Genisphere®

SIGNAL + SAMPLE AMPLIFICATION PRODUCTS

FlashTag™ Biotin

RNA Labeling Kit
for Affymetrix® GeneChip® miRNA Arrays

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Introduction

Background Information

The FlashTag kit will label any RNA sample, including total RNA, severely degraded RNA, plant RNA, and low molecular weight RNA. This protocol describes labeling total RNA or low molecular weight (LMW) RNA for analysis by Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Arrays with an in-process ELOSA QC Assay.

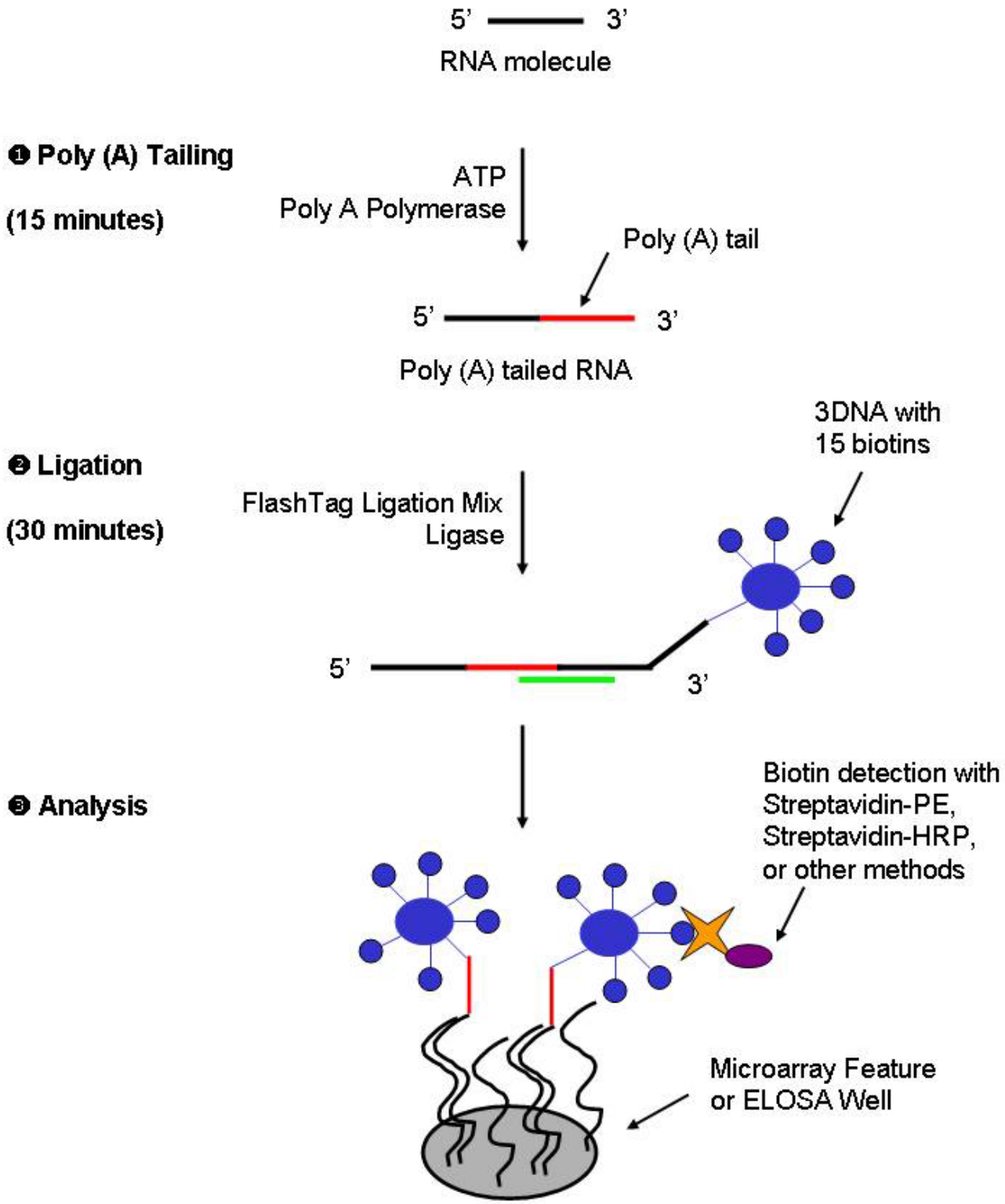
LMW RNA molecules (snRNA, hnRNA, piRNA, miRNA, etc.) have recently been shown to be involved in important biological processes such as mRNA degradation, transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) and translational repression.[1-6] As a result, these newly discovered biomolecules are gaining the interest of the scientific community as possible new drug targets and for use in diagnostics. FlashTag provides the necessary tools to identify such targets.

