



Plasmid DNA purification

User manual

NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure

July 2014/Rev. 02



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Plasmid DNA purification

Protocol-at-a-glance (Rev. 02)

NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure

1	Cultivate and harvest bacterial cells	٥	12,000 x <i>g</i> , 30 s
2	Cell lysis		150 μL Buffer A1 250 μL Buffer A2 RT, up to 2 min 350 μL Buffer A3
3	Clarification of the lysate		>12,000 x <i>g</i> , 3 min
4	Bind DNA	٥	Load supernatant 1,000–2,000 x g, 30 s
5	Wash and dry silica membrane	٥	450 μL Buffer AQ >12,000 x g, 1 min
6	Elute DNA	٥	50 μL Buffer AE RT, 1 min >12,000 x <i>g</i> , 1 min



Table of contents

1	Con	nponents	4	
	1.1	Kit contents	4	
	1.2	Reagents, consumables, and equipment to be supplied by user	5	
	1.3	About this user manual	5	
2	Prod	duct description	6	
	2.1	Basic principle	6	
	2.2	Kit specifications	6	
	2.3	Growth of bacterial cultures	7	
	2.4	Elution procedures	8	
3	Stor	age conditions and preparation of working solutions	10	
4	4 Safety instructions			
5	Nuc	leoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure protocol	13	
6	Арр	endix	15	
	6.1	Troubleshooting	15	
	6.2	Ordering information	18	
	6.3	References	18	
	6.4	Product use restriction/warranty	19	

1 Components

1.1 Kit contents

	NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure		
REF	10 preps 740727.10	50 preps 740727.50	250 preps 740727.250
Resuspension Buffer A1	5 mL	15 mL	75 mL
Lysis Buffer A2	5 mL	15 mL	100 mL
Neutralization Buffer A3	5 mL	20 mL	100 mL
Wash Buffer AQ (Concentrate)*	6 mL	6 mL	25 mL
Elution Buffer AE**	13 mL	13 mL	30 mL
Liquid RNase A	2 mg	6 mg	30 mg
NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Columns (dark blue rings)	10	50	250
Collection Tubes (2 mL)	10	50	250
Short protocol	1	1	1

^{*} For preparation of working solutions and storage conditions see section 3.

^{**}Composition of Elution Buffer AE: 5 mM Tris/HCI, pH 8.5

1.2 Reagents, consumables, and equipment to be supplied by user

Reagents

96–100 % ethanol

Consumables

- 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes for sample lysis and DNA elution
- Disposable pipette tips

Equipment

- Manual pipettors
- Centrifuge for microcentrifuge tubes
- Vortex mixer
- Personal protection equipment (lab coat, gloves, goggles)

1.3 About this user manual

It is strongly recommended reading the detailed protocol sections of this user manual if the **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure** kit is used for the first time. Experienced users, however, may refer to the Protocol-at-a-glance instead. The Protocol-at-a-glance is designed to be used only as a supplemental tool for quick referencing while performing the purification procedure.

All technical literature is available on the internet at **www.mn-net.com**. Please visit the MACHEREY-NAGEL website to verify that you are using the latest revision of this user manual.

Please contact Technical Service regarding information about changes of the current user manual compared to previous revisions.

2 Product description

2.1 Basic principle

With the **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure** method, the pelleted bacteria are resuspended (Buffer A1) and plasmid DNA is liberated from the *E. coli* host cells by SDS/alkaline lysis (Buffer A2). Buffer A3 neutralizes the resulting lysate and creates appropriate conditions for binding of plasmid DNA to the silica membrane of the **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column**. Precipitated protein, genomic DNA, and cell debris are then pelleted by a centrifugation step. The supernatant is loaded onto a **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column**.

With the **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure** kit contaminations like salts, metabolites, nucleases, and soluble macromolecular cellular components are removed by only a single washing step with Buffer AQ. Pure plasmid DNA is finally eluted under low ionic strength conditions with slightly alkaline Buffer AE (5 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.5).

