



Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus

Product Documentation

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Overview

The Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus and Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome protocols convert total RNA into as many as 96 dual-indexed libraries. Depletion reagents bind and deplete abundant transcripts from total RNA. Reverse transcription converts RNA into complementary DNA (cDNA), which is then tagmented and amplified to add indexes and other adapter sequences.

The kit offers the following features:

- An enzymatic depletion method that removes abundant transcripts from total RNA.
- cDNA synthesis and tagmentation in a single step.
- High-quality sequencing data from a range of input.
- Unique dual (UD) indexing with Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes.

RNA Input Recommendations

The Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus protocol is optimized for 10–100 ng RNA input. The protocol accepts 1–1000 ng purified total RNA input from high-quality RNA samples (RIN $\geq$ 9) and accepts 10–100 ng RNA input from low-quality RNA (RIN $\geq$ 2) samples or FFPE (DV200 > 55%) samples. Library performance can vary with lower input amounts and lesser quality RNA.

The Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome protocol is optimized for 25–500ng total RNA input. RNA is recommended to be at least RIN $\geq$ 5. Library performance can vary with lower input amounts and lesser quality RNA.

The protocols can deplete rRNA from the following targets.

Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus Targets

Depletion Target	rRNA Target
Human cytoplasmic rRNA	28S, 18S, 5.8S, and 5S
Human mitochondrial rRNA	12S, and 16S
Human beta globin transcripts	HBA1, HBA2, HBB, HBG1, and HBG2
Mouse and rat	12S, 16S, 28S, 18S, 5.8S, and 5S
Gram(-) bacterial rRNAs	<i>E.coli</i> : 5S, 16S, 23S
Gram(+) bacterial rRNAs	<i>B. subtilis</i> : 5S, 16S, 23S
Microbiome rRNA*	5S, 16S, 23S from diverse microbes including common adult, infant bacterial species and ATCC MSA-2002, MSA-2005, and MSA-2006

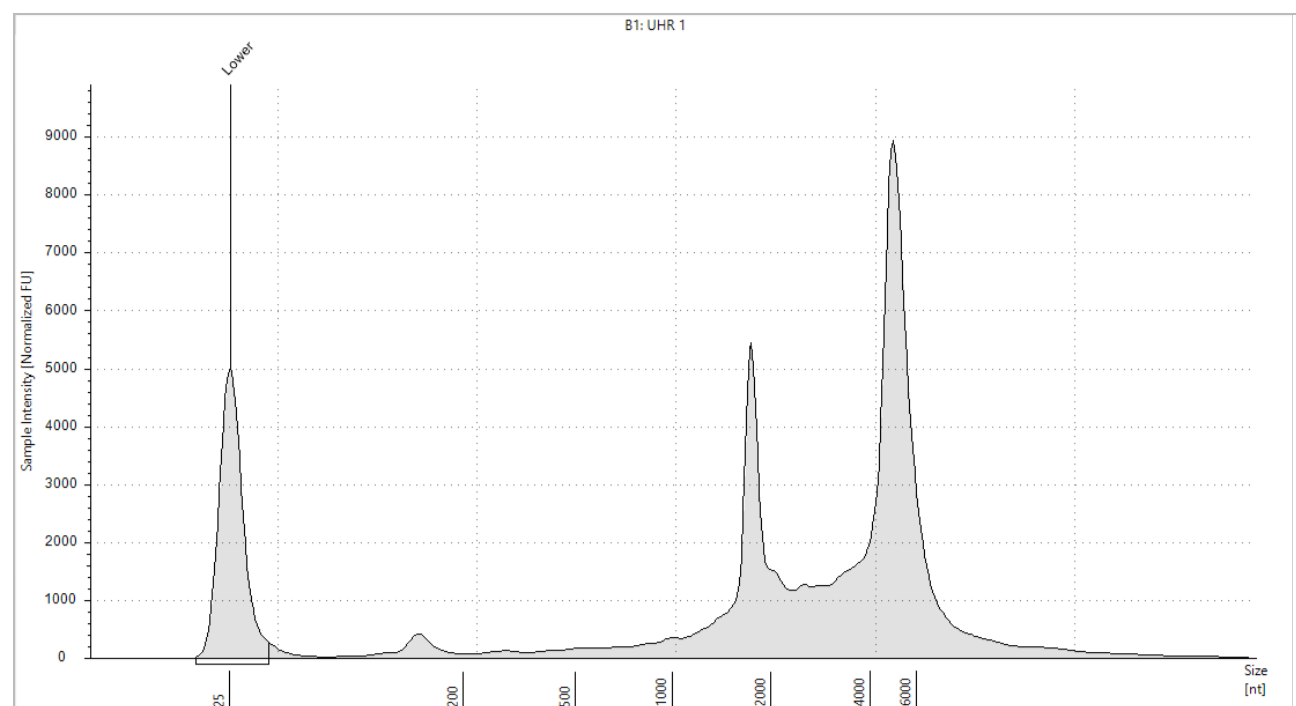
* Microbiome rRNA targets require the Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome kit. Microbiome rRNA depletion is optimized for human microbiome rRNA. Performance varies when using other sample types.

Include a DNase treatment with the RNA isolation method. DNase treatment must be done while running your preferred extraction method. The DNase treatment ensures sample purity and accurate quantification. Before starting the protocol, quantify the total RNA with a fluorometric method intended specifically for RNA. Assess quality using a fragment analysis method.

