

## TRANSFORMATION

### ABSTRACT

This protocol is used to transform plasmid DNA into competent cells by chemical method or electroporation.

### BEFORE STARTING

- Do not place the competent cells on the ice for too long before start.

Select different competent bacteria according to your requirements for transformation efficiency

#### 1.1 Chemical transformation

2. Thaw the competent cells on the ice for 10 min to let the suspension thaw.
3. Mix 100  $\mu$ l competent cells with about 10  $\mu$ l DNA.
4. Incubate on ice for 10~20 min.
5. Heat shock at 42°C for 45 seconds in the water bath.
6. Incubate on ice for 2 min.
7. Add 500  $\mu$ l LB medium into the mixture of cells and DNA and mix well.
8. Incubate at appropriate temperature for 0.75~1 hour, shaking at 200 rpm.
9. Centrifuge at 4000rpm for 1 min  
4000rpm, Room temperature, 00:03:00
10. Remove 500  $\mu$ l of supernatant and mix the remaining liquid
11. Select appropriate culture medium for coating

1.2 Electroporation This protocol is based on MicroPulser™ Electroporation Apparatus Operating Instructions and Applications Guide.

2. Wash the 0.1 or 0.2 cm electroporation cuvette (store in 75% ethanol) by tap water for one time and ddH<sub>2</sub>O for two times and dry in the oven.
3. Place the electroporation cuvette on the ice and use UV to disinfect for 20 min.
4. Mix 25  $\mu$ l electrocompetent cells with 1 to 2  $\mu$ l of DNA (total DNA concentration less than 10ng/mL, maximum 25ng). Mix well and incubate on ice for ~1 min.
5. Set the MicroPulser to "Ec1" when using the 0.1 cm cuvettes. Set it to "Ec2" or "Ec3" when using the 0.2 cm cuvettes.
6. Transfer the mixture of cells and DNA to a cold electroporation cuvette and tap the suspension to the bottom. Place the cuvette in the chamber slide. Push the slide into the chamber until the cuvette is seated between the contacts in the base of the chamber. Pulse once.
7. Remove the cuvette from the chamber and immediately add 1 ml of SOC medium to the cuvette. Quickly but gently resuspend the cells with a pipette tip.  
Please transfer the cells to the medium as soon as possible

8. Transfer the cell suspension to a 1.5 ml polypropylene microfuge tube and incubate at 37°C for 1 hour, shaking at 200 rpm, 37°C, 01:00:00
9. Check and record the pulse parameters. The time constant should be close to 5 milliseconds.
10. Plate on selective LB or SOB medium and inverted culture for 14~16 hours.