

EZProbe One Step qRT-PCR Kit (ROX2 plus)

Catalog No.: EZB-RTProbe-R2

Description

The **EZBioscience® EZProbe One Step qRT-PCR Kit (ROX2 plus)** is a one-step kit to quantify RNA using fluorescent probe. With the exception of primers, probe and template, this kit contains in two vials all the components required to perform rapid, sensitive and reproducible qRT-PCR.

20× EZProbe One Step Enzyme Mix contains M-MLV (RNase H-) reverse transcriptase, RNase Inhibitor and Hot Start DNA Polymerase; 2× EZProbe One Step Buffer contains dNTPs, Oligo dT18, Random Hexamer, optimized buffer and ROX2.

The M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase, which is an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase with a significantly attenuated RNase H activity, can synthesize cDNA at a temperature range of 42°C to 60°C and is inactivated during the activation step of the Hot Start DNA Polymerase.

RNase inhibitor can protect RNA templates from degradation.

This buffer has been optimized to allow both reverse transcription and PCR amplification to occur in the same reaction across a wide range of templates.

Hot Start DNA Polymerase requires an activation step at 95°C for 5 minutes, which prevents non-specific amplification during cDNA synthesis.

Components

Components	EZB-RTProbe-R2-S (100 Rxns)	EZB-RTProbe-R2 (500 Rxns)
20× EZProbe One Step Enzyme Mix ^{*1}	100 µl	500 µl
2× EZProbe One Step Buffer ^{*2}	1 ml	5 ml

^{*1}: Contain reverse transcriptase, RNase Inhibitor, Hot Start DNA Polymerase.

^{*2}: Contain dNTPs, Oligo dT18, Random Hexamer, optimized buffer and ROX2.

The ROX2 premixed is used to rectify the error of fluorescence signals between different wells.

Storage

The kit should be stored at -20°C and protected from light. Avoid repeated freeze thawing. The quality of this product can be guaranteed for 18 months under recommended storage conditions.

Notice

Appropriate real-time PCR instruments for this kit are as follows:

Bio-Rad CFX96™, CFX384™, iCycler iQ™, iQ™5, MyiQ™, MiniOpticon™, Opticon™, Opticon 2, Chromo4™; Roche LightCycler™ 96, Roche LightCycler™ 480; Eppendorf Mastercycler® ep realplex, realplex 2s; Illumina Eco qPCR; Qiagen/Corbett Rotor-Gene® Q, Rotor-Gene® 3000, Rotor-Gene® 6000; Thermo Scientific PikoReal Cycler; Analytikjena qTOWER 3G; Cepheid SmartCycler®.
ABI 7500, 7500 Fast, Quant-Studio 3, 5, 6, 7, 12K Flex, Dx, ViiA™7; Stratagene MX3000P™, MX3005P™, MX4000™.

Protocol

1. Thaw the 20× EZProbe One Step Enzyme Mix, 2× EZProbe One Step Buffer, total RNA, Probe and primers on ice, mix by inverting the tube several times, then centrifuge briefly and put on ice.

2. Determine the number of reactions to be set up, and include 10% overage. Prepare the appropriate number of reactions by mixing 20× EZProbe One Step Enzyme Mix, 2× EZProbe One Step Buffer, Probe, forward primer and reverse primer into a reaction mix, and mixing total RNA and Nuclease free ddH₂O into a reaction mix. **The recommended amount of total RNA added**

as a template used is **between 0.1 pg and 100 ng**. The following table is designed for reaction volume of both 10 µl and 20 µl:

Components	Volume/ 10 µl	Volume/ 20 µl	Final concentration
total RNA	40 ng (0.5 pg ~ 50 ng)	80 ng (1 pg ~ 100 ng)	0.1 pg ~ 100 ng
20× EZProbe One Step Enzyme Mix	0.5 µl	1 µl	1×
2× EZProbe One Step Buffer	5 µl	10 µl	1×
Probe (10 µM) ^{*1}	0.1 µl	0.2 µl	100 nM
Forward Primer (10 µM) ^{*2}	0.2 µl	0.4 µl	200 nM
Reverse Primer (10 µM) ^{*2}	0.2 µl	0.4 µl	200 nM
ddH ₂ O	Add to 10 µl	Add to 20 µl	-

^{*1}: The probe (dual labeled probe, et. al.) should be protected from light, and the final concentration of the probe should be between 50 and 250 nM.