The following figure provides example traces for Universal Human Reference (UHR) total RNA input.

Example TapeStation Trace

Figure 1 4200 TapeStation System trace using RNA ScreenTape



Consumables and Equipment

This section lists all components included in the reagent kit, with storage conditions. This section also details the ancillary consumables, equipment, and other prerequisites needed to complete the protocol.

The protocol has been optimized and validated using the items listed. Comparable performance is not guaranteed when using alternate consumables and equipment.

Make sure that you have the required consumables and equipment before starting the protocol.

Product Contents

Completing the Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus protocol requires the Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit, the Illumina Rapid RNA Prep (S) Tagmentation kit, and index adapters. The number of index adapters required depends on the number of samples to be uniquely indexed for your experiment.

- The required library preparation kits provide reagents for denaturing, cDNA synthesis, and library prep in a 16-sample workflow or 96-sample workflow.
- The index sets provide premixed Index 1 (i7) and Index 2 (i5) adapters.

Library Prep Reagents

Catalog Item	Catalog #	Box Name	Box #
Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit (16 samples)	20040526	Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit	20040892
Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit (96 samples)	20037135	Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit	20036696
Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Microbiome Depletion Kit (96 samples)	20072062	Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit	20036696
		Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome Depletion Pool 96	20072057
Illumina Rapid RNA Prep (S) Tagmentation (16 samples)	20158823	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	20158860
		Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2	20158861
		Illumina DNA/RNA Prep – Tagmentation (S) Beads	20026303

Catalog Item	Catalog #	Box Name	Box #
Illumina Rapid RNA Prep (S) Tagmentation (96 samples)	20158824	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	20115932
		Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2	20150313
		Illumina DNA/RNA Prep – Tagmentation (S) Beads	20026214

Index Adapters

Name	Catalog #
Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes Set A, Tagmentation (96 indexes, 96 samples)	20091654
Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes Set B, Tagmentation (96 indexes, 96 samples)	20091656
Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes Set C, Tagmentation (96 indexes, 96 samples)	20091658
Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes Set D, Tagmentation (96 indexes, 96 samples)	20091660

Illumina Ribo-Zero Plus rRNA Depletion Kit Contents

Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion, Store at -25°C to -15°C

Tube Quantity	Reagent	Description
1	DB1	Depletion Probe Buffer
1	DP1	Depletion Probe Pool
1	ELB	Elution Buffer
1	PRB	Probe Removal Buffer
1	PRE	Probe Removal Enzyme
1	RDB	RNA Depletion Buffer
1	RDE	RNA Depletion Enzyme

*Illumina RiboZero Plus Microbiome Depletion Pool, Store at -25°C to -15°C

Tube Quantity	Reagent	Description
1	DPM	Microbiome Depletion Pool

*This box is only included in the Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Microbiome Depletion kit.

Illumina Rapid RNA Prep (S) Tagmentation Kit Contents

Illumina Rapid RNA Prep, Store at -25°C to -15°C

Tube Quantity		Reagent	Description
16 Samples	96 Samples		
1	4	EPH3	Elute, Prime, Fragment High Concentration Mix
1	2	CBM	cDNA Buffer Mix
1	1	CEM	cDNA Enzyme Mix
1	1	LRA	Library Reducing Agent
1	4	EPM	Enhanced PCR Mix

Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2, Store at Room Temperature*

Tube Quantity		Reagent	Description
16 Samples	96 Samples		
1	4	ST2	Stop Tagment Buffer 2
1	1	TWB2	Tagmentation Wash Buffer 2
1	2	IPB	Illumina Purification Beads

*Shipped at 2°C to 8°C.

Illumina DNA/RNA Prep – Tagmentation (S) Beads, Store at 2°C to 8°C

Tube Quantity		Reagent	Description
16 Samples	96 Samples		
1	4	EBLTS	Enrichment Bead-Linked Transposomes
1	2	RSB	Resuspension Buffer

Index Adapter Kit Contents

Each kit contains one plate of indexes.

Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes, Store at -25°C to -15°C

Quantity	Reagent	Description
1	UDP0001–UDP0096	Set A index adapter plate

Quantity	Reagent	Description
1	UDP0097–UDP0192	Set B index adapter plate
1	UDP0193V3–UDP0288V3	Set C index adapter plate
1	UDP0289V2–UDP0384	Set D index adapter plate

User-Supplied Consumables and Equipment

The protocol has been optimized and validated using the items listed. Comparable performance is not guaranteed when using alternate consumables and equipment.

Consumables

Consumable	Supplier
Agencourt RNAClean XP, 40 ml	Beckman Coulter, catalog # A63987
Centrifuge tubes, conical (15 ml or 17 ml)	General lab supplier
Pipette tips, 10 µl	General lab supplier
Pipette tips, 20 µl	General lab supplier
Pipette tips, 200 µl	General lab supplier
Pipette tips, 1000 µl	General lab supplier
Disposable gloves, powder free	General lab supplier
96-well twin.tec 250 µl PCR plates, semiskirted	One of the following suppliers: • Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # E951020303 • VWR, catalog # 47744-106
Ethanol (EtOH), molecular biology grade (500 ml)	General lab supplier
Lab tape	General lab supplier
Microseal 'B' PCR Plate Sealing Film	Bio-Rad, catalog # MSB1001
Microcentrifuge tubes, RNase-free, 1.7 ml	General lab supplier
One of the following kits, depending on quality analysis method: • [TapeStation System] D1000 ScreenTape • [TapeStation System] High Sensitivity D1000 ScreenTape	One of the following suppliers: • Agilent Technologies, catalog # 5067-5582 • Agilent Technologies, catalog # 5067-5584