FlashTag labeling is fast, simple, accurate, highly sensitive and reproducible. Starting with approximately 1μg of total RNA (or LMW RNA enriched from 1μg of total), the process begins with a brief tailing reaction followed by ligation of the biotinylated signal molecule to the target RNA sample. The labeling process is complete in less than one hour. The labeled RNA is ready for use in microarray hybridizations.

The high sensitivity of FlashTag is due to Genisphere's proprietary 3DNA dendrimer signal amplification technology. The 3DNA dendrimer is a branched structure of single and double stranded DNA conjugated with numerous labels.[7-8] Whereas other labeling strategies typically target a single biotin to the sample, FlashTag's 3DNA molecule delivers approximately 15 biotins to the sample (see page 3).

Please review this product manual before beginning experiments. Materials needed for Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Arrays are listed on page 4 and include deionized formamide. Materials needed for the ELOSA QC Assay are listed in Appendix A. Note that ELOSA wells must be coated with DNA Spotting Oligos and incubated overnight before the ELOSA assay may be run.

*Flash*Tag: Procedure Overview



Components, Storage, and Handling

FlashTag RNA Labeling Kit: **Store all components at –20°C**

Vial 1	10X Reaction Buffer
Vial 2	25mM $MnCl_2$
Vial 3	ATP Mix
Vial 4	PAP Enzyme
Vial 5	5X FlashTag Ligation Mix Biotin
Vial 6	T4 DNA Ligase
Vial 7	Stop Solution
Vial 8	RNA Spike Control Oligos
Vial 9	ELOSA Spotting Oligos
Vial 10	ELOSA Positive Control

Handling Kit Contents

Vials 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9: Thaw at room temperature, vortex, and briefly microfuge.
Vials 3, 8 and 10: Thaw on ice, microfuge if necessary, and keep on ice at all times.
Vials 4 and 6: Remove from freezer just prior to use, and briefly microfuge. Keep on ice at all times. Do not vortex.

Other Required Materials (Refer to Appendix C for example reagent preparation and storage)

All materials should be nuclease-free, and all reagents should be prepared with nuclease-free components.

- RNA sample containing low molecular weight (LMW) RNA (see **RNA Sample and Quantitation** on page 5)
- Nuclease-free water (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9932 or equivalent)
- 1mM Tris (Appendix C)
- Reagents for analysis by Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Array:
    - GeneChip miRNA Array (Affymetrix cat. no. 901324, 901325, or 901326)
    - Affymetrix GeneChip Command Console® Software (AGCC)
    - GeneChip Eukaryotic Hybridization Control Kit (Affymetrix cat. no. 900454)
        - If necessary, Control Oligonucleotide B2, 3nM (included in Hybridization Control Kit) can be ordered separately (Affymetrix cat. no. 900301)
    - GeneChip Fluidics Station 450 (Affymetrix cat. no. 00-0079)
    - GeneChip Hybridization, Wash and Stain Kit (Affymetrix cat. no. 900720)
        - If necessary, Wash Buffer A (included in Hybridization, Wash and Stain Kit) can be ordered separately (Affymetrix cat. no. 900721)
        - If necessary, Wash Buffer B (included in Hybridization, Wash and Stain Kit) can be ordered separately (Affymetrix cat. no. 900722)
    - **Deionized formamide, molecular biology grade (VWR cat. no. EM-4610 or equivalent)**
    - Laser Tough-Spots® 3/8" diameter (Diversified Biotech cat. no. SPOT-1000)
    - Laser Tough-Spots® 1/2" diameter (Diversified Biotech cat. no. SPOT-2000)
- Reagents for ELOSA QC Assay: Refer to Appendix A and Appendix C.

Optional Materials

- Microcon® YM-100 Centrifugal Filter Devices (Millipore® cat. no. 42413) and 10mM Tris pH 8.0 for enrichment of LMW RNA
- Quant-iT™ RiboGreen RNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen cat. no. R11490) or NanoDrop® ND-1000 Spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies) for RNA quantitation

RNA Sample and Quantitation

Total RNA

FlashTag is ideally suited to label total RNA samples. For new users, 1μg of total RNA is recommended as a starting point for labeling. 0.1 - 3μg total RNA may be used with FlashTag. Any kit for purification of total RNA will be compatible with FlashTag. Elute or resuspend the RNA in nuclease-free water. Ensure that the purification method retains low molecular weight species. Some commercial products that have been tested successfully with FlashTag include:
Marligen Vantage kits
Applied Biosystems miRVana kits
Qiagen miRNeasy kits

LMW (Low Molecular Weight) RNA

Some applications may require LMW enrichment for optimal profiling. For example, to distinguish mature and precursor miRNAs, enrichment may be necessary. In addition, degraded total RNA samples should be enriched prior to FlashTag labeling. A procedure for enrichment by Microcon YM-100 columns is provided below; other methods and kits may also be used to enrich total RNA for LMW RNA.