2.2 Kit specifications

- The NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure kits are designed for the rapid, small-scale preparation of highly pure plasmid DNA (mini preps).
- The NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column features a new specially treated silica membrane which allows speeding up the procedure by a combined washing and drying step. No additional steps are necessary if nuclease rich host strains are used. The number of washing and drying steps is reduced from 3 to only 1!
- LyseControl: The Lysis Buffer A2 contains a blue pH indicator to ensure complete neutralization for maximum yield.
- The purified plasmid DNA is suitable for applications like automated fluorescent DNA sequencing, PCR, or any kind of enzymatic manipulation.

^{*} For preparation of working solutions and storage conditions see section 3.

^{**}Composition of Elution Buffer AE: 5 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.5

Table 1: Kit specifications	ble 1: Kit specifications at a glance		
Parameter	NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure		
Culture volume 2–10 mL			
Typical yield	15–30 μg		
Elution volume	50 μL		
Binding capacity	35 μg		
Vectors	<15 kbp		
Preparation time*	14 min/6 preps		
Format	Mini spin column		

2.3 Growth of bacterial cultures

Yield and quality of plasmid DNA highly depend on the type of culture media and antibiotics, the bacterial host strain, the plasmid type, size, or copy number.

For cultivation of bacterial cells harbouring standard high-copy plasmids, we recommend **LB** (**Luria Bertani**) medium. The cell culture should be incubated at 37 °C with constant shaking (200–250 rpm) preferably 12–16 h over night. Usually an OD of 3–6 can be achieved. Alternatively, rich media like 2x YT (Yeast/Tryptone), TB (Terrific Broth), or CircleGrow can be used. In this case bacteria grow faster, reach the stationary phase much earlier than in LB medium (≤12 h), and higher cell masses can be reached. However, this does not necessarily yield more plasmid DNA. Overgrowing a culture might lead to a higher percentage of dead or starving cells and the resulting plasmid DNA might be partially degraded or contaminated with chromosomal DNA. To find the optimal culture conditions, the culture medium and incubation times have to be optimized for each host strain/plasmid construct combination individually.

Cell cultures should be grown under **antibiotic selection** at all times to ensure plasmid propagation. Without this selective pressure, cells tend to lose a plasmid during cell division. Since bacteria grow much faster without the burden of a high-copy plasmid, they take over the culture rapidly and the plasmid yield goes down regardless of the cell mass. Table 2 gives information on concentrations of commonly used antibiotics.

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^{*} Hands-on-time

Table 2: Information about antibiotics according to Maniatis*				
Antibiotic	iotic Stock solution Storage (concentration)		Working concentration	
Ampicillin	50 mg/mL in H ₂ O	-20 °C	20–50 μg/mL	
Carbenicillin	50 mg/mL in H ₂ O	-20 °C	20–60 μg/mL	
Chloramphenicol	34 mg/mL in EtOH	-20°C	25–170 μg/mL	
Kanamycin	10 mg/mL in H ₂ O	-20°C	10–50 μg/mL	
Streptomycin	10 mg/mL in H ₂ O	-20°C	10–50 μg/mL	
Tetracycline	5 mg/mL in EtOH	-20°C	10–50 μg/mL	

As rule of thumb use 5 mL of a well grown LB culture as given in the kit specifications.

However, the culture volume can be increased if the cell culture grows very poorly or has to be decreased if, e.g., very rich culture media were used. Refer to Table 3 to choose the best culture volume according to the optical density at 600 nm (OD_{600}).

Table 3: Recommended culture volumes for NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure						
OD ₆₀₀	1	2	3	4	5	6
Culture volume	15 mL	8 mL	5 mL	4 mL	3 mL	2 mL

Note, if too much bacterial material is used, the lysis and precipitation steps become inefficient causing decreased yield and plasmid quality! If more than the recommended amount of cells shall be processed increase all lysis buffers proportionally.