Consumable	Supplier
One of the following kits: • Qubit dsDNA BR Assay Kit • Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit	One of the following suppliers: • Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # Q32850 or Q32853 • Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # Q33230 or Q33231
Qubit Assay Tubes	Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # Q32856
RNase/DNase-free multichannel reagent reservoirs, disposable	VWR, catalog # 89108-016
Ultrapure water, nuclease-free	General lab supplier
[Optional] One of the following Kapa Library Quantification Kits: • Complete kit (Universal) • qPCR MasterMix (Universal) and Primer Premix only	One of the following suppliers: • Roche, catalog # 07960140001 • Roche, catalog # 07960441001
[Optional] One of the following positive sample controls: • Human Peripheral Blood Leukocyte • Universal Human Reference RNA • Universal RNA – Mouse Normal Tissues • Universal RNA – Rat Normal Tissues • E. coli Total RNA	One of the following suppliers: • BioChain, catalog # R1234148 • Agilent Technologies, catalog # 740000 • BioChain, catalog # R4334566 • BioChain, catalog # R4334567 • Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # AM7940

Equipment

Equipment	Supplier
Pipettes, multichannel, 10 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, multichannel, 20 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, multichannel, 200 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, single channel, 10 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, single channel, 20 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, single channel, 200 µl	General lab supplier
Pipettes, single channel, 1000 µl	General lab supplier
Adhesive seal roller	General lab supplier
Magnetic Stand-96	Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # AM10027

Equipment	Supplier
Microplate centrifuge	General lab supplier
One of the following quality analysis instruments: • 4150 TapeStation System • 4200 TapeStation System	One of the following suppliers: • Agilent Technologies, catalog # G2992AA • Agilent Technologies, catalog # G2991BA
[Shaking workflow] BioShake iQ High-Speed Thermal Mixer	Q Instruments, catalog # 1808-0506
[Shaking workflow] BioShake PCR Plate Adapter	Q Instruments, catalog # 1808-1041
Vortexer	General lab supplier
[Optional] qPCR instrument	General lab supplier
[Optional] Qubit 4 Fluorometer	Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog # Q33238

Thermal Cyclers

The following table lists recommended thermal cyclers or thermal cycler specifications. PCR thermal cyclers must be capable of supporting the sample volumes and temperature profiles used in this workflow, with appropriate thermal accuracy and block uniformity to ensure consistent incubation and amplification performance. Validate the thermal cycler before performing the protocol.

Performance may vary depending on the specific thermal cycler and consumables used. Minor workflow optimization may be required to account for instrument and consumable specific differences.

Thermal Cycler	Supplier
Thermal cycler with the following specifications: • Heated lid • Block ramp rate: $\geq 2.5^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{sec}$ • Temperature control range: • Min $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Max $\geq 99^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Temperature accuracy: $\pm 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Temperature uniformity: $\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Capable of supporting reaction volumes of 100 μl • Compatible with 96-well PCR plates (full or semi-skirted), or suitable for the applicable workflow.	General lab supplier

Protocol

This section describes the Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus protocol and provides instructions for preparing libraries.

- Review the complete sequencing workflow, from sample through analysis, to ensure compatibility of products and experiment parameters.
- Confirm kit contents and make sure that you have the required consumables and equipment. For a complete list, refer to [Consumables and Equipment on page 3](#).

Pooling Preparation

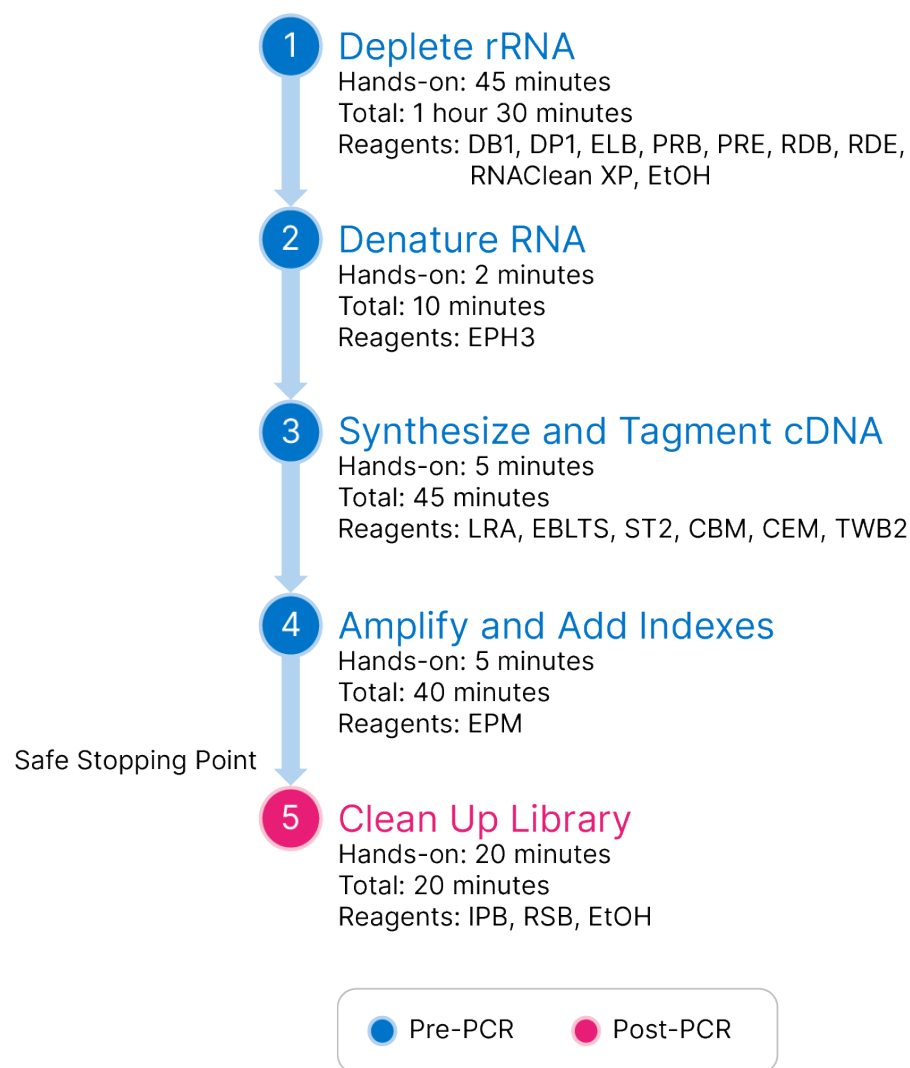
When pooling libraries, record information about your samples before starting library prep. Use a recording tool compatible with your sequencing system and libraries. For compatibility information, refer to the Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Microbiome [support pages](#) or the support pages for your system.