Quantitation

To accurately determine the concentration of the RNA sample, Genisphere recommends the use of the Quant-iT™ RiboGreen RNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen cat. no. R11490) or the NanoDrop® ND-1000 Spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies). If an enriched sample is not quantitated, use LMW RNA enriched from between 0.1 to 3μg of total RNA. Refer to the table below for RNA input recommendations for FlashTag labeling.

RNA Sample	Input for FlashTag Labeling
Total RNA containing LMW RNA	0.1 - 3μg (1μg recommended)
Enriched LMW RNA, not quantitated	Enriched from 0.1 - 3μg total RNA

Optional: Enrichment of LMW RNA using Microcon YM-100 columns (Millipore cat. no. 42413)

1. Dilute the total RNA sample to 50μl with 10mM Tris pH 8.0.

2. Heat to 80°C for 3 minutes, then immediately cool on ice for 3 minutes.

3. While the sample is cooling on ice, add 50μl of 10mM Tris pH 8.0 to the Microcon column, and spin for 3 minutes at 13,000g.

4. Discard the flow-through and the collection tube. Place the column into a new collection tube.

5. Add the 50μl of RNA to the Microcon column, and centrifuge for 7 minutes at 13,000g.

6. Save the eluate (~45μl) in the collection tube. This is the enriched LMW RNA. The LMW RNA can be quantitated with the Quant-iT RiboGreen RNA Assay Kit or the NanoDrop ND-1000 Spectrophotometer. Proceed to **FlashTag RNA Labeling Procedure**.

Note: To collect the high molecular weight RNA, add 5μl of 10mM Tris pH 8.0 to the Microcon column and gently mix by tapping the side. Carefully place the sample reservoir **upside down** in a **new collection tube** and centrifuge for 3 minutes at 13,000g.

FlashTag RNA Labeling Procedure

Genisphere recommends running an ELOSA QC Assay to verify this labeling procedure prior to array hybridization. Refer to Appendix A. Note that ELOSA wells must be coated with DNA Spotting Oligos and incubated overnight before the ELOSA assay may be run, and that Plate Washing and Blocking steps may be completed prior to or during the FlashTag labeling procedure.

Poly (A) Tailing

1. Adjust the volume of RNA to 8μl with nuclease-free water.

2. Transfer the 8μl RNA to ice. Add 2μl RNA Spike Control Oligos (Vial 8) and return to ice.

3. Dilute the ATP mix (Vial 3) in 1mM Tris as follows:

   For **total RNA samples,** dilute the ATP Mix 1:500.

   For **enriched, quantitated samples**, calculate the dilution factor according to the following formula:

   5000 ÷ ng input LMW RNA

   Example: If using 100ng of enriched LMW RNA, the dilution factor is 5000 ÷ 100 = 50.
   Dilute the ATP Mix 1:50.

   For **enriched samples that are not quantitated**, calculate the dilution factor according to the following formula:

   1000 ÷ μg input total RNA

   Example: If the sample was enriched from 2μg total RNA, the dilution factor is 1000 ÷ 2 = 500.
   Dilute the ATP Mix 1:500.

4. Add the following components to the 10μl RNA/Spike Control Oligos, for a volume of 15μl:
   - 1.5μl 10X Reaction Buffer (Vial 1)
   - 1.5μl 25mM $MnCl_2$ (Vial 2)
   - 1.0μl diluted ATP Mix (Vial 3 dilution from step 3)
   - 1.0μl PAP Enzyme (Vial 4)

   Note: If at least 5 labeling reactions are simultaneously run, a master mix may be prepared at this step. Prepare one extra reaction's worth of reagents. For example, when 5 samples are run, prepare a master mix for 6 samples:
   - 9μl 10X Reaction Buffer (Vial 1)
   - 9μl 25mM $MnCl_2$ (Vial 2)
   - 6μl diluted ATP Mix (Vial 3 dilution from step 3)
   - 6μl PAP Enzyme (Vial 4)

   Add 5μl of master mix to the 10μl RNA/Spike Control Oligos, for a volume of 15μl.