2.4 Elution procedures

The elution buffer volume and method can be adapted to the subsequent downstream application to achieve higher yield and/or concentration than the standard method (recovery about 70–90%):

- Higher yield in general, especially for larger constructs: Heat elution buffer to 70 °C, add 50–100 µL to the NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column and incubate at 70 °C for 2 min.
- High yield: Perform two elution steps with the volume indicated in the individual protocol. About 90–100 % of bound nucleic acids can be eluted.

^{*} Maniatis T, Fritsch EF, Sambrook J: *Molecular cloning. A laboratory manual*, Cold Spring Harbor, Cold Spring, New York 1982.

- High concentration: Perform one elution step with 60% of the volume indicated in the individual protocol. Concentration of DNA will be higher than with standard elution (approx. 130%). Maximal yield of bound nucleic acids is about 80%.
- High yield and high concentration: Apply half of the volume of elution buffer as indicated in the individual protocol, incubate for 3 min and centrifuge. Apply a second aliquot of elution buffer, incubate, and centrifuge again. Thus, about 85–100% of bound nucleic acids are eluted with the standard elution volume at a high concentration.

Elution Buffer AE (5 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.5) can be replaced by TE buffer or water as well. However, we recommend using a weakly buffered, slightly alkaline buffer containing no EDTA, especially if the plasmid DNA is intended for sequencing reactions. If water is used, the pH should be checked and adjusted to pH 8.0–8.5 since deionized water usually exhibits a pH below 7. Furthermore absorption of ${\rm CO_2}$ leads to a decrease in pH of unbuffered solutions.

3 Storage conditions and preparation of working solutions

Attention: Buffer A3 contains guanidine hydrochloride! Wear gloves and goggles!

CAUTION: Buffer A3 contains guanidine hydrochloride which can form highly reactive compounds when combined with bleach (sodium hypochlorite). DO NOT add bleach or acidic solutions directly to the sample-preparation waste.

- All kit components can be stored at room temperature (18–25 °C) and are stable for at least one year.
- Always keep buffer bottles tightly closed, especially if buffers are preheated during the preparation.
- Storage of Buffer A2 below 20 °C may cause precipitation of SDS. If salt precipitate is observed, incubate buffer at 30–40 °C for several minutes and mix well until all precipitate is redissolved completely. Cool down to room temperature before use.

Before starting any NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure protocol prepare the following:

- Add Liquid RNase A to Buffer A1 and mix thoroughly. Indicate date of RNase A addition. Store Buffer A1 containing RNase A at 4°C. The solution will be stable at this temperature for at least six months.
- Add the indicated volume of 96–100 % ethanol to Buffer AQ (Concentrate).

	NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure			
	10 preps	50 preps	250 preps 740727.250	
REF	740727.10	740727.50		
Wash Buffer AQ (Concentrate)	6 mL Add 24 mL ethanol	6 mL Add 24 mL ethanol	25 mL Add 100 mL ethanol	

4 Safety instructions

The following components of the **NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure** kit contain hazardous contents.

GHS classification

Only harmful features do not need to be labeled with H and P phrases up to 125 mL or 125 g.

Mindergefährliche Eigenschaften müssen bis 125 mL oder 125 g nicht mit H- und P-Sätzen gekennzeichnet werden.

Component	Hazard contents	GHS	symbol	Hazard phrases	Precaution phrases
Inhalt	Gefahrstoff	GHS S	Symbol	H-Sätze	P-Sätze
A2	Sodium hydroxide 0.5–2% Natriumhydroxid 0.5–2%		Warning Achtung	290, 315, 319	234, 280, 302+352, 305+351+338, 332+313, 337+313, 390, 406
A3	Guanidine hydrochloride Guanidinhydrochlorid		Warning Achtung	302, 319	280, 301+312, 305+351+338, 330, 337+313
RNase A	RNase A RNase A	\$	Danger Gefahr	317, 334	261, 302+352, 304+340, 333+313, 342+311, 363