The protocol uses Illumina DNA/RNA UD Indexes to index libraries. These indexes add distinct Index 1 (i7) and Index 2 (i5) sequences to each end of a fragment. Each index sequence is 10 bp long.

- For strategies on forming low-plex, color-balanced pools, refer to [Index Adapters Pooling Guide](#).
- For index adapter sequences and how to record them, refer to [Illumina Adapter Sequences](#).

Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus Workflow

The following diagram provides an overview of the Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus protocol using a single sample. Safe stopping points are marked between steps.



Tips and Techniques

Protocol Continuity

- Follow the protocol in the order described using the specified parameters.
- Avoid extended pauses until RNA is converted into double-stranded cDNA.
- Unless a safe stopping point is specified in the protocol, proceed immediately to the next step.

Avoiding Cross-Contamination

- When adding or transferring samples, change tips between *each sample*.
- When adding adapters or primers, change tips between *each well*.

- Remove unused index adapter plates from the working area.

Handling Reagents and RNA

- Avoid multiple freeze-thaw cycles of input RNA.
 - You can store RNA in RNase-free water or TE buffer at -85°C to -65°C for up to one year.
 - If you must reuse the sample, aliquot 7.5 µl or less into separate tubes for single use.
- Keep thawed reagents on ice until needed. Promptly return all reagents to storage after use.
- When not in use, seal plates and close lids to limit contamination.

Handling Beads

The protocol uses more than one type of bead. Each bead has a specific technical application. Do not substitute one bead for another.

Apply the following techniques when handling beads:

- Use all beads at room temperature.
- Never use IPB that have been stored below 2°C.
- Aspirate and dispense beads slowly due to viscosity.
- Vortex beads frequently throughout the protocol to resuspend. Resuspended beads are evenly distributed and homogenous in color.
- If EBLTS beads adhere to well walls, centrifuge at 280 × g for 3 seconds, and then pipette to resuspend.
- Dispense liquid so that beads on the side of the wells are wetted.
- Dispense liquid directly onto bead pellets.
- When the plate is on the magnetic stand, do not agitate the plate or disturb the bead pellet.
- If beads are aspirated into pipette tips, dispense back to the plate on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~2 minutes).

Sealing the Plate

- Use Microseal 'B' adhesive seals throughout the protocol. The seals are effective at -40°C to 110°C.
- Cover the plate with the seal, and seal with a rubber roller or wedge.
- After each use, discard seals from plates.

Plate Transfers

- When transferring volumes between plates, transfer the specified volume from each well of the first plate to the corresponding well of the second plate.

Mixing and Centrifugation

- At any step, centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds to consolidate liquid or beads in the bottom of the well to prevent sample loss.

Prepare for Protocol

This preparation is required to perform the protocol steps leading up to the next stopping point.

- Remove sample from storage.
- Remove the reagents from the box and prepare as follows.

Table 2 Room Temperature Storage

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
ST2	Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2	Use at room temperature.
TWB2	Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2	Use at room temperature.

Table 3 2°C to 8°C Storage

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
EBLTS	Illumina DNA/RNA Prep – Tagmentation (S) Beads	Bring to room temperature.
RNAClean XP	N/A	Let stand for 30 minutes to bring to room temperature.

Table 4 -25°C to -15°C Storage

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
DB1	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Thaw at room temperature.
DP1	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Thaw at room temperature.
[Microbiome] DPM	Illumina RiboZero Plus Microbiome Depletion Pool	Thaw at room temperature.
ELB	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Thaw at room temperature.
LRA	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	Thaw at room temperature.
EPH3	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	Thaw at room temperature.
EPM	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	Thaw at room temperature.

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
Index adapter plate	Rapid RNA UD Indexes	Thaw at room temperature.
PRB	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Thaw at room temperature.
PRE	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Store until needed.
RDB	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Thaw at room temperature.
RDE	Illumina RiboZero Plus rRNA Depletion	Store until needed.
CBM	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	Thaw at room temperature.
CEM	Illumina Rapid RNA Prep	Thaw at room temperature.