5. Mix gently (do not vortex) and microfuge.

6. Incubate in a 37°C heat block for 15 minutes. Discard any unused, diluted ATP Mix from step 2.

FlashTag Ligation

1. Briefly microfuge the 15µl of tailed RNA and place on ice.

2. Add 4µl 5X FlashTag Ligation Mix Biotin (Vial 5).

3. Add 2µl of T4 DNA Ligase (Vial 6).

4. Mix gently (do not vortex) and microfuge.

5. Incubate at 25°C (room temperature) for 30 minutes.

6. Stop the reaction by adding 2.5µl Stop Solution (Vial 7). Mix and microfuge the 23.5µl of ligated sample.

7. Remove 2µl of the biotin-labeled sample and proceed to the ELOSA QC Assay (Appendix A). It is acceptable to store the 2µl of biotin-labeled sample on ice for up to 6 hours, or at -20°C for up to 2 weeks, and run the ELOSA QC Assay at a convenient time.

8. The remaining 21.5µl biotin-labeled sample may be stored on ice for up to 6 hours, or at -20°C for up to 2 weeks, prior to hybridization on Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Arrays.

Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Array Procedure

Please refer to the GeneChip miRNA Array product insert for specific requirements and recommendations.

Preparation of Ovens, Arrays, and Sample Registration Files

1. Turn Affymetrix Hybridization Oven 640 or 645 on and set the temperature to 48°C. Set the RPM to 60. Turn the rotation on and allow the oven to preheat.

2. Unwrap the arrays and place on the bench top. Allow the arrays to warm to room temperature (10-15 minutes). Mark each array with a meaningful designation.

3. Insert a 20µl or 200µl pipet tip (unfiltered type recommended) into the upper right septum to allow for proper venting when hybridization cocktail is injected.

4. Download and install the miRNA Array library file package (if not performed previously) into Affymetrix GeneChip Command Console (AGCC) software using the Command Console Library File Importer tool. The direct web link is: http://www.affymetrix.com/products_services/arrays/specific/mi_rna.affx#1_4

5. Upload the sample and array information (sample names, barcode IDs, etc.) into Affymetrix GeneChip Command Console (AGCC).

For more information, refer to Affymetrix Command Console.
http://www.affymetrix.com/support/downloads/manuals/agcc_command_console_user_guide.pdf

Hybridization

1. Bring the reagents listed in step 3, below, to room temperature.

2. Completely thaw and then heat the 20X Eukaryotic Hybridization Controls (bioB, bioC, bioD, cre from GeneChip Eukaryotic Hybridization Control Kit) for 5 minutes at 65°C.

3. Add the following components to the 21.5µl biotin-labeled sample in the order listed, to prepare the array hybridization cocktail:
   - 50µl 2X Hybridization Mix (from GeneChip Hyb, Wash and Stain Kit)
   - 10µl nuclease-free water
   - 5µl Deionized formamide, molecular biology grade
   - 10µl DMSO (from GeneChip Hyb, Wash and Stain Kit)
   - 5µl 20X Eukaryotic Hybridization Controls
   - 1.7µl Control Oligonucleotide B2, 3nM (from GeneChip Eukaryotic Hyb Control Kit)

4. The volume will be 103.2µl. Incubate at 99°C for 5 minutes, then 45°C for 5 minutes.

5. Aspirate **100µl** and inject into an array.

6. Remove the pipet tip from the upper right septum of the array.

7. Cover both septa with 1/2" Tough-Spots to minimize evaporation and/or prevent leaks.

8. Place the arrays into hybridization oven trays.

9. Load the trays into the hybridization oven.

10. Incubate the arrays at 48°C and 60 rpm for 16 hours.

Washing and Staining

For additional information about washing, staining, and scanning, please refer to the user guide for the HWS Kit
http://www.affymetrix.com/products_services/reagents/specific/hyb_wash_stain_kit.affx#1_4

and page 114 of Affymetrix Command Console.
http://www.affymetrix.com/support/downloads/manuals/agcc_command_console_user_guide.pdf

1. After 16 hours of hybridization, remove the arrays from the oven. Remove the Tough-Spots from the arrays.

2. Extract the hybridization cocktail from each array and transfer it to a new tube or well of a 96-well plate in order to save the hybridization cocktail. Store on ice during the procedure, or at –80°C for long-term storage. Refer to Appendix B, Array Rehybridization Procedure, if necessary.

3. Fill each array completely with Array Holding Buffer.

4. Allow the arrays to equilibrate to room temperature before washing and staining.

NOTE: Arrays can be stored in the Array Holding Buffer at 4°C for up to 3 hours before proceeding with washing and staining. Equilibrate arrays to room temperature before washing and staining.