Hazard phrases

H 290	May be corrosive to metals. Kann gegenüber Metallen korrosiv sein.
H 302	Harmful if swallowed. Gesundheitsschädlich bei Verschlucken.
H 315	Causes skin irritation. Verursacht Hautreizungen.
H 317	May cause an allergic skin reaction. Kann allergische Hautreaktionen verursachen.
H 319	Causes serious eye irritation. Verursacht schwere Augenreizung.
H 334	May cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled. Kann bei Einatmen Allergie, asthmaartige Symptome oder Atembeschwerden verursa- chen.

Precaution phrases

P 234	Keep only in original container. Nur im Originalbehälter aufbewahren.
P 261	Avoid breathing dust. Einatmen von Staub vermeiden.
P 280	Wear protective gloves/eye protection. Schutzhandschuhe/Augenschutz tragen.

Precaution phrases

P 301+312	IF SWALLOWED: Call a POISON CENTER/ doctor//if you feel unwell. BEI VERSCHLUCKEN: Bei Unwohlsein GIFTINFORMATIONSZENTRUM / Arzt / anrufen.
P 302+352	IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water/ BEI KONTAKT MIT DER HAUT: Mit viel Wasser/ waschen.
P 304+340	IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing. BEI EINATMEN: An die frische Luft bringen und in einer Position ruhigstellen, die das Atmen erleichtert.
P 305+351+338	IF IN EYES: Rinse continuously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do – continue rinsing. BEI KONTAKT MIT DEN AUGEN: Einige Minuten lang behutsam mit Wasser spülen. Vorhandene Kontaktlinsen nach Möglichkeit entfernen. Weiter spülen.
P 330	Rinse mouth. Mund ausspülen.
P 332+313	If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice / attention. Bei Hautreizung: Ärztlichen Rat einholen / ärztliche Hilfe hinzuziehen.
P 333+313	If skin irritation or a rash occurs: Get medical advice / attention. Bei Hautreizung oder -ausschlag: Ärztlichen Rat einholen / ärztliche Hilfe hinzuziehen.
P 337+313	Get medical advice / attention. Bei anhaltender Hautreizung: Ärztlichen Rat einholen / ärztliche Hilfe hinzuziehen.
P 342+311	If experiencing respiratory symptoms: Call a POISON CENTER/ doctor/ Bei Symptomen der Atemwege: GIFTINFORMATIONSZENTRUM /Arzt/ anrufen.
P 363	Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. Kontaminierte Kleidung vor erneutem Tragen waschen.
P 390	Absorb spillage to prevent material damage. Verschüttete Menge aufnehmen, um Materialschäden zu vermeiden.
P 406	Store in a corrosive resistant container with a resistant inner liner. In korrosionsbeständigem Behälter mit korrosionsbeständiger Auskleidung aufbewahren.

For further information please see Material Safety Data Sheets (www.mn-net.com). Weiterführende Informationen finden Sie in den Sicherheitsdatenblättern (www.mn-net.com).

5 NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure protocol

Before starting the preparation:

Check if Wash Buffer AQ was prepared according to section 3.

1 Cultivate and harvest bacterial cells

Use 2–10 mL of a saturated E.coli culture (see page 8, table 3), pellet cells in a standard benchtop microcentrifuge for 30 s at >12,000 x g.



Discard the supernatant and remove as much of the liquid as possible.



>12,000 x *g*,

2 Cell lysis

Add 150 µL Buffer A1. Resuspend the cell pellet completely by vortexing or pipetting up and down. Make sure no cell clumps remain before addition of Buffer A2!

+ 150 µL A1

<u>Attention:</u> Check Buffer A2 for precipitated SDS. If a white precipitate is visible, warm the buffer for several minutes at 30–40 °C until precipitate is dissolved completely. Cool buffer down to room temperature (18–25 °C) before use.

