlier in this step.

Some moisture remaining on the Visium HD Slide is normal.

**ab.** Proceed immediately to 3.2 Reverse Transcription on the next page. CytAssist instrument should only be cleaned and data transferred at a safe stopping point.

#### **3.2 Reverse Transcription**

- a. Remove any residual 0.1X SSC from the wells.
- **b.** Add **70 µl** RT Master Mix 1 to each well.
- **c.** Apply a new Visium Slide Seal on the Visium Cassette and place on the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on the pre-heated thermal cycler. Close the thermal cycler lid.
- d. Skip Pre-equilibrate step to initiate Reverse Transcription 1.
- **e.** When Reverse Transcription 1 is complete, prepare RT Master Mix 2 on ice. Pipette mix 10x and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

	RT Master Mix 2 Add reagents in the order listed.	PN	1Χ (μl)	2X +10% (μl)
	Nuclease-free Water	-	35.3	77.6
	RT Reagent	2000086	17.5	38.5
0	Reducing Agent B	2000087	1.4	3.1
	Template Switch Oligo B	2001027	4.9	10.8
	RT Enzyme G	2001438	10.9	24.0
	Total	-	70.0	154.0

- **f.** Remove the Visium Cassette from the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter and place on a flat, clean work surface after the Reverse Transcription 1 is complete.
- **g.** Prepare a thermal cycler with the following incubation protocol and start the program.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
42°C (lid may be left at 50°C if the instrument does not enable 42°C)	100 µl	33 min
Step	Temperature	Time
Pre-equilibrate	42°C	Hold
Reverse Transcription 2	42°C	00:30:00
Cool	4°C	00:03:00
Hold	4°C	Hold

- **h.** Remove the Visium Slide Seal and using a pipette, remove all Reverse Transcription 1 Mix from the wells.
- i. Add 100 µl 0.1X SSC to each well.

- j. Remove all 0.1X SSC buffer from the wells.
- k. Add **70 µl** RT Master Mix 2 to each well.
- **I.** Apply a new Visium Slide Seal on the Visium Cassette and place on the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on the pre-heated thermal cycler. Close the thermal cycler lid.
- **m.** Skip Pre-equilibrate step to initiate Reverse Transcription 2.

#### **3.3 Denaturation**

**a.** Prepare 0.08 M KOH shortly before use, adding reagents in the order listed. Vortex and centrifuge briefly. Maintain at room temperature. Discard after use.

0.08 М КОН	Stock	Stock	1Χ (μl)	2X +33% (µl)
Nuclease-free Water	-	-	74.2	198.0
КОН	8 M	0.08 M	0.8	2.0
Total	-	-	75.0	200.0

- **b.** At the end of Reverse Transcription 2 incubation, remove the Visium Cassette from the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter and place on a flat, clean work surface.
- **c.** Remove the Visium Slide Seal and using a pipette, remove all Reverse Transcription 2 Mix from the wells.
- d. Add 75 µl 0.08 M KOH (diluted from stock) to each well.
- e. Incubate for 5 min at room temperature.
- f. Using a pipette, remove 0.08 M KOH from the wells.
- **g.** Add **100 µl** Buffer EB to each well.



# Step 4:

## **Second Strand Synthesis & Elution**

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4.2 Second Strand Elution	74

#### 4.0 Get Started

Items		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage		
Equilibrate to Room Temperature						
	Second Strand Reagent	Tube: 2000219 Kit: 1000855	Thaw, vortex, centrifuge briefly.	-20°C		
	Second Strand Primer	Tube: 2000217 Kit: 1000855	Thaw, vortex, centrifuge briefly.	-20°C		
Place on ice						
	Second Strand Enzyme	Tube: 2000183 Kit: 1000855	Pipette mix, centrifuge briefly.	-20°C		
Obtain						
	Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient		
	Qiagen Buffer EB	-	-	Ambient		
	Tris-HCl 1 M, pH 7.0	-	-	Ambient		
	8 М КОН	-		Ambient		
	Visium Slide Seals	Component: 2000283 Kit: 1000874	See Tip & Best Practices.	Ambient		
#### **4.1 Second Strand Synthesis**

**a.** Leave the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on the thermal cycler. Prepare the thermal cycler with the following incubation protocol and start the program.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
53°C	100 µl	48 min
Step	Temperature	Time
Pre-equilibrate	53°C	Hold
Second Strand Synthesis	53°C	00:45:00
Cool	4°C	00:03:00
Hold	4°C	Hold

**b.** Prepare Second Strand Mix on ice. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

Second Strand Mix Add reagents in the order listed	PN	1Χ (μl)	2X +10% (μl)
Second Strand Reagent	2000219	69.5	152.9
Second Strand Primer	2000217	4.0	8.8
Second Strand Enzyme	2000183	1.5	3.3
Total	-	75.0	165.0

- **c.** Using a pipette, remove Buffer EB from the wells.
- d. Add 75 µl Second Strand Mix to each well.
- **e.** Apply a new Visium Slide Seal on the Visium Cassette and place on the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter on the pre-heated thermal cycler. Close the thermal cycler lid.
- f. Skip Pre-equilibrate step to initiate Second Strand Synthesis.
- g. Proceed to Second Strand Elution or store at 4°C for up to 24 h.

STOP

#### **4.2 Second Strand Elution**

**a.** Prepare 0.08 M KOH shortly before use, adding reagents in the order listed. Vortex and centrifuge briefly. Maintain at room temperature. Discard after use.