5. Place vials into sample holders on the fluidics station:
   a. Place one (amber) vial containing 600µl **Stain Cocktail 1** in sample holder 1.
   b. Place one (clear) vial containing 600µl **Stain Cocktail 2** in sample holder 2.
   c. Place one (clear) vial containing 800µl **Array Holding Buffer** in sample holder 3.

6. Wash and stain with Fluidics Station 450 using fluidics script FS450_0003

Post Hyb Wash #1	10 cycles of 2 mixes/cycle with Wash Buffer A at 25°C
Post Hyb Wash #2	8 cycles of 15 mixes/cycle with Wash Buffer B at 50°C
1st Stain	Stain the probe array for 10 minutes with **Stain Cocktail 1** (Vial Position 1) at 25°C
Post Stain Wash	10 cycles of 4 mixes/cycle with Wash Buffer A at 30°C
2nd Stain	Stain the probe array for 10 minutes with **Stain Cocktail 2** (Vial Position 2) at 25°C
3rd Stain	Stain the probe array for 10 minutes with **Stain Cocktail 1** (Vial Position 1) at 25°C
Final Wash	15 cycles of 4 mixes/cycle with Wash Buffer A at 35°C
Array Holding Buffer	Fill the probe array with **Array Holding Buffer** (Vial Position 3)

7. Check for air bubbles. If there are air bubbles, manually fill the array with Array Holding Buffer. If there are no air bubbles, cover both septa with 3/8" Tough-Spots. Inspect the array glass surface for dust and/or other particulates and, if necessary, carefully wipe the surface with a clean lab wipe before scanning.

Scanning

The instructions for using the scanner and scanning arrays can be found in the Affymetrix Command Console Software User Manual in Chapter 6 (page 141).
http://www.affymetrix.com/support/downloads/manuals/agcc_command_console_user_guide.pdf

Analysis

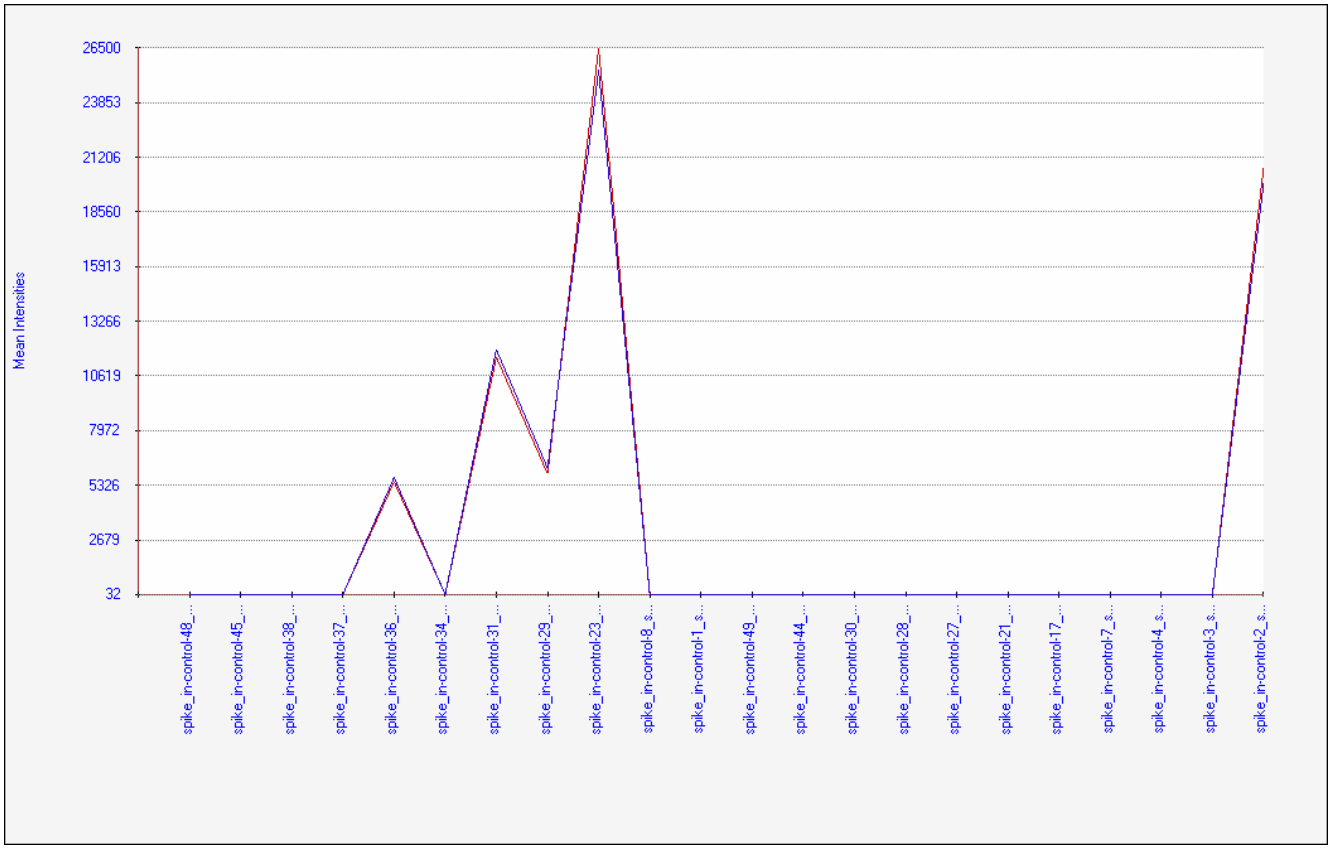
Use the free miRNA QC Tool software for data summarization, normalization, and quality control.
www.affymetrix.com/products_services/arrays/specific/mi_rna.affx#1_4