Resuspend

Add 250 µL Buffer A2. Mix gently by inverting the tube 5 times. Do not vortex to avoid shearing of genomic DNA. Incubate at room temperature (18–25 °C) for up to 2 min or until lysate appears clear.



Add **350 µL Buffer A3**. Mix thoroughly by inverting the tube until LyseControl has turned **colorless** throughout the lysate without any traces of blue color. Do not vortex to avoid shearing of genomic DNA!

RT, 2 min

+ 350 µL A3

Mix

3 Clarification of lysate

Centrifuge for **3 min** at **full speed** ($>12,000 \times g$).





>12,000 x g, 3 min

4 Bind DNA

Place a NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column into a Collection Tube (2 mL) and decant the supernatant from step 3 onto the column.



Load supernatant

Centrifuge for **30 s** at **1,000–2,000 x g**.



1,000-2,000 x *g*, 30 s

Discard flow-through and place the spin column back into the collection tube.

5 Wash and dry silica membrane



+ 450 µL AQ

Add 450 μ L Buffer AQ (supplemented with ethanol, see section 3).



>12,000 x *g*,

Centrifuge for **1 min** at **full speed** (>12,000 x g).

Very carefully discard the collection tube and the flowthrough and make sure the spin cup outlet does not touch the wash buffer surface. Otherwise repeat the centrifugation step.

Note: To reduce ethanol carry-over to a minimum for better performance in downstream applications, incubate spin cup for 10–15 min at 37 °C to dry silica membrane completely.

6 Elute DNA

Place the NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube (not provided) and add 50 μ L Buffer AE.



+ 50 µL AE

RT, 1 min

Incubate for 1 min at room temperature (18–25 °C).

Centrifuge for 1 min at full speed (>12,000 x g).



>12,000 x *g*,

<u>Note</u>: For more efficient elution procedures and alternative elution buffer (e.g., TE buffer or water) see section 2.4.

6 Appendix

6.1 Troubleshooting

Problem Possible cause and suggestions

Cell pellet not properly resuspended

 It is essential that the cell pellet is completely resuspended prior to lysis. No cell clumps should be visible before addition of Buffer A2.

Incomplete lysis of bacterial cells

SDS in Buffer A2 precipitated

 Storage of Buffer A2 below 20 °C may cause precipitation of SDS. If salt precipitate is observed, incubate buffer at 30–40 °C for several minutes and mix well until all precipitate is redissolved completely. Cool down to room temperature before use.

Too many bacterial cells used

· See table 3 for maximum amount of cells.

Incomplete lysis of bacterial cells

See "Possible cause and suggestions" above.

No or insufficient amounts of antibiotic used during cultivation

 Cells carrying the plasmid of interest may become overgrown by cells without plasmid (see table 2), when inadequate levels of the antibiotics are used. Add appropriate amounts of freshly prepared stock solutions to all media; both solid and liquid.

Poor plasmid yield

Bacterial culture too old

 Do not incubate cultures for more than 16 h (LB) or 12 h (rich media) at 37°C under shaking to avoid starvation and plasmid degradation.

Incomplete neutralization

 Mix thoroughly after addition of Buffer A3 until LyseControl has turned colorless without any traces of blue.

Suboptimal elution conditions

Poor plasmid yield

 If possible, use a slightly alkaline elution buffer like Buffer AE (5 M Tris/HCl, pH 8.5). If nuclease-free water is used, check the pH of the water. Elution efficiencies drop drastically with buffers <pH 7.

(continued) Low copy

Low copy-number plasmid was used

 At least double or triple culture volume and increase lysis buffers if final amount of cells exceed the recommended volumes of table 3.

Reagents not applied properly

 Add indicated volume of 96–100% ethanol to Buffer AQ Concentrate and mix thoroughly (see section 3).

Nuclease-rich host strains used

No plasmid vield

 Especially when working with nuclease-rich strains, keep plasmid preparations on ice or frozen in order to avoid DNA degradation.

Inappropriate storage of plasmid DNA

 Quantitate DNA directly after preparation, for example, by agarose gel electrophoresis. Store plasmid DNA dissolved in water at <-18 °C or at <+5 °C when dissolved in Buffer AE or TE buffer.

Nicked plasmid DNA

 Cell suspension was incubated with alkaline Lysis Buffer A2 too long. Reduce lysis time.

Poor plasmid quality

Genomic DNA contamination

 Cell lysate was vortexed or mixed too vigorously after addition of Buffer A2. Genomic DNA was sheared and thus liberated.

Smeared plasmid bands on agarose gel

 Especially when working with nuclease-rich strains, keep plasmid preparations on ice or frozen in order to avoid DNA degradation.

Carry-over of ethanol

 Make sure that the NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure Column is completely dry after step 5. Otherwise discard flow-through and repeat centrifugation.

Suboptimal performance of plasmid DNA in enzymatic reactions

Elution of plasmid DNA with TE buffer

 EDTA may inhibit sequencing reactions. Repurify plasmid DNA and elute with Buffer AE or water. Alternatively, the eluted plasmid DNA can be precipitated with ethanol and redissolved in Buffer AE or water

Not enough DNA used for sequencing reaction

 Quantify DNA by agarose gel electrophoresis before setting up sequencing reactions.

6.2 Ordering information

Product	REF	Pack of
NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure	740727.10/.50/.250	10/50/250 preps
NucleoSpin® Buffer Set (for the isolation of low-copy plasmids)	740953	1
Buffer A1 (without RNase A)	740911.1	1 L
Buffer A2	740912.1	1 L
Buffer A3	740913.1	1 L
Buffer AQ (Concentrate) (for 100 mL Buffer AQ)	740995	20 mL
Buffer AE	740917.1	1 L
Liquid RNase A	740397	250 mg
Collection Tubes (2 mL)	740600	1000

6.3 References

Birnboim, **H.C.**, **and J. Doly**. 1979. A rapid alkaline extraction procedure for screening of recombinant plasmid DNA. Nucleic Acids Res. **7**: 1513-1523.

Vogelstein B., and D. Gillespie. 1979. Preparative and analytical purification of DNA from agarose. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **76**: 615-619.

6.4 Product use restriction/warranty

NucleoSpin® Plasmid EasyPure kit components are intended, developed, designed, and sold FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY, except, however, any other function of the product being expressly described in original MACHEREY-NAGEL product leaflets.

MACHEREY-NAGEL products are intended for GENERAL LABORATORY USE ONLY! MACHEREY-NAGEL products are suited for QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ONLY! MACHEREY-NAGEL products shall in any event only be used wearing adequate PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. For detailed information please refer to the respective Material Safety Data Sheet of the product! MACHEREY-NAGEL products shall exclusively be used in an ADEQUATE TEST ENVIRONMENT. MACHEREY-NAGEL does not assume any responsibility for damages due to improper application of our products in other fields of application. Application on the human body is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. The respective user is liable for any and all damages resulting from such application.

DNA/RNA/PROTEIN purification products of MACHEREY-NAGEL are suitable for *IN VITRO*-USES ONLY!

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IF THERE IS NO IVD SIGN, THE PRODUCT SHALL NOT BE SUITABLE FOR IN VITRO-DIAGNOSTIC USE!

ALL OTHER PRODUCTS NOT LABELED AS IVD ARE NOT SUITED FOR ANY CLINICAL USE (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO DIAGNOSTIC, THERAPEUTIC AND/OR PROGNOSTIC USE).

No claim or representations is intended for its use to identify any specific organism or for clinical use (included, but not limited to diagnostic, prognostic, therapeutic, or blood banking). It is rather in the responsibility of the user or - in any case of resale of the products - in the responsibility of the reseller to inspect and assure the use of the DNA/RNA/protein purification products of MACHEREY-NAGEL for a well-defined and specific application.

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