0.08 М КОН	Stock	Stock	1Χ (μl)	2X + Overage* (µl)
Nuclease-free Water	-	-	34.6	198.0
КОН	8 M	0.08 M	0.4	2.0
Total	-	-	35.0	200

\*Significant overage is provided to avoid pipetting small volumes

- **b.** At the end of Second Strand Synthesis incubation, remove the Visium Cassette from the Low Profile Thermocycler Adapter and place on a flat, clean work surface.
- **c.** Remove the Visium Slide Seal and using a pipette, remove all Second Strand Mix from the wells.
- **d.** Add **100 μl** Buffer EB to each well.
- e. Using a pipette, remove Buffer EB from the wells.

Failure to remove all solution may impact assay performance.

- f. Add **35 µl** 0.08 M KOH (diluted from stock) to each well.
- g. Incubate for 10 min at room temperature.
- **h.** Add **5** µl Tris-HCl 1 M, pH 7.0 to a tube in an 8-tube strip for each sample.
- i. Using a pipette set to  $35 \mu$ l, transfer all solution for each sample to a tube in an 8-tube strip. See image below for proper removal technique.



- j. Inspect cassette wells. If there is any liquid remaining in the wells, return to the cassette wells and pipette again to ensure all solution is removed. Replace the tip with a new pipette tip and collect any remaining solution.
- **k.** Vortex 8-tube strip, centrifuge briefly, and place on ice.



# Step 5:

## **cDNA Amplification and SPRIselect**

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#### **5.0 Get Started**

Number of reactions in reagent preparation tables refers to the number of samples from Second Strand Elution.

ltem		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	g Stor	age	
Equilibrat	te to room tempe	rature				
	cDNA Primers	Tube: 2000089 Kit: 1000855	Thaw at room temperature, vortex, and centrifuge briefly.	-20° d	°C	
	Beckman Coulter SPRIselect Reagent	-	Manufacturer's recommendations.	-		
Place on i	ice					
	Amp Mix	Tube: 2000103 Kit: 1000855	Vortex, centrifuge briefly.	-20°	C	
Obtain						
	Qiagen Buffer EB	-		Amb	ient	
	10x Magnetic Separator	Component: 2001212 Kit: 1000499	See Tips & Best Practices.	Amb	ient	
	80% Ethanol	-	Prepare fresh. Prepare two 1.5-centrifuge tubes with 1000 μl, for a total of 2000 μl. Store at room temperature.			tubes with om
			80% Ethanol Store at room temperature	Stock	Final	1000 μΙ 1X
			100% Ethanol	100%	80%	800 µl
			Nuclease-free Water	-	-	200 µl

## **5.1 cDNA Amplification**

**a.** Prepare cDNA Amplification Mix on ice. Add reagents in the order listed. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

	cDNA Amplification Mix	PN	1X (µl)	2X + 10% (μl)
0	Amp Mix	2000103	50	110
	cDNA Primers	2000089	15	33
	Total	-	65	143

- **b.** Add **65 μl** cDNA Amplification Mix to each tube from **4.2** Second Strand Elution on page 74. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly.
- **c.** Incubate in a thermal cycler with the following protocol.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
105°C	100 µl	~45 min
Step	Temperature	Time hh:mm:ss
1	98°C	00:03:00
2	98°C	00:00:15
3	63°C	00:00:20
4	72°C	00:01:00
5	Go to Step 2, repeat 14)	X for a total of 15 cycles
6	72°C	00:01:00
7	4°C	00:03:00
8	4°C	Hold

STOP

d. Store at 4°C for up to 24 h, or proceed to next step.

#### **5.2 cDNA Amplification Cleanup - SPRIselect**

If using MicroAmp 8-Tube Strips, use the high position (magnet•**High**) only throughout the protocol.

- **a.** Vortex to resuspend SPRIselect reagent. Add **60 μl** SPRIselect reagent (0.6X) to each pre-amplification reaction in an 8-tube strip (105 μl) and pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 130 μl).
- b. Incubate 5 min at room temperature.
- c. Place on the magnet-High for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- d. Remove supernatant.
- e. Add 200 µl 80% ethanol to pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- f. Remove ethanol.
- g. Add 200 µl 80% ethanol to pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- h. Remove ethanol.
- i. Centrifuge briefly and place on magnet•Low.
- j. Remove any remaining ethanol without disturbing the beads. Air dry for 2 min. DO NOT exceed 2 min as this will decrease elution efficiency.
- **k.** Remove from magnet. Add **40.5 μl** Buffer EB. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 30 μl).
- **1.** Incubate **2 min** at **room temperature**.
- m. Place tube strip on magnet •Low for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- n. Transfer 40 µl sample to a new tube strip on ice.
- o. Store at 4°C for up to 72 h, -20°C for up to 4 weeks, or proceed to next step.

#### 5.3 cDNA QC & Quantification

**a.** Dilute sample (1:5 dilution, i.e **1**  $\mu$ l sample in **4**  $\mu$ l of EB buffer) until it is at an appropriate concentration for the Bioanalyzer.

Quantification of sample prior to dilution may be necessary to calculate the optimal dilution.

**b.** Run **1 μl** of diluted sample on an Agilent Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity chip. If peak is too small or flat, retry with a lower dilution.

cDNA profile may vary depending on tissue type and quality.

Lower molecular weight product (35–150 bp) may be present. This is normal and does not affect sequencing or application performance.



Though the trace below is a result of sample degradation, it is considered within expectations. For abnormal cDNA traces that would prohibit proceeding to library construction, see 4. Abnormal cDNA and Final Library Traces on page 109.