Using the miRNA QC Tool software, look for Vial 8, RNA Spike Control Oligos in either a Table (Example 1, below) or a Graph (Example 2, below). The Affymetrix library file lists the following names for these probe sets:
spike in-control-2_st
spike in-control-23_st
spike in-control-29_st
spike in-control-31_st
spike in-control-36_st
Each probe set should show >1000 units (signal-background).

Example 1: Select Tables → Quality Control. Each probe set shows >1000 units (signal-background).

ProbeSet Name	Group	1ug Human Brain Total RNA	1ug Human Liver Total RNA
spike_in-control-2_st	oligo_spike_in (Control)	20720	19965
spike_in-control-23_st	oligo_spike_in (Control)	26493.7	25418.1
spike_in-control-29_st	oligo_spike_in (Control)	5892.1	6167.7
spike_in-control-31_st	oligo_spike_in (Control)	11526.2	11894.6
spike_in-control-36_st	oligo_spike_in (Control)	5488.6	5689.2

Example 2: Select Graphs → Quality Control. Check the box: oligo_spike_in (Control). Each probe set shows >1000 units (signal-background).



Export the data into third party software for further analysis.

References

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Appendix A: ELOSA QC Assay

The Enzyme Linked Oligosorbent Assay (ELOSA) is designed to provide confirmation that the FlashTag Biotin Labeling Kit has performed appropriately as a biotin labeling process. Specifically, the ELOSA is designed to detect the RNA Spike Control Oligos (Vial 8) included in all FlashTag labeling reactions. Only 2µl of the labeling reaction is required for the ELOSA assay. Successful biotin labeling is verified via a simple colorimetric ELOSA assay through the hybridization of the biotin-labeled RNA Spike Control Oligos (Vial 8) to complementary ELOSA Spotting Oligos (Vial 9) immobilized onto microtiter plate wells. The ELOSA Positive Control (Vial 10) confirms the ELOSA assay is working properly.

This assay should be run prior to the use of any labeling reaction on microarrays to assure the FlashTag labeling process worked appropriately with known controls. Please note that this procedure does not assure the performance of any RNA sample on a microarray.

Additional Required Materials (Refer to Appendix C for example preparation and storage)

- **Flat bottom Immobilizer™ Amino – 8 well strips**
  Nunc cat. no. 436013 (30 plates)
  or
  Genisphere cat. no. FT5ELOSA (5 plates)
  Do not use strips or plates from other manufacturers.
- Adhesive plate sealers (VWR cat. no. 62402-921) or equivalent
- Squirt wash bottle (or washing instrument) for vigorous washing
- 1X PBS
- 1X PBS, 0.02% Tween-20
- 5X SSC, 0.05% SDS, 0.005% BSA (If a precipitate forms in this buffer, warm at 42°C to dissolve. Use at room temperature.)
- 5% BSA in 1X PBS
- 25% dextran sulfate (Genisphere cat. no. V25DEX) or equivalent – see Appendix C
- Streptavidin-HRP (Thermo Scientific / Pierce cat. no. N100) or equivalent
- TMB Substrate Solution (Thermo Scientific / Pierce cat. no. N301) or equivalent
- Optional: TMB Stop Reagent (Thermo Scientific / Pierce cat. no. N600) or equivalent
- Optional: Plate reader or instrument capable of reading absorbance at 450nm