Deplete rRNA

This step depletes abundant ribosomal RNA (rRNA) from purified total RNA. DNA probes bind to rRNA targets, which are both enzymatically digested to produce total RNA free from abundant transcripts. RNA-specific magnetic beads then recover and purify the rRNA-depleted RNA. The purification removes any remaining salts and buffers.

Consumables

- DB1 (Depletion Probe Buffer)
- DP1 (Depletion Probe Pool)
- **[Microbiome]** DPM (Depletion Pool Microbiome)
- ELB (Elution Buffer)
- PRB (Probe Removal Buffer)
- PRE (Probe Removal Enzyme)
- RDB (RNA Depletion Buffer)
- RDE (RNA Depletion Enzyme)
- Agencourt RNAClean XP
- Freshly prepared 80% ethanol (EtOH)
- Nuclease-free ultrapure water
- 1.7 ml microcentrifuge tubes, RNase-free (3)
- 96-well PCR plates, semiskirted (2)

- Microseal 'B' adhesive film

About Reagents

 **This set of reagents contains potentially hazardous chemicals. Personal injury can occur through inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, and eye contact. Ventilation should be appropriate for handling of hazardous materials in reagents. Wear protective equipment, including eye protection, gloves, and laboratory coat appropriate for risk of exposure. Handle used reagents as chemical waste and discard in accordance with applicable regional, national, and local laws and regulations.** For additional environmental, health, and safety information, refer to the SDS at support.illumina.com/sds.html.

Preparation

1. Prepare the following consumables:
 - DB1—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - DP1—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - DPM—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - ELB—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - PRB—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - PRE—Flick to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - RDB—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - RDE—Flick to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - RNAClean XP—Vortex and invert to mix.
2. Prepare 80% EtOH from absolute EtOH.
3. Save the following HYB_DP1 program on the thermal cycler:
 - Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
 - Reaction volume is 15 µl
 - 95°C for 2 minutes
 - Decrease 0.1°C per second until the temperature reaches 37°C
 - Hold at 37°CTotal program time is ~15 minutes.
4. Save the following RNA_DEP program on the thermal cycler:
 - Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
 - Reaction volume is 20 µl
 - 37°C for 15 minutes

- Hold at 4°C

Total program time is ~17 minutes.

5. Save the following PRB_REM2 program on the thermal cycler:

- Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
- Reaction volume is 30 µl
- 37°C for 15 minutes
- Hold at 4°C

Total program time is ~16 minutes.

Procedure

Hybridize Probes

1. **[Ribo-Zero Plus]** Perform the following steps.

- a. Using nuclease-free ultrapure water, dilute 1–1000 ng total RNA to a volume of 11 µl in each well of a new PCR plate.
- b. In a 1.7 ml tube on ice, combine exactly the following volumes to prepare Hybridize Probe Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - DB1 (3.6 µl)
 - DP1 (1.2 µl)Volumes include reagent overage for accurate pipetting.
- c. Thoroughly pipette Hybridize Probe Master Mix to mix.
- d. Add 4 µl Hybridize Probe Master Mix to each well.
- e. Pipette 10 times, and then seal.
- f. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the HYB_DP1 program.

2. **[Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome]** Perform the following steps.

- a. Using nuclease-free ultrapure water, dilute 25–500 ng total RNA to a volume of 10 µl in each well of a new PCR plate.
- b. In a 1.7 ml tube on ice, combine exactly the following volumes to prepare Hybridize Probe Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - DB1 (3.6 µl)
 - DP1 (1.2 µl)
 - DPM (1.2 µl)Volumes include reagent overage for accurate pipetting.
- c. Thoroughly pipette Hybridize Probe Master Mix to mix.
- d. Add 5 µl Hybridize Probe Master Mix to each well.

- e. Pipette 10 times, and then seal.
- f. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the HYB_DP1 program.

Deplete rRNA

1. In a 1.7 ml tube on ice, combine exactly the following volumes to prepare rRNA Depletion Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - RDB (4.8 µl)
 - RDE (1.2 µl)

Volumes include reagent overage for accurate pipetting.
2. Thoroughly pipette rRNA Depletion Master Mix to mix.
3. Centrifuge the sealed PCR plate at 280 × g for 10 seconds.
4. Add 5 µl rRNA Depletion Master Mix to each well.
5. Pipette 10 times, and then seal.
6. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the RNA_DEP program.

Remove Probes

1. In a 1.7 ml tube on ice, combine exactly the following volumes to prepare Probe Removal Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - PRB (7.7 µl)
 - PRE (3.3 µl)

Volumes include reagent overage for accurate pipetting.
2. Thoroughly pipette Probe Removal Master Mix to mix.
3. Centrifuge the sealed PCR plate at 280 × g for 10 seconds.
4. Add 10 µl Probe Removal Master Mix to each well.
5. Pipette 10 times, and then seal.
6. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the PRB_REM2 program.

Clean Up RNA

1. Centrifuge the sealed PCR plate at 280 × g for 10 seconds.
2. Vortex RNAClean XP to resuspend.
3. Add 60 µl RNAClean XP to each well.
4. Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal and shake at 2000 rpm for 1 minute, and then centrifuge at 280 × g for 10 seconds.
 - Pipette to mix until beads are resuspended.
5. Incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes.
6. Place on the magnetic stand and wait 5 minutes.
7. Remove and discard 80 µl supernatant.
8. Wash beads as follows.