#### **EXAMPLE CALCULATION**

#### i. <u>Select Region</u>

Under the "Electropherogram" view choose the "Region Table". Manually select the region of  $\sim 200 - \sim 9,000$  bp.



#### ii. <u>Note Concentration [pg/µl]</u>



#### iii. Calculate

Multiply the cDNA concentration  $[pg/\mu l]$  reported via the Agilent 2100 Expert Software by the elution volume (40 µl) of the Post cDNA Amplification Reaction Clean Up sample and then divide by 1,000 to obtain the total cDNA yield in ng.

Example Calculation of cDNA Total Yield

Concentration: 16,715.54 pg/µl Elution Volume: 40

#### **Total cDNA Yield**

=	= <u>Conc'n (pg/μl) x Elution Volume (μl)</u>					
	1000 (pg/ng)					
=	16,715.54 (pg/µl) x 40 (µl) = 668.6. ng					
	1000 (pg/ng)					

The carry forward cDNA volume is specified in step 6.1.

See step 6.5 Sample Index PCR on page 89 for appropriate number of Sample Index PCR cycles based on carry forward cDNA/input mass.

#### **Alternate Quantification Methods:**

- Agilent TapeStation
- Perkin Elmer LabChip

See Appendix on page 114 for representative traces



## Step 6:

## **Visium HD 3' Library Construction**

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## 6.0 Get Started

Item	۱ 		10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Storage
Equ	ilibrate	to room tempera	ture		
	•	Fragmentation Buffer	Tube: 2000091 Kit: 1000855	Vortex, verify no precipitate. Centrifuge briefly.	-20°C
	•	Ligation Mix	Tube: 2001109 Kit: 1000855	Vortex, verify no precipitate. Centrifuge briefly.	-20°C
		Dual Index Plate TT Set A	Component: 3000431 Kit: 1000215	Thaw at room temperature, vortex, and centrifuge briefly.	-20°C
		Beckman Coulter SPRIselect Reagent	-	Manufacturer's recommendations.	-
		Library QC Reagents		Use Agilent Bioanalyzer, Agilent TapeStation for ( reagents based on methe	Perkin Elmer LabChip, or QC. Obtain appropriate od chosen.
Plac	e on ice	)			
		Fragmentation Enzyme Ensure that Fragmentation Buffer and Fragmentation Enzyme from the same kit are used together. Lots are matched for optimal performance.	Tube: 2000104 Kit: 1000855	Pipette mix, centrifuge briefly before using.	-20°C
		DNA Ligase	Tube: 220131 Kit: 1000855	Pipette mix, centrifuge briefly before using.	-20°C
	$\bigcirc$	Amp Mix	Tube: 2000103 Kit: 1000855	Vortex, centrifuge briefly.	-20°C
Obt	ain				
		Nuclease-free Water	-	-	Ambient
		Qiagen Buffer EB	-		Ambient

	10x PN	Preparation & Handling	Sto	rage	
10x Magnetic Separator	Component: 2001212 Kit: 1000499	See Tips & Best Practices.	Am	bient	
80% Ethanol	-	Prepare fresh. Prepare two 1.5-centrifuge tubes with 1250 µl, for a total of 2500 µl. Store at room temperature.			
		80% Ethanol Store at room temperature	Stock	Final	1250 μΙ 1X
		100% Ethanol	100%	80%	1000 µl
		Nuclease-free Water	-	-	250 µl
	10x Magnetic Separator 80% Ethanol	10x PN10x Magnetic SeparatorComponent: 2001212 Kit: 100049980% Ethanol-	10x PN     Preparation & Handling       10x Magnetic Separator     Component: 2001212 Kit: 1000499     See Tips & Best Practices.       80% Ethanol     -     Prepare fresh. Prep with 1250 µl, for a temperature.       80% Ethanol     -     80% Ethanol Store at room temperature       100% Ethanol     -     100% Ethanol Store at room temperature       100% Ethanol     -     100% Ethanol	10x PNPreparation & HandlingSto Handling10x Magnetic SeparatorComponent: 2001212 Kit: 1000499See Tips & Best Practices.Am Practices.80% Ethanol-Prepare fresh. Prepare two 1.5 with 1250 µl, for a total of 250 temperature.Prepare fresh. Prepare two 1.5 with 1250 µl, for a total of 250 temperature.80% Ethanol Store at room temperature100% 100%100%	10x PN       Preparation & Handling       Storage         10x Magnetic Separator       Component: 2001212 Kit: 1000499       See Tips & Best Practices.       Ambient Practices.         80% Ethanol       -       Prepare fresh. Prepare two 1.5-centrifug with 1250 µl, for a total of 2500 µl. Store temperature.         80% Ethanol       -       80% Ethanol Store at room temperature       Stock         100% Ethanol       100%       80%

### 6.1 Fragmentation, End Repair & A-tailing

**a.** Prepare a thermal cycler with the following incubation protocol and start the program.

	Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
	65°C	50 µl	~35 min
	Step	Temperature	Time
	Pre-cool block Pre-cool block prior to preparing the Fragmentation Mix	4°C	Hold
	Fragmentation	32°C	00:05:00
	End Repair & A-tailing	65°C	00:30:00
	Hold	4°C	Hold

**b.** Prepare Fragmentation Mix on ice. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

Fragmentation Mix Add reagents in the order listed	PN	1X (µl)	2X + 10% (µl)
Fragmentation Buffer	2000091	5	11
Fragmentation Enzyme	2000104	10	22
Total		15	33

- **c.** Add **25 μl** Buffer EB to separate tubes in a tube strip (maintained on ice) for each sample from 5.2 cDNA Amplification Cleanup SPRIselect on page 78.
- d. Add 15 µl Fragmentation Mix to each tube containing Buffer EB.
- e. Transfer 10 μl purified cDNA from each sample from cDNA Amplification -Cleanup to separate tubes in a tube strip containing Buffer EB and Fragmentation Mix.
- f. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 35 µl) on ice. Centrifuge briefly.
- **g.** Transfer into the pre-cooled thermal cycler (**4**°**C**).
- **h.** Skip pre-cool block step to initiate Fragmentation.