^{*2}: Usually for optimization, the final concentration of the primer is 0.2 µM, and it can be adjusted within the range of 0.1 to 1.0 µM according to the situation.

3. Mix each reaction mix thoroughly, then centrifuge briefly to spin down the contents.

4. Transfer the appropriate volume of each reaction mix to each PCR tube or well of an optical-grade PCR plate.

5. Seal the tubes or optical plate, and centrifuge at 1000 rpm for 1 minute to collect the contents of the wells at the bottom. The samples are ready for thermal cycling.

6. Place the reaction plate in the real-time PCR instrument.

7. The standard reaction procedure for One Step qRT-PCR is as follows:

Step	1	2	3	
	cDNA Synthesis	Hot Start DNA Polymerase Activation ^{*1}	PCR	
		Hold	Cycle (40 ~ 45 cycles)	
			Denature	Anneal/Extend ^{*2}
Temp.	42°C	95°C	95°C	60°C
Time	5 min	5 min	10 sec	30 sec
Volume	10 µl/ 20 µl			

Note: No need to run the melting curve program to use this kit.

Important: ^{*1}: The Hot Start DNA Polymerase requires an activation step at 95°C for 5 minutes. ^{*2}: Collect fluorescence signal during the Annealing & Extension step.

Data Analysis

Two types of quantification methods are commonly applied to quantify target gene expression when using this EZProbe One Step qRT-PCR Kit (ROX2 plus).

1. Relative Quantitation: target gene expression is measured against an internal standard, such as GAPDH or Actin-b.

Gene expression can be measured by the quantitation of cDNA converted from a messenger RNA corresponding to this gene relative to a calibrator sample serving as a physiological reference. In a typical experiment, gene expression levels are studied as a function of either a treatment of cells in culture, of patients, or of tissue type. The calibrator sample in each case is the cDNA from either the untreated cells or patients, or a specific tissue type. All quantitations are also normalized to an

endogenous control such as 18S rRNA to account for variability in the initial concentration and quality of the total RNA and in the conversion efficiency of the reverse transcription reaction.

Set Ct^{A1} as the Ct value of the target gene of sample 1, and Ct^{B1} as the Ct value of the internal control gene of sample 1; set Ct^{A2} as the Ct value of the target gene of sample 2, and Ct^{B2} as the Ct value of the internal control gene of sample 2. The expression difference (in folder) of the target gene in sample 1 and in sample 2 can be calculated this way ($2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ approach):

$$\Delta\Delta Ct = (Ct^{A2} - Ct^{B2}) - (Ct^{A1} - Ct^{B1})$$

The expression level of the target gene in sample 2 is $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ times that of sample 1.

Note: This calculation method is based on the assumption that the amplification efficiency is 100% (the amount of products after each cycle is doubled). If the amplification efficiency is not 100%, the calculation formula needs to be amended according to actual reaction efficiency. For example: if the amplification efficiency of the target gene and internal control genes is 1.90, then the formula should be amended into $1.90^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$.

2. Absolute quantitation: compares the Ct of an unknown sample against a standard curve with known copy numbers. Absolute quantitation is applicable only if isolation procedure and sample contents do not affect PCR amplification. The quantitation of genomic DNA may lend itself for absolute quantitation against a standard curve.

Determination of baseline and threshold: please refer to the real-time PCR system software used to calculate baseline and threshold values for a detector or manually set up according to amplification curves.

Passive reference ROX: is a dye molecule included in the $2\times$ EZProbe One Step Buffer that does not participate in the PCR amplification. On applied Biosystems real-time PCR system, the passive reference provides an internal reference to which the free fluorophore signal can be normalized during data analysis. Normalization is necessary to correct for well-to-well fluorescent fluctuation.