- a. Keep on the magnetic stand and add 175 μ l fresh 80% EtOH to each well.
 - b. Wait 30 seconds.
 - c. Remove and discard all supernatant from each well.
9. Wash beads a **second** time.
10. With a 20 μ l pipette, remove all residual EtOH.
11. Air-dry on the magnetic stand for 2 minutes. Do not overdry the beads.
12. Remove from the magnetic stand.
13. Add 10.5 μ l ELB to each well.
14. Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal the plate and centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds, and then shake at 2200 rpm for 1 minute.
 - Slowly pipette until the beads are resuspended, and then seal.
15. If shaking did not fully resuspend the beads, slowly pipette until the beads are resuspended, and then seal.
16. Incubate at room temperature for 2 minutes.
17. Centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds.
18. Place on the magnetic stand and wait 2 minutes.
19. Transfer 8.5 μ l supernatant to the corresponding well of a new PCR plate.
Small amounts of bead carryover do not affect performance.

Denature RNA

This step denatures the total RNA and anneals random hexamers. The random hexamers prime the sample for cDNA synthesis.

Consumables

- EPH3 (Elute, Prime, Fragment High Concentration Mix)
- 96-well PCR plate, semiskirted
- Microseal 'B' adhesive film
- Nuclease-free ultrapure water

Preparation

1. Prepare the following consumables:
 - EPH3—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
2. Save the following DEN_RNA program on the thermal cycler:

- a. Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
- b. Set the reaction volume to 17 µl
- c. 65°C for 5 minutes
- d. Hold at 4°C

Total program time is ~8 minutes.

Procedure

1. Add 8.5 µl EPH3 to each well.
2. Pipette 10 times to mix, and then seal.
3. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the DEN_RNA program.

Synthesize and Tagment cDNA

This step converts the RNA fragments to complementary DNA (cDNA) and tagments the cDNA with Enrichment Bead-Linked Transposomes.

Consumables

- CBM (cDNA Buffer Mix)
- CEM (cDNA Enzyme Mix)
- EBLTS (Enrichment Bead-Linked Transposomes)
- LRA (Library Reducing Agent)
- ST2 (Stop Tagment Buffer 2)
- TWB2 (Tagmentation Wash Buffer 2)
- 1.7 ml microcentrifuge tube, RNase-free
- Microseal 'B' adhesive film
- Nuclease-free ultrapure water

About Reagents

 **This set of reagents contains potentially hazardous chemicals. Personal injury can occur through inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, and eye contact. Ventilation should be appropriate for handling of hazardous materials in reagents. Wear protective equipment, including eye protection, gloves, and laboratory coat appropriate for risk of exposure. Handle used reagents as chemical waste and discard in accordance with applicable regional, national, and local laws and regulations.** For additional environmental, health, and safety information, refer to the SDS at support.illumina.com/sds.html.

Preparation

1. Prepare the following consumables:
 - CBM—Vortex to mix. Centrifuge briefly.
 - CEM—Flick to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - EBLTS—Vortex to mix until beads are resuspended.
 - LRA—Vortex and invert to mix. Centrifuge briefly.
 - ST2—Vortex to mix.
 - TWB2—Vortex to mix.
2. If the ST2 tube has precipitate, proceed as follows.
 - a. Heat at 37°C for 10 minutes.
 - b. Vortex until precipitate is dissolved.
 - c. Return to room temperature.
3. Save the following RLP program on the thermal cycler:
 - a. Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
 - b. Set the reaction volume to 60 µl
 - c. 37°C for 15 minutes
 - d. 55°C for 15 minutes
 - e. Hold at 4°CTotal program time is ~35 minutes.

Procedure

1. In a 1.7 ml tube, combine exactly the following volumes to prepare Rapid Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - CBM (29.7 µl)
 - CEM (2.9 µl)
 - LRA (3.7 µl)
 - EBLTS (11 µl)Reagent overage is included in the volumes.
2. Pipette Rapid Master Mix to resuspend.
3. Centrifuge the sealed PCR plate at 280 × g for 10 seconds.
4. Add 43 µl Rapid Master Mix to each well.
5. Pipette 10 times to mix.
6. Seal and then centrifuge at 280 × g for 10 seconds.

7. Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the RLP program.
8. Centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds, and then unseal.
9. Add 10 μ l ST2 to each well.
10. Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal and shake at 2200 rpm for 1 minute.
 - Slowly pipette to mix until beads are resuspended.
11. Incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes.
12. Centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds, and then unseal.
13. Place on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~3 minutes).
14. Remove and discard all supernatant.
15. Wash beads as follows.
 - a. Remove from the magnetic stand.
 - b. Add 100 μ l TWB2 to each well.
 - c. Seal and shake at 2000 rpm for 1 minute. Alternatively, slowly pipette to mix until beads are resuspended.
 - d. Centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 3 seconds.
 - e. Place on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~3 minutes).
 - f. Remove and discard all supernatant.
16. Repeat steps [a–e](#) to wash beads a **second** time. Retain the supernatant.
TWB2 remains in the wells to prevent overdrying.
17. Keep on the magnetic stand and proceed immediately to [Amplify and Add Indexes on page 20](#).

Amplify and Add Indexes

This step uses PCR to selectively amplify the tagged cDNA fragments and add indexes and primer sequences for cluster generation.