## 6.2 Post Fragmentation End Repair & A-tailing Double Sided Size Selection – SPRIselect

If using MicroAmp 8-Tube Strips, use the high position (magnet•**High**) only throughout the protocol.

- **a.** Vortex to resuspend SPRIselect reagent. Add **30 μl** SPRIselect **(0.6X)** reagent to each sample. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 75 μl).
- **b.** Incubate **5 min** at **room temperature**.
- **c.** Place on the magnet **•High** for **3 min**. Verify solution is clear. DO NOT discard supernatant.
- d. Transfer **75 µl** supernatant to a new tube strip.
- e. Vortex to resuspend SPRIselect reagent. Add 10 μl SPRIselect reagent (0.8X) to each sample. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 80 μl).
- f. Incubate 5 min at room temperature.
- g. Place on the magnet•High for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- h. Remove 80 µl supernatant. DO NOT discard any beads.
- i. Add 125  $\mu l$  80% ethanol to the pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- j. Remove the ethanol.
- k. Add 125 µl 80% ethanol to the pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- **l.** Remove the ethanol.
- **m.** Centrifuge briefly. Place on the magnet**-Low** for **3 min**. Verify solution is clear. Remove remaining ethanol. DO NOT over dry to ensure maximum elution efficiency.
- **n.** Remove from the magnet. Add **50.5 μl** Buffer EB to each sample. Pipette mix 15x.
- o. Incubate 2 min at room temperature.
- p. Place on the magnet•High for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- **q.** Transfer **50** µl sample to a new tube strip on ice.

## 6.3 Adaptor Ligation

**a.** Prepare Adaptor Ligation Mix. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly. Maintain on ice.

Adaptor Ligation Mix Add reagents in the order listed	PN	1Х (µl)	2X + 10% (μl)
Ligation Mix	2001109	40	88
DNA Ligase	220131	10	22
Total	-	50	110

- b. Add 50 μl Adaptor Ligation Mix to 50 μl sample (maintained on ice).
  Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 90 μl) on ice. Centrifuge briefly.
- **c.** Incubate in a thermal cycler with the following protocol.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
30°C (lid may be turned off if the instrument does not enable 30°C)	100 µl	15 min
Step	Temperature	Time
Pre-equilibrate	20°C	Hold
Adaptor Ligation	20°C	00:15:00
Hold	4°C	Hold

#### 6.4 Post-Ligation Cleanup – SPRIselect

If using MicroAmp 8-Tube Strips, use the high position (magnet•**High**) only throughout the protocol

- a. Vortex to resuspend SPRIselect Reagent. Add 80 μl SPRIselect Reagent (0.8X) to each sample. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 150 μl).
- **b.** Incubate **5 min** at **room temperature**.
- c. Place on magnet-High for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- d. Remove supernatant.
- e. Add 200 µl 80% ethanol to pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- f. Remove ethanol.
- g. Add 200 µl 80% ethanol to pellet. Wait 30 sec.
- **h.** Remove ethanol.
- i. Centrifuge briefly. Place on the magnet•Low.
- **j.** Remove any remaining ethanol. Air dry for **2 min**. DO NOT exceed **2 min** as this will decrease elution efficiency.
- k. Remove from magnet. Add 30.5 µl Buffer EB. Pipette mix 15x.
- **l.** Incubate **2 min** at **room temperature**.
- m. Place on the magnet-Low for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- **n.** Transfer **30 µl** sample to a new tube strip on ice.

#### 6.5 Sample Index PCR



**a.** Choose the appropriate sample index sets to ensure that no sample indices overlap in a multiplexed sequencing run. Record the 10x Sample Index name (PN-3000431 Dual Index Plate TT Set A well ID) used.

- **b.** Add **50 µl** Amp Mix (PN-2000103) to a tube in an 8-tube strip for each sample on ice.
- **c.** Add **20 μl** of an individual Dual Index Plate TT Set A to each tube and record the well ID used. Pipette mix and centrifuge briefly.
- **d.** Incubate in a thermal cycler with the following protocol.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time	
105°C	100 µl	~30 min	
Step	Temperature	Time hh:mm:ss	
1	98°C	00:00:45	
2	98°C	00:00:20	
3	54°C	00:00:30	
4	72°C	00:00:20	
5	Go to step 2, see below for # of cycles		
6	72°C	00:01:00	
7	4°C	00:03:00	
7	4°C	Hold	



Select total cycles based upon carrying forward 25% cDNA input (cDNA yield/25%) input calculated during cDNA QC.

cDNA Input	Total Cycles
1–10 ng	15
10-50 ng	14
50–100 ng	13
100-250 ng	12
250-350 ng	11
350-600 ng	10
600-800 ng	9
800-1,100 ng	8
1,100-1,300 ng	7
1,300-1,500 ng	6
>1,500 ng	5

e. Store at 4°C for up to 72 h or proceed to the next step.

STOP

## 6.6 Post Sample Index PCR Double Sided Size Selection – SPRIselect

If using MicroAmp 8-Tube Strips, use the high position (magnet•**High**) only throughout the protocol.