Procedural Notes

- All materials should be nuclease-free, and all reagents should be prepared with nuclease-free components.
- 2µl of each biotin labeling reaction (page 6, step 6), will be used in the ELOSA. It is acceptable to store the 2µl of biotin-labeled sample on ice (up to 6 hours) or at -20°C (up to 2 weeks) and run the ELOSA at a convenient time.
- The ELOSA Positive Control (Vial 10) is already labeled with biotin and should be added to its own well each time the ELOSA assay is run.
- Bring all solutions to room temperature before using them in the ELOSA.
- During all incubation steps, cover the plate with an adhesive plate sealer.
- To blot dry, expel the liquid into a sink, and repeatedly tap the inverted plate on a stack of paper towels. Do not insert laboratory wipes into the ELOSA wells.
- A multichannel pipette (8 or 12 tip) is recommended, but not required.
- Vigorous washing is required to minimize non-specific background signals in negative control wells. Vigorous manual washing of the ELOSA wells with a squirt bottle filled with washing buffer is a simple and inexpensive method that works well when performed over a sink; alternatively, an automated washing instrument capable of vigorous washing may be used.

Experimental Design Recommendations

To understand the validity of this ELOSA method, appropriate controls should be included in all ELOSA assays.

Negative controls should include a FlashTag Biotin labeling reaction that does **not** contain any RNA Spike Control Oligos (Vial 8). It is optional to include Total RNA in the negative control. This type of control should result in a negative reaction in the ELOSA assay and will define any baseline non-specific background signals. If a Negative control FlashTag Biotin reaction is not run, another acceptable negative control is 50µl 5X SSC, 0.05% SDS, 0.005% BSA + 2.5µl 25% Dextran sulfate.

Spike controls should include a FlashTag Biotin labeling reaction containing both total RNA and the RNA Spike Control Oligos (Vial 8). Labeled samples that have previously demonstrated appropriate reactivity for the ELOSA assay should be used. Labeled samples that have shown appropriate performance on microarrays may also be of value.

Positive controls should include the ELOSA Positive Control (Vial 10), an oligo which is already biotinylated and confirms the ELOSA is working properly.

Coating Wells with ELOSA Spotting Oligos (Vial 9)

1. Dilute the ELOSA Spotting Oligos (Vial 9) 1:50 in 1X PBS according to the table below:

Number of Wells	Total Volume Required	ELOSA Spotting Oligos	1X PBS
3	225µl	4.5µl	220.5µl
12	900µl	18µl	882µl
24	1800µl	36µl	1764µl

2. Add 75µl of the diluted ELOSA Spotting Oligos to each well of the plate or strip.

3. Cover with an adhesive plate sealer and incubate overnight at 2-8°C. The plates (or wells) may be stored at 2-8°C for up to 2 weeks if covered tightly with an adhesive plate sealer and no evaporation occurs.

Washing and Blocking

These steps may be completed prior to or during the FlashTag labeling procedure.

1. Remove the ELOSA Spotting Oligos by expelling the liquid into a sink.

2. Wash 2 times with 1X PBS, 0.02% Tween-20, blot dry.

3. Add 150µl of 5% BSA in 1X PBS to each well.

4. Cover the wells and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature.

Sample Hybridization

1. 2.0µl of each biotin labeling reaction (page 7, step 6), will be used in the ELOSA. Add the following components and gently vortex until the dextran sulfate is in solution. Briefly microfuge.
   2.0µl FlashTag Biotin-labeled RNA sample or negative control (no Vial 8) labeling reaction
   48.0µl 5X SSC, 0.05% SDS, 0.005% BSA
   2.5µl 25% Dextran sulfate

   For the positive control, add the following components and gently vortex until the dextran sulfate is in solution. Briefly microfuge.
   2.0µl ELOSA Positive Control (Vial 10)
   48.0µl 5X SSC, 0.05% SDS, 0.005% BSA
   2.5µl 25% Dextran sulfate

2. Remove the BSA blocking solution by expelling the liquid into a sink. Blot dry.

3. Add all 52.5µl of hybridization solution to a designated well.

4. Cover the wells and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature.

SA-HRP Binding

1. Dilute SA-HRP in 5% BSA in 1X PBS. If using Thermo Scientific SA-HRP, a dilution of 1:4000 to 1:8000 is recommended.

2. Remove the hybridization solution by expelling the liquid into a sink.

3. Vigorously wash 3-4 times with 1X PBS, 0.02% Tween 20, blot dry.

4. Add 75µl of the diluted SA-HRP from step 1 to each well.

5. Cover the wells and incubate for 30 minutes at room temperature.

Signal Development

1. Remove the SA-HRP by expelling the liquid into a sink.

2. Vigorously wash 3-4 times with 1X PBS, 0.02% Tween-20, blot dry. Remove any bubbles from the wells with a forced air duster or equivalent device.