Consumables

- EPM (Enhanced PCR Mix)
- Index adapter plate (UDP0XXX)
- 1.7 ml microcentrifuge tube, RNase-free
- Nuclease-free ultrapure water

About Reagents

- UDPOXXX—Each well of the index adapter plate is single-use and contains > 10 µl UDPOXXX, which are premixed Index 1 (i7) and Index 2 (i5) adapters.
- The row and column labels are printed on the underside of the index adapter plate. Raise the plate overhead to check the labels.

Preparation

1. Prepare the following consumables:
 - EPM—Invert to mix, and then centrifuge briefly.
 - UDPOXXX—Vortex to mix, and then centrifuge at 1000 × g for 1 minute.
2. Save the following RLP_PCR program on the thermal cycler:
 - a. Choose the preheat lid option and set to 100°C
 - b. Set the reaction volume to 50 µl
 - c. 72°C for 3 minutes
 - d. 98°C for 30 seconds
 - e. X cycles of:
 - 98°C for 10 seconds
 - 60°C for 30 seconds
 - 72°C for 30 seconds
 - f. 72°C for 3 minutes
 - g. Hold at 4°C for ≤ 16 hours
 Total program time is ~30–45 minutes.

Adjust the program to optimize for different input amount.

When multiple samples are amplified on one plate, make sure that the input for each sample is the same.

Protocol	Input Amount (ng)	Number of Cycles (X)*
Ribo-Zero Plus	1	18
	10	15
	100	12
	1000	10
Ribo-Zero Plus Microbiome	25	17
	50	16
	100	15

* Add two cycles for FFPE or bacterial isolates.

Procedure

- Combine the following volumes to prepare PCR Master Mix. Multiply each volume by the number of samples.
 - EPM (23 μ l)
 - Nuclease-free ultrapure water (23 μ l)
 Reagent overage is included in the volumes.
- Vortex PCR Master Mix to mix.
- Keep the plate on the magnetic stand. Remove and discard all TWB2 supernatant from each well.
- Use a 20 μ l pipette to remove all residual supernatant.
Foam that remains on the well walls is normal and does not affect the library.
- Remove the plate from the magnetic stand.
- Add 40 μ l PCR Master Mix to each well.
- Using a new pipette tip for each well, pierce the foil covering the index adapter plate wells that you intend to use.
- Transfer 10 μ l UDP0XXX from each well of the index adapter plate to each well of the PCR plate.
- Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal and shake at 2000 rpm for 1 minute.
 - Slowly pipette to mix until beads are resuspended.
- Centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 3 seconds.
- Place on the preprogrammed thermal cycler and run the RLP_PCR program.

SAFE STOPPING POINT

If you are stopping, seal the plate and store at -25°C to -15°C for up to 7 days.

Prepare for Protocol

This preparation is required to perform the protocol steps leading up to the next stopping point.

- Remove sample from storage.
- Remove the reagents from the box and prepare as follows.

Table 5 Room Temperature Storage

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
IPB	Illumina DNA/RNA Prep IPB Tag Buffers v2	Use at room temperature.

Table 6 2°C to 8°C Storage

Reagent	Box Name	Instructions
RSB	Illumina DNA/RNA Prep – Tagmentation (S) Beads	Bring to room temperature.

Clean Up Library

This step uses magnetic beads to purify the library.

Consumables

- IPB (Illumina Purification Beads)
- RSB (Resuspension Buffer)
- Freshly prepared 80% ethanol (EtOH)
- 96-well PCR plate, semiskirted
- Microseal 'B' adhesive film

About Reagents

- IPB
 - Use at room temperature.
 - Resuspend before each use.

Preparation

1. Prepare the following consumables:
 - IPB—Vortex and invert to mix.
 - RSB—Vortex and invert to mix.
2. Prepare 80% EtOH from absolute EtOH.

Procedure

1. Centrifuge the sealed PCR plate at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds.
2. Place on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~3 minutes).
3. Transfer 45 μ l supernatant from each well to a new PCR plate.
4. Vortex IPB to resuspend.
5. Add 45 μ l IPB to each well containing a sample.
6. Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal and shake at 2000 rpm for 1 minute, and then centrifuge at $280 \times g$ for 10 seconds.

- Slowly pipette to mix until beads are resuspended.
7. Incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes.
 8. Place on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~5 minutes).
 9. Remove and discard all supernatant.
 10. Wash beads as follows.
 - a. Keep on the magnetic stand and add 175 μ l fresh 80% EtOH to each well.
 - b. Wait 30 seconds.
 - c. Remove and discard all supernatant from each well.
 11. Wash beads a **second** time.
 12. Using a 20 μ l pipette, remove all residual EtOH.
 13. Air-dry on the magnetic stand for 2 minutes.

 Do not overdry the beads, as this can result in lower target recovery. Overdried beads appear light brown and cracked. If the beads overdry, immediately add RSB.
 14. Remove from the magnetic stand.
 15. Add 17 μ l RSB to each well.
 16. Mix using one of the following methods:
 - Seal the plate and shake at 2200 rpm for 1 minute.
 - Slowly pipette until the beads are resuspended, and then seal.
 17. If shaking did not fully resuspend the beads, slowly pipette until the beads are resuspended, and then seal.
 18. Incubate at room temperature for 2 minutes.
 19. Centrifuge at 280 $\times$ g for 10 seconds.
 20. Place on the magnetic stand and wait until the liquid is clear (~2 minutes).
 21. Transfer 15 μ l supernatant from each well to the corresponding well of a new PCR plate.

SAFE STOPPING POINT

If you are stopping, seal the plate and store at -25°C to -15°C for up to 30 days.