- a. Vortex to resuspend the SPRIselect reagent. Add 60 µl SPRIselect Reagent (0.6X) to each sample. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 150 µl).
- **b.** Incubate **5 min** at **room temperature**.
- **c.** Place on the magnet **•High** for **3 min**. Verify solution is clear. DO NOT discard supernatant.
- d. Transfer 150 µl supernatant to a new tube strip.
- e. Vortex to resuspend the SPRIselect reagent. Add 20 μl SPRIselect Reagent (0.8X) to each sample. Pipette mix 15x (pipette set to 150 μl).
- f. Incubate 5 min at room temperature.
- g. Place the magnet-High for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- h. Remove 165 µl supernatant. DO NOT discard any beads.
- With the tube still in the magnet, add 200 μl 80% ethanol to the pellet.
   Wait 30 sec.
- j. Remove the ethanol.
- k. With the tube still in the magnet, add 200 μl 80% ethanol to the pellet.Wait 30 sec.
- **I.** Remove the ethanol.
- m. Centrifuge briefly. Place on the magnet-Low. Remove remaining ethanol.
- n. Remove from the magnet. Add 35.5 µl Buffer EB. Pipette mix 15x.
- o. Incubate 2 min at room temperature.
- p. Place on the magnet-Low for 3 min. Verify solution is clear.
- q. Transfer 35 µl to a new tube strip on ice.
- **r.** Store at **4°C** for up to **72 h** or at **-20°C** for **long-term** storage.

#### 6.7 Post-Library Construction QC

**a.** Dilute sample (1:5 dilution, i.e **1**  $\mu$ l sample in **4**  $\mu$ l of EB buffer) until it is at an appropriate concentration for the Bioanalyzer.

Quantification of sample prior to dilution may be necessary to calculate the optimal dilution.

**b.** Run **1**  $\mu$ l of diluted sample on an Agilent Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity chip. If peak is too small or flat, retry with a lower dilution. See Troubleshooting on page 98 for more information.

#### **Representative Trace**



Determine the average fragment size from the Bioanalyzer trace. The expected average fragment size is 450 bp. This will be used as the insert size for library quantification.

#### **Alternate QC Methods:**

- Agilent TapeStation
- Perkin Elmer LabChip

See Appendix on page 114 for representative traces

See Post Library Construction Quantification on page 115



# Sequencing

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#### **Sequencing Libraries**

A Visium HD 3' library comprises standard Illumina paired-end constructs, which begin and end with P5 and P7 adaptors. The 43 bp UMI and Spatial Barcode are encoded in TruSeq Read 1, while TruSeq Read 2 is used to sequence the cDNA fragment. i7 and i5 sample index sequences are also incorporated as index reads. TruSeq Read 1 and TruSeq Read 2 are standard Illumina sequencing primer sites used in paired-end sequencing.

#### Visium HD 3' Library



#### **Sequencing Depth**

The minimum sequencing depth for Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression is 550 million read pairs per fully-covered Capture Area. The recommended minimum sequencing depth was chosen because it achieved >75% sequencing saturation for >50% of fresh frozen samples across a variety of species and tissue types.

Calculating sequencing depth requires estimating the approximate Capture Area (%) covered by tissue. This may be performed visually or by using the Visium Manual Alignment Wizard in Loupe Browser for a more accurate measurement. See examples below for estimating coverage area visually. If using Loupe Browser, the number of bins associated with tissue can be calculated during the "Identify Tissue" step. For more information, consult the 10x Genomics Support website.

#### **Example: Sequencing Depth for a Sample**



#### **Sequencing Type & Run Parameters**

Use the sequencing run type and parameters indicated.

#### Visium HD 3' Library

Paired-end, dual indexed sequencing

TruSeq Read 1: 43 cycles i7 Index: 10 cycles i5 Index: 10 cycles TruSeq Read 2: 75 cycles

#### Sequencer Compatibility

10x Genomics libraries contain P5 and P7 adaptors, which can be used for Illumina sequencing. These libraries can also be modified to enable sequencing on various long and short-read sequencing platforms, with some platforms requiring third-party analysis tools. For a list of tested sequencers, consult the Sequencer Compatibility for Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression page on the 10x Genomics support site.

Some variation in assay performance is expected based on sequencer choice. For more information on sequencing platform compatibility, refer to the 10x Genomics Compatible Products page at the 10x Genomics support website.

#### **Sample Indices**

Each well of the Dual Index Kit TT Set A (PN-1000215) contains a mix of one unique i7 and one unique i5 sample index. If multiple samples are pooled in a sequence lane, the sample index name (i.e. the Dual Index Plate TT Set A plate well ID, SI-TT-) is needed in the sample sheet used for generating FASTQs with "spaceranger mkfastq". Samples utilizing the same sample index should not be pooled together or run on the same flow cell lane, as this would not enable correct sample demultiplexing.

Color balance in the index read is important for optimal quality and demultiplexing results. For example, when pooling samples on the NovaSeq X Series instruments, Illumina recommends avoiding index combinations which only have signals from A bases, G bases, or G+A bases in any given cycle. Refer to Illumina's guidance on index color balancing.

#### **Library Pooling**

10x Genomics has not tested pooling Visium HD 3' libraries with other 10x Genomics libraries; therefore, pooling is not recommended due to possible impact on assay performance.

#### **Library Loading**

Library quantification should be done with the KAPA DNA Quantification Kit using the average insert size determined by Agilent Bioanalyzer, Perkin Elmer LabChip, or Agilent TapeStation QC. Alternate methods to KAPA qPCR for final library concentration may result in underquantification and consequently overloading.