3. Add 100µl of TMB Substrate to each well.

4. Cover the wells and incubate at room temperature for 30 minutes in the dark (or covered with aluminum foil).

5. The blue substrate color indicates a positive result and may be used as qualitative results.

6. Optional: For instrument quantitation, remove the adhesive plate sealer and add 100µl Stop Reagent (or equivalent acidic TMB stop reagent) to each well. This will convert the blue substrate to a yellow color. Read the absorbance at 450nm on a plate reader. Readings of greater than 0.10 OD (450nm) over a negative control should be considered positive. Typically, this assay generates positive results of at least 0.15 -1.00 OD when working appropriately.

7. After a successful ELOSA QC Assay, proceed to Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Array Procedure on page 8.

Appendix B: Array Rehybridization Procedure

Follow the procedure below if it is necessary to rehybridize another Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA Array.

1. Record the volume of recovered hybridization cocktail from page 9, Washing and Staining, Step 2.

2. Prepare a 1X Hyb Mix:
   - 31.5µl nuclease-free water
   - 50µl 2X Hybridization Mix (from GeneChip Hyb, Wash and Stain Kit, Affymetrix cat. no. 900720)
   - 5µl Deionized formamide, molecular biology grade
   - 10µl DMSO (from GeneChip Hyb, Wash and Stain Kit, Affymetrix cat. no. 900720)
   - 5µl 20X Eukaryotic Hybridization Controls bioB, bioC, bioD, cre (from GeneChip Eukaryotic Hybridization Control Kit, Affymetrix cat. no. 900454)
   - 1.7µl Control Oligonucleotide B2, 3nM (Affymetrix cat. no. 900301)

3. Adjust the volume of recovered hybridization cocktail (Step 1) to 103.2µl with 1X Hyb Mix (Step 2).

4. Follow the hybridization instructions on page 8 to complete the hybridization process.

5. Continue with **Washing and Staining** on page 9.

Appendix C: Example Reagent Preparation and Storage

For all of the reagents below, it is important to remove the amount that is needed for the day (or step of the protocol) by carefully pouring off or using a long pipette to avoid contamination of the stock buffer. All components should be nuclease-free and stored in nuclease-free tubes or bottles. Recommended suppliers and catalog numbers are listed; in most cases equivalent suppliers may be used.

1mM Tris (50mL)
Transfer 50mL nuclease-free water (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9932) to a 50mL conical tube.
Remove and discard 50µl water.
Add 50µL of 1M Tris-HCl, pH 8 (USB cat. no. 22638).
After this dilution is made, do not take a pH reading.
Store at room temperature up to 3 months.

25% dextran sulfate (10mL)
Slowly pour 5mL 50% dextran sulfate (Millipore cat. no. S4030) into a 15mL conical tube.
Add 5mL nuclease-free water (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9932) and vortex thoroughly.
Store at room temperature up to 4 weeks.
*25% dextran sulfate may also be ordered from Genisphere, cat. no. V25DEX

1X PBS (1L)
100mL 10X PBS pH 7.4 (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9625)
900mL nuclease-free water (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9932)
Store at room temperature up to 3 months.

1X PBS, 0.02% Tween-20 (1L)
100mL 10X PBS pH 7.4 (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9625)
0.2mL Tween-20 (200uL) (Sigma cat. no. P-9416)
Add water to a final volume of 1L.
Store at room temperature up to 3 months.

5% BSA in 1X PBS (40mL)
Transfer 2g of powdered BSA (Sigma cat. no. A3294) to a 50mL conical tube.
Slowly add 1XPBS to a final volume of 40mL.
Shake or vortex to mix.
Make 8 aliquots of 5mL.
Store each aliquot at -20 degrees C, up to 6 months. Do not freeze/thaw each 5mL aliquot more than 4 times.
Once thawed, store one aliquot at 4 degrees C for 1 week.

5X SSC, 0.05% SDS, 0.005% BSA (10mL)
2.5mL 20X SSC (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9763)
0.05mL 10% SDS (50µL) (Applied Biosystems cat. no. AM9823)
0.01mL 5% BSA in 1XPBS (10µL)
Add water to a final volume of 10mL.
Make 10 aliquots of 1mL.
Store each aliquot at -20 degrees C, up to 6 months. Do not freeze/thaw each 1mL aliquot more than 4 times.
Once thawed, store one aliquot at 4 degrees C for 1 week.
If a precipitate forms in this buffer, warm at 42°C to dissolve. Use at room temperature.