Check Libraries

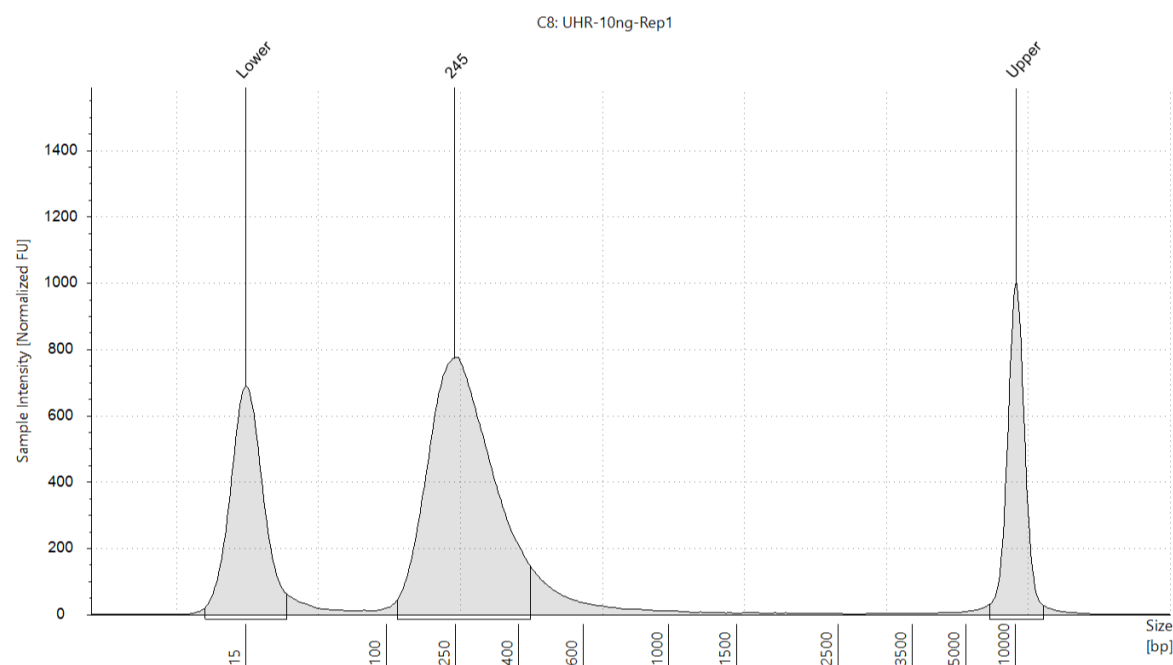
Perform the following procedures to check the concentration and quality of the libraries.

1. Analyze 2 μ l library using the Qubit dsDNA BR or HS Assay Kit.

Use the HS kit for low input samples. The HS kit may require a 1:5–1:10 dilution based on expected yield.
2. **[Optional]** Analyze 4 μ l 1:10,000 diluted library using the KAPA qPCR Library Quantification Kit for further quantification.

The following figure provides an example trace output for a final library generated from 10 ng Universal Human Reference (UHR) RNA input.

Figure 2 Example TapeStation Trace



Dilute Library to the Starting Concentration

This step dilutes libraries to the starting concentration for your sequencing system and is the first step in a serial dilution. After diluting to the starting concentration, libraries are ready to be denatured and diluted to the final loading concentration. Illumina recommends paired-end runs for sequencing. The number of cycles per Index Read is 10, and the number of cycles per read varies depending on the sequencing system.

- Obtain the molarity value of the library or pooled libraries using the applicable method:
 - For libraries quantified with a Qubit, use the following formula to calculate molarity value. Use the average library size and the concentration from the Qubit.
 - For libraries quantified with a KAPA library quantification qPCR method, use 300 bp as the average library insert size.

$$\frac{\text{concentration in ng}/\mu\text{l}}{660 \text{ g/mol} \times \text{average library size in bp}} \times 10^6 = \text{Molarity (nM)}$$

- Using the molarity value, calculate the volumes of RSB and library needed to dilute libraries to the starting concentration for your system.

Sequencing System	Starting Concentration (nM)	Final Loading Concentration (pM)
NextSeq 550 and NextSeq 500	1	1
NextSeq 1000 and NextSeq 2000*	2	750
NovaSeq 6000	0.5	100
NovaSeq X	4	150

* For the NextSeq 1000 and NextSeq 2000 systems, use the RSB with Tween 20 supplied with the system to dilute below 10 nM.

-
-
3. Dilute each library to the starting concentration for your system using RSB. Add 10 µl each diluted library to a tube to pool libraries.
4. Follow the denature and dilute instructions for your system to dilute libraries to the final loading concentration.

Resources and References

The Illumina Rapid Total RNA Prep with Ribo-Zero Plus support pages on the [Illumina Support Center](#) provide additional resources. These resources include training, compatible products, and other considerations. Always check support pages for the latest versions.

Resource	Description
Index Adapters Pooling Guide	Provides recommendations to plan indexing and pooling strategies.
Illumina Adapter Sequences	Provides adapter sequences for Illumina library prep kits.

Revision History

Document	Date	Description of Change
Document # 200077002 v01	August 2026	Updated RSB elution volume to 17 µl in Clean Up Libraries. Added pipette to mix option to steps in Amplify and Add Indexes and Clean Up Libraries. Replaced discontinued items in Consumables and Equipment.
Document # 200077002 v00	June 2026	Initial release.



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