Once quantified and normalized, libraries should be denatured and diluted as recommended for Illumina sequencing platforms. Consult Illumina documentation for denaturing and diluting libraries. For a list of sequencers and loading concentrations, consult the Sequencer Compatibility for Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression page on the 10x Genomics support website.

#### **Sequencing Metrics**

To determine sequencing metrics for a selected sequencing platform, Visium HD 3' Libraries were generated and sequenced at the indicated run parameters to generate the % Base and % ≥Q30 plots shown in the following figures. All libraries were quantified with the KAPA DNA Quantification Kit and sequenced with 1% PhiX.

All libraries followed the following sequencing configuration and run parameters:

- Targeted sequencing depth: Minimum of 550 million read pairs multiplied by fraction Visium HD 3' Slide tissue coverage.
- Paired-end, dual indexing: TruSeq Read 1 (R1): 43 cycles; i7 Index: 10 cycles; i5 Index: 10 cycles; TruSeq Read 2 (R2): 75 cycles

% Base by cycle and % ≥Q30 Quality Score distribution showed highly consistent profiles for all sequencing platforms tested. The data serve as guidelines for assessing the quality of library sequencing. Additional factors that may contribute to overall success of a sequencing run and impact downstream application performance metrics include:

- Starting with a high-quality tissue block and maintaining RNA quality.
- Generating sequencing data from sections that remain adhered to the slide.
- Final libraries with fragment lengths within the expected size range for each library type.
- Reliable and accurate library quantification using the KAPA qPCR DNA Quantification Kit for Illumina Platforms (Roche, KK4824) and the average insert size determined by Agilent Bioanalyzer, Perkin Elmer LabChip, or Agilent TapeStation QC. Alternative methods to KAPA qPCR, such as Qubit, for final library quantification may result in underquantification and result in overloading flow cells.
- Sequencing platform loading concentrations follow recommendations described in the Sequencer Compatibility for Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression page on the 10x Genomics support site, which are based on KAPA qPCR quantification. Overloading/over-clustering may result in poor run performance, decrease sequencing quality, and lower total data output as compared to optimally loaded runs. The loading recommendations for an individual sequencer are general guidance and additional optimization may be required.



Libraries were sequenced on the NovaSeq X Plus. "Data by Cycle" plots from the Illumina SAV software displaying the percentage of base calls and Q30 quality scores are shown.

2 Sample Pool							
Instr.	Load Conc. (pM)	% Occupancy	%PF	R1	i7	i5	R2
				% ≥Q30			
NovaSeq X Plus	200	94.80	84.71	96.48	96.37	96.57	96.57
4 Sample Pool							
Instr.	Load Conc. (pM)	% Occupancy	%PF	R1	i7	i5	R2
				% ≥Q30			
NovaSeq X Plus	200	94.30	83.77	95.99	96.55	95.75	95.65



# Troubleshooting



#### **Before CytAssist Instrument Run**

#### **1. Inadequate Visium HD Slide Preparation**

- Leaving Visium HD Slide in 0.1X SSC inside slide mailer longer than 4 h after Visium HD Slide washing may result in spacer detachment.
- Failure to remove excess liquid from the back of the Visium HD Slide before loading the slide onto the Visium CytAssist may result in distorted fiducial imaging, which can impact fiducial registration.
- Insufficient drying of Visium HD Slide prior to instrument run may result in bubble entrapment and uneven flow of reagents.

#### 2. Extended Tissue Slide PBS Incubation



Extended PBS incubation beyond the 5 minute mark may result in increased destaining that causes automatic tissue detection to fail. If tissue detection is impacted, manual tissue detection may be required. This has no impact on sensitivity and data quality. Remove tissue slides at 5 min during the PBS incubation as described in the protocol.

## **3. PBS Droplets on Tissue Sections**



Large PBS droplets remaining on tissue sections may result in loss of spatial fidelity demonstrated by blurry post-sequencing UMI plots. Flick slides vigorously after PBS incubation until no large PBS droplets remain on tissue sections. Ensure tissue section is dry prior to starting an instrument run.

## 4. Debris on Tissue or Visium HD Slide



Debris on a Tissue Slide or Visium HD Slide may cause loss of spatial fidelity demonstrated by blurry post-sequencing UMI plots. Always work in a clean environment. When handling the Visium cassette, ensure that gaskets always face away from the work surface, as shown in the image below, to avoid debris collecting on the gasket.



## 5. Folded Tissue on Tissue Slide



Folded tissue may cause a loss of spatial fidelity demonstrated by blurry postsequencing UMI plots. If possible, screen H&E images during H&E staining and imaging to select tissue sections without folds.

### 6. Incomplete Removal of Pre-equilibration Buffer



Incomplete removal of pre-equilibration buffer may result in blurry UMI maps. When removing Pre-equilibration Buffer, perform the following:

- Using a P200 pipette set at 200 µl, remove Pre-equilibration Mix from the right corner of **one** well in the cassette without scratching the fiducial frame or hydrogel.
- Replace P200 tip with a new P200 tip.
- With the pipette still set at 200  $\mu$ l, remove Pre-equilibration Mix from the right corner of the **same** well in the cassette.
- Repeat process for remaining well.

## **During CytAssist Instrument Run**

#### **1. Bubbles Trapped During Visium CytAssist Run**



Bubbles during a sample run are rare, but may result in a lack of useable reads in the tissue area where the bubbled occurred. The most common cause of bubbles is incomplete drying of the tissue slide and/or the Visium HD slide. Bubbles can also result from inaccurate dispensing volume of reagents onto the slide. Ensure that the entire spacer chamber is inspected for bubbles, not just the Capture Area. Ensure that the entire spacer chamber is also dry during the drying step, not just the Capture Area.

Avoid generating bubbles during reagent dispensing by pipetting slowly and avoiding expelling air from the pipette tip. Additionally, ensure that the frosted area of the tissue slides are outside of the alignment guide lines on the Tissue Slide Stage and that tissue slides are compatible with the CytAssist instrument. Consult the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) for information on tested slides.

#### 2. Reagent Flow Failure



Inappropriate flow of reagents during a Visium CytAssist experiment run may result in transcript mislocation. This may be caused by improper loading of the Permeabilization Mix onto the Visium HD Slide or debris on the Visium HD Slide. If the UMI map appears abnormal (complete loss of UMIs from a significant portion of the tissue), contact support@10xgenomics.com.

Ensure that frosted areas of the tissue slide are not within the dashed zone on the Visium Tissue Slide Stage. Keep Visium slides and tissue slides free from physical damage, dust, and debris. After Eosin wash, remove as much PBS as possible by flicking the tissue slide and wiping any remaining droplets around tissue with a lint-free laboratory wipe. Both tissues slides and Visium HD slides should be completely dry.

## 3. Visium CytAssist Overheating



If the Visium CytAssist instrument overheats during an experiment run, the run will fail. A warning message will appear instructing users to carefully remove slides and contact support@10xgenomics.com.

#### After CytAssist Instrument Run

#### 1. Slide Popped Off of Visium Slide Stage

Upon opening the lid after a successful run, the Visium slide may pop out of the grooves on the Visium Slide Stage. This does not impact assay performance or slide quality.



#### 2. Visium HD Slide Removal Delayed

A delay in removing and processing the Visium HD Slide after run completion may impact data quality. Immediately proceed with slide washes while adjacent to the instrument.

#### 3. No cDNA Amplification

No cDNA amplification may result on a flat cDNA trace.



This may be due to the following:

- Poor sample quality
- Issues with pipetting small volumes
- Incorrect preparation of Permeabilization Mix
- Mistake in Permeabilization Mix addition timing
- Failure to neutralize KOH with Tris-HCl 1M, pH 7.0
- Failure to prepare KOH fresh and at the appropriate concentration
- Failure to use fresh reagents during SPRI or using reagents at the wrong concentration
- Failure to add sample to the instrument used for QC
- Leakage from the cassette during workflow
## 4. Abnormal cDNA and Final Library Traces

#### Abnormal cDNA Traces

Below are some examples of abnormal cDNA traces. If any of the following are observed, contact support@10xgenomics.com for assistance. See Tips & Best Practices section of this User Guide and Visium HD 3' Fresh Frozen Tissue Preparation Handbook (CG000804) for information on establishing an RNasefree environment.





#### **Abnormal Final Library Traces**

The image below is an example of an overloaded trace. Note the double peak at around 700 bp. The low and high molecular weight markers are in low abundance compared to the sample. Ensure the library was diluted prior to loading per protocol recommendations. If the library was diluted, ensure the library concentration is within the specification range of the automated electrophoresis kit being used. The library can be quantified using a Invitrogen Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit and diluted further if appropriate.



#### Peaks due to Poor SPRI

The additional peaks in the traces below are due to poor SPRI. Ensure that all SPRI cleanup steps are performed accurately.





## **Issues Impacting Tissue Analysis**

#### **1. Tissue Detachment and Folding**

Tissue detachment may result in a lack of Fraction Reads Usable in the region where detachment occurred. If the tissue has folded on itself, this may also cause elevated UMI counts in the overlapping areas or a loss of spatiality due to ineffective permeabilization. Tissue folding may also cause lower UMI capture. Inspect images carefully to identify these areas. For more information on folding that is unrelated to tissue detachment, see 5. Folded Tissue on Tissue Slide on page 102.

Ensure that slides tested by 10x Genomics were used for tissue placement. For a list of tested slides, refer to the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) For more information, consult the sample preparation documentation described in Workflow Overview on page 12.



## 2. Area of Interest Not Within Allowable Area



Areas of interest that are not placed within the allowable area on compatible glass slides will not be analyzed. This may occur if the tissue is larger than the Capture Area or if the tissue slide is not properly aligned when loading onto the Tissue Slide Stage. Tissue outside of the allowable area is fine if the tissue outside the allowable area is not an area of interest. Use the Visium CytAssist Alignment Aid to assist in alignment on the instrument. Consult the Visium HD 3' Spatial Gene Expression Protocol Planner (CG000803) for information on tested glass slides.

## 3. Tissue Segmentation Failure due to High Connective Tissue

Examples of Scenarios that Lead to Tissue Segmentation Failure		
Tissue Composition/Morphology May Result in Failed Tissue Detection	Tissue Composition/Morphology May Result in Failed Tissue Detection	
	Failed detection	

Space Ranger may fail to detect tissue for a variety of reasons, which may necessitate manual fiducial alignment and tissue detection via Loupe Browser. If the contrast between background and tissue is poor (due to inadequate staining, technical error, or tissue composition) tissue segmentation failure may occur.

## 5. Data Loss due to Hydrogel Damage

Damage to the hydrogel may result in data loss. Avoid damaging the hydrogel by adhering to best practices when removing reagent from the well as described in Reagent Addition & Removal from Wells on page 25. In the example below, a scratch on the hydrogel noted by the arrow has resulted in a loss of UMI count.





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## **Post Library Construction Quantification**

- **a.** Thaw KAPA Library Quantification Kit for Illumina Platforms.
- **b.** Dilute **2 μl** sample with deionized water to appropriate dilutions that fall within the linear detection range of the KAPA Library Quantification Kit for Illumina Platforms. (For more accurate quantification, make the dilution(s) in duplicate).
- **c.** Make enough Quantification Master Mix for the DNA dilutions per sample and the DNA Standards (plus 10% excess) using the guidance for 1 reaction volume below.

Quantification Master Mix	1X (µl)
SYBR Fast Master Mix + Primer	12
Water	4
Total	16

- **d.** Dispense **16 μl** Quantification Master Mix for sample dilutions and DNA Standards into a 96 well PCR plate.
- e. Add 4 μl sample dilutions and 4 μl DNA Standards to appropriate wells. Centrifuge briefly.
- **f.** Prepare a qPCR system with the following protocol. Insert the plate and start the program.

Lid Temperature	Reaction Volume	Run Time
-	20 µl	35 min
Step	Temperature	Time
1	95°C	00:03:00
2	95°C	00:00:05
3	67°C Read signal	00:00:30
4	Go to Step 2, 29X (To	otal 30 cycles)

**g.** Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for qPCR-based quantification. For library quantification for sequencer clustering, determine the concentration based on insert size derived from the Bioanalyzer/TapeStation trace.

# **Perkin Elmer LabChip Traces**

#### Protocol Step 6.7 - GEX Post Library Construction QC

#### **Representative Trace**

Run manufacturer's recommended volume of diluted sample (1:5 dilution)



DNA High Sensitivity Reagent Kit was used. Protocol steps correspond to the steps in this User Guide.

## **Agilent TapeStation Traces**

Agilent TapeStation High Sensitivity D5000 ScreenTape was used. Protocol steps correspond to the steps in this User Guide.



# HD 3' Workflow Overview for Processing 4 Tissue Slides with 1 Visium CytAssist Instrument

Two thermal cyclers are required. Scale volume calculations appropriately. If using multiple beakers, ensure they are cleaned according 2.2 Destaining on page 56. This table is only a reference. Consult the detailed steps in this user guide for execution.



HD 3' Workflow: 4 Tissue Slides, 1 CytAssist				
Step	Run A	Run B		
B - Step 2: Coverslip R	emoval & Destaining			
Equilibration for Visium HD Slide B	Hold in thermal cycler	<ul> <li>Remove SSC and replace with Pre-Equilib Mix</li> <li>Prep CytAssist instrument</li> </ul>		
2.1 Coverslip Removal 2.2 Destaining Tissue slides 3 & 4 at the same time		<ul> <li>3</li> <li>4</li> <li>Decoverslip</li> <li>Destain</li> <li>Prep Perm Mix</li> </ul>		
B - Step 3: CytAssist-E	nabled mRNA Capture & Reverse Transcription 1			
<b>3.1 CytAssist-Enabled</b> <b>mRNA Capture</b> Ensure 20 min cool- down period after completion of Run A Start CytAssist (Run B) with tissue slides 3 & 4, Visium HD Slide B		<ul> <li>Remove Pre-Equilib Mix</li> <li>Load Visium HD Slide on CytAssist to dry completely (10 min)</li> <li>Load tissue slides 3 &amp; 4 into CytAssist instrument</li> <li>Add Perm Enzyme B and Reducing Agent B to Perm Mix, dispense onto Visium slide spacer wells</li> <li>Close lid and start run</li> <li>Prep thermal cycler B</li> <li>Prep RT Master Mix 1</li> </ul>		
CytAssist (Run B) complete <b>3.2 Reverse</b> <b>Transcription</b> Reverse Transcription 1 for Visium HD Slide B		<ul> <li>Open CytAssist</li> <li>Wash Visium HD Slide B</li> <li>Place in Visium Cassette and add RT Master Mix 1</li> <li>Apply seal and place on thermal cycler B</li> </ul>		
Step 3: Reverse Transcription 2 & Denaturation				
Reverse Transcription 2 for Visium HD Slides A & B		<ul> <li>Prep thermal cycler A</li> <li>Remove seal from Visium cassettes and remove RT Master Mix</li> <li>Add then remove SSC buffer</li> <li>Add RT Master Mix 2</li> <li>Apply seal and place on thermal cycler A</li> </ul>		
3.3 Denaturation		Proceed with Visium HD Slides A & B through the rest of the user guide, accounting for higher volumes		

# HD 3' Workflow Overview for Processing 4 Tissue Slides with 2 Visium CytAssist Instruments

Two thermal cyclers are required. A slide rack capable of holding four slides is needed for processing four tissue slides at a time. Scale volume calculations appropriately. If using multiple beakers, ensure they are cleaned according to 2.2 Destaining on page 56. This table is only a reference. Consult the detailed steps in this user guide for execution.





# **Oligonucleotide Sequences**

#### 



5'-AATGATACGGCGACCACCGAGATCTACAC-N10-ACACTCTTTCCCTACACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT-UMI-SpatialBarcode-GVV-T30-VN-cDNA\_Insert-AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCAC-N10-ATCTCGTATGCCGTCTTCTGCTTG-3'

3'-TTACTATGCCGCTGGTGGCTCTAGATGTG-N10-TGTGAGAAAGGGATGTGCTGCGAGAAGGCTAGA-UMI-SpatialBarcode-CBB-A30-BN-cDNA\_Insert-TCTAGCCTTCTCGTGTGCAGACTTGAGGTCAGTG-N10-TAGAGCATACGGCAGAAGACGAAC-5'