Representative Results

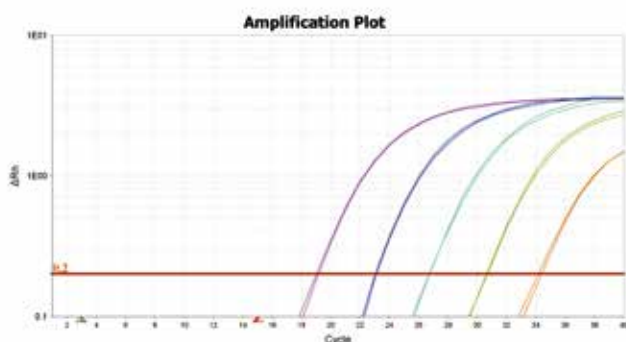


Figure1. GAPDH mRNA expression level in serially diluted RNA from SARS-CoV-2-pseudovirus were detected. The amplification plots above indicate that the target gene could be amplified efficiently and specifically.

Suggestions for Primer and Probe Design

For Probe (it is recommended to design the probe first, then design the primer according to the probe):

- 1) The probe length is generally 18 ~ 35 bp (18 ~ 30 bp is the best).
- 2) Probe position: the probe cannot be located near the 5' or 3' end of the gene (because the primer needs to be located on the outside of the probe).
- 3) Select the strand in which the probe contains more C bases than G bases.

- 4) The base G should be avoided at the 5' end of the probe.
- 5) Continuous identical bases should be avoided, especially GGGG or more poly G.
- 6) Keep the GC content in the 20 ~ 80% range.
- 7) For singleplex assays, keep the T_m between 65°C to 70°C.
- 8) If there is SNP site in the probe region, it should be located in the middle of the probe sequence.

For Primer:

Forward and reverse primers for target gene quantification should be unique or as specific as possible to avoid non-specific amplification. Primer sequence design and specificity check can be conducted using NCBI's "BLAST" (an open source tool and free), or other primer-design tools, such as "Primer Bank" and "Primer 3". Additionally, the following general principals may be considered when designing primers:

- 1) Choose the primers after the probe.
- 2) The forward or reverse primer sequence should be as close as possible to probe, but it should not have a coincidence region with them.
- 3) The optimal length of primers is 17 ~ 25 bp.
- 4) Keep the GC content in the 20 ~ 80% range.
- 5) Continuous identical bases should be avoided, especially GGGG or more poly G.
- 6) Keep the T_m between 58°C to 60°C.
- 7) Be sure the last 5 nucleotides at the 3' end contain no more than two G and/or C bases.

Trouble Shooting

Problem	Potential Cause	Suggestion
No amplification product; Relative fluorescent signal $\leq$ background or no-template control.	cDNA synthesis temperature too high, low priming efficiency.	Lower incubation temperature.
	RT or cDNA primer blocked by Secondary structure.	Raise incubation temperature. Redesign primer(s).
	RNA has been damaged/degraded.	Replace RNA if necessary.
	RNase contamination.	Maintain aseptic conditions; add RNase inhibitor.
Product detected at higher than expected cycle number.	RNA has been damaged/degraded.	Replace RNA if necessary.
	RNase contamination.	Maintain aseptic conditions; add RNase inhibitor.
	RT inhibitors are present in RNA.	Remove inhibitors in the RNA preparation by an additional 70% ethanol wash. Inhibitors of RT include SDS, EDTA, guanidium salts, formamide, sodium phosphate and spermidine.
	Inefficient cDNA synthesis.	Adjust cDNA synthesis temperature and/or primer design. Double the amount of reverse primer.
	Inefficient PCR amplification.	Adjust annealing temperature as necessary. Redesign primers.
Higher than expected signal.	Too much sample added to reactions.	Decrease the concentration of template RNA.
Unexpected bands after electrophoresis.	Genomic DNA contamination.	Pre-treat RNA with DNase I.
	Low specificity in PCR.	Optimize PCR conditions